



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.

www.hobartalumni.org

Volume 5, Number 2

December, 2015

Yohan Makes a Great Gift!

Trying to think of a gift for the Brickie who has everything? Have you thought of window stickers, refrigerator magnets, T-shirts and hoodies? You can order all of them online and have them in time for the holidays!

T-shirts: \$20 each (\$10 shipping per order for T-shirts and hoodies)

Hoodies: \$35 each

4" diameter Window stickers (backside adhesive/outside use): \$4 each

2" x 4" Refrigerator magnets: \$3 each

The order form is on our website at <http://www.hobartalumni.org/Buy-Yohan-Merchandise.htm>, or go to the website and click **Buy Yohan Merchandise**. You can 1) order online and pay by PayPal or a credit card, or 2) you can fill out the order form, print it out, and send it to us with your check. Magnets and window stickers should arrive in 5-7 days after we receive your payment; T-shirts and hoodies in about 10 days.



Alumni Spotlight

Don Kapica (radio name "Rik Anthony"): DJ, Air Force Veteran and Photo/Videographer



At Hobart High School, he was Don Kapica, Class of 1978, but on the radio, he is Rik Anthony, and is currently on weekend mornings at country station 92.3 WIL-FM in St. Louis. Don shares his story with us here.

What are you doing now?

Right now is a turning point in my radio career. After over three decades of constant corporate tweaking and dilution of music, I'm considering

hanging up my headphones sometime in the next year or two. It's been a fun ride, and I'm not sure if I can actually "walk away" from it. However, for the past two years, I've been focusing a lot of attention on my new passion as a photographer and videographer. My style of photography is "Artography," that's photography that has a more dynamic range and looks like artwork, versus your normal still shots. One goal I do have is to take photos of Hobart on my trips home and create a book capturing my artful view of my home town. Look for that in the years to come.



Alumni Spotlight (cont.)



Rik and his family at his retirement ceremony from the Air Force in 1998

How do you spend your time?

I spend my spare time helping my wife, the former Gaynale Cheek (HHS, '79), work our Premier Designs Jewelry business. We are very involved with our church and help out volunteering there. We love to travel and go to movies almost every Friday.

What is your family situation like?

This Christmas will be our 37th Wedding Anniversary. Gaynale and I married right out of school and she's been my wife, manager, agent and soul mate since Dec 24, 1978. We live in Collinsville, Illinois, located about 15 miles east of downtown St Louis. Yes, we may live in Cardinal country, but I'm still a devout Chicago Cubs fan (much to the chagrin of my friends and listeners). We attend Blues hockey games and concerts that come through the area. We have two grown children and sadly no grandchildren yet. Our daughter Shauna, born in 1979, is married and has four degrees ranging from Fine Arts to Geology. She and her husband Jason live about 30 minutes away. Our son Brad, born in 1981, is married and served in the United States Marine Corps as a scout during the 2003 Invasion of Iraq. Sadly he sustained an injury and lost the hearing in his ear and suffers from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). He and his wife Jennifer, bought a home in Colorado Springs and we hope to see them this Christmas.

Can you trace the path from Hobart High School to where you are now?

Okay, there's a lot of ground to cover so here goes:

After graduation in 1978, I enlisted in the Air Force and went to Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX for basic training.

Fall of 1978 - I was sent to the Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Ft. Benjamin for training to become a radio and TV announcer. BTW, it's the same school Adrian Cronauer (the irreverent DJ Robin Williams from Good Morning Vietnam) graduated from.

From there I went to Pope AFB in North Carolina to support the mission of the 82nd Airborne and stayed there until 1983.

Our next assignment was at Air Force Systems Command at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH. We were able to come home quite often and visit our family in Hobart.

From there we were assigned to Air Force Space Command at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO. We loved this assignment because we spent much of our spare time with our children exploring the Rocky Mountains.

In 1989, we got assigned to Strategic Air Command and later Pacific Air Command at Anderson AFB, Guam. Yes, that little tropical gem that's about as far away from Hobart as one can get. My career flourished there and was the #1 radio talent on the island. But in all honesty, there really wasn't much talent on the island to start with. LOL

In 1991, we were assigned to Travis AFB, in Fairfield, CA. Just an hour north of San Francisco. We spent every chance exploring the area, especially Gaynale's favorite city, San Francisco. During that time I made Technical Sergeant and was named "the Air Mobility Command Manpower Airman of the Year."

Sadly, that assignment lasted just four years and I retired in 1998 at Scott AFB in Belleville, IL.

I retired on August 13, 1998 and that very next Monday, I began my full time career for the All Star Radio Networks. It's a radio syndication company that I STILL work for. We provide lots of the humorous content, contesting and interviews that morning radio shows across the country use. I can honestly say I've talked to thousands of celebrities through my 18 years there. So I can say have only 2 degrees of separation from Kevin Bacon, I interviewed his wife Kyra Sedgwick. LOL. One highlight in my time at All Star Radio was a national feature I did called "Back in the Pits with Rik Anthony" for the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA). It lasted for 10 years and I

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)



loved every minute of it. Now I'm there in a slightly different capacity as a video director/producer for their OnStL.com side of the house.

How did you become interested in being a DJ?

WLS and WCFL need I say more? Growing up, the jocks on WLS and WCFL were my idols. Larry Lujack, John "Records" Landecker, Bob Sirrott, Jeff Davis, Fred Winston, "Big" Ron O'Brian, etc. I used to have a makeshift radio studio in my bedroom and would jock records and tape record my shows. Thankfully I still have some of them (even before my voice changed). From there my Godfather gave me his old Hammarlund short wave radio which I listened to night and day. After that was CB radios and I was hooked on talking over the radio. From there I enlisted in the Air Force to become a Radio Personality. I've been riding that rocket since 1978. I'm currently on weekend mornings at St. Louis' #1 country station 92.3 WIL-FM. BTW you can download the WIL-FM app for your smart phones and listen to my

show <http://www.wil92.com/mobile-apps/> or listen live on your computer via this link: <http://live.wil92.com/listen/>

Were there any people, places or incidents in Hobart that had a special influence on your life and career path?

Yes quite a few. First I have to thank my 6th grade music teacher, Miss Bush. She's the one that got me on stage in front of a crowd. My brother Dan (Emerson '62) got me started on doing a weekly record list to focus on what songs were hot (I kept that up for over 20 years). My fellow classmate Darren Chmelik (HHS, '78) was my cohort in crime on those radio shows I did in my bedroom. Also Steve Strom (HHS, '78) who also had the passion to be a dumb DJ like me. Most importantly were HHS teachers Cynthia Lach and Shirley Mumaugh, whose encouragement had a great impact on pushing me forward. I also believe Ms Lach helped in Gaynale and I becoming a couple.

What advice would you give to high school students who are interested in being a DJ, or broadcasting in general?

I'd like to say "The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades!" However, the days of playing what you want and thinking you're gonna make a successful living at this are gone. If you choose this field, do it because you love it. You have to HAVE PASSION to do this or you'll be on to another career before you know it. Expect to work every holiday and be there even if there's 12" of snow, and have a case of walking pneumonia. The SHOW MUST GO ON. I've learned 80% of the money in radio is made by 20% of the people. Expect low wages for the first five years. If you survive that...and still have the PASSION, then you may be one of the 20%. Good luck!

Class Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions. If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at info@hobartalumni.org, and we will publicize it on our website and in our newsletter! More information on all these reunions can be found on the [HHS Alumni Association website](#).

Hobart Florida All-Class Reunion (February 14, 2016)

Ron Smith has posted that the HOBART FLORIDA ALL CLASS REUNION will be held February 14, 2016 at HUNTINGTON HILL COUNTRY CLUB, 2626 Duff Road, Lakeland, Florida. For more information please visit the HHSAA website, or contact Tom Kerr at tkerrblue@mas.com or call his cell phone # [219-791-3782](tel:219-791-3782).

Class of 1986, 30th Year Reunion (August 20, 2016)

SAVE THE DATE! Our 30-year reunion will be next August 20, 2016, from 6-12 pm at the Hobart Elks Lodge in Hobart, Indiana! More dates and times and event information to come in the next eight months. We will be having a meet and greet on Friday night at Hobart's Lakefront Festival, a golf outing on Saturday morning, and a

dinner/dance/party at the Elks that Saturday evening. Ticket prices and times and hotel details will be posted soon. We would like to get all of you to help us with reaching some of our classmates who are not on Facebook. If you know of anyone from our class NOT on FB, please email Janis their name and address (if you have it) at: ppd106@aol.com. Check out the Hobart Class of '86 Reunion page for more information.

Class of 1956, 60th Year Reunion (August 20, 2016)

There will be a 2016 class reunion organized again with Terry and Pat Shaw, on August 20, 2016 at the Innsbruck Country Club in Merrillville (not the Hilton Garden Inn in Hobart). Further plans are being made at this time.

Class of 1981, 35th Year Reunion (October 7-8, 2016)

The reunion committee headed by Betsey (Schroeder) Kimpan wanted to give everyone some details so we could all plan ahead :) We are also asking for updated addresses and to PLEASE get the word out! The plan is to attend the football game on Friday, October 7 which will be a home game, a school tour of "our" high school (now Hobart Middle School), a golf outing (weather permitting) and our dinner/dance will be held Saturday October 8, 2016. Contact Betsey at bkimpan1@yahoo.com.

Class of 1971, 45th Year Reunion (October 8, 2016)

To members of the Hobart High School Class of 1971: The reunion will be on October 8, 2016. It will be held at the Hobart Community Center. Please save the date!

Class of 1961, 55th Year Reunion (October 22, 2016)

Ron Smith has posted that the Class of 1961 55th reunion will be held October 22, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Merrillville. A block of rooms is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn under "Hobart High School Class of 1961." To be sure you are on the mailing list, please email Ron at hhsclass61@yahoo.com.

HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970.....	President
Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998.....	Vice-President
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970	Treasurer
Lynn Hasza-Heintz, Class of 1967	Recording Secretary
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978	Corresponding Secretary

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Angela Patrick, *Principal, Hobart High School*
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966
Dawn Briney Krull, Class of 1968
Michael Trammel, Class of 1967
Jane Woodruff McDaniel, Class of 1969

STUDENT MEMBERS

David Kostbade, Class of 2016
McKayla DeLeon, Class of 2016

The Brick & Mortar Board is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association, and made available on our website.. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org, and you can reach us by email at info@hobartalumni.org. The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.

Recent Obituaries

(since our October 2015 newsletter;
in PDF form these are links to the obituaries on the HHSAA website)

DECEMBER 2015:

[Joyce Hayes Malmquist, Class of 1962](#)

[Patricia O'Neill Keefer, Class of 1953](#)

[David \(Dave\) Negrelli, Class of 1980](#)

NOVEMBER 2015:

[Edward Biel, Class of 1945](#)

[Betty Moss Moore, Class of 1958](#)

[Ritschel "Andy" Anderson, Class of 1935](#)

[Shirley Kisela Thompson, Class of 1944](#)

[Donald J. Lines, Class of 1953](#)

[Mary Smith Whiteside-Rush, Class of 1945](#)

OCTOBER 2015:

[Louis Elsner, Class of 1953](#)

[Thomas \(Tom\) Mills, Class of 1957](#)

[James "Jim" Ketchum, Class of 1968](#)

[David Bood, Class of 1953](#)

[Charles "Chuck" Cochran, Class of 1960](#)

[Sally Ann Good \(Mackey\) Brown, Class of 1958](#)

JUNE 2015:

[Joanne Strom Katchever, Class of 1948](#)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hobart High School Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a close relationship between Hobart High School, its constituents, and its alumni for their mutual benefit. The Association is committed to, and involved in the support and well-being of Hobart High School and its alumni.

OUR GOALS

- To assist Hobart High School in communication with its alumni
- To convey to Hobart High School the views, attitudes, and needs of the alumni in seeking to preserve, advocate, and promote alumni interests
- To strengthen alumni activities and programs
- To support educational programs through teacher grants and student scholarships

Our Supporters

The HHS Alumni Association is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and our entire financial support comes from membership dues and contributions. We recognize our supporters by listing the names (not the amounts) of those who have contributed to HHSAA, including memorials, donations, and new and renewed members. Membership in the HHS Alumni Association is \$10 per year, and life memberships are \$100.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since our October 2015 newsletter)

Carla Trager May (Lifetime member), Class of 1968

Robert Popaditch (Lifetime member), Class of 1961

Carol Schmelter Shingler (Lifetime member), Class of 1958

Robert Addison, Class of 1966

Allen Blanchard, Class of 1954

Sherry Oswald Peterson, Class of 1965

Royce Peterson, Class of 1963

Sylvia (Ellen) Campos Schenk, Class of 1947

Shelley Tweedale Smith, Class of 1974



Membership Application and Renewal Form Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Check one: New member ____ Renewal ____

Check one: 1-year membership (\$10) ____ Lifetime membership (\$100) ____

Additional donation for scholarships _____

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Work phone _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"

Thank you for your support!

Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership
(proceeds go toward student scholarships and teacher grants)

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org