



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.
www.hobartalumni.org

Volume 8, Number 2

December, 2018

Give an Alumni Association Membership This Year!

What do you give the Brickie who has almost everything? How about a membership to the Hobart High School Alumni Association? Single-year memberships (or renewals) are \$10, and lifetime memberships are \$100.

Use the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. If this is a gift membership, check the box next to the wording **printed in red**, and we will send a gift notification to the lucky recipient, and a receipt to you.

HHSAA memberships are synchronized to the calendar year, so all annual memberships expire on December 31. You can also use the membership form to renew your OWN membership. Renewal notices will also be sent out next week to annual members. Of course, a lifetime membership eliminates the need for renewals altogether!

We hope you will consider bringing someone new into the Hobart High School Alumni Association family. Thanks!

Alumni Spotlight

Alex Ramos, Newly-Retired Hobart Brickies Wrestling Coach

Our *Alumni Spotlight* this issue is on Alex Ramos, Class of 2000 alumnus, who has recently stepped down as Head Wrestling Coach at Hobart High School.



Alex Ramos

What is your current position at Hobart High School, and what are you involved in these days?

This is my 8th year teaching at Hobart High School. I have been teaching: AP Psychology, Psychology I & II and for the last two years I have been teaching sociology.

I have been involved with the Psychology Club here at HHS and have helped provide opportunities for students to get experience volunteering with outside organizations that primarily deal with individuals living with mental or physical disabilities.

This will be my first year as the Social Studies Academic Team Sponsor and am excited to take my coaching into the academic realm.

I have also been working with a group of staff members and students to host our second TEDx event here at Hobart High School that will be taking place at the end of this school year.

Can you trace the path from the time you graduated from Hobart up to the present?

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

After leaving Hobart I wrestled at Purdue University for one and a half years, after which I had a falling out with the sport. I finished my Degree in Law and Society in 2006 and moved to Evansville, IN and married my best friend Sarah who I met while at Purdue. I was a store manager down there for two years before moving back to the Region to raise a family. The distributing industry took a turn in 2008 and I lost my job and started volunteer coaching at Hobart under Steve Balash.

I enjoyed Coaching so much and spending time with students that I started substitute teaching the following year. Needless to say, I fell in love with teaching and went back to school to earn my Master's in the Art of Education at Calumet College of St. Joseph.

I have since had the amazing opportunity to teach, work with and learn from over 1,000 different students.

Tell us about your wrestling days when you were a student at Hobart, including your school records and state championships.

This is always an interesting question, since talking about myself is not my strong suit, so I will keep it short. I wrestled all four years while a student at Hobart, I tried other sports, but wrestling seemed to be what I wanted to spend most of my time doing. My freshman year I made it to semi-state and was disqualified for an illegal slam ending my season with 26 wins and 7 losses. My sophomore year I placed 5th in the state and ended the season 40 wins and 1 loss. My Junior year I took first at state and finished the season with 45 wins and no losses. During my senior year, I placed first in the state with 37 wins and no losses. I finished my high school career with 148 wins against 8 losses. I placed 8th my senior year at the high school nationals earning All-American status.

What coaches, teachers or other people had the greatest influence on you and your career?

This question is easier to answer considering I had two of the greatest male role models in my life as coaches. Don Rogers and Steve Balash. They each played their respective roles at different times in my life. Don Rogers was/is like a father to me. I remember the first time I was at his house with my brother in the 4th grade 29 years ago. He was there by my side during the best and worst times in my life. I cannot say enough



Alex Ramos with the Buddy Walk group. The Buddy Walk is a one-mile advocacy walk to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and raise funds to support Down Syndrome families.

about Don Rogers that would do justice for the support and love he has shown me. I am grateful to have him and his wife Jackie in my life and now a part of my wife & children's lives as well.

It's not that Steve Balash wasn't there for me in high school, because he was and has always been a wonderful role model in my life. It's just that he played a more important role when I began coaching. Who better to turn to for advice about coaching than the man who has dedicated his life to serving others. Currently in his 47th year coaching three sports (you do the math to figure out how many seasons that is). Steve Balash is the embodiment of servant leadership and has taught me much more than what it means to be a coach, but a friend and father as well.

There are many others to thank for successes that my life has had, but none more than my mother Martha Rivas-Ramos. She was and will continue to be a tremendous influence on my life. As a single mother who raised four children, she always found a way to make us appreciate what we had, and always taught us that giving back in service to others is the most important contribution we can make to our community. Martha continues her generativity and is still involved in many philanthropic organizations. Some know of the many obstacles Martha has faced throughout her life, but most importantly she has taught me as well as my sisters the value of resiliency and sensitization to the curve balls that life throws at you.

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)



What have you enjoyed most about coaching wrestling?

Getting to know how far someone will push themselves to achieve their goals, is a perspective that wrestling coaches gain. These young athletes come to high school and have to learn something seldom taught outside of a

wrestling room, and that is to embrace the grind. Life is one set of obstacles after another, and coaching wrestling gives you a unique opportunity to put young athletes in positions to push themselves harder each day and gain this virtue that transfers to all of life. This was my greatest takeaway from the sport and consequently, what I enjoyed most about coaching.

Do you think the program will change much under the new head coach, Jason Cook?

Hobart is a homegrown program that has always embraced the ideals that making the youngest

wrestlers in our youth program better would one day translate to a successful high school program. I believe we have nourished that idea here at Hobart and Jason Cook is not only getting a group of successful young wrestlers but he also embraces our vision as a program. Jason has proven himself as a successful as a wrestler and coach. I know Jason will be supported as a coach and will continue to carry on the Hobart traditions of good sportsmanship, dedication, and hard work.

Do you have any advice for students?

This generation of students come equipped with such a great understanding in a variety of different fields and are technologically savvy. But I fear that we often overlook the value of now, and here. With the technological ability to be in so many social scenes at once, it's easy to lose track of HERE. And with the ability to scroll through people's timelines and look at all of the highlights of other people's lives we often lose the value of NOW. Perhaps the only advice I would have for a generation that has so much; would be to put down your phones you can scroll later and really learn to make meaningful connections with others HERE and NOW.

Class Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions, listed in order of occurrence. 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](#).

CLASS OF 1969 50th REUNION (September 14, 2019)

The Class of 1969 is having their reunion on September 14, 2019 at the Old Town Banquet Center, 711 Calumet Avenue in Valparaiso. Plans are underway and we would like to get as many addresses and email addresses as we can. We have a special email account set up and it is classof69.50th@gmail.com. We also have a Facebook page, [Hobart H.S. Class Of 1969 50 Yr Reunion](#). People from the class are encouraged to join the group. Mark your calendars!

CLASS OF 1974 45th REUNION (October 12, 2019)

The HHS Class of 1974 is having its 45th year reunion on Saturday, October 12, 2019, at Gino's Ambassador Hall in Hobart. The football homecoming game is on Friday, October 11, 2019. Classmates will meet at the game. For additional information contact: Martha (Fick) Osten, (219) 742-8184, marketingmartha@comcast.net.

REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

CLASSES OF 1952 and 1953: These combined classes meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:00 am at the Paragon Restaurant. Contact Martha Jordan Nichols at nurse56.1@netzero.net.

Class Reunion Roundup (cont.)

CLASS OF 1956: We meet on the last Saturday of every month at 9:00 am, at the Paragon Restaurant. Contact Mary Jo Hopkins at mjhobby@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1958: We have a luncheon on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00 PM. Hope to see more HHS1958 alumni there. Contact Larry Koziol at larry58koziol@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1960: We have a luncheon on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00PM. Hope to see more HHS1960 alumni join us. Contact Linda Quinlan Koziol at larry58koziol@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1964: We have a breakfast brunch on the second Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 E. Old Ridge Road in Hobart, from 11am to 1pm. Hope to see more 1964 alumni there. Contact Marsha Longacre Shabi at marbi22@juno.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 (as of July 1) are:

OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970	<i>President</i>
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966	<i>Vice-President</i>
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970.....	<i>Treasurer</i>
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978.....	<i>Secretary</i>

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Tracy Brumley, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*
Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998

STUDENT MEMBERS

Lillian Kollross, Class of 2019
James Corgan, Class of 2019
Audree Vann, Class of 2020

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

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since our September 2018 newsletter)

ANNUAL MEMBERS

James Banks (1958)
Kay Burke Griffith (1958)

Carole Hughes Hinshaw (1958)
Debbie Reynolds (1971)
Debbie Vega (1971)

Recent Obituaries

(since our September 2018 newsletter;
in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

NOVEMBER 2018:

[Robert "Bob" Etter, Class of 1958](#)

[Harold "Steve" Stevens, Class of 1938](#)

[Ellen Thoreson Keplar, Class of 1944](#)

[William \(Bill\) Roth, Class of 1966](#)

[Donna Harkins Rittenour, Class of 1967](#)

[Ivan Hiestand, Class of 1964](#)

[Carol Schavey Werner, Class of 1945](#)

[Susan \(Sue\) Brickley Edmonston, Class of 1966](#)

[Dean McKenzie, Class of 1974](#)

[Patrick \(Pat\) Romanchek, Class of 1968](#)

OCTOBER 2018:

[Frank Green \(Teacher\)](#)

[Virginia Martin Stiburski, Class of 1963](#)

[Doris Kenniger Edwards, Class of 1958](#)

[Kenneth Markfull \(Coach\)](#)

[Keith Coons, Class of 1953](#)

[Michael \(Mike\) Kline, Class of 1971](#)

[Paul Zander, Class of 1941](#)

[James \(Jim\) Sandilla, Class of 1959](#)

[Allan Wielogorski, Class of 1958](#)

[Brian Barton, Class of 1980](#)

[Sally Lepell Rose, Class of 1957](#)

SEPTEMBER 2018:

[Floyd Rogers, Class of 1961](#)

[Mary Stringer Killens, Class of 1950](#)

[David \(Dave\) Carpenter, Class of 1961](#)

[James Lifke \(Coach\)](#)

[Ronald Parduhn, Class of 1969](#)

[Sarah Barber Paris, Class of 2004](#)

[Kathleen \(Kathy\) Cooper Fay, Class of 1972](#)

[Gerald "Jerry" Anderson, Class of 1960](#)

[David Metz, Class of 1965](#)

AUGUST 2018:

[Deanna "Dee" Wardecki Swiney, Class of 1988](#)

[Linda Marlow Morris, Class of 1967](#)

[Linda Dinsmore Morgan, Class of 1965](#)

[Randy Hinkle, Class of 1958](#)

(Older obituaries recently received)

APRIL 2018:

[Dale McKnight, Class of 1945](#)

NOVEMBER 2017:

[Marian Pritchard Waid, Class of 1938](#)

AUGUST 2016:

[Eugene Mack, Class of 1949](#)

MARCH 2016:

[Diana Hutfilz Bourne, Class of 1963](#)

FEBRUARY 2015:

[Robert Wylie \(Staff\)](#)

OCTOBER 2010:

[Robert Lundy, Class of 1948](#)

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. 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. The editor of *The Brick & Mortar Board* is Paul Addison.



Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Check one: New member ___ Renewal ___ **Check here if this is a GIFT membership ___**

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

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

(Renewing members only need to fill out the following if anything has changed)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Work phone _____

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"

Thank you for your support!

**Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership
(proceeds go towards 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