



# The Brick & Mortar Board

*the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.*  
[www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org)

Volume 9, Number 1

September, 2019

## BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic is Saturday, October 12

The Fall 2019 BrickieFest All-Class Picnic will be held on the Saturday of Homecoming weekend, October 12, from 12 noon to 3 pm, at the Community Center next to Festival Park. All Hobart High School alumni, faculty and staff, past or present, are invited.



Hot dogs, brats, chips, cookies, and bottled water will be provided free of charge by the Hobart High School Alumni Association. Feel free to bring a snack, side dish, or dessert to share, but it is not required.

Make a weekend of it! On Friday night, October 11, the varsity football team plays Munster at 7:00 pm at the Brickyard. Come see the game, and then come to the BrickieFest picnic on Saturday from noon to 3. Maybe your class has get-together on Saturday night (see the Class Reunion Roundup on page 5).

We hope to see you at BrickieFest!

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## '65 Alumnus Michael Grgdon Receives Congressional Award

*(story on page 4)*



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## Mike Hatton, Bass Player in Oscar Winner "Green Book"



*Mike Hatton (left), with writer/producer Nick Vallelonga, and actor Viggo Mortensen of "Green Book"*

Our Alumni Spotlight this month is on Michael Hatton, Class of 1998, an actor, writer and director, who portrayed George, the bass player in the Academy Award Best Picture winner for 2018, "Green Book". Our interview starts here:

*Where are you now, and what are you doing these days?*

As I write this, I'm in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, prepping my next movie, an action thriller called "10 Double Zero" starring the legendary Nicolas Cage (who I am so excited to be working with, I'm a huge fan of his). I'm producing and co-starring in this one, so it's very time consuming. The acting is the part of the job is always fun... but producing is basically

### Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

running the business side of a movie, so it's a lot of work. It's stressful yet enjoyable because I'm involved with every aspect of the film. During my free time I'm also writing a movie that I am really excited about but, and it's funny, having any free time because normally I don't, I'm usually running around with my family! Speaking of, I can't wait to get back to Los Angeles to my wife and kids!

*Could you trace the path you took from Hobart High School to where you are now?*

I took Dave Barancyk's TV production classes and that gave me a taste for video and film production. I was never into theatre, so Mr. B's morning announcements were my first bit of performance art! He'd let us do sketches and video shorts which was always more appealing to me than performing in a play or live theater situation. We did a parody of "Titanic" which was in theaters at the time and an original short film called, "The Date." I had a blast making them with my friends and knew that this was what I wanted to do for a living. Not having connection to anyone in the TV or movie business, I wasn't sure how to break in. My counselor told me it wasn't very realistic to want to make movies so I used to lie and say I wanted to open a business. Eventually, I even thought it was a little impractical too, so I figured I'd get into the local TV news business. My mom was telling a colleague of hers that I was interested in doing this, and it turned out his wife was the producer of the CBS affiliate in Terre Haute, Indiana. She offered to get me a job in the business and that led me to going to Indiana State University where I majored in Radio-TV-Film. I worked my way through college as a cameraman for the news. I shot a ton of High School football games and my experience on the field as a Brickie made me a very talented cameraman. By the time I was a sophomore, I knew that the local TV business wasn't for me but I had a career in it already. So I did the work full time while going to school full time. But I made sure that I never hid the fact I wanted to make movies and do comedy from my friends to one of my co-workers.

This paid off when a friend I worked with had told me about a new CBS affiliate opening in California around the time I graduated. The experience got me a job offer in Palm Springs, California when



*Mahershala Ali, Mike Hatton, composer Kris Bowers, Dimiter Marinov, and Viggo Mortensen*

they opened a new CBS affiliate. From there, I started commuting to Los Angeles (120 miles each way!) on the weekend taking acting and improv comedy classes at Hollywood's Second City campus. And back at my day job, I eventually started doing on air work as an entertainment reporter. Not soon after I started auditioning and getting roles in movies, TV shows, and commercials.

Over the years, each of the projects have gotten bigger and better, and eventually I left my job at the TV station to act and produce full time. It's been a long hard road but it's been very rewarding and because I've had friends and family encouraging me the entire way.

*How did you get the role of George, the bass player in "Green Book"?*

My twin brother (Pat Hatton, '98) and I had a rock band growing up and I was the bass player in it. I had kind of stopped playing over the years and didn't talk about it much anymore. One day I was on the phone with Green Book writer/producer Nick Vallelonga, and I had been begging him to audition for Peter Farrelly. I am a huge fan of Peter and Bobby Farrelly and just wanted a chance to be seen. Plus, I had read the script and knew it was something special! I just wanted to be a part of it. I said I'd be a guy who had one line but Nick insisted there was no role for me. Then he said, "Wait, don't you play the bass?" I had seen that role but figured they would want a more famous actor for it. Turns out they wanted an up & comer. I went in the next day and took photos with Nick and he sent them to Peter and their co-writer/producer Brian Currie. They said, "get him in here ASAP. I had a few days so I taught myself

## *Alumni Spotlight (cont.)*



*Mahershala Ali, Dimiter Marinov, Mike Hatton, and Viggo Mortensen*

Don Shirley's "Waterboy" on the bass. I brought the bass in and that was it! I booked the role!

*What was it like to be part of a movie that won the Academy Award for Best Picture?*

Being a part of the film was awesome. It's the most widely seen project I've ever done and it's something I can be proud of... and something that my kids can be proud that their dad was in!

And being on stage at the Oscars was an incredible experience! One of the greatest days of my life, right up there with my wedding and birth of my children. Although now I want to go back for my own award!! One day...

*Were there any teachers, coaches or other people at Hobart High School who had a strong impact on your life and career?*

Mr. B (Dave Barancyk) was pivotal in introducing me to what I love. I don't think Mrs. Osika was ever my actual teacher in a classroom but she was my one of my best friend's mothers (Coach Craig Osika is one of my oldest and closest friends to this day). Having his mom around was amazing because it was like having a second mom at school. Coach Kerr was incredible! He was very funny and appreciated my humor while encouraging me to improve myself as an athlete. So when Coach reached out to me a few years ago for his granddaughter Kaleigh Spencer who had just graduated to get an internship, I had her work as a production assistant on the set of my HBO action movie, *Vigilante Diaries*.

*Do you have any advice for students who might be interested in going into acting, music performance, or both?*

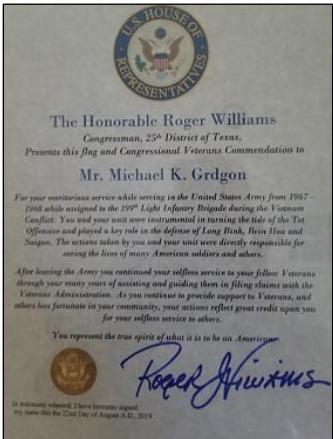
I have tons of advice but far too much to write here! I think the best walk away advice I can give to aspiring artists is to have a good work ethic that you can apply to both your passion and to the job/career you need to do to support that passion. If you're lucky enough, one day you'll get to do that passion for your work. Also, be open to finding things adjacent to your passion that you may enjoy. I never thought I'd like producing movies. I only did it as a way to get acting roles and now I truly enjoy both (and sometimes I'll only produce a movie and won't even act in it). There are thousands of jobs in the entertainment business that aren't even on the performing side of things and if you can make a living in the business that you love even if it isn't doing exactly what you love, that could be a massive win! Plus, you can still pursue your passion and be in a position for someone in your business to see your talents and give you the break that you need to make it as an artist!

Also, surround yourself with people who love you. I gave the alumni speech at Indiana State University's commencement last spring and that was the theme of my talk. Don't be afraid to tell people what you want to do and those who love you will help. My friends and family growing up weren't connected to the entertainment business at all. However, their support and encouragement over the years led me to the right places to give me a shot at making it and put me where I am today.



*Receiving the Academy Award for Best Picture*

# Alumnus Michael Grdgon Awarded Congressional Commendation



*Congressional Award given to Michael Grdgon.*

Hobart High School is proud of 1965 alumnus Michael Grdgon. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Congressional Ceremony was held in honor of 1965 Hobart High School alumnus Michael Grdgon at the Texas State Capitol Building.

Congressman Roger Williams from the 25th District of the state of Texas presented Michael with "The Congressional Veteran Commendation". Michael was also presented with a United States American Flag that was flown over the United States Capitol Building on June 18th in his honor.

Michael writes, "Personally, I was very humbled to have my country bestow such a distinguished honor upon me."



*The flag flown over the US Capitol Building in honor of Michael Grdgon.*



*Michael Grdgon (second from left) receiving the Congressional Award.*



*Michael Grdgon and his wife, Christine (Rossa) Grdgon (HHS 1967) to his left, observing the ceremony.*

## 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 May 3, 2019) are:

### OFFICERS

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

### AT-LARGE MEMBERS

- Craig Osika, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*
- Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970
- Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998

### STUDENT MEMBERS

- 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
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## Our Supporters

### NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since our May 2019 newsletter)

#### LIFE MEMBERS

Douglas Fitzgerald (1967)

Rhonda Abba Fitzgerald (1968)

#### ANNUAL MEMBERS

Diane Pflughoeft James (1960)

Paul James (1958)

Debbie Scharbach Vega (1971)

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## 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](mailto: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)

Join us as we celebrate the Hobart High School Class of 1969! Relive memories of Brickie Bowl, Luigi's, Abbott's, Pete's, turnabout dances, after-game sock hops, sporting events, and on and on! The evening includes dinner, a DJ (dancing!), and cash bar.

Saturday, September 14, 2019 – 6 pm

Old Town Banquet Center

711 Calumet Ave.

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Cost: \$40 per person

Make checks payable to: **Class of '69 50th Reunion**

Checks must be received by August 24, 2019

Mail to:

Karen Knapp Fleming

7033 N. Wilhelm Road

LaPorte, IN 46350

Questions? Send an email to [classof69.50th@gmail.com](mailto:classof69.50th@gmail.com).

*(continued on page 6)*

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

The HHS Class of 1974 is having its 45<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:marketingmartha@comcast.net).

## **CLASS OF 1965 55th REUNION (August 22, 2020)**

From Barb Phillips Rowley:

I'm posting good news this time, we are going to have a 55th reunion On August 22, 2020 at the River Pointe country club in Hobart, some of you may remember it as Superior farms and then the Supervisors Club. So mark on your calendar so you won't book something else that weekend.

If any of your mailing info has changed or phone numbers, emails etc. let me know.

We have lost 108 classmates as of this message, so keep in mind that if you want to see someone you may be running out of time. Hope to see you all in 2020. Thanks Barb

## **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 [jimnichols@yahoo.com](mailto:jimnichols@yahoo.com).

**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 [mjhoppy@comcast.net](mailto:mjhoppy@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](mailto:larry58koziol@gmail.com).

**CLASS OF 1960:** We have a luncheon on the second Saturday of every month at (new location) the Paragon restaurant on Ridge Road. Hope to see more HHS1960 alumni join us. Contact Linda Quinlan Koziol at [larry58koziol@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:marbi22@juno.com).

**CLASS OF 1970:** Classmates from the Class of 1970 are meeting at 10:00 am on the third Saturday of the month, at the Paragon Restaurant on Highway 6 near 51 in Hobart. For more information, contact Beth Scott Barney at [bethbarney1103@aol.com](mailto:bethbarney1103@aol.com).

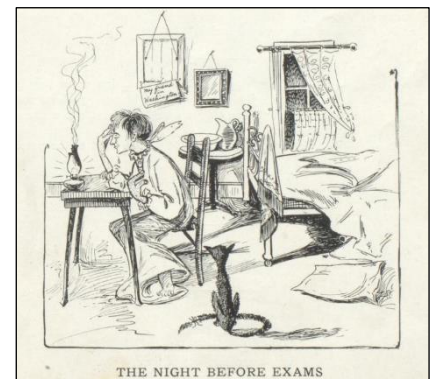
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*100 years ago*

## **From the 1919 HHS Aurora Yearbook**

It seems that some things never change. Have you ever put off studying for an exam until the night before? This cartoon is from the 1919 Hobart High School yearbook, the "Aurora". We hope that burning the midnight oil paid off for this student.

You can access many of the HHS yearbooks on our website, at: <http://www.hobartalumni.org/HHS-Yearbooks-Online.htm>.



## Recent Obituaries

(since our May 2019 newsletter;  
in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

### AUGUST 2019:

[John Mosley, Class of 1955](#)

[Donna Mae Schavey Olson, Class of 1948](#)

[Gloria Grabczak Sullivan, Class of 1964](#)

[Samuel \(Sam\) Kozaitis, Class of 1948](#)

[Anthony \(Tony\) Nowasadski, Class of 1971](#)

[Kent Smith, Class of 1963](#)

[Barbara "Bobbie" Carter Thompson, Class of 1950](#)

[Marianne Dunn Quillen, Class of 1964](#)

[Helen Robinson Atwater, Class of 1963](#)

[Edward \(Ed\) Wallace, Class of 1975](#)

### JULY 2019:

[Jack Howey, Class of 1943](#)

[Shirley Roper Gradle, Class of 1940](#)

[Gail Jenkins Nibbe, Class of 1960](#)

[Patricia \(Pat\) Erwin Fahey, Class of 1964](#)

[Lucille Popp Kingery, Class of 1950](#)

[Patricia Leonard Dooling, Class of 1957](#)

[Joan Jablonski Easton, Class of 1950](#)

[Debbie Krupchak Wilfong, Class of 1973](#)

[Brian Coates, Class of 1991](#)

[\(Katherine\) Joan Sutherlin Holzmer \(Art Teacher\)](#)

[Stephen Rettig, Class of 1963](#)

[Timothy Chappo, Class of 1978](#)

### JUNE 2019:

[Gojko "George" Blecic, Class of 1994](#)

[Beverly "Jean" Emory Lloyd, Class of 1955](#)

[Ralph Knickerbocker, Class of 1960](#)

[Ruth Carlson Strom, Class of 1947](#)

[Doug Rusak, Class of 1963](#)

[Carol Sherrard Bushore, Class of 1962](#)

[Janette "Roberta" Henry Miller, Class of 1955](#)

[Frankie Bayor Stewart, Class of 1954](#)

[Sarah Jo Weller Harrell, Class of 1970](#)

[Lawrence Van Loon, Class of 1956](#)

[Warren Trager, Class of 1939](#)

### MAY 2019:

[Michelle Nagy Block, Class of 1981](#)

[Barbara Schlarp McDonald, Class of 1967](#)

[JoAnn Lindsey Cortelyou, Class of 1959](#)

[Richard Spears, Class of 1958](#)

### APRIL 2019:

[Marty Summers, Class of 1969](#)

### MARCH 2019:

[Virginia Marvel Sayles, Class of 1941](#)

### NOVEMBER 2018:

[Kenneth \(Ken\) Moberg, Class of 1960](#)

### JUNE 2018:

[Patricia Forsythe Mathias, Class of 1951](#)

### AUGUST 2012:

[John "Jack" McDougall, Class of 1949](#)

### MARCH 2012:

[James \(Jim\) Ruchti, Class of 1961](#)

*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](http://www.hobartalumni.org). The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.*



## Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

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

Check one: New member \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_

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!**

**Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association**

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

**Our website is: [www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org)**