



The Brick & Mortar Board

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

Volume 9, Number 4

May, 2020

Our 2020 Scholarship Winners Are Announced!

Audree Vann and Brian Corbielle, Jr. have been selected as the HHS Alumni Association scholarship winners for 2020. Each will receive a \$500 scholarship to help with college expenses.

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HHS Alumni Association Celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a Scholarship Campaign



The Hobart High School Alumni Association is announcing a 10th Anniversary Scholarship Campaign. The association was incorporated on July 17, 2010. It has been our practice to award two \$500 scholarships each year to graduating seniors.

Our income has been solely from memberships, annual dinners, merchandise, and additional donations. Our balance has remained fairly steady over the years, although it has slightly decreased lately, mainly due to Life Memberships, which provide a boost only on the front end. The Scholarship Campaign is meant to provide for the possibility of being able to award scholarships of a higher amount and/or to more students.

\$250 has already been raised. Won't you consider helping? Any amount is greatly appreciated. You can choose whether or not your name will be published (in the newsletter, and to registered members only of the website). Your donation is tax-deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation. Write "Scholarships" in the memo line of your check, let us know if you want your name listed, and mail the check to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342-0068.

Annual Meeting Canceled, But Election Is Next Week (see page 4) ***Homecoming Picnic Still Planned for Saturday, September 26***

Alumni Spotlight

Jim Dagenais, Corrections Officer in the United States and Afghanistan

Our Alumni Spotlight this month is on Jim Dagenais, Hobart High School Class of 1961, who served as a corrections officer in California, and later, Afghanistan. He is now living in Thailand with his wife Jarunee (Ning) Dagenais.

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

I moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand, in May 2008, when I finished working in Afghanistan.

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Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

Chiang Mai, has an international airport that was a short drive from my condo, so I took advantage of air travel. I took several trips throughout Europe, Southeast Asia, Thailand's many islands, as well as an occasional trip to the U.S. The Federal Government flew me back to Los Angeles, California, twice to testify as a government witness in a Federal RICO trial against the Mexican Mafia.

In addition, I enrolled in Thai language courses at the local YMCA, and spent a year at Chiang Mai University studying Thai. After two years of attempting to learn Thai with negative results, I gave up.

Next I tried acting in a couple of foreign films. Chiang Mai has been the backdrop for American and foreign films companies for several years. I managed to get accepted in three different foreign films as a movie extra but never was able to get a speaking part. As a result, I started making my own short films on YouTube from some of my film footage from Afghanistan. After viewing some of my films, I was able to see why I never got a speaking part on the silver screen, lol.

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

After graduating from Hobart High School, I joined the Marine Corps. I did two tours on Okinawa, Japan, before returning to the states. I joined Ironworkers Local 395, Hammond, Indiana, in 1964.



Jim as an ironworker.

I spent about 25 years as a Structural Ironworker, working in Northwest Indiana, New York City, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

I joined the California Department of Corrections, in 1989, as a Correctional Officer. I worked at the California Correctional Center, Susanville, California, and Pelican Bay State Prison, Crescent City, California.

While working inside Pelican Bay, I responded to hundreds of stabbing and slashing assaults. I was in more riots than I can recall, including one of the largest in California's penal history. I saw three inmates die in

front of me, and was a recipient of a knife attack myself.

The last 7-1/2 years at Pelican Bay, I was assigned to their investigative unit, as a criminal investigator. There were 8 investigators that responded to 850 to 900 incidents a year. About 450 to 500 were violent incidents. An incident in prison is a felony.

During my tenure as an investigator, I was assigned as a Narcotic Agent, with the Del Norte Inter-agency Narcotic Task Force, and had an opportunity to appear in several television documentaries. I was licensed as a California Private Investigator before retiring. I retired in December, 2005.

Three weeks after retiring, I landed in Kabul, Afghanistan. I spent about 2-1/2 years, as a Correctional Advisor/Trainer, in Kabul, and Herat, Afghanistan.

I spent the first 6 months in Kabul. After the Afghan government televised our arrival the Taliban tried to figure out our vehicle movements. On June 28, 2007, they found our Kabul team and blew one of our vehicles up with a VBIED. I



A vehicle blown up by the Taliban in Kabul.

have a photo of the vehicle posted amid my photos, and a photo of some of the members of the Kabul Team who were in that vehicle. When you view the photo of the vehicle, it was nothing short of a miracle only two people were killed in the explosion.



Jim at his compound in Kabul.

After spending 6 months in Kabul, I was sent to Herat via a small aircraft piloted by a South African who spoke terrible English. Herat was supposed to be our second landing but mid-flight they changed plans and landed in Farah. I thought the pilot said we were in Herat and got off the plane, lol.

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

I was lucky there was a forward observation base nearby because there was no way anyone from my company was going to attempt driving through a Taliban controlled area to get me. The Department of State was notified and ended up having to divert a UN



Jim with General Abdul Salaam Bakshi, chief of prisons in Afghanistan.

aircraft to get me out of there. I enjoyed my few days of freedom.

The first couple of months in Herat, I was the only advisor from my company at the Herat Regional Training Center. The camp was walled in with sniper screens on top of the walls along with four gun towers. It took less than 8 minutes to walk the inside perimeter of the base.

I taught the first 10-week academy with two Afghan interpreters repeating what I would say. If that wasn't bad enough, the Taliban would periodically fire rockets into our base in the middle of the night causing me to spend about two hours inside a bunker.

In 2008, I moved to Thailand. I travel frequently. I have a YouTube channel (Bat Man), where I have posted a few travel videos, prison documentaries, and some film footage from Afghanistan.

If you are unable to locate my YouTube channel, simply go to YouTube and type in my name (Jim Dagenais) along with Pelican Bay



Instructing students how to use a baton against attacking inmates.



Instructing correctional officers (Jim was 64 at the time).

On Valentine's Day of 2016, I married my Thai girlfriend who is depicted in many of the photos I have posted on this site.



Jim's wife Ning.

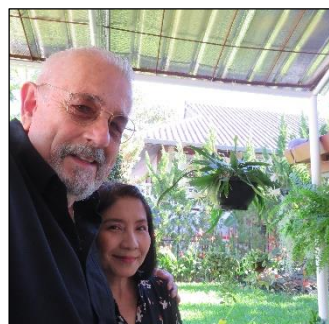
Were there any teachers or coaches in the Hobart schools who had a special impact on you?

I was never known for my academic accomplishments throughout grade school or high school, so teachers tended to look on me as a lost cause. I did well in kindergarten but it was downhill after that, lol.

However, my three years in the United States Marine Corps, had an incredible impact on me that lasted throughout my career choices, and even into my retirement years.

Do you have any advice for young people who are considering a career as a correctional officer?

I would advise earning a degree in criminal Justice, work as a reserve police officer in your community, learn and practice Martial Arts, strive to be honest and have a strong work ethic, along with developing stellar verbal and writing skills. I would recommend joining a



Jim and Ning Dagenais.

large department, where you will be able to advance through the correctional ranks.

Keep in mind, there has never been a movie that has accurately depicted what it is like to be a correctional officer or an inmate inside prison.

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

There have been some documentary videos filmed inside America's correctional institutions, who do a fairly good job, but one needs to make sure this career path is good for you. Not everyone is cut out to be a correctional officer. For the people who are, it can be an awarding career choice.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Scholarship Winners Announced (continued from page 1)

Audree Vann plans to attend Purdue University to study marketing, hospitality and tourism. She has, of course, been on our board for two years, has been in band all four years, FCA all four years, Key Club all four years, and has been in French Club all four years serving as treasurer for two years and president for one year. She has been a part of the DECA program and credits Mrs. Roach with helping in her career selection by helping her realize that she is a good event planner and enjoys it very much. She has also participated in Theater! She has volunteered with the Hobart Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry, Theater Kids, Kiwanis Peanut Sales and SLYCE. She is the daughter of Lisa Burger and Robert Vann.

From Audree's essay: A Brickie represents family, community, and hard work. My experiences in the Hobart Schools have taught me the value of this over the years. Hobart is a close-knit community where people know each other and support each other...Helping others and working hard is what a true Brickie is.

Brian Corbielle, Jr. plans to attend Olivet Nazarene University to study music to become a high school band director. He wants to inspire the next generation with this art form! He has been in band all four years, FCA, JROTC, National Honor Society. His favorite volunteer activity was "Operation Christmas Child". He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 65, New Life Community Church Youth, and Memorial Opera House Pit Orchestra. His parents are Brian and Mellisa Corbielle.

From Brian's essay: If you take a look at our mascot, Yohan, you will see three specific things: his is strong, he works hard at his career, and he does everything with a smile...This is how we as students in the SCOH and future citizens of America should act. This is what it means to be a Brickie!

Congratulations to our newest scholarship winners!

No Annual Meeting, But Election Is Next Week (continued from page 1)

There will be no Annual Dinner Meeting of the Hobart High School Alumni Association for this year. The meeting was originally scheduled for Friday, May 8, but with schools being closed until the end of the school year, and the stay-at-home order, all due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting will not be possible at that time. And because nobody knows now how long the situation will last, rescheduling can not be done at this time, either.

The election of board members and officers normally takes place at the Annual Meeting, so this year, ballots will be emailed to paid members of the HHS Alumni Association (and sent by regular mail to those who do not use email). Those ballots will be sent out on or about May 8, the original date for the meeting.

We hope you still have Saturday, September 26 marked on your calendar for the HHSAA Homecoming Picnic at Festival Park. That event is still scheduled, and we all hope that people will be able to gather together again by that time. Keep an eye on our website (www.hobatalumni.org) for further information.

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

We want to hear your stories about your time at Hobart High School. If you remember any of these things, or if you have your own stories to share, send them to me (Paul Addison) at paul@hobartalumni.org, and we'll add your story to the conversation!

Do you remember?

About 1947, students attending Roosevelt Elementary, having parents written permission, could get their blood type tattooed onto their side or hip area. After receiving the tattoo, some students would yell "ouch", some cried, and some just had tears in their eyes. They would get a light bandage and were told not to rub that area for a while. Does anyone have this tattoo? Add your name to the Tattoo List! Did teachers get this procedure also? Does anyone know of any other grade schools that did this procedure? Do you remember why this program was offered? Was it due to the war?

Old Hobart High School on 4th Street.....

Do you remember on rainy days why the front entry was used less? Answer: the old front limestone entry steps from many year's usage were concaved and held rainwater in each step. Thus, students avoided that area so they didn't get their feet wet. School janitors attempted to keep the water swept off, but had a hard time keeping up with the rain. Add your name to the Wet Shoe list!

Here's an idea for you...

Do you have an old Brickie tee shirt? When you have an old tee shirt that isn't usable for wearing out, cut out the emblem (that is in good shape) and frame it. Your Brickie tee shirt can now be prominently displayed. Hope you like this.

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

STUDENT MEMBERS

Audree Vann, Class of 2020
Adam Barney, Class of 2021



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.

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 February 2020 newsletter)

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Gerald Gerard (1965)
Kathryn Argyelan Morse (1964)

ANNUAL MEMBERS

Allen Blanchard (1954)
Christine Lundahl Buchko (1967)
Carin Carlstedt Caras (1968)
Kathy Fasel McKinney (1971)
Ronald Smith (1961)
Ken Woodward (1960)

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 can be found on the [HHS Alumni Association website](#).

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

From Barb Phillips Rowley:

Our 55th reunion will be 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 it 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

CLASS OF 1970 50th REUNION (September 26, 2020)

Hobart High School Class of 1970: Our 50th Year Reunion will be on Saturday, September 26, 2020 at St. Mary Orthodox Center, 8600 Grand Blvd., Merrillville, IN 46410.

Ticket Cost is \$45 per person, \$80 per couple

Contact Beth Barney at: bethbarney1103@gmail.com for more information

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 j.mnichols@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 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 second Saturday of every month. We have changed the location to the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road at Lake Park Avenue. 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 Paragon Restaurant, 6 and 51 in Hobart, from 11am to 1pm. Hope to see more 1964 alumni there. Contact Marsha Longacre Shabi at 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 in Hobart. For more information, contact Beth Scott Barney at bethbarney1103@gmail.com

Recent Obituaries

(since our February 2020 newsletter;
in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

APRIL 2020:

[Connie Beres, Class of 1963](#)

[Thomas \(Tom\) Leonard, Class of 1961](#)

[Michael Lowell, Class of 1998](#)

[Doris Singleton Rife, Class of 1953](#)

[William \(Bill\) Aldrin, Class of 1972](#)

[Cassandra Zulick Matie, Class of 1962](#)

[Doreen Carpenter Sweeney, Class of 1957](#)

[Hal Ward Back, Class of 1990](#)

MARCH 2020:

[Myrna Eikenbary Hart, Class of 1957](#)

[Richard \(Dick\) Zickuhr, Class of 1963](#)

[Alex Camplan, Class of 1970](#)

[Glenda Swanson Garriott, Class of 1957](#)

FEBRUARY 2020:

[Bill Rich, Class of 1970](#)

[Lora Tromble Duncan, Class of 1974](#)

[Joe Henley, Class of 1958](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED:

JANUARY 2020:

[Jeanette Bliss Lovall, Class of 1965](#)

NOVEMBER 2019:

[Gerald \(Jerry\) Brown, Class of 1983](#)

SEPTEMBER 2019:

[Leslie Bolinger Class of 1979](#)

DECEMBER 2018:

[Sans "Sandy" Wright Smith, Class of 1961](#)

OCTOBER 2015:

[James Van Vleet, Class of 1959](#)

NOVEMBER 2012:

[Alexander "Sandy" MacLeod, Class of 1959](#)

AUGUST 2012:

[Thomas Sanz, Class of 1959](#)



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