



The Brick & Mortar Board

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

Volume 13, Number 2

December, 2023

Do You Need to Renew Your Membership for 2024?

If you are an annual member of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, your membership is due for renewal at the end of December. There will be a grace period through January. Membership reminders will go out later this month, but feel free to save us both some postage and mail your \$10 check to: **HHS Alumni Association. PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342.** Or, you can become a Life Member for \$100!

Alumni Spotlight



Jacob Lenson, University Architect and Assistant VC at Purdue Northwest

Our Alumni Spotlight is on Jacob Lenson, HHS Class of 2003, who serves as the University Architect and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Purdue University Northwest.

Where are you living now, and what is your current occupation?

Currently I live in Lakes of the Four Seasons (Crown Point, IN). We are in our third home within Lakes of the Four Seasons and moved back to Northwest Indiana in 2013 after leaving Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a licensed architect and registered interior designer, and I currently serve as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities at Purdue University Northwest.

Describe your educational background.

I graduated Hobart High School in 2003 and immediately started Architecture School at Ball State University. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Major: Architecture, Minor: Construction Management) in 2007. I then went back to Ball State University in 2007 for graduate school. I graduated with a Master's Degree in Architecture (Concentration in City Planning) in May 2009.

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

Absolutely. I am probably in the minority of high school students who knew (with certainty) what I wanted to do "when I grew up." I had been exposed to the construction industry in my youth, as my father was a carpenter and well-rounded within the trades. I loved working with tools and seeing a project come to life, even at an early age. I was always more interested in designing and constructing the "project" rather than in the end result. This was particularly present as a child and teenager when

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Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

designing tree houses, bike ramps, cardboard box cities, or even the large (obnoxious) Lego towers. Hobart Middle School offered shop classes that further influenced my interest in construction and fabrication. In High School, I gravitated towards building design and even worked summers as a laborer for a residential construction company. While I loved the art of building, I also saw firsthand how dangerous the world of construction can be in the field. I also saw how damaging a lifetime of labor can be to the human body and decided to pursue a career as an architect so that I could be involved with construction but not physically constructing.

Please tell us a little about your family.

I married my wife, Danielle Lenson (DeRisi) in October of 2011. We met after we both graduated college, Danielle went to Purdue University, and I went to Ball State University. Danielle is a licensed real estate agent and owner of a small business (House to Home, NWI) that helps clients buy, design, renovate, stage, and sell homes. We



Jacob with his wife Danielle and daughter Ann, at the State of Indiana License Ceremony in 2016.

had our only child, Ann Marie Lenson, in August 2013. Ann is currently in fourth grade at Boone Grove Elementary School. Ann started a small business (The Fancy Flamingo) as a 9-year-old (2022), as she is taking after her

entrepreneurial mother. We also have a dog named Ruby that just turned one year old in November 2023.

Danielle and I both volunteer within our community as well as Northwest Indiana. Currently I am board member for the Winfield Community Foundation, the Northwest Indiana Business Round Table, the Southcoast Conservancy District, and the Lakes of the Four Seasons Master Plan Committee. I am also a member of the American Institute of Architects, Association of University Architects, The Society for College and University Planning, and the Association of Physical Plant Administrators. Danielle is currently on the Boone Grove PTO, a Junior Bulldogs Cheer coach, a dedicated fundraising advocate for NWI No Child Hungry, and a previous CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate).

What do you like most about your position as Assistant Vice Chancellor at Purdue Northwest?



Presenting newly opened and planned PNW projects to a group of PNW students from the College of Technology

Every day is different, and I get the opportunity to work with very intelligent people from very diverse backgrounds.

My role as the University Architect allows me to collaborate with past, current, and future students along with faculty, staff, and other University colleagues to envision what the built environment of a campus should look like now and in the future. It is my job to consistently strategize how the physical campus will reflect the university's

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Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

strategic plan and mission, modern teaching pedagogies and the various social experiences that occur each and every day. Having a career within the design profession is extremely rewarding when all of the planning results in a successful physical implementation of a dream or idea that was developed by your team. Seeing how these projects positively impact the students is a gratifying experience that is hard to explain.



Jacob providing a review/ critique of a senior design project

Were there any teachers or coaches at Hobart that particularly influenced your choice of career?

Throughout my school career at Hobart High School I found many teachers that had an impact on my career choice. To name a few, Jan Osika, Hank Jarvis, Tom Martin, and Drew Martin. Tom and Drew were my baseball coaches during high school – we may not have had the best team, but we always had fun and we had a great group of teammates. Jan taught my least favorite subject, Literature and Language Arts. I always excelled in math with little effort; however, Literature and Language Arts was something I had to work hard to achieve my goals. Jan made this easy and fun, and she was always one of the most positive people I would see on a daily basis. Her kindness, generosity, and general positive attitude provoked a general sense of trust and understanding that made her approachable when dealing with the various obstacles of high school. As a first-generation college student, Jan helped me overcome the burdens associated with applying to

college. The teacher that had the biggest influence on my career was Hank Jarvis. I took many classes with Mr. Jarvis that focused on design and drafting, all of which would put me in a great position to start architecture school. I am thankful for the curriculum that was offered at Hobart High School and understand that it is even better today for an aspiring architect or engineer.

List / describe recent career accomplishments / successes:

In April 2023, Purdue Northwest adopted the first physical facilities master plan that my team and I have been working on since 2019. We (also) recently opened the first new academic building on campus since 1998 – Nils K. Nelson Bioscience Innovation Building opened in August 2020. This building houses the College of Nursing and the Department of Biology for the Hammond, IN campus. The Nils Nelson Bioscience Innovation Building won the Construction Advancement Foundation Public Project of the year award in 2021.



Jake Lenson and Chancellor Tom Keon at the opening of the PNW Nils K. Nelson Bioscience Innovation Building

In 2014, the Morgens Hall renovation at the University of Cincinnati won the American Institute of Architect's Gold award, the most prestigious design award in the state of Ohio.

Do you have any advice for students who might be interested in architecture or academic administration?

No matter what field you decide to study or pursue, keep an open mind for parallel or similar opportunities that may suit your skill set better than the traditional roles offered within that

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Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

profession. I love architecture and always thought I would pursue a traditional role as an architect within an architecture firm. I started on this career path with this tunnel vision and quickly realized I was not the best designer in a pool of many architects. I needed to find my strengths and figure out how to leverage those strengths to build a unique skill set that would be valued differently than the large pool of architects I was competing against. It was also important to develop and retain a strong professional network that can provide guidance and opportunities along the way. I was fortunate to have many passionate mentors that helped shape my skills and portfolio that have allowed me the opportunities I have today.

One of my mentors gave me the opportunity to manage a \$40 million dollar project at the University of Cincinnati at the age of 26. This was a make-or-break moment in my early career, and it was certainly a daunting assignment. I was able to successfully complete this project, which



Construction Advancement Foundation Awards banquet, L to R; Charles Smith (Cannon Design), Brett Lawrence (Cannon Design), Fred Berglund (Berglund Construction), Steve Turner (PNW), Jim Dyer (Berglund Construction), Alex Lulinski (Berglund Construction), Jake Lenson (PNW)

opened up many other opportunities, including the position I currently hold today. In 2021, I was inducted into the Association of University Architects, and am currently one of the youngest members of this esteemed professional organization.

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 20, 2022) 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

- Shaun Zoladz, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School, Class of 2006*
- Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970
- Amanda Loy Stillwell, Class of 2000
- Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971

Our Newest Supporters

NEW LIFETIME MEMBER:

William (Bill) Fennessy (1958)

NEW AND RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS:

- Hannah Barney Austin (2019)
- Desiree Brayfield Durr (1977)
- Melinda Redmond Franzwa (1970)

- Millie Glusac Hovanec (1959)
- Lynn Sheets Kostbade (1966)
- Robert Kostbade (1966)
- Amanda Loy Stillwell (2000)
- Debra Jackson Vucich (1971)
- Rick Walker (1970)

Class Reunion Roundup

Please send reunion information to us at info@hobartalumni.org. Updates are posted on our website, at: <https://www.hobartalumni.org/ClassReunions.htm>. These events are listed in order of their occurrence.



CLASS OF 2004:

The Class of 2004 reunion is booked for **August 2-4, 2024**. August 2nd pool party at HHS aquatic center, Saturday brew fest at Hobart Community Center. Sunday in memory gathering and memorial bend dedication. Location TBD. Contact Katherine Galka Rinas at HobartHS2004@gmail.com for more information.

CLASS OF 1974:

The Class of 1974 will hold its 50th year reunion on Saturday, **August 17, 2024**. There will be a get-together at the Hobart Lakefront Festival Park Festival on Friday, August 16 and Sunday, August 18, 2024. Contact Martha Fick Osten for more information at marketingmartha@comcast.net.

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REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

CLASS OF 1960: The Class of 1960 is having their luncheon the second Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Linda (Quinlan) Koziol at larry58koziol@gmail.com.

CLASSES OF 1952 AND 1953: The classes of 1952 and 1953 are having breakfast the second Thursday of each month at the Paragon at 8:30. Any questions, call Marlene (Baier) Krawcyk (Class of 1952) 219-942-6301, or Martha (Jordan) Nichols (Class of 1953) 219-942-3062.

CLASS OF 1970: The Class of 1970 will be having breakfast on Saturday, December 9, at Tate's in Portage at 10:00. Tate's Place, 3051 Willowcreek Rd, Portage, IN 46368.

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

Reply to: Do You Remember: Field Trips

From Bev Moe Lockwood, Class of 1961: I remember attending a Future Business Leaders of America conference at Ball State University when I was in high school. I loved the campus and thought I would like to attend college there someday. It was many years later that I received my masters degree in physiology and health science from Ball State.

It was a dream come true.

From Sam Pressler, Class of 1953: Paul, the HHS Band in the 1950's was well known outside Hobart. The Band Mother's and the school funded 9 day Band Tours, to New York City, Pensacola Fla., all over Michigan, Ohio, where the Hobart Band played a concert every nite in a different city, then stayed over nite with that town's Band members, usually 2 Hobart kids to a host. One year we went deep into the south, playing for a white school in the AM, and an all black school in the PM. What an experience staying over nite with people in Vicksburg, Miss. in 1952 or 3. We had never been exposed to segregation. So, these were really big time "field trips" for most of us Hobart Band kids. We also played in Chicago where you mentioned several times, under the direction of Fred Ebbs, and Richard Worthington.

From Greg Heuer, Class of 1961: The HHS Band in the early 1960s had a yearly “tour” to downstate Indiana or Illinois. I particularly remember one over to Mendota, IL. Usually these were schools having Band Directors known to Mr. Rodgers. It was almost always an “exchange” program in which the host school band would then visit Hobart.



We stayed in host homes, usually two to a room. Tim Dickey and I roomed together for the Mendota trip in a nice big house of one of the Mendota bandmen as I recall.

Neal Nelson and I created Hobart Band overalls; dark blue coveralls we could slip over our uniforms. We silk screened the back in Gold - Hobart Band. The equipment crew could then do a move-in and move-out while protecting those new uniforms.

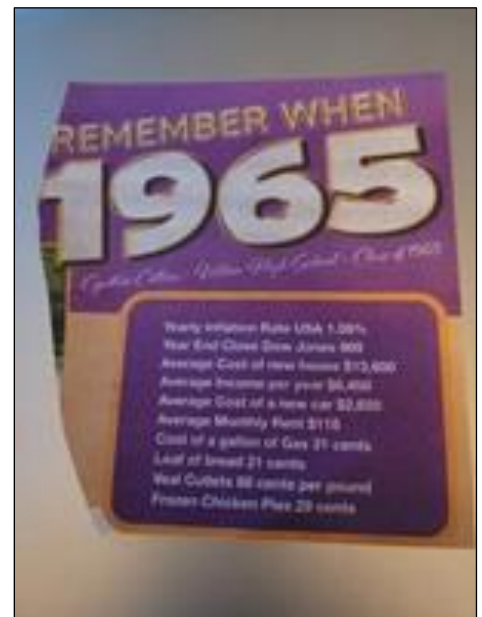
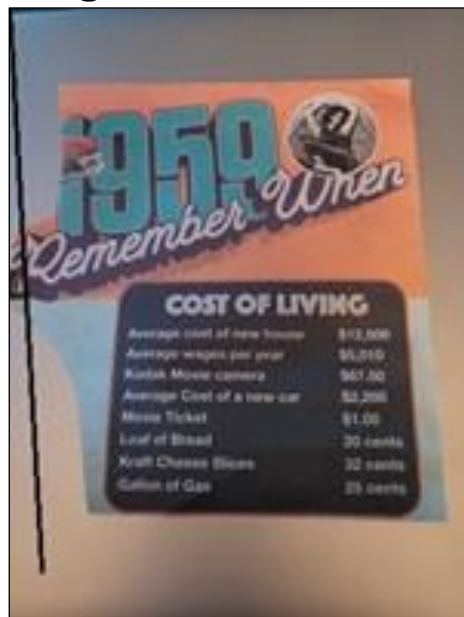
Greg Heuer
Airstream Club International Concert Band



Do You Remember: “Home” Work (not the school kind)

From Lyle Hatten, Class of 1958: Do you remember things from the past, such as watching your dad or brother clean the family’s car windshield before mom drove the car? Did you watch your grandmother or mother heat up a curling iron on the kitchen gas stove so they could curl your hair? Did your family carry in rainwater or water from barrels so the ladies could wash their hair? As there was no trash pick-up service years ago, each household would bury garbage, then burn paper and cardboard in a large metal drum. Contact Paul Addison at paul@hobartalumni.org if you have some “home” work memories.

Do You Remember: Cost of Living



From Lyle Hatten, Class of 1958: In 1955, a retired friend told me that someday you would see gasoline prices over \$1.00. Ha. Back then, gas was 18 to 22 cents a gallon on average. (Today, in California, gas prices are over \$5.00 a gallon!) Taking in a movie at the Hobart Art Theater in the early 1950’s, tickets cost 21 cents per adult, and 14 cents per youngster. An usher’s pay was 37 cents an hour. Contact Paul Addison at paul@hobartalumni.org if you remember what things cost when you were in school.

Recent Obituaries (since our September 2023 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

NOVEMBER 2023:

[Vaughn Froman, Class of 1959](#)

[Gwen Welch, Class of 1960](#)

[Lee Newman, Class of 1967](#)

[Richard \(Rich\) Kosiba, Class of 1957](#)

[Linda Dufresne Hartford, Class of 1958](#)

[Patricia \(Trish\) Williamson, Class of 1972](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Hansen, Class of 1965](#)

[Ronald \(Ron\) Sadelack, Class of 1966](#)

[Joseph \(Joe\) Galovic, Class of 1977](#)

[Carol Pawlicki Roszkowski, Class of 1959](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Goodwin, Class of 1948](#)

[Leslie Stephens-Kotvasz, Class of 1982](#)

[Joyce Kerr Wackett, Class of 1955](#)

[Elaine Etchison Ansbro, Class of 1953](#)

OCTOBER 2023:

[Netta Kanost Downey, Class of 1948](#)

[Kathryn "Faye" McLeod, Teacher](#)

[Mariilyn Thornton Ohmann, Class of 1952](#)

[Patricia Kubiak Zimbrick, Class of 1949](#)

[Mary Ellen Greener Thyen, Class of 1963](#)

[Georgia Detrick Czerniak, Class of 1963](#)

[Jo Nell Whitaker, Staff](#)

[Kenneth \(Ken\) Wilson, Class of 1958](#)

[Janice Nussman Pepoff, Class of 1965](#)

[Charlotte Berndt, Class of 1961](#)

[Sheryl \(Sherry\) Leonard Schmeler, Class of 1979](#)

[Linda Prusiecki Senne, Class of 1961](#)

[Shirley Belsha Murphy, Class of 1969](#)

[Yvonne "June" Garrard Smith, Class of 1953](#)

[Aaron Ayala, Class of 2012](#)

SEPTEMBER 2023:

[Diana \(Diane\) Foddrill Pratt, Class of 1975](#)

[James \(Jim\) Forrest, Class of 1963](#)

[Evelyn Draschil Niemeyer, Class of 1960](#)

[Carl Brickley, Class of 1967](#)

[Jackie Karner Brickley, Class of 1969](#)

[Charles Broda, Class of 1956](#)

[Judith \(Judy\) Russell Kish, Class of 1958](#)

[Joseph \(Joe\) Hecht, Class of 1950](#)

[Jozef \(Joe\) Sumichrast, Class of 1966](#)

[Judith \(Judy\) Julian Hollingsworth, Class of 1952](#)

[Edward \(Ed\) Bellinger, Class of 1968](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED:

JULY 2023:

[Sharon Hendricks \(Hendrix\) Long, Class of 1965](#)

[Daniel \(Dan\) Delich, Class of 1962](#)

JUNE 2023:

[Dwaine Coriell, Class of 1984](#)

APRIL 2023:

[Irene Peksenak Elia, Class of 1951](#)

AUGUST 2022:

[Jo Faye Dick Walker, Class of 1971](#)

[Patsy Lou George Bade, Class of 1956](#)

[LuEllen Wanda Ahlgrim Boruch, Class of 1951](#)

JANUARY 2022:

[Arthur Grant Holder, Class of 1958](#)

DECEMBER 2021:

[David Hines, Class of 1965](#)

NOVEMBER 2021:

[William \(Will or Bill\) Terry, Class of 1965](#)

MAY 2020:

[Mary Jane McSherry Sroufek-Draves, Class of 1965](#)

[Shirley Lankford Pope, Class of 1942](#)

JANUARY 2020:

[Robert Noakes, Class of 1971](#)

SEPTEMBER 2019:

[David Olovich, Class of 1965](#)

JANUARY 2019:

[Frances "Fritz" Zbyrowski Harris, Class of 1945](#)

AUGUST 2018:

[Victoria Pflughoeft Richmond, Class of 1941](#)

FEBRUARY 2018:

[Nancy Walker, Class of 2018](#)

NOVEMBER 2017:

[Marjorie Lounsbury Kittredge, Class of 1939:](#)

JUNE 2017:

[IdaBelle Dembosky VanWormer, Class of 1939](#)

FEBRUARY 2017:

[Kenneth Borchelt, Teacher](#)

[Donald Tracy, Class of 1945](#)

Recent Obituaries (cont.)

DECEMBER 2016:

[Charlotte Hayworth Campbell, Class of 1943](#)

APRIL 2015:

[James Richard "Dick" Sweat", Class of 1950](#)

NOVEMBER 2013:

[Elma Allen Mitchell, Class of 1938](#)

MARCH 2013:

[Eileen Smythe Berg, Class of 1945](#)

MAY 2012:

[Phyllis Hardman Olson, Class of 1942](#)

MARCH 2012:

[Barbara Tarkelly Fasel, Class of 1951](#)

FEBRUARY 2012:

[Sharyn Fowler Herren, Class of 1969](#)

OCTOBER 2011:

[Louis Niksch, Class of 1935](#)

JUNE 2011:

[Jean Call Fasel, Class of 1942](#)

[Delores Owens Davis, Class of 1946](#)

JANUARY 2011:

[Robert \(Bob\) Holtzman, Class of 1972](#)

[Lynda Herrera Niehaus, Class of 1982](#)

APRIL 2010:

[Evelyn Rampke Fischer, Class of 1947](#)

100 Years Ago

HHS Orchestra Flourished in the Pre-Revelli Years

The first mention of an "orchestra" in the Hobart High School yearbooks occurred in the 1911 yearbook (right). Hobart had always had a music program, but it was mainly choral.

By 1923, the orchestra had grown from three to fourteen members (below). While in the strictest sense, an orchestra does not usually have saxophones, there are three saxophone players in the 1923 orchestra.

Two years later, a music instructor named William Revelli would begin teaching at Hobart High School. He was told that there was no money for band instruments and no time during the school day for band practice, but if he could put a band program together, it would be permitted.



By 1930, the Hobart Band was winning national championships, and William Revelli was gaining national fame. He would go on to become the Director of Bands at the University of Michigan. There are a number of websites and Facebook pages dedicated to William Revelli, including [Revelli: The Longest Note](#).

The Hobart High School Band program will observe its 100th anniversary in 2025. We will keep you informed about any celebrations or concerts we are aware of.

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.

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 ___ Scholarship donation only ___

If 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!

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

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

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org