

**HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC.**

Est. 2000

HALL OF EXCELLENCE



October 5, 2019

THE HHS HALL OF EXCELLENCE:

In early 2009, the HHSAA general membership unanimously approved a motion to form an academic organization designed to recognize the post high school accomplishments and lifetime achievements of HHS grads in the arts & sciences, business, law, finance, government, religion and public service. The plan was immediately put in to action; and on October 17, 2009, the first group of HHS graduates, including two Nobel Prize winners, was inducted in to the aptly named **HHS Hall of Excellence** (HOE).

The Hall of Excellence has set the standard for achievement and the recipients selected for this distinction exemplify models of excellence, dedication and humanity. During the past decade, the fields of endeavor have remained broad and varied with the hope of inspiring future generations of HHS students to note the many paths that can be taken in life with the simple goal of being the best that one can be.

We are proud to have the opportunity to honor the best and the brightest of HHS in this meaningful way.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION TO THE HALL OF EXCELLENCE:

Anyone can nominate a candidate they feel deserves to be considered for inclusion into the HHS Hall of Excellence (HOE).

- All candidates must be graduates of Hastings High School.
- The candidate's personal achievements or body of work must have attained a recorded level of proficiency.
- The candidate's record should reflect positively on HHS and its community.
- Each graduated class year can nominate only one candidate from their class in a given induction year.

Note: If there are multiple nominees from one class meriting induction, a judgment may be rendered by the HOE Selection Committee to permit additional candidates in that year. In the event that a nominee is not selected in the specified election period, they shall remain qualified for reconsideration in the next voting period.

Inductions for the HHS Hall of Excellence and the Ronald Wilson Lindemann Athletic Hall of Fame are held on alternate years.

WELCOME
to the
HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.



AWARD CEREMONY & BANQUET

Hastings Southside Social & Athletic Club
113 Southside Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706
October 5, 2019
6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Welcome
Pledge of Allegiance
Dinner
Presentation of Awards
Closing Remarks

Welcome to the Hall of Excellence award ceremony and dinner. We are delighted you are joining us this evening to celebrate the remarkable career accomplishments of this year's distinguished ensemble of HHS alumni. We hope you enjoy the evening!

"A school without a past has no history." – Bernard "O-Bie" O'Brien '50

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2019

Patricia Chemka Speranza '76 – President

Myrna Gulish '55 – V.P. & Director, Class Representatives
Co-Chair HOE

Nancy Maleska '72 – Secretary

William Kennedy '85 – Treasurer

Alan Fine '75 – Director, Special Events

Rafael Zaratzian '83 – Director, Website/Technical

Connie Gulish Bliss '56 – Director

Joan Farrell Lee '56 – Director

Nancy Skultety Gagliardi '75 – HHS Liaison

Eric Kantor '58 – Director

Gregory Localio '86 – Director

Stan Madyda '73 – Director

Lorraine Johnson Usher '65 – Co-Chair HOE

Linda Bianchi Johnson '64 – Director

Kyle Crawford '09 – Director

Bernard "O-Bie" O'Brien '50 – Founder, Director Emeritus



**HALL OF EXCELLENCE
SELECTION COMMITTEE – 2019**

Myrna Gulish '55 & Lorraine Johnson Usher '65
HOE CO-CHAIRS

Clive Hohberger '60
CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Stan Madyda '73
HHSAA BOARD MEMBER

Mary Koslap Petraco '66
HOE MEMBER – 2017
CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Donna Bossenbroek Cosenza '71
CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

"To become successful, one must put themselves in the paths of giants."

– Lillian Caudwell

HHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.
HHS HALL OF EXCELLENCE



Award Presentations

On behalf of the members of the Hastings High School Alumni Association, we commend each of you on your post high school career accomplishments and contributions.

Congratulations!

INDUCTEES

Patricia Mehlhop '63
Vanessa H. Merton '66
Marian E. Porges '78
Andrew Michael Simon '81
Laura Van Wie McGrory '86
Andrew Berends* '90

PRESENTERS

Margery Thomas Clark '63
Laurie Bean Ross '66
Marjorie Alter Caparosa '78
Todd Jay Schiffer '81
Caitlin Morgan Sireci '86
Tommy Drake '90

*Posthumously

The important thing is to find your true source of inspiration and to remain focused in the achievement of your goals. – *Sara Wellington*

PATRICIA MEHLHOP – Class of 1963

Ecologist

Nominated by Margery Thomas Clark '63 & Jonathan Lillard '63
Jon wrote, "Pat played a crucial role in the formation of the NatureServe network, establishing state National Heritage Programs in New York, Oklahoma and New Mexico."



Pat grew up in a myriad of places, usually with plenty of nature out her back door, where she spent much of her time exploring it. Science was her favorite subject in school, and when she learned that biology was something people spent time doing, she wanted to be a biologist. Pat thought all biologists wore lab coats and studied things in cages in the laboratory, until she went to college and took an ecology course. She

eventually landed in the Mammal Division of the National Museum of Natural History. It quickly sprang her into a research position at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in an old growth forest on the Chesapeake Bay.

Pat had arrived in the world of ecology and never looked back. On an ecology research trip to New Mexico along the border with Mexico, she fell in love with the desert and decided to continue her education in desert ecology. In doing so, she traveled throughout the southwest and Mexico. With a Ph.D. in hand, Pat established state-focused programs on the ecology of declining species in New York, Oklahoma and New Mexico, conducting ecological research on a wide variety of species, including freshwater mollusks, birds and mammals.



Pat lives in New Mexico today, and explores nature, especially birds, in the desert and in countries around the world.

VANESSA H. MERTON – Class of 1966

Professor/ Lawyer/Human Rights Activist

Nominated by Laurie Bean Ross '66

Laurie said, "Vanessa's professional accomplishments, ongoing dedication to helping disadvantaged, disabled and underserved people make her extremely qualified for this honor."



Professor Vanessa Merton, HHS '66, B.A. Radcliffe College, J.D. NYU Law, directs the Immigration Justice Clinic (IJC) at Pace Law School in White Plains, N.Y. providing free legal services to noncitizens.

For 15 years Vanessa served as Pace Law's Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Clinic Executive Director, while teaching programs in Access to Health Care, Whistleblower Protection, and Prosecution of Domestic Violence. She was a founding member of the faculty of the CUNY Law School and began her career in legal education at NYU School of Law. Her prior practice experience includes the Legal Aid Society of New York, Trial Counsel at the Disciplinary Committee, and the Hastings Center for Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences. Vanessa has received the Pace Law Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, the Graduating Class Outstanding Law Professor Award, the CUNY Law Distinguished Service Award for Teaching Effectiveness, and the AILA Excellence in Teaching Award, the highest honor for an immigration law professor.

For her work setting up a 200-student emergency operation to assist victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack, Vanessa received six national and local awards. In the past four years, she has been named a "Lawyer Who Leads by Example" by the *New York Law Journal* and "Woman of the Year" by the Mt. Sinai Occupational Health Clinic; honored by the Latin-American Law Students and the Immigration Law Society, and with the declaration of "Vanessa Merton Day" by Westchester County.



Vanessa still lives in Hastings, the third generation of her family to do so. Both her children, Darrow and Rebecca, attended the Hastings schools until their graduation from Hastings High.

MARIAN E. PORGES – Class of 1978

Journalist

Nominated by Barbara Hope Waterous '78

Barbara said, "Marian has spent more than 30 years in media – spending much of this time working to maintain the integrity of the news division."



After high school, Marian attended Tufts University, where she majored in political science, and after which she headed back to Manhattan and started her professional journalism career. Marian has worked at only two companies, ABC News (where she started while in college) until 1995 and NBC News then. This professional path has allowed her to witness and cover historic events firsthand.

During her 30 years of media experience, Marian has covered 17 political conventions and is the recipient of an Emmy Award for coverage of all events surrounding the funeral of Ronald Reagan. In addition, she has received eight Emmy nominations. About 10 years ago, she also had the chance to teach for a while. As exciting and challenging as her journalism and production adventures had been, one of her most fulfilling opportunities has been teaching and mentoring. She hopes to do more of that in the future.

When she's not working, Marian loves photography, and her home is full of beautiful travel spots she and her husband have been to over the years. She's also a huge sports fan – watching sports on TV and going to events – though not often enough.

Last year, Marian had the honor of speaking at the Hastings High School graduation, and it enabled her to share with the graduates and their families just how special she believes Hastings is. She said she hopes all who have come through the halls of Hastings High realize the opportunity they have been given by being a part of such a community.



Although Marian's family left Hastings about eight years ago, her family still feels very connected to H-O-H and hope they never lose that connection.

ANDREW MICHAEL SIMON – Class of 1981

Renowned Clarinetist

Nominated by Todd Jay Schiffer '81

Todd said, "Andrew is an outstanding musician who rose from our humble Hastings beginnings and made a huge impact on the classical music world. Knowing him for greater than 40 years has been my honor. I think he deserves this honor."



Boasting an international career spanning more than three decades, clarinetist Andrew Simon has appeared as soloist and guest lecturer on four continents. His solo career was launched by his Carnegie (Weill) Recital Hall debut in 1989 when *The New York Times* compared him favorably to clarinet legend Benny Goodman.

Highlights as Principal Clarinetist of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (since 1988) include sharing the stage with hundreds of the world's most renowned musicians in many genres, including The Beach Boys, The Three Tenors and Yo-Yo Ma. Andrew has been guest principal with the Mainz Mozart Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

His solo discography includes "HOT" ("This is a five-star recording" – *The Clarinet*) and "Ebony and Ivory" ("A Winner" – *Fanfare Magazine*) for MSR Classics and NAXOS Records, respectively.

As guest lecturer, Andrew frequents institutions such as Yale University, the Sydney Conservatorium, the Royal College of Music in London, and the Central Conservatory in Beijing.

Having studied at the Juilliard School as a Ludlam Scholar, Andrew is the first-ever American-born musician to perform in North Korea. Outside the world of music, his adventurous streak has taken him from an ashram in India to a bungee jump in New Zealand. An avid tennis fan, Andrew's non-musical claim to fame includes playing a match with John McEnroe. He lost.



When told of his selection into the HOE, Andrew said, "What a great honor! Thank you for appreciating my achievements."

LAURA VAN WIE MCGRORY – Class of 1986

Energy Conservationist

Nominated by Greg Localio '86

Greg said, "Laura's ongoing outstanding contributions in her field of energy conservation clearly continue to make the world a better place. As her classmate and longtime friend, it is a pleasure to nominate her for this distinction."



Throughout the past three decades, Laura has focused her professional life on combatting climate change by promoting energy efficiency policies and programs worldwide. She has a B.A. from Dartmouth College and a Master of International Environmental Policy from Columbia University. Laura began her career consulting with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help develop the Energy Star and other

voluntary energy efficiency programs. She spent four years working with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to produce climate change mitigation reports – and was later recognized as one of the 1,000+ experts who contributed to the IPCC's 2007 Nobel Prize award.

Laura spent a decade working on U.S. and International energy efficiency policy with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy research laboratory. Since 2009, Laura has been a Vice President at the nonprofit Alliance to Save Energy in Washington D.C., where she coordinates collaborative efforts by governments and advocacy organizations to improve efficiency in the buildings, transportation and water sectors. She has published widely on these issues and has frequent speaking engagements at the climate talks and other International meetings. In her spare time she sings in a women's barbershop chorus and serves on the board of a community theater (sometimes daring to get onstage herself).

Laura and her husband, Bob, will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary next year. They have two children: Ian (19) is a college sophomore, and Maya (17) is a senior in high school.



ANDREW BERENDS* – Class of 1990

*1972 - 2019

Documentary Filmographer

Nominated by Tommy Drake '90

Tommy said, "Andy went outside the popular walls of American filmmaking and did not concern himself with what would be popular or make for good ratings. His provocative stories are inspiring and a testament to the fortitude of the human spirit."



After graduating HHS in 1990, Andrew began his film studies at Connecticut's Wesleyan University, where he graduated in 1994. His journey as a documentary filmmaker and director took him to areas of conflict and upheaval all over the world shooting and editing a variety of ethnographic research projects.

Andrew strived to tell intimate and meaningful stories, even in the midst of volatile environments. He made five feature documentaries in Nigeria, Iraq, Sudan and the Netherlands, which include *The Blood of My Brother*, *When Adnan Comes Home* and *Delta Boys*. One of his biggest challenges was gaining access to Sudan's rebel-controlled Nuba Mountains, a war zone with front-line fighting and indiscriminate aerial bombardment, to make *Madina's Dream*, and tell the story of the rebels and refugees fighting to survive in there.

Andrew received the International Documentary Association "Courage Under Fire" award, the Best Documentary at the 2007 Vail Film Festival, and was nominated for the International Documentary Association's Pare Lorentz Award. When asked what he wanted the audience to take away from his films, Andy replied: "I want the audience to be saddened and outraged by what's happening, to be uplifted by the magic of the regions, and celebrate the spirit and beauty of girls like Madina."

Andy passed away in March 2019. He is remembered as a gifted artist, filmmaker, photographer, musician, and a documentarian – who always made you feel important, beautiful, appreciated and understood.



HHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.
HHS HALL OF EXCELLENCE MEMBERS

HALL OF EXCELLENCE INAUGURAL INDUCTION
OCTOBER 17, 2009

Donald P. Gregg '45
Edmund "Ned" Phelps '51
Ronald H. Jesberg '53
Mitzi Mallina Wertheim '55
Robert C. Merton '62

HALL OF EXCELLENCE – OCTOBER 22, 2011

William H. Bohnert '50
Donald Maricle '51
G. Michael Howard* '53
Robert H. Hirst '59
Stephen Collins '65
Staton Rabin '76
Stephen Lysak* '31 & John Lysak '36

HALL OF EXCELLENCE – SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

Julia Scott Maser* '51
Thomas F. Pike '56
William H. Ewen Jr. '59
F. John Adams* '62
Jonathan F. Lillard '63
William Finkeldey '68

HALL OF EXCELLENCE – SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

Julius R. Chemka* '44
Bernard J. O'Brien '50
Robert L. Guyett '54
Jeffrey M. Camhi '59
Jack McCallum '63
Jeanne Wester Newman '69

HALL OF EXCELLENCE – SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

William P. "Bill" Daley '43
Mary Koslap-Petraco '66
Steven M. Bass '75
Philip J. Weiser '86

* Posthumously

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

– Eleanor Roosevelt

Dear Fellow HHS Alumni and Friends,

The Hastings High School Alumni Association, Inc. (HHSAA) is a tax exempt charitable organization incorporated under the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. The all-volunteer organization is supported wholly by annual dues and generous donations from our alumni members and friends.

The mission of the HHSAA is multi-faceted. We provide a means for all HHS grads to stay connected, recognize outstanding former HHS athletes and coaches through the RONALD W. LINDEMANN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME, acknowledge the post high school accomplishments of HHS grads through the HHS HALL OF EXCELLENCE, and Pay It Forward for future generations of HHS grads through the HHSAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. Every cent of the money we receive is funneled into these many efforts, and more. This past June, the HHSAA presented 16 scholarships totaling a record \$32,000 to 20 merit-based and need-based HHS seniors. We couldn't be more proud of our generous alumni for their support in this life-changing mission! If you are not a member, please consider joining HHSAA and help us continue our mission and keep up the winning traditions of HHS.

Thank you for being a part of this special evening celebrating the induction of these remarkable former HHS grads. Congratulations to our newest members and a great big round of applause to everyone who had a hand in making this great event possible.

We hope to see you again in 2021 – at the next HOE induction ceremony.

Regards,

The HHSAA Board of Directors and HOE Selection Committee

STAY CONNECTED
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Visit our website at: www.hohalumni.org to learn more about the mission of the HHSAA, how you can be a part of our growing membership and help support the HHSAA Scholarship Program.

"In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us." – *Flora Edwards*

Hastings High School
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

HALL OF EXCELLENCE  **HALL OF FAME**

c/o 1 Mt. Hope Blvd.
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

Visit our website at: www.hohalumni.org