

*Highland Park High School
Alumni Association*

Alumni News

NOVEMBER 2013



HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Mission Statement:

To assist the
administration of
Highland Park in
creating and
maintaining a positive
image of the school.

www.hphsalumni.com

Annual Alumni Dinner

On Saturday, June 8, 2013 the Alumni Association hosted the Annual Alumni Banquet. Thanks to everyone that attended. It was an enjoyable evening and we believe the Scholarship recipients appreciated the support and recognition. To recap our Scholarship Recipients:

\$500—Victor Ortega During his high school years, he has exceeded academically earning a cumulative GPA of 3.87. He was ranked number 8 out of 185 students. He has received several awards and recognized as a member of the National Honor Society, Advancement Via Individual Determination and served as the student body presented. While completing advanced placement and honor classes, Victor has already completed several hours of college course and received the presidential scholarship. Victor was active in soccer, football, and baseball while attending several leadership symposiums and conferences and volunteering in several fundraiser walks/runs. Victor will attend Allen County Community College and play soccer. He plans to transfer to Kansas University and complete his bachelor's degree in Pre-Law. His ultimate goal is to graduate from law school and become an immigration lawyer.

\$300—Miranda Deeds-Rookstool. She has been active in the school by participating in choir and assisting with the wrestling program. She volunteers for the Topeka Road Runners Hockey team. She has served on the Kansas SADD student leadership council, as well as Highland Park's SADD chapter serving as president. She has volunteered at William Elementary school for 10 years. His interests are computer and anything technical. She plans to attend Washburn University in the fall. Her interest is athletic training and nursing. She has enjoyed helping others and was able to assist the trainer for the hockey team and enjoyed that one-on-one interaction.

Congratulations to all of the recipients and their families.

Board of Directors named at Annual Alumni Banquet for 2013-2014

President	E.J. Drake
President Elect	
Treasurer	Bill Gahnstrom
Secretary	Shawn Maisberger

<u>Directors</u>
Connie Gould
Freddy Maisberger III
Betty Stiles

INVITED AGAIN!

Scots theatre Group invited back to Scotland



See attached insert from theatre group who has been invited back to Scotland to perform. Please see the information and provide any assistance possible. It is a memorable event for HP students.

The Highland Park High School drama students, their parents, and teachers are heavily involved in fundraising activities to finance their two-week adventure to Scotland and England.

Contributions and donations are welcome. For more information, call Scott Kickhaefer, Head of Theatre at Highland Park High School at (785) 274-6119, or email him at scottkickhaefer@gmail.com.

Detach and return

Alumni Membership Application

Dues: \$8.00 Annual memberships are effective July 1 through June 30.

Lifetime membership (one-time fee): Age 18-40 \$ 65.00 Age 41-60 \$ 50.00
Age 61-70 \$ 40.00 Age 71 + \$ 25.00

Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City, State, Zip _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Year Graduated _____ Age of Member _____ Amount submitted for membership \$ _____ For scholarship \$ _____ Amount submitted for "special requests" \$ _____

Return to HPHS Alumni Association, 2424 SE California, Topeka KS 66605

Hall of Fame AND Wall of Honor Nominations

Nominate Your Favorite Scotsman Today...

There are so many great Highland Park alumni that contribute to the school or who may have received general notoriety either locally, regionally or nationally. We want to know about them—nominate them today. The committee encourages you to take a few minutes and complete the enclosed application and nominate that individual who is deserving and should not go unrecognized. The form is available on the website at www.hphsalumni.com as well. There are so many outstanding graduates and staff members who are deserving. It is impossible for the Committee and Alumni Board to know who among our graduates has excelled since their graduation. Nomination forms must be received by December 31 for consideration. Nominations are welcomed anytime and will be carried over to the next year if not selected.

Hall of Fame—nominate a person for the HALL OF FAME. An individual must be a graduate of HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL or on the Administrative or Faculty Staff. The nominee must have graduated twenty (20) years before he/she is eligible for consideration for the HALL OF FAME. Administrative or Faculty staff members are eligible any time.

Wall of Honor—nominate an individual or team for Sports WALL OF HONOR. An Individual or Team must be a graduate(s) of Highland Park High School or a Coach at Highland Park High School. The nominee(s) must have graduated ten (10) years before he/she/they is/are eligible for consideration for the WALL OF HONOR. Coaches are eligible any time.

HALL OF FAME and WALL OF HONOR

Induction Ceremony

Saturday, October 12, 2013 The Alumni Association in partnership with the High School celebrated the induction of two very special individuals.



Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee Rocky Nichols ('88) –Humanitarian

Rocky Nichols was raised in Highland Park after his mom and dad, Rita and Ken, moved to Highland Park in the 1950s to raise their family. Rocky graduated from Highland Park High School in 1988. Rocky is the fourth member of his family to proudly be a Highland Park Scot behind his brother Kent and sisters Risa and Ronda.

During high school he was a member of the Highland Park Bagpiper Newspaper serving as the Co-Editor In Chief, and the Sports Editor, Editorial Page Editor. He participated in football receiving an Honorable Mention All-City Football Team his senior year playing as the starting guard and center; Marching Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, and Drum Line. Received the SCA - Society for Creative Acronyms Academic Honors and on the Honor Roll and inducted into the National Honor Society.



Rocky celebrates over 20 years of experience in non-profit leadership and public policy advocacy which include 11 years as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives, two as legislative staff and nine at Disability Rights Center of Kansas serving as its current executive director. He was just 23 and finishing his degree at Washburn University in 1992 when he won the House seat that had been held by former Senate Minority Leader also a Highland Park graduate and previous inductee Anthony Hensley.

Rocky is a veteran advocate for disability rights issues. Rocky is also a former member of the Next Generation Leadership Committee of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Rocky received his undergraduate degree from Washburn University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

Rocky has been the recipient of more than 20 awards for legislative leadership and advocacy, including many significant awards on behalf of persons with disabilities: Elizabeth M. Boggs Award for Outstanding Leadership in the area of Intellectual Disability, given by the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities; 1996 and 2002 Outstanding Public Official of the Year Award, given by the Kansas Association of Community Mental Health Centers; 1996 and 2002 Kansas NAMI Advocacy Award; 2001 Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Outstanding Advocate Award.

Rocky is married to Wendy and they have one son Ryan.

INDUCTION CEREMONY CONTINUED

Sports Wall of Honor Inductee

Ken Darting – Boys Basketball Coach

Ken Darting graduated from Wamego High School in 1967. Ken was very successful as an athlete achieving all conference in football, basketball and track being named Athlete of the Year his senior year. He graduated from Emporia State in 1972 and received All Conference in baseball and All Region breaking the conference record in stolen bases and runs scored. Ken went on to earn his master's degree from Kansas State University in 1983.



Ken began his career as a teacher and coach in 1973 at Silver Lake High School until 1982. During his tenure at Silver Lake he taught History and Government and served as the head basketball coach, head boys/girls cross country coach and head boys/girls track coach. As a coach his teams were very successful and won several league championships, and state placers. In 1984 he served as the head junior varsity basketball coach for Manhattan High School finishing with a 16-0 record. Following that successful year, he served as an assistant coach under Jack Hartman at Kansas State University. Ken coached at Allen County Community College from 1986-1995 as

the assistant men's basketball coach, head women's basketball coach, head men's basketball coach and head women's softball coach participating in conference championship games. The women's softball team was the only team in Allen County's history to qualify for the national tournament (5th place in 1988).

In 1995 Highland Park High School hired Ken as a history teacher/alternative education teacher, promoted to assistant principal in 1997 and then served as the athletic director from 2001-2010. Ken was hired as the boy's head basketball coach in 2001. He is proud of his twelve years and an overall record of 236 wins and only 51 losses. During his twelve years his teams have afforded him eight league championships, three state runner-up places, one third state place and three undefeated league championships. His sub-state records include nine championships and three runner-up while his state records are nine appearances, three state runner-ups and a dominating four state championships which included three of them being repeat victories. Over the years his teams have received national recognition due to the success of winning 25 tournaments which include 12 consecutive tournament wins. His best season record was 25-0 with the 2006-07 team. They were the one of only two undefeated teams in Topeka's basketball history. However, teams in 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2012-13 finished 24-1. Over the twelve years, Ken has assisted more than 52 players to be offered college basketball scholarships.

Ken has been an inspiration and successful coach over the years. He has been recognized and celebrates his coaching records that include the most overall wins in school history (236), best career winning percentage (.822), most league wins (126), most league championships (8), most career state tournament appearances (9), most appearances in state finals (7) and most state championships (4). He has received several honors such as City Coach of the Year (6), Centennial Coach of the Year (8), Class 5A Coach of the Year (4), Kansas Coach of the Year (3), KBC All-Star Coach (4), and Head Coach Nebraska/Kansas All Star Game (1).

Ken is married to Karen and they have two grown children – daughter Krista and son Kerry.

Highland Park Alumni Association
2424 SE California Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66605

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TOPEKA, KANSAS
PERMIT NO 702

*HPHS Alumni Association
We Want to Hear From You!*

Need to update your information? Scheduling a Reunion? Let's us know about it. We would enjoy sharing your information with fellow alumni as well as maintaining our database.

Name _____ Year Graduated _____

Address _____ Home Phone _ () _____

City, State, Zip _____ Work Phone _ () _____

Email _____

Current Occupation/Company _____

News of Interest to other Alumni _____
