

Waconia High School Hall of Fame - Class of 2014

Class of 2014: Michail Borka, Jenn Bostic, Eric Nord, and Mary Radde

Michael Borka – WHS 1978 Graduate

Mike Borka, class of 1978, is the son of Richard and Marilyn Borka of Waconia, and brother to David, WHS class of 1976, and Cheryl Borka Rademacher, class of 1980.

During his time at WHS, Mike was active in wrestling, band, choir, National Honor Society, and theater. While he enjoyed each of these activities, the old auditorium stage held special sway. There he performed in the spring dramas, winter musicals, and one-act play contest productions. His interest in performing continued as he enrolled at Saint John's University in Collegeville, MN and majored in theater. After graduating from St. John's, Mike conducted school arts residencies with CLIMB Theater Company, toured with an opera production of *Where the Wild Things Are*, and performed at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival with the Comedy Troupe and the Festival's *Feast of Fantasy* with friend and fellow actor, Jim Cunningham. In addition, Mike has enjoyed performing in Community Theater shows in Waconia, St. Paul, and St. Cloud.

Mike's time with CLIMB, kindled an interest in working full-time with elementary-aged students, so in 1986 he entered the University of Minnesota's teacher preparation program. After securing his teaching license in 1988, he began teaching in the Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan School District, #196. He eventually returned to the U of M and completed his Master's degree and his PhD. From 2003-2013 he was a faculty member in the Saint John's University/College of Saint Benedict's Education Department and taught a variety courses in their teacher preparation program. It is worth noting; several of Mike's former students from St. Ben's have taught or are teaching at Bayview and Southview here in Waconia. Mike has recently returned to ISD #196 to teach second grade and serve as a literacy lead teacher at Woodland Elementary School.

Married, Mike and Brigid live in St. Paul. They enjoy bicycling, gardening, and walking. Brigid and Mike have two children, Emily (St. Paul) and André (Minneapolis). Along with his family, Mike is thankful for and humbled by the honor of today's induction and will continue to represent Waconia School District, its teachers and students, and the greater Waconia community with pride.

Jenn Bostic – WHS 2004 Graduate

Jenn Bostic is a recording artist and songwriter currently based in Nashville, Tennessee. This 2004 graduate was involved in showchoir, concert choir, women's chorus, musicals, track and field, basketball, volleyball, concert band and marching band during her time at WHS.

Upon graduation, she attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, where she studied Music Education. During her time at Berklee she was recognized as one of the top vocalists

performing in The Singer's Showcase, and was also awarded with a Music Education scholarship. Outside her studies, she was also the lead singer for east coast cover band, DiggerDawg. Before graduation in 2008, she traveled to Kuwait and Iraq for three weeks to perform for the United States Troops.

In August of that year, she relocated to Nashville, TN, where she has independently released two full length albums. Her talent has brought her to the stages of The Grand Ole Opry, The Ryman Auditorium, and The Bluebird Cafe. Her song "Jealous of the Angels," has over 1.6 million views on YouTube and in 2012, after her performance on BBC Breakfast, the song went #1 in the United Kingdom. Also in 2012, she won 5 Independent Country Music Association Awards including Best Songwriter, Best Female Vocalist and Overall Winner.

While chasing her dream of being a recording artist, her heart continues to beat for encouraging students to express themselves through music. During her busy touring schedule, she manages to conduct songwriting workshops in various schools around the United States. Her third album is well underway and we can all expect to be hearing new music by the end of the year.

Eric Nord -WHS 1981 Graduate

During the course of Eric's WHS career, he was active in both sports and the arts. He lettered in football and track, was a three year member of the Honor Society, served on the student council, participated in Pop Group, Madrigal singers, pep band, jazz band, musicals, drama productions, marching band, and one act play competitions. His calculus teacher, James Tisel, used to call him and his friends the "Get Out of School Club" because they were always missing class to be in one event or another.

Eric also served as president of the West Union Lutheran Church's youth group and was active in the many musical productions that the youth of that congregation put on over the years. After graduation, Eric went on to Carleton College, receiving his Bachelor of Arts in economics in 1985, and his Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law in 1988. He subsequently became a member of the Montana, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts Bar Associations. Over the course of his law practice, he was honored with various accolades and awards.

In 1995, the mayor of the City of Concord, New Hampshire commended Eric for his efforts related to the construction of a new civic center. "I know that the transaction was not a simple one," the mayor wrote, "and required patience, persistence, and expertise." In 1998, Eric was named a New Hampshire Bar Association Fellow. After he moved to Montana, Eric became treasurer of the Yellowstone Area Bar Association as well as the chairperson of the State Bar's Judicial Relations Committee. He was also selected for inclusion in Mountain States Super Lawyers-Business/Corporate Edition for 2012, 2013, and 2014 in the area of business and corporate law. Only five percent (5%) of lawyers are named "Super Lawyers."

Eric has also been active in the communities where he has resided over the years. He was president of his churches in New Hampshire and Montana. He also served as president of the

Billings Education Foundation, the Billings Depot historical preservation board, St. John's Lutheran Ministries, and Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp. In 2002, he was honored as the outstanding environmental services volunteer in The Woodlands, Texas. He has also worked with the United Way, Boy Scouts, and Rotary International.

Eric has taught business law as an adjunct instructor for Montana State University-Billings as well as the University of Phoenix. He has spoken at a number of legal seminars and written many articles on business law-related topics.

Eric has been married to Sue for 25 years, and they have two children. He loves to travel and has been to most of the United States as well as 12 countries.

Mary Radde – WHS

Mary Radde Jones went to Waconia High School from 1972 to 1976 when the Girls Athletics was in its infancy. Mary enjoyed all sports and lettered fourteen times in Basketball, Tennis, Track, and Volleyball, as well as, Cheerleading. Mary was District Shot-put Champion, Captain and All Conference in Volleyball.

Mary earned GARA (Girls Athletic Recreation Association) and VFW Sportsmanship Awards, she was the GARA President and Secretary.

Mary was a strong athlete, but she was involved in music too. As a percussionist she played Concert band, Jazz band, Marching band and Pep Band. Mary also played flute for which she earned Superior ratings in Solo and Ensemble. Mary was also in Orchestra and Choir. But wait there is more, in the Waconia Drama Club Mary earned Best Actress and All Conference in One Act Plays.

It is no surprise Mary was in the National Honor Society and served on the Student Council. She earned the Outstanding Student Leadership Award.

After graduating in 1976, Mary went to Bemidji State University where she earned a double major in Elementary Education and Physical Education with a Coaching and Recreation minor. She was on the Bemidji Tennis Team all four years and active in the Catholic Newman Center.

Mary put her degree to work as a substitute teacher for a year, but she was ready for an adventure and purchased a suburban in 1981, with her girlfriend they drove from Minnesota to Alaska. They faced bear and moose while hitch-hiking 700 miles from Fairbanks to Skagway Alaska where Mary became the Community Education Director. She established the Early Risers Exercise Group which is still going strong today! Mary then took a Fifth Grade teaching position and toured Southeast Alaska as the Girls Basketball Coach. When the White Pass Railroad had a layoff and closed, there was an exodus of families from the area, this resulted in Mary losing her teaching position.

While in Alaska, Mary joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She decided to be a volunteer missionary and was sent to Tokyo Japan where she served 18 months and immersed herself in the Japanese culture. At the end of her mission she wanted to return to teaching and

after looking in Minnesota, Alaska, and Utah found a position at Willow Canyon Elementary School in Sandy, Utah teaching fourth grade.

While in Utah, she married Mark Jones, who she met in Japan where they were both serving as missionaries. They have been married 28 years and have five children. Their son Seth Jones, his wife Jaya Ernest; daughter Meshya Jones and husband Porter Hoskins, Shawni Jones currently serving a church mission in Scotland, son Taft Jones currently serving a church mission in Argentina, and their daughter Ashayl Jones a freshman at Chaska High School.

Mary continues to give of her time and talents in the community. She has volunteered for over 30 years in service to the children, youth and women's groups of The Church of Jesus of Latter-Day Saints.

Mary learned to play piano and organ as a young girl from her Aunt Lona Radde, she uses her music talents as substitute church organist. Yearly her family invites friends and neighbors to soup and singing where they enjoy singing Christmas Carols as Mary accompanies on the piano.

Mary is well known as the "blonde walking lady" in Chaska, still getting up early to walk multiple miles before preparing breakfast for her family. Family is very important to Mary and having a meal together each evening is a family tradition. And yes, her curls are natural.

Mary loves to stay active running her first marathon to celebrate turning 50 years young! She has since run 4 marathons, over 10 triathlons, and too many half marathons, 10K's and 5K's to keep count. She regularly wins or places in her age group. Her wall of metals earned since her first marathon is significant. She also volunteers at races to encourage the other athletes.

Mary still keeps roots in Waconia where she teaches fitness classes at Safari Island and attends church. Mary still enjoys the outdoors, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, walking, running, gardening, biking, and more. She loves to cook, makes her own bread, and likes collecting and reading recipe books. If you are fortunate to stop at her home Mary almost always has a baked pan of bars on the counter. Mary loves antiques or "old junk" as her children call it.