

Northland High School Alumni Foundation

NHSAF Valhalla Newsletter Rob Quaintance Spotlight Questions

1. Who was your favorite teacher, class, friend and hang out?

- Teacher I would say Mr. Lewis. He was the theater teacher but also had WNHS which was a school radio station in the Theater room. I really looked up to him and he would always challenge his students. He allowed to find my passion in life. - - My favorite class. I liked Theater, Spanish with Mrs. Miller and Geometry with Mr. Rittenhouse. I can still hear him when you get a question wrong... "Rob...you're a knucklehead!"

- Friends – In School I hung out with Eileen Maloney, Tim Boyer, Laura & Melissa Wise, Dean and Felecia Gregoroff, Doug Matthews, Dan Edgar, Nanette Combs, Mark Barnett, Scott Moore and several others who I will probably get a facebook message for not mentioning. After school, I hung out with Greg Boyer quite a bit through college and have met up with several other classmates who have stopped out in Vegas over the years.

- Hangouts – We used to get a group and go to High Street to place called Street Scene on campus at OSU. Also in the summer we used to go to North High Drive Inn, Sequoia Lanes, Tamarack Swimming Pool, Alum Creek, Mohican to go canoeing and my basement which was big and had Atari, Ping Pong and a bar stocked with Pop.

2. Tell about your most memorable moment at Northland High School.

Hard to say. My Senior year, we beat DeSales in our Varsity golf match and I was the medalist with a 36. That was kind of cool.

I enjoyed being involved in theater. I was in the ODD COUPLE and I was supposed to eat a BLT. I hate tomatoes so every performance, I thought I was slick pulling the tomato out of the sandwich into a napkin. Laura Wise and Eileen Maloney busted me out.

3. What was your family expectation of you?

To be happy in whatever I did in life. I took such a different path from my family. My father was a lawyer and worked in the federal government with the USDA. His brother and sister were farmers up by Bucyrus and Galion, Ohio. My Uncle on my Mother's side was a Judge. When I graduated from Northland and started at BGSU in Radio/TV/Film, the first thing he told me is "Whatever you do, be the best. If you want to pick up garbage, be the best garbage man, if you want to do radio, be the best at radio." Honestly, I think he was shocked that I went into the career field I did, but I think he would have been happy with the results. He passed away when I was 22 so he never got to see where my career led me.

4. How did your Northland experience help in your life/job?

Grounding. Being from the Midwest, you have a sense of honesty and doing what is right. I was able to pursue my passion and came out a pretty intelligent, well rounded individual. I like to think my roots in Columbus and Northland taught me how to treat people as I wanted to be treated. Also in many places, the Arts are not seen as a positive in High School. I always felt that being in Theater, Music and Sports were all encouraged. You could do it all and feel good about it.

5. Did you think you would be in radio/entertainment back in high school?

I really didn't know what I would do coming out of Northland. I did work on WNHS my senior year. I thought I might be an actor but really fell in love with Radio in college. As strange as this sounds, I never worried about failing at anything. I just had confidence in myself that it would all work out. That is what I really liked coming out of high school was the feeling that everything was an option...well maybe not Astro Physics, but most anything I was interested in was attainable. I have made to the VP/Top 40 for the 2nd largest radio group in the country, so it worked out...and I'm not done yet!

6. What is the funniest job/thing you have done in your career?

When I moved to Florida, I worked as an Assistant Golf Pro in Orlando for a year. I really missed radio and took a job dressing up as Chuck The Duck for Y106 (now XL106.7) just to get my foot in the door at the radio station. When I tell young people getting into radio that I started as Chuck The Duck, it gets a chuckle and hopefully shows them that by starting at the lowest rung, you end up knowing more about everything as you get towards the top.

The reality is if you have passion and want it bad enough, you can achieve anything. From those humble beginnings at Northland to now, I've helped to break a lot of artists and help people build their careers. I've been invited to the homes of Michael Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Kelly Clarkson and Taylor Swift to listen to their new music and tracks. I've had the opportunity to be in the studio with major producers like Red One who did Lady Gaga's first record. I've just had some really cool opportunities that were made possible by the foundation that I got at Northland.

Every time I come home to Columbus, I always take my kids through my old neighborhood in Forest Park East, just a couple blocks from Northland. Just to remind them that humble beginning are the basis for a great life.

