



Harris

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Your aliases:

Nerd, McAshan, Tex, oh hell – just read the yearbook...

Family:

Very married coming on 30 years to my best friend Emily. Besides our two labs, we are now empty nesters!

We have a 25 year-old son, Reed, who graduated from SMU with two engineering degrees and is a drilling engineer based out of Denver.

We have a 23 year-old daughter, Sarah, who graduated with a Business Management degree from Vanderbilt and is working with an affiliate of Lloyds of London and lives in, gee, London. Both have serious love interests and we'll see where that all goes...

Anything you would like to share about your family:

Happy children make for happy parents and we think we have the happiest kids in the world. Ergo...

My dad just recently passed away and some of you had the pleasure of knowing this magnificent man. He lived a very full life and, while I certainly miss him, there are no regrets for promises or experiences left unfulfilled. That's a great thing to be able to say about one's life...

Your profession:

Spring boarding from my years of involvement with the homebuilding and development business, I started working with gas systems in 1993. I have since focused all efforts on expanding the concept of providing underground piped, metered gas to homes and developments around the world. We deal with the "distribution" side of the business which means we may one day be the gas company that provides your gas service and reads your meter. See [HYPERLINK "http://www.hbhGasSystems.com" www.hbhGasSystems.com](http://www.hbhGasSystems.com) ("HBH" stands for Harris Baker Homes – I simply recycled the letterhead and logo for a few years before branding the gas company as a distinct entity).

I think what we do is pretty neat... Most of you saw Bob Rice's photo of the street side version of Ethiopian steak tar-tar. As he mentioned, they eat it raw because they lack the wood to cook it. Well, we go into areas everywhere and embed underground metered propane or natural gas service to areas that have not traditionally had access to the grid. So we think of ourselves as providing a more sustainable energy option that reduces reliance on wood or even carbon-heavy coal-fired electricity. Yes – it is still a hydrocarbon. But at the home's burner tip, it is vastly less expensive than electricity and burns with 99%+ efficiency with little or no greenhouse gas emission.

One of my best clients, Blossman Gas, has their executive headquarters based in Asheville, so I get to visit a few times a year! I've gotten to be great friends with them – and regularly stay at one of their personal homes which is why I haven't booked a room at the Ramada...

And that concludes today's lesson on trivial stuff....

**College, reform school;
major(s); degree(s):**

...barely escaped out of The University of Texas Austin – home of the Longhorns. Hook 'em!

Military service:

None that I know of...

Your avocations:

Me: A few boards and clubs, numerous environmental and energy alliances like the US Green Building Council, EPA's CHP (Combined Heat Power) Partnership, Urban Land Institute, MENA (Middle East North Africa) investment partnerships and sustainable energy groups, lots of gas and infrastructure organizations, speaker at a number of sustainable development conferences, and the most surprising of all: current member of The Board of Trustees of The Asheville School...go figure....

Emily is the one who makes us look good and makes Austin a better place. I'm called Mr. Emily Baker to some... sorry you all will miss her. She'll be in London visiting Sarah.... Maybe next time.

**Your hobbies, interests
(what keeps you out of
trouble or gets you into
trouble in your spare
time):**

Simple: My wife, Emily.

I love fishing and looking for arrowheads and otherwise taking the occasional walk – it gets me outdoors and a break from 24-hour seven-day work weeks that never end because I have business on both coasts and well as the Middle East, which means this machine eats while I sleep and therefore I can never get caught up!

**Your greatest
contribution to the
betterment of mankind:**

My kids...., or depending on your point of view, my vasectomy....

And, I really am trying to do right by keeping populations from cutting down their forests and mining more coal through the use of this incredibly abundant and quality energy called gas. Yep – I'm making a living by touting a hydrocarbon as a 'green' energy. I got the talent for BS from AS and my English degree!

**What has your time and
education at Asheville
School meant to you:**

Besides my wife and kids, I am still closer to you all than anyone else in my life. AS was simply the best community I have ever had the privilege of being a part of the citizenry. (not sure if "citizenry" is even a word ...but I couldn't end the sentence with a preposition...). For better or for worse – you all and the School community had the largest early influence in making me the person I am today.

**What are your most vivid
memories of Asheville
School:**

Spontaneously and in no particular order:

The Trip to Mexico – all of it!

Mountaineering, Senior Coffee, Pep Rallies, Athletics - all of it... Extracting chlorophyll from fall leaves with Karl. Putting moths in the vacuum chamber.

The teachers – Legg, Haseman, Tolson, Butler among others. They were all idols and Gods.

When I went to clean out my room in May of our senior year I was truly stunned that three of the four drawers of my bureau were completely filled with beer cans! I mean cases and cases of them.... I had no idea I/we/I had consumed that quantity of what had to be a keg of warm beer INSIDE the dorm, much less used my room and furniture as the depository for the cans... I guess drinking really does make you forget...

The brave few girls among so many clueless guys...Dori and Dori's curls... Frannie's stature despite her frame, my first kiss was with Eleanor! (sorry Eleanor, it probably wasn't very good...)... Jan is so much fun, Susan, Bev, VJ, Barb and the others... Anne... the freshman girls – especially a shout-out to Laura and Leslie...

The guys – platform shoes, blow dryers (guys trying to have bigger hair than the girls?), ruffled tux shirts, hormones,... 'nuff said

The music... it was ours alone.

The Campus and four real seasons – We had the best under-appreciated view everyday

Y'all

I'm 15 pounds overweight right now... deal with it, just like I deal with my hair loss, fading eyesight, and the fact I can no longer go through the night without getting up to take a leak....

Austin is a great city. Anyone passing through is more than welcome to stay with us! If you're not passing through, then please plan to!

**JUST THAT I'M DAMN PROUD
TO KNOW YOU ALL AND STILL
CALL YOU MY BEST FRIENDS!**