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Ashwaubenon • Howard/Suamico • Hobart AHS Grad Had Special “Effect” On The Oscars



Edson Williams

AHS Grad Has Stellar Career in Movie Industry

Many of you watched the glitz and glamour of the recent Oscar awards from Hollywood last Sunday evening. What many of you don't know is that the Oscars had a local tie to Ashwaubenon.

Edson Williams, a graduate of Ashwaubenon High School, was nominated for an Oscar last Sunday as head of special effects for the film *The Lone Ranger*. Even though he didn't win the golden statue, he was one of a very select group that was even nominated for one. Williams is not new to the special effects world. He provided special effects for the movie *Titanic* among more than 100 others, most of them you would know such as *Avatar*, *Hugo*, *Prometheus*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*, *Iron Man*, *Skyfall*, and J. J. Abrams' *Star Trek*, as well as many films where the visual effects are much more subtle, including *Cruel Intentions*, *The Princess Diaries 2*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *J. Edgar*, and *House of Cards*.

Williams grew up on the corner of Carole Lane and Timber Drive, he attended Pioneer Elementary School, Parkview Middle School and Ashwaubenon High

School. After leaving high school he received a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was enrolled in the mechanical engineering program. Williams later received a Bachelor of Arts degree in cinematography from Brooks Institute of Photography. He became an adjunct professor at two colleges, teaching Matte Painting, Computer Animation, and Compositing curriculum using industry-standard software packages. At Brooks Institute of Photography, Williams developed the digital imaging program and was the lead visual effects instructor.

In 1994, the Ashwaubenon native founded the visual effects company of Virtual Dynamics. The company took care of special effects for the films *True Lies*, *Strange Days*, *Nick of Time* and *Broken Arrow* in 1996 with John Travolta. In 1998 his employees were consolidated into the visual effects company Pixel Envy where he also partnered with Greg Strause and Colin Strause. Williams served as the lead compositor and digital effects supervision and on set-support, and participated in over 30 feature films including

The Nutty Professor, *Titanic*, *The X Files* and *Volcano*.

In 2003 the principals of his firm created Lola Visual Effects, a sister company to Hydraulx, that focuses on digital cosmetic enhancement. Williams is the lead supervisor. Industry leaders feel that Lola is the next step in visual effects technology. As part of Lola, Williams said to *Filmmaker Magazine* he spends about 30 days per year on the set with many more in the office. In a biography of Williams, the process Lola uses is described as “a midpoint between digital actors and make-up effects that makes actors younger, thinner, more muscular and fitter.”

In an interview with *Filmmaker Magazine* in the winter of 2014 Williams was asked how he got interested in special effects. Williams said when he was in 5th grade his mother Elaine, bought a Super 8 camera, tripod, projector, and splicer. With these tools, he said he “started making silly little films”, and eventually made a series of *Spy vs. Spy* shorts in 6th grade. He then went to college at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, and spent his free time learning Photoshop and Alias

PowerAnimator. “While at Brooks, a friend who worked at Wavefront asked me if I knew how to composite for films. I lied and said yes. The first few days were rough, but I picked up the software quickly and I was on my way. My first movie experience was compositing the teleport effect in *Stargate*.”

Williams commented in *Filmmaker Magazine* that his newest firm +1 is the first time his company has used facial projections with physical interactions. “Trying to project the hero actor's face onto a body double's face while that body double is being punched in the head was far more difficult than we imagined,” Williams continued. “It was the most nerve-racking shooting experience ever had. It had to be perfect,” he commented in *Filmmaker Magazine*. You may not know Edson Williams personally, but I

am sure there are those of you who do know him, but last Sunday, nestled into a crowd of actors and actresses and movie directors like Steve Spielberg, was an Ashwaubenon High School graduate known throughout Hollywood for his special effects. His career started in 5th grade when his mom bought a Super 8 camera, tripod, projector and splicer and he has morphed into one of the best special effects people in the film world.

Below are the some of the movies and TV series Williams and his various firms worked on between 1982 and 2005:

2005 IFantastic Four (Inferno artist)
2005 Herbie Fully Loaded (visual effects supervisor: Lola Visual Effects)
2005 The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl 3-D (Inferno artist)
2005 The Longest Yard (visual effects supervisor)

2005 Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (visual effects supervisor: Lola Visual Effects)

2005: State of the Union (senior digital artist)

2005: Constantine (Inferno artist)

2004 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (visual effects supervisor: Lola Visual Effects)

2004 White Chicks (Inferno artist: Lola Visual Effects)

2004 The Day After Tomorrow (Inferno artist: Hydraulx)

2004 Welcome to Mooseport (Inferno artist)

2004 Torque (Inferno artist)

2003 Looney Tunes: Back in Action (Inferno artist: Hydraulx)

2003 Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (senior digital artist)

2001 Rock Star (digital artist)

1999 Galaxy Quest (3D effects supervisor: Light

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Taste of Ashwaubenon Tickets Still Available

Finishing touches are underway for the 6th Annual Taste of Ashwaubenon community event on Wednesday, March 12, from 6-10:30 pm at the Stadium View Bar & Grille, 1963 Holmgren Way. With signature dishes and beverages from 25 local restaurants, exciting raffle items, and a wealth of items available by silent auction, it is going to be a memorable evening for everyone. Come out and help support academic, athletic, and co-curricular activities for Ashwaubenon high school students.

Tickets are still available, so pick up yours today. Visit www.jaguarbackers.com to order tickets online, or buy them through the Ashwaubenon High School office. Price is \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door.



**Support the
Ashwaubenon Public Safety
K9 Program**

Weekly Update, March 3, 2014



We Need Your Support

\$100,000
Our Goal

\$60,045
Raised so far

Edit Cancel

To make a tax deductible contribution, visit www.ashpublic-safety.com

or mail a check to:
Ashwaubenon Public Safety,
ATTN: K9 Program,
2155 Holmgren Way,
Ashwaubenon, WI 54304.

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300 Cardinal Lane, Green Bay • www.Tenderheartsassistedliving.com



Village Based WPI Inspires Next Generation Of Engineers

By Staff Reporter Shannon Nichola Stoner
In honor of National Engineers Week, students from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) toured Wisconsin Plastics, Inc. (WPI) in Ashwaubenon on February 18. Students connected their classroom education to the workplace by touring WPI's manufacturing facilities. National Engineers Week was celebrated from

February 16-22. It is dedicated to increasing public knowledge about the need for engineers and how engineers make a difference in the world in which we live and work.

"Exposing students to manufacturing, how the system works and what they need to be thinking about for a career in manufacturing is key to building skilled workers," said Jim Christensen, President of WPI. Mike

Kilgore, WPI Supervisor of Prototypes, guided students on the tour of the facilities and discussed the application of academic knowledge to industry applications. The tour was also designed to teach students what lies beyond graduation in a manufacturing career. WPI designs and constructs products from independent and corporate developers.



Wisconsin Plastics Inc. (WPI) Supervisor of Prototypes Mike Kilgore (right) demonstrates a product designed and manufactured by WPI. The tour gave NWTC manufacturing students a glimpse of product development in the field of manufacturing. **Photo by Shannon Stoner.**

Lamers Bus Lines is TSX Approved

Ashwaubenon school bus carrier, Lamers Bus Lines is proud to announce that it is TSX Approved as a safer motor carrier, having successfully completed the Transportation Safety Exchange Comprehensive Review (TSX-CR). Transportation Safety Exchange (TSX) is the ground transportation industry's only independent rating organization that inspects, monitors and reports the safety performance of motor carriers.

"We are proud to be a TSX Approved carrier and know that our approval status exemplifies our commitment to quality and dedication to safety compliance," said Lamers Bus Lines President Allen Lamers. When groups make motor carrier transportation decisions, riders can continue to be confident that Lamers Bus Lines, Inc. is distinguished by being part of the most prestigious group of motor carriers in the United States – the TSX Motor Carrier Network.

Passenger trip organizers and sponsors all bear responsibility and potential risk for operator performance and safety. They must demonstrate that they have used the highest

Financial Planning Program At Bethany Church

Register today for "Investing and Financial Planning", an educational program for everyone that will be presented by David Demeuse, Certified Financial Planner, at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 13 at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1110 Echo Lane in Ashwaubenon. Learn how emotions may adversely affect your portfolio, what stock market corrections are, and the different IRAs that are available, as well as other financial planning information. To register, please call 494-8801.

standard of care possible in selecting a motor carrier. As passenger trip organizers and sponsors perform their due diligence, TSX Approval will help them identify their safest options.

"We know that our customers deserve the



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY EXCHANGE

— Expect a Higher Standard —

safest transportation possible and are committed to maintaining our safety focus. We expect

that our customers will select a motor carrier that they can easily determine to be safer by having been TSX Approved," says Lamers.

About Lamers Bus Lines With 27 locations throughout Wisconsin, one location in Florida, and a fleet of more than 140 charter vehicles and 1100 school buses, Lamers Bus Lines is one of the largest privately owned transportation companies in the Midwest. Lamers offers charter and contract services and

escorted tours throughout the continental United States, Canada and the world. Lamers is

Meetings on Facilities Referendum

Community Information Meetings regarding the Village of Ashwaubenon's April 1st Referendum are taking place as shown below. These meetings will detail the proposed projects for a new Community Center, Community Auditorium and Community Swimming Pool with optional warm-water activity pool primarily for senior citizen and youth use. Tours of the existing facilities will also be conducted as part of these meetings.

- Tuesday, March 11th, 6:00 pm in the AHS Auditorium

at 2391 S. Ridge Road. Discussion of all three facilities and a tour of the existing Auditorium and Pool.

- Wednesday, March 19th, 6:00 pm in the AHS Auditorium

at 2391 S. Ridge Road. Discussion of all three facilities and a tour of the existing Pool and Auditorium.

the first and only bus carrier utilized by the Ashwaubenon School

District for student transportation.

DI Paper Drive Saturday

Ashwaubenon School's Destination Imagination (DI) program is holding a recyclable paper drive at Valley View Elementary School, 2200 True Lane, on Saturday, March 8, from 8 am to 12 pm. The community is encouraged to participate by contributing newspaper, printer paper, copy paper, magazines, junk mail, corrugated boxes,

cereal boxes, pasta boxes, soda boxes, etc.

All proceeds collected from the paper drive will benefit the DI program by helping offset expenses incurred for the trip to this year's Global tournament.

All Ashwaubenon schools participate in DI. Future Saturday paper drive dates are: April 5 and May 10, 2014.

Cont. From P. 1

Williams In Hollywood

Matters/Pixel Envy)

1999 Blue Streak (lighting: Pixel Envy, Inc.)

1999 Cruel Intentions (senior digital artist - uncredited)

1998 The X Files (digital supervisor: Light Matters, Inc./Pixel Envy)

1998 Paulie (digital supervisor: Light Matters/Pixel Envy)

1997 Titanic (compositing supervisor: Light Matters)

1997 Volcano (visual effects supervisor)

1996 Jingle All the Way (digital artist - uncredited)

1996 The Stupids (digital artist)

1996 The Nutty Professor (digital supervisor: Light Matters Incorporated)

1996 James and the Giant Peach (digital compositor - uncredited)

1996 Executive Decision (digital artist - uncredited)

1996 Broken Arrow (digital compositing: Optical Illusions)

1995 Nick of Time (visual effects supervisor - uncredited)

1995 Strange Days (digital compositor)

1995 Bushwhacked (visual effects supervisor - uncredited)

1995 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie (digital artist)

1995 Tall Tale (visual effects supervisor)

1994 Cobb (digital artist)

1994 Stargate (digital artist - uncredited)

1994 True Lies (digital artist - uncredited)

1994 The Hudsucker Proxy (digital artist - uncredited)

1982 Blade Runner (visual effects enhancement: Lola Visual Effects - 2007 Final Cut version)

♦ Have you enjoyed watching a performance in the Ashwaubenon auditorium?

♦ Have you been to a gathering at the Ashwaubenon Community Center?

♦ Has your family enjoyed using the Ashwaubenon swimming pool?

♦ Do you want to live in a vibrant community?



If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, please read on...

Ashwaubenon is a wonderful community of people and we must work together to keep our Village a vibrant and desirable place in which to live. We are long overdue in addressing Ashwaubenon's worn, torn, and unsafe facilities. Four referendum questions on the April 1 Village Ballot will ask if you support the funding to replace and enhance our auditorium, community center, and swimming pools. Over 60% of survey respondents support these improvements, but we need EVERY supporters' vote to make this a reality - please mark your calendars to VOTE YES 4x on April 1, and let's move FORWARD ASHWAUBENON!

VOTE YES 4x on April 1!



Traveling? Obtain an Absentee Ballot to vote at your convenience!

Learn more about the projects at www.ashwaubenon.com/projects

Visit Forward Ashwaubenon on Facebook

Ashwaubenon ♦ Our Community ♦ Our Facilities ♦ Our Future!

Authorized and paid for by Forward Ashwaubenon – Citizens for Community Improvement – Paul Trondson, Treasurer