

## **Pioneer Hall of Fame: Ros Hill, class of 1978**



The University High School Alumni Association honors Ros Hill, class of 1978, as a 2013 inductee to the Pioneer Hall of Fame for his achievements and contributions to his profession, the community and nation, and to his alma mater.

After spending 13 years at UPS, Hill reached a crossroads in his life; would he continue delivering packages or take a leap of faith with his art? He chose the latter and has not looked back since.

Hill discovered his artistic talent in 1984 when he picked up his brother's technical pen. An avid runner, he began to sketch some running and triathlon cartoons. These first sketches were published in national magazines such as *Running Times* and *Triathlete*. While the cartoons did not make Hill a nationally recognized artist, they did help him to realize that he could create something. Hill continued to struggle to determine what he wanted to create until he made a trip to South Africa. It was on this trip that he realized he found the perfect setting for his sense of humor.

Following his trip to Africa, Hill joined UPS. It was during this time that his art began to take a backseat to his day job since working full-time left him little time for his art. This changed, however, when Hill was given a rural route and he began to sketch his ideas on delivery notices and on the dusty sides of his delivery truck. Driving the back roads allowed his mind to wander and become inspired.

In 1999, Hill left UPS and developed a business plan which would allow him to take on his art full-time. Over the years, Hill's paintings have generally dealt with African wildlife; however, he also enjoys developing his skewed sense of humor with other subjects such as golf, aerospace, the undersea world, Manhattan, and the Arctic.

Hill wrote, illustrated, and published his first children's book in 2005 entitled *Shamoo – A Whale of a Cow* with the second edition released in spring 2013. His second book, *Unexpected Tails* was published in fall 2010. His third book *Discovering Baseball* is currently in progress.

Hill has been spotlighted in several national art magazines including *Art Business News*, *US Art*, *Greetings Etc.*, and *Inform Art*. *US Art* magazine profiled Hill as one of the 25 emerging artists in the country and selected him as one of six national artists to watch in its Generation Next list. Hill's original paintings have been exhibited and sold to collectors at Art Expo International in New York City. His image entitled, *Catapult* was nominated for a Louis Award at the 2001 National Stationary Show held in New York City. His art has sold to buyers around the United States and Japan. In addition to his

work as an artist, Hill travels to elementary schools and gives humorous and engaging presentations about the behind the scenes of creating a children's book.

Hill lives in San Marcos, Texas with his wife and three children who act as self-appointed critics of his work.