

# Randy Strader's life holds many dimensions

Randy P. Strader ('61) has been in business in Salem for 19 years, with The Al-Xander Co. Inc., located at 3735 McCracken Road, distributing and manufacturing air and hydraulic components such as valves, cylinders, industrial hoses and fittings.

Randy's company was named one of 2000's 50 outstanding small distributors by Cahner's Industrial Distribution Magazine in its July issue. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. of Akron and CSC Steel Ltd. of Warren nominated his company which he says is "just a mom and pop operation."

His mom and pop operation created a Strader-designed quick-disconnect coupling used on the space shuttle, a design Randy came up with in 1986 for NASA contractors Martin-Marietta and McDonald Douglas. He also worked directly with NASA on the project. The coupling couldn't be patented because he designed it from existing commercially available components.

Al-Xander has been operational since 1961 and was acquired by Randy in September 1981 when he moved the business from North Lima to Salem where it has been family-owned and operated since.

"I've always tried to run the business from what a purchasing agent would expect," Randy says. "It's easy for a salesman to sell and just walk away. But we follow through until the customer has what he needs and is satisfied."

The company owns a 1986 patent on a hydraulic cylinder used for pickup truck beds and has a strong market in the farm, coal and lumber industries for the item. The cylinders are manufactured in Tonawanda, N. Y.

Randy has over 200 customers, mostly in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but he does work for companies as distant as Kansas. Al-Xander does sub-contract work for area manufacturers.

Another company, Amcan Productions is run by his sons, Jeff and Brandon, and is a light welding outfit that sub-contracts machining and also handles his band, Galaxy, in which his sons perform.

Galaxy has been performing for eight years and has been selected by the

Ohio Weekly Entertainment Magazine as one of Ohio's top five classic rock and roll bands, and as the state's most versatile, in its ability to span almost 50 years of rock and roll. The group was featuring during the opening evening of Salem's Jubilee 2000 festivities this past July.

Randy is celebrating his 40th year as a performer. His band, Randy and the Renegades, was the first local band to achieve national attention back in 1961. Randy plays guitar and performs vocals.

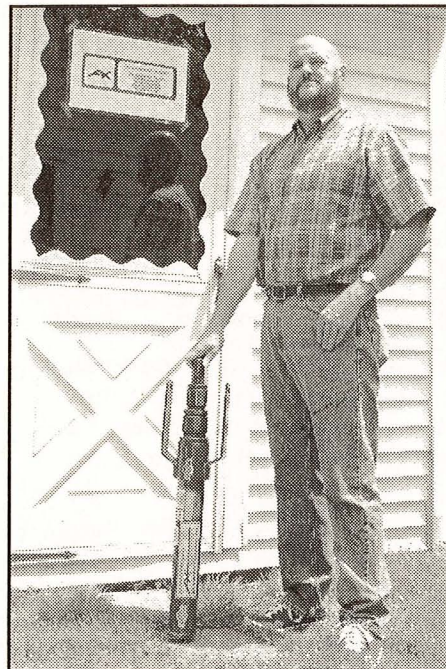
Chuck Reaggle is the band's lead guitarist and also performs vocals. He has been performing since 1971.

Jeff Strader, a performer since 1985, performs on drums and vocals. Brandon "Spike" Strader, Randy's younger son, performs vocals for the newer rock music.

Besides his band and business, Randy is interested in athletics. He won the shot put event at the Northeast Ohio Senior Olympics at Struthers on June 2 with a record throw of 36-7, competing in the 55-59 age bracket. He won the discus with a throw of 86-7.

Randy also took first place on June 17 in the 50-plus age group for both the shot put and discus at Pegasus Invitational Track Meet in East Liverpool.

Finishing in first place in both shot put and discus at the Ohio Senior Olympics on



**Randy P. Strader stands in front of his Salem business, the Al-Xander Co. Inc. holding one of the designs he's created for industry.**

July 15, Randy took third in javelin.

He'll compete in the United States Senior Olympics which will be held in Baton Rouge, La. on July 15 to 28, 2001. Randy has been a member of the United States Masters Track and Field since 1984 and competes in the 55 to 59 age bracket.

## Students get Fox scholarships

The Scholarship Committee of the Salem High School Alumni Association has awarded 11 scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to graduates of Salem High School who are pursuing careers in the field of health. The awards are made available from the Charles Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Recipients are Joseph Bestic, 1995, medicine, Ohio State University College of Medicine; Zachary Buchmann, 1995, exercise physiology, Youngstown State University; Shawn Catlos, 1995, dentistry, OSU College of Dentistry; Ryan S. Drake, 1995, medicine, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine; Melanie Drake, 1995, medicine, NEOUCOM; Denise Grimm, 1988, nursing, Carolina College of Health Services; Sean T. McGrath, 1995, medicine, NEOUCOM; Cacy

Miranda, 1976, psychology, University of Minnesota; Jamie Ostarchvic, 1994, medicine, Ohio State University; and Mark Rea, 1994, medicine, NEOUCOM.

Charles Fox was born in Lisbon in 1903 and attended Lisbon public schools and the East Liverpool Business School. He was employed by the Salem China Co. from 1925 to 1950, and then began working at the Salem Label Co. where he retired as secretary-treasurer in 1969.

A love for music resulted in his founding and becoming a charter member of the Community Concert Association. Openly enthusiastic about talented youth, upon his death in 1972 he designated the income from his estate to be used to support the Community Concerts and the Scholarship Fund of the Salem High School Alumni Association.



Providing help for future graduates of Salem High School through memorial gifts, bequests, estate memorials and class gifts, Salem High School Alumni have donated \$83,182.81 since June 1, 2000. This amount includes the \$15,790 donated by the Reunion Classes of 2000 and the \$13,500 raised by the Class of 1942 as a WWII Memorial to Bill Andre and Joe Plegge. Individual donations are listed below:

### In Memory Of

- Albert Allen '35**  
Bettie Lee Kenneweg Lewis '33 Lisbon, OH
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Ray '55 and Linda Hertel Leetonia, OH  
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- Elizabeth Stewart Oldcorn '44**  
Italian American Club Salem, OH  
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John "Jack" '49 & Lillian Krepps Salem, OH  
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Darlene Whitacre Hanoverton, OH  
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Salem Legends Senior Men's  
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- Horace K Schwartz '35**  
Lillian C Hanna Salem, OH
- In Honor of My Parents, Don & Clara Bailey**  
Sandra Bailey Borrow '55 Cornelia, GA
- Jim Wilson '55**  
Sandra Bailey Borrow '55 Cornelia, GA
- John Yakubek '41**  
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W.C. Hiltbrand '39 Salem, OH  
Essex of Salem III Salem, OH  
Bill & Jean Kiliman Esposito '71 Salem, OH

## Thank you, everyone

As most of you know, we ask for returns only on our Spring newsletter. In the past, we usually had anywhere from 800 to 1000 returns from our mailing. At \$.50 per return, keeping addresses current represented a substantial cost to the Association. And took a long time to update.

But, thanks to all of you conscientious Salem High School grads who have mailed in, called in, emailed, and faxed new addresses, our returns this year totaled less than 500!

Not only did it cost half as much, it took your hard working office people half the time to update the addresses! Wouldn't it be great if we only had 250 returns next spring? Please keep your address current: call or fax us at 1-877-332-1427, or email us at:

[shsalumni@salemohio.com](mailto:shsalumni@salemohio.com), or visit us through our website at [salemohio.com/alumni](http://salemohio.com/alumni).