

The Alumni



Aerial view of Fordson High School As Displayed on Google Maps™



Alumni Association of
Fordson High School
P.O. Box 1382
Dearborn, MI 48121

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FORDSON ALUMNUS

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The Alumni Association of Fordson High School, founded November 12, 1987, is a nonprofit organization commemorating all Fordson High School alumni, faculty and students. The Board of Governors meets on a regular basis throughout the school year.

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The **Fordson Alumnus**, an official publication of the Alumni Association of Fordson High School, invites correspondence and suggestions from Fordson Alumni and friends.

Visit our website at: www.fordsonalumni.org
Download the membership application.

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PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL



FORDSON'S NEW PRINCIPAL

A group of Board members recently met with Fordson's new principal, **Youssef Mosallam**. Appointed to the position just ten days before school was scheduled to open in the fall, Youssef had to hit the ground running. At the time only one other administrator, **Chuck Silver**, was assigned to Fordson. Now the building is fully staffed and three additional assistants are on the job; they are **Chadi Farhat, Maysam Alie and Ben Gurk**. Maysam and Ben are graduates of Dearborn High, and Youssef and Chadi graduated with the Fordson Class of '94. Student enrollment is 2400.

Youssef attended Henry Ford Elementary, Woodworth Junior High and then Fordson. He received his Bachelor of Science from Wayne State University, majoring in English which he taught for six years while a Fordson faculty member. His Master's Degree is in Public Administration with an emphasis on Education. He holds a Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and will finish course work for his doctorate this December. He is married to Sana Bazzi, a fifth grade teacher at William Ford Elementary School. The couple has four children; Madalyn 9, Jamal 6, Elyssa 3, and Khalil 8 months.

In addition to his teaching experience, Youssef worked as Coordinator of Compensatory Education for three years and as Principal of River Oaks Elementary for two years. He believes that both of those positions strengthened his background for the challenges of the high school. With the exception of five schools in the district, all other schools, including Fordson, qualify for Title I funding. These are monies sent from the federal government to the state to be used to help students needing academic assistance.

A love for the school and Fordson tradition infuses Youssef's goals. He believes in teamwork; faculty members address various issues through committee membership. The Faculty Council meets regularly. Pep rallies were reinstated. He wants students to learn the 'Fordson Way' and carry a love for the school throughout their lives. Youssef believes in parent involvement and stresses the need for order. He shares our concerns over the diminished elective programs, all of which have been impacted by state requirements. He questions whether the school will make Adequate Yearly Progress this year, but will apply for Blue Ribbon Status in three to five years when academic goals are met. His enthusiasm is evident.

Congratulations to Youssef on his appointment. We wish him success and offer our support and good wishes.



Fordson Alumni Association board members with Youssef Mosallam, (L to R) Maureen Ewasek, Richard Abdullah, Ganelle Shooshanian, Youssef Mosallam, Barbara O'Brien, Rudah Saghir

"Senior year was the best, but it was hard to say good-bye to friends. Senior prom was a blast, but the car broke down on the expressway!" **Elizabeth Copee Brooks, Class of '67**

"Senior song: 'Taking Care of Business'; Tractor chant: Oil job, Oil job; Homecoming dinner at Mario's, Canada." **Dom DeRoo, Class of '74**

Thanks to each of you who shared with us. My apologies if any names are spelled incorrectly. Editor

GOOD DIRECTION

Hassan Hussein '83 is directing and producing a movie with the working title, 'Dead Rising.' The movie's plot centers around human survival amidst a world overrun with flesh eating zombies. True to his Dearborn roots, Hassan is filming one of the film's biggest scenes in Dearborn.

GOOD EATS

Have you visited Bon Appetit, the restaurant run by Dearborn Public Schools Hospitality students? It is a full service restaurant open to the public Tuesdays - Fridays 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on days when school is in session. The restaurant features a regular menu, weekly specials and a Friday lunch buffet. The food is excellent and the prices very reasonable. Bon Appetit is located in the Michael Berry Center building, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights, MI, 313-827-4807. The restaurant is located on the first floor of the two story addition to the Dearborn Heights campus of HFCC.



“The shop classes made a star for Christmas for the outside of the school. Metal shop made the star; electrical shop wired it. Mr. Broler, teacher.” **Ken Steel, Class of January '63**

“Would not go out with him; called him a gangster. Married him 5 years after graduation.” **George Chara and Peggy Wansley, Class of '50**

“In the 10th grade, Angelo (Lizzio) and myself sold poppies. We thought that was Great. We got the day off. We hung out all day at Michigan and Schaefer selling them. We took the canister back to school and thought that was it. The next week in homeroom Mr. Seekamp told me to report to B-185. Oh!!! I panicked. When I got down there Angelo was there and said ‘What is going On???’ Well we sold the most poppies and got a reward of \$25.00 and a day off school. That was the Best Panic Attack I ever had. Ha! By the way Angelo Lizzio was also in the '57 class. Connie Micale of the '57 class told me that Mr. Slabaugh was a bear during class and the nicest man out of the classroom. She had a crush on Mr. Mays.” **Pat Thomas, 1957**



Pat Thomas at the Dearborn Homecoming 2010

WHAT GROUPS SUPPORT THE SCHOOL?

The following organizations are dedicated to assisting the students and faculty of Fordson.

The Alumni Association: funds requests from teachers, supporting initiatives that help students.

Booster Club: supports the Music program.

Friends of Fordson: raises funds for scholarships awarded through the PTSA. In 2009 \$40,000 was awarded to graduating seniors; last spring \$13,000 to \$15,000 was awarded. The average award is \$1000.

PTSA: Parent Teacher Student Association conducts meetings and assists the administration in various activities and seeks to involve more parents.

Varsity Club: assists boys' athletic programs

Board members agree that we should have a meeting of the leadership of the above groups to make sure we are not duplicating services and to see where we might assist each other.

RETIREMENTS

The following faculty members retired at the end of the school year. We thank them on behalf of the Fordson community and wish them well!

Ahmad Bazzi, Mathematics

Francine Berman, Media Services

Fayze Beydoun, Science

Imad Fadlallah, Administration

Diane Bies-Rice, English

Rosa Scaramucci, French

Arlene Sowers, Media

Sharon Woryn, English

Retiring from Dearborn High two former faculty members should be acknowledged. Congratulations to **Roy Gurk** and **Jeff Stergalas**.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert G. Bennett

Mark Forsthoefel, History teacher, retired

Leonard Zudick

ALUMNI NEWS CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1971: The 40th reunion is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 12 midnight at Laurel Park Manor in Livonia. The cost for dinner and an open bar is \$52 per person if ordered before December 31, 2010. Tickets can be ordered NOW by sending a check payable to Mark Matchynski/Fordson71 Reunion and mailing it to him at 1124 Golfview Street, Livonia, MI 48154.

THE THREE MOST GLORIOUS YEARS OF MY LIFE

By Howard S. Lewis

In January of 1960, when I was only fifteen years old, my family (Mom, Dad and older Brother) moved from Detroit to beautiful East Dearborn. Our new home was located at 6148 Williamson, two houses south of Hemlock. It was great, the snow was on the ground and the large pine tree in the front yard made it like Christmas once again. After my brother Vincent and I were enrolled at Fordson High School, our lives began to take shape. At first, we were both amazed at the beautiful architecture that surrounded the interior and exterior of the school. While standing in the main hallway on our very first day, it was like being in an ancient castle. What a beautiful site!

As time went on, we began to make many new friends, many of whom we are still in contact with to this very day. In the fall of 1961, while walking a friend home from school, we both decided to pass through Montgomery Wards Department Store which was located on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Schaefer.

“I remember the great cheering crowds and how embarrassed I was when I tripped over a huge roll of fencing while running out to cheer.” **Lila Hager**

“Playing in the Marching Band.” **Kitty Buresh (Hebets), 1948**

“Remember (the) cafeteria, ice cream, soft, in a cup. Line up to buy. So good!” **Leo Buresh, January ‘47**

Note: Leo and Kitty met while in the band. I think I have it straight that Kitty played clarinet. Leo played tenor sax and bassoon in the Fordson Dance Band.



Leo and Kitty Buresh at the Dearborn Homecoming 2010

“Mr. Herbel was a good teacher.” **Anonymous**

“Hey, what can I say about Reuben Movsesian. He was a classy guy and has never lost that. Great guy.” **Dick DeFrancischi**

“Printing/Graphics got me a job. Sam Vasiu, ‘Hell of a teacher’.”
Russel Linting, Class of ‘66

share some of their favorite memories from their years at Fordson.

“I still think of the Senior Fountain. How beautiful and precious it was to our seniors.” **Marsha Movsesian**

“I was a 10th grader and drank out of the Senior Fountain. No one was in the hall. Who comes out, my sister Geri, a senior and caught me. My penalty was to push a peanut down the hall on my knees. (It was) scheduled another day with an audience!” **Pat Gaston (Chiesa), '54**

“I remember when I started Fordson High School. I was warned never to drink from the Senior Fountain or I'd have to scrub the statue of Abe Lincoln with a toothbrush. (He stood at the top of the main stairs.)” **Daisy Lovain (nee Yerman), 1957-1960**

“Fordson and all the Woodworth students were the friendliest kids at all the games. My best friend from kindergarten was Norma Worden and we still get together when I get to Michigan from California. Kathleen McLaughlin entertained us with her comedy and songs.” **Jane Knapp Arnett**

“Center of the hall in the main stairwell ... pep rally every Friday. Athletes wore the Fordson Letter Jacket proudly.” **Gino H. Polidori, Class of June, 1960**

“Scoring 3 touchdowns in the Highland Park game.” **Norbert V. Kopeiwin**

“Had the winning football in '46.” **Norma Jean Hebets Bak**

“Friday nite dances, football games & parties, get-togethers with friends.” **Carole (Ghrist) DeFlorio, Class of January, '50**

“Three old cheerleaders who loved everything about our time at Fordson.” **Camille Bazy Alawan, 1950; Lila (Tootsie) Hager Samosiuk, 1952; Patricia Ryan Hackett, 1950**

When inside, we both observed a fashion show that was being presented by the girls from Fordson High School. Out of the many young women on stage, only one caught my eye. The very next day, while passing through the halls at Fordson, I met the very same girl. A short time later we began dating and continued dating throughout our years at Fordson.

In January of 1963 I, along with my brother, graduated from Fordson High and went on to Henry Ford Community College. In March of 1964 and after landing a good job at a small machine shop on the east side of Detroit and while still continuing to attend HFCC, my long time sweetheart (Jacky Stanley, January of '64) and I decided to wed. We are still together and have been married for more than forty-six years. We have three children, two girls (Kimberly and Lynn) and one boy (James), all of whom graduated from Fordson High School and are doing very well in the real world. To date, we have seven grandchildren, three girls and four boys, none of whom live in the Dearborn area. *(Note: not only did we graduate from Fordson, but my wife's parents and her four brothers and two sisters did, also.)*

When looking back on the three most beautiful years spent at Fordson, a tear comes to my eye. We had the best of everything, including opportunity, teachers, friends and good times, all of which I will remember for the rest of my life.

My name is Howard Lewis and I am a retired Police Officer of twenty-five years, from the City of Westland. My wife, Jacky, is a retired Nurse from Oakwood Hospital.

GOD BLESS “FORDSON HIGH SCHOOL”

and all that it has done for everyone

HOMEcoming

Thank goodness for a beautiful day for meeting and greeting friends and classmates! This year board members asked alumni to (continued on page 8)

2010 DEARBORN HOMECOMING PHOTOS



Left to right in the picture: Taft Abed '48; Joni Harhold; Taffy Abed Harhold '74; Casey Harhold. (Joni and Casey were awarded Brehm Scholarships through Eastern Michigan University, the first sisters to receive such awards. Both are Special Education teachers



Fordson alumni enjoying reunion day at the Dearborn Homecoming

2010 DEARBORN HOMECOMING PHOTOS



'Big' Jim Lewis '84 and his wife, Katie (Kelly) Lewis '85. Jim is an Elvis Tribute Artist



The 'girls' from '50