

*The Alumni*

Paul Hancock, Division 1 State Wrestling Champion



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

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## FORDSON ALUMNUS

Volume 21, Number 2, Spring, 2009

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

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](http://www.fordsonalumni.org)



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## PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Ms. Diane Prieur**, English teacher, received \$500 for costumes, etc. for the Renaissance Festival in May. The 2008 festival was featured in a previous issue of *The Alumnus*.

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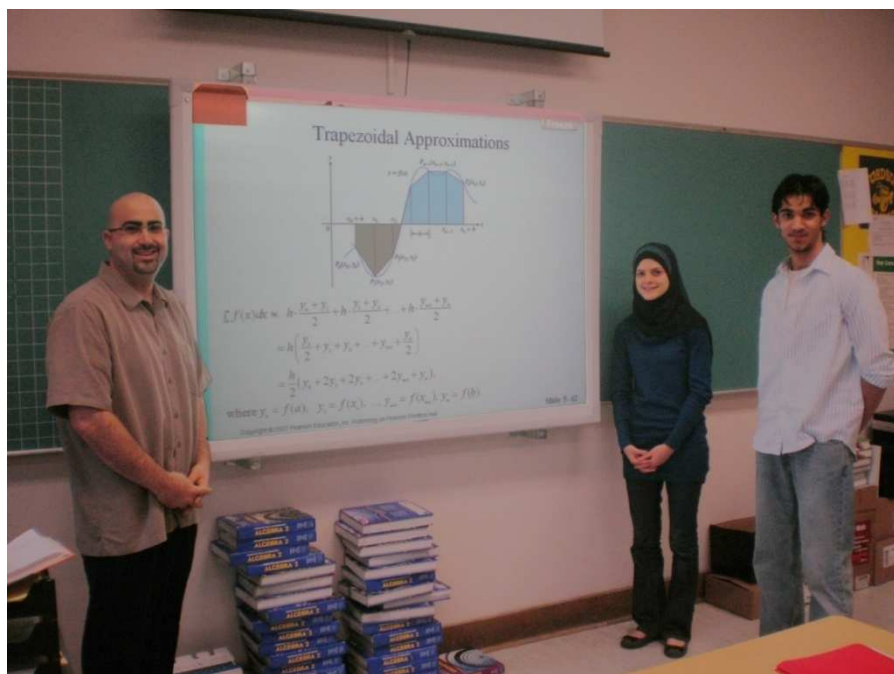
**Alumni are invited to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fordson Renaissance Festival on May 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Students from many classes will be participating and would love an appreciative audience. You are invited to wear period dress if you choose! Bring your cameras and enjoy the activities on the front lawn near the auditorium.**

\*\*\*\*\*

\* **For the first time**, this Board received a number of requests from teachers at Fordson asking for funding of various projects to better student experiences. At our February 16 meeting, **Math Coordinator Jeff Conway** and Social Studies teacher **John Forster** requested some high tech equipment to increase classroom learning. Mr. Conway asked for funding of a Promethean Board for a Mathematics classroom, and Mr. Forster asked for funding of a Data Projector. Mr. Conway's description of the Promethean Board follows:

"The Promethean Board is an interactive white board that, for those of us that have grown up in education, can be thought of as the next generation of chalk board. It has the ability to allow the user to interact directly with a computer, including visiting internet sites, importing and streaming video and audio, and display Power Point and other presentation style lessons. The Prometheans board's visual display comes through a ceiling mounted data projector

which is connected to the teacher's classroom computer. In the Fordson Math Department, three rooms currently have Promethean Boards - room A220 (Mr. Chadi Farhat), room A221 (Mrs. Nada Moussa) and room A210 (Mr. Michael Dicks). Although this is a new technology at Fordson (the boards have all been installed in the past year), initial data does show an increase in student achievement in rooms where the board is present. The FHS Alumni Association has donated funds for a fourth Promethean Board to be installed under the condition that the school match their donation and buy a fifth. Those two new boards will be installed in room A218 (Mrs. Roula Al Mouabbi) and room A216 (Mr. Michael Gothro) a.s.a.p., hopefully over spring break (April 9- 20)."



*Mr. Chadi Farhat with students, Ghada Mustapha and Abdallah Alhajmahad, demonstrating the Promethean Board during Calculus class*

The Data Projector requested by Mr. Forster will allow him to use many of the materials available through the internet and through various collections which can be projected from his computer onto a screen. These can truly enhance course work and enrich the learning of students.



**Brian Mosallam**  
Financial Consultant, Midwest Division

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Following the presentation of requests, the Board adjourned to room A220 where Math teacher, **Mr. Chadi Farhat**, taught us a hands-on lesson using graphing calculators. He projected a picture of the calculator and a graphing problem. Board members worked on the problem while Mr. Farhat directed, using his computer. Fortunately, we were not tested!

The Board approved a total of \$6378.00 for both requests with the codicil that the funds for the Promethean Board be matched by the school administration. That challenge was met. Mr. Conway invites Alumni to visit a Math classroom and see the Promethean Board in action. If you are interested, please contact him at the school.

Incidentally, congratulations to Mr. Forster and his wife on the recent birth of their second son!

•**The Board approved** two additional requests at the April 20 meeting. **Ms. Sonia Beydoun**, World History teacher, presented information about a project called Link Crew. The program, currently in place at both Dearborn High and Edsel Ford High, eases the transition of 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the high school. This coming fall 116 leaders from Fordson's eleventh and twelfth grades will be linked to six to eight freshmen each. Leaders will be available for an orientation program and to assist with questions and needed directions. Ms. Beydoun requested \$1500.00 for t-shirts that will help identify leaders and for costs associated with opening day activities. The Board's approval included two requests; the shirts should include information that the Association provided funding and that we wish to have a follow-up regarding the success of the program at the other high schools. The final design is yet to be decided.

**In other Board news**, Webmaster **Richard Abdullah** is investigating the possibility of arranging for credit card payment of membership dues on line.

### Photos from April 2009 Board Meeting



(L to R) Barb O'Brien, Ganelle Shooshanian



(L to R) Pat Hackett, Ralph Bach



(L to R) Karen Drugacz, Richard Abdullah



(L to R) Rudah Saghir, Maureen Ewasek, Daniel Bitar, Sonia Beydoun (Fordson World History Teacher)

*Not pictured: Janet Doty and Jim Gauthier*

#### Association Dues:

This is a reminder that Association dues are now in effect from January through December. If you forgot to send us a check for \$15 for 2009, please do so as soon as possible. Our membership numbers are down.

#### In Memoriam:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of retired faculty member **J. Walter Curran** who passed away this last December. Mr. Curran taught Social Studies for many years.

One day, my counselor, Mr. Harvey Smith, asked me what I planned to do? I said I didn't know. He asked if I had thought about college. I thought that being on the Industrial program made this impossible. But he said I could go to the Community College and make up the missing math and chemistry credits and earn an Associate Degree if I wished. Without that suggestion, my life may have taken another turn, so I want to add counselors to those who were the contributors to my eventual successes.

Armed with those daily doses of information Messrs. Brawley, Fell, Charlick, Ringelspaugh, Hill and others, here I was graduated! Here I was with a direction and a plan. It seemed now that I was in college, and having an industrial background from high school, that I should take up engineering. So it was, except for an instructor named Norman Laws. He thought that I would like teaching, But it was Mr. Billiet, my counselor, who suggested something I hadn't heard of. It was called a co-op program and allowed me to go to school nine months, and to work nine months. Thus I started at the Ford Motor Company, and upon graduation from Henry Ford Community College, was hired. But the influence of Norman Laws continued and night school at Wayne State University proceeded.

Thus, through the caring interest of teachers, counselor, and the encouragement of parents, two careers were forged. First as a draftsman and later engineer with the Ford Motor Company, and then as an instructor at Henry Ford Community College.

Little did I know where those bells were leading me and little did I know how much of a university Fordson already was ... and still is!"

(This article is another in a series provided to us by Hank Czerwick. It was written in January, 2003.)

My thoughts go back to my homeroom of almost fifty years ago and the bell that signalled the change of classes. We steamed out into the hallways and maneuvered through the crowds of other students, first to our lockers, then onto our classes. I knew not then who I was mingling with in those hallways. There were the future captains of science and the curers of illness. The educators of our children and grandchildren. There were the stewards of our political system. One was the future principal of my daughter's elementary school, another the president of my college.

But then, the achievements of myself, and my then schoolmates, had yet to be defined by the incremental contributions of the teachers waiting in the next room and the bell that would signal the beginnings of our collective futures!

Now a teacher myself, on occasion, I look upon the faces of the students in my classroom, and I try to set them at ease, telling them of the yet unknown opportunities that lie ahead. I tell them that any successes that life bestowed upon me I owe to my dad, then to my teachers at Woodworth Junior High, Fordson High, and Henry Ford Community College. I tell them that I was where they are, and if Henry Ford Community College did all right by me, it also can do all right by them. Everything that I needed to know about citizenship, parenthood, and making a livelihood was learned from these sources.

On graduation day June 1954, as commencement exercises concluded, I headed back to the stadium seats where my family was waiting. My dad stepped ahead of other family members, extended both hands gripping my right elbow with his left hand, and with his right gave me a firm hand shake and said 'Congratulations son, I'm proud of you!' It was the first time he ever did that and suddenly I felt as if he bestowed upon me a different status. Almost one of equality with his achievements, which did not include graduation from a high school, but were nonetheless quite formidable. For that brief moment I felt a twinge of adulthood. But that was still a long way off, and the lessons at Fordson would have to be put to the test!

## NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

### \* **Cover Story: Paul Hancock, State Wrestling Champion**

"The senior capped one of the greatest prep wrestling careers Dearborn has ever seen Saturday (3/14/09) when he won the gold medal at 135 pounds at Division 1 Individual Finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills." (*Press and Guide, Sports*, "Fordson state champion Hancock leads local matmen at main event" by Scott Salowich)

Paul capped a remarkable career with a total of 220 wins and 16 losses, setting a record of 55-1 this year. Paul honored his late coach, Jon Smuk, who suffered a fatal heart attack at the 2007 state finals. Paul has received a congressional appointment to attend the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. The Alumni Association is proud to highlight the accomplishments of this fine young man and wish him well in the future.

•In a previous issue of the *Press and Guide*, Senior **Nadia Rae Sion** is pictured receiving the third annual Hugh M. Archer Memorial Scholarship presented by the Dearborn Rotary Club. Rotarian **Tim Richards** presented a \$2500 check to Nadia. He commented on the difficulty of choosing from among thirty outstanding applicants, but felt that "...Nadia stood out with her more than 800 hours of community service, high academic achievement and numerous student activities." Nadia was accompanied at the award ceremony by her teacher and mentor, **Amira Kassem** and her counselor, **Ray Pizzino**.

### **Sports Highlights:**

The April 15, 2009 issue of the *Press and Guide* names players honored with the title of Dearborn All-City basketball players. Named to the first team was junior **Baquer Sayed** and senior **Jamal Williams**. Both players earned All-League honors in the White Division of the Mega League. **Daraoun Mashrah**, also a senior, was named to the second team.

That same issue named the All-Area Wrestling Team. **Hassen Berry, Paul Hancock, Jabreel Naser and Lawrence Zeidan** all represented Fordson on that team. Senior Hassen Berry (171 pound weight class) amassed a record of 47-7 and placed second in district and first in regional competition. Senior Jabreel Nasser (189 pound weight class) finished with a record of 49-7. He qualified for the state meet for the second time in his three years of varsity wrestling. Another senior, Lawrence Zeidan, (160 pound weight class) competed for two years at the varsity level and won the league title this year.

Social Studies teacher **Jeff DelGuidice** was recently appointed Fordson's Boys' Athletic Director. He follows Chuck Silver who is now an assistant principal in the building. Jeff had a thirteen year career as varsity basketball coach following 4-5 years as assistant coach. Seven of his last teams earned Academic All-State Honorable Mention. When asked about his goals for the position, Jeff responded that he hopes to maintain a balance with competitive teams while continuing to stress the importance of academics. Math teacher **Chadi Farhat** will assume the position of head coach; he has been coaching the freshmen team for the past five to six years.



Jeff DelGuidice in front of his office at Fordson High School

Guy DelGuidice, Jeff's father, has been a fixture in local basketball for many years. He returned to coach Fordson's girls' basketball last year. Our thanks to both men for their dedication to the school. Good luck in your new position, Jeff!

Alumnus **Brian Mosallam** was recently elected to the Dearborn Recreation Department's Hall of Fame. While at Fordson Brian served as president of his class. He was an outstanding student as well as athlete. His football career continued while a student at Michigan State University. He is a proud graduate of Fordson and MSU.

**ALUMNI NEWS:**

Retired Art teacher **Monica Leaning** sends word that an article about her work. "Zigzag Book" has been included in the publication *Bound and Lettered*. This is the second time Mrs. Leaning has been published. Congratulations!

\*\*\*\*\***Class Reunions**\*\*\*\*\*  
**Is your class celebrating a reunion this year? Would you like to have information and pictures included in the *Alumnus*? We welcome your contributions to our publication. We would be happy to publish current pictures or some from your high school days. Written memories you would like to share are welcome, too! Contact the editor at [Baeb@aol.com](mailto:Baeb@aol.com) Be sure to identify that it is for the *Alumnus* in the subject area.**  
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**Navigating the Halls of Destiny**  
 by Hank Czerwick  
 Class of 1954

"January 2003, and once again, I'm driving past the most imposing architectural structure on Ford Road, Fordson High School. I turn to Marlene, my wife of 45 years, and say, 'If someday it isn't a high school, it would still make a great university!'"