

The Alumnus



2012 Recipients of The Brehm Scholarship for The University of Michigan



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FORDSON ALUMNUS

Volume 24, Number 1, May, 2012

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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.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President - **Rudah Saghir**
Secretary - **Maureen Ewasek**
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Editor - **Barbara O'Brien**
Web Master - **Richard Abdullah**

Ralph Bach
Karen Drugacz
Pat (Patricia) Hackett



Janet Doty
Jim Gauthier
Ganelle Shooshanian

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.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Norbert Karmann (Deceased), 1987 - 1989
Mary Jarvis (Deceased), 1989 - 1992
Greg Palka, 1992 - 1996
Joel Hurley, 1996 - 1999
Oscar Nunez, 1999 - 2003
Janet Nunez Doty, 2003 - 2006

CURRENT PRESIDENT

Rudah Saghir, 2006 -

FORDSON CLASS OF 1988 GRADUATE



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PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Looking for New Blood!

It is time for members to step up and replace Board members who have served for many years. Board member Pat Hackett will retire from the Board June 4. Pat has served for 17 years and leaves with our heartfelt gratitude for her generous contributions of time and energy. Jim Gauthier will have the distinction of the longest serving Board member. Maureen Ewasek, Barbara O'Brien and Ganelle Shooshanian have dedicated at least fourteen years of service since their retirements from Fordson High and the Dearborn Public Schools. They have given notice of their intention to retire from the Board December 31 of this year. **If their seats are not filled**, it will probably mark the demise of the organization. Maureen currently serves as Board Secretary and Barbara writes the *Alumnus*. Should you choose to volunteer, please contact President Rudah Saghir at rrsaghir@yahoo.com or call him at 313-729-6663.

Donations to school projects ...

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 11/15/11 | \$900 to the FHS Alternative Energy Roadster project |
| 11/15/11 | \$1000 to the Business Department for the restart of the Tractor Stop Shop |
| 01/30/12 | \$1536 to the Alternative Energy Roadster project |
| 03/19/12 | \$750 to the Vocal Music Program towards a professional accompanist |
| 03/19/12 | Approval of a \$1000 Scholarship to be awarded to Mayla Harp |

and thanks from faculty members

“Once again we would like to thank the Alumni Association for the very generous donation towards our school store, the Tractor Stop Shop. Since the store has been closed for the last several years, we

are basically setting up the store from scratch. We will be using the donation towards our start-up costs, purchasing some fixtures and equipment, as well as our beginning inventory for a variety of Fordson merchandise. We appreciate the help from the Alumni Association and can't wait to reopen the store, scheduled for the start of the upcoming school year!! Thank you again."

Yasmine Ferris, Business Department Chair

"On behalf of myself and all the students in the **Vocal Music** Department here at Fordson High School, I wish to thank you for your generous donation to our program. These funds, and those we received last year allowed us to achieve a higher standard in performance which has been recognized throughout the community and beyond. I am not sure what the future holds for the program, but you made it possible for our students to receive better instruction and a wonderful experience while here at Fordson."

Tony Bumbaca, Vocal Music Director/Department head

FYI: The current balance in the treasury stands at \$5383.51 with some of those funds dedicated to the scholarship award as well as to the printing and mailing of this issue of the Alumnus and to our contribution to the City of Dearborn Homecoming. The Board continues discussing what means can be found to raise money since our membership continues to decline. By the way, did you pay your dues?????

The following is a reprint of an article by Katie Hetrick published in the Press and Guide Newspapers on 3/7/12.

FORDSON ROADSTER NEARLY READY TO ROLL

The FEAR Roadster is starting to make rounds of public appearances, even if it is not quite ready to drive.

Fordson High School students have been working on making the combination kit and custom car for more than a year, and recently showed it off at AutoRama in Detroit.

Every 'old guy' at AutoRama walked up and said "We didn't get

DEARBORN ALLIED WAR VETERANS COUNCIL - DAWVC

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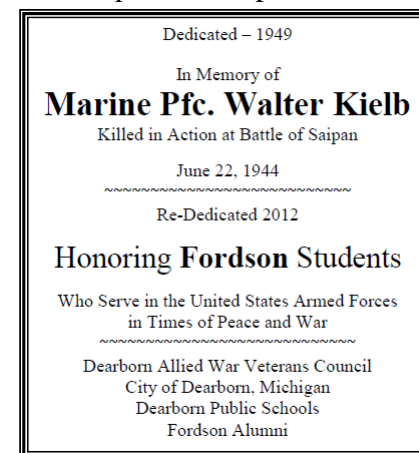
WALTER KIELB MEMORIAL PLAQUE RESTORATION DONATION

Walter Kielb Park was dedicated 1949 by re-naming Porath Park in Honor of Marine Kielb who was killed in action during WWII. Over the years the Park use declined and the Memorial had been vandalized and the plaque honoring Walter Kielb was destroyed.

Thus began the search for a new home and a new plaque.

DAWVC with the support of City of Dearborn, Dearborn Public Schools and Fordson High School will re-dedicate the Memorial at it's new location at Fordson High School – **Thursday, May 24,**

2012 at 1:30 PM. A new plaque (as shown below) will be purchased and Honor "Marine Pfc, Kielb" and also to "Honor all Fordson Students" who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. DAWVC is seeking donations to purchase a "Replacement Plaque" – Sample Shown



Make Checks Payable to:
DAWVC – Walter Kielb Memorial Fund
3001 S Telegraph Rd
Dearborn, MI 48124

Mohammed also designed the fiery FEAR logo on the side of the car.

FEAR will run on E85 fuel. (The car will) actually be raffled off. Hopefully the money raised will let Fordson High School start another car kit project.

(A list of FEAR sponsors completed the article.)

NEWS ALUMNI

William Dear, Fordson grad and movie director, visited 300 Bryant Middle School students at an assembly. The students earned their ticket to the event by exhibiting behavior standards set by the school. Dear, the director of “Harry and the Hendersons” and “Angels in the Outfield” talked not only about his life experiences, but also about working with high profile actors. Mr. Kelly Dear, Assistant Principal at Bryant and brother of William, arranged the event. Source: **School Life**, March 2012

The January 15, 2012 Business Section of the Detroit Free Press devoted an extensive article to FHS grad Cindy Estrada. Writer Paul Egan says “**Cindy Estrada** says she first learned about the labor movement as 7 year old washing glasses emptied by GM workers at her dad’s bar in Detroit. In college, she moved to Mexico to learn Spanish, then helped organize tomato and strawberry pickers in California under the tutelage of iconic migrant worker organizer Cesar Chavez. At 43, Estrada is the UAW’s first Latina vice president and could one day take the reins as the union’s first female president.” UAW President Bob King has praised her “tremendous passion and ability” and “courageous leadership.”

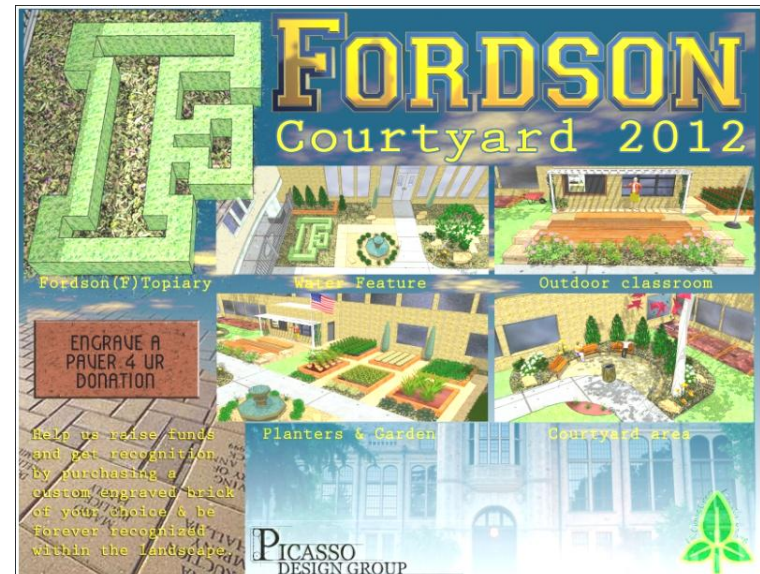
The headline “**Longest Serving State Employee to Retire after 56 Years of Service**” is the headline of the online publication of the Michigan Department of Education (12/18/2011). **Benjamin E. S. Hamilton** began his teaching career in 1949 at the Boys Training School in Lansing. He went on to the Michigan Department of Public Instruction (now Department of Education) where he served



Fordson students receive advice from Cisco advisors over Telepresence

Buy a Brick Program

We are raising money to help pay to develop Fordson’s courtyard. The bricks will be placed on a walkway throughout the courtyard. Help us beautify a lasting Fordson legacy with a garden and planters, water feature, outdoor classroom, courtyard seating and plants, as well as a big Fordson “F” topiary. Size choices are: standard 4x8 for \$100, 8x8 for \$150, or 12x12 for \$200. Engraving will be done in all capital letters. Order form is on the next page.



Husain Bazzi, a junior at Fordson and his friend Imad Mourad have created an action program titled STAT (Students Taking Action Today). Bazzi describes this program as a community initiative. He hopes to help bring an understanding of the advantages of enrolling in other than local colleges to both students and parents. On Friday 4/27/12 in a meeting at Fordson, “Parents and students attending the University of Michigan will talk to other parents and students considering the school to address concerns about sending their child away.” He is also working to try to arrange a summer bus tour of colleges in a four state area. For more information, visit studentstakingactiontoday.org.

Source: “STAT helping students consider college” by Katie Hetrick, pg. 15-A, April 25, 2012, Press and Guide.

Cisco Business Leaders Provide Career Consulting to Fordson Students over Video Telepresence

Imagine sitting in a board room with eight business leaders for a better understanding of technologies impact on business.. Now try to visualize that those eight leaders were sitting in San Jose, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Raliegh-Durham while you were in Southfield. Four Fordson students led by their business teacher Yasmine Ferris were introduced to Cisco Telepresence along with the opportunity to speak to Cisco business leaders with various career paths. The telepresence room consists of a table for eight individuals to sit across from three large monitors where remote individuals are presented in TV quality life size video and crystal clear audio.

Renee Patton, Cisco System’s, Director of Educational Business Development, shared her interesting story of how her career started in education and then moved towards technology and education at Cisco. Most interesting were her comments on thinking globally regarding their career choices since business and opportunities are based on the global economy. All the others at the event shared similar information along with tips about career choices. One student asked about becoming an executive and received advice from several of the Cisco employees, also.

in many different capacities. President of the State Board of Education notes that, “Ben has worked here through 14 State Superintendents, seven Governors, and 11 U. S. Presidents.” Now 84, the Lansing resident and his wife, Janet, are looking forward to their 56th anniversary in September.

Source: <http://www.Michigan.gov/mde/>

Retired English faculty member, **Rex Brown**, brings our attention to alumnus **Rick Margitza**. The following information is from Google. “ Rick Margitza is an American jazz tenor saxophonist. Margitza began playing violin at age four; his grandfather was a cellist and his father played violin with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Following this he played piano and oboe, and settled on tenor sax while in Fordson High School. He attended several colleges – Wayne State University, Berklee College of Music, University of Miami and Loyola University New Orleans. He toured with Maynard Ferguson and Flora Purim in the 1980’s, and moved to New York City in 1988, where he played with Miles Davis.” Google lists many of Rick’s recordings as well as more information. Rex suggests checking that source for “Mountain Reunion Quartet”; Rick is the sax player in the group.

Brian Mosallam has been nominated for the position of Michigan State Trustee by the Michigan Democratic Party.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of the following

Alumni:

Assem Berry
Randolph (R. J.) Dubitsky
Virginia (Judy) Yinger Hocking
Steve Wesala

Faculty:

Lou Fitzpatrick, Science
Jil Matthews, Special Education
George Misakian, English
Allan Pearson, Science

Gene Watts, Counseling

Other:

Belated condolences to Board member Karen Drugacz on the passing of her husband, Dennis. Den was a wonderful supporter of Fordson and spent many hours at the school helping with a variety of projects, including the Academic Recognition Program. Brad and Janeen Drugacz Bodary, their children, are FHS alumni.

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

*The following three articles are excerpts from the publication **School Life**, January 2012*

Three graduating seniors are traveling east for their college experience. **Mariam Jalloul** is headed to Harvard, **Mahamad Charawi** to Penn and **Hussein Abadallah** to MIT. Mariam plans on studying pre-med, Mahamad will focus on genetic engineering and Hussein will concentrate on computer science. Congratulations to this dynamic trio!

Fordson Assistant Principal Chadi Farhat was named the 2011-2012 Michigan Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year by School Administrators of Michigan. “It’s all about the great staff I work with and the great school that Fordson High School is,” said Mr. Farhat of his award.

Oscar winner **Michael Moore** visited Fordson at the invitation of Husain Bazzi, a member of the Fordson Club of Political Science. In an assembly, Moore urged hundreds of Fordson students “to stand up for people who couldn’t stand up for themselves.”

“Congratulations to Fordson and DCMST (Dearborn Center for Math, Science and Technology) student **Ala’a Tolba** who has received the 2012 National Center for Women & Information Technology Award for Aspirations in Computing. Tolba will be awarded at an event in April in North Carolina. She will receive \$500 cash, a laptop and an engraved award’Helping people use technology is my goal’, said Ala’a.”

*Source: **School Life**, March 2012*

In the same issue of *School Life*, Fordson senior **Claudia Bazzi** was recognized for her first place award in the Martin Luther King essay contest. Claudia’s winning essay earned a \$2000 award by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

“**Fordson Grad sending five more to U-M**” is the headline and lead article of *School Life*, April 2012. Class of 1947 graduate, **William Brehm**, began the Brehm Scholarships to the University of Michigan in 2004. Since then, thirty-five Fordson grads have been recipients of his generosity. Lind Saab (Class of 2004) will graduate from the U of M Medical School this year. Ten other students have already graduated, and seven more are scheduled to receive undergraduate degrees this year.

This year’s senior recipients are **Fadal Bazzi**, **Mahdi Cherri**, **Manal Saad**, **Mohamed Ali Sareini** and **Ali Wazne**. Of particular interest is the fact that Brehm Scholars return each year to encourage students at Fordson and its feeder middle schools to aim for higher education. Mohamad Ali heard about the Brehm Scholarships in his freshman year. He said, “ I can’t tell you how many Friday nights I stayed in and all your friends are going to a movie and I’m busy doing homework for exams the next week. It kept me disciplined. It kept me on track.” What an incredible legacy, Mr. Brehm !

In the same issue of *School Life* both Fordson and Dearborn High were highlighted for the top awards they garnered at the **State Key Club** convention. “Fordson continued its reign as the state’s top achieving Key Club, earning 11 awards, including three first place finishes in Club Video (produced by senior Mariam Jalloul), Major Emphasis program and Can Food Service. Fordson finished runner-up for Pop Tab Award which benefits Children’s Hospital. Jalloul finished runner-up in the Oratorical (speech) and Adil ‘Auto’ Nasser earned a third place finish in the talent division with his hip hop dance presentation.”