



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

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FORDSON ALUMNUS

Volume 21, Number 4, Fall, 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



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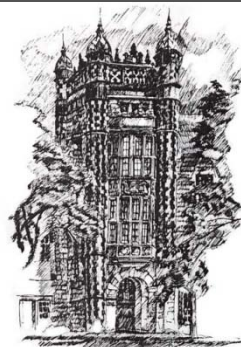
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PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

TIME FOR DUES

You will be notified by letter that your membership in the Alumni Association is up for renewal this month. Dues are due! Thanks to Richard Abdullah, you may use

Pay Pal to pay via the Internet. Access our web site, www.FordsonAlumni.org to use this convenience. If you are a new member, joining in the last couple of months, you do not need to send money for 2010.

Here are a few reminders regarding your membership:

- The association is a non-profit organization; when no goods or services are received in exchange, donations are tax deductible.
- Annual dues are collected at the end of the calendar year.
- Membership does not require attendance at meetings. The Board meets on a regular basis and members are informed of actions through the Alumnus.
- Membership dues and gifts are used to assist Fordson students and teachers.
- Annual Dues are \$15, but the organization is happy to receive additional gifts!

CONGRATULATIONS to Board member and webmaster, **Richard Abdullah** (Class of 1983), who recently completed the Free Press Marathon, his first! On the next page is a picture of Rich with his wife Denise (Berry) Abdullah (Class of 1989) and their two boys, Adam and Kassim, at the completion of the race.



NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

MONEY WELL SPENT

Last spring the Alumni Association awarded a grant of \$1500 to a proposal from teacher Sonya Beydoun for funding of shirts and associated costs for a group of student mentors, the Link Crew. The Crew is composed of upper classmen who volunteered to meet in late summer for training to assist incoming ninth grade students. The following letter and pictures are a report to the Alumni about the project.

On an early morning in late August, 76 of Fordson High School's finest upperclassmen wandered sleepily into the gym, not entirely sure of what exactly they were doing there. They were soon to embark on an intensive two day training program to prepare them for their new role as Link Leaders of Fordson High School. At the end of day two, each and every Link Leader received a bright gold shirt, emblazoned with the Link Leader logo, a sign that they were ready to step into their new job and all of the responsibilities that went with it.

The bright gold shirts made their debut performance on Friday August 28th at Freshman Orientation. The shirts were a sign of unity for the upperclassmen who readily embraced their new role.



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Orientation went off without a hitch, thanks in no small part to message printed on the back of the shirts: “Challenge thy self, motivate others, lead by example”, the upperclassmen embodied that message that day and on many days to follow.

We next saw the shirts on the first day of school, as the Link Leaders positioned themselves in the halls of Fordson to assist newcomers and veterans alike in finding their classes in the maze of hallways. The gold shirts served as a beacon of light for the freshmen who otherwise might have gotten lost on that very important first day.

Subsequently, Link Leaders have worn their shirts to the freshman tailgate where they showed the freshmen what Tractor Pride is all about. They have also worn them to open house and parent teacher conferences so that they would be easily recognizable to the FHS parents in attendance who might need their help. And tomorrow, the shirts will come out yet again as Fordson participates in National Mix it Up Lunch Day for the first time. Wearing their shirts, Link Leaders will sit with someone new at lunch, someone they don’t normally sit with, in an effort to promote diversity at Fordson. The shirts, famous now, will pave the way for tolerance and acceptance amongst students.

Truly, the Link Leader program would not be as effective as it is without those shirts. It may seem like a small thing, a tee shirt, but those shirts represent so much more than that. Those shirts give our Link Leaders a sense of pride, they give our freshmen a sense of security, they give our staff a sense of hope, and they give our school a sense of purpose. They are a symbol of what is great about Fordson. On behalf of our Link Leaders, Sonia Beydoun and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Fordson Alumni Association for making all of those things possible through their donation of our Link Leader shirts. Like the shirts, the Alumni Association represents all that is good about Fordson.

Thank you,

*Julie Dion
Ninth Grade Lead Teacher
Link Crew Coordinator
Fordson High School*

LINK CREW 2009 PHOTOS



WWAC

Thanks to Mark Shooshanian, Fordson Girls' Athletic Director, for the following information.

The fall season opened with athletic teams competing in the newly formed Western Wayne Athletic Conference. The league was formed after a group of downriver teams left to form a new coalition, citing transportation issues as the reason for their exit from the Mega Conference. Those schools included Allen Park, Gibraltar Carlson, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Southgate,

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

The editor was contacted by a relative of a World War II veteran who left high school to help support his family after his older brothers were drafted. Shortly after he left Fordson, he, too, was drafted and served for the duration of the war. The question that was asked was whether or not it was possible for him to receive his high school diploma. The answer is 'Yes!' The Michigan Legislature passed a bill permitting a diploma to be awarded to veterans of that war experiencing these circumstances. A number of veterans from the city's three public high school were awarded their diplomas at a Board of Education meeting a few years ago. If you know of a WWII veteran who would like to receive his/her diploma, please contact us. We can help.

DEARBORN'S VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Tom Houle, Class of '50, was named Dearborn Veteran of the Year by the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council. Houle is a veteran of the Korean War. Congratulations to this man who volunteers many hours to various veterans' organizations.

(Source: The Press and Guide, 11/14/09)

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we note the passing of:

John Alabakoff, Class of 1952. John taught in the Detroit Public Schools until his retirement. He served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Alumni Association in 1990-1991. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Ophelia and his family.

Betty L. Gauthier, wife of Board member Jim Gauthier. Jim, Class of '43, is our longest serving Board member. You have our sympathy, Jim.

Barbara Ruth (Knoch) Friend, Class of '50, passed away April 13, 2009 in Holland, MI. Our sympathy to her family and her brother, Arthur Knoch, who requested that Fordson Alumni be notified.

DEARBORN HOMECOMING 2009

The Fordson Reunion Day at the homecoming was hot, however there was still a great turnout of Fordson Alumni. Please enjoy these photos taken during the Fordson reunion day.



Taylor Kennedy, Taylor Truman, Trenton, Woodhaven, and Wyandotte. With the exit of those schools, Monroe and Ypsilanti decided to join a league with Ann Arbor schools. Eleven of the remaining sixteen schools decided to form the Western Wayne Athletic Conference. Two divisions were organized. The Blue Division consists of Belleville, Dearborn, Edsel Ford, Fordson and Romulus High Schools. The Red Division includes Annapolis, Crestwood, Garden City, Redford Union, Robichaud and Thurston High Schools.

The August 12, 2009 edition of Heritage Newspapers/Press and Guide featured an article about Fordson football players who volunteered to help with a Habitat for Humanity program. On May 20 fourteen players joined head Coach Fouad Zaban and Assistant Coach Saleh Abouzeed to help landscape four homes built by Habitat. “The coach (Zaban) said he started doing community service projects with the team to help his teenage players grow into responsible men who contribute to their community”. The reporter, Katie Hetrick, noted that the information about the volunteer activity came from Fordson parent Eleni Baidoun since Zaban stated that the team was not seeking any publicity for their work. We’re happy to send this information to alumni who like to hear about the good things happening at the school.

The football team went on to an outstanding season, going 9-0 in regular play. In the first round of the play-offs, Cass Tech defeated the Tractors.

The boys’ tennis team under Coach John Forster finished first in league play, won the regional championship and qualified for state competition for the second year in a row. The team also won the city championship for the first time in school history. We can be even more proud of the young men who earned 2009 State All Academic Honors with an overall GPA of 3.55. This is the sixth year in a row that Fordson boys’ tennis teams have won this honor. *(Source: School Life in Dearborn Public Schools, November 2009)*

DEARBORN HOMECOMING 2009 PHOTOS



DEARBORN HOMECOMING 2009 PHOTOS

