

The Alumni



Fordson Class of '56 alumni at the 2011 Dearborn Homecoming



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

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FORDSON ALUMNUS

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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
Download the membership application.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Norbert Karmann (Deceased), 1987 - 1989
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Joel Hurley, 1996 - 1999
Oscar Nunez, 1999 - 2003
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FORDSON CLASS OF 1988 GRADUATE



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Council President

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PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Despite the efforts of Secretary Maureen Ewasek to inform all Fordson teachers of funding for special projects, the Board received few requests this past year. We did vote to support the Vocal Music program by covering the cost of the professional accompanist. The Board of Education had funded that position at the three high schools in the past but, in a cost-cutting measure, discontinued the funding.

At our final meeting this past spring, the Board decided to award one scholarship of a thousand dollars to a graduating senior. Maureen once again took the initiative and developed the application forms and delivered them to Fordson. A committee from the Board reviewed the applications and awarded the scholarship to Mohamad B. Idriss. In a recent letter of thanks, Mohamad noted that he is now a student at Wayne State University majoring in Psychology and Political Science with a minor in Philosophy. He concludes his letter with "I am proud to call myself a Fordson High School Alumni and I plan on getting involved in all that you do as soon as possible."

An issue that faces the Board is to determine the relevance of the Alumni Association. Fordson now has several other organizations very successfully raising monies and funding scholarships. Our question will be whether or not to continue this organization should teachers no longer seek our assistance.

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to Treasurer Dan Bitar and his wife, Sherry on the birth of their first child, Daniel Mahmoud Bitar. Little Daniel was born on August 30 and weighed in at 6 pounds, 5 ounces.



Daniel Mahmoud Bitar

REUNIONS:

CLASS of 1964:

The Class will hold a 57 year-year reunion **October 6** at Stitt American Legion Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Nancy Barlow Gasper at 313-581-6623 or email Patricia Chiesa at patc629@aol.com.

CLASS of 1956:

On **Friday, October 14**, there will be a tour of Fordson and a buffet dinner in the library catered by Park Place. The event is scheduled for 5 to 9 p.m. with a cost of \$15 per person. A nine-hole golf outing at Dearborn Hills Golf Course is planned for **Saturday morning, October 15**. Cost for greens fees and a cart is \$15 per person. A 10 a.m. start with consecutive foursome tee times is planned, weather permitting. **Saturday evening, October 15** will find alumni meeting for a reunion dinner at Dearborn Hills Golf Course.

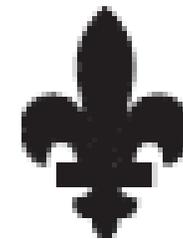
The event is scheduled for 5:30 to 11 p.m. with three entrée choices

There are many positive things happening at Fordson High School that have made Fordson a better school over the years. This positivity has allowed Fordson to continue to shine and grow as we move forward into the 21st Century. The increasing parental and community involvement, the enhanced number of programs in and out of the classroom that provide students with valuable experiences, and the rise in student involvement in clubs, organizations, and after school events has continued to foster student achievement.

Fordson High School is a school committed to excellence and leadership in education. We will continue to work with the community and the Alumni Association to assure that all students are receiving the highest level of education. Moreover, we are dedicated to continuously look for ways to improve as a school and we guarantee all members of our school community that we will always strive to be the best.

Youssef Mosallam

Class of 1994



A SPECIAL MEAL:

President Barack Obama recently hosted a Ramadan dinner as had his predecessors *President George W. Bush* and *President William Clinton*. Attendees included dignitaries and diplomats from Algeria, Chad, Guinea, Indonesia, Israel, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, Jordan and Tunisia. An invitation was also extended to Fordson teacher and coach, Fouad Zaban. Interviewed by local television reporters following the event, Mr. Zaban spoke about this extraordinary honor and how much it meant to him.

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL OF FORDSON

September 14, 2011

As we get ready for another great school year at Fordson High School I want to thank the Fordson Alumni Association for all of their support to enhance the learning environment for our students and staff. As alumni we hold great pride in our school and it is my commitment to continue that spirit.

Last year we started a new motto at Fordson High School that emphasized Fordson's Pride, Tradition and Legacy. Within each school wide address and one-on-one discussion we have with students we emphasize that Fordson Pride, Tradition and Legacy is what has made Fordson great and has developed and prepared some of the most successful alumni in the nation.

As part of this commitment we believe that we have to work together as partners in all of our children's education. Our goal as a school is to lead in innovation and differentiated educational practices so that we can meet the needs of all children. Moreover, our school improvement plan is one that follows scientifically researched practices that have helped many schools across the nation continuously succeed and improve. Our motto of Pride, Tradition, and Legacy is not just one of words but one of action and we are committed to excellence at Fordson High School.

and an open beer, wine and pop bar. The cost is \$40 for a single, \$75 for a couple. For more information call James Harder at 313-278-4640 or Alex Shashko, 313-582-1035. Checks should be made out to Fordson 56 Events and mailed to 17297 W. Outer Drive, Box 75, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127-2461.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the following:

Larry L. Joiner

Elvira Rose "Jo" Chide Link

John Nagy

Huda Sion, Aide

Cathy Stage, Faculty, English

HOMECOMING

Fordson Alumni gathered at Ford Field on Sunday, August 7, renewing old friendships and sharing favorite memories of Fordson and their times there. *Jane Knapp Arndt* (January, 1950) said, "Fordson High is very special to me, as the people there were wonderful!! Several friends are still precious to me after all these years, as we get together whenever I return to Dearborn. The beauty of the structure mirrors the beauty of its students and staff." *Patty Buck Gonzalez* (1966) recalled that, "Coming to Fordson in my freshman year, I got caught drinking out of the senior fountain and had to clean it out with a toothbrush!" *Howard Lewis* (1963) stated, "The three best years of my life were spent at Fordson." "The memories I have continued throughout the years and meeting friends at Reunions is as if we were in school, like it was yesterday," *Beverly Kinsman McLaughlin*, (1953).

Shirley James and Dolores Hausch, Class of '44, reminisced about their school days at Henry Ford Elementary School, the only school in Dearborn School District #5. The school consolidated with the Dearborn Public Schools in the 1944 -'45 school year. The women recalled that Dearborn teachers had to be in the schools from 7 to 9 p.m. every Monday through Thursday and lead various

activities "... to keep us off the streets". Editor *Barbara O'Brien* can attest to Shirley's incredible memory. While an assistant principal at Fordson, Barbara went to Bryant School for a meeting. Not knowing the location of the meeting room, she stopped in the office for directions. Shirley was one of the secretaries and greeted her by saying, "Aren't you Barbara Bigley?" Mind you, this was some forty years after Barbara left Henry Ford Elementary! Shirley is one amazing lady.

***Richard Abdullah*, web master for the Association, took pictures at Homecoming and we share them with you throughout this issue.**

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Commencement

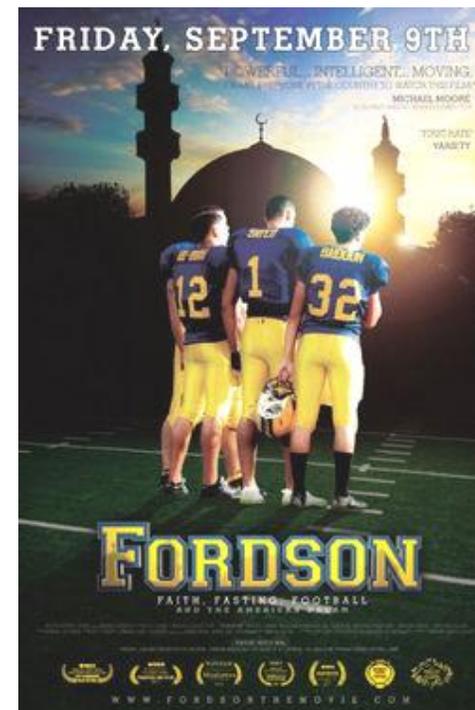
On Saturday June 4 three hundred eighty-two seniors joined the ranks of Fordson High School Alumni following commencement exercises. *Mariam Abdulghani* earned the title of Valedictorian and *Jaleel Salhi* was Salutatorian. Joining their classmates in the ceremony were sixty-one seniors who were expected to complete their high school requirements in August. This policy was developed to allow eligible seniors to participate in formal ceremonies, receiving their diplomas only when graduation requirements are met.

Fordson and Film

The big news in town is the showing of the film "Fordson: Faith – Fasting –Football and the American Dream". The film follows four players from the 2009 Fordson football team, graduates of the Class of 2010. *Bilal Abu-Omarsh*, now attending Henry Ford Community College, was the team's running back. He plans to coach football when his younger brother is old enough to play. Baquer Sayed was the team's wide receiver. He won All State Honors as a senior and, among others, was offered football scholarships to Ball State University and Ohio State. He chose to be a walk-on at the University of Michigan. *Ali Baidoun* was the

team's star quarterback. He chose to wear the number 32 which was his father's number when he played the game. He broke the school's record for touchdown passes previously held by his father. He is studying at Wayne State University with plans to become a physician's assistant. *Hassan Houssaiky*, nephew of Head Coach Fouad Zaban, is studying at Henry Ford Community College. He is remembered as a unifying force on the team while playing a defensive lineman position.

The film has won numerous awards and is being aired in AMC theaters throughout the nation. Theaters in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, DC/Baltimore, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose and selected theaters in New Jersey and New York showed the film the week of 9/9 – 9/15. The AMC Theater at Fairlane in Dearborn also aired the film on those dates. For more information and more extensive information about the young men, google the title of the movie and visit the various tabs.



Fordson: Faith, Fasting, Football (Movie Poster)

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