



All Area Wrestling Tournament Champions...7th year in a row!!!



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



FORDSON ALUMNUS

Volume 20, Number 1, Spring, 2008

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.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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

Ralph Bach	Amer Beydoun
Janet Doty	Karen Drugacz
Jim Gauthier	Pat (Patricia) Hackett
Matt Lukaszewicz	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



Richard Wygonik

District Judge

19th District Court
16077 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126

(313) 943-2136
FAX (313) 943-4099

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 -



Printed in the Fordson Print Shop.

Our thanks to **Mr. Adrian Miclea** and the Fordson Advanced Graphic Arts students for the layout and design and **Mr. Darrel Shepherd** for the printing of *The Alumnus*.



Rudah Saghir
Wireless Consultant

19150 Telegraph
Brownstown, MI 48174
734.229.0323
734.229.0357 fax



ROBERT ROSS, JR., M.D.
DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF UROLOGY
FELLOW, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

842 SUNSET LAKE BLVD., SUITE 403
VENICE, FLORIDA 34292
TEL.: (941) 485-3351 (24 HR.)
FAX: (941) 485-7677

779 MEDICAL DR., SUITE 4
ENGLEWOOD, FLORIDA 34223
TEL.: (941) 475-2214 (24 HR.)
FAX: (941) 475-1254

NORTH PORT HEALTHPARK
15121 TAMiami TRAIL
NORTH PORT, FL 34287
TEL.: (941) 485-3351 (24 HR.)

Office Hours By Appointment

Saad Wholesale Meats



SAMER SAAD • 313-831-8126



NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Senior **Abbas Alawieh** took first place in the ninth essay contest sponsored by the American Arab Center for Civil and Human Rights. He also received the Hugh M. Archer Memorial Scholarship from the Dearborn Rotary Club.

Lee Hollmann, Chair of the Scholarship Selection Committee, commended Abbas "...for his academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, community service, numerous honors and awards, and his application of the Rotary 4-Way Test which serves as a guideline for making decisions." (Source: *Heritage Newspapers/Press & Guide*, 2/24/08)



Abbas Alawieh receiving the Hugh M. Archer Memorial Scholarship

Abbas is the recipient of a four-year President's Scholarship to Wayne State University, and was recently notified that he has been accepted into the pre-med program at U of M. Abbas is President of the FHS National Honor Society.

The Fordson Key Club was featured in a December 12, 2007 article by **Barbara Ziemba** concerning fund raising and packaging of rice to send to needy people throughout the world. The club raised half the money needed to buy and ship the rice; the East Dearborn Kiwanis Club donated the remainder. In an assembly line type of operation, students packaged the rice, dry vitamins and flavorings for the program Kids against Hunger. Each package will feed six adults or eight children when the appropriate amount of water is added. In 2006, the first year that Fordson students participated in the project, they packaged almost 11,000 packets. **Rosa Scaramucci** is the teacher sponsor of the club. (Source; *Heritage Newspapers/Press & Guide*)

Athletics: This is the time of year when winter sports complete their seasons and local teams and athletes are recognized for their outstanding achievements. **Scott Salowich** is the sports editor for the *Press & Guide* and the information that follows is culled from his articles over a number of weeks. Publication dates are noted.

Cross Country All-Area Team: **Adham Aljahmi**, junior, all-league; **Qais Alkirsh**, junior, all-league; **Anwar Beydoun**, senior; **Samer Ilayan**, senior, all-league; **Saeed Saleh**, senior, all-league, team MVP. (12/26/07)

All Area Volleyball Team: **Heather Amr**, sophomore, all-league, team MVP; **Rima Fadlallah**, sophomore, team offensive player of the year; **Amanda Moussa**, senior, all-league, team defensive player of the year. (1/6/08)

All-City Boys' Basketball: **Mahmoud Darweich**, senior, team captain, team MVP, all-league; **Baquer Sayed**, sophomore, all-league, team best offensive player.

Second Team: **Jamal Williams**, junior, team best defensive player, honorable mention all-league. (3/26/08)

All-City Girls' Hoop Team: **Heather Amr**, sophomore, all-league honorable mention; **Zaina Makled**, junior, all-league, team MVP. (3/19/08)



Gehad Alawan
Retirement Benefits Specialist
Tax Sheltered Plans
Retirement Benefits Group

Retirement Benefits Group, a division of **AXA Network, LLC**
24766 Woodcroft Drive, Dearborn, MI 48124
Tel: (313) 506-0456 Fax: (313) 359-2242
gehada.alawan@axa-advisors.com

Be Life Confident



Brian Mosallam
Financial Consultant, Midwest Division

AXA ADVISORS

AXA Advisors, LLC, 4 Lemington Ct., Dearborn, MI 48126
Tel: (313) 712-5300 Fax: (734) 844-3125
mosallamh.aol.com



ALI T. CHARARA
REALTOR RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

TEL: (313) 274 7200 • CELL: (313) 289 2222
FAX: (313) 274 6268 Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated
25636 FORD RD. DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI 48127



WESTBORN CAR WASH

25073 MICHIGAN AVE • DEARBORN, MI 48124

~ALUMNI SPECIAL~

Coupon
\$3
CAR WASH

COMPLETE INTERIOR
DETAILING
\$49⁹⁹

PURCHASE 8 WASHES, GET THE 9TH

FREE!

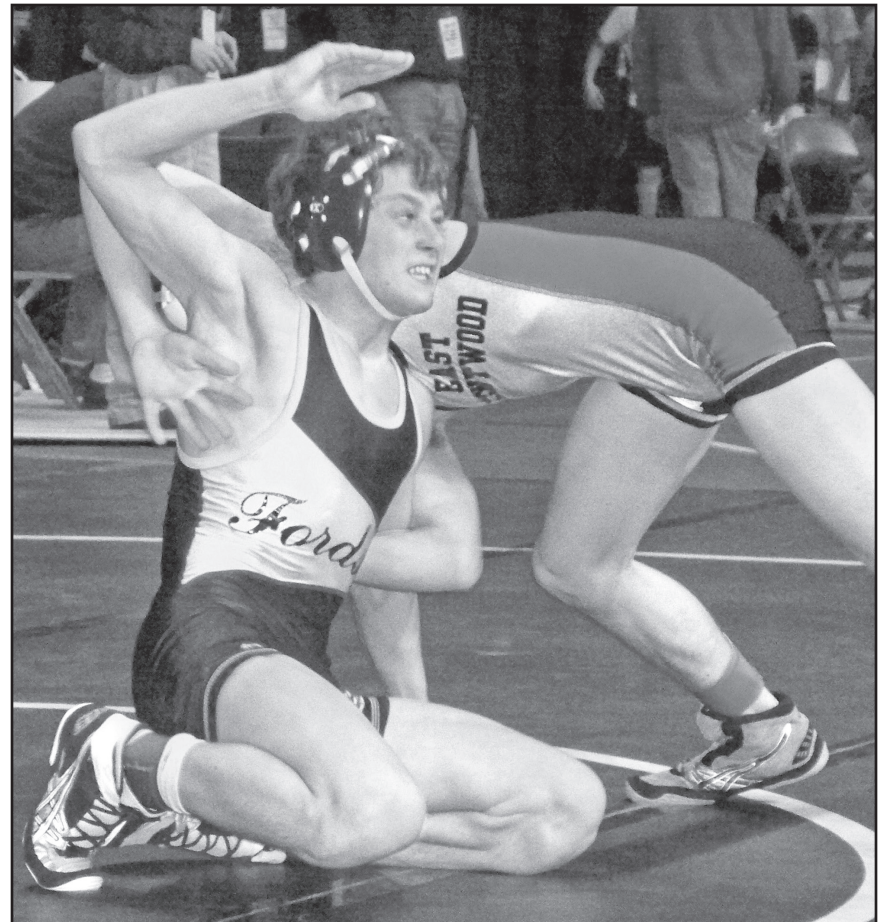
Owners Mike Jaafer & Angela Bazzi-Jaafer

PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI

Wrestling: *Press & Guide* All-Area Wrestling Tournament champions for the seventh year in a row! (1/23/08)

Wrestling All-Area First Team: **Ali Berry**, senior, all-area champion at 189 lbs. **Hassen Berry**, junior, all-area champion at 171 lbs. **Paul Hancock**, junior, All-State for second year, silver medalist at state at 119 lbs., 56 wins 2 losses, title winner at league, district, regional and All-Area; **Hussein Mansour**, junior, all-area champion at 140 lbs. **Jabreel Naser**, junior, qualified for state competition.

Second Team: **Nezar Abusalah**, junior; **Faris Fakhouri**, senior; **Samer Hayan**, senior; **Omar Jadallah**, senior; **John Lobdell**, junior; **Lythe Natour**, senior. (3/23/08)



State Silver Medalist Paul Hancock

ALUMNI NEWS

The **Honorable David Turfe**, Class of 1982, serves as a judge of the 20th District Court. His father, **Mohammed Turfe** graduated from Fordson in 1948 and his wife, **Fay**, with the Class of '88. Judge Turfe received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Wayne State University. He attended Michigan State University Law School (formerly the Detroit College of Law), successfully completing that degree and passing the Michigan Bar Exam in 1991. He went into private business practicing at every level of the Michigan Judicial System including the Michigan Supreme Court. He has served on the Dearborn Heights City Council and as a Zoning Board Commissioner for that city. In 2006 he ran and won the seat he currently occupies. Judge and Mrs. Turfe have four children, Tarik, Mohammed, Jamal and Yusef.



The Honorable David Turfe

REUNIONS

Class of '46 : Contact **Sadie Zehra Bondie** about the 62 year reunion scheduled for September 12 at Park Place. The deadline for reservations is September 5. Sadie may be reached at 313-274-3929 or call Dorothy Straube Kosztowny at 313-562-4639.

CLASSES of 1971-73: Members of these graduation classes are invited to a Carnival Cruise reunion trip to the Bahamas scheduled for February 23-28, 2009. For details and forms, contact Paula Wasiluk Doan at wazoopd@aol.com.

CLASS OF 1978: Looking for members of the Fordson High School Class of 1978 for a 30 year reunion on Aug 2, 2008. If you were a member of this class or know of a member, please email Janet Nunez at fordson_class_of_78@yahoo.com or call 313 492-1722 to give her your contact information. We only have 600 people left to find!

CLASS OF 1983

Looking for members of the Fordson High School Class of 1983 for a 25 year reunion to be held in 2008. If you were a member of this class or know of a member please email Richard Abdullah at richard_abdullah@hotmail.com or call 313 354-1639 to give him your contact information.

Do You Remember

... when the Assistant Principal would take any boy whose hair was too long and escort that student across the street to a barber shop where his hair was cut to a suitably short length. The A.P. then sent the bill to the student's parents!

...when girls had to kneel in the Assistant Principal's office to check the length of their skirts. If their skirts did not touch the floor, they were sent home!

...when an A.P. carried a ruler and would measure the height of a girl's hair or a boy's pompadour. Too high? You had the choice of going to the locker room and wetting it down or going home!

...when any boy who wasn't wearing a belt would be given a length of rope to slip through his belt loops and tie in front. The benefactor? The A.P. of course.

...when boys would be checked for facial hair and required to shave if they didn't pass inspection!

...when girls were not allowed to wear slacks and jeans were forbidden to all. The A.P. also checked to see if boys were 'pegging' their pants. Too tight? Home you'd go.

Do you think today's students would believe this?

Joe Caruso drove a plebian Ford Model A. After sandwiches, we would circle the school impressing the sidewalk crowd with melodious exhaust sounds. These usually got more response from the neighbors than from our imagined admirers. Soon the Dearborn constabulary would pounce on us with their 'sound meters', pull us over, and measure the decibels we were emitting. This embarrassment provided even more entertainment for the sidewalk crowd! Testosterone being what it is, there were sometimes challenges of the auto-athletic type. These also attracted the attention of the locals and consequently the boys in blue. Sometimes the sidewalk crowd was treated to the sublime entertainment of witnessing one of the 'Gear Heads' being transferred to a police cruiser for the purpose of touring the scenic environs of the Dearborn Police station. Although these sporting events seemed like innocent fun at the time, we all had a rude awakening when Bob Singleton wrapped his '49 Mercury around a lamppost on Michigan Avenue and Southfield. They had to cut the car away to get at Bob's body; this somber event seemed to dim the glamour of speeding around. Thereafter, the Automobile Club would occasionally leave a large trailer on display at our school. On the trailer would be a twisted wreck similar to Bob's Mercury in which some teenagers had needlessly died.

I guess everyone's big worry about cars then was similar to our worries about drugs now, and they were justified! In spite of these secondary events in and around our Fordson, learning was proceeding on schedule. Before we knew it, we were in one of the large graduating classes in January or in June. Yes, there were two classes because the system ran three grades concurrently separated by half a semester. Can you imagine the involved record keeping logistics? This was way before the advent of computers!

The mighty Ford Motor Company stood ready to hire students from all levels whether graduates of high school, community college or universities. So it was with my friends. Some went off to the Ford Motor Company and some to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. There was no U of M in Dearborn yet! Some, like myself, went to Henry Ford Community College. For a while we kept in touch, but work, serious study and eventually romance took us in separate directions. For most, like myself, there was a future filled with adventure, excitement and satisfaction with the fine education and good times we had at Fordson. For some, like Bob Singleton, it ended before it even began.

Two Fordson couples were subjects of a special feature "Sweethearts Then and Now" authored by Veronica Grandison in the February 13, 2003 edition of the *Dearborn Press and Guide*. That article is the source of the following information.

Jon and Karen Smuk were band students together at Woodworth Junior High and later became high school sweethearts. Their first date was the Fordson Homecoming Dance in 1963. Both continued their education following graduation, marrying in 1966. The couple became parents of three children. Perhaps you will remember from an earlier edition of the *Alumnus* that Jon had been an assistant wrestling coach at Fordson for 23 years when he had a sudden and fatal heart attack while accompanying one of the wrestlers at the state competition at the Palace in 2007. Karen's comments about Jon and their relationship is summed up in the following quote; "Many friends have told us that we were the happiest married couple they knew. We didn't take our happiness for granted and continued to do nice little things for each other."

Hank and Marlene Czerwick are also featured in this article. Hank describes life with his friends and his '40 Ford as they, and eventually Marlene, toured all the local high spots of Dearborn and the Detroit area at that time...Belle Isle, Northland, 'downtown'. While still students, both Marlene and Hank worked at Sam's Department Store, then Ford Motor Company following her graduation from FHS and his from HFCC. The couple has two children. Of their fifty plus years together, Hank says, "We have settled into a very busy life, and because of out many blessings, we are more in love than when we started." Hank is a great raconteur, and one of his stories will be featured in this edition.

Ibrahim Baydoun was inducted into the Dearborn Recreation Department's Hall of Fame on March 12 of this year. "Baydoun earned membership in the Hall of Fame for his accomplishments on the basketball courts of Dearborn over a period of time that spanned a quarter century. ...Throughout his 17 season career...Baydoun was a prolific scorer, leading his teams to 11 titles and averaging an unbelievable 44 points a game." (Source: Heritage Newspapers/Press & Guide, "Dearborn Recreation enshrines hall of famers", 3/12/08)

Mr. Baydoun is a counselor at Edsel Ford High School and the varsity basketball coach.

In Memoriam:
Harry Renko, 12/6/07

FIFTY YEARS AGO

By Hank Czerwick 1/22/04

In recent conversations, it was mentioned that some of today's Fordson students were curious about life at Fordson in the past. I guess that fifty years should well qualify as being in the past.

To start with, our student body was a mixture of second and third generation descendants of immigrants from many places. Italy and Poland were two of the prominent former homelands of our students' parents and grandparents. First names like 'Americo' were given to children to show a love for the new land, while in the same family there was an 'Orlando' to show a tie to the country of origin. Although much of the student body was bilingual, little if anything but English was spoken at the school. Languages, other than English were taught here, but the choices were Latin, Spanish and French! These were confined to students on a college-bound track. Fordson offered several directions of study in those days. There were the college-bound offerings as mentioned, the Industrial, the Coop, and the General courses of study. With a Fordson education you could immediately step into college, industry, business, homemaking and many other income earning fields. College was not the big requirement that it is today. The Henry Ford Community College was in its infancy, being started here at Fordson as the Dearborn Junior College.

We came to school mostly on foot. Some students, like those from Dearborn Township (now Dearborn Heights) were bussed to Fordson because there wasn't a high school in the township. Student parking lots were unheard of! Those of living on the fringes might have had a parent drive them to school. Others relied on hitching up with an older student, one who was lucky enough to have a car. Such was my case. The student was Bob Guzman and the car was '40 Buick. The clutch was stuck so there was only neutral and go. Bob would start the car and warm it up. Then he would turn it off, put it in gear, and we passengers would push until the car started and we hurriedly piled into the car. Complicating the procedure was the fact that the old Buick was a two door! The drive from Rosalie, our street, was harrowing. If you came to a complete stop, you had to do so by turning off the ignition. This meant that the push-start procedure would have to be repeated! The trick was to drive so that we would arrive at major intersections when the lights were green! What happened at stop signs I'll leave to your imagination. Incidentally, the reason for the condition of the Buick was that it was all anyone could afford. There was little money in the hands of the students.

Those with jobs (I was a floor cleaner and pan scrubber at the Schaefer Bakery) gave our earnings to our parents as a means of making ends meet. Then, as I'm sure it is now, there were sub-cultures within Fordson. There were the studious types who took Latin and were on the Student Council. Today they are called 'Egg-heads'. There were the football players, basketball players and swimmers. I don't know if the word 'Jocks' was around, but that is what they were. There was a group you seldom saw. These were the 'Coops'. They were students who worked in offices or industry for part of the day and were at school for the other part. Lastly there were those of us from the Industrial Program. Today we would be known as 'Grease Monkeys' or 'Gear Heads'. Sadly that part of the building was demolished when Fordson was renovated. We started in homeroom in B Hall at the front of the school and seldom returned to that area unless summoned to the office for some infraction that we thought was imagined by the disciplinary principal. We had three principals then; a regular, a vice and the aforementioned disciplinary. There were assorted reasons for the pilgrimage to the front...untidy appearance, attendance, behavior in the hallways or in class, behavior outside the building and sometimes the whim of the disciplinary principal. Some of us E-wing folks were on a first name basis. Incidentally, his name was John....so I am told!

The life of the Jocks at Fordson was chronicled in a book titled "The Kendal Street Gang". This book should be in the Media Center at Fordson. A glimpse of one 'Gearhead' experiences is being offered herewith. E-wing consisted of several shops. There was the metal shop, the electric shop, the radio shop and the auto shop. When I arrived in 1951 the aeroshop had recently been disbanded. It was instituted to train Fordson students to be aircraft mechanics for the war effort! We E-wingers loved our shops, our instructors and each other's company. We went to school together, were in class together, ate lunch together and hung out with each other after school. Everyone's big goal was to get a car, any car, even if it was like the previously mentioned Buick! My social status improved when my parents helped me buy a 1940 Ford four-door. As soon as I could afford it, I put skirts and dual exhausts on the car. Another 'cool touch' was a pair of fog lamps! An engine from a Mercury was bartered and immediately installed. Now I could drive to Fordson in style. Lunch periods were spent eating our sandwiches in one of our cars that we parked in the neighborhood. Gene King had '39 Ford two-door, Jack Rice had his brother's '50 Olds hardtop, and Don Sarna sometimes had the family's Kaiser. Sometimes Gene would drive his dad's 'Firedome Hemi' DeSoto and I my Dad's '50 Olds.