



6th Annual Fordson Renaissance Festival



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

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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.

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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.

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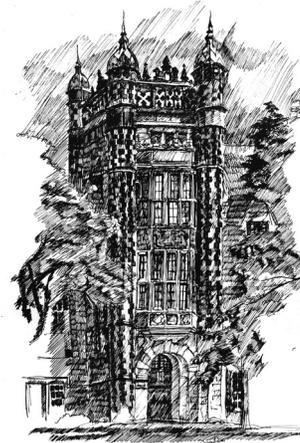
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NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2008 took place on Saturday, June 10. Four hundred eighty three students received their diplomas. Of that number, ten students had completed their course work this past January.

An additional forty-one students were allowed to participate in the ceremony with the anticipation that they will complete their requirements through summer school courses and then be awarded their diplomas. This has been a system-wide policy for a number of years. **Dina Musheinish** was valedictorian of the class and **Hyatt Bakri** and **Hussein Hamid** were salutatorians. Fifty-three students earned highest honors with grade point averages of 3.8 and above.

Renaissance Festival

Diane Prieur, English Department faculty member sponsored the May 23 Renaissance Festival and authored the following article for the Alumni Association. The photos of the festival featured in this issue were also provided by Ms. Prieur.

“This was the 6th Annual Fordson Renaissance Festival and about 120 students celebrated Shakespeare’s 444th birthday. The schedule of events included jousting (with wagons), a cake eating contest, a juggling exhibition, original poetry performances, an ax throwing competition, arm wrestling, and a Medieval feast. Royalty was crowned as a result of the coats-of- arms contest. Each student designed a shield using research on heraldry from the Renaissance time period. Students selected colors and symbols that represented their individual characteristics and created a shield.



They attached a description of the heraldic emblems so the rest of the student body could understand the symbolism. Forty shields were selected as finalists (twenty lords and twenty ladies) for display in the library. The entire student body was invited to judge the shields. The top four male and female shields determined royalty and students were crowned (King/Queen, Prince/Princess, Duke/Duchess, Marquis, Marquess) by Mr. Majed Fadlallah. In addition to researching heraldry, students also researched people from different classes who lived during the Renaissance time period. This helped them design authentic costumes. Many students scoured thrift stores, family attics, craft shops and costume stores to mimic ancient styles of dress. Students also researched Renaissance topics such as armor, weapons, medicine, musical instruments, the Black Death, and castles. Others researched famous people such as Leonardo da Vinci, Joan of Arc, and King Richard the Lionhearted. Creative writing students designed interactive games and tenth grade students created 5 page research papers using MLA guidelines. Finally, students researched food of the time period and brought in a variety of items to share (chicken legs, meat pies, fresh fruit, rose petal bread, cheese, bread pudding). The backdrop of the architecture of Fordson added to the celebration of history and culture. I cannot express the awesome amount of enthusiasm, creativity and dedication the students put into creating the festival. Eighteen students showed up at six a.m. to help set up tents and tables. Overall, it was a festival filled with laughter, vivid color and adventure. The generous contribution of the Alumni Association helped provide four tents, heraldic banners and numerous costume items. The festival would not have been such an overwhelming success without the support of the Fordson family of alumni. Thanks for helping create educational memories that will last a lifetime in the minds and hearts of the students.”

Note: The Alumni Association donated \$500 to the Renaissance Festival.



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PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI

ALUMNI NEWS

Fordson graduates Dr. Gail Majcher and Mary DiPaolo, M.A., LLP, were the subjects of an article written by Jason Carmel Davis for the *Press & Guide Newspapers*. The two constitute a psychotherapy team, focusing on mental health. Dr. Majcher is the founder of “True Colors”, a method “... to help individuals understand who they are and how they function in the context of their personal and professional relationships.”

“Beyond her private practice, DiPaolo is the clinical services manager at InterSessions, the psychological services clinic on the campus of Michigan Theological Seminary (MTS) in Plymouth. Di Paolo was asked to help start the clinic which opened in September 2007.”

The partners have a radio show, airing on WJR on Sundays from 6-7 p.m. Majcher has authored “A Worthy Woman”, focusing on women who have been victims of domestic violence. Together, the two women are working on a book dealing with “... psychological issues relevant to the 21st century.”

Source: *Press & Guide Newspapers*, May 14, 2008, “Former Dearborn residents, psychotherapy team brings mental health to the masses”, by Jason Carmel Davis, Business Section, page 4-c

Reunions:

Class of 1946: A 62 year reunion is planned for September 12 at Park Place, Dearborn. The deadline for reservations is September 5. Contact **Sadie Zehra Bondy** (313-274-3929) or **Dorothy Straube Kosztowny** (313-562-4639) for further information.

Classes of 1971-1973: Members of these classes are invited to a Carnival Cruise reunion trip to the Bahamas set for February 23-28, 2009. Contact **Paula Wasiluk Doan** at wazoopd@aol.com for more information.

Amal M. Berry-Brown has been appointed to the Michigan Public Educational Facilities Authority by Governor Jennifer Granholm. "Berry-Brown is a vice president and the national Arab and Chaldean business affairs manager for Comerica Bank, Inc. with the Arab and Chaldean American community on a national level. The authority... is responsible for administering the qualified education facility bond program for Michigan's public schools that are in need of new public educational facilities or whose existing public educational facilities are in need of renovation and remodeling." Source: *Heritage Newspapers/Press & Guide, July 9, 2008, page 2-A*

Mini Tvaska was featured in an article in the *Alumnus* last year. She wrote us about her long time participation in the U.S. Bowling Congress Women's Championships, adding that she planned on participating this year for the 62nd time. And she did! Mini was featured in an article in *The Detroit Free Press, 'The Ticker', 5/20/08*. 90-year-old Mini is quoted, "I've been planning my trip back to Detroit for a while now," Tvaska said. I grew up in Dearborn. I'm feeling fine now and still bowling in city and state tournaments. Even after all these years bowling, I'm still excited by tournament play." With her participation in this year's tournament, Mini broke the all-time record. Hooray for you, Mini!

In Memoriam

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

Charles Glenn Bell, Class of 1944

David L. Braun, Class of 1967

Sam Ellis, Class of 1969

Joseph Lakomski, Class of 1932

Faculty:

Sigmund Gretzner: Mr. Gretzner was a Fordson graduate from Garden City. He was a popular teacher and coach at Lowrey Junior High School for many years.

Mary Barsock Zudick: Mrs. Zudick, a graduate of Fordson, had a forty-year history of service with the Dearborn Public Schools, spending ten of those years teaching at Fordson. She is survived by her husband of sixty years, Leonard.

Dick gave the same service to his customers that his mother gave to her students. Goodall's was a place you could trust. It was a place where there always was a cup of coffee and donuts in the morning. A place where news of the community was known before it came out in the papers. Goodall's Service is gone now, a victim of the trend where gas stations sell you a coffee instead of giving to you. A place where you can no longer buy a tire, or windshield wiper, or get your oil changed. But it (Goodall's) was a place where many life-long friendships were forged...just like those in Mrs. Reading's sixth grade class.

Hank Czerwick, Dearborn Historical Commission, January 21, 2003.

***Some notes about Henry Ford Elementary School:** Built by Henry Ford in 1929, it was its own school district until it became part of the Dearborn Public Schools in the early 1940's. His generosity is evident in the unusual amenities that Hank Czerwick describes. Today the school features a huge addition and now serves a population of about 676 students.

**** Sadly, The Little Professor is no longer in business.** The Little Café, located just west of the Professor's location, is filled with memorabilia from Fordson and other Dearborn schools. Why don't you plan a visit?



Henry Ford Elementary School

Mrs. Reading's room was situated on the second floor at the front of the school. The building has two prominent 'towers' on the front and our class was in the bay on the west corner. From this vantage, we children could look over the homes and fields immediately to the south and see the traffic on Michigan Avenue, the Ford employee gardens (where the Ford Center for Performing Arts now stands), and beyond there, the Michigan Central Railroad tracks.

The other side of the tracks was 'The Ford Foundation', a special neighborhood constructed by Mr. Ford for many of his employees. This area was initially quite remote, so Mr. Ford constructed a special shopping center just to serve the neighborhood's needs. Although he was known to supply schools in other similar 'Ford Communities', he must have determined that the school bearing his name was close (by) enough. Thus many of my schoolmates came on a bus from the Ford Foundation.

Whenever Mrs. Reading would lose my attention, it was easy enough to be attracted to counting cars on the train passing on the tracks across Michigan Avenue. She really was an outstanding teacher when you consider that we, the products of her efforts, were able to navigate the curriculum waters of Woodworth Junior High and Fordson High School with reasonable success! One of my classmates, Jack Bauer, took over Bauer's Automotive Supply, his Dad's business on Greenfield Road. Another classmate, Tony Fera, must have really been influenced by Reading's reading assignment! He's the owner of the The Little Professor Book Store! ** And of course, here I am, able to communicate these reminiscences.

Mrs. Reading was not only responsible for the accomplishments of other people's children, her own son was a success story, too. Richard, 'Dick' Lyman ascended to the management and ownership of 'Goodall's Service' a landmark establishment on the corner of Greenfield and Colson. Lyman was Mrs. Reading's first husband's name, and Goodall was her maiden name.

We are fortunate to publish another of Hank Czerwick's recollections of school life. Hank is a member of the Class of '54.

Mrs. Reading, Writing and Arithmetic

We moved to Dearborn in 1947 when my mother was hospitalized for tuberculosis. It was the second time we shared a home with my father's parents. My Dad's sister had a ladies' and children's specialty store on Greenfield known as "The Gene Shoppe." Back then Greenfield had not yet been widened into the two lane with median configuration that it now is. Next door was her husband's office. He was a custom builder, building a home here and there wherever Garing, the really big builder, left an empty lot. Many of my uncle's homes were constructed in established neighborhoods where there seemed to be an empty lot or two. So it was that two lots on Rosalie would become the site of a home that he constructed for my grandparents. It was to this home that we moved.

My previous experience with school was quite different from the one I was to enjoy at Henry Ford Elementary. Having come from a parochial school in Detroit, with only a brief exposure to a public school, I was fascinated with the procedure of changing rooms for different subjects. At Henry Ford, we had a separate room for music, another for Art, a library, and facilities for physical education.

Henry Ford Elementary was quite a special school.* Few elementary schools had a pool! Not only was there a gymnasium indoors, but there were separate tiled and drained playing areas for football and soccer. There was a large track and extensive tennis courts as well! The area adjoining the building was equipped with swings, teeter-totters, and monkey bars.

My attendance in Mrs. Reading's class was preordained. She lived on Greenfield, just across the street and a bit north of "The Gene Shoppe", and was a good friend of my aunt, Gene Woloszynski. Although there were two sixth grade classes at Henry Ford, it was arranged that the new boy in town would be in Mrs. Reading's.



Ladies of the Court



Meeting Royalty



Jousting



The Three Musketeers