



Fordson Renaissance Festival, May 28, 2009



**Alumni Association of
Fordson High School**

P.O. Box 1382
Dearborn, MI 48121

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FORDSON ALUMNUS

Volume 21, Number 3, Summer, 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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PROUD FORDSON ALUMNI



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Congratulations are in order for Treasurer **Dan Bitar** upon the occasion of his recent marriage to **Kerry Seremak**. Dan and Kerry are both Fordson graduates; Dan is an attorney with a practice in Dearborn Heights. Kerry completed her certification as a teacher this past spring. Best wishes to the couple!

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

On May 29, students from the Class of 2009 assembled in the auditorium for the annual Honors Convocation. Three hundred nineteen students were eligible for awards including recognition from the various departments in the school as well as recognition for overall academic excellence. Special Awards included the Fleur de Lis Award, the George T. Martin Trophy, the Principal's Award, and the Tower Award.

Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2009 were held on Saturday, June 6. The following information comes from the graduation program. *Any changes that occurred after June 4 are not reflected in this data.*

Seven hundred seventy-eight students are members of the Class of 2009. Of that number, six were January graduates and eighty are expected to complete their requirements and earn their diplomas in August.

2009 HONOR GRADUATES

VALEDICTORIANS

Zeinab Saghir: GPA 4.4524

Zeinab will attend Wayne State University, majoring in Biology. Her career goal is to become a medical doctor. While at Fordson

she participated in the National Honor Society, One Club, Leaders of Tomorrow, International Club, Federal Reserve Team, Arab Students Union, Voter Registration Committee, Red Cross Blood Drive, Student Congress and the Pre-med Society.

Ali Zreik: GPA 4.4524

Ali will attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with a major in Biochemistry with a career goal of becoming a medical doctor. While at Fordson Ali participated in the History Club, National Honor Society, Key Club, One Club, Soccer Team, International Club, Pre-med Society, Track, and Student Council in grades 9 and 10.

SALUTATORIAN

Zeinab Ali Saad: GPA 4.4405

Zeinab will attend Wayne State University with a career goal of becoming a pharmacist. Her majors will be Liberal Arts and Sciences. She participated in the History Club, Environmental Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, Leaders of Tomorrow, One Club, and softball and tennis as a ninth grader.

OTHER NOTABLES

- ✦ Earning Highest Honors with cumulative grade point averages of 3.8 and greater: 79 students
- ✦ Earning High Honors with cumulative grade point averages of 3.5-3.79: 69 students
- ✦ Earning Honors with cumulative grade point averages of 3.0-3.49: 101 students

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE GRADUATES AND INVITES THEM TO BECOME MEMBERS!



Brian Mosallam
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DEARBORN HOMECOMING

Homecoming is scheduled for August 7, 8 and 9 at Ford Field. Fordson's reunion day is Sunday, August 9 at the picnic grounds. The Alumni Association will have a booth near the picnic area. Look for us and stop by and say hello! We will have some Fordson memorabilia for sale with all profits going toward projects for students. Please encourage your friends to join the organization that day; they will receive a small gift as thanks.

Class Reunions:

The **January Class of 1942** will hold a 67-year reunion at the Dearborn Inn on August 8. Call Mary Del Vecchia De Poli at 313-336-3128 or Irene Mrkva Hlavaty at 810-748-9445 for details.

The **Class of 1964** will hold its 45-year reunion August 8 at American Legion Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. To learn more, contact Sylvia Skelton at silly1021@comcast.net or Carol Lawrence at 313-336-7491.

ALUMNI NEWS

William Brehm, '47 continues his generosity toward young people from Fordson with scholarship awards to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Members of the Class of 2009 receiving Brehm Scholarships are **Renee Garcia, David Haidar, Ghada Mustapha, Jaber Saad and Nadia Sion**. Congratulations to the graduates!

We're happy to note that recipients of two Brehm scholarships awarded through Eastern Michigan University have many ties to Fordson High. **Joni and Kasey Harhold**, scholarship recipients, are the daughters of Fordson alumna **Taffy Abed Harhold**, the granddaughters of alumni **Taft Abed** and the late **Joan Shoemaker Abed**, and great nieces of **Corinne Shoemaker Walsh**. The list of this family's Fordson grads continues into the next two generations!

Paul Abbott was nominated for a PAGE Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction for “High School Musical”, a production of the City of Dearborn Recreation Department. (Dearborn Press and Guide, 5/13/09)

~

“From a Guy of the Class of 1954:

It was a good year; I, Terry A. Coffey - went a year to Dearborn Community College, went four years to Korea (Coast Guard – landing off Inchon Harbor, Pyongan (sic) – saw a lot of ‘incoming’. Captured three months – released – spent some time in Tokyo – met Douglas McArthur – met HST (Harry S. Truman) –(a nice guy – Mr. Pres). Got a couple decorations –

Respectfully, Fordson – The Greatest!!!!
LTJG Terry A. Coffey
By appointment BM3 Striker”

A Letter from a Member of the Class of 1936:

“1/20/09
Fordson Alumni Association

My maiden name was ‘Dorothy Mitchell’. I am now a 91 year old woman who still remembers how excited I was when I entered Fordson High in the seventh grade. 6 years later I graduated in the Jan. Class of 1936.

In April 1936 I married Walter Hosmer who graduated from Fordson in 1932. We had 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. One great-grandson who is now in Alabama, and another who will be attending Mich. State in the fall.

During the years of attending Fordson there was 7 of us gals who hung out together. After we graduated we stayed in touch, In fact we took turns every couple of months having get-togethers at each others home. That went on for years until passing away began; the



(L to R) David Berry ('58), Alan Sareini ('83), Richard Abdullah ('83), Rich Abdullah ('57), Don Unis ('57), George Hart ('45)

ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Board of the Alumni Association would like current and prospective members to be aware of the following:

- The association is a non-profit organization; when no goods or services are received in exchange, donations are tax deductible.
- Annual dues are inclusive for the period of January 1 through December 31 of each year.
- Membership does not require attendance at meetings. The Board meets on a regular basis and members are informed of actions through the publication, *The Alumnus*, which is mailed to active members three to four times each year.
- Membership dues and gifts are used to assist Fordson students and teachers who request funding for special projects that benefit students.

Fordson 'Graduate' School by Richard Abdullah (1983)

Weekdays during the mid afternoon and early evening and Sunday mornings a gathering of Fordson Alumni occurs at the Tim Horton's in Dearborn on Greenfield between Rotunda and Michigan. It is common to see Fordson graduates from the '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s amongst this group. Simple arithmetic on these decades provides an estimate of the friendship durations.

No topics or gossip are off limits and some are ignited with the stories on the crumpled newspapers on the table. Anyone looking for an opinion will find many varying ones whether they like it or not. Laughter is abundant and it is easy to become victim of light hearted teasing. When the conversations or laughter become loud, onlookers may shake their head and laugh at Fordson graduates and think, 'I wish I went to school with this silly bunch!'



(L to R) Louie Moussa ('73), Jerry Nassar ('58), Jimmy Berry ('66), Ruda Saghir ('92), Salah Homayed (Fordson Parent)

last one was in 2006. There is only two of us left, me and Gladys Biestek. You might remember her as she after college became a teacher at Fordson, and was active in the alumni. I sure would be interested to know just how many of the class of '36 is left.

Also if by any remote chance there is 74 year reunion planned. If so please let me know, and will have my son bring me.

Thank you very much for reading my letter. God Bless you,
Dorothy Hosmer

p.s. By the way forgot to tell you my marriage to Walter lasted 56 years before he passed away from cancer."

A Request for Alumni:

"January 29, 2009

Dear Fordson Alumni Association: If you can help find a 1935 graduate from Fordson high school with the initials of SJK. I have found a class ring (man's Ring) from this graduating year, and would like to return it to his family. I have only tried on my own to find a name (with no luck to me.) If you can assist me in any way this would be very helpful.

Annette M. Collura, Fenton, MI

I wanted to find this family for over 8 years."

The editor has the full of address of Mrs. Collura if you should be able to help. Contact me at Baeob@aol.com and mention the ring in the address section. Thanks!

In Memoriam:

C.P. Berbec of San Antonio, Texas

John S. Kemp of Port Charlotte, Florida

Fordson Renaissance Festival by Diane Prieur

The 7th annual Fordson Renaissance Festival is a part of an exciting tradition. On May 28, 2009, almost 200 students participated in an Elizabethan Feast, medieval jousting (with decorated wagons), ax throwing, a coats-of-arms contest, arm wrestling competition, Shakespearean play reenactments, and a cake eating contest.



2009 Winning Shield

The Forsdon High School architecture provides an historic backdrop for the festival and students showed exceptional creativity in their design of period costumes, heraldic shields, and research paper writing. The Renaissance Festival would not be as interesting or interactive without the incredible support of the Fordson Alumni Association.

This year's \$500 donation provided for additional tents, costumes and the crowns and tiaras presented by Superintendent Brian Whiston at the knighting ceremony. Students designed and researched heraldry to create an authentic coat-of-arms. Twenty-five shields were selected from both male and female students and hung in the library for the student body to vote. The top four shields in each category were selected and the creator of each shield was knighted (King/Queen, Prince/Princess, Duke/Duchess, Marquis/Marquess).

Mr. Joe Shannon also helped set up the festival and his students created a guillotine and performed interactive lessons and historic re-enactments. The students and I deeply value the encouragement and support of the Fordson Alumni. The joy on the faces of the students expresses better than words the lessons that were learned about Renaissance food, music, drama, people, events and culture.



Ms. Diane Prieur and student festival organizer Zainab Hammoud



Dearborn Public Schools Superintendent Mr. Whiston crowning the student who won the heraldry contest



The Three Musketeers