



FORDSON ALUMNUS

Volume 21, Number 1, Winter, 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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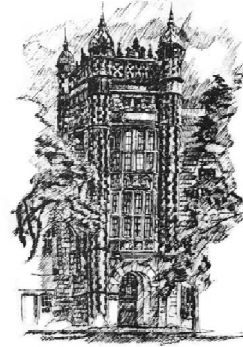
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NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to **President Rudah Saghir** and his wife, Randa on the birth of their daughter, Nina. Two-month-old Nina joins big brother Adam, 6, and sister Anna, 2. Our best wishes to the family.

Association Dues:

At the last meeting the Board of Governors discussed the timing of association dues. Some years ago the dates for membership were changed to reflect a September through August calendar year. Reviewing that process, current board members voted unanimously to change to a collection that reflects a January through December membership. You will receive a separate letter from the association asking you to mail your dues for the coming year.

Changes to the *Alumnus*:

In one of many cost-cutting actions this fall, the Board of Education approved the closing of the print shop at Fordson. **Darrel Shepherd**, the professional printer, has been reassigned to a position at Henry Ford Community College. **Adrian Miclea**, who taught Graphics classes and who designed and set-up issues of the *Alumnus*, was surplus and reassigned to O.L. Smith Middle School. We will miss working with them and thank them for their assistance and support over the years.

Richard Abdullah, web master of our organization, has volunteered to take on the work that Adrian did. In a recent meeting, the two men discussed the process that Adrian used for set-up and design. The old adage seems to be true in this situation; if you need to have something done, ask a busy person! This issue is Richard's first effort. Thanks, Rich!

Good Eats

Some of you may have patronized the Wheel Inn when it was located at Fordson. With the opening of the Michael Berry Center, the program was relocated and took a new name, Bon Appetit. Eleanor Shepherd, professional chef and teacher, continues her role as the driving force in the training of high school students for entry-level positions in the restaurant/hospitality industry. The restaurant is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Since the program follows the school calendar, it is best to call first to confirm that the restaurant is open. The telephone number is (313) 827-4807. You may place a reservation; the program will cater events, also. The food is excellent and prices are very reasonable.

The Michael Berry Center is an addition to the HFCC site at Ann Arbor Trail and Outer Drive. The Center is a two-story addition on the northwest side of the building, close to Warren Avenue. Enter through the main doors; the restaurant is immediately to your right past the first hallway.

ALUMNI NEWS

At a recent production of the musical "Grease" by the Players Guild of Dearborn, we were delighted to see the name of Fordson grad **Paul Abbott** listed as the music director for the series. When the curtain opened, Paul was at center back stage on keyboard, directing the other musicians and accompanying the vocalists. Another FHS grad, **Eric Rowland** was on bass guitar. We had a great visit with Paul following the show and caught up on his life since graduation. He has earned a master's degree in music and works as a professional musician. The piano and trumpet are his instruments of choice. Both Paul and Eric were very involved in the instrumental program while at Fordson. Phil Hesperen was the instrumental teacher at that time. Phil is a Fordson grad and is now a faculty member in the Counseling Department.

Candyce Ewing Abbott, '76, was a candidate for District Court Judge in Dearborn in the recent election.



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Be Life Confident

Corporal Craig Vasileff, '77, had received the Chief's Outstanding Service Officer Award in 2002. In 1988 he was named Michigan's Officer of the Year for having saved an eight year-old from drowning. Corporal Vasileff received the award from the Police Officer's Association.

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

Bertha Garvey Formento, Class of 1929

Art Fortunato, Bertha's son, sent us a little history of her early life. Bertha was born on a farm outside of Millington, MI in 1913. Her mother died at the age of 27; Bertha was just 6 years old. Apparently it was not considered appropriate at that time for a father to raise a small girl by himself, so Bertha went to live with her mother's sister until the age of 15. She then moved to Dearborn and lived with her father and stepmother and attended Fordson High School. Following graduation, she worked as a school secretary. In 1931 she married Michael Formento. Bertha's graduation ring is on display on the alumni website.

Dana Herrera, Class of 1972

News of Dana's death from cancer comes from his wife, Rebecca. Sadly, mementos of Dana's school life were lost in a fire and neither Rebecca nor his children have ever seen pictures of his early life other than ones from Fordson yearbooks that Paula Wasiluk Doan forwarded to them. If any of you should happen to have some photos of him that you would be willing to forward to us, we will see that they are sent to Rebecca.

Theodore N. Traskos, Class of 1933

One of five Traskos brothers, Ted and his siblings started a hardware business in Dearborn in 1946 known as Home Depot. The goal of the brothers was to provide friendly, knowledgeable service. The business expanded and became known as ACO, the Detroit area hardware chain. Ted was the executive committee chairman.

CLASS REUNIONS

The Class of 1958 celebrated their 50th class reunion on August 2, 2008. Thanks to **Bette Wrixon Mys** for reporting that the reunion was great! Betty had been Editor in Chief of the Fleur de Lis and a staff member of the Tower Tribune while at Fordson. She included current pictures of the '58 Tower Tribune Staff that we are featuring for your enjoyment.



Nadja (Georgeiff) Budamir, Bette (Wrixon) Mys, Sophie (Marko) Bryant, Joan Robinson, Sam Martino, Sherry (Wonders) Serpa, and Linda Koos



Sherry (Wonders) Serpa, Joan Robinson, and Sam Martino

This was quite a fall for school athletes. The **boys' soccer team:** champions of the Mega White Division! The **girls' undefeated volleyball team:** champions of the Mega Blue division! Alumna **Maggie Porada** coaches the team.

The Mega Conference has four divisions; red, white, blue and gold. Unfortunately, the league is dissolving due to the withdrawal of a number of teams. Time and cost of travel have been strong influences for schools.

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Fordson	42	Redford Union	6	
Fordson	42	Allen Park	6	
Fordson	26	Monroe	7	
Fordson	24	Dearborn High	14	
Fordson	36	Southgate	21	<i>Mega Red A championship</i>
Fordson	25	Highland Park	16	
Fordson	31	Franklin	20	<i>District playoff</i>
Fordson	16	Detroit Cody	6	<i>District championship</i>
Fordson	29	Southeastern	18	<i>Division 1 regional championship</i>
Fordson	0	Lake Orion	38	<i>State semi-final</i>

Team record: 12 – 1

In the November 28, 2008 edition of the *Detroit Free Press*, Sports, **Coach Fouad Zaban** was named prep Coach of the Year.

The All West Offensive and Defensive teams were selected by Mick McCabe and the articles were written by Rick Schultz. **First Team Offense** included Tractor Baquer Sayed, End. **First Team Defense** included Abdullah Homayed, Defensive Linebacker and Hassan Amen, Defensive Back. The lead article was devoted to Hassan Amen and Coach Zaban. Hassen Houssaiky, Outside Lineman, and Ali Alaboody, Running Back, were named to the second team offense. All of the above named players were selected to the *Dearborn Press and Guide* All-City Football Team. Also named were Jad Al-Zein, Hassen Berry, Ahmad Elkatib, Hussein Kadouh and Abe Mroue. (*Dearborn Press and Guide*, Sports, 12/10/08)

Earlier this fall the **boys' tennis team** won a Division 1 regional championship. "The Tractors finished tied for first place with Livonia Churchill ...to claim the school's first regional tennis title since 1976 and advance to ... (the) state meet for the first time since 1999." (*Dearborn Press and Guide*, "Tractors win first regional net title in 32 years" by Scott Salowich, 10/19/08) Kudos to **Coach John Forster** and the team!



Editor-in-chief of the Tower Tribune, Sam Martino, 12A, presents a Christmas gift from the staff to journalism adviser, Miss Anne White. The staff gave Miss White a photo album in which all graduating staffers place their pictures. (Class of 1958 Yearbook)



Bette Wrixon (Fleur de Lis editor-in-chief), Camilla Kish Judy Koos, Justine Szuszman, Penny Shope, and Sherry Wonders (Class of 1958 Yearbook)

The Class of 1983 celebrated their 25th class reunion on November 28, 2008.



Back Row: Steve Walsh, Vic Veltri, Robert Rahal, Eugene Kolo, Deb (Ryan) Walsh, Renee (Margittay) Milam, Paul Miller, Angie (Cosgriff) Winder. Seated: Pam Walsh, Maureen (Daly) Myers

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.

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Renee Garcia was honored as a Scholar Athlete by WXYZ Channel 7, Detroit. Academically Renee is 10th in a class of 579 students, earning a cumulative grade point average of 4.1458. She has succeeded in numerous Advanced Placement courses as well as courses at Henry Ford Community College. She has participated in

varsity softball four years and varsity swimming three. The Michigan Mega Conference named her All League/All Academic and All League in both softball and swimming. Her Calculus teacher and softball coach, **Mr. Jeff Conway** says, “Ms. Garcia is a very motivated individual, willing to accept any challenge. I consider her to be one of the most reliable and dependable students I have ever had the pleasure of working with. This is reflected in her outstanding academic achievement during her career at Fordson High School, which will no doubt continue as she moves on to a university next year.

Her capabilities to express herself orally and in writing are remarkable, and she has demonstrated those abilities in a diverse and culturally assorted classroom setting. I’m proud to say I’ve known her.” We’re happy to share her accomplishments with the alumni.



Congratulations to the FHS football team and Coach Fouad Zaban for an outstanding season. The Tractors won the Mega League championship with a record of 8-0 to advance to district and then regional play where they defeated opponents and advanced to the state semifinals. The following is the history of their fine play: