

The Alumnus



Fordson students building a 1923 Ford T-Bucket Roadster with Mr. Pizzino. Photo courtesy of Millard Berry



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

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FORDSON ALUMNUS

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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 HIGH SCHOOL

AN OPEN LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL YOUSSEF MOSALLAM TO THE ALUMNI



I first want to say that it is my privilege and honor to serve as the Principal of Fordson High School. As a former student at Fordson High School I have much history with this prestigious and honorable educational institution. I began my career at Fordson High School as an Instructional Technician in 1998 and was an English and Social Studies teacher from 2000 until I left for an administrative position in January of 2006. Since my departure, Fordson has always remained near and dear to my heart and to return as principal is a dream come true. Moreover and more importantly, I myself am an alumnus of Fordson High School's graduation Class of 1994.

As I embark on this new journey I asked that parents and students join me in a mission to maintain and continue the traditions that have made Fordson the great school that it is and build upon these traditions to make it even greater. Now I extend my hand to the alumni of Fordson as the Fordson team opens the doors to all alumni. I do not believe in living in the past but I believe that the past is what makes us great today as long as we understand how to harness the momentum that past accomplishments created. Moreover, we must allow that momentum to continue like a giant wave that only grows stronger and larger with each mile it travels.

I hope that in the coming year we can build and establish a culture of trust, open lines of communication, and positive collaboration. I hope that we can work as a family, as a team, and as a single unit to establish a common vision with common goals. I will ensure you that the team at Fordson High School will work with you to assist in building and promoting the Fordson Way. Fordson High School has had and will continue to have great people walk through its

hallways, sit in its classrooms, and grow as leaders.

Fordson High School means Pride, Tradition, and Legacy and that is a motto that we at Fordson High School use as we strive for excellence. It will be my pleasure to sit with any alumni to talk about all the great things happening at Fordson and discuss the direction we are heading..

With the utmost respect,

Youssef Mosallam
Class of 1994

STUDENTS BUILDING HOTROD FROM GROUND UP

The following is a reprint of an article in the March 2011 issue of SCHOOL LIFE.

Pictured (see cover photo), students at Fordson High School are building a 1923 Ford T-Bucket Roadster hot rod from the bolts up.

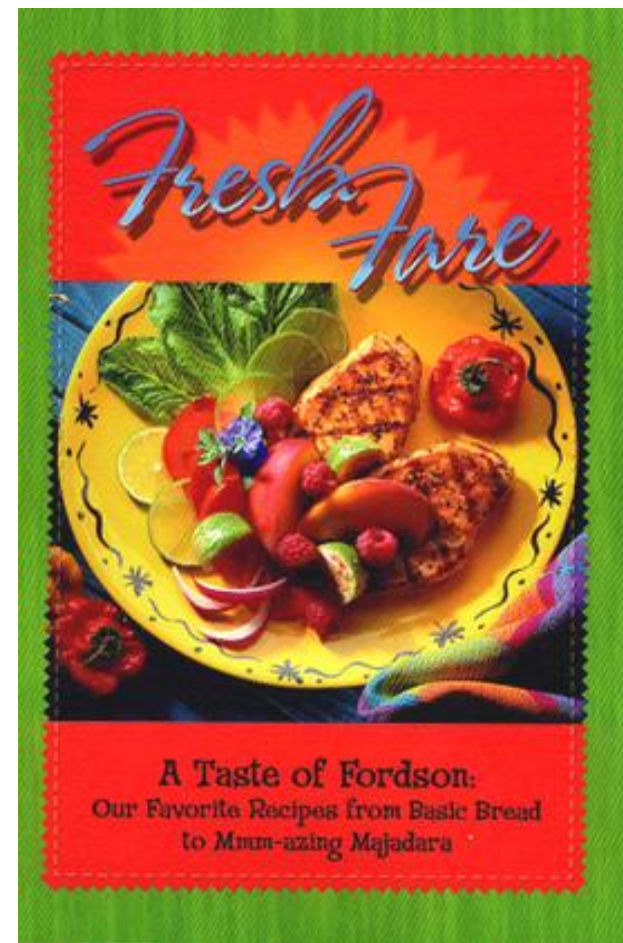
“The goal of the project is to expose students to planning, designing, building and marketing a road-ready vehicle from concept to finished product,” said Fordson Manufacturing Technology teacher Mr. Guy Pizzino, who is supervising the construction team.

Work has already begun on the hot rod, a donation from NEHR Speedcraft, a local automobile company that designs and manufactures assembly kits for replicas and sports cars. Students from Mr. Pizzino’s class are assembling the car from a kit containing hundreds of components.

The suspension, chassis, wheels, tires and body all came with the \$20,000 kit. As for the engine and transmission, students will have to source those, hopefully with a little help from sponsors and donors.

FORDSON COOKBOOK

A Taste of Fordson: Our Favorite Recipes from Basic Bread to Mmm-azing Majadara COOKBOOK has arrived! Buy 158 of our Fordson family’s timeless, tried, and tasty recipes. Price is \$15 and would make a great addition to your family’s cookbook collection or a perfect gift idea. For more information, or to order cookbooks, please contact Yasmine Ferris, Fordson High School, at 313-827-1469 or by email ferrisy@dearborn.k12.mi.us. Proceeds go towards scholarship monies offered by the PTSA.



The Class of 1981 will hold a reunion August 6, preceded by a tour of the school on August 5. To learn more, contact Janine Houle Gurka at 734-632-8473 or Tamara Boyar Wilson at fordson1981reunion@gmail.com or 317-417-0047.

FORDSON ON FACEBOOK

Facebook provides a way for people to connect with their friends via social networking. Many Fordson graduates have established accounts on Facebook and have rekindled old Fordson relationships, as well as establishing new Fordson friendships. One needs only to establish a free Facebook account, search for some old friends and request their friendship. The mechanics of Facebook will allow friends of friends to view that you are connected and if desired they will friend you, too.

In addition to having individual Facebook pages many group pages exist to broadcast messages to Fordson students, alumni and friends. Once your account is created you can enter 'Fordson' in the search area and the exist groups will be presented to you. Some examples are Fordson Nation, Friends of Fordson and Fordson Alumni Association. Occasionally, group members will post information about various events involving Fordson. Facebook can be accessed at www.facebook.com.

OTHER EVENTS

The 24 hour Dearborn Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, April 30, at the Dearborn Community Center starting at 10AM. This year's Chairperson is Denise (Berry) Abdullah , *Class of '89*.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event. It is a 24-hour walk dedicated to Celebrating Survivorship, Remembering those lost, and Fighting Back against the disease! For more information visit: www.relayforlife.org/dearbornmi.

Students will put in the front suspension, hang the rear axle, assemble the rear suspension and pedal it. When it's all said and done in about a year, they hope to rev the roadster, fueled by E-85 ethanol.

Fordson's rodder will be built according to specifications and guidelines provided by NEHR, but students will be able to make some modifications along the way.

Members of the team were selected for their varied skills at Fordson. Some are planning careers as advance technicians, while others are interested in marketing, business, graphics, video, photography and writing about high performance vehicles. "This is a diverse project where all types of skills are needed," Mr. Pizzino said. "One of the most important benefits of this project is that we as teachers are ale to expose a student population to industries which are traditionally underrepresented, such as engineering, marketing, and graphic design." They hope to eventually raffle off the shiny set of wheels to fund similar projects.

FORDSON KEY CLUB ROCKS

Submitted by Mrs. Rosa Scaramucci

Fordson's KEY Club International is the youth group of the Dearborn Outer Drive Kiwanis. The club's motto is "Caring ... Our Way of Life". Over this past KEY Club year, Fordson Key Clubbers have done over fifty community service projects to help children, seniors, the needy, and handicapped. They have donated \$8,500 to charity and accumulated 3,500 hours of service. Among the most notable projects are: UNICEF, Live 2 Learn, Cookies for Kid's Cancer, Relay for Life, freerice.com and Operation Smile.

This year's FHS KEY Club officers inclue President Maya Maheidli, VPS Mo Idriss and Oday Dabaja, Secretaries Zainab Hammoud and Lena Elreichouni, Treasurer Mariam Jalloul, Bulletin Editor Anwar Alefnain, and Sergeant at Arms Ismeil Hachem. The faculty Advisor is Mrs. Mona Meheidli who is

assisted by Kiwanis Advisors Roger Frank and Mrs. Rosa Scaramucci. This is the largest extra-curricular club at Fordson with 213 members. The club is looking forward to the Michigan District Convention of KEY Club International being held at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn on March 18 – 20, 2011 where they co-hosted 400 other KEY Clubbers from around the state.

Note: In the April 2011 issue of School life, student reporter Matthew Means from Dearborn High wrote about the Michigan District Key Club Convention: “Fordson took home 15 awards, consecutively winning more awards than any other club for five years running.”

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to the friends and families of

Retired Faculty:

Kathleen McLaughlin, School Social Worker

James Skerritt, English teacher, Fordson, HFCC

Current Faculty:

John Haugen, Media Services/English

REMEMBERING OTHERS

* *Sidney Abed*, Class of 1944

* *Sesto Alessandro*, Class of 1951.

* To our treasurer and alumnus Dan Bitar and his family, our condolences on the death of his father, *Mahmoud Bitar*.

* *Jeff Bowman*, Class of 1983, was killed recently. A Jeep crossed the center line on 8 Mile Road and smashed into Jeff's car. Jeff had dedicated his life to protecting others. He was in the Army Reserve, had been a Secret Service agent and recently worked as a Federal air marshal. He leaves his wife Kristen Calder Bowman and daughters Lexi and Brooke. Source: Fox2news.com

Marian Bayoff Ilitch, Class of '50, and her eldest daughter, Denise, recently received a mother-daughter award from the Michigan Women's Foundation for their involvement in Detroit and the community. Source: “Marian Ilitch didn't set out to be a trailblazer” by Carol Cain, Detroit Free Press, 3/27/11

Matthew (Gaylen) Jenkins, Class of 1969, was invited to submit the following:

“ I went from the halls of beautiful Fordson in 1969 - to the terrible jungles of Vietnam in 1970-1971! Vietnam made a profound impact on my life. I remember sitting in the black, dark jungle, shaking with fear. I was 19 years old - fresh out of Fordson. One of the things that kept me from losing my mind were the good memories from my years at Fordson - the security and self confidence I felt remained with me even during some of my darkest hours. Fordson made a great impact on my life – I remember even humming the Fordson fight song in my mind for comfort. Fordson was home, Fordson was safety, Fordson was hope! I wasn't going to die in that terrible place – I was going to live, make it safely home and make a difference in the world!

I'm thankful to everyone that taught me at Fordson! I don't think they ever knew what a difference they made in my life! Fordson is a wonderful, life-changing place. I'm so very grateful to the school and the long ago staff.”

*Vietnam Combat Wounded Veteran, Bronze Star
Bachelor Degree, Magna Cum Laude, Tyndale College
U.S. Patent holder
Retired, U. S. Government*

CLASS REUNIONS

The Class of 1971 will hold a 40 year reunion on August 6 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. To learn more, visit the class page on Facebook or Classmates.com or visit Fordson71reunion.com.

(cont. from page 5) faculty and staff. "A good time is had by all" is an understatement of the joy and laughter as old friends celebrate coming together.

In February, local Rusty Tractors met with Principal Youssef Mosallam. He was asked many questions about his philosophy and about the school today. People were impressed with Youssef. We are hearing many good things about the school under his stewardship.

ALUMNI

In the publication, *School Life*, April 2011 Fordson student Mariam Jalloul reports on the latest recipients of **William Brehm Scholarships**. Four seniors will attend U of M, Ann Arbor, next fall thanks to Bill Brehm, Class of 47. The scholarships cover full tuition for four years of undergraduate work, an award worth \$50,000 to each student. Should a recipient then attend medical school at U of M, the person then receives an additional award of \$120,00 for tuition. This is the seventh year of the Brehm Scholars Program with 30 fortunate Fordson students having received generous stipends from Mr. Brehm. This year's winners are Mariam Abdulghani, Oday Dabaja, Maggie Haj and Jaleel Salhi. The awards are based on academic excellence, outstanding leadership and devotion to community.

Congratulations to FHS alumnus **Tom Anastos**, '82, who was recently named head coach of Michigan State's hockey team. Following graduation, he played hockey for State from 1981-'85 and served as an assistant coach 1990-'92. He was head coach at U of M Dearborn from 1987-'90. Tom was named commissioner for the Central Collegiate Hockey Association and has served in that position since 1998. Source: "New coach Anastos a surprising pick" by George Sipple, *Detroit Free Press*, 3/24/11



Jeff and Kristen Calder Bowman with President and Hillary Clinton

•Former students and colleagues will be saddened to learn of the recent death of *Mary Martin Danahey*, Class of 1938. Mary taught at Lowrey Elementary School for many years.

•*John Gilbert Hocking*: Gib was a retired Professor of Mathematics, Michigan State University. He is survived by his widow, Judy Yinger Hocking, and family.

ALUMNI OF A DIFFERENT SORT ...THE RUSTY TRACTORS

Have you guessed that this group is made up of retired faculty and staff? They are evidence of the family feeling that is such a hallmark of the Fordson experience. Locally the group meets monthly and attendance is enhanced with the return of the snow birds. Once a year a group of a hundred or more meets in Frankenmuth. The number is increased by the presence of husbands, wives and friends, but the core is made up of retired

2011 RUSTY TRACTOR GATHERING



Youssef Mosallam and Jim Petrie



Claudia Nickel and Alex Shasko

2011 RUSTY TRACTOR GATHERING



Ralph Bach, Murray Bates and George Gullen



Jim McClain, Charles Jestice and Rosa Scaramucci