

A Touch of Fordson History

By Iman Ali

Fordson has been known for its rich and varied traditions. It is known for its architecture, for it is one of the only public high schools to be modeled after and inspired by the elegant English manor houses of the 16th century. It also took design elements from the law quad at the University of Michigan and a bell tower at Yale University. Fordson has been recognized in publications by the Masonry Institute of Michigan and has received many awards for historic preservation. In 1998, Fordson became part of the registry of Michigan Historical Sites.

In its more than eighty-year history, over 35,000 people have graduated from Fordson, including: writers, directors, U.S ambassadors, diplomats, artists, professional athletes, senators, and other individuals of local and national importance.

Who will be the next graduate to add to the Pride, Tradition, and Legacy of Fordson High School?



The Heroes of Our School



Fordson's superheroes take a moment for a photo, but soon return to the duties of keeping the school safe.



Popeye and Olive Oyl pose for a picture during Fordson's Pep Rally last month.

KEY CLUB

On October 17th members of the Key Club made soup bowls for an upcoming project called empty bowls. After the bowls were made, they were sold at a luncheon and proceeds went to the Gleaners Community Food Bank. The Key Club students were also involved with the making of hand-made bookmarks. The bookmarks will be taken to local hospitals for children who will be staying for a lengthy period of time. We would like to thank Ms. Curtis for the materials and the guidance during the making of the soup bowls.

On October 24th the Fordson Key Club volunteered their time at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. Key Club members helped assist in a fun-filled day that was loaded with lots of energy. There was food, entertainment, and activities that promoted unity within the community. Guests included Mayor Jack O'Reilly and several Dearborn City Council members. The Fordson Key Club students helped with face painting, organizing karaoke, and a variety of other activities.



Fordson Book Club

by Khansa Alhaidi

Exciting news has just arrived for Fordson book-lovers; a much advocated for book club has been created! By serving as a mutual holding ground that many students can latch on to, it will expand their experiences along with their knowledge. This is a club that roots from the passion of its own members, making the experience of it all the more fun. In hopes of gaining a more in-depth perspective on such an aspiring group, I interviewed the club president Zeinab Almusawi.

First and foremost, what is your club about?

Our club is about our passion for reading! This club is an escape from our stressful lives to have some time to relax and read a great book. It is also a great way to bring students together through a common denominator and on neutral grounds.

What inspired you to create this club?

Well, at first, I wanted to join a book club, and when I found out there wasn't one at Fordson I was really disappointed. Then a fellow book lover and I had the crazy idea, "Hey, why don't we start one ourselves?"

It has been an amazing journey since then.

What is the basic objective or intent of this club?

The objective is to improve our reading and comprehension skills while having a great time. We will expand the horizons of our members by introducing them to genres outside of their comfort zones. Also, the books we'll eventually read will prepare us for college level literature.

How do you plan on reaching that objective?

We have weekly meetings to discuss and analyze the chapters we have read. Also, we have AP Literature teacher Ms. Chami to guide us on our path to higher education.

What are some ideas or plans you have set up for your club?

We plan on taking relevant fieldtrips, participating in book drives, reading to children at schools, and reading to patients at our local hospital. After finishing a book that has been made into a movie, we will try to watch that corresponding production at the theater as a club. Lastly, we will be holding fundraisers very soon to provide our club members with their own copies of the books we are reading.

What makes your club distinct from all the other clubs here at Fordson?

The members of book club all share the love of reading, but our bond is much more than that. As readers, I believe we all have something indescribable in common. That similarity or common trait is what makes our club so distinct from other clubs here at Fordson. We have very dedicated members that will allow this club to reach its full potential.

If you had to describe your club using only one adjective, what would it be?

Ambitious!



***For those interested in joining the club, the meetings are every Wednesday at 2:30 in Ms. Chami's room.**

Film Studies Class Overview**By Iman Ali**

Ever wonder what it is like to sit in a class and be able to watch movies all day? If that thought really hasn't crossed your mind, it should now. Luckily for you there is a class where you are graded on what you think of movies, how they relate to you, what about them attracts you, and why a certain genre of them might appeal to you. Truthfully, it was nice to catch up with Ms. Cantrell the Film Studies teacher here at Fordson and ask her for a little info about the class.

What sets Film Studies aside from the rest of the classes here at Fordson and attracts the attention of the students?

It is interesting to begin with because it is looking at films. That just sounds good to many students. You do have to

enjoy watching films...even ones you may not think that you would like.

Why should I take this class?

Film Studies is a major component of English study at schools like Wayne State. So, a class like this can prepare you for options when you reach university. It also allows you to express creativity in project choices, and you have a certain amount of flexibility when choosing a film to analyze for the genre papers.

What are the benefits of taking this class? (What do you learn that makes you see movies differently, to look at them from a different point of view?)

You learn to "read" and analyze a film in much the same way that you do a written text particularly in terms of genre. Film is a powerful medium

which manipulates your emotions...you learn how to detect how that is done. You also learn cinematic or technical details of filmmaking (shot types, editing) and theatrical elements (acting choices, set design). You analyze reviews of films and learn to write in this persuasive format, paying close attention to word choice.

Can you give me an overview of this class?

We have bell work on a daily basis slightly different because it references shot types or film taglines. We often annotate a review. Then we screen excerpts from some films to get an overview of a genre or sub-genres or we screen entire films with note-taking for cinematic and theatrical elements...students then write reaction papers to the full screenings, referencing the review that they have

read. The class is organized by genre. The current semester is: horror, comedy, and action-adventure. At the end of the genre students choose a film to screen on their own, read a review of the film, and then synthesize what they have learned about the genre to construct their analysis. There is an exam on the genre and a project.

What about films do you learn in this class?

Why we love and obsess about them!

Is Film Studies a Language Arts elective?

Yes, it is currently a Language Arts elective. Ms. Curtis and I have some future plans, however.

**Teacher Spotlight****By: Mohamed Ahmed**

This month's teacher spotlight is 9th grade World History teacher, **Mr. Murray!**

Background Education?

I grew up in Dearborn and graduated from Edsel Ford in 2004. I attended Eastern Michigan University where I received my degree in education with a major in social studies.

Favorite Hobbies?

Cooking new recipes, coaching girl's soccer at DHS, playing hockey, watching football, and doing charity work with the elderly. I often go to concerts with Mr. Harmon.

Favorite author/book?

I'm more of a movie guy but I remember in high school reading Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code and having a hard time putting it down.

Proudest moment as a teacher?

My first year I had a student named Chandler, who on the day of the final walked in late and asked for a sheet of paper. He wrote a letter thanking me for not giving up on him all year even though he never turned anything in and promised that when he became a big star he would buy me a car. I'm still waiting...

Years teaching? And where at?

I've been teaching for four years. My first year was at Dearborn High and the last three here at Fordson. One of my favorite parts of working at FHS is teaching with my big (half) brother Mr. Nack!

Favorite Sport/team?

Detroit Lions no contest! It doesn't matter 0 and 16 or Super Bowl bound (hopefully in my lifetime) they will always be my team!



Gravity: An Earth-Shattering Masterpiece

By: Ali Aoun

Gravity, directed by Oscar nominee Alfonso Cuarón, stars Oscar winners Sandra Bullock and George Clooney in an unforgettable spectacle that delves into the infinite reality of outer space.

Dr. Ryan Stone, portrayed by Sandra Bullock, is an engineer on her first shuttle mission to outer space. She is accompanied by Matt Kowalski, portrayed by George Clooney. Kowalski is a witty veteran astronaut who is on his final mission.

Upon their mission to Hubble space telescope, they receive a message from Houston warning them that there is space debris from a missile strike that has caused a chain reaction. The two then try to escape back to their ship but are instead separated from each other and knocked away by the debris. Stone, panicking as she is drifting throughout space, finds her way to Kowalski, and they both try to drift towards the International Space Station (ISS). On their journey, Kowalski tries to calm Stone down. They discuss their lives before coming to space. In one of the most heartfelt scenes in the whole movie, Stone reveals that her daughter had died from a head injury.

They get to the ISS and realize that it has been evacuated. Okay, panic time. Kowalski suggests going to the Chinese space station. On their way there, Kowalski tells Stone that if he travels with her he would only slow her down. He gives her instructions on how to get to the Chinese space craft and in an instant, Kowalski releases himself from Stone and drifts away. Fear not, this isn't the last time we see Mr. Clooney!

After much struggle, our protagonist Stone finally reaches the Chinese station. She nearly gives up on her mission and deprives herself of oxygen. Then Kowalski enters the shuttle and gives her an enlight-

ening pep talk. Everything's all find and dandy now, right? Wrong. Stone wakes up from her dream with Kowalski.

Stone regains her strength and is able to land the ship back on earth. She lands in an ocean and, before exploding to death, she is able to get out of the ship and onto land. We are left with Stone crawling onto the shore and an open ending.

And Kowalski, well, you need to see the film.

Every few years a special film is released that will be remembered forever simply because it's original. This film contains stunning visuals that words cannot even comprehend. It uses panning heavily and several monologues that seem to last a lifetime, but the techniques really help the viewers connect to the film's only characters. Let us not forget about Bullock and Clooney's amazing performances, most notably Bullock. She is one with her surroundings and faces a conflict all of society has to face: man vs. nature. I believe we can all relate to Bullock's character; scared, lonely, unknowing of the future, and in a situation we are not comfortable with. She makes viewers feel fearless when she survives this epic battle.

One of the most amazing themes this film evokes is the theme of rebirth. When Dr. Stone enters one of the space ships in the middle of this adventure, she takes off her suit and curls herself up into a fetus-like position floating in space, conjuring the image of a womb in a pregnant woman. It will go down in history as one of the most stunning cinematic sequences in modern day cinema.

Another display of the rebirth theme is when Dr. Stone reaches the shores of the river she landed in. As she reaches the shore, she tries to stand up but fails because she hasn't walked in several weeks because of her ordeal in space. She struggles to get back up and soon gains balance and walks away. It's like watching a baby's first steps.

Gravity goes to show that you can make a flawless film with just two actors and one setting. I suggest everyone should see this movie because it's enlightening, a cinematic delicacy, and a whole lot of quality.



Do You Know...

1. What country consumes the most ice cream (per person)?

- A) Finland
- B) Australia
- C) Norway
- D) United States
- E) Germany
- F) France

2. Which of the following countries has the most illegal music downloads?

- A) Italy
- B) United States
- C) Canada
- D) Brazil
- E) India
- F) France

3. In Norway, a Big Mac will cost a customer how much money (in U.S. dollars)?

- A) \$4.80
- B) \$6.16
- C) \$7.51
- D) \$14.44



*ANSWERS CAN BE
FOUND ON PAGE 8*

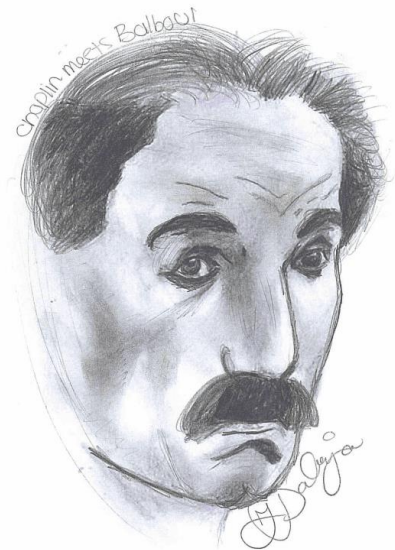
Original Art & Poetry

Vagabond II

By: Alex Zapien

He did not say goodbye.
 To bid farewell is harder than any other task.
 His grandmother bestowed a precious piece of wisdom to him on his departure,
 The best course of action when dealing with a divergence of friends:
 Never say goodbye.
 If you never say goodbye then you're never really gone.

Forever you'll live on with them,
 In their hearts and their souls.



Chaplin meets Balboul

Reflection

By: Mohammed Barada

What was death, ever, but an everlasting mystery in the fog of a lifetime's list of unsolvable riddles? It seemed that those who saw death failed to stand before it and look into the charges of its power; they failed to seek its soul for even man and his five senses recognized no shape or form, as death was never embodied into the devil it approached him with. If only such a profound idea showed the slightest of sympathy for us to gather a mutual sensation. Why fear death when I sing my love to my mother every morning I am blessed with. Why fear death if the forests of fearlessness were never off limits in my city? Foolish would I be to fear death due to responsibilities I may have not yet fulfilled, or promises I fear I may not keep. Foolish would I be to fear death... When all that haunts me is the vacancy of a life that inhales infinity and exhales poverty of true spirit. Why fear the epilogue of an eventually yielding body when affirmation lies within my comprehension; affirmation, that my body may age but a soul rich with nature is bound to immortality, destined to vivid satisfaction. When my soul can form transitions in its senses in interaction with nature, it makes me younger. When I can smell the green grass before I see it, or feel the raindrops before I can hear them. Even when I am alone, for nature is all there is company.

THANKSGIVING

By: Fatima Rizvi

In the fall of 1621, when the harvest increased,
 The pilgrims held a thanksgiving feast.
 With the help of Native Americans, the seeds and plants they had
 For all the crops, they were very glad.
 They decided to hold a feast and celebrate,
 Many, various foods they ate.
 They enjoyed turkey, duck, fish, and venison,
 Along with cranberries, sweet potato, corn, and pumpkin.
 Now this is the time to feel gratitude to God,
 For all the blessings we have, Him we should laud.
 For the skill and the wealth in our land,
 For the strength of the workingman's hand.
 For what our artists and teachers have taught,
 For the friendship that hope and affection has brought.
 For the numerous blessings we have, we should pray,
 And have a Happy Thanksgiving Day!

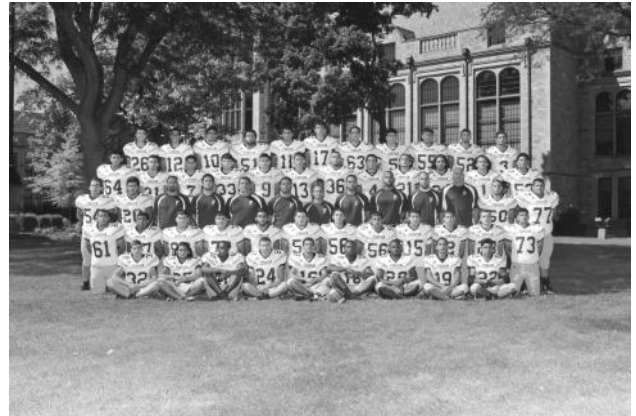
SPORTS

Meet the Athletic Trainer

By: Essam Aljahmi

Fordson High School's trainer, Ryan Rodd, has been helping injured players get back into the game for years. After a few questions on where he graduated from and what he wants to do in life, here's what Ryan had to say:

"I graduated from Central Michigan University. Helping student athletes from start to finish through the injury process and seeing them reach their goals is one of the reasons I come to work every day. The most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing an athlete who has been through a tough injury and watching him/her return to their sport. After finishing my undergraduate degree I started working at Fordson, the next step in my life will be attending medical school. The most interesting thing I have done in my life was traveling through Europe for 3 months.



The Fordson Football Team ended the regular season with an overall record of 6-3.



The Boys and Girls Cross Country Team ended another successful season with a solid performance at Lake Erie Metro Park.

Boys Soccer

The Fordson Boys Soccer Team had yet another fine season. The Soccer Team ended with a record of 11-2-3. After losing 2-0 to Dearborn for the league title, they came back fired up and knocked out Dearborn High in the first round of the playoffs with the winning goal coming on a penalty kick. Coach Saab states, "Soccer is not only about winning, but also about discipline and sportsmanship and our players showed this in every game of the season. The officials were often pleased with the behavior and skill level of our soccer team. They were impressed with the overall improvement of the program the past few years. I am honored to be a coach at Fordson and to give back to the students here at Fordson." The Junior Varsity Team ended with a record of 10-2-3.

Faraj and Ali Named All Conference



Mohammed Faraj and Israa Ali were honored for their performance at the Western Wayne Athletic Conference all league Cross Country Meet. They both finished in 7th place in their respective races and were given All Conference medals for their efforts.

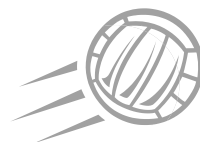


SPORTS



Girls Volleyball

The Fordson Girls Volleyball Team finished the year 6-4 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference. They are anchored by captains Reem Habhab and Mariam Faraj. Asmaa Abdouny has maintained over a 90% service accuracy rate all season. Hard work, dedication, and improved skill has made for a competitive season this year for the Lady Tractors.



Boys Tennis

The Fordson Tennis Team ended another successful season with an overall record of 4-5-1. Their league record was 3-3-1. Coaches Farhoud and Nack were pleased with the progress the players made throughout the year and are looking forward to another successful year next fall. Adam Karaali & Tala Mustafa paired up as the #1 doubles team throughout the year and finished second in the district tournament.



Girls Swimming

The Fordson Girls Swim Team had an outstanding season this year. They posted a 3 - 3 record — the best in the past two decades. The team was led by a strong group of senior captains: Sarah Naser, Noura Chbeir, and Maya Hammoud. Other seniors who will be missed are Amira Alshouli, and Sarah Marwani. The fifteen swimmers have achieved incredible success and should be proud of their accomplishments.





Get your yearbooks now and you will have memories that last forever. Stop by Mrs. Ferris's room (A208) to order your yearbooks for \$75.

Reserve your copy today!

Tower Lay-Out and Design: Zeinab Beydoun

Tower Editor: Siham Saleh

Text Alerts!

To stay informed on everything FHS, sign up to receive text message alerts: reminders for all events and news!



DIRECTIONS:

1. Send the following message
@fordso
2. to the following number
718-305-4761
3. You know you did it right when it asks for your name

*This is one-way and private; I don't see your number and you don't see mine because you can't text back!
[Ms.Red, Fordson First, A103]

Essay Writing Contest-2014

For 12th Graders in Dearborn's High Schools
Sponsored by the Dearborn Public Library Foundation

Scholarship Awards Are To Be Given To The Two Best Essays In The Amount Of \$500 Each.

Essays, 500 To 700 Words In Length, Are To Be Written On: *The Book That Most Influenced My Life.*

Essay Submissions Are To Be E-Mailed During The Month Of January, 2014 In Word, PDF Or Rich Text. Winners Will Be Announced by mid May 2014.

Contest rules and essay submission guidelines are at: www.dearbornlibraryfoundation.org. Questions to: libraryessaywriting@gmail.com.



Events to Remember in November!!!

- ♦ 11/5: Voting– No School!
- ♦ 11/11: Veterans Day
- ♦ 11/28: Happy Thanksgiving– No School!

Answers to Do You Know... (1=B, 2=B, 3=C)

