

Alumni Association



TAYLOR

SCHOOL DISTRICT

December, 2005
Newsletter



Taylor
Center High



John F.
Kennedy High



Harry S.
Truman High

Taylor Schools Alumni Association

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2005
Taylor, Michigan

TAYLOR MADE

Then and Now . . . By Sally Norman JFK 1967

Board Of Directors

President: Caroline (Craddock) Patts	TCHS 1973
TC-Vice President: Jennifer Fowler-Glumm	TCHS 1992
JFK-Vice President: Bea (Leonards) Holland	JFK 1985
HST-Vice President: Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink	HST 1977
Secretary: Sandra Kyte	TCHS 1962
Treasurer: Nancy Mascaro-Miller	JFK 1967

Renew your membership or
join the Alumni Association
today!

Membership is \$20 per person
or \$25 per alumni couple per
year. Part of the proceeds will
go to the "Taylor Schools Foun-
dation of Excellence" Scholar-
ship Fund. Your payment may
be tax deductible.

Send your check payable to
"Taylor School District Alumni
Association" to:

Taylor Alumni Association
22770 Northline
Taylor, MI 48180

Or visit the website at:
www.tayloralumni.org and use
the online application feature

No doubt, you've often
wondered whatever be-
came of some of the peo-
ple you knew in school.
Well it may surprise you
to learn that the Taylor
School District has pro-
duced some truly fascinat-
ing, and often out-
standing, world citizens.

Kennedy's Class of 1967
grads will have no trouble
recalling **Gary Laura** –
drummer extraordinaire
for the JFK band. Cur-
rently residing in Denver,
Laura is now an Epidemi-
ologist with the Colorado
Department of Health and
Environment and a Trainer
for the National Centers for
Disease Control. One of
only three certified CDC
trainers in a 14-state re-

gion, he was recently se-
lected by the Bureau of
Indian Affairs to train the
Native American communi-
ties.

Gary attended Michigan
State University, where he
founded the MSU Jazz Fes-
tival in 1970. After gradu-
ating, he went on to teach
Jazz at the University of
Windsor and Schoolcraft
College. He also played
drums and vibes profes-
sionally, performing with
several, well known artists
such as Dave Brubeck,
Jerry Mulligan, Doc
Sevrenson, Ursela Walker,
Buddy Budson, Larry
Norvello and Alexander
Zonjic.

Subsequently, Laura be-

came a Graduate Fellow
and Assistant to the Vice
President for State and
Governmental Affairs at
Wayne State University.
In 1982, he entered the
health field as a Public
Health Advisor with the
Centers for Disease Con-
trol, stationed in New Or-
leans, Louisiana. He re-
located to Colorado in 1987
to become the Academic
Dean of Parks Junior Col-
lege.

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*The Taylor Schools Alumni Association
wishes everyone a safe, happy and
healthy holiday season!*



News about Taylor by John Pantalone

I had an opportunity to visit both JFK and HST this past week. The buildings and grounds really look good. When you are in town, take a look at your Alma Mater, I'm sure you will be very pleased with the appearance.

Big surprise is in for you as you ride around Taylor. Many, many housing

developments springing up though out the city. I was also amazed at the arch crossing the I-94 expressway and telegraph. It is huge and can be seen for miles. I understand it was constructed to welcome visitors to the 2006 Super Bowl Football game which will be played in Detroit.

Visit Heritage Park, it is a great park. Did you know that the Taylor Career Center students were responsible for constructing the sculptures in front of the Sheridan Center? They also constructed the first city hall replica as well as the replica of the train station.

Taylor City Election Results

Taylor held elections this fall for the following offices: Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer and seven Council members. There were 20 Taylor Schools Alumni who sought office.

The Taylor Schools Alumni who were elected at the November 8 election are: Mayor: Cameron Priebe, JFK '69; Treasurer: Wayne Avery, TC '58; Council: Jacklyn (Begley) Molner TC '70; Douglas Geiss, HST '88; Jill (Culberson) Brandana TC '81;

Jeffrey Lamarand TC '87; Suzanne (Fitzpatrick) Weycker JFK '87.

Congratulations to all elected!

SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS by Bea (Leonards) Holland, JFK 1985

Redistricting is the current buzz word in the school district. Due to dropping enrollment, the School Board had come up with a plan to close some elementary schools and change the elementary boundaries. The schools would be changed to either K-2 or 3-5. Sixth grade was to be moved to the

Junior High. Since the decision was made further studies have shown that the enrollment will not drop enough for this to happen for the 2006-07 school year. So the plan is on hold. Board members are also looking at alternatives to the plan. Hopefully they will come up with something that

will help the district financially as well as be the best for the kids. Time will tell!

IN THE NEWS

The Taylor Chief of Police, **Glen Bondy**, TCH grad of 1967, was elected President of the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police. He has also served as Secretary for the Southeastern Michigan Association of Police Chiefs for 12 years—also Chairman of the Downriver Narcotics Task Force.

Marsha Bunch—maiden name Solem—JFK grad of 1972, wrote an

essay for the Samsung Company's National "Hope for Education" contest. They received more than 100,000 entries and announced 100 national first-prize winners. As a result, Truman High School, where she now teaches, received \$10,000 worth of electronic equipment.

Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed former Taylor Mayor **Gregory Pitoniak** to the task force on local

government services and fiscal stability. Greg is a 1972 graduate of **John F. Kennedy High School**.

Mary Moore, JFK grad of 1978, maiden name May Chascsa, was elected to the Taylor Board of Education. The Director states she is Vice President of Marketing at Davenport University.

NEWS ON RETIRED FACULTY

Tom Gotts—Art Instructor at JFK and HST is retired and living in Elk Rapids, Mi. Tom is an avid golfer and gardener.

Stan Trierweiler—Coach, Teacher, Counselor and Administrator—TCHS and JFK. Stan is retired and lives in Rockwood He has a cottage in the Farwell, Michigan area. He is active in the Knights of Columbus.

TAYLOR MADE cont.

Laura was elected Jefferson County Commissioner in 1992, and later County Manager of Ouray County, CO. He serves on several committees including the Colorado Renewable Energy Task Force, the Denver Regional Air Quality Council, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Government Advisory Board, the Colorado Workforce Coordinating Council and the Colorado Public Health Association.

Although he may appear to prefer work to recreation, Gary applies the same energy to leisure pursuits that

he does to professional endeavors. He enjoys taking in the Colorado landscape while hiking, fishing, upland game bird hunting, and skeet and trap shooting. He exercises his rhythmic skill as a competitive Scottish Pipe Drummer and member of the Fort Collins Pipe Band. A dedicated environmentalist, educator and activist, this outstanding *Taylor Made* man was photographed shaking the hand of none other than Hilary Rodham Clinton.



Reunions.....

John F. Kennedy class of 1979

Contact Gloria Nemeth Nelson (313) 928-9386 / email ganelson79@aol.com or kamccombe@aaamichigan.com.

John F. Kennedy class of 1984

Contact Jeff Anderson at jfk84reunion@yahoo.com to submit information on alumni.

Taylor Center High class of 1985

Looking for former classmates' home addresses and e-mail addresses for an upcoming reunion. Contact: clas-sof1985reunion@yahoo.com or mail info to: Class of 1985, 3225 Royal Blvd., Commerce, MI 48382

Harry S. Truman class of 1996

Planning has begun for the Truman Class of 1996 10 year reunion for the summer of 2006. If you are interested

in attending, please e-mail your updated information to:

truman96@hotmail.com

If you still keep in touch with others please include their information as well. Also, check out the Comast channel and Classmates.com for more details.

Class Reunions

by Bea Leonards Holland, JFK 1985

August 13, 2005 was a busy day for Kennedy alumni!

The Class of 1980 held their 25th reunion at the Lakes of Taylor. Many classmates attended and had a great time. The DJ didn't show up, but quick thinking by co-planner Chris Leonards Panaretos and the professional planner made it barely noticeable! Pictures were taken and can be seen on this website: <http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=8Dcs3Lls5ca>

That same night, the Class of 1985 held their 20th reunion at Park Cove in Allen Park, owned by Tom Neddo (1985) and Rachelle Neddo (1984). Bea Leonards Holland and Shari Kirkland Moldovan decorated the hall in Red, White, and Blue. Bea made photo boards with yearbook and graduation pictures, homecoming and prom pictures, and pictures from the 10th reunion. The classmates took home stadium cups commemorating the event. Photos of the reunion can be seen at classmates.com (JFK 1985 reunion page), and on tayloralumni.org.

JFK Class of 1980 25th Reunion

August 13, 2005

Lakes of Taylor Golf Course



**Taylor Center High
John F. Kennedy High
Harry S. Truman High**

**Taylor Alumni Association
22770 Northline**

Web: www.tayloralumni.org

E-mail:

tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Organizing Committee

Nancy (Vauris) Myers	JFK 1968
Nancy Mascaro-Miller	JFK 1967
Linda Pilous	JFK 1967
Barbara (Weigel) Schultz	TCH 1958
Mickey Turcheck	TCH 1960
Gloria (Villet) Blommer	JFK 1967
Claudia (Michael) Boyda	JFK 1967
Mary (Swartout) Rusnak	JFK 1972
Lora Coats	HST 1983
Sharon (Campau) Barnett	TCH 1964
Clair (Wasil) Conway	JFK 1967
Bea (Leonards) Holland	JFK 1967

Advisory Members

Charles Dickleman	Faculty (Retired)
Robert Haarala	Faculty (Retired)
John Pantalone	Faculty (Retired)
Amy Skehan	
Executive Director, Taylor Foundation For Education Excellence	

Taylor Schools Alumni Association's purpose.

To enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District by developing an active alumni association for the common good of both the graduates and the school district.

Alumni Directories \$30 for non-members (this will include a 1 year renewable membership.) \$10 for paid members.

Alumni Mugs \$5 gray with all 3 mascots on them.

Window Clings \$ 1 Alumni Association has Ram, Cougar & Eagle on it.

Taylor Center Pins \$3 It says 1953-1997

From the President

We have just completed the first marking period for the 2005-06 school year. The Alumni Association had a booth to sell items at Truman and Kennedy's homecoming games this fall and then gathered at Pia's after both games. Alumni Association members were able to get into the games free with their membership cards.

On September 3rd I had the privilege of attending part of the 1980 Taylor Center class reunion. I sat at a table with Alumni Association items including applications, and I enjoyed seeing all of the classmates greet each other. They had on display an old band uniform that reminded me of the one I use to wear. One of the organizing committee members had on a varsity

Life is too precious to not remember the good times

jacket and commented about how it still fit. He then said his mother had bought it two sizes too big back in school. It was a great feeling to see people excited about connecting with former classmates.

That is what the Alumni Association is all about. Get the word out to everyone that we are here to give help to those who need it. We are also here to keep everyone connected to other alumni. We are often asked what the \$20 you pay for membership gets you. Well, part of it goes directly into the Taylor Schools Foundation of Excellence who give out scholarships, grants, and assisted monies to the schools. It helps with our cost of mailings, printing of flyers, membership cards (which I hope everyone has

theirs), and merchandise to sell at homecomings and other gatherings. It also allows us to have the website you can visit and connect with others in a chat room or message board. But mainly it keeps those who want to stay in contact with the people we spent most of our school years with. I know I am happy when I run into someone who went to Taylor Center with me and says where did time go?

Help the Alumni Association grow & become a strong group by joining for only \$20 a year per person, or \$25 a year for an alumni couple.

If you have any information or ideas you would like to share with us, please email us or mail to the addresses above. **Caroline Patts**

Farewell to a Friend
Dale Schumacher
June 30, 1949 – September 2, 2005

By Sally Norman

Taylor alumnus and educator, Dale Schumacher died Friday, Sept. 2, of fatal injuries sustained in a tragic motorcycle accident. The 56-year-old Kennedy High School Assistant Principal and his wife, Chris were both injured on August 9th when their motorcycle struck a deer on a country road outside Green Bay WI.

A graduate of Taylor Center High School's class of 1967, Dale served in the Army from 1967-69. In 1973 he married his high-school sweetheart and classmate, Christine Vandette. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1976 from Eastern Michigan University and returned to Taylor to teach at Truman High in 1977. He also taught at both Taylor Center and Kennedy High Schools. Dale continued his education at EMU, earning his master's degree in 1980. In 1997, he was named assistant principal at Truman and in 2001, he assumed that role at JFK.

In 1980 Dale and Chris became the proud parents of Ashley, followed by Lauren in 1983. His family was his greatest joy and he most loved spending time with them on the pontoon boat at their Houghton Lake cottage. In addition to his wife and daughters, Dale is survived by his sister Sandy and his twin sister, Gail.

Following the accident, a web site was established at caringbridge.org/visit/daleschumacher, where Dale's family posted daily updates on his condition. That website has been visited more than 7,500 times, receiving nearly 500 messages of love, prayer and support from family, friends, colleagues and especially students. The outpouring of love in his guest book chronicles Dale's positive influence on so many young lives – a legacy of inspiration and encouragement to fulfill one's potential.

With a strong will and his family by his side, Dale fought to survive for 24 days while doctors at Aurora Baycare Medical Center employed every measure available trying to save him. Unfortunately, his brain injuries proved too severe.

The State of Wisconsin imposes no law requiring safety helmets, allowing motorcyclists the freedom of choice to ride unencumbered. Dale was exercising that freedom at the time of his accident. A loving husband, devoted father and brother, loyal friend and dedicated educator, Dale Schumacher loved life, his family, his work, deer hunting, water sports and motorcycles. And he exited life exactly the way he lived it – on his own terms.

Ride on Dale. We'll rally with you again . . . a little further down the road.