



Taylor
Center High



John F.
Kennedy High



Harry S.
Truman High

Taylor Schools Alumni Association

Volume 2, Issue 2

November, 2006

From the President....Caroline (Craddock) Patts TC '73

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2006! The Alumni Association has been busy this year promoting the Association and being involved in city and school events. We had booths set up at the Taylor Summer Festival, school district Family Enrichment Fair, Taylor Fall Fest and Kennedy and Truman's homecoming. We have met many alumni at all these events. We've received ideas for get-togethers, alumni items such as t-shirts and sweatshirts, etc. To keep our organization active and be able to pursue the ideas given, we need the Alumni Association to be strong which means your support is needed at the events and activities we sponsor. The Alumni Association meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Taylor Schools Board Office on Northline Road at 6:30 p.m. Check the website for any date/time changes. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you can't make the meeting and would like to share your ideas and thoughts please e-mail the Alumni Association at:

taylorsschoolsalumniassociation@yahoo.com

Next year Alumni Research the company that put together our 2003 directory and our website, will be gathering names and addresses for the new 2008 Taylor Schools Alumni Directory. If you would like your information to be correct in the directory, please contact us so we can make sure your information is up to date. Don't forget to email us with any changes you might have such as email or address changes.

We are in the process of getting class representatives for each class to keep us informed of deaths, marriages, and any awards that may be of interest to others. Thank you to those who responded to the email in regards to this. If you would like to be a representative for your class, please let us know.

A special "THANK YOU" to those who are at every gathering to help sell raffles or items, taking applications, and giving information to alumni that stop by the booths. I couldn't do it without you.

Thank you John for keeping us informed on obituaries and accomplishments of our faculty.

We are going to be making some changes on the website, so keep watching.

Have a very wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

Your President,

Caroline (Craddock) Patts, TC 1973

P.S. Mark your calendar for the 2007 Taylor Summer Festival, July 12-15, 2007 Let's make this year's festival a "Taylor Schools Homecoming"!

Board Of Directors

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

Join the Alumni Association Become a lifetime member!

Membership is \$25 per person for a lifetime membership. Part of the proceeds will go to the "Taylor Schools Foundation of Excellence" Scholarship Fund. Your payment may be tax deductible.

Send your check payable to "Taylor Schools 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.

And now a word from our sponsor....

John Pantalone

"Out of the Past"

In 1960 the Taylor Center Rams basketball team coached by Bob Sclater had an outstanding year.

Led by Senior co-captains Spencer Hammons, Fred Thomann and Wayne Thweatt, the Rams had a 14 win, 1 loss season. The Rams outscored their opponents 1081 to 708, averaging 72 points a ball game.

The '60 Rams had a remarkable tournament run, defeating Edsel Ford in the District Championship 70-49. The Regional final with Dearborn Fordson was a thriller with the Rams defeating Fordson in overtime 50-49. This put the Rams in the State Quarter Finals against Pontiac Central. The Rams were leading at half time when their 6'9" Center Fred Thomann picked up his 4th foul. Outsized with Fred spending much of the 2nd

half on the bench, the Rams suffered a 71-52 loss.

Fred Thomann received All League, All Area and All State honors! Fred went on to an illustrious career at MSU where he played varsity ball for 3 years. Upon graduation from State, Fred taught and coached in the Plymouth School District. He has coached both boys and girls basketball and has been one of the most successful coaches in the State of Michigan history.

Spencer Hammons was recognized as All League, All Area and honorable mention All State. Spencer was also a tremendous baseball pitcher. Spencer graduated from Northern Michigan University and now resides in Allen Park.

Wayne Thweatt was honored with All League,

All Area and honorable mention All State. The last we have heard is that Wayne is living in West Virginia.

The rest of the starting five for that great ball team were Senior Joe Miller and Junior Russell Stroud. Many feel this starting five was the best to ever represent a Taylor School.

The complete roster:

Coach Sclater, F. Bone, E. Burrell, S. Hammons, B. Korody, B. Lambka, J. Miller, F. Stokes, D. Stramecky, R. Stroud, F. Thomann, W. Thweatt

Varsity Basketball



LEFT TO RIGHT: F. O'Connell, J. Miller, F. Stokes, F. Bone, R. Stroud, F. Thomann, B. Lambka, B. Korody, D. Stramecky, E. Burrell, Coach Sclater. IN FRONT: W. Thweatt, S. Hammons.

Taylor Center Rams 1960 Basketball Team



SPENCER HAMMONS, FRED THOMANN
and WAYNE THWEATT
Co-Captains

TAYLOR CENTER	OPPONENTS
62	Dearborn41
62	Lincoln Park56
67	Wyandotte42
81	Thurston40
87	Garden City40
78	Schaefer43
61	Roosevelt67
66	Riverview58
85	Thurston37
76	Allen Park62
91	Garden City39
67	Edsel Ford48
85	Schaefer36
58	Roosevelt53
55	Riverview46

District Championship

Taylor Center — 70 Edsel Ford — 49

Reunions.....

John F. Kennedy class of 1966-69

A Kennedy High School 40 Year reunion is being planned for 2007. No dates have been established yet. More info to follow. Check our website: tayloralumni.org for updates.

Taylor Center High class of 1962

Friday, August 3, 2007, Pia's Saturday, August 4, Lakes of Taylor North Ballroom \$40/person, Sunday, August 5 Heritage Park picnic. \$40 check made out to Karen Boyer Drogos, 3627 Grindley Park, Dearborn, MI 48124. Memo on check: TCHS class of '62

Taylor Center High Classes of 1975-76

The classes of 1975 and 1976 are having a combined 30th and 31st year reunion on November 25, 2006 at Southgate Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline, Southgate, Michigan. \$110/couple or \$60/single. This covers open bar, dinner,

and possibly a band or DJ if enough response. Send checks to 8819 Dixie, Redford, MI 48239. Questions: send e-mail to taylorrrams1976@aol.com

Taylor Center High class of 1986

TCHS Class of 1986 planning committee is working on a class reunion. Like to help? More Info? Contact Toni (Almas) Owens at (734) 287-3108 or (248) 766-9869

Taylor Center High class of 1996

TCHS Class of 1996 is planning a class reunion. Contact Shannon (Wheat) Cannon at e-mail: cscannon@yahoo.com or cell #: 313-231-2747.

Harry S. Truman class of 1987 & 1988

The class of 1987 & 1988 reunion committee is planning a 20-year combined class reunion for Saturday, August 4, 2007 from 6pm to 1am at the Holiday

Inn, 17201 Northline Rd, Southgate, MI 48195. Contact Tammy (Stein) Snyder (313) 292-4691-snyder239@comcast.net; Lorie (loeber) Szabo-lorieszabo@truman1987.com; Tracy (Junkin) Heiler-tracyheiler@comcast.net; Michelle (Masters) Tocco-tocco44@yahoo.com.

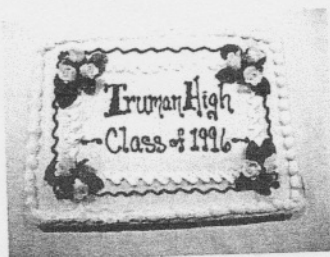
Harry S. Truman class of 1997

Truman High School's Class of 1997 10 year reunion will be Friday, August 10, 2007 from 6pm to midnight at the Holiday Inn Southgate. Ticket prices: Early Bird Special \$60/single / \$110/couple before May 1. After May 1 \$70/single / \$130/couple. Please call Christa at (313) 279-1616 or email at christahardin@yahoo.com; Rebecca marie777@aol.com or email alrocke@hotmail.com. Alumni contact info is needed.

Class Reunion Happenings

Truman High School's class of 1996 held its ten year reunion on Friday, June 23, 2006. (info and photos provided by Catherine (Dobrovoles) Coccia):

Ten years already? The Truman High School Class of 1996 agreed that time has flown by as they celebrated their ten year reunion on Friday, June 23. The reunion was held at the O'Kelly Banquet Hall in Dearborn. The attendees enjoyed dinner, dancing and a slide show of pictures from high school. After dinner many of the classmates danced the night away while others enjoyed sharing stories, showing pictures of their children, and reminiscing about old times. The reunion had a fairly small turn out but a fun time was had by all that attended. The planning committee hopes that the next reunion will draw a larger crowd.



IN THE NEWS

Ron Vespremi (JFK 1968) Ron was inducted into the Taylor Sports, Recreation Hall of Fame this fall. Ron was inducted as a player, coach and recreation community member. He played baseball and football all 4 years at Kennedy High and was a member of the 1967 Kennedy team that won the Tri-River League football title. He was a softball supervisor in the Taylor Parks and Rec Department for many years. He also coached high school football, softball and baseball and middle school track from 1974 to 2004 when he accepted his current position as principal of Truman High School. He coached football from 1985-2004 serving as head coach at Taylor Center for six of those seasons and as an assistant at Kennedy for nine more. He also served as athletic director at St. Frances Cabrini High in Allen Park from 1982-1984.

Melissa (McGue) Hool also was inducted into the Taylor Sports, Recreation Hall of Fame this fall. She made her mark in basketball and softball. A four-year starter in both sports at Kennedy High she was the first basketball player to score more than 1,000 career points and had her jersey number 21 retired after her Senior season. She played both sports as a scholarship player at Henry Ford CC and was all-conference in softball her Senior year at Madonna University. She also worked in various positions in Taylors Parks & Rec and has coached young athletes in Taylor, Van Buren and Allen Park. Melissa is currently

an Allen Park School Teacher.

Jennifer Sabra (JFK 2005) had a very successful track season at Western Michigan University. She clocked a 56 second performance in the 400 meter hurdles and also ran in the shuttle relays. She states she enjoyed road trips to Philadelphia, Tennessee and South Bend, Indiana. Congrats Jennifer and keep up the good work!

Congratulations to **Ron Adams (TC 1984)**. Ron is currently head football coach at Wyandotte High School. He became head coach this year and inherited a team that had won only 5 games in the last 3 years. This year under Ron the team qualified for the state playoffs. What a remarkable turn around. Ron accomplished a similar feat as head coach at Truman High School taking them to the State Playoffs in 2005 for the first time in the school's history. Some of Ron's accomplishments include: quarterback at EMU from 1984-87, selected as the teams most valuable player in 1987, a unanimous choice for all mid American conference quarterback, associate press honorable mention for all American honors. He played professional football for the Detroit drive and Tampa Bay Storm of the Arena Football League. He also played in the Italian football league and with the Detroit Downriver Raiders, leading the Raiders to National Championship in 1996. He was inducted into the EMU Hall of Fame in 1999, the Taylor Sports Hall of Fame in 2002 and named regional high school coach of the year in 2004.

*Please e-mail the Alumni Association with any info on Alumni who should be recognized for personal or professional accomplishments in our upcoming newsletters:
www.tayloralumni.org*

Memoriam

The Taylor Alumni Association would like to extend our condolences to the families of alumni that passed away recently...

Bill Pashenee, TC Class of 1962

Howard Nelson, Teacher & Golf Coach at HST from 74-89

James O'Grady, former teacher and administrator

Alumni Association Membership

Membership in the Taylor Schools Alumni Association is easy! For the low price of \$25 you can become a lifetime member! That's right, a one-time membership fee of \$25. A portion of your membership fees goes to the Taylor Public Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence which is a non-profit independent organization of volunteers committed to enriching the educational environment of the Taylor School District

Take a minute and visit the Alumni Association website: www.tayloralumni.org. If you have any questions or comments e-mail us at tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com or write to: Taylor Alumni Association, 22770 Northline, Taylor, MI 48180. Checks for membership payable to the "Taylor Alumni Association" can be mailed to the address above or use the online application feature on the website.

Please consider becoming a member today. Let's make YOUR Taylor Alumni Association the best!

Alumni Association in Action

The Alumni Association gets involved in many activities within the Taylor School District and the City of Taylor helping out and spreading the word about the Alumni Association. Below are a few of the events from this past year:

Family Enrichment Fair, Spring



Treasurer, Nancy Mascaro-Miller and TC VP Jen Fowler-Glumm spread the word about the Alumni Association



Alumni President Caroline (Craddock) Patts conducting a workshop

Barb (Weigel) Schultz, HST VP Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink, President Caroline (Craddock) Patts, Secretary Sandy Kyte and Jeanette (Schmoekel) Wackro

Taylor Summer Festival Family Day 2006



Taylor Fall Fest 2006



Barb (Weigel) Schultz signing up an alumni

Retirements

John Moore has retired. John's last assignment was teaching in the Science Department at Kennedy High School.

After 40 years, **Bill Teller** has retired! Bill is a 1960 graduate of Taylor Center High. He taught at Fletcher and Taylor Center Elementary, he was a counselor and teacher at Brake Junior High, a counselor at Truman Junior and West Junior High, a teacher and counselor at Kennedy High, an administrator at Taylor Center High and ended his tenure as a counselor at Truman High School. What a career—2 elementaries, 3 junior highs and all 3 high schools!

Where are they now? Info on Retired Faculty by John Panatalone

Ken Nelson started his education career in Taylor in 1959 teaching social studies at Brake Junior High. In the years to follow, Ken taught at Kennedy High School, served as an administrator in Truman Junior High, Truman Senior High and ended his career in 1998 as Principal of West Junior High. I spoke with Ken and he is doing very well. He spends his summers in the Traverse City Area and winters in Plymouth. He would like to say "Hello" to all of his past students and fellow educators.

Ken Tremba wrote to me and stated "my 34 years in the Taylor School system were actually the best years of my life". He was a teacher and counselor at Brake Junior High and a Counselor at Kennedy High School. He is now living in Florida. Ken wants everyone to know that he doubts if there is any school district in the country with better staffs or students than those he worked with in Taylor.

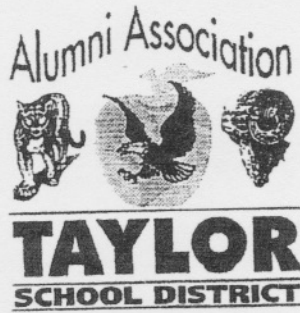
School District News by Beatrice (Leonards) Holland-Benjamin, JFK 1985

Enrollment in the school district this year is at an all-time low. More budget cuts will probably be necessary. The district is also considering closing an additional elementary school. The plan was to close only two for the next school year. The final decision is expected by the spring. The failure of Proposal 5 which would have made education funding a top priority in the state by increasing funding at the rate of inflation will most likely effect the Taylor School District in a negative way.

No word yet on any plans to again ask the Taylor voters for a bond for technology and building improvements.

MEAP testing is complete and the wait for scores begins. The state has aligned the curriculum for all school districts so everyone is hopeful that the test was a fair evaluation and assessment.

For the most up-to-date school district information, visit their website: www.taylorschools.net



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
Beatrice (Leonards)	
Holland-Benjamin	JFK 1985

Advisory Members

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

Taylor Alumni Association
22770 Northline
Taylor, MI 48180

Web: www.tayloralumni.org
E-mail:
tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

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 We still have some 2003 directories for \$5.00 each. The new 2008 will be coming soon.

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

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

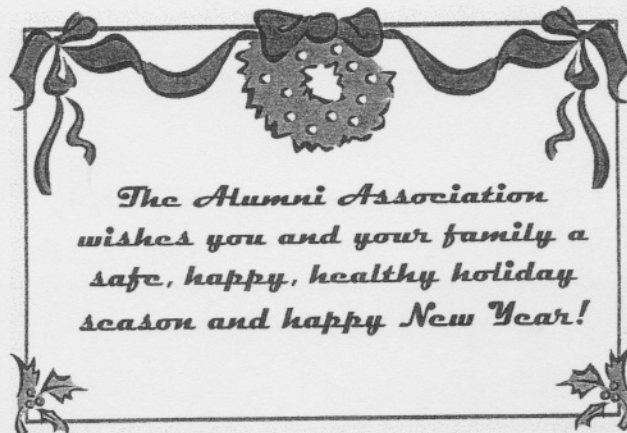
Taylor Center Pins \$3 It says 1953-1997

Taylor Center Brick (comes with a certificate of authenticity) \$10

Alumni Association Membership Benefits...

The Alumni Association is often asked "what benefits do I get for joining the Taylor Schools Alumni Association?" The first and perhaps most important benefit is being able to stay in touch with people like you, Taylor School Graduates. Our website has great connections with the high schools and city so even if you no longer live in the area you can keep up-to-date with what is happening in your old hometown and high school. There are news items posted, class reunion infor-

mation, a chat room and bulletin board. There is even a yellow pages section where alumni with businesses can post their information. Visit the website at www.tayloralumni.org. Receive free admittance to sporting events at the high schools for active members. We have lots of other ideas but need everyone we can get to provide input and help. Remember, any association is as good as its members. Please consider joining today!



Taylor, MI 48180

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Alumni Association



TAYLOR

SCHOOL DISTRICT