



Enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District for both the graduates and the school district.

August Alumni Newsletter 2015

In this issue

In the News

Reprint

Reprint of three articles from the May issue. "In the News": Gordon Krater, "Getting to Know our Leaders": Melissa Skopczynski and "Outstanding Contribution": Barbara Weigel Schultz.

Get to Know Our Leaders

Truman Principal and New Board Member.

Up Coming Events

August - Oct events.

Obituaries

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families!

Taylor Alumni Association
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tayloralumni.org

Greetings fellow alumni,

It is our understanding that many of you didn't receive the May 2015 Alumni Newsletter, so in this month's issue we have reprinted three of our feature articles from May (see in this issue for article titles). Enjoy, we'll see you next month.

IN THE NEWS

Kennedy's first band director!



Roger Craig began his Taylor School District experience in 1956 as an instrumental music teacher in all the Taylor elementary schools. He would pack his car with a tuba, bass drum, and several other band instruments and travel to 12 schools every day to introduce band music to every K-6 school. When Taylor Junior High opened he initiated the first junior high school concert and marching band.

Roger initiated summer band instruction through the Taylor Recreation Department and "open air" summer concerts were common at Papp Park and most elementary school buildings.

Roger was the first band director when Brake Jr. High opened followed by the then new Kennedy High School. The JFK band made appearances at the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parades, Holland Tulip Festival, Michigan State Fair, Detroit Lions half time shows and others.

In 1971 Roger became a Taylor Junior High School assistant principal followed by Principal assignments at West Jr. High and Truman High School. He then joined the Taylor Schools central office as the Curriculum Administrator followed by appointments to Secondary Schools Administrator and Assistant Superintendent. In 1989 he was selected to lead the Taylor School District as it's Superintendent.

Mr. Craig retired in 1993. What a career! For those who would love to see Mr. Craig it's rumored that he will be at the JFK High School Band reunion in October (see upcoming events for more information).

The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates Mr. Craig for all he has done for the students of the Taylor School District.

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Are graduates of Taylor Public Schools successful? You bet they are and here is an example...



Gordon Krater, a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, is managing partner at Plante Moran the 13th largest accounting firm in the country with 2,200 employees and 23 offices in Michigan.

Gordon Krater graduated from Kennedy in 1976, went on to the University of Michigan and earned a degree in Business Administration. He then signed on with Plante Moran and worked his way to the top position of managing partner. In

addition to his position at Plante Moran, Gordon is an author and serves on the following boards:

- Detroit Economic Club
- Detroit Regional Chamber

- New Detroit
- Citizens Research Council
- Camp Sancta Maria
- United Way Campaign Cabinet of Michigan

The Taylor Alumni Association is very proud of Kennedy graduate, Gordon Krater.

LET’S GET TO KNOW OUR LEADERS

School Board Member – E. Blaine Honeycutt



Blaine a 1971 graduate of JFK was elected to the Taylor School Board January of 2015. Blaine is married to Kathy Savage Honeycutt, Kathy is also a graduate of JFK class of 71'. They have three children, Nicole, Christopher & Kaitlyn, all three graduated from Harry S Truman. Blaine graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield MO and now serves as Vice President of the Board of Education.

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Principal of Harry S. Truman High School – Melissa Skopczynski



Melissa received a bachelor of arts from Eastern Michigan University, a masters in curriculum also from Eastern and an additional masters in administration from Concordia University. She has been an educator in the Taylor School District for 19 years, having served as: social studies instructor, acting assistant principal, counselor and now principal. While holding these positions Melissa attended a year long principal’s academy and also had a year long internship at Franklin High School in Livonia.

The Taylor Alumni Association wishes Melissa Skopczynski a long and successful career in the Taylor School District.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Judy Barnhart LaFleur TCHS 1965



Ronald and Judy 2014

My first article is someone very dear to me, my baby brother, Ronald Barnhart, A.K.A. Barney, from the first Truman graduating class of 1974.

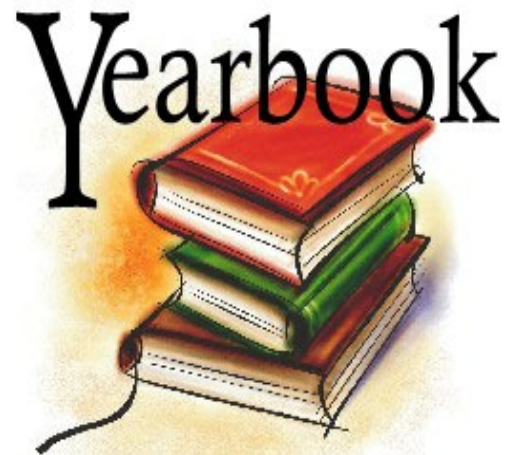
He was #23 on the football team. Earned a football scholarship to Olivet College, where he played as a freshman, but left after the 1st season to join the Air Force and see the world.

He met and married his late wife Williana in the Philippines (she passed away April 7, 2015). They have two daughters, a son, and two granddaughters, with a third on the way.

Ron retired after a 30 year career in the Air Force, and lives in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He now works as a defense contractor for Lockheed Martin. He is an avid golfer when he can find the time and also enjoyed fishing with his late wife and co-captain, Phoebe, their Jack Russell terrier. Check out Ron on Facebook...but do not expect a quick reply (facebook.com/ron.barnhart.94).

LOST AND FOUND

Did you lose your yearbook? Do not have a yearbook but would like one? Your Alumni Association can provide you with one. Any school, any year, only \$25 plus shipping. A complete digital copy of the yearbook (not a hard cover) will be yours. Email tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com to place an the order.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

THANK YOU Barbara Weigel Schultz!



The Taylor Alumni Association recognizes the outstanding contributions Barbara has made to the Taylor School District. While a student at Taylor Center High School Barbara was secretary of her junior class, a member of the National Honor Society and...How about this, she wrote the words for what became the Taylor Center High School Alma Mater song. After graduation Barb continued to serve the school district. The following list are some of her contributions.

- Employed as a secretary
- Co-Chair of “The Committee of 100” a parent advisory board for the district
- Elected to serve on the Taylor Board of Education
- Served as a director of the Taylor Public Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence. She held the position of Vice President, Secretary and currently Treasurer.
- Member of the committee to establish the Taylor Alumni Association and is still an active member.

The Taylor Alumni Association is so very proud and appreciative of all the efforts of lifetime member Barbara Weigel Schultz!

Taylor Center High School Alma Mater song

Black & Gold we honor you, to your colors we'll be true.

Taylor High we pledge to thee, all our faith and loyalty.

School we love, we're proud of you, to you we'll be forever true.

Taylor Center here we stand, as we pledge our heart and hand.

Your traditions we'll uphold, and your colors, Black and Gold.

And with each succeeding year, all your memories we'll hold dear.

Taylor Center hail to thee, in our thoughts you'll always be.

UP COMING EVENTS

COMEDY NIGHT FUNDRAISER: Starring Nationally known comedians, Kevin McPeck and Sal Demilio—two of the best comics in the area. A fundraiser will be held Friday, September 25, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Taylor Michigan with and all proceeds to benefit the Taylor Public School Foundation for Educational Excellence and the Taylor Summer Arts and Prevention Academy. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Taylor Schools Board Education Office, 23303 Northline Road, Taylor, MI or call (313) 295-7313 for tickets or more information. Seat are limited so reserve your tickets now.



Kevin McPeck



Sal Demilio

About Kevin and Sal. Kevin started his career in Michigan making regular folks laugh. He moved to L.A and he never looked back. His appearances on HBO, Comedy Central, “The Bob & Tom Show” and, just last fall, FOX’s ‘Laughs’ have made Kevin one of the most requested comics on the comedy scene today.

Sal has worked comedy clubs, colleges and corporate events all across the Midwestern United States. He appeared with such comic greats as Dave Attell, Judy Tenuta and Lewis Black, and has performed for such corporate giants as The Ford Motor Company and 7UP Bottling Co. His observational style and family-oriented material appeals to all walks of life which makes him very likeable to all kinds of audiences.

EVENTS cont'd

- August 29th JFK Class of 1973 Birthday Bash at Big League Brews on Ecorse Road in Taylor. Contact Cheryl Sturgeon at Kennedy 1973reunion@gmail.com
- September 12th JFK Class of 1970 45th reunion. Direct questions to: Sue Epperson at eppersonhs@sbcglobal.net.
- September 18th Annual all school/all class party. More info to follow.
- September 18th TCH Class of 1960 three-day (18th - 20th) Reunion.
- September 25th..... Taylor Comedy Night. Doors open 6 pm, show time is at 7 pm at the Taylor Knights of Columbus Hall, 24900 Brest Road, Taylor, MI.
- October 10th Class 1965 50th Reunion.
- October 24th JFK Band Reunion for Roger Craig ERA 1966-1971. Taylor Meadows Golf Course. 1-5PM \$35 pp \$65 per couple. Any questions contact Cindy Gregory at Cgregory77@comcast.net.
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SUPPORT YOUR TAYLOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Can you believe only \$25 for a lifetime membership. That is right, only \$25 for a lifetime membership. Five dollars of that goes toward the yearly scholarship provided to a deserving graduate. The remainder keeps us serving you. You also get discounts at many Taylor businesses. All you need do is make a \$25 check payable to Taylor Alumni Association and mail it to our Treasurer, Nancy Mascaro-

Miller at 25162 Crisler, Taylor, MI 48180 and she will mail you your LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP CARD.

OBITUARIES



The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

Taylor Center High School

Carolyn Ann Carnahan Girard, Class of 1963 (Passed July 15, 2015)

Harry S. Truman High School

Mary Berlin, Class of 1977, (Passed May 23, 2015)

Susan Seeley Edwards, Class of 1974, (Passed July 10, 2015)

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Special Mention



David & Susan Edwards

David Edwards, Taylor Center High class of 73', lost his beloved wife Susan Mary Seeley Edwards on July 10th of this year. Susan was 58 and a graduate of Truman High School (see obituaries above). Susan and David were the parents of Corporal Matthew Edwards the slain Taylor Police officer killed in the line of duty in July of 2010. Our condolence to David and his family.