



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

## June Alumni Newsletter 2015

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Taylor Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly Road,  
Taylor MI 48180  
[tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org)

### **IN THE NEWS**

#### **Taylor Alumni takes Ms. Michigan Title**



Da'Stanza Murphy — On March 22, 2015, Da'Stanza Murphy, was crowned "Ms Michigan United States 2015". Da'Stanza, a 2006 graduate of John F Kennedy High School is now going to represent the State of Michigan in the national pageant in June in Washington, D.C. "I'm truly honored to have received this title," Murphy said in an article

published by the "The News-Herald". She goes on to say "I believe the Miss United States organization is a wonderful opportunity to not only bring bright and beautiful young women together but also give them the opportunity to become community voices for organizations that are vital and need a voice."

During her year of service, Murphy will help raise awareness with her personal community service platform, "Image Inspiration through Education," which helps young girls focus on finding their inner beauty.

In addition to being involved in pageantry for nearly 10 years, Murphy has been highly involved in dance over the years as a student and former instructor with the Taylor Dance Program under the direction of Joy Squire, and is a superior-rated mezzo-soprano Italian operatic.

Professionally, Da'Stanza has earned a Bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and a Master's degree in public relations both from Wayne State University. She currently works as a public relations coordinator for the Detroit Public School's office of communications.

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### Taylor High School Robotics Team



Under the leadership of Mr. Joe Horth the Taylor Robotics Team had a great year. The team was composed of 26 students, 5 teachers and 4 mentors. In the district competition the team was awarded the prestigious "Chairman's Award" and qualified for the State of Michigan competition in Grand Rapids. Again they advanced to the Nationals in St. Louis Mo. Over 40,000 participated in the Nationals. Not sure why it is called "Nationals" as it was inter-national competition with students from around the World.

The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates all those who participated in the competition. You represented the School District and the City of Taylor and brought acclaim to both.

The Association also would like to thank Michelle Matney for providing us with this information.

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### Taylor Foundation Receives a \$30,000 Donation for Scholarships



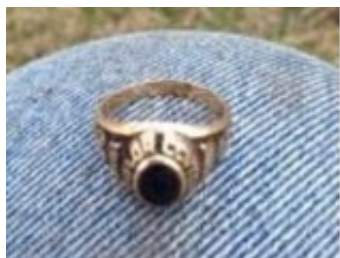
**Charles Dickelman**, retired Taylor Educator, has designated \$30,000 to be used as scholarships. Charlie or as he was known "The Big D" taught in several schools in the Taylor system. "THE BIG D", is one of the most liked teachers in the history of the Taylor School District. He started in 1957 in Taylor Center Elementary (the same year as the first graduating class of Taylor Center High School),

then moved on to Taylor Jr High, Brake Jr. High, John F. Kennedy High School and Taylor Center High School. Coincidentally, retiring the same year as the last Taylor Center graduating class of 1997.

In addition to his classroom teaching, he was assistant coach in baseball and tennis and was yearbook advisor at both JFK & TCH. Though he is now retired, Charlie has not and most likely never will retire from his ties with the Taylor School District or its' students. Starting in 2016, a Charles Dickelman Scholarship award of \$2500 will be offered for the next 12 years or more to a graduating student who has are accepted to the University of Michigan or the University of Michigan Dearborn.

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### Lost Ring



In 1991 Sabrina Fogt Borieo (1991 graduate of TCH) lost her class ring during cheerleading practice. Twenty four years later, Ron Robinet, a modern day treasure hunter, was treasure hunting in the field at the former Taylor Center High School site and found a ring 6-8 inches under ground. Ron a 1984 graduate of Harry S Truman High, noticed Sabrina's name inscribed on the inside of the ring. A Facebook search proved successful and Ron returned the ring to Sabrina. "She was ecstatic", he said. "She put it on her hand and it still fit".



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## TRUMAN NEWS

### What's Going On

Truman High School welcomed first year student Jacob Marion. At age 14, Jacob was involved in a train accident suffering broken bones, a brain injury and lost a hand. After being in a coma for a year, Jacob made a miraculous recovery. However, the medical benefits were minimal and Jacob was in need of a new wheelchair. That is when Tara Carlin stepped in to help. She met with school administrators and suggested a fund raiser. Students are normally not permitted to wear hats in the building. Tara asked for permission to allow hats for one day if the wearer would donate \$1 toward a fund for Jacob's wheelchair. Permission was granted and \$350 was donated to the fund.

The Taylor Alumni Association applauds Tara for stepping in an offering a helpful hand.

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## Truman Ping Pong Club

For the last five years the Truman Ping Pong team composed of students and teachers, have challenged Senior Citizens from the city to a match. The Truman team composed of 7 doubles teams competed against the Senior Citizens. Once again Truman was awarded the last place trophy losing all 7 matches. This is the fifth year in a row of coming in last.

But in the long run all students were winners as the seniors received a totally different view of teenagers.

The Taylor Alumni Association applauds the Truman Ping Pong Club. What a great idea to develop a positive bond with the Senior Citizens of Taylor. There were no losers in this endeavor.

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## GREAT LOCAL PLACES TO VISIT CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS



Have you visited the Conservatory & Botanical Gardens? If not, please do as it is a gem to be found in the City Of Taylor. There are beautiful gardens, a replica of the Belle Island Conservatory, areas for weddings, family parties, reunions and other gatherings. Every Wednesday starting June 10th there will be a series of "Music in the Park" — great entertainment with a \$5 entry fee.

This beautiful area is located at the intersection of Pardee & Northline – if you have not been there, please do as you will be very impressed.

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## THANK YOU ALUMNI

**HELP  
WANTED!**



Your Alumni Board asked for assistance with various tasks and so far four more Alumni have signed on:

1. Paula Adkins (JFK 1966) has volunteered to work on our data base, finding new email addresses, etc.

2. Chuck Bonner (JFK 1967) is posting news on face book.
3. Michele Stephens (TCHC 1975) is doing a remarkable job with the newsletter.
4. Sharon Vespremi (JFK 1969) is working on data base for her class.

Many thanks to these individuals and we hope to have many more volunteers in the near future.

How about helping out with one of the following tasks?

Gatherings — Socials (held twice a year), parties and other activities.

Communicates — Possible articles on such topics as, "In the News", "Promotions", "Where are they Now", "Reunions", "Obituary" and many more opportunities for stories the Alumni would like to know about.

Fundraising — \$25 Lifetime Memberships

Excursions — 50-50's Casino Trip.

Pick out one you would like to help us with and contact us, it will be greatly appreciated.

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## UP COMING EVENTS

June 10th..... Music in the park at the Conservatory

July 18th..... JFK Class of 75 40th year reunion. Any questions should be directed to Kim Romas-Porcelli at [alkim249@yahoo.com](mailto:alkim249@yahoo.com)

September 12th ..... JFK Class of 70 45th reunion. Direct questions to: Sue Epperson at [eppersonhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eppersonhs@sbcglobal.net) or Pat Kocher at [tricialou68@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tricialou68@sbcglobal.net)

September 18th ..... Annual all school all class party - mark your calendars. Hall to be determined

# OBITUARIES



Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

~ Khalil Gibran

## **John F. Kennedy High School**

Diane Walkusky, 1984 (May 16, 2015)

Dan Cox, 1973, (May 1, 2015)

Justin Waddell, 1998 (May 9, 2015)

## **Taylor Center High School**

Holis Daniels Jr., 1986 (May 11, 2015)

## **Harry S. Truman High School**

Michael Loomis, 1977 (May 21, 2015)

## **Other**

Leonard Walkusky, Served on TSD Board of Education (May 13, 2015)

Abercrombie James, Retired Elementary Teacher and Administrator (2015)