Irving H. Picard Biography

Irving H. Picard, a partner in the New York City office of Baker Hostetler, is one of the most respected senior practitioners in the arena of bankruptcy law in the United States today. In December 2008, he was appointed by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York as the SIPA Trustee for the liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. Since then, Mr. Picard and his team at the Baker Hostetler law firm have been engaged in the complex, international investigation of the largest Ponzi scheme in history and related global efforts to recover assets stolen in the fraud and return them to their rightful owners.

Mr. Picard has had a long and distinguished career in bankruptcy law, serving as the first United States Trustee for the Southern District of New York in 1979 and as a court-appointed trustee under the Securities Investor Protection Act in more than 10 securities brokerage house liquidations since 1984.

He has also served as Assistant General Counsel of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and worked in the agency’s bankruptcy reorganization area. He has been counsel to trustees under SIPA, counsel for Chapter 11 creditors’ committees, the SEC receiver in another Ponzi scheme, and worked on Wall Street as well.

Mr. Picard is a sought-after panelist and speaker at legal seminars and numerous bar and professional organizations and is a

Joseph F. Sabik, MD Biography

Joseph F. Sabik III, MD, is Chairman of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and Director of the Cardiothoracic Residency Training Program in the Sydell and Arnold Miller Heart & Vascular Institute. Recently, Dr. Sabik was awarded The Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Distinguished Chair in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. He is board-certified in surgery and thoracic surgery and has specialty interests in adult cardiac surgery, valvular heart disease, coronary artery disease, surgery of the thoracic aorta, minimally invasive cardiac surgery, and off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery.

A Massachusetts native, Dr. Sabik attended BMC Durfee High School in Fall River. He earned a BS in Life Sciences from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed his surgical internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was named Chief Resident in Surgery. During his surgical training, Dr. Sabik was appointed a Clinical Fellow and a Research Fellow in Surgery at Harvard Medical School and a Research Fellow in Cardiovascular Surgery at Children’s Hospital, Boston.

Following his general surgery training, Dr. Sabik completed a residency in thoracic

Annual Meeting ~ May 25, 2012 ~ 7:30 PM ~ Nagle Auditorium ~ Refreshments 6:30 to 7:30 PM
Dear Fellow Durfee Alumni,

Surprise! I did not expect to be writing another year-end letter for the Durfee Chimes since I thought I’d be serving only one year as your fearful leader. Yet here I am again thanking our fabulous Executive Board for their patience and generosity throughout this third and, this time I mean it, last year as your president.

On behalf of the Alumni Board, let me offer our sincere congratulations to the Class of 2012 and especially to all Durfee Alumni scholarship recipients. This year’s graduates have the distinction of being Durfee’s 125th anniversary class. We are very proud of you and wish you the best of luck and success. May your high school years be a source of fond memories as you become Durfee alumni yourselves. Welcome!

When you are successful independent adults, always remember your hometown roots which are firmly grounded in your excellent Durfee education.

This year the Board of Directors of the B.M.C. Durfee High School has selected two Distinguished Alumni from the many nominations which were received. Each is well-known in his field and you can read about them in this publication. We congratulate them both and are grateful for their contributions to society. If you are able to attend, please join us to honor them and the scholarship recipients at our annual alumni meeting at Durfee’s Nagle Auditorium on Friday evening, May 25, 2012.

Finally, we wish to thank all dues-paying alumni and particularly those who join the Red & Black Club. Your contributions allow us to grow as an organization and to provide annual scholarships to deserving Durfee seniors. A membership form is printed on the inside back page and an envelope has been provided. Thank you.

Wishing you good health, joy and prosperity,

Angelina Gastall ’64
President, Durfee Alumni Association

Interesting Alumni Information

We are always looking for news that would be of interest to our Alumni. You are encouraged to send anything newsworthy for publication in the “CHIMES”. Be sure to include the information and how you may be contacted.

Send your stories to: Durfee “Chimes”
Durfee Alumni Association
P O Box 9656
Fall River, MA 02720-0011
2011 Scholarship Recipient List

“B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - M. Norman Zalkind” and “Catherine Furze Mobouck, Class of 1936” and “Russell L. Mcilwaine” to .......................................................................................................................... Rami A. Akouri

“Alumni” to ........................................................................................................................................................................... Sonia L. Alves*

“Joseph A. Cohen” and “Kathleen Walsh Memorial Scholarship” and “Thomas H. Cahill, Class of 1953” to ................................................................. Victoria A. Boile

“B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - Sumner James Waring, Jr. Scholarship” and “Class of 1888” to ................................................................. Jake A. Brown

“Class of 1936” and “Class of 1919” to ................................................................................................................................. Corey J. Burns

“Betty Munro Welch Scholarship” and “Class of 1957” and “Class of 1966” to ......................................................................................... Antonio S. Cabral*

“Brian J. Biancuzzo Memorial Scholarship” and “Reynard Thornton” and “Helen W. Brown” to ........................................................................... Christopher J. Carr*

“B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - Peter G. Collias, Esq.” and “Mildred R. Hawes” and “Ambrose F. Keely” and “Class of 1882” to .......................................................................................................................... Amanda L. Cordeiro

“Stephen Nawrocki - Class of 1925” and “Class of 1940” to .............................................................................................. Nathan L. Costa

“B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - Lincoln P. Holmes” and “Louise R. Kay & Violet P. Kay Memorial Scholarship” to ...................................... Jeffrey M. Daddona

“Hon. Beatrice H. Mullaney Memorial Scholarship” and “Mary V. McCann & Margaret A. Harrington Memorial Scholarship” and “George O. Rigby” to ............................................................................................................................................ Evan F. Darmody

“Louise R. Kay & Violet P. Kay Memorial Scholarship” and “Alden Worrell Scholarship” and “Alumni” to ........................................................................ Victoria K. Dombek*

“The Rae Gitlin Memorial Scholarship” and “Joseph V. & Mary Donnelly Fund - Class of 1923” and “Class of 1920” to .......................................................................................................................... Haydy Y. George

“Lucille Roussell Hadley ’36 & Plummer W. Hadley Scholarship” and “John E. Kiley, Jr.” and “Brian R. Farquhar & Mary Farquhar Irwin Scholarship” to .......................................................................................................................... Robert W. Gregg

“Dennis Rezendes Scholarship & Ernest F. Potter, Jr. Memorial Scholarship” and “Abraham I. & Harriet G. Yamins” to ............................................ Nicole M. Massoud

“Class of 1930” and “w. Walter Jaffee” and “Frank S. Feitelberg” to ............................................................................................... Alisia P. Medeiros

“Edith Bottomley” and “Clyde & Yvonne Salisbury” and “Gerald J. Harrington” to ........................................................................................... Bryan M. Melo

“Edith Bottomley” and “Annie Monk Simmons” to ................................................................................................................................. Daniel T. Pelletier

“John J. and Fabiola Moriarty Scholarship” to ................................................................................................................................. Bryan M. Rego

“Hon. Beatrice Hancock Mullaney Scholarship - Class of 1923” and “Richard B. and Susan Wolfson Scholarship” to ........................................ Wendy Vieira*

“B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - George Lavoie” and “David P. Shea” and “Thomas & Betsey Covel” and “Mary B. Young” and “Andrew J. Borden” to .......................................................................................................................... Mcaulee-Joy M. Worsley*

*Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation Grant

Respectfully submitted, Peter G. Collias, President/Claudine A. Cloutier, Treasurer

Previous Distinguished Alumni Recipients

1961 Malcolm P. Aldrich ........................................ ‘18
1962 Bishop James L. Connolly .......................... ’13
1963 Harold S.R. Buffington, Esq. .................. ’05
1964 Edward B. Hanify, Esq. .......................... ’29
1965 Dr. John C. Corrigan ............................... ’21
1966 Myer N. Soboloff ............................... ’24
1967 Essis Gifford ....................................... ’02
1968 Jerome Namias .................................... ’28
1969 Helen Winward Brown .......................... ’03
1970 Thomas Rodgers, Jr. ............................ ’30
1971 John B. Cummings, Esq. ..................... ’08
1972 Humberto Cardinial Medeiros ................. ’37
1973 Ambassador William J. Porter .......... ’30
1974 Hon. James P. McGuire ........................ ’31
1975 James A. Nannery ............................... ’31
1976 Hon. Beatrice Hancock Mullaney ’23
1977 Gen. Melvin Zais .................................. ’33
1978 Francis L. Gragnani ............................ ’36
1979 Robert J. Nagle .................................... ’28
1980 Hon. Mary J. Fonseca .......................... ’32
1981 Dr. Roger N. Violette ............................ ’25
1982 Florence C. Brigham ............................. ’17
1982 M. Norman Zalkind .............................. ’31
1983 Bayless Manning ................................. ’40
1984 Phillip Sacknoff .................................. ’35
1985 James J. Hammond ............................. ’26
1986 Richard M. Rosenberg ....................... ’48
1987 Thomas J. Brown ................................ ’42
1988 Frank S. Feitelberg .............................. ’24
1989 James Dean ....................................... ’50
1990 William H. Gaudreau .......................... ’46
1991 Marcel P. Joseph ................................. ’53
1992 William K. Reilly ................................ ’58
1994 Hon. Milton R. Silva ............................ ’40
1995 Hon. Edward F. Harrington ................. ’51
1996 Michele Kaufman Rallis ....................... ’58
1997 Peter G. Collias, Esq. .......................... ’49
1998 Mel B. Yoken ...................................... ’56
1999 John J. McAvoy ................................ ’37
2000 William F. Long, Jr. ......................... ’44
2001 Lester W. Cory .................................. ’56
2002 Kenneth L. Nathanson ......................... ’42
2003 Morton Dean Dubitsky ....................... ’53
2004 Rev. Shirley Scholes Andrews ............. ’54
2005 Lucille Roussell Hadley ...................... ’36
2006 Daniel Bogan .................................. ’51
2007 Arthur A. Teixeira ............................. ’62
2008 Col. David W. Gavigan ....................... ’57
2009 Thomas J. Curry ............................... ’60
2010 Betty M. Welch .................................. ’45
2011 James J. Karam ................................. ’65

To nominate a Durfee Graduate for the Distinguished Alumni Award, please fill out and return the form on Page 11.
Irving H. Picard Biography continued

He is a member of the New York and American Bar Associations, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Federal Bar Council, the Registry of Mediators for the United States Bankruptcy Court (SDNY), and the Turnaround Management Association. He also is an associate member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors.

After graduating from B.M.C. Durfee High School in 1959, Mr. Picard attended the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School where he received a B.S. degree in Economics in 1963. He then returned to Massachusetts and received his J.D. degree from Boston University School of Law in 1966. He continued his academic career at New York University’s School of Law where he received an LLM degree in Corporation Law in 1967.

Mr. Picard and his wife, Sharon, reside in Westchester County, New York. They have one son who currently lives with his family in California. Mr. Picard has long been active in community activities, coaching youth soccer and basketball teams and holding a variety of community and synagogue leadership positions, including the chairmanships of his local Zoning Board and Board of Ethics.

Joseph F. Sabik, MD Biography continued

and cardiovascular surgery at Cleveland Clinic, and during his final year of training was the Chief Resident in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. In 1996, he was appointed to the Cleveland Clinic Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery as a staff physician. He was named department chair in 2008. To date Dr. Sabik has performed over 7,000 cardiothoracic operations.

Dr. Sabik is widely published in leading professional journals, including Journal of American Medicine Association, Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and Annals of Thoracic Surgery, and he is the author of many chapters on cardiac surgery for medical textbooks. He is a frequent lecturer at national and international conferences, speaking on the latest innovations in heart disease management and cardiac surgery, such as minimally invasive techniques. His international speaking engagements have included the 54th Annual Meeting Kansai Thoracic Surgeon Association (Takamatsu, Japan), 30th Anniversary of Cardiac Surgery at Epworth Hospital (Melbourne, Australia) and the 2009 Salzburg Medical Seminar in Cardiac Surgery.

In 2004, Dr. Sabik was inducted into the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Cardiology and is a director of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the Massachusetts General Hospital Alumni Society and the Ohio State Medical Association. He has in the past or continues to serve on the Program Committees of the American Association for Thoracic Surgeons, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association. Dr. Sabik has served as the Program Chair for Society of Thoracic Surgeons and is now on the Board of Directors for STS.

In his leisure time, Dr. Sabik enjoys running and skiing.

Class of 1957 - 55th Reunion
Fall River Country Club
Friday, September 21, 2012 at 12:00PM - 4:00PM
Cookout - $30.00 per person
Contact: Margaret Nawrocki Sullivan • 508-674-4586 • Irishwake42@aol.com
Or
Bill Almeida • 508-678-4348 • bjalmeida@comcast.net

Class of 1942
70th Reunion Planned
August 12, 2012
McGovern’s on the Water
11:30 AM
Contact: Mable (Leather) Hathaway
508-674-4843

Class of 1952
60th Reunion
Late summer date to be determined
Classmates are asked to contact:
John Freeman
787 High St.
Fall River, MA 02720
Jafree33@aol.com

Class of 1954
58th Year Reunion
Thursday, September 6, 2012
Fall River Country Club
1:00PM-4:00PM
Contact: Steve Nawrocki
508-673-7473
Class of 1954@aol.com
The Durfee Hilltopper Athletic Foundation (DHAF) was formed in the Summer of 2010 when Carole (1978) and Ken Fiola (1977) gathered a group of former Hilltopper athletes, community leaders and fans of Durfee Athletics, to raise funds to benefit Durfee sports programs. Seeing the need to maintain and strengthen the Durfee Division 1 Athletic program in the face of continued budget cuts was one of the reasons they started the program.

Although the athletic programs had benefitted from donations given by the Durfee Athletic Association which oversee the disbursement of revenue generated as a result from the sale of Alumni Field back in the 70’s, it was felt that a new non-profit group could compliment their efforts and build a new base of financial support for donations to the athletic programs. The establishment of the DHAF would not only help to raise funds on an annual basis, but also host events to allow former Hilltoppers a chance to re-connect with Durfee.

“Where ever you go, when you meet former Hilltoppers regardless of their sport or level of participation at Durfee, there is a strong bond and positive connection to those experiences”, says DHAF President Carole Fiola. I never participated in athletics at Durfee, although I served as Senior Class President, but my husband and daughters (Alex 2008 and Lauren 2010) have that everlasting affection and pride for Durfee having all played Basketball while at Durfee.

The first DHAF Friend Raiser was held in November 2010 on the Friday before Thanksgiving. Almost 300 attended at the Fall River Cultural Center and the evening was a huge success. All sports and years were represented in a moving video production, prepared by Pauline McGrath and FRED TV. In July 2011 the First DHAF Hilltopper Classic Golf Tournament was headed up by Bob Hargraves Sr. (basketball, football) and a great and time was had by all. More than 100 golfers participated and current Hilltopper athletes volunteered that day to help and everyone is looking forward to the next event which is scheduled for July 23, 2012.

Our 2nd Annual Durfee Hilltopper Foundtion Friend Raiser was held November 18, 2011, the Friday before Thanksgiving and once again we had a great turnout and time. The DHAF decided that this will be an annual event. Not only does the event help us raise money but it also serves as a Durfee reunion for all former Durfee athletes, cheerleaders, majorettes, Durfee sports fans and current and former Durfee Athlete parents. Every Durfee sport team was also represented by a current member of their coaching staff. Fiola commented that “Such representation was important because we want to be looked at as a partner with coaches, the community and the Athletic Department.

To date DHAF has raised over $25,000 and has made its first disbursements. DHAF is set up to meet requests that are presented to us by both the Durfee Athletic Director and the Principal together. They meet and review unfunded athletic team needs as well as needs of the coaches. They then present their wish list to the Foundation. Although both the Athletic Director and Principal have seats on the Foundation board, they are not voting members so there is no conflict of interest.

This year the DHAF, along with the Durfee Athletic Association was able to fund such items as sand pit covers for the outside jump pit for the track, wrestling mats that will allow Durfee to host meets that they were unable to do in the past due to lack of proper mats and complete Olympic weight sets and dumbbells to be used by and benefit all Durfee Athletes. Future plans call for a DHAF website, pledge based donation program for future and designated giving as well as other events to promote Durfee Hilltopper spirit while ultimately helping the hundreds of Durfee Athletes who participate each year balancing both school work and athletics.

The Foundation Board is comprised of Carole Fiola (President), Luis Pacheco, (Vice President), Missy Panchley (Treasurer), Jody Oliveira (Secretary), Kenneth Fiola, Nicholas Christ Sr., Wendy Correira, Linda Reid, Robert Bogan, Christopher Resendes, Robert Hargraves Sr., as well as the Athletic Director, Victor Pereira, and Principal Paul Marshall.

Anyone interested in participating, contributing or attending the Golf or Friend Raiser event, please email, Carolefiola@aol.com, or call (508) 641-0297 or contact any of the Foundation Members.

GO HILLTOPPERS!

Durfee High Link: fallriverschools.org/durfeehigh.cfm
Durfee Bells Link: fallriverschools.org/Durfee/PDFs/Brick%20Order%20Form.pdf
Durfee Yearbooks: sailsinc.org/durfee/yearbooks.htm
Alumni Website: durfee alumni.com/index.htm
The latest induction ceremony into the Durfee Athletic Hall of Fame took place on May 6, 2011 at White’s Restaurant in Westport, Massachusetts. The following article is being reprinted with the permission of Greg Sullivan and the Herald News.

The Durfee High School Athletic Hall of Fame will hold its annual induction banquet Friday night at White’s of Westport. The festivities start with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. followed by the inductions. The inductees are Brian Nawrocki (Class of 1996), Terry (Pacheco) Mahjoory (Class of 1993), Sue St. Laurent (Class of 1991), Wendy (Moniz) Grillo (Class of 1987), Luis Pacheco (Class of 1986), Sheila Freitas (Class of 1993), former coach and athletics director Thomas Burns, the back-to-back state champion 1956-57 boys’ tennis teams, and the 1990 state champion girls’ cross country team.

TERRY (PACHECO) MAHJOORY (Class of 1993): The No. 1 field hockey player in Durfee history, Mahjoory started for four years and finished with school records for goals in a career (70) and in a season (30, 1991). She had 30 goals and 11 assists as a junior and 26 goals and 19 assists as a senior. A two-time all-stater, she earned a field hockey scholarship at Michigan State University, where she was the MSU rookie of the year, a three-time Big Ten all star and a College Field Hockey Coaches Association all-America. At Durfee, Mahjoory also played varsity basketball (guard) and softball (catcher) and helped the softball team to a 20-0 regular season as a sophomore. Mahjoory lives in Somerset with her husband and four children.

SUE ST. LAURENT (Class of 1991): Her name is synonymous with Durfee running excellence. St. Laurent excelled for four years in cross country and track and led the 1990 Hilltoppers to the state Division 1 cross country championship. In cross country, she was a four-time Boston Globe All Scholastic and won 40 of the 41 dual meet races she competed in during her career. She capped her cross country career with a seventh-place finish at the State Championships, leading Durfee to the team victory. Twenty years after her career ended, St. Laurent still holds 10 school class records in track and field, including the high jump, triple jump, 800 meters, 1,000 meters, 800 yards, mile, two miles, 4x800 relay and 4x1600 relay.

BRIAN NAWROCKI (Class of 1996): A well-rounded athlete, Nawrocki excelled in football, indoor track and baseball and was named Durfee’s Male Athlete of the year in 1996. In football, the speedy running back became the school’s first back-to-back 1,000-yard rusher and its first Otto Graham Award winner. He was MVP of the 1995 Thanksgiving win over New Bedford. On the track, he set the junior class record for the 300 yards and helped set the school 4x400 record. In baseball, Nawrocki was a three-year starter (.373 avg., 40 RBI, 53 steals, 79 runs), and starting shortstop on the ‘95 team which won the state Division 1 title and is the all-time offensive contribution leader during coach Ray Medeiros’ tenure. A resident of Jupiter, Fla., he is the son of Hall of Famer Stephen Nawrocki.

WENDY (MONIZ) GRILLO (Class of 1987): Grillo’s resume caught the eye of the selection committee for good reason. She was a top-notch athlete in track and field, field hockey and cheerleading. In track, she set 12 school or class records – some of which will stand – including most points in a season (178). Her specialties were sprints (up to 400 meters) and jumps. In 1986, she was sixth in Class A and eighth in the state in the 400, with a best of 59.9 seconds. She produced points in eight events in her career. Moniz was a four-year letter winner in field hockey and a two-year letter winner in cheerleading and a Team All-American Cheerleader in 1987. Grillo lives in New York City.

LUIS PACHECO (Class of 1986): A four-year team member, Pacheco played a huge role in the renaissance of Durfee soccer. In his senior season, he set the school record for goals in a season with 32. In his four years, Pacheco racked up 72 goals and 34 assists. He was a two-time State Division 1 all star. Following his graduation from Durfee, Pacheco played three years for the University of South Carolina at Costal for three season, with a sophomore year knee injury leading to the premature end to his career. Pacheco is a businessman in Fall River.

SHEILA FREITAS (Class of 1993): A three-sports (volleyball, basketball, softball) athlete, Freitas is best remembered for her terrific four-year basketball career in which she started as a center and then moved from forward to shooting guard to point guard. A career 1,000-point scorer, Freitas averaged 18.7 points per game as a senior and nailed the legendary buzzer-beating 3-pointer to help win a crucial game at Brockton. In college, she played at Salem State and then at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill where she was all-league in 1999. She played two years of varsity volleyball and two years of varsity softball. Freitas is supervisor of attendance at the Kuss Middle School in Fall River.

THOMAS BURNS (Coach, director of athletics): Burns was a major player on the Durfee athletics scene for almost three decades. For the last 10 years (1996-2006), he served as director of athletics and in his last year was named the MIAA Athletic Director of the Year Districts C and D. He served as president and vice-president of the Big 3 Conference. Burns coached varsity girls’ basketball from 1985-2006 and was the schools’ first boys’ volleyball coach, holding that post from 1995-2006. He also served as equipment manager and as junior varsity coach for both girls’ basketball and girls’ volleyball.

SPECIAL CATEGORY

Boys’ Tennis, 1956-57: With largely the same core of players, the Hilltoppers captured the Massachusetts championship both years. The team both seasons was led by No. 1 singles standout Kalmon Pollen, the state individual champion both years (sophomore, junior) who went on to captain and play No. 1 singles at Harvard. Jerry Hahn and Sid Poritz were Durfee co-captains both seasons, and the teams were coached by Frank Jordan. In 1956, the Hilltoppers posted a record of 12-3, with all three losses to prep schools. On May 31 at Brookline High School, they won the state titles, with Winchester second, Wellesley third and Newton fourth. In 1957, after an 8-2 regular season, Durfee returned to Brookline High School to defend its title, finishing first ahead of Brookline and Springfield. Larry Pollen and Mike Mendell were also member of both teams. Dan Oldham, Ken Palmer, Doug Salmond, Lionel Spiro, and Bob Chapman rounded out the ‘56 team while Marty Cohen completed the ‘57 team.

Girls’ Cross Country, 1990: A season that began with coach Dave Ozug making a public plea so the Hilltoppers could have some depth ended in a state Division 1 championship. The Hilltoppers had been undefeated in league dual meets the previous three years and repeated that in 1990, the first year of the Big 3 Conference. Runners-up at the Eastern Massachusetts Championships the previous two years, Durfee in 1990 barely qualified....
Last spring presented me with an opportunity to visit the staff and students of Morton Middle School. Arriving at the bottom of President Avenue, I noticed a deserted building at the site of the school that I’d known so well. After all, in addition to me; my parents and two children were also Morton graduates. Moreover, having worked in the Fall River School System for over thirty years, duty often found me at this very spot.

Suddenly realizing that the construction of a “new” Morton had necessitated a temporary relocation to the site of what had previously been the Kuss Middle School, I quickly adjusted my itinerary, took a sharp left onto Rock Street and drove up the hill to the correct school setting. After parking my car a block away, I walked up to the school entrance just as I had done hundreds of times during my working lifetime. But this time, something stopped me at the intersection of Locust and Rock Streets.

Memories hit me like a tsunami. In my mind’s eye a shutter clicked and an instant Polaroid snapshot appeared before me. This was no longer the “temporary” Morton or even the former “Kuss” that appeared to my right; it was the Durfee Technical Building. To my left, was not a courthouse, but the noble edifice and architectural marvel, where I had gone to high school in the mid sixties; my beloved Durfee High School. Directly in front of me, in the middle of the street, I visualized the traffic barrier that we ‘traffic guards’ were required to put out on the street to stop cars as classes changed between both buildings.

The vision still sharp, I entered ‘Morton’; the old Technical Building. It was remarkably well preserved. Opening the door I glanced at the downward stairway to the left where the mad lunchtime rush once carried our youthful bodies hurriedly along, through to the gym and onto the cafeteria. Teachers, in voices once raised in admonition shouted, “Don’t run”, slowing us down a bit, at least until they disappeared from our view.

The Tech classrooms were well kept, but smaller than I’d remembered. Flashing back and forth between the past and present, I noted the present day twelve year old inhabitants who seemed none too impressed. Their adolescent faces, busily at work, closely resembled the expressions of my former high school classmates.

The top floor was empty, but the ghosts of choruses and orchestras past still echoed through the corridors. In the musical mirage, ensembles responded to the conducting of Helen Ladd, Frances Shaughnessy, and Irene Monte, stern and noble taskmasters who instilled in us an undying love for music.

Exiting the building, appearing majestically before me was the place I had come to call the ‘Old Durfee’. My most impressionable teen years were spent here, while my professional career found me based mostly in the Durfee building on Elsbree St. At one time the Elsbree St complex had been referred to as the “New Durfee”. Eventually it stopped being “new” and the school of our high school days became known to us as the “Old Durfee”.

The intricate structure, modeled after the Paris City Hall, complete with towers whose chimes rang twenty nine times every morning (letting us know if we were going to be late for home room), appeared impeccably restored and markedly untouched by time. In the decade after my graduation, this beautiful building had fallen on hard times and was in a constant state of disrepair. By turning it into a courthouse, and making necessary renovations, the State of Massachusetts saved it from potential ruin. And though attorneys and judges now walked its halls instead of teachers and counselors, there it stood; continuing to stoke the memory of an earlier era in Fall River History.

My eye turned directly to the front lawn of the Durfee Building where, on a late spring evening in 1966, busloads of classmates celebrated a State Basketball Championship. The nooks and crannies within this building were unique. Most students never learned all the secrets contained therein, but all who went to school there recall the enormous ‘study hall’. Many interesting events happened daily at study hall, and ‘studying’ might have been the least common of these. Whether it was the passing of notes to a friend, constructing an aerobic paper airplane for an inaugural flight, or organizing a well timed communal “coughing spasm”, study hall stories abound. Teachers assigned to monitor the study hall, gave out detention slips like candy at Halloween. For my friends and me, ‘study’ was spent filling notebooks with hastily scribbled diagrams of football plays to be attempted once we were free from school and able to play touch football at Ruggles Park.

In 1966 Durfee High School did not have a standardized test that was required for graduation. There was nothing like the present day MCAS, to evaluate our students or school. What we did have, was academic rigor and discipline. It was a school where all College prep students took Latin for four years. A less rigorous program of study required two years of Latin and two years of one additional World Language.

The Durfee faculty was highly respected and demanding. I sometimes wonder what Mildred Carroll would have done to prepare her students to take a statewide assessment. I don’t think she would have had to do anything differently. English and Language Arts students could not possibly have been drilled more thoroughly, or prepared more comprehensively, than those who attended her classes. The same could have been said of fabled teachers in other disciplines. Academics reigned supreme for those willing to meet the challenge. Our graduates went to the finest Colleges and Universities and many of our alumni reached the pinnacle of success in their chosen fields.

As I walked back to my car, time fast forwarded to the present. Changes in the educational landscape of Fall River have been numerous since my high school years. The “New Durfee” has been around for over thirty years. Durfee High School since it was founded, will soon be celebrating 125 years of educational excellence. Many schools from my past no longer exist. The Dwelly, Pine St., Lincoln, and McDonough, are gone. Morton will be rebuilt, Henry Lord, has a new building, and the Kuss, sitting at the tip of the Bay just south of Kennedy Park, is the most modern middle school Fall River has ever seen.

The memories of Durfee and the continuity provided by its legacy will remain throughout the changes. The ties to our past will not be forgotten. They connect us to our heritage, and propel new generations toward a more promising future.
Southern Reunion

Many years ago a wonderful tradition was established. Durfee graduates who wintered in Florida began to meet on a yearly basis. Over the years, many volunteers have served as organizers of what became known as the Southern Reunion. Beginning this year another group of volunteers has assumed leadership. The following statement is their introduction to the Alumni.

For the past 37 years a Durfee Southern Reunion has been held. The date is usually the first Saturday in March. The Spanish Wells Country Club in Bonita Springs, Fl has been the location for the last 5 years. The program starts at 10:30 a.m to 3:00 p.m with a social hour with hors d’oeuvres and sit-down luncheon at 12:15. The main purpose of this yearly gathering benefits the Durfee Scholarship Fund. All proceeds from the generous donations of our guests, as well as a raffle and auction are given to the Fund. Last year $6,000.00 was our goal. It is a great way to spend a few hours reminiscing & greeting old acquaintances, friends, from the “good ole days”.

This reunion is not only for Durfee grads but your friends, relatives, non-Durfee grads, etc. all are MOST WELCOMED. If anyone would like more information, you can contact:

Connie (Rocheleau) Furtado ’61, Chairwoman  •  Tel: 774-217-0476  •  Email: toco267@msn.com (please identify in the Subject area ...DURFEE)
Ron (Rabby) Raposa ’61, Co-Chair  •  Tel: 508-208-7704  •  Email: rabbydoo@comcast.net (to add name to mailing list)
Ray Pelissier, Treasurer  •  Tel: 508-254-2027  •  Email: aypelis@comcast.net (checks & donations)

Distinguished Alumnus

As this is the 125th Anniversary of our beloved Durfee High School, we should all take some time to reminisce about many of the famous graduates who have walked the corridors of our High School. Each year since 1960, the Alumni Association has honored someone who has graduated and gone on to excel in his or her chosen field. Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers, Clergy, Writers, and Businessmen to name a few have been honored at the Annual Meeting held each year in May.

Do you know someone who has distinguished him or herself in their chosen field and is deserving of being honored? Complete the form at the rear of the CHIMES and send it to the Alumni Association. Be sure to include a resume of your nominee’s accomplishments.

We know there are many success stories, so all are encouraged to take a moment and make us aware of them.
2012-2013 Alumni Information Form

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION BELOW FOR ACCURACY AND EFFICIENCY.

Your Name:_____________________________________  Maiden Name (if applicable):______________________
Year Of Graduation:___________  If spouse is a graduate - Year of Graduation:___________
Full Street Address:_________________________________________City:_________________________________
State: ______  Zip:_____________ email Address:____________________________________________________

___ Please check if not on the mailing list for The Chimes  ____ Do not publish my information

___ $5.00 (dues) ___ $10.00 ___ $25.00 (min. *Red and Black Club) ___ $50.00 ___ Other
Please make checks payable to Durfee Alumni Association, P.O. Box 9656, Fall River, MA 02720-0011
* For inclusion in the Spring 2013 issue of the Chimes, Please return no later than December 31, 2012.

2012-2013 Alumni Nomination Form

Thank you for taking the time to consider a nominee for the Distinguished Alumni Award. Please attach any newspaper or magazine articles which would assist the Committee in the nomination process. A resume and any other information would be helpful as well. Nominations remain current for a five-year period and should be submitted no later than September 30th 2012 to be considered by the 2012 Selection Board.

Name of Nominee:___________________________________________Year Of Graduation: (1977 or earlier)_______________
Address:_______________________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone Number:__________________________________________

Name of Person Making Nomination: _________________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone Number:______________________________ email address:_____________________________________________

Are you a member of the Association?______________ Is the Nominee a Member?___________________

Please mail to: Durfee Alumni Association, P.O. Box 9656 Fall River, MA 02720-0011

Durfee Preservation Society, Inc.

If you wish to make a donation to the bells project please make checks payable to Durfee Bells Preservation Society, Inc., P.O. Box 9235, Fall River, MA 02720. For your convenience you may send your contribution in the enclosed envelope along with your Alumni donation.

_____ $5  ____ $10  _____ $25  ____ $50  ____ Other (please specify)
Raise our praises high to Durfee,  
Alma Mater dear.  
Tow’ring high beside the river,  
Radiant beacon clear.  

God preserve for Alma Mater,  
Standards staunch and true.  
High aloft we’ll lift her banner  
Bright with Durfee’s hue.  

Love and praise we render ever,  
Voices raised on high.  
Loud we sing of Durfee’s glory,  
To the earth and sky.

http://durfeealumni.com/