

B.M.C. Durfee High School, Fall River, Mass.
DEDICATED, JUNE 19, 1887

DURFEE Chimes

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A publication of the B.M.C. Durfee High School Alumni Association

Distinguished Alumnus Frederick A. Drayton, Sr.



Frederick A. Drayton, Sr. was born in Fall River MA in 1937. He attended Lincoln Elementary, Morton Junior High and Durfee High class of '55. At Durfee, Fred distinguished himself as an excellent student and athlete, and was voted "Most Athletic" by his classmates. He was also named co-captain of the all-Bristol County football team and awarded the Jake Reagan Memorial Trophy and the Outstanding Schoolboy Achievement trophy by the Clover Club. In 1991, Fred was

inducted into the Durfee Athletic Hall of Fame to accompany his brother Joe. In addition, he was a member of the Durfee Glee Club, Hilltoppers Serenaders, Senior Mixed Choir, and was sports editor of The Hilltop and the Year Book. Fred was also elected Student Mayor (of Fall River) For a Day, an experience that inspired his career.

At Bates, he was elected class Vice President and member of the Student Council. He played football and was awarded both Travelli and Puritan scholarships. Post-graduation, Fred was elected to the Bates College Board of Trustees.

Fred attended Howard University's Graduate School, majored in Public Administration and, at first year's end, was awarded for attaining the highest Grad School grades. He met Augusta Payne there and she would later become his wife and mother of their son, Frederick (Arnold), Jr. Out of graduate school, Fred was drafted into the Army, and served honorably two years as Platoon Guide, Honor Guard and Personnel Specialist.

Upon discharge, Fred returned to Washington, DC. Intentionally, each job he accepted had to "help people." He was a personnel specialist with the US Department of Agriculture. Then, at the US Department of Labor, he served as Personnel Management Specialist; Manpower Development Specialist; administrative assistant to the Operational

Frederick A. Drayton, Sr. cont. on page 2

Distinguished Alumna Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Masterson



Born and raised in Fall River, Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Masterson is the daughter of Robert and Donna (Castanho) Masterson. She is a Principal Research Scientist at MIT and Director of the MIT Space Systems Laboratory. She holds affiliations with both the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the MIT Kavli Institute, and has over 20 years of experience in spacecraft design and development.

She was educated at Tansey Elementary School, Morton

Middle School and Durfee High School of Fall River, Class of 1993, where she was the salutatorian and gave a memorable speech at graduation. Becky then headed to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study Mechanical Engineering, earning her Bachelors degree in 1997, a Masters degree in 1999 and her Doctorate in 2005. Her graduate work was focused on structural analysis and design for large space-based telescopes. She developed reaction wheel disturbance models and integrated models to assess the effect of these disturbances on precision pointing for large space telescopes such as the Space Interferometry Mission, Terrestrial Planet Finder and the Next-Generation Space Telescope (now the James Webb Space Telescope).

After completing her Doctorate, Dr. Masterson began her career at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory where she worked on the flight controls for the space shuttle missions to the International Space Station. She built and analyzed integrated models and provided operational support for more than twenty shuttle/ISS missions between 2005 and 2011. When the space shuttle program was retired in 2011, Becky returned to MIT and the Space Systems Laboratory where she had done her graduate work. After several other positions, she is currently a Principal Research Scientist and

Dr. Rebecca Masterson cont. on page 5

Annual Meeting ~ May 25, 2023 ~ 7:00 PM ~ Nagle Auditorium ~ Refreshments 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Durfee Chimes

**A publication of the
B.M.C. Durfee
High School Alumni
Association**

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Letter from the President



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Thank you for continually being part of one of the nation's premier alumni associations. As we close out the second year of our newest Durfee, the students, teachers and administration continue to open doors of growth in education, arts and culture and sports. This year's expanded Chimes seeks to highlight some of these areas, through articles and pictures. My gratitude for the Chimes publication goes out to our team, spearheaded by Judith Conrad '70.

Our Annual Alumni Night will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7pm in the Nagle Auditorium, with a reception, starting at 6pm. On that night, we will honor two highly distinguished Durfee graduates as well as over 20 seniors who will be receiving scholarships from the Fall River High School Scholarship Association.

Sadly, this year marked the passing of many of our alumni and our longest serving board member and treasurer, Janice N.O'Brien '56. Her dedication, attention to detail, accountability and love of Durfee will always be remembered. Also passing in 2022 were three Distinguished Alumni recipients: John J. Fletcher, Ph.D., '53, who for fifty years was a teacher, principal and Title One Director in the Dartmouth, MA Public Schools and was nominated a National Distinguished Principal; Daniel Bogan, '51, who was a Fall River City Councillor for 22 years and active on many boards including Charlton Hospital and the Carousel at Battleship Cove, as well as CEO of Bordon & Remington Corporation; and John Moriarty, '48, a prestigious opera director and trainer of opera singers who retired as chairman of the New England Conservatory Opera Department.

Finally, we wish to thank all of our Red and Black members that total almost 650, who continue to support the Durfee Alumni organization. You are Durfee.

Joseph R. Costa, '81
President, Durfee Alumni Association

Frederick A. Drayton, Sr. continued

Head of the Neighborhood Youth Corp; Nation-wide Director of several employment/training programs; Executive with the American Indian Manpower Office; National Director of the Office of Civil Rights; Executive within the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity; and finally as National Director of the Office of Safety and Health.

Fred was elected to the Labor Department Federal Credit Union's Board of Directors. He founded and directed the DOL Mass Choir; founded and was first President of their Toastmasters' (public speaking) Club that was widely recognized as "the first" club worldwide chartered "co-ed," an honor for which he was later awarded an "honorary" Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) plaque. The US Civil Service Commission enlisted him into the elite cadre of Federal specialists chosen to tour the Country recruiting Management Interns, people destined to become Managers and Executives throughout the Federal Government. Labor also sent him for a one-year Internship at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Fred also found time to earn a Certificate of Graduation from the Columbia School of Broadcasting. After 36 and one half years of distinguished service, he retired.

Fred became President of Drayton Communications, conducting Interpersonal Communications workshops and coaching speech. He wrote children's stories and self-published "Boss Road: A Spiritual Journey From Job One to Retirement", a memoir documenting how God and his parents inspired and guided him from Fall River to Washington, DC. He also authored a play titled, "A Pardon for Adam and Eve" which was published in Howard University School of Religion's *Journal of Religious Thought*, the only play, he was informed, ever published in that prestigious publication.

In 1995, Fred was voted "Man of the Year" by his Hemingway Memorial AME Church congregation. And in 2022, the Benjamin Mays Black Alumni Society, a Bates College affiliate, awarded him The Henry Chandler Legacy Award recognizing "a Black alumna or alumnus who paved the way for African Americans during the first 100 years of integration at Bates...." Mr. Drayton now resides in Thomasville, GA with his son and his son's family.

2022 Scholarship Recipient List

"William F. Kaylor" & "Julia M. Harrington & Henry J. Shea Educators Scholarship" & "Todd Branco Scholarship" to	Andro Alkhwande*
"Felix Makarewicz Memorial Scholarship Fund & Alice Pizio Kosiba – Class of 1936" & "B.M.C. Durfee High School Athletic Association – Hon. Beatrice Hancock Mullaney" to	Serenity L. Bearden*
"Karen A. Jarabek Scholarship" to	Ashtosh Bhandari
"John A. & Eileen Carr" & "Joseph C. & Alene Trottier Perron" & "Edith C. Wolliston" to	Sophia Chen
"Thomas C. Larney Memorial Scholarship" to	Timothy M. Costa
"Elmer C. Slater" & "A. William Munro Scholarship" & "Jerome Namias Scholarship" to	Maya L. Couto
"Harold R. Bannister in Memory of James Edward Bannister and Catherine Manning Bannister" & "Margaret L. Brayton, Class of 1901" to	Louraine A. Dayao
"Harold R. Bannister Scholarship Fund" to	Julia C. Faria
"Anne Biltcliffe Duarte – Class of 1971 and Ruth Melnik Biltcliffe – Class of 1972, Memorial Scholarship" to	Sadie K. Fitzgerald
"Ralph N. & Dorothy Friar" & "Ruth A. Holmes" & "Emily E. Winward" & "Mary H. C. Flynn Fund, Class of 1917" to	Evaneida G. Fortes*
"The Dygas Family Scholarship" & William E. & George J. Apps Memorial Scholarship" & "Robert J. Nagle & M. Rita Nagle" to	Soleei M. Guasp
"Sarah S. Brayton Scholarship Fund" to	Colin J. Hargraves
"B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association – Ellis Gifford" & "Ernest P. & Georgina Pavao Memorial Scholarship" & "Nathan and Irene Anthony Chace" to	Arreanna C. Jones-Ducharme*
"Isabelle O'Neill, Class of 1938" & "Mitchell Stashkow" & "Grimshaw-Gudewicz Memorial Charitable Trust Scholarship" to	Mikayla Larguina*
"Class of 1944" & "In Memory of Aida N. Harris and Yvonne M. Farinha" to	Morgan C. Ledo
"Malcolm P. Aldrich" & "Alice C. Harrington '34 Scholarship" & "Hon. Beatrice H. Mullaney Scholarship, Class of 1923" to	Carlos J. Marcano*
"Susanne Earnshaw & Jean Earnshaw Plouff" & "Class of 1922" & "Marion Pitman Rounseville" to	Makenzie T. Moniz
"Alumni" to	Ayomide O. Olubanwu
"B.M.C. Durfee High School Athletic Association – Hon. Roger F. Sullivan" & "Stephen & Margaret Nawrocki, Class of 1925 Scholarship" to	Christopher J. Panchley
"Frederick O. & Rachel B. Dodge" & "George F. Fernandez Memorial Scholarship – Class of 1940" & "Sarah S. Brayton Scholarship Fund" to	Jake A. Silva
"Beverly Kerness Unger Scholarship" & "Franklin D. Hoy & Margaret B. Hoy, Class of 1932 Scholarship In Memory of Dr. Frank Hoy, DDS, Tufts University & Dr. Joseph Hoy, DDS, University of Maryland" to	Adam D. Souza
"In Memory of Aida N. Harris and Yvonne M. Farinha" to	Kelvyn Strong
"Class of 1951" & "Daniel E. Bogan" & "Fred Holdsworth" to	Kassidy J. Thames
"Ada Jackson Wilders Scholarship" & "Michael J. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship" & "Alumni" to	Isaiyah Z. Thomas

*Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation Grant
 ** Most awards are supplemented with an Andrew J. Borden grant.

Previous Distinguished Alumni Recipients

1961 Malcolm P. Aldrich.....'18	1991 Marcel P. Joseph '53	2009 Dr. R. Judson Carlberg '58
1962 Bishop James L. Connolly '13	1992 William K. Reilly '58	2009 Thomas J. Curry '60
1963 Harold S.R. Buffington, Esq. '05	1993 Brig. Gen. John J. Liset, USAF '38	2010 Betty M. Welch..... '45
1964 Edward B. Hanify, Esq. '29	1994 Hon. Milton R. Silva '40	2010 Louise Durfee '48
1965 Dr. John C. Corrigan '21	1994 William F. Powers '48	2011 James J. Karam '65
1966 Myer N. Sobilloff '24	1995 Hon. Edward F. Harrington '51	2012 Irving H. Picard '59
1967 Ellis Gifford '02	1995 Joseph E. Mullaney, Esq. '51	2012 Joseph F. Sabik, MD..... '79
1968 Jerome Namias..... '28	1996 Michele Kaufman Rallis '58	2013 John J. Fletcher, MD..... '53
1969 Helen Winward Brown '03	1997 Peter G. Collias, Esq. '49	2013 Reena Deutsch, PhD..... '68
1970 Thomas Rodgers, Jr. '30	1998 Mel B. Yoken..... '56	2014 Ruth Moss..... '50
1971 John B. Cummings, Esq. '08	1998 Faust D. Fiore '39	2014 Robert J. Dupere '48
1972 Humberto Cardinal Medeiros '37	1999 John J. McAvoy '37	2015 Joseph A. Conforti, PhD '63
1973 Ambassador William J. Porter '30	1999 Dr. John T. Harrington '54	2015 Ronald A. Schwartz, MD..... '52
1974 Hon. James P. McGuire '31	2000 William F. Long, Jr. '44	2016 Anthony F. Cordeiro '80
1975 James A. Nannery '31	2000 Edgar C. Knowlton, Jr. '38	2016 Hon. E. Susan Speier Garsh '65
1976 Hon. Beatrice Hancock Mullaney '23	2001 Lester W. Cory '56	2017 Zelma Vincent Braga '52
1977 Gen. Melvin Zais '33	2001 James Chace '49	2017 Charles D. Smith Ph.D..... '54
1978 Francis L. Gragnani '36	2002 Kenneth L. Nathanson '42	2018 Margery Eagan '71
1979 Robert J. Nagle '28	2002 James H. Smith '47	2018 Hon. Joseph I. Macy..... '61
1980 Hon. Mary J. Fonseca '32	2003 Morton Dean Dubitsky '53	2019 Jerri Kaplan Sher BFA, MAEd '66
1981 Dr. Roger N. Violette '25	2003 James F. O'Hearn '53	2019 Christopher J. Fontes, PhD '83
1982 Florence C. Brigham '17	2004 Rev. Shirley Scholes Andrews '54	2020-21 Robert S. Karam '61
1982 M. Norman Zalkind '31	2004 Ernest Moniz..... '62	2020-21 Joseph A. Marshall '65
1983 Bayless Manning '40	2005 Lucille Roussell Hadley..... '36	2022 Nancy Cooperstein Charney..... '56
1984 Phillip Sacknoff '35	2005 Daniel Bogan '51	2022 Capt. Paul B. Grozen USN (Ret.) '50
1985 James J. Hammond '26	2006 Hon. William C. Carey '42	
1986 Richard M. Rosenberg '48	2006 John Moriarty '48	
1987 Thomas J. Brown '42	2007 Arthur A. Teixeira '62	
1988 Frank S. Feitelberg '24	2007 George Duclos '52	
1989 James Dean '50	2008 Col. David W. Gavigan..... '57	
1990 William H. Gaudreau '46	2008 Dr. William D. Tompkins..... '39	

To nominate a Durfee Graduate for the Distinguished Alumni Award, please fill out and return the form on Page 15.

NEW DURFEE HIGH SCHOOL DEDICATION AUGUST 24, 2022

By Judith Conrad, class of '70



Link to Durfee Dedication
<https://youtu.be/H1Vv9oDYBaI>

The Formal Dedication Ceremony for the new B.M.C. Durfee High School (Durfee 3!) was held on Wednesday August 24, 2022, at the Nagle Auditorium, located inside the new building. The program included leaders in the Fall River Public Schools, elected officials and representatives from the Massachusetts School Building Association, the architectural firm AI3, the LEFTFIELD Project Management and Suffolk Construction. Also there was a keynote address by Senator Edward Markey and a presentation video of the new spaces narrated by Kyle Neves, the student representative on the Building Committee.

Michael Costa, dean of Social Studies at Durfee, emceed the program, calling the new school in his initial remarks an amazing space of academic, social and emotional learning. The theme of many of the speeches was opportunity, the building as a chance for Fall River students to compete in the modern world. As Matthew Desmarais, Durfee principal, put it, education equals opportunity. Or as Jack McCarthy, Deputy Chief Executive officer of the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) put it, quoting Dan Valentine, a school is a building of four walls with tomorrow inside.

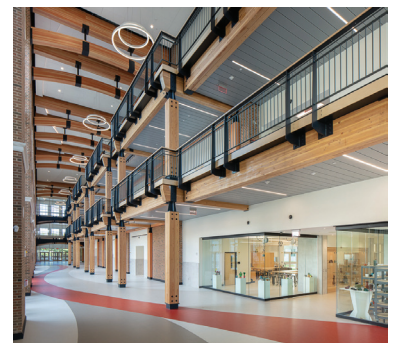
Why was a new Durfee needed? Kyle Neves 2020, Durfee graduate and student member of the Building Committee, told us about his experience as a student at Durfee. His freshman year the air conditioning broke and they had half days for the rest of the year; sophomore year a pipe burst, a couple of tens of thousands of gallons of water entered the building and they missed a week of school; and junior year they had to shelter in place and some of the rooms were unable to lock, which he knew was not a good way to shelter in place. Principal Desmarais told us that over 10 years ago the accreditation committee told the school leadership that it needed a new facility or a remodeled one to support a 21st century education, or it would fail its next accreditation process. Shovels went into the ground 4 years ago. Each and every day in the last year he has walked around the building in amazement: we have actually created a world-class facility for the modern world, here in Fall River. It is equipped with the tools necessary to prepare our hilltoppers for the future.

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor of Fall River, was a graduate of the first Durfee and spent 27 years in education at the second Durfee, ending as a vice principal. And now, he marveled, here we are at Durfee Three! He became mayor in the middle of the build. Much more than a building, it's resiliency, it's a community, it's pride. He applauded the construction workers who worked through the pandemic on this building, often working nights and weekends, to finish it to open on time for the school year.

Maria Pontes, superintendent of schools, told us about all the meetings of the planning committee. While envisioning an ideal Durfee High School they did not want to lose sight of the rich history of Fall River. They wanted the school to tell the Fall River story, celebrating and honoring the past as well as looking forward to the future. She told us of the wonderful ways the AI3 architectural firm incorporated the history of Fall River, wandering through the old mills looking for beams and chunks of granite and other features to put into the new building. To give it a sense of Fall River, to show that we appreciate the sacrifices of the community. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), funded with one penny of the sales tax, gave \$165 million to this building, the rest came from the taxpayers of Fall River for this \$263 million project. This investment signifies to our scholars that the community believes in them.

Sen. Ed Markey, in his keynote address, pointed out that the school was built to better the environment, incorporating silver league-rated green technology, with rooftop solar and underground stormwater retention on site. We are moving to a climate-sensitive future, a green future. And he brought us back to the theme of opportunity: in his youth he could take his book bag home and study to compete against the school superintendent's children; now students need to have the digital and online tools in order to compete. He quoted Horace Mann, Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Education in the nineteenth century, who said in 1848, "Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery." By building this new school, Fall River has ensured that every child will have the opportunity to compete and succeed against the best this country has to offer. Children are 22% of the population but 100% of the future. The City of Fall River is now, with this school, poised to meet this challenge.

At the end, the audience was shown a presentation video of the Durfee dedicated spaces, including The Luke Urban Field House, The Thomas "Skip" Karam Basketball Court, The Thomas Montle Wellness Center, The Morton Dean Dubitsky TV Studio, The Sgt. Robert Barrett NJROTC Center, The Robert J. Nagle Auditorium, The Arthur D. Frank Construction and Industrial Arts Wing, the Fred Buda Band Room, The Joseph Raposo Orchestra Room, The Ambrose F. Keeley Library, The Dr. Roger Violette Observatory, the restored Durfee Telescope, the Brian Biancuzzo Peace Garden and the Historic Durfee Bells. The program closed with the Alma Mater on the carillon, played by Jayson Newell, Durfee Carillonneur; the audience sang along lustily. Tours of the building were given after the program.





Dr. Rebecca Masterson continued

director of the Space Systems Laboratory. Of MIT's 115 principal researchers, 22 are women. Including Masterson; there are now four principal researchers in the Aero Astro department — and she is the first woman to earn this honor in the 104-year history of MIT aerospace engineering.

Dr. Masterson was Co-Principal Investigator and Instrument Manager for the Regolith X-Ray Imaging Spectrometer (REXIS), the student instrument onboard the OSIRIS-REx asteroid sample return mission. She was the Integration and Test Lead for the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), and is currently managing the AERO VISTA CubeSat mission with MIT Haystack Observatory and the REDSoX (Rocket Experiment Demonstration of a Soft X-ray Polarimeter) sounding rocket experiment with MIT Kavli Institute. Both REXIS and TESS are successfully operating on orbit, and AERO VISTA and REDSoX are working towards launches in the next five years. Dr. Masterson has mentored over fifty students, graduate and undergraduate, and has written or collaborated on numerous articles which have been published in a variety of professional journals. In addition, she has presented her research to colleagues at national professional conventions throughout the country. Becky brings a unique expertise to the MIT community. David Miller, the former Director of the Space Systems Lab, said of Dr. Masterson that “she provides a perfect, yet rare combination of research prowess, real world experience, program management expertise, focus on education, and teamwork skills.”

Becky currently lives in Somerville with her husband Gordon Wong and their two daughters, Lily and Quinn. She is an avid board gamer, cyclist and runner. Not only will Dr. Masterson's research live on well into the 22nd century, so will the two asteroids named for her and her husband: 120351 Beckymasterson and 120352 Gordonwong.. Being named a Distinguished Alumna of Durfee will assure that her legacy will also live on in Fall River.

WORLD LANGUAGES AT DURFEE, THEN AND NOW, STILL IMPORTANT

By Lorna Ponte Tomek, class of '70

I have always had a passion for foreign languages; however, I know it's not everyone's cup of tea! When I started Durfee, in the fall of 1967, Durfee just had grades 10-12, and students spent their freshman year at one of the junior high schools (grades 7-9). Typically foreign language was chosen at the junior high, and then continued at the high school, where the choices in languages were abundant compared to the 2 or 3 offerings I had at Morton. I was elated to find that, at Durfee High, I had a choice of six languages that included French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Russian and Latin, and that there was room in my schedule to add German and simultaneously continue on with French, which I did for the next three years. By my senior year in 1970, there were just six or seven students in my German 3 class, and we had a great time learning from "Herr" Sullivan, a Robert Kennedy lookalike who was also the Russian teacher. He taught us about German life, customs and food, in addition to the language, and we even enjoyed a field trip to a German restaurant. German class felt like home, and we were a little family. Our classes were held in a tiny, cozy room up in the tower above the study hall in the original, beautiful classic Durfee building on Rock Street. It was always a happy part of my day.

For every student enjoying a foreign language, there are probably more who are not liking it. It was fun for me, and I continued to study German in college.

Education requirements are constantly changing, as are requirements to graduate from high school. In addition, it was—and still is, in many cases—fairly standard that two years of high-school foreign-language study was required as a pre-requisite to apply to a four-year college. For many students, this is not a love-love relationship, but rather a thorn in one's side to get through the two year minimum requirement. It does appear that, at least for admission to some schools, it is no longer a requirement everywhere. In the '90's, when my first child was choosing a college to attend, I recall visiting Rensselaer (RPI) with him. During the question and answer period about the college, a student in the crowd posed the following question: "How many years of a foreign language is required to get into this college?" The answer, "none," was followed by a loud universal groan that was emitted from a grand room full of high school seniors, obviously reflecting upon their unnecessary struggles of the previous

years.

Language acquisition is never a waste of time. As retired adults who like to travel, my husband and I agree that having some experience with foreign languages has made our travels easier. The ability to decipher signs, and make one's needs understood in so many situations when English is not spoken, was often a relief. There were a couple of instances that my limited knowledge of French and German was the sole reason for us hopping on the correct train rather than the wrong one, and identifying the ingredients of dishes on a menu.

Graduating from college with me in 1974 was Paul Grillo, a classmate of mine since kindergarten at the Dubuque School. Paul is a great example of someone whose love of languages began at Durfee when he had Ms Mary Carvalho for Portuguese. In college, Paul majored in Spanish and minored in Portuguese, and returned to Durfee as a teacher, teaching both of those languages for the next 35 years, concluding his career for the last ten years as the World Languages Department Head. When students learn new topics in school, and see people around them in different roles, their view of the world is opened up, and lives are enriched. A student enjoys a foreign language class with a teacher, and sees what he can become, and the circle of life continues, with many more students of Mr. Grillo over the years finishing Durfee with the desire to major in a foreign language.

Paul Grillo, Durfee class of 1970, ran exchange programs at Durfee with students from the Azores, and Cape Verde, and also had exchange teachers in his department. At that time, they were still offering the same languages we had in 1970, and one teacher taught the Cambodian classes. AP classes in Spanish and French were offered.

Like most high schools, two years of the same foreign language is still a graduation requirement at Durfee, and also, like most high schools, there are waivers in certain cases. A waiver could apply for English as a Second Language (ESL) students, students in Career and Technical Education (CTE), Special Education students, and students enrolled in dropout prevention courses. According to World Languages Department Head, Dr. Shelly Silvia, all students enroll in a world language, and then guidance counselors identify if a waiver is necessary. It is encouraged that all students enroll in two years of a foreign language, three or more years if they are planning on attending a four-year college.

Durfee began offering Arabic I in 2021, and Arabic II in 2022. Currently, the highest level students can take of a world language at Durfee is AP Spanish, Honors French

IV and advanced Portuguese. Typically, students entering Durfee in 9th grade would either begin in level 1, level 1 honors, or level 2 honors, the latter for more advanced learners and/or native speakers. Continental Portuguese is taught, however, students are offered to use the Brazilian vocabulary terms and pronunciation if they choose. There are 11 full time teachers in the World Language department, and they are currently adding two more teachers to the department; one each for Portuguese and Spanish.

Current World language department head Shelly Silvia began teaching Portuguese at Durfee in 2011, and became department head in 2018. She completed all her degrees at UMass Dartmouth with a BA in Portuguese in 2011, an MAT in 2013, a Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2016, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2018. Dr. Silvia relates that the team of Portuguese teachers at Durfee is in the process of discussing a potential exchange program for teachers and students.

In 2018, a team of teachers and students traveled to the Azores and visited schools there. In 2019, another group of students and teachers made a similar trip to Lisbon, and this year students and teachers will go to Porto, Portugal to visit a school. Upon completion of their research and discussions, they will hopefully be able to work out an exchange program for both teachers and students in Porto. Teachers from Durfee would teach in Porto, and vice-versa, and students from Durfee would go to school in Porto, and Porto students would study at Durfee. The exchange would give all involved an invaluable experience in another county.

It certainly does appear that there are exciting happenings within the World Language Department, as there were when I was a student there some fifty years ago.

Durfee has gone through many changes over the decades, and continues to move forward with its academics and state of the art fully-equipped building. Should a new exchange program come to fruition, the school and the city can take pride in showing how we do it in Fall River, at Durfee High School, the home of the Hilltoppers.

**Annual Meeting
May 25, 2023 ~ 7:00 PM
Nagle Auditorium
Refreshments
6:00 to 7:00 PM**

WHY LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

By MEL B. YOKEN, PH.D., Durfee, 1956

Although this question has been elegantly answered scores of times, I venture to mention why I know that learning a foreign language affects the learner in ways that are fundamentally important for the development of one's mental and spiritual faculties – why it should be regarded as a basic part of one's education, that is!

- 1) Learning to use a Foreign Language helps a student escape somewhat from his monolingualistic and monocultural background which he or she accepts (or hates) so uncritically. Even a fairly slight contact with a different culture makes it possible for one to see his or her own from a different angle and perhaps understand better both its good and bad features
- 2) In order to learn a Foreign Language, one must learn to listen much more attentively than one does in using his native tongue. Just learning to listen attentively is a Copernican step in the learning process.
- 3) In learning to use a Foreign Language, it is necessary to try harder to understand what is said or written in that language than what is said in one's native tongue. This is a useful experience for the learner because it helps him develop the valuable habit of analyzing, envisaging possible meanings, weighing possibilities, and of getting at the precise meaning intended by the speaker or writer – both in the Foreign Language and his native tongue.
- 4) Knowing a language that has a great literature, as French does, can provide an inexhaustible source of pleasure for our ever-increasing hours of leisure.
- 5) It is often pointed out that knowing how to use a Foreign Language may be vocationally advantageous; it will surely be advantageous for those who want to learn to use a second Foreign Language.
- 6) Educators who believe in the doctrine of learning by doing should appreciate the fact that one cannot learn to use a Foreign Language any other way – the memorizers to the contrary notwithstanding.
- 7) As Foreign Language courses are among the few that must be learned bit by bit and that call for daily preparation, they may help students develop the habit of working systematically instead of becoming experts in the art of passing courses by cram sessions at the end of the semester.
- 8) Durfee's excellent courses in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic most certainly help the student attain the aforementioned goals and objectives.

THE ARTS AT THE NEW DURFEE

By Judith Conrad, Class of '70

The arts at Durfee used to be a rather small program, mainly for people who were serious about the arts. Now it is for everybody. As it should be. The arts bring the whole soul into activity; without them the better angels of our nature could disband for lack of an instrument to play. All 2200 students at Durfee get to sign up for electives, and they have many choices. There is still a band, a chorus, an orchestra and a theater company, but they can also take courses in drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, acting at several levels, guitar, piano, drums, world music, songwriting, music technology and fashion design. There are hopes for starting a dance program next year. The facilities include glass retractable walls in the ceramics lab and a sculpture "fab lab".

Fashion design is especially popular; students learn the whole subject soup to nuts, from designing and drawing to sewing. It is taught all day every day. There is a collaboration in the works between the Durfee Arts/Fashion Design program, the UMASS Dartmouth Visual and Fashion Design Department and Merrow Manufacturing, so that students can take college courses their junior and senior years at no cost, and students who excel can get internships with Merrow Manufacturing in fabrication. Those jobs can provide local career opportunities, in a city that used to be the hub of the textile industry in the United States, and that too many of our young people leave behind at adulthood.

Every May there is a schoolwide art exhibit in the Durfee Atrium, showing works of the whole Fall River school system, K-12, which is visited

by thousands over the course of a week. It is busy like Grand Central Station. Families visit it to see their own child's contribution, but then find themselves lost in a vast colorful maze opening out to all the other students' work.

And thus the students at the new Durfee are learning to produce beauty, and to recognize it, and to communicate in ways that lie beyond language. It's trouble, but it pays off in immortality.



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1936
Alice Shaw Harkin - Memoriam

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Eldredge H. Leeming

1942
Lucy Baj Los - Memoriam

1943
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Joseph E. Sullivan

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1946
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1947
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1948
Jaqueline Pierce Aitken
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Phyllis Capone Corcoran
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Peter G. Collias, Esq.
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Louise Pierce McCarthy
Reva Wernick Newfield
Aubrey Stephen Nutbrown-Memoriam
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Gerald Sandler
Anne Patten Sylvia
Anna J. Wisz Zdon

1950
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Irene Dupont Brodeur
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Alice Fernandes Hayden
Lt. Col. Harold Katzman USAF (Ret)
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Barbara Cohen Rosenberg
Lorraine Taylor Stringer
Bernard A. G. Taradash
Carolyn Capstack Tuovinen
Janice Kay Warren

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Elva Bertoni Kanakry
CM Sgt. John Kuttner, USAF, (Ret)
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Judith Bergeron O'Connell
Earl Santt
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Everett F. Smith
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Florence Picard Southland
George F. Southland
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Jean Higgins Bogan
Zelma Vincent Braga
Joan Winslow Buhendorf
Hazel Langton Costa
Albert E. Dean
Lawrence A. Donnelly
Donald W. France
John A. Freeman
Richard Freitas
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Ronald A. Golz
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John E. Machado
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Manuel V. Medeiros
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Mario S. Polselli
Thomas Powers
Jacqueline Zubat Remus
Helen Bohun Schultz
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Nancy Pollock Stavits
Muriel E. Briggs Wachlin

1953
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Ronald Caplain
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Morton (Dean) Dubitsky
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Joanne Bogle Gerlach
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Robert B. Higgins
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Avelino Mendes
Joan Powers Pacia
James D. Salvo
Ronald T. Silvia

1954
Leonard G. Alves
The Rev. Shirley Scholes Andrews
James E. Bullock
Rev. Alan D. Carvalho
Robert L. Gagnon
Miriam Taylor Harrison
Daniel F. Henry, Jr.
Cecilia Medeiros Jennings
Gordon Jennings - Memoriam
Stephen R. Kay
Richard J. Masse
Raymond H. Medeiros
Shirley Medeiros Mohamed
William J. Moran
Wendell S. Ogden
Leah Bieler Peilberg
George H. Petrin
Robert Plourde
Col. Ronald Silvia, USAF (Ret)
Francis J. Sullivan
Thomas F. Travis
Major W. Wheelock
David H. Wordell

1955
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Janet Park Been
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Eugene V. Botelho
Patricia Donnelly Callan
Mary Sousa Carreiro
Pauline Kotlarski Davis
Winfred Durfee Dimock
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Muriel Levesque Gagnon
Harry B. Golding
Lauretta Deschenes Gonyon
Janet Greenwood
Dorothy Pavao Gruneberg
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Joan Linhares Mello
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Dolores J. Souza Moore
Dorothy Henaire Nicolau
Evelyn Aguiar Paradis
Beverly Costa Pereira
Rhoda Kaplan Pierce
Richard E. Rounds

Stanley W. Sokoloff
Beverly Tierney Tansey
Pauline Morin Vezina

1956
Paul A. Borkman
Patricia A. Furze Cassidy
Douglas B. Crook
Claude Desjardins, PhD
Herbert Feldman
Marlene McNally Gosson
Louise P. Higgins Harrington
Jeannette Lortie Kenyon
Robert Kitchen
Robert L. Lagace
Seraphina A. Jacome Lagace
Sylvia DeBonis Lawton
Delores Franco McGarr
Eileen Galego Medeiros
Beverly Soja Nawrocki
Stephen F. Pirog, Jr.
Judith A. Schneider
Joan Hopkins Sheedy
Pricilla M. Mullen Smith
Wayne P. Smith
Dr. David A. Sousa
Lionel B. Spiro
Sylvia Hollins Starkie
Jeanette Wood Wirz
Lois D. Duckworth Wordell
Melvin B. Yoken, PhD

1957
Richard Alexander, USAF (Ret.)
Belisario A. Almeida
Roland H. Boulay
Gerald "Gerry" Burnstein
Lt. Col. Harvey I. Chafitz, USAF (Ret)
Ronald W. Coulombe
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Lt. Col. Patrick J. Donovan, USAF (Ret)
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Ina Goldberg Sharkansky
Geraldine Callahan Wise

1958
Dorothy Frain Blais
Helen Mendonca Carrier
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Judith Longshaw Fino
Thomas R. Flynn
Howard Galitsky
Ann Boyko Gannon
William J. Gates
William A. Harris
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Norma Dubiel McKenzie
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Lionel A. Morais
Lucy Dubiel Paulo
Stephen J. Peters
Charlotte Smith Pirog
Rev. Leo Polselli, C.S.C.
Thomas E. Poole
Michele Kaufman Rallis
Walter R. Silvia
Jeffrey S. Trust
Stanley J. Wieszbicki

1959
Nancy Manchester Bennett
Muriel Burns Bodington
Joseph M. Bushell
June Travers Gagnon
Barbara Czapiga Gajda
Douglas A. Gray, Jr.
Timothy J. Griffin
John (Jack) T. Hackett
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Richard W. Kocon, PhD
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Kenneth A. Machado
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Daniel C. Medeiros
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Suzanne Guillotte Vitale
Francis Wing

1960
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Charles Auclair
Clark E. Broden
Carolyn Sullivan Curry
Shirley Bannister Dufresne
Herbert Feldman
Mark G. Filler
Judith Cohen Goodwin
Ruth Ward Hathaway
Harold Katersky
Ronald J. Lowenstein
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Mary Agnes Pelton Murphy
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Michael L. Shand
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Carol Lysyj Siembab
Theresa Folster St. Laurent
Claire Soares Sullivan
Charlotte E. Costa Thomas
Gerard E. Vaillancourt
Alfred R. Vieira
Robert C. Wood

1961
Kenneth Barton
Norman N. Bleau
Rayna A. Maltais Cipollini
Joseph A. Cote, Jr. PhD
Eugene M. Czepl
David F. Fitzgibbons
Joan M. Brissette Flynn
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Margaret A. Walsh
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1962
Veronica Rodrigues Barreiro
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Nancy A. Coray
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CDR. Paul L. Soares USN-(Ret)
Mary Ann Pereira Trznadel
Paul L. Trznadel
David W. Turner
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Robert L. Williston

1966
Thomas Athearn
Teresa Furtak Berard
Robert G. Botelho
Douglas G. Clarke
Joyce Felipe Coelho
Orlando Conforti
Paul Ferreira
Judith Chace Graves
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Jean Pitera Halligan
Marilyn Furtado Harris
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Bonnie MacLaughlin Heap
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Sylvia Medeiros Santos
Alphonse Saulino
Elizabeth Ferreira Schneider
Jerri Kaplan Sher

1963
Jeffrey W. Addison
Maria Soares Alves
Marie Stetkiewicz Benevides
James M. Blackburn
Prof. Joseph A. Conforti

Nancy Lecke Dallman
Penny Berger Glunts
Donald J. Hart
Barbara Zukroff Koppel
Betty Read Mathias
John P. Mathias
James McManus
E. Jeffrey Pontiff
Barry Slavin
Norman R. Somer - Memoriam
Bahira H. Sugarman
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1964
Joseph Brum
Sarah L. Burns
Pauline "Polly" Buffington Dooley
Josephine Gesiak Dumont
Judith Danis Evans
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Gerard E. Vaillancourt
Alfred R. Vieira
Robert C. Wood

1965
Marie Oliveira Azza
Vincent J. Berube
Barry L. Bor
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Andrew Dangelas
Col. Francis T. DiNucci, USA (Ret)
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Suzanne Perron Montour
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Elaine Fitta Pace
Joyce Perry
Christine McIntyre Plante
Sharon Viana Vieira
Irving H. Zangwill

1966
Thomas Athearn
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Robert G. Botelho
Douglas G. Clarke
Joyce Felipe Coelho
Orlando Conforti
Paul Ferreira
Judith Chace Graves
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Jerri Kaplan Sher

Janet Carroll Smith
Sandra J. Souza
Edward J. Tavares
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Susan Duarte Teixeira
Barbara Azar Terrio
Donna Enos Wahl

1967
Cynthia Janusz Azevedo
John Azevedo, II
Henry A. Chamberlain
Sandra DiCorpo Franklin
Jose G. Novera
Carol Feldman Schneider
James M. Smith
Ada Jackson Wilders

1968
Susan P. Booth Avery
Russell A. Belanger
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Margaret Fairhurst Copeland
Reena Deutsch, PhD
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Gail S. Packer
Jean M. Botelho Parenteau, PhD
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Diane St. Laurent Sanders
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1969
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Robert P. Thomas

1970
Sherry L. Alpert
Herman Bomback
Laura Tavares Bomback
Mary Swist Clement
Judith C. Conrad
Cynthia Cabral Corriveau
Sharon Dahlstrom
Jeanne Pereira DeMarco
Christine Jean Gibney
Donna Pavao Laemmle
Ethel Bor Lipoff
Dr. Barbara Bishop Sandusky
Lorna Ponte Tomek
Harris Tulchin

1971
Carolyn O'Connell Biltcliffe
Paul E. Coogan
Mary G. Martins Lopes
Richard A. St. Amour
David R. Vasconcellos
Dr. Michael J. Vieira

1972
Wayne Borge
Robert C. Hadley
Joan Harkin Lacoss
Thomas P. Murray
Kris E. Roberts
Sheryl A. Ryan, MD
David Sullivan

1973
Phoebe Massoud Blackburn
Gail Pacheco Bliss
Henry J. Boudreau
Joanne Carroll-Connor
Michael C. Cass
John R. Morris
Diane Mulcahy
Patricia A. Murphy
Stephen C. Rebello

1974
Bonnie Bliss-Camara
Wayne T. Camara

Eloise G. Lauzier Carrier
Thomas D. Gaffney
Thomas W. Jean
Karen Paulo Ouellette
Linda Perry Picard
Roberta Filippini Schneller
Natercia Teixeira
James Vaillancourt
Barbara Urban Walsh

1975
John D. Costa
Michael P. Duarte
Adelia Lopes Gaffney
Jeffrey E. Ledoux
Debra Perry Ozug
Susan J. Ogden Pavao
Jane Piotrowski

1976
Thomas F. Delaney
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Linda Karnasiewicz Egan
Justino F. Paulo
Gale Souza Powers
Philomena Benevides Rogers
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1977
Jane A. Murphy
Robert E. Ryan
Shirley A. Tobol

1978
Brenda Bishop Azar
Holly J. Bronhard
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James R. Hathaway
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Jane E. Lyons Sullivan, Esq.
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1979
Roberta A. Bonifacio
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1980
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1981
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William A. Suneson

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Gary P. Howayeck, Esq.
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James F. Wilcox III

1987
Tracy Furness Lepage
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Glenn Smith

1989
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David Martins
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Kimberly Garrett Tiburtino

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Kristen Mello Gauvin

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Rebecca Landry Caron
Lisa Hermenegildo Hargraves
Michael Hargraves
Joshua Panchley
Melissa Karam Panchley
Aimee Perron

1993
Belinda M. Morrisette

1994
Derek Farias
Nancy Furtado
Rachael Falcon McGarty
Jodi Morris Tabicas

1996
Barden H. Castro
Colin W. Christ

1997
Sonya Braga
Paul G. DaSilva
Cheryl Aguiar Estrella
Christine Pelletier

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Jameson M. Guimond
Jennifer Costa Rego
Nelson E. Rego

2000
Katie Greene Canuel
Nicholas L. Christ

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Barret H. Castro

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Jennifer E. Carey, Esq.
Bethany Plaski Guimond
Danielle J. Pixley
Christina Gomes Raposo
Matthew Raposo

2006
James M. Brown
Daniel Quintal, Jr.

2015
Brianna Leonardo

2020
Thomas Panchley

2021
Isabella L. Desmarais

2022
Christopher Panchley
Isabella Tiburtino

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B.M.C. Durfee High School
Alumni Association
P.O. Box 9656
Fall River, MA 02720-0011

THE UNIFIED ATHLETIC PROGRAM

By Kristen Gauvin, class of '90, Assistant Athletic Director at Durfee

Although the Special Olympics started way back in 1968, it took until 2008 for high schools to add Unified Sports to their competitive teams. Unified sports combines athletes with intellectual disabilities with partners who are individuals without intellectual disabilities, to form competitive teams. Here at Durfee, we are proud to offer Unified basketball, track & field and strength & conditioning.

When I started in athletics at Durfee 4 years ago, we struggled to find partners. Now they come looking for me. We are working on an inclusive environment while also being competitive in sports at Durfee, and it shows. Athletes often live in the "it's all about me" world, but with Unified sports, they are wanting to see others succeed; and to me that is a successful program. More than 4500 elementary, middle and high schools across the US offer unified sports while 215 US colleges and universities have Special Olympics college clubs on campus providing inclusionary activities.

The whole idea behind unified sports is to offer everyone the experience of being a high school athlete. Our team just got new uniforms. We announce the lineups, the students receive varsity letters and pins and have a senior night. The fans pack the stands with signs for our athletes. But that is not the end. We are always looking to expand. We are working on student-run unified clubs and the possibility of an expansion to middle school.

If you are ever looking for a great game or meet, come by Durfee to see our unified basketball or track & field. This year our basketball team was undefeated and that is Topper Tough!



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by: Kristen Gauvin
Class of 1990

With the new school completed, I thought we could catch up with a recent graduate from the old (1978 version) school.

When I went to Durfee in the late 80's, one of our favorite teachers was Mrs. Frank. We all took Spanish and loved her feisty yet motherly personality. This temperament is no doubt the result of raising 13, yes 13 kids of her own while teaching thousands. She worked at Durfee for 27 years starting on Rock St and moving to room 374 on Elsbree St until she retired in 1994. She lived out her retirement with her youngest daughter and her family. I met Mrs. Frank when I was a freshman in Spanish 1 but I got to know her because her daughter Joanna and her husband Gene (both 1990 grads) have been two of my closest friends for the past 36 years. Phyllis Frank and her husband Arthur taught Durfee students with pride for over 57 years combined and we thank them and all teachers who give themselves to Durfee.

RIP Phyllis Trevisano Frank 1928-2019 & Arthur Frank 1928-1982

This leads me to our past scholarship recipient, Mr. & Mrs. Frank's grandson. . . .Remy Dumont Class of 2018

Durfee Chimes: Well Remy, you are one of our youngest scholarship recipients to feature so this should all be fresh in your mind. Tell us about your time at Durfee.

Remy Dumont: Well, I was on the basketball and baseball teams all four years. I was in History Abroad and got to travel to Italy and Barcelona in my junior year. I was in the National Honor Society, 6th Man and the Spanish Club. And I got to help get the 'yes' vote for the new Durfee while working on that campaign with a few of my good friends. I also volunteered at the Bank St Armory, Boys & Girls Club and at Durfee with the sports camps. In the summer I worked for DCR at Lafayette Pool.

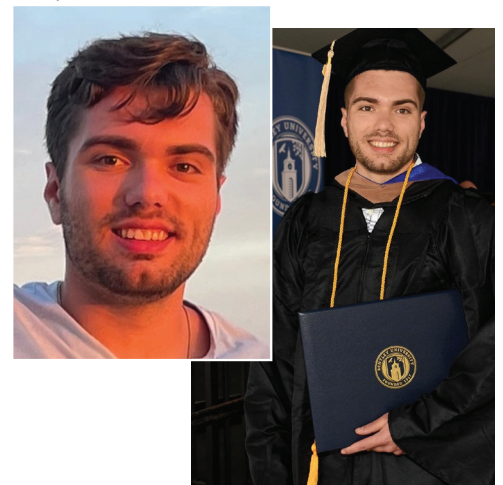
DC: That is where my son works and I remember you at the sports camps teaching my kids. I love that small town feeling of Fall River where we are all friends through high school and beyond. That doesn't seem to happen everywhere. I always knew you were athletic and very involved. Do you remember your rank

from when you graduated?

RD: I do! I was number 11 in my class. So close to the Top Ten!! But I did receive the Manny Papoula Scholarship for the basketball player with the highest GPA. I graduated with a 4.0.

DC: Wow. That is pretty impressive. What have you been up to since 2018?

RD: I went on to Bentley University in Waltham and I majored in Economics and Finance. Due to Covid, Bentley offered free courses in the summer and I was able to graduate a semester early.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?...continued

DC: That is a great school. Have you been working in your field?

RD: Yes, I was able to work some internships at Bay Coast Bank and Harbor One Bank and I am now working at Mathworks out of Natick. I am a revenue accounting associate. We develop engineering software. Some of our major clients are Apple, Microsoft, Raytheon, GE and, a little closer to home, the naval base in Newport.

DC: So what else are you doing besides working out of Natick?

RD: I am lucky enough to work from home a few days a week so that is nice. I live in Fall River

while I am getting my MBA from Bentley. I still see a lot of my friends from Fall River and we get together to ski in New Hampshire; and I am heading to Utah to ski with my dad. I work out everyday, still play basketball and I like to travel. I am planning a trip to Australia this year.

DC: Well it seems like you are doing pretty well. Can I ask, do you remember what you did with your scholarship?

RD: I am doing great. Having a good time while working on my career. I do remember. Bentley is a pretty expensive school so I was lucky to get the alumni scholarship for all 4 years. I am

pretty proud to be the first college graduate in my immediate family. But since I graduated, my mom went back to school and finished her Bachelor's degree after 30+ years so that is pretty impressive and my brother Dylan is attending UMass Dartmouth now.

DC: Impressive for sure. I am pretty proud of both you and your mom (and Dylan too).

RD: Thanks. I loved my time at Durfee and I felt very prepared for college. Not to mention all the great times I had there.

DC: Well, thanks for sharing your story. Durfee loved having you as well.

HOMETOWN TRIBUTES

The editorial team of The Durfee Chimes has decided on a new yearly column in the form of a Hometown Tribute, to someone, living or dead, who stayed in the city of Fall River after graduation to make a difference. This is not, and will not be, an easy challenge, as there are so many graduates of Durfee who surely fit this coveted category.

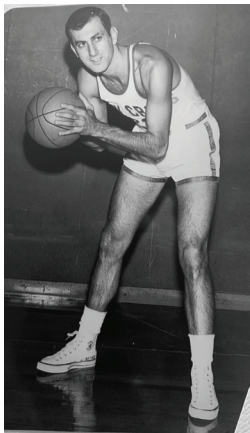
We are beginning with two tributes, an interview by Mel Yoken with Al Attar, class of 1956, and a biography of Alice Harkin, class of 1936, which is written by her daughter. Both Mr. Attar and Mrs. Harkin represent the Durfee spirit, along with a large dose of integrity and humanity.

AL ATTAR

Class of '56 - Hometown Tribute

by Mel Yoken, Ph.D., class of 1956

I first met Al Attar in the 1950s when we both started our sophomore year at Durfee High School, and we immediately became good friends. My friendship with this remarkable, talented man—and basketball legend—has



only increased over the years, and now, an octogenarian, Al has retained his optimism, joie de vivre, humility and uplifting personality.

Al became Durfee's principal in 1991 and retired in 2001. During those ten years, he was a role-model and a hero to many of the students. He was a tough disciplinarian,

and gave to his students a distinct way of living and new vistas vis-à-vis life. For these qualities, and many more, they respected him unequivocally.

I interviewed my long-time friend for The Durfee Chimes in October and November 2022.

Mel Yoken: What recollections do you have of your education at Durfee High School in the

1950s? What in particular stands out in your mind regarding the three years you spent at Durfee?

Al Attar: I was born the 10th of 11 children to immigrant parents. My parents could not give their children much in a material sense, but instilled in us a strong work ethic and a desire and respect for education. With that background, I entered B.M.C. Durfee High School in 1952 with gratitude for the opportunity to learn as well as to be part of an academic, athletic, and social experience with my fellow classmates.

While at Durfee I was fortunate to have been taught and mentored by exceptional teachers and coaches. I received an excellent education at Durfee, and thanks to the support and efforts of these dedicated individuals I was able to earn a full athletic scholarship to the College of the Holy Cross where I earned my undergraduate degree and played NCAA Division I basketball. I look back on my schoolboy years at Durfee as a happy and exciting time. I served as class president during my Sophomore and Junior years, and established many friendships, most of which have lasted a lifetime.

The highlight of my high school career was of course being the captain of the team which won the New England Basketball Championship in 1956. I was the first Durfee player to score 1000 points during a high school career, and was named a High School All-American. As hard as I worked on the basketball court, I had to work doubly hard in the classroom. I came

from an underprivileged background, and didn't have the study skills or support that many of my peers enjoyed. College Prep courses were difficult and demanding, and the academic competition was keen. But the support of good teachers, and the self-discipline, determination, and resilience learned on the court kept me afloat and enabled me to earn good grades.

Times have changed drastically from my time at Durfee in the 50's. Technology and many other factors have made this a very different world. However, some similarities exist between the Durfee of today and that of yesteryear. In the 50's the student body came from diverse neighborhoods, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and religious affiliations. We blended and became a class of cohesive individuals. Today's student body is also representative of a similar city-wide diversity. Durfee continues to and has always provided an environment which celebrates diversity, and inclusivity. The environment has always fostered mutual respect and equal opportunity. Acceptance and opportunity are there. One needs to just take advantage of what is offered.

MY: Are there any other thoughts about Durfee—and as a superb athlete and a basketball legend—that you would like to share?

AA: I started playing basketball as a kid with a peach basket affixed to a telephone pole in the street outside of my home. I loved the game, and worked hard to hone my talent, earning a spot on the varsity team as a freshman.

AL ATTAR...continued

I look back on my High School Basketball career with pride and nostalgia. The games, the practices and the comradery of my team mates are forever etched in my memory. I had never really left Fall River until I traveled to local high schools with the team. We played many games against excellent competition, and in 1956 made it to the finals. I remember well taking the floor at Boston Garden to the roar of a huge crowd. I knew that the hopes of not only a school but the city of Fall River were riding with us. But that's when the discipline kicked in. Each of us had a job to do and we were well trained in doing it. Coach Urban had done a great job in getting us ready for this type of exposure and pressure. I knew that this was a tremendous opportunity afforded to only a few, and was grateful for the chance. As thrilling as this time was, it, as well as memories of my college career, have faded with time. However, the life lessons learned have stayed with me. The game of basketball taught me self-discipline and determination. It instilled the values of teamwork and unselfishness. Basketball, like any other sport, encourages resilience. You must learn to win or lose with grace. Pick yourself up and get back in the game no matter what the odds. Face up to your mistakes, take responsibility for them, and work on change. Participation in sports forces the person to keep multiple responsibilities in balance. One learns to focus on the priority at hand, and to concentrate on the accomplishment of a goal.

MY: Please talk about your educational background after graduation from Durfee.

AA: At the College of the Holy Cross, I majored in Political Science, and juggled a full academic load while playing Division I Basketball. Holy Cross afforded me an excellent education, and basketball afforded me the opportunity to travel and compete throughout this great country. One of my greatest thrills was to play for Holy Cross in the National Invitation Tournament (the forerunner to the NCAA) in New York's Madison Square Garden. Holy Cross held all of its students, including student athletes, to a high academic standard. My days during basketball season were filled with study, practice, class and games. There was very little time for socialization. I later earned a Master's degree in Education from Bridgewater State University. Over the course of my career, I took advanced courses leading to certifications in Social Studies and Administration.

MY: You have had a very successful career. This said, talk about your work and career as principal at Durfee.

AA: I think that I always wanted to be a teacher. It was a goal that was influenced by the teachers who mentored me at Durfee as well as by my late brother Sam, who was an elementary

school principal.

I started my career as an eighth grade Social Studies Teacher at the former Davis School. I was in the classroom for 8 years before being appointed Vice Principal. I then became Acting Principal until the Davis School's closure. I opened the Fall River Middle School (now Talbot) and served as Vice Principal there for five years, becoming Principal in 1975, a position which I held for 17 years. In 1992 I was appointed to the Principalship of B.M.C. Durfee High School. Coming back to Durfee gave me the opportunity to give back in some small measure to the high school which had given me so much. Durfee has always enjoyed a long, proud and rich history. The times, the faces, the buildings may change but there is a certain spirit and tradition that transcends the generations. I tried very hard to infuse that spirit and pride into every facet of life at the high school. I embraced a "hands on" approach to administration, and was happiest making "rounds" throughout the building. I believe that I brought enthusiasm, and innovation to the role. During my 10-year tenure, and with the help of a dedicated staff, I established several new academic and social programs, addressed security concerns, and established an alternative high school all of which addressed the issues of the time.

I have always believed that teaching is a noble profession. One that requires stamina, motivation, hard work, commitment, and caring. A healthy sense of humor helps as well. Sometimes the days can be fraught with frustration, fatigue and disappointment, but the positives in this profession far outweigh the negatives. The ability to witness growth and enlightenment in a student under my influence was the greatest reward for me as a teacher and as an administrator.

MY: What sagacious counsel would you give to someone who wanted to go into your field?

AA: If I were to advise a new administrator, I would say that visibility is critical. It's important that students and faculty know and see you and that you are approachable. Be aware. Keep your finger on the pulse of everything that is happening in the school. Support all student activities and clubs, not just those with high profiles. Encourage input and value the contributions of your administrative team and faculty. Lastly be firm, fair, and consistent.

MY: How would you like to be remembered?

AA: I would like to be remembered as a poor kid from the Flint who used and honed his God-given talents. A man who valued hard work and personal discipline. One who tried to create an educational environment that provided students with the tools necessary for life. A man who gave back to the institutions, the community, and the people who supported him. And who hopefully

made a positive difference in the lives of the people and students he touched.



-- REUNIONS --

The Class of 1970 held their 50th Reunion at the Cove Restaurant in Fall River on August 7, 2022. It was a Sunday Brunch from 11-3 (It was postponed 2 years because of the pandemic)

The Class of 1972 held its 50th Reunion at Whites on Saturday, October 8th at 6 pm.

Class of 82 reunion August 6th, 2022

The Class of 1992 held its 30th Reunion on Saturday, August 20th, 2022 at The Eagle in Fall River from 6-12 midnight.

DURFEE REUNIONS PLANNED FOR THE 2023 UPCOMING YEAR

CLASS OF 1968

55TH CLASS REUNION

Sunday, July 23rd, 2023, 4 pm-9 pm
Fall River Country Club
Contact: Margie (Fairhurst) Copeland
Tel. 508-245-8724

CLASS OF 1973

50TH REUNION

Saturday, September 23, 2023,
6 pm-10 pm
Whites of Westport
www.bmcd73.info
Contact: Mona Malky Dumais
508-496-0489 Cell

ALICE MARIE SHAW HARKIN**Class of '36 - Hometown Tribute**

Submitted by: Joan Harkin LaCoss,
Class of '72



Alice Marie Shaw, "May" to family and close friends, was born in Fall River in 1918. When May's father died in 1927, her mother worked in the mills to support the family.

A star student, May earned the Watson Grammar School Medal for academic excellence, and was a valedictorian

of the Durfee Class of 1936, home economics track. In her valedictory address, "Enrichment Through Practical Arts," May thoughtfully and eloquently expressed her philosophy on family and community: "[T]he home is the nucleus of ideals of the first importance...in promoting harmony, contentment and happiness among the members of the family....[T]he development of a social consciousness is encouraged...to recognize obligations to the community.... to be ready and willing to share in the work for civic or other betterment."

True to her values, May aspired to combine family and a service profession. When the economic realities of the Great Depression punctured her dream of attending college, May worked in a mill to save tuition for the Union Hospital School of Nursing, earning an R.N. diploma in 1940. After brief employment at Cape Cod Hospital, she returned to Fall River's Union Hospital. May married Thomas Harkin in 1944, living in Union's married nurses' housing until her husband returned from World War II.

The couple had six children. As a professional nurse, May was known as Alice Harkin.

Alice Harkin's strong ethic of helping others and dedication to nursing spanned more than 25 years at Union's Accident Room. Balancing her growing family and career, she covered the 3:00 to 11:00PM shift on weekends. After her youngest child started school, Mrs. Harkin worked full time at the hospital. In 1968, she moved into public health for 26 years as an itinerant nurse for Fall River Public Schools (FRPS), retiring in 1994. She remembered her years with Union Hospital and FRPS as challenging and rewarding, and felt privileged to serve the Fall River community.



Active in her church, Mrs. Harkin was a member of the Women's Guild and choir at St. Patrick's/Good Shepherd Parish. She was a regular blood donor, over

the years giving a remarkable 32 gallons at local blood drives.

Quick to help persons in need, Mrs. Harkin continued her community service in retirement with various local charitable and city programs. She was a hospice volunteer, visiting and telephoning families to provide assistance and support during the difficult end of life process. Mrs. Harkin also donated her time twice a week at the Fall River Community Soup Kitchen at Catholic Social Services, and monthly at the Fall River Shepherd's Center. She was a volunteer reader in FRPS kindergartens.

Mrs. Harkin maintained strong connections to Durfee High School. She served on several Durfee Class of 1936 Reunion Committees. Four

of her children and three of her grandchildren are Durfee graduates. In 1992 she established memberships in the newly created Red and Black Club for herself and her four Durfee-graduate children. Remembering her need to work for a time to finance her own education, and wishing to help ease a similar burden for generations of Durfee graduates who came after her, she supported the Alumni Scholarship program for many years.

She was an officer of the Union Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, serving both as the organization's Secretary and Publicity Liaison. On June 1, 1977, she received recognition "for her exceptional service and dedication with fond wishes from The Alumnae Association, Union Hospital School of Nursing."

Mrs. Harkin's legacy of service to Fall River is multigenerational. Two of her daughters are retired from service professions for the city of Fall River. Another daughter and a son serve in volunteer positions at Bristol Community College. Two of her grandsons are first responders, one an officer with the Fall River Police Department, and one a fire fighter with the Fall River Fire Department. The Thomas F. and Alice M. Harkin Alumni Scholarship helps Durfee graduates pursue higher education. Furthermore, the John J. Sbrega Health and Science Building at Bristol Community College houses the Alice M. Harkin, R.N., Nursing Arts Lab.

Alice Harkin was a staunch Fall Riverite and left a positive mark on her world. Her more than 50 years of direct service to Fall River -- her careers at Union Hospital and Fall River Public Schools, and her volunteer causes -- touched the lives of countless Fall River residents. Her life was a testament to the good that one person can accomplish. She has earned the Hometown Tribute.

ALUMNI - WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please complete the form on page 15 and return it in the enclosed envelope or contact the Association by email or telephone with your decision. The telephone number is 508.675.8100 ext. 4998. Our email is durfeealumniassociation@gmail.com. If the Association does not receive a response, we will assume that you no longer wish to receive The Chimes. Alternatively, The Chimes may be viewed at the Durfee Alumni website www.durfeealumniassociation.com.

Remember that your five dollars (\$5.00) dues or your contribution to The Red & Black Club (\$25.00 minimum per person) is applied to the cost of printing and distributing this annual publication. Additionally, money received by The Association supports scholarships to deserving graduates as well as Durfee High School student and alumni activities.

CLASS OF '62 REUNION AT THE NEW DURFEE

Joyce B. Rodrigues
Class Historian (Durfee '62)

The Class of 1962 held its 60th reunion at the new B.M.C. Durfee High School on October 15, 2022. I had taken a tour during an Open House for the opening of the school in September 2021 and was overwhelmed by the inspiring building. I shared my enthusiasm with our long-serving reunion chairman and treasurer, Charlie Roberts and with other members of the reunion committee, and the decision was made to hold our reunion at the new high school.

We began planning by researching the mailing, email addresses and telephone numbers of our 647 classmates. Once contact data was verified, members of the committee emailed and made telephone calls to survey classmates regarding their preferred venue (local restaurants vs. high school), dates, and times. The results favored an afternoon luncheon in the fall of 2022 at the new high school. In the spring of 2022 we moved on to the next step by contacting Durfee's Director of the Career, and Technical Education (CTE) Department who cleared the use of the building with the School Department.

Since our reunion was the first to be held at the new Durfee, the Director assigned a culinary department instructor to us as an event manager. The instructor worked with the reunion committee on the menu to be prepared by students at the culinary arts restaurant, the Granite Grille, and put us in touch with the support staff: the faculty advisor of the National Honor Society (to arrange student-led tours), the carillonneur of the Durfee chimes (to play the chimes at noon), FRED-TV (to provide a commemorative video), and the required security and maintenance staff. The reunion committee was left to work out the final details such as the program, picture badges, posters listing our deceased classmates and a raffle of Durfee memorabilia.

Close to 130 classmates and guests from 10 different states attended and agreed that the reunion was a success. A special surprise was learning that our reunion co-chair, Susan Oldrid Williams, had kept her cheering uniform and Durfee sweaters in perfect condition for 60 years, and wanted to gift them to the Durfee archives. We were delighted to accept and presented Susan's gift to Matt Desmarais (Durfee '89), School Principal. The new Durfee impressed us with Durfee pride in the legacy that Fall River is leaving to the generations to come by preparing them for the future.

To watch the video of the event click here <https://youtu.be/WWIY18VPbQY>



THE DURFEE SOUTHERN REUNION IS CANCELLED, POSSIBLY FOREVER!

by Lorna (Ponte) Tomek '70

Please Help! If You reside anywhere in the state of Florida, the Durfee High School Alumni Association needs your help! Sadly, we have learned that "The Southern Reunion," held every March in Naples, Florida has had to cancel all future reunions because there is no longer someone who is able and willing to plan the event. I am writing this article today to bring attention to the history of The Southern Reunion, and hope that there is one or several alumni who might consider taking on the planning of this wonderful, now historic event!

A little history on what The Durfee Southern Reunion is, how it came about and evolved over the decades is in order here. If you have heard about this Southern Reunion at all, you may know that it is held in Florida every year, not every five years like most of our Durfee reunions, and, ALL Durfee grads living in the southern United States, or just visiting the area, are invited to attend.

The Southern Reunion had its roots in someone's backyard! A few Durfee friends from the class of 1923, living in Florida, had gotten together and enjoyed such a nice time, that they decided to do it every year. Judge Beatrice (Hancock) Mullaney, class of 1923, and the first woman probate judge of Massachusetts, and her classmate Dr. Frank Chace, were instrumental in starting the reunion in 1975; at that time they only had 7 members from their own class in attendance. Soon, other Durfee grads in the area were interested in coming. The welcoming group quickly decided to open up their reunion to all Durfee Alumni in Florida, and that was the beginning of a beautiful thing that has continued for 44 years. In 1981 they were able to begin giving contributions to the Durfee Alumni Fund for scholarships, and have continued this now for more than 40 years. People and businesses from Fall River donated money, gift certificates to restaurants, Red Sox and Patriots tickets, and other wonderful gift baskets to be used for raffles and auctions at the reunion to further the cause. Bob Karam was a big promoter of the Southern Reunion, and very helpful with whatever needed to be done. Over the years their Durfee endowment fund grew to nearly six figures. The Florida group is proud of their accomplishments that came about because of their Durfee Pride and love of the city they grew up in. Understandably, the class that started the Southern Reunion have passed on, as did their classmates. It is now 100 years since they graduated from Durfee, and the torch was passed on as others continued the work.

For 15 years the reunion had grown larger every year. In 1979, the Southern Reunion saw 128 graduates in attendance. This number grew close to 400 in 1991, held at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. The Durfee Southern Reunion had become an event to look forward to. People would already have the date saved for the following year when they left so that they could plan their vacations around it, as nobody wanted to miss a great time; the setting was beautiful, the food delicious, and the company was always grand!

Connie (Rocheleau) Furtado '61 became chairperson in 2012, and with the help of Rabby Raposa and his excellent computer skills, Connie planned the Southern Reunion for the next eight years and brought the reunion to The Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club in Naples. One hundred and six alumni came to the last reunion Connie planned in 2019. However, in 2020, the pandemic struck in March, just as they were about to convene again, and all had to be cancelled. Here we are in 2023 and Connie is unable to continue as chairperson due to family illness and commitments, although she is willing to help and advise someone else. There are still many Durfee alumni from the classes of the 1960's, 70's and even 80's who have moved to Florida, or winter there from January to March. If there is anyone who would like to take on the planning of the Southern Reunion and keep this gem of a party going, the contact information for Connie and Rabbie is below, and they are available to help show another Durfee alum how to keep this going.

Connie (Rocheleau) Furtado '61
Tel. 774-214-0426 • Email toco267@msn.com

Rob (Rabbie) Raposa '61
Tel. 508-207-7704 • Email rabbidoo@comcast.net

2023 - 2024 Alumni Information Form and Dues

The Durfee Alumni Association needs to hear from you if you wish to continue to receive The Chimes.

___ Please continue to mail the Chimes to this address* ___ \$5.00 Dues Enclosed ___ Other

___ Please email the Chimes to me at this email address _____

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 _____ Do not publish my information

Red & Black Club Dues (includes basic dues above): Min. ___ \$25.00 ___ \$50.00 ___ Other = Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to: **Durfee Alumni Association, P.O. Box 9656, Fall River MA 02720 - 0011**

or pay with Paypal or Venmo @durfeealumniassociation

Submit your personal information and pay your dues or Red & Black at - www.durfeealumniassociation.com

For questions please email us at: durfeealumniassociation@gmail.com

2023 - 2024 Distinguished Alumni Nomination Form

Thank you for taking the time to consider a nominee for the Distinguished Alumni Award. **Please attach a resume, bio, any newspaper or magazine articles and any other information to the Nomination form.** This information is needed to assist the committee. Nominations remain current for a five-year period and should be submitted no later than September 30th, 2023, to be considered by the 2023 Selection Board. **Please note: Nominees are responsible for all travel and accommodation expenses.**

Name of Nominee: _____ Year of Graduation _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ email address: _____

Name of person making nomination: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ email address: _____

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

Contact us at ...

Our official Alumni website at:

<http://www.durfeealumniassociation.com/contact>

By email at:

durfeealumniassociation@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook at:

Durfee Alumni Association

Telephone:

508-675-8100 ext. 41998



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P.O. Box 9656

Fall River, MA 02720-0011

Visit the new official Alumni website at

<http://www.durfeealumniassociation.com/> to...

- Join the Red & Black – the official Club of Durfee Alumni
- Pay annual Red & Black membership dues
- Make a donation
- Submit Alumni contact information
- Request the annual Chimes Newsletter - mail or email distribution
- Check out upcoming reunions
- Nominate a distinguished alumni
- Share your reunion photos

Anyone interested in becoming a member of our Red & Black Club, may send a donation of \$25.00 to:

B.M.C. Durfee High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 9656,

Fall River, MA 02720-0011 or at,

durfeealumniassociation.com

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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.

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