

# Husky Connections



Valentine's  
Day

## A Step Toward Normalcy?

Supposedly, we are all experiencing a "*new normal*"... whatever that means! It sure seems like an "abnormal" to most of us. And we've been experiencing that abnormal state for so long that it is difficult to remember what our normalcy was when we had it.

The worldwide pandemic has imposed an unprecedented disruption to our lives. Unfortunately, it has been the kids who have suffered terribly through these turbulent times. The schools in the Allentown School District have been on remote learning since the beginning of the school year, and will continue in that status until April. At that point, a decision will be made regarding the balance of the school year.

Even Kiska, our lovable mascot, knows there is something *amiss*. She misses the school. She misses the faculty and staff. She misses Mr. Makhoul, the Principal. Most of all she misses the kids.

Several weeks ago, Karen Coleman escorted her "Diva Dog" into Husky High for a brief visit. It was like old home week. The staff greeted Kiska with open arms, and she responded with canine kisses. (Continue on Page 2)

FEBRUARY 2021

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	3
Class Reunion Ideas	4
Wall of Distinction Nom. Form	5
FLASHBACK: Space Odyssey	6-7
Arlotto Campaign	8
Husky Basketball	9
Ads and Giant Gift Card Form	10
Husky Howls & Hugs	11



## A Step Toward Normalcy? *(Continued from Page 1)*

Mr. Makhoul even took Kiska for a walk through the empty hallways, and into several classrooms. The desks have been taped off to ensure proper separation of the students...if and when they return to classroom learning. Void of students, an eerie silence punctuated the abnormality.



With the current rollout of the vaccines, there seems to be some degree of optimism. Let's hope the vaccines provide the "shot in the arm" needed for us to take one giant step toward normalcy.



## President's Message: A Fonder Heart



They say that "*absence makes the heart grow fonder*". I don't know who the "they" are, but I'm pickin' up what they're puttin' down. Really, I'm not just saying that because it is the Valentine's Day Season; I truly miss all of you fellow Huskies.

The pandemic has certainly punctured any plans we have had to get together since our fabulous Mardi Gras Party last February. But alas, there appears to be good reason for some optimism. We are seeing more and more folks with "*I Got My COVID-19 Shot*" stickers on their chest. Reports of new cases of the virus are dropping, at least here in PA.

And so it is with unfaltering resilience that we invite you to begin plans to gather at the Fandangle in July. In fact, we encourage you to contact some of your classmates and organize a class reunion or a mini-reunion at the Fandangle. You could reserve several tables, or even occupy your own party tent.

Remember, we are here to help you. As Website Manager, I would be most pleased to coordinate your efforts with our capabilities. We have current email addresses for your classmates, and we could send out notices for you. As we get closer to the celebration, we can also handle registration and ticket sales. We really offload all of the work, and allow you to enjoy your reunion.

It is with a heart that is growing fonder by the day that I wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day. I look forward to seeing you at Fandangle.



**Kay Kurtz - President  
Dieruff Alumni Association**



## Class Reunion Idea

### Class Reunion Idea

Combine your class reunion  
with the Fandangle July 31st

- o Reserve a few tables or your own separate tent.
- o No minimum to guarantee.
- o 5 hrs. of food, music, etc.
- o Great venue at ESYC.
- o Unbeatable price - \$20



### Class of 1976 45th-Year Reunion

Calling all Huskies from the Bicentennial Year!

Plan to celebrate with your fellow '76ers on  
**Saturday, July 31, 2021**  
on the open, spacious grounds  
of the East Side Youth Center.

Enjoy the summertime afternoon with your classmates at the annual Fandangle which will include a catered, all-you-can-eat buffet, a DJ, and music. Beer, soda, and water will be provided. Total price of the event is only \$20 per person. A designated area, with our own tent(s) and tables, will welcome alumni from the Class of 1976.

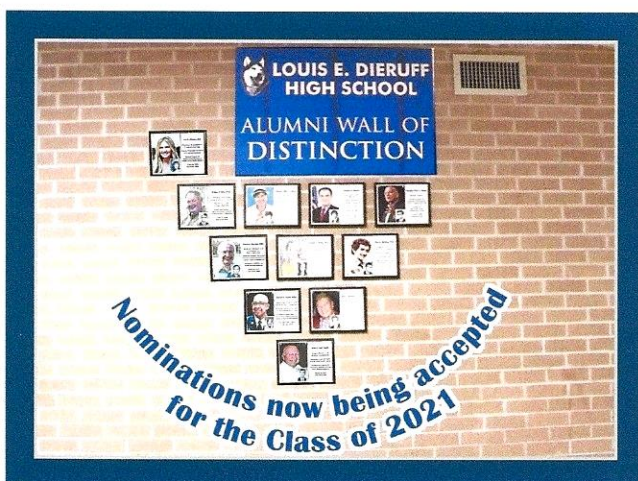
So, mark your calendars today, and keep your Husky paws crossed that the pandemic recovery will allow us to make this happen. For further information, or if you have any questions and/or comments, please "message"

Joanne Ogrydziak '76  
via the Dieruff Alumni Association Website  
[www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org) or call 610 791-2882.

**See you on July 31st**

## Alumni Wall of Distinction Nominations for 2021

Attention! Nominations for the Class of 2021 Alumni Wall of Distinction are due February 28, 2021. The Nomination Form is on the following page. Simply print out the form, complete it, and send it in Dieruff High School, Attn: Alumni Assoc.



## Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction NOMINATION FORM

**Purpose:** To give lasting recognition to graduates of Dieruff High School who have made exceptional contributions in their field, bringing honor to themselves and to Dieruff High School. Furthermore, it is the purpose of the Alumni Wall of Distinction to promote Husky Pride among current students, inspiring them to strive toward future accomplishments.

**Criteria For Nomination:** Nominees eligible for selection must have conducted themselves in such manner to reflect honor upon Dieruff High School, and have qualities of character and standards of conduct that are exemplary. Alumni must have graduated at least ten years prior to their nomination. Non-Dieruff graduates may be considered for "honorary" status on the Alumni Wall of Distinction.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. **Demonstrated commitment to and involvement with Dieruff High School and the community at an exceptional level.**
2. **Outstanding, enduring contribution to society by making a difference in the lives of others.**
3. **Outstanding professional contribution or achievement in his/her chosen field or endeavor. Considered categories are listed:** (A) Arts (B) Business (C) Education (D) Entertainment / TV / Film (E) Financial (F) Economic Development (G) Government (H) Historian (I) Law / Criminal Justice (J) Media / Journalism / Writing (K) Medicine / Health Science (L) Military

### I Nominate The Following: (Please Type or Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate attached typed sheet, provide specific information pertaining to the nominee's occupation, education, community service, awards, honors, accomplishments, and any pertinent information to aid in their selection.

### Nomination Submitted By:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

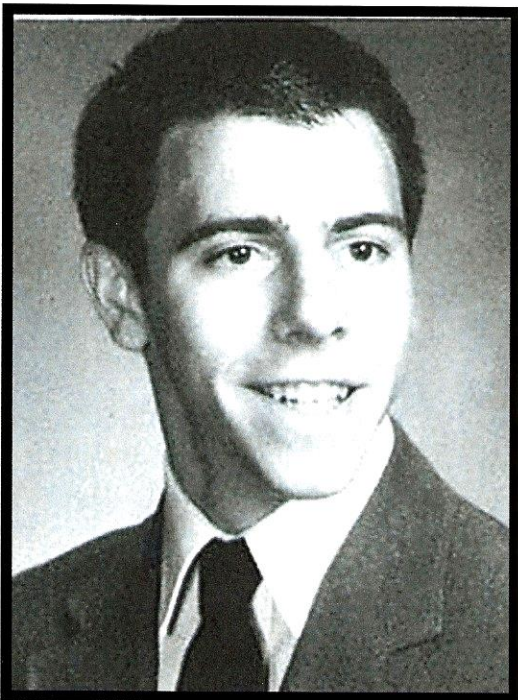
Mail completed Nomination Form and Pertinent Information to:  
Dieruff High School, Attn: Alumni Association, 815 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA 18109

## FLASHBACK: "Husky Spirit" Flag Boasts Space Odyssey

We're all guilty of it! How often have we passed by something of significance without a second glance, unaware of its importance?!

Case in point: there is a large, glass enclosed, gold-trimmed blue and gray banner that has been on display in the Dieruff High School main lobby for nearly two decades. Bearing proudly the high school logo, this coveted "Husky Spirit" flag is rarely (or never) noticed.

*This banner had been carried into space aboard the Shuttle Columbia, and flew just shy of four million miles on a 12-day mission to update the Hubble Space Telescope!*



Mark T. Lipsky, Dieruff Class of 1989, had been an ROTC cadet, and had dreamed of someday working for NASA. Mark went on to Penn State University where he earned his B.S. and masters degrees in engineering. In 1999, Mark landed a choice position at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where he was the lead robotic designer for the STS-109 Columbia.

Astronaut Nancy Currie, veteran of three previous Space Shuttle Missions, was assigned to fly her fourth mission on STS-109 (March 1-12, 2002). On that flight, her primary role was to operate the Shuttle's 50-foot robotic arm to retrieve and deploy the telescope, following planned upgrades and repairs.

Lipsky had the responsibility (and honor) of coaching Currie on the use of the robotic arm. She thoughtfully asked Mark if there were anything he would like to have her take into space. That prized Dieruff banner was chosen. *(Continued on next page)*

## FLASHBACK: "Husky Spirit" Flag (continued from Page 8)

In early May 2002, with the mission successfully complete, Astronaut Currie met with Mark to deliver that Husky flag that had been 360 miles above Earth. The venue for the presentation was none other than Dieruff High School.

The Morning Call account of the event read, "*Dieruff turned out in force for its native son. Veterans from the American Legion, Marines in dress blues, and former teachers came to honor Lipsky. Even the Husky mascot, Kiska, came wearing a patriotic neckerchief.*"

A new chapter in the Dieruff History Book had been written. That "Husky Spirit" flag was framed and hung in a prominent location in the school lobby.

And now that you know "the rest of the story", the next time you enter the lobby, pause and reflect on the significance of that prized piece of cloth. That banner has earned a most unique measure of respect. You might even stop a passerby and share with them this marvelous story.



## Arlotto Campaign: Put Your Name on the Donor Board

As a faithful fan of Mr. Roy Arlotto, please arrange to have your name on the Arlotto Campaign Donor Board that will be on permanent display in the Auditorium.

This campaign has gained positive traction, and is designed to raise funds to purchase state-of-the-art theatre lighting in the name of the Roy Arlotto. He truly was "*Mr. Husky Pride*"!



There were so many ways that you could have "connected" with Roy Arlotto during the last half century. You may have worked with him as part of his Stage Crew, or maybe you were in one of those theatre performances, experiencing the magical collaboration of Messrs. Arlotto, Carpenter, and Schimmel.

During his 44 years teaching Chemistry at Dieruff, you could have been one of his star pupils, influenced by his passion, and gone on to pursue a career in science. On the other hand, you could have been one of those kids who struggled with the subject, and accepted his mentoring and sincere encouragement to make it through.

Perhaps your connection with Mr. Arlotto was with the Marching Band, where he coached the drill routines, and escorted the group as a chaperone for those distant competitions. Or you may have simply appreciated his role as the "Voice of the Husky Band", announcing their performances.

**Center Stage  
Spotlight on  
Roy Arlotto**

Campaign to raise funds  
for Theatre Lighting at  
the Dieruff High School  
Auditorium in the name of  
Mr. Roy Arlotto

Description	Donation Level
Beacon	> \$1,000
Spotlight	\$500 - \$999
Floodlight	\$250 - \$499
Footlight	\$100 - \$249
Luminaire	< \$100

If you played basketball, or attended the games, you would have know Mr. Arlotto as the Official Basketball Scorekeeper, a position he proudly held for 52 years. Maybe Mr "A" was simply that very friendly, bespeckled soul who always remembered your name and brought a smile to your face when you passed in the hallway.

Regardless of how you met, we hope you will honor his memory with a donation. Just select a donation level that you are comfortable with, write your check payable to "*Dieruff Alumni Association*", mark it "for Arlotto Campaign", and send it to Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving St., Allentown, PA 18109, Attn: Dieruff Alumni Association.

## Husky Basketball

The Dieruff Basketball Team is taking steps into uncharted territory. With COVID-19 protocols in place, the team is scheduled to play teams located in Lehigh County, namely Central Catholic, Allen, Parkland, Emmaus, and Whitehall. No spectators are permitted, and facial masks are required at all times.

What is profoundly different this year is the absence of Mr. Roy Arlotto at the scoring table. Roy had served as Dieruff's official basketball scorekeeper for 52 years. In memory of his passing, Dr. Leo Todd generously provided new warm-up shirts for the entire team.

The Huskies also welcomed Marlon (Jai-T) Randall as the new coach. He brings with him a winning track record, and a determination to have a positive influence on the Dieruff culture.



Originally from Williamsburg, VA, Randall had a stand-out high school career in Virginia. He played college ball at Albright in Reading. He served as head basketball coach at Pottstown for three years, and then moved to an assistant coaching position at Reading High School. There, he helped the Red Knights win the PIAA Class 6A title, the first state crown in school history.

Coach Randall is convinced that he can help the Huskies believe in themselves. That sounds monumental, inasmuch as they are coming off a 9-13 season last year, and have gone 30-92 over the last 6 seasons. The haven't made the District 11 playoffs since 2008.

As this year's season began, Dieruff opened against Emmaus. They lost by five points. Several days later, they played the Green Hornets again, avenging the loss, and winning by five. The Dieruff Alumni Association presented Coach Randall with a framed photo collage commemorating his first victory as a Dieruff Coach.



We are seeing dramatic progress! We wish Coach Randall and the Dieruff Basketball Team continued success. Go Huskies!

## ADVERTISE IN THE "Husky Connections" Monthly Bulletin

Reach over 5,000 Dieruff Alumni each month

**Quarter Page Ad - \$20 / Mo.**  
**Business Card Ad - \$10 / Mo.**

See contact information in  
Masthead on last page of Bulletin

The Dieruff Alumni Association  
wishes you  
**HAPPY**  
*Valentine's Day!*  
and extends to you  
**Virtual Husky Hugs**

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markets**

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency  
Health | Medicare | Vision | Dental | Life



Bill Zeky  
Dieruff Class of 1978

**Medicare Advantage  
Open Enrollment Starts  
1/1 through 3/31**

You have another chance  
to review and change  
your existing Medicare  
Advantage Plan.

All plans have improved  
since last year.

**Attention class of 1974:** We can start discussing Medicare  
coverage three months prior to your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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Bill Zeky | 610-554-7332 | bzeky@healthmarkets.com  
www.healthmarkets.com/bzeky

## Giant Cash For Causes Gift Card Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$25 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$50 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$100 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Clip order form and mail, along with check payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association",  
to John Hughes, 2038 Majestic Overlook Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015



Louis E. Dieruff High School  
Alumni Association

Louis E. Dieruff High School  
815 North Irving Street  
Allentown, PA 18109

### **"Husky Connections" Alumni Bulletin**

Contact Information:

John G. Hughes, Jr.  
2038 Majestic Overlook Drive  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(610) 868-4490  
Email Address:  
Jhughes2038@gmail.com

Website:  
[www.dieruff-  
alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)

## **Husky Howls & Hugs**

Greetings from snow-covered Nazareth,

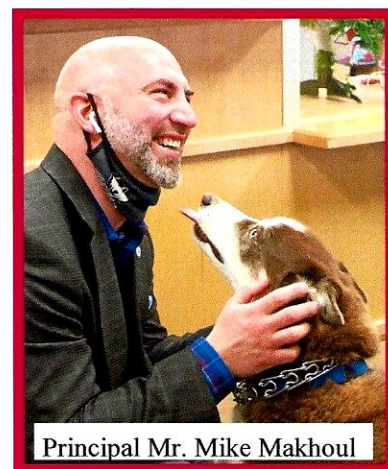


As we were getting closer to Valentine's Day, I started making my list of those people and things I love. The list just kept growing and growing. Decided to focus on two things dear to my husky heart: rescue pets and having a purpose.

Everyone knows my story as a rescue dog. I am the Dieruff Diva, but my life could have taken a very bad direction had it not been for Ma-Paw Husky Rescue. I have always tried to be a spokesdog for adopting shelter animals. Yes, the cats, too.

With a happy heart and tail wags, I congratulate Major Biden on becoming the first shelter dog to live and work in the White House. Dogs are apolitical and non partisan. We know only service and loyalty, just saying. Major, a German Shepherd, came from a shelter in Delaware. I know he will be a good spokesdog for shelter animals. Rescue pets are the very best and always grateful.

Huskies are classified as working dogs, and we need a purpose to be happy. I was so thrilled to visit Husky High recently to deliver some gifts. It was wonderful to walk the halls again with Uncle Mike, aka. *The Principal*. I pranced the halls and even found some gum. It was great to be with friends, get belly rubs, and work spreading happiness and the paw of friendship. I love Husky High.



Principal Mr. Mike Makhoul

There are so many holidays in February, but each day can be a celebration if we are motivated by Husky Pride and purpose.



*Virtual hugs & kisses, Kiska V*

**News Flash!** There are 4 adorable Siberian puppies coming to *Three Husketeers Rescue* in Emmaus. Let's help these lovable canines find wonderful homes.