

# Husky Connections



JANUARY 2021

## We Welcome 2021 With Open Arms

Toss that blasted 2020 Daily Planner into the recycle bin! For most people, last year's planner was a never or seldom used tool, once the pandemic hit. Why bother trying to schedule activities during such chaos?

For our Alumni Association, we were obliged to scratch many of our planned 2020 activities, not the least of which was the very popular Fandangle, that mega-reunion for all classes. It was scheduled for last July.

Now, with the new year upon us, and a vaccine or two a reality, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. It may be a very long tunnel, but at least there is a glimmer of hope.

And so, a new 2021 Daily Planner might be useful, at least for the optimistic folks among us. During the first several months of the year, that planner will probably remain void of entries; however, there is a degree of hope for June, July, and beyond.

It is with that optimism that we encourage you all to pencil in an entry on your 2021 calendar or daily planner: **July 31st for the 2021 Fandangle**. We realize that times are currently uncertain, but we are hopeful that we will be able to gather safely in July.

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The Fandangle requires a substantial amount of planning, and that is why we're beginning the process now. Plus, it gives us all something very exciting to look forward to. Certainly, we intend to monitor the COVID-19 situation, and we'll keep you posted. We anticipate that a final determination on the Fandangle event will be made in mid-Spring. Keep your fingers crossed.

## President's Message: Hopeful, Healthy, & Happy 2021



**Kay Kurtz - President  
Alumni Association**

Sadly, for many people, 2020 was the "worst of times". My heart goes out to those who have suffered pain and devastation wrought by the COVID-19.

Fortunately, the impact the virus has had on our Alumni Association could best be described as a "major inconvenience", rather than a severe setback. With the high school shuttered, we have been unable to use the Media Center for our monthly meetings. Zoom technology has been our fallback solution. The pandemic did cause us to cancel a host of major events during 2020. Obviously, we were disappointed, but not discouraged. Huskies are resilient.

The new year gives us a fresh start, a new beginning. We realize that we shall continue to face the difficult challenges of the virus; however, we plan to move forward with renewed vitality and a positive attitude. Of course, we will observe all recommended protocols.

The "*Arlotto Campaign*" is particularly exciting. We encourage everyone to donate whatever you can to this worthy fundraiser. Our goal is to fund the purchase of a modern theatre lighting system for the auditorium. This will honor the memory of Mr. Roy Arlotto.

We are currently accepting nominations for the *Alumni Wall of Distinction*, Class of 2021. Our selection committee will conduct virtual meetings and decide on the five candidates for this year's class. We are hopeful that the induction ceremony for both the class of 2020 and the class of 2021 will occur in the auditorium in June, 2021.

"Hope" seems to be the operative word for 2021. Indeed, if all goes well, we will be able to celebrate our *Fandangle* at the end of July.

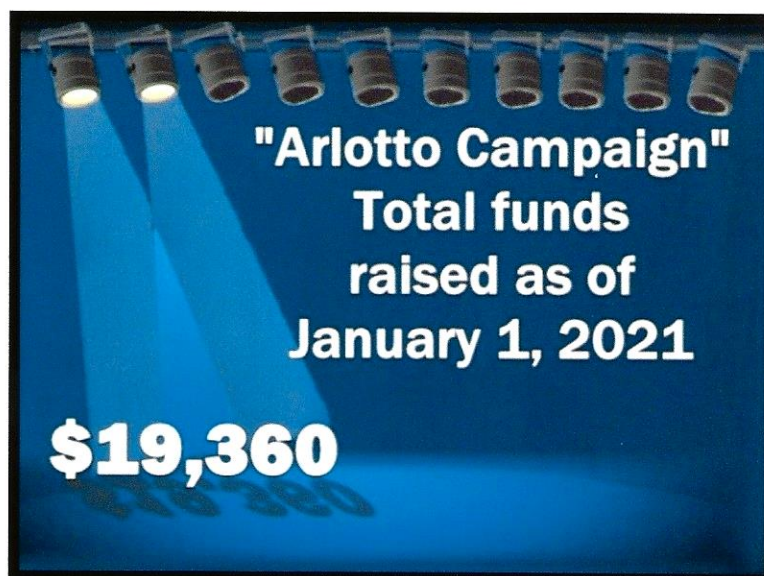
And so, on behalf of the Dieruff Alumni Association, I would like to extend our best wishes for a year filled with ***Hope, Health, and Happiness.***



## Arlotto Campaign to Raise Funds For Theatre Lighting

**We need your help!** The Dieruff High School Auditorium (known as the Peter Carpenter Auditorium) is in desperate need of a permanent (not rented, as in the past) theatre lighting system. The Dieruff Alumni Association is sponsoring a fundraising campaign to purchase a package of "state of the art" theatre lighting, in the name of Mr. Roy Arlotto.

The estimated cost of the lighting package is \$89,000. To date, we have raised a total of \$19,360.



We are asking you to join fellow alumni and make a donation to help fund this worthy cause. Your name will appear on a plaque prominently displayed in the auditorium. Donation levels are indicated on the graphic shown below.

Make your check payable to **"Dieruff Alumni Association"**. Designate your check *"for Arlotto Campaign"*, and send it to Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA 18109, Attn: Alumni Association.

**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

## Jay Radio Treated to Wall of Distinction Induction “Preview”

The Dieruff Alumni Association has long enjoyed a special relationship with John “Jay” Radio, Class of '67. For many years, the association has conducted two of its popular social events - the Mardi Gras Party and the Fandangle Mega-Reunion - at the East Side Youth Center in Allentown. Jay Radio has served as the Activities Director of the ESYC, and has always worked diligently to ensure the success of our events.

Jay is one of the five people chosen for the Alumni Wall of Distinction, Class of 2020. He has contributed greatly to the mission of the East Side Youth Center for over four decades, including spearheading a capital improvement campaign that raised \$1.75 million dollars. The ESYC even honored Jay by inscribing his name in the floor of their new gymnasium.

Unfortunately, our plans to hold the Wall of Distinction induction ceremony for the Class of 2020 have been frozen due to the pandemic. We thought it might be entertaining to provide Jay, along with some of his family and friends, with a brief preview of his portion of the induction ceremony.



On the Saturday before Christmas, we met Jay and his wife, Nancy, at the ESYC, under the guise of taking some photos. One of the couple's three sons, Mark, along with his wife and four children had been visiting from their home in Westchester, PA, and they were able to join us. The president of the ESYC, Joey D'Annibale, was also there.

Donning their protective masks, the group sat on bleachers in the main gym, as they listened to a presentation by John Hughes, who described the "backstory" of the Wall of Distinction. Instituted 2 years ago, the *Wall of Distinction* is designed to complement, not compete with, the school's *Wall of Fame* that recognizes Dieruff Huskies for their athletic achievements. In contrast, the Wall of Distinction gives lasting recognition to alumni who have made exceptional contributions in fields other than athletics. (Continued on next page.)

## Jay Radio (continued from previous page)

John explained how six people were chosen for the inaugural year of 2019, marking the 60th anniversary of the school. He then gave a brief profile of each of those six, emphasizing that the bar for selection had been set extremely high. The plan is to add five additional recipients each year. John then profiled each of the Huskies selected for the Class of 2020, reinforcing the fact that the process continues to be extremely selective.

As John finally reached the fifth name in the alphabetically listed Class of 2020, he dramatically pointed to Mr. John "Jay" Radio. Tongue in cheek, John mentioned that many of the other recipients boasted impressive letters following their names ( Ph.D., D.O., DMA, and MSgt.). Our honored guest bears only one letter, positioned in the middle of his name, and that is "J".

John proceeded to outline the outstanding achievements of Jay Radio. He noted that Jay's efforts through those 40-plus years touched the lives of more Little Huskies and Dieruff Huskies than all of the other recipients combined. Jay has truly made a difference.



After the presentation, members of the small yet highly attentive audience removed their masks and posed for photos. Each person seemed to have gained an increased level of appreciation for Jay Radio. Even Joey D'Annibale asked if he obtain a copy of Jay's Wall of Distinction plaque, so that the award could be displayed at the East Side Youth Center. Another tribute to Jay Radio!

## Alumni Wall of Distinction... a Distinct Honor

*Awards...Applause....Accolades!* Typically, the Huskies who have been selected to appear on the Dieruff High School Wall of Distinction have become accustomed to a tremendous amount of awards, applause, and accolades. It just stands to reason that their significant accomplishments in their respective fields have frequently resulted in duly deserved recognition.

What has been particularly surprising... and satisfying for the Alumni Association is the sincere gratitude that each of the past recipients have expressed. They have been genuinely humbled to receive such an honor from their Alma Mater. That sentiment applies to members of the inaugural Class of 2019, as well as those chosen for the Class of 2020.

The unfortunate difference between those two groups is that the Alumni Association has been unable to conduct an Induction Ceremony for the Class of 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With no opportunity for an appropriate ceremony on the horizon, we are currently speculating that we might have to combine the celebration for the Class of 2020 with that of the yet-to-be chosen Class of 2021. Such an event could possibly be scheduled for June 2021.

In the meantime, we encourage you to submit your nominations for the Alumni Wall of Distinction, Class of 2021. The purpose of the campaign, as well as the selection criteria, are defined in the Nomination Form on the next page of the Bulletin. Simply print out the form, complete it, and submit your nominations by **February 28, 2021**.



## 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:

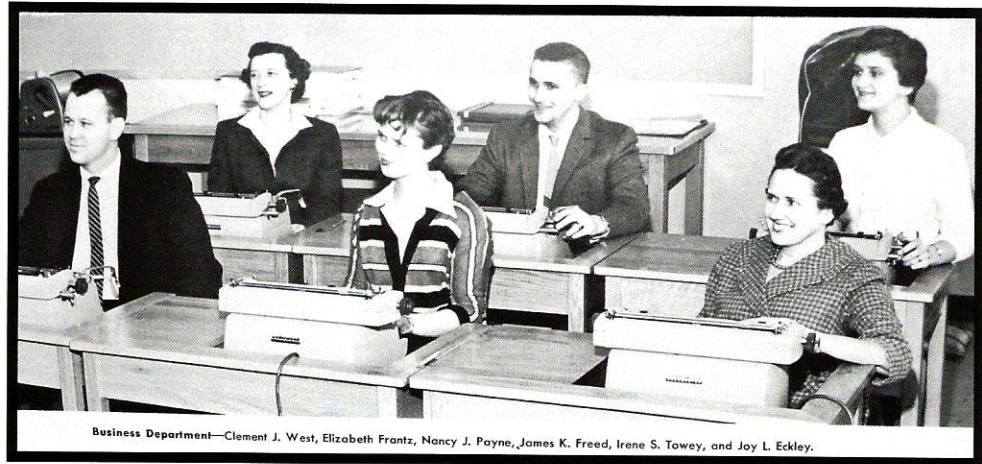
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

## FLASHBACK: Quirky QWERTY Keyboards in Typing Class

How poetic! Years ago, an oft heard lament in the typing class at Dieruff was, "*when it comes to typing, I'm all thumbs!*" Well, here we are decades later, and you can observe today's kids, typing with great proficiency on their cellphones. They're "*all thumbs*", indeed!

Typing classes during those early years were considered vital, providing critical training to all the students. A cadre of dedicated teachers offered quality typing instruction, as well as fascinating historical information.



It was not uncommon for the first day of typing class to overflow with comical questions and surprising trivia. At least one student in the class would claim to have a "defective" typewriter, void of all of the keytops. We would soon discover that all of those Underwood and Royal Manual Typewriters had blank keytops. This approach required us to memorize the keyboard, facilitating "touch typing".

The next "surprise" launched upon us was the "jumbled" configuration of the keys. The large chart at the front of the classroom identified the QWERTY keyboard, getting its name from the arrangement of keys on the upper left section of keys, above the "home row".



An inquisitive student would always ask why the keyboard was not designed applying a simple alphabetical sequence. We learned that the man who received the patent for the typewriter on June 23, 1868 was Christopher Latham Sholes. He originally tried the alphabetical layout in his early prototypes.

*(Continued on next page)*

## FLASHBACK: Quirky QWERTY (continued from Page 8)

He discovered that, as the typist attained a rapid speed, the type bars would collide and jam. Wisely, he rearranged the keyboard so the most commonly used letters were shifted to be more difficult to reach. So the QWERTY layout was actually designed to slow down or impede the typing process, avoiding the jamming of the type bars on the early models.

As years went by, the old manual typewriters were replaced by electric typewriters, including the IBM Selectric with the "ball" or typing element. With these newer models, there was no need to slow down the typing process.



**Typing Class from 1967 Yearbook**

Along came a man by the name of August Dvorak. After exhaustive time and motion studies, he introduced what he not-so-modestly called the "*Dvorak Keyboard*". He placed the most frequently used letters directly under the home row, allowing the typist to type more quickly and with less fatigue. Studies showed that the keyboard increased accuracy and speed by about 70%. The result: the keyboard never caught on. The QWERTY keyboard had become entrenched; people resist change.

Even now, 150 years after its initial introduction, the QWERTY keyboard appears on computers, laptops, ipads, and smart phones. Admittedly, I still use my stylus to strike the tiny keyboard on my smart phone, rather than convert to the double thumb method. Thumbs? Just not my type.

## 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



## 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  
High School  
Alumni Association  
extends our  
best wishes  
for a



## 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

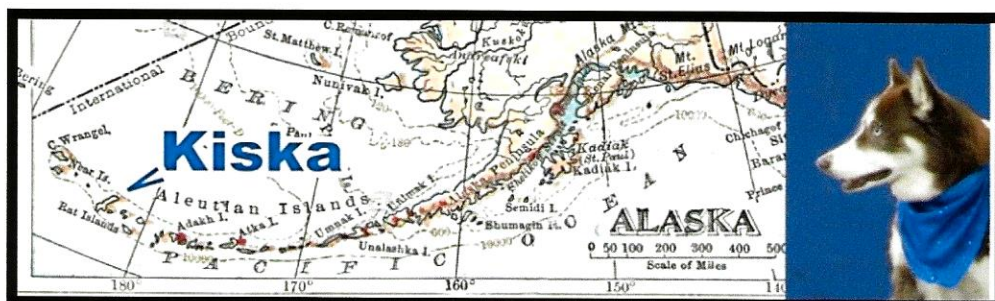
Website:  
[www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)

## Husky Howls & Hugs

Hi Everyone,

With the virus numbers high, have not been doing much except going for my walks. I did like the snow storm. I usually do not like snow, but I have such a thick coat this year, that the cold felt good. Mom got very upset with me a couple of nights because instead of doing my business and coming back into the house, I decided to play at midnight. She was not happy tromping through the snow. As most huskies, I have selective hearing.

We did hear from some former students over the holidays. Got a message from Andy Voit, class of 1984. The message said he kept missing Kiska; Mom thought he meant me. Andy had wrestled for DHS (state champ), and had Mom for psych class. Then she put on her glasses and read the rest of the message. As a pilot for United Airlines, he often flies over the north Pacific. He was talking about the tiny island of Kiska. Kiska is one of the Aleutian Islands off Alaska. *That's where I got my name.*



Received another message from Andy, and I think it was from the plane, showing his flight route. He was south of Kiska, but he highlighted the rock, so we would know its location. I do like my name. I am just glad they did not name me after the other island, Attu.

I am not making any resolutions for the new year. Except when I play in snow or mud, I am a good dog. But I am so anxious for this mess to be over. Dream of a warm April afternoon and going to a Dieruff baseball game or track meet. Hoping 2021 will be a healthy and blessed year for the entire world.

Husky howls & hugs,

*Kiska V* A weary Diva Dog