

Husky Connections



March 2021

Husky Confirmed as Allentown Fire Chief



The man really knows how to climb the ladder of success.....figuratively and literally. Last month, Efrain "Freddie" Agosto was confirmed as the new Fire Chief in Allentown by the City Council.

Agosto is a Puerto Rico native who grew up in Allentown's Cumberland Gardens public housing complex. After his 1986 graduation from Dieruff High

School, he served three years in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Specialist 4. With no specific career goals in mind, he worked in janitorial services, and as a psychiatric aide at the Allentown State Hospital. In 2003, a friend suggested Agosto become a firefighter.

During his 18-year career with the fire department, "Freddie" gained valuable and diversified experience, consistently earning recognition and promotions. He received five unit citations for his work. In August of 2018, he was appointed the department's deputy chief, where he was responsible for the supervision and evaluation of battalion chiefs, assistant fire chiefs, captains, lieutenants, fire marshals, and firefighters. In addition, he was in charge of all personnel and apparatus assigned to the department.

Now, as Fire Chief, "Freddie" Agosto succeeds Fire Chief Jim Wehr, a fellow Dieruff Alum, who retired February 5th after 27 years with the department. It is interesting to note that City Council member Daryl Hendricks, another Dieruff Husky, is strongly encouraging Agosto to share his story with the children of Allentown so that he might inspire them by his example.

Certainly, Fire Chief Agosto has a remarkable story to tell! We commend him for his hard work, dedication, and achievements, and we wish him continued success.

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President's Message: First Responders Boast Husky Heritage

Some of the top First Responders in the Lehigh Valley are Huskies. Check it out. First, there was the Allentown Chief of Police who was then elected County Sheriff. And now we have an Allentown Firefighter who has been confirmed as the third Dieruff Alum in a row to serve as the city's Fire Chief.

What a proud legacy for Dieruff High School! Many of you can proclaim, "*I knew them back when.*" Just pull out your yearbook and show your friends.

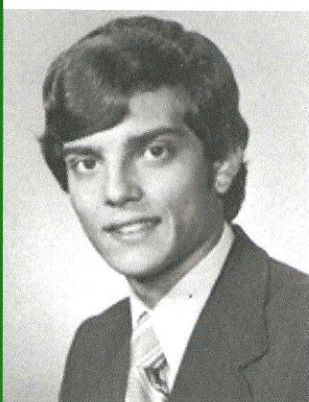
Easier than that, open up the Dieruff Alumni Website: www.dieruff-alumni.org and follow these simple steps:

Across the top of the Home Page, click on "**Classmate Profiles**", then click on "**Search**". That opens a page entitled "Classmate Profiles". Press "Search" one more time, and a box appears with a blinking blue cursor. Type in the name of the person you want to find, and that name will appear in blue beneath the box. Click on that name, and their yearbook photo and their profile will appear.

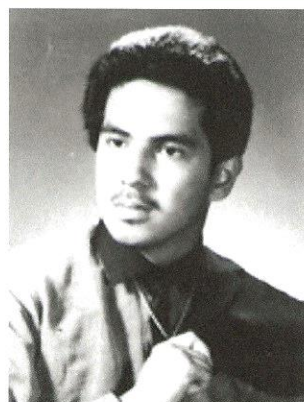
Give it a try!



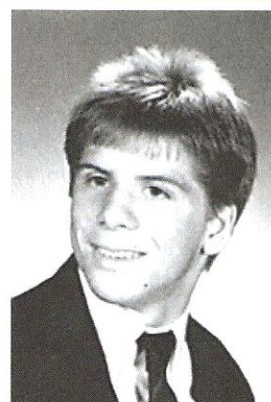
**Kay Kurtz - President
Dieruff Alumni Association**



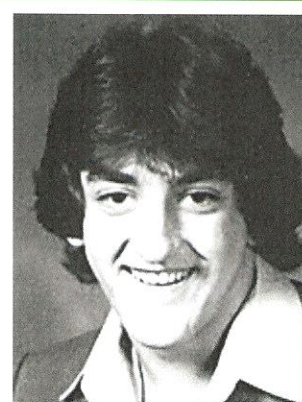
Joseph N. Hanna
1974
Chief of Police
County Sheriff



Efrain Agosto Jr.
1986
Newly Appointed
Fire Chief



James D. Wehr
1987
Fire Chief
2018-2021

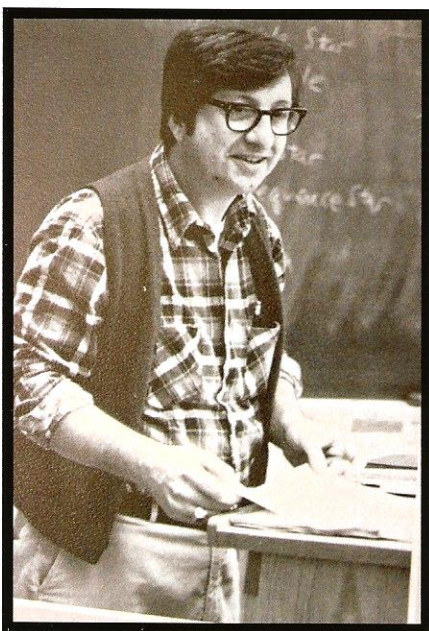


Lee T. Laubach
1984
Fire Chief
2015-2018

Arlotto Campaign: Make Your Donation Today

Please help us keep his memory alive. Roy Arlotto was... and still is... "Mr. Husky Pride" His many decades of faithful service to Dieruff High School are unparalleled.

For 44 years, he was a brilliant, yet down-to-earth chemistry teacher. As the "Voice of the Marching Band" and drill instructor for band routines, he was loved by countless band members. He served as the official scorekeeper for Dieruff Basketball for 52 years.

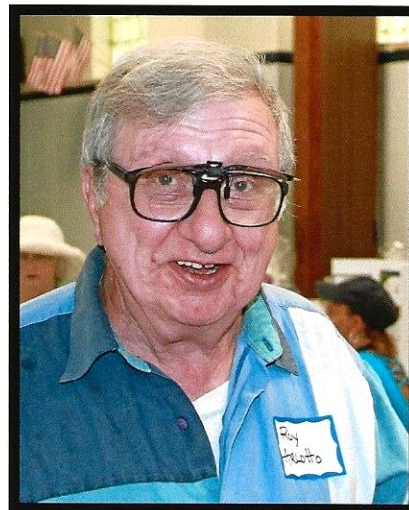


Roy's contribution to the Theatre Department was particularly significant. As Advisor for the Stage Crew he designed and helped build sets, and coordinated the lighting and sound for scores of Dieruff theatrical productions.

The Alumni Association is sponsoring a campaign to raise funds to purchase a state-of-the-art package of Theatre Lighting, all in the name of Mr. Roy Arlotto.

We ask you to shine your own light on Roy. Donate whatever you can... \$10, \$100, or \$1,000... to honor Roy Arlotto.

Make your check out to "Dieruff Alumni Assoc.", mark the check "for Arlotto Campaign", and send it to Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving St., Allentown, PA 18109 Attn: Dieruff 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

Salute to Coach Cathy Piston



Any Husky victory over our cross-town rival is always cause for celebration. For Girls Basketball Coach Cathy Piston, the Lady Huskies come-from-behind win over the Canaries on February 13, 2021 was particularly sweet. We all know how she bleeds Blue and Gray.

The dramatic expressions of joy were captured, assembled into a framed photo collage, and presented to Coach Piston by the Dieruff Alumni Association.

We are quite confident that she treasures this memento of that valiant victory, and that it will find a prominent spot on Cathy's wall. Husky Pride!



Dieruff Boys Swim Records Broken by Lance Almond

I suppose we could call it "*Almond Joy*"! Senior swimmer Lance Almond has earned two slots on the Dieruff Boys Swimming Record Board. First, he has established a new record for the 200 Yard Individual Medley, with a time of 2:06.36, replacing swim phenom Phil Rishel's mark of 2:09.05, set in 2018.

Almond's second record is in the 100 Yard Breaststroke, where he posted a time of 1:04.13. The Dieruff record that he beat was set 45 years ago by Thomas Miklovic, Class of 1976. Lance shaved .67 second off the Miklovic time of 1:04.80. When we informed Tom of the event, he cheerfully responded, "records are made to be broken", and he wished Lance continued success.

Lance Almond has plans to attend Moravian College in the Fall, and expects to continue his involvement in competitive swimming. He intends to study criminal justice.

The Dieruff Alumni Association presented Lance with a framed photo collage in recognition of his achievements.



Dieruff Girls Swim Record Broken by Sharice Rose

Our Alumni Association was proud to present a framed photo collage to Sharice Rose for breaking the Girls Swim Record in the 100 Yard Backstroke.

Her time of 1:08.01 eclipsed the previous record of 1:08.27 set by Caroline Dwornicka in 2019. Even though Caroline's mark was beaten by a slim .26 second, we should not feel too sorry for her; she still owns four other outstanding records on the Girls Record Board.

Conditions this year were more than "challenging". With COVID-19 restrictions in place, swimmers were obliged to sit in the bleachers, with protective masks, and socially distanced, until their event was called. No spectators were allowed in. In fact, the opposing team was not allowed in. They competed "virtually" from their home pool and times were then compared to determine scoring.

Imagine swimming without the adrenaline provided by the competitor in the adjacent lane! Those awkward circumstances did not handicap Sharice Rose! We look forward to watching her compete in 2022 during her Senior Year.



FLASHBACK: Finizzi “Shoos” Away Bad Speaking Habits



Although short in stature, she packed a vibrant personality into that tiny frame. Mrs. Marguerite Finizzi was one of the most popular teachers to ever grace the hallways of Dieruff High School.

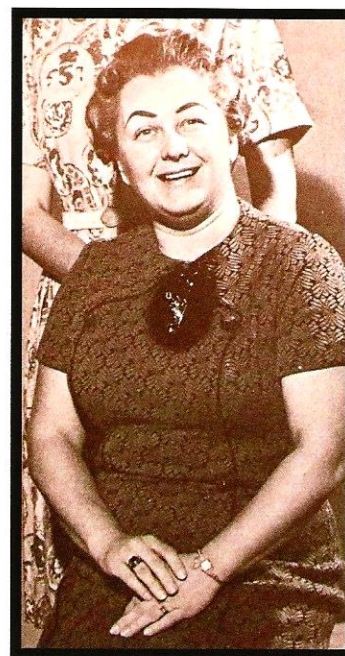
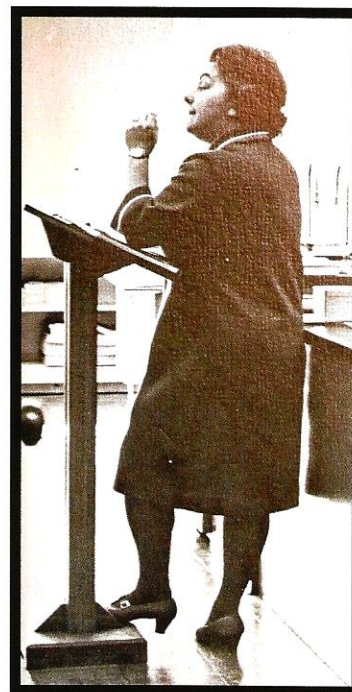
A 1956 graduate of Kutztown University, with a degree in secondary education, her first teaching assignment was at Harrison Morton Junior

High School. After 9 years teaching English at “Morton”, she then moved on to Dieruff High School as an English Teacher.

Particularly memorable was her passion instructing Public Speaking. She was obsessed with helping her students eliminate bad speaking habits, such as avoiding eye contact, and using unnecessary phrases such as “you know” and “like”.

One of her students, Joanne Samusevich (Fico) from the Class of 1972 has shared a humorous story: *There was a local habit of interjecting “you know” when speaking. After one student said “you know” a few times in one sentence, Mrs. Finizzi pulled off a shoe and threw it at him. She quickly ran out of shoes and asked that someone in the class throw a shoe every time a speaker said “you know.”*

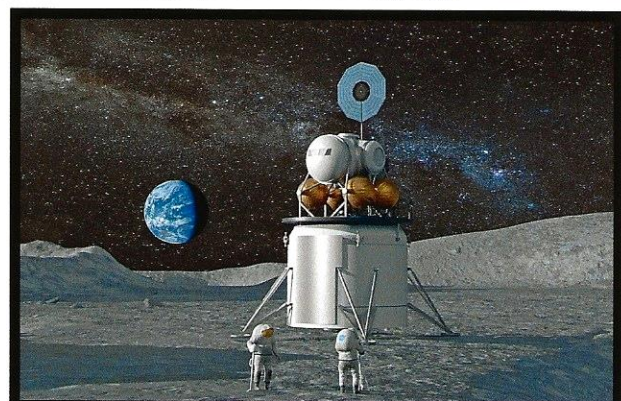
This would make us realize we were saying it and break the habit. Loafers were the style so this was easy. One day the bell rang and no one had shoes on. The front of the room was covered with loafers and we all had to scurry to find our shoes and get to our next class. More than a few passes were needed. After that, we took periodic shoe collection breaks. It did help us break the habit, you know.



Letters to the Editor

From: Stephen Blaschak
Email: Blaschak@bellsouth.net
For Year: 1972

I just read the article about the Dieruff flag flying aboard the shuttle, Columbia. I did not realize this took place, but I'm writing to let you know that there are other Dieruff Alums involved in the Space program. I myself worked on the Space Shuttles from 2004 until the stopped flying in 2010, and now work on the Orion Space capsule for the upcoming Artemis moon missions. It would be nice to know about other DHS grads in the space program.



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

HAPPY
St. Patrick's
DAY



health 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
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All plans have improved
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Attention class of 1974: We can start discussing Medicare
coverage three months prior to your 65th birthday.

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Giant Cash For Causes Gift Card Order Form

Name _____

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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

Upcoming Events

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 or call 610 791-2882.

See you on July 31st

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1966 55th Class Reunion September 18, 2021
The Barristers Club, 1114 West Walnut St.
Allentown, PA 18102

Class of 1976 45th Class Reunion July 31, 2021
Held with Alumni Association Fandangle
East Side Youth Center, Allentown, PA
Separate Party Tent, See Above
Cost: \$20 Per Person



Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association

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

**"Husky Connections"
Alumni Bulletin**

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www.dieruff-alumni.org



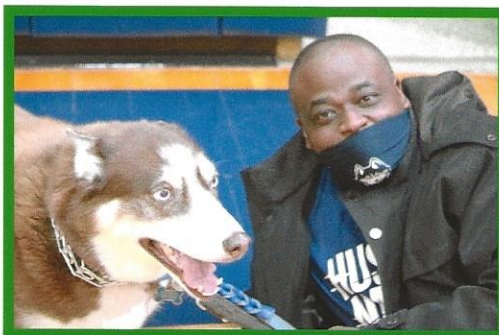
Husky Howls & Hugs

Hi Everyone,



Mom had wanted to bake her decadent chocolate, chocolate chip cookies for the boys' basketball team. But whenever she planned to bake, the weather would not co-operate. Snow and ice every other day. Finally a break, and we got to Husky High on a sunny Saturday afternoon. First a stop at Sam's to buy Famous Amos Cookies, good but not as good as Mom's.

Got to meet the new coach. He is very nice, and immediately fell in love with me. Mom went to the car to get those cookies, and left me with Coach Randall. When she came back, we were bonded. The boys were glad to see me, too, Got tons of belly rubs. Uncle John got some really good pictures. It felt good to be back in the gym, especially without those nasty buzzers. They really hurt my ears.



Sorry to have to report this, but I am having some serious medical problems with my nose. For some time, I have been having "reverse sneezes". In moderation it is okay, but in my case, it has become more frequent. Last week, I had a CT scan at Valley Central, and Dr. Ron needs to do further testing.

March 17th (**St. Paddy's Day**) I go in for an overnight stay and have a rhino scope done. They insert a tube up my nose, and then they do a biopsy. That goes to the lab, and by the end of March we should have a diagnosis. Uncle Ron at Valley is taking good care of me. Know I have the very best of vet care. So each day I enjoy my walk and my kibble with whipped cream. Hoping to be okay and back at spring events ASAP.

Virtual Hugs & Kisses,

Kiska V. Diva Dog and favorite patient at Valley
Central Veterinary Center