

Husky Connections

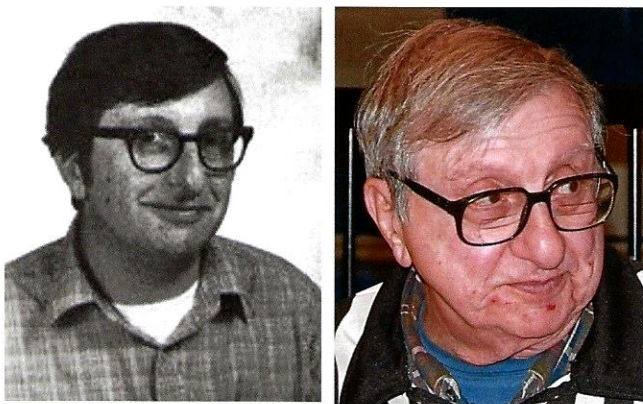


OCTOBER 2020

Husky Legend Mr. Roy Arlotto Dies at 79

What a disastrous year this has been! The year 2020 has been jam-packed with dread and darkness. Particularly disturbing is the demise of many of our retired Dieruff faculty members.

Last month's "Husky Connections" reported on the passing of four popular teachers/coaches. There was Gene Dieter, William Wood, Robert "Mike" Brown, and Keith Newhard. Each of these outstanding educators left their mark at Husky High.



With the ink on our September Bulletin barely dry, we must now report the loss of yet another LED teacher: Mr. Roy Arlotto. Mr. Arlotto passed away quietly and unexpectedly in his southside Allen-

town home late last month. He would have celebrated his 80th birthday on November 10, 2020.

Born in New York City, and raised in the mining community of Hazelton, Pennsylvania, Mr. Arlotto was graduated from Mining Mechanical Institute in Freeland, PA. He then attended Lehigh University where he earned his BS in Chemistry Education and then his graduate degree in Guidance Counseling.

Roy was fortunate to complete his student teaching at Dieruff High School in 1961-62. When a vacancy opened unexpectedly in the Science Department, he signed on for a full-time job teaching Chemistry in 1962. That is where he remained for 44 years, retiring in 2006. He chaired the Science Department for several decades. His success as a chemistry teacher and personal mentor is reflected by some of the many tributes offered by alumni: *(continued on Page 2)*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Roy Arlotto (continued)	2-4
President's Message	5
FLASHBACK: Arlotto Stories	6
MSgt Willard Jones	7
Advertisements Wall Announce	8
Wall of Distinction Nom. Form	9
Giant Gift Card Order Form	10
Husky Howls & Hugs	11

Mr. Roy Arlotto (continued from Page 1)

Janice Hertzog Englert, 1972 *"He taught a tough subject, and was intent on teaching it with high standards. A great human being!"*

Donna Schaeffer Hertzog, 1982 *"A truly remarkable man and teacher. He was the reason I became a chemistry teacher. We remained friends 38 years after I graduated. Last time we spoke, he told me we needed to get together for dinner once this COVID thing is passed. We lost a truly wonderful man, but heaven gained a priceless treasure."*

Matthew Muthard, 1991 *"Mr. A was one of the best teachers I had at LED. He was passionate about Chemistry, and truly cared about each of his students. His students were like family to him. The world lost an amazing educator and a terrific human being. He touched so many lives."*

Michael Polek, 1982 *"He was my favorite teacher and a big influence on my career path."*

Beyond his love of Chemistry, Roy was able to channel his many other interests into productive arenas at the high school. His passion for the arts drew him into Dieruff's Theatre Department. Collaborating with Mr. Bernie Schimmel and Mr. Peter Carpenter for the Spring Musicals, dramas, and choral productions, Mr. Arlotto served as the advisor for the stage crew, lighting, and set design. Many alumni reflected on their memories of that experience:

Charles Eckert Jr, 1975 *"I always had a nice working relationship with Mr. A. from my days on stage crew through my 34 years in the ASD Maintenance Department. He always had time to say 'Hi' and have a quick chat. He was a true Husky, and truly contributed to Dieruff's greatness."*

Denise Conrad Oldt, 1974 *"Awesome man! He built my runway for Hello Dolly"*

Laura Voyden Stroble, 1969 *"We loved this man. He brought my husband and me together! We both worked on the sets for the musical productions. I acted and sang, and my future husband was on the stage crew. We exchanged Christmas cards with him since 1969. He would write on the cards every year Still Kickin' What a Great Man!"*

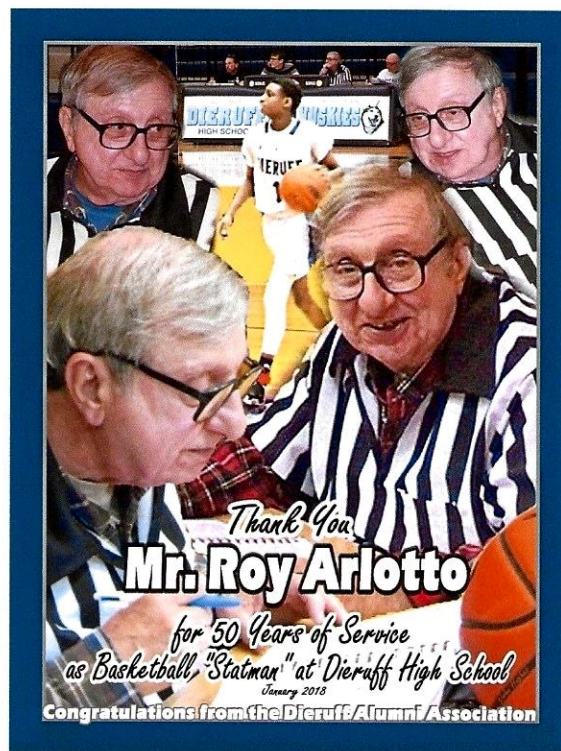
Another outlet for Roy's interest in the arts was assisting the band director, conducting band drills, serving as announcer for the band, and chaperoning all of the band trips. Here are a few comments:

Bren Wrona Norris, 1969 *"He had a great sense of humor and always announced the band and me at all games and competitions. He would say, 'and on the field is the award winning Husky Marching Band, under the direction of Drum Majorette Brenda Wrona...take it away BRENDA!'"*

Theresa Krauchick, 1991 *"I remember when I was a little girl, and would go up to the practice field and march with the majorettes. He was ALWAYS a friendly face." (continued on Page 3)*

Mr. Roy Arlotto (continued from Page 2)

Roy Arlotto also had a strong interest in sports, particularly basketball. He took on the role of Public Address Announcer for all of Dieruff's home games. At the start of the 1968-1969 season, he accepted the position of Official Scorekeeper. Mr. Arlotto faithfully discharged those duties for over 2,000 varsity and JV games during the regular season, as well as league, district, and state playoff. In 2018, the Dieruff Alumni Association presented Roy with a framed photo collage, in recognition of his 50 years of service as the Basketball "StatMan".. Many of the alumni comments referenced his role at the scorer's table:



Robert "Bulldog" Hontz, 1966 *"RIP Mr. Arlotto. I'm sure that there will be a Scoreboard in Heaven for ya."*

Pete Grazer, 1975 *"I hold many fond memories of this kind, gentle, learned person. The Scorer's Table will be a different place going forward. Thank you Mr. A."*

Daniel Blount, 1975 *"My heart is very heavy. This guy loved me through all my nonsense and bad behaviors. He always told me I was his best all around basketball player, but Foo Belfield was his best shooter. That was a great statement. He will forever be in my heart."*

During his many decades at Dieruff High School, Roy established a brother-like bond with Mr. Peter Carpenter. Mr. "C" had been at Husky High when the doors opened in 1959. He served as the musical director. Even though Peter was 13 years Roy's senior, the two of them shared many common interests and personality traits. Most significant was their dedication to Dieruff High School and the kids.

Even after their retirements, Roy and Peter maintained a most enviable friendship that extended into the Carpenter Family. Roy and Peter's wife, Sandy (Urban), often exchanged cooking tips, and they both shared a love of Pavarotti. Roy was honored to be the godfather for the Carpenter's daughter, Jodi (Ireland). The Carpenters warmly welcomed Mr. Arlotto into their home in Bethlehem every week for Sunday Dinner. Now, that's a friendship!... one that endured for 58 years.

(continued on Page 4)

Mr. Roy Arlotto (continued from Page 3)

Through the years, Mr. Arlotto and Mr. Carpenter continued their dedication and affection for Dieruff High School. Both boasted brilliant memories, as well as sharp, articulate speaking styles, and would frequently engage in entertaining story-telling. It is unfortunate that we never tape recorded those humorous chronicles. Those recordings would have made a treasured source for a best selling book or a television comedy series.



The Dieruff Alumni Association has been fortunate to enjoy the faithful support of both Roy Arlotto and Peter Carpenter. Religiously, they have attended the annual Fandangle Mega-Reunions, actively engaging with adoring alumni. When Roy's passing was announced on our Facebook Site, many alumni made fond reference to his attendance at Fandangle:



Ann Urban Collinsworth, 1968 *"I am heart-broken. Mr. A was my favorite teacher at LED. I was always so happy to see him at the Fandangle, and he always greeted me warmly with a big hug and 'Annie'. I will really miss him, and am sending my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to Mr. A's family and to the Husky Family. He had a lot of pride and joy in us Huskies, and we had the same for him. RIP, Mr. A!"*

Karen Kocsis Hirst, 1969 *"It was always so good to see him at the Fandangle. He really hadn't changed in 50 years! He was one of Dieruff's chief supporters. He will be missed."*

We respectfully offer one lasting salute to a very special man. We all feel blessed to have known him, to have been mentored by him, and to have been inspired by him.

One of Roy's students, **Timothy Andreas, 1996**, expressed it beautifully: *A true mentor is never really gone, for his life and his teaching carry on with his students.*
One last "ATTABOY, ROY!"

President's Message: Tribute to Mr. Roy Arlotto

The endearing adjectives used to describe our dearly departed Mr. Roy Arlotto could reasonably be applied to any revered soul being considered for sainthood.

Well, perhaps Roy wasn't actually a saint...but he came pretty darn close! We might safely assume he would qualify as a member of "Dieruff Royalty".

Affectionately known as "Mr. A", Roy Arlotto had dedicated his entire adult life to Dieruff High School, and all things Blue and Gray. He was totally devoted to his students, and passionately followed their successes after graduation.



**Kay Kurtz - President
Alumni Association**

Roy enjoyed reconnecting with his "kids", and took great pride in remembering their names and faces. He was in his glory at the annual Fandangle events, surrounded by admiring alumni.

Two years ago, Roy became genuinely excited when he learned that our ambitious Alumni Association had launched the Wall of Distinction Program. Being familiar with the career achievements of so many alumni, he was able to greatly assist us in identifying appropriate candidates for nomination. He served on our first Selection Committee, and helped us establish critical guidelines and procedures.

Shakespeare penned an infamous script for Marc Anthony in "Julius Caesar": *"The evil that men do live after them. The good is oft interred in their bones."*



It would seem that the bard was unaware of the likes of Mr. Roy Arlotto.

Here was a man, virtually void of evil...and I am quite confident that the abundance of good that clearly defined him will successfully flow on to all who knew him.... and way beyond! For eternity!

FLASHBACK: Canine Cremains and Switchblades



Armed with a keen memory, a quick wit, and a marvelous sense of humor, Roy Arlotto was a Story Teller Extraordinaire. His forty-four years of teaching Chemistry at Dieruff High School, along with his participation in the Theatre Department, the Marching Band, and the Basketball Program provided him with a wealth of material for his collection of entertaining stories. For this edition of our monthly bulletin, we offer two tales from Mr. Arlotto.

“Canine Cremains”

Right from the beginning, the Husky was our school mascot. Kiska 1 was the envy of all of our rivals. Do you know her final resting place after she passed away? Henry Weidner, the principal, called me and asked if I had any quart-size clean, empty chemical jars in my lab. Of course I did. “Bring one to the office when you can.”

I did so and asked what it was needed for. He replied: “The dog died. We can’t bury it (for fear it would be desecrated by our town rivals), so we have decided to have it cremated! The jar will hold her ashes and will be kept in the Main Office safe!” It was there for years, then disappeared. No one knew what became of it.

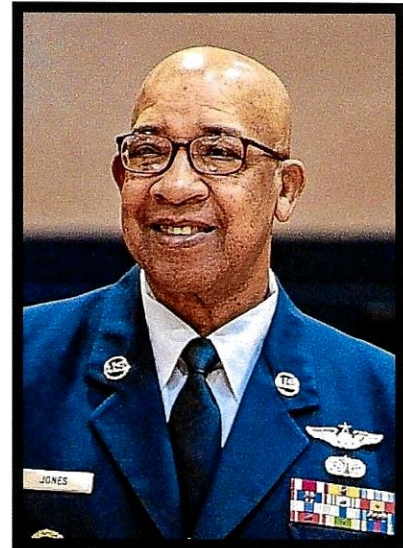
“Switchblades for a Gang Fight”

One of the most popular musicals presented by the Dieruff Theatre Department was “West Side Story”. Even the rehearsals were exciting, and the cast and crew worked countless hours to make it perfect. One of the most demanding scenes in the play was the knife fight between the Jets and the Sharks. The choreography was complicated and the stage was filled with energetic dancers. Great care was taken to ensure the safety of all of the actors. Each of the “gang members” was armed with a wooden stick, simulating a switch blade, and the dance routines were practiced over and over. All parties were careful not to poke anyone with their “lethal sticks”. Practice makes perfect! The simulated knife fight looked convincing, and Mr. Bernie Schimmel was satisfied that the audience would be duly (and duel-y) entertained.

The day before opening night, the Allentown Chief of Police paid us a visit in the auditorium. He carried a cardboard box. Dumping the contents of the box onto a desk, he declared, “*Here are some props for your performance. They should provide a touch of reality and drama!*” There, on the desk were about two dozen switchblades that the city police had confiscated. The dancers were instructed to flick their wrists so that the stage lighting would catch the reflection of the blades. Drama, indeed!

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction Master Sergeant Willard E. Jones

A young boy gazes up into the vast Texas sky to follow the soaring path of Air Force One carrying President John F. Kennedy. He eagerly turns to his father to announce, “Daddy, some day I will fly on that plane.” Sounds like the trailer to a Spielberg movie? The realization of that dream, however, is what eventually brought our fourth Wall of Distinction honoree for 2020, Master Sergeant Willard Eugene Jones, to Dieruff High School.



During a storied career serving his country in the United States Air Force, MSgt Jones trained and worked as a USAF communications specialist with the Presidential Airlift Group, flying on dozens of missions aboard Air Force One with Presidents Reagan and (GHW) Bush. It was on that majestic aircraft that he met Colin Powell, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who encouraged him to become an ROTC instructor.

After carrying out his duties for more than two decades with the Air Mobility's Command 89th Airlift Wing, MSgt Jones heeded the wisdom of that suggestion and arrived at Husky High in the Fall of 1992 to begin a new career teaching and mentoring young cadets. With the discipline of his military background, he taught honor, respect, and doing what is right – not what is easy. During his 23-year tenure as Dieruff's AFJROTC instructor, he led his Huskies, whose skills and teamwork had earned an enviable reputation, to countless awards including three first-place trophies at the 2015 *National* Drill Championships.

The Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association is honored to posthumously recognize Master Sergeant Willard E. Jones who, sadly, passed away on September 4, 2019. Remembered for his compassion and guidance, this Air Force One veteran, who had dedicated 45 years of his life in uniform, had given his all to his country and to the students he loved. He truly lived by his inspirational words, “If you can dream it, you can do it. Your attitude determines your altitude.”

We salute you, Master Sergeant Jones. Your legacy has soared far beyond that vast Texas sky.

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

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



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Bill Zeky
Dieruff Class of 1978

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**Nominations now
being accepted for
Class of 2021**

See Nomination Form on next page.

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

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Complete the order form and mail it, along with a check payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association" to *John Hughes, 2038 Majestic Overlook Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015*. Ordered gift cards will be sent to you by mail.

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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

Husky Howls & Hugs

Hi Everyone,

Saturdays have been fun. Went to the scrimmage a few weeks ago. It was different with no one in the stands. Mom said it



was like the Twilight Zone... whatever that is. But did get pet, some belly rubs and even got in one kiss. As the numbers go up, we have to seriously practice social distancing. I cannot wear a mask, so distance is the answer. No more pets or physical contact this season.

Makes me sad, but it is necessary. It was great weather and Mom walked me around the track three times. All the fresh air, the excitement of being back on the field, the long walk contributed to a good appetite. When we got home, we had a pizza party and I ate two whole slices. Love the cheese.

This past Saturday I was a busy girl. First I went to church to get blessed for the Feast of St. Francis. Pastor Scott gave me a second blessing for my work with kids. He also sent a blessing for all the kids at Dieruff. Then we went to Pet Smart to drop off beds for homeless cats. Had my walk. Then a nap. Later in the afternoon we went to Husky High to send off the team as they went to the game at Whitehall. We seriously social distanced. Some of the guys said it was hard not to pet me, but they understand. It hurt me. But Aunt Cindy and Mom got to wear their new Husky Pride masks.



Looking good Ladies. Got to talk to players and coaches. Met up with Joanne O. and we cheered as the buses left for the game. Kids all waved. We might not be the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, but the kids got a true Husky send-off.

Love, **Kiska V** Diva and Dallas cheerleader
(Sorry, Mom is a Dallas fan.....maybe the colors of blue and grey?)