

Thank You for Attending  
Today's Ceremony

**We are accepting free will donations today to defer  
the cost of meal expenses for today's ceremony.**

**Thank you.**

Please feel free to stop by and visit us at the  
alumni tent during the football game tonight.

The inductees will be honored at halftime.



Follow us:

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**AURORA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**2015**

# **HALL OF FAME**

## **Induction Ceremony**



**HONORING**

**David Edmonds**

**Geoffrey Jewett**

**Donna French**

**Shirley Duval**

October 16, 2015  
Aurora High School  
Aurora, Ohio

# PROGRAM

Open Reception

Luncheon

Awards Ceremony

Welcome

Brian Brookhart '98  
Master of Ceremonies  
Alumni High School Liaison

Opening Remarks

Matt Shanholtzer '90  
President,  
Aurora Alumni Association

School Presentations

Aurora Board of Education      Gerry Kohanski  
President,  
Aurora Board of Education

Aurora Education Association      Michelle Dirda '86  
Secretary, A.E.A.

Alumni Hall of Fame Tributes and Presentations

Geoffrey Jewett '66      Edward D. Hall, Ph.D. '66  
Tribute

David Edmonds '75      Diana Leitch  
Tribute

Donna French      Leslie Smith  
Tribute

Shirley Duval      Jennifer Kutty '91  
Tribute

Closing Remarks

Pat Ciccantelli  
Superintendent

*A grateful school and community honor their best.*

## Aurora Alumni Association Board of Directors

Matt Shanholtzer '90      President  
Derek Kohanski '00      Treasurer  
Brian Brookhart '98      H.S. Liaison  
Jennifer Shanholtzer '95      Secretary  
Ruth Tuttle '65      Reunions  
Lisa Adams Brogan '88      Scholarships  
Barb Kudley '75      Hall of Fame  
Jennifer Kutty '91      Membership  
Russ Bennett '78  
Robert Tuttle '63  
Gary Brookhart  
(Honorary)

## Aurora Schools Administration

Pat Ciccantelli      Superintendent  
Mike Roberto      Asst. Superintendent  
Bill Volosin      Treasurer  
Paul Powers      Athletic Director  
Paul Micetich      High School Principal  
Brian Brookhart      Asst. H.S. Principal  
Mark Abramovich      Harmon Principal  
Mike Janatovich      Asst. Harm. Principal  
Paul Goodwin      Leighton Principal  
Julie Troman      Craddock/Miller  
Principal  
Paul Powers      Athletic Director

## Aurora Board of Education

Gerry Kohanski      President  
Pam Mehallis      Vice-President  
John Sloe  
Annie Grohe  
Beverly Kuch

## City of Aurora

Ann Womer-Benjamin, Mayor  
  
James Vaca      Ward 1  
Dennis Kovach      Ward 2  
Reva Barner      Ward 3  
George Horvat      Ward 4  
Kathy Grandillo      Ward 5  
Harold Hatridge      Ward 6  
Amy McDougald      At Large  
John Kudley      At Large  
Scott Wolf      At Large

## Aurora Education Association

Ken Brown      President  
Chris Radtke      Vice-President  
Judy Dolezal      Treasurer  
Shelly Dirda      Secretary

## Honored Educator and Staff Member Hall of Fame (Retired)

Outstanding and memorable teachers, administrators, or support staff who made significant and positive contributions to the success of Aurora students and the Aurora City Schools. Must have worked a minimum of ten years in the district and be retired for five years.

	Inducted
Dan Dyer	2013
Mary Ann Balbach	2013
Robert Luckay	2013
John Smolko	2013
Eileen Kutinsky	2014
Andrew Kmetz	2014
Donna French	2015
Shirley Duval	2015



2013 Charter Members - Honored Teacher Inductees  
L-R – John Smolko, Mary Ann Balbach, Dan Dyer, Bob Luckay

## Aurora Hall of Fame

The Aurora High School **Athletic** Hall of Fame was established in 1982 by the Athletic Department. The **Distinguished Alumni** division was initiated in 2001 by the Aurora Alumni Association. In 2013, all areas of the Hall of Fame were put under the auspices of the Alumni Association which added a third area of recognition, **Honored Educator and Staff**. Under the Alumni Association format, all Hall of Fame candidates are now initially nominated by A.H.S. alumni and selected by a committee chaired by members of the Alumni Association Advisory Board. Future Hall of Fame inductees will be selected in all three divisions as determined by the number and qualifications of the nominated candidates.



### Aurora High School Alumni Association

The Aurora Alumni Association was established in 1994 by A.H.S. alumni from the 1970s and '80s. During their first 13 years, the group developed a database of nearly 4,000 alumni, gave scholarships, sent out newsletters and started the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame program. After a five year period of inactivity from 2007 – 2012, the group reorganized under new leadership and established a Board of Directors that includes Aurora Alumni from every decade from the 1960s through today. The current revitalized group has established a website, increased their visibility, given scholarships and is proud to be annually inducting A.H.S. alumni in our Hall of Fame.

#### Hall of Fame Committee

- Brian Brookhart '98 - Chairperson
- Jennifer Shanholtzer '95
- Barb Kudley '75
- Paul Powers, ACS Athletic Director
- Barb Brookhart – Retired Staff



## Geoffrey “Jeff” Jewett

Class of 1966

### Athletic Hall of Fame

Jeff attended the Aurora Public Schools K – 12, graduating in 1966. He was a member of the much-heralded, undefeated Aurora Greenmen football teams of 1964 and 1965. In 1965, he caught critical touchdown passes in three separate games that greatly contributed to that year’s undefeated PCL championship football team. Jeff lettered in Football all four years and was All-County Honorable Mention his senior year. An outstanding all-around athlete, Jeff earned 10 additional letters in three other sports including: four letters and two years’ honorable mention in Basketball, three letters in Track including state qualifier on the mile relay team, three letters in Golf, where his team won the Cleveland District Golf Meet and were the first Aurora Golf team to qualify for State.

Jeff continued his athletic endeavors in college at Denison University where he was a walk-on, with no prior playing experience, on their nationally ranked Lacrosse team. Remarkably, he picked up the sport so fast that he lettered his sophomore, junior and senior years and served as the sole Team Captain his senior year. In his senior year, he also earned First Team All-Midwest and Honorable Mention All-American honors. In May 1969, Jeff and two teammates were featured in an article in *Sports Illustrated* regarding the emergence of Denison as a Midwest Lacrosse power. The article specifically addressed Jeff’s athletic prowess and ability to learn the sport so quickly.

After graduation from Denison, he earned an MBA from the University of Denver and then served in the United States Air Force. Jeff has enjoyed a lengthy career in the institutional real estate investment business. Six years ago he formed his own company, where he specializes in arranging equity financing for institutional multi-family developments and acquisitions.

Jeff strongly that the Aurora Schools provided memorable teachers and coaches with tremendous community support for both academics and athletics. Lifelong friendships remain his most cherished memories.

Jeff and his wife, Ann, live in the San Francisco area. They have three grown children, one grandchild and a marriage of over 37 years loaded with blessings.

## Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

Alumni who have made truly extraordinary achievements in their careers, have made significant contributions to society, demonstrated exemplary leadership and served as role models.

Must have graduated at least 10 years ago.

	Inducted		Inducted
Holly Benjamin '86	2001	Michael Shea '84	2004
Byron Spruell '83	2001	Stephen Rumsey '70	2004
Cheryl Woodsy '78	2001	Shirley Greenslade '52	2004
Dick McKinnon '60	2001	Michele Jimenez Belardo '86	2005
Robert Dean '82	2002	Dana Benjamin Gilliland '83	2005
Robert Shaw '74	2002	Scott Keglovic '79	2005
Kathleen Thornton '65	2002	Jim Hickey '76	2005
Susanne Bradley Brown '55	2002	Robert Labadie '67	2005
Paul Farkas '83	2003	Brian Rothenberg '84	2006
Russ Bennett '78	2003	Todd Clossin '80	2006
Gregg Keidel '66	2003	Tia Hodge-Jones '90	2014
Jody Jurkiewicz Kocsis '85	2004	David Edmonds '75	2015



## Athletic Hall of Fame

Alumni who were gifted athletes and made long-lasting and notable contributions to Aurora athletics. Accomplishments may include multiple letters, all-conference titles, individual and team State championships, collegiate athletic participation, professional sports, Aurora record-holders and demonstrated leadership. Candidates must have graduated at least 10 years ago.

	Inducted		Inducted
Frank Langmeyer '27	1982	James O'Brien '67	1992
Thomas Truce '33	1982	Richard Russell '59	1993
Edward Oswald '45	1982	Robert W. Russell '59	1993
Allen "Pres" Bliss '53	1982	Byron Spruell '83	1993
Thomas Curtis '66	1982	Robert Pealer '65	1993
Harry Gilcrest (coach)	1986	William Miller '48	1993
Charles Brown '53	1986	Harry Lee '53	1995
Todd Jindra '73	1986	John Nussbaumer '69	1995
Stanley Perchan '65	1986	Charles Thorton '58	1995
Michael Scott '73	1986	Tom Courtad '95	2007
Casey Courneen '69	1986	Tim Courtad '95	2007
Greg Johnson '73	1986	Pat Duncan '95	2007
Helen Shilling (coach)	1992	Gavin Sontag '95	2007
Joe Manno (coach)	1992	Mark Tellerico '87	2007
Kim Heisler '71	1992	Dick Bliss (coach)	2007
Patricia Holly '80	1992	Jericka Duncan '01	2014
Edward McVeigh '35	1992	Geoffrey Jewett '66	2015



## David Edmonds

Class of 1975

### Distinguished Alumni

David graduated from Aurora High School in 1975 where he played Basketball and Baseball. He graduated from Kent State University in 1980 where he was a member of the baseball team. After graduation, he began his career in the transportation business. In 1986, he joined Roadway Services, a transportation holding company from Akron, OH. He, along with several others, was responsible for the design and development of RPS, the fastest growing business ever known for its first five years in business. In 1998, he and his partners sold RPS to FedEx of Memphis, Tennessee. In 1999, the FedEx board elected him to the position of Senior Vice-President, Worldwide Services. In that capacity, he has traveled to over 200 countries managing various aspects of the corporation.

David serves on several Boards of Directors, including the Memphis Music Foundation, Ballet Memphis, the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and the Kent State Athletics Foundation.

In October 2014, the Kent State University Athletics Foundation dedicated a newly constructed building for Men's and Women's athletics. David was the lead donor and subsequently named the building in honor of his mother and father.

David's reflections of his time in the Aurora Schools are many. He genuinely appreciated the great counsel, guidance and learning opportunities from his teachers, coaches and administrators. David recalls that he really enjoyed playing Basketball and Baseball for Aurora, the many athletic events and the competitive spirit and school camaraderie before and after each game.

Having made many lifelong friends, he believes the social and academic setting at A.H.S. provided a launchpad for his future years, both professionally and personally.

Recalling his time at A.H.S. David states, "It was just too cool!"



**Donna French**  
**Honored Educator/Staff Member**  
Aurora City Schools Librarian  
from 1968 – 1998

Donna Jane (Unger) French was born in November 1931 in Youngstown, Ohio. She grew up in Poland, Ohio where she graduated from high school in 1949. Donna attended Hiram College before entering nurse's training at Trumbull Memorial Hospital. She married Park French in September of 1952. In 1959, with four small children (and a 5<sup>th</sup> about to arrive) the family moved to Aurora and the town became their permanent home. A sixth child was born in 1961, and a seventh five years later.

In the early 1960s, despite the many demands of raising a large family, Donna devoted her energies to the task of creating libraries in Aurora's two elementary schools. The 1964-65 Elementary School yearbook was dedicated to "Mrs. Park French for her volunteer efforts this year to organize and operate the first elementary school libraries in Aurora." Donna continued to develop and run the libraries nearly full-time as a volunteer until the school district was able to hire her in 1968. Throughout her career, these welcoming libraries reflected her energetic commitment to the enrichment of **all** children through the limitless world found in books.

Hundreds of Aurora students remember Donna as a colorful, witty, engaging librarian who donned endless costumes for the seasons and various holidays. Her remarkable room decorations, special effects and treats created a fun, welcoming atmosphere that made her libraries a focal point for the students and the school. She retired from Aurora Schools 1998 after more than three decades of encouraging kids to imagine broadly, think creatively and pursue their dreams relentlessly.

Sadly, Donna died in 2013, two years after the death of her husband Park. However, all seven of their children: Linda Griffin, Jill French, Suzanne Spilsbury, Becky French Kalydosos, Annie French, Jodie French-Burr and Douglas, from five states, are with us today to honor their mother and her legacy in the Aurora Schools.



**Shirley Duval**  
**Honored Educator/Staff Member**  
Aurora Schools Kindergarten Teacher  
from 1966 - 1996

Shirley Duval was born in Detroit, Michigan and moved to the suburb of Grosse Pointe at eight years old. She lived in Grosse Pointe in the winter and spent summers with her grandparents in Algonac on the St. Clair River. Her father was a surgeon and her mother was a housewife. She had one sister, as well as two orphaned cousins who lived with them. Shirley graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1942. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1946 with a degree in Geography, majoring in Cartography.

The Duvals moved to Aurora in 1954 where a neighbor, Sally Cook, was an Aurora kindergarten teacher. When Sally Cook's health forced her retirement in the middle of the 1966-67 school year, Aurora quickly needed to find a kindergarten teacher. At the urging of friends and neighbors, Shirley applied and was hired despite the fact that she did not have an education degree. She started her education courses that fall and spent twelve years earning a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Education from Kent State.

Shirley's first twelve years of teaching kindergarten in Aurora were in the basement of the Catholic Church. Eventually the kindergarten classes were moved to Craddock, and then Miller school. In 1996, Shirley retired after thirty years of teaching in Aurora.

Shirley married her husband of 62 years, Len, upon graduation from the University of Michigan. They have four children: a daughter, Colleen, now in Clermont, Florida, and sons Lenny, in Ravenna, Ray, in Solon, and Patrick, in Denver, Colorado. They have four granddaughters, three grandsons, one great-granddaughter and four great-grandsons.

Shirley reflects that there was nothing better than when she could see the sparkle in a child's eyes when they realized they had accomplished something - from being able to read, know all the letters and their sounds, or counting to 100. Her goal was "to help children like school because they had a long way to go."