

Husky Connections



AUGUST 2020

Kiska V - Making Husky Connections

The "dog days of summer", indeed! The life of our beloved K-9 mascot, Kiska V, has been dramatically impacted by this dog-gone COVID-19.

In July, Kiska marked her tenth birthday..... without a fancy decorated cake (she loves the icing), and void of the traditional singing of "Happy Birthday" by faithful members of our Alumni Association (she often sings along with us, taking on the soprano portion). The fact is, it is impossible to project a melody with a mask covering your face,



The best we could do for Kiska was to post a photo of her with her mom, Karen Coleman, on our Alumni Association Facebook page, and extend our best wishes for a Happy 10th Birthday. Hundreds of her adoring fans wished her well.

And now, we understand that the Allentown School District will open all ASD schools "virtually". The first day of the 2020-21 year is Tuesday, September 8th. Justifiably, everyone is concerned with the health and safety of students, families, faculty, and staff. At the end of the first quarter, the situation will be reassessed, and it is possible the school will resume in some hybrid form.

Once again, Kiska will be disappointed, and will have to readjust her active mascot lifestyle. We are all disappointed. Kiska has played such an integral role helping us accomplish the mission of our Alumni Association, which is to "promote Husky Pride... among current students, faculty and staff, alumni, and the community".

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Kiska V - Making Husky Connections (continued)



The photos featured here reflect how well she plays her role as Dieruff Diva Dog, making positive Husky Connections everywhere she goes.

Kiska always delivers a dose of positive energy, whether it be at Husky High, the Andre Reed Field at J. Birney Crum Stadium, the East Side Youth Center, or the arena at the PPL Center.



She thrives on the attention, and wins the hearts of everyone. She graciously and lovingly exchanges kisses for pats on the head and belly rubs.



And so, until this coronavirus situation gets somewhat controlled, our Alumni Association activities, and the adventures of our Diva Dog must remain *curtailed*.

We hope you all will stay connected with us through our publications. Please stay tuned, and stay healthy.



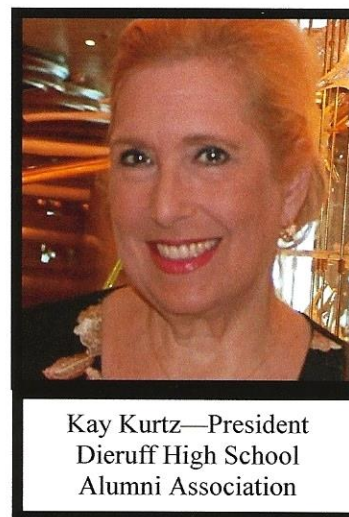
President's Message: "Let's Get the Dogs Out"



There is absolutely no way we can mask our disappointment!

Following the premature closing of the 2019-20 school year due to the tragic COVID-19, most folks looked forward to the resumption of normal school and Alumni Association activities this Fall.

All concerned parties - current students, parents, teachers, administrators, and alumni - had hoped for a return to the classroom, provided the health and safety of everyone could be assured.



Unfortunately, there is no end in sight for the pandemic, and 9 out of 10 teachers believe it would be a monumental challenge to enforce social distancing guidelines at school. Allentown School Superintendant Mr. Thomas Parker recommended a plan for city schools to begin the year with virtual learning, rather than face-to-face in the classroom; the school board unanimously concurred. In November, the numbers will be evaluated, with the possible shifting to a hybrid form of classroom and at-home online learning.

Our Alumni Association has similarly hit the Pause Button on our activities. Sadly, our popular Fandangle scheduled for last month had to be cancelled. We hope to come back next year with renewed determination and spirit for Fandangle 2021.

We were successful in selecting the five inductees for this year's Alumni Wall of Distinction. We are anxiously waiting to determine an appropriate date for that important induction ceremony. Please note, we are accepting nominations for 2021.

Until we are permitted to use the Media Center in the high school, we shall discontinue our regular monthly meetings. We'll keep you posted.

We know you are all weary of this confining and restrictive situation. Huskies just do not enjoy being restrained or kenneled. If everyone works together, we can alter the song lyrics from "Who let the dogs out?" to "Let's get the dogs out". Kiska and Nadia are certainly ready to go. Aren't we all? ***Husky Pride.... Unleashed!***

FLASHBACK: The Bare Facts in the Natatorium

In the buff! Sans bathing suit! Skinny dipping in the Dieruff Swimming Pool!

That's right! For the first several years at DHS, the boys had to swim naked in the pool during gym class. No one could ever explain the reason for the procedure, but that's the way it was. It certainly resulted in "social distancing" before we ever heard the term.

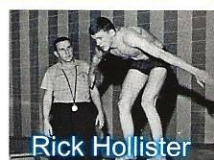
In contrast, the girls were issued not so attractive tank suits for their swimming pool gym classes.

Mr. Dennis McGinley was the swim coach and swimming instructor, and he often began his class with the phrase, "*Swimming is Fun*". Sorry, Mr. McGinley. This was not my idea of fun.

The beautiful Olympic sized pool was home for the Dieruff Boys Swim Team... and that included diving. With a depth of 10 1/2 feet, the pool is too shallow to permit diving today. There was no Girls Swim Team; however, the girls did form a swim club known as the Aqua-Dierettes, and they performed synchronized swim routines before the meets.

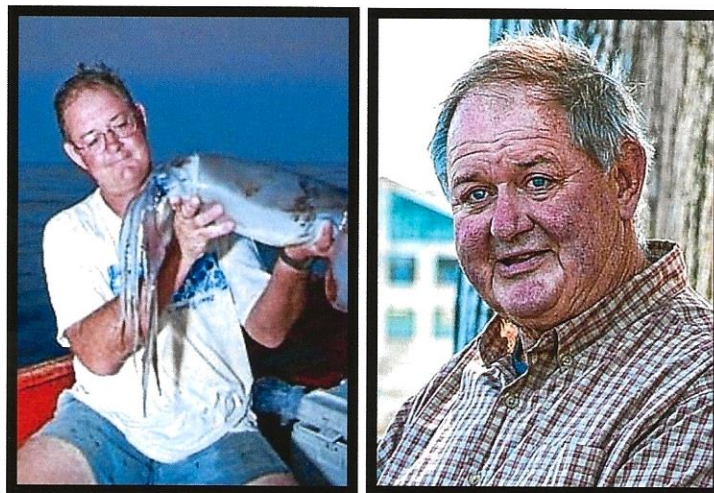
In 1961, swim star Rick Hollister, in his junior year, became Dieruff High School's first State Champion, earning a gold medal in the 50 yard freestyle event. His time of 22.3 seconds broke the existing state record, and was half a second off the national mark. The following year, Rick shaved a tenth of a second off his time, establishing a new mark of 22.2 seconds, and winning his second gold medal. Now, almost 60 years later, his record time remains unbeaten on the Dieruff Record Board.

Taking advantage of the impressive resource, now named the "Dennis A. McGinley Natatorium", the seniors annually held their "Senior Splash" Party. Some of the activities were races, diving for chips, umbrella races, and the three-handed race. Senior Class Advisor, Mr. Thomas Persing, and his wife, Mardi, were chaperones for the popular event. From all accounts, participants agreed with Mr. McGinley's adage: "*Swimming is Fun*"!



Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction William F. Gilly, PhD '68

Our introduction to the next 2020 Wall of Distinction honoree takes us to the rich ocean waters of Monterey Bay where we find the renowned marine biologist, Dr. William Gilly. Dr. Gilly and his work are based at the Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University in Pacific Grove, California. A Professor of Biology, his research at the Gilly Lab focuses on the behavior, physiology, and ecology of the Humboldt, or jumbo, squid. He is considered to be the *world's top expert* on squid behavior.



The author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Gilly served as one of the highly acclaimed scientists involved in the documentary television miniseries, "The Future is Wild." An avid fan and frequent lecturer on American novelist John Steinbeck, he served in 2004 as the Director and Chief Scientist of the Sea of Cortez Exploration and Education Project. Today, Dr. Gilly also directs the outreach program *Squids4Kids* which provides free science education materials to K-12 classrooms on the huge, mysterious Humboldt squid.

From Mosser Elementary School in Allentown to his post-doctoral studies at two Ivy League universities, this '68 Husky, referred to simply as "Gilly" by his Dieruff classmates and by his Stanford faculty colleagues, has always been known for his spirit of outdoor adventure. When he and his childhood buddies get together every Friday evening for their weekly Zoom Happy Hour, they often recall stories of nighttime fishing trips, overnight canoe trips on the Delaware River, and dressing up in costumes to go to the Allentown Fair. And, where does "Gilly" want to visit every time he's back in town? Stahley's, of course!

The LED Alumni Association is proud to salute Dr. William Gilly who was so moved by his selection to the Dieruff Wall of Distinction that he titled his sincerely-written Thank You reply, "Husky Humility and Pride." That says it all.

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction NOMINATION FORM for the Class of 2021

Purpose: To give lasting recognition to Dieruff graduates 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:

- **Demonstrated commitment to and involvement in the Dieruff High School and community at an exceptional level.**
 - **Outstanding, enduring contribution to society by making a difference in the lives of others.**
 - **Outstanding professional contribution or achievement in his/her chosen field or endeavor.**
- Considered categories are listed:** (1) Arts (2) Business (3) Education (4) Entertainment/ TV/ Film (5) Financial / Economic Development (6) Government (7) Historian (8) Law / Criminal Justice (9) Media / Journalism / Writing (10) Medicine / Health Science (11) Military

I nominate the following: (Please Type or Print)

Name _____ Maiden _____ Graduation Year _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

Nomination submitted by:

Name _____ Maiden _____ Graduation Year _____

Home 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

Gift Cards are a Giant Help to Dieruff Alumni Association

The Giant Cash For Causes Gift Card Program represents a wonderful fundraising opportunity for our Alumni Association. It allows our alumni to contribute financially to our association... without costing them a dime!

Simply purchase the gift cards through the Alumni Association, and we earn 10% of the value of the cards purchased. The Giant gift cards can be used to purchase groceries and gas at any Giant location. There is no expiration date. The cards also make easy and most welcome gifts.



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.

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.

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(610) 868-4490

Email Address:

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

Husky Howls & Hugs

Hi Everyone,

Had my 10th birthday on July 17th. The years do fly by. I remember being a puppy and doing some really naughty stuff. Our back yard did look like the trenches of World War I. Those days are over and now; I really am a geriatric dog. Thank you for all my birthday greetings. I got so many, that I really am a Diva Dog.

I had my favorite salmon and a tad of ice cream. Aunt Cindy sent treats and I sooooo love Beggin' Strips. Stayed away from the cake. Mom has been tough on the treats. The one bad side effect of Cushing's Disease is diabetes, so she is being careful. My best present was a call from my vet, Valley Central. My blood work came back and my adrenal results were great. Dr. Ron was happy and no blood work for four months. Stay on the same supplements and no extra meds. Whew! Thank you to the kind staff and Dr. Ron for taking good care of me.



Heat and humidity and huskies do not mix. Been so miserable that we have taken few and very short walks. Usually I nap on the back porch until ten and then go into the house with the air conditioners and fans. So quiet and surreal. Other years Mom and Aunt Cindy would start making back to school bags for the kids at Husky High. Sometimes I would sneak a granola bar. This year, nothing. Sad, but the house is a lot neater.

Everything changes daily. We have no idea when or if I will resume mascot duties. I love to work, as do all huskies. Just hoping things get better for America. Until I see you all, be healthy, be safe, and keep washing the paws.

Love,

Kiska V Diva Dog