

Husky Connections



July 2022

Congratulations Dieruff Class of 2022

Determined and dedicated, resilient and resourceful! The Class of 2022 is most deserving of our applause!

Culminating a challenging four-year high school career, the 350 seniors of that graduating class were rewarded with diplomas at the sixty-third annual commencement exercises on Friday, June 17, 2022.

With half of their 4 years plagued by the COVID-19 pandemic, these hearty Huskies persevered. Dramatically, seventy-five of the graduating seniors occupied the first three rows at the PPL Center, designated as “honors graduates”, having maintained an impressive 3.5 or higher cumulative average through their secondary academic education at Louis E. Dieruff High School.

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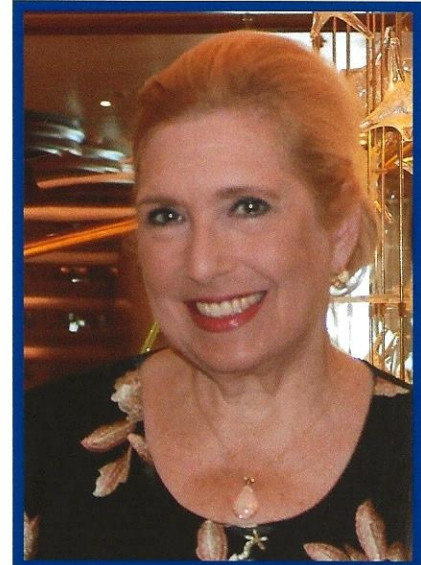


The Dieruff Alumni Association extends a most sincere welcome to all of these recent alumni, and offers our congratulations for a job well done. Husky Pride!

President's Message: The Tradition Continues

What an emotional and rewarding experience it is! It has become a coveted annual tradition at Dieruff Commencement. Begun about eight years ago, the alumni class that graduated fifty years prior to the current class has been invited to precede the graduating class during the opening commencement procession.

This year, the officers of the Alumni Association and members of the **Class of 1972** proudly led the procession through the gauntlet of applauding Dieruff faculty and staff members.



Kay Kurtz
President Alumni Association

With the familiar sounds of “Pomp

and Circumstance” echoing through the spacious PPL Center Arena, the assemblage of alumni displayed their Husky Pride... and a few dampened eyes. They were then escorted to the premier VIP seating area where they enjoyed the entertaining commencement exercises.

Afterward, several alumni from the Class of ‘72 expressed their feelings. Curt Swoyer stated, *“It was an honor to do that walk and be recognized.”*

Classmate John Quigley commented,

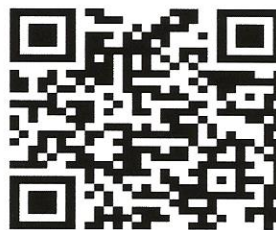


“What a great experience.” Joni Tedesco said, *“It was an Honor to escort the Class of 2022 in to their commencement. 50 YEARS out of High School is a long time ~ it brought back memories and was quite emotional reminiscing back to our commencement walk in 1972 ! I wish the Class of 2022 success in their future endeavors! #HuskyPride* (note: see photos of 1972 Commencement on Page 10 in this bulletin.)

With great anticipation, the alumni from the Class of ‘72 will be continuing their 50-year celebration as they gather under their designated party tent at the Dieruff Alumni Association Fandangle on July 30th.

Fandangle 2022

Just scan this QR Code
and watch a brief Video
showing 10 Years of
Fandangle Moments!



Dieruff High School Alumni Association
Husky Pride... Unleashed

Dieruff Fandangle

A Mega-Reunion For All Classes

Join fellow Dieruff Alumni (All Classes) and Friends
for an afternoon of great fun, music, drinks (beer,
soda, water), and all-you-can-eat catered food.

Saturday, July 30, 2022

2:00 - 7:00 PM

East Side Youth Center
1140 East Clair St., Allentown, PA
Advanced Tickets Only

\$25 Per Person

Purchase tickets at Stahley's,
 Sherman Street Beer Company,
 Dieruff High School Main Office,
 or On Our Website

www.dieruff-alumni.org



Fandangle 2022 Ticket Order Form

Please send one ticket for the July 30, 2022 event to:

Name: _____ Grad. Class: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send this completed form, along with a check in the amount of \$25, made payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association"
 to Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving St., Allentown, PA 18109 Attn: Dieruff Alumni Association

2022 Wall of Distinction Honoree - Karen (Benckert) Coleman



Most of us who have walked the halls of our beloved East Side school know how truly fortunate we are to have attended a school with a live, “working” mascot. This is something very special that sets Dieruff apart from other high schools, not only in the Lehigh Valley, but throughout the



country. When our favorite Husky bursts through the football banner on a crisp autumn night, Kiska shows off her spirited pride and excitement as she leads her team onto the playing field. She learned to “sing” to the Dieruff Fight Song. And who is not moved when an almost-reverent hush falls over the crowd upon the sight of Kiska emerging from the tunnel at the PPL Center to usher in the procession of new Louis E. Dieruff High School graduates ?

The woman who has made this all happen is Dieruff’s very own Karen Coleman, our first 2022 Wall of Distinction honoree who has loved and cared for our Kiska mascots for – can you believe it ? – 46 years ! A native of Nazareth, “Miss Benckert” arrived at Husky High in the Fall of 1971 after graduating magna cum laude in History from Moravian College. Although she had been offered a full scholarship from Syracuse University to enter its Masters Program in School Administration, she chose instead to accept a teaching position in the Social Studies Department at Dieruff. What providence ! It was meant to be. A lifetime animal lover who had always dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, Karen later “took over the leash” of Kiska II from John “Doc” Warmkessel after Kiska I passed away in 1975. From that pivoting moment during the following year, Karen never looked back as she went on to become our faithful Mom to Kiska II, III, IV, and V.

A loyal daughter of Louis E. Dieruff High School, Karen proudly displays the name “Kiska” on her car’s license plate and even decorates her Christmas tree each year with blue and silver ornaments. Her desire to spread good will and to share her

(Continued on next page)

2022 Wall of Distinction Honoree - Karen (Benckert) Coleman

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Husky Pride has been most evident when she would “extend the paw of friendship” to the players, cheerleaders, and fans of opposing teams at Dieruff football games.

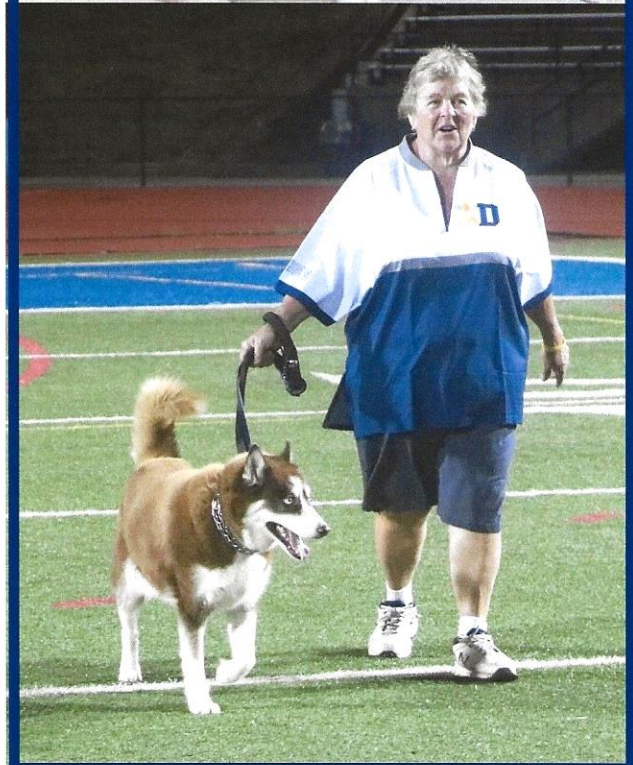
A true Husky love story, she also met and married her dear husband Ron who served as the Dieruff AFJROTC instructor and shared her fondness for animals.

Since retiring in 2004, Karen continues to take every opportunity to endlessly support local animal shelters. She generously carries out the life-long lessons which she wisely passed on to her students.

As a young sophomore in 1973, I had the privilege of being Miss Benckert’s pupil in two of her classes. While we learned about the Cold War and the United States Constitution, what I remember most from her interesting lectures was the importance and value of always being kind and caring to animals. She lived that, not only by her word, but by her selfless example.

The Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association is proud to honor Mrs. Karen L. (Benckert) Coleman for her five decades of unwavering dedication to our school, and for the guardianship and devotion that she provided to our cherished mascot, Kiska.

Joanne Ogrydziak ‘76



Commencement 2022 - Tribute to Kiska V and Mrs. Coleman

Kiska V, our beloved Dieruff mascot and exceptional “Diva Dog”, was missing from Commencement 2022. For years, Kiska and her “Mom” (Karen Coleman) proudly led the procession at the graduation exercises. It was a beautiful tradition that set the tone for the ceremony, and was a true testament to Husky Pride.

Sadly, Kiska V passed away in February of this year, at the age of eleven.

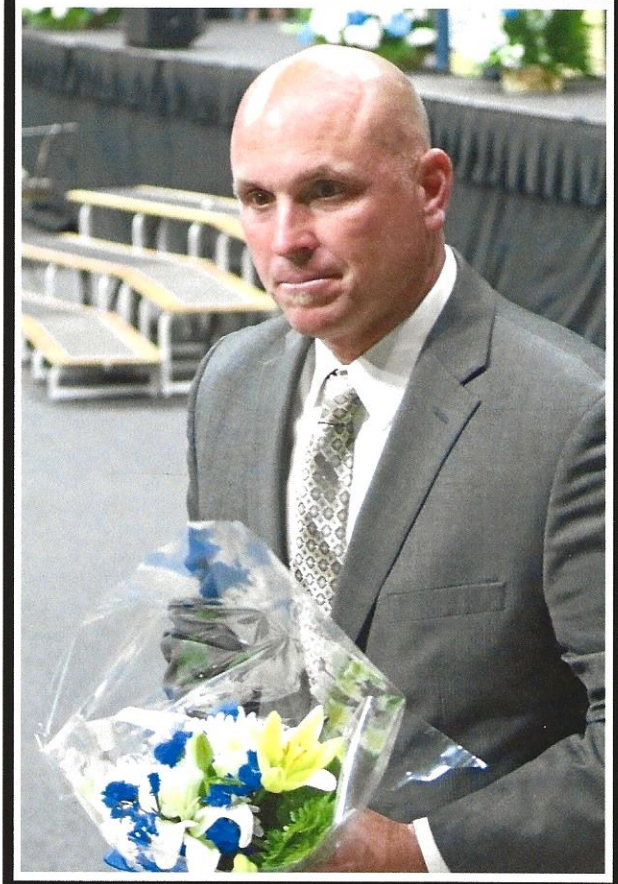
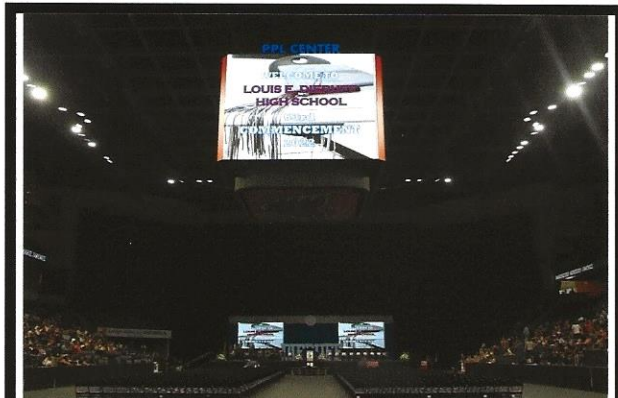
Early in the Commencement program, Dieruff Principal Michael Makhoul paid a sincere tribute to Kiska V and Mrs. Karen Coleman with a heartwarming one-minute video that appeared on the giant four-panel screen high above the PPL Center Arena.

Athletic Director David Stoudt then presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Karen who was seated in the first row of the VIP Section. Certainly this was one more memorable element of an extremely emotional experience.

Our hearts go out to Karen, and we send her our love and gratitude.



Scan this QR Code to view the one-minute video paying tribute to Kiska V and Karen that was shown at Commencement 2022.



Honored Dieruff Alumni Award: Chief Charles Roca

The Honored Alumni Award recognizes Louis E. Dieruff graduates who have made significant contributions to their community and who have attained a measure of accomplishment and success in their life endeavors.

The recipient of this award for 2022 is Allentown Chief of Police Charles Roca, Class of 1993. Chief Roca was a member of the 1992 East Penn Conference Championship Dieruff Husky Football Team, playing under Coach Michael Marcks. Additionally, he participated on the track and field team.

Chief Roca went on to King's College in Wilkes-Barre, where he graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. A four-year starter on the King's College Football Team, he earned recognition as a MAC All-Star in 1995 and 1996, and was named a Division 3 Pre-Season All-American in 1996.

Roca joined the Allentown Police Department in 2002. In 2012 he was promoted to Sergeant, in 2016 he was promoted to Lieutenant, and in 2018 he was promoted to Captain. In September 2021, Roca was confirmed as Chief of Police by a unanimous vote by Allentown City Council.



Husky Happenings: Dieruff Football Team Visits Penn State

Congratulations to Dieruff Football Coach David Lutte and his dedicated coaching staff for organizing the fundraisers that allowed the Husky Football Team to experience a phenomenal trip to Penn State in late June.

The team journeyed to Happy Valley where they participated in a 56-team “seven-on-seven” tournament. Dieruff finished with a 3-3 record. Not only did these kids have an opportunity to compete at a high level, they were instructed in drills by members of the Penn State football coaching staff, including Head Coach James Franklin.

Coach Lutte reported that two of the Dieruff players were pulled for personal evaluations by the Penn State staff. That means that the Nittany Lions have two Huskies on their radar for the upcoming season.



The kids were treated to tours of the campus, as well as seeing the inside of Beaver Stadium. They also received t-shirts from Penn State and lunch from Subway.

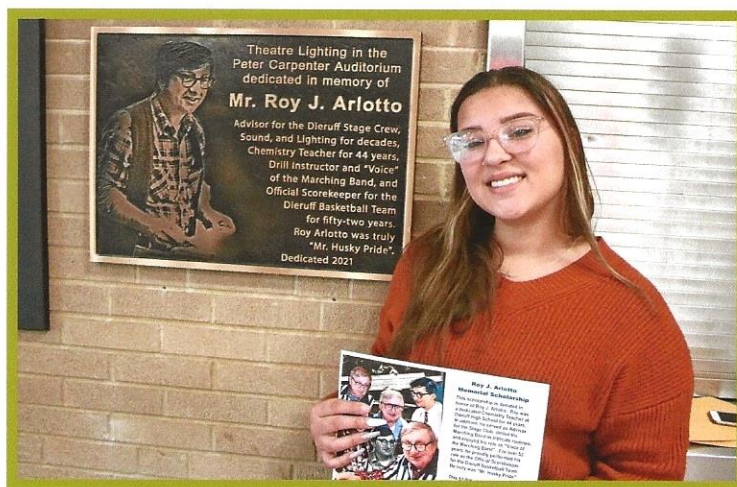
Coach Lutte expressed his gratitude to those who have supported the fundraisers that have made this memorable trip possible. He also encourages folks to join him at the Husky Football annual Golf Outing on July 17th.

Husky Happenings - Arlotto Scholarships Awarded

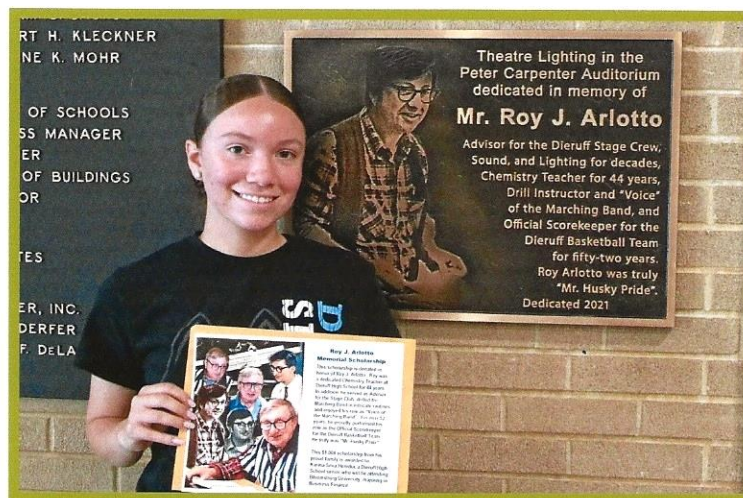
Mr. Roy J. Arlotto was a “gift” to Dieruff High during his lifetime. He was a dedicated Chemistry Teacher for 44 years. He served as the Advisor for the Stage Club, drilled the Marching Band in intricate routines, and enjoyed his role as “Voice of the Marching Band”. For over 52 years, he proudly performed his role as Official Scorekeeper for the Dieruff Basketball Team.

When Roy passed away several years ago, his family graciously established a program to award two \$1,000 scholarships each year in Roy’s honor. This year, the scholarships were awarded to the two graduating seniors shown below.

Alexandra Nicole Aviles
will be attending Penn
State University, majoring
in Biology.

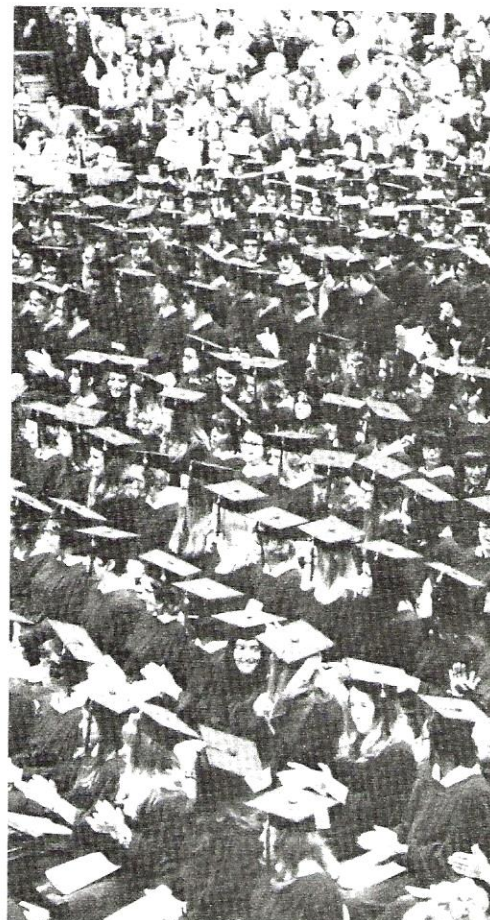
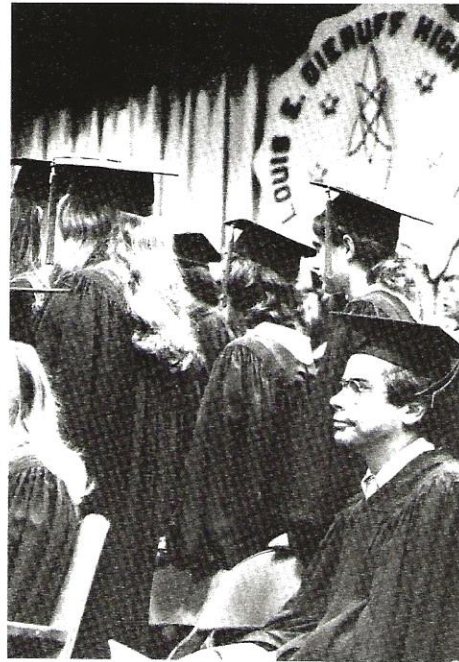


Karina Silva Heredia
will be attending
Bloomsburg University,
majoring in Business
Finance.



FLASHBACK: Class of 1972 Commencement

Photos from 1972 Dieruff High School Yearbook



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

ADVERTISE IN OUR MONTHLY BULLETIN 1/4 Page Ad: \$20/ Mo. Business Card Ad: \$10/ Mo.

Past Dieruff Yearbooks
For Sale - \$25

The Alumni Association has a limited supply of new yearbooks from the following years:

1989	1990	1991	1998	1999
2001	2002	2004	2005	
2009	2012	2013		

You can order yours by going to our Website and placing your order online.
www.dieruff-alumni.org

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

CHRISTMAS CITY
PRINTING

Est. 1981 in Bethlehem, PA

xmascity.com | 610-868-5844

Upcoming Events

Class Reunion Idea

Combine your class reunion with the Fandangle July 30th

- o Reserve a few tables or your own separate tent
- o No minimum to guarantee
- o 5 hours of beer, food, music, etc.
- o Great venue at East Side Youth Center
- o Unbeatable price



Reunions

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Class of 1962 | 60th Class Reunion - July 30, 2022
Held with Alumni Association Fandangle |
| Class of 1967 | 55th Class Reunion - July 30, 2022
Held with Alumni Association Fandangle |
| Class of 1972 | 50th Class Reunion - July 30, 2022
Held with Alumni Association Fandangle |
| Class of 1977 | 45th Class Reunion - July 30, 2022
Held with Alumni Association Fandangle |



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

Huskies In The News....

Leave it to faithful Dieruff Alum Keith Groller to write a beautiful article in The Morning Call on June 10 about the "Oldtimers Reunion" that was held at the Allentown Fairgrounds' Agri-Plex on June 5, 2022.

Gene Legath, Dieruff Class of 1968, is the president of the organization, and is shown in the center of the group below. Officially titled "Lehigh Valley Old Time Athletes & Friends Reunion", Legath claims the "old time" part of the title does not apply anymore.

He states *"we want to get younger guys here. It is for anybody who had any connection to sports whether you played, coached, officiated, or just watched. It's just a good time for people to get back together and talk about the memories and past traditions."*

This event was the 41st annual reunion. Legath is anxious to increase attendance, and emphasizes the fact that it is not just open to Allentown athletes and friends. It is for the entire Lehigh Valley and District 11.

Watch for announcements for next year's reunion.

