

Husky Connections



June 2021

Fandangle 2021: Hugs and Kisses

Of course there's going to be a lot of Husky Hugs and Kisses. This is a reunion, and that's what you can expect at any reunion. And the Fandangle is a mega-reunion (for all classes), so there is going to be mega hugs and kisses. No social distancing and very few face coverings.



It is that likely scenario that led our committee to require attendees to be vaccinated, or at the very least, to provide proof of a recent COVID-19 test. We want everyone to feel comfortable.

By and large, our mandate has met with overwhelming acceptance...even applause, as evidenced by our early ticket sales. This year, the Class of '71 will be celebrating its 50th Reunion in conjunction with Fandangle, and is spearheading the event. They have over 50 alumni and guests holding tickets already, and will have their own designated party tent. Our ticket sales have been brisk, and we do expect to sell out.

We understand that the vaccination issue is a personal choice, and that some folks take issue with our choice. Please understand that our goal is not to exclude or alienate anyone. Our objective is to ensure the health and safety of those people who choose to join us.

We are also keenly aware that the CDC has already lifted restrictions on capacity, masks, and social distancing. As we get closer to "show time", we shall review the CDC protocols, and will respond accordingly.

In the meantime, make sure you order your ticket and get ready to party like it's well, you know... likes it's pre-pandemic!

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President's Message: Back to "Business as Usual"



**Kay Kurtz - President
Dieruff Alumni Association**

It sure feels like someone has hit the "resume button" on our Alumni Association activities. The pandemic had us on "pause" for quite a while, but I am proud to report that we are back with a renewed vitality.

This issue of "Husky Connections" gives you a fair sampling of some of our activities that are picking up steam. I encourage you to invest a few minutes and read what's going on.

Obviously the Fandangle is a major event for us, and we are delighted to see it rejuvenated after last year's cancellation. This mega-reunion for all classes is a great way for you to reconnect with your classmates. You can order your tickets on our website, or by sending in the order form found on page 11. The East Side Youth Center is the ideal venue. The huge party tents provide a safe out-door environment.

We are close to attaining our target amount for the Arlotto Campaign, and encourage you to donate whatever you can, in the name of Mr. Roy Arlotto.

The article about the newly selected alumni that will be added to the Alumni Wall of Distinction as members of the 2021 Class is extremely impressive.

Our FLASHBACK article pays tribute to Mrs. Karen Coleman who is celebrating her 45th year as "Kiska Mom". Her entertaining stories about mothering the last four school mascots will touch your heart.

We welcome you to get involved with us, and share in the joy of Husky Pride.



Arlotto Campaign: Nearing the End

We are nearing the end of our campaign. Our goal is clearly in sight, and very attainable. We recently received an anonymous and very generous donation, and we now have collected total funds exceeding **\$76,000**. Our goal is **\$89,000**.

Please help us reach our goal, and have your name added to the plaque that will be placed in the auditorium.

These monies will be used to purchase state-of-the-art Stage and Theatre Lighting, all in the name of Mr. Roy Arlotto.

Please make your check payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association", and mark it "Arlotto Campaign".

Mail to Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA 18109, Attention: Dieruff Alumni Association.

Alphabetical List of Arlotto Campaign Donors

Arbogast, Jeffrey	Maly, John & Marie
Arlotto, Michael & Michelle	Marcon, Ruth & Charles
Azar, Mounir & Zarifeh	McConnell, Marie & Matthew
Barrow, Lisa	Melnychuk, Dianne
Bauer, Joanne & Ronald	Molotzak, John
Blankowitsch, Dennis & Nanci	Nacci Printing, Inc.
Borrell, Lisa & Christopher Geist	Namry, Kevin & Kathy
Brinker, Dale & Susan	O'Connell, Ruth
Brown, Robert & Charlene	Onieal, Janice & Denis
Builders Door	Pearson, Dennis & Eleanor
Carpenter, Elizabeth C.	Piehl, Robert
Carpenter, Peter & Sandra	Pickering, Mary
Collinsworth, Ann Urban	Piston, Cathy & Steve
Cruttenden, Linda	Pizzolatto, Sandra
DeStefano, Melody Geary	Pope, Carol Grether
Dieruff Alumni Association	Quigney, Beverly
Dolgos, George & Kathy	Radio, Jay & Nancy
Dum, Andy	Reed-Ebling, Joyce
Eckhart Jr., Charles & Judy	Royer, Gerald
Edwards, Carolyn	Rushatz, Jonnie & Adeline
Fico, Joanne	Sandt III, Clayton & Patricia
Gabriel, Regina Cormier	Saraceno, Carmella
Geise, Russell & Susan	Schmidt, Beverly
Halulko, Kandy & Stanley	Schneck, Robert & Nancy
Hargett, William P.J.	Schuler, Frederick
Hauser, John & Marija	Seng, Glen
Hausman, Andrew	Shaughnessy, Thomas
Heffelfinger, Rose	Shaw Margaret
Heintzelman, Alton & Mary	Shovlin, Susan
Hinkle, Don & June	Sniscak, Richard & Michele
Hirst, Gerald & Karen	Sperling, Robert
Hohe, Ann & David	Steckel, Donna & Bob
Hughes, James & Dina	Stevens, John & Anita
Hughes, John & Jinny	Stewart, Michael & Lucy
Ireland, Jodi & Ben	Stierstorfer, Michael
Jesse, William	Stinner, Melodie
Kautzman, Barbara	Strisovsky, Linda & Edward
Kemmerer, Peter	Szalachowski, John & Diane
King, Rita	Trexler, Robb & Amy
Kish, Paulette & Ruhe, Bob	Troutman, Kathy & Thomas
Klucharich, Joan & Bill	Voit, Andrew
Kocsis, Betty & Louis	Weibel, Jr., Paul M.D.
Kotoris, Anita L.	Weidner, Thomas & Susan
Krasley, Kenneth & Linda	Yeager, Michael & Donnamarie
Kuti, William & Michele	Young, Patti L.
Latchic, Linda & Gerard	Young, Thomas & Jeanne
Lilly, Jenny	

Letters to the Editor

From: Kerri Ann Gaumer Freidl
Dieruff Class of 1983
Lehigh University: Chemical Engineer
University of Pennsylvania: PhD
Currently Global Marketing Manager for
Pharmaceuticals

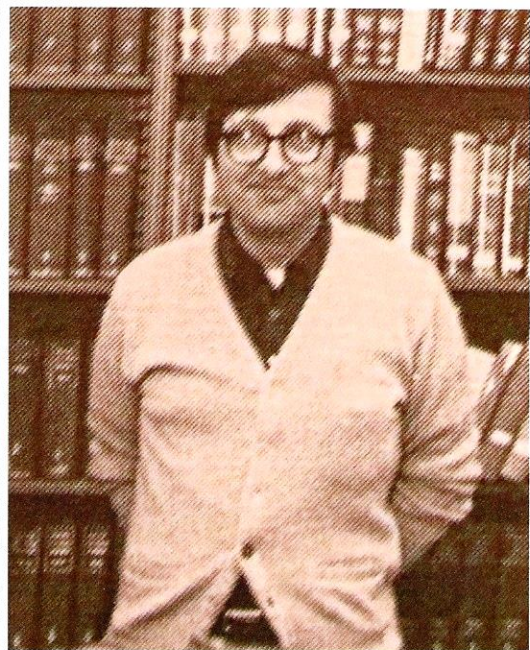
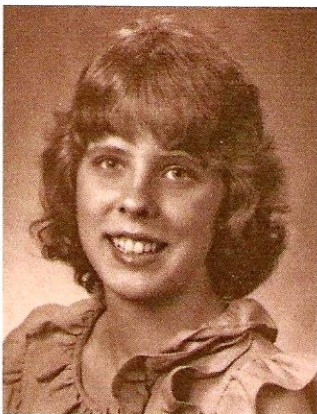
“Mr. Arlotto was one of a handful of excellent teachers at Dieruff. When I went to Lehigh and was having difficulty in chemistry class, I went to him for help, and he taught me another way to work a particular problem. On my exam, I did it his way, not my professor’s way. After the exam, the professor called me up and asked who taught me that technique — good old Mr. Arlotto — I got an A.”



“He bled Husky blue.. He truly did...I was also in bandfront, and he was there at seven in the morning, doing practice drills for upcoming football games, and also in the summertime, 90 degrees, teaching us all the formations and where we needed to go, hit this yardline, etc... He was one-of-a-kind. May he rest in peace.”



**Photos from
1983
Yearbook**



FLASHBACK: Mrs. Karen Coleman is Kiska Mom



FLASHBACK: Kiska II, Kiska III, Kiska IV, and Kiska V

When it comes to memories of our beloved school mascots, Mrs. Karen Coleman is an unparalleled source of information. Her devotion to the canines, and her dedication to the kids at Husky High, create a formula that produces Husky Pride at a majestic level. On these pages, she shares some of her treasured memories of her Kiskas.

As we reported in an earlier edition of our monthly bulletin, Kiska I was owned by John "Doc" Warmkessel, the athletic trainer for Dieruff. When that husky died on July 14, 1975, at the age of 15, the student counsel took a collection to purchase a replacement mascot. In March 1976, Doc and Joanne Ogrydziac, the President of Student Counsel, drove down to a breeder near Philadelphia, and came back with a six-week old puppy they named Kiska II.

Kiska II

According to reliable accounts, Doc's wife was not particularly pleased with this latest addition, as the Warmkessels had several other dogs at the time. When school let out at the end of the year, Kiska II was sent on a "summer vacation" to Ms. Karen Benckert's home in Nazareth. As Karen (now Coleman) reports, at the end of the vacation, *"she stayed"*.



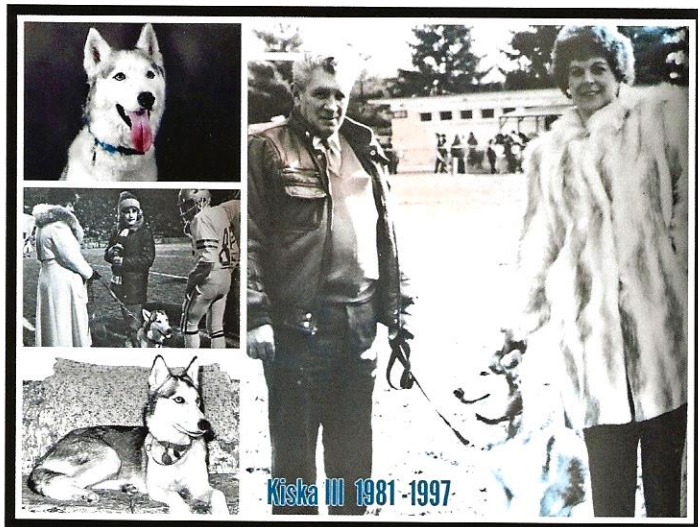
Karen received permission from Football Coach "Jeep" Bednarik to escort Kiska II onto the gridiron each week. For his kindness, Coach Bednarik received a Husky kiss from Kiska II...and one on the cheek from Karen...every game. In 1981, Kiska II died in her sleep at the age of 5. The autopsy revealed a blood clot in her lungs.

Kiska III

In 1981, Karen purchased Kiska III from a backyard breeder in Doylestown, PA. *"She was the slimmest of the girls with a top weight of 45-47 pounds. She loved Arby's Roast Beef Sandwiches."* When Kiska III was a pup, Karen Benckert started dating Master Sergeant Ronald Coleman, an instructor in the Dieruff AFJROTC Program.

(Continued on next page)

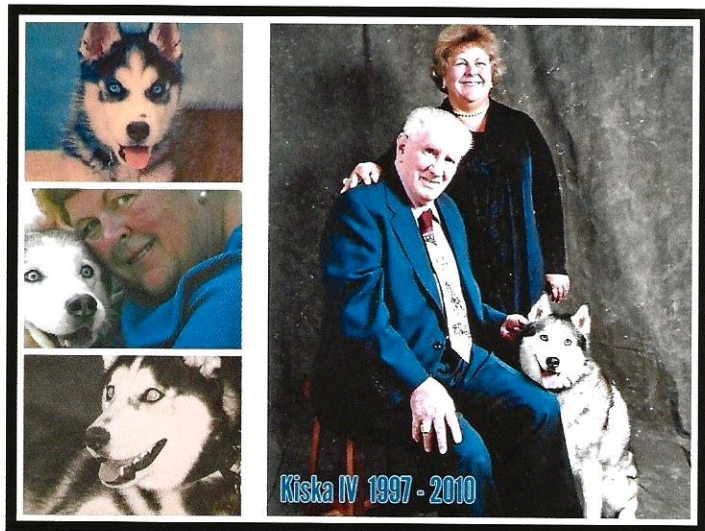
FLASHBACK: Kiskas (Continued from previous page)



On their first date, Karen reports that Kiska III nipped Ron on the hand with those puppy teeth, drawing blood. Fortunately, that experience did not ruin the relationship, and Ron and Karen later married. Ron loved football, and he and Karen enjoyed taking Kiska III to the Dieruff games, running out onto the field. Sadly, they had to put the husky down due to many mini strokes. She was sixteen.

Kiska IV

Karen relates *"Four hours after we put Kiska III down, we purchased Kiska IV at a pet store. She had a very sweet disposition. Ron had retired so she was really his dog. When Ron had chemo, Kiska IV would help him to his chair. She was his therapy dog."* When Ron passed away in 2006, she went to his graveside service and mourned for him. She died of a heart attack in 2010.



Kiska V

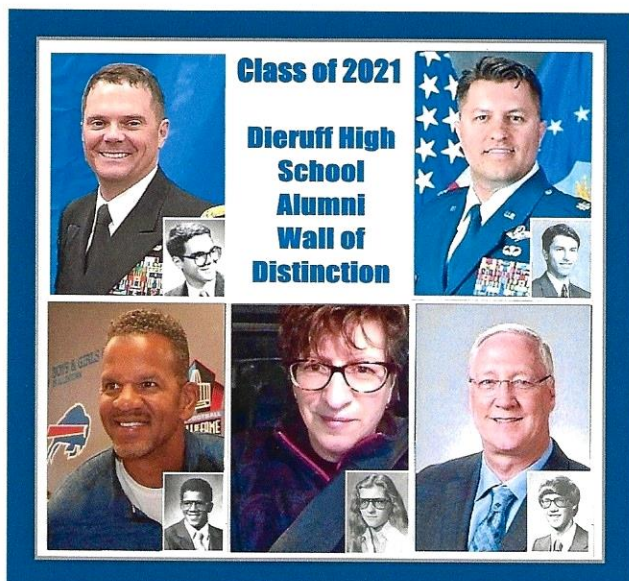
In 2010, Karen acquired Kiska V from MaPaw Husky Rescue. She was surprised to see a red husky, but says *"she needed a home, Dieruff needed as mascot, and I needed a dog"*. On the way home, she stopped at Dieruff. *"The kids fell in love with her. They were completely color blind."* Karen proudly describes Kiska V as *"Diva Dog"...* and *"the most loving and social of all of them."* We agree, and we love her back.



Alumni Wall of Distinction Class of 2021

Would you like to take a Husky Quiz ? We have a patriot who commanded forces over the Northeast on September 11th, an acclaimed artist/sculptor who exhibits life-size dinosaurs, and an award-winning chemist who manages the commercial manufacturing of cancer-fighting pharmaceuticals. What do they all have in common ? Well, along with a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy who is an expert in China relations, and a national ambassador for the Boys/Girls Clubs of America who champions children's literacy programs, they are all folks who have walked the humble halls of Husky High. More importantly, they are the five LED alumni who have been selected for our highly esteemed Wall of Distinction for 2021.

In our continued efforts to promote Husky Pride, the Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association is pleased to announce the names of this year's Wall of Distinction honorees. Launched in 2019 to celebrate the school's 60th year, this program strives to bring lasting recognition to Dieruff graduates who have made exceptional contributions in their respective fields and who have distinguished themselves through their diverse accomplishments and levels of prominence.



In alphabetical order, the names and categories of the 2021 recipients are :

Thomas M. Henderschedt '88 – Military Service / Foreign Relations

Matthew B. James '94 – Military Service

Andre D. Reed '81 – Community Service / TV Entertainment / Sports

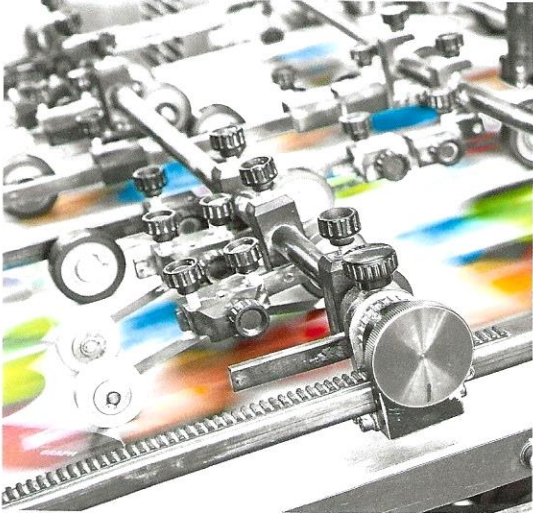
Carmella A. Saraceno '75 – Arts / Education / Business

Mark S. Smyth, PhD '80 – Science / Industry

Beginning in July, we will be profiling each honoree in our monthly bulletin to highlight their outstanding achievements and successful careers. The Induction Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, **October 22, 2021**, at 6:00 pm at Dieruff High School. Because we were unable to host any events last year, we will also be honoring the five distinguished alumni from 2020. Everyone is welcome. Please plan to attend this very special event. It is sure to be a joyous celebration of Husky Pride like no other.

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

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PRINTING
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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

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

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

Upcoming Events

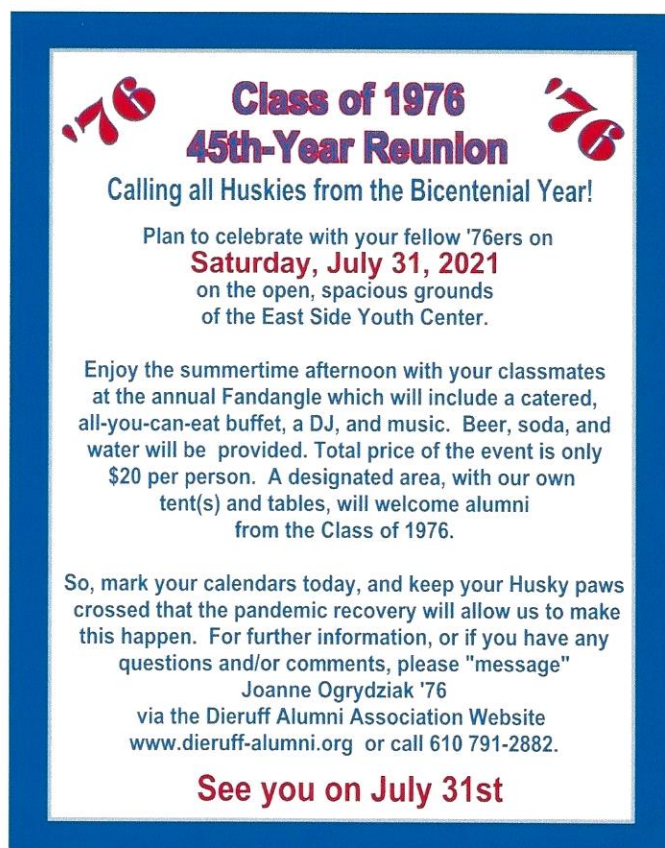


Dieruff High School Alumni Association
Husky Pride... Unleashed

Order Ticket Today
Dieruff Fandangle
A Mega-Reunion For All Classes
Saturday, July 31, 2021
2:00 7:00 PM
www.dieruff-alumni.org



Dieruff High School
Class of 1971
50th
Reunion
Celebrated at Fandangle
July 31, 2021



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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <u>Class of 1971</u> | 50th Class Reunion July 31, 2021
<i>Held with Alumni Association Fandangle</i> |
| <u>Class of 1976</u> | 45th Class Reunion July 31, 2021
Held with Alumni Association Fandangle |
| <u>Dieruff Alumni Wrestlers</u> | Reunion July 31, 2021
Held with Alumni Association Fandangle |
| <u>Class of 1965</u> | 55th Class Reunion Saturday, October 30, 2021
Northampton Community Events Center |
| <u>Class of 1966</u> | 55th Class Reunion September 18, 2021
The Barristers Club, 1114 W. Walnut St., Allentown |
| <u>Class of 1961</u> | 60th Class Reunion, October 15, 2021
West Coplay Maennorchor |

Upcoming Events

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 31, 2021
2:00 - 7:00 PM

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

\$20 Per Person

Attendees will be required to show
 proof of negative COVID-19 test
 or COVID-19 Vaccination

www.dieruff-alumni.org



Fandangle 2021 Ticket Order Form

Please send one (1) ticket for Fandangle 2021 to:

Name _____ Grad. Class _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

check one > Upon arrival at the event on July 31, 2021, I agree to provide (check one)
☐ proof of negative COVID Test (within 3 days) or ☐ COVID Vaccination

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this completed form, along with check in the amount of \$20, made payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association",
 Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving St., Allentown, PA 18109, Attention: Dieruff Alumni Association.



Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association

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

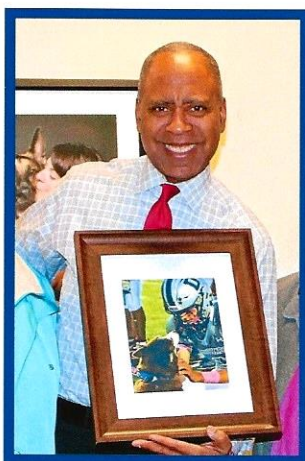
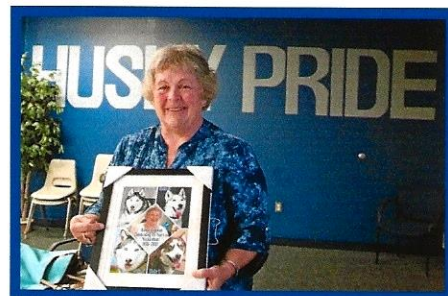
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Alumni Bulletin
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Jhughes2038@gmail.com

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

Husky Howls & Hugs

Hi Everyone,

I do not usually ask for much, a Beggin' Strip, a vanilla frosty, a caramel. Now I am asking for a favor. Mom is celebrating forty-five years as Dieruff Dog Mom. Owning a husky can be taxing at times. We decided no galas, although we had quite the surprise at the Alumni meeting the other night. Mom felt party money and of course all those calories, could be better spent on feeding cats and dogs and educating kids.



Announcing our new charity, **"Youth Strong"**. Please Google it. The foundation was started by Dr. "Uncle Ron" Hodges, my vet. All proceeds will go to aiding Allentown school children. The purpose of the foundation is to mentor, encourage, and strengthen students. Dr. Ron is quite active at Sheridan Elementary and is excited about joining the Husky team at Dieruff High School.

Mom and I are very grateful to him and Valley Central Veterinary Center for my excellent care, and also for the many donations to my husky health. If you would like to help, please send a donation to:

"Youth Strong"
Dr. Ron Hodges
Valley Central Veterinary Center
210 Fullerton Ave.
Whitehall, Pa. 18052

Maybe drop a line to tell him how you know the Diva Dog. Many thanks from a grateful and healthy Kiska.

Love, *Kiska V.*

