

Husky Connections



APRIL 2020

Socially Distant, Not Disconnected

Many years ago, my father offered me some salient advice: always maintain a positive attitude. He suggested one proven method of accomplishing that objective, and that was to surround myself with positive people.

The COVID-19 pandemic makes maintaining that positive attitude quite challenging... but critically more important. The corona virus is far more than a health crisis; it is a human crisis.

Our future, individually and collectively is filled with uncertainty. We are totally unaware of what the new normal is, or what it will be.

We have been directed to stay home, applying "Social Distancing" to help reduce exposure. It is important to realize that social distancing does not mean social disconnecting.

Now is the time to connect, and reconnect, with those positive people in your life. Creatively abandon those negative folks, you know, those "BMW's" (Bitchers, Moaners, Whiners).

One significant source of positive people is our Husky Nation, the Dieruff High School Alumni Association. Typically, these are the people who share Husky Pride. They care about our alma mater, and they care about

each other.

They exude

positive vibrations. This issue of "Husky Connections" features some of them, along with their advice on staying positive.

Taking some liberty with the lyrics of that 1970 Diana Ross song: *"Reach out and touch somebody's hand (figuratively) and heart; make this world a better place, if you can."*

Together, we can do it. We've got the spirit. Stay positive, and stay healthy.

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How are you staying Positive???

A post on our Dieruff Alumni Association Facebook page recently asked the question *"How are you staying positive during these challenging times?"* Well over 100 alumni responded. We have re-produced some of the advice offered.

Rick Braun Class of '73, Woodland Hills, CA

"I've been doing a lot of things around the house that I've put off for a long time. Some of them are manual labor." Rick, who is a celebrated smooth jazz trumpeter, has cancelled his international performance schedule due to the pandemic. He has developed a way to stay connected with his faithful group of fans, and that is broadcasting a weekly show from his living room. It's called "Rick's Cafe Live" and can be seen by clicking on this YouTube link: bit.ly/rickscafelive



Stephanie Marie Roque, Class of 2017, Bloomsburg, PA

"Listening to music while singing and dancing when I get stressed."

Will Frantz Class of '71, Exton, PA

**Scan old photos
and send them
out to people**

"I spend 3 or 4 hours a day going through THOUSANDS of pictures I have taken in my lifetime of family, friends, and basketball teams and players. I then scan and send them out to the subjects. As a result, lots of people I haven't seen in decades are reaching out to me, so the time I am HOME-BOUND flies by."

Rose Jacob Heffelfinger, Class of '66, Bethlehem, PA

"Listening to inspirational music, watching shows and movies on Amazon Prime Video, and going for walks when weather permits. Also enjoyed having our church service on Zoom. Also keeping in touch with people by texting and on Facebook. Just thankful for each day that God is giving me, and trusting God to get us through this."



Cindy Fidler-Wolst, Class of '74, Easton, PA



"Limit time watching the news. Taking walks with my two huskies in the backyard. Reading those books that I never had the time to get to. Cooking and baking, trying new recipes. Checking on my family, neighbors, and friends on social media or phone calls. Trying to spread Love and Husky Pride. And it helps to also listen to Kiska sing the Dieruff Alma Mater to her 'Aunt Cindy' every night on the phone. Sending prayers and Husky Hugs and Kisses to all my fellow Dieruff Huskies. Spread the love, not the virus."

Kalean Wagner, Class of '90, Allentown, PA

"On line education, checking in on friends, cooking for neighbors, inspirational readings, etc." The accompanying photo of Kalean was taken at the Alumni Association Mardi Gras Party held this past February.



Carol Bochniak Kluge, Class of '68, Walnutport, PA



"Thankful for each day we wake up healthy. Sewing masks makes my day go fast."

Jeffrey Burnatowski, Class of '76, Allentown, PA

"Reminiscing about the good old days." Jeffrey also spends a lot of time caring for his prize-winning Mustang... and admiring the many trophies he has earned at various competitions.



Reverend Lisa K. Borrell, Class of '87, Breinigsville, PA



"Chocolate! Lots of chocolate!"

It is interesting to note that Lisa is the pastor at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church in Coopersburg, PA. With our current corona virus situation, she conducts her weekly Sunday Service live, on video, converts it to YouTube, and then posts to her Facebook site for her congregation.

Beth Beers, Class of '87, Allentown, PA

"I'm keeping myself busy building two home-based businesses, listening to podcasts about the industry I'm in, listening to music, watching my favorite shows on Hula, and spending time with my housemate's 10-month old boarder collie."

*Building two
Home-based
businesses*

Ann Urban Collinsworth, Class of '68, Cataula, GA



"I have to maintain my sense of humor.

It can be off the wall, unusual, or even irreverent, but it helps me smile instead of cry."

Barry Morrell, Class of '68, Coplay, PA

As a classmate of Ann, Barry posted: *"Ann, this works well"*. He then reproduced the following.

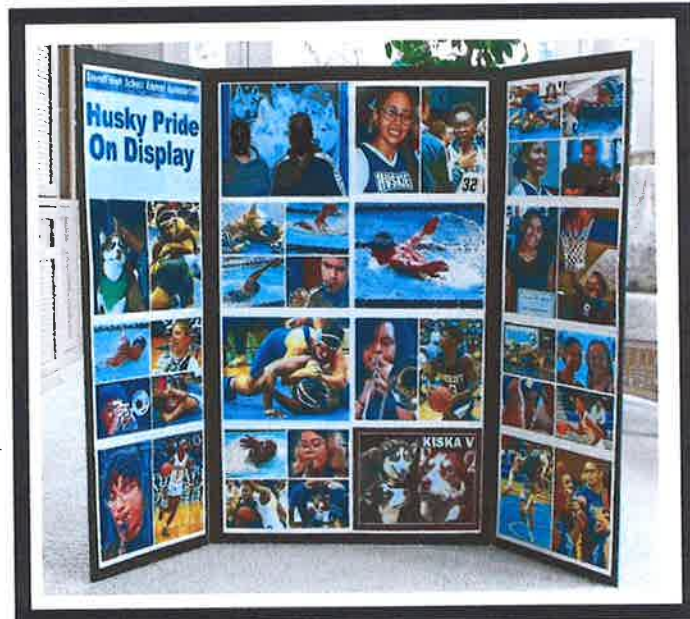
Heard some advice on the radio last night. It said to have inner peace, we should always finish things we start, and we could all use some calm in our lives. I looked through my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished, so I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Whiskey, a bottle of Baileys, a budle of wum, tha mainder of Valiumun sriptums, and a box of chocletz. You haf no idr how fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all who need inner piss. And telum u luvem. And two all bee hapee whilst in da instalation. Sending you guys all our love.

COVID-19 Shuttters Dieruff High School

Our Alumni Association considers staying connected to current Dieruff students, faculty, and staff an essential component of our mission. We actively support school events, and frequently take hundreds of photographs. These photos are often posted on a Facebook page entitled “Dieruff Husky Photos, for the kids to see. Selected shots are printed out and placed in six display cases throughout the school.

This year, the first quarter’s activities were winding down. A collection of photos was completed, ready to be installed in the display case adjacent to the Main Office.

Among these photographs were pictures of Senior 285 lb. wrestler Karam Chakif who captured District XI and Northeast Regional titles; Karam has committed to Lehigh University in the Fall. Also included in the photo collection was Jewel Lopez who was awarded top vocalist at the March Jazz Band competition. Ryan Uliana, outstanding senior swimmer, was there as well.



These Huskies, and many more, never had an opportunity to see their faces in the display. Before the tri-fold poster board was even installed, the corona virus hit, and wham! The schools were closed!

Pennsylvania Governor Wolf announced on April 9th that all schools would remain closed until the end of the academic year. How very sad for everyone involved.... the students (especially the seniors), the parents, the faculty and staff, etc.

Alas, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought our world, as we knew it, to a screeching halt. How we respond, how we rebuild, how we recover... these are the challenges that will define our future.

Alumni Association Activities Remain on Calendar



We shall
keep you
posted

Registered Alumni vs. Information Recipient: That is the question

As website administrator I hope you enjoy the information that's sent to you from your alumni association. As long as we have your valid email address, you'll receive info from us.

To truly engage in the total "*alumni website experience*", you need to become a registered alumni. Here are a few of the benefits:

1. Registered users can receive and send messages to other registered classmates, even those in other graduating classes.
2. Registered users can post *In Memory* comments for classmates who are deceased.
3. Registered users can buy event tickets, make donations, and purchase alumni memorabilia.



Kay Kurtz - Website Administrator

If you would like someone from our website committee to get you enrolled, please send us your authorization to automatically register you onto the alumni association website. **There is no fee!**

Send an email to www.dieruff-alumni.org and copy the following verbiage to your email:

I, _____, Class of _____ authorize the Dieruff Alumni Association Website Administrator and committee to register and post information that I've provided to my alumni profile.

Once registered I understand that I will receive an email with a temporary password to access my online profile. I acknowledge that I will change my password at that time.

Please update the following information and include with your response:

First Name

Last Name

Married Last Name if different than above

Address Line 1

City, State Zip

Please Note: Your full address is not shown on your alumni profile; this information is for website administrator usage only.



Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association

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"Husky Connections"

Alumni Bulletin

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A Message of Hope

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art and played games, and grew gardens full of fresh food, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

(Catherine (Kitty) O'Meara, Madison, Wisconsin)

Husky Howls & Hugs

Hi Everyone,

Sending husky howls and hugs long distance. Getting ready for my walk. We call them mini Iditarods. Had some trouble with social distancing. Being a Diva, I am used to being the center of attention. I love to be pet and soooooo love the attention. Learning to keep to my side of the street and to ignore other walkers and their dogs. It has been difficult. We changed our route and do quiet neighborhoods instead of walking down town.



Some nights when Mom is on the phone to Aunt Cindy, I sing. I do have an amazing range. My fur is growing back in. I am taking my natural medicines and it seems to be helping my Cushing's disease. Could have been so much worse. Actually enjoy the meds along with the peanut butter.

Time to mush before it starts to rain. Hang in there. I miss the Dieruff kids so much that I started really hanging out with the two cats...How do you spell desperation???? Keep washing the paws.

Love with howls and hugs, **Kiska V**
Diva Dog in quarantine.....but for our own good