

# Husky Connections



MAY 2020

## Husky Pride is NOT "Virtual"

There is little doubt. "*Virtual*" is the operative word of the year. Ever since COVID-19 invaded our planet, virtual is the adjective that is often chosen to describe just about everything. It is a simple word that means "having the appearance of reality, but is actually an illusion".

Adhering to social distancing guidelines, companies are holding Virtual Morning Meetings by way of Zoom. Folks are now offering their grandkids virtual hugs on Facetime. Even preachers are uniting their congregations via virtual Sunday Services. Now that Chromebooks (laptop computers) have been distributed to the Dieruff High School students, teachers are delivering their 45-minute lessons in virtual classrooms.

How sad it is to watch the impact the coronavirus is having on the schools, especially on the seniors. Many of them had anxiously awaited the exciting year-end activities. At Dieruff, those events included the Spring athletic schedule, choir and band concerts, the Theatre Department's performance of "Cabaret", the Troika awards for academics, the Kiska awards for athletics, the Senior Prom... and even the final Commencement Exercises at the PPL Center. Big Plans! Huge Disappointments!



Even simple, yet significant experiences will be missed. A final farewell hug for a fond classmate. A high-five for a favorite teacher, cafeteria worker, custodian, or security guard. A loving pat on the head or a belly rub for Kiska, the adorable mascot. Singing, for the last time as an undergraduate, the memorable lyrics of the Dieruff Alma Mater. Rocking to the rhythmic drums punctuating the Fight Song. All of these and more will probably never happen.

Alas, the virus has stolen these precious moments from members of the Class of 2020. They must adapt to the abnormal new normal, and accept the unreal reality of life during and after the pandemic. To recall some of those wonderful memories, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/Y3k15CwxfWk> These images capture the spirited faces of the seniors during their final years at Dieruff. There is one thing that is abundantly clear. The horrible virus is unable to strip a prized possession from a Dieruff Husky...and that is "Husky Pride".

No, Husky Pride is not an illusion. It is not "virtual". It is real, and it resides within each of us, and it will remain there. Once a Husky, Always a Husky!

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## President's Message: 2020 - Imperfect Vision

To an optometrist, 20/20 represents perfect vision. In my mind, 2020 represents the year that we all got "blindsided" by COVID-19. We sure didn't see it coming, at least not with the terrible impact that it is making.

About one year ago, I sat proudly on the stage at the PPL Center in Allentown. Candidly, I was trying to get the butterflies in my stomach to fly in formation. It was the 2019 Commencement Exercises for Dieruff High School, and I had been selected as the keynote speaker and the 2019 recipient of the Honored Dieruff Alumni Award. Never in my life had I felt so honored. What a rush!

I recall the closing remarks of my address included a serious challenge. *"The diploma you will receive today", I stated "is just your learner's permit for the rest of your drive through life. Remember, you don't have to be smarter than the next person; all you must do is be willing to work HARDER than the next person."*

Those words are as true today as they were last year, perhaps even more so. And they apply not only to those ready to accept their diplomas; the challenge applies to all of us. For many of us, the coronavirus has totally destroyed the roadmap we were following on life's journey. Our personal goals may have to be modified, and our journey may now be cluttered with difficult detours. The voice in our internal GPS may frequently deliver the message, "recalculating"! We must adapt!

And so, we all must accept that challenge I delivered last year to the Dieruff Class of 2019, and that is to continue to work harder. The good news is that Huskies are not afraid of hard work!

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Louis E. Dieruff High School graduating Class of 2020. And welcome to our association of proud alumni.



Kay Kurtz—President  
Dieruff High School  
Alumni Association

**Class of  
2020**





## Alumni Offer Advice for Graduating Seniors... and for all of us

A recent post on our Dieruff Alumni Association Facebook page posed the question: "If you were the Commencement Speaker, what advice would you offer the graduating Class of 2020?" Many of the responses provided guidance that would apply to all of us. The photos shown with their advice were taken from their yearbooks.

### Ann L. Blacker, Class of '84, Allentown, PA

*"Do your best everyday. Keep moving forward. Never let disappointment keep you down for long. Grieve if you need to but not forever. Find a mentor. Learn who you can trust. NEVER forget your Husky Pride. You are now part of a large group of people who have this in common. Keep in touch and tell people who have helped you what they mean to you."*



### Barbara E. McGuinness, Class of '79, Uxbridge, MA

*"The time between now and your 50th birthday will be gone before you know it. Live life to the fullest, never regret, and never look back. Make the most of every minute...and don't assume the grass is greener elsewhere; it isn't."*

### Karen Kocsis Hirst, Class of '69, Rehoboth Beach, DE

*"Treasure your friends, your experiences, and your days at DHS"*



### Garry N. Bruchok, Class of '70, Emmaus, PA

*"Never stop learning. Learning doesn't end with high school graduation. That is only the beginning. That is why it is called commencement. Whether you decide to go to trade school or college or grad school, or if you go directly into the workforce, don't stop learning. You can never have enough knowledge. Above all, be true to yourself."*

**John S. Stevens, Jr., Class of '63, Allentown, PA**

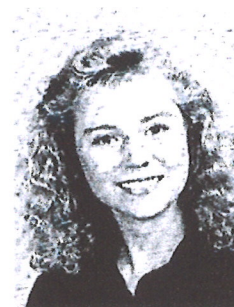
*"Hard work has its rewards. Be kind to everyone. Good things happen to good people. Our Husky education and guidance prepare us to accomplish anything. Husky Pride is forever."*

**Ruth Howard Marcon, Class of '61, Allentown, PA**

*"Choose good friends. Use good judgment. And the advice from Shakespeare in Hamlet Act I, Scene iii Polonius to Laertes, his son: 'To thine own self be true.' With all its sham and drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy."*

**Veronica Fey Foisy, Class of '92, Schwenksville, PA**

*"Be kind. Be brave. When you know better, do better. Never stop learning."*

**Trin Bibi Sierra, Class of '90, Allentown, PA**

*"Always follow your dreams, and do not get discouraged. There may be many obstacles that prevent you from continuing on a 'straight' path', but that shouldn't stop you. Climb the obstacle, go under it, go around it, build a bridge, or get the support needed to help move it. Remember, YOU ARE NOT ALONE! Once a Husky, Always a Husky; Blue and Gray every day!."*

**Colleen Perna Dymond, Class of '83, Allentown, PA**

*"Be true to yourself. The only one standing in your way is you. Shoot for the stars. There is so much to be grateful for. Always keep your Husky Pride. Follow your dreams. There may be setbacks, but that is life. It's not the number of times you fall that count; it's the number of time you get up."*





## COVID-19 Prompts Cancellation of Fandangle

It is with a heavy heart that we must announce that the fabulous **Fandangle** scheduled for July 25, 2020 must be cancelled, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We realize that this annual Dieruff Alumni Association Mega-Reunion for all Classes is an extremely popular event, and is always well attended. In the interest of safety and good health, we would not want to sponsor a gathering that could jeopardize our fellow Huskies and their guests. We will certainly keep you all aware of our plans for next year's celebration.





## Dieruff High School Teacher Appreciation Event Cancelled

Each year, in early May, Louis E. Dieruff High School celebrates "Teacher Appreciation Week", recognizing the significant contributions of their dedicated faculty and staff. The Dieruff Alumni Association enthusiastically supports that program and awards the outstanding faculty member with a gift certificate for a local restaurant.

Needless to say, the demonic pandemic not only closed all of the restaurants, it also shuttered all of the schools, eliminating the important celebration. In an effort to express our sincere appreciation to Principal Mr. Michael Makhoul, and the entire Dieruff High School Faculty and Staff, we have created an entertaining YouTube video. Click on the following link to watch the video:

<https://youtu.be/YGjDBuA41r8>

## Dedicated Faculty & Staff at Louis E. Dieruff High School







**Louis E. Dieruff High School  
Alumni Association**

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**"Husky Connections"  
Alumni Bulletin**

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## Husky Howls & Hugs

Hi Everyone,

I am doing my daily walks. I see a lot of squirrels and bunnies, but I still get lonely. Know social distancing is a must. Miss the kids. Mom often walks me to the Nazareth football stadium, we look through the fence, but it is not Husky High. On these walks, Mom talks to me. I often talk back. It is a husky thing. Mom still likes to teach history so one day I learned how my predecessor, Kiska IV, led the Class of 1998 at Commencement Exercises.



### A History lesson...

Many of you can remember when graduation took place in the hot oven of the Dieruff gym. Mom would take Kiska II and Kiska III to the event. They would greet the graduates at the rear parking lot. Just too hot to take the girls into the building. Kind of lame, but that was how it was.



Things changed in 1998. Mike Elias was class president. He came to Mom with a great idea. Could he lead the class into the arena with Kiska IV, who was just a puppy? By now we had moved over to the air conditioned Stabler Arena. Mom said fine, but Mike had to first check with the Boss, Mr. Meilinger. Mr. Meilinger thought

it was a great idea and so a new husky tradition was established. The ceremony now begins with the mascot leading the procession. As a footnote, in all of those years, there has never been a "puppy accident."

Being a Diva and natural lead dog, I love leading the class into the arena at graduation. The cheers, the love, the joy, the pomp, and the belly rubs, it is the best of times. This year will be very different. The whole world is different. Whether real or virtual, may graduation for the Class of 2020 be a celebration of Husky Pride. I am sending howls and hugs... and kisses too.



### Kiska V Diva Dog

*Missing 2020 Commencement*