

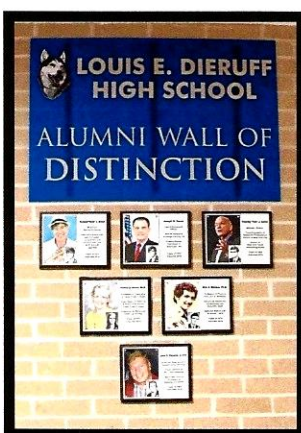
Husky Connections



JUNE 2020

2020 Inductees Selected for Wall of Distinction

Selecting five new inductees for the Alumni Wall of Distinction is a daunting task, even during the best of times. During the worst of times, the task is nearly impossible.

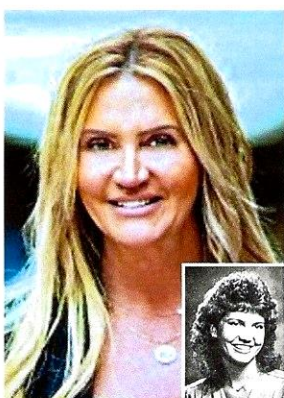


The mix of candidates considered for this year's class was impressive, indeed. Each person nominated was endowed with exceptional achievements, successes, and professionalism, bringing honor to themselves, and also to Dieruff High School.

This year, the selection committee was unable to meet at all, quarantined by government warnings. The dreadful coronavirus negated that option, and so communication among the group was accomplished with phone calls and emails. Although members of the committee were locked down, they admirably stepped up. They chose five people who will powerfully complement the inaugural class of six alumni inducted into the Alumni Wall of Distinction in June 2019. Those selected for the 2020 Class are:

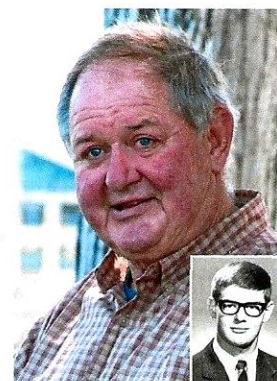
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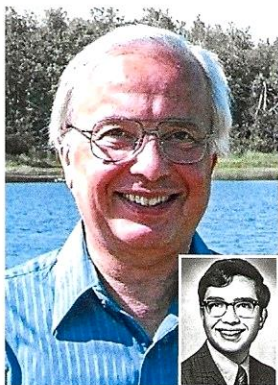


Lori A. Chapleskie Alphonse, DO, Class of 1984, is a leading Pennsylvania cancer specialist and surgeon. She received her medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and is Deputy Physician-in-Chief of Lehigh Valley Cancer Institute in Surgical Oncology. Recognized as a compassionate and gifted speaker, she frequently gives presentations on breast cancer to area community groups.

William F. Gilly, PhD, Class of 1968, is an esteemed Professor of Biology at Stanford University in California. He has an international reputation for his work in marine biology, and is considered to be the *world's top expert* in squid behavior. He is the Founder of Gilly Lab which researches biology/ecology of Humboldt squid. He has made numerous appearances on the Discovery Channel and National Geographic.

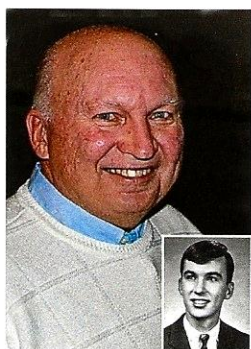
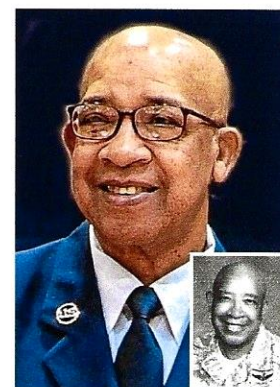


2020 Inductees Selected for Wall of Distinction (continued)



David G. Heinick, DMA, Class of 1972, is an internationally recognized musical composer and performer. Now retired as a college professor, he most recently taught Music Theory and Composition at SUNY-Potsdam's Crane School of Music. Having composed over 100 works, his music is widely published and performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. An accomplished pianist, he continues to perform with prominent soloists and major orchestras.

Master Sergeant Willard E. Jones, Dieruff Faculty 1991-2015, spent the first 22 years of his career on active duty in the United States Air Force. His last assignment was on *Air Force One*, where he served Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush as a Communications Specialist Noncommissioned Officer. He then became an Aerospace Science Instructor at Dieruff High School where he led his AFJROTC cadets to multiple *National* awards in drill competitions. MSgt Jones passed away on September 4, 2019.



John J. "Jay" Radio, Class of 1967, enjoyed a 38-year career at PPL Corporation as an IT Project Manager for Computer Applications. He has dedicated over 40 years to the East Side Youth Center in Allentown, PA, serving as coach, mentor, and director of activities. His significant accomplishments have earned him many awards for community service to Lehigh Valley youth sports programs.

The induction ceremony for these deserving recipients would normally be scheduled in the month of June. Obviously, the coronavirus has prompted us to hit the pause button on that celebration. We will certainly keep everyone posted as plans develop.

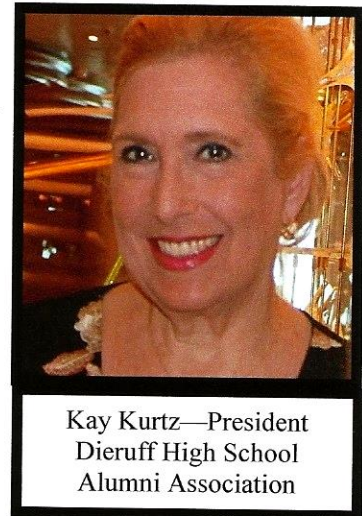
In the meantime, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to the five members of the Class of 2020 for the Alumni Wall of Distinction. They have distinguished themselves, and serve as excellent role models for the students who currently walk the hallways at Dieruff High School.

President's Message: "The Age of A Quarantine"

Who could forget it? "Hair" opened on Broadway in 1968, proclaiming the *"Age of Aquarius"*, with promises of Harmony and Understanding, Sympathy and Trust Abounding. How memorable the music! How profound the message!

Now, here we are, over five decades later, and it certainly is a different world. COVID-19 has introduced us to the *"Age of A Quarantine"*. The moon is certainly not in the seventh house, and Jupiter does not align with Mars. Perhaps those Hippies were right about a few things; pot is now legal and most of us have not seen a barber in a very long time.

The pandemic has certainly challenged us, all in different ways. This month's "Husky Connections" features several articles that reflect the impact the virus has had, and continues to have, on our Husky Nation.



We sincerely commend the selection committee for the Alumni Wall of Distinction. They accomplished their task without the benefit of a face-to-face meeting. But now, we must closely monitor developments in order to schedule the induction ceremony for the five recipients.

Presentation of our four School Spirit Scholarships will be done "virtually", as the Troika Awards, previously planned for May, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Even our beloved Fandangle has to be cancelled. The amount of planning and preparation required to pull off that event.... from selling tickets to contracting the East Side Youth Center, the Food vendor, the beer distributor, and the tent, table, and chair rentals... just could not be accomplished under these circumstances. Add to that, if Pennsylvania Governor Wolf were to shift Lehigh County from yellow to green, his restrictions on crowd limits and social distancing would leave us... ah, "dangling".

And so, we must look past the current chaos, and vow to come back stronger, more vibrant than ever. Our Alumni Association serves as a brilliant beacon during these darkened days. To end this month's message, it is fitting that I quote the lyrics of the final song of that enduring musical, "Hair": *"Let the Sunshine, let the Sunshine in, the Sunshine in!"*



FLASHBACK: Origin of the Dieruff Husky

Have you ever wondered how the Husky was selected as the mascot and nickname for Louis E. Dieruff High School? Well, the Reader's Digest abbreviated answer to that question is that a single Siberian Husky owned by the school's first athletic trainer successfully put down a "*Rebel Uprising*".

Here is the back story. When the doors opened for the first time in the Fall of 1959, Dieruff High School welcomed an interesting mix of students. The incoming Seniors had already spent their Sophomore and Junior years at Allentown High School. Candidly, many of them had hoped to finish their high school careers as Canaries.

The Juniors had invested (and endured) only one year at the aging high school facility on the other side of town, so the prospect of moving to a brand new school on the East Side was quite inviting. The Sophomores had just completed their ninth grade at Harrison Morton, South Mountain, or Central Junior High School, so for them, the idea of attending Dieruff for their entire high school career was very appealing.

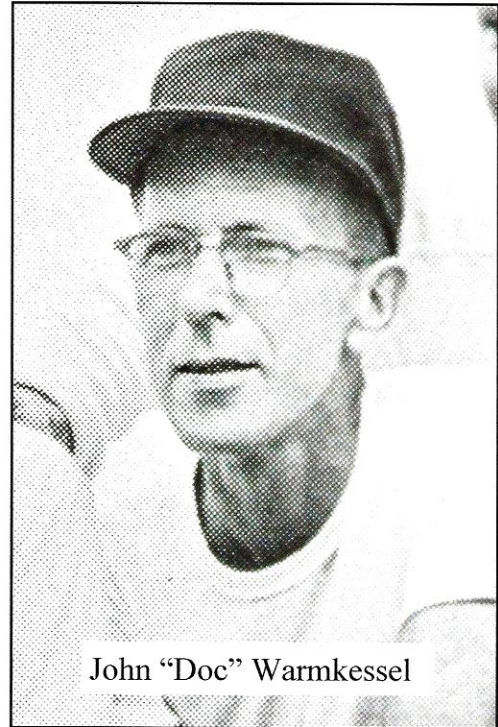
On opening day, during the first auditorium program, Mr. Henry J. Weidner introduced himself as the Principal. Dramatically he declared, "*You don't know me, and I don't know any of you. Everybody has a clean slate, a fresh start!*" He went on to say that the school, similarly, had a clean slate, with no reputation, and that the students had an exciting opportunity to create that reputation by getting involved. He invited everyone to join the clubs, go out for the athletic teams, try out for band, choir, or the drama club. Mr. Weidner posed the challenge to create our own futures.

Another part of his challenge was for the students to come up with a nickname and/or mascot for the school. Many students had been discussing this topic during the summer before school began. The official school colors had already been determined: Blue and Gray. Reasoning that much of the student body would be leaving the old established high school across town (the name "Allentown High School" would be changed to "William Allen High School"), there was a strong sentiment to adopt the nickname of the "Rebels".

Before support for the Rebel moniker gained any momentum, the idea was quickly vetoed by the administration. Wiser heads prevailed, avoiding the disastrous impact of that nickname. The image of Confederate flags being flown from car antenna or unfurled at sports events gave rise to a very swift rejection of the idea.

Alternatives had to be considered. By fate, Mr. John "Doc" Warmkessel, the school's athletic trainer, had recently acquired a Husky puppy as a family pet. According to popular legend, that canine had been obtained from the same kennel that Admiral Byrd had secured his Huskies for his famed polar explorations. "Doc" Warmkessel's dog was named "Kiska", the name of one of the islands in the Aleutian chain off Alaska. The decision was made!

And so Kiska became the school's mascot, and Dieruff High School became known as the "Huskies". That beautiful Husky had vanquished the "Rebels", and "Husky Pride" was born. That pride flourishes more than six decades later.



John "Doc" Warmkessel



Kiska I - First Mascot

Dieruff Seniors Tapped for School Spirit Scholarships

Annually, our Alumni Association has awarded four deserving Dieruff Seniors with School Spirit Scholarships. Although grades are considered, the primary criteria used in the selection process is the amount of school spirit the student has demonstrated during their high school career.

The application form asks for a list of school activities, a reference recommendation by a faculty member, and a one page essay on the importance of school spirit.

Normally presented during the May Troika Awards, the scholarship presentation that is now being organized will be "virtual", due to the coronavirus shutdown of all schools.

The four Seniors selected for our 2020 School Spirit Scholarships are profiled below. Each boasts an impressive resume, filled with a wide variety of activities and accomplishments.



Deona Anya Davis

Extracurricular Activities: Girls Basketball, Indoor Track, Track and Field, Field Hockey, AFJROTC (Captain), and Homecoming Queen.
Reference Letter provided by Track Coach Newhard
College Plans: Tiffin University, Tiffin, Ohio

Extract from submitted essay: *"During my four years at Dieruff High School, I have witnessed abundant school spirit from the teachers and students alike. That spirit is quite contagious, and translates into Husky Pride. It unifies us! It encourages us to support the school and to be involved."*

Yumaira Saavedra-Mozo

Extracurricular Activities: AFJROTC (Girls Exhibition Drill Execution Commander), Multicultural Leadership Club (Vice President), Choir (Alto Section Leader), Student Representative for Allentown School District School Board.

Reference Letter provided by Major Page, AFJROTC
College Plans: Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA



Extract from submitted essay: *"From the first step I took in Dieruff I knew the students and faculty were proud of their colors and amazing mascot, which is a Husky. I had joined the choir, and our first event was the Fall Pep Rally; our song was the Alma Mater for the school. I was taken by surprise to see the alumni singing along with us. This was the moment I knew how much the Alma Mater meant to everyone."*

Dieruff Seniors Tapped for School Spirit Scholarships (Contin.)



Razan Antar

Extracurricular Activities: Good Shepherd Volunteer, VAST Volunteer, Student Representative for Allentown School District School Board, National Honor Society (Treasurer), Class Officer, Executive Council, Scholastics Scrimmage, Varsity Swimming, St. Luke's Program, Key Club, SADD, Student Government

Reference Letter provided by Janet Schnalzer, School Counselor

Academic Class Rank: 3 of 444 GPA: 4.774

College Plans: Medicine

Extract from submitted essay: *"When you become a Dieruff Husky, you join a pack, and that pack is call 'Family'. You see, Dieruff is not just a school, but a place called 'Home'. My Dieruff Family and experience have influenced who I am today, through the power called 'School Spirit'. At Dieruff, we exemplify school spirit like no other."*

Fares Issa Saed

Extracurricular Activities: Class 2020 (President-Junior Year), Class of 2020 (Vice President-Sophomore and Senior Year), Varsity Wrestling, Debate Team, Scholastic Scrimmage, Student Council, Executive Council, Stage Crew, Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (3 years, one 1st place finish, one 2nd place finish), Allentown School District Science Fair (3rd place finish), Rowing Team, School Mascot (all four years).

Reference Letter provided by Maria Markunas, School Counselor

Academic Class Rank: 2 of 444 GPA: 4.932

College Plans: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

Extract from submitted essay: *"As a freshman, I was entranced by the energy I felt attending my first football game. I was inspired by my brother, Adeeb Saed, a Dieruff alum, to follow in his footsteps and wear the mascot suit. I begged Mr. Jurasits to allow me to wear the suit, since the job normally wasn't delegated to a freshman. This came as a surprise to him, since it's usually a dreaded task; the mascot suit is by no means physically comfortable, as it lacks a fan and restricts your field of view. This means you are hot, cramped, and practically blind. But there was something about making the student section cheer and taking photos with the community that made it impossible to take off the suit. I'd come out of it soaking wet and exhausted, but this was a small price to pay for me to see people at the game whose experience was enriched by the mascot's contagious energy."*





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.

2038 Majestic Overlook Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015

(610) 868-4490

Email Address:

Jhughes2038@gmail.com

Website:
www.dieruff-
alumni.org

Husky Howls & Hugs

Hello Everyone,

I am working!!! I had two graduation parades and a photo shoot at Husky High. Good to have some car rides. Great to get out and about.

My first parade was very rewarding, but emotional. We met at Keck Park and I had several walks while people decorated their cars. We joined in and lots of cheering and horn blowing.

We were stopped in front of Jen's house while people gave her gifts. Mom called her over to the van and I went to the window. When Jen saw me, the tears began. Jen was so happy. I was too and wagged my tail. There were a lot of happy tears.



Our second invite said to meet at the Jewish Community Center. Seemed strange, being in Allen land. When we got there we saw lots of blue and gold. Found Kalean and learned the event was for two Allen ladies. Hey, a kid is a kid and a dog is a dog. We went and handed them their cards. The girls were happy and surprised. So were we! Wonder what they thought when they read their cards with love from their husky mascot? Still a celebration.

Then off to Husky High for a photo shoot with Principal Mr. Makhoul. The pictures are for the virtual graduation, scheduled for June 26th. Got lots of pets and even a belly rub. Mr. M had to turn me around. Whenever I see a camera, I show the butt side. Think and hope we got some good shots. It was good to work!!

STAY SAFE and keep on paw washing.

Kiska V Diva Dog

PS Best Wishes to the Class of 2020