

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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2017 Tailgate — Perfect Day With Perfect Ending

Photos by: John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

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President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

For The Pride

"The Walk of Fame". That's what Dieruff Football Coach Kyle Beller calls it. Others refer to it as "The Gauntlet". Whatever the moniker, that transition the football team makes from the buses into J. Birney Crum Stadium has developed into one of the most exciting elements of the festivities that precede "The Big Game".

It all began six years ago when a relatively modest group gathered for the first Dieruff High School Alumni Association Tailgate Party prior to the Dieruff - Allen Football Game. We had secured a spot at Cedar Creek Park, opposite Gate #2 of the stadium. As the buses neared, our band of faithful Huskies crossed Linden Street, and formed a simple pair of lines that welcomed the arriving players and coaches into the stadium. It is interesting to note that Dieruff won that game, ending a very long string of losses.

This year, on Saturday, October 28th, the Alumni Association launched its most successful Tailgate Party prior to the annual rivalry contest. Abundant sunshine added to the glow as nearly 300 Husky revelers gathered in Husky Pride. Three large green and white striped party tents provided shade and visual variety. A blue pop-up registra-

tion tent and the sizeable food tent added to the impressive scene. Significant representation from the Dieruff Classes of 1967 and 1968 joined us to mark their 50th Class Reunions. Our favorite food vendor, Giovanni's On The Go, provided attendees with a sumptuous lunch. Alumni enjoyed meeting members of the Dieruff AFROTC, the Cheerleaders and the Marching Band, all of whom had been invited to attend the party as our guests.

As we received the cell phone call that the team buses were due to arrive in 10 minutes or so, the grand array of celebrants moved across the street to the long macadam ramp that leads to the stadium gate. Everyone took their assigned places. The Saber Squad of the AFROTC positioned itself nearest the street, prepared to form the welcoming arch. Cheerleaders and Marching Band members continued the formation of double lines up the ramp toward the gate. Alumni, faculty, and guests filled in the impressive formation.

With the band blasting the "Dieruff Fight Song", the players and coaches stepped from their buses, and proceeded under the dramatic saber arch, and through the tumultuous applause. Although many of the

players tried to maintain a stoic "game face", the sparkle in their eyes revealed appreciation and excitement for the overwhelming support.

That afternoon, the Huskies recorded a 38-24 victory over the Canaries, which was their fifth win out of their last six games against William Allen High School. (The only defeat was the overtime setback last year.)

We would like to congratulate Coach Beller, his staff, and this year's football team for their contribution to Husky Pride. We would also like to thank all who helped make this year's event so memorable.

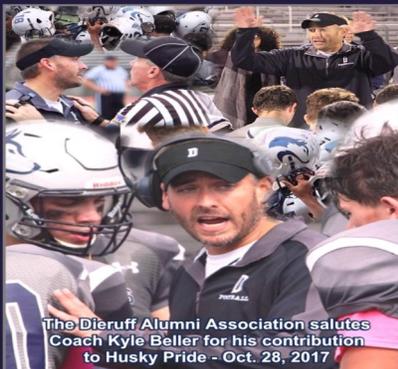
With warm Husky regards,

John

To view the video clip of the "Walk Of Fame", and the Fight Song and Alma Mater after the victory click the links below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5jLUtEjPSk> Walk of Fame

<https://youtu.be/II2kgOnY61g> Victory!



Alumni Profile - Paulette Diefenderfer-Kish '67

David Ziegenfuss '86



She signs her notes and letters "Love and Cheers!" a fitting way for LED's ultimate cheerleader – Paulette Diefenderfer-Kish.

For over 50 years (and counting), Paulette has made Dieruff her home. As she says: "I've been at Dieruff from the couches in the commons to the Meilinger Wing." First entering LED as a junior high student attending all the big sporting events and going to open gym and swimming in the pool, as a student in the fall of 1964 through her graduation in June of 1967, as an educator - first as a substitute teacher in 1984, then becoming full-time in 1986 and remaining for 26 years, as a parent whose children Corey and Bryan attended DHS, as a member of the 1967 Reunion Committee and finally coming full circle as an active member of the Dieruff Alumni Association. But what makes Paulette special is her honest affection that she shows everyone. She transcends the "clicks" and believes everyone she meets is special - and truly means it.

Paulette's journey to LED started up the hill from where Dieruff would one day be. She was born and grew up on South Hallstead Street, and as she says, "Surrounded by strawberry fields. It was a wonderful place to grow up with loads of kids in the neighborhood and all we did was play."

Paulette attended Moser School until the 5th grade and then moved on to Ritter for 6th grade. This was during the time when the school district sent all 6th graders in the city to one school. "I met loads of new kids there and it's the first time that I met my other half, Bobby (Ruhe)," Paulette explains. "It was good for a transition to junior high; you weren't so overwhelmed when you got there. It

was in steps, going to Ritter for a year and then Harrison-Morton, but I loved school - school was my salvation."

When Paulette entered Harrison-Morton for junior high, she had an early mentor. "I was a tomboy and I loved to play; growing up I was always outdoors and active. I grew up in a neighborhood full of boys and my world revolved around athletics, so we were riding our bikes, playing tag or baseball, running around at the reservoir, we were just having a ball. That's where my athleticism came from. Then I got to junior high and I had this Phys Ed teacher, Miss Mann and she was my first inspiration on becoming a gym teacher. I knew my direction early on."

When Paulette came to LED in the fall of 1964, she had made the cheerleading squad as a 10th grader, "That just opened the door for me, because I got involved in all the activities in school and worked with so many people. I like people."

Paulette's resume at LED is a very impressive one. Not only was she a good student, she was a member of the Key Club, the pep club, student government, played on the field hockey and basketball teams, was the captain of the cheerleading squad and was voted both Homecoming and Prom Queen. "I'm really proud of being voted Homecoming and Prom Queen," Paulette begins, "because I was chosen by my peers. Not by teachers or administrators, but by my fellow classmates. My high school years were fantastic."

Paulette's affection for LED reflects in an interesting take on the people who taught her, "Pete Carpenter – now the auditorium is named after him, Denis McGinley – the pool is named

after him, Dick Schmidt – the gym is named after him and of course Mike Meilinger, who was my teacher, my coach the new addition is named after him. Even my classmate Linda Repp (Cruttenden) has the floor in the gym named after her. I love it that today they have all been recognized."

In the Spring of 1967, Paulette graduated LED and went to East Stroudsburg State College (now East Stroudsburg University) to obtain her teaching degree in Physical Education. Graduating in 1971, she claims that college was "my educational focus." She taught at both Harrison-Morton and Raub as a gymnastic coach, and then put her career on hold to have a family

"I took the time to raise my children, Corey and Bryan. They are both my proudest achievements in life because of *their* achievements, academic and athletic. Both of them graduated college and are raising their own families. I have four grandchildren."

In 1984, Paulette came back to Dieruff as a substitute teacher and coach. "When you were a Phys Ed teacher, you always had to coach," and coaching she did with the gymnastic and field hockey teams and also served as cheerleading coach. In 1986, Paulette was offered a full time contract with Dieruff. "I loved being a teacher. I always knew I would be one." Paulette finally retired from teaching in 2011.

Continued on Page 5

Video Holiday Card Sing

Under the Direction of:
Mr. Peter Carpenter



**Wednesday, December 6
6PM - Sharp!
Dieruff Choir Room**

**We are making a Video Holiday Card
Open to ALL Alumni Members
We will promptly begin at
6PM with warmups and the
Dieruff Alma Mater
Please wear holiday attire and
colors of green and red
Cookies, punch and egg nog will be served
Monthly Alumni Meeting to follow
Please email: DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net
if you can attend**

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Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/ Karen Coleman

Instead of my usual gratitude list, this year I would like to highlight some of my friends who have made my life and the world a better place.

BFF Misha - Since huskies and larger dogs are prone to weakened hind quarters as we age, we knew the day was coming when you would retire. It was getting harder to get up and down. Will miss you my friend. As we ran the field together, we were a vision of Husky Pride. Know you remember how naughty I was as a pup and all the cheap shots and tackles I gave you. You took it all, never snapping, just being a stoic Siberian. We still have our graduation walk. And you will be walking by Husky High daily. Mom said we would come up for some walks, too. You have served well and now it is time to rest and relax.

Pat McDevitt runs MaPaw Husky Rescue. They saved me and my brother. Pat is now caring for twenty-four huskies and husky mixes. That is a lot of work. He is a true Dog Whisperer. Never seen a Siberian he cannot handle. Huskies are not the

easiest breed to deal with. I never wondered what a military person did with their pet when called up for deployment. Pat is caring for some huskies who belong to deployed service persons. Promised them that their dogs would be waiting when they come home. He also took in a blind husky. Sore eyes, another husky problem. The owners dumped it in a parking lot. A shelter took it in. The eyes were so infected, they had to be removed. No shelter wants a blind, unadoptable dog. The dog will now be a permanent resident at MaPaw. Thanks Pat, for saving so many dogs.

Thanks to everyone who works/volunteers at an animal shelter. The work is hard, dirty and heart-breaking. Mom comes home with some real horror stories. Animals feel, hurt, have personalities. Never get a pet if you have any inclination of just getting rid of them. Should situations arise, take the animal to a shelter. We have so many that were just thrown out on roads. Please get your pet neutered. This prevents unwanted litters and prevents many types of

cancer in your pet.

Thank you to all the coaches and band personnel. You did a great job this fall season. Know the long hours that you put in. HUSKY PRIDE is not an accident, does not just happen. Takes a lot of hard work and many frustrations. To the football team and Coach Beller, thanks for the win over Allen. I found a feather on the field pre-game. Chewed it up and spit it out, so I had a pretty good omen of a victory. Ate a lot of gum, too.

Looking forward to my Thanksgiving turkey..

Love,



Kiska V
Diva Dog

Paulette Diefenderfer-Kish '67 Continued From Page 1

During her time at Dieruff as a teacher, Paulette started the SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) program, choreographed "Cats", was on the Graduation Project Development Committee and the Booster Club. "I am very proud of the students and athletes I may have touched, through coaching and teaching. I was tough, but hopefully in a fun, loving manner that could prepare them for life."

Shortly after her retirement, Paulette was inducted into the Dieruff Hall Of Fame. "I was touched," begins Paulette, "I never thought about it. I was a Booster Club member all those years and did all that, and I still get goosebumps when I think about

being in the Hall of Fame. That honor has touched me the most."

Paulette has continued to be an active member of not only the Alumni Association, but her Class of 1967 as well. "We just had our 50th Reunion, which was a four-day event and was absolutely perfect. It gave me time to connect with old friends and acquaintances that I haven't seen and remember the great times. That's where I use the line: Once a Husky...Always a Husky! I love that line because to me, your old friends know you the best and I'm fortunate to still be in touch with my old friends. We still laugh and cry together to this day."

And her final thoughts: "Dieruff

continues to be a vibrant part of my life thanks to the incredible Dieruff Alumni Association. When I was in school, my favorite cheer was *DHS FOREVER THE BEST!*"

Love and Cheers to you too Paulette!

(To view photos of the 1967 Reunion Visit: http://www.dieruff-alumni.org/class_gallery.cfm?gallery_link_id=25408)



Paulette and her Bobby (Ruhe)

Grapplers Gather – A Mini-reunion for Alumni Wrestlers

Words and Photos by John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

They came from all parts of the country, near and far. They represented each decade of Husky Alumni. And their wrestling records ranged from mediocrity (my own) to Pennsylvania State Champion (John Salit, DHS '93). What they all shared in common was a love of wrestling and a huge amount of Husky Pride.



Last year, Robb Trexler (Dieruff Class of 1966) and Abe Youwakim (Dieruff Class of 1967) organized a reunion of Dieruff wrestlers and coaches from their era. About a dozen grapplers met for lunch at Abe's restaurant, the Hamilton Family Restaurant in Allentown.

Robb decided to launch a similar event this

year, expanding the invitation to all Husky Alumni Matmen. On October 28th, three dozen Dieruff Alumni Wrestlers and Coaches met at the "HamFam" for a joyous celebration. Attendees introduced themselves and briefly described their Dieruff experience, as well as their post-graduate involvement with the sport. Not surprisingly, many of the attendees enjoyed coaching careers at high school and college levels.

At a predetermined time, Robb accepted an in-coming call on his cell phone. He switched his device to "speaker" and allowed us all to hear a warm greeting from Bernie Fornicola, widow of Dieruff's first wrestling coach, Larry Fornicola. She expressed regrets that she was unable to attend our function, but promised to be part of next year's gathering.

Receiving very warm receptions from our group were Coach Thom Persing and his wife, Marty, as well as Rita Yost King, widow of Coach Dick King, and their son, Rich. Rich gave a great presentation on the early days of Dieruff Wrestling, and referred everyone to his newly-created website.

With such a zealous response to the mini-reunion, Robb and Abe have pledged to continue the tradition. We will certainly publish information as the plans develop.



...And the Winner of the Andre Reed Jersey is...

John "Scott" Cuti

Class of 1971

Who purchased his ticket at this year's Fandangle.

All monies raised go to the Dieruff Alumni Association Scholarship
Thank you to Joyce Reed-Ebling and
Everyone who purchased a ticket

Calling all Singing Huskies



**Join the Dieruff Alumni Choir for our
3rd Annual Carol Sing**

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017, 2:00 pm
Westminster Village
803 N. Wahneta Street, Allentown, PA 18109

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, 11:00 am
Cedarview Apartments
4230 Dorney Park Rd., Allentown, PA 18104

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, 2:00 pm
Saucun Valley Manor
1050 Main Street, Hellertown, PA 80155

**If interested, contact
Cindy Fidler Wolst at:
Huskypride1974@gmail.com**

Standing in front of mist and dirt they did not tremble
 Longing for their **families** did not make them fall
 For our **country** they stood
 So that we may have **comfort** in our sleep
 Remember in your **heart**
 And in those **tears** shed
 That these **heroes** fought
 to keep our lives **lit** ahead

Veterans Day

Thank You Veterans
From a grateful Nation



UPCOMING EVENTS

To get your event listed, please email event before the 24th of each month to: dhsalumninews@ptd.net

- November 22:** Unity Basketball Game—APD V. Dieruff 6:30PM
Richard Schmidt Gym (SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS)
- November 25:** Husky Carol Sing 2PM (SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS)
- November 25:** Class of 1977 40th Year Reunion 6PM \$55PP
Allentown Brew Works (VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS)
- December 2 & 3:** Husky Carol Sing (SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS)
- December 6:** Monthly Alumni Meeting/Holiday Video Sing 6PM
Dieruff Choir Room (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)
- December 12:** Dieruff Winter Concert 7PM \$5 Adults/ \$3 Students
Peter Carpenter Auditorium
- January 3, 2018:** Monthly Alumni Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- February 17, 2018:** 7th Annual Dieruff Alumni Association Mardi Gras Party
East Side Youth Center (DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: www.Dieruff-Alumni.org



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Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

David Ziegenfuss '86, *Publisher*
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We publish an online digital.pdf copy of the Newsletter 10 times annually.
All digital copies will be emailed monthly between September — May and a double issue will be emailed for the June/July Fandangle edition.
There is no August edition

Publication dates may vary, but most issues will be published by the 20th of the month. Deadline for inclusion for each month's edition will be by the 5th of the current month, unless arrangements are made. Please email articles, advertising and events to:

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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