

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 11

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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Welcome to the Newsletter's FINAL EDITION...Of Volume 1!

David Ziegenfuss '86, Publisher

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Well, we have done it! We have concluded the first year of the Dieruff Alumni Association Newsletter. What a long, fun and rewarding first year this has been!

When we finally decided to take on this project, I wasn't sure that it could be pulled off. I mean, how do you start a newsletter?

The outline began last August while on a houseboat in Boston. Dana, Pam Warmkessel and I were throwing around ideas and coming up with handwritten drafts. What would the newsletter include? How would we format it? How were we going to come up with articles? And most importantly to us that day on the boat, how much time commitment would this project entail?

We put all the ideas on paper. Some ideas made it, some didn't. The idea of having a monthly "Alumni Profile" was almost instantly decided on; so was the idea of "Kiska's Korner". The premise was (and still is) to get the news out about Dieruff and the Alumni Association.

What we lacked in professional journalism skills, we made up for in chutzpa. I must admit, however, I would turn to Dana on several occasions around the 18th of the month and say, "I don't know what we're going to write about for the next issue".

There would be "deadlines", but magically, the articles, photos and ideas would come in. Looking back at past issues, I am proud of the growth and development of the Newsletter. In the early issues, there was no real rhyme or reason on where articles were placed, except for the size on the page. Now, we have a format that we try to follow in each issue in order to maximize

space and accommodate as many news stories as possible.

For the first issue I had hoped to have a 3-5 page monthly newsletter. Throughout its development this past year, we have had no less than 6 pages for each issue (with an average of 7 pages) and the June edition topped out at a whopping 9 pages! In reflecting on this past year and each month's edition of the newsletter, I am proud of every issue and thankful to all who contribute their stories. As we honed our skills, it was the June issue where I could see that the fruits of all we have learned on creating a newsletter were coming together. While rereading each issue, I saw many positives which I want to continue, but I also saw where improvements were needed on the publishing end. Our goal is to continue to entertain as well as inform.

But enough about the newsletter itself. I want to thank those who have contributed articles in the past year: Joanne Ogrydziak, Cindy Fidler-Wolst, Pam Wescoe-Warmkessel, Frank DiSimone, Jessica Reidy-Harris, Ray Roche, Kay Kurtz, Keith Groller and Kiska and Karen Coleman. But there two others that I want to also acknowledge...John Hughes and my wife and editor, Dana.

John has been there to make sure articles were there when needed and really helped to pull things together when we needed the help, with an article, photo or collage. Thank you John. And as for Dana, well you couldn't find a more supportive and helpful editor. Between proof-reading every article, approving the final layouts and even occasionally contributing an article of her own, Dana has really helped in streamlining the editing process that in the beginning was a

very daunting task which has now become more manageable. So Dana I thank you very much for all you do.

As we enter Issue #2 in September, what will be changing? Well for the most part very little. Allentown Fire Chief, Lee Laubach has agreed to do a monthly safety feature that I think will be something exciting to look forward to in each issue. I would encourage more of our readers to consider becoming involved by contributing ideas and articles for future editions. I would also like to see the "In The News" feature, which we mentioned in the March edition come to reality. I know Joanne O is still looking for the answer to "Who Wrote the Blue and Grey Fight Song" and I'm sure there will be past mascots to talk to. Also, please continue to let us know about your reunions, fundraisers and any Dieruff related activities that you would like to see in the newsletter (these can be submitted via email at DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net).

And thank you to all who have told us how much you enjoy and look forward to the newsletter. We are proud to partner with the Dieruff Alumni website and Facebook page as an avenue to spread "Husky Pride". Working together, we can ensure that our alumni and friends are both educated and entertained with all happenings Dieruff and its alumni have to offer. How many other schools have this type of social media commitment?

So here we "grow" and onto Volume 2 Number 1, September, 2016!



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Birthday Celebration for our Newsletter

Creation of a Newsletter? A daunting task, but they offered to tackle the project. They knew it would be challenging. They also were keenly aware that, if they could pull it off, the contribution to our Alumni Association would be significant, indeed!

Almost one year ago, David Ziegenfuss, Class of 1986, and his wife, Dana, announced their plans to launch an Alumni Association Newsletter. With unbridled enthusiasm, they outlined their goals to produce a monthly publication that would feature articles designed to keep alumni aware of all things "blue and gray".

The inaugural edition of the Alumni Newsletter was distributed in September 2015. Subsequent monthly issues have been faithfully emailed to over 6,000 Dieruff alumni. The Newsletter has been a smashing success. It has been informative. It has been entertaining. It has been inspiring.

David and Dana have displayed brilliance in their choice of editorial content as well as in their selection of contributing authors. A wide variety of topics has captured the diverse interests of our alumni. Feature stories have applauded the work of the "Sew What?" Club, paid tribute to Football Hall of Famer Andre Reed for the dedication of the playing field at J.Birney Crum Stadium, and recognized the Alumni Choir for spreading Holiday Cheer at local senior centers.

Our own Joanne Ogrydziak, Class of 1976, has written insightful articles about alumni who once donned the Husky mascot costume, as well as fascinating stories reporting on alumni who have previously won Freddy Awards for their theatre performances. She has penned creative monthly articles featuring Dieruff Alumni.

Kay Kurtz-Vogel, Class of 1974, is currently writing a series of articles offering simple instructions on navigating the Website. As the Website Administrator, Kay provides helpful guidelines.

"Kiska's Korner", written by Karen Coleman (Kiska's mother) has been a regular column in the Newsletter since its inception.

And so, I would like to salute David and Dana Ziegenfuss for their creativity, dedication, and perseverance. I would also like to thank all of the alumni who have collaborated on the Newsletter. We appreciate their contribution.

With warm Husky regards,

John



Alumni Profile - John "Jay" Radio '67

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

One of the reasons why I enjoy profiling our graduates is the opportunity it provides to meet alumni who, with their talents and interests, have actively served their communities. As we prepare for our largest event of the year, the LED Alumni Association is proud to recognize this month's honored alumnus, John "Jay" Radio '67, a key player in the day-to-day operations of the East Side Youth Center at which the Annual Fandangle is held. Upon contacting Jay to introduce myself from the alumni association, he answered the call from Cedar Beach while volunteering at the renowned Stellar Basketball Tournament which he has done for twenty years. He kindly offered to meet me at the ESYC where he treated me to a guided tour of its many facilities. Located in the heart of "Rittersville," it is a gem of a youth center which serves the residents of Allentown's East Side. Jay proudly explained the history of the ESYC, which was founded in 1955, as we walked through the welcoming hallways and entered the massive gymnasiums, all of which boast shades of blue and gray. As I read the names on the numerous trophies and banners, I imagined decades of Dieruff athletes who got their starts as "Little Huskies" on those same basketball courts, wrestling mats, and ball fields. Still loyal to his East Side roots, Jay and his brother Greg (LED '65) grew up on North Kearney Street directly behind the Dieruff Gym. During his years as a Husky, Jay was a band member and also participated in the school's Key Club. When asked of his favorite teacher and his special memories of Dieruff, Jay recalled Mr. (Roy) Arlotto (who continues to serve as the LED basketball statistician), along with the annual bonfires, the capacity crowds at Husky games, and being part of the history of Dieruff during its premier decade of the '60s. As a '67 grad, Jay also played on the first two of Dieruff's powerhouse basketball teams which captured four consecutive District XI titles ('66-'69), unprecedented at that time. When I inquired what it was like to compete under the leadership of the iconic Dick Schmidt, he humbly smiled and simply replied, "He taught us how to win. He knew how to read the other team and what we needed to do to win."

Following his 1971 graduation from Penn

State University, at which he majored in Computer Science, Jay began his 38-year career in Information Technology with PPL where he developed and supported large corporate computer systems. He and his wife Nancy have been married for 44 years and are the proud parents of three sons (Matt, Mark, and Tim), and the grandparents of ten children. Their family interest in youth sports evolved as all three of their boys participated in athletics at the East Side Youth Center. Through coaching, mentoring, and fundraising, Jay has helped to promote youth sports for thousands of youngsters over the past thirty-five years. His selfless contributions to the Lehigh Valley sports community have included the ESYC basketball program, LV Knee-High Basketball League, Dieruff Varsity Basketball, Pennsylvania Keystone State Games, and the Stellar "Catch a Rising Star" summertime high school basketball tournament. In 1989, Jay was also a co-founder of the first boys' Lehigh Valley AAU Basketball Club and, consequently, the ESYC became the first "home gym" for that program. The '67 Husky was again saluted for his leadership and community-mindedness when, in 2010, Jay was inducted into the inaugural class of the Lehigh Valley Recreational Sports Hall of Fame.

In addition to his life-long commitment to youth sports, Jay is the Financial Secretary of the East Side Youth Center and the Chairman of its Board of Governors, and writes all of the grant requests to charitable foundations, corporations, and government agencies. He is especially proud of the \$1.75 million capital improvement campaign which provided for a second gymnasium, a learning center, fitness and community rooms (which support many adult programs), and the upgrade of all building safety features. As we walked along the beautiful new gymnasium floor, a product of the initiative which was completed in 2005 and which fittingly bears Jay's name, I watched a handful of neighborhood kids play a game of pick-up basketball under the spirited display of "Kiska" pennants. The number of youngsters who have benefited from the activities offered by the ESYC is countless, and Jay Radio has played a vital role in its mission for almost four decades.

Because of his background as a champion



Husky hoopster, I concluded our meeting by asking Jay if he had read the Morning Call's Senior Sports Writer Keith Groller's (LED '79) recent blog (5/4/16) which compared Dieruff's production of "The Producers" to the success that our alma mater's basketball program enjoyed back in late '60s. He had and we both agreed with Keith. It was great to once again see the excitement of the sold-out crowds, packed parking lots, and an overall resurgence of Husky Pride. I thanked Jay for the tour and for the generosity of his time. And I reminded him to get his theatre tickets early next year.



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A Treasure For Football Fans

John G. Hughes, Jr '61



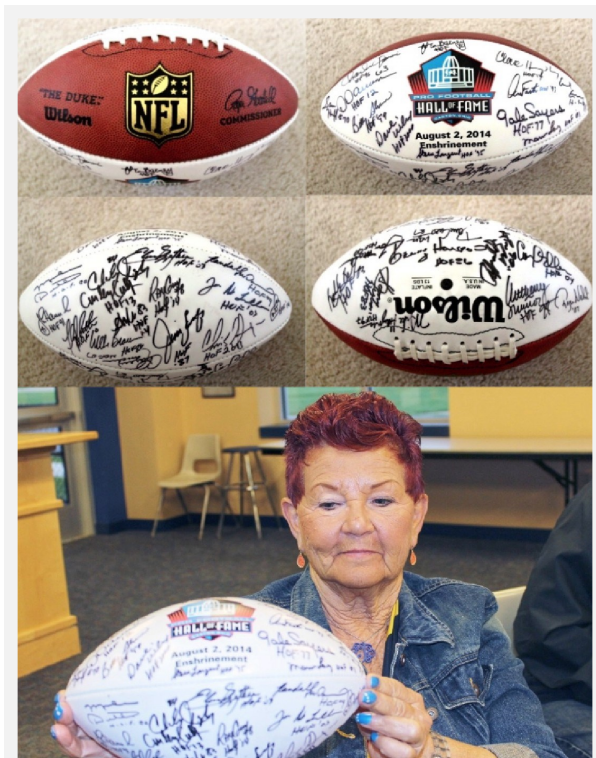
You have two questions to ponder. How many raffle tickets should you purchase to give yourself a good chance to win this prize, and if you should be fortunate enough to capture this amazing super trophy, where would you display it?

Our Alumni Association has received an incredible gift that we are using to raise money for our "School Spirit Scholarships". The gift is a valuable commemorative football, autographed by 38 Pro Football Hall of Fame recipients who had attended the 2014 enshrinement ceremonies that honored our own Andre Reed. Distinguished signatures on the ball include Mike Ditka, Dan Fouts, Paul Hornung, and Gale Sayers.

The football has been donated to our Association by Joyce Hemerly Reed-Ebling (Class of 1962). She had received the ball as a keepsake from David Baker, President of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, during the enshrinement of her son, Andre.

We shall be selling raffle tickets at \$10 each, 6 tickets for \$50. The drawing for the coveted ball will be made at the Dieruff vs. Allen Football Game in October 29, 2016.

To give yourself a better opportunity to win the autographed football, we suggest buying six tickets. As for the ideal location to show off the prize, the mantel over the fireplace would be perfect... or maybe the coffee table. Good luck.



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FANDANGLE SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 30th

Times and Activities Subject To Change

- 1:30PM** Registration Begins, (Inside)
- 2:00PM** Grounds Open, National Anthem and Alma Mater (Outside)
- 2:05PM** Beer, Soda and Water Available (Beer Stand)
- 3:00PM** Hot Food Opens (Inside), Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Turkey BBQ, Sides Dishes
- 4:00PM** Alumni Choir Sing (Outside), Led By Mr. Peter Carpenter
- 4:30PM** Class/Group Photos (Outside) - Please listen to announcements For Your Class Year
- 7:00PM** FANDANGLE CLOSES

Dancing Available At Anytime - Please See DJ for your requests

FINAL DAY TO PURCHASE FANDANGLE TICKETS IS JULY 25

Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Graduation was fun. Because it was so hot, Misha and I did not walk outside with the kids. Both of us get our walks early in the morning or at night. When we get hot weather, the sidewalks and streets can really heat up and burn our paws. So be careful when you walk your furry friends. Also, we need a lot of water.

But had a great time with the academic procession. First, we had our VIP parking. Then got to see a lot of the kids. Then led in the Alumni. Love to hear the roar of the crowd. Wonder if they are cheering for us, or because the ceremony is starting. Walked in, saw the kids, got our intros and then Misha left. She is older and it is a lot of pressure and excitement. Sometimes hard being a diva doggie.

I stayed until the end of Andre Reed's speech. I was not the best behaved of dogs. I love gum and instead of listening to some really good speeches, I was on the quest for gum. Found a lot. Mom knew we would never make the whole ceremony and so I would not be singing the Alma Mater. Almost started singing with the choir. Got out a few notes and then Mom and Aunt Cindy jumped into action. Mom had mints and Aunt Cindy had blueberry yogurt biscuits. So whenever I was ready to vocalize, they popped a treat into my mouth. Ate the whole roll of mints and the bag of treats.

Mom got me a Zoom/Groom. Combs, but also gives a massage. Dozer, my friend and neighbor had one and Mom borrowed it. I am shedding. Mom uses it on Willow and Magnolia. They like it and you know how fussy cats can be. You run it under the tap and nice and clean. (Just do not want to get any cat cooties.....really the Girls are housecats and are very clean.) If you are looking for a grooming tool that your pet will adore, Zoom Groom is great.

Hope to see you at the Fandangle. Maybe I will be singing !!!!!!!!!!!

Love,

Kiska, Diva Dog



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- July 30:** Fandangle IV 2PM - 7PM
East Side Youth Center - \$20.00 PP
- August 3:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting
NOTE: Actual date may change, please visit website for more information
- August 19 & 20:** Class of 1966 50th Year Class Reunion Weekend
CLICK ON LINK FOR DETAILS:
/000/2/6/8/20862/Userfiles/file/DHS-66_50th_Reunion.pdf
- September 7:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- October 5:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- October 29:** Dieruff-Allen Game. Tailgate 11AM, Kickoff 2PM
- November 19:** Class of '74 Turns 60 4:00PM-10:00
American Club of Coplay - See website for details

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Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

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Joanne Ogrydziak '76	Karen Coleman (Faculty)

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Fandangle and Dieruff-Allen Game tailgate.

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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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