

# Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 5

DHSAumniNews@ptd.net

January, 2017

## 2016: Your Alumni Association In Action!

The DHSAA completed it's FIFTH full year and here are the photos to show you what happened and how we did it. *All photos by John G. Hughes, Jr. '61*

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## President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

### Beauty Felt In The Heart

Happy 2017 Fellow Huskies! Our New Year celebration continues. We have "finished the fifth", and we are feeling just fine. The "fifth" that I am referring to is the fifth complete year of operation of our Alumni Association. If you review the photos in this Newsletter of some of our 2016 activities, you will appreciate why we are feeling so fine, filled with Husky Pride. And we are anxious to enjoy what lies ahead in 2017.

If I didn't know better, I would suggest that Helen Keller had the Dieruff Alumni Association in mind when she wrote ***"The best and most beautiful things in the world can not be seen or even touched – they must be felt in the heart."*** I believe our faithful Dieruff alumni would concur that the best and most beautiful activities of our association are felt in the heart.

It is that heart-felt passion for all things Blue and Gray that allows us to accomplish our expressed mission, which is to promote Husky Pride among alumni, current students, faculty/staff, and the community.

Throughout our impressive five-year history, there have been those who have scoffed at our aggressive agenda, who have deemed our goals "impossible". Personally, I have always enjoyed witnessing the impossible. And



actually being part of a team determined to accomplish the impossible is downright inspirational.

You are warmly invited to join in on our inspirational experience. Attend our regular monthly meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month (6:30 PM in the Meilinger Media Center at the high school). Support our full agenda of activities planned for the new year. Order your Mardi Gras Party ticket today. Stay connected to the Dieruff Alumni Association through this monthly Newsletter, our Website [www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org) and our Facebook Page.

With warm Husky feelings of the heart,

John



### Coach Dennis McGinley: An Original Dieruff Husky

As most of you know by now, Dieruff's legendary aquatic director, swim coach, life coach, teacher and friend, Dennis McGinley passed away on January 5th at the age of 88. Below is his obituary in the Morning Call. We would like to include your thoughts and reflections on Coach McGinley for the February newsletter. **Please email us your thoughts by February 4th**, so we can include them in a fitting tribute to a great man: [DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net](mailto:DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net)

**Published in the Morning Call on Jan. 10, 2017**

Dennis A. McGinley, 88, formerly of Allentown, died January 5, 2017 at his home in Cathedral City, CA. He was the husband of the late Joan Anne (Tupper) McGinley. Dennis was a teacher and swim coach at Dieruff High School in the Allentown School District for 36 years, retiring in 1992.

Born in Allentown, he was the son of the late Dennis A. and Julia (Gregvosky) McGinley. He was a 1946 graduate of Allentown High School,

leading the swim team to the championships in 1945 and 1946. He coached four state championships at Dieruff where he produced five All-American Swimmers. He directed the PIAA State Swimming and Diving Championships for 34 years and the PIAA District 11 Swimming and Diving Championships for 38 years.

He wrote the first swimming rules casebook for High School Swimming. He was inducted into the Dieruff Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame and the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The Dieruff swim-

ming facility was named after him: Dennis A. McGinley Natatorium. He was saluted by the American Red Cross with its highest honor, The Clara Barton Volunteer Award, after teaching swimming and water safety courses for 50 years.

He founded and chaired the American Cancer Society's Swim-For-Life Campaign for 29 years. Dennis was also the Jewish Community Center's aquatic director for 47 years. He served in the Air Force as a physical training specialist and was a veteran of the Korean War.



## Alumni Profile - Rich Sniscak '80

David Ziegenfuss '86

Rich Sniscak is never afraid of a big challenge when one comes his way. He has been a champion his whole life - not just on the field of play, but in the classrooms as well. Battling to give his students at every level a comprehensive education, something that he truly believes every student of his deserves.

A member of the Class of 1980, Rich has lived what some might consider a charmed life. In some views he may have been considered the typical "big man on campus" at Dieruff. He played three varsity sports (football, basketball and baseball), was the quarterback on the football team, received a full scholarship to play football at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina; was an excellent student, excelled in friendships and was a team captain. But what stands out about Rich is that his whole life he has always been one thing...a leader.

Rich grew into his formative years in Midway Manor after his parents built their home there in 1969, "The Manor was a very close knit community. It had a very active playground at that time. Allentown had a robust playground program and a lot of the kids spent their time and summers on the playground competing against Moser, Ritter, Hanover Acres and Irving Park - that's where we learned how to play athletics".

In junior high at Harrison-Morton, Rich and his football teammates believed that they were a special group of guys. They were undefeated at Harrison-Morton in his 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. "The junior high league was big and very viable. You had Harrison-Morton, Trexler, South Mountain, Raub, Nitchman in Bethlehem, Eyer and Emmaus from the East Penn and Troxell and Springhouse from Parkland. All the games were on Saturday mornings and they would block off Linden Street and the junior high bands would march down. Those games were big events and well attended. I didn't play quarterback then, I was a tight end. We ran the table in junior high and felt that

when we got to Dieruff we could do the same there, too."

Rich and his teammates came to Dieruff in 1977 and he started his first varsity game as a sophomore. The 1979 football season would be a special one for Rich and the football team; going undefeated 10-0-1 (the tie was with Northampton 6-6 in a driving rain storm). "We were close knit. The core of us played youth league football and we held that bond into Dieruff. I think that's what made this team special. The winning and what we were able to achieve - we cemented relationships that lasted a lifetime. Many of my friends today are still my teammates from high school, Tyrone Reed, Ron Carl, Rich Gimbor, Dave Kurisco are people I still hang around with regularly and we are now in our 50s".

At Dieruff, Rich played quarterback under Dieruff's coaching legend Bruce Trotter. "There are a lot of lessons you learn in football - I think Coaches Bruce Trotter and Billy Wood were instrumental in ingraining in us that the team is bigger than any individual and the sacrifices you need to make to have a successful team and how to push yourself beyond what you think your physical limits are. We were probably the most well-conditioned team of any that we played. We had many guys that went both ways in our senior year and you had to be in top physical condition to do that. Coach Trotter pushed us beyond what many of us thought we had in us and got the best out of the good people and made the average player raise the bar to be a contributing member of the team as well. That is something I took with me as a coach. You can help mold people and push them beyond their limits and get great things from them that they would never expect for themselves".

His love of Dieruff was not just in sports, but in the classroom as well, "When I was at Dieruff, the teachers there were idols...Bruce Trotter, Terry German, Joe



Rich and his wife of 30 years Michelle, Class of '81

Leonard and Mike Meilinger. When Mike Meilinger became principal after Principal (Bruce) Clymer died, the students rallied around him because he was so supportive of not just sports and student activities but of us as students as well. He was outgoing and had relationships with the kids. I can't say I had a bad memory of any of the staff during my time at Dieruff. Then to come back four years later as a member of the faculty as a teacher you got to know the people on a personal basis. To this day some of those teachers are my closest friends".

In the spring of his senior year in college, Rich received a phone call that changed his life in more ways than he could have imagined. "My intent was to stay in Charleston and become a graduate assistant and get my masters, but Mr. Meilinger called me and said 'Do you want to come home?' he had a teaching and, ironically, an assistant football coaching position available. I said 'yes' - that lifestyle was very appealing as opposed to a college assistant coach where you live out of a suitcase. Besides, coming home meant stability and being close to family". Later that summer of 1984 he was reintroduced to a former classmate by a mutual friend - Michelle Erking, from the Class of 1981, they were married in 1986, "She's been my best friend ever since".

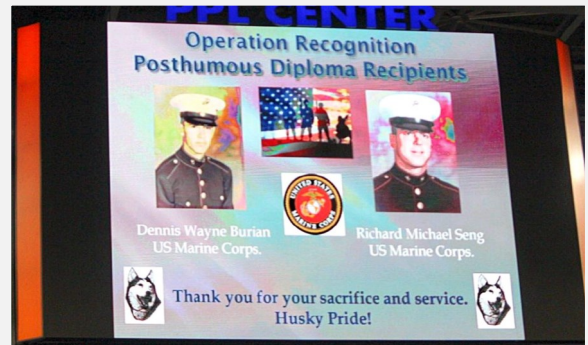
Rich taught math and coached *three* sports at Dieruff, football, basketball and baseball. When Coach Joe Leonard passed away after the 1986 school year Rich was tapped to be the head coach of Dieruff baseball, leading them to the District Championships, which they won in 1987 and 1988.

**(Continued On Page 7)**

## 2016 In Review—Continued From Page 1



2016 Senior Prom



57th Annual Graduation: Operation Recognition



4th Annual Fandangle



Annual Football Team Swim Party



Karen and Kiska Coleman 40th Year Celebration



DHS Band Preview Pizza Party



Dr. and Mrs. John Stevens Kiln Dedication



Rivalry Game Bon Fire



## 2016 In Review-Continued From Page 4



5th Annual Tailgate



Scholarship Fund Raffle: HOF Autographed Football



Sew What Club: Stockings For Soldiers



Alumni Choir Caroling

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated and supported our events...

Here's to a bigger **2017!**

Happy New Year!

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Since October 7th, we have raised:

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# Dieruff Huskies

Join in the fun 6th Annual

## Mardi Gras Party

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017

7:00 - 11:00 PM

East Side Youth Center

1140 East Clair Street

Sponsored by: Allentown, PA

**Dieruff Alumni Association**

**Ticket Price: \$15 in advance**

**\$20 at the door**

Includes beer, soda, mixers,  
and snacks Dancing to live DJ

## Save the Date



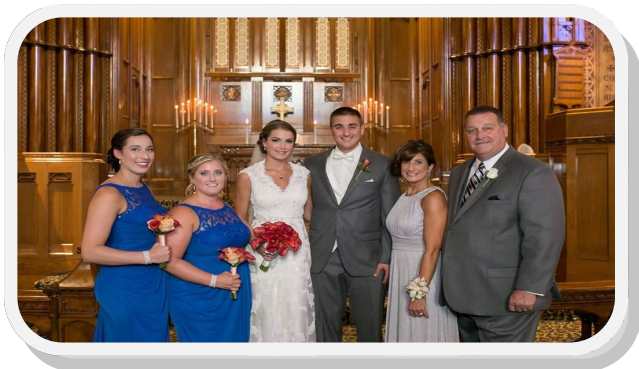
## Rich Sniscak Continued From Page 3

In 1990, Rich left Dieruff to be the head football coach, in all places, William Allen. "My dad had been the head coach there. Mike Marcks was doing a great job with the football team at Dieruff and I knew that William Allen football needed a boost. I had been around the team most of my life and

was even the Allen football team's mascot when I was a kid. We were able to turn the program around quickly when I was told that it would be very hard to do."

Over the years of coaching and teaching, Rich was given the opportunity to become Principal of Parkland

High School and later their Superintendent. "We were able to maintain academic success as well as success in the visual arts and athletics. I wouldn't sacrifice one for the other. The whole package goes together – that's what made me who I am today, that's why I'm in the position I am".



*The Family Sniscak: (L TO R) Daughters Courtney and Lauren, Daughter-In-Law Jen, Son R.J., Michele and Rich*

### THE HUSKY A CAPPELLA FESTIVAL

Friday February 24, 2017



7:00 PM

Louis E. Dieruff High School Auditorium  
815 N. Irving St. Allentown, PA

Tickets: \$10 Adults  
\$5 Students

Featuring:

The Kutztones, The Acafellas, The Dynamics, The Girls Next Door, InAccord, Noteworthy, The Vocal Vikings from Atlantic City High School, Palisades High School, fourtissimo, The Lehigh Valley Harmonizers, The Lehigh Valley Chorus, Freedom High School and introducing Siberian Sound from Dieruff High School

Sponsored By: The Dieruff High School Key Club  
Proceeds to Benefit: The Allentown Boys and Girls Club

For Tickets: Please call Mr. Jeffrey Dutt at 484-765-5500

## Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

I had another history lesson from Mom. She was explaining the Roman god Janus. He had two faces, one looking to the front and another to the back. Some strange dude. Anyway, we get the month of January from his name. Like the ancient Romans, we should reflect on the past year, but have hopes for the new year. Looking back on 2016, I had a good year and many first experiences:

1. Ate my first french fry at Barkfest.
2. Sang the Alma Mater at the Troika Award ceremony. This was my first public singing event. Everyone laughed, which I guess was good.
3. Helped Mom cheer when Dieruff won their second Freddy for best musical.
4. Ate fabulous blueberry biscuits at graduation. The choir was singing and I was winding up to join in, when Aunt Cindy started to feed me. After I ate all the bis-

cuits, Mom and Aunt Cindy cleaned out their purses for more treats. I love gum, but mints are okay. The song was so pretty and sometimes I hit a sour note, so best I did not sing.

5. Attended my first soccer game. The coaches and the players were so glad to see me. I felt like a Rock Star. Will definitely attend some soccer events in 2017.

6. Went to four Senior Citizen Centers to sing with the Alumni Choir. Love Christmas Carols. I sang. Gave out a lot of husky hugs and kisses.

7. Walked all over Dieruff with my BFF Misha and handed out candy canes.

As for 2017, we dogs do not make resolutions. We are too busy being dogs. For a great summary of what we do as dogs, please Google a poem, "So God made a dog". It is beautiful, but a definite tissue alert. But have a few resolutions for my human buddies. They are the kind which

will be easy to keep:

1. Love your pets, even the cats.
2. Kindness Matters. Does not hurt or cost anything to be nice.
3. Show your Husky Pride.

Wishing All a happy and healthy 2017.  
Love,

**Kiska V, Diva Dog**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- February 1:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM  
Meilinger Center
- February 3:** Winter Sports Pep Rally 1:30PM (Snow Date February 10)  
Dick Schmidt Gym
- February 24:** Husky A Cappella Festival 7PM  
Dieruff Auditorium (See Page 7 For Details)
- February 25:** 6th Annual Mardi Gras Dance 7PM  
East Side Youth Center (See Page 6 For Details)
- March 1:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM  
Meilinger Center

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: [www.Dieruff-Alumni.org](http://www.Dieruff-Alumni.org)



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Louis E. Dieruff High School

**Alumni Association Newsletter**



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We publish an online digital .pdf copy of the newsletter 11 times annually, with two special printed editions for the Fandangle and Dieruff-Allen Game tailgate. All digital copies will be emailed by or on the 5th of each month. Deadline for inclusion for the next month's edition is by the 24th of each month, unless arrangements are made. Please email articles, advertising and events to:  
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