

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter



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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

March-April, 2020

Mardi Gras Party was Jammin'

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Inside this issue:

President's Message 2

Memories Of A
Perfect Season -
1966 LED Track Team 3/
4

Flip The "M" 5

Class of 1990 30th Year
Reunion 6

From "Hand Me Downs"
To "Pick Me Ups" 7

Kiska's Korner

Operation Recognition
Application 8

Fandangle
Save the Date/
Theatre Department
Postponement/
1969 Trip Update-
Postponement Message 9

New Orleans has it covered. The Mardi Gras celebration on Bourbon Street is unrivaled. It is truly one unique party.

Well, from our very biased vantage point, the Mardi Gras Party sponsored by the Alumni Association on February 22, 2020 is deserving of a second place award... or at least honorable mention. Our event at the East Side Youth Center boasted all of the ingredients of that annual bash in the bayou. For sure, we had ourselves a party.

Awash in green, yellow, and purple, the ESYC banquet hall was decorated with the festive colors of Mardi Gras. Two hundred Husky revelers, many sporting those splashy colors, masks, and beads, gathered to celebrate the occasion, now in its ninth year.

With non-stop music provided by DJ's Harry Remaly (Class of '80) and Tommy Brunner (Class of '87), the floor was alive with animated and adventurous dancers. Musical selections were varied, ranging from jitterbugs to the Wobble, appealing to the multiple generations of the attendees.

Click on the following link to view a two-minute YouTube highlight video:

<https://youtu.be/ijlY71MGRa8>

One thing is abundantly clear. Husky Pride is alive and well.





President's Message

Kay Kurtz '74

Operation Recognition

Once again, The Dieruff High School Alumni Association is seeking military veterans who attended Dieruff High School during the Vietnam War, but did not graduate due to entry into the military service.

"Operation Recognition", established by the Pennsylvania State Legislature, authorizes school districts to grant a high school diploma to any eligible veteran who served during World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam War.

We are pleased to announce that Louis E. Dieruff High School is proud to participate in this program and we are anxious to locate, recognize, and honor those veterans who meet the following requirements:

Was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States.

Served in the U.S. military between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.

Attended Dieruff High School between 1959 and 1975 during the Vietnam War.

Would have been a member of a graduating Class from 1960 through 1975 and did not graduate due to entry into military service.

Also, please note that upon proper application, a diploma shall be awarded posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.

The inaugural recipients were presented posthumously at the Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2016 to Dennis Wayne Burian, USMC (Class of 1968) and Richard Michael Seng, USMC (Class of 1967). Both were killed in action during the Vietnam War in 1968.

Sharon Burian Antrim '66 accepted the diploma on behalf of her brother and Mrs. Mary Seng, 96-year-old mother accepted the diploma on behalf of her son. The diplomas were presented by a USMC serviceman and bouquets of flowers were presented by two AFJROTC cadets.

Please let's keep up this tradition. Ann Blacker, Class of 1984 once again will be the chairperson for the important project. If you know of any veteran who should be honored, please complete the application and either drop off or mail to the following address.

Dieruff Alumni Association

Operation Recognition Project

815 N Irving St

Allentown PA 18109

If you did graduate and serve in the military, please make sure to update your military service on your member profile. We would like to include you in our annual acknowledgement on Veteran's Day. Thank you for your service.

(SEE PAGE 8 FOR APPLICATION)

Memories of a Perfect Season – Dieruff Cross Country 1966

Kent Herman '67



The history of sports at Dieruff High School is filled with tales of outstanding athletes and teams. I had the privilege of running on the Dieruff cross country teams that were District 11 champions in 1965 and 1966. The 1966 team was not only the District champion but also had an undefeated 11-0 dual meet record. This is a story about these teams and my wonderful memories of these seasons.

My path to the Dieruff cross country team was unconventional. In the 1960s, there were many athletic opportunities for boys at the four Allentown junior high schools. I joined the South Mountain track team in seventh grade. I enjoyed running, but I also played football and wrestled. I ran the 880-yard run in eighth and ninth grades, winning the junior high championship in the event in the spring of 1964.

In the fall of 1964, I joined a group of South Mountain students who were assigned to Dieruff, rather than Allen, due to a realignment of school district boundaries. I tried out for and made a very good Dieruff junior varsity football team and started as a guard on the offensive line and linebacker on defense. At the end of the football season, I had an epiphany. I wanted to participate in a sport in college, and it became clear to me that a 135-pound distance runner was not going to play college football.

I had a neighborhood friend who attended Perkiomen School and ran cross country. He talked about his experiences, and my interest in the sport was piqued. In the spring of 1965, I ran track for Dieruff and met Danny O'Donnell, Dave Azar and Ken Schimeneck, all members of the 1964 Dieruff cross country team. My friendship with these runners cemented the idea that I should give cross country a try.

I spent the summer of 1965 training, running up and down Honeysuckle Road on South Mountain, and joined the 1965 Dieruff cross country team, coached by the legendary Richard "Dick" Schmidt. Cross country was a much different sport in 1965 than it is today. There was no team for girls, Title IX was not enacted until 1972. Several schools in the Lehigh Valley did not even have a team; including Bethlehem, Easton, Central Catholic, Whitehall, and Northampton; though individuals could participate at districts. Competition involved a series of dual meets, rather than the large multi-team races that are conducted today.

Dieruff's home course was a lovely 2.3 mile run in Allentown, starting at a location just off Lehigh Parkway North, continuing on the bridle path to the old "iron bridge," and finishing near Lehigh Parkway North on the opposite side of the Little Lehigh Creek from the race start. A winning time on this route was usually slightly over 13 minutes.

My teammates were all memorable. Danny O'Donnell had a big personality and always had a smile on his face. He was a gifted athlete and had a natural talent for distance running. In any race with Danny, the first half mile or so was a sprint. He had both speed and endurance, so it was necessary for a competitor to try to keep up with him from the beginning of a race. He was also a "chatty" runner, telling nonstop stories and jokes during our daily training runs to Bethlehem or up the Jerome Street hill.

Two holdovers from the 1964 team were Ken Schimeneck, a senior who was always nervous before a race but a consistently solid contributor, and Dave Azar, a senior who was a steady top ten performer. Rounding out our top six was Bruce Long, who was in my class and also from South Mountain, and Kevin Thompson, a promising sophomore.

The 1965 team had its ups and downs during the dual meet season. Danny and I finished first and second, respectively, in the first few meets, but we lost several close team races because of the depth of the talent in our competition. I won a race late in the season, outkicking Danny at the end of the race in a personal best time of 13 minutes and 11 seconds on our Lehigh Parkway course.

Because of our lackluster record, Dieruff was not favored to win the end-of-the-season District 11 championship meet at Southern Lehigh. But we won!

I had a near-perfect race at districts. I was leading the pack in the last mile, smelling victory, only to be passed in the last few yards by a Bethlehem runner. Danny finished fourth, Dave Azar eighth, Ken Schimeneck eleventh, and Kevin Thompson twelfth, leading *The Morning Call* to report:

(Continues on following page)

"Dieruff wasn't overly impressive as a team during the cross country dual meet season. Bethlehem didn't even compete on an interscholastic basis. But the Huskies and the Hurricanes were the surprises of the District 11 meet yesterday at Southern Lehigh. Dieruff placed its two best runners in the top five and romped to the Class A team championship..."

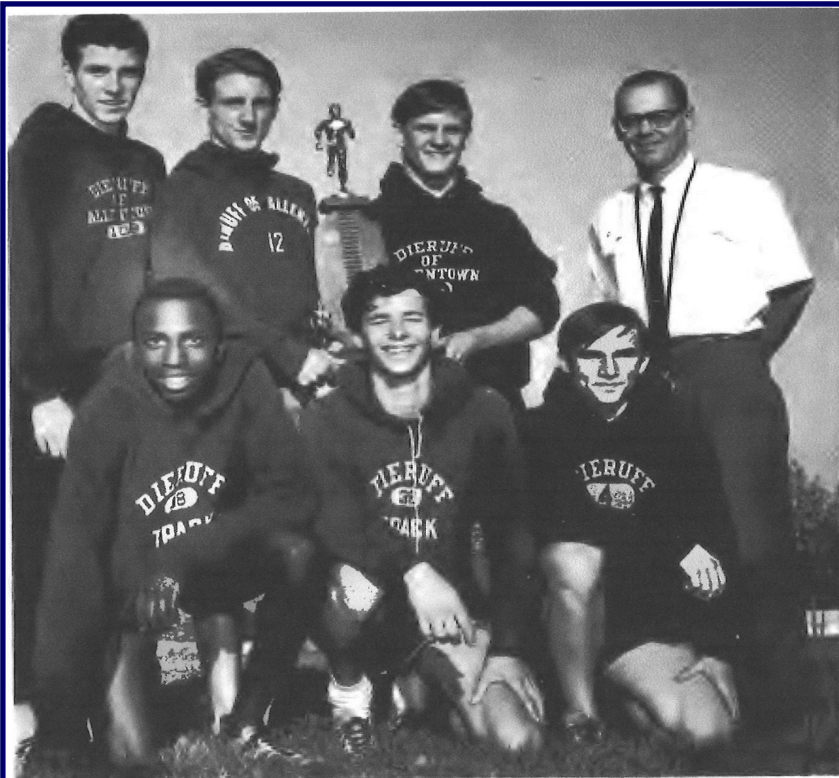
The 1966 team surpassed the accomplishments of the 1965 team by completing a perfect 11-0 dual meet record and winning our second straight District 11 championship. Dave Azar and Ken Schimeneck had graduated, but Kevin Thompson, Bruce Long, and newcomers Charlie Jones and Scott Gross developed into solid team contributors.

Even with the perfect dual meet record, the District 11 race presented a challenge for our team. The dual meet with Parkland earlier in the season was close, and Parkland had two very strong runners, as well as good depth. We met the challenge, and in the fall of 1966, the Dieruff cross country team capped a perfect season by winning its second straight District 11 championship. *The Morning Call* reported:

"....Dieruff Team Champ – Jim Ott of Parkland and Danny O'Donnell of Dieruff finished 1-2 in record time in the District 11 Class A cross country championship yesterday, but it was a 15th place finish by Charlie Jones that gave Dick Schmidt's Huskies their second straight title. Jones finished four places in front of Parkland's Dale Stahley and that was the margin of victory as Dieruff gained a 41-45 decision over the Trojans...." (note: cross country scoring is unusual in that the lower score wins)

I went on to earn varsity letters in cross country and track at Lafayette College. With the intense training involved with a Division I program, I got much faster. I had many memorable races at Lafayette, but I believe the best was as a sophomore. Lafayette ran a dual meet with a very strong Princeton University team in the fall of 1968. We lost the meet, but I finished in the top ten and far ahead of a Princeton runner from Bethlehem who was the very runner who had just edged me out of a victory three years earlier in the 1965 District 11 championship race.

After graduating from Lafayette, I went on to law school at Villanova. I returned to the Lehigh Valley after law school, and I have been practicing law for the last 45 years. I have continued to run, not as fast as in the "glory days," but even after 58 years of running, I can still lace up the running shoes and cover five to six miles.



The six participants in the district meet pose with their trophy. **Kneeling,** Charles Jones, Jim Gross, Bruce Long. **Standing,** Kevin Thompson, Dan O'Donnell, Kent Herman, Coach Dick Schmidt.

Scoreboard

LDHS

OPP

Over the years, I was fortunate to see Danny O'Donnell on a few occasions before his untimely death in 2014. Every time we saw each other, he brought a smile to my face. I have run into Dave Azar on a couple of occasions. About 20 years ago, I, literally, ran into Bruce Long. I was running in the Lehigh Parkway, and Bruce was working out while visiting the Lehigh Valley from his home in western Pennsylvania. We had a memorable run through our old Lehigh Parkway cross country course, catching up on our lives, reminiscing about our Dieruff teammates, and remembering that perfect 1966 season.

A Note From The Publisher...

Fellow Classmates,
Whew...what a time we live in.
With everything going on in our World, our Nation, our State, our homes, I wanted to let you know, that the consistency of the Newsletter may not be monthly, until all of us get back to a normal routine. But when there are announcements or just "Good Things" to share, we will get them to you. Through the Alumni Website: **Dieruff-Alumni.org** or the Facebook page, we will keep you up to date as best we can during this unprecedented time in History.

Please Be Safe and Secure-HUSKY PRIDE!
David Ziegenfuss '86, Publisher

Flip the “M”

Luke Boyd, DHS Faculty



I don't believe that God delivers plague on man, but I can't help but observe the way this crisis has stripped the illusions away from our lives.

The masks are off.

THIS is who we are, and perhaps who we have always been beneath the razor-thin veneer of social conventions.

Even with an undetectable contagion speeding its way to all corners of the world...one that may kill the most unlikely (young/healthy) and vulnerable (elderly/immuno-compromised), we seem to be unable to simply step away for a few moments, for the greater good...

As evidenced by:

- the lines at the Starbucks drive-thru winding around the store
- the forced closure of many public spaces because people simply refuse to stop "running errands"
- the grotesque hoarding of vital supplies by our own friends and neighbors (these are not some faceless 'others' doing this, but our friends, relatives and co-workers)
- the bars packed on St. Patty's day, with revelers who stand defiant in the face of the virus: MY life, MY time...ME...ME...ME
- the beaches flooded with people...(same rationale as above)
- our own governing politicians who, when granted confidential information about the spread of the virus, quickly and quietly sold off mass quantities of their own market stocks (insider trading)...ME...ME...ME

THIS is who we are.

But this is also the opportunity to make long-term changes; to improve the way we live and think about our lives.

We certainly have the time and space to do so.

And this is the little gift we've been given: buried in the plague is this present we've been clamoring for...

Time and space to reflect.

The world has flipped, and I think most people can see it. We, unfortunately, for the most part, have not flipped with it.

But we need to.

Flip the M, flip it to a W.

Flip the ME to a WE.

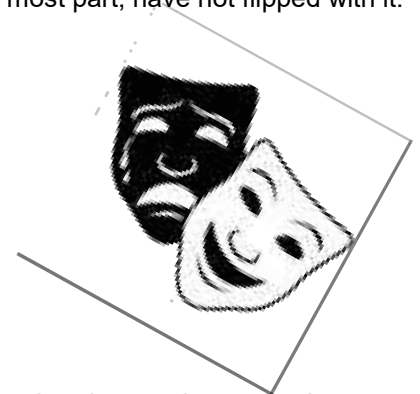
For whether you like to admit it or not, we are tethered together, one and all.

In this time, you SHOULD feel somewhat alone. You SHOULD feel isolated.

You SHOULD feel inconvenienced, at the least.

But if we are these things together, then we are not alone at all. We can be more together than we have ever been.

Flip the M.



Class Of 1990 Celebrates 30 Reunion

John G. Hughes '61

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could plan and execute the perfect class reunion without all of the tedious work... and expense?

Typically, a class reunion requires an active committee willing to dedicate countless hours of toil. The details seem endless. Selecting and booking an available site and date, agreeing on a menu, and finding the right entertainment. And then there is the delicate topic of a reasonable price that will not scare away attendees. Don't forget designing an appealing invitation, and then sending out the notice to accurate home or email addresses. And then there is the chore of recording the responses, hoping to achieve the minimum attendance guarantee, and depositing the checks into a bank account. The event itself requires more effort, decorating the banquet hall, and registering the guests as they arrive. And don't forget table assignments, and also the photographer.

Well, the Dieruff Class of 1990 was able to dispense with all of that work and the anxiety that goes along with it... and they held a most successful 30th reunion.



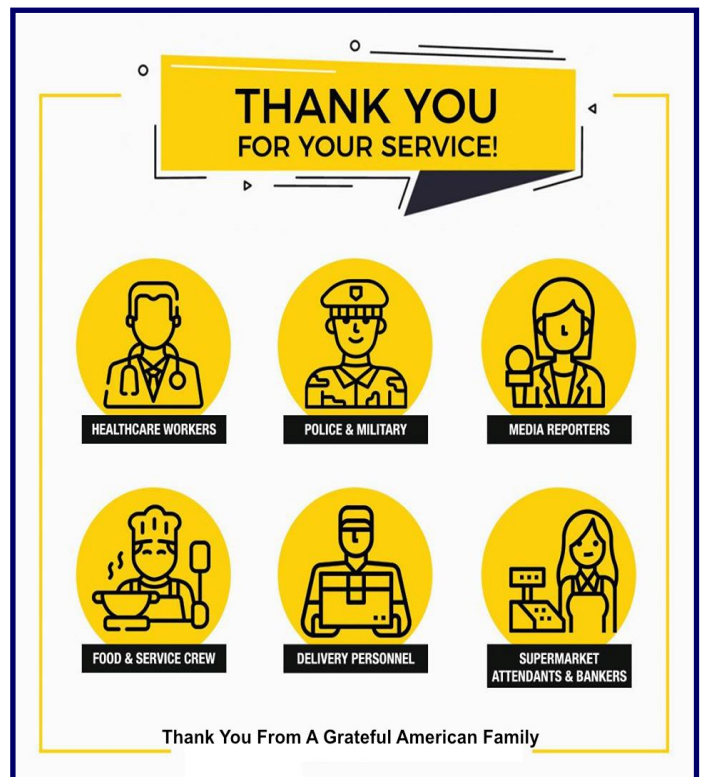
Their solution: the class of '90 partnered with the Alumni Association, and they scheduled their reunion to coincide with the annual Mardi Gras Party on February 22nd.

We might refer to that strategy as "The Big Easy". Everything was taken care of for them. All they had to do was show up, find themselves a comfortable seat at the tables reserved for them, and party like it was 1990. And the cost of their celebration was \$15 per person.

We know that these happy Huskies from the class of 1990 are already planning to get together again at the summer Fandangle event. And we can safely predict that they'll reunite at next year's Mardi Gras Party. These folks know



Wash Your Hands



From "Hand-Me-Downs" to "Pick-Me-Ups"

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

On one of those rare Saturday mornings when I had a bunch of energy, I decided to attack our basement and clear out years of accumulated "stuff". During the process, I opened a box marked "Sports", and discovered a pair of very usable baseball mitts.

I remembered I had used those gloves as a kid many years ago. The Wilson fielder's mitt was virtually new (I wasn't good at baseball and didn't catch many balls hit into right field). If memory serves me right, I purchased that glove at Witwer-Jones, that sporting goods store up on Hamilton Street, the one with the huge polar bear in the window. The other glove was a catcher's mitt, and I can't recall where that one came from.

At any rate, I contacted Dave Stoudt, the Dieruff Athletic Director, and asked him if I could donate these items to the baseball team. With enthusiasm, he arranged for me to deliver these gifts to the team during one of their after-school practice sessions.

What a "feel good" moment that was! Just knowing that those baseball mitts had been given a second life and would contribute to the joy of a young Dieruff Husky.

I would like to encourage other alumni to check their attics or basements for any similar items that could be donated. Please let me know if you do (Hughesz3@aol.com), and we can arrange for a much-appreciated donation.



Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Greetings,

Getting ready for a walk. With this virus situation, will have limited mascot work. So will walk to stay in shape. Ha Ha.....

But did want to shout out to Dieruff Alum, Thomas Henderschedt. He was Mom's student and had been Sgt. Coleman's student AFJROTC Commander. He was always one of their favorite students. After graduation from George Washington University, Tom went into the Navy. On March third, we got the great news that he has just been promoted to Admiral. Way to go Tom. That is true Husky Pride.

Had my second ultrasound. The good news, the tumor is not cancer. Had a lot of blood work done and waiting on that. I feel great, but my numbers are high. With this pandemic, doggie med problems take a backseat. So Mom and I enjoy each day. Love my walks.

So remember wash your paws. Do not panic. Please do not hoard the bathroom tissue....

Love and good health,

Kiska V, Diva Dog





**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs'
Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002**

OPERATION RECOGNITION APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

Applicant's Name: _____

Current address: _____

Name of High School _____

Veteran attended: _____

Address: _____
_____ District _____

Dates of attendance: _____ Year Veteran would have graduated: _____

Date Veteran entered Military Service: _____ Branch of service: _____

I verify that the above information is accurate.

Veteran's Signature Date

If Veteran is deceased, please fill out below

I, _____, am applying on behalf of _____,
(Applicant Name) (Veteran's Name)

who is deceased.

I verify that the above information is accurate.

Signature Date

Relationship to Veteran

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**ALL ALUMNI MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

July 25 (Tentative): 2020 Fandangle 2:00PM-7:00PM
East Side Youth Center

Class of '69 Trip Change

George E. Raad '69 Class President

We saved the dates; we are now changing the dates!

Due to COVID-19 virus, we are deferring our cruise to a later date.

Everyone agreed now is not the time to continue with our "Funtastic" weekend scheduled for June 11-15, 2020. In as much as we were looking forward to our Class of '69 Cruise, the health and safety of classmates and friends is a priority. The best and right thing to do is to plan for another time.

We'll be in touch and reach out to everyone as we look forward to planning a trip at a later date.

In the meantime, and during these times of unrest, please make sure to take care of yourself and others. We will come through this together.

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Thank you!

LED Class of 1969

2020
DIERUFF THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS
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INDEFINITELY**
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APRIL 25TH AT 2 P.M.
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WWW.TICKETOR.COM/DIERUFFTHEATRE
BOOK BY JOE MASTEROFF • MUSIC BY JOHN KANDER • LYRICS BY FREDD EBB

Dieruff High School Alumni Association

Husky Pride... Unleashed

SAVE THE DATE
Dieruff Fandangle
A Mega-Reunion For All Classes
Saturday, July 25, 2020
2:00 - 7:00 PM
www.dieruff-alumni.org

Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

David Ziegenfuss '86, *Publisher*
Dana Ziegenfuss, *Editor*

Monthly Contributors

John Hughes '61	Kay Kurtz '74
Joanne Ogrydziak '76	Karen Coleman (Faculty)

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

All articles and photos are property of the DHS Alumni Association Newsletter. Visit the Alumni Association website www.Dieruff-Alumni.org for more information and advertising opportunities.