

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2015

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Welcome to the Newsletter!

Okay, we're going to take a shot at this...

Welcome to the first edition of the Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter!

Since the inception of the Alumni Association nearly four full years ago, there was almost an immediate assumption that there would be some sort of monthly newsletter to keep you, the alumnus, informed of the happenings with not only the Alumni Association, but Dieruff High School and the East Side/ Mountainville areas as well.

We've had several discussions on what we would do for a newsletter, but the main issue was always what would be included and most importantly – who would write it. I was most vocal about the importance on needing a monthly newsletter to get important information out to ALL alumni. Finally, I decided to take on my own advice... "If you're not going to part of the solution, then don't be part of the problem".

So here are the fruits of my initial solution, the first edition of the Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter – or just the Newsletter.

You may ask as the publisher, what are my qualifications? Very simple... I am a procrastinator with poor grammar and a tendency to overdo things. With that being said, I do have some strong traits... mainly Dana (my wife who will help as the editor), but also a strong creative side and a true belief of growing the Alumni Association to be one of the best alumni groups in the country!

I've purchased books, read blogs and looked at other high school alumni newsletters for ideas. Some newsletters are quarterly or bi-annual editions (one school I found was 16 pages long and in its 31st volume!). But most "newsletters" are just invites to their website, similar to what we've been doing in the past. Our goal (as lofty as it seems) is to put out monthly editions.

I believe that this newsletter is a very important tool to the growth of the Alumni Association. John Hughes puts it best... the newsletter, website and Facebook site are a three legged stool. You can't have a stool with only one or two legs; but *three* legs and the stool is strong. Great analogy John!

This is a big undertaking to get out a 3 to 5 page monthly edition to reach over 8,000 emails and we will need all the help we can get.

First, I would like to thank those that are already on the "staff": Pam Warmkessel, Cindy Wolst, Karen Coleman, Joanne Ogrydziak; my partner officers – Kay Kurtz and John Hughes and especially my wife Dana. But please don't be shy in joining the Newsletter staff, submitting an article or giving us important information for the Dieruff Alumni family.

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Another Success At Fandangle III

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

Celebrating Husky Pride on a perfect summer afternoon, our Third Annual Fandangle was held on Saturday, July 25, at Allentown's East Side Youth Center. The enthusiastic response from alumni, who came in from all over the country, led to the considerable success of our highest-attended event. Classmates were joined by loyal faculty members, friends, and, especially, our beloved Husky

mascots, Kiska and Misha.

Highlighting the festivity was the singing of the Dieruff Alma Mater, led by our Alumni Choir (MAG – Music Affinity Group) and conducted by Mr. Peter Carpenter. Mr. "C" taught music at Dieruff from 1959 until 1989 and composed our Alma Mater. Also celebrating milestones at the event were the Class of 1968, whose members are

reaching age 65 this year, and the Class of 1990 marking its 25th reunion. In addition, this year's Fandangle featured an all-you-can-eat luncheon buffet and raffle ticket sales. The catered food was provided at no additional cost, while the proceeds raised from the raffle tickets will directly benefit the LED Alumni Association School Spirit Scholarship Awards.

Continued on Page 2



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

A Fine Time To Be A Husky

It is a fine time to be a Husky! Great things have been happening. The Dieruff AFJROTC Drill Team achieved national recognition, bringing home 3 first place and 2 second place trophies from the national competition in Ohio. The Theatre Department scored six Freddy Awards, including Outstanding Overall Performance, for their amazing performance of "In The Heights". The Dieruff Band earned a first place award in a statewide competition.

Our NFL Hall of Famer Andre Reed was honored with a Street and Park dedication

adjacent to the high school. And our Alumni Association hosted fun-filled "Fandangle", a mega-reunion for all classes, bringing together over 300 alumni, representing 40 different graduating classes for an afternoon of Husky Pride.

Plans are in the works for an exciting Tailgate Party before the Dieruff-Allen Football Game on November 7, 2015. At halftime, Andre Reed will have the playing field at J. Birney Crum Stadium named in his honor. This is an event that you just can't miss.

Your Alumni Association is determined to keep you informed of "all things Husky". We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, 6:30 PM in the Meilinger Center, Dieruff High School. Also, make sure you

are registered on our Website (www.dieruff-alumni.org), and join our Facebook Page.

This Alumni Newsletter is designed to further enhance our communications. We encourage you to stay informed and get involved. Join your fellow Huskies and ride the Pride.

Warm Husky regards,

John

Welcome (continued from pg 1)

Now a few basic rules:

- All articles are to be fluff – no hard journalism. All articles are to have a positive spirit
- Except for President's message, no "opinions" will be allowed. Everything will be fact and information based
- All issues will be emailed by the 5th of each month (deadline for inclusion will be the 24th of each month (unless arrangements are made)
- Editor and publisher have final say on all content
- Contributors will be responsible for writing their own articles, including proof reading and spell check
- All articles must be produced in Microsoft Word
- Bylines will be included
- All articles, photos and designed ads, become property of the newsletter
- Email address is: dhsalumninews@ptd.net

Well that's it in a nutshell. Send us your stories, ideas or events to dhsalumninews@ptd.net.

What this newsletter looks like today, may not be the same in a few months, but we'll work the kinks out.

I know this will be a lot of fun to do, but the real challenge will be getting October, November and December's issues out.

Welcome to the Newsletter and enjoy!

David Ziegenfuss '86

Fandangle III (continued from pg 1)



Over 300 Alumni Attended this year's Fandangle

Please be sure to visit the photo galleries found on our website www.dieruff-alumni.org. From our home page, click on the link (along the left column) titled Fandangle 2015 to view over 300 photos taken at the event. What began a few years ago as a casual idea among a gathering of Dieruff faithful grew to be the birth of an annual tradition. All Dieruff alumni are invited to join us again next year on **Saturday, July 30, 2016** for our All-Classes Reunion. Mark your calendars now and come to celebrate your Husky Pride!



Mr. C (Peter Carpenter) leading the MAG

Alumni Profile

Fred Schuler '73

Pam Wescoe-Warmkessel '86

If you're reading this newsletter or if you have attended a Fandangle, Mardi Gras dance or any other Alumni event, you may have seen or met Fred Schuler.

Fred is our first Alumni in the spotlight for our Alumni Newsletter. Fred was chosen for this honor due to the role he played as first President and founder of our Alumni Association.

Fred Schuler attended Catholic school until the 6th grade when he entered Ritter Elementary School. He went on to Harrison Morton Junior High School and moved up to Dieruff High School, graduating in the class of 1973.

When interviewing Fred for this article, he shares that coming to the Allentown School District changed his life. Fred shares that he had a guidance counselor at Harrison Morton Junior High School who saw potential in Fred as a leader with outstanding abilities to help lead and guide others. Fred took that advice and started on his path of service to others.

Fred was excited to attend Dieruff High School. He was a member of the Key Club before he even started his 10th



grade year. While he was attending high school, Fred involved himself in many different activities. He was a member of student council, musical theater (where he had a lead role). In addition, he was a member of the choir and key club, where Fred served as president of both clubs. Fred's service to others was what drove him and still drives him today. For all his school service, Fred was honored with the School Service Award.

Fred shares that his career choice while still in high school was to be a state trooper. He recalls when during a career day at Dieruff, Mr. Meilinger, a teacher at that time,

brought in Trooper Ronald Rossi and made sure that Fred had all his questions answered before Trooper Rossi left. While career choices change as we move on through life, Fred still has the need and drive to serve others as a state trooper would be expected to do.

While interviewing Fred for this article, I asked him "when did you realize the need for an Alumni association and how did you go about making this happen?" Fred shares the story of how it all began. Back in March of 2011, Fred took some clients to the ASD Foundation sponsored High Notes Gala night. Having never seen this event, it looked interesting enough for Fred to buy a table and enjoy the night out with clients. Fred shares that he was "blown away" by the talent at our schools. As a direct result of that night, Fred was approached by a board member of the ASD foundation asking him to come on the board. The foundation wanted an Alumni Association started at Dieruff High School and wanted Fred to jump start this project. Still a little unsure about this endeavor Fred agreed to come on the board of the ASD foundation.

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Music Affinity Group

Cindy Fidler Wolst '74

January 15, 2014 Dieruff H. S. **Music Affinity Group** was formed. The short term goals were to assemble an alumni band and choir groups. The long term goals were to provide energy to choir, band, and theater at Dieruff H. S.

It was a huge project to take on, but after diligent work through many volunteers, they reached out to their fellow alumni huskies and formed the MAG Choir.

Practices were held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, while sharing the love of music, and memories of Dieruff High School, and to celebrate Husky Pride.

The choir's first appearance was at the 2014 Fandangle under the direction of Mr. Peter Carpenter. The songs included I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing, Dieruff Alma Mater, and Dieruff's Fight Song. It was a big success and was repeated at the 2015 Fandangle singing the Alma Mater, The Lord Bless You and Keep You, and Dieruff's Fight Song.

The alumni choir continued practices and the first concert was held



on November 2, 2014 at Dieruff H. S. under the direction of Peter Carpenter and accompanied by Susan Kresge Frickert '68 on piano. The songs performed were: Prayer for a School, One World, Amazing Grace, Hallelujah Chorus, Dieruff Alma Mater and The Lord Bless You and Keep You. Also performed were solos by John Kopishke '84, Paula Pinter Gabriel '71, John Christie '77, and Peter Kemmerer '79.

MAG is presently concentrating on forming an alumni band. The MAG Choir is also presently working on organizing a group to sing carols at Nursing Homes this Christmas season and a Fall Concert for 2016. If anyone is interested in joining MAG, please contact June Laubach Hinkle '75, Pres. **email: dn4730@ptd.net** ; Kenny Krasley '74, VP **email: kra-zykenk1974@yahoo.com** ; or Cindy Fidler Wolst '74, Sec. **email: huskypride1974@gmail.com**

Alumni Profile - Fred Schuler

(continued from pg 3)

While attending another event at the YMCA, Fred was moved by a young boy who shared some stories of his life and some hardships that this young boy had endured. It was then and there that Fred became excited about creating this Alumni Association as a way to not only reconnect with each other but as a way to give back to our students through our support and encouragement. Fred began making contacts and putting people in places to form a board for this newly forming Alumni Association.

In December of 2011, Fred shares that he had a very small meeting with Dieruff High School principal Susan Bocian and a few other people to begin the process of starting this Alumni Association. In January of 2012, the first meeting of the Louis E Dieruff High School Alumni Association was held. While the numbers were a bit low, the spirits were high and Fred took the reins to begin planning a dance. This was originally supposed to be a Valentine's Day dance but it turned into what has now become the well-known annual Mardi Gras dance. The turnout was fantastic, more than they ever expected or could have hoped for. At this dance, the board was announced and we never looked back. It has been quite a ride with some ups and down along the way but we have never lost sight of our goal.

Fred recalls his proudest moment when he was the President of the Alumni Association as receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from Principal Susan Bocian. Allowing him to share his story to the class of 2012 about a 6th grade teacher who changed his life "was one of the most rewarding things I have ever been given the opportunity to do". Again, allowing Fred to make a difference in the lives of our students and giving back to them the encouragement he received as a young 6th grader turned his life in a direction of service and dedication to others.

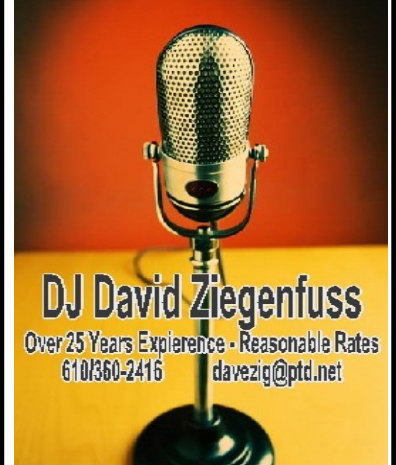
"Our students' biggest resource is Alumni" says Fred. "Alumni have the ability to accomplish many things for our students." Fred believes. Fred hopes that we can reach even more students than in years past.

When I asked Fred what his wish was for the future of the Alumni Association, he responded immediately with "grow, grow, and grow". Fred believes that gradual growth makes the Association more productive. He hopes to see more leadership step up and get involved. He shares that it is very rewarding to see the payoff of all the work put into these students. Our work will never match the reward investing in the students of ASD and especially our Alma Mater.

There are many things about Fred Schuler that make him an outstanding man but the one that reveals itself over and over during this interview is this- you will never meet a man who

cares so deeply about others. Fred has a quality about him that is genuine and very rare. Service, service, service and always others first and always give back. I know that it was a pleasure for me to interview Fred for this article and be able to share these stories with him. We as members of the Louis E Dieruff High School Alumni Association will always be both fortunate and proud to call Fred Schuler our friend and fellow Alumni.

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Football Splash 4

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

Hosted by John and Jinny Hughes for the fourth consecutive year, the annual swim party/picnic for our Husky football team was held on Sunday, August 30. Approximately seventy varsity players, along with their coaches and family members, were the honored guests for an all-you-can



-eat cook-out and three hours of fun in the sun. Once again, it was the perfect summer afternoon for swimming, diving, and looking forward to the upcoming start of the football season.

Besides the Hughes, who graciously opened their home to accommodate such a large event, we also thank Fred Schuler '73 for working the grill, and our life-guard Ruth O'Connell '61, who carefully monitored all pool activities. Food (including a huge sheet cake presented to the team) was generously provided



and prepared by alumni, who shared in the celebration of the day. Photos of all senior players were also taken and will be featured in this year's varsity football programs, which will be available at all home games.

Prior to their departure for their bus ride back to Dieruff, each boy was given his own gift bag filled with various school supplies, candies and snacks, and a laminated copy of Coach John Wooden's "Pyramid of Success." Respectful and well-mannered throughout the day, our Huskies then said good-bye upon boarding their bus, assured that alumni will be supporting them throughout the season. Please be sure to check out the varsity football schedule found on www.dieruff-alumni.org, the official website for all Huskies athletics. Wear your Blue and Gray, come with your Husky Pride, and we'll see you at the games !

2015 DIERUFF HUSKIES VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



All Times 7PM Unless Noted (Home Games In **BOLD**)

September 4: @ Parkland
 September 11: vs **EAST STROUDSBURG NORTH**
 September 18: @ Pocono Mountain
 September 25: vs **STROUDSBURG**
 October 3 (Sat): @ Bethlehem Catholic
 October 9: vs **FREEDOM (Homecoming)**
 October 16: @ Pleasant Valley
 October 23: vs **POCONO MOUNTAIN WEST**
 October 30: @ East Stroudsburg South
NOVEMBER 7 (SAT): vs WILLIAM ALLEN (2:00 PM)

Please Visit the East Penn/Dieruff Site For All Team Sports Schedules:

<http://epc18.org/schools/Louis+E+Dieruff+High+School/58>

Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Great Summer! Celebrated my 5th Birthday at the Fandangle in July. Had lots of walks and peanut butter yogurts! Chased the new cat around the house, then summer crashed—Mom fell and broke her arm. Had been SO excited about football (I can really howl the Husky Fight song!). Mom has 8 weeks in a sling and NO driving.

Luckily, my Aunt Susie will walk me. She has taken great care of Mom. As for football, we have a driver—alumna Cindy Fidler Wolst. Cindy has 2 huskies and is a savvy husky lady.



Misha is ready to roll, too. In March, she celebrated her 12th birthday. She has been doing mascot duty for the past 8 years.

Plan for football: have Cindy drive us to the stadium, Mr. Jacoby will handle Misha and Robin will take care of me. Mom is one of the walking wounded,

Thanks to all huskies who have been helping out.

DIVA DOG KISKA V

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Proceeds go to
Dieruff Alumni Association
"School Spirit Scholarship Fund"

\$5 Husky Magnet

Proceeds go to the Alumni
Scholarship Fund

Visit www.Dieruff-Alumni.org
to purchase

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- September 25:** Class of 1960 - 55th Reunion (jointly with William Allen)
12:00PM - 4PM at Iron Lakes Country Club
3625 Shankweiler Road, Allentown
- October 9:** Dieruff vs Freedom (7PM kickoff) - J.Birney Crum Stadium
Homecoming (Homecoming Court will be introduced at halftime)
- October 9:** Class of 1965 –50th Reunion
6:00PM –11:00PM at Iron Lakes Country Club
3625 Shankweiler Road, Allentown
- October 10:** Class of 1973 “Turns 60”
6:00PM –10:00PM at America on Wheels
5 North Front St, Allentown
- November 6:** Dieruff vs William Allen Pep Rally at DHS
1:30 PM at Dieruff Gymnasium
- November 7:** Dieruff-Allen Tailgate (11:00 AM-1:00PM)
Dieruff-Allen Football Game (2:00PM)
Andre Reed Field Dedication at halftime
- November 27:** Back to the 80’s Dance
8:00PM -12:00 midnight (Site TBD)
- July 30, 2016:** Fandangle IV

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



After work, after the game, after EVERYTHING, where all the good times are!



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Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

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Joanne Ogrydziak '76	Karen Coleman (faculty)

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:

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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