

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 7

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

March, 2016

Look what happened at the...
5th ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DANCE!
If 1 picture is worth a 1000 words...

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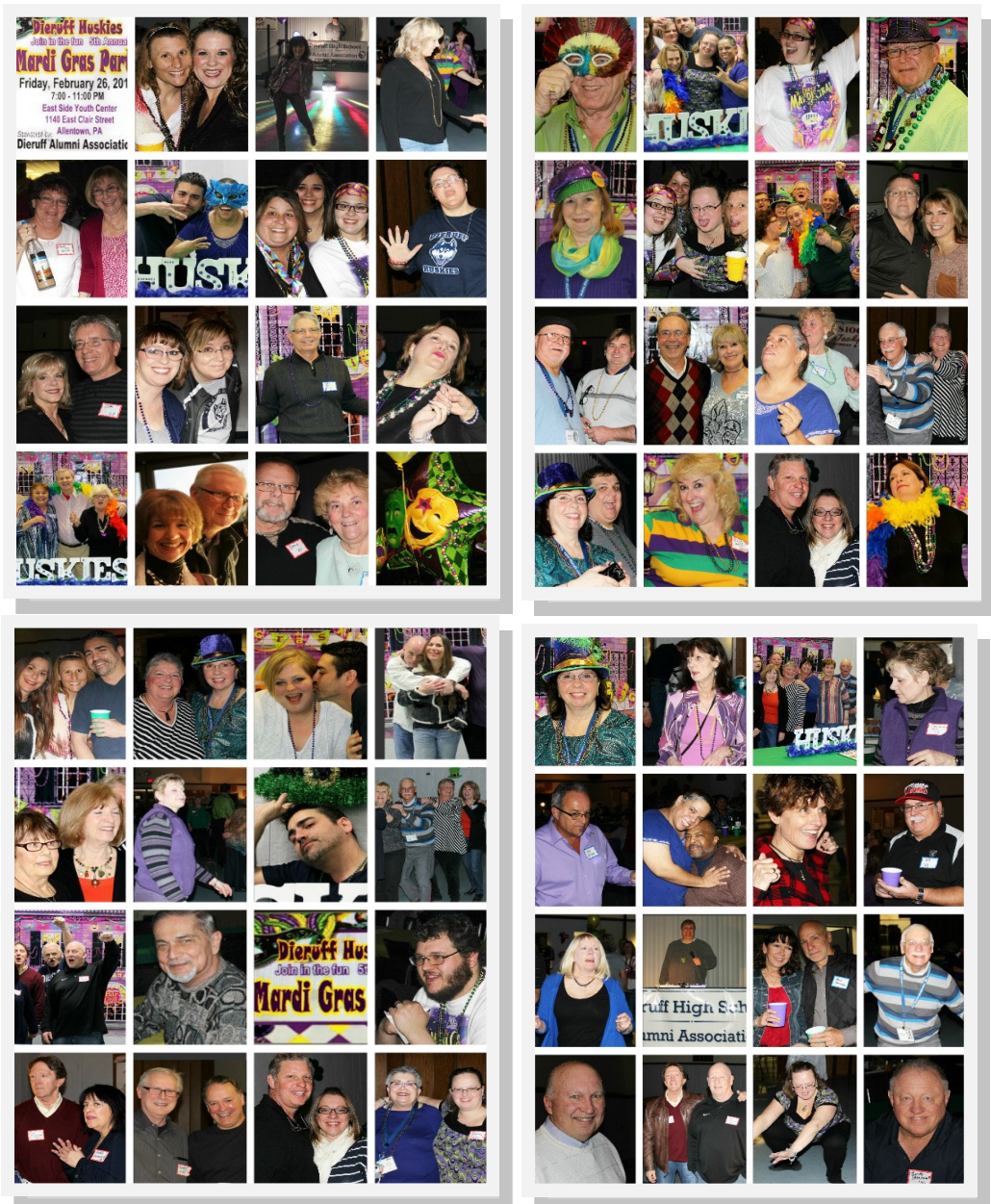
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Thanks to everyone who helped make a great night possible!



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

A Shot Heard 'Round The World!

Swish! Nothing but net! And the crowd went wild! Had we just experienced another “*shot heard 'round the world*”?

Perhaps that description is a slight exaggeration. But that shot was truly remarkable. Brenda Nieves, proud alumna from the Class of 1990, had just drilled that 3-point basketball shot, **backwards**, in front of the entire student body. Within seconds, students who had captured the incredible moment on their cell phones began to share the event on social media. “Viral” was the operative word. Not even the shot fired in Lexington that marked the beginning of the Revolutionary War could claim such hasty coverage.

The site of Brenda's feat was the Winter Sports Pep Rally on February 11th in the high school's Richard Schmidt Gymnasium. Embracing tradition, members of the Alumni Association were invited to participate in the spirited school pep rally, seated in the first three rows at center court. Enthusiastic students packed the stands, assembled by graduating class. Cheerleaders and band members were strategically positioned in the gym.

Following the formalities of National Anthem, Alma Mater, and introduction of Winter Sports athletes, it was time for the fun and games, a creative blend of activities that involved students, faculty and staff, and alumni. One of the entertaining activities included shooting basketballs from the three-point range. Volunteers tested their skills, with disappointing results.

And then, it was Brenda's turn. The announcer dramatically introduced her, “and now, representing our alumni, Brenda Nieves, Dieruff Class of 1990”. Confidently, she proceeded to the edge of the designated line. For a moment, she stared at the basket. And then, she executed an about face. That's right. She positioned herself with her back facing the backboard. As she bent over backwards, her eyes peering at the target, the gymnasium hushed.

With an emphatic grunt, Brenda propelled that sphere back over her head, with the skill and finesse of a Harlem Globetrotter. Audience members held their collective breath. And then... swish. Chaos ensued. Her fans cheered wildly as Brenda paraded around the gym. High fives all around. Principal Sue Bocian showered her with congratulations.

As Brenda returned to her seat among her mortal fellow-alumni, she raised her arms in triumph. She had attained a new level of immortality. Well, at least her accomplishment would be talked about for a very long time. Husky Pride!

Great job, Brenda!

With warm Husky regards,

John



Alumni Profile - Keith Groller '79

David Ziegenfuss—'86



Keith Groller '79 interviewing Andre Reed '81

There was a time, not so long ago, before ESPN and 24 hour cable news channels, that the sports journalist was the main source for trusted daily sports information.

Keith Groller has been a professional sports journalist for almost 40 years now, writing daily at the Morning Call and even hosting weekly radio and television shows. He has become the Lehigh Valley's main senior sports writer of local sports talent.

"I loved sports and I loved writing," Keith begins, "we moved to the East Side for good in 1969, right behind Irving (Andre Reed) Park and I knew then that I would be attending Dieruff for high school."

Keith makes it no secret that for him English classes were his favorite and that he just "tried to survive the other classes". At Dieruff, Keith became the editor of the *Leader* and even had his own newspaper that he and his best friend, Mark Schenk wrote together...the *Room 202 Times*. He played on the tennis team, coming over to play for Dieruff when he still was a 9th grader at Harrison-Morton. "You have to remember, tennis was hot in the 1970's. Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe were all playing and it was a cool sport to play. When I graduated, Coach Tommy Young came to my graduation party to 'retire my shirt' as the *loosingest* player in Dieruff history," Keith says with a laugh.

As he approached graduation, a conversation that changed his life happened between him and his English teacher Harry "Art" Schaffer (along with John Bannon, he still considers as his favorite teachers). "Mr. Schaeffer told me 'You know Keith, you have potential', then he gave me the best advice ever; he said: 'Be confident. When you write to the Morning Call and ask for a job, be brash and say that *your paper can't do without me* and you are

going to do such a great job that you are going to want me there forever.' He said 'be cocky,' even though that wasn't my personality, but he gave me that kind of advice".

So Keith wrote to the Morning Call and explained very confidently that he was in journalism as the editor of the *Leader*, and that he read John Kunda daily and that he would love to work in sports department... and they hired him. "Ralph Flamminio was the one who hired me and he said in his rough smoker's voice: 'Kid that was one hell of an application letter you wrote'. The next time I saw Mr. Schaeffer, I said 'You got me this job', and knowing me, I would have been wishy washy about applying for it but *he* got me in. I even mentioned him when I was elected into the Dieruff Hall of Fame, a truly big honor for me".

So, in 1979 at age 18, Keith Groller joined the Morning Call as a sports writer. But there still was one stipulation: he had to get his college degree. "Paul Reinhart (Morning Call sports editor) went to bat for me, so I could go to school and still write on the weekends, but my wife (Margie) and I got married in 1982 and I needed a full time job, so I left Penn State (where he was the assistant sports editor) and moved home. I finally got my degree from Kutztown in 1984, and wrote full time for the Morning Call".

"I learned as far back as Harrison-Morton how to get along with everybody, no matter what their social class or background was. Here's a story that recently shows the variety of my life: I spent the morning with Mario Andretti at his house - it's a mansion, costing millions of dollars. Later that night I went to this crummy gym on Second Street, where I did this boxing story and there were guys who were coming out of drug rehab and were just trying

to punch their way into a life. It's a pretty cool day when I was with one of the most famous guys in the Lehigh Valley in the morning at his house and in the evening, I'm with guys that can't rub two nickels together. You learn to appreciate all people".

Over the years Keith has been the trusted voice for all Lehigh Valley athletes, "I learned a long time ago, I cared more what was happening locally than what I was seeing in professional games. Local was where it was really at...local sports is my passion. Most reporters want to cover high school sports because it's a stepping stone for them, but for me it's where it's at...it's where it's been", Keith continues, "I covered the Sixers for 10 years, but they don't know who I am or who I'm writing for, but kids love seeing their name in the paper. These aren't pro stars, they're just kids, and I can make more of a difference covering high school sports than I can with the pros. They remember an article I wrote about them 10 years ago, it's important to them even to this day," Keith proudly explains. "When you cover high school sports, you can't win; everybody thinks that you are against them. I have to admit this - for the first 20 years of my career, I had to downplay the Dieruff part, but now I think, hey I am proud where I went to school, proud of what I was able to accomplish and there is a piece in me that will always root for Dieruff."

Husky Mascots...From the First to the Present (A Continuing Series)

Joanne Ogrydziak '76



The January publication of our alumni newsletter included an open request to hear from any alumni who served as the Husky Mascot. I knew of one LED graduate in particular whom I contacted for information concerning her experiences wearing the Husky Head.

Brenda Nieves '90 graciously responded immediately, and her sincere, heart-felt words moved me to tears. She candidly wrote how playing the role of the Husky

Mascot, one of the best things she ever did in her life, helped a shy, young teenager, and how it fostered the Husky Pride she still exhibits today. Brenda further shared that her years as the mascot (1988 -1990) opened up her eyes and her heart to the person she would become. I have seen Brenda at various Dieruff events; her spirit and Husky Pride clearly shine through her beautiful smile as she still supports her beloved Husky High.

A Customer Service Representative for Verizon Wireless, Brenda tells us that Husky blood runs strong in her family. Both of her two older brothers and her niece are Dieruff alumni, while her son Dennis, a member of the LED AFJROTC, is currently in his sophomore year in the Class of 2018. Brenda's poignant sentiments also reminded us that the cheering, spirit, and dedication gave her a true

sense of what Husky Pride is all about – "that we should love, support, and have PRIDE in one another." As an alumna who celebrated her 25th reunion last year, what else does she say about Dieruff? "There's no place like it."

Thank you, Brenda. Perfectly stated. This proud Husky agrees.



In The News...A New Addition To The Newsletter

David Ziegenfuss '86

Beginning with the April edition of the newsletter, a new monthly feature will debut. IN THE NEWS, which takes its name from a CBS Saturday Morning news brief that ran between cartoons from 1972-1986. It was narrated by the great CBS radio newsmen, Christopher Glenn.

Our version (which will utilize the classic IN THE NEWS logo) will give you the Alumni the ability to let everyone know about important events in your and your family's life. You can inform us about yourself, spouse, children or grand children. We want to know.

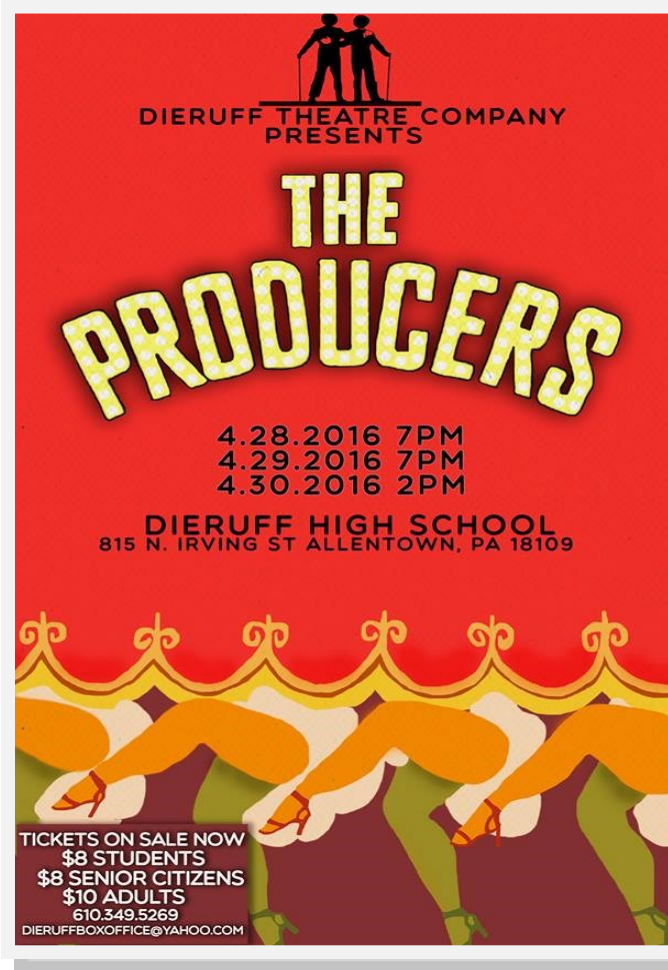
It can be about anything...a marriage, birth, new job or promotion, military event or promotion, sports accomplishment, academic event, performing arts accomplishment — just about anything important in your life, we want to mention it IN THE NEWS.

It's up to you to get us the information. Anyone who is reading this and is an Alum can submit to: DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net and in the subject line please include **IN THE NEWS**. In the first line of the body, please put your name (including maiden) and class year. Here is an example:

Diane Jones-Smith '74 and her husband Tony welcomed a grand-daughter, Elizabeth Ann on March 4. The baby's parents are their son Josh and daughter-in-law Tammy of Wilmington, DE.

Please remember to include your telephone number at the end, in case we need to get ahold of you with any question. Also feel free to contact us with any questions about the program you may have.

All we need is a blurb about what is happening in your life and will let everyone in the Alumni Association know about it as we put it IN THE NEWS!



Attention Dieruff Alumni

Only 10 Days Left



TO HELP EARN \$\$\$\$\$ FOR DIERUFF HIGH SCHOOL
This year's campaign has raised...

\$1,489.98

As of 2/29/2016

USE YOUR GIANT BONUSCARD WHEN YOU SHOP AT GIANT
TO EARN DOLLARS WHICH WILL BENEFIT DHS

HAVEN'T SIGNED UP FOR THE A+ REWARDS YET?

THERE'S STILL TIME

SIGN UP AT ANY GIANT FOOD STORE OR ONLINE AT

www.giantfoodstores.com

AND DESIGNATE DIERUFF WITH CODE **23498**

BUT HURRY - THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN ENDS

MARCH 17, 2016

LET'S SHOW DHS OUR HUSKY PRIDE
SUPPORTING THIS GREAT PROGRAM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

On March 6th Misha, my dear friend and co-mascot celebrates her birthday. She will be thirteen. Misha is a cherished member of the Jacoby family.

Misha is in great shape for an older dog. Her Mom really watches her diet and Misha goes for several walks a day, usually around Dieruff. Misha, from puppyhood on has been a great eater. Her first meal in her new home was a MacDonald's hamburger. I am getting her a roast beef sandwich for her birthday. Misha and I both enjoy the salmon treats that Robin brings to every event. Misha shares with me and that is uncommon. Sled dogs are noted to be food aggressive.

Before helping out at Dieruff, Misha had

Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

become a therapy dog. She has been visiting nursing homes for over ten years. She also does agility. Almost unheard of, because it is off leash and you know we huskies love to run when free. She can still do hurdles.

Eight years ago, Misha started at Dieruff. Kiska IV was too sick to work and Misha subbed. She did a great job getting used to all the noise and attention. Even for me, and I started as a pup, shoulder pads and helmets can be scary.

When Mom got me, the decision was made to go with two mascots. We are the best of friends. We really love each other. Only wish we lived closer so we could take some walks together.

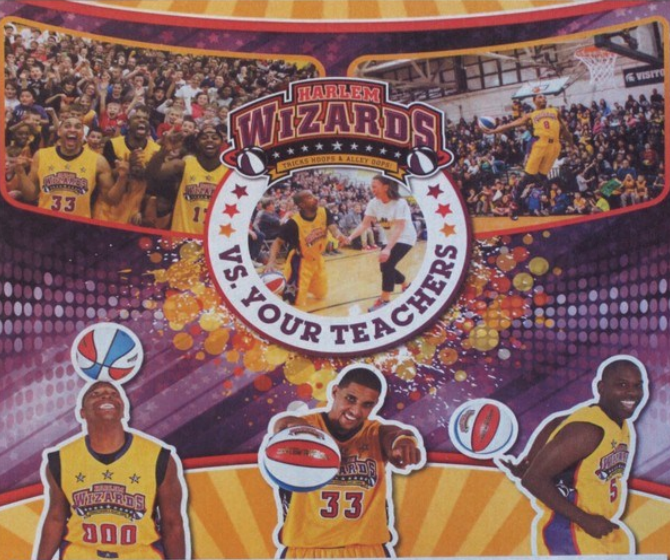
Happy, happy birthday to my husky friend.

Love,

Kiska, Diva Dog



Misha with Robin Jacoby



HARLEM WIZARDS
VS. YOUR TEACHERS

VS. Dream Team Featuring: Dieruff Students

Venue: Dieruff's Gym Host: Air Force JROTC

Date: April 2nd, 2016 Game Time: 2:00pm Doors Open: 1:00pm

Advance Tickets:		Tickets At The Door:		Reserved:	Courtside Plus:
Students	General Admission	Students	General Admission		
\$ 5.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 10.00	\$	\$ 15.00

Tickets On Sale At: Dieruff's AFJROTC Office Souvenirs On Sale At Game

Other Info: Contact us at: 484-765-5563 See The Gear store.harlemwizards.com

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ WWW.HARLEMWIZARDS.COM

www.facebook.com/TheHarlemWizards @HarlemWizards WorldFamousHarlemWizards

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DIERUFF HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2019

INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS
AT CHICAGO SPORTS BAR & GRILL
LOCATED RIGHT NEXT TO REDNERS ON AIRPORT RD.

**EVERY MONDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH
3PM TO 8PM**

15% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED BACK TO THE CLASS OF 2019

FOR INFO CONTACT MRS. HARRIS 484-765-5630

Dieruff Girls' Basketball Chicken Turnover Fundraiser



Original ASD recipe

Cost \$3 per turnover

Pick-up Date on Thursday, March 17

From 3 to 6:30

Email Cathy Piston

if interested, by

March 9

pistonc@allentownsd.org



**4th Annual
Husky Golf Outing**
to benefit the
Dieruff Football Program

Saturday, May 21, 2016

HOLE SPONSOR
Dieruff Husky Football

See www.dieruff-alumni.org for details

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- March 17:** Final Day for GIANT A+ Program (See Pg. 5 For Details)
- April 2:** Harlem Wizards @ Dick Schmidt Gym (See Poster Pg. 6 For Details)
- April 2:** Class of 1986 Cherry Blossom Trip To Washington, DC \$79.00PP
- April 6:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM Meilinger Center
- April 28, 29, 30** "The Producers" Dieruff Theater Company (See Poster Pg. 5 For Details)
- May 4:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM Meilinger Center
- May 6:** HUSKY FEST - east parking lot 3PM-7PM
- May 21:** 4th Annual Husky Golf Outing (See Poster Pg. 6 For Details)
- July 30:** Fandangle IV 2PM - 6PM
East Side Youth Center - Details to follow soon!
- 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

Book Your Events Today!



Dieruff Alumni Association Members

Receive A

\$50.00 Discount

For All Events
Over 4 Hours

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

Advertise With The Newsletter

Now is your opportunity to get
your message to over **8,000**

Dieruff Alumni emails!

Ads are only **\$25.00**

(DHS alumni only \$20.00)

Coupons Encouraged

Place your ad today!

Email: dhsalumninews@ptd.net

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:
DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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