

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 3 , Issue 10

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

June-July, 2018

6th Annual Fandangle Takes Place July 28!
Don't Wait 'Til The Last Minute...Get Your Tickets Today!

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Dieruff High School Alumni Association

Husky Pride... Unleashed

Dieruff Fandangle

A Mega-Reunion For All Classes

Join fellow Dieruff Alumni (All Classes) and Friends for an afternoon of great fun, music, drinks (beer, soda, water), and all-you-can-eat catered food.

Saturday, July 28, 2018
2:00 - 7:00 PM

East Side Youth Center
1140 East Clair St., Allentown, PA

Advanced Tickets Only

\$20 Per Person

Tickets on Sale at
Stahley's, DHS Main Office,
or on-line at our
website below

www.dieruff-alumni.org



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

007...Bond, James Bond

I'm sure that Sean Connery wouldn't mind if I take the liberty to modify his famous introduction to describe our Alumni Association in action. Our version is "2018 Bond, Husky Bond".

This issue of our Alumni News letter reflects that theme of "bonding".. connecting in all directions. You will see articles that reflect bonding with fellow alumni, with the current students and faculty, and with the community. All of this bonding has certainly helped us promote our mission, which is to promote Husky Pride.

On Saturday, July 28th, we shall be celebrating our "Fandangle", the mega-reunion for all classes. Many folks have commented that this event could be a model for every high school in the country. It provides an opportunity for all Dieruff Huskies to gather at the East Side Youth Center for an

afternoon of celebration. You will have a chance to rekindle friendships, as well as make new acquaintances, in a very informal environment.

The "Fandangle" is held inside the large banquet hall, as well as outside the building under large party tents. Rain or shine, we've got you covered.

The \$20 ticket includes beer, soft drinks, bottled water and unlimited picnic fare provided by "Giovanni's on the Go". You are welcome to bring your own supply of additional snacks and adult beverages. Alumni merchandise in the form of shirts, visors, and baseball caps will be available for purchase. We will also have raffle tickets available for the Commemorative Class of 2014 Hall of Fame Football.

Our resident DJ Dave Ziegenfuss will be playing sounds that will satisfy every age group, so bring along your dancing shoes. As a special treat, Mr. Peter Carpenter will be in attendance, and will lead us in the Dieruff Alma Mater and several other musical selections.

So, spread the word to your classmates, and make sure they have their tickets. Tickets can be ordered on our Website: www.dieruff-alumni.org. Tickets can also be purchased at Stahley's, at the Dieruff Main Office or directly from members of the Alumni Association Committee. Deadline for purchase is July 23rd (we have to provide our caterer with a final count). No tickets will be sold at the door.

With warm thoughts of Husky
Bonding,
John



Alumni Profile - Andy Voit '84

David Ziegenfuss '86

Andy was in junior high. His sister, Carol, was a swimmer at Dieruff and he and his father were at one of her meets. During the meet, as he and his father were talking, his father presented him with an offer. "This wrestling stuff, maybe it would best for you if you quit. Your mom and I both think wrestling is not good for your self-esteem. So, if you want to quit, you can, but you have to do *something*."

The eighth grader was given a way out. Wrestling had not been kind to him. His record at that point was 0-7-1. A choice had to be made and an option was given, and *his* choice would be a defining point in his young life.

Andy Voit was born on the East Side of Allentown. Growing up in the middle of the Jerome Street hill (the hill that he would run up and down hundreds of times in his life), along with his sister and older brother Ralph. His parents, Ralph and Joan, met at the Western-Electric plant on Union Boulevard where his father was an engineer and his mother made micro-chips in a "clean room" environment. They eventually married and as the family expanded, moved to Jerome Street.

After spending a year at Ritter Elementary (coming over from Our Lady Help of Christians), Andy entered junior high at Harrison-Morton. Swimming, football and wrestling were the three sports Andy participated in. The 8th grader made his decision. "I was not a successful wrestler. I'd go out there and get creamed. But I wanted to stay with wrestling, I think because my brother was a wrestler and I could identify with him and his teammates. I would think *those guys...that's who I want to be*. It was appealing to me, so I made up my mind – I was staying with wrestling."

That summer he went to the Iowa Intensive Camp (held in Lock Haven). The program was run by J Robinson (who was a 1972 Olympic wrestler

and an assistant coach under Dan Gable at Iowa). "My parents were not afraid to spend money on us when it came to life experiences. Some parents would say 'well, we don't have the money', but my parents would find the money if it was a development sort of thing." Regarding the wrestling camp experience, Andy explains, "So, they were running these intensive camps and I show up. I was a chubby 8th grader. I wasn't physically mature, and they ran us into the ground. It was like 'see how much these guys can take...but not quit'. They'd get you to the edge. Hey, some guys did quit. For me it was like an 8th grader going to (a military) boot camp, *almost*. Where the limit for me was way down there, I found that it really was way up here. Then you learn you can really do a lot more, because the limits were more psychological than physical. So, you get used to reaching for higher goals. That was the turning point. Going through that process was really the first thing I ever applied myself to".

When Andy arrived at Dieruff, he gave up football and switched to cross country for the added conditioning. "I liked Dieruff, but for me school was something you had to do," he explains. "I liked psychology with Mrs. Coleman. Psychology has always interested me. It's fascinating to me. I like to analyze people." And on the other classes, "I wish I tried harder in typing class, because I never thought I'd ever use it, but I do daily," as Andy laughs. "I really appreciated the skill of writing in English class. I tell my kids, 'If you are going to lead any group, you have to learn to write letters and compose your thoughts.' I look back and think thank god I was there."

Andy was also in Air Force Jr. ROTC and took Spanish with Mr. Richard King, who ironically was his Spanish teacher but not his wrestling coach. "I'd talk to him and he would talk to me. I'd get a unique perspective from him. He was a mentor."



In 1984, Andy was a State Wrestling Champion (185 pound weight class) while at Dieruff, going 31-0 and elected to the Dieruff Hall of Fame. "I was recruited by Nebraska, but that was *too far* from home and by Lehigh, but that was *too close* to home. In the end it was an easy choice. Penn State was perfect. Penn State was a rising star in the east," and after his freshman year Andy received a full scholarship to wrestle at Penn State. In 1989 he was PSU's team captain in wrestling. He was elected into the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2017.

After graduating from PSU in 1989, Andy's wrestling career was over, but his professional one was just taking flight – literally. Today, his daily office sits at 35,000 feet above the ground. "When I was in college, you do a lot of traveling and in my junior year I started to think about becoming a commercial pilot. People would say to me, 'You should do this', and I'd think, 'I couldn't do that', I just had that in my mind. It just took someone to say, 'YOU CAN DO THIS', and then it was try to figure out how to."

After college he obtained his civilian's pilot's license, "I used the attributes I did before with wrestling and just applied myself and got my aviation degree (from Minnesota State) by focusing on one thing. I did everything I could. You're thinking about it all day. Just the same way you dedicate yourself to be good at anything. At 23 years old, Andy Voit became a commercial pilot. He became an airline Captain at 27. Currently, he is a Captain for United Airlines.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

The Softness of Water

Ann L. Blacker '84

When Keck Park opened on the East Side of Allentown in the early 1970's my family lived across the street from the pool. This was good news to most people, but my parents were terrified of water. My Mom told me she was careful not to have too much water in the tub when she took a bath. My Dad was better in that he could go in water as long as he could stand. He said if the water was higher than his chest he would feel his throat closing. My parents did not want to pass their fear of water along to me. I'm sure they were thrilled when they saw the Red Cross was giving swimming lessons shortly after the pool opened. My only experience was in the wading pool in their backyard.

Keck Pool was packed with kids who wanted to take swimming lessons. So many that they had tryouts to eliminate some people. We had to jump in, sit on the bottom of the pool, and hold our breath. I never did anything like that before, and I failed. I was 6 years old and I was informed that I was not good enough to take swim

lessons! I was devastated. I remember crying because my friends all passed and were going to be able to take lessons and I had to watch from our back porch. My Dad told me that he would get me lessons and I would learn how to swim.

The lifeguards could give private lessons during their lunch break. There was a display case where they could put their contact information. My Dad chose John Quigley. John was a swimmer at Dieruff.

I did not know how to do anything in the pool. I remember holding on to the side of the pool and learning how to kick. Then I had to get used to putting my face in the water. Before long I could swim freestyle. I didn't just like swimming, I loved it! I was comfortable in the pool.

While swimming came easy to me, diving was another story. I would jump and right before I hit the water I would get scared and lift my head. I kept trying but I could not dive into the pool. I don't know how long it took me



to learn, but it seemed like forever. (forever for a 6 year old.) John would always tell me the water was soft. I kept crashing into the water. Eventually, John picked me up and lowered me into the water holding my ankles. That taught me what it felt like to enter the water smoothly. Soon after that I was diving off the starting blocks.

After he went to college he kept in touch. I always looked forward to his visits. I kept swimming and in 1981 had my chance to swim for Dieruff.

At the Kiska banquet I was surprised to see John because he was not living in the area at the time. Eleven years after he taught me how to swim, I was named swimmer of the year, the same award he won when he was at Dieruff. It was one of the best days of my life, not because of the award, but because he was there to share it with me.

He has had such a positive influence on me. He did not curse or drink. He treated people with respect and worked hard. He taught me how to try even when I was scared. His example has stayed with me my entire life. Nobody ever had more influence on me. I was blessed to meet him at such an early age. It was not a coincidence of all the people giving lessons that summer, I ended up with John. I found a swimming coach, a mentor and a life-long friend.

Swimming Is Fun!



Alumni Association Scholarship Winners Announced

Kay Kurtz '74

For the fourth year, your Alumni Association has offered four \$250.00 scholarships to graduating seniors. Thanks to you for supporting our initiatives that fund these scholarships. We hope to continue this tradition for many years to come.

Our Scholarship Committee received applications from eight well deserving seniors. The theme of the scholarship essay was ***"What is the value of School Spirit in Today's World and the Future?"*** In addition to the essay, faculty recommendations, transcripts and extracurricular activities were taken into consideration.

This year's recipients are:

Joshua D. Labar Jr. –in his essay, Josh wrote ***"School spirit"*** breeds loyalty to your friends and family, those who look up to you will notice it and imitate it." Josh will be attending Northampton Community College.

Christina Mitry -in her essay, Christina wrote ***"School spirit"*** gave me a sense of comradery which will be carried on for the rest of our lives regardless of where we're at or who we'll be; we will always be Dieruff Huskies." Christina will be attending Muhlenberg College.

Phillip S. Rishel – in his essay, Phil wrote: ***"School Spirit"***



isn't just wearing Dieruff shirts and going to pep-rallies, but rather, it is a feeling of being connected to every other student and taking pride in being a member of the Dieruff community. I see now that school pride is something that grows in a person over time, and it is important to understand the relationships and opportunities that come from experiencing it." Phil will be attending the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University.

Janelle Saba – in her essay, Janelle wrote ***"School spirit"*** was the tool that assisted me in developing my sense of belonging and pride that was missing. Having Husky pride allowed not only myself, but everyone who gets involved to have a reason to succeed." Janelle will be attending Lehigh University in the Arts & Engineering Program.



3rd Annual Wrestling Reunion

All Alumni Wrestlers & Coaches are invited to join us on
Saturday, July 28, 2018

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Hamilton Family Restaurant
2027 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18104

To register, please contact:
Robb Trexler, 1-858-692-9409
Email - UCLAROB1@gmail.com

or
Abe Youwakim, 484-866-3355
Email - juwakim56@gmail.com

Class of '68 Spearheads Commencement Procession

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

What an adrenaline rush! Their large vinyl banner left no doubt about the identity of this band of brothers...and sisters. Bursting with Husky Pride, classmates from the Dieruff Class of 1968 stood poised to enter the PPL Center Arena, playing an important role in the Commencement exercises for the Class of 2018.

Five decades had passed since these faithful alumni had moved their mortarboard tassels from right to left. Now, participating in a tradition launched several years ago by the Alumni Association, the "sixty-eighters" welcomed the opportunity to lead the procession for this year's graduation ceremony.

With faculty members positioned to form a welcoming gauntlet, the familiar notes of "Pomp and Circum-

stance" filled the arena, marking the cue to begin the procession. The '68 alumni marched proudly down the long corridor, responding to the welcoming applause. Click on the following link to view a 3-minute video of their entrance:

<https://youtu.be/t6dig5FXBjM>

Under the leadership of Bill Shannon and Janice Besecker Onieal, those in attendance included Lois Andrews Bordner, Audrey Cashman, Linda Christman Martinez, Francine Chlebove Maiatico, David Dorward, Judith Gutekunst Snyder, Kathleen Gibiser Kiffer, Andrew Harakal, John Karoly Jr, Sandra Miller Biery, Janice Moyer, Cecelia Purner, Wayne Renninger, Dale Serfass, Beverly Snyder Schmidt, and Jack Wenner.

And so, the Class of 1968 has chalked off one more element of their campaign to celebrate the "fiftieth anniversary of their senior year". The next event in their year-long celebration is the Fandangle, the mega-reunion for all classes, scheduled for Saturday, July 28th. Their enthusiasm is contagious. Their spirit is profound. Husky Pride, indeed!



Class of 1964 Summer Celebration, June 15, 2018 At The Paddock



Alumni Shower 2018 Grads With Presence

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

That old expression says it all. "*We want your presence, not your presents.*" Members of the Dieruff Alumni Association honored that sentiment at the fifty-ninth annual commencement exercises at the PPL Center on June 16th.

Alumni presence at this year's graduation program was particularly powerful, serving as an impressive welcoming committee for the new graduates. The officers of the Alumni Association were proud to be seated on the large stage at the front of the arena, along with the chosen dignitaries.

The procession of graduating seniors, appropriately attired in caps and gowns, was led into the expansive hall by an enthusiastic band of alumni who had worn that traditional commencement uniform fifty years earlier. Setting a fine example of Husky Pride, this dynamic group from the Class of 1968 relished the experience.

Immediately behind the "sixty-eighters", our beloved Husky mascot, Kiska, was escorted by her "mom" Karen Coleman, and her "aunt" Cindy Fidler Wolst, Class of 1974.

**WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
LOUIS E. DIERUFF HIGH SCHOOL**



Adding to the significant alumni representation, the 2018 recipient of the "Honored Dieruff Alumni Award" was Mrs. Linda Repp Cruttenden, Class of 1967. Her address to the graduating seniors was heart-felt and strong.

Also in the audience were many other Dieruff Alumni who are parents of those receiving their diplomas.

The photos included in this article reflect the joy and the pride that filled that venue in center-city Allentown for the Dieruff High School Commencement. The Alumni Association is very pleased to add these young people to our roster. Congratulations!



Andy Voit Cont. From Page 3

One more important thing happened when he went to flight school in Minnesota...he met Debbie. "We were in flight school together. At first, we were just friends, but we built a relationship and have been married for 22 years." Andy and Debbie have two children, a son Andrew and a daughter Alyssa. Debbie, who is also a pilot, flies corporate jets for the Target Corporation. "She flies all the company's big wigs around," says Andy.

Andy believes in giving back – "Paying it forward," as he calls it. One of his proudest accomplishments is helping

to co-found the non-profit organization **Take Down Cancer**, which has raised over a quarter-million dollars. He also continues to coach wrestling in his hometown in Minnesota, "Sports is just a platform to teach life lessons. The goal is to build the best person you can, by teaching sportsmanship, perseverance, work ethic and positive attitudes."

And looking back at his past accomplishments, he puts it in the humblest way, "What can I take from that experience? You're just a kid going through the program and you're trying your best. The challenge then is how do you recreate

that same environment for the next generation. It's the best way to pay back to those who helped you before. It can be time or teaching or money. It's the best way to say thank you."



Captain Andy Voit Outside His "Office"

Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Having a fun summer. Went to visit Elsa and Miiska. Shame we do not live closer. We had fun. They have the ultimate husky paradise, a huge safe play area. Special locks so the garage doors lock so that they are always safe. Toys, toys, toys. I could move in, well at least vacation with them. We played after one growl to let them know who was boss. I also grabbed and chewed on one of their many nyla bones. Had not done that for years, but had to show them I am an Alpha dog. We really played, slopped water, ran some more, went inside, took a little nap and then some more play. I was a tired dog for two days. They are beauties and have loving personalities and will be a welcome part of the Mascot Team. Be sure to visit us at football.

Graduation was nice. The pups had just come off of female surgery - Neuter or Spay, is the best way. Do not want to lecture on how many un-

wanted dogs and cats are out there through no fault of their own. But the Girls were recovering so I had to go solo, which was fine. Walked the class outside and then led them into the arena. Yes, the roar of the crowd is impressive. Mom says she feels like Evita and I so hope she does not start singing that song about Argentina. Made it for an hour and time to leave. I have a new groomer and modestly, I think I did Dieruff proud.

My next event will be Fandangle. Having something new this year, a basket social. Mom and Aunt Cindy have been busy. Have some really nice choices, gift cards, real picnic baskets, a beauty basket, some liquid refreshment baskets. If you would like to donate a basket, please bring it to the Fandangle. It will be proudly displayed.

I hate thunderstorms and fireworks. Get so scared. I hide under the bed, but have been having trouble fitting

under it. Am no longer a slim and flexible puppy. Was stuck one night, not fun. The neighbor came over and he put blocks under the legs, giving me much more room. I will be eight in July and even I realize there are problems with aging. But thrilled to be able to get back into my safe cave.

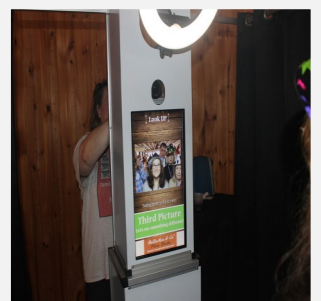
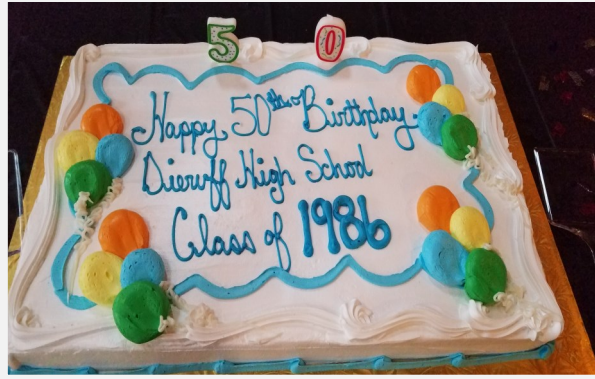
Enjoy this summer. Hope to see everyone at Fandangle.

LOVE,

Kiska V, DIVA DOG



Class of 1986 Turns 50! May 19, 2018



On May 19, the Dieruff Class of 1986 had a good old-fashioned 50th birthday party, complete with a photo booth (with props), games like "Pin the Chicken In Kiska's Mouth", candy, birthday cake and dancing. But the best part of all is getting together to see old (OLD?) friends again!

Happy 50th Birthday to the Class of 1986!

(All Photos Can Be Found On The Alumni Association Website: www.Dieruff-Alumni.org)

Dieruff Seniors Receive Andre Reed Scholarships

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Each year, the Andre Reed Foundation presents a generous scholarship to one Dieruff male and one female who have displayed outstanding athletic and academic ability, and who have committed to further education.

The awards were made by Andre's mother, Joyce Reed-Ebling, at the Dieruff Troika Awards in May. In June, Andre had returned to Allentown for his Celebrity Golf Classic, a fundraiser for his Foundation. The two recipients of the scholarships were invited to attend the Classic at the Lehigh Country Club.

Andre not only personally welcomed the pair, he introduced them to the participants of the event, and presented them with a large check, representing the scholarship awards. Jailin Benson, a Husky basketball player, and Johnathan Sota, a football player, genuinely appreciated Andre's warmth and generosity.

Jailin will be attending East Stroudsburg in the Fall, and Johnathan is scheduled to enter Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.



Read With Reed 83

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61



On June 1st, Andre and his agent Theresa Villano brought the reading initiative program to the Boys and Girls Club in Allentown. In advance of that date, the Dieruff Alumni Association had coordinated a drive to collect "83 books for #83". Our efforts produced a lot more than that total, and we successfully distributed several books to each of the young club members.

clutched a number of books that he had collected from the donation table. As he grinned even broader, he exclaimed, "These are the first books I have ever owned!"

Andre, without a doubt, you are making a difference!

What a commendable way to "give back"! Andre Reed, proud Dieruff Class of '81 alum and Pro Football Hall of Famer, has been applying his celebrity status to promote a creative reading initiative program for kids.

Entitled "Read with Reed 83" (his jersey number with the Buffalo Bills), the program currently links with the Boys and Girls Clubs in seven American cities. Andre has even authored a children's book to tell his own personal story and encourage the kids to experience the joy of reading.

Andre and Theresa were able to "work their magic" with the youngsters, promoting a sincere interest in reading. A short YouTube video of the event can be seen by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/bqYBz-2hrws>

Toward the end of my exciting visit, I focused my camera to capture the bright smile and sparkling eyes of an eight-year old boy. His arms tightly





**Win a limited edition football
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Pro Football Hall of Fame
Class of 2014 Enshrinees**

\$5 RAFFLE TICKETS

**Only 200 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be
held at Dieruff vs. Allen Football Game on
Saturday, October 27, 2018**

**All proceeds will benefit the Dieruff High
School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund**



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(DHS alumni only \$20.00)

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A Message From The Publisher:

Hello fellow Huskies, this is the final edition of **Volume 3** of the Newsletter. We're heading into year FOUR!

I wanted to take a moment and thank those that help put this together...Kay, Karen, Joanne, John and especially Dana. We wouldn't have a newsletter without all of your hard work and dedication to this venture. Thank you for all your wonderful comments...they really do mean a lot.

Beginning with the September edition, my 10-year old computer will be replaced by a BRAND NEW, MORE POWERFUL MONSTER, which should make working on this monthly much easier! (Fingers Crossed)

So as the Happenings once said...*See You In September!*

HUSKY PRIDE!

Dieruff High School Alumni Association

Husky Pride... Unleashed



Dieruff Fandangle

A Mega-Reunion For All Classes

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Louis E. Dieruff High School

Alumni Association Newsletter

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Dana Ziegenfuss, *Editor*

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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.