

Volume 3, Issue 4

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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Here We Come A-Caroling

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

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The halls were alive with the sound of music. More precisely, the halls of three selected senior citizen centers in the Lehigh Valley were alive with the sound of Christmas Carols, provided by robust Dieruff Alumni Carolers.

This is the third year we have warmly accepted this venture. Organized by Cindy Fidler Wolst, Dieruff Class of 1974, the merry band of Husky Singers visited three facilities, and led the audiences in a medley of Holiday songs. This year, the centers selected were Westminster Village in Allentown, Cedar View Apartments in Allentown and Saucon Valley Manor in Hellertown.

Appropriately donning gay apparel, complete with Santa hats, our enthusiastic choir (and I apply poetic license to use that term) delivered the joy of the season to appreciative seniors. In addition to the mix of Holiday songs, we faithfully sang

the Dieruff Alma Mater for each group. (Oh, how we could have used Mr. Peter Carpenter to lead us!)

With Kiska V (and Misha for one of the visits) as an integral part of our animated offerings, the Spirit of Husky Pride was delivered in abundance. Kiska's mom, Karen Coleman, escorted our loving mascot through each audience, as adoring hands reached out for a gentle pet. Some folks were even rewarded with canine kisses.

Modifying a familiar phrase, we are all encouraged to "keep the Kiss in Kiska".

And so, we can safely say that the Dieruff Alumni Association brought a little bit of harmony to the hearts of many. Once again, we nominate Cindy to be on Santa's "Nice" list.





President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

'Tis the Season

Of course we're feeling "jolly". How can we not? Our Alumni Association is enjoying a wondrous season packed with "feel good" activities....events characterized by peace and love, giving and appreciation, joy and harmony. This month's Newsletter features a number of these heartwarming stories.

The "Sew What?" Club continues to select projects based on their community service value. As in previous years, the club completed its "Stockings For Soldiers" project. High quality Christmas stockings were crafted and contributed to a program that then fills and delivers the stockings to Pennsylvania military personnel. Members of the club also made children's pillow cases that were donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

For the third consecutive year, a dedicated group of Husky alumni visited senior citizen facilities in the Lehigh Valley and delivered the spirit of the Holidays in the form of caroling and warm messages of love. Our beloved mascot, Kiska V, provided abundant affection and canine kisses much to the delight of the residents.

Partnering with the Dieruff Class of 1977, the Alumni Association was able to support and contribute to the success of their 40th class reunion.

Faithful alumni basketball fans provided spirited support for the Dieruff Boys and Girls Basketball Teams as they

participated in the "Unity Game", held on November 22, 2017. Members of the Allentown Police Department and the Dieruff basketball teams blended together for an evening of harmony and sportsmanship. The basketball season opens on December 12th. Make sure to put Friday, December 23rd on your calendar. That's the date the Huskies will take on the William Allen Canaries.

Mr. Peter Carpenter, our living legend, the first choir director at Dieruff and dedicated fan of our Alumni Association, helped us orchestrate the production of a Holiday Season Video Card. The music room has seldom been the site of such a motley crew. Watch for your copy of the electronic card.

And so, as we celebrate the 2017 Holiday Season (as well as the 6th anniversary of the founding of our Alumni Association), I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the host of Huskies who have contributed to our remarkable success. I would also like to invite all of you to hop on our sleigh, and enjoy the spirit that is "Blue and Grey".

With warm wishes for a "jolly" Holiday,

John



Alumni Profile - Jeff Burnatowski '76

Joanne Ogrvdziak '76

A most spirited sight to which I look forward at our yearly alumni events is the sea of familiar faces of decades of Huskies. Among the waves of Blue and Gray that descend upon the East Side Youth Center each summer is a classmate of mine who faithfully attends the Annual Fandangle with his lovely wife, Rosie. The LED Alumni Association is proud to acknowledge that loyal Husky, Jeff Burnatowski '76, this month's honored alumnus.

Humbly surprised by the recognition, Jeff kindly agreed to an interview for our alumni publication. While reminiscing over our childhood neighborhoods, we soon realized that, although we didn't share any classes at Dieruff, we traveled the same footpath as kids through the heart of Jordan Park. We both recalled the endless ringing of pinball machines and the constant crushing of ice for multiflavored snow cones, a summertime estate work. Although the market must-have for any youngster spending his lazy, hazy, crazy days on Allentown's playgrounds.

Growing up with his brother John on Whitehall Street near Sixth, Jeff attended St. Francis of Assisi School and then went on to Trexler Junior High for his ninth-grade year. Arriving at LED in the Fall of 1973, Jeff joined students from Harrison-Morton and South Mountain to unify the Class of the Bicentennial Year. 1976. When asked about his favorite memories of Dieruff, he warmly

smiled and simply stated that he truly enjoyed his three years as a Husky and that he met a lot of great kids. Since our class's 40-year reunion in 2016, Jeff has had the opportunity to be in touch with some of his high school friends and wishes that he could contact many others. He also fondly recalled having Mr. "Jeep" Bednarik for Drivers Ed and getting behind the wheel of a '74 Plymouth.

After high school, Jeff studied Business Management at Lehigh County Community College. He also ran his own wedding photography business in the late '70s called PHOTO-GENIC Photography and did freelance work for the Bethlehem Globe -Times and for the Emmaus Free Press. A few years later, while working at Apollo Metals in Bethlehem, a series of unplanned events involving the purchase of his first home led to some part-time real was in a lull during the early '80s. Jeff quickly found success in closing the sales. Leaving behind the security of his established position with benefits, he took a leap of faith and decided to enter the world of real estate full-time. Thirty-four years later, after embarking upon a new professional path with Century 21 in 1983, Jeff is a notable RE/MAX broker/appraiser with an office located at 3120 Hamilton Boulevard in Allentown. This LED alumnus. whose smiling face can be found

on countless area RE/MAX listinas. enjoys a rewarding career today which was

launched three decades ago from an unexpected change in course.

Jeff and Rosie currently reside in Upper Macungie Township with their beloved golden retriever, Lacey, and will be celebrating their 20-year wedding anniversary this month. The '76 Husky enjoys spending time on his '66 Ford Mustang convertible, a vintage metallic burgundy beauty which had been completely restored and which he occasionally enters into Classic Car shows.

The LED Alumni Association is pleased to salute my fellow classmate, Jeffrey Burnatowski '76, for his continued support of Husky Pride. As another '76 grad, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to become acquainted with Jeff and I look forward to seeing him and Rosie at many future alumni gatherings.

I'd also like to get a glimpse of that Mustang!





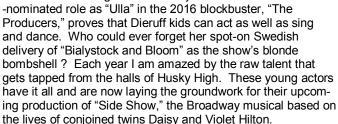
DHS Theatre's First Fall Entry Is A "Grand Performance"

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

To kick-off its tenth season, the multi-award-winning Dieruff Theatre Company recently premiered its inaugural dramatic performance, "In the Middle of Grand Central Station," in November. Superbly acted out in the school's Black Box Theatre, the true-life story focused on the psychological journey of a young runaway who lived in New York City's main railway hub for four years. Written by Nancy Pahl Gilsenan, who also dramatized the acclaimed novel, "Ordinary People," the play was brilliantly led by junior Milaijah Torres as "Marty" who, with no scene breaks, flawlessly executed two acts of continuous dialogue. The intimate setting, transformed into the bowels of NYC's renowned railroad terminal, revealed the struggles of a homeless teenager trying to find her way through a disintegrating social system. To raise awareness of the dayto-day difficulties faced by the displaced "Martys" in our own community, offerings of personal care items were collected at the door. In addition, a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales was generously donated to the Allentown School District Homeless Children and Youth Initiative.

While each character was impeccably cast, this alumna was particularly impressed with junior Abby Schoepple's perfect

portrayal of a parochial school girl, Emily Demerest. Abby, who was only a ninth-grader when she burst onto the Dieruff stage in her Freddy



Be sure to mark your calendars now for the Dieruff Theatre Company's presentation dates of April 26, 27, and 28, 2018. A show featuring Siamese twins? Can't wait to see how they pull that off! With Producer/Director Sarah Hinkle Pastelyak '02 and Company raising the bar every year with their sell-out performances, you won't want to miss it!

Spoiler Alert: Abby will play one of the twins.



John G. Hughes, Jr. 61

For the "Sew What?" Club at Dieruff High School, the Holiday Season brings "Stockings For Soldiers" and Snowmen from socks. More importantly, the season brings smiles of joy and self-satisfaction.

Members of the sewing club sponsored by the Alumni Association are learning lessons far beyond sewing skills. They're learning life's lessons.

Under the dedicated guidance of Ruth O'Connell and Jinny Bankhard Hughes (both alumnae from the Class of 1961), the club meets after school every Wednesday. Most of the projects are selected for their community service value. For example, this year the students produced mastectomy pillows that were donated to Muhlenberg Hospital. Handwritten thank you notes from appreciative recipients of the pillows are frequently received, reinforcing the pride the club members derive from helping others. Another project this year was children's pillow cases that were given to the Ronald McDonald House.

A hallmark of the Holiday Season is the "Stockings For Soldiers" project. Each year, the club creates high-quality Christmas Stockings that are then filled and delivered to Pennsylvania military personnel stationed around the world. What a proud tradition!

As a relief from the community service projects, members of the "Sew What?" Club have been applying their creativity to making decorative little snowmen out of white socks. These novel pieces will be taken home by each student and will probably make their way under somebody's tree as a welcomed gift.

We certainly commend Ruth and Jinny for the enduring gifts they have been contributing to these fine young people in the club.



Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/ Karen Coleman

It took time until I developed my Husky Howl, but now I cannot stop singing. As most of you know, huskies rarely bark. When I do bark, I scare myself. But we howl and talk. Been blessed with a great range, from lyric soprano to bass.

Went with the Alum to carol. What we might have lacked in professional talent we more than made up in with spirit. Did I "SING"!!! The more laughter, the more I howled. I worked the crowd, giving husky hugs and kisses. One man wiped his mouth after I gave him a big kiss. Pretty funny and Uncle John's picture of the event is priceless. The Diva in me took over. Everywhere we visited I was given dog treats and some people gave me cookies.

But the highlight was singing with the Alum and Mr. Carpenter. It was a magical evening. We sang and did the carol-card and then Mr. C. kept playing and we kept singing. He is so talented and brings out the best in everyone. I only gave one whimper because the singing really did not need my help. It was a time of joy, friendship, fellowship and Husky Pride.

The first time they sang "O Holy NIGHT", I just sat at Mom's feet and listened. Must have re-kindled an ancient memory of that one night in the stable when only the shepherds and animals were present. Mom has

always told me that of course there were dogs, shepherds always have dogs. So my kin were there. And yes, Kibbee and Willow, there were definitely stable cats present, too. With all the madness, materialism, and stress of this world, take a moment or two to think back and reflect upon the first Holy Night.

Then we kept on singing, did the song the second time and I lost it.....I saw Joyce's cookies and I smelled gum. I try so hard to be a good dog.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR FILLED WITH HUSKY PRIDE.

Love,

Kiska V, Diva Dog





A Grand Night For Singing

Dana Ziegenfuss, Editor

On December 6th at 6PM, a group of Dieruff Alumni – some new to an active event, met in the choir room one more time to create a new holiday tradition...the singing of the DHS Alumni video Christmas card.

So how did this idea come to be? Let's go back a few months ago to the end of August at John Hughes' football pool party. The Alumni Association had just been donated a brand new digital video camera from an anonymous benefactor and several of us were discussing ways to utilize it. One suggestion that day was for a video Christmas greeting to be created by the Alumni Association and be sent out to all members. What an inspired way to spread holiday cheer in a "live" setting to all DHS alumni both near and far!

Cindy Fidler-Wolst and Karen Coleman took on the challenge of selecting two songs, recording both of them and then determining which one would be selected for the video to be sent out to the Alumni.

And then, for the music – would this group sing "a cappella"? Or maybe there could be someone to play the piano and lead the group with a musical accompaniment? The answer was rather simple – at 90 years young, Mr. Peter Carpenter, beloved music director, agreed to not only direct but to play the piano as well. What a moment for the Alumni members to be directed by the legend himself!

Upon arrival of the Alumni that evening, the camera was set in place and initially it was decided to shoot the choir head-on in the risers, but Mr. Carpenter had a better idea: have everyone stand around the piano. What a brilliant thought, but his brilliance wasn't done. Mr. C thought, "both songs are great, let's just combine both of them," and after a little rehearsal (including singing of the Alma Mater and doing the customary warm-

ups) in addition to adding a tribute to the Hallelujah Chorus at the end, the spirited group of alumni sang with much fervor, resulting in a sweet and fun recording session with lots of camaraderie and laughter. After two takes, the "official" video shoot was completed.

But then something spontaneous and magical happened. Mr. C did not want to stop playing and he did not want us to stop singing, so an impromptu holiday sing-a-long took over. This included many traditional holiday songs and requests from the group; however, one of the most emotional moments of the evening was when Don Blose (class of 1986) requested a rendition of his favorite Christmas hymn, *O Holy Night*. It was a very powerful and touching moment.

What started as a simple idea has already become a new Christmas tradition. We can't wait until next year!

Please click on the link below to see the final result of our effort.

Dieruff Alumni Association 2017 Christmas Card https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5eD0XAh2go





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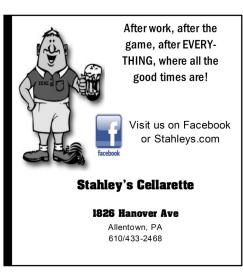
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Dieruff Boys Basketball - Husky Nation Is Here

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

Family. Education. Basketball. These are the three foundational levels upon which Husky Nation is built. My guess is that the fourth cornerstone would be "Teamwork" as Head Coach Joe Jarjous and his staff have emphasized to their players that huskies perform at their best when they travel as a pack. Remember Herb Brooks' famous line? "The name on the front of your jersey is a **** of a lot more important than the one on the back." (I love that quote. I still get weepy when I watch clips from "Miracle on Ice.") Now in his fourth season as Leader of our Husky Pack, Coach Jarjous has set the stage for a winning program and hopes to place LED as a formidable contender in the District XI tournament for the first time since 2007-2008. With a roster that is strong both academically and athletically, Coach Jarjous, who had led his CYO team to the state semi-finals back in 2014, sees that this could be the year that his student-athletes qualify for post-season competition.

Tipping off the season on Thanksgiving Eve was the Third Annual Unity Game when members of the Allentown Police Department played alongside our Husky hoopsters in the Dick Schmidt Gym. From an idea that was birthed in 2015 to foster positive relations between our city's finest and the community they serve and protect,



the message of unity spreading across our city has been championed by the dedicated efforts of APD Detective Luiz Garcia. Please take a few minutes to view the following video, produced by Detective Garcia, which highlights the excitement of this spirited public event:

www.youtube.com/watch?

v=9Bo1Jji9Eto. Be sure to check out the APD/Dieruff Unity Game next November. With community attendance increasing each year in recognition of our ASD kids and the City of Allentown, you won't want to miss it!

Now that the basketball season is underway, we invite alumni to come

out and support our alma mater. A schedule of the twenty-two games is listed below, along with a link to "This is Husky Nation!," a must-see video for every proud member of the Dieruff family. Celebrate your Husky Pride Saturday, December 23, when LED takes on the William Allen Canaries. Let's fill the Dick Schmidt Gymnasium with waves of Blue and Gray, and with the familiar echo of that bleacher-pounding chant, "Let's Go, Huskies!"

Schmitty will be smiling down on all of us.

THIS IS HUSKY NATION!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC4cM3uN7FU&feature=youtu.be



'67 & '77 Host Successful Reunions

Kay Kurtz '74

The Louis E. Dieruff High School Classes of 1967 and 1977 held their reunions during October and November 2017. Both classes partnered with the alumni association to assist in them in their marketing efforts with online registration and payments, and email blasts and announcements via the alumni association website.

The Class of 1967 celebrated their 50th Class Reunion with a whirlwind weekend of alumni activities. Friday night commenced with a happy hour in the lower level of Stahley's Bar and Restaurant. Saturday morning

revelry began with the Alumni Tailgate Event and attendance at the Dieruff-Allen Football Game. Over 90 alumni and their guests attended the main event held at the Palace Center later that evening. Sunday morning the party animals took a guided tour of Dieruff High School and their finale was a brunch at the Top Diner to say their farewells.

The Class of 1977 celebrated their 40th Class Reunion in similar fashion. Friday night commenced with a happy hour in the lower level of Stahley's Bar and Restaurant. The main event

was held at the Allentown Brew Works where over 70 classmates and their guests partied the night away. Sunday morning brunch was held at Billy's Downtown Diner on Hamilton Street.

Both classes displayed memorabilia and each honored deceased classmates in addition to alumni military veterans. Photo opportunities were plentiful. Check out their respective reunion photographs found on the left margin of our Alumni Association website's homepage.



1967 50th Year Committee



1977 40th Year Committee





UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Basketball vs. William Allen Girls 12 Noon, Boys 2PM December 23:

Richard Schmidt Gymnasium Monthly Alumni Meeting 6:30PM

Meilinger Center

February 2, 2018: Winter Pep Rally 1:30PM ALL ALUMNI WELCOME

Richard Schmidt Gymnasium

February 7, 2018: Monthly Alumni Meeting 6:30PM

Meilinger Center

February 17, 2018: 7th Annual Dieruff Alumni Association Mardi Gras Party

East Side Youth Center (SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS)

May 19, 2018: Class of '86 Turns 50

Coplay Saengerbund (Details To Follow)

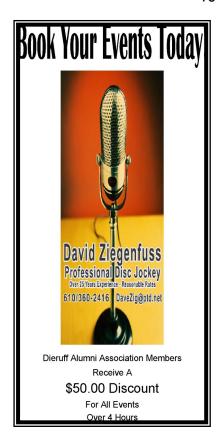
All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: www.Dieruff-Alumni.org



January 3, 2018:

Correction:

Last month we misspelled the name of the winner of the Andre Reed Jersey. Congratulations to John "Scott" Kuti! We apologize for the error.





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Email: dhsalumninews@ptd.net



Alumni Association Newsletter

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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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