

# Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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## Dieruff Musical Garners 10 Freddy Award Nominations

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

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What a spectacular performance! Under the direction of Sarah Hinkle Pastelyak, the Dieruff Theatre Company has done it again. Their production of "Side Show" has earned the acclaim of the local theatre community.

With 29 high schools participating in the competition, Dieruff was awarded 10 Freddy nominations. The following is a list of their nominations:

- \* Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical
- \* Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role (two



nominations - Jackie Morales as Daisy Hilton and Abby Schoepple as Violet Hilton)

- \* Outstanding Small Ensemble Performance (Abby Schoepple and Jackie Morales - "I Will Never Leave You")
- \* Outstanding Solo Vocal Performance (Jaime Torres - "All in the Mind")
- \* Outstanding Performance by Featured Dancer (Danny Garcia as Buddy Fisher)
- \* Outstanding Chorus
- \* Outstanding Choreography
- \* Outstanding Use of Lighting
- \* Outstanding Use of Costumes

The Freddy Award show will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at the State Theater in Easton, PA. Break a leg, Huskies!

Watch the 2017 Freddy Awards LIVE Thursday May 24 beginning at 7PM on WFMZ-TV Channel 69





## President's Message

*John G. Hughes, Jr. '61*

How profound! The phrase, "joined at the hip" is commonly used to describe a close connection or kinship. In fact, I have often applied the term to define the relationship that Dieruff alumni enjoy.... between alumni classes, between our Alumni Association and the Dieruff faculty and staff, and between our association and the Husky students.

Indeed, we are all seemingly "joined at the hip", bonded by the commonality of "Husky Pride".

The musical "Side Show", presented in April by the Dieruff Theatre Company, was a play based on the real-life story of Daisy and Violet Hilton. Born in England in 1908, these "Siamese Twins" were, in fact, joined at the hip. If you watch the video of Jackie Morales and Abby Schoeppel who played the roles of the twins, you will marvel at their ability to "stay connected".

Click on this link to watch the video:

<https://youtu.be/CEhAdkG4kFk>

Jackie confided that, in some of their scenes, the pair of Dieruff actresses actually used magnets, strategically positioned in their dresses to accomplish this illusion.

The thought occurred to me that the success that the Alumni Association enjoys requires no magnets to remain "joined at the hip". What it does take is the dedication of faithful Huskies who contribute their time and talents... and their passion.

We invite you all to get involved. Join us on July 28, 2018 for the "Fandangle", that mega-reunion for all classes.

With warm Husky regards,

John





## Alumni Profile - Gene Legath '68

*Joanie Isaacson - Klucharich '74*



AIN'T NO PLACE YOU'D RATHER BE! These are the words that he always used when coaching his players.

Gene is a 1968 graduate and has coached high school football and college football for 45 years. He participated in both football and track. As a football player for Dieruff, he was a two-way starter at tight end and defensive end. After graduating from Dieruff, he continued his football career at West Chester State College, now West Chester University, as a linebacker and was a member of the Golden Rams 1970 PSFC championship team. He graduated from West Chester in 1972 with a degree in Health and Physical Education. He taught Health and Physical Education and Driver Education and Training at Emmaus High School for 35 years, retiring in 2008.

Gene started his coaching career in the fall of 1972 as an assistant coach for Boyertown High School. The following year Gene was hired by George "Fritz" Halfacre to coach linebackers and wide receivers at Emmaus High School. He was named head coach of Emmaus High School in 1975. In 1981 he joined Ralph Kirchenheiter's staff at Muhlenberg College to coach the offensive line. Besides his four year stint with the Mules, he spent his coaching career teaching the fundamentals of football at the following area high schools: 1 year at Boyertown, Bethlehem Catholic, Dieruff, (coached with former Dieruff Driver Education Teacher and Instructor, Keith Newhard) and Salisbury; 2 years at Northampton and Freedom, 4 years at Southern Lehigh, 11 years at Parkland and 18 years at Emmaus High School.

Gene has been part of 15 Championship teams, including the 2002 PIAA State Championship team at Parkland. He was chosen to coach in the LARC All-Star Classic for two years and the McDonalds All Star Classic for five years. He was inducted into the McDonald's Hall of Fame in 2009. Coach Legath's resume also includes 15 years as a track and field coach and 7 years as head volleyball coach at Emmaus High School. He is currently the President of the Lehigh Valley Athletes and Friends Organization.

Gene's wife, the former Wanda Correll, Dieruff Class of 1969, passed away August 2002. They have a daughter

Jaime who is a grade school teacher and is the wife of Ryan Thomasco and they reside in Allen, Texas. Ryan is a teacher and coaches football in the Allen School District. They have 3 children; daughter Lyla and twins, a daughter Harper and son Hudson. Adam and his wife Rachael, a Special Education teacher at Salisbury High School, reside in Allentown. Adam is a Health and Physical Education teacher at Central and Ritter Elementary Schools in the Allentown School and coaches football at Southern Lehigh High School. They have a son Dylan and a daughter Rowan. Gene is engaged to Roxanne Halfacre Michels, daughter of Fritz Halfacre.



## 5th Annual LED Alumni Florida Reunion

March 2018

For five years now, LED grads Bob and MaryLou (Mackes) Hontz from 1966 and 1967 respectively, have been welcoming fellow classmates to their mini reunion in their adopted home of New Port Richey, Florida. This year they had a record number of attendees (33) come and join in the festivities. This year featured several new classmates attending including Steve and Mona Lou Henninger from the Class of '67. Mona Lou states, "It was a beautiful setting of white sands of Port Richey, but it was so nice to see LED graduates that we haven't seen in 50 years. And what an unbelievable amount of food!" 1966 Classmate Jane Vuksta Kintz shared her thoughts, "What a fun event! A private

beach surrounded by old friends—some that we haven't seen since our days at Dieruff. Lots of Husky Pride was evident. Bob and MaryLou are the reason that we have so many new and returning LED Class of '66 and '67 attendees." But Jeff Jaxheimer may have put it best, "It was a great day! Already put March 16, 2019 on my calendar, for the sixth annual celebration. Bob and MaryLou are great hosts!"

If you were in either of those classes and you want to attend next year's event on March 16, 2019, you can contact host Bob Hontz directly at: [hontzm@aol.com](mailto:hontzm@aol.com)



Join us on  
March 16, 2019  
For the 6th Annual LED  
Mini-Reunion  
In New Port Richey, FL





## "Sew What?" Club Delivers "Fidgety Fingers Blankets"

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

A gentle smile seemed to appear on the grey-haired lady's face as she placed her weathered hand upon the cushioned fabric. Her eyes gained focus, responding to the vivid colors of the 18"X18" activities pad that had been placed on the table in front of her. Her attention was clearly drawn to her new gift.

The real-life demonstration was quite profound. The "fidgety fingers blanket" did its job just perfectly. Ever so slowly, the fingers of the Alzheimer patient traversed the



surface of the blanket. Pausing momentarily at each tactile sensation... from the laces to the zippers to the large buttons.. her hand eventually came to rest over the small square of soft cushioned material. For several precious moments, this dear old lady enjoyed some degree of comfort.

Fifteen of the "fidgety fingers blankets" had been crafted by members of the Dieruff High School "Sew What?" Club, sponsored by the Alumni Association. The after

school sewing club is organized by Ruth O'Connell and Jinny Bankhard Hughes, both 1961 alumnae. Projects for the club are selected for their community service value. On Thursday, May 10, 2018, Ruth and Jinny delivered the colorful blankets to the Saucon Valley Manor in Hellertown. This facility specializes in the care of Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

Nancy Squires serves as the Activities Director for Saucon Valley Manor, and she escorted Ruth and Jinny throughout the facility. As she presented the blankets to selected residents, Ruth and Jinny were able to witness first hand the significant value of the gifts. Nancy expressed her profound appreciation.

The short two-minute video was created to provide visual feedback to the student members of the "Sew What?" Club. Access the video by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/XpaJbZV7ICs>



## 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](mailto:UCLAROB1@gmail.com)

or  
Abe Youwakim, 484-866-3355  
Email - [juwakim56@gmail.com](mailto:juwakim56@gmail.com)

## Alumni Association Honors Mr. Larry Flynn

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

The second week of May represented "Teacher Appreciation Week". On Friday, May 11, the Dieruff Alumni Association presented a \$50 gift card from Louie's Restaurant in Allentown to Larry Flynn, who had been chosen as the Husky Teacher of the Year. Larry joined the Dieruff faculty this year as the new band director. Congratulations Larry!

*Shown in photo is John Hughes, Mr. Larry Flynn, and Mr. Josh Thatcher.*



## Kiska's Korner

*By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman*

I have Freddy Fever. We went to the dress rehearsal and it was great. We got into school through the stage door and we were back stage. Pretty neat and a lot of new sights and smells. We walked onto the stage and the actors were getting a pep talk about the meaning of the play. Then the kids saw me and I got a lot of attention. One of the actors told Mom what I beauty I was. Then Mom told him my past and he was shocked that I had been a throw away dog. The message of the play is that it is okay to be different. By now the kids were listening and Mom explained how I was from a puppy mill. I was different and would never be a show dog. My ears are too small, my tail curls too much, and my body is too long. I am also red instead of the traditional grey, black combination. The story

has a happy ending. I went from throw away to Dieruff Diva Dog. The kids hugged and kissed me and I knew I was loved. Of course, I got hair on their costumes.

We left the stage and watched part of the show. Outstanding, but I was searching for gum under the seats. About forty minutes later, time to leave. The girls were singing a beautiful duet and I had the great desire to join in. Aunt Cindy and Mom heard a couple of my low notes and knew it was time to leave the actors to their craft. Had a great time with the theater kids.

A bunch of the Alum Ladies are going to the State Theater to see the dress rehearsal for the awards. I have to stay home, but come award night, I plan on curling up on the couch and cheering for the Huskies.

On those few hot days, I have been sunning on my new porch. The summer coat is coming in a very nice copper color. But it means the winter coat will be blowing, just in time for graduation, so I might be looking a little shaggy. And rumor has it, there might be three of us huskies to lead in the graduating class. Exciting!

LOVE,

*Kiska V, DIVA DOG*





## Class of 1968 Alumni Treated to "Side Show" Performance

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Proudly displaying their "Class of 1968" placard, a healthy group of ardent theatre goers occupied several rows of choice seats in the Peter Carpenter Auditorium. They thoroughly enjoyed each others company, as well as the stellar performance of the Dieruff Theatre Company's production of "Side Show".

The attendance of these "sixty-eighters" marked the current phase of their carefully planned celebration of the "50th anniversary of their senior year".

Their next scheduled gathering will be the June 16th Commencement Exercises. Members of the Class of 1968 will march in the procession, preceding the graduating seniors, and will then be seated in a special reserved section of the PPL Center.

Following Commencement, the remaining events in the creative year-long celebration are "Fandangle", the Tailgate Party at the Dieruff vs. Allen Football Game, and the official 50th Reunion Party slated for November 3, 2018 at The Palace.



## Husky Football Hosts Golf Outing

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61



Coach Kyle Beller and his wife Lynn orchestrated a successful 6th Annual Husky Golf Outing on May 12, 2018. A total of 28 four-somes enjoyed a day of golf, food, beer, jello shots, and camaraderie at the Allentown Municipal Golf Course. All of the net proceeds of the event go to the team for the 2018 season.

A special thanks goes out to Sharon Raad Adams (Class of 1978 ) and Kay Kurtz-Vogel (Alumni Association VP and Class of 1974) for their help with registration and sign-in.

A complete album of photos taken at the outing can be view on the website: [www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org).



# **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](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- May 24:** Freddy Awards 7PM WFMZ-TW Channel 69  
State Theater, Easton, PA (SEE COVER PAGE FOR DETAILS)
- June 6:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM  
Dieruff High School Meilinger Center
- June 16:** Class of 2018 Commencement 1:30PM  
(Class of 1968 leads procession)  
PPL Center, 7th & Hamilton St. Allentown
- July 28:** 3rd Annual Grapplers Get Together 11AM-1PM  
Hamilton Family Restaurant (SEE PG 5 FOR DETAILS)
- July 28:** 6th Annual Fandangle 2PM-6PM  
East Side Youth Center (SEE PG 8 FOR DETAILS)

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: [www.Dieruff-Alumni.org](http://www.Dieruff-Alumni.org)



After work, after the  
game, after EVERY-  
THING, where all the  
good times are!



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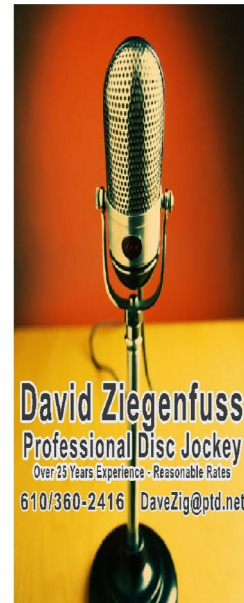
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For All Events  
Over 4 Hours



Louis E. Dieruff High School  
**Alumni Association Newsletter**

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