

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 6

DHSAumniNews@ptd.net

February, 2019



8th Annual Mardi-Gras! The BIGGEST Party Of The Year February 23 7PM-11PM

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Joanne Ogrydziak '76

Attention Huskies! You don't have to travel to New Orleans to celebrate the annual February festivity. The LED Alumni Association is proud to present its biggest event of the winter season, Mardi Gras 2019- right here on the East Side! This eighth annual alumni dance party, which kicks off another full year of Dieruff activities, will be held on :

**Saturday, February 23, from
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the
East Side Youth Center**

The Annual Mardi Gras Party, which began in 2012 as the very first event sponsored by our newly-founded alumni association, is a great opportunity to put on your Dieruff Dancing Shoes with former

Rockin' Robins disc jockey, DJ Dave and chase away the wintertime blues. So, you Happy Huskies, contact your fellow graduates and reserve your class's own table today. Tickets are still only \$15 per person, and can be purchased in the Dieruff Main Office, on-line via: www.dieruff-alumni.org, or from our good friends at Stahley's Restaurant. Although this great price already includes beer, soda, mixers and snacks, you are welcome to BYOB and munchies. Also, raffle drawings will be held and class photos will be taken. Remember to buy your tickets now as they will cost \$20 per person at the door.

Come celebrate the cold weather as only Huskies can do. See you on February 23rd. You won't want to miss it!





President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Celebrating 60 Years of Husky Pride

When the doors first opened at Louis E. Dieruff High School in the 1959, approximately 1,000 students entered those portals. Most of us were thrilled at the prospect of attending a "brand spankin' new" high school on the East Side.

Prior to that inaugural year, Allentown High School had been the only public high school in the city. Many of the Seniors who lived east of the dividing line had already spent two years at AHS, and were reluctant to abandon their "old" high school for their final year.

On the other hand, the incoming Juniors (and I was one of them) had "endured" their Sophomore year on the west end, and were most anxious to attend Dieruff. The incoming Sophomores were coming to Dieruff directly from South Mountain or Harrison Morton Junior High School, with no high school experience to use as a comparison.

Mr. Henry Weidner, our Principal, welcomed us at an auditorium program. He explained that we all were starting with a "clean slate". Similarly, the high school was starting with an unblemished record, void of reputation or tradition. He challenged all of us to fill that void, to help create the school's reputation, to contribute to developing the traditions.

Collectively, we accepted that challenge. With great enthusiasm, our students joined the athletic teams, the choir, and the band. They got involved with student government, the theatre group, and various clubs and organizations. Dieruff students supported each other, and attendance at concerts, plays, sports events, and dances continued to grow.

By the time that first graduating class moved tassels at commencement in June 1960, a powerful tradition had been established. That tradition can best be described as "Husky Pride".

As Dieruff High School now celebrates completing six decades, our Alumni Association has received permission to commemorate that occasion with a display of photographs and memorabilia, to be placed in the prominent display case in the school main lobby. The photo shown here depicts that display. We have also been given the green light to establish the Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction. (Kay's article in this edition of the Newsletter provides additional information.)

You may ask, "Has a lot changed at Husky High during the last sixty years?". Of course! A whole new wing has been added to the school to accommodate freshmen, now added to the enrollment. The pay phone that once occupied an alcove off the main lobby has been replaced with a valuable sculpture, shielded by protective glass. Cheerleaders once wore wool skirts hemmed way below the knee, whereas current uniforms call for very short shorts. In contrast, the length of the basketball shorts worn in those early years was akin to today's cheerleaders, while the shorts today are, ah, not short.

Rather than continue with a lengthy discourse on the differences between the Huskies of 1959 and those of 2019, I believe it is more appropriate to focus on the commonalities. Emphatically, the one ingredient that today's students share with those who walked the halls 60 years ago is "Husky Pride".

On February 8, 2019, I had the privilege of attending the Dieruff Winter Pep Rally. The event was not a tribute to athletic accomplishments, but rather it was a celebration of the Husky

Pride that permeates each and every corner of the school. From the exciting marching band to the Dieruff choir, from the cheerleaders to the AFROTC Drill Team, from the step team and the twirlers to the impressive prose of the "Spittin' Truth".... even the impressive well-rehearsed dance routine by faculty members - each group demonstrated dedication and pride. And each performance received thunderous applause from an appreciative student body.

The following link will connect you with an entertaining YouTube video that highlights the Winter Pep Rally. You can just feel the "Husky Pride".

<https://youtu.be/YEkJO8MiWY4>

Yes, it is comforting to know that the tradition of "Husky Pride" that was begun in 1959 has continued to grow through six decades. I am confident that Huskies who walk through the hallways of Dieruff High School decades from now will experience that same passion.

With Husky Pride deep inside,

John



Valentine's Couple Profile: Willy and Pam Warmkessel '86

David Ziegenfuss '86

*Happy
Valentines
Day*

Throughout time there have been stories, plays, movies and songs about someone loving someone from "the wrong side of the tracks". In these various forms, it usually ends sadly...but sometimes, in real life, LOVE PREVAILS. This is the love story of Willy and Pam Warmkessel, DHS Class of 1986.

Pamela Jean Wescoe met William Warmkessel in the third grade. Pam's family had attended Allentown Nazarene Church and Willy was, what Pam calls "a bus ministry kid", where children from the housing projects were bussed to the Church to worship. Willy and his siblings would attend Pam's church and that's when Pam first met Willy.

They started to "hang out" with each other around the 6th grade. Willy would walk Pam to school, but they had to keep their deepening friendship on the "down low", because Pam's parents did not think that Willy would be a good influence on Pam. Willy was street-wise and Pam was more sheltered. They worried that Pam would develop the wrong life-style, instead of Pam improving Willy.

Their time together was basically school hours at South Mountain and later at Dieruff. Another way they could see each other was when Willy would mow Pam's cousin's lawn. "Willy would come over and I would be there. When he finished, we would hang out," but that came to an abrupt end one day when they were finally caught. Pam explains, "My dad was an Allentown fireman and one day while we were on my cousin's porch the fire trucks came roaring down the street heading to a fire. As they passed the home, my dad could see Willy and me on the porch together and that did it for that," Pam says with a laugh. Willy would still cut the grass, but Pam couldn't go to her cousin's house "for a while".

While at Dieruff, Willy would attend class until 11:30AM and then head to work. "They had a co-op program then and I would leave school every day and go to work at Walp's," begins Willy. "I didn't play sports, or join clubs. I couldn't - I had to work to help support my family. The closest thing to a club or a group I participated in was ROTC. But I knew that I didn't want to live the rest of my life the way I grew up. I wanted a better life".

Willy had made up his mind in October of his Senior year. "I had taken the test to join the Army and I really wanted my mother's approval, and I said, 'if you don't sign this now, then I'll wait until my 18th birthday and join then', but she signed the papers".

After graduation, the young couple went their separate ways - Pam to Allentown Business School and Willy to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for 13 weeks, then to Germany for his assignment. "I knew that we probably wouldn't be together anymore," tells Pam, "and even though I was sad, I moved on, but we still wrote to each other and I still had deep feelings for him". In December of 1988 after 2 ½ years away, Willy came home from Germany. "I didn't tell anyone I was coming home, not even Pam. I just wanted to see if she still loved me."

"That was the "a-ha" moment for me," says Pam. "I knew by then that he was the one. Even my parents were more receptive about Willy. My dad was thrilled that he joined the Army".

But before he proposed to Pam, he respectfully went to her parents and asked for permission to marry her...and they approved. "We went to the Superior Restaurant with her parents and in the middle of the restaurant I got down on a knee and asked her to marry me. Right there."

They had set the date for the wedding - December 9, 1989, but Willy was still in the Army, and he had to go to his new posting in Seattle...still 3,000 miles away, but at least in the United States. Unfortunately, the timing was bad for his departure, February 13th. "Oh I was so sad," says Pam, "I just get engaged and he's gone...right before Valentine's Day." Pam had to plan the wedding herself. "He came home for a week in June, but that was it until the wedding."

After they got married, they immediately left for Seattle. "The first few months were hard, but after a little while, I loved it out there". The newlyweds moved back to the Lehigh Valley for good in the summer of 1990 and in March, their daughter Allyson was born. "It was important to us to stay in Dieruff territory when we were looking for a home. There was one home we both liked, but when we found out that it was in Allen



territory, I said ABSOLUTELY NOT", explains Pam, "No way are my children going to Allen!"

And being the parents of a child that went to Dieruff was important to Willy and Pam. They were band parents, who worked the concession stand, traveled to all the competitions and were there when both of their daughters worked as basketball team managers.

After their youngest daughter Amber graduated from Dieruff, Pam and Willy both became active members of the Dieruff Alumni Association, as well as organizers for the Class of 1986 Reunion Committee.

"I love Dieruff," says Pam, "and we still get to be involved in the school with the Alumni Association. And the best part is in 10 years, my grandchildren will begin to go there."

In December, Willy and Pam will be married for 30 years. They have been together in one way or another for over 40 years Pam puts their relationship's success in two simple words, "Love Prevails".



Alumni Association Given Green Light to Establish “Wall of Distinction”

Kay Kurtz '74

The Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association has been given approval to proceed with an endeavor sixty years in the making. The purpose of the Wall of Distinction is to give lasting recognition to Dieruff graduates who have made exceptional contributions to the achievements and prestige of Dieruff High School.

Furthermore, it is the purpose of the Hall of Distinction to promote Husky Pride in Dieruff High School and to display before current students, the success of past graduates and their accomplishments.

Criteria for Nominations

Any Dieruff High School graduate who has made substantial contributions to the achievements of Dieruff High School and/or reflect positively thereon, is eligible for nomination.

All nominees must have conducted themselves in such manner to reflect honor upon Dieruff High School and have qualities of character and standards of conduct that are exemplary.

Additional clarification for nomination criteria is as follows:

1. Honor is reserved for DHS graduates. Individuals that have distinguished themselves through superb accomplishment on a local, state, or national level of prominence.
2. This award recognizes accomplishments in diverse fields of endeavor. The following categories for consideration are:
 - ◇ Arts
 - ◇ Business
 - ◇ Education
 - ◇ Entertainment / TV / Film
 - ◇ Finance / Economic Development



- ◇ Government
- ◇ Historians
- ◇ Law / Criminal Justice
- ◇ Media / Journalism / Writing
- ◇ Medicine / Health / Science
- ◇ Military

3. Graduates are not eligible until more than five years have elapsed from graduation.

4. Recognition can be awarded to posthumous nominees.

Non-Dieruff graduates may be considered for an “honorary” status in the Dieruff Alumni Wall of Distinction.

Nomination Process

We welcome all community members' nominations. Nominations must be in writing, and submitted on the official Nomination Form. This form will be found online at www.dieruff-alumni.org or by request to the Main Office of Dieruff High School beginning on March 1, 2019 and will run through April 30, 2019.

1964 Dieruff Husky Classmates,

EVENT: Class Party for DHS 1964 Alumni
WHEN: June 1, 2019
PLACE: Brass Rail Lehigh Street Allentown
TIME: 4:00 pm - 10 pm

DETAILS: Informal attire, family style dinner, 1-hour open bar prior to dinner, cash bar after dinner. Music from the 60's.



1964

Kiska's Korner

Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Every month I try to do a theme. This month the Korner will be all over the place, somewhat like February weather. I just have so much to share. I have not been up to Husky High this month because every time we plan a visit, it snows with ice. Spent a lot of time sleeping, watching tv, and listening to Mom talk on the phone. So here is the conglomeration for February.

Sending sympathy to the Cameron Family and the Easton Rover Nation. Recently, they lost their beloved mascot Rosalie. She was an English bulldog. I never minded sharing the field with her. Came as a shock because we saw each other at this year's game, and she looked great. Easton has had a long tradition of having a bulldog, way before there even was a Dieruff High School. Hopefully, there will be another pup to carry on the tradition of Rover Pride.

Sympathy to the Fidler family. Aunt Cindy's father passed away recently.

Congrats to Nadia. Due to Mr. Fidler's funeral, I stayed home and Nadia worked the Winter Sports Assembly by herself. She did a great job. Listened to Uncle John's video and heard her sing. We huskies can do it all: sing, howl and talk. Way to go girlfriend.

Heard this - the possible passage of Victoria's Law. This

law would make pet stores sell shelter or rescue dogs. This law would do a lot to shut down the infamous puppy mills. Victoria is a German shepherd who had over a hundred and fifty pups, and most of them had genetic defects. I was the product of a puppy mill. Notice my tiny ears. I am so glad I escaped the horrors and now spend my life as Diva Dog. For anyone looking to adopt a husky and please ADOPT NOT SHOP, the Lehigh Humane Society has four husky pups. MaPaw has re-organized and they have some real beauties that need loving homes.

So, it has been a restful month. I did start to shed, which means an early spring. We huskies are so much wiser than that silly groundhog. Think Spring!

Love,

Kiska V Diva Dog...saved from a puppy mill



Kay Kurtz '74

Posting In Memory Comments to Deceased Alumni Obituaries

As website administrator, I've received requests from alumni who want to know how to view and post comments/memories to deceased classmates' obituary pages.

All this information is available and can be found in the **IN MEMORY SECTION** of our alumni website.

How to view classmate obituaries:

Click on **In Memory tab** found along the top margin of homepage.

Scroll Down the list which appears in alphabetic order by current year. Select classmate's name.

The specific obituary should now appear.

At the bottom of their obit, Click on the Post Comment Icon.

Enter your comments/memories. Then click the Submit Button.

It's that easy. What a wonderful way to remember a fellow classmate, friend or sibling and will become a permanent tribute on our website.

2019
DIERUFF THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS



APRIL 25TH AND 26TH AT 7 P.M.

APRIL 27TH AT 2 AND 7 P.M.

BOOK AND LYRICS BY LYNN AHRENS • MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLAHERTY

WWW.TICKETOR.COM/DIERUFFTHEATRE

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- February 23:** 8th Annual Mardi Gras 7PM-11PM
East Side Youth Center
- March 6:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- April 3:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- April 25,26,27:** DHS Theatre Company - Once On This Island
Peter Carpenter Auditorium (SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS)
- June 1:** Class of 1964 Party 4PM-10PM \$25PP
Brass Rail (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)
- July 27:** 7th Annual Fandangle 2PM-7PM
East Side Youth Center (DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

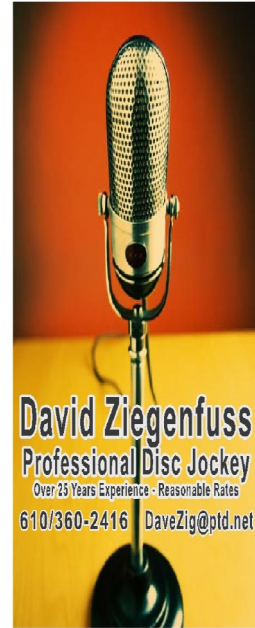
All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: www.Dieruff-Alumni.org



Giant Gift Cards

Make great Holiday Gifts,
Plus 10% of each card sold by the
Dieruff Alumni Association
comes back to us. Visit
www.dieruff-alumni.org
to purchase your gift cards today!

Book Your Events Today!



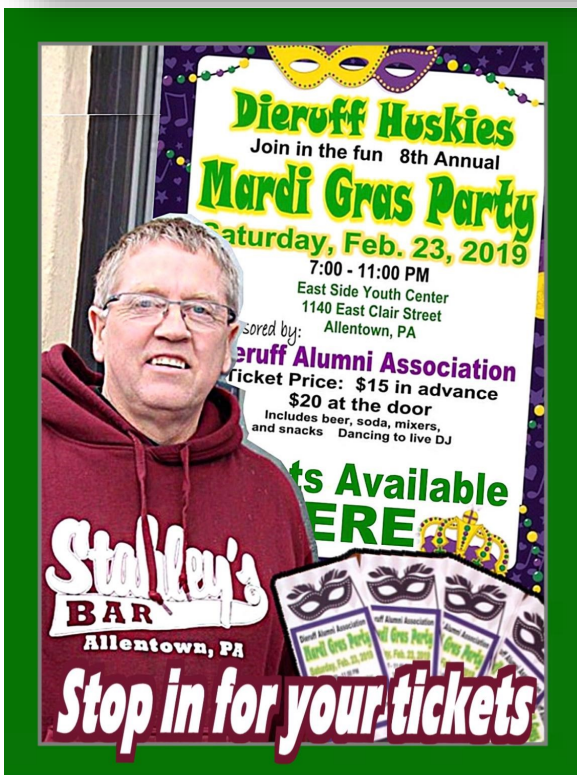
Dieruff Alumni Association Members

Receive A

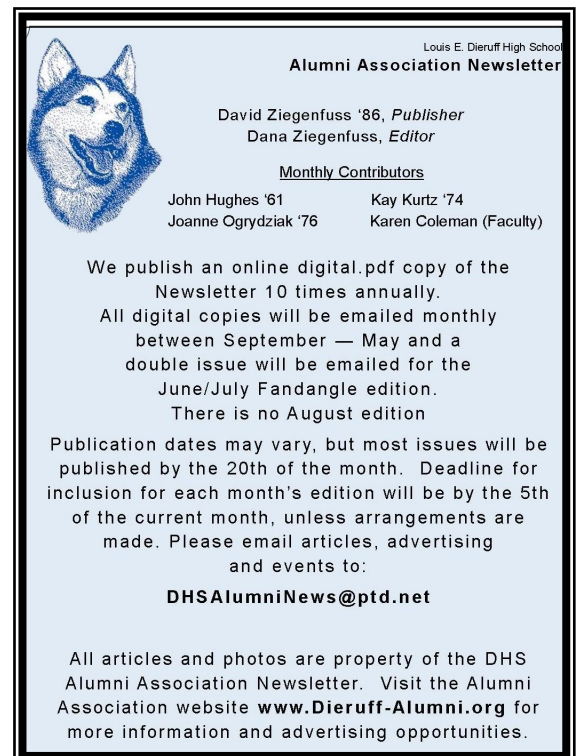
\$50.00 Discount

For All Events

Over 4 Hours



Dieruff Huskies
Join in the fun 8th Annual
Mardi Gras Party
Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019
7:00 - 11:00 PM
East Side Youth Center
1140 East Clair Street
Allentown, PA
Sponsored by:
Dieruff Alumni Association
Ticket Price: \$15 in advance
\$20 at the door
Includes beer, soda, mixers,
and snacks Dancing to live DJ
Tickets Available HERE
Stallley's BAR
Allentown, PA
Stop in for your tickets



Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

David Ziegenfuss '86, *Publisher*
Dana Ziegenfuss, *Editor*

Monthly Contributors

John Hughes '61 Kay Kurtz '74
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.