

Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 1

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

September, 2019

New President for Alumni Association

John G. Hughes, Jr. President Emeritus '61

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Wall of Distinction Inductees	3
Dickert's Donate Band Instruments	4
Hail to the Chief	
North to Alaska: Husky Alumni Visit Alaska	6
Alumni Feeds Football Team	
Kiska's Korner	7
2019 Recipe Announcement	
Jubilation In July 2019 Fandangle	8
Upcoming Events/Masthead/Football Team Fundraiser Comedy Show	9



The gavel presentation at our Alumni Association Meeting on September 4, 2019 was a way to hammer home the significance of our officer elections. Kay Kurtz had just been elected President of our very active association. John Hughes, who has served as President for nearly eight years, proudly handed off the polished wooden mallet to his successor.

For Kay, the transition to President promises to be seamless. She has served as Vice President and Website Administer for the same duration. As part of the transition process, Kay has also assumed John's role as a board member of the Allentown School District Foundation. As a matter of interest, Kay was honored to serve as the Keynote Speaker and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Dieruff High School 2019 Commencement Program in June.

Other officers elected during our September Meeting are:

Vice President - David Ziegenfuss

Secretary - Joanne Ogrydziak

Co-Treasurer - Jinny Bankhard Hughes and Linda Latchic

We congratulate our new officer team and are confident that they will successfully guide our Alumni Association into very exciting future.



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. President Emeritus '61

Thanks for the Memories

"Eight is Enough". Once the title of a popular TV show, the phrase also expresses my sentiments as it relates to the number of years I have served as the president of the Dieruff High School Alumni Association.

Let me express my sincere gratitude to all of you for permitting me to steer the sled of our amazing alumni association during these critical formation years. Blessed with a team of dedicated officers and faithful alumni, we have blazed a most impressive trail, and have established powerful traditions.

With a defined mission of promoting Husky Pride, our association has certainly made significant contributions among our alumni, current students, faculty and staff, and the community.

And now, under the leadership of our new president, Kay Kurtz, our association is destined to continue on its challenging course.

Personally, I do not intend to fade away or "step down" from the association. I prefer to apply the phrase, "step aside". It is my objective to act as a liaison between the organization and Dieruff High School. I hope to establish better communications with the school's administration, club advisors, coaches and students.

Continuing my role as "unofficial official photographer", I will take photographs of various school events, posting those pictures on our Facebook pages, and also displaying the prints in the 6 display cases that we have been granted throughout the school.

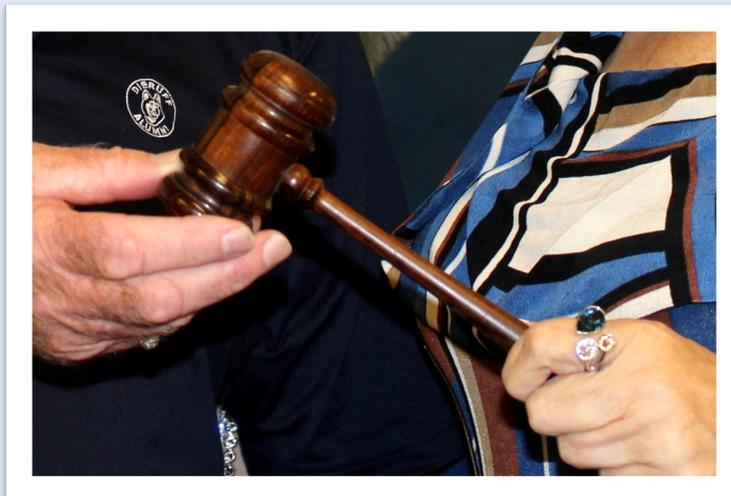
Once again, I thank you for all of the confidence you have extended to me, and for your faithful support of the Dieruff Alumni Association.

With warm Husky regards,

John Hughes

Class of 1961

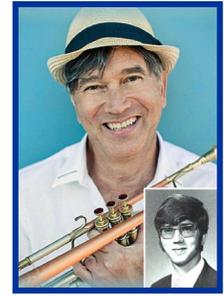
"Retiring" President, Dieruff Alumni Association





Wall of Distinction – 2019 Inductees

Part 1 of a 3 Part Retrospective
Joanne Ogrydziak '76



To celebrate our school's 60th year, the Alumni Wall of Distinction initiative was eagerly launched at the start of 2019 to recognize notable Dieruff graduates. Our first two alumni who were honored at the June 20th Inaugural Dedication were Richard "Rick" Braun '73 and Joseph "Joe" Hanna '74.

Often referred to as the "Godfather of Smooth Jazz," Rick Braun's career has spanned decades and has produced more than twenty #1 hits. An acclaimed chart-topping musician and composer, his talented arrangements and Sinatra-like voice can be heard on radio networks and soundtracks across the globe. On a local TV station, his fluid instrumental tunes welcome morning viewers as the Lehigh Valley weather forecast scrolls across the screen.

The second-youngest of six children, Rick grew up in center city Allentown near Sixth and Tilghman Streets. His hardworking parents nurtured a love for music which filled their home every day. As a young boy, Rick knew that he wanted to become a trumpeter when his mother took him to see his idol, Herb Alpert, at the Allentown Fair back in 1966. The rest, as we say, is Husky History.

A world-renowned performer, Rick Braun has never forgotten his humble Allentown roots. In June, he traveled with his son all the way from California to 815 North Irving Street to receive his Distinguished Alumni award, heartwarmingly embracing his high school music teacher upon entering the audi-

torium which today bears Mr. Carpenter's name. Fellow Huskies who have attended his local concerts often hear Rick play impromptu versions of the Dieruff Fight Song with his younger brother Russ '77 jumping in on the trombone.

So, the next time you treat yourself to Rick's get-up-and-dance rendition of the Hugh Masekela classic hit, "Grazing in the Grass," picture a young teenager hearing it for the first time while walking alongside the Stevens School in the Summer of 1969. That was Rick. Give a listen (below) and enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwkyobzP_kg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDgGqmW2c9w>

Graduating one year later was our second honored alumnus, Lehigh County Sheriff Joseph Hanna, a proud member of the Class of 1974. A recipient of multiple awards for professional excellence in law enforcement, Joe is a self-proclaimed Sixth Warder and East Sider who demonstrated an ethic of hard work and determination at an early age.

When he served his fellow Huskies as Dieruff Student Council President for the 1973-1974 academic year, I was a young tenth-grader who was just learning her way around the halls of Husky High. My involvement in LED Student Council activities gave me the opportunity to meet Joe, and I was particularly impressed with

the maturity and qualities of leadership with which he carried out his responsibilities. It was clear that, even as a high school student, Joe stood out among his peers.

A public servant for forty years, Joe's storied career has taken him from patrolling the streets of Allentown to executing his duties in the office of Lehigh County Sheriff. He has been featured as a technical advisor on ABC News, 20/20, Prime Time, Court TV and on Forensic Files. An active board member of numerous local organizations, Joe also provides a spirit of volunteerism which continues to benefit the community in which he was raised.

Another interesting note about Joe is his family connection to Dieruff's rich sports history. His wife Randy, an alumna from the Class of 1976, is the daughter of Husky Basketball icon Richard "Dick" Schmidt after whom the East Side Gym is named.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ysgm0XcYw>

<https://www.wfmz.com/news/lehigh-valley/famed-jazz-musician-among-6-inducted-into-dieruff-high-school-s-wall-of-distinction/1088021443>

In addition to Rick Braun's performance video, the other three links indicated above are to Rick's and Joe's Wall of Distinction acceptance speeches, along with the related WFMZ Channel 69 News story from June 20th.

Anita and John Dickert Donate Band Instruments

by John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Some folks possess no musical ability at all! That doesn't mean they can't facilitate and nurture those talents in others. Anita Lakis Dickert (Class of 1969) and her husband, John, know that lesson well. Years ago they helped their own daughters with their musical interests, and now they're doing it for the band members at Dieruff High School.

Anita and John readily admit that they both are void of any musicality. In contrast, their pair of daughters were blessed with abundant talents in music, and the Dickerts strongly encouraged that development. Both girls became band president at Parkland High School.



Lauren Dickert Kiefer, a 1998 Parkland alum, played clarinet, flute, alto sax, tuba, and the piano. She is a 2002 graduate of the University of Delaware. Her sister, Stephanie Dickert Hall, graduated from Parkland in 2001, and played flute, sax, French horn, piano, and guitar. She went on to graduate from Wilkes College in 2005.

And so, with a powerful appreciation of music, and an equally significant desire to "give back", Anita and John decided to donate three of their girls' instruments to the Dieruff High School Band.

Hail To The Chief

David Ziegenfuss '86, Vice-President LED Alumni Association

Thank you, John Hughes. You were the right person at the right time.

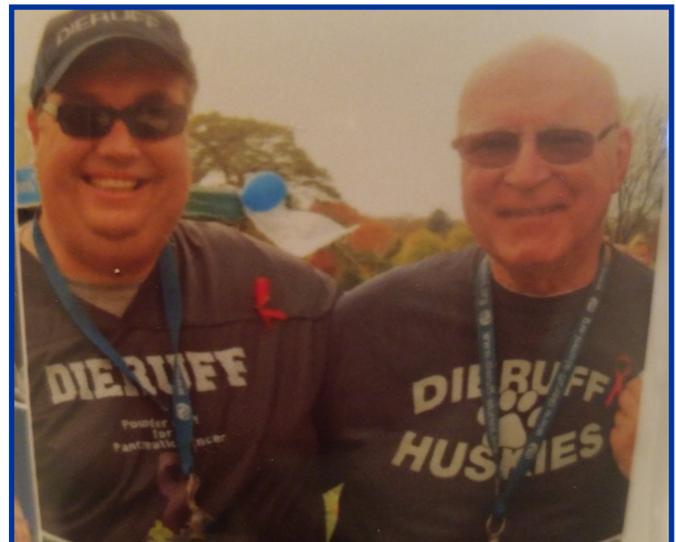
You embraced someone else's dream—and made it succeed beyond anyone's imagination, by making it *your* dream. The Dieruff Alumni Association would not be where it is today without your commitment, dedication and leadership (and a special THANK YOU for the support by the lovely First Lady Jinny).

To me, you have been the following: a leader, storyteller, mentor, sounding board, support system, devoted writer, Veteran, but most of all, you have been my friend.

You wear your camera with the pride of someone winning an Olympic medal. The photos you take show, not just your love of photography, but your love of life.

I wish you the best in you "retirement" as the Alumni Association President, but still look for your continuing and numerous contributions to our Alumni Association.

John, continue to make everyday your masterpiece!



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GO HUSKIES!





Dieruff Huskies Travel to Alaska

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

It is apparent that some members of the Class of '74 were not content to limit their 45th Reunion celebration to Fandangle 2019. A group of '74 classmates organized a "bucket list" trip to Alaska, a 15-day land and sea adventure.

The travel group included Cindy Fidler Wolst, Kay Kurtz, Joanne and Mike Pukszn, and Linda and Ken Krasley. They also invited John and Jinny Hughes, both of the Class of 1961, to join in the fun, serving as "elder chaperones"

During the exciting August journey, the Dieruff Huskies had the opportunity to meet Alaskan Huskies, as well as famous mushers. On a riverboat excursion out of Fairbank, the travelers visited the riverside home of Susan Butcher, the second woman to win the Alaskan Iditarod, that 938-mile dogsled race from Anchorage to Nome. Now deceased, Susan accomplished that tremendous feat in 1986. Her husband welcomed us and demonstrated how they train the team of 14 Huskies to compete in the Iditarod, pulling a 4-wheel ATV across a dirt track.

A featured speaker on the cruise portion of the trip was Libby Riddles, the first woman to win the Iditarod. Now an accomplished public speaker and author, Libby graciously autographed her books, and posed for photographs with our Dieruff Huskies.



Although the Alaskan Vacation produced abundant memories, the Dieruff Huskies absolutely treasure those special encounters with the Alaskan Huskies and the mushers.

Alumni Feeds Football Team

David Ziegenfuss '86

The 2019 LED football team kicked off their season with their stomachs full and Husky Pride in their hearts.

On Thursday, August 29th, the Alumni Association fed the current team, and with a lot of help and a "giant" donation from Giant Food Store, the football team and the Alumni had a great time together.

WFMZ-TV was there to document the event and interviewed Karen Coleman and Coach Dave Lutte. You can view the video with the link here: <https://www.wfmz.com/1115081905>

The highlight of the afternoon is when the Alumni sang the Alma Mater. With strong voices (but a bit off key), the Alumni were moved by the honest and supportive cheers and applause from both the players and coaches.



Kiska's Korner

Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Been busy even before school started. We had a photo shoot with the new administrators. That went very well. Even kept my ears up. We also had a session to make the schedule posters for football. That was not a good day. Super-hot and humid and not Husky Weather. Nadia sang lot. I was just bad. Every time I saw the camera, I rolled on my back or shot them my rear end. Do not know how they got a few decent shots, but they did. Not our best day.

We are doing a lot better on the football field. Very proud of Nadia. She is not scared of the helmets or pads. We love running together onto the field. We walk a lot and visit with everyone. We extend the paw of friendship. We have met some very nice people. We meet with the opponent's band front and cheerleaders and get a lot of hugs. Leave behind some husky fur but no one seems to mind.

Met Will, the puppy mascot of Easton. He is cute. Cannot wait to see the pics that Uncle John took. We got along well. Got him some chew toys. He went right in the bag and got himself the cheese bone. He loves cheese. So glad they got a puppy. Nothing can beat a dog on the field.

Plan on a wreath class sponsored by the cheerleaders in late fall. Aunt Cindy, Aunt Robin and Mom made wreaths on Sunday afternoon. We girls stayed home because you needed fingers, not paws, to make these masterpieces. They are beautiful decorations and easy to make. Our front door looks awesome. Mom and Aunt Robin did the husky wreath and Aunt Cindy did the fall one. Plans are to do a Christmas one. So for a nice afternoon of crafting....will let you know the date.

Got a new dark blue collar this summer. Shows off my red highlights. Aunt Robin ordered me a blue leash



and anxiously waiting for that. Have my sequined scarf and so ready to be under the Friday night lights. Have a good-sized student cheering section. Band sounds awesome. We have a gorgeous husky flag. Glad it was cooler for the Easton game. The previous week it was hot and the gnats were everywhere. UGH, think one went up my nose. Please think cool weather for football, Husky Weather.

Love and HUSKY PRIDE,

Kiska, Diva Dog

Holiday Recipe Edition

November 2019

The Holidays are fast approaching...they'll be here before you know it.

Once again, The Newsletter is having a "Holiday Recipe Edition" in November.

Last Year's recipes were such a hit, we couldn't wait till this year!

Please submit your family's favorite Holiday dish (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's) ...whether it be an entree, appetizer, soup, salad, side dish, dessert or alcoholic.

We want you to share the food that reminds you of home and family.

Please submit your recipes by **November 4th** (send as many as you want) to:

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

Thank You For Your Participation!



2019 Fandangle - Jubilation in July

John G. Hughes, Jr.

His enthusiasm was genuine. He came up to me somewhere near the registration table, and exclaimed, "This event could serve as a model for any high school in the nation... a mega-reunion for all classes... and priced at only \$20! This is amazing!"

With a hearty portion of food on his plate and a cold beer in his hand, my new-found Husky friend introduced himself, and then told me that this was the first Fandangle he had ever attended. He pledged to return every year.

I fumbled for a response, and then blurted out, "we get that alot!". Well, we truly do. His reaction to Fandangle is representative of the response we experience at our annual summer celebration of Husky Pride.

With five large party tents located on the sports field

offering a fresh-air choice, and an air-conditioned banquet hall providing an alternate environment, the East Side Youth Center is truly an ideal venue for Fandangle. On July 27th, this year's event hosted over 350 alumni and guests.

Always a highlight of Fandangle, Mr. Peter Carpenter led his band of merry choir members (and some "never-in-a-choir" members) in a rousing rendition of the Dieruff Alma Mater. As usual, emotions bubbled over for many.

Two specific groups had reserved party tents for their celebrations. The Class of 1974 gathered for their 45th reunion, and the Class of '69 came together as a "preview" of their 50th reunion. A more formal 50th Reunion Party is scheduled for September 21st. These folks know how to party. In fact, the Class of 1969 intends to reserve a tent at Fandangle every year. Now that's a powerful statement of Husky Pride.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- September 21:** Class of 1969 - 50th Year Reunion 4-10PM
Coplay Saengerbund
- September 21:** Football Team Fundraiser Comedy Show 7PM
Palace Center, Hanover Ave (See Page 9)
- October 2:** Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- October 25:** Pep Rally 1:30PM (All Alumni Invited)
Richard Schmidt Gym
- October 26:** Varsity Football vs. William Allen 1PM
J. Birney Crum Stadium
- November TBA:** Dieruff Theatre Department
12 Angry Jurors (Details to Follow)

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

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Saturday
September 21

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Special Guest Kris Fried

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Show starts at 8PM
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in Vodka Sauce, Vegetable Stir Fry, Salad,
Dessert, Cash Bar

Palace
623 Hanover Avenue Allentown, PA 18109

For information on this event please contact:
Dr. Susan Mattes Bostian 610 417 2448 email: info@everyribboncounts.com

Tickets and information available at EveryRibbonCounts.com under the EVENTS tab.

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Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

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

Monthly Contributors

John Hughes '61 Kay Kurtz '74
Joanne Ogyrdziak '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

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