



The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association
JUNE 2015

From the Prez!



Dear Fellow Knights, family and friends,
Eighty five years ago, a fledging group of musicians played a dance that would launch the long-lasting and historic Auburn Knights Orchestra. There was likely no plan, or even a thought, behind the Knights enduring as long as they have. I'm sure the founders couldn't imagine the band lasting until 2015 anymore than we can imagine it lasting to the turn of the next century, 85 years into the future.

Time marched on and the Knights played through the course of history, decade after decade, navigating through drastic changes in music and dancing. Then, in 1966, the reunion was born at the old Holiday Inn on SR280 for the sole purpose to play great music with fellow alumni, and to share the experience with friends and family. Although the reunion venue has moved a couple of times over the past 49 years, that desire to reunite and play has not changed. The reunion, coupled with the founding of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association a few years later, paved the way for the Auburn Knights Orchestra to not only survive, but to thrive in an ever-changing world—one that is significantly different than it was in 1930.

In a few short weeks, we'll gather again to renew old friendships and to make new ones in the midst of the great music that has kept us together through so many years. If you are reading this, then you are more than likely a part of this wonderful organization. We would love to see more and more of our beloved alumni, family and friends make it out to the reunion as often as possible. The future success depends on us all, collectively. So come back to Auburn this summer, or next summer, or whenever you can, and see what all the buzz is about.

War Eagle!
Tim Baur
AKAA President

AKAA Room Blocks for Wednesday, July 8th, & Friday, July 10th, are sold out!

However, the Marriott has a wait list. If you haven't booked your room at the AKAA Group rate, call Karen Gilmore, the event coordinator at the Marriott, at (334) 737-2130, to reserve your room or to add your name to the wait list. Room cancellations can and will occur so don't pass up this opportunity to come and enjoy the reunion! If Karen is not available, check with the hotel registration desk.

If you are not able to book a room at The Marriott, alternate lodging nearby has been arranged at the below hotels. Call the hotels directly and ask for the "Auburn Knights Alumni" rate.

- **BEST WESTERN - Auburn/Opelika Inn.** 205 N. 21st St., Opelika. (334) 745-6293. The alternate hotel nearest the Marriott, the Best Western is located at the intersection of US-280 and Pepperell Parkway (Opelika Rd). They are holding a block of 10 rooms for July 8-11 at a rate of \$79. The cutoff date is June 24th.
- **HAMPTON INN & SUITES - 3000 Capps Way, Opelika.** (334) 745-4311. Located just off I-85 at Exit 58, this hotel is on the other side of the interstate from Tiger Town and sits next to a large new movie theater. They are holding 5 rooms for July 8-9 and 10 rooms for July 10-11 at a rate of \$114. The cutoff date is June 17th.
- **FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES - Auburn Opelika.** 2257 Interstate Drive, Opelika. (334) 742-2590. This hotel is adjacent to Tiger Town with numerous restaurants and shops within a short walk or drive. They are holding 6 rooms for July 8-11 at a rate of \$109. The cutoff date is July 17th.

The 85th Anniversary
AKAA Reunion
Auburn Marriott - Opelika
Conference Center
July 9-11, 2015

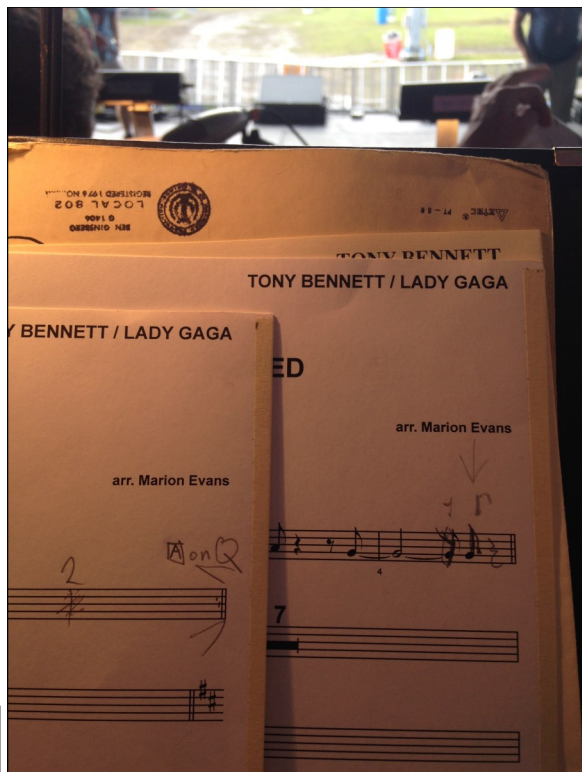
The ACAA Board Needs You!

The ACAA cannot exist without the skills, talents, and generous commitment of time our Board members contribute every year. Like clockwork, five nominees are needed each summer to succeed the five departing Board members completing their three-year terms of office. With this year's departure of five valued Board members—Cathy Bell Altonji, Ryan Chapman, Rob Cothran, Bob Greenhaw, and Tony McCutcheon—it's now time to select their successors. In short, we need you!

The ACAA Board meets twice a year—the Winter meeting in mid-February and the Summer meeting during the ACAA reunion in July. For those of you needing a reason to visit the Loveliest Village in the waning days of winter, here's your chance!

Board members represent a cross-section of Knights alumni from throughout the years. Regardless of your band era, there's a place for you on the ACAA Board.

If you're interested in serving on the Board, please contact Woody Leonard at wleonard54@yahoo.com. If Woody is not available, then contact any officer or Board member for more information.



Noted arranger and Knights alum, Marion Evans, has been busy! These charts were seen on the bandstand during a recent Tony Bennett/Lady Gaga performance.

REMEMBER—ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ACAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

2015 Auburn Knights Alumni Association Reunion, July 9 –11 ~ Registration Form ~

NAME _____ STREET _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

PHONE # _____ CATEGORY: MEMBER ASSOCIATE VISITOR

Event or Item	How Many?	Cost	Total
2015-2016 Dues (Members & Associates)	_____	\$20.00	_____
Concert/Dance, 7:30 PM, Friday	_____	\$10.00	_____
Concert/Dance, 7:30 PM, Saturday	_____	\$10.00	_____
Saturday Jazz Brunch, 11:00 AM			
BBQ Beef or Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink	_____	\$9.00	_____
Hamburger, Chips & Drink	_____	\$8.00	_____
Hotdog, Chips & Drink	_____	\$5.00	_____
Contribution to ACAA Scholarship Fund (<i>all contributions are Tax Deductible</i>)	_____		_____
Total Amount Enclosed			_____

Send this form and payment to:
Wade Johnson, ACAA Treasurer | 4868 Camp Grandview Rd. | Millbrook, AL 36054

AUBURN KNIGHTS MEMORIES

What are some of your best memories of your experiences with the Auburn Knights? Almost all of us have recollections that make us laugh, make us smile, and even some that make us wince a little! Some of these are from the times when we played on the Knights while other memories have been formed from our annual Reunions. All of these memories are a part of the history and lore of the Auburn Knights; a story that needs to be told and shared.

Two years ago, the Auburn Knights Alumni Association began a project to collect those memories and those stories—and who better to tell them than you, the ones who lived them? AKAH Historian Paul McCracken will be seeking your stories at the July Reunion to preserve them on video. To do that, Paul has developed a series of questions to prompt discussion and delve into your memories and experiences. So, whether you're an alumnus who played on the Knights or you're one of our many Associate Members who have become valued members of our Knights family, we want to hear your story. Eventually, we hope to post our video histories online to make them available to everyone interested in the legacy of the Auburn Knights. Our story will not be complete until we hear from you.

2015 AKAH Reunion Schedule

	Thursday, July 9		Friday, July 10	Saturday, July 11																												
	Registration 1:00 - 4:30 pm (Ballroom Foyer) 5:30 - 7:30 pm		Registration 10:00 am - 3:00 pm 5:30 - 9:00 pm	Complimentary Continental Breakfast Saturday & Sunday 7:00 - 9:00 am in Lobby Registration 10:00 - 11:00 am																												
8:30 AM	Food and Beverage Options Lakeview Room Breakfast: 6:30 - 11:00 am Lunch: Noon - 2:00 pm Dinner: 6:00 - 9:00 pm Splash Bar: 4:00 - 9:00 pm		30s/40s Dress Rehearsal 8:30 - 10:00 am (Ballroom)	AKAA Board Meeting 8:30 - 10:00 am (Conference Suite 303)																												
9:00 AM			50s Dress Rehearsal 10:00 - 11:30 am (Ballroom)	General Membership Meeting (Amphitheater)																												
9:30 AM					60s Dress Rehearsal 11:30 am - 1:00 pm (Ballroom)	Jazz Brunch 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Pool area)																										
10:00 AM			70s/80s Dress Rehearsal 1:00 - 2:30 pm (Ballroom)	"The Auburn Knights Legacy" 1:30 - 2:30 pm (Amphitheater)																												
10:30 AM							50s Rehearsal 2:30 - 4:30 pm (Ballroom)	Matinee Band 3:00 - 4:30 pm (Ballroom)																								
11:00 AM					AKO/AKAH Mixer 4:00 - 5:30 pm (Ballroom Foyer)	Lakeview Room Dinner Specials 5:30 - 7:30 pm																										
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Noon			90s/2000s Dress Rehearsal 7:30 - 9:30 pm (Ballroom)	30s/40s Concert "The Swing Years"																												
12:30 PM											60s Rehearsal 7:30 - 9:30 pm (Mtg Rm 1)	70s/80s Concert "Jazz meets Rock meets Latin"																				
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Auburn Knights Alumni Association
c/o Peter Blaise, Newsletter Editor
1195 Muirfield Way
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**The 2015 AKA Reunion
July 9-11, 2015**

**The Auburn Knights Alumni Association
2014-2015 Board of Directors**

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Wade Johnson, Treasurer & Communications | (334) 332-9156 | wade.johnson@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

2012 - 2015 Cathy Bell Altonji | Ryan Chapman | Rob Cothran | Bob Greenhaw | Tony McCutcheon
2013 - 2016 Jana Calano | Cecil Wilder | Hank Elliott | Phil Gipson, Jr. | Reid Gavin
2014 - 2017 Becky Cain | Richard Garrett | Sonny Harris | Jeff Jones | David Zuwiyya

APPOINTMENTS

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