



# The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association.

VOL. XIV NUMBER I, DECEMBER, 2012

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## Wafting Through the Cool Fall Breeze

*from President Dave Edmunds*

The year was 1965. It was my first weekend at Auburn and a beautiful fall afternoon. I was walking through the campus and heard some faint big-band music wafting through the cool fall breeze. It sounded like it was coming from the Student Union building. I kept following those great sounds and eventually found the source, it was the Auburn Knights in rehearsal and Dale Quillen leading the group. After they finished, I spoke with Dale and asked about joining...as they say, "The rest is history!"



If you have not been to a reunion in a while, you are missing out on an amazing experience, the likes of which you can't find anywhere else on the planet. Thanks again, and again and again to our "Reunion Boss" Charlie Higgins who is our Reunion Coordinator, "Poo-Bah", Chief Underwriter, Contract Manager, incredible trumpet player, and just one of the finest people you will ever meet! We also need to thank our past President, Peter Blaise, for his strong leadership.

Next on the agenda is our annual spring board meeting, so please bring or send your comments, suggestions and ideas for how we can continue the tradition of having fantastic events each year. We will have some important issues to discuss regarding our new fund-raising activities. Thanks to the tireless work of John Norton and Fritz Siler, we have made some real progress in this area. We have the potential to accomplish even more with our scholarship activities with the fresh ideas they have brought to the table.

The Auburn Knights/AKAA is a unique and incredible organization in so many marvelous ways. As our new president, I'd like to thank you for allowing me the honor of representing you.

Jazz Lives!  
-Dave Edmunds

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## Naming Names

*from Past-President Peter Blaise*

I wanted to express my thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve as your President. As for the board, we are blessed to have such an exceptionally talented group of folks working hard to ensure the continuity of the AKAA and the current band. If I named names—and believe me, I thought about it—I would need to name the entire board membership to thank them for their extraordinary commitment. I have been honored to play my small part for the past seven years.

*Cont'd next page.*

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## Help Spread the News Again at AMEA

*Volunteers, donations needed*

As we mentioned in the last issue of The Bridge, in January, 2012, the AKO exhibited for the first time at the Alabama Music Educators Association Conference in Montgomery. This annual event attracts almost a thousand music teachers, band directors, administrators, and students from all over the state. Many knew nothing of the AKO. Our exhibit drew lots of interest.

Based on this experience and our ongoing mission to help assist and promote the current band, the AKAA Board has again approved funds for an AKO exhibit at the AMEA Conference, scheduled for January 10-12, 2013 at the Renaissance Hotel Convention Center in Montgomery.

John Norton will be coordinating the AKO booth, which will be open Thursday, January 10 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Friday, January 11 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

John is again seeking volunteers as well as donations of *two* suitable music-related items for a drawing. Last year, the giveaway was a Roland Portable Recorder.

If you are interested in helping with the booth or the drawing prize (or cash to purchase it), contact John at [john.norton72@gmail.com](mailto:john.norton72@gmail.com).

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## 2012 Scholarships

This year's scholarship recipients are Charlie Anne Grimes, Dustin Sanders and Eric Steven Shaw. Each will receive \$2,000. Congratulations!

### ***Naming Names, cont'd from p. 1***

I'm already checking the calendar to see when I'll be able to throw my hat in the ring for another three-year term on the board. Meanwhile, I'm really looking forward to July 2013 and our celebration of the 83rd birthday of the Auburn Knights Orchestra. Perhaps this year I'll have time for a round of golf.

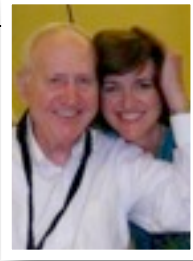
Long live the Auburn Knights!

-Peter Blaise

### **Grace Note**

On November 8, 2012, A. J. Coleman (AKO '48-'50) passed away. He is pictured at right with daughter Melissa Enslin at the 2009 reunion. A link to his obituary is below.

<http://bit.ly/AJColemanObit>



### **~ AKA LEADERSHIP ~**

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Many thanks to our new board members!

### **AKO Homecoming Swing Dance Was a Huge Success**

On Friday night before the AU homecoming game, the Knights played at the Marriott ballroom, site of our reunion concerts, drawing over 400 people, mostly students, who danced the night away to the swinging sounds of the AKO.

The first hour was a group class on swing dancing, which turned out to be a big attraction. During breaks, the dancers kept swinging to the beat of a combo of AK alums and friends in-

cluding Jane Drake, Susan Woody, Richard Garrett, Bob Jemian, and John Norton.

The most frequently heard comment was "when are you doing this again?" The Knights are hoping to schedule another dance on the weekend after Valentines Day. Stay tuned for more details. Link to photos below.

<http://bit.ly/2012AKOfalldance>



*Pictured are dancers at the Auburn Knights Homecoming Swing Dance on November 2, 2012. The event included a group dance class and drew over 400 attendees.*

### **Start Practicing!**

The 83rd Reunion will be July 18-20, 2013. We will return to the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National, 3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail, Opelika, Alabama 36801. For the special \$85/night reservation rate (July 16-21), call 800-593-6456. *June 17 is the last day you can get this rate.* Look for a registration form in the next issue of The Bridge.



The Bridge  
Auburn Knights Alumni Association  
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**The 83rd Anniversary  
Auburn Knights Alumni Association  
Reunion ~ July 18-20, 2013**