



The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association.

VOL. X NUMBER 2 APRIL, 2009



Auburn Knights Friends & Family ,

Once again, our Reunion is right around the corner! I want to extend thanks to Charlie Higgins whose tireless efforts behind the scenes make each Reunion one to remember.

This year, as we try to boost the number of guests we have at our Reunion concerts, I am asking our members to invite your friends and family. The AKO Reunions are for folks of all ages and fans of all musical genres. Please consider inviting a friend or family member this year so we can continue to share this music for many more Reunions to come!

Thanks for your continued support and I can't wait to see each of you in Auburn this July!

God Bless,

Jana Calano 🎵

Bill Elton

Bill Elton, a trombonist who played with the Knights in 1952, passed away in November from Melanoma. He was living in Los Angeles. Bill was an outstanding player and played with many bands and groups in New York and on the West Coast. He also played with Urbie Green's "21 Trombones" group recordings.

A memorial scholarship fund has been set up in his name. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send donations to Fritz Siler, 3110 Deer Chase Ct. SW, Snellville, GA 30039. Checks should be made out to the Auburn Knights Alumni Association – Scholarship Fund. Be sure to designate on your check (or in a cover letter) that your donation is in memory of Bill Elton.

Margie Hinton

Marjorie Jones Hinton, wife of Bodie Hinton, passed away on March 21, 2009. While at Auburn, she was a professor of Family and Child Development. She also supervised interns and served as director of the Child Study Center.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution to the scholarship fund in her name, please send donations to Fritz Siler, 3110 Deer Chase Ct. SW, Snellville, GA 30039. Checks should be made out to the Auburn Knights Alumni Association – Scholarship Fund. Be sure to designate on your check (or in a cover letter) that your donation is in memory of Margie Hinton.

The Auburn Knights Alumni Association

79th Year Reunion
Auburn Marriott Opelika
Hotel and Conference Center
at Grand National
July 15-19, 2009

Rooms for the AKA Reunion can be reserved **now** at the Marriott, by phoning (877) 563-4301. Ask to speak to Amber Windham, and be sure to mention the **Auburn Knights Reunion** to receive our special rate. Room reservations at the Marriott must be received on or before June 15. After that date, the hotel reserves the right to determine whether it can accept reservations based on a space and rate-available basis at the group rate. We expect to fill the hotel, so call now!

If you have any questions or need any assistance, don't hesitate to call Reunion Coordinator Charlie Higgins at (334) 288-5001. See you there!

Need a great band for your club or organization's next dance? Contact now:

Auburn Knights Orchestra
P.O. Box 1024
Auburn, AL 36830
www.auburnknights.com

Jay Anderson
(404) 626-2006
anderje@auburn.edu



2008 AKA Reunion Odds and Ends and Anthropomorphism and Mental Health

by Dick Johnson

Yo, AKs. Considering all the wises I can think of (music-wise, sociability-wise, venue-wise, adult-beverage consumption-wise, old friends greeting-wise and, of course, otherwise) the 2008 AKA bash was an outstanding success. My son, Rick a closet drummer, who many of you have met from last year's reunion, was with me again this year and is beginning to think that he played with the Knights in the 1970's.

It was so great to see Bob and Mary Ellen Adair, the Irvine family, Lawrence and Julia Morgan (Lawrence and I were college roommates from 1946-1948), Rossie Culley, Phyllis Edwards and so many others—far too many to list here.

If you did not dine in the Marriott Hotel restaurant, you missed choosing your meal from a special AK menu which I thought was a cool touch by our Marriott hosts. And another thing, our enthusiastic archivist, the late Jef Thurman, deserves a very special posthumous award for his careful preservation of our past.

I missed hearing some of the reunion bands, but, for those I did hear, I especially enjoyed the current Knights, several sax and brass sections, Steve Means fronting the 60's band and the arranging and quiet humor of J.H.

Owen and Everett Lawler on the 50's band. Lynn Keller, Art DePew's daughter, sang "Over The Rainbow," verse and all, with exceptional taste and feeling. Jay Anderson, that cherubic fine young alto player and business manager for the current Knights (says he's 18 but looks like a ninth grader) is going to be one hell of a saxophone player and there's no telling how far he will go when he grows up.

The Johnson AKA Reunion Fatigue Index (JARFI) is computed by the simple equation using the number of era bands played on multiplied by Pi, 3.1416. The reason I mention this is because I think two of our hardest working AKs, Nat Michelson and Fritz Siler, played on at least four era bands each and their fatigue indices are off the top of the chart. Every time I looked up at the bandstand, there they were, one or the other, or both. I just hope that I am completely wrong in even suggesting that I.V. fluids and complete bed rest might have been necessary for two or three days on their return home.

In last June's edition of *The Bridge* I wrote an open letter to the AKs, and in this I accused my tenor trombone of being my lifetime arch-enemy and wound up calling it a bad name. One of my sons pointed out to me that I was exhibiting anthropomorphism in

attributing human characteristics (like stubbornness, arrogance and open hostility) to an inanimate object like a trombone. Then, later, Helen Johnson Lombardy, fine singer on the early 1940's band, wrote me stating that she thought I had been very rude to my trombone and that I should take "time out" and think about all the good times I had shared with it. I began to think about this and do remember certain brief times when my trombone allowed itself to be played by me in a manner reasonably satisfactory even to my own very self-critical ear. Then I thought, "OK, OK, OK, I'll apologize to my trombone," which I did—but, true to form, the S.O.B. would not accept my apology!

When an inanimate object, especially a trombone, starts talking back, you've got a real problem since paranoid-schizophrenicsville is just about a hoot and a holler down the road. I have been very much aware of this and, for any of you who might be concerned about my mental stability, I have already made an appointment for a psychiatric consultation. My trombone on the other hand, and this comes as no surprise to me, refuses even joint counseling! I am thinking, and seriously so, of putting a big dent in its side. Ah, me. 🎵



Attention All Bass Players!

John Norton will have two bass amps (one in the lobby lounge, and one in the ballroom) for rehearsals and performances. This will be a great help to all bass players. These amps can be used by bass players in lieu of transporting their own amps.

2009 Auburn Knights Orchestra Reunion

JULY 16-18, 2009

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Era	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30's	12-2 PM Ballroom	8:30-10 AM Lounge	1-2 PM Ballroom
40's	2:30-4 PM Ballroom	12:30-2 PM Ballroom	2-3 PM Lounge
50's	5:30-7 PM Ballroom	2:30-4 PM Ballroom	
60's	7:30-9 PM Ballroom	10:30-12 Noon Lounge	
70/80	4-5:30 PM Ballroom	1-2:30 PM Lounge	
90's	5:30-7 PM Lounge	10-11:30 AM Ballroom	3-4 PM Lounge
2000's	7:30-9 PM Lounge	8:30-10 AM Ballroom	

BAND COORDINATORS

Era	Coordinator(s)	Phone
30's	Charlie Higgins	(334) 288-5001
40's	Graham Thomas Tom Winstead	(901) 755-4567
50's	Al Norman	(404) 237-5916
60's	Steve Means	(256) 549-4646
70/80	Lisa Ray Fritz Siler	(334) 887-1544 (770) 978-1287
90's	Wade Johnson	(334) 285-6846
2000's	Mark Belfast	(334) 887-9384

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Time	Friday	Saturday
7:00 PM	50's	30's
8:00 PM	70's/80's	90's
9:00 PM	60's	40's
10:00 PM	2000's	Current

OUR LEADERS

PRESIDENT

Jana Calano
(404) 232-5758

VICE-PRESIDENT

Peter Blaise
(850) 897-3728

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Nat Michelson
(904) 460-1396

TREASURER

Dorsey Tippet
(334) 826-0248

HISTORIAN

Charlie Kinzer
(434) 392-1731

LIBRARY ARCHIVIST

Tom Winstead
(256) 852-0138
Bob Jemian
(205) 910-1280

PUBLICITY

Patrick Bruce
(334) 319-6154

AKAA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

COMMITTEE

Fritz Siler, Chairman
(770) 978-1287

REUNION COORDINATOR

Charlie Higgins
(334) 288-5001

EDITOR, AKAA NEWSLETTER

Lyle Johnson
(256) 289-9598 or lyle@lylejohnson.name

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mark Belfast

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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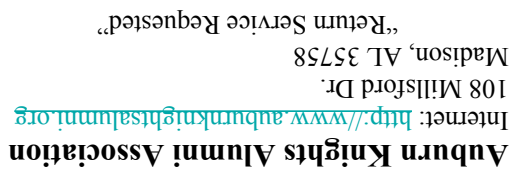
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AKO Business Manager

Jay Anderson
(404) 626-2006
anderjc@auburn.edu



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Auburn Knights Alumni Association		2009 Reunion Registration Form		July 17th & 18th, 2009	
NAME: _____ STREET: _____					
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____					
PHONE#: _____ Member: _____ Associate: _____ Visitor: _____					
Number	Event or Item	Cost	Total		
_____	2009-2010 Dues (Members & Associates)	\$ 20.00			
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:00pm, Friday, July 17th	\$ 10.00			
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:00pm, Saturday, July 18th	\$ 10.00			

_____	Saturday Jazz Lunch, 11:00am				
_____	BBQ Beef or Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink	\$ 7.00			
_____	Hamburger, Chips & Drink	\$ 6.00			
_____	Hotdog, Chips, & Drink	\$ 5.00			
			Total		
			Cost		
			Total		
Contribution to the AKAA Scholarship Fund <i>(All Contributions are Tax-Deductible)</i> _____ _____ Total Amount Enclosed _____					
Send form and payment to: Dorsey Tippet, AKAA Treasurer 1103 Willow Run Opelika, AL 36801					