



The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association

VOL. XI NUMBER 2 APRIL, 2010



performance schedules year after year.
I look forward to seeing you all in July!

God Bless,
Jana Calano

Jazz Brunch

John Norton sends word: "I am looking forward to organizing the Jazz Bunch group again this year. If you will, please note that I am happy to have any and all volunteers, who can contact me at jnorton@rolandus.com or 334-887-9883. Thanks, and War Eagle to all!"

Attention Bass Players!

Charlie Higgins has made arrangements to have a bass amp. on the Ballroom stage for the entire Reunion available to be used by all bass players. He is working on an amp. for rehearsals in Lobby Lounge , and hopes to have one there as well.

Hello and Happy Spring!

I am sure many of you had much more snow than we have seen in a while here in the southeast, and I hope the weather is warming up nicely where you are. Speaking of heating up, the excitement around our 80th Year Reunion is building, and we are expecting a great turn out of musicians, as well as guests. Please encourage your friends and family to join us for this one-of-a-kind weekend.

At the February Board Meeting, we discussed several ways to create enthusiasm and energy around our 80th Year Reunion and I would love to hear any and all ideas about commemorating the AKO history and the members who sustain it. Please let Peter Blaise know if you might be interested in serving on the AKAA Board for a term to begin next year.

Once again, many thanks to Mr. Charlie Higgins for his efforts negotiating with the Marriott and crafting our Reunion rehearsal and

Room Reservation Info

Call 1-877-563-4301 to reserve or check on room status. Be sure to request AKAA reunion rates.

The Auburn Knights Alumni Association

80th Year Reunion
Auburn Marriott Opelika
Hotel and Conference Center
at Grand National
July 20-25, 2010

Need a great band for your club or organization's next dance? Contact us!

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

Errick Johnson
(334) 707-5405
johnsej@auburn.edu

Obituaries

David Matthews Jones, 1942-2009.

Graveside services for Mr. David Matthews Jones, 67 of Santa Rosa Beach, FL, were held at 2:30 PM on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at Five Points Cemetery in Five Points, Alabama, with Pastors Danny Smith and Eric Reebals officiating. Mr. Jones was born July 10, 1942 and passed away on September 23, 2009 at his home. Mr. Jones graduated from Opelika High School in 1960, from Auburn University in 1965, and was band director for area bands in Alabama.

Mr. Jones was preceded in death by his son, Stephen M. Jones. Mr. Jones is survived by his wife, Kathy Jones, one daughter, Maria Jones Bennett (Don), one daughter-in-law, Shannon Jones, seven grandchildren, two sisters, Lynne Garner and Carol Merritt, and one brother, Fuller C. Jones (Carolyn).

Published in The Opelika-Auburn News from 9/25/2009 - 9/26/2009



Gilford Eugene Smithson, a professional engineer who specialized in the design and construction of business, municipal and civil infrastructure, died Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, at Palliative CareCenter & Hospice of Catawba Valley. He was 79 and lived in Hickory. The apparent cause was complications from multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells in bone marrow. Mr. Smithson was born May 11, 1930, in West Point, Tenn. In between earning double degrees in

business administration and mechanical engineering from Auburn University, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a communications and supply officer, a first lieutenant stationed in the United States and Japan. While at Auburn, he met Janine Jones in the wedding of mutual friends. Courting her with 53 nights of successive dancing, they were married Aug. 30, 1953.

He was a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Sigma Chi fraternity at Auburn, and also a trombonist in the Auburn Knights Orchestra. Mr. Smithson later served as president of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association, including for the orchestra's 50th anniversary celebration in 1980. On the 50th anniversary of the Glenn Miller Band, he was inducted as an honorary member of that band in a ceremony at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Aside from jazz, his favorite pastimes were airplanes, golf, running and weight lifting, civil war history and a good cigar.

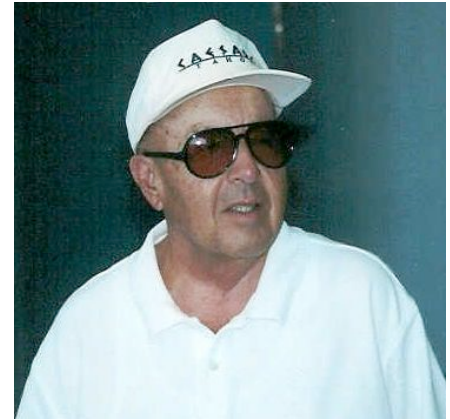
He is survived by his wife, Janine; three daughters, Pam of Cary and Donna and Amy of Washington, D.C.; three grandchildren, Renee, Faith and Parker; a great-grandson, Hunter Eugene; and a few distant relatives in California, Tennessee and Mississippi. Donations in Gene Smithson's honor can be made to the Cooperative Christian Ministry, 31 First Ave., SE, Hickory, N.C. 28602 or Palliative CareCenter & Hospice of Catawba Valley, 3975 Robinson Road, Newton, N.C. 28658.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.bass-smithfuneralhome.com.

Tribute from Jack Dresher

Gene "Red" Smithson of Hickory, N.C., passed away at the age of 79. He grew up in Sylacauga, AL. While playing with the Knights (trombone) he also was the equipment manager and one of our several bus drivers. He started the Era bands in 1976 by putting together the 50s band. He then challenged the 48-49 band to do the same. At the time, only the 30s band opened each reunion, followed by an Alumni band, and then the current band

wrapped things up. In addition to playing fine jazz, he enjoyed smoking large stogies.



Robert Douglas "Doug" Stevens, age 83, of Decatur, Alabama, passed away on Monday, November 30, 2009. Mr. Stevens was born January 27, 1926 in Birmingham, AL to Robert Hilton Stevens and Sally Kate Griffin Stevens. He was retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. Mr. Stevens was a 1944 graduate of Ensley High School. After graduation he was an Army Air Corps Cadet and served in WWII. After serving in WWII Mr. Stevens attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) graduating in 1949. While at Auburn he was a member of Auburn Knights Orchestra and former president of the Auburn Knights Orchestra Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine McDaniel Stevens of Decatur, AL; son, Robert Douglas "Steve" Stevens, Jr. of Decatur, AL; daughter, Leigh Stevens Lazenby of Decatur, AL; grandchildren: Ann Wilson Lazenby of Decatur, AL, Hannah McDaniel Lazenby of Decatur, AL. Memorial service was held on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 1:00 PM, at First United Methodist Church Decatur, AL, Dr. Dan Ireland officiating. Memorials may be made to the Auburn Knights Orchestra Alumni Association ATTN: Fritz Siler Chairman of Scholarships Committee 3110 Deer Chase Court S.W. Snellville, GA 30039 or to The Community Free Clinic of Decatur Morgan County 245 Jackson Street S.E. Decatur, AL 35601.

2010 Auburn Knights Orchestra Reunion

JULY 22-24, 2010

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Era	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30's	10-12 Noon Ballroom	8:30-10 AM Ballroom	
40's	7-8:30 PM Lounge	10:30-12 Noon Ballroom	
50's	3-4:30 PM Lounge	12:30-2 PM Ballroom	1-2 PM Ballroom
60's	5-6:30 PM Lounge	2:30-4 PM Ballroom	3-4 PM Ballroom
70/80	7-8:30 PM Ballroom	11:30-1 PM Lounge	2-3 PM Ballroom
90's	5-6:30 PM Ballroom	10-11:30 AM Lounge	
2000's	3-4:30 PM Ballroom	2:30-4 PM Lounge	

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

OUR LEADERS

PRESIDENT

Jana Calano
(404) 232-5758

VICE-PRESIDENT

Peter Blaise
(850) 897-3728

SECRETARY

Nat Michelson
(904) 460-1396

TREASURER

Wade Johnson
(334) 332-9156

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

Fritz Siler
Nat Michelson
Lyle Johnson

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mark Belfast

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2010

Pat Bruce
Sonny Mayfield
Jerry Phillips
Lisa Ray
Graham Thomas

2011

Neal Brumeloe
Ricky Callaway
Dave Edmunds
Paul McCracken
David Zuwiyya

2012

Tim Bauer
Norm Boldin
David Friddle
Jason DeBlanc
Jim "Teeny" Mahaffey



AKO Business Manager

Errick Johnson
(334) 707-5405



Auburn Knights Alumni Association
Internet: <http://www.auburnknightsalumni.org>
108 Millisford Dr.
Madison, AL 35758
"Return Service Requested"

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Madison, AL 35758
Permit No. 21

			
NAME: _____ STREET: _____			
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____		EMAIL: _____	
PHONE#: _____		Member: _____ Associate: _____ Visitor: _____	
Number Event or Item			
2010-2011 Dues (Members & Associates) \$ 20.00			
Concert/Dance, 7:00pm, Friday, July 23rd \$ 10.00			
Concert/Dance, 7:00pm, Saturday, July 24th \$ 10.00			
Saturday Jazz Lunch, 11:00am \$ 7.00			
BBQ Beef or Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink \$ 6.00			
Hamburger, Chips & Drink \$ 5.00			
Hotdog, Chips, & Drink \$ 5.00			
Contribution to the AKA Scholarship Fund			
<i>(All Contributions are Tax-Deductible)</i>			
Total Amount Enclosed			
Send form and payment to:			
Wade Johnson, AKA Treasurer 4868 Camp Grandview Rd. Millbrook, AL 36054			