



# The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association

VOL. VI NUMBER 2 MARCH, 2005

## From the Prez



This reunion is a special landmark and great cause for celebration. 75 years is a long time for anything or anyone to survive, much less to still flourish! It is because of a special love for one another and for the music that we are what we are. Please make every effort to come celebrate with us. The reunion is about all of us.

The AKAA Board met on February 12, and set things in motion through various chairs and committees to assure that all who attend will enjoy everything about our reunion. The board made changes in several of our officers at the meeting. Lisa Ray stepped down as Secretary, and Nat Michelson assumed this valuable position. Lisa will serve on the board in Nat's place as one of the representatives, and will also serve as assistant to

Jef Thurman, who took the Archivist position. We want to thank Lisa for her years of service to the organization, and applaud Nat for his willingness to take on the position of Secretary. We also want to thank Jef for his willingness to be the "Head Caretaker" of our archives. We appreciate Neal Brumbeloe for all that he did in this office prior to Jef. Jef and Lisa have set aside dates to go visit the library to select materials for display at the reunion.

Charlie Kinzer is hard at work developing a program (or should I say "book"?) for the reunion that is going to be a reflection of much that we hold dear about being a Knight. He has interviewed many of you regarding the history and stories of what it was like to be a part of playing on this wonderful band. His editing is thoughtful and a joy to read. I have received a copy of his pages on the 30's band. You will be delighted with what he has done.

In other alumni news, Don Culley is recovering from his hospital stay and is being well cared for at home by a very supportive family. We express our sadness to Jane Drake who lost her brother in a freak, tragic accident involving

off-loading a bulldozer from a trailer. I appreciate the support you have given me following the loss of my mother New Year's Eve. On the brighter side, Charlie Higgins told me that he and Celia celebrate their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary in April! We hope that she is recovering while at home. We sorely miss her at the reunions. Jane Drake, Jay Hatch, Sonny Harris, and others are involved with a wonderful music project together. Be sure to ask them about it when you see them at the reunion. Bodie has had a successful "hip job" done. Sam Timberlake went over to ensure all was done correctly. There is much more that has happened in our friends' and loved ones' lives for us to share with one another. Make plans to attend, and to look forward to reuniting with all of us.

We were blessed to have Jon Smith as our past-President. I hope that you will join me in thanking him for his vision and his fortitude while guiding this sometimes-unwieldy ship. Thank all of you for supporting Jon and the board under his tenure to do the things that needed to be done. Now, let's get together and enjoy seeing one another again!

Era band rehearsals and performances are posted in this edition. There will probably be changes. But, who knows? Maybe the schedule can stay as written for a change! If you want to play, bring your instrument. We are always a few players short to fill out any band. Remember: The reunion is at the **Lodge and Conference Center at Grand National, July 29-30.** Following the board meeting on February 12, there were only 24 rooms remaining for Friday night at the Lodge, which has more rooms than the Best Western. Call now to reserve your rooms! Identify yourself as an Auburn Knight alumnus, or participant, or just a part of the vast family of Knights, to receive the special room rate. Please come to the reunion. It is not the same without your being with us. Call **334-741-9292** for room reservations. See you then! War Eagle!

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](http://www.auburnknights.com)

Dorsey Tippet  
(334) 524-9801  
[tippesd@auburn.edu](mailto:tippesd@auburn.edu)

***Salencia:*  
A Musical Quantum  
Leap Forward  
Or Backward  
Or Maybe Even  
Sideways**



At the '04 reunion there was a group of six trombonists who were not playing for varied reasons. These included Gene Mullins, Gene Smithson, Vic Atkins, Hubert Liverman, Bud Goodrick and me. Some observant and kindly soul remarked that if these six had played, they would have made up a fair-to-middling T-bone section, not to mention being the biggest ever at an Auburn Knights Reunion. Somehow Tom Winstead, AKA Library Archivist, dry wit, and a trombonist himself, got wind of this and, not wanting any Auburn Knights alumnus left out, wrote a bossa nova score for all six of us (a record copy he says) called *Salencia*, which I think means "silence" in some language or other, or if it doesn't, it should.

*Salencia*, very carefully scored, was chock full of musical instructions like crescendos, decrescendos, "to cup mute", *pp*'s, *ff*'s, and confusing stuff like "tacit if no flute" which, incidentally, was a nine bar phrase written in the treble clef. And to top it off, the last eight bars were a drum solo. Steve Means, during the fine

Saturday night 60's stint, formally presented our part to us. The Catch-22 here is that, if we had played *Salencia*, we could not have missed a note since the entire score for the bone section was nothing but rests and tacits! My stifled laughter disturbed folks as far away as the lobby bar.

Way to go, Tom. Your fine efforts will certainly make our group the biggest and the absolute best rest-counters in AKA bone history. I have been thinking about some lyrics for *Salencia* – the vocalist could whisper (with index finger pointing upward over pursed lips) "Hush, Shush, Hush, Shush," every four or five bars and, if done properly, this should not disturb the sleeping audience and, if anybody was awake, it might add a little visual interest – and, more importantly, it would definitely not interfere with the accurate rest counting by the trombone section. I'll see what I can come up with.

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**Earl Miles**

Earl Miles, a longtime associate member of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association, passed away on December 2, 2004. Until his recent illness, he was most faithful in attending AKA reunions for many years and was a true lover of the Auburn Knights. Earl played valve trombone with the "Joe Noojin and Friends" Jazz Brunch, in true Dixieland style, and thoroughly enjoyed after-hours jam sessions playing with several groups.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution to the scholarship fund in his name, please send donations to Vic Atkins, 22 Berkeley Road, Selma, AL 36701-6805. 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 Earl Miles.

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**Michael Allphin**

Michael Patterson Allphin, age 24, passed away in his Birmingham, Alabama home on February 15, 2005. Michael was a student at Auburn University and the grandson of Mary Earle and the late French Ogletree.

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**Review:  
*I Didn't Know  
About You***

David Evans is an expressive tenor player who, like a unique vocalist, can use his horn to bring a fresh take to a timeless standard. For *I Didn't Know About You*, he has engaged a top shelf piano trio that has him successfully maneuvering through a wide range of sentiment to inspire an array of emotions. The result is a most satisfying session.

Joining Evans for his trip down memory lane is an all-star band with the versatile Mike Wofford providing rhythmically interesting piano accompaniment, bassist Bob Magnusson adding the right amount of punch, and former Bill Evans sideman Joe La Barbera on drums. The quartet

begins uptempo and happily announces that it is going to be putting on a "Late Late Show" until an achingly beautiful tenor line has Evans using the high register to implore Hoagy Carmichael's "Skylark" to find a love yet unknown. On this version, the bird succeeds, as the sense of forever is lovingly portrayed by a wonderfully unhurried "Never Let Me Go." Evans adds his singular tenor voice to those of Lester Young and Stan Getz as he also takes the melody of "Pennies From Heaven" astray, before Wofford harmonically calls up Duke Ellington with the assistance of Magnusson's sliding bass to set the stage for a breathy tenor voice that asks, "What else could I do?," "I Didn't Know About You."

There are literally hundreds of different recordings available for most of these selections, and many have highly recognizable vocal and instrumental versions. However, on standards such as the quartet's bop-pish takes on "I Want to Be Happy" and Cole Porter's "So In Love," the melodies don't pale, thanks to the vocal quality of Evans' horn and the inventiveness of the band. Likewise, tunes associated with other tenorists are not copies but are truer to the melodic intent. While Sonny Rollins sped across the ocean "On A Slow Boat to China," Evans, Magnusson and crew take a smooth slower ride; the ballad "Something to Remember You By," swung out by Lester Young, is given an easy swinging

feel; and though Joe Henderson pleaded with his lover, Evans delicately reminds her "You Know I Care." Luciana Souza's "Argument" again has Evans playing the role of vocalist in a striking classical presentation, while Bernstein's "Some Other Time" is a touching end-of-the-night snuggler.

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## Minutes of the AKAA Board Meeting

*The Auburn Knights Alumni Association Board of Directors met on Saturday, February 12, 2005, at the Lodge & Conference Center at Grand National. The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the minutes for that meeting, as submitted by Nat Michelson.*

**Change of Officers.** Nat Michelson to replace Lisa Ray as secretary.

**Welcome given by the Lodge.** General Manager Jay Prater announced a new partnership with the Marriott resort hotel chain. **As of February 12, 2005, only 24 rooms of the 124 total are still available for the reunion.**



### Treasurer's Report.

Craig Lunsford presented the current income and profit/loss statement that showed a \$2500 surplus from the last reunion.

### Historian's Report.

Charles Kinzer received approval to produce a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative program. We may have angel sponsors in the wings. Charlie appealed for photo documentation of the 90's era bands.

**The Bridge Report.** Approval was given to publish an additional newsletter to reiterate the change of venue.

### Current Band Report.

Dorsey Tippett indicated a strong turnout for the last round of tryouts and the addition of several strong players. She distributed a list of upcoming dates for the band and presented the service record for the band's van. The band is preparing a program that pays tribute to the different era bands for this summer's performance.

**Old Business.** CDs for last summer's performance are two weeks from production. A live mix will be attempted this summer to enhance speedy CD delivery. Jef Thurman to assume the archivist position. Jef Thurman reports that there is a videotape of the 2004 reunion, and could be made available for purchase in VHS tape format. Craig Lunsford and Tom Winstead will investigate DVD format possibilities for upcoming reunion.



### Ballroom Setup Plans.

Charlie Higgins reported that there will be a room with sound piped in for all who wish to talk more than listen. Ticket tables will be placed outside the ballroom to minimize chatter. Dance floor will be set up near the bandstand.

**Publicity Report.** Tim Chambliss will coordinate all press releases and advertising for the reunion.

**Library Report.** Tom Winstead reported continued growth of the library through donations and his ongoing restoration of older charts with missing parts.

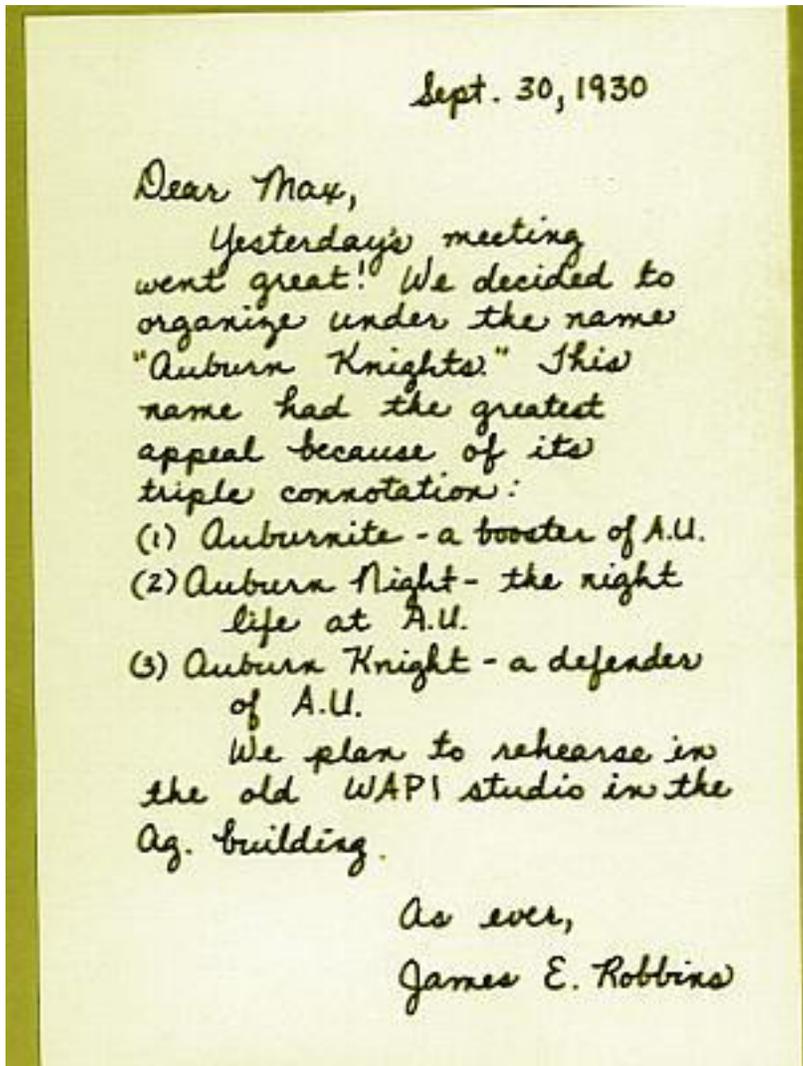
**Misc. Discussions.** The Web capability of the AKAA will be enhanced this year. Consistent use of a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo on all communication and documents related to this year's affair was discussed. Joe Watson will handle road signs (with the 75<sup>th</sup> reunion logo) to help direct participants and audiences to the Lodge.

*The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.*



**The Auburn Knights Alumni Association  
75<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion  
July 28-30, 2005**

**The Lodge and Conference Center  
at Grand National  
Opelika, Alabama**



The Auburn Knights Orchestra was organized on the campus of Auburn University (then API, the Alabama Polytechnic Institute) at the beginning of school in September 1930. Today, over seven decades after its inception, the Auburn Knights Orchestra is still going strong as an Auburn tradition, composed entirely of a select group of student age musicians from the Auburn community.

Since 1956 the Auburn Knights Alumni Association has held annual reunions for past and present members to come together and share the fellowship of great music, years of tradition, and the memories set in motion by a group of pioneering college students way back in 1930. Every reunion is a magical weekend where generations of great musicians come together to perform in bands from their decade (and also to jam until sunrise!). There just aren't enough positive adjectives to describe what the Auburn Knights mean to both young and old musicians who've had the chance to participate in one of these groups.

**Phone (334) 741-9292 today to place your  
reservations at the Lodge and Conference Center.  
Be sure to ask for the special Auburn Knights room rate!**

***Come help us celebrate 75 years of the Auburn Knights Orchestra!***

**2005 Auburn Knights Orchestra Reunion  
July 28-30, 2005**

**Rehearsal Schedule**

<i>Era</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
30's	1-3 PM Ballroom	9-10 AM Lounge	1-2:30 PM Ballroom
40's	6-8 PM Ballroom	10-12 Noon Lounge	
48/49	4-6 PM Ballroom	10-12 Noon Ballroom	3-4 PM Lounge
50's	4-6 PM Lounge	2-4 PM Ballroom	
60's	8-10 PM Ballroom	12-2 PM Lounge	
70/80		2-4 PM Lounge	3-5 PM Ballroom
90's	8-10 PM Lounge	4-5 PM Ballroom	



*This is a revised version of the rehearsal schedule discussed at the February AKA Board Meeting!*

**Band Coordinators**

<i>Era</i>	<i>Coordinator(s)</i>	<i>Phone</i>
30's	Charlie Higgins (haubtiger@aol.com)	(334) 288-5001
30's	Terry Mosley	(828) 697-8604
40's	Lyman Mitchell	(256) 764-8655
48/49	Don Irvine (knight4849@aol.com)	(251) 666-4720
48/49	Bob Hurston (bhhurston@aol.com)	(901) 755-4567
50's	Don Culley (dculley@gulftel.net)	(251) 980-1362
50's	Al Norman (almarnorman@mindspring.com)	(404) 237-5916
60's	Steve Means (auknights@hotmail.com)	(256) 549-4646
70/80	Lisa Ray (lisahray@charter.net)	(334) 887-1544
70/80	Fritz Siler (dogsiler@aol.com)	(770) 978-1287
70/80	Tim Chambliss (tchambliss@mindspring.com)	(334) 821-5300
90's	Jebb Long	(205) 324-4056
90's	Craig Lunsford	(919) 870-1906

**Performance Schedule**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
7:30 PM	50's	30's
8:30 PM	90's	70/80
9:30 PM	40's	48/49
10:30 PM	60's	Current

**OUR LEADERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Fritz Siler  
3110 Deer Chase Ct. SW  
Snellville, GA 30039  
(770) 978-1287

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Mark Belfast  
500 Webster Rd. #193  
Auburn, AL 36832  
(334) 887-9384

**SECRETARY**

Nat Michelson  
82 Surf Dr.  
St. Augustine, FL 32080  
(904) 460-1396

**TREASURER**

Craig Lunsford  
2608 Crofton Springs Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27615  
(919) 870-1906

**HISTORIAN**

Charlie Kinzer  
1101 Fourth Ave.  
Farmville, VA 23901  
(434) 392-1731

**ARCHIVIST**

Jef Thurman

**LIBRARIAN**

Don Culley, (251) 980-1362

**LIBRARY ARCHIVIST**

Tom Winstead  
(256) 852-0138

**PUBLICITY**

Tim Chambliss

**AKAA MEMORIAL**

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Vic Atkins, Chairman

**REUNION COORDINATOR**

Charlie Higgins  
(334) 288-5001

**EDITOR, AKA NEWSLETTER**

Lyle Johnson  
(256) 837-5540 or lyle@knology.net

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Jon Smith

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

2005

Jebb Long  
Robert Maxwell  
Jay Thomas  
Jef Thurman  
John Norton

2006

Joy Brinkley  
Neal Brumbelee  
A. J. Coleman  
Charlie Kinzer  
Jerry Phillips

2007

Wade Johnson  
Steve Means  
Lisa H. Ray  
Doug Stevens  
Joe Watson

AKO Business Manager

Dorsey Tippet  
(334) 524-9801



**Auburn Knights Alumni Association**  
 Internet: <http://www.auburnknightsalumni.org>  
 2608 Crofton Springs Drive  
 Raleigh, NC 27615  
 "Address Service Requested"

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**Auburn Knights Alumni Association**  
 2005 Reunion Registration Form  
 July 29th & 30th 2005

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Associate: \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor: \_\_\_\_\_

Number	Event or Item	Cost	Total
_____	2005-2006 Dues (Members & Associates)	\$ 10.00	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:30pm, Friday, July 29th	\$ 6.00 (\$7.00 @ Door)	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:30pm, Saturday July 30th	\$ 6.00 (\$7.00 @ Door)	_____
_____	Saturday Jazz Lunch, 11:00am	\$ 6.00	_____
_____	B&B Beef or Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink	\$ 4.50	_____
_____	Hamburger or Hotdog, Baked Beans, Slaw & Drink	\$ 3.50	_____
<b>Contribution to the AKAA Scholarship Fund</b>			_____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>			_____

Send form & Payment to:  
 T Craig Lunstord, AKAA Treasurer  
 2608 Crofton Springs Dr  
 Raleigh, NC 27615