



The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association.

VOL. VII NUMBER 2 APRIL, 2006

The Real "Three R's"

by Fritz Siler



Greetings to my fellow Knights Alumni, friends and loved ones:

The real "Three R's" are the **Rituals of Reuniting and Remembering**. We all have our special ways of doing each as we prepare for the reunion, whether it be what to pack in the cooler, or finding a good reed. I have special memories that come to mind each year as I anticipate the arrival of yet another time together with good friends, family, and the Auburn Knights. For those of you who have doubts, please remember that once you become an Auburn Knight you are forever a part of the Knights' heritage. You are ALWAYS an Auburn Knight Alumnus.

Each year as we gather together there is an eager anticipation of the band performances, which is the normal way of things with musicians who truly love live music, particularly Big Band music. It would be good if *all* could remember that *we* are the ones providing this music for one another. It is *our* reunion, so there is a rightful obligation for each of us to do at least a

little contribution to its success. Showing up is step #1. We certainly did that last year! Step #2 is to have a good time. Ditto! The final step is to play on an era band. We need more to take the final step.

There are always several bands that struggle each year to put a group together to play. Ten years ago, it was the bands of 70/80's and the 90's eras. Now it is the bands of the 30's, 40's, and 50's. This is all a normal occurrence. Contrary to what some of us thought, time does not stand still. The minds may be willing, but the bodies are showing signs of wear and tear. Those who could not come before, because of job conflicts, are now able to attend and play because *they* have retired.

So, what is the big deal? I knew you would ask! The era bands need for more of the AKO alumni to come to the reunions and play. For some, this may be a challenge because there is a certain amount of insecurity associated with not having played for a while. This is totally understandable. There is no time like the present to get back on the horse and ride again, so to speak. We are particularly in need of rhythm section players. Most of the bands are covered by a few rhythm players. As you can imagine, rehearsal conflicts abound because a lot of the same people are covering too many bands. The solution is not to eliminate bands. The solution is to have more people play. If we need to add a day to the front of the reunion because of all the era bands that are forming, we can. A lot of people usually arrive on Thursday, so it's no big deal.

Would you like to play? Get in touch with your era leader and let him/

her know that you want to play *before we get to the reunion*. Each band has only one 45-minute set to play, and just a few rehearsals to prepare for the set. The rest of the time is up to you (and possibly to your significant other) to enjoy in your own way. The leaders are working hard to put the bands together. Please help us to have a problem organizing who will play on what tune because there are too many people who want to play. This happened on the 70/80's band last summer. We had a blast! We could have made a marching band!

Come to the next reunion, play on a band and/or write arrangements, see old friends, and enjoy the beautiful facilities. We need you if you are of a mind to join in the playing. Still don't feel like playing? That's fine. Just show up! Each year someone arrives who hasn't been in years. We have some attending this year that fall into that category. I can't wait to see them again after being away from us for so long. I hope to see you too, and maybe play on a band with you as well. It's our reunion. Be with us.

Until next time,

Fritz, da Prez, AKAA 🎵

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

Ricky Callaway
(334) 750-3927
callari@auburn.edu

Archives

Preparations are underway for another interesting Archives display at the 2006 AKAAs Reunion. Jef Thurman and Lisa Ray are asking for Auburn Knights material to add to the existing data already in the Archives Collection in the Auburn University library. Anyone with photos, movies, videos, DVDs, CDs, tapes, cassettes, or other items which reflect the rich history of the Auburn Knights Orchestra may be donated for preservation and addition to the collection. Get in touch with Jef Thurman by phone at (256) 825-4807, or by e-mail at jeft@wwisp.com, or just bring your donation to the Archives room at the reunion in July. War Eagle!



An Apology

by Dick Johnson

After that article about reasons for AK longevity came out last fall in *The Bridge*, I was quickly reminded and

chagrined to learn that I had left out completely any reference to the tremendous impact given the Knights by their vocalists, male and female, over the past 76 years.

These singers (and there must be 70 to 80 of them since 1931) did so very much to entertain and enchant the crowd, popularize and sell the band and make being on the bandstand fun for the rest of us. Their contribution cannot be too highly praised.

So, how did I miss this? I can say lamely that, while I try to learn one new thing a day, I find myself forgetting two. By my count this was the 17th bad mistake I made in 2005 - and one for which this apology, to all you vocalists out there, is being sincerely extended. ♪

The 2nd Annual Bob Richardson Memorial Jazz Concert

Guest Artist: Rick Bell

Date: April 30th, 2006

Time: 7-8:30 PM

Place: AU Music Department Recital Hall

Also

Sonny Harris, drums

J. Hatch, piano

Robert Dickson, bass

Jane Drake, vocal and emcee

The purposes of this concert series are to honor Bob's contributions as a teacher/mentor to the professional careers of so many outstanding jazz musicians; to enhance the culture of the Auburn community with a much needed jazz event; and, to showcase the remarkable talents of the now mature jazz artists who came through the Auburn Knights and Auburn University during Bob's tenure.

To those of you who had a special relationship with or regard for Bob, here is your opportunity to keep Bob's memory alive through this special live performance venue. Even a small amount would be greatly appreciated. **Please send donations to: Attn.: Customer Service Department, AuburnBank, P.O. Box 3110, Auburn, AL 36830. Make checks payable to "Richardson Concert Memorial Fund."** You will be recognized at the concert as a supporter of the arts and a friend of Bob Richardson. Thank you!

The Auburn Knights Alumni Association

76th Year Reunion
Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel
and Conference Center
at Grand National

July 27-29, 2006

Urgent News!

The Marriott will have construction underway, beginning in May, which will affect 13 rooms. We have already booked 116 rooms out of the 129 available rooms.

Some people may not have the same room as last year, and the staff will do its best to handle special needs. As construction continues, the management will release rooms as possible for occupancy.

The hotel is maintaining a waiting list for those now requesting reservations. **Any calls must mention the "Auburn Knights Reunion" to receive our special room rate, and June 25 is the cutoff date for reservations.** Calls can be made to Mary Munday, at (877) 563-4301, or direct to General Manager Jay Prater at (334) 737-2121.

The Marriott will also assist anyone with reservations at another close-by hotel, and will provide complimentary shuttle in their 15 passenger van to such location. Hopefully, this will be of some help to those who did not make advance reservations, and Charlie Higgins will continue to work with Jay Prater in the interim.



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.

2006 Auburn Knights Orchestra Reunion

JULY 27-29, 2006

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Era	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30's	1-3 PM Lounge	9-10 AM Ballroom	
40's	6-8 PM Lounge	10-11 AM Lounge	12-2 PM Ballroom
48/49	11-1 PM Ballroom	11-1 PM Ballroom	
50's	4-6 PM Lounge	1-3 PM Lounge	10-12 Noon Ballroom
60's		2-4 PM Lounge	2-4 PM Ballroom
70/80	4-6 PM Ballroom	2-4 PM Ballroom	
90's	6-8 PM Ballroom	4-6 PM Ballroom	

BAND COORDINATORS

Era	Coordinator(s)	Phone
30's	Charlie Higgins Terry Mosley	(334) 288-5001 (828) 697-8604
40's	Tom Winstead	(256) 852-0138
48/49	Don Irvine Bob Hurston	(251) 666-4720 (901) 755-4567
50's	Don Culley Al Norman	(205) 668-6321 (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

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Time	Friday	Saturday
7:30 PM	30's	40's
8:30 PM	48/49	50's
9:30 PM	70/80	60's
10:30 PM	90'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, jeft@wwisp.com

LIBRARIAN

Don Culley, (205) 668-6321

LIBRARY ARCHIVIST

Tom Winstead
(256) 852-0138

PUBLICITY

Hank Elliott, (334) 826-1054

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

2006

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Jerry Phillips

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Lisa Ray
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2008

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AKO Business Manager

Ricky Callaway
(334) 750-3927



Auburn Knights Alumni Association
Internet: <http://www.auburnknightsalumni.org>
82 Surf Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32080
"Address Service Requested"

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

			
Auburn Knights Alumni Association 2006 Reunion Registration Form July 28th & 29th 2006			
NAME: _____		STREET: _____	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____		EMAIL: _____	
PHONE#: _____		Member: _____	
		Associate: _____	
		Visitor: _____	
Number	Event or Item	Cost	Total
_____	2006-2007 Dues (Members & Associates)	\$ 10.00	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, Friday, July 28th	\$ 6.00 (\$7.00 @ Door)	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:30pm, Saturday July 29th	\$ 6.00 (\$7.00 @ Door)	_____
_____	Saturday Jazz Lunch, 11:00am	\$ 6.50	_____
_____	BBQ Beef or Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink	\$ 5.00	_____
_____	Hamburger, Chips & Drink	\$ 4.00	_____
_____	Hotdog, Chips & Drink		_____
Contribution to the AKA Scholarship Fund			_____
Total Amount Enclosed			_____
Send form & Payment to: T Craig Lunsford, AKA Treasurer 2608 Crofton Springs Dr Raleigh, NC 27615			

Minutes of the AKAA Board Meeting

The Auburn Knights Alumni Association Board of Directors met on Saturday, February 26, 2006, at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National. The meeting commenced at 10:04 a.m. The following is a summary of the minutes for that meeting, as submitted by Nat Michelson.

Treasurer's Report. Craig Lunsford submitted the current financial report (as of February 14) which showed a \$2250 surplus as compared to the same time last year.

Librarian's Report. Tom Winstead reported continued growth of the library through donations and his ongoing restoration of older charts with missing parts. Some discussion regarding the AKAA's intellectual property rights and obligations under current copyright and patent laws followed, and the board authorized Fritz Siler and Mr. Winstead to consult an attorney who specializes in the field of intellectual properties.

Current Band Report. Per Ricky Callaway, the AKO's projected cash

flow position is better than at any time since the era when members actually paid for their college career via AKO bookings. The AKO is currently looking to fill a trombone and piano book opening. Mr. Callaway noted in his discourse that the band is in a transitional phase, is looking first to the student body for personnel and that the intent of the AKO is to remain a student oriented organization that will do what is necessary to remain economically viable. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the history of the AKO as a student driven organization with roots in staffing openings with current Auburn University students who would grow into the positions with on the job training. President Siler read a copy of a

letter, which he had previously delivered to and discussed with Mr. Callaway. In his text he encouraged the band to continue the band's tradition of looking first to the student body to staff openings and emphasized that the AKAA would continue to support the process via our scholarship fund. Discussions also highlighted that the band has gone through many transition phases throughout the years and that there are also precedents of using non-students when it is in the best interest of furthering the band's musical mission and positioning the band as a marketable commodity. Noted was Dale Quillen's starting the band from scratch in 1966, with all chairs filled by AU, inexperienced students when he returned to school and found the AKO out of business.

Discussed were the AKO's finances and need of a separate tax id. Noted was the lack of copyright on the name Auburn Knights Orchestra.

A special committee will assist the current members of the AKO to form a new, legally recognizable entity using the name "Auburn Knights Orchestra" as its basis. This committee will assist the new entity in achieving the state and federal tax treatment most advantageous to the members of the Auburn Knights Orchestra.

The board authorized Don Culley, Mark Belfast, Vic Atkins and Fritz Siler to review and modify the AKAA scholarship process to encourage band recruitment from the AU student body. A number of suggestions were heard for recruiting talented high school students to attend AU and join the AKO.



Bob Richardson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Jane Drake requested help from the AKAA to use any money available to assist her in a concert venue of Bob Richardson's former students that she is promoting. Treasurer Atkins indicated that there have been no donations to the AKAA for this fund, with all money going to an AKAA scholarship fund in remembrance of Bob Richardson. Discussion indicated that using the AKAA's tax free status for clearing any funds collected by Ms. Drake could endanger our tax exempt status. Discussions indicated that there were some missing gaps in our institutional memory of the history of the Bob Richardson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Lisa Ray volunteered to review the archives for all references. These references were later mailed to all board members.

Archivist's Report. The board authorized Jef Thurman to continue his archival media restoration project under a previous funding authorization; for copies of the CD's produced at the 75th reunion, increased security for the display room for 2006, and a request for copies of media files from previous reunions.

Publicity. Richard Garrett agreed to head up publicity with help from Charlie Higgins, Hank Elliot and Jack Dresher.

Reunion 2006 Plans. Charlie Higgins reports plans well under way. The dance floor will be outside the concert hall this year. Jeremy Leff will be consulted to add monitors for the band. Noted was the excellent sound management and how every inch of the ballroom received a quality blanket of sound.

Volunteer Staffing for ticket tables and registration tables is becoming difficult: too much to do for too few volunteers. Board Members and AKAA members are asked to solicit assistance from willing spouses (or even volunteer to assist). Use of paid staff was offered as a suggestion. The fast turnaround for the 2005 CD's was noted and Rod will handle the 2006 recording and distribution. Richard Garrett requested that the rehearsal schedule be amended



so bands would rehearse in the ballroom on the days when they would perform. He also requested a bass amp that all bands could use in order to speed band transitions and ease the burden on bass players.

The proposal to merge the 40's and 48/49 band, proposed at the 75th reunion, has not reached fruition. Indications are that the band leaders did not meet and that the bands will play as separate units at the 2006 reunion, unless follow-up shows that the bands have completed merger talks. The board reiterated its position to support an era band's right to perform, as long as the members so wished. Also discussed were proposals for perpetuating the era sounds of retired bands through the program(s) of the current band or other era bands (a la the type of medley J. Owen and the current band rendered at the 2005 reunion).

The two band limit for players was again endorsed. Players and bandleaders are encouraged to plan accordingly, likewise, to adhere to the 45 minute concert limit.

Board of Trustees' Scholarship Donation. J. Dresher reports continuing

follow-up with a AU trustee who has 'promised' a \$10K donation, once he is sure that the donation will be tax deductible. Once received, Mr. Dresher plans to leverage this donation to pursue other large ticket donations to the scholarship fund. The board acknowledged his efforts and encouraged him to continue his pursuits.

Adjournment. President Siler closed the meeting at 1:27 p.m.