



The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association.

VOL. VIII NUMBER 3 JUNE, 2007



Reunionitis

by Mark Belfast.

The time is almost here once again! As the temperature rises, the students leave town, and Snow-Biz is open from dawn until dusk, we here on the plains are reminded that summer is quickly approaching. 'Round 'bout this time of year, jazz musicians all across this rock begin to notice subtle changes in their daily routines. It starts small... perhaps a slight skip or shuffle in their step. There have been reports of increased whistling while working, and heavy finger snapping on 2's and 4's during the recessional at Sunday services. Band directors everywhere seem not to mind when their 1st trumpets take it up an octave and hold over on the cut off, despite the fact that they are playing their high school alma mater at this year's commencement ceremony. For

some, there is no explanation for this change in attitude and demeanor, but for those of us "in the know" it can only mean one thing... Reunionitis.

The U.S. Department of Funk, Jazz, and Other Hip Music defines *reunionitis* as "an overwhelming sense of urgency to be enveloped in great music, camaraderie... and to partake in lengthy sessions of 'jamming'." To date there is only one known cure for reunionitis, and although it is only available once a year, your faithful brothers and sisters of the AKA have made certain vaccines will be available this July 26-29 at the Marriott at Grand National in Opelika, AL. For the love of all that is good and pure SAVE YOURSELVES!!! ♪

The Auburn Knights Alumni Association

77th Year Reunion

July 26-28, 2007

Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center
at Grand National

3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail

Opelika, AL 36801

<http://www.marriottgrandnational.com/>

To reserve a room for the AKA Reunion weekend, call either (877) 563-4301 or (334) 757-2134 and speak with Amber Windham. Be sure to mention the **Auburn Knights Reunion**, to get our special room rate of \$75.00 per night (plus tax). Please note that there's currently a waiting list for reservations. Last year there was also a waiting list, but we were able to accommodate everyone due to last-minute cancellations, etc. We will also have an "overflow" hotel ready, if needed.

The Bridge is the official newsletter of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association. Letters and articles are welcome. Please send submissions to Lyle Johnson, 108 Millsford Dr., Madison, AL 35758 (or by e-mail to lyle.johnson@gmail.com).

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

Stuart Ivey
(334) 826-0741
iveystu@auburn.edu

Bob “Funny Ole” Hill



Robert Goodman Hill, Jr. passed away on May 31, 2007. Bob played trumpet in the Auburn Knights from 1939-41, and then again in 1946-47, and served as business manager for the post-war band. He was also a co-founder of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association in 1956. As fellow Auburn Knights alumnus Bob Adair said, “Auburn Knights of all eras have benefited and were also blessed to have the leadership of Bob Hill, and may his legacy continue for many years to come.”

During World War II, Bob served as a P-51 fighter pilot, and after the war he continued in the Air National Guard as an aircraft maintenance officer until his retirement from military service as a Lt. Colonel in the 1960's. Upon graduating in 1947 from Alabama Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Aeronautical Administration, Bob spent many years in the aerospace industry writing systems and procedures manuals for such programs as the Apollo Moon Project.

A memorial scholarship fund has been set up in his name. If you would like to contribute to this fund, 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 Bob Hill.

Bobby Collins

James R. (Bobby) Collins passed away on April 15, 2007. Bobby played French Horn with the Auburn Knights from 1958-61. He read the first trombone book and transposed on sight (“as all good horn players are expected to be able to do,” remarked Jay Owen).

Bobby was a member of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church and a member of the Frazer Orchestra. He was a former member of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra and many other orchestras throughout the southeast. He was the former director and a member of the Montgomery Community Band. He was a retired professor of music at Huntingdon College, Troy University, The University of Alabama, Auburn University, West Georgia College, University of North Carolina Greensboro, Georgia Southwestern College and Lanier High School. He was presently the Assistant Director of the Montgomery Youth Orchestra.

A memorial scholarship fund has been set up in his name. If you would like to contribute to this fund, 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 Bobby Collins.

Claude Hughes

Claude Hughes passed away on March 11, 2007. Claude was an associate member of the AKAAs, who played saxophone with bands at a number of our reunions.

Judge Hughes served for 32 years on the bench of the 10th Judicial Circuit, for the State of Alabama, Civil Division; and was a member of the Alabama State Bar Association and Birmingham Bar Association for almost 60 years. He proudly served his Country as a medic in the United States Army

during WWII in Europe. Judge Hughes had a life long love of music that began at Woodlawn High School and carried through the Univ. of Alabama Million Dollar Band, the Alabama Cavaliers and Auburn Knights, the Harrison Cooper Orchestra, and the UAB Super Jazz Band.

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 Claude Hughes.

Jane Goff

Jane Goff passed away on May 16 , 2007. She was the wife of Tommy Goff.

Among her many accomplishments, Jane will be remembered as an “unofficial mom” to the thousands of us who played in Tommy’s bands at Auburn High School during his tenure there. She also worked at Mrs. Meagher’s Kindergarten on Glenn Avenue as a teacher, then at Auburn Bank as a customer service representative, and finally at Auburn University, where she worked first in Foy Union Building as a reservations coordinator, and later as an office administrator in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. As a longstanding member of Auburn United Methodist Church, Mrs. Goff participated in a variety of ministries through the years.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution to the scholarship fund in her 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 Jane Goff.

2007 Auburn Knights Orchestra Reunion

JULY 26-28, 2007

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Era	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30's	12-2 PM Ballroom	9-10 AM Ballroom	1-2 PM Ballroom
40's	6:30-8 PM Ballroom	1-2:30 PM Lounge	
48/49	2-3:30 PM Ballroom	2:30-4 PM Lounge	2-4 PM Lounge
50's	5-6:30 PM Ballroom	10-11:30 AM Ballroom	
60's	3:30-5 PM Ballroom	11:30-1 PM Ballroom	
70/80	8-10 PM Ballroom	2:30-4 PM Ballroom	
90's		1-2:30 PM Ballroom	2-4 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	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

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

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

OUR LEADERS

PRESIDENT

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

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jana Burns
355 Jennings Mill Pkwy. #1417
Athens, GA 30606

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, jefth@charter.net

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, AKAA NEWSLETTER

Lyle Johnson
(256) 289-9598 or lyle.johnson@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Fritz Siler

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2007

Wade Johnson
Steve Means
Lisa Ray
Doug Stevens
Joe Watson

2008

Peter Blaise
Richard Garrett
Woody Leonard
Jef Thurman
Milton Welch

2009

Rob Cothran
Hank Elliott
Phil Gipson
John Norton
Bud Taylor

AKO Business Manager

Stuart Ivey
(334) 826-0741



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
 2007 Reunion Registration Form
 July 27th & 28th 2007

NAME: _____ STREET: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____

PHONE#: _____ Member: _____ Associate: _____ Visitor: _____

New Associate: _____

Number **Event or Item** **Cost** **Total**

\$ 10.00 2007-2008 Dues (Members & Associates)
 \$ 6.00 Concert/Dance, Friday, July 27th
 \$ 6.00 Concert/Dance, 7:30pm, Saturday July 28th
 (\$7.00 @ Door)
 (\$7.00 @ Door)

\$ 7.00 Saturday Jazz Lunch, 11:00am
 BBQ Beef or Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink

\$ 5.50 Hamburger, Chips & Drink

\$ 4.50 Hotdog, Chips & Drink

Contribution to the AKA Scholarship Fund

_____ **Total Amount Enclosed**

(All Dues and Scholarship Donations are tax deductible)

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