



The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association

VOL. IX NUMBER 2 MARCH, 2008



Dear Knights,

Can you believe it's nearly springtime already? As you begin to plan which beach you'll be lounging on during spring break, or whether you'll wear the orange Under Armour coaching shirt you got for Christmas to this year's A-Day game, don't forget you're quickly running out of time to reserve your room at the Marriott at Grand National for the 2008 AKA Reunion. You'll be happy to know Charlie Higgins, your reunion coordinator, has prepared another weekend jam packed with fun and excitement for everyone! The pool will

be open and there will be plenty of jazz and barbeque for the taking. You'll be "fuller 'n a tick," as they say. Jef Thurman promises to have new, exciting displays and exhibits in the Archives Room. Steve Means tells me there may be a case or two of "Total Eclipse" left, and he's willing to let them go for an unbelievably low price! The band leaders have already begun organizing their players for this year's concert, and as is the tradition, several promise to have a few tricks up their sleeves that are sure to wow the audience.

With that said, I hope to see all of you this July 25th and 26th at the Marriott at Grand National in Opelika, Alabama. Have you cleared your calendar yet? Have you made your reservations? Why not? Everyone's doing it. Coming to the Knights reunion is the cool thing to do nowadays! You want to be cool, don't you?

Chillin' like a villain,
Prez ♫

They'll Be Some Changes Made...

Long-time reunion attendees should note several changes to the reunion performance schedules starting with this summer's reunion:

- Last summer, the active, playing members of the 48/49 "post-war" alumni band agreed to merge with the 40's alumni band. That merger is complete, which leaves an open spot in the concert schedule for...
- A new band for 2000's era Auburn Knights alumni has been formed, under the leadership of Khari Lee and Mark Belfast. For many years, these musicians have only been able to play by subbing on other bands or sitting in with the 90's band.
- To ensure that attendees will be able to hear as much music as possible, the concerts on both Friday and Saturday night will now begin at 7:00, not 7:30!

The Auburn Knights Alumni Association

78th Year Reunion
Auburn Marriott Opelika
Hotel and Conference Center
at Grand National
July 24-26, 2008

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 of \$75.00 per night (plus tax). The cutoff date for reservations under this special rate is **June 22, 2008**, and we recommend that you call **promptly** as we expect the hotel to be full!

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

Julian Stephens



Julian Stephens passed away on November 20, 2007. He is survived by his wife Helen, his sons, and their families.

A native of Anniston, Julian graduated from Anniston High School in 1946. He graduated from Jacksonville State University and received his M.S. degree from the University of Alabama. He served in the U.S. Army and was the director of the U.S. Army Band in Fort Lee, VA. Julian went on to serve as Band Director at Valley High School, Heflin High School, Wellborn High School and Anniston High School. He later served as Assistant Band Director at Auburn University. He opened Gadsden Music Company in 1969 and retired in 1985.

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 Julian Stephens.

Mack Taylor



Charles McKenzie “Mack” Taylor passed away on January 5, 2008. He is survived by his wife Mary, his daughter Camille Taylor McDuffie, and his son Andrew McKenzie Taylor.

Mack was born in Opelika and graduated from Auburn University in 1951. While attending Auburn, he played piano with the Auburn Knights. After college, he served in the U.S. Navy and the Naval Reserve.

He began his business career as a cotton broker in Opelika and moved to Atlanta in 1967 to pursue a career in real estate. He became one of a handful of developers credited with creating Atlanta’s big-city skyline in the 1980’s. His firm, Taylor & Mathis Inc., built Buckhead Plaza, a 17-acre site at Peachtree and West Paces Ferry roads. At the time, the price tag was \$360 million.

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 Mack Taylor.

Oscar Carr

Oscar Carr passed away on February 3, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Ann Morrison.

Oscar lived in Gulf Shores and worked with his own band, LA Jazz, and was a member of the Carnival Orchestra Band and the Gumbo Bay Jazz Band. He will be sadly missed by his family and many, many friends. He was a very special person and loved by all who knew him. He was always happy and enjoyed telling jokes to anyone who would listen, often to the amusement of strangers.

Oscar attended Auburn University and graduated from Huntingdon College with a Bachelors degree in Math and History. He worked his way through college playing music in Montgomery. After graduating from college, he began playing with various bands, traveling around the United States. He settled in Montgomery and later moved to Birmingham and began working with Bob Cain and the Canebreakers for the next twenty years. The past twenty-two years he has played in Mobile and Baldwin County.

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 Oscar Carr.

2008 Auburn Knights Orchestra Reunion

JULY 24-26, 2008

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Era	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30's	12-2 PM Ballroom	8:30-10 AM Ballroom	
40's	3:30-5 PM Ballroom	11:30-1 PM Ballroom	
50's	5-6:30 PM Ballroom	2:30-4 PM Ballroom	1-2 PM Lounge
60's	2-3:30 PM Ballroom	1-2:30 PM Lounge	2-4 PM Ballroom
70/80	6:30-8:30 PM Ballroom	1-2:30 PM Ballroom	1-2 PM Ballroom
90's	5-6:30 PM Lounge	10-11:30 AM Ballroom	
2000's	8:30-10 PM Ballroom	11:00-1 PM Lounge	
Current	6:30-8:30 PM Lounge		

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
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	Ishbah Cox Mark Belfast	(615) 353-4250 (334) 887-9384

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

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

OUR LEADERS

PRESIDENT

Mark Belfast
55 Rockingham Dr.
Covington, GA 30016
(334) 332-6279

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jana Burns
3140 Seven Pines Court #302
Atlanta, GA 30339
(404) 232-5758

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

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

HISTORIAN

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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

Fritz Siler, Chairman

REUNION COORDINATOR

Charlie Higgins
(334) 288-5001

EDITOR, AKAA NEWSLETTER

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

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Fritz Siler

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jay Anderson
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Auburn Knights Alumni Association
2008 Reunion Registration Form
July 25th & 26th, 2008

NAME: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
PHONE#: _____

STREET: _____
EMAIL: _____
Member: _____
Associate: _____
Visitor: _____

Number	Event or Item	Cost	Total
_____	2008-2009 Dues (Members & Associates)	\$ 20.00	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:00pm, Friday, July 25th	\$ 10.00	_____
_____	Concert/Dance, 7:00pm, Saturday, July 26th	\$ 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	_____
Contribution to the AKA Scholarship Fund (All Contributions are Tax-Deductible)			_____
Total Amount Enclosed			_____