Auburn University Alumni Band

August 2023 Newsletter

President's Update

Alumni, thank you for your continued support of and participation in the Auburn Alumni Band! I also want to say a special thank you and to all of our hard-working Board members for their commitment and contributions this year. We have met three times since the 2022 Reunion (10/25/22 [zoom], 1/31/23 [zoom], and 6/3/23 [Auburn]); meeting minutes are available for review at https://auburnalumniband.com/board/. All eight regular committees have also met at least three times and the Advisory Committee has met once. In addition to planning for the 2023 Reunion, we have made significant progress on several important projects that are addressed in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at our 36th annual Reunion on 9/16! We miss you when you aren't there, so please consider joining us for all or part of the day. As always, you do not have to play or march to participate – you may play in the stands without marching or just sit in the stands with us. New this year is a tailgate at the Pavilion between morning practice and march in, which was made possible by the late kick-off. All alumni and their families are welcome to attend (free, with option to purchase a lunch or bring your own) even if you are unable to participate in the rest of the reunion this year. Please note that there will NOT be a Friday evening reception this year because of the Saturday tailgate. See https://auburnalumniband.com/ for more details, including how to pay for your annual membership, purchase lunches and/or merchandise, and FAQs.

War Eagle and Strike Up the Band!!
Mary Monk-Tutor '84
President, Auburn Alumni Band
auburnalumniband@gmail.com

Board of Directors

- Mary Monk-Tutor '84, President
- Christiania Morris Jordan '09, VP/President-Elect
- Taylor Nails '06, Secretary (Chair, By-laws Committee)
- Rob Cothran '01, Treasurer
- Deborah Martin Dickerson '85, Immediate Past President
- Traci Ash '89 (Chair, Promotional Items Committee)
- Alison Slade '00 (Chair, Membership Committee)
- Paul McCracken '79
- Paul Wright '90 (Chair, History & Traditions Committee)
- Tamara Renie Grizzle '85 (Chair, Nominations Committee)
- Richard Martin '13 (Chair, Reunion Committee)
- Gillian Ash Johnson '21
- Doty Henderson '84
- Joye Kralovec '94 (Chair, Social Media Committee, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor)
- Brandy Sponsler '00 (Chair, Audit Committee)
- Sally Nichols Traylor '81
- Jill Applegate Warbington '84
- Dr. Rick Good (Advisory Committee and Director of Bands)
- Dr. Rusty Logan '76 (Advisory Committee and Past President)
- Steve Fleming '84 (Advisory Committee and Past President)
- Ross Tolbert '25 (AUMB Student Liaison)

Do you have good news or Alumni Band-related pictures to share? Please email them to auburnalumnibandnews@gmail.com for possible inclusion in our next newsletter!

New Agreement for Use of “Band A” Logo Finalized with Auburn University

Did you know that the “Band A” (or “Eagle A”) was created by a group of AUMB students and first appeared on the AUMB uniform in 1975? It has also been used as the logo for the Alumni Band since its inception in 1987. The logo was officially retired by the University in 2017 in favor of the interlocking AU design (also created by an AUMB member). Since that time, we have had limited use of the logo because it was never trademarked. However, after months of discussion, an exciting new licensing agreement was finalized in early July between the Alumni Band and the AU Office of Trademark and Licensing. As a result, the University has begun the process of trademarking our beloved “Band A” for use only by the AU Bands and the AU Alumni Band. This means that we now have unlimited use of the logo (at no direct cost to us) as well as access to a much wider array of products/vendors. In addition, AU will now pursue trademark violations on our behalf so that no one else profits from the use of our logo. The agreement will automatically renew every five years. Thank you to Advisory Committee member (and Past President) Steve Fleming for his role in facilitating this agreement with the University and thank you to Traci Ash (Chair) and the Promotional Items Committee for securing and managing all of our merchandise. Check out our new Band A merchandise at https://auburnalumniband.square.site/s/shop.

Board Spotlight: Meet Ross Tolbert ‘25

Ross Tolbert is our new AUMB student representative on the Board. He is a sophomore trumpet player from Calera, AL, who is majoring in Chemical Engineering. Ross will be serving in his first year as a Drum Major this fall.

Board Announcements

12/22: Richard Martin made a presentation at the National Association of Alumni Bands meeting about the 2022 Reunion
1/23: Scott Wright resigned from the Board and was replaced by former VP, Jill Warbington
4/23: A welcome letter & Alumni Band swag was sent to President Roberts in honor of his inauguration
9/16/23: Annual meeting of the Auburn Alumni Band in Auburn (will vote on Board member slate/bylaw changes)

2023 Endowed Scholarship Campaign

The Alumni Band is collaborating with the AU Office of Advancement on a special financial campaign to raise money for our Auburn Alumni Band Endowed Scholarship. Thank you to those who have already made generous gifts. Over $7,000 has already been donated! If you have not yet donated, please consider doing so in order to show your support for Auburn Band students! Click on this link to donate. Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Connecting with AUMB Graduating Seniors

We have begun two new traditions to recognize and welcome AUMB graduating seniors into the Alumni Band and will continue both of these in the future. First, Board member Traci Ash attended the 2022 Annual AUMB Band Banquet in December to welcome seniors on behalf of the entire Alumni Band. She gifted each of them with a "Band A" pin to mark their transition to Alumni Band status. Second, AUMB graduating seniors in both Fall 2022 and Spring 2022 were emailed by the President to congratulate them, welcome them into the Alumni Band, and let them know about an opportunity to support the Auburn Alumni Band Endowed Scholarship through the AU Medallion Giving Program. This relatively new program asks graduates to honor their own accomplishments by donating the amount of their graduation year (eg, $20.23) to any campus initiative that has been important to them. In return, they receive a commemorative medallion that may be worn with their graduation robes and kept as a reminder of their time on the Plains.

Congratulations to Board member Gillian Ash Johnson '21, who begins AU Vet School this semester!

Congratulations, Richard Martin '13!

Board member (Chair, Reunion Committee and Past President) and trumpet player Richard Martin has been recognized by the AU Young Alumni Council as a member of the "20 Under 40" Class of 2023! According to the website, this annual program showcases members of the Auburn Family for extraordinary accomplishments, significant professional achievements, and distinguished service to others. A graduate of the College of Engineering (Chemical Engineering), Richard is a transformation leader for Georgia Pacific, helping the organization create systems designed to empower people to rise to their full potential through coaching, career development conversations, and implementation of operational discipline. Martin previously was president of the Monroe County Auburn Club and president of the Auburn Alumni Band Board of Directors, helping both organizations endow scholarships for future Auburn students. The Monroe County native also engages with local high schools to inspire careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Martin is an avid runner who has run multiple marathons across the country and enjoys traveling with family, friends and his dog, Wilson. He and other recipients of this award will be honored at an event on 9/15/23 in Auburn.

Update from Dr. Spurlin

Greetings Auburn Band Alumni!
I hope you have had a great summer and are looking forward to another exciting football season on the plains. Our staff is hard at work preparing for the start of AUMB Preseason Camp on July 30th . The band staff and members of Auburn Symphonic Winds are still reflecting on our amazing tour of Spain in May. We are grateful to Dr. Good for his leadership and vision to make international travel a part of the Auburn Band experience. We also had extremely successful high school summer camps in June that included separate opportunities for high school symphonic students, marching percussion, marching drum majors and leadership, and marching auxiliaries.

In addition to my work in the Auburn Band office, I have enjoyed spending time with family this summer. My daughters, Harper and Hannah, are now 11 and 9 respectively, and our son Lucas is 4. My wife Ashley and I feel very blessed and enjoy supporting them in their numerous endeavors. You may have also read about my work with the D-Day 80th Anniversary Collegiate Mass Band. I am excited that some of our own Auburn students and alumni will be participating in the group next summer. There is still time to sign up if you are interested, but limited spots remain. I was able to spend some time in France last month to see the performance sites and observe this year's ceremonies. I think it is going to be an amazing experience for collegiate band students and alumni from across the US. For more information and the registration form see 2024 Collegiate Band | D-Day Parade.

As we approach August, we are proud to have over 450 commitments from students intending to audition for the AUMB. This is after selections were made for auxiliary groups and percussion. The enormous interest in our program is a testament to the great efforts of our band students over many years and the great support we receive from our alumni. For our first halftime production of the season, we have designed a Spanish-themed show titled "Aguila de Guerra" (War Eagle in Spanish). In addition to being fun for our students to perform, the show will inform the Auburn family about our travels overseas and the great ambassadorship of the band program beyond performances at sporting events. Of course, we have a variety of other shows throughout the season that I hope you will enjoy, and we look forward to hosting our Alumni Band and Marching Honor Band as well. The marching band also has a full travel schedule this fall that includes a full-band trip to LSU as well as pep band trips to California, Texas A&M, Arkansas, and Vanderbilt. I hope to see you at games as well performances by our concert bands. Thank you so much for your support of the Auburn Band - we are all bound by our loyalty and unyielding support of this great institution.

War Eagle!

Dr. Corey Spurlin
Director, Auburn University Marching Band
Associate Director of Bands, and Professor of Music

Band Update from Dr. Good

Alumni Band members;

War Eagle and I hope everyone is enjoying a safe and "cool" as possible summer. I wanted to give you a summary of what is happening in the band area. Preseason camp for the AUMB is right around the corner and the directors and staff are finishing the final touches in what is going to be an exciting fall marching season. Homecoming and Alumni Band reunion will be Saturday, September 16, and this year we have an evening kick-off. Rehearsal will be mid-morning which will give everyone some nice down time for some good food and fellowship before we enter the stadium for another Auburn Football victory! Detailed information on that day will be posted soon. In addition, Sarah Haymon and C.J. Ellis will be the drum majors this year and we look forward to welcoming them and all the AUMB alumni back on campus.

The Symphonic Winds completed a very successful nine-day concert tour of Spain this past May. The over seventy student musicians represented Auburn University incredibly well and all had a trip of a lifetime. Thank you to the Alumni Band and other donations to make this trip become a reality. Many of the band members have never flown or even been out of the state of Alabama. I was so proud of them for sharing their talents with the European audiences as well as being great ambassadors for the United States, Alabama, and Auburn University.

On other news, I recently completed my five-year term as Chair of the Music Department as well as the Director of Bands position. Prior to the five-year term I was Interim Chair for the Department for 18 months. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Doug Rosener, Percussion Professor and Associate Director of Bands, was voted unanimously by the tenured faculty to be the incoming Chair. His term will begin next week on August 1 and am very excited for the future with him at the helm.

For serving as Chair, I have been granted a sabbatical for this year. Dr. Spurlin will be directing the Symphonic Winds and I will still be recruiting, overseeing scholarships, financial matters, etc., of the AU Band program and attending Alumni Band! I look forward to this year and returning full-time to the Director of Bands position.

Look forward to seeing all of you in less than 7 weeks and as always, War Eagle!

Dr. Richard Good
Chair, Department of Music
Director of Bands/Professor of Music
Past President, National Band Association
Member, The American Bandmasters Association

An Invitation from Dr. Spurlin for August 12 from 5pm CST until ...

Come cheer on the AUMB as they do a complete run through of their new show, then stay for food and fellowship with AUMB members and other Alumni!

Who: All Alumni Band members and their families
What: AUMB rehearsal followed by R.A.T. Tailgate (field games, Aubie, etc)
When: Saturday 8/12/23 (rehearsal from 5pm-8pm, followed by Tailgate)
Where: Band Practice Field
Costs: Entry is free for Alumni & guests
Food: Bring your own picnic! (No food available to purchase)

Join us for the
36th Alumni Band Reunion on 9/16/23!

Tentative Schedule (J.W. and Nell Birchfield Practice Field and Pavilion)
7am CST(estimated): Registration opens and merchandise sales/pick ups begin
8am CST (estimated): Practice begins for Auxiliaries
8:30 CST (estimated): Practice begins for Instrumentalists
Following practice: - Alumni Band meeting (~15 minutes)
- Family Tailgate (pre-order lunch or bring your own food)
TBA: Line up
6pm CST: Kick Off

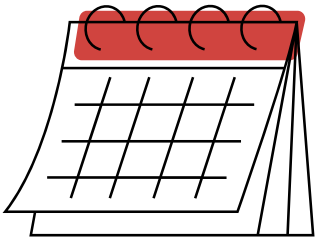
Watch your email, our FB page (Auburn Alumni Band - Official), and https://auburnalumniband.com/ for a final schedule to be posted. You may also register for the reunion, purchase a box lunch, and purchase merchandise at this web link.
Email auburnalumnibandvicepresident@gmail.com with any questions about the reunion.

Interested in Serving on the Board of Directors? Apply by 8/25!

We will be filling four open Board seats at the 2023 Reunion. Board members serve a 3-year term and are expected to participate in 3-4 full Board meetings/year (including one in-person meeting in Auburn each summer) and serve on at least one committee. They are also encouraged to attend the annual reunion each year while in office and assist as needed. In order to facilitate diversity among the Board, preference may be given to those who graduated in a certain decade or who represent a certain instrument/auxiliary section. All interested members are encouraged to nominate themselves by completing this form and returning it to the President at auburnalumniband@gmail.com by 8/25/23. If you have applied before but were not chosen, please nominate yourself again! The Nominations Committee will review all submissions and the Board will present a slate to be approved at the 2023 Reunion.

Calling all Former AUMB Drum Majors!

If you have an interest in serving as a Drum Major for the Alumni Band in future years, please send the following information to the President at auburnalumniband@gmail.com: name, graduation year, years as DM, Band Director that you served under, city/state, phone, email address, and any other pertinent information. Thank you!



Mark Your Calendars!!

8/12/23: AUMB open rehearsal (5pm CST) and R.A.T. Tailgate (8pm CST)
8/25/23: Deadline to submit nominations for the Board of Directors
9/6/23: Deadline to place/pay for lunch orders for the Reunion
9/16/23: 36th Annual Reunion and Family Tailgate

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