Auburn University Alumni Band

July 2024 Newsletter

President's Update

AUMB Alumni,

Thank you for your continued support of and participation in the Auburn Alumni Band! We hope that you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, which contains interesting stories and photos contributed by some of our members as well as other news. Please be sure to see the call for new Directors-at-Large for the Board, for which applications are due by July 26, 2024.

Your Board has met three times since Reunion 2023 (11/7/23 [zoom], 1/30/24 [zoom], and 6/22/23 [Auburn]); all approved meeting minutes are available for review at https://auburnalumniband.com/board/. In addition to planning the 2024 Reunion, we have continued to work on the following major projects: a comprehensive review/revision of our Bylaws (assisted by alumni member, attorney Pat Smith '82) and documentation of standard procedures for each of our committees to help maintain consistency of our practices over time. For the second year, several Board members attended the AUMB Senior Reception in 12/2023 to hand out Alumni Band pins and welcome our new alumni into the organization. We also hosted a party for the AUMB in February 2024 to congratulate students and staff on winning the first annual Metallica Marching Band competition. We hope to initiate a new student-centered event during the AUMB pre-season camp later this summer as well.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our 37th annual Reunion on 9/14/24! Kick off is scheduled for 6:30pm (yay!). The information that we know at this time is included in this newsletter; additional details a will be posted via email, Facebook, (Auburn Alumni Band – Official), Instagram (@aualumniband) and our website (https://auburnalumniband.com/) as it becomes available. 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.

My term as President will end at Reunion 2024. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on the Board for the last six years and to get to know so many of you personally. Thank you, too, to all of our Board members, Dr. Good, Dr. Spurlin, and Sarah Ferguson for their many contributions - it truly "takes a village" to make the Auburn Alumni Band so incredibly AUsome.

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

The 2023-24 AU Alumni Band Board of Directors during their June meeting in Auburn.

Front row: Richard Martin, Rob Cothran, Joye Kralovec, Taylor Nails, Jackie Damewood, Kylie Weis, Jill Applegate Warbington, Mary Monk-Tutor, Tamara Grizzle; Back row: Brandy Sponsler, Gillian Ash, Christiania Morris Jordan, Katy Olszowy. Not pictured: Traci Ash, Deborah Martin Dickerson, Keri Scheutz Hallford, Doty Henderson, Sally Nichols Traylor, Paul Wright

Alumni Couple's Son Wins TV Cooking Championship

It has been a whirlwind the past several months for **Mike '08** and **Shannon McGlynn '07** and their son, Bryson. When Mike was encouraged to take on grilling as a hobby several years ago, he had no idea where it would take him. He has been a competitive grillmaster for several years, taking Bryson along with him. Bryson began competing in grill competitions all over the country and doing quite well at it! His interest in cooking continued to grow as he did.

The Auburn residents applied last year for then 11-year-old Bryson to compete in Chef Gordon Ramsey's cooking show, MasterChef Junior. Out of thousands of applicants, Bryson was chosen for the show- and took home the championship!!

Mike took time off from his job as Band Director at Opelika High School to travel with Bryson to Los Angeles for the two month taping of the show. Bryson attended classes six days a week while also taping the show. It was an exhausting and challenging time for them, but Bryson stayed true to his Southern roots and charm and persevered. The show's finale was recorded in December 2023 and Shannon joined Mike and Bryson in LA for the big event. They then had to come home and keep their championship a secret until May 20, when the finale aired.

Congratulations to Bryson, Mike and Shannon on this huge accomplishment! They are an amazing family!

You can follow Bryson's cooking adventures by searching for Cookin' With Cheese Curd on your favorite social media platform!

Mike, Shannon and Bryson after the finale of MasterChef Junior.
Photo Credit: MasterChef Junior and Endemol Shine North America

Bryson with his MasterChef Junior trophy at the top of the new Tony & Libba Rane Culinary Science Center.

Alumni Band Helps With Metallica Celebration

On Monday 2/26 the Auburn Alumni Band was honored to help AUMB students, faculty, and staff celebrate winning the collegiate category of the 2023 Metallica Marching Band Contest!

Auburn Athletic Director, John Cohen, visited the Band Hall to congratulate AUMB students in person and thank them for all that they do for the University. He provided each of them with a special commemorative t-shirt that was purchased by the Athletic Department. We are thankful for his support of both the AUMB and the Alumni Band.

We provided almost 400 cupcakes for this event. Kylie Weis (Co-Chair, Activities and Membership Committee), Jill Applegate Warbington, and Mary Monk-Tutor created our rock and roll-themed "cakes". In addition to these ladies, the Alumni Band was represented by Board members Jackie Damewood, Steve Fleming (Advisory Commitee), Rusty Logan (Advisory Committee) and former Board member, Betsy Logan.

The students seemed excited and grateful that we were there and we had a chance to talk with many of them about Alumni Band.

Member Memories

I'm a 1965 Alum of the Auburn Pharmacy School. I was a member of the AUMB from 1961-1963 and played the tuba in both the marching and concert bands under Dr. Bodie Hinton. I loved him! I also played in the Pep Band for the basketball team one year. I remember going to the football games; a highlight was in 1963 when Auburn played Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. The friendships I made in band have lasted forever!
The AUMB of today was influenced tremendously by Bodie's demand for excellence. Dr. Bill Walls was his Assistant Director until 1962, then became Director in 1963. I was a member of the Andalusia High School Band that Dr. Johnnie Vinson played in during 1959 and 1960! Johnnie was a tremendous talent and the AUMB grew under him, becoming the great band that it is today. I have great memories of those years! War Eagle forever to the AUMB!

William (Bill) Maddox '65

Member Flashback!

In the 1993, Undefeated Season!
Chris Duncan (trombone), John Lofland (trombone), Kim Jackson (piccolo)

Auburn Band Representated at 80th Anniversay of D Day Celebration

Written by **Suzanne Knox '87**

A total of 21 Auburn Band members both current and alumni, participated with band members from 50 colleges and universities across the country to perform for the 80th D-Day celebrations in Normandy, France. We first met in Washington DC for rehearsals and marching practice, and then off to France! We visited Omaha Beach, Gold Beach and Utah Beach. We performed at the Brittany American Cemetery for 2 veterans who were able to make the trip. This ceremony was very meaningful, evoking many memories and emotions. I deeply appreciated being able to express my gratitude in this special musical tribute. A few days later we gave concerts and marched in a parade in St. Mere Eglise, the first town liberated by the allies. The energy was tremendous and exhilarating as we played and marched in a sea of people through the town. There were military flyovers to top it off! Next we were off to Paris to enjoy the city and the company of new friends. It was an unforgettable experience made special with the AUMB family.

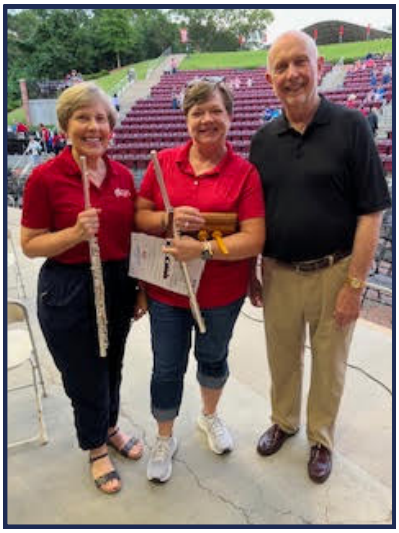
D Day Director and Auburn's own, Dr. Corey Spurlin with 21 AUMB students and alumni, including AUMB alum and fellow D Day director, Dr. Craig Aarhus.

Board Member Spotlight- Tamara Renie Grizzle ‘85

Hi! I have been living my best flute life the past 15 years or so! It’s hard to believe I graduated from Auburn (the first time) in March of 1985. So much has happened in the past 40 years, but one constant has been maintaining my friendships from my days in the AU Band. And now, through the Alumni band, I’ve been able to reconnect with people I haven't seen in quite a while!

After my husband Glen and I became empty nesters in 2015, I auditioned at Mercer University to play in their flute choir, and I made it! I have been playing with them ever since and I never thought I would be able to keep up, but I have! I’ve also been able to travel with them and attend state and national music/flute conventions. It has been a real thrill for me to use the skills I honed at Auburn and continue to play challenging music. I have Dr. Walls and Dr. Vinson to thank for that! I also play in a local flute choir, the Fayette Area Flutists, and the Peachtree Chamber Players, a woodwind quintet from the south side of Atlanta.

Below are a couple of pictures with fellow Auburn Band Alumni. **Jan Ziglar Eunice ‘86** and I attended the Atlanta Flute Fair in March of 2018. In June of 2023, I played in a concert with Alumni Band Board Member **Sally Nichols Traylor ‘81** and the LaGrange Community Band. **Dr. Johnnie Vinson ‘65** was the guest conductor for the concert and it was like being in a time machine. We had a great time!

For being a non music major, I think playing and singing at Auburn are some of the best memories I have from my time there. The best part of it all is I made life long friends!
War Eagle!!!

Look who Jill Applegate Warbington and Mary Monk-Tutor ran into in Auburn during the June Board meeting! Coach Freeze is a big supporter of both the AUMB and the Alumni Band. War Eagle!

Board Announcements

12/23: **Richard Martin ‘13** made a presentation at the National Association of Alumni Bands meeting (zoom) about Reunion 2023

9/14/24: Annual meeting of the Auburn Alumni Band in Auburn after morning rehearsal (will vote on Board member slate and bylaw changes)

Board member **Jackie Damewood '23** has been accepted into the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). She begins her medical school studies in July on the Auburn campus. Congratulations, Jackie!

Join us for the 37th Alumni Band Reunion on 9/14/2024!

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)

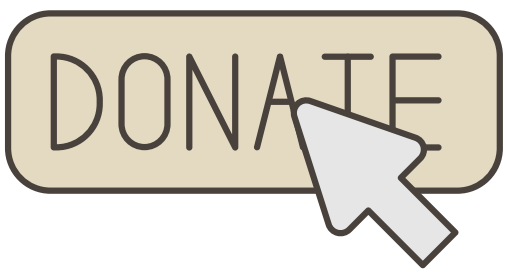
More details about social opportunities will be shared soon!!

TBA: Line up
6:30 pm CST: Kick Off

See https://auburnalumniband.com/ to register for the reunion, purchase merchandise to pick up at the reunion, and find the answers to FAQ about the reunion! A box lunch will be available to purchase online closer to the date (MUST be prepaid). Watch your email, our FB page, IG account and website for a final schedule to be posted closer to the date. Email auburnalumnibandvicepresident@gmail.com with any questions about the reunion.

Auburn Alumni Band Endowed Scholarship

Please consider supporting Auburn Band students by donating to our endowed scholarship at https://alumni.auburn.edu/giving/to/alumniband Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you to those who have already made generous gifts.



AUMB Couples: Jay Kralovec ‘93 & Joye Burns Kralovec ‘94

On the first day the band reported back to campus in September 1992, Cupid was at work! The cupid was also known by the name **Leigh Anne Bumgardner ‘93**. She wanted to fix up her friend, Jay Kralovec with a new friend she had met in Symphonic Band the past Spring. Jay was the #6 Bass Drummer and the new friend was Joye Burns, a clarinet player. Leigh Ann got her way and Jay and Joye went out on a blind date after band practice during the first week of band camp. Leigh Ann and her RAT, **Jason Gallaspy ‘97** joined Jay and Joye for a late night snack at Ryan’s, a restaurant located on Opelika Highway at that time. This was the first of many dates!

Jay finished his Bachelor’s in Electrical Engineering in Spring ‘93 and Joye finished her Bachelor’s in Speech-Language Pathology in Fall ‘94. They were married in July 1996 and moved to Melbourne, Florida. They lived there for 20 years. During that time, Jay finished his Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering from Auburn and Joye earned a Master’s Degree from the University of Central Florida in Educational Media & Technology. They started a family and welcomed Andrew and Megan to the family. Megan passed away when she was 7 months old so Jay & Joye founded a nonprofit organization called Megan’s Books for Babies in her memory. They give new board books to babies in Neonatal Intensive Care at 4 hospitals across Florida and Alabama. Over 30,000 books have been given in Megan’s memory over the past 17 years!

In May 2016, the family packed up and moved back to Alabama. They moved to Madison, where Jay found himself working with Jason! Their son Andrew graduated from high school and started to Auburn during the Covid Fall of 2020. He played the trumpet and marched with the AUMB in 2020-2022. The Kralovecs enjoy tailgating during football season with their band friends, Jason & **Kelly Gallaspy ‘99** and **Darin Miller ‘93** and their families. Each of the 3 families have continued the band tradition with children in the AUMB! It’s so true that the friendships formed during the AUMB years can truly last a lifetime!

Jay in 1992.

Joye and **Leigh Ellen Rudolph Atkins ‘95**

Left- Jay and Joye at Reunion ‘23
Right- Jay, Joye and Andrew after a game

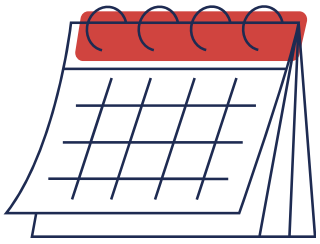
Calling all Former AUMB Drum Majors!

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!!

7/26/24: Deadline to submit nominations for the Board of Directors

9/14/24: Alumni Band Reunion (Look for more information about practice, lunch and other opportunities- coming soon!)



Interested in Serving on the Board of Directors? Apply now!

All interested members are encouraged to apply for one of four open Director-at-Large positions on the Board of Directors. These positions have a 3-year term that runs from Reunion 2024 through Reunion 2027. Alumni should self-nominate by completing this application form by 7/26/24. The Nominating Committee will review all applications and submit a final slate of candidates for approval on 9/14/2024. If you have applied in the past but were not chosen, please apply again! Our needs change annually as we attempt to keep the Board as balanced as possible in terms of decades and sections represented. If you have questions, please contact the President at auburnalumniband.com.

Expectations: All Board members are volunteers; we have no paid staff to accomplish our work, although we are supported by Sarah Ferguson in the Band Office. Therefore, our Board is an active, working Board. As such, Directors are expected to prepare for and participate in 3-4 Board meetings/year (including one in-person meeting in Auburn each summer) and are highly encouraged to attend the annual reunion each year while in office and assist as needed. Directors are also expected to actively serve on at least one committee, including preparation for and participation in at least 3 committee meetings per year. Some committee meet more often or are responsible for ongoing projects, such as the annual reunion.

Qualifications: Directors must be alumni of an AU Band (but not a graduate of Auburn University) and must be dues-paying members of the organization at the time they are slated and throughout their entire 3- year term. In order to facilitate diversity among the Board, preference may be given to those applicants who graduated in a certain decade or who represent a certain instrument/auxiliary section. Previous Board members may apply to serve an additional term as long as they have been off of the Board for at least one year (since Reunion 2023).

FYI, This year, VP/President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary positions are also up for re-election (2 year terms). Only current Board members may apply for officer positions. The Nominating Committee will review all applications and submit a final slate of officer candidates for approval on 9/14/24.

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 (Liason, Promotional Items Committee)
- Paul Wright '99 (Liason, History & Traditions Committee)
- Katie Olszowy '19 (Chair, Promotional Items Committee)
- Kylie Weis '22 (Co-Chair, Activities and Membership Committee)
- Keri Sheutz Hallford '06 (Chair, History & Traditions Committee)
- Jackie Damewood '23
- Tamara Renie Grizzle '85 (Chair, Nominations Committee)
- Richard Martin '13 (Co-Chair, Activities and Member ship 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)

Thank you to all of our Alumni who submitted information for this issue! To share your favorite AUMB stories, pictures, and news for a future issue email us: AuburnAlumniBandNews@gmail.com

Madison Argo Scholarship Drive

As many of you know, a scholarship was set up last year in memory of former AUMB Drum Major, Madison Argo '14. Although a significant amount of funds have already been collected (including a large donation from the Alumni Band), this scholarship is currently short of the $25k minimum balance required for it to be endowed. **Please consider making an individual donation at www.auburngiving.org/argomem between now and Reunion 2024 in memory of Madison and his many contributions to the AUMB.**

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