



NASSOONS

The Newsletter of the Princeton Nassoons Alumni Association
Volume 45, Winter 2012

NEWS FROM THE 'SOON ROOM

By: Chris Brownell '13

2011 was another great year for the Nassoons! After wrapping up recording of *Nassoons 2012* and waving goodbye to our three departing seniors last June, we regrouped at the Greenbrier Resort for Labor Day weekend. There in the mountains of West Virginia we reacquainted ourselves with the repertoire, and spent some time performing for, and enjoying the company of, the resort's other guests. We arrived on campus just in time for auditions season, and a successful auditions season it was! For the fifth consecutive semester we had a 100% success rate, which makes us 16-for-16 since September 2009. Our four newest members are:

Franklyn Darnis, a tenor-baritone from Simsbury, CT
James Walsh, a second tenor from London, England
John Whelchel, a baritone from Atlanta, GA
Yacob Yonas, a first tenor from Silver Spring, MD

By the way, John is a former pupil of *Thad Persons '92* at the Westminster School in Atlanta.



Franklyn, John, James & Yacob with The Lettermen in Naples FL

Annual Meeting and Dinner

Mark your calendars! The **Annual Meeting and Dinner** of the Princeton Nassoons Alumni Association will be held on **Friday, March 30th** at the **Racquet & Tennis Club of New York**, 370 Park Avenue, New York, starting at **6:30 pm**. The evening will include a performance by the undergraduate Nassoons. This promises to be another special Nassoon evening. Dinner with wine: \$95 (\$50 for Classes '02-'11), payable at the door. No host bar. If you are in the area, please join us! For further information, and to RSVP, please contact *Mac McMorris* at howardmcm@aol.com.

Last autumn, our fall tour was to the Carolinas and Georgia, where we enjoyed the generous hospitality of *Bill Kaspers '70*, *Collin Weber '67*, and their families. We had a chance to visit a number of colleges on our way down the eastern seaboard. While our evenings weren't quite as full of debauchery as some of the "Seven Sisters" stories we have heard, we had a blast with the students of UNC, William and Mary, and USC.

We arrived home from tour just in time for Homecoming Weekend and a Yale Jam on home turf. On Sunday morning after the show, while the varsity football team was wallowing in its loss, we took the field for the *real* rivalry game against the Whiffenpoofs. It was a high-scoring shootout in which the Nassoons, led by true freshman quarterback *Yacob Yonas '15*, came out on top 77-28.

This hard-fought battle was not the last we saw of the Whiffenpoofs, as we joined them and the Harvard Krokodies for a benefit concert at Alice Tully Hall in New York City in December. The show was a great success, and it gave us an excuse to visit Bronxville, NY—hometown of *Chuck Goldberg '71* and *Chris Palermo '13*—for a standing-room-only Christmas show the night before.



By the time you read this, we will have returned from our Intersession tour to south Florida. Thanks to the hospitality of great friends and relatives we enjoyed some fun on the beach and a number of successful performances in Boca Raton, Naples, and Palm Beach. Later this spring we will depart for Europe and a one-week, five-country tour to Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Italy and Austria. The trip promises to include over 2000 kilometers of road, a dozen shows, some outstanding schnitzel, and a lot of fun.

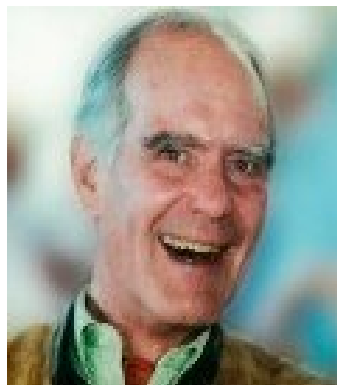
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Remembering...

H. BLAIR KLEIN '61

Blair Klein '61 left us on December 18, 2011 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Born Oct. 5, 1938 in St. Paul, MN, Blair graduated from St. Paul Academy before entering Princeton, and later earned his law degree at the University of Minnesota Law School. During the 1960s he served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Minnesota and then became the first Senate Counsel for the State Senate, serving in that capacity until 1971 when he and his family moved to the state of Wyoming. There he practiced oil and gas law with Marathon Oil Company in Casper. He later moved to Buffalo, Wyoming where he was engaged in private practice until his retirement in 1999. He was also active in local government serving as Justice of the Peace for Buffalo, Wyoming and Town Clerk for St. Croix Falls Township. A rugged individualist—perhaps the Nassoons' own "Marlboro Man"—Blair had wide ranging life-long interests including forestry, conservation, hunting, fishing and cooking.

Dick Grieves '60 shared an amusing story about one of Blair's escapades during in his Nassoon days: "It was probably in 1959 or 1960 when we sang for some black tie function in the Short Hills area. Some of the guys were overnight guests at an alum's home in the vicinity. At some very late hour, H. Blair was found by the local police cruiser walking about the very quiet and dignified streets of Short Hills in his tux pants—with no jacket or shirt. Since he hadn't a clue as to where he was staying, the very helpful and friendly lawmen invited him "downtown" for the rest of the evening. Off we all went the next day to our next engagement. No harm, no foul..."



Kent Mullikin '64 recalls, "Blair was a senior when I came into the group as a freshman, and he seemed to me a full-fledged adult. I was impressed by the tattoo—a bird in flight—on his chest, and I assumed that he had spent time in the Navy before going to Princeton. He set me straight when we all got together Charleston in 2007, explaining that he and [famous sportswriter] Frank Deford ('61) had gone up to NYC one weekend and had dared each other to get tattooed. We had a good talk, and it was one of the things I enjoyed most about the reunion. I came away with a much better sense of Blair Klein. He still seemed entirely a grown-up."

Bob Taylor '59 was looking forward to sharing Blair's company in Tucson (where Bob has a winter home). "Blair's love for the West sewed its final seeds in Tucson where he bought a vacation home that I don't believe he ever got to use, as shortly thereafter he became ill. He remained the elegant man he was in the younger days when we all knew him well. Elegant, unique and remarkable."

Dunc Dempster '59 reflected: "Blair is etched well in our ears and hearts and minds as that smooth, laid back, easy-going, unpretentious bass, whose presence was all too frequently an absence...but never a loss. Now, too late, Blair is lost to us, and we long to see and hear and have him in our midst again."

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Remembering...

William A. Buell Jr. '46

One of our revered early Nassoons—and perhaps the embodiment of Princeton's creed, "In the Nation's Service"—**Bill Buell '46** passed away on November 1, 2011 at the age of 86.

Bill attended St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island and matriculated at Princeton as a member of the Class of '46. During WWII, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a fighter transport pilot. Released from active duty in China in 1946, he became a pilot for a Chinese civil airline. Following the war he graduated from Princeton and from Georgetown University where he earned a master's degree in international affairs in 1950.



Bill entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1951 and served for four years at the American Embassy in Warsaw as chief of the economic and political sections. Later, he was a political officer in Taipei, an economic officer in Hamburg, an embassy

liaison officer and a political counselor in Brussels, deputy chief of mission in Togo, and supervisory consul general in Paris. In 1965, following a year at the Naval War College in Newport, Bill was made director of the Polish Language Service of the Voice of America. He subsequently took charge of Polish affairs in the U.S. Department of State and then became director of the Office of Northern European Affairs.

For two years following his retirement from the Foreign Service, Bill was a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III (D-Ill.). In August 1977, he became director of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Inc. in Munich. Reassigned to Washington in 1979, he became senior vice president of the corporation.

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Kent Mullikin '64 Honored by the National Humanities Center

(Former Music Director and revered Nassoon arranger Kent Mullikin '64 will be retiring this spring after 36 years of service with the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. NHC recently announced the creation of a permanent fellowship in Kent's name to honor his achievements and lifetime of service. Below in its entirety is the press release announcing the new Kent R. Mullikin Fellowship.)

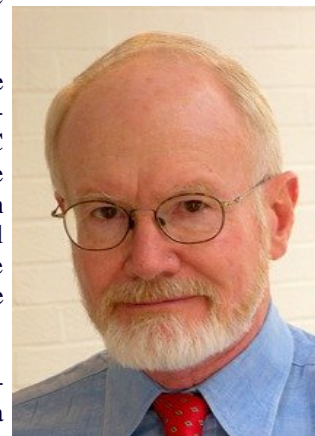
National Humanities Center Announces New Fellowship Honoring Deputy Director Kent Mullikin

News Release Date: October 21, 2011

Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Celebrating its long-time vice president and deputy director, the National Humanities Center (NHC) has announced the establishment of the Kent R. Mullikin Fellowship for scholarship in the humanities. The Mullikin Fellowship will be awarded annually to a distinguished scholar selected by the Center's fellowship selection committee on the merits of his or her research and demonstrated scholarly achievement. The Fellowship, which honors Dr. Mullikin for his service to the humanities and his remarkable dedication to the Center and its Fellows for over 30 years, has been funded by donations from a group of anonymous philanthropists and matching funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It is the second of four new fellowships the Center hopes to endow through its capital campaign, which had its public launch on October 20, 2011.

Educated at Princeton University, Dr. Mullikin received his Ph.D. in English Literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has served on the staff of the National Humanities Center since its founding in 1976. Since that time, he has worked with five NHC presidents and, as director of the Fellowship Program, has presided over the selection of more than 1,300 scholars for highly-coveted residential fellowships at the world-renowned research institute. Successive classes of Fellows have been impressed not only by Mullikin's personal care and interest but by his ability to recall details about nearly every scholar who has come to work at the Center for the past 35 years. Mullikin has announced that he will retire at the end of the current fellowship year, in June 2012.



Kent Mullikin

"Kent Mullikin's contributions to the National Humanities Center are too numerous to recount," says Geoffrey Harpham, president and director of the Center, "but this fellowship is a fitting tribute to the unflagging effort he has made on behalf of scholars and scholarship in this country. While we will miss his daily presence in the years to come, the Mullikin Fellowship will be a constant reminder of those qualities which he brought to the task—personal devotion, intellectual enthusiasm, and conviviality."

The first recipient of the fellowship will begin work at the Center in the fall of 2012.

About the National Humanities Center

The National Humanities Center, located in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina, is a private, non-profit institute for advanced study in the humanities. It is the only such institute in the world to be dedicated to the humanities. Since it opened its doors in 1978, the Center has provided residential fellowships to more than 1,300 scholars from all parts of the United States and from three dozen other nations. Up to forty Fellows are chosen annually to pursue their own research and writing and to benefit from the exchange of ideas with colleagues during an academic year at the Center. The Center is also a national leader in humanities education.

(Reacting to the announcement, the ever-modest Kent shared this with your editor: "Nothing could please me more than a lasting identification with an institution I have loved for 35 years. I am all the while aware that if you work for a place a long time you outlast a lot of people and get credit for what they did.")

I'm sure everyone in the Nassoon family joins in congratulating Kent on this wonderful and well deserved honor. Ed.)

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Remembering...Blair Klein, *continued...*

Finally, *Richard Peterson '60* offered: "There's a great spirit gone. I always marveled at Blair's good cheer and dignity. I only wish we could have heard him sing the solo I arranged for and dedicated to him, 'Don't Fence Me In' -"

*I want to ride to the ridge where the West commences,
Stare at the moon until I lose my senses.
Can't look at hobbles and I can't stand fences.
Don't fence me in.*

A fitting epitaph for a very special, and unique, Nassoon.

Nassoons: Men of Steel!

Duncan Andrews '72 reported on a recent incident featuring our esteemed thespian 'Soon, *Stephen Bogardus '76* and his apparently "rock solid jaw." Bogie is currently appearing in the play "God of Carnage" in Boston. As the *Boston Globe* reported,

"Don't mess with Johanna Day. The actress slapped her 'God of Carnage' costar Stephen Bogardus so hard during the fight scene of Saturday's Huntington Theatre matinee that the evening performance had to be canceled at the last minute. According to a Huntington spokeswoman, Day was in so much pain after delivering the slap that she was taken to Mass General, where her hand was found to be broken. Day doesn't have an understudy, so the show did not go on. (For the record, Bogardus is just fine...)"

To Andrews, this is just one more piece of evidence that Nassoons are "tough as nails!" And *Chuck Goldberg '71* chimed in, "If I had a nickel for every time that has happened with ex-wives and girlfriends...You go, Bogie!!!"

News From the 'Soon Room, *continued...*

In addition to our spring break tour to Europe, we are excited to be singing at Georgetown's "Cherry Tree Massacre" a cappella festival in February, a Princeton Club of New York show organized by *Robert Olson '11* in March, and numerous shows in Princeton, on campus and off. If you'd like to see the Nassoons in your neck of the woods during our 2012-13 touring season, please email our tour manager, *John Whelchel '15* at jwhelch@princeton.edu.

Remembering...Bill Buell, *continued...*

Bill retired from Radio Free Europe in August 1987 and moved back to home to Rhode Island where he later served as a consultant to the International Rescue Committee of New York, which administers medical assistance programs in Poland and Russia.

Bill was a sailor, skier, and amateur radio operator. He served as a navigator in ocean races and on two trans-Atlantic sailing passages. And in his heart, he was a singer, lending his trademark baritone not only to the Nassoons but to choirs and glee clubs, including the Cathedral Choral Society of Washington and the Adolphina Maennerchor of Hamburg.

In retirement, Bill served as a volunteer and board member of Hospice Care of Rhode Island, the Preservation Society of Newport County, and the Redwood Library in Newport. In 1992, he joined the Board of Trustees of St. George's School and was elected an honorary trustee in 2006. There he was perhaps most notably the guiding spirit and champion of St. George's longstanding summer program for disadvantaged local children. At a ceremony in 2002, Bill was honored with the John B. Diman Award, St. George's highest alumni honor.

Rich McGlynn remembers... "Bill served as President of the Nassoons in his senior year. He was a wonderful guy, full of life, with great memories of his time at Princeton. He was interviewed with a group of Nassoon alumni a few years ago and enthusiastically shared those memories with us on videotape for posterity. The Nassoons from the late '50s and early '60s will gather in Newport next fall for a mini-reunion and hope during that event to sing at St. George's School where Bill made so many significant contributions during his lifetime. If that event happens, Bill, for sure, will be fondly remembered."

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Dinner this spring, and we will have copies of our newest album, *Nassoons 2012*, for sale there. If you can't make it to the dinner, please email nassoons@princeton.edu to order your copy! If you have any suggestions or leads for the current group, please feel free to email me at cbrownel@princeton.edu. SFC.