

NEW PRESIDENT!

Dick Baldwin, longtime Western New York FFS State Rep., has been named President of the Four Freshmen Society to succeed veteran leader Tom Purvis for the leadership of the Society's many volunteers promoting the advancement of the Four Freshmen. He assumed his new administrative role in October under President Purvis.

Baldwin has indicated that he anticipates no major alterations of the organizational status of current Society structure; however, he relates that he does intend to recruit more FFS personnel for key roles in one of the nation's top support groups of active performing jazz vocal group musicians.

The innovator of "Fresh Talk" at convention/reunion events, Dick is retired from sports and general public relations positions at St. Lawrence University (Canton, NY), Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH) and the State University of New York at Buffalo. After departing Dartmouth, Dick later crossed paths again off campus with Big Green graduate Alan MacIntosh who became a member of the Four Freshmen in 1994.

A St. Lawrence '54 graduate, he was in radio following his college career before serving in the Army at KTAH, Honolulu. Baldwin actually started a radio career in 1948 while at Burlington (VT) High School. He had his own sponsored scholastic sports show in his hometown in 1949. Then he spent four years at SLU on KSLU, the first college radio station in the nation (1934), from 1950-54, announcing both sports and doing DJ programming.

It was during his Army time in Hawaii that Dick first met Bob Flanigan in 1957, while the Frosh were playing the Waikiki La Yee Chi on the Strip, a popular dining/night spot. The Freshmen entertained the troops in the post theatre at Tripler Army Hospital during their Waikiki stay. Baldwin emceed the show on radio.

After the military Dick graduated with a master's in television from Syracuse U. and settled in Burlington with Carolyn in 1958. His 7:15 to midnight M-F show, "Easy Street" on WJOY (ABC) featured the "Easy Street" track from Five Trumpets as its theme. The Capitol Records sales reps liked Dick's approach - the Freshmen called him on the air and George Shearing cut five promo-program tracts to boost the "Street." (Note - IVI has and still does manage Mr. Shearing). He also did commercials on WCAX-TV (CBS) for the then "Game Of The Week."

A football coach classmate from SLU interested the Baldwins to return to campus in sports PR late in 1960. It was a major redirection, but Dick stayed in tune with jazz and the Freshmen. He's always retained a Stan Kenton connection with a lengthy list of June Christy, who he also shared the mike with in Hawaii. As a big band advocate, two of his best occasions are when the Count Basie or Woody Herman Orks are in his neighborhood, plus, of course, any major assembly of Kenton alumni.

Baldwin is the fifth Society president. He says his ongoing FFS theme remains -

IT'S A BLUE WORLD,
WITHOUT YOU ALL!

WOW! What a GREAT day - October 25th 2005 was!

by Beth Peters

Those of us Four Freshmen Fans in Central Florida were looking forward to the two concert events in The Villages, and waiting for the ticket announcement schedule with baited breath. Two, count 'em, TWO concerts by our favorite group!!! AND at the prime spot for an event like this - the Savannah Center, a fantastic venue seating over 800 people! With LOTS of parking! Could it get any better?

We were suffering through myriad tropical depressions, hurricanes and rain, rain, rain for what seemed eons! The prospect of glorious music, fun repartee, and seeing the "Boys" was just grand. The opening act...a Tribute to Stan Kenton...with a BIG BAND, was a delightful bonus treat, and well received. But the hurricane had decimated most of the area where LOIS FRYE and BARBARA DANA lived...had turned and backed around, spewing more angst and devastation. They had been scheduled to come and "man" the FFS information and CD Table for the guys. The Trafford and Camlin Contingent present were ready to do service if necessary, so when, during the "Charming Chit-chat" repartee between the boys and the audience got to the point where they asked if there were any FFS/FRESHMEN FANS present...Chick Trafford's sister (Beth Peters)...to the utter embarrassment of Christopher and Cathy Trafford...called out that "the Traffords and Camlins are here!"...it sort of blew the top off things! (My brother told me...Never to do that again!), but I am so glad I did, because the Group looked for us afterwards, seemed to be amenable for us...the Camlins and Traffords...to take a hand with the CDs table during the break, and then again after the second concert, so the Greatest group could meet, talk with and sign autographs for the fans there. They didn't have to worry about taking the monies for the CDs, knowing that they were secure. Beth had done similar service in California when there was shortage of FFS assists, so Bob, Brian, Vince and Curtis knew they could count on us.

Helen and Bruce Camlin had to leave after the break, but were tremendously helpful. When we finally left the Savannah Center to get a bite to eat, we were jazzed and energized completely! Imagine walking into a Denny's, finding others who had attended the event, sharing banter and happiest memories of the night...and then looking up and seeing the dear Freshmen - IN PERSON - coming into the restaurant for food, too! Well, even THEY have to eat something! They expended a tremendous amount of energy during the shows and were very gracious and charming, as always.

What a wonderful evening it was! We were privileged to be able to be present and a part of a very special event for us. This AFTERGLOW is just that. Special!!!

Thank you for the opportunity, fellas! See you again, SOON!