

Sophomore Meets Freshmen at Ball State University

by Marlene Lobsiger

When the Four Freshmen stepped onto the stage in Pruis Hall, Ball State University, January 19, 2017 for the premier performance of Group 25 there was thunderous applause, and unknown to anyone including the Four Freshmen, the granddaughter of Hal Kratzsch, one of the original Four Freshmen, was in the audience. Megan Kratzsch is from Warsaw, Indiana and a sophomore student at Ball State University.

How did we learn that Hal's granddaughter was there? Only a few minutes before the Four Freshmen entered the stage a note was handed to them indicating that Megan was in the audience. Bob Ferreira had just finished singing a beautiful bass solo when he said, "I am a bit nervous tonight ladies and gentlemen. I just found out that Megan Kratzsch, Hal Kratzsch's granddaughter is here tonight. Hal was the Four Freshmen's original bass singer and was the absolute best, if you ask me. So the fact that I am performing for Hal's granddaughter tonight is a bit intimidating. Megan, would you please stand up wherever you are?" With that said, a poised, smiling young girl stood up and waived her arms. The audience applauded and warmly embraced her with a cheer.



After the performance we caught up with Megan in the lobby. I asked her, "Aren't you proud knowing that your grandfather was one of the young men who started this fabulous group?" She responded by saying, "I am so honored to be his granddaughter. I only wish I could have met him."

Megan's home is in Warsaw, Indiana where she lives with her parents Karen and Kurt Kratzsch, her twin brothers, and younger sister. Her grandmother, Hal's wife Betty, also resides in Warsaw, Indiana.

A large number of Four Freshmen Society members traveled to Muncie, including David Bentley from Connecticut, to hear the premier performance of the Four Freshmen

Group 25. Everyone came away fulfilled by those great traditional Four Freshmen vocal harmonies, and we look forward to hearing them for many years in the future. Thanks Group 25.



Third and Last Part of The Quiz

by Natalie Bruso and Kathy Feese

33. Which of the following unfortunate circumstances did the Freshmen *NOT* perform under?
- Bob Flanigan performed with a bee inside his ear in Palm Springs, 1951
 - Rod Henley performed with a dislocated shoulder in Ohio, 1983
 - Ross Barbour performed wearing his pajamas under his stage clothes due to a severe sunburn in Hawaii, 1963
34. In which California town did all Four Freshmen finally resettle and buy homes in 1965?

35. What 1999 book contains the following quote "the three camouflaged men (Tahara, Kondo, and Nomura) extended their right arm in unison, like the Four Freshmen or some other vocal group striking an impassioned pose for a song's climax..."
36. Name the album cover that depicted a cartoon by the famous BC Cartoonist Johnny Hart.
37. Which Freshmen first introduced the keyboard into the Freshmen sound?
38. Which long time Freshmen supporter was instrumental in revitalizing the group in the early 90s?
39. What song was and did the Freshmen perform for their first choreographed "music video"?
40. Guess how much each Freshmen receive for their first royalties check from Capitol Records.

33. b) Rod Henley performed with a dislocated shoulder in Ohio, 1983 34. Granada Hills 35. Battle Royale by Koushun Takami (Japan) 36. The Four Freshmen Live @ Butler University 37. Ray Brown, in 1973 38. Dave Bentley 39. Poinciana 40. \$41.00 each

Answers for the quiz