

## New Member!



Dr. Janie Wilson, a new Four Freshmen Society member, attended the Bowling Green concert on April 6. Her first FF concert was in Indianapolis in the fall, with her parents Bob and Beverly Meyer, who are already members. Janie plays piano, guitar, and sings in a contemporary Christian band in her church in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

## “Just 4 Kicks” kicks off

### Jazz Festival at Western Michigan University

KALAMAZOO - The a capella sensation “Just 4 Kicks” returned to the Western Michigan University campus Friday, March 18, at 8:15 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

“Just 4 Kicks” first performed at WMU in 1999. Its March 18 concert served as the opening event for the 25th annual Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, which continued all day Saturday.

Four uniquely talented and musically successful vocalists from the West Coast, each with independent careers in the music industry, were thrust together at several Northwest jazz festivals in 1993, and a quartet emerged:

“Just 4 Kicks” Kirby Shaw, from Ashland, OR, is one of the most well-known choral and vocal jazz composer/arrangers of our time. Randy Crenshaw is among the first-call studio singers and arrangers in Los Angeles. Four Freshmen alumnus Kirk Marcy directs the internationally-acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble Soundsation at Edmonds Community College, just north of Seattle. Vijay Singh, widely known for his versatility as a composer, arranger, soloist and director of the vocal jazz program at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA, rounds out the quartet.

“Just 4 Kicks” began as a diversion from the active careers of its members. Now, to their great surprise and delight, this talented group finds itself in demand at jazz festivals and clinics throughout the United States and Canada.

**Media contact:** Kevin West - 269-387-4678  
[kevin.west@wmich.edu](mailto:kevin.west@wmich.edu)

## Some stuff from “Fearless Leader”

### Tom Purvis

It is now time for me to catch up a bit with some commitments that I introduced in previous issues of FRESH NEWS.

First, and probably most important, my plea for sponsors to host a 2006 convention has resulted in a positive response. I received indications of interest from several members, and now anticipate a formal proposal with important details very soon. It is therefore assured that there will be future conventions and the 2006 party will be in Pittsburgh in August. The Western Pennsylvania planning group is well along with finalizing details and includes several prominent FFS members in key positions. It is my hope that one or more of the other interested areas will continue to plan and possibly be in a position to host a convention in 2007 or beyond. We will provide all important details in the October issue of FRESH NEWS.

A few months ago I mentioned our intent to offer a special Four Freshmen recording of our National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. Well, it is a bit later than I intended but it is now available! It is a single song CD specially packaged in a self mailer for easy distribution. Now as a well-known Texan used to say...“here’s the deal.”

In July we will mail a complimentary copy to all registered family addresses who attended the 2004 convention in Grand Rapids. The 2004 convention was a rousing success and turned a profit for the Society, thus a modest token of our appreciation to those who contributed to this success. Additionally, we will include a free copy with every order to our Music Mart for two (2) or more items. In the event that you wish to purchase only the National Anthem CD, an acappella arrangement, the cost for a single copy will be \$5.00, or, if you want to circulate some copies to your local radio stations, we offer five (5) copies for \$20.00 with postage included. It is our intent to get a lot of copies in circulation soon.

We are now offering, for the first time, a printed copy of an alphabetical listing of every song recorded by the FOUR FRESHMEN! This listing was researched and cataloged by Society member Bob Matkins. This is an update of an earlier list, by song title, and adds recent Freshmen recordings. It has been available from our website but I thought that a “hard copy” would be appropriate for those who may be technically challenged. The cost through our Music Mart is \$15.00 including postage. It is a bound printing of about 100 pages. Very handy when arguing specifics with old-timers with fuzzy memories. This valuable reference identifies authors, arrangers, record labels, recording dates, release dates, etc. etc.

The IN SESSION CD has been selling well through our Music Mart and from the Four Freshmen at concerts. FFS distributed approximately 100 copies to magazines, radio programming consultants, radio stations and even a few newspapers. We have had frequent reports of radio play and several selections are heard regularly on the digital TV Music Choice, Singers and Standards channel. Additionally we have had inquiries from two record labels indicating interest. One good result of our efforts, the May Issue of JazzTimes included a very positive review of this new recording.