



**In this issue**

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>APSURA events for fall</i>	2
<i>Convocation and picnic</i>	2
<i>Bike ride fundraiser</i>	2
<i>Greenway nature walk</i>	3
<i>Trip to Fall Creek Falls</i>	3
<i>HR seminar for retirees</i>	4
<i>Lunch and Roxy play</i>	4
<i>Holiday dinner/concert</i>	4
<i>Dinner and Messiah</i>	5
<i>Other Fall venues</i>	5
<i>Do we just fade away?</i>	6
<i>Treasurer's report</i>	7
<i>Publication information</i>	7
<i>Registration form</i>	8



*Photo: Summertime on the Ashland City Rail-trail.*

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## From the President

**Al Bekus**

Greetings to all APSU retirees. The APSURA Board and I hope you have had a good summer, and that in spite of the heat you have been able to enjoy some of our beautiful local greenways and other outdoor activities.

As we begin our third year with the publication of this newsletter we have included a schedule of events for the next five months. We hope that you will take the opportunity to participate in some of these activities. The Board of Directors continues to work on and plan activities that all retirees can enjoy. If you have suggestions and recommendations for activities and for scheduling events please let us know by emailing secretary Hester Crews at [crewsh@charter.net](mailto:crewsh@charter.net) or publicity director Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu).

We are always trying to attract more retirees to join APSURA. Each year our numbers have grown, and we are very excited about our increasing membership. I think it is important for retirees to remember that we are still a vital part of this university. We all in our own way have played a significant role in making Austin Peay what it is today, and the University has given us faculty in particular a great deal by affording us the opportunity to teach and to do research in our various disciplines that we love. We can continue our involvement with Austin Peay by joining APSURA.

We are also hopeful that we can increase revenues in our scholarship fund. Notice that you can add a donation for the scholarship fund on your APSURA membership registration form. We are looking forward to the day when APSURA can offer its first scholarship. Lifetime membership dues go directly into the scholarship fund.

We would also like to know what you are doing with your new-found freedom. A brief description would be welcomed into the pages of our newsletter. For example, Joe Filippo wrote about his teaching experience in Turkey and Aleeta Christian about her experiences and friends in Japan. So, who out there has a story to tell? A hole in one? A personal best? An exciting trip? A new discovery? Still active, doing what? Or perhaps you simply wish to locate or touch base with former colleagues and friends through our newsletter. Where are you, and how are you enjoying your retirement? Let us know.

I would also like to welcome Phil Kemmerly to the Board of Directors. Phil just retired at the end of Summer I, and he immediately became a Board member. Phil, we are looking forward to working with you.

In conclusion, we usher in the new year with the President's annual convocation address at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24 in the MMC concert hall, and the picnic immediately following (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) in the grove of trees behind Marks. Attending the convocation is a great way to keep up with what is going on at the Peay, and, of course, the picnic is always a great time to visit with friends and colleagues. We will have a retirees table identified at the picnic. We hope to see you there as part of your summer activities.

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### *APSURA events for Fall 2011*

#### **Wednesday, Aug. 24: Annual convocation and picnic**

President Hall invites all retirees to attend the annual convocation at 10 a.m. in the MMC concert hall, and the annual picnic at 11 a.m. behind the Marks Building. The picnic especially provides an excellent opportunity to greet old friends and to meet new members of the APSU community. APSURA will have a designated table with some information especially for those retiring soon. We will look forward to seeing many of you there.

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#### **Saturday, Sept. 3: Sunrise Bike Tour as APSURA fundraiser**

APSURA volunteers are needed to help with the Sunrise Century Bike Tour as a scholarship fundraiser. The Sunrise Rotary Club Annual Bicycle Rally will be on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011, starting from Rossvie High School. The Rotary will make a donation to the APSURA scholarship fund in an amount to be determined by the number of volunteers and the success of the rally. The rally usually has approximately 1000 riders. Volunteers working the registration desk will work from 5:30 a.m. until approximately 8 a.m. People working the rider rest stops will work from approximately 7 a.m. until about noon. Volunteers working the rest stops hand out snacks, water and drinks. My wife and I have worked this rally several times in the past, and it is a fun social activity of meeting some fascinating people. To volunteer please call our treasurer, Al Irby, at 931-552-0208, or by email at [jairby@charter.net](mailto:jairby@charter.net) and help us increase our scholarship fund. Gerald Beavers



## Saturday, Oct. 1: Greenway Nature Walk

On Oct. 1, Dr. Dwayne Estes of the APSU Biology Department will lead a nature walk along the Clarksville Greenway from 8:30 -10 a.m. The Clarksville Greenway access point is located at the end of Polard Road off Peacher's Mill Road, where we will meet at 8:15. Dr. Estes will discuss the trees and other plant species both in a modern and ancient context. This is a beautiful time of year for a leisurely walk after the heat of summer is waning. Come join us, and after the walk members will be encouraged to meet at Silke's for lunch around 11:30 a.m. For further information contact Phil Kemmerly at [tngologist@usit.net](mailto:tngologist@usit.net) or 931-645-6905.



*Photo:  
Clarksville  
Greenway*

## Oct. 15-16: Weekend trip to Fall Creek Falls State Park to enjoy the autumn colors

We are traveling to Fall Creek Falls on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15-16, historically the best time to enjoy the fall colors. APSURA will reserve a block of rooms on Sept. 16, to get the reduced rates for state employees and retirees, but you will need to make your own specific reservation for that Saturday night, Oct. 15. This reservation can be made any time after Sept. 16.

Meals also qualify for a senior discount. Call FCF at 1-800-250-8610 for reservations and mention that you are with the APSU Retirees Association. Please notify me after you have booked your reservation, so we can have an accurate count of those going ([bekusa@apsu.edu](mailto:bekusa@apsu.edu)). We plan to meet in the hotel restaurant at noon for lunch and then enjoy the colors. To check out the park on the web, just Google Fall Creek Falls State Park, Tennessee. Final information on arrangements will be available the week before the trip.



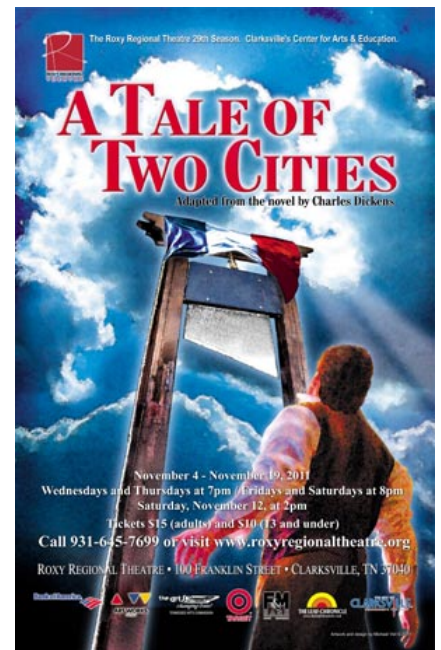
*Fall events, continued***Thursday, Nov. 3: APSU retirement seminar**

On Thursday, Nov. 3, Human Resources and APSURA will conduct the annual seminar/workshop for all personnel planning on retiring soon. The seminar will be in the MUC 305 from 2-4 p.m. APSURANS are encouraged to attend this event to help as needed, and to answer questions new retirees might have for those of us who have experienced the process first-hand. This seminar has been very valuable to those who have attended in the past, and those already retired have also found it a rewarding experience. Please notify APSURA secretary Hester Crews at crewsh@charter.net if you can plan to attend, so we will have an idea of the number to expect and what kinds of particular expertise you will bring to consulting with those newly retiring.

**Saturday, Nov. 12: Lunch at The Blackhorse and *A Tale of Two Cities* at the Roxy**

Some say the past is dead, but others say it's "recalled to life"! APSURANS, it is time for lunch at the Blackhorse and a rendezvous with Dickens at the Roxy. Let us meet at the Blackhorse Pub, 131 Franklin St., for lunch and conversation at noon on Saturday, Nov. 12. Then we'll "hie us" to the Roxy just down the street at 101 Franklin for a 2 p.m. curtain call for "the moving and exciting story of Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay, the English lawyer and French aristocrat caught up inextricably in the violence and bloodshed of the Revolution." *A Tale of Two Cities* comes to life.

By Monday, Nov. 7, call Meredith Gildrie (931-648-4317) or email her at gildrie@att.net to reserve a place with the APSURA group. Tickets will be reserved with her credit card, so be ready to pay her \$15 per ticket by cash or check. All reservations are final at the Roxy. You can pay ahead with a check to Meredith at 330 Peterson Lane or Nov. 12 when she hands you the tickets at the Pub or in the lobby of the theatre. You may, of course, reserve your seats directly through the Roxy box office or online ([www.roxyregionaltheatre.org](http://www.roxyregionaltheatre.org)). However, this precludes any discount or assured seating with the group. If you need transportation or just want company for the ride, let Meredith know. She will try to arrange car sharing.

**Saturday, Dec. 3: Choral Holiday Dinner and Concert**

The annual Choral Holiday Dinner and Concert sponsored by the department of music will be held on Dec. 3 in the MUC ballroom, beginning at 6 p.m. This is a gala performance event with a formal dinner from 6 until 7 p.m., followed by the concert from 7 until 9 p.m. Ticket prices have not yet been announced but are usually around \$50.

APSURA is tentatively planning to reserve a table or two for this event. If you would like to join fellow APSURANS, please notify board member Ann Harris at harrisa@apsu.edu, and she will provide reservation and payment information, or you can reserve tickets directly with the music department at 931-221-7818.

This holiday event has been very popular and well-attended in years past as signaling the official beginning of the Christmas season at APSU, and we are happy the department of music has revived the custom for the enjoyment of the entire community.

## Thursday, December 15: Dinner in Nashville and Handel's *Messiah* at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center

One of the highlights of APSURA's past year was a night of dinner and a concert with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. We are looking forward to another enjoyable evening on December 15 at Sole Mio Italian restaurant and a performance of Handel's *Messiah* by the Nashville Symphony Chorus, led by our own George Mabry. We will convene at 4:45 p.m. at Sole Mio, just a block from the Schermerhorn Symphony Center at 311 Third Ave. South, for a leisurely dinner and a stroll to the SSC for the 7 p.m. performance. Then we will return to Sole Mio for dessert and the return to Clarksville.

Tickets for the performance at \$39.75 each will be available from APSURA, c/o Al Irby, P. O. Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044 until Oct. 1. Attendees will make their own dinner reservations for 4:45 p.m. at Sole Mio, 615-256-4013. Tell the Sole Mio desk that you will be with the Austin Peay group. Attendees will also provide their own transportation, though any of our board members will be happy to help you with car-pooling arrangements.

An easy way to Sole Mio from Clarksville is to stay on I-24 and take the Shelby Ave. exit. Turn left on Shelby, cross the Korean Veterans bridge, and continue through several lights to Third Avenue. Turn right onto Third, and Sole Mio is on your left, with free parking in back.



*Photo:  
Nashville  
Symphony  
Chorus di-  
rector  
George  
Mabry*

*Photo by  
Harry Butler*

## Other recommended entertainment venues for Fall 2011

As we know, there are now more possibilities than ever for quality entertainment right here in the Clarksville area. Whether one's tastes tend toward sports, music, theater, art, literature or quiet walks on inviting trails, every day presents an assortment of opportunities.

For sports, the APSU department of athletics offers a full complement of spectator and participatory events for our enjoyment. For music, there is a world of activity at APSU through the auspices of the music department and the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts. The Community Concert series, the Dimensions New Music series, the new and widely acclaimed Gateway Chamber Ensemble, and many faculty and student recitals present a wide selection of choices around the year for lovers of fine music. For theater, one can do no better than our own Roxy Regional Theatre, providing quality and varied theatrical productions here for decades, plus the many productions of the APSU Area of Theatre and Dance. For art, the art department sponsors regular revolving exhibits of work by nationally-known artists as well as faculty and student exhibits. For lovers of literature, the department of languages and literature along with the Center for Creative Arts sponsors regular readings by major figures and writers-in-residence. All of these venues can be located easily on Google.com.

For strolls in the out-of-doors the new Clarksville Greenway and Fort Defiance Pedestrian Trail as well as the nearby Ashland City rail-trail offer peace and tranquility in beautiful settings. Biking is also permitted on the Greenway and Ashland City trails. For beautiful drives through the countryside many of our rural roads as well as the gorgeous Natchez Trace Parkway offer limitless sightings of flora and fauna.

And then there is always Nashville. Chances are that whatever you find lacking in the Clarksville entertainment scene, Nashville will have it.

## Do we just fade away? Not if APSURA can help it.

Jim Clemmer

We know that the first half of General MacArthur's famous line to Congress was patently false. Old soldiers, like all of us, sooner or later die. But we wonder if the second half is not sometimes true. In retirement maybe we are healthy and lucky enough to have maintained a modicum of public identity through professional or club affiliations or a circle of friends. But what about the institution, our second home, to which we devoted countless hours over 30, or 40, or even 50 years? Does APSU remember us? Have we just "faded away"? Or, even worse, as the conclusion of the Hee Haw song put it, was it just "[pht] you was gone"?

Post-retirement work and occasional reunions with colleagues and students, as well as President Hall's fine holiday receptions, might have cushioned the blow, but I bet you still remember a somewhat hollow feeling as you handed your keys to Physical Plant and walked away from your office for the last time. We used to lament in a general way some loss of "institutional memory" at APSU. Our programs sometimes just vanished or morphed unrecognizably. And we often saw history repeat itself as old ideas took on new guises to present themselves as fresh. But only as we ourselves walked away that last time did we begin to realize in a most personal way not only that we had left APSU, but that APSU might also have left us.

The wife of a good friend emailed me recently to say that her husband was a bit perturbed that our newsletter mailing label had addressed him with her own former surname rather than his. I. e., after teaching at APSU for decades, even the cardinal feature of his existence here – his name – seemed to have disappeared! I did not tell her, but APSURA has had several problems of this kind. In spite of everyone's best efforts, and our incorporating every available list of former employees, in nearly every board meeting one of us will say "I ran into so-and-so at Kroger, and he (she) said he never receives anything from us or from APSU. Is his name on our mailing list?" And often the answer is No. This indeed amounts to "[pht] you was gone."

It is disconcerting to think that after we are handed off to TCRS, APSU's only official memory

of us might come down to a few lines of data on a machine buried away in the basement of Browning Building, and that even this sketchy record can become scrambled or lost entirely. Of course it can be said that this is the case with all institutions. They are made up of people, but they themselves have no brain in the human sense and therefore have nothing comparable to our personal awareness and memory of each other. Institutions at base are Dorothy's Scarecrow, usually sans benefit of any good-hearted little old man from Oz.

An equally poignant irony is that the public identity of institutions themselves often begins and ends with something so slight as a single memorable icon or logo. We were stunned recently to learn in a publications workshop just how close APSU came to losing its public identity in the attempt several years ago to do away with the little AP logo with which we are so familiar. Apparently, as on Madison Avenue, for any brand to survive it must constantly present to the public a single, very sharp and memorable focal point.

As our president Al Bekus points out so beautifully in his "From the President" column that begins this issue, the main purpose of APSURA is to remember, and to help you remember, that you are a continuing and important part of the APSU community. Each of us is much more than a few lines of code on a hard drive, or a name on an address label, however scrambled. We want you to join with us, if you have not already done so, through becoming a member of APSURA, and remembering to renew your membership every year.

As Al says, we would love to have you write letters and articles to us and for us and, if you are able, to participate in some of the events presented on the preceding pages. We will try, at the very least, to keep your name and address straight. But more importantly we will welcome the opportunity to think of you, to remember you, and to value you as a very real and very alive human being, not as a ghost from the past who has simply faded away. And, for APSU, maybe we can at least for a while stand in for that little old person from Oz.

## Treasurer's Report

Al Irby

We are happy to have received a number of membership renewals in recent weeks, though a few members have not yet renewed. Remember that the APSURA year runs from July 1-June 30, and that membership renewals are due as of July 1 each year. We are also happy to have two new lifetime members and other contributors to the scholarship fund. A contribution of \$500 (or more) to the APSURA Scholarship Fund entitles the contributor to lifetime membership. Scholarships will be awarded to the descendants of APSU faculty and staff.

### OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 7/1/2011	\$ 512.55
Revenue - deposits	\$ 2,197.25
Expenditures	\$ 1,600.14
Balance	\$ 1,109.66

### SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT

Beginning balance 7/1/2010	\$ 0.00
Revenue-deposits	\$ 965.00
Balance	\$ 965.00

Special note on the November newsletter: The November APSURA *Newsletter* will be devoted largely to travel stories. Submit tales of your travel adventures in formats described below by Oct. 20, 2011.

### Publication Information

*The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published monthly to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and Newsnotes are available at [www.apsu.edu/retirees-association](http://www.apsu.edu/retirees-association).*

*We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to Hester Crews at [crewsh@charter.net](mailto:crewsh@charter.net), to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu), or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the Newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries, and other experiences as APSU retirees.*

*Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) with photographs sent individually as separate jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, P. O. Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.*

*Please let us know of retirees who for some reason are not receiving the Newsletter, and of errors or needed changes in your own name and address. If you would prefer not to receive the Newsletter, please notify Hester Crews at the above address, and we will delete you from the mailing list.*

## Officers

Al Bekus, President  
Aleeta Christian, VP  
Al Irby, Treasurer  
Hester Crews, Secretary

## Directors

Ann Harris  
Meredith Gildrie  
Mitch Robinson  
Phil Kemmerly

Publicity Director  
Jim Clemmer  
[clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu)

## Address

APSU Retirees Association  
Austin Peay  
State University  
Box 4426  
Clarksville, TN 37044

## On the Web

[www.apsu.edu/retirees-association](http://www.apsu.edu/retirees-association)

See our website for late-breaking news on upcoming events, schedule changes, retirement benefits, and background information on the Retirees Association.



APSU Retirees Association  
Box 4426  
Clarksville, TN 37044

## APSURA Membership Registration form

Retired faculty or staff                       Associate member

Check both of the above boxes if your spouse is joining as an associate member as well.

Dr. \_\_\_ Mr. \_\_\_ Ms \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Other preferred title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street (Apartment Number)

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip Code

Home telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Former department: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of service \_\_\_\_\_ Year you retired \_\_\_\_\_

Activities in which you would like the APSURA to be involved (Check all that apply):  Group travel;  Athletic events;  
 Cultural events;  Social events;  Scholarship activities;  Seminars;  Community work;  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association are:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership  \$25.00      Please send to APSURA, P. O. Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044  
Associate Membership  \$25.00  
Additional donation for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_