



Volume 3, No. 3  
February 2012

## In this issue

*APSURANS celebrate  
Mabry milestone* 1

*The Cleveland Or-  
chestra excursion* 2

*Holiday Dinner and  
Concert*  
*Aleeta Christian* 2

*Gallery: APSURANS  
out on the town* 3

*From the President*  
*Al Bekus* 4

*Review: We Bought a  
Zoo*  
*Hester Crews* 5

*Review: A Brief His-  
tory of Medicine*  
*Al Bekus* 6

*Review: Caravaggio:  
a Life Sacred and  
Profane*  
*Dick Gildrie* 7

*Publication Informa-  
tion* 7

*George and Sharon Mabry  
at Sole Mio following the  
Messiah on Dec. 15.*

AP  
Austin Peay State University, a TBR  
institution, is an AA/EEO employer and  
does not discriminate on the basis of  
race, color, national origin, sex, disabil-  
ity or age in its program and activities.  
The following person has been desig-  
nated to handle inquiries regarding the  
non-discrimination policies: Director,  
Affirmative Action, P.O. Box 4457,  
Browning Building Room 7A, Clarksville,  
TN 37044, Phone: (931) 221-7178.

## Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



### APSURANS celebrate another Mabry milestone

On Dec. 15 a group of 17 APSURANS traveled to Nashville for dinner at the Italian restaurant Sole Mio and to hear the Nashville Symphony Chorus perform George Frederick Handel's *Messiah*, as directed by our friend and colleague George Mabry. This concert marked an important milestone for Mabry, as he had earlier announced his resignation from his position as director of the Chorus, effective Dec. 31. We were happy to share with George such a grand finale for this stage of his career. After the performance, George and Sharon returned with us to Sole Mio for dessert and congratulations, and lots of conversation about the olden days and their future plans.

The concert itself was a great success, with standing ovation and numerous curtain calls for George, the Chorus and Orchestra, and the four soloists from around the world whom George had chosen especially for this occasion. George has been known to say that he enjoyed his work with the Chorus so much that he would happily have done it for free -- the money was just a "nice bonus." And his obvious satisfaction with the evening's performance reflected delight with a job willingly and well done by all.

In answer to questions about his plans for the future, George said he was looking forward to devoting more time to composition. He has of course been a composer all along, as well as voice teacher, choral director and clinician, serving as musical director and composer at Opryland USA and most recently as creator of music for the major APSU production *Ben and the Virtues*. He says that while he has enjoyed his work with the Chorus immensely, the demands of the job have left him with little time for composition.

Upon exiting Sole Mio to a round of applause from his friends, George stopped at the door, turned around, and said, "Only one?" So we of course gave him still another curtain call. Again, we congratulate George on the completion of another phase in a wonderful career, and we wish him and Sharon well in all of their future endeavors.

## The Cleveland Orchestra and other coming events

A number of APSURANS will be traveling to Nashville in style on March 19 to hear The Cleveland Orchestra in concert at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. The Cleveland is one of the oldest and most respected ensembles in the country. For the first time we have been able to assemble a package including transportation via Jarmon Transportation, dinner at the upscale Arpeggio at the Center, and ideal front-balcony seats for the symphony, at a cost of \$122 per person, not including drinks and gratuities. This package will eliminate the hassle of driving into Nashville through rush-hour traffic, finding a rare and expensive parking spot close to the symphony center, and hustling from dinner to the Center. This should make for a virtually effortless evening of fun and inspiration.

The orchestra will be led by the director of the Nashville Symphony, Giancarlo Guerrero, in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral)*, the Grieg *Concerto for Piano* with pianist Gabriela Montero, and Respighi's beautiful *The Pines of Rome*. The previously-announced deadline for reservations and payment for this package is February 12, sent to Al Irby, Treasurer, APSURA, P. O. Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044. The first 30 fully-paid reservations will be guaranteed, with acceptance of further reservations based on availability.

Other events of interest to many APSURANS will be Community Concerts by Ensemble Amarcord (Feb. 17), the Jason Marsalis Vibes Quartet (March 31), and a final scheduled concert by the Gateway Chamber Orchestra (Apr. 23). These performances will all be in the MMC at 7:30. Admission to Community Concerts is \$25, and to Gateway Chamber Orchestra is \$15.

Recommended Roxy Regional Theatre productions for winter/spring include the musical *I Love You, You're perfect, Now Change*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Red Badge of Courage*. Some APSURANS will be going to Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* as a group on Thursday evening, March 15, preceded by dinner at the Blackhorse at 5 p.m. Call or email Meredith Gildrie at 931-846-4317 or Gildrie@att.net to reserve tickets (\$15). Meredith's daughter Evy will be starring in this production as the Queen.

APSURA has also scheduled an Earth Day walk on the Clarksville Greenway for April 21, and a nature walk with biologist Dr. Duane Estes on May 12. These will begin at 9:15 a.m. at the trailhead at the end of Pollard Rd., and be followed by brunch at Silke's. Please join us!

---

## A major success: The Holiday Dinner and Concert Aleeta Christian

"Success" is a colossal understatement! Many of your retiree friends attended the APSU music department's scholarship-benefit Holiday Dinner and Concert—we were the glittery ones—and were thrilled in every respect. While we enjoyed a scrumptious dinner of steak, salmon or chicken, we were royally entertained by more than 100 student singers accompanied by winds, brass and percussion. It was a memorable evening.

The program offered many favorites: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and "The Christmas Song," along with the popular "Baby it's Cold Outside." Lesser known selections such as "Shepherd in a Shade," performed by a guitar ensemble, a Hanakkah selection entitled "S'vivon," and a Nigerian song named "Betelehema" were beautiful and touched the heart. I especially enjoyed "Sing Joyfully" and a comedy rendition of "Little Saint Nick." The program closed with the singers stationed throughout the audience and joining together on "O Holy Night."

Dr. Korre Foster, Director of Choral Activities, deserves special recognition. His conducting was absolute perfection, and I appreciated his informally going from table to table during the dinner visiting with friends and patrons.

If you have not yet attended this special event, may I encourage you to put it on your 2012 resolutions list. It is such a special way to get into the holiday spirit.

Photos  
clockwise  
from left:  
Lu Annette  
and John  
Butler,  
Sharon and  
George  
Mabry,  
Floyd and  
Aleeta  
Christian,  
Al and  
Nancy Irby,  
Barbara  
Peterson  
and Ann  
Harris, Al  
Bekus and  
George,  
Phil and  
Kathryn  
Kemmerly,  
Jenny and  
Mitch Rob-  
inson





## From the President

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of our third year. At the annual membership meeting in June we will be electing officers and board members as their terms expire. We will also be reconstructing some committees and adding a new committee or two, as well as recommending revisions and amendments to our bylaws.

If any of you are interested in getting involved as officers, board members, or committee members, please let us know. We would love to see new faces with fresh ideas to keep us moving forward. I am also asking members to try to attend the general membership meeting in June. You will see more information forthcoming.

As this and past newsletters have illustrated, our organization is trying to reflect the needs and wishes of our retirees, become more involved in community programs, and more active in giving back to the University.

We have just completed our first stage of negotiations with Jarmon Transport to be our shuttle service for our increasing schedule of activities in Nashville for the coming year. We know that many retirees simply do not like to drive at night—especially in the winter months, and especially to Nashville—so this service will be beneficial for retirees who want to participate in our Nashville events but do not want to drive. Considering gasoline and parking costs, the shuttle price is extremely reasonable.

I believe many retirees will appreciate our new service and I encourage you to join our association and take part in our Nashville events. Our first shuttle trip with Jarmon will occur on March 19 when we attend the Cleveland Symphony concert at the Schermerhorn.

I would like to thank Angela Judish and Fonda Fields from Human Resources for their cooperation and work in scheduling and developing our Retirement Seminar on November 3, 2011. Angela did an excellent job advertising the seminar and getting all of the agencies involved in the retirement process to attend. I would also

## Al Bekus

like to thank Jim Clemmer, Hester Crews, and Meredith Gildrie for their attendance and contributions to the seminar. There was an excellent turnout of faculty and staff planning to retire and seeking vital information on such an important process.

At the December meeting the Board met with Nikki Peterson representing Alumni Relations, and we agreed to strengthen ties between the two organizations by exchanging information regarding events, travel, and related activities.

## National News

We are still working on our survey of what other retiree associations are doing throughout the US. For example, Cornell University's Encore Cornell Program provides retirees with employment opportunities, volunteer opportunities, as well as resource and enrichment opportunities. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) offers a course "Managing Across Generations," to help managers understand the benefits and challenges different generations bring to the workforce and how to cultivate an environment in which generations work together effectively. Many universities throughout the United States are actively offering a variety of innovative programs to benefit their retirees. We plan to do the same.

We are also making tentative plans for some of us to attend the 2012 national AROHE conference at Chapel Hill in North Carolina on October 21-24. Just as a reminder, the purpose of AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) is "to enhance, develop and advance campus retiree organizations that support the intellectual, social, and physical well-being of retirees and promote retirees' continuing contributions to the academic community." The national organization has approximately 190 institutions as members.

## State News

Last year the University of Tennessee Retirees Association (UTRA) contributed \$15,000 to the University's Campus Trust, donations that are



distributed to many of the local health and social service agencies and programs by specific designation on a pledge card—a grand idea to help community agencies do a better job.

East Tennessee State University Retirees Association (ETSURA) contributed \$9,500 to a similar program. ETSURA also has a memorial donations fund in which individuals are encouraged to express

their sympathy to the family of a deceased retiree or spouse by making a contribution to the ETSURA Scholarship fund. We will discuss this idea at our next Board meeting.

Don't forget to check out our *Newsletter* and *NewsNotes* on our Website for upcoming events and activities.

## Movie Review

### *We Bought a Zoo*: A surprisingly non-Disneyesque movie

Hester Crews

A holiday tradition of the Crews family is gathering the children, grandchildren, grandparents, parents, friends, in-laws and out-laws to enjoy a newly released movie. During the recent holiday we selected “We Bought A Zoo,” produced by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox and directed by Cameron Crowe, as our all-age-appropriate adventure.

The movie is a comedy/drama based on a memoir by Benjamin Mee, as adapted by Crowe from an original script by Aline McKenna.

Matt Damon stars as Benjamin Mee in a role not at all similar to what I think of Matt Damon portraying. Six months after the death of his wife, Mee quits his job and purchases a dilapidated zoo in his search of a new start for his family, including a pre-teen daughter Rosie, portrayed by the absolutely adorable Maggie Elizabeth Jones, and a teen son Dylan, portrayed by Colin Ford. The story revolves around their attempts to repair the zoo for its reopening.

As we filled the row—yes, the full row—at the theater we had our essential buckets of popcorn and drinks. My expectation was for an enhanced Disney-like kids’ movie—but oh was I wrong! I

don't want to give away too many details, but the father/son conflicts, the financial struggles of the Mee family, and the ever-convoluted romance were far from a Disney-esque kids’ movie.

I left the movie having experienced a variety of emotions producing everything from laughter to tears, all of which were intermingled in subtle lessons about sensitivity and relationships. There were moving insights on relating to one another, accepting one another, leaping across generation gaps, and life’s values in general.



I highly recommend this PG rated *We Bought A Zoo* not only for the kids but also for those of us who are kids at heart.

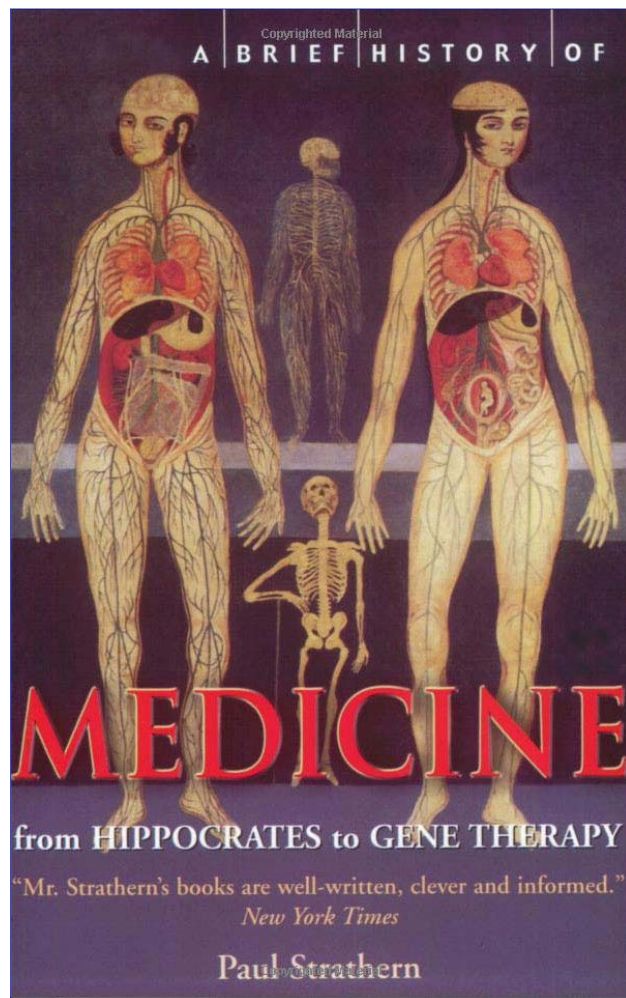
*A Brief History of Medicine from Hippocrates to Gene Therapy* by Paul Strathern (NY: Carroll & Graft, 2005). Reviewed by Albert Bekus.

For years I promised myself that I would fill a void in my education by learning about the history of medicine and the medical profession. I finally started my quest by reading Paul Strathern's *A Brief History of Medicine from Hippocrates to Gene Therapy*. Don't let the title fool you. The book's 414 pages do an excellent job covering the major moments in the progress of medicine through the ages.

The book has three areas of focus. First is the extraordinary progress of the medical profession and the benefits that have served humankind, a fascinating story of accomplishments by the many brilliant and committed doctors and researchers in the medical profession. Secondly, Strathern includes anecdotal accounts of the lives of over 150 medical pioneers, some of whom we have seldom heard, and the curious and often accidental circumstances under which they made many of their discoveries. Strathern's third focus is on the etymology and origin of medical vocabulary.

Medical practice from the time of Hippocrates to the end of the English Renaissance was slow and labored because of superstition, belief in the four humours, and the prohibition of dissection. As the English Renaissance came to a close, however, William Harvey's *De Motu Cordis* (concerning the motions of the heart) ushered in the age of modern physiology. The invention of the microscope and Anton Leeuwenhoek's discoveries in the "invisible world" dissolved many notions based on superstition and witchcraft.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century medical progress moved at an astonishing rate and in a variety of directions. Modern clinical pathology emerged; the roles of surgery, obstetrics, vitamin deficiency and vaccines were recognized; the stethoscope was invented. The publication of Darwin's *The Origin of Species* in 1859 would have a profound impact and radically inform medical thought in embryology and comparative anatomy. Anesthetics were discovered, and Louis Pasteur joined our pantheon of great figures with his work in germ theory. We move into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the accidental



discovery of X-rays, which led to Marie Curie's discovery of radioactive decay, the beginning of nuclear physics, and the founding of chemotherapy. Then there came the equally accidental discovery of penicillin and the astonishing beginning of organ transplants.

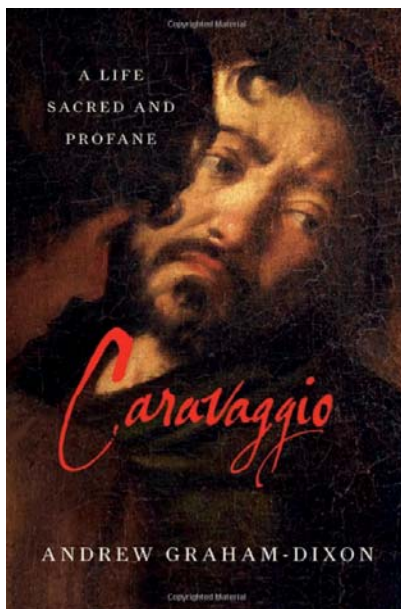
Medical researchers would then attack viruses. For their accomplishments on the polio vaccine, Salk and Sabin are still household names. Preventive medicine continued to make headlines with the introduction of the contraceptive pill. During the same era, however, humankind would face the possibility of new world pandemics in the form of AIDS and other newly recognized diseases. Strathern concludes his history with a discussion of the discovery and exploration of DNA. Strathern predicts that by 2030, there will be gene-based treatment for virtually all diseases.

I certainly chose the right book to introduce me to the history of medical progress through the ages.

Andrew Graham-Dixon, *Caravaggio: A Life Sacred and Profane* (NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010). Review by Dick Gildrie.

Michelangelo Caravaggio (1573-1610) was a perplexing artist of the Counter-Reformation who lived a short, violent life amid the streets, brothels, taverns, monasteries, and aristocratic houses of Milan, Rome, Malta, and Naples. His work combined a stunning realism with a depth of religious passion that sparked controversy in his time and critical confusion in ours. He is said, for instance, to have used the bloated corpse of a drowned prostitute as a model for depicting the death of the Virgin Mary.

Coming to grips with the life and art of such a character requires rare insight and scholarship. The author of this biography, whom Robert Hughes has called "the most gifted art critic of his generation," rose effectively to the challenge. Ten years of research in Italian municipal archives,



careful sifting of rumors and sparse evidence, and expertise in the artistic methods and conventions of that era eventuated in an illuminating portrait of a troubled man and a turbulent age. The result is a nuanced interpretation that transcends the common caricature of Caravaggio as romantic outlaw.

Caravaggio, in Graham-Dixon's view, was shaped by the Pauperist wing of the Counter-Reformation which stressed Christian identification with the poverty, suffering, and dignity of the common people, an approach that conflicted with the more aristocratic Mannerist style expressing the mystery, grandeur, and triumphalism of the Church. Caravaggio's flamboyant, combative personality both fired and complicated his art. Anyone interested in the Italian social and cultural scene during the age of Shakespeare and Cervantes should read this one.

## 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.*

## 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 or partner is joining as an associate member as well.

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

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

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

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

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

Telephones: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Associate Membership ☐ \$25.00

Additional donation for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to APSURA, P. O. Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044