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## Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



### "Straight Talk About Retirement" becoming signature event

The Office of Human Resources and APSURA will again this Nov. 18 present "Straight Talk About Retirement," a seminar for faculty and staff retiring soon and others interested in the topic. APSURANS are encouraged to attend to provide camaraderie and moral support to those contemplating retirement. This occasion is rapidly becoming a signature yearly event for HR, APSURA, and new retirees. The seminar will be held in MUC 305 from 3-5 p.m. Pre-registration is not required, but those planning to attend should notify Angie Judish at [judisha@apsu.edu](mailto:judisha@apsu.edu) or 221-7013 at their earliest convenience.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide essential information about major aspects of retiring and retirement. It will feature panelists on retirement procedure, transitioning from employee to retiree income, transitioning from employee medical and other insurance to Medicare and supplemental coverage, and the psychological stresses of retiring and retirement.

Panelists this year will include Dr. John Butler, Angie Judish of Human Resources, Kanika Coleman of TCRS, Rich Levine of TIAA-CREF, and Dr. LuAnnette Butler, Professor Emeritus of Psychology. Moderator and time-keeper will be Jim Clemmer. In keeping with the title of the seminar, panelists will focus on the more complex and difficult issues and decisions retirement entails.

The first hour will be devoted to ten-minute presentations of essential points by each panelist, and the second hour will be devoted to questions and discussion among attendees and panelists.

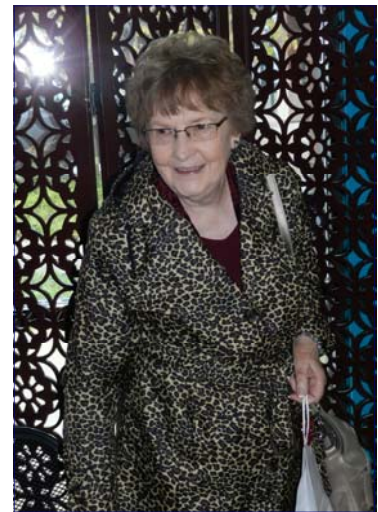
Human Resources and APSURA will welcome the participation of all who are contemplating or interested in retirement. New employees are especially encouraged to come, to gain early insight to concerns they will encounter down the road. Light refreshments will be served.

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*Gallery: More beautiful faces*





## Luncheon, train trip and Greenway walk enliven fall

Our Fall Luncheon at The Looking Glass on Oct. 15 was well attended. APSURANS enjoyed hearing President White discuss her opening months at APSU, and her love of—and competitive involvement with—fishing. She outlined her very favorable early impressions of a number of activities and initiatives at APSU, emphasizing her appreciation of the wealth of experience and wisdom our retirees represent.

Our Oct. 18 “Fall Foliage Train Excursion” on the Tennessee Central from Nashville to Cookeville and return was also a popular event. We were assigned to a dining car, which proved the ideal venue for moving around and socializing as we traveled. The “fall foliage” was not much in evidence because of the late autumn, but the many views of the winding Caney Fork river and green valley were spectacular. For miles the train traversed a narrow ledge with rock wall flat against one side and a precipitous drop to the valley floor on the other. The rejuvenated and attractive downtown Cookeville area around the old depot was delightful, with good restaurants (replete with fully-stocked bars) and small shops and parks within easy walking distance.

On our Oct. 25 nature walk we found that the Clarksville Greenway has become even more attractive as it has settled a bit further, with grass and other ground cover almost totally reclaiming the red mud shoulders left behind by the construction of the trail. Some of us walked a full four miles on the trail, while others preferred talking and looking to walking and covered much less distance. During the following brunch at Silke’s we were joined by Allene Phy-Olsen, Barbara Wilbur and Carmen Reagan.

These activities, plus the Rotary bikeride, the two conferences reported elsewhere, and numerous concerts, readings, and ball games, constituted a very full fall season for many APSURANS.



## Busy fall to conclude with holiday music, art and drama

In addition to our Nov. 18 seminar for new retirees, APSURANS are looking forward to our usual round of great Christmas music, art, plays, and receptions. On Friday, Dec. 5, APSU's Percussion Ensemble will present a "Percussion Christmas" at 7:30 p.m. in the Mabry Concert Hall, MMC. Admission, as traditional, will be \$3.00 or two cans of food, with no advance ticket sales.

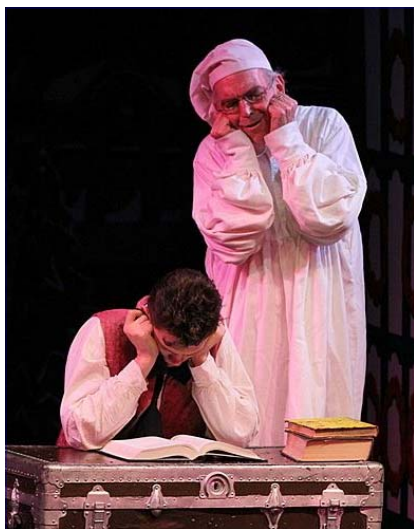
And on both Friday and Saturday nights, Dec. 5 and 6, the Music Dept. will present its annual Holiday Dinner, a formal gala, at 7 p.m. in the MUC ballroom, admission \$55. Request a reservation form from Dr.

Dr. Korre Foster

at [fosterk@apsu.edu](mailto:fosterk@apsu.edu) or from the music department office at 931-221-7818, and send it in by Nov. 19. APSURA will reserve a table for the Dec. 6 concert, and if you would like to be seated with us please write "seat with APSURA" on your reservation form and also notify Aleeta Christian at [christiana@apsu.edu](mailto:christiana@apsu.edu) of this request by Nov. 19.

On Thursday, Dec. 4, the Downtown Artists Cooperative (DAC) will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar with many one-of-a-kind and inexpensive Christmas gifts. On Sunday, Dec. 7, the Gateway Chamber Orchestra will present its annual Winter Baroque program at the Madison Street United Methodist Church at 3 p.m., and then on Tuesday, Dec. 9, the President's Open House for retirees will be

held at Archwood from 2:30-4:30 p.m. (RSVP to 931-221-7220 by Dec. 2). The Roxy Regional Theatre's musical *A Christmas Carol*, with John McDonald as Scrooge, will be presented Dec. 10-20, with the annual Roxy Gala "Christmas Over the Cumberland" held on Friday, Dec. 12.



*Thursday Art Walk at the Downtown Artists Cooperative*

*Ryan Bowie and John McDonald in A Christmas Carol, 2013. Photo by Bill Larson*

## APSURA represented at national and state meetings Jim Clemmer

Several APSURANS recently participated in meetings of the national Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) in Minneapolis and the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA) at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

Aleeta Christian, Hester Crews and I heard presentations on many topics of interest to APSURA Aug. 10-12 in Minneapolis, including sessions on wellness, using technology and social media to full advantage, and growing and maintaining retiree organizations. Hester and I conducted a well-attended session on planning and executing projects that appeal equally to staff and faculty retirees, focusing on last year's successful seminar "Straight Talk about Retirement." I also served as a table host on public relations, marketing and newsletters at a breakfast networking table.



*Minneapolis skyline seen from Hydrology Dept. installation on Mississippi River*



One especially memorable and informative AROHE event was a three-hour tour of Minneapolis, including a walk through the Univ. of Minnesota Hydrology Department's facilities located literally under the Mississippi River. We saw enormous tanks of flowing river water used to study delta formation, riverbank erosion, and fish populations. The tour also included a visit to one of 17 inner-city U. of Minn. community health care centers, where doctors told us of recent improvements made possible by the Affordable Care Act. The tour concluded with a drive-by of Mary Tyler Moore's house.



*Mural at inner-city medical center, Minneapolis*

Another unforgettable experience for seven of us was a late-night walking tour of the University campus under the bright light of the Aug. 11 Supermoon. A retired professor of microbiology narrated this extensive tour across a quadrangle totally devoid of students because we were there between sessions.

On Nov. 2-3, twelve APSURANS hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA) at Fall Creek Falls. Representatives of the retiree organizations at ETSU, UTK, UTC, APSU and the University of Memphis joined in sessions designed to help us get to know one another more fully and to share interests and concerns. On Monday morning Angie Judish, Benefits Manager of our Office of Human Resources, conducted an exploration of new developments in retiree insurance programs including Medicare, supplemental (POMCO and Advantage), Part D, indemnity policies (AFLAC etc.), and dental insurance. This presentation was especially well received, as attendees were unaware of a number of recent changes in these programs.



*Secretary Barbara Wilbur with APSURA display at THERA conference*



*Representatives from ETSU, UTK, UTC, UofM, and APSU at THERA conference, Nov. 2-3*



## From the bookshelf

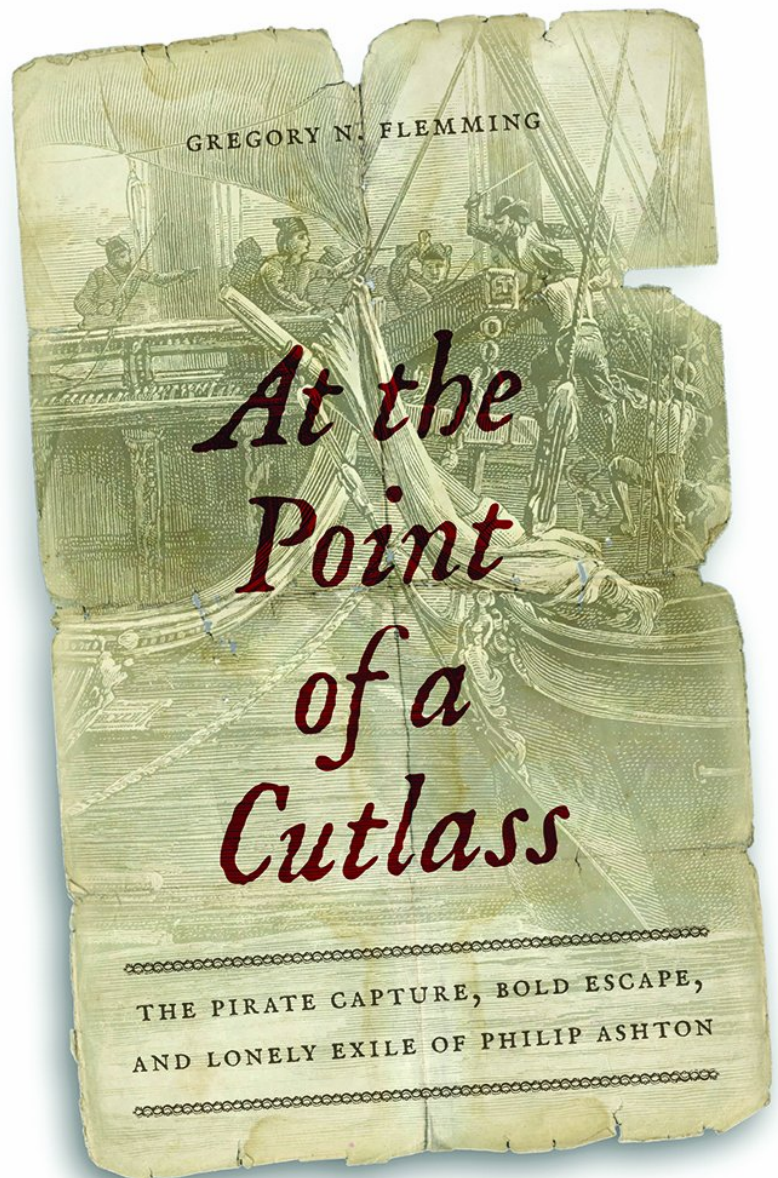
*Gregory N. Flemming, At the Point of a Cutlass: The Pirate Capture, Bold Escape, and Lonely Exile of Philip Ashton (Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2014). Review by Richard P. Gildrie.*

I confess to a life-long fascination with piracy, smuggling, and all manner of maritime skullduggery. My excuse, at least since college, has been an academic interest in the Atlantic world from 1350 to 1800. But now retired, I have lost that cover story. One holdover, however, is a strong preference for history over fiction. This book is one of the best of the former.

The work is based on the memoir, published in Boston in 1725, of a Marblehead fisherman captured off Nova Scotia in June, 1722. Being a young, unmarried able seaman, the fisherman, Philip Ashton, was forced to join the crew of one of the most vicious and successful pirate captains of that era, Edward Low. Thus began a two year saga of trans-atlantic voyages, sea fights, pillage, desert isles, gales, and general mayhem. The action ranges from the Azores, to the Bay of Honduras, and along the Atlantic coast from Florida to New England. The story combines elements of *Treasure Island* and *Robinson Crusoe*.

The author supplements the memoir with extensive research on the persons, places, and events relevant to the fisherman's narrative, rendering the book both lively and informative. In the course of his research, he also visited the sites, talked to local experts, and took pictures which add immediacy. For instance, young Ashton escaped his captors in the Bay of Honduras and took refuge on a string of barrier islands off modern Belize. There he remained for months, nearly as "marooned" as *Robinson Crusoe*. The accompanying photographs and maps of these tiny isles make the adventure even more stark and memorable.

This wild coastal landscape was a world of tough Logwood cutters, smugglers, pirates, and natives, all embroiled in violent clashes with nominal Spanish authority and frequently with each other. Because Logwood was a valuable commodity for dyeing fabric, small merchant ships from Jamaica and even New England frequented the Bay and, in turn, often became prey for pirates and the Spanish Coast Guard. In this Hobbesian environment, Ashton spent much of his time longing for rescue and dreading potential rescuers. His loneliness, ingenuity, escapes, and odd encounters are vividly portrayed. Fortunately the islands were too insignificant to attract much attention from characters bent on other missions. Eventually he made the right connection among the log merchants.



Another interesting facet of the work is its account of pirate life, done by centering on the career of his captor, Edward Low. Low, like most successful pirate leaders, often commanded not one but several ships in small flotillas. The politics of governing a disparate gang of rugged, desperate men, many of whom were dragooned, and then spread through two or more ships was a difficult, even delicate, business. A combination of rank intimidation, judicious division of booty, democratic consultation, and long established "custom of the Brethren of the Coast" — a sort of pirate "common law" — was essential to survival and is well described, usually by example rather than exposition. Also stressed was that the constant need for fresh water and safe harbor for repair governed the course of voyages as much as the search for prey. Indeed, it was that necessity that allowed Ashton's escape.

Finally, the book gives a good account of how and why Ashton's memoir was written and published soon after his return to Marblehead and of its reception in America and Britain. This story leads the author into a fine analysis of cultural politics within the burgeoning empire. The main character here is John Barnard, the minister of Marblehead, who was attempting to integrate that disorderly fishing outpost more fully and prosperously into the emerging cosmopolitanism of the Augustan empire. Philip Ashton was, for Barnard and subsequent readers, an exemplar of the brave, resourceful mariner who resisted the temptations of maritime outlawry and risked all for the benefits of a "civil," if not Puritan, life. It was an adventure with an imperial moral.

Reading this book was both an academic and a personal pleasure!

## 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@icloud.com](mailto:crewsh@icloud.com), 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, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.*

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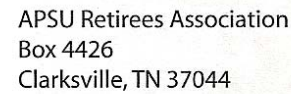
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*See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, a retirement checklist, and information on retiree benefits.*



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