



Volume 10, No. 1
October 2018

In this issue

A Cornucopia of Connections Events 1

APSURA Fall Luncheon on Oct. 30 2

Connections with Cindy Marsh, Nov. 27 3

Straight Talk about Retirement (STAR) Nov. 13 3

Is the Word 'Retirement' Obsolete?
Jim Clemmer 4

Gallery of Stars 5

Review of Why Religion Matters
Dewey Browder 5

APSURA members list 6

Publication Information 7

Registration Form 8

Photo: The cast of "An Elegant Obsession." From the left, Cory Schantz (Henry Clay), Tommy Rowell (John C. Calhoun), Brooke Leigh Davis (Sen. Kelsey Tate), Galen Fott (Daniel Webster).

AP137/10-18/500
Austin Peay State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by APSU. APSU Policy 6:003 Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination.

Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



A Cornucopia of Connections Events

Our series of APSURA Connections events is hitting a new stride with a quick succession of innovative and dissimilar presentations. Our opening event on Sept. 8 was the CECA-sponsored musical drama "An Elegant Obsession," by members George Mabry and Richard Gildrie, followed by a Connections "Conversation" on Sept. 11 between George and Richard, taking us through their process of creating the work. On Sept. 25 Connections featured a dialog between members Dave Loos and Cheryl Holt on college and intercollegiate athletics.

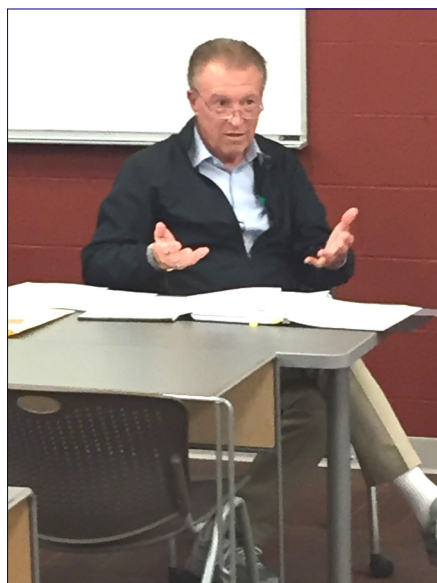
The next Connections event is the **APSURA Fall Luncheon on Oct. 30** with our new vice president for external affairs, Retired Lt. Gen. Ronald Bailey, as speaker. The luncheon will be held in the First Baptist Church, Hope Building, at 11:30 a.m. See the link on p. 2 for complete information. **Please send to arrive by Oct. 24 the registration fee of \$15 per person to APSURA Luncheon, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.** On Nov. 26 our Connections presenter will be Cindy Marsh, retired former chair of the Department of Art. Her topic will be post-retirement revival using international residency opportunities. We hope you can attend both of these events.

The Connections series from the beginning has been remarkable for the variety and often highly personal nature of the presentations members and their guests have delivered, but lately the pace has quickened and the range of subject matter has broadened. The talks last winter and spring signaled this new breadth of scope. In February Jim Clemmer delivered a hair-raising account of a 1974 close personal dodging of imminent medical disaster caused in part by a lag in the digitizing of medical information at a critical time when medical research was expanding geometrically. In March Malcolm Glass

(Continued on page 2)

delivered an inimitable multimedia mix of poems, photographs and music in “Haunted Hearts,” and at the April Connections John Butler described the joys and hardships of automotive vacation by Model T in “Going on Vacation—100 Years Ago.”

Mabry and Gildrie’s “An Elegant Obsession” was the essence of artistic and intellectual depth and sophistication in every respect. The writing, using many of the actual words and sentences of 19th-



George Mabry along with co-author Richard Gildrie describing the creating of “An Elegant Obsession.” Connections, Sept. 11, 2018.

century senators Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun, provided a stark implicit contrast with the discordant political rhetoric in use today. The characters were sharply drawn, as distinct from one another as the regions of the USA they represented. The music was what one expects from George Mabry, beautiful and hummable and with innovative twists that lent a 21st-century flare. His scores this time seemed to incorporate more minimalist motifs than his earlier work, sometimes suggestive of Philip Glass and John Adams.



Coaches Dave Loos and Cheryl Holt gave a most revealing presentation, engaging even those few in their audience who were not sports fans. Cheryl con-

centrated on the many benefits of our athletics program to students, the University and the community. She stressed the redemptive power of involvement in sports to students disadvantaged in some way—economically, socially, environmentally—and the uplifting of the spirit of a community sports can bring about. Dave gave us a detailed overview of the intricacies and inequities of power and the concentration of money within college athletics.

APSURA Fall Connections Luncheon on Oct. 30

We are happy to welcome Lt. General Ronald Bailey, vice president for external affairs, as speaker for the APSURA Fall Luncheon on Oct. 30.

We look forward to hearing his comments on any topics he chooses to address, and to seeing and talking with him. For complete information and directions to the meeting room, see the flyer at <http://www.apsu.edu/retirees-association/connections/FallConnectionsLuncheonOctober2018.pdf> We are grateful to the luncheon committee of Sharon Silva (chair), Cheryl Holt and Barbara Blackston for putting this program together.

Some of us remember Ronald Bailey from the 1970s when he was a student and football player here, and in seeing him today as our new vice president for external affairs we are struck once again with the enormous accomplishments of some of our students after they exit APSU. Ron achieved great success in his 40 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in many capacities, including commanding general of divisions and



Coaches Dave Loos and Cheryl Holt, Connections, Sept. 25, 2018

Lt. Gen. Ronald Bailey

brigades and as deputy director for operations of the Joint Staff. See a brief biography at <http://clarksvillenow.com/local/retired-marine-general-to-lead-external-affairs-at-apsu/>. Our luncheon happens this year to coincide with our usual last-Tuesday Connections presentation, so we are combining them in this one event. If you can attend the luncheon, please register soon so we can begin to close in on a final headcount for our caterer.

Connections with Cindy Marsh, Tuesday, Nov. 27

Cindy Marsh will be speaking from her own experience of trying to adapt to retirement after a busy career as a California printmaker and photographer, and at APSU as founder of the Goldsmith Press and Rare Type Collection and chair of the Department of Art from 1995-2003. The title of her presentation will be “Post-Retirement Revival: Using International Residency Opportunities to Broaden the Scope of Your Post-Retirement Creative Practice.” Cindy says she used creative travel to Sweden and elsewhere to help her “pull my head out of the sand” after retiring. APSURA is always encouraging new retirees to share techniques they have used in adapting to their new lives for the benefit of others approaching this big step, and Cindy’s talk will be right down the middle of this emphasis. The talk will be in our usual Connections location, building MMCS, room 242, from 7 p.m. until 8:30. Please come to hear Cindy!



Cindy Marsh

Straight Talk about Retirement (STAR) to be Nov. 13, MUC, 4-6 p.m.

The yearly HR Benefits Fair and our Straight Talk about Retirement (STAR) program both help APSURA identify and make contact with members of the faculty and staff who are engaged in or contemplating retiring. From our table at the Benefits Fair we notice those visitors who look two or three times at the words “Retiree Association” in our signs, and



we invite them to sit down with us and learn about who we are and what we do. The Benefits Fair was on Oct. 25 this year. Cheryl Holt led our efforts to present APSURA as welcoming and warm, with a number of APSURANS coming by to take turns talking with the many who visited our table.

Similarly, the STAR program attracts those employees who feel that they need to be there, so we begin the session assuming that they will be interested in what we have to say. APSURA and the Office of Human Resources together

sponsor STAR, which is the only event of its kind provided at APSU for those planning to retire. **It will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 13, in MUC Ballroom B&C, 4-6 p.m.** We ask APSURA members to come to sit at tables with those planning for retirement, to answer questions and provide moral support.

This year STAR will again include three parts: (1) “Food,” time to settle down and enjoy some good Chartwell’s fare; (2) “Been There and Done That,” short (10-minute) keynote presentations by former staff and faculty members, who will discuss their personal experiences with retiring and retirement, both the good and the bad, and (3) “Fast and Furious,” during which HR Benefits Manager Angie Judish and selected vendors will provide a breathtaking overview of the retirement process. Attendance at STAR has increased nearly every year, attesting to ever-increasing popularity of the program. Come lend your support this year!

Phil Kemmerly
at the Benefits Fair, Oct.
4, 2018

Is the Word “Retirement” Obsolete?

Jim Clemmer

Maybe, or at least it might be headed that way, according to a broad consensus of retirees attending a recent national conference of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). Their reasons for thinking “retirement” is past its prime are stated in various ways, but they all come down to one proposition: old ways of approaching life post-regular-work are as defunct as your father’s Oldsmobile.

They see retirement as rapidly moving away from the stereotypically passive life of reveries and rocking chairs and toward a more dynamic existence marked by adaptability, exploration and productivity. For them the word “retirement” does not describe accurately what most of us are doing today. Of course, any effort to remove “retirement” from respectability could backfire as spectacularly as “not your father’s Oldsmobile,” which informed a generation of Oldsmobile drivers that their car was an embarrassment, setting up the fall of the marque.



The opening session of AROHE 2018: The Ninth Biennial Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, Oct. 7-9, 2018

Nevertheless the local manifestations of a general cultural movement to-

ward active retirement are obvious to us APSURANS. We see our members and other old people all around us doing mystical and magical things, and the events APSURA executes have become commensurately livelier.

Many of our Connections presenters have focused on unusual personal and creative accomplishments, from future-APSURAN Ann Silverberg on her mastery of the process of getting Fulbright grants and playing the Chinese zheng to Ted Jones’ tale of survival via grit and harp to the detailed explication by George and Richard of the creating of their musical drama “An Elegant Obsession.”

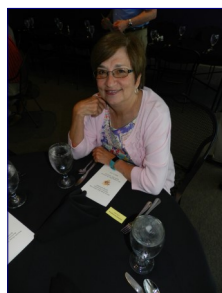
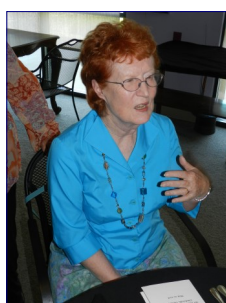
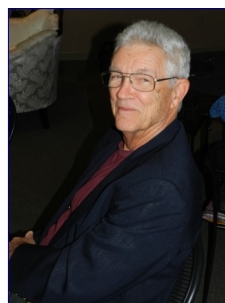
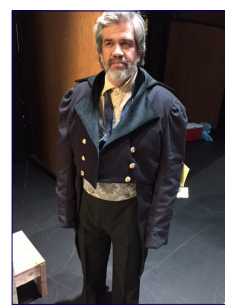
We are also more insistently encouraging retirees and current employees to join APSURA to pursue with us a brighter and more energetic vision of our retirement years than would formerly have been possible.



An official introduction to Atlanta culture via an excursion to Manuel’s Tavern.

The AROHE conference, which APSURAN Bob Privett and I attended, was held at Emory University in Atlanta and included close to 200 representatives of retiree associations from 26 states. Aside from the major keynote addresses by nationally known experts, the conference was a thoroughly grass-roots affair, with most sessions conducted by attendees from both large and small universities. In the 2014 AROHE conference in Minneapolis, Hester Crews and I had presented a paper and led a discussion on the interaction of retired faculty and staff in “blended” associations such as APSURA. It is my hope that APSURA’s horizons will continue to expand, with even more outreach to other retiree groups.

Gallery of Stars



From the Bookshelf

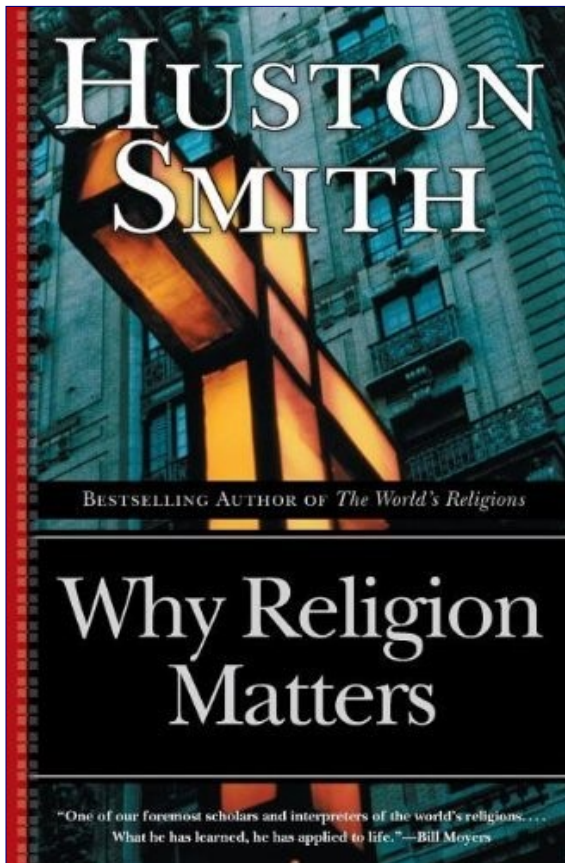
***Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief.* By Huston Smith, Harper Collins Books, 2001.**
Review by Dewey A. Browder, professor emeritus, APSU.

Professor Huston Smith offers us a reasoned and unapologetic argument for modern society to stay in touch with religion. He is an expert on world religions and cites examples from around the globe as he accounts for developments in three major periods of human history: (1) traditional, (2) modern and (3) postmodern.

The traditional period was/is characterized by beliefs in a world created by God or a Godhead. This period reigned supreme from human beginnings to the rise of modern science in the 16th century. The modern period followed and lasted through the middle of the 20th century. This period was dominated by the development of a reliance on physical science, although traditional beliefs continued. The postmodern period extends through to today and continues to emphasize technological gains that have tended toward scientism (a belief that science is the only way to the truth). An additional trait of this period is the evident concern for justice and the environment. Traditional beliefs have been increasingly marginalized, "alienated" according to Smith, as materialism has grown in importance.

For purposes of analysis, Smith sets up two competing worldviews, the traditional and the scientific. The traditional worldview is characterized as described above, i.e. the creation of God or a Godhead, and there is such a thing as spirit. Professor Smith briefly highlights the scientific explanation of the beginnings of the world: (1) Fifteen billion years ago the Big Bang created the known universe; (2) some 3 1/2 billion years ago life began to evolve; and (3) a few million years ago our ancestors were born.

Smith points out that there are distinct holes in this worldview. Darwin's tree of life holds that all modern species descended from a single, common ancestor. The fossil records, however, tell us that the major groups of animals appeared together and fully formed. There is, as of yet, no fossil evidence for linking the species, the fossil drawings of Ernst Haeckel having been discredited to Smith's satisfaction. In the scientific worldview, "true knowledge" can only be found in nature's physical foundations, and "modern cosmology derives from laboratory experiments." Additionally, Smith says, "The entire scientific worldview has been spun from a relatively few crucial experiments." Since there is nothing akin to the human soul in the scientific worldview, when life ends on earth, that's it. This amounts to a "pessimistic" view of life.



Smith discusses the traditional worldview and points to the argument that there is no physical evidence that supports the belief in creation by God or a Godhead, just as there is no evidence to support the origin of the incredibly compact pellet of matter in the scientific worldview. One is left to wonder how advocates of the scientific worldview can insist on physical evidence for everything except its origin and how that pellet came to explode. Smith posits an interesting contrast between the two worldviews. In the traditionalist argument, human beings are "the less who have derived from the more. They are creatures of their creator." Science, he reports, "reverses this etiology, positing humanity as the more that has derived from the less."

Smith shows that the friction between the traditional worldview and the scientific worldview is real. Modernists (including the postmodernists) have forsaken clear thinking and become obsessed with material things. Indeed, they have "written a blank check" to the scientists. He points out that the fault is not with science, but rather the way we have misconstrued it. Smith holds that a malaise has set in and qualities such as beauty, ugliness, love, hate, passion, fulfillment, salvation and damnation are all casualties of the process. He offers this list as part of his argument that science has "little or no place for values. He elaborates: "Hopes and fears, pleasures and pains, successes and dis-

appointments—the sum total of the lives that we experience—are for science epiphenomenal." The subjective components of human life register perhaps as consciousness, but the depth of unique human properties, such as inherent dignity and inalienable rights are left out. Evolutionists may suggest otherwise, but Smith stands firm and logically challenges, "In the traditional worldview, religious views and spirit are fundamental with matter a derivative." Of primary concern for traditionalists is the belief that humans have souls. The spirit is real. In the scientific worldview, consciousness is as "close to spirit as they get." Matter comes first for scientists.

It is not just a contest between facts and non-facts. There are different categories of facts. The scientific worldview does not recognize supernatural facts, as they are beyond the competency of science. Smith reasons that values are factual [facts of the mind] but that science does not know how to assess human concepts such as the meaning of life. These supernatural facts get left out of the scientific worldview. The human heart has a "craving for knowledge of the right direction—for orientation." Professor Smith says "the traditional worldview is preferable . . . it allows for the fulfillment of the basic longing that lies in the depths of the human heart."

In addition to being an expert on world religions, Smith is widely read in science, philosophy, law, education, government and history. He emphasizes that religious people and scientists need to try to understand each other. His epilogue is titled "We Could Be Siblings Yet." He writes, ". . . the majority of scientists are sensitive and tolerant citizens who treat religion with respect, just as the great majority of religious people belong to moderate denominations that treat science with respect." He thinks the wider worldview that includes both the natural and the supernatural is the correct choice. As for those militants who disagree, he says they make him want to ask when they last read a theological treatise and what its name was.

Members as of Oct. 16, 2018

Your officers and directors appreciate each and every one of you. For questions about your membership status, write membership director Nancy Smithfield at smithfieldn@apsu.edu or treasurer Sharon Silva at silvas@apsu.edu.

Marcia Adams	Rae Hansberry*	Linda Nichols
Mary Emma Barnes	Carlette Hardin	Chris Nussbaumer
Al Bekus*	Durward Harris	Ronald Oakland
Kell Black	Joan Harris	Frank Parcells
Barbara Blackston*	Camille Holt	Allene Phy-Olsen
Stuart Bonnington*	Cheryl Holt*	Bob Privett**
Dewey Browder*	Sherry Hoppe*	Albert Randall*
Richard Brown**	Cicero Alvin Hughes	Jeannie Randall*
JoeAnn Burgess*	Lynda Hunt*	Jim Ridenhour*
John Butler*	Al Irby**	Sharon Ridenhour*
LuAnnette Butler*	Nancy Irby**	Mitch Robinson
Sherryl Byrd	Hazel Irwin	Shelia Ross
Don Carlin	Kenneth Johnson	Linda Rudolph*
Aleeta Christian**	Ted Jones*	Sharon Silva
Floyd Christian**	David Kanervo**	Steve Ryan
Jim Clemmer**	Ellen Kanervo**	Linda Sitton*
Hester Crews**	Kathryn Kemmerly*	David Smithfield
Linda Davis	Phil Kemmerly*	Nancy Smithfield*
Sherry Demaray	Bradley Kirtley*	Diane Sperry
Anne Der	Betty Lambert*	Carlton Stedman*
Arthur Eaves**	Carolyn Lander**	Janet Stedman*
Joe Filippa**	John Lander**	Bill Taylor**
Inga Filippa**	David Loos	Gerald Van Dyke*
Solie Fott	George Mabry*	Thelma Watson*
Meredith Gildrie*	Betty McClain*	Eloise Weatherspoon*
Richard Gildrie*	Leon McQueen*	Jerry Weatherspoon*
Becky Glass	Harriett McQueen*	Beverly Wibking*
Sara Gotcher*	Malcolm (Kip) Muir	Barbara Wilbur*
Kenneth Grambihler*	Anna Murray*	
Roy Gregory	Bruce Myers	

*=5 yr **= Lifetime

Publication Information

The APSURA Newsletter is published three times a year by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, APSURA NewsNotes, is published occasionally 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 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 to Jim Clemmer at 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 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.

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 printed copy of the Newsletter, please notify Membership Director Nancy Smithfield (smithfieldn@apsu.edu). If you are not a member of APSURA but would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please notify Nancy Smithfield and provide your email address.

Officers

Jim Clemmer, President
Carl Stedman, Vice President
Sharon Silva, Treasurer and Webmaster
Eloise Weatherspoon, Secretary

Directors

Allene Phy-Olsen
Cheryl Holt
Barbara Blackston
Joe Filippa
Mitch Robinson
Phil Kemmerly
George Mabry
David Kanervo (ex officio)

Publicity Director

Jim Clemmer
clemmerj@apsu.edu

Membership Director

Nancy Smithfield
smithfieldn@apsu.edu

Address

APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044

On the Web

apsu.edu/retirees-association [currently under reconstruction]

Soon you will again be able to consult our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, a retirement checklist, and information on retiree benefits

APSURA Members Registration Form

☐ New member ☐ Renewing member ☐ Retired faculty or staff ☐ Associate member

Check both of the above-right boxes if your spouse or partner is joining or renewing as an associate member.

Dr.____ Mr.____ Ms____ Mrs.____ Date_____

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 office or department: _____ Years of service _____ Month and year you retired _____

Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership ☐ \$25.00

Five-year Membership ☐ \$100.00

Additional donation for Scholarship Fund ☐ _____

Associate Membership ☐ \$25.00

Lifetime Membership ☐ \$500.00 (may include
both member and spouse/partner)

Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership in APSURA!