



Volume 6, No. 3
February 2015

In this issue

Seminar marks expanded emphasis on service 1

Planning for spring activities and events
Jim Clemmer 3

General membership meeting and elections 4

Holiday dinner a multi-cultural treat
Aleeta Christian 4

Atlantic Salmon fishing in Labrador
Al Bekus 5

Publication information 7

Photo: Variations on a theme of Rodin: Jennie Preston-Sabin and Patricia Stewart exemplify the concentration attendees brought to "Straight Talk about Retirement."

Luncheon Announcement
Our Spring Luncheon with Tennessee Education Commissioner Candice McQueen will be held March 12. See enclosed flier for registration information.

AP239/2-15/400

APSU is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, sex, religion, age, disability status, and/or veteran status in its programs, and activities. <http://www.apsu.edu/files/policy/5002.pdf>.

Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



Seminar marks expanded emphasis on service

The mission of APSURA from the outset has been "to advocate, to educate and to serve." None of our activities embody and combine all of these functions more fully than our yearly "Straight Talk about Retirement" seminars, presented in conjunction with HR for those newly retiring. Our November seminar attracted an audience of over 60 current staff and faculty, who brought rapt attention to the presentations and carried away valuable information and seasoned advice about retiring and retirement. These meetings signal a renewed APSURA concentration on outreach and service both to our retirees and to the entire University community.

Attendees heard six panelists discuss perspectives on retiring ranging from the mechanics of the procedure to highly personal reflections on the seriousness of this life-changing event and problems it can present. Angie Judish, HR benefits manager, summarized the process of retiring along with social security and Medicare implications, while Kanika Coleman of TCRS, Rich Levine of TIAA-CREF and Glenda Stone of Great West detailed financial aspects of the transition to retirement. Drs. John and LuAnnette Butler began and concluded the meeting with discussion of lifestyle and psychological dimensions of retirement. Jim Clemmer was moderator and timekeeper.

APSURA is also pursuing other opportunities for expanded outreach to the university community, partly to demonstrate to those contemplating retirement that their active and productive involvement with APSU programs, and with their friends and colleagues, need not end at that point. We make sure we are highly visible and vocal at events such as the convocation picnic every August. This year, we participated in the HR benefits fair, talking with a number of staff and faculty about our activities. At every spring HR dinner

Panelists Dr. John Butler, Angie Judish, Kanika Coleman, Rich Levine, Glenda Stone, and Dr. LuAnnette Butler



for new retirees, we remind them of our presence and invite them to join. We also participate in other vital university events, such as the recent presidential search in which we were given access to candidates equal to that accorded current staff and faculty. And we are active on the state and national retirees scene, representing APSU in appropriate venues.

Some of the 60+ in attendance



A new service initiative we are considering is mentoring in tnAchieves, the companion program to Tennessee Promise. Mentors work as volunteers with students to overcome barriers to accessing the post-secondary education funds that Tennessee Promise provides. Our APSURA board met with Carol Clark, director of business and community relations, at our board meeting on Feb. 4 to learn more about this program. Other APSURA members also attended this meeting

to discover the implications of Tennessee Promise for APSU, and the implementing of the tnAchieves program.

Another service project we are undertaking is the re-locating of retirees we and the school databases seem to have lost track of. While some have died, we know that our retiree population in general is highly mobile, not just in terms of physical location but also email addresses and phone numbers, and many are now out of reach. Please let us know of any retiree you know who is not receiving our newsletter or other communications from APSU, or ask that person to send a note to our president Aleeta Christian (christiana@apsu.edu or 931-552-7908) with current contact information.



These new efforts, along with our "Straight Talk" seminars and other continuing activities, should ensure that we retirees maintain a constructive and visible presence in the university community, and a deserved reputation for service and purpose.

Planning for Spring Luncheon and other events

Jim Clemmer

Around this time of year, many of us begin to come down with cabin fever, winter blues or general blahs with less polite names. A few masochists, or true adventure seekers like Al Bekus, flee to even colder spots like Vail and Breckenridge, while we more sensible types try to escape to Florida for the season, or at least for a week or so. Partner Bob and I were lucky again this year to find a reasonably inexpensive weeklong cruise to the Caribbean on the Holland America *Westerdam*, from which we with great reluctance returned to the cold and gray. Strangely, our favorite feature of the cruise was not the great beaches and rum punches of St. Maarten and Grand Turk, but daily concerts by a young violin-piano duo from the faculty of the Kiev Conservatory who had only recently fled the war in Ukraine via a contract with HAL.



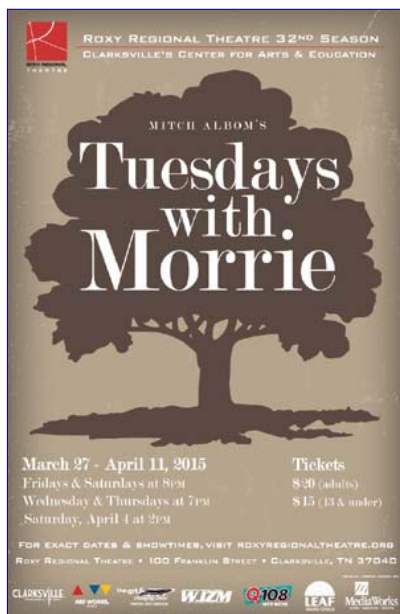
Mozart, Ravel, and Piazzolla on a cruise ship? Yes indeed, with Sandra Strotsak and Maria Kallugina from Kiev

The only truly effective remedy for winter sequestration is, of course, the coming of spring. Your board of directors is therefore busy developing plans for activities and events for the coming months, featuring the Spring Luncheon on March 12 (see the enclosed flyer for full details). We are also working with Continuing Education to develop courses and programs of interest to retirees.

Other events for which we have established dates include the tnAchieves meeting with Carol Clark on February 4, a board meeting with Julia McGee on continuing-education courses on March 4 at 3 p.m.,

and another in our series of electronics workshops at 3 p.m., following the March 4 board meeting. Note that both the March 4 board meeting and the workshop will take place in the Public Library on Pageant Lane. The workshop, for APSURA members only, will consider the formation and uses of an APSURA Facebook group to supplement the Newsletter and NewsNotes. We also recently heard from Inga Filippo about a terrific weeklong tour of Natchez, March 2-7, sponsored by the Tenn. State Museum Foundation (www.tnmuseum.org). Those interested in this tour should note that the deadline for applying is February 12. Our regular spring walk on the Greenway is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9:15 at the Pollard Rd. trailhead.

Join us for lunch and the Roxy play Tuesdays With Morrie on Saturday, April 4



Another attractive spring event will be a group excursion for lunch and the Roxy play "Tuesdays with Morrie" on Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. In this play, a simple visit of a student with a former professor turns into a weekly pilgrimage and an unforgettable class on the meaning of life. Meredith Gildrie is planning this excursion,

so call or email her for exact arrangements at gildrie@att.net, or 931-648-4317. For the full Roxy season including the February 14 gala, see www.roxyregionaltheatre.org/season/.

Many of us are attending the remaining two concerts of the Gateway Chamber Orchestra on Feb. 8 and April 19 (www.gatewaychamberorchestra.com), the two concerts of the Community Concert Association on March 3 and 28 (www.clarksvillemusic.org) and the Artwalks of the Downtown Artists Cooperative on the first Thursday of each month, 5-8 p.m.

General Membership meeting and elections May 6

Our annual general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, at 3 p.m. in MUC 310. The meeting will begin with refreshments and socializing, proceed to updates and conversation about on-going activities and new initiatives, and conclude with the election of new board members and officers. These annual meetings are good occasions for greeting old friends you might not have seen for some time.

In accordance with our bylaws, a nominating committee has been appointed and will develop a list of candidates for the board and offices. Members should note that the bylaws also allow any regular (i. e. non-associate) member to submit nominations for any position, and that any regular member of APSURA may be nominated. A list of current members of APSURA, both regular and associate, is located on the back of the enclosed luncheon flyer.

Three board positions will be open, including those of president and vice-president. A letter or email of nomination must be sent to the chair of the nominating committee, David Kanervo, at APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044 or kanervod@apsu.edu by April 14.

Holiday dinner a multicultural treat

Aleeta Christian

In December, Floyd and I attended the APSU music department's fifth annual holiday dinner and program with several other APSU retirees. As usual, it was a dressy affair. We were part of a big, animated crowd in the ballroom. Austin Peay music students, all in black, warmly greeted and seated us. More than 100 students participated, several of whom we recognized because they sing regularly in our church choir. Right away, we realized this was to be a very special evening, as we were caught up in the holiday spirit almost from the beginning.

Because of increasing attendance each year, the dinner was held on two consecutive nights, December 5 and 6, and the ballroom was almost filled to capacity on both nights.

Dinner choices were excellent: salmon, meatballs or chicken complemented by veggies, prepared perfectly. But the "WOW" effect was the sudden surround-sound singing coming from all over the ballroom. Every music group was represented, instrumental as well as choral.

Dr. Korre Foster, choral conductor extraordinaire, planned and directed a lively, varied program. Music from all over the world, some familiar, other selections very new, filled the room. Some were Swedish, others Catalanian, Hebrew, Trinidadian, Slavonic, Haitian, Yoruban and Hawaiian. Our spirits were lifted over and over.

I must confess that we APSURA attendees had managed to get the best table in the house, and we enjoyed visiting with each other as well as hearing the music. We have attended several years now, and it seems to me that every year it is better than the last—and each year I can't believe it can be improved. If you have not experienced this, look for the invitation next year in November: "Holiday Dinner, An Annual Choral Program and Scholarship Benefit." It is a standout.



Choral director Dr. Korre Foster



*The Flowers River,
Northern
Labrador*

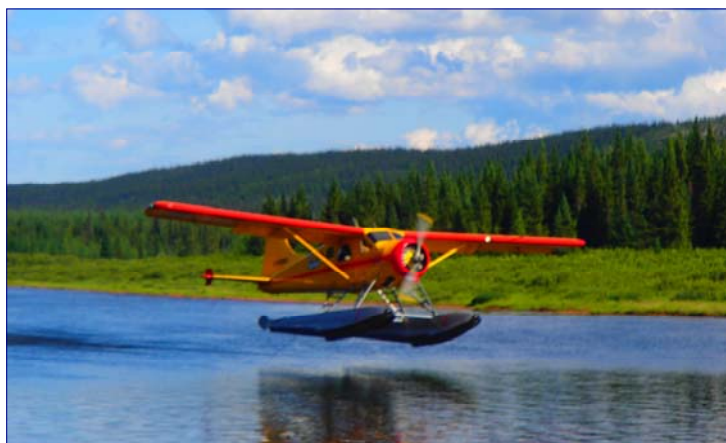
Fishing for Atlantic salmon in Labrador

Al Bekus

For the last 40 or so years, I have been making an annual Atlantic salmon fishing trip to Newfoundland, northern Quebec or to Labrador. For two weeks this past August, I again fished the Flowers River in northern Labrador, one of the premier Atlantic salmon rivers in North America, which flows 50 miles east from its source into the Labrador Sea. The Flowers is a remote, fly-in river, deep in the northern wilderness, accessible only by float plane from Goose Bay, 170 miles to the southwest. There are no roads. Travel in this vast area is by air, by boat along the coastline, or by snowmobile in the winter.

The fishing regulations are strict in order to protect the Atlantic salmon. It is fly fishing only with an unweighted, single barbless hook. All salmon must be released. As Lee Wulff, the famous explorer and Atlantic salmon fisherman, stated, Atlantic salmon "are too valuable a game fish to be caught only once."

Getting from Goose Bay Float Plane Base to the river and return is on occasion a major problem because of weather conditions and visibility. A famous saying is that "In the bush you fly by the seat of your pants." In the Twin Otter it takes about an hour and a half to fly over wilderness terrain to the Flowers. When we finally land on the river, there is always relief and jubilation.



*Vintage Beaver
bringing
supplies to
camp*

Just maintaining footing in the Flow-ers River is difficult

We don't waste a minute getting ready to make our first casts. The outside world is now forgotten. Our group of eight fishermen are the only ones on the river, and possibly even on Earth at that moment, with the possibility of hooking a salmon up to thirty pounds or so. This is indeed an earthly paradise. I use light fly rod tackle, an 8 pound test, 9-12 foot monofilament leader, and a fly no more than an inch long tied to that leader. Try to imagine hooking a 10, 15, 20 or even a 30 lb. salmon on that tackle! To me this is the ultimate form of sport fishing in fresh water. It has been said that fly fishing for Atlantic salmon is not a sport; it is an art and a religion. I tend to agree.



To fish in this wilderness environment the law requires that each pair of fishermen has

a licensed professional guide. We navigate the river in a 17-foot square back canoe with a small out-board to get us to the salmon lies along the river. Then we beach the canoe and wade the river. It is important to mention that on occasion we run into a black bear on the river or in camp, and they can get a little too familiar and even aggressive. In fact, on this particular trip, two bears had to be driven away for insisting on being too "direct."

Of course, finding the fish is the first job—a task that can be difficult, depending on a variety of conditions. Much of the fishing is blind, although we are always casting in runs that are likely to hold fish. And because the water is so clear, we can sometimes see the fish we are casting to and actually see it



A 15-lb salmon caught on 8-pound leader

take the fly! It is most crucial that the fly first touches the water almost imperceptibly and that it has a natural drift as it moves with the current downstream, which is the key to actually getting a salmon to take. But it's easier said than done. And it goes without saying that the fly must be one that a salmon is willing to strike.

Salmon flies have a mythology all their own that goes back to the twilight of salmon fishing. There are literally hundreds of salmon flies with imaginative and poetic names and with sto-

ries that have made many of them famous: the Green Highlander, Blue Charm, and Thunder and Lightning are three of my favorites. The curious thing about all of this is that Atlantic salmon cease feeding once they enter fresh water, and there are countless theories by "experts" about why they

strike the fly. On this trip, for example, I rose a large salmon on a size #8 (almost an inch long) Black Bear Green Butt (almost all black with a green tail), but it would not come back. After dozens of casts I changed to a #10, one size smaller, and the salmon took on the very first cast—a 14 lb. beauty fresh from the sea. There is no game fish in fresh water that has the strength and endurance of an Atlantic salmon, and only the mighty salt water Tarpon and Sailfish match the salmon for speed and spectacular jumps.



But my fishing experience is not centered solely on the number and size of the salmon I release. Even if I have not attracted a salmon all day, I have never had a bad day on a salmon river. Atlantic salmon live in beautiful places and spawn in water that I drink straight from the river. I can hear the quiet, appreciate the green scent of the forest, enjoy the solitude and pristine wilderness that surrounds me. That is luxury at its finest. I have seen herds of caribou take an hour to complete a river crossing, been surprised by curious wolves approaching our camp fire, observed a mother bear teaching her young to cross the river, and marveled at the Northern Lights swirling in the evening sky.

In 1853 on one of his excursions into the Maine woods, Henry David Thoreau said that he liked nothing better than being “a hundred miles or more from any town.” I know exactly what Thoreau meant.

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.

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, 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.

Officers

*Aleeta Christian, President
Hester Crews, Vice-President
Nancy Irby, Treasurer
Barbara Wilbur, Secretary*

Directors

*Ann Harris
John Butler
Mitch Robinson
Phil Kemmerly
David Kanervo
Al Bekus (ex officio)*

Publicity Director

*Jim Clemmer
clemmerj@apsu.edu*

Address

*APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044*

On the Web

www.apsu.edu/retirees-association

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



APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044

APSURA New Members 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 _____ Lifetime Membership ☐ \$500

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

The Austin Peay State University Retirees Association

Invites you to

Our 2015 Spring Luncheon

Thursday, March 12, 2015

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

The Looking Glass Restaurant

329 Warfield Blvd.

Clarksville, Tennessee



Guest Speaker: Education Commissioner Candice McQueen

On January 20, 2015, Dr. Candice McQueen joined Gov. Bill Haslam's cabinet as Commissioner of the Department of Education. Dr. McQueen, a native of Clarksville, previously served as Senior Vice President and as Dean of the College of Education at Lipscomb University. In her administrative positions, she has led training, support and professional development efforts for thousands of current and future classroom teachers, instructional coaches and school leaders. In 2012, McQueen partnered with the Tennessee-based Ayers Foundation to initiate *The Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning and Innovation*, which focuses on supporting higher academic standards, embedded professional learning and new approaches to leadership training and support. Tennessee's higher education institutions are using these resources to prepare new teachers, and many Tennessee school districts and other states are using the resources for professional development.

Luncheon Cost: \$20.00 per APSURA member, \$25.00 per non-member

Make check payable to APSURA

Choice of main entree:

Sliced Grilled Chicken Served over a Garden Salad Platter

or

Crab Cakes on a bed of Spring Mix Greens

Mail payment and entrée choice by March 5 to

APSURA Luncheon, P. O. Box 4426

Clarksville, TN 37044

APSURA Membership as of February 2015

Jackie Allegood	Al Irby
Mary Emma Barnes	Nancy Irby
Gerald Beavers	Hazel Irwin
Christa Beckner	David Kanervo
Al Bekus	Kathryn Kemmerly (Associate)
Tonya Bekus (Associate)	Phil Kemmerly
Barbara Blackston	Carolyn Lander
Charles Boehms	John Lander
Dewey Browder	Martha Lester (Associate)
Richard Brown	Betty McClain
John Butler	Francis Massinon
LuAnnette Butler	Anna Murray
Don Carlin	Pam Pickard (Associate)
Bruce Childs	Bob Privett (Associate)
Aleeta Christian	Jeannie Randall
Floyd Christian	Mitch Robinson
Jim Clemmer	Lowell Roddy
Hester Crews	Shelia Ross
Margaret Dietrich	Linda Rudolph
Joe Filippo	David Schuff (Associate)
Inga Filippo	Linda Sitton
Solie Fott	Nancy Smithfield
Meredith Gildrie	Bill Taylor
Richard Gildrie	Jim Thompson
Jim Hancock (Associate)	Gerald Van Dyke
Nancy Hancock	Thelma Watson (Associate)
Rae Hansberry	Eloise Weatherspoon
Ann Harris	Robert Wibking
Durward Harris	Barbara Wilbur
Joan Harris (Associate)	Mary Lou Witherspoon
Camille Holt	Martha Woodall
Gaines Hunt	