



Volume 3, No. 2
November 2011

Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association

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Chillon Castle, Lake Geneva, Switzerland.
Photo by Ann Harris, September 2011.



APSURANS on the move

Jim Clemmer

Not so many decades ago the closest most of us could come to big-time travel was dreaming with Bing about faraway places with strange-sounding names, or wishing we could obey Dinah and see the USA in our Chevrolet. We hummed "The Road to Mandalay" and maybe listened with envy to an uncle's oft-repeated tale of puddle-jumping to Yellowstone in his Model A.

Beginning in the '60s, though, we could realistically envision leaving on a jet plane or getting our kicks on Route 66. And that is the kind of thing the majority of APSURANS are doing today, or wanting to do. Over 70 percent of you listed travel as a major interest on our August 2009 survey, and we know that within the past two years alone APSURANS visited over 30 countries from Australia to Russia and China, and many states within the U.S. We have undertaken many of these trips independently or with professional tour groups, but increasingly some of us are choosing to travel with local groups including our Alumni Association, the Study Abroad programs, and Senior Citizens.

Several APSURANS have been to Greece with Tim Winters this year, and others are traveling to NYC with President Tim Hall and Lee in May with the Alumni Association's *Springtime in New York*. This excursion will include a city tour, the musical *Jersey Boys* and other plays and museum visits. Land-only cost is \$2,449 per person, double occupancy. If you are interested, contact Nikki Peterson at 931-221-7291.

Some are traveling to England with Dr. Mickey Wadia May 14-31 for a Shakespeare immersion course sponsored by the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA). This course will be held in London and Stratford-Upon-Avon and includes many plays, backstage tours, and trips to Warwick Castle, Canterbury, Blenheim, and other sites. Students and others over age 26 are not required to take the course; they can come along

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APSURANS
on the
Clarksville
Greenway,
October 3,
2011.

just for the experience. The cost without tuition is \$5,595 including air. For more information contact Dr. Mickey Wadia at wadiam@apsu.edu, phone 931-221-7448. Aleeta Christian, APSURA's resident travel expert, also recommends other trips sponsored by Clarksville Senior Citizens, Hopkinsville and Springfield groups, and Nashville Fifty Forward. Aleeta invites you to call her at 931-552-7908 or email her at christiana@apsu.edu to chat about travel possibilities and prospects.

APSURA as a group has also been on the move with trips to the Roxy and the Greenway, and to Fall Creek Falls and the Nashville Symphony. Fall events still upcoming include a noon lunch at the Black-horse and the Roxy production of *A Tale of Two Cities* on Saturday, Nov. 12; the music department's



Choral Holiday Dinner and Concert in the MUC on Dec. 3, at 7 p.m.; and our trip to Nashville for Handel's *Messiah* by the Nashville Symphony Chorus on Dec. 15. If you can join us for lunch and the Roxy play on Nov. 12, email or call Meredith Gildrie at Gildrie@att.net or 931-648-4317.

If you plan to attend the Choral Holiday Dinner and would like to join APSURANS at our tables, contact Dr. Korre Foster, email fosterk@apsu.edu or call 931-221-7002. An RSVP card will be mailed to you, asking how

many tickets you need and the meal entrée preference for each person. Note on the card that you would like to be at the APSURA tables. Mail the completed RSVP card and payment for tickets, \$50 each, to Dr. Foster at Box 4625, APSU, Clarksville, TN 37044.

Individual tickets for the *Messiah* on December 15 might still be available directly from the Nashville Symphony at www.nashvillesymphony.org, and reservations for dinner at Sole Mio Italian restaurant, 311 Third Ave. S., at 615-256-4013. Make your Sole Mio reservation for 4:45, and tell the desk that you will be with the APSU group. Attendees are providing their own transportation to Nashville.

Our planned APSURA group events for winter and spring include dinner in Nashville and a concert by the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra at the Schermerhorn on March 19, several Roxy plays and Gateway Chamber Orchestra concerts, and guided tours of Fort Donelson and the Clarksville Greenway. To reserve tickets for the March 19 Cleveland Symphony concert, send \$57.50 per ticket to Al Irby, Treasurer, APSURA, P. O. Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044. Deadline for tickets is Jan. 10. These will be front-balcony seats. The specific time and place for a dinner in Nashville that evening, and the dates for other APSURA events, will be announced in a January *NewsNotes* supplement to this newsletter.

An important product of our APSURA experiences should continue to be detailed descriptions of our trips and other activities for those unable to participate directly. We know that as we grow older, trips taken by the mind's eye become ever more important. We want our Newsletter to be something of a local window on the world as we increasingly come to depend more on our dreams and visions than on our physical capabilities. We invite your submissions, as detailed on page 7. Maybe we can't out-do Rick Steves, and maybe we already know that Mandalay isn't really the same anymore and that much of Route 66 has crumbled. But that should not keep us from believing that, one way or another, we still have miles to go before we sleep.

APSURA awarded \$1,000 for supporting bike ride

Al Irby

The Clarksville Sunrise Rotary Club has made an award of \$1,000 to the APSURA Scholarship fund in recognition of support APSURA volunteers provided during the September Sunrise Century Bike Ride. APSURA members Hester Crews, Jim Clemmer, Gerald Beavers, Nancy Beavers, Bob Privett and Al Bekus helped staff two of the ten rest stops along the 100-mile route. All of these APSURANS report an enjoyable morning of meeting and helping bikers, with lots of great conversation with many of them.

The Clarksville Sunrise Rotary Club has been sponsoring the Labor Day weekend event for several years. In addition to the 100-mile course, there are also a 62-mile and a 33-mile route. The ride starts and ends at Rossville High School and winds through the southern Kentucky farmland. The club has approximately 30 members, so it takes an additional 60-70 volunteers from other organizations to stage the event. This year, in addition to APSURA, volunteers came from Crisis Call Center, Loaves and Fishes, Urban Ministries, APSU Emerging Leaders, Sycamore H. S. Soccer Boosters, AUSA, Adult Literacy Council and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. After the event is over, the club makes generous awards to all of the supporting organizations.

The Sunrise Century is considered one of the premier bike rides in this region. The support of the many volunteers contributes to the reputation the ride has gained. This year riders came from 15 different



year's turnout considering the oppressive 100+ degree heat we were experiencing at that time. The Clarksville Sunrise Rotary Club was very appreciative of the support APSURA gave to the event and welcomes our help in future years.



Al Irby and Mitch Robinson accept Sunrise Rotary award from Dick Bowers, Rotary District Governor (left) and Pat Donahue, Sunrise Rotary Club president

states. Because the ride occurs late in the cycling season when most of the riders are in top condition and the course is relatively flat, many riders are seeking their personal best times for the season or their career. This year 13 riders finished the 100 mile course in less than four hours which is better than 25 miles per hour. There were a total of 927 riders in the three distances this year. Usually the ride has about 1,000 riders but the club was very pleased with this

Bikers at rest stop #1, manned by Al Bekus, Jim Clemmer, and Bob Privett

Lunch on the Matterhorn

Ann Harris

This September Aleeta Christian and I traveled to the country of Switzerland, the land of famous chocolate and cheese. We were on a tour sponsored by *Fifty Forward Seniors* of Nashville and *World Premier Tours*. The trip was known as a hub and spoke plan; i.e., we stayed at one hotel in Montreux (the hub) and left each morning on side trips to various cities and villages (the spokes). We always returned at night to the same hotel, hence the hub.

Aleeta and I left Clarksville in the heat of late summer; the pleasantly cool Swiss air offered a welcome contrast to the humid climate of Tennessee. The landscape was spectacular with the view of the Alps and the clear Swiss lakes. The scenery reminded us of Heidi, her grandfather, and the goats running in the pastures from our favorite children's book. Days for us always began early with travel by bus along narrow, sometimes steep mountainous roads. Crop terraces were everywhere along the roads in the mountains. I had read of terracing to prevent erosion, but had never seen the extent to which the Swiss used these terraces in farming. Wine vineyards and apricot bushes are the primary terraced crops.

The local culture and customs are quite unique. One of our many guides was especially informative and skilled in yodeling and the use of the alphorn. Historically, both yodeling and the alphorn were used by Swiss mountain dwellers for communication between villages. A few of the highlights of our week-long trip:



Guide with alphorn.

Photo by Ann Harris

Chillon Castle. Because I had never been to Europe prior to this trip, I was awed by the age of the buildings and artifacts, especially their historic preservation. One such medieval building was the Chillon Castle, which stands near Montreux in the chilly waters of Lake Geneva. The oldest written mention of this castle dates from 1150, having served many uses—from royalty housing to torturous prison. Lord Byron is credited with making the castle well known for its latter use as a prison. In the poem *The Prisoner of Chillon*, Lord Byron described the story of the most famous prisoner held in the castle.



The Matterhorn, the Swiss Alps

The Matterhorn. My favorite place was a plateau near the mountain peak of the Matterhorn. We rode a train to a height of 10,130 feet for an incredible view of the Matterhorn and 29 of the highest peaks in Europe. We sat at an open-air restaurant at this summit; it was quite refreshing to have lunch and a hot drink and breathe the fresh mountain air. The air was quite cool and windy there, but the view was breathtaking.

Bern. Bern is the Swiss capital and began as an ancient fortress during the 12th century. Bern is famous for housing a former patent-office clerk, Albert Einstein. He is reported to have begun developing his theory of relativity in Bern. We viewed the rather simple upstairs apartment in which he lived.

Aleeta and I have wonderful memories of our Swiss tour and the numerous wonders we saw and experienced. We would certainly recommend Switzerland for anyone's future travel plans.

Istanbul: Ecstasy for a historian

Howard Winn



The Blue Mosque and Bosphorus, Istanbul.

Photo by Steve McCurry

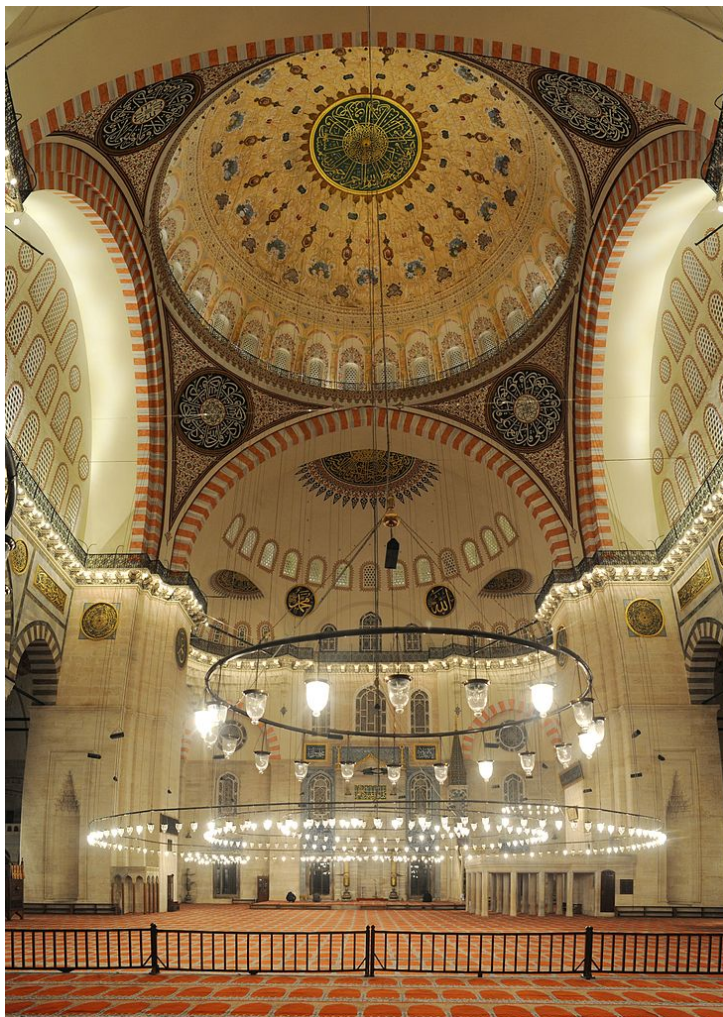
My wife Patricia and I toured three European cities this September. We spent about a week in Prague, a week in Istanbul and four days in Vienna. This article will focus on Istanbul.

Istanbul, Turkey is one of the most extraordinary places that I have seen. Keep in mind that it is located on two continents, Europe and Asia. The Bosphorus is a narrow navigational strait between Europe and Asia that connects with the Black Sea to the north and Marmora Sea to the south. Near the southern end is the fabled Golden Horn, and harbor of Istanbul. This natural harbor served in ancient and medieval times as the hub of commerce between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. It is estimated that some 55 thousand ships pass through the Bosphorus annually.

Our hotel was located in the historic Sultanahmet district of Istanbul. It was within walking distance and in view of the center of the Ottoman Empire, the Sublime Porte, and the Sultan's Palace. In this structure the divan of the Grand Vizier, the harem, the Sultan's quarters, library, finance and treasury were located. Nearby was the beautiful Hagia Sophia dating from the Byzantium period (325-360), which later the Ottoman Sultan converted into a mosque (1520-1566). Since 1935 it has served as a museum.

Across from the Sophia is the beautiful Blue Mosque, erected 1609-1616. This mosque is the central center of worship in the old city of Istanbul and served until the 19th century as the starting point for a pilgrimage to Mecca. An additional mosque known as Suleymaniye Mosque was established by the most famous Ottoman, Sultan Suliemann the Magnificent (1550-1557), and designed by the greatest architect of the time, named Sinus. We felt this was the most impressive of the structures. In that structure were the graves of Suliemann the Magnificent and his famous wife Rosaline, an Ottoman feminist who was a powerful influence in the Empire.

The Suleymaniye Mosque, Istanbul



work created a modernized Turkish presence that continues to shape the region, and today Turkey is a major force in the world.

Having traveled to many places in our years together, we have never seen a more magnificent panorama of beauty. We could see the blue Bosphorus and the magnificent city in all its glory from the terrace of our hotel. A cruise on the Bosphorus was a high point for me. Moving between two continents, the beauty of both and even a brief visit to a town on the Asian side were wonderful experiences. My doctoral dissertation concerned the American pursuit of a commercial treaty with the Ottoman Empire that was concluded in 1830, so for me actually to be on the Bosphorus and the Black Sea was historical ecstasy.

No discussion of Turkey can fail to mention one of the most significant figures in the history of the twentieth century, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the George Washington of Turkey, who created a secular state out of the decayed Ottoman Empire. Ataturk was a native of European Turkey who was determined to reshape the Turkish state and society into a cultural model of Europe. He westernized an Islamic culture and created a secular Turkish nation rather than an Islamic nation. Ataturk's

From the President

Al Bekus

Greetings to all APSU retirees. We have ushered in our third year in grand style with a number of enjoyable events described in this newsletter. I am always excited about starting our new year by attending the convocation and picnic and visiting with faculty and retirees. Especially enjoyable also was our helping out with the Sunrise Rotary Bike Tour. As Al Irby reports, for our work the Rotary generously donated \$1,000 to our student scholarship fund. It is very satisfying when retirees representing the University can join with a community organization with such beneficial results. We are also exploring other new ways to generate money for the scholarship fund.

On November 3 Human Resources and APSURA held the annual Retirement Seminar, which was attended both by those newly retiring and APSURA members. I will report more fully on the seminar in the next newsletter. Our Nashville Symphony events have become popular with retirees, with a large group planning to have dinner at Sole Mio and attend the performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center on December 15. We will be hearing the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra in Nashville on March 19, as reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Board is now working on a major research project. We are in the process of surveying all colleges and universities that are members of the National Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE), to learn what other retiree organizations are doing on their campuses. We are al-

ready getting ideas and learning a great deal about opportunities we may wish to explore and programs and events we may wish to pursue at APSU. You might be interested in going to the AROHE website (just type in AROHE) and check us out along with 80 other colleges and universities that are members of the national organization. We will keep you informed as we progress with our research.

On Nov. 6 and 7 I will be attending the Seventh Annual Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park. All four-year state institutions are members. Agenda items range from local matters such as increasing mem-



bership and keeping addresses current, to the new health care program and Part D insurance. There will also be discussions about how membership in AROHE can benefit our associations. I will report back in the next newsletter.

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, we encourage you to submit articles (maximum 500 words) to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu

about your travel as well as events and activities that you have been involved in. I hope that you are enjoying the newsletter, and if you are not already a member, consider joining APSURA. With the publication of each newsletter, we receive a few more membership applications which is always encouraging. So why not get involved and join our growing ranks? We would like to hear from you.

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@charter.net, 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, P. O. Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

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On the Web

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

Associate Membership ☐ \$25.00

Additional donation for Scholarship Fund _____