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Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



APSURA honors Al Bekus at annual meeting

In our June 5 general meeting APSURA honored Al Bekus for his vision and guidance as founder and first president of APSURA. We presented Al a certificate of appreciation signed by the officers and directors, and a copy of the book *The Age of Wonder* by Richard Holmes in recognition of Al's abiding interest in both science and literature. This issue of the *Newsletter* is also dedicated to Al. It was Al who with the encouragement of other retirees approached President Hall with the idea of an association of and for retirees, and APSURA was soon launched under the auspices of and with the support of President Hall and the University.

With the formal establishment of APSURA in 2008, Al was elected the first president, a role he has pursued with gusto and eminent success for three years as APSURA has grown into a multi-faceted organization representing not only the interests and aspirations of retirees, but those of the larger university community. APSURANS, as members have come to be called, are involved both officially and unofficially in a number of service, social, and recreational activities, as the coming events discussed in this issue of the newsletter indicate.

President Hall offers the following commendation of Al and his work: "I did not have the privilege of knowing Dr. Al Bekus before he joined the ranks of Austin Peay's retired faculty. But knowing his prolific energy and extraordinary dedication to Austin Peay in the retirement phase of his academic career, I can only marvel at what he must have been like *before* retirement. He has played a crucial role in helping our retired faculty and staff stay connected to the university through his work in founding APSURA and leading this association in its early years. Our retired faculty and staff have been and continue to be valuable human resources for the university, and the university is stronger and healthier to the extent they stay vitally connected to Austin Peay. We all owe a great debt to Al for understanding the importance of our retirees to the life of Austin Peay. Well done, Dr. Bekus!"

Continued on page 2

*Officers and
Directors of
APSURA for
2012-13*

From left:
Mitch Robinson
Al Bekus
Al Irby
Phil Kemmerly
Hester Crews
Aleeta Christian
Christa Beckner
Ann Harris
Meredith Gildrie
Jim Clemmer



*APSURA
meeting
photos by
Gerald
Beavers*

Election of officers and revision of the APSURA Bylaws

The June 5 meeting was also the occasion for electing officers and directors for the coming year, and for approving updates and revisions to the APSURA Bylaws. Officers elected for 2012-13 were Aleeta Christian as president, Hester Crews as vice-president, Christa Beckner as secretary, and Al Irby as treasurer. Directors for the coming year are Meredith Gildrie, Ann Harris, Phil Kemmerly, Mitch Robinson, Jim Clemmer, and Al Bekus (ex officio).

Meredith Gildrie led the members through several proposed changes to the Bylaws, many of them designed to increase the clarity of policies. The revised Bylaws will be available in the near future on our website, www.apsu.edu/retirees-association.

From your new president of APSURA

Aleeta Christian

Greetings to friends, colleagues, and especially to all retirees associated with APSU!

In June, APSURA celebrated its third birthday and now we embark on a new year. I am excited to be your new president. I have been with this group since "day one," our organizational meeting on October 9, 2008, and I have enjoyed the fellowship, outings, and renewed association with many of you and the University. Now I visualize 2012-13 as our best year ever.

In planning ahead, I hope we can work toward a new balance of social, service, and academic emphases. For example, I want to encourage you to present at the Library Atheneum Series. What would be your topic? The Atheneum information is available at www.apsu.edu/library. Many other resources of interest to retirees are available on the university website, including our own APSURA pages at www.apsu.edu/retirees-association. Be sure to look through our site occasionally, where among other things all issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes are posted.

One of our major recent emphases is our scholarship program, designed to benefit the descendants of APSU faculty and staff. As you know, the proceeds of lifetime memberships in APSURA (\$500 per member) go directly into the scholarship fund.

Many of you already know that I love to travel, and a majority of you have marked this same interest on your membership forms. We are already taking trips as a group on our local greenways, and exciting excursions together to Nashville Symphony concerts (see discussion of the upcoming Sept. 20 concert in the list of events in this newsletter). What would you think about our sponsoring an excursion either to Chattanooga or Memphis for a couple of days this spring?



Do you know that the APSURA board meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday, at 2 p.m. in MUC 103A? These are open meetings, and we would welcome your attending anytime.

Finally, let me ask you some very big questions: What is your dream for APSURA? Where should we go? What should we do?

What should we become? We know that as a group, to quote the Carpenters' 1970 song, "We've only just begun." I and the other officers and directors would love to hear from you. Call or email any of us. My email is Christiana@apsu.edu.

Aleeta Christian with the Queen's coach, the Royal Mews, London, May 2012

Photo by Dr. Mickey Wadia

Treasurer's Report

Al Irby

Let me begin this report with a gentle reminder that our association year runs from July 1 through June 30, and that dues of \$25 for both regular and associate members are due as of July 1 each year. To those who have already renewed, we thank you! Be assured that your dues are put to good use. We keep our expenses as low as possible, and funds left over are placed directly into our scholarship account for the future use of descendants of APSU faculty and staff. Lifetime memberships of \$500 go directly into the scholarship fund.

Here are our financial reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012:

<u>OPERATING ACCOUNT</u>		
Beginning Balance—07/01/2011	\$	1,109.66
Revenue		3,670.75
Expenditures		3,614.52
Ending Balance—06/30/2012	\$	1,165.89
<u>SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT</u>		
Beginning Balance—07/01/2011	\$	965.00
Revenue		2,567.50
Expenditures		0.00
Ending Balance—06/30/2012	\$	3,532.50

APSURA events for Fall 2012

The following is a list only of events APSURA is sponsoring or in which we are officially participating. Several of the officers are also attending the annual conferences of the national Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) and the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA). Obviously there are a great many other events taking place in which we APSURANS will be interested and involved, including additional Community and Gateway Orchestra concerts, Roxy and APSU dramatic productions, as well as poetry readings, art exhibits, sports events, and individual enterprises such as walks in our parks. We are in the process of developing a fairly comprehensive list of Web and other sources of information on local and regional activities for your convenience. In the meantime, we hope that you can participate in as many of the following activities as possible.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 17-18: Mathematics and Computer Science reunion

On Aug. 17-18 Alumni Relations is hosting a reunion for the department of mathematics and computer science. The reunion will include a welcome reception, tours and student presentations, a ground-breaking ceremony for the new mathematics and computer science building, and a charter ceremony for APSU's new chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon. For further information, visit www.apsu.edu/alumni or call the Alumni Relations Office at 931-221-7979. Registration cost is \$30 per person, to be submitted to APSU Alumni Relations, Box 4676, Clarksville, TN 37044. APSURA hopes that other departments will follow suit and consider holding reunions in the near future.

Wednesday, Aug. 22: Annual convocation and picnic

President Hall once again invites all University retirees to attend the annual convocation at 10 a.m. in the MMC concert hall, and the annual picnic at 11 a.m. in the grove of trees behind the Marks building. Both the convocation and the picnic have in recent years provided an excellent opportunity for retirees to greet friends and to become acquainted with new members of the APSU community. APSURA will have a table at the picnic with copies of our recent newsletters and other information especially for those faculty and staff planning their retirement. We will look forward to seeing you there.

Saturday, Sept. 1: The Sunrise Century Bike Ride



A few of the nearly 1,000 cyclists in last year's Bike Ride

Photos by Jim Clemmer

One of the most enjoyable events of the past year for several APSURANS was helping to staff several of the ten rest stops along the 100-mile route of the Sunrise Century Bike Ride, sponsored by the Clarksville Sunrise Rotary Club. Just watching nearly a thousand bikers in their colorful gear materialize silently out of the morning mist along the country roads north of town was an amazing experience. Some of them went whizzing by as they tried to set new speed records on the full 100-mile

loop, while many others stopped to visit with us briefly as we helped them replenish their water and Gatorade bottles and offered them pretzels, bananas, and other energy foods. Virtually all of them thanked us for our help, and in appreciation of our efforts the Rotary Club subsequently awarded APSURA \$1,000 for our scholarship fund.

If you can join in this experience this year, please notify Al Irby at jairby@charter.net or 931-552-0208 by Aug. 23. He or other organizers will assign you

to a rest stop, or perhaps ask you to assist in early-morning registration of the bikers, and provide the necessary materials and provisions. Those of us who participated last year are confident that you will enjoy this day.



Riders briefly mobbing our rest stop on Sept. 3 of last year

Thursday, Sept. 20: The Nashville Symphony with Olga Kern

On Sept. 20 APSURA will sponsor another of our wonderful hassle-free excursions to Nashville for dinner and a concert by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Transportation will again be provided via comfortable Jarmon motor coach. We will dine in the elegant Arpeggio restaurant in the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, and we will have balcony seats to hear the famed Russian pianist Olga Kern perform the beautiful Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3, with Maestro Giancarlo Guerrero conducting the Nashville Symphony. It was with Kern's performance of this famous "Rocky 3" concerto that she won



the Gold Medal championship of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2001. Other composers represented on the program will be Roberto Sierra and Richard Danielpour.

Olga Kern, winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2001.

The total cost for the evening including transportation, dinner, and the concert will be \$136 per person, including taxes and gratuities for

driver and waiter, but not including alcoholic drinks. This is due by Aug. 13 to APSURA treasurer Al Irby at APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044. The first 26 fully-paid reservations will be guaranteed, with acceptance of additional reservations contingent upon availability. Refunds cannot be guaranteed for those cancelling after Aug. 27. For those who already have season or other tickets for this concert, the cost of transportation and dinner per person will be \$86, also payable by Aug. 13 to Al Irby.

Continued on page 6

*Revelers
Phil Kemmerly,
Floyd
Christian
and Dick
Gildrie on
the Greenway this
spring*

We will depart from the Sam's Club parking lot (right side), Wilma Rudolph Blvd., at 3:30 p.m., with dinner at Arpeggio at 5 p.m., and the concert at 7 p.m. You will probably have a bit of free time upon arrival and after dinner for cocktails and to hear the informal "classical conversation" about the night's performance, usually conducted by Maestro Guerrero, at 6 p.m. We should return to the Sam's Club lot by 10 or 10:30 p.m. This excursion will provide a unique opportunity to experience an evening of good company, delicious food, and a memorable performance without the typical Nashville hassles, and at a very reasonable price.

Saturday, Oct. 13: Greenway walk

On Oct. 13 APSURA will host a leisurely walk on the Clarksville Greenway to enjoy the fall colors, beginning at 9:15 at the trailhead at the end of Pollard Rd. We will walk to the left (north) to avoid the hills and valleys of the route to the right (south). In the past some of us have taken our bikes along to ride or walk as we choose. The trail follows the route of the old rail line through the area and is level enough for easy biking.

We usually travel for one to two hours and then adjourn to reconvene at Silke's restaurant for brunch. To give us an idea of how many to expect, you might email Al Bekus at bekusa@apsu.edu to let him know you plan to join us. Or just show up at 9:15 to join in the stroll.



Thursday, Nov. 1: APSURA/HR seminar for those newly retiring

Please plan to join us on Nov. 1, when APSURA and the Office of Human Resources will conduct our annual seminar/workshop for all personnel planning on retiring soon. This will be held at 3 p.m. in MUC 305. In the past this seminar has proved extremely valuable to new retirees, as we have received not only official information about the retirement process but valuable additional tips from HR employees, TCRS, TIAA/CREF, and VALIC representatives, various vendors, and especially from retirees who have already gone through the process. We retirees know some things that those new to retirement need to know, and that they probably won't hear elsewhere. Please plan to help us with this seminar, especially if you have special kinds of expertise and experience you can share with the group. You will certainly have an opportunity to join in the conversation. This event has proved to be rewarding and fun for all concerned. If you plan to come, please drop our new secretary Christa Beckner a note to that effect at ayyez5m@yahoo.com so we will have an idea of how many to expect.

Sunday, Nov. 11: CCCA, Nashville Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

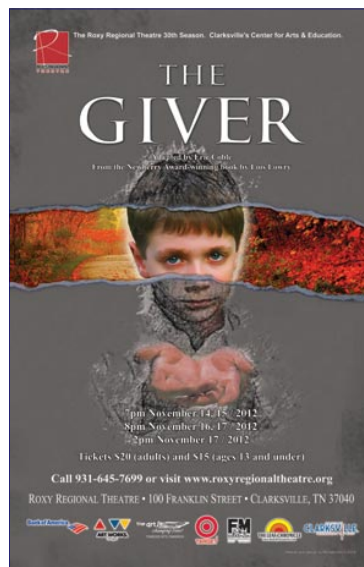
On Sunday Nov. 11 in the MMC at 7:30 p.m. the Clarksville Community Concert Association will present the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in concert. This will provide the Clarksville community a rare opportunity to hear such a large and renowned ensemble in our concert hall. Among the works performed will be a new work composed for the occasion.

We have learned that the ensemble will be led by assistant Nashville Symphony conductor Kelly Corcoran. The Community Concerts are offered on a subscription basis, and holders of season tickets will have their regular seats for the concert. Other seats for this and other community concerts are currently available via the www.clarkvillemusic.org website for \$25.

Saturday, Nov. 17: Lunch at the Blackhorse and *The Giver* at the Roxy

Meredith Gildrie has planned a Nov. 17 excursion to the Blackhorse for lunch at 12 noon and a stroll down the street to the Roxy for the play *The Giver* at 2 p.m. Adapted by Eric Coble from the Newberry Award-winning book by Lois Lowry, this play follows 12-year old Jonas as he discovers that life in a perfect world without pain or war has its dark side—a life without choice. As the “Giver,” the keeper of memory, he journeys to maturity and learns how to take control of his own destiny.

A number of APSURANS have enjoyed these Saturday events in the past. Please call Meredith at 931-648-4317 or email her at gildrie@att.net by Nov. 9. She will purchase tickets for you (\$20 per person), and you can reimburse her at the Blackhorse or at the play.



Saturday, Dec. 1: Choral Holiday Dinner and Concert

The annual Choral Holiday Dinner and Concert sponsored by the department of music will be held on Dec. 1 in the MUC ballroom beginning at 7 p.m. This is a gala performance event with a formal dinner interspersed with a great variety of numbers characterized by musical and cultural diversity. Tickets are \$50 per person.

APSURA is planning to reserve a table or two for this event. If you would like to join fellow APSURANS, notify Ann Harris at harrisa@apsu.edu for reservations and payment information. Or call the music department directly at 931-221-7818, or Dr. Korre Foster at 931-221-7002 (email fosterk@apsu.edu). You will be mailed a payment form on which you can indicate that you would like to be seated with APSURA.

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 Christa Beckner at ayyez5m@yahoo.com, 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, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

Officers

*Aleeta Christian, President
Hester Crews, Vice-President
Al Irby, Treasurer
Christa Beckner, Secretary*

Directors

*Ann Harris
Meredith Gildrie
Mitch Robinson
Phil Kemmerly
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, and late-breaking information on upcoming events, schedule changes, retirement benefits, and background information on the Retirees Association.



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

Associate Membership ☐ \$25.00

Additional donation for Scholarship Fund _____ Lifetime Membership ☐ \$500