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*Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association*

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*Photo: APSURANS having a good time at the Convocation picnic, August 19, 2015. Photo by Jim Clemmer.*

## THERA meeting and seminar on retirement coming soon

**M**any of your APSURA board members will be traveling to Fall Creek Falls on Nov. 8 to join in the annual meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA), and on Wednesday, Nov. 18, APSURA and HR will co-sponsor our signature fall event, "Straight Talk about Retirement," for those current employees approaching retirement and others wanting to think ahead about issues they will face.

Our particular contribution to THERA this year will be a session on techniques for improving communication with retirees and the university community. We will discuss the role especially of newsletters in providing information and in creating a positive image for retiree groups. While some of us have become jaded by today's hyper-emphasis on "branding" among institutions, which sometimes makes them seem more like commercial products such as cornflakes than groups of human beings, we do understand the importance of putting the right kind of "face" on an organization. Newsletters with logos, articles and photos provide concrete ideas and images that help us to identify the groups to which we belong and our roles within them. The other major emphasis at THERA will be the changes our living longer is bringing to our concept of retirement. Required reading for the meeting is the new book by Paul Irving, *The Upside of Aging: How Long Life is Changing the World of Health, Work, Innovation, Policy and Purpose*.

Our Nov. 18 seminar for faculty and staff contemplating retirement will be in MUC Ballroom A, from 3-5 p.m. It will again bring together representatives from HR, TCRS, TIAA-CREF and Great West for concise 10-minute presentations of the essential information every new retiree should have. Our Dr. John Butler will keynote the session with personal thoughts and advice about retiring, and Dr. LuAnnette Butler will discuss the psychological implications of taking this big step. The second hour will be devoted to questions and answers. We urge APSURANS to come and distribute yourselves among the tables to provide camaraderie and moral support to these soon-to-be retirees. They will appreciate your presence.

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Austin Peay State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, 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. <http://www.apsu.edu/files/policy/5002.pdf>.

## Other upcoming events

**A**PSURANS will be welcoming the holidays with our traditional round of celebratory activities, including a Christmas Bazaar at the DAC ArtWalk, the music department's Percussion Christmas and gala Holiday Dinner, a Red River Breeze Christmas concert, the Gateway Chamber Orchestra's Winter Baroque concert, the Roxy Regional Theatre's *A Christmas Carol* and President White's open house for retirees. While APSURA probably will not plan official group attendance at the concerts and plays, individual members might want to coordinate plans and go together. Note that all of the musical events take place Dec. 4, 5 and 6, which will make for a busy weekend for music lovers.

**The Downtown Artists Cooperative (DAC)** will present its annual Christmas Bazaar at the First Thursday ArtWalk on Dec. 3, 5-8 p.m., featuring works especially suitable as Christmas gifts. Complimentary food and wine will be offered, as usual, to attendees.

**The Percussion Christmas program** will be on Friday, Dec. 4, in the Mabry Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. Admission is usually a nominal fee, with no advance registration or assigned seating.

**The Gala Holiday Dinner and Concert** will be on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5, in the MUC Ballroom at 7 p.m. Admission will be \$60 per person, with checks made out to the APSU Foundation, specifying Holiday Dinner on the subject line. Prior registration is required. Request registration forms from the music department at 931-221-7818 or 931-221-7002, or by email to Dr. Korre Foster at [fosterk@apsu.edu](mailto:fosterk@apsu.edu).

**The Red River Breeze Celtic Christmas concert** will be held at the Roxy Regional Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 1 p.m., with their new Christmas album "The Babe of Bethlehem" for sale. Admission: \$10 adult, \$5 children. Tickets and more information about the concert are available online at [www.roxyregionaltheatre.org](http://www.roxyregionaltheatre.org).

***A Christmas Carol*** will be presented at the Roxy Regional Theatre during December. The Roxy will present *The Secret Garden* through much of November. The exact schedule and reservations are available through [www.roxyregionaltheatre.org](http://www.roxyregionaltheatre.org).

### **The Gateway Chamber Orchestra**

will present its annual Winter Baroque concert on Dec. 6 at the Madison Street United Methodist Church, at 3 p.m. Admission: \$15. The concert will include works of Vivaldi, J. S. Bach and Charpentier.

Schedules of other early winter events can be found at [www.apsu.edu](http://www.apsu.edu) on the sites of the APSU departments of athletics, languages and literature, music, art and design, theatre and dance and the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts.



*Downtown Artists Cooperative (DAC)*

*Stephanie Taylor, director of Red River Breeze, with hammer dulcimer*

## APSURA welcomes Ryan Ivey at Fall Luncheon

On Oct. 21 many APSURANS and friends gathered at The Looking Glass restaurant to greet one another and catch up over a good lunch of chicken and crab cake salad. We were happy to welcome new athletics director Ryan Ivey and his wife Kelley to APSU, and also to have in attendance President Alisa White and Derek van der Merwe, the new Vice President for Advancement, Communication and Strategic Initiatives.

As guest speaker, Ivey told us about his upbringing as a devotee of sports and his earlier work at the University of Memphis, McNeese State University, and most recently at Texas A&M-Commerce. He emphasized his holistic approach to the student-athlete, that he encourages all of his charges not only to be successful, winning athletes, but also good students and good citizens.

He illustrated this point with several anecdotes, and concluded by asking APSURANS to support the athletic program through our enthusiastic attendance at events, financial contributions, and by joining the Governors Club.



*Ryan Ivey, APSU Director of Athletics, with President Alisa White at APSURA Fall Luncheon, Oct. 21*

## Fall Foliage Greenway walk

On October 24, we were able to dodge frequent rain showers to take our fall foliage stroll on the Clarksville Greenway. We were again impressed by the way the Greenway has matured so gracefully over the past few years, with established grass where there was once mud, new signage in several places and unobtrusive repairs to the culverts and bridge approaches damaged by the big flood several years ago. The Hand bridge in particular is aging well, the normal weathering of the metal adding a patina and depth of character.

We learned that the trail had been extended over another mile to the north, but we did not go that far. For some reason, our walking pace seems each year to become more leisurely. We don't quite understand this phenomenon, but maybe some of our readers can supply a reasonable explanation. Our outing concluded with an enjoyable group brunch at Silke's.



*APSURANS walking the Greenway on Oct. 25*

## A good time at the picnic

Other APSURA activities taking place since the publication of our August newsletter involved the Convocation picnic, the Rotary Century Bike Ride, the HR Benefits Fair and two major musical events presented by APSURAN George Mabry.

Our APSURA tables were once again a center of attention at the picnic following the Convocation, partly because many current employees recognize and like our organization and just

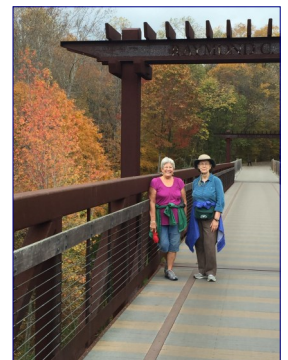


*Joe and Inga Filippo at the Convocation picnic, Aug. 19*

Gallery: APSURANS at work and play



Vocal Alumni Recital, Sept. 25



naturally gravitate toward our friendly faces, and partly because we position ourselves at tables just inside the door of the gym where those entering cannot avoid seeing and talking with us. We have found the picnic an ideal venue for making contact with large numbers of staff and faculty.

### Rotary Century Bike Ride

APSURA had sole responsibility for staffing the first and most-visited rest stop on the Rotary Century bike route, the one on Webb Rd. Luckily, all 15 of us were assigned to this site, so we were able to keep the containers of pretzels, bananas, trail mix, and especially the coolers of water and Gatorade filled.

We served around 800 bikers over three hours or so. Several of us have staffed the Webb Road stop for years, and we always look forward to watching the colorful bikers stream in and sending them on their way refueled and refreshed. They always thank us for our assistance, too.



*The first wave of bicyclists at our rest stop on Webb Rd.*

### Human Resources Benefits Fair

At the HR Benefits Fair on Sept. 29, we had one of the first tables attendees saw as they entered the ballroom, and it was interesting to note their expressions and body language as they laid eyes on the word "Retirees" in our sign. Some of the young ones, of course, ignored our presence entirely, but as the faces took on a few lines, and especially as the gray began to appear atop, they tended to give us a second look, and some of these finally ventured around for a third look and some talk. We were happy to oblige with some encouragement about retirement and an invitation to join APSURA, and to get to know these folks. We were especially glad to see many old friends and colleagues, and to acquaint ourselves with a new generation of vendors.

### Voices and Distinguished Vocal Alumni Recital

APSURAN George Mabry continued to expand his body of work with two musical events this fall, both attended and applauded by a number of APSURANS. One was a beautiful new musical drama entitled *Voices*, inspired by an imaginative work of poems-as-epitaphs by California writer Stark Hunter. Reminiscent of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* in themes and staging, *Voices* presents fictional accounts of the lives of real individuals buried in Clark Cemetery in Whittier, California. Their stories are told by Mabry in an artful blending of song and narration with orchestral accompaniment.

Mabry's other major musical event, co-produced with Sharon Mabry, was a wonderful Distinguished Vocal Alumni Recital bringing back to campus five highly accomplished former students of George and Sharon, plus one superb APSU pianist, who have achieved great success in their musical careers. There was general agreement among attendees that their recital, presented on Sept. 25 in the appropriately named George and Sharon Mabry Concert Hall, was among the very best musical events ever staged at APSU. For George and Sharon, it has to have been the thrill of a lifetime.



*Cast of musical drama Voices, Sept. 4*

## The wonders of San Diego

Barbara Wilbur

Imagine: Ninety-five degrees with a heat index of 105, quickly exchanged for a balmy temperature in the low seventies and an even lower humidity! That's what happens when a Tennessean travels to San Diego, California in late July. For almost 60 years I have been traveling to San Diego to visit relatives, and each and every time there are new adventures waiting to be enjoyed.

I suspect many of you reading this have thoroughly enjoyed San Diego, but let me tell you about a few special locations visited during my 2015 trip.

Balboa Park is a treasure with its wonderful museums, historic buildings and wide selection of restaurants. There's always something special to see and do, and this year was no exception as there were multiple celebrations for the park's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Just imagine strolling across the beautifully landscaped grounds enjoying the flowers, the foliage and the marvelous breeze as you make your way to dinner at the Prado and a play at the Old Globe Theatre. Dinner was excellent; *Kiss Me Kate* was delightful! Promise me, if you've never visited Balboa Park nor dined at the Prado be sure to do so the next time you're in San Diego.



*Hotel del Coronado, San Diego*

(page 7)  
"Plant people" in San Diego Botanic Garden

Coronado Island, with its inviting village shopping area, award-winning beaches, North Island Naval Station and the fabulous Hotel del Coronado, was the destination of another day. I am not a shopper, but the variety and quality of the shops were interesting and intriguing.

However, as you might imagine, lunch at the Hotel del Coronado was definitely the high point! The hotel was built in 1888, has been marvelously maintained and provides the best of California cuisine coupled with fabulous beach views. It should be a MUST on any San Diego visitor's list!



*Black bamboo in Botanic Garden*

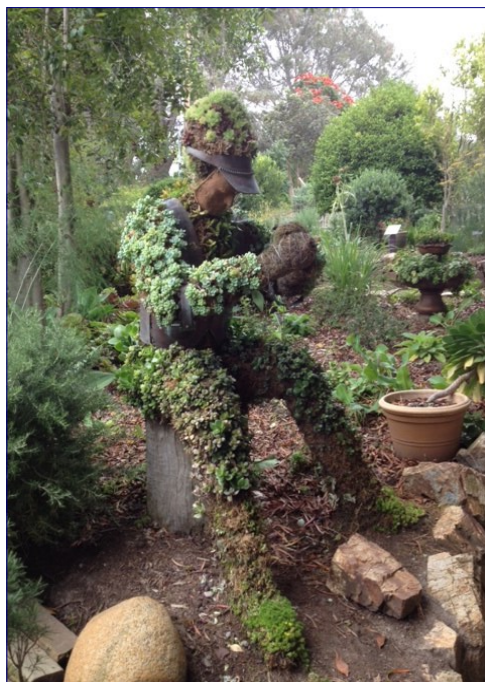
The San Diego Botanic Garden always calls my name and speaks to me. Even though the entire San Diego area is experiencing serious drought conditions, much water is being reclaimed and recycled, so plants are being regularly watered. Therefore thousands of plants, some incredibly rare, continue to thrive in the gardens. Seriously, one could spend days there and still not absorb or assimilate a fraction of the beauty or information available.

As an example, you think bamboo is just various shades and heights of green; well, just wait until you view a healthy grove of black bamboo! It is breathtaking! Or, go just around a curve on the trail and meet the life-sized "plant" people. Incredible, very human-appearing figures with clay faces and bodies composed of various succulents, ivy and other plants that I could not identify. Interesting!

*Photos by Barbara Wilbur*

Seldom do I visit San Diego without spending some time in Old Town, known today as the Old Town State Historic Park. There are numerous vintage buildings; notable among them are several adobe dwellings from the early 1800s. Museums, restaurants and classic retail shops are housed in other vintage buildings. Naturally, a favorite building of mine is the 1865 school house authentically furnished, ready and waiting for students.

Then there are the famous San Diego Zoo; Seaport Park; the well-known ship, the Midway; La Jolla and Dr. Seuss's truffula trees; the famous Point Loma lighthouse; beautiful Torrey Pines; the Cabrillo National Monument; San Diego Zoo Safari Park. . . . The list is virtually endless when it comes to great places to visit, marvelous things to see and do in San Diego! So, whether you have been to San Diego recently, some years ago or never, now is a great time to seriously consider a trip to San Diego and visiting some of my favorite places.



## 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 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](http://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 Barbara Wilbur at [8wi18ur@charter.net](mailto:8wi18ur@charter.net), 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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## On the Web

*[apsu.edu/retirees-association](http://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.*



## 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 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    5 years for \$100  
Additional donation for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_  Lifetime Membership \$500