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SARAH DUGGER: APSU'S FIRST DOCTORAL GRADUATE

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From the President



For the last year and a half, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated many of the conversations surrounding Austin Peay State University. It's an important topic that I'm always eager to discuss because, like many of you, I'm extremely proud of the University's herculean efforts over the last 18 months to keep our students, our University and our community safe. We pivoted to online instruction and then successfully returned to offering on-ground classes. Last fall, we drastically outperformed every other public school in the state in terms of low positive cases for COVID-19, and throughout the spring and summer, our nursing students

vaccinated thousands of area residents.

We've done some great work, but lately I've wondered if these conversations about the pandemic have overshadowed our other amazing, non-COVID-related achievements. While we spent the last year and a half working tirelessly to keep our community safe, the University has continued to excel as an academic institution and a community resource. During the pandemic, we graduated our first doctoral student – Dr. Sarah Dugger – and we launched our second doctorate – a Doctor of Psychology in counseling psychology. Those were both historic accomplishments that all alumni should view with a sense of pride.

What else did we do? We received state approval to build a new Health Professions Building on campus, and we developed Tennessee's first Institute for National Security and Military Studies. In June, the University opened a new Aviation Science Facility at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Regional Airport, and this fall, we began offering new degree programs – a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Music with a concentration in music therapy – that fill important community needs.

It's also been a year of milestones, with successful programs marking impressive anniversaries. This year, Austin Peay's Center for Excellence in Field Biology turned 35, and our award-winning Army ROTC program is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

In this issue of Austin Peay: The Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Austin Peay State University, you'll read about just a few of our incredible, non-COVID achievements during this pandemic. You'll be happy to know that Austin Peay continues to thrive, but the last 18 months did alert us – and all institutions of higher education – that we're now in a rapidly changing world.

To ensure we're prepared for this new reality, the University recently began revising its strategic plan. Part of this process will include updating our mission and vision statements. It's an exciting moment in this University's history, as we work to better serve our students and our community in this new normal while also retaining the aspects of our culture that we all know and love. I hope you'll help us, providing your thoughts, as we develop this new road map for the University's future.

Thank you for your continued support of Austin Peay, and Let's Go Peay!

Milal/

Dr. Mike Licari APSU President

Celebrate the inauguration of

Dr. Michael Licari

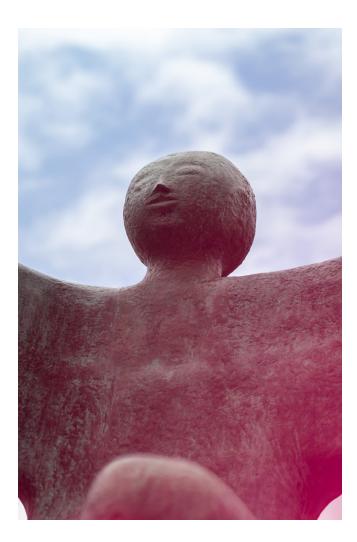
The inauguration of Dr. Michael Licari, Austin Peay's 11th president, will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 5. A link of the live webcast will be available 24 hours before the event at **www.apsu.edu/inauguration.**



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18 SARAH DUGGER: APSU'S FIRST DOCTORAL GRADUATE

In May, Sarah Dugger made history as the first graduate of APSU's Doctor of Education program.

Gov News

APSU VACCINATES THOUSANDS DURING PANDEMIC

On Tuesday, March 2, Austin Peay State University's nursing faculty and students began administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to members of the Montgomery County community at a drive-thru site behind the Ard Building.

Over the next few months, the University vaccinated more than 4,000 people, helping keep the local community safe during a global pandemic.

The University spent months preparing to become an official county vaccination site, with APSU's physical plant setting up vaccine tents in parking lot 11, next to the Ard Building.

Austin Peay also operates a clinical laboratory on campus for testing and vaccines. The lab has an "ultra-freeze" freezer for storing vaccines.



STONE, RUDOLPH AND HENRY GOVS GALLERY

The College of Business recently unveiled the Stone, Rudolph & Henry Govs Gallery inside the Kimbrough Building to thank the local firm for a recent generous gift that will promote student success at APSU.



LORD NAMED MILITARY ADVISER IN RESIDENCE

On May 10, retired Maj. Gen. Walt Lord, former military executive director to the Reserve Forces Policy Board in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, joined APSU's senior leadership team as the institution's new military adviser in residence.



THE HARVILL QUAD

On June 2, the APSU Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the front Browning lawn in honor of Evans Harvill, a 1944 and 1947 graduate, who passed away in May at the age of 95.

STATE APPROVES FUNDING FOR NEW HEALTH PROFESSIONS BUILDING

In April, the Tennessee General Assembly approved funding for 114,600-square-foot health professions building at Austin Peay State University.

"This new facility will not only transform our campus – both physically and academically – it will improve public health for our neighbors, friends and family," APSU President Mike Licari said. "Students will collaborate with others in different fields, making them better healthcare professionals, and the building will provide important public clinical space to serve different populations, including veterans and low-income citizens."

The building will allow APSU to consolidate its growing healthcare-related programs – nursing, allied health sciences, health and human performance, psychological science and counseling and social work – under one roof. Construction will begin next year, with a projected opening before the fall 2024 semester.

INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY & MILITARY STUDIES

State legislators agreed to fund APSU's Institute for National Security and Military Studies – the first such institute in the state. It will oversee educational programs, military outreach activities and interdisciplinary research on national security, intelligence and military life.



NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADUATE DEGREE

This fall, the Department of Criminal Justice began offering a Master of Science in Criminal Justice with an optional concentration in homeland security. APSU now offers the state's only master's program with a concentration in homeland security.



APSU AT THE AIRPORT

In June, the University unveiled its new Aviation Science Facility, along with its fleet of five helicopters, at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Regional Airport.



NURSING GRADUATE WINS HAROLD LOVE AWARD

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Chasing a dream: How Deepesh Subedi escaped a Bhutanese ethnic war and won THEC's top service award

They were coming to arrest his father. Deepesh Subedi, only five at the time, helped his family quickly pack a few essentials before the soldiers arrived. It didn't matter that his father was a quiet farmer, with no interest in politics. It didn't matter that the Subedi family had lived in Bhutan – a small country on the edge of the Himalayas – as legal citizens for several generations. All that mattered to the soldiers, marching up the slopes with their guns, was that the family had immigrated from Nepal several generations earlier.

Men were coming to arrest his father – possibly his entire family.

"We left everything in the middle of the night," Deepesh said. "We fled our home, we crossed the jungle, and we came to India for safety."

The family eventually made its way to Nepal, but it was a foreign land to them; they were not citizens of this country. After escaping an ethnic war in Bhutan, the Subedis spent the next 17 years – Deepesh's pivotal childhood years – living in an unsanitary refugee camp where, in those first few years, people regularly died of cholera and dehydration.

"A lot of people died – I have witnessed them in front of my eyes," he said. "I wanted to be a part of the solution, and now I'm chasing my dream."

Chasing that dream brought Deepesh to Austin Peay State University, where he is now a graduate student in the school's online Master of Science in Nursing program. But he has already become part of the solution, using his healthcare background to help ease suffering among Nashville's Bhutanese refugee community. Last spring, Deepesh was recognized for his work when he received the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award. The honor is given to only five college students across the state each year.

"When I see a problem, I want to be part of the solution"

As a child growing up in a refugee camp, Deepesh made a promise to himself to never let the title of "refugee" define him or prevent him from doing what he wanted with his life. It was a difficult promise to keep sometimes.

"After my high school, I was interested in the medical field so I applied to medical school," he said. "But in Nepal, to go to medical school, you have to be a citizen of the country or you have to pay your tuition up front."

In 2008, an international organization started resettling Bhutanese refugees all over the world. The Subedis decided to head to the United States. They spent the next year going through the screening process before they were finally accepted by a resettling agency in Idaho.

That's where Deepesh, enrolling at Boise State University, became the first member of his family to go to college.

"I was thinking of going to medical school, but I got married, had kids, life happened," he said. "My parents don't speak English; I have to support them. My parents are totally dependent on me."

Some of his relatives from the Nepali refugee camp made their way to Nashville, and in 2012, Deepesh and his family moved south to Music City – a more diverse city than Boise. A year later, Deepesh and his brother opened the Central Market, a South Asian grocery store on Nolensville Pike.

"When I see a problem, I want to be part of the



solution," he said. "A lot of people want ethnic food, ethnic items – our ethnicity is attached to our life. In American markets, we don't find those things we need them for festivals and celebrations, and there's so much food in our country that we don't find."

'There are no words that translate'

After a few years of running the all South Asian ethnic grocery, Deepesh decided to step back from the family business to focus on his healthcare career.

"When I first came to the United States, in Idaho, I was one of the best English speakers, so I started translating and interpreting at hospitals, schools, banks, offices," he said. "The hardest, when I was translating for the doctors or nurses, even though I'm understanding what the doctor says, there are no words that translate to the Nepali that the patient will understand. Words like 'occupational therapy,' these didn't exist."



Now living in Nashville, he enrolled at Tennessee State University and earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After graduating, he started working at Southern Hills Hospital, which serves the Bhutanese community.

"For the people of my parents' generation, when I go in with my nursing uniform and stethoscope around my neck, and I greet them in Nepali, they're 10 percent better," he said. "And they will start opening up for more conversation."

'I feel so blessed'

Deepesh enrolled at Austin Peay because his goal, once he earns his nurse practitioner degree, is to open a clinic in Tennessee that serves residents with limited English language skills. But early into studies, the COVID-19 pandemic created a global emergency. In April 2020, more than 100 employees at a Tyson Foods plant became infected with the new coronavirus, and many were Nepali immigrants.

"So now I started to get calls because I'm the first one in the medical profession in the whole community," Deepesh said. "Since they've seen me in the store, and we have a relationship from a business point, they will ask, 'what should I do?'"

To help his community, he shot videos and hosted Zoom sessions about preventive measures, such as wearing a mask and social distancing. He talked to individuals about their symptoms and whether they should go to the hospital or quarantine at home.

His work led him to receive the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's top volunteer recognition. For Deepesh, his efforts don't feel like work. It's his calling.

"I feel so blessed," he said.

GOVS GIVE

Last spring, APSU raised \$456,077 during the University's fifth annual Govs Give campaign, making this the most successful year for the online giving event. To celebrate this goal, APSU's college deans agreed to be slimed, Nickelodeon-style.

(From left) APSU deans Mickey Hepner (business), Barry Jones (arts and letters), Karen Meisch (STEM), Prentice Chandler (education) and Tucker Brown (behavioral and health sciences).



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CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR FIELD BIOLOGY CELEBRATES 35TH YEAR

In 2002, as Dr. Ben Stone neared the end of his time as founding director of the Center of Excellence for Field Biology at Austin Peay State University, he shared his ruminations about our relationship with nature.

"I believe that the best thing a human being can do is try to increase understanding of nature, the entire reality – the all – around us," Stone wrote in "Land Between the Lakes, Kentucky and Tennessee: Four Decades of Tennessee Valley Authority Stewardship." "This can be done best by the techniques of the natural sciences. ... One must observe nature. "To this end, the Center for Field Biology provides one of the best opportunities in Tennessee."

In its 35th year, the center remains an opportunity for Austin Peay and beyond. Since its inception in 1986, the center has expanded from a focus on the fauna and flora of the Land Between the Lakes to establishing in 2017 the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative – which is working to restore thousands of acres of grasslands from Texas to New Jersey.

"As a result of the center's activity and the funding, this center gained both a regional and international visibility," Stone said in a spring 2021 interview. "That would never have been achieved had it not been for the state Centers of Excellence program."

The center's genesis in Land Between the Lakes

The Tennessee General Assembly and Gov. Lamar Alexander in 1984 announced the creation of a new "Centers of Excellence" program designed to build upon the research strengths of the state's universities.

"Well, you have to remember how the department was before the center ... it was a teaching department, and there was no time for research," said Dr. Wayne Chester, a biology professor at Austin Peay from 1967-2008 who also served as principal investigator for the center. "One of my mentors one time, when I was in grad school, said, 'If you're going to teach science, you'd better do some science."

The Centers of Excellence program allowed

Austin Peay's biology professors to expand on the breadth of research they already were doing at Land Between the Lakes (LBL). Some APSU biologists had been researching in LBL since 1963 at the Tennessee Valley Authority's request.

"As a result of that early work in Land Between the Lakes, we based our center on Land Between the Lakes," said Chester, who had performed field research in LBL since 1967.

During the summer of 1985, Stone and Chester joined Drs. Charles N. Boehms, William Ellis, Floyd Scott and David Snyder to develop the "Proposal for the Establishment of a Center of Excellence for the Study of Flora and Non-Game Fauna of Land Between the Lakes at Austin Peay State University."

> The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative has earned more than \$4 million in grant money and funding since 2017.

The state established the Center of Excellence for Field Biology of Land Between the Lakes the following summer. Dr. James Fralish of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale joined Boehms, Chester, Scott and Snyder as the center's first principal investigators. Stone became the first director.

Early successes expand mission

The center quickly succeeded at its mission and earned designation in 1989 as an "Accomplished Center of Excellence," which expanded the center's scope and financial base.

One of the state's goals with the centers of excellence was "to provide external funding that would, in turn, attract external funding on the national level," Stone said. "As a result of this center faculty's activity, we brought in several million dollars in funding by the time I retired in 2002."

The center's current principal investigators – Drs. Dwayne Estes, Rebecca Johansen, C.M. Gienger and Stefan Woltmann, and Michelle Rogers – have secured about \$3 million in external grants and contracts. And since 2017, the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative has earned more than \$4.1 million in fundraising and grant money.

In its first 10 years, the center awarded more than 200 research assistantships to students. That has continued to today with an Austin Peay student recently earning APSU's first-ever National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

"This is a great way to grow scientists, to get them started."

Also, of the 137 presentations and 52 publications produced by the center's current principal investigators, about 80 have included student researchers.

"This is a great way to grow scientists, to get them started," said Dr. Steve Hamilton, who retired as the center's director in May. "They have all the coursework, which is more regimented and structured, but to actually get in the lab and field and conduct an experiment ... is learning how science works, the nittygritty of it not just the rote memorization."

To read more about the center's 35th anniversary, visit www.apsu.com and search for "CEFB."





Dr. Floyd Scott - 1944-2021



Austin Peay's Center of Excellence for Field Biology lost one of its founding members, Dr. Floyd Scott, when he passed away on April 25.

"He was the closest thing to a brother that I ever had," said Dr. Eugene Wofford, a longtime botanist at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. "He was a very kind, very compassionate person, and I miss him dearly." Wofford met Scott in 1961, when the two enrolled as freshmen – along with Floyd's brother, Lloyd – at Austin Peay.

"He was not only my friend, he was my best friend," Wofford said. "Everybody is going to miss him."

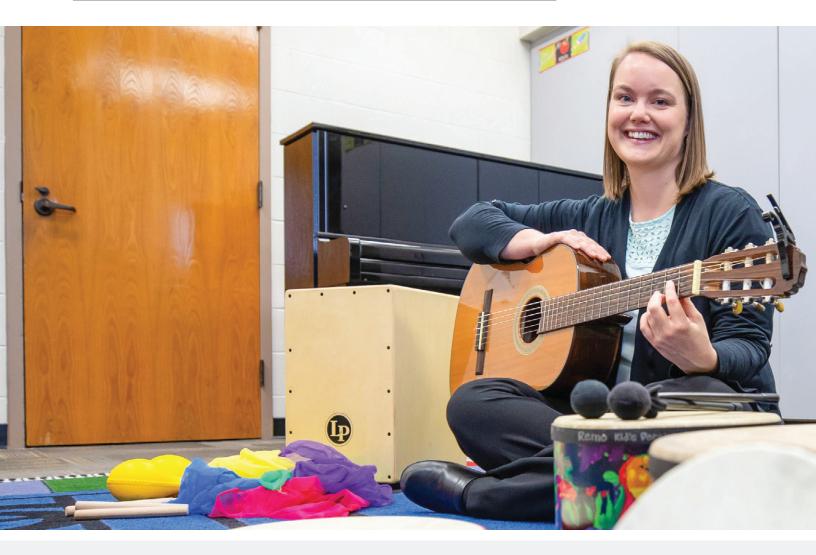
Scott was one of the team members who in 1985 wrote a proposal to establish the Center of Excellence for Field Biology at Austin Peay. In 1986, he became one of the center's original principal investigators.

Scott's work at Land Between the Lakes goes back to the 1960s when he helped Dr. David Snyder survey the reptiles and amphibians of LBL.

That work culminated in 1972's "Amphibians and Reptiles of Land Between the Lakes." Scott worked to update the book, which published with the same name in 2016.



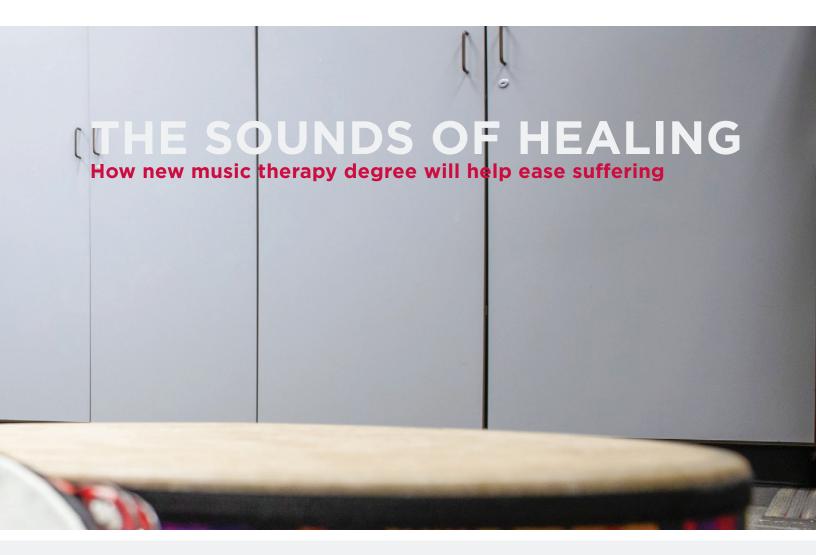
Music Therapy



When Jennifer Denk takes out her guitar and strums a soothing melody – anything from "Amazing Grace" to "Margaritaville" – her listeners sometimes drift off to sleep. As a board-certified music therapist, that's exactly the type of reaction she wants. Denk isn't a performer; her music, played in schools, hospitals and for hospice patients, is meant to ease suffering and help listeners overcome challenges.

"I've done this for 10 years, and I'm still blown away by the power of music," she said. "Our purpose is not to teach our clients to learn an instrument or sing. We're using music to address their needs. So, we're working with motor skills, communication skills, cognitive skills, social skills and emotional skills. That's why there are so many applications of music therapy in the community."

Last August, Denk joined APSU as an assistant professor of music. Throughout the year, she's piloted a music therapy concentration within a degree program at the University, and this fall, the APSU Department of Music welcomed the first students into its new Bachelor of Music with a concentration in music therapy degree program. Austin Peay is now one of only two public schools in Tennessee to offer a music therapy degree accredited by the American Music Therapy Association.



"As a music therapist, I've worked with clients across the lifespan," Denk said. "With all the populations we work with, that means there are a lot of job opportunities. We designed our curriculum in such a way that all the information they get here can directly be applied to the field."

Music has long been a source of healing and inspiration – its therapeutic roots date back to antiquity – but according to the American Music Therapy Association, the modern profession "began after World War I and World War II when community musicians of all types, both amateur and professional, went to veterans' hospitals around the country to play for the thousands of veterans suffering both physical and emotional trauma from the wars."

This ability to serve soldiers and veterans, along with people ranging in age from preschoolers to senior citizens, is one of the reasons why the Department of Music developed this new program.

For enrollment information visit

www.apsu.edu/programs/undergraduate/music-music-therapy

Call her Dr. Dugger: APSU's first doctoral graduate

The title in front of her name sometimes causes her to hesitate – Dr. Sarah Dugger.

"A lot of my teacher friends will joke and call me Dr. Dugger," she said.

Others might also hesitate when she tells them where she earned her doctorate – Austin Peay State University. For the last 94 years, the University has never awarded anything higher than an education specialist graduate degree, but that changed on Friday, May 7. That evening, Dugger – let's say it again, "Dr. Sarah Dugger" – made history by becoming the first person to earn a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in educational leadership degree at the University.

"It's very humbling," she said. "That part really didn't hit me until I finished defending my dissertation and Dr. (John) McConnell said, 'You're the first doctorate degree awarded at Austin Peay.' For the University, I think it's really cool."

"This is a significant milestone in the history and development of the Eriksson College of Education," Dr. Prentice Chandler, dean of the college, said. "Since Austin Peay started as a teacher training institution over 90 years ago, it's fitting that the first doctoral program and first doctoral graduate is in the College of Education. We are proud of Dr. Dugger's accomplishment and look forward to how this degree will change the trajectory of our college. We are just getting started."

Educational Roots

On April 25, 1927, Tennessee Gov. Austin Peay signed a bill creating a normal school on the old Southwestern Presbyterian University campus in Clarksville. This new school, named after the governor who died a few months later, was founded for training rural teachers in this area.





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Over the next nine decades, as the thriving school eventually became a full university, the demand for a degree in educational leadership among the area's K-12 professionals also grew. The faculty and staff within Austin Peay's Eriksson College of Education spent a decade developing the program, and in April 2018, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) – the region's higher education accrediting body – approved the new degree program.

The agency also reclassified Austin Peay as a Level V institution, opening the door for future doctoral degrees. In the final months of the approval process, Dr. Gary Stewart, APSU professor of education, began recruiting students for the new degree – he wanted to ensure they enrolled only the top candidates. One of the people he approached was Sarah Dugger.

Dr. Dugger

In 1986, decades before she was Dr. Dugger, she was a recent college graduate beginning her career as a public school teacher. She enjoyed teaching but she left the field to become a stay-at-home mom for her six children.

"Fast forward to 2012. I had been a stay-at-home mom for quite a few years," she said. "My husband had a traumatic brain injury and was unable to work. It was a fast turn of events that had me go back into teaching."

She took a job at Cheatham County Central High School to help support the family. Her oldest son, a communication graduate student at Austin Peay, told her about a Master of Education in Reading degree at his University. But Dugger hesitated, unsure if she wanted to become a student again.

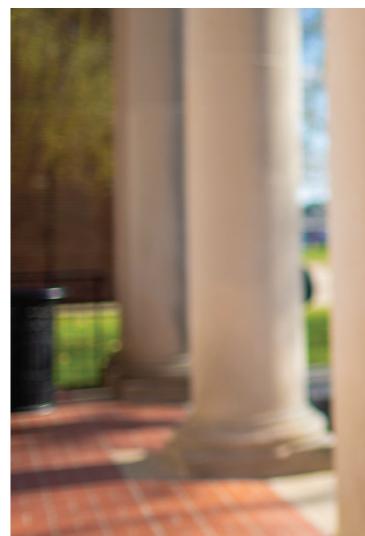
Her son, who worked in APSU's College of Graduate Studies, took the initiative for her.

"The next thing I knew, he said, 'You need to get your transcripts and send them to the College of Graduate Studies,'" she said. "He filled out the application for me and said, 'By the way, you're taking the MAT (Miller Analogies Test) tomorrow at 8 a.m. at Cumberland University.' Four days later, my classes started."

Dugger quickly realized that she loved being a student again, so she subsequently enrolled in Austin Peay's Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) program in curriculum instruction and instructional technology. Within two years, she earned two graduate degrees from the University.

As she was finishing up her Ed.S., Stewart and McConnell kept telling her about a new doctoral degree coming to Austin Peay.

"They recruited heavily, I'll put it that way," she said.



The program

Dugger, along with 19 other educators and working professionals, enrolled in the Eriksson College of Education, forming the doctoral degree's inaugural cohort. Classes began in Fall 2018, and over the next three years, students met on Monday nights on campus and over Zoom. The community encouraged each other to continue, even when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted their program.

"It's been a great program," Dugger said. "A lot of really practical course work, things I've been able to implement over the last three years. Great professors."

Dugger set herself the goal of finishing the degree in three years, so when she began working on her dissertation last fall, she made her own rigid research and writing deadlines. Another goal – no procrastinating.

On March 26, she successfully defended her dissertation, "The impact of COVID-19 on Risk of Teacher Retention in the United States." Then, during a socially distanced commencement ceremony in May, she received her hood and a round of applause, officially becoming "Dr. Dugger."

"And I never thought I would even pass statistics, but I aced it," she said.

To learn more about degrees Austin Peay State University offers, visit APSU.EDU."



50 YEARS OF ROTC



This year marks the 50th anniversary of Austin Peay's award-winning Army ROTC program. Here's a look at some of the program's milestones that occurred over the last five decades.

Jan. 28, 1971: Army General Order Number 4 authorizes Army ROTC at APSU.

Sept. 1971: Army ROTC classes begin at APSU.

Jan. 25, 1973: Michael Worsham is the first APSU cadet commissioned as an Army officer.

Mar. 14, 1975: Remo Butler ('75) is commissioned. He will become APSU's first general officer and the first black Special Forces officer to make brigadier general in June 2000.

Jun. 3, 1977: Former cadet Ronald Bailey graduates. He joins the U.S. Marines and retires as a lieutenant general.

Aug. 2, 1979: Herbert Rodriguez is the 100th cadet commissioned.

Nov. 1988: Lance Richardson ('89) is named the top Army ROTC cadet in the nation.

Nov. 1990: APSU Army ROTC program earns its first MacArthur Award.

Nov. 1991: APSU Army ROTC program earns its second MacArthur Award.

Dec. 12, 1985: 1st Lt. Kip Stevens ('84) is among the 248 soldiers killed in the Gander, Newfoundland, plane crash after a six-month peacekeeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula. **Dec. 4, 1987:** Paul Bontrager is commissioned. He will be promoted to brigadier general in August 2014.

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY ROTC AND GOVERNORS GUARD

50TH ANNIVERSARY

1971

Nov. 1997: APSU Army ROTC program earns its third MacArthur Award.

Nov. 2001: APSU Army ROTC program earns its fourth MacArthur Award.

Oct. 6, 2003: 2nd Lt. Richard Torres ('02) is killed in action in Iraq. He is the only APSU Army ROTC graduate killed in combat.

Nov. 2008: APSU Army ROTC program earns its fifth MacArthur Award.

Nov. 2014: APSU Army ROTC program earns its sixth MacArthur Award.

Nov. 2015: APSU Army ROTC program earns its seventh MacArthur Award.

Jun. 2016: Maj. Greg Mabry ('04) is inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame at Fort Knox.

Nov. 2019: APSU Army ROTC program earns its eighth MacArthur Award.

May 7, 2021: Katherine Alba is the program's 800th cadet commissioned as an Army officer.





AVIATION HANGAR RIBBON-CUTTING

A black Robinson R44 helicopter emblazoned with the APSU logo swooped low over a cheering crowd at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Regional Airport in June. The aircraft, the newest addition to APSU's growing helicopter fleet, carried Austin Peay President Mike Licari and his special guest, F&M Bank President and CEO Sammy Stuard, to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new APSU Aviation Science Facility at the airport.

"Today is an exciting day for APSU and for the aviation science program," Licari said. "We are thrilled to share this new facility with the public."



(Left) Sammy Stuard and President Mike Licari cut the ribbon on the new Aviation Science Facility. *(Below)* President Mike Licari addresses the community during the ceremony.





LATINO COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



For Kemeliz Fuentes, a sophomore at Austin Peay State University, being a Latina in America often means struggling to exist in two separate worlds.

"You'll ask yourself, 'Am I being American enough for my American friends and Hispanic enough for my Hispanic friends?" she said.

When these questions begin to overwhelm her, Fuentes heads to the bottom floor of the APSU Morgan University Center where, in a large office suite with couches, tables, a television and small kitchen area, she relaxes with friends dealing with similar concerns. This space, the APSU Latino Community Resource Center, is a second home for students like Fuentes, and it's helping more Latino students enroll and thrive at Austin Peay.

"I like it here because I can feel more connected to who I am," she said. "For me, it provides a sense of community to connect more with my people."

Last year, Kiah Albritton with the Education Trust of Tennessee noted that Latino Tennesseans "are largely underrepresented at many of our state's public higher education institutions." The Trust released a report – "Tennessee: Segregation Forever?" – that criticized several Tennessee schools for their inclusion efforts, but the document also praised Austin Peay for its recruitment and retention of Latino students.

"Alongside the overall growth, [Austin Peay] has maintained a focus on increasing its student of color population as well," the report stated. "The campus, which has the highest Latino access score of any public institution in the state, also enrolls more military students than all other state colleges and universities combined. One strategy in

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achieving the institution's goals to increase diversity is clearly stating, prioritizing and investing resources to meet that goal."

In recent years, the center has become one of the key instruments in that strategy, which is why the University rebranded it this spring from the Hispanic Cultural Center – as it was known for 16 years – to the Latino Community Resource Center (LCRC).

"When we were the Hispanic Cultural Center, I think there was always this confusion of what we were and who we served," Yanaraliz Barnes, coordinator for the center, said. "A lot of people thought we were a club, or they thought we primarily provided tutoring for people taking Spanish, and some didn't even know we were here. We wanted to be more specific, more upfront about what's our main focus, which is to serve Latino students through resources. And so, we are now the Latino Community Resource Center."

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Sports News



(From left) President Mike Licari, Head Coach Nate James and Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison

James new men's basketball head coach

Twenty years ago, Nate James played 20 minutes for Duke in the 2001 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship game win against Arizona, earning the first of three national title rings he'd pick up as a Blue Devil – one as a player and two as an assistant coach under one of college basketball's most legendary names.

Today, he is ushering in a new era of basketball in Clarksville as the 13th head men's basketball coach in Austin Peay State University history.

"To have the opportunity to lead my own program, be part of the amazing vision for a place like APSU and serve a community that embraces its university and student-athletes has been a dream of mine for quite some time," he said last spring. "It is exactly what every coach wishes for."

The 43-year old James has basketball – and success – ingrained in him. From his time as a player

to his tenure as a coach, James has been a part of 22 regular-season, tournament or national title teams.

Thirty players in James' sphere of influence have earned All-ACC honors during his time at Duke, with 17 earning All-America honors, five earning National Freshman of the Year and two – Marvin Bagley III in 2018 and Zion Williamson in 2019 – being named National Player of the Year.

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I will work endlessly to build a basketball culture with the type of culture that every player, alum, donor and fan will always be proud of. This is an amazing day to be a Gov! Let's Go Peay!

Young new women's basketball head coach

Last spring, Austin Peay State University Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison again turned to a young coach who has risen through the ranks and gained a reputation as a diligent recruiter to lead one of the department's flagship programs. In March, the APSU athletics department introduced Brittany Young as the 11th head women's basketball coach in program history.

Young takes over the Austin Peay women's basketball program after a season as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Mississippi State. She helped sign KN'isha Godfrey, a fourstar-rated recruit by espnW and the No. 8 point guard in the country.

"I am truly honored and grateful to join the Austin Peay family and to become a part of the Clarksville community," Young said.

"There is great leadership at Austin Peay State

University, and I would like to thank Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison and President Michael Licari for believing in me and my vision for this program. I look forward to connecting with our student-athletes as we strive to achieve excellence."

When Mississippi State head coach Nikki McCray-Penson moved to Starkville after three seasons at Old Dominion, Young joined her. The pair led a successful three-season turn at Old Dominion where they helped the program reach its first postseason appearance since 2015 amid back-to-back 20-win campaigns.

"Brittany was a student-athlete at the Division II level and has coaching experience at the junior college, mid-major and Power 5 levels, giving her a wealth of experience to draw from – she'll be prepared for anything the game can throw at her," Harrison said.



(From left) Gerald Harrison, Head Coach Brittany Young and President Mike Licari

Sports News



Govs win first-ever OVC Beach Volleyball Championship

Austin Peay's beach volleyball team won the first-ever Ohio Valley Conference Beach Volleyball Championship in April, sweeping UT Martin, 3-0, in the title match at Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex in Martin, Tennessee.

After the Govs on-court celebration wrapped up, the OVC named Jenna Panning, Brooke Moore, Tegan Seyring and Kelsey Mead to the inaugural OVC Beach Volleyball All-Tournament Team. Moore and Panning were also named the tournament's MVP pairing after going 3-0 and scoring two match-clinching points for the Governors.



Women's Tennis wins second OVC title

Austin Peay's women's tennis team won its final three singles matches for a comeback victory against top-seeded Southeast Missouri in April. It was the Governors second-straight Ohio Valley Conference Women's Tennis Championship.

"It feels wonderful," Coach Ross Brown said. "It's a little bit of relief, but a lot of joy, and I am extremely proud of how our women fought out here. They truly did leave everything out here; there is nothing left."

The team went on to play in the NCAA Tournament, losing in the first round to No. 3 Georgia.

Taylor trains with Pacers

Austin Peay State University men's basketball legend Terry Taylor will begin his professional career with the Indiana Pacers, who inked the Bowling Green native to a training camp deal minutes after the 2021 NBA Draft concluded.

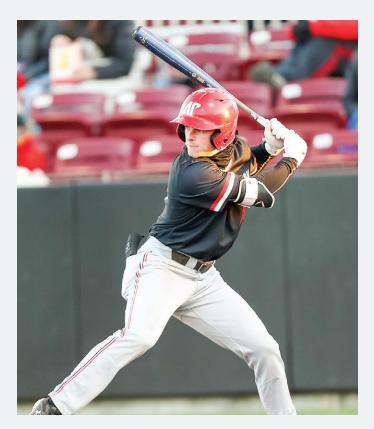
Taylor, the two-time defending Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year, will join the Pacers for training camp and their run in Las Vegas for the MGM Resorts NBA Summer League 2021, which begins Aug. 8.

"I'm grateful that the Pacers are taking a chance on me, and I'm going to do my best to make sure they don't regret giving me this opportunity," he said. "I'm excited to start my career; I've been dreaming about this since I was a kid and for it to be a reality is just surreal for me."

Taylor's case as one of the greatest players in league history continued to gain steam over the course of his career,



culminating in a senior campaign that saw him shatter Austin Peay's career scoring record and become just the fifth player in Ohio Valley Conference history to score 2,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds in his career. In the history of NCAA Division I basketball, Taylor is one of only 120 players to reach that milestone.



Spain drafted to MLB

Austin Peay State University center fielder Garrett Spain became the 44th Governors player drafted in the Major League Baseball Draft when the Toronto Blue Jays selected him with their 15th round selection earlier this summer.

Spain becomes the ninth Austin Peay baseball player selected in the 15th round or earlier. He is the first to be picked that early since both Ridge Smith (12th round, Toronto) and Logan Gray (13th, Kansas City) were selected in the 2016 draft.

Spain made a move up to First Team All-OVC in 2021 after earning OVC Freshman of the Year, Second Team All-OVC, and OVC All-Freshman Team honors in 2019. He closed the 2021 regular season strong – batting .359 with 14 RBI over the final 19 games. He finished the season batting .330 while leading the Govs in home runs (9), RBI (43), and stolen bases (14).

HOMECOMING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8 ////

43rd Annual Homecoming Golf Tournament 8 a.m., Swan Lake Golf Course

\$75 per person. Open to the public. Sponsored by Budweiser of Clarksville. To RSVP, sign up your full team or to sign up as a sponsor, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/hcgolf21.

APSU Baseball Alumni Homecoming Golf Tournament 8 a.m., Clarksville Country Club

\$75 per person. To RSVP, sign up your full team or to sign up as a sponsor, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/baseballgolf21.

College of Business Homecoming Reception 5-7 p.m., 317 College St.

College of Business alumni are invited to attend. To RSVP, contact Brad Averitt at 931-221-6373 or averittb@apsu.edu.

Military Alumni Chapter Dinner 6 p.m., Morgan University Center Ballroom

\$40 per person. Proceeds benefit the Military Scholarship Endowments. To RSVP or for more information, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/ military21.

African-American Alumni Chapter Scholarship Mixer 7 p.m.-midnight, Talley Hall (200 Harnett Ct.)

Join the APSU African-American Alumni Chapter for a night of mixing, mingling and dancing. Donations can be made to benefit the Marvin Posey Jr. Scholarship Endowment. To RSVP, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/mixer21. For information, email jhalljones823@gmail.com.

All Athletics Alumni Mixer 7-10 p.m., Strawberry Alley Upstairs (103 Strawberry Alley)

Free. All former APSU athletes are invited. To RSVP, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/athleticmixer21.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 ////

50-Year Reunion Breakfast - Classes of 1970 (rescheduled from last year) and 1971 8-10 a.m., Morgan University Center, Room 305

\$30 per person. To RSVP, visit www.alumni.apsu. edu/class71 . For information, contact Lacey Dillon at dillonl@apsu.edu or 931-221-7290.

Governors Football Alumni Reunion Breakfast & Program 8-9:30 a.m., Fortera Stadium ECHO Power Club Level

Free. All former football players are invited to reunite in support of APSU football. Reservations requested for breakfast. To RSVP and request your game tickets, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/fbreunion21.

Governors Own Marching Band Alumni Reunion & Halftime Performance

8-10 a.m.	Breakfast/Meet & Greet
10 a.m.	Watch Party at Homecoming Parade
11 a.m.	Rehearsals for Halftime Performance
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m.	Kickoff/Halftime Performance
6 p.m.	Smash Bang Party (Bud Barn, off exit 19)

RSVP by Oct. 1, 2021, by visiting

https://forms.gle/U8vxZJ2SCDfQeknQ9. Additional details regarding locations, rehearsals, halftime performance and the Smash Bang party will be emailed directly to all registered band alumni.

Governors Baseball Alumni Reunion Breakfast & Program 9 a.m., Dunn Center

All former baseball players are invited. Reservations requested for golf and breakfast. To RSVP, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/ baseballalum21.

Greek Alumni Parade "Watch Party" 9:30 a.m., Clement Lawn (off of College Street - Greek Tent).

Reconnect with fraternity and sorority alumni while watching the Homecoming Parade. Free event. For information, contact Victor Felts, Greek Alumni Chapter president, at 931-221-7431 or feltsv@apsu.edu.

> APSU Homecoming Parade 10 a.m., APSU Campus

Free and open to the public. Contact Student Life and Engagement, 931-221-7431, for parade details and information.

Alumni Awards Lunch 11:30 a.m., Morgan University Center Ballroom

\$25 per person. Open to the public. Meet and mingle with other alumni and friends while honoring this year's recipients. To RSVP, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/awards21

Alumni Tailgate 1-3 p.m., Tailgate Alley

Free and open to all alumni and friends.

Homecoming Game - APSU vs. SEMO 3 p.m., Fortera Stadium

Open to the public. Presentation of 2021 Homecoming king, queen and court at halftime. For admission prices, contact Athletics Ticket Office at 931-221-PEAY.

Homecoming Step Show 7 p.m., Foy Center (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

- Students/Military **\$15 in advance**
- Community/Alumni \$20 in advance
- Tickets at the door \$25

Call Fraternity & Sorority Affairs at 931-221-6570 or visit www.apsugreeks.com for more information.

Events subject to change.





Alumni News & Events



In recent months, the APSU Division of University Advancement has experienced many promising new developments. On Friday, June 11, we hosted a day of events to celebrate the completion of the "What If" Comprehensive Campaign. During the events, organizers recognized donors and friends, and announced the campaign's official giving total - \$65,874,366.45.

We are grateful to our alumni and donors for their many gifts that enabled us to surpass our goal for the campaign months ahead of our projected end date of Dec. 31, 2021. We want to thank

the members of the APSU Comprehensive Campaign Steering Committee for their leadership and commitment to this initiative. Members of the APSU Comprehensive Campaign Steering Committee include Chair Ginna Holleman ('95), Maggie Kulback ('77), Doug Downey ('79), Wilma Newton ('73), Charlsie Hand ('88), Lawson Mabry ('77), Bill Evans, John Foy ('65), Valencia May ('86), Dr. Bruce Myers, Joe Shakeenab ('04) and Sammy Stuard.

The Office of University Advancement has welcomed three new staff members to our team to further the University's engagement and fundraising activities. Rebekah Bishop is now the director of donor operations and annual giving, Jared Green is the assistant athletics director - development, and Emily DeSpain is the new advancement specialist. They all bring valuable skills and experience to the office and our entire division. To see the full list of staff for the Office of University Advancement, visit apsu.edu/advancement/uastaff. For questions about University Advancement, contact advancement@apsu.edu or 931-221-7127.

We are preparing to host several upcoming events in person, both on and off campus. Those events include welcome events for students and legacy families and our fall Homecoming activities for alumni and friends. For a list of ways to get involved with APSU Alumni Relations, visit alumni.apsu.edu. For questions, contact alumni@apsu.edu or 931-221-7979.

We are also excited to share FreeWill with you. FreeWill is a free, online resource that guides you through the process of writing your will at no personal cost. Whether you recently graduated, or have several years of experience under your belt, you need to have your plans in place. Take 20 minutes today to complete this important task, and protect the people and causes you care about most. Get started at FreeWill.com/APSU.

Sincerely.

Kris Phillips ('91) Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the APSU Foundation



NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

President CW4 Joe Shakeenab '04 jshakeenab@yahoo.com

President-Elect Tom Chester '73 thomas.w.chester@tn.gov

> Vice President Victor Felts '91 feltsv@apsu.edu

Past President Nicole Aquino Williamson '04 nicole.aquino615@gmail.com

IGHT BALL

CANDIFI

38th Annual Candlelight Ball

March 12, 2022 • Omni Hotel • Downtown Nashville BACK IN PERSON

Austin Peay State University's Candlelight Ball has been one of Austin Peay's premier social events for over 37 years. The primary purpose of the Candlelight Ball is to assist in providing scholarship funding to deserving students. Hosted by APSU President Michael Licari and his wife Kirsten, the 38th annual ball will be held at the Downtown Nashville Omni Hotel on Saturday, March 12, 2022. Along with the reception, dinner and dancing, the event this year will feature our 11th annual Wendell H. Gilbert Award and Spirit of Austin Peay Award presentations to two individuals who have made memorable contributions to the University. We look forward to honoring our award recipients: Dr. Cooper Beazley, Wendell H. Gilbert Award, and Casey Jenkins, Spirit of Austin Peay Award.

The 2021 Candlelight Ball was hosted online. APSU and the Candlelight Ball Committee provided a full program filled with a series of videos, dinners and recognitions all for guests to enjoy virtually. We want to thank our presenting sponsor, underwriters, auction donors and virtual guests for their continued support of this event, which provided additional funding to the Candlelight Ball Scholarship Endowment.

We appreciate the 2021 Candlelight Ball committee for their dedication, tireless service and support of Austin Peay.

2021-2022 Candlelight Ball Committee

Co-chair Kayla Morgan ('16), Co-chair Betsy Baggett, Andrea Goble, Nicole Williamson ('04), Adrienne Beech ('04), Sally Allen ('00, '05), Andrea Herrera, Adrienne Beasley ('00), Kathryn Minniehan ('07), Marcia Campbell, Honorable Kimberly Wiggins, Mary Turner, Jordan McWhirter, Casey Tenholder, Candice Coleman, Amelia Magette ('93), Nicole Rye, Ginna Holleman ('95), Melanie Sites ('07) and Lesleigh Averitt ('14)

2020-21 ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please note: These events will be in-person events

SEPT. 2

Chattanooga Govs Gathering (APSU Football @ UTC)

SEPT. 17 Jenkins Family Fieldhouse Ribbon-Cutting

SEPT. 18 AP Family Weekend

OCT. 1 Ann Ross Bookstore Ribbon-Cutting

OCT. 2

- APSU 5K Race
- AP Day

• APSU Scholarship 5K Run / Pace Alumni Center at Emerald Hill

OCT. 8-9

APSU Fall Homecoming 2021 (APSU vs. SEMO) Visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/homecoming for a full list of Alumni Events. Please visit www.LetsGoPeay.com for ticket information.

OCT. 22

Men's Golf Alumni – Varsity Match (Clarksville Country club)

NOV. 10

William E. & Sadako S. Newton Military Family Resource Center Ribbon-Cutting

DEC. 8

Military & Veteran Graduate Recognition Ceremony

FEB. 12

APSU Men's & Women's Basketball Alumni Reunion & Celebration in the Dunn Center

MAR. 12

38th Annual Candlelight Ball (Omni Hotel, Downtown Nashville) Visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/candleligthball for more details.

Events subject to change.

For the most up-to-date alumni events and National Alumni Association information, visit www. alumni.apsu.edu | For the most up-to-date Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts events and information (including all downtown art galleries), visit www.apsu.edu/creativearts.

GOVS WHO LEAD THROUGH SERVICE •-CANDLELIGHT BALL CO-CHAIRS AND COMMITTEES



(Left) Co-Chairs Kathryn Minniehan ('07) and Kayla Morgan ('16)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the APSU Candlelight Ball co-chairs, Kathryn Minniehan and Kayla Morgan, persevered to host a successful virtual event in place of the traditional, in-person ball. Minniehan and Morgan worked tirelessly through more challenges than any co-chairs have faced in the 37-year history of the Candlelight Ball.

They, along with the entire committee, worked for eight months to organize the 2020 event, with an anticipated crowd of almost 700 guests. But two days

before the event, the pandemic forced them to cancel. In spring 2021, with health and safety still a concern, they hosted a successful virtual event that raised money for important student scholarships.

APSU PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR THE BAND FOUNDATION



A chance invitation to the 2016 Mid-South Prairie Symposium at Austin Peay State University sparked Clark Mitchell's interest in the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI), a collaborative effort led by the APSU Center of Excellence for Field Biology to restore and protect an endangered ecosystem that stretches across 18 states. Mitchell, secretary for the Band Foundation, was seeking to

invest in a new organization that would help create a new conservation movement. With an initial \$20,000 planning grant in 2016, the BAND Foundation instructed SGI Executive Director Dwayne Estes to create a multi-year plan and to "dream big." The BAND Foundation's support of SGI has now reached over \$1 million in matching challenge grants, establishing SGI as one of the most important conservation movements in the Southeastern United States.

GOVS WHO LEAD THROUGH MILITARY SERVICE AWARD



Joe Shakeenab ('04, '14), APSU Military Alumni Chapter president and APSU National Alumni Association president, enlisted in the U.S. Army as an Airborne Ranger in 1982. From there, he went on to an impressive, 28-year military career, culminating with his service with the 5th Special Forces Group.

He served extensively in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, where he participated in, directed and supported numerous operations. After Shakeenab retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in 2010, he devoted himself to his alma mater, Austin Peay. He received his bachelor's degree in public management in 2004 and his master's degree in strategic leadership in 2014, and he has served as president of the APSU Military Alumni Chapter since July 2014. In that time,

he has passionately guided an effort to fully endow four scholarships.

He has served as the vice president, president-elect and president of the APSU National Alumni Association (NAA), while also finding time to support various APSU programs, such as the Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center (WNDAACC).

On March 16, the University hosted the APSU Greenway Trail Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting at the APSU Pace Alumni Center at Emerald Hill. The Clarksville Montgomery County Community Health Foundation partnered with APSU to extend the existing greenway trail system in Clarksville.



OUTSTANDING SERVICE



CUNNINGHAM FAMILY Tom ('85) • Tammy ('86)

Tom and Tammy Cunningham met while attending Austin Peay in 1982, at a Sigma Chi and Chi Omega mixer. They married in 1987 and have four children, Matt, Wes, Nick and Kate.

In the 1990s, they donated land for the Clarksville Area YMCA Kimbrough Family Center. They were involved with the Rotary Club, and served with the United Way and on the steering committee to rebuild Madison Street United Methodist Church following the 1999 tornado in Clarksville.

In 2016, Tom helped Matt and Wes build Old Glory Distilling Company. In 2018, the family's downtown restaurant, Strawberry Alley Ale Works, opened.

After Tom unexpectedly passed away in 2019, his family and friends created an endowment to honor him and assist APSU students pursuing business careers.

The family temporarily closed their businesses in 2020 due to COVID-19 but at Old Glory, they flipped production from whiskey and bourbon to hand sanitizer, which they donated locally and nationally.

The family is involved in many community organizations. Tammy currently serves on the APSU National Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a member of the Clarksville Sunrise Rotary Club.

Ron Leath is from Clarksville. He graduated from Northeast High School in 1984. He earned his bachelor's degree in finance from APSU in 1989 and was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

After college, Leath worked for Dun & Bradstreet Corporation for two years. In 1991, he took a job with American Express. He is now the manager of their business development and global corporate payments division. He is responsible for growing their business by selling corporate payment solutions to new middle market business segments in the Nashville area.

Leath is on the APSU College of Business Advisory Board and is a loyal fan and donor of APSU athletics.

He has been married to Mary Ann Leath for 30 years. She is a Clarksville native who attended Middle Tennessee State University. In 2018, they created the Ron & Mary Ann Leath Scholarship Endowment for Governors football players who are students in the APSU College of Business.

Leath and his wife have two daughters, Lauren and Camille. Camille is a junior at APSU. Lauren graduated from the UT Knoxville and lives in Nashville with her husband, Rob.



Ron Leath ('89)

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI •



Kadeem Pardue ('14)

Kadeem Pardue started his journey in the field of technology at just 16 years old. He eventually discovered that he enjoyed website development, which became his niche area of study. Pardue went on to attend Austin Peay with a major in internet and web technology and database administration and a minor in business administration.

After graduation, Pardue became a full-stack software engineer for an insurance company in Nashville. Shortly after, he accepted a position at a financial services and education company in Nashville as a Ruby on Rails developer.

He owns several businesses, including a technology consulting firm s and an online educational community focused on teaching other Black technology professionals to grow their careers. His latest endeavor is MeritWorks, through which he builds online educational learning software that he licenses to school districts serving underrepresented student populations.

Pardue is also an avid real-estate investor and a senior software engineer at a marketing firm where he leads a team of junior software developers.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI



Lynn Von Hagen ('15)

Lynn Von Hagen is a native of the Nashville area. She is in the final year of her Ph.D. program at Auburn University (AU) in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. She is an advocate for women in STEM and nontraditional students, as she began her academic journey later than most.

In 2015, Von Hagen earned her bachelor's degree in biology from APSU with an emphasis in zoology. She performed her undergraduate research with Dr. Stefan Woltmann.

Von Hagen went on to Western Kentucky University (WKU) to complete her graduate studies and began her life-changing work in the Tsavo ecosystem of Southeastern Kenya, where she and other researchers work to find paths to coexistence for people and African elephants, and quantify biodiversity in the Kasigau Wildlife Corridor.

After receiving her master's degree in biology from WKU, Von Hagen was awarded the Presidential Research Fellowship at AU, where she continues on the same project in Kenya with a new focus. Her permanent home is in Nashville with her husband Todd and their two cats. After her graduation in 2022, Von Hagen hopes to work for a conservation NGO or a research group managing programs that address the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

John McGee is a Hopkinsville, Kentucky, native. After high school, he served in U.S. Army for six years. McGee then earned his bachelor's degree in economics from APSU in 1969 and also served as SGA president.

McGee worked for 20 years with Chilton Corporation as vice president of marketing and 10 years with CSC Credit Services in Houston, Texas, as the senior vice president of sales and marketing until his retirement in 2004. He co-founded ER Centers of America in 2006, which operated free-standing emergency medical facilities in Texas.

McGee previously served on the APSU National Alumni Association Board of Directors. When he visits Clarksville, he regularly speaks to APSU economics and finance classes.

In 2019, he donated more than \$50,000 in gold coins to APSU to establish the Golden Eagle Graduate Scholarship Endowment for APSU students. The gift commemorated his "Golden Graduate Year," the 50-year anniversary of his APSU graduation. He and his wife Janet also established a scholarship to be awarded each year to one male nursing student who has served in the military. They have two daughters and two grandsons, and they live in Highland Village, Texas.



John McGee ('69)



Ginny Gray Davis ('87)

Ginny Gray Davis is from Dickson and is the daughter of Earl and Virginia Gray ('62). She graduated from APSU with a Bachelor of Arts in geology and a minor in French. She was also a proud member of APSU's first women's softball team from 1986 to 1987.

In 1986, she was selected for the Oak Ridge Associated Universities student intern program, where she performed environmental and structural geology research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. In August 1987, she joined an environmental consulting firm, EnSafe Inc. Davis is currently a senior member of EnSafe's Board of Directors, chairing the strategic growth committee as the vice president of business development. She is also a licensed professional geologist in Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana and Wyoming.

Davis has supported her alma mater by participating in the APSU National Alumni Association, creating the first Cincinnati, Ohio, alumni chapter, contributing to and participating in the Women's in Athletics Foundation speaker panel in 2011 and returning often APSU events. Davis was a recipient of the original APSU Outstanding Young Alumnus Award in 1992.

She and her husband Craig now reside in Knoxville with their son Gray.

Class Notes

BETH SCOTT ('75) wrote a new book, "Elizabeth and the Native American Children," published by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc.



KEN CLOUSE ('76, '78) retired after 45 years in education serving as a teacher, coach, high school principal and most recently for the past 21 years as assistant superintendent in Cartersville City Schools in Georgia.



RETIRED LT. GEN. KAREN E. DYSON ('84) was inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame. Among her many accolades, in 2014 she became the first female finance officer to achieve three-star general officer rank.



WALTER PITT ('84), of Cheatham County Archives, recently completed the requirements from the Tennessee State Library & Archives to become a certified archives manager.



CHRIS TRAUGHER, ('84) was elected to serve a 4th term as Robertson County assessor of property August 2020.



DONNIE REED, ('85) recently joined ESA, a Nashville-based architectural firm, as senior graphic designer.

DAWN THOMACK, ('89) was recently named public utilities finance director for Clarksville Gas & Water.



BRANDT LYON, ('93) recently became teaching pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Georgetown, Kentucky.



PRISCILLA LALISSE-JESPERSEN ('94, '97) recently published "From Paris With Love: A

published "From Paris With Love: A Personal and Supportive Guide to Breast Cancer."



KACY CHAMBERS ('03) published her second book, "Sometimes Grandma and Grandpa Forget," to help children understand when family members have memory problems. This follows her first book, "Do NOT Touch Me There," and its accompanying journal, which she wrote and published during the first months of the pandemic.



JOE SHAKEENAB ('04, '14) had an article, "Being an Exceptional Individual and Organizational Leader," recently featured in SHALE Magazine.



AARON DOBBS ('05) now serves as Coy Public Library board member in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

KHANDRA SMALLEY ('05) will serve as chairman of the board, 2021-22 term, for the Clarksville-Montgomery County Industrial Development Board.



DR. ADRIAN PARKER SR. ('07)

was selected as the U.S. Navy's Missile Energy Systems Branch chief engineer, where he'll be integral in the development of the branch's strategy to meet the ever-changing needs of Department of Defense, academia, industry and other government agencies.



JACQUELYN ALLGOOD WHITE ('08) opened All-Good Coffee Shop and Used Books on Glass Street in Chattanooga in

December 2019.



WILLIE HUFFMAN ('12) was recently appointed as president of Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology at Paris and McKenzie.



CLEA KLAGSTAD CARTWRIGHT ('12) along with her environmental consulting firm, Circadian Consulting, were recently featured by The Chattanooga Times Free Press.







TRACEY WEBB ('16, '18)

recently released a new devotional, "The Blossom Project: 30 days with the Master Gardener."



VICTORIA BOLKCOM ('20) joined Next Day Access, an international accessibility and mobility company, as administrative coordinator.

David Lane Mason ('63) 1/4/2021

James Sidney Matthews Jr. ('51) 3/20/21

Irene R. Newman ('69) 3/21/2021

Gail Atkins 4/10/2021

Dylan Michael Kellogg ('18) 4/10/2021

Deloris Head 4/16/2021

Herbert Dickson Roake 4/18/2021

Coy Baggett Jr. 4/22/2021

Arthur Floyd Scott ('67) 4/25/2021

John Arrington 4/26/2021 David Biggs 4/27/2021

Sherrie Ann Wiggins ('67) 4/29/2021

Judy Harris 4/30/21

John R. Meacham ('70) 5/6/2021

F. Evans Harvill ('47) 5/10/2021

Cristal Berggren ('02) 5/23/2021

Shirley Topping 5/31/2021

John Matthews ('64) 6/21/2021

Sue Atkins 6/22/2021

Patreva "Pat" Cornell ('60) 6/23/2021 Brenda Radford 7/1/21

Donald R. Clark 7/3/21

Ross Bagwell 7/4/21

James 'Pat' Markham 7/12/21

Margaret Lynn Weatherford Hartman ('61) 7/12/21

Lettie P. Kendall ('74) 7/19/21

Guy 'Don' Stone ('63) 7/20/21

Linda Joyce Pickering ('63) 7/20/21 In April, Austin Peay surpassed the \$65 million fundraising goal for the "What If" Comprehensive Campaign – months before its scheduled end date. The campaign began in 2015 and was initially projected to conclude on Dec. 31, 2021. The University hosted a celebration in June to honor this giving milestone.



WELCOME 6 42 | FALL 2021



Govs Gatherings

Each year, the APSU Alumni Relations Office, University Advancement and APSU administration (including faculty and staff) meet with fellow APSU friends and alumni on campus and around the country.

Types of events held throughout the year include alumni receptions, fundraising events, networking events, homecoming activities, reunions, NAA board meetings, pregame/sporting events and chapter-sponsored activities.

This past COVID year brought with it many obstacles when it came to hosting our traditional Govs Gatherings. So APSU staff and faculty were creative in their engagement initiatives. We met with alumni, friends and supporters online and virtually to remain engaged and connected.

It's now fall of 2021, and we are back on campus. We look forward to meeting with all of our alumni and friends

around the country. We hope you will join us for events held in your area or back on campus, and we hope you will consider becoming more engaged with our National Alumni Association.

There are no fees associated with membership in the National Alumni Association or specific alumni chapters. To find out if there is an alumni group in your area or if you are interested in organizing one, call the APSU Alumni Office at 931-221-7979 or email Assistant Alumni Director Lacey Dillon at dillonl@apsu.edu for any questions regarding the National Alumni Association (NAA).

For a complete look at our upcoming event schedule and for an updated list of alumni groups, visit www.alumni. apsu.edu or email alumni@apsu.edu.



In conjunction with our OVC football spring schedule, we again highlighted and recognized our 2020 Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients. Outstanding Service: Brad & Jan Kirtley and Joey Smith. Outstanding Young Alumni: Ashley Williams and Dr. Diarese George. Outstanding Alumni: Dr. Camille Holt and Joe Giles.



Congratulations to our 2021 Candlelight Ball Award Winners: Wendell H. Gilbert Award — Sammy Stuard. Spirit Award — Kevin & Rhonda Kennedy. Pictured from left to right: Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts, Kevin Kennedy, APSU President Michael Licari, Sammy Stuard, Rhonda Kennedy, Montgomery County Mayor Jim Durrett, APSU Board of Trustees Chair Mike O'Malley.



This past spring, APSU celebrated our Class of 2021 with our traditional Senior Toast event. Congratulations to our newest APSU alumni!

LEADING THE WAY

ast year, these individuals and organizations established new scholarships and endowments at Austin Peay, creating life-changing opportunities for future APSU generations. Because of their generosity, their names — or the name of someone they love will now be associated with Austin Peay in perpetuity.

An endowment is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding. Endowments are invested, and each year, a portion of the value of the fund is paid out to support the endowment's purpose. The minimum amount to start an endowment is \$25,000.

A non-endowed scholarship is supported with an annual gift. This gift is paid out to support the scholarship's purpose. The desired minimum award is \$500 per year.

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This list contains information compiled in a computerized database since 1986. The 2020-21 Honor Roll of Donors is dedicated to all donors who made gifts during fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Every gift, regardless of amount, is needed and is appreciated by students, faculty and staff. The following listing recognizes contributors who have made gifts totaling \$100 or more during fiscal year 2020-21. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made so we can ensure accuracy in future years. If an error has been made, please accept our apologies.

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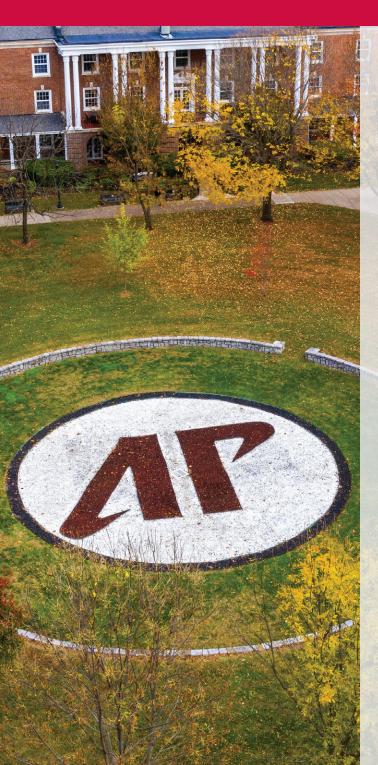
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