



Dear Austin Peay community,

An undeniable energy is pulsing through our campus. New faces have joined our Govs family, bringing fresh perspectives and dreams. Renovated spaces and new buildings have risen to meet the evolving needs of our students. Our connections with the Clarksville community have deepened, and our vision for the future is growing.

This fall isn't just the start of a new semester — it's the continuation of an exciting journey toward our 2027 centennial. Every corner of our university reflects this momentum. We're not just growing; we're thriving, innovating, and setting the stage for an even brighter future.

This fall, we're not just turning a new page — we're writing bold new chapters in our university's story.

Our cover story showcases the Governors Guard Battalion, a shining example of the leadership and dedication cultivated at Austin Peay. Featured in a national Army marketing campaign, our ROTC program continues to set the gold standard for military education. This recognition isn't just a feather in our cap; it's a testament to the caliber of students we attract and the quality of education we provide.

As we approach our centennial in 2027, Austin Peay is undergoing a remarkable transformation. Our campus facelift isn't just about bricks and mortar — it's about creating spaces that foster learning, innovation, and community. These improvements, from the modernized dining hall to the state-of-the-art Health Professions Building, reflect our commitment to providing an unparalleled student experience.

However, the true measure of a university isn't in its buildings, but its impact on the community. Our Peayple in the Community initiative and Leadership Exchange program exemplify our dedication to being a force for positive change in Clarksville and beyond. These efforts and countless others show that service isn't just something we do - it's who we are.

I see the enduring bonds that tie our Govs family together. In every corner of our campus and community, I see the pillars of our strategic plan coming to life. We're enhancing the academic experience, enriching our students' lives, empowering our employees, and strengthening our community connections. These aren't just goals on paper — they're the lived experiences of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni every day.

As you read this magazine, I hope you feel the same pride and excitement I do. Whether you're a recent graduate or a long-time supporter, you're an integral part of the Austin Peay story. Your achievements, service, and continued engagement help us open doors for the next generation of Governors.

The life-changing opportunities that begin at Austin Peay continue to ripple outward, touching lives and transforming communities. As we build towards our centennial, we're not just growing — we're thriving, serving, and leading.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we're writing a future where every Governor can achieve a better life.

Go Govs!

Dr. Mike Licari APSU President

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Artist Olasubomi Aka-Bashorun produced a painting during the 40th Annual Candlelight Ball that was auctioned off at the end of the night. Guests raised \$237,000, surpassing 2023's record-breaking \$162,500 and marking the largest fundraising total in the history of the Candlelight Ball.

SECTIONS

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NEWS	& EVENTS	HOMECOMING	NEWS



APSU alumna earns Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in Austria

Patricia Angel, a first-generation college student who graduated from APSU's Department of Languages and Literature in May, headed abroad this fall to spend a year as a teaching assistant in two Austrian secondary schools. This opportunity is offered through the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in partnership with Fulbright Austria.

As a Fulbright Fellow, Angel will work with experienced English teachers to engage students, prepare lesson plans, facilitate discussions, and more while serving as an American cultural ambassador.



Austin Peay unveils cutting-edge Furniture Connection EdTech Studio

The immersive capabilities of virtual reality — once thought to be just for gamers — are making their way into classrooms nationwide. Thanks to a generous gift from Furniture Connection, those technological innovations are now available for students at APSU.

Located within the Eriksson College of Education, the Furniture Connection EdTech Studio is a comprehensive learning hub that allows pre-service teachers to gain hands-on experience using VR headsets, 3D printers, LEGO® education sets, robotics, coding devices, and other groundbreaking tools.



Breaking visual barriers: APSU student's tactile art movement makes artwork tangible

Kayla Cross, a studio art major at APSU, is on a mission to create a tactile art movement so visually impaired people can engage with the medium in a new way.

The project was inspired by Cross's blind best friend, education major Maliyah Green, who asked if she had any tactile paintings she could feel. This gave Cross a new perspective on how people experience tactile art, which she noted is a rarity in galleries.

By creating tactile artwork, Cross hopes to inspire others to make more inclusive pieces and strengthen the connections between people who experience it together. To keep up with her journey, follow her on Instagram @krcross02.



MBA launch sparks record growth

In 2024, the College of Business witnessed a remarkable surge in graduate student enrollment, nearly doubling its numbers. This significant growth was primarily driven by the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program's successful launch as one of the largest graduate programs on campus. Dr. Emily Lean, associate dean and director of graduate programs, credits the success to the support from the state and the college's unwavering commitment to meeting the longstanding demand voiced by alumni. Enthusiasm for the program reflects its relevance in today's business landscape and the college's responsiveness to its community's needs.



Austin Peay's corpse flower finds temporary home at Nashville Zoo

Zeus, APSU's corpse flower, is now on display at the Nashville Zoo after being moved there for his 2024 bloom. Recent storms made his home in the College of STEM Greenhouse unsuitable until repairs are completed.

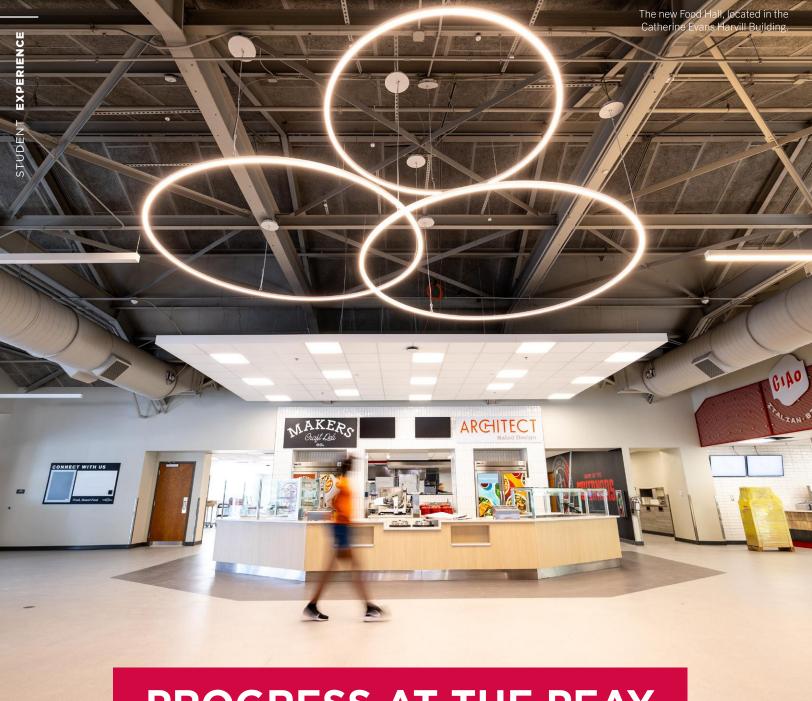
The 12-year-old titan arum, also known as a corpse flower because of its odor during full bloom, drew visitors from across the country to witness its second bloom cycle since 2022. While a corpse flower blooms for only a few days, the time between cycles can last as long as a decade.



Governors Hockey Club debuts with victory over UAB

Austin Peay's new era of ice hockey began in April, as the Governors Hockey Club defeated the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) 6-0 and 6-3 in a weekend doubleheader that packed Ford Ice Center Clarksville.

The club-level team is currently playing its first season and is part of the College Hockey South conference. To learn more about the program and its schedule, visit apsu.edu/hockey.



PROGRESS AT THE PEAY

APSU REIMAGINES STUDENT EXPERIENCE WITH GROUNDBREAKING PROJECTS

This semester, Austin Peay State University is buzzing with more than the excitement of a new academic year. Six ambitious projects are reshaping the university landscape, each designed to significantly enhance the student experience.

From a modernized dining hall and state-of-the-art academic buildings to renovations at the Woodward Library and Morgan University Center, Austin Peay is committed to meeting the evolving needs of its students and the campus community.

O'Malley Family Welcome Center

Located at 317 College St., the 5,800-square-foot O'Malley Family Welcome Center is projected to open this fall and will serve as a gateway to APSU for prospective students and community members.

The center was previously a Honda car dealership and showroomamed after APSU Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Mike O'Malley and his family for their longstanding support of the university.

"This facility will become a starting point for future students and visitors to meet with admissions officers and financial and academic advisors, and tour the campus," said Kris Phillips, APSU's vice president for Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy. "It will be one of the anchors to the university's growth as we become more entrenched in the downtown Clarksville corridor... [and a] beacon of red."

Kimbrough Building Renovations

The Kimbrough Building has been a campus fixture for 30 years, but this semester marks an exciting step in its ability to serve students in the College of Business.

Renovations to the 30,000-square-foot building have transformed an existing conference room and offices into a new Student Success Center, which houses the CoB's academic advisors (undergraduate and graduate). The work has also modernized Kimbrough's classrooms into active learning spaces, added a boardroom for meetings and presentations, and incorporated Americans with Disabilities Act modifications.

"This project will be transformational for the College of Business - enabling us to enhance student engagement in the classroom and elevate student support outside of it," said Dr. Mickey Hepner, dean of the College of Business. "We will provide our business students with a first-class learning environment that will prepare them to succeed in a global economy."

The Food Hall

A new era of campus cuisine has arrived at APSU with the opening of The Food Hall in the Catherine Evans Harvill Building. This innovative dining concept has replaced the traditional cafeteria setup with a diverse array of culinary options and unlimited access through meal plans or pay-at-the-door options.

The Food Hall features six stations, each with a unique design and culinary focus. From comfort food and grill options to global cuisines and allergen-friendly choices, the facility aims to cater to every taste. Meals are prepared in full view of diners, ensuring freshness and customization options, with extended dining hours to accommodate different schedules.

"The brand-new Food Hall at Austin Peay puts freshness and transparency at center stage for our community," said Jessica Hoskins, marketing director for Govs Dining. "Guests can now witness our chefs crafting delicious meals daily, offering a clear view into their culinary creations ... with these new enhancements, more memories and flavors will be experienced for all around the table."

Woodward Library Renovations

The Felix G. Woodward Library, a cornerstone of academic life at APSU since the 1960s, has undergone significant renovations to meet the needs of 21st-century students.



Key improvements include a modernized floor plan and decor, accessibility updates for students with disabilities, new workstations for connecting personal laptops, and six Mac desktops alongside the library's existing PCs.

The renovations have also introduced a makerspace and virtual reality lab with resources like 3D printers, a laser engraver, virtual reality headsets, and a sewing machine. Students, faculty, and staff can even check out items from the new Library of Lendable Objects, a GOVing Tuesday-funded project aimed at helping people save money on expensive household goods.

"I think students are going to be excited and invigorated, and this is going to open up a lot more partnerships on and off campus," said Martina Malvasi, APSU's director of library services. "Our goal [is] to empower people to achieve what it is they want ... and if we can help in any way, we're excited to do that."

Morgan University Center Renovations

The Morgan University Center, a campus hub since its opening on April 5, 2002, is undergoing its first major renovation as it approaches its 25th anniversary.

This refresh is expected to be completed this fall and serves as a prelude to Austin Peay's centennial celebration in 2027, making it a particularly significant upgrade.

"During the past 20 years, the MUC has not had a major refresh of the space other than the purchase of new furniture," said Andy Kean, the MUC's senior director. "The Morgan University I think students are going to be excited and invigorated, and this is going to open up a lot more partnerships on and off campus.

Center is the major hub of campus, and it should reflect the Austin Peay ethos. Highlights of the refresh will include branding on the floor, a large APSU logo wall when you first walk in, a student organization board, and a large LED digital display."

As part of the project, Ranked-Up Esports, APSU's student esports organization, has already received a dedicated club room equipped with high-performance computers, gaming consoles, and more.

These kinds of improvements will transform the MUC into a more vibrant, functional space that better serves the APSU community and represents the university's forward-thinking spirit.

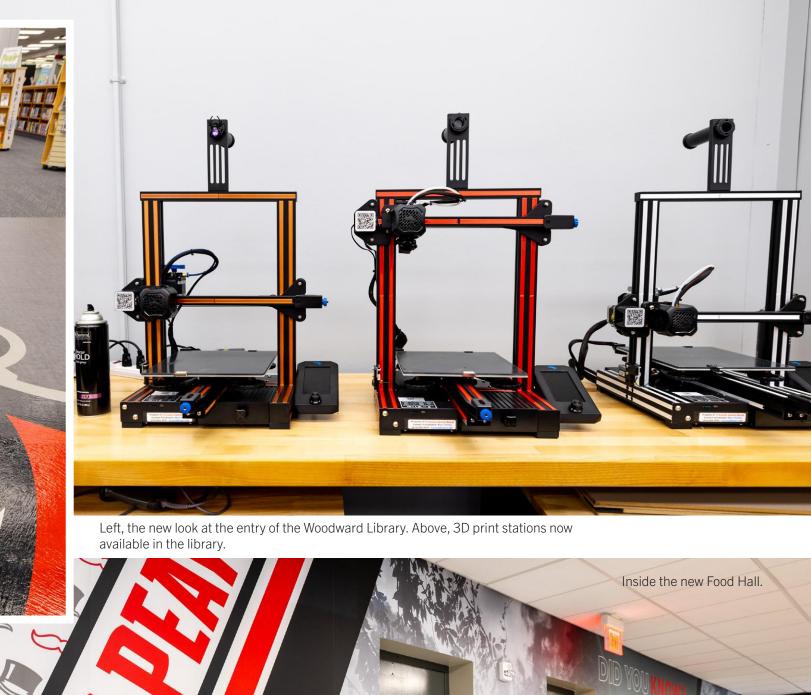
Health Professions Building

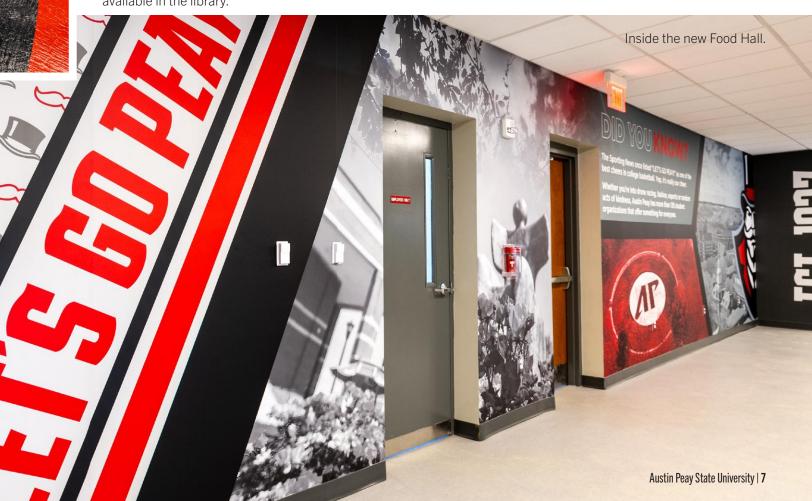
Austin Peay's ongoing commitment to enhancing its campus is reflected in the highly anticipated Health Professions Building, scheduled for completion in July 2025.

The Tennessee General Assembly approved funding for the 114,000-square-foot building in April 2021, allowing APSU to consolidate its growing healthcare-related programs under one roof.

"This facility will prepare a new generation of Governors who will go on and become some of the top health professionals in this region," APSU President Mike Licari said. "Not only will this be the largest academic building on campus, its four levels of academic, clinical, laboratory, and collaboration spaces will include public-facing clinics for hands-on student learning and patient care."









BUILDING BRIDGES CHANGING LIVES

As Austin Peay State University approaches its centennial in 2027, the institution is doubling down on its commitment to community engagement. The 2022-2027 strategic plan, designed to guide APSU into its next century, emphasizes fostering meaningful connections beyond campus borders. Two flagship initiatives emerged in the 2023-2024 academic year: Leadership Exchange and Peayple in the Community.

Leadership Exchange: Forging Partnerships for Progress

Launched in September 2023, the Leadership Exchange program has become a cornerstone of APSU's community outreach. This initiative brings together senior-level leaders from Clarksville and the surrounding region for a day of campus seminars, discussions, and workshops.

The inaugural event focused on strengthening ties with Fort Campbell and showcasing APSU's unique offerings for military-affiliated students. Subsequent exchanges throughout the academic year spotlighted various aspects of the university, from research to teaching methods.

"Leadership Exchange has opened doors for collaboration,"

said Austin Peay President Mike Licari. "By inviting community leaders to experience Austin Peay firsthand, we're not just sharing our story — we're writing new chapters together."

Peayple in the Community: A Day of Service, A Year of Impact

On Oct. 25, 2023, APSU launched its first Peayple in the Community, A Day of Service event. Over 600 students, faculty, and staff contributed 1,214 volunteer hours to Clarksville organizations.

From packing food bags at Manna Café Ministries to organizing donations at Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Governors rolled up their sleeves and made a tangible difference. The event's success paved the way for an even more ambitious day of service that kicked off the fall semester on Aug. 26, with 1,575 volunteers contributing over 3,600 hours.

"Austin Peay's mission says that we are a community-minded institution, and we believe in living that out," said Dannelle Whiteside, vice president of Legal Affairs and Organizational

Strategy. "We thought this would be a meaningful way to demonstrate how we believe in putting our hands toward the betterment of the Clarksville community."

Looking Ahead: A Year of Community Celebration

Building on last year's success, Austin Peay started the fall semester with its second annual Peayple in the Community, engaging more Governors and community projects across Clarksville and Nashville.

During the university's annual Family Weekend, Austin Peay opened its doors to the greater community for the inaugural Community Showcase. The Sept. 20-22 weekend celebrated the university's partnerships with the community, local organizations, and families.

These events are just a sample of what the university's community focus achieves.

"These programs aren't just about what Austin Peay can do for the community — they're about creating a symbiotic relationship where everyone benefits," Whiteside said. "Our students gain real-world experience, our faculty forge research partnerships, and our community partners tap into enthusiasm and expertise."

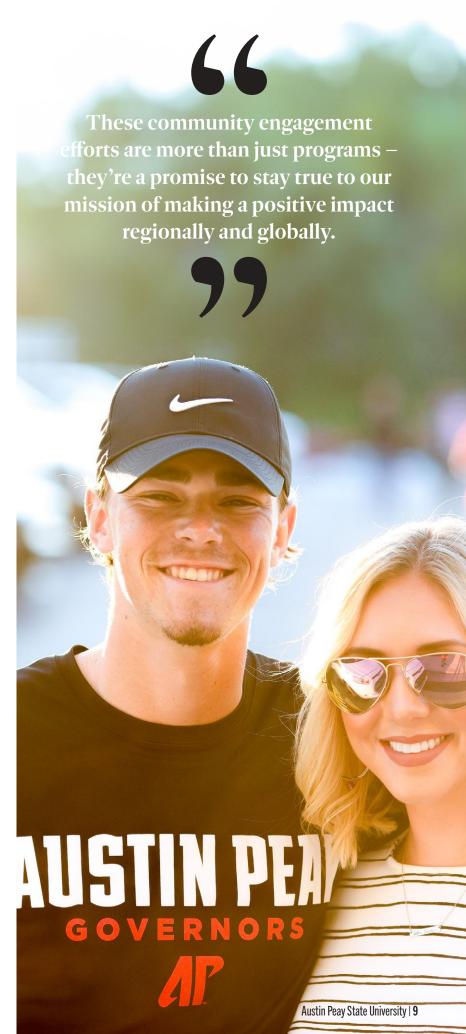
As Austin Peay State University approaches its centennial, its community engagement efforts are more than just programs - they represent a promise to make a difference both regionally and globally.

APSU's Community Impact

Leadership Exchange and Peayple in the Community are two strong examples of APSU's involvement, but the university's impact goes beyond these initiatives. Here are a few examples of how Austin Peay serves and enriches the Clarksville area:

Health and Wellness: APSU's Speech-Language & Swallowing Community Clinic offered a free two-week program for individuals with aphasia, combining speech therapy with photography to aid recovery.

Youth Education: The university hosted summer camps like the Lab Explorer Camp for middle schoolers and the Aspiring Nurses Camp for high school students, inspiring the next generation of STEM professionals.





Arts and Culture: The Community School of the Arts continued to offer affordable arts classes for all ages, and the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System High School Art Show provided a platform for young

local artists.

Historical Research: APSU history students, guided by Dr. Jessica Blake, uncovered forgotten stories about Clarksville's African American communities from the early 20th century, contributing to local historical knowledge.

Economic Development: In the last year, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at APSU has helped over 304 clients achieve \$2.4 million in new capital formation.

Disaster Response: After a tornado hit Clarksville, the Austin Peay community quickly mobilized to support those affected, showing the university's commitment to the local community during crises.



FREE APHASIA PROGRAM

COMBINES THERAPY AND ART

Austin Peay State University's Speech-Language & Swallowing Community Clinic hosted a free two-week program this spring to treat individuals with aphasia, a language disorder that disrupts speech understanding or expression, and the experience proved life-changing for clients like Kim Dettwiller Burton.

Burton, the president and owner of Team Strategies, LLC, was diagnosed with aphasia following a stroke, which directly impacted the communication skills she uses to succeed in her career.

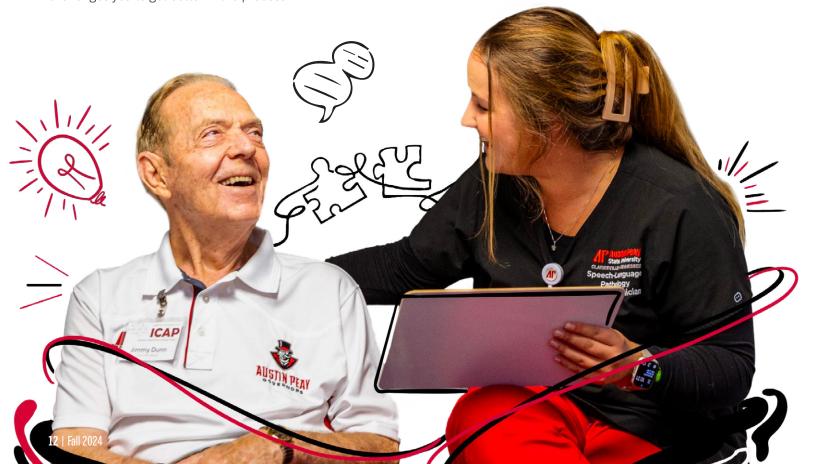
However, the Clarksville Conversation Care — Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program (CCC-ICAP) helped Burton regain her confidence as a speaker, and she publicly introduced a photography exhibit that capped off the program.

"The program has given me my confidence back when it comes to speaking and writing," she said. "When you have a stroke, you become more guarded about being public because you feel challenged with your ability to speak. It also wears you out, you're tired. This program gives you the tools to help and challenges you to get better in the process."

Three clients and their loved ones participated in the CCC-ICAP, funded by the Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Health Foundation. The program was based on studies suggesting short-term intensive treatment can benefit aphasia patients long-term, and offered 31 hours of treatment over two weeks compared to the traditional one hour per week.

Austin Peay's clinic offered individualized and group therapy sessions, family support groups, and hands-on experience with assistive technologies. Clients also learned photography skills and created a public exhibition hosted on Feb. 2 in the Trahern Building to share their stories with the community.

"The big missing piece with persons with chronic aphasia is that they often don't get the full range of participation in their social roles that they did before the onset of the aphasia," said Dr. Kelly Kleinhans, associate professor and program director for Austin Peay's Master of Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) program. "The photo exhibit was an opportunity for them to talk about authentic things and meaningful experiences, how aphasia has affected their lives and how they manage."





Dr. Becky Glass, a retired professor of exercise physiology who taught at Austin Peay for 32 years, used her exhibit to showcase her outdoor lifestyle and illustrate how primary progressive aphasia impacts her speech. While she can still understand others well, she struggles to express her own thoughts.

"[In one of my photos], there's a bucket," she said. "When you see the bucket, when I talk to someone, I want to get it out. I used to be a teacher — when I start talking, I want to say the words right. With the bucket, it was raining outside, and water was coming down. That bucket holds the words I want to say, but it's hard to get it out."

Emili Dyce, a graduate student in the MSLP program, worked closely with Dr. Glass during the CCC-ICAP, providing one-on-one therapy sessions with faculty supervision.

"I saw tremendous improvement, and I'm so proud of her," she said. "It's amazing to be able to look at her now and watch her fluently explain all the photographs she has taken throughout the course to these people who are coming in to visit."

Shelby Koonce, another MSLP graduate student, organized the photo exhibit to raise aphasia awareness while leading group therapy sessions and family support groups throughout the CCC-ICAP.

"Aphasia is an experience that a lot of people don't understand, so for the caregivers to be able to come together and relate to each other was really beneficial," she said. "We were also able

to help [clients] communicate with each other in really unique ways. We used whiteboards, gestures and slowed speech to help get the message to people because input and output can be challenging."

The clients' efforts paid off, and by the program's end, they were eager to use the techniques they learned to meet new people and talk about their photographs.

Jim Dunn, a retired businessman who founded Dunn Insurance, Inc., filled his exhibition space with photos of his wife Pat and children Jim, David, and Dana. The images captured everything from board games and family get-togethers to a night out at the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

"I'm not [totally] there, but I'm better, yes, from the school," Dunn said. "The fact is we can know that people are like me. Speech is straight, and through the brain is a little spot that's bad... but a lot in my brain is still there."

Austin Peay's Speech-Language & Swallowing Community Clinic hosted another ICAP this summer and hopes to offer them annually, based on the inaugural program's success.

"You can see that the clients' confidence in their own ability to communicate increased tremendously," said Jennifer Brandon, clinical education coordinator and clinical assistant professor for the MSLP program. "It exceeded my expectations for what we were able to do ... and everyone had a wonderful time."

Austin Peay's ROTC program featured in national Army marketing campaign

ustin Peay State University's Governors Guard Battalion has a long tradition of excellence, regularly qualifying for West Point's Sandhurst Military Skills Competition and being recognized among the nation's top ROTC programs with eight General Douglas MacArthur Awards.

This year, the program is also being featured in a national marketing campaign highlighting the opportunities available through ROTC. The Army Enterprise Marketing Office (AEMO) visited campus on April 17 to film the cadets in action for GoArmy's website and social media platforms.

"We were excited to take on this opportunity, knowing it would be a challenge but recognizing the significant value for our cadets," said Maj. Nicholas Kirschten, assistant professor of military science at APSU. "It was great to see the cadets willing to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Each one stepped up, was flexible, and showcased their individual talents very well."

Kirschten said AEMO chose the Governors Guard for its accomplishments and high leadership standards. The cadets had about two months to prepare and took charge by organizing physical training, knot-tying exercises, classroom activities, campus tours, and more.

AEMO also gathered footage from the annual CSM Darol Walker Award Ceremony and Breakfast, an event sponsored by community leader Jack Turner that recognizes outstanding ROTC cadets.

"There hasn't been a dull moment since we started filming," said Lt. Col. Khristina Allen, AEMO's marketing officer lead for social and earned media. "We've had a glimpse of the entire day of a cadet,





whether they're in uniform or civilian attire, in class or during recreation. That's important because one of the things we strive to show is that being an ROTC cadet doesn't take away from the college experience — it enhances it."

Cadet Kaleb Scott, a broadcast media major, lived a distinctly college experience during AEMO's visit by delivering a final presentation on American wartime battles — but in this

case, the cameras were rolling. He said the experience allowed his group to demonstrate their knowledge under pressure in a unique situation.

"We had to focus on not letting the cameras get to us and still present to the class," he said. "We spent a lot of time hyping ourselves up and doing positive affirmations because we didn't intend to present in front of a camera crew. It was important that we paid attention to the presentation and showed the class our attention, so the key was directing our focus."

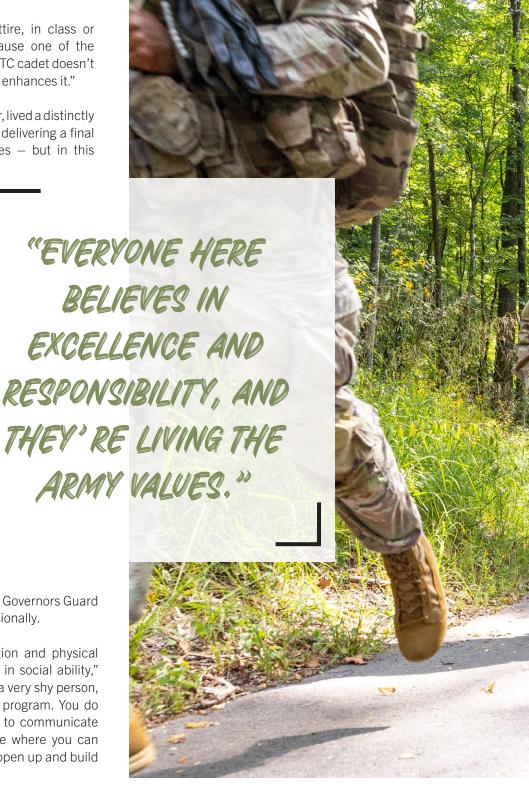
Other students, including Cadets Alli Jordan and Obadiah Sieg, discussed their time in ROTC with the camera crew. Both were part of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

in high school and said continuing into the Governors Guard has benefited them personally and professionally.

"ROTC has helped me with communication and physical fitness, but where I've grown the most is in social ability," said Jordan, a biology major. "I grew up as a very shy person, but you're never really by yourself in the program. You do PT with other people, you're encouraged to communicate in class, and they provide a cadet lounge where you can study or hang out. It's really helped me to open up and build friendships."

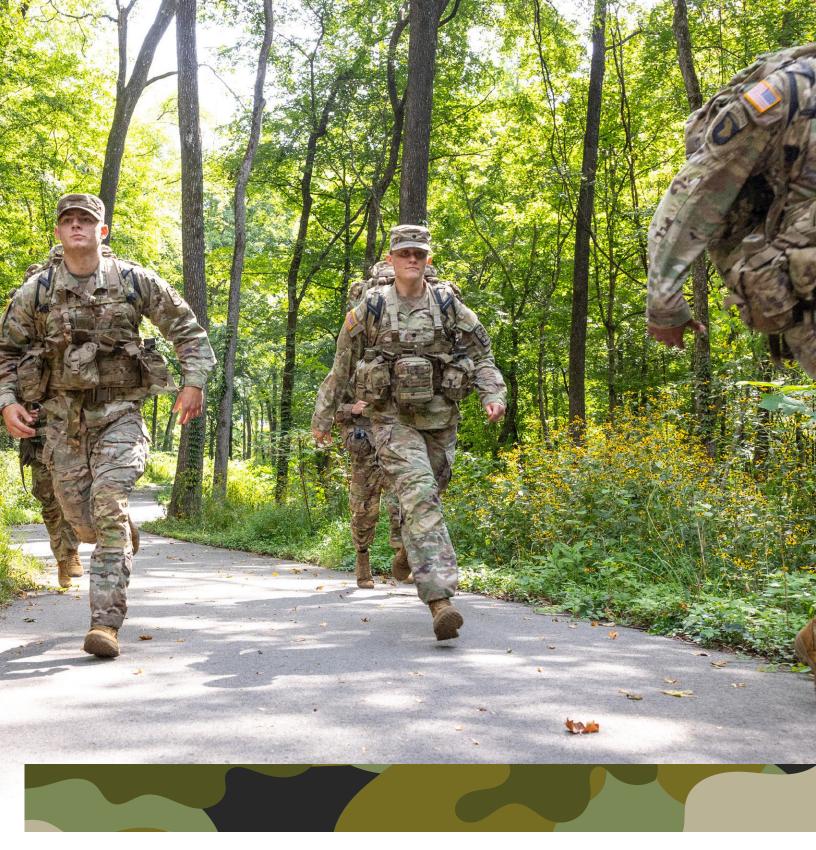
Sieg's involvement in the program has also fostered significant growth and allowed him to continue his father and grandfather's tradition of military service.

"I felt the same calling to be in the Army, and overall, it's been very beneficial," he said. "I've been able to work on my nerves and anxiety, and whenever I'm in a difficult situation, I can look back on what we've done in ROTC and put it in perspective that I've been through this and can handle it."



Brig. Gen. Antoinette Grant, AEMO's chief marketing officer, said the Austin Peay cadets' experiences reflect how ROTC programs prepare young soldiers for leadership.

"If it had not been for my participation in Army ROTC, I am not sure I would be as confident as I am about my ability to serve at all levels and with all types of people, no matter the challenge," Gant said. "ROTC is not only about service, but being a model



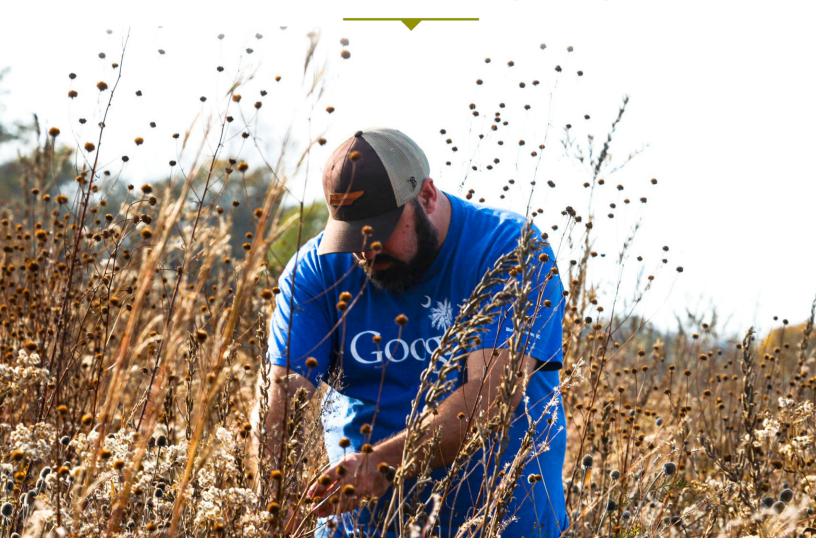
citizen ... [and] building strong teams, not just now but in the future."

Based on her team's day at Austin Peay, Allen is confident that the Governors Guard Battalion will continue setting new standards of excellence in leadership. "The interactions we've had with the cadets, the cadre, and the staff here today have been above reproach," Allen said. "Everyone here believes in excellence and responsibility, and they're living the Army values. We wanted to highlight the great work they were already doing, and it was an easy day because all we had to do was watch them continue to be amazing."

FROM PARKS TO PRAIRIES, SGI LEADS

GRASSLAND

REVIVAL EFFORTS



In a groundbreaking year, Austin Peay State University's Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI) has made significant strides in conservation and collaboration. From teaming up with the National Park Service to restore thousands of acres of grasslands to hiring its first tribal liaisons and celebrating a partnership with Google, SGI continues leading the charge in supporting native ecosystems.

National Park Service taps SGI for \$8.8M project

Under Dr. Dwayne Estes' direction, SGI has built a decade-long rapport with the National Park Service (NPS). What started as a series of smaller research projects has grown into \$8.8 million

to restore native grasslands in eastern U.S. national parks over the next five years.

The NPS's renewed interest in grasslands, coupled with SGI's expertise, led to a competitive proposal funded through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

SGI will work in 35 national parks from Vermont to Mississippi to remove invasive species and plant native, climate-adapted species to revitalize and preserve grasslands. High-visibility sites include the Manassas and Gettysburg national battlefields and Rock Creek Park in Washington D.C.

"These are really historical parks that have a lot of land that has been highly altered from its natural condition," Estes said. "[We're] converting these degraded, non-native fields to native grassland habitats similar to those found in the region over 300 years ago. This will not only be beneficial to biodiversity, but it will also be a step in the right direction from a climate change mitigation perspective."

SGI is responsible for the larger restoration process, from planning to monitoring. The project ultimately aims to restore over 3,000 acres of high-priority grasslands.

"The conservation community is finally realizing how extensive grasslands were historically in the eastern United States and the damage that these natural landscapes have sustained," Estes said. "It's a national-level crisis that we've been called to respond to. Now, we're inspiring people who have the ability to help save and solve that crisis. And these people think very big."

Tribal liaisons bring new perspectives

SGI's newest team members, tribal liaisons Corlee Thomas-Hill (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) and Gabrielle Patterson (a tribal historian with a master's in Native American and early American history), are working to advance the organization's environmental partnerships with Native American tribes, and a third liaison is on the way.

These positions were made possible through funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Working Lands for Wildlife Program. The three liaisons will develop SGI's tribal program and hire interns to help meet goals such as bringing indigenous land management back to the Southeast, understanding tribal priorities, and facilitating access to culturally significant plants and animals.

"Building trust with the tribes is important," Thomas-Hill said. "We want to ensure we are doing the things we say we are going to do and continue to foster the relationships we are building."

The liaisons will navigate the complex landscape of working with diverse tribes, each with unique histories and challenges. They will serve as bridges between SGI and Native American communities, balancing scientific knowledge with cultural history and ecological expertise.

SGI's first tribally-led conservation project was launched at the 63-acre Old Town Farm near Franklin, Tennessee, home to one of the state's largest prehistoric Native American villages. In partnership with owners Tracy Frist and former Sen. Bill Frist, the tribal liaisons are working to restore native meadows and woodlands while conserving significant plant species.

Tracy Frist emphasized her family's desire to reach well beyond the farm with this initiative, adding that "through skills uniquely



developed at Old Town, SGI can help uplift tribally-connected projects and tribally-defined conservation priorities across the southeast."

Going green with Google

In honor of Google's collaboration with programs including SGI, APSU President Michael Licari presented Google with the 2023 APSU Philanthropist of the Year award on June 26,2024. Google's partnership with SGI helped cultivate two prairies just outside the company's Montgomery County data center.

"Austin Peay State University is truly thankful for Google's generous investment in the Southeastern Grasslands Institute and so many of our programs," Licari said. "Google is a wonderful partner not just to APSU but to the entire Montgomery County community."

Since the data center was built in 2018, Google has contributed more than \$2.1 billion to Montgomery County and its surrounding regions. Partnerships with local organizations have done everything from promoting STEM education to helping small businesses get online.

"We are proud to be a part of the Montgomery County community," said Google representative Angie Kozlowski. "It is an honor to receive this award today from APSU. Seeing projects like this prairie literally come to life has been incredible. We look forward to continuing our partnerships here and forging new ones over the years to come."



Our network of APSU alumni, friends, and corporate sponsors has ushered in an unprecedented period of growth at Austin Peay State University. For the third consecutive year, we increased the total number of donors and gifts to the university in defiance of a nationwide downturn in giving. Your care for Austin Peay State University is driving every area of this learning community forward. I am proud to share the significant accomplishments we've achieved recently and our ambitions for the future.

The SHAPE Campaign, our annual giving initiative which celebrates how faculty and staff use their talents and gifts to impact Austin

Peay, continues to grow across campus with increased participation. Govs Give 2024, our annual online giving campaign, was once again a resounding success and a testament to the inspiring stories students, faculty, staff, and community members have to share about their experiences at Austin Peay. During the online campaign on March 12 and 13, we received 1,160 gifts from alumni and friends and raised \$325,269 to break the all-time record for the number of gifts made in the history of Govs Give. This year's theme, "Govs For Life," reflects our strategic plan and honors our commitment to lifelong engagement and philanthropy. Your involvement strengthens Austin Peay's academic colleges, athletics, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Division of Military and Veterans Affairs.

We are excited about several upcoming events this fall. Join us at a Govs Gathering in your area, or on campus for the Domino's Run for Govs 5K and Valerie Hunter-Kelly Run/Walk For the Govs on Oct. 5. Our 2024 APSU Homecoming celebrations are set for Oct. 25-26. These events are fantastic opportunities to connect, celebrate, and contribute to the APSU community.

Looking ahead, we will celebrate 100 years of Austin Peay State University in 2027. This centennial milestone not only honors the university's rich history, but also propels us into a future filled with the promise of innovation and an opportunity to inspire generations of Govs to come. Become a centennial ambassador and play a pivotal role in celebrating Austin Peay State University's bright future and history of academic excellence. Your influence can inspire students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends to enrich the Govs for Life Experience in our community and beyond. Visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/centennialambassador to register today.

Thank you for continuing to invest in the work of creating transformational opportunities for learning at Austin Peay. Together, we are making a lasting impact and creating a future filled with promise.

Sincerely,

Kristopher R. Phillips, MSL ('91, '21)

APSU Vice President for Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy

Executive Director of the APSU Foundation

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Victor Felts '91 feltsv@apsu.edu

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The Austin Peay State University Office of Alumni and Annual Giving has had a productive and successful start to 2024, and we cannot wait to share with you all that is to come in the near future.

I want to say thank you to every member of our campus community who made a gift or shared an Austin Peay story with us during Govs Give 2024. Your support helped us break the record for the most

gifts received over the last eight years of Govs Give. From 10 a.m. on March 12 to 7:27 p.m. on March 13, this year's campaign brought in 1,160 gifts for a combined \$325,269. That success would not be possible without our alumni and friends and your commitment to making the Austin Peay experience better for our students. We hope you will mark your calendar for Govs Give 2025, which will take place from 10 a.m. on March 18 to 7:27 p.m. on March 19.

Lately, several APSU representatives and coaching staff took part in our For the Peayple tour stops and Govs Gatherings in a variety of cities. They were excited to meet and catch up with our alumni and friends around the country.

Our National Alumni Association Board (NAA) met on July 19, APSU Assistant Vice President of Alumni and Engagement

and they began planning fun and exciting new ways to engage all generations of our Governor alumni family. Many of our alumni groups have celebratory events scheduled during our 2024 Homecoming activities, which will take place Oct. 25-26.

Soon we will also be launching our fourth year of the SHAPE Faculty and Staff Campaign, as well as our third year of our project-based "GOVing Tuesday," the university's version of Giving Tuesday, on Dec. 3. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of APSU faculty and staff who have not only increased their support of the university through their participation in the SHAPE Campaign, they have also contributed many innovative ideas for GOVing Tuesday projects that will directly impact the Austin Peay experience.

For the full list of APSU alumni events, visit alumni.apsu. edu. If you have questions, suggestions or need information about APSU alumni events, or you if are interested in forming a new alumni chapter, please contact us by email at alumni@apsu.edu or by phone at 931-221-7979.

Sincerely,

Breal Ament

Brad Averitt ('10, '17)

APSU GOVERNORS MILITARY HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION

CLASS OF 2024 HONOREES

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Anthony L. Alfred ('13) Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ronald Bailey ('77) Lt. Col. (Ret.) Wanda Bruce Graham ('75) The Late Staff Sgt. Rayburn S. Jackson ('37)

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jerry V. Jones ('70) Col. (Ret.) Harold "Red" Roberts ('71,'73) The Late Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Darol Walker



Friday, Nov. 8 | MUC Ballroom 5:30 - 6 p.m. | Reception 6 p.m. | APSU Governors Military Hall of Fame Induction Dinner Tickets are \$50 per person RSVP by Oct. 31 by visiting: www.alumni.apsu.edu/halloffame24

Saturday, Nov. 11 **Govs Military Appreciation Game** 3 p.m. Govs vs. Abilene Christian (Fortera Stadium) Class of 2024 honorees will be recognized

GATHERING ON THE MOVE

We are on the move to connect with APSU alumni across the country! Throughout the last year, the Division of Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy visited Austin, Texas; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Washington, D.C.; Fort Myers, Florida; Dallas, Texas; Houston, Texas; Huntsville, Alabama and Memphis, Tennessee in an effort to strengthen ties with alumni beyond the APSU campus. More than 150 alumni and friends joined us for Govs Gatherings across the United States.

Govs Gatherings are an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with old friends, network, reminisce about their days at APSU and learn about the transformational experiences taking place at the university. By taking Govs Gatherings on the road, we're ensuring that APSU alumni across the country can continue to participate in the vibrant community they once knew on the Austin Peay campus.

We look forward to future Govs Gatherings and encourage all APSU alumni and friends to join us. Whether you're reconnecting with old friends or making new ones, these events are an excellent opportunity to celebrate the spirit of APSU and ensure that the Govs For Life Experience continues to thrive beyond campus.



Check the QR code for information about upcoming Govs Gatherings and join us in a city near you. Let's build and strengthen the APSU community, one Govs Gathering at a time.





Study on the Hill: A New Tradition •



The Office of Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy hosted Austin Peay's inaugural Study on the Hill event on April 25 at the Pace Alumni Center on scenic Emerald Hill. Study on the Hill offered students a unique opportunity to relax on Spring Study Day ahead of exams. The event aimed to provide a tranquil environment for students to prepare for finals while enjoying complimentary refreshments and engaging activities.

Study on the Hill featured complimentary Coke products and a variety of food and snacks, all generously provided by local partners. Students also had the chance to participate in giveaways throughout the day, adding an element of excitement to their study sessions. The turnout was impressive, with over 300 attendees, including more than 200 students.

The success of the event was made possible by generous contributions from several sponsors, including Barnes & Noble College, Coca-Cola, Crumbl Cookies, Dutch Bros Coffee, McDonald's, Sodexo USA and Whataburger. Their support ensured that students had access to a variety of refreshments throughout the event and boosted attendance.

"It was an amazing time studying outside and hanging out with my friends! Hope this is hosted again next year," one student shared. Another said, "I loved it! Definitely looking forward to it next year!"

Additionally, 186 students utilized the new AEP student portal at www.alumni.apsu.edu/students to share information about the event, further highlighting its impact on the student body.

The success of Study on the Hill marks the beginning of a new tradition at APSU, one that is poised to become a staple of the university's efforts to support student success and enhance engagement between students and the Division of Alumni, Engagement, and Philanthropy.

Govs Give •

#GOVSGIVE, Govs For Life

"Govs for Life" was the theme of Govs Give 2024, the university's eighth annual online giving event. The campaign celebrated all the inspiring stories students, faculty, staff and community members have to share about their experiences at Austin Peay. From 10 a.m. on March 12 to 7:27 p.m. on March 13, donors gave \$325,269 to support APSU Funds of Excellence for academics, athletics and student affairs during Govs Give 2024.

This year, alumni and friends made 1,160 gifts during the online giving campaign - breaking the all-time record for the number of annual gifts made in the history of Govs Give. APSU faculty and staff members gave during Govs Give for their participation in the SHAPE Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign, which celebrates how faculty and staff use their talents and gifts to shape Austin Peay. A total of 317 APSU faculty and staff members contributed during Govs Give 2024, making the current giving rate for the 2024 SHAPE Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign 35%. Donors have given \$2,138,053 in the lifetime of the Govs Give Campaign.

Next year's campaign will run from 10 a.m. on March 18 to 7:27 p.m. on March 19.







A Night to Remember: Candlelight Ball Celebrates 40 Years with Record-Breaking Event

t the 40th Annual Candlelight Ball, guests raised \$237,000, surpassing 2023's record-breaking \$162,500 and marking the largest fundraising total in the gala's history. The event was hosted by Austin Peay State University on May 18 at the Omni Nashville Hotel. Funds were raised through gifts made during the event and the live auction. This is the second year in the history of the Candlelight Ball that donations benefited the Funds of Excellence in each academic college and other major areas of the university.

Wyatt Johnson Kia served as the Governor Sponsor for the event, with Wyatt Johnson Automotive Group committing to serve as the Governor Sponsor for both 2024 and 2025. This year's entertainment was provided by our newly established Entertainment Sponsor, F&M Bank. Presenting sponsors included Allstate Insurance Agent Kathryn Minniehan, Fortera Credit Union, Steadfast Mortgage, The Steve Nash Team with Keller Williams, Legends Bank, Jenn McMillion with the Make Clarksville Home team, and Planters Bank.

Newly added Monocle sponsorship levels were also offered, with a portion of funds used to support individual colleges and other areas within the university. Monocle sponsors this year included Regions Bank sponsoring the College of Business table, Jodi's Cabinet Sales sponsoring the Military and Veterans Affairs table, and a generous anonymous donor who sponsored many of the other university areas at the event.

The Candlelight Ball is an Austin Peay State University tradition that raises funds for student scholarships each year. It was established in 1984 by the late retired Brig. Gen. Wendell H. Gilbert to fund APSU student scholarships. Gilbert served as APSU's vice president for Development and University Relations for 17 years. Gilbert passed away in July 2022, just a few months after his wife Jean. The 2024 Wendell H. Gilbert Award was presented to Charlsie and John Halliburton ('69). The Spirit of Austin Peay Award was presented to the Dave Loos family.

The 2023 – 2024 Candlelight Ball Committee members were Co-Chairs Jordan McWhirter and Kimberly Wiggins, Lesleigh Averitt, Betsy Baggett, Adrienne Beasley, Candice Coleman, Andrea Goble, Chandler Hamaker, Andrea Herrera, Ginna Holleman, Amelia Magette, Lillie Millan, Kathryn Minniehan, Nicole Rye, Victor Felts and Lorneth Peters.

CANDLELIGHT BALL

2025 AWARD WINNERS



2025 Recipient of the Spirit of Austin Peay Award Jeff Truitt ('99)

Jeff Truitt has made Clarksville, Tennessee, his home for over two decades. His arrival in Clarksville was through the U.S. Air Force, where he served four years with the elite Air Force Special Operations Weather Teams (SOWT), supporting Army units at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. After his military service, Jeff earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental geography from Austin Peay State University. Shortly thereafter, he married Kristi Truitt, and together they have built a family rooted in the town they proudly call home.

Jeff's professional trajectory has been as diverse as it is impactful, ranging from restaurant ownership and city government roles to his current position as executive vice president of operations for one of the largest Servpro teams in the United States. His career reflects a consistent desire to contribute meaningfully to his community.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Jeff is a dedicated volunteer and leader, contributing his time and expertise to numerous organizations. He has served as a board member of Soldiers and Families Embraced (SAFE), chairman of the Clarksville Area Chamber of Commerce, and board member of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Economic Development Council. His leadership extends to the Downtown Kiwanis Club, Leadership Clarksville, Leadership Middle Tennessee, and several other community-focused groups.

Jeff Truitt's commitment to his community and Austin Peay State University makes him a valued leader in Clarksville. His story is one of unwavering service, both in uniform and as a civilian, driven by a profound passion for making a difference in the lives of those around him.



2025 Recipient of the Wendell H. Gilbert Award Antonio Murgas

Antonio Murgas, originally from Puerto Rico, has been a proud resident of Clarksville since the age of 13. His journey with Domino's began at 18, and through unwavering dedication and entrepreneurial spirit, he purchased his first two Domino's stores in Clarksville in 2008. Today, Antonio is one of the most successful franchisees in the state of Tennessee, now managing eight thriving Domino's locations.

Antonio has been married to his wife, Dava, for 18 years, and together they have raised three sons. His passion for community service is evident through his active involvement in numerous organizations within Clarksville-Montgomery County. Antonio's steadfast support for Austin Peay State University athletics and the broader APSU community since 2010 underscores his dedication to fostering local growth and development.

Antonio exemplifies a spirit of dedicated philanthropy to Austin Peay. His contributions to the community and APSU have made a significant impact, inspiring others to follow in his footsteps. We are grateful for Antonio's exceptional service, commitment, and the lasting legacy he continues to build at APSU.



Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m. • Morgan University Center Ballroom • \$30 per person Please join us as we celebrate this year's selection of Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients.

To RSVP, visit: www.alumni.apsu.edu/awards24

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

THOMAS CHESTER ('73)



Thomas (Tom) Wayne Chester, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, has devoted 50 years to public service, demonstrating exceptional dedication and leadership. A 1968 graduate of Clarksville High School, Tom pursued higher education at Austin Peay State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in business administration & accounting in 1973. He furthered his education with a Master of Public Administration (cum laude) from Tennessee State University in 1997.

Tom's career began in 1973 as an accountant with the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. In 1979, he transitioned to the Tennessee Department of General Services (DGS), where he steadily rose through the ranks, ultimately serving as Deputy Commissioner-Chief of Staff from 2004 to 2023. In this role, Tom managed key divisions, including Document Solutions, Vehicle & Asset Management, and Administration, providing comprehensive support to state government operations.

Tom's commitment to professional excellence is evident through his certifications and continuous education, including becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager in 1993 and graduating from the Tennessee Government Executive Institute and LEAD Tennessee.

Active in numerous organizations, Tom has held leadership positions in the Association of Governmental Accountants, the American Society of Public Administration, and the Austin Peay State University National Alumni Association for over 10 years. Tom has held leadership positions with the APSU National Alumni Association on the National Board of Directors and served as vice-president and president-elect. He has also served as part of the President's Emerging Leadership Program (PELP), chair of the National Alumni Management Committee, and chair of the National Alumni Mentorship Program.

BLAKE GOLDEN ('18)



Blake Golden, a dedicated and passionate alumnus of Austin Peay State University, has made significant contributions in both his professional and community endeavors. After transferring to APSU in Fall 2015, Blake earned an associate degree in liberal arts, a bachelor's degree in health and human performance, and a minor in coaching.

Blake became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in Spring 2018, taking on Homecoming duties for the Rho Kappa Chapter. He also competed nationally with the APSU club basketball team in 2017 at Ohio State University.

Blake's commitment to public service is evident through his role on the Tennessee Recreation Parks Association State Board since 2022. He has served as Central District chair elect, Central District director, and will be sworn in as Ethnic Minority Interest Section chair this November.

Currently, Blake oversees the West Park Community Center as a program coordinator for Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation. Under his leadership, the center received the prestigious Donald H. Stanton Award in 2023 and a 5-Star Award for excellence in community engagement. Blake actively coaches various youth sports and organizes annual community events, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of those in his community.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

CANDY JOHNSON ('06)



Candy Johnson is a nationally recognized public sector leader with nearly two decades of experience across nonprofit, government, education, and civic sectors. In 2021, she made history as the first female president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga (ULGC). Under her leadership, ULGC secured \$3.1 million for its first headquarters, doubled its team size, and received its largest philanthropic gift from the MacKenzie Scott Foundation. Johnson also launched the organization's first State of Black Chattanooga research report and established The President's Circle, ULGC's inaugural individual giving circle.

Her exceptional leadership earned her the John W. Mack Medal of Honor at the National Urban League Conference and the Unbought and Unbossed Award from Girls Inc. of Chattanooga. Prior to ULGC, Johnson served as a senior advisor to Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke, spearheading initiatives to advance economic, racial, and social equity. She also led the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Alliance in partnership with Bloomberg Associates, co-created the Styles L. Hutchins Black College Student Fellowship, and spearheaded

various public engagement efforts.

A native of Clarksville, Tennessee, Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in public management from APSU and a master's in public administration from Murray State University. Johnson continues to contribute to her community by serving on several local and state boards, including the Tennessee Aquarium, CHI Memorial Hospital Board, Southeast Tennessee Local Workforce Development Board (SETDD), and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Chancellor's Multicultural Advisory Board, among others.

ZACH WALTON ('14)



Zach Walton, a Columbia, Tennessee native, transferred to Austin Peay State University from Walters State Community College in 2013. During his time at APSU, he was a pitcher for the Govs Baseball team in the 2013-2014 season and graduated with a degree in finance. Zach has made significant strides in his professional career as the general manager of Axle Logistics, a company he joined as the 12th employee and has seen grow to over 500 employees over the past eight years. In his role, he oversees a team that provides logistic services to clients across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Zach resides in Knoxville with his wife, Leslie, an APSU alumna and former Pom Squad member, and their two-year-old daughter, Collins.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

DR. JEROME E. MORRIS ('90)



Dr. Jerome E. Morris, a distinguished alumnus of Austin Peay State University, has achieved remarkable success in education research and policy. Currently, he is the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Urban Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). He has made significant contributions as the founding director of the Center for Communally Bonded Research and as Division G vice-president of AERA.

Dr. Morris's scholarly work examines the intersection of race, social class, and educational opportunity, focusing on the impact of school reforms on marginalized populations and the experiences of African Americans in the U.S. South. His extensive publications and the prestigious Lyle M. Spencer Research Award highlight his dedication to this critical field.

In addition to his research, Dr. Morris is an accomplished author of two books addressing race, class, schooling, and community. His advocacy for quality public schooling for Black children and his examination of housing and educational policies affecting the Black poor demonstrate his commitment to social and economic justice.

Dr. Morris began his academic journey at Austin Peay, earning an undergraduate degree in political science with a minor in engineering technology. He exhibited exceptional leadership as president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the African American Student Association and played a key role in establishing the Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center. He continued his education with a master's degree in teaching and a doctorate in educational policy from Vanderbilt University, later serving as a professor at the University of Georgia for nearly two decades.

Dr. Morris resides in Metropolitan St. Louis with his wife, Mary Muse, and their children, Amadi and Kamau MuseMorris.

BRAD WITHROW ('88)



Brad Withrow retired recently from Ernst & Young LLP (EY) after 34 years in public accounting. As a CPA and tax partner in the U.S. State & Local & Global Indirect Tax Practice, Brad served some of EY's largest and most complex clients. Brad held several practice leadership positions throughout his career and ultimately led the Americas Indirect Tax and U.S. State and Local Tax practice, a \$1 billion division of EY's tax business. The practice experienced significant growth in revenue and breadth of services under his leadership. Brad has been known throughout his career for dedicated service to EY's clients and the firm's people. Brad remains active in the business community as a real estate investor.

Brad serves on the board of the Austin Peay Endowment Foundation and Investment Committee. He is also a longstanding member of the College of Business Advisory Board. He has presented to students in College of Business classes and other forums on professional topics and often works directly with students and various firms in job placement. He is also a board member and finance chair for the Appalachia Service Project, which builds and repairs homes in the Appalachia region and for disaster recovery areas throughout Tennessee and Kentucky.

Brad and his wife Glema are 1988 graduates of Austin Peay. They live in Hendersonville, Tennessee and are members of the Community Church of Hendersonville. They have two adult sons, Adam and David.



APSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES SERVICE AWARD BARRY KULBACK

Retired Process Improvement Professional

Barry Kulback graduated from Austin Peay State University in 1979, and his wife Maggie earned her degree in 1977. The couple have been dedicated supporters of their alma mater, donating every year since 1982—marking 43 consecutive years of giving as of 2024. In 1988, Barry established the Austin Peay Support Group of Trane Employees, later known as the Trane Alumni Chapter. He chaired the organizational committee, authored the charter, and served as its inaugural president, growing it into the university's largest alumni chapter at one point. Over 27 years, the group funded numerous campus initiatives and created endowments valued at nearly \$1 million by 2024.

Barry has served in various roles, including Austin Peay Homecoming co-chair, member of the Govs Club, President's Giving Tower, and the Monocle Society. As a member of the APSU Foundation, he has been chair of the Fund Development Committee, member of the Governance Committee, chair of the Foundation.

Barry has been an officer of the Sigma Chi Fraternity House Corporation, which built Austin Peay's first true fraternity house. He and Maggie are members of the Legacy Society, listed in the Austin Peay Society at the Founders level, and in the President's Society John S. Ziegler Circle. They are also longtime season ticket holders for APSU football and basketball.

Beyond APSU, Barry has served on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, helping to build four houses. He has also served on the Clarksville River District Commission and co-chaired the Immaculate Conception Church International Festival. Professionally, he was honored with the Tennessee Academy of Science Industrial Scientist Award in 2006 and holds four U.S. patents for innovative software programs optimizing manufacturing capabilities. Barry has made a significant impact both at APSU and in the surrounding community.



APSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MILITARY SERVICE AWARD GARY LUCK (awarded posthumously)

Retired U.S. Army General

The late Dr. Gary Luck, a retired U.S. Army general, was appointed by Gov. Bill Haslam as an inaugural member of the Austin Peay State University Board of Trustees in 2017, serving until 2021. Luck retired from active duty in 1996, culminating a 36-year military career and achieving the rank of four-star general. He commanded at the highest levels of the U.S. armed forces, including the Army's 18th Airborne Corps, Special Operations Command, U.S. Joint Special Operations Command, and as Commander in Chief of United Nations Command Korea/Combined Forces Command Korea/U.S. Forces Korea.

Luck served as an armor officer, infantryman, and aviator, with multiple tours in Vietnam and critical staff positions across the U.S. and internationally. His senior assignments with Army troop units include Chief of Staff, 8th Infantry Division in Europe; Assistant Division Commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell; and Commanding General, 2nd Infantry Division, in the Republic of Korea. His command of 18th Airborne Corps included deployment to Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Luck is a decorated national hero known for his commitment to developing others. After retiring, he served as a senior fellow for the National Defense University, supporting the Pinnacle, Capstone, and Keystone programs. During his tenure on the APSU Board of Trustees, he generously shared his expertise on emotional intelligence in the workplace, profoundly impacting the professional development of APSU staff and military leaders. Luck's mentoring has shaped the professional development of generations of the nation's finest military leaders and has had a profound impact on national defense.

Luck earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Kansas State University, a Master of Business Administration from Florida State University, and a doctorate in business administration from George Washington University.

Luck died Aug. 14, 2024.



APSU PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR RON AND ANDREA MORTON

H&R Block Franchise Owners

Ronald L. Morton is a 1970 graduate of the Austin Peay College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and a former student-athlete for the APSU track and field team. In his freshman year, he set a school record for the three-mile and was named the school's "Leading Runner" by the APSU newspaper, The All State.

After graduation, Ron worked as a basketball coach and physical education teacher in Tunisia through the Peace Corps. He is now the owner of the largest number of H&R Block franchises in the country, with offices in South Carolina and others scattered across Tennessee, West Virginia, Ohio and Indiana.

In 2012, Ron and his wife Andrea established the Ronald L. Morton Scholarship for student-athletes who are majoring in business and have established their community involvement and entrepreneurial ambitions. In 2020, the couple made a transformational monetary commitment to the APSU Department of Athletics for the APSU track and field, cross country and men's basketball teams, as well as athletic scholarships and the department as a whole.

Through their generosity, Ron and Andrea's gifts continue to support APSU student-athlete success and help to further the "Total Gov Concept." In 2022, the Austin Peay State University Board of Trustees approved the naming of the Ron and Andrea Morton Family Track located inside Fortera Stadium to honor their commitment to the university and the APSU Department of Athletics.

Golden Alumni: Celebrating Our PEAYple



The Division of Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy at Austin Peay State University recently hosted an event that brought together alumni, staff, and faculty for a memorable celebration. This special gathering highlighted the achievements and contributions of our Legacy Society Members, Golden Alumni, and the Class of 1974.

The afternoon was filled with heartfelt moments as alumni and friends reconnected, forging new relationships and strengthening old ones. APSU President Mike Licari honored

three distinguished members of the Class of 1974 by presenting them with their 50 Year Medallions. These medallions commemorate an incredible milestone and the enduring bond between these graduates and the university.

Attendees also had the unique opportunity to stroll down memory lane together as they browsed yearbooks spanning from 1960 to 2008. This nostalgic journey allowed many to reminisce about their time at APSU and celebrate the rich history of the university, bringing true meaning to the Govs for Live Experience.

A highlight of the event was the invitation extended to attendees to join the new Golden Alumni Chapter of the National Alumni Association at Austin Peay State University. The Golden Alumni is a dedicated group of graduates who are 60 years of age or older as of June 30, 2024. APSU Golden Alumni are committed to fostering strong connections between the university and the community, ensuring that the legacy of APSU continues to thrive across generations.

For those interested in learning more about the Golden Alumni Chapter and how to get involved, please visit alumni.apsu.edu/goldenalumni.



46th Annual Homecoming Golf Tournament

Friday Oct. 25, 10 a.m. Shotgun Start Swan Lake Golf Course

\$100 per person. Four-person scramble. Open to the public. Payment must be received by Friday, Oct.18 to guarantee your spot.

To register: www.alumni.apsu.edu/hcgolf24

Military Scholarship Homecoming Dinner

Friday, Oct. 25

5:30 p.m. Reception • 6 p.m. dinner Morgan University Center Ballroom

We invite you to an exceptional evening that supports our military-affiliated students through scholarships and funds of excellence. Attendance is \$50 per person. **Sponsored by Fortera Credit Union.**

To RSVP, visit: www.alumni.apsu.edu/militarydinner24

All Athletics Alumni Mixer

Friday, Oct. 25, 7-10 p.m. Double Tree Hotel Clarksville Riverview (50 College St., Clarksville, TN 37040)

Join us to reconnect with your former teammates and fellow APSU athletics alumni. All past athletes and their guests are invited. Enjoy complimentary food and a cash bar.

Visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/athleticmixer24 for more information.

African American Alumni Chapter Scholarship Mixer

Friday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m. - midnight The Emerald Event Center, 2631 US-41 ALT, Clarksville, TN 37043

Come enjoy an evening of socializing and dancing! Food trucks will be available from 8-10 p.m. Donations at the door will support the Marvin Posey Jr. Scholarship Endowment.

To RSVP, visit: www.alumni.apsu.edu/mixer24

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m.

Morgan University Center Ballroom

Please join us as we celebrate this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Attendance is \$30 per person.

To RSVP, visit: www.alumni.apsu.edu/awards24

Greek Parade Watch Party

Saturday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m. Browning Lawn (College Street)

Reconnect with fraternity and sorority alumni from all chapters and enjoy the Homecoming Parade together during this free event.

For more information, contact Victor Felts, Greek Alumni Chapter president, at feltsv@apsu.edu.

APSU Homecoming Parade

Saturday Oct. 26, 11 a.m.

APSU Campus

Austin Peay and Clarksville's hometown team will gather to celebrate Homecoming 2024 during this free public event.

For parade details and information, contact Student Life and Engagement at 931-221-7431.

NPHC Plaza Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, Oct. 26, 12:30 p.m. **APSU Campus**

Join us as we celebrate the newly built National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Plaza and recognize the NPHC's many contributions to our campus community.

To RSVP by Oct. 18, visit www.alumni.apsu.edu/ NPHCPlaza24

StacheStreet and Tailgate Alley

Saturday, Oct. 26, noon

Come spend time with Clarksville's hometown team and see alumni and community friends! StacheStreet and Tailgate Alley open at noon and will have a Junior Govs zone!

For game ticket information or to reserve a tailgate spot, contact APSU Athletics at 931-221-7904.

Homecoming Game - Govs vs. Tarleton State Saturday Oct. 26, 3 p.m.

Fortera Stadium

Enjoy the halftime presentation of the 2024 Homecoming Court, including the crowning of the king and queen.

For admission prices, contact the Athletics Ticket Office







Govs Down Lions to Clinch 2024 Title

For the first time since 2013, Austin Peay State University's baseball team clinched a conference title. Fittingly, designated hitter Lyle Miller-Green and center fielder John Bay hit home runs in a Governors 8-3 victory against North Alabama on Joe Maynard Field at Raymond C. Hand Park. With the win, Austin Peay clinched a share of the 2024 Atlantic Sun Conference regular-season title.

Under second-year head coach Roland Fanning and in only its second season in the ASUN, Austin Peay (35-21, 20-10 ASUN) became the first ASUN team to reach 20 wins. It is the Governors' first conference title since a storied "Three Peay-t"

that saw APSU win conference titles in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Austin Peay also clinched the overall No. 1 seed in the ASUN Conference Tournament.

Bay and Miller-Green's home runs were part of a five-run second inning that broke the game open. Bay's leadoff home run was the Governors' 143rd homer of 2024, breaking the ASUN Conference record set last season by FGCU. Catcher Gus Freeman doubled to drive in a run and then scored on an error. Miller-Green capped the scoring with a two-run home run, his 29th of the season.

North Alabama (18-35, 10-19-1 ASUN) would muster a pair of runs in the third inning. The Lions opened the inning with a double and a walk, and left fielder Andrew Knight drove in both runners with a double, cutting the deficit to 6-3.

Austin Peay would tack on runs in the third and fourth innings, with shortstop Jon Jon Gazdar capping the game's scoring with an RBI single in the fourth.

Afterwards, both teams' pitching staffs settled in. Austin Peay starter Solomon Washington and relievers Josh Howitt, Tyler Hampu, and Titan Kennedy-Hayes supplied six scoreless innings. North Alabama reliever Justin Battle held the Govs scoreless over the final four innings.

Howitt (2-2) picked up the win after 2.1 innings of scoreless relief that saw him strike out three batters. Washington went four innings and allowed three runs in his first ASUN start but did not factor into the decision.

Miller-Green went 3-for-3 with three RBI and two runs scored to pace the Govs' 11-hit offensive attack. Bay and right fielder Jaden Brown had two hits.

Knight led UNA with his 2-for-4, two-RBI effort. Lions starting pitcher Jacob Bradshaw (3-4) lost after allowing eight runs on 10 hits over four-plus innings.

"

It felt great to bring the title back for the first time in over 11 years to a place where there's a lot of baseball tradition and history...what we're doing takes everybody, and that's why we're Clarksville's hometown team.

-COACH FANNING





Melissa Rausch Named Austin Peay's First Head Women's Lacrosse Coach

Austin Peay State University Vice President and Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison named Melissa Rausch the first head women's lacrosse coach in program history on June 25.

"This is a monumental day for Austin Peay, as we introduce the first head coach of our women's lacrosse program," said Harrison. "I am so excited to welcome Coach Rausch to Clarksville, where she will become the first Division I head women's lacrosse coach at a public university in the state of Tennessee."

Harrison said Rausch's teams have been successful on and off the field, and that she will advocate for the Total Gov Concept while building women's lacrosse into a championship-level program.

Rausch has spent the past five seasons at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), beginning as an assistant coach in 2020 before being named head coach prior to the 2022 season. Before her time in Colorado Springs, Rausch began her collegiate coaching career at Nichols College, where she served as the assistant director

Harrison Named to NCAA Division I Council

Austin Peay State University Vice President and Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison has been appointed to the NCAA Division I Council through the end of the 2026-27 academic year.

The council is responsible for Division I's daily decision-making and includes members from each of its conferences. Harrison is serving as the Atlantic Sun Conference's representative. Under Harrison's leadership, the 2023-24 academic year saw the Governors' football team enter the United Athletic Conference and win the first-ever UAC championship. The men's and women's basketball teams also made their debut in F&M Bank Arena, and the Governors' baseball team clinched a share of its first ASUN regular-season title.

Harrison has implemented various initiatives to benefit the athletics department, including the "Total Gov Concept" to prioritize student-athletes' welfare and success. This has led to 13 conference championships and helped student-athletes record a 3.0 GPA for 14 consecutive semesters.

In addition, Harrison brought top coaching talent to Clarksville, formed strategic partnerships that led to facilities like F&M Bank Arena, and helped the athletics department achieve notable fundraising milestones.

Looking ahead, Harrison has unveiled a five-year strategic plan focused on financial sustainability, revenue generation, the student-athlete experience, and retention, which promises to solidify APSU as a rising force in collegiate athletics.

NCAA

of athletics, head women's lacrosse coach, and assistant men's lacrosse coach.

"I would like to thank Vice President and Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison and President Dr. Mike Licari for seeing the value of adding a women's lacrosse program at Austin Peay, and of course, for their belief in me to start this program," said Rausch. "I would also like to thank Jordan Harmon, Mannie Reinsch, and the entire search committee for not only their confidence in me, but for sharing their love and Austin Peay pride, making it impossible not to be ecstatic for this opportunity."

Rauch said she looks forward to immersing herself in the Austin Peay community and continuing to grow the sport of lacrosse in Clarksville.

In her final season at UCCS, Rausch led the Mountain Lions to a 7-9 overall record with a 5-5 mark in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) play. In her three seasons at the helm of UCCS, Rausch led the program to 22 wins and three straight trips to the RMAC Women's Lacrosse Championship.

In just three seasons, Rausch helped 14 players earn First or Second Team All-RMAC recognition after the program had earned just one all-conference honor in its first five seasons. During the 2024 season, freshman Sarah Urbanic was named the RMAC Freshman of the Year after ranking second on the team and 10th in the conference with 25 goals.

Rausch's team also was successful off the field at UCCS, with six student-athletes earning RMAC All-Academic First Team honors and 35 more earning RMAC All-Academic Honor Roll recognition. In addition, McGriff was named the RMAC Academic Player of the Year in 2022 and earned Third Team CSC Academic All-America honors in 2023. A total of three Mountain Lions earned CSC Academic All-District honors during Rausch's tenure.

Haney Named to ASUN Winter Winners for Life Team

Austin Peay State University men's basketball's Isaac Haney was named to the 2023-24 Atlantic Sun Conference Winter Winners for Life Team.

The ASUN Winners For Life teams are composed of one student-athlete from each of the conference's 14 institutions who displays excellence on and off the playing surface. The teams honor a campus citizen who shares and demonstrates the ASUN Core Values: education, honesty, student-athlete experience, fairness, health, ambition, respect, diversity, inclusion, leadership, responsibility, and sportsmanship.

A junior guard for the Govs, Haney started 18-of-23 games for Austin Peay during his first season in Clarksville after becoming eligible in mid-December 2023 due to the NCAA's new mid-season transfer rule.

The West Plains, Missouri native averaged 11.7 points and 4.1 rebounds per game in the Govs' backcourt and had 11 double-figure scoring performances during the

2023-24 campaign, including a career-high 32 points in a win at North Alabama on Feb. 17.

Off the court, Haney has logged countless hours giving back to the Clarksville and Montgomery County communities. He has read stories and spoken at numerous local schools, coached participants in the Buddy Ball program, raised money for breast cancer research through painting pumpkins, organized toys for a Christmas distribution during Peayple in the Community, welcomed fans to the new F&M Bank Arena, bagged nonperishable food items for Manna Café, and much more.



SKYLAR **SHERIDAN**

Sheridan Selected to Represent APSU, ASUN at NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum

Skylar Sheridan, a senior on the Austin Peay State University softball team, has been selected to represent Austin Peay and the Atlantic Sun Conference at the 2024 NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum from Nov. 21-24, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sheridan will be one of the ASUN's two student-athlete representatives at this year's forum, and the first to represent Austin Peav at this event.

"I first want to thank Dr. Kristal McGreggor for thinking of me for this opportunity," said Sheridan. "She has continued to pour into me, and her support has been crucial to my success, and for that, I am so grateful. I also want to thank the people who have been pivotal in making me into the person I am today: my parents, Coach K, my administrators, and most importantly, God."

Sheridan said she looks forward to bringing back strategies from the forum to help build a stronger, more supportive community for APSU's student-athletes.

"Meeting new people, making new connections, and learning new things is exciting," she said. "Being in that kind of environment, I personally feel I will thrive."

A native of Ooltewah, Tennessee, Sheridan is a member of Austin Peay's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) executive board and served as the ASUN representative for the 2023-24 academic year. In this role, she represented APSU at the conference level, contributing to key decisions and initiatives that impact student-athletes.



Meeting new people, making new connections, and learning new things is exciting."

In the upcoming academic year, Sheridan will continue to serve on the SAAC executive board as the Ellis Initiative Chair. Named after L.M. Ellis, Austin Peay's first Black student-athlete and the pioneer who shattered the color barrier by signing the first scholarship in Ohio Valley Conference history, the Ellis Initiative Char will lead the efforts to create inclusive spaces for all student-athletes, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

The NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum, created in 1997, has served as a life-changing experience for more than 5,000 student-athletes. It provides participants with invaluable leadership skills, a refined understanding of the relationship among personal values, core beliefs, and behavioral styles, and the support of a close personal network of like-minded peers. This transformational opportunity allows student-athletes and administrators to build a leadership toolkit and develop vital self-awareness to realize their potential. Participants, including student-athletes, administrators, and coaches, return from the forum with enhanced leadership capabilities that allow them to thrive personally, professionally, and athletically.



Easton Key Named Austin Peay's Head Men's Golf Coach

Austin Peay State University has named Easton Key, who helped lead Arkansas State to the 2024 Sun Belt Conference championship, as its new head men's golf coach. Vice President and Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison announced Key's selection on May 11.

"It is a great day to be a Gov, and I am so excited to welcome Easton Key and his wife Madison to Austin Peay," said Harrison. "Coach Key had great success as a head coach at Delta State and just helped Arkansas State win a conference championship as an assistant coach. He believes in the 'Total Gov Concept,' and I can't wait to watch his teams excel in the community and on the golf course."

Key has spent the past three seasons as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Arkansas State. Before returning to Jonesboro, Key spent four seasons as the head men's golf coach at Delta State after serving as a men's and women's assistant coach at Omaha during the 2016-17 season. Key began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Arkansas State, where he worked from 2014-16.

"I'm extremely grateful and fired up to be named head coach of the Austin Peay men's golf team," said Key. "First off, I'd like to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for providing this opportunity for me and my family. Secondly, I'd like to thank my wife for her unwavering love and support. In a business that doesn't always give back what you put into it, she's always been my rock and my biggest fan.

"With that being said, the future of the Austin Peay men's golf team is bright. We're going to do things the right way, and we're going to win. I couldn't be more excited to get to Clarksville and get going. Let's Go Peay!"

Hobson Named Governors Third Head Beach Volleyball Coach

Austin Peay State University Vice President and Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison named Michael Hobson the third head beach volleyball coach in program history on May 28.

"It truly is a great day to be a Gov," said Harrison. "I am excited to welcome our new head beach volleyball coach Michael Hobson and his wife Zephyr to Clarksville. Coach Hobson has had great success throughout his entire coaching career both at the professional and collegiate level. He embodies the 'Total Gov Concept,' and I cannot wait to watch his teams excel in the sand, the classroom, and across the entire Clarksville and Montgomery County communities."

Hobson brings more than 10 years of professional and collegiate coaching experience to Clarksville. He most recently served as the head beach volleyball coach at Louisiana Monroe, where he led the War Hawks to 47 wins over the last two seasons.



After leading ULM to 11 wins in 2022 — including a victory against Southern Miss in the Conference USA Beach Volleyball Championship — Hobson cultivated the largest turnaround in program history, leading the War Hawks to a 31-4 2023 season, which included a 30-2 mark during the regular season.

"I would like to thank Dr. Michael Licari and Gerald Harrison for giving me this great opportunity to lead the Austin Peay beach volleyball team," said Hobson. "Zephyr and I are thrilled to be joining the Austin Peay family and contributing to the 'Total Gov Concept.' The support that Austin Peay gives to its athletic programs is first-class, and I feel strongly it will not take us long to be a top competitor in a very good ASUN conference. Let's Go Peay!"



Mike Rainey ('83) was appointed 2024 – 2025 chairman of the Clarksville Area Chamber of Commerce.



Philip Sparn ('10, '13) was hired as marketing and recruiting strategist for the graduate school at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



Dr. Wendy Duvall ('94) was named Owensboro Public Schools superintendent effective July 1, 2024.



Brittney Sparn was hired as marketing manager for the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Steve Wilson ('97, '06) published his second book, "The Why of Graphic Design," in June 2024. He previously authored "The Why of Sports Design: Design Principles in Sports Marketing" in May 2018.



Wes Kitts ('13) was named to the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team and competed in weightlifting at the Paris games this summer.



Dr. Bryan Johnson ('04) was named Atlanta Public Schools superintendent for a three-year term effective Aug. 5, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a awarded the APSU Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2019.



Bennett Evans ('17) was promoted to patient access director for Parallon at Corpus Christi Medical Center in Corpus Christi, Texas.



Melissa Brown ('04,'09) presented a Federal EEO Laws, EEOC Initiatives & Hot Employment Discrimination Issues seminar to the Clarksville Area Chamber of Commerce. Melissa serves as the outreach and education coordinator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Memphis District.



Celeste Malone ('17, '19) was named to Nashville's Top 30 Under 30.



Cassie Wheeler ('07) was appointed Montgomery County, Tennessee's Accounts and Budgets director.



Kyra Hardy ('18) was promoted to finance manager of Behavioral Health Services with Optum Health.



Dr. Zach Cheever ('19) joined APSU as a Fall 2024 visiting interim assistant professor and the director of Athletic Bands.



Maisie Williams ('22, '24) was accepted into Boston University's MFA program studying poetry.



Mona Gail Alonzo ('64)

3/20/24

3/21/24

Charles Kimmel

2/9/24

2/10/24

Jacob Lorino ('21), client specialist for The Trust Company of Tennessee, has earned the designation of Certified Financial Planner (CFP).



Kaytah Mejia ('23) earned the Best Thesis of 2023 award from the Tennessee Conference of Graduate School for her thesis "The Impact of Organizational Justice Perception on Organizational Commitment: "Exploration on the Military Mindset."

General Gary Luck (Retired, U.S. Army)

Austin Peay State University | 41

8/14/24

	Connie Sue Poliquin ('68) 1/10/24	Mitchell G. Johnson ('71) 2/10/24	Gloria Dickson 03/24/2024	Jack T. Weston ('08) 5/20/24
	Robert Lynn Canady ('54) 1/11/24	Mayme Lorene Moss ('50) 2/10/24	Mikel Wayne Krisle 3/28/24	Crystal Dannette Hooper ('91) 5/22/24
	Stanley Arthur Newell ('80) 1/11/24	Ted E. Porter ('81) 2/11/24	Jason Riley Bain ('07) 3/30/24	Brenda Fay Hardin ('72) 5/28/24
	Cora Dorothy Davenport ('58) 1/13/24	Patrick Wilson Bryant ('80) 2/16/24	Edward Molton Sanders ('69) 3/30/24	Karen Elaine Edwards ('78) 6/5/24
	Robert Eugene Byrd ('67) 1/15/24	Scott Houston Mills ('90) 2/20/24	Jerry Howard Jackson ('66) 4/8/24	Cornelius Joseph Currie ('85) 6/7/24
	Rickey Wayne Boyte ('68) 1/17/24	Anne Glass 2/25/24	Georgianna H. Fortier ('88) 4/20/24	Havyarimana Alain ('20, '22) 6/11/24
	Weldon LaVerne Gibbs ('67) 1/18/24	Robert Michael Mason ('19) 2/28/24	John Baxter Nicholson ('72) 4/20/24	Robert Henry Lee ('57) 6/15/24
	Don Ezell Savage ('63) 1/18/24	Stephen Marvin Settle ('83) 2/28/24	Sherwin Clift ('60) 4/23/24	Thomas Elton Weaks 6/15/24
	Samson Adam Benjamin ('64) 1/20/24	Bobby Allen Long ('72, '73) 3/5/24	Judith Anne Kilcoyne ('89) 4/27/24	Donald Wesley Towe ('70) 6/26/24
>	Daniel Lee Joiner ('65) 1/24/24	Nicholas Claud Lowe ('81) 3/8/24	Sarah Darnell 4/28/24	Bonnie Louise Karrigan ('71) 6/29/24
œ	Elizabeth Anne Murphy ('71) 1/26/24	Doris Ann Halford ('03) 3/15/24	James David Williams ('74) 4/30/24	Tommy William Bell ('78) 6/30/24
0	James Thomas Murrell ('64) 1/29/24	Joy Lynn Pigott ('06, '08) 3/16/24	Stacey Deneise Powell ('94) 5/3/24	Clifford William Sims ('62) 7/4/24
ΣШ	David Till 2/3/24	Fred S. Pitts ('69) 3/16/24	Lorene Hazel Smith ('66, '76) 5/8/24	Raymond Robert Reese ('64) 7/7/24
5	Larry L. Adams ('63) 2/5/24	Gwen Connor 3/17/24	William D. Fisher ('74) 5/11/24	Constance B. Bunio ('65) 7/10/24
	Betty Taylor Nichols 2/6/24	Estel Norman Manasco ('59) 3/20/24	Kenneth Eugene West ('57) 5/16/24	James Arthur Fleetwood 7/11/24
	David Michael Pepper ('68)	Catherine Laverne Wallace ('86)	Lester Eugene Trotter ('55)	General Gary Luck (Retired, U.S. A

5/17/24

5/20/24

Kathleen Fay Coates ('75)

Leading The Way

Last 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.

An asterisk indicates a gift that has been included in an estate plan.

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Andrew & Melissa Wilson

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2023-24 Honor Roll of Donors

This list contains information compiled in a computerized database since 1986. The 2023-2024 Honor Roll of Donors is dedicated to all donors who made gifts during fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Every gift, regardless of amount, is needed and is appreciated by students, faculty and staff. The following listing recognizes contributors who have made cumulative lifetime gifts totaling \$10,000 or more. 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.

*Denotes individuals who are members of the Consecutive Giving Society who support Austin Peay through consecutive annual contributions.

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Timothy & Ellen McCollum* Leon & Harriett McQueen*

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Julie & Bill Miener*
Patty Mulkeen
Wendy Munnell*
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Deborah & Robert Pomeroy

Bill & Fran Powers* Eddie & Ashley Puskas* William & Nell Rayburn* Max Remy*

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Sara & Eric Robson*
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Kevin & Elizabeth Saunders

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Eunice & Wyona Washington* Charles & Laura Weigandt* Tim & Tonya Weinzapfel*

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Alisa White & Elliott Herzlich Jack & Debbie Wickham* Kimberly & O'Neal Wiggins* Michael & Caron Wilbur* Colby & Sarah Wilson* Billy & Diane Wilson* Timothy & Mary Winters Jacqueline & L. Woolwine*

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Sentinel's Club (\$250 to \$499)

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Timothy & Suella Arrington*

Rachel Ayer

James & Heather Azarigian*
James & Carrie Bagby*
Josh & Betsy Baggett*
Lawrence Baggett*
Roxanne Banks
Alicia Baron
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Tiffany Baugh
Keith & Amy Bearden

Peggy Berry*
Kell & Ann Black
Janie H. Blalock*
Mark Blick
Brian Boff
Kara & Lance Bond

Charles & Carol Bond*
Bobette D. Bouton*
Joseph & Nancye Britton*
Tony & Amber Brock
Dewey & Helga Browder*
Donald Brown

Mike Brown*
Danlee Brown
Jeff & Debbie Bryant
Stan Bumgarner
Andelko & Taylor Burich

Jeff Burkhart* Devon Bush Heath Bush

Alfred & Pamela Byard Thomas & Desiree Call* Paul & Susan Calovini* Pam Carnathan*

Thaddeus & Carolyn Carter*

Prentice Chandler*
Jim Cherry
James Church*
Eren & Kani Cifci*
Heather & Nicholas Clark
Bryon & Tamie Cleghern

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Chris Clouser
Matthew & Julie Coffey*
Brian & Rose Conley*
David & Mary Cooper*
Bob & Mary Cooper*
Donny Cottam
Kristy Cunningham*

Pat Curtis*

Brad & Amanda Daniel* Steve Darnell David Davenport* Mary Davis*

Casey & Jessica Delgado*

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Jim & Jane Diehr*
Reney DiFiore*
Jeremy Dubose
Brian Duerr*

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Sharon Edwards*
Eric & Megan Ellis
Shandy Ellis-Brown
Martha Farris
Kevin & Lacey Fee*
Jake & Emily Fendley*
Christie Fields
Johannah Fine*
Mary Fisher*

Anthony & Linda Fizer*
Chrysty Fortner
Jennifer Foster
Kitt J. Foster
Augusta Freeman
Jack & Melanie French
Gregory & Karyssa Frye
John & Susan Gannon*
Jennifer Garinger
James & Eva Gibson*
Tate & Nancy Gibson*
Richard & Meredith Gildrie*

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Gary Good*
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David Guest
Tami Haaland
Jessica Nobert Hall*
Michael A. Hampu*
Tom Hancock
Ryne Harper*

Reed Harper
Carson Harrelson
Jonathan & Kim Harris
Jennifer & Joey Harris
Donna & Donald Heath
Tommy & Brenda Heflin*
Cody & Lindsey Heggie
Mickey Hepner*
Katrina M. Herring*
Brett Herring
Sarah Hicks

Jennifer & Lloyd Hinote Matthew Hinton

Curtis Holland Ginna & Rob Holleman*

Price & Kay Hopson* Charlie & Jan Horrell Jason & April Howard Thomas & Barbara Howell* Jonathan Inman Cvnthia Jackson

Darell & Aundrea Johnson* Tal & Lynnette Johnson* Frank & Gail Jones Leah Jordan

Bernie & Faith Joyner Phillip & Kathryn Kemmerly*

Jennifer Kemp

Carrie & Robert Kendrick*

Ryan Key Benton King Anita Kirby Valeria Kirk

Alaric & Katie Klinghard* Thomas Koshko Rick & Leeann Lalance Tom & Susan Lawless Mark & Tricia Lepofsky

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Drew & Shermia Lindsey Earl & Anna Linton* Skylar & Nicholas Logan Kathleen Lunceford David & Charla Major* Jim Manning* Chris Mattingly* Michael May*

Kimberly McGowan* Rory & Sharon McKean Kelsey Mead Loranza Meadows

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Todd Pouliot* Lisa Prichard* Noelle Prince

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Charles & Kathy Armistead Daniel & Katie Armitage

Sonya Arnold* Alyssa Arthur Comfort Asanbe Bob & Gina Ateca Wes Atkinson Rebecca Averitt* **Emanuel Azan** Greg Bachman Skylar Baggett Judy Bailey* Jolann Baldwin*

John & Beverly Banasiewicz*

Katharine Bandy

Thomas & Suzanne Barksdale*

Patrick Barnes

Laura & Chris Barnett* Lisa & Chris Barrentine

Amy Barrett*

Lisa & Ronnie Barron* Suva Bastin*

Broderick Bayless* John & Marissa Bazzano Chuck & Lee Ellen Beach

Whitney Beaird Jeremy Beals Loretta Bearden

Michael & Melissa Bednarczuk Mitchell & Hazel Bell*

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Delia Betancourt* Cheryl Bidwell Alfred Bins Edward & Violet Black

Kadi Bliss

Kelley Board* David Boddie Sharon Bohnenberger

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Elaina Russell*
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Alexandra Wills

Nicholas Wilson
Howard & Patricia Winn
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Allan Workman
Kara Wyar
April Yates*
David York*
John Youhouse
Patricia Young
Lindsay Youngbauer
Tina Zanders

Organizations, Corporations, Foundations and Estates by Giving Club

President's Society Sal D. Rinella Circle (\$100,000 and above)

(\$100,000 and above, The BAND Foundation

Clarksville Montgomery County

Community Health Foundation

Coleman Tractor Company/Kubota

Fortera Credit Union

Gary Mathews Motors, Inc.

Jenkins & Wynne, Inc.

Joint Chiropractic

Michael P. O'Malley Trust

Morton Charities, Inc.

Reyes Bottling Coca-Cola

President's Society Oscar C. Page Circle (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Antonio Murgas, LLC

ECHO Power Engineering, LLC

F&M Bank

Google

Legends Bank

Optimize U

The Tucker Foundation

President's Society Robert O. Riggs Circle (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Altra Federal Credit Union

Buffalo Wild Wings Calhoun and Company, PLLC

Clarksville-Montgomery County

Economic Development Council

Continental Expedited Services /

(CFS)

Enterprise Mobility Foundation

The Flats Off Madison

Richard G. Fraser Estate

Fletcher E. Harvill Estate

Evelyn H. McCampbell Estate

Special Forces Association

-Chapter 38

Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance

Wendy's

President's Society John S. Ziegler Circle (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Ajax Distributing Company

Aspire Clarksville Foundation

Big Burger, LLC

Bojangles

Byers and Harvey

Cafaro Foundation

CDE Lightband

Chick-Fil-A

Clarksville Civitan Club

Courtyard Marriott

Dex Imaging

DreamChasers

Fairfield by Marriott

FastSigns

Furniture Connection, Inc.

Garden Hospitality Partnership

Harpeth River Reserve, LLC

James Corlew Chevrolet, Inc.

Jetsen, Inc.

Jodi's Cabinet Sales LLC

Kelly's Big Burger

L&G Restaurant Management

Millan Enterprises, LLC

N & A, LLC

Noodles and Company

Planters Bank

Stone, Rudolph and Henry CPAs

Tennova Healthcare

Tropical Smoothie Cafe

University Landing 110

University Landing, LLC

Whizz Advertizing

President's Society
Philander P. Claxton Circle
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Beachaven Auto Care & Towing

The Buntin Group

Clarksville Mobile Mix and

Materials (CM3)

Culvers

Cumberland Electric Membership

Corporation (CEMC)

D & D Companies, Inc.

Drakes

Five Star Media Group

Frontline Athlete Management, LLC

Hankook Tire Manufacturing

Hilldale United Methodist Church

JCM Management, Inc.

Liberty Park Grill

McPoynolds No

McReynolds, Nave and Larson

Funeral Homes, Inc.

Michael's Pizza

Millard Management

The Minniehan Insurance

Agency, LLC

Moe's Southwest Grill

Morgan Contractors, Inc.

Nashville Hockey Club LP

Official Wings

Regions Bank

RES LLC

Ryne Harper: B&H

Snap-On

Tennessee Department of Health

Traditions First Bank

Varsity Spirit

President's Society Halbert Harvill Circle (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

American Beauties, LLC
Beachaven Vineyards and Winery

C & D Tool and Storage LLC

Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

Deputy Bubba Johnson

Foundation

EdSouth

ERCoupe Owners Club

Gameday Logistics

Goolsby and Rye Used Appliances

Finley Gracey Estate

Len Rye Construction

McKee Foods

Meritage Homes

The Presser Foundation

Roundstone Native Seed

Sigma Theta Tau-Nu Phi

Tennessee Farmers Co-Op
Foundation

Tennessee Veterinary

Medical Association

Trio Hospitality

TriStar Beverage of Clarksville

Trozzolo Communications Group

USA Borescopes

Whataburger

President's Society
Joe Morgan Circle

(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

APSU College of Behavioral and

Health Sciences

Bridgestone Metalpha U.S.A., Inc.

CharityVest (DAF)

Clarksville Soccer Club, Inc.

Classic Steps II

Cumberland Tree Service, LLC

Dock 17

Double Good

Field Goal Agronomics, Inc.

GFWC Clarksville Women's Club

GN Funding, Inc.

Golden Eagle Jewelry

Goswitz Properties LLC

J & N Enterprises, Inc. Mildred & Mable's

Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Montgomery County

Republican Women

National Sign Systems

Novelis Corporation
The Pet Studio

Rehabilitation Corporation

of Tennessee

Scottsburg Glass

Tennessee Council of

Cooperatives

Tennessee Society of CPAs

University of Central Arkansas

Foundation

Valmark LLC

Vanderpoel Conservation

Foundation

Wal-Mart

Columns Club (\$500 to \$999)

APSU College of Arts and Letters

Bay Metal Design

Beta Sigma Phi Laureate

Eta Chapter

Big D Trucking & Excavating

Clarksville Pediatric Dentistry

The Coca-Cola Company

Crow Estate Planning and

Probate, PLC

Elliott's Jewelers

Engenix, Inc.

Joe Hendricks Fox Estate

Furniture and Merchandise Outlet

GroWild, Inc.

Keurig Dr Pepper

Lifestyle Barbershop

Loomis Armored US

Montgomery County Bar

Association
Montgomery County Government

MP&F Strategic Communications

NBalance Hot Yoga & Fitness, LLC

One Source Accounting & Tax

RB Perry, LLC

Sanctuary On Main

Sango Village Florist
Theta Beta Alumni Association

U.S. Bank

Venture Construction Company Volunteer Welding Supply

Sentinel's Club

(\$250 to \$499)

3E Funding, Inc.

Advanced Composites, Inc.
Alford Plumbing, LLC

APSU Division of Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy

AssuredPartners NL, LLC

Aydelott Equipment, Inc.

Baird Foundation
Browns Welding & Fabrication

C and S Auto Repair

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Creative Ink
Cup of Kava 1 Inc.

Dowdy Roy Financial Group

Dr. Joe C. Greer & Associates E.S.S., Inc.

East of Eden, LLC

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EmpowerHer LLC
Global Awnings of Louisiana
Gosnells Stereo & Music
Harmon Construction, Inc.
Harrison Signs, Inc.
Highpoint of Clarksville LLC
Hopkinsville Candle Co.
Island Fin Poke
Kennedy Law Firm
Kona Ice of Hopkinsville
Kroger
Lamar Advertising of Clarksville
Lamar Advertising of Nashville
M&M Repair
MC Woodworks LLC

Midwest Systems and Services, Inc.

Nashville Signs Inc.
Nashville Symphony
Oasis In-Home Care, Inc.
PTL Fabricators, LLC
S & G Distributing
Sign Tech Managment
Spring Creek Pediatric
Dentistry, PLLC
VikingCloud
Waste Connections of Tennessee
Watchfire

Century Club (\$100 to \$249)

100 Cups Consulting Brian L. Hill Attorney at Law

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Proctor Family Properties
The Professional Racers Owners
Organization, Inc.
R & J Landscaping & Irrigation
Recer Home Group at Keller
Williams Realty
Rotary Club of Clarksville
Sheps Dream LLC
Silke's Old World Breads
Southern Style Roof & Home
Exterior
Sterling Volleyball Company
Wyatt-Johnson

Graduating Class Gift

The Austin Peay State University Graduating Class Gift is an opportunity for each class to ensure that future students enjoy the same positive university experience that they had while at APSU. The goal for each graduating class is to support the area of their choice by taking their first step as engaged alumni. Contributions of any amount are welcome, and listed below are those who qualify for the Century Club that have given \$100 or more. To make your class gift, contact the APSU Office of Alumni and Annual Giving at 931-221-7979 or visit alumni.apsu.edu/classgift.

Ukela Alred Ayesha Darnell Elijah Martin **Daniel Saucer** Taylor Rae Dirks Ricky Matherly Alyssa Arthur Danny Seely Skylar Baggett Charles Harper **Andrew Matherly David Tippit** Lonnie Baird LaTasha Johnson **Bethany Miller Sherry Trucks** Bobbi Campbell Noah Mullins Lorelei Villarreal **Terry Jones Danny Carmack** Jacob Knight Omowumi Kikelomo Olayinka Mary Wagoner Nancybeth Cook Edgar Maldonado Sienna Pineda Frank Walker Riley Walsh

The Legacy Society

Austin Peay State University Legacy Society signifies a new era in the university's effort to recognize, in a meaningful way, those who share a commitment to the institution through planned & estate giving. If you have already made provisions for APSU in your will or through another type of planned gift, or you would like more information about how to include Austin Peay in your estate plan, contact the division of Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy at 931-221-7127.

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Susan Cockrell William F. Cody

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Hester Crews Rick Delagarza Brenda Edington Lars & Diane Eriksson Kathleen Evans
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