

Austin Peay

The Magazine
for Alumni
and Friends
of Austin Peay
State University
Spring 2016

the **APSU** of
TOMORROW



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RIGHTS FOR \$2.5 MILLION** page 6

GOVERNORS WIN OVC page 16

Austin Peay

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From the President

The other day, someone congratulated me on Austin Peay's recent success, and I had to ask her if she could be more specific. Was she referring to our men's basketball team earning a place in the NCAA Tournament? Or was she wishing us well on our acquisition of nearly 11 acres adjacent to campus? Maybe she was congratulating our ROTC cadets for winning the MacArthur Award yet again—recognizing it as one of the best programs in the nation—or our student journalists for producing the best college newspaper in the Southeast as evidenced by their recent award earned at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference.

The truth is, it's difficult to know what someone is praising us for these days because so many exciting things are happening. Austin Peay has flourished in recent years, with Fulbright Scholars on the faculty and Goldwater Scholars in the student population, and the excitement that now surrounds us brings with it tremendous advantages. As president, I want to make sure that we take full advantage of all of these new opportunities.

Your support creates these opportunities, and it keeps us part of a national conversation. I encourage you to participate in this exciting moment in the University's history by making a gift to this institution. For your convenience, you can give online at apsu.edu/advancement. With your help, we will continue to be a place where ideas thrive, enhancing Austin Peay's reputation as a leader in higher education innovation.

Dr. Alisa White
APSU President





Tuck Hinton Architects



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Taylor Sifko

COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM LEADS THE WAY AMONG TBR INSTITUTIONS

For nearly a century, APSU has been committed to providing higher education to students of all backgrounds, and the results of recent data from the Tennessee Board of Regents System (TBR) serve as further proof of APSU's success. The University's Department of Computer Science and Information Technology was recently noted for graduating the highest number of computer science majors in the TBR system, with a total of 81 graduates in 2014-15. The total represents a 20 percent improvement over the previous academic year.

Departing computer science graduates represent a diverse group, including women, who comprise more than 30 percent of graduates. That dramatically eclipses the national average (18 percent), and is over 20 percent higher than any other TBR institution, including Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis.

Nearly 27 percent of computer science degrees were awarded to underrepresented minority groups, surpassing the national average of 19.4 percent.

"It is always exciting for me to look at the successes of our college and (the computer science major) is a great example," Dr. Karen Meisch, associate dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, said. "I am very proud to be a part of a university where success of women and minorities in areas like computer science is amongst some of the top in the nation."

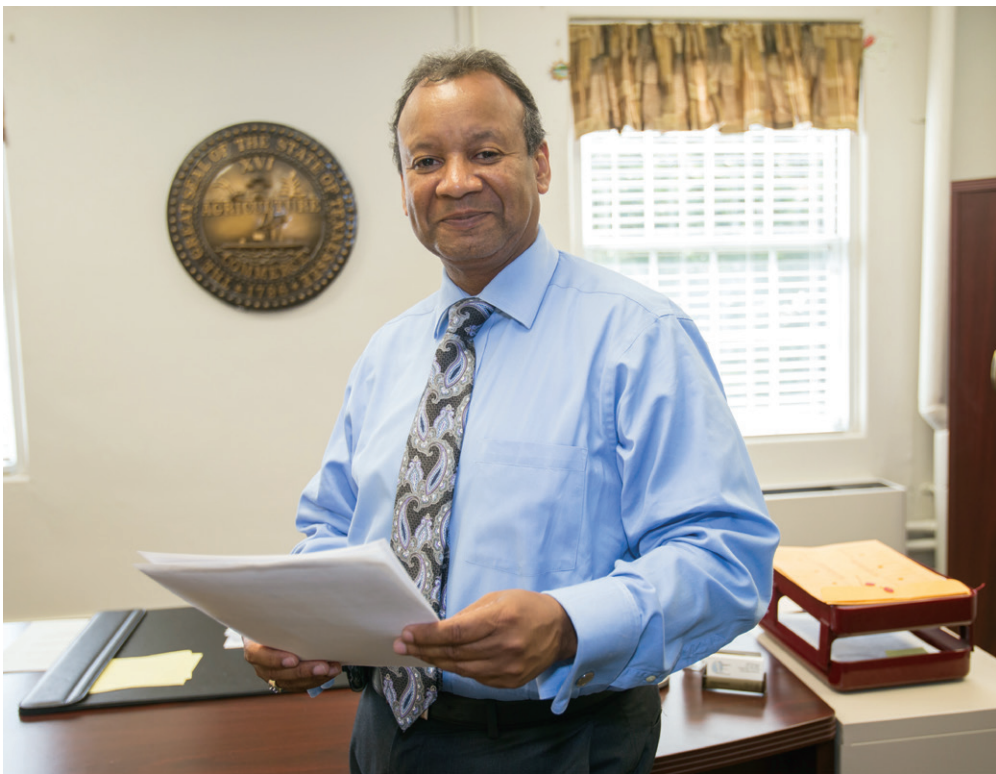
Overall, the computer science major has experienced a tremendous four-year growth rate of 70.9 percent.

APSU RECEIVES \$1.3 MILLION GRANT TO HELP UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

In 1998, APSU initiated the TRiO Student Support Services program—a federally funded program designed to help students who are first-generation college students, disabled or who come from low-income backgrounds. APSU's Student Support Services (SSS) has assisted thousands of students in the last 17 years, and the program will continue to serve even more thanks to the recent awarding of a five-year, \$1.3 million U.S. Department of Education grant.

APSU received the highly competitive federal grant after earning a perfect score of 106 in the application process. John Johnson, director of the program, said it's easy to keep his staff motivated because their main goal every day is to help these students.

"A lot of times, these are the students who will fall through the cracks because they sometimes need additional support," he said. "If you're low-income, first generation, you don't have parents who have been to college so you don't know the whole process. You don't know your responsibilities for going to school, such as coming to class ready to learn, making sure you have all your materials ready, meeting with your professors and using all the resources available. We fill in those gaps."



John Johnson oversees APSU's TRiO Student Support Services, which recently received a \$1.3 million grant.

The SSS program provides eligible students with tutoring, academic counseling, financial literacy training, academic workshops, cultural activities and information on graduate schools. The program serves about 180 students each year, with the goal of getting them to earn a college degree within six years. Since its inception in 1998, the program has helped boost APSU's retention and graduation rates.

"We are changing generations by what we're doing," Johnson said. "We're breaking that family cycle of not having a college education. Now you have someone who has broken that, and they're going to spread the word, and the family is going to do better for generations."



APSU CONTINUES TO HAVE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MILITARY COMMUNITY

On Feb. 16, APSU's ROTC program was again named one of the best programs in the nation when the U.S. Army Cadet Command presented the school with its seventh MacArthur Award. Each year, the award recognizes eight schools, selected from among the 275 senior Army ROTC units nationwide, as the top programs in the country.

Last November, two major military publications recognized APSU for its dedication to veterans and active duty military personnel. The Military Times newspaper listed the University in its Best For Vets:

College 2016 rankings, making APSU one of only two Tennessee universities to make the list. Victory Media also included APSU in its annual ranking of Military Friendly Schools. The Military Friendly Schools designation is awarded to the top colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools in the country that do the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success both in the classroom and after graduation.



The All State student newspaper, which began publication in November of 1930, celebrated its 85th anniversary this year.

AT 85, THE ALL STATE STUDENT NEWSPAPER CONTINUES TO THRIVE

On Nov. 26, 1930, a small, four-page newspaper appeared on the Austin Peay Normal School campus. The All State, as it was known, arrived that fall to present all of the school's news and "gossip," and by the spring of 1931, most students eagerly awaited its weekly publication.

Eight decades later, The All State continues to keep the campus community informed. This year, the newspaper's staff celebrated its 85th anniversary with a special edition, designed to resemble the very first All State, and the reprinting of old stories in current issues.

In February, The All State was also named best college newspaper at the Southeast Journalism Conference. The All State also placed third overall as best college website, while editor-in-chief Katelyn Clark, photo editor Taylor Slifko and staff writer Sarah Eskildson combined to finish second for best public service journalism. The student staff took eight individual honors in the Best of the South competition, including Clark, who placed first in the best advertising staff category and Slifko, who placed second in the best multimedia journalist category.



The All State and several staff members earned top honors at the Southeast Journalism Conference in February.

APSU NAMES NURSING FLOOR AFTER HEALTH FOUNDATION

In the last six years, the Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Health Foundation donated \$1.6 million to the University's School of Nursing, providing numerous resources and scholarships for students and faculty. That support helped APSU's School of Nursing

be named by NurseJournal.org as one of the top programs in the eastern United States, outranking prestigious programs at places such as Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania and University of North Carolina.

Earlier this year, APSU President Alisa White officially thanked the foundation for its support by naming the third floor of the McCord Building, which houses the APSU School of Nursing, the Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Health Foundation Nursing Floor.

"The foundation decided that Austin Peay was worth investing in," White said. "What you do to support our University is absolutely huge."

President Alisa White and Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan join members of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Health Foundation for a floor naming in November.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS CHANGES DEGREE PROGRAMS

The APSU College of Business recently took a major step toward earning professional accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) when it began modifying its existing academic programs. For years, the University's business students had only one degree option—a Bachelor of Business Administration—with seven different concentrations in accounting, finance, economics, management, international management, general business and marketing. Beginning Fall 2016, students will get more specialized training in their areas of interest as the college expands to four degree options with three concentrations.

The newly modified programs will allow students the option of earning a Bachelor of Business Administration with majors in accounting, marketing, finance and management. Finance majors can choose an economics concentration, while management majors can choose an international management or general business concentration.



Rebecca Jacks is a business major with a management concentration.

For more news, visit www.apsu.edu/news

APSU PLACE TO BE FOR 2017 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

CIVIL WAR DIARY EDITED BY APSU FACULTY WINS AWARD

RETIRED HISTORY CHAIR BROWDER ENDOWS SCHOLARSHIP

FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATOR NAMED AS ASSISTANT PROVOST

APSU PROFESSORS PUBLISH ACADEMIC BOOK ON ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

CASE DISTRICT III HONORS APSU PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING



THE NAME GAME

Local credit union acquires naming rights to APSU stadium

By Colin Harris



I know that I'm going to have goose bumps on the first game at Fortera Stadium. It's a big deal for our organization."

~Tom Kane, president and CEO of Fortera Credit Union

What's in a name? That's the question Tom Kane has been dealing with since being named president and CEO of Fort Campbell Federal Credit Union in 2012. The non-profit financial cooperative, founded in 1954, has long been associated with the nearby army post, but the Fort Campbell name sometimes leads to misconceptions.

"We're a community-chartered credit union, but people think of us as a military credit union that only serves (military-affiliated people)," Kane said. "You can market and try

to get the word out that we're open to everyone, but people are going to draw the wrong conclusion when 'Fort Campbell' is right there in bold on our signs."

Earlier this year, the cooperative officially changed its name to Fortera Credit Union, which means the organization needs to reintroduce itself to the community. That's why the credit union recently signed a 25-year, \$2.5 million contract to have the Fortera name on Austin Peay State University's recently renovated football stadium.



(Left) Tom Kane stands in front of Fortera Stadium.

In April 2016, the home of APSU football became Fortera Stadium. Rendering by BLF Marketing. Original photo by Taylor Slifko.

THE DEAL

Naming rights deals have been a part of professional sports for years, but the practice is becoming more popular in collegiate athletics. Universities and businesses now see the mutually beneficial relationship that can come from a naming agreement. For the University, the deal generates a new revenue source for scholarships and projects. For the business, it allows them to associate their brand with something that unifies the community.

“We were strategizing several months ago about trying to grow the organization and talking about partnerships, opportunities and strategies to get the word out in the community and grow (its brand identity),” Kane said. “We discussed partnering with

(area employers) like Hankook or, soon, Google; what we wanted were opportunities to partner with companies we thought are a good fit and represented people we could do business with going forward.”

During a marketing meeting in early 2015, someone suggested putting the company’s new name on APSU’s Governors Stadium.

“(The vice president of marketing) saw an article in a trade press about a credit union that (partnered with an arena) and how successful it was for them, and we thought that we should approach APSU,” Kane said. “We already attended games (at Governors Stadium), and we saw that as an opportunity to partner with a school doing great things,



Fortera Credit Union has been a partner with Austin Peay for a number of years, and we were excited for the opportunity to grow our partnership in a way that benefits both the University and community that we serve.”

**~ Derek van der Merwe , APSU
vice president of advancement,
communication and strategic
initiatives**

as well as a chance to have a strong local presence and contribute to the campus community."

Kane reached out to Derek van der Merwe, APSU vice president of advancement, communication and strategic initiatives. The cooperative, with its long history of supporting APSU athletics, seemed like an ideal partner to van der Merwe, who previously served as APSU athletics director.

"During my tenure as athletics director, I saw the power of a supportive local community and corporate partners who always go the extra mile to ensure our programs have the resources they need to build for success," van der Merwe said. "Fortera Credit Union has been a partner with Austin Peay for a number of years, and we were excited for the opportunity to grow our partnership in a way that benefits both the University and community that we serve."

The new agreement provides resources to enhance facilities within the athletic department. In partnering with APSU, Fortera has the potential to reach the community in ways that would be too expensive to achieve through traditional marketing channels.

"First and foremost, thanks to Fortera Credit Union for entering into this new and exciting partnership with Austin Peay State University," APSU President Alisa White said. "Fortera has been a part of this community for more than 60 years, and many of its leaders and employees have earned their degrees from the University. We are proud of their accomplishments and are celebrating our partnership and our shared values and goals. We are honored that Fortera Credit Union wants to be part of Austin Peay's future."



Fort Campbell Federal Credit Union recently rebranded itself as Fortera Credit Union to better reflect inclusivity to the broader community.

FORTERA

The APSU football team will now play in Fortera Stadium. That new name—along with the credit union's new logo and color scheme—was developed to reflect the cooperative's availability to those outside the walls of Fort Campbell.

"It's exciting for us because it is so rare in this business to redo the name, the brand and the culture of an entire organization," Kane said. "We're proud of our legacy (under the Fort Campbell name), but we needed a fresh break, and we want people to understand what makes us different."

The new name is a combination of the words "Fort," representing the cooperative's long affiliation with Fort Campbell, and "era," reflecting a new time for the service.

"At a credit union, our members are also our owners, and we're all about service; we are a not-for-profit cooperative, and service to our community is at the heart of everything we do," Kane said. "We want everyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in our community to know we're here for them."

The new name arrives at a time when the APSU campus is also undergoing historic changes. The University has developed a 10-year strategic plan, and it recently purchased nearly 11 acres that will bridge the campus with downtown Clarksville.

"Dr. White and Derek are both very impressive people, and we really got a chance to see what their vision for the University is as we worked on this agreement," Kane said. "We feel like we're an underdog in the financial services market, so we are so fortunate that a university like Austin Peay would consider working with us as a partner on the stadium naming.

"I know that I'm going to have goose bumps on the first game at Fortera Stadium," Kane added. "It's a big deal for our organization. We're the local option, and everything we do is for the community, so it's going to be a really big thing for us to be a part of Austin Peay in this way." **AP**



Fortera has been a part of this community for more than 60 years, and many of its leaders and employees have earned their degrees from the University. We are proud of their accomplishments and are celebrating our partnership and our shared values and goals. We are honored that Fortera Credit Union wants to be part of Austin Peay's future."

~Dr. Alisa White, APSU president

(Top photo) Fortera Credit Union President and CEO Tom Kane said a long-term partnership with APSU was "a really big deal" for his organization. (Bottom photos) Artist renderings (by BLF Marketing) of what fans can expect this fall when Fortera Stadium opens its doors for the 2016 season.





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Calandria Reid

I love this video! They killed the end!!

[#austinpeaystateuniversity](#)

FACEBOOK



SHAKE IT OFF!

In October, the APSU Facebook page celebrated its 30,000th like with a “Shake it Off” parody video. That video, viewed more than 26,000 times, continues to bring viewers to the University’s Facebook page and YouTube channel.

YouTube

TUMBLR



#Peapple

Celeste is one of many Govs featured in **People of Austin Peay** on the University’s Tumblr photoblog. Each week, a new post introduces viewers to a different member of the APSU community. Check it out online at austinpeayphotos.tumblr.com/tagged/peapple.

“

Celeste Malone, junior, communication

After I got back from my internship in Washington, D.C., it really opened my eyes to what I want to do with the rest of my life. Just talking to people and making those connections that could last a lifetime.”

#PEAYPIX



DISNEY WORLD!

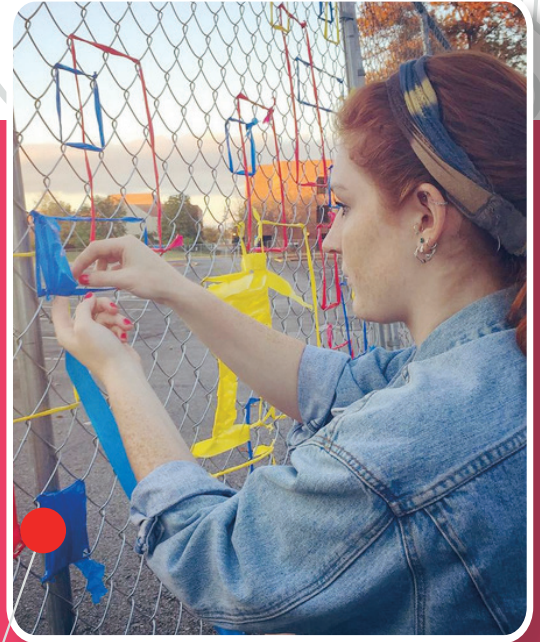
Scott Smith Jr., Governors' Own Marching Band member, shared this #Peaypix of a recent trip to Walt Disney World.



scotty04

All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." ~ Walt Disney
#gomb #apsu
#peaypix #Disney

INSTAGRAM



The All State student newspaper captured junior Rachael Maynard beautifying the fence surrounding construction of the new Art and Design Building in this Instagram post from November 2015.

FACEBOOK



Eagle 6

I had the pleasure of celebrating Military Appreciation Day with members of the Clarksville-Montgomery community and the students of **Austin Peay State University**. Thank you all for your continued service and support! **Screaming Eagles! Air Assault!**"

MILITARY APPRECIATION!

Maj. Gen. Gary J. Volesky, the 45th commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), thanks the APSU community for support with photos from the Military Appreciation Day football game on Nov. 7, 2015.

Check us out on social media!



Facebook.com/AustinPeay



Twitter.com/AustinPeay



Pinterest.com/AustinPeay



Plus.google.com/+apsu



AustinPeayPhotos.Tumblr.com



Instagram.com/AustinPeayPhotos



Snapchat search: AustinPeayState



Try out our new official Snapchat geofilter next time you're on campus!

Alumni **Events**

APSU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TRAVEL

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The APSU National Alumni Association is excited to announce its upcoming international trip schedule.

May 13-24, 2016

Discover Tuscany - Rolling landscapes, savory wines, delicious food and stunning architecture...this can only be Tuscany. On this special journey, travelers will enjoy walking tours in Italy's most charming towns, visit magnificent historic monuments and sample mouth-watering cuisine and wines.

July 6-17, 2016

Germany/France Wine Trip / Accompanied by Dr. Dewey Browder

Join APSU alumni and friends and Dr. Dewey Browder, July 6-17, 2016, for "The wines of Germany and France" trip. Participants will be sampling the wines of Germany and France, with discussions on wine production and pairing with foods. They will see some fantastic scenery, enjoy stops at historic sites and indulge in local cuisine.

2017 Travel

In 2017, APSU alumni will have the opportunity to join Dr. Timothy Winters for a tour of Greece, one of the most beautiful locations with cultural and historical treasures. A detailed schedule will be available soon.

In addition to Greece, APSU is excited to offer a 2017 "Spain Classics" trip. This will be APSU alumni's first opportunity to visit to Spain. A detailed schedule will be available soon.

For more information, visit www.apsu.edu/alumni/current-and-future-travel or email keanr@apsu.edu.





2016 ALUMNI CALENDAR — OF EVENTS —

For the most up-to-date alumni event and National Alumni Association information, visit www.apsu.edu/alumni

For the most up-to-date Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts events and information, visit www.apsu.edu/creativearts

May 14
Pennsylvania Alumni Bike Trip

June 6-7
Atlanta Alumni Visits

June 11
Nashville Alumni Visit
Family Day – Science Center

July 14
Chattanooga Alumni Visit

July 6-21
Alumni & Friends Germany
Wine Trip

Aug. 15
Nashville Alumni Visit

Aug. 18
Memphis Alumni Visit

Sept. 9-11
APSU Soccer Alumni Reunion (Celebrating 15 years of APSU soccer)

Sept. 10
APSU Football Alumni Reunion

Sept. 17
APSU Governors Games powered by Crossfit Clarksville

Oct. 22
APSU HOMECOMING (APSU vs. Mercer)

Oct. 28
APSU Basketball Fundraiser

PACKED WITH **LOVE** BY VOLUNTEERS



Photos by Taylor Slifko



On Jan. 29, 2016, more than 500 APSU student, staff and faculty volunteers participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service by packing meals for hungry children. The hand-packed meals were formulated for malnourished children, and they were sent, through the Feed My Starving Children non-profit organization, to a Third World country. In 2015, members of the APSU community packed 531 boxes, which provided 114,696 meals for starving children.





3



4



5

1. Rice, soy nuggets, vitamins, minerals and dehydrated vegetables provide a safe, healthy and simple-to-make meal that is also culturally acceptable worldwide.

2. A volunteer places finished rice packets on a table to prepare for shipping.

3. APSU volleyball's Kelly Ferguson, left, Alexandria Thornton, center, and coach Taylor Mott work together at a packing station.

4. Reuben Harris seals a finished MannaPack.

5. Students volunteer to pack meals to feed children in Third World countries.

6. Whitney Davis has scoops of rice ready to go into a MannaPack, each of which can provide up to six meals for malnourished children.

2



6



GOVS WIN OVC



TM

Taylor Sifliko

Taylor Sifliko

Taylor Sifliko

Taylor Sifliko



Britney Spain - APSU Sports Information



MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WINS OVC, APPEARS IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

When the APSU men's basketball team arrived in Nashville on a Wednesday afternoon in March for the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament, die hard Govs fans only set aside one day to watch their team play. After all, the Governors entered the tournament at the bottom of the bracket as a No. 8 seed, and they'd have to win four games in a row against the conference's top teams in order to win their first championship since 2008.

By Saturday, March 5, the crowd inside Nashville Municipal Auditorium couldn't believe they were still in town, watching the Governors play.

Govs fans' regular weekend plans were ruined, but no one was upset. That's because they watched their underdog team beat UT Martin 83-73, becoming the first No. 8 seed to be crowned OVC champs. The win also earned APSU a spot in the NCAA Tournament and made the team a fan favorite across the nation.

But it almost didn't happen. During the OVC championship game, when senior center Chris Horton fell to the hardwood clutching his lower leg at the 4:52 mark of the first half, the arena was silent. After waiting his entire career to merely reach the OVC Tournament, everyone wearing red gasped, including APSU head coach Dave Loos, as Horton was helped off the court. He would return less than two minutes later, but the Skyhawks took advantage of the situation, cutting the deficit to five with the Govs leading 38-33 at halftime.

But after carrying his squad to victories over three fellow in-state teams - Tennessee Tech, Tennessee State and Belmont - Horton took a backseat to sharpshooter Jared Savage. The freshman missed his first four attempts from three-point territory, but went a sparkling 8-of-10 from that point forward to tally a career-high 24 points, along with a team-high nine rebounds. Savage fell one three-pointer shy of tying the single-game school record.

As a team, Austin Peay did manage to rewrite the record book finishing with 16 three-pointers. The previous season high was 12, which ironically came against UT Martin on Feb. 4—a game in which the Govs lost on an overtime buzzer-beater.

Playing in their first championship game since 2008, the Govs showed fatigue early, especially in their long-range shooting as APSU opened just 1-of-6. But the Govs settled down and started finding some offensive rhythm. At the second media time-out (11:59), they had cut it to one point (13-12), and took their first lead on a lob from Khalil Davis to Horton for a slam. Savage then connected on his first three to give APSU a 17-13 advantage and did it again from far above the top of the circle for a 20-13 lead.

The Governors never trailed again.

To begin the second half, Savage could not be contained, sinking three consecutive treys to push APSU's lead to 12 with 17:30 on the clock. A newcomer to the starting lineup, he first entered the lineup on Feb. 25 in an 80-75 road win over SIU Edwardsville, Savage's shooting was key down the stretch. The outside threat of Savage, along with the shift of Josh Richardson to point guard, helped the Govs finish the regular season and OVC tournament with six straight victories.

Despite a cold night shooting from the field (4-of-14), Robinson did not let his confidence get rattled when it mattered. The St. Louis native was the team's leading scorer in the second half with 16 points (finishing with 20 overall), going 8-of-10 at the free throw stripe to help preserve the lead.

At the 10:29 mark, a layup by Horton increased the margin to 19 points, the same number APSU trailed by before rallying to upset Tennessee State in the quarterfinals. The Skyhawks managed to trim it to an eight-point game with 1:39 to play, but Robinson rolled off five straight points at the foul line to start the celebration.

As the final horn sounded, Robinson launched the basketball into the bright lights, only to be caught by Horton. The senior hugged it before joining teammates at center court, and never let it go. Horton was named OVC Tournament Player of the Year after compiling 90 points and 57 rebounds, while Savage (19-of-34 3FGs in tourney) and Robinson (73 points) landed on the All-Tournament team.

APSU's season concluded with its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2008. While the Govs lost to No. 1 seed Kansas, their offensive output in a 105-79 loss was the fourth-highest point total surrendered by Kansas during the 2015-16 season.



THE APSU OF TOMORROW

By Charles Booth

In January 1963, President Joe Morgan—an affable, 48-year-old with horn-rimmed glasses—arrived at Austin Peay State College to find an institution in trouble. On paper, everything seemed promising, with enrollment growing about eight percent a year, but as he walked across the small campus, Morgan wondered where they'd put all these new students.

"As we looked to the future, it became evident that rather skillful planning for campus development was essential," he later said to *The All-State* student newspaper.

When the new president returned to his office in the Browning Building, he found a report that detailed more problems with the school's academic atmosphere. A year earlier, the college

had conducted a self study that found the average Austin Peay student was "in general a rather pleasant, decent person with a mild manner, mild ideas and mild ambition."

The school, if it were to survive another three decades, needed to undergo both a physical and cultural change. Shortly after his inauguration that January, Morgan appointed a committee to develop a 10-year plan for Austin Peay. That plan, deemed too ambitious by some, ended up transforming the once small teachers college. In the years that followed, Austin Peay more than doubled in physical size—from 50 to 120 acres—and dozens of new buildings—including a new library, a University Center and several new residence halls—appeared

on campus. The college also became a full university, with a rigorous academic atmosphere that included several new degrees and graduate school offerings.

Though most people don't realize it, the beginning of APSU's modern era—an era that continues today—can be traced back to the formation of that 10-year-plan in the early 1960s.

Five decades later, the University is now on the cusp of a similar transition. The recent purchase of nearly 11 acres adjacent to campus will again change the University's physical appearance, and the development of a new, 10-year strategic plan aims to change the culture by adding diversity in the student population on campus.



This rendering by **Tuck Hinton Architects** depicts what College Street could look like in 10 years.

“Nashville’s metropolitan statistical area, which Clarksville is a part of, will see more than 450,000 new people move into the area by the year 2025,” Derek van der Merwe, APSU vice president of advancement, communication and strategic initiatives, said. “That’s about 1,500 new people a month. This is the second fastest-growing economic region in the country, and we simply can’t ignore that reality. We have to grow to meet this demand, which means growing our student population and expanding our footprint within this community.”

A LARGER FOOTPRINT

On a cold January morning, a week after a winter storm closed the Austin Peay campus, Mitch Robinson, APSU vice president of finance and administration, looked across College Street to the Jenkins and Wynne auto dealership. A white dusting of snow covered hundreds of car windshields. This has happened almost every winter since the dealership first arrived in the early 1960s, but that morning, Robinson knew both the snow and the vehicles would soon vanish

from those lots. That day, APSU officially purchased the 10.75-acre property, finally connecting the landlocked University with downtown Clarksville.

“This is a once in a lifetime acquisition opportunity for this institution,” Robinson said. “These are very exciting times.”

In 2013, Don Jenkins, CEO of Jenkins and Wynne Ford-Lincoln-Honda, announced he was relocating his dealership to 2655 Trenton Road, near the 101st Airborne Division Parkway. He received several generous offers for his property, but Jenkins wanted APSU to have the right of first refusal to purchase the land adjacent to campus.

“I think Austin Peay has always been a jewel for Clarksville, and every city would love to have a university like Austin Peay to attract students,” he said. “Part of having property in downtown is being a good steward of what you have, and the best use for the property would be for Austin Peay to have it. I want the best thing for Austin Peay and for downtown Clarksville, and this just happened to be the best for both of them.”

Mitch Robinson, APSU vice president of finance and administration, celebrates the purchase with Don Jenkins, CEO of Jenkins and Wynne Ford-Lincoln-Honda.



I think Austin Peay has always been a jewel for Clarksville, and every city would love to have a university like Austin Peay to attract students. Part of having property downtown is being a good steward of what you have, and the best use for the property would be for Austin Peay to have it.”

~ Don Jenkins,
CEO of Jenkins and Wynne
Ford-Lincoln-Honda



Taylor Sifko

On Feb. 10, another snowy day in Clarksville, dozens of local citizens and journalists crowded into the Morgan University Center, named for that forward-thinking president of the 1960s, to see APSU's vision for the newly acquired property.

"We will develop this space into a destination the community will want to visit," APSU President Alisa White told the crowd.

Minutes later, a rendering by Nashville-based firm Tuck Hinton Architects appeared on a large screen at the front of the room. A brief silence passed through the audience as they stared at the image of their community's possible future. On the rendering, the mounds of snow lining College Street were replaced by a narrow green-space corridor stretching all the way to Riverside Drive. Red brick classroom buildings rose behind the green space's trees, and a brightly lit facility looked as if it housed a performing arts center or maybe APSU's extensive folk art collection.

"If you look at colleges across the country, if you go to Knoxville, Chattanooga or Bowling Green, what you see is city and community start to blend," van der Merwe said. "You create

business areas and retail opportunities and movie theatres and ice cream shops, and you start to look at all these different things that bring the economic connection between the downtown area and the University."

Academic buildings will occupy the site, but the new property also will allow the University to explore public-private partnerships. Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania recently partnered with the private firm Campus Apartments to create a mixed-use facility offering student housing and ground floor retail.

"Whatever this land will allow Austin Peay to do, as far as our growth, that's priority number one," Robinson said. "Number two is what we can do together with people downtown to expand the area and encourage increased development in the downtown district."

A NEW POPULATION

On Feb. 1, 1967, The All State student newspaper ran an article speculating what APSU would look like by the year 2000. The Austin Peay of tomorrow will be powered by small nuclear reactors, the author wrote, and passenger helicopters will ferry students

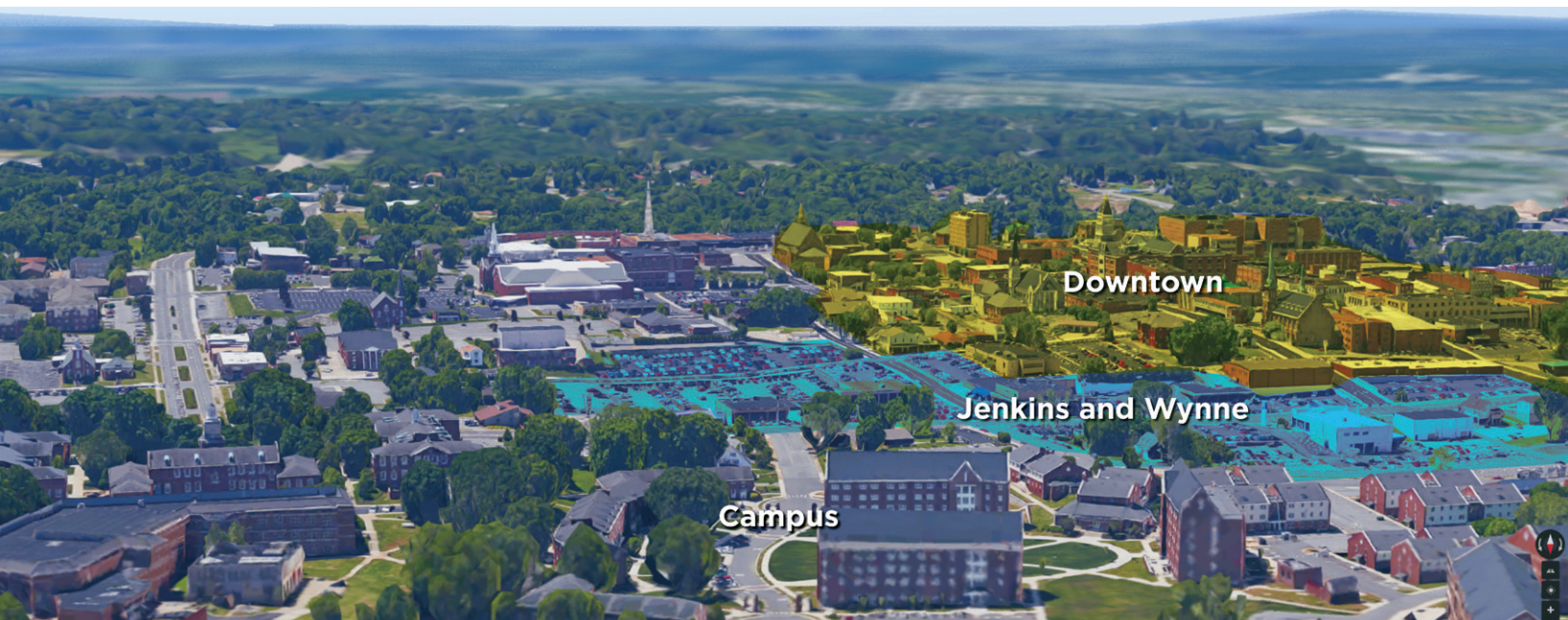
from campus to their cars, parked in commuter lots several miles away.

"Old grads returning to campus will see it vastly expanded," the author noted, specifying that APSU would serve thousands of additional students.

The helicopters and nuclear reactors never came to fruition, but the University has developed an ambitious 10-year plan that looks to increase enrollment to 15,000 students by 2026.

"I know some people may worry this increase will cause Austin Peay to abandon what makes it great," White said. "To them, I want to say that we will not do anything that will change our culture. This is the most special place I've ever been a part of. We will never grow out of that culture because it is something we will always protect."

When President Morgan arrived at APSC in 1963, expanding the campus became a priority. When President White arrived at APSU in 2014, she realized the University needed to expand its enrollment in order to survive. Austin Peay sits on the edge of the second fastest-growing region in the country, but enrollment in certain areas has not kept up with other institutions of comparable size.



The acquisition of the Jenkins and Wynne property officially connects APSU's campus with downtown Clarksville. Rendering: APSU & Google Earth

"In looking at options, we identified significant gaps in our student population," White said. "In the next few years, we are going to go after more graduate, out-of-state and international students."

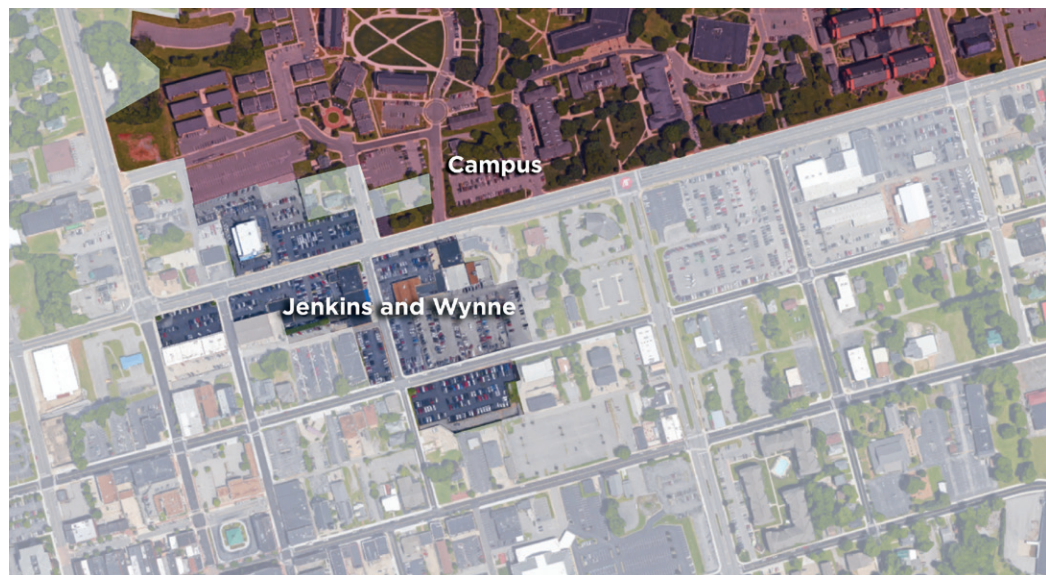
The new strategic plan calls for the graduate school to make up about 20-25 percent of the University's enrollment. Less than 10 percent of APSU's population currently consists of graduate students. To attract more of these students, APSU is in the process of developing nine new masters degrees and three doctoral programs—the first doctoral programs in University history.

"We are encouraging the departments that don't have a graduate program to have one," Dr. Raj Dakshinamurthy, associate provost of research and dean of the APSU College of Graduate Studies, said. "Growing the graduate student population also encourages a lot of scholarship/research/creative activity on campus, which definitely benefits APSU graduates."

In January, the University announced that students living within a 250-mile radius of APSU qualify for a discounted tuition rate for both undergraduate and graduate programs at Austin Peay. High school students who have a 22 ACT (or 1020 SAT) or higher are eligible for an additional Provost Scholarship, bringing tuition rates within a few dollars of the University's in-state rate.

This new program, known as 250R, reaches into Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia.

"This new reduced rate tuition program will help us expand and diversify the University by allowing us to reach beyond our state borders, bringing students from different locations and cultures," Dr. Rex Gandy, APSU provost and vice president for academic affairs, said. "We already offer a variety of high-quality academic programs, and when you combine this with our highly affordable in-state tuition rates, it not only opens the door for out-of-state students to an option they may not have otherwise considered, it will help



Rendering: APSU & Google Earth

us further diversify our student body, which is an important part of the academic experience for our students."

The University also hired an international recruiter to attract new students across the globe. In January, APSU's International Education Office opened an international student lounge in Miller Hall, with couches, a flat screen television and computers for this growing population.

"We were very adamant that if we are going to bring international students, if we are going to entice students to study abroad, we need a place for students to interact with one another, learn from one another," Marissa Chandler, director of APSU international education, said.

The changes set forth by the strategic plan mean APSU will look very different in the year 2027, when the University celebrates its 100th anniversary. The helicopters and nuclear reactors probably won't be a part of campus life, but in an office somewhere on the south side of College Street, a young writer for the alumni magazine might look through the window at the large, thriving University and argue that the 2016 strategic plan marked the beginning of a new era at Austin Peay. **AP**



I know some people may worry this increase will cause Austin Peay to abandon what makes it great. To them, I want to say that we will not do anything that will change our culture. This is the most special place I've ever been a part of. We will never grow out of that culture because it is something we will always protect."

~Dr. Alisa White,
APSU president

SEE MORE PHOTOS AT
WWW.APSU.EDU/MAGAZINE

Leading through EXCELLENCE



On a fall afternoon in 2014, Doug Downey ('79) told his wife, Linda, that he needed to ask her an important question. For months, he'd been thinking about his days in the late 1970s when he was a captain and MVP for APSU's baseball team. That team helped lay the foundation for the program's current success, but Downey didn't feel that his job was done as one of the team's leaders.

“I asked if she would support us, together, focusing our philanthropy so we could make a more significant contribution to Austin Peay State University baseball,” he said. “And Linda could pick a single charity to support also.”

For Downey, it was an easy decision. The APSU campus is where the couple met. Linda supported the idea, and now their generous donations are helping that program thrive.

Join us in supporting Austin Peay State University.

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From the Executive Director



It's always great to be home.

I grew up in Clarksville, graduated from Montgomery Central High School and received my bachelor's degree from Austin Peay. But like many college graduates, I didn't know where life would take me – I was just looking for a place to start my career. That beginning was at APSU. Following a stint with athletics department, I landed an internship in Georgia. But soon I found myself back home, working for the APSU admissions office.

Later, I transitioned into the APSU alumni office, where I stayed for a few years until an unexpected opportunity arose with the University of Tennessee System. I wasn't sure I wanted to leave Clarksville, but it was a great opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and see how another university operated.

I spent the last 15 years building a successful career within the UT System. As many of you know, no matter how far you have traveled or how long you've been away, your special memories of Austin Peay and Clarksville remain vivid in your mind. This is your home.

Having returned myself, I encourage you to come see how the APSU campus has grown and to reconnect with old friends, colleagues and family. I'm confident you won't regret it, and you'll discover, like I did, that there's no place like Austin Peay.

Kris Phillips
Executive Director
APSU University Advancement

Alumni Q&A

With art major **Gabrielle Bomar ('13)**

Q&A

After earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2013, **Gabrielle Bomar ('13)** left Clarksville to spend the next two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia. While in the African nation, she taught English classes and educated young girls on topics like pregnancy and the dangers of HIV/AIDS. But the APSU art graduate found time to take a few pictures, and those photos are now collected in her new book, "Two Years in Zambia," which can be purchased online at www.blurb.com/b/6540182-two-years-in-zambia



Why did you join the Peace Corps after graduating from APSU?

A friend of my mother was the first person I'd heard of who had served with the Peace Corps. After hearing about her experiences, I did my research and decided it was exactly what I was looking for—27 months in the host country, working at the grassroots level, learning the culture and language and experiencing a completely different way of living.

What was life like for you in Zambia?

I lived in a two-room, grass-roof hut in a rural village named Chilobwe that consisted of about 100 households and 350 people. I slept under a mosquito net every night due to the malaria prevalence. Throughout the day, cows, goats, chickens, ducks, turkeys and guinea fowl constantly wandered past my hut. My main form of transportation was a Trek bicycle. If I needed to get somewhere farther than I could manage on my bike, I usually hitchhiked, but public transport and private taxis were available. Hitchhiking is a widely accepted practice there compared to the States. There was no electricity in my village or at my schools, so I had a small solar-powered charger that I used for my phone and a lamp.

Did having an art degree help in any way?

A huge outlet for me was photography, sketching and painting. My art training has given me the insight needed to adapt to my surroundings. When I needed some alone time or the day had been slow, I would go on a walk with my camera or sketch pad to concentrate my energy on something creative.

Did the experience change you as a person?

This experience undoubtedly contributed to my growth as a person. During my time in Zambia, I was forced out of my comfort zone on a daily basis, attempted projects and failed, succeeded, tried new things, and I've been pushed to the breaking point. My experience there taught me resourcefulness, adaptability, to be open-minded and resilient. I learned more about myself in that two-year period than any other time in my life. Since being there, I've altered my opinion on many things, including wastefulness and lifestyles. I'm grateful for my time there and wouldn't trade it.

Did the experience help you grow as an artist?

During my time in Zambia, I was consciously and unconsciously seeking the art around me, and I've stumbled upon some amazing things. From village children drawing and painting on my porch, women molding clay pots for food storage, women and men basket weaving, to ancient cave paintings found near my village and having my camera to capture it all; the experience helped to expand my curiosity in different processes of art, and African art specifically.

(Above) Gabrielle Bomar helps educate young girls in Zambia as a Peace Corps volunteer.

art + DESIGN

at AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY



APSU's Department of Art and Design turns 75 next year, and in the last several decades, it has grown into one of the Southeast's centerpiece art programs.

“We have a reputation for being a good school with highly engaged faculty, and artists from all over the state want to work in this department,” Barry Jones, department of art and design chair, said. “We also partner with the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts, which is a big deal for prospective students. And I think the success of programs like graphic design is really appealing to students.”

The department's growing reputation has attracted young artists from all across the region, and in the next year, the University will finally open a new Art and Design Building to make room for these waves of new students. Here are some of the other reasons why they want to study art at APSU.



EXPERIENCE The department offers the Art Internship Program, which matches junior and senior studio art, graphic design, art education and art history students with professional sponsors in field-related businesses and organizations in the region. This gives students real-world experience, allowing them to transition from school to the professional world once they graduate.

“It's a dynamic, student focused program,” Jones said. “There's a real one-on-one, student-mentor relationship. Our students build relationships with their professors that isn't the norm in other academic disciplines.”



ATTITUDE The Department of Art and Design offers a creative environment that enables students to ask questions, think critically and take risks. In their classes, they gain the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary for a meaningful, productive life.



PLENTY TO STUDY Art and design majors can earn a BFA in studio arts, with concentrations in drawing, ceramics, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, illustration or digital media; a BFA in graphic design, or a BA in studio arts or art education. In addition, the department is now offering digital animation classes taught by a former DreamWorks animator.



NEW BUILDING Last year, APSU broke ground on the new \$16 million, 46,000-square-foot Art and Design Building. Set to open in January 2017, the new building will accommodate the needs of students with several art studios, a photographic studio, a general art gallery, a student gallery, faculty office space and a general purpose classroom.



The highly anticipated Art and Design Building will open in January 2017. Rendering by Street Dixon Rick Architecture PLC.

A DIGITAL LIFE

APSU grads
create debut
comic book

Long before the release of his new co-created comic book, titled “My Name is Proxy,” Barry Williams ('08, '10) made a career for himself helping other writers and artists make their creative visions a reality.

In addition to his duties as a husband, father and teacher, Williams has worked as a colorist on numerous independently released comic book titles, including “Iron Ghost,” “Atomik Mike,” “Monsterpocalypse,” “Red Dwarf: Prelude to Nanarchy” and “Ghost Whisperer.”

But while his work has been well received and certainly helped pay the bills, the Austin Peay State University graduate had grown tired of helping other people create, while his own ideas were often pushed to the side.

“I’m so happy for the opportunity to work (in the comic industry), but I didn’t get into this to just work on other people’s comics,” Williams, a Clarksville resident, said. “By the time I saw the other projects I was working on, I was the fourth person to touch the comic; I wanted to start to do my own thing.”

Classmate and APSU alumna, Heather Walker ('08, '11) could relate to Williams’ struggle. A talented artist, Walker puts her degree to work as a media design specialist for a manufacturing company, directing videos and overseeing the company’s online training program.

Each successful in their own right, Williams and Walker found themselves in a unique position – while their talents and training were paying the bills, what if the two long-time friends came together to create something they could call their own?

“We found ourselves in the position where we did not need to do this to make money,” Williams said. “We both have full-time jobs, now we can just do something for the sheer thrill of telling a fully realized story that belongs to both of us.”

Taking the name HB Collaborations, the duo set about conceiving, drawing and writing a story they wanted to tell. After years of crafting, HB Collaborations recently released their first work: a 28-page comic book, titled “My Name is Proxy.”

The first issue of “My Name is Proxy” tells the story of Search and Recovery Unit 11, or SR-11, for short. Tasked with preserving the remnants and memories of humanity following an extinction-level event that wiped out all human life, SR-11 quickly finds herself on an adventure that explores what it really means to be alive.

“SR-11 is built to go out and find memories. She can scan things like a phone or computer and put together pieces of memories from their former owners,” Williams said. “When we meet SR-11, the way she’s acting and going about her day is a reflection of her mission and her capabilities; it’s all based on the idea of cognitive schema, or how we form scripts of behavior based on the things we have absorbed into our brains.

“As a result of her mission, SR-11 has begun to interpret her mission of preserving the human existence by actually trying to ‘become human’ herself.”

The project, one that Williams said he hopes will be the first of many with Walker, was a complete



Heather Walker



Barry Williams



collaborative effort, with Williams and Walker each creating the concept, art and dialogue.

“With Heather and me, it’s very difficult to establish where one of our jobs ends and the other’s begins,” Williams said. “It’s sort of like a game of ping-pong, because I’ll have an idea, and Heather will expand on that idea and visa versa. Sometimes, I’ll sketch an idea and give it to Heather, and she’ll give it back with her take on the idea and sometimes that will lead to a version that’s a mix of both of our takes.”

Since the first issue’s release, Williams and Walker have made the rounds, appearing at Wizard World Comic Con Nashville, as well as Daycon, Clarksville’s local anime convention. Recently, Williams was on hand to sign copies of the issue at the grand opening of Rick’s Comic City Clarksville.

“We’ve been able to meet a lot of great folks, sell some books and have a good time (displaying at conventions),” Williams said. “One of the most popular questions we’ve had is ‘When is the second issue coming out,’ and our answer is always ‘not soon enough.’”

For more information on “My Name is Proxy,” or to order of copy of the first issue, visit HB Collaborations online at www.hbcollaborations.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mynameisproxy

APSU graduates Heather Walker ('08, '11) and Barry Williams ('08, '10) sign pieces of their work at a booth during the 2015 Wizard World Nashville comic convention.



“My Name is Proxy” tells the story of SR-11, a robot tasked with preserving human memories in the wake of an event that wiped out all life on Earth.

#MISSIONPOSSIBLE

By Colin Harris

Rebuilding APSU's football program

From the outside, the task of rebuilding Austin Peay's football program into a national contender, or even a contender in the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), seems like the definition of an impossible mission.

The Governors haven't put together a winning season since 2007, and the program recently parted ways with head coach Kirby Cannon, who finished his three-year tenure with a 1-34 record. The team is coming off of a 0-11 season, and the parents of APSU's current players were children themselves when the Gobs last won an OVC championship (1977).

When you lay out the facts, rebuilding APSU football feels hopeless, so maybe it makes sense that the task would fall to someone too young to be burdened by trivial things like history.

Will Healy, 31, is the second-youngest head coach in Division I football, only trailing 29-year-old Maine coach Joe Harasymiak, who was also hired this off-season. A former receivers coach at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Healy said he saw the opening at APSU as both the realization of a dream and an opportunity to return some luster to a slumbering power.

"I've always dreamed of being a head football coach, so when I heard about the opening at Austin Peay, I saw this as the perfect opportunity," Healy said. "This was the job I wanted, and I knew I had to do anything I could to get in front of people and express my desire for this job."

continued on page 30

“ I've always dreamed of being a head football coach, so when I heard about the opening at Austin Peay, I saw this as the perfect opportunity. This was the job I wanted, and I knew I had to do anything I could to get in front of people and express my desire for this job.”

-Will Healy, APSU head football coach

Will Healy became the second-youngest coach in Division I football when he was hired to lead APSU's football program in December.





Taylor Sifko/The All State

MAKING THE CASE

Healy wore many hats during his seven years at UT Chattanooga, including serving as the program's recruiting coordinator. In that role, he oversaw all aspects of the process, from directing coaches to specific targets and areas to organizing visits and personally recruiting players. Chattanooga notched elite recruiting classes under his direction, including the top-ranked class at the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) level in both 2013 and 2014.

When it came time to plead his case to APSU, Healy said he used every bit of his experience as a recruiter to get his message in front of the right people.

"I knew that, if they were hiring based solely on résumé, I had no shot, so I had to get in front of people and use every avenue possible," Healy said. "Whether it was using my connections at Chattanooga (current UTC coach Russ Huesman coached current APSU athletics director Ryan Ivey at Memphis), meeting with retired APSU President Sherry Hoppe for lunch to express my desire or having lunch with (APSU donor) John Foy and speaking to the (APSU donors) Hand family, I wanted to get in front of people and have them in my corner and show them my vision for Austin Peay football."

In Ivey, Healy found an athletic director with a history of giving opportunities to young coaches. At his previous stop at Texas A&M Commerce, Ivey hired Colby Carthel to head its struggling football program. Like Healy, Carthel was a coach in his 30s, looking for a chance to lead his own program. And once hired, he went to work laying the foundation for a team that has made consecutive Division II playoff appearances. This past season (2015), Carthel captured the program's first conference championship since 1970.

When Healy got an opportunity to share his vision for APSU football, Ivey said he saw in him the makings of a similarly successful hire.

"Will has a lot of the same qualities as some of the other coaches I have hired, in that he is a first time head coach that is hungry to make an impact and difference in our program, department and institution," Ivey said. "Obviously, winning is part of that growth process, and I can assure you that no one wants to win more than he does. But he has a desire to make a difference in the lives of young people, which at the end of the day, is why we do what we do."

THE EASY SELL

Healy has applied the same enthusiasm he showed during the hiring process in attacking deficiencies he saw in the lifeblood of the program – player recruiting.

Since named to the position on Dec. 23, Healy has done everything from riding down high school hallways on a hover board to hitching a ride on a private jet to visit targets. Even Winter Storm Jonas could not chill Healy's energy, as he guided a busload of recruits on a tour of campus while the City of Clarksville was crippled around him.

Each Tweet released by Healy is tagged with "#MissionPossible," a statement of intent that Austin Peay football is not beyond repair; that Austin Peay football has a bright future that belies its history of struggle.

“ *I've already been lucky enough to meet some players since I got here, but I want every one an opportunity to get in on the ground floor and watch blossom again.”*

"When you get on this campus and you see how beautiful this place is, and you see our facilities and you see Governors Stadium, you can see a place that is as good as anyone in FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) football," Healy said. "I tell every recruit and family I talk to that Austin Peay is so much better on the inside than people think it is from the outside. You just have to come here to see it yourself."

Using shiny facilities to impress 18-year-old recruits is one thing, but Healy, a husband and father himself, said his most passionate pitch is saved for the parents debating whether to trust their sons to him and his staff for the next four years.

"The first job of any recruiter is selling yourself; you have to make sure the guys we're recruiting understand the direction and our vision of the program, but it's just as important that mom and dad believe you have their son's best interests at heart," Healy said. "Austin Peay is really not a difficult sell, especially when you take our facilities and you add in the incredible community of Clarksville and all the support we have here at the University."

Healy and his staff have hit city after city in Tennessee and the surrounding states, feverishly laying the foundation for the program. But for an impossible mission to succeed, everyone involved must understand that a program is bigger than its recruits or the on-field product.

From top Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) programs like Alabama and Ohio State to smaller championship teams North Dakota State and Jacksonville State, one thing all successful programs share is a strong support system. To win big at any level, it takes administration, academic support and community coming together to embrace a shared vision.

"I want APSU athletics to become the model athletics department in the OVC and the FCS," Ivey said. "Having a successful department that succeeds in everything that we do, from competition to classroom and community, is extremely vital and our number one goal."

"Will fits in well with that philosophy as his core values, aspirations and vision for our football program are the same."



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-Will Healy

Will Healy celebrates a touchdown from the sidelines while coaching at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Photo: Chattanooga Times Free Press

While Healy spent the first two months of his time on the job recruiting and living out of a suitcase, knowing he has a supportive AD and president back home meant he could fight for recruits while his new bosses worked to clear potential hurdles to sustained success.

“The support system I’ve seen here has been unbelievable, from President White making sure the program and athletics department has everything we need to be successful, to Ryan Ivey and his staff in athletics,” Healy said. “Ryan is someone that I firmly believe in, and he has an unbelievable vision of what this program can be, so he’s given me the resources I need to hire a first-class staff of assistant coaches and recruiters.

A POSSIBLE MISSION

After Healy put the finishing touches on his first abbreviated recruiting class, his job shifted to rebuilding the psyche of his inherited roster. APSU returns plenty of talent in 2016, as 40 of 44 players listed on 2015’s final two-deep roster are slated to return, but it has been nearly two years since anyone on the team won a Division I football game.

You may have to add psychologist to the list of Healy’s responsibilities, and the first step is getting his players to understand they control the future of APSU football. To turn a team into a program, there are no leaps. The signs of growth are shown in steady, week-to-week, day-to-day improvement.

“We have to forget what negative things happened in the past, and focus on positives going forward,” Healy said. “I don’t care what people on the outside think about our chances of winning, because my focus is on creating excitement about the future and taking pride in this school and this athletic department.”

Ironically, one of the best ways to help his players forget their past might be

to remind them of the program’s past. Despite recent history, there have been dozens of All-Americans, NFL standouts and countless hard-working, talented former players just looking for a chance to reconnect with a university that rewarded their hard work with successful lives off the field.

And it’s those Austin Peay alums whom the new, young coach wants back in the fold as he embarks on what he sees as a “mission possible.”

“I want former players to know that I have an open door policy here,” Healy said. “I want people to be around this program, to come back and watch spring practices and games. They put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this program and that’s something they need to be proud of, and something I want to help make people proud of.

“I’ve already been lucky enough to meet some of those former players since I got here, but I want every one of them to have an opportunity to get in on the ground floor and watch APSU football blossom again.” **AP**

THE FAB 5 APSU'S SOLDIER ATHLETES

By CHARLES BOOTH

There's an old sports cliché that equates athletic competitions with battlefields. Commentators and coaches regularly pepper their speeches with military terms like blitz and bomb and field general, leaving the casual fan to wonder if he or she is watching a game or an act of war.

This verbiage has come under criticism in recent years, with American soldiers going off to fight in real wars. Tracee Hamilton, a Washington Post sports writer, commented on this in a September 2012 article, writing, "It's insulting to portray football as war, just as it's insulting to portray war as a game."

LZ Granderson, senior writer for ESPN The Magazine, also offered his thoughts on the subject in 2010, writing, "While war metaphors in the sports world are hardly new, they are still like nails on a chalkboard to me."

In his column, Granderson called out Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis for referring to himself as a "warrior." In that instance, the term was in bad taste, but at Austin Peay State University, the reference will soon be applicable to a handful of its athletes. That's because the University now has five students participating in NCAA sports who are also members of APSU's elite, MacArthur Award-winning ROTC program. These young men and women will soon leave behind the locker rooms and sports fields to serve as officers in the U.S. Army.

"We are extremely proud of these student-athletes and their accomplishments," Ryan Ivey, APSU athletics director, said. "Their ability to juggle the time demands and rigors of being a student-athlete, while simultaneously participating in a high-achieving ROTC program, shows their commitment and dedication to excellence in all areas of their lives."

The students often start their days before sunrise, and they usually don't go to sleep until long after dark. But in spite of the exhaustion, the two activities help these individuals excel as students, athletes and ROTC cadets.

"They usually have long days," Maj. Paul Dykes, APSU assistant professor of military science, said. "On Thursdays, we can keep them to up to 10 at night, depending on what we're doing. But for us, they present the type of cadet we're looking for—physically fit and academically challenged. They end up getting superior results."

Recently, these five soldier-athletes gathered in the Browning Building to talk about their experiences at Austin Peay. Here's what they had to say:

Name: CHRISTIAN BERRY

Major: BUSINESS

Sport: FOOTBALL

WHAT HAS BEING AN ROTC CADET/STUDENT-ATHLETE TAUGHT YOU?

"It's helped me with time management. It's taught me how to balance my time between football, ROTC and school."

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE FOR YOU?

"I wake up at 5:45 a.m., get ready, shave, go to PT, go to breakfast, class, go lift weights, have a meeting before football practice, practice, then go eat dinner, and then I have to study."





Name: **HANNA WISE**
 Major: **BIOLOGY**
 Sport: **TRACK & CROSS COUNTRY**



YOU CAME HERE INITIALLY TO RUN TRACK. WHY DID YOU JOIN THE ROTC PROGRAM?

"When I visited here, I came and spoke with Mr. (Greg) Lane (APSU cadet success coordinator), and he told me all about the program, and I just felt like it was something meant for me. I always wanted to be a leader, and this was a great way to learn leadership."

WHY DO YOUR RACE SOCKS SAY "FREEDOM" ON THE BACK?

"I have worn these for like two years, every race. The socks, for a military brat, it was just perfect. When I pick a race, I notice I do best when I race for someone or something else."

Name: **AARON JUMONVILLE**
 Major: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
 Sport: **TENNIS**



WHY DID YOU COME TO APSU?

"The ROTC program was something that drew me here because I knew it was good. I had heard Austin Peay had a really good ROTC program, but I didn't really know much about it...but once I actually got here and saw the things we get to do here in ROTC, it made me want to commit to it."

DID TENNIS HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER CADET?

"Fitness for ROTC and tennis is similar. You want to be agile but also strong, but not necessarily bulky. You also have to be able to think when playing tennis, figure out what's going wrong in a match. Same as in ROTC, with problem solving. ROTC and tennis do tie into each other."





Name: ALEXIS ELDRIDGE
Major: BIOLOGY
Sport: CROSS COUNTRY



DID THE ROTC PROGRAM HELP YOU AS A STUDENT ATHLETE?

"Being an athlete has helped me be an amazing cadet. It has really made me have a focused drive on everything I do. It has helped me to push myself farther than I can push myself, and it has kept me more motivated than most cadets. It's played a significant role in my ROTC career."

HOW WAS THE CADET LEADER COURSE OVER THE SUMMER?

"Out of 5,000 cadets this summer, I ranked in the top 10 percent in the nation. I was extremely happy with that. It has been my goal since freshman year to rank in the top 10 percent in the nation."

Name: WESLEY GRAY
Major: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Sport: CROSS COUNTRY



WHAT DO YOU EAT TO STAY ENERGIZED?

"I try to eat healthy, especially during the season. I eat salad, some protein. On my off weeks when the season is over, I eat everything."

HOW DID CROSS COUNTRY HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER CADET?

"Running helps me get in better shape...it keeps me out of trouble, it keeps me focused. I don't have time to go out...Now that I'm in ROTC, I have certain tasks that I have to do, and I'm getting them done."



5 THINGS

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT
APSU ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

RYAN IVEY

- 1 As a walk-on punter at the University of Memphis, Ivey started 32 games and lettered three years, but he never booted a ball during a game.
- 2 During his career in Memphis, Ivey served as holder for Stephen Gostkowski, the New England Patriots' star kicker.
- 3 Ivey played football in college but his first post-graduate job was in baseball as stadium operations assistant for the Memphis Redbirds.
- 4 While at McNeese State, a 25-year-old Ivey and his boss, Tommy McClelland, also 25, formed the youngest AD/assistant AD combination in Division I sports.
- 5 Ivey met his wife, Kelley (Holt) Ivey, in 2002, in a mythology class at the University of Memphis. She was an interior design major.



Photo by Brittney Sparr-APSU Sports Information

1970s

DR. PARK BALEVRE ('77) is a curriculum and instruction specialist with Chamberlain College of Nursing's national Curriculum and Instruction Team. He works to develop and redevelop nursing courses for the pre-licensure BSN program. Prior to this assignment, Balevre was a faculty member on the Chamberlain Jacksonville Campus, where he taught mental health nursing, pathophysiology, transitions in nursing, health and wellness, evidence-based practice, collaborative health care and the BSN capstone course. He also served as the chair for Chamberlain's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Academic Steering Council and Institutional Review Board. He currently serves on Chamberlain's APA/Scholarly Writing task force, NLN Center of Excellence Steering Committee and a number of other curriculum-related task forces.

BILLY MICHAEL RAY ('72) received the Barbara M. Metzger Environmental Data Quality Assurance Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Nov. 10, 2015. The award is granted to one individual or group at the EPA level no more than once per year. It is awarded to recognize outstanding leadership and accomplishments in the field of environmental data quality assurance management at the EPA.

TOM PERRY ('73), senior vice president and CFO of Delta Dental Tennessee, received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Nashville Business Journal's annual CFO Awards Dinner. Perry is a longtime supporter of his alma mater. In 2013, Delta Dental of Tennessee contributed \$25,000 to support the new Center for Entrepreneurship at APSU. Civic Bank and Trust, led by Tom's brother, Robert Perry ('69), also contributed \$25,000 to that project. Both brothers also serve on the APSU College

of Business Advisory Board. In 2011, Delta Dental donated \$10,000 to jump-start the Reagan Giving Circle at APSU. The University established the Reagan Giving Circle to honor the entrepreneurial spirit of Dr. Carmen Reagan, the first female dean of the APSU College of Business and an influential community leader, volunteer and philanthropist.

BILL WALKER ('73) was inducted into the University of Cincinnati's James P. Kelly Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 29, at Nippert Stadium on campus. Walker served as UC assistant athletics director, sports medicine and head athletic trainer from 1975 to 2007. He has received the second-highest award of the National Athletic Trainers' Association and is an Army veteran with a Combat Medical Award and Bronze Star. He has also been inducted into the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Hall of Fame.

NANCY WHITFIELD ('73) ('90) recently published her first book, "Broken Places." The memoir, which is available at amazon.com, includes her experiences as a student at Austin Peay.

1980s

STEPHANIE OSBORN ('83) is the author of the novel "Sherlock Holmes and The Mummy's Curse," which is the first book in a new Sherlock Holmes series by Pro Se Productions. The company's new imprint, "Holmes Apocrypha", will feature the famous detective in stories that go beyond Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's original cannon, including supernatural stories, science fiction interpretations and more. Osborn is also the creator of "The Displaced Detective" series, which also features Holmes.

U.S. ARMY COL. JOHN TEYHEN ('86) took command of the United States Army Public Health Command (USAPHC) in January 2015. His executive assistant,

LT. COL. MELISSA LECCESE ('12),

is an APSU graduate. Teyhen, an Environmental Science and Engineering Officer, has a diverse military assignment history, serving in positions in the Pentagon and as far-reaching as Haiti and Honduras. Leccese, an Army Audiologist, was previously assigned to the Army Hearing Program at USAPHC, and she was later selected to serve as the Executive Assistant to the Commander.

MICHAEL WOOD ('86), pastor of Eastview Baptist Church in Clarksville, is a U.S. Army veteran and recipient of the George C. Marshall Award and the Ralph D. Mershon Award. He served 11 years as an artillery officer and 15 years as a chaplain. He was deployed to Kuwait and to Iraq twice and received two Bronze Stars and the Legion of Merit Award.

1990s

MIKE BROWN ('91), a Montgomery Central High School math teacher, received the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award, administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science. Awardees receive a citation signed by President Obama and a \$10,000 award from NSF. Tennessee's Department of Education submitted Brown as the state's nominee for the award in October 2013. He was the only math teacher from Tennessee selected.

CHRISTY L. PENNINGTON ('97) joined Waller Dortch and Davis, LLP, as counsel and is based in the firm's Austin, Texas, office. She assists publicly traded and privately held hospital companies and other health care providers with leasing transactions involving medical office

buildings, ambulatory surgery centers, physician practices and other health care facilities. Her experience includes representing both landlords and tenants in connection with leasing industrial, office, retail, restaurant and multi-family properties. Prior to joining Waller, she gained experience with a number of law firms based in Dallas. Pennington earned her J.D. in 2003 from the Southern Methodist University School of Law.

CHRISTI AKINS HOLT ('93) ('95) was named program manager for 19th Judicial District Community Corrections Program.

ANGELA DEPPELER (1998) has published four paranormal thriller novels through Solstice Publishing. The books are "Welcome To Tremor," "Wendigo," "Once Upon A River View" and "Demon Lake," and they are available in paperback or as an e-book at amazon.com. On June 24, 2015, "Wendigo" was #90 on one of amazon.com's top 100 best-sellers lists.

2000s

JEREMY QUALLS ('00), Williamson County Schools District's athletics director and curriculum specialist, was named the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's 2015 Athletic Administrator of the Year. During his two years as athletics director, he developed the Williamson County Sports Conference, allowing district teams to support each other when not in direct competition, and a "Game Day" video production held at a different school each week.

NATALIE ANN KILGORE ('01) was named vice president of publicity at the BBR Music Group on Nashville's Music Row, the largest independent country music label in the U.S., and its artist roster includes Jason Aldean, Randy Houser, Thompson Square, Parmalee, Dustin Lynch, Chase Bryant and more.

DIARESE MALACHI GEORGE ('07)

recently graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University with his Doctor of Education in leadership and professional practice.

BLANCHE MURPHY-SPITERI ('09) is the author of the children's book "Kay's Great Balloon Race." The book, available at amazon.com, is about how a little girl's love of balloons accidentally causes her to become part of a race. More information about the book and Murphy-Spiteri's adventure series is available online at www.kaysadventures.com.

MELISSA TYNDALL ('04, '07) was nominated for Best New Poets 2015 and placed in the top 10 of the Winter 2015 Sixfold poetry competition. Five of her poems appeared in the February 2016 edition of Sixfold. In addition, the student literary magazine, Squatter's Rites, she advises as assistant professor of communication at Volunteer State Community College, won First Place in the 2015 American Scholastic Press Association Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers for junior and community colleges with a student population over 2,501 and won Outstanding Painting overall. Tyndall also presented on the panel "The Visionary Advisor: Running a Student Literary Journal at a Two-Year College Campus" at the 2016 Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference & Bookfair in Los Angeles on April 1.

2010s

KEVIN DUANE WHITE ('11) founded Hunting for Heroes of Tennessee in March 2015. The organization's mission is to provide enrichment, empowerment and recreation for disabled veterans living in Tennessee. It is an incorporated, non-profit organization in the State of Tennessee and registered in Macon County, Tennessee.

WEDDINGS

TAMIRA (COLE) SAMUEL ('06) ('09)

married Stephen Scot Samuel in Jackson, Tennessee, on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015. The two met in Texas and were engaged in New York City. Their identical twin boys, Jerome Tyler and Timothy Jacob Samuel, were born on July 21.

IN MEMORY

Dorothy Sue Boyer, July 8, 2015

Philip L. Burney ('75), Feb. 1, 2015

Joe W. Butler Jr., April 4, 2015

Bryan Crow, Oct. 15, 2015

Leslie N. Earheart ('74), March 23, 2015

J.D. Elliott ('58), July 22, 2015

Virginia N. Hill ('75), July 3, 2015

Don S. Hinton, Feb. 21, 2015

Harry Craig Huntsman, April 2, 2015

Rebecca Keene, June 18, 2015

Irvin S. Kleeman, Jan. 29, 2015

Alan Mayor ('73), Feb. 23, 2015

Ruth Ann Poole ('88), Aug. 20, 2015

Nathan S. Rutherford ('87), Sept. 6, 2015

Tina Piercey Schlotter ('12), Sept. 2, 2015

John Shearon, May 18, 2015

Virginia Nell Spencer ('53), Feb. 16, 2015

Charles Stephens ('06), May 18, 2015

TO SUBMIT APSU CLASS NOTES, PLEASE CONTACT CHARLES BOOTH AT BOOTHCW@APSU.EDU.

MR. EDMAISTON GOES TO WASHINGTON

Last July, Austin Peay State University music education student Davey Edmaiston boarded an airplane for the first time. If he was nervous, the Troy, Tennessee, native probably calmed himself by thinking about the importance of his trip. In a few hours, he'd land in Washington, D.C., to ask members of the U.S. Congress to make music education a priority for American school children.

"I'd never been anywhere out of the state before. First plane ride and everything. My mom was pretty scared," Edmaiston said. "But we got to meet with senators and House representatives and talk about the Every Child Achieves Act, which identifies music as a core-curricular, so every student has access to music."

Edmaiston was one of only four college students from Tennessee asked to join a delegation from the Tennessee Music Education Association (TMEA) on its annual lobbying trip to the nation's capital. TMEA is the state's chapter of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the professional organization for music educators across the country. Edmaiston, a member of APSU's collegiate chapter of NAfME, joined the organization's leadership team and students from Cumberland University and The University of Tennessee at Martin for the trip.

"This is a big deal for him," Dr. Eric Branscome, APSU associate professor of music education, said. "It's also incredible exposure for Austin Peay. I don't know of a time when another APSU student has gone on this trip."

Edmaiston spent three days in Washington, D.C., meeting with members



of congress and telling them why they should vote for the bill. On one visit, he met U.S. Rep. Phil Roe ('67), an APSU alumnus.

"I got to play guitar with him," Edmaiston said. "He's a really, really cool guy."

After talking about the Every Child Achieves Act with Tennessee's representatives and senators, Edmaiston returned to Clarksville and watched the senate discuss the bill on C-SPAN. On July 16, the U.S. Senate passed the bill by a vote of 81 to 17. A news release issued that afternoon by NAfME said the "Senate's action today is an important step forward in ensuring that all students—regardless of their socioeconomic status—experience the demonstrable positive impact that music education has on learning and life."

For Edmaiston, the trip both bolstered his résumé and got him thinking about how else he can promote music education.

"I've gotten really big into politics now," he said. "I never saw myself as interested in politics, but I've really gotten into advocating."

“

This is a big deal for him. It's also incredible exposure for Austin Peay. I don't know of a time when another APSU student has gone on this trip."

*– Dr. Eric Branscome,
APSU associate professor
of music education*

Leading *through* EXCELLENCE



Taylor Siffko

Joe Shakeenab ('04, '14) earned two degrees from APSU, but he didn't let something like graduation keep him from returning to campus. For the last few years, Shakeenab has remained a strong presence at his alma mater, attending University events and serving organizations such as the National Alumni Association and the Military Alumni Chapter. He also provides financial support to several different areas within the University because he wants to help the next generation of students.

“ That’s one of the benefits of calling yourself an alumni. It’s not just to say you graduated from the University. It’s to get yourself into the position where you can facilitate the growth of the people coming behind you, whether you know them or not. That’s service.”

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A LOOK BACK

at APSU Alumni & Friends
throughout the 2015 year





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- 1 Athletics director Ryan Ivey speaks to APSU football alumni during a reunion breakfast at Homecoming 2015.
- 2 APSU alumnus Ed Dyson stops in to visit coach Dave Loos and the current basketball players during Homecoming week.
- 3 Alumni of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., represent during the annual Homecoming Golf Tournament.
- 4 Gobs from the Class of 1965 celebrated their 50-year reunion in October 2015.
- 5 Judy Griffin Cherry, 1965 APSU Homecoming Queen, crowns the 2015 APSU Homecoming Queen Jordan Scott.
- 6 APSU baseball alumni pose between rounds at the annual Homecoming Golf Tournament.
- 7 On Feb. 20, alumni met for a breakfast program, followed by a basketball double header against Murray State. The event marked the 20th anniversary of APSU's 1995-96 OVC men's and women's basketball teams.
- 8 Montgomery County Alumni Chapter President Kevin Fee (with wife Lacey) hosts APSU Spirit Night at a local Chick-fil-A.

What do you remember about

1991?

Seinfeld debuted on television, The Terminator said, "Hasta La Vista, Baby," Bryan Adams' song, "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You," was number one, Super Nintendo was released, N.Y. Giants won the Super Bowl, hyper-color shirts and slap bracelets were fashionable and Marla Crow was APSU Homecoming Queen!

The Austin Peay graduating class of 1991 is invited to reminisce at a special

**25-YEAR REUNION on APSU
HOMECOMING WEEKEND,
OCT. 21-22, 2016.**

The exciting events planned for the class of 1991 include the APSU Homecoming Block Party, 25-Year Reunion luncheon, University tour and Homecoming game vs Mercer.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.
Visit <http://ap1991.eventbrite.com>

For more information, contact the
APSU Alumni Relations Office at 931-221-1277.