

# Austin Peay

The Magazine  
for Alumni  
and Friends  
of Austin Peay  
State University  
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INTERNATIONAL ISSUE





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Last December, the Austin Peay community celebrated this University's record enrollment of 11,048 students, but hidden within that large number was a smaller success story that should not be overlooked. That story is centered on our strategic efforts over the last five years to increase the international student population at Austin Peay. In November, Forbes.com reported that "New enrollment of international students at U.S. universities declined by more than 10% between the 2015-16 and 2018-2019 academic

years," but during that same period of time at Austin Peay, we saw a 204% increase in students from around the globe. To put that in real numbers, our international student enrollment in Fall 2019 was 138 students.

Growing this population is an important element of our strategic plan because, at its best, a university provides opportunities for students to learn firsthand about the world in which they live. In 2016, only 45 out of some 10,000 Austin Peay students were from other countries, while our peers welcomed hundreds of individuals from around the world.

Today, those same schools are seeing their international enrollment drop while we continue to attract more students who want an Austin Peay educational experience. In this magazine you'll meet a few of these individuals and hear how they've embraced their new identities as Governors. You'll also learn how Caroline Clasby, APSU director of international student services, is spreading the Austin Peay brand across the globe, and how Dr. Marissa Chandler, APSU director of study abroad and international exchange, is providing our entire student body with opportunities to study in other countries. When you read about our new signature program at England's Harlaxton Manor, you'll understand just how transformative these experiences will be.

At Austin Peay, we're preparing our students for the realities of a global economy. Our international students help with that mission by providing a fresh perspective from around the world. We're also sending more Governors to experience other cultures first-hand, with a 23 percent increase in students studying abroad last year. And as you'll read in these pages, people from all over the world are discovering what many of you already know – that Austin Peay is a great University.

Dr. Alisa White  
APSU President

**AP** | *Leading through*  
EXCELLENCE

# Austin Peay

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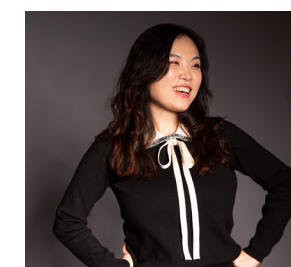
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Harlaxton Manor, home of APSU's new British D.E.A.L. Study Abroad. Story on page 18.



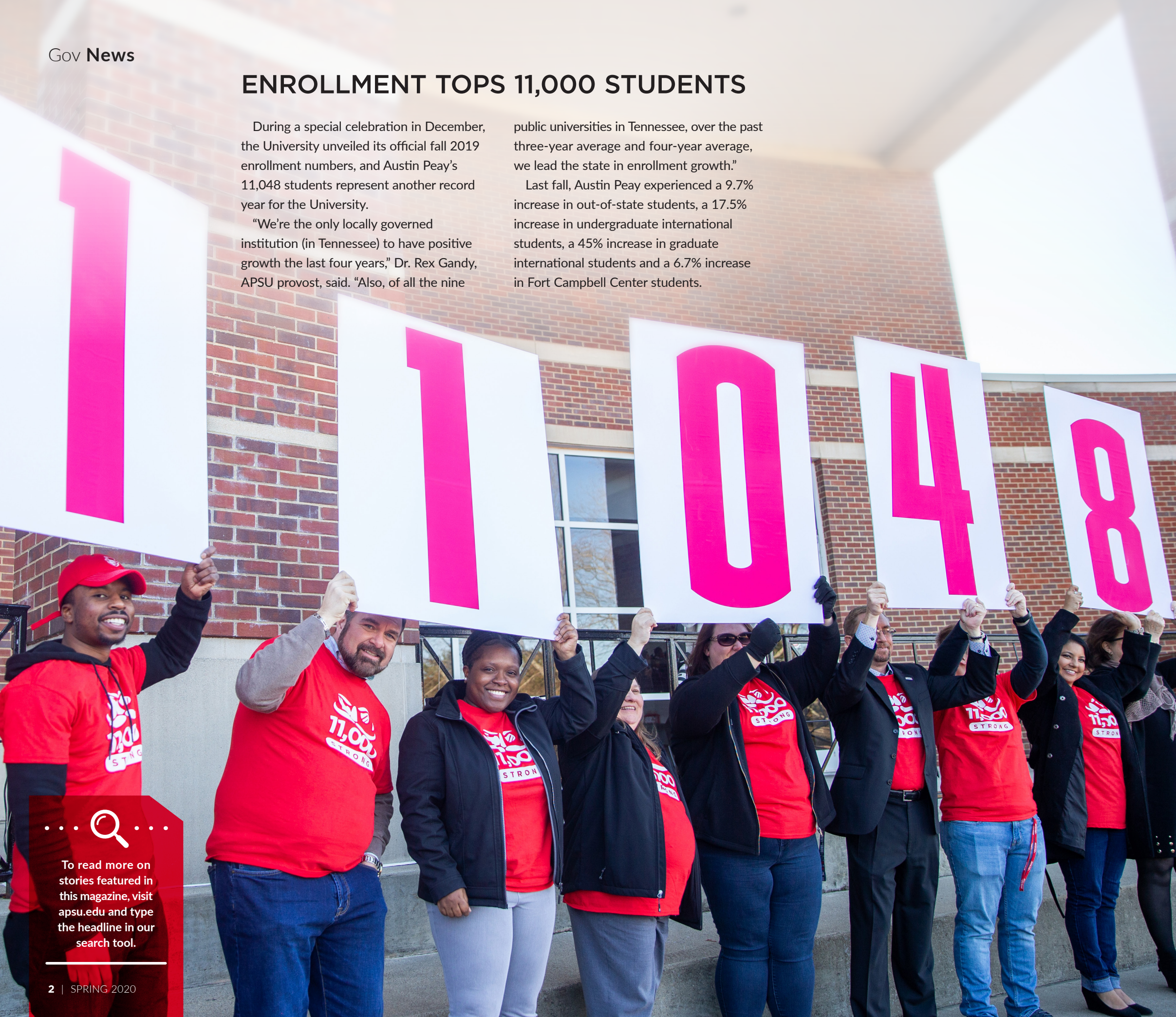
## ENROLLMENT TOPS 11,000 STUDENTS

During a special celebration in December, the University unveiled its official fall 2019 enrollment numbers, and Austin Peay's 11,048 students represent another record year for the University.

"We're the only locally governed institution (in Tennessee) to have positive growth the last four years," Dr. Rex Gandy, APSU provost, said. "Also, of all the nine

public universities in Tennessee, over the past three-year average and four-year average, we lead the state in enrollment growth."

Last fall, Austin Peay experienced a 9.7% increase in out-of-state students, a 17.5% increase in undergraduate international students, a 45% increase in graduate international students and a 6.7% increase in Fort Campbell Center students.



### GOLD COIN DONATION

During last fall's homecoming celebration, John McGee ('69) donated more than \$50,000 in gold coins to support his alma mater and commemorate the 50th or "golden" anniversary of his graduation.



### MAKING COLLEGE POSSIBLE

College Possible, a national nonprofit, and Austin Peay brought four AmeriCorp volunteers to campus this year to coach and mentor more than 400 low-income and first-generation freshman students.



### WAPX CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

On Oct. 1, 1984, 91.7 WAPX-FM — a 3,000-watt station — began broadcasting from the APSU campus. Last fall, several alumni gathered at the now streaming station to celebrate its 35th anniversary.



To read more on stories featured in this magazine, visit [apsu.edu](http://apsu.edu) and type the headline in our search tool.





### ASPIRING ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS PROGRAM

The Tennessee Department of Education awarded the Eriksson College of Education a \$600,000 grant to develop a new aspiring assistant principals program. The year-long program, which will be tuition-free, will begin this May for teachers from East and West Tennessee.



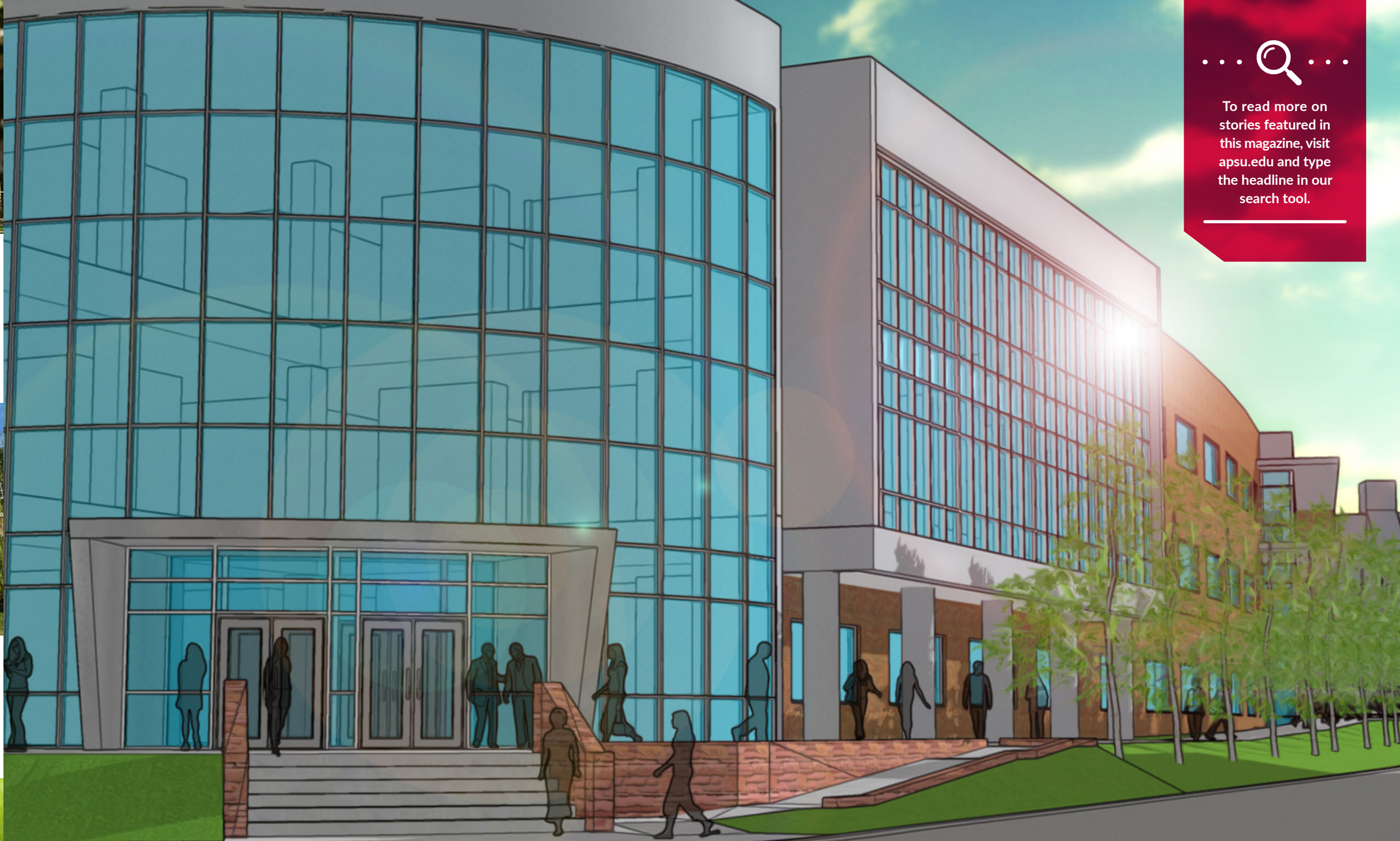
### NEW PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORATE COMING

Austin Peay received full approval for its new Doctor of Psychology degree in counseling psychology with an option concentration in serving military personnel, veterans and their families. The program will begin in fall 2020.



### NIGHTINGALE AWARD WINNER

Last summer, APSU nursing student Oliver Smith won Vanderbilt University's Florence Nightingale Award, one of the top honors for students participating in its internship program.



## NEW HEALTH PROFESSIONS BUILDING PLANNED

Austin Peay State University recently unveiled its vision for a new Health Professions Building that will consolidate the University's healthcare-related programs under one roof. Those programs include the School of Nursing and the departments of allied health sciences, health and human performance, psychological science and counseling, and social work.

The proposed facility received a boost last fall when the Tennessee Higher Education Commission ranked it as the No. 3 project on the state's building list.

The 114,600-square-foot, three-story Health Professions Building will be located on Eighth Street, and it will feature state-of-the-art research labs, active learning classrooms and collaborative learning spaces. If approved, construction will begin in 2021, with the building opening for classes in fall 2023.



To read more on stories featured in this magazine, visit [apsu.edu](https://apsu.edu) and type the headline in our search tool.



# the Recruiter

Caroline Clasby's suitcases are loaded with brochures, T-shirts and little novelty items all stamped with the red Austin Peay State University logo. One day she's hurrying through the airport in Lagos, Nigeria, and the next she's handing out Governors gear to potential students in Dubai.

"I travel about twice a semester for two weeks at a time, and I try to hit most continents — not all, but most," she said. "I try to hit the Middle East area, Asia, and we do hit Latin America and South America. Even though it's not a continent, we visit India quite a bit and we travel to Africa."

When Clasby arrived on campus in 2017 as the University's first international recruiter, Austin Peay had only 60 international students — the lowest in the state. This year, that number has more than doubled with 138 students from across the globe now pursuing degrees at APSU. As director of the office of International Student Services, Clasby and her staff are now aggressively visiting college fairs in foreign countries and working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to make sure Austin Peay's international population keeps growing.

"Our international students are some of the brightest you'll ever meet, and they bring a whole new enriched intellectualism to the campus," she said. "They really help our domestic students, they enlighten them with new ways of learning, new viewpoints. They help globalize our campus, our nation and our world."

Ultimately, the students Clasby meets at the schools and college fairs want to know about Austin Peay's academic offerings, with most individuals looking for programs in computer science, mathematics, engineering and business. That's part of what attracted several new Governors from Nigeria.

"Our biggest population is from Nigeria," Clasby said. "We had an advantage because Dr. Samuel Jator (professor of mathematics) went to the University of Lagos, and he has a lot of connections there. We promoted Austin Peay to his colleagues who promoted it to his students. Now they're telling their friends. They're recruiting for us through word of mouth."

For more information, visit [apsu.edu/international](https://apsu.edu/international).





## THE OFFICE OF **STUDY ABROAD AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE**

Old Trafford Stadium — home to the famed Manchester United Football Club — is only a three-mile walk from Manchester Metropolitan University. If you prefer the warm climate of Spain, then the University of Burgos is a six-minute car ride to the 13th Century Cathedral of Saint Mary of Burgos, a UNESCO World Heritage site. If it's spring, you might want to check out the cherry blossom trees at Rojou Park, near Japan's Komatsu University. These are just a few of the exchange options now available to Austin Peay State University students thanks to the University's Office of Study Abroad and International Exchange.

"The great thing about exchanges is an Austin Peay student pays Austin Peay's tuition price to go there," Dr. Marissa Chandler, the office's director said.

"There's not going to be additional tuition that they have to pay, and their financial aid may cover their housing and accommodations, depending on the package they have."

Last year, more than 175 Austin Peay students traveled across the globe to study at other universities or to take part in study abroad programs led either by APSU faculty or by third-party programs that have partnered with the University.

"We advise over 400 students a year, and we have study abroad programs that range from just one week all the way up to one year," Chandler said. "We want to offer opportunities to students in every possible major. Right now, we have opportunities for study abroad within all of the different colleges."

Those opportunities range from reading Harry Potter in London with the Eriksson College of Education, swimming and studying marine life in Belize with the College of STEM, crunching accounting numbers in Argentina with the College of Business, visiting Ireland's famed Kilmainham Jail — where leaders of the 1916 Easter Uprising resided — with the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and speaking nothing but French in Quebec with the College of Arts and Letters.

"And this year, we have 17 exchange students from all over, living in Eriksson Hall, Hand Village or Meacham Apartments," Chandler said. "And they're all excellent students."

**For information on the office and all its opportunities, visit [www.apsu.edu/study-abroad-exchange](http://www.apsu.edu/study-abroad-exchange).**

Dr. Marissa Chandler, director for the Office of Study Abroad and International Exchange.





## Izuwa Ahanor *Nigeria*



**Major:**

Professional Science Master's in Computer Science and Quantitative Methods

**Why did you choose APSU?**

I started looking for a master's program at different schools in the U.S. and Canada. I found the predictive analytics program at Austin Peay. It had the right blend of mathematics and computers, so it wasn't too mathematical and it wasn't too programming heavy. That blend was perfect.

**Describe your experience so far?**

It's been amazing. I remember my first class; I had to write back to my friends at home and say "guys, the lecturing style is off the hook." They pack so much knowledge and so much new stuff. It was an amazing experience.

## Mona Hamadd *Kuwait*



**Major:**

Radiologic technology with a concentration in sonography

**Why did you choose APSU?**

I was looking at nine schools. I did research for all of them, and I picked Austin Peay. To be honest, it was between Austin Peay and Johns Hopkins, and I heard a lot of good things about Austin Peay and the area, Clarksville.

**Describe your experience so far?**

Everybody was welcoming and looking to help me even if I didn't ask for it. Lucky for me I had two great roommates, and I think they will be best friends for life...And here I'm an honor student, I have 4.0 GPA.

## Edom Kassaye *Ethiopia*

**Major:**

Art with a concentration in animation

**Why did you choose APSU?**

I knew I wanted to study abroad, but my parents had one condition — it needs to be somewhere with someone they know. I have a cousin who is a professor here — Dr. Amanuel Asfaw in the psychology department. And it turned out for the best because we have the best art program.

**Describe your experience so far?**

This is a great place if you're trying to focus on your studies and find yourself, and if you're looking for nice people, this is where you should go.



## Gwendoline Berger *France*

**Major:**

English

**Why did you choose APSU?**

I knew for a long time I wanted to go on an exchange either in United Kingdom or the United States. When I looked at all the universities they had, I looked at (APSU) and the website is so beautiful, I thought it would be amazing to go there.

**Describe your experience so far?**

The English classes here are so much more interesting. I've learned so much more. Every class is so interesting, and the way they teach is so different. They are more about the interaction with the student.







*“I work at the study abroad office. For my painting class, we were supposed to paint a place, a location, and I was like, ‘I love the International House because that’s basically my home here.’”*

*— Edom Kassaye*



Edom Kassaye's painting of the APSU International White House, home to APSU's international program.





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THE  
**GOV LIFE**

## Three Austin Peay graduates picked for coveted Japanese exchange program

Three Austin Peay State University graduates landed jobs at the highly coveted teaching assistantship in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET). Of more than 5,000 U.S. applications, only about 1,000 are selected for the job.

Alexandria Poppendorf and Justin Randall started in August, and April Kirkman started last April. All three will be assistant language teachers helping teach English in Japanese classrooms.

“A lot of larger schools treat the JET program applications the same as Fulbright applications,” Dr. David Rands, associate professor and director of Asian Studies at Austin Peay, said.

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***“When Austin Peay JET candidates come across the table, they know they’re going to be good.”***

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Austin Peay has a direct relationship with the Japanese consulate in Nashville. Rands – who participated in the JET program as an undergraduate in 1993 – has led the effort.

“We’re rapidly becoming the university in the area to work with Japan,” Rands said. “When Austin Peay JET candidates come across the table, they know they’re going to be good.”

Through the JET program, Randall, Poppendorf and Kirkman won yearly contracts with the ability to renew up to five years. They’ll receive around \$31,000 the first year with subsidized housing and health insurance.





## Our Man in London: Mickey Wadia makes England his second home

Canterbury Cathedral

The students followed Dr. Mickey Wadia, Austin Peay State University professor of languages and literature, down a stone staircase into the shadowy crypt beneath Canterbury Cathedral in England. No one spoke.

“Come here, all of you, come here,” Wadia whispered, motioning for his students to gather around a column that supported the ancient church above. “Lay your hands on this pillar and close your eyes.”

He paused.

“You’re now touching the Middle Ages. This pillar is older than America. Let that set in.”

That morning, Wadia was teaching a class, which included some discussion on “The Canterbury Tales,” Geoffrey Chaucer’s 14th century masterwork, and to make the book’s 700-year-old stories relatable to his students, Wadia insisted they visit the medieval church to which the Pilgrims traveled as they told their tales. This participatory instruction is the result of a teaching strategy he’s perfected after more than 20 trips to England.

“When I first went by myself, I thought ‘Why am I seeing this alone?’” Wadia said. “I wanted others to see what I was seeing because it was amazing. I needed to share this. Studying abroad is an infusion in your soul. It’s an academic infusion into your soul.”

Today, Wadia is Austin Peay’s campus representative for the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA) — “a nonprofit consortium of schools focused on providing study abroad experiences in English-speaking countries” — which has allowed him to guide hundreds of students through the physical worlds of Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Jane Austin.

“We’ve taken students to Warwick Castle, one of the best medieval castles you can see,” Wadia said. “You’ve got the mighty Thames River flowing through London. Sometimes we take students on cruises. We pass under the Tower Bridge, next to the Tower of London. There’s the Victoria and Albert Museum, one of the great museums of the world. Sometimes we go to Stonehenge, to Dover, to Bath.”

And with London as the trip’s home base, Wadia has taken students to see world-class plays starring luminaries such as Maggie Smith, Alan Rickman and Sir Ian McKellen.

“It’s a complete immersion,” Wadia said. “If you’re into theatre, into literature, language arts, this is the place to be.”

That’s why he keeps coming back. During his career, Wadia has also taught classes in Ireland, Australia and throughout Europe, but he prefers London, emerging from the Tube to see Big Ben in the distance or watching the London Eye spew fireworks on New Year’s Eve.

“If I want to go to London 500 times, I’ll go 500 times because there’s still a lot of haven’t seen,” he said. Wadia paused and then, with a smile stretching beneath his graying beard, he quoted the famous 18th Century English writer Samuel Johnson. “When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life. I am never tired of London.”

1 Megan Hohman, Dr. Mickey Wadia, Hollie Milliken, Greta Heinzelman and Dr. Tara Alvey in front of Windsor Castle.  
2 The 9 3/4’s platform from the Harry Potter books.



Feature

*The*

# *Harlaxton Experience*







If you take the train an hour north from London to the town of Grantham, where Sir Isaac Newton once studied, you'll discover an ornate Victorian estate hidden deep in the countryside that's often compared to fictional places like Downton Abbey and Hogwarts. This is Harlaxton Manor, a house surrounded by lush gardens and green lawns so wide that the Royal Air Force landed bombers on the property during World War II.

For the last 48 years, the University of Evansville has used the manor for its top-rated study abroad program, and in the early 1990s, Dr. Marissa Chandler spent a year as a college student living in the opulent country home.

"It was a dream come true," Chandler, now director of study abroad and international exchange at Austin Peay State University, said. "It's owned by the University of Evansville, and I was able to study there and have an amazing experience."

Chandler's time at Harlaxton transformed her life, turning her into a world traveler whose passport is filled with stamps from places like Tokyo, Paris and the Galapagos Islands. A few years ago, while feeling nostalgic for her days at Harlaxton, Chandler began work on a partnership between Austin Peay and Evansville. This summer, that partnership is scheduled to come to fruition when Austin Peay unveils its new signature study abroad program —

APSU's British D.E.A.L. (Discovery, Exploration, Adventure, Learning) — which will send students to live in Harlaxton Manor for a week, followed by a week in London.

"We're very happy to be partnering with the No. 1 program in the country," Dr. Mickey Wadia, APSU professor of languages and literature, said.

Evansville's Harlaxton program was recently named the best study abroad program by Best College Reviews.

"Harlaxton is a Victorian manor home but it resembles a castle in many ways. It's absolutely exquisite on the inside. I mean, who has classes for God's sake in a Victorian manor?"

Part of what makes the program unique is that a general education core course will be offered every year, providing study abroad opportunities for students during their first two years at Austin Peay.

"A lot of students get into their academic career and they really have a lot of class and

coursework obligations, so they can't really find room or time to do a study abroad program," Dr. Tim Hudson, executive director of the APSU Center for Extended and International Education, said. "The idea is to get them early in their academic career so any student majoring in anything can take Dr. Wadia's literature course and take the advantage of this program."



Dr. Mickey Wadia at the gates of Harlaxton Manor.

“  
**We're very happy to be partnering with the  
 No. 1 program in the country.**  
 ”



# Meet Ms. Park:

## CLARKSVILLE'S NEW KOREAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR

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When Soseul Park first arrived in Mexico, she didn't expect to hear so much Korean popular music — or K-pop — on the radio. Songs by BTS and Red Velvet — songs she heard all the time back home in Busan, South Korea — kept following her through the Latin American nation, and whenever she met someone new, they usually wanted to talk about their favorite K-pop bands.

"In Mexico, I found there are a lot of people that like K-pop and Korean culture," Park said. "And then those local Mexicans asked me to teach them Korean. So I put a desk and four chairs in a shopping mall where there was a Korean store, and then I started giving classes. That was my first experience as a Korean teacher abroad."

A few years later in 2018, Park arrived in Clarksville to help make Austin Peay State University and the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System the state's first public education institutions to offer Korean language courses to local students. As part of this new partnership funded by an ALLEX Foundation grant, she teaches 40% of the time at Austin Peay and 60% of her time at Rossvie High School.

"When I came here, I was surprised there was a big Korean community in Fort Campbell, and there were very many Korean companies, like Hankook Tire and LG, AtlasBX Battery," she said. "And I heard more and more Korean companies are coming due to these peak Korean companies. It looks like there are more people who need Korean education and need me to connect every community. There is a lot of positive impact that Austin Peay is offering Korean classes."

This fall, the University will offer Korean 2020 classes, and more students continue to sign up for Park's classes.

"I wanted to be a teacher because in Korea being a teacher is a very respectful job, one of the best jobs you can dream of. And that was my dream," she said. "I am working hard, and I feel like my efforts are paying off because my students are doing well."





# HISTORIC FOOTBALL SEASON

ENDS IN PLAYOFF NATIONAL QUARTERFINALS



Last November, the Governors football team took down Eastern Illinois, 35-7, giving Austin Peay its first Ohio Valley Conference championship since 1977, but it turns out that was just the beginning of the story. A week later, the Gobs hosted Furman at Fortera Stadium in the University's and Clarksville's first-ever Football Championship Series (FCS) Playoff game, which they won 42-6. A week later, they upset Sacramento State in California — a win that put the Gobs in the playoffs' quarterfinals, where the season ultimately ended in Bozeman, Montana, with a loss to Montana State.

An electrified Clarksville could hardly believe what was happening.

"You see it was just a few years ago Austin Peay football was known as the perennial loser, a program that struggled so mightily the University and athletic administrations diverted it to non-scholarship status for 10 years. Without question it was one of the worse — if not the worst — in 1-AA/FCS. In fact, just a few short years ago (2013-16), the Gobs lost 45 of 46 games, including three winless seasons. No program in the country served as homecoming opponent more than Austin Peay," Brad Kirtley, former APSU sports information director, wrote last year.

That's no longer the case. The Gobs are now the team to beat in the OVC, and the American Football Coaches Association named Austin Peay's first-year head football coach Mark Hudspeth its Region 3 Football Championship Subdivision Coach of the Year. Hudspeth becomes the first Austin Peay coach to earn the regional honor from the coaches association.

Hudspeth, also the OVC's 2019 Roy Kidd Coach of the Year Award winner, led the Gobs to their first nine-win regular season mark. He became the fourth head coach in program history to earn OVC Coach of the Year honors, joining Bill Dupes (1964), Boots Donnelly (1977) and Will Healy (2017).





## GIBBS-FRANCIS TAKES ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

Austin Peay track and field standout Nia Gibbs-Francis was named Google Cloud Academic All-American Women's Track and Field/Cross Country Second-Team, selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. She was one of only two female Ohio Valley Conference

student-athletes to earn Academic All-American honors, joining SIU Edwardsville's Brittney Gibbs. In her final season on the track, Gibbs-Francis posted a career-best 1.70m high jump mark at the Hilltopper Relays in April — a mark tied for fifth all-time in program history.



## NEW BASEBALL CLUBHOUSE IN THE WORKS

In February 2019, Austin Peay hosted a groundbreaking for the new APSU Baseball Clubhouse located at Joe Maynard Field inside Raymond C. Hand Park. The clubhouse, once finished, will be known as the Downey Baseball Operations Center and Clubhouse, as approved by the APSU Board of Trustees during their September 2019 meeting. During the groundbreaking, special recognition was given to lead

supporters Doug and Linda Downey and Joe and Cathi Maynard for their generous contributions to improve the baseball and softball facilities.

To give to the APSU baseball program, contact the University Advancement Office at 931-221-7127 or visit [givetoapsu.com/baseballmatch](http://givetoapsu.com/baseballmatch). Donations will be matched up to \$85,000.



From left, Melissa Luckey, Mary Ann Self and Derek Wright.

## ATHLETICS WELCOMES 2020 HALL OF FAME CLASS

During a special ceremony on Jan. 24, four former Governors athletes were inducted into Austin Peay's Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's inductees were tennis player Vanja Tomic, who earned Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year honors en route to an OVC title as a sophomore in 2010; basketball player Derek Wright, who remains Austin Peay's all-time steals leader and earned second-team All-OVC

during the championship 2007-08 season; and volleyball player Melissa Luckey (nee Gailey), whose 101 service aces in 1991 during the Gobs first OVC Tournament title season remain a program record. Melton Self, an All-Volunteer State Athletic Conference football selection as a senior in 1950, entered through the Honors category.

***“This is a transformational project for Austin Peay Athletics, specifically baseball. Our goal is to consistently enhance the student athlete-experience, and with the help of Doug and Linda Downey and Joe and Cathi Maynard, we are able to take the next step. As we continue to build for the future, assistance from great friends and investors like these will propel us into our best days, and we aren’t done yet!”***

**— Gerald Harrison**  
APSU Director of Athletics





Head Coach Mark Hudspeth leads the Governors onto the field during the 2019 season opener against North Carolina Central. The Govs, led by Hudspeth, ended the season making school history, winning the Ohio Valley Conference for the first time since 1977 and making the first postseason appearance in program history.





In many ways, Austin Peay has had an impressive 2019-20 academic year. One of the areas that is experiencing significant growth is charitable giving. So far during the 2020 fiscal year, our fundraising total has surpassed \$10 million, which is only the second time in University history that we have achieved that amount at this early point in the fiscal year.

I am proud to say that scholarships make up much of our current fundraising total. During the 2019 fiscal year, \$1.38 million in scholarship funding was awarded to 647 deserving students. In October, a unique

scholarship was established by Glover's Lock Service, a generous local business. The Glover's Lock Service Study Abroad Argentina Scholarship will provide students with a meaningful travel experience that will encourage them to understand and promote cultural diversity within their own communities. Not only does this increased financial support provide valuable resources for our students, faculty and staff, it also furthers the goals of the University's 2015-25 Leading Through Excellence Strategic Plan. Those goals are to increase enrollment, enhance student success, sustain university growth, expand diversity and broaden communication.

Going into November, many alumni came to campus to participate in our Homecoming activities. As you will see on page 35, we were particularly excited to recognize some of our most outstanding alumni as winners of the 2019 Alumni Awards. Members of the Fort Campbell and Clarksville communities were present on the morning of Nov. 9 when we hosted a parade celebrating Homecoming as well as Veterans Day. We were proud to combine these two events in honor of our many military-affiliated students and their families.

After their Homecoming win, the APSU football team went on to earn the Ohio Valley Conference Championship for the first time since 1977, which also gave us the opportunity to host our first FCS Playoff game in University history at Fortera Stadium. We are proud of our student-athletes for all of their efforts. Their success would not be possible without the dedication of so many loyal Governors fans, alumni and community members.

We hope you will continue to follow our progress as we innovate and grow to meet the needs of our student population, which has significantly increased thanks to our record fall enrollment of 11,048. Thank you for supporting Austin Peay in so many important ways.

Sincerely,

Kris Phillips ('91)  
Assistant Vice President for University Advancement



## NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

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In March, Austin Peay State University canceled its 36th Annual Candlelight Ball because of concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. The ball's 2020 distinguished award recipients – Sammy Stuard, Kevin & Rhonda Kennedy – will be honored at next year's 37th Annual Candlelight Ball on Saturday, March 13, 2021. A special thanks is extended to the 2020 Candlelight Ball committee, led by co-chairs Kathryn Minneihan and Kayla Morgan, and the event's past chairs, presenting sponsors, table sponsors and underwriters for their tireless support.

## 36TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT BALL AWARD WINNERS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT 2021 CANDLELIGHT BALL EVENT

### WENDELL H. GILBERT AWARD: SAMMY STUARD



William "Sammy" Stuard Jr. is president/CEO and chairman of the Board of F&M Bank. Under his leadership, F&M has grown to be among the largest state-chartered banks in Tennessee. Stuard was named a 2007 Community Banker of the Year by the American Banker magazine. He has served as chairman of the Tennessee Bankers Association, a member of the

Montgomery County Commission and chairman of the Clarksville-Area Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Board and Clarksville Downtown District Partnership. He was past director of the Two Rivers Company, and he currently serves on the Clarksville-Montgomery County Airport Authority and the APSU Foundation Investment Committee.

### SPIRIT AWARD: KEVIN & RHONDA KENNEDY



Kevin Chambliss Kennedy, senior member of the Kennedy Law Firm, graduated from Austin Peay State University, with honors, in 1978, and went on to receive a Master of Arts degree in 1979. He graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 1983, and in 1989, he was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Kennedy has contributed legal expertise to numerous media outlets, including The Oprah Winfrey Show, Trinity Broadcasting Network, The New York Times, The Washington Post and CNN. He was named the City of Clarksville Citizen of the Year, Montgomery County Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year.



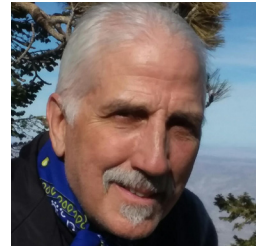
Rhonda Jean Kennedy, principal at Barker's Mill Elementary School, earned a Bachelor of Science in education ('83) and a Master of Art ('85) from Austin Peay State University. She served in the classroom at various Clarksville-Montgomery County schools until she was named assistant principal at St. Bethlehem Elementary School. In 1999, Kennedy was named principal of Hazelwood Elementary School, and in 2006, she opened Barker's Mill. The Clarksville Jaycees named her one of its Outstanding Young Teachers, and the Korean American Association honored her for her contributions. In 2005, Kennedy received the Tennessee Principal of the Year Award.



## Class Notes

### SANDRA WILSON ('68)

was named deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services' Office of Child Programs. As deputy commissioner, she is responsible for child program staff and operations in 12 regions across the state.



**STEVE SHIA ('73)**, who spent 35 years as a correctional educator in Connecticut and California, recently published "Stay Out of Prison and Don't Go to Jail ABCs," targeting at-risk individuals.

**KATHY FLOYD-BUGGS (1978)** was named director of the Office of Neighborhoods by Nashville Mayor John Cooper. She previously served as director of Office and Community Services for U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper.

### SALLIE SCOVILL ('84)

was promoted to full professor of health promotion and human development at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.

**KIZZIE JONES ('86)**, an ordained United Church of Christ minister and a board-certified chaplain, recently completed her trilogy of dachshund children's picture books with "A Tall Tale About Dachshunds in Costume: How MORE Dogs Came to Be."



**SUSAN BLACK STEEN ('91)** is a writer, photographer and a columnist for Main Street Media in Middle Tennessee.



**DR. JERRY T. WOOTEN ('92)** recently published his latest book, "Johnsonville: Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River and the Battle of Johnsonville, November 4-5, 1864." Wooten is the park manager of the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville.



**RANA LACER ('97)** was named chief financial officer of Park University in Parkville, Missouri. She oversees the financial and accounting operations of the university and is responsible for all fiscal services.

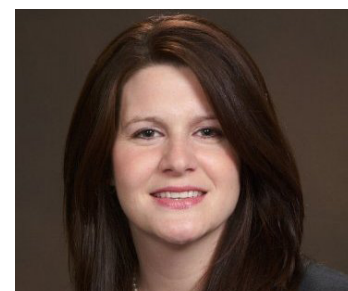
**ROBBIN JOHNSTON ('03, '06)**, director of instrumental music at Clarksville High School, was honored with a 2019 Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation Music Teachers of Excellence Award.



**MELISSA TYNDALL ('04, '07)** presented at the Clute International Conference on Education (ICE) in Orlando, Florida, in December. Her presentation titled "The Age of The Internet and Its Effect on Plagiarism and Creative Theft" received a Best Presentation Award. In addition, Tyndall published poems in Peculiars magazine, Dark Marrow and Vamp Cat Magazine in 2019.

**DR. MELONY SEMBERGER ('06)**, associate professor of journalism and mass communications at Murray State University, is serving a three-year term on the Murray State University Board of Regents. She began her service as faculty regent on July 1, 2019, after being elected by her peers.

**CAROLINE SAWYER ('06)**, assistant professor of communication studies at University of South Carolina Beaufort, is the producer of a PBS South Carolina author series, "By The River."



**STACI HOOKER ('08)** joined FLH Medical, P.C. Finger Lakes Gastroenterology in Finger Lakes, New York, as a family nurse practitioner. She is boardcertified in family medicine by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

**HEATHER CARBAJAL ('13)** was named executive director of the Northeast Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross in Kingsport. She previously served as the disaster program manager of the Mid-West Tennessee Chapter in Jackson.

**BRITTNEY ANTHONY ('17)** is associate director of operations and engagement for The Sycamore Institute, an independent, nonpartisan public policy research center for Tennessee.

**RYNE HARPER ('17)** is a Major League Baseball pitcher who was recently traded by the Minnesota Twins to the Washington Nationals. Harper was originally drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 2011, eventually traded to the Seattle Mariners and later signed with the Twins as a free agent in 2018.



**MARY KATHERINE (KATIE) PALMER ('18, '19)** is an enterprise services project specialist for the RJ Young Company in Nashville. She previously served as a major accounts project specialist and an inbound sales representative with the company.

**JOE WINN ('63)**, a World War II veteran who retired from the Navy in 1959 after 20 years of service, returned to his hometown of Clarksville and completed a degree at APSU in 1963 to become a local high school teacher, where he retired. This December, Winn celebrated his 100th birthday.



## IN MEMORY

**James Lenon Dixon ('65)**  
Sept. 17, 2019

**John Roe Dowlen ('50)**  
Jan. 6, 2020

**Henry Eugene Lentz**  
Sept. 24, 2019

**Monnie Powers**  
Jan. 7, 2020

**Charles Edwin Everhart, retired staff**  
Sept. 25, 2019

**Donald Winters ('68)**  
Jan. 8, 2020

**Alice Lorraine (Welch) Burton**  
Sept. 26, 2019

**William Paul Wallace Sr. ('52)**  
Jan. 26, 2020

**Justin Tyler Kail ('19)**  
Sept. 26, 2019

**Charles Henry Hood, retired staff**  
Feb. 5, 2020

**Jeanetta Hudson Cheatham ('71, '73)**  
Sept. 27, 2019

**Dr. Larry Lowrance, retired faculty**  
Feb. 14, 2020

**Richard Luke Phelan**  
Sept. 27, 2019

**Douglas Donsbach ('76)**  
Feb. 16, 2020

**Mickey Lynn Temps**  
Sept. 29, 2019

**Frank McGregor**  
Feb. 17, 2020

**Arnita Denice Coleman ('87)**  
Sept. 29, 2019

**William Ross Harvey ('52)**  
Feb. 25, 2020

**Martha Williams**  
Oct. 13, 2019

**James Holleman**  
Feb. 29, 2020

**Shirley Wiedeman ('06)**  
Oct. 21, 2019

**Lee Roy Overstreet ('61)**  
March 7, 2020

**Ewing Hester ('69)**  
Oct. 29, 2019

**Harriett Mabry ('73)**  
March 8, 2020

**Jeremy Carpenter, staff**  
Nov. 8, 2019

**Eula Gardner Dowdy ('65)**  
March 9, 2020

**Larry Harris ('74)**  
Nov. 17, 2019

**Darol Walker**  
March 17, 2020

**Robert Lewis Hunt ('84)**  
Nov. 29, 2019

**Charlie Winkler ('69)**  
March 17, 2020

**Clarence Edward Hicks ('74)**  
Dec. 5, 2019

**Peggy Carol Byard ('63)**  
March 19, 2020

**Mary Jo Gee**  
Dec. 14, 2019

**CSM (Ret.) Sidney Brown ('83, '85)**  
Jan. 3, 2020





# GOVS GATHERING

Throughout the year, President Alisa White, Director of Athletics Gerald Harrison, Vice President Ronald Bailey and the APSU Advancement and Alumni staff visit with alumni and friends on campus and around the country. They provide updates on what is happening at APSU, but more importantly, they listen to the stories of former students. They get to hear how APSU played a special role in their lives and why they are proud to “Be a Gov.”

To find an alumni group in your area or if you are interested in organizing one, call the APSU Alumni Relations Office at 931-221-7979. For more information, visit [www.alumni.apsu.edu](http://www.alumni.apsu.edu) or email [alumni@apsu.edu](mailto:alumni@apsu.edu).



**1** APSU Greek alumni reunited on campus last fall for the 2019 Homecoming game.

**2** During Homecoming, the University honored its 2019 Alumni Award recipients. From left, APSU National Alumni Association President Joe Shakeenab ('04), Shan Smith ('78), Dr. Catie Clinard ('11), APSU President Dr. Alisa White, Khandra Smalley ('05), Dee Boaz, Richard Bibb ('65) and Dr. Bryan Johnson ('04).

**3** Each year, we celebrate outgoing seniors with the traditional senior toast event, to honor and recognize those graduating students. APSU and the National Alumni Association to keep students connected to Austin Peay for life. Each of them will always be a part of the APSU Governor family.

**4** APSU alumni relations and the National Alumni Association host a Legacy Luncheon at the beginning of each academic year to welcome all new APSU freshmen and their alumni family members. The Legacy Luncheon allows APSU faculty, staff and legacy families to gather together to celebrate!







**5** The families of several Gov football players became lifelong APSU fans during the 2019 season.

**6** Baseball alumni returned to campus in September to pay tribute to their former head coach, Joe Ellenburg.



## 2020 ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

With the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) now present, all events are tentative.

For the most up-to-date event calendars, visit [www.apsu.edu/alumni](http://www.apsu.edu/alumni).

### JUNE – TENTATIVE

**SUMMER GOVS GATHERINGS**  
We will be visiting the areas of:  
Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN

### JUNE 27

**NAA BOARD MEETING**  
9:30 a.m., Morgan University Center

### JULY 27-AUG. 7 – TENTATIVE

**BRITISH ISLES GO NEXT CRUISE**

### AUG. 20

**NAA LEGACY LUNCHEON**  
Noon, Dunn Center (front lobby)

### SEPT. 26

**APSU BASEBALL REUNION & CLUBHOUSE RIBBON CUTTING**

### NOV. 7

**APSU HOMECOMING APSU VS. TSU**  
3 p.m. kickoff

For the most up-to-date alumni events and National Alumni Association information, visit [www.alumni.apsu.edu](http://www.alumni.apsu.edu)

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

John McGee's story in the Gov News section is certainly an inspiring one, and his method of giving was unique! Did you know that there are many ways to give back to Austin Peay?

### Ways To Give

- Cash donations
- Annual gifts (i.e. bank or credit card donations)
- Estate planning (Donating land, buildings or property such as works of art, etc.)
- Commodity gifts such as stocks and investments
- Equipment donations
- Donation of services such as printing, advertising, etc.
- Company gift matching

Besides having many ways to give, there are also special times to give, including the Candlelight Ball, Comprehensive Campaigns, the annual Govs Give and the biannual Phonathon.



# SOS FOOD PANTRY

Eighty to 100 people use APSU's SOS Food Pantry every week. Help keep students healthy and fed by making a gift — venison, money, vegetables — today. Visit page 37 to see what other types of donations you can make.