

HOST OF THE 116TH MEETING: AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee

The early years—Named for the Tennessee governor and Clarksville resident from whom the school took its name, Austin Peay State University was established in 1927 as a teacher's college with 158 students.

Enrollment—With a combined enrollment of 9,200 on the main campus and at Fort Campbell, APSU broke the 9,000 mark in Fall 2006 for the first time in the University's history. Between 2000–2006, APSU's enrollment increased 30 percent, making it Tennessee's fastest-growing university.

Boasting more Hispanic students than any other Tennessee university, APSU opened the state's first collegiate Hispanic Cultural Center in April 2005. A place where students of all ethnicities can learn about the Latino culture, and located in the Morgan University Center, the Center houses books, videos and computers, one of which has a Spanish keyboard.

Online enrollment continues to climb, with almost 5,000 enrollments in Fall 2006. This fall, APSU began hosting online real-time "chats" between faculty/staff and potential students and their parents.

The campus—During the past six years, Austin Peay State University has undergone an amazing renaissance, receiving national recognition for its top-of-the-line educational facilities. The Robb Report (Home Entertainment, March/April 2006) chose the Concert Hall in the Music/Mass Communication Building as one of the top 10 concert halls in the nation in terms of a blend of aesthetics and acoustics. New York City's Carnegie Hall was among the other nine. In addition to the new Sundquist Science Complex, Morgan University Center and Hand Village, all of which opened during the past six years, the McCord Building reopened in Fall 2006 after

being closed several years. Originally opened for classes in 1949, McCord is now the home of the School of Nursing, School of Geosciences and Agriculture and the Geographic Information System Center.

Later this year, a new 75,000-square-foot student recreation center will open. In addition to an outdoor swimming pool and an indoor walking track, the facility will feature a climbing wall, cardio/weight area, three full-sized basketball courts and four racquetball courts. A new campus master plan calls for more student housing and additional parking areas.

APSU Center at Fort Campbell—The APSU Center at Fort Campbell, located on post in the English Education Center, offers four semesters each calendar year. Each semester lasts eight weeks, and students may take day, night, weekend, online and on-site classes.

Fall 2006 marked another historic first when APSU received permission from the State Building Commission to construct a \$4.7 million education building adjacent to the English Education Center. Of the six universities/colleges offering classes on post, only APSU will have its own building through a long-term land-lease agreement with the United States Army. APSU enrolls more students at its Fort Campbell site than the other five institutions combined.

Academics—For decades, APSU has been known for its outstanding programs in the creative arts, biology, education, business and nursing. Last year, APSU expanded academic offerings with four new minors—Asian studies, global security, geographic information systems and spatial analysis, theatre or dance, as well as environmental studies and family studies. Keeping pace with market demand, APSU offers ten online degrees and hundreds of online classes.

One-of-a-kind programs—When the Institute for Global Security Studies was launched in 2005, APSU became the only Tennessee university to offer such broad, interdisciplinary studies in global security. More recently, APSU became the only university in Tennessee to offer a bachelor's degree in homeland security, and one of only a few schools in the nation to offer a master's degree (MA) in military history.

Recently, two new accelerated programs have been added: the Master of Science in Management (MSM) and the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies (ABSPS). Designed for working adults, the MSM offers classes on weekends and online so students can complete in one year. The ABSPS enables students who have earned an associate degree or the equivalent to complete a bachelor's degree in 14 months or less.

The nursing program is recognized as among the top in the state. Because the number of nursing students is determined, in part, by student/faculty ratio, only 50 students from among



200 applicants are accepted into the nursing program each semester.

Students in APSU's broadcast media program receive real-world experience. Last year, they produced more than 40 live basketball games for cable television. They also streamed video of APSU and local high school graduation ceremonies via the worldwide Web so deployed soldiers could see loved ones graduate.

The Center for Extended and Distance Education—The Center offers the community a number of creative educational opportunities through credit, non-credit, distance, online and contract programs. Whether earning a college degree, training employees, developing professional skills or trying to find a special interest, the Center has something for everyone.

Govs sports—This fall, APSU returned to scholarship football, playing as a Division I-AA independent before returning to the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) in 2007. The APSU football program is the first in OVC history to drop scholarship football and later return with a program that, in 2007, will be capable of supporting the required 60 scholarships.

The university fields a total of 16 sports teams, including men's football, basketball, baseball, cross country, golf and tennis. Women's teams include soccer, basketball, volleyball, cross country, golf, rifle, softball, tennis and indoor and outdoor track.

The arts—Home to the only Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts in Tennessee, APSU sponsors quality arts programs that encourage collaboration between recognized artists and APSU students. The Center offers more than 100 creative writing, music, art and theatre events annually.

The sciences—The stellar science programs at APSU produce outstanding graduates, many of whom are accepted into nationally esteemed graduate schools. With its 60 students, the department of physics and astronomy has more majors than any other university in Tennessee, including The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Recognized nationally for innovation in integrating computing into physics instruction, the faculty guides students into nationally prestigious universities with paid summer internships and graduate fellowships.

The new department of allied health sciences is composed of medical technology and radiologic technology. The chemistry faculty promotes the love of science through community-outreach programs, especially into local schools, and the chemistry club continues to take top national honors for its activities.

The Center of Excellence for Field Biology brings together scholars and students from various biological disciplines to conduct research in many areas of field biology and ecology. The Center provides opportunities for training, research and study with professional field biologists.