



AITP The Printout

The Nashville Chapter
of
The Association of Information
Technology Professionals

December 2008
Chapter Newsletter

Change According to Mama and Aunt Ruby

Our December program is guest night and our speaker is Patsy Hatfield Lawson. Patsy is a professional speaker and storyteller, combining her extensive knowledge of psychology and counseling to provide story programs to offer hope, humor, and understanding.

“Change According to Mama and Aunt Ruby” focuses on adaptations people have to make when they either choose or are forced to make changes in their lives. While telling the amusing story of how Mama and Aunt Ruby and other neighbors coped differently with the changes in their lives, Patsy teaches her audience about good and bad adjustments to change, the stages of change, and how to make the process of change easier.

Patsy Hatfield Lawson is a descendent of four feuding mountain families—the Hatfield/McCoy and the lesser-known Greene/Jones. She grew up in East Tennessee in the Appalachian Mountains. Patsy was surrounded by her parents and some 20 plus aunts and uncles who spent their evenings gathered on the front porch sharing stories. She watched and learned while her family adjusted to change and worked through conflicts while living their traditional mountain values. They shared their knee-slapping humor, keen disappointments, anger, joys, and hard-won wisdom with Patsy.

Patsy shares those memories with audiences, carrying them back to a time of big families, hard work, and country dinners. Her lively, fun-filled presentations about her rural raising allow audiences to see how relationships can be healed, forgiven, understood, tolerated, and resolved with humor and connection. She arms her audiences with new insight into their own work and family relationships.



In addition to “Change According to Mama and Aunt Ruby,” Patsy has a number of other topics she presents at workshops and consultations. She also has produced two story-telling CD’s. Patsy’s web-site id www.patsylawson.com.

Patsy is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Education at Volunteer State Community College and has taught psychology courses there for many years. She is a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and holds licensure as a Marital and Family Therapist. Patsy holds a BA degree from Carson-Newman College and an MS degree from Old Dominion University. Patsy and her family live in Hendersonville.

This should be a great program. Remember that AITP members can bring their spouses/significant others at no cost. If bringing someone, remember to register them in advance.

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Dinner Reservation and Cancellation Policy

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling **Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775** Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775
msimpson@genesco.com.

December Chapter Meeting:

Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt
2613 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
615-327-4707



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the 1983 movie, *WarGames*, the main character, David Lightman, was an extremely bright, but underachieving teenager obsessed with video games. His obsession gets him into some pretty deep trouble with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and nearly starts a thermonuclear war. However, it's the savvy and problem solving he has developed by playing video games that helps pull him and all of North America back from the brink of destruction. Although the idea one rogue teenager is able to cause such chaos is pretty farfetched, the idea that playing video games would help someone tackle real world problems is not...at least not to Tyson Tune, Director of Technology and Development at Good Touch Software. At the November meeting of AITP Nashville, Mr. Tune provided an overview of video game history leading up to present day and made a pretty good case that playing video games develops realistic skills.

The first acknowledged video game was *Tennis for Two* developed in 1958 by William Higinbotham at Brookhaven National Laboratory. It was implemented on an oscilloscope and was similar to a better known commercial game, *Pong*. Since then, a myriad of technological advances and innovations have led to the current landscape where there are basically three types of video games: PC/console games, online massively multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPG) and casual games often played on mobile devices. According to Mr. Tune, at present the PC/console market is the largest at about \$6.2B a year just the software. However, he emphasized the potential growth of the casual game market. These games are simple, quick, and easy to play. They are often played in browsers, but are becoming more and more popular on mobile devices. In fact, one recently released game, *Trism*, made its developer \$250K in its first two months. That's great for the programmer, but what about the person who plays *Trism*, or more probably an MMORPG, endlessly? What do they get out of it? Mr. Tune says plenty!

Mr. Tune explained big games, especially role playing games, involve a great many skills practical to the real world such as problem solving. These games generally involve a progression from determining objectives to planning and achieving them. The games require a variety of social interactions, understanding and adapting to in-game cultures, and understanding the use of control systems. Additionally, the gamer learns an assortment of human machine interfaces, as well as significantly improving visio-motor skills. My Air Force background triggered comparisons to the skill set required to be an effective pilot, but most any employer would be delighted with an employee who could creatively overcome a problem or understand department goals and follow a plan to support reaching them while fitting into the company's work environment. Mr. Tune also emphasized the perseverance and focus of gamers—two more skills sought after by employers.

We certainly learned a lot about the history and current state of video games and Mr. Tune convinced me gamers develop solid knowledge and skills playing games. However, I'm not quite ready to tell my children to put down the books and pick up the game console. As for me, I will continue to grow my knowledge base at AITP Nashville; it's *where IT professionals meet*.

Marshall B. Messamore

AITP President

marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu

AITP New Member Profile

Walker Morrow



Our New Member Profile this month is on W. Walker Morrow who is Vice President of Sales for Laser One, Inc. here in Nashville. This is a new job for Walker—he started with Laser One in June—and a new location. He previously was Branch Manager of the San Diego area office for Lasercycle USA, Inc. Walker was with Lasercycle for over eight years and was an Account Executive with them in both Denver, Colorado and Phoenix, Arizona prior to San Diego.

Walker is a sales professional with a good track record of selling to IT professionals. He has moved to new branch locations and successfully improved sales, Laser One is a leader in the Managed Print Services industry. Walker's goals are to improve Laser One's sales, both locally and nationally.

Walker joined AITP to network and says that professional societies are an excellent way to get to know people after moving to a new area. Walker was raised in Marietta, Georgia and graduated from Georgia Southern University with a BS in Technology Education. He received awards for his Major GPA average (3.64) and his Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity work. One of the reasons Walker came to Nashville is to be closer to his family. His parents have retired and moved to Winchester, TN. He has other family living in Alabama.

Walker has been married to Carmen for about one year. She is from Pittsburgh, but was working in San Diego when she met Walker. Walker says she is an amazing cook. Carmen works in sales for ADP. They have a Boxer named "Cody" and live on the west side of Nashville. One of Walker's many hobbies is photography, which he enjoys immensely.

Walker says his best vacation was the trip they took prior to moving to Nashville. They rented a car in Seattle and drove down the coast to Los Angeles. The coast in California south of Big Sur is spectacular, especially when you are on the side of the road next to the drop-off to the ocean.

Welcome Walker when you see him at the next AITP meeting. Remember he is new to Nashville, so show him our typical "Southern Hospitality."

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2008

Date	Event	Location	Information
December 11	Chapter Meeting (guest night)	Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt	Patsy Hatfield Lawson, Front Porch Productions

SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or Paul@SaundersSystems.com.

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AITP NEW MEMBERS

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jpowlus@mmc.edu

Welcome to our new members!

BLESSED EVENT

Congratulations are in order for Mike and Natalie Eischen on the birth of their new son, Connor David Eischen! He was born on Sunday, 11/2/2008 at 1:21 p.m. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA — SPOUSES FOR FREE!

That's right! If you are a member of AITP you can bring your spouse or significant other to the December chapter meeting and you only pay for yourself at the regular meeting rate. Treat your loved one to the storytelling of Patsy Hatfield Lawson, enjoy the good fellowship of Nashville AITP, and pay no more than you normally do each month. This is our annual special December meeting and if you've joined us in the past you know you're in for a treat. Be sure to register them on time as well as yourself and **WE'LL SEE YOU THERE.**

And be sure to check p.7 for chapter election information.

AITP BOARD ELECTION

It's Election Time in Tennessee! And, just when you thought you wouldn't hear that again for awhile!

Now that we've elected a new US President, it's time to elect your new AITP officers for 2009!

We will be voting on a new slate of AITP officers at our December 11th meeting. Our nominating committee has submitted the following list of nominees for consideration:

President	Tom Clark
Vice President	JP White
Secretary	Ella McGill
Treasurer	Beverly Gibson
Chapter Liaison	Gerald Marquis

We will also be accepting nominations from the floor for these positions at our December 11th meeting. The new officers will assume their duties in January, 2009.

The positions listed above are the elected positions; however, there are other Board and Committee positions available. So, if you would like to get more involved in 2009 but you don't think you want to hold an elected position, please feel free to volunteer in other areas. Most jobs require minimum effort and time and can be very rewarding!

We will look forward to seeing everyone at our December 11th meeting!

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Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

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