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*Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association*

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### Photos

*Your board of directors working on the Connections series at the October 5 meeting.*

*Joe Filippo speaking about Shakespeare's plays at Connections*

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Austin Peay State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by APSU. <http://www.apsu.edu/files/policy/5002.pdf>.

## Connections sets a high standard for quality

**Jim Clemmer**

**O**n Sept. 27 Joe Filippo and Allene Phy-Olsen set a high bar of provocative topic, meticulous preparation and superb delivery in a lively dialogue about the authorship of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets, the first in our new APSURA Connections series of monthly presentations on a wide variety of topics. Their talk was entitled "Shakespeare the playwright and Shakespeare the poet: Are they really the same Shakespeare?"

The backdrop for their presentation was the dearth of biographical information about the historical person from Stratford-upon-Avon named William Shakespeare, which long ago opened the flood-gates for legions of skeptics to question the authenticity of Shakespeare's authorship, especially of the 38 plays attributed to him.



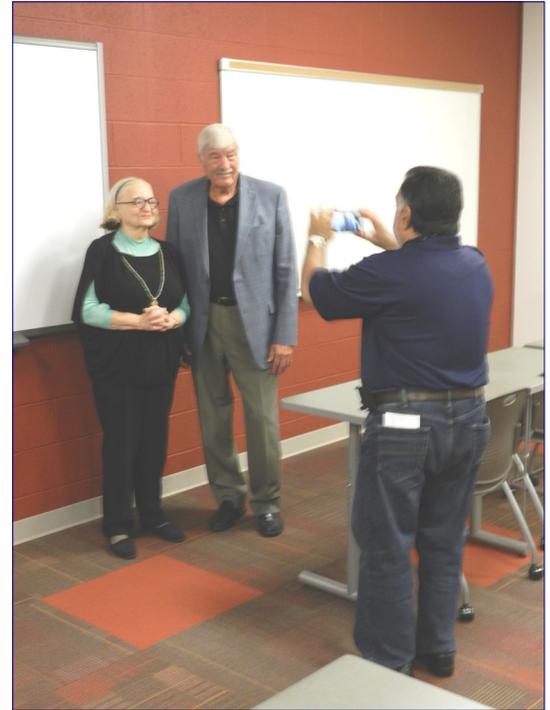
Acknowledging that it is impossible to positively identify any distinct author among the many wonderfully full-featured and wildly dissimilar characters who people Shakespeare's plays, Filippo focused on the arguments for and against the authorship of others who have been said to have that distinction, chiefly Christopher Marlowe, Francis Bacon, and Edward de Vere. The main evidence he cited as discrediting these claims was based on differences in writing style, life-spans, particular skill-sets and apparent breadth of knowledge of history and the world. Filippo left it to us listeners to judge for ourselves the merits of each claim.

Phy-Olsen agreed with Filippo that one can read all of Shakespeare's plays and learn nothing about the identity of the author or authors. But she argued that the same is not true of the sonnets, that the personality and character of a real person, almost certainly the one born in Stratford-

*Phy-Olsen and Filippo posing for Mickey Wadia*

upon-Avon and named William Shakespeare, can be seen in short works. She briefly traced the sonnet sequence tradition from Dante through Petrarch and Michelangelo, emphasizing that these poems are more personal and intimate than other forms of poetry. And most have professed love for an idealized woman, unavailable to the sonneteer through marriage, social status, or death. Shakespeare's sonnets are different in that they speak of both a man and a "dark lady," who are not idealized but experience and cause the joys and disillusionments of real human relationships. Phy-Olsen demonstrated by reading three of Shakespeare's sonnets that he searched for consolation for the "ills that flesh is heir to," finding his ultimate answer in the affirmation of a love which accepts human frailty yet can outlast everything.

This performance by Filippo and Phy-Olsen is already being regarded as a hard act to follow by subsequent presenters, though we are sure they will rise to the occasion. The APSURA "Dream Committee," who over this spring and summer invented the Connections series, envisioned presentations about topics of interest to a lay-but-curious audience, and emulating the quality of the well-known TED TALKS. The title "Connections" suggests that most of our presentations will in some way connect the old and the new, the familiar and the unfamiliar, and the ordinary and the bizarre.



We are delighted to have biologist Jim Thompson and musician Ann Silverberg as our next presenters. Thompson will appear on Tuesday, Oct. 25, in the Maynard building, MMCS, Room 242 from 7-8:15 p.m. His topic will be "The five mass extinctions known for planet Earth: Is it happening again?" This promises to be an intriguing program, and probably a bit scary—just in time for Halloween. Silverberg will appear in November, to discuss her just-completed year in China. All Connections presentations are free and open to the public, and light refreshments are served. Come, and bring your friends.

*Phy-Olsen and Inga Filippo*



*A newly-met young couple (Marcia Adams and Mark Griggs) rendered amorous by talk of Shakespeare's sonnets*



## Coming APSURA events

In addition to the regular round of holiday events that will begin soon, here are four that will be of special interest to APSURANS:

**On TUESDAY, OCT. 25, in the Maynard Building (MMCS) on Eighth St., from 7-8:15 p.m.,** remember that Jim Thompson will be the second presenter in our series of Connections presentations. His topic, which might well provide you a genuine scare for Halloween week, will be “The five mass extinctions known for planet Earth: Is it happening again?” The presentation will be free and open to the public, and refreshments are served. Bring your friends with you, and tell others about this program.

**On SUNDAY AND MONDAY, NOV. 6-7,** some of us will be at Fall Creek Falls State Park for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA). The meeting is usually small (25-35), attended by representatives of the retiree associations at APSU, UofM, UT, ETSU, UTC and other schools. We enjoy learning what is going on in other associations and sharing ideas for the future. This year a major session will be devoted to recent legislative actions affecting universities, most notably affirmative action offices. It is also a recreational and social occasion, with families coming along to go hiking, biking and birding. State retirees also get a sizable discount during this season. If you would like to go, write Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) for more information.

**On WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9, from 4-6 p.m., in MUC Room 303,** APSURA and HR will present our joint STAR seminar, “Straight Talk about Retirement” for employees considering or preparing for retirement.

This is probably the most important single service APSURA provides the university community. This year Hester Crews and George Mabry will set the stage with short keynote comments about the challenges of retirement and advice from their own experiences about meeting those challenges. Then HR Benefits Manager Angie Judish and representatives from TCRS, SS, TIAA-CREF



and other sources will provide detailed information about the timelines, deadlines, whens and hows of retiring. Please come to this most important meeting if you can, and spread out among the tables to give moral support and advice to these people approaching a most important event of their later lives.

**On TUESDAY, DEC. 13, from 2-3:30 p.m. in Archwood,** President White will host her annual holiday reception for retirees, where we often see those we seldom encounter elsewhere. It is always good to catch up on their lives and stories.

## Provost Rex Gandy addresses APSURA Fall Luncheon

**W**e were happy to welcome APSU Provost Dr. Rex Gandy as speaker for our well-attended Fall Luncheon, held on Sept. 14 at The Looking Glass Restaurant on Warfield Blvd.

Following an enjoyable prelude of socializing and a good lunch of chicken salad and crab cakes, Dr. Gandy brought us up to date on some of the recent and ongoing changes at APSU, especially the addition of the former Jenkins and Wynne properties to our campus and the reordering of administrative functions accompanying the shift of governance from the TBR to an independent board of trustees. He emphasized that securing a substantial increase in growth—from around 10,000 to 15,000 students—is a primary administrative priority.



*Provost Rex Gandy*

*Hester Crews and Tammy Delvendahl*

One of our board members had earlier asked Dr. Gandy to spend some time telling us of his early life and formative influences, topics often omitted by speakers holding important positions about which they have much to report. Gandy acknowledged that he was seldom asked to talk about himself, then he launched into a fascinating account of an upbringing and schooling, much of it in the Memphis area, that provided encouragement and opportunity for growth in many directions.



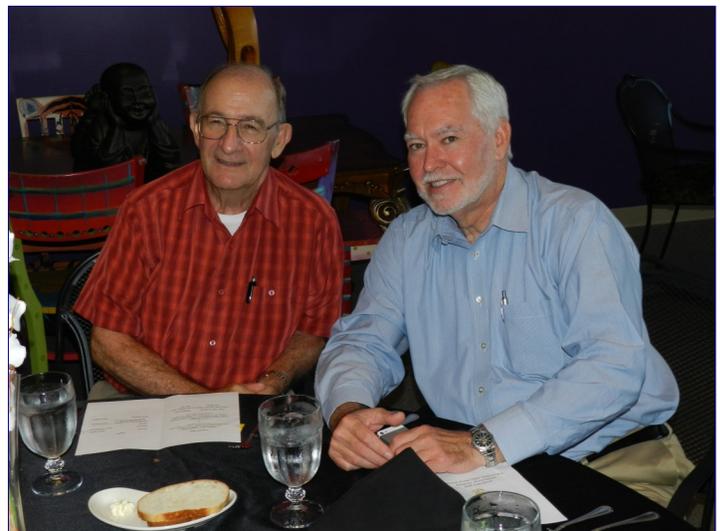
He had early on exhibited special talent in mathematics, which had led to his winning first place in a state-wide student math contest held, ironically, at Austin Peay. He also remembered that while

here he saw and enjoyed the operetta "Candide," produced by our music department.



*Anne Der*

*Dewey Browder and Mitch Robinson*





## The Charge of the Bike Brigade

Joe Filippo

**A**PSURA members once again answered the call on Saturday, Sept. 3, as they volunteered for the eighth time to assist in the yearly Sunrise Rotary Century, a 100 mile bicycle ride. Sponsored by the Sunrise Rotary Club, the ride was coordinated by the club's president-elect, David Davenport. The Sunrise Century Ride, which attracts about 1,000 people from throughout the United States and other countries, requires many volunteers, and this is where APSURA members shine.

For those of you new to APSURA: No, we did not do the riding, though some of us plan to do the short, 33-mile route someday. APSURA was asked to support riders by staffing two rest stops along the 100-mile route. We were assigned rest stops within a quarter of a mile of one another in Trenton, Ky., one for bikers as they traveled north through Kentucky, the other for the bikers as they came back through Trenton on a different route, headed south.

APSURA President David Kanervo led the charge by coordinating the two groups as they set up tents, filled coolers with Gatorade and water, provided numerous nutrition bars for quick energy, and supplemented



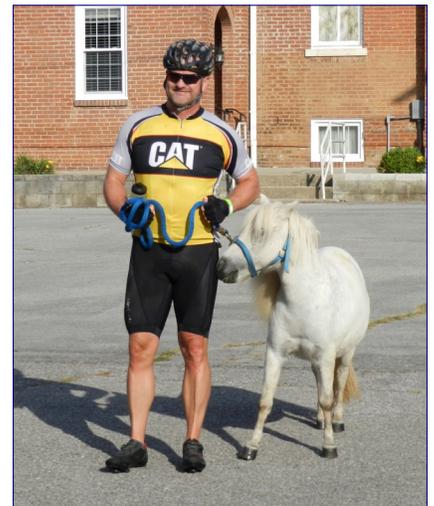
with unending quantities of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and bananas. The speed with which Kathryn Kemmerly and Nancy Smithfield had to assemble the sandwiches rivaled the pace of Lucy and Ethel in the chocolate factory.

Kanervo's loyal members, some of whom appear in the photos, served bikers exceptionally well, even receiving individual cheers from time to time. One APSURA member was heard to exclaim, "I haven't worked this hard since I retired!" Yet, it was clearly a labor of love and an opportunity to enjoy special fellowship in serving an activity that merits retirees' consideration in years to come.



*Aleeta and Floyd Christian*

*Not your usual bike ride participant*



## MEMBERS AS OF OCT. 11, 2016

Your officers and board appreciate each and every one of you. For questions about your membership status, write Membership Director Nancy Smithfield at smithfieldn@apsu.edu or Treasurer Nancy Irby at nanirb63@yahoo.com (552-0208).

Lawrence Baggett	Durward Harris	Sheila Pirkle
Al Bekus	Joan Harris	Bob Privett**
Dewey Browder*	Sherry Hoppe*	Jeannie Randall*
Richard Brown**	Al Irby**	Mitch Robinson
JoeAnn Burgess*	Nancy Irby**	Ann Ross
John Butler*	Hazel Irwin	Shelia Ross
LuAnnette Butler*	David Kanervo	Linda Rudolph*
Aleeta Christian	Ellen Kanervo	Linda Sitton*
Floyd Christian	Kathryn Kemmerly*	Norma Jean Smith
Jim Clemmer**	Phil Kemmerly*	David Smithfield
Hester Crews**	Carolyn Lander**	Nancy Smithfield*
Arthur Eaves	John Lander**	Diane Sperry
Joe Filippo**	George Mabry*	Bill Taylor**
Inga Filippo**	Betty McClain*	James Thompson
Solie Fott	Leon McQueen*	Linda Thompson
Sara Gotcher	Harriett McQueen	Thelma Watson
Mark Griggs	Anna Murray*	Eloise Weatherspoon*
Jim Hancock	Chris Nussbaumer	Jerry Weatherspoon*
Nancy Hancock	Allene Phy-Olsen	Robert Wibking*
Rae Hansberry*	Pam Pickard	Barbara Wilbur*

\*means 5-yr membership  
\*\*means lifetime member

**Officers**

*David Kanervo, President  
Floyd Christian, Vice-President  
Nancy Irby, Treasurer  
Barbara Wilbur, Secretary*

**Directors**

*Eloise Weatherspoon  
Nancy Smithfield  
Joe Filippo  
Mitch Robinson  
Phil Kemmerly  
George Mabry  
Aleeta Christian (ex officio)*

**Publicity Director**

*Jim Clemmer  
clemmerj@apsu.edu*

**Address**

*APSU Retirees Association  
Box 4426  
Clarksville, TN 37044*

**On the Web**

*apsu.edu/retirees-association*

*See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, a retirement checklist, and information on retiree benefits.*

**Publication Information**

*The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published occasionally to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and NewsNotes are available at [apsu.edu/retirees-association](http://apsu.edu/retirees-association).*

*We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries and other experiences as APSU retirees.*

*Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) with photographs sent individually as separate .jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.*

*Please let us know of retirees who for some reason are not receiving the Newsletter, and of errors or needed changes in your own name and address. If you would prefer not to receive the printed copy of the Newsletter, please notify Membership Director Nancy Smithfield ([smithfieldn@apsu.edu](mailto:smithfieldn@apsu.edu)). If you are not a member of APSURA but would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please notify Nancy Smithfield and provide her your preferred email address.*

## APSURA Members Registration Form

New member    Renewing member    Retired faculty or staff    Associate member  
Check both of the above-right boxes if your spouse or partner is joining or renewing as an associate member.

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_ Ms\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name of member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Name of spouse/partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street (Apartment Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Telephones: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

Former department: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of service \_\_\_\_\_ Year you retired \_\_\_\_\_

Activities in which you would like the APSURA to be involved (check all that apply):  Group travel;  Athletic events;  Cultural events;  Social events;  Scholarship activities;  Seminars;  Community work;  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership    \$25.00   Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044  
Associate Membership    \$25.00    5 years for \$100  
Additional donation for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_  Lifetime Membership \$500