



BRANCH NEWS



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FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Date: Sunday, February 19, 2012
3:30 p.m. Reception, 4:00 p.m. Program

Place: The University Club of Winter Park

Program: Scholars' Reception

Scholars' Reception

Please join us for our reception where our 2012 ESU scholars will be introduced and presented with their scholarship checks for summer study in the United Kingdom.

- Linda Wheeler, Vice President Scholarships

Date: Monday, February 27, 2012
4:00 p.m. Program, Reception follows

Place: The University Club of Winter Park

Program: Annual Shakespeare Competition

Annual Shakespeare Competition



Annually the Central Florida ESU sponsors a Shakespeare Competition for Orange, Seminole, and Osceola county students in grades 9-12. Each student, who is the winner at his or her own school, memorizes and presents a Shakespearian sonnet and also a twenty-line passage from one of the plays. The Central Florida winner is then given an all-expense paid trip to New York to compete in the National ESU Shakespeare Competition. The first place winner in New York is given a scholarship to study at the British American Drama Academy the following summer. Please come to cheer them on and support the youth of our community.

- Ginger Bryant, Vice President Shakespeare Competition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Message, continued



As you know, the tagline for the English-Speaking Union is "Education, Scholarship, Understanding." And soon you will be able to see that tagline in action.

In February we will host two very important sessions relating to that: first, the introduction of the newly selected scholars who will travel in Great Britain in the summer of 2012 which will occur February 19 and second, the annual Shakespeare competition will be held February 27. This message will provide you with some background on each of these events so you can be fully prepared when they occur. Let's go.

The British Universities Summer Schools Program is available to local secondary and college teachers for three weeks of study at the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh and Shakespeare's Globe in London. Thanks to the generous bequest of the Jessie Drey Endowment, we are able to fund airfare, tuition, residence, board, and some incidental expenses. Applications are due no later than January 6 and interviews are held a few weeks later. In the past we have been able to underwrite as many as six scholarships.

So what are the requirements for this summer study? First, the scholarships are offered only to educators in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties. Applicants must have completed at least four years of full-time teaching English, humanities, drama or history and must intend to remain in the classroom at least three years in Central Florida.

They must also submit an essay explaining how this study will enhance them professionally and how their schools and students will benefit. They are also required to submit official college transcripts showing courses taken and grades attained and must submit a letter of recommendation from a school administrator.

And since they are aware in advance of our February 19 meeting, they should all be in attendance.

Application forms are available online at the ESU Central Florida website.

The Shakespeare Competition occurs February 27 and is limited to our Central Florida area of Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties. Last year 18 schools participated; they are supplied with all of the materials needed to hold competitions in their schools. We are hoping for more schools' participation this year in order to increase and grow the com-

petition. Each of the winners from the schools' local competitions are then entered in our final competition. Again, through the generosity of the Drey Endowment we are able to award the winner a monetary prize. That winner then goes on to national competition in New York City along with other winners from throughout the United States. Last year one of our entrants from Oviedo High School was a finalist and a few years ago we had a second place winner, Sophia Wise.

So I'm hoping to see all of you at each of these fine events.

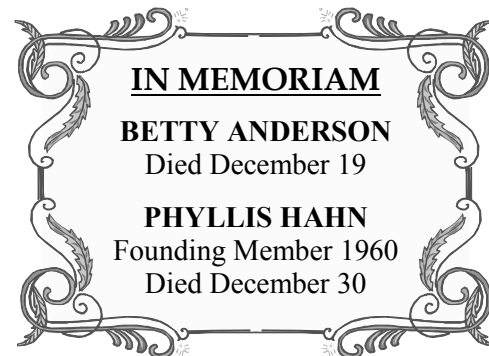
Diane Sandquist
President



POETRY CONTEST

Pictured above are the winners of a Poetry Contest recently conducted on *Twitter* by our Student Branch at Winter Park High School. A team of teachers selected the winners who received prizes of gift cards to Barnes & Nobles Books. What a nice compliment that we have students interested in writing poetry in their own medium. Way to go!

Left to Right: Nick Morelly, Runner Up, Michelle Blake, First Place, Jackie Rodriguez, Runner Up



YEARBOOK REMINDER

If you have not yet picked up a current ESU Yearbook and would like one, please contact Gisela Davis at 407-339-7196 or gisela41@cfl.rr.com.

This is Installment VII of the Report by J. Aubrey Sutton, Branch President, 1967-1969 covering the English-Speaking Union Jubilee Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1968. Included are a look at the future by Edmond de Rothschild, Walter Cronkite, and a lady introduced as “one of the foremost economists in the world.”

Nick Leo, VP Communications

INSTALLMENT VI

Tuesday afternoon, the theme was “The Links of English in Business and Technology.” Several prominent business men spoke. The most interesting speech to me was made by Edmond de Rothschild, senior partner in Rothschild and Sons, Bankers. Mr. Walter Low, president of the Royal Bank of Scotland, presided. He stated that two-thirds to three-quarters of the world’s leading business men spoke good English. It is at its lowest ebb in Europe due to nationalism. Mr. Rothschild painted a vivid picture of the Space Age Challenge. By 1974 the normal computer will be no larger than a carton of cigarettes. A society whose catchwords are success instead of service, leisure instead of work, rights instead of duties, must come to grief and disillusionment. What is needed if man in the ’70s is to survive is to reverse the tide of restlessness and frustration and to change radically our focus in human relations. The real challenge to modern man is how to keep pace as a spiritual being with the accelerating snowball of his own discoveries.

To return again to the Banquet at Mac-Roberts Pavillion, Walter Cronkite, the speaker, mentioned, to quote—Already television, unintentionally, is speeding the desire of nations to speak English. Programs produced by the U.S., England, and Canada are becoming a staple in many parts of the world. It would be a shame if this powerful medium was not turned to capitalizing on the audience interest by teaching English, rather than merely displaying it. The shortage of teachers of English can be bridged with film for television. He predicted English would become universal. He gave an excellent speech.

Thursday, July 4th. The morning session was treated to a speech by Lady Jackson (Barbara Ward), a most attractive, dynamic, and convincing speaker.

Lord Killbranon, in introducing her said, “She is one of the foremost economists in the world, and one of the brightest stars in Britain’s intellectual firmament.” In her speech Lady Jackson said, “If we are to survive and achieve global order, while still on the brink of the unknown, we must plan for all mankind, the institutions of a domestic society.” Three minimum conditions are necessary. (1) The rule of law, (2) the general welfare, and (3) some sense of citizen goodwill. She suggests a solution lies in (1) scaling down the instruments of total destruction, (2) steady support and building up the international police forces, which could be available on a controlled and impartial basis, and (3) evolve intermediate institutions through which a wider world order can be localized and shared by all nations. Eighty percent of the world’s income goes to twenty percent of the world’s people, largely living around the North Atlantic. We must end an idiocy by which we spend one hundred fifty billion dollars on defense with less security, and begin to think in this unlimited way, not of destruction but for the works of peace.

HORSES, READING, AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS - A DREY EDUCATION PROJECT

Do you remember reading *The Black Stallion* when you were quite young? Through a Drey Grant, Orange County elementary students, fifteen hundred of them, are involved this year in the literacy project that started with Walter Farley’s children’s classic. Now known as The Horse Tales Project, the program is expanding its activities to other popular horse stories like *Black Beauty* as well as after-school events. A national program with proven success, it has been serving Central Florida students for a number of years.

Donna Miller, V.P. Drey Endowment



The English-Speaking Union

Central Florida Branch
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ESU PROGRAMS 2011-2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ☉ March 19 – Mtg. at the University Club
- ☉ April 9 – Dinner at Maison & Jardin
- ☉ May 14 – Mtg. at the University Club

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS!**

- Michele Dershimer
- Glendora Larson

FLORIDA POETS PROJECT

The ESU’s two-year Florida Poets Project is well under way. Executive Producer Maurice (Socky) O’Sullivan and his Technical Director Bill Dudley have completed filming about half the segments for what will be the most comprehensive set of interviews with poets from the Sunshine State ever attempted. A DVD with all the segments will be available in October 2012, just in time for Florida’s Quincentennial in 2013. Socky has some of the ten to twelve minute segments in a fairly good—but not final—form and would be glad to send any interested ESU members a sample featuring Peter Meinke, the Poet Laureate of St. Petersburg. He can be contacted at *mosullivan@rollins.edu*.

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH
Membership Application**

I wish to become a member of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch. A check for my dues is enclosed.

Please send a check for \$45 (single membership) or \$60 (couple membership) to the **English-Speaking Union, PO Box 758, Winter Park, FL 32790-0758.**

Name and Spouse’s Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone, Fax, and Email _____

Visit the ESU Central Florida website at *www.esuus.org* (Branches, Central Florida) for more information.