

Charlottesville, A Fitting Place For An ESU Regional Meeting: Great Hospitality, Good Discussions And Rain!

About 45 people gathered for the Region IV meeting in Charlottesville, hosted by the Charlottesville branch and Phil Williams, ESU president. Those who attended our Port Tasting last December will remember Phil as Mr. Dickens, pipe and all.

Phil and Marilyn hosted a lovely dinner at Lionsgate, their home. We enjoyed meeting the movers and shakers of the C'ville branch. I even spotted a couple of possible speakers for the future—and a couple of fellows who do a presentation (along with tasting and food) on English pubs.

We learned from other branches that membership is increasing in most branches that were represented. Educational programs are effective; they are engaging schools, teachers and students. Most branches have Shakespeare competitions. Al Gordon of Lexington, VA, leads an outstanding program and will inaugurate a workshop for teachers this summer at the Black Friar's theater in Staunton.

Two students from the Charlottesville competition were present for part of the meeting and performed their sonnets and monologues. They were a big hit.

Our Sandhills debate program was praised for its success and for being the first of four experimental efforts this year sponsored by the NY Headquarters. We expect to continue our program next year but to direct it locally.

Chris Broadwell from New York headquarters brought news of other branches and explained the process of central billing for all of us who will begin that effort this year. Mark Stollar, our new Vice-Chairman, talked about his team who are working on refining and elaborating the mission of ESUUS.

Joy Harris, our Region IV director, turned over the gavel to yours truly.

I will assume the role as of July 1 and join Jim Williford as a member of the National Board. I hope to be able to increase communication and co-operation among our 9 branches in NC and SC. We can learn from each other and even undertake some programs collaboratively. Already three branches in Virginia are beginning to sponsor programs jointly.

Phil arranged an entertaining and educational afternoon at the Jefferson Education Center at Monticello. The center is directed by Andrew O'Shaughnessy, a most knowledgeable and attractive scholar whom I hope will come to Pinehurst in 2011. He has a new

book coming out about the view of the American Revolution from the standpoint of George III and the leaders at court in London. Some of us visited Monticello which is always interesting. Well-informed docents shepherd visitors now.



ESU Sandhills Branch President Alice Irby

ESU Sandhills is Delighted to Welcome these New Members

Francesca Aaron	Jack & Linda Kennard
Bill & Bonnie Berger	Ann P. Lewis
Bryant & Katherine Bozarth	James & Bose Obi
Penny Enroth	Ronald Schuch
David Griffin	Richard Schwoob
Ed Gunther	Kim Spears
Bill & Tess Gillespie	Bob & Bonnie Springer
Sarah Hargrove	Geraldine Turk
Phil Husted & Judy Edwards	Charles & Rosemary Zuhone

ESU Scholarship Committee

The ESU Scholarship Committee supports continuing education opportunities for Moore County teachers to study in Great Britain. The British University Summer School has three week courses on topics such as history, politics, and society at Oxford University, British literature at Oxford and the University of Edinburgh, and teaching Shakespeare at the Globe Theater. The Walter Hines Page Scholarship supports 2-3 weeks of independent study in the U.K., with the recipient designing his or her own specialized program of study related to specific teaching interests at home.

This year the Sandhills Branch will send Mr. Larry Hanover, a history teacher at Pinecrest High School, to Oxford for the History, Politics, and Society course. He is particularly interested in enhancing his teaching of the World History and Western Civilization curricula at Pinecrest.



The Sandhills Speaker

The English-Speaking Union
Sandhills Branch

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Our Mission

The English-Speaking Union of The United States is committed to promoting scholarship and the advancement of knowledge through the effective use of English in an expanding global community.

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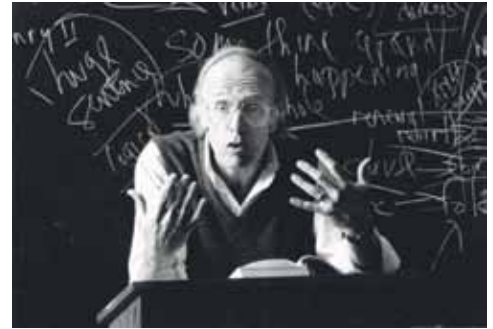
Jim Williford

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Shakespeare's Richard II: "A Study of Brilliant Villainy"

On Wednesday, April 14th at the Country Club of North Carolina Dr. J. Dennis Huston will speak. His topic will be Shakespeare's Richard II: A Study of Brilliant Villainy. The presentation will highlight Richard (II/III) as a kind of hero/villain, someone who appeals at first to our sympathy and then by his acts of violence we find that we have been fooled and we feel betrayed and deceived. Richard is Shakespeare's first great evil character.

Dr. Huston is a professor of English at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Both his Master's and Ph.D. degrees were earned at Yale University. Yale awarded Dr. Huston the Wilber Cross Medal of the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, this is the highest honor awarded for outstanding achievement in professional life. His investigative areas are Shakespeare, drama and film. Dr. Huston is presently doing research in preparation for a new course in contemporary American drama. His teaching awards are numerous: several among many Nicholas Salgo Distinguished Teacher Award (three recognitions).



He has been invited to lecture many times in the past years and his large listing of topics that include his expertise on:

Shakespeare, film, drama, and the teaching of writing and detective fiction. His books include Classics of the Renaissance Theater and Shakespeare's Comedies of Play.



2010 ESU Shakespeare Competition



On Saturday, February 27, 2010 the Shakespeare competition was held at the Sunrise Theatre. If you weren't there you missed a great day. Nine students from 5 area high schools competed. They started in a group of 173 students overall. All performed both a sonnet and a speech from Shakespeare. The level of work being attempted by these local students is inspiring. The students and teachers who work towards this day are learning the beauty and difficulties of the English language and also how to conquer some of the world's most demanding text.

Headed by Vertrees and Alice Hollingsworth, the day was not just a huge success for the students, but also for members who came to both the competition and luncheon. The luncheon included a speaker, Lon

Baumgarner, who has been a producer, director, and teacher of film and theatre for over 28 years. Lon presently holds the post of lecturer at UNC Charlotte.

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The top prize went to Ms. Blake Schrein, a senior at Union Pines High School. Mr. Andrew Sobeiro, a Pinecrest High School student, was the second place winner. Blake will go to NYC for the national finals competition and will also tour the city, take acting classes and go to a gala. She will compete with the hope of winning the ultimate prize of a scholarship for summer study in the United Kingdom. The runner up of the New York finals will receive \$1000, from the National ESU and the third place winner will be awarded \$500 by the Shakespeare Society.

The luncheon was held at The Jefferson Inn, where Lon Baumgarner presented an entertaining, informative and exciting look for Shakespeare's true identity. The members were thrilled with the entire day.

Many thanks to Vertrees and Alice, Polly Schechter and the other individuals who helped make this a vital event for the students and teachers. If you are smart you will put next year's Shakespeare competition on your calendar. You won't want to miss it!

Greetings!

For those of you who did not attend our ESU evening event in March, I want to tell you about our proposal for a program in memory of George Lane. Your Board decided to invite all members to contribute funds to underwrite a program next year in George's memory.

A couple of years ago, George wanted to add variety to our programs. He learned about and engaged the two gentlemen interpreters from Williamsburg, Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Adams for our November meeting. Their "debate" was a bit hit. George personally sponsored the \$2000 cost of that event.

This year we were able to have an interpreter of Teddy Roosevelt. An event which also proved to be very popular. Next year, we have an opportunity to have a Lincoln interpreter and scholar. We estimate the fee and expenses to be approximately \$2000.

George Lane loved ESU and believed it to be an important and significant organization in the Sandhills. He increased the number of programs we enjoy; he pursued our educational goals with the Moore County schools; and he brought ideas and leadership to the English Speaking Union. It seems a fitting tribute to George, to fund the Lincoln program with contributions from our members.

Thank you to those of you who have already contributed. We are making good progress but still have a way to go to reach our goal of \$2000. So, if you haven't heard about the opportunity - or misplaced the envelope from last time - it's not too late. Just send your check to Jane Galan or ESU, P.O. Box 548, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Alice Orby, President

ESU Middle School Debate Pilot Program



The English Speaking Union of the United States has launched a new pilot program, in partnership with the Associated Leaders of Urban Debate (ALoud), to expand debate opportunities for middle school students, grades 6, 7, and 8. In this pilot phase, four Branches, Sandhills/Pinehurst (North Carolina), Columbus (Ohio), Cleveland (Ohio) and Kentucky, are undertaking initiatives to test what formats could work best in a broad-based national debate program. The New York Branch has also assisted with existing ALoud debate program developments efforts in New York City.

Under the leadership of ESU National Board member Jim Williford, the Sandhills Branch completed the first pilot debate in November. Will Baker, Executive Director of ALoud, worked with the Branch on the full-day debate tournament with teams from six middle schools in Moore County. The eleven teachers/coaches chose as their first tournament topic the issue of health care reform.



Pictured are two West Pine Middle School students who took top place, Mason Magruder and Alex Snyder, with Jim Williford.

Upcoming Events



May 4th - Dr. Christopher Mulvey

"The English Language in Virginia and the Carolinas"
Dr. Mulvey will be focusing on the development of 'American English' from the time it was first spoken in the New World in Virginia and the Carolinas.

2010-2011 ESU Program Preview

October 13, 2010 - Ty Cobb

Tyrus W. Cobb is the grand nephew of the famous baseball outfielder, Ty Cobb. He is also a highly qualified speaker on Current affairs and political realities particularly in Pakistan and Afghanistan and India. He is a retired Colonel in the US Army, a graduate of West Point with a Ph.D. in national security studies. He has served in Vietnam, the former Soviet Union, and other locations abroad. He served as a Special Assistant to President Reagan in the National Security Council. Later he served as President of an NGO, "Business Executives for National Security. He is currently the Department of Defense' public liaison for the state of Nevada.

November 10, 2010 - Lynne Olson (as seen on TV)

Citizens of London

The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour
One of Amazon's Best Books of the Month for February
"Citizens of London is a great read about a small band of Americans and their courageous role in helping Britain through the darkest days of early World War II. I thought I knew a lot about that dangerous period but Lynne Olson has taught me so much more. --Tom Brokaw

December 5 or 12, 2010

Jack Kennard on Jack Daniels and Bourbons

BONUS LUNCH MEETING !

This is what we hope will be an ongoing Holiday Spirits event. Mr. Kennard is former Sr. V.P. for Jack Daniels and will walk us through the history of that bourbon (which is not really a bourbon) and will speak on bourbons in general. The lunch menu will be designed with the chef at CCNC using recipes from the Jack Daniel's Exec. Dining Room chef. The only food pairing will be the dessert, heavily chocolate with 3 or so bourbons to taste with that.

January 12, 2011

Master Sergeant Shawn Davis and Mrs. Davis

A ground up look at Special Forces recruiting, training, missions etc. And time with Mrs. Davis for a glimpse into the life of a Special Forces wife and the stresses and demands of that very special roll.

Feb. 9, 2011

Paul Hecht, Bob Kaliban, Ellen Mandel and Joyce Reehling

The poetry of Ogden Nash with original music by Ellen Mandel
Mr. Hecht: has performed on and off Broadway, in radio, TV and Film. He records books and appears in literary events such as Selected Shorts for NPR. Tony nominee for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead and won the Obie for Pirandello's Henry IV.

Mr. Kalaban: Appeared on B'way in the original How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying and Ben Franklin in Paris. Bob has done countless on-camera commercials, radio spots and voice-overs. He appears on TV on shows such as Law & Order. He was the President of the NY Screen Actors Guild and remains a union trustee for the SAG Health and Retirement Plans.

Joyce Reehling: has appeared on and off B'way. She was a member of the prestigious Circle Repertory Company in NYC where she originated many plays for notable playwrights. She made many on-camera commercials, radio spots and voice-overs. She has been seen on Law & Order, Ed, NYPD Blue. She did daytime drama which will soon be a dead "art".

Ellen Mandel has created music for over fifty plays, scored four films and released three CD's.

March 9, 2011 - Doug Sandridge

Mr. Sandridge will speak on energy sources in the USA, what do they mean for the future, the environment and a look at alternative energy & SMART Grid technology. Mr. Sandridge has worked as a roustabout right up through a Masters in Global Energy Management. We are asking for plain English descriptions of what is out there and what the status quo would mean to us as a nation.

April 13, 2011

Fritz Klein will enact President Abraham Lincoln



Tom Reedy is working with Mr. Klein to develop an "interview" on his way to Gettysburg, in which Tom will ask the President questions dealing with the 'current' affairs that swirl around him... and ask him what he expects to say in his speech. We will be working with Mr. Klein to tailor the evening and allowing him to speak to us as Lincoln... we expect he will allow pictures afterward as Gib Young did.

May 11, 2011 NC Writers Panel . . . In development