



**Denver Branch**  
**The English-Speaking Union**  
*Education. Scholarship. Understanding.*  
**July-August 2018 Newsletter**

---

**Executive Committee**

President: Michael Thornton  
 Treasurer: Charles Thompson  
 Program Chair: Mary McLean  
 Bonnie Pritchett

---

**Board of Directors**

July 2016 – June 2019: Polly Cox  
 Kathleen Murphy  
 Charles Thompson  
 July 2017 – June 2020: Basil Carpenter  
 Cindy Poinsett  
 Bonnie Pritchett  
 Susan Stokley

**Board of Director Nominees:**

*July 2018-June 2019*     *Aimee Arens*  
*July 2018-June 2021*     *Christine DiNunzio*  
                                       *Niccole Guagliardo*  
                                       *Todd Madison*  
                                       *Mary McLean*  
                                       *Jeannine Mortell*  
                                       *Lauren Wasser*

---

**Committee Chairs**

Education: Sue Stokley  
 Finance and Governance: Polly Cox  
 Membership: Mary McLean  
 Program: Bonnie Pritchett

**Education Program Coordinators**

Teachers Learning: Kate Murphy  
 Abroad UK: Michael Thornton  
 Dr. Howard F. Beckley  
 Writing Competition: Aimee Arens  
 Sue Stokley  
 Shakespeare Competition: Cindy Poinsett

---

**Secretary/Administrator** Cami Van Anne  
**ESU Denver Branch**  
**Address** 5930 South Cimarron Way  
 Littleton CO 80123  
**Voicemail** 303-755-1752  
**Email** [denver@esuus.org](mailto:denver@esuus.org)  
**Web Site** [www.esuus.org/denver](http://www.esuus.org/denver)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/ESUDenver/>

**PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

Happy Independence Day,

It’s significant that the day Americans proclaim their patriotism before all derives from our push to free ourselves from the reign of the English King in the 1770s, yet the English Speaking Union strives to connect us to England and its wide berth as a commonwealth. By emphasizing English in Action, the ESU promotes and supports the use of English for education, scholarship, and understanding around the globe. First England had its empire upon which the sun never set, and then America’s soft imperialism seconded English as a language for diplomacy worldwide. We support teachers and students, and soon immigrants, in honing their command of English, through educational and cultural programs. The national board of directors sees the ESU becoming a relevant, prominent, national educational charity as it celebrates its centenary in 2020.

The Denver chapter of the ESU wants to host more lectures and educational gatherings. We will continue to sponsor our annual dinners and meetings devoted to teachers who are awarded fellowships to study in Great Britain, students who compete in the Shakespeare competition and who write essays for the Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition, and lecturers from Oxford. Most of our social events revolve around these educational activities. I ask you to renew your membership, to take advantage of our cultural events, and to support education through our English in Action endeavors in the Denver area. Thank you for your alliance through the last year, and I hope that we can expand our events to include lectures and field trips that everyone will want to attend.

Michael Thornton  
 President, Denver Branch of the English Speaking Union



## Shakespeare In Boulder

It is time for the annual ESU Colorado Shakespeare Festival Outing!

This year, a group of Denver Branch members and guests will attend a performance of William Shakespeare's *Love's Labours Lost* on Sunday, July 29 at 7 pm at the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre.

The group will enjoy a potluck picnic on the CU Boulder campus green prior to the performance.

Email [denver@esuus.org](mailto:denver@esuus.org) or phone 303-755-1752 today to check on ticket availability!

## Save the Date Upcoming ESU Calendar

**Sunday  
July 8, 2018**

Annual Meeting  
Cherry Creek Country Club  
11:00 am – 1:30 pm

**Sunday  
July 29, 2018**

ESU at Colorado Shakespeare Festival, CU Campus, Boulder, Pot-luck picnic before 7:00 performance Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre

**Saturday  
Sept. 15, 2018**

Board Meeting  
Common Room, Saint John's Cathedral, 9:30-11:30 am



## Updated Member Addresses

Kay Johnson  
c/o Vicky Day  
1077 Race Street, #404  
Denver, CO 80206

# NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

Members will vote at the Annual Meeting to approve nominees to the Denver Branch Board of Directors.

## *Board Nominee (1 year term):*

### **Aimee Arens**

Aimee Arens is an English teacher at East High School, where she has taught for the past 14 years. She has a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado, and studied abroad at the University of Oxford, England. Aimee is the Director of the A+ Angels Mentor Program at East High School which pairs adult volunteers from the community with students to help them navigate the obstacles of high school. Aimee has served on the ESU Board for the past 3 years as co-chair of the Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition.

## *Board Nominees (3 year term):*

### **Christine DiNunzio**

Christine DiNunzio is a teacher at Denver East High School. She has background degrees in journalism and counseling, and her licensure in Language Arts, specializing in ELA. She teaches World Literature, ELA, and Newspaper. Christine is a 2018 TLab Fellow and is attending the Oxford's History, Politics, and Society Program this summer. As Christine joins the Board, she will be an integral part of the launch of the Denver Branch "English in Action" one-on-one, tutoring program.

### **Niccole Guagliardo**

Niccole is a teacher in the Language Arts Department at Overland High School in Cherry Creek Schools. Niccole has her MBA as well as a doctorate in Education. She teaches AP Language, Honors 10, and Film Studies. Niccole was awarded a 2018 TLab scholarship and is attending Oxford as part of that program this summer. We are thrilled that Niccole has accepted a position on the Denver Branch Board and she is ready to start working on the Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition Committee.

### **Todd Madison**

Todd Madison has taught literature and film at East High School for twenty years. After being selected by the ESU to study Shakespeare and Modernism at Oxford University in the summer of 2015, he helped start the board's Global English Initiative, dedicated to emphasizing English-language literature and scholarship around the world. Recently, Todd's interest in film has led to his joining the Telluride Film Festival as a high school faculty member. Meanwhile, Todd's just completed master's thesis at University of Colorado-Denver explored the forces that have shaped the reputation of Christopher Marlowe.

### **Mary McLean**

Mary has served on the ESU Board and as co-chair of the Program Committee for the last three years. Mary is a native Texan, who has a son, Jason, a daughter, Jennifer, and three grandchildren. She has lived in Aurora, Colorado since 1975. She received a MS in Special Education and taught both Special Ed. and Language Arts with Cherry Creek Schools until retirement in 2001. Since retirement, she has kept busy as a docent at the Denver Art Museum, an active member and volunteer at St. John's Cathedral, a part of two bridge groups and a book club. Her hobbies include gardening and traveling.

### **Jeannine Mortell**

Jeannine Mortell is on the faculty of the English Department at Standley Lake High School in Jefferson County. She teaches 9th Grade Honors English, 12th Grade English and 12th Grade AP Literature. Jeannine attended the University of Oxford for courses in English Literature last summer as a recipient of a Denver Branch TLab Scholarship. She will give back to that program by serving on the TLab Committee as part of the Board of Directors.

### **Lauren Wasser**

Lauren Wasser is the Theatre Director at Arvada High School in Jefferson County. She teaches 12th Grade AP Literature, 12th Grade English and 9th to 12th Grade Acting/Advanced Acting and Stagecraft. Lauren attended Shakespeare's Globe for the Teaching Shakespeare through Performance Course as a 2017 TLab Fellow. She will bring her talents to the Shakespeare Competition Committee as she joins the Board.

# **ESU Denver Branch Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, July 9, 2017**

The Annual Meeting of the ESU Denver Branch was held at the Cherry Creek Country Club in Denver, CO.

At the conclusion of social time, Branch President Bruce Haefner welcomed members and introduced 2017 Denver Branch Shakespeare winner, Preslee Krout. Preslee presented her winning monologue and sonnet. Brunch service began.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 12:19 pm

**In Attendance:** 19 members

**Minutes:** Bruce Haefner asked for additions or corrections to the July 2016 Annual Meeting minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Wilson moved and Janet Thompson seconded.

**Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Thompson presented the Treasurer's Report. Chuck reported that the Denver Branch did a good job of budgeting for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, ending within \$500 of the budget. While income fell short of budget, expenses and outreach came in under budget. TLAB-UK expenses were significantly under budget due to favorable exchange rates. Branch funds generated a notable net investment income for the fiscal year. The Vanguard 500 Fund performed favorably resulting in an increase of \$35,000. Bruce Haefner called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Polly Cox moved and Janet Thompson seconded. **Motion carried.**

**President's Report:** Bruce Haefner reported that the branch currently has 50 total members. During his four years as President, ten members have passed away. The membership struggles that the Denver Branch is experiencing are consistent among Region XIII branches. Polly Cox, as Membership Chair, will be calling upon all current members to help increase the membership. Bruce announced that following the election his official title will be Immediate Past President.

**Finance and Governance:** In the absence of Committee Chair, Sue Stokley, Bruce Haefner reported that all duties of the position were fulfilled. All Board Members signed a conflict of interest statement and the 990 was reviewed and sent to National in a timely manner.

**Writing Competition:** Bruce Haefner gave the committee report on behalf of Sue Stokley and Aimee Arens. The 2016 Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition explored the topic of Shakespeare's relevance today. The competition included 18 students from 5 schools under the tutelage of 9 teachers. The 2017 competition may center on Global English.

**TLAB-UK:** Michael Thornton reported that the 2017 competition had fewer applicants than past years perhaps due to confusion over the program name change. This year's fellows are Jeannine Mortell, a teacher at Standley Lake High School, attending the University of Oxford for English Literature and Lauren Wasser, an Arvada High School teacher, who will take the Teaching Shakespeare through Performance course at Shakespeare's Globe.

**Shakespeare:** Cindy Poinsett reported that she attended the National Shakespeare Competition in New York where her student, Denver Branch winner Presley Krout, competed. During the trip, Cindy participated in the first meeting of the National Shakespeare Leadership Committee to discuss program funding and teacher

support. The committee will meet again within the next quarter to find a way to reinstate the Royal Academy of Performing Arts grand prize for the National winner. The 2017-2018 competition will again be held at CU Boulder and a date will be determined soon.

**Membership:** Committee Chair Polly Cox extended her thanks to past TLAB-UK (BUSS) fellows for their continuing support of the Branch. She encouraged all members to act as ambassadors for the Branch and bring guests to events, encouraging them to join. Polly said she would like to see the membership increase to 60.

**Nominating Committee:** Bonnie Pritchett introduced the nominees for Branch President and Board of Directors.

The nominees are:

*President: Michael Thornton*

*Board of Directors: Basil Carpenter, Cindy Poinsett, Bonnie Pritchett, Susan Stokley*

Bruce Haefner asked for a motion to approve the slate of Board of Directors nominees. Janet Thompson moved and Polly Cox seconded. **Motion Carried**

Bruce Haefner asked for a motion to approve the nominee of Michael Thornton for President. Basil Carpenter moved and Jim Wilson seconded. **Motion Carried**

**Special Recognition and Thanks:** Polly Cox presented a card and engraved paperweight to Bruce Haefner for his service as Branch President. Bruce then ceremoniously passed the gavel to Michael Thornton. Michael expressed his gratitude to Bruce for the last four years as leader of the organization. Michael reemphasized the need for increased membership and praised National for their new programs including TLAB learning opportunities and immigrant education. The next board meeting will be Saturday, September 9.

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned by Michael Thornton.

Adjournment: 12:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Cami Van Anne, Secretary

Denver Branch of the  
English-Speaking Union Presents

***Peter Gilliver***

**As Part of the  
TLab Speaker Series**

Thursday, November 15, 2018  
University Club

The TLab Speaker Series features renowned speakers from our TLab travel and learn abroad programs at Oxford, the University of Edinburgh, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Shakespeare's Globe.

Peter Gilliver has been an editor of the Oxford English Dictionary since 1987, and is now one of the Dictionary's most experienced lexicographers. In addition to his lexicographical work, he has been writing and speaking about the history of the OED for over fifteen years. His book [The Making of the Oxford English Dictionary](#), published to great acclaim in 2016, is due out in paperback in November.

In his talk, Peter Gilliver tells the history of the Oxford English Dictionary from its beginnings in the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. He has drawn on a wide range of sources—including previously unexamined archival material and eyewitness testimony—to create a detailed history of the project. He describes the Dictionary's genesis among Victorian scholars inspired by the idea of creating a historical lexicon of the English language, and traces the struggles to bring this concept to fruition, and the development of the book from 1884 to today.

