



Atlanta Branch

The English-Speaking Union

Education Scholarship Understanding

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New Members – WELCOME!!

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Dear Atlanta Branch members, Patrons and Contributors:

I know we all hope the bad weather is behind us. Your Atlanta Branch is continuing with strong programs. We have at least four more events scheduled for the next four months. Your continued participation and support makes us the strong branch that we are. We had an excellent Shakespeare Competition on February 11 at the Shakespeare Tavern. Our winner, Andrew Oglesby of Westminster, will travel to New York to compete in the national competition on April 23. We have interesting programs scheduled for March, April, May and June. Watch for the invitations, and bring a friend.

Our Spring Garden Party, previously held at the Consul-General's residence and enjoyed by all, cannot take place there this year as the C-G is moving on and his successor will be in the process of moving in about the time of our party. We are searching for a new location, so please watch for developments.

The **ESU World Members Conference** is in London **May 14-18**. This may be somewhat short notice, but if anyone is interested in attending, let me know.

The **ESU National Meeting** is on New Orleans this year. The meeting will be **November 17-18**, with November 19 an optional extra day. We always send delegates, and the location should be appealing to many. We will pass on specific information as it becomes available.

For the fall, the TLab speaker series from New York is sponsoring Peter Gilliver, who will speak on the Oxford English Dictionary. He will be in the southeast November 11-16, before the National Meeting, and I hope we can schedule him for our Branch.

As always, we are actively seeking new members, so inform your friends and neighbors about us. I have always said that the biggest problem with the ESU Atlanta Branch is that not enough people know who we are and what we do. If you help spread the word, you undoubtedly would enjoy the ESU even more.

Best regards,

Donald M. Pattillo,
President
Atlanta Branch



BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 16, 2017

Once again the Branch Members gathered at the beautifully decorated home of Elizabeth and Jim Munson for our annual Christmas Party. The last weekend before Christmas guaranteed heavy traffic, but our Members braved the delays and showed up ready to have a good time. The buffet was nicely catered by the Jerry Dilts group augmented by Elizabeth's rich and tasty desserts.

In addition to the festive atmosphere, the Members were treated to a review by Emily Robinson of her 3-week stay at Oxford this past summer as our TLab scholar. It was rewarding to hear how valuable this experience was to her and how she is utilizing the knowledge gained with her students.

The evening was the 242nd anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Randy Brannen, past president of the local Jane Austen Society, spoke of how her writings have affected English literature for centuries. Parliament recently voted to have her picture put on the £10 note. Randy and his wife Diane are this year's co-chairs of the Branch Shakespeare Competition.



Branch President Don Pattillo presented an award of appreciation to former Branch Recording Secretary David Robichaud for his tireless and flawless work last year in implementing the move to an LLC organization. Hard to see how the Branch could have so successfully made the transition without David.



As has been our tradition of late, carol singing led by Rose Maddrey (shown left) with Hugh Waddy on the keyboard made for a perfect conclusion to the wonderful party.

Jim Munson has become the unofficial Branch sommelier with his selection of great wines for the party.



STARTING OFF THE NEW YEAR

Dr. Patrick Allitt Returns with a Presentation on Great Tours of Britain

Nearly 80 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful buffet luncheon on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the Ansley Golf Club which was followed by an entertaining and interesting power point talk by Dr. Patrick Allitt. Dr. Allitt was born and raised in England, but was educated in the United States at Berkeley and Harvard University. He is a professor of history at Emory University and the author of several books and a lecturer of seven **Great Courses** presentations. Last summer Dr. Allitt went to Great Britain and spent several weeks researching interesting places to tour that are often overlooked in tour guides to Great Britain. The material he presented will soon be found in a new **Great Course** presentation, so ESU members and guests were treated to a preview of Dr. Allitt's "The Great Tours: Britain."

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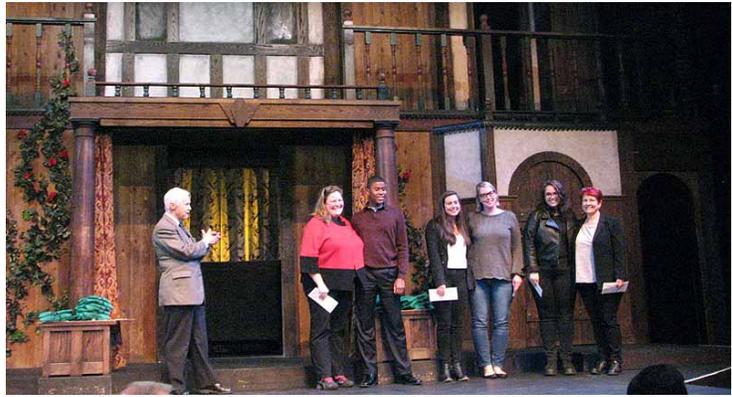
Annual Shakespeare Competition

Our Shakespeare Committee volunteers, Randy and Diane Brannan, worked very hard to make this year’s competition a success. The event was well attended and the participants were exceptional!



Above: All 16 Candidates

We have a winner in this year’s event, **Andrew Oglesby**, from Westminster whose teacher is Kate Morgens. The first runner up is Katherine Atkinson of North Atlanta High School, and her teacher is Casey Christenson. Our second runner up is Madeline Pond who is home-schooled by her mother, Elizabeth Pond. Andrew will go to the National competition to be held **April 23** in the Lincoln Center in NYC. We wish him every success as he represents the Atlanta Branch in the National Competition!!



Winners: Oglesby, Atkinson, Pond with their teachers.

We thank Laura Cole, Director of Education and Teaching at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, for hosting us once again and Elizabeth Munson for providing the refreshments. We also extend our gratitude to Randy and Diane Brannen for taking on the task of contacting all the schools and pulling together the final arrangements. The Brannens have actually relocated to Savannah, Georgia, but want to continue to be members of our Branch (as well as the one in Savannah).

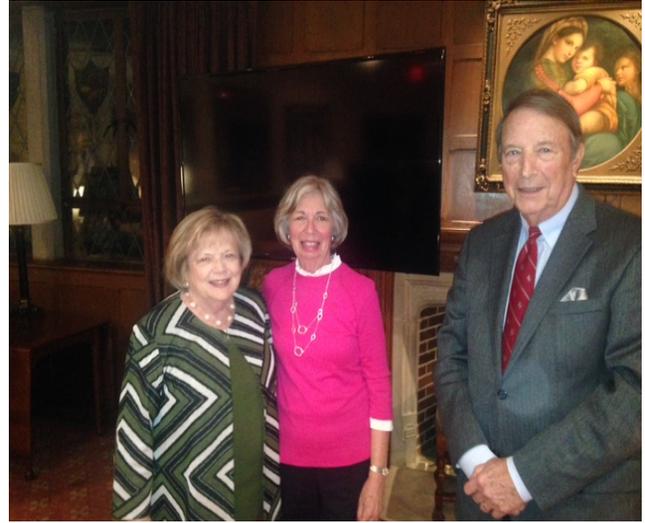


FEBRUARY MEETING - Judy Pincus - Echoes of Shakespeare, Coleridge, and Conrad in Atonement by author Ian McEwan



When ESU member Judy Pincus presented her lecture on Ian McKuen's (pictured left) Atonement in February, it was indeed a high water mark for our regional programs. The audience was transfixed as Ms. Pincus clearly presented themes, drama, characters, plot

development and literary comparisons. Seldom does one hear such a thorough analysis of an author's work, and our group knew it. We all appreciated Ms. Pincus's excellent presentation and everyone wants to have her back as our literary favorite.



Submitted by Carolyn Mitchel

Pictured above: Program Chairman Carolyn Mitchell, our speaker Judy Pincus and Chairman of the Board, Wesley Devoto.



MANY WAYS TO KEEP ON TOP OF WHAT'S GOING ON



Yes, we TWEET! Follow us at @ESUAtlanta and click the "Follow" button.



Don't forget to LIKE us on *Facebook*. Please SHARE our postings with your Friends list.

Visit our website: www.esuus.org/atlanta

For those of you signed up on LINKED IN, add us to your network.



A huge thanks to Kim Scholes and Charles Maddrey for maintaining all our accounts.

email: atlanta@esuus.org

website: www.esuus.org/atlanta

Mark Your Calendars

March 22	Cynthia Mills – British Medieval Art and Architecture
April 19	Eli Arnold - The History of Oglethorpe University
May 24	Michael McDavid – Royal Weddings
June TBD	Emily Freeman – Jane Austen Specialist

IN MEMORIAM

Rex Morris 12/25/17

H. B. ("Nicky") Nicholson III 3/6/18