



**Denver Branch**  
**The English-Speaking Union**

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

## September-October 2017 Newsletter

### Executive Committee

President : Michael Thornton  
 Treasurer: Charles Thompson  
 Program Chair: Mary McLean  
 Bonnie Pritchett  
 National Board Representative: Polly Cox

### Board of Directors

July 2016 – June 2018: Aimee Arens  
 Bruce Haefner  
 Todd Madison  
 Mary McLean  
 Josie Papazis  
 July 2016 – June 2019: Polly Cox  
 Kathleen Murphy  
 Tim Reyes  
 Charles Thompson  
 Board of Director Nominees  
 July 2017 – June 2020: Basil Carpenter  
 Cindy Poinsett  
 Bonnie Pritchett  
 Susan Stokley

### Committee Chairs

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

### Education Program Coordinators

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

**Secretary/Administrator** Cami Van Anne  
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## PRESIDENT’S CORNER

“How Do You Do?” Members of the Denver ESU Branch,

Since the annual meeting in July at the Cherry Creek Country Club, I have been your president. I first became involved with the Denver ESU after winning a fellowship to Oxford University in 2008. This branch has awarded over 130 scholarships to study in England since 1957. I am the first recipient to become president, which speaks to the bywords of the English-Speaking Union: Education. Scholarship. Understanding. To promote English in Action as a tool for understanding people across cultures is the goal behind the competitions, scholarships, and social activities that the chapter sponsors. I would like to see the chapter expand its social interactions with other groups that expand on English or focus on British culture.

My first meeting with the board of directors is September 9. At the end of September, I’m attending the Midwest Conference on British Studies in St. Louis, to carry on my interest in British Literature, which I taught throughout my career at Denver School of the Arts. At the end of October, I will travel to Louisville, Kentucky for the ESU annual conference, where I expect to learn more as to how other chapters are promoting English in Action. I hope to see the Denver chapter gain more of a presence in social media, and attract more members through an expansion of its Denver events.

Twenty of us were lucky to see Lenne Klingaman play a female Hamlet at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in Boulder in August – she played the Prince with enlightening attitude. At the start of November, expect to hear details about our annual dinner featuring the recipients of this year’s scholarships for Teachers Learning Abroad in the United Kingdom. Students will again have a chance to submit a written piece to be judged by board members and teachers in our annual Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition – the finalists typically read their pieces at our annual holiday party in December. The board of directors will continue to program events that people enjoy and see as relevant to the purpose of the organization. We welcome your ideas and participation in the Denver ESU. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in light of Education, Scholarship, and Understanding.

“Cheerio!”

Michael Thornton  
 President, Denver Branch of the English-Speaking Union

## Membership Renewal

Thank you to all of you who have already submitted your membership renewal.

Here is a reminder of the many benefits you receive with your membership:

- A membership card
- Automatic membership in a Branch and the National ESU
- Invitations to Branch members' events
- Invitations to ESU-sponsored TLab educational travel
- Subscriptions to Branch newsletters, ESU Annual Report, and national ESU e-newsletter (**email address required**)
- Privileges at Dartmouth House in London
- Member rates for events at Dartmouth House & all UK Branches
- A 25% discount off online purchases from Walkers Shortbread (through December 31, 2017)
- Member access to the Rooftop Herb Garden of the Brunel Museum in London
- Invitation to annual British-American Societies Summer Garden Party in NYC

Your membership is vital to the success of Denver Branch programs:

*For Denver Metro High School Teachers:*  
Teachers Learning Abroad UK (TLab) Fellowship

*For Colorado High School Students:*  
Shakespeare Competition

*For Denver Metro High School Students:*  
Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition

**It's not too late – Renew today!**

## Save the Date Upcoming ESU Calendar

<b>Saturday</b> <b>Sept. 9 2017</b>	Board of Directors Meeting St. John's Cathedral
<b>Sat. – Mon.</b> <b>Oct. 28-30 2017</b>	ESU National Conference Louisville, Kentucky
<b>Date TBD</b> <b>November 2017</b>	TLab-UK Recognition Dinner University Club, Denver
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Nov. 18 2017</b>	Board of Directors Meeting St. John's Cathedral
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Jan. 20 2018</b>	Board of Directors Meeting St. John's Cathedral





## **New Executive Committee and Board of Directors Ushered in at 2017 Annual Meeting**

The Cherry Creek Country Club was host to the Annual Meeting of the Denver Branch of the English-Speaking Union on Sunday, July 9. It was a lovely summer day and the venue was a perfect place for members to join together in celebration of the year's accomplishments.

At the conclusion of social time, Branch President, Bruce Haefner welcomed members and introduced 2017 Denver Branch Shakespeare winner, Preslee Krout. Preslee, a Cherokee Trail High School student, presented her winning monologue and sonnet. Guests then enjoyed a lavish brunch buffet. Following brunch, the official meeting was called to order. Reports on the status of the Branch, its finances and its programs were shared.

Bonnie Pritchett, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, introduced the slate of nominees for Branch President and Board of Directors. The nominees were: *President: Michael Thornton; Board of Directors: Basil Carpenter, Cindy Poinsett, Bonnie Pritchett, and Susan Stokley.* All nominees were approved by the membership. At the conclusion of the meeting members left reinvigorated to begin the 2017-2018 year with the Denver Branch.



Bonnie Pritchett, Janet Thompson  
and Chuck Thompson



Shakespeare Competition winner,  
Preslee Krout and her mother Lisa

## In Memorium



Longtime English-Speaking Union member and friend, Randy Mack Wren, passed away suddenly on July 10, 2017. A Colorado native, Randy was born in Denver's Porter Hospital on June 11, 1951 to John E. Wren and Martha Jane (Edwards) Wren. Randy grew up in southeast Denver, graduating from Cherry Creek High School in 1969. He attended Chapman College in California where he participated in World Campus Afloat, sparking a life-long passion for travel. Randy had recently traveled to China and had a trip planned for Russia.

After working for Frontier Bank, Manna Foods, and a wholesale business he helped launch, Randy moved to New York City where he studied with Lee Strasberg, appeared in Off-Broadway productions, and was featured in television and magazine ads. Randy returned to Denver to help his mother when his father was diagnosed with cancer.

In addition to the ESU, Randy was a member of the Denver Advertising Federation, the Denver Dinosaurs, the Denver Press Club, the Colorado Symphony Guild, and St. Andrews Episcopal Church. He was the founder of the Grove Project, the Hallelujah Ball (a benefit for St. John's Hospice) and a cable television program called *Randy Wren Live*. A supporter of many causes, Randy was frequently busy volunteering for various organizations and friends.

Randy is survived by his brothers, Jay Wren of Castle Rock and John Wren of Denver in addition to many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. He will be greatly missed.

## 2017 ESU Annual Conference



The English-Speaking Union welcomes all members for a weekend to **Louisville, Kentucky October 28-30** for the **2017 Annual Conference**. This year's conference will further develop and define English in Action as the banner under which the ESU employs English as a catalyst for peace and understanding in a shrinking, turbulent world. It will include presentations, speakers, social events, camaraderie and updates on our efforts nationwide to fulfill our programs supporting teachers, students and recent immigrants. The cost of the conference is **\$370** with an optional day of events for **\$100**.

The venue for the conference will be the legendary **Brown Hotel** in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. A centerpiece of Louisville since its construction in 1923, The Brown will provide an elegant and historic foreground to the weekend's proceedings.

## Activities



- **Saturday - Pre-Conference Board Meeting and Branch Presidents' Conclave:**  
Growth of ESU as a National Non-Profit
- **Saturday - Opening Reception and Dinner** in the Brown Hotel with guest speaker
- **Sunday - Regional Meetings and ESU Annual General Meeting**
- **Sunday** - Lunch with speaker
- **Sunday** - Reception for **National Patrons** at the historic **Speed Mansion** in Old Louisville

The following events on **Monday, October 30th** are optional at a cost of **\$100**.



- Breakfast at the **Backstretch of the Churchill Downs**, providing a view of the horses' morning workouts
- Guided tour of the Churchill Downs' grounds and museum
- Exclusive "**Inside the Vault**" tour at Churchill Downs
- Farewell lunch at Churchill Downs with activity