



Denver Branch
The English-Speaking Union

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

January-February 2020 Newsletter

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 Dr. Howard F. Beckley
 Writing Competition: Sue Stokley
 Shakespeare Competition: Lauren Wasser
 English In Action: Christine DiNunzio

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PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Dear Members,

Happy New Year, and I hope that all of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday. The ESU board hosted its annual Holiday Tea on December 7 at the Denver Women’s Press Club. Board members brought refreshments to celebrate the holidays, and the students who won the Dr. Howard F. Beckley writing competition read their essays. Members, students and their families, and the public are always invited to this free event. Patterson Benero of the DWPC welcomed everyone, and urged people to consider attending events listed on the press club’s website. For those who don’t know, the building that houses the press club was purchased in 1924, and is on the state register of historic places. The Denver chapter of the ESU is almost as old, as it was established in 1930.

The Teachers Learning Abroad dinner in November featured the two scholars that the Denver ESU sent to Oxford University last summer: Ms. Emily Pool from Cherry Creek High School and Mr. Dan Anderson from West Early College. We had a full house at the University Club enthralled and enriched by the testimonies of these two teachers who have returned to their classrooms revitalized and ready to pass on what they learned at Oxford to their students. Another opportunity to witness a program that the ESU sponsors comes up on February 9 at the University of Colorado Theatre in Boulder when high school students will compete in our annual Shakespeare Competition. The winner travels to New York City to recite a sonnet and a monologue at Lincoln Center, with other students from around the country. This is the national ESU’s largest and longest running competition, and the activities surrounding it may be expanded in this centennial year of the United States English Speaking Union’s founding.

The Denver ESU hopes to sponsor the lecture of an author in March who will be travelling the United States on behalf of the national ESU. Look for an announcement soon.

Thank you for your support, and consider giving the gift of a membership to a friend who might enjoy our programming.

Michael Thornton
 President, Denver Branch of the English Speaking Union

**Tuesday March 10
 Wrench Speaker Event
 Time/Location TBD**

Featuring Elizabeth St. John
 “Lady in the Tower: The Story of the Keeper’s Wife”



**Save the Date
 Upcoming ESU Calendar**

**Saturday
 January 11
 9:30 - 11:30** Board of Directors Meeting
 St. John’s Cathedral
 1350 Washington Street

**Sunday
 February 9
 1:00 – 3:00** Shakespeare Competition
 University of Colorado
 Boulder University Theatre

**Saturday
 March 21
 9:30 - 11:30** Board of Directors Meeting
 St. John’s Cathedral
 1350 Washington Street

Even the kept must have their keepers.” So opens Elizabeth St. John’s critically-acclaimed historical fiction novel of her ancestress’s life in the most famous prison in the world—The Tower of London. Orphaned Lucy St. John defies English society by carving her own path through the decadent Stuart court. In 1609, the early days of the rule of James I—time of glittering pageantry and cutthroat ambition, Lucy catches the eye of the Earl of Suffolk, but her envious sister Barbara is determined to ruin her happiness. Exiling herself from the court, Lucy finds her own path, becoming mistress of the Tower of London. Riding the coattails of the king’s favorite, the Duke of Buckingham, the fortunes of the St. Johns rise to dizzying heights. But with great wealth comes betrayal, leaving Lucy to fight for her survival—and her honor—in a world of patronage and deceit. Elizabeth St. John tells this dramatic true story of love and betrayal through the eyes of her ancestor Lucy and her family’s surviving diaries, letters and court papers. Raised in England, Elizabeth St. John spends her time between California, England, and the past. A best-selling author, historian and genealogist, she has tracked down family papers and residences from Nottingham Castle, Lydiard Park, and Castle Fonmon to the Tower of London. Although the family sold a few castles and country homes along the way, Elizabeth’s family still occupy them - in the form of portraits, memoirs, and gardens that carry their imprint.

<http://www.elizabethstjohn.com/>

Symbols of The Season

Entries for the Tenth Annual Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition were varied and plenty. Denver area students explored the meaning, relevance, and impact of symbols that surround them every day through essays and the winning entries were featured at the annual Holiday Tea on Saturday, December 7 at the Denver Women's Press Club. Refreshments were provided by the ESU Board and after meet and great time, members, students, and guests assembled to hear readings from the competition winners. It was compelling to listen to insights of these young writers in their own voice.

The top three student finishers received cash awards, generously underwritten by Ruth Buckley. This year, the first place writer also received a scholarship to a Lighthouse Writer's Workshop seminar as part of a partnership between the Denver Branch and Lighthouse.



First Place: Kaden Riml: Legacy High School

Second Place: Minnatallah Ahmed: Overland High School

Third Place: Amanda Opp: Lakewood High School

Honorable Mention: Emma Valentine: Horizon High School

Honorable Mention: Lizbeth Barrera Hernandez: Overland High School



The Teachers Learning Abroad (TLAB) Presentation

Featuring 2019 Denver TLAB Fellows Dan Anderson and Emily Pool

On Thursday, November 14, ESU members and guests gathered for the annual TLab Dinner at the University Club in Denver. This favorite Branch event offered an opportunity for attendees to hear firsthand about the experiences of the 2019 TLab Scholarship winners during their time at Oxford. This year, scholars Dan Anderson a teacher at West Early College, who studied Creative Writing and Emily Pool from Cherry Creek High School, a participant in the summer Oxford Politics Program, entertained the audience with images and stories from their time abroad. The Denver Branch is fortunate to have many former TLab fellows currently serving as Board Members, Committee Chairs, and officers.

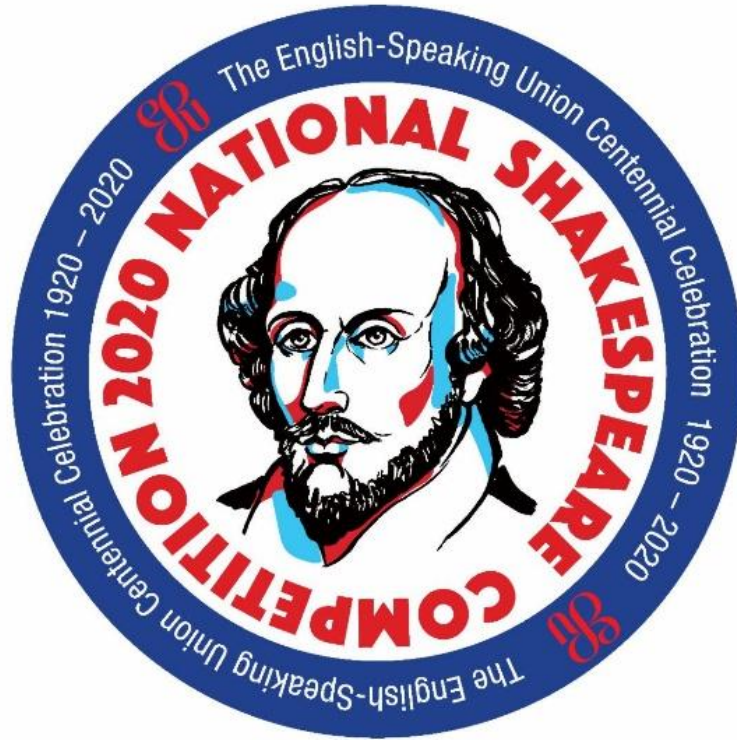
Every year the ESU provides nearly 50 scholarships for classroom teachers in their communities. ESU scholarships are for current classroom teachers attending multi-week courses at Shakespeare's Globe, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Oxford.



Dan Anderson, Emily Pool, Timothy Pool, and Nicci Guagliardo



Chuck and Janet Thompson



The Denver Branch Annual Shakespeare Competition
February 9, 2020 at 1:00 PM
University Theatre, University of Colorado, Boulder

Area high school students present Shakespearian monologues and sonnets in a bid to win the Denver Branch Competition.

The winner will represent the branch at the ESU National Competition tentatively scheduled to take place April 27 in New York.