



144 East 39th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
[info@esuus.org](mailto:info@esuus.org)  
[www.esuus.org](http://www.esuus.org)

[Donate](#)

# ESU QUARTERLY

SPRING 2025



## The English-Speaking Union

The ESU celebrates English as a shared language to foster global understanding and goodwill by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members.

## News from the Chairman



## Volunteer Appreciation

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, a perfect time to recognize and celebrate the dedication and generosity of our members and volunteers. Your commitment to our mission is the foundation of our success, and your contributions make a profound impact on the lives of students, educators, lifelong learners and ESU members across the country.

[Read More](#)



## Membership

As part of our ongoing review and implementation of a new CRM system, we are asking all Branches to temporarily refrain from making any changes to membership dues or levels, as these elements are integral to the CRM structure. In support of a smooth and successful transition, we will be placing a temporary hold on all membership joins

and renewals from June 1 through August 31. We appreciate your cooperation during this period of strategic change and remain committed to ensuring a more efficient and effective system moving forward.

Membership Office Hours:

- April 29th from 3PM-4PM EST

- May 27th from 3PM-4PM EST

Renew your Membership or Join the ESU

# Spotlight Program



## Andrew Romay Immigrant Center (ARNIC)

### Immigrant Graduation Ceremony 2025

On June 12 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, the ESU will celebrate the achievements of its 2025 immigrant graduating class. 140 immigrants from 60 countries will be recognized for their determination, dedication and success in completing our year-long educational

programs. The event will take place at the ESU headquarters in New York City. Highlights of the event will include stories of immigrant journeys, students reading original published writings and alumni showcasing the impact of the ESU programs.

All of the graduates are students of ESU Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC). ARNIC is a free program that facilitates the integration of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees into U.S. life. We provide immigrants with tools and resources to overcome barriers and build successful lives in this country. Each year, the center serves 350+ new immigrants. More than 3,000 immigrants from 60+ countries have benefited from the program since the center opened its doors in 2013.

ESU members are invited to attend the graduation ceremony! Members can attend the ceremony on June 12 as part of New York City Week! Email

DeAndre Short ([dshort@esuus.org](mailto:dshort@esuus.org)) for more information. We hope to see you there!

Learn more about ARNIC

for more information on NYC Week

## Upcoming National Events



### The Earl and Countess of Derby Invite The English-Speaking Union to A Magical Holiday Weekend at Knowsley Hall

**November 20–23, 2025**

Executive Plus/Deluxe Suite \$2,800 pp double occupancy, \$3,900 pp single

Executive Suites at \$2,500 pp double / \$3,400 pp single are sold out

Step into the enchantment of the holiday season with an exclusive invitation from the Earl and Countess of Derby to spend a luxurious weekend at historic Knowsley Hall, a magnificent estate nestled in the English countryside. Knowsley Hall has been in the ownership of the Stanley family for over 600 years. Set within 2,500 acres of a private walled estate, located near Liverpool, the hall has been welcoming royalty and distinguished guests since 1495.

#### Experience

Surrounded by beautifully decorated interiors and the warmth of tradition, you will enjoy a guided tour of Knowsley's magnificent art collection and library, engage in fireside chats with Caroline Emma Stanley, Countess of Derby, and partake in exclusive events and activities\* that embody the spirit of the season:

- Traditional Christmas dinner
- Whiskey tasting experience
- Signature afternoon tea

- Private tour of Shakespeare North Playhouse
- Optional half-day tour of Liverpool



Knowsley Hall at Christmas



Knowsley Hall

[Reserve Your Space Today!](#)

[Learn More](#)



## The ESU National Shakespeare Competition is Almost Here!

The ESU's National Shakespeare Competition returns to New York City from April 26 to April 28. This exciting weekend of events brings together 42 high school

Branch champions from across the country, culminating in the final competition held at Juilliard's Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse in Lincoln Center on Monday, April 28.

Best of luck to all our talented Semi-Finalists!

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

[Click Here to Reserve Your Tickets!](#)





## 2025 National Patron Tour

Nelson on Shore and at Sea:  
A Life of the British Admiral  
With Author and Lecturer Flora Fraser

Set sail on an extraordinary journey through history aboard the magnificent ***Sea Cloud Spirit***, retracing the footsteps of one of Britain's greatest naval heroes, Admiral Horatio Nelson. This exclusive voyage, co-hosted by the English-Speaking Union and Sea Cloud Cruises, offers a unique blend of luxury, adventure, and intellectual stimulation.

[Learn More](#)

## What's Happening

**ESU 2025 Page-to-Stage  
Program in Stratford-upon-  
Avon**



Places are filling fast for the 1 Week Page to Stage program July 13 - 19th in Stratford-upon-Avon with Shakespeares Birthplace Trust.

Join the Merry Band who will be staying at the charming White Swan Hotel exploring this historic town illuminated by informative lectures, talk backs with the cast, and performances at the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company and Globe theatres.

[Learn More](#)



## Travel & Learn Abroad (TLab)

The ESU offers summer study opportunities for Educators and Lifelong Learners. Every summer, secondary school teachers continue their education in the UK at Oxford & Edinburgh University and Shakespeare's Globe in London thanks to generous TLab Scholarships awarded by ESU Branches. They return reinvigorated and inspired to share their newly acquired knowledge with

students and colleagues. 2,000 + teacher scholarships since 1957.

1-week programs are also available for Lifelong Learners on the Page to Stage Program in Stratford-upon-Avon and The Oxford Experience at Christchurch.

[Learn More](#)



## International Public Speaking Competition

The International Public Speaking Competition brings together the best young speakers aged 16 - 20 worldwide for a week of public speaking competition, training & cultural exchange

in London. Each year, through all its qualifying levels, over 40,000 students from 50 countries participate.

Rishabh Barve, a Senior from Blue Valley West High School in Overland Park, Kansas will be representing the ESU US this year in London, May 12th - 17th.

[Learn More](#)



## Middle School Debate

The ESU Middle School Debate Program teaches students in grades 5-8 fundamentals of critical thinking and language arts skills through public speaking. The program is an adaptation of the parliamentary model of debate.

Students engage in weekly debate activities and lively all-day Saturday tournaments. The ESU works closely with a dedicated team of coaches/teachers and volunteer judges to support 2,500 + students since 2011.

[Learn More](#)

## Secondary School





## Exchange (SSE) Scholarship

SSE is a merit-based scholarship that provides tuition, room and board for students to spend a “Gap” Year abroad in the UK or US between high school and

college. Since 1928, the SSE Scholarship has allowed thousands of students to expand their horizons by studying at secondary schools in the US and UK. SSE students gain maturity, independence, and global perspectives that benefit them in college and future careers.

[Learn More](#)



## Luard Morse Scholarship

This merit-based scholarship provides a \$30,000 award for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to study for a semester at a British University during their junior year. Since 1969, 90

exceptional students have been awarded scholarships to study at 18 Universities including Oxford, Cambridge, & the London School of Economics.

[Learn More](#)

# Branch Spotlight



### Sandhills

Middle School  
Debate  
Championship



### Shreveport

2025 TLab  
Scholarship



### Richmond

2025 TLabBranch  
Tea

If you would like your Branch to be featured as a Spotlight, please send submissions to [info@esuus.org](mailto:info@esuus.org). Please include why you would like your Branch featured.

## 2025 ESU Founder's Award Recap



The ESU 2025 Founder's Award Weekend on March 14-15, was a spectacular two-day celebration in Winter Park, FL, honoring ESU Chairman Dr. Quinn Peeper as the recipient of the organization's highest distinction in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the ESU's mission to advance Anglo-

American relations, international friendship, and the promotion of English as a tool for global communication. The event brought together members, supporters, and distinguished guests from across the country and the international ESU community to recognize Dr. Peeper's exceptional leadership and dedication to the ESU's mission.

The weekend culminated in the grand Founder's Award Gala at the Winter Park Racquet Club, where Dr. Peeper and the ESU received greetings from the ESU Central Florida Branch, our gracious weekend hosts. Warm remarks

also came from Bolormaa Jamiyansuren, speaking on behalf of the entire international ESU community, and Caroline Emma Stanley, Countess of Derby, who was also in attendance. The Countess spoke about the history, architecture and art collection of her family's ancestral home, Knowsley Hall, and extended a heartfelt invitation to a magical holiday weekend there from November 20–23, 2025.

<https://www.esuus.org/event/knowsley-hall-weekend/>

The evening's highlight was the presentation of the Founder's Award to Dr. Quinn Peeper by Dr. Laurence C. Morse, recipient of the 2020 Centennial Founder's Award. In addition, Dr. Peeper announced the launch of the ESU's first-ever Capacity Building Campaign, a bold initiative to expand the organization's reach and impact. The campaign will raise funds to support the ESU's long-term growth and will culminate in the 25th anniversary celebration of the ESU House in 2026.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who attended and contributed to making this event a resounding success.

See the event unfold! **Download the event program** and view the photo gallery here: <https://www.jenadamsphoto.com/f244712513>  
password: esu

Event Program

Photo Gallery

Knowsley Weekend

## In Memory of Dr. Julia Churchill Van de Water

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Julia Churchill Van de Water. She



passed away unexpectedly in her home in Lexington on March 2, 2025.

She will be missed by her close friends, colleagues, and immediate family.

There will be an informal celebration scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd at The Lexington Golf and Country Club, Lexington, VA.

Use the link to RSVP <https://sprw.io/stt-KfCiq>

[Click Here for Details](#)

## Follow Us

[The English-Speaking Union]



The English-Speaking Union of the United States | 144 East 39th Street | New York, NY 10016 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!