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# ESU QUARTERLY

WINTER 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



## Letter from the Chairman

Dear ESU Members and Friends,  
I am both thrilled and humbled to share that the ESU Board has selected me to receive the Founder's Award at the upcoming Gala on March 15, 2025, at the Winter Park Racquet Club in Florida. This recognition is one of the greatest honors of my life, and I will cherish it deeply.

As proud as I am to receive this distinction, it would mean so much more to me to have you—my fellow ESU members—by my side for this celebration. Your presence would make the evening truly unforgettable, as we gather together to honor not just a single individual, but the mission and values that unite us as an organization.

[Read More](#)

## Spotlight Programs



### English in Action Across America

**ESU Members are Helping  
Newcomers with Their  
English Skills**

Imagine every week, speaking with a new friend from another part of the world. You help your friend improve their English skills and, in turn, you learn something about who they are and where they are from. What develops is a strong bond that enriches your life while helping your friend improve theirs.

That is what ESU members from the Denver branch do every Monday evening in English in Action Across America. Together they speak with new immigrant students from New York City over Zoom and help them to improve their English language skills. For more than three years, they have continued to provide their students with the confidence they need to use English in their everyday lives.

English in Action Across America is an extension of the New York City-based English in Action program that first started more than 50 years ago. This volunteer opportunity allows ESU members to participate individually as conversation tutors and also accommodates branches that wish to organize their own group, as Denver does.

Branches provide the volunteers, and ESU national provides the students. This program is easy to set up and can entice more members to get involved in their local branch.

*April is National Volunteer Month, which is a great time to encourage members to get more involved with the ESU. English in Action Across America is the perfect opportunity to grow your branch membership.*

Reach out to find out how to start a group through your Branch

Reach out to Learn More About Volunteering



## Membership

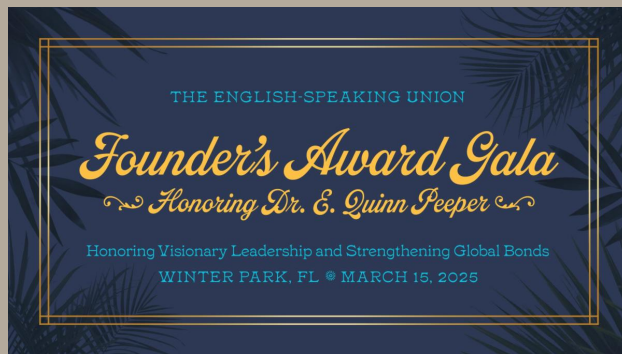
Thank you to everyone for your patience as we work through the exciting changes happening with our membership this year. We're eager to share more details with you throughout the year. At the moment,

our membership renewals are on track, and we'll be sending out a final digital renewal reminder to lapsed members in the third week of February. We also encourage Branch Leadership to reach out personally to any lapsed members to help them stay connected with the ESU community.

[Renew your Membership or Join the ESU](#)

# Upcoming National Events

## 2025 Founder's Award Gala



**We'll be thrilled to have you  
join us for this year's Gala  
Weekend!**

**The Founder's Award Gala  
Honoring Dr. E. Quinn Peeper  
Winter Park, Florida  
March 14-15, 2025**

**With Special Guest Caroline Emma Stanley, Countess Derby of  
Knowsley Hall**

The Gala will celebrate Dr. Peeper's innumerable contributions to the ESU over decades, recognizing his dedication to fostering global understanding and promoting the English language as a unifying force. He is the first Founder's Award recipient to receive this distinction through his success as a Branch Board Member, Branch President, National Board Member, President and National Chair.

Adding to this extraordinary occasion, the Countess of Derby, a distinguished art historian and cultural advocate, will join us to honor

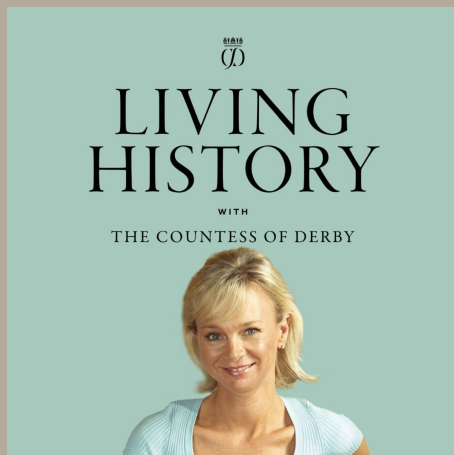
her dear friend, Dr. Peeper.

As a special treat, the Earl and Countess of Derby are also extending an exclusive invitation to ESU members and supporters to enjoy a **magical holiday weekend at Knowsley Hall November 20-23**, 2025, their ancestral home near Liverpool, England. This unique experience offers a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in the history and grandeur of one of Britain's finest stately homes.

Don't miss this chance to be part of these exceptional celebrations!

**[Reserve your seat at the Gala](#)**

**[Learn more about Knowsley Hall Weekend.](#)**



Countess of Derby



Knowsley Hall

[Learn More](#)



## 2025 National Shakespeare Competition: Empowering Educators

At the ESU National Shakespeare Competition, we're dedicated to the growth and success of educators. We offer an array of professional

development programs available both online and in-person. By collaborating with esteemed partners such as the British American Drama Academy (BADA), Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust and the Folger Shakespeare Library, our programs help educators make Shakespeare accessible, engaging, and relevant for their students. The ESU is an approved sponsor of CTLE credits in New York.

[Learn More](#)



## 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

### 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.

[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](#)

## Andrew Romay Immigrant Center (ARNIC)

The Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) is a free program that facilitates the integration of immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees into U.S. life. We seek to provide immigrants with the tools and resources to overcome barriers and build successful lives in the U.S. Our

center offers English classes, conversation practice and career services. Each year we serve 350+ new immigrants. More than 2,000 immigrants from 60+ countries have benefited from our services since the center opened its doors.

[Read More](#)

# Branch Spotlight



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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.

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