



Expanding minds
Strengthening friendships
Unlocking opportunities

Through the use of the English language

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ESU QUARTERLY



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



Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of the English-Speaking Union,

June traditionally marks the time when I write to you—our loyal members and friends—to ask for your continued support by renewing your ESU membership, or, if you are not yet a member, to warmly invite you into our fold. This year, however, tradition is meeting innovation.

[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 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:

July 28th from 4:00-5:00PM EST

Click Here to [Register](#)

Zoom Link: [Click Here](#)

Spotlight Programs



Middle School Debate

We are excited to announce for the 1st time, the ESU New York Debate League will offer 3, week-long debate programs in June & July! The Summer Institute provides middle school students with an immersive, skills-based introduction to the world of parliamentary debate. Rooted in the ESU's mission to promote civic engagement, critical thinking, and confident public speaking, the Summer Institute is designed to help students grow as thinkers, speakers, and teammates—whether they're brand new to debate or looking to sharpen their competitive edge.

Our program is led by two passionate educators and nationally recognized debate coaches: Evan Streams, ESU NYDL Tournament Director and head coach at Birch Wathen Lenox, and Grace Campos, former Yale debater and head coach at BASIS Manhattan. Between them, they bring over two decades of experience as both top-tier competitors and transformational teachers.

Students are placed in labs based on experience level. Fundamentals Labs are designed for rising 6th–8th graders who are new to debate. These students will learn the basics of cross-examination, rebuttals, research, and using evidence. Through engaging drills and guided practice, students will build foundational skills. Accelerated Labs are geared toward rising 7th–8th graders with prior debate experience and will work on a faster-paced timeline to deepen strategic understanding, enhance case writing, and sharpen refutation and rebuttal skills. All students will participate in a culminating debate tournament, showcasing the progress they've made throughout the week.

The ESU New York Debate League Summer Institutes will run from **10AM - 4PM**:

June 23 - 27

at Sixth Street Community Center at 638 East 6th Street

July 7 - 11

at English-Speaking Union at 144 East 39th Street

July 21 - 25

at English-Speaking Union at 144 East 39th Street



New York Debate League Summer Camp

Middle School Debate Program



Travel & Learn Abroad (TLab)

This summer, 40 teachers and 6 Lifelong Learners are crossing the pond to study in the UK thanks to

the generosity of 18 ESU Branches. Since 1957, 2000+ Travel and Learn Abroad (TLab) Scholarships have been awarded to middle and high school teachers for summer study in the United Kingdom for 2–6 weeks. Teachers become college students again and live at Oxford University and Edinburgh University, where they can study English literature, history, creative writing, theater and international politics. Or they can be up on their feet learning how to “Teach Shakespeare Through Performance” at Shakespeare’s Globe in London. 1-week programs are also available for Lifelong Learners on the popular Page-to-Stage Program in Stratford-upon-Avon and The Oxford Experience at Christchurch. Not only do teachers earn valuable continuing professional development credits, but they also return inspired and eager to share their knowledge with their students, colleagues, and ESU Branches. Many of the teachers go on to become actively involved in their ESU Branches as members and officers and facilitate the ESU National Shakespeare Competition or English-in-Action in their local communities.



I've been delighted with the experience thus far. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming. The lectures and seminars are very interesting and eye-opening. It's been amazing getting to know others participating in the summer school at Exeter College, Oxford. Thank you so much to the ESU for making this wonderful experience possible.

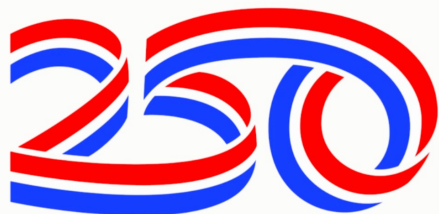
**-- Sara Spring-Kinsey, ESU Atlanta Branch
TLab Scholar to Oxford**



[Learn More](#)

Upcoming National Events

AMERICA



250th Anniversary

United States Semiquincentennial
The English Speaking Union and the
American Revolution

As the United States celebrates its historic 250th Anniversary, we invite you to join the festivities with a special

\$250 commemorative membership that offers exclusive benefits throughout the year. To mark this milestone, we're launching a national essay writing contest for students, encouraging reflections on the nation's past, present, and future. Limited-edition branded swag that captures the spirit of this remarkable occasion will be available. Stay connected with an events calendar featuring celebrations, forums, and community gatherings across the country. Be part of history as we honor 250 years of American resilience, innovation, and unity.

Stay Tuned for Information on Upcoming Events



SPACE IS LIMITED

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](#)



2025 National Patron Tour

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

Bon Voyage!

As the Sea Cloud Spirit prepares to hoist anchor, we bid a bon voyage to all those setting sail on this extraordinary journey through history. Aboard this magnificent vessel, travelers will retrace the footsteps of one of Britain's greatest naval heroes, Admiral Horatio Nelson.

This exclusive voyage promises an unforgettable blend of luxury, adventure, and intellectual discovery. We wish our voyagers fair winds, calm seas, and enriching experiences as they embark on this remarkable expedition.

Safe travels and smooth sailing!



What's Happening



**The Andrew Romay
New Immigrant Center
(ARNIC)**

**Over 200 New Immigrant Students Graduate
from the ARNIC Program**

On June 12th, we held a ceremony to recognize our 2025 program graduates of the Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center.

The joyous evening featured speeches and readings from graduates, alumni and teachers. The class of 2025 was the largest since our program began in 2013 with 213 students from 34 countries graduating from the center during the 2024 - 2025 program year.

They all celebrated the accomplishments and improvements they made together over the past year. As student reader Yumo Chen put it, "You're adapting to a world that doesn't always adapt to you." She continued with, "...what truly matters is how you present yourself to the world." We are so proud of our graduates and look forward to seeing the impact they will have in their new communities. We wish them the best and cannot wait to see what the future holds for them!

The graduation was live-streamed for the first time and recorded. You can view the whole ceremony here:



Please Donate further support the Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center at the ESU



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, represented the ESU US this year in London, May 12th - 17th.

[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

[Learn More](#)



The ESU National Shakespeare Competition 2026 Registration Opens Soon!

The ESU invites you to join the 2026 National Shakespeare Competition, launching in August! Now in its 43rd year, this performance-based program

helps high school students build confidence and communication skills through studying and bringing Shakespeare's works to life. Students from 42 ESU Branches and over 400 schools nationwide participated last year. Make your school one of them in 2026!

Professional development workshops are available in the US and UK for participating teachers, with exclusive opportunities for ESU educator members, including TLab UK summer scholarships.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



Branch Spotlight



Boston

Visit our
Website



Greenwich

Visit our
Website

Garden Party
Photos

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

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