



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES
Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

BRANCH NEWS

P.O. Box 758, Winter Park, FL 32790-0758
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February 2020
Issue #6 - 2019-2020

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February Program Meetings

Sunday, February 2 Scholars' Reception

2-4:00 p.m. at The University Club of Winter Park

Tuesday, February 4 Wrench Speaker

Elizabeth St. John

4:30-6:00 p.m. at The University Club of Winter Park

Monday, February 24 Shakespeare Competition

4:00 p.m. Competition; 5:30 p.m. Reception and Awards

at Orlando Shakes, 812 E Rollins Street, Orlando, FL 32803



2020 Scholars' Reception

Sunday, February 2, 2020

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The University Club of Winter Park

E-SU members have the opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients chosen to study in the summer of 2020. Please join us for a delightful afternoon.

Refreshments will be served.

Reta Jackson, VP Scholarships



English-Speaking Union

Central Florida Branch

**Tuesday
February**

**4th
2020**

4:30pm
University Club of
Winter Park

“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.

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, and letters.

THE LYDIARD CHRONICLES
1603-1630

“Innocent romance and bleak
deception create a believable
heroine and an intriguing plot.”
~Historical Novel Society

THE LADY OF THE TOWER

A Story of the Keeper's Wife

ELIZABETH ST. JOHN

Program Leader: Frank Barber

ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

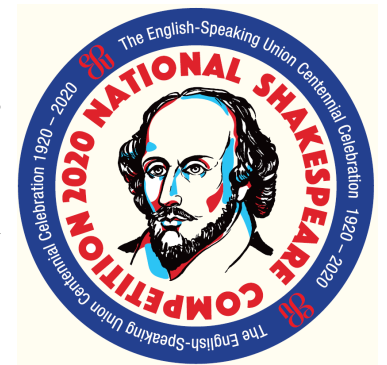
Monday, February 24 at Orlando Shakes!



Join us at our change in venue for this year's annual *English-Speaking Union's* Shakespeare Competition. This year the action takes to the stage at **Orlando Shakes**, located at **812 East Rollins Street, Orlando, FL 32803**. On Monday, February 24, secure the best seats in the house as doors open early for competitors who must check in by 3:30 p.m. at the latest. Through our ongoing partnership, the Orlando Shakespeare Theater has opened the doors of *The Margeson Theater* so that students can showcase all of their hard work. Proceedings will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m., with refreshments being served at 5:30 p.m., as judges deliberate.

Continuously expanding our outreach, this year's competition includes 20 schools from the tri-county area, with two added schools who have never previously participated in the history of the competition. With fresh talent in a new environment, this year's competition promises to be an exciting event for all. As always, the First Place prize is \$1,000.00 with an all-expense paid trip to New York City for the next round of the national competition held at *The Lincoln Center*. Our First Place winner will also be the recipient of a scholarship to join Orlando Shakes' *The Young Company* during the summer of 2020 (valued at an additional \$250.00). Second Place is \$500.00, and Third Place is \$250.00, all to be awarded before the conclusion of proceedings at the theater. Each competitor, already a winner from his or her school, will perform an individual interpretation of a memorized sonnet and monologue at our February event. Each student's teacher will also be honored with \$250.00 for all of their dedication and hard work.

This year's judging panel consists of Anne Hering: Director of Education at *Orlando Shakes*, Dr. Maurice "Sockey" O'Sullivan: E-SU Board Member, author, and Kenneth Curry professor of literature at Rollins College, and David Reed: Assistant Professor of Acting and Directing at UCF. *The English-Speaking Union's National Shakespeare Competition* is a school-based program designed to help high school students develop their speaking and critical thinking skills, as well as their appreciation of literature, as they explore the beauty of the language and the timeless themes in Shakespeare's works. In the competition, students read, interpret, and perform monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages—at the school, community, and national levels. Please join us at our Branch Competition and support all of the hard work of our local Shakespeareans.



Ginger Bryant

VP Shakespeare Competition



Opportunities for ESU Members: Serving on Next Year's Board

Some of our excellent Board members for this year have completed their terms. This means that Board positions will be open for next year. Our mission is to celebrate English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members. Our membership is filled with an abundance of intellect and talent. We welcome you to join us as we continue to retain national leadership.

If you are interested in contributing your time and talents by serving as an officer on the Board, please contact Elaine Laegeler, Nomination Chair. Also, if you wish to participate more in-depth by joining one of our active supporting committees, please contact President Barbara Hughes.

Central Florida Branch ESU Programs for 2019-2020

All meetings are held at the University Club unless noted

- **Sunday, February 2, 2020**— Scholars' Reception 2-4 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 4, 2020**—Wrench Speaker Elizabeth St. John—"The Lady of the Tower" 4:30-6:00
- **Monday, February 24, 2020** - Shakespeare Competition 4 p.m.; 5 Reception and Awards 5:30 p.m. *Location: Orlando Shakes, 812 E Rollins Street, Orlando, FL 32803*
- **Monday, March 9, 2020** – "England and the American Civil War"
History Professor Wayne Bowen, UCF 3:30-5 p.m.
- **Monday, April 6, 2020** – "John Singer Sargent in England" – Jan Clanton
3:30- 5 p.m.
- **Monday, May 11, 2020** – "Shakespeare Scandals and Scoundrels" - Andrea Mays
and Annual Meeting 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Scholar's Report Program

Our six Drey Scholars entertained an audience of captive ESU members as they reported on their summer adventures. Not only did their travels take them in three different directions, but their presentation styles followed suit as well.

*A moment of “Story Swosh”
audience participation
during the Globe Scholars’
Report given by Tara Whit-
man and Jennifer Bennett*



*J. Marie Bailey and Jeff Cook
introduce their report on Edinburgh’s
Fringe Festival.*

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Scholar's Report Program, continued

Ranging from lecture format to active audience participation, the information delivery was varied and uniquely fitting for the programs each set of scholars attended. In fact, the audience experience was heightened to a gloriously immersive peak when J. Marie Bailey and Jeff Cook stepped out of the audience in Scottish character to begin their report on their attendance to Edinburgh's Fringe Festival through Scottish Universities International Summer School. By the end of the program, it was clearly obvious that these scholars had been fundamentally changed and inspired by receiving their Drey Scholarships and the transformative adventure which accompanied it.



From Left: Jennifer Bennett, Tara Whitman, J. Marie Bailey, Jeff Cook, Rick Rodriguez, and Curt Dedge

DREY NEWS

Sharyn Jontz, member since 2017, is the winner of a Branch scholarship to attend an ESU travel-learning experience called From Page to Stage in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England, July 12-18, 2020. The program will include several performances of The Royal Shakespeare Company, an excursion to the Globe Theater in London, lectures from prominent Shakespearean scholars, behind-the-scenes tours, as well as the museums, sites and shops of Stratford. Sharyn and her husband Jeff will stay at the 15th Century White Swan Inn.



This is the first year our Branch has held this blind drawing for members to win this trip. Stay tuned for next year!

ESU DINNER

On January 27th, ESU members gathered together to enjoy delightful company and toe-tap the night away with Orlando Big Band.



From Left: Dr. Ovid Vitas and Michael Kakos



From Left: Michele Levy, Joyce Zeluck, and Barbara Hughes, ESU Branch President



Bennett Harmon and a six piece version of Orlando Big Band

Bennett Harmon, the president of Band Preservation, Inc., led the musical charge through hits of various eras. A fan favorite moment occurred when Harmon spoke on the work his organization graciously does to offer music lessons to hundreds of children who would otherwise be unable to afford this vital exploration of art. Currently, Band Preservation, Inc. is working to provide 200-250 instruments to spread the passion and artistry of music to children affiliated with the Homeless Coalition.



The English-Speaking Union

Central Florida Branch
Post Office Box 758
Winter Park, FL 32790-0758

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH
Membership Application**

- ☐ I wish to become a member of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.
- ☐ I wish to renew my membership of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.

Please send a check for \$45 (single membership) or \$60 (couple membership) to the **English-Speaking Union, PO Box 758, Winter Park, FL 32790-0758**.

Name and Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone, Fax, and Email _____

Visit the E-SU Central Florida website at www.E-SUus.org/centralflorida for more information.