



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

CENTRAL FLORIDA

# BRANCH NEWS

P.O. Box 758, Winter Park, FL 32790-0758  
Website: [www.ESUus.org/centralflorida](http://www.ESUus.org/centralflorida)  
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January 2020  
Issue #5 - 2019-2020

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## January and February Program Meetings

**Wednesday, January 22 ESU Scholars' Reports**

**Monday, January 27 Winter Dinner Program**

**Tuesday, February 4 Wrench Speaker Elizabeth St. John**

*Please join us for this special opportunity as we host Wrench Speaker Elizabeth St. John, who is also presenting in Jacksonville, Savannah, and Atlanta. It will be a program not to be missed!*



The English Speaking Union  
Central Florida Branch

## Winter Dinner

Monday  
January 27, 2020

The Winter Park  
Racquet Club

2111 Via Tuscany  
Winter Park

Cocktails 6:00pm  
Dinner 6:45pm

Program Leader: Michele Levy

Orlando  
Big Band



**Reservations due by Monday,  
January 20, 2020**

Make your check for \$48 per person

*Payable to:*

"The English Speaking Union"

*Send to:*

Barbara Hughes,  
246 Balfour Drive,  
Winter Park, FL 32792

Any questions please call

Barbara Hughes at:

321-279-1133

**Wednesday, January 22  
2020**

**Reception: 4:00 pm  
Program: 4:30 pm**

**The University Club  
of Winter Park  
841 North Park Avenue  
Winter Park**

**Program Leader: Reta Jackson**



**THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION  
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

## **E SU Scholars' Reports**

Our 2019 Drey Scholars who studied in the U.K. during the summer of 2019 will entertain us with stories of their study experiences.

J. Marie Bailey, Winter Park High and  
Jeff Cook, Ocoee High  
**Scottish Universities' International Summer  
School at University of Edinburgh**



Curt Dedge, Lake Nona High and Rick  
Rodriguez, Lake Howell High  
**Oxford University**

Jennifer Bennett, Markham Woods Middle School  
and Tara Whitman, West Orange High  
**Globe Theater**



## SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR'S MESSAGE

### DREY SCHOLARS PRESENT A PANEL DISCUSSION: ADVENTURES IN THE U.K.



This year our Central Florida Branch sent six Drey Scholars in three different directions: two attended classes at Oxford University, two participated in London's Globe Theater's "Teaching Shakespeare through Performance" and two travelled to Edinburgh, Scotland to a new program: "Theater and Performance," which is connected to the International Fringe Festival.

Everyone returned home with wonderful stories of their experiences and skills to share in their classrooms.

**Tara Whitman**, theater director for West Orange High, learned a new technique at the Globe called "story whoosh" and immediately used it with her students for their fall show.

**Jennifer Bennett** declared, "I learned more in any two days in London than in my eighteen years of District PD (Professional Development) sessions."

**Curt Dedge's** Tutor at Oxford revealed new ways to ask questions that, "guide people without telling them where to go."

**Rick Rodriguez** took classes entitled "History of the Middle East" and "History of Refugees." "While in attendance, he met a classmate from Egypt who had participated in the Arab Spring, which inspired him to write a paper on the Arab Spring and social media.

**J. Marie Bailey** experienced the "creative energy" of Edinburgh's Fringe Festival and said, "While not in class, I was taking in show after show after show."

**Jeff Cook** returned from Edinburgh excited to write a new play and eager to share the "incredible resources that the SUISS (Scottish Universities' International Summer School) has made available."

The Scholarship Committee invites you to join us on January 22nd at 4:00 p.m. for our scholars to share their insights and experiences with the TLAB program. We are so fortunate to have such qualified, dedicated and enthusiastic teachers, working with the young people of Central Florida and representing us internationally. Yes, the program will end with questions and remarks from you, the audience.

*Reta Jackson,*  
Scholarship Chair



## ESU Reflection

- Jennifer Bennett

It's like summer camp for Shakespeare nerds!

-The text I sent to my best friend after week 1-

While the above text may seem to trivialize my experience, I meant it in the best possible way. My three weeks at The Globe Theatre were everything a great summer camp is: immersive, emotional, transformative, educational, and occasionally awe-inspiring. I cannot thank the Central Florida ESU enough for making this experience possible.

I must admit I had a bit of trepidation before arriving in London. How would I adjust to the change of role from teacher to student? I have also been pretty disappointed by the professional development offered (forced-fed) by my school district. Would this be a disappointment as well? Would the classes be all theory with no practical application? Would I feel talked-down to by the Shakespeare experts? None of those fears were realized at The Globe. In fact, it was quite the opposite. I so enjoyed my role as a student that I often had to stop myself from focusing on being the “best” student, rather than focusing on how to apply what was happening to my own classroom. As far as comparisons to district professional development, not only did I learn more in any two days in London than in 18 years of professional development sessions, but the practitioners were incredibly respectful of our knowledge and experience. But the key element throughout the residency was that the practitioners always allowed time for reflection and discussion about implementation into the real world of our classrooms.

In terms of specific application to my classroom, the biggest takeaway was the way the Globe practitioners used warm-ups. As a drama teacher, I have had a love/hate relationship with warm-ups, and had largely abandoned them from my regular practice. Almost every Globe session started with a warm-up of some kind, but they were doing something with the warm-ups that had never occurred to me. They were incorporating elements of the text we would be working on into the warm-up. It might be related to character, themes, or even specific dialogue. This is amazing for all students and all texts but especially for struggling readers approaching complex texts. The students are given a low stress/fun introduction to the text before having to read. Then when it is time to read and analyze the text, crucial background knowledge has already been assimilated. Genius! I have already used this in my classroom and led workshops on it with new teachers and with the drama teachers in my district. It is a game changer.

The other big takeaway was the fellowship with the other teachers. I have never been around such an intelligent, knowledgeable, and passionate group of teachers. It was both humbling and empowering. Being able to bounce ideas around with this group was not just the cherry on the sundae; it was another sundae that will continue to feed me.

## DREY ENDOWMENT NEWS

The four high school English teachers who received grants to attend the 2019 National Council of Teachers of English annual convention in Baltimore all returned with inspirational experiences in tow. In November, Cavel Austin, Jones High; Nicole Alvarez, Colonial High; Rachel Schmitt, East River High, and Paola Cavallaro, Lake Mary High all headed to one of the most widely-respected education conferences in the world, bringing together famous authors and educators and attracting attendees from the US and many other countries.



Cavel Austin from Jones High and Rachel Schmitt from East River High hit the conference floor running as they divided to conquer different sessions, but they made sure to meet up to share their adventures over meals and selfies.



Rachel Schmitt raved about the joy of hearing a lecture from Erin Gruwell, teacher, education activist, and founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation. “She signed a copy of the 20th anniversary edition book for me and was very kind! I am so grateful for this experience - Erin Gruwell is one of my biggest inspirations, and without the ESU’s scholarship, I would never have had the opportunity to meet her!” Schmitt wrote in an email to Jan McClure, VP Drey Endowment.



*Erin Gruwell and Rachel Schmitt*



*Cavel Austin and Tara Westover*

Cavel Austin had the delight of meeting Tara Westover, the author of one of the hottest NY Best Sellers of 2019, *Educated*.

Our teachers were so full of bright-eyed excitement that they caught the attention of Betty Trevino Roth, Senior Manager of School and Teacher Programs for The English-Speaking Union when they stopped by the ESU exhibit. Roth reported that it was distinctly clear “how grateful and enthusiastic your scholars are to be here! We’ve had so much fun meeting them and working with them to learn more about the ESU. Thank you so much for making this possible for them and for being so committed to our shared mission of supporting teachers everywhere!”

*Continued on page 6*

## DREY ENDOWMENT NEWS, continued from page 5

In closing, Cavel Austin had this to say about her trip, “We had a phenomenal time at NCTE. It was an eye opener and definitely a game changer. I am so grateful I was given the opportunity to attend. The knowledge gained is priceless. Thanks again to the ESU for giving us this opportunity.”

This is the fifth year we have awarded four \$2,000 grants to local teachers, helping them to expand and enrich their knowledge and teaching strategies for the thousands of students that they have since taught. No doubt this year’s scholars will continue this legacy of transforming their classroom through best practices.



Paola Cavallaro

### Central Florida Branch ESU Programs for 2019-2020

#### All meetings are held at the University Club unless noted

- **Wednesday, January 22, 2020** – Scholars’ Reports 4- 5:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 27, 2020** – Dinner- Winter Park Racquet Club – Orlando Big Band 6-9 p.m.
- **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 4-5; 5 Reception 5:30 Awards
- **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.

## A Sublime Opportunity

The Central Florida ESU is proud to present an opportunity for a drawing that will thoroughly enhance the life of one branch member. This drawing is for an All-Expenses-Paid Trip to England to attend the "From Page to Stage: Text to Theater" T-Lab in Stratford-Upon-Avon, July 2020.



Immerse yourself in the language and world of Shakespeare. Through theatrical performances at the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company, lectures with eminent scholars, exclusive behind-the-scenes tours, and museum visits, you will explore Shakespeare's family homes, enjoy the sites and shops that make Stratford-upon-Avon a unique destination, and gain a new perspective on how the Bard's legacy continues to shape our lives today. The 2019 Royal Shakespeare Company performances included *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Provoked Wife*, and a performance at Shakespeare's Globe. The 2020 itinerary has not yet been posted.

This travel-learning experience is perfect for anyone interested in cultural exploration, life-long learning, or just having a unique English experience. It's also an excellent opportunity for English, social studies, and theater teachers of all experience levels (including pre-service and retired), and others who are eager to engage in study with world-class scholars and educators in a historic setting.

Any Central Florida E-SU member interested in entering a drawing for this trip...

1. Must be a paid-up member of the Branch since 2017. Not eligible: current Branch officers, Teacher T-Lab Scholars from 2017-2019. If selected, you will not be eligible for a 2020 T-Lab Scholarship.
2. Must hold a valid passport and be free to travel to England in July, 2020.
3. Must be able to participate fully in a week-long travel-learning experience with a moderate level of physical activity, i.e., international air travel, bus transfers, walking tours, museum visits and theater experiences.
4. Must send an application before midnight, January 8, 2020. The application will be posted in the November and December Branch Newsletters and available at the November 11 and December 2 meetings.
5. Must be present to win a drawing on January 22, 2020, during the 4 pm Branch meeting at the University Club, Winter Park. If your name is drawn, but you are not present, we will draw another name. A winner and an alternate will be selected.
6. If selected, must meet with a Branch officer to complete course registration details, including signing an ESU waiver of liability.

***The application is included as an insert in this Newsletter.***

## TSTP Reflection

- Tara Whitman

My time in London studying at The Globe was like a dream. Like the Central Florida scholars who have come before me, I am having a hard time putting this experience into words. Perhaps the most effective way was to say that I feel like I was living a second life. I got to spend three weeks in a new home, wake up every day to a new routine, start my day by walking to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and study with new friends. The days were long but surprisingly rejuvenating and energy creating.

Perhaps my favorite classes were those with our main instructor Tom Davey. For three weeks Tom started every class with a smile and remained kind and considerate to us all. As educators we all know that our students will test our patience and watching Tom demonstrate his was truly inspiring. Yes, even in this grand experience we had that peer who was resistant to the process. Tom would smile and move on, never allowing the rain cloud to affect the lesson. Tom would share his past mistakes telling a story of the one time he corrected a student in front of his peers and the lasting effects that had on the student and of Tom's inability to reconnect with that student after the incident. This personal anecdote on why one should always give criticism one-on-one has rung in my head since my return to school.

Another one of Tom's lessons, my absolute favorite of the entire process, was the "Story Whoosh." This was a process meant to explore key moments/events in a play (or story, or point in history, etc). In this lesson, the whole group stands or sits in a circle. The instructor then explains that everybody will have an opportunity to participate in the telling of a story by becoming characters or even objects in the tale. If at any time the instructor says "whoosh!" everyone should quickly return to their places. Then, the instructor begins to read the key points or a synopsis and as soon as a key character, event or object is mentioned, the first student is instructed to step into the circle to make a shape or pose. As more characters are introduced, students move around the circle so that all the students are given a chance to take part.

My mind raced as I wrote down all of the ways I wanted to incorporate the "Story Whoosh": to introduce a new play, to review one already studied, or for quick exposure. The last listed was the perfect application for my fall show. The students and I are working on the musical "Curtains," a comedic, murder mystery that mocks Golden Age musicals. The performance within our performance is in the form of a new musical "Robbin' Hood" a Wild West application to the classic tale of Robin Hood. The students and I were able to use "Story Whoosh" to follow through the plot of "Robbin' Hood" which helped them understand the roles that their characters had to play.

This is just one great example among many experienced during my time in London this summer. I am truly appreciative of the experience and the way it has changed me as an instructor. Thank you.



## SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION UPDATE

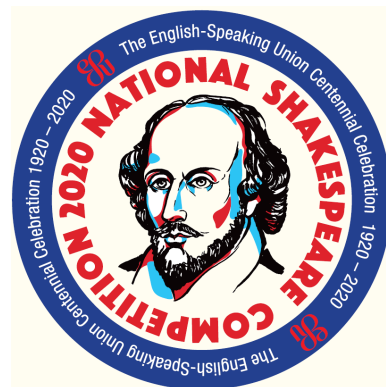
We are pleased to announce a change in venue for the 2020 ESU Shakespeare Competition to be held on Monday, February 24. The event still begins promptly at 4:00 p.m., with a check-in for competitors by 3:30 p.m. However, we will not be meeting at The University Club.

Please join us instead at:

**Orlando Shakes**

**Address: 812 E Rollins Street, Orlando, FL 32803**

**Phone: (407) 447-1700**



Our competitors will be able to take the stage in the Goldman Theater. Then, as the judges deliberate, please join us in the Patrons' Room for refreshments. This year we have 20 schools representing Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties, with several schools making their debut in the competition this year.

Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful presentation of Shakespeare's beloved monologues and sonnets and discover who will represent our branch at the National Shakespeare Competition in April.

In addition to our traditional \$1,000.00 First Place prize, and an all-expenses paid trip to perform at the Lincoln Center, Orlando Shakes has generously added to the bounty. Our First Place winner will also be the recipient of a scholarship to join The Young Company during the summer of 2020 (valued at an additional \$250.00). Mark your calendars now, noting the change of venue, so that you won't miss out on this wonderful exhibition of talent!

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**The English-Speaking Union of the United States - Central Florida Branch**

P.O. Box 758, Winter Park, FL 32790-0758

Website: [www.ESUus.org/centralflorida](http://www.ESUus.org/centralflorida) • Email: [centralfl@ESUus.org](mailto:centralfl@ESUus.org)





*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](http://www.E-SUus.org/centralflorida) for more information.**



## **Central Florida English-Speaking Union**

### ***Entry form for January 22, 2020 Drawing***

***All-Expenses Paid Trip to England, July 2020***

***Stratford-Upon-Avon  
From Page to Stage: Text to Theater***

Submission of this application will enter the member in a blind drawing, January 22, 2020, 4pm at an ESU meeting at the University Club, Winter Park.

#### **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_

Member since \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail that is checked every day \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email to [janmcclure407@gmail.com](mailto:janmcclure407@gmail.com) by midnight, Jan. 8, 2020.

**OR**

Mail to Jan McClure, 2260 Deloraine Trail, Maitland, FL 32751 and **received by Jan. 8.**



**The English Speaking Union**  
Central Florida Branch

# *Winter Dinner*

**Monday**  
**January 27, 2020**

**The Winter Park  
Racquet Club**  
2111 Via Tuscany  
Winter Park

**Cocktails 6:00pm**  
**Dinner 6:45pm**

Program Leader: Michele Levy

## **Orlando Big Band**



**Reservations due by Monday,  
January 20, 2020**

**Make your check for \$48 per person**

***Payable to:***

***"The English Speaking Union"***

***Send to:***

**Barbara Hughes,  
246 Balfour Drive,  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
Any questions please call  
Barbara Hughes at:  
321-279-1133**



### **Reservation Form**

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me (us) for *The Winter Dinner* at  
The Winter Park Racquet Club on Monday, January 27, 2020



\$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (\$48 per person)

Names of those covered in this request (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
(person requesting)

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **YOUR PHONE NUMBER**



# *Winter Dinner Menu*



## Hors d'oeuvres

Smoked Salmon Crostini  
Mini Asparagus Canapes Wrapped with Prosciutto

## Plated Dinner

Classic Wedge Salad  
NY Strip with Twin Butterflied Shrimp  
Duchess Potatoes  
Vegetable Medley Bundle

Rolls & Butter

Crème Brulee

Coffee and Tea  
Wine with dinner



# English-Speaking Union

Central Florida Branch

Tuesday  
February

4

2020

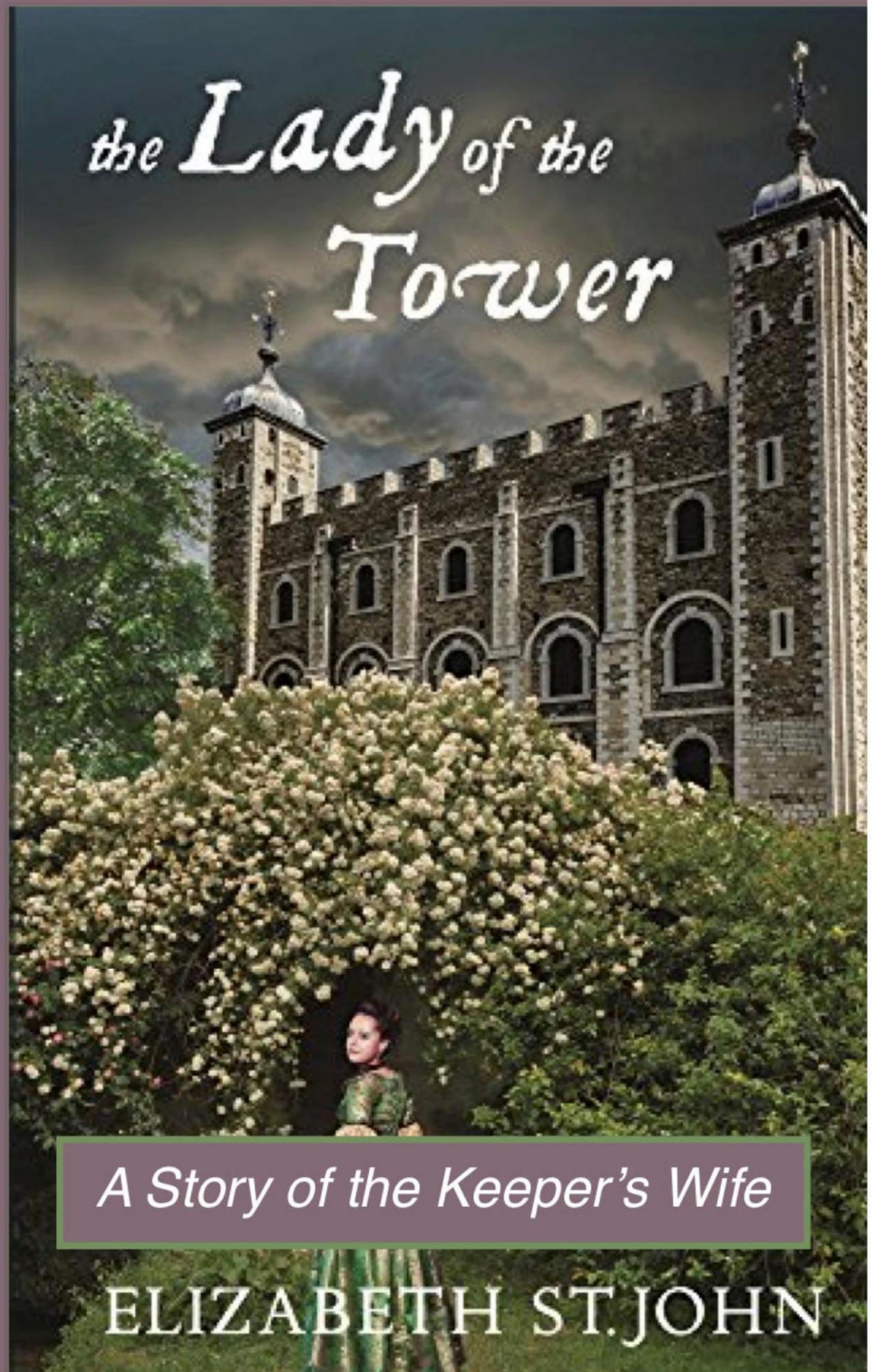
4:30pm

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.



Program Leader: Frank Barber