



BRANCH NEWS

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

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March 2016

Issue #7 – 2015-2016

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MARCH MEETING

Monday, March 14, 2016

3:30 p.m. Reception; 4:00 p.m. Program

The University Club of Winter Park

The Lord Lisvane, KCB
Evelyn Wrench Speaker

"A Universal Charter?" ***The Legacy of the Magna Carta***



Why and how did Magna Carta or "Great Charter" come about? What distinguished it from other charters of early medieval times? What did it really say and why? How did it then become embedded in the consciousness of the people of England before traveling the world? And most importantly, as we celebrate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, what does it mean for us today?

Lord Lisvane, KCB, a member of the House of Lords (formerly Sir Robert Rogers) recently retired as 49th Clerk of the House of Commons in the British Parliament, an office that dates back to 1363. For his service, the British magazine, "The Spectator," named him 2014 Parliamentarian of the Year. As Clerk he was the principal constitutional adviser to the House, drawing on four decades of experience in every aspect of the House's business. In 2013 he was named Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath and in 2014 was given a Life Peerage by the Queen.

Jackie Littleford, Program Leader

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Club Members of the English Speaking Union,



February was a busy month for our Central Florida Branch of the E-SU. We had our two core programs, the BUSS Scholars' Program and the Shakespeare Competition. In addition, six of our local members attended the Region Five Regional Meeting held in Coral Gables, Florida. Attending for National was Chris Broadwell, who spoke primarily on the new Organizational Structure of the nationwide E-SU. You will hear more about the new structure in the coming months. Your local Board is asking questions to make sure we understand how or if our Branch control and operations will be effected. It appears there will be no major changes that will have any impact on our membership.

Our Regional Meeting went very well despite the amazing amount of traffic going from one place to another. After living in South Miami in the early eighties, I was shocked to see the number of new structures throughout the Miami area and the increase in traffic they have created. We had a dinner with the registrants on Friday night and experienced two interesting events the next day. After the meeting on Saturday, we went to the Frost Museum at Florida Atlantic University to view the "First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare." It is a collection of plays and poems compiled by two actors, John Heminge and Henry Condell and was published in 1623. The event was made possible by the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., and the American Library Association which sponsored a nationwide tour to honor the 400th anniversary of the death of the Bard in April of 1616. As in any piece of antiquity, it was moving for the viewer to see the original document published so long ago. Also available was a duplicate of the Folio for observers to page through and read some of the material.

Our next event was an evening performance of "As You Like It" at the Ring Theatre at the University of Miami. The actors showed great talent, and we saw a wonderful performance of one of "Bill's" great plays. The evening also included enjoying a beautiful night of Miami weather. The next Regional Meeting will take place in Jacksonville in February of 2017. Consider attending this one and meet some of your fellow Florida E-SU members.

Plans continue to be developed for our Branch's big event which is hosting the Annual Conference of all branches in the United States. The Black Tie Gala Dinner, the conference, and lunch will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Maitland on October 14 and 15, 2016. The Patrons' Reception will take place at the Cornell Museum at Rollins College the evening of October 15, 2016. On October 16, we will have a Sunday Brunch at an undisclosed location hopefully in downtown Winter Park to showcase this unique area and the Morse Museum. The Gala Dinner will be our October Dinner so if you do not attend any other events, mark your calendar for Friday, October 14, 2016, and plan to attend. We will have great entertainment for that evening in the spacious Sheraton Grand Ballroom.

Cordially,

Frank Paul Barber. President

CONGRATULATIONS!

2016 Drey Scholars of the E-SU Central Florida Branch

On Saturday, January 30 at 7:30 a.m., the Scholar Committee arrived at the University Club to begin interviewing ten candidates for the British Universities Summer School Scholarships. I would like to thank Fran Morrissey, E-SU member, for rising so early to greet each of the teachers selected for the interviews and also the scholars from the class of 2015 for producing the book, *A Scholar's Field Guide to England*. Fran used the book and its pictures to entertain the candidates waiting for their turn. Thank you also to Joyce Rose for setting up the schedule and Bob Pittman for gathering all the candidates' emailed documents. It is not an easy task to choose five scholars when all of the candidates interviewed are so impressive. After much deliberation, the Scholar Committee is pleased to announce the 2016 Drey Scholars with three going to Oxford and two travelling to London's Globe Theater. They are the following:



Pictured left to right: Ashley Barnette, Janill Johnsen, Sally Marjama, Reta Jackson, Chair, Dr. Natalie Holter, and Lauren Oliva.

Ashley Barnette teaches AP U.S. History at Lake Mary High and has been named Lake Mary's *Teacher of the Year* and is Seminole County's High School *Teacher of the Year*. She has set a professional goal of launching an Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics course at Lake Mary, which would examine the policies of Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. She wishes to attend the July seminar at Oxford's Exeter College for History, Politics, and Society and in her words, 'The only fence against the world is a thorough knowledge of it'-John Locke. With international terror attacks, religious wars and economic depressions, it is more necessary than ever before that we be armed with knowledge. Locke, an Oxford graduate, understood the importance of being worldly; a worldliness that I am eager to attain and model for my students.' Ashley not only works with her students but is a leadership cohort for Seminole County, an instructional coach/co-leader of the New Teacher program, and a member of two Professional Learning Communities. She is also the Interact Sponsor for the local Rotary Chapter. The committee feels confident that Ashley will have an amazing experience in Oxford this summer.

Dr. Natalie Holter teaches 12th grade English and AP Literature at The First Academy and is an Associate Digital Professor at Valencia Community College, teaching Humanities online and in person. She has a Bachelor's degree from Yale University, Master of Liberal Studies from Rollins, and Doctor of Education from UCF. She is a Master Trainer and Instructor for Princeton Review. She has been teaching for fifteen years and was named *Teacher of the Year* the third year she taught. In her application essay she stated, "Once I came to terms with my love of British culture, the logical course to follow was to share it with others. First, I founded the Yale University Undergraduate Shakespeare Company, whose mission was to guarantee at least one production of the Bard's works took place on campus every semester." Natalie inspires her students to love reading and critical thinking and is proud to see students arguing about characters from literature like Heathcliff and Hareton from *Wuthering Heights* weeks following their class' study of the novel. Natalie wishes to attend Oxford University's summer program in, of course, British literature. E-SU members wish Natalie many adventures!

Continued on page 4

2016 Drey Scholars, continued from page 3

Janill Johnsen teaches 9th grade Honors and Standard English at Seminole High where she is the faculty sponsor for Leadership, Student Government Association, and the Junior Class Council. She has presented a Kagan Strategy Workshop to more than 200 teachers and has created a school-wide writing plan to the faculty. The Assistant Principal, who is her supervisor, wrote, "As an educator of 15 years, I have rarely met a teacher willing to invest the amount of time and effort into both planning and student learning. Ms. Johnsen is a model of both. Her work ethic and professionalism are unparalleled." She is the recipient of their *Jefferson Award* and was a *Teacher of the Month*. Janill feels, "I have come to realize that high school (and teaching) is centered around *experiences*. In order for students to feel a connection to the material, they must associate the lesson with an experience or memory formed in the classroom. In this same respect, educators who undergo a professional experience that is both engaging and memorable will feel a deeper connection to the text that will extend beyond the pages of a literature book." The committee is eager for Janill to form many memories at the Globe.

Sally Marjama, a teacher of theater at South West Middle School, has adapted Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for seventh graders. She worked for two years with the Tony Award winning Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis, MN, and has been recognized by Orange County School Board for leadership in the arts in 2011. Winner of the Orange County Public Schools *Kessler Grand Bohemian Scholarship for Drama and Dance*, Sally has produced nine theatrical productions for South West Middle School. Her program directly feeds students into Dr. Phillips' drama department where many former students excel. In her own words, "I don't want to be that teacher that rattles on about experiences they've only read about in a book. I want to share actual experiences and firsthand knowledge to make it real and relevant. I want to show my students my passion for the subject so they have a passion for the subject." Sally, the committee is eager for you to share some of your experiences of London's Globe Theater.

Lauren Oliva teaches AP World History, AP Art History, and AP Research at Lake Howell High and is employed by the College Board as a Consultant, teaching Summer Institutes for the AP Capstone: Seminar and Research Course. She is the chair of Lake Howell's Collaborative Improvement Team and is writing from her research a paper, "Pagans, Prefects and Emperors: a Reexamination of the Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus." Lauren has only taught for five years, but her supervisor wanted to share her accomplishments, "to show what she means to our school and district. In AP World History, her pass rates are consistently at the top of our district with a 75-82% pass rate. In AP Art History, she has led the district and State of Florida with a 100% pass rate for three consecutive years. And with College Board's premier academic program, AP Capstone: Seminar Course and Research Course, a 92% pass rate, which is the highest in the State of Florida and **the highest in the United States!** Her positive attitude is infectious and the internal drive to be a lifelong learner feeds her love of academics." The members of E-SU are excited to send Lauren off to Oxford University this summer.

Congratulations to each scholar. We are excited for you and wish you safe travels this summer and many adventures as our ambassadors to the United Kingdom.

Reta Jackson, Scholar Chair

E-SU PERMANENT NAME TAGS AVAILABLE

More of our members are opting for a permanent name tag! It shows the E-SU emblem and saves your clothes from the sticky adhesive name tags. The cost is only \$10 paid at the time of the order. Interested? Please contact Gisela Davis at 407-339-7196 or email davisgmf@cfl.rr.com.



E-SU CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

Upcoming Programs

(Tip: Post on your refrigerator as a reminder!)

April 18, 2016

The University Club of Winter Park - 3:30 p.m.

Honoring the Queen's 90th Birthday
"Queen's Birthday Party"

May 9, 2016

The University Club of Winter Park - 3:30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting

Dr. Elliot Engel

"How William Became Shakespeare"



JANUARY 25 DINNER MEETING

At the recent January 25 dinner meeting, attendees enjoyed a dynamic performance by Marina Jurica, the singing weather lady of channel 9, who shared a duet with Gabe Presser of the Opera Orlando. They were accompanied by pianist Christopher Leary of the Winter Park Playhouse.

It was a great evening at the Winter Park Racquet Club with a wonderful dinner followed by a spectacular program. We hope you will join us for our next dinner meeting in October 2016.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER



* Elizabeth Danforth



Jean E. Gavin



The English-Speaking Union

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E-SU PROGRAMS 2015-2016

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ☺ Apr. 18 - Mtg. at the University Club
- ☺ May 9 - Mtg. at the University Club

**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.