

BRANCH NEWS

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

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

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**THE ENGLISH
SPEAKING UNION
CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH**

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH
24
4:00 pm**

**ZOOM Format
Waiting room
Opens at: 3:45 pm**

**An email Zoom
link invitation
will be sent
March 22 & 24**

**Program Leader
Barbara Hughes**



Professor Elliot Engel

The Brilliance of Sir Walter Raleigh: Beyond the Cloak

A Renaissance man in the Elizabethan age, Sir Walter Raleigh had a colorful and fascinating life as a poet, soldier, courtier, spy, and explorer. He deserves to be remembered not merely for (supposedly) placing his cloak over a puddle for Queen Elizabeth I to walk on.



Raleigh was one of the great writers of love poetry in a golden literary age and a brilliant entrepreneur, according to Professor Elliot Engel. Using anecdotes, analysis, and large doses of humor, he will make this remarkable historical figure live once again.

Watch your email inbox for the link!

Sponsor
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President's Message

"Top o' the mornin' to ya..."



To continue acquainting you, our members, with our National English-Speaking Union programs, I would like to elaborate upon the **Luard Morse Scholarship program**. This merit-based program provides a \$25,000 scholarship for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to study at a British University of their choice during their junior year. Since its inception in the 1969-1970 academic year, eighty four exceptional students have attended eighteen British Universities, some of which include Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics. George Pratt has been selected as the 2021-2022 Luard Morse Scholar. George Pratt of Jacksonville, Florida, is a sophomore at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is pursuing a degree in Religion and History.



Another program is the Secondary School Exchange (SSE) which is one of the ESU's oldest education programs. It was founded in 1928. Thousands of British and American students have enjoyed ESU fellowship and study abroad. The ESU Secondary School Exchange is a merit-based scholarship providing tuition, room, and board for scholars to spend a year between high school and college at a British boarding school. During this "extra" year of high school, these young scholars have new academic and social experiences in another country and culture. Through this year abroad, the SSE scholars gain independence, a global outlook, and increased maturity that may benefit them at college and in their future careers. SSE scholars often describe their experience abroad as a most formative time in their lives, and many go on to become active alumni of their host schools and members of the English-Speaking Union.

It was March 9th a year ago that our Central Florida Branch hosted Wayne Bowen, our guest speaker, in-person. It is hard to believe an entire year has passed us by, and although we have been unable to physically meet, I hope that you have been able to join us for our Zoom presentations throughout this year either on the day of the presentation or at a later date utilizing the YouTube link provided for you.

Continued President's Message

I cannot recall any in-person meeting that we have had in the past few years that I have not been approached and asked when we would have Elliot Engel as a speaker again. **Well, he is back!** He will be our guest speaker on **Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 4:00 pm.** to share "The Brilliance of Sir Walter Raleigh: Beyond the Cloak." I am saddened however that he will not be here in Winter Park, but he will be presenting via the Zoom platform. Please refer to the front page of this newsletter for further information.

An Irish Blessing

"May you live a long life full of gladness and health
with a pocket full of gold as the least of your wealth.
May the dreams you hold dearest be those
which come true and the kindness you spread keep returning to you."

Warmly,
Barbara W. Hughes

CENTRAL FLORIDA ESU 2020-2021 PROGRAM SEASON

**All programs are on Monday at the University Club of Winter Park unless otherwise indicated.*

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Zoom Program

Elliot Engel- "Sir Walter Raleigh: Beyond the Muddy Cloak"

Monday, April 12, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Zoom Program

Anna Maria Jones- "Victorian Afterlives and How the 19th century is
Alive in Today's Culture"

Monday, May 17, 2021, 3:30- 5:30 p.m. Annual E-SU Meeting

Susan Rosoff- "David Hockney: From Yorkshire to Hollywood and Back Again"



If you would like to view any of our past ESU Branch Programs, such as the recent phenomenal voice stylings of Queen's Six Goes Pop!, you may access them by visiting the ESU Central Florida Branch Youtube Channel link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHSbTEUXk8z13quMw34MHSQ>



The Shakespeare Competition

On February 22, the Annual ESU Shakespeare Competition arrived in a whole new format, one which arrived in the inboxes of all members via email. For the first time ever, the Central Florida Branch of the ESU held a virtual competition that was open to students in the tri-county area, inviting participants from Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties. Also new this year was the For the Love of the Bard Award. This award will be given annually to a student who exhibits determination, grit, fortitude, and a true passion for Shakespeare's works. This year's inaugural recipient is Kristina M. Williams of Avalon Private School. The second award that is new to the competition this year is the Richard Burbage Award. Named after one of the most famous actors at The Globe Theatre, this award celebrates the work and dedication of teacher sponsors who have managed year after year to keep their students engaged, their involvement in our competition ongoing, and our audiences enriched. The 2021 recipient of the Richard Burbage Award is long-standing sponsor Robert Carr. Both award winners will receive a check for \$100.00.



Congratulations
to all of our
2021 Shakespeare
Competition
Participants!

Our Third Place contestant for the 2021 Shakespeare competition is Jalise Martinez of Poinciana High School. Her faculty sponsor is James Thompson. In Second Place is Eislinn Gracen. Supported by her teacher sponsor, Sarah Porter, Eislinn represents West Orange High School. Advancing to the National round of competition is First Place winner, Christian Walker, for his portrayal of Hamlet. Lisa Hines of The Geneva School is Christian's faculty sponsor. First, Second, and Third Place rankings were awarded \$1,000.00, \$500.00, and \$250.00 respectively.

The National Competition will also be held in a virtual format this year with video links to performances due by April 5, 2021. The top ten finalists will be announced on April 19, with remote competition finals tentatively scheduled for April 26. While there is the possibility of a delayed or substituted prize due to COVID, the First Place award at the national level consists of a scholarship to the British American Drama Academy Mid-Summer Conservatory Program. We would like to congratulate all of our participants and their teacher sponsors who have worked tirelessly during a particularly challenging school year!

A Message of Gratitude

While we are not sure whether to name this year's Shakespeare Competition *A Winter's Tale* or *All's Well that Ends Well*, we do know that its success is the result of the magical effort of our incomparable contest wizard Ginger Bryant. While she has done everything from advising Lake Highland's award winning literary magazine to founding the school's chapter of Project Magic which uses magic as a form of therapy for people with physical, psychological, and social disabilities, Ginger's most impressive achievement came this year. Beginning in the fall, she recruited, coaxed, and charmed over a dozen Central Florida teachers into adding to their already unprecedented responsibilities the challenge of preparing students in person and over zoom for the 2021 Shakespeare Competition. Against all odds, Ginger succeeded brilliantly. The commitment of teachers like Ginger and their ability to inspire and motivate both their students and their peers should give all of us hope for the future of education and our nation.

- Socky O'Sullivan



Heartfelt thanks
to the
Incomparable
Shakespeare
Competition Wizard
Ginger Bryant's
Assistants...

Jan McClure: Mailed out Ginger's letter of congratulations, certificates of participation, and \$25.00 Barnes and Noble gift cards to all contestants this year.

Jackie Abrams: Cut and mailed out all checks for our teacher sponsor honorariums, judges' honorariums, and monetary gifts for our top three contestants as well as for our two new special award recipients this year (along with my letters of thanks to all).

Brett Carrier: Helped video tape a message from our judges and sent out all email blasts notifying people of this year's virtual competition with links to all of the videos, along with a follow-up email revealing all contestant information and the announcement of winners/ prizes.

Barbara Hughes: Arranged a Zoom conference for further deliberation amongst judges and approved the addition of two new awards for the competition this year.

Julie Rankin: Acted as a secondary point of contact for National in all matters pertaining to the competition.

Membership News



"There is power when the many are one."

During this time when there are so many people who need lifting up, some isolated at home in loneliness, some struggling to battle illness, others rebuilding lives with the new confidence of a long-awaited vaccine coursing through their veins, we are compelled to support one another. In this spirit, we hope that our members take time to lend thoughts and prayers to Rebecca VanHorn who has been in struggling to overcome her bout with the Coronavirus. Not only that, she also found herself grieving over the loss of her father who passed just recently. Rebecca certainly needs our love and support, and we lovingly call upon all of our members to provide it. Messages of support may be emailed to esu.rebeccavanhorn@yahoo.com.

ESU NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nominating Committee would like to invite any of the Central Florida membership interested who wish to participate more in-depth by serving in any capacity to let us know.

You will find it a rewarding and enjoyable experience!

If you are interested in contributing your time and talents by serving as an officer on the board, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Elaine Laegeler at laegelere@gmail.com. If you would like to serve on one of the committees, please notify President Barbara Hughes at Barbarahughes954@gmail.com.

**Evolve
education and
impact lives.
Join the ESU!**

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, 144 East 39th Street, New York., NY 10016.**

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.

**The English-Speaking Union
Central Florida Branch**

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