



Atlanta Branch

The English-Speaking Union

Education Scholarship Understanding

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow ESU Members,

A new year is about to begin, and this last one has been fascinating. The work we do is important and gratifying, and I hope you are as proud of our accomplishments as I am. My first duty and responsibility as your President is to be a conduit of information to you, our membership. First, I want you to be aware that the National Office is busy with many changes, and we stay in good communication with the staff there. I pass on to you the information that they send to us.

The committees have worked like clock-work this past year. We could not get along without the many efforts of the members who are on the various committees. The Program Committee has provided many varied programs for us, night and day, intellectual and social, costly/elegant and free. We always have nice refreshments and the dues are consistently low so we can keep membership easy. The Membership chair welcomes new members and provides the name tags. The Communication Committee sends invitations, writes the newsletter and organizes the Directory. The Recording Secretary also manages our website. The Patron Committee is in the process of planning an event to honor members who chose to be Patrons, both National and Local. The Treasurer keeps account of all our assets. All work together smoothly and we owe them all a big "Thank You!"

Last October, eight members attended the National Annual General Meeting in Newport, Rhode Island, and two of our members served on the National Board of Directors. In February, we enjoyed the Shakespeare Competition and sent our winner to compete in New York at the Lincoln Center. In March, a Walter Hines Page Scholar spent four days in Atlanta observing science programs in local schools. Several members on that committee worked to make that a successful visit. We attempted to host a Region II meeting in April, and our Board supported it 100%, and we did all things right. Not enough Presidents from other Southeast Branches signed on, so the decision was made to cancel it.

Our Treasurer, who manages our investments and spending, tells me that we are in good financial condition. Thirty-six members chose to be patrons. Nearly \$5000 was available for grants and scholarships in addition to money earned from wise investments. This year we gave Travel/Study Grants to three Emory students and a BUSS Scholarship to a high school drama/literature teacher for study at the Globe Theatre in London. Another grant was given to The New American Shakespeare Tavern where we hold the competitions. In all we granted over \$10,000 to deserving scholars. This is the most important work we do! Look atop any communication you receive from the ESU and see

"Education. Scholarship. Understanding." This is who we are!

Thanks for all you do,
Jean Morris, President, Atlanta Branch

APRIL MEETING



The Legacy of Winston Churchill

Mr. Joe Wilson, President of the Churchill Society of Atlanta, treated us to a fact-filled presentation on the ever popular British statesman, Winston Churchill. Mr. Wilson is very well versed in Prime Minister Churchill's life, and added to his personal knowledge a DVD presentation that was done several years ago by the late professor, Dr. J. Rufus Fears of the University of Oklahoma entitled "The Legacy of Winston Churchill." This is just one of twelve lectures in the series on his amazing man's life by Dr. Fears. Several members of the Atlanta Churchill Society were also present to hear this lecture. Light refreshments were served.

The 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Our May 19th meeting at St. Philips Cathedral featured our 2014 ESU Study/Travel Grant recipient, Dr. Sheila Cavanagh, who is an English professor at Emory University. Our speaker was introduced by Grace Sanders who herself is a direct descendent of three out of the 17 Barons who left heirs who composed the original Magna Carta and is a member of The National Society of Magna Charta Dames.

Dr. Cavanaugh shared with us her experiences while doing research for two weeks in Belfast, Ireland. After telling us briefly of this experience in Belfast, she concentrated on speaking about the Magna Carta, the charter of freedoms that England's King John granted in 1215, 800 years ago on June 15. Written in Latin, Magna Carta means, "The Great Charter." It was originally drafted between King John and a group of rebel barons. Dr. Cavanagh is a Shakespeare authority, and it was so interesting how she intertwined Magna Carta with Shakespeare plays. Shakespeare wrote about King John whose seal is on the Magna Carta, but he never mentioned the charter in any play. Some of the legal tenants we now enjoy such as trial by jury and other civil liberties stemmed from the demands that the Barons made to King John.

Also of note, Dr. Cavanagh is the Director of Emory's Year of Shakespeare working with the Folger Library and the traveling exhibit, "The First Folio: The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare." In 2016 we will be reading and hearing a lot about the exhibit which will be in the Carlos Museum. The ESU Atlanta Branch may be playing a role in this exhibit. More details to come.

The *Annual General Meeting* was also conducted where the slate of officers offered by the Nominating Committee was read by Linda Wickham. A motion was made to accept the officers as submitted, seconded and approved by a majority vote with one abstention. Our president, Jean Morris, gave an overview of the past year and all the accomplishments our branch has made in providing grants to recipients totaling approximately \$10,000 as well as a review of the work of the various committees. Our branch is doing well financially and hopes to continue to be actively involved in furthering the basic premise of the ESU with Education, Scholarship and Understanding.



Pictured with Dr. Cavanagh is Grace Sanders, Atlanta Branch member, showing Dr. Cavanagh her **Dames of Magna Charta** membership document and wearing her official membership pin.

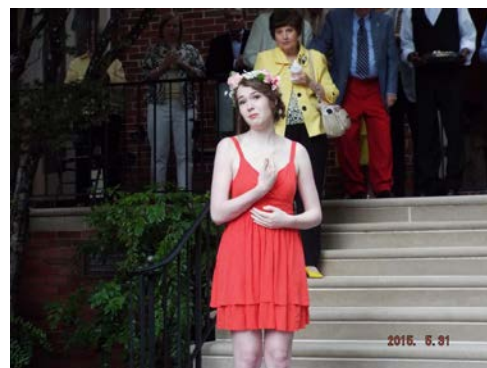


ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY



In spite of the spring showers that threatened to dampen our party, we still had a good time thanks to our gracious hostess, **Camille Yow** (pictured left with Peter Morris and Fay Selvage). Her beautiful home and garden patio afforded us a perfect setting to enjoy excellent food and the proverbial Pimm's Cup. As is our tradition, a toast was proposed by Dr. Manning Pattillo, OStJ, to the Queen, and Fay Selvage toasted the President of the United States. Ladies in their finest hats added to the ambience.

We enjoyed a special treat from the winner of the Atlanta Shakespeare contest, **Fiona Hare** (right), as she presented a soliloquy from a Shakespeare play and a recitation from Shakespeare's Sonnet 73. She and her very proud parents were our guests for the Garden Party.



The two travel grant winners were also our guests – **Reem Al-Atassi** (left) and **Jane Chang** (below) – who shared their educational background and what their study plans include as they both will be attending Oxford University for several weeks during the summer. We hope to have them back to a meeting in the fall so they can give us a report on their experiences.



Thanks again to Camille Yow for opening her beautiful home to our group and to Fay Selvage who always does an excellent job organizing all the details to make this affair a success.



Our traditional toasts to the Queen and the President.



Officers and Board Members of the Atlanta Branch: Lyn Hovanesian, Manning Pattillo, Fay Selvage, David Robichaud, Gail Glattli, Jean Morris, and John Selvage



WALTER HINES PAGE SCHOLAR VISITS ATLANTA

The Walter Hines Page Scholar, **Nial Pickering** from Liverpool, England, sent on a two-week visit to see schools in the United States, was in Atlanta March 24-29. As a science teacher, his focus was on science and especially the recently developed STEAM Program. He visited Walton High School in Cobb County and Westminster in Atlanta. We give a big thanks to Dr. Don Pattillo who chaired the WHP committee and made arrangements for his visits in the schools and showed him some sights in Atlanta. Several committee members hosted him for dinner, lunch or breakfast. It takes several of us to make a success of a visit for 5 days for the scholars sent to us from the London Office. A big “Thanks” to all who helped make it happen.

He was asked to make a statement about his visit and this is his unedited thanks to the Atlanta Branch of the ESU.

“Being able to visit the city of Atlanta, and visit some of its schools, has been truly inspiring.

The STEM Academy at Walton High School is providing the brightest, most dedicated individuals the opportunity to shine from the earliest opportunity.

The school also provides engineering courses spanning the full 4 years of High School so students can appreciate the full depth of what a promising career this could be for them.

The highlight of my visit to Walton High School was meeting a Grade 11 student called Jenna. Jenna was part of the SMART project, enabling high school students to work with scientist mentors on an aspect of current research. Jenna showed me her model of a protein responsible for Progeria (early, advanced aging disorder) and her understanding and explanation of her work was so eloquent, so in-depth, that it was inspiring to see such a passion for science in one so young.

The Westminster Schools exemplified the flexibility and level of creativity that both teachers and students can display when encouraged to do so. The Upper School boasts an impressive Robotics section along with a unique course on neuropsychology. The school was also hosting an exhibition on STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math) featuring works from K-12. The highlight of this

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visit came when I visited the Lower School (Elementary) and realized they had not only distinct science lessons, but also distinct labs for science education.

And on top of that I had the privilege to visit the Design Thinking lesson. In here, students are introduced to engineering and technology at an early age; however, they are reminded to consider how such technology will improve the lives of people before and further design is possible. The techniques and philosophy behind this is worthy of teaching across all ages and I would love to see this happen.

It has been my privilege to be able to visit schools across the U.S., meeting with colleagues and talking to students. I believe that if there is only one lesson we can teach in education, it must be that curiosity and creativity is paramount. For like my hero Prometheus, we must ensure that the flame of inspiration never dies, is never taken from us, and that it is always passed to those who must light the way after us.“

By Nial Pickering 28/03/2015

This was a great experience for all.

Jean Morris, President, Atlanta Branch

Gary Hicks Awarded the Branch’s 2015 BUSS Scholarship

Gary Hicks, an English teacher at Cobb County’s Kell High School, was awarded the Branch’s 2015 British Universities Summer School (BUSS) scholarship. Gary will travel to England in early July to begin a 3-week intensive Shakespeare program at the famous Globe Theatre in London.

Gary’s selection by the Branch BUSS committee was influenced in part by his 12+ years of commitment to the Branch’s Shakespeare Competition and by his personal statement that said in part:

“I am still passionate about teaching. Nothing is more fulfilling than leading students into learning that helps them to see themselves and the world more fully, and no area of study that I know has more potential to do that than Shakespeare. However, as a veteran teacher, I have reached a stage in my career when I need further education in order to be able to continue serving my students effectively. I am eager to learn the variety of traditional and modern approaches to theatre and performance offered through the British Universities Summer School programs. In pursuing this opportunity, I am looking to be challenged to break out of my old habits and to learn new ways to deliver content so that I can engage students the way I was inspired as a student. “

Each year about 45 U.S. high school teachers receive scholarships from the Branches and travel to Great Britain to participate in one of three venues of the British Universities Summer School program: The Globe, Oxford University, and University of Edinburgh. Since 1957, more than 2,000 U.S. teachers have participated in this program and have influenced countless students.

The BUSS program is an integral part of the English-Speaking Union’s Education mission.

(Article submitted by Charles Maddrey)

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Our Shakespeare Contest Winner Becomes a Semi-finalist in New York Competition



With a performance of a sonnet and monologue from Shakespeare, **Fiona Hare** from Gainesville, GA, a student of Jeff Kelly at Chestatee High School in Gainesville, placed as a semi-finalist in the 32nd annual English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition. The Competition was held on April 27th at Lincoln Center Theater in New York City for 57 winners of ESU Branch competitions nationwide.

The ESU provided the Branch winners with two full days of educational and cultural activities in New York City, including an exclusive acting workshop at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and a performance of the Something Rotten! on Broadway. Perhaps best of all for these teenagers was the opportunity to spend a weekend in New York City with other students from across the country who share a love of theater, language and, particularly, Shakespeare.

We are extremely proud of Fiona and wish her all the best as she pursues her dreams for the future. We also want to thank Pam Sellman and her committee members for their hard work and commitment to this program.



FYI – Shakespeare Devotees

Life Span is offering a Shakespeare Course this summer taught by Jeff Watkins, at the Cathedral of St. Philip and runs from July 9 - August 13. Call 404-237-7307 for information about registration.

NEW DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE. IF YOU HAVE NOT PICKED YOURS UP AT ONE OF THE RECENT MEETINGS, A COPY IS BEING MAILED TO YOU.

SAVE THE DATE

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| September | Polo anyone? Last year's event was such a success we are working on making arrangements to do it again. |
| October 23 | Evelyn Wrench speaker, Simon Claxton |
| November | TBD |
| December | Christmas Party |

IN MEMORIUM

Kip Bevier-Lee (former member)