



Atlanta Branch
The English-Speaking Union
Education Scholarship Understanding

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Atlanta Branch ESU Members,

What a remarkable two years we have just completed, and thank you for supporting my tenure as your President. It has been an exciting experience for me and I am even more committed to the mission of the ESU. The ESU is an important charitable organization, and we become more committed to the mission as we learn more and more about its function and all it does. We worked hard to participate to the fullest in many programs.

We should be pleased with the accomplishments of the Atlanta Board. Because we are financially stable, the Branch has been in a position to be generous. The Atlanta Branch has funded two BUSS Scholars for schooling in England, one at the Globe Theatre and one at Oxford. We have sent 2 winning high school students from Atlanta to compete in the Shakespeare Competition at Lincoln Center in NY. We issued 4 Travel/Study Grants to college students for foreign study. We contributed to the Shakespeare Tavern for 6 college interns to work for the summers. Wow!

The Program Committee scheduled scholarly lectures, elegant lunches and dinners, and delightful afternoon parties in members' homes. We celebrated two important anniversaries, the writing of the Magna Carta in 1215 and the death of William Shakespeare in 1616. Shakespeare 400, chaired by Fay Selvage, will continue into next fall with the First Folio Exhibit at the Carlos Museum, November 5-December 11. We will not want to miss a chance to view the collection of the Bard's works, published in 1623 from the Folger Library. Joe and Betsi McLure led the Program Committee and several others chaired some of the events.

The Patron Committee, led by Linda Wickham, honored our Patrons with two stunning socials and we have added more patrons to the list.

The Communications Committee and the Membership Committee are both vital to our functioning and a big "thanks" goes to all the committees.

You were represented at two National Annual General Meetings, one in Newport, R. I. and one in New York City. Two of our members, Charles Maddrey and Gloria Norris, have worked with the Branch Services Committee and one as District II Director. The Branch Services Committee has been involved for several years with a prestigious legal firm to bring the ESUUS into the 21st century and restructure the organization into an LLC, offering better liability protection to the Branches and members, and necessitating that all branches operate with the same loosely organized and flexible set of bylaws. At the last Atlanta Branch Board Meeting, your board voted to accept the new Board Managed Operating Agreement unanimously. We will be learning about and complying with a new set of rules, and the new Board Members will begin a new chapter for the ESUUS and the Atlanta Branch.

Thank you so much for such a wonderful two years. It was my pleasure to serve as your President. Let's continue to go forward together,

Jean Morris, President, Atlanta Branch

Once again, we were amazed at the range of talent that is sometimes hidden within our High School Students. On Sunday, February 21st, we were privileged to see and listen to Atlanta Branch's entrants for the Shakespeare competition.

We were pleased to welcome 20 students, together with their teachers, family and friends at the Shakespeare Playhouse, where sharply at 1:00 pm the first entrant began his presentation of a 20 line monologue and one of "The Bard's" sonnets. From the beginning it was obvious that this would be an even better year than last.

The students are not permitted to wear period costume, speak with an English accent or act their selected items, they have to "present" them. The varied and talented way in which they did so made for an amazing, rewarding and entertaining afternoon.

This year, the judges - Andy Houchin (an Equity Actor and staff member of the theater), Sarah Newby Halicks (an Atlanta Shakespeare Company actor) and Samantha Smith (the education and development coordinator for the theater) - were presented with the task of deciding who should go forward to New York. Speaking with them following the competition I was advised that their decision was only reached with difficulty as the student level was one of the highest they had heard.

Finally, however, they gave first position to **Brittany Mills**, a student from DeKalb School of the Arts (a regular participant in the competition). First runner up was Brett Alewine from Chestatee High School and second runner up was Lilly Gonzales from Roswell High School.



Our congratulations to Brittany (*seen left*). The monologue she selected was Phoebe, from *As You Like it*. She was Phoebe! She selected Sonnet 21 which tries to express a swain's love in a unique manner without comparing his love to any other. With such talent we look forward to Brittany bringing the National title back to Georgia. She will be present at one of our later meetings to talk about her experience and the National Competition at the Lincoln Center.

We were also privileged to have the local President of SAG/ARFTA, Ric Reitz, Barry Stoltze, also of SAG/ARFTA and Susan Larkin, President of the local Equity branch to advise us of the programs and assistance they can provide for schools, teacher and students should they so wish. Ms. Larkin confessed at the end of her talk that her son, 19 years ago, had won our ESU competition.

We would like to express our thanks to the Shakespeare Playhouse for donating the use of their theater for the afternoon together with a special thank you to Elizabeth Munson (and a her team of culinary ladies) for the splendid array of refreshments provided. As always, excellent and very much appreciated by all who were there. Obviously, we thank the judges who took such pains with their decision and who give their time freely for these young people. And, Randy Brennan who took such great photographs.

It really is an excellent afternoon and, as it is our February meeting, we would love to see more of our members cheering on these possible John Gielgud, Marlon Brando, Maggie Smith or Dame Judi Dench thespians of the future.

Make a note on your calendar for **February 19, 2017**, the date of next year's competition.

Submitted by Pam Sellman, Chairman of the Shakespeare Committee

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Tea and Shakespeare



On a glorious spring day, thanks to the generous hospitality of James and Elizabeth Munson, our March event was absolutely delicious . . .literally!! Attendees were treated to a beautiful spread including a variety of tea sandwiches and sweet treats along with, of course, tea.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Tiffany Stern, was introduced by Professor Sheila Cavanagh. Dr. Stern is a professor of Early Modern Drama at Oxford University focusing on theatre history from the 16th and 17th century, book history and editing, specializing in the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. The talk she gave us centered on Shakespeare's First Folio, its importance and how variations in spelling and editing occurred and the obstacles associated with the actual printing which was all done by hand leaving considerable room for error. Dr. Stern spoke extensively on the details of the creation of the original Folio that included almost all of his plays in a folio edition compiled seven years after Shakespeare's death. Had this effort not been made, many plays including *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Tempest*, might never have survived.

Dr. Stern went on to explain that Shakespeare wrote around 37 plays, 36 of which are contained in the First Folio. Most of these plays were performed in the Globe, an open-air playhouse in London built on the south bank of the Thames in 1599. As none of Shakespeare's original manuscripts survive (except, possibly, Sir Thomas More, which Shakespeare is believed to have revised a part of) we only know his work from printed editions.

Researchers believe that 750 or fewer copies of the First Folio were printed; 233 survive today, of which 82 are in the Folger collection. The Folger Library has a First Folio together with panels and digital content. It will be touring the United States and Atlanta will be privileged to view it in November when it will be on display at The Carlos Museum on the Emory Campus. Dr. Cavanaugh, who is Chairperson for the display, was present at our meeting and went on to explain the many and varied functions they have prepared in honor of this event. All details can be found on their web site.

Much more will be forthcoming from the ESU-Atlanta Branch on the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death as this year progresses.



Professor Cavanagh and our guest, Tiffany Stern

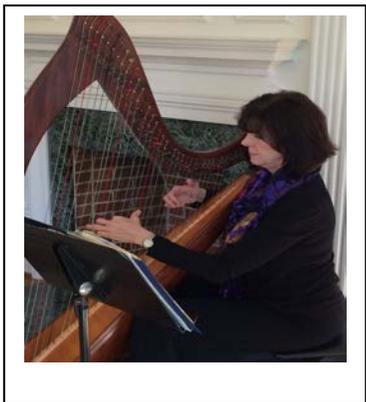


Patron's Circle Reception



On Saturday, March 5, a reception was held at the historic and unique Lanier House on the grounds of St. Philip's Cathedral. The venue was a perfect place to hold an event like this. Our Committee Chairman, *Linda DeFoor Wickham*, went the extra mile to make the Patrons and Donors feel welcome with a sumptuous Coffee Reception along with a harpist to entertain us.

It was a wonderful time to meet and get acquainted with all those who have generously contributed to the various ESU scholarship grants that allow the organization to fulfill our goals and mission of furthering education, as well as the Shakespeare Competition and the BUSS Scholarship Grant to name a few.



I am sure Linda would welcome anyone who is able to contribute in any way to make these opportunities for teachers and students to have life-enhancing experiences made possible by the Patrons and Donors of the ESU-Atlanta Branch.

Join us!!

ATLANTA BRANCH 2016 BUSS SCHOLAR

Amber Leazenbee has been selected for our Branch BUSS scholarship for 2016. The BUSS (British Universities Summer School) program provides opportunities for selected high school teachers to spend 3 weeks in the U.K. to continue their own education through summer study at prestigious centers of learning -- Shakespeare's Globe in London, Oxford University and Edinburgh University -- as BUSS Scholars. Since 1957, more than 2,500 American high school teachers have participated in this program.

Amber teaches AP English literature and AP American literature at Parkview High School in Gwinnett County. She also is the AP English team leader for teachers of AP English at her school. She has taught at Parkview for 11 years, and in 2011 she was selected as the STAR teacher.

Submitted by Charles Maddrey

The Walter Page Hines Scholar Visits Atlanta

The ESU Atlanta Branch hosted a Walter Hines Page visiting scholar again this year. Our scholar, nominated by the New York office, was Paula Betina Castellote (*pictured left with Don Pattillo*) from Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is Art & Design Coordinator at the St. Catherine's Moorlands School, a prestigious private institution in suburban Buenos Aires. First thanks are to Paula for her resourcefulness in securing an early flight from New York to Atlanta, as her originally scheduled flight on Saturday was cancelled due to weather. We were fearful that she could not reach Atlanta at all given the stormy conditions. Second thanks are to Cherry Peurifoy for hosting Paula for the four nights of her visit at her spacious home in Vinings. It proved to be a convenient location for Paula in her activities as a scholar here.



Paula was our guest at the January 24 lunch meeting at the Ansley Golf Club, where she presented a brief talk to the group on her work and her activities in the United States. With the invaluable help of President Jean Morris, Gloria Norris, and others, I was able to arrange school visits for Paula on Monday and Tuesday. On Monday, I took her to the Galloway School, where she was graciously received and reported a very productive and enjoyable day. Charles and Rose Maddrey hosted Paula for dinner Monday evening. On Tuesday, I took Paula to the Atlanta Campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), where she was again graciously received and spoke enthusiastically about her day there. Afterward I drove her on a brief visit to downtown Atlanta. That evening Jean arranged for a dinner at the Georgian Club for a group consisting of Jean and her husband, Gloria Norris and her husband, Cherry Peurifoy, and me, with Paula as guest of honor. Paula was most complimentary to all regarding her experience in Atlanta. She continued on to Jacksonville on Wednesday.

Submitted by Don Pattillo

SAVE THE DATE

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| April 28 | Annual General Meeting and presentation by Betsi McLure on “Behind the Scenes with the Royal Family” at St. Philips Cathedral |
| May 25 | Annual Garden Party at the British Consul General's home |