



Atlanta Branch

The English-Speaking Union

Education Scholarship Understanding

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Winter 2015

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Atlanta Branch Members,

On October 10, when the National Annual General Meeting of the English-Speaking Union of the United States convened, you were represented! The Presidents' Conclave was called to order at noon on that day, and I was there. The National Annual General Meeting of the ESUUS met all day Sunday, October 11. It was a very informative meeting and we can expect some major changes in our national organization and the local branch. The NY Staff is a competent group and they have worked with the Branch Services Committee for a couple of years forming the Board-Managed Operating Agreement, which has now been approved and we will all work to make it go into effect the coming year. There is an article elsewhere in the newsletter, and your Board will be hard at work making the changes happen for the Atlanta Branch.

I made sure that I met most of the members of the New York Staff and made sure they knew me. The Atlanta Branch was lauded during several meetings. Dr. Manning Pattillo received the National Merit Award (in absentia) for his many years of faithful work and contributions to the ESU. We received a Shakespeare T-shirt in recognition of our participation in the BUSS program. The attendance at the National AGM is a privilege for presidents and was indeed a pleasure for me.

The Holiday Season has ended. We are now in the second quarter of the year and the programs have been stunning. At the November meeting at the Emory Library, shared with JASNA, our BUSS scholar, Gary Hicks, showed us a power point presentation featuring pictures of his participation in the 3-week course at the Globe Theatre in London. Think of the impact his scholarship may have on his students.

At the Christmas Party we were delighted to hear the Isabelle McMullen read her winning essay of the U. S. My Magna Carta Creative Essay Competition-Senior Division. She represented the U. S. in London, where she won second place in the High School, or Senior Division. Her parents have recently become new members and were formerly members in Washington, D. C. Welcome to them.

In January, we will have the pleasure of a program given by our own Board Member, John Hammaker, speak about Richard III and meet the Walter Hines Page Scholar. In February we once again sponsor the Shakespeare Competition. Members should enjoy all the work of the Program Committee. There is much more to come.

Membership is increasing. Don't allow yourself to fall off the list and miss out. Make sure you have paid 2015-16 dues. Remember the fiscal year began July 1. Thanks to the over 100 of you who have already stayed with us. Those of you who have chosen to be patrons will soon be invited in a nice social event to express our appreciation. You will be happy to know your Board voted unanimously to continue supporting the BUSS, Travel Grants and Shakespeare Tavern. Patron gifts make it possible to continue those programs and indicates to the Board that you are committed to our mission. Patron Chair Linda Wickham has an article later in this newsletter explaining in more detail.

During 2016, we will commemorate the death of William Shakespeare, so expect some special program and events in honor of the Bard. We have had the joy of celebrating two anniversaries these two years, and I hope the information has been as meaningful to you as it has to me.

Happy New Year to all of you.

Jean Morris, President, Atlanta Branch



September Meeting



How to Appreciate Shakespeare in 5 Easy Steps

Our guest speaker for the first meeting of this year, Jeff Watkins, turned out to be a breath of fresh air. After just a few minutes of describing his role in the Atlanta Shakespeare Company and giving us some examples of the soliloquies, off came the coat, the tie and the shoes as he continued to demonstrate how Shakespearean plays were performed originally. Nothing dull about this presentation! He let us know how important audiences are to the productions and included a few bawdy examples of what could be considered “off color” humor injected into some of the plays. It was like being a student in an acting class listening to him recite bits from various plays and explaining their significance and telling us how to read and speak Shakespeare’s words. We were thoroughly entertained and enlightened.

October – Evelyn Wrench Speaker



Meeting William Faulkner: How an English Schoolboy found a Literary Lion

The black tie event for this year was held at The Georgian Club with 27 in attendance. Our guest speaker for the evening, retired English teacher and former ESU Exchange Student, Simon Claxton (*pictured left with Jean Morris*), regaled us with his account of an interview with famous author, William Faulkner. To satisfy a senior year project requirement, he bravely wrote to Faulkner requesting permission to interview him at his home in Oxford, Mississippi. Even though the author claimed to have never received the letter, when Mr. Claxton arrived at his home, Faulkner welcomed him even though Faulkner hated to be interviewed and didn’t particularly like strangers! Claxton proceeded to ask several questions about his life, method of writing and story-telling style receiving very matter-of-fact answers. As it turned out, this interview by the high school student was one of the last Faulkner did as he died four months later on July 6, 1962.



Gene and Grace Sanders brought their two daughters as guests for the evening.

November Joint Meeting with the Atlanta Jane Austen Society

The newly-renovated Stuart A. Rose Manuscript Archives and Rare Books Library at Emory University houses an amazing selection of reading and research material and is well worth a visit at any time. The impressive facility was the perfect venue for this meeting.



First off, our BUSS scholar, Gary Hicks (*pictured left chatting with ESU Chairman of the BUSS Committee, Charles Maddrey*), shared a slide presentation of his experiences while he was in London at the Globe Theatre this past summer. He was very enthusiastic about what he learned and said he came away invigorated and inspired by his personal experiences while attending workshops and even doing a play at the Globe. It was clear that it was money well spent as it is certain that he will impart what he learned to his students going forward. See Gary's note to the ESU on Page 7 of this

newsletter.

There were approximately 40 people in attendance for the meeting, and the ESU was well represented. The featured speaker was Dr. Patricia Michaelson (*pictured right*), a professor at the University of Texas, who has done extensive research on Jane Austen. She talked about the different kinds of writings: historical, novellas, memoirs, epistolary among others. Jane Austen was unique in that she definitely had a plot to her writings which qualifies them as true novels. We were actually allowed to see, touch and read first editions of some of Jane Austen's works which was quite a treat.



A tea and punch reception followed in a room with a magnificent view of the Emory campus from the tenth floor of the library on what proved to be a gorgeous fall day.

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Annual Christmas Party



We were again privileged to have our Christmas Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Munson. As always, they are gracious hosts who generously allow our group to experience their lovely home in all its festive glory!! We had 56 people in attendance, and our catered buffet supper was the best yet. We were delighted that Hugh Waddy could again entertain us with music of the season and some caroling of traditional Christmas tunes.

(Your editor getting ready to partake of some Christmas cheer. I'll have the white wine, please!)



We were delighted that Isabelle McMullen (*seated left*), the winner of the Magna Carta essay contest, was able to read her submission to us. Her parents are new members to our Branch.

Everyone was really enjoying themselves and the party seemed to end too soon.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and that 2016 will bring you continued good health and happiness!



Annual General Meeting October 10 – 12, 2015

President Morris attends National Annual General Meeting in New York

Jean represented the Atlanta Branch at the National Annual General Meeting, October 10-12, 2015, at the Metropolitan Doubletree Hotel in New York City. The Presidents' Conclave was held all of Saturday afternoon with welcome speeches from the new National Chairman of the ESUUS, Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, MBE, and Chris Broadwell, Executive Director (*pictured right with our President*).



She was informed by Josh Keppel-Gonzalez, Branch Communications Coordinator, of the importance of moving more and more to the use of technology and putting all information about the ESU Programs on websites for easy access.

Carol Losos, Director of Education, described the expanding Educational Outreach and her contacts with 8,000 English teachers through professional organizations. She is working with all things Shakespeare 400: a new logo, Shakespeare teacher workshops, the BUSS Scholarship program, English in Action, the essay, debate and public speaking projects. She recognized the Atlanta Branch and awarded us a Shakespeare T-Shirt as a result of our participation in the BUSS Scholarship program. Overall her work has provided a 25% increase in participation in the ESU educational programs. You may want to read the information in the Annual Report, 2015, which you should have received.

Jeff Schnabel, Chairman of the Branch Services Committee, reported that the committee has approved the **Board Managed Operations Agreement** after several years of working with lawyers and specialists. The agreement will require the formation of LLC's which protects us legally as individuals and puts the 501(c)3 organization more in line with the IRS requirements. The Board has been sent the documents for our understanding, and we will be working to utilize all our legal knowledge to understand and approve of this document which will indeed change the bylaws and the general structure of the ESUUS and the Branch organizations.

Sunday's agenda began with Regional meetings and Jean attended the Region 2 meeting, nominated and elected Susan Sinclair of Nashville to be the new Region 2 Director, replacing Gloria Norris. She shared information about the Atlanta Branch's activities with others.

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, MBE, gave an inspiring talk at lunch. He was eloquent, brilliant and committed to the ESU. After his talk, Chris Broadwell welcomed all attendees and then Dr. Quinn Peeper, President of the ESU gave a Patrons' report.

New National Board Members were elected and the treasurer's report followed. The other staff members gave reports on the contacting of foundations for grant money and the way we add to the speakers list.

Two good speakers at the meals were Flora Fraser, author of THE WASHINGTONS: GEORGE AND MARTHA, joined by Friendship, Crown'd by Love, and Jane Easton, Executive Director of the Commonwealth.



In the evening, the Patrons' Party was held at the Morris-Jumel Mansion (*pictured left*) on the northernmost end of Manhattan and for a time the Revolutionary War Headquarters of George Washington and later home of Aaron Burr, who married into the Morris-Jumel family. On Monday morning, the attendees enjoyed a breakfast at the ESU Headquarters on 39th Street and a trip by bus to the southern end of Manhattan to Federal Hall, where George Washington was inaugurated as our first President.

Although the National AGM is open to all members, the meeting is a very important experience for the Branch President.

Elected as Members-at-Large to the National Board of Directors – Class of 2017

- M. Christine Carty, New York, NY
- Loveday L. Conquest, Seattle, WA
- Polly W. Cox, Denver, CO
- Peter Frey, New York, NY
- Julia Hansen, Palm Beach, FL
- Christopher Medalis, New York, NY
- Donna M. Miller, Central FL
- Charles D. Reaves, Memphis, TN
- Philip A. Sjogren, San Diego, CA
- Roger F. Stacey, Boston, MA

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill Elected Chairman of The English-Speaking Union of the United States



Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill MBE was elected Chairman of The English-Speaking Union of the United States unanimously at a meeting of its Board of Directors on September 27. His two-year term of office began immediately. Dr. Beresford-Hill was selected to lead the

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English-Speaking Union of the United States for his global experience as a scholar, educator, administrator and author.

Paul Beresford-Hill is a distinguished educator who has worked at the secondary and tertiary educational systems of the US and the UK. A graduate of both Oxford University and Columbia, he has been a Research Associate at the Oxford Department of Educational Studies, Senior Member of Wadham College, Oxford, and an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University Teacher's College. He has worked in the USA, the UK and Asia, and was Chief Administrator for Global Learning at Dowling College in Long Island. From 1999 to 2004 he was Director of Bangkok Patana School, the British International School in Thailand, one of the largest international schools in Asia.

Dr. Beresford-Hill assumed the Chairmanship of the English-Speaking Union upon the resignation of educator and historian Josiah Bunting III, who had served as Chair of the ESU since 2013.



THE PATRONS' CIRCLE

It is with pleasure that we announce sixteen households in the Atlanta Branch have already chosen to become Patrons for the 2015-16 season.



You are invited and encouraged to join this illustrious group in support of our mission and projects of the English Speaking Union both on a national and local level.

Travel grants, BUSS scholarships, an alliance with the Shakespeare Tavern and Shakespeare competitions within local schools as well as five endowed scholarships just within our own Branch are supported thanks to your generosity. All the while the Atlanta Branch continues to be involved with the goals and promotion of the English Speaking Union worldwide.

Contributions to the Patron Level are accepted at any time. JOIN US!!

Linda Wickham
Patron Committee Chair – Atlanta Branch

A Thank You Note from Our BUSS Scholarship Recipient, Gary Hicks



Gary Hicks (on the Left) along with some students at the ESU HQ in Mayfair, London

Dear ESU members,

I want to express my deep gratitude for making this journey possible. This was a life-changing experience that has already benefited my students through new teaching strategies. The active engagements I learned have motivated me as well as my students to tackle not just Shakespeare but all dramatic literature with renewed excitement. The Globe Theatre productions I attended and the experience of being in London with all its historical sites, museums, libraries and architecture will remain with me for the rest of my life. I am eternally thankful to the generosity of the Atlanta Branch of the English-Speaking Union for making this trip possible, and I look forward to sharing my experiences with the membership in November.

With warmest regards, Gary Hicks.

SAVE THE DATE

January 24	Ansley Club Brunch – John Hammaker talks on Richard III
February 21	Annual Shakespeare Competition – Shakespeare Tavern
March	TBD

IN MEMORIUM

Mr. Philip Alveda

Hal Clarke (long-time member and former president)

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