



DENVER
BRANCH

January-February 2024 Newsletter

Executive Committee

President: Cynthia Poinsett
Treasurer: Bruce Haefner

Board of Directors

July 2021- June 2024: Ingerid Kelley
Julia Patterson
Millicent Ambroggio
July 2022- June 2025: Polly Cox
Bruce Haefner
Charles Thompson
July 2023 – June 2026: Cynthia Poinsett
Tom Tafoya

Committee Chairs

Finance and Governance: Julia Patterson
Membership: Polly Cox
Programs: Ingerid Kelley

Education Program Coordinators

Teachers Learning
Abroad UK: Cami Van Anne
Dr. Howard F. Beckley
Writing Competition: Cami Van Anne
Shakespeare Competition: Cindy Poinsett

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President's Corner

Dear members of ESU-Denver Branch,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that everyone had a wonderful time catching up with friends and family or just going somewhere fun! This year's Holiday Party was held at the Denver Women's Press Club. The three students who read their essays were absolutely outstanding! I was very jealous of their teachers. The food was fabulous as was the wine.

I am now gearing up for the Shakespeare Competition. We have about the same amount of schools as last year. I will be holding my own school competition on the 25th. I sort of got off to a slow start due to having to teach two new curriculums and the grading... We will again be holding it at the Conservatory Theatre at the DCPA Education Building (3rd Floor) on Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 5:30-7:30. This is a change from previous years when it was usually held in the afternoon. Just be mindful that it will probably be busy in that area. Parking and traffic will be a bit of a challenge.

Don't forget to RSVP (denver@esuus.org) to the docent led tour of the Denver Art Museum. We will meet at Pint's Pub at 11:00 and then meet for the tour at 12:30. The cost is \$25 per person. If you don't want to go to the pub, just meet us at the museum at 12:30. The tour begins at 12:45. Bring a friend!

Well, folks...that's it. Hope to see you at one of our gatherings!

Sincerely,

Cindy Poinsett, President ESU-Denver Branch



Save the Date Upcoming ESU Calendar



On October 20, 2023, Cindy Poinsett, Bruce Haefner, Polly Cox, and Basil Carpenter represented the Denver Branch at the ESUUS Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO. They spent time collaborating and sharing experiences with other ESU members from across the US.

Conference sessions focused on the theme of “Blueprint for Growth,” recognizing the need to develop and share ideas for recruiting and retaining new members. One important focus was exploring the need to have a more multifaceted outreach platforms, including a strong digital presence. The Kentucky Branch shared a promotional video they created to attract more teachers and students. ESU National will be rolling out the new website, providing each branch the ability to modify and update their own website.

In addition to the sessions, Conference attendees shared a formal dinner, keynote speakers, and as well tours of the Hallmark Museum, the World War 1 Museum, and a gangster tour.

We are very honored that Denver Branch Treasurer, Bruce Haefner, was elected to serve on the National Board. ESUUS is very fortunate to have Bruce and we will all benefit from the insight and integrity he will bring to this role.

The 2024 ESUUS Conference will be hosted by the Cleveland, OH Branch on October, 18 – 21, 2024. This conference will be of special significance because it will coincide with the 2024 ESU International Council Meeting. We encourage all interest Denver Branch members to consider attending as a unique opportunity to learn from other ESU members, not only from across the US, but from around the globe.

**Saturday
January 20
9:15-10:45** Board of Director’s Meeting
St. John’s Cathedral
1350 Washington Street

**Saturday
January 20
11:00 am** Lunch
Pints Pub
221 W. 13th

**Saturday
January 20
12:45pm** Tour of All Stars Exhibition
Denver Art Museum
100 W. 14th Avenue Pkwy.

**Saturday
February 3
Noon – 1:00** Shakespeare Workshop
DCPA

**Saturday
February 10
5:30 – 7:30** Shakespeare Competition
DCPA Conservatory Theatre
Robert & Judi Newman Center
for Theatre Education
1101 13th Street, Denver

TLab Dinner Celebrates 2023 Fellows



Denver Branch members and guests socialize

Denver Branch members and their guests were excited to gather at the historic University Club for the ever-popular TLab Dinner and Presentation. The evening is a chance to celebrate our TLab scholars and allows them the opportunity to share experiences from their time abroad. 2023 scholars Meredith Fulford and Ace Eggleston were the featured speakers and they enthralled attendees with stories of their time at Oxford and the Globe respectively.

The Denver Branch of the English-Speaking Union of the United States is offering two scholarships to a Denver area high school teachers for study in the United Kingdom during Summer 2023. Teachers may access the application here on the Denver Branch website or through this link: [2024 TLab Application](#)
Deadline for submission is February 10, 2024.



Ace Eggleston



Meredith Fulford

Annual Holiday & Writing Competition Celebration

On Sunday, December 10, Denver Branch members and guests gathered at the Denver Woman's Press Club to celebrate the Holiday Season and the student winners of the 14th Annual Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition. This year's prompt, crafted by Tom Tafoya, asked students to analyze an excerpt from *The New Yorker* interview with Native American author Leslie Silko challenging the future of the English language. The submissions were excellent and three winners were carefully selected by volunteer readers, Meredith Fulford, Michael Thornton, and Bruce Haefner. After enjoying social time and holiday refreshments, attendees were treated to reading of the winning essays by the students. This year's winners included: 1st Place – Joshua Quinn Matteson, Lakewood High School student of Susan Stokley, 2nd Place - Anya Adkins Flores-McDowell student of Millicent Ambroggio at Littleton High School, and 3rd Place - Ren Mears student of Susan Stokley at Lakewood High School.



Marcia Goldstein of the Denver Woman's Press Club



Members and Guests enjoy refreshments



Writing Competition Winner with their teachers



Attendees listen to the student-read winning essays

Join the ESU Denver Branch for a docent-led tour of the Denver Art Museum All Stars Exhibition

Saturday, January 20 12:45pm
\$25/per person

Choose One of the Following Options

Meet around 11:00am at Pints Pub (221 W 13th Ave, Denver, CO 80204)
for lunch and a pint before the tour

Or

Meet in the lobby of the Denver Art Museum around 12:30 for the
12:45 tour
after the tour, you are welcome to stay and tour the museum your own

Email denver@esuus.org To Reserve your Spot

All Stars: American Artists from The Phillips Collection showcases some of the best of American art from the Washington, DC-based [The Phillips Collection](#), one of the most celebrated collections of American art in the United States.

These landmark works encompass more than 140 years of unexpected visual conversations between American artists about what connects us as humans. With works by more than 50 artists including Benny Andrews, Arthur G. Dove, Childe Hassam, Jacob Lawrence, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, and more, the show explores American art from the birth of the modernist spirit at the end of the nineteenth century through post-war American painting in the mid-twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, with artists exploring the important issues of today.

Founded by Duncan Phillips in 1921, The Phillips Collection opened to the public as America's first museum of modern art. *All Stars: American Artists from The Phillips Collection* is the second large-scale, traveling presentation of The Phillips' celebrated collection to be shown at the DAM, chronicling the broad scope of its holdings.