

Friends, I am delighted to see you all here, finally, to celebrate the English-Speaking Union and, in particular our New Orleans Branch.

As you well know, we are an educational organization, the purpose of which is to promote the shared diversity of the English language. We have two programs that exemplify this:

**The National Shakespeare Competition** for high school students

**The Teachers Learning Abroad Program** for high school teachers.

And finally after two years of “tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow creeping on”, our TLab scholarship winner was able to use her scholarship!

Kara Jacobi is an Upper School English teacher and English Department Chair at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. A native of Destrehan and graduate of Destrehan High School, Kara attended the University of Notre Dame where she earned a B.A. and an M.A. in English. She then enrolled in the doctoral program in English at the University of Miami, where she successfully defended her dissertation on 20th century women’s writing in 2009.

Kara began her teaching career at Miami, where she designed and taught courses in writing and literature and worked in campus writing centers at UM, Miami-Dade College, and Barry University.

Kara returned to New Orleans in 2011 to teach English at Holy Cross before moving on to Sacred Heart in 2019.

She was awarded the ESU Scholarship to attend Literature Summer School at Oxford in 2020 and was able to finally attend this past summer.

Back in New Orleans, Kara enjoys frequenting the wonderful festivals the city has to offer, visiting local bookstores and libraries to find her next reads, and walking her dogs around Audubon Park.

Speaking for all of Education and Scholarship Committee of the NOLA Branch of the ESU, we are delighted to have Kara back with us to share her TLab experience. She is the kind of educator, passionate and committed, that the ESU is honored to support.