



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating global understanding through English

Southwest Virginia . Roanoke Branch

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“I came from Mechanicsville, Virginia, where you have four seasons.” Jason Mraz. He is an American singer-songwriter who first came to prominence in a San Diego coffee shop scene in 2000. His musical style, from rhythmic feeling to his use of nylon string guitars, has been heavily influenced by Brazilian music. (Wikipedia)

Cold weather greets the SWVA Branch of ESU and invites you to gather at The Shenandoah Club on January 21, 2016. The program will provide interesting information, as the speaker is Dr. Rob Havers, president of the George C. Marshall Foundation, a position he assumed in May 2014. Prior to his present position, Dr. Havers served as the executive director of The National Church Museum and vice president for the Churchill Institute at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.

“We are extremely fortunate to have attracted Dr. Havers whose impressive record as an executive director of a museum and library and significant career as a military historian superbly match the skills and experience needed for his new role at the Marshall Foundation,” said John B. Adams, Jr., chairman of the Marshall Foundation Board of Trustees.

He previously served as Fulbright-Robertson visiting professor of British History at Westminster College and served as a professor of War Studies at Sandhurst, and taught at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Cambridge. An accomplished scholar, author and public speaker, Dr. Havers graduated from Queen Mary College, Univ. of London with a bachelor’s degree in history and politics; London School of Economics and Political Science with a master’s degree in later modern British history and Pembroke College of Univ. of Cambridge with a Ph.D. He is the author of several articles and books. His Ph.D. thesis, “Reassessing the Japanese POW Experience: The Changi POW Camp, 1942-45,” was published as a book in 2003 and subsequently re-published in paperback in 2013. Dr. Havers and his wife, Alana Abbott, have two daughters, Alice and Olivia.

BRANCH NEWS

To increase our membership remains a significant goal for our ESU Branch. Bring a friend, neighbor, or someone whom you think might be interested in our excellent programs to our January 21st dinner.

PERSIFLAGE

1. I never said most of the things I said. Yogi Berra
2. A day without sunshine is like, you know, night. Steve Martin
3. The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today. H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
4. Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. Maya Angelou
5. Do not worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older it will avoid you.
Joey Adams
6. For the wise person, there are only two types of experiences on
life's road: winning and learning. Greg Henry Quinn
7. Imagine what we would achieve if we had the spiders' determination?"
Elles Lohuis
8. Live like you golf. Don't forget to follow through. Author Unknown
9. A smile is an inexpensive way to change your looks. Charles Gordy
10. Some people die at twenty-five and aren't buried until they are seventy-five."
Benjamin Franklin

Test yourself with this line from Shakespeare

This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happier lands,
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm this England....
Richard II (II.i.40-50)

Shakespeare has John of Gaunt deliver a patriotic speech dubbed "the most stirring paean to England ever written" (Herschel Baker, *Riverside* 843). The central portion has become very famous, a syllabus motto for teachers of English literature and a noble finale delivered by Basil Rathbone at the end of the 1942 movie *Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon* in which Holmes foils Moriarty and the Nazis during WWII. At Ely House in London, John of Gaunt tells his brother, the Duke of York, that he is worried about England. He hopes Richard arrives, for he has much to say, and dying men tend to be listened to. York doubts Richard's ability to listen: his ear "is stopp'd with other flattering sounds" (II.i.17). York gripes about England following Italian fashion (II.i.21f). "The reference to Italy is anachronistic and is more nearly an expression of Shakespeare's own nationalism rather than of York's in 1399" (Asimov 279). De Vere was mocked for his adoption of Italian styles (Farina 113). (Shakespeare Book of Lists-LoMonico)