

BRANCH NEWS

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.



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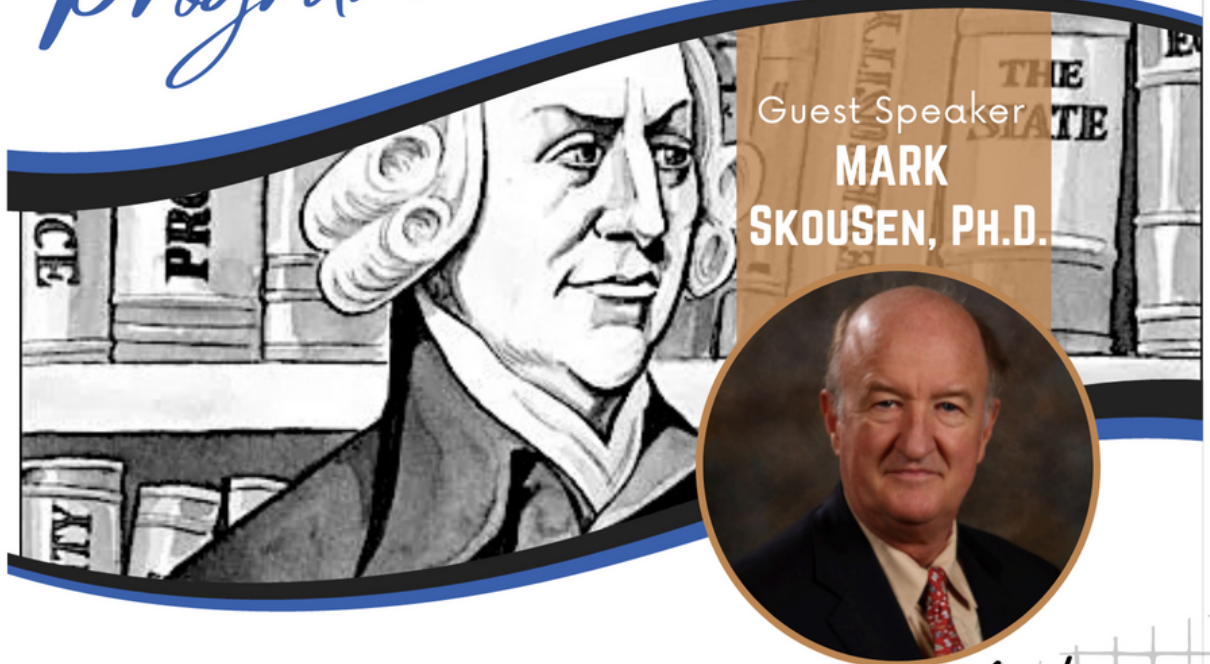


CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

Program

IT ALL STARTED WITH ADAM

Would Adam Smith, the founder of free-market capitalism, be happy or distraught if he returned today for his 300th birthday?



Guest Speaker
MARK SKOUSEN, PH.D.

Mark Skousen, Ph. D., is known as "America's Economist." He is a professional economist, investment expert, university professor, and author of over 25 books. He earned his doctorate in 1977 in economics from George Washington University. In 2004-05, he taught economics and finance at Columbia Business School and Columbia University. He was awarded the Triple Crown in Economics in 2018 for his work in theory, history, and education.

Monday
December 4th

Refreshments:
3:30 p.m.
Lecture:
4:00 p.m.

Program Leader:
Socky O'Sullivan

At The University Club of Winter Park
841 N. Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida



President's Message



Happy Holidays (and Holy Days)

Amid all the excitement of the December holidays, I always struggle with one question: What makes a good gift? Few of us still dream about a new Schwinn cruiser, a pair of Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers, a teen-age fashion model Barbie doll, or even Mattel's newest hot wheels. I suspect we all now prefer experiences, especially when we realize how few of our treasures our children dream of inheriting.

And what experience could be better than a good book, especially a good Florida book? So, if you are looking for an interesting gift (or even a good read for yourself), here are a couple of possibilities.

The Florida Humanities Council is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a beautifully illustrated coffee table book, a collection of fifty articles by a wide range of writers from its Forum Magazine titled *Once Upon a Time in Florida*. These short articles range over 14,000 years of our history from the first Floridians and our distinctive ecology to celebrations of our literature, our beaches, and our music. (In all due diligence, I must confess that two of the pieces are mine.)

Sherlock Holmes was right that an absence can tell us a great deal. Spain and Portugal filled their New World colonies with stunning churches and cathedrals from Quito's La Compañía and Brazil's Saint Francis to Mexico City's Metropolitan Cathedral of the Assumption and Peru's La Merced. But not in Florida. We were clearly the Rodney Dangerfield of the Spanish empire. In *Spires in the Sun: The Carpenter Gothic Episcopal Churches of Florida*, two Winter Parkers, the writer Jonathan Rich and photographer Phil Eschbach, an ESU member, decided to remind us that the Sunshine State has its own distinctive ecclesiastical architecture. Among many of the women responsible for funding and building these churches was Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of the nineteenth century's best-selling novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

President's Message, continued...

Sloan Wilson (*The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* and *A Summer Place*) told me that he moved to Florida to write the big James Michener book about the Sunshine State. When he told me he was leaving and I reminded him about his goal, he said, "Patrick Smith already did it. Have you read *A Land Remembered*?" *A Land Remembered* has become the Florida novel, a book so readable that even my male students all finish it. Make sure you get the single volume original not the re-edited (slightly dumbed down) two volume student version.

As difficult as she could be, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was a brilliant writer. While some folks now find her Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Yearling* a little dated, her memoir, *Cross Creek*, remains a beautifully written account of her life in what she came to see as an enchanted land. For an extraordinary triad—triad sounds better than threesome—pair it with her *Cross Creek Cookery* book and the wonderful, if slightly fictionalized film version, also called *Cross Creek*, starring an ethereal Mary Steenburgen, an unflappable Peter Coyote, an incomparable Rip Torn, and the transcendent Alfre Woodard.

If all of that seems a bit too serious and if you love New Smyrna Beach, you can turn to our state's most exuberant and bizarre comic novel. Centering his work on the misadventures of the fictional niece of NSB's founder Andrew Turnbull, Archibald Clavering Gunter, a prolific Anglo-American Victorian writer, published *Susan Turnbull or the Power of Women* in two volumes in 1896. Susan is one of literature's most wonderfully wicked female villains, and the books bounce from London to Florida, Greece to Paris, as they follow the adventures, plots, and schemes of Susan and those she tortures, enchants, seduces, and betrays.

And remember the CFESU Poetry Contest

Prizes: \$100 for the best haiku; \$100 for the best limerick.

Topic: Either what we are thankful for or any aspect of Florida.

Deadline: January 6, 2024, the Feast of the Epiphany

Submissions: mosullivan@rollins.edu



Sláinte,

Socky O'Sullivan
President

AGM Conference News

The ESU 2023 General Conference, themed "Blueprint for Growth: Unity of Purpose" took place in in Kansas City, MO, from October 20th through October 22nd.



Jan McClure and Barbara Hughes attended the Conference and had the opportunity to visit the Truman Library and Museum (pictured above).

To read the full article about the 2023 Conference, please visit <http://www.esuus.org/esu/news/esu-agm-2023/>.



Tis the Season

During this holiday season, it is important to recognize everyone who contributes their time, effort, and passion to the ESU. National's November newsletter had an excerpt that we felt needed to be echoed:

“Throughout the year, we have witnessed countless moments of inspiration and growth within our community. Whether it's the success of our scholarship recipients, the lively discussions at our events, or the tireless work of our volunteers, each of you plays an integral role in advancing our mission. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed, and for that, I want to extend my sincerest thanks.”

-Dr. E. Quinn Peeper, ESU Chairman

The ESU is a gift to us all!

Program Schedule 2023-2024

**All programs are on Mondays at
the University Club of Winter Park unless otherwise indicated.**

Monday, December 4, 2023, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Mark Skousen- "It All Started with Adam." How a Worldly Scottish
Philosopher Transformed the World for the Better.

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Dinner at the Winter Park Racquet Club

6:00-6:45 p.m. Cocktails, 6:45-8:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:00-9:00 p.m.
Entertainment: Classical pianists Dr. E. Quinn Peeper and Michael Harold

Monday, February 26, 2024, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Shakespeare Competition at The Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Margeson Stage.
4:00 p.m. Program at Orlando Shakes with refreshments served at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, March 4, 2024, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Christopher A. Snyder - Mississippi State University, "Gatsby's Oxford"

Monday, April 1, 2024, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Gary Prager - "Lawrence of Arabia." The End of Ottoman Rule and the
Making of the Modern Middle East.

Monday, May 6, 2024, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

John Stewart- "Thomas Jefferson." A Virginia Cavalier in King Arthur's Court.

*Our Annual General Meeting will precede our guest speaker, John Stewart.



New Members

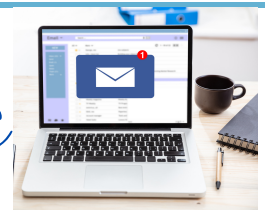
Mary Lumpkin

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Sheila Spitler

Victoria and James Woodward

Branch Business



If you have any contact updates or questions concerning Branch emails, please email us at esucentralfl@gmail.com, or contact Brett at 407-443-4859.

Monthly newsletters are delivered through email. Notify us at esucentralfl@gmail.com if you prefer a hard copy.

REGISTER FOR DECEMBER'S HAPPY HOUR TALK



Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 5 PM (ET)

The Dark Secret Behind Charles Dickens' Christmas Tales
with Andrew Halls

[https://esuus-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/
WN_U2DvxICLTF2EweaclPsiVQ#/registration](https://esuus-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_U2DvxICLTF2EweaclPsiVQ#/registration)



Evolve
education and
impact lives.
Join the ESU!

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH Membership Application

- I wish to become a member of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.
- I wish to renew my membership of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.

Please send a check for \$45 (single membership) or \$60 (couple membership) to the **English-Speaking Union, 144 East 39th Street, New York., NY 10016.**

Name and Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

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Visit the E-SU Central Florida website at www.E-SUus.org/centralflorida for more information.