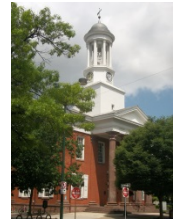




LEAFS



The Newsletter of the English-Speaking Union Central Pennsylvania Branch

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Central PA's 2014 National Shakespeare Competitor

DEB GILMORE!

Deb reflects over her NCO participation

Leafs: What was it like to perform on the stage at Lincoln Center?

DG: Performing on the stage at Lincoln Center is something I will probably remember for the rest of my life. Most days it still hasn't even hit me.

Leafs: Does anyone's performance stick out in your mind?

DG: Many performances, actually. The one I remember most though is a kid who had to memorize his sonnet the day before the competition because he didn't know he had to have a sonnet prepared, and when he performed he cracked under the pressure and couldn't complete the sonnet. Instead of giving up all together, he decided to come back as the final performance in the competition and just deliver his monologue - and he was fantastic. He had a great spirit, and everyone was cheering him on. It was amazing.

Leafs: What was the single most fun thing about the trip?

DG: I think just hanging out with everyone. We had several hours at the youth hostel to just spend time with each other, and it was great, because it brought us all closer together.

Leafs: How was the camaraderie with the other Shakespeare Competitors?

DG: Amazing. Though we only knew each other
- see GILMORE page 9



Deb Gilmore presenting Shakespeare at The Gamut Theater, Harrisburg, PA

Dinner, Discussion With Dunja

By Karen Blair-Brand

Last Fall, Professor of Linguistics & American Studies, Dunja Jutronic, from Split Croatia, asked me what our group of nine leaders of our local ESU Chapter wanted her to talk about at our all too brief luncheon visit -- her linguistic research, or her more general experience in both her professional and private life in Croatia and the rest of Eastern Europe. Our non-specialist group was more interested in the latter. -- See *Dunja* on page 3

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Adrian Tinniswood OBE tells about The Rainborowes at Shippensburg University

On a Thursday night back in March Shippensburg University students, faculty, and local high school students were treated to a special speaker with a unique tale to tell. Bath, England, historian Adrian Tinniswood summed up the story of Thomas Rainborowe – how he lived, and the gripping story of how he died – pulling some of the most suspenseful information from his new book, *The Rainborowes*. Adrian spoke at the university courtesy of the ESU's Sir Evelyn Wrench Speaker Program and Shippensburg University.

Mr. Tinniswood focused on Thomas Rainborowe, 16th Century family man, pirate, businessman,



Sir Evelyn Wrench Speaker Adrian Tinniswood

and soldier. Mr. Rainborowe lived through some of the most turbulent times before and during the English Civil War. Tinniswood's lecture shed light on many aspects of day-to-day life during the time period. Thomas Rainborowe also had relatives in America, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The depiction of Thomas' family on both sides of the Atlantic revealed a great deal of what it was like to live – both good and bad – during the Jacobean and early Restoration Periods.

Tinniswood is known as a distinguished British social historian, writer and lecturer, whose passion for architecture and history began in earnest when he took up the task of researching and writing the history of Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire, a historic house owned by Britain's National Trust. This project began a long association with the Trust where he has served as editor, author and educational consultant. Mr. Tinniswood is also a popular historian and has written eleven books including, *The Polite Tourist*, *His Invention So Fertile: The Life of Christopher Wren*, *By Permission of Heaven: The Story of the Great Fire of London*, *The Verneys: A True Story of Love, War and Madness in 17th-Century England* (shortlisted for the BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction) and *Pirates of Barbary*. Mr. Tinniswood lectures extensively in both the United Kingdom and America. He studied English and Philosophy at the University of Southampton, and received his M.A. in Philosophy from Leicester University. He and his wife, Helen, live in a restored cottage near Bath. For his services to the nation, Mr. Tinniswood was recently made a member of the Order of the British Empire.

Many thanks to Shippensburg professor Thomas Crochunis, and to Shippensburg University, for helping make this event possible!

The Central PA Branch looks forward to hosting next year's Sir Evelyn Wrench Speaker, Robert Hulse, Director of London's Brunel Museum. See page 8 for more information.

DUNJA – from page one

Dunja happily obliged. Her travels had made her aware of how little Americans know about her homeland, so she brought with her a large map of the former Yugoslavia to make clear both its geographical and historical importance in a world that was the epicenter of WW 1, overrun by the Nazis in WW 2, and, if not dominated, at least threatened by Soviet expansionism from the 1950s until the collapse of the USSR in 1989. She made clear that the new “freedom” in the former Yugoslavia was not all a blessing. Yugoslavia’s long suppressed cultural and political divides still threaten both its security as well as its political and economic progress.

Dunja talked about all that she had seen in the past half century, welcomed frequent questions, and responded with engaging warmth and remarkable candor. We will long remember her visit, and wished we’d had time to set up a larger ESU program for her. I can give here only a brief overview of what she told us.

She was born in Split, Croatia. She earned a degree from Belgrade University, (the capital of Serbia and the home of Marshall Tito) in English Language and Literature. She earned her graduate degree at Penn State University in Linguistics under the guidance of Professor Emeritus and former Liberal Arts Associate Dean, Thomas Magner. Dunja has authored articles and books about the Croatian Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, and a produced a Dictionary of Split Dialect. In Croatia, her work took her to the capitol city of Zagreb at the Institute of Linguistics, and to Zadar as Professor of English and American Studies. She recently retired after 20 years in Maribor, Slovenia where she became the Department Chair of English and American Studies. As a Fulbright Scholar at Cornell University, she taught the Croatian Language. She currently serves as the advertising director of the Croatian Journal of Philosophy and



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the Philosophy of Linguistics. She continues to teach at the University of Split, as time and travels allow, the syntax of language change, the History of English, and the Philosophy of Language.

We looked at Dunja's map as she outlined how Yugoslavia was formed from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918. Throughout history several of the Balkan countries were, at different times, part of Yugoslavia, such as Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro. All these small nations were often considered a Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenians. Prior to 1991 Yugoslavia was made up of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia. The Serbo-Croatian language has different dialects, but Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian languages all have their own sociolinguistics today. In 1945, the communists acquired Istria, Rijeka and Zadar from Italy. Italian has long affected many Eastern European languages. Dunja’s map made clear how close Croatia and Slovenia are to the Italian borders. Trieste, Italy at one point was also part of Yugoslavia but now is again part of Northern Italy.

The Yugoslavian landscape is largely scenic hills and mountains that plunge down to the spectacular Dalmatian Coast of Croatia and towards the

marvelously restored Medieval walled fortress and harbor city of Dubrovnik (now a World Heritage site) and once again one of greatest tourist attractions along the Southern Adriatic Coast (roughly on a latitudinal line with Rome). Croatia, a boomerang-shaped strip of coastal land and has the most shoreline of all the former Yugoslavian countries. It borders Slovenia on the North West, Hungary to the North, Bosnia to the South, and Serbia to the East. Montenegro is just South of Dubrovnik, Croatia's most Southern city. Croatia is the crossroads of Central Europe, Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean. Zagreb, its largest city, is the capitol. The Dalmatian Coast along the Adriatic Sea is protected by the Dinaric Alps. Americans are likely to know more about Dalmatian dogs than Dalmatian culture and its troubled history. Split, where Dunja lives, is on the Central coast of Croatia and is another of the country's most scenic cities.

All of the Croatian coast (like the Greek coast well to the South), looks out on beautifully inviting islands for which the eastern Mediterranean is famous. Dunja also noted the appeal of cities just over the Northern border of Croatia: Bled is a now scenically prosperous city by a breathtaking glacial lake that has long drawn tourists. Lovely Juhlana is located in the Slovenian central highlands. Dunja worked in the Slovenian capitol of Maribor for over 20 years. But lasting peace, free trade, and regional cultural homogeneity have never fully united this beautiful part of the world that Dunja loves. Its mountains had long isolated hostile communities of Eastern and Western Christians, of Muslims and Jews, for at least 1,500 years. The primarily Muslim Ottoman Empire, however, had controlled many of these communities as far West as the Austrian border from the reign of Sulieman in the 16th Century to the mid-19th century. Croatians and Slovenian are mostly Roman Catholics. Serbians and Macedonias are mostly Eastern Orthodox. Albanians are mostly Islamic. Bosnia and Herzegovena, are more beset by internal tensions

between all these ethnic and religious communities. Bloody ethnic and religious wars in the past still anticipate future impediments to achieving a genuine tolerance among all these groups in the former Yugoslavia. Marshall Tito had managed to impose civic order among them. Older folk are less inclined than the young to celebrate the new independence of their nations, and more likely to remember Tito, not as dictator, but as a defender of order and provider of greater economic security with full employment.

Croatia became independent after the four year war in 1991. During the war, Dunja and her daughters lived in the basement of a university in Split for over a year. After the war they were able to move back to their home that was among those not destroyed by it. Today, there are over 4 million Croatians active in peacekeeping missions. Croatia is a member of the EU, UN, NATO, WTO and the Union for the Mediterranean. The IMF and World Bank consider Croatia as an emerging economy in Europe. However, ethnic, religious, as well political differences and economic inequities (often exacerbated by political corruption) continue to slow progress.

Croatian became the official language of Croatia according to the EU in 2013. The Croatian language sounds similar to Italian due to their close proximity. Within the Serbo-Croatian language, there are several dialects such as Chakavian, Kajkavian and Toriakian. Other spoken languages in Croatia are Serbian, Bosnian, Czech, Hungarian and Italian. The rich language differences are culturally exciting, but also remain barriers to cultural tolerance and economic progress.

Dunja remains hopeful for a better future for Croatia, for the former Yugoslavia, and for all of Eastern Europe. She remains committed to her public service there. But she was also – alternately – both candidly disturbed by, and resigned to, a future of continuing struggle.

Shakespeare Competition Roundup

Gilmore Shines Brightest Among Eleven Brilliant Performances

Few bright spots gleamed in the otherwise bleak winter of 2014, but one such shining day was February 17th – Presidents’ Day, and, in Harrisburg, also The Bard’s Day. In between snowstorms, eleven participants met in the state capital to compete in the Central PA Branch Shakespeare Competition. Schools from as far north and west as Philipsburg-Osceola to as far south and east as Hershey sent their best Shakespeare reciter to The Gamut Theater in Strawberry Square. Five Shakespeare experts listened to each secondary student deliver a monologue and a sonnet. All performances were excellent, but the judges were most impressed by High School Junior Deb Gilmore from State College’s The Delta Program. Deb delivered knockout performances of Sonnet 44, and a speech given by Phoebe in *As You Like It*.

A Good Day for Non-Traditional Programs

Grace Hoover, Junior at Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA) delivered a powerful performances of Sonnet 40 and a speech from *Henry VI Part 3*. Two students tied for third place. William Kyle Whitlock from Carlisle Area High School delivered a splendid Sonnet 27 and monologue from *King John*; he tied with State College High School’s Julia LaPlante, who gave the judges a terrific Sonnet 29 as well as an excellent monologue from *Twelfth Night*.

Other competitors included Trisha Wardle from Big Spring High School, Dominic Acri from Bishop McDevitt High School, Leanne Frist from Cedar Cliff High School, Taylor Jackson from Philipsburg-Osceola High School, Samuel McQuillen from Hershey High School, Wesley Shecker from Harrisburg Academy; and Rosalie Weber from Central Dauphin High School.

-- See *Harrisburg*, page 9



Deb Gilmore as Viola as she performs a soliloquy from *Twelfth Night*. Video by Joe Bogash.

From last February's ESU Central PA Branch Shakespeare Competition

Photos by Tabatha Smith



Back row: Dominic Acri, Bishop McDevitt HS; Samuel McQuillen, Hershey HS; Taylor Jackson, Philipsburg-Osceola HS; Rosalie Weber, Central Dauphin HS; Wesley Sheker, Harrisburg Academy; William Kyle Whitlock, Carlisle HS. **Front row:** Leanne Frist, Cedar Cliff HS; Trisha Wardle, Big Spring HS; Grace Hoover, Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA); Deb Gilmore, The Delta Program; Julia LaPlante, State College HS.

Coming Attractions

Events, including some programming new to ESU, planned for 2014-2015

Last school year the Central PA Branch did a lot of resettling: we moved south and east, recentering in the Harrisburg area, and the Branch offered a number of kinds of programming, from sponsoring *Monty Python and The Holy Grail* at the Carlisle Theater to hosting Adrian Tinniswood at Shippensburg University. Our educational endeavors garnered the most interest. Therefore, this school year will focus on teachers, students, and celebrations of English.

However, we can't forget our Branch heritage. Therefore, the year will kick off with a **ESU CPB Founder's Reunion** at the Foxdale Village Retirement Community in the latter half of August. A number of our Branch founders have chosen Foxdale as their new residence, and it's a convenient location for people in and around State College.

In early October, The Central PA Branch will mash up Shakespeare, theater, and performances usually associated with County Band and Chorus. Big Spring High School in Newville, PA, will host **Cumberland County Shakespeare** and its twenty-four hours of merry madness on Friday, October 3rd and 4th. Friday afternoon the best Shakespeareans actors/actresses from Cumberland County will meet, form Troupes; then they'll practice and imagine and laugh their way into a brilliant presentation of scenes from Shakespeare. The public will have a chance to see their productions on Saturday afternoon at the high school. No cost for students participating in the event; cost for members of the audience: \$5 per person.

Also in October ESU members will attend the **ESU Annual General Meeting** in Newport, Rhode Island. The meeting is scheduled for the weekend of October 17th. Tour some of Rhode Island's most spectacular buildings from The Gilded Age. Find out more information about the General Meeting at www.esuus.org.

In November the Central PA Branch will begin another new initiative. It's time to recognize those Central PA teachers who best embody the values of the ESU: education, scholarship, and understanding surrounding the English Language. So our Branch will offer its first **UK/USA Central PA Branch Teacher of the Year Award**. Here's a chance for you to honor that teacher who introduced you to the English and American Romantics, and all the connections in between; a chance to honor that college History professor who taught you about the American and English Civil War; a chance to applaud the math teacher who taught you about Demings AND Turing. Music, dance, theater – all types of teachers may be recognized with this award. Nominations will be sent out in September. The award-winning teacher will be honored at our Shakespeare Competition in February (see below).

Once again on President's day, February 16th, we'll have another dozen or two Central PA Bardophiles compete in our annual **ESU CPB Shakespeare Competition**. The winner of the competition will improve to a national Shakespeare competition, held around Shakespeare's birthday at New York City's Lincoln Center. The winner will also receive the Honorable Robert Brand Central PA Branch Founder's Award – a ticket and free transportation to a play at the Folger Shakespeare Library, along with a tour of the facility. A fabulous opportunity for all, and no cost for contestants. Information about the competition will be mailed in October, or check the website for more information.

www.esuus.org/centralpa.

Calling all Anglophiles and engineering students! Next spring we'll welcome our **2015 Sir Evelyn Wrench speaker, Robert Hulse, Director of London's Brunel Museum.** Hulse will deliver a lecture entitled Brunel: The Man Who Changed the World. The lecture is free. The Central PA Branch will co-host Mr. Hulse with Shippensburg University. Shippensburg students, high school students, and the public are encouraged to attend. Look for the specific date for this lecture on the ESU website after the first of the year.

Unscheduled events also in the works:

We hope to host a **Walter Hines Page Scholarship** educator this year, in the Harrisburg area, State College area, or, preferably, both locations for the lucky teacher.

This year we'll redouble our efforts to host a **Shakespeare Set Free** workshop in the Harrisburg area. Funding this essential training has posed a challenge for our Branch – if you have ideas on providing financial support so that Central PA teachers can study teaching Shakespeare “up on your feet,” please contact us.

Central PA Branch President Robert Hanks is losing eleven Shakespeare Troupe members as they move on to college, but maybe he won't lose them at all. Members of the Central PA Branch have been talking about a **college-level ESU CPB Shakespeare Festival** – undefined at this time, but never more possible. Were Big Spring Troupe alums to energize other Shakespeareans at Midstate colleges and universities, a one-day festival, kept simple, would take little planning.

Do you have an idea for Central Pennsylvania Branch programming that we've neglected? Send your ideas to robert.hanks@gmail.com. Also, we'd be glad to have you give us a hand providing Central PA with the ESU's education, scholarship, and understanding. Email the Branch at the email address above.

HARRISBURG from page 6

Judging for the competition: Dan Burke, Elizabethtown College professor, Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival veteran actor and coach, and proprietor of Safe Violence. From Penn State University Harrisburg, English professors Dr. Margaret Rose Jaster and Dr. Patricia Johnson. Dustin LeBlanc, Artistic Director, Carlisle Theater Company rated our contestants. And finally, judging for us and also lending us The Gamut Theater for the day, was J. Clark Nicholson, Artistic Director and Co-Founder, Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival.

We were all glad to have Carol Losos with us from ESU United States. Carol is the Director of Programs with ESUUS, and made the somewhat tricky trip down from New York City (remember last February?) just to be with our contestants for the day.

Gifts for the contestants were provided by The Central Pennsylvania Branch, Karen Blair-Brand, The Gamut Theater, and the Midtown Scholar Bookstore, where everyone attending the competition had a great soup and sandwich luncheon.

GILMORE from page 1

for two days, I have made lasting friendships with several of the other competitors. There was not a single unfriendly person in the whole bunch. Everyone was welcoming, nice, and eager to become friends with everyone else.

Leafs: One bit of advice for next year's PA contestants?

DG: Get to know the people! That is by far the best part. Make friends right away and don't be afraid to talk to everyone- you are all in the same boat.

Leafs: What did you learn from this about Shakespeare that you didn't already know?

DG: This is not necessarily something I learned about Shakespeare himself, but I learned that Shakespeare's words can be interpreted many different ways, and they can all be fantastic. There is no "right" way to perform any of his pieces.

Leafs: In general, how do you feel about the whole ESU National Shakespeare Competition project?

DG: I think it's fantastic. It is promoting the English language, Shakespeare, friendship, and so many other things. It is great to encourage young people to go above and beyond in something, and even greater to show them that there are others out there just like them.

Gilmore At The Folger

On the heels of her national competition in New York City, The Central PA Branch whisked away Deb Gilmore to Washington D.C. for a visit to the Folger Shakespeare Library. Karen Blair-Brand, ESU CPB board member and wife of the late Bob Brand, founder of the branch, made the arrangements and generously paid for Deb's ticket and meals. Karen hopes that presenting the Central PA Branch winner with this educational opportunity will become an annual tribute to her husband's memory.

Deb was treated to a tour of the Library's reading room, where a Folger docent explained the significance of the many paintings and objects that Shakespeare scholars see while researching. Then Deb viewed *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, as performed by the Fiasco Theater. The sometimes funny, sometimes poignant play was presented by a small cast with many of the players playing multiple roles.

Traveling with Deb were Karen Blair-Brand, Robert Hanks and his middle-school-aged son Robert Hanks III, and Marissa Chamberlin, daughter of ESU CPB board member Shawna Chamberlin.

Marissa, currently a sophomore at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, has been a lifelong fan of Shakespeare and acted in Big Spring High School's Shakespeare Troupe for many years.



In Washington DC - Deb and Puck at The Folger

LEAFS is a semi-annual e-newsletter for the members and friends of the Central Pennsylvania Branch of the English-Speaking Union. If you'd like more information about ESU CPB, or if you'd like to join our Branch, contact us at Robert.hanks@gmail.com. Visit our website at esuus.org/centralpa. You'll also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

