



# English in Action





# English in Action

Annual Report | 2017

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Cover: ARNIC graduate Yoan Corvo Duarte from Cuba at the 2017 ARNIC Graduation Ceremony.



# English in Action

## The 2016-2017 fiscal year was an exciting time

for us at the ESU, as we set forth to implement the English in Action work defined and mandated by our strategic planning process. The organizational restructuring and planning undertaken by the ESU Board in the prior year empowered us to redirect our focus on the quality and impact of our national educational programs. We have begun this year to better serve our beneficiaries and garner worthy attention and support to attract and benefit more educators, students, immigrants, and life-long learners. And our new Branch structure allows us to increase our work in communities across the country to be relevant as a prominent educational charity.

**“English in Action breaks down barriers of ignorance and misunderstanding and provides the conditions for peace.”**

The need to instill global understanding and good will is as great as ever it has been. Your support is needed as the ESU accelerates its endeavors to put English into action as a catalyst for person-to-person conversation and civil discourse for students and new American immigrants, and as we broaden our international exchange offerings to expand the world view of educators and those continuing their education.

English in Action breaks down barriers of ignorance and misunderstanding and provides the conditions for peace. Enjoy reading about the ESU's mission and work to foster global understanding in this 2017 Annual Report.



**Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill CBE KSt.J**  
Chairman  
The English-Speaking Union of the United States



**Christopher Broadwell**  
Executive Director  
The English-Speaking Union of the United States

# The ESU Today



Under the banner “English in Action,” the English-Speaking Union employs English as a catalyst to foster global understanding and good will through educational opportunities and cultural exchange programs. The ESU believes in building a better world through the English language and international exchange. We work to inspire common bonds: person-to-person, one conversation, one presentation, and one exchange at a time. By promoting creative and confident civil discourse, we enable participants to rise to their potential as individuals, thrive as global citizens, and join worldwide in pursuing conditions for peace.

More than

# 60,650

Served in 2016-2017

# 4,200

middle school students

# 46,200

high school students

# 3,200

teachers

# 1,250

volunteers

# 800

English learners

# 5,000

members

# ESU Mission

*The ESU employs English as a catalyst to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members.*

ESU members set English into action locally and nationally to foster global understanding through a variety of educational, cultural, and social programs. English in Action programs are supported by the ESU's unrestricted endowment, corporate and foundation grants, and by the contributions of its members. Members benefit from personal relationships and international exposure gained from ESU activities and events while providing financial and volunteer support to sustain English in Action educational and cultural programs.

# English in Action Programs

## English as Catalyst

- **English in Action (EiA)**
- **Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC)**
- **National Shakespeare Competition**
- **Middle School Debate**
- **Shakespeare Teacher Programs**

## International Exchange

- **Teachers Learning Abroad (TLab)**
- **Luard Morse Scholarships**
- **Secondary School Exchange (SSE)**
- **Walter Hines Page Scholarships**

## STUDENTS

**550** students from **94** countries on **6** continents.

Students attended **16,758** EiA sessions equaling **33,516** student hours.

## TUTORS

**450** tutors volunteered this year.

**257** have volunteered for more than **5** years.

**10** have volunteered for more than **10** years.

**5** have volunteered for more than **20** years.

**1** has volunteered for more than **25** years.

Since **1976**

## English in Action (EiA)



**“It was a beautiful experience being part of the English in Action family. It’s the best experience I have had in NYC, for sure.”**

EiA Student from Italy

English in Action (EiA) helps newcomers to the United States master conversational English and learn about life in the US while fostering cross-cultural exchange by pairing them with volunteer tutors – fluent English speakers – for one-on-one conversation sessions. A hallmark of the EiA program is comprehensive tutor training for volunteers, emphasizing the best practices in cross-cultural learning and leadership development. Expanded tutor trainings focused this year on cultural competency and working with refugees.

Every EiA unit provided training workshops, demonstrating simple word games and exercises tutors can perform with students to improve their vocabulary. Social workers led workshops on cultural competency, and a speech and language expert provided tips on teaching pronunciation.

ESU Branches provided EiA sessions in

- Columbus, OH**
- Lexington, VA**
- New Orleans, LA**
- New York, NY**
- Portland, OR**
- Seattle, WA**

▶ Watch EiA videos at [youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion](https://www.youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion)



Since **2013**

## Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC)



The Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) is committed to improving the lives of new immigrants by providing a welcoming environment, resources, and support. At the Center, members improve their English to explore work and study opportunities, network, pursue citizenship, and acquire cultural fluency in order to participate fully in American society. Members receive a one-year scholarship to participate in English in Action, English language classes, workshops, and cultural and civic trips and events.

In addition to specially tailored English language speaking and writing classes, program highlights included the 4th annual Thanksgiving dinner, an art show of photographs and paintings by ARNIC members, field trips to New York State courts, and the Tenement Museum. Special workshops were presented on entrepreneurship, online safety, social media, and the job hunt. Local banking institutions held career days that focused on resume building and interviewing. Additionally, members attended Rangers hockey games and Shakespeare in the Park performances, toured the United Nations, and participated in other American cultural experiences.

**240** Immigrants from **90** countries.

**50,000** program hours

**53** classes

**28** workshops

**16** field trips



**“Thanks to the program, now I feel confident that I will find the professional job that I am dreaming about.”**

ARNIC Member from Colombia

▶ Watch ARNIC videos at [www.stories-esuus.org](https://www.stories-esuus.org)

Since  
1983

# National Shakespeare Competition

**325,000+**  
high school students  
participated since  
its inception.

**21,578**  
students

**2,000**  
teachers

**850**  
competitions

**54**  
branch communities

The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition provides high school teachers across the country with a performance-based program for the study of English Language Arts and Shakespeare. Through the competition, students develop communication skills and an appreciation of the power of language and literature. Students also develop essential skills such as critical thinking, close reading, and public speaking; increase self-confidence through reading, analysis, and performance of Shakespeare; explore the beauty of Shakespeare's language and classic themes; and bring the timeless works of Shakespeare to life and learn to express his words with understanding, feeling, and clarity.

The finals of the 34th annual English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition occurred on May 1, 2017 on stage at Lincoln Center Theater in New York and drew 54 nation-wide winners of ESU Branch competitions. Ogechi Egonu from San Francisco, CA won the first prize, a full scholarship to the American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp in Staunton, VA. Brandon Burke from the Kentucky Branch won second place and Trevon Wainwright from the Kansas City Branch won third place.



**“I honestly think the most valuable part of the national level was meeting my peers, from all over the nation – of various backgrounds, who shared a common interest in Shakespeare and his work.”**

Student Semi-finalist



▶ Watch Shakespeare Competition videos at [youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion](https://youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion)



Ogechi Egonu,  
first place winner.

Since  
2010

# Shakespeare Teacher Programs

English and drama teachers nationwide returned to their classrooms better prepared to teach Shakespeare after attending ESU Teaching Shakespeare Workshops, produced in partnership with the world-renowned Folger Shakespeare Library.

Local partners included Cleveland Public Library, Elizabethtown College in Central Pennsylvania, Le Moyne College in Syracuse, Parthenon Museum in Nashville, University of Colorado Boulder, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Additionally, ESU Branches in Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa organized independent summer Shakespeare workshops for teachers.



ESU Teaching Shakespeare Workshops underwritten by ESU Branches took place in:

- Boulder, CO**
- Cleveland, OH**
- Elizabethtown, PA**
- Greensboro, NC**
- Syracuse, NY**
- Nashville, TN**

Engaging  
**136**  
teachers  
from

**103**  
schools  
impacting

**13,600**  
students

Since 2011

# Middle School Debate

Middle School Debate is an educational initiative for students in grades 5 to 8 – launched with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities – designed to help young adolescents develop critical thinking and language arts skills.

The ESU partners with the Claremont McKenna College Middle School Public Debate Program, international leaders in the field, to establish inter-school debate programs in ESU Branch communities. Middle School Debate continued to expand this year. It now includes leagues in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC. More than 50 public, private, parochial, and charter schools participated, engaging more than 1,950 students in weekly after-school debate activities.

The program organized 22 day-long Saturday tournaments while training some 700 judges. Nearly 30 schools, encompassing 260 students, participated in the third

ESU Regional Championship Tournament in May. Support from volunteers and partners enabled 1,300 debate rounds for a total of 39,000 minutes of debate. Additionally, the ESU organized two teacher debate workshops, attended by 58 middle school teachers from 30 schools in New York and New Jersey.

1,950 students

39,000 minutes of debate

▶ Watch Middle School Debate videos at [youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion](https://youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion)



ESU Branches supported independent student debate programs in

Columbus, OH  
Greenwich, CT  
Sandhills, NC

Since 1957

# Teachers Learning Abroad (TLab)

Our 60-year-old study abroad program for teachers, formerly called the British University Summer Schools (BUSS) program, has expanded to include one-, two-, and three-week educational programs for teachers as well as other life-long learners.

Through TLab, more than 60 American secondary school teachers continued their education at prestigious centers of learning in the United Kingdom at University of Oxford, Shakespeare's Globe, and The University of Edinburgh. Since its inception, thousands of TLab scholars from all over the US have returned from their studies to their classrooms invigorated and equipped to share their newly acquired teaching and learning strategies with more than 250,000 students nationwide.

▶ Watch TLab videos at [youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion](https://youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion)



“What happened here at Oxford was work on my soul, and I feel energized to go back into the classroom having bolstered that.”

TLab Scholar, University of Oxford, English Literature Summer School

As a teacher, I have to be the best human being I can be. An opportunity like this enriches me – it broadens my perspective of things. I can't be the best teacher I can be without that broadened perspective.”

TLab Scholar, Shakespeare's Globe



2,550 participants since inception

77 participants in 2016-2017

\$150,000 in scholarships

## 2017 TLab Classes



• Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance



• English Literature: Middle English, Shakespeare, Romantic Poets, Jane Austen, Victorian Fiction, Modernist Fiction, Contemporary Literature

• History, Politics & Society: British Politics, The European Union, Gender Politics, Globalization, Humanitarian Crises, The Middle East, Modern Warfare

• Creative Writing

• International Politics

• The Story and Future of English (one-week course)



• Text and Context: Modernism, Scottish Literature, Contemporary Literature

• Creative Writing

• Contemporary British and Irish Theatre and Performance

2018 Programs at [www.esuus.org](http://www.esuus.org)

Since  
1969

# Luard Morse Scholarships

The Luard Morse Scholarships provide merit scholarships up to \$25,000 towards a semester of study at a British university to American students attending historically black colleges and universities in the US. The scholarship is open to sophomore students in all disciplines and has been awarded to students majoring in economics, philosophy, finance, mathematics, liberal arts, and the sciences.



## 2017 Scholarship Recipients

### Serena Newberry

English Education and Pre-Law Major from Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans. Will study at the University of London.

### Leondre Ramsay

Political Science Major from Howard University, Washington, DC. Will attend University College London.

“It was an interesting time to be a politics student in the UK for the past few months. As I prepare to return home, it is with the confidence that I can and will thrive in any space. I am eternally grateful to the English-Speaking Union of the United States and the ESU Luard Morse Scholarship for their funding and support of my endeavors.”

2016 Luard Morse Scholar

Since  
1924

# Walter Hines Page Scholarships

Named for the Honorable Walter Hines Page, American Ambassador to the Court of St. James's during World War I, this scholarship offers British and Argentine educators the opportunity to explore and exchange educational expertise as they travel to the US to study an aspect of education relevant to their own professional interests and development. Sponsored by the ESU of the Commonwealth and ESU Argentina, this international exchange of techniques and ideas benefits the educators – and their students – on three continents.



4  
Page Scholars  
  
7  
branches participated

Since  
1928

# Secondary School Exchange (SSE)

SSE, a “gap year” abroad, is a merit-based scholarship that provides tuition, room, and board for US students to spend a semester or year between high school and college at a British or Argentine boarding school, and for UK students to spend their gap year at select US schools.

SSE scholars gain independence and a global perspective that benefits them upon entering college and beginning their careers. They describe their experience abroad as a most formative time in their lives and credit the ESU for this life experience.



“I am not exaggerating when I say that taking a gap exchange year was the best decision I ever made: it opened my eyes to the world in ways that I couldn't have even imagined.”

SSE Student

9  
US students studied in the UK  
  
1  
US student studied in Argentina  
  
11  
UK students studied in the US

# ESU Branches

Headquartered in New York City and incorporated in the State of Delaware, The English-Speaking Union of the United States coordinates English in Action programs through its network of Branches nationwide. Committed ESU members and volunteers are invaluable in sustaining the educational and cultural functions of the Branches in promotion of the mission.

During the 2016-2017 year, the ESU Branches were restructured as Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) formed in the State of Delaware with The English-Speaking Union of the United States as the sole member. This legal structure extends the corporation's 501(c)3 status to the Branches and provides legal status to the Branches. The LLC structure enables Branch management by local Boards of Directors or direct management by the National Board of Directors to deliver English in Action programs.

The English-Speaking Union of the United States also shares fellowship with more than 50 independent ESUs around the world, most closely with The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth in London.



# Branch Activities



**54**  
branches participated in the  
National Shakespeare Competition, engaging  
**21,578**  
high school students nationally.

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**19**  
branches provided scholarships for  
**40**  
TLab scholars.

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**6**  
branches held Shakespeare Teacher Programs.

---

**7**  
branches hosted foreign educators through  
the Walter Hines Page program.

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**6**  
branches provided English in Action sessions.



**ALABAMA**  
Birmingham

**ARIZONA**  
Phoenix  
Tucson

**CALIFORNIA**  
Desert (Palm Springs)  
Los Angeles  
San Diego  
San Francisco

**COLORADO**  
Denver

**CONNECTICUT**  
Greenwich

**DELAWARE**  
Delaware

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
Washington D.C.

**FLORIDA**  
Central Florida (Orlando)  
Fort Lauderdale  
Jacksonville  
Miami  
Naples  
Palm Beach

**GEORGIA**  
Atlanta  
Savannah

**HAWAII**  
Honolulu

**ILLINOIS**  
Chicago

**INDIANA**  
Indianapolis

**KENTUCKY**  
Louisville

**LOUISIANA**  
Monroe  
New Orleans  
Shreveport

**MASSACHUSETTS**  
Boston

**MICHIGAN**  
Detroit

**MISSISSIPPI**  
Jackson

**MISSOURI**  
Kansas City  
St. Louis

**NEW JERSEY**  
Monmouth County  
Princeton

**NEW YORK**  
Albany  
Buffalo  
New York City  
Rochester  
Syracuse

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Charlotte  
Colonial (New Bern)  
Greensboro  
Research Triangle (Raleigh)  
Salisbury  
Sandhills (Pinehurst)

**OHIO**  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus

**OKLAHOMA**  
Oklahoma City  
Tulsa

**OREGON**  
Portland

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Central Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia

**RHODE ISLAND**  
Newport

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Charleston  
Columbia

**TENNESSEE**  
Memphis  
Nashville

**TEXAS**  
Austin  
Dallas  
Houston

**VIRGINIA**  
Charlottesville  
Lexington  
Richmond  
Southwest Virginia (Roanoke)

**WASHINGTON**  
Seattle



# ESU Founder's Awards 2017

Doe Thornburg and Dr. Andrew Romay



On June 1, the English-Speaking Union Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) celebrated the accomplishments of its members with a graduation ceremony in New York City hosted by the Open Society Foundations, financial supporters of the program.

ARNIC, named for the program's key visionary and supporter, Andrew Romay, helps recent immigrants improve their English through free English language classes and English in Action conversation sessions, while acquiring cultural fluency through field trips, workshops, and networking opportunities. Since 2013, ARNIC has served more than 1,000 immigrants.

A special feature of this year's ceremony was the presentation of the English-Speaking Union Founder's Award to Marie Dora "Doe" Thornburg and Andrew Romay (posthumously accepted by personal friend and English in Action tutor, Evi Blaikie). The Founder's Award recognizes individuals who exemplify the primary interests of Sir Evelyn Wrench, the founder of the English-Speaking Union, namely to cultivate international understanding and friendship and to promote the mastery and extended use of the English language.



**Doe Thornburg**, ESU President Emerita, has dedicated her personal and professional life to advancing global understanding through English. She guided this work at the ESU for more than 50 years and was most influential in bringing ARNIC into the ESU.



**Andrew Romay** (1922-2017) survived incarceration in a Nazi concentration camp and a Hungarian communist jail before coming to the US as a refugee in 1956. While he gained success here in business, Andrew remained acutely aware of the struggles new immigrants face. He dedicated his later life to helping today's immigrants by founding and funding the ESU Immigrant Center that now bears his name.

# ESU Annual Conference

Winter Park (Orlando), FL | October 13-15, 2016

The 2016 English-Speaking Union Annual Conference, hosted by the Central Florida ESU Branch, drew members from all over the country to the Sheraton Orlando North Hotel in Maitland (Winter Park) for an enjoyable and productive weekend. Business sessions included a meeting of the National Board of Directors, a working conclave for the National Board and Branch Presidents, and meetings of the ESU Branches by Region. The 96th Annual General Meeting of the English-Speaking Union took place on Saturday, October 15.

The primary function of the National Board meeting was adoption of the English-Speaking Union Strategic Plan for English in Action, which the Board had developed during the prior year and which will guide the Board in its organizational activities through the next five years. Discussion of the Strategic Plan and final steps in the restructuring of the Branches into Limited Liability Companies formed agenda discussion items for the Board and Branch Presidents Conclave.

The theme of this year's ESU Annual Conference was "The English-Speaking Union—Shakespeare 400" in recognition of the ESU's part in the global celebration of the Bard's legacy throughout 2016. Dr. Ralph Alan Cohen, Co-Founder and Director of Mission at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia and Professor of Shakespeare at Mary Baldwin University, was the keynote speaker. He drew the ESU members into the current debate over whether the language of Shakespeare should be "modernized" or altered to be more comprehensible and accessible to young American audiences.



# With Thanks to our National Patrons

**NATIONAL PATRON PROGRAM** The English-Speaking Union extends its gratitude to, and is pleased to recognize, the following individuals who generously participated in the English-Speaking Union National Patron Program during fiscal year 2016-2017. Their generosity provided critically needed unrestricted operating support for the ESU and its Branches.

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# Financial Report

Condensed Statement of Activities  
for the year ending June 30, 2017

Unaudited and exclusive of Branch activities

## OPERATING REVENUES

Private support	\$ 509,922
Earned revenue	864,547
Investment return used for operations	640,642
Contributed goods and services	52,500
Investments released from restrictions	217,990

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES \$2,285,602**

## OPERATING EXPENSES

### Program Services

Membership and branch services	\$ 542,197
New immigrant language services	558,325
Shakespeare programs	138,685
Educational exchange programs	489,298

**Total Program Services \$1,728,505**

### Supporting Services

Management and general	\$ 357,894
Fundraising	128,091

**Total Supporting Services \$485,985**

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$2,214,490**

Excess Operating Revenues  
over Operating Expenses \$71,111

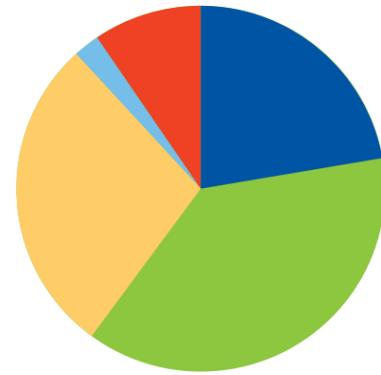
Endowment, investments, capital  
and other non-operating activities \$13,247,085

Gain (loss) on endowment, investments,  
capital and other non-operating activities \$1,082,357

**NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR \$15,843,971**

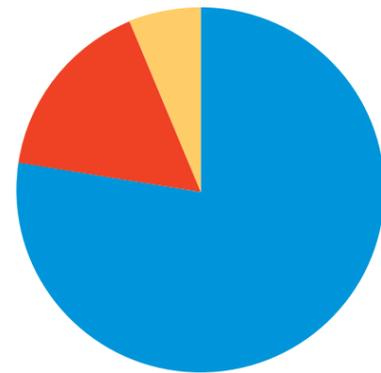
**NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR \$16,997,439**

Complete financial statements are available on our website:  
[www.esuus.org/about/financial\\_statements](http://www.esuus.org/about/financial_statements)



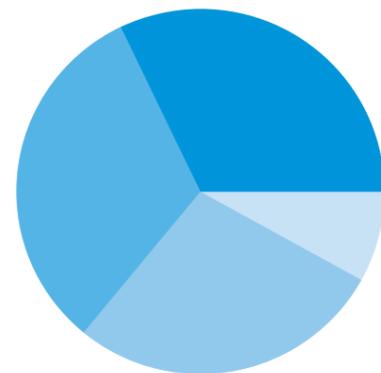
## Operating Revenues

Private support	22%
Earned revenue	38%
Investment return used for operations	28%
Contributed goods and services	2%
Investments released from restrictions	10%



## Operating Expenses

Program Services	78%
Management and general	16%
Fundraising	6%



## Program Services

Membership & branch services	32%
New immigrant language services	32%
Shakespeare programs	8%
Educational exchange programs	28%

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# English in Action

## Annual Report 2017



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