



The **Scottish Schools' Mace Final** took place at the Playfair Library, Edinburgh, on 26th March, the culmination of a six-month competition, with 72 teams across Scotland. This is the second year that the Confucius Institute has sponsored ESU competitions, and their continuing support is very much appreciated. In the first debate, Stewart's Melville College and Dollar Academy went head to head on the motion *This House Would Abolish the One Child Policy in China*. ▶



2011 Schools Mace Winners

▶ Then Largs Academy and St. Margaret's Livingston debated *This House Believes China Should Cut All Ties To North Korea To Encourage Political Change*. After two very exciting debates Dollar emerged triumphant, in a unanimous decision by the judges, JP Murphy, Richard Wilkins and Ewan MacDonald. Fifth year pupils Ruth Cameron and Calum Worsley will go on to represent Scotland at the International Mace Final in Dublin on the 30th April. We wish them the best of luck!



Busy bees at the Papercuts Workshop

Generously sponsored by HSBC, the **ESU Schools Public Speaking Competition** heats took place in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow on Saturday 2nd April. The 53 pupils competing gave imaginative speeches on the 'Big Society', and 8 pupils were selected to take part in the final in June. Many thanks to HSBC for hosting the event, and to the participants, teachers, parents and judges.



Fox Gospel Exhibition

We had a great time at the **Papercuts Workshop** in the ESU Gallery learning all the secrets of papercutting with artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb. Talented Tessa showed the group some beautiful antique examples and then we were let loose with scissors and scalpels to create our own masterpieces, based on Japanese and European styles. Everyone went home happy with armfuls of lovely images and our heads full of ideas.



Live Drawing at the Fox Gospel Talk

On 7th April writer Rafael Torrubia and artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb, the creators of **Fox Gospel**, gave a talk about their work at the ESU. The audience was treated to readings of the poems and stories that look at the role of the fox in myths and legends around the world and a talk about how the pictures were created. The highlight of the evening was the live creation of a new drawing, painted during one of the readings.



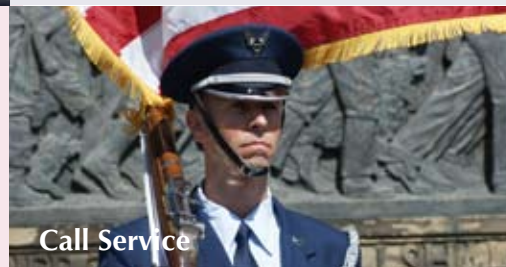
Launch of ESU Iceland 9th - 12th June

The next **creative writing group** meeting is on Thursday 5th May from 5.15-7.15pm. New members are always welcome, and next session we will be looking at different kinds of Science Fiction writing. The group is very friendly and supportive so it's a great place to get writing.



Fox Gospel Talk

The last **Edinburgh Branch Lunch** of the season is on Thursday 28th April at the Royal Overseas League, 100 Princes Street at 12.30pm. Dr. Alexa Morcom from Edinburgh University will be giving a talk on the subject of *Memory*. Lunch is £12 per person, for two courses and coffee.



Call Service

The **Call Service** will take place at noon on Scottish American Memorial Day, Monday 30th May, at the Call Statue in Princes Street Gardens. The service will be followed by a buffet lunch at 23 Atholl Crescent. Tickets for the lunch cost £15, but the service is free! Please book.

In focus...

inspired? get writing! Creative writing competition.....

The *inspired? get writing!* competition has now closed for another year with 850 entries from individuals and schools from all over Scotland and as far away as Guatemala.

The art of marrying words and pictures is not new. However, the idea of having a competition to produce writing based on the collection of the National Galleries of Scotland, seemed very exciting and innovative six years ago when the *inspired? get writing!* competition was first launched. ESU Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland and the Scottish Poetry Library all hoped that this would encourage a new generation of writers to seek inspiration from art.

This has come true in a way that we could only have wished for and the competition has gone from strength to strength. Over the past six years we have received almost 5,000 poems and stories. Each year, new writers of all ages take their inspiration from online images, well-thumbed books, tucked-away postcards, and of course the original works, and their entries are exciting, moving and humorous. It is always a real pleasure reading through all the entries, and always a struggle to narrow them down to the winners.

We are delighted that the third anthology accompanying the competition will be coming out in the autumn, but if you can't wait that long, please do come along to the Awards Day at the National Gallery of Scotland on 21st April, where the 52 winning pieces will be read aloud in front of the images that inspired them at the Hawthornden Lecture Theatre. This is always a really special event, and an opportunity to meet the talented writers. We hope to see you there!



Awards Day 21st April 2011

10.30am-11.30am
Under 12 years
 1.30pm-3.30pm
12-14 years & 15-18 years
 5.30pm-7.00pm
Unpublished & Published Adults



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

■ Thursday 21st April, various times
Inspired? Get writing!
Awards Ceremony
 Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, National Gallery of Scotland, Mound, Edinburgh
Members welcome

■ Thursday 28th April 12.30pm
Edinburgh Branch Lunch
Memory
Dr. Alexa Morcom
 School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences,
 Edinburgh University
 Royal Overseas League, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh
£12 for lunch. Please book in advance

MAY

■ Thursday 5th May, 5.15-7.15pm
Creative Writing Group
Science Fiction 1
 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to members

■ Friday 6th May, 10am-12pm
International Coffee Morning
 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£2, please join us!

■ Thursday 19th May, 5.15-7.15pm
Creative Writing Group
Science Fiction 2
 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to members

■ Monday 30th May, 12 noon
Call Service
 Call Statue Princes Street Gardens
 Lunch at 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£15, please book in advance

JUNE

■ Thursday 2nd June, 5.15-7.15pm
Creative Writing Group
Research: Fact or Fiction?
 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to members

■ Thursday 9th-Sunday 12th June
Launch of ESU Iceland
 Please contact the office for details

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