

St Andrews Day Debate 2009



ESU Scotland is delighted to be organising its 4th **St. Andrew's Day Debating Tournament** at the Scottish Parliament. Once again we are pairing the brightest and best university and schools debaters for a full-day competition. It will take place on Monday 29th November and there will be a number of heats before the final takes place at 4pm. The motions debated will all relate to Young People in Scotland, and the standard of debating will be extremely high. This is the only competition which pairs school pupils and university students, so please do get in touch if you would like to come along and watch.

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From 15th November to 3rd December, we are hosting an **exhibition of cartoons** by the award-winning Scottish cartoonist, **Frank Boyle**. Frank's cartoons appear in the Evening News, where he pokes fun at the actions, inactions, egos and alter egos of Scottish politicians, celebrities and sports personalities. There will be Private Views on 18th and 26th November, so please do come along and see.

Hallowe'en guests



The ESU Scotland annual **Vice-Presidents' Cup** will be held at the ESU on Tuesday 14th December at 7pm. This competition is for schools that have participated in our debates outreach programme, which is generously funded by the Williams Trust, the Roberston Trust and the MacRobert Trust. It is an excellent opportunity to see the positive impact of debate on young people.

80s Disco



There were scary wigs and spooky stories in the ESU Gallery at our first **Hallowe'en Dinner** on 29th October. We had a "traditional" 3-course dinner of Pumpkin and Spiderweb Soup, a Cauldron of Chilli, and Creepy Apple Crumble. Lots of our students, members and friends came along and it was a really fun evening that we will definitely repeating next year. Thank you to our readers and helpers!

Evelyn, Aissa, Suzanne, Stephanie and Fernando



To round off the year, we are holding an **80s Disco** here at the ESU on Saturday 4th December at 8.00pm. The Gallery will be transformed into a trendy 80s discotheque where there will be fancy dress, a yummy buffet dinner and, of course, plenty of 80s hit for dancing the night away. Tickets cost £15 to include dinner (BYOB as usual) and should be booked in advance.

Hallowe'en Dinner...in action



The last **Edinburgh Branch Lunch** of 2010 takes place at the Royal Overseas League on Thursday 25th November at 12.30pm. The Reverend David Beckett, a former minister of Greyfriars Kirk will be speaking on *The National Covenant*. Next year's lunches start on January 25th with a representative from the US Consulate. Lunches cost £12 for 2 courses and should be booked with the office.



In focus...

Aissa Watson, Head of Speech and Debate at ESU Scotland reflects on her first month

When I took up my post at the start of October, little did I realise quite how busy my month was going to be. It has definitely been a case of hitting the ground running, as it seems I timed my arrival for the busiest time of year on the debates calendar. I am delighted that a large number of teams have entered our Juniors competition, with 128 teams registered to take part in the first round which will start in just a few weeks. The Schools' Mace will follow soon after, with 70 schools from right across Scotland participating. The first round is being sponsored by the **Confucius Institute**, who supported the Mace last year, and we look forward to working with the Institute again.

As well as this, the ESU is working with the Scottish Government to hold the now annual St. Andrew's Day Debating Competition on 29th November, with the early rounds taking place in the committee rooms of the Parliament. Following the success of last year's event, this year will again see school pupils paired with university students for the competition, and pupils will be travelling from as far afield as the Highlands to take part in what should be an interesting day of debate. The final will take place in the Debating Chamber of the Parliament from 4pm, and judges will include a member of the Scottish cabinet as well as other figures from Scottish politics.

Also in December will be the Vice Presidents' Cup, the competition for pupils who participate in our successful Outreach Programme. Participants are still to be confirmed but the final of the competition will be held in the ESU Gallery in mid-December.

While the focus at the moment is very much on the competitions, we will of course be continuing the Outreach work which has gone on over the last few years. We are hoping to work with a number of schools in the Drumchapel area of Glasgow over the coming months, as well as other schools from across Scotland at both primary and secondary level.

It has been a very busy first month, but also a very enjoyable one. I have been made to feel very welcome at ESU Scotland and I am looking forward to working with the members and volunteers in the year ahead.



The Confucius Institute for Scotland in the University of Edinburgh is a national centre to promote educational, economic, and cultural ties between Scotland and China. Set up with Sino-Scottish government backing and partnered with Fudan University in Shanghai, the centre is one of almost 300 established under the auspices of Hanban, the Chinese government department responsible for promotion of Chinese language overseas. In December 2009, the Institute received the accolade 'Confucius Institute of the Year'; the third time such an honour has been given to the Confucius Institute for Scotland.

www.confuciusinstitute.ac.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

■ 15th November-3rd December

Boyling Point

An exhibition of Frank Boyle's topical cartoons

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
9am-5pm Monday to Friday (except Tues. afternoon and Wed. morning)

■ Thursday 18th November 6-8pm

Boyling Point Private View 1

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
Please RSVP Members welcome

■ Thurs. 18th November 5.15-7pm

Creative Writing Group

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to ESU Members

■ Thursday 25th November 12.30pm

Edinburgh Branch Lunch

Rev. David Beckett, Former Minister of Greyfriars Kirk

The National Covenant
ROSL, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh
£12 for 2 course lunch with coffee
Please book in advance

■ Friday 26th November 6-8pm

Boyling Point Private View 2

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
Please RSVP Members welcome

■ Monday 29th November all day

Final 4pm in Debating Chamber

St. Andrew's Day Debate

With debaters from schools and universities across Scotland
The Scottish Parliament
Tickets through the ESU office

DECEMBER

■ Thursday 2nd December 5.15-7pm

Creative Writing Group

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to ESU Members

■ Friday 3rd Dec. 10am-12 noon

International Coffee Morning

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh £2
With Christmas mince pies!

■ Saturday 4th December 8pm

80s Disco

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£15 for supper (BYOB) Please book in advance

■ Tuesday 14th December 7pm

Vice-Presidents' Cup

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
All members welcome

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