

The EGSA Digest

Frequenter Plerumque Verum

January 24, 2019

Inside this issue: Oodles of information and more assassination!

The semester is starting to swing into gear now as evidenced by the plenteous announcements in this issue, and for some of us, the increasing earnestness of the semester might also be starting to be evidenced by plenteous quantities of work. But still we are in the relatively easy-sailing portion of the semester, so I'll be holding off on encouraging animal analogies for a while yet. Really, I don't have anything in particular to say in this little first page of the Digest today, but I feel obligated to do so by my own self-imposed tradition. In fact, I am reminded of the title of an upcoming lecture in rhetoric (see announcement below), which is entitled "To Speak, Saying Nothing?" If the question in that title were directed at me and this introduction, my answer would be yes. In short, if you haven't done so yet, you should just skip this and jump right to the announcements.

Sort of sincerely,

Clayton McReynolds

EGSA Secretary (a.k.a. Mister Secretary Sir, a.k.a. Minister of Misinformation)

Event Schedule

- ◆ **Announcing our 2019 Orientation Chairs!**

Thank you to all those of you who voted in our Orientation Chair elections, despite some initial technical difficulties which several sources have indicated may be linked to Thetanist interference. The race was extremely close and the candidates all stupendous, but I am now happy to announce that our Orientation Chairs for 2019 will be **Stewart Riley**, our Wizened Warrior, and **Anna Beaudry**, our Bright-Eyed Youngling! Stewart and Anna will be heading up our upcoming Prospective Student Weekend, so we can all expect to see them in action soon!

- ◆ **And now a word from Spiffy Spoffy herself.**

“Just a reminder that EGSA is there for you, to be a liaison between grad students and the department. We want to advocate for you! Let Ben or me know if you run into any snags or have concerns—or if you simply need advice on [navigating the department](#). Basic rule of thumb is that if the situation/concern only affects you and is confidential in some way, you should talk to Dr. Russell directly. If it affects more than one person, let the EGSA president and VP know so that they can advocate and bring it up in their meetings with Dr. Russell.” Also, with this new semester, just a reminder that current EGSA officers are listed on the website (<http://www.bayloregsa.org/>) if you’re wondering whom to contact about different things.”

- ◆ **Signing up for job candidate coffee hours.**

Sign-up sheets for the coffee hours are available in the office, so if you would like to meet any of the candidates you should swing by there and sign up, if at all possible. Those coffee hours are just a nice window of time to get to know the candidates a bit and to help them get a feel for our department. You’re welcome to drop by unannounced, but it gives the faculty peace of mind to know for sure that at least a couple of people will be there. And if you do attend the coffee hours, remember to be extra kind; these poor souls are on [the job market](#) after all.

- ◆ **Monday, January 28. Job Market Seminar with Dr. Hargrave. 3:20-4:20. CS G03.**

This session will focus on how to navigate campus visits and job talks. Imagine that you are sitting in a fourth-floor faculty lounge with pleasant but odd skylights, drinking coffee and trying to chat with grad students as they come and go (see above): how does one do this well? There will be coffee, tea, and snacks, so come combine your mid-afternoon snack with a helping of knowledge!

- ◆ **Tuesday, January 29. Seminar for Excellence in Teaching. 2:30-4:30. Moody 104.**

This upcoming seminar, entitled “Promoting Undergraduate Research In and Out of the Classroom,” will provide valuable tips for promoting undergraduate research both in *and* out of the classroom. Here are a few more deets: “Nathan Elkins (Art History), Tamarah Adair (Biology), Mikeal Parsons (Religion), and Riz Klausmeyer (Pre-Health Studies), will lead a Seminar for Excellence in Teaching helping you explore strategies to facilitate, develop, and support research opportunities for undergraduates. No matter your field of interest, if you have a desire to incorporate undergraduates in your research or to develop course-based undergraduate research experiences (CURES), come participate in a panel discussion to learn about the resources available through Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Achievement (URSA) and the College of Arts and Sciences.”

◆ **Tuesday and Wednesday, January 29-30. Spring 2019 Formatting Workshop. 5:00-6:30, Morrison 100.**

This is especially germane to those of you who aspire to graduate this semester or some other time in the very near future, but anyone is welcome to drop by and learn the ins and outs of how to dot your I's and cross your T's such that the Graduate School will allow you to graduate. For more details, see the Pdf attached to the e-mail.

◆ **Thursday, February 7. Laurent Pernot Lecture. 4:30. Carroll Science 101.**

Dr. DePalma extends the following invitation: "Dr. Laurent Pernot is traveling from Strasbourg, France to give a lecture at Baylor University entitled "To Speak, Saying Nothing? The Enigma of Ceremonial Praise." Dr. Pernot's visit is going to offer a unique opportunity for Baylor faculty and students to learn from a world-class expert of classical rhetoric and a highly regarded international scholar. In his talk, Dr. Pernot will discuss how speeches of praise and blame constituted a form of oratory put to creative use in the classical Greek period and in the Roman imperial period, and he will demonstrate the ways they have influenced public speakers through all the succeeding ages. This talk is co-sponsored by Communication, Classics, Great Texts, and English and is open to all Baylor students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Pernot is Professor and Chair of the Department of Greek at the University of Strasbourg, Director of the Center for the Analysis of the Religious Rhetorics of Antiquity, Member of the Institut de France (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres), and former President of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric (ISHR). His many publications include *Rhetoric in Antiquity* and *New Chapters in the History of Rhetoric*."

◆ **Saturday, February 23. GSA Spring Farmer's Market Day. 9 am-1 pm. Parking lot between 5th and 6th (across from Dichotomy).**

It is time once again to enjoy the culinary pleasures and various curiosities of the Waco farmer's market! Check in at the GSA table to grab a \$5 voucher redeemable at any booth (they have 400 but when they're gone, they're gone). Plus, many booths will be offering additional grad student discounts! This is a neat thing to do anyway, so why not do it when you have some sweet discounts and can meet some of those grad students who are rumored to exist in other departments.

The EGSA Inquirer

Just when we thought it was safe to go back in the elevator, the Thetanists have struck again! Current evidence indicates that another assassination attempt might have been made upon President Spiffy Spoffy. What is more, the facts point to suspected Thetanist and EGSA VP Ben Rawlins as a prime suspect.

Let's review the facts:

- 1) At approximately 12:30 pm, President Spofford announces her intention to get lunch and leaves 406 accompanied by none other than VP Rawlins.
- 2) By approximately 1:00 pm, President Spofford is trapped in an elevator whilst attempting to return from lunch.
- 3) At approximately 1:14 pm, our source tells us that VP Rawlins was seen chuckling evilly and muttering "at last, at last..." under his breath.
- 4) By approximately 1:30 pm, President Spofford is rescued from the elevator, and it is discovered that the door was jammed not by an ordinary mechanical failure but by a rock!
- 5) At approximately 1:37 pm, our source tells us that VP Rawlins was seen grimly cursing as he clenched his fist tight over a handful of pebbles.

These facts certainly do not suggest any certain verdict, but they do seem to provide some ground for suspicion. Further vigilance is required!

Stay sharp, EGSA.