

The EGSA Digest

Frequenter Plerumque Verum

February 14, 2019

Inside this issue: Information, Explanation, and Exploration

Happy Valentine's Day, EGSA! It occurs to me right at this moment that I probably should have done something vaguely Valentines-related for this issue or something, but I'm not sure how, so that's not really going to happen. But, even so, I do hope that you all have a great time celebrating Valentines or, alternately, not celebrating Valentines! That can be fine too. Ok, now that you're in to this introduction thing this far, it's time for an experiment. This introduction isn't usually very useful, so I'm wondering just how many people actually read this thing? Here's how I propose to find out. If you are actually reading this, I want you to approach me some time in the coming week, look me in the eye, and with the utmost solemnity utter these words: "Who watches the watchmen?" To which I will reply, with equal gravitas, "None but I." Explain nothing of this to those who do not understand. It is knowledge only for us initiates.

That's all! May your life be filled with love and/or chocolate!

Sort of sincerely,

Clayton McReynolds

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

Event Schedule

For a more conveniently condensed recounting of the events below, visit the [EGSA Website!](#) In addition to providing a clear calendar of upcoming events and important dates, the website works as a great guide for navigating your graduate school career with resources including the EGSA Handbook and the kinds of vital forms that the Department likes to cunningly conceal.

- ◆ **Friday, February 15. Mod/Con Lecture: Synthetic Panics. CS 301. 3:30.**
For something both interesting and important consider the following: “Baylor Historian Dr. Philip Jenkins will be delivering a lecture entitled “Synthetic Panics: White Zombies, Cyborgs, and the Making of a Drug Crisis.” We are excited to be hosting a truly interdisciplinary lecture, hosted jointly by the Department of History and the Department of English. Dr. Jenkins’ lecture will be on how issues of race and ethnicity have guided the construction of drug panics and will look at several panics over the past century, up to and including the current opioid crisis.”

- ◆ **Friday, February 15. Seynt Valentynes Daunce! Good Neighbor House, 2301 Colcord. 6:00-10:00.**
For a slightly belated but excellent Valentines Day celebration, see the invitation [here](#) to an evening of dance and general merriment, hosted by Sørina and Gary Higgins!

- ◆ **Women in the Academy Mentorship Program. Application due by February 28.**
“The Women in the Academy (WITA) Committee invites all women graduate students to participate in the Women in the Academy Mentorship Program. The WITA Mentorship Program seeks to develop women graduate students as leaders, scholars, and educators. Participants will join other graduate women in an interdisciplinary group led by two Baylor faculty mentors to have monthly conversations about a variety of topics related to life in the academy.” If you are interested in this great opportunity to build relationships with faculty and with grad students from some of those fabled other departments (and are also a woman), you can apply [here](#). For more info on WITA see [here](#). If you participated in the program last year, you don’t need to reapply, but you should let Kristina_Amrani@baylor.edu know that you intend to participate again. For any further questions, contact Dr. Barr at Beth_Barr@baylor.edu .

- ◆ **September 18-21, 2019. Ecology and Religion in 19th Century Studies Conference. The ABL and the Interwebs.**
Here’s some info from Dr. Josh King on this excellent opportunity to go to a conference without having to travel, thus saving not only the environment but also time and money! “I am excited to share with you a Call for Papers for a unique conference that I am directing, and that will run from September 18-21, 2019. Ecology and Religion in 19th Century Studies is a flightless, multi-site conference that invites interdisciplinary attention to confluences between environmental and religious perspectives and practices in the long Anglophone nineteenth century (1780-1900). On-site and virtual presentations will be broadcast online from four participating sites” For more information see Josh’s email and follow this [link](#).

Accomplishments and Acclaim

- ◆ Congratulations to B.J. Thome on taking his preliminary examinations! He appears to have survived relatively unscathed, a feat worthy of recognition! So may we all.
- ◆ Props to Kelly Sauskojus (pronounced SAW-suhr-skwee-jeez) for a heckin' awesome haircut. It's dope, rad, and also the bee's knees.
- ◆ This is a bit belated, but Christina deserves some cred and acclaim for successfully dancing in high heels for a solid two and a half hours! So may we all.

EGSA Inquirer

We at the EGSA Inquirer have been hard at work, snooping around the department to unearth the mysterious and menacing “right hand” of the Thetanist order! We have not been able to determine who *exactly* this maleficent master of darkness is, but we have narrowed the suspects down to three possibilities! Which of these persons is the true villain? Read our analyses below and tell us what you think, because, as we all know, popular opinion is the primary arbiter of truth.

1) Matt Turnbull

Have you ever thought to yourself, after a heartwarming social exchange with Matt, that he seems just *too* nice to be true? Well, we have begun to suspect that maybe he is just that! After all, could anyone really be so sincerely and consistently devoted to caring for those around them? Seems like a *bit* of a stretch to us at the Inquirer! In addition to this highly suspicious kindness, Matt has taken to vehemently announcing that he is not a Thetanist every time he and I are in the same room. Methinks the Matthew protesteth too much.

2) Thomas Rutherford

When looking for a shadowy figure always be sure to check in the shadows. And no one is hidden deeper in the shadows than Thomas Rutherford. Practically no one has seen or heard from Thomas, since the very beginning of last semester! What could he have been up to all this time? Why did he disappear just when Thetanist activity began to increase? As the saying goes, correlation equals causation, and Thomas’s disappearance and Thetanist shenanigans are correlated as heck.

3) LaJoie Lex

Preposterous, you say! Ridiculous, you say! But how deeply have you peered into the eyes of LaJoie? If you look, really look, into the pools of her pupils, you may see...*something*. Or is it nothing? The something of nothing. The nothing of something. Not darkness but that which the darkness reminds us of on the blackest of nights. Do you *see* the smell of winter’s frost on an autumn wind, the sound of a broken heart’s silence, the feeling of the last tendril of hope snapping under the strain of chance and time? You sink deeper, your momentum mounting, the fall now irresistible, and yet you begin to feel it may not be a fall but a flight. A rising. An ascent! You sense the relief of release as the shadow of death hangs over you no longer; you are the shadow now.

But you know maybe it’s nothing! I wouldn’t read too much into it.

So who among these three of our comrades do you believe is the mastermind behind the Thetanist conspirators? You must weigh the evidence for yourselves, EGSA. And you must weigh it carefully. Much could depend upon your insight.