

The EGSA Digest

Frequenter Plerumque Verum

March 7, 2019

Inside this issue: Useful News, Freely Spoken Information, Still Definitely No Secret Message

Congratulations on making it (almost) all the way to Spring Break, comrades! I hope that you and your cats are well. And I hope that you all have a great time partying away this break: grading essays on the beach, writing essays in clubs, reading Gertrude Stein while you play slots in Vegas, or simply chilling out and researching your way through a yard high stack of books in Waco. But seriously I hope that you do make some time for relaxation and fun before we take the plunge into the rest of semester!

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.

◆ **Fall 2019 English Graduate Seminar Schedule**

Below are the classes that will be offered in the coming Fall semester! You can also download the word .doc attached to the email that brought you this Digest.

- ◇ Joe Fulton, ENG 5304: Bibliography and Research Methods, 11:00-12:15 TR
- ◇ Sarah Ford, ENG 5391: Early American Literature, 4:15-7:15, Wednesdays
- ◇ Jeannette Marsh, ENG 5303: Literature and Linguistics, 2:00-3:15, TR
- ◇ Coretta Pittman, ENG 5395: Black Writers and Jazz of the 1940s, 11:00-12:15, MW
- ◇ Josh King, ENG 5361: Reforming Christ's Body in Victorian Literature, 2:30-3:45, MW (ABL Seminar Room)
- ◇ Ginger Hanchey, ENG 5301: Old English Language (cross-listed with ENG 4302 and LING 4312), 12:30-1:45 TR

◆ **Some Potential Sources for Outside Funding!**

Here are several possibilities for outside funding that Holly and Ben have helpfully passed along!

- ◇ Academy for Teaching and Learning (<https://www.baylor.edu/atl/>)
- ◇ Institute for Faith and Learning (<https://www.baylor.edu/ifl/>)
- ◇ Oral History Institute (<https://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory/>)
- ◇ Baylor Graduate Writing Center (<https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/currentstudents/index.php?id=99100>)
- ◇ Armstrong Browning Library graduate assistantships (contact Dr. Jennifer Boderud)
- ◇ Dr. Josh King's research assistantship
- ◇ BIC or Great Texts (find out from the department if they need instructors)
- ◇ Student jobs—these will be the lowest paid, but also will potentially offer summer employment (check job listings on Baylor's website)

◆ **Research Assistantship Opportunity with Dr. King. Applications due by March 22.**

Attached to last week's email you will find a document from Dr. King helpfully outlining what this assistantship entails, what qualifications are necessary, what the work and compensation will be, and how to apply. This research assistantship pays quite well, and the funding comes from the ABL, so if you're facing the end of departmental funding this is a great option to explore!

Event Schedule

◆ **Summer Digital Scholarship Applications. Applications due by April 1.**

If you're looking for a good way to both learn something valuable and fend off starvation this summer, this is a great opportunity to check out! Eileen Bentsen reached out to encourage us to apply and re-marked: "I'd love to see applications from grad students interested in learning the fundamentals of digital scholarship/digital humanities who already have ideas on how this methodology will benefit their thesis and career." You can check out the details and/or apply [here](#).

◆ **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](#).

◆ **And now some important information from Holly and Ben (they are working together so you know it must be important!). Notes from a recent meeting with our GPD.**

- ◇ On funding: Please see the recent email from Dr. Russell. Additionally, if you take an assistantship outside of the department, note that your funding still remains on the same timeline. For example, if you have a five-year funding package that runs out in 2020, taking a split assistantship your second year does not affect when your English funding runs out (still 2020). If you take a full break from English department funding to take a full assistantship elsewhere, make sure to talk with RRR before you do so: he might then be able to defer your funding for a year (so it would run out in 2021 instead). He also does plan on honoring breaks needed for mental/physical health and family reasons: talk with him, though, to figure out details. Also, note that he is happy to continue tuition remission even after you run out of funding. If you are running out of funding, make sure to investigate other sources of funding on campus ASAP. We have grad students who have received funding from a variety of institutes and departments who would be happy to chat with you. Reach out to Holly, Ben, or Sara for more info or advice.
- ◇ On teaching loads: Unfortunately, due to broader university policies regarding the core changes, there is a strong possibility that we will still be teaching a 2:2 next year. Please take this into consideration as you plan for next year. Ben and I are going to work closely with Drs. Russell and Gardner to advocate with the deans for the course substitutions needed to allow us to drop to a 2:1 or 1:1, but it is much safer to plan on a 2:2 again. Dr. Russell is strongly committed to eventually getting down to a 1:1 and is working hard to get it as soon as possible.
- ◇ On courses: Remember to submit course substitutions (particularly for courses outside the department) as soon as possible in order to make sure they work! Also, remember that languages have to be at a graduate level in order to receive tuition remission. If there is a summer language course you need and it is not listed currently, gather 5 people and they'll most likely teach it.

Accomplishments and Acclaim

- ◆ Congratulations to Mackenzie Balken for battling her way through the many dangers, toils, and snares of academia to seize for herself her doctoral degree! She has now officially been recognized as a doctor, a process similar to being recognized as a saint but generally involving a lot more miracles. Sadly, Mackenzie has already returned to the frozen north, so she is not physically present to be congratulated via high fives or hugs, but you should still convey your deepest acclaim to her in whatever ways possible!
- ◆ It has been a good week for being stupendously awesome and ascending to new heights of glory and power! Eleni Reid has also successfully defended her dissertation! She has transcended this mortal plane and passed into a higher realm of being. She should be apprehended and vigorously congratulated at all costs. She has certainly earned it!

EGSA Inquirer

Recently, it has come to the attention of those of us at the Inquirer that some people in our community are worried about the elevator. We wanted to take the time to lay to rest any concerns any of you might be feeling on that front. The elevator is perfectly safe! This been confirmed by multiple studies (see [Dobson 2019](#), [Murray, et. al. 2018](#)). Any incidents certain persons might have experienced are due solely to those certain persons simply being rather famously prone to folly.

It is a perfectly normal elevator. It makes perfectly normal elevator noises. It is moved solely by ordinary mechanical devices like any other elevator. The elevator is not alive. The elevator is not speaking. But if it were speaking, you should listen very, very closely.

ZOOM