

The EGSA Digest

Frequenter Plerumque Verum

April 11, 2019

Inside this issue: Vital Information of Various Kinds

This is the point of the semester at which I calculate what I need to do in the time that remains and conclude that I am, in fact, screwed. However, thus far, I have always been wrong, and I expect and hope to be wrong again! If you too have concluded that your final doom is impending, then may we all be wrong together! And if you are more confident than I, believing that you will prevail, may you be right! And may our respective rightness and wrongness unite us all in the sweet, sweet victory of survival.

Meanwhile, here are some good things to do and fun things to do! I hope you do some of each.

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, April 12. Mod/Con Lecture with John Rumrich. CS 101. 2:30. Note the *time change!***
Take a look at the below note from the inimitable Kelly Sauskojus (pronounced saw-suhr-SKWEE-jee) and think about putting some time aside for this fun and informative talk! “Join us to hear visiting scholar John Rumrich speak about everyone’s favorite cranky modernist, C.S. Lewis! The title of his lecture is “Empson and Lewis: Some Common Ground.” Here is his description of his talk: “We academics tend to see William Empson and C. S. Lewis, two of the most influential literary figures of the early to mid-Twentieth century, as opposites, most distinctively so in their understanding of Christianity. My talk will examine the justice of that view, which is I think quite general, by looking into their lives, the development of their religious opinions, and two works of fiction.” Dr. Russell wished to communicate the following message on this subject: “Please make every effort to attend, if possible, our last Mod/Con Research seminar for the spring semester, this coming Friday at 2:30; see attached flyer.” (and a flyer is indeed attached to this e-mail)

- ◆ **Friday, April 12. Browning Day. Hankamer Treasure Room. 3:30-5:00.**
Decisions are hard, but you don’t have to choose this afternoon between the 20CRS lecture and the Browning Day presentation, because you can go straight from the one to the other and get [the best of both worlds!](#) Here is the description of this intriguing presentation: “The Armstrong Browning Library and the Baylor Department of Film and Digital Media proudly present "Celebrating Elizabeth Barrett Browning Through Cinematic Virtual Reality" featuring Amanda Gardner. Gardner, a Ph.D. candidate in Curriculum and Instruction at Baylor University, will help us re-imagine the world of the Brownings using Cinematic Virtual Reality. In her presentation, Gardner will describe the EBB CVR project, which is designed to revolutionize the way that both teachers and students engage with literature by immersing them in the world of the author. Come and experience this cutting-edge approach to learning! A screening of the project and reception will follow Gardner's presentation.”

- ◆ **Sunday, April 14. Vocational Prayer Meeting. The Higgins House (521 Herring Ave). 6:00.**
Anyone is welcome to gather for food and fellowship this coming Sunday! Sorina writes, “We will talk about what healthy habits we have been practicing for human flourishing and where we have seen God's work in our work.” If you want some encouragement about the meaningfulness of your work during this season of much, much work, you should swing on by! If you need help finding your way or whatnot, Sorina’s cell is 484-866-2147.

Event Schedule

- ◆ **Sunday, April 28. Dance Fellowship. Good Neighbor Settlement House (2301 Colcord Avenue). 6:00-10:00.**

Come on out for a variety of low-pressure dancing! “No dance experience necessary; no partner necessary. There will be line and folk dances, contra, and a little bit of ballroom, all with instruction.

Please contact Sørina with questions or to RSVP.” We’ll all have plenty of stress to dance away by the 28th, so plan accordingly!

- ◆ **SAMLA CFP. Abstracts due May 31.**

Jordan Carson is chairing the affiliated CCL panel at SAMLA this year, and the theme, “Speaking of God,” may work well for the kind of work that many of us might have lying around ready for a conference! In addition, Jordan has promised to be a friendly and charitable panel chair, so this is a great opportunity if you have relatively little conference experience or are headed to your first conference.

Furthermore, he points out: “Even remotely relevant proposals will be considered. SAMLA is generally a friendly conference, and flights to Birmingham are cheap.” This is a good opportunity to consider, so check out the CFP attached to this e-mail!

The EGSA Inquirer

We at the Inquirer were excited and alarmed to receive the following report from a vigilant EGSA citizen: Sörina Higgins, our local expert on occult shenanigans. We do not necessarily endorse the absolute factual veracity of Sörina’s conclusions. Nor do we necessarily not endorse the absolute factual veracity of Sörina’s conclusions. As ever, we leave you to draw your own conclusions, but it certainly does make a certain amount of sense that a conspiracy that runs so deep might expand all the way to the top.

“As our resident paranormal investigator, I have decided that this Thetanist conspiracy has gone unchecked for far too long. Therefore, I recently decided to take matters into my own mind and seek to discover the truth behind the many disturbing rumors floating around our department. Thus I betook myself to Pinewood, innocently toting a 900-page volume of instructions for mastering the complete Golden Dawn system of magic. Whom should I find there but Spiffy Spoffy, sweetly sipping a lovely latte? As we chatted about this and that, I felt an unearthly chill creep up my spine, followed by ghostly fingers on the back of my neck. I am quite experienced in the ways of the weird, so I kept my cool. But then! What should I see but an ectoplasmic emanation manifesting itself from the intricate fern-shaped foam adorning Holly’s coffee! It gradually formed into a face of pain, resembling nothing so much as the figure in Munch’s *Scream*, and it swayed to and fro to the accompaniment of indie lo-fi coffeeshop tunes, moaning inarticulately. I leaned in, eager to catch its otherworldly wails. At last I made out one agonized sound, which I replicate here as nearly as possible: “ARRRRRR!” Then it dissipated into mist and vanished from my sight. Not wishing to startle Madame President, I kept my new-found knowledge quiet.

Back home, I immediately locked myself into my secret study. There I keep many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore. One is a fine specimen of anthropodermic bibliopegy. As I sought through the grimoires and cipher documents, revelation dawned! The Visitor from the Other Side was not saying “Arrrrr”; it was saying “RRR”!!! Could it be that our dear GPD is a member of the Thetanist conspiracy?

Alas, further pieces of evidence suggest that this horrible accusation may indeed be true. As I sought for enlightenment through the impenetrable manuscripts, I recalled a conversation with—can you guess?!—none other than Caitlin Lawrence, who had recently informed me of the importance of the transference of energy in the writings of L. Ron Hubbard. What would such a sweet scholar as Caitlin be doing in possession of arcane knowledge, I ask you? And she even went so far as to recommend a podcast about the author and originator of Scientology! The assaults of the enemy are becoming ever more bold.

But the maleficent beings made a mistake in letting me get hold of that little fact, because I have traced the transference of energies back to earlier occult practices about transmutation, in which a practitioner summons up great internal forces and then channels them into a desired activity. And who encouraged me to write about this subject in the poems and plays of W. B. Yeats, but RRR himself? And who requires us to gather up all of our energies and pour them into our studies, but RRR himself? And who masquerades as the most luddite of the faculty, pretending to shun such “Advanced Technology” as the smartphone, but RRR? Next time you plug in your phone or your laptop, transferring energy into homework assigned by RRR, remember: He may be trying to transmute the psychic force of the entire department along a single conduit straight to the Galactic Confederacy. He may be using all of us as a slave labor force to bring about a massive incursion by alien Invader Forces!!

Here I must stop, for revealing anything else would be a violation of my initiatory vows of secrecy, and I would run the risk of being blasted by rods of black lightning. For now, all I can do is echo the words of our illustrious Secretary: ‘Be vigilant!’”