

The EGSA Digest

Frequenter Plerumque Verum

April 4, 2019

Inside this issue: Notable News, Song-Worthy Successes, and Possibly Puritans

I'm not going to say much here today, folks, for one very simple reason, which is that I don't want to. May my honesty cover over my [sloth](#).

However, don't let the sparsity of this introduction deceive you; this issue is chock full of good stuff: some important announcements you won't want to miss, a wealth of awesome achievements to applaud, and some startling developments in the Thetanist Conspiracy.

Enjoy, EGSA comrades!

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.

- ◆ **Sunday, April 7. Bull Poetry Festival (aka Bad Wine! Bad Poetry!). Sanger House (2301 Sanger Ave.). 6:30.**

After a week of high culture and elegant poesy, this is the palate cleanser (?) you need! Bring the worst of all possible poems. Bring the worst of all possible wine. And also, if convenient, bring snacks which should probably be more on the spectrum of mediocre to excellent. And you should also feel free to bring only yourself and a mind and heart open to receive a new and enlightening cultural experience.
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 9. Professional Development Panel: Prelims del Oso! CS 301. 10:00 am.**

Are you planning to take prelims and/or write a prospectus at some point? If you are not planning on doing those things and you are planning on earning a PhD, you should probably do some re-planning. All of us who are or should be planning to prelim or prospectus can come on out to this panel to learn just how to do so! Also, there will be [food](#)!
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 10. GWC Publication Workshop. GRC Visualization Studio. 5:30-7:00.**

Dr. Ford will impart to us the secrets of how to turn our seminar papers into publishable articles, which sounds extremely helpful! The first part will be lecture-based, and the second part will have some time to begin practicing what we have learned. And in case this event causes you to start thinking about entering the job market, pizza will be provided for stress-eating! For the full deets, see [here](#).
- ◆ **Friday, April 12. Mod/Con Lecture with John Rumrich. CS 301. 3:30.**

Take a look at the below note from the inimitable Kelly Sauskojus (pronounced saw-OOH-skaw-JOOH) and think about putting some 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.”
- ◆ **A word from Spiffy Spoffy!**

“Update on Teaching Loads: Drs. Russell, Gardner, and Walden are in serious discussions with the deans about eliminating 2304 and 1304, but that won’t happen until Fall 2020. Because of this, the English department will be teaching an abundance of courses this fall, so we are going to remain at a [2:2 teaching load](#) this coming year (Fall 2019 - Spring 2020), with [cautious hopes](#) of that eventually changing.”
- ◆ **And another word from our esteemed president!**

“[EGSA Elections](#): Stay tuned! Elections will be happening later this month. Take a look at the EGSA website to see a list of positions and to start thinking about how you’d like to be involved.”

Accomplishments and Acclaims!

- ◆ Speaking of elections, the English Department has made some significant strides in our ongoing quest to politically and culturally dominate this campus! Becca Cassady has been re-elected as Executive Vice President of the Graduate Student Association, and Caitlin Lawrence has been elected to serve as GSA Social Chair! Communicate your commendation of their ascension, with a snappy salute or a hearty huzzah.
- ◆ And over the past week, several of our number have traversed these United States to do scholarly things with other scholars at scholarly conferences. Holly Spofford and Alicia McCartney teamed up to solve “The Problem with God” at the CCL Conference over in the Harvard Divinity School! Meanwhile, Shannon McClernon sailed on down to New Orleans to share her academic smarts, eat gumbo, and party it up in general!
- ◆ Meanwhile, back in Waco, Katie was vigorously defending her Master’s Thesis, crying out, according to witnesses, “Lay on! And damn'd be him that first cries, ‘Hold, enough!’” She has emerged from this duel victorious and should accordingly be lambasted with congratulations!
- ◆ And the victories carry over into this week! Just yesterday, Katie, continuing her rampage of success, won the Beall Poetry Festival award for the best piece of creative fiction by a graduate student for her witty and insightful tale entitled “On Envy and Basic Bitches.” And Stewart took home the Dr. James E. Barcus Prize for poetry for his poem “Cicadas,” which inspired one judge to write: “Like the cicadas it captures, this one sings.” Brave to both of them for sharing their considerable creative talents!

The EGSA Inquirer

The Inquirer received a tip this past week about a potential Thetanist conspirator, and that tip did point us toward some very suspicious activity indeed! However, the situation is complicated by the fact that this tipster is none other than our prime suspect for Thetanist mastermind, Matt Turnbull. As the Genetic Principle reminds us we should base the truth claim of an argument on the origins of its claims or premises, so naturally we were extremely suspicious of Matt's accusation. Nonetheless, here is the evidence itself for your consideration.

On Friday, March 29, Harrison Otis stated in print: "I too would vote against Easter." Matt reached out with the following purportedly alarmed analysis: "I ask you, Clayton, what kind of fellow 'votes' against Easter??? What kind of fellow votes 'AGAINST' the most important holy day that Christians in all parts of this wide world hold dear and important?" We have to admit, he does have a point! Matt went on to say: "isn't Easter more dear to you and I than, say, a cat? Isn't this worth investigating? Could this have been the kind of Freudian slip you have been watching and waiting for? Could this be the key that unlocks the dark, heavy, Moss-covered door of the Thetanist conspiracy?" As suspicious as we are of Matt's motivations, we knew that there was a chance he could be right. Journalistic integrity demanded that we pursue this lead to the end, leaving no stone unturned and no Moss-covered door unopened!

Why would Matt possibly accuse Harrison? The answer seems simple: to distract our attention from himself as the true culprit. And yet! The fact remains that Harrison has voted against Easter. What's next? Boycotting Christmas? Humbugging Hanukah?! The possibilities are shocking, and we at the Inquirer firmly believe that all slopes are slippery.

But is there a way that we can both explain Matt's motivations and explain Harrison's alarming denouncement? There is a way. And that way is: Puritanism. Who naysays the practice of such popery as celebrating the Resurrection of Christ? Puritans. Who believes in broadly representative government, thus "voting against" Easter? Puritans again.

This theory is further supported by the report of an eye witness who claims to have seen Harrison, shaking an enormous copy of the Geneva Bible in the face of Matt, and declaring vigorously: "The Lord rebuke thy soul, scurrilous miscreant! May thy misdeeds be dragged from the darkness into the everlasting Light!"

We can't say anything for certain at this point, but it is possible that we may have an anti-Thetanist faction of radical Puritans operating within our department as well! Is Harrison a lone Puritan warrior? Or are others with him in a Thetanist-battling Puritan Posse? And if so, can we trust them? Or do they too represent a threat to the peace and order of our thriving community? Time alone will tell.