

The EGSA Digest

Frequenter Plerumque Verum

May 9, 2019

Inside this issue: The Usual

[We are almost there](#), friends! For most of us that news is probably simultaneously [horrifying](#) and [relieving](#), but in a week's time that horror will be behind us and the relief upon us. So hang in there, comrades! And thank you for an excellent first year as secretary! I look forward to joining you all, and new companions to boot, next fall.

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.

◆ **Monday, May 20. Professionalization Workshop: “I know what you *should do* this summer!” CS G-03. 11:00 am-12:30 pm (at the latest).**

Dr. Hargrave, continuing her habit of helping us out, will once again be dispensing valuable knowledge that is immediately essential for those going on the job market but relevant for all of us: “Open to any English graduate students, particularly those going on the market in the next year or two. This meeting will continue the series of previous seminars dedicated to the job market. We will discuss job documents and set-up possible summer meetings to workshop these documents. Going forward, this May meeting will replace the previous September meetings that discussed job documents and job ads. September is much too late to begin thinking seriously about the market. For those of you NOT defending in the next year or two, we will spend a considerable amount of time discussing CVs. Time permitting, we will try to workshop one or two CVs. I would encourage everyone, time permitting, to attend. It is never too early to learn about the job market and to begin crafting your professional persona.”

◆ **Modern and Contemporary Graduate Student Essay Contest. Submissions due Friday, May 17.**

Mod/Con is hosting a graduate student paper contest once again, so take a look at the deets below and consider submitting a paper of your own for glory and renown! Kelly Sauskojus (pronounced sah-SKOO-bee-doo-bee-doo [that might be my last change to every mispronounce Kelly’s name guys! :(]) reports: “As we approach the end of the semester, here’s your final opportunity to get involved with Mod/Con! Every year, we host an interdisciplinary paper contest for all graduate students doing research in 20th and 21st century literature, theology, history, and theater. Winning students will be invited to read their papers at an awards ceremony in the fall. We have a wonderful interdisciplinary panel of judges including English’s Dr. Pittman, history’s Dr. Barry Hankins, religion’s Dr. Karnes, and theater’s Dr. Toten Beard. Since winning papers will be read aloud, consider this the genre of a conference paper--don’t try and condense an entire seminar paper into ten pages. Be aware of your audience here--since you’re writing to a group of people who are likely not familiar with your particular field, winning papers usually explicitly communicate the stakes of their argument and how they are making an intervention in the scholarly conversation. Judges have asked that submissions are no more than ten pages long, in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced. Submissions are due to Andrew_Sutherland2@baylor.edu by 11:59pm on Friday, May 17th.” Contact Kelly with questions, and see flyer attached to e-mail.

◆ **19CRS Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Submissions due May 31.**

And speaking of paper contests, here’s another excellent opportunity for your perusal! Hears the scoop from Josh King himself: “It’s hard to believe that we are already in the last days of the semester at Baylor! Since this is the time when many graduate students are finishing seminar papers, it seems appropriate to remind you of the annual Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Awards offered by the 19CRS. Submissions—due May 31 to Nicole_Bouchard@baylor.edu—can be by Baylor graduate students of any department, and they can treat any aspect of nineteenth-century studies.” See flyer attached to e-mail for more details about paper requirements and such!

Event Schedule

◆ **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!

◆ **Job Opening at Missouri Baptist University!**

Spiffy Spoffy has passed the following opportunity along from Julie Ooms:

“My university, Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis, MO, has a job opening (see linked job ad) for Fall 2019. The ad says it's a visiting position, but we really want to hire someone who would be a good fit for far longer, so it's not unreasonable to expect contract renewal. If there are any Baylor PhD or MA students who are still looking for jobs right now, please send them my way. They can apply for the job straight out, but I'd also be happy to take anyone's questions (and to coach them through what might help them through the process).”

For more information, you can contact Julie at Julie.Ooms@mobap.edu . And the aforementioned link is [here!](#)

◆ **Summer Apartment Sitting/Cat Snuggling Gig!**

Laine Scales is seeking someone to stay rent-free in her apartment and care for her cats this summer! See her explanation below:

“Live a good life for the summer with two beautiful and affectionate cats in exchange for free rent and utilities in a professor’s home while she teaches in a study abroad program. These two beauties really want to be with you: on your lap as you read and at the foot of your bed when you sleep. So this responsibility is not just putting down food and cleaning the box. You must be willing to be social with them and let the cats be with you (and on you). Singles and couples welcome to apply.

- ◆ Requirements: If you truly love being with cats, this will be a good fit for you. (If not, please don’t apply just for the free living space). Other requirements:

- ◆ 1) Please don’t bring children or pets of your own.
- ◆ 2) In person or skype interview required.
- ◆ 3) References required after interview (these do not need to be cat-specific).
- ◆ The space :I live in Browning Square apartments on 9th and Bagby near Baylor. Two bedroom apartment, to which you will have access to one bedroom and bathroom, generous living room, good kitchen, and a large television with Apple TV. Swimming Pool. A short walk to Baylor campus or downtown, and you are welcome to use my bike.
- ◆ Dates: May 18 to August 18 (or thereabouts). With the exception of June 26, 27, 28, where you will need to stay elsewhere for three days while I visit Waco.” If you have further questions such as “What if we bring pets or children that belong to someone else?” feel free to contact Laine_Scales@baylor.edu.

Accomplishments and Acclaim!

Y'all have been particularly awesome this week, so here we go!

- ◆ Our esteemed president Holly Spofford was recognized as the dopest of pedagogues last Friday when she was awarded the department's outstanding graduate student teacher award! This award is based off of the estimation of Holly's students and observing faculty alike, so be sure to shower her with adulation in whatever form seems most fitting to you!
- ◆ Meanwhile, Ben Rawlins has landed himself here in the acclaim section for two reasons in one week! On Friday, much to the surprise of nobody but Ben, he received the Jim Barcus Dissertation Fellowship to give him more time to focus on saying awesome things about Modern American poets in his dissertation (it's a [1-1 teaching load!](#)). And Ben has finished taking prelims this week as well! (I think...99% sure about that.) So, next time you see Ben be sure to shake both of his at once to doubly congratulate him!
- ◆ And rounding out our Friday award recipients, we have Alicia McCartney (néé Constant) and Jeremy Land, both of whom received awards for the superlative quality of their dissertations! You're less likely to bump into either of those two, but if you should, you know what to do!
- ◆ Meanwhile, in an event rather distinctly indicated by the previously mentioned award, Alicia has successfully defended her dissertation, and is now Dr. McCartney! Hail her by this new moniker if you get a chance! It's got a nice ring to it.
- ◆ On the subject of defending things, Stewart Riley has successfully shielded his Master's thesis from all harm, and accordingly he has been given his Master's! Recognize his merits this week by singing him the traditional thesis defense song and/or clapping him heartily on the back!

(Y'all's success is becoming truly exhausting! Your awesomeness might give me carpal tunnel syndrome.)

- ◆ Jonathan Kanary has also sailed through preliminary exams, typing his way to victory! It is customary to bow and offer small sums of cash as a congratulatory gesture in affairs of this kind, but I'm sure Jonathan would appreciate your well-wishing in any form.
- ◆ And last but certainly not least, Sørina Higgins's interview with Mars Hill Audio has been published! Check out their description of Sørina's work [here!](#) This interview places Sørina in the company of some really big names in Christian scholarship and scholarship generally! Heap acclaim upon her accordingly! And, if you find an opportunity, you might give the interview a listen too; you'll probably learn some sweet stuff.

The EGSA Inquirer

It is truly unfortunate that Xenu chose to launch his assault upon our community during grading and papers season, since I would like to take more time than I have available to describe to you the epic battle through which Xenu was cast down and returned to the void from whence he arose. I had a front row seat to the whole affair since Xenu was in possession of my body at the time (being secretary turns out to be a very dangerous job!), and I can tell you without a doubt that it was extraordinarily epic. So epic, in fact, that I find I can only really capture its essence in dactylic hexameter.

Xenu rose, prideful in evil done, eager yet more to do to us nerds.

He then said, "Who among you hapless EGSA scum would dare to resist me?"

Like a forked lightning bolt striking earth, fierce in wrath, came Holly driving fast

Her Focus, forged by Ford, down to run the dark one, who thus struck cried out wroth

"Ow! Dammit." Though injured he still was dangerous, raging for pride injured.

Woe yet was descending to us all, to Spoffy the Spiffy most of all.

Lo! Who is he who runs Xenu now to face and totally cleans his clock?

He is Ben! Hero now, Thetanist no longer. Elections change a man!

So there you have it folks! It's startling but true. Spiffy Spoffy and Ben have defeated Xenu, Tyrant Ruler of the Galactic Confederacy, by joining forces to put an end to his would-be tyranny! Ben it seems has turned against his former Thetanist fellows and now stands for us all, hoping to redeem the evil he has done before.

After the battle, Holly handed the ceremonial EGSA scepter to Ben, informing him that it was time that he lead our community to a brighter future. Spiffy Spoffy feels now that she must defend us from the shadows, fighting the evils we have not the strength to know.

At press time, Spiffy Spoffy had donned a dark cape and disappeared into the night, leaving a contemplative Ben to take the reins of government. All seems well at last!

Although some sources do claim that they saw a shadowy form watching all this from a dark corner and heard a voice exclaim "Classic!"