

The EGSA Digest

Frequenter Plerumque Verum

May 2, 2019

Inside this issue: Valuable Opportunities, Invaluable Opportunities (What the heck, English?)

I don't have much to say here today, folks, except for one very important PSA: Everything is going to be [ok](#). It may be incredibly difficult and stressful and painful for a while as well, but it really is going to be [alright](#).

Carry on, friends.

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, May 3. End-of-Semester Tea. CS Fourth Floor Lounge. 2:00.**

Dr. Russell invites us all to the traditional departmental tea with the following words from Dr. Russell: “You are warmly invited to an end-of-semester tea on Friday, May 3, at 2:00 P.M., upstairs in the fourth-floor lounge. Refreshments will be served and the Christine Fall Outstanding Teaching Award, Charles G. Smith Outstanding Graduate Student Award, and the James E. Barcus Dissertation Fellowship winner for 2019-20 will all be announced!” Come drink some tea (and by “tea” I mean “coffee,” although I do hope we actually have tea this time as well), eat some snacks (by “snacks” I mean “snacks”), and visit with your peers and professors alike (by “visit” I mean lean in and yell politely at one another while trying not to spill your beverage). But seriously, this is a great chance for the whole department to get together for just a little while, after making it almost all the way through the semester together, and celebrate what all of us have done in general and what some of us have done in particular.

◆ **Monday, May 6. Honors Colloquia Town Hall. CS G-03. 2:30 (an hour at the very longest).**

Dr. Hargrave has most generously taken it upon herself to look into the possibility of us receiving compensation for teaching honors colloquia! Toward that end, if you have taught a colloquium, do see if you can take some time to come on out Monday and give Niffy the fullest possible picture of the colloquia experience. Niffy says: “It has come to my attention that instructors of the Honors Colloquia are not being compensated (at least monetarily) by the Honors College. I would like to advocate for a change. In order for this to happen, I need to collect more information regarding teaching/grading expectations, current forms of compensation, preparation time, etc. So, I propose a town hall for anyone who would be willing to share this information with me. This should be a very short, very informal meeting. Any information shared will be kept confidential.”

◆ **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.”

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:

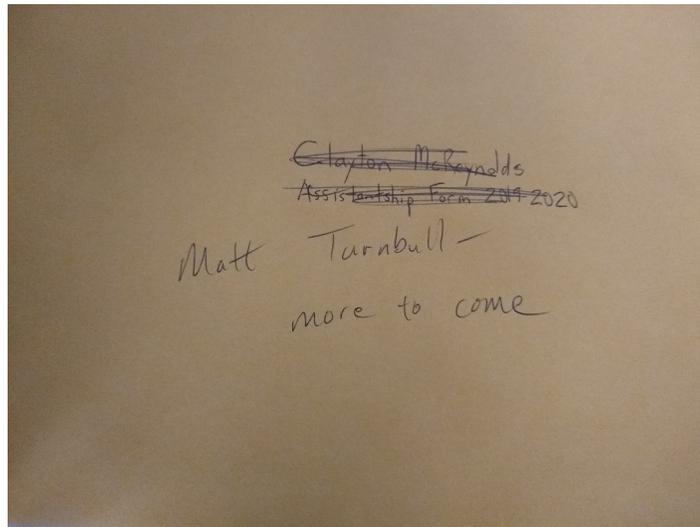
- ◆ 1) Please don’t bring children or pets of your own.
- ◆ 2) In person or skype interview required.
- ◆ 3) References required after interview (these do not need to be cat-specific).
- ◆ The space I live in Browning Square apartments on 9th and Bagby near Baylor. Two bedroom apartment, to which you 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!

- ◆ Maximum acclaim to Sara Dye for the most exceedingly impressive accomplishment of being awarded the Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Graduate Students in the Humanities at Baylor! This recognition affirms the obvious fact that Sara is an absolutely excellent educator. Congratulate her with affirming words, a vigorous handshake, or a snappy salute.
- ◆ And while you're at it extend ample adulation to Michael Rawl, who has been awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award for Graduate Students in the Humanities at Baylor for his dissertation, "Winter Words!: The Poetry of Old Age in Thomas Hardy, W. B. Yeats, and Philip Larkin." Completing a dissertation is super awesome already, and this award recognizing Mike's work as top-notch scholarship amplifies that awesomeness exponentially!
- ◆ And finally don't forget to congratulate Rachel Kilgore and Josh Pittman for winning two of the inaugural Summer Dissertation Fellowships offered by the Graduate School! These were highly competitive awards, so I can only assume that Rachel's Jane-Austen-inspired cunning and Josh's martial arts mastery came in handy. Be sure to hail these victors!

The EGSA Inquirer

The Thetanists are, as usual, on the move. This very day, our investigators found the below document in the Carroll Science workroom.



You might notice that my name has been scratched out and replaced with the name of none other than *Matt Turnbull*! In addition, the ominous words “more to come” suggest a further threat of some kind. Does Matt intend to steal my identity? Is he suggesting that he and his fellow Thetanists will take over the dispensation of information? Who could say.

But even more alarming than this is the mysterious and foreboding book that President Holly “Spiffy Spoffy” Spofford received in the mail this past week! The mystery mailer may have struck again, this time sending Spiffy Spoffy a supernatural noir thriller entitled *A Book of Bones*. The book’s plot revolves around a series of killings performed, it seems, with the intention of summoning some sort of evil and powerful being. What might this mean? Could the Thetanists be planning a similar summoning of some sort? It’s hard to say, but regardless President Spofford was unfazed by this dastardly deed, declarin/.0’46 TisHSiNAagrnnMA

Greetings EGSA Scum,

I am Xenu, Tyrant Ruler of the Galactic Confederacy, and I have returned at last to the corporeal realm. I am not entirely satisfied with my followers’ choice of vessel, but it will suffice. He should cut down on sugar consumption, but at least he’s been marginally responsible about getting some cardio and taking his vitamins.

But none of that matters to you. All you need to know is that I am your ruler now. I shall first rule EGSA, and then the GSA, and then Baylor, and then the entirety of your small wet planet! If you behave yourselves, I might even permit some of you nerds to join my conquering armies, especially if you know anything about volcanoes, hydrogen bombs, or other useful means of eliminating large numbers of persons. All that remains is to victor over this allegedly “spiffy” Spofford to whom you presently pay homage. And I soon shall.

Expect to receive more orders soon, peons. I can’t waste anymore time communicating with your ilk; Matt is going to take me out for something called “barbeque.”

Evilly Yours,

Xenu, Tyrant Ruler of the Galactic Confederacy