



THE AGITATOR

Newsletter of the University of Oregon
GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWS FEDERATION
870 E 13th., Eugene, OR 97401 (541) 344-0832 <http://gtff.net> gtffnewsletter@googlegroups.com

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Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, May 5-Friday, May 8

GTFFF Elections
GTFFF Office

Friday, May 8

Great Cover-Up Day I
Luckey's (933 Olive St)
Doors, 8pm - Music 9pm

Saturday, May 9

GTFFF-CGE Soccer Game
Peterson Barn Park (870 Berntzen Rd), 2pm

Saturday, May 9

Great Cover-Up Day II
Sam Bond's Brewery (540 E 8th Ave)
Doors 8pm, Music 9pm

Saturday, May 23

GTFFF Parents Caucus BBQ
Skinner's Butte, 11am-2pm (see page 3)

Week 8-9

Queer Caucus's Pink & Black Fundraiser
Location, time, date TBA

Wednesday, June 3

Amber's Birthday!!

Wednesday, June 10

End of Term BBQ
Alton Baker Park, Sometime



FRIDAY, MAY 8TH
LUCKEY'S 933 OLIVE
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
AGES 21+

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
SAM BOND'S BREWERY
540 E. 8TH AVE
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
\$6 ONE NIGHT/\$10 BOTH

AGES 21+

GTFFF Elections

Elections for AY 2015-16 officers, stewards, grad assistance fund committee members, and bylaw amendments are May 5-8 in the GTFFF Office. This issue of the Agitator contains statements from many candidates and discussions of the amendments.

Check gtff.net/2015-elections for full details on the election!



The UO Job: A Serial

(November 2014)

Frances turned her chair so that she and Scott were face to face. He sat on the other side of his desk, gripping the armrests of his chair as though he feared it would tip forward, rejecting him as Interim President. Beads of sweat stood out on his forehead. Frances guessed it was partially due to stress, and partially due to the hypersensitive Johnson Hall heating system kicking in. Why do these old buildings only have two climate control settings: Arctic and Tropical?

"You don't understand, Francis! The GTFF is attacking my credibility since I'm on record as saying that it is in the best interests of companies to help balance work and family obligations for everyone" (1). Scott fixed her with an imploring look. "How can I refuse parental leave to graduate employees?"

Frances nodded, slowly steeping her fingers, buying herself some time to think. She thought back on her tenure as Dean of Architecture and Allied Arts. Suddenly, it came to her.

"It's all about spin, Scott." She fixed

him with a reassuring smile. "You would think that, based on my past work, I'd be all for parental leave. After all, I've previously written about the role technology can play in improving the lives of women at home and in the workplace" (2). She rose from her chair and crossed to the window of Scott's office. I can almost see Lawrence Hall from here, she thought. How simple things were back when I was Dean of Allied Arts and Design. The thought made her feel melancholy, almost nostalgic.

She shook her head and turned back to Scott. "It's all about the spin. About reframing the debate. Based on my past work you'd think I would be coming out in full force for things which would promote gender equity in the workplace. Instead, I'm hammering home the idea that GTFs are students first and foremost" (3).

"Reframing the debate," Scott muttered to himself. Frances could almost see the wheels turning in his head. Suddenly, his eyes lit up more brightly than the headlights on an SUV. "That's brilliant, Frances! For instance, I could go on record saying that I endorsed, let's say, flextime instead of bona fide

parental leave" (4).

"Exactly! Now we're cooking with gas." Frances walked back to her chair, placed her hands on the back, and leaned forward. "Of course, all of this might be a moot point once Chuck -- I mean, the Board of Trustees -- picks our new president." She smiled wryly, arching an eyebrow.

Scott returned her smile. "Maybe one of these days he'll actually parachute back in to talk to us. When he does, things might really get interesting . . ."

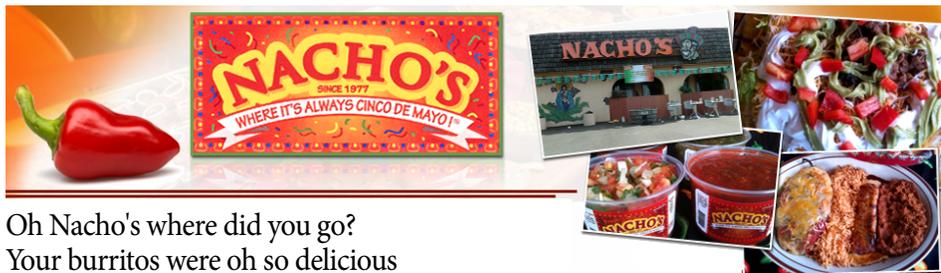
*Jonathan Turbin
VP Organizing
Anthorpology*

(1) Scott Coltrane, "The Risky Business of Paternity Leave" in *The Atlantic*. 12/29/13

(2) Frances Bronet and Linda L. Layne, "Teaching Feminist Technology Design" in *Feminist Technology* (Linda L. Layne, Sharra L. Vostral, and Kate Boyer, eds) (2010). Champaign: University of Illinois Press.

(3) Campus-wide e-mail from Frances Bronet. 11/11/14

(4) "University of Oregon Graduate Teaching Fellows on Strike." *Think Out Loud*. NPR. KOPB, Eugene. 12/3/15. Radio



Oh Nacho's where did you go?
Your burritos were oh so delicious
There are so many who will never know
Some might even think you factitious.
My favorite was the chimichanga..
It was such a pleasure to my nose
Though I never did have a nacho
I don't think I can take it much longah.

I very much miss you Nacho's,
Where it was always Cinco de Mayo!

*Herbert Grotewhol
Steward, Physics*



"Jonathan Turbin would Make an Awesome Anthro Steward" Peanut Noodles with Tofu

8 oz. spaghetti
1/2 low sodium veggie broth
1 minced garlic clove

Jonathan would work tirelessly to maintain the organization of the Anthropology department, regularly organizing department meetings.

1/2 cup old fashioned peanut butter
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. red chile flakes

Jonathan would hold regular office hours to hear from Anthro GTFs, or arrange meetings by appointment.

3 tbsp. low-sodium soy sauce
14 oz. firm tofu, cubed
1 English cuke, cut into matchsticks

Jonathan would attend caucus meetings in an effort to increase the representation of historically marginalized groups.

3 green onions, trimmed and sliced diagonally
1/2 cup cilantro leaves
1/3 cup roasted peanuts

Jonathan would volunteer to serve on the bargaining committee and run for a spot on the bargaining team, ensuring the Anthropology department would have a voice in upcoming union negotiations.

1. Cook pasta in a large pot according to package directions. Drain and set aside.
2. Heat broth, garlic, peanut butter, sugar, chile flakes, and soy sauce in pasta pot until boiling, stirring often. Add tofu, cukes, and pasta and toss to coat.
3. Transfer pasta to a serving bowl, top with onions, cilantro, and peanuts.

If you are a carnivore, diced chicken and chicken broth can be used. Also, as a previous steward and present member of the GTFE e-board, Jonathan would bring institutional memory to the position. Good luck to any and all candidates!

*Jonathan Turbin
Anthropology*

Geological Sciences Steward Candidate

Win McLaughlin

I'm a PhD candidate in the Geology department. I started at University of Oregon in 2012 and completed a Masters also in Geoscience before reapplying for my PhD. I have actively attended GTFE meetings (when I've been in the country!) and participated to my fullest in the strike last year. I'm particularly concerned with issues with "the leaky pipeline", or the attrition of women in science academia.



Skinner Butte Park

Saturday May 23

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Who: All Grad Students, Law Students, and their Families

This is a joint GTFE, SBA, and GSA event to help enable grad parents from all over campus build their networks and have some family fun!

Menu:

- Hot dogs
- Veggie burgers
- Fixin's
- Select sides
- Drinks

Please bring a side or drinks, and your own plates/cups/utensils to help reduce waste

Please RSVP by dperry3@uoregon.edu
Thursday May 21:



<https://www.eugene-or.gov/facilities/Facility/Details/55>

Presented by:

GTFE Parents' Caucus
Student Bar Association
Graduate Student Association





GTFE President Candidates

Shawna Meechan

I am running for president of the GTFE for several reasons. First, and foremost, I love this union and the people in it. During the course of my three years at UO, I have gotten to know and work with so many people with different academic interests and talents and I take enormous pride in representing you all currently as the VP of Grievances. In this capacity and through my work on the bargaining committee the last two years, I have become an expert on the various aspects of our CBA and how we can make them work for us. I have also been able to help a few people deal with tough situations and ensure that the University follows our contract. These processes have also allowed me to get to know many of the administrators on campus that we will be continuing to work with over the next several years and I have built good working relationship with them that would greatly benefit the union if I was President. As president over the next year I would hope to continue to build relationships across campus and across departments within the GTFE, build new and more meaningful relationships with our fellow unions on campus and throughout the state, and guide the GTFE through a another bargaining cycle which is sure to be contentious. I hope you will consider voting for me to lead you over the next year.

Jon LaRochelle

We are at a crucial juncture in our union's (almost!) 40 year history. Coming off of our first strike, next year's negotiations will be crucial in setting us on the path forward. With significant flux in the UO administration, this is a moment of possibility. The GTFE can be a powerful force in setting a positive course for the campus community.

If you'll have me as president, I have three interconnected goals for the coming year:

1) Union Building – First and foremost, we need a strong and unified GTFE community to move forward. This will require face to face conversations, social events, and collective decision making and action. We need to ensure that the union is transparent and accessible to ALL members, for which a strong and well supported caucus structure is key. Finally, it's time to build capacity, for: effective bargaining, passing GTFE-friendly legislation, and supporting our friends and allies on and off campus.

2) Community Building – Our goals and efforts do not exist in a vacuum. Our success is deeply intertwined with other struggles in our campus

and local community. We should strengthen relationships with groups across campus, and support efforts in the surrounding community where possible. UO politics are deeply tied to state and national politics, and we have allies on other campuses confronting the same issues of disinvestment, privatization, and the possibility of anti-worker legislation that we do. We should know more about these issues, and seek out opportunities to address them together.

3) Bargaining – The upcoming round of negotiations is an opportunity for unity and clarity of vision. We can't get overly bogged down in antagonistic politics. Instead, we need a clear, positive vision of the University that we want to work in, and the knowledge and strategy to get us there. This can only happen through a combination of strong participation in setting our platform, and well supported Bargaining and Contract Campaign committees.

I was involved with the last round of bargaining from start to finish, and I have relationships with many of our allies at the local, state, and national level. This is a list of things I know we can accomplish, and I hope you'll let me help get us there.

VP for Member Communications Candidate

Patrick Greiner

Hello Cousins,

I am both excited and honored by the possibility of serving our union in the capacity of VP for member communications. In this role my primary aim will be to maintain and further our

union's tradition of strong membership participation by aiding our members in their efforts to stay informed and share information with one another. I am currently finishing my second year as a GTFE in our sociology department and my first year as a steward. In that time I have been amazed and inspired by what we have been able to achieve, and

by our consistent presence as a positive force in our community. Nothing would make me happier than to contribute to the success of our organization's mission and be a part of its great legacy.

In Solidarity,
Patrick Greiner



VP for Political Education Candidate

Kadie Manion

Greetings, comrades! I'm a second year graduate student in the sociology department and I'm running for VP of Political Education. I've been an active member of the union this past year as a steward, as a canvasser for the contract campaign committee (CCC), as a member of the Committee on Political Education (COPE), and as a picket captain during the strike. With the CCC, I've canvassed around many

departments in order to inform our members of upcoming events and actions. With the COPE I've been writing blurbs for our [tentatively] forthcoming website and other documents. I attended the Graduate Employee Lobby Day in Salem where many of our members and members of CGE spoke with state legislators about creating a graduate employee seat on the Board of Trustees. This bill did not get passed on to the floor this legislative session but I plan to continue working

on this effort with the COPE. I also plan to continue organizing our membership around local and statewide political and labor activism. I hope that through the COPE we can increase our solidarity with allies in the community, especially in anticipation for the 2016 elections and prospective right-to-work initiatives (Scary!). It has been truly inspiring to witness firsthand the strength of our union and I look to serving you all in this upcoming year. Thanks!

VP for Operations Candidate

Jessica Neafie

I am interested in being your next VP for Operations. I am a political science steward in not only my second year as a graduate student at UO but also as a steward. Last year I got asked to be a steward in my department to represent the interests of new students like myself,

and was interested to find out how a union worked. This was my first time as part of union, and coming from Florida I had never seen many union actions, but getting involved has taught me a lot about unions and solidarity. I have constantly been excited to be part of the GTFF, and becoming VP of Operations is yet another way I can give back to a

union that I enjoy being a part of. I have worked the last two years to support my department and to ensure that their interests are expressed to the ecouncil and now I want to make sure that the interests of all GTFFers is expressed on the eboard and the health and welfare trust. I want to serve you all in the next year, plus I really like to plan parties!

VP for External Relations Candidate

Natalie Brenner

Dear Fellow GTFF Members,

As your new VP of External Relations, my most basic goal would be to continue fostering and maintaining open lines of communication between the GTFF and other labor groups and allies on campus and at the local, state, and national

levels. Beyond maintaining open communication between the GTFF and our allies, however, I would also like to work more internally to develop a strong Contract Campaign Committee as we head into another bargaining cycle, as well as form an External Relations Committee to increase GTFF members' involvement in outreach and

connection with our allies and the larger labor movement. I'd be honored and excited to work collaboratively toward these goals and to serve in this position for the coming year!

Sincerely,
Natalie Brenner
Dept. of Romance Languages

VP for Grievances Candidate

Eleanor Wakefield

Hi, I'm Eleanor Wakefield, and I'm a (/the) candidate for VP of Grievances. I'm excited to participate more formally in the GTFF after two years as a steward and three additional years as a member. The VP of Grievances is your contact

person when problems arise, and I want to be the approachable, helpful, calm presence who helps you resolve those problems. As an English PhD candidate, written communication is among my skills, so you can feel confident that my grievance letters will be especially effective. After

talking to Amber and Shawna about this position, I'm really excited to take it on next school year!



VP for Organizing Candidates

Annie Caruso

Annie of Anthropology is my official non-land-holding title. This past year I have served as one of the stewards for the Department of Anthropology, helping to rally our troops and keep our momentum before and during the strike. You may have seen me on the picket lines, banging a drum I made out of an empty oatmeal container! I was also one of the Union members who opted to attend a recent meeting with Frances Bronet and Jamie Moffitt, where I read a list of important concerns that my colleagues in Anthropology have

concerning our treatment by the Administration.

I have a considerable amount of organizing experience, and I'd say that I'm top notch at herding cats, following through, and communicating clearly. For example, my GTF position this last year was to help organize a 600 person conference here in Eugene, and I'm proud to announce it went off without a hitch. The bottom line is that I care tremendously about our Union, and will give my all to this position should I be elected.

Treasurer Candidates

Denielle Perry

An effective organization depends on strong fiscal and financial administration. As the new Treasurer, I will ensure that budgetary operations are handled in a professional and timely manner to ensure the integrity of the GTFF's financial backbone. I bring over 10 years of experience managing both for-profit and non-profit budgets,

as well as fundraising. In addition, I bring over a year of service on the GTFF E-council as a steward for the Geography Department and as the Chair of the Parent's Caucus. I have a healthy working relationship with the current E-Board and staff. I'm organized and love being part of our union. I'm looking forward to a new year of spreadsheets and bargaining!

Johan Bonilla

Johan is a steward from physics.

Why a VP of Membership?

I have proposed a bylaw change to add the new position of VP for Membership. I think that this is an important move for the GTFF to add a position that will be focused on not only providing direct communication to the membership, but will also provide more support for departments across campus.

First, this position will be responsible for the membership responsibilities previously undertaken by the VP for Organizing, so that the VP for Organizing will be able to focus more on their responsibilities in organizing stewards and bargaining. If the administration continues to be as resistant to bargaining as we have experienced we need to allow the VP for Organizing to be able to focus more on organizing and let another position take over membership.

Second, this position will provide more personal contact with the membership. Many people feel they are uninformed about what's going on with the GTFF, mostly because they don't have a steward to go to. This position would help alleviate those problems by providing a position that would target these departments, and helping to not only find a steward but being a voice for the members in the meantime. This position would focus on providing a more personal touch to members, and making sure that everyone's needs are met.

My hope with this position is to be able to increase the flow of information between the members and the leadership. Making it more than just a communications role but a role to encourage membership and provide more support for all members.

Jessica Neafie
Steward, Political Science

Want to contribute to your union newsletter?

Submissions of all sorts are welcome! Really! Did you see the obituary for a restaurant?

Contact your VP Membership Communications at member.communications@gtff.net for more information!



Ousting Robert's Rules

The first edition of Robert's Rules of Order was published in 1876. Based on the rules and practices of Congress, it presumes that parliamentary procedures and majority rule offer the most appropriate model for group decision-making. The process often involves adversarial debate and the formation of competing factions. These dynamics harm union member relationships and undermine the ability of our union to cooperatively implement contentious decisions. Moreover, the formal nature of parliamentary procedure is inefficient and often counterproductive, getting in the way of common sense interactions and solutions. Robert's Rules rely on insider knowledge of the rules of the game, leaving the majority of the discussion inaccessible to most people. Many of us are left confused, disappointed, and frustrated over the process, with little or nothing to show for our efforts.

Why should we be bound by these archaic and impenetrable rules? We should utilize our common sense and cooperative abilities to address issues that arise. Let's find new rules of order that prioritize thoughtful discussion and the involvement of many individuals to foster creative problem solving and cultivate more beneficial and agreeable solutions. Let's resist structures that reinforce the dominance of elite knowledge holders and let's make GTFF meetings accessible to all.

I implore you to vote in the election on the ballot measure to strike Article Eleven Section One from the bylaws.

*Nicole Francisco
Steward, Political Science*

Letter from an "Abuser" of Robert's Rules

I keep hearing about how people hate Robert's Rules of Order for GTFF meetings. I understand this, Robert's Rules can be convoluted and get messy. The part that bugs me when I hear people complain about Robert's Rules is how they talk about how some people abuse their knowledge of Robert's Rules during meetings.

When people make that statement, they are referring to me (and maybe a few others).

I am in my sixth year in physics. I became a steward at the end of my first year. During my first year as a steward, the board realized no one knew Robert's Rules and asked for someone to become the parliamentarian for the union. I volunteered. After a few hours and a quick reference guide, I became "knowledgeable" enough to help out at GMMs.

Never until this past half year had I been accused of using Robert's Rules to my advantage. What changed? Bargaining and the strike. We started to have lots of meetings and people did not agree, so things got sticky and Robert's Rules had to be enforced. I was asked again to be parliamentarian during this time, to various levels of success.

So what is my primary offense with my knowledge? Calling the question. People HATE when I call the question. So why do it I do it? Mostly because I get tired of hearing the same thing over and over (from both sides). I hate wasting time. If people didn't change their minds the first time they heard it, it isn't going to change the second time.

I am not trying to stop someone new from talking. I am not trying to end an open discussion that is evolving. I am trying to end hearing the same thing I've already heard a bunch of times. I am

trying to end a one sided conversation when the result of a vote will be obvious.

The problem is, me, as a member on the floor, shouldn't have to be the person trying guide the meeting. I started taking these actions because our meetings were not being run well. This is why it was never a big issue before, because the meetings were simpler and have been run better in the past. I know the e-board was doing their best to help the meetings run fluidly, but to me they were continually failing. I appreciate all the board has done for us. They lead us through our first strike, more than half of them were on the bargaining team. Their plates were full and they needed help. For various reasons, I was no longer able to help directly. So I did what I could and made a lot of people dislike me.

I am not here to defend Robert's Rules. The full form of Robert's Rules is not needed. It can be clunky when the whole audience doesn't know how it works. No matter what system you use, there are people who are not going to like it.

We need to have solid rules for our meetings though. Without them, meetings will end up even more disastrous. I will be creating a rules of order to propose to the union. It will probably be a simplified version of Robert's Rules, with changes and additions from observations over the past five years of general membership, e-council and e-board meetings.

But, no matter what system is used, new people will not know how it works. I've seen union veterans who do not understand Robert's Rules and be unhappy about it. What is their excuse?

*Herbert Grotewohl
Steward, Physics*



Workshop on Race/Ethnicity Research

We are excited to announce a roundtable open to all interested graduate students on "Training to Study Race/Ethnicity Across Disciplines," taking place on May 15 from 10-11:30 in the Alder Building Conference Room (first floor, Alder Building, 15th/Alder). Read on below for an additional opportunity to participate in a same-day workshop with the Roundtable participants.

ROUNDTABLE

What are the special methodological, professional, and ethical considerations governing scholarly work in the study of race and/or ethnicity? How can graduate students best prepare for an academic career in this area? Join faculty from several disciplines in a conversation about their experiences and beliefs about

training and working in the field.

Faculty participants include Dan HoSang (Political Science, Ethnic Studies), Alai Reyes-Santos (Ethnic Studies), and Priscilla Ovalle (English, Cinema Studies). Lara Bovilsky (English) will moderate.

The Roundtable runs from 10-11:30 and is open to all interested students.

WORKSHOP

**Related same-day workshop (application necessary): Interested students training or planning to train in the field may apply to participate in a workshop on issues related to teaching diversity in new environments and in less-diverse environments.

Workshop participants will discuss

precirculated materials with the above faculty. To apply, please send a short paragraph describing your planned field and/or research and your interest in the discussion of pedagogy to Lara Bovilsky, bovilsky@uoregon.edu. A brief recommendation from a faculty advisor about your work in the field is also required (sent to the same email address). Applications are due May 8, 2015.

The workshop will take place immediately after the roundtable (11:30-1) and is limited to invited graduate participants. Lunch will be provided to workshop participants.

We hope to see you on May 15th.

*Lara Bovilsky
Director of Graduate Studies
English Department*

7.8M Earthquake in Nepal - Please Help Resue and Relief

Dear Friends,

You might be already aware of the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal on the morning of April 25. To date more than 6,000 people have been confirmed dead, and the casualties are expected to go up. Thousands more have been injured and are in desperate need of medical attention; countless families have lost their homes and are literally on the streets, and in immediate need for food, shelter, warm clothes and medicines.

People in Nepal are in need of immediate help and will continue to need any and all support in the upcoming post-relief and the rebuilding process. Kathmandu/Eugene Sister City Association has set up a fund-raising process in order to help the Nepali populace suffering from this catastrophic tragedy.

We may not share the victims' and survivors' anguish but we can surely help to alleviate their suffering. At this moment we all

share a deeper connection with the Nepali population, and we hope to provide some assistance for Nepal and its citizens to rise up from this terrible catastrophe. Please check our website (kathmandurelieff.org) and donate to help our friends in Nepal. 100% of the contributions will go towards helping victims.

Thank you.

*Kathmandu/Eugene Sister City
Association
Nepalese Students at UO
Sudarshan Karki, Physics*

Staying informed & connected is easier than ever!

- We want feedback! Tell us what you think about the newsletter at: member.communications@gtff.net
- Come to membership meetings and social events! (see calendar on pg. 1 for times and locations)
- Join the Facebook group: GTFF3544
- Follow on Twitter: @GTFF_3544
- Check out the website: www.GTFF3544.net