



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!

Monday, May 6 - Friday, May 10
 GTFF Officer & Steward Elections
 GTFF Office

Monday, May 6
 United Academics Sign-Making Party
 GTFF Office, 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7
 United Academics Rally
 NW Entrance of Knight Library, noon

Thursday, May 9
 Executive Council Meeting
 EMU Board Room, 6-8 p.m.

Friday, May 10
 Great Cover-Up V
 Luckey's, 8:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

Thursday, May 16
 LESS-T Call-In Day
 3 p.m.; Location TBA

Friday, May 24
 OUS Finance Subcommittee Meeting
 Salem, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 30
 President's Investiture
 Matthew Knight Arena, 2-4 p.m.



You're welcome! The UO Student Labor Action Project and the Survival Center express their appreciation for the GTFF's continued efforts toward improving conditions for all campus workers in this fabulous May Day gift.

AFT-OR Conference a great success!

AFT-OR Convention was a great success this year! In addition to building solidarity and community with our fellow unionists from throughout the state, we accomplished several key goals:

- The bylaws amendment we co-submitted with our brothers and sisters at CGE, granting the Convention body the right to pass binding resolutions, and setting guidelines requiring the state Executive Council to report on progress made in accommodating those resolutions, was passed UNANIMOUSLY! We expect this change to greatly increase democratic involvement in the running of AFT-OR!

- Thanks to the hard work of Dana Rognlie and Jacob Barto in com-

mittee, a resolution supporting LESS-T was referred to the floor and passed with strong support! Also, AFT-OR President David Rives has promised to make the fight for lower tuition a legislative priority in the coming year, so now is a good time to join a movement that is really picking up steam!

- Bryce Peake was elected as Secretary of AFT-OR's Executive Committee, and Dana Rognlie was elected as Vice President At Large on the AFT-OR Executive Committee. We're lucky to have such excellent representatives at the state fed; be sure to congratulate them when you see them next!

This year also marks the beginning of David Cecil's tenure as AFT-OR Chief ... *cont'd pg. 3*

Letter from the President: Looking forward to a productive year

The spring term General Membership Meeting is typically a high-energy event, and this year's meeting was no exception. Representatives from several outside organizations addressed the body, a well-planned break-time activity gathered vital information for the next cycle of bargaining, and a new batch of officers and stewards were nominated with some excitement.

The event was also personally interesting for me. With Judith Lechner away this term, I have been charged with the presidency, and so running the GMM was something novel for me.

With so many ears to satisfy, so many personalities to negotiate, and so many voices to give a place to, conflict seemed unavoidable. And yet, things went off almost without incident, and in the end everyone left in positive spirits. What more can one hope for?

I find myself now in the curious

position of running for President for the coming year unopposed. To be sure, such a scenario is not what I nor those closest to me would have expected or wished

later in the year. But then, I know well enough by now that regret rarely does one any good!

This summer will be an exciting time for the GTFF. With bargaining set to begin in the fall, this will be the time to get our various "ducks in a row." Through workshops and initiatives, we will set the agenda—as well as establish the tone and spirit—for the year to come. I hope you'll lend your hand to that collective effort by dropping by the office and participating in the events you'll see announced in the weeks and months ahead.

Here's to an enthusiastic and care-free rest of the term, and a productive and regret-free year to come!

In solidarity,

David Alexander Craig
President
Philosophy



David Craig presides over a successful spring General Membership Meeting

for me a mere month ago. Perhaps the spring is to blame. For me, this season always brings with it an escalation of enthusiasm coupled with a relaxation of caution. The result is usually an assuming of additional responsibilities and a taking of unordinary risks. Sometimes I end up regretting such spring-time decisions

*Want to contribute to your union newsletter? Submissions of all sorts are welcome!
Contact GTFFnewsletter@googlegroups.com for more information!*

Cont'd from pg. 1: GTFs join AFT-OR Executive Committee

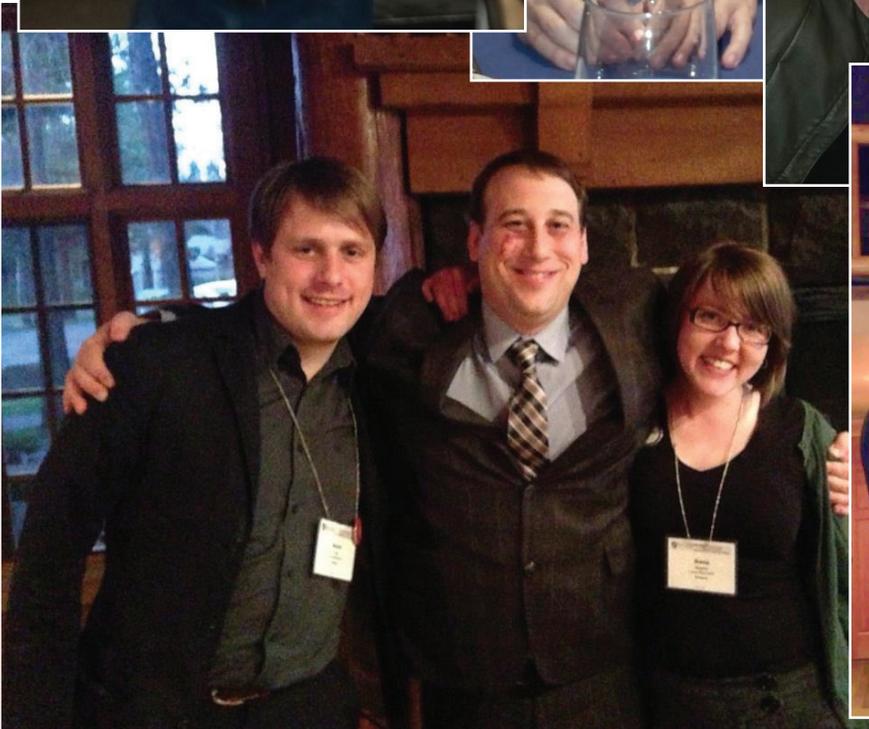
of Staff, and we are already noticing a new, dynamic energy in the Federation's staff. We look forward to working with Dave in the years to come!

I want to thank each and every one of our delegates, who worked

diligently throughout the week-end, both in and out of session, to craft language, establish relationships, and do the work that makes a democratic union function at the state level. They utterly amazed me with their dedication, energy, and patience, and I was hugely

fortunate to lead this delegation in such an exciting year. Thank you all so much!

Steve McAllister
Treasurer
AFT-OR Ranking Delegate
Biology





It's Election Time!

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation will be holding our election for union officers and stewards for the 2013-'14 year. If you are a full member in good standing of the GTFF, you are eligible to cast your ballot:

WHEN:

Mon., May 6 – Thurs., May 9 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Fri., May 10, 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE:

Ballot Box at the GTFF Office (above the Red Rooster Barbershop), 870 E 13th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401

For more information about the election visit www.gtff.net. To request an absentee ballot please e-mail amber@gtff.net. Results of the election will be announced at The Great Cover-Up on Friday, May 10, and will also be posted to our website.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! This is your chance to select the leaders of your union. Every member should take part in the election if at all possible! And please encourage your fellow GTFFers to come down to the union office with you and vote as well!

Below is a list of all nominees for officer and steward positions. See the following page for statements supplied by officer candidates.

Officer Nominees

President

David Craig, Philosophy

VP Operations

Eva Hoffman, German & Scand.

Treasurer

Kyle Lynch-Klarup, Physics

VP Grievances

Dylan Brady, Geography
Herbert Grotewohl, Physics

VP Organizing

Matt Hannah, English

VP Membership Comm.

Ian Pilgrim, Physics

VP External Relations

Joe Henry, Anthropology

VP Political Education

Anna Sloan, Anthropology
Jeff Ewing, Sociology

Steward Nominees

Jonathan Turbin, Anthropology
Kate Beaver, Art History
Steve McAllister, Biology
Andrew Loftus, Chemistry
Adam Bates, CIS
David Poliakoff, CIS
Colin Corbett, Economics
John Voorheis, Economics
Allison Bray, English
Parker Krieg, English

Shane Hall, ENVS
Dylan Brady, Geography
Nick Perdue, Geography
Sarah Praskievicz, Geography
Anna Moore, Geography
Jonathan Perry-Houts, Geology
Katie Adler, German & Scand.
Shelley Grosjean, History
Christopher Smith, History
Nicholas O'Neill, History
Heather Wolford, Int'l Studies
Phil Mayo, Philosophy
Amy Marvin, Philosophy
Jon LaRochelle, Philosophy

Elizabeth Grosz, Philosophy
Tristan Hormel, Physics
Wes Miller, Physics
Blake Parris, Physics
Eryn Cook, Physics
Nicole True, Political Science
Thibaud Henin, Political Science
David Root, Political Science
Evan Shenkin, Sociology
Heather Marek, Sociology
Brain Rosenberg, Sociology
Sierra Deutsch, Sociology
Teri Del Rosso, SOJC
Iris Bull, SOJC



GTFF Officer Elections: Candidate Statements

Eds. Note: The following statements have been edited for length. Find the full statements at gtff.net!

David Craig

Philosophy

Candidate, President

I am running for President for the next cycle because there is much more to do and positive changes for me to help put into effect. Given that next year is a bargaining year, and given that it will be the first year that United Academics will be fully in place, having a president who can work with others to achieve the goals of the GTFF is crucial. I believe that I am up to the challenges the coming year will bring, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving an organization, and a community of people, that I care deeply about. Thanks!

Dylan Brady

Geography

Candidate, VP Grievances

I've been involved in the GTFF for several years, serving as a depart-

ment steward and attending the AFT state convention last year. While I'm currently living and studying in Beijing, China, I'm excited to be returning to Eugene in the fall—in particular because of the GTFF. Our union is a pretty unique and valuable institution. Key to those protections is the grievance process. As VP of Grievances, I will serve as a resource for any GTF who has questions about their supervisors or their workplace, and I will work to resolve any issue to their satisfaction. I will make sure that hours are abided by, our workplaces are safe both physically and psychologically, and that our GTFs are getting treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. If that sounds like what you want from your VP of Grievances, then vote for me.

Herbert Grotewohl

Physics

Candidate, VP Grievances

Greetings Sisters and Brothers. I have chosen to focus my campaign on the VP Grievances position. I have been a part of the GTFF for almost four years now, while actively involved as a steward for the greater part of three years. I have also been to two of the ATF-Oregon conventions. At one point I was the parliamentarian for the GMMs, I have the button to prove it. I volunteered for being the parliamentarian due to my love for knowing rules, understanding them and enforcing them. I believe that same love will roll into VP of Grievances. So when you ask yourself who should I vote for VP of Grievances, think "This Guy!"

Jeff Ewing

Sociology

Candidate, VP Political Education

I was appointed by former GTFF President Judith Lechner to the VP Political Education position, starting last Winter ... *cont'd pg. 7*

Student Gov't: ASUO & Grad Student Advisory Board

The candidate slate United Oregon emerged the winners of this last ASUO election, with Sam Dotters-Katz emerging the new ASUO president.

Opposing slate (Ducks for a Difference) Campaign Manager Andrew Rogers had filed a grievance with the ASUO Constitution Court claiming that United Oregon violated ASUO election law through, according to the claim, bribing students with t-shirts in exchange for votes.

The ASUO Constitution Court ruled in favor of this grievance, and soon afterward Robin Holmes, UO Vice Pres-

ident for Student Affairs, overrode the ASUO Constitution Court ruling, declaring the original election results to be valid.

Robin Holmes rested her ruling on the grounds that the ASUO Constitutional Court acted on an interpretation of Oregon State election law, while ASUO elections operate under distinct and independent rules, therefore declaring the original election results valid.

In other news, the Graduate Student Advisory Board has been researching different possibilities for graduate student management of Incidental Fees

and graduate student government.

In a relatively short amount of time, they will be sending out surveys soliciting responses from graduate students on preferences regarding the prospects for independent graduate student control over our portion of Incidental Fees, the fees all students pay which fund student government and student group projects, or alternately for an independent graduate student government altogether.

Jeff Ewing
VP Political Education
Sociology

Letter from the Editor: Reflecting on revival of *The Agitator* and welcoming next Editor-in-Chief

It has been my distinct pleasure to resuscitate *The Agitator* this year to provide a forum that enhances the transparency of our union to our members, becoming a one-stop place for members to learn what's going on in your union and become more involved.

At the beginning of our officer term, this year's past Executive Board made a commitment to increase the transparency of our union—which isn't to say that it wasn't transparent before, but we wanted to actively provide information pertinent to our membership as we truly believe in the structure of the GTFF: this is a member run union.

Perhaps because of the pitfalls of its new life, the leaders of the union have written many of the articles of the past year. But these articles have either reported important information for the membership or reported on activities of active members and the membership at large. Though, some stewards and members at large have seized upon the opportunity the newsletter provides and submitted articles, announcements, and creative writing projects for publication, and I want to emphasize that this is most welcome! This is YOUR newsletter! It is YOUR union.

As many of you know, I will no longer be the VP Membership Commu-



AFT-Oregon Chief of Staff Dave Cecil presents Dana Rognlie with the 'Whine Award'

nications next year nor the Editor-in-Chief of *The Agitator*, as I will be joining the Executive Committee of AFT-Oregon as a VP-at-Large to continue the mission of the League of Educators and Students Slashing Tuition (LESS-T).

However, I have the utmost confidence that *The Agitator* will be in the best of hands. Ian Pilgrim is running unopposed for the VP Membership Communications position and I have no doubt that he will continue its recently revived legacy as he has been an integral part to the publication of *The Agitator*, being involved in the process of soliciting and editing submissions throughout the year and has been responsible for the newslet-

ter's wonderful formatting.

(In many ways due to Ian's hard work, *The Agitator* would likely have won a Communications award at the AFT-Oregon Convention, but due to a rule governing the award—three applicants are required for it to be given, and only two locals applied—the GTFF settled for a 'Whine Award' awarded by former GTFF Staff Organizer, Dave Cecil.)

I have been so grateful to have Ian to work with and wish him and the newsletter the best of luck in the coming year!

Dana Rognlie
VP Membership Communications
Philosophy



Great Cover-Up V This Friday, May 10!

Don't forget to swing by Luckey's on Friday to see your fellow graduate students showcase their musical talents for a good cause! This year's show features covers of Iron Maiden, Smashing Pumpkins, Blondie, and many more!

Statements, Cont'd

term.

I have had the privilege of attending AFT-Oregon conventions, as well as talking with local legislators on behalf of the GTFF. I also kept track of ASUO student government goings-on and political issues regarding campus at large. Next year, the Graduate Student Advisory Board will be gathering knowledge and perspectives on how to possibly change the student governing structure to better represent graduate students. This is a conversation I have been participant to and hope to continue.

Anna Sloan
Anthropology
Candidate, VP Political Education

As a committed member of our dear union, I am excited at the prospect of being your VP of Political Education for the 2013-2014 academic year. I served as a steward for the Anthropology Department last year, as well as working on the 2012-2013 elections committee and serving our union at both the 2012 AGEL and AFT-OR conferences. I believe deeply in the GTFF's role in communicating information to our members about ways to engage in political process and activism. If I am elected, I look forward to being an effective liaison between the outside community and you, our union members, in regard to the political decisions that effect our lives as students and workers. As a student whose work is rooted in feminist anthropology, I am committed to equality for all peoples in the workplace and in the political realm, and my work for you will reflect that. Thanks for your consideration!

THE GREAT COVER-UP V

8:30pm

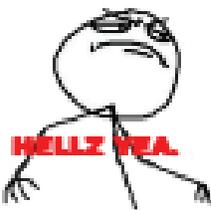
May 10
2013

Luckey's
933 Olive

\$5

A Benefit
Show for
Food
For
Lane
County

Sponsored
by
GTFF
AFT Local
#3544

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
|  | LEAD SINGER |
|  | RYTHM GUITARIST |
|  | LEAD GUITARIST |
|  | DRUMMER/ SYNTH PLAYER |
|  | BASS GUITARIST |



From the Editor

The Editorial Committee for The Agitator is very pleased to have received so many submissions to the newsletter. Keep them coming to gtffnewsletter@googlegroups.com!

If you do submit, we ask that you submit up to 300 words in a Word document with standard formatting. Also, don't forget to include a title! Thanks :)

Staying informed & connected is easier than ever!

- We want feedback! Tell us what you think about the newsletter at: gtffnewsletter@googlegroups.com
- Come to membership meetings and social events! (see calendar on p. 1 for times and locations)
- Join the Facebook group: GTFF
- Follow on Twitter: [@GTFF3544](https://twitter.com/GTFF3544)
- Check out the website: www.GTFF.net

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Philosophy

TREASURER

Steve McAllister
Biology

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Jonathan Turbin
Steward
Anthropology



About the GTFF

Our Mission Statement:

"The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, a union of the graduate employees of the University of Oregon, commits to creating a strong, safe, and diverse community of educators and scholars for the purpose of protecting and promoting the interests of its membership."

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) is a labor union representing over 1300 Graduate Teaching Fellows and Research Assistants at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon.

Our goals are:

- to improve the quality of life for GTFs in the areas of salary, workload and working conditions through collective bargaining and the enforcement of our contract,
- to fight for an adequately funded educational system, accessible for all people, and
- to help create a revitalized, socially aware union movement, which is a positive force for change for the entire community. Volunteers and activists are welcome!