



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

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 LESS-T Fights for Tuition Freeze
- 2 Letter from the President
Organizer Dispatches
- 3 Great Cover-Up V Recap
- 4 - 5 Meet Your New Officers!
- 6 Know Your Contract
Summer Insurance Reminder
- 7 All About the GTFF: A Crossword
- 8 About the GTFF

Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday, June 5
Executive Council Meeting
EMU Metolius/Coquille Room, 5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 6
SEIU 503 Rally
Riverfront Research Park, 12:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 8
AFT-Oregon Forum on Tuition
Mill Creek Inn, Salem, Ore.
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18
End-Of-Term Party/BBQ
Alton Baker Park, 4 - 7 p.m.



Photo: Michael Arellano, Daily Emerald

LESS-T Makes Voice Heard at Capitol and Pres. Gottfredson's Investiture

The League of Educators and Students Slashing Tuition (LESS-T) has been making its voice heard this May. Before the group interrupted the Investiture of President Gottfredson on May 30th requesting he support a tuition freeze (something he has unashamedly been against), the group spent time both in the halls of the Capitol as well as testifying to the Finance and Administration Committee of the Oregon University System.

Prior to 'mic checking' (think: Occupy mic checks) at Gottfredson's investiture, students of the group testified to the Oregon University System on May 24th. Students provided ample dissent to tuition raises, contrary to ASUO incoming President, Sam Dotters-Katz. Un-

dergraduates Joanna Stewart and Zach Mulholland as well as graduate student Dana Rognlie testified that tuition increases have reached levels incommensurate with the mission of public education and urged the committee to institute a tuition freeze. The committee was very sympathetic and acknowledged the problem, urging students to contact legislators.

And we did just that. Rognlie and undergraduate Kevin Cronin attended the Higher Education Lobby Day, joining AFT-Oregon, SEIU 503, and students from Western Oregon University and other universities. There, we urged top Democratic leadership to reconsider the budget to make the tuition hike a bit smaller. Cur- ... *cont'd pg. 3*



Letter from the President: Reminiscence and Contemplation

As we reminisce about the year-well-spent behind us, so do we contemplate the year with much to accomplish ahead. The realization that one is a year older today than one was a year ago is matched by the thought that one is today a year younger than one will be a year from now. Looking back, looking ahead: is this dual-reflection ever more appropriate than now, the present—this final moment of the Spring term?

As the 2012-2013 academic year begins to wind down, so does the 2013-2014 cycle of GTFF activities and events begin to wind up. Bargaining looms large on the horizon, and much preparation remains to be done. The goal—our goal, my goal—is to enter the fall term with a bargaining team fully formed, a bargaining committee fully set up to support that team, and a set of bargaining priorities fully articulated for that committee and team to stand on.

Accomplishing this goal will require loads of participation at all

levels of our organization. Elected leaders on the executive board and council cannot and should not carry out this process on their own. In order to ensure that our bargaining platform represents the interests of GTFs campus-wide, GTFs campus-wide must contribute to the formation of that platform. Exactly such contributions were gathered during the bargaining activity at the most recent General Membership Meeting. The idea is to keep up such gathering throughout the summer. So please, speak up about what you and other GTFs in your department care about—what you would like to see changed and what you are unwilling to have changed. We are hungry for just this information.

So much for looking ahead. The past year was a scene of many changes. Not simply the regular turnover of new officers and stewards, this change included the implementation of a new health insurance payment system (a result of the last bargaining cycle) and the replacement of each of

our two staff members. And given that staff are often the first people a GTF encounters when forging a relationship with the GTFF, this latter change was an impactful one indeed. Luckily we hired two excellent and highly qualified professionals: Amber Cooper and Glenn Morris. Let's hope our good fortune stays with us.

Much more could, of course, be said, both about the near future and the recent past of our union. I will save further reflection for a letter down the line, however, and will instead close by wishing you and yours a happy and productive summer. If your situation is anything like mine, then you have lots to do—but also lots to look forward to and enjoy. And, as they say, both when contemplating the future and when reminiscing about the past... there's no time like the present.

My very best,

*David Alexander Craig
President
Philosophy*

Organizer Dispatches: Bargaining and a Call to Action

The year before last, the GTFF bargained with the University of Oregon. At these negotiations, our bargaining team was made up of four members. The University's bargaining team was nearly twice that.

I remember attending negotiations and thinking that we were simply outnumbered, sitting there in the EMU as the university repeatedly told us they had no money to cut fees, raise wages, or pay for rising health care costs. The bargaining team asked for support but, with

the exception of a small group of dedicated GTFs, those conference rooms were often bare.

This fall, judging from the University's resistance to the SEIU and groups such as SLAP and LESS-T, and considering the immense and frustrating struggles by United Academics to even get a contract at all, the University bargaining team will be even more reticent to deal fairly with us.

I need my health care. I need my stipend. And I need a decent col-

lective bargaining agreement. These things do not come easily. As you leave for the summer, think about what you can contribute this coming academic year to help our bargaining team. I will be calling on all GTFs in the fall to show up and support our efforts to improve the quality of all our lives.

Research an issue. Participate in bargaining. Come to negotiations.

*Matt Hannah
VP Organizing
English*

Cont'd from pg. 1: Students join forces to protest tuition hikes

rently, the University of Oregon will be experiencing a 4.5 percent in-state and 3.5 percent out-of-state tuition increase, or about a 5.8 percent increase when fees are also taken into account. International students will experience a sharper increase, having to pay a \$200 fee to cover their 'special needs,' according to Vice Provost Brad Shelton. Moreover, we urged legislators to reconsider Senate Bill 270, which will institute local governing boards for individual universities.

Members of United Academics, SEIU 503, and the GTFF have

agreed that regardless of one's opinion on local governing boards, the representation of the currently proposed structure is unsatisfactory. Currently, OUS is composed of 15 governor-appointed members, 11 of whom are community members with four-year terms, as well as two students and two faculty members for two-year terms. The local boards proposed currently would be 12-15 governor-appointed members with one student voting seat, one non-voting faculty seat, and no seat designated for classified staff. Union members and others have agreed that such a lack of represen-

tation of educators on the board is unacceptable.

Upcoming actions of the group include continued meetings with legislators on the SB 270 bill as well as supporting SEIU 503's June 6th rally. If you're interested in becoming more involved with LESS-T don't hesitate to contact Dana Rognlie (dlrognlie@gmail.com).

In solidarity,

Dana Rognlie
VP-at-Large of AFT-Oregon
Philosophy

Fifth Annual Great Cover-Up a Resounding Success!



CGE's Meatbomb made the trek down from Corvallis to round out the night with a riveting Talking Heads cover set

On Friday, May 10, dozens of talented graduate student musicians performed for a packed house at Lucky's Club Cigar, raising thousands of dollars for a local charity.

This fifth iteration of the GTFF's annual spring fundraiser saw a total of nine bands covering a wide range of artists, from Tenacious D to Talking Heads, Blondie to Big Star, and several more. Between the donations collected at the door and a matching contribution from the GTFF,

the event raised a total of \$2025 for FOOD for Lane County!

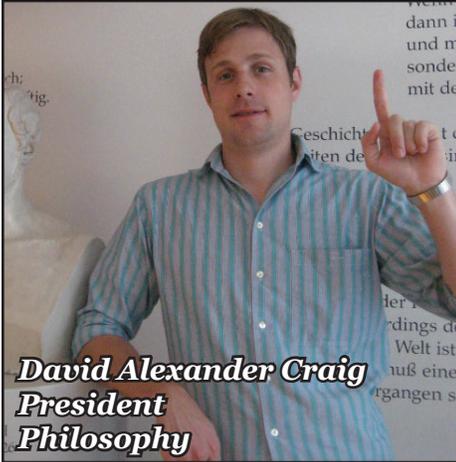
As lead organizer for this year's Great Cover-Up, I want to personally thank everybody who participated in this year's event. While I am especially grateful to all our musicians and volunteers who donated their time, energy, and equipment, I also want to thank everyone who came out to join their friends and colleagues in supporting a good cause. I'm incredibly grateful to be a member of such a

talented and supportive community; these events are rewarding and successful because of *your* participation.

If you want to relive your favorite moments from this year's show, check out the videos on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/14aoaKt> (or search for the YouTube playlist "GTFF Great Cover-Up V" by user 1GTFF!)

Ian Pilgrim
VP Membership Communications
Physics

Meet your newly elected GTFF Officers for 2013-2014!



David Alexander Craig
President
Philosophy

David Craig is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Philosophy. His research focus is the human/animal relation, especially questions of human animality, and German Idealism, especially Immanuel Kant.

He holds an M.A. in philosophy from the New School for Social Research and co-directs the UO Human/Animal Research Interest Group. In addition to philosophy and grad unionism, he enjoys songwriting and documentaries narrated by David Attenborough. Email him your address and he'll write you a letter—he has an overabundance of stationery.



Matthew Hannah
VP Organizing
English

Matthew Hannah is a Ph.D. candidate in English. He works on Anglo-American modernist literature as it appeared in little magazines and other, more ephemeral genres. His dissertation, “Networks of Modernism,” will chart a map of modernism that unearths relations and connections between disparate figures, arguing that modernism is better conceived as a collaborative project between artists, markets, and institutions. As VP Organizing next year, he plans to work on generating more steward involvement in union activism, especially as the GTFF begins bargaining over the course of the year.



Kyle Lynch-Klarup
Treasurer
Physics

Kyle is a third year physics graduate student. One of the earliest legends surrounding him involves his high school years. It is said he was a member of the track team, riding school buses long distances for the privilege

of running in circles. He quickly learned that high school kids tend not to plan ahead, and developed a business of selling sports drinks at a large markup to his trapped, bus-traveling teammates. The legend splinters at this point. One version says he found morality, repented from the capitalist ideal, and dedicated his life to helping all achieve happiness. Another version claims his mom found out and made him stop. Regardless, Kyle's foray into exploitative business ended. Now he watches over the union's funds, keeping the books balanced and the members happy.

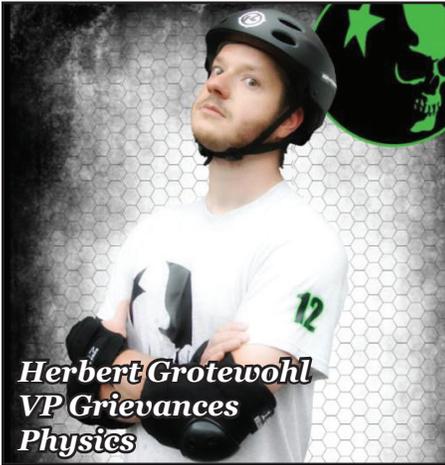


Eva Hoffmann
VP Operations
German & Scandinavian

I'm Eva, the new VP of Operations for the GTFF. Originally from Germany, I came to the U.S. almost four years ago and joined the Ph.D. program of the Department for German and Scandinavian in 2011. After hav-

ing been a steward in the past year, I am now looking forward to being an officer for the next year!

Following our annual officer elections last month, we've got a new crop of GTFs representing you in your union! Let's meet them now...



Herbert Grotewohl
VP Grievances
Physics

I hail from the physics department and have been there for almost four years. When not working in my lab, I try to keep active. Recently, I found the joy of roller skating and I am excited to be a part of the

local men's roller derby team, Lane County Concussion.



Ian Pilgrim
VP Membership Comm.
Physics

I'm a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Physics, where I study electron motion at temperatures near absolute zero and explore fractals in math and nature. I've been involved in the union for

a few years as a steward and more recently as a layout editor for *The Agitator*, and I'm excited to continue my efforts toward keeping our membership informed and active! When I'm not working, I enjoy brewing beer and playing music.



Joseph Henry
VP External Relations
Anthropology

I am a 2nd year doctoral student in anthropology, and my research is on fiscal politics in the United States. I grew up in a family of teachers that were active in their union (and our community), I

have always considered being active in the union as an important part of any kind of work. I recently served one year as a steward for anthropology, before moving on to my current position as VP of External Relations.



Anna Sloan
VP Political Education
Anthropology

I'm a second-year graduate student in the Anthropology program studying the archaeology of pre-contact Alaskan peoples. Specifically, I look at how Alaska Native communities have conceptualized human-animal relations and gender over time. Outside of school, I really love knitting, rock climbing, and making and eating food. I've been a union member for all of my two years at UO, and have served as a steward, on the elections committee, and as a delegate to AFT-OR and to the AGEL conference. I'm super excited to be your new VP of Political Education!



Know your Collective Bargaining Agreement: On ‘Leave’

Ed. Note: The following is the first installment of a series of articles from your VP Grievances to keep you informed about your contractual rights. Stay informed, and get to know your CBA!

Articles that cover leave for a GTF; Article 9 Section 9, Research Appointments; Article 27, Jury duty; Article 28, Election Days; Appendix B, Family and Medical Leave. Anything directly from the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) will be in quotes.

Article 9, Section 9. Did you know that “GTFs with 12-month or 9-month research appointments shall have the right to take up to 10 days of leave”? You can read about all the specifics in Article 9, Section 9 of the CBA.

Article 27, Jury Duty. Directly from the CBA, the only line: “When actual jury duty service interferes with the work assignment of a GTF, that GTF shall be entitled to leave with pay for such time, and may keep any money paid by the court for such service if the GTF has applied to be excused or for a postponement until a time when the GTF has no working obligation

and such request has been denied.”

Article 28, Election Days. “On recognized Federal, State, County, and City election days, the work shall be arranged to allow GTFs the opportunity to vote.” Also included is a statement for foreign GTFs, in which you “must provide the employing department with both reasonable advance notice and documentation.” So you can’t be blocked from voting by your GTF position.

Appendix B, Family and Medical Leave. It should be noted that this is a letter of agreement, and as such “shall expire on March 31, 2014, unless the parties agree to continue it.”

Section 1. Family Leave Requirement Subject to the eligibility requirements stated in Section 4 of this Article, GTFs shall be entitled to a total of twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave during any twelve-month period for one or more of the following reasons: (1) the birth of a child and in order to care for such child; (2) placement of child with GTF for adoption or foster care; (3) the care of a spouse (or equivalent in accordance with Oregon

state law), child, or parent of the GTF if a serious health condition exists; (4) a serious health condition of the GTF which makes the GTF unable to perform his or her duties. In cases where such leave is five (5) weeks or longer in a single term, such leave may be taken in conjunction with an academic leave of absence.” Section 2 requires a 30 day notice, or 24 hour notice for emergencies. Section 3 is about job and benefits protection, most noticeably insurance issues that might come up. Lastly, Section 4 states that you must have been a GTF “for at least one term proceeding the term in which the leave is requested.”

If you have any questions on these articles feel free to send me an e-mail at grievances@gtff.net. Also, if you feel there are reasons for leave that are not currently in our CBA, feel free to bring them up to me. As bargaining approaches, these are the sorts of things we can work towards including in our CBA.

*Herbert Grotewohl
VP Grievances
Physics*

Summer Health Insurance: Have you paid your premium?

Summer time, an idyllic time to slow down and consider what is important in life; namely—your summer insurance coverage!

Summer coverage is not automatic. You have to 1) be eligible and 2) pay your premium.

Money is pretty simple matter, but you may be scratching your head puzzling over your eligibility. Scratch no more. You can keep on the insurance if you have a summer GTF appointment ... **or** ... if you

had a spring GTF **and** are continuing in a degree-granting graduate program in the fall.

Let’s talk money. Bottom line, summer premiums depend whether or not you have a summer GTF appointment:

HAVE a Summer GTF Appointment

GTF Only = \$50.34
GTF + Partner = \$105.69
GTF + Child(ren) = \$89.10
GTF + Family + \$144.45

Do NOT have a Summer GTF Appointment

GTF Only = \$194.73
GTF + Partner = \$408.90
GTF + Child(ren) = \$344.67
GTF + Family + \$558.84

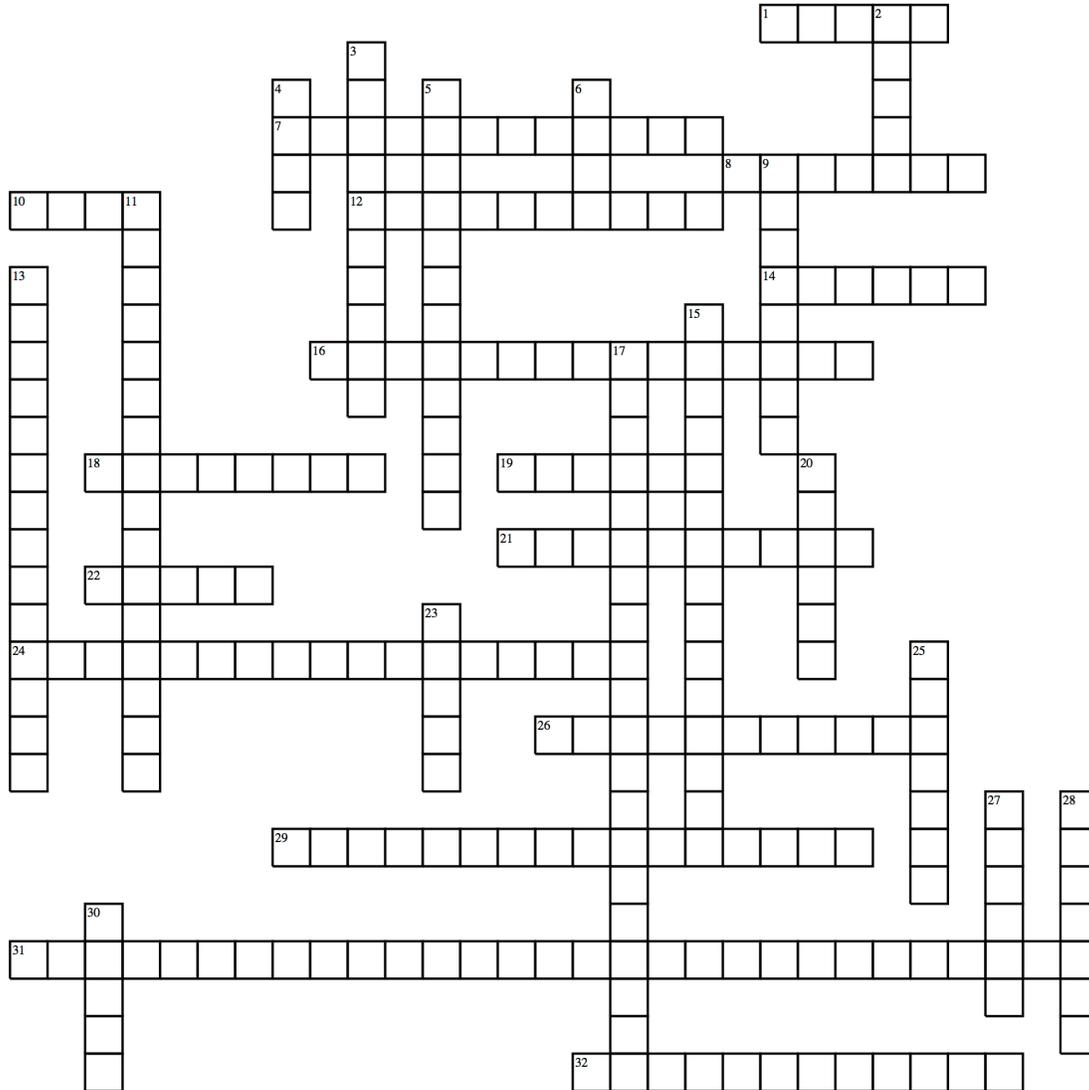
Hmmm ... maybe the money wasn’t exactly simple, but we got through it. Still scratching your head? Not sure if you already signed up? Want to know if you paid? Give me a call.

*Glenn Morris
Benefits Administrator*



All About the GTFF

Constructed by David Craig, President, Philosophy



Across

- 1 a sort of demonstration?
- 7 without these we'd be aimlessly moving
- 8 our symbol, as it were
- 10 we'd like to eliminate these altogether
- 12 our office is one cut above this
- 14 bargaining team's last resort?
- 16 end-of-term party attention-focuser
- 18 it enhances speech...animalistically
- 19 cooper's preferred pigment
- 21 pursuing these is a big part of what we do
- 22 many come to the office just for this
- 24 labor circumstances
- 26 this gets raised every couple of years
- 29 thankfully for us, oregon is not one of these
- 31 usually just called "the contract"
- 32 raucous philanthropic spectacle

Down

- 2 alliance of teachers and learners diminishing costs?
- 3 we are proud to be one of these
- 4 often just across 13th, with goggles on
- 5 the labor sub-movement of which we're a part
- 6 we all pay these so that the ship stays afloat
- 9 famous unionist-scientist
- 11 impassioned skirter of campus perimeter
- 13 something seasonally encountered and eaten?
- 15 they're bargaining for the first time
- 17 frequent once-per-term meeting place
- 20 once it's set, that's how the meeting goes
- 23 foodstuff at many a meeting
- 25 diplomatic event not to be driven home from
- 27 these are given out once per term
- 28 taking these keeps things on the record
- 30 helps with health and happiness



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
- Check out the website: www.GTFF.net

GTFF OFFICERS & STAFF

PRESIDENT

David Craig
Philosophy

TREASURER

Kyle Lynch-Klarup
Physics

VP EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Joseph Henry
Anthropology

VP GRIEVANCES

Herbert Grotewohl
Physics

VP ORGANIZING CHAIR

Matthew Hannah
English

VP MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

Ian Pilgrim
Physics

VP OPERATIONS

Eva Hoffmann
German and Scandinavian

VP POLITICAL EDUCATION

Anna Sloan
Anthropology

ORGANIZING STAFF

Amber Cooper

HEALTH INSURANCE ADMIN

Glenn Morris

Editorial Committee

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ian Pilgrim
VP Membership Communications
Physics

*Want to contribute to your
union newsletter?*

*Submissions of all sorts are
welcome!*

*Contact your VP-Member-
ship Communications at
memberships.communications@gtff.net for more
information!*



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!