Area Reps report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Area and Rep’s Name | Content of report: |
| Biblical - Paul |  |
| Pastoral - Beth Anne |  |
| Systematics - Sam | Tuesday meetings continue; average attendance, ~7 souls |
| Historical - M.J. | Our January Symposium is firmed up for January 15, 2020 at 2:30 pm in the TST building Seminar Room. The presenter at this symposium will be Allison Murray who also hopes to defend her thesis in 2020. Working on the spring symposium. |
| Contextual - Maureen |  |
| DMin - N/A |  |
| MA - Hannah | All is well; MA gathering in the works during finals. |
| ThM - N/A |  |
| Library - MJ | I am currently working on a “What you can ask your school librarian!” guide sheet. Librarians are capable, and more important, they are willing to do a great deal more than students seem to know. However, don’t ask them to write your paper for you. (Many of our librarians have kindly allowed me to pester them.)You may not be aware that since October the libraries of UofT have been in the process of implementing a new Library Services Platform. Students won’t notice anything until the work is completed.When the new Primo system is unveiled on August 4, 2020 there will be improved search integration of resources. And with the implementation of the final phase in the winter of 2021 there will also be better integration of the course syllabi with Quercus. This should be a blessing for students still in course work and also for students who are teaching.The University of Toronto Libraries has a policy of “the user first” and are using this time of change to bring about better coordination of library services. One of the major hopes is that this will allow for a more robust recall system for students who need books. It will assist our librarians in determining those items that should either be short-term loan or available in greater number.Over the next several months our library staff will be very busy as they implement the first new library system in 18 years. They need to learn methods and protocols, input data, give feedback, determine some of the best practices for their areas—and I’ve just scratched the surface. The TST librarians are already miracle workers and we are asking them to perform an even greater number of miracles. Their first priority however, is the student body.So over the next several months as the excitement, and perhaps the frustrations begin to surface—please remember to be kind. |

College Reps’ Report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| College and Rep’s name | Content of Report: |
| Emmanuel - Jordan | In November, Emmanuel hosted a community lunch, and a town hall meeting with students and faculty and administration; will host former Corrymeela Peace and Reconciliation centre director Paul Hutchinson on the 21st for a “brown bag lunch”. There is a new job opening for an “Instructional Design and Theological Studies” position (i.e., online teaching and theology, <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/assets/PDFs/Emmanuel/Instructional-Design-Full.pdf>).  |
| Knox - Mike A. | On Nov 5 Knox held a Founding Day Convocation to commemorate 175 years to the day that the first Knox classes were held (at a different location, of course). Several honorary doctorates were awarded, and Dorcas Gordon was made Principal Emerita.Knox has a brand new website. The old one was . . . old.Our Graduate Director, Prof. Stuart Macdonald, convened a lunch for Knox grad students in late October. Good chance to build community and focus on areas of common interest - in this case the increasing importance of methodology in theological research. In short - it’s good to have one!Knox also informed its grad students that they are willing to provide funds for each student to participate in up to two academic conferences throughout the course of their studies. A good step. |
| Regis - Meghan  | Lecture by Dr. Marcie Lenk, “Families and Faith: Biblical Patterns in Motherhood,” part of the “Faith Issues Today” lecture series.Lecture by Dr. Robyn Boere, “Children and Experience in the Medical Context,” with a response by Dr. Reid Locklin, hosted by the Lonergan Research Institute.Along with daily liturgies and spirituality groups, Regis College hosted a prayer vigil for the homeless in Toronto.The student council hosted Regis’ annual Triviaoke Night. Congratulations again to “Serving It Cold” team for their glorious victory.Further events planned for this month include:Regis College Convocation and the celebration of the titular feast of the college.The 2019 Chancellor’s Lecture by Fr. Francis X. Clooney, SJ, “Constantine Beschi SJ (1680-1747): Inventing a South Indian Catholicism with the Help of St. Joseph.”Lecture by Dr. Tamara Grdzelidze, “Creation and Ecological Issues in Modern Orthodox Theology,” presented jointly by the Fraser Centre for Practical Theology (Regis) and the Sheptytsky Institute (USMC).Lecture by Dr. Tamara Grdzelidze, “The Crisis of Borders: National Territories and Orthodox Unity,” presented jointly by the Orthodox School of Theology (Trinity), the Sheptytsky Institute (USMC), and Regis. |
| St. Mikes - Mariia |  |
| Trinity - N/A |  |
| Wycliffe - Carolyn  | New faculty member Dr. Stephen Chester will be giving an Inaugural Lecture on Wed Nov 27 at 2pm. Wycliffe holds a theology pub night the last Friday evening of every month in Leonard Hall, and everyone is welcome. This month Ephraim Radner and Bruxy Cavey will be dialoguing on open theism (Nov 29). A few PhD students have concerns about funding, teaching assistantships, etc. at Wycliffe. We are in the process of drafting a letter to send to administration.  |

VP-Academic’s report

* We had our Mental Health for Scholars workshop. The information was great, sadly only 4 hearty souls showed… perhaps we need to think more about publicity in general.
* TST is establishing a DERC (Delegated Ethics Review Committee) to approve low risk research involving human subjects. This will mostly be used for things like ministry placements for Basic Degree Students, and some things for the D.Min. program. Most PhD and MA projects involving interviews, etc., will still need to pass the REB at U of T.
* Various and sundry accreditation processes UTQAP, etc. continue..
* Dorcas Gordon is finishing up her term December 31, the rumor is that there is an inside candidate who will start on January 1.
* GCS meets December 3, let me know if there are any concerns to bring there.

VP-Conference’s Report

* We had hoped to have a CFP ready to present to TGSA for approval today, but unfortunately that has not happened yet. Thankfully, as the conference is not until May, we still have some time.
* I have been holding the VP Conference role on an interim basis. I am planning to step down in the near future, as I am not sure whether or not I will be in town during the time of the conference.

VP-External’s Report

No meetings to report. Please continue to forward concerns to me at samuel.needham@mail.utoronto.ca.

Treasurer’s Report--

There is little to report. $50.16 was spent on the last event, self-care for scholars, for pizza. I have emails sent to Diane Henson and Sandeep at TST regarding the budget check. It is likely that we will receive this check in early December.

Non-Voting Social Chair’s Report

We are having lunch on Tuesdays with a small group of first- and second-year students. Would like to put together social events for the end of year. Two possibilities. Amendments, augmentations, and objections are welcome:

1. A semi-formal social gathering to mark the end of year and celebrate an early Christmas.
	1. Target dates: Exam Week, Dec. 8-14?
	2. Options: Weekdays, weekend times?
	3. Possible locations: TST building, constituent college space (Wycliffe Founders’ Hall, Emmanuel Chapel, Regis Classrooms b&c, etc).
	4. Content: some nice socializing, with party games, mocktails, beer/wine if advisable, and music. (Sam is happy to DJ an all-Mellencamp playlist)
	5. Dress code: suits, dresses, heels, nice sweaters--look presentable, but no tatterdemalions turned away.
	6. Shoot for something like 7pm onwards.
	7. After party at a pub inevitable.
2. An informal, all-day drop-in study space.
	1. Takes place in TST building or constituent college space
	2. Comfy chairs, snacks, warm cocoa
	3. Pens, paper, study supplies
	4. Study breaks every 40 minutes to stretch, recreate, rest
	5. Brief prayer service to begin and end the day, plus at midday
	6. Target dates: First week of December? On a Thursday or Friday maybe?

NEW BUSINESS:

* Inter-college communications