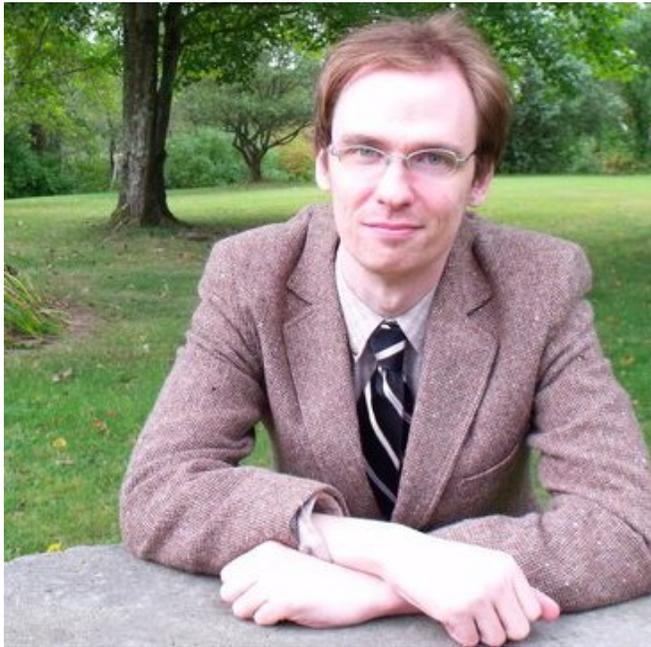


April 2013
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BULLETIN



Sean W Treacy Science Writer

by David Blair

Repelling earthquakes, singing sand-dunes, and upward lightning are just a few of the fascinating things Sean Treacy has written about in the past year. A SUNY Oswego Alumni from '99 to 2002, Sean recently graduated from John Hopkins University with a Masters in Science Writing. I recently had a chance to hang out with Mr. Treacy to ask him about his writing career now spanning a little over a decade.

Sean has been a Copy Editor, Political

Writer, and Science Writer working for such outlets as The Palladium-Times, The Saratogian, and the Post-Star. Most recently he has worked as a freelance science journalist with his articles published in ScienceNOW, NewScientist, The Huffington Post, and Earth Magazine.

I asked Sean what does it mean to be a Science Journalist. "It's writing about whatever is on the brink of human knowledge. I'll take a good idea about science that's out there and frame it for people to

understand. I look at press releases and keep track of journals and look at interesting stuff that's coming out. I suggest it to the editors and if they like the idea of that story, they take it and I write it."

"Brink of human knowledge" about summed up my thoughts on the topics he has covered. I've followed Sean on social media for years now and one of the topics about cloaking areas from the effects of

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AIMEE BLAIR
STGAA PRESIDENT

Our Goals

Welcome to our third newsletter and our third year. You may recognize me as the first secretary for STGAA. I attended SUNY Oswego from 1999 until 2003 and graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Meteorology.

In this newsletter I wanted to talk a little bit about our goals. My main goal becoming STGAA president was to get the group more organized. We were having some issues where we were doing things last minute which in turn did cause us some problems. We weren't as prepared as we should have been for Arcon last year. We took in very little donations which resulted in us having a deficit in 2012. Our scholarships were handed out later than we originally had planned, which was unfortunate since that is our main purpose for this organization. We can't continue in this direction.

So for the beginning of this year we focused on preparing for Arcon XII and what we can do to get more donations and also more membership involved. Not only is money our biggest concern right now, but we are in desperate need of membership's participation to help us with our

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Science: Bringing Knowledge to Everyone

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earthquakes by drilling several skinny holes around them was, in my words, "very awesome". I asked Sean if he had a favorite story. "I wrote for ScienceNOW on an article about the problems with managing peoples' circadian rhythms on trips to Mars. Circadian rhythm is the schedule a human keeps based on sunlight. There are neurons in eyes that have to deal with waking us up, not seeing. I got to talk to one of the participants in a European experiment where they isolated them in a simulation of traveling to Mars where they only had artificial lighting. Without the sun, sleep schedules had changed. The participant told me the last few weeks were hard and that he played a lot of video games, mostly Counterstrike, to pass the time. It was a neat thing to

write about. Others wrote about this story too, and it was neat to see what I wrote compared to what others wrote. It was good."

I wanted to know what inspired Sean to be a science writer. He drew me a diagram. "Imagine a large circle, and this large circle is all of human knowledge. Now draw a small circle inside of it. This is what we know from elementary school. Now we draw a bigger one around it, and this is what we know from high school and another for college. Now I draw a skinny oval coming off of this that touches the edge of the circle. This is what I've learned in my career path and in graduate school, including this little bump on the edge of the full circle which is my contribution to human knowledge. Now, what I do, is I interview people who are creating knowledge all along the edge of this large expanding circle, and I

write it in a way so that everyone here in the center of the circle understands it. That's what inspires me. Bringing that knowledge to everyone."

I also wanted to know more about a science blog, the-sieve.com, that Sean had founded in 2012. How did it come about? "The program at John Hopkins University was oriented around the craftsmanship of science writing, but they were missing a means for students to generate exposure of their writing to an audience. So I got together with four other students and decided to start the blog. The name came about because of the constant sifting through gold nuggets of articles to find the ones to write about. We've since passed the blog on to the current students at John Hopkins. It's been mentioned in the science writing field and Scientific American has plugged the blog. It's now an established mechanism that writers can use."

For potential freelance writers, what does Sean recommend? "First and foremost: Be persistent and get used to rejection. Not every idea you have will be appealing to everyone. Your ideas will be less appealing to those that don't know you and don't know what you're capable of. Establish a connection with the editor. Also, don't be a jerk. People don't like jerks and don't want to work with them. It's easier to roll with opinions once you're established. The Golden Rule is also a good rule of thumb. Be patient, be forgiving."

For more information on Sean, you can visit his website at <http://seanwtreacy.wordpress.com/> where you can contact him as well as keep up on the different articles he has written which are stored under the "clips" section. Sean has also offered to answer any other questions about his career and himself and can be emailed at seantreacy@gmail.com.

Goals: This is Your STGAA

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goals.

When we originally were in the planning process for STGAA one of the goals we had decided on included a mentorship program. We unfortunately haven't had adequate membership participation to accomplish this yet. Another suggestion was an

RPG writing contest as well as seminars. David has been trying to work on a finances program to help keep better track of our income and expenses, but he hasn't had the time. We have ideas and plans, but we just don't have the manpower to implement them right now. Much of the work for Arcon was done by the board of directors. David and I did all of the newsletter work

because we have no head for the Communication & Advancement committee. We worked hard trying to find people to fill in the roles for the committees, but many e-mails sent out went unanswered.

It's unfortunate that we've hit this roadblock. But we are working on overcoming it. We'd love your help in any way you can provide it. If you can't donate money or time, then

we'd love your ideas too. STGAA is here for it's members and future members and we want to involve them both.

This is your STGAA and we want all of our members to feel like they can be involved. You can always e-mail me at aimee.bartlett@gmail.com if you ever have any questions or suggestions.

Financial Review

Greetings from the Treasurer! In order to provide more transparency to membership in the expenses of this 501(c)7 non-profit organization, I'd like to provide you with summarized information of our finances. Since we haven't been able to do this before in previous newsletters, I will be providing information on previous years as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at stgae@binarycats.com. I know at a glance some things may look strange, such as the Fall Event held in 2011 only costing 35.00 (we were able to use the Price Chopper Community Center in Schenectady, NY for free) versus 247.00 in 2012 (to better accommodate our alumni, we moved the Fall Event to Oswego, NY and rented the Hibernian's Lodge for the event).

Description	Credit	Debit	
2010 Membership Fees & Donations	\$1,034.04		
2010 Incorporation Fee		\$75.00	
2010 Lawyer Fees		\$200.00	
2010 Website Fees		\$34.04	
2010 Totals	\$1,034.04	\$309.04	\$725.00
			\$725.00
2011 Membership Fees & Donations	\$1,486.00		
2011 Arcon Booth & Giveaways		\$522.00	
2011 Newsletter Print Fees		\$120.00	
2011 Website Fees		\$35.00	
2011 Fall Event Fees		\$35.00	
2011 Scholarship Grant		\$250.00	
2011 Totals	\$1,486.00	\$962.00	\$524.00
			\$1,249.00
2012 Membership Fees & Donations	\$974.47		
2012 Savings Account Interest	\$0.13		
2012 Operation Fees (Website, Bank, PO)		\$108.90	
2012 Arcon Booth & Giveaways		\$199.00	
2012 Newsletter Print Fees		\$50.00	
2012 NYS Charity Bureau Fee		\$25.00	
2012 Scholarship Grant		\$600.00	
2012 Reimbursed Arcon Fees to Bronze Members and Higher		\$210.00	
2012 Totals	\$974.60	\$1,439.90	-\$465.30
			\$783.70

Alumni! We need your help!

I would like to thank everyone that donated and paid membership dues last year. With your support we were able to grant two scholarships worth 300.00 each to deserving recipients. It is my hope that we will be able to match that donation this year with your continued support!

Alumni! We need your help, we need your ideas, we need your knowledge, and we need your time if we are to make this alumni association into something bigger. Currently we are spread thin in an attempt to grant the scholarships, provide a yearly newsletter, and offer a fall event to our members.



DAVID BLAIR
MY BIASED OPINION

We have had discussions in the past about offering competitions as well as a mentoring program which are excellent ideas, but are unable to succeed without the support of the membership. At the time of this writing we are still

looking for committee heads and members for the STGAA Development and the STGAA Communication and Advancement Committees, which includes the newsletter. These roles define what the STGAA is, what we do, and help keep our membership up-to-date on our activities.

So what can you do? First off, we need your ideas! How can we make the STGAA a better organization? You can contact us via our website or forums at www.stgaa.org. Secondly, we need your time. Want to run a summer RPG writing seminar? We would love to

have your help in putting together more activities for the membership. Third, we need you to get the word out. Are there other alumni out there that don't know about the STGAA? Direct them to our website or Facebook page. Please lend a hand in making the STGAA into a better organization for all of our members and our future members.

Dicavi Fabula. Dices Fabula.

I have told my story. Now you shall tell yours.

David Blair is the current Treasurer of the STGAA.

FAQ

What is the STGAA?

We're an organization for SUNY Oswego alumni who were in STG while in college.

What is the purpose of the STGAA?

Our aim is to support the STG while providing the same sort of camaraderie and friendship that the STG gives to students. We offer services to both students and alumni such as career advice and contacts in various career fields. We also be offer a yearly scholarship for STG members who are SUNY Oswego students

in good academic standing.

How do I join the STGAA?

If you are an alumni of SUNY Oswego and a former member of STG you are automatically a member of the STGAA. However, if you pay dues to the organization you get access to special privileges granted only to paying members.

Whoa! Dues? I don't have much money.

Don't worry, dues are only collected yearly and they come in a wide range. Our most

affordable and basic level is a \$10 contribution. This would allow you to vote on any organization business requiring a vote. You can choose to give as much money as you like or can afford.

Where does my money go?

We use that money to fund the scholarship, and support the organization and STG. We are a nonprofit under 501(c)7 with the federal government. Board members do not receive any financial compensation. Your money is invested directly

back into this organization and the STG.

So what privileges do I get for paying more money?

- Tier 1: \$10. The member has voting rights for the paid year.
- Tier 2: \$50. Tier 1 rights and Arcon fees paid in full for paid year.
- Tier 3: \$100. Tier 2 rights and Arcon T-shirt.
- Tier 4: \$250. Tier 3 rights and Arcon swag bag not to exceed \$25 in value.
- Tier 5: \$500. Tier 4 rights and special

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

On Michael Hegarty

by Aimee Blair

Michael Hegarty hadn't done any table-top RPG or had any interest in anime before joining STG. But since joining the organization has found his new interests which also includes comic books.

Michael joined STG after visiting STG's table at the club fair at the start of his first semester. He also became aware of the group through the chalk drawings that were placed all over campus and



through peer advisors and orientation staff.

Since joining, Michael has become the co-head of the RPG committee. Along with Aaron Golish their

committee meets to get other members to play tabletop RPGs together every Friday night. He says that the committee's biggest hurdle has been

getting people to come. But so far they have been successful.

What Michael enjoys most about STG is being around people who share in his interests. "It's great to have people just nerd out with over games, comics, or whatever we might be talking about."

Michael is currently a second semester Freshman majoring in History. After Oswego he plans to teach. He says he would like to eventually get his doctorate and teach at a university.

2012 Scholarship Winners

STGAA would like to congratulate our 2012 scholarship winners.

Lacey O'Connor and **Donald Tyson** both received \$300 to help them with school expenses.

We will have more information about this years scholarship within the coming months.

FAQ (Continued)

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recognition at Arcon, a certificate of thanks from STGAA, and a gift not to exceed \$50 in value.

Who's in charge of the STGAA?

We're a democratic body using parliamentary rules to conduct business. We do have a board of directors who are currently setting the basic agenda for the organization and acting

on the organization's behalf.

President - Aimee Blair
Vice President - Pete Sterpe Jr.
Treasurer - David Blair
Secretary - Chris Green
Student Representative - Kari Cramer

We also have various committees chaired by other alumni who are working on specific projects for the organization.

What rules govern the STGAA?

We have a set of bylaws that can be found online at stgaa.org, where you can access all sorts of great information and discussions about what we're doing.

Once I join how can I help out?

Paying your dues helps us a lot, but we also value new ideas and extra hands to get things done.

Feel free to contact a member of the committees and see what help they might need.

Also members of the board might post requests for help with specific projects as things occur. Keep an eye on our forums and Facebook page, and feel free to speak up, too.

If you have any further questions not addressed here feel free to e-mail one of the board members or post in our forums or on our Facebook page.

We look forward to you being a part of our organization in the near future.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

On Russell Brettholtz

by Aimee Blair

Russell Brettholtz has been busy working away on his soon to be published comic book. His comic book, Sidekicks, will be a 3-issue mini series that follows five super-hero sidekicks. It will show how they are mistreated by the heroes they work with and how they are ignored by society.

The former STG president (Fall 98 to Spring 99) says that the idea for his comic came to him about 10 years ago. It initially was an idea for a screenplay, but after his wife became pregnant he decided to make it a comic book instead. He's been diligently working on bringing his idea to life for the past 6 months.

Russell began to research how to make his self-publishing goal a reality. In the end he chose Kickstarter as his means to raise the money he needs. He's researched different incentives and rewards that other successful campaigns have offered. He's even looked as far deep as how many backers tend to back these type of projects and the average contribution amount.

"Determining the right amount to set as a pledge goal has been very difficult," he



Sidekicks artwork by Meguel Mendonça

tells STGAA. He says it will cost around \$3000 alone just to pay for his artist. Determining printing and shipping costs has been a challenge for him. He's researched different companies online but they all have different prices and services.

He's budgeting to print and ship around 200 copies of his comic book.

The backers rewards he plans to offer include a PDF copy of his comic book, a print copy, a poster, your name and

likeness used for a character, and original artwork.

Russell does have some advice for anyone looking to start a Kickstarter campaign. "Do your research! A Kickstarter campaign is very similar to running your own business. You have to take into account the fees you will be charged as well as shipping costs for rewards."

Another piece of advice Russell offers has to do with promoting your campaign. "You can't just assume people will browse Kickstarter and find your project." Running a campaign requires a lot of self promotion through social media, message boards, and organizations you belong to. You can do all the research you want but if no one knows about your campaign no one may ever find it.

Russell plans to launch his Kickstarter this summer. He is currently in the process of having his artist pencil, ink, color and letter a 4-page preview. The preview will be used to help launch his campaign.

You can follow Russell's progress on Twitter @SidekicksComix or facebook.com/sidekickscomics

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STGAA Board of Directors would like to officially welcome our two new honorary members. **Bob Delong** and **Jeremy Hanlon** have both been involved with STG for a very long time. For their continued dedication and support we'd like to welcome them as honorary members to STGAA.

Honorary members are elected by the Board of Directors. All current and past advisors of the STG are automatically considered honorary members of STGAA. ~Article 3, Section 2

STGAA PRESIDENT: AIMEE BLAIR -- VICE PRESIDENT: PETE STERPE JR. -- TREASURER: DAVID BLAIR
SECRETARY: CHRIS GREEN -- STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: KARI CRAMER
NEWSLETTER EDITORS: AIMEE BLAIR, DAVID BLAIR
COMMITTEE HEADS: SCOTT CHARETTE, ROB KIRKER