

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2013

THE GTU AT AAR/SBL



Dr. Arthur Holder
Academic Dean and Vice
President of Academic
Affairs

Every year on the weekend before Thanksgiving, several thousand scholars of religion gather for the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. When this event took place in Baltimore last week, the GTU was well represented as usual. These two scholarly organizations are by no means the only ones that attract people from the GTU, but they probably do cover the widest range of disciplines and fields within theology and religious studies.

The AAR/SBL program book listed at least 24 faculty, 14 students, and 51 alumni from the GTU and

its member schools among the presenters and presiders at the various sessions. (You can see the whole list at <http://gtu.edu/news/gtu-presence-aarsbl-2013>.)

Many more of us were there to hear the papers, browse the book exhibits, attend business meetings, and work the scholarly networks. Some of our graduate students were interviewing for jobs in the Employment Center. A highlight of the weekend is always the GTU reception on Saturday evening, where this year we honored the 2013 Alum of the Year, the Rev. Dr. Uriah Kim (Ph.D. 2004), who serves as Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.

Among all the significant things that GTU folks were doing at the AAR/SBL meetings, I want to take particular note of two. Laurie Zoloth (Ph.D. 1993 and Alum of the Year for 2005) who teaches at Northwestern University is President-Elect of the American Academy of Religion, and Joe

Driskill (Ph.D. 1995 and Professor Emeritus at the Pacific School of Religion) gave the presidential address for the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality. Congratulations to Laurie and Joe!

I have been attending AAR/SBL meetings for twenty-five years or so now, and every time I go I am reminded forcefully of the communal dimensions of research and scholarship. There is a conventional image of the scholar as someone reading a book at a library carrel or sitting alone before a computer monitor, and scholarship certainly has its solitary aspects. But as scholars we are always part of a community (in AAR/SBL parlance, a "section," "group," or "consultation") upon whom we depend and to whom we are accountable for the knowledge we seek to discover, publish, and teach. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to come together with our colleagues in these annual meetings and in all the places where scholars of religion gather.

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NEWS & EVENTS: CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

As a cosponsor of the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project at the Center for Race and Gender at UC Berkeley, the CIS will be co-sponsoring the upcoming conference in Paris, France, Dec 13-14: The Epistemic, Racial, Cultural and Structural Exclusionary Measures in France and Europe, sponsored and hosted locally in Paris by CADIS (Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques) at the l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.

The Center for Islamic Studies is delighted to be a local sponsor for, Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys. Pleasant Hill Library was one of 125 libraries and humanities councils nationwide to receive a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association in order to support this discussion series in the Bridging Cultures: Muslim Bookshelf collection. Dr. Hatem Bazian of UCB and Zaytuna College has been chosen to present and discuss the Connected Histories of Islam and the West. For more information: <http://guides.ccclib.org/journeys>

DOUG ADAMS GALLERY EVENT

A curated collection of pieces from Paul Roorda's The End of the Book and Slate Requiem series will be displayed in the Doug Adams Gallery, February 3- May 23, 2014. Both series use repurposed religious material, aged and damaged sacred texts and slate tiles from an aged leaking church, to explore the connections between age-old rituals and the re-evaluation of dearly held convictions.

Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, February 6th in the Doug Adams Gallery from 5-7pm.

Visit www.paulroorda.com to see more of Roorda's



Silent Word, 2013,
Ashes, egg yolk, clove
oil, beeswax and gold
leaf. 7x7x2.5"

FASPE FELLOWSHIP

FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics), in collaboration with the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, is now accepting applications for a fellowship that uses the conduct of the clergy in Nazi Germany as a launching point for a two-week intensive study of ethical issues facing religious leaders today. Fellowships include an all-expense paid trip from New York to Berlin, Krakow, and Oświęcim (Auschwitz) where students will work with leading faculty to explore both history and the ethical issues facing their profession today. All program costs, including international and European travel, lodging, and food, are covered.

The 2014 FASPE Seminary program will run from June 15 to June 26, 2014.

Completed applications must be received by December 20, 2014. Candidates of all religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

To apply or to learn more about FASPE, please visit: www.FASPE.info

If you have any questions, please contact Thorin R. Tritter, Managing Director of FASPE, at ttritter@FASPE.info.

JANUARY
BIBLICAL
HEBREW AND
GREEK EXAMS
THE **DEADLINE**
TO REGISTER
FOR THE
JANUARY
EXAMS IS
DECEMBER 13.
SUBMIT YOUR
FORM TO
GLORIA
MOTLEY,
ACADEMIC
SECRETARY.

**BIBLICAL
HEBREW
EXAM,
JANUARY 15,
9AM-12PM,
2465
LECONTE.**

**BIBLICAL
GREEK EXAM,
JANUARY 16,
9AM-12PM,
2465
LECONTE.**

NEWS & EVENTS: WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION

WSR hopes you had a fruitful Fall semester and hopes you save the date for the following Spring events!

Voices from the soul

“Hearing each other into speech” - nelle morton
Poetry jam/
open mike night
Tues. February
11th 6:30-8 pm*

psr mudd
100

Come, bring a piece of poetry or a song and let your voice be heard. WSR certificate students get priority & receive 1 unit for performing a piece. Bring acoustic instruments (no amplifiers please).

“Speak your mind-- even if your voice shakes” - maggie Kuhn

Kick off Women's History Month with the **Women's Studies in Religion 3rd Annual Student Conference** on Women and Religion on **Friday, March 7th of 2014.**

Women's Studies in Religion
Hosts

The Good, The True, and The Beautiful: Latina Theology and its Evocative Glimpses

Monday April 7th 2014

Brown Bag Lunch 12:30-2
Dinner Boardroom

2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley

Evening Panel 6:30-8

Pacific School of Religion
Chapel 1798 Scenic Avenue

Join WSR for an informal brown bag lunch conversation. This is a time for stu-

dents to engage with these scholars and their individual work directly, so bring questions! Later that evening join us for the panel conversation on Latina Theology followed by a reception.

Three Latina theologians share their theological method, the communities they love and serve, and the insights into timeless and universal questions we may glimpse through their respectful engagement. From Our Lady of Guadalupe, to the violence of the streets of Juarez, to the search and activation of prophetic beauty, join GTU alumnae Jeanette Rodriguez, Nancy Pineda-Madrid and Cecilia González-Andrieu.

Events worth 2 units each. These events are co-sponsored by CLGS.



Intent to Graduate forms for Spring, 2014 graduates are due on January 15th. MA students submit to the GTU Academic Deans Office. PhD/ThD students submit to the GTU Dean of Students Office.

SPRING 2014 WSR COURSE SUGGESTIONS

NTRS 3515 Gender, Sexuality, and the NT

HS 8357 Homosexuality & Christian Tradition

HSSP 2580 Women in Religious Leadership

STRS 8329 Feminist Readings of LGBT Theologies

RA 2217 Love and Sex in Modern Jewish Literature

HRBS 4351 Gender and Law in the Talmud

SPPS 2526 Women's Spiritual Quest

HRBS 4824 Quran, Shariah & Society

BSHS 3735 Hellenism, Judaism, & Empire

Note: This is not an exhaustive list; it is just a few suggestions.

Requirement Reminder: (In addition to the Women's Studies Seminar that is taught once an academic year.) Successfully complete three additional 3.0 unit courses (total of 9.0 units) at the GTU or UC Berkeley in which the experiences of women, women-centered theologies,

or feminist theories form a significant component. Two of these courses must also emphasize religious studies or theology. Special reading courses that cover these topics may also be counted toward the certificate. Course requirements should be tailored to the student's degree level. A course may also be acceptable if the student's final paper/project is on a gender topic. If a student decides to take advantage of this option, she/he has to submit the paper with their requirements checklist.



HONORABLE MENTION

PHD STUDENTS

Comprehensives Proposal Approved

Ali Ataie, CHSR

Oral Comprehensives Passed

Jose Balcells, BIBL

Lalnunzira Bungsut, BIBL

Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, IDS*

Sungho Lee, THEO

Sheri Prud'homme, IDS

*passed with distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Peter Doebler, ART

Corinna Guerrero, BIBL

THE FIRST SEMESTER OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS IS ALMOST OVER. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE NEW PROGRAM DESIGN - PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AT [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/S/ZQMN69W](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZQMN69W) - IT WON'T TAKE MORE THAN A MINUTE TO COMPLETE!

MID-YEAR ORIENTATION FOR FIRST YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS TIME TO CHECK IN AND FIND OUT ABOUT SOME MORE IMPORTANT COMPONENTS TO YOUR PROGRAM, AND, HAVE LUNCH! WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 12:30-2:00PM, DINNER BOARD ROOM, GTU LIBRARY. WE EXPECT TO SEE YOU THERE, AND APPRECIATE AN RSVP TO GTUADM@GTU.EDU.

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

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THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the GTU Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events (lectures, conferences) focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students. Send submissions to Angela Muñoz, amunoz@gtu.edu.