

# THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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## 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 Chicago last month, the GTU was as usual well represented. 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 32 appearances by members of our faculty, 20 by current students, and 75 by graduates. 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 doctoral students were interviewing for jobs in the Employment Center. A highlight of the meeting was the GTU Graduate Reception on Saturday evening where we recognized the 2012 Alumna of the Year Kristen Johnston Largen (Theology Ph.D., 2002) who teaches at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA and has recently published *Baby Krishna, Infant Christ: A Comparative Theology of Salvation* (Orbis, 2011).

GTU folks have frequently served in leadership positions within these organizations and their affiliates. The GTU's first dean was Sherman Johnson (then president and dean of CDSF) who served a term as president of SBL. All of my predecessors as dean have been elected president of the AAR: John Dillenberger, Claude Welch, Judith Berling, and Margaret Miles. Our current president Jim Donahue is just finishing a term on the Theological Education Committee for AAR, and I have been appointed to take his place in that group along with our alumna Julia Watts Belser (Jewish Studies Ph.D., 2008). There are many,

many others who could be named if space permitted, but I should at least mention our 2005 Alumna of the Year Laurie Zoloth (Ethics Ph.D., 1993 and Professor of Medical Humanities & Bioethics and Religion at Northwestern University) who has been elected to serve as president of the AAR in 2015.

Whenever faculty are being evaluated, the usual categories are teaching, research, and service. At the GTU, "service" is understood to include service to the institution, to the religious communities we represent, to the wider public, and to the academy. There are of course many ways of serving the academy, but active participation in scholarly professional organizations is one of the most important. Through the AAR, SBL, and other such groups, we at the GTU are connected with scholars all over the country and all around the world. We could not do the work we do without these organizations, so it is good when we are able to give something in return.

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Jennifer Peace

**ATTN SPRING  
2013  
GRADUATES:**  
INTENT TO  
GRADUATE FORMS  
FOR SPRING, 2013  
GRADUATES ARE  
DUE ON TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 15 TO  
THE GTU DEAN'S  
OFFICE (3RD  
FLOOR, GTU  
LIBRARY) FOR  
MAS AND FOR  
PHD/THDS TO  
THE GTU  
RECEPTIONIST  
(2465 LECONTE,  
3RD FLOOR).



## SURJIT SINGH LECTURE ON THURS, FEB. 21ST

**The 2013 Surjit Singh Lecture will be held on Thursday, February 21st, at 7:00pm. This year's speaker is Dr. Jennifer Peace, (Ph.D. '05),** Assistant Professor of Interfaith Studies, Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS) and Director of CIRCLE (Center for Interreligious and Communal Leadership Education), a joint venture of ANTS and Hebrew College.

The annual Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought and Culture at the Graduate Theological Union fosters interreligious and cross-cultural communication and understanding. The late Dr. Surjit Singh was professor emeritus of Christian Philosophy at the San Francisco Theological Seminary, dean of the seminary from 1972 to 1978, and professor at the GTU from 1962 to 1988. Among his many publications

are Christology and Personality and Communism, Christianity, Democracy.

The lecture will be held in the Pacific School of Religion's Chapel of the Great Commission 1798 Scenic Avenue (at LeConte) in Berkeley.

**There will be a public reception before the lecture at 6:00pm held in the Badé Museum** located across the courtyard from the Chapel of the Great Commission.

## DISSERTATION WRITING WORKSHOP: FEB. 1ST, 9AM

The professional development program invites you to a Dissertation Writing Workshop on Friday February 1st from 9AM to 3PM in the Dinner Board Room. The workshop will be presented by Kathleen Kline.

Thinking about your proposal, or already in the middle of writing? This workshop (highly recommended for candidates) will address: what is a dissertation and what needs to be in it? effective academic writing, and how to

survive the dissertation-writing process.

Please RSVP to [KHesslein@gtu.edu](mailto:KHesslein@gtu.edu) by January 15th.

## SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES WORKSHOP: FEB. 20TH, 6PM

The GTU Consortial Financial Aid Office will be offering a Scholarship Resources Workshop for doctoral-level students and those considering doctoral programs.

This workshop is designed to introduce GTU doctoral stu-

dents and those interested in doctoral programs to funding resources available with a focus on each stage of the academic program: coursework, comprehensive exams, dissertation, as well as a look into the future.

The workshop will be held in the Teaching Lab at the Flora Lamson Hewlett GTU Library on Wednesday, February 20, from 6:00 - 7:00pm, space is limited. To register, please email: [scholarships@gtu.edu](mailto:scholarships@gtu.edu).

## DOCTORAL STUDENT FORUM: FEB. 20TH 5PM

Attention Doctoral Students: The Student Advisory Council invites you to the annual Doctoral Student Forum. The

Forum is an opportunity for students to voice their issues and concerns. The forum will be held on Wednesday, Feb-

ruary 20th from 5PM to 7PM in the student lounge in the Le Conte Building. Refreshments will be served.

## BECOMING A LOUISVILLE FELLOW

Are you interested in becoming a theological educator?

Would you like help in exploring such a vocation?

The Louisville Institute, with support from Lilly Endowment, has developed a program to provide that help.

Each year we will select ten doctoral students to be Louisville Fellows. These ten students will form a cohort that will meet regularly with experienced theological educators and church leaders who will act as mentors. Louisville Fellows will learn from these mentors and from each other what it means to be a theological educator.

The benefits of being a Louisville Fellow include the following:

- An annual stipend of \$2000 for a two year term;

- Three meetings per year of the cohort at Louisville Seminary, all expenses paid by the Louisville Institute—topics will include cutting edge is-

ssues facing theological education and those invested in it;

- Personal mentoring by academic and pastoral mentors—mentoring will include feedback on research in progress, counsel on the experience of being a theological doctoral student, and advice on seeking a teaching position after graduation;

- The chance to network with other students who will be future colleagues in theological education—a jumpstart to valuable contacts throughout the world of theological education;

- A lifelong fellowship with other cohorts of Louisville Fellows. Once a Louisville Fellow, always a Louisville Fellow. Each year an annual meeting will be held to which members of all Louisville Fellows cohorts over the years will be invited.

Eligibility for making application to be a Louisville Fellow includes the following:

- An interest in exploring the

vocation of being a theological educator who will teach at a North American theological school;

- In the first or second year of a doctoral program in some field of theological education;

- Demonstrated excellence in coursework and research potential.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a Louisville Fellow and want to know more about how to apply, visit the Louisville Institute website, or send questions to:

[info@louisville-institute.org](mailto:info@louisville-institute.org)

### MID-YEAR ORIENTATION FOR FIRST YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

THERE WILL BE A REQUIRED MID-YEAR "ORIENTATION" FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS WHO STARTED IN THE PROGRAM DURING FALL SEMESTER, 2012. THE ORIENTATION WILL BE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013, FROM 12:30 TO 2:00 P.M. IN THE DINNER BOARD ROOM. AS USUAL, A TASTY LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!

### THE SHIFTING ROLE OF RELIGION IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA: DEC 6, 7PM

The Pacific School of Religion invites you to: **"The Shifting Role of Religion in Post-Apartheid South Africa" a public lecture by Professor Gerald West of the University of Kwazulu-Natal on December 6th from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Bade Museum.**

It has been almost two decades since apartheid officially ended in South Africa. Since religion has played a significant role in both the establishment and demolition of apartheid, has the end of apartheid changed how people see understand, and practice religion in the South Africa of the

21st century?



Gerald West



Noam Pianko

## IS THERE SUCH A THING AS THE JEWISH PEOPLE: LECTURE SERIES

The Center for Jewish Studies presents a four part lecture series entitled: "Is There Such a Thing as the Jewish People: Rethinking Jewish Membership for a Global Age." The series will be given by Noam Painko. Osher Marin JCC Visiting Scholar Noam Pianko, Jewish Studies scholar, professor and author of "Zionism and the Roads Not Taken: Rawidowicz, Kaplan, Kohn" will explore probing questions about peoplehood;

past, present, and future to reassess the possibilities and limitations of Jewish collectivity today. Vegetarian lunch will be provided. All four lectures will be held in Gibbs Hall, Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

The first lecture will be held on February 8th at 12PM and is entitled, "The Problem with 'the Jewish People'". The perceived dissolution of "Jewish Peoplehood" has

emerged over the last decade in both the United States and Israel as one of the crucial issues facing Jewish life. Is the problem that Jews today have rejected their obligation to other Jews? Perhaps. But there is another possibility: existing models of Jewish membership make assumptions based on identity outdated paradigms with little practical or moral relevance in an increasingly globalized world.

### JANUARY BIBLICAL GREEK AND HEBREW EXAMS

THE BIBLICAL HEBREW AND GREEK EXAMS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15-16, 2013, RESPECTIVELY, FROM 9:00 A.M. TO NOON EACH DAY. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 14, 2012.



Bishop Gene Robinson

## CIS NEWS

**-Wednesday December 5, 6:30-8:30PM: CIS 5th Anniversary Celebration Reception.** Come join us in celebrating the past five years of the Center for Islamic Studies and looking ahead to many more! Hear from our faculty and students about our academics, programs, and

events, and join us for light refreshments. All are welcome. Location: Easton Hall, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, 2401 Ridge Road, Berkeley 94709.

-The Center for Islamic Studies wishes to congratulate James Whipple on his thesis

completion and graduation from the Master of Arts in Islamic Studies. Jamie's thesis is titled Reviving the Heart: The Heart, Knowledge, and Spiritual Transformation in Al-Ghazālī's Revival of the Religious Sciences.

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW: A MORAL AND SPIRITUAL AGENDA FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH: DEC. 6TH, 7:30PM

The Church Divinity School of the Pacific invites your to "That was then, this is now: A Moral and Spiritual Agenda for the Episcopal Church" a Community Night Forum in the Tucson Common Room

The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson will speak on changes in the moral and spiritual agenda of The Episcopal Church.

V. Gene Robinson was elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hamp-

shire on June 7, 2003, having served as Canon to the Ordinary (Assistant to the Bishop) for nearly 18 years. Bishop Robinson has been active particularly in the area of full civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Working at the state, national, and international levels, he has spoken and lobbied for equal protection under the law and full civil marriage rights. His story is featured in the 2007 feature-

length documentary, "For the Bible Tells Me So," and his book In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God (Seabury Books, New York) was released in 2008. Bishop Robinson was invited by Barack Obama to give the invocation at the opening presidential inaugural ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial on Jan. 18, 2009. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress.

## IBS CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to announce a call for papers for the 3rd Annual Graduate Student Symposium at the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Our theme this year is Buddhist Ritual, Buddhist Culture.

Buddhist ritual practices are shaped by their location and are affected by the ritual objects. How does the material world determine the ways that Buddhism is practiced? How do Buddhists use ritual objects? In turn, how does Buddhism shape these objects and transform the physical world? What is the impact, for example, on the physical world as a result of religious pilgrimage or tourism? How do Buddhists transform physical objects in the process of

ritualization? This symposium will focus on these themes and will consider both historical and contemporary uses of material objects in Buddhist ritual, Buddhism's impact on cultural materials, and the relationships between Buddhism and sacred objects.

We invite graduate students to submit proposals considering one or more of these topics, either historically or contemporarily. Proposals should be no more than 200 words, and include the paper's title and the author's name, affiliation, and contact information. Please submit proposals to Courtney Bruntz at [courtney.bruntz@gmail.com](mailto:courtney.bruntz@gmail.com) no later than January 31, 2013.

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Prof.

Justin McDaniel of the University of Pennsylvania. His talk is generously supported by the Yehan Numata Foundation.

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstract: January 31, 2013

Notification of Proposal Result: February 15, 2013

Submission of Full Paper: April 1, 2013

Conference Event: April 13, 2013



ARTHUR  
HOLDER WILL BE  
SPEAKING AT THE  
LIBRARY'S  
SACRED TEXT  
LECTURE ON  
MARCH 13TH AT  
6:30PM

## SEX AND THE SPIRIT STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

Come see an art show presented by students from the class Sexuality in Sacred Art. The exhibition will be on Wednesday, December 5th at

7PM. It will be held in Mudd 100 at the Pacific School of Religion. Refreshments will be served.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA: FEB 28TH

The GTU Invites you to a celebration of its 50th anniversary on Thursday, February 28th at the St. Regis in San Francisco. Tickets are

\$250. The evening will include dinner, an art auction and entertainment. More information about the 50th anniversary of the GTU can

be found at [www.gtu.edu/50](http://www.gtu.edu/50).



# HONORABLE MENTION

## PHD STUDENTS

### Oral Comprehensives Passed

Matthew Paulson, THEO\*

Peter Doebler, ART\*

Mary Mee-Yin Yuen, IDS

Ikani Fakasiieiki, BIBL

\*passed with distinction

### Advanced to Candidacy

Courtney Bruntz, CHSR

Jeffrey Hoffmeyer, THEO

Milutin Janjic, IDS

Daniel Robinson, HIST

**WSR would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season! We have a fun filled Spring planned- so save the date for the following big events: Please Join us for**

**Voices from the Soul: Poetry Jam/Open Mike** with WSR Tuesday February 12th in Mudd 100 from 6:30-8, in the spirit of the following quotes "Hearing Each Other Into Speech"- Nelle Morton and "Speak your mind even if your voice shakes" - Maggie Kohn, we will be opening with a piece from the Vagina Monologues and encourage poets and musicians to let their voice be heard. Acoustic only (no amplifiers please).

Help WSR usher in Women's History Month by attending our **Second Annual Student Conference** from 12:30-6 on Friday March 1st, with a reception following.

WSR will also be hosting an evening panel and morning coffee conversation "**Envisioning the Future of Theology & Ethics: A Womanist Perspective**" with Keri Day (Brite Divinity), Andrea White (Emory), and Monica Coleman (Claremont) with Inese Radzins (GTU, PSR) as moderator on Thursday March 14th at ABSW at 6:30 pm and Friday March 15th in the Dinner Boardroom at 10am.

## 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](mailto:amunoz@gtu.edu).