

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DEAN



It has been a privilege to serve as Interim Dean this semester. I have long been committed to and inspired by the work and mission of the GTU, but after this November's presidential election, it is clear to me that our work is more important and urgent than ever. Many corners of the world (not just, but definitely including, the US) are increasingly torn apart by tribalisms of ethnicity or race, by social class and poverty, by religious difference, and by sorry human histories of violence and injustice.

The GTU is founded upon an important ideal and vision of mutual understanding across differences, and the establishment of alliances of compassion and solidarity against injustice in all its forms. Our vision is always prophetic and aspirational; imperfect human beings have a long way to go before achieving these ideals. Yet commitment to these ideals makes all the difference; it orients us in a positive direction and calls on us to open paths of understanding and action for justice.

We live, study, and work in a community which constantly enriches us with its diversity, and challenges each of us to see beyond our limited horizons. We can model for the wider society that it is not only possible to live with and learn from diversity in its many forms; it is also a positive invitation to growth of the human heart. May we all dedicate ourselves to growing our minds in their capacities for human understanding across difference, our ability to listen to and hear one another, and to growing our hearts and spirits toward justice for all --- not just those who are most like us or agree with us, but all who have been marginalized or left out of access to food and water, decent housing, personal safety, health care, education, justice, and employment. Let us commit ourselves to sustainability of the planet and of human communities.



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CALL FOR PAPERS

The Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology invites GTU students and faculty to submit papers and book reviews for inclusion and publication in Vol. 3 of the journal. The deadline is February 1, 2017. Instructions and style guide are available on our website at <http://gtu-bjrt.wixsite.com/bjrt>

We encourage students to submit excellent writing projects and papers (final papers, RRR papers, etc.) to the journal, as well as revised conference presentations (e.g. SSSR, AAR, SBL, etc.). Questions on the suitability of articles should be directed to chief editor Dan Mocerri (bjrt@ses.gtu.edu) and questions on book reviews should be directed to the book review editor, Justin Staller.

The Journal is also looking for peer-reviewers and other editors to fill important staff positions! The Journal needs students and faculty to serve as peer reviewers in order that we publish the most cutting-edge scholarship in religious and theological studies. Anyone interested in being on the regular roster of peer-reviewers, and any student interested in serving on the Journal staff, should e-mail the chief editor (bjrt@ses.gtu.edu).

MID-YEAR ORIENTATION

There will be a required mid-year “orientation” for doctoral students who started in the program during fall semester, 2016.

The orientation will be **Wednesday, January 25, 2017** from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Dinner Board room.

A tasty lunch will be provided!



BIBLICAL HEBREW & GREEK LANGUAGE EXAMS



Register for the Biblical Hebrew and Greek language exams by

December 16.

The Biblical Hebrew and Greek exams will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 11-12, 2017, respectively, from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day.

REPORT HATE CRIMES

Hate crimes are on the rise in the United States. It can range from a verbal attack to a physical one. Any incident at the GTU should be reported to Steve Argyris, Vice President of Administration & Finance (sargyris@gtu.edu), Kathleen Kook, Dean of Students & Vice President of Student Affairs (kkook@gtu.edu), or Debi Walker, Director of Human Resources (dwalker@gtu.edu).



FASPE SEMINARY

FASPE Seminary (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics in Seminary) is a fully-funded two-week summer program that uses the conduct of the clergy and other religious leaders in Nazi Germany as a launching point and backdrop for an intensive study of contemporary ethics. FASPE Seminary is predicated upon the power of place. Fellows visit Auschwitz and other sites in Germany and Poland where they consider how to apply the lessons of history to the ethical challenges facing religious leaders today.

In 2017, the program will take place from **Monday, June 19 – Friday, June 30**. All program costs are covered, including round-trip travel from New York to Europe, European travel, lodging, and food. FASPE Seminary Fellows travel and share some seminars with Fellows in the FASPE Medical program.

FASPE Seminary is open to currently enrolled graduate students preparing to serve as religious leaders, whether studying at a seminary, divinity school, or other graduate program. It is also open to clergy who received an MDiv or seminary degree between January 2015 and January 2017.

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

FASPE programs are non-denominational.

Candidates of all religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Completed applications are due by **Tuesday, December 20, 2016**



A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE 2016 ELECTION

Public policy expert Ned Dolejsi will offer a presentation on the results of the 2016 election and the concerns, opportunities, and priorities that may arise given California's upcoming legislative session. He will also look at the potential impact the Trump presidency may have on California.

Q & A and discussion to follow.

Monday, December 5, 7:30 pm

Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology

2301 Vine Street, Berkeley, CA 94708

RSVP to attend in person: dspt.edu/election

Livestream: dspt.edu/livestream

This event is made possible in part by the generous support of The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.

HISPANIC SUMMER PROGRAM

The 2017 Hispanic Summer Program (HSP) will take place from June 17 to July 1 at the North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. Applications will be available on the HSP website the first week of December 2016. The GTU is a Sponsoring Institution and so GTU students are eligible to apply to the Program.

What courses are offered?

The Hispanic Summer Program (HSP) offers 7 choices of 3-credit, accredited courses geared toward master-degree level Latina/o seminarians and graduate students. There are a limited number of slots for D.Min. and Ph.D. students from sponsoring institutions only. Students may take only one course, and all courses must be taken for credit and a grade will be awarded. Auditing is not permitted. Credit and transcripts are issued by the North Park Theological Seminary, a fully accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools.

Who is this program for?

The program is designed primarily for Latina/o students enrolled in theological seminaries and university departments of theology or religion. We have also welcomed about 10% of non-Latina/o students nationwide who are involved in Latino-centered ministries and advocacy. The (HSP) provides the opportunity for students to study with Latina/o peers and professors. Each summer, the HSP brings together nearly 70 participants from the U.S. and Puerto Rico, representing a wide variety of traditions, denominations, and theological perspectives. The HSP also provides a limited number of slots for Latina/o pastors seeking continuing theological education.

How do I apply?

An electronic application will be available on the HSP website the first week of December 2016. Application for the program requires two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the student's primary advisor. Applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Applicants who submit a completed application prior to February 13, 2017, will have a higher chance of admission to the program and to the applicant's first choice course. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that recommendations are submitted to the HSP. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Program Fees

- Master's-level students from Sponsoring Institutions attending for the 1st or 2nd time: **\$425** (Includes tuition, airfare up to \$500, room & board. In other words, if you airfare costs more than \$500, you pay the amount by which it exceeds \$500.)
- Master's-level students from Sponsoring Institutions attending for the 3rd time: **\$800** (Includes tuition and room & board but these students must cover their own travel costs.)
- D.Min. and Ph.D. from Sponsoring Institutions: **\$800** (Includes tuition, airfare up to \$500, room & board. In other words, if you airfare costs more than \$500, you pay the amount by which it exceeds \$500.)



CENTER FOR THE ARTS & RELIGION

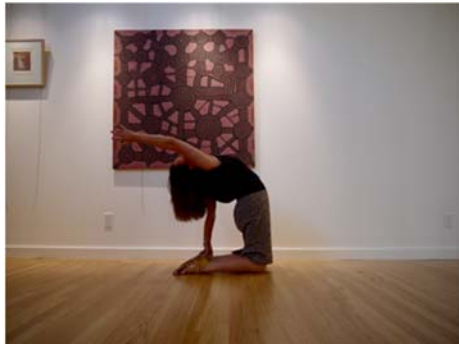
December 02, 2016

12-1pm | Brown Bag Lunch Series

Tantric Polyamory in Hollywood

Michelle Mueller, Ph.D, GTU, CARE Fall 2015 Grant Recipient

Michelle received a CARE grant to participate in a class with her research informant, KamalaDevi McClure. KamalaDevi is from the cast of Showtime's Polyamory: Married and Dating and is the author of several books on Western Tantra and polyamory. The class was "How To Write A Book in 90 Days," and Michelle will tell you how she did just that (approximately), as well as reading a section from her completed work, the dissertation, "Performed Polygamy and Polyamory in the Media Age: An Ethnography of Nonmonogamous Religious and Spiritual Families in Reality Television"!



December 14, 2016

12-1pm | Yoga in the Gallery

free | all levels welcome | no experience necessary

Join us for an hour-long session by registered yoga teacher Lily Manderville (CARE Programs Manager). Open to all GTU member school students, faculty, and staff. Comfortable work clothes recommended. Please bring a hand towel and water bottle. 2nd Wednesday of each month, 12-1pm.

GTU faculty members, are you interested in integrating the arts into your course? Would you like to take your students on a field trip to a museum, concert, performance, or other arts event?

CARE is offering \$200 Arts Enrichment Grants to help fund tickets, transportation, and other expenses, and to encourage faculty to add arts activities to their courses. 5 grants are available for the Spring 2017 semester.

For information on how to apply send an email to info@care-gtu.org.

Awardees will be required to report on their arts activity with an illustrated post for our blog [CARE Package](#).

Deadline for Spring 2017 courses: Monday, January 9, 5pm



LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

Coming next semester:

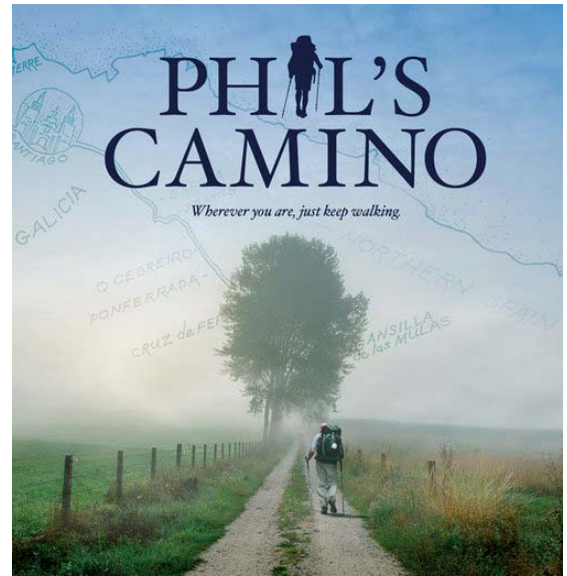
a shiny new remodeled teaching lab and the return of **Library Workshops!** Topics include Advanced Searching in ATLA, Zotero (citation management software) and more. Please send suggestions of topics you'd like to see to library@gtu.edu.

(Distance students: we can do online workshops too!)



FILM SCREENING

Award winning short doc, **PHIL'S CAMINO** tells the story of free spirit Phil, a man living with Stage 4 cancer and dreaming of walking the 500 mile spiritual pilgrimage Camino de Santiago across Spain. Unable to make the trip, he does the next best thing: he builds a camino in the forest behind his house, starts to walk, and traces his progress on a map. Phil's journey is one of hope, acceptance, and freedom, and is sure to inspire any-



one who has ever dreamed of doing something that sounded impossible. Along the way he realizes his true pilgrimage is the one he travels within.

Screening & Conversation with Annie O'Neil & Phil Volker
Monday, December 5th at 3pm
Jesuit School of Theology, 1735 LeRoy Avenue

SAVE THE DATE!

2017 Surjit Singh Lecture on Comparative Religious Thought and Culture

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
6pm Reception, GTU Dinner Boardroom,
7pm Lecture, Zaytuna College, 2401 LeConte Avenue

Dr. Jeffery Long is Professor of Religion and Asian Studies at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

He teaches courses on Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism (Dharma Traditions), as well as a first-year seminar on *Star Wars* and Asian philosophy, Sanskrit, and Comparative Theology and Interfaith Engagement. He is the author of three books and a wide array of articles on Hinduism, Indian philosophy, and religious pluralism, and a Consulting Editor for *Sutra Journal*.



CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

CIS-CJS joint Madrasa-Midrasha program is pleased to announce that Dr. Shahzad Bashir and Dr. Charlotte Fonrobert (both at Stanford University) will present, “Scholarship Across Divides: Jewish and Islamic Studies in Conversation,” to be held on **December 1** at the GTU Library Dinner Board Room. **Reception at 6:30pm and lectures 7-8:30pm.**

Congratulations to CIS Program Coordinator, Rania Shah, who will be presenting a paper, titled, “Al-Ghazali on Reason and Revelation: A Revival at the Heart of the Islamic Scholarly Tradition,” at the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies, **Dec. 5-7th.**

CIS Director, Dr. Munir Jiwa, will be hosting a series of conversations in the new year on Islamophobia in the age of Trump. Details forthcoming at www.gtu.edu/cis.

Congratulations to Carol Bier, Islamic art historian and CIS visiting scholar, who has curated the exhibition, “Reverberating Echoes: Contemporary Art Inspired by Traditional Islamic Art,” opening with a reception on January 31, 2017 and on through May 26, 2017, at the Doug Adams Gallery, Center for the Arts & Religion, Graduate Theological Union.



INTENT TO GRADUATE FORM

Intent to Graduate forms for Spring 2017 graduates are due on **Tuesday, January 17** to the GTU Dean’s Office for MAs and for PhD/ThDs. Submit to the GTU Office Manager Wendy Arce (warce@gtu.edu).

FIND YOUR STUDY SPACE!

Looking for a group space?

At the GTU library we have two reserveable private rooms, call (510-649-2500) or visit the circulation desk, up to a week in advance to book a two-hour slot. The larger room seats 8-10, and the smaller room seats 4-6.

The GTU library has many group tables available on the upper level, near the exegesis collection and the south side of the library. These tables seat 4.

At the SFTS branch, the Feminist Reading Room (Level 5) is first come, first served. This room seats 4-6.

Need a solo spot?

The upper level of the GTU library has individual study carrels behind the reference collection if you don't mind a little background noise. (the upper level tends to have more activity and talking)

The big tables on the lower level of the GTU library are great too, but for complete silence, use the study carrels around the edge of the building downstairs.

At SFTS, the reference room is a good quiet space to work and the individual carrels on throughout the levels are a perfect place to not be disturbed.

LIBRARY NEWS

Away from the Bay Area?

If you are traveling over break or a distance student in the U.S. or Canada, we may have an agreement at a library near you. The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Reciprocal Borrowing program allows all GTU students and faculty to borrow print resources of 78 other theology libraries, free! For example, if you are near Minneapolis there are four theology libraries that are part of this program. You'll need to provide proof of being a current GTU student (usually your class schedule will work), and they will issue you a card to borrow items. You'll still use your GTU account to access our electronic resources remotely, but not everything is available online. Need more information? Ask a Librarian: library@gtu.edu, 510-649-2501, chat via our website, or visit our LibGuides for info. Tell us where you are located, and we can see what options are available.



Instruction & Orientation Services for faculty

If you'd like a librarian to work with your class, the GTU reference librarians are

happy to help. We can come to you or you can bring your students over to our shiny new lab next semester, or for distance classes we can meet virtually. We provide instruction on using resources to fit your assignments, for example, Naw San can tell your students the ins and outs of our biblical exegesis collection or Beth can teach them to organize their citations in Zotero. If your students are new to the GTU, we can provide orientation to the library, so they can be ready to research when the first assignment is handed out. We customize each session to fit your needs, and we can do it in person or online! Email us at library@gtu.edu to arrange a session.

**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.

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

Jennifer Lehmann, DSPT

PHD STUDENTS

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Finny Abraham, BIBL

Daniel Mocerri, IDS

Advanced to Candidacy

Elaine Belz, ART

Vanessa Hawkins, IDS

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

Office of the Dean
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA
94709
<http://www.gtu.edu>

Phone: 510-649-2440
Fax: 510-649-1417
E-mail: amunoz@gtu.edu

