

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2015

HINDU STUDIES COMES TO THE GTU



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

The study of Asian religions at the GTU goes back at least to 1971 with the creation of a doctoral area of study then called History and Phenomenology of Religions (now Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions), which was originally intended to focus on what the school catalog called “the Hindu-Buddhist complex.” Over the years, courses on Hindu philosophy and theology have been offered on an occasional basis at several different GTU member schools. But something new is happening now, and it is very exciting.

As announced last spring, the GTU has entered into a partnership with the Dharma Studies Foundation to develop a robust program in Hin-

du Studies here. The first two courses were offered in fall 2014, and two more are scheduled for spring 2015: “Philosophies of Religion: India and the West” and “Gandhi and Nonviolence,” both taught by Dr. Purushottama Bilimoria who has been a visiting professor at UC Berkeley for several years.

We are now delighted to welcome Dr. Rita Sherma to the GTU as Associate Professor of Dharma Studies and Director of the Hindu Studies initiative. For the past two years she has been the Swami Vivekananda Visiting Faculty in Hindu Studies at the University of Southern California. Since receiving her Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics from Claremont Graduate University, she has published five edited volumes and served as an editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Dharma Studies, editor of the Hinduism volume of the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Indian Religions, and co-founder of the Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM). She is currently completing a book that envisions a contemporary Hindu ecological theology of the divine feminine.

In this month of February the Council of Deans and the Academic Committee of the GTU Board of Trustees will be considering proposals for an MA area of concentration in Hindu Studies and a Certificate in Hindu Studies that can be taken either independently or in conjunction with any degree program in the GTU or a member school.

Finally, on April 10 we will welcome Professor Anantanand Rambachan from St. Olaf College in Minnesota who will give the annual Surjit Singh Lecture on Comparative Religious Thought and Culture on the topic of “Interreligious Relations as Friendship: Mahatma Gandhi and Charles Freer Andrews.” Full details are available in an announcement inside this issue of the Dean’s Newsletter.

Many people have worked hard to bring Hindu Studies to the GTU. We can be grateful that the study of the world’s third largest religious tradition is now a part of this wonderful ecumenical and interreligious community.

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2015 SURJIT SINGH LECTURE ON COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND CULTURE

“Interreligious Relations as Friendship:

Mahatma Gandhi and Charles Freer Andrews”

Dr. Anantanand Rambachan

Friday, April 10, 2015

2pm Reception

3pm Lecture

**Dinner Boardroom, 3rd floor of the GTU Library
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley**

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) and the Reverend Charles Freer Andrews (1871-1940) shared an extraordinary relationship. From 1914, until his death in 1940, Andrews worked closely with Gandhi in the Indian independence movement and in the ser-

vice of India. Their relationship blossomed quickly and remains an illuminating example of friendship across traditions. This lecture examines the shared commitments that brought this remarkable Hindu and Christian pair together, as well as the challenges and risks of their friendship.

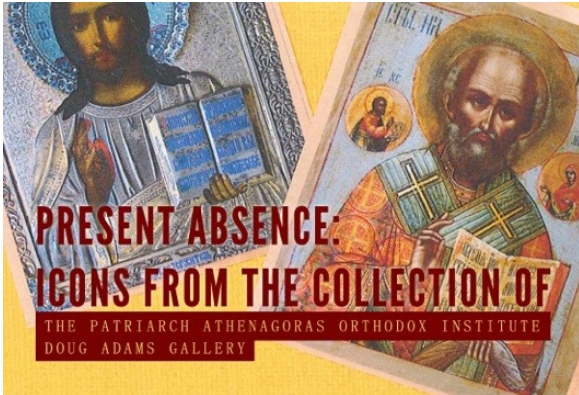
Dr. Anantanand Rambachan is Professor of Religion at Saint Olaf College in Minnesota, where he has been teaching since 1985. A native of Trinidad, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. He is the author of several books including *Accomplishing the Accomplished*, *The*

Limits of Scripture, *The Advaita Worldview: God, World and Humanity*, and *Not-Two: A Hindu Theology of Liberation* (forthcoming). The British Broadcasting Corporation transmitted a series of his lectures around the world. For over twenty years, Professor Rambachan has been involved in the field of interreligious relations as a Hindu participant and analyst. He was a guest participant in the last four General Assemblies of the World Council of Churches, and he is a regular participant in the consultations of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue at the Vatican and an educator on interfaith issues in Minnesota.



Dr. Anantanand
Rambachan

CARE NEWS & EVENTS



**Present Absence:
Icons from the Collection of
the Patriarch
Athenagoras
Orthodox Institute
February 3 - May 29, 2015
Opening Reception, Thurs-
day, February 5, 2015 | 5-
7pm
Doug Adams Gallery**

This exhibition invites us to explore the paradoxical nature of icons as embodiments of both

material beauty and divine presence. These 16 icons, primarily 18th- and 19th-c. works from Russia, comprise the first exhibition from the collection of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute.

**Brown Bag Lunch
“Un/Catholic Confessions:
On Passing for Christian”
Guest Speaker: Michelle
Summers, CARE Fall 2014
Grant Recipient**

**Friday, February 6 | 12-1pm
Doug Adams Gallery**

Based on ethnographic research on sacred dance and the work of both Carla DeSola and the evangelical ballet company Ballet Magnificat!, this presentation considers how religious identity is read on and through the dancing body, and how dancers negotiate religious power structures. Funded in part by a grant from CARE, Dr. Summers presented this work at the 2014 Society for Dance History Scholars and Congress on Research in Dance joint conference at the University of Iowa.

**“Pragmatism... she widens
the field of search for God”
Speaker: Joan Richardson
Tuesday, February 20
5-7pm
370 Dwinelle Hall**

**University of California,
Berkeley
Co-sponsored by BCSR**

William James once described Pragmatism as continuing the work of the Protestant Reformation, admitting all the possibilities of belief that belonged to a pluralistic universe. In Pragmatism (1907), James writes; “We do not yet know which type of religion is going to work best in the long run. The various overbeliefs of men, the several faith-ventures, are in fact what is needed to bring the evidence in.” This religious dimension of Pragmatism, which has long been persistently ignored/repressed, will be the subject of Joan Richardson’s presentation.

SFTS EVENT: JOHN BELL WORKSHOPS

**San Francisco
Theological Seminary
Center for
Innovation in Ministry
John Bell –
February Workshops in
Stewart Chapel**

John Bell is a world-renowned liturgical composer and a member of the Iona Community. His primary concern is the renewal of congregational worship at the grass roots level.

**Tuesday, February 17, 7-8:30pm
Levity & Lament**

The Season of Lent temporarily brings an end to the singing of

Alleluias, and encourages people to rediscover the significance of penitence and lament. We will move from exploring and singing songs of celebration - a loud blast of Alleluias - to the more meditative songs of lament.
SEATING IS LIMITED.

**Wednesday, February 18, 10:30am-Noon
God, Land & Love**

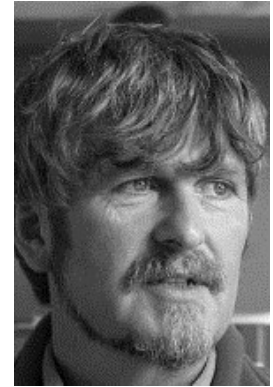
While ecology has not been a prominent topic in the work of the great theologians, you can join us now to experience God's affection for the Earth through a tapestry of scripture

and poetry from across the centuries.
SEATING IS LIMITED.

Register at tinyurl.com/JohnBellEarth

For more information about applying these workshops towards credit in the Certificate in Worship Leadership program, please contact Petey Thornton at 415.451.2860 or pthornton@sfts.edu.

**105 Seminary Rd., San Anselmo, CA 94960 |
415.451.2841 |
klahaye@sfts.edu |
www.sfts.edu**



John Bell

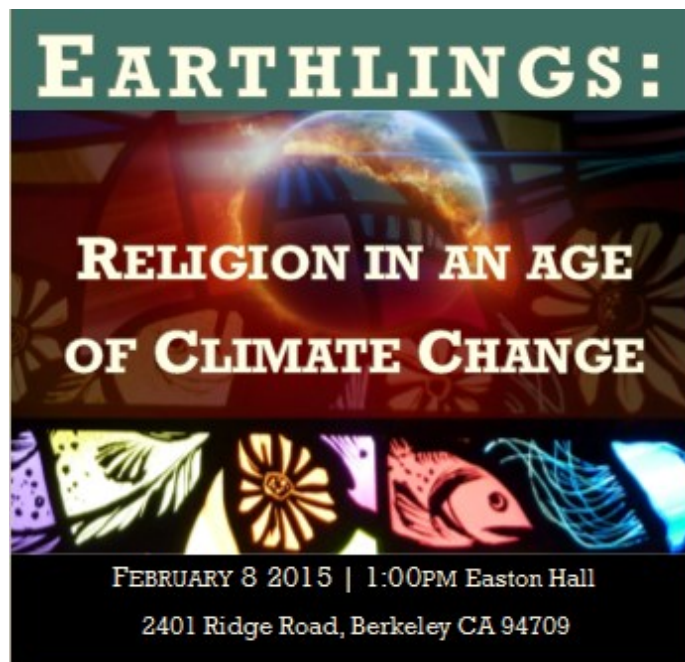
MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM

THE NEXT MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMINATION IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, FROM 1PM TO 4:45PM IN THE DINNER BOARD ROOM. REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 11 WITH WENDY ARCE, STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE MANAGER, WARCE@GTU.EDU, 649-2400.

EARTHLINGS: RELIGION IN AN AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**February 8th 2015,
1:00pm
Easton Hall,
2401 Ridge Road
Berkeley CA 94709**

Our rapidly changing environment has resulted in radical shifts in human relations and our relationship with the planet. What is the role of religion in this new era? This conference will feature contributions including from the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Islamic Studies, the Center for Theology, and Rabbi Michael Lerner of Tikkun Magazine.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: NEWS & EVENTS

1. Doctoral Council
February 4, 2015
Dinner Board Room
GTU Library

2. Doctoral Student
Teaching Conversations
February 11, 2015 12pm
Student Lounge
2465 LeConte Ave.
Creating networks and support
groups for student teachers pro-
vides us with a space where we

can help each other strengthen
our confidence and our skills. In
order to begin building this com-
munity PDP is hosting a doctoral
student teacher lunch. Students
who are teaching, have taught,
or will teach (TA positions,
Newhalls, Adjunct positions,
etc.) are invited to participate in
fruitful small group conversa-
tions with other student teachers
over a nice meal. PDP will pro-
vide guiding questions to help

facilitate discussions. If you
would like to attend please
RSVP (dchretain@gtu.edu) and
briefly indicate your level of
teaching experience.

3. CV/Cover Letter Workshop
with Dr. Bradley Burroughs Feb.
25th 10am-12pm
Student Lounge
2465 LeConte Ave.



2015 SARLO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The Sarlo Excellence in
Teaching Award is given each
year to a member of the Core
Doctoral Faculty whose
teaching and mentoring of
doctoral students embodies
the values of interreligious
dialogue and interdisciplinary
approach to teaching. The
next recipient of this honor,
which entails a substantial
monetary award, will be an-
nounced at the GTU Com-
mencement on May 7, 2015.

Selection will be made by the
Appointments and Review
Committee of the Core Doc-
toral Faculty, with the addi-
tion of the GTU President as
a voting member for this pur-
pose. The Faculty Council has
approved a nomination proce-
dure in which a list of candi-
dates will be composed from
nominations submitted by
doctoral and MA students
through the Areas of Study in
the doctoral program.

The Area Student Assistant in
each area will be responsible
for facilitating a process by
which students in the area

will select one Core Doctoral
Faculty member to nominate
for this award. Discussion
may take place among doctor-
al students when they gather
at the February and March
area meetings, but opportuni-
ty should be provided for all
students to participate in the
selection through email. GTU
MA students are invited to
submit their suggestions for
nominations to MA Program
Coordinator Angela Muñoz
who will forward them to the
doctoral student area assistant
in the relevant doctoral area
of study.

The faculty person nominated
may be from within the area,
or from another area. The
name of the one Core Doc-
toral Faculty member nomi-
nated by an area's students
should be forwarded to the
GTU Dean by the Area Stu-
dent Assistant as soon as pos-
sible, but no later than Fri-
day, March 20. The selection
criteria are as follows:

a. Eligible candidates are ac-
tive members of the Core



Doctoral Faculty.

b. Candidates exhibit creative
and effective pedagogical
methods and performance,
both in the classroom and in
their advising and mentoring
of doctoral students.

c. Candidates exhibit ecu-
menical and/or interreligious
sensitivity and commitment in
their teaching, regardless of
the subject matter or field.

d. Candidates exhibit and
promote effective use of in-
terdisciplinary approaches, as
appropriate to their fields.
e. Candidates display sensitiv-
ity to ethnic and cultural di-
versity.

f. Sarlo Award recipients may

be selected only once.

Previous recipients are Ju-
dith Berling (2003), Fu-
mitaka Matsuoka (2004),
Clare Fischer (2005), Doug
Adams (2006), Gina Hens-
Piazza (2007), Jerome Bag-
gett (2008), Lewis Rambo
(2009), Alejandro García
Rivera (2010), Ron Nak-
asone (2011), Boyung Lee
(2012), Mia Mochizuki
(2013), and William O'Neill
(2014).

This annual award is made
possible by a generous gift
from the Sarlo Foundation.

2015-2016 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINES

Financial Aid Applications for the 2015-2016 academic year are available online at: www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid.

Financial Aid Applicants: please find your deadline date below and visit the GTU Consortial Financial Aid website for instructions on how to complete and submit the 2015-16 Financial Aid Application and Free Application

for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To reach the Financial Aid Office with a question, please email finaid@gtu.edu or call the us at 510-649-2469.

GTU Doctoral Students (New): February 1, 2015

GTU Doctoral Students (Continuing): February 15, 2015

Common MA Students affiliated with-

ABSW	April 15, 2015
CIS	April 1, 2015
CJS	April 1, 2015
DSPT	March 15, 2015
IBS	April 1, 2015
JST	March 1, 2015
PAOI	April 1, 2015
PLTS	March 15, 2015
PSR	February 15, 2015
SFTS	April 15, 2015
SKSM	April 1, 2015



2015-2016 NEWHALL AWARD RECIPIENTS

In 1987, the late trustee Jane Newhall gave a generous gift to endow competitive awards for doctoral students to engage in collaborative teaching or research with faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students.

The 2015-16 Newhall Recipients paired with their Faculty mentors are: Beth Anderson with Elizabeth Liebert, Matt Boswell with Hung Pham, Diandra Chretien with Arthur Holder, Nicole De Leon with Naomi Seidman, Reem Javed with Judith Berling, Christina Fetherolf with John Endres, Sungrae Kim with Ahn Tran, Cassie Lipowitz with Ibrahim Farajajé, Justin Lipscomb

with Judith Berling, Cesar Melgar with LeAnn Snow Flesher, Mauricio Najarro and Marvin L. Wisner with Naomi Seidman, Cristoffr A. Ortiz with Aaron Brody, Robert Peach with Boyung Lee, Seumaninoa Puaina with Gina Hens-Piazza, Eleanor Shapiro with Naomi Seidman.

DOCTORAL STUDENT ELECTIONS

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR STUDENT ELECTIONS WILL BE COMING TO YOU VIA EMAIL VERY SOON. THINK ABOUT WHO WOULD MAKE EXCELLENT MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, DOCTORAL COUNCIL, AND OTHER EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE AND BE OF SERVICE. NOMINATE AND VOTE WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY COMES. NOMINATIONS WILL BE DUE TO DCHRETAIN@GTU.EDU BY FEBRUARY 27, AND ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD MARCH 9-20.

GTU STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT CYCLE #2 APPLICATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 AT 5PM

The second cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is **Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 5pm in the GTU Dean's Office**. GTU doctoral students who are presenting papers at national conferences and meetings between February 1, 2015 and June 30,

2015 are eligible to apply for the second cycle. Additionally, the GTU Student Travel Grant Application form must accompany supporting materials. The application form is available on the GTU webpage. (Go to "Current Students" across the top banner and then scroll down to

the "Professional Development" subheading and the link for the application will be listed there.) For more information, please consult the 2014 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 77), call the GTU Dean's Office (649.2440), or email amunoz@gtu.edu.





GTU LIBRARY NEWS

Expanded Reference Desk Hours

The library is expanding reference desk hours for the spring semester. There will now be a librarian available until 8pm on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and all day on Sunday.

Introduction to Graduate Research Workshop

Graduate-level research requires more than basic searching. You will learn how to use the GTU library's online catalog GRACE to find books and other resources, and how to use the ATLA, JSTOR, and 360 Search databases to locate full-text journal articles or citation information. The workshop is approximately 1 hour and will be conducted in the Teaching Lab.

**Tuesday,
February 10, 1 pm
Wednesday,
February 18, 11 am**

In addition, brief additional instruction can be arranged with the Reference Librarian.

Art Exhibition News

The library art exhibition, "Formless Form, the Art of Sho," has been extended through February 10. If you haven't had a chance to stop by to view this wonderful exhibit of Professor Ron Nakasone's calligraphy, now is the time! The next library exhibition, featuring materials from both the Tibetan community and the GTU archives, will run from February 25 to April 3. A docent program led by Thepo Rinpoche (recognized as the 8th Thepo Tulku) and a cultural event will take place in March. More information will be forthcoming.

Reading of the Sacred Texts

The 23rd annual Sacred Texts Lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11. Thepo Tulku is the featured speaker. A tulku is a custodian of a specific lineage of teachings in Tibetan Buddhism who is given empowerments and trained from a young age by students of his predecessor.

Here is a short excerpt from an article Thepo Tulku wrote entitled "The People of Tibet Need Help Now."

"On the night of March 17, 1959, the Dalai Lama disguised himself as a Chinese soldier, slipped out of his summer palace, and headed south toward India. He was escorted by his loyal entourage, and by Khampa warriors. At the time, I was five years old. I was living in the Ganden monastery in Tibet, as a reincarnated Tulku. Word of the escape spread quickly. As people throughout Tibet learned of the Dalai Lama's flight, many decided to make the perilous choice to try and follow him to India. Some of our monastery elders fled, and they took me along with them to exile in India. I was separated from my mother and father. I never saw them again."

The lecture begins at 7pm; a reception precedes the lecture at 6:30pm. Both the lecture and reception will take place in the GTU Dinner Board Room and are open to the public.

THE DEADLINE
TO FILE
COMPLETED
AND APPROVED
COPIES OF
THESES/
DISSERTATIONS
OR
CERTIFICATION
OF ORAL
EXAMINATION
FORMS FOR
MABL
CANDIDATES
FOR SPRING
GRADUATION IS
APRIL 6, 4PM.

CJS NEWS: THE FRIEDMAN-LOWENTHAL PRIZE

\$500 will be awarded to the student with the best Jewish Studies essay written for a GTU course, including those

written outside of CJS. Any registered GTU student enrolled in a Jewish Studies course in Spring 2015

can apply. **Essays must be submitted by Friday, May 1, 2015.**



CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS

February 5 – 12

CIS Visiting Scholar Carol Bier will be giving a series of workshops and lectures in Dubai, UAE, on geometry and Islamic art, to take place in a city transformed in the late twentieth century – and since 2010 site of the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa.

Sunday, February 8, 1PM

Earthlings: Religion in an Age of Climate Change

What is the role of religious traditions in the planetary crisis? Join scholars of different traditions in a symposium on this pressing topic. This conference will feature speakers including Michael Lerner,

Marcia Falk, and scholars from throughout the GTU. Hosted by the Center for Jewish Studies and co-sponsored by the Center for Islamic Studies and Center for Theology and Natural Sciences. Location: Easton Hall, 2401 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Thursday, February 26, 6PM

Jazz, Liberation, and the Geopolitics of Malcolm X

Black History Month lecture and 50th year commemoration of Malcolm X by Dr. Hisham Aidi, author of *Rebel Music: Race, Empire, and the New Muslim Youth Culture* and lecturer at the School of

International and Public Affairs and the Institute of African Affairs at Columbia University. Location TBD.

Saturday, February 28, 5-8PM

Islam & Authors Book Reading with Dr. Ejaz Naqvi, "The Qur'an: With or Against the Bible?" Followed by Q&A. Suggested donation: \$10 Adults, \$5 Students. Co-sponsored by the Center for Islamic Studies. Location: Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, 1433 Madison Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

Please stay posted to the CIS website at www.gtu.edu/cis for more events during Black History Month.



DSPT EVENT: BEFORE-AND-AFTER FILMS

A new film series comprising six films that transformed the art of filmmaking and pushed its spiritual frontier.

Join DSPT Fellow Ron Austin – a Hollywood producer and writer, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences member, and Writers Guild lifetime achievement award honoree – for screenings of these six important films. He will introduce them and explain his reasons for choosing them. Ron will lead conversa-

tion following each screening for those who wish to stay.

All screening will take place at the DSPT, 2301 Vine Street, on Saturdays at 7pm. The screenings are free and open to all, but RSVPs are required since space is limited.

February 7: *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928) by Carl Theodor Dreyer, RSVP required

February 21: *Grand Illusion* (1937) by Jean Renoir,

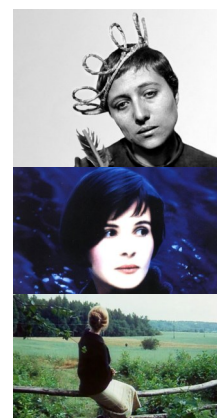
RSVP required

March 7: *The Bicycle Thief* (1948) by Vittorio De Sica, RSVP required

March 21: *The 400 Blows* (1959) by François Truffaut, RSVP required

April 11: *The Mirror* (1975) by Andrei Tarkovsky, RSVP required

April 25: *Three Colors: Blue* (1993) by Krzysztof Kieślowski, RSVP required



For more information, please visit:

<http://www.dspt.edu/>

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

Yong Kook Ko

PHD STUDENTS

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Sean Albrecht, BIBL

Michelle Mueller, CHSR

Christina Fetherolf, BIBL

Robert Peach, IDS

Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Meredith Massar, ART

Advanced to Candidacy

Susan Aguilar, HIST

Richetta Najuma Amen, BIBL

Ali Ataie, CHSR

Kresten Froistad-Martin, ETHC

Hyeokil Kwon, SPRT

Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended

Peter Doebler, ART

Izak Y. Lattu, IDS

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.