

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2013

WHO COMES TO THE GTU, AND WHY?



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

The first weeks of the fall semester are always an exciting time at the GTU as we welcome new students, faculty, and staff to campus. Anthropologists tell us that the incorporation of new members is an opportunity for any human community to reaffirm identities, delineate boundaries, and recommit to long-cherished values and purposes. So what do we learn about the GTU from the new people who are joining us this semester?

Just to focus on the new MA and doctoral students of the GTU who participated in orientation, I met people from places like Afghanistan, Samoa, India, Korea, Uganda, Congo, Israel, Mexico, Indonesia, Canada, and all over the United States. They are Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and Christians from Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox traditions. They are attorneys and

businesspeople, educators and ordained clergy, artists, musicians, and health care providers. Some are just out of college while others are close to retirement age, with many in between.

Our new students have come here to study in order to become teachers, scholars, ministers, activists, and leaders of all sorts. All of them want to become wiser and more compassionate people, and they want to make a difference. They want to change the world!

And why the GTU? What I hear from our incoming students is that they have chosen to study here because of the diversity of our religious communities, our commitment to academic excellence, our combination of critical reflection and faithful practice. They are attracted to the beauty of the Bay Area and its cultural richness, and they appreciate the opportunity to take advantage of the resources of the University of California, Berkeley which many consider to be the greatest public university

anywhere in the world.

Students also want to study in a school that not only tolerates but actively promotes interdisciplinary scholarship. They want to be part of a cohesive cohort of faculty and students who collaborate on making the connections between religious traditions, and between religion and the whole range of arts and sciences. They want access to superb library resources that invite them to read widely and go deeper in their research.

All of this is why students come to the GTU and our member schools. It is why I came here twenty-seven years ago, and why I am glad to be here still. I love this time of year because it reminds me of who we are and what we are trying to become. As I said to the students at orientation, there is nowhere that I would rather be—and I hope that is true for you as well.

GTU WELCOME RECEPTION – ALL ARE INVITED

The GTU Dean's Office invites all members of the GTU Consortial Community to a **Welcome Reception on Wednesday, September 18th, 3:30pm in Denniston Commons** located on CDSP campus

adjacent to the CDSP courtyard. At 4pm, there will be a brief program including the installation of Riess Potterveld as acting President of the GTU and the introduction of new faculty and visiting scholars. Everyone

is welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Angela Muñoz, GTU Dean's Office at amunoz@gtu.edu or 510/649-2440.

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CIS AND THE DSPT ARE CONDUCTING A SERIES OF EVENTS BASED ON THE STUDY OF THE QUR'AN. AN ART EXHIBIT FEATURING VERSES FROM THE QUR'AN IS ON DISPLAY IN THE BLACK FRIARS GALLERY AT THE DSPT. ACCOMPANYING EVENTS INCLUDE: SEPTEMBER 29 DISCUSSION WITH ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS ON ART AS MEDIUM FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE, OCTOBER 17TH LECTURE WITH DR. MAHAN MIRZA ON "APPROACHING THE QUR'AN," AND A NOVEMBER 16TH WORKSHOP ON THE COMMON WORD PROJECT WHICH WILL STUDY VERSES FROM SACRED TEXTS OF JUDAISM, ISLAM, AND CHRISTIANITY

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES



Marianne Farina, CSC

Marianne Farina, CSC faculty at the DSPT and CIS was guest editor for the summer issue (vol 48) of *Listening, Journal of Communication Ethics, Religion and Culture*. The issue featured her article on comparative theology and four student essays from the

class she taught in Fall 2011 class, "Virtue Theory in Christianity and Islam." Congratulations to Sr. Marianne and the students she mentored: Farah El-Sharif, James Pepe, James Whipple, and R. Rania Shah.

Congratulations to GTU Fulbright Doctoral Student in CHSR, Waqas Sajjad, who was selected as one of eleven pre-dissertation fellows from around the world, to attend the University of Toronto's first Connaught Summer Institute on Islamic Studies, organized by Emmanuel College and the Faculty of Law, August 12-22, 2013. The fellows attended lectures and workshops and made site visits to various Muslim communities, with the theme of "belonging, difference and research methods."

Congratulations to Carol Bier, an historian of Islamic Art and visiting scholar at the Center for Islamic Studies who presented a workshop in July entitled, "Geometry and Islamic Art: Explorations of Number, Shape, and the Nature of Space" at the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies at UGM Graduate School in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

CHAN PRIZE COMPETITION DEADLINE: 9/16/2013

Students interested in submitting papers for the Fall 2013 Chan Prize in Religion and Economics Essay contest must do so by **Monday, September 16, 2013 at 5pm** in the GTU Dean's Office. The Chan competition's purpose is to reward the

thoughtful, creative work of students who are seeking authentically to bring together theological (including ethical, Biblical, constructive) reflection on the topic of "Identity and Practice across Religious Boundaries: exploring a particular concept,

theme, or practice in 2 or more religions (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc.)." For more detail on the criteria of the essay competition, please see the 2013 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 76) —there is no application form.

SAC HOSTS SERVICE LEARNING WORKSHOP AND ACTIVITY

On Wednesday, September 4, from 10am to noon, in the GTU Student Lounge at 2465, we will have a Service Learning Workshop. Come find out about this important approach to practical and theoretical learning and expand your horizons. GTU Alum Dr. Erin Brigham, Faculty Coordinator of Research and Adjunct Professor at the

University of San Francisco. The follow up Service Learning Activity will take place on Saturday, September 7, from 10am – 2pm.

Please rsvp with Kathleen Kook, kkook@gtu.edu so that we can send you articles to glance at and set you up for service at a local agency.



Dr. Erin Brigham

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The PDP is excited to announce its new format for the 2013-2014 year. PDP workshops will run every Wednesday, from 10-11, in the GTU Student Lounge, and will address three broad areas of Writing and Proposals, Teaching, and Career Development. The first hour will include a brief presentation, while the next two hours will focus on one-on-one feedback and writing time.

Drop-in attendance is welcome, and students may attend any (or all!) sessions that they wish. The workshops will repeat in the Spring.

September's workshops are: Doc Council Orientation (Dinner Board Room) and Service Learning Workshop (GTU Student Lounge) - Sept 4; CVs and Online Presence - Sept 11; Crafting a Syllabus for In-Class,

Online, and Hybrid Courses - Sept 18; Developing Theses Statements, Finding Writing Allies, and Types of Dissertations and Articles - Sept 25.

For more information, visit www.gtu.edu/students/prodev where you can also find links to helpful resources.

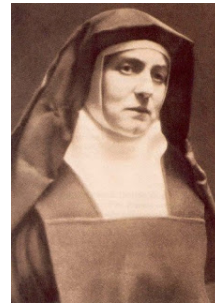
LIBRARY NEWS

An exhibition on The Life and Times of Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, will be on display in the library display cases from October 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014.

The materials are from the archival collection donated to the Graduate Theological Union by Susanne M. Batzdorff, niece of Edith Stein and

one of the foremost experts on the saint in the United States.

A brief ceremony and reception will be held near the exhibit cases in the library on Tuesday, October 29, at 1 pm. Batzdorff and several others will speak on the collection and the saint. The event is free and open to the public.



Edith Stein,
St. Teresa Benedicta
of the Cross

DOUG ADAMS GALLERY: NOTABLE EVENTS

Wednesday, September 11th

Birds of Longing: Exile and Memory, featuring the work of Laurie Wohl

5:00-7:00pm

Opening Reception including refreshments, dance performance and live music at the Pacific School of Religion

1798 Scenic Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94709



Tree of Light, Laurie Wohl.

Mixed Media, 2012

For more
fall programming,
please visit care-gtu.org

RICHARD COHEN,
PROFESSOR OF
PHILOSOPHY, ACTING
GORDON AND
GRETCHEN GROSS
PROFESSOR OF JEWISH
STUDIES, AND
DIRECTOR OF THE
INSTITUTE OF JEWISH
THOUGHT AND
HERITAGE, AT THE
UNIVERSITY AT
BUFFALO, AND
DIRECTOR OF THE
LEVINAS CENTER WILL
GIVE A TALK.

**"WHAT CAN
LEVINAS TEACH US
ABOUT RELIGION?"**
ON TUESDAY,
**SEPTEMBER 3 AT
1PM.** CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES, 2ND
FLOOR, HEDCO ROOM,
2465 LE CONTE AVE,
BERKELEY, CA

ORIENTATION TO DOCTORAL COUNCIL

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO PROPOSE YOUR DISSERTATION IN 2013-2014 YOU ARE STRONGLY TO ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS EVENT, LED BY DEAN ARTHUR HOLDER AND STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER CORINNA GUERRERO, WITH GUEST APPEARANCES BY OTHERS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THIS PROCESS. SEPTEMBER 4, 10AM - NOON, DINNER BOARD ROOM, GTU LIBRARY. WE WILL HOLD AN ADDITIONAL SESSION IN EARLY SPRING. CONTACT KATHLEEN KOOK, KKOOK@GTU.EDU WITH QUESTIONS.

THE GTU MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAM WILL BE OFFERED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 4:45 P.M. IN THE DINNER BOARD ROOM IN THE GTU LIBRARY. THE EXAM WILL BE OFFERED IN FRENCH, GERMAN, AND SPANISH, AND IN ITALIAN AND MODERN HEBREW IF THERE IS INTEREST. STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT GLORIA MOTLEY, GTU ACADEMIC SECRETARY, WELL IN ADVANCE IF THEY WISH TO BE EXAMINED IN AN ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE; IN THESE CASES, WE WILL NEED TO STUDENT'S HELP TO SECURE THE EXAMINER. PLEASE REGISTER WITH FREDONIA THOMPSON, GTU RECEPTIONIST AND OFFICE MANAGER (649-2400; FTHOMPSON@GTULEU) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 11, 2013.



CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<p>Tuesday, September 3 1:00pm-2:00pm</p>	<p>Thursday, October 10 5:30-9pm</p>	<p>Wednesday, October 16 7pm</p>
<p>Lecture with Levinas Scholar Richard Cohen "What Can Levinas Teach us about Religion?" CJS, Hedco Room, 1st Floor 2465 Le Conte Ave, Berkeley Lecture preceded by a welcome lunch for CJS students from 12:30-1pm</p>	<p>The Aesthetics of Prayer Madrasa-Midrasha Easton Hall, 2401 Ridge Rd, Berkeley, CA Co-sponsored with the Center for Islamic Studies at the GTU.</p>	<p>The Two-Sided Story Speaker Parents Circle-Family Forum Congregation Beth El 1301 Oxford St., Berkeley Co-Sponsored with Congregation Beth El of Berkeley</p>

CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVANCE AT THE GTU 9/16



The GTU and the member schools invite all interested persons to an educational program

in commemoration of the signing of the United States Constitution on September 1787. Randi Wren (GTU MA student in Jewish Studies) will speak on the topic of her research: *The Founding Fathers and the Constitution: United by Belief in the Tenets of the Bible* at **1pm-2pm on Monday, September 16 in the GTU Student Lounge** (1st

floor, 2465 LeConte Avenue). Do you know why John Adams said, "Without religion this world would be something not fit to be mentioned in polite society, I mean Hell"? Do you know which biblical verse is inscribed on the Liberty Bell? Come and find out! Light refreshments will be served.

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION: UPCOMING EVENTS

WELCOME RECEPTION
Wednesday, September 25th
5:30-6:30 pm
In the Dinner Boardroom at the GTU
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley
Come, have some food and meet faculty & students that are interested in Womens Studies. This is a family friendly event, the more the merrier!

WSR is co-sponsoring the CLGS Fourth Annual Georgia Harkness Lecture with Daisy Machado Tuesday, October 8 2013. 5:30pm Reception, 6:30pm Lecture, Pacific School of Religion Bade Museum featuring Professor Daisy Machado of Union Theological Seminary. (2 Units)

October 9th 11:30-12:30, WSR hosts a Panel on Preparing an Academic Conference Proposal with Dr. Flora Keshgegian; Dr. Jennifer Davidson & Dr. Barbara Green. Brown Bag Lunch in the Dinner Boardroom. (1 unit)

Women's Studies in Religion 3rd Annual Student Conference on Women and Religion on March 7th of 2014. Call for Papers open ONLY to GTU students in ANY program. Due November 1st 2012: Email a Proposal (maximum 1000 words), Outline, and Bibliography to wsrConference@ses.gtu.edu. Late proposals will not be considered.

APPLYING TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS? A WORKSHOP ON WRITING THE ACADEMIC STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Join GTU Dean Arthur Holder and faculty panelists Eugene Eung-Chun Park and Lisa Fullam in a discussion of the academic statement of purpose, the essence of the application for admission to a doctoral program. The panel will provide key suggestions for crafting this important “little” document. Tuesday,

October 1st, 12:30-2:00pm in the Dinner Boardroom (GTU Hewlett Library, 3rd floor). For more information or to reserve your spot, contact the GTU Admissions Office, gtuadm@gtu.edu, (510) 649-2460.

Doctoral Student Forum

The Student Advisory Committee is hosting a Doctoral Student Forum with President Riess Potterveld, Dean Arthur Holder, Dean of Students Kathleen Kook, and Faculty Representative to the GTU Board of Trustees, LeAnn Snow Flesher. Please join us in this time for questions and answers about the consortium and your doctoral program concerns. And take this great opportunity to get to know President Potterveld. **Tuesday, September 10, 5pm-7pm** in the Dinner Board Room of the GTU Library.

Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2012-2013

Congratulations to Mary Cheng, SPRT, writing the dissertation “Communal Hymn Singing and Spiritual Transformation in Early Methodist Spirituality: A View from Neuroscience and Cognitive Linguistics”

GTU STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT CYCLE #1 DEADLINE: SEPT 16, 2013



Mark your calendar! The first cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is **Monday, September 16, 2013 at 5pm** in the GTU

Dean’s Office. GTU doctoral students who are presenting papers at the AAR and SBL Annual Meetings along with other comparable national conferences and meetings before January 31, 2014 are eligible to apply for the first cycle. Additionally, the **GTU Student Travel Grant Application form must accompany supporting materials** (proof of acceptance to conferences and paper précis). It is available

through the GTU Dean’s Office and the GTU webpage.

For more information, please consult the 2013 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 77), call the GTU Dean’s Office (649.2440), or email amunoz@gtu.edu.

Thesis/Dissertation Filing Deadline for Fall Graduation

October 1, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. is the deadline to file completed and approved copies of theses and dissertations or certification of oral examinations forms for MABL candidates for GTU approval of degree on October 17, 2013. This is also the deadline for certificate requests for CJS and CIS certificate students.

NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2013

Newhall Awards are competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with GTU Core Doctoral Faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students and the mission of the GTU. Awards are given for fall, spring, or both semesters, but the application process takes place only in the fall (in order to

give faculty and students time to submit courses for next year’s Course Schedule). The Newhall Award Application form available on the GTU webpage. (Go to “Students” and scroll down to the “Professional Development” section to find the link.) The form contains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. Complete applications are due in

the GTU Dean’s Office by **5pm Friday, November 8**; these must come from the student and the professor for a project involving both. Award amounts depend on the number of appointments made, but are generally at least \$3000 per semester.



HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

Julia Sauter, JST
Nicole Steinmetz Nelson, JST
Sukgi Choi, SFTS
Sarah Heddon, GTU/CIS
Farah El-Sharif, GTU/CIS
Cristoffr Alixx Ortiz, PSR
Trent Thornley, IBS
Ryan Thornton, FST*
*Approved with Honors

PHD STUDENTS

General Comprehensives Passed

Luke Devine, SPRT
Matthew Boswell, THEO
Cathy Hampton, THEO
Christopher Hansen, THEO
Dae Kyung Jung, THEO
Kyungrae Kim, THEO
Amanda Kaminski, THEO
Peter Turman, THEO
Ivan Vuksanovic, THEO
Hun Cho Yu, THEO

Comprehensive Proposal Approved:

Lawrence Fraher, ART
Patricia McKee, ART
Joseph Conley, THEO
Austin Leininger, THEO

Oral Comps Passed:

Daniel London, SPRT
Hamza Hanson, CHSR*
Richetta Amen, BIBL
*Passed with Distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Beringia Zen, SPRT
Kyle Butler, THEO
Wandahilin Kharlukhi, THEO
Elizabeth Ritter Conn, THEO
Izak Yohan Matriks Lattu, IDS
Mee-Yin Mary Yuen, IDS

Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended:

Thao Nguyen, IDS
Amy Genevive Dibley, NER
Kayko Driedger Hesslein, THEO

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.

**Have pressing
questions for our new
President, Riess
Potterveld? Ask them
on Facebook, or use the
hashtag #AskRiess on
Twitter to get answers
straight from the
Acting President's
mouth.**

fb.me/GraduateTheologicalUnion

fb.me/Center4JewishStudiesatGTU

facebook.com/groups/GraduateTheologicalUnion



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