

# GTU Dean's Newsletter



# 2020

I'd like to open by wishing everyone a happy, healthy new year! I can't believe 2020 is here. It was approximately fifteen years ago when I sketched a long-term plan for my family. We called it "The 2020 Vision for the Kim Family," an exercise in aspiration and imagination. My wife and I tried to project what we would be doing and what we would have accomplished by then. In short, I was pleased to see that we got about half of our

predictions right, reminding me once again the validity of a proverb: "The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps" (Proverbs 16:9; NRSV). I know this proverb can be interpreted to mean that God has the final say in all matters, but I think it can also mean that our lives are constructed in collaboration between our energy and effort and God's wisdom and will. As we enter a new decade, I am tempted to draw up another long-term plan, trusting that God will guide my steps.

In 2020, the GTU will continue its work on strategic planning and will most likely produce a document that will guide us through this decade and beyond. When I started my deanship back in 2017, the GTU was already in the midst of re-imagining its mission for the next fifty years. Under President Daniel Lehmann's leadership, we are prepared to put details to paper that will move the GTU down a dynamic, sustainable path and allow us to continue what we do best while treading new ground.

Just last week, a group of faculty and I reviewed tens of applications to our PhD program. We could practically *feel* the excitement pulsating from every page. It brought back memories from the time I applied to the GTU program; I'm sure my application was also brimming with hope and passion. In particular, when I read the statement of purpose describing each applicant's plan for their study at the GTU, I couldn't help but smile because I know that what seems so certain to these applicants will most likely change significantly due to inputs from their teachers, courses, and peers.

As we plan for a new semester, a new year, a new decade, let us not forget our partnership with others, especially with the divine. Moreover, let us remember why we were drawn to Holy Hill in the first place.



**Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.**

GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Associate Dean of Students . . . . . 2

**Event:** The 3rd Annual GTU Borsch-Rast Lecture presented by Dr. Virginia Burrus . . . . . 3

Library / Digital Learning Workshops . . . . . 4

CARe Events . . . . . 5

CIS News . . . . . 6

CDS News . . . . . 6

CLGS Events . . . . . 7

Student Travel Grant Call for Applications . . . . . 7

CTNS Events, Dr. Adam Pryor . . . . . 8

WSR & Asia Project Event . . . 9

**Honorable Mentions . . . . . 10**

## From the Associate Dean of Students

### Mid-Year Orientation for First Year Doctoral Students, 2/12

There will be a required mid-year “orientation” for doctoral students who started in the program during fall semester 2019. The orientation will be **Wednesday, February 12, from 12:30 to 2:00pm** in the Dinner Board room. A tasty lunch will be provided!

### Modern Foreign Language Examination, 2/26

The next Modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, February 26, from 1:00PM to 4:45PM in the Dinner Board Room. **Register by February 12** with GTU Academic Programs Coordinator Fredonia Thompson at: [ftompson@gtu.edu](mailto:ftompson@gtu.edu).

### 2020 CALL FOR PAPERS , 3/1

The **Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology** (BJRT) is the peer-reviewed journal of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley. The mission of the BJRT is to be an international and diverse forum of original, cutting-edge scholarship in religious studies, philosophy, and theology that reflects the GTU’s endeavor to be a nexus for “where religion meets the world.”

To this end, the editors of the BJRT invite scholars from various backgrounds and institutions to submit articles and book reviews for inclusion into the journal. The BJRT strongly encourages creative scholarship from different religious and theological traditions and methods that reflects the mission of the BJRT. The deadline for submissions for the next issue (Vol. 6, no. 1) is: **March 1, 2020**

Instructions for Submissions and Style Guide for authors and reviewers are available on the BJRT website ([bjrt.gtu.edu](http://bjrt.gtu.edu)). For more information, please e-mail the managing editor at: [bjrt@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:bjrt@ses.gtu.edu)

### CALL FOR STAFF at BJRT – Book Review Editor

The **Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology** (BJRT) is the peer-reviewed journal of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley that is managed by GTU doctoral students under the supervision of the GTU consortial faculty. The mission of the BJRT is to be an international and diverse forum of original, cutting edge scholarship in religious studies, philosophy, and theology that reflects the GTU’s endeavor to be a nexus for “where religion meets the world.”

Because the BJRT is managed by GTU doctoral students, we invite current students to join the editorial staff. This is an opportunity to go “behind the scenes” and see how an academic journal operates.

The Book Review Editor is a member of the administrative staff of the BJRT. **This position includes a yearly tuition scholarship or stipend.**

#### Preferred Qualifications:

- Should be a GTU Ph.D. or Th.D. student.
- Should have at least 1 year of experience in academic/journal publishing and administration.

For questions, or to apply, please contact the managing editor at: [bjrt@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:bjrt@ses.gtu.edu).

## The Third Annual Borsch-Rast Lecture

### Virginia Burrus (PhD, 91)

Bishop W. Earl Ledden Professor of Religion, Syracuse University  
 GTU's 2017 Alumna of the Year



### “Ancient Christian Ecopoetics: Cosmologies, Saints, Things”

**March 19, 2020**

6:30 pm

The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library

Richard S. Dinner Board Room | 3rd floor

2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley

*Reception to follow*

Virginia Burrus will present on themes from her award-winning book, “Ancient Christian Ecopoetics: Cosmologies, Saints, Things” at the GTU’s Third Annual Borsch-Rast Book Lecture on Thursday, March 19, 2020. A response will be offered by fellow **GTU alum Douglas Christie** (PhD, '88), Professor and Chair of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

*“Virginia Burrus’s work represents the best of what we have come to expect from GTU graduates: rethinking traditions with a critical eye and a loving heart for the sake of making the world a better place—or, in this case, daring to hope that in the future there will be a world at all.” - Arthur Holder, former GTU Dean*

# Library / Digital Learning – Workshops

All face-to-face workshops will be held in the Collaborative Learning Space (CLS). Online workshops held in Zoom. For the complete list, please visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-workshops>

## Zotero:

Learn to use this free citation management software to organize your research. It integrates with Microsoft Office to create an alphabetized bibliography in your choice of style, including Turabian. Held in the CLS. Bring your laptop!

- ◆ Thursday Feb. 6 at 10am
- ◆ Monday Feb. 10 at 10am
- ◆ Wed. Feb. 12 at 1pm
- ◆ Friday Feb. 14 at 11am
- ◆ Tuesday Feb. 18 at 10am

A recording is available on the workshops page on the library website. If you are at a distance and need Zotero help after watching the tutorial, we can set up a Zoom appointment.

## Grammarly:

Students, faculty, & staff can access the premium features of this software to check grammar, spelling, and plagiarism in your documents and email on your computer or mobile device. For this workshop only, please RSVP to [derickson@gtu.edu](mailto:derickson@gtu.edu)

- ◆ Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 10am in CLS
- ◆ Wed., Feb. 5 at 2pm in Zoom

## Make-up Orientation Sessions:

Did you miss library orientation? Maybe it's been a while since you've done research. Come learn about library resources & Moodle. New students needing a Student ID can get one at this time.

- ◆ Friday Feb. 7th at 12:30pm in the CLS
- ◆ Monday Feb. 10th at 4:00pm in the CLS

**Note:** You don't need a Student ID card to use online library resources, you can login with your Student ID number. Send ID card questions to [idcard@gtu.edu](mailto:idcard@gtu.edu). If you don't have an Student ID number, please talk to your registrar.

## NEW! Otzar HaHochma:

Can you read Hebrew? This new database containing more than 100,000 Judaic books, scanned page after page in their original format. Join Prof. Sam Shonkoff as he shows us how to use this database.

- ◆ Thursday Feb. 13 at 11:30am -12:30pm in CLS

## Doing Library Research from a Distance:

Are you away from the Bay Area, but want to do library research? Learn about options for accessing electronic sources and print near you.

- ◆ Monday Feb. 24 at 10am in Zoom
- ◆ Thursday March 12 at 10am in CLS

## Biblical Exegesis:

Writing an exegesis paper can be a daunting but rewarding process. Learn to use both print and online resources for biblical exegesis available through the GTU library and on the Internet.

- ◆ Thursday Feb. 27 at 10am in CLS
- ◆ Friday Feb. 28 at 11am In Zoom

## Center for the Arts & Religion Events (CARE)

Unless otherwise noted, all CARE events take place in the Doug Adams Gallery, located on the first floor of 2465 LeConte Ave., Berkeley.

### **Brown Bag Lunch with Dr. Kathryn Barush**

\*Thursday, February 6 | 12-1pm (*note, this event is on a different day, Thursday; all other talks in the spring semester will be given on the first Friday of the month.*)

CARE's Brown Bag Lunch Series February talk will be given by Dr. Kathryn Barush, GTU Thomas E. Bertelsen, Jr. Associate Professor of Art History and Religion. Her talk, *Singing is Believing: Pilgrimage and the Senses*, will explore the role of music in translating the pilgrimages of the past into the present. This topic is addressed in Dr. Barush's forthcoming book, "Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience."

### **AFTER/LIFE Opening Reception**

Thursday, February 13th 2020, 5-7pm, Doug Adams Gallery

Please join CARE for the opening of our Spring 2020 exhibition, AFTER/LIFE.

Rituals for dealing with death and remembrance reflect a wide spread of beliefs. AFTER/LIFE presents two such expressions in the contemporary arts community. The lives of artists Ed Aulerich-Sugai and Mark Mitchell, both affected by HIV/AIDS, reverberated in radical acts of love. Aulerich-Sugai succumbed to AIDS-related complications while Mitchell's life was saved by antiretroviral drugs.

Aulerich-Sugai's legacy is lovingly preserved by his surviving former partners who carefully uphold his place in the community's collective memory. His work is represented in AFTER/LIFE by his large-scale paintings series, Figures, created in the final year of his life. The melancholy, almost translucent nudes appear weightless on canvas, suspended between life and death.

Mitchell chose to express love for his community by designing exquisite custom-made burial garments for his friends. Mitchell's creamy, luscious, fluid garments are suspended from the gallery ceiling. Using antique sewing techniques with obsessive details, Mitchell fashioned dresses and gowns to adorn his friends in their afterlives.

AFTER/LIFE runs from Thursday, February 13, 2020 (the 26th anniversary of Aulerich-Sugai's death) through June 11, 2020. It overlaps with Pride Month (June) and precedes the 23rd International AIDS conference, [AIDS2020](#), which will take place in Oakland and San Francisco in July 2020. This conference marks the 30th anniversary of the development of life-saving antiretroviral.

### **Third Thursdays at BAMPFA**

Thursday, February 20th 2020, 4:30-5:30pm, BAMPFA, 2155 Center Street Berkeley, CA 94704

Every Third Thursday of the month, gather in the lobby of the Berkeley Art Museum and Film Archive to receive complimentary museum admission and to hear a short talk on a current exhibition or piece of art by GTU faculty, students, and friends.

February's talk is given by Rev. Monica Joy Cross (Pacific School of Religion), Pastor at First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, and a Transgender Activist, Educator and Writer. Rev. Cross will be responding to Edie Fake's "Affordable Housing for Trans Elders", the latest piece to be commissioned for the BAMPFA Art Wall.

Presented as a building façade, Fake's mural visualizes a structure full of surprises. Window frames veer off in new directions and dead-end or interlock with others; decorative strips add vibrant accents in seemingly ad hoc ways; and doors are adorned with striking patterns that capture one's gaze even as they remain closed. Drawing on the idiosyncratic character of vernacular and repurposed buildings, Fake employs architecture as an imaginative site for celebrating the uniqueness of transgender bodies and the lives of gender-nonconforming people.

*GTU students, staff, faculty, and friends are all warmly welcome!*



## Center for Islamic Studies (CIS)

CIS is pleased and honored to share that it was one of the co-sponsors of the 2020 King and Faith Lectures, Interreligious Symposium, Interfaith Evensong, King and Faith Public Forum, and the Howard Thurman Homily, on the theme of “The Time for Justice.” The events were led by **Aaron Grizzell**, Executive Director of the NorCal MLK Jr Community Foundation's Executive Director and GTU PhD Candidate, and **Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake**, Senior Minister of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples and faculty at PSR. Congratulations to **Dr. Munir Jiwa**, **Mahjabeen Dhala** and **Sundiata Al Rashid** for their leadership and participation. More information and recordings can be found at:

<https://king-and-faith-lectures.odoo.com/king-faith-2020>

CIS Research Scholar, **Carol Bier**, will be joining specialists in textile technologies to visit centers of production in India in February and March, where they will examine significant historical collections in museums in Delhi, Jaipur, Varanasi and Ahmedabad. They will meet with Rahul Jain, world-renown for establishing looms attempting to reconstruct Mughal technologies for the weaving of compound silks, including velvet. Congratulations Carol!

CIS will be hosting a series of events during **Black History Month** and beyond. Please visit our GTU webpage for more information at: <https://www.gtu.edu/centers/cis>

## Center for Dharma Studies (CDS)

### Congratulations to the following CDS Students for their recent accomplishments!

#### Laura M. Dunn

- ◆ Awarded CARE grant
- ◆ Awarded GTU Student Travel Grant to present her paper, “Reenchanting the Body: Asceticism of Transnational Ashtanga Yoga,” at the annual meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA, on November 23, 2019
- ◆ Introduction to World Religions at the Windward Community College at the University of Hawaii— teaching two sections
- ◆ Research trip to Ganeshpuri, India in January 2020
- ◆ Steering committee chair for the AAR exploratory unit “Critical Studies in Asceticism”

#### Parameshwaran Ramakrishnan

- ◆ Awarded a Newhall Fellowship to teach Spring 2020 course, “Contemplative Studies Overview: Interreligious Models for Scriptural Interpretation with Theories and Applications from Clinical Chaplaincy.” Instructors: Dr. P. Ramakrishnan MD, Prof. RD Sherma PhD.
- ◆ Congratulations for his new position as a Spiritual Care Provider at the University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle.

#### Pravina Rodrigues

- ◆ Awarded GTU Student Travel Grant to present her paper, “The Semiotics of Sefirot and Śrīcakra: A Reflection on Sacred Geometry” at the 17th Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM) Conference, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA, on November 22, 2019.
- ◆ Congratulations to Pravina Rodrigues on her new position as Assistant Editor to the *Journal of Dharma Studies*.

## The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

### Upcoming Events

**Extended through 5 March 2020:** “Standing on Holy Ground: Metropolitan Community Churches and LGBTQ-Affirming Religion: A CLGS Exhibition at the GTU Library.”

**25 February 2020 (12:10 to 1:15pm):** CLGS Lavender Lunch with Methodist Bishop Roy Sano: “Better Things for Shattered United Methodists.” D’Autremont Dining Hall, Pacific School of Religion

**10 March 2020 (12:10 to 1:15pm):** CLGS Lavender Lunch with CDSP Alum Rev. Carla Roland Guzmán: “Latinx and LGBTQ: Challenges to Belonging in Mainline Churches.” D’Autremont Dining Hall, Pacific School of Religion

**7 April 2020 (12:10 to 1:15pm):** CLGS Lavender Lunch with Dev Cuny: “Born Perfect: The Campaign to End Gay Conversion Therapy.” D’Autremont Dining Hall, Pacific School of Religion

**23 April 2020 (6:30pm):** CLGS Boswell Lecture with Professor Jay Johnson: “Enfleshing Eros, Healing Earth: A Queerly Christian Performance of Ecological Renewal in Three Acts.” PSR Chapel.

### Student Travel Grants, Cycle #2

We are now acceptng applications for Cycle #2 Student Travel Grants for meetings occurring between February 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020.

Online applications are due by **Monday, February 17, 2020!**

For more information, and the online form, see:

[www.gtu.edu/student-travel-grants](http://www.gtu.edu/student-travel-grants)



GTU Student Travel Grant award winner **Keng Fan Chan, REPR**, shown on the left, presented her paper, “Spiritual Oasis: Home Altar as a Liminal Space For Filipino migrant Workers in Macau,” at the 9th Biennial Conference of the Ecclesia of Women in Asiaon, Selangor, Malaysia, on January 15, 2020. *Congratulations Marinda, and to all our student award winners!* To see a list of past recipients, go to: <https://www.gtu.edu/student-travel-grants>

# The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS)

**The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Presents  
2019-2020 Annual Russell Family Research Fellowship in Religion and Science  
Adam Pryor, Assistant Professor of Religion, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas**

## **Playful Encounters of the Third Kind: How Science and Religion Dialog Intersects with Interfaith Advocacy**

**Fellowship Forum with Adam Pryor**

**Thursday, March 5, 2020, 7pm**

Richard S. Dinner Board Room  
Graduate Theological Union, The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library  
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California, USA

This event is free and open to the public.



## **What if We're not Alone: Considering the Significance of Non-Intelligent Alien Life for Constructive Christian Theology**

**Annual Russell Family Research Conference with 2019-2020 Fellow, Adam Pryor**

**Respondents: TBA**

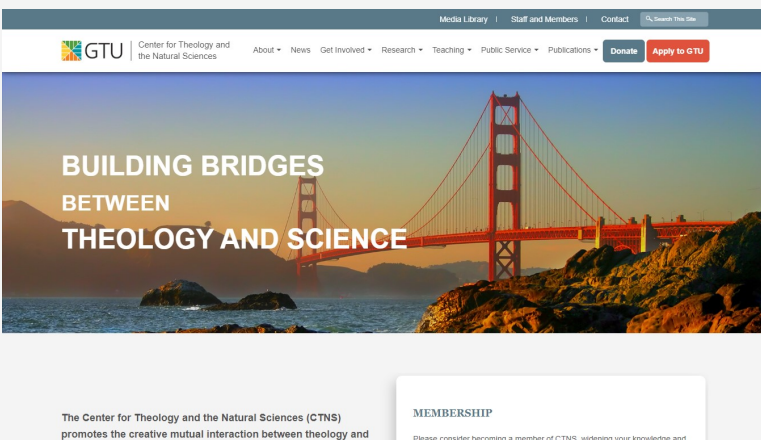
**Saturday, March 7, 2020, 1pm**

Richard S. Dinner Board Room  
Graduate Theological Union, The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library  
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California, USA

Registration required. (Lunch is not provided).

For more information or to register please contact Melissa Moritz, [mmoritz@gtu.edu](mailto:mmoritz@gtu.edu).

## **CTNS Announces a New Website**



CTNS is pleased to announce the launch of a new website, [www.ctns.org](http://www.ctns.org), in late November 2019. CTNS worked with San Francisco Bay Area website design and development company, T324, Inc., to design a new site with a fresh look, and easier access to all the great online content CTNS has to offer. The new site was intentionally designed to highlight CTNS's connection to the Graduate Theological Union, and has been streamlined to make for easier navigation. The look has been revamped, including structure, font, images and much more. The redesign was supported in part by a gift from the John Templeton Foundation Members Donation Fund.



# INTERCONNECTING BOUNDARIES: Women, Democracy, and Religion

**Friday, March 20, 2020  
8:30am - 3:00pm  
Dinner Board Room, GTU Library**

## Call For Papers

This graduate student conference invites paper proposals that focus on the theme: "Interconnecting Boundaries: Women, Democracy, and Religion." How is religion connected to democracy? What is the role of women in democracy and religion? How can we form connections across the boundaries between gender, democracy, and religion? How does gender affect democracy and religion, and vice versa? What questions are raised, refocused, or answered in the intersectionalities of women/gender, democracy, and religion? How can colonialism in the Asian context be addressed in regard to democracy and religion? This graduate student conference is open to students at all stages of degree programs at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU). Students attending GTU member schools, institutes, and centers are welcome to submit proposals.

Please submit a paper proposal that includes your name, school, degree program, paper title and an abstract (300-500 words) of your paper which includes your thesis, method, and the general shape of your argument. Proposals with any focus on Women and Gender Studies or Asian theology from any of the GTU departments will also be considered. Please use 12-point, Times New Roman, Calibri or Arial font, double-space your proposal, and follow the Turabian style manual. All proposals must be submitted to [asia-project@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:asia-project@ses.gtu.edu) and [wrs@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:wrs@ses.gtu.edu) no later than February 14, 2020. The committee will contact you on February 20 to notify you of its decision.

## Submission Guidelines

**GTU ASIA PROJECT & WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION JOINT STUDENT CONFERENCE**

Please direct any questions to Marinda Chan at [asia-project@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:asia-project@ses.gtu.edu) or Sheryl Johnson at [wrs@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:wrs@ses.gtu.edu).

# Honorable Mentions

## MA/MABL

Joseph Schuman, IBS

## Oral Comprehensive Passed

Phillbert Cheng, THET

Beena P. Kallely, THET, Distinction

Myoung-Ho Sin, THET, Distinction



Graduate  
Theological  
Union

### **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:  
Melissa Haddick, Executive Assistant to the Dean's Office,  
[mhaddick@gtu.edu](mailto:mhaddick@gtu.edu)

### **GTU Office of the Dean**

2400 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
[www.gtu.edu](http://www.gtu.edu)

Phone: 510-649-2442