

GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN



The van driver was telling me how the duel of words between Kim Jong-Un and Donald Trump was hurting his business. I was the sole passenger of a 10-seat van that shuttles passengers between the Incheon International Airport and the hotels in Seoul. He said his van would be full on most runs. The driver had his theory on the “real” reasons behind the ongoing crisis but ultimately resorted to the old saying Koreans often like use to conclude his analysis: Korea is like a shrimp that gets crushed to death in the fight between whales (read: China, USA, Japan, and Russia). I get the point, but South Korea is no shrimp. It has the twelfth largest economy in the world. It’s insufficient to understand South Korea as a hapless victim of the geopolitical reality just as it’s inaccurate to imagine South Korea as a poor country of the TV show M*A*S*H from the 1970’s. Yes, South Korea is still not as wealthy as the United States, but it is certainly not as poor as many Americans who never visited Korea think. And please do not ask international Korean students whether they are from North or South Korea. You are revealing your ignorance. Go with South Korea if you are actually curious. You will have a 99% chance of getting it right.

We deeply care about accuracy and truthfulness whenever we make a statement and invest an enormous amount of time, energy, and thinking in order to articulate clearly and judiciously a small slice of truth and reality (see above; I should’ve stopped after the sentence ending with “the 1970’s”). But there are people who relish in speaking their mind or making their point in 140 characters, and many of them are very effective in communicating their idea in this way. We are not very good at expressing our research or thinking in shorter units of text, time and space. One of the issues that comes up over and over again in the Doctoral Council is the fact that students have a difficult time clearly stating their thesis in one or two sentences. A good number of students and faculty from the GTU will present their papers at the AAR/SBL annual meetings in Boston later this month. Why is that so many presenters have such a difficult time presenting their papers in twenty minutes? We have much to learn from the Twitter users. We cannot give up our commitment to truth but need to learn how to communicate more effectively than in the past by using technology our teachers never imagined.



Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.
 GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



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The 42nd Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture

When Jesus Spoke Yiddish: Translating the New Testament for Jews

Naomi Seidman is the Koret Professor of Jewish Culture at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union. Her Lecture explores the linguistic strategies used by missionary translators between 1540 and 1940. During this period, translators abandoned Luther and moved toward a more ‘Jewish’ Yiddish that could express their conceptions of Jesus’ Jewishness.

Response by **Margaret R. Miles** (Professor Emerita of Historical Theology, GTU).

Tuesday, November 7th 2017 | 7pm

Pacific School of Religion | Chapel of the Great Commission

1798 Scenic Avenue (at Le Conte) | Berkeley, CA 94709

*Public reception immediately following lecture in the Badè Museum,
Pacific School of Religion*

GTU Alumni Reception at AAR-SBL

Event Date: Saturday, November 18th 2017, 8:00pm

The **GTU Alumni Reception** during the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature in Boston will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the America Ballroom Center at the Westin Copley Place. Our 2017 Alumna of the Year, Dr. Virginia Burrus, will be honored. All GTU alumni and friends are invited.



CARe Events

Seeds of Contemplation: Works by Arturo Araujo, will be on view through December 8, 2017

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10am-3pm



Brown Bag Lunch Series: Colette Walker

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Friday, November 3, 12-1pm. Bring your sack lunch!

Guest speaker: Colette Walker (PhD Candidate in Art & Religion)



Colette (Spring 2017 CARE/GTU Grant Recipient) will present on her summer 2017 trip to India. Walker conducted research on the artistic, religious, and educational activities of Rabindranath Tagore, one of three case study figures whose work she examines in her dissertation. Brown Bag Lunch Series are informal presentations by GTU students, faculty, and staff hosted the First Friday of each month from 12-1pm in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery. Everyone is welcome!

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA with Dr. Devin Zuber

The UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive
2155 Center Street
Berkeley, CA 94720

Thursday, November 16, 4:30pm

Dr. Zuber will speak on "Study for Invisible Man" 1995-1996 by Tim Rollins & KOS. This work is displayed in the current BAMPFA exhibition, "To the Letter: Regarding the Written Word". Receive a complimentary ticket the third Thursday of each month to visit the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive and hear a short talk by a GTU faculty member about an artwork on display. A CARE staff member will meet you in the lobby to check in and receive your visitor's pass.



Yoga in the Gallery

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Wednesday, November 15, 12-12:45pm

Open to all levels.

Looking for a break during your work week? We offer a 45-minute yoga class in the gallery the third Wednesday of each month. Come in your work clothes to stretch, meditate, and prepare yourself for the second half of the work-day. Don't worry! Mats are provided. Hosted by Lily Manderville (RYT-200 and CARE Programs Manager)

GTU Writing Group

Mondays from 8:30am-1:30pm in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery. Laptops, phones, and refreshments are welcome!

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery is located at 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

CIS is delighted to announce that our visiting scholar, Dr. Nargis Virani, Chair of the AAR Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, has organized a plenary session at the AAR in collaboration with all the AAR standing committees. The plenary is titled, ***Recolonizing the Academy Under a Trump Presidency***, and CIS Director, Munir Jiwa will serve as the moderator and discussant. Sunday, November 19, 5-6:30pm.

Carol Bier, Historian of Islamic Art and CIS Research Scholar, will be making a presentation based on her recent study trip to Uzbekistan, ***Knowledge & Diversity: Historical Crafts and Technologies in Uzbekistan Today***. Wednesday, November 29, 1-3pm, GTU library board room.

Congratulations to Carol Bier who is serving as guest editor for a special issue of the *Journal of Mathematics and the Arts* (Taylor & Francis, London), on “Math and Art: Honoring the Memory of Reza Sarhangi (1952-2016), with a particular focus on Persian art and architecture.

CIS is proud to acknowledge the leadership of our students and graduates, who will continue to host conversations and an artists’ forum, based on the current CIS 10th anniversary exhibition, ***Knowledge & Diversity***, showcased in the GTU library. Please see www.gtu.edu/cis for announcement details or contact CIS program coordinator Mahjabeen Dhala: mdhala@gtu.edu

Fall 2017 Travel Grant Recipients

The following GTU doctoral students will be presenting at the **2017 AAR/SBL Conferences in Boston, MA** and other comparable national conferences (listed in that order). Each has received a **Student Travel Grant Award** from the GTU Dean’s Office. Congratulations to these students!

Tripp Hudgins

Kate LeFranc

Rondall Reynoso

Yohana Junker

Rafael Okitafumba

Laura Jean Torgeson

Lai Shan Yip

Hyun Ho Peter Park

Min Um

Levi Checketts

Jennifer Owens-Jofré

Joshua Warfield

Henry Kuo

Stephan Quarles

2017 Chan Prize Recipient: Laura Dunn

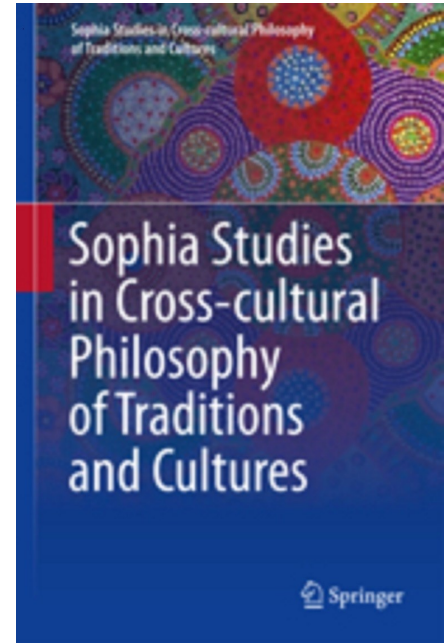
Congratulations to **Laura Dunn**, who was awarded the **Chan Prize** for 2017. Laura is a second year GTU Ph.D. student, in Historical and Cultural Studies, in the Hindu Studies concentration, offered through the Center for Dharma Studies. Her essay is entitled: “Death and Salvation in the Iconographics of the Crucifixion and Chinnamasta: A Comparative of Self-Sacrificial Motifs in Śākta-Tantra and Kenotic Christology.”

Since 1989, 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 year’s topic. This year, students were able to submit papers on the topic: **Identity and Practice Across Boundaries**: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions.



Center for Dharma Studies News

The Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies at the GTU is proud to announce its two Journals and its Book Series, all through Spring Publishing, and welcomes submissions. The first journal, *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*, for which the Center's **Dr. Purushottama Bilimoria** is the Editor-in-Chief, provides a forum for inquiry at the interstices of philosophy, metaphysics and religion, and philosophical theology. The scope extends to the wider ambience of natural and human/social sciences, ethical and moral concerns in the public sphere, critical feminist theology, and cross-cultural perspectives. The second is the *Journal of Dharma Studies: Philosophy, Theology, Ethics and Culture*, for which the Center's **Dr. Rita Sherma and Dr. Bilimoria** are the Editors-in-Chief, provides an interdisciplinary forum for fostering inquiry in Dharma traditions (Hindu, Jain, Buddhist) within the broader context of globalization of people and ideas. The Book Series is entitled *Sophia Studies in Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures* and focuses on the broader aspects of philosophy and traditional intellectual patterns of religion and cultures, encompassing global traditions and critical treatments that draw from cognate disciplines, inclusive of feminist, postmodern, and postcolonial approaches.



Women's Studies in Religion Events

Raising Our Voices in a Turbulent Time

A panel and discussion including Leslie Bowling-Dyer (Doctoral Student, GTU), Dr. Sharon R. Fennema (PSR), Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble (ABSW), Jennifer Owens-Jofré (Doctoral Candidate, GTU), and Dr. Rita D. Sherma (CDS, GTU). Reception to follow!

Thursday, November 2, 2017 @ 7 PM | Dinner Board Room | Flora Lamson Hewitt Library

Monthly Interfaith Meditation and Discussion Group

Now in its second year at the GTU!

This group meets to build friendship, understanding, and appreciation between students of all religious and wisdom traditions. Our focus is on shared values of love, kindness, friendliness, and compassion.

Participants are guided in an interfaith kindness and compassion meditation (derived from the Buddhist traditions), for the purpose of personal exploration. Afterwards, facilitated discussion offers opportunities to talk and learn about how we draw on kindness, compassion, peace, joy, and forgiveness in our spiritual lives.

Our remaining meetings are 1:00pm-1:55pm Tuesdays on the GTU Campus in Berkeley:

November 7, in the Board Dinner room of the GTU library (2400 Ridge road, 2nd floor)

December 5, in the Board Dinner room



Professional Development Program Events

Effective Presentations at Professional Conferences—Dry Runs, with Ruth Meyers, Scott Mitchell, and Julian Gonzalez.

November 7th | 11 am | Student Lounge

Careers in Libraries, with Clay-Edward Dixon, Naw San Dee KD, and Beth Kumar.

November 14th | 11 am | Student Lounge

Call for Papers:

Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology

The **Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology** (BJRT) the academic journal of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley that is managed by GTU doctoral students under the supervision of the GTU's Academic Dean. 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 to submit articles and book reviews for inclusion into the journal. The BJRT strongly encourages creative scholarship that reflects the mission of the BJRT. The deadline for all submissions for the next regular issue (Vol. 4, no. 1) is **FEBRUARY 1, 2018**. This is an excellent opportunity for students working on their RRR papers!

Instructions for Submissions and Style Guide for authors and book reviewers are available on the BJRT website (<http://gtu-bjrt.wix.com/bjrt>). For more information, please e-mail the managing editor at bjrt@ses.gtu.edu. The BJRT is also looking for more peer reviewers to join the peer-review board. Additionally, Volume 3, No. 1 will be released later this calendar year!

Library News and Workshops

NEWS

New SUMMON Search!

Would you like to use your research time more efficiently? Try the new Summon Search. Instead of searching all 90+ databases separately, we now have a combined search for GRACE (the library catalog), all the databases, our Lib-Guides, and open access resources together. Available from our library homepage (gtu.edu/library), Summon is built to save time. You can narrow to online-only if you aren't near the library, or limit to peer-reviewed articles if your professor requires them. Once you find full-text items you want, you can log in using your last name and student ID number (or library barcode number) and read e-books and journal articles, or visit the library to pick up a book.

Reserve Study Rooms!

Are you working on group projects? Did you know the library has two reserveable study rooms? We have two, the smaller one seats 4-6 and the other seats 8-10 both rooms have whiteboards. You can reserve a room up to a week in advance at the circulation desk in person or by calling 510-649-2500.

Comprehensive and Language Exam Resources!

Did you know the library keeps copies of the comprehensive exams and the language exams? We do! They are in the reference section, and available for you to copy and practice. If you need help finding these or anything else, please let us know, we are happy to help.

WORKSHOPS

***Group Writing with Wikis* NEW!**

Wikis have become a popular way of working collaboratively in a quick way. Moodle's built-in wiki module can provide a great way to get students to work in groups to draft documents and workshop ideas.

Monday, November 6

Collaborative Learning with Discussion Forums

This workshop introduces participants to using group and class discussions in residential and online courses. Defining and assessing successful discussions group-writing projects will be the primary focus, including using Moodle's Forum module.

Monday, November 27

Friday, December 1

Doctoral students who take "Developing Student Learning Outcomes and UDL" plus four additional workshops and submit a Teaching Philosophy to Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero qualify for a letter of completion. The "Creating Effective Presentations" workshop from the Library qualifies as an additional workshop.

New College Berkeley Celebrates 40 Years

All of us in the wider **New College Berkeley** community are so grateful for all the support and participation in the celebration of the ministry's 40th anniversary on September 30th. We were blessed with an outpouring of enthusiasm from the more than 200 people who celebrated with us and generously gave to the support of the ministry!

President of the GTU Riess Potterveld opened the evening with a moving opening prayer. Then President of Fuller Theological Seminary, Mark Labberton spoke words of affirmation and challenge to us, noting how this ministry inspires both individual growth in faith through attention to God's movement in our own lives, and also offers a community in which we engage our faith with intelligence and commitment to being God's people in the world.

At the celebration Executive Director Susan Phillips shared that the number 40 is significant in the texts of most world religions, including our own. Some say it simply means large and approximate, like "umpteen." Others say it signifies transformation, as with the 40 years of the Hebrew people's exile, the penitential 40 days of Lent, or the 40 days of recovery from addiction. For us at NCB, the number signals gratitude and hope—gratitude for these first 40 years, and hope for what God we be doing in the next decades. **We are grateful for the GTU** for being an invaluable companion with us in this ministry and discipleship journey.

Fall Deadlines and Mid-Year Orientation

Intent to Graduate Forms

for Spring 2018 graduates are due on Wednesday, January 17 to the GTU Dean's Office for MAs, and for PhD/ThDs, submit to the GTU Office Manager Amberly Vincent. Forms are available on the web site at <https://www.gtu.edu/students/gtu-commencement>

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, 2017. The orientation will be Wednesday, January 24, 2018 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Dinner Board room. A tasty lunch will be provided!

January Biblical Hebrew and Greek Exams

Register for the Biblical Hebrew and Greek language exams by December 15. Contact Fredonia Thompson, Academic Secretary, ftompson@gtu.edu. The Biblical Hebrew and Greek exams will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 9-10, 2018, respectively, from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day.

Honorable Mentions

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Loretta E. Johnson, THEO
 Laura Jean Torgerson, IDS
 Olga Yunak, IDS

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Lai Shan Yip, IDS

Advanced to Candidacy

Zachary Markwith, CHSR
 Suzanne Miller, BIBL
 Ivan Vuksanovic, THEO



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 Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

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