

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DEAN

The pace of our steps has quickened, small talks are getting shorter and snappier, each meal takes about what it takes for someone preparing for a competitive eating contest, and our brains have been working overtime, uncertain of where the energy is coming from – Coffee! Yes, that magical drink that contains all the calories we need and then some. We are making a mad dash toward the finish line – commencement dates are set in stone and deadlines for papers and projects can't be negotiated – the end is near and we are not going to slow down until we come out of the tunnel. We've run this race before. However, it feels different this time around. We all have been burdened with unanticipated assaults on our body, mind, and spirit that required us to respond in one way or another to the actions and rhetoric of the current U.S. administration. Here are five incidents that required emotional labor and increased my stress level over this semester.

Women's March on January 21st in response to the current administration's willingness to compromise women's health, value, and dignity. To see friends and colleagues fly to Washington D.C. to participate in the march was indeed inspirational.

March for Science on April 22nd in protest over politicians and policy makers ignoring or denying the validity of scientific facts in their decisions. One of the signs I saw on the internet said, "I can't believe I'm actually defending facts!"

The GTU came up with its solidarity statement in order to reiterate its resolve to stand with those who are threatened by the new political and cultural climate (<http://gtu.edu/news/gtu-solidarity-statement>). Moreover, the Student Advisory Committee has been working all semester to roll out a welcoming campaign in response to Executive Order 13769 and then Executive Order 13780.

The Council of Deans is working on a statement in response to the proposed budget cuts to national endowments and libraries that certainly will have negative ramifications for education.

Finally, the escalating tension between North Korea and the United States has become a cause of concern and anxiety, especially among South Korean students at GTU. Kim Jung Un's outrageous rhetoric and political maneuvers have been repeatedly played before, by his father before him, and by his grandfather before his father. Nothing is new here.

What's different in this hackneyed drama is our President Trump. He wants to take on the young dictator of an extremely impoverished nation (population: 25 million; income per capita: \$1,800). The so-called Dear Leader couldn't be happier to have President Trump's attention and to be perceived as a worthy opponent of the most powerful nation in the world. North Koreans have nothing to lose; their conditions can't get any worse. Americans have little to lose; the carnage will occur about 7,000 miles from Washington DC. It's South Koreans who have most to lose and will live in fear and anxiety as long as the tension remains. Who cares? We care and, therefore, we carry our emotional and spiritual burden as we walk toward our next task.



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GTU GRADUATES RECEPTION

The GTU's Board of Trustees and Office for Institutional Advancement host a reception for all GTU common MA and Doctoral graduates, faculty, families and guests the night before commencement, **Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** in the St. Mary's Courtyard and Denniston Commons on the CDSP campus. Please contact Chris Cox in the Office for Institutional Advancement at 510-649-2531 or by email at ccox@gtu.edu should you have any questions about the event.

CIS NEWS AND EVENTS

CIS/GTU is pleased to announce our first annual student symposium:

Scholarship, Leadership, Activism: Islamic Studies at the Graduate Theological Union

Please join our students, alums, faculty and visiting scholars for engaging panel discussions highlighting research, study, and teaching in the field of Islamic Studies and professional work beyond.

Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the GTU Library Board Room

Panel Discussions: 9am-5pm

Reception, Artistic Presentations, Keynote Address: 5:30-8:30pm

For more details: <http://gtu.edu/events/first-annual-student-symposium>

Contact: Rania Shah, rshah@gtu.edu



CIS/GTU is delighted to announce our 2016-2017 graduates in Islamic Studies:

MA: Mahjabeen Dhala, May Kosba, Reem Kosba, Rizwan Mawani, Rania Shah, Saad Shaukat,

PhD: Dr. Abdullah Ali, Dr. Ali Ataie, Dr. Hatice Yildiz

Congratulations to all the graduates! We are so proud of your wonderful achievements and we look forward to celebrating with you at graduation.

CIS/GTU would like to acknowledge and express our deepest gratitude to the Henry Luce Foundation for its generous support of our academic and public programs, including support of our students in the **Islam in the Public Sphere Leadership Program.**

Thank you so very much.

CARE NEWS AND EVENTS

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Poetry Reading

May 5, 2017 | 12-1pm

Presented by Michelle Favreault (Starr King) and CARE Arts Enrichment Grant Awardee. Freight and Salvage- Arts Enrichment Grant presentation. Brown Bag Lunch Series: informal presentations by Graduate Theological Union students, faculty, and staff. Located in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery. Bring your sack lunch!

CARE's BBL Series will begin again starting Fall 2017. Stay posted for Fall dates and presentations (hosted the first Friday of each month, 12-1pm).

Yoga in the Gallery

May 17, 2017 | 12-1pm

free | all levels welcome | no experience necessary

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 workday. Don't worry! Mats are provided. Hosted by CARE in the Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley. Yoga in the Gallery will begin again Fall 2017. Stay tuned for dates!

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA

May 18, 2017 | 4:30pm

After gathering in the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive lobby at 4:30pm, we'll hear a short talk about an artwork on display. Then, we can amble around the museum and / or go have a drink in the café! Check in with a Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE) staff member for a complimentary ticket. Presented by **Dr. Rossitza Schroeder** (GTU-CARE and PSR Associate Professor of Art & Religion). Graduate Theological Union students, staff, faculty, and friends are all welcome. BAMPFA is located at 2155 Center Street, between Oxford Street and Shattuck Avenue, in downtown Berkeley, bampfa.berkeley.edu

Sunday Gallery Dialogues

May 21, 2017 | 2-4pm

Join "Reverberating Echoes" curator Carol Bier as she engages in Sunday afternoon discussions with colleagues from the Graduate Theological Union. Presented by, **Dr. Robert Russell**, Director, Center for Theology and Natural Science and Ian Barbour Professor of Theology and Science.



GTU COMMENCEMENT

The GTU Commencement is **May 11 at 4pm** in the PLTS Chapel. A reception follows the ceremony outside the Chapel. Common MA and Doctoral students planning on participating in the GTU Commencement Ceremony should report to Giesy Hall for robing and procession instructions by 3:15pm. Faculty are asked to report to Giesy Hall by 3:30pm. Contact Kathleen Kook, GTU Dean of Students, kkook@gtu.edu, 510-649-2464 for information. Please carpool and ask your guests to carpool. There is a parking lot, AND, it can be a challenge to fit all of our vehicles.



GTU STUDENT TRAVEL
GRANT Cycle #1

DEADLINE: Sept 15, 2017

Mark your calendar! The first cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is **Friday, September 15, 2017 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 from July 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018 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 abstract). It is available through the GTU Dean's Office and the GTU webpage. For more information, please consult the 2016 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 93-94), or email amunoz@gtu.edu.

CHAN PRIZE

COMPETITION DEADLINE:
SEPT. 15, 2017

Students interested in submitting papers for the Fall 2017 Chan Prize Essay contest must do so by **Friday, September 15, 2017 at 5pm** in the GTU Dean's Office. This year's Chan competition 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 two or more religions." For more detail on the criteria of the essay competition, please see the 2016 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 93) —there is no application form.

COURSE DESIGN AND MOODLE WORKSHOPS

Join Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero for two remaining course design workshops this spring in the Collaborative Learning Space (formerly the Teaching Lab). Each workshop occurs on Monday and is repeated on Friday.

Student Assessment with Quizzes

Quizzes are still a popular way of assessing students' progress throughout a course. Quizzes can also provide opportunities to teach students interactively through various types of feedback. This workshop looks at Moodle's Quiz module to design traditional and developmental quizzes.

Monday, May 1, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

Friday, May 5, 10:00 to 11:30 am

Creating Engaging Presentations

Presentations (traditional lectures, PowerPoints, Prezis, interactive media) serve a central role in our courses. In this workshop, participants will look at presentations in both the residential and online environment by creating storyboards to tell your topic's "story."

Monday, May 8, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

Friday, May 12, 10:00 to 11:30 am

If you are unable to attend these or the previous workshops, don't worry! They will be repeated again in the fall semester. If you have a workshop request, please e-mail Kyle at kschiefelbein@gtu.edu

Watch your e-mail for training opportunities this summer. Contact Kyle if you would like any course design assistance or resources.



workshops

INSTITUTE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is happy to announce the return of its annual graduate symposium in the fall of 2017.

**Mass Meditation: Practices and Discourses in
Contemporary Global Buddhisms
October 6th, 2017—Institute of Buddhist Studies
Berkeley, California**

This conference will focus on the phenomenon of mass meditation (e.g., lay meditation practices, mindfulness, secularization) in contemporary global Buddhism. Of particular focus will be the means by which Buddhist meditation is understood and promoted in various contexts. We welcome submissions that consider how meditation has gained an ambivalent relationship to Buddhism—sometimes being promoted as a “spiritual technology” not connected to any particular tradition, sometimes as the condition sine qua non for Buddhist identity and the only practice recommended by the Buddha.

Topics include but are not limited to: the origins and popularization of lay meditation practices in Burma, Thailand and Sri Lanka; the Vipassanā (Insight) and Mindfulness movements in North America, Europe, and Asia; meditation practice and the construction of Buddhist identity or subjectivity; the “mystification” of meditation in promotional literature; the use of scientific language to justify and promote meditation both within and beyond Buddhist contexts.

Dr. Erik Braun, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia and author of *The Birth of Insight* (winner of the 2014 Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism), will serve as the symposium’s keynote speaker.

Graduate students at any stage of their program are encouraged to submit paper proposals. Please send abstracts of no more than 500 words to Thomas Calobrisi (tcalobrisi@ses.gtu.edu). The deadline for submission is July 15, 2017. Applicants will be notified about their submission by August 15, 2017.

Limited travel funds may be available; low-cost housing is available on site at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

SUMMER MODERN LANGUAGE STUDY

GTU summer language study opportunities are an excellent summer activity. These courses focus on developing researching and writing facilities in the language, and provide good preparation for the GTU Modern Foreign Language Exams.

The course ends with an opportunity to take a language proficiency exam with the possibility of certifying for the GTU common MA and doctoral degree program requirements. French, German, and Spanish courses will be offered July 10 through August 4 from 9am to noon. Tuition is \$650, due at the time of registration, payable “instantly” via credit card. GTU-wide consortium students can register on WebAdvisor through the Continuing Education module starting on May 1. For registration questions, contact John Seal, GTU Registrar, jseal@gtu.edu.



MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM

The next modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, May 17, 1:00pm to 4:45pm in the Dinner Board Room.

Register by **May 3** with Wendy Arce, Student Affairs Office Manager, warce@gtu.edu,

510-649-2400.

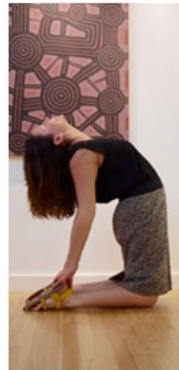
Finals Study Break!

Join us for a little fun and de-stressing in the library.

All sessions are free, open to all, and held in the *Collaborative Learning Space*, Library 2nd floor.

Special Thanks to CARE.

Questions? library@gtu.edu



Monday May 15th

Relax. Join us for a session by registered yoga teacher Lily Manderville (CARE Programs Manager). Comfortable work clothes recommended, yoga mats provided. **12-12:45pm**

Unwind. We will have coloring pages available in the morning and after Yoga.

Be crafty. Bring a project that you've been too busy to work on all semester- be it a knitting project, crocheting, a scrapbook of your favorite librarians, or anything else you are working on.

Tuesday, May 16th 9am-noon



Wednesday May 17th

Sharpen your brain. All day we will have setup tables for Jigsaw Puzzles, crosswords, Sudoku, jumble, and more twists and turns for your brain.

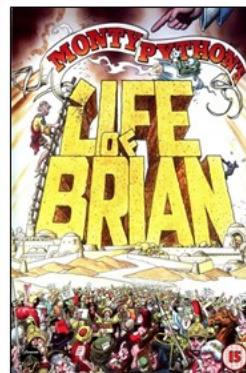
And we will bring out the coloring books again!



Play some games. Bring your own or enjoy some of ours. Most of the games will be fun and simple, and we will be debuting the Luther game for the serious players.



Thursday May 18th 9am-noon



Laugh. *Life of Brian*, a satirical British comedy about Brian-born in neighboring stable and mistaken for the messiah. Absurd, hilarious, and classic Monty Python. Viewer discretion advised.

Friday May 19th 1pm

New! Online Request button for off-site items. Now you can request items from SFTS Library be brought to the GTU Library, or vice versa. You can also request items from storage 24/7. Simply click the request button in the catalog record, type in your last name and barcode number and we will notify you by email when the item has arrived from off-site.

WHERE TO CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES

Member School	Date	Time	Location
GTU	Thursday, May 11, 2017	4:00 PM	PLTS Chapel of the Cross
SKSM	Thursday, May 18, 2017	7:00 PM	Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
CDSP	Friday, May 19, 2017	10:30 AM	PSR Chapel of the Great Commission
SFTS	Saturday, May 20, 2017	9:30 AM	First Presbyterian Church
PLTS	Saturday, May 20, 2017	11:00 AM	PLTS Chapel of the Cross
DSPT	Saturday, May 20, 2017	1:00 PM	Second Church of Christ Scientist, 1521 Spruce St., Berkeley
ABSW	Saturday, May 20, 2017	2:00 PM	First Church-Christ Scientist
JST-SCU	Saturday, May 20, 2017	3:00 PM	PSR Chapel of the Great Commission
PSR	Sunday, May 21, 2017	4:00 PM	First Congregational Church of Oakland



FALL 2016 AND SPRING 2017 GRADUATES

Doctor of Philosophy



Abdel Ali

The "Negro" in Afro-Arabian Muslim Consciousness

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Beth R. Anderson

Exploring Teaching and Learning in Christian Spirituality: Narratives from a Highlander-Inspired Course

Christian Spirituality

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Ali J. Ataie

Authenticating the Johannine Injil: Sunnite "Polemirenic" Interpretive Methodological Approaches to the Gospel of John

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Carl Frederic Bear

Funeral Practices in Late Fourth-Century Antioch

Liturgical Studies

Lizette Larson-Miller (Coordinator)

Nathan Wilson Bjorge

Liberation Theurgy: Towards a Critical Theory of Insurgent Hermeticism

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)

Matthew A. Boswell

The Way to Love through Hope: A Virtue-Based Model of Spiritual Growth for Christian Spiritual Formation

Christian Spirituality

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Mary Wong Cheng

Communal Hymn-Singing in Early British Methodism: A Bio-psychosocial Query into its Transformative Effects

Christian Spirituality

William Short, O.F.M. (Coordinator)

Luke Devine, O.S.B.

Fritz Eichenberg: A Case Study in the Relationship between Creativity and Spirituality

Christian Spirituality

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Christina M. Fetherolf

Lamenting Abuse: Reading Psalm 22 as a Response to Intimate Partner Abuse

Biblical Studies

John C. Endres, S.J. (Coordinator)

Robert Galoob

Post Hoc Propter Hoc: Revisiting Martyrdom's Impact on the Development of Hasidut Ashkenaz

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion

Deena Aranoff (Coordinator)

Veronica Revette Goines

Sacred Voice and Unholy Silence: African American Women, Voice and Preaching-- Constructing a Womanist Homiletic-- a Practical Theological Perspective

Interdisciplinary Studies

Jana L. Childers (Coordinator)

Moatemu Imchen

Tensions, Interactions and Power Negotiations between "Tribes" and "States" in Monarchic Israel: Toward a New Understanding Based on Case Studies from Middle Bronze Age Mari and Iron Age Moab

Biblical Studies

Aaron Brody (Coordinator)

Dae Kyung Jung

Semantic Divine Action and the Origin of Life: The Emergence of Autonomy, the Space of Meaning, and Relationship

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Gregory Anderson Love (Coordinator)

Amanda J. Kaminski

The Grammar of Christian Witness: Hermeneutics of Testimony in the Texts of Five Nineteenth-Century Evangelical Women

Christian Spirituality

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Hyeokil Kwon

Poetic and Prophetic Life in a Time of the Hidden God: A Comparative Study of Thomas Merton's and Yun Dong-Ju's Spiritualities

Christian Spirituality

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Elekosi F. Laitaga

Apocalyptic, Here and Now: The Book of Dreams (1 En 83-90) and the Rhetoric of Apocalyptic Discourse in the Gospel of Matthew

Biblical Studies

Eugene Eung-Chun Park
(Coordinator)

Kyoung Hee Lee

2 Samuel 11-12, Luke 24, and Biblical Spirituality: The Role of Narrative in Challenging Sacrificial Substitution and A New Perspective of Rene Girard

Christian Spirituality

Barbara Green, O.P. (Coordinator)

Sung Ho Lee

Becoming Human Relationships: The Trinity, Non-Humans, and Humans in Radical Relationships

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Ted F. Peters (Coordinator)

Su-Chi Lin

Intercultural Mediation: A Visual Cultural Study of Art and Mission in Contemporary Taiwan

Art and Religion

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J.
(Coordinator)

Daniel DeForest London

Where Lambs May Wade and Wolves Can Swim: Jesus's Self-Giving Response to the Question of Suffering in John 9:1-10:21

Christian Spirituality

Barbara Green, O.P. (Coordinator)

Marty Miller Maddox

Modern Theology at the Wheel: The Challenge of Ancient Greek Skepticism and the Drive toward Authority with Certainty in Christian Doctrine

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Ted F. Peters (Coordinator)

Chaitanya S.P. Motupalli

Climate Change, Intergenerational Justice, and Restorative Justice

Ethics and Social Theory

Carol S. Robb (Coordinator)

Michelle Mueller

Performed Polygamy and Polyamory in the Media Age: The "Tel-education" of Non-monogamous Religious and Spiritual Families in Reality Television

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions

Scott A. Mitchell (Coordinator)

Meredith Massar Munson

Babylon, New Jerusalem, and the Brooklyn Bridge: Modern Spirituality in American Art

Art and Religion

Devin Phillip Zuber (Coordinator)

Se Hoon Park

The Self-Transforming Journey toward Union with God: A Psychological Analysis of the Transformation of the Spatial Image in the Interior Castle by Teresa of Avila

Christian Spirituality

Bruce H. Lescher (Coordinator)

Matt C. Paulson

God (and World) "Ever-greater": Affectivity in the Theological Vision of Hans Urs von Balthasar

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Michael J. Dodds, O.P. (Coordinator)

Justin Edward Tanis

Queer Bodies, Sacred Art

Interdisciplinary Studies

Judith A. Berling (Coordinator)

Nada Velimirovic'

Reflections of the Divine: Muslim, Christian and Jewish Images on Luster Glazed Ceramics in Late Medieval Iberia

Art and Religion

Ronald Y. Nakasone (Coordinator)

Alan C. Weissenbacher

The Born Again Brain: Neuroscience and Wesleyan Salvation

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Ted F. Peters (Coordinator)

Rachel Wheeler

Holy Feigning: A Study in the Spirituality of the Apophthegmata Patrum

Christian Spirituality

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)



FALL 2016 AND SPRING 2017 GRADUATES, CONTINUED

Jaime D. Wright

Scars that Matter: Breast Cancer, Religion, and Identity

Ethics and Social Theory

Jerome P. Baggett (Coordinator)

Hatice Yildiz

Revisiting the Qizilbash-Alevi Tradition in Light of 17th Century Mecmua Manuscripts

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Hun Cho Yu

On the Reason for Christian Hope: Theodicy and the Eschatological Hope of the Christian Faith

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Gregory Anderson Love (Coordinator)

Master of Arts

David Scott Anthony

The Jelling Stone and Our Lady of Guadalupe: Agents of Conversion in Denmark and Mexico

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Christopher Ocker, (Coordinator)

Mahjabeen Mohamedali Dhala

The Right to Choose Piety: Understanding Muslim Women's God-centric Choice from a Shia Perspective

Center for Islamic Studies

WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Sandra Slemple Doley

The U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue: An Examination of the Documents from 1965 to 2015

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

WITH HONORS

Alison Benders, (Coordinator)

Lora East

Who Is My Neighbor? Foundations for a Curriculum on the Interfaith Movement for Christians

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Christopher Ocker (Coordinator)

Daigan Vincent Gaither

Healing in Oppression: Contributions from Buddhist Teachings and Communities

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Daijaku Judith Kinst (Coordinator)

Meg Doshin Gawler

Voices of Early Buddhist Nuns: A Dharmalogical Approach to the 'Therīgāthā'

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Richard K. Payne (Coordinator)

Zelig Golden

Earth Based Judaism: Early Origins, Polemics, and a New Vision

Center for Jewish Studies

Deena Aranoff (Coordinator)



Genevieve Greinetz

In Letters: Tracing Imagination in Gershom Scholem's Mystical Letter Language

Center for Jewish Studies

Deena Aranoff, (Coordinator)

Lea Heitfeld

How We Keep the Engagement Alive: Holocaust Education in Germany

Center for Jewish Studies

Naomi Sheindel Seidman (Coordinator)

Jamie Brett Kimmel

Buddhist Hospital Chaplaincy at the End of Life: U.S. Healthcare and the Challenge of Interdependence

Institute for Buddhist Studies

Daijaku Judith Kinst (Coordinator)

May T. Kosba

From Ikhwanophobia to Islamophobia: Post-Colonial Cultural Nationalism in Post-Revolutionary Egypt

Center for Islamic Studies

Munir Jiwa, (Coordinator)

Reem T. Kosba

Contemporary Christian-Muslim Relations in Egypt: Secularism, Violence, and the Challenges of Conflict Resolution

Center for Islamic Studies

Som Pourfarzaneh, (Coordinator)

Jennifer Ayn Lehmann

Second Sons and Mamas' Boys: Masculinity in the Jacob Story

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Barbara Green, O.P. (Coordinator)

Nicole M. MacArgel

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition: A Contemporary Organization for Transmitting the Dharma

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Richard K. Payne (Coordinator)

Rizwan Mawani

Tradition as Rupture: Caste, Community and the Colonial Courts – Forging Religious Identity in the 1866 Khoja Case

Center for Islamic Studies

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Joseph D. Merlino

The Pastoral Perspective in Business: A Practical Theological Approach to Executive, Business, and Organizational Development

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Susanna Singer (Coordinator)

Dawn Patricia Neal

Discord and its Alternatives in the Aṭṭhakavagga of the Pāli Canon

Institute for Buddhist Studies

Richard K. Payne (Coordinator)

Kelsey Jacob Pratt Pacha

Beloved Communities: Spiritual and Religious Issues in LGBT Community Centers

Pacific School of Religion

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)

Ron Riecki

Gender, Place, and Race/Indigeneity in Upper Peninsula Film, Literature, and Culture

Graduate Theological Union

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Naomi Sheindel Seidman

Rachel Lopez Rosenberg

A Lighthouse in the Fog: Jewish Mourning and Poetic Inventions

Center for Jewish Studies

WITH HONORS

Naomi Sheindel Seidman (Coordinator)

Carrie Ann Sealine

Making Maccabees into Jews, Making Jews into Maccabees: Reading Jewish Identity through Extra-Canonical Text

Center for Jewish Studies

Deena Aranoff, (Coordinator)

Rabail Rania Shah

Al-Ghazālī on Reason and Revelation: A Revival in the Heart of the Islamic Scholarly Tradition

Center for Islamic Studies

WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa, (Coordinator)

Saad Shaukat

Shibli Nomani's Contribution to Kalam

Center for Islamic Studies

Som Pourfarzaneh, (Coordinator)

Sterling Austin Spence

The Liberation Nonprofit

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

WITH HONORS

William O'Neill (Coordinator)

Wan-Ting Tsai

Screenwriting Methods and Preaching: Toward a Taiwanese Christian Homiletic

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Shauna K. Hannan (Coordinator)

Tipisone Siatufu'a Tuiolemotu, Jr.

Out of the Shadows of Empire: A Postcolonial Reading of Isaiah 55:1-5

Pacific School of Religion

Aaron Brody (Coordinator)

FALL 2016 AND SPRING 2017 GRADUATES, CONTINUED

Brandon James Vaca

Currents of Participation and Centralization in the U.S. Catholic Church and Schools: Teachers' Unions, Lay Participation, and the 2015 Contract and Handbook

Disputes in the Archdiocese of San Francisco

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

WITH HONORS

Jerome P. Baggett (Coordinator)

Master of Arts Graduates with a Concentration in Biblical Languages

Ivana Rahel Müllner

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Jean-François Racine (Coordinator)

Biblical Hebrew (Primary)

Biblical Greek (Secondary)

German (Modern Language)



Lucia Gabrielle Tosatto

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

John C. Endres, S.J. (Coordinator)

Biblical Hebrew (Primary)

Biblical Greek (Secondary)

Italian (Modern Language)

ARTHUR VIVING DAVIS COLLABORATIVE INTERRELIGIOUS RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES

Three teams have been selected from eight proposals for their collaborate interreligious research projects, funded by The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation:

Team A (Heewon Jin, Sungrae Kim, Ki Wook Min, Hyun Ho Park): “Deuteronomic Redistribution and Confucian Well-field Theory: An Interreligious Reflection on the People’s Grocery Community Garden in Oakland for Food Justice”

Team B (Kristi Lentz-Taylor, André Little, Mohammad Waqas Sajjad, Paula Thompson): “The War on Terror and the War on Drugs: Exploring Parallels and Constructing an Interfaith Response to US State-Sponsored Violence in the Middle East, Latin America and Immigrant Communities”

Team C (Beena Kallely, Carrie Sealine, Zacharias Thomas): “A Comparative Feminist Theological Approach of ‘Just Care’ to Prevent Human Trafficking”

We extend our congratulations to these teams for their creative and thoughtful projects.

**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

PHD STUDENTS

General Comprehensive Passed

I-Sil Yoon, ETHC

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Sunglae Cho, THEO

Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Sanghyun Lee, THEO

Todd Whelan, IDS*

Cecilia Titizano, THEO

* With Distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Evan Hershman, BIBL

Heidi Thimann, ART

KyungRae Kim, THEO

Dissertations Successfully Defended

Meredith Munson, ART

Shijung Shim, IDS

Hatice Yildiz, CHSR

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

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