

# THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2013

## REMEMBERING OUR MENTORS

As I get older, I find myself re-reading books and articles written by some former teachers who have departed this life and gone to their eternal reward. Four mentors in particular have been on my mind in recent months.

William Poteat taught undergraduate courses at Duke on philosophy of religion. He introduced me to the thought of Michael Polanyi, Hannah Arendt, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. But he used to say that he didn't really teach texts, but a point of view. In one seminar there was only one textbook (Arendt's *The Human Condition*) and I don't think we ever got past the first chapter. Poteat would read a sentence, or just a phrase, and then initiate a Socratic dialogue that lasted for three hours. He taught us how to see, and how to think about what we saw.

In the Duke Divinity School, I studied systematic theology with Robert Cushman. He had been the dean of the school, a prominent Methodist theologian, and a Protestant observer at Vatican II. After decades in

the classroom, he had mastered the art of speaking at the precise speed that allowed students to transcribe every word of his lectures if we wrote constantly as fast as possible. A convinced Barthian, he nevertheless insisted that we had to come to terms with Schleiermacher and Bultmann in order to appreciate the need for a corrective. He probably wouldn't have liked the term "contextual theology," but that is what I learned from him.

At General Theological Seminary in New York in the mid-1970s, I had the good fortune to study early church history with Richard Norris, who later moved 90 blocks north to teach at Union Seminary. His lectures were so eloquent that for a moment at the end, you thought you really understood what Augustine was up to in *The City of God* or whatever the topic was that day. Near the end of his life he translated selections from various commentators on the Song of Songs, including some parts of Bede that I have translated as

well. My version stays close to the Latin so you can follow it word by word. Dick's translations are less literal, more lyrical; oftentimes they sing.

Back at Duke for a Ph.D. in the early 1980s, I read patristic Greek with Franklin Young. He made us parse every verb, identify every grammatical construction, and consider every nuance of each dictionary definition. It pained him to have to make generalizations about theological positions, which he always insisted were only tentative judgments subject to refinement in light of further research. His passion was for the particularities of language and conceptual thought.

When I go back now and read the published writings of these teachers from long ago, I can still hear their voices in my head. I learned so much from what they taught me, but even more from the ways they taught it. I expect you have memories of gifted mentors too. Take a moment to be grateful for what you received from their examples.

## GTU RECEPTION AT AAR/SBL, BALTIMORE

Each year the GTU hosts a reception at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature.

The GTU welcomes current students, faculty, alumni, and prospective students to join us for an evening of good food and company.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Sat. Nov. 23rd, 7:00pm**  
Maryland Ballroom, Salon F  
The Renaissance Baltimore  
Harborplace Hotel

202 E Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

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Dr. William Short, OFM

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**DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE: NOVEMBER 5, 2013, 7PM**

Dr. William Short, Dean and Professor of Christian Spirituality at the Franciscan School of Theology (FST) will deliver the 2013 Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, 7:00pm at the PSR Chapel.

Each year the faculty of the Member Schools nominate distinguished faculty from outside their school who

they feel embody the scholarly standards, teaching excellence, and commitment to ecumenism that define the GTU. The nominations are considered by the Council of Deans who elects the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture is entitled "From Paris to Alcalá: The Franciscan School and the University, 1219-1533." The

response will be given by Dr. Christopher Ocker, Professor of Church History at San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS).

Immediately following the lecture, there will be a reception in the Doug Adams Gallery across the courtyard from the PSR Chapel.

EARLY  
REGISTRATION  
FOR SPRING  
2014  
CLASSES IS  
NOVEMBER  
11TH  
THROUGH  
NOVEMBER  
22ND 2013

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**GRADUATE FAIR AT THE GTU: NOVEMBER 10, 2013, 2PM**

Interested in Master's programs at the GTU? Know someone who is?

Come and be a part of a special event designed for prospective master's level students to learn about the range of study options the GTU offers. Join us to meet member school representatives, students, and faculty. Light refreshments provided.

Sunday, Nov. 10,  
2013 2:00-4:30 PM

Richard S. Dinner  
Boardroom at GTU  
2400 Ridge Road,  
Berkeley, CA

To RSVP or for  
more info, contact  
the Admissions

Office at  
gtuadm@gtu.edu,  
or 510/649-2460

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**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 1, 2013, 12:30PM**

Tuesday, October 1,  
2013

12:30—2:00pm

Dinner Board  
Room, GTU Hewlett  
Library

Join GTU Dean Arthur Holder and faculty panelists 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.

For more information,  
or to reserve  
a place, contact:

GTU Admissions  
Office

510-649-2460,  
gtuadm@gtu.edu



NEWS & EVENTS: CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

**Approaches to the Qur'an Series, Art Exhibit Opening**

Date/Time: Sunday, September 29th, 2013 – 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Black Friars Gallery, DSPT

Co-sponsored by DSPT and CIS

**Madrassa- Midrasha Event "Aesthetics of Sacred Space in Judaism and Islam"**

Date/Time: Thursday, October 10th, 2013 – 5:30pm

Location: Dinner Board Room, GTU Library

Co-sponsored by CJS and CIS



**"The Qur'an in Muslim Faith and Practice", lecture by Dr. Mahan Mirza, Zaytuna College**

Date/Time: Thursday, October 17th, 2013 – 7:30pm

Location: DSPT

Co-sponsored by DSPT and CIS

**Modern Divine Panel Discussion, panelists Munir Jiwa (CIS), Deena Aranoff (CJS), and Devin Zuber (PSR)**

**Moderated by GTU President, Riess Potterveld**

Date/Time: Sunday, October 27th, 2013 - 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco

**A Common Thread: Spiritual Narrative and the Textile Medium panel discussion**

Panelist - Carol Bier, CIS Visiting Scholar

Date/Time: Thursday, November 7th, 2013 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Location: Doug Adams Gallery (PSR)

Recuperations of Andalusí Music

Date/Time: Thursday, November 14th, 2013 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Location: Doug Adams Gallery (PSR)

Presented by the Center for Arts, Care, Religion and Education (CARE) - UC Berkeley.

Workshop on the Common Word Project

Date/Time: Saturday, November 16th, 2013 – TBA

Location: TBA

**International Islamophobia Conference**

**"The Epistemic, Racial, Cultural, and Structural Exclusionary Measures in France and Europe"**

Date/Time: Friday, December 13th, 2013 (all day) to Saturday, December 14th, 2013 (all day)

Location: Paris, France - further details to follow

Sponsored by the UC Berkeley Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project (IRDP) and CADIS (Paris).

**Annual Book Sale!**  
**The Flora Lamson Hewlett**

Library's annual book sale will be held in Henry Mayo Newhall Plaza from 10am to 3pm on Monday September 30.

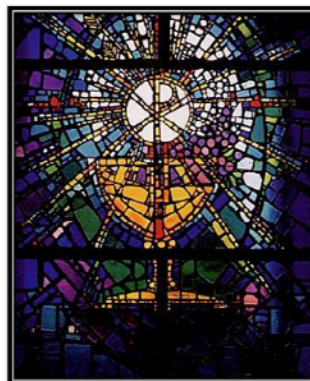
VATICAN II & THE REFORM OF THE LITURGY—*UNFINISHED*

The Second Vatican Council initiated an unprecedented reform of Catholic worship. Fifty years later much has been accomplished but many of the aims of the reform have never been fully realized. Some of them have been challenged.

John Baldovin, S.J. Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at Boston College School of Theology will give a talk on

Wednesday, October 16th at 7:30 PM

Holy Spirit/Newman Hall 2700 Dwight Way



### 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 2013:

Email a Proposal (maximum 1000 words), Outline, and Bibliography to [wsrConference@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:wsrConference@ses.gtu.edu). Late proposals will not be considered.

## NEWS & EVENTS: WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION



**WSR hosts a Panel on Preparing an Academic Conference Proposal with Dr. Flora Keshgegian, Dr. Jennifer Davidson & Dr. Barbara Green.**

October 9th 11:30-12:30

Brown Bag Lunch in the Dinner Boardroom.

A discussion of questions such as: What makes for an effective proposal? What does & does not make the cut? Tips on presenting (1 unit)



### Women's Studies in Religion

Check out our website at

<http://gtu.edu/wsr>

Join our Facebook Group- Search "GTU Women's Studies in Religion" and Find Us on Moodle!



Dr. Daisy Machado

**"Borderlands and Disposable Women: Ecological Ruin and the Maquiladora Murders"**

**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.**

Dr. Machado's scholarship focuses specifically on United States Christianities. Professor Machado has published "Borders and Margins: Hispanic Disciples in the Southwest, 1888-1942" and is co-editor of *A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology: Religion and Justice*. She also served as the 1st Director of the Hispanic Theological Initiative. (2 Units)

**"Grief and Mourning: Not forgetting as a Practice of Hope & Resistance"**

**Thursday October 3rd WSR is co-sponsoring the PSR Asian Pacific Islander Program Initiative Lecture. 5:30 reception and 6pm lecture with Dr. W. Anne Joh in the PSR chapel.**

Dr. Joh is an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary of Chicago, will be giving Author of *Heart of the Cross: a Postcolonial Christology*, she is a rising star in the field of Asian American Theologies. (2 units)



Dr. W. Anne Joh



PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING NOVEMBER 1-2

**“Changing Culture and 21st Century Theology”**

You are cordially invited to attend the Fall Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, November 1 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 2 from 9 a.m.–noon in the Tucson Room at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.



Dr. Mark Richardson

An oral report follows by President and Dean of CDSP, Mark Richardson who will speak on the topic: “Transforming Theology at the GTU in Light of the Church’s Changing Mission.” Saturday morning centers on the work of Mark Scandrette (founding director of Relmag-ine) and concludes by noon. As is the custom of the Society, reading links are posted on the PCTS website ([www.pcts.org](http://www.pcts.org)) and texts should be read ahead of time.



Dr. Philip Clayton

The theme is “Changing Culture and 21st Century Theology” and begins Friday afternoon with Philip Clayton (Claremont School of Theology) challenging current conceptions of theology as featured in his book, *Transforming Christian Theology*. Jack Crossley (USC) will provide a response.



Free Public Lecture Friday Evening: Always on the ‘cutting-edge’ of theological inquiry, Philip Clayton (Claremont School of Theology) shares his thoughts as to the nature of theology amidst the multiple contextual currents of the 21st century. Please join us Friday evening, November 1 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP.

Note that the Friday afternoon session is followed by cocktails and dinner. Please RSVP with Mark Graves ([mark\\_graves@comcast.net](mailto:mark_graves@comcast.net)) so that appropriate reservations can be made. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. The open discussion session follows and finishes by noon. Fees are located on the website ([www.pcts.org](http://www.pcts.org)) and can be paid at the Meeting.

PCTS is a professional society dedicated to the exchange of views on topics germane to the theological endeavor. It has a long and distinguished history, and its founding pre-dates the establishment of the GTU. Membership is open to scholars and students interested in the theological endeavor broadly defined. Dues are \$45 per academic year for actively employed scholars and \$22.50 for retirees and students. Go to [www.pcts.org](http://www.pcts.org) for further information.





## 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.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

**Wednesdays from 10:00AM to 1:00PM**

**All workshops will be in the Student Lounge of the LeConte building**

*October 2 - Job Search 2*

- where to look for jobs
- cover letters and appli-

cation packages

*October 9 - Teaching Portfolio 2*

- developing rubrics
- grading practices

*October 16 - Proposals and Writing 2 - From Outlines to Pages*

- using thesis statements to keep writing

- writing habits and time management

- dissertation and conference proposals

*October 30 - Job Search 3*

- Interviews (Darleen Pryds - Fall) - Skype, phone, on-campus, and conferences



## OUTSIDE FUNDING WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 9, 2013 6:00PM

The GTU Consortial Financial Aid Office will be offering a workshop for doctoral-level students and those considering doctoral programs.

This workshop is designed to introduce GTU doctoral students and those interested in doctoral programs to funding resources available with a focus on each stage of the academic program: coursework, comprehensive

exams, dissertation, as well as a look into the future.

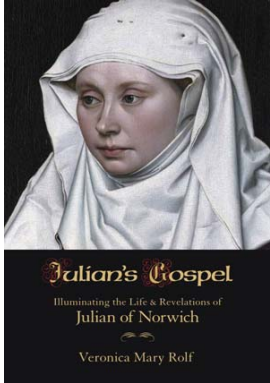
The workshop will be held in the Teaching Lab at the Flora Lamson Hewlett GTU Library on Wednesday, October 9, from 6:00 - 7:00pm

Space is limited. To register, please email: [scholarships@gtu.edu](mailto:scholarships@gtu.edu).



*JULIAN'S GOSPEL: ILLUMINATING THE LIFE & REVELATIONS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH*

A READING AND CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR,  
VERONICA MARY ROLF



Veronica Mary Rolf will discuss the process of writing her book, read selections, answer questions, and sign copies available for purchase.

Tuesday, November 12th  
5:30pm-7:00pm  
Dinner Board Room  
(GTU Library, 3rd floor)

Veronica Mary Rolf is an independent scholar of medieval studies as well as a teacher of meditation, affiliated with the World Community for Christian Meditation. She has spent her life in the professional theatre as a performer, playwright, artistic director, and Master Teacher of Dra-

matic Arts in New York, London, and Berkeley.

Currently, she presents a popular lecture series, Mornings with Julian of Norwich, leads Julian retreats, and blogs on her website:  
[www.JuliansVoice.com](http://www.JuliansVoice.com).



Veronica Mary Rolf

LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

**October is Theological Libraries Month and National Archives Month**



To celebrate, the GTU library is presenting *The Life and Times of Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross: An Archival Exhibit* in the library from October 1, 2013 to January 30, 2014. Stein

(October 12, 1891-August 9, 1942) was a German Jewish philosopher who became a convert to the Roman Catholic Church. When she could no longer teach in Germany as a Jew, she was accepted into a Discalced Carmelite convent in Cologne in 1933. She was arrested with other Jewish converts to Catholicism in the Netherlands by the Gestapo and executed at Auschwitz in 1942. She was canonized in 1998. Materials for the exhibition are from an archival collection donated to the GTU library by Susanne Batzdorff, a niece of Edith Stein.

The library will have a dedication ceremony on October

29 at 1:00 pm in the library to thank Susanne for her donation. There will be brief comments by Susanne, members of the GTU community, and other scholars. All students, faculty, staff and friends of the GTU community are invited to the dedication ceremony. Support for the exhibition is from a generous donation by Eloise Rosenblatt and a grant from the American Theological Library Association.



**Art Exhibit**

The library will feature an exhibition of recent paintings by artist Jim Morphesis entitled *Jim Morphesis Roses and Wounds* from October 24 through November 24, 2013. The opening reception is October 24th from 6-7:30pm. Prominent art historian Peter Selz and the artist will be present to discuss these beautiful and evocative paintings at 6:30pm in the GTU Dinner Board Room.

The exhibition and reception are made possible by the Jane Dillenger Fine Arts Endowment Fund and are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Caryl Woulfe at 510-649-2541 or [cwoulfe@gtu.edu](mailto:cwoulfe@gtu.edu).

## HONORABLE MENTION

### MA STUDENTS

Fateme Montazeri, CIS  
Shmaryahu Brownstein, CJS  
Todd Whelan, CJS  
Jinseok Kim, PSR

### PHD STUDENTS

#### General Comprehensive Exams Passed

Jamie Randolph, THEO  
Amy Erickson, ETHC  
Sarah Gregory, ETHC  
Leslie Bowling-Dyer, ETHC  
Levi Checketts, ETHC

#### Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Nathan Bjorge, THEO  
Stuart Moore, ART  
Eleanor Shapiro, IDS

#### Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Wanjoong Kim, THEO

#### Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended

Theresa Ladrigan-Whelpley, SPRT  
Gavin Wittje, IDS

## FACULTY COMMITTEES 2013-2014

Please see below the Committees of the Core Doctoral Faculty for 2013-2014. These can also be found on the GTU Website by searching "Faculty Committees."

### Awards Committee

Kevin Burke (JST-SCU)  
Scott Mitchell (IBS)

### Appointments and Review Committee

Augustine Thompson (DSPT)  
Annette Weissenrieder (SFTS)

### Grievance Committee

Deena Aranoff (CJS/GTU)  
Eduardo Fernández (JST)  
Anselm Ramelow (DSPT)  
Ron Nakasone (CARE) – alternate

### Doctoral Council

John Klentos (GTU/PAOI)  
Boyung Lee (PSR)

## GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

Office of the Dean  
2400 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA  
94709

<http://www.gtu.edu>

Phone: 510-649-2440  
Fax: 510-649-1417  
E-mail: [amunoz@gtu.edu](mailto:amunoz@gtu.edu)

### 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](mailto: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](http://fb.me/GraduateTheologicalUnion)

[fb.me/Center4JewishStudiesatGTU](http://fb.me/Center4JewishStudiesatGTU)

[facebook.com/groups/GraduateTheologicalUnion](https://facebook.com/groups/GraduateTheologicalUnion)



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