

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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REMEMBERING BEN REIST, REMEMBERING THE GTU



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

We recently learned of the death on September 15 of the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Reist who was Emeritus Professor of Systematic Theology at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. From his arrival at SFTS in 1957 until his retirement in 1992, Ben was a major figure in the creation and early development of the Graduate Theological Union, and a founding member of the board of directors of the Center for Theology and Natural Sciences.

Ben's research and teaching focused on theological giants such as Troeltch, Bonhoeffer, and Ricouer—always in ecumenical perspective. He was also a dedicated worker

in the Civil Rights movement, having participated with several GTU colleagues in the famous march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965. And as I learned from serving with him on the Faculty Library Committee in the late 1980s, he was a master at conducting efficient and productive meetings with good humor and grace.

The online GTU Digital Library contains the transcript of a wonderful interview with Ben Reist conducted in 1993 as part of an oral history project on "Remembering Theological Education in the Sixties." Here are some selected portions of that interview that for me encapsulate the vision and mission of the GTU:

"What happens [at the GTU] is: your own sense of identity is deepened and strengthened because you find yourself no longer trying to persuade everybody that your view is the only one, and instead try to offer whatever you've got in exchange for whatever they do. And the

exchanges got so rapid and so fast that you forget where it originates."

"You can't function in any of these realms in the nexus of the Graduate Union without arriving at the point that what you are trying to do is offer the best of your own tradition to everybody else, to use however they wish, in exchange for what you're going to get coming back. You're going to get far more back than you give."

"I'll bet you that a hundred years from now the GTU will have a robust component from Islamic studies, and a robust Orthodox component, and a full blown Jewish theological seminary operation. I mean, in terms of bodies, people, you see. And I think it would go without saying that I would never have worked on the stuff that I worked on all my life had I not worked on it here."

We give thanks for the pioneering scholarship and visionary leadership of Benjamin Reist. The GTU is richer for the legacy he has left us, and we mourn his loss.

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GTU ADMISSIONS: NEWS & EVENTS

Statement of Purpose Workshop

Would you like a better understanding of the all-important statement of purpose for doctoral program applications? Plan to attend the GTU's workshop to learn about the topic from Dean Arthur Holder and other faculty members. The event will take place on Tuesday, Sep-

tember 30, 2014 from 12:30-2:00pm in the Dinner Board Room at the GTU library. Light refreshments served.
RSVP: gtuadm@gtu.edu

Join the GTU faculty, students, and administration at our GTU Reception at this year's AAR and SBL annual meetings.

Prospective doctoral students interested in meeting GTU

faculty and students are encouraged to RSVP so we can welcome you. Grand Hyatt Harbor Terrace. 1 Market Pl. San Diego, Ca 92101 Saturday, November 22, 2014.

RSVP: gtuadm@gtu.edu

Best wishes on your journey toward doctoral education. Please let us know if we can assist you during the application process.



NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Newhall Awards are competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with 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. Please read it carefully so that your proposal will contain all

the necessary components. **Complete applications are due in the GTU Dean's Office by 5pm Friday, November 14; 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. Late materials will not be accepted.



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE: NOVEMBER 6, 2014, 7PM

Dr. Christopher Ocker, Professor of Church History at the San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) will deliver the **2014 Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Thursday, November 6, 2014, 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 "Reformations that Matter (and Some that**

Don't)." The response will be given by Dr. Augustine Thompson, Professor of History at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT). **Immediately following the lecture, there will be a reception in the Doug Adams Gallery across the courtyard from the PSR Chapel.**



CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS

The Center for Jewish Studies will host next month:

Sukkah Building Party on Monday, October 6th, 12:30pm in front of the Leconte building.

Lunch will be served.

Sukkot/Tabernacles/Booths/Huts: What's in a Name? Are They Really All the Same?

With Dr. Leonard Greenspoon of Crieghton University.

Monday, October 13, 12:30pm in the sukkah at 2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley CA 94709.



IBS FALL 2014 NUMATA LECTURE: OCTOBER 8, 2014 AT 3PM

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is pleased to present the Fall 2014 Numata Lecture featuring Dr. Takahiko Kameyama, a distinguished member of the faculty at IBS.

Dr. Kameyama will speak in the afternoon, Wednesday, October 8th beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley.

His topic is **The Arising of Faith in the Human Body**. This talk promises to be an interesting exploration of the intersection of the Shin-gon Buddhist belief in the fundamental equality between the human body and Buddha's bodies, embryology, physiology, and the characteristics of faith.

We warmly invite your presence at this event!



GTU LIBRARY NEWS

Currently on display in the GTU Library: Formless Form, the Art of Sho, recent works by Ronald Y. Nakasone. Sho (as it is referred to in Japan; Ch shu) or calligraphy, is the simple exercise of writing kanji (Ch hanzi) and phonetic script to communicate thoughts, feelings, and information. Its origins can be traced to pictographs

inscribed on bone, turtle shells, and other surfaces that expressed yearnings for good harvest, aspirations for health and safe passage through life; many of the inscriptions asked for prognostications for war. The GTU community is invited to the opening reception on Thursday, October 2, from 6-7:30 pm in the GTU boardroom. The exhibit runs

from October 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015. For more information, contact Caryl Woulfe at cwoulfe@gtu.edu or 510-649-2541.

Don't forget to join us at the ENORMOUS BOOK SALE on September 30 from 10am to 3pm in front of the GTU Library!



FASPE (FELLOWSHIPS AT AUSCHWITZ FOR THE STUDY OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS)

FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics), in collaboration with The Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, is now accepting applications for a fellowship that uses the conduct of the clergy during the Holocaust and in Nazi Germany as a launching point for a two-week intensive study of ethical issues facing religious leaders today. Fellowships include an all-expenses-paid trip from New York to Berlin, Krakow, and Oświęcim (Auschwitz) where students will work

with leading faculty to explore both history and the ethical issues facing religious leaders today. All program costs, including international and European travel, lodging, and food, are covered.

The 2015 FASPE Seminary program will run from June 14 to June 24, 2015.

Completed applications must be received by Tuesday, December 23, 2014.

Inter-faith dialogue is a central component of the FASPE Seminary program. All FASPE programs are non-denominational and students

from all religious faiths are encouraged to apply. FASPE will make every effort to accommodate diverse religious and dietary needs.

To apply or to learn more about FASPE, please visit: www.faspe.info.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Thorin R. Tritter, Ph.D., Managing Director of FASPE at ttritter@FASPE.info.



WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION: NEWS & EVENTS

WSR Welcome Reception for the 2014-2015 academic year will be held this coming **Friday, September 26th at 11:30 am at the Doug Adams Gallery at PSR**, 1798 Scenic Avenue in Berkeley. WSR will provide snacks and beverages, as well as the opportunity to interact with those who support women's religious expression.

Immediately following the reception, we will host a **brown bag luncheon** with Dr. Caroline Blyth, Lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Hebrew Language at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, in the **Dinner Board Room, which is located in the GTU Library** just across the street. WSR will provide desert and

beverages for the brown bag. Please bring your lunch, and enjoy engaging conversation with this speaker who comes all the way from New Zealand. The WSR program will offer one unit of co-curricular credit for attendance at this event.

The Badè Museum, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, and GTU's Women's Studies in Religion program invite you to a lecture by Dr. Caroline Blyth *La femme fatale par excellence? Encountering Delilah in popular culture* Friday, September 26, 5:30 pm Badè Museum Gallery (Reception to follow)

Save the Date!
Monday, October 27th at 10:00 am, in the GTU Dinner Boardroom

The Women's Studies in Religion (WSR) Certificate Program is pleased to present a Cafe event featuring The Rev. Boyung Lee and GTU doctoral students Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, Elizabeth Ingenthron, and Reem Javed. They will offer an informal presentation and dialogue on the topic of **(Un)Making Violence Against Racialized Women through Critical Religious Pedagogies: Christian, Muslim and Jewish Feminist Perspectives**. Please visit the WSR webpage for more details, and join us for what promises to be a lively event!



CARE: NEWS & EVENTS

Queer Santas: Holy Violence, works by Alma Lòpez Reception to be held on Tuesday, October 14, 8-9pm in the Doug Adams Gallery

In this collection, Alma Lòpez presents paintings and prints that highlight women and girls who were persecuted for deviating from societal norms. By presenting the saints and historical figures depicted in those works in contemporary form, Lòpez links them with present day concerns, focusing on the troubling normalization of violence against women. The reception will follow the 5th Annual Georgia Harkness Lecture with guest speaker, Alma Lòpez, hosted by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Pacific School of Religion.

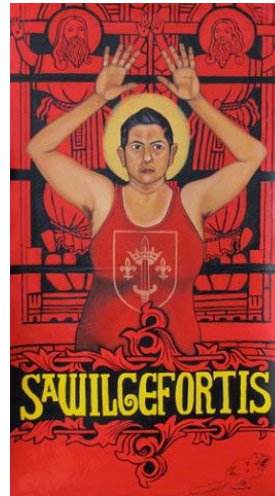
Art as Activism: Human Rights and Sexual Violence Panel Discussion Doug Adams Gallery Thursday, November 20, 5-7pm

Guest speakers include: Kim Thuy Seelinger, JD Director, Sexual Violence Program, Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law and Beverly Allen, Ph.D, CARE instructor.

Mining the Collection Summer 2015 Guest artists: Judith Selby Lang and Richard Lang

The Langs with their artistic sensibility and archeological perspective to create artwork

from plastic debris that washes up at Point Reyes National Sea Shore. Using these materials, the Langs tell objects' stories while commenting on our throwaway culture.



PSR MULTI-FAITH TRANSGENDER SUMMIT: OCTOBER 30, 31 AND NOVEMBER 1

October 30, 31 and November 1 Pacific School of Religion 1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley, Ca 94709

The Seventh Annual Multi-Faith Transgender Summit is just over a month away! The summit will bring together religious activists, leaders, students, and practitioners from across a variety of faith traditions to explore intersectionalities of religion and trans* identities. This 3-day event will include workshops, discussion groups, and academic presentations.

The conference will feature a dynamic worship service led by 4M Ministries, multiple workshops, cutting edge scholarship on gender and religion, and an extended program for those interested in exploring chaplaincy. In this inspirational setting there will also be several opportunities to express our spirituality, faith and worship! Join us for this wonderful time of sharing, connecting, and exploration.

Conference Speakers Include:
Nicole Santamaria, Organizer at Colectivo Alejandria in El Salvador

Alex Patchin McNeill, Executive Director of More Light Presbyterian

Vivian Taylor, Executive Director of Integrity USA

Conference Highlights:

- Chaplaincy Workshop
- Celebration of Spirit: Honoring Shabbat, Samhain, Dia de los Muertos, All Saints, and More!
- Special Exhibition: Alma Lopez, Queer Santas: Holy Violence
- Resource Fair

Register At:
<https://2014trans-summit.eventbrite.com>

MA THESIS PROPOSAL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
12:30PM-2:00PM
GTU DINNER BOARDROOM
(3RD FLOOR OF THE GTU LIBRARY)
2400 RIDGE ROAD, BERKELEY CA

ARTHUR HOLDER
GTU ACADEMIC DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

KATHLEEN KOOK
GTU DEAN OF STUDENTS

THIS WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE HELP AND GUIDANCE IN CRAFTING THE MA THESIS PROPOSAL AS REQUIRED IN THE GTU MA PROGRAM
HANDBOOK . RSVP: AMUNOZ@GTULEDU

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

PDP: NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Professional Development Program Events (For more information contact Diandra Chretien, Professional Development Coordinator, dchretien@gtu.edu):

CVs and Cover Letters Workshop (Oct. 1, 3-5, GTU student lounge)

A strong curriculum vitae and cover letter are vital elements for seeking and landing jobs in academia. This workshop is

attended to assist students who intend to enhance their CV and cover letters. Bradley Burroughs (Ethics Professor at PLTS) will lead this workshop. Please bring a copy of your CV and/or cover letter to work on.

Writing Workshop 1 (October 15th, 10-12 GTU Student lounge)

This is the first out of three writing workshops that are open to doctoral students at

any stage of the program. This workshop will cover topics including: interactive reading and note taking, understanding the benefits of the “pre-writing stage” and developing clear, concise, and compelling “focus statements,” that can lead to well-written pages. Please RSVP (dchretien@gtu.edu) for this workshop.

FALL FORUM FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS, OCTOBER 15, 3:30-5PM, STUDENT LOUNGE, 2465 LeCONTE.

THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS SPONSORING THIS FORUM FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS TO COME TOGETHER AND DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES AND TOPICS AT THE GTU AND ENGAGE IN CREATIVE CONVERSATION. PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

CTNS EVENT: PROJECT SATURN

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) announces a major public conference:

SATURN:

Scientific And Theological Understandings of Randomness in Nature
Saturday, October 11, 1-5pm (Registration starts at 12:30)
Easton Hall,
Church Divinity School of the Pacific
Berkeley, CA.

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) will hold a public conference on Saturday afternoon, October 11, following a year of research by a team of scientists, philosophers and theologians on the topic of “scientific warrants for and theological implications of randomness, propensities and

indeterminism in nature.” We call this project SATURN. The research is supported by a grant from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.

The purpose of SATURN is to study the possibility that discoveries in the natural sciences over the past decade point to indeterminism at many more levels in nature ranging from macroscopic physical and biological processes of daily life to the universe as a whole. The SATURN project will bring together ten scholars in the natural sciences and mathematics, philosophy, and theology for a public event on Saturday, October 11, following a two-day private research conference at CTNS. Participants include physicists/cosmologists Gerald Cleaver and George Ellis, theoretical ecologist Robert Ulanowicz,

mathematician Jim Bradley, philosopher Alicia Juarrero, theologians Veli-Matti Kärkäinen, Rope Kojonen, Ted Peters, biologist and theologian Joshua Moritz, and physicist and theologian Robert John Russell (Principal Investigator).



CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS

'Eid Mubarak! The Center for Islamic Studies at the GTU wishes our Muslim colleagues, families and friends a blessed 'Eid ul-Adha. As Muslims have recently completed Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, we commemorate our shared Abrahamic tradition and our common humanity. May this be a time of greater understanding, unity and peace.

In celebration of 'Eid ul-Adha, the d'Autremont Dining Hall will be serving halal meal options for lunch on Monday, October 6, from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm. d'Autremont Dining Hall is located at the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Avenue in Berkeley.

Dr. **Munir Jiwa** will be participating in the **International Islamophobia Conference** in Salzburg, Austria, Oct 9-10. The conference is part of the larger Islamophobia Documentation and Research Project at the Center for Race and Gender at UC Berkeley.

CIS/GTU visiting scholar **Carol Bier** will be giving a paper at the Historians of Islamic Art Association's fourth biennial symposium, to be held at the newly inaugurated Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, October 16-18. The theme is: Forms of Knowledge and Cultures of Learning in Islamic Art. Dr. Munir Jiwa will also be participating in the conference.

CIS/GTU visiting scholar

Mahan Mirza will be giving a paper on "Liberal Education at a Muslim College: Between Authority and Audacity" at St. John's College's conference on "What is Liberal Education For?" October 16-18.

CIS/GTU visiting scholar Dr. **Nargis Virani** will be chairing a panel at the Islamic Studies Symposium at University of Chicago, October 18. The Islamic Studies Symposium (ISS) is occasioned by the fortieth anniversary of the publication of Marshall Hodgson's *Venture of Islam*, which introduced novel and scrupulous epistemological, intellectual, methodological and historiographic approaches to the study of Islam and Muslim civilizations.



MOVIE NIGHT
PRESENTED BY ASIA
PROJECT

GREEN TEA
CONVERSATION
OVER A MOVIE,
"SPRING, SUMMER,
FALL, WINTER...
AND SPRING"
DIRECTED BY KIM,
KI-DUK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
6:30 TO 9:00PM
CDSP, ROOM A
2451 RIDGE ROAD,
BERKELEY

AFTER THE MOVIE,
THE DISCUSSION
WILL BE
FACILITATED BY DR.
SCOTT MITCHELL,
THE CURRENT
CHAIR OF THE ASIA
PROJECT.

DSPT SYMPOSIUM: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT 10AM



Symposium on *God, Reason and Reality* edited by Fr. Anselm Ramelow, OP Saturday, November 8, 10 am

Dr. Ed Feser, Fr. Anselm Ramelow, OP, and Fr. Michael Dodds, OP will present

during a symposium on *God, Reason and Reality*, a volume edited by Fr. Anselm Ramelow, OP, on Saturday, November 8, at DSPT.

Rather than being an exercise in superstition, talking about God is a genuine topic of the *philosophia perennis*. The existence and nature of God can be a matter of rational argument; his reality is accessible to reason. On the other hand, God's reality is a uniquely difficult topic to engage. This volume investigates these questions using

the conceptual tools that might be considered most promising for rigorous analysis, namely those from the tradition of Analytical Philosophy as well as Thomist Metaphysics. Contributors include Robert Spaemann, Thomas Joseph White, OP, Stamatios Gerogiorakis, John F. X. Knasas, Paul Thom, Michael Dodds, OP, William Wainwright, Linda Zagzebski, Anselm Ramelow, OP.

The symposium is free and open to all.

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

Junwon Lee, PSR
Keith Berry, PAOI
Haraku Beppu, IBS
Enver Rahmanov, JST
Maura McKenney, CDSP
Artak Ohanyan, PAOI*
Sarah McCune, PSR
*Approved with honors

Oral Exam Passed

Joshua Nelson, PSR

PHD STUDENTS

General Comprehensives Passed

Leslie Bowling-Dyer, ETHC
Sarah Gregory, ETHC
Peter Watters, ETHC
Levi Checketts, ETHC
Raphael Okitafumba, ETHC
Jane Smiley, ETHC

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Stephen Shaver, LITG
Rachel Wheeler, SPRT

Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Khalia Jelks-Williams, LITG

Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended

Jenny Patten La Monica, ART
Katy Valentine, BIBL

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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.