

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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MAKING CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE BOUNDARIES



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

By now most people in the GTU community will have heard of the death of Jane Dillenberger, beloved GTU Professor Emerita of Theology and the Arts, who

died at home on November 11 at the age of 98. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy will live on in the flourishing relationship of religion and the arts here at the GTU.

As I reflect on Jane's long career and compelling personal journey, I think of two ways in which she demonstrated a commitment to making connections across boundaries. The first has to do with the interdisciplinary nature of her scholarship, and the other is related to the ecumenical nature of her teaching.

As she recounted in several autobiographical narrations, Jane was trained at Chicago and Harvard as an art historian. After she had been teaching art and religion courses for some time in the Theological School at Drew University, she decided that she ought to get a Ph.D. as a credential for the work she was doing. So she

began doctoral study with the idea of getting a dual degree in art history and religion that would be granted jointly by Drew, NYU, and Columbia.

After a year of course work, she got so far as to put together a pretty impressive dissertation committee that included the theologian Paul Tillich and the eminent art historian Erwin Panofsky (both of them personal friends of Jane). But when it became clear that she was trying to combine an art history degree with a degree in theology, none of the institutions involved was able to accommodate such a thing, which was unheard of at that time. So Jane just wrote a book instead, and *Style and Content in Christian Art* established her reputation in the field and served as her teaching credential.

When Jane Dillenberger was a graduate student looking for a place to study art and religion in an interdisciplinary way, there was no place for her to go. But thanks to Jane and her many collaborators over several decades, the Art and Religion programs here at the GTU now attract students from all over the world.

Like many of the pioneers in the early days of the GTU, Jane took particular delight in

the ecumenical diversity she found in the classroom. In fact she taught on the faculties of at least four different GTU schools, two Protestant (SFTS and PSR) and two Catholic (JSTB and DSPT). She used to tell the story of a former president of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology who asked her to give the address at his inauguration. In introducing her, the president noted that she was the first teacher he had ever had in his adult life who wasn't a Dominican. Everyone laughed because he didn't even need to point out that she was also the first non-Catholic and the first woman! "All of a sudden," Jane recalled, "the ecumenical movement had true meaning for me."

Jane Dillenberger was an inspiration to generations of students and faculty at the GTU. She was also a committed Christian who seldom missed a Sunday liturgy at her home parish, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley. For over twenty years I regularly sat in a pew just across the aisle from her, so I had many occasions to see her smiling face greet me at the passing of the Peace. May God's peace be with her now and always.

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PSR EVENT: THE 112TH EARL LECTURES AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE **BE|ART|NOW**

{a public conference for activists, artists, & progressive people of faith}

The 112th Earl Lectures and Leadership Conference

**January 29-31, 2015
10:00am Thursday- 4:00pm Saturday**

Co-create and experience performances, exhibits, worship space, & public arts

Performances, exhibits, worship space, public arts, and liturgies invite you to step inside revolutionary spaces where arts are transforming the world, and to explore innovative ways to integrate art into your vocation and spiritual life.

Featuring performances and lectures by artists and activists, including

Michael Franti {musician, filmmaker}

Adriene Thorne {pastor, dancer}

Frank Burch Brown {scholar of arts and religion}

Jinho "The Piper" Ferreira {playwright, musician, police officer}

Tim Holmes {sculptor, philosopher}

Experience Bay Area community arts immersions at the Clairon Alley Mural Project, the Andy Goldsworthy installation at the Presidio, InterPlay movement and theater in Oakland, Youth Spirit Artworks job training program in Berkeley, or The Faithful Fools of San Francisco.

On-site experiential workshops include sessions by Taiko drummer Elaine Fong, hip hop artist YaNi Davis, poet and prose writer Maisha Z. Johnson, pastor and musician Bishop Yvette Flunder, Yiddish dancer Bruce Bierman, music scholar David Aarons, composer and conductor Anne Hege, and dancer Carrie Ahern.

BE there. {no arts experience required}

For more information, contact Earl Lectures Coordinator Marlen Haynes at mhaynes@psr.edu or call 510.849.8218. Follow the conference on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for daily updates, community events, and inspiration.

Register by November 30th for the \$185.00 Early Bird rate! \$199.00 from December 1st, 2014.

GTU students may register for free! Contact earllec- tures@psr.edu to obtain the registration code.

Discounts available for students, artists, and arts non-profit staff. See our registration page for details.

<http://www.psr.edu/beartnow-registration>



“THE OBLIGATED SELF: MATERNAL SUBJECTIVITY AND JEWISH THOUGHT” WITH DR. MARA BENJAMIN

In this talk, Mara Benjamin will discuss the physical and psychological work of caring for and rearing children, the province of women for centuries. This subject invites critical analysis and reflection within the framework of religious studies.

Within Jewish thought, the lexicon of obligation offers a rich resource for theorizing parental care.

**December 2 | 2014 |
12:30 pm
2465 LeConte Avenue
| Berkeley CA |
94709
HEDCO Room**



Mara Benjamin
St. Olaf College

2015-2016 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINES

Financial Aid Applications for the 2015-2016 academic year are available online at: www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid. Financial Aid Applicants: please find your deadline date below and visit the GTU Consortial Financial Aid website for instructions on how to complete and submit the 2015-16 Financial Aid Application and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To reach the

Financial Aid Office with a question, please email finaid@gtu.edu or call the us at 510-649-2469.

Doctoral Students:
February 15, 2015

Common MA Students affiliated with

ABSW	April 15, 2015
CJS	April 1, 2015
DSPT	March 15, 2015
IBS	April 1, 2015
JST	March 1, 2015
PAOI	April 1, 2015
PLTS	March 15, 2015
PSR	February 15, 2015
SFTS	April 15, 2015
SKSM	April 1, 2015



SFTS EVENT: LESSONS & CAROLS

**December 5 & 6, 2014 -
7:00pm**

San Francisco Theological Seminary – Stewart Chapel

105 Seminary Rd., San Anselmo, CA 94960

The theme for the 40th annual Service of Lessons & Carols, "Listening for the Word Made Flesh," asks us to join the first Advent listeners to listen for a Word of Scripture and to listen for the Word made flesh in our midst.

Join us for a beautiful night of singing and worship in historic Stewart Memorial Chapel, followed by a reception with cookies and hot cider. This Christmas tradition attracts people from

throughout Marin, from a broad spectrum of religious persuasions, making it one of the most popular campus events all year.

PSR LECTURE: "DECOLONIZING SPIRITUALITY"

WITH ANDREA SMITH

**December 11, 2014 from
6:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Can Christian theology
ever really liberate?**

Join Professor Andrea Smith in discussing this in her lecture entitled "Decolonizing Spirituality."

Andrea Smith is Assistant Professor of Media and Cul-

tural Studies at UC Riverside. She is the award-winning author and/or editor of several books. Her first book, *Conquest*, won the Myers Outstanding Book award.

Smith currently serves as the US Coordinator for the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians, and she is co-founder of INCITE!

Women of Color Against Violence. In 2005 Smith was endorsed by 1000 Women for Peace for a Nobel Prize nomination, one of only 40 Americans on the list.

This lecture is sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Social Change.

The lecture will be held in the PSR Chapel on December 11th, with a reception at 6pm in the Bade Museum.

3RD ANNUAL WOMANIST SYMPOSIUM: “BUT WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

The 3rd Annual Womanist Symposium: “But Who Do You Say I Am?”

**Saturday, January 10, 2015
8:00am - 3:30pm
American Baptist Seminary of the West
2606 Dwight Way, Berkeley**

AM Plenary Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Dr. Linda E. Thomas, Phd, Professor of Theology and



Rev. Dr. Linda E. Thomas

Anthropology at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Respondents include Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribbler (ABSW), Moderator, Dr. Jacqueline Thompson, and Rev. Sandra Blair

Workshops will be offered with the following titles (and participants much choose one): “What’s Love Got to Do WITH IT? Addressing Domestic Violence & Date Rape,” “I Believe I Can Fly! Handling Self-care in the Midst of Care-giving,” and “GOD Don’t Have No Glass Ceilings! Creating/ Acting on New Leadership Options.”

The PM Plenary “FROM WHERE WE SIT” - A Gender Justice Dialogue” will be moderated by Rev. Dr. Martha C. Taylor in dialogue with Dr.

James Noel (SFTS), Rev. Andrea Davidson, Rev. Kamal Hassan, and Rev. Michael Smith.

The Close/Send-Off will be done by Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Executive Director Ministers Council, ABC-USA.

Register by November 30th for the \$48.00 Early Bird rate! \$55 after December 1st; Seminarians, \$35; At Door, \$75. Registration includes packet and lunch. To register visit: womanist.eventbrite.com



Rev. Andrea Davidson



Dr. James Noel



Rev. Dr. Martha C. Taylor



Rev. Kamal Hassan



Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribbler



Dr. Jacqueline Thompson



Rev. Sandra Blair



Rev. Michael Smith

CARE BROWN BAG LUNCH : RECONFIGURING SACRED SPACES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

**Friday, December 5
12pm-1pm
Doug Adams Gallery**

Reconfiguring Sacred Spaces: A Study on the Origins and Meaning of the Rothko Chapel

As part of the CARE Brown Bag Lunch Series, GTU Art &

Religion Doctoral Student, Yohana Junker will consider Mark Rothko’s career and the history, making, and phenomenological meaning of the Rothko Chapel in Houston.



Yohana Junker

BJRT: GENERAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology: The Journal of the Graduate Theological Union

The Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology (BJRT) is a new, 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 for 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 submissions for the inaugural issue (vol. 1, no. 1) is February 1, 2015.

Instructions for Submission and Style Guide for authors are available on the BJRT website (<http://gtu-bjrt.wix.com/bjrt>).

For more information, please e-mail the chief editor at bjrt@ses.gtu.edu



MID-YEAR ORIENTATION FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS
THERE WILL BE A REQUIRED MID-YEAR "ORIENTATION" FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS WHO STARTED IN THE PROGRAM DURING FALL SEMESTER, 2014. **THE ORIENTATION WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015 FROM 12:30 TO 2:00 P.M. IN THE DINNER BOARD ROOM. A TASTY LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!**

CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS

Islam & Authors Session with Professor Abdullah Saeed

In conversation with Areej Hassan, Research Associate at the Zephyr Institute

Thursday, Dec. 11, 6-8PM

Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, 1433 Madison Street., Oakland, CA

For more information, please visit www.iccnc.org/islam-authors-session-professor-abdullah-saeed/

Islam and Belief: At Home with Religious Freedom

Lecture by Professor Abdullah Saeed

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 3PM
Zaytuna College, 2401 Le Conte Ave, Berkeley, CA**

For more information, please visit zaytunacollege.org/event/academics.

CIS Visiting Scholar **Nargis Virani**, who leads an educational tour to Turkey, has announced her upcoming educational tour to India! The tour will visit 7 cities in North India, ending in Mumbai, with an optional tour to South India.

The dates are now finalized, Jan 3-16, 2015.

For details, please visit nargisvirani.wordpress.com/india/



BJRT: GENERAL CALL FOR STAFF

Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology: The Journal of the Graduate Theological Union

The Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology (BJRT) is a new, 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 for 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."

The editors warmly invite doctoral students from across the GTU consortium (Ph.D. and S.T.D.) to join the journal staff. This is an opportunity to go "behind the scenes" and see how an academic journal works. We hope this will not only be an opportunity for the world to see the fine work being done at the GTU, but also an opportunity for professional development for doctoral students.

The hope is for the staff to be assembled in preparation for peer-review to begin on February 1, 2015, when the first submissions will be due.

The following positions are open (# openings):

- Book Review Editor (1)
- Production Editor (1)
- Area Associate Editor (1 per area)
- Associate Editors (Peer Reviewers)
- Faculty Advisory Council*

For more detailed information on the positions and instructions for how to "apply", please visit the BJRT website: <http://gtu-bjrt.wix.com/bjrt> .

Positions will remain open until filled. For more information, please e-mail the editor at bjrt@ses.gtu.edu



ASIA PROJECT: GREEN TEA CONVERSATION WITH DR. MOSES PENUMAKA ON MAJOR TRENDS IN INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: REFLECTIONS ON MELBOURNE AND SEATTLE CONFERENCES

Green Tea Conversation with Dr. Moses Penumaka Thursday, December 11 12:00pm to 1:30pm

He will share his reflections on the two international conferences this year:

1. *Paths to Dialogue in Our*

- Age (International Theological Conference: Interfaith Dialogue) May 26-29, 2014, Melbourne, Australia
2. *Religious Identity and Renewal: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Explorations* August 10-14,

2014, Seattle, WA

Tea & Snacks will be provided.

Free and open to the public.



HONORABLE MENTION

PHD STUDENTS

Comprehensive Exam Proposal Approved

Sungrae Kim, IDS

Todd Oswald, IDS

Elekosi Lafitaga, BIBL

Levi Checketts, ETHC

Oral Comprehensive Exam Passed

Dante Quick, THEO

Advanced to Candidacy

Hollis Mitchem, ART

Mariusz Tabaczek, THEO

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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.

JANUARY BIBLICAL HEBREW AND GREEK EXAMS

THE BIBLICAL
HEBREW AND
GREEK EXAMS
WILL BE HELD
ON TUESDAY
AND
WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 14-15,
2015,
RESPECTIVELY,
FROM 9:00 A.M.
TO NOON EACH
DAY.

INTENT TO GRADUATE FORMS FOR SPRING, 2015 GRADUATES ARE DUE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 TO THE GTU DEAN'S OFFICE FOR MAS AND FOR PHD/THDS TO THE GTU RECEPTIONIST.