

# THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1      SEPTEMBER 2014

## YOU CAN DO THAT AT THE GTU!



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

Recently we have been talking with folks from several different religious communities interested in developing new programs or centers at the GTU. It has been gratifying to hear that what we have to offer as a consortium is often just what they have been looking for.

Our new conversation partners are asking: "Can we have professors and students who actually believe in our religion and practice it themselves? Can our students be trained not only as scholars but also as chaplains and leaders for our local communities? Will the wisdom of our ancient heritage be appreciated as something that contributes to the good of the whole?" And of course we tell them: "You can do that at the GTU."

But then they want to know how they can be sure that what we are telling them is true. And we say: "Just look around, because we have been doing it for 52 years. Christians and Jews and

Muslims and Buddhists studying together in peace and harmony, each school or center or affiliate deeply rooted in its own tradition and at the same time open to learning from each other."

We look forward to welcoming more and more of the world's religions to share in our common life. With their help, we will continue to do good things right here at the GTU!

## GTU WELCOME RECEPTION – ALL ARE INVITED

The GTU Dean's Office invites all members of the GTU Consortial Community to a Welcome Reception on **Wednesday, September 17th, 3:30pm in the GTU Dinner Boardroom (GTU Library, 3rd floor)**. At 4pm, there will be a brief program to introduce new

faculty and visiting scholars. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Angela Muñoz, GTU Dean's Office at [amunoz@gtu.edu](mailto:amunoz@gtu.edu) or 510/649-2440.



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## WSR: NEWS &amp; EVENTS

**Women's Studies  
in Religion  
Welcome Reception**

Food, fresh perspectives, and feminine expression in art  
**Friday, September 26th**  
**11:30am – 12:30pm**  
**Doug Adams Gallery**  
**1798 Scenic Ave**

Everyone welcome – adults and children!

Enjoy the company of women and men who are interested in women's religious Expression

You are warmly invited to attend the first WSR event of the academic year at the Doug Adams Gallery, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. This event brings together faculty, students, staff, and their families, to enjoy brunch and explore all that the Women's Studies certificate program has to offer. Don't miss it!


**Feminists Working**

Ever wonder how somebody landed their feminist dream job? Are you trying to fit feminism into your not-very-feminist workplace? Want to learn about career options as a feminist professional? Soapbox is excited to present a new version of **Feminist Camp**: Feminists Working is a weekend of demystifying the world of feminist work. Job seekers, interns, soon-to-be college grads, recent college grads, and anyone looking to bring feminism into their professional life will learn what works, what to know, how to make the job of your dreams. Amy and Jennifer (co-authors of Manifesta and Grassroots and co-founders of Soapbox) will discuss their feminist journeys, walking you through their mistakes and sharing how feminism has shaped their careers. You'll also hear from experts in finance, resume-writing, job-searching, interviewing, and hiring. Most importantly, you'll

learn how to identify and work towards your personal and professional feminist goals.

**Things we'll cover:**

- Network-building and network-strengthening, particularly in the reproductive justice field.
- Individual branding as well as organizational branding
- Resume workshopping and tips
- Informal brainstorming among participants and presenters regarding good/better/best practices in job hunting, hiring, and general professionalism

**Essential Info**

**WHAT:** Feminists Working Weekend

**WHERE:** NYC

**WHEN:** October 18 & 19

**COST:** \$500

(includes program fee and meals; does not include housing or travel to/from NYC)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
**Sept 15**

**If you have questions about the program or about financial assistance, please email [carly@soapboxinc.com](mailto:carly@soapboxinc.com)**

# h

**Hispanic  
Summer  
Program**

*An Ecumenical Program in Theology and Religion*

## HSP CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

This past June the Hispanic Summer Program celebrated 25 years of service to the church, academy, and Latino/a community! This important and on-going project seeks to supplement and enrich the theological and ministerial education being offered in seminaries and universities, with academic courses and other activities directly addressing Hispanic history, ministry, and theology.

**Since GTU is a member institution, all students can participate in this vital educational opportunity that is geared toward master-level Latina/o seminarians & graduate students.**

- Offering eight choices of 3 credit accredited courses taught by Latina/o faculty
- For a very low fee including 13 days/nights of room & board (from \$425 to \$800)
- Dirigido a seminaristas latin@s

a nivel de maestría y otr@s estudiantes de posgrado

- Con ocho opciones de cursos acreditados de 3 créditos enseñados por profesorado hispano
- Por una cuota muy baja que incluye 13 días/noches de cuarto y comida (de \$425 a \$800)

For more information, please visit [hispanicsummerprogram.org](http://hispanicsummerprogram.org) or contact [hsprogram@gmail.com](mailto:hsprogram@gmail.com)



Alma Loez



## CARE: NEWS & EVENTS

### Queer Santas: Holy Violence Works by Alma Lopez

In *Queer Santas: Holy Violence*, Alma López presents richly detailed, arresting paintings that connect the past and the present by depicting contemporary women as historical saints. Integrating traditional saints' attributes and folk imagery, López focuses on women who were martyred for their refusal to conform to society's expectations by marrying men; by presenting these saints as modern-day lesbians, López illustrates the continuity between the saints' martyrdoms and the ongoing problem of violence against women.

Opens: September 9, 2014  
Closes: January 9, 2015

About the Artist:  
Alma López has presented her work in over one hundred exhibitions, most recently as part of *Sinful Saints and Saintly Sinners* at the Margins of the Americas, at the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Lopez uses religious imagery and popular Mexican icons to explore a variety of issues from a radical feminist Chicana lesbian perspective. Her digital giclee print, "Our Lady" became a flashpoint that led to the 2011 publication of *Our Lady of Controversy: Alma López's "Irreverent Apparition,"* which López co-edited with Dr. Alicia Gaspar de Alba. Born in Mexico, López was raised in Los Angeles. She received her MFA from the University of California, Irvine, and is currently a visiting lecturer at UCLA.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**(Ir)reverence: Thinking Through Alma Lopez' Art Lecture and Discussion with Laura Perez (UC Berkeley) and Maria Socorro Castañeda-Liles (Santa Clara U)**  
Doug Adams Gallery,  
**Thursday, September 18, 5-7pm**

**5th Annual CLGS Georgia Harkness Lecture, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Pacific School of Religion**  
Guest Lecturer: Alma Lopez  
Chapel, Pacific School of Religion,  
**Tuesday, October 14, 6:30-8pm**

**Reception for Queer Santas: Holy Violence (following Harkness Lecture)**  
Featuring music by La Familia Peña-Govea  
Doug Adams Gallery,  
**Tuesday, October 14, 8-9pm**

**Art as Activism: Human Rights & Sexual Violence Panel Discussion with Kim Thuy Seelinger (UC Berkeley) and Beverly Allen (CARE)**  
Doug Adams Gallery,  
**Thursday, November 20, 5-7pm**

## GTU LIBRARY: NEWS & EVENTS

The GTU library welcomes new staff members **Carissa Hernandez** and **Michael Peterson**. Carissa, who worked in the library as a cataloger from 2008-2011, rejoins us as Technical Services Coordinator and Subscriptions Librarian. Michael, our new Reference librarian, comes to us from SFTS library in San Anselmo where he was a librarian for 32 years.

### Book Sale

The library's annual, legendary book sale takes place on **Tuesday, September 30, from 10am to 3pm in the Henry Mayo Newhall Plaza in front of the library**. Choose from thousands of hardback and paperback books. Most hardbacks \$2 / most paperbacks \$1. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to build up your

personal library at rock-bottom prices. Light refreshments will be served. In case of rain, the book sale will be rescheduled.



### Upcoming Library Art Exhibit

Formless Form, the Art of Sho, Recent work by Ronald Y. Nakasone, will be on display in the library from October 1 to January 31, 2015. **There will be an opening reception on October 2 from 6 to 7:30 pm in the GTU Board Room.** All are welcome to attend.

## CTNS: NEWS & EVENTS

**CTNS Student Showcase Thursday September 18, 7PM in the Dinner Board Room of the GTU Library.** Come to learn about the kinds of research students studying science and religion at the GTU are doing.

CTNS is hosting a public **conference** as part of the **SATURN Program (Scientific and Theological Understandings of Randomness in Nature)**

The purpose of the SATURN program is to study the scientific warrants for and theolog-

ical implications of randomness, propensities and indeterminism in nature, displayed in features such as the rings of the planet Saturn, which exhibit the kind of self-organization that can come about in nature through random processes and gravitational interactions.

Speakers include George Ellis, Alicia Juarrero, and Kirk Wegter-McNelly. For a full list of participants, see the SATURN website

Please join us:

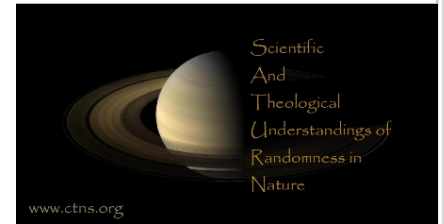
**Saturday October 11, 2014**

**1:00-5:00 PM**

Easton Hall, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Graduate Theological Union

2401 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California

This public conference will be the culmination of a 3 day private research conference and will feature the scholars participating in the SATURN program. Details will follow over the next several months. For more information visit <http://www.ctns.org/Saturn/index.html>



## GTU STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT CYCLE #1 DEADLINE: SEPT 15, 2014

Mark your calendar! The first cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is **Monday, September 15, 2014 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 before January 31, 2015 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 précis). It is available through the GTU Dean's Office and the GTU

webpage. For more information, please consult the 2014 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 77), call the GTU Dean's Office (649.2440), or email [amunoz@gtu.edu](mailto:amunoz@gtu.edu).



## SFTS: CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN MINISTRY LAUNCH

**Center for Innovation in Ministry Launch**

**Thursday, October 16 - Friday, October 17, 2014**

San Francisco Theological Seminary

105 Seminary Rd., San Anselmo, CA 94960

Join San Francisco Theological Seminary's new Center for Innovation in Ministry for a two-day symposium that will lead us to explore the following question: How can we leverage the power of games to tackle the issues of poverty, hunger, and violence? Keynote speaker Jane McGonigal, a game designer and researcher for the Insti-

tute for the Future, along with a variety of respondents, will help ministry leaders explore innovation in their ministry contexts.

Please go to [www.sfts.edu/CenterLaunch](http://www.sfts.edu/CenterLaunch) for more information.



Jane McGonigal



## GTU/PSR: INAUGURAL LECTURE OF THE KAREN LEBACQZ ENDOWMENT IN ETHICS

### “The Rainbow of Justice: Illuminating the Character and Manifestations of God’s Justice”

The Graduate Theological Union and the Pacific School of Religion cordially invite you to attend the Inaugural Lecture of the Karen Lebacqz

Endowment in Ethics on **Wednesday, September 24 from 6:00-7:30 PM in the Bade Museum at PSR. The lecture will be preceded by a reception from 5:00-6:00 PM.**

“I have set my rainbow in the clouds and it will be the sign between me and the earth.” (Genesis 9:13) In this inaugural lecture, former professor of theological ethics and now award-winning quilter, Karen Lebacqz, draws on her passionate commitment to justice in a playful exploration of the ways in

which the colors of the rainbow illustrate something important for the character and manifestation of God’s justice: the passion of red, the tenacity of orange, the warmth of yellow, the nurturance of green, the breadth of blue, the indelible nature of indigo, and the majesty of purple. Contending that theological justice is broader, deeper, and more demanding than philosophical justice, Lebacqz allows this belief to take shape as she connects theological justice to the seven traditional colors of the rainbow.

The Rev., Dr. Karen Lebacqz is professor emerita of the Pacific School of Religion, having taught there for more than thirty years, as well as former core doctoral faculty of the Graduate Theological Union. During her lengthy

career, Karen’s life-long commitment to issues of social justice has taken shape in three primary areas of writing and teaching: professional ethics, bioethics (especially questions around genetics and the Human Genome Project), and ethical theory (particularly justice and questions of method in ethics). Her publications include more than six books, among them *Justice in An Unjust World*, *Sex in the Parish*, and *Ethics and Spiritual Care* co-authored with a former PSR colleague, Joseph D. Driskill. Her dozens of essays in bioethics, feminist ethics, and sexual ethics have been published in scientific journals, church magazines, and international contexts.



Karen Lebacqz

**THESIS/  
DISSERTATION  
FILING DEADLINE**  
FOR FALL  
GRADUATION  
OCTOBER 1, 2014 AT  
4:00 P.M. IS THE  
DEADLINE TO FILE  
COMPLETED AND  
APPROVED COPIES OF  
THESES AND  
DISSERTATIONS OR  
CERTIFICATION OF  
ORAL EXAMINATIONS  
FORMS FOR MABL  
CANDIDATES FOR  
GTU APPROVAL OF  
DEGREE ON OCTOBER  
15, 2014. THIS IS  
ALSO THE DEADLINE  
FOR CERTIFICATE  
REQUESTS FOR CJS  
AND CIS CERTIFICATE  
STUDENTS.

## CHAN PRIZE COMPETITION DEADLINE: SEPT. 15, 2014

Students interested in submitting papers for the **Fall 2014 Chan Prize in Religion and Economics Essay contest** must do so by **Monday, September 15, 2014 at 5pm in the GTU Dean’s Office.**

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 topic of “Religion and Economics.” For more detail on the criteria of the

essay competition, please see the 2014 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 77) — there is no application form.

### DEFENSE DEADLINE

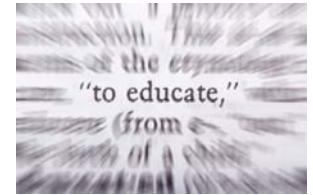
Students who are planning to file by October 1, 2014 (4pm) in order to graduate this Fall, must defend their thesis or dissertation, or take their oral examination by the end of late registration, which is Friday, September 12. If this deadline is not met, students are required to register and pay tuition for the Fall 2014 semes-

## NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014

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 2015-2016 Newhall Award Application form is available on the GTU webpage. (At the bottom of GTU homepage click "view more" under the Students subheading. Once on the Students module, scroll down to the "Professional Development" section to find the link.) The form contains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Fac-

ulty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. 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.



### OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD FOR 2013-2014

CONGRATULATIONS TO ASHLEY BACCHI, HISTORY, WRITING THE DISSERTATION "THE ABOMINABLE RACE OF RHEA: THE POLITICAL FUNCTION OF THE TITANS I THE SIBYLLINE ORACLES BOOK III."

### Orientation to Doctoral Council

If you are planning to propose your dissertation in 2014-2015 you are strongly encouraged to attend this event, led by Dean Arthur Holder, Dean of Students Kathleen Kook, and Student Doctoral Council members Andrew Lewis and Sean Gross. **September 3, 10am – noon, Dinner Board Room, GTU Library.** We will hold an additional session in early spring. Contact Kathleen Kook, [kkook@gtu.edu](mailto:kkook@gtu.edu) with questions.

## FACULTY COMMITTEES FOR 2014-2015

Please see below the Committees of the Core Doctoral Faculty for 2014-2015. These can also be found on the GTU Website by searching "Faculty Committees."

**Awards Committee**  
Ron Burris (ABSW)  
Ruth Meyers (CDSP)

**Appointments and Review Committee**  
Christopher Ocker (SFTS)  
Jean-François Racine (JST)

**Grievance Committee**  
Deena Aranoff (CJS/GTU)  
Aaron Brody (PSR)  
Thomas Cattoi (JST)  
John Klentos (PAOI/GTU)  
– alternate

**Doctoral Council**  
Judith Berling (GTU) – FA14  
Mary McGann (JST) – SP15  
Richard Payne (IBS)

## CJS: NEWS &amp; EVENTS

#### What is Shmita? Jewish Views on the Sabbatical Year

**Thursday, September 4, 2014 - 12:30pm**

Rabbi Yedidya (Julian) Sinclair will bring his expertise as a professor, developer of solar energy, and rabbi to provide new perspectives on the concept of Shmita.

Literally translated as "release" שמיטה is seventh year of the seven-year agricultural cycle in which the land is left to lie fallow and all agricultural activity is forbidden and all debts are to be remitted.

#### Overlooking the Obvious: The Binding of Isaac Revealed in Literature and Poetry

**Thursday, September 18, 2014 - 12:30pm**

In this lecture Stephen Pearce, currently a visiting scholar at the Graduate Theological Union, will discuss the Binding of Isaac with other scholars from the Bay Area. Prior to teaching at the GTU, Rabbi Pearce served Congregation Emanu-El as the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi from 1993 to 2013.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The PDP will offer events and workshops twice a month, generally on Wednesdays. Upcoming sessions include a workshop on Putting your PhD to work, in collaboration with the History Area, September 17, from noon-1:30pm in the HEDCO room, a workshop on Crafting CVS and Cover Letters,

on October 1, from 3-5pm, and Writing Workshop 1: From Ideas to Outlines and Pages, October 15, from 10am-noon in the Student Lounge, and Writing Workshop 2: From Pages to Finished Work, 10am-noon on October 29.

For more information, contact PDP Coordinator Dian-

dra Chretien, [dchretien@gtu.edu](mailto:dchretien@gtu.edu), and visit [www.gtu.edu/students/prodev](http://www.gtu.edu/students/prodev) where you can also find links to helpful resources.



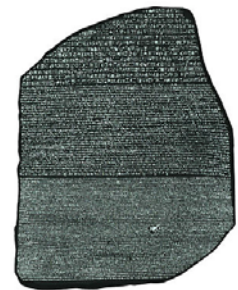
## MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM

**The GTU Modern Foreign Language Exam will be offered Wednesday, September 24, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Dinner Board Room in the GTU Library.** The exam will be offered in French, German, and Spanish, and in Italian and Modern Hebrew if

there is interest.

Students should contact Fredonia Thompson, GTU Academic Secretary, well in advance if they wish to be examined in an alternative language; in these cases, we will need to student's help to secure the examiner.

**Please register with Wendy Arce, GTU Receptionist and Office Manager (649-2400; [warce@gtu.edu](mailto:warce@gtu.edu)) no later than September 10, 2014.**



## CIS: NEWS & EVENTS

**The Center for Islamic Studies extends salaams and a warm welcome to all new and continuing CIS students and wishes them every success!**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Som Pourfarzaneh will be the Acting Director of the CIS this fall semester while Dr. Jiwa is on sabbatical. Dr. Pourfarzaneh will be teaching Islam and the Media. Congratulations!

Dr. Munir Jiwa is on sabbatical this fall semester. He will be a visiting scholar in Anthropology at Columbia University, working on projects around Islamic Art Museums as sites of intercultural and interreligious exchange.

The CIS/GTU is delighted to welcome returning visiting scholars for the academic year 2014-2015 and we extend our gratitude to them for their support of the work of the CIS: Carol Bier, Dr. Mahan Mirza, Dr. Nargis Virani.

Carol Bier (Research Associate, Textile Museum, Washington, DC) is an Islamic Art Historian specializing in the study of patterns as intersections of geometry and art with a focus on significant developments in mathematics, philosophy, and the arts on the Iranian plateau in the 11th and 12th century CE.

Dr. Mahan Mirza (PhD, Yale University; Dean of Faculty, Zaytuna College) will focus his

research this year on contemporary theological, scientific, and thematic approaches to Qur'anic interpretation.

Dr. Nargis Virani (PhD, Harvard University) has taught a variety of courses related to Arabic language, literature, Qur'anic and Islamic Studies, Women's Studies, and Middle Eastern films. Her research explores intersections between the Qur'an and literatures originating in Muslim milieu.

On September 25, Dr. Jiwa will give the James F. Veninga lecture on Religion and Politics, titled, "Framing/Reframing: The Five 'Media Pillars' of Islam" at the the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Understand-

ing, University of Wisconsin-Marathon County.

In addition to papers in Montreal and Korea during the summer, visiting scholar Carol Bier will present a paper and conduct workshops at the 2nd International Workshop on Geometry in Islamic Art, Istanbul (September 21-24) and Konya, Turkey (September 25-27), returning at the end of the month to conduct a workshop at the inaugural festival of MoSAIC (Mathematics of Science, Art, Industry, Culture) at Berkeley City College, sponsored by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley.

## HONORABLE MENTION

### MA STUDENTS

#### Thesis Successfully Defended

Sundiata Al Rashid, GTU/CIS

David Hiller, GTU/CIS

### PHD STUDENTS

#### General Comprehensives Passed

Therese Bjoernaass, THEO

Jeanette Hernandez, THEO

Sukhun Huh, THEO

Sanghyun Lee, THEO

Henry Kuo, THEO

Justin Lipscomb, THEO

Effendi Sunur, THEO

Cecilia Titizano, THEO

Matthew Boswell, SPRT

Jiyoung Ko, BIBL

Rachel Wheeler, BIBL

#### Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Ki Wook Min, THEO

Se Hoon Park, SPRT

Suzanne Miller, BIBL

Horacio Da Valle, THEO

Yong Yeon Hwang, IDS

Lauren Guerra, THEO

Abdel Ali, CRLG

#### Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Wendy Biale, THEO

Ann Woods, ETHC

Elaine Belz, ART

Christopher Moreland, HIST

Seung Ku Jung, SPRT

Hyeokil Kwon, SPRT

Harley Jay Siskin, HIST

Mariusz Tabaczek, THEO\*

Lawrence Fraher, ART\*

Hollis Mitchem, ART\*

Ali Ataie, CRLG \*

\*Passed with Distinction

#### Advanced to Candidacy

Carl Bear, LITG

Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, IDS

Sungho Lee, THEO

Sheri Prud'homme, IDS

Patricia McKee, ART

Kijung Nam, SPRT

#### Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended

Mee-Yin Mary Yuen, IDS

## GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

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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](mailto:amunoz@gtu.edu).



**Students and Faculty of Color  
Welcome Reception, September  
24, 4:30 to 6:00pm, Easton Hall,  
CDSP, 2401 Ridge Road.**

**Join us to celebrate the new year  
and welcome each other!**