



The GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN



Each year the Office of Student Affairs administers a student satisfaction survey of the doctoral students in order to assess their educational experience at the GTU and the support and services they receive. Overall the students are very happy and satisfied: out of 52 respondents, 40 students said they were “mostly satisfied” or “extremely satisfied” to the question, “How satisfied are you overall with your educational experience at the GTU?” That’s seventy seven percent! Eight students (15.4%) said they were “somewhat satisfied” and four students (7.7%) said they were “not satisfied.” We take these surveys seriously and pay attention to concerns raised in the survey. Long before the accreditation agencies required schools to demonstrate with concrete data that schools are meeting the educational goals and needs of their students, the GTU as a community of scholars and educational supporters always had the well-being and interests of the students at the heart of its mission. I’d like to make three points in light of the student satisfaction survey.

First, let’s not be overly harsh on ourselves by focusing only on problems we need to fix or improve. As an academic community, we are doing a very good job of educating scholars and providing services they need to succeed in their program. Let’s give ourselves a pat on the back.

Second, there are two perennial issues, the lack of affordable housing and the need for more scholarship than we currently give, that require a Herculean effort to solve. Hercules was able to slay Orthrus, the two-headed dog, to get to the red cattle and finish the tenth labor, but I doubt our two-headed problem will be eliminated anytime soon. It’s a monster we need to walk around rather than face it head-on in order to complete the program. Remember, Hercules’ task was to obtain the cattle of Geryon, not to kill the two-headed dog.

Third, about 20 percent of the respondents answered “Not Helpful” to the question “How would you evaluate the advising you have received in your program?” We are not satisfied that *only* eighty percent said either “Helpful” or “Very Helpful.” When the Faculty Council met on August 22nd, it recommended that the faculty advising be on the agenda of the Core Doctoral Faculty meeting on October 18th. The Student Advisory Council met on September 13th and decided that the topic for the Fall Student Forum on October 11th will be the academic advising.

I have invited the student representatives to come to the CDF meeting to present recommendations from the student forum. I look forward to hearing from both the students and the faculty as we continue to forge a more perfect theological union.

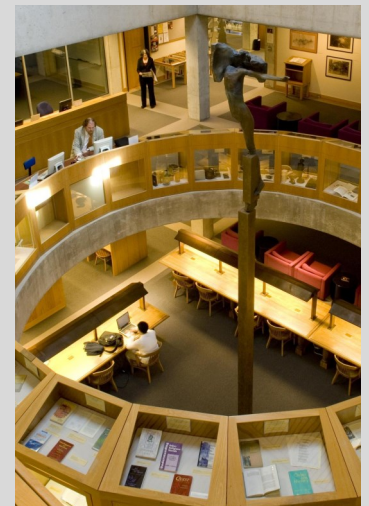
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Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.
Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



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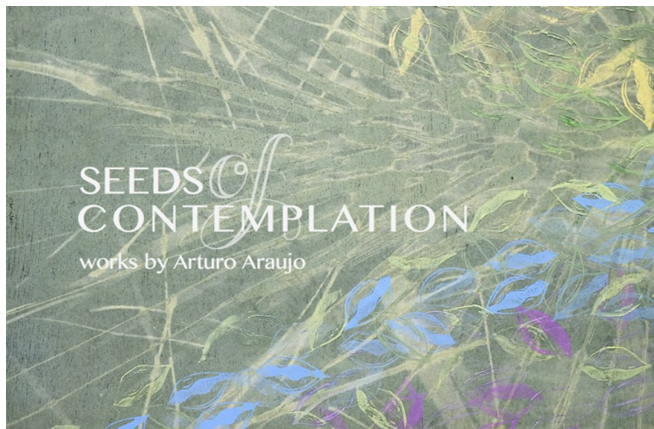


CARe Events

Seeds of Contemplation: Works by Arturo Araujo, will be on view through December 8, 2017

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10am-3pm



Brown Bag Lunch Series: Kelly Colwell

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Friday, October 6, 12-1pm. Bring your lunch!

Guest speaker: Kelly Colwell (GTU PhD Student in Religion & Practice).

Colwell (Spring 2017 CARE/GTU Grant Recipient) will give visitors an overview of her Summer 2017 workshop, "Engaging Across Theological Divides", where participants were given the chance to collaboratively create liturgical art together as a means for engaging theological differences. Brown Bag Lunch Series are informal presentations by GTU students, faculty, and staff hosted the First Friday of each month from 12-1pm in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery. Everyone is welcome!

You're invited to join the **GTU Writing Group** Mondays from 8:30am-1:30pm in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery. Laptops, phones, and refreshments are welcome!

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery is located at 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

CARe Student Advisory Committee Meeting

Open call for all GTU students! Are you interested in joining the CARE Student Advisory Committee? Join us at this exploratory meeting on **Wednesday, October 11 at 12noon** to discuss student involvement in CARE. Help us create student centered programs and activities! Lunch will be provided.

Dillenberger Lecture in Art History

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Thursday, October 12, 5-7pm

Guest Speaker: Cristina Cruz González, PhD
Associate Professor of Art History

Oklahoma State University

Abbess as Alter Christus: Delineating Female Sanctity in Spain and Spanish America

Art history has approached female monastic culture in New Spain through the lens of crowned-nun portraiture, a late colonial genre that reaffirmed a nun's position as a mystical Bride of Christ. This has led to scholarly neglect of female imitatio Christi and the ecclesiastical pretense exhibited by several early modern holy women in Spain and Spanish America. Using examples from Spain, Mexico, and Guatemala, this talk explores the various pictorial strategies for capturing and performing an alter Christus status in a transatlantic Spanish world. While I discuss the images from the standpoint of their theological origin and socio-political relevance (they surface during periods of female monastic reform), I also consider their optical demands and how they enlighten our understanding of a mimesis-imitatio correlation.

Location: Graduate Theological Union Library, 2nd Floor

Reception to follow in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley



Distinguished Faculty Lecture



Dr. Naomi Seidman, Koret Professor of Jewish Culture at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union (CJS) will deliver the 2017 Distinguished Faculty Lecture: "When Jesus Spoke Yiddish: Translating the New Testament for Jews."

Dr. Seidman's lecture will explore the linguistic strategies used by missionary translators between 1540 and 1940. During this period, translators abandoned Luther in search of a more "Jewish" Yiddish that could express their conceptions of Jesus' Jewishness. Response by Margaret Miles.

Tuesday, November 7, 7:00pm. PSR Chapel, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley.

Followed by a reception in the Badé Museum

From the Office of the Dean of Students

Doctoral Student Co-Working Group

Feeling isolated in your writing? Losing motivation? Join the GTU Co-Working Group, an egalitarian writing collective formed by students to support one another in progressing through the program in a timely way. The group works together on timed sessions, and provides a way to connect with other students and provide mutual support. Mondays the sessions are at CARE on the first floor of LeConte, Tuesday-Friday in Hedco. Contact Kathleen Kook, kkook@gtu.edu for more information.

Fall Forum for Doctoral Students, October 11, 12:00-1:30pm, Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte. The Student Advisory Committee is sponsoring this conversation with GTU doctoral students **focused on questions** about effective Advising and strategies for success in a "self-directed" doctoral program. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Seeking Talented Proofreaders

The Dean of Students office provides proofreading support for international students working on course papers. If you are willing and available to participate and assist with this service (for pay), contact Kathleen Kook, kkook@gtu.edu for more information.

Call for Papers: Berkeley Journal of Theology & Religion

The **Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology** (BJRT) is the GTU's peer-reviewed academic journal. Founded in 2015, the BJRT aims to publish original, cutting-edge research in topics within religious studies, theology, and philosophy. The journal is issuing a Call for Papers for the next issue, Vol. 4, No. 1, to be published in May 2018. Submissions are due February 1, 2018 to bjrt@ses.gtu.edu. Prospective authors should consult the information presented at the BJRT website: <http://gtu-bjrt.wixsite.com/bjrt/information>

The BJRT is also inviting interested students to join the administration of the journal, either as a member of the staff or as a member of the peer-review board. For more information, please consult <http://gtu-bjrt.wixsite.com/bjrt/call-for-staff>

For more information, please contact the managing editor at bjrt@ses.gtu.edu



Pacific Coast Theological Society Meeting

NOVEMBER 3-4***“Theology, Transhumanism, and Artificial Intelligence”***

You are cordially invited to attend the Fall Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, November 3 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m.–noon in Classroom “B” at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

The papers for the Fall Meeting examine the relationship between theology and the emerging technologies of transhumanism and artificial intelligence, especially how these technologies influence human self-understanding in a theological context. Friday afternoon begins with a paper by Brian Green (SCU), entitled “Artificial Intelligence: Some Theological and Ethical Concerns” with [Andrew Porter](#) (CTNS) responding. This is followed by the paper, “Zarathustra, Transhumanism, and the Homo Gubernator” by Levi Checketts (JST). Peter Hess (GTU) will respond. Saturday morning, the topic of “Reflecting on the Science of Transhumanism” by Arvin Gouw (UC Berkeley) is discussed and Lanny Vincent (SCU) is the respondent. Lastly, Braden Molhoek (GTU) closes the Meeting with his paper, “Second Class Citizens? Questions of Purpose and Membership for AI and Transhumanism” with Ted Peters (GTU) responding. As is the custom of the Society, reading links are posted on the PCTS website (<http://pcts.org/meetings/2017/Fall.html>) and texts should be read ahead of time—the papers are not read aloud, rather, time is spent each session responding to the paper at hand and engaging in multidisciplinary, in-depth discussion

NOVEMBER 3**Free Public Lecture**

Mark Graves (Notre Dame) discusses his experience in building Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems and how he has interweaved AI and science with his theological development. Please join us Friday evening, November 3 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP.

Note that the Friday afternoon paper sessions are followed by cocktails and dinner. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. The open discussion session follows and finishes by noon. Registration and fees are located on the PCTS website (<http://www.pcts.org/register.html>) and may also 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 and \$22.50 for students. Go to www.pcts.org for further information.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

The Spring PCTS Meeting, April 13-14, 2018 will feature a presentation by **John Cobb** and have paper sessions related to his work and influence.

Asia Project Fall Forum: *New Voices of Asia and Oceania*

Asia Project at GTU cordially invites GTU students and faculties to the fourth Semi-Annual Student Colloquium. Presentations will feature issues related to "Asian and Oceanic culture and religion" and free lunch (delicious Asian cuisine!) will be served. More than 30 people - faculties and students - participated in past forums.

When: October 16th (Monday) 2017 @ 12:30-2:00 pm **Where:** Dinner Board Room **What:** Sharing Asia/Oceania related topics **For Whom:** Anyone interested in Asian/Oceania culture and religion





CIS Events



The joint CIS/CJS Madrasa-Midrasha program is delighted to host an event, "Reflections on Jewish, Christian and Islamic Holy Days," with Rabbi Stephen Pearce (CJS/GTU), Prof. Sr. Marianna Farina (DSPT/CIS), and Mahjabeen Dhala, PhD student (GTU) on Wed, Oct 11, from 1-2:30pm in the GTU Library Dinner Board Room. More info: www.gtu.edu

CIS Visiting Scholar Dr. Jessica Chen (PhD, Religious Studies, Stanford), will be presenting her research on 19th Century Chinese Muslims, as part of her larger interest in Islamic Asia. Dr. Chen's dissertation was titled, "Chinese Heirs to Muhammad: Writing Islamic History in Early Modern China." Event to be held week of Oct 16, with details TBA . Please check www.gtu.edu/cis for updates.

As part of the current CIS 10th anniversary exhibition in the GTU Library, Knowledge & Diversity (on through Jan, 19, 2018), the CIS is pleased to offer guided tours, and an artists' forum in October and November, TBA. Please see www.gtu.edu/cis for updates, or email cis@gtu.edu

GTU @ AAR

GTU Alumni Reception at AAR-SBL

Event Date: Saturday, November 18th 2017, 8:00pm

The GTU Alumni Reception during the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature in Boston will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the America Ballroom Center at the Westin Copley Place. Our 2017 Alumna of the Year, Dr. Virginia Burrus, will be honored. All GTU alumni and friends are invited.

Photo by Leonard P. Zakim



PDP Events

October 3rd, 11 am, in the Student Lounge

Scholarship Resources: A Workshop for Doctoral Students, with Denise Morita and Sheryl Johnson.

October 12th, 12 pm, Student Lounge

The Job Search—Mock Interviews, with Kirsi Stjerna and LeAnn Flesher.

October 17th, 11 am, Student Lounge

Dissertation Writing Process—From dissertation to Book, with Arthur Holder and Naomi Seidman

WSR Events

Raising Our Voices in a Turbulent Time

A panel and discussion including Leslie Bowling-Dyer (Doctoral Student, GTU), Dr. Sharon R. Fenner (PSR), Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble (ABSW), Jennifer Owens-Jofré (Doctoral Candidate, GTU), and Dr. Rita D. Sherma (CDS, GTU). Reception to follow!

Thursday, November 2, 2017 @ 7 PM

Dinner Board Room

Flora Lamson Hewitt Library



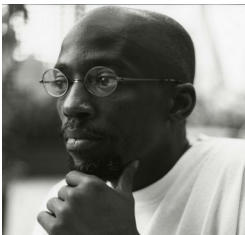
GTU Library News

Archives and Special Collections

Collections recently processed and available for research:

The Spiritual Dynamic in Modern Art, 1800 to the Present Research Collection. The collection consists of working files for Charlene Spretnak’s book on the spiritual in modern art, along with exhibition catalogs and artists monographs. The book and the files provide a unique resource for the study of spirituality and modern art. 9.2 linear feet (9 record boxes and one 2" box). Finding aid: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8736x05/>

Mark Thompson Collection. Mark Thompson (1952-2016) wrote and edited several influential queer books, including the trilogy *Gay Spirit*, *Gay Soul*, and *Gay Body*. His other books are *The Fire in the Moonlight: Stories from the Radical Faeries*; *Leatherfolk: Radical Sex, People, Politics, and Practice*; and *Long Road to Freedom: The Advocate History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement*. The collection consists of photographs and working files for Thompson’s *Gay Soul*, publicity and drafts of *Gay Spirit* and an oral history. 3.5 linear feet (5 boxes). This is one of The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) archival collections managed by GTU Archives. A selection of photographs from his *Fellow Travelers* exhibit will be on display from October 2017 through January 2018 on the wall by the conference room on the second floor. Finding aid: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8qc08nn/>



Essex Hemphill (1957- 1995),
gay activist and poet

Los Angeles 1993

Photograph by Mark Thompson

Claude Welch Personal Papers. Claude Raymond Welch (1922 - 2009) was Dean and President of Graduate Theological Union from 1971 to 1982 and served as Dean from 1982 to 1987. He was a historical theologian specializing in Karl Barth and nineteenth-century theology. The collection includes files on academic society work, correspondence, faculty materials, courses, GTU Centers, students, and lectures. 15 linear feet (15 record boxes). Finding aid: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8m04bjx/>

David Stiver

Special Collections Librarian

October is a busy month in the library. We are offering our last Zotero workshop for the semester on Tuesday October 10th at 12:45 in the board room. Bring your laptop and lunch, it’s a brown bag session. We are debuting new workshops on Fake News (10/3@GTU & 10/10@SFTS), Engaging Historical Theological Sources (10/12), and Personal Branding (10/19). The Course Design Workshop series continues on Mondays and Fridays, but the big event is our library book sale on Wednesday October 4th.

We are excited to have just launched Summon. It searches GRACE (our catalog), all 90 of our databases, open access resources, and our LibGuides in one place. Come by the reference desk for a demo, or check it out yourself at the new library website. <http://gtu.edu/library>

And don’t forget, we have librarians available on chat to answer your questions, or you can call (510) 649-2501, email library@gtu.edu, or visit us in Berkeley or at the branch library in San Anselmo. Researching in the middle of the night? We have guides and tutorials available 24/7. We are happy to help.

Annual Book Sale!

Come one, come all to the annual GTU Library Book Sale! This year’s sale is happening on Wednesday, October 4, from 10am to 3pm on the patio in front of the library. In case of rain, the sale will take place in the Collaborative Learning Space inside the library. Thousands of books will be for sale – most paperbacks priced at \$1 and most hardcovers for \$2. You don’t want to miss this highly anticipated annual event. We will see you there!

GTU MONSTER MASS!

Saturday, October 21st at 7:00pm

COSP Denniston Refectory

Please join us for some ghoulish games, freaky fun, and frightening food!

Dance Party and Costume Contest: Prizes for Most Scandalous, Most Creative, and Most Theologically Sound!

Kid friendly until 8pm!

To partake of the adult beverages please bring ID

Contact catkins@ses.cdsp.edu with any questions



Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Aaron Grizzell, SFTS, HONORS

Yunha Hwang, SFTS

Sungeun Kim, SFTS

Kyung-June Park, SFTS

Bradley Seligmann, JST-SCU

Akihiro Yasuda, JST-SCU

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Jamie Fowler, THEO

Daniel Shantu, THEO

Advanced to Candidacy

Paul Blankenship, SPRT

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Cirelli Blaise, ART

Sarah Kohles, BIBL

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Kresten Froistad-Martin, ETHC

Jin Sook Kim, THEO

Dante' Quick, THEO

Stephen Shaver, LITG

Ann Woods, ETHC



Grow in Knowledge
Thrive in Spirit
Unite in Solutions

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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 Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

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