

SPRING 2007

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“

I wanted to know, what was the effect of internment? Could something positive have come from it?

”

Joanne Doi,
Ph.D. '07

Engaging Difference

Pilgrimage as Path to Connection and Compassion

For more than a decade, Maryknoll Sister Joanne Doi lived and worked with the Aymara, an indigenous people in Peru's southern Andes, for whom pilgrimage is a way of life.

As she listened to their oral histories, she says, "I realized I didn't know my own history." That realization was the beginning of her own pilgrimage to the sites where her parents, grandparents, and thousands of other Japanese Americans were interned during World War II because they were considered security risks in a climate of racial prejudice.



**Joanne Doi, Ph.D. '07,
speaks at Commencement.**

"The task of my parents' generation was to survive internment.

Our task as the next generation was to reconnect to memory and to mourning, to seek reparations," says Doi.

"I wanted to know, what was the effect of internment? Could something positive have come from it?"

"I discovered that many people, Japanese American or not, relate to the story of the internment, for it is an American story."

—Joanne Doi, Ph.D. '07

"And I learned that indeed, there was a gift. Community grew from the camp experience, and that created strength, even where there was injury." Buddhists, Christians, and those of the Shinto faith were interned together and at times, religious differences were manipulated to create loyal/disloyal divisions. Yet, despite the losses, the difficulty of living in the camps, and the conflicts that occurred due to being a community under extreme duress, people sought ways to create beauty and care for one another. An example of this, Doi says, is that people built stone and waterfall gardens in the desert, along the walkways to the mess halls where people had to wait in long lines for their meals. The gardens provided comfort through the ordeal.

From Pilgrim to Leader

Doi's experience visiting the camps became a pathway to reconnect with the memory of her family's story, and to facilitate listening and understanding of stories among others. She currently leads a pilgrimage group to Manzanar, California — an internment camp which is now a National Historic Site — in conjunction with the Institute for Leadership Development and Study of Pacific and Asian North American Religion (PANA) at

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Elizabeth Fall

Dear GTU Community,

In March, I was honored to be invited by the Brookings Institution of Washington, D.C. to present at the International Conference on U.S.-Islamic Relations in Doha, Qatar. My address on the role of religion in the public square was directly related to the conference theme: *Confronting What Divides Us*. It was a very profound experience to have been involved in these conversations in the Middle East, where religious conflicts abound. Invited guests included government officials, NGO directors, diplomats, cultural and economic leaders, educational administrators, and journalists from around the globe.

I was impressed by the central focus given to religion as an essential factor in finding resolutions to geopolitical, economic, and social problems. The presence of individuals from Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions fostered a level of conversation that was both intense and exhilarating. I was pleased to have represented the Graduate Theological Union at this important discussion.

This edition of *Currents* focuses on *engaging difference*. At the GTU, we have students from a wide range of backgrounds who discover that here we embrace, rather than avoid, the critical tensions that arise from different perspectives. In sharing our distinctiveness, we keep each other real and authentic, as Marta Vides Saade (Ph.D. '03) describes on p. 3. Conflict over difference is the daily fabric of the world in which we live and is the context of our work here at the GTU. We are committed to the pursuit of ideas and their practical applications, even when they involve struggle. We navigate the challenges of diversity in intellectual, personal, and experiential dimensions.

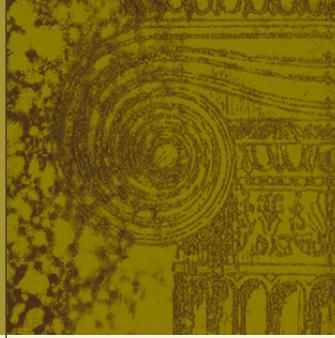
In this edition of *Currents*, you'll read about some remarkable efforts, such as the pilgrimages Joanne Doi leads to Japanese-American internment camps (p.1) and the class co-taught by Matthew Haar Farris and Dr. Judith Berling on engaging other religions (p. 8). You'll hear from our students, faculty, and alumni about their experiences with difference, read stories about the friends who support our mission, and see the fruits of our labor to establish the Center for Islamic Studies (p. 4).

These are lively examples of the creative work we do to make a difference in a world of differences. At the Graduate Theological Union, as we teach each other and learn from one another, we remind the world of the common good that binds us together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Donahue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James A. Donahue

To read President James A. Donahue's letter to the GTU Community on the Virginia Tech tragedy, visit www.gtu.edu.



Authentic Voice: In Tlaneztia In Tonatiuh Nahuatl Translation: “May Your Sun Shine Brightly”

GTU alumni speak about how their GTU experience has influenced their life’s work.

Marta Vides Saade, Ph.D. '03, discusses the foundation the GTU gave her to engage difference.

When I describe the interreligious climate of the Graduate Theological Union to colleagues, friends, and relatives, I am surprised by the wonder in their eyes. In these times, using dialogue across categories that might otherwise separate us, and could be used to justify violence, is a prophetic expression of hope.

From 1990, when I began my first tentative steps towards an M.Div. at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley (JSTB) until 2003, when I earned my Ph.D. in ethics and social theory, I lived and learned within the GTU community. My most important lessons were not in the classroom. In Spanish, we have two words to express the meaning of “to know:” *saber* and *conocer*. *Saber* means to know intellectually. *Conocer* means to know by heart. At the GTU, both ways of knowing are valued. I recall the good counsel of JSTB Professor John Endres suggesting I write my paper on the lament psalms, instead of my chosen topic, when he found me in a corner, dazed as I tried to manage the feelings of losing four friends in three months to HIV/AIDS. JSTB Professor Bill O’Neill skillfully directed my dissertation. The words I most often remember are his reminder to “leave room for the spirit” as we planned a liturgy to commemorate the Jesuits killed in El Salvador in 1989.

During the two years I served as interim director of the GTU’s Center for Women and Religion, I was privileged to know strong women like Karen Lebacqz, who showed me that discipline and kindness are not mutually exclusive, and Clare Fischer, who told wonderful stories reminding me that an eclectic way of thinking is beautiful. My dear friend and colleague Kathryn Poethig taught me much during our time at the Beijing Women’s Conference during those halcyon days. The adventure continues with President Jim Donahue’s East Coast GTU dinners.

Perhaps because of the breadth of conversation at the GTU, I chose to teach in an interdisciplinary undergraduate program addressing issues of law and society instead of a law school setting. My students



Marta Vides Saade, Ph.D.'03, assistant professor of law and society, Ramapo College of New Jersey, prepares for a healing ceremony with the dance group Xihcoatl Danza Azteca in San Francisco, CA two days after the passing of her father, Armando Salvador Vides Bolaños, in February 2002. She receives a blessing of copal smoke from Gabriela Rojas Martinez, the Malinche of the group.

aspire to careers in law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, law school, public policy, and other paths. Their articulated values are often in disagreement with each other, and yet, with careful and respectful dialogue, they are often able to find common ground. My own work makes use of my dual citizenship here in the U.S. and in El Salvador, where I serve as technical advisor on a truth commission investigating a massacre of indigenous people in 1932. It is viewed as the contemporary source of the culture of violence that haunts El Salvador. I use my whole name as is customary in El Salvador, including the Palestinian name of my mother’s family, because that is one way for me to be authentic.

Being authentic is sometimes simple, sometimes complicated, and sometimes even dangerous. Every time I guide a student thesis, I remember my mentor Bill O’Neill’s gentle guidance, always encouraging my own voice. I am grateful for the way the GTU grounded me in a way that allows me to let the voice of my students be heard.*

A Dream in the Making



A dream long in the making, the Center for Islamic Studies will open its doors for the first time this fall. The center will enhance the work of Muslim scholars and all students at the Graduate Theological Union.

The GTU has been no stranger to the study of Islam. Its Board of Trustees first suggested the idea of a center in the mid-1990s. At the request of GTU President James A. Donahue, Starr King School for the Ministry Professor Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajajé chaired the Islamic Studies Task Force formed in 2002. Since then, curricular offerings in Islamic Studies have grown by four hundred percent; student participation in these classes has expanded from ten students in 2001-2002 to 132 students last year. The GTU has sponsored numerous events on Islam in recent years, including “Religious Pluralism in the 21st Century: Muslim Identities in the Diaspora,” a conference which drew more than 200 attendees in 2002. Friends of the GTU have given half a million dollars to propel the center into its first three years of work, and additional funds have come from a Luce Foundation grant to the Starr King School for the Ministry.

Munir Jiwa, who recently accepted the position as assistant professor of Islamic Studies and director of the center, has a rich background in engaging difference. His research has addressed mass media portrayals of Islam and Muslims. Jiwa was previously at the University of Toronto, where he was a Mellon postdoctoral fellow in the Department and Center for the Study of Religion. He holds a master’s degree in religion from Harvard and a doctorate in anthropology from Columbia University.

“Few theological schools and seminaries offer Islamic Studies,” says Jiwa. “As the largest partnership of theological and graduate schools in the U.S., housing one of the most comprehensive theological libraries, with its distinguished faculty and students, and its outreach to various religious communities, I can think of no better environment than the GTU to advance the study of Islam and the role of Islam and Muslims in public life.”

“Few theological schools and seminaries offer Islamic Studies ... I can think of no better environment than the GTU to advance the study of Islam and the role of Islam and Muslims in public life.”

—Munir Jiwa

In cooperation with several GTU member schools, the new center will offer introductory and advanced courses in Islamic history, theology, philosophy, culture, arts, and religious practice. Professor Farajajé and Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology Professor Marianne Farina, C.S.C., will serve as associated faculty at the center.

The center will expand its certificate program, and then create a master’s degree similar to those offered at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies and the Institute of Buddhist Studies. It will also strengthen GTU ties with various departments at the University of California, Berkeley. The center will host a biennial Islamic Studies Conference and offer lectures, symposia, and cultural events.

Local Muslim religious leaders will be able to use the center’s resources to shore up their backgrounds in pastoral counseling, pastoral psychology, homiletics, and interfaith scholarship. The center will also reach out to Jewish and Christian communities for interreligious understanding and collaboration. The new Center for Islamic Studies is a dream in the making for the GTU as well as its new director. “Working within an interreligious and intercultural setting where dialogue and diversity are the norm, is for me,” Jiwa says, “a privilege and necessity.”*

Sarlo Excellence in Teaching Award Goes to Hens-Piazza

Gina Hens-Piazza is the 2007 recipient of the Sarlo Excellence in Teaching Award, which recognizes the values of “interreligious sensitivity and commitment,” “interdisciplinary approach and content in teaching,” “sensitivity to ethnic and cultural diversity,” and “creative and effective classroom pedagogical methods and performance.” Hens-Piazza, who is a core doctoral faculty member and professor of biblical studies at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, sees the award as “a challenge to keep being better at what I do.”

Hens-Piazza teaches Old Testament with a contextual edge — whether she’s teaching a doctoral seminar, or “Prophets: Foundation for Ministry in a Global Context” — where students travel to Guatemala to study culture, or “Teaching the Bible in the Community” — where students teach classes in local sites. “What I aim for,” she says, “is understanding, where students ‘stand under’ new material so that it sheds light on them, their world, and others, provoking insight and empathy in the process. How we read a cultural icon like the Bible has a great deal to do with how we ‘read’ the cultural texts of our world.



Gina Hens-Piazza

“I strive to enable my students to discover that they are key resources for each other in this learning enterprise.”

—Gina Hens-Piazza

“I strive to enable my students to discover that they are key resources for each other in this learning enterprise. And they are significant partners for me as well. The questions I ask in my research are inevitably tied to the ones my students ask me. I am deeply honored to be recognized with the Sarlo Award by our students and faculty, whom I hold in such high regard.”*

“Dr. Hens-Piazza is a brilliant lecturer, stunningly prepared and creative in all she teaches. She’s compassionate, involved, demanding, practical, and available. She is just the sort of professor, advisor, and mentor I hope to be with my future students.”

—Courtney Gulden, Ph.D. student

“Dr. Hens-Piazza knows how to help students be their very best, and that is a wonderful feeling. Even at times when you are not at your best, don’t worry! She is so gracious and caring.”

—Chesung Justin Ryu, Ph.D. student



George Sarlo

George Sarlo is motivated to make a difference in the world. In the wake of his family’s experience in the Holocaust during World War II, he developed a deep appreciation for the role of education for future generations. A strong believer in the role of quality teaching to enhance understanding, Sarlo supports the GTU’s work educating leaders who promote justice and peace among religions and cultures. To motivate and reward GTU professors for their creativity in guiding students, he established the **Sarlo Excellence in Teaching Award** at the GTU in 2002.

Sarlo has channeled much of his success in the business world into philanthropy. He and his wife Sejong are actively involved in organizations that provide humanitarian service, including the International Rescue Committee and the Sarlo Foundation, created in 1992 as part of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco.

Students Speak



Two doctoral students reflect on how the GTU has prepared them to engage difference.

RICKY MANALO, LITURGICAL STUDIES

One of the areas in which we experience diversity is worship. I plan to continue my ministry in developing liturgical and pastoral resources for intercultural contexts. As the only Roman Catholic doctoral student in liturgical studies at the GTU, I am drawn to the GTU's openness to explore worship within an interreligious community. Here I can share and critically engage my tradition with the cultural dynamics around me. As a liturgical composer, I recently applied post-colonial and intercultural approaches to some of my compositions. The GTU has sharpened my sense of my own religious identity and the ways in which I can celebrate and contribute my gifts.



CECILIA GONZALEZ-ANDRIEU, ART AND RELIGION

At the GTU, difference is not a concept, but a reality we live with daily. Our faith traditions and the coherence provided by our studies center us when "otherness" could potentially frighten and overwhelm us. As I leave my GTU community to teach at Loyola Marymount University, it is my rootedness in my tradition and my living with other ways of being religious that will help me teach in a manner that is relevant, respectful, and celebratory.



Introducing New GTU Faculty Member Holger Zellentin

**Assistant Professor of Rabbinics and Late Antique Judaism
Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies**

The Graduate Theological Union combines intellectual diversity with vigorous participation in research and teaching, and I am very much looking forward to offering my experience and energy to the GTU.

Throughout my education, I have tried to understand Judaism in the context of its surrounding cultures. Specializing in the Eastern Mediterranean in Late Antiquity, I first studied Judaism as being a self-aware part of the Hellenistic world. From there, I started to develop a dialogical understanding of Judaism and Christianity, which continues to mark my work.

Antique history can be a starting place for engaging difference. Human societies have always grappled with difference, responding with cultural exchange, but also with violence. Religion was and is at the forefront of both types of responses, and the encounters always shape all parties involved. Judaism became part of the Hellenistic world, the Roman Empire became Christian, and the mutual polarization of the two monotheistic traditions, later joined by Islam, shaped much of later history. The study of these traditions shows us the magnitude of potential conflict, but it also demonstrates the vast potential for meaningful exchange, especially if we realize that some discussions have already been going on for centuries.

Holger Zellentin is preparing to defend his Ph.D. in Religions of Late Antiquity at Princeton University. He holds an M.A. in Theology and Religious Studies and an M.A. in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Jewish Studies from the University of Amsterdam. He co-edited *Heresy and Identity in Late Antiquity* in 2007.

Alum Day Goes Global

On March 31, more than thirty GTU alumni, faculty, and students gathered at the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library for the GTU's first Spring Alum Day. Participants traveled from Los Angeles, Seattle, South Korea, Indonesia, Malawi, and all parts of the San Francisco Bay Area to reconnect with colleagues, discuss current affairs at the GTU, and hear Dr. Margaret Miles (Ph.D. '77) deliver an address on her forthcoming book, *A Complex Delight: The Secularization of the Breast, 1350 to 1750*.

Participants included Dr. Suzanne Holland (Ph.D. '97), a bio-ethicist who teaches at University of Puget Sound; Rabbi Pinchas Giller (Ph.D. '90), an instructor of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles; Dr. Heup Young Kim (Ph.D. '92), professor at Kangnam University in Korea, and Rev. Dr. John Titaley (Th.D. '91) of Satuya Wacana Christian University in Indonesia, both GTU *Partnerships* participants; and Bishop Patrick Augustine Kalilombe (Th.D. '83) of the University of Malawi.*



Arthur Holder, GTU dean and vice president for academic affairs and John Dillenberger Professor of Christian Spirituality, will be on sabbatical starting July 1. Dean Holder will be working on translations: one for a volume in the Paulist Press series *Classics of Western Spirituality* (*The Venerable Bede: On the Song of Songs and Other Spiritual Writings*), and the other for Cistercian Publications on Bede's commentary on Proverbs.



THE GTU IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS 2006 LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

- Papers of Claude Welch, former GTU president and scholar of 19th century Protestant theology
- Selected books and papers of Huston Smith, world religions scholar
- Four signed letters of Albert Schweitzer, German theologian and humanitarian
- World's largest collection of materials on alternate religious movements and practices

Engaging Difference, *continued from page 1*

Pacific School of Religion. The group joins the larger annual pilgrimage that has been organized by the Manzanar Committee since 1969. The pilgrims are from many different backgrounds and faiths.

"I discovered," says Doi, "that many people, Japanese American or not, relate to the story of the internment, for it is an American story. Arab Americans see it as their story since September 11. Others, for various reasons, see it as their story as well. It's a much bigger story! And it lends hope to connecting, to being one people or rather, a people of peoples, as different as we are.

"The pilgrimages lead people to an understanding of shared suffering and shared strength. They are a way for people to enter into compassion and compassionate action, just like the planting of the gardens at the mess halls. It isn't a quick process. You work at it. Then something happens. And you just continue to work with great humility."

Doi graduated with a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies this spring. Her dissertation is *Bridge to Compassion: Theological Pilgrimage to Tule Lake and Manzanar*. She offers thanks to many at the GTU, especially members of her doctoral committee — Fumitaka Matsuoka, Judith Berling, and Michael Omi.*

Engaging the “Other”: Paradox and Mystery

When GTU doctoral student Matthew Haar Farris visited the indigenous Maori people in Aotearoa (New Zealand) several years ago, he learned an important lesson about engaging the “other.” He traveled with his aunt, who led a group of people who identify as *Iyeska*: mixed bloods, interpreters, people who stand at the “Crossroads,” or people with multiple faith or wisdom traditions. Maori elders had invited his aunt to bring a group of *Iyeska* people from the U.S. to gather with them in the exploration of a sacred relationship. For the journey Haar Farris’s aunt carried the *Iyeska*’s “Crossroads medicine bundle.” After the group participated in a Maori welcome ceremony (*powhiri*) and the visitors had settled into the *marae* (meeting house), Haar Farris’s aunt discovered that having been accepted as sacred visitors, “our medicine bundle became part of the body of the ancestors of that *marae* and therefore could not leave it.” As the keeper of the *Iyeska*’s bundle, his aunt resisted turning it over to the local Maori. Hospitality was on the verge of turning into hostility. With negotiations lasting through the night, the Maori reached a resourceful resolution on behalf of their visitors the following morning.

“An important part of knowing your tradition is knowing its loopholes,” Haar Farris says. “That’s because the loopholes are the spaces where creativity resides and otherness can be welcomed. The paradox and the mystery is: Can I respectfully engage and welcome the

other, but not have to take on their otherness as mine? Can I bring the other in, while at the same time allowing them to remain different?”

A student in interdisciplinary studies, Haar Farris co-taught a class last fall entitled “Engaging Religious Difference” with Professor of

Chinese and Comparative Religions and GTU Core Doctoral Faculty Member Judith Berling. The course examined the issue of how to face different faith traditions respectfully. Students learned to balance their desire to honor difference with their need to appropriate the “other” into their own worldview — not unlike Haar Farris’s lesson with the Maori. The overarching objective of the class was for the students and instructors to bring theory into their everyday world, to work with understanding difference in any setting — from walking down the street, to shopping in a grocery store, to worshipping in a temple or church.

As in his teaching, Haar Farris takes an inquiry and practice-based approach to his studies. “My Ph.D. work is personal. I’m trying to learn about myself and the world, and how to live in it well.” He will propose his dissertation in the fall and plans to teach at the college level after graduation.*



Matthew Haar Farris

“I’m trying to learn about myself and the world, and how to live in it well.”

—Matthew Haar Farris

Robert Bellah Speaks on Religion and Power

Fourth Annual McCoy Memorial Lecture on Religion, Ethics, and Public Life Draws Packed House

“Nothing is ever lost.” So says Dr. Robert Bellah, Elliot Professor of Sociology Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, and speaker at the Fourth Annual McCoy Memorial Lecture on Religion, Ethics, and Public Life.

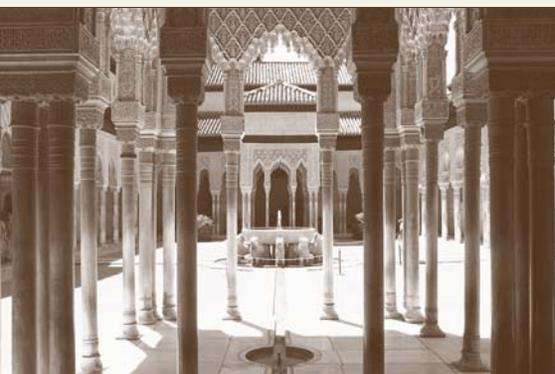
Throughout the ages, there has been interplay between religion and power, and always a shifting between “power over” others and granting “power to” others. Lest we think we’ve outgrown an obsession with despotic rule in the modern world, Bellah cautions us to think again. History includes both despots who converted to moral vision and moral leaders who became despots. All the great religions, he says, have fallen prey at one time or another to claiming they are the only one true faith. But religion can also play a key role in encouraging nonviolence and helping us to tame our human impulse toward “power over” others.

The McCoy Lecture, co-hosted on April 16 by the Graduate Theological Union and Pacific School of Religion (PSR), honors the life and work of Dr. Charles S. McCoy (1923-2002), professor of theological ethics at PSR and the GTU for 33 years and founder of the GTU’s Center for Ethics and Social Policy.

To find out more about upcoming lectures and events, visit www.gtu.edu.



Top: (left to right) Stephanie, Sherry, Beth, and Priscilla McCoy flank Robert Bellah.
Middle: Robert Bellah speaks.
Bottom: Professor Mark Wilson responds.



Experience the diverse traditions, stunning landscape, and fascinating history of Spain with the GTU Travel Program in May 2008.

Tour Andalucía, a region where Christian, Jewish, and Muslim cultures flourished, with longtime resident Dr. James Conway (Th.D. '72). Enjoy private tours, meetings with local leaders, and free time to explore on your own. Call 510/649-2420 or email travel@gtu.edu.



Weiser's Wisdom



John Weiser has gone to great lengths to ensure the GTU's academic, programmatic, administrative, and financial success. In his nine years on the Board of Trustees, he:

- Endowed a Presidential Scholarship, and helped launch the capital campaign with a major gift.
- Introduced prominent community members to the GTU's work, prompting some to join the board.
- Embodied the GTU's ecumenical and interreligious mission by creating a lecture series honoring his father and by supporting the creation of the Center for Islamic Studies.
- Spearheaded the search committee that found GTU President James A. Donahue.
- Helped draft the Common Agreement between member schools and the GTU.
- Encouraged board chairs from the nine seminaries to meet together regularly.
- Played a major role in bringing about the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library repairs.
- Helped convene the *Alternatives Futures Task Force*, a GTU long-term planning initiative.

Weiser is now retired after serving 18 years as director and general counsel for Bechtel Group, Inc. The GTU is grateful that he will continue to be a member of its President's Advisory Council.

John Weiser will step down in July from the position he has held since 1999 as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Graduate Theological Union. He reflects on how he became involved with the GTU and why he is passionate about it:

My family fled Europe in 1938, our lives upended by religious persecution. Many people acting on their religious beliefs extended a hand — Catholic refugee agencies helped as we journeyed over several continents; Catholic schools provided scholarships for me; nuns, priests, and others were powerful role models. From these early experiences came my deep belief that religion matters, and that it can motivate people to help their neighbors and our world. I also came to see that interreligious respect and dialogue can both overcome the disasters caused by religious conflict, and enrich the faith of all participants.

In my business career, I worked with companies other than my own on collaborative initiatives, and developed some guidelines for success in my company's business alliances. When a friend approached me about joining the GTU Board of Trustees, I saw it as a terrific opportunity. The consortium of nine seminaries is motivated both to share resources and, as the GTU's Common Agreement says, 'to nourish ecumenical and interfaith encounter and dialogue.' Joining the Board was a chance to be part of a collaborative effort across religious lines to prepare people for ministry and scholarship on a firm foundation of faith and morality. How well that matched what I feel is important. And I knew it would be fun to work with people whose lives were grounded in religion and service to others. I haven't been disappointed. Serving as Chairman of the Board has been a deeply satisfying experience.*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2006-2007 Graduate Theological Union Annual Fund. Your gifts fund student scholarships, lectures, library acquisitions, and interreligious and interdisciplinary programming. If you haven't yet made a gift to the Annual Fund, visit www.gtu.edu and click "Give." It is an easy and secure way to help GTU students. Your support means so much to us!

Gifts to the Scholarship Endowment

Gifts to the GTU campaign for scholarship endowment include \$250,000 from Maureen and Craig Sullivan in the name of the Maureen and Craig Sullivan Scholarship Fund and \$1 million from Robert and Joan McGrath. These and other gifts help the GTU reach its goal of offering scholarships and stipends to more than half of its doctoral students by 2010. The awards will allow the GTU to compete for students with the greatest potential for theological leadership.



Oliver Putz

GTU Scholarship Helps Student Integrate Difference

“I see myself as a bio-theologian,” says Oliver Putz, a first-year doctoral student in systematic and philosophical theology. Putz, who hails from Berlin, Germany, is a recipient of a GTU Presidential Scholarship, and holds two advanced

degrees in biology. He originally focused his academic work on evolution-ary biology, with a particular emphasis on the evolution of reproductive strategies in sharks. As he dove deeper into his research, theological issues surrounding science became increasingly important to him. “There was a shift for me from a question of how things work to a question of meaning,” Putz says. “I didn’t have the language for that dialogue.”

Putz pursued a master’s degree in theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, where he thrived under advisor George Greiner. He also was drawn to the work of Bob Russell, director of the GTU’s Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences. Immediately after completing his M.A., Putz began his doctoral work. He plans to teach theology on the college level.

“I try to integrate science and theology into an interpretation of human experience,” he says. “I’m interested in how evolutionary and behavioral biology can help us come to a fuller understanding of a theological anthropology — how we see ourselves as human, in terms of *imago Dei*, or ‘image of God.’”

Nominate the 2007 Alum of the Year by July 31!

For details on criteria, visit www.gtu.edu and click on “Alumni.” Use the online nomination form or send candidates’ names, including special accomplishments, to alumni@gtu.edu or 510/649-2424.

The Alum of the Year will be honored at the annual GTU alumni luncheon at the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Conference on November 17-20, 2007 in San Diego, California.

Trustee Paul Brandow Boosts Unrestricted Endowment

Paul Brandow’s career in banking — including serving as chairman of JP Morgan Securities — prepared him both to engage difference and to know the value of wise investments. His years working in Asia and Europe broadened his cultural perspective, and he understands the importance of growing funds that are permanently invested to ensure the financial health of organizations. His recent \$50,000 gift to the Graduate Theological Union’s unrestricted endowment will produce income that can be used flexibly, supporting programs and initiatives to sustain the GTU’s role as a leader in theological education. Since joining the Board of Trustees in 2003, Brandow has been a generous donor, supporting the GTU’s work to eliminate prejudice.

Interested in supporting the GTU’s unrestricted endowment? Contact the Office of Advancement at advancement@gtu.edu or 510/649-2436.



Ingredients for Leadership

Two member school presidents discuss the ways in which a GTU education equips students to become leaders.

REV. DR. PHILIP W. BUTIN

President, San Francisco Theological Seminary

As an unparalleled consortium of schools dedicated to and representing many of the key religious traditions on the contemporary landscape, the Graduate Theological Union provides several advantages to students seeking to become scholars and religious leaders of distinction around the world.

Many university religion programs attempt to study and evaluate religion from an “objective,” external, descriptive point of view. The assumption is that one can and should bracket at least overt prior religious commitments in order to understand and critique religion. This approach has genuine value, and GTU students preparing to be scholars of religion gain enough exposure to this approach to understand and benefit from its strengths.

But students preparing for leadership come from, live within, and intend to return to committed and engaged roles within particular religious traditions. And they will be expected to indwell, interpret, and communicate particular theological perspectives, spiritual and worship practices, and ethical courses of action. The challenge of this kind of preparation calls for a significantly different theoretical paradigm.

The GTU does not abandon the quest for objectivity. But we place it in the broader perspective of the constructive possibilities (and risks!) of active religious involvement. Our approach is “from faith, to faith.” Different religious perspectives are affirmed, nurtured, and allowed to flourish in creative engagement with one another. Appropriate critical capacity is sought through holding in dialogue and tension a variety of views that constantly engage one another. The result is a dynamic, invested, sometimes symbiotic, sometimes combustible, but always *living* interaction within, among, and between religious traditions. It is an interaction that always respects and values particularity, while aspiring to whatever universality may be humanly attainable. At the GTU, a different kind of scholarly depth and understanding allows a vital matrix to flourish, which seeks and serves the life of the world in the light of God.



**Rev. Dr. Philip W. Butin
and Rev. Dr. Phyllis
Anderson.**

REV. DR. PHYLLIS ANDERSON

President, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

At the end of the DVD that tells the story of the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the camera closes in on Kiho Song, a Master of Divinity student from Korea. He looks up and says: “I think that people’s contribution to this school will spread . . . all over the world.” Having traveled the distance from Korea to Berkeley, he has a profound respect for the reach and impact of the education he received at the Graduate Theological Union.

The GTU is unique in many ways. We talk a lot about the ecumenical context, in which students experience not only denominational diversity, but have opportunities to study in nine schools each representing a particular expression of Protestant, Roman Catholic, or Unitarian traditions. That context is expanded with serious attention to understanding and being in conversation with scholars and followers of other major world religions: Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam. We pay attention to difference even as we strive to make connections and stay in dialogue.

Pastors and scholars and leaders fan out from the GTU to churches, seminaries, and universities in all corners of the globe, having had a first-hand experience of living and studying with people deeply committed to individual faiths, within a context of many different ones. This formation prepares them to be interpreters and ambassadors “where religion meets the world.”

The GTU creates a special crucible where students discover that things usually kept apart belong together, and that there can be divisions without separation. Its doctoral program, with its strong emphasis in interdisciplinary studies, trains students to both honor distinctive disciplines and yoke them together for a fuller understanding. We treasure both faith and intellectual rigor and do not keep them hermetically sealed from each other. Many of the faculty who mentor students in the ways of advanced scholarship are the very same people who guide ministerial students to love God and serve people through their vocations.

If that integrated way of thinking and being spreads, in the words of Kiho Song, all over the world, then we must be onto something.*

Commencement 2007

The Graduate Theological Union extends its warmest congratulations to the graduating students of October 2006 and May 2007.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Jorge Alberto Aquino
Interdisciplinary Studies
*“Ni Blancos, Ni Negros”:
Race, Nation, and Identity in
U.S. Latino/a Theology*

Sharon Betsworth
Biblical Studies
*The Reign of God Is of Such as
These: A Socio-Literary Analysis of
Daughters in the Gospel of Mark*

Joanne Doi
Interdisciplinary Studies
*Bridge to Compassion: Theological
Pilgrimage to Tule Lake and
Manzanar*

Donald Craig Drummond, Sr.
Cultural and Historical Studies
of Religions
*Negotiating Influence: The
Pilgrimage Diary of Monastic
Imperial Prince Kakuhō —
Omurogoshō Kōyasan Gosanrō
Nikki*

Cecilia González-Andrieu
Art and Religion
*García Lorca as Theologian: The
Method and Practice of
Interlacing the Arts and Theology*

Katherine Lorelle Hough
Interdisciplinary Studies
*Restorative Justice and Restorative
Theology: A Dialogue*

Hak Soon Im
Religion and Psychology
*The Korean Self: Exploring
Confucian and Indigenous
Perspectives*

Avaren Elizabeth Ipsen
Biblical Studies
*Sex Worker Standpoint and
Sacred Text*

Laurie A. Jungling
Ethics and Social Theory
*Faithful Calling: A Relational
Theo-Ethical Approach to the
Lutheran Concept of Vocation and
Marriage*

Manhong Lin
Interdisciplinary Studies
*Toward a Chinese Christian
Ethic: Individual, Community,
and Society*



Professor John Kater (left) with Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu, Ph.D. '07.



M.A. graduates Yi Rang Lim (left) and Margo Olson enjoy the ceremony.

Carol J. Manahan
Interdisciplinary Studies
*The Moral Economy of Corn:
Starlink™ and the Ethic of
Resistance*

Julia D.E. Prinz
Christian Spirituality
*“Self-Implicating Biblical
Spirituality”: Johann Baptist Metz
and Dorothee Sölle at the
Interface of Biblical Hermeneutics
and Christian Spirituality*

Amy Claire Schiffrin
Liturgical Studies
*“Give Us Lips to Sing Thy Glory,
Tongues Thy Mercy to Proclaim”:
The Performative Exegesis of the
Word through Preaching and
Hymnody*

Patricia D. Shannon
Interdisciplinary Studies
*Contemporary Pilgrimage
Narratives and Social Theory: A
Search for the Self*

James Simons Silva
Christian Spirituality
*Spirituality for Business
Leadership: Framing Christian
Resources Developmentally*

Martha Stillman
Biblical Studies
*Jesus in the Eye of the Beholder:
The Plot to Kill Jesus*

Sylvia A. Sweeney
Liturgical Studies
*Rethinking Ash Wednesday: A
Reexamination of the Ash
Wednesday Rite in the 1979 Book
of Common Prayer in Light of an
Ecofeminist Hermeneutic of
Mortality*

Wendy Rachele Terry
Christian Spirituality
*Seeing Marguerite in the
“Mirror”: A Linguistic Analysis of
Poreté’s “Mirror of Simple Souls”*

Denis Thelson
Interdisciplinary Studies
*Individual Memorials: An
Emerging Typology of Ritual
Mediation through Place*

Nancy S. Wiens
Interdisciplinary Studies
*Discernment and Nature:
Exploring Their Relationship
through Christian Spirituality
and the Natural Sciences*

Dongsheng John Wu
Christian Spirituality
*Revelation, Knowledge, and
Formation: Interpreting
Watchman Nee through Mark
McIntosh’s Works on Spirituality
and Theology*

Commencement 2007

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

continued

Chuan Xu

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions
The Realm of Sagehood: A Study of Feng Youlan's (1895-1990 C.E.) Doctrine of Tiandijingjie (Sphere of Heaven and Earth)

Greg Zuschlag

Systematic and Philosophical Theology
"The Life Around Us": Conceptual Seeds for a Non-Anthropocentric Christian Theological Anthropology

MASTER OF ARTS

Cora M. Antonio

American Baptist Seminary of the West

Dione Francine Armand

WITH HONORS
Center for Jewish Studies



Greg Zuschlag, Ph.D. '07,
and his son Jared.

Mary Ashley

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Lauren Bergesen

Franciscan School of Theology

Glenn Gallagher Brown, Jr.

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Nicole Leilanionāpae'aina Coggins

Pacific School of Religion

Paul J. Dieltz

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Michael Joseph Downs

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Anne Ellsworth

WITH HONORS
Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Amber Stancliffe Evans

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Daniel G. Friedrich

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Whitney Furmanski

WITH HONORS
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Laura M. Gagne

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Eric Gerlach

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Leslie R. Gordon

Center for Jewish Studies



Professor Marty Stortz hoods Laurie Jungling, Ph.D. '07.

Lauren Frances Guerra

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Katherine C. Hennessey

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Roberta Titus Kunkel

Pacific School of Religion

Katherine Marie Kunz

Pacific School of Religion

Evelyn Landaverde

Pacific School of Religion

Kristi M. Laughlin

WITH HONORS
Franciscan School of Theology

Samuel J. Laurent

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Jong-Tae Lee

Pacific School of Religion

Austin Lee Leininger

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Yi Rang Lim

Pacific School of Religion

Marilyn L. Matevia

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Adrian Timothy O'Keefe

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Margo J. Olson

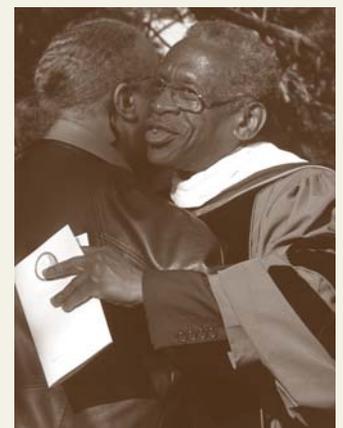
Franciscan School of Theology

Everardo Pedraza

WITH HONORS
Franciscan School of Theology

Oliver Putz

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley



Faculty speaker Archie Smith (left) hugs Professor Dorsey Blake.

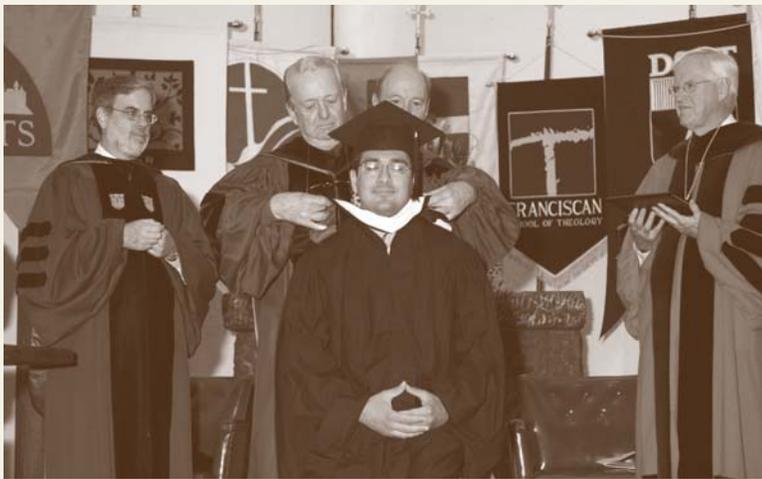
Todd Richardson
Terminal Master of Arts
(History of Art and Religion)
Graduate Theological Union

Daniel S. Robinson
WITH HONORS
Patriarch Athenagoras
Orthodox Institute

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
BIBLICAL LANGUAGES**

Caleb Joseph Crainer
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Corinna Yvette Guerrero
Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley



Professor Don Gelpi, S.J., hoods Everardo Pedraza, M.A. '07.

Barbara J. Rolph
Center for Jewish Studies

Austen Sandifer-Williams
WITH HONORS
Pacific School of Religion

Thomas Spiva
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Howard Stern
WITH HONORS
Center for Jewish Studies

Daniel Toulson
Jesuit School of Theology
at Berkeley

Ji Woon Yoo
Jesuit School of Theology
at Berkeley

Sara Jane Lemme
American Baptist Seminary of the West

Joseph McDonald
Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Faafouina Tapu Sitagata
Pacific School of Religion

Woo Jun Yang
San Francisco Theological Seminary

Kelly Whitcomb
Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley*

currents
GTU

Currents presents the news, people, and progress of the Graduate Theological Union. Published three times a year, Currents is distributed to alumni, faculty, students, staff, and friends of the GTU.

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What are they looking forward to?

The Blessing of the Crush!

The GTU's annual fall *Blessing of the Crush* gala raises funds to help students — through scholarships — pursue their extraordinary work.

Each year the *Blessing of the Crush* honors a prominent guest whose work exemplifies the GTU's mission. Stay tuned for details.

For more information, call 510/649-2420 or email crush@gtu.edu.



Spring 2007 *Currents* Newsletter

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