

GTU

currents

NEWS OF THE GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

Where religion meets the world

WINTER 2007

WHAT'S INSIDE

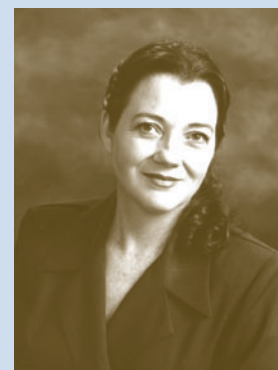
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Questioning Assumptions

2006 GTU Alum of the Year Nancey Murphy

Nancey Murphy (Th.D. '87) has made a career out of asking uncomfortable questions and forcing others to do the same. As professor of Christian philosophy at Fuller Theological Seminary, the largest evangelical seminary in the United States, she is one of the scholars leading the effort to reconcile theology and science.

Murphy earned her B.A. in philosophy from Creighton University and her Ph.D. in philosophy of science from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1987, she earned her Th.D. in systematic and philosophical theology from the Graduate Theological Union. A member of the Fuller faculty since 1989, she is a well known speaker and popular teacher.



Nancey Murphy Th.D. '87

A Philosophy of the Physical

At her heart, Murphy is a philosopher. She has channeled her work in theology and science through three main areas of focus: rationality of Christian belief; modern versus post-modern Anglo-American philosophy; and her current interest, the nature of personhood.

Most people see human nature in terms of either trichotomism (humans are composed of body, mind, and spirit) or dualism (humans are composed of either body and mind or body and soul). Science sees human nature as purely physical, as does Murphy, and she expresses concern that science and religion will be made out to be opposites.

Instead, she sees science and theology moving toward consensus on the question of personhood. Her work has implications for some of the most challenging ethical questions facing our society today: from stem-cell research and abortion to animal rights and ecology. It also has theological implications—for example, an emphasis on bodily resurrections and a religious imperative to work for peace and justice and care for individuals in this world.

To Speak with Firsthand Knowledge

Murphy has been involved with the GTU's Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) since her days as a theology student. Dr. Robert J. Russell, the founder and director of CTNS, encouraged her to participate—an event that had a certain irony to it, she said. "I was trying to get away from science, because I was tired of talking about it second hand. I was studying theology because I didn't want to talk about Christianity with no firsthand experience."

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“

I was studying theology because I didn't want to talk about Christianity with no firsthand experience.

”

NANCEY MURPHY

TH.D. '87



Elizabeth Fall

Dear GTU Community,

As we celebrate distinguished Graduate Theological Union alumni in this issue, we also celebrate those who prepared them to do good work in the world: the scholars, teachers, mentors, and colleagues who make up our faculty, the cornerstone of the GTU's pioneering scholarship. Their findings and perspectives allow our students to go deeper into both their own studies and their own beliefs. When these students graduate, they take these insights into their leadership in the public and private sectors.

David Tracy, a distinguished professor of theology at the University of Chicago, cites three essential audiences that all theologians should consider: the academy, the church, and the world. Our students come to the GTU with a passion for intellectual and social transformation and the development of religious institutions. Rooted in all three of Tracy's audiences, our professors are well-equipped to speak to their interests, and engage in an important give-and-take with them. Many of our students are future faculty members at a variety of educational institutions. The careful guidance they receive here provides them with the competencies and skills to later serve as mentors themselves, passing on the GTU's tradition of confronting the most urgent needs of our time.

The future direction of the Graduate Theological Union is largely affected by how its teachers communicate with students and with the world about the roles religion, values, and beliefs play in society. The 2006 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, Professor Bill Countryman (p. 5) is one of many GTU faculty members who have shaped the lives of our alumni. GTU alum John Titaley (p. 14) has returned from his native Indonesia to teach our students as a part of the *Partnerships* project, a program connecting theologians from Asia, the Pacific, and North America.

As GTU Dean Arthur Holder mentions on p. 10, we're committed to developing a "pastoral imagination" to prepare our students to teach as effectively as Nancey Murphy (p. 1), our 2006 Alum of the Year who has skillfully integrated science and religion into theological study. GTU professors help leaven the public conversation on religion and inspire future leaders of religious discourse, and we are pleased to honor their contributions.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James A. Donahue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

James A. Donahue



A Defining Experience

This section features first person accounts by GTU alumni about their achievements and activities, and reflections on how their GTU experience has influenced their life's work.

I was raised a Southern Baptist in Kentucky. I was always very committed to that expression of Christianity, but I also realized that it was somewhat limited. I had attended college just outside of my hometown of Louisville. When the time came to apply for seminary most of my friends stayed in their hometown. But I took what was to be my first step toward the Graduate Theological Union and decided to attend Yale.

After seminary, I took my second big step toward the GTU. While at Yale I had grown attached to the urban setting and the diversity of people and ideas it afforded me. I decided to accept a position at a church in New York City. I spent five years in ministry there.

When I decided to apply for doctoral programs, the GTU was on my short list. In 1976, it was already ecumenical and was well on its way to being interfaith. I entered the Th.D. program thirty years ago this fall, with an emphasis on systematic and philosophical theology. I was especially interested in process relational studies and was fortunate enough to enter the GTU the last year that Bernard Loomer, one of the great process theologians, taught there.

"Attending the GTU was a defining experience for me...it has the awesome resources for the academy on one hand, and strong ministry training on the other."

I had always had a planned vocation to both the academy and ministry and the GTU was a perfect place for me to study. The fact that the institution dealt with both of these aspects of theology was a great draw. Because I needed to work to support myself, I took a position at a primarily Latino Baptist church in San Francisco while continuing



David Wheeler Th.D. '84
Pastor, First Christian Church of
Antelope Valley (Calif.)

my studies. For the eight years that I was a GTU student, I had a foot firmly planted in both academia and ministry. Those years have shaped my career in the years since.

I have taught for nearly all of the twenty-two years that have passed since I graduated from the GTU. I spent the first fourteen years at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. It was a wonderful, diverse place with students of all ethnicities and faiths. I also traveled and taught in Central and South America (I became fluent in Spanish during my time in San Francisco). During this time, I was always very active in my local church.

In 1999, I was called to the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, a historic, multicultural church in the heart of the city, where I reengaged in pastoral ministry. After almost four years there, I moved to a smaller church, the First Christian Church of Antelope Valley, and expanded my teaching again. I present the core ethics courses at the Southern California campus of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, and the Spanish language ethics courses at Fuller Theological Seminary. I am also very involved with a number of activist groups including Progressive Christians Uniting and Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice.

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Alumni Then and Now

Rose Arthur (Th.D. '79)

knows innovative service. Ten years ago she founded an adult education program for senior citizens. She recently received an Outstanding Older Worker Award from Experience Works, a national organization addressing employment needs of low-income seniors.



Jeff Staley (Ph.D. '85)

knows pop culture and religion. A faculty member in theology and religious studies at Seattle

University, Staley recently finished a book entitled *Jesus, Son of D*V*D: A Handbook of Jesus Films*, which analyzes

eighteen Jesus films available on DVD. Because of his use of film in class, he is often called upon to comment on the Bible and film, including recent interviews on radio, TV, and newspapers about *The Passion of the Christ* and *The Da Vinci Code*.

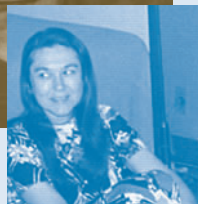
The Graduate Theological Union gave both Staley and Arthur the tools to launch their careers in education and shaped their understandings of how academic study could effectively transform the world.

Arthur arrived on Holy Hill in 1969 as a member of the Sisters of the Divine Providence, which she had joined at age 14. The GTU gave her a space to find herself.

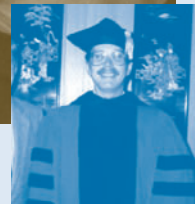
"When I entered the GTU," she said, "I was a forty-year-old nun. Like its current slogan, 'where religion meets the world,' the GTU opened my eyes. I was coming from the sheltered environment of the convent, and Berkeley was alive, a new thing. I found the ecumenical complex that I had wanted but hadn't yet experienced."

While studying theology and education, Arthur met her future husband Dick, a biblical studies student. She left the order to marry him while they were both pursuing their doctorates. She found the GTU

**Rose Arthur
Th.D. '79
today and in 1973**



**Jeff Staley
Ph.D. '85
today and in 1985**



to be a fertile ground for her advocacy for women's rights. She was one of the original founders of the Center for Women's Studies, serving as its director for two years.

"We worked very hard to create a place to help women at the GTU achieve a place here," she said. "When we noticed that there weren't any classes on women and religion being offered, we taught them ourselves."

Arthur's activities after the GTU reflect her strong activist side. She and Dick taught in American Samoa, and she later became director of the Chicago Cluster of Theological Schools, inspired by the GTU's pioneering ecumenical vision. She served as dean of a Native American college in Washington before relocating to New Hampshire, where she headed up Rivier College's Undergraduate Evening School. She was a state representative before focusing on education for seniors.

In 1997, she founded Rivier College's RISE (Rivier Institute for Senior Education), which has increased its enrollment by ten percent annually.

"I was very interested in campus ministry while studying at the GTU," she said. "RISE is a kind of campus ministry."

Jeff Staley came to the GTU in 1979 after finishing his M.A. at Fuller Seminary and started a program in biblical studies. He had an interest in rhetoric, the classic art of persuasion. He specifically wanted to examine how stories draw you into their belief system. His biggest influence was Professor Wilhelm Wuellner, who taught at Pacific School of Religion.

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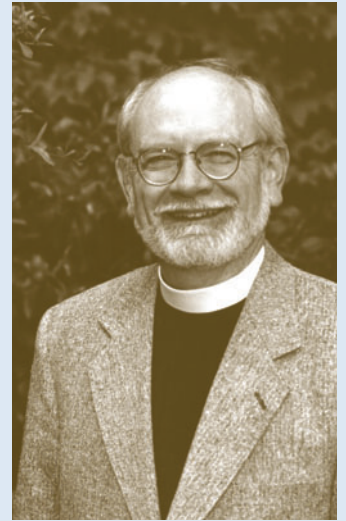
2006 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer

Bill Countryman: Sincere Devotion

Professor L. William “Bill” Countryman, Sherman E. Johnson Professor of Biblical Studies at Church Divinity School of the Pacific and a GTU core doctoral faculty member, is retiring at the end of the 2006-2007 academic year. Since arriving at CDSP in 1983, Professor Countryman has touched the lives of countless students.

“Bill proved to be an outstanding adviser,” said Margo Wesley (Ph.D. ’03). “His comments on my drafts were as detailed and insightful as any I have ever received in my many years as a student; and his wisdom and generosity of spirit sustained me through the inevitable bumps in the dissertation road. I completed my dissertation on sacred struggle in John Donne’s poetry in 2003, and hope to teach a course on devotional poetry similar to the one I developed as Bill’s TA. I also hope to publish a book based on my dissertation research.”

“Bill’s manifold academic and pastoral gifts guided my interdisciplinary dissertation that related the fields of spirituality, ethics, and sexuality,” said Jean Ponder Soto (Ph.D. ’03). “He knew where disciplinary boundaries could be crossed and profitably joined—and where not. In our meetings he would express the point that I was struggling to make, and always in a gentle (and often humorous) way that brought me clarity, and not a little relief. If Bill had not kept me oriented in the direction of my vision, a vision that he understood, I would have drowned in my scholarly mistakes.”



Bill Countryman

On November 2, Professor Countryman delivered the Distinguished Faculty Lecture to a group of friends, faculty, and students. The talk, entitled “When God’s Friend Becomes God’s Problem: The Punitive Elijah and the Loving God According to St. Romanos the Melode,” focused on a sixth-century *kontakion*—a genre that is both homily and poetry—written by Romanos, a notable figure of the Greek Church. Entitled *On Elijah*, the *kontakion* explores the potential conflict between righteousness and love. The biblical figure of Elijah is presented as both “God’s friend and God’s problem.” Mary Donovan Turner, Dean for the Faculty and Carl Patton Professor of Preaching at Pacific School of Religion, responded. Writes Countryman:

What has impressed me most deeply about the *kontakion* on Elijah is that Romanos found a way to acknowledge the sincere devotion of both sides in his own time while also calling them to a higher level of responsibility. And he did this. . . by a creative and very attentive reading of scripture, discovering in the figure of Elijah the same kind of spiritual and moral ambiguity that we may find in ourselves, precisely when we are most committed to the cause of righteousness. . . This has not been an easy vision for Christians to attain. Similar tensions seem to devil people of other religious traditions in our time as well. The challenge is how we are to learn, like Romanos and his Elijah, to honor righteousness without abandoning love.

*For a complete version of Professor Countryman’s lecture, visit www.gtu.edu/news-events.**

“The GTU is giving me the rare opportunity to honor real difference among religions while also promoting hospitality among them.”

—Matthew Haar Farris, Interdisciplinary Studies

Students Speak



Two doctoral students reflect on their future careers after leaving the GTU.

MARILYN MATEVIA, ETHICS

I plan to work in Africa to develop programs that protect nonhuman life without adversely affecting the world's poorest human populations. I also see myself equipping a new generation of ethicists with the expertise, imagination, and courage to guide reflection on the moral status of animals. A mass extinction event caused by human activities is a crisis of morality and spirituality, not just biodiversity. I came to the GTU for the tools to address it as such. I can't imagine a more ideal academic environment in terms of faculty interests and administrative support.



NICANOR SARMIENTO, INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

My career goal is to build academic bridges between the Christian Church in North and Latin America. As a Quechuan indigenous person from Peru, I will be able to teach and train members of native communities and the non-natives who are involved in native ministry. The GTU is giving me critical theories and academic language for my research in both missiology and anthropology. Since I envision myself working on an ecumenical, interfaith, and intercultural level, the GTU is the right place for me to study native theology.



In Memoriam

Anita de Luna (1947-2006)

Anita de Luna (Ph.D. '00) was the first Hispanic and first superior general elected president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the organization consisting of leaders of Catholic women's religious orders in North America. An author, teacher, and former head of a Mexican American religious order based in San Antonio, she was assistant professor of religious studies at Our Lady of the Lake University (San Antonio), her alma mater, before succumbing to ovarian cancer. She was also director of the university's Center for Women in Church and Society. Born to a poor migrant family in South Texas, she was the only one of nine to finish high school, after which she joined the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence. Her book *Faith Formation and Popular Religion: Lessons from the Tejano Experience* was published in 2002. Sister de Luna received a Ph.D. in Christian Spirituality at the GTU, the first Latina to do so. In 2004, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Notre Dame. "Her continuing work with the poor, her great compassion, and her outstanding scholarship brought her national attention," said Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley Professor Alejandro Garcia-Rivera, who served as her dissertation advisor. "Her real gift was in how she was loved by others. Her presence brought much hope to the suffering. She will be greatly missed."

GTU Establishes New Center for Islamic Studies

Plans are underway to develop a Center for Islamic Studies at the Graduate Theological Union. As a major religion, Islam's influence has perhaps never been more powerful—and often misunderstood. The center will foster responsible, coherent, and faithful study of Islam by students of all faiths in cooperation with the many Muslim communities in the area.

"The Graduate Theological Union is providing a priceless gift for the Muslim world by developing our program in the study of Islam in the intersectional, global, and multi-dimensional ways in which we have worked over the years."

—Ibrahim Farajajé, Starr King School for the Ministry Professor of Cultural Studies and Islamic Studies;
Chair, GTU Islamic Studies Task Force

More Than the Physical Need

Viji Nakka-Cammauf (Ph.D. '03) runs Little Flock Children's Homes (www.littleflockhomes.org), a faith-based ministry in India dedicated to transforming the lives of orphans, widows, and their communities. She is also an adjunct professor at Fuller Northern California, an extension of Fuller Theological Seminary, and the GTU's American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW). Drawn to spiritual things at an early age, Nakka-Cammauf grew up a Hindu in India. As a teenager, she grew concerned with social justice issues in India—particularly caste systems, the untouchables (dalits), and the rights of women and laborers—and began to explore other religions, including Christianity.

“Literature and the Bible are both concerned with people’s stories. They describe the heights and depths of the human drama through relationships. Literature gives me a window into understanding human behavior and the Bible—a way of bringing resolution to life and relationships.”

She eventually became a Christian while pursuing a masters degree in English at Mills College in Oakland; she met her husband, Scott, while attending First Covenant Church. Nakka-Cammauf earned an M.Div. at ABSW before arriving at the GTU to study literature and theology in the art and religion doctoral area.

“Literature and the Bible are both concerned with people’s stories,” she said. “They describe the heights and depths of the human drama through relationships.

Literature gives me a window into understanding human behavior and the

Bible—a way of bringing resolution to life and relationships.” She founded Little Flock Children's Homes in the face of the devastating Asian tsunami of 2004. “One of the most impressive factors at the GTU is the strong sense of commitment to social and ethical causes,” she said. “I remember the discussions we used to have in our Christian Ethics class about caring for the poor and the homeless and the question of feeding the body and neglecting the soul. My time at GTU made that clear. We must see more than the physical need—just as Jesus did.”*



Viji Nakka-Cammauf Ph.D. '03

Alumni Then and Now, *continued from page 4*

It was in Professor Wuellner's introductory course on the New Testament where Staley discovered the value of film in relation to rhetoric.

“He had me watch Pasolini's *Gospel of St. Matthew*, newly released on video (this was 1983, I think). I had to go through the film and list Pasolini's reordering of the canonical gospel, and that got me interested in using film in New Testament classes, which I have done ever since.”

Staley found himself at the forefront of biblical scholarship. “The GTU was ten years ahead of most other schools in this regard,” he said. “It took awhile for others to come on board and begin to enter into the kind of conversations that we were having with faculty at the University of California at Berkeley.”

Staley taught at the University of Portland and Notre Dame before arriving at Seattle University. His new book on Jesus films is teacher and student friendly and enables readers to find the exact hour, minute, and second of each gospel scene in the films for easy access.

“The GTU is on the cutting edge of the interplay between sacred texts and culture,” he said. “As a teacher today I draw on my experience there when I encounter a wide variety of ethnicities and religious traditions. The GTU has enabled me to speak to the public in a knowledgeable way about the role of the Bible in American culture.”*

Fall Highlights

This past fall, the Graduate Theological Union organized a range of events that highlighted its role as a crossroads for teaching, research, ministry, and service. The programs below are just a few of the many ways that the GTU has been bridging cultural divides.

For more information, visit www.gtu.edu.

Alum Dinner Held in Japan

GTU President James A. Donahue and Vice President for Advancement Jane Whitfield brought a GTU presence to Japan, talking with academic officials and colleagues about East-West relations. Alumni and friends in Japan joined Donahue and Whitfield for dinner in Tokyo on October 10 and Kyoto on October 12. President Donahue delivered lectures at several universities as well as a workshop for *Partnerships*, a collaboration between the GTU and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia to transform theological education in Asia, the Pacific, and North America.

Friends and Donors Visit Sante Fe

The Graduate Theological Union's Travel Program was pleased to welcome its inaugural participants in exploring the art and religion of Santa Fe on November 2 through 5. The diverse group included GTU Trustee Susan Cook Hoganson, San Francisco Theological Seminary student Barbara Baker, longtime friend of the GTU Isabella Salaverry, and new friends Norman and Ilene Staub, among others.

The trip was led by Dr. Bonnie Hardwick, former convener of the Art and Religion area at the GTU as well as former director of the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. Hardwick graciously gave of her time and extensive knowledge, as well as her home, welcoming the group for a reception in her classic adobe.

During the visit, a behind the scenes tour of the Museum of International Folk Art provided insight into how art and religion intersect in New Mexico. Demonstrations in the homes of local artists Arthur Lopez and Diana Moya Lujan provided further understanding of the skills of santeros—artisans who carve and paint the saints—and straw appliqué artists. A visit to the private chapel of Eulogio and Zoraida Ortega showcased these and other art forms in a traditional setting.

For more information on future tours, please call 510/649-2420 or email travel@gtu.edu.



August den Hollander

GTU Hosts Bible Expert from Holland

On October 31, Professor August den Hollander gave a workshop at the GTU Library on ArtsStor and Biblia Sacra, a web-based project incorporating art, church and cultural historical research into Bibles. A strong advocate for religious dialogue, Hollander is professor of the History of the Religious Book, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and Head Curator, Special Collections, Vrije Universiteitsbibliotheek, Amsterdam. Professor Mia Mochizuki, the Thomas E. Bertelsen, Jr. Chair of Art History and Religion at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and the GTU, hosted the event, which was co-sponsored by the Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education and the GTU.



GTU President Donahue and VP for Advancement Jane Whitfield with IBS Dean Richard Payne (far right) and Ryukoku University officials



GTU Alumni and friends in Kyoto



GTU friends in Sante Fe

These are a few of the many winter and spring events taking place at the Graduate Theological Union. Unless otherwise noted, they are free and open to the public. Visit www.gtu.edu for more information.

January 19 through January 21

GTU Beit Midrash

Easton Hall, 2401 Ridge Road. Hosted by the GTU's Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies. Includes an evening service on January 19 as well as a service to end the Sabbath. Meals will be served both evenings. Rabbi Benay Lappe will teach on "Tikkun Olam: Fixing the World." 510/649-2482 or cjs@gtu.edu*

Wednesday, February 14

2007 Reading of the Sacred Texts

7 pm in the Richard S. Dinner Boardroom, GTU Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. Luis Valdez, founder and artistic director of El Teatro Campesino, will present "El Pachuco and la Virgen de Guadalupe." Reception and book signing will follow. 510/649-2541 or cwoulfe@gtu.edu

February 22 through May 31

The Swedenborgian Archives of the GTU

GTU Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. An exhibition including paintings, prints, drawings, and photographs related to the Swedenborgian Church of San Francisco. Exhibit opens on February 22 at 4 pm with a lecture by Leslie Freudenheim, author of *Building with Nature*. 510/649-2541 or cwoulfe@gtu.edu

Monday, March 12

GTU Faculty Publications Celebration:

Academics and Faith

5 pm to 6:30 pm in the Richard S. Dinner Boardroom, GTU Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. Celebrate faculty scholarship with a panel focusing on academics and faith. Reception will follow. 510/649-2504 or veldheer@gtu.edu

Sunday, April 15

Flora Lamson Hewlett Library Tour

3:30 pm. 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. Led by library director Robert Benedetto, the tour will examine architect Louis Kahn's design of the building and provide access to selected rare books from the GTU's collection. Reservations required. 510/649-2420 or dmyers@gtu.edu

Monday, April 16

McCoy Memorial Lecture on Religion, Ethics, and Public Life

Dr. Robert Bellah, Elliot Professor of Sociology Emeritus at UC Berkeley, will explore the relationship between religion and power. Hosted jointly by the GTU and Pacific School of Religion. 510/649-2420 or dmyers@gtu.edu*

Tuesday, April 3

GTU Passover Seder

Join the GTU's Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies for a Sephardic Seder led by Rabbi Tsipi Gabai with traditional Moroccan rituals and food. Students, faculty, staff, family, and friends welcome. Reservations required. 510/649-2482 or cjs@gtu.edu*

Thursday, May 10

GTU Commencement

4 pm at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Chapel, 2770 Marin Avenue, Berkeley. The closing ceremony of the academic year, celebrating the accomplishments of graduating Ph.D., Th.D., and M.A. students. A reception follows. 510/649-2464 or maloney@gtu.edu

Explore the Culture of China with the GTU Travel Program! May 20 through June 2 or June 6

The GTU Travel Program takes you to Eastern and Central China with Professor of World Christianity Dr. Philip Wickeri. 510/649-2420 or travel@gtu.edu

*Visit www.gtu.edu for more information.



**Dean and Vice
President for Academic
Affairs Arthur Holder
reflects on how the GTU
molds future teachers.**



GTU Dean Arthur Holder

Like many people around the GTU these days, I recently read a book entitled *Educating Clergy: Teaching Practices and Pastoral Imagination* (Jossey-Bass, 2006). This book reports on a major research project on theological education (both Jewish and Christian) sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation of the Advancement of Teaching, which has also been studying the professional education of engineers, lawyers, nurses, and physicians.

As a member of an advisory group that reviewed some early drafts, I was invited to write a “blurb” for the dust jacket. Here is what I said there:

By focusing on the formation of a pastoral, priestly, or rabbinic “imagination,” *Educating Clergy* helps us understand how it all comes together (or not) in seminary education. We learn how effective seminary teachers past and present have trained students to interpret texts, exercise habits, recognize contexts, and perform the multiple roles required for public ministry. The ecumenical and interreligious breadth of this conversation is breathtaking, incorporating diverse voices from across the theological spectrum of Jewish and Christian communities of faith. At once visionary and practical, *Educating Clergy* will help seminary faculty, administrators, and boards do a better job of preparing religious leaders who can make a difference in the world.

All of that is true! But another reason to read this book is that it is full of GTU connections. One of the four authors (Lisa Dahill) is a GTU Ph.D. graduate in Christian Spirituality, and another author (Lawrence Golemon) has been an adjunct instructor at the San Francisco Theological Seminary (and is the husband of SFTS professor Joyce Mercer). One GTU member school (Church Divinity School of the Pacific) was included in the eighteen seminaries visited for the study, and CDSP professors Donn Morgan and Rebecca Lyman are among the faculty whose teaching practices are described in fascinating detail.

Still another reason for us to read *Educating Clergy* is that many of our graduates will go on to teach in seminaries. (According to a recent Auburn Study, the GTU ranks tenth among graduate schools supplying faculty to seminaries in the Association of Theological Schools.) Thanks to the Professional Development Program being conducted by Dean of Students Maureen Maloney, we have been giving much more attention to preparing our GTU doctoral students as teachers in various settings, including theological education. As this book argues, seminary teaching is a multifaceted affair involving interpretation, formation, contextualization, and performance—all with the goal of developing a “pastoral imagination” that will enable students to minister effectively in their congregations and in the wider society.

For me, this emphasis on educating for “imagination” is one of the book’s great insights. I would say that all teaching of theology and religious studies—whether in seminaries or elsewhere—aims to engage the imagination in a way that leads to creative transformation. The GTU is blessed with many fine teachers who inspire their students to dream new worlds where justice, peace, and hope prevail. May all their dreams come true!

Supporting The GTU



Moving Us Forward

Since serving as a trustee from 1991 to 1997, Doug Herst has continued to be a strong advocate for the Graduate Theological Union.

"I am so glad to be a member of this wonderful organization," he said. "The work that the GTU is doing in interreligious education is so important in transforming the world we live in. It has been very fulfilling for me and for my family to participate in its mission."

The Herst family has a long history with the GTU. Herst's late father, Samuel Herst, was GTU board chair from 1968 to 1969. The son of one of the three founding brothers of the Peerless Light Company in Chicago, Samuel reorganized the company as Peerless Electric in San Francisco and later changed the name back to Peerless Lighting.

Upon his graduation from the University of California, Berkeley in 1965, Herst carried on his father's legacy by joining Peerless Lighting and has had a most distinguished career in the industry. As a young lighting entrepreneur at Peerless, he developed skills in luminaire design and application. By 1974, he was president and CEO of the company until he retired at the end of last year. In 1985, he was awarded "First Place for New Product Competition for Medium Sized Firms" by the state of California and the last product that he designed was awarded "Best in Show" this year at the lighting industry's annual LightFair. In addition to the many lighting design awards he is recognized as the leading proponent of indirect lighting for offices and schools.

Herst has a wide range of interests, including Jewish mystical traditions, art, architecture and various sports. In 2003, he helped fund the documentary movie *My Architect: A Son's Journey* by filmmaker Nathaniel Kahn. It is a story about Louis Kahn, the late great 20th century architect and designer of the GTU's Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. The film speaks of Kahn's monumental contribution to American architecture and the universal story of a son's search for his father, and was nominated for an Oscar in the "Best Documentary" category. Recently he and his wife, Leni, helped fund another documentary film by Nathaniel Kahn about classical pianist Leon Fleisher. Entitled *Two Hands*, it is one of the 11 movies being considered for another Oscar nomination.

He has been instrumental in connecting the GTU with the Northern California Chapter of the World Presidents' Organization (WPO), where he served as past chairman and director. The GTU has participated in several events for this global organization of business leaders, covering issues ranging from "Ethics in Stem Cell Research" to "Implications and Influences of Islam in Today's World." The GTU's dedication to providing theological leadership for a complex world makes collaboration between the two groups a natural fit.



Doug Herst

Intrepid world travelers, the Hersts sojourn throughout Europe, India, and Asia whenever a stimulating opportunity presents itself. Their son Chad is a licensed practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine and authorized teacher of Ashtanga Yoga. The Hersts live in Marin County.

"We are lucky to have the strong support of the Herst family, from Samuel to Doug," said GTU President James A. Donahue. "Doug is especially instrumental in the GTU's recent development, contributing valuable ideas and actively connecting us with the community and other organizations. With his energy, enthusiasm, and leadership, he continues to move us forward."

The largest partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the U.S., the Graduate Theological Union is a pioneering place for interdisciplinary religious thought, study, and practice.



2006 Blessing of the Crush

On October 5th, over 200 friends of the Graduate Theological Union gathered to support student scholarships at the fifth annual *Blessing of the Crush*. Held at the elegant St. Regis hotel in San Francisco, the gala was once more a tremendous success, raising over \$80,000. Susan Cook Hoganson, GTU board member and experienced event hostess, chaired the event. Guests sampled wines from Napa and Sonoma and participated in the largest silent auction to date, bidding on a variety of items including wine, tickets to shows, art, and travel getaways. Attendees had the unique opportunity to sponsor a student for a day during the Crush live auction.

The gala was also an occasion to celebrate the important work of Senator John C. Danforth, former U.S. senator (R-MO) and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. An ordained Episcopal priest, Senator Danforth is the author of the newly published *Faith and Politics: How the Moral Values Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together*.



**Susan Cook Hoganson, Sen. Danforth,
GTU President Donahue**



**Huston Smith, Susan Mills,
Sen. Danforth**



**Rita Semel, Stephen Pearce,
Raquel Newman**



**Judy Leach and
guest**



**Karl and Rita Pister, Mary Lee
and John Noonan**



Jane Purinton, Jeffrey Farber, Shana Penn

Maureen O'Brien Sullivan

If you have attended any of the *Blessing of the Crush* galas, you have probably met GTU board member Maureen O'Brien Sullivan. Sullivan currently serves as a life transitions counselor for non-profit organizations in San Francisco and holds a B.A. in philosophy from Stanford University and an M.A. in counseling psychology from the University of San Francisco. She lives out her steadfast commitment to the Bay Area community not only through her connection to the Graduate Theological Union, but through her work on the Board of Investors for the Oakland Museum of California, volunteer work with the Knights of Malta and her parish church, and as former chair of the board of the San Francisco General Hospital Volunteer Foundation.

A member of the GTU board since 1998, Sullivan has also served as its representative from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology. She has been an intrinsic part of the *Blessing of the Crush* through her tireless efforts for the gala committee. She and her husband Craig are deeply committed to providing students an opportunity to attend academic institutions regardless of their financial status. They have recently contributed to the GTU Capital Campaign in the form of endowing student scholarships, and have also established a named scholarship at Stanford University. The success of the *Blessing of the Crush* is due in no small part to the generosity of people like Maureen O'Brien Sullivan.



Allen and Mary Lou Dobbins



Philip Wickeri, Tom Kling



GTU President Donahue and Steve Privett



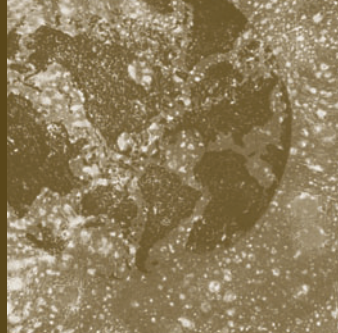
Rita Semel (fourth from right) and guests



Robert and Ruth Benedetto



Guests enjoy the silent auction



CJS Organizes Symposium on Poland

On October 18-19, the Graduate Theological Union's Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies organized a symposium entitled "Renewal & Resistance: The Revitalization of Jewish Culture in Post-Holocaust, Post-Communist Poland." Panelists spoke of the rediscovery of Jewish heritage by both Jews and Christians in Poland and the future of both Polish Judaism and Polish democracy. Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, professor of Judaic and Hebrew Studies at New York University and the Chief Consultant to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, gave a keynote address on "The Postwar Chapter in Poland: Building the Museum of the History of Polish Jews." Shana Penn, GTU visiting scholar and director of the Jewish Heritage Initiative in Poland, organized the symposium, which was part of "Where We Come From: Our Jewish Heritage in Poland – Past, Present, and Future," a program organized by the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture. The GTU event also received support from the Koret Foundation Funds and the Posen Foundation Grant for the Study of Secular Judaism. Visit www.gtu.edu/news-events for a complete write-up of the symposium.



GTU President Donahue (right) with Shana Penn



John Titaley Th.D. '91

Titaley Returns to the GTU

John Titaley (Th.D. '91), 2002 GTU Alum of the Year, has returned from his native Indonesia to teach at the GTU as part of the *Partnerships* project, which explores the relationship between theology in Asia, the Pacific, and North America. This fall, he taught a course on the contextual theology of religions, providing students with a chance to learn how Christians have approached interreligious dialogue. Titaley previously served as president of Satya Wacana Christian University in Indonesia and has been actively involved in Christian-Muslim dialogue both in the academy and in religious communities. "My practical experiences in a pluralistic society like Indonesia do not necessarily comply with theories developed in Western contexts. A dialogue needs to be developed, and there is no better place than the GTU to do this. The ethnic, denominational, and academic diversity of my class this fall has enriched both the students and myself."



GTU President's Council member Sigmund Rolat with friends at "The Jews of Czestochowa" exhibit in Ft. Lauderdale. Rolat helped underwrite the exhibition, which covers the history of a Jewish community in Poland from the 1700s to the Holocaust.

Visit
www.gtualumni.net
for more alumni news!

Questioning Assumptions, *continued from page 1*

In spite of this, the intersection of philosophy, science, and religion has remained an important focus through much of Nancey Murphy's career. She is a member of the CTNS board of directors and serves on the science and religion conference planning committee of the Vatican Observatory, one of the oldest scientific institutions in the world. She also serves as an editorial advisor for the journal *Theology and Science*. Her first book, *Theology in the Age of Scientific Reasoning*, earned awards from the Templeton Foundation and the American Academy of Religion.

Advocating for Interconnection

Murphy sees her philosophy of personhood playing out in her own life as an ordained minister of the Church of the Brethren. Adhering to the denomination's motto "continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together," she distinguishes between this physicalist view of Christianity and the commonly held tenet of the forgiveness of one's sins and the soul's eternal life.

In the 20 years since she left the Graduate Theological Union, Nancey Murphy has encouraged countless students and colleagues, both in the theological and the scientific communities, to question their assumptions and to risk a bit of their own certainty in pursuit of greater wisdom, and in the end, greater faith.

She advocates for interconnection. "Many of my students will be teachers and pastors in conservative Protestant churches, so I think it is important for them to know that they gain nothing and lose much by putting faith and science in opposition," she said in a 2005 interview with *The Christian Century*. "I want them to appreciate the way scientific knowledge amplifies our understanding of creation, and thereby our wonder and reverence for God."*

A Defining Experience, *continued from page 3*

Attending the GTU was a defining experience for me. Because it has the awesome resources for the academy on one hand, and strong ministry training on the other, it allows students to weave together the teaching and theological aspects of theology with the practical aspects. I started that process in the course of my doctoral studies and have continued to live that way since I left.*

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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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GTU'S SPRING ALUM DAY

Graduate Theological Union alumni and faculty, past and present, are invited to join us on **Saturday, March 31** for the GTU's first Spring Alum Day. The program will take place from 2:30 pm to 6 pm in the Richard S. Dinner Boardroom of the GTU Hewlett Library. Activities will include tours of the library, discussion groups, a keynote speaker, and a reception. Look for your invitation in early January!

For more information visit www.gtu.edu or contact Kris Jachens, Development Manager, at 510/649-2424 or kjachens@gtu.edu.

We need your help!

The Annual Fund provides support for some of our most critical programs and services: scholarships for students, workshops in the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, increased class offerings at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, funding for special lectures and panels, and much, much more. With our unparalleled depth of faculty and course selection in an interreligious environment, the GTU is educating leaders for our time. Please give generously and support this important work.

For more information or to make a gift, please visit the GTU website at www.gtu.edu, or call 510/649-2424.

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