

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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WHY WE NEED TO BE INTERRELIGIOUS



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

Last October the GTU Board of Trustees voted to support President Riess Potterveld's plan to enter into conversation with various groups who may be interested in establishing new GTU affiliates or program units dedicated to the study and practice of world religions not yet represented here. Several such conversations have begun or will soon be underway, which I find very exciting.

Our commitment to interreligious learning at the GTU goes back a long way. Some of our member schools (notably the Pacific School of Religion and Starr King School for the Ministry) were engaged in interfaith work for many years prior to the formation of the GTU in 1962. The Center for Jewish Studies was established here

in 1968; the Institute of Buddhist Studies became an affiliate in 1985; and the Center for Islamic Studies opened in 2007.

Under the visionary leadership of John Dillenberger and Claude Welch, by 1971 the doctoral program had expanded beyond its original focus on Christian theology with the addition of an area of study called History and Phenomenology of Religions, which was originally focused on Asian Religions ("particularly the Hindu-Buddhist complex"). More recently, Interreligious Studies was added as an MA area of concentration in 2011; within two years it had grown to become the second largest area in that program.

There are many reasons why we need to be even more interreligious today in light of our increasingly pluralistic society and global interconnectedness. But as Claude Welch wrote in a Christian Century article in 1965 (six years before he came to the GTU as dean), we also need to be interreligious in order to be faithful to the truths at the heart of our own religious traditions. What he wrote from a Christian per-

spective is true, I think, for all of us at the GTU today:

"I am one not only with other members of a religious community but with all [humanity] (and indeed all creation). My interest, therefore, in a non-Christian religious view, a scientific, political or aesthetic view or any other human concern or view does not issue from an interest in apologetics or proclamation to the 'world' but must be a part of my own self-understanding. Conversation with the world and ecumenical conversation are quite inseparable. Theologically, nothing is required for the address to the 'unbeliever' that is not necessary for the Christian community's own understanding of its faith."

In other words, the practice of interreligious learning is not just something we do because it is good to understand other people. Unless we are deeply engaged with those of other religious faiths (or none), we cannot fully know either ourselves or the holiness of life around us. That is why we need one another here, and why we need to be open to new consortial partners as well.

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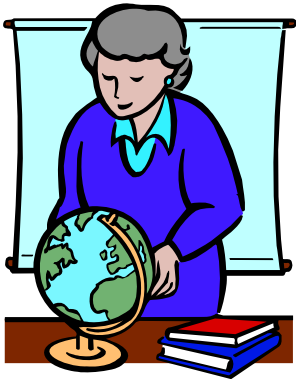
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MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM

THE NEXT MODERN
FOREIGN
LANGUAGE
EXAMINATION IS
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 26,
FROM 1PM TO
4:45PM IN THE
DINNER BOARD
ROOM. REGISTER
BY FEBRUARY 12
WITH FREDONIA
THOMPSON,
RECEPTIONIST AND
STUDENT AFFAIRS
OFFICE MANAGER,
FTHOMPSON@GTU.
EDU, 649-2400.

2014 SARLO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The Sarlo Excellence in Teaching Award is given each year to a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty whose teaching and mentoring of doctoral students embodies the values of interreligious dialogue and interdisciplinary approach to teaching. The next recipient of this honor, which entails a substantial monetary award, will be announced at the GTU Commencement on May 8, 2014.

Selection will be made by the Appointments and Review Committee of the Core Doctoral Faculty, with the addition of the GTU President as a voting member for this purpose. The Faculty Council has approved a nomination procedure in which a list of candidates will be composed from nominations submitted by doctoral and MA students through the Areas of Study in the doctoral program.

The Area Student Assistant in each area will be responsible for facilitating a process by which students in the area will select

one Core Doctoral Faculty member to nominate for this award. Discussion may take place among doctoral students when they gather at the February and March area meetings, but opportunity should be provided for all students to participate in the selection through email. GTU MA students are invited to submit their suggestions for nominations to MA Program Coordinator Angela Muñoz who will forward them to the doctoral student area assistant in the relevant doctoral area of study.

The faculty person nominated may be from within the area, or from another area. The name of the one Core Doctoral Faculty member nominated by an area's students should be forwarded to the GTU Dean by the Area Student Assistant as soon as possible, but **no later than Friday, March 21**. The selection criteria are as follows:

a. Eligible candidates are active members of the Core Doctoral Faculty.

b. Candidates exhibit creative and effective pedagogical methods and performance, both in the classroom and in their advising and mentoring of doctoral students.

c. Candidates exhibit ecumenical and/or interreligious sensitivity and commitment in their teaching, regardless of the subject matter or field.

d. Candidates exhibit and promote effective use of interdisciplinary approaches, as appropriate to their fields.

e. Candidates display sensitivity to ethnic and cultural diversity.

f. Sarlo Award recipients may be selected only once.

Previous recipients are Judith Berling (2003), Fumitaka Matsuo (2004), Clare Fischer (2005), Doug Adams (2006), Gina Hens-Piazza (2007), Jerome Baggett (2008), Lewis Rambo (2009), Alejandro García Rivera (2010), Ron Nakasone (2011), Boyung Lee (2012), and Mia Mochizuki (2013). This annual award is made possible by a generous gift from the Sarlo Foundation.

2014-2015 NEWHALL AWARD RECIPIENTS

In 1987, the late trustee Jane Newhall gave a generous gift to endow competitive awards for doctoral students to engage in collaborative teaching or research with faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students. The 2013-14 Newhall Recipients paired with their Faculty mentors are: Ashley Bacchi with John Endres, Matt Boswell with Lisa Fullam, Levi

Checketts with Randall Miller, Diandra Chretain with Steed Davidson, Horacio Da Valle with LeAnn Snow Flesher, Maureen Day with Jerome Baggett, Christina Fetherolf with John Endres, Corinna Guerrero with LeAnn Snow Flesher, Warren Harasz with Devin Zuber, Amanda Kiminski with Sandra Schneiders, Henry Kuo with Marion Grau, Izak Lattu with Judith Berling, Suzanne Miller with Gina Hens-Piazza,

Michelle Mueller with Susan Ritchie, Robert Peach with Devin Zuber, Jamie Randolph with Ted Peters, Randall Reynoso with Michael Morris, Stephen Shaver with Louis Weil, H. Jay Siskin with Deena Aranoff, Peter Turman with Anselm Ramelow, Rachel Wheeler with Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Ada Renée Williams with James Noel, Hatice Yildiz with Munir Jiwa.



GTU STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT CYCLE #2 APPLICATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 AT 5PM

The second cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 5pm in the GTU Dean's Office. GTU doctoral students who are presenting papers at national conferences and meetings between February 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014

are eligible to apply for the second cycle. Additionally, the GTU Student Travel Grant Application form must accompany supporting materials. The application form is available on the GTU webpage. (Go to "Students," click on "view more" and then scroll down to the

"Professional Development" subheading and the link for the application will be listed there.) For more information, please consult the 2013 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 77), call the GTU Dean's Office (649.2440), or email amunoz@gtu.edu.



2013-2014 CHAN PRIZE RECIPIENT

Congratulations to third year Ph.D. student in the Systematic and Philosophical Studies area, Wanjoong Kim whose paper entitled, "A Possibility of Reason in Faith: Non-Dualistic Logic in the Christology of Cyril of Alexandria" was selected for the 2013 Chan Prize. Since 1989, the

Chan competition's purpose is to reward the thoughtful, creative work of students who are seeking authentically to bring together theological (including ethical, Biblical, constructive) reflection on the year's topic (which alternates). The topic for 2013 was Identity and Practice

Across Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions (e.g. Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc.). (Next year the topic will be Religion and Economics.)



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?: NELSON MANDELA'S LEGACY & THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT -- SOUTH AFRICA/USA

**Saturday,
March 8th, 2014
9AM-4PM**

**Lower Alexander Hall
San Francisco Theological Seminary
San Anselmo, CA**

This day-long symposium will access the legacy and relevance of Nelson Mandela for the on-going issues surrounding poverty and injustice in Post-Apartheid and Post-Civil Rights America.

The two main speakers are the eminent liberation theologians: Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak and Dr. Dwight N. Hopkins respectively of South Africa and the US. Dr. Boesak's presentation will take us through the history of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, the role black theology played in deconstructing apartheid's religious ideological underpinnings, the intransience of economic problems plaguing contemporary South Africa. Dr. Hop-

kins' presentation will discuss the way the anti-Apartheid struggle and black theology in South Africa drew inspiration from the Civil Rights and Black Power Movement in the US and vis-a-versa.

Sponsored by
the Office of the President
James McDonald
H. Eugene Farlough Chair of
African American Christianity

DOCTORAL STUDENT ELECTIONS

A CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS FOR
STUDENT ELECTIONS
WILL BE COMING TO
YOU VIA EMAIL VERY
SOON. PLEASE THINK
ABOUT WHO YOU
MIGHT WANT TO
NOMINATE FOR
STUDENT ADVISORY
COUNCIL,
DOCTORAL
COUNCIL, AND
OTHER EXCELLENT
COMMITTEE
OPPORTUNITIES. NO
MINUTE AND VOTE
WHEN THE
OPPORTUNITY
COMES.

SPRING 2014 DOUG ADAMS GALLERY EXHIBITION: "ICON & ARTIFACT"



Located at the **Graduate Theological Union** in Berkeley, California, the **Doug Adams Gallery** at the **Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education (CARE)** presents exhibitions of contemporary art that examine themes of spirituality, belief, ritual, and the sacred. Exhibitions support and enhance the curriculum of the GTU, and provide a forum for interdisciplinary and interfaith dialogue.

Icon & Artifact
Exhibition opening
February 6, 2014
5:00pm- 7:00pm
 Free Admission
 Refreshments and live jazz music included

Location:
 Doug Adams Gallery, Graduate Theological Union
 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709
 Regular gallery hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10:00am- 3:00pm

About the Artist

Paul Roorda lives in Waterloo, Ontario and makes art using discarded books, vintage medical objects, and found materials. His work investigates changing belief systems, the construction of knowledge, and the practice of ritual in religion, science, medicine, and environmentalism. In Canada, Roorda has exhibited extensively, including shows at the Toronto School of Theology, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, the Institute for Christian Studies, Redeemer University Art Gallery, and Wilfrid Laurier University. In the U.S., Roorda has exhibited at the Dadian Gallery at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. The Doug Adams Gallery is proud to present his inaugural California show.



Robert Russell



Ted Peters

22ND ANNUAL READING OF THE SACRED TEXTS
 "TWO BOOKS: THE UNIVERSE AND THE BIBLE"

Robert John Russell
 Director of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences at the GTU and Ian G. Barbour Chair in Theology and Science

Ted Peters
 Emeritus Professor of Systematic Theology and Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Monday, March 3, 2014
Reception 6:30 PM
Lecture 7:00 PM

Book signing to follow
 Dinner Board Room
 Flora Lamson Hewlett Library
 Graduate Theological Union
 Free and open to the public

The doctrine of the Two Books was the underlying sub-text during the rise of Modern Western Science. The Book of Nature, interpreted by natural scientists, revealed the divine mind at work in creation. The second book, the Bible, revealed God's grace in redemption. In the 21st

to examine the tension between faith and knowledge, referencing historical icons for a new time; rusty nails and beeswax create meaning in Encaustic Drawings; and, in *The End of the Book*, Roorda considers devotion and loss through the transformation of damaged and discarded Bibles into new ceremonial vessels, reliquaries, and icons.

The 17 pieces in this exhibition are grouped in three categories: In *Slate Requiem*, Roorda makes use of slate tiles from an old church roof

century this complementary relationship seems less obvious than it did to Galileo and Newton, due in large part to twenty-first century reductionism and atheism. Scholars at work at the GTU's Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences ask: just how can we respond to the challenges of reductionism and atheism and bring the two books back together into a "Theology of Nature" that uses the method of "Creative Mutual Interaction (CMI) between natural science and Christian theology?

DOCTORAL STUDENT FORUM: FEBRUARY 27, 4PM

The Student Advisory Council invites all doctoral students to the Doctoral Student Forum on Thursday, February 27, from 4-6pm in the Dinner Board Room of the

GTU Library. President Riess Potterveld, Dean Arthur Holder, and Dean Kathleen Kook will join us to discuss emerging developments at the GTU. This will be an oppor-

tunity to engage in conversation, ask questions, see colleagues, and partake in refreshments.

2014-2015 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINES

Financial Aid Applications for the 2014-2015 academic year are available online at: www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid. Financial Aid Applicants: please find your deadline date below and visit the GTU Consortial Financial Aid website for instructions on how to complete and submit the 2014-15 Financial Aid

Application and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To reach the Financial Aid Office with a question, please email financialaid@gtu.edu or call the us at 510-649-2469.

Doctoral Students

February 15, 2014

Common MA Students affiliated with

- ABSW: April 15, 2014
- CDSP: March 1, 2014
- CJS: April 1, 2014
- DSPT: March 15, 2014
- IBS: April 1, 2014
- JST: March 1, 2014
- PAOI: April 1, 2014
- PLTS: March 15, 2014
- PSR: February 15, 2014
- SFTS: April 15, 2014
- SKSM: April 1, 2014



WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION EVENTS

WSR Hosts:
**Voices from the soul
 Poetry jam/ open mike
 night**
Tues. February 11th
 6:30-8 pm•
 psr mudd 100

“Hearing each other into
 speech” - nelle morton

“Speak your mind-- even if
 your voice shakes” - maggie
 Kuhn

Come, bring a piece of poetry or a song and let your voice be heard. WSR certificate students receive 1 unit for performing a piece. Acoustic instruments only please.



Kick off Women's History Month by attending a panel on the history of Women's Studies at the GTU
Friday March 7th
Dinner Boardroom 12-1:30.

Panelists will discuss the Center for Women's Studies as well as our own Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program. Panel will be followed by a reception.
 (2 units)

The Center for Islamic Studies at the GTU is pleased to announce that visiting scholar, Carol Bier, will be giving the annual lecture at the Museum of Art and History in Santa Cruz, California on February 15, 2014 from 1-2pm. The lecture is titled:

Symmetry, Asymmetry, and Symmetry-Breaking in Oriental Carpets

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 4:00PM IS THE DEADLINE TO FILE MA THESES, GTU DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS, MABL CERTIFICATION OF ORAL EXAMINATION FORMS, AND CJS CERTIFICATE REQUESTS.



HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

Sunglae Cho—PSR
Carole Gallucci—IBS
Sarah Gregory—JST*

*Approved with Honors

Oral Exam Passed

Joo Young Park—SFTS

PHD STUDENTS

Comp Proposals Approved

Philip Erwin—BIBL
Harley Jay Siskin—HIST
Marla Porter—BIBL
Susan Aguilar—HIST
George Hudgins—LITG

Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Jin Sook Kim—THEO
John King—THEO*
Chaitanya Motupalli—ETHC
Heidi Thimann—ART*
Hatice Yildiz—CHSR*
*with distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Jose Balcells—BIBL
Ashley Bacchi—HIST
Andrew Lewis—THEO
Elizabeth Ingenthron—IDS

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

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THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the GTU Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events (lectures, conferences) focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students. Send submissions to Angela Muñoz, amunoz@gtu.edu.