

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3 NOVEMBER 2012

THEOLOGY AND/OR RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Dr. Arthur Holder

Academic Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Several years ago, some staff members from the American Academy of Religion came to the GTU to talk with faculty here about ways that the

AAR could better support the work of its members in theological education. Some good things happened at the meeting, but the GTU faculty present experienced some frustration because our visitors seemed to assume that scholars of “theology” were completely different from those engaged in “religious studies.” We kept interrupting them in order to assert that the GTU faculty included both; moreover, most of us present insisted that we considered ourselves to inhabit both worlds—and happily so.

The distinction (or lack thereof) between theology and religious studies has been a contested issue for

many years. Part of the problem is that different people use the terms in different ways. Some focus on content, saying that theology is about divine realities while religious studies is about human experience. Some who look at the scholar’s own perspective saying that theology is committed to revealed doctrines while religious studies is ostensibly objective. Others see the difference in terms of audience, with theology being in the service of faith communities while religious studies addresses people of every belief, or no belief.

More institutionally minded folk consider the context and say that theology is what people do in seminaries and divinity schools while religious studies is what people do in secular universities.

Then there are many who would argue that the distinction has outlived its usefulness because in the post-modern world all these binaries (divine/human, committed/objective, particular/universal, sacred/secular) no longer apply.

In so far as the GTU has an official position on this issue, we definitely see ourselves as both/and rather than either/or. The mission statement for the GTU doctoral program (GTU Catalog 2011-13, p. 27) refers in one place to “religious and theological studies” and in another to “theological and religious studies.” We have an area of concentration called “Systematic and Philosophical Theology” and another named “Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions.” When you look at the thesis and dissertation titles in the commencement program each year, you find an amazing eclectic mix of research topics that reflects the lively interdisciplinary diversity of our students.

For my part, I hope we never lose the creative tension that comes from being stretched between these two scholarly worlds that overlap and interpenetrate in so many fruitful ways. It is good to move back and forth, and in between. Theologians and scholars of religion—that is who we are, and this is where we belong.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TRANSITION IN STUDENT SERVICES, GREEN TEA CONVERSATION	2
--	---

WSR NEWS, CJS NEWS	3
--------------------	---

CTNS FORUM, BOT STUDENT REP REPORT	4
------------------------------------	---

TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS, JST VATICAN II LECTURE	5
---	---

CIS NEWS, BUDHIST STUDIES CALL FOR PAPERS	6
---	---

FST ANNOUNCEMENT, BOT STUDENT REP ELECTION	7
--	---

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE, EARL LECTURE, NEWHALLS	8
---	---

HONORABLE MENTION	9
-------------------	---

TRANSITIONS IN DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



Kathleen Kook
Acting Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Dear GTU Consortium Faculty, Staff and Students:

I would like to inform you about upcoming changes in the Student Affairs department. Maureen Maloney, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, has been asked to take on an assignment as Interim Vice President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), our regional accrediting commission, to assist them in addressing critical areas in accreditation at this time. This is a unique opportunity that will benefit both Moe and the GTU. The assignment will be from October 22, 2012 through June 30, 2013. I have approved a temporary leave for Maureen for that time period.

Kathleen Kook, Associate Dean for Admissions, will assume the position of Acting Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students for the remainder of the current academic year. She will continue to oversee the Admissions Office as part of her responsibilities as Acting VP. I am grateful to Kathleen for her dedication to seeing that the GTU continues its commitment to the well being of its students.

Katherine Hennessey, who has been working in Admissions for the last five years, will serve as Interim Director of Admissions for the remainder of this academic year.

I welcome the opportunities that these changes present to the GTU. We will miss Moe

this year and will await her return. We are confident that Kathleen and Katie will carry on the good work in the office of Student Affairs. They can count on our support

Sincerely,

James A. Donahue
President and Professor of Ethics
Graduate Theological Union

A GREEN TEA CONVERSATION WITH EUNSU CHO: NOV. 8TH, 7PM

Asia Project and KSA (Korean Student Association) at GTU will co-host a **Green Tea Conversation inviting a Korean Buddhist scholar, Dr. Eunsu Cho.**

Dr. Cho will present with the topic of "Korean Buddhist Nuns and Laywomen: hidden histories, enduring vitality."

Cho is a professor of Buddhist Philosophy at Seoul National University in Korea and currently teaching at UC Berkeley as a visiting professor.

She received her Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from the UC

Berkeley and was an assistant professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan.

She was the founding director of the International Center for Korean Studies at SNU in 2007-2008, the director of the Institute of Philosophical Research, in 2009-2012.

She had also served as the chair of the Editorial Subcommittee of the MOWCAP (Asia/Pacific Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Program) of UNESCO

in 2007-2009.

The event will be held on Thursday, November 8 from 7pm to 8:30pm at PSR Mudd 103



Eunsu Cho

WSR EVENTS

Women's Studies in Religion 2nd Annual Student Conference on Women and Religion on March 1st of 2013.

Call for Papers

open ONLY to GTU students, in ANY program.

Due November 1st 2012:

Email a Proposal (maximum 1000 words), Outline, and Bibliography to wsr@ses.gtu.edu.

Wsr Cafe Series: Naomi Seidman A Sentimental Education: Sexuality, Secularization, and the Emergence of Modern Jewish Literature

**Friday, November 2, 2012
at 10:30 am In the Student
Lounge 1st floor GTU
Building**

Alongside the transformations of traditional Jewish culture

in modernity was the adoption of bourgeois European marital structures, erotic practices, and gender roles. Literature, and particularly the novel, played a major role in this process, as indeed it did in the establishment of new bourgeois sex-gender norms elsewhere in Europe. In this paper, I will argue that the Jewish "conversion" to bourgeois European norms was ambivalent and incomplete, with literature serving as the arena for the negotiation of competing sexual attitudes and gender ideologies.

Naomi Seidman is Koret Professor of Jewish Culture and Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at GTU. Her first book, *A Marriage Made in Heaven: The Sexual Politics of Hebrew and Yiddish*, appeared in 1997; her second, *Faithful Renderings: Jewish-Christian Difference and the*

Politics of Translation, was published in 2006. (worth 2 units)

Wsr hosts

Rev. Jeanne Loveless What They Don't Teach You In Seminary: Negotiating Contracts, Loving Yourself, & Staying Calm No Matter What

**At the Franciscan School
of Theology Monday
November 12TH 6:10-7:30
pm** (worth 1 unit)

WSR hosts, Rev. Jeanne Loveless, an Interim and Transitional Ministry Specialist. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and in the United Church of Christ and a member of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ Interim Ministry Guild. <http://www.gracechaser.org/>



LUNCH & LEARN WITH JUDY KLITSNER: NOV 5TH, 12:30 PM

CJS is hosting Jerusalem-based scholar Judy Klitsner at CJS on Monday, November 5th at 12:30pm in the Dinner Board Room for a lunch and learn. Please join us!

Judy Klitsner is a senior lecturer at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, Israel, where she has taught Bible and biblical exegesis for more than two decades. A

disciple of the renowned Torah teacher Nehama Leibowitz, Judy has trained a generation of students in her distinctive method, which weaves together traditional exegesis, modern scholarship, and original interpretations that are informed by close readings of the biblical text, with an emphasis on how parallel stories interpret one another. Judy is a frequent international lecturer, and

addresses diverse and varied audiences that span the denominational spectrum. She is the author of *Subversive Sequels in the Bible: How Biblical Stories Mine and Undermine Each Other*, originally published by the Jewish Publication Society; paperback recently released by Koren Publishers. The book was awarded the 2009 Jewish Book Award.



Judy Klitsner



Bishop Richard
Cheetham

CNTS PUBLIC FORUM: NOV 13TH, 7PM

Join CTNS for a public forum with Bishop Richard Cheetham on Tuesday November 13th at 7:00PM in the Dinner Boardroom.

'The popular image of science as providing reliable, useful and objective knowledge, whilst theology only offers speculative and subjective opinion is remarkably widespread and persistent. This remains so despite a large and growing body of academic literature which presents a much more nuanced view. One important understanding is that both science and theology can be seen as saying (albeit in different ways) true

things about the way things really are - i.e. a critical realist stance. This lecture will explore popular myths about science and theology, the academic literature, and offer ways of enabling this more informed approach to be more widely heard both in the church and the wider world.'

Dr. Richard Cheetham is the Bishop of Kingston, overseeing the Church of England's work in the Kingston Episcopal Area. He is the chair of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. He serves as the Anglican president of the Christian Muslim Forum. He read Physics and Philosophy at Corpus Christi

College Oxford, and then went on to earn a post-graduate Certification in Education. He was awarded a PhD by King's College London for research on the understanding of religious belief which underlies the practice of collective worship in schools, and currently is an honorary research fellow at King's College London. Bishop Cheetham was also an avid hockey player in his youth and still plays while holding the position of President of the Old Kingstonian Hockey Club. He is married to his wife Felicity and they have a son and daughter.

WHAT WOULD I DO IF I HAD 50 MILLION DOLLARS (THAT IS, IN U.S.)?

Board of Trustees student Representative Report from Dong Hyeon Jeong:

What Would I do if I had 50 Million Dollars (that is, in U.S.)?

Not that I will make that much in my lifetime, but I ask this question in light of the rumors regarding the GTU's financial situation. We all feel it. As ubiquitous as trees are in Berkeley, we all know that the GTU is feeling the crunch as years go by. So, I have been asking myself, what would it take to sustain a school?

As a student, I have a hard

time noticing matters of the larger community when my classes pile work and deadlines. But I feel lucky when spare time allows me to notice and appreciate the collegiality promoted by the teachers in our schools. On auspicious times, I could even spare a moment to learn how the staff and deans dutifully and tactfully labor in order for the schools to run smoothly. And if in some blessed way I am given the chance to witness important administrative meetings, I will be honored to meet gracious trustees and invaluable executives of the GTU who

tirelessly and selflessly give so that the school can exist for all of us.

So I ask myself again: what would it take to sustain a school? It does not take tons of money for a school to thrive – although 50 million dollars would be much appreciated. Rather, it takes the appreciation of those dedicated people of GTU who are praying and working tirelessly so that the rest of us could continuously call GTU our alma mater. So, if you meet them in Holy Hill, shake their hands, give them a nod.



Dong Hyeon Jeong

2012-2013 CYCLE #1 STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following GTU doctoral students will be presenting at the 2012 AAR/SBL Conferences in Chicago, IL, and other comparable national conferences (listed in that order). Each has received a Student Travel Grant Award from the GTU Dean's Office.

Yong Yeon Hwang "A Theological Reflection on the Marginalized Experiences of Korean 'Military Brides' in the United States of America";

Colin W.R. Johnson "The Ritual-as-Game: Avatars and the Circling of Space";

Jin Sook Kim "Jouissance, Beyond the Symbolic to the Real: Mystical Deconstruction of the Subject in the Structure of Jacques Lacan";

Izak Lattu "Collective Memory for Christina- Muslim Dialogue in Maluku, Indonesia";

Daniel London "Loosening My Grip on Spiritual Classics";

Braden Molhoek "Dust to Dust: Are Humans the Pinnacle or a Pinnacle";

Fatima Montazeri "Mysticism in Persian Book Illustration";

Michelle Mueller "Deepening Conversations Between Ritual Studies and Pagan Studies";

Mohamad Som Pourfarzaneth "Countering Stereotypes with Social Media: Muslim Cultural Producers in the

United States";

Sheri Prud'homme "Emerson's Hermeneutic of the Text of Moral Nature";

Justin Tanis "David Wojnarowicz: Outsider Theologian";

Mee Yin Mary Yuen "Freedom of Expression as Taboo in Building a Harmonious Society: Unintended Consequences of the Confucian Notion of Harmony in China";

Ashley Bacchi "Sleep: The Imagery of Immediacy";

Philip Erwin "Fighting Beasts and Conquering Death: Reading Paul's Beast Fight Before and After the Arrival of the Arena in Corinth";

Ikani Fakasiieiki "Reading the Biblical and Qumran Calendars with a Pacific Island Perspective";

Andrea Sheaffer "Images of the Indentured: reading the Biblical Narrative of a Slave Woman Through Art";

Mary Ashley "If You Want Responsibility, Build Relationship: A Personalist Approach to Benedict XVI's Environmental Vision";

Wendy Arce "Latina/os, Sex and the Movies: How Film, Religion and Culture Can Combat Sexual Binaries and Homonegativity";

Carl Bear "Did Luther Change His Mind About Music? Martin Luther's Theology of Music in Light of His Liturgical Reforms";

Peter Doeblor "Treasure in Earthen Vessels: Hegel, von Balthasar and the Wise Fool After the End of Art";

A. Vanessa Hawkins "Hurricane Katrina and the African American Creation Narrative";

Khalia J. Jelks "Engaging Womanist Spirituality in African American Worship";

Patricia McKee "Scorning the Image of Virtue: Nathan Field's Letter to Rev. Thomas Sutton";

Katia Moles "Linking Feminism and Faith Based Activism: The Important Role of Religious Progressives in Sexual Education Debates in the U.S.";

Rondall Reynoso "Disrespect and the Higher Purpose: The Bob Jones University Museum and Gallery";

Ma'ayan Sela "The Only World: Ideological Constructs through the Medium of Fiction in Franz Kafka's 'In the Penal Colony'";

Larry Taylor "Minimal Revolution: Spiritual Revolution in Minimal Art";

Heidi Lynn Thimann "Memory in Ruins: Anne and Patrick Poirier's *jupiter et les geants: Paysage foudroye*";

THE NEXT
INSTALLMENT OF
JST'S LECTURE
SERIES ON
VATICAN II IS
ON WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 14,
7:30 P.M. AT THE
CHAPEL AT JST
AND FEATURES
PROFS. MARY
ANN DONOVAN
AND ARTHUR
HOLDER
SPEAKING ON
THE TOPIC OF
"ECUMENISM."

CIS NEWS

'Eid Mubarak!



The Center for Islamic Studies at the GTU wishes our Muslim colleagues, families and friends a blessed 'Eid ul-Adha. As Muslims have recently completed hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, we commemorate our shared Abrahamic tradition and our common humanity. May this be a time of greater understanding, unity and peace.

Doorway to Islamic Civilization

Doorway to Islamic Civilization, coordinated by Zawaya, is a weekend of hands-on workshops on Islamic art and culture set against the current social backdrop of Islamophobia. These workshops are meant to give those interested the opportunity to get to know Islam and Muslims by providing a safe space within which to explore and experience the Islamic sense of beauty embodied in art, crafts, music, architecture, and more.

In addition to the workshops, there will be a [film showing](#) of "Islamic Art: Mirror of the

Invisible World" followed by a panel discussion between the filmmaker, Michael Wolfe, and Islamic art and architecture experts. The Mevlevi Order of America will also be present to offer a [Dhikr](#) (a devotional act) by Mevlevi musicians and dervish turners.

Friday, November 9 to Sunday, November 11

Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, 1433 Madison Street, Oakland

For more information, including how to register, [click here](#).

CIS at AAR

The CIS will be at the American Academy of Religion Conference in Chicago, November 17-20!

Dr. Munir Jiwa, Director of the CIS, will be leading the Rethinking Islamic Studies Workshop on "Performance and Practice in Muslim Experience." He will also be responding to a panel on "Conflicting Social Imaginaries and their Impact on Human Freedom" and presiding over the "Modernism, Islam,

and the Sociology of Knowledge" panel for the Contemporary Islam Group and Religion, Colonialism, and Post-colonialism Group.

Som Pourfarzaneh, CHSR Ph.D. Candidate and CIS Program Coordinator, will be presenting a paper on "Countering Stereotypes with Social Media: Muslim Cultural Producers in the United States" at the Religion, Media, and Culture Group panel.

Fateme Montazeri, Art & Religion Ph. D. Student, will be presenting a paper on "Mysticism in Persian Book Illustration" at the Islamic Mysticism Group panel.

5th Anniversary Celebration

In November 2007, the Center for Islamic Studies opened its doors as a resource to the GTU and to the Bay Area community, for Muslims and all faith traditions alike. Join us as we celebrate our accomplishments, especially those of our students, over the first 5 years.

Wednesday, December 5



INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES' CALL FOR PAPERS

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is pleased to announce its 3rd annual graduate student symposium to be held April 13, 2013, in Berkeley, California.

The symposium theme this

year focuses on Buddhist ritual and material culture. A keynote address, sponsored by the Yehan Numata Foundation, will be delivered by Justin McDaniel of the University of Pennsylvania.

A call for papers follows. Please distribute and encourage your students to submit proposals either to Scott Mitchell (scott@shin-ibs.edu) or Courtney Bruntz (courtney.bruntz@gmail.com) by January 7, 2013.

STATEMENT ON FST ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTURE

The decision by the Franciscan School of Theology to affiliate with the University of San Diego and to move its campus to Southern California is an occasion to thank the Franciscans for the wonderful work they have done since they joined the GTU consortium in 1968. The presence of extremely talented faculty, staff, and students has contributed greatly to the intellectual and religious climate that has made the GTU one of the most distinctive centers of theological learning in the country. We will miss FST and the FST community greatly.

The decision may raise concerns about the future and the sustainability of the GTU. While this will change the composition of our consortial membership, it does not alter our ecumenical and interreligious educational mission. There will be some fiscal implications and these issues are being aggressively addressed by the administration and the Board of Trustees. We recognize that the “whole is greater than the sum of its parts” and are confident that the GTU will continue to thrive.

The move of FST underscores the fact that the landscape of higher education, graduate education, and theological education is changing rapidly, and that the challenges faced are ones that are filled with both promise and risk. This year the GTU is celebrating fifty years of bringing together diverse theological perspectives, religious traditions and communities into constructive conversation and transformative collaborations. We continue to be strong in creating these collaborations. As we move into our next fifty years, we look forward to continuing to engage the Franciscan tradition in new and different ways.

FREQUENTLY ASKED AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS:

Are there other schools thinking of leaving the GTU?

No. The Jesuit School of Theology was integrated into Santa Clara University four years ago and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary is currently pursuing an affiliation with California Lutheran University, but both schools have made clear their intention to remain in Berkeley as part of the GTU.

Is there an agreement that maintains and protects the consortium?

Yes, it is called the Common Agreement which was unanimously ratified all of the GTU member school boards of trustees and faculties in 2001.

Is the GTU seeking other member institutions?

We remain open to the possibility of adding new partners and, in fact, have had several conversations with other higher education institutions over the past several years, seeking potential alignments and affiliations. While, to date, these conversations have not produced new partners appropriate for the mission of the GTU, we continue to pursue this strategy.

How will the GTU address the possible gaps in faculty expertise leaving with FST?

FST’s decision calls forth a strategy we regularly use to fill gaps in faculty expertise that arise from our consortium design, i.e. where our member schools need to make faculty decisions in relation to their particular mission which, from time to time, cause these gaps in the academic programs. The GTU Dean is currently exploring ways to leverage faculty expertise across different areas and identifying additional faculty from our schools to join the Core Doctoral Faculty.

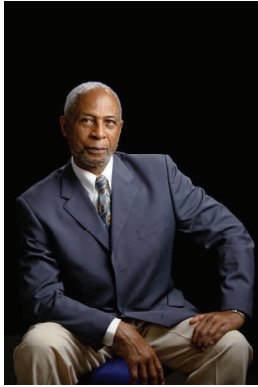
Is the GTU financially stable enough for me to complete my degree?

Yes, the GTU is in stable financial condition now and is actively engaged in planning to ensure its future sustainability.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DONG HYEON JEONG AND AMBER NASH, BOTH ELECTED AS THE INTERIM DOCTORAL AND MA STUDENT MEMBER ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPECTIVELY. DONG IS STEPPING IN FOR JESSI TAYLOR FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR. JESSI WILL BE RETURNING TO HER POSITION IN 2014. AMBER NASH, AN MA STUDENT IN INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES AREA AFFILIATED WITH PSR, WAS ELECTED BY HER MA STUDENT PEERS IN SEPTEMBER. THANK YOU TO DONG AND AMBER FOR VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO FILL THESE IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN SCHOOL GOVERNANCE.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE: NOVEMBER 8, 2012, 7PM



James A Noel

Dr. James Noel, H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. Professor of African American Christianity at SFTS will deliver the 2012 Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Thursday, November 8, 2012, 7:00pm at the PSR Chapel. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture is entitled "**Black Religion in the Atlantic World During the Age of Revolution: Excavating the 'Sublime.'**"

The Atlantic World was created, beginning in the long sixteenth-century, through the contacts and exchanges of commodities, ideas, and bodies that connected Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, South America and North America

within a political economy within which slavery and colonialism were prominent features hidden beneath and obscured by Enlightenment discourse. The American, French, Haitian, and Latin American revolutions occurred within the Atlantic World's spatial/temporal framework, along with West African Islamic d'jihad, slave rebellions and maroonage. In this lecture, the black body and black religion will be posited, among other human and cultural items, as sites for theoretical reflection upon the internal structure of modernity. The "sublime" was the aesthetic concept the West privileged beginning in the eighteenth century to adjudicate its experience of differ-

ence. However, its understanding of itself and the Other remained disfigured by its perception of the other as grotesque rather than the oppressive nature of slavery and colonialism. Black religion will be situated within this discursive field.

The response will be given by Dr. Naomi Seidman, Koret Professor of Jewish Culture and Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies (GTU). Immediately following the lecture, there will be a reception co-sponsored by CARE and is held in conjunction with the "Sunday Spirit" exhibition in the Doug Adams Gallery across the courtyard from the PSR Chapel.



WE ARE FAMILY: PSR EARL LECTURES AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 111th Earl Lectures and Leadership Conference, held January 29-31, 2013, is themed: "We Are Family: Real Families, Real Faith, in the Real World." This conference will bring together scholars

and faith community leaders to explore what family means in a modern historical context within U.S. society.

Early Bird registration is \$175 and ends on November 30th.

For more information and to register please visit: www.psr.edu/earllectures

NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRI, NOV 9TH



The 2013-2014 Newhall Awards (competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with GTU Faculty mentors) proposals are due in the GTU Dean's Office by 5pm, Fri-

day, November 9. Complete proposals include the Newhall Award Application form available on the GTU webpage and must come from the student, and the professor and student for a project involving both. The form con-

tains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. If you have questions, please contact the GTU Dean's Office (amunoz@gtu.edu or 649-2440).

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

Michael Slaker, JST

PHD STUDENTS

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Jeanyoun Kim, HIST

Sheri Prud'homme, IDS

Advanced to Candidacy

Jamie Wright, ETHC

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Your Address Line 4

<http://www.gtu.edu>

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

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.