

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DEAN



Walking through the UC Berkeley campus, I often notice prospective students with their parents strolling along with the crowd but often stopping to take pictures. Parents always seem happier and more excited than their children as they whip out their smartphones. Students don't seem to care or are simply too embarrassed to pose for pictures. Perhaps they are as joyful as their parents are at the prospect of attending a great university like UC Berkeley but do a good job of hiding their feelings. I know I was more eager than my two kids when I took them for college visits.

When I told my mother I was applying for a PhD program in theology more than twenty years ago, my mother didn't show much emotion and said, "Why?" I was the joyful one this time around. Perhaps she was happy and proud of her son but did a great job of restraining her enthusiasm. For two weeks in the middle of January a number of faculty and I read tens of applications to the GTU PhD program. My esteemed colleagues would agree with me that there were excitement and joy in each file. (I doubt that any parent had a say in what was in the application and the decision to apply to the GTU.) We could sense the applicants' passion and hope pulsating through the pages of their applications. As the world wonders why, they were certain that they wanted to do this. Rather, they had to do this.

As we start a new semester and a new year, let us delight in why we decided to pursue our study and vocation in the first place. Reading the applications and being back on Holy Hill, with my office above the Library, brought back memories and indescribable joy as I renew my commitment to pursue knowledge, to love God, and to serve others. And I'm hopeful that the new year will bring new opportunities, ideas and gifts for the GTU and its community.



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A CONVERSATION WITH DEAN KIM

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is sponsoring this opportunity for doctoral students to meet, welcome, and have conversations with new GTU Dean Uriah Kim. Lunch provided. February 8, 11:30am-1:00pm, GTU Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte Avenue, 1st Floor.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

YOGA IN THE GALLERY

Wednesday, February 15, 12-1pm

Join us for an hour-long session by registered yoga teacher Lily Manderville (CARE Programs Manager). Open to all GTU member school students, faculty, and staff. Comfortable work clothes recommended.

Please bring a hand towel and water bottle. 3rd Wednesday of each month, 12-1pm.

Questions? Email info@care-gtu.org



February 1st | 10am | Student Lounge

Spring Orientation to Dissertation Proposal and Doc Council.



February 8th | 10am | Student Lounge

Writing Conference Proposals and Abstracts, Rita Sherma, Director of the Center for Dharma Studies, Associate Professor of Dharma Studies, GTU/CDS.

February 15th | 10am | Student Lounge

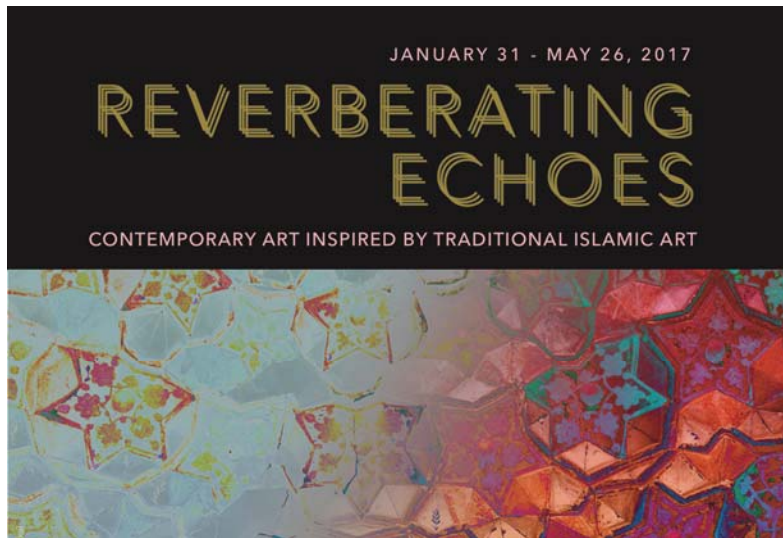
Grant Writing and Fellowship Proposals, Elizabeth Peña, Executive Director of CARE and Doug Adams Gallery.

ASIA PROJECT

Asia Project at GTU cordially invites you to the third Semi-Annual Student Colloquium *New Voices of Asia and Oceania* on **Thursday March 16th, 2017 @ 12:30-2:00 pm**. This colloquium is a place where you hear from doctoral students their work (dissertation or special COMPS) and have fruitful discussions. We will have a panel of 2 presenters and 1 respondent for the forum that day followed by a Q & A session.

The event is open to the public and free lunch (delicious Asian cuisine!) will be served. GTU students and faculty who are interested in the Asian and Oceanic culture and religion are invited. More than 30 people - faculties and students - participated in past forums.





CARE NEWS AND EVENTS

Reverberating Echoes: Contemporary Art Inspired by Traditional Islamic Art

Carol Bier, Curator

January 31 - May 26, 2017

Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

Free & open to the public

This exhibition highlights the work of seven American artists of diverse interests, backgrounds, and training. Inspired by traditional Islamic art, their works echo historic aesthetic concerns, often advancing human knowledge and understanding by experimentation with new technologies. Traditional concerns focused on the spatial dimension and the effects of light on form, the association of Arabic language and script with revelation, and patterns in the plane, exploring the nature of two-dimensional space.

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA

Thursday, February 16, 4:30pm

After gathering in the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive lobby at 4:30pm, we'll hear a short talk about an artwork on display. Then, we can amble around the museum and /or go have a drink in the café! Check in with a Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE) staff member for a complimentary ticket. Graduate Theological Union students, staff, faculty, and friends are all welcome. BAMPFA is located at 2155 Center Street, between Oxford Street and Shattuck Avenue, in downtown Berkeley | bampfa.berkeley.edu

CARE/GTU GRANTS & WRITING PRIZE DEADLINE

Monday, February 27, 2017

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to offer grants (up to \$2,000) in support of projects that center on religion and the arts. Projects might include travel to a conference to present a paper or to conduct research, funding to assist with an art workshop, or fees related to a theatrical performance. These grants are sponsored by CARE.

Who is eligible? The application process is open to all, though priority is given to GTU students, faculty, and staff. Previous GTU grant recipients may apply for new or follow-up grants, though GTU's preference is to support first-time applicants. GTU & CARE Advisory Committee members are ineligible for grants; in some cases, applicants will be required to sign conflict-of-interest forms.

More information online <http://care-gtu.org/grants-and-prizes>

LIBRARY NEWS

LOCKERS

It's almost that time again: Locker checkout! The first day of locker assignment is Feb. 6th. Visit the GTU circulation desk to get your free locker for the semester.



LIBRARY WORKSHOPS: COMING SOON

We are starting to set up library workshops, both in-person and online, including a new workshop on Zotero. We will be posting dates and times on our website.



Teaching Lab

The library has been busy over break finishing up our new Teaching Lab. We are looking forward to offering new workshops, in-class library instruction sessions, events and more.

Faculty: if you would like a library session in your class, please let us know. We are happy to offer custom sessions in our lab or we can come to your classroom.

Spring Semester Reference Hours

We've expanded our reference hours again! GTU librarian hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30-4; Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-6; and Saturdays 1-4. SFTS librarian hours are Monday through Friday

9-4:30. You can visit us in person, "chat" us via our website, call 510-649-2501, or email library@gtu.edu. We are here to help.

Save the Date: The 25th annual Reading of the Sacred Texts will be held on March 9 at 7pm. More information to come in the March newsletter.

Library Exhibit commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

To commemorate 500 years of the Reformation, the library is exhibiting historical works by Martin Luther and his contemporaries, along with the ways Protestant anniversaries have been celebrated through the years. The exhibit cases will include a Luther Bible (1535 with hand colored prints) as well as early editions of works by Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, Jean Calvin, Johann Eck and others. The exhibit will run from February 13 through May 2017. An opening reception will take place on Wednesday, February 15, at 6 p.m. in the library.



Bible. German. Luther. 1535. Second complete edition of Luther's translation of the Bible. New woodcuts for complete German Bible by Lucas Cranach, the younger, and one or two others. Here are two of the hand colored woodcuts by Cranach: the illustrations are Adam and Eve and Moses and the burning bush.

The exhibition is made possible by the Jane Dillenberger Fine Arts Endowment Fund and is free and open to the public during library hours. For more information, contact David Stiver at dstiver@gtu.edu or Caryl Woulfe at cwoulfe@gtu.edu.



CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

Congratulations and our gratitude to Carol Bier, Islamic Art Historian and CIS Visiting Scholar, for her extraordinary work on curating the exhibition, *Reverberating Echoes: Contemporary Art Inspired by Traditional Islamic Art*, at the Doug Adams Gallery, Center for the Arts & Religion, GTU, January 31 to May 26, 2017. For the exhibition catalogue/book, opening reception on Jan 31, public events and dialogue programs, including a community forum to meet the artists on Feb 1, please see: <http://www.care-gtu.org/doug-adams-gallery>

CIS is pleased to co-sponsor a public event on **February 6** at the Hillside Club in Berkeley with Carol Bier, who will speak on the *Reverberating Echoes* exhibit. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street, Berkeley, 7:30pm

CIS is pleased to announce and sponsor in part an event with Zawaya, *Art Against All Odds: Black & Muslim Expressions of Love & Faith*, to be held on Feb 11, 7-9pm at Mission de Santa Clara de Asis, SCU. Free event but must register: <http://zawaya.org/site/art-against-all-odds-saturday-february-11th-2017/>

As part of Interfaith Harmony Week, the CIS-CJS Madrasa-Midrasha program is honored to host Prof. Mahmoud Ayoub, who will present on *Scriptures and Revelation in the Abrahamic Traditions* to be held on either Feb 13 or 14, from 12-2pm. Final details tbc: <http://gtu.edu/centersandaffiliates/islamicstudiesdialogue>

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

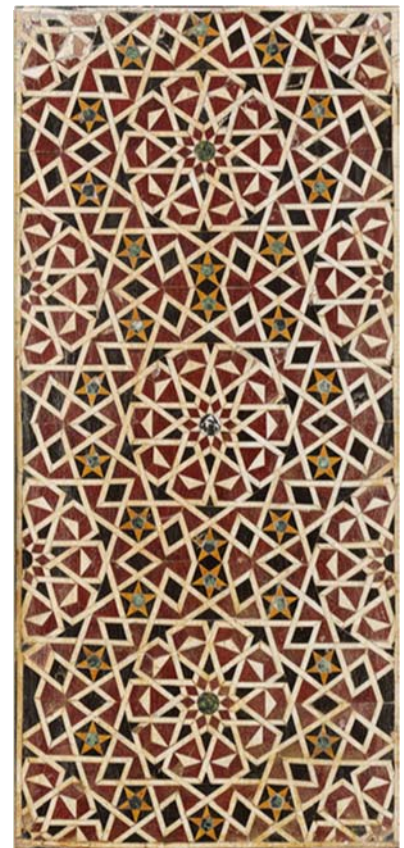
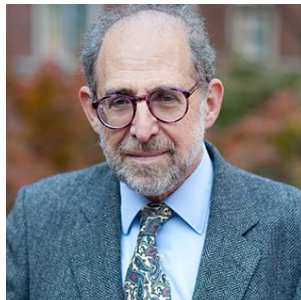
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND: KARMA BEN-JOHANAN ON VATICAN II AND JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

12:45pm: Graduate Theological Union | Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley CA 94709



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14: RAYMOND SCHEINDLIN ON MEDIEVAL JEWISH POETRY

4:30pm: Graduate Theological Union | Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley CA 94709



Dr. Munir Jiwa's spring course at the GTU on **Islam in the Public Sphere** is open to community members, including course related public events on Black History, Islamophobia, Islamic Art, and events promoting dialogue and solidarity in the new political climate of fear and exclusion. For info, please email: mjiwa@gtu.edu

2017-2018 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 2017-18 Newhall Recipients paired with their Faculty mentors are:

Ineda Adesanya with Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, Leslie Bowling-Dyer with Valerie Miles-Tribble, Diandra Chretien with Uriah Kim, Heeyoung Chung with Anh Tran, Michaela Eskew with Rossitza Schroeder, Jennifer Fernández with Filipe Maia, Yohana Junker and Laura Jean Torgerson with Boyung Lee and Devin Zuber, Andrew Lee with Arthur Holder, Justin Lipscomb with Purushottama Bilimoria, Daniel Moceri with Gabriella Lettini, Stephen Quarles with Jay Johnson, Stephen Quarles with Ruth Meyers, Eric Sias with LeAnn Snow Flesher, Eric Sias with Aaron Brody, Justin Staller with Jim Lawrence, Cecilia Titzano with Eduardo Fernández, Colette Walker with Devin Zuber, Joshua Warfield with Jay Johnson, and I Sil Yoon with William O'Neill.

CTNS EVENTS

CTNS Naming Event and Reception

You are invited to join us for a **very special naming event and reception** for The Francisco J. Ayala Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences on **Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 4pm**, in the Dinner Board Room, Graduate Theological Union Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California.

This event is free and open to the public. However, for planning purposes, RSVPs would be appreciated. Please send a quick note to Melissa Moritz at mmoritz@gtu.edu to let us know you will attend.

2017 Russell Family Research Fellowship in Religion and Science with Hava Tirosh-Samuels

Tuesday, March 7

Center for Jewish Studies (CJS) Event with Hava Tirosh-Samuels, "Jewish Environmentalism: Faith, Scholarship, and Activism"

Please contact cjs@gtu.edu for details.

Wednesday, March 8

CTNS Public Forum with Hava Tirosh-Samuels, "Judaism and the Science-and-Religion Dialogue: A Personal Journey"
Dinner Board Room, 7pm

Free and open to the public.

Thursday, March 9

Russell Family Research Fellowship Conference with Hava Tirosh-Samuels, "In Pursuit of Perfection: The Misguided Transhumanist Vision"
Dinner Board Room, 1-5pm

Registration required. Please contact mmoritz@gtu.edu for details or to register.

2017 Charles H. Townes Graduate Student Fellowship

The purpose of the Townes Fellowship is to publicly recognize and offer modest financial support to doctoral students of the Graduate Theological Union who have demonstrated the clear ability to do highly promising research on issues related to theology and science. The selection is based on academic excellence, and **students in any area of the Graduate Theological Union doctoral program whose research focuses on theology and science are eligible to apply.**

To apply please submit a copy of your curriculum vitae, and a sample of your best writing in theology and science. **Students must have completed the general comprehensive exams to be eligible to apply.** Please submit applications to Townes Fellowship Award, CTNS, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709, or by email to mmoritz@gtu.edu. **Applications must be received by 5:00pm, Tuesday, February 28** to be considered for the award.

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

5:00-7:00 pm

Dinner Board Room (3rd floor of GTU library)

Please join the Women's Studies in Religion program

of GTU for a **reception to honor the 12 new faculty**

women who have been hired at GTU since 2015!

The event will feature hors d'oeuvres, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages. It will be held in the Dinner Board Room on the 3rd floor of the GTU Library.

Live music will be provided by PSR student Sarah Gettys.

All are welcome - students, staff, faculty, and others! There will be a brief program at 5:30pm. For more information, please contact Sheryl Johnson at wsr@ses.gtu.edu.

Women's Studies in Religion hosts a Brown Bag Lunch with Professor Yolanda Norton

Friday, February 17, 2017

1-2pm GTU Student Lounge (Le Conte Building)

Bring your lunch for an informal presentation and conversation hosted by Women's Studies in Religion.

Rev. Yolanda M. Norton is a Ph.D. candidate in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel and Theology and Practice Fellow at Vanderbilt University. Her current research interests include womanist interpretation, narrative and literary criticism, and the Persian period. In particular, her work focuses on the books of Genesis and Ruth, and how each text treats foreign women, and considers the ways in which insider-outsider paradigms in Scripture influence constructions of identity and facilitate the vilification and/or oppression of women of color who encounter the biblical canon in the modern world. Professor Norton has published chapters in *I Found God in Me: Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader* and *Global Perspectives in the Old Testament*. She also has articles included in a pending publication in Liturgical Press' new feminist commentary on the Psalms.



GTU STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT CYCLE #2 APPLICATION DEADLINE

IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 AT 5PM

The second cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is **Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 5pm in the GTU Dean's Office.**

GTU doctoral students who are presenting papers at national conferences and meetings between February 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017 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 "Current Students" across the top banner 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 2016 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 93-94), call the GTU Dean's Office (510.649.2440), or email, amunoz@gtu.edu.

2017 SURJIT SINGH LECTURE ON COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND CULTURE

“Many Views, Many Truths, One Truth: A Jain-Inspired Approach to the Diversity of Worldviews”

Dr. Jeffery Long

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

6pm Reception, GTU Dinner Boardroom (3rd floor of GTU Library, 2400 Ridge Road)

7pm Lecture, Zaytuna College (2401 LeConte Avenue)

As human beings committed to diverse worldviews, how do we learn to navigate the fact that our neighbors have beliefs and values that differ from ours? Is agreement necessary in order for there to be peace? Or is there a way for us to value difference without compromising on our own most deeply held beliefs? Are there certain beliefs that are incompatible with peaceful co-existence? In this lecture, Jeffery Long will explore a way to approach these difficult questions. Taking his inspiration from both Jain and Hindu traditions, Long will explore the limits of religious pluralism and the role of philosophy in articulating a way forward for conflicted humanity.



Jeffery D. Long is Professor of Religion and Asian Studies at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, where he has taught since receiving his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School in the year 2000. He is the author of *A Vision for Hinduism: Beyond Hindu Nationalism*, *Jainism: An Introduction*, and the *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism*, as well as numerous articles and public presentations. A central theme of his work is religious pluralism

and constructive interfaith engagement. He has previously given the inaugural Virchand Gandhi lecture in Jain Studies at Claremont University and guest lectured in the International Summer School for Jain Studies in New Delhi, India, as well as speaking at two Jain centers in New Jersey: Siddhachalam and Jain Vishva Bharati. Long is currently pursuing book projects on Indian philosophy, Hinduism in America, and the teachings of Swami Vivekananda. In addition to his scholarly work, he is also an active member of the Hindu community in North America, serving as a consultant to the Hindu American Foundation and active in his local temple in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

INTERRELIGIOUS RESEARCH STUDENT GRANT APPS DUE FEB 15



The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations has awarded the GTU a grant to support an opportunity for students to do collaborate interreligious research. Up to three teams will be selected and each cohort will receive up to \$5,000.

Proposals **of no more than two pages single-spaced** (or not to exceed 1,000 words) should be submitted to the Office of the Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs (amunoz@gtu.edu) **by February 15, 2017**. The selection of awardees will be made by February 28.

Application form with instructions and criteria is available on the GTU website. (Go to "Current Students" across the top banner and then scroll down to the "Professional Development" subheading and the link for the application will be listed there.) Completed and signed application form must accompany proposal documentation. At least one applicant from each cohort must be officially enrolled in the GTU MA, ThD or PhD degree programs.

For further information instruction, please contact Angela Muñoz (amunoz@gtu.edu).

HISPANIC SUMMER PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The 2017 Hispanic Summer Program (HSP) will take place from June 17 to July 1 at the North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. Applications are available on the HSP website. The GTU is a Sponsoring Institution and so GTU students are eligible to apply to the Program.

The program is designed primarily for Latina/o students enrolled in theological seminaries and university departments of theology or religion.

The Hispanic Summer Program (HSP) offers 7 choices of 3-credit, accredited courses geared toward master-degree level Latina/o seminarians and graduate students.

- Master's-level students from Sponsoring Institutions attending for the 1st or 2nd time: **\$425** (Includes tuition, airfare **up to \$500**, room & board. In other words, if you airfare costs more than \$500, you pay the amount by which is exceeds \$500.)
- D.Min. and Ph.D. from Sponsoring Institutions: **\$800** (Includes tuition, airfare **up to \$500**, room & board. In other words, if you airfare costs more than \$500, you pay the amount by which is exceeds \$500.)

For more information visit: <http://hispanicsummerprogram.org/>

MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM

The next Modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, February 22, from 1PM to 4:45PM in the Dinner Board Room. Register by February 8 with Wendy Arce, Student Affairs Office Manager, warce@gtu.edu, 649-2400.

DOCTORAL STUDENT ELECTIONS

A call for nominations for student elections will be coming to you via email very soon. Think about who would make excellent members of the Student Advisory Committee, Doctoral Council, and other excellent opportunities to participate and be of service. Nominate and vote when the opportunity comes. Nominations will be due to yjunker@gtu.edu by February 28, and elections will be held March 6-17.

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.

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION
Office of the Dean
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA
94709
<http://www.gtu.edu>

Phone: 510-649-2440
Fax: 510-649-1417
E-mail: amunoz@gtu.edu



HONORABLE MENTION

PHD STUDENTS

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Zachary Markwith, CHSR

Oral Comprehensive

Yoon Kyung Kim, BIBL

Kyungrae Kim, THEO*

Tae Woong Lee, BIBL

Seung Hyun Yoo, THEO*

Evan Hershman, BIBL*

Effendi Sunur, THEO*

*With Distinction

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Nathan Bjorge, THEO

Alan Weissenbacher, THEO

Hyeokil Kwon, SPRT

Advanced to Candidacy

Dustyn Ragasa, ETHC

Colette Walker, ART

Jennifer Owens, IDS