

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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REMEMBERING HOW FAR WE HAVE COME



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

As we continue our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the GTU, it is good to remember what a newsworthy event that was in 1962 and throughout those early years. Here is how a TIME magazine article reported the story in 1964:

In pre-ecumenical days, neighboring seminaries of different faiths used to eye each other warily, like hostile fortresses. But the barriers of confessionalism are falling fast — and nowhere faster than in California's Bay Area.

There, seven divinity schools ranging from Roman Catholic to Unitarian have joined to create a unique Graduate Theological Union offering doctor-

ates of theology and philosophy.

The G.T.U. started in a modest way: with two deans and one student, who flunked out. Now in the third year of operation, it has 24 doctoral candidates and a faculty of 54, drawn from the participating schools. Its students must meet the academic requirements of the nearby University of California and can enroll in university courses.

Some things have changed since then, of course. The GTU now comprises nine seminaries and eleven programs, centers, and affiliates. There are over 200 Ph.D. and Th.D. students and 135 full-time consorsial faculty, making this the nation's largest doctoral program in theology and religious studies. The TIME article didn't mention the GTU library because the collections of the member schools weren't combined until 1969. Perhaps most significantly of all, the GTU has become a pioneer in inter-religious cooperation while maintaining a strong commitment to Christian ecumenism at a deep level.

But even after fifty years, the best things about the early days of the GTU are still going

strong. We still have high academic standards that enable our students to benefit from the incomparable resources of the University of California, Berkeley. We are still working hard to overcome the barriers of narrow sectarianism in all its forms. And what then Dean John Dillenberger said in 1964 about the financial benefits of consorsial collaboration is even more true today: "No one can do things independently any more. It has become too expensive to create academic excellence."

Having come to join the CDSP faculty in 1986, I have been part of the GTU for twenty-six years—just over half the time of its existence. Even as a mid-course arrival, I had the privilege of working with some of the theological giants who founded the GTU and established its reputation, including the first three deans (Sherman Johnson, John Dillenberger, and Claude Welch) who have now departed from this life but whose legacies enrich us still. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this remarkable experiment in theological education, and I look forward to whatever the future may have in store for us as we continue on our way.

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Dr. Darleen Pryds

WSR CAFE SERIES- DR. DARLEEN PRYDS: OCT 10, 10:30AM

Wsr Cafe Series:

**Dr. Darleen Pryds
Women Preachers &
Leaders:**

**The roman catholic tradi-
tion**

**that gets overlooked--
Wednesday, October 10,
2012 at 10:30 am**

**At Church Divinity
School of the Pacific in
Denniston Commons.**

Darleen Pryds is professor of
Spirituality and History at the
Franciscan School of Theol-

ogy. She is a lay preacher and
preaches regularly at an ecu-
menical range of parishes
around the Bay Area, as well
as a scholar of the history of
lay preaching in the Catholic
tradition. Women of the
Streets: Early Franciscan
Women and their Mendicant
Vocation looks at the lives of
four lay Franciscan women
and asks why their stories of
leadership and faith are un-
derrepresented in discussions
and understandings of the

Franciscan charism as a
whole. Dr. Pryds will explore
traditional models of female
leadership in the Roman
Catholic tradition especially
in the Franciscan tradition.
Copies of her book, Women
of the Streets will be for sale
at a reduced rate of \$10.

Please join us for an informal
conversation about her past
and present work.

(Event worth 2 units)

IMAGING RELIGION: OCT 1 THROUGH JAN 30

The GTU library invites you
to Imaging Religion: An Ex-
hibit in Honor of the 50th
Anniversary of the GTU, **on
display in the library
from October 1, 2012
through January 31, 2013.**

Of special note are works by
contemporary artists Haji
Noor Deen Mi Guang Jiang,
Ron Nakasone, He Qi, Al-

fonso Castillo, Corita Kent,
Angelica Vasquez Cruz, and
Virginia and Louis Naranjo.

**To officially open the
exhibit, a blessing and
celebration of the li-
brary's collection will
take place on Monday,
October 8, from 12:00 to
1:30 pm in the library.**
GTU Dean Arthur Holder

will be the Master of Cere-
monies; representatives from
the member schools, centers,
and affiliates will participate.
All are welcome to attend.
Refreshments will be served.

For more information, con-
tact Caryl Woulfe at
cwoulfe@gtu.edu or 510-649-
2541.

GOD IN THE WHITE HOUSE: RELIGION AND THE 2012 ELECTION: THURSDAY, OCT 18TH
7PM



Please join us as we explore
the Christian, Mormon, Mus-
lim and Jewish perspectives
on the upcoming election and
the role of religion in Ameri-
can politics, with attention to
recent discussions around the
separation of Church and
State, on religious freedom
and its role in public policy,
and U.S. foreign policy. Will
include workshops as well as
a light dinner. **This conver-
sation will be held in the**

**Chapel of the Great Com-
mission, Pacific School of
Religion, on Thursday
October 18th at 7PM.**

Speakers include:

* James A. Donahue, Presi-
dent and Professor of Ethics,
Graduate Theological Union
* Daniel Itzkovitz, Professor
of American Literature and
Culture, Stonehill College
* Zahra Billoo, Executive
Director, Council on Ameri-
can-Islamic Relations

* Robert A. Rees, Visiting
Professor of Mormon Studies,
Graduate Theological Union
* Marianne Farina, C.S.C.,
Associate Professor of Phi-
losophy and Theology, Do-
minican School of Philosophy
& Theology (moderator)

Registration Required.

Please register at

[www.gtu.edu/events/
religion-presidential-election](http://www.gtu.edu/events/religion-presidential-election)

A BOOK TALK WITH JOY LADIN: OCT 3, 12:00PM

Hosted by the Center for Jewish Studies and co-sponsored by Women's studies in Religion and Starr King School of Ministry, join us on **Wednesday, October 3 at 12:00pm for an Afternoon with Joy Ladin.**

Dr. Joy Ladin is a professor of English and holds the David and Ruth Gottesman Chair in English at Stern College of Yeshiva University. She received her Ph.D. at Princeton, M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of

Massachusetts at Amherst, and B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College. Dr. Ladin was a finalist for the 2009 Lambda Literary Award. She has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize for Poetry and received an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship. She was also a Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Ladin is the author of five books of poetry, *Coming to Life* (2010), *Psalms* (2010), *Transmigration* (2009), *The Book of Anna* (2006), and *Alterna-*

tives to History (2003), as well as a critical study, *Soldering the Abyss: Emily Dickinson and Modern American Poetry* (2010). Her poems and essays have been widely published.



Dr. Joy Ladin

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE WORKSHOP: OCT 4, 12:30PM

Applying to Doctoral Programs? Writing the Academic Statement of Purpose is a workshop designed for you. Join GTU Dean Arthur Holder and faculty panelists in a discussion of the academic statement of purpose,

the essence of the application for admission to a doctoral program. The panel will provide key suggestions for crafting this important "little" document. **Thursday, October 4, 12:30-2, Dinner Board Room, GTU Li-**

brary. Contact GTU Admissions to reserve a spot, gtuadm@gtu.edu, 510-649-2460.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE: NOV 8, 7PM

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.** Each year the faculty of the Member Schools nominate distinguished faculty from outside their school who they feel embody the scholarly standards, teaching excellence, and commitment to ecumen-

ism that define the GTU. The nominations are considered by the Council of Deans who elects the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture is entitled "Black Religion in the Atlantic World During the Age of Revolution: Excavating the 'Sublime.'" 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.



Dr. James Noel

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
[U.](#)

FACULTY COMMITTEES FOR 2012-2013

Please see below the Committees of the Core Doctoral Faculty for 2012-2013.

These can also be found on the GTU Website by searching "Faculty Committees."

Awards Committee

Carol Robb (SFTS)
Bernard Schlager (PSR)

Appointments and Review Committee

Marion Grau (CDSP)
Eugene Park (SFTS)

Grievance Committee

Michael Aune (PLTS)
William Short (FST)
Annette Weissenrieder (SFTS)

Ron Nakasone (CARE) –
alternate

Doctoral Council

Mary Donovan Turner (PSR)
John Klentos (GTU/PAOI)

WSR hosts

Preparing the Academic Conference Paper Proposal Panel
with Dr. Flora Keshgegian; Dr. Inese Radzins;
& Dr. Jennifer Davidson.

Brown Bag Lunch Tuesday, October 9th 1-2pm
Dinner Boardroom

A discussion of questions such as:

How does one respond to a call for papers?

What makes for an effective proposal?

What should one include in a proposal
& what should be left out?

COLOSSAL LIBRARY BOOK SALE: OCT 1, 10AM-3PM

The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library at the Graduate Theological Union invites you to a Colossal Library Book Sale!

**Monday, October 1, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In
the Henry Mayo Newhall**

Plaza at the Library Entrance

Choose from a selection of
over 3,000 paperback and
hardback books

Most Hardbacks: \$2.00!

Most Paperbacks: \$1.00!

Come early for best selection.
(In case of rain, the sale will
be rescheduled.)

Light refreshments will be
served.

JOB INTERVIEWING PRACTICE FOR THE EMPLOYMENT CENTER CONTEXT

Upcoming Professional Development Program Workshop **Job Interviewing Practice for the Employment Center Context – Wed, Oct 17, 5:30 – CDSP Common Room. RSVP required.**

If you are hoping to interview

at AAR/SBL this year or next, you are encouraged to attend this mock-conference-interview workshop. Give yourself the best advantage in what can be a very stressful interview by taking a peek at what conference interviews are like. You will have a

chance to debrief after the interview and get tips for making your real conference interview the best. Doctoral students who are post-comps are especially encouraged to attend. **RSVP required by October 10th** to khesslein@gtu.edu



NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2012

Newhall Awards are competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with GTU Core Doctoral Faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students and the mission of the GTU. Awards are given for fall, spring, or both semesters, but the application process takes place only in the fall (in order to give faculty and students

time to submit courses for next year's Course Schedule). The Newhall Award Application form available on the GTU webpage. (Go to "Students" and scroll down to the "Professional Development" section to find the link.) The form contains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. Complete applications are due in the GTU Dean's Of-

fice **by 5pm Friday, November 9**; these must come from the student and the professor for a project involving both. Award amounts depend on the number of appointments made, but are generally at least \$3000 per semester.



CARE: IDEA LOUNGE AND WRITING PRIZE

October 11, 2012
The Doug Adams Gallery
6:00-7:30 p.m.
IDEA LOUNGE

Join us for an interfaith faculty conversation centered on exhibition content. Each semester, CARE will invite three faculty members from different GTU schools to come together in the Doug Adams Gallery and reflect on the current exhibition from their particular disciplinary and theological perspectives. These are not formal talks, but more unscripted dialogues or forums. Each professor will have 15 minutes, and we recommend that they visit the show in advance of the program to formulate their initial thoughts. GTU faculty, students and staff are invited to participate in this evening program.

Speakers include:

Dorsey Blake, Starr King School for the Ministry
Devin Zuber, Swedenborgian House of Studies
Ann Jefferson, Pacific School of Religion

CARE WRITING PRIZE

CARE offers a writing prize for any student enrolled at the GTU who, in the course of their regular class assignments, writes a paper addressing the content of the current exhibition in the Doug Adams Gallery at the Badè Museum. The paper may also address related themes and artifacts from the Badè biblical archaeology collection. The winning essay will receive a cash prize of \$250, and the writer will be acknowledged on the CARE website and any future publications. Our current exhibition is called **Sunday Spirit:**

Religious Images by African American Artists from the Jean and Robert E. Steele Collection. Students are encouraged to visit during our public hours: Tues, Thurs, Fri, 10am-3pm. Feel free to forward this to all faculty and interested students.

-The **deadline for submission** is November 9, 2012.

-One prize will be offered each semester. Word Count: 1200-1500 words.

Entries should have the writer's name on each page, and the word count at the upper right-hand corner of the first page. For inquiries or to submit entries use the following email: gallery@care-gtu.org





Dr. Terry Givens

TRAILING CLOUDS OF GLORY: A HISTORY OF THE LIFE BEFORE: MON, OCT 13, 12:30PM

**Monday, October 15, 2012, 12:30pm-2:00pm
Easton Hall, Church Divinity School of the Pacific,**

This lecture will trace a history of "pre-heaven," the idea that the human soul had an existence in heaven prior to its mortal birth. The lecture will survey some of the forms the belief has taken from Mesopotamia through the Church Fathers to Robert Frost; discuss the reasons for its prevalence in Western art, philosophy, and religion; examine the literary, cultural, ideological, and theological functions that it has served;

and present some of the reasons for its demise in the Christian theological tradition.

Terryl Givens did graduate work at Cornell University in Intellectual History and at UNC Chapel Hill where he received his PhD in Comparative Literature. He holds the James A. Bostwick chair of English, and is Professor of Literature and Religion at the University of Richmond, where he teaches courses in 19th century studies and the Bible's influence on Western literature. As a commentator on Mormon religion and culture, he has appeared on PBS,

NPR, and CNN. Author of several books, his writing has been praised by the New York Times as "provocative reading," and includes, most recently, *When Souls had Wings, a History of the Idea of Premortal Life in Western Thought*, and a biography (with Matthew Grow) of Parley Pratt: *The Apostle Paul of Mormonism*. *The God Who Weeps* (with Fiona Givens) will be released this fall. He is currently writing a two volume history of Mormon thought for Oxford University Press.



Dr. Daniel Itzkovitz

BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH DANIEL ITZKOVITZ: FRI, OCT 19, 12PM

Friday, October 19, 2012 - 12:00pm

Dr. Itzkovitz is Professor of English at Stonehill College. He is writing a book entitled *Fixing the Jews*, which examines 21st century attempts to

fix the meanings of Jewishness, and in the process, to fix what's wrong with Jewish life today.

First Floor Lounge, Le Conte Building

RACE AND RELIGION AT THE GOLDEN GATE: TUES, OCT 30, 6:30PM

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 - 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Race has always been inextricably connected to immigration in our society, but how does religion factor into those connections?

A panel discussion including:

* Hatem Bazien, University of California, Berkeley and

Zaytuna College

* Rudy Busto, University of California, Santa Barbara

* Zayn Kassam, Pomona College

* Andrea Smith, University of California, Riverside

* Trinh minh-ha, University of California, Berkeley

* Terrance Wiley, Pacific School of Religion

Chapel of the Great Commission, Pacific School of Religion



PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING: NOV 2-3

You are cordially invited to attend the Fall Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, November 2 from 2pm-8:30pm and Saturday, November 3 from 9 am–12pm in the Tucson Room at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

The theme is “How Should We Read Romans?” Utilizing the new commentary from Herman Waetjen (SFTS, Emeritus), *The Letter to the Romans: Salvation as Justice and the Deconstruction of the Law*, papers and discussion will focus on such topics as Waetjen’s “hermeneutics of disclosure”—a postmodern hermeneutics in which the interpreter’s subjective experience of reading the text is correlated with historical-critical knowledge and social-scientific criticism. This approach moves beyond the Cartesian subject/object split to treating the Bible as a “presence-at-hand” enabling a contemporizing of Paul’s the-

ology and opening engagement with such philosophers as Kant, Derrida, Žižek, Badiou, Agamben and others.

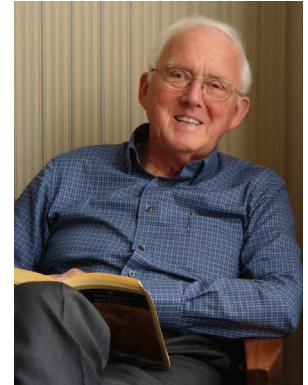
Friday afternoon papers will be presented by David Balch (PLTS) and Doug McGaughey (Willamette University) with respondents Jack Crossley (USC) and Herman Waetjen. Saturday morning will be an open discussion session based upon on sections of Waetjen’s *Commentary on Romans* found online at the PCTS website (www.pcts.org). As is the custom of the Society, all the papers and accompanying readings are posted on the PCTS website and read ahead of time.

Free Public Lecture Friday Evening: We are also pleased to announce a free public lecture Friday evening, November 2 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP given by President and Dean W. Mark Richardson of the Church Divinity School of the

Pacific. He will speak on the future of theology.

Note that the Friday afternoon session is followed by cocktails and dinner. Reservations for dinner (\$25) are required—Please contact Sharon P. Burch, Treasurer, (415) 256-1842 or spburch@att.net. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. The open discussion session follows and finishes by noon.

PCTS is a professional society dedicated to the exchange of views on topics germane to the theological endeavor. Membership is open to scholars and students interested in the theological endeavor broadly defined. Dues are \$45 per academic year for actively employed scholars and \$22.50 for retirees and students. Go to www.pcts.org for further information.



Dr. Herman Waetjen

VOTING, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND THE COMMON GOOD: WED, OCT 10, 7PM

Come join us for Voting, Religious Liberty and the Common Good: Reflections of Faith and Ethics in an Election Year. A talk by M. Cathleen Kaveny, John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law and Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame on Wednesday, October 10th

in Gesu Chapel at the Jesuit School of theology. Co-sponsored by the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, The Jesuit School of Theology, the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education and Commonweal Magazine.



Dr. M. Cathleen Kaveny

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

James Whipple, CIS*
Talitha Phillips, SFTS*
Hun Cho Yu, SFTS
Miriam Kjellgren, PLTS
Sean Bisson-Donahue, PSR
David Sylvester, CJS
Robert Anthony Rodgers, IBS
Elba Morataya, PSR

*Approved with Honors

Oral Exam Passed

Simon Yoo, DSPT
Adam Stebbins, JST

PHD STUDENTS

General Comprehensive Exams Passed

Dustyn Ragasa, ETHC (II)
Austin Leininger, ETHC (II)
Sean Gross, ETHC (II)
Jessica Taylor, ETHC (II) (as allied field)

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Annie Vanessa Hawkins, IDS
Sandra Chavez, HIST
Dustyn Ragasa, ETHC
Se Hyuk Park, HIST

Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Matthew Gaudet, ETHC
Kijun Lee, BIBL
Kyle Butler, THEO
Alan Weissenbacher, THEO
Elizabeth Ritter-Conn, THEO

Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended

Adam Pryor, THEO
Marilyn Matevia, ETHC
David Friend, ART
Young Won Kim, THEO

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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.