

GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN



A group of eminent theological educators came to the GTU in mid-January this year to examine the state of interreligious theological education as part of a Henry Luce Foundation three-year study on the Current and Future Directions in Theological Education. This group chose to hold their meeting on Holy Hill because, in my opinion, the GTU is the best place to conduct interreligious theological education in North America. Our community of scholars, teachers, students, seekers, and activists engage each other on a daily basis – inside and outside the classroom – to apply wisdom and knowledge from more than ten religious traditions. They do this to make positive impact on the world, to tend to spiritual needs of their communities, and to pursue truth.

My presentation to the group was on some of the challenges the GTU is facing as it implements the new interreligious curriculum for the PhD program. We certainly have what it takes to create interreligious community, curriculum, and pedagogy that will benefit theological education for generations to come, but I was reminded again that what the GTU is trying to accomplish is unprecedented. With no guidance or model to follow, the GTU is a trailblazer in our interreligious endeavor.

Our very own Judith Berling also presented at this meeting. Her separate Luce-funded project entitled “The Current State of Interreligious Learning in Higher Education” lays out twenty-eight separate models currently in use to facilitate engagements between different religions and in different contexts. This report will become a resource for interreligious pedagogy in universities, divinity schools, seminaries and beyond, and it will be available and regularly updated on GTU’s website.

Sharing knowledge, skills, practice and research on a public forum is one way for us to further develop interreligious pedagogy. I am also happy to announce, starting in 2020, the *Teaching Theology and Religion* journal will be housed at the GTU, with GTU’s Director of Digital Learning and Lecturer, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero serving as Editor. The newly appointed Editor says, “It only makes sense that GTU would be the new home of *Teaching Theology and Religion*. In the past decade, theological education has become interreligious and tech-enabled, two places where the GTU has shown itself on the forefront of training and embodying.” Stay tuned for the call for papers for our first issue in 2020.



Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.
 GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



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Borsch-Rast Lecture



Tuesday, February 12th 2019, 6:30pm | Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709

Join the GTU for our second annual Borsch-Rast Book Lecture featuring alumnus Timothy Wadkins (PhD, '88), professor of religious studies and theology at Canisius College and winner of this year's Borsch-Rast Book Prize. Wadkins will be addressing themes from his award-winning book, *The Rise of Pentecostalism in Modern El Salvador: From the Blood of the Martyrs to the Baptism of the Spirit*. The lecture will begin at 6:30 with a reception to follow.

For more on Timothy Wadkins and this year's Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship, see the GTU News announcement (<https://www.gtu.edu/news/timothy-wadkins-phd-88-wins-borsch-rast-book-prize>). The Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship of the Graduate Theological Union has as its purpose the encouragement of the writing and publication of theological scholarship by GTU graduates and current faculty. The endowment for the Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship comes from the sale of Trinity Press International, a venture dedicated to the publication of scholarly and often interdisciplinary theological studies. The prize and lectureship honor the joint example and collaboration of Frederick Houk Borsch (1935-2017) and Harold W. Rast (1933-2004). Hal Rast, after years as a senior editor at Fortress Press, was the founding director and editor of Trinity Press International, where he championed significant theological and religious studies. Fred Borsch was chair of Trinity Press International's Board of Governors and then its Advisory Board. Borsch was also (1972-1981) the Dean and President of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and among the founders of the Graduate Theological Union Library. For more information, see the Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship webpage (<https://www.gtu.edu/academics/borsch-rast-prize-lectureship>). Nominations for the 2020 award are now open!

Surjit Singh Lecture

Tuesday March 19, 2019 @ 7 PM | Location: TBD

The annual Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought and Culture fosters interreligious and cross-cultural communication and understanding. This year's speaker will be Eboo Patel, founder and president of the Interfaith Youth Corps. A reception will follow in the Bade Museum.

For more on the Surjit Singh Lecture series at the GTU, go to: <https://www.gtu.edu/news-events/events/lecture-address/singh>.

Center for the Arts & Religion Events

All events are held in the Doug Adams Gallery (1st floor, 2465 Le Conte Avenue Berkeley, CA 94709).

Thursday, February 7; 5-7PM: Opening Reception for CARE's Spring exhibition and residency with the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. Join Left Coast Chamber Ensemble musicians and guests for sacred and secular music celebrating the opening of the *Sacred Sounds* exhibit at the Doug Adams CARE Gallery, and kicking off the start of the residency! Featuring music for cello, flute, and harpsichord.

Tuesday, February 19; 5-7PM: Left Coast Ear with Kurt Rohde, Part 1. Acclaimed violist and composer Kurt Rohde plays and discusses new works for solo viola and electronics from Sam Nichols and Richard Chowenhill.

Thursday, February 28; 5-7PM: Left Coast Ear with Kurt Rohde, Part 2. Acclaimed violist and composer Kurt Rohde plays and discusses new works for solo viola and electronics from Tina Tallon and Elaine Lillios.

Center for Dharma Studies News

President Daniel Lehmann accompanied the Shingal family that established the GTU Mira & Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies to India in early January. They visited Govardhan Ecovillage & sustainability project, which received the UN 2017 award for Sustainable Tourism, as well the Sarnath (an important historic center for Buddhism), and the holy Hindu city of Varanasi, where they were welcomed by UNESCO Chair Professor Priyankar Upadhyaya, the director of the Center for Peace Research.

Also in CDS news, Laura Dunn, Pravina Rodrigues, and Parameshwaran Ramakrishnan received Newhall Fellowships for the 2019-2020 academic year. All three courses will offer comparative, dialogical, interreligious content. CDS launched the inaugural issue of its flagship peer-reviewed journal. The *Journal of Dharma Studies* (<https://www.springer.com/religious+studies/journal/42240>) covers Buddhist, Hindu, & Jain religions. GTU PhD student Thomas Calobrisi is Assistant Editor for Buddhist Studies. CDS PhD student Laura Dunn is managing editor.

New GTU Voices Blog

The GTU has launched "GTU Voices," a new blog on the GTU website that features short reflections from members of the GTU community. **If you're a GTU MA or PhD student, you're invited to contribute! We also welcome short pieces (250-500 words) from GTU alumni, faculty, and staff.**

We launched the blog in January with reflections from three of our students, Laura Dunn, Myoung-ho Sin, and Matthew Hartman—and we have several others we will be publishing soon. You can find links to the current pieces among the scrolling highlights on the GTU home page, and on our blog landing page at www.gtu.edu/gtu-voices. Since we are still in admissions season for our MA program, our first few entries have focused on reasons for choosing the GTU and what students have discovered here. We'd love additional pieces with this focus, but we welcome short reflections that speak to virtually any aspect of your GTU experience. Thoughts on some element of your research or class work; a celebration of the work of a particular GTU Center; thoughts about higher ed, the GTU community, or life as a grad student; a brief reflection on a class experience; something about life in Berkeley—any of these and more would be welcome!

We're happy to discuss any ideas you might have—but also happy to review pieces you feel are ready to go. Please send your ideas or contributions to communications@gtu.edu. We hope to include you among our "GTU Voices" very soon!

Course Design Workshops

Course Design Workshops in the Collaborative Learning Space:

RSVP to Kyle (kschiefelbein@gtu.edu)

Designing for Flow and Function: An Overview of Moodle, Accessibility and Copyright

Moodle provides lots of options for making online courses appear the way you want them. This introductory workshop on Moodle will guide participants through the Moodle interface with an eye toward design. This workshop will also look at Moodle's built-in tools to address issues of accessibility, as well as discuss issues related to copyright and fair use.

Monday, February 4, 10 to 11:30 am | Monday, February 11, 2:30 to 4 pm

Web Conferencing and Moodle's Wikis: Engaging Groups

In this workshop learn how to successfully facilitate a synchronous web conference through Zoom. Wikis have also become a popular way of working collaboratively in a quick way. Moodle's built-in wiki module can provide a great way to get students to work in groups to draft documents and workshop ideas.

Monday, February 25, 10 to 11:30 am ([repeated in April](#))

From the Dean of Students

Modern Language Exam

The next Modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, February 27, from 1PM to 4:45PM in the Dinner Board Room. Register by February 13 with Sean Albrecht, Student Affairs Office Manager, salbrecht@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 11-15.

The deadline to file completed and approved copies of Theses/Dissertations or Certification of Oral Examination Forms for MABL Candidates for spring graduation is April 1.

Spring Forum 2018

Lunch, and a conversation. How Can we best Market Ourselves and the GTU? The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is sponsoring this opportunity for doctoral students to bring forward their ideas for communicating the importance and value of life and study at the GTU. **Lunch provided.** Wednesday, February 13, 12:30-2:00pm, GTU Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte Avenue, 1st Floor.

Asia Project: Call for Papers

Asia Project Spring 2019 | Graduate Student Forum

Call for Papers:

Asia Project at GTU cordially invites our doctoral (Ph. D. or S.T.D.) students who are working on topics or themes relevant to Asian-Pacific contexts to present their projects at the GTU Asia Project Graduate Student Forum on **Monday, March 18, 2019 @ 12:30-2:00 pm.**

Deadline for proposal is **February 20, 2019.**

For more information, please contact asia-project@ses.gtu.edu.

Professional Development Workshops

Proposing Comprehensive Exams, February 6, 11am, Student Lounge

Teaching Portfolio: CVs and Cover Letters, February 13, 2:30pm, Collaborative Learning Space, Library

Teaching Portfolio: Teaching Philosophy and Sample Syllabi, February 27, 2:30pm, Collaborative Learning Space

Center for Islamic Studies News

CIS is delighted to share that MA student Huzaifa Shahbaz has been a lead researcher on the project, *The Global Rise of Ethno-Nationalism and Demagoguery*, at the Haas Institute, UC Berkeley. The research findings are intended to be released in a publication this semester. Congratulations Huzaifa!

Congratulations to PhD student and Presidential Scholar Mahjabeen Dhala, who has been invited to India to present public lectures on *Women in the Quran*, Feb 5-9.

Congratulations to CIS Research Scholar Carol Bier for her book review of Dr. Gulru Necipoglu's *The Arts of Ornamental Geometry* in the *Journal of Mathematics and the Arts*.

Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion will be hosting a conference: *Theology and the Public University*, Feb 22-23. CIS Director, Dr. Munir Jiwa will be presenting on the *Politics and Possibilities of Islamic Studies in Interreligious Contexts*. For more details, please visit: <https://bcsr.berkeley.edu>

CIS will be partnering on several events and classes during Black History Month and beyond. Please see the CIS webpage for details.

Library News

Did you know we have delivery service between the GTU library and the SFTS branch library in San Anselmo? If you see a book you want at the branch, just click the request button above the title and it will be delivered to the GTU library, usually the next business day.

New Electrical Outlets! The library is increasing the number of electrical outlets available to you while you work. By early February you'll find new plugs in every study carrel, as well as plugs in the large tables on the lower level. Stay longer, get more done!

Need a place to store your things? Lockers will once again be available to students in February, for free, and can be checked out for the entire semester. Keep your gear safe while you run out for lunch or to class.

A new art exhibit, *Technicians of the Sacred*, will be on display in the library from February 15-May 31. The exhibition features black and white photographs of sacred spaces by photographer Blaine Ellis, most of which were taken during his extensive travels documenting the rich ancient cultural worlds and architecture of the Mediterranean. Accompanying the photograph installation on the walls, the library display cases will feature a variety of sacred objects from the collections of the GTU and members of the Art Exhibits Committee. The opening reception is scheduled for March 21.

Library Workshops

Zotero

Learn to use this free citation management software to organize your research. It integrates with Microsoft Word to create an alphabetized bibliography in your choice of style, including Turabian. Bring your laptop!

Tue 2/12 @ 12:45pm | Wed 2/13 @ 12:45pm

Can't make these? A recorded version of this workshop is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYnw7GyGqyPyepln3rCWyZg>

NEW! Zotero Drop-in

Maybe you've installed and used Zotero in the past, but you want to know more. Drop-in anytime with your laptop and your questions.

Thurs 2/21 @ 1-3pm

Re-introduction to the Library @GTU

Did you miss library orientation? Maybe it's been a while since you've dived into research. Come for a re-orientation to the library resources.

Thurs 2/7 @ 2pm

Online! Library Research from a Distance

Are you away from your library but needing to re-search? Wherever you are, if you have an internet connection you can research. Learn about options for electronic sources and print near you.

Online: Tues 2/26 @ 3pm

Live online from <https://zoom.us/join>; For Zoom, use meeting number 510-649-2501

Biblical Exegesis

Writing an exegesis paper can be a daunting but rewarding process. Learn to use both print and online resources for biblical exegesis available through the GTU library and on the Internet.

In person: Wed 2/6 11am

In person: Thurs 2/14 2pm

Online: Wed 2/20 1pm

Live online from <https://zoom.us/join>; For Zoom, use meeting number 510-649-2501

Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Austin Conley, JST-SCU

Barouyr Shernezian, PAOI

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Grace Eunhye So, BIBL

Phillbert Cheng, THET

Laura Dunn, HCSR

Gordon Gilmore, THET

Leigh Ann Hildebrand, HIST

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Cogen Bohanec, HCSR, Distinction

Jennifer Fernandez, THET, Distinction

Scott Spitzer, HIST

Andrew Younan, THET, Distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Jamie Fowler, Systematic and Philosophical Theology



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Union

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 Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

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