

# THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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## EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS



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

Accountability is a big deal in higher education these days. The federal government and our accrediting agencies are rightly pushing all of our schools to publish data about things like graduation rates and placement of graduates. The Association of Theological Schools now requires us to post “educational effectiveness” data on the GTU website. You can see the whole report online at <http://www.gtu.edu/academics/accreditation-educational-effectiveness>. Here is a summary:

**Doctoral Programs:** Both of the GTU’s doctoral programs (Ph.D. and Th.D.) are advanced academic degrees intended to prepare students for professional careers in teaching, writing, and scholarship, as well as for leadership opportunities with religious organizations, social service agencies, foundations, museums, librar-

ies, publishing, and in educational institutions.

The normative time to degree for these programs is seven years. Of the 21 doctoral students who graduated in the 2011-12 academic year, 62% graduated within seven years, and 81% graduated within ten years.

The 25 doctoral students who graduated in the 2010-11 academic year were in the following placements in May 2012 (i.e., 12-18 months after graduation): 40% full-time teaching; 20% part-time or adjunct teaching; 12% ministry; 8% non-profit organization work; 4% postdoctoral fellowship; 4% government agency; 4% publishing; 8% not seeking employment.

**MA Program:** The M.A. is a two-year degree program that provides a basic understanding of theological or religious studies for further graduate study or for general academic purposes. Some M.A. students attend school part-time and others pursue this degree concurrently with the M.Div. or other master’s program at one of the GTU’s member schools.

Of the 41 M.A. students who graduated in the 2011-12 academic year, 46% graduated within three years, and 80% graduated within six years.

The 37 M.A. students who graduated in the 2010-11 academic year were in the following placements in May 2012 (i.e., 12-18 months after graduation): 32% ministry; 22% further graduate study; 19% full-time teaching (K-12); 11% business; 3% counseling; 3% non-profit organization work; 3% publishing; 3% not seeking employment; 5% unknown.

**Comparisons?:** How does this compare with our peer institutions? Unfortunately, that is difficult to answer because ATS gave each school the freedom to select which measures to publish, and other schools chose different measures or calculated using different formulas. Hopefully there will be more standardized report formats in the future so that students and donors will be able to make meaningful judgments based on this information. From what we can tell from some recent national studies of graduate programs in the humanities, our graduation rates and placement records seem to hold up quite well. Of course we want to continue to improve so that our graduates will have the best possible preparation for their vocations of ministry, scholarship, and service to the world.

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SALLY VANCE-TREMBATH, A MEMBER OF THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, WILL SPEAK ON **“VATICAN II AND THE LAITY”** AT **7:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH;** THIS LECTURE/DISCUSSION WILL BE IN THE CHAPEL. THIS LECTURE IS CO-SPONSORED BY DSPT, THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPT. AT SCU, AND JST.

## 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 9, 2013.

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 22.** The selection criteria are as follows:

- Eligible candidates are active members of the Core Doctoral Faculty.
- 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 Matsuoka (2004), Clare Fischer (2005), Doug Adams (2006), Gina Hens-Piazza (2007), Jerome Baggett (2008), Lewis Rambo (2009), Alejandro García Rivera (2010), Ron Nakasone (2011), and Boyung Lee (2012). This annual award is made possible by a generous gift from the Sarlo Foundation.

## GTU SPRING 2013 COMMENCEMENT: THURSDAY, MAY 9TH

**The GTU Commencement is May 9th at 4 pm in the PLTS Chapel.** A reception follows the ceremony outside the chapel. Common MA and doctoral students planning on participating in the GTU

commencement ceremony should report to Giesy Hall for robing and procession instructions by 3:15 pm. Faculty are asked to report to Giesy Hall by 3:30 pm. Contact Kathleen Kook, GTU

Dean of Students, (510) 649-2464 for information.

## PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING APRIL 5-6

**“Eternity and Eternal Life”**

You are cordially invited to attend the **Spring Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, April 5 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m.–noon in Classroom “B” at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.**

The theme is “Eternity and Eternal Life” and begins Friday afternoon with a discussion of a paper by Robert Russell (GTU/CTNS) entitled “Eternity and Eternal Life: Reflections on Physics, Eschatology and Pannenberg,” drawn from his recent book on Time in Eternity. Ted Peters (PLTS) will provide a response. Michael Dodds (DSPT), who recently wrote *Unlocking Divine Action*, similarly offers the paper, “The Motion of Time and the Eternity of God” with Anselm Ramelo (DSPT) responding. Saturday morning a paper by Lisa Fullam (JST) entitled “Immortality or Abundance:

A Stem Cell Conundrum” is met with a response by Karen Lebacqz (PSR). The conference concludes with a paper by Herman Waetjen (SFTS), “Time and everlasting life in the Gospel according to John: An alternative to Nicaea’s doctrine of the Trinity.” As is the custom of the Society, all the papers and accompanying readings are posted on the PCTS website ([www.pcts.org](http://www.pcts.org)) and read ahead of time.

Free Public Lecture Friday Evening: **We are also pleased to announce a free public lecture Friday evening, April 5 at 7 p.m. in Classroom “B” at CDSP given by Dr. Sharon Burch.** She will speak on what are some of the major challenges faced by religion, culture, and theology in the 21st century and how Tillich’s method of correlation might apply to these challenges. Does systematic theology provide a Christian response? Is it effective? Please join us in Dr. Burch’s presentation, “Not Your Fa-

ther’s Oldsmobile: Framing Questions, Facilitating Change.”

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](mailto: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. It has a long and distinguished history, and its founding predates the establishment of the GTU. 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](http://www.pcts.org) for further information.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5, BY 4:00 P.M.** IS THE DEADLINE TO FILE MA THESES, GTU DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS, MABL CERTIFICATION OF ORAL EXAMINATION FORMS AND CJS OR CIS CERTIFICATE REQUEST FORMS.

## SUMMER MODERN LANGUAGE STUDY AT THE GTU

GTU summer language study opportunities are an excellent summer activity. These courses focus on developing researching and writing facilities in the language, and provide good preparation for the GTU Modern Foreign Language Exams. The course ends with an opportunity to

take a language proficiency exam with the possibility of certifying for the GTU common MA and doctoral degree program requirements. The French course will be offered July 22 through August 6 from 9am to noon, and the German and Spanish courses are scheduled for July 15

through August 9 from 10am to 1pm. Tuition is \$650. GTU students can register via WebAdvisor starting on April 8. For registration questions, contact John Seal, GTU Consortium Registrar, [jseal@gtu.edu](mailto:jseal@gtu.edu).



## WSR EVENTS



**March 1st Second WSR Annual Student Conference on Women and Religion in the Tucson Room at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific 2451 Ridge Road Berkeley. 12:30-6.** Reception following Conference. (2 units for whole conference, 1 unit for part)

**Gender and Resistance: Films and Discussion on Palestinian Women Thursday, March 7, Reception 5:00 pm, Program 5:30 pm Easton Hall, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, 2401 Ridge Road, Berkeley Rabab Abdulhadi, San Francisco State University, will introduce the**

films and guide the following discussion. (2 units)

**Thursday, March 14th WSR hosts the panel Envisioning the Future of Theology & Ethics: A Womanist Perspective 6:30-8 at the American Baptist Seminary of the West 2606 Dwight Way, Berkeley.** Join Monica Coleman, Claremont School of Theology; Keri Day, Brite Divinity School; and Andrea White, Emory School of Theology for a discussion on key issues, debates, and new approaches to Womanist Theology & Ethics. (2 units)

**Friday, March 15th WSR hosts a Coffee Conversation with Monica Cole-**

**man, Keri Day, and Andrea White from 10:00-11:30am in the Dinner Boardroom.** This is an opportunity to discuss their publications such as Prof. Coleman's *Making a Way Out of No Way: a Womanist Theology* and *Ain't I a Womanist Too?: Third Wave Womanist Religious Thought*; Prof. Day's *Forging Community and Communitas: Toward a De-Masculinization of Christology in Black Churches* in *Walk Together Children: Black and Womanist Theologies, Churches*; and Prof. White's *Black Women's Bodies and God Politics: A Womanist Theology of Personhood*. (2 Units)

## HISPANIC SUMMER PROGRAM



The Hispanic Summer Program (HSP) provides Master and higher level theological students and others

with an opportunity to study in a Latin@ setting, with Hispanic peers and professors. The HSP brings together in dialogue nearly a

hundred annual participants from the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico, from a wide variety of traditions, denominations and theological outlooks. All GTU students may participate in this program for the member rate of \$375.

This price includes tuition, round trip airfare and thirteen days of room and board. The

institute runs from June 22nd through July 5th and will be held this year at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. Credits may transfer (check with your advisor). For more information, visit [hispanicsummer-program.org](http://hispanicsummer-program.org).



## DOCTORAL STUDENT ELECTIONS

The nominations for open Doctoral Student Committee positions (including AAR Liaison, Doc Council, GTU Board of Trustees, Student Advisory Committee, Grievance, and Library) are in and

the campaigning for office has no doubt begun. Be on the lookout for a ballot on March 1, and make sure to vote for your student representatives, there are some exciting opportunities for you and your

colleagues to make a difference. For more information, e-mail Kayko Driedger Hesslein, the doctoral program PDP coordinator, at [khesslein@gtu.edu](mailto:khesslein@gtu.edu)



## INTERFAITH THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: MARCH 6TH, 1:30PM

WHAT MAKES INTER-FAITH THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION DIFFERENT THAN INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE?

With honored guest:  
Fr. Ed Foley, OFM

Hosted by  
The Working Group in Practical Theology  
Wednesday, March 6, 1:30 – 3:30p.m., CDSP 113.

Fr. Foley teaches worship and practical theology at

Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He introduces our conversation this way:

*Theological reflection has been defined as the discipline of exploring our individual and corporate experience in conversation with the wisdom of a religious heritage. While 'theology' may not be an appropriate category in many belief traditions and personal experience may not be viewed as a source of revelation for other believers, sharing faith across religions is a promising*

*and even necessary enterprise.*

Fr. Foley is particularly interested in hearing from experienced leaders regarding "inter-religious belief sharing."

For further information please contact Convener Herbert Anderson ([handerson@plts.edu](mailto:handerson@plts.edu)) or Assistant Steven Bauman at [sbauman@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:sbauman@ses.gtu.edu).



Fr. Ed Foley

## PREPARING FOR SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

All graduating students who have borrowed Federal Stafford and Graduate PLUS loans are required to complete Loan Exit Counseling prior to graduation. The Financial Aid Office will host two Federal Student Loan Exit Counseling sessions that will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at PLTS Giesy Hall, classroom 1 from 9:30am – 10:30am and at

PSR Mudd, classroom 102 from 11:45am-12:45pm. The exit session will be presented by Sun Ow of Great Lakes Higher Education Corp., and will provide the following: a comprehensive and personal approach to help you understand your responsibilities as a borrower; strategies to help you manage your federal student loans, such as how to determine

which repayment option fits your budget and goals and options for deferment or postponement; an overview of loan forgiveness; how and when to contact your loan servicer; the opportunity to ask questions and to benefit from the questions of other student borrowers. To register, please email: [fi-naid@gtu.edu](mailto:fi-<u>naid@gtu.edu) by Thursday, April 4.

TOM FOX,  
EDITOR OF THE  
NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC  
REPORTER, WILL  
GIVE A TALK.  
**"HOW VATICAN  
II SHAPED ME  
AND MY  
GENERATION"  
ON TUESDAY,  
MARCH 19, AT  
7:00PM IN THE  
FRONT LOUNGE  
AT JST.**

## CIS EVENT: BLACK STAR, CRESCENT MOON: MARCH 4TH, 4PM

Black Star, Crescent Moon:  
Islam and Muslims in the  
Black Radical Imagination

Sohail Daulatzai, Associate  
Professor, Film and Media  
Studies and African American  
Studies School of Humanities,  
UC Irvine

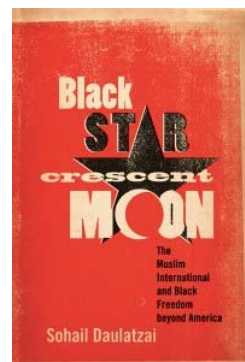
Date: Monday, March 4th,  
2013

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: 277 Cory, UC  
Berkeley

Sponsors include: Center for  
Islamic Studies at the GTU,  
Townsend Center Critical  
Prison Studies Strategic  
Working Group, the Center  
for Race and Gender, Zay-  
tuna College, Program in  
Comparative Ethnic Studies,

the Islamophobia Research  
and Documentation Project,  
and Muslim Identities and  
Cultures Working Group



# HONORABLE MENTION

## MA STUDENTS

### Thesis Successfully Defended

Hannah Mecaskey– DSPT

Jillian Morrison– DSPT

William Mains– PLTS

Benjamin Griffin– DSPT

## PHD STUDENTS

### Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Ashley Bacchi– HIST

### Oral Comprehensives Passed

Andrew Lewis\*

\*Passed with Distinction

### Advanced to Candidacy

Peter Ajer– BIBL

Nada Velimirovic– ART

### Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended

Daniel Smith– THEO

Mohamad Som Pourfarzaneh– CRLG

Shaina Hammerman– HIST

## 2013-2014 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINES

Financial Aid Applications for the 2013-2014 academic year are available online at: [www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid](http://www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid). Applicants: please find your deadline date below and visit the GTU Financial Aid website to complete and submit the 2013-14 application and FAFSA. To reach the Financial Aid Office with a question, email [finaid@gtu.edu](mailto:finaid@gtu.edu) or call the Office at 510-649-2469.

Doctoral Students: February 15, 2013

Common MA Students affiliated with-

ABSW: April 15, 2013

CDSP: March 1, 2013

CJS: April 1, 2013

DSPT: March 15, 2013

FST: May 1, 2013

IBS: April 1, 2013

JST: March 1, 2013

PAOI: April 1, 2013

PLTS: March 15, 2013

PSR: February 15, 2013

SFTS: April 15, 2013

SKSM: April 1, 2013

## 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](mailto:amunoz@gtu.edu).

## SACRED TEXTS LECTURE, WED MAR 13

The annual Sacred Texts lecture is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 7pm in the GTU Dinner Boardroom with a reception preceding at 6:30pm**. Arthur Holder, GTU Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the John Dillenberger Professor of Christian Spirituality, will speak on "Religious Experience as Sacred Text." Arthur is a graduate of Duke University (AB magna cum laude and PhD) and the General Theological Seminary (MDiv). A past president of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, he is the editor of *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2005) and *Christian Spirituality: The Classics* (Routledge, 2010) and translator of *The Venerable Bede: On the Song of Songs and Selected Writings* (Paulist Press, 2011). Previous Sacred Texts lectures can be found at: <http://www.gtu.edu/news-events/events/lecture-address/sacred-texts>.