

GTU Dean's Newsletter



I hope everyone is healthy, safe, and sound in the face of what feels like constant change during this once-in-a-generation crisis. As I write this letter, it has been forty days since the shelter-in-place (SIP) order took effect in the Bay Area. (Some of you know that the term “forty days/years” in the Bible is often used to designate a duration of time in which important tasks or periods need to be completed, without necessarily indicating an *exact* measure of time.)

How long will this last?

Although I have been working with staff and faculty under the assumption that the SIP order will be lifted on May 4th, it now looks like as if that will not be the case. We do not know

at this point exactly when the campus will reopen and people allowed to return, but I think it’s reasonable to assume that, by no later than early June, we will be able to inform the community of our reintegration plan, including how courses will be offered in the fall semester.

Since starting to work exclusively from home, I’ve felt as if I have had little to no “breaks,” and I’m sure many of you feel the same. I’ve always tried to maintain a degree of separation between work and home for the sake of mental health, but nowadays, we have no choice but to join the two and share what were previously “private” spaces with colleagues we normally only meet in the workspace.

And yet, both the SIP order and practice of social distancing designed to “separate” us may have, in some respects, drawn us “closer” than ever before. My son, who requires little encouragement in practicing said distancing due to his expertise and strong preference in the matter, mentioned something during dinner three week ago that has since stuck with me and inspired the very insight I’m sharing in this letter now. My son said that he’s gotten to know his professors and classmates more so than before as a result of online learning, having viewed personal items and private spaces on full display during lessons.

I, too, have gotten to know many of you better through Zoom meetings and just wanted to take a moment to thank you for welcoming me into your homes even if you had no intention of doing so. Thanks to videoconferencing technology, I have seen my colleagues’ kitchens, living rooms, offices, pets, kids, personal items, some of them stuck on refrigerators or walls, I’d not have had an opportunity to see in the workplace. And I feel honored to have had you visit my private space as well.

Uriah Kim, PhD.

President (Interim)
Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Associate Dean:
Student Election Results 2

Modern Language Exam 3

Summer Language Study. 3

Class of 2020:
Master of Arts Graduates 4

Class of 2020:
Master of Arts, Biblical
Languages Graduates 5

Class of 2020:
Doctor of Philosophy
Graduates. 6

Member & Affiliate School’s
Commencement Listings 8

Annual Chan Essay. 8

Library News. 9

CIS 9

CLGS 10

CARe 10

Honorable Mentions 11

From the Associate Dean of Students

2020-2021 Student Election Results

The GTU governance structure calls for student representation on various important standing committees. This ensures that students have a say in decisions affecting their academic lives. After completing a month and a half long election process, I am happy to announce the results for this year's student elections. But first, let me thank all of you who have participated in this process, especially the nominees: **Mark Guevarra**, **Gideon Mbui**, **Lwan May Oo**, **May Kosba**, **Pamela Stevens**, **Raphael Mkuzi**, **Mariska Lauterboom**, **Ayanna Grady-Hunt**, **Erika Katske**, and **Nick Preuninger**. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the student representatives that have completed their term this year: **Kate LeFranc** on the Doctoral Council, **Mahjabeen Dhala** and **Thomas Calobrisi** on the Student Advisory Committee, **Gordon Gilmore** on the Library Committee, and **Ineda Adesanya** and **Hannah Pheasant** on the Grievance Committee. Thank you for your committed service! Now, here are the results for this year:



Mark Guevarra
THET
Doctoral Council



Mariska Lauterboom
REPR
Library Committee



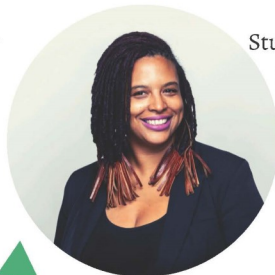
Lwan May Oo
THET
Student Advisory
Committee



May Kosba
HCSR
Student Advisory
Committee



Pamela Stevens
HCSR
Student Advisory
Committee



Ayanna Grady-Hunt
REPR
Grievance Committee



Erika Katske
THET
Grievance Committee

Sincerely,
Chaitanya Motupalli

From the Associate Dean of Students

Modern Language Exam — May 20, 2020, Wednesday

- ◆ Students taking the exam will be asked to do so via Zoom.
- ◆ More instructions will follow one week before the exam.
- ◆ Sign up for the exam will close two weeks prior to the exam (please register by **May 6**)

Please register for the Modern Foreign Language exam by completing the online registration form [here!](#)



GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

SUMMER LANGUAGE STUDY 2020

The GTU offers intensive summer language courses in French, German, and Spanish, designed to prepare students for the modern foreign language exam. The courses focus on grammar, building vocabulary, and translation practice for three hours a day over four weeks and culminate with a modern foreign language exam to meet a program requirement. Tuition is \$690.

Dates: **July 6 - July 31, 2020** Time: **9 AM - Noon**

Instructors:

French: Julie Walters, jules9347@att.net
 German: Marion Gerlind, marion@gerlindinstitute.org
 Spanish: Hanna Kang, hkang@ses.gtu.edu

To reserve a spot in one of the courses, register through the Continuing Education option in the Sonis registration system BY JUNE 1. Contact registrar John Seal, jseal@gtu.edu, if you have trouble with the registration process.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

YOU DID IT! GTU Class of 2020 Graduates will be celebrated online.

Updates and information to come.

MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES

Renato Paolo Villareal Aguila

Paschal Mystery, Communion, and Ecology: Towards a Deep Eucharistic Theology

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Ruth Meyers (Coordinator)

Mary E. McGann, RSCJ

Saad Akbar

Ideas Have Consequences: The Difference of Adler's Ideas and the Difference It Makes to Muslim Ideals

Center for Islamic Studies
WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Judith A. Berling

Elizabeth Baron

Black Fire on White Fire: The Amplification of Women's Roles in Rabbinic Accounts of Redemption

Center for Jewish Studies
WITH HONORS

Deena Aranoff (Coordinator)

Naomi Sheindel Seidman

Brianna Noelle Deutsch

Barriletes Gigantes in Guatemala: Kites as a Communication with the Past and Future

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
WITH HONORS

Kathryn Barush (Coordinator)

Eduardo C. Fernandez, S.J.

Jean Molesky-Poz, Santa Clara University

Warren Gilchrist

Forgotten Roots: The Early History of Islam in America Debunking the Myth of the Foreign Religion

Center for Islamic Studies
WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Judith A. Berling

Brian Johnson

Rumi as Philosopher: Love, Pain and Virtue in the Masnavi

Center for Islamic Studies
WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Arthur G. Holder

Victoria Price

Theology vs. Praxis of Sevā in the Ramakrishna Mission and Mata Amritanandamayi Math

Center for Dharma Studies
WITH HONORS

Rita D. Sherma (Coordinator)

James Lawrence

Joseph Schuman

Arising, Ceasing: Hegemonic Masculinity, Complicated Grief, and Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Daijaku Judith Kinst (Coordinator)

Scott A. Mitchell

MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES, CONTINUED

Huzaifa Shahbaz

Islamophobia, White Supremacy, and the Far-Right

Center for Islamic Studies

WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Marianne Farina, C.S.C.

Bran Stigile-Wright

Stories in Transition: American Evangelicalism, Heathenry, and Narrativizing Trans Identities

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Laurie Garrett-Cobbina (Coordinator)

James F. Lawrence

Edward J. Stewart

One Body, Many Members: A Case for Greater Diversity within the Body of Christ

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Scott MacDougall (Coordinator)

Jay Emerson Johnson

Ryoze Wada

Public and Private Aspects of Seikaku: Tendai Preacher and Pure Land Buddhist

Institute of Buddhist Studies

WITH HONORS

David Ryo Matsumoto (Coordinator)

Richard K. Payne

MASTER OF ARTS

WITH A CONCENTRATION IN BIBLICAL LANGUAGES GRADUATES

Albert Douglas Honegan

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

John Endres, S.J. (Coordinator)

Rebecca K. Esterson, GTU

- * Biblical Hebrew (Primary)
- * Biblical Greek (Secondary)
- * Spanish (Modern Language)
- * French (Modern Language)

Kyoungdeuk Min

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Uriah Y. Kim (Coordinator)

Diandra C. Erickson

- * Biblical Hebrew (Primary)
- * Biblical Greek (Secondary)
- * English (Modern Language)



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES

Susan L. Aguilar

To See and Be Seen: Jews, Civitas, and Urban Processions in the Late Medieval Crown of Aragon

History

Deena Aranoff (Coordinator)
 Naomi Sheindel Seidman
 Christopher Ocker
 Teofilo Ruiz, University of California, Los Angeles

Kamal Akram Abu-Shamsieh

End-of-Life Care and Islamic Practical Theology—A Case Study: The Dying Experience of Prophet Muhammad

Interdisciplinary Studies

Herbert Anderson (Coordinator)
 Eduardo C. Fernández, SJ
 Hatem A. Bazian, Zaytuna College

Elaine Elizabeth Belz

Is It Art? Looking at ‘Ruin Porn’ through the Lens of Theological Aesthetics

Art and Religion

Ronald Y. Nakasone (Coordinator)
 Christopher J. Renz, OP
 Jerry Herron, Wayne State University

Lindsey Grace Dean

Mapping Meaning: The Role of the Humanities in the Modern Cosmic Imaginary

Interdisciplinary Studies

Ted F. Peters (Coordinator)
 Judith A. Berling
 Harlan Stelmach, Dominican University

Hannah Pheasant Faustino

Decolonizing the Digital Sphere

Interdisciplinary Studies

Anselm Ramelow, OP (Coordinator)
 Margarita Vega
 William Rehg, Saint Louis University

Jennifer Fernandez

Theology of Bread and Roses: A Feminist Relational Theology Embracing Women’s Social Movements as Divine In-Breaking

Theology and Ethics

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)
 Gabriella Lettini
 Karmen MacKendrick, Le Moyne College

Hamza Yusuf Hanson

The Normative Islamic Tradition in North and West Africa: A Case Study of Transmission of Authority and Distillation of Knowledge in Ibn 'Ashir's Al-Murshid al-mu'in (The Helpful Guide)

Interdisciplinary Studies

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)
 Marianne Farina, C.S.C.
 Judith A. Berling
 Sherman Jackson, University of Southern California

Sukhun Huh

A Theology of the Event: A Dialectical Understanding of the Collective Event in Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Alain Badiou

Systemic and Philosophical Theology

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)
 George E. Griener, S.J.
 Bo Myung Seo, Chicago Theological Seminary

Yong Yeon Hwang

A Theological Criticism of South Korea's National Narratives through Re-reading Korean Minjung Theology from a Postcolonial Perspective

Interdisciplinary Studies

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)
 Judith A. Berling
 Namhee Lee, University of California, Los Angeles
 Namsoon Kang, Brite Divinity School

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES, CONTINUED

Yohana Agra Junker

Unsettling the Landscape: Representation, Appropriation, and Indigenous Aesthetics in the Land Art of the American Southwest

Art and Religion

Devin P. Zuber (Coordinator)
 Kathryn Barush
 Cláudio Carvalhaes, Union Theological Seminary

Sungrae Kim

Harmonious Peace and Just Peace: The Prospects of a Confucian-Christian Dialogue Toward Interreligious Peacebuilding in East Asia

Interdisciplinary Studies

Judith A. Berling (Coordinator)
 Anh Q. Tran, SJ
 Ellen O. Marshall, Emory University

Justin Rock Lipscomb

Philosophy as Dissent: On the Possibility of Disenclosure from the "Erotics of Domination" in the Western Philosophical Tradition

Interdisciplinary Studies

Judith A. Berling (Coordinator)
 Purushottama Bilimoria
 Florian Grosser, University of California, Berkeley and California College of the Arts

Nathan Jishin Michon

Awakening to Care: The Formation of Contemporary Japanese Buddhist Chaplaincy

Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Richard K. Payne (Coordinator)
 Daijaku Judith Kinst
 Stephen G. Covell, Western Michigan University

Mauricio Najarro

Towards a Christian Spirituality of Radical Hope: Reading, Writing, And Translating in Simone Weil and Michel de Certeau

Christian Spirituality

Lisa Fullam (Coordinator)
 Arthur G. Holder
 Charles L. Briggs, University of California, Berkeley

Pasesa Sapolu

Reconciling Identities: Social Identity, Hybridity, and Leadership in the Nehemiah Memoir

Biblical Studies

LeAnn S. Flesher (Coordinator)
 Aaron Brody
 Jon L. Berquist, Claremont School of Theology

Maria Cecilia Titizano La Fuente

The Divine Feminine in the Andes: A Comparative Triadic Theology from an Indigenous Feminist Perspective

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)
 Inese Radzins
 Josef Estermann, Universität Luzern

Andrew Younan

Matter, Mathematics, and the Mind of God: Essentialism, Laws of Nature, and the Fifth Way of St. Thomas Aquinas

Theology and Ethics

Michael J. Dodds, OP (Coordinator)
 Robert Russell
 Timothy Clarke, University of California, Berkeley
 Kristin Primus, University of California, Berkeley

GTU Member & Affiliate School Commencement Information

Where to Celebrate our Member & Affiliate Schools' Graduates:

ABSW: Please refer to the school [website](#)

CDSP: All 2020 graduates are invited to be recognized officially at the 2021 Commencement ceremony

DSPT: All 2020 graduates are invited to be recognized officially at the 2021 Commencement ceremony

JST: Please refer to the school [website](#)

PLTS: Virtual celebration to take place during the weekend of May 15-16

PSR: Planning a virtual celebration.

SFTS: Virtual celebration to take place on May 22

SKSM: Virtual celebration to take place on May 14

Chan Essay Prize — Fall 2020

Fall 2020 Topic: "Religion and Economics"

The Chan Essay Prize is of about \$2500 and was established in 1987 by the Lionel Chan Family Endowment. To enter, submit an original essay, a term paper for a course, or a chapter of a thesis or dissertation, with an introduction and conclusion to frame it as an independent essay. The evaluating criteria are as follows:

Genre: Within the specific genre (essay, sermon, term paper, chapter of a larger work), does the entry exhibit excellence?

Topic: How well does the topic engage?

Creativity/Contribution: given the audience of the genre, how much of an original or creative contribution is made by the paper? Does it offer fresh insights or simply rehash materials already available?

The topic alternates from year to year. In odd-numbered years (Fall 2021), the topic will be: "Identity and Practice across Religious Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc.)." In even-numbered years (Fall 2020), the topic will be "Religion and Economics."

Deadline(s): September 11, 2020; (September 10, 2021)

Submissions are due in the GTU Dean's Office **no later than 5PM on Friday, September 11, 2020.**

Email submissions can be sent to: mhaddick@gtu.edu (Melissa Haddick, Executive Assistant to the Dean's Office)

Library News

Need an article or book chapter?

Place requests using interlibrary loan (ILL), a service for accessing materials not included in the GTU's electronic resources and the freely available resources online. Despite many libraries remaining closed during the shelter-in-place, some libraries still lend items held electronically. Please note that since much of the U.S. remains under shelter-in-place orders, libraries are unlikely to fill requests for entire books. Have questions? Circulation staff are working online and are happy to help you.

Reference help is available!

Three ways to reach a reference librarian:

1. Ask A Librarian Chat is available from 10-5 on weekdays via the library homepage. Click on Ask A Librarian Live Chat at <https://www.gtu.edu/library>.
2. Email us at library@gtu.edu.
3. Zoom appointments are available by appointment. Contact us via email at Library@gtu.edu or through Chat.

*Don't hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance at all.
We look forward to the day we can see you in person!*

Center for Islamic Studies

Congratulations and gratitude to all our CIS students, visiting and research scholars, faculty and staff for their excellent work during the academic year 2019-2020.

Special congratulations to graduates in Islamic Studies: **Siddique Abdullah (MA) Saad Akbar (MA), Brian Johnson (MA), Huzaifa Shahbaz (MA), and Hamza Yusuf Hanson (PhD)**.

Congratulations to GTU doctoral student, David Coolidge for his publication in the Journal of Dharma Studies, "Dharma of Bhakti, Dharma of Mlecchas: Muslim Engagement with Gaudiya Vaisnavism as a Living Tradition." <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42240-020-00065-z>

CIS Director, Munir Jiwa has a publication in the Journal of Teaching Theology and Religion, "Reflections on Islamic Studies in Interreligious Contexts." Please also see his reflection, "Our Interconnectedness" as part of GTU's Spiritual Care and Ethical Leadership for Our Times. <https://www.gtu.edu/gtu-voices/our-interconnectedness>

Ramadan Mubarak to all those observing the holy month. For various resources and online programs, please visit CIS/GTU webpages for details and/or contact: mdhala@gtu.edu

Many of our students, alums, faculty and scholars are attending to vulnerable communities in need at this difficult time. We are grateful for their care. Please know that the CIS Director and Program Coordinator continue to be available by appointment. Please feel free to email us with any questions you have and to schedule an online or phone meeting: mjiwa@gtu.edu and mdhala@gtu.edu.

CIS wishes everyone good health, peace, safety, and well-being.

Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

5 May 2020 — 12:10pm

(ONLINE at www.psr.edu)

A CLGS Lavender Lunch and PSR Webinar:
*Pastoral Care in A Time of Pandemic: Views from
Pastors in New York City, Detroit, and Tampa*

12 May 2020 — 12:10pm

(ONLINE at www.clgs.org)

A CLGS Lavender Lunch: *Brandt Miller:
Queer Mongol*

26 May 2020:— 5:00pm – 7:00pm

(ONLINE at www.gtu.edu/centers/care)

A CLGS/GTU Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE)
Panel Discussion:
HIV/AIDS Ministry: Past and Present

With Bishop Yvette Flunder, Rabbi Jane Litman, Rev.
Jim Mitulski, Bernard Schlager, and Koshin Steven
Tierney

20 May 2020 — 6:30pm

(ONLINE at www.clgs.org)

**The 13th Annual CLGS John E. Boswell Lecture: *Enfleshing Eros, Healing Earth:
A Queerly Christian Performance of Ecological Renewal in Three Acts***

Jay Johnson, PhD, Professor of Theology and
Culture, Pacific School of Religion

Center for the Arts & Religion Events (CARE)

Brown Bag Lunch with Laura Dunn

Friday, May 8 | 12-1PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 976-8970-8495

Password: brownbag

CARE's Brown Bag Lunch Series lives on in virtual
format!

Please join us on Zoom for informal presentations by recent
CARE Grant recipients, followed by lively
discussion.

HIV/AIDS Ministry: Past and Present

Tuesday, May 26 | 5-7PM

Zoom Webinar ID: 985-2158-2458

Password: ministry

Join CARE for a panel discussion presented in conjunction
with our Spring 2020 exhibition, AFTER/LIFE, which
features the work of Ed Aulerich-Sugai and Mark Mitchell.
Both of these innovative and inspiring artists were affected
by HIV/AIDS, leading to Ed's death in 1994.

Our diverse group of accomplished panelists will discuss
spirituality, ministry, and community in the days when
AIDS was first recognized and in more recent times.

Moderated by Dr. Bernard Schlager (Executive Director,
CGLS), our panelists are: Bishop Yvette A. Flunder (City of
Refuge UCC), Rabbi Jane Litman (Jewish Roundtable,
CLGS and Rabbi, Chico Havurah), the Rev. Elder Jim
Mitulski (Interim Pastor, Island United Church UCC, Foster
City and AIDS activist), and Steven Tierney (Professor
Emeritus, counseling psychology, California Institute of
Integral Studies, and Clinical Director, Seeds of Awareness,
Oakland).

Creative Acts from Home: Call for Submissions

We want to know what the GTU community has been doing
to stay creative during quarantine! Please send us any art
projects you've been working on and we'll feature them on
our Instagram and Facebook pages.

Have a look at some recent submissions, including home-
made greetings cards by PhD Student Brianna Deutsch, an
incredible installation by CARE art handler Joe Melamed,
and online dance lessons being taken by CARE dance
instructor Michelle Summers and her son.

www.instagram.com/caregtu

www.facebook.com/CARE.DougAdamsGallery

Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Albert Honegan, MABL

Elea Ingman, BIBL, HONORS

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Sewon Jang, REPR

Hanna Kang, HCSR

Oral Exam

Laurent Okitakatshi, SATX

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Sukhun Huh, THET



Graduate
Theological
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:
Melissa Haddick, Executive Assistant to the President (interim) and Dean's Office, mhaddick@gtu.edu

GTU Office of the Dean

2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
www.gtu.edu

Phone: 510-649-2442