On Tuesday, October 18, the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) celebrated its 35th anniversary—and its new beginning as an internal program of the GTU. CTNS became a GTU program unit earlier this year, after a long and successful history as an independent nonprofit affiliated with the GTU. The October 18th celebration featured a retrospective by CTNS Director Robert Russell touching on the major facets of CTNS’s eventful history, as well as words of encouragement from current and former CTNS staff, students, and colleagues.

In the spring semester, Dr. Carol Bier, visiting scholar at the GTU’s Center for Islamic Studies, will serve as guest curator for “Reverberating Echoes: Contemporary Art Inspired by Traditional Islamic Art.” This exhibition, on display in the Doug Adams Gallery from January 31 to May 26, will feature seven artists from across the United States who work in media ranging from textiles to 3-D printing. In addition to demonstrating the richness of Islamic visual heritage, this exhibition will offer multiple opportunities for discussion and reflection. Of special note is the March 15 Dillenberger Lecture, featuring Dr. Alicia Walker from Bryn Mawr College speaking on the significance of Arabic motifs in medieval Christian art and architecture.

With exhibitions like these, along with compelling programming, interesting courses, and other creative activities in the new Doug Adam Gallery, the Center for the Arts & Religion is delighted to take its place in the GTU family, helping create meaningful arts experiences for GTU students, faculty, staff, and the wider community.

Elizabeth S. Peña is director of the GTU’s Center for the Arts & Religion and the Doug Adams Gallery.