Ever since I first read T. S. Eliot’s poem “Ash Wednesday,” I have been fascinated by his prayer: “Teach us to care and not to care / Teach us to sit still.” There is no simple answer to my questions about detachment, but Eliot’s words help to focus my attention. Before I can detach, there are things I need to learn. Before I can act responsibly, I must be quiet and receptive. Even in the midst of this busy semester, we need both to care and not to care. We need to sit still.

As Christians prepare to observe the penitential season of Lent, it is a good time to reflect on the meaning of “detachment.” This theme, which is common to many religious traditions, has been approached in various ways. The basic meaning of the term, of course, is to become unattached or to let go. But what are we supposed to let go of, and how do we do it?

Often we are told to let go of bad things and cling to those that are good. This seems like good advice and easy to follow, until we realize that we still have to determine what is truly good and what is truly bad. And what if I am attached to good things for the wrong reasons? Or attached to bad things that I cannot seem to live without? What if there are things that I feel I must hang on to because I need them in order to fulfill my duty to other people? It gets complicated!

GTU Spring 2014 Commencement: Thursday, May 8th

The GTU Commencement is May 8th 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.
GTU News & Events: Lectures and Workshops

Chapel of the Great Commission
Pacific School of Religion
Graduate Theological Union
Complimentary Luncheon and Reception held at the LDS Institute of Religion (across the street from the Chapel of the Great Commission)
2368 Le Conte Ave., Berkeley
*Conference parking is available at the Institute building.

Sponsors: Graduate Theological Union; Richard L. Evans Chair for Religious Understanding—Brigham Young University; LDS Church History Department; BYU Religious Education; Foundation for Religious Dialogue, and the generosity of private donors.

Register for the free luncheon by March 18 by emailing: asianmormonstudies@gmail.com

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? NELSON MANDELA’S LEGACY & THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE USA

San Francisco Theological Seminary will be honoring the legacy of Nelson Mandela with lectures and workshops examining his continuing impact on the pervasive issues surrounding poverty and injustice in Post-Apartheid South Africa, and Post-Civil Rights America.

Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak will present the history of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, the role black theology played in deconstructing apartheid’s religious ideological underpinnings, and the intransience of economic problems plaguing contemporary South Africa. Boesak is the Desmond Tutu Chair of Peace, Global Justice, and Reconciliation Studies at Christian Theological Seminary.

Dr. Dwight N. Hopkins will discuss the way the anti-Apartheid struggle and black theology in South Africa drew inspiration from the Civil Rights and Black Power Movement in the US and vice versa. Hopkins is the Professor of Theology and Director of MA Studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Sponsored by the Office of the President & The H. Eugene Farlough Chair of African American Christianity

San Francisco Theological Seminary
Alexander Hall E 40 Kensington Rd., San Anselmo, CA 94960

Saturday, March 8, 2014
9:00am – 4:00pm
Pre-purchased lunch will be available for $12.00
Event is free, but seating is limited

Please register at http://tinyurl.com/SFTSMandela
GTU Library: 22nd Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts on March 3rd and Lockers Available

The 22nd annual Reading of the Sacred Texts lecture will be held on Monday, March 3, at 7pm in the Dinner Board Room.

The title of this year’s lecture is “Two Books: The Universe and the Bible.” Featured speakers Dr. Bob Russell and Dr. Ted Peters of the GTU Center for Theology and Natural Sciences ask: just how can we respond to the challenges of reductionism and atheism and bring the two books back together into a “Theology of Nature” that uses the method of “Creative Mutual Interaction” (CMI) between natural science and Christian theology? The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information contact Caryl Woulfe at cwoulfe@gtu.edu or 510-649-2541.

Did you know the library has lockers?

Located on the lower level of the library, lockers are a safe and easy way to store your personal belongings on campus. All students are eligible to reserve a locker for the duration of the term at no cost. Locker assignments begin the second week of each term and operate on a first come-first serve basis. Need more space? Doctoral students are now eligible to reserve a second locker for a fee of $10. Space is limited, so visit the Circulation Desk today!

Aquinas Lecture 2014: Diana Fritz-Cates, PhD "Hatred in the Light of Love: A Thomistic Analysis"

Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 pm

Hatred is widely regarded as a problem for human beings and their societies. But what is hatred? How is it best conceived? Does hatred, in any of its forms, have a place in a good human life? This lecture will present a conceptual and ethical analysis of hatred that has its basis in the moral psychology of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Dr. Diana Fritz-Cates is Associate Professor of Religious Ethics at The University of Iowa and the author of Aquinas on the Emotions: A Religious Ethical Inquiry.

Every year the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology hosts The Aquinas Lecture. In keeping with the mission of DSPT - to engage contemporary scholarship with the wisdom of tradition, especially as exemplified by St. Thomas Aquinas - our faculty nominate a scholar to present a paper in which the thought and method of Aquinas are applied to a contemporary issue.

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Mining the Connections of Falu Gruva and Emanuel Swedenborg

Speaker: Sarah McCune, MA Student, Art & Religion, PSR
Friday, March 7, 12-1pm
Doug Adams Gallery

Emanuel Swedenborg is known for his significant contributions to both the natural sciences and theology. Through analysis of Swedenborg’s prodigious work in mineralogy, two of his poems about mining, and his later theological writings, this research contributes new scholarship and insights into the relationships among poetry, natural science, and theology, and it highlights the enduring significance of Swedenborg’s complex personae of poet, scientist, and religious visionary.

"Behold, a wonderful thing! I glide down from the upper world in a bucket, thus hanging, I am brought all the way to the dark shadows of death…"

- Emanuel Swedenborg, “On the Mine in Falum"
WOMEN’S STUDIES IN RELIGION NEWS & EVENTS

Kick off Women’s History Month by attending a panel on the history of Women’s Studies at the Graduate Theological Union
Friday March 7th
Dinner Boardroom 12:1-3:30

In celebration of Women’s History Month, Boyung Lee, Margaret McManus, and Kathryn Poethig will share their knowledge and memories of the Center for Women and Religion and the Women’s Studies Program. Flora Keshgegian will moderate the discussion. The panel will be followed by a reception.
(2 WSR Units)

GTU Deans Office, Women’s Studies in Religion, & the Korean Association Host
A Conversation and Book Signing with Maija Rhee Devine
March 19th in the Student Lounge in 2465 LeConte Ave. 5-6:30 pm

Maiha Rhee Devine, author of The Voices of Heaven, a novel based on her family experience during her childhood in South Korea set against the backdrop of the Korean War. The story focuses on family dynamics in a society influenced by Confucian values. Books will be available for purchase and signing.
(1 WSR Unit)

The Good, The True, and The Beautiful:
Latina Theology and its Evocative Glimpses
Monday April 7th 2014
Brown Bag Lunch 12:30-2
Dinner Boardroom
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley
Evening Panel 6:30-8
Pacific School of Religion Chapel 1798 Scenic Avenue

Three Latina theologians share their theological method, the communities they love and serve, and the insights into timeless and universal questions we may glimpse through their respectful engagement. From Our Lady of Guadalupe, to the violence of the streets of Juarez, to the search and activation of prophetic beauty, join GTU alumnae Jeanette Rodriguez, Nancy Pineda-Madrid and Cecilia González-Andrieu.
(2 WSR Units)

Faithful to the Beautiful Feast of Life: A New Reading of Betrayal and Scandal in Women’s Resistance to Redemptive Violence
A Talk By Rev. Rebecca Parker
April 17, 2014
Dinner Boardroom
10:30 am

Twenty-five years ago, feminist and womanist theologians began questioning the Christian doctrine of atonement with the groundbreaking publication of Christianity, Patriarchy and Abuse (Pilgrim Press, 1989) and its lead article “For God So Loved the World?” by Joanne Brown and Rebecca Parker. Decades of creative scholarship have followed, from a diversity of women’s voices reflecting an array of ethnic, racial, and cultural perspectives. In Proverbs of Ashes, and her more recent theological work, Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire, co-authored with Rita Nakashima Brock, Parker recovers and advocates for an ancient stream of Christian “Paradise” theology that centers on love for this world, non-violence, and incarnational acts of justice and compassion. Betrayal of the ethics of the feast table and scandal at the humiliation of crucifixion, form the background this talk, presented on Maundy Thursday in the western Christian calendar. Parker will offer an alternative interpretation of the ritual of “The Last Supper” illuminated by earliest Christian mosaic depictions of the Passion narrative and informed by Paradise theology.
(2 WSR Units)
2014 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 8, 2014.

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 from 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 21. The selection criteria are as follows:

a. Eligible candidates are active members of the Core Doctoral Faculty.

b. 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.


ASIA PROJECT GREEN TEA CONVERSATION: AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL RELIGION AND THE ART OF SACRED SITES
WITH FR. JOHN HILARY MARTIN, OP

Tuesday, March 18
12:30PM – 1:30PM
Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology
Classroom 1
2301 Vine Street,
Berkeley

Join in a conversation with Fr. John Hilary Martin. Fr. Hilary is a Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theology at DSPT. He is currently studying and working out the “fundamental narrative” (i.e., the basic symbolic history) found amid the myths and rituals of aboriginal communities of North Central Australia. His lecture will explain the religious and cultural values hidden in their very symbolic art work showing slides of aboriginal sacred sites. Vegetarian lunch, tea and snacks will be provided at 12pm.

No food in the auditorium Free and open to the public

Contact: asia-project@ses.gtu.edu

DOCTORAL STUDENT ELECTIONS

THE NOMINATIONS FOR OPEN DOCTORAL STUDENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS INCLUDING SBL LIASON, DOC COUNCIL, 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 6, 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
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 21 through August 15 from 9am to noon, and the German and Spanish courses are scheduled for July 14 through August 8 from 10am to 1pm. Tuition is $670. GTU students can register via WebAdvisor starting on April 7. For registration questions, contact John Seal, GTU Consortial Registrar, jseal@gtu.edu.

PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PCTS) MEETING APRIL 25-26 “CATHOLIC THEOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY”

You are cordially invited to attend the Spring Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, April 25 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m.—noon in the Tucson Room at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

The theme is “Catholic Theology in the 21st Century” and begins Friday afternoon with a paper by Tom Massaro, Dean of JST, entitled “Catholics, Conscience, and Participation in the Public Life: From Vatican II into the Future.” This is followed by the paper, “Towards a Secular Theology?” by Michael Sweeney, President of DSPT. Saturday morning, the paper entitled, “The Church’s Third Millennium: The Age of Great Bishops?” by Sally Vance-Trembath (SCU) is discussed. Lastly, Anne Carpenter (St. Mary’s College of California) closes the Meeting with her paper, “Time Is Symphonic: The Reception of Tradition in 21st Century Theology.” As is the custom of the Society, reading links are posted on the PCTS website (www.pcts.org) and texts should be read ahead of time.

Free Public Lecture Friday Evening: Tom Massaro, Dean of JST and Michael Sweeney, President of DSPT will be in conversation about their contexts as well as sharing their thoughts as to the challenges and opportunities of Catholic theology in the 21st century. Please join us Friday evening, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP.

Note that the Friday afternoon session is followed by cocktails and dinner. Please RSVP with Mark Graves (mark_graves@comcast.net) so that appropriate reservations can be made. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. The open discussion session follows and finishes by noon. Fees are located on the website (www.pcts.org) and can be paid at the Meeting.

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 for further information.

RUSSELL BERRIE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES

Application Deadline: March 21, 2014

On behalf of the Russell Berrie Foundation, IIE is pleased to announce the seventh consecutive year of the Russell Berrie Fellowship in Interreligious Studies, arranged at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

The aim of the Fellowship Program is to build bridges between Christian, Jewish, and other religious traditions by providing the next generation of religious leaders with a comprehensive understanding of and dedication to interfaith issues. Russell Berrie Fellows are expected to complete the program and return home to their parishes and communities to lead others in efforts to promote interfaith understanding.

The Fellowship offers clergy, religious, and members of the laity an opportunity to study for a Licence Degree or a Certificate in Interreligious Studies at the Angelicum. The award provides one year of financial support for new
MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING EVENTS

The Badè Museum at PSR invites you to a lecture by Dr. Elizabeth S. Peña Interim Director at the Center for the Arts, Religion & Education at the Graduate Theological Union

Transaction and Transformation: The Archaeological Story of Wampum
Monday, March 10th, 5:30pm
Badè Museum Gallery

For more information visit our website: http://bade.psr.edu

The SFTS Center for Innovation in Ministry presents

An Evening with John Bell
San Francisco Theological Seminary
Montgomery Chapel
5 Richmond Rd. San Anselmo, CA 94960
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
7:00-8:30pm

Embracing Musical Diversity as a Gift of God
John Bell is a world-renowned liturgical composer and member of the Iona Community. He is a preacher, teacher, musician and hymn writer, and is on the cutting edge of music education. Bell has co-produced over 15 collections of songs and octavos, and a wide arrange of liturgical materials, particularly for use by lay people. His primary concern is the renewal of congregational worship at the grass roots level.

2014-2015 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINES

Financial Aid Applications for the 2014-2015 academic year are available online at: 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 2014-15 application and FAFSA. To reach the Financial Aid Office with a question, email financ@gtu.edu or call the Office at 510-649-2469.

Common MA Students affiliated with:

ABSW: April 15
CDSP: March 15
CJS: April 1
DSPT: March 15
IBS: April 1
JST: March 1
PAOI: April 1
PLTS: March 15
SFTS: April 15
SKSM: April 1

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 three Federal Student Loan Exit Counseling sessions that will be held on Tuesday, April 1 from 9:00am to 10:15am at PLTS and 11:00 to 12:15pm (TBA) and Friday, April 4 from 2:00pm to 3:15pm on the SFTS campus. These exit sessions 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: financ@gtu.edu by Thursday, March 12.
HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended
Sasha Snowden–FST*
Brooks Dampman–PAOI
Randi Wren–CJS
Patricia Gibbs–CJS
Clark McNabb–PAOI*
Diana Clark–IBS*
Troy Mikanovich–JST*
Deenaz Kanji–CIS*
Cheongsoo Park–JST
*approved with honors

PHD STUDENTS

General Comprehensive Passed
Amanda Kaminski–SPRT
Matthew Boswell–SPRT
Rachel Wheeler–SPRT

Comprehensive Proposal Approved
Matthew Crabb–THEO

Oral Comprehensives Passed
Austin Leininger–ETHC

Advanced to Candidacy
Matthew Gaudet–ETHC
Jong Ho Kim–HOML

Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended
Courtney Bruntz–CHSR

Graduate Theological Union

Office of the Dean
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA
94709

http://www.gtu.edu

Phone: 510-649-2440
Fax: 510-649-1417
E-mail: amunoz@gtu.edu

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.