FROM THE DEAN

We begin this academic year with great anticipation as we inaugurate the new interreligious and interdisciplinary doctoral program. This revision of the doctoral program helps the GTU to better address the realities of religious diversity and complex problems that cannot be adequately addressed by a single discipline. These have long been values of GTU scholarship, but the structure of the new program allows us to more fully incarnate those values in interreligious and interdisciplinary Departments.

As these changes have been implemented over the past year, I have been inspired by the work of Michael Barnes, SJ, to think more deeply about the nature of the GTU and its role in our religiously diverse world. In his excellent book, Interreligious Learning: Dialogue, Spirituality, and the Christian Imagination, Barnes builds on insights by Paul Griffiths and Nicholas Lash to see religions as "schools of faith." He writes, "the cumulative traditions that are 'the religions' are first and foremost communities of persons whose religious account of things includes not just a comprehensive vision but also the learned skills that go with assimilating and interpreting that vision." (p. 46). Religions, he argues, are not just doctrines, but include a pedagogy of how to live and to engage the world. He asks whether we can envision a situation "in which 'the religions' meet in the same space as a 'school of schools,' passing on purpose and value to successive generations --- and to one another." (p. 47)

I would argue that the GTU is precisely such a "school of schools" of faith. Here we learn not only about one another, but from each other and with each other. We believe that this is the best way to learn -- to be formed in -- any tradition, recognizing that we live in the midst of vibrant religious plurality. Whether we subscribe to a specific tradition, see ourselves as religiously hybrid, or are "spiritual but not religious," contemporary persons live within and among diverse religious practices. Religious leaders and indeed all persons are best educated when they have some sense of that diversity and possess the skills to negotiate it.

Barnes also argues that interreligious learning is not best understood as formal dialogue among specialists or representatives of traditions, but that it occurs "in the middle of things," (p. 4) in the midst of specific historical and cultural contexts, in the midst of situated lives and complex relationships. This principle reminds us that our interreligious learning is not best contained in "our courses about" something, but in the conversations, relationships and engagements that occur from and within the complex identities that we each bring to the GTU. May we be attentive to how our lives together shapes us as interreligious learners.

GTU WELCOME RECEPTION, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 3:30PM

The GTU Dean’s Office invites all members of the GTU Consortial Community to a Welcome Reception on Wednesday, September 21st, 3:30pm in the GTU Student Lounge and Doug Adams Gallery (1st floor of the GTU building at 2465 LeConte Avenue). At 4:00pm, there will be a brief program to introduce new faculty and visiting scholars. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Angela Muñoz, GTU Dean’s Office at amunoz@gtu.edu or 510/649-2440.
JUDITH BERLING, PART-TIME DEAN IN THE INTERIM

I retired from the GTU last spring, so when I agreed to be part-time Dean for the Interim, my friends joked that I had “flunked retirement.” I certainly hope not. I am happy to serve as Interim, paving the way for Dean Uriah Kim, who will begin in January. I agreed to serve only half-time, because I had made retirement plans and commitments to work on projects for a foundation and a board.

The GTU Dean is a full-time job, but as Interim it is not my role to address long-term issues that are the remit of the permanent Dean. I will also have help: Arthur Holder will write the WASC accrediting report.

Kyle Schiefelbein will assist with on-line courses. Jay Johnson will take the lead on online assessment.

I will be in the Dean’s office 2½ days a week. Please contact me by e-mail with requests or to make an appointment. Working half-time, I will be unable to attend all the events and meetings I would as full-time Dean. My priority will be to monitor the implementation of the new doctoral program, to work with centers and affiliates, and to involve Dean Kim in conversations on academic issues. I look forward to working with you, keeping the academic ship on course during the fall semester.

NEW COURSE DESIGN SERVICES

An exciting new service is being provided by the GTU to all faculty and doctoral students. Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein, GTU alum and former Moodle/library student employee, was hired July 1 to serve as the GTU’s first Course Design Specialist. Kyle most recently served for over three years as Coordinator of Online and Continuing Education at PLTS. President Potterveld summarized Kyle’s job best when he wrote that Kyle will “consult with consor-tial faculty members to design and develop pedagogically sound online and blended courses, programs, and other technology-enhanced instructional materials.” Naturally, this includes assisting faculty and student with Moodle, but it also encompasses other classroom activities, including using PowerPoint effectively, flipping the classroom, designing learning outcomes and rubrics, integrating multimedia content into residential/hybrid/online courses, and so forth.

Moodle users who require general support should continue to e-mail moodle@gtu.edu or call (510) 649-2510. Moodle support will be expanded to include evenings and weekends with the help of two student assistants. Faculty and doctoral students who would like to consult with Kyle about integrating technology in the classroom should contact him directly at kschiefelbein@gtu.edu or (510) 649-2511. Kyle’s office is on the first (downstairs) floor of the library in the northeast corner of the building; follow the signs.

Starting in the fall semester, Kyle will be offering workshops that deal with different pedagogical-technological aspects of Moodle, PowerPoint, digital content creation and general learning design. These workshops will be listed on the Moodle website and are open to everyone. In the spring semester, Kyle will be teaching a course on integrating technology into theological education, designed for doctoral students to develop the necessary skills to engage students and to be competitive in today’s academic job market. The course is IDS-5111 and will be Mondays 2:10 to 5:00 pm in the Library Teaching Lab, which will be having a makeover in the fall semester.

CHAN PRIZE COMPETITION
DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Students interested in submitting papers for the Fall 2015 Chan Prize in Religion and Economics Essay contest must do so by Wednesday, September 15, 2016 at 5pm in the GTU Dean’s Office. The Chan competition’s purpose is to reward the thoughtful, creative work of students who are seeking authentically to bring together theological (including ethical, Biblical, constructive) reflection on the topic of “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.).” For more detail on the criteria of the essay competition, please see the 2015 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 93) —there is no application form.

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF COLOR
THE STUDENT SERVICES OFFICES OF THE GTU CONSORTIUM ARE HOSTING THIS RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND A NEW JOURNEY, SEPTEMBER 28, 4:30-6PM, BADE MUSEUM, PSR
CARE NEWS AND EVENTS

Fall 2016 CARe/GTU Grant Proposals & Writing Prize Deadline is Monday, September 26th.

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to offer grants (up to $2,000) in support of projects that center on religion and the arts. Projects might include travel to a conference to present a paper or to conduct research, funding to assist with an art workshop, or fees related to a theatrical performance. These grants are sponsored by CARe. The Graduate Theological Union Writing Prize recognizes a paper that incorporates artwork, themes, and/or content from a current Doug Adams Gallery exhibition. The awardee will receive $250 and will present the paper in a public lecture. More information online at www.care-gtu.org/grants-prizes.

Opening Reception, September 6 | 5-7pm

The Hermitage of Landscape, the opening exhibit at the NEW Doug Adams Gallery (2465 LeConte Ave., Berkeley) will feature the luminous landscape paintings of Bay Area artist Nicholas Coley. Painting en plein air, Coley experiments with light and shape, producing images that range from realism to abstraction. Familiar Bay Area sites – Mt. Tam, Baker Beach, Tennessee Valley, the Berkeley Hills – take on otherworldly qualities.

The exhibition runs from August 30 to December 9. The artist will be present at the opening reception on September 6 at 5:00 pm to discuss his work. The reception will feature music by a duo from the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble.

Brown Bag Lunch Series, September 9 | 12-1pm

Babylon, New Jerusalem, and the Brooklyn Bridge: Modern Vastations in American Art Presenter: Meredith Massar, Ph.D Candidate, Art & Religion, Graduate Theological Union CARe/GTU Grant Recipient, Spring 2016

Yoga in the Gallery, September 14 | 12-1pm

free | all levels welcome | no experience necessary

Join us for an hour-long session by registered yoga teacher Lily Manderville (CARe Programs Manager). Open to all GTU member school students, faculty, and staff. Comfortable work clothes recommended. Please bring a hand towel and water bottle. 2nd Wednesday of each month, 12-1pm. Questions? Email info@care-gtu.org Hosted by CARe in the Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Newhall Awards are competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with GTU Core Doctoral Faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students and the mission of the GTU. Awards are given for fall, spring, or both semesters, but the application process takes place only in the fall (in order to give faculty and students time to submit courses for next year’s Course Schedule). The 2017-2018 Newhall Award Application form is available on the GTU webpage. (Near the top of the GTU homepage click on “Current Students.” Once on the Students module, scroll down to the “Professional Development” section to find the link.) The form contains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. (You can also find it in the Doctoral Program Handbook on p. 95-96.) Complete applications are due in the GTU Dean’s Office by 5pm Friday, November 11; these must come from the student and the professor for a project involving both. Award amounts depend on the number of appointments made, but are generally at least $3000 per semester.
**FACULTY COMMITTEES FOR 2016-2017**

Please see below the Committees of the Core Doctoral Faculty for 2016-2017. These can also be found through the “Faculty” module under the subheading “Other Information.”

**Awards Committee**
Jennifer Davidson (ABSW)
Kirsi Stjerna (PLTS)

**Grievance Committee**
James Lawrence (CSS/PSR)
Julia Prinz (JST)
Robert Russell (GTU/CTNS)
Ruth Meyers (CDSP) – alternate

**Appointments and Review Committee**
John Endres (JST)
Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (PLTS)

**Doctoral Council**
John Klentos (GTU/PAOI)
Eugene Ludwig (DSPT)

**LIBRARY NEWS**

New for Fall 2016: Chat with a librarian! We are piloting a new service to make it easier to connect with a librarian. You’ll see chat boxes on the library website, in our LibGuides, and in Moodle; of course you can still visit us in person, email us at library@gtu.edu, or call us at 510-649-2501.

Our collection of LibGuides is growing; we have library guides on biblical exegesis, Hindu studies, language resources, ministry resources and more. Check out the full list at libguides.gtu.edu.

Are you looking for a library overview? Are you new to the GTU? Returning and forgetful? Our “Getting Started” guide can help and it’s available 24/7: libguides.gtu.edu/start.

Whether you are a new or returning student, the library staff is eager to provide you with services and resources. Come visit us! Library hours, reference librarian hours, and a host of other information can be found on the library website: gtu.edu/library.

**GTU LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE: September 30**

It’s September and that means it’s time for the GTU library annual book sale. In honor of St. Jerome, patron saint of librarians (Feast day September 30), the GTU library will hold its annual voluminous book sale from 10am-3pm on the patio in front of the library. If it rains, the sale will be moved indoors. Come mingle among your fellow students and check out the myriad of books that will be for sale at rock bottom prices sure to fit every student’s budget. You might just find that diamond in the rough you have been looking for!

**LIBRARY ART EXHIBITIONS: Current and Future**

The current library art exhibition, featuring oil paintings and watercolors by Sylvia Ludins, runs through mid-September. Ludins (1909-1965), grew up in New York City’s Greenwich Village. The daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants, she attended Hunter College and earned an MA in art from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her works have been exhibited in New York venues including Roerich Museum, Brooklyn Public Library and ACA Gallery. Also included in the library exhibit are works of her sister, Florence Ludins-Katz (1912-1990), creator of Creative Growth and Nurturing Independence through Artistic Development (NIAD). Be sure to view the exhibit, featuring works which have not been seen in over 70 years, before it closes!

Save the date: An exhibit to honor the late Fr. Michael Morris, OP -- Dominican priest, art historian, professor at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT), and director of the Santa Fe Institute -- will open on September 23. The exhibit will include holy cards, iconography, Trinity objects, items from the Santa Fe Institute, and more. A memorial service for Fr. Michael will take place from 2-4pm in the GTU library. All are welcome.

For more information about the book sale or art exhibits, contact Caryl Woulfe at 510-649-2541 or cwoulfe@gtu.edu.
OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD FROM 2015-2016
CONGRATULATIONS TO ELEANOR SHAPIRO, INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, WRITING THE DISSERTATION "THE SOUND OF CHANGE PERFORMING 'JEWISHNESS' IN POLAND SMALL TOWNS"

SHANTI: A JOURNEY OF PEACE

Shanti: A Journey of Peace is a spectacular multi-cultural musical event coming to the Oakland Mormon Temple on Saturday, October 1. Proceeds will support the GTU’s new Center for Dharma Studies.

Shanti is an amazing production that features a 130-voice East-West choir, a professional orchestra, Indian musicians, and seven different dance groups—from ballet to classical Indian dance to East-West fusion. The Bay area debut of Shanti took place before an enthusiastic audience of 1,800 in Cupertino several months ago. It’s previously been performed in Cincinnati, Dallas, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Houston. Now Shanti is coming to Oakland, and the show will support programming at the GTU!

Tickets for Shanti can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/shanti2016. GTU students, faculty, and friends can get a 40% discount by entering the coupon code “GTU” at checkout. (If you already have tickets from the postponed performance of May 21, they will be honored at the October 1 concert.)

Find out more about Shanti, and view video from the recent performance, at www.gtu.edu/events/shanti. Then join the GTU for Shanti on Saturday, October 1, at 3:00 pm in the Auditorium at the Oakland Mormon Temple.

BOX:
Shanti: A Journey of Peace
Saturday, October 1, 3:00 pm
Oakland Mormon Temple Auditorium
For tickets: www.purplepass.com/Shanti2016

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NEWS AND EVENTS

The PDP is excited to announce its new schedule for the 2016-2017 year. September’s workshops are:
- Doc Council Orientation (September 7, 10am, Dinner Board Room) and Student Teaching Lunch, keynote, Amanda Kaminski, (September 14, 12pm, GTU Student Lounge) and Designing and Developing Effective Syllabi, with Interim Dean Judith Berling (September 21, 10am, GTU Student Lounge.) For more information, visit www.gtu.edu/students/prodev where you can also find links to helpful resources.

Orientation to Doctoral Council and the Dissertation Proposal

If you are planning to propose your dissertation in 2016-2017 you are strongly encouraged to attend this event, led by Dean of Students Kathleen Kook, with student members Susan Aguilar and Levi Checketts. September 7, 10am – noon, Dinner Board Room, GTU Library. We will hold an additional session in early spring. Contact Kathleen Kook, kkook@gtu.edu with questions.
Defense Deadline

Students who are planning to file by September 30, 2016 (4pm) in order to graduate this Fall, must defend their thesis or dissertation, or take their oral examination by the end of late registration, which is Friday, September 16.

If this deadline is not met, students are required to register and pay tuition for the Fall 2016 semester.

CTNS EVENTS

Thursday, September 15, 7pm
CTNS Student Showcase
To kick off the 2016-2017 school year CTNS will give a sampling of the kinds of science and religion research being done at the GTU by doctoral students.

Confirmed Speakers:
Alan Weissenbacher, Ph.D. candidate currently finishing his dissertation. His presentation is entitled
“Practical Neuroscience for the Pews”

Braden Molhoek, 2016 graduate. His presentation is entitled
“Original Righteousness Contributes to the Inevitability of Sin?”

Robert Russell, presenting the published dissertation of Adam Pryor, 2012 graduate. His book is entitled

Free and open to the public
Dinner Board Room, Graduate Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA

Tuesday, October 18, 7pm
Celebrating CTNS’s 35th Anniversary and New Beginning as a Program of the GTU Program and Reception
Free and open to the public
Dinner Board Room, Graduate Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA

Contact Melissa Moritz, mmoritz@gtu.edu with any questions.
CIS News and Events

Center for Islamic Studies welcomes our new and returning students, instructors, and visiting scholars for the academic year 2016-2017. We are honored and grateful to have Dr. Kei Takahashi from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, as a visiting scholar in Islamic Studies this academic year, and are deeply grateful to our continuing scholars, Islamic Art Historian Carol Bier and Dr. Nargis Virani, who add significantly to the academic and public programs of the CIS/GTU.

CIS is delighted to welcome Rania Shah as our Office Manager and Program Coordinator. Rania has been actively involved as a student and staff in the academic and public programs of the CIS/GTU and UC Berkeley, and we are grateful for the expertise she brings to this new position. Rania can be reached at rshah@gtu.edu

The joint CJS/CIS Madrasa-Midrasha program will be offering a course this fall, called, Texts and Contexts: Judaism and Islam, along with several public programs. We are grateful to the Walter and Elise Haas Fund for its generous support of this program. Please see gtu.edu for more details or contact Rania Shah: rshah@gtu.edu

CIS wishes a blessed journey to all those making the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca. In anticipation of Eid al-Adha, we wish our Muslim colleagues, families and friends Eid Mubarak. May this be a time of greater understanding, unity, and peace.

GTU Student Travel Grant Cycle #1

DEADLINE SEPT. 15, 2016

Mark your calendar! The first cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is Wednesday, September 15, 2016 at 5pm in the GTU Dean’s Office. GTU doctoral students who are presenting papers at the AAR and SBL Annual Meetings along with other comparable national conferences and meetings before January 31, 2017 are eligible to apply for the first cycle. Additionally, the GTU Student Travel Grant Application form must accompany supporting materials (proof of acceptance to conferences and paper abstract). It is available through the GTU Dean’s Office and the GTU webpage. For more information, please consult the 2016 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 93-94), call the GTU Dean’s Office (649.2440), or email amunoz@gtu.edu.

CJS Event

Thursday, September 29, 2016

“And Then I Killed Him: Soviet Jewish Veterans of World War II Speak of Encountering Perpetrators of the Holocaust,” with Anna Shternshis, University of Toronto

12:45pm: Graduate Theological Union | Dinner Board Room

Phenomenology of Religious Experience

Conference and Call for Papers

Phenomenology of Religious Experience is the topic of a conference in philosophy of religion that will be held in the Bay Area on November 4-5, 2016. The conference is divided into two main sections: theologies and philosophies of religious experience, and the descriptive psychology and phenomenological method, with examples and case studies (in people and texts). In the first section we welcome all those valuable contributions that focus on the relationship between phenomenology and metaphysics. These contributions can come from philosophical perspective as well as from the traditional religious scholarship, but the speakers are asked to self-identify their stance.

In particular, we will be interested in reading papers that examine the existential status of the religious experience. The recent writings in philosophy of religion indicate that there is question if religious experience actually exist (e.g. constructivist perspectives such as e.g. Penner, or recent debates in cognitive science of religion). Besides, we welcome contributions on the views on religious experience in the work of Husserl, Heidegger, Walther’s, Hering’s, Stein, Henry, Levinas, Marion, Conrad-Martius, Ricoeur and other phenomenological philosophers.

The second section is focused on descriptive phenomenological psychology. In this section we would like to read papers that discuss how phenomenology can increase our actual knowledge of religious experience. In this section we will be expanding from philosophy to phenomenological psychology, mysticism, and psychology of religion. In particular, we would welcome papers that develop two directions of inquiries: the phenomenological method through which it is possible to pursue the study of religious experience and the descriptive phenomenology of experience itself, which has been pitifully insufficiently pursued. Abstracts (of 300 words) are to be submitted to olouch@ucdavis.edu or susi.ferrarello@gmail.com by September 15, 2016. Authors will be notified of acceptance by September 20, 2016.

Conference registration fees $80. -- Early registration is strongly advised since the small venue. Deadline for registration October, 30. Space is limited, so in advance registration is required. To attend, email susi.ferrarello@gmail.com. GTU and Sofia students attend at no charge (donations welcome) but have to register in advance. Conference will be held at the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, 2311 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709.
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.

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS
Sandra Doley, JST-SCU*
Genevieve Greinetz, CJS
May Kosba, CIS
*with Honors

PHD STUDENTS

General Comprehensives Passed
Shin Young Park, THEO
Bright David, THEO
Kathryn Le Franc, THEO
Stephan Quarles, THEO
Daniel Shanta, THEO
Kyle Stokes, THEO
Joshua Warfield, THEO

Comprehensive Proposal Approved
Cristoffr Ortiz-Roberts, BIBL
Lai-Shan Yip, IDS
Paul Blankenship, SPRT
Cecilia Titizano, THEO
Rasheeda Plenty, CHSR

Oral Comprehensive Passed
Jiyoung Ko, SPRT
Link Clark, HIST

Advanced to Candidacy
Christopher Hansen, THEO
Therese Bjoernaas, THEO
Henry Kuo, THEO
Cesar Melgar, BIBL
Mauricio Najarro, SPRT
Ki Do Ahn, IDS

Oral Dissertation Successfully Defended
Christina Fetherolf, BIBL
Ali Ataie, CHSR
Rachel Wheeler, SPRT

*Passed With Distinction