

GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN



Tempus fugit. My daughter is graduating from college in about a month. She was only two years old when she came to Berkeley with her father to begin his doctoral studies. When her father finished his program, his first full-time academic position took his family to Buffalo, and she was merely eight years old. I don't think I'll believe my eyes when I see her walk across the stage to receive her diploma! We certainly will celebrate her accomplishment! But the reality awaits; she doesn't have a job waiting for her. Her major: English. I didn't do the "tiger dad" thing – I didn't push her to major in one of the STEM fields or pre-med/law. I told her to follow whatever delighted her heart. She did. I do not regret it and am very proud of her.

The GTU and its member schools will have their commencement exercises in the month of May. We certainly will celebrate the achievements of the graduates. But the reality awaits, perhaps most intensely for the Ph.D. graduates. The job market for humanities doctorates doesn't look good, as the title of one article on this issue indicates, "The Unending Horror of the Humanities Job Market, in One Chart." When you juxtapose the fact that the average time it takes to earn humanities doctoral degrees is over eight years and the fact that the job market for people with humanities doctorates is continuing to shrink ("[The Shrinking Humanities Job Market](#)"), it doesn't make sense that the number of doctorates awarded keeps rising or that more people wish to do a PhD in humanities than ever before.

One key finding by the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature from their job advertisement data (2016-2017) supports the continuing trend in the job market in our disciplines: [The total number of faculty positions decreased by 8.6% year over year from AY16 to AY17.](#) GTU graduates will compete with more people than ever before in a shrinking job market. In the last five years or so, about [50% of our doctoral graduates](#) secured a teaching job of some kind.

Is the world producing more PhDs than it needs? I think this is a wrong question to ask. I am certain that the world will be better off with more PhDs in our disciplines than fewer. But not everyone desires to be in the academia. Why aren't the doctoral programs preparing more students for jobs outside the academia? We need to talk about this.



Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.
 GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



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From the Dean of Students

GTU Commencement

The GTU Commencement is May 10 at 4pm Zaytuna College, 2401 Le-Conte. A reception follows the ceremony at the Bade Museum at PSR. Common MA and Doctoral students planning on participating in the GTU Commencement Ceremony should report to for robing and procession instructions by 3:15pm. Faculty are asked to arrive by 3:30pm. Contact Kathleen Kook, GTU Dean of Students, kkook@gtu.edu, 510-649-2464 for information. Join us in celebrating our accomplished graduates.

Modern Language Exam

The next modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, May 23, 1:00pm to 4:45pm in the Dinner Board Room. Register by May 2 with Amberly Largusa, Student Affairs Office Manager, alargusa@gtu.edu, 649-2400.

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. French and German courses will be offered July 9 through August 3 from 9am to noon, Spanish will meet from 3pm to 6pm. Tuition is \$670, due the Friday before the courses begins, payable to the GTU. To reserve a spot, contact John Seal, GTU Registrar, jseal@gtu.edu.

Member & Affiliate School Commencement Information

American Baptist Seminary of the West

Saturday May 19, 2018 | 2 PM
First Church of Christ, Scientist
2619 Dwight Way, Berkeley CA 94704

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Friday May 18, 2018 | 3 PM
Chapel of the Great Commission, Pacific School of
Religion
1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Saturday May 19, 2018 | 1 PM
Second Church of Christ, Scientist
1521 Spruce Street, Berkeley, CA 94702
(Procession begins at DSPT campus)

Jesuit School of Theology—Santa Clara University

Saturday May 19, 2018 | 3 PM
All Souls Episcopal Church
2220 Cedar Street, Berkeley, CA

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Saturday May 19, 2018 | 11 AM
St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705

Pacific School of Religion

Sunday May 20, 2018 | 4 PM
First Congregational Church of Oakland
2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Saturday May 19, 2018 | 9:30 AM
First Presbyterian Church
72 Kensington Road San Anselmo, CA

Starr King School for the Ministry

Thursday May, 17 2018 | 7 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
1 Lawson Road, Kensington, CA 94707

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Friday May 18, 2018 | 10 AM
Institute of Buddhist Studies, Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704

2018 GTU Graduates

Master of Arts

Ria Barretto Aquino

Mestizaje: The Historical, Cultural, and Theological Roots of the Filipino and Filipino-American Identity
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)

Christina M. Atienza, O.P.

Human Flourishing: A Comparison of Aquinas on Charity and Dōgen on Practice-Realization

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)

Alyssa Anneke Marie Cover

Moving Together: Strengthening Bonds in Community through Dance

Pacific School of Religion

Rossitza Schroeder (Coordinator)

Philipos Ghaly

Mobilizing Diaspora for the Kin-dom of God: Theological Reflections for the Coptic Diaspora

Starr King School for the Ministry

WITH HONORS

Gabriella Lettini (Coordinator)

Aaron Terris Grizzell

Charles H. Long and the Idea of Matter and Materiality: A Locus for Interdisciplinary Understanding

San Francisco Theological Seminary

WITH HONORS

Christopher Ocker (Coordinator)

Jonathan P. Guevara

A Peasant's Satire of Political Economy: A Sociological Study of the Parable of the Unjust Steward (Luke 16:1-8a)

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Annette Weissenrieder (Coordinator)

Jonathan Homrighausen

Growing the Garden: Interreligious Intertextuality between the Song of Songs and the Qur'an

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

John C. Endres, S.J. (Coordinator)

Yunha Hwang

The Correlation between a Person's Experience of Attachment to God and Their Resilience to Traumatic Experience

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Laurie Garrett-Cobbina (Coordinator)

Lorelai Kude

"Yesh Mazal b'Yisrael": Astrology and Identity in Jewish Culture

Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

Deena Aranoff (Coordinator)

Glennis Mical Pryor Lamm

Unity By Way Of the Synagogue: Understanding the Unification of the Private and Public Spheres In First Century Jewish Communities

Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

Deena Aranoff (Coordinator)

2018 GTU Graduates

Master of Arts, Cont'd.

Sofia Lozano-Pallares

*Hermanas De La Asunción Entre La Comunidad:
Church, Faith and Justice Work in Chaparral New
Mexico*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)

Patrick J. Murray

*The Twelve Steps as Christian Spiritual Path
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University*

Alison Benders (Coordinator)

Kyung-June Park

*Jonathan Edwards and Charles Grandison Finney
on Revivals: Two Perspectives*

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Christopher Ocker (Coordinator)

Caroline Elizabeth Read

*Mary Ward's Spirituality and Leadership as Inspired
by Ignatian Spirituality and the Implications for
Catholic Women's Ordination*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

WITH HONORS

Lisa Fullam (Coordinator)

Bradley W. Seligmann

*More in Deeds than in Words: Hospitality to the Re-
ligious Other in Jesuit Higher Education*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

WITH HONORS

Alison M. Benders (Coordinator)

Christian Suba

*The Eyes of James Baldwin: A Method of Critical
Analysis on Behalf of the Marginalized*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Jerome P. Baggett (Coordinator)

Sophie Vener

*Speaking the Unspeakable: The Exposure and Con-
cealing of Rabbinic Self-Awareness of the Dissonance
between the Oral and Written Torahs from the Bavli
to the Middle Ages*

Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

WITH HONORS

Deena Aranoff (Coordinator)

Mary Dern Walker

*Three Women's Prayers in the First Century CE
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University*

Jean-François Racine (Coordinator)

Akihiro Yasuda

*Path - A Hermeneutic Lens for Religion: Spiritual Practice and Transformation in the Visuddhimagga and
the Spiritual Exercises*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)

2018 GTU Graduates

Masters of Arts with a Concentration in Biblical Languages

Sungeun Kim

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Eugene Eung-Chun Park (Coordinator)

Biblical Hebrew (Primary) | Biblical Greek (Secondary) | English (Modern Language)

Doctor of Philosophy

Therese Marie Ignacio Bjørnaas

Imago Dei as Imago Trinitatis: A Theology of Disability and Embodied Cognition

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Marion Grau (Coordinator)

Levi Checketts

Homo Gubernator: A Moral Anthropology for New Technologies

Ethics and Social Theory

Lisa Fullam (Coordinator)

Diandra E. Chretain

Colonization, Internal Violence, and Identity Formation: Ambivalent Portrayals of Power in the Book of Ezekiel
Biblical Studies

Barbara Green, O.P. (Coordinator)

Philip Daniel Erwin

Paul and Image: Reading First Corinthians in Visual Terms

Biblical Studies

David Balch (Coordinator)

Roy A. Fisher

Towards an Off-Epochal Reading of Matthew

Near Eastern Religions

Daniel Boyarin, University of California, Berkeley
(Coordinator)

Lawrence Robert Fraher

The Incarnational Imagination: Faith Formation as Shaping the Christian Imagination

Art and Religion

Rossitza Schroeder (Coordinator)

2018 GTU Graduates

Doctor of Philosophy, Cont'd.

Kresten Froistad-Martin

*Liberation and Casuistry: Joining Context-Based
Methods for Ethical Approaches that Address
Poverty*

Ethics and Social Theory

Carol S. Robb (Coordinator)

Sean Matthew Gross

Parish the Thought: Examining U.S. Catholic Reception of - and Pastoral Responses to - Catholic Teaching on Homosexuality

Ethics and Social Theory

Lisa Fullam (Coordinator)

Christopher M. Hansen

A Theological Approach to Healing and Growth: For Those Affected by Moral Injury, Operational Stress, and Trauma

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Robert Russell (Coordinator)

Jin Sook Kim

The Subject in Practice: A Lacanian Interpretation of Religious Practice

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)

Yoon Kyung Kim

Subaltern Characters: Agents for Social Change in 2 Kings 7:1-20

Biblical Studies

Gina Hens-Piazza (Coordinator)

Tae Woong Lee

The Resistance of Daniel and His Friends: A Post-colonial Satirical Reading of Daniel 1-6 in Its Socio-political Context

Biblical Studies

Gina Hens-Piazza (Coordinator)

Raphael Okitafumba Lokola

Shalom Against the Veil of War: A Reconstructive Narrative of Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Ethics and Social Theory

William R. O'Neill, S.J. (Coordinator)

Hollis Anne Mitchem

Sailors, Soldiers and Saints: Religious Paintings for the American Military in World War II

Art and Religion

Rossitza Schroeder (Coordinator)

2018 GTU Graduates

Doctor of Philosophy, Cont'd.

Robert Kammer Peach

Wrestling with White Religion: An Autoethnography on White Engagement of the Hip-Hop Underground
Interdisciplinary Studies

Devin Phillip Zuber (Coordinator)

Eleanor Shapiro

The Sound of Change? Performing "Jewishness" in Polish Small Towns
Interdisciplinary Studies

Naomi Sheindel Seidman (Coordinator)

Dante Ronald Quick

Toward a Black Pneumatology: An Exploration of Martin Luther King Jr. and Kelly Brown Douglas

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)

Stephen R. Shaver

Metaphors of Eucharistic Presence: A Cognitive Linguistics Approach to an Ecumenical Theology of Bread, Wine, and the Body and Blood of Christ

Liturgical Studies

Ruth A. Meyers (Coordinator)

Dustyn Kainoa Ragasa

Raising Hawai'i: Moral Luck and the Moral Imagination

Ethics and Social Theory

Lisa Fullam (Coordinator)

Shijung Shim

The Rhetoric and Reality of Mother Love among Younger-Generation Korean American Women from a Feminist Pastoral Theological Perspective

Liturgical Studies

Herbert Anderson (Coordinator)

Daniel G. Shantu

Is Truth Intelligible? The Myth of John Hick's

Copernican Revolution and The Salvific Centrality of Christ

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Michael J. Dodds, O.P. (Coordinator)

Khalia Jelks Williams

"Flesh that Dances": Constructing a Womanist Liturgical Theology of Embodiment

Liturgical Studies

Mary E. McGann, R.S.C.J. (Coordinator)

Ann R. Woods

An Ancient Voice in the Contemporary Wilderness: Reclaiming Asceticism as a Christian Response to Climate Change

Ethics and Social Theory

Lisa Fullam (Coordinator)

Call for Papers: Graduate Student Symposium at the Institute of Buddhist Studies

The theme of the 2018 Graduate Student Symposium is **Buddhist political engagements and imaginaries**. How has Buddhist thought, cosmology, or ethics been used to engage, disengage, critique, or conform to systems of political power? Far from being wholly disinterested in secular affairs, Buddhists have over the millennia engaged the world in various ways, from tantric rituals for the longevity of the emperor and the protection of state to the Buddha's ten duties for the king, from lay precepts and advice for marriage to wholesale rejections of lay life and retreat to the monastery. In this symposium, we hope to explore the various discursive strategies Buddhists have used historically and contemporarily to reimagine Buddhist worlds in the present moment, to critique or support political systems, and develop practices and approaches to the path in line or at odds with social norms.

Topics include but are not limited to: political reimaginings of traditional Buddhist cosmologies, doctrines, or practices; contemporary lay or monastic engaged Buddhist movements, their successes and shortcomings; the intersection of gender, race, class, nationalism or identity and Buddhist political thought; nationalist movements and their Buddhist supporters and detractors. Papers from any Buddhist tradition, region, or historical period will be considered.

Dr. Melissa Anne-Marie Curley, Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University and author of *Pure Land/Real World: Modern Buddhism, Japanese Leftists, and the Utopian Imagination* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2017), will serve as the symposium keynote speaker.

Graduate students at any stage of their program are encouraged to submit paper proposals. Please send abstracts of no more than 500 words to Thomas Calobrisi (tcalobrisi@ses.gtu.edu). Please include your academic affiliation with your submission. The deadline for submission is June 15, 2018. Applicants will be notified about their submission by July 15, 2018.

Center for Islamic Studies New and Events

Please join us as we honor, remember and celebrate the life and work of our beloved friend, Mamade Kadreebux. The memorial will be held at GTU Library Board Room on May 12, from 12-6pm.

Ramadan Mubarak to all those observing the holy month (~May 15 to June 14). May it be a time of spiritual reflection and fulfillment.

Congratulations to all our students, visiting scholars, faculty and staff for a wonderful CIS 10th year anniversary year!

Student Awards

Student Travel Grants AY 18-19 | Cycle 1

Students who have papers accepted for the program of the Annual Meeting of the AAR, SBL, or other comparable national meeting or conference may compete in the GTU's Student Travel Grant competition. Winners are given cash awards to support the costs of attending the meeting. The Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee select recipients for this award. The grant is awarded in two cycles. The first cycle applies to meetings and conferences taking place between May 1st, 2018 and January 31st, 2019. To apply, see the [Student Travel Grants page](#) on the GTU website. The deadline for applications for cycle #1 of the grant is **September 17th, 2018.**

Chan Essay Prize in 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?

Essay prompts alternate from year to year: the prompt for AY 18-19 is "Religion and Economics."

The deadline for submissions is **September 17, 2018.**

PSR Center for LGBTQ & Gender Studies News

The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) is proud to announce its acceptance of the CLGS Andrew Ramer Collection. Ramer is a noted Jewish author and liturgist whose major life's work is a personal journal (begun in 1971) which is currently comprised of 146 notebooks, all of which can be found in the Collection. Interviewed with fifteen other gay elders in Mark Thompson's groundbreaking book *Gay Soul*, Ramer is the author of several books including *Two Flutes Playing*, *Queering the Text*, and *Torah Told Differently*.

The Collection contains Ramer's published and unpublished works, including his sketchbooks and paintings (he has illustrated several of his own books); his personal correspondence going back to childhood; and recordings of several interviews he has given over the years.

A reception to honor the work of Andrew Ramer and to celebrate the acceptance of his archives will be held on Sunday, 13 May 2018 from 7pm to 8:30pm in The Badè Museum at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California (1798 Scenic Avenue). This event will feature a reading by Andrew Ramer and remarks about the significance of this new archival collection by Bernard Schlager, CLGS Executive Director.

Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Caroline Read, MA-JST/SCU

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Sheryl Johnson, THET

Eric Sias, BIBL

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Michaela Eskew, ART

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Roy A. Fisher, NER

Advanced to Candidacy

Mary Ashley, Ethics and Social Theory



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 Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

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