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
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 Mbu, 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 Calabrisi 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

Lwan May Oo
THET
Student Advisory Committee

May Kosba
HCSR
Student Advisory Committee

Ayanna Grady-Hunt
REPR
Grievance Committee

Erika Katske
THET
Grievance Committee

Pamela Stevens
HCSR
Student Advisory Committee

Mariska Lauterboom
REPR
Library Committee

Sincerely,
Chaitanya Morapalli
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!
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
Barriles 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
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
Huzaifa Shahbaz  
* Islamophobia, White Supremacy, and the Far-Right  
Center for Islamic Studies  
WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)  
Marianne Farina, C.S.C.

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

Bran Stigile-Wright  
* Stories in Transition: American Evangelicalism, Heathenry, and Narrativizing Trans Identities  
San Francisco Theological Seminary

Laurie Garrett-Cobbina (Coordinator)  
James F. Lawrence

Ryoze Wada  
* Public and Private Aspects of Seikaku: Tendai Preacher and Pure Land Buddhist  
Institute of Buddhist Studies  
WITH HONORS

David Ryoe Matsumoto (Coordinator)  
Richard K. Payne

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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**Hannah Pheasant Faustino**

*Decolonizing the Digital Sphere*

Interdisciplinary Studies

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

**Decolonizing the Digital Sphere**

Interdisciplinary Studies

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

María 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  
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)
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 Shabbaz (MA), and Hamza Yusuf Hanson (PhD).


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. [Link](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.

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!

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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](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.

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Center for Islamic Studies

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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

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, CLGS), 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 homemade greeting 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