

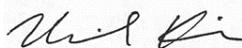
# GTU Dean's Newsletter

## FROM THE DEAN



I have yet to attend a rock festival in my life or, for that matter, any festival lasting multiple days. One day I'd like to go to the Burning Man festival, whatever that is, though it sounds scary. But every year I do participate in the annual meetings hosted by the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), which last for four to six days. It is considered the world's largest gathering of scholars and students of religion, theology, or scriptures, with over 10,000 attendees, more than 1,200 sessions, workshops, meetings, and tours, and more than 130 publishers displaying their latest books. I must confess that I experience an intellectual *high* at these gatherings (no Cannabis was involved). At this year's festival, as usual, the GTU was well represented, with more than 100 GTU faculty, students, and alumni appearing on the program book. I strongly encourage all GTU students to attend the annual gathering of AAR/SBL, which will take place in Denver next year (November 17-20), and the GTU provides some financial assistance in the form of travel grant to students who are presenting their papers. Even if you are not presenting a paper, I highly recommend your attendance. I think it comes closest to a rock festival for us.

One of the highlights at AAR/SBL for me over the years and even more so now that I am the GTU Dean is the GTU alumni reception. From 8 pm to 11 pm, people drop in and out to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, and to say hello to their former professors or students. It really feels like a village meeting. The centerpiece of the reception is the presentation of the GTU alum of the year. This year Dr. Virginia Burrus received the honor (<https://www.gtu.edu/news/dr-virginia-burrus-named-2017-gtu-alumna-year>). In her wonderful speech, Dr. Burrus said that where you do doctoral studies shape how you do your scholarship. She echoed my sentiment as well as that of many alumni who studied at the GTU. When I was honored as the alum of the year in 2013, I said, "It was at the GTU where I found my theological voice and where my scholarship was shaped into the kind that encourages ecumenical, interreligious, interdisciplinary, and socially engaged investigations." I know there are other top doctoral programs that can provide more financial and housing support than the GTU, but I don't think there is any program in the world that offers a context as exciting and rich as the GTU.



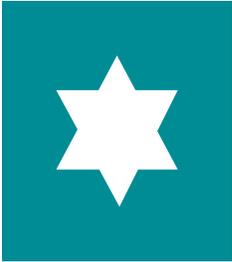
Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.  
 GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
 John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



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# Interreligious Collaborative Research Projects



Are you interested in conducting collaborative, interreligious research that addresses the persistent and perplexing issues of our time such as religious conflict, climate change, gender inequality, and economic disparity? If so, you may be interested in the **Interreligious Collaborative Research Projects** provided by the GTU. Originally created with help from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation in 2016, this program provides funding (\$5000 per team) to teams of collaborative researchers working on such issues from an interreligious perspective. Research teams must represent at least two religious traditions, contain at least three members, at least one of whom is an officially enrolled GTU student (MA, PhD or ThD), and must have a faculty mentor who is a member of the GTU's Core Doctoral Faculty. Research teams commit to engage with a non-profit organization working on their given issue of interest in order to implement the solutions they propose. Research projects can be related to class assignments as well as background research to theses and dissertations.

Proposal for the projects should be no more than two pages single-spaced, and should include a statement explaining the purpose of the research and its methodology, a signature from the proposed faculty mentor, as well as a brief statement on the importance of the proposed research for interreligious studies. All proposals should be submitted to the Office of the Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs by **February 15th, 2018**. No more than three grants will be awarded in each academic year.

More information on proposal criteria can be found at: <https://www.gtu.edu/interreligious-collaborative-research-projects>

# CARe Events

***Seeds of Contemplation: Works by Arturo Araujo, will be on view through December 7, 2017***

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery  
 Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10am-3pm

You're invited to join the **GTU Writing Group** Mondays from 8:30am-1:30pm in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery. Laptops, phones, and refreshments are welcome!

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery is located at 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley. Last group meeting is December 11, 8:30am-1:30pm.

**Brown Bag Lunch Series: Yohana Junker**

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

**Friday, December 1, 12-1pm.** Bring your sack lunch!

Guest speaker: Yohana Junker (PhD Candidate in Art & Religion and CARE Spring 2017 Grant Awardee)  
 Her presentation is titled, "Land Art in the American Southwest: A Journey Through Spiral Jetty, Sun Tunnels, and Seven Magic Mountains".

**Special Event! Left Coast Chamber Ensemble Performance**

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Sunday, December 3, 5-7pm

Free & open to the public. RSVP, seating is limited!

**Yoga in the Gallery**

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Wednesday, December 20, 12-12:45pm

**Open to all levels- last yoga session of the semester!**



## Center for Jewish Studies Events

**Six Cities: A Last Glimpse of Jewish Life in Poland, Summer 1939 with Gideon Greif**

December 5th, 2017 | 5:30pm

GTU Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709

# Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

CIS invites you to an artists forum to meet the artists in the current CIS 10th anniversary exhibition, ***Knowledge & Diversity***, showcased in the GTU library. We are grateful that Salma Arastu, Mamade Kadreebux, and Arash Shirinbab will share with us some of their artistic journeys and practices. Monday, December 4, GTU Library Board Room, 5:30-7:30pm.

CIS Director Dr. Munir Jiwa will be presenting, **(Study of) Islam/Muslims in Academia**, as part of the Zaytuna College lecture series. All are welcome to attend. Wednesday, December 6, Zaytuna College 2401 Le Conte Avenue, 7pm.

We are delighted to announce and invite you to our **CIS 10th anniversary celebration** to be held on Thursday, December 7. Representatives from Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office and Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin's office will join the celebration. We extend our gratitude to all who have supported our work over the years, and look forward to our continued work together. Come celebrate with us!

**Thursday, December 7, GTU Library**

**4:30-5:30 exhibition tour, meet/greet students, faculty and visiting scholars in Islamic Studies**

**5:45-7:15pm formal presentations**

**7:15-8:30 reception.**

## From the Dean of Students

### Intent to Graduate Forms

for Spring 2018 graduates are due on Wednesday, January 17 to the GTU Dean's Office for MAs, and for PhD/ThDs, submit to the GTU Office Manager Amberly Vincent. Forms are available on the web site at <https://www.gtu.edu/students/gtu-commencement>

### Mid-Year Orientation for First Year Doctoral Students

There will be a required mid-year "orientation" for doctoral students who started in the program during fall semester, 2017. The orientation will be Wednesday, January 24, 2018 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Dinner Board room. A tasty lunch will be provided!

### January Biblical Hebrew and Greek Exams

Register for the Biblical Hebrew and Greek language exams by December 15. Contact Fredonia Thompson, Academic Secretary, [ftompson@gtu.edu](mailto:ftompson@gtu.edu).

The Biblical Hebrew and Greek exams will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 9-10, 2018, respectively, from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day.

## Spring Doctoral Student Forum: Building Community at GTU

February 14, 12:30-2pm

Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte. *Chocolate and lunch provided.*

# Library News & Workshops

## News

### Improved E-journal portal

Have a citation for a journal article? Try our upgraded e-journal portal. Available from the library's electronic resources page, (<https://www.gtu.edu/library/resources>) this handy tool will help you find your citation in a flash. Just put in the title of the journal you are looking for (the publication title, not the article title) and you'll get a link to the online version. Please note, this will not link to print-only publications (those are still in GRACE), but will take you to the 43,394 online journals we have access to. From off-campus, just log in with your last name and student ID number or library barcode.

### New January Intersession Hours!

We are expanding our hours for January Intersession to be open later in the middle of the week.

Mondays, Thursdays, & Fridays:	8:30am-5pm
Tuesdays & Wednesdays:	8:30am-7pm
Saturdays:	11am-6pm
Sundays:	Closed

Normal hours will resume on the first day of the spring semester January 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Traveling over break? Check out an ATLA member library near you.

If you are going to be traveling during break and intersession, there may be a theological library near you that will allow you to borrow their books. Check the map for reciprocal libraries at: <http://libguides.gtu.edu/start/atlamap>

If there is not a library near you, we might be able to create an agreement for your use. Just let us know what city you are in and we will see what we can do. Email us at [library@gtu.edu](mailto:library@gtu.edu) Don't forget, we also have tons of e-books and online articles, wherever in the world you are!

## Workshops

### Assessment with Rubrics and Moodle's Gradebook

Performing concrete assessment is an important part of a course. One important tool is the grading rubric. This workshop provides ideas for creating rubrics, adding them to Moodle, and using Moodle's gradebook to do all the math for assessment.

Monday, December 4

Friday, December 8

### Teaching with Social Media **NEW!**

Social networking platforms like Facebook and Twitter have become very popular in the last decade, but are they effective as classroom tools? Join this workshop to discuss opportunities for including social media in residential and online classrooms.

Monday, December 11

Friday, December 15

# Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology

The **Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology** (BJRT) the academic journal of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley that is managed by GTU doctoral students under the supervision of the GTU's Academic Dean. The mission of the BJRT is to be an international and diverse forum of original, cutting-edge scholarship in religious studies, philosophy, and theology that reflects the GTU's endeavor to be a nexus for "where religion meets the world."

To this end, the editors of the BJRT invite scholars from various backgrounds to submit articles and book reviews for inclusion into the journal. The BJRT strongly encourages creative scholarship that reflects the mission of the BJRT. The deadline for all submissions for the next regular issue (Vol. 4, no. 1) is **FEBRUARY 1, 2018**. This is an excellent opportunity for students working on their RRR papers!

Instructions for Submissions and Style Guide for authors and book reviewers are available on the BJRT website (<http://gtu-bjrt.wix.com/bjrt>). For more information, please e-mail the managing editor at [bjrt@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:bjrt@ses.gtu.edu)

The BJRT is also looking for more peer reviewers to join the peer-review board. Additionally, Volume 3, No. 1 will be released later this calendar year!

## Monthly Interfaith Meditation and Discussion Group

**Now in its second year at the GTU!**

This group meets to build friendship, understanding, and appreciation between students of all religious and wisdom traditions. Our focus is on shared values of love, kindness, friendliness, and compassion.

Participants are guided in an interfaith kindness and compassion meditation (derived from the Buddhist traditions), for the purpose of personal exploration. Afterwards, facilitated discussion offers opportunities to talk and learn about how we draw on kindness, compassion, peace, joy, and forgiveness in our spiritual lives.



Our remaining meetings are 1:00pm-1:55pm Tuesdays on the GTU Campus in Berkeley:

December 5, in the Board Dinner room of the GTU library (2400 Ridge road, 2nd floor)

# Honorable Mentions and Corrigendum

## Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Jennifer Fernandez, THET

Thomas Calobrisi, HCSR

Stephan Quarles, THET

## Oral Comprehensive Passed

Eunjoo Kim, IDS, Distinction

Hannah Pheasant, IDS

## Advanced to Candidacy

Yohana Junker, ART

Cassie Lipowitz, CHSR

Daniel Shantu, THEO

## Dissertation Successfully Defended

Tae Woong Lee, BIBL

## Student Travel Grant Recipients

Daniel Moceri\*

Tripp Hudgins

Yohana Junker

Lai Shan Yip

Levi Checketts

Henry Kuo

Kate LeFranc

Rafael Okitafumba

Hyun Ho Peter Park

Jennifer Owens-Jofré

Stephan Quarles

Rondall Reynoso

Laura Jean Torgerson

Min Um

Joshua Warfield

\*Due to a clerical error, not listed in the November Newsletter.  
We express our sincerest apologies for this omission.



### 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](mailto:warce@gtu.edu)

## Graduate Theological Union

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