



# GTU Dean's Newsletter



## FROM THE DEAN

To my surprise, humming birds do take a rest, and do so for several minutes at a time. I was told that they almost never stop moving and rarely remain stationary. But there is this hummingbird that regularly perches on a particular tree branch in our backyard. At first, I wasn't sure it was a hummingbird, but my wife and two adult children have confirmed that indeed it is. We nicknamed it "Frederick" after the field mouse in Leo Lionni's beloved children's fable *Frederick* (Dragonfly Books, 1967). I do not know what Frederick the hummingbird was doing or thinking when it sat on the branch while its friends or siblings were busy eating every couple of minutes, but, thanks to Leo Lionni, we know that Frederick the field mouse was gathering "sun rays, colors, and words" while his brothers were busy day and night gathering "corn and nuts and wheat and straw" for the coming winter. The brothers were annoyed and questioned Frederick's work ethic, but during the long, dark, cold winter season they greatly appreciated Frederick's *supplies*. Indeed, it was Frederick's words and imagination that sustained this little community through the winter.

As we prepare ourselves for another semester of gathering "sun rays, colors, and words," we will be questioned by those who do not yet fully understand or appreciate what we do. Like Frederick's brothers, they will ask: "Why don't you work?" (meaning: get a *real* job like the rest of us); "What are you doing now?" (meaning: you are wasting your time); "How is school going?" (meaning: when will you be done with school?); "Are you dreaming?" (meaning: you are goofing off). Such disapproving attitudes will continue to increase as the corporatization of higher education intensifies and questions the slow pace and "unproductive" nature of the scholar's work. In *The Slow Professor: Challenging the Culture of Speed in the Academy* (University of Toronto Press, 2016), the authors encourage everyone in academia to resist this culture of speed which, they argue, compromises the quality of research, teaching, and mentoring. I have my share of disagreements with this book, but I think their overall thesis is correct. There is a crucial and necessary role that a place like the Graduate Theological Union plays in our society and the world. The GTU is a community of teachers, researchers, learners, and doers that encourages and sustains the work of Fredericks in the world. The GTU will be soon humming.

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Student Awards Info . . . 2**

**Filing Deadlines & Language Exams . . . . . 3**

**CARe & PDP Events . . . . 4**

**Library News . . . . . 5**

**Library Workshops, CIS News & Events . . . . . 6**

**GTU Welcome Reception & IBS Events . . . . . 7**

**Honorable Mentions . . . 8**



## Student Travel Grants

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. Winner 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. Applications are usually due September 15 (or the following Monday, if September 15 falls on a weekend) for the first cycle and February 15 for the second cycle (or the following weekend if February 15 falls on a weekend). Applications for the Student Travel Grant can be found on the GTU website (<https://www.gtu.edu/student-travel-grants>).

There are two award cycles for the GTU Student Travel Grant. For meeting and conferences occurring from July 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019, **submit your completed application no later than September 17, 2018 at 5 PM.** For meetings occurring February 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019, the deadline is February 15, 2019, 5 PM.

## Newhall Fellowship

Newhall Awards are competitive awards for GTU Doctoral students in collaborative teaching or research with 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. (If you apply for funding for two semesters, please note that the Awards Committee will fund projects for the one semester in which the course is to be taught or the research conducted.) Generally, awards are at least \$3000 per semester. The design of the project should require the student to spend only about 5 - 10 hours per week. Newhall awards offer a wonderful opportunity to work closely with professors whose interests and approaches parallel the student's own projects that often would not be possible under other circumstances.

The Newhall applications must come from both the student and the professor for a project involving both of them. The awards are designed to support both students (through grants) and faculty (through aiding their research and teaching). **Applications for the Newhall Fellowship are due no later than 5 PM on November 9, 2018.** Applications can be found on the GTU website (<https://www.gtu.edu/newhall-fellowship>).

## Chan Essay Prize

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 topic for essays submitted in Fall 2018 is "Religion and Economics." **The deadline for submissions is September 17, 2018.**

Hardcopy submissions can be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office; online submissions can be sent to [worce@gtu.edu](mailto:worce@gtu.edu). More information can be found on the GTU website (<https://www.gtu.edu/chan-essay-prize>).



# From the Dean of Students

## **Outstanding Dissertation Award from 2017-2018**

### **Congratulations to:**

Paul Houston Blankenship, Christian Spirituality, writing the dissertation “Spirituality on the Streets: An Ethnography of the Homeless Poor in Seattle”

## **Modern Language Exam**

The GTU Modern Foreign Language Exam will be offered Wednesday, September 26, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Dinner Board Room in the GTU Library. The exam will be offered in French, German, and Spanish, and in Italian and Modern Hebrew if there is interest. Students should contact Fredonia Thompson, GTU Academic Secretary, well in advance if they wish to be examined in an alternative language; in these cases, we will need student’s help to secure the examiner. Please register with Amberly Largusa, Student Affairs Office Manager (649-2400) ([alargusa@gtu.edu](mailto:alargusa@gtu.edu)) no later than September 12.

## **Thesis/Dissertation Filing Deadline for Fall Graduation**

October 1, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. is the deadline to file completed and approved copies of theses and dissertations or certification of oral examinations forms for MABL candidates for GTU approval of degree on October 19, 2018. This is also the deadline for certificate requests for CJS and CIS certificate students.

## **GTU Diversity: A Welcoming Reception for Students, Faculty, Staff of Color and International Students, Faculty, and Staff**

The student services offices of the GTU consortium are hosting this reception to celebrate the beginning of the academic year and a new journey with our diverse community. September 26, 4:30-6pm, Bade Museum, PSR.

## **Orientation to Doctoral Council and the Dissertation Proposal**

If you are planning to propose your dissertation in 2018-2019 you are strongly encouraged to attend this event, led by Dean of Students Kathleen Kook. September 12, 11am – noon, Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte. We will hold an additional session in early spring. Contact Kathleen Kook, [kkook@gtu.edu](mailto:kkook@gtu.edu) with questions.



# Center for Arts and Religion Events

**September 6**, 5pm-7pm, Doug Adams Gallery - Opening Reception for Fall 2018 exhibition, 'Gestures to the Divine: Works by Hagit Cohen'.

**September 7**, 12pm-1pm, Doug Adams Gallery – Brown Bag Lunch with Colette Walker, “Neo-Zoroastrianism in Modern Art Pedagogy: Johannes Itten and the Mazdaznan Movement”. “

Through his innovative curriculum design and teaching methods at the Bauhaus—the groundbreaking German school of art and design—Johannes Itten continues to exert a profound influence on art pedagogy worldwide, above all in the areas of color theory, composition and artistic experimentation. Less widely acknowledged is the degree to which his conceptions about artistic development were interwoven with his intensive spiritual pursuits. This was especially true during his years at the Bauhaus, 1919-1923, during which time Itten embraced a Neo-Zoroastrian sect, Mazdaznan, a new religious movement that advocated physical practices (such as vegetarianism, breathing exercises, and yoga-like movement) as a means for spiritual growth, and that has yet to receive sufficient scholarly attention. This talk will present my recent research on the history, beliefs, and practices of movement—a study made possible through the generous support of CARE—and will reflect on how Itten engaged and adapted Mazdaznan teachings within his own spiritually grounded art pedagogy.” Brown Bag Lunches are informal presentations given by GTU students, faculty and staff, held every Friday of the month. Bring your sack lunch!

**September 20**, 4:30pm, UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive – Third Thursdays at BAMPFA.

This month, Yohana Junker will reflect on the exhibition of Chilean-based artist Cecilia Vicuña's artwork, “Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen” (<https://bampfa.org/program/cecilia-vicu%C3%B1a-about-happen>). Each Thursday of the month, receive a complimentary ticket to visit the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive and hear a short talk by a GTU faculty member on an exhibition or artwork. A CARE staff member will meet you in the lobby of the museum to check in and distribute visitor's passes.

## Professional Development Program Events

**September 12th | 11am | Student Lounge**

Orientation to Doc Council, with Kathleen Kook

**September 26th | 2:30pm | Online via Zoom**

Doing Library Research from a Distance, with Beth Kumar



# Library News

## Library Lockers

All students can check out a free locker from the GTU library. The lockers are great for storing your laptop while you go to lunch, or for storing your checked-out books. PhD students can check out a locker for the academic year; all other students can check out a locker for the semester. To reserve a locker, stop by the Circulation Desk.

## Suggest a Purchase

Is there a book you think the library should own? Use the *Suggest a Purchase* form linked from the library homepage ([www.gtu.edu/library](http://www.gtu.edu/library)) to tell us, or come by the library and have a chat with our brand new Collection Development Librarian, Colyn Wohlmutter. She welcomes your suggestions on how to improve our collection.

## Library Workshops

Do you want to learn how to use Zotero, the citation management software? Do you have to write a paper on Bible scripture? Are you teaching and would like to incorporate more information literacy into your assignments? We have a workshop for you (and you, and you). Visit the library homepage, click on Services, and then Library Workshops to see the full list. All workshops are free and open to all.

## Library Art Exhibit

Next time you are in the library, be sure to check out the current art exhibit, "*View from the Bench: Social Justice in Art, Law, and Religion of the Chicano Community.*" The exhibit features a selection of drawings by Cruz Reynoso on his case notes while he served on the California State Supreme Court, as well as works by other Chicano artists. Rather than artists hiding their faith tradition, the Chicano community creates art about protest and social justice, which is fundamentally rooted in the community's faith tradition. Encompassing the back walls on level one and two, as well as the 36 display cases centered around artist Stephen De Staebler's *Winged Figure*, the exhibit will be on display until September 21. A closing artist roundtable will take place on **Thursday, September 20**, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the GTU Dinner Board Room. All are welcome to attend.

## GTU Library Annual Book Sale!

On or near the Feast Day of St. Jerome, patron saint of librarians, the library hosts a mega book sale on the Henry Mayo Newhall Plaza at the library entrance. This year's sale is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 25**, from 10am to 3pm. In case of rain, the sale will be moved indoors. Most hardbacks \$2; paperbacks \$1. If you have never been to this sale, you don't want to miss it. You never know what treasure(s) you might find! Light refreshments will be served.



## Library Workshops

### Course Design Workshops (all in Collaborative Learning Space)

#### *Designing for Flow and Function: An Overview of Moodle, Accessibility and Copyright*

Moodle provides lots of options for making online courses appear the way you want them. This introductory workshop on Moodle will guide participants through the Moodle interface with an eye toward design. This workshop will also look at Moodle's built-in tools to address issues of accessibility, as well as discuss issues related to copyright and fair use.

Monday, September 10, 10:00 to 11:30 am | Tuesday, September 11, 2:30 to 4:00 pm

#### *Developing Student Learning Outcomes and Universal Design for Learning*

Key to course development is the construction of concrete learning outcomes. This workshop details ways of creating and revising student learning outcomes, tying them to assessable artifacts, and looking at other forms of knowledge in Bloom's Taxonomy. Insights from cognitive science will inform the discussion of UDL, including learning preferences, "+1 thinking," and cognitive overload.

Monday, September 17, 10:00 to 11:30 am | Tuesday, September 18, 2:30 to 4:00 pm

#### *Content Delivery through PowerPoint, VoiceThread and Online Sources*

Learn the ins-and-outs of creating presentations for VoiceThread through PowerPoint, YouTube and other platforms, including storyboarding and editing your content. Ideas for incorporating video into your courses will also be discussed.

Monday, October 1, 10:00 to 11:30 am | Tuesday, October 2, 2:30 to 4:00 pm

*Additional workshops in October and November.*

## Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

Center for Islamic Studies extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students, instructors, staff and visiting scholars for the academic year 2018-2019. We are honored and grateful to have Professor Mark Massoud, Associate Professor of Politics and Legal Studies at UC Santa Cruz as a Visiting Scholar, and Dr. Liliu Chen, PhD in Islamic Studies from Stanford University, working on Muslim-Buddhist dialogue while at the CIS/GTU. We are delighted that Carol Bier, Historian of Islamic Art, will continue her work with the CIS/GTU as Research Scholar and also delighted that Dr. Kei Takahashi from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan will continue to be a visiting scholar in Islamic Studies with us.

CIS is delighted to share that Carol Bier will be participating in the 16th Biennial Textile Society of America Symposium on the theme of The Social Fabric: Deep Local to Pan Global, held in Vancouver, Sept 19-23. Congratulations!

CIS is honored to host a tea with Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub at the end of September. Please see [www.gtu.edu/cis](http://www.gtu.edu/cis) for further details, or contact CIS program coordinator, Mahjabeen Dhala: [mdhala@gtu.edu](mailto:mdhala@gtu.edu).



# 2018 GTU Welcome Reception

The GTU Dean's Office invites all members of  
the GTU Consortial Community to the

## GTU Welcome Reception

**Wednesday September 12th, 3:30 PM | Richard S. Dinner Boardroom**

**Flora Lamson Hewitt Library (3rd floor)**

**2400 Ridge Road**

**Berkeley, CA 94709**

Food and Beverages will be served! Vegan and Vegetarian options available!

At 4:00pm, there will be a brief program introducing new faculty and visiting scholars.

## Institute of Buddhist Studies Events

### 2018 IBS Graduate Student Symposium

#### Buddhist Political Engagements

How has Buddhist thought, cosmology, or ethics been used to engage, disengage, critique, or conform to systems of social order and political power? Graduate student presenters will explore the various discursive strategies Buddhist 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. The keynote address for the Symposium, delivered by **Dr. Melissa Anne-Marie Curley** (Ohio State University), is entitled: "Impure Land: Ethical Living for Evil People."

#### Student presenters include:

**Brent Beavers**, GTU and IBS | **Ismail Buffins**, Harvard Divinity School | **Adrien Chorn**, University of California, Berkeley | **CJ Dunford**, GTU and IBS | **Blayne Higa**, IBS | **Timothy Loftus**, Temple University | **Briana Morseth**, Dharma Realm Buddhist University

**When:** Friday, October 5, 2018 from 1 PM to 6 PM | **Where:** Institute of Buddhist Studies, 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704 | **For more info** contact the Symposium Program Coordinator, Thomas Calobrisi, at [tclobrisi@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:tclobrisi@ses.gtu.edu).



# Honorable Mentions

## **Comprehensive Proposal Approved**

Pasesa Sapolu, BIBL  
Pravina Rodrigues, THET  
Insoo Kim, THEO  
Amanda de Joinville, ART  
Bright David, THEO  
Nicole De Leon, ART  
Jaesung Ryu, THET  
Kai Le Franc, THEO

## **Oral Comprehensive Passed**

Nancy Gutgsell, HIST  
Loretta E. Johnson, THEO  
Aline Gram Lewis, SPRT  
Stephan Quarles, THET  
Daniel Mocerri, IDS  
Nicole De Leon, ART

## **Advanced to Candidacy**

May 2018  
Sean Albrecht, Biblical Studies  
I Sil Yoon, Ethics and Social Theory

## **Dissertation Successfully Defended**

Evan Hershman, BIBL  
Kijung Nam, SPRT  
Jennifer Owens-Jofre, IDS  
Horacio Da Valle, THEO



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.

Please send submissions to

Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

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