



President's Column

Global Notebook

Winter 2020

Global Ministries University recognized the 18 years of service by Jean and Mike Conley to the university on Monday, November 18, 2019. Members of the University staff met over Zoom and recounted how Jean and Mike helped to lay a foundation for the GMU administration that included the degree programs, creation of the GMU Classroom course management system and initiation of numerous new initiatives such as our recent online graduation and the development of an innovative celebrant training program. Jean and Mike will continue as GMU faculty and provide consultancy services to the University. They were awarded the first international Leadership Service commendation given by GMU.



In December, we welcomed new administrative officers for GMU in Mary Ann Cejka, who assumed the role of Provost and Mary Aktay, the Vice-President of Marketing and Development. Our new team was very busy in the month of December and early January in completing the design and development of a new Certificate of Creation Spirituality under the guidance of the new Chair of the GMU Creation Spirituality Department, Doctor Matthew Fox, author of more than 50 books on creation spirituality and mysticism. We are launching this new program which will soon be available on the GMU website.

Indeed, we will be launching an entirely new GMU website with the help of our new technical consultant and social media expert, Rick Silvestri

All are invited to a GMU course launch and book promotion event on Feb. 14 at the Maryknoll Sisters' Center in Monrovia, CA.

The course: I will be co-teaching an interfaith course with Nihal Sahan, a GMU Doctor of Theology graduate in Sufism, in conjunction with the Pacifica Institute of Los Angeles.

The book: GMU faculty member John Raymaker and I have co-authored *Pope Francis: Conscience of the World*.

The event will be open to the public and include a dinner and interfaith presentation. More information is available on GMU's website.

In November we welcomed to our home Doctor Frank Pisciotto, GMU graduate and member of the Kenya education team over the past several years, and Esther Nditi, a Kenyan specialist in interfaith work who recently immigrated to the US under the sponsorship of the Coptic Church in the San Diego area. She will be undertaking ministry studies with GMU and hopes to also become part of a pastoral studies program linked to the University of Santa Clara Pastoral Studies program. During Frank and Esther's visit to our home in November, we also met with Doctor Teresia Hinga of the Religious Studies Department and Doctor Catherine Murphy, Associate Chair of Pastoral Studies, both at Santa Clara University.

Doctor Hinga was our keynote speaker at the 2019 interfaith training conference in Mombasa, Kenya, sponsored by GMU.

We are excited about the expansion of GMU programs as well as the addition of our new staff; and we warmly welcome Doctor Mathew Fox to our GMU faculty.

Gerald Grudzen

President

Global Ministries University



From left to right: Dr. Frank Pisciotto, Dr. Gerald Grudzen, Esther Nditi, Dr. Teresia Hinga, Dr. Catherine Murphy. Photo taken at Santa Clara University