

GMU Graduation Ceremony Held at FCM/CORPUS Joint Conference



Global Ministries University held its annual graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 26 during the joint conference of Federation Christian Ministries and CORPUS in Dallas, Texas.

All graduates are invited to participate in the ceremony, however, because our students are spread all over the country and world, not all graduates are able to attend. This year, Carol Hushek was able to participate in the ceremony. Ms. Hushek earned her Master of Theology degree in Global Spirituality in November of 2009.

She shared with conference participants that she didn't think she could earn a degree at this stage of her life but her husband and children encouraged her to do so and she is so happy that she did.

Ms. Hushek (l), Dr. Grudzen (r)

A Message from the President

GMU Affiliates with International Conference of Globalization for the Common Good

In the past few months we have made substantial progress toward the development of an international conference of Globalization for the Common Good that will be held in June 2011 at the Library of Alexandria in Alexandria, Egypt. Globalization for the Common Good is a social justice and interfaith oriented organization based in the United Kingdom and founded by Doctor



Kamran Mofid, an international leader in the movement to reform the world economic system based on the historic ethical traditions of the major world religions. Global Ministries University has played a key role in raising initial seed funding for this conference, which will be the tenth anniversary both for GMU and GCG, and also participated in the planning and organization of the 2010 GCG conference held this past June at California Lutheran University in Thousand

Oaks, CA.

We are presently soliciting proposals for papers to be presented at the 2011 conference in Alexandria. If you are interested either in attending the conference or presenting a paper as part of a panel, please let me know. For more information regarding the Alexandria conference [CLICK HERE](#)

Presentation at 2010 Conference

In addition to the Alexandria conference program, we are also exploring a relationship with the Library of Alexandria's Institute for Peace Studies. We have submitted a formal proposal to the Institute of Peace Studies to establish a joint graduate program of GMU and the Institute of Peace Studies. Based on preliminary meetings held in the past week with the Institute of Peace Studies in Alexandria and led by our representative and GMU faculty member, Doctor AbdulMawgoud Dardery, the possibility for launching such a program looks quite favorable in conjunction with the 2011 conference. We will be reporting on the progress of these negotiations in the coming months.

GMU is also launching a pilot program in Islamic Studies which focuses on interfaith and intercultural dialogue with the Islamic world. Doctor Dardery will lead this program. He is a Fulbright scholar with extensive background in intercultural and interfaith work in the United States, Egypt and the Middle East.

I have just returned from an interfaith program in Turkey developed by the Pacifica Foundation of California and will report on this project in the next edition of the newsletter.

Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D.

MEET OUR FACULTY

Matthew Kosuta, Ph.D., one of the many competent instructors on the Global Ministries University staff, is proudly featured in this publication.



Dr. Kosuta has just recently joined the Global Ministries University faculty and teaches Introduction to Buddhism and Ethics of War in Religion. He resides in Thailand and teaches at the College of Religious Studies - Mahidol University in Thailand. He has been teaching at the College of Religious Studies since 2006 and has been the Assistant Director of CSR's International MA and Ph.D. programs since 2008. Mahidol is the university with which GMU is affiliated and offers the Joint Doctor of World Religions/Ph.D. program.

He received his Ph.D. from the Universite' du Quebec a' Montreal in Montreal, Canada and his dissertation was entitled: *Early Buddhism, Karma, and War: Searching for a Karma-Based Ethics of War*. He also holds a diploma in Buddha Dhamma from the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Yangon, Myanmar, and a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from the Universite' du Quebec a' Montreal.

Matthew's current research interests include Theravada Buddhism, Thai astrology, Southeast Asia indigenous religious practice, religions and war, and Hatha-Yoga. He speaks English and French, and has a high proficiency in Thai and Pali.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Global Ministries University student body includes a variety of outstanding individuals that have a variety of backgrounds and ministries. Dan Lee is highlighted in this edition.



Dan Lee is enrolled in the Global Ministries University Joint Doctoral/Ph.D. degree program. This is a new program being offered through GMU and Dan is the first candidate.

He is currently working toward a Doctor of World Religions with GMU and, upon completion of the doctor degree program, he will then work toward a Ph.D. through the College of Religious Studies – Mahidol University in Thailand. Dan holds a Master of Arts degree from Adam Smith University in conjunction with Southern Methodist

University and a Bachelor of Arts from Texas State University, Summa Cum Laude.

At the present time he works part time as a research engineer and is also a pastor of a home group. He is an independent Protestant with a desire to see Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox communities work together to love the world in the name of Christ. He intends to direct extended workshops for a retreat center where participants would explore major world religions.

Dan is also a lay theologian. In this role he has written articles for Christian theological journals; supported an elder board and bible teachers with point papers on difficult issues; and developed curricula for, and led, adult bible studies (topical theological studies and biblical book studies).

He enrolled in the Global Ministries University Joint Program for a number of reasons: first of all, he has a desire to assess his own beliefs in the context of a full understanding of other religions; secondly, he would like to be able to interact more knowledgeably and compassionately with those of other faiths; and lastly, he has an anthropological fascination with the origins of religion. Though he obviously looks forward to graduating, he finds the program to be quite enjoyable and has equal anticipation for the learning and analysis which remain as he works through the program.

Dan Lee grew up in Vietnam and the Philippines as the son of missionary parents. He is married, has three grown daughters, and resides in a semi-rural area just outside Fort Worth, Texas.

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Send feedback, comments, questions to Jean Conley, editor and Vice-President for Operations and Development, at GMU5053@aol.com.

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