

**GMU Dean, Dr. Bridget Mary Meehan, Featured on AOL News!**

The following You Tube of Bridget Mary Meehan, D.Min., Dean of the GMU Doctor of Ministry degree program being interviewed by Huffington Post was featured on AOL News recently. (View the entire interview by clicking on the link below.)



[Bridget considers herself a devout Catholic – but a controversial thing she did has gotten her excommunicated by the Vatican.](#)

[Practice the Church says is a terrible sin](#)



Bridget Mary was ordained a priest in the first USA ordination in Pittsburgh on July 31, 2006 and was ordained a bishop in Santa Barbara, California in the historic ordination of four bishops in the United States on April 19, 2009. She is author of eighteen books including *Living Gospel Equality Now: Loving in the Heart of God*, a story about her journey to priesthood in the women priest movement (Roman Catholic Women Priests). Huffington Post comments: *“The Catholic church is the biggest religion in the world, but can seem outdated. One reason is the refusal to allow female priests. Is there a change on the horizon?”*

**GMU Now Offers a Reduction in Tuition for Prior Learning Credit**

Beginning this year Global Ministries University will reduce an applicant’s tuition \$25 for each credit awarded for prior learning and/or life experience. The three programs applicable are the Bachelor of Religious Studies, Master of Divinity, and Master of Theology degree programs. As an example, the Master of Theology degree program requires 36 credits and allows a maximum of 18 credits for prior learning and life experience. If an applicant were to receive the full 18 credits, his/her tuition would be reduced \$450 (18 credits x \$25). The reason for this change is to grant applicants a reduction in tuition for their prior learning, as well as a reduction in the number of courses taken in order to earn a degree.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

GMU has taken the initiative in proposing an expansion of the interfaith work undertaken in Kenya last August by developing a pilot project for an interfaith educational training program in conjunction with the Central Coast Interfaith Council of Mombasa, Kenya chaired by Father Wilybard Lagho, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Mombasa. Our proposed partner in this effort will be the Alumni Association of the American College of Louvain University in Belgium.

With the assistance of William Weiskopf, a Louvain alumni, and John Raymaker, a member of the GMU board who resides in Germany, we have made fruitful contacts with the key faculty of Louvain and also with the president of the alumni association, Father Ray Collins of Providence, Rhode Island. My wife, Marita, and I travelled to Rhode Island to meet with Father Collins and William Weiskopf over the Christmas holiday and arranged a phone conference with Father Lagho in Kenya to discuss our proposed interfaith training program scheduled for August, 2013 in Mombasa. We are seeking seed money to expand the program to a weeklong educational seminar for community interfaith leaders followed by a yearlong mentorship utilizing distance learning technologies. Our hope is that this educational program will be a first step toward future collaboration with the alumni and faculty of Louvain University as well as a deepening of our relationship with the people of Kenya and Africa. We are also exploring other distance learning projects in Kenya and invite GMU faculty and students who might be interested in participating in these projects to please contact us. A group of independent Catholic priests in Kenya has asked us to help them establish an affiliate of GMU in Kenya which will specialize in African theological and moral issues.

Gerald Grudzen, PhD  
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## MEET OUR FACULTY

**Mary Ann Cejka, Ph.D., one of the many competent instructors on the Global Ministries University faculty, is proudly featured in this publication.**

Mary Ann Cejka teaches three courses in the GMU peace studies programs, including Nonviolence: Spirituality, Theory, & Practice, Religious Fundamentals of Peace Building, and Making Global Peace: Negotiation and Mediation for Religious Leaders. She also teaches a graduate course in multicultural psychology for the University of Phoenix. Dr. Cejka holds a B.A. in Religious Studies from Loyola Marymount University, an M.Div. from Yale, and a Ph.D. in psychology from Purdue. A seven-country study of grassroots peacemaking efforts that she directed for the Maryknoll Society is described in detail in a volume titled *Artisans of Peace* (Orbis, 2003), which received the Pax Christi Book Award the following year. A longtime activist for peace & justice issues and for Catholic Church reform, Dr. Cejka's articles have appeared in a number of periodicals including *National Catholic Reporter*, *Maryknoll*, *America*, *The Christian Century*, *Sojourners*, and *The Catholic Worker*.



## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Global Ministries University student body includes a variety of outstanding individuals with diverse and notable backgrounds and ministries. Amanda Hohmann is highlighted in this edition.**



Amanda is enrolled in our Mini-Certificate in Peace Studies, which is offered by GMU free of charge with the purpose of promoting peace in the world. She has a Masters degree in cultural studies, an honors BA in sociology/anthropology, and is planning to begin work on a PhD in a couple of years. The college at which Amanda teaches had recently begun offering a peace studies program and she felt that this certificate would offer her some concrete and useful skills to help her students with their studies. She teaches from a pro-peace perspective for many of her courses and believes she can and does have an impact on how her students see the world around them. She is also currently putting together an online project to promote peace, which she hopes to have launched sometime this year.

Amanda affirms Global Ministries University, asserting that *'the option of this program is fantastic!'* She is married, has three children, ages five, four, and one that is not quite two years old, and she and her family reside in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada.

## CLASSROOM SHOWCASE

**Students of Global Ministries University submit outstanding coursework. This paper was submitted by Mary Ann Sinclair, a graduate of the Master of Theology in Sacred Arts degree program. The following material is an excerpt of her essay submitted in Old Testament Studies, which offers a correlation between Micah's message and the message of Jesus.**

*Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah, lives in the countryside outside of Jerusalem by about 20 miles. He has the ear of the poverty stricken agricultural community. He leaves home to travel on foot to deliver the oracles of a different perspective than Isaiah. He shames the wealthy for their greed. He calls them on their injustices to the landholders by raising high taxes to increase their wealth; unjust seizure of land (the farmer's only possession, livelihood and family inheritance) and for weighting the scales for more profit. Micah says the "Faithful have vanished from the land and there is no honest one left." (Micah 7:2) Micah is the first political activist seeking justice for the masses. He appeals to the powers by their own model of judge to seek justice. "Yahweh has a case against his people..." (Micah 6:2) "You have already been told what is right and what Yahweh wants of you. Only this, to do what is right, to love loyalty and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8) He too predicts the destruction of Israel. To the king he says: "Thanks to you, Zion will be plough land; Jerusalem a heap of rubble.*

*Micah awakes the consciousness of humanitarian thinking and compassion for his fellow human beings. He attempts to spiritually strip the wealthy of the bangles and seeks a commonality among men. If Isaiah also is concerned with this thinking. In these writings Isaiah presents the image of a "Servant" as leader rather than a king. The "Servant" symbolizes truth. He elevates the suffering of the people to sacrifice and atonement. The "Servant" acts on behalf of the people to bear all affliction, hatred and hostility. The "Servant" transforms the known world's anger into love, repairs dignity and promotes kindness. The mission of the Chosen People has now transcended the physical promise of land to a spiritual arrival of consciousness and unity under Yahweh. The act of the "Servant" to lift their burdens (yokes) is a transformed message of hope. It is this imagery that has been read in the synagogues. The disciples attach this "Servant" personality to Jesus. Hence, Jesus fulfils the Old Testament. Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. Jesus is seen as the fulfillment of hope.*

As Ms. Sinclair was into her assignments for this course, she writes to her instructor: *"When I began this course, I thought of it as a task to reach the New Testament. I was not prepared for how much joy and enthusiasm I have encountered so far in these scriptures."*

## Become a Friend of GMU on Facebook

Global Ministries University invites you to show your support for our unique and inclusive online learning institution that offers courses to equip people from a variety of faith traditions to minister with integrity, competence, and professionalism. **[Become a Friend of GMU Now!](#)**

Send feedback, comments, and/or questions to Jean Conley, editor and Vice-President for Operations and Development, at [GMU5053@aol.com](mailto:GMU5053@aol.com).