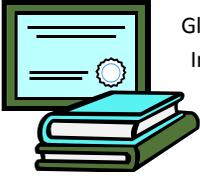


New Degree Program Focused on Interreligious Studies



Global Ministries University now offers a Master of Interreligious Studies Degree Completion Program with tuition that is less than half of the other master's programs tuition, \$3,150.* The purpose of this program is to build interfaith understanding and to strengthen interreligious and cross-cultural communications skills.

The Master of Interreligious Studies Degree requires 36 credits. Students who are accepted into this program must hold a bachelor's degree and also have 18 graduate level prior learning and/or life experience credits. If the applicant has the 18 prior learning and life experience, s/he would need to earn just four 3-credit courses and submit an Interreligious Project or Thesis (6 credits). (Evaluation of prior learning and life experience credits is conducted through an assessment process. If less than 18 credits are granted, there is an additional charge for each additional course needed.) If you are interested in this program, contact the Admissions Office for further information or [APPLY NOW](#).

*The tuition is significantly lower in an effort to make it more affordable in areas of the world where there is turmoil and war because of religious divisions but little money to educate the people. This program is a follow-up of a [five-day seminar on interreligious dialogue](#) conducted this summer in Mombasa, Kenya of which Dr. Grudzen, GMU President, and his wife, Marita, were participants.

Help Wanted

Global Ministries University in the process of expanding and needs an Enrollment Specialist. Following is a series of questions and answers that offer pertinent information related to the position:



What is an Enrollment Specialist? The primary objective of an Enrollment Specialist is to increase the number of students.

What does an Enrollment Specialist do? The basic part of this position is to process the inquiries received and follow up on all prospects either by phone or email. This part of the job involves around two hours a week. In addition to the required routine tasks, the Enrollment Specialist explores ways to increase enrollment at one's discretion, for example, send promotional material to prior inquirers using our mailing list and mailing service, implement social media, search for grants and donors, and other creative efforts.

What kind of a person are you looking for? We are looking for an individual who is personable, articulate, not a high-power sales type but assertive and somewhat outgoing.

What are the requirements for this position? A great deal of this job involves communication via email, therefore, it would be necessary to have access to a computer, to type, and have good English skills. Furthermore, although the person can be trained, it is a plus to know something about the University and how it functions. It would also be a plus to have some kind of marketing skills.

What is the salary? This position is not a full-time job but, rather, it is ideal for someone who would like to supplement their income. They would receive a monthly salary based on two hours work a week. However, they would receive a stipend for each applicant in a degree or certificate program, which could draw considerable more income, depending on the number of applicants acquired.

What are the benefits? There are many benefits to this position:

- Although you would need to respond to inquirers in a timely manner, it is possible to fit your work schedule into your lifestyle and other responsibilities.
- You work out of your home and, as a result, do not have the drawbacks of commuting, i.e., time traveling and gasoline expenses.
- You have the opportunity to talk with delightful and interesting individuals.
- You have the opportunity to assist individuals, who are intent on serving others and/or growing spiritually, meet their academic needs.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a one-page summary that describes why you believe you are a good fit for this position to Jean Conley, VP for Operations and Development, at info@globalministriesuniversity.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Malala Yousafzai and Religious Extremism Malala Yousafzai of the Swat Valley in Pakistan has become a worldwide advocate for education for youth and young girls after she was shot in the head by the Taliban in October of 2012. Prior to the shooting she had already developed a reputation for challenging the limitations placed on young girls by the Taliban in that region of Pakistan. She has received numerous awards including recognition by the United Nations where she spoke in July of this year and nomination for the Nobel Peace prize.

Mombasa Interfaith Conflicts The issue which Malala has focused upon, the education of youth and girls in particular, brings to the forefront our concern for the problem of religious intolerance and religious extremism in various parts of the developing world. It is clear that education is needed to help foster a philosophy of nonviolence (ahimsa), pluralism in religious beliefs and global interdependence throughout the world. In the country of Kenya, Global Ministries University is taking part in an education project which we began in August of 2012 to support the work of the Mombasa Interfaith Council of Clerics, which advocates for interreligious cooperation in an area of the world where intercultural and interreligious violence has become commonplace. The attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi on September 21st occurred just four weeks after we returned from Kenya at the end of August where we had taken part in a series of interreligious seminars sponsored jointly by the Global Ministries University, the Mombasa Coast Council of Clerics and the American College Alumni of Louvain University. Shortly after the Westgate Mall attack, further violence in Mombasa occurred when a Muslim cleric and his associates were gunned down by unidentified assailants. After this attack on the cleric, street violence erupted in the center of Mombasa.

GMU Interfaith and Peace Projects As part of our global effort to foster peace and justice education in the Mombasa Region, several teams were formed in August of this year to seek interreligious cooperation primarily in regard to improvements in the quality of education in the Mombasa district of Kenya. I would encourage you to view a [video interview](#) I did with Director of the Respect Foundation in Kenya and a member of our interfaith team we have taken on in Mombasa, Fatih Akdogan. Without quality education, it is difficult to see any way to combat the extremism and intolerance that has led to violence against both Christians and Muslims in the nation of Kenya.

We are presently working together with the Mombasa Coast Council of Clerics to obtain additional funding to expand our interfaith education initiative which now has 16 participants in the project from diverse educational, cultural and religious backgrounds. We have also developed a new Master Degree Program in Interreligious Studies (see article in left column), which we will be offering to several colleges and universities in East Africa. Additionally, GMU offers a Master's Degree and Certificate in Peace Studies and, in our efforts to promote peace, we sponsor a Promote Peace Project which gives participants the opportunity to earn a Mini-Certificate in Peace Studies free of charge. Internet based education is just emerging as a possible powerful force in African and other parts of the developing world and GMU is now becoming recognized as an international leader in the realm of interfaith education.

Gerald Grudzen, PhD, President

MEET OUR FACULTY

Judith Johnson, Ph.D., teaches Feminist Ethics and Moral Theology, *Feminist Theology: Its Roots and Revelations*, and Sexuality and Spirituality. She holds a doctorate in Religion, plus 4 Master of Arts degrees in the following areas of concentration: *Women's Studies in Religion, Roman Catholic Religious Studies, Theatre Arts, and English*.



She has an extensive background in journalism, research writing, commercial art, and teaching and is currently freelance writing three books in final stages: *Priestshakers*, *Ode to a Brass God*, and right now she is focused on finishing *Haygood*, a novelized biography about Atticus Haygood, a 19th-century Methodist churchman—known as the “architect of the New South”—who became the leading activist for college education for blacks in the postbellum South.

Dr. Johnson has numerous impressive accomplishments. She has been a Congressional press assistant in D.C., part of a filmmaking team in Hollywood, and a Shakespearean scholar in London. She had her first 3-act play produced under Samuel French Agency and for this she obtained a Shubert Foundation Playwriting Fellowship to Villanova (PA). She wrote a play on Nikola Tesla that earned a Sweepstakes award from the Philadelphia Women Writers conference; and she won an international set-design award for her staging of *Music Man* at the Armed Forces Staff. For a film script called *Morningstar*, she won a distinction award for a film script from the American Film Institute.

Judith is the widow of two military officers. She has lived in seven states, as well as Germany, Belgium, England, and Italy and presently resides in in Virginia Beach, VA (almost on the sand) and thinks that it is a wonderful place to write and dream up fantasies!

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Donnieau Snyder holds Bachelor of Art degree in Behavioral Science, a Master of Art degree in Counseling with a specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy, a PhD in Psychology and is currently enrolled in the Global Ministries University Master of Theology degree program.

She is a licensed marriage and family therapist and works with teens and young adults experiencing first psychotic break or are at risk for the development of psychosis. She is also a local area college chair for the college of social sciences at University of Phoenix, and teaches at California State University at Stanislaus. She has a small private practice working as a legal expert witness in child and adolescent treatment for law firms as well as work on research studies as an independent research consultant.

Donnieau is a candidate for the Roman Catholic Women priesthood and enrollment in the GMU master's program is part of her discernment process as she journeys toward priesthood. It is her heartfelt prayer to someday become a Roman Catholic woman priest and this educational opportunity allows her to explore and examine the academia that she has longed to study, basically, all her life.

Her ministry involves working with the mentally ill and assisting those that seek to explore their faith to learn, experience, and integrate their own faith into their lives as a supportive strength. She belongs to a Roman Catholic community with a Roman Catholic women priest as president. This community is her foundation, her nourishment, and her blessing. She is also helping to form another Roman Catholic faith community. She considers herself blessed to celebrate in these two amazingly wonderful communities.

Since childhood she has wanted to pursue religious life but those plans, all be it her own, were not the plans that were laid in her path. She sees completing this degree as nurturing and feeding her own spiritual hunger, which will provide a completely different experience of the term “accomplishment.” She judges that, in addition to feeling accomplished, she will feel spiritually fed by the knowledge gained through her studies.

Donnieau asserts, *“It is amazing how the Holy Spirit moves. I never dreamed I would be able to take such an amazing journey in life and I am so grateful to Global Ministries University for such an amazing learning opportunity. I have thoroughly enjoyed each class and every instructor is so very impressive with their backgrounds and areas of expertise. I am humbled to be part of this university.”*

Ms. Snyder is single and resides in the central valley of California in a little town called Ceres.

CLASSROOM SHOWCASE

Students of Global Ministries University produce outstanding coursework. This paper was submitted by Tony MacCarthaigh, a Doctor of Ministry student who resides in Ireland. An assignment from the course entitled 'Exploring the Identity and Role of Jesus,' his paper brings forth a thought-provoking concept related to the story of creation in light of the scientific findings concerning evolution.



The assignment is in answer of the following question:

What difference does a contemporary understanding of the universe and the development of life on earth make to the way the story of Jesus is to be told and understood?

"A pilgrim was walking a long road when one day he passed what seemed to be a monk sitting in a field. Nearby men were working on a stone building. 'You look like a monk', the pilgrim said. 'I am that', said the monk. 'Who is that working on the abbey?' 'My monks', said the man. 'I'm the abbot'. 'It's good to see a monastery going up,' said the pilgrim. 'They're tearing it down,' said the abbot. 'Whatever for?' asked the pilgrim. 'So we can see the sun rise at dawn,' said the abbot. (p.10; "Meditations – on the monk who dwells in daily life"; HarperCollins; 1994)

The above story serves well the main point that I wish to make. A changed lens is needed so that we may be better equipped to appreciate the sunrise, the light and the spirit emanating from the story, message, life and presence of Jesus.

A wonderful documentary series, *'Humanity Ascending, a new way through together'*, – Part 1: *'Our Story'* and Part 2: *'Visions of a Universal Humanity'* (Quantum Productions in association with the Foundation for Conscious Evolution) – offers a very comprehensive insight into the story of creation that science is opening up to us today. I was so impressed by the presentation that I transcribed the views that were expressed in order to meditate on them and to let them inform my Christian faith and visa versa. The views below owe a huge debt to the thoughts and images of the different speakers in that documentary series.

Barbara Marx Hubbard – a central figure in the presentations - begins with some questions that have been fundamental for her life's journey. What is the meaning and significance of all of humanity's new powers in science, technology, etc. that is good? What are the positive images of the future that are equal to and fully develop humanity's new scientific and technological powers? Or simply put, where is human civilization going that we want to embrace? [Click Here To Read the Entire Article](#)

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, Global Ministries University, info@globalministriesuniversity.org