

GMU Expands in 2014

It is with great pride that we report that Global Ministries University continues to grow and the increase in enrollment has made it necessary to expand our workforce. As a consequence, GMU has realigned its structure and added the following new positions to its administrative staff:



Dean of Academic Affairs This new position is held by Joseph Ruane, Ph.D. Dr. Ruane is also the Dean of the Bachelor of Religious Studies and will now function in two roles. As Dean of Academic Affairs, he will maintain instructor's files, course evaluations from students and provide support for the instructors. We are so grateful that he has agreed to take on this very important role.



Registrar This position is held by Gail Schultz, who has served as our Admissions Associate for a number of years. However, we have now extended her responsibilities and, in addition to the admissions process, she will also be in charge of maintaining student files, recording grades, and tracking the progress of each student. We have been very fortunate to have Gail on our staff and are confident that she will continue to do a fine job in this role.



Enrollment Specialist We have hired a new employee for this position, Lee McCoy, M.Ed., M.A. She has 28 years of post-secondary teaching experience and is currently the Coordinator of the English/Communications Department at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario. She will handle the inquiries we receive related to enrollment and explore ways to increase our student body. We are delighted to have Lee join us. With her background and experience, she is a valuable addition to our staff.

Global Ministries University has earned the trust of the public because of its excellent curriculum, competent faculty, and respectable reputation and we anticipate an even more successful year in 2014.

GMU PROMOTES WORLD PEACE

There are many ways to promote peace in the world but education is certainly one of the most effective approaches. As an online university, GMU has the capacity to educate individuals globally and, as a consequence, we have implemented the following programs:

- A [Peace Project](#) that enables individuals to earn a Certificate in Peace Studies free of charge.
- A [Seminar in Mombasa, Kenya](#), focused on building interfaith understanding and strengthening interreligious and cross-cultural communications skills. GMU President, Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D., and his wife, Marita, were participants in this project which took place this past summer and they plan to return to Kenya to continue this program in 2014, if the funding is acquired.
- A [Masters Degree in Interreligious Studies](#) designed to complement the Kenyan seminar. The tuition for this degree program has been set as low as possible in an effort to make it more affordable to third world countries.
- [Numerous stimulating courses](#) related to promoting peace, interreligious studies, and world religions.

There are clergy and laypersons in third world countries, such as Kenya, that desire to be educated in peace and interreligious dialogue but do not have the financial means to do so. **We invite you to help us promote world peace by making a donation. What could be a more worthwhile endeavor considering the turmoil in the world today? [CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE](#)**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we start a new year in 2014, I wish to reflect for a few moments on the past year and the advances and accomplishments that have been made. Just one year ago we hoped to find support for a proposed GMU interfaith experiment in Nairobi, Kenya which we had envisioned with the staff of the major interfaith organization in Mombasa, Kenya, the Coast Council of Interfaith Clerics after our visit there in 2012.



At the time, we lacked the funding for a proposed one week intensive seminar in Mombasa, Kenya, which was to be followed by a yearlong mentorship of several interfaith community development projects. Thankfully, we were able to raise sufficient funds to accomplish the first phase of this project – the week long intensive seminar in August of 2013 – and proceed with the development of four interfaith community development projects in Kenya managed by the graduates of our August 2013 seminar. The funding for the first phase of the program came from a grant provided by the American College Alumni of Louvain University led by one of its alumni, Mr. William Weiskopf. Bill contacted me after he had read a book that I coauthored with another GMU faculty member, Doctor John Raymaker, who now resides in Germany. The title of the book is *Steps Toward Vatican III: Catholics Pathfinding a Global Spirituality with Islam and Buddhism* (University Press of America: 2008).

With the support and encouragement of Mr. William Weiskopf, John Raymaker and I undertook to write a sequel to *Steps Toward Vatican III* which would outline some of the key interfaith principles that could lead to a global spirituality and a global ethic based upon these principles. As we proceeded with this effort over the remainder of 2013, we discovered a new colleague in this adventure who is also now a GMU faculty member, Doctor Joseph Holland. Professor Holland is affiliated with St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Florida. He is a noted Catholic social ethicist and founder of the Pacem in Terris Publications and the Pacem in Terris Global Leadership Initiative.

Doctor Holland assisted John and myself in the editing and publication of *Spiritual Paths to an Ethical and Ecological Global Civilization: Reading the Signs of the Times with Buddhists, Christians and Muslims* (Pacem In Terris Press: 2014). An ebook version of this text published through BookBaby will be available in February, 2014 with all proceeds from the electronic edition going to a GMU scholarship fund for students seeking to study with GMU from the developing world and in particular from Africa. We now have our first GMU doctoral student from Kenya, Reverend Stephen Anyenda, who is a Baptist pastor in Mombasa, Kenya but is also the founder and CEO of the interfaith organization with whom are partnering in our Kenyan interfaith education project. In 2014 Reverend Anyenda came to San Jose, CA to meet with other Baptist leaders in our area and took time to meet with me and my wife and his host couple in San Jose.

The Kenya project is just one example of the outreach and growth that GMU has been able to accomplish over the past year. I would like to highlight other accomplishments within the GMU faculty and administration in the next column that are allowing us to expand our mission and enlarge our administrative structure.

Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D., President

MEET OUR FACULTY

Marita Grudzen, M.H.S., holds a Master of Health Services from the University of California, Davis, and teaches Spirituality and Aging for Global Ministries University. She is also Deputy Director of the Stanford Geriatric Education Center and Project Director of Innovative Nephrology Training for Nephrologists on Shared Decision Making at Stanford University. She is the Founder and Chair of the Latino End of Life Initiative and has served as Chair of Advisory Committee of the Stanford Medical Center Clinical Pastoral Education Program. Marita has many publications -- her latest is entitled Cultural Diversity in Older Americans -- and has given presentations all over the world, for example, Japan, Turkey, and Bangladesh.



Her vision of service (ministry) is that there are as many forms as there are people with gifts to serve those in suffering and bondage. Her own gifts for ministry include fostering community wherever possible, teaching interfaith dialogue (Kenya Africa), as well as developing rituals and companioning the dying. She has a passion for the arts, one expression of which is a framed mask of "Our Lady of the Forest" with accompanying poem. Her philosophy is best summed up in a recent writing workshop. When asked, if you could write something across the sky, she wrote: *"reach out across the horizon for the HAND of s/he who you do not yet know as sister/brother and share together what you both have."*

Marita resides in San Jose, CA with her husband, Gerald Grudzen, president of Global Ministries University. They have two adult children, Corita and Simone, and 2 grandchildren, Quincy and Olympia. Marita considers their children and grandchildren their most important contribution to the future.

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Timothy is a student in the Global Ministries University Doctor of Ministry degree program. His studies are in preparation for ordination in the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. He presently holds both a Master and Bachelor of Science, as well as an Associate of Science degree. He is presently employed as a Budget Analyst by the US Department of Agriculture and his ministry is focused on young adults and ecumenical/inter-faith outreach. He is a member of the Light of Christ Ecumenical Catholic Community in Longmont, Colorado, where he resides.

Though Mr. Shead is looking forward to completing the program and earning his degree, he believes that the journey is far more important than the destination. He asserts that the classes, discussions and topics have stirred much thought and growth in him and have helped cultivate a greater understanding as to how much more conversation needs to happen. Timothy conveyed that when people ask him about the classes/program, he cannot praise highly enough the flexible schedule which online courses provide and the quality of interaction between students and professors.

When questioned about his marital status, he proclaimed "I am engaged to be married to the most wonderful and brilliant person on the planet!"

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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