

GMU Graduation Ceremony in Cleveland



As we prepare this edition of the Global Notebook, the Global Ministries Uni-versity Staff is also preparing to attend the annual Federation of Christian Ministries Assembly,

which takes place in Cleveland, OH on the weekend of July 18th. FCM has given Global Ministries University the opportunity to offer a graduation ceremony at their Assembly.

The Global Ministries University ties with the Federation of Christian Ministries go way back and continue to be strong. Our president, Dr. Gerald Grudzen, was intricately involved in the formation of FCM and will be a part of a panel discussion there. The Provost, Dr. Mike Conley and VP for Operations and Development, Jean Conley, also long-time members of FCM, will be presenting a workshop, *Testing the Waters*. Many individuals on the GMU faculty are FCM members and a part of its history.

Our Staff will be journeying from different parts of the country to attend this event but not just to conduct business. We are also looking forward to seeing one another in person, socializing with old friends, and being spiritually fed.

Searching for an Experienced Fundraiser



We are looking for someone who is experienced and successful at finding individuals and/or organizations interested in funding educational projects in areas such as peace, interreligious dialogue, progressive Christianity, Catholic reform, etc. This position should be considered an opportunity to make a difference in the world while getting some compensation for doing so, rather than a full time salaried 'job.' If you think this is a good fit for you, email our office with your qualifications and questions.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Teilhard de Chardin, the great Jesuit mystic scientist, author of *The Phenomenon of Man* and *The Divine Milieu*, lived much of his life outside his home nation of France and constrained by his superiors in regard to the publication of his writings. He died in 1955 without ever seeing



most of his important writings appear in print, yet he never failed to express his sense of communion with the evolving universe and all human beings past and present. Teilhard, like other prophets of the future, never allowed the conflicts of his age, such as WWI where he served as a stretcher bearer, to overcome him or limit his spiritual vision. He saw the world ablaze with the divine presence despite the human tragedies that permeated his life.

Many parts of the world today, including the areas of the Middle East and Africa, are engulfed in sectarian conflict and violence. Inspired by visionaries such as Teilhard de Chardin, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Maya Angelou, we cannot allow ourselves to see the world through the darkness of hateful actions or the human proclivity to see others as enemies rather than friends on this earthly pilgrimage.

In order to fulfill part of its global mission, Global Ministries University has entered into a partnership with several organizations in Kenya to combat sectarian and religious divisions within this country but also to promote an interfaith vision that draws upon the great prophets mentioned above. Our partners in this effort to date are the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics, the Bishop Haddington Theological Institute, and the Muslim Respect Foundation, all based in Mombasa, Kenya. Even though we face unremitting challenges in taking up this effort to create new pathways to peace and understanding, we know that, without such works of the Spirit, the world will remain an inhospitable place for the present age and for future generations.

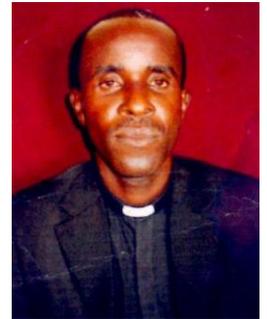
I will be returning to Kenya again in August with other GMU representatives, including my wife, Marita, and D.Th. candidate, Frank Pisciotta, with the goal of developing training programs in interfaith and intercultural competencies. Funding for our project has come from the American College Alumni of Louvain University, Belgium and Caritas, Italy, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish, Tallahassee, Florida, in addition to funding for this project provided by Global Ministries University and individual donors. This project clearly exhibits the planetary reach of Global Ministries University and [we invite all our supporters to contribute](#) to the work we have undertaken. Our hope is that we might provide scholarship assistance to students in our interfaith seminars who wish to pursue an interfaith degree with us in the coming months and years. Each of our students will be involved in community development and peace education projects in their home areas of the coastal region of Kenya.

Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D., President

MEET OUR FACULTY

Dr. Martin Olando received his Doctorate of Theology from St. Alcuin House Theological Seminary in the United States in July 2012. He currently teaches, supervises and does research at Bishop Hannington Institute of Theology and Development in Mombasa, Kenya. The institute is affiliated with St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya.

He also teaches a course for Global Ministries University entitled African Religious Traditions. This course is an exploration of the meaning of African traditional religion, where African religion is found, the African understanding of the cosmology, and the African view of God, Spirits.



Dr. Olando is involved in a seminar on interreligious dialogue to be held in Mombasa in September and is also a part of a staff that is working together with GMU to draw up a curriculum on interfaith studies. Bishop Hannington, where he is principal, will join with GMU and the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics (CICC) in promoting and sponsoring interfaith courses and degree programs in the coastal region of Kenya.

Dr. Olando is fluent in English and Kiswahili and a greatly valued addition to our faculty.

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Frank Pisciotta holds a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology, a Master of Science degree in education, a Master of Arts degree in theology, and is currently earning a Doctor of Theology degree in peace and justice through GMU. As a part of his doctoral program, he traveled to Kenya with President Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D., last summer and will be returning again in August of this year. He is excited about their work in Kenya because it is offering him a chance to walk a talk. He quotes Hans Kung, who offers us a clear vision of how justice and peace issues can be resolved: "No peace among the nations without peace among the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions. No dialogue between the religions without investigation of the foundation of the religions."

For his doctoral project, Frank put together two excellent videos, one entitled, [The Many Faces of Kenya](#) and [Seminar of Interfaith Dialogue 2013](#). Both are inspiring and heartwarming. He hopes that his studies will offer him a chance to continue working in matters related to peace and justice, especially interfaith dialogue, as a means to work together to help the oppressed and marginalized. He believes his work in Kenya is a huge opportunity to investigate and bring what he learns back with him to share everywhere he go. He hopes to use his degree to help bring the Kenyan initiative to his American brothers and sisters in ways that would allow both direct and indirect involvement in interfaith initiatives in Kenya and elsewhere.

Frank was born and raised in the Bronx, New York and has just moved to Orlando, Florida after having lived in Yonkers, NY for over 40 years. He is presently a member of St. Stephen's Catholic Community in Winter Springs, Florida but also attends several other worship centers in the area.

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Send feedback, comments, and/or questions to Jean Conley, editor and Vice-President for Operations and Development, [Global Ministries University](#)