



GMU Bridges the Future!

Administrators of GMU Retiring



Mike Conley, Provost, and Jean Conley, VP for Operations and Development, who have been the administrators of Global Ministries University for about 17 years, are planning to retire on December 1st of this year.

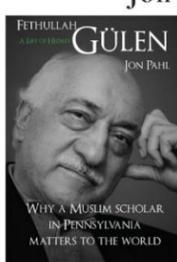
They began with a fine faculty and curriculum but there was no web site, catalog, brochure, and little procedure in place. Furthermore, there were just four students and therefore very little tuition coming in. In order to function and grow, it was necessary to increase enrollment. Needless to say, this would be quite a challenge since prospects are first and foremost looking for a learning institution that they can trust and one that is tried and true. GMU, on the other hand, was a brand-new university, unaccredited, and because it is interfaith and nondenominational, there was no specific group from which to draw students, such as Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, etc. Additionally, it is a university that operates online, and back then online schools were looked upon as inferior.

Consequently, Jean and Mike began to work toward creating a positive image, gain the trust of the general public, operate with professionalism, and give students the best service possible with the goal of keeping them active. As a result of their ambitious focus, GMU has certainly earned a noteworthy reputation, receiving a steady flow of inquiries and applications.

Jean and Mike will continue to be instructors for GMU and administer Jean's Celebrant Training Program but have decided that it's time to free up their lives. Nonetheless, they are grateful for having the opportunity to assist so many wonderful individuals meet their ministerial and academic goals and for the rewarding experience of being an integral part in making Global Ministries University the fine university it is today.

Zooming on Interfaith!

A Discussion with Author Jon Pahl




followed by a book signing

Sat, October 26, 2019
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Santa Clara University Benson Memorial Center
California Mission Room
820 Alviso St, Santa Clara, CA 95050



President of GMU, Dr. Gerald Grudzen will conduct an Interfaith Zoom conversation with Jon Pahl, Ph.D on the release of his biography about the founder of the worldwide Islamic spiritual movement, Hizmet, Muslim scholar Mr. Fethullah Gulen.

To participate in or view the interview with Dr. Jon Pahl, you can join the Zoom Meeting on Oct 26, 2019 at 1:00 PM Pacific Time 4:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/981551575?pwd=QU0yRUx4a0R6bTBvVHVzZ0h6OXJKQT09>

Please let Dr. Gurdzen know if you will be joining the meeting: ggrudzen@yahoo.com

Meeting ID: 981 551 575

Password: 360477

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,981551575# US (San Jose)

+16468769923,,981551575# US (New York)

Dial by your location

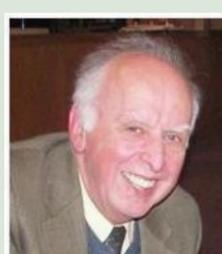
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acULvskJTD>

There will also be a luncheon and interview at the Pacifica Institute in Sunnvale, CA.(1267 Tasman Drive, Sunnyvale, CA) on Saturday afternoon, October 26, at 1:00 PM PST. Those who live in the Bay Area can also come to the live event which includes a light lunch at noon prior to the event. There is no charge for it.

President's Message



We recently returned from Kenya where we concluded our eighth annual interfaith training program for Kenyan educators. In 2019 we met for five days with 22 Principals from three counties in the coastal region of Kenya. We will continue

working with this group over the next year to identify ways to incorporate interfaith and intercultural themes within the schools which these Principals direct and guide and identify any gaps that can be filled with pedagogical interventions that can deter the influence of religious and ideological extremism among the youth of the coastal region of Kenya.



For the first time we have received a specific endorsement of our training program from the Kenya Ministry of Education for the coastal region. We also have been asked to participate in a 2020 summer interfaith course offered jointly by GMU, the Interreligious Dialogue Division of the Archdiocese of Mombasa, Tangaza University of Naibori and the Islamic Harmony Institute of Nairobi. We are grateful to all those who have supported this interfaith program over the past eight years You can view photos and video clips of our time in Kenya at Paths to Peace Kenya (Facebook) and Global Ministries University Facebook site. Our team in Kenya included the following staff: Jerry and Marita Grudzen (US), Genie Florcyk (US) Doris Munyao (Kenya) and Kimani Kibe (Kenya).

Another recent development has begun to take shape for GMU in relationship with Matthew Fox and his "Creation Spirituality" education program. We are planning to develop a certificate and degree program in **Creation Spirituality** by end of 2019 in collaboration with Matthew Fox and the Fox Legacy project. While we are developing such efforts we would like to encourage you to access each day the excellent meditations offered by Matthew Fox at the following web site: <https://dailymeditationswithmatthewfox.org/> Matthew is also offering a six- week course entitled Training for Modern Mystics and Prophets at the following web site: <https://support.theshiftnetwork.com/hc/en-us/articles/360034166914-Training-for-Modern-Mystics-Prophets-with-Matthew-Fox>

We will keep you posted on the progress we are making in undertaking a collaboration with Matthew Fox.

Gerald Grudzen, PhD

GMU Mentor Program Off the Ground



The Global Ministries University Mentor Program was launched about six months ago and we are in the process of learning what the needs of the students are and how much contact will be required. What we have discerned thus far is that our students do not need constant support, nor do they have a great number of problems, which says a great deal about our method of study and the excellent support given by our Staff. What a mentor can offer a student is someone who has had a similar experience and can share that experience with the student. This is particularly beneficial since we are a self-directive online university. It is the intent of the GMU Staff to serve its students in the best way possible and this program and the University's wonderful team of volunteer mentors is just one more facet in achieving that goal.