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GMU Celebrates the Life of Jean Conley, M.Th.



**The GMU family is invited to join the online celebration
of the life and legacy of Jean Conley**

August 5, 2024

9:00 AM Pacific Time US and Canada (Noon EDST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81589303794>

Meeting ID: 815 8930 3794

Join the August 5 Celebration on Zoom.

Email if you need "one tap mobile" or "dial by location" numbers.

In Loving Memory

Jean Conley

August 13, 1940 – June 5, 2024



Jeanette P. Conley, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away peacefully at her home on June 5, 2024, at the age of 84. Born in Chicago, IL to Harry Leyer and Mary DeMarino. Her family moved to Los Angeles in 1951 where Jean attended Gardena Middle and High School. After graduating in 1959 she worked for the Southern California Gas Company. She married her first husband, Jerome Hebert, in 1961.

Jean manifested leadership and educational service all her life. For 15 years before her children were born, she taught religious education classes, then with her husband she held leadership positions in Worldwide Marriage Encounter, giving weekends and leadership to that organization until Jerry was diagnosed with ALS. Jean cared for him at home until he died in 1979, leaving her with three children, 9, 6 and 5 months old. As a widow, she was asked to give talks on topics of relationship, death and dying to ME groups. She also formed a sharing group of young widows and widowers which met in her home twice a month.

Jean earned a B.A. in Human Behavior and an M.Th. in Contemporary Christianity from GMU. She published six books about her life, values, and creative ideas. She was known for her perceptive questions and creativity. Through Marriage Encounter leadership she met, fell in love, and married Father Mike Conley in 1986. With him, she took on operations manager and development director of Global Ministries University, an online interfaith theology training school. She devoted every day to this work for 18 years. But she considered her greatest achievement to be the creation and success of a celebrant training program. She was awarded the Anthony Soto Award in 2016 by the Federation of Christian Ministries for her leadership and commitment to education.

At Four Seasons Community in Marietta, CA, Jean and Mike enjoyed Tai Chi and were regulars at bingo on Friday night. Looking back over 80+ years she wrote, "The most profound experience of my life has been the power of love. The meaning of life for me involves living each day – not in memories of the past or waiting for something to happen in the future – but to fully love in the present."

She is survived by her husband, Mike, son Tony Hebert, daughter Carrie Dilla, and grandsons, Krew and Kasen. Interment of her ashes will be at Holy Cross Mortuary, Culver City, CA on Saturday, July 20th at 2 pm. A Celebration of her Life will be held at The Reef in Long Beach on Sunday, July 21st at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ALS.

Tribute to Jean

Jean's husband, Michael Conley, D.Min., Provost Emeritus of GMU, and Director of the Celebrant Training Program, has written a beautiful and inspiring obituary for Jean. Click on the button below to read about the life of this extraordinary woman who helped shape GMU into an exceptional institution of higher learning.

An in-person celebration of her life was held at The Reef in Long Beach, California, on Sunday, July 21st.

Read Mike's tribute to Jean.

Read the excerpt from Jean's book about GMU.

President Grudzen's Global Peace Award Acceptance Speech

Dear Reverend, Dhamananda, Governor Whitmer, Senator Peters, and honored guests,



It is a great honor to receive the Global Peace Award from the Buddhist Council of America here in Detroit, Michigan. I was born and raised here in Detroit. I received my undergraduate degree at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. My father, Joseph Grudzen, worked at Chrysler Corporation for over 30 years. My great uncle, Floyd Grudzen, was President of the largest UAW local union with over 29000 members at Dodge Main. My sister, Susan Slack, brother James Grudzen, our daughter, Simone Grudzen, my wife, Marita Grudzen, and my classmate from Sacred Heart Seminary, Father Victor Clore, are with us today. Father

Clore worked closely with Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, founder of the Catholic peace organization, Pax Christi International....

Read President Grudzen's entire address.

Librarian's Corner



How to Read a Book Without Reading the Book

It happens. You've embarked on a research paper or thesis, and your professor tells you about a book that sounds perfect for your topic. Or you find the title in an online search, or a bibliography, or by

searching Amazon or Google or a library database. You borrow it from your faculty member, or check it out of the library, or purchase it directly. When you finally have it in your hands, you discover that this perfect book is 857 pages long and weighs a ton. A more appropriate use might be as a doorstop. You realize you won't live long enough to read the whole thing, especially since—maybe—it's in a language in which you're not entirely fluent, or its scholarly vocabulary is challenging. What now?

Here's a tip you can use with many books you'll encounter in your studies: *you don't have to read the whole thing!* Of course, the author might be disappointed—but he or she will never know. And that author probably used these same techniques in their research!

Instead, you can get the gist of the book by following these steps:

(Throughout this process, write down your reactions, ideas that come up, facts you want to remember.)

- Read the **Introduction**. There, the author will, or should, summarize the general content of the book: what it will cover, why it was written, the point or points of view expressed.
- Look at the **Table of Contents**. That will give you an even better understanding of the book's scope as it lists the titles of the chapters, giving a hint of what's in them.
- Pick a **chapter** that seems to align most closely with the focus of your project. Maybe knuckle in and read that whole chapter. Look for possible points to cite in your paper.
- Now skip to the **end**. The very end, the final chapter—or, at least, the last paragraph. There, the author will usually offer their conclusions, along with a general overview of the book's content.
- Glance at the **bibliography** to be sure the author has done thorough research. Make note of relevant titles he or she has cited.
- Skim quickly through the **rest of the book** to be sure you haven't missed any major points. If you find something that catches your attention, focus on that, again looking for quotable sentences or paragraphs.

That's it. You've "read" the book. Don't feel guilty. Scholars all over the world are doing exactly what you did. (Just, please, don't try these techniques with a work of fiction!)

I eagerly await your comments, suggestions, questions.

~Judy Clarence, M.L.I.S., GMU Librarian
librarian@globalministriesuniversity.org

GMU Faculty Meeting



Faculty members joined GMU Administration on July 15 to discuss their accomplishments, outreach to students, and share ideas for the future.

Ron Nakasone (Buddhist Studies) commented, "People need a safe place to come together." Joseph Sebastian (Interfaith Dialogue) added, "The situation in India shows the need to bring people together."

Marita Grudzen (Environmental Justice Studies) stated, "[We should] support young people in their addressing of the climate crisis." Margie Schneider (Creation Spirituality) suggested a course on "Eco-Grief: How to Live in a Chaotic Climate."

Judy Clarence (GMU Librarian) encourages students to contact her for assistance in writing and research. Genie Florczyk concentrates on "helping African students with their Master's theses and improving their writing skills."

Teri Smith-Jones (Chaplaincy) has streamlined the Chaplaincy program.

Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck offered the People's Catholic Seminary to hold a forum on particular GMU certificate programs.

A major topic of conversation was emphasizing spirituality while continuing theological education. Bridget Mary commented on GMU's "unique diversity of theological opinion."

Please keep Bill Manseau's wife in your prayers as she recovers from a thrombus and undergoes kidney dialysis.

Look for a page dedicated to news of individual faculty members' undertakings and accomplishments on the website in the near future.

GMU Podcast

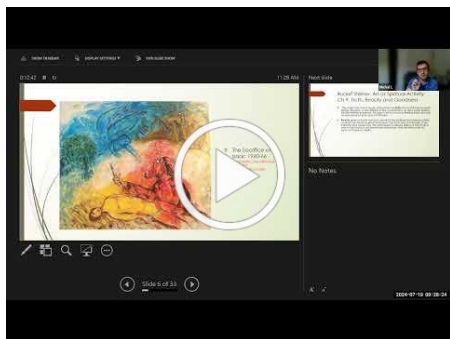


EDUCATIONAL, INSIGHTFUL, SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The next episode of the GMU "Voices" podcast will be taped on August 12. It will trace the history of FCM from its founding in 1973 to the present. Bishop William Manseau, the founding president of FCM, and

Tom Cusack, President of FCM today, will provide their insights into the evolution of FCM from its founding era, present status, and future directions. President Grudzen will moderate the discussion and show how GMU emerged out of FCM.

GMU Courses and Programs



Art and Spirituality

You can view Michal Lewon's presentation on [GMU's YouTube Channel](#). We invite you to "subscribe" to the channel to be notified whenever there is a new video uploaded.



Spirituality and Poetry

Coming in September 2024

Presenter: Judy Clarence

Register for the August 19 presentation.



"Interfaith Spiritual Advocates"

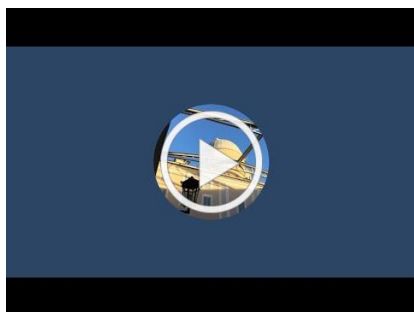
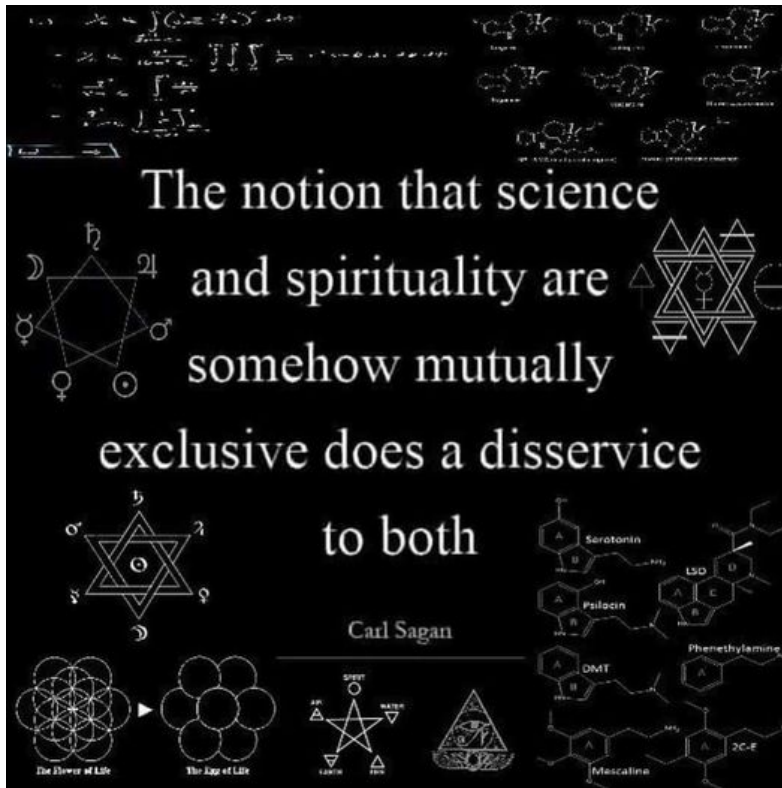
President Grudzen is working with the New York State Office of Faith and Non-Profit Development to pursue funding for GMU's Community Chaplaincy program, now designated as "Interfaith Spiritual Advocates," for outreach to the immigrant and refugee communities in the State of New York in collaboration with Mustafa Gokek, President of [Buffalo United for Peace](#). The program is scheduled to be launched in January 2025.

Learn more about GMU's Chaplaincy Programs.

Religion and Science



GMU partners with the Institute of Science and Religion program in Cochin, India. You can view lectures on their [YouTube channel](#).



[Vatican convenes astrophysicists to discuss black holes, quantum theory](#)

Theology for the 21st Century

A new cohort in the GMU's Religion and Science Program will begin in September 2024. Reduced tuition is offered to North American, European, and Australian applicants. Discover the compatibility of science, spirituality, and faith.

Download the flyer with all the information.

Explore GMU's Religion and Science Program.

Apply here.

Collaboration with People's Catholic Seminary



GMU seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of those who wish to start Intentional Eucharistic Communities. Together with PCS, GMU is now offering:

Creating Inclusive Eucharistic Communities in an Emerging Synodal Church

5 sessions \$475 + \$25 App Fee

Women in the Bible and Christian Tradition

5 sessions \$475 + \$25 App Fee

Credit for these courses can be applied towards a GMU graduate degree or certificate.

Apply Today.

GMU Partners



Some say life is a series of new beginnings. Have you ever thought of providing a welcoming, personal and sensitive venue to celebrate life's significant changes for other people? The goal of The Center for Celebrant Training is to help you be the best celebrant you can

be for funerals and end of life services, or weddings and joyous occasions..

Visit the Center for Celebrant Training.





Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck were featured at the [**Magdalene Rising Summit**](#) held on July 22–24, 2024.



**New PCS
Retreat/Independent
Course: Celebrating the
Sacred Feminine in Your
Life with Dr. Bridget
Mary Meehan**

"Celebrating the Sacred Feminine in Your Life" invites you to explore the beautiful mosaic of names and images that depict God's all-embracing, inclusive love for us. Each section provides imagery of the sacred feminine in Scripture, in Christian mystics, and in contemporary life. Open yourself to your *belovedness* as an image of the Divine Feminine in prayer and action, and explore new paths to spiritual healing, nourishment, and transformation in our world.

Celebrating the Sacred Feminine in Your Life is available as a private retreat, an independent study, or as a course for sharing in a cohort model.

Cohorts meet in a Zoom video conference to share insights on their meditations.

For those taking this course as an independent study or retreat, Bridget Mary will be available upon request to share with you in phone or Zoom conversations.

**Enroll
here.**

"Belonging Together: Migrants, Refugees, Displaced People and Global Solidarity"



Save the dates: [World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 6 - 8, 2025](#). GMU is once again collaborating with [Tangaza University](#), [IRDIS](#), and the [Harmony Institute of Kenya](#) on a third international online conference dedicated to fostering the precepts of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Titled, "Belonging Together: Migrants, Refugees, Displaced People, and Global Solidarity," the conference will focus on "the inseparability of the human family—people belong together regardless of their origin and residence status. At the same time, the title alludes to the irrevocable responsibility of humankind for mutual care—being human and being in solidarity with others, especially the most vulnerable, belong together."

[Read the Globethics Draft of the Concept Paper for the Conference](#)

A "Call for Papers" for the February conference has been issued. Interested parties can submit proposals for inclusion in the conference proceedings and publications to the three "hubs" in Africa, the Americas, and Europe.

[Download the "Call for Papers" flyer for more .](#)

[Visit the Conference Website,](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS



**Belonging Together: Migrants, Refugees,
Displaced Persons and Global Solidarity**

6-8 February 2025 International Interfaith Online Conference during
the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week

Interested participants are invited to submit papers for short presentations and mini-lectures on topics related to the conference's overarching theme and influencing the fields of the three thematic tracks. Possible topics may include but are not restricted to the following:

Thematic Track 1: Being Human, Being Migrant

- Migrants' identity, resilience and agency
- Negotiating migrant self-understanding, reception and integration in host communities
- Gendered migration experiences and transnational belonging

Thematic Track 2: Living Together in the Age of Migration, Caring for One Another

- Hospitality and practices of inclusive community by and with migrants
- Migration, border politics, citizenship and nation-building, using legal framework in concert with the United Nations Global Compact
- International migration, mobility, families and community engagement

Thematic Track 3: Ethical Principles and Shared Values for Shaping Migrant-Sensitive Societies

- Moral obligations toward refugees and vulnerable migrants
- Protecting migrant women, children and unaccompanied minors, equipping for self-reliant futures
- Interfaith solidarity, human dignity and human rights for peaceful societies

Submission

Abstracts of 300 words are to be submitted until **1 September 2024** to

- Hub of the Americas: americas@fratellitutticonference.org
- Hub of Africa: africa@fratellitutticonference.org
- Hub of Europe: europe@fratellitutticonference.org

Communication on accepted papers and presentations will be made by **15 October 2024**

Presentations during the parallel thematic sessions of this online conference shall not exceed 10 minutes, and each session is designed for a maximum number of three presentations to allow sufficient time for interaction between the attendees.

Organizers



info@fratellitutticonference.org
www.fratellitutticonference.org

World Interfaith
Harmony Week
UN Official Observance - 1st Week of February

GMU Scholarships and Grants



A private donation of \$500 has been received to give a scholarship to an African student.

We thank individuals and institutions for their continued generosity!

Summer Blessings



Breath of Summer

Creator God
who breathed this world into being,
who is discernible within
the harmony of nature,
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a mountain range,
the soaring eagle and hummingbird,
thank you for this world
which you have created.
Thank you for summer sun,
which reminds us
that your creative breath
is still alive and active.
Thank you for the warmth of your love,
sustaining this world,
your garden.

[Pray more!](#)

Please support *your* university!

[Donate to GMU.](#)



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