



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Global Ministries University is partnering with Globalization for the Common Good Initiative in organizing and planning for an international conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations and Dialogue of World Religions next June 12-16 in Alexandria, Egypt. (www.gcgalexandria2011.info)

Professor Richard Bulliet, Professor of Middle East Studies at Columbia University, will be one of the keynote speakers for the conference. Professor Bulliet is the author of *The Case for an Islamo-Christian Civilization* (Columbia University Press: 2004). The conference host is the Dialogue Forum at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Library of Alexandria) in Alexandria, Egypt. GMU is also working closely with the Institute for Peace Studies at the Library of Alexandria in development of a Master's degree program in Peace Studies offered jointly by GMU, the Institute for Peace Studies at the Library of Alexandria and Globalization for the Common Initiative.

GMU will also be a sponsor for a conference preparatory to the international conference in Alexandria at Santa Clara University on February 20, 2011. This conference will feature Jill Carroll, PhD, of Riche University, author of the book, *Dialogue of Civilizations: Gulen's Islamic Ideals and Humanistic Discourse*, The Light, Inc.: 2007 <http://www.jillcarroll.com> The Gulen Movement is a Sufi inspired spiritual community that has spread throughout the world over the past three decades and stresses interfaith cooperation, understanding and educational initiatives. The Pacific Institute of California, an

Announcing Hands-on Certificates to Be Offered by GMU

These specialized certificates are ideal for those who need hands-on training and/or continuing education in a specific area of ministry. Certificate program consists of one course and a relevant project in the following areas of study:

- Wedding Ceremonies**
- Religious Services**
- Preaching/Homiletics**
- Ordination Preparation**
- Commissioning Preparation**
- Building Peace**
- Addictions and Spirituality**
- Spiritual Direction**
- Aging and Spirituality**
- Sacred Art**
- Ecology**
- Forming Faith Communities**

Cost of tuition: \$450 plus \$50 application fee

Students who later decide to pursue a degree program at Global Ministries University will be able to apply tuition and course work to the program. Contact GMU Office for more information and/or application: GMU5053@aol.com.

CHECK OUT THE SLIDE SHOW ON OUR NEW HOME PAGE!

The Global Ministries University Home page has a new look with a slide show that displays some of the unique degree programs offered, such as a Joint Doctoral Degree with a highly-ranked university in Thailand, a Master of Theology in Sacred Arts, and a Master of Theology Degree in Contemporary Christianity.

affiliate of the Gulen Movement in California, is the co-sponsor for this event at Santa Clara University with Global Ministries University and representatives of the Pacifica Institute will also participate in the Alexandria conference. John Raymaker, PhD, a GMU faculty member and member of the GMU Board of Directors, and I will present a seminar on Global Ethics at the conference. Dr. Raymaker and I are co-authors of *Steps Toward Vatican III: Catholics Pathfinding a Global Spirituality with Islam and Buddhism* (University Press of America: 2007).

The conference will feature opportunities for participants from the United States to enter into dialogue with young scholars from Al Azhar University in Cairo. Al Azhar University is the leading Islamic university in the world, which was founded in the tenth century and has over 400,000 students. We are utilizing a Beta version of Skype to facilitate this interaction. If you are interested in becoming part of this global experience and taking part in the 2011 conference please contact Johanna Koudsi, coordinator for the Skype dialogue program at the following email address: Johanna.k@earthlink.net.

Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D.

MEET OUR FACULTY

Rev. George Gonzalez, Ph.D., one of the many competent instructors on the Global Ministries University staff, is proudly featured in this publication.



Rev. Gonzalez teaches two courses for Global Ministries University: Spirituality of the Psalms and Alcohol/Drug Addictions and Spirituality but also wears many other hats. He resides in Westlaco, TX, where he has been a hospital chaplain for seven years and is currently a correctional chaplain for several prisons/jails. He has also been an instructor for several colleges and at the present time he teaches psychology, theology, and music history for both traditional and non-traditional colleges. Additionally, he has a private practice as a board certified clinical psychologist and addictions counselor.

He has several degrees, including a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and Addictions and a Doctor of Divinity in Theology. He also holds a Master of Theological Studies, a Master of Arts in Religion, and a Master of Business Administration. In addition to his degrees, he is licensed by the State of Texas as a Chemical Dependency Counselor, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Certified Addiction Specialist, National Certified Psychologist, Certified Pastoral Counselor (Fellow) by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, and is a Certified Chaplain, certified by the Professional Association of Chaplains.

Rev. Dr. Gonzalez has been a Catholic priest for twenty-three years and was formerly an associate pastor and pastor for several parishes. He is bilingual and fluent in both English and Spanish.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Global Ministries University student body includes a variety of outstanding individuals with diverse and notable backgrounds and ministries. John Jeffrey is highlighted in this edition.



John Jeffery holds a Master of Divinity degree and is currently enrolled in the GMU Doctor of Ministry degree program. He is an ordained interfaith minister, graduate of the Pacific School of Religion/Graduate Theological Union, Clinical Pastoral Education and the Metta Institute, as well as a Board Certified Clinical Chaplain, Certified Thanatologist in death, dying and bereavement by the Association of Death Education and Counseling. He also holds endorsement for specialized ministry with the Federation of Christian Ministries.

John is currently the Director of Spiritual Care Services and Clinical Pastoral Education for the Napa-Solano Area of Kaiser Permanente and oversees the spiritual care program for this 250,000 member region of Kaiser Permanente. He also supervises a staff of chaplains in two medical centers, a hospice and palliative care program.

Additionally he initiated and supervises the first accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program in Kaiser Permanente. This CPE program, which is accredited by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, provides clinical training for prospective chaplains, local ministers and other healthcare providers. Graduates of this program are eligible for certification as Board Certified Clinical Chaplains.

He has facilitated growth groups focused on the themes of healing and wholeness for over 25 years. His work has included: pastor of local church congregations, leading wilderness journeys throughout the west and north to the arctic, program consulting for non-profit organizations, and end of life spiritual care. For 15 years, John led popular workshops for caregivers throughout the Bay Area.

After being in ministry for almost 30 years, he felt it was time to do additional study and research. Some of this desire was rooted in his desire to re-stimulate his professional knowledge as well as explore some new area of focus. When asked why he chose Global Ministries University, he stated that *“as an adult learner, it provided me the greatest flexibility to achieve these goals in a manner which fit my professional work schedule and offered a variety of professors and methods of study. I have been very pleased with the courses I have taken at GMU. The educational content and methodologies of the courses ...are as high quality as comprehensive as any courses I took during my initial seminary training. Working individually with the course instructors has been a rich and very helpful experience.”*

John lives in Danville, California, with his wife, Nancy Kendrick. They have four grown children.

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Global Ministries University is now on Facebook and Twitter... We invite 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, professionalism.

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Send feedback, comments, questions to Jean Conley, editor and Vice-President for Operations and Development, at GMU5053@aol.com.

www.globalministriesuniversity.org