

GMU Scores High Marks



A query was sent to students the first part of this year and it is our pleasure to announce that we received very high grades. Students were asked to rate our courses, method of study, online classroom, instructors and overall

experience from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score and the overwhelming majority of grades were 'fives!'

We also received many positive comments. Following are the comments of Margie Schneider, a D.Min. student. We selected Margie's comments as an example because she evaluated each aspect of her experience, as well as a numeral rating:

Dear Ms. Conley

I can tell you right now that I love everything about GMU and have absolutely no complaints.

I love the freedom of moving at my own pace and not having to worry about keeping up with other students. This allows me to get deeper within myself rather than trying to look smart or competitive.

I also so very much appreciate having someone at GMU who is always there for me at a moment's notice if I need to communicate.

I think the tuition is very fair considering what so many other colleges charge that is so beyond my means.

However, what particularly attracted me to sign up with GMU are the courses as they are so much in touch with where the world is today.

What I mean is you offer courses for people like myself who have been down the religious path that has been so lacking when it comes to those unanswered questions.

What else can I say except that I hope you don't change a thing because people are looking for what you are offering maybe they just haven't found you yet but they will. I hope what I have expressed helps.

Blessings to all of you, Rev. Margie Schneider

GMU Instructor to Be Honored



Mary E. Hunt, Ph.D., a Global Ministries University instructor, will receive the Peter J. Gomes Memorial Honors at Harvard Divinity School's 200th Anniversary on April 29th of this year. She is co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER) and will be honored for her 'pioneering work particularly through this organization.' Dr. Hunt is a feminist theologian, a Catholic active in the women-church movement. She lectures and writes on theology and ethics with particular attention to social justice concerns. For more information about this honor and the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, go to the WATER web site.

Dr. Hunt teaches a GMU course entitled, *Feminist Liberation Theologies: A Global Resource for Doing Justice* and another one entitled *Feminist Roots of LGBTIQ Theologies*.

WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR VISION STATEMENT

Global Ministries University affirms a vision of inclusiveness, which honors the sacred in all religions and spiritual traditions. We offer courses to equip people from a variety of faith traditions to minister with integrity, competence and professionalism. We affirm the equality of persons, policies, and language. We are open to diverse theological and cultural perspectives.

In essence, people of all faiths are accepted and welcome at Global Ministries University. Our students are not required to adhere to a particular creed or belief system. Each individual has the opportunity to walk his/her own spiritual path. Whether you are a student, instructor, or prospect, if you support our vision, go to our [Facebook Page](#) and 'Like' us to show that support or, better yet, [make a donation](#) to help us become more visible to those who are looking for an inclusive, contemporary, theological university.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Global Ministries University is partnering with the Federation of Christian Ministries (southern region), the Atlantic Institute, and the Istanbul Cultural Center for a major interfaith conference on June 3rd. Three Panels with Christian, Muslim and Jewish representatives will discuss the contemporary nature of interreligious dialogue and its relationship to Human Rights issues, such as Islamophobia, racism and the curtailment of Human Rights in the US and Turkey. The conference will provide opportunities for interaction with panelists, three of whom are members of the Global Ministries University faculty: Gerald and Marita Grudzen and John Raymaker from Germany.



Global Ministries University continues to support interfaith training for teachers in Kenya through a 24-hour interfaith training program that is being offered from April 10 to April 12, 2017 in Mombasa, Kenya. We expect at least 20 or more Kenyan teachers to take part in this program. Global Ministries University provides this training in conjunction with the Anglican affiliated Bishop Hannington Theological Institute, the Muslim Respect Foundation and other Kenya interfaith partners affiliated with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Mombasa. Teachers who complete this training receive a certificate of completion for this interfaith program. We are in the process of formulating an assessment diagnostic tool for the Kenyan Institute of Education in regard to the value of this interfaith training for reducing religious extremism in Kenya. My recently published book, *Burying the Sword, Confronting Jihadism with Interfaith Training*, documents the work that we have undertaken in Kenya for the past six years. [I invite you to view this video we have produced for our work in Kenya.](#)

- Gerald Grudzen, PhD

Our Students Produce Outstanding Work



Global Ministries University students submit some very insightful, creative papers that reflect an abundance of depth and wisdom. Following is a sampling of the quality of their work. This particular student, Mary Claire Caron, was enrolled in the course entitled: 'The Role and Identity of Jesus' and the assignment was focused on 'revelation.' In this poem, Mary Claire demonstrates her own personal revelation:

From time to time I have had insights, moments of revelation that are personal to me but that I believe are manifestations of the spirit dwelling in me and the people and nature surrounding me. Some of these insights have come to me in dreams or in those moments just after awakening in the early morning. One, in particular, had to do with love and the connection human love has to the entirety of creation. All is interconnected.

*"This morning I awakened early.
I felt beauty and peace -
filled with ecstasy -
as I lay awake in the early hours
before anyone else stirred.*

*I felt as though I were standing
on the top of the world,
the world much smaller
under my feet
yet still of immense size*

*I stood with my arms out,
palms upturned, and
spoke with silence of love.
Yet the whole cosmos
heard my silence and understood.*

*It was as though the silence
shouted with joy to all the world.
What I spoke in silence
bounded from peak to peak,
was heard in the roar of the water falls,
and sang all the way to the stars.*

*And the truth mattered
and was of importance to all of creation
for somehow all of creation
shared in the love I spoke.*