



The Global Notebook

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"Fall in Love" with GMU!

Autumn brings Honors and Impacts, News and Updates

Alumni Guild to Be Formed

GMU Celebrant Training Facilitator Voted 3rd Best Wedding Officiant

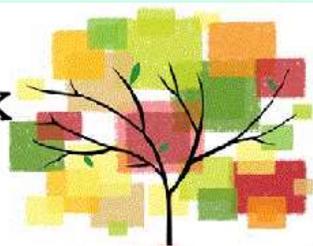
Student Dedicates Land to the Preservation of the Earth

GMU President Attends RCWP Bishop Ordination

Message from the President: *Why Study Theology?*

Alumni Guild to Be Formed

**WELCOME BACK
ALUMNI**



The administration has decided to form an alumni guild in an effort to keep GMU connected with graduates, as well as graduates in touch with GMU. What does

one do as a member of the Global Ministries University Alumni Guild? There will be no obligation to do anything, however, graduates can support the university in several ways:

Recruit Students – Graduates no doubt mention their experience of GMU with friends and family, but it is also possible to take a more proactive approach by finding various ways to promote GMU themselves or to offer suggestions to the Staff.

Submit a Testimonial – It would be very helpful for graduates to write about their experience and submit it to the Central Office to be used in one of our promotional publications.

Make a Contribution – Last but not least, make a monetary contribution to promote the University. We realize that many graduates cannot afford to donate money but there are no doubt those individuals who have the financial means to do so and would like to get the name of the University out to more people. It would be possible to make a one-time contribution, large or small, or to give a monthly donation. A donation can be made on our [website](#) or contact the office at info@globalministriesuniversity.org

Volunteer to Do a Task, such as:

- being available to talk to prospects who would like to talk to someone who has gone through one of our programs
- become a GMU classroom assistant who would be available to assist new students in the admissions process and use of our online classroom, www.gmuclassroom.org.
- be a mentor and stay in touch with a student throughout their program to support her/him and to see how they are doing
- contribute material for our quarterly newsletter, The Global Notebook, related to something you have accomplished that is newsworthy.

These are just a few ideas to begin this new endeavor. It isn't necessary to do anything to be a member of the GMU Alumni Guild but if you would like to take an active role, please contact Jean Conley, Vice-President for Operations and Development at info@globalministriesuniversity.org.

Celebrant Training Facilitator Voted 3rd Best Wedding Officiant



Rev. Antoinette Marold, Celebrant Training Program facilitator, has been voted #3 Best Wedding Officiant by Cleveland Hotlist in 2017. She is a [professional celebrant](#), her ministry is called “Elegant Events by Antoinette and/or Elegant Wedding Ceremonies by Rev. Antoinette,” and she has conducted hundreds of ceremonies. She has also authored a book for celebrants, entitled *By the Power vested in me...A Guide for Wedding Celebrants/Officiants*.

Rev. Marold is commissioned and ordained by the Federation of Christian Ministries and is also a member of the International Association of Reiki Professionals (IARP)

We are so very proud to have Antoinette on our Staff and feel fortunate to have her teaching Track I Weddings and Other Commitment Ceremonies.

Student Dedicates Land to the Preservation of the Earth

Roberta Fuller is a Doctor of Theology student of Global Ministries University and, as a part of her program, took a course entitled, *Spiritual Ecology*, which contained two assignments that required projects.



She was required to read specific material, write a 15-20-page reflection paper on what the particular impacts were for her and how she might incorporate the new ideas into an action plan for herself.

As a result of this course, her action plan for the first assignment was to dedicate a half-acre of her land to growing milkweed to aid in the preservation of Monarch butterflies, which face increasing threats due to insecticides and herbicides.

The project for her second assignment was inspired by the reading of Kenny Ausubel’s *Seeds of Change* which focused on the disastrous message about Genetically Modified Organisms [GMO]. Roberta decided to dedicate another half-acre to grow several heritage plants to ensure and restore biodiversity.

Here is a [link to a beautiful video of Roberta Fuller](#) on a field study with others in Ontario, Canada, which is also partial fulfillment of the *Spiritual Ecology* course.

Roberta currently holds a Master of Education and a Master of Theological Studies and is currently earning a Doctor of Theology degree in preparation for ordination through the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests.

GMU President Attends RCWP Bishop Ordination

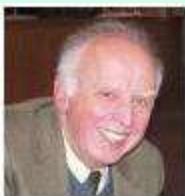


On Sunday, October 1, President Gerald Grudzen and his wife, Marita Grudzen attended the ordination of two Roman Catholic Women Priests Western Region bishops: Jane Via of San Diego, CA and Suzanne Thiel of Portland, OR at Temple Beth El in Aptos, CA.

Dr. Grudzen was invited to speak about the role of GMU in the theological training of many women preparing for the priesthood through Roman Catholic Women Priests [RCWP] and the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests [ARCWP]. Most of the leadership of RCWP and ARCWP were present for this event including Bishop Brigid Mary Meehan of the ARCWP and Dean of the GMU Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity programs. Bishop Andrea Johnson of RCWP also was present, who is a graduate of the GMU Master of Divinity program. Bishop Olivia Doko was the ordaining bishop for this ceremony and is turning over the administration of the western region to the new bishops, Jane Via and Suzanne Thiel.

A celebratory brunch followed the event at Temple Beth El. It was a unique interfaith event for all those who took part. One of the unique features of this event was its location in a Reformed Jewish Synagogue and the participation in the service of Rabbi Paula Marcus, the religious leader of the Temple Beth El Jewish Congregation.

Message from the President



Why Study Theology?

Historically, theology and philosophy have been joined together as important disciplines for understanding the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Beginning in the sixteenth century with the Protestant Reformation, a gradual replacement of philosophy by a scientific and secular method of scholarship took hold in the West. The unity of theology with philosophy began to disappear (Cartesian Dualism) or become secondary to the relationship of theology to various forms of scientific reasoning.

Theology gradually became an almost private and individual search for meaning in one's life as exemplified in the existentialist writings of Soren Kierkegaard, Martin Buber and Paul Tillich. The loss of an ontological and cosmological foundation for all of our life and that of the cosmos has led to what Charles Taylor calls [the Secular Age](#). (Harvard University Press: 2007).

The loss of ultimate meaning (secularism) can be found In the senseless violence that continues to plague us in the United States as exhibited in the recent Las Vegas tragedy. In order to recover our connection to the splendor of Creation (Creation Spirituality) and the metaphysical foundation of the Cosmos (Ontology) we need new tools provided by the interactive disciplines of philosophy, theology and science. The reductionist metaphysics of secularism closes off the unity of the Spirit and Matter, which we find expressed in the ecological theology of Thomas Berry, Teilhard de Chardin and Pope Francis's [Laudato Si](#). The study of theology should provide us with new categories of thoughts (epistemology) that can inform our everyday life and open us to the contemplative dimensions of our awareness.

Global Ministries University can provide students with the intellectual tools necessary to understand our contemporary world better and become artisans of a spirituality that transforms and enlightens us. We cannot do this alone: we join together as a learning community to build a more sustainable future for all of humanity and our mother earth.

Gerald Grudzen, PhD

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