



## Global Encounters



The GMU's international interfaith conference, [Walking in the Light of Fratelli Tutti and Laudato Si'](#), was an official [Pre-Parliament of the World's Religions \(PoWR\)](#) event.

GMU will present at this year's [PoWR](#) taking place in Chicago on August 14 – 18. President Grudzen and Marita Grudzen will be joined by Reginald Nalugala, Ph.D. of Tangaza University, Kenya, and Fr. Augustine Pamplany, Director of the [Institute of Science and Religion](#) in Kerala, India.

President Grudzen will host a dinner in Chicago for GMU board members, faculty, students and supporters who are attending the PoWR. Please let us know if you would like to join the dinner.

Join GMU at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago.

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## Peace Studies



[Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor](#), Professor Emeritus of Social Work Education & Peace Studies at CSU Fresno, CA, will conduct a 4-week series on "Mahatma Gandhi and Building a Just Peace" on Zoom beginning the **first Monday in May**. The cost is \$100 for the entire series plus \$25 application fee. You can also join individual Zoom sessions for \$25 each. [Learn more.](#)

*"Life is not a contest or a conquest.  
It is a struggle and a quest to find  
the best in each and every one of us."*

*~ Sudarshan Kapoor*

Apply today!

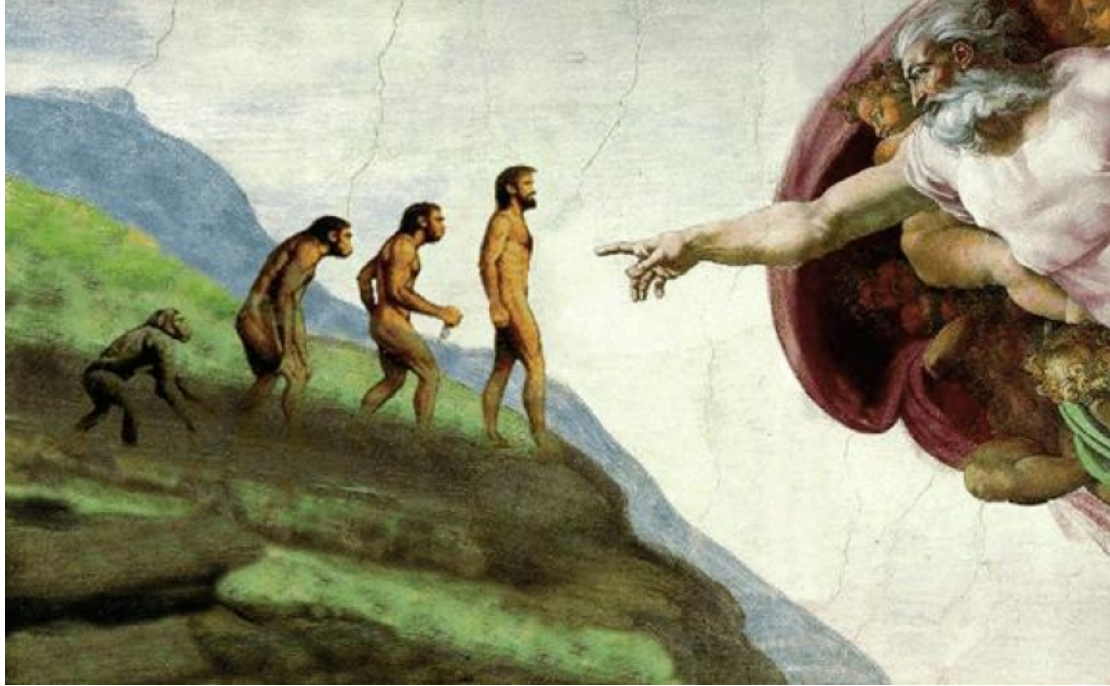
President Gerald Grudzen will interview Dr. Kapoor on April 24 at 4 PM PDT on Zoom as a **free introductory presentation** for this series.

Register for the **FREE**  
presentation.

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## Religion & Science Program





## New Religion and Science Program Cohort Starting in Mid-June 2023.

### New Faculty Members:

[Recep Dogan Ph.D.](#), adjunct professor of Islamic Studies at Charles Stuart University, Australia, is now also an adjunct lecturer in the GMU Religion and Science graduate degree program. He will focus on the Islamic contributions to religion and science.

[Reginald Nalugala, Ph.D.](#), of Tangaza University will also be joining the program as an adjunct lecturer. Dr. Nalugala received his doctoral degree in International Development from Oxford University, UK.

Twenty students from Africa and India are already enrolled.

Reserve your space  
now.

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## Prison Chaplaincy Degree and Certificate Programs



A \$10,000 grant has been received from the Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation, Inc., to help support the GMU Prison Chaplaincy program. GMU graduate and Board Member, Thomas James, was instrumental in obtaining this funding.

Applicants to the program may be able to receive a needs-based scholarship.

Courses include:

TH425 Ministry to the Incarcerated: The problems of the incarcerated will be explored in this course, taught by the instructor who is an ordained minister, a nineteen-year police veteran, and a prison chaplain.

TH427 Prison Minister: Chaplain and Volunteer Ministry to the Inmate: This course will provide a step-by-step examination of the basics of ministering to the incarcerated by studying the prison inmate, the crisis in the U.S. criminal justice system, the history of the penal System, and the modern prison setting.

TH430 A Study of Prison Culture: The minister/chaplain will be introduced to prison ministry as a form of prisoner empowerment through a comprehensive examination of prison culture.

[Learn more.](#)

Apply today.

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## Future Outlook



GMU's Provost, Dr. Mary Ann Cejka, coordinated the development of a Strategic Plan from the Long-Range Planning Committee for the future growth of Global Ministries University. The plan is being finalized this month and will be presented to President Grudzen upon approval of the committee. *Stay tuned!*

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## From the Provost

***Love does not come to an end.  
~ I Corinthians 13:8***

Dear GMU Community,

In December of 2019, I began a labor of love, assuming the position of Provost at GMU in response to the invitation of GMU President Gerald Grudzen several months before. I had proverbially big shoes to fill: Dr. Mike Conley and Jean Conley had together served GMU in multiple





administrative roles for many years. Both these pros coached me in the earliest months, passing on to me the responsibilities pertaining to the work of Provost. I also owe a good deal to then-Registrar Gail Schultz, who patiently schooled me in some of the “nuts and bolts” of GMU’s inner workings. Ever since then, I’ve been blessed to work with a most capable and dedicated university staff, faculty, and board.

Three years and four months later, we’ve witnessed changes and growth at GMU; weathered a pandemic together; prayed and dialogued over major decisions; and

completed a long-range planning process. Meanwhile, over the past few months, I’ve sensed that love is calling me to make more space in my life for writing projects that seem increasingly urgent as the years go by, and for aging family and friends who need, want, and deserve a greater share of my attention. My final day as GMU Provost will be March 31st.

I will remain an active and engaged member of GMU’s faculty, teaching Peace Studies courses, and in the future I hope to be useful in other ways, depending upon the university’s needs and my own availability.

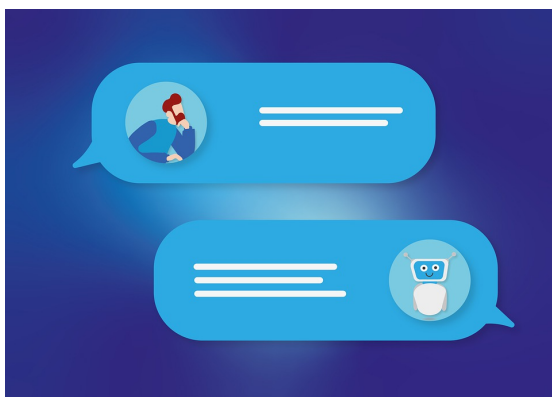
“Love does not come to an end,” and so it is with my love for this bold, inclusive, boundary-challenging school, for those who brought it into being, and for all who continue to make it thrive.

With much gratitude,

~ Mary Ann Cejka, M.Div., M.S., Ph.D.

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## Librarian's Corner



### ***AI is here. Now what?***

You may have noticed a lot of buzz in the media lately about something called ChatGBT. It debuted in November, 2022, and is the latest in a series of products utilizing artificial intelligence (AI). It presents some concerns for higher education (that’s us!).

ChatGBT, like other forms of AI, is a “bot” that collects data from all sorts of sources—social media, Wikipedia, open web resources, and much, much more—and is able, through machine-assisted analysis of billions of websites, to produce written materials that appear to be generated by real people, real writers, but aren’t. So, for example, you can ask ChatGBT to write a description of mayonnaise or peacocks or the weather in Siberia, and it’ll do its best to produce an essay on the subject, based on all the

available data that's out there on the web. Scary. And these bots are now getting so "smart" that they write like real people, in natural writing styles, using the language correctly, most of the time.

Last week I attended a webinar on the subject for theological librarians. The presenter, Steve Jung, Associate Director of Library Services at Hope International University, discussed the ethical concerns related to ChatGPT and similar services for academia. Is use of ChatGPT to write a paper considered plagiarism? Can you steal from a machine? As Jung pointed out, a resulting paper will bring together information and ideas from multiple sources, but the ideas and concepts generated won't be yours. No research or original analysis from you, the student, took place. You weren't learning much about critical thinking, gathering information yourself, formulating your thoughts, or contributing your unique perspective to the academic conversation.

In short, use of something like ChatGPT might be appropriate for creating a paragraph or two on a website about how to plant tulip bulbs or unplug a toilet. But for an academic paper? Not ethical. Don't do it.

Having issued this warning about the use of AI in academic settings, let me explain that this new phenomenon may indeed have beneficial attributes and potential value that we haven't yet imagined.

Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield, in a recent posting, puts it well:

*In response to those of you who are fervently against this [AI], I thank you and hear your healthy concerns. Please understand that this technology is being birthed whether we like it or not, so it would beseech those of us within the spiritual community to have open communications with the tech/AI world in order to create bridges of love and compassion into this unknown territory which will be on the forefront of many of our lives before we know it.*

*We live in a world of impermanence, and we must learn to dance with it. That means meeting times of great change with an open-hearted curiosity and loving awareness. Through this, rather than pushing away that which we deem shadow, we can infuse every aspect of our ever-changing lives with the light of love and consciousness.*

*AI tech is a new seed planted in the garden of humanity which will grow larger every passing moment, and rather than letting it grow completely unfurled, I would rather us nourish it and help guide its growth with curiosity, love, mindfulness, and compassion.*

Kornfield, Jack. *Facebook*, 24 Mar. 2023, m.facebook.com/jkornfield/. Accessed 25 Mar. 2023

Questions? Comments? [Let me know...](#)

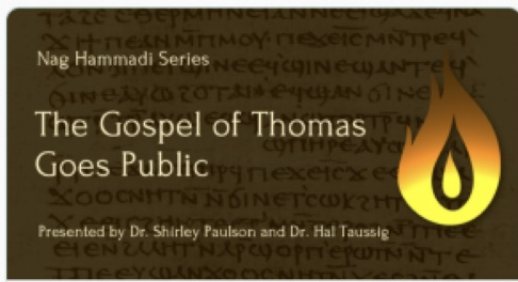
~Judy Clarence, M.L.I.S., GMU Librarian





Jean Conley, Director of the Global Ministries University Center for Celebrant Training, created this program close to fifteen years ago. It has been her pleasure to provide the tools needed to conduct both professional and personal rites of passage, such as wedding ceremonies and funeral services.

Visit the Center for Celebrant Training.



## PCS 508 - The Gospel of Thomas Goes Public

Presented by Dr. Shirley Paulson

**BEGINS APRIL 18, 2023**  
**7:30 PM to 8:30 PM EDST**  
(meets every Wednesday for seven weeks)

Click here to enroll.

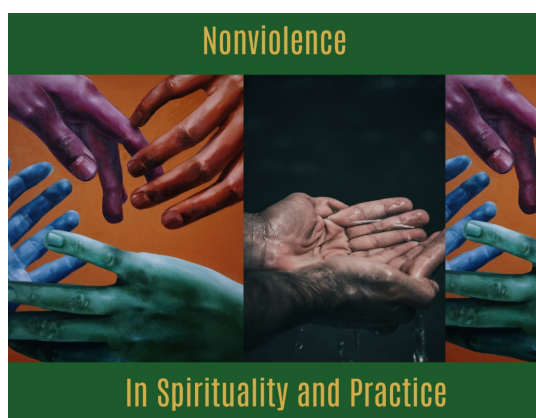


## PCS FORUM: Women's Priestly Ordination in the Catholic Tradition with the Focus on the Subversive Praxis of the Roman Catholic Women Priests

Presented by Rev. Dianne Willman and Dr. Jakub Urbaniak

**APRIL 20, 2023, 1:00-2:30 PM  
EDST FREE on ZOOM**

[Click here for Zoom information.](#)



## PCS 606 – Nonviolence in Spirituality and Practice

Presented by Rev. Dr. Phillis I. Sheppard

**BEGINS TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023  
at 7PM EDST**

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Visit the PCS Website.](#)

## WOMEN & NON-BINARY PEOPLE IN MINISTRY

The Women's Ordination Conference is now accepting applications for the *Lucile Murray Durkin Scholarship*

**This unique scholarship awards \$2,200** to those discerning or preparing for ordained ministry and currently enrolled in relevant coursework.

Primarily directed to those who identify as Catholic, this scholarship is open secondarily to those in other denominations.

[womensordination.org/scholarship](https://womensordination.org/scholarship)

APPLY BY  
APRIL 29, 2023





The [Women's Ordination Conference](#) is in its seventh year of offering the Lucile Murray Durkin Scholarship, a \$2,200 scholarship for women and non-binary people discerning priestly ordination—primarily in the Catholic tradition and secondarily in other denominations—and pursuing theology studies. The application process is open, and applications are due by April 29, 2023.

Click here to learn how to apply.

## Global Holy Season



Once again, the three Abrahamic Faiths have holy days occurring in close proximity in April. Pesach or Passover is commemorated from April 5 to April 13. Western Christian Easter is celebrated on April 9 and Eastern Orthodox Easter is celebrated on April 16. Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, is observed from April 21 to April 22. Learn more from the [Institute for Islamic, Christian, & Jewish Studies](#).

View the 2023 Interfaith Calendar.

Celebrating Together!



"One Day": 3000 Muslims, Christians, and Jews from around the world join in song for an end to war.

Enjoy more interfaith  
music!

Explore GMU's interfaith  
courses.



We rise, humbly hearted  
Rise, won't be divided  
Rise, with spirit to guide us  
Rise!

In hope, in prayer, we find ourselves here



In hope, in prayer, we're right here...



**GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY**

*Honoring the Sacred in All Religions and Spiritual Traditions*

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