



**GMU Celebrates the Life of
Frank Pisciotta, Th.D.**



Doctor Frank Pisciotta, GMU board member and graduate of the GMU Doctor of Theology degree program, passed from this earth on February 6, 2024, in Crystal Springs, Florida.

Frank was a core team member of GMU's interfaith training team in Kenya over the past decade. Frank was a graduate of the Maryknoll School of Theology in Ossining, New York, and a founding member of the first Maryknoll Affiliates interfaith chapter in Kenya.

He participated in the development of the GMU strategic plan in 2022-23 and contributed to the development of GMU's engagement with FCM over several years.

Frank also helped prepare for the 2023 Parliament of Religions meeting by sponsoring a communal meal for the GMU team attending the Parliament, which included our interfaith guests.

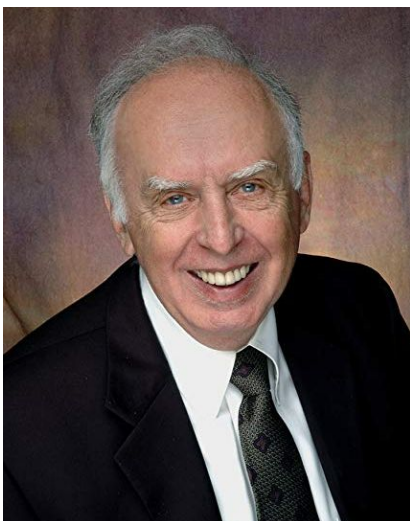
Frank supported Esther Nditi's ministry in Kenya and the US as the first GMU candidate for the Doctor of Ministry in Prison Chaplaincy.

A celebration of Frank's life took place on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 9 AM PDST, noon EDST, and 8 PM in Kenya on Zoom.

To honor the memory of Dr. Pisciotta, President Gerald Grudzen and Marita Grudzen donated \$500 to the Harmony Institute in Kenya for an organic farming project cosponsored by GMU and Harmony Institute. Esther Nditi is an advisor for this project, which will involve graduates of the GMU interfaith training education program in the Mombasa region of Kenya, of which Frank was a core member.

Donations can be made to GMU to honor Frank's legacy. The "[Dr. Frank Pisciotta Endowment](#)" provides scholarships for African students.

President Grudzen Reflects on His Presentations at Niagara University and Buffalo United for Peace



On April 3, 2024, I traveled to upstate New York from New York's JFK airport after a flight delay of over four hours because of poor weather conditions and airplane maintenance issues. The weather conditions did not affect the warm welcome I received from my host for this visit, Professor Mustafa Gokcek, Chairperson of the Department of History at Niagara University, located, near the US border with Canada. Professor Gokcek also serves as one of the leaders of the interfaith organization, Buffalo United for Peace.

I was invited to speak to his students at Niagara University on developing the first medical science curriculum in the West which took place in Italy in the eleventh century at Monte Cassino monastery. This curriculum came to Italy from North Africa through an itinerant scholar named Constantine the African. It was the product of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian scholars over two centuries, beginning in Baghdad around 800 CE. It so happens that Niagara University has a wonderful Middle East studies program under the direction of Professor Gokcek and Professor Stephanie Wichhart. Both Professor Gokcek and Wichhart attended my lecture on Wednesday afternoon and took part in discussions with a diverse number of students, including a woman who is a recent immigrant from Afghanistan. Professor Wichart directs the Soliya Connect program at Niagara University, which allows students in the US to study online with students in the Middle East and Europe. This is the same program that I directed for several years at San Jose City College in California. This kind of global dialogue is essential for a transformation of the present conflicts in our world to an era of cooperation and collaboration...

[Read the entire reflection here.](#)

Librarian's Corner



Google, Google, and More Google...

Last month we talked about using websites for academic research. How do we find relevant websites? Most of us probably use the search engine Google.

I remember when we first began to hear the word “Google” used as a verb—well over twenty years ago, when someone said, “Just Google it.” (The American Dialect Society chose it as the “most useful word of 2002.”) Now, of course, it’s a part of our vocabulary and, for most of us, an extremely useful part of our lives.

Why is it called “Google”? The name is a misspelling of the word “googol”, a very large number that, when written out, begins with “10” followed by one hundred zeros. But I like the idea that it was named, in part, after a popular newspaper comic strip called Barney Google and Snuffy Smith that was first published in 1919 and still appears in a few publications. It turns out that the young nephew of the mathematician who originated the “googol” concept suggested the term “google,” after his favorite comic strip character. But the uncle changed the spelling.

Do we use Google for research as skillfully as we could? Maybe not. I

thought I was an expert, but as I prepared this month's column, I learned a few new tricks. So here are some Googling suggestions and reminders to improve our research techniques.

- Are you looking for a phrase rather than a single word? Use quotation marks so Google will search for the words in sequence.
Examples: "apostolate of the laity," "just war theory," or "Paul of Tarsus"
- Do you want to search for an article only in Wikipedia or some other specific site? Use the word "site:" in front of the search term.
Example: site: wikipedia.org council of chalcedon (It doesn't matter whether you capitalize Council or Chalcedon, or not.)
Example: site:edu bhagavad gita (A search for "edu" will find information only on sites from educational institutions.)
- Want to find the definition of a word? Just type the word "define" in front of the term.
Example: define mahayana
- Do you need to remove a word in order to eliminate unrelated results? Use a minus sign.
Example: martin luther -king
- Are you looking for the latest, current, up-to-date information on a topic? Add "after", and a date at the end of your search.
Example: "liberation theology" after 2020

Have fun Googling! And, as always, [contact me for assistance](#) with your research whenever you're not finding what you hoped to find.

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

GMU Courses and Programs



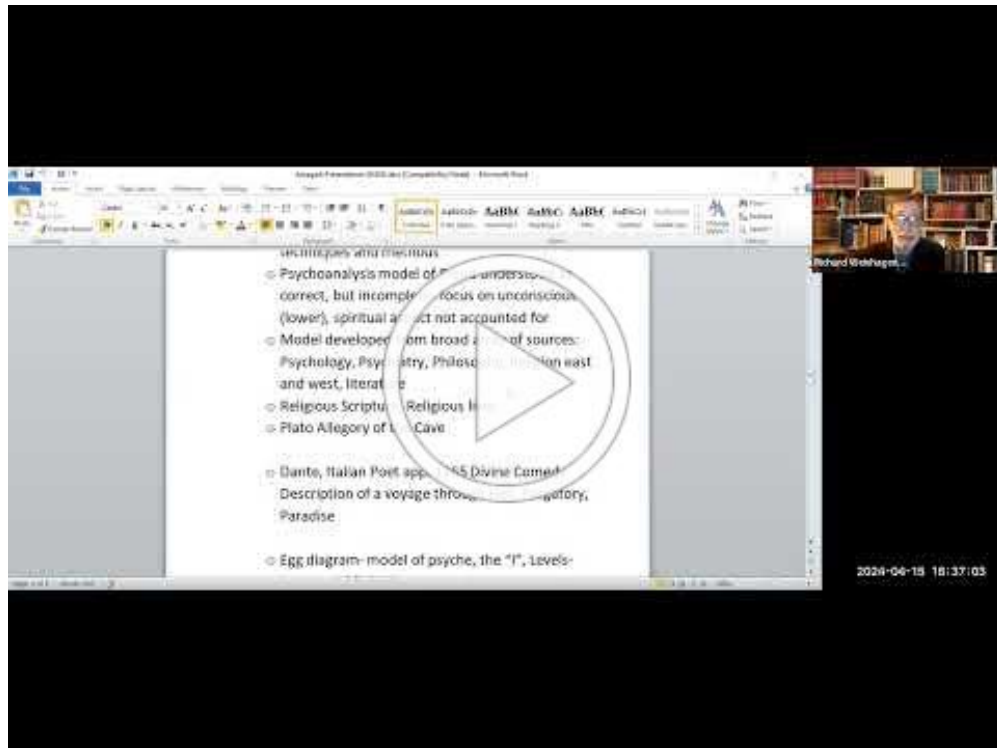
Creation Spirituality

Spring into Spirituality! To help everyone afford this unique experience, Dr. Margie Schneider is offering her two 8-week courses, **Creation Spirituality TH580 and Eco-Art & Creation Spirituality TH581, to be taken in succession at the substantially reduced price of \$150 each. That's less than \$20 per session!** Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to "Embrace Creation!"

The two successive courses can now be taken at any time of the year and do not require joining a cohort. Study at your own pace!

Apply for the Creation Spirituality Successive Courses.

Seminar on Psychosynthesis



Deacon Ricard Weinhausen gave a free presentation on the writing of Roberto Assagioli on the psychology of **Psychosynthesis** as an introduction to a four-week "voyage" into this method of self-discovery.

The first presentation was free. Sign up for the remaining three for

Psychosynthesis

Seminar

April 15 - May 6, 2024

7 PM EDST on Zoom

Richard Weinhagen
Deacon, Reformed Church
Minister, Federation of Christian Ministries
Chaplain, Vermont State Guard

“The mind is brought into harmony with the spirit and includes the body, achieving an organic, harmonious unity of all aspects of the person's being, what we might call 'biopsychosynthesis'. This is true spiritual alchemy.”

Roberto Assagioli
Transpersonal Development: The Dimension Beyond Psychosynthesis

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Psychosynthesis-egg-diagram_color.png

\$75 (plus the \$25 application fee). That's only \$25 per session. If you can't make it in person, a link to the recorded presentation will be sent to you.

Apply for the
SeminarSessions.



Richard Weinhagen
Deacon, Reformed Church
Minister, Federation of Christian Ministries
Chaplain, Vermont State Guard

Education:
BS Human Behavior and Learning
incorporating one year of study and training in
Psychosynthesis with Jean Guenther at the
Vermont Center for Psychosynthesis.

Psychosynthesis Books by founder, Roberto Assagioli

[Psychosynthesis: A Collection of Basic Writings](#)

(also available as **[Psychosynthesis A Manual of Principles and Techniques](#)**)

[The Act of Will](#)

[Transpersonal Development: The Dimension Beyond Psychosynthesis](#)

Download "A Four-day Voyage of discovery and experience concerning Roberto Assagioli and Psychosynthesis."

Doctorate in Senior Care
and Hospice Chaplaincy in
Collaboration with Pacific
Institute



GMU will oversee a Doctor of Ministry in Senior Care and Hospice Chaplaincy. Prospective students should have the interest and background necessary to work with senior populations. Students will take one unit of clinical pastoral education (CPE) with the **Pacific Institute for Essential Conversations** led by John Jeffrey. The Doctorate has two possible tracks. One track is geared

toward those working with seniors in some form of senior programs such as housing, community centers, or senior health advocacy programs. The other track is for those in end-of-life care, such as hospice or medical professionals in geriatric care.

Students would take four GMU courses, including "Integrated Chaplaincy," "Spirituality and Aging," and "Ethics and Pastoral Ministry." For the final course, students can choose from a mentored research project or a supervised internship.

[Read the Program description here.](#)



Community Chaplaincy

President Grudzen is now working with the New York State Office of Faith and Non-Profit Development to pursue funding for GMU's Community Chaplaincy program in the state of New York in collaboration with **Buffalo United for Peace** and **All Faiths Seminary**. The curriculum and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) structure are being developed. The program is scheduled to be launched in January 2025.

[Learn more about GMU's Chaplaincy Programs.](#)



Religion and Science

A new cohort in the GMU's Religion and Science Program will begin in the spring of 2024. Discover the compatibility of scholarship and faith. The [Alliance for Shared Values in New Jersey](#) (a Hizmet affiliate) has agreed to fund three scholarships for students in developing countries in the next Science and Religion cohort.

Explore GMU's Religion and Science Program.

Apply here.

New 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



REASONABLE TUITION FOR CELEBRANT TRAINING

We have worked hard to lower the overhead of our program in order to keep the cost as low as possible. We are able to provide a quality program no matter whether you are just starting out or just want to learn how to

conduct ceremonies and/or services that are more personal and meaningful.

Visit the Center for Celebrant
Training.



**PCS 310 - Introduction to
Mary Magdalene: A Leader for
the First and Twenty-First
Centuries**



Mary Magdalene:
A Leader for the First and Twenty-first Centuries

earlychristiantexts.com

May 14, 2024 – July 23, 2024
Zoom meeting every other
week
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Course Instructor: Dr. Shirley
Paulson

Christians have imagined Mary Magdalene as the repentant prostitute for well over a thousand years, but now, after the discovery of the Gospel of Mary and other early Christian writings, we know there is not a shred of truth to that. She was also the one person most closely associated with the resurrection of Jesus. Was she actually one of Jesus's disciples? Or even the first apostle? In our own complex and confusing world of the 21st century, what we learn from Mary can startle us with refreshing spiritual insights. They are profoundly relevant today for men and women who resonate with the teachings and acts of Jesus.

Learning the Inspiration and Controversies Surrounding Mary Magdalene

- Who was Mary?
- Why is the Gospel of Mary so valuable?
- How shall we understand Mary's most important teachings?
- What were the controversies, and why do they matter?
- How does Mary relate to the Bible?
- What could Mary's life and teachings mean to us today?

Learn more and
apply.



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.



PCS Forum on Women Called to Catholic Priesthood, April 9, 2024: Session 1: Our Call

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



GMU welcomes a new collaborating partner, [Globethics](#), in planning and

hosting the free international interfaith online conference in conjunction with [World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 6 - 8, 2025](#). Other collaborators are [Tangaza University](#), [IRDIS](#), and the [Harmony Institute of Kenya](#). 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

Interfaith Initiative

“Acceptance, Social Entrepreneurship, and Artificial Intelligence in Peacebuilding”

21–22 September 2025

Organized by
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
Global Ministries University
Pacifica Institute
Bay Area Cultural Connections
Redwood Social Entrepreneurship Group

GMU Scholarships



Thanks to the outstanding generosity of GMU's alumni and benefactors, partial scholarships are now available in all areas of study for all GMU students.

Contact GMU for more information.

**Lucile Murray Durkin Scholarship For Women
Discerning Priestly Ordination**

WOMEN & NONBINARY 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, primarily in the Catholic tradition and secondarily in other denominations.

Visit womensordination.org/scholarship
Apply by April 29, 2024

The poster features a yellow speech bubble with the title, a blue box with text, a pink megaphone, and three pink stars on a dark purple background.

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, 2024.

[Find out more.](#)

Earth Day Prayer



As we are called to see ourselves and each other as earthen vessels that hold God's presence and bring God's gifts to the world, so too, this very world and all that is above, around and within it are earthen vessels – just as easily shattered, just as much in need of our loving attentiveness and support. May our hands align with God's in caressing and shaping these vessels.

For trees, plants, crops, and forests. Let us pray.

For water, oceans, rivers, streams, and ponds. Let us pray.

For air, wind, climate, and weather. Let us pray.

For sun, clean energy, and prevention of global warming. Let us pray.

For animals, especially endangered species. Let us pray.

For all humankind. Let us pray.

For recycling and moderate personal consumption. Let us pray.
For proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. Let us pray.
For Earth and unity. Let us pray.

Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God.

Peace be to this community. Peace be to this land. Peace be to all people.
Amen.

Sisters of Mercy, New Jersey

Prayers for the
Earth

Please support *your* university!

Donate to GMU.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY

Honoring the Sacred in All!

<https://www.globalministriesuniversity.org/> |
info@globalministriesuniversity.org

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Touch!





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