



Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Newsletter Global Ministries United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ

GLOBAL MINISTRIES
COUNCIL OF
THEOLOGICAL
STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2007-8

Introducing

The Program

The People

Staff Coordinator:

Mary Schaller Blaufuss
Executive for Volunteer Ministries
blaufusm@ucc.org
216-736-3214
866-822-8224 ext. 3214

Class of 2007-8

September, 2007

Welcome!

Congratulations on your nomination by your school and your acceptance of membership in the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students for the 2007-2008 Class. It promises to be an exciting year as you become a face of UCC/Disciples of Christ Global Ministries on your campus; as you network with each other on global issues and relationships; and as you continue to discern your vocation of mission in this global world. I look forward to journeying with you.

Mary Schaller Blaufuss
CTS Staff Coordinator

Events for the Year

Gathering— Nov. 8-11, 2007.
The first meeting of the Council of Theological Students which will take place alongside the Wider Church Ministries (UCC)/Common Global Ministries boards of directors meetings in Cleveland, OH. Information on making your travel arrangements will be coming soon.

Networking — With each other and Global Ministries staff— throughout the year & beyond....

Interpretation - Plan and host a Global Ministries interpretation event on your campus with the help of Global Ministries staff.

Missiological Exploration and Student-Created Newsletter - Members will work in groups of 3-4 to plan and create a newsletter on a theme of mission.

Newsletters due to
Coordinator:

Group 1—December 1
Group 2 — February 1
Group 3 — April 1

Geoffrey Brewster—Phillips Theological Seminary

Hello, All! My name is Geoffrey Brewster, most people just call me Geoff. However, the students and many friends I work with affectionately call me Ge-off. You are welcome to any of these derivatives. I am a youth minister, and have been involved in youth ministry for eight years now. Youth ministry is my passion – I have a heart for young people and journeying with them as their eyes are opening to a world so much bigger than themselves. I am also passionate about social justice issues and entering into interfaith dialogue and opening doors for young people to stand up for what they believe in and learn from people

of other faiths. However as far as personal experiences in regards to travel experiences or other global church connections, there has generally not been a lot of money available to support such endeavors.

The way we teach and talk about Jesus and our neighbors greatly effects how we and our young people live out our faith. And for the most part, all of our major Christian publishing companies focusing on youth ministry are producing materials that encourage a faith of Jesus as personal savior. For me, this rhetoric is detrimental, in that it makes the focus of a young

person's faith self-centered, "Jesus came to save me." And following this thought through to its fullest leaves those who do hold this same belief on the outside. We need to be educating our young people so that they can live out a faith that is other-centered and see a global world that is in need of them as much as they are in need of it. It is my hope that my time spent serving and learning as part of the Council of Theological Students will enrich my journey so I will be better able to enable young people to be faithful Disciples of Christ in our world today.

Cara Cavanaugh Gilger—Vanderbilt Disciples Divinity House

I am interested in global ministries as a person preparing to go into congregational ministry. Part of how I see my relationship between global ministries and the local congregation is to have a firm understanding of global ministries so that I can translate the importance of this ministry to congregation members from a variety of backgrounds that may or may not have a global understanding of faith. My interest first peaked around global issues when I attended the Young Adult Ecumenical Forum on Globalization and Economic Justice. With the information given at that conference I was able to engage the area of Texas that I was serving at the time as a place impacted by these issues particularly through the issue of immigration.

Sage Crary — Hartford Seminary

Like many of us here today, I am seminary student studying for ordained ministry in the UCC. My academic background prior to coming into ministry is in oncology and terminal patient care with a minor in multicultural religion. As a result of this I am an AIDS awareness speaker and have a focus in the AIDS crisis in Africa and how a multi-faith awareness can prove to be our best defense against the

spread of the AIDS virus in third world countries.

When I initially considered full time ministry I immediately assumed that my calling was for work as a chaplain. However, as time and studies have progressed I have considered increasingly more on entering into parish ministry as a youth pastor. At this time I am content to

not define the details of my calling into ministry and allow God to lead me in the correct path.

Evan Dolive—Lexington Theological Seminary

My name is Evan Dolive and I am a second year Masters of Divinity at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. I was born and raised in Longview, Texas and I have been a lifelong member of the Disciples of Christ Church. I attended Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, majoring in Kinesiology with the intent of attending Physical Therapy School. I wanted to assist people at rough times in their lives to help ease their hurting. But as I volunteered in clinics, I felt the need to heal the inside of the patient. So

during that year, trying to figure out what God wanted for my life, I made the decision to attend seminary.

In February 2006, my wife and I attended a Casting Crowns concert. At that time, Casting Crowns was partnered with World Vision International. At the concert, we decided to sponsor a child. We chose a six year old girl named Juliet from Uganda. We have been enriched by the letters that we receive from her. They are filled with joy and

they bring a smile to our faces. In June 2007, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to Malawi, Africa. During my two week stay there, I witnessed first hand what true poverty is and the devastation that HIV/AIDS has. However, through it all, the people of Malawi place their trust in God and are truly faithful. In the future I hope to help people from all countries, through illness and poverty, to experience God and know they are loved.

Diane Faires—Vanderbilt Disciples Divinity House

My name is Diane Faires, and I am a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Over the past few years, I have come to a much deeper understanding of who my neighbor is, and of how I can be a good neighbor to those near and far. The most influential lessons in this area were learned while I was a Global Mission Intern in Sri Lanka. I spent two years teaching English and participating in the Church of South India's tsunami relief efforts, but the most meaningful part of my time there was informal conversations with my new

friends and neighbors. I have had the opportunity to return to Southeast Asia several times since then, continuing to build relationships and understanding. Last spring, I traveled to Hyderabad, India, with a group of MBA students to study business approaches to alleviating poverty. This summer, I returned to India and Sri Lanka to research the connection between race and poverty by observing the programs of Tamil Nadu Theological

Seminary and an interfaith movement called Satyodaya. This research also included a trip to Namibia with Divinity School colleagues.



Men in Bangladesh



Woman in Ghana

Donna Goodnow—Chicago Theological Seminary

My name is Donna Goodnow, and I am a senior M.Div. student at Chicago Theological Seminary. During my tenure as a seminary student, I have had remarkable opportunities to take part in mission ministries on several levels. I have spent a month in Guatemala, where I had the privilege of meeting several remarkable individuals working for indigenous rights and for accountability of the government for the atrocities committed against the Mayan people. In late August of 2005, I also began a journey as the Coordinator of the CTS Katrina Response efforts. Working closely with Katrina survivors who had been relocated to Chicago gave me a much deeper understanding of the need for meaningful mission opportunities in this country as well as in others.



Children in Chile



Woman in Turkey,
Part of Scarf project in
area affected by
earthquake

Stephanie Haskins—Andover Newton Theological School

During my time at seminary, I have been happily involved in interfaith work. Andover Newton is unique in its location: it is next door to Hebrew College, an institution that prepares Jewish leaders for service. The schools' proximity has fueled interfaith efforts, and the most exciting fruits have been the relationships forged between students not only as people of faith but as clergy-in-training. I have participated in

and led interfaith groups every year at Andover Newton, and without a doubt my relationships with Jewish students have enriched and transformed my Christian faith as well as my formation as a minister.

This spring, Andover Newton is hosting a conference on mission(s) as part of its bicentennial celebrations. I think the conference will engender many conversations on the nature of

mission(s), especially in the context of progressive Christianity. Whatever efforts I undertake (in conjunction with the group) will no doubt prime the pump for the mission(s) conference and widen the conversation. Personally, I'm looking forward to deepening my understanding of mission(s) and learning much from the group's collaboration.

Robin LaBolt—Eden Theological Seminary

Hello. I am a second level M. Div. student at Eden Theological Seminary. I am fifty-two years old, married and the mother of four. I received my call to ministry a little late in life but I happily and joyfully accepted. I am originally from the Boston, Massachusetts area but spent the last 20 years in Florida. I am a former Roman Catholic.

I am excited and honored to be a part of the Global Seminarians Council. I have always had a passion for Social Justice and now as a person called to ministry I am able to live out and work toward realizing

God's call for Shalom in the world. I have particular passions for peace and justice issues, interfaith dialogue and human rights issues. In the future I hope to pursue a D. Min. in Pastoral Counseling in order to work with folks who have survived torture. I will be traveling to Nicaragua and Costa Rica in January of 2008 as part of a cultural immersion trip sponsored by Eden.

While here at Eden I am co-chairing the Social Justice Council and I am a member of 4 Rivers which is a group that supports the GLBTQ community.

Mark Pettis—Lexington Theological Seminary

My name is Mark Pettis and I am entering my second year in the Masters of Divinity program at Lexington Theological Seminary (a DOC seminary). I am the son of two UCC ministers and a second career seminarian having spent a little over ten years working in government, public affairs and media relations. My call to the ministry, at least as far as I understand it today, is geared toward working with a faith-based organization in the arena of public policy advocacy and/or ecumenism.

I graduated from Pomona College in Los Angeles County several years back and first went to work for the California State Legislature. Following a few years working for the legislature, I moved along to public affairs consulting, then on to three years responsible for media and government relations for a public high school district in San Diego County. I have a passion for policy, especially public education. While in seminary I am working with the Kentucky Council of Churches, gaining faith-based advocacy experience, as well as being exposed to ecumenism firsthand. To date, my focus has been in domestic policy matters, and I am looking forward to gaining a greater understanding of global issues.

Aaron Wade—Howard Divinity School

My name is Aaron Wade I'm a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, IL. I'm an alumnus of DePaul University, where I earned a Bachelors' of Arts in Public Policy and a Bachelors' of Arts in Psychology. At DePaul, I served in various roles striving to create positive change in my community, I've served as Liaison for African American Students on the Cultural Center's Funding Board; Events Coordinator and President of the Black Student Union; Chaplain in the DePaul Gospel Choir; President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Nu Rho Chapter; and as Assistant Area Director for the District of Illinois of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. Currently, I attend Howard University School of Divinity where I'm pursuing my Masters of Divinity.

My experience in Global Ministries has been limited but I'm excited for the wealth of knowledge and experience that I will gain with the Global Ministry Council. I believe Social justice and global issues should be top priority on churches agenda and therefore the future pastors and ministers must understand how to establish programs and ministries to address these issues. Currently, I fight for justice in the area of education through my company Empowerment Enterprise Group, LLC. Through my company I have the opportunity to interact with several community partners: businesses, churches, colleges, and high schools to find sustainable ways to bring postsecondary education to low income mid-tier students. I look forward to this opportunity (working on the council) to work together with a group of people who are passionate about creating change.

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Theological Students in
Myanmar (Burma)



Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Roster – 2007-8

Geoffrey Brewster
1601 Green Leaf Lane
Edmond, OK 73013
Phillips Theological Seminary
geoff@shccedmond.org

Cara Cavanaugh
1917 Adelia Ave.
Nashville, TN 37212
Vanderbilt Disciples Divinity House
cara.c.cavanaugh@vanderbilt.edu

Sage Crary
55 Rockville Road
Broad Brook, CT 06016
Hartford Seminary
sage_crary@yahoo.com

Evan Dolive
Lexington Theological Seminary
evandolive@gmail.com

Diane Faires
1917 Adelia Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212
Vanderbilt Disciples Divinity House
diane.e.faires@vanderbilt.edu

Donna Goodnow
825 N. Johnson Street
Chicago, IL
Chicago Theological Seminary
donnagoodnow@gmail.com
dgoodnow@ctschicago.edu

Stephanie Haskins
210 Herrick Road, Box 67
Newton Centre, MA 02459
Andover Newton Theological School
shaskins@ants.edu

Robin LaBolt
459 E. Lockwood Ave. W 301
St. Louis, MO 63119
Eden Theological Seminary
rdblolt@yahoo.com

Mark Pettis
Lexington Theological Seminary
pettis2024@yahoo.com

Aaron Wade
3103 Southern Ave., Suite 22
Temple Hills, MD 20748
Howard University School of Divinity
empowermentgroupplc@yahoo.com