



Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Newsletter 2011-2012

Introductions

Fall 2011

Welcome!

Welcomel It is exciting to have a new group gathered for the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students. The year promises opportunities to meet other students committed to exploring the meaning and shape of Christian ministry in this interconnected global world. Global Ministries' staff is looking forward to engaging with you in reflection on the theology and articulation of mission. Special projects, interpretation events, and new global relationships await. This newsletter includes your short introductions. It will be good to be together in Cleveland alongside the Common Global Ministries Board on November 13-15, 2011.

Be blessed to be a blessing!

Mary

Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Ph.D.
Staff Coordinator, Global Ministries Council of Theological Students

Mary

Our Year Together

Gather

November 13-15, 2011.

The first meeting of the Council of Theological Students will take place alongside the 2011 meeting of the Common Global Ministries Board. Part of this gathering will be participation in the training of Ministry and Mission Interpreters (MMI).

Network

Connect with each other and with Global Ministries' supporters, staff and global partners throughout the year & beyond. Learn about global mission involvement of other theological schools and become part of a group called upon by Global Ministries at various points for special events, projects, and collaborative input.

Interpret

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

Explore Missiology

Members contribute systematically to the blog <http://criticalpresence.wordpress.com/>.

People-to-People Pilgrimage

(optional travel) Connect with global partners. Learn from one another.

GLOBAL
MINISTRIES
COUNCIL OF
THEOLOGICAL
STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2011-2012

Introducing

The Program

The People

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Web Presence

at

[http://
globalministries.org/
mission/seminarians/](http://globalministries.org/mission/seminarians/)

Linette George Bangor Theological Seminary

Linette George is from Bangor, Maine and is a second-year, full time Master of Divinity student at Bangor Theological Seminary. A lifetime UCC worshipper, she is grounded in the united and uniting, welcoming faith of our denomination. Linette holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an Emphasis in American Public Policy from Stanford

University, which she attended on a full academic and Music Guild Scholarship. She is currently the recipient of the Woolly Scholarship from the Naples United Church of Christ in Florida. Linette has served on the Church and Ministry Committee of the Cumberland Association in Portland, Maine and is currently serving the second year of a three-year term as an At-

Large Member of the Coordinating Council of the Maine Conference. Linette's interest in Global Ministries is in developing the church's ability to bring its concept of mission to exist wherever and whenever we bring God's light and grace to the world—whether it be many miles away or in our own back yard.

Marvin Lance Wiser Andover Newton Theological School

Marvin Lance Wiser was born in Fayetteville, TN. Having gone on mission trips to Honduras while in high school, he was inspired not only to serve God more fervently but to seek a deeper understanding of unfamiliar cultures. He attended college at Harding University in Searcy, AR. While there he studied Psychology and Biblical Studies, continued his travels throughout Latin America, and met his now wife, Yuliana León. Upon graduating he relocated to Mexico City where he worked as an English teacher and assisted in house churches. After a brief stint in the San Francisco area, in 2010 he and his wife moved to the Boston area where he is currently pursuing an MDiv degree at Andover Newton Theological School which is part of the Boston Theological Institute and is en route to ordination within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is in care at Hope Central Church of Jamaica Plain, Boston which belongs to both the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ denominations. He has founded and was president of a student group,

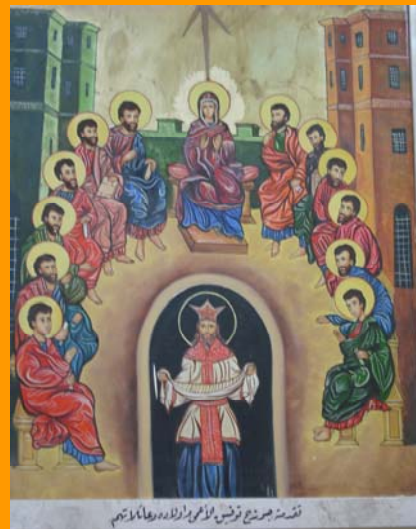


Society for the Advancement of Biblical Scholarship and is a 2010-2012 fellow with *CIRCLE, Center for Interreligious and Communal Leadership Education*, a joint initiative of Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School where he has served as an interfaith peer group facilitator. He also maintains a personal blog, [Tikkun olam](#), and has served on the inaugural executive committee and as contributing scholar for the Journal of Interreligious Dialogue's [State of Formation](#) blog, under the auspices of Auburn Theological Seminary and in cooperation with the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. His interests and passions include Latino cultures, immigrant issues, Hebrew Bible, ancient languages, narratives and cosmologies, ecumenism, inter-religious dialogue, and Continental Philosophy. He aspires to study Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East at the doctoral level and one day teach, allowing his ecumenical and interfaith experiences to

help transform both the classroom and the Church.

Barbara Marshall Christian Theological Seminary

Hi, I'm Barb Marshall and I'm a 3rd year student at Christian Theological Seminary. I live in Indianapolis with my husband. We have 2 daughters, the younger of which we just sent off for her first year at Purdue. I am Canadian by birth and assumed American citizenship in 2006. I like to run. My calling to global missions was inaugurated with a month long stay in El Salvador in 2010 where I sought to understand how the church was life affirming for people there. What I experienced fed my internal struggle between the benefits of practical aid and the need for sustainable change. Regardless, I believe that particularly in our era of global communications, travel, economics, and politics among other things, we must embrace people everywhere as our neighbors. Hence, my passion for global mission. I look forward to meeting you all.



Justin Dwelis
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Greetings!!
My name is Justin Dwelis. I am a second year student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. I have had an interest in the wider world since I was an exchange student in Japan my junior year in high school. My undergraduate major was in Global Studies and during that time I lived and studied for eight months in India. These experiences living outside of the United States helped to shape my understanding of the good, bad and ugly parts of globalization. As I began to more clearly hear my call to ordained ministry I began to think of ways to connect my global knowledge and my future profession. I do not have it nailed down yet but I hope that this year will give me some direction with that. When I am not studying I enjoy spending time with my one year-old son Trevor, who is growing so very quickly! I look forward to meeting you all.

Jonathan Brink
Brite Divinity School

Hello Everyone! I am a fourth semester student at Brite Divinity School in the MDiv program. I moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area right before I began studying and have been working as the Minister of Youth since the inception of my time at Brite. I was a Business/ Music Major in my undergraduate work at Houston Baptist University and through various ministries there

have been involved in ministry for about 8 years now. I have had wonderful opportunities that included mission work overseas in Thailand and Cambodia (a three month stay), making trips to Tuxpan, Mexico and being involved throughout the Texas community in local volunteer work or mission trips. I have also had the opportunity to be involved in multi-cultural and religious dialogues between the Muslim, Jewish, and

Christian faiths. I currently plan to move forward into PhD work but want to do so in a way that allows me to work towards social justice and ministerial education. I so look forward to meeting each of you and learning all the different things that each of us will bring to the table as we discuss together the global missions in the church. Many blessings to each of you!

Larissa Forsythe
Eden Theological Seminary

Hello, Council! My name is Larissa Forsythe and I'm a second year student at Eden Seminary. I absolutely love everything about seminary and have found a renewed passion for social justice. In my previous life, I was an actor and hold a Masters of Fine Arts in Acting. I'm hoping to use my theatre background and my passion for the arts to bring new life and greater transformative experiences to worship and am currently on a committee with the Missouri Mid South Conference exploring just that. However, we have to ask ourselves what are we hoping to transform *into*. This, in my opinion, is where Global Ministry comes in. If we believe that we are to work to bring God's Kingdom into the world, its important to look outside of our own sheltered context to see how others are trying to live into that reality, to learn from their successes and struggles and to discern through relationship what support we might be able to offer. I am so excited to learn from all of you and from our Global partners in ministry and I am looking forward to our first meeting!

Kathryn Russell
Vanderbilt Divinity School

I am a graduate of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and am currently a second year Master's of Divinity student at Vanderbilt Divinity School. I am pursuing ordination in the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This year, I serve as a ministerial intern at Eastwood Christian Church in Nashville. I became interested in global issues as a college student and spent a semester studying international law and organizations in Washington, D.C. and Europe. While in D.C., I worked with the Middle East Policy Director at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Washington Office. This experience planted within me a deep interest in Palestinian and Israeli peace issues. I have carried these interests with me into divinity school and am looking forward to being a part of the Council of Theological Students and Global Ministries this year!

Samuel Pullen

Disciples Seminary Foundation/Claremont School of Theology

Sam Pullen has been responding to Christ's call of solidarity with the poor and oppressed ever since high school when his father got sick with Parkinson's disease and his mother died from multiple myeloma cancer. He has conducted pesticide education sessions with farmworkers, advocated for immigration reform, and organized unions with hotel and casino workers throughout the United States. Sam worked as a boycott organizer for UNITE HERE, the Hotel Workers Union, from 2004 thru 2008. One of Sam's most meaningful interfaith projects was participating in "Labor in the Pulpits," organized by Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) and Interfaith Worker Justice. In the fall of 2008, Sam joined the Center for the Working Poor and helped organize a 21 day fast for immigrant rights in the Olvera Street plaza. In 2009 he was a local coordinator for the Mobilization for Health Care for all, leading a sit-in at a Blue Cross insurance office and spending five days in jail. Through his deepening "centering prayer" practice, Sam perceived

the call to enter seminary at Claremont School of Theology in the fall of 2010. He is currently engaged in a ministry internship at the First Congregational Church in Pasadena, where he has helped to launch a new progressive evangelical worship called "Aspire Ministries." Sam is in the process of ordination within the United Church of Christ. He is fluent in Spanish and plays violin with mariachi groups, where he is commonly known as "El Mariachi Gringo."



Jamie D. Hawley
Chicago Theological Seminary

Hello! My name is Jamie D. Hawley. I am currently completing my 3rd year of seminary at the Chicago Theological Seminary. Prior to attending CTS I earned a Bachelor's of Science degree from Southern Illinois University. One could say that I was practically "born and raised" in the church. I am originally from a small town in East Texas but I have always felt a ministerial calling to the world. I am grateful to have traveled to Hong Kong, Muscat, Oman; Hobart, Tasmania; Singapore, Pusan, South Korea; Dubai United Arab Emirates; Sasebo, Japan, and more recently Antigua, Guatemala. I have seen poverty up close and personal. I have borne witness to the effects of western domination and the systematic draining of the resources of "others" leaving them poor and deprived and with the dehumanizing label of "third world". I'm increasingly convinced that to truly live out a "prophetic" ministry in the west, one must do theology in a way that transgresses empire and one must ask the question: "What does the gospel mean to those on the furthest the margins?"



Melanie Van Weelden
Phillips Theological Seminary

My name is Melanie Van Weelden. I am in my fourth semester at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. I am currently serving as Associate Minister for Youth at Marion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Marion, IA as well as Regional Youth Minister for the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). My husband Brian and I live just outside Cedar Rapids, IA on an acreage with our three daughters, two dogs, and three cats. I am anxious to learn more about those who are designated as "other" by our society and how the church (and especially youth) can better fulfill our call to love our neighbor.



Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Roster – 2011 ~ 2012

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