



Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Newsletter 2010-2011

GLOBAL
MINISTRIES
COUNCIL OF
THEOLOGICAL
STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2010-2011

Introducing

The Program

The People

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at

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

Introductions

Fall 2010

Welcome!

Welcome everyone! It is good to have a new class gathered as the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students. I look forward to working with you during the coming academic year. We will build community and have a chance to network with each other. We will explore missiology together and have the opportunity to create resources and connections that will help the church and our schools involve themselves even more deeply in global ministries. We will experience the programmatic partnership of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) called Global Ministries.

To get us started—here are the introductions I asked each of you to contribute.

I'm looking forward to our in-person gathering in Cleveland October 7-10, 2010.

Mary

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

Our Year Together

Gather - October 7-10, 2010.

The first meeting of the Council of Theological Students will take place alongside the 2010 *Mission Works* Event. The Council of Theological Students will also participate 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 work in groups of 3-4 to plan and create a newsletter on a theme of mission.

People-to-People Pilgrimage (option) Connect with global partners. Learn from one another.



Kathryn Henderson

Andover Newton Theological School

My name is Kathryn Henderson. Growing up in a family that lived overseas many years and traveled as much as possible, I developed a love for other cultures, religions, and places early in life. By high school I was involved in a program similar to Model U.N., and planned to join the Peace Corps, so studied Spanish for several years.

I never joined the Peace Corps, instead taking a different path in public service, but my love for international studies has never changed. In the 1990's I helped found a fair trade retail store (an independent affiliate of Ten Thousand Villages), and became co-executive

director of its own craft cooperative, Crafts of Hope.

Since coming to Andover Newton, I have been involved with interfaith work, and also have a deep commitment to ecumenism. That is one of the reasons why the opportunity to be a Global Ministries Council of Theological Students member is so exciting. This past year I attended an interfaith action conference with people from around the world, and felt again the pull toward working with people from the global community. I feel honored and delighted to learn about Global Ministries firsthand.

Micah James

Brite Divinity School

Hey Y'all!

My name is Micah James and I am in my second year at Brite Divinity School in the Master of Divinity program. I am a life-long Disciples of Christ pursuing DOC ordination.

My undergraduate background is in Middle School education and I was a teacher for 4 years (pre-school the 7th & 8th grade) before attending Brite.

I am currently the licensed Minister to Youth at East Dallas Christian Church. In addition, I am currently serving as Moderator to the Brite Student Association & a member of the CLER ministry Team.

I have passion for mission and service, and recently led my youth group on an urban mission experience in our own city of Dallas, TX. This was an incredible and eye-opening experience. It affirmed for me that God's love can be shared anywhere – whether that is 2 or 20,000 miles from home.

I strongly believe that the youth of our church are an important part of our future, but that does not mean that they grow and learn in isolation. As we grow as church, we should focus together on our ecumenical, multi-generational strengths. I believe the whole church grows, learns, and serves together as “the body of Christ.”

I am excited and honored to be a part of this ministry,



Tiauna Boyd

Chicago Theological Seminary

My name is Tiauna Boyd and I live for children. Children embody both my delicate purpose in life and my deepest faith that God's heart dwells among the least of these. In the U.S. I have studied child development and worked in pre-school settings for the past ten years. Abroad, I have volunteered with children in nursery school and orphanage settings in Japan and Ghana.

Embarking on my third year of study at the Chicago Theological Seminary in the Masters of Divinity program, my prayer is that God will continue to prepare me to serve children here and abroad with authentic love, honest integrity, sensitive compassion and bold courage.

Janis M. Brown Claremont School of Theology/Disciples Seminary Foundation



My name is Janis Brown. I am a second year student at Claremont School of Theology pursuing a Masters of Divinity degree with an emphasis in spiritual formation. Currently I am a ministry intern at First Christian Church of Ontario, CA.

I was born and raised in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and grew up in Ashtabula, Ohio. Long active as a leader in the local and regional church, I was called to serve the general church as staff in Disciples Home Mission, Office of Disciples Women, with a portfolio that included coordinating the development of education and mission resources. As staff, I served on the National Council of Churches Program Committee on Education for Mission (PCEM), co-lead the Woman-to-Woman mission trip to Brazil and participate in the Festival of the Decade of Solidarity with Women in Harare, Zimbabwe.

My interests and passions revolve around justice and advocacy issues, ministry with women, and inter/intra faith dialogue. I am interested in learning and teaching a concept of radical hospitality that moves us into becoming the "beloved community" and how it affects the changing face of mission at home and abroad.

Andrew Packman

Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago

I am deeply interested in the church's witness and work towards reconciliation across the world. My particular areas of interest are the Balkans and the Middle East, especially the conflict in Israel, Palestine, and Bosnia. I participated on the "Compassion on the Ground" seminarians trip to Bosnia in the Summer of 2009. There I was privileged to witness firsthand the work that Disciples congregations, through Week of Compassion and partner organizations of various faith traditions are doing to bring peace and reconciliation to this traumatized region.

My interest in Israel/Palestine stems less from my personal travels and more from my heritage. My father, a secular Jew, raised me with an eye towards Jerusalem, the conflict, and the importance of a Jewish national homeland. My purely Zionist views were challenged upon meeting my now best friend, a Palestinian-Jordanian whose family was forced to flee their home in Yalo (near the Biblical Emmaus, or in Arabic, Imwas) after the 1967 war. In addition, I studied abroad for two semesters in Birmingham, UK during my third year

of college. I plan to pursue an independent study project on reconciliation in Bosnia.



Brenda K. Marin

Lancaster Theological Seminary

My name is Brenda Marin and I am a third year M. Div. student at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA. My ministry is focused on the process of learning and embodying what it truly means to live out Jesus' teaching and command to his followers to "love your neighbor." I can't remember a time when I was not attracted and sought to know more about others who were different from me. One of my earliest childhood friends was a young girl from Nigeria, named Melody. This year, I am interested in learning more about the Global Ministries field and how, as an ordained minister, I can fulfill my calling in this area of mission, advocacy, education, and service. I have been fortunate throughout my life to meet and enjoy friendships with individuals in and from numerous countries. I am deeply drawn to the work of Just-Peace programs and believe that what happens to one of us, happens to all of us. Some of my goals are to become a certified ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor; participate in the Border Links program and learn more about the Church's responsibility in responding to the immigration (legal and illegal) issues facing our country; to participate in the CPT (Christian Peacemaking Teams); and to assist in developing a common language of peace and reconciliation throughout the world. I look forward to the learning and challenges of our time together. See you in October! Blessings!

Georgia Chambers

Greetings! I am Georgia Chambers and I come to the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. I am a second year student, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree and seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ (UCC). I feel called to serving in ministry as a Chaplain or in Pastoral Care capacities. My interest is in being able to incorporate the experiences I may have as a member of this council into my work as a Pastoral caregiver. Drawing upon my life experience of living as “the other” on many fronts, I am compelled to be an activist for the “under-dog”. I am interested in learning about global missions, perspectives as well as about the current involvement of the UCC and Disciples of Christ with other countries and religious institutions outside of the United States.

As a native Texan, I have also lived, worked and played in California, which I consider to be my “spiritual” home. I was reared in the Southern Baptist faith. As life progressed, I affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) and developed a rich faith in our Creator and Sustainer. As I continued to grow in faith and became a social justice activist, I affiliated with my home church, First Congregational Church UCC in Oakland, California.

I believe that hospitality to God means hospitality to others. Throughout the years, I have served as a Deacon of the church praying and counseling with diverse members of God’s creation. I have ministered to others through

Eden Theological Seminary

ushering, choir, welcoming and greeting, serving communion. I have chaired the Nominating Committee, been on the Board of Directors and Lay Delegates of the church...just to name a few. My personal gifts are those of compassion, patience and listening. I find extra joy in life through swimming, fishing, playing basketball, observing tennis, watching marching bands, game shows, HGTV, reruns of *Sanford and Son* and *The Beverly Hillbillies*, listening to music (gospel, jazz, R&B, soft soul and classical), cooking and I pride myself in the art of Texas style Barbequing!!

I have attained a Master of Arts degree in Education from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa. Secularly, I have spent many decades working in the field of Mental Health in various capacities. On behalf of the states of Texas and California, I have most recently, functioned as a professional public school educator. I teach all level core subjects, but my passion has been teaching Special education at the Middle school level.

To compliment my life, this multifaceted, sweet spirited, barbequing Pisces is the spouse of Michelle Freeman. We have shared life together for fourteen years and are the proud parents of a 6 yr. old, handsome, golden, Lab (mix) named Franklin. Spiritual transformation is a powerful thing and I am looking forward to joining you as together we grow in God’s grace for all. World liberation is bound together.....so let us learn and work together for the greater good.

Eric Atcheson

Pacific School of Religion

Eric Atcheson (that’s me—I’ll switch to first-person now...) is a third-year Master of Divinity student at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, and a second-year Student Associate Minister at First Christian Church in Concord, California. I am a lifelong member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), having been raised in the social justice-oriented congregation of Saint Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kansas. I am a class of 2008 alumnus of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where, I had the opportunity to compete in parliamentary debate both nationally and internationally, representing the United States in a debate against the Irish national parliamentary debate team at the Air Force Academy in 2008. From my debate experiences comes a deeply held belief in the power of words and dialogue in exploring solutions to systematic injustices.

My international mission travel includes a 2006 mission to sub-Saharan Africa with Global Ministries and a 2010 mission to Mexico with Amor Ministries. My global travels also include journeys to Europe and Israel. My interests in social justice include genocide recognition and prevention, abolition of capital punishment, Biblically-oriented critiques of economic injustice, prophetic preaching, and the spreading of fair trade practices. I am planning a career in parish ministry and am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to work with my fellow seminarians under the auspices of Global Ministries.

“O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time, revive it; in our own time, make it known; and in wrath, may you remember mercy.” –Habakkuk 3:2

Barbara Schaars**Lexington Theological Seminary**

Hello,

I am Barbara Schaars from Lawrenceburg, KY and I am a second year student at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. Going to seminary is a dream come true for me since I grew up in a tradition that actively discouraged women from entering the ministry or studying theology. I feel like I need to absorb all the information I can since I am embarking on a second career. I have read a lot and participated in support activities for Global Ministries, mostly through my local church in Lawrenceburg. Human trafficking is an area of concern in which I am very interested. I look forward to learning so much from our meetings in Cleveland and sharing that information with my church and my fellow students at the seminary. On a personal note, I have been married for 35 years and have two children. Sarah married this past July and my son, Lucas is a college student. I completed therapy dog training with my dog, Chip and enjoy visiting those who are sick or lonely. I have been very active in my local church, First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, as an elder, teacher and working on a variety of committees. I look forward to meeting all of you and learning your stories.

Kelly Gindlesberger**Phillips Theological Seminary**

Hello! My name is Kelly Gindlesberger and I am beginning my second year in the M.Div. program at Phillips Theological Seminary. I come to the seminary and to my pastoral ministry of four years as a second career pastor. My 30+ years in the "real world" gives me some perspective on the nature of corporate enterprise and the material consumption that drives much of our national economy and has far reaching global impacts. Several years ago I had my first global mission experience on a Church World Service sponsored trip to the highlands of Jamaica with my high school aged son; we were graced with far more than we gave.

My more recent experience was domestic rather than global with a two-and-a-half-year engagement with the

faith based groups and NGO's working on the long term tornado recovery effort in Greensburg, KS, which is near the church I serve. I worked under the umbrella of Disciples Volunteering with Disciples Home Missions. There were many lessons from that experience that can be applied both domestically and globally.

These experiences have only served to reinforce my belief that the old Hebrew traditions of loving God and loving neighbor that Jesus reiterated as the greatest commandments comprise most, if not all, of our Christian mission. I hope to expand my sense of neighborhood and learn more about what that means from a Global perspective during this year.

Cecilia Runge**United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities**

Hello! My name is Cecilia and I am a second-year student at United Theological Seminary where I am seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ. I grew up in Holland Township, NJ and graduated from Catawba College in 2005. Catawba is a private, liberal arts, UCC-affiliated college in Salisbury, NC where I was blessed to meet professors who taught me how to prayerfully discern my vocation.

While at Catawba, I studied Religion and Musical Theatre, participated in the Gay-Straight Alliance and Student Government Association, and worked as an LGBT advocate in the community. Upon graduation from Catawba, I moved to Minneapolis, MN to pursue my Masters of Divinity with a concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling. My education at UTS so far has allowed me to cultivate my passion for peace and justice by leading the Queer-Straight Alliance and participating in countless social justice efforts in the Twin Cities and beyond. In June, I attended a global justice trip to Chiapas, Mexico where I found solidarity with the severely oppressed indigenous peoples there.

For example, I had the opportunity to hear the stories of members of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation and worship with Las Abejas in a ceremony that commemorated the Acteal Massacre. I am blessed that my brothers and sisters at UTS and my home church, Falcon Heights UCC, support my interests in Immigration Reform, Marriage Equality, Food

Justice, Humane Food, the fight for clean water, and an end to poverty and homelessness. I am enthusiastic about the ways that the church can be a sanctuary for all those who feel marginalized and in need of a community. I feel called to embody God's love for all people and most importantly, to join all who find themselves in the struggle for liberation. I look forward to the ways that my work with the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students this year can respond to God's needs for the church to be a place of love, peace, and justice.

Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Roster – 2010 - 2011

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