

Global Vision



A newsletter for friends of the Global Mission Institute, Luther Seminary

Vol. 13, No. 1, Pentecost 2002

Grace and Peace to you my brothers and sisters in Christ!

I write to share with you the good news of the Global Mission Institute. Over the last few months, the GMI has been undergoing several changes that will strengthen the support the GMI provides to Luther Seminary in its task of developing global mission leaders.

First, the GMI has physically moved to the heart of the Luther Seminary campus. The office is now located in Northwestern Hall on the upper level. The move has significantly increased the awareness and visibility of the GMI — students are reminded daily of the importance of global mission. In addition, the treasure the GMI holds in donated mission-related books has been conveniently placed near the classrooms of Northwestern Hall. Students will be encouraged to use these books to further enhance their study of global mission.

We also rejoice together in the calling and acceptance of Rev. Rosanne Swanson as GMI's interim director. She began her work as interim director on Aug. 1, 2002. Rosanne's main undertaking during the coming year is to thoroughly evaluate the GMI programs and lead the GMI through an intense visioning process. To learn more about Rosanne and her role within the GMI please turn to page 2.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Frieder Ludwig from Germany has accepted a call to Luther Seminary as Associate Professor for Mission and World Christianity. The Luther Seminary community welcomed him and his family the first week of September. To read more about Dr. Ludwig please turn to page 3.

Truly these are exciting times. The Global Vision will continue to keep you abreast of new developments within the GMI and Luther Seminary throughout the year.

In good faith,

David L. Tiede
President

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The GMI Mission:

The Global Mission Institute provides critical support to Luther Seminary in its task of developing global mission leaders, partnering with the church in fulfillment of the great commission.

Swanson to provide leadership for GMI

By Shelley Cunningham Harber

Even the concept of a “Global Mission Institute” goes against the United States’ image as an international “melting pot,” according to Rosanne Swanson, new interim director of the GMI. So how does the GMI answer the call to change that image?

“The idea of a ‘melting pot’ is that everyone becomes homogenous. But of course, we can never become truly homogenous – nor should we. We as citizens and especially as the church have to become aware of our differences and hold them up as things to celebrate as we do God’s work.”

Swanson has been called to serve as interim director of the GMI during a year of transition, something she sees as an opportunity to provide a more focused and intentional mission both on and off campus.

Though a major part of her role at GMI is to provide oversight of programs and outreach, Swanson says the greater challenge will be in leading conversations to discern how the GMI can better be integrated with the life of Luther Seminary, and the larger church, particularly in relation to the global aspect of its Christian heritage.

“We in North America can no longer assume we are the ‘Christian culture’ of the world,” she said. “World Christianity has a much broader scope and deeper reach. I think it is the GMI’s place to both acknowledge this and initiate examination of how our culture is shaped by other Christian influences.”

In addition to serving as interim director of the GMI, a contract which runs through July 2003, she is completing a Ph.D. degree in pastoral care. Her skills will be invaluable as she attempts to bring about change in an organization that has not always followed one set path.

“I see myself as a midwife in the process, helping facilitate and articulate the vision but by no means as the central actor,” she said. “There are so many people to talk to, and it is my intention to listen to as many voices as I can, to set the table as largely as I can, so that together we might sift through the ideas and shape the vision for how GMI fits into the total mission of the seminary.”

Though Swanson spent two years teaching 5th graders in South Korea before entering Gettysburg Seminary, she says she never felt a strong pull towards global mission growing up. “I’d definitely say I suffered from wanderlust, but I hadn’t thought about serving as a missionary as part of my call from God,” she said.

That changed when she married Mark Swanson, a fellow Gettysburg Seminary student who currently serves as associate professor of Islamic studies and director of the Islamic Studies program at Luther Seminary. Shortly after Mark was ordained in 1981, they moved to Cairo, Egypt, where

Mark pursued graduate studies and joined the faculty of the Evangelical Theological Seminary. The 17 years they spent in Egypt spurred a deep awakening of the influence of the global church for Rosanne. A decade as a bed-and-breakfast hostess introduced her to a wide variety of travelers and citizens. After she was ordained



Rosanne Swanson brings a global perspective heavily influenced by almost two decades living in Egypt. “One cannot live in another culture without somehow being affected by that culture,” she said.

in 1994 she was pastor of a small interdenominational congregation in the city that served a large refugee population in Cairo.

“One cannot live in another culture without somehow being affected by that culture,” she said. “One learns how to be a guest, a good guest who respects others’ culture, customs, traditions. It shapes the way you begin to see the world in and through other peoples’ eyes.”

Swanson hopes to incorporate that perspective into the GMI’s programs and focus for the coming year.

“We have to get students excited about the fact that we are part of a global church. This concept is contrary to a prevailing sense of individuality in our own culture. But the body of Christ needs feet and hands and head. The church cannot succeed unless it works together.”

She sees GMI as “the place, the voice that can say, ‘Wait a minute – we are indeed the feet and hands and the church needs us all.’”

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Global Vision

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Ludwig joins Luther Seminary mission faculty

Dr. Frieder Ludwig is the newest addition to the Luther Seminary faculty. He will serve as Associate Professor of Mission and World Christianity, beginning in the fall semester of 2002. Ludwig brings both extensive research and publishing in the history and theology of mission and a breadth of experience in Christianity worldwide.

A native of Germany, born in 1961, and a Lutheran, Ludwig studied theology, missiology, and history at Heidelberg University and the University of Birmingham, with shorter stays in Ghana and at Oxford and Yale universities. He has doctoral degrees in history and in theology from Heidelberg. He has done extensive research on the church and mission in Tanzania, Nigeria, and India, and has



published three major books, one of which has been translated into English (*Church and State in Tanzania: Aspects of a Changing Relationship, 1961-1994*).

Ludwig has taught at Bayreuth University and Munich University in Germany and at Jos University in Nigeria. At Luther Seminary he will teach required courses in Christian mission as well as electives in mission history and theology, with special attention to the spread of Christianity in Africa. His extensive research and publishing interests will strengthen the seminary's doctoral program as well.

"[I was attracted to the fact] that Luther Seminary is a place where Christians of different cultural backgrounds and different ideas are working together and that there is an awareness of the centrality of mission studies and of developments within

world-wide Christianity," he said. "Mission can no longer be thought of as 'one-way,' from North to South or from West to East. Every church is to be considered in a state of mission, both as a subject and as an object of mission."

He expressed excitement about continuing to explore issues of mission and Lutheran identity, particularly within the context of the seminary's multicultural community. "I am looking forward to discussions with students and in cooperation with colleagues to determine how we all can understand and participate in God's mission," he said. "The question of how we can facilitate a peaceful coexistence between people with very different backgrounds and religious convictions is basic for me."

Ludwig, his wife Bettina, and their six-year-old daughter Susanne will live in one of the seminary houses on campus.

Continent Emphasis Weeks

The Global Mission Institute is continually seeking ways to incorporate global awareness and an international perspective into students' theological studies. Often, international students and those who have traveled significantly in other parts of the world lend insight and ideas to those who have not had the opportunity to experience the global church outside the U.S.

To highlight the gifts and perspective of this diverse community, the GMI will be coordinating four different continent emphasis weeks during the 2002-2003 school year. The first of these celebrations, Sept. 23-27, will focus on Asia. Asian students and friends have gathered to brainstorm ideas about how to flood the campus with information and learning opportunities about Asian culture and Lutheran/Christian activity in the region. A program, which is open to the public, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. Other activities for students will be planned throughout the week.

In November, the campus will learn about the continent of Europe. February will bring an emphasis on Africa, and April will focus on South America. We pray that these focused weeks will spur discussion and learning about the global church to which we belong.

Global Awareness in Two New Forms

Ministry Forums to keep students informed about projects, organizations, and issues important to us as missional people. Most forums have been presentations with a brief time for questions, responses, and discussion.

This year, the majority of the forums will center on the theology of mission and cross-cultural perspectives. More input will be drawn from all participants as we move from a presentation structure to a much more discussion-oriented format that will give ample opportunity to examine how "mission" is understood and practiced around the world. Seminary professors will facilitate most forums and students can easily come and go during their lunch break. Once a month, the forums will be health related, led by the Parish Nurse, and there will also be periodic topics of general interest to the community.

The regular schedule – each Thursday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Dining area – will begin Sept. 12. Everyone is welcome, including those outside the seminary community. For a list of topics, check the calendar of events listing on the Inside Luther website (www.luthersem.edu/intranet) or contact the GMI at 651-641-3390.

Mission and Ministry Forums

For several years, the Cross Cultural Education Department and the GMI have led weekly Mission and

A Letter from Madagascar: Greetings from an Island of Prayer

By Heather Roth Johnson

Madagascar, a large island located in the Indian Ocean, is home to flora and fauna found in no other place of the world. Lemurs, orchids, and baobab trees color the land as people from eighteen different ethnic groups bustle in the busy towns or farm in the countryside. Madagascar is truly a tropical paradise full of wonder and lush and usually a peaceful, calm place. However, in recent times, the island has experienced — through turmoil and loss, governmental change — social reform and spiritual renewal.

In December 2001, a presidential election occurred that changed this quiet nation. Two rival parties both stated their right to the presidency, and from there, civil war was declared. Lives were lost, bridges blown up, and infrastructure crumbled. Through these rough times, people drew together as the nation began to fall apart. The Malagasy people assembled peacefully, especially in the capitol, Antananarivo, to demonstrate their want for political and social change.

"I am continually amazed at how much hope people have when they have so little. My Malagasy friends say it is because they have prayer to help them in their constant time of need."

They did not curse or banter wild allegations in order to show their unhappiness but instead prayed. Many demonstrations began in prayer and worship to ask God for change in a peaceful and just way.

God answered those prayers: After eight months of uncertainty, peace has once again returned to the island. And it is this peace that people hope will remain for a long time.

This island of prayer has transformed many lives, including mine. As an ELCA missionary serving in Madagascar, this political situation has given me the chance to see what prayer

can do. I am continually amazed at how much hope people have when they have so little. My Malagasy friends say it is because they have prayer to help them in their constant times of need which pulls them through. It is this prayer that brought peace back to Madagascar. And it is this peace in which I am able to return to my home and work.

But prayers are still needed. Please pray that peace and justice will continue to prevail in Madagascar under its new leadership. Pray that the Malagasy people will be able to know now true democracy and freedom. Pray that infrastructure may be rapidly rebuilt and comfort given to those families whose loved ones were lost. But most of all, pray that this story of an island of prayer may be shared as a true witness to the world of God's transforming power and grace.

Scott ('97) and Heather Roth Johnson ('96) have been serving as missionaries in Madagascar since 1999. They returned to Madagascar on Sept. 5 once the situation in the country stabilized.

Believe in the mission of the GMI?

Tired of market fluctuations?
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Or call Brad Reiners, associate vice president of planned giving, for a "no obligation proposal" at 651-641-3450; toll-free: 888-358-8437.

Lectures @ Luther Seminary 2002

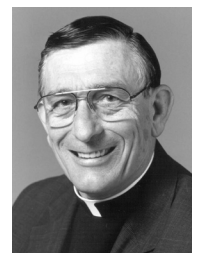
The Andrew S. Burgess Lectures in Global Mission

Mission, Evangelism and the "McDonaldization" of the Church in North America

Where is the Christian community of faith headed in this century? In the last century, the Church witnessed a two percent decline in the world's Christian population. What happened?

Monday, Oct. 7, 2002 10 a.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation

The Rev. Dr. Phillip Baker
is associate professor of
missiology and evangelism at
Lutheran Theological Southern
Seminary in Columbia, S.C.



International Student Profile:

Orin Cummings

Sometimes following the call to serve God leads you out of – not just into – ordained ministry.

At least, that's what it has meant for Orin Cummings, a native of the South American coastal country of Guyana. Cummings served as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Georgetown, Guyana's capital city, for 14 years, before last year resigning his call to come and study at Luther Seminary.

"Pastors in Guyana don't see the necessity for continuing education, don't place it as a priority," he said. "Everything I had done to further my skills had been on my own initiative. My congregation didn't want to lose me – they offered for me to take a leave of absence – but others didn't see the need for what I wanted to do. Resigning my call seemed like the best way."

Cummings was drawn to Luther Seminary initially because of its master of arts in youth and family ministry. He had chaired the Guyanese church's national committee for youth and wanted to explore further opportunities to reach out to this population. But he recently switched his focus to a master of arts in church history.

"My ultimate goal is to do a Ph.D. in church history, with emphasis on contextual theology, and teach at a higher education level, perhaps at the University of Guyana," he said. "I dream of taking an intellectual look at the history of the Lutheran church in Guyana, especially from the standpoint of involvement of external parties like the church in America. What are the Lutheran doctrinal positions, what have been the informed decisions made from a theological point of view in relation to the church's development?"

He feels holding a faculty position – even at a non-religious university – would offer expansive opportunities to bring attention to the church's role and mission. He has been intentional



in these efforts since 1987, when he spent a fall term at Wartburg Seminary as part of his bachelor's education program at the ecumenical United Theological College of the West Indies. The connections he made while studying at Wartburg led him to take a more active role speaking to congregations, at ecumenical gatherings in the United States, and with the ELCA's Division for Global Mission about the church in Guyana.

Yet his call to uphold continuing education for clergy, and provide greater education and training for laity, is still strong. An important part of his ministry in the parish came from equipping the people of his congregation to take greater ownership of its programs, planning and outreach.

"I tried to give the people a sense of confidence for ministry, so they do not feel dependent on the pastor or feel inhibited in doing God's work," he said.

Because there are only 10 ordained pastors to serve all 47 of Guyana's Lutheran congregations, he said, the need for initiative-taking, theologically grounded lay leaders is great. "They are the caregivers; they carry most of the leadership whether there is a pastor there or not."

Cummings, who has kept in occasional contact with his congregation during his studies at Luther Seminary, said this intentional effort has borne fruit since he left. "It was

the most challenging thing to leave a congregation that was so progressive, with so much potential. But right now the congregation has the opportunity to look at itself and identify its gifts. They are receiving guidance from a retired missionary from Canada who will serve there for two years, but much of the work is being coordinated by the people. It is very exciting to see what they are doing."

He feels the Guyanese church would strongly benefit from rostered lay professionals such as diaconal ministers and Associates in Ministry, and hopes that when he and his wife Samantha, who is pursuing graduate studies in Christian education and social work, return to Guyana they will be able to initiate formal training for them.

"There are so many ways the church can grow if the people feel they can help make it happen."

— SCH

Students reflect on Global Mission Event

This summer's Global Mission Event, led by the Division for Global Mission of the ELCA, drew thousands of believers to Minneapolis in July for a long weekend of worship, workshops, speakers and celebrations. Twenty-one students and staff from Luther Seminary, along with many of their family members of all ages, took part in this multi-cultural event as volunteers, presenters, youth leaders, and committee members. We asked some of Luther's participants to share what the GME meant to them.

The opportunity to see a microcosm of the world in squeezed into one building (even if it's as large as the Minneapolis Convention Center) doesn't come along very often. This year's Global Mission Event, my first, presented just such an opportunity. I already understand this short exposure to diverse faces, diverse experiences and, therefore, diverse voices to have shaped my own perspective, a perspective now revitalized with the promise of mission.

As part of the GME's Global University, I presented two different workshops: one providing a basic introduction to Islam, the other an introduction to the theology of interfaith engagement and dialogue. I was excited to participate in this manner, but I was a little nervous too. These were *missionaries* I was going to be talking to ... and there was a huge chance that they would know quite a bit more than me! And believe me, some of them did.

Yet my fears and anxieties melted away with Thursday evening's opening celebration. I was swept into the spirit of the GME (it truly is an *event*). During the opening night, I was stunned by the stories shared of Sept. 11 by the ELCA bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod, Steve Bouman. His passion set the tone for the weekend, reminding all of us that we belong to an interconnected web or relationship—locally, nationally and internationally. Mission knows no restrictions or boundaries. On Friday, I listened to Bishop Bouman detail the methods utilized by his synod to revitalize parish connections to their neighborhoods.

The highlight of Friday evening's program was the 'living room' discussion between Suad Younan and Marc Ellis, mediated by Said Ailabouni. My heart was broken as I heard both a Palestinian mother and an American Jewish scholar speak with prophetic voices about the realities of the Palestine/Israel conflict. The next day, I was privileged to attend a joint presentation by Dr. Ellis and Munib Younan,

Lutheran Bishop of Jerusalem.

Revitalize: to make something vital once again. Sept. 11 has brought our national culture and our church to a confessional moment when we proclaim to ourselves and to others that which is most vital. Many of us have noticed an incongruity between the various national and faith confessions that have been proposed. This Global Mission Event presented its participants to consider these competing confessions in a greater context: the world that is God's.

Robert O. Smith, MDiv/MA senior

One of the most important aspects of the conference was to be with people representing 39 nations...to feel the pulse of Christianity from around the world. It really opened the eyes of my 13-year-old to the wideness and diversity of our Christian community. The music was especially fantastic in exemplifying the depth and width of our faith that goes beyond the boundaries of race and ethnicity.

Mary Ann Bowman, MDiv intern

We were so surprised with this big event. I met many people from all over the world, even old friends from Japan! My wife, Tomoko, and I served in the children's program. We had a very good time teaching Origami and a Japanese children's song. Tomoko was surprised by the children's creativity. Through this GME we hope children, especially in poor countries, will have a good chance to live a better life.

Toshifumi Uemura, MA senior

It was truly an amazing experience to share faith in Christ with such a wide variety of peoples from so many different cultures. I was touched by the struggles of so many around the world. It brought me closer to their reality and how faith in God sustains us through trials and tribulations no matter how overwhelming.

My wife, Samantha, and I worked with the Youth Program. Most of the time we were exhausted from the long days and short nights. However, we had a good time making friends with those assigned to us and also with colleague counselors. We went to some of the general sessions and the Global University sessions. While we did not share much about our personal faith, we grew in our appreciation of the differences and uniqueness of one another. Our faith in Christ was the catalyst for our growth and oneness.

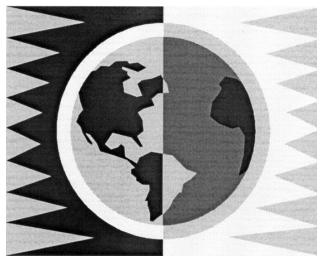
Orin Cummings, MA senior



Luther Seminary international students and their families (including Atsuko Uemura, above) served as banner-bearers during the GME.

✂ **NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BEGIN**

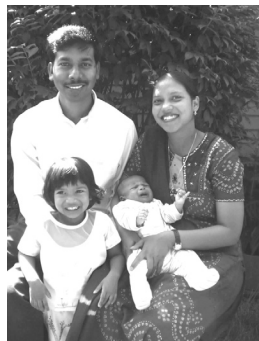
Eleven new international students begin their studies at Luther Seminary this year. They come from China, Tanzania, Malaysia, Canada, Uganda, Iceland, Slovakia, Nigeria, South Korea, Norway and Taiwan. Some of them arrived early in the summer to attend language training prior to the fall semester. We welcome them all into this new community.



News Notes

✂ **MINZ-EKKA FAMILY WELCOMES NEW MEMBER**

Congratulations to GMI staff members Neeraj Ekka and Nijhar Minz and 2-year-old big sister Maani, who recently welcomed Urbas Sawang ("the Lord's strength") into their family. He was born on July 21 and all went well. Congratulations to the family!



✂ **GMI THANKS STUDENT WORKERS**

Clint Schnekloth and Thomas Oduro completed their positions at the Global Mission Institute office on August 1. Clint will be studying in Germany for a few months before seeking a pastoral call in the Madison, Wis., area. Thomas will continue his PhD work in Church History at Luther.

✂ **CHINESE SCHOLAR COMING IN NOVEMBER**

Yang Hui-Lin, Professor and Director of the Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Renmin (People's) University in China has delayed his visit to Luther Seminary as the Global Mission Institute's Guest Scholar until November. He will study Western Arts and Christianity.

✂ **PUBLIC INVITED TO ASIAN FESTIVAL**

GMI will be hosting a special program featuring instruments and cultural components from Asian countries during Asian Emphasis Week Sept. 23-27. The program, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of the Incarnation. Asian snacks will be provided beforehand.

✂ **MUSIC WITH A MISSION**

For many years, piano duetists Paul and Helen Baumgartner have supported GMI through concerts called "Music with a Mission." In October they will team up with concert pianist Tomoko Uemura, wife of seminarian Toshifumi Uemura, to perform a benefit concert supporting the International Student fund. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 29.

Your Membership to the GMI

The Global Mission Institute provides information and assistance to those who are preparing to be leaders in global ministry. The GMI can only operate with the help of Christians dedicated to the mission of the gospel. Membership to the GMI helps sustain this valuable resource for the church.

Who Qualifies for Membership?

Membership begins with a gift of \$250 to GMI. There is no upper limit. Membership may be renewed annually. GMI membership automatically qualifies the donor as a PARTNER of Luther Seminary.

Benefits of Membership

1. The satisfaction of knowing your investment strengthens global mission in the ELCA.
2. Prompt thanks and recognition from the GMI and Luther Seminary.
3. A lapel pin featuring the GMI logo.
4. An invitation to an annual recognition event specifically for members.
5. *Global Vision* newsletter, featuring news and information about global mission.

Global Mission Membership Levels

- GMI Missioner (\$10,000 or more)
- GMI Investor (\$5,000-\$9,999)
- GMI Builder (\$2,500-\$4,999)
- GMI Sustainer (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- GMI Founder (\$500-\$999)
- GMI Sponsor (\$250-\$499)
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**Global Mission Institute
Luther Seminary
2481 Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108**



GMI Calendar

September 23-27 Asian Emphasis Week

A variety of events will occur on campus. Call GMI at 651-641-3390 for details, or see the article on page 3 for more information.

September 26 Asian Festival Program

7:00 p.m. Chapel of the Incarnation. Free and open to the public.

October 7 Andrew S. Burgess Lecture in Global Mission

"Mission, Evangelism, and the McDonalidization of the Church in North America." Phillip Baker, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. 10 a.m. Chapel of the Incarnation

October 29 GMI Donor Open House

6:30-7:30 p.m. GMI Offices, Northwestern Hall

October 29 Music with a Mission Concert

Helen and Paul Baumgartner and Tomoko Uemura, pianists. 7:30 p.m. Chapel of the Incarnation.

November 11-15 European Emphasis Week

A variety of events will occur on campus. Call GMI at 651-641-3390 for more information.

Did you know ...

... that Luther Seminary international students spoke in 23 different congregations last year? Of these, 10 were visited for the first time. Our international students have fascinating and inspiring stories to tell about God at work across the globe. If you'd like to invite a student to speak at your mission festival, adult forum, or preach in worship, contact Nijhar Minz-Ekka at 651-641-3595.

Prayer Concerns

- ✘ Pray for students, faculty and staff at Luther Seminary as the new school year begins. May we all strive to seek God's will in our work and study.
- ✘ As violence and tensions continue in the Middle East, continually pray for God's peace, reconciliation, and hope.
- ✘ Pray for Christians around the world who seek leadership in their congregations. May God call pastors and laypersons to the ministry to serve in the variety of ways needed.
- ✘ Pray for the Holy Spirit to ignite us as we strive to open our minds to various cultural and religious perspectives as well as witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our words and actions each day.
- ✘ Pray for the hurting people of Zimbabwe who are suffering because of food shortages, political repression and chaos. May God continue to give them hope for a better future and the strength to overcome this present crisis.
- ✘ As the GMI enters an intense visioning process, pray that God is at the center of all decisions made to help encourage students and others to serve in the world.
- ✘ Pray for Frieder, Bettina and Susanne Ludwig as they settle into life here in America and at Luther Seminary. May they find good support and a clear sense of calling in their new vocations.
- ✘ Pray for the family and friends of Sharon Larkins, a recent Luther Seminary graduate who died unexpectedly on Aug. 30. Pray especially for the many international students she befriended during her time living on campus as they mourn her death.

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