



Gratz Insider, Summer 2015 - Story Continuation

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Gratz Launches Two New Master's Programs

Many educational institutions offer graduate programs in nonprofit management. However, there are few such programs that focus specifically on the host of issues involved in operating faith-based nonprofits. To fill this void, Gratz developed the **Master of Science in Nonprofit Management for Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs)**, and welcomed its first cohort of students this summer.

As Marilyn Lucas, who teaches fundraising in the Gratz program, explains, "There are complexities and conflicts [in FBOs] that don't exist in other organizations."

In her fundraising class, Lucas discusses the "inherent tensions in religious philanthropy." For example, should funds be raised on behalf of people of a particular faith or for charitable causes generally, and how do the fundraising models of different religious organizations compare?

Offered entirely online in an accelerated format, the MS program in nonprofit management is ideal for working adults. A practitioner-oriented program, it provides clergy, educators, executives, lay leaders and others with the practical skills they need to manage their faith-based organizations. The curriculum includes courses on leadership skills, accounting and law for nonprofits, organizational behavior, and other topics in nonprofit management. Acquiring this base of knowledge is vital for an FBO leader, regardless of whether the FBO is a religious entity, communal service organization, hospital or educational institution.

However, as Joe Welsh, attorney and adjunct instructor of the Gratz nonprofit law course explains, "At Gratz, we get to do a deeper exploration of the important connections between faith, morality, ethics and law in the management of FBOs."

For more information on the MS program, visit the [MS in Nonprofit Management page](#) on our website.

This fall, Gratz will also launch a Master of Arts program with a very different focus: the **Master of Arts in Israel Studies**. This online program will offer a comprehensive historical, political, economic and cultural study of Israel from a Zionist perspective. While of interest to anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Israel, this program is professionally relevant to those working - or aspiring to work - within the Jewish community as educators, advocates, fundraisers or administrators. It would also be valuable to pro-Israel lobbyists, Jewish Federation professionals responsible for Israel affairs, and Hillel staffers confronting the rising anti-Israel rhetoric on college campuses.

According to Dr. Asaf Romirowsky, program director of the Gratz MA in Israel Studies, "These professionals are challenged by Israel education and programming, by the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) Movement and by the 'big tent' mentality regarding views on Israel. Professionals dealing with Israel in any shape or form need the political and historical knowledge to handle these big hurdles."

Dr. Romirowsky is a Middle East historian who lectures extensively on university campuses throughout the country and is widely published in both the national press and scholarly journals. A fellow at the Middle East Forum, Dr. Romirowsky was an IDF (Israel Defense Forces) International Relations liaison officer in the West Bank and to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He has taught courses at Gratz College on Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict for many years.

Given the College's resources and expertise, as well as the impact of current events on the academic interests and professional needs of our students, Gratz's new Master of Arts in Israel Studies is a logical development. Referring to this new program, Dr. Romirowsky says, "I am very excited that Gratz has decided to take this on."

For more information on the Master of Science in Nonprofit Management for Faith- Based Organizations or the Master of Arts in Israel Studies, please contact Dr. Rosalie Guzofsky, dean and vice president for academic affairs at Gratz College, at 215-635-7300 x137 or rguzofsky@gratz.edu.