

# GGC School of Liberal Arts News: Scholarship!

## *SLA Professor Named Fulbright Scholar*

GGC Lecturer of Anthropology Dr. MaryBeth Chrostowsky was named a Fulbright Scholar for the academic year 2023-2024. Chrostowsky will teach and research in Uganda.

Chrostowsky's appointment will be at the Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) in the Masters Refugee and Migration Studies (RMS) program. The University is located in Kampala, near Lake Victoria in the south central part of the country.

The UMU assigned Chrostowsky two courses for the instructional part of her fellowship: *Theory and Practice of Humanitarian Intervention* and *Foundations of Migration and Refugees Studies*.

The research component of Chrostowsky's Fulbright will examine how kinship functions as a resource for South Sudanese forced migrants. Chrostowsky wants to understand how South Sudanese "creatively imagine a new life and to negotiate their current precarious and unpredictable conditions during asylum."

Chrostowsky's topic is timely, especially considering the current political crisis. Social and political disruption are nothing new for the Sudanese people. "South Sudan's long history of conflict has led to a reality of prolonged displacement among its population," Chrostowsky observed. "Many South Sudanese fleeing to Uganda for asylum find themselves remaining for as long as a decade or more."

The displacement that refugees feel raises questions about how they survive. Chrostowsky's research addresses coping mechanisms: "Broadly speaking this ethnographic project will explore the extent to which long-standing kinship practices and patterns can be renegotiated to provide solutions to the complicated cultural disjunctions and unknown futures that accompanies their forced displacement."

Chrostowsky's aspirations include generating an empathy for refugees that results in tangible benefits. "I hope my position at RMS program will create an interest and recognition among the students and faculty of the importance of the lived refugee experience and how anthropology can provide a unique perspective critical to improved refugee policy and law," she said.

Story by *Richard Rawls*



*Dr. Marybeth Chrostowsky hopes that her teaching and research help people understand both the challenges refugees face and the coping mechanisms they develop. Below, Ugandan flag. Bottom, map showing Uganda in its geographical context.*

