

DLS Welcomes 11 Candidates

Upon their acceptance in the spring of 2009, 11 new students entered the Doctor of Liberal Studies (DLS) Program. They join the program's 52 current students. The breadth and diversity of their personal backgrounds as well as their proposed thesis research topics demonstrates the broad appeal of the Liberal Studies Program and relevance of a values-based education. Biographical sketches of the new candidates, arranged alphabetically, follow.

Erika Cohen Derr is the Director of Student Programs at Georgetown University, which allows her to serve as advisor, educator, and mentor to undergraduate student leaders from all walks of life. In this role, Erika works collaboratively to foster personal and leadership development among students, and to empower student organizations to create a vibrant, diverse and complex campus community. Prior to this, Erika served as Georgetown's Director of New Student Orientation. She currently serves on Georgetown's Diversity Action Council, and on the Steering Committee of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. She was also a founding member of the Georgetown Toastmasters club, where she remains an active member. Erika's early professional career included stints as a retail banker and as a health educator with the Arthritis Foundation Metropolitan Washington Chapter. She earned a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the College of William and Mary, and a master's degree in Education, Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland. Her doctoral studies will focus on identity development among college students with particular attention on the role that the Catholic and Jesuit educational mission plays in the development of a student's personal identity and values.

Stephen Ginsberg has spent the last 35 years practicing general ophthalmology in Montgomery County, Maryland, with an emphasis on corneal transplant, cataract, and glaucoma surgery. As a solo practitioner as well as sub-section chief for Washington Adventist Hospital's eye department for the last 20 years, a position he still holds, his professional life has been extraordinarily busy and satisfying. In the early 1990s, his late wife and he were fortunate enough to have attended Georgetown's MALS program and they both completed their degrees in 1994. He shares, "Those years at Georgetown will always be cherished as a period of learning with constant exposure to others with similar interests to my own. Now, as I enter the next phase of my life, having partially retired from my practice in July, 2008, I have opted to begin a new chapter of study. This new phase will combine my long career in medicine with a second related area of interest, namely the study of the bioethical issues of medicine which have surfaced in recent years and which are coincident with the advent of new medical technologies such as stem cell research and application, cloning, abortion rights, euthanasia, right to life/death matters, as well as many others. Hopefully through study, I will be better able to bring

together the disciplines of theology, philosophy, cultural anthropology, and ethics in a manner that will allow me to serve as a bioethicist who will be very helpful in guiding decision making on these very complex and important spheres."

Paul Douglas (Doug) Humphries is in his 25th year of civilian federal service and has held several positions in the security policy and analysis field with various organizations, including the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He currently serves as a senior manager in the National Counterterrorism Center's Directorate of Intelligence. Doug also retired last year as a Colonel in the US Army Reserve after 30 years of combined active and inactive duty, the last several as an infantry officer with special operations forces and as an adjunct instructor with the US Army Command and General Staff College. He received his BA in Political Science and History and his MA in History from the University of California, Los Angeles, and plans to focus his doctoral research on interdisciplinary perspectives on terrorism and efforts to combat it.



Joyce Lussier graduated from Rosemont College in 1960 and received her MA degree in Philosophy from Villanova University in 1962. She was an assistant professor at St. John's University in New York, where she also began her doctoral work in Philosophy. Marriage and children took her to Spokane, Washington, Berlin, Germany and ultimately to Washington, DC where she spent the ensuing years. During this period, she held significant leadership positions designing and overseeing organizational systems. She was the Manager for Maryland and Virginia for the News Election Service and the administrator for the New York State Festival and the New York City Tour. The avocations of scuba diving and photography allowed her the opportunity to travel much of the world and upon retiring in 1996 she moved to Rehoboth Beach, DE. In 2007 she entered the MALS program at Georgetown University to experience more intensive involvement in philosophical and theological issues. Her DLS dissertation will focus on the "Christian Response to the Mind/Body Problem" which will entail an analysis of the current neuro-scientific and cognitive theses and the response that the theological community has proffered to this attack on its basic tenets.

Sassan Cyrus Parandeh is the Global Treasurer of ChildFund International, a humanitarian organization operating in 32 developing countries. He has 18 years of corporate finance and treasury experience having served as the VP, Treasury of Platinum Equity LLC, Director of International Treasury of Dole Food Company, City Cash Manager for the City of Long Beach, California, and Corporate Cash Manager for Litton Industries, Inc. Sassan is a Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) who holds a Masters of Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, a Masters of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from California State University, Long Beach. Sassan has traveled extensively on business and humanitarian missions in emerging countries and has studied, published, and presented works on the detection and abatement of corruption at multinational organizations. As an Iranian-American who lived in Tehran during the 1979 Revolution he came to realize how the perception of foreign exploitation by global businesses in the natural resource and extractive industries helped fan the flames of fundamentalism, isolationism, and tradition. Sassan plans to focus his doctoral research on the impact of globalization and corruption on the radicalization of developing countries.

experience in security, law enforcement, intelligence, education, training, consulting and management. He has served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy in intelligence and law enforcement. As a consultant to the federal government, Governor's Office of the State of Maryland and numerous international business entities, he has developed and delivered training programs in drug interdiction, workplace violence prevention, school security, anti-terrorism, security management and crisis management. He was a contributing author on the topics of security management and emergency management for a new Butterworth Heinemann book entitled: *Maritime Security*, now being used as a textbook at a number of colleges and military academies. His articles have been published in the Journal of Commerce, Security Director News and other publications. His doctoral degree research will focus on defining the critical need to create and design a doctoral degree in Homeland Security at Georgetown University in order to develop highly specialized faculty members to meet the teaching needs of over 300 homeland security degree programs across the United States and to also meet the unique research and staffing needs of the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, DC.

Deborah Reichmann serves on the staff of the Jewish Chaplaincy in the Office of Campus Ministry at Georgetown University. Her work includes religious programming for the Jewish community at Georgetown as well as interfaith programming for all students. She received both her BA and

Ed Piper is the Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management at Georgetown Law. He has over 35 years of diversified



JD from Georgetown University, and also has an MPH from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. Prior to coming to work at Georgetown she spent a decade as a health policy attorney. In this capacity, Ms. Reichmann worked as in-house counsel at industry associations with a focus on advocacy and analysis of healthcare legislation and regulations on local, state and federal levels. As such, her primary focus was on public programs, specifically Medicare. Her doctoral work will focus on how major religions have adapted to a world made both smaller by communication and larger by accessibility. She is interested in examining the impact of diversity in religion on policy and social structure.

Robert Schmidle is a Major General in the United States Marine Corps. He graduated from Drew University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and earned a Masters of Arts in Philosophy from American University. He is a distinguished graduate and prior faculty member of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and is also a distinguished graduate of the Marine Corps War College. He has commanded numerous organizations including two F/A-18 squadrons and most recently was the Commanding General of the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan. His latest publication was in the book *Global Conflict Resolution Through Positioning Analysis* where he contributed the chapter on Positioning Theory and Military Leadership. His doctoral research will draw heavily on the later works of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Dan Spethmann, Ph.D. has more than 30 years of experience in natural resource management. Most recently, he was Manager of Investment Programs for New Forests, Inc. where he helped to raise

and place institutional and private capital into ecosystem markets. Prior to this, he participated in the Non Timber Resources Development effort at Temple-Inland, Inc. where he worked to develop stream and wetlands mitigation instruments, working forest conservation easements, and endangered species credit programs. He was Founder and President of Strategic Controls Corporation which provided supervisory control and data acquisition systems for the natural gas industry. He also served as Project Manager at Moncon, Inc. where he provided controls systems for hydroelectric facilities as well as the municipal water and wastewater industries. He holds a Ph.D. in Forest Economics from Stephen F. Austin State University, an MS in Forestry from the University of Wisconsin Madison, and a BS in Biology from the University of Wisconsin. He is an adjunct faculty member at Stephen F. Austin State University. His DLS research is intended to focus on the stewardship of natural resources and developing a balance of methods to capture the range of guiding values from anthropocentric to existential, from the perspective of current and future generations.

Eric Van Slander grew up in the scenic Laurel Highlands of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Since that time he lived for about 10 years in New York City, two years in Tochigi, Japan, and has spent the last nine years in the Washington, DC area. He holds a BA and an MA in History from the City College of New York, as well as an MLS from the University of Maryland, College Park. Eric is currently employed as an Archivist in the Textual Reference Services Division of the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland, where he specializes in records relating to World War II, the Allied Occupation of Japan, and

U.S.-East Asia relations. Prior to working at the National Archives, he worked at a major accounting firm in New York City and as a conversational English instructor at a language school in rural Japan.

In the DLS program, Eric would like to explore 20th Century American foreign relations, with a focus on U.S.-East Asia relations. In his doctoral thesis, he intends to examine efforts made by Christian missionaries to mold American perceptions, with regards to Japan, as well as to influence official U.S. foreign policy toward that nation, during the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

Jeffrey M. Zimmerman, a native Washingtonian, is a graduate of Dartmouth College, The Wharton School and Georgetown's Russian Area Studies Program. Jeff is a global energy and security consultant. He has led European and North American client engagements for Booz Allen Hamilton, Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Gartner. He established and led Booz Allen's Eastern European Energy Practice, was a founder of PwC's commercial cryptography venture, and started two companies. Currently Jeff is a consultant on information technology power issues for the Director of National Intelligence. Previously a Marine officer, he deployed twice to Vietnam, served in Guantanamo Bay, and led numerous intelligence operations in Cold War Europe. He was awarded a National Security Agency Director's Fellowship and retired as a Marine Lieutenant Colonel. Jeff looks forward to his "third career" as a writer and teacher of early modern European history. His DLS focus is on the milieu of the Reformation and Counter Reformation during the 350 years from Jan Hus to Voltaire. 