

DLS: The First Students

A year ago, Georgetown University's Board of Directors approved the Doctor of Liberal Studies (DLS) degree. It was a triple-first: the first non-traditional doctorate in the University's 216-year history; the first Doctor of Liberal Studies degree in the United States and Canada; and the first graduate degree approved by the University's School of Continuing Studies, the successor to School of Summer and Continuing Education. Five months ago, ten students began studies in the DLS program. Four were students in Georgetown's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program. Biographical sketches of the program's first students, arranged alphabetically, follow.

Steven Burr is from Baltimore, Maryland. His B.S. degree is from Towson State University, with a major in philosophy and a minor in English literature. He is a graduate of the Modern Studies Program (M.M.S.), the Liberal Studies program of Loyola College (Maryland). His Capstone Project was "The Quest for Legitimacy in the works of Albert Camus." Currently, he is Team Leader/Journal Production Manager for Cadmus Professional Communications, overseeing all aspects of editorial production of journals, including those for the American Heart Association and The American Academy of Pediatrics. His DLS research area is art as existential struggle, an examination of the idea that the questions and struggle faced by the artist are the same as those faced by the existential being.

James Burns is from Annapolis, Maryland. His B.S. and M.S. in biology are from the University of Illinois in Chicago and his M.B.A. is from DePaul University. He is presently President and CEO of EntreMed Inc., a public clinical-stage pharmaceutical company. Previously he was founder and President of MedPointe Inc., a private specialty pharmaceutical company; a founder and CEO of several other related companies; and Group President of Becton Dickinson, a multinational biomedical products company. His research will focus on the possibility of a leadership gender shift by the end of the 21st century. He has four questions: Is there sufficient demographic evidence to support a gender leadership shift? What are the indicators of change and how broadly applicable might they be? How will major institutions and

society change under a female-management model?

Pamela Carter-Birken lives in Arlington, Virginia. She has a B.G.S. degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, majoring in communications. She completed the MALS degree program at Georgetown University, her thesis being "Art Exhibits and Their Corporate Funding: An Examination of Three Washington, D.C. Museums 1985-1995."

She is Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She has authored a paper for the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities about corporate support of art exhibitions. Her research area—the history and vitality of American art with seniors and with



a broader audience—reflects her continuing interest in art and in the history and the educational service of museums.

Ralph Lee De Falco III is from Davidsonville, Maryland. His education includes a B.S. degree in journalism from Northern Illinois University; an M.A. in communications from Governors State University; an M.S. in Strategic Intelligence from the Joint Military Intelligence College, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C.; and a Diploma, Naval Command and Staff College with Highest Distinction, from the United States Naval War College. Now Acting Chief of Human Capital, Chief of Naval Operations, Intelligence Community Management, he has had 25 years of management and leadership experience, including 17 years of operational and strategic intelligence work. His research interest is the nexus of intelligence and public policy, including issues of national security and individual rights and freedoms.

Jessica Gould is a resident of Arlington, Virginia. She has a B.S.C.E. in civil engineering from Rice Univer-

sity and an M.B.A. with Honors from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been a Senior Associate at Booz Allen & Hamilton, focusing on global energy. Previously, she worked for Shell Oil Company and Networkoil Inc. and has additional business experience in housing and manufacturing. A non-degree student in Georgetown's Liberal Studies Program, she applied for the DLS to pursue as her research area a broad understanding of economic, cultural and social influences on the development of America's energy strategy, a comprehensive examination of the underlying beliefs, assumptions and prejudices on which the country's current strategy is based.

Samuel Morison is a resident of Fairfax, Virginia. His B.I.S. in Individualized Studies is from George Mason University. His J.D. is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his M.A. in Philosophy and Social Policy is from American University. His current position is that of Attorney-Advisor in the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Pardon Attorney, where he is responsible

(Left to right) George Sparling, Samuel Morison, Jessica Gould, Patricia Nichols-Jackson, Pamela Carter-Birken, Ralph L. De Falco III, Erika B. Seamon, James Burns, and Gerard Puckerin. Steven Burr is not pictured.

for reviewing petitions addressed to the President for all forms of executive clemency, including pardons. His research interest concerns the purposes or ends for which, and the constraints within which, a liberal democratic state is legitimately entitled to inflict harm on those who violate the criminal law, viewing the issue in light of the principles enshrined in the U.S. Bill of Rights. More broadly, he wishes to focus his study on the philosophical foundation and scope of moral and political rights, requiring in turn an articulation of a normative theory of constitutional institutions and practices.

Patricia Nichols-Jackson is from Lorton, Virginia. She has a B.A. in French from the University of Detroit (summa cum laude) and an M.S.F.S. (Master of Science in Foreign Service) from Georgetown University, where she concentrated in international trade and finance. She has more than twenty years' experience in financial systems analysis, design, integration, implementation, program/project management, and accounting system support services. Currently she is an Executive Vice-President and Director of Operations, Focused Management Inc. In her research she wants to question how the professional today deals with the complexities of ethical and moral issues. What is the professional's responsibility and what is the foundation of these values that govern our choices and shape our lives? How does a company enforce an effective corporate ethics policy?

Gerard Puckerin is from Fredericksburg, Virginia. His education includes an M.S. in government from Campbell University in North Carolina; an M.S. in Health Services from Central Michigan University; an M.A. in Legal Administration from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia; and most recently an MALS from Georgetown University. Presently, he is employed as a Federal Air Marshal. Previous positions have included Senior Special Agent, Immigration and Naturalization Service at the Department of Justice, and Division Officer at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. Building on the concept of "fairness" and using insights gained from his master's thesis, his proposed area of study for the DLS will focus on issues of affirmative action in higher education.

Erika B. Seamon is a Washingtonian. She has an MALS degree from Georgetown University, was graduated magna cum laude from Miami University (Ohio) with a B.S. in business, and studied history, theater and economics at the American College in Israel and England. She works in management consulting and research. During her tenure as a partner at a new product development firm and as an adjunct professor at the University of Chicago, she published widely and spoke frequently on the topic of innovation. Her goal is to extend her experience to pressing public policy issues. Building on her master's thesis, her DLS research

area endeavors to better understand how public funding of private religious organizations, directly or indirectly, affects the religious liberty of citizens and communities. By evaluating the history of the Constitution, philosophy of education, and American religious pluralism, she will seek to reconcile how the nation can provide broad educational opportunities to produce a moral and educated citizenry while protecting and fostering freedom of religion.

George Sparling is from Leonardtown, Maryland. His B.A. is from Williams College, with a major in political science. His J.D. is from Boston University. Much of his professional life has been spent in the practice of law, including a trial and appellate practice that required extensive research and writing. Recently he has been a student in the MALS program at Georgetown, where the theory and practice of American democracy, with concentrations in American Studies and Humanities, especially engaged his interest. His DLS research area focuses on determining whether there is an American "philosophy" that provides a common intellectual identity and whether it is based on distinctive American values. If this is so, he is asking, are these values derived from the vision of the Founding Fathers, or from external sources such as religious and political influences, or from myths?