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In Deed: A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission: Georgetown University

Editorial Board

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Georgetown University

Washington, DC

The Relevance of a Tradition

In a recent report to the University community, Georgetown President Leo J. O'Donovan SJ wrote that the richness of Georgetown's Catholic tradition, the intricacies and pressures of American society, and the evolution of the American university "require us constantly to reflect on who we are, how we can best respond to a rapidly changing world, and what the relevance of our tradition may be for the new challenges of each successive generation."

Georgetown has contemplated these issues since Jesuit John Carroll, America's first Catholic bishop, founded the university in 1789 to serve the new republic in word and deed. Since its earliest days, Georgetown has reached out to students from all walks of life and religious

professions, to both its marginal and its powerful neighbors of Washington, and to those entrusted to lead our nation and world.

The university has flourished greatly since Carroll's day but the commitment to renew and serve society as well as to engage the mind and spirit remain the same. Students, faculty, and staff on Georgetown's three campuses participate in more than 150 service programs which benefit the community. At the same time, many of its education and health-care programs have been focused on addressing societal needs.

Community Service

Surveys show that two thirds of Georgetown's recent graduating seniors perform community service during their college years. Opportunities offered by the Center for Volunteer and Public

Service, the Office of Urban Affairs, the Center for Minority Student Affairs, and the Center for Intercultural Educational Development enable students to feed the homeless, become "best buddies" with the mentally retarded, tutor young scientists and children from low-income families, teach adults to read, befriend the elderly and homeless, and work with juveniles who are on court probation.

More and more faculty are seeking ways to encourage students to integrate these needs into their studies. The Faculty Service Learning Institute, coordinated by James Donahue, Georgetown dean of students and theology professor, and Penny Rue, Georgetown director of student activities, have worked together the past two years to give faculty a forum for creating and sharing their ideas.

Spiritual Development

Students are increasingly active in spiritual development, as evidenced by the increasing popularity of retreats. A comprehensive retreat program is available for faculty, staff, and students. ESCAPE, a two-year-old interfaith and spiritual-development program for first-year students, has been filled to capacity. The program seeks to help freshmen build a community of understanding among themselves and encourages them to focus on their personal faith development in the critical years of their college careers.

These experiences are proving to have lasting impact on students' life choices. Georgetown alumni clubs in at least six U.S. cities now offer ongoing community service activities. More students

are attending Georgetown-sponsored alternative career fairs, including an Options Fair for volunteer and religious opportunities, and a Job Fair specifically for public-interest and advocacy careers.

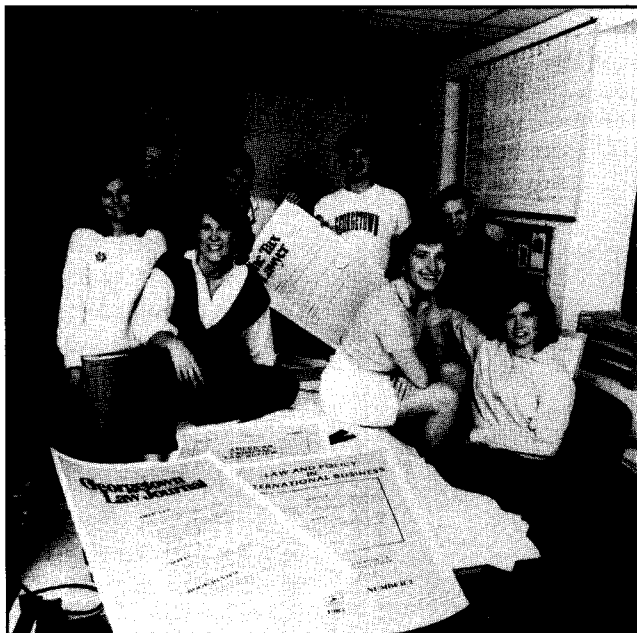
Academic Initiatives

Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, the School of Summer and Continuing Education, and the School of Business Administration are assisting the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union with intensive educational programs at home and abroad. In the next academic year, the university's new Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding will begin studying this complex relationship and the opportunities it provides. The university also will begin preparations for a satellite distance-learning program to offer shared classes between Georgetown School of Business and five Catholic universities in Latin America. Scholars within the university's Center for the Advanced Study of Ethics as well as the Kennedy Institute of Ethics provide much-needed insight on public policy and health-care issues.

Medical Center Resources

At the Medical Center, resources are being committed to address the staggering health issues facing the District of Columbia and other mid-Atlantic urban centers. A pediatric mobile van delivers comprehensive, on-site primary health care in some of Washington's poorest areas. A major hospital addition housing the Center for Women and Children offering health services in neonatology

Georgetown University law students engage in study, clinical education and research.



and high-risk obstetrics will open this fall. The Medical Center's HIV Clinical Program recently has been designated one of only 28 AIDS clinical trial sites in the nation. The Institute of Health Care Research and Policy also has been launched to focus on health-care financing, health status and outcomes, provider practices, and technology assessment. Medical students are involved in providing free medical care to the homeless, working in migrant camps, serving as mentors to DC teens interested in health careers, working at an AIDS hospice, teaching good health habits to DC first graders. Finally, the Medical Center has launched "Caring for the

Body, the Mind and the Soul: the Jesuit Tradition and Medicine," a pair of annual lectures presented by distinguished Jesuits for the whole university community.

Law Center Activities

The innovations of Georgetown Law Center's approach to the study of law are most evident in its clinical education programs. Nearly 300 law students each year combine study with practice in the fields of clinical legal education and public interest advocacy. Students defend indigents in misdemeanor, felony, and juvenile cases; assist in drafting federal legislation; represent grass-roots community

organizations as well as underrepresented groups, in areas such as civil rights and immigration law. Outside the classroom, Georgetown outreach channels the talents and interests of law students with various community organizations.

Georgetown's Identity

University Chaplain John Breslin SJ is working with faculty and staff on all three campuses to promote a dialogue on Georgetown's identity and nature as a Catholic, Jesuit institution. This past spring, the university organized and hosted a national symposium on *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Pope John Paul II's apostolic constitution on

Catholic universities. The two-day dialogue brought together scholars, lawyers, clergy, and religious to discuss implications of the document for the American context. Ongoing campus activities include days of recollection, dinner discussions and celebrations, including the centenary of historic Dahlgren Chapel and the Mass of the Holy Spirit to mark the opening of the academic year. The Jesuit community, too, brings together new and returning faculty and students in dialogue on the character and functions of Georgetown now and for the future.

Saint Louis University

St. Louis, Missouri

As the second oldest Jesuit university in the United States, and the first Catholic university in this country to form a graduate school and schools of law, medicine, philosophy, and divinity, and an honors program, Saint Louis University takes seriously its commitment to education and to "academic excellence under the inspiration of the Christian faith." It seeks to carry out this commitment, as the university's statement of its philosophy puts it, "by providing an environment in which the intellectual, emotional, imaginative, technical, social, religious, and spiritual abilities of students are nurtured and strengthened." Such development is in keeping with the Jesuit mission in education. In pursuit of that

mission, the university in 1988 appointed an assistant to the president specifically for mission and ministry.

Learning and Serving Others

This fall, the university brings education and service together more closely than it

ever has before. A new academic program, SLU-Vision, offers courses through the philosophy and theology departments that simultaneously focus on serious learning in those disciplines, and on field work that accompanies the classroom time. A connection is made between the worlds inside and outside the univer-

sity as students discover in depth the meaning of and the means to "the service of faith and the promotion of justice." The program is similar to one already in place at Boston College. For the present only those who have received scholarships in either of the two university programs that directly reward service are eligible to participate in the SLU-Vision program. Those two scholarships, the Ignatian and Calloway Scholarships, are major commitments by the university to recognize incoming students who make serving others a high priority.

New Initiatives

Four new ventures of the last two years strengthen the university in its mission. First, the Centre for Com-

Liturgy on campus at Saint Louis University.

