“At Georgetown University we have long recognized the necessity of building bridges of understanding between faiths and cultures. Through the Berkley Center, we bring together intellectual leaders and the public to provide knowledge, inform debate, and promote greater dialogue across religious traditions.”

Georgetown University President
Dr. John J. DeGioia
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The force of religion in contemporary world affairs demands knowledge, dialogue, and action.

Religion’s role in national and international politics remains poorly understood. Communication across traditions is difficult. Yet religious communities have unmet potential in the struggle against violence, injustice, poverty, and disease around the world. Through research, teaching, and outreach activities, the Berkley Center builds knowledge, promotes dialogue, and supports action in the service of peace.

The Center was created in the office of Georgetown’s President, Dr. John J. DeGioia in March 2006. It builds on Georgetown’s strengths: academic excellence; a Washington, DC location; international reach; and a Catholic and Jesuit tradition open to other faiths and the wider secular world. Collaboration among faculty, administrators, and students—and generous support from William R. Berkley, a member of the University Board of Directors—has enabled the Center’s rapid growth. Associate Professor Thomas Banchoff (Department of Government and School of Foreign Service) is its founding director.

The Center’s second year, 2007–2008, saw the development of six interconnected faculty-led program areas: Religious Pluralism in World Affairs (Thomas Banchoff); Globalization, Religions, and the Secular (José Casanova); Religion and US Foreign Policy (Thomas Farr); The Church and Interreligious Dialogue (Chester Gillis); Religion, Politics, and Law (Michael Kessler); and Religion and Global Development (Katherine Marshall). Faculty leaders in each area directed events, publications, and the development of web-based resources designed to increase our knowledge of religion and world affairs.

Program highlights included: a December 2007 workshop in Doha, Qatar, that examined the role of faith-inspired organizations in the Muslim World, and a parallel workshop in June 2008 focused on such organizations in Europe and Africa. The Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs supported both workshops, as well as two major symposia to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Religious Freedom Act, held in February and April 2008. Other milestones included an October 2007 Symposium on West and Islam relations that led up to the publication in January 2008 of Islam and the West: Annual Report on the State of Dialogue, a collaboration between Georgetown and the World Economic Forum. That same month the sociologist José Casanova, a leading expert on religion and globalization, joined the Center faculty as a senior fellow, and Abdulkarim Soroush, a world-renowned Muslim reformer, took up residence as a visiting fellow for the spring 2008 semester. During 2007–08, the Center produced two student-led publications—the first Junior Year Abroad Network report and an Undergraduate Fellows Report on religious lobbies and their role in US politics.
From 2006–08, the Berkley Center and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS) collaborated in the implementation of a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation’s Initiative on Religion and International Affairs. The Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs convenes symposia and seminars that bring together scholars and policy experts around emergent issues. The program is organized around two main themes: the religious sources of foreign policy in the US and around the world, and the nexus between religion and global development. Topics covered in 2007–08 included the HIV/AIDS crisis, faith-inspired organizations in the Muslim world, gender and development, religious freedom and US foreign policy, and the intersection of religion, migration, and foreign policy.

The World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD) was established in 2000, at the initiative of James D. Wolfensohn, then President of the World Bank, and Lord Carey, then Archbishop of Canterbury. Its aim is to facilitate a dialogue, catalyze action on poverty and development among people from different religions, and improve communications between individuals and international development institutions. Since 2006, WFFD has been based at the Berkley Center under the direction of Katherine Marshall.

Georgetown/On Faith, a partnership between the Berkley Center and Washingtonpost. Newsweek Interactive, is designed to provide knowledge and inform debate about religion, culture, and politics. Georgetown/On Faith enriches online conversations with university-based knowledge resources and engages Georgetown faculty—and students—in discussions beyond the classroom, through faculty blogs and interactive forums. Faculty blogs include The God Vote by Professor Jacques Berlinerblau, on the role of faith in the 2008 elections, and Faith in Action, by Professor Katherine Marshall, exploring the struggles, alliances, and common efforts of people of faith to address challenges of economic and social development at the local, national, and global levels.

In 2007–08, Georgetown University collaborated with the World Economic Forum to produce a report on the state of dialogue between the West and the Muslim World. Islam and the West: Annual Report on the State of Dialogue, released at the Forum’s annual meeting in Davos in January 2008, tracked dialogue efforts across a range of issue areas, including international politics, citizenship and integration, and economic and social development. President John J. DeGioia of Georgetown University served as lead author on the report and the Berkley Center and the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding provided research support for the project.
Unprecedented dialogue across religious communities is one of the hallmarks of the contemporary era. To be religious today is to be religious alongside other traditions.

The program on Religious Pluralism in World Affairs, under the direction of Thomas Banchoff, addresses new patterns of interaction among religious and secular actors, both nationally and internationally. Through scholarship, seminars, and outreach, it promotes knowledge of diverse religious traditions and their role in world politics, joins those traditions in dialogue, and generates resources for policymakers grappling with global policy challenges of diplomacy, democracy, and development.

FACULTY LEADER: THOMAS BANCHOFF

Thomas Banchoff is Director of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and Associate Professor in the Government Department and the School of Foreign Service. His research and teaching center on the politics of religious pluralism, both nationally and internationally. Banchoff is editor of Democracy and the New Religious Pluralism (Oxford University Press, 2007) and Religious Pluralism, Globalization, and World Politics (Oxford University Press 2008), and a forthcoming volume on Religion and the Global Politics of Human Rights. He is currently completing a manuscript on the religious and secular politics of embryo and stem cell research in Europe and the United States. Banchoff received his B.A. in History from Yale (summa cum laude) in 1986, an M.A. in History and Political Science from the University of Bonn in 1988, and a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton in 1993.
ENGAGING CHINA: INTERCULTURAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The Berkley Center is helping to coordinate Georgetown’s growing engagement with China around questions of intercultural and interreligious dialogue. In February 2008, Georgetown signed a cooperative agreement with the Center for Religious Studies of State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) of the People’s Republic of China, the official interface for religious exchanges between various religious organizations in China and their counterparts in other countries. Under the agreement, Georgetown and the Center for Religious Studies will hold an annual meeting to foster dialogue around issues of religion, culture, and society.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW: LIYONG DAI

The Center is increasing its research capacity around questions of religion and modernity in China. In 2007–08, the Center welcomed Dr. Liyong Dai as a postdoctoral fellow. A leading young Chinese scholar of religious studies selected after a national competition, Dai is an expert on traditional Chinese religions in their encounter with globalization and modernity. While at the Center, he completed his book *Modernity and Chinese Religions* (Beijing: Chinese Social Science Press, 2008). He will also spend 2008–09 in residence at the Center coordinating a lecture series and building up Chinese-language web-based resources on religion and religious studies in China.

“Open discussion of salient issues, marked by a willingness to listen to and learn from the other, will serve to build knowledge and trust over time. It will also help to define areas of agreement and disagreement and suggest successful ways to manage both.”

*Thomas Banchoff*
FOCUS ON THE WEST AND ISLAM DIALOGUE

In 2007–08, Georgetown University collaborated with the World Economic Forum to produce a report on the state of dialogue between the West and the Muslim World entitled *Islam and the West: Annual Report on the State of Dialogue*.

The report, released at the Forum’s annual meeting in Davos in January 2008, examined dialogue activities across a range of issue areas, including international politics, citizenship and integration, and economic and social development. It included the Gallup Muslim-West Dialogue Index, which tracked global perceptions of the state of the dialogue, as well as Media Tenor analysis of coverage of the Muslim and Western “other” in newspapers and television around the world.

President John J. DeGioia of Georgetown University served as lead author on the report. The Berkley Center and the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding provided research and writing support for the project. The Berkley Center administers an online knowledge resource connected to the project, the Muslim-West Dialogue Survey.

“Real dialogue, productive dialogue, deep dialogue takes time and trust. Those who agree to engage in it must have the assurance of a safe context and a guaranteed continuity.”

Jane Dammen McAuliffe, Professor of History and Arabic and Islamic Studies and Dean of Georgetown College
SYMPOSIUM ON THE STATE OF WEST-ISLAMIC DIALOGUE

On October 16, 2007, Georgetown University hosted an all-day symposium that brought together international thought leaders and public figures in three panels to address West-Islamic dialogue in its religious, political, and social dimensions. The symposium, sponsored jointly by the Berkley Center and the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, covered three panels.

PANEL 1: WEST-ISLAMIC DIALOGUE: RELIGION AND VALUES
Participants: John Esposito, Lamin Sanneh, Mustafa Ceric, Jane McAuliffe, Seyyed Hossein Nasr

PANEL 2: WEST-ISLAMIC DIALOGUE: EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Participants: Katherine Marshall, Osman Bakar, Ingrid Mattson, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

PANEL 3: WEST-ISLAMIC DIALOGUE: CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION
Participants: Thomas Banchoff, Abdou Ansari Filali, Marc Gopin, Anwar Ibrahim, Sherman Jackson

VISITING FELLOW: ABDULKARIM SOROUSH

One of the world’s leading Muslim reformers, Abulkarim Soroush, was a visiting fellow at the Berkley Center during the spring 2008 semester. A native of Iran, Soroush is the author of more than 30 books, including *Reason, Freedom, and Democracy in Islam: Essential Writings of Abulkarim Soroush* (Oxford, 2002). In 2008, *Foreign Policy* magazine named him one of the world’s top 100 public intellectuals. During his stay at the Center, Soroush participated in three public conversations about Islam and world affairs, including a colloquy with José Casanova on Islam, Catholicism, and the Secular.

“Dialogue at the intersection of the West and the Muslim world is a vital and expanding enterprise at the international, national, and local levels. But our knowledge of its evolving contours remains inadequate. *Islam and the West: Annual Report on the State of Dialogue* aims to elevate the global visibility of dialogue efforts and to promote greater understanding and cooperation at a critical juncture in history.”

Georgetown University President
Dr. John J. DeGioia
The last two decades have seen the dramatic acceleration of two related trends: economic, cultural, and political globalization, and a resurgence of religion in public affairs.

The Globalization, Religions, and the Secular program, under the leadership of José Casanova, examines the impact of globalization on the religious and secular spheres and their interaction, across countries and regions and around the world. The program brings together leading scholars across disciplines to explore the dynamics of globalization and their impact on the role of religion in public affairs. Research and publications center on the emergence of a postsecular world and its implications.

**FACULTY LEADER: JOSÉ CASANOVA**

José Casanova joined Georgetown University as Professor of Sociology and Senior Fellow in the Berkley Center in January 2008. Casanova, a leading authority on religion and world affairs, has published widely on sociological theory, migration, and globalization. His critically acclaimed *Public Religions in the Modern World* (Chicago, 1994) has been published in five languages. Casanova studied Philosophy in Saragossa, Spain, received an M.A. in Theology from the University of Innsbruck, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the New School for Social Research. Casanova moved to Georgetown from the New School, where he served as Professor of Sociology from 1987–2007.
PUBLIC RELIGIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD

José Casanova’s *Public Religions in the Modern World* reevaluates the theory of secularization in light of the global resurgence of religion during the last four decades, focusing on the phenomenon of “deprivatization” or religious re-engagement in the public sphere. A major work of sociological theory, it has been published in five languages.

POISON OR CURE? RELIGIOUS BELIEF IN THE MODERN WORLD

In October 2007, the Berkley Center hosted a debate with Christopher Hitchens, prolific essayist and author, and Alister McGrath, Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University, moderated by Michael Cromartie, Vice President at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. The debate focused on the continuing relevance of religious belief in the modern world and whether belief in religious revelation is justifiable.

RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL IDENTITIES: THE MEDITERRANEAN SINCE 1492

The Berkley Center and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute are initiating a collaborative research project on *Religious and Political Identities: the Mediterranean since 1492*, with the aim of rethinking the transformations in the relations between religions, political identities, and political institutions throughout the Mediterranean basin from early modernity to the present.

The project will address the ongoing transformations of the major religions of the region—Judaism, Eastern and Latin Christianity, and Islam—in relation to changes in political institutions and communal identities across three different periods: a) from the emergence of the Ottoman empire and the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain to the time of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt, b) from the emergence of the modern secular state and modern nationalism in the Western Mediterranean to its various configurations in the post-Ottoman territories, and c) the contemporary de-stabilization of secular national projects and the reinvigoration of religious political identities and movements from the 1960s to the present.

BERKLEY CENTER LECTURES WITH CHARLES TAYLOR, OCTOBER 2008

World-renowned philosopher Charles Taylor will give the 2008 Berkley Center Lectures on *Master Narratives of Modernity* from October 21–23, 2008. Taylor is the author, most recently, of *Our Secular Age*, a magisterial overview of the interaction of religion and the secular in the contemporary era. The Berkley Center lectures are given each year by a distinguished scholar to advance knowledge about religion, peace, and world affairs.
Both the practice and analysis of US foreign policy has traditionally excluded religious questions. For some, faith is of marginal importance; for others it is dangerous and divisive and has no productive place in diplomacy.

Today, for better or worse, religion has emerged as a critical and unavoidable force in world affairs. A better understanding of its dynamics can inform better policy. The Religion and US Foreign Policy program, supported in part by the Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs, examines the role of religion in the formation and execution of US foreign policy, with special attention to issues of religious freedom, human rights, and cross-national comparisons.

**FACULTY LEADER THOMAS FARR**

Thomas F. Farr, a former American diplomat, is a Visiting Associate Professor of Religion and International Affairs in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. A Senior Fellow in the Berkley Center, he directs the Religion and US Foreign Policy program. After a distinguished career in the US Army and the Foreign Service, Farr served as the first director of the State Department’s Office of International Religious Freedom from 1999–2003. In that capacity he traveled widely to promote religious liberty, engaging governments, religious communities, and the victims of religious persecution, and testified before the U.S. House International Relations Committee. Farr has published widely, including “Diplomacy in an Age of Faith,” in Foreign Affairs (March/April 2008), and World of Faith and Freedom: Why International Religious Liberty is Vital to American National Security (Oxford, 2008).
LUCE/SFS SYMPOSIA

Religious Freedom and US Foreign Policy: Taking Stock and Looking Forward

The Berkley Center, in collaboration with the Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs, initiated a series of three symposia to mark the tenth anniversary of landmark 1998 legislation that made the promotion of religious freedom an official component of US foreign policy. The symposia, co-organized with the Center for Global Engagement and a range of other partners, examine the origins, development, and future trajectory of American foreign policy in this crucial but sensitive area.

Why Religious Freedom? The Origins and Promise of the International Religious Freedom Act (February 25, 2008) convened architects of the breakthrough legislation to discuss its political and policy beginnings. Participants included Michael Cromartie (Ethics and Public Policy Center) and Liu Peng (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences).

US International Religious Freedom Policy: Assessing the Results (April 21, 2008) brought together leading scholars and policymakers to assess the international impact of American efforts in this area. Participants included Walter Russell Mead (Council on Foreign Relations) and Muslim Reformer Abdulkarim Soroush.

The third symposium in the series will be held on October 10, 2008, under the heading: The Future of U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy: Recommendations for a New Administration.

Other Luce/SFS Symposia


January 2008—Seminar on Religion in Israeli Society, Politics, and Foreign Policy, featured Rabbi Michael Melchior, Knesset member and Chief Rabbi of Norway.

March 2008—Symposium on Religion, Migration, and Foreign Policy: Tensions in Immigration Policy and Immigrant Integration, featuring Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio (Brooklyn) and Dr. Richard Land (Southern Baptist Convention).
With globalization, contact across religious traditions has accelerated, sparking tension and conflict but also enabling new forms of dialogue and collaboration.

The Second Vatican Council of 1962–65 was a key juncture that opened the Church to the secular world and to dialogue with other religious traditions, legacies inherited and developed by Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI. The Program on The Church and Interreligious Dialogue, under the leadership of Chester Gillis, examines the historical evolution of the Church’s interaction with other religious traditions as well as challenges posed today by cultural and religious pluralism at the local, national, and international level.

FACULTY LEADER CHESTER GILLIS

Chester Gillis, Professor of Theology, is the Amaturo Chair in Catholic Studies and the founding director of the Center’s program on The Church and Interreligious Dialogue. Gillis holds degrees in Philosophy and Religious Studies from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Professor Gillis has served on the faculty of Georgetown since 1988, was Chair of the Department of Theology from 2001 to 2006, and Director of the Doctor of Liberal Studies from 2006 to 2008. Gillis’ research interests include comparative religion and contemporary Roman Catholicism. He is the author of *A Question of Final Belief: John Hick’s Pluralistic Theory of Salvation* (1989), *Pluralism: A New Paradigm for Theology* (1993), *Roman Catholicism in America* (1999), *Catholic Faith in America* (2003), and editor of *The Political Papacy* (2006) as well as numerous articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries. Gillis is also co-editor of the Columbia University series *Religion and Politics*.
**HIGH-LEVEL CATHOLIC-EVANGELICAL DIALOGUE**

The Berkley Center is a sponsor of the Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue on the Common Good/Public Policy, inaugurated at Georgetown in April 2008. Two of America’s most prominent religious leaders, Pastor Rick Warren and Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, convened discussions focused on how Catholics and Evangelicals can more wisely bring faith to bear on public life, especially regarding issues relating to respect for life and ending poverty. Georgetown participants include President John J. DeGioia, John Borelli, Special Assistant to the President for interreligious dialogue, and Chester Gillis. Prominent evangelicals included Richard Cizik of the National Association of Evangelicals and Michael Gerson, Washington Post columnist and former speech writer and advisor to President George W. Bush. The dialogue will reconvene in March 2009 at Eastern University, a prominent Baptist institution.

**WOMEN AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**

At an April 2008 seminar, theologian Maura O’Neill and Yale Chaplain Sharon Kugler discussed the role of women in interfaith dialogue. The conversation centered on the productive contributions women have made in an area long dominated by men.

**HOW TO BE A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY?**

What does it mean to be a Catholic University in the twenty-first century? Do the faculty and student body have to be predominantly Catholic? Or can a more diverse university setting also promote a Catholic ethos centered both on liberal arts education and ethical formation? Professor Wilson Miscamble of Notre Dame and Chester Gillis engaged in lively debate around these questions in April 2008.
Debates about religion, politics, and law have shifted decisively over the past two decades. In the United States and around the world, religious actors and institutions have increasingly gained political influence, marshaling religious arguments to justify political and legal stances and activity.

How do religious identity and ethics affect political engagement in a context of growing cultural and religious pluralism? When do religious identity and ethics clash with the demands of democratic politics, and which must give way? What distinguishes “moderate” from “extreme” religious stances on politics and how can the latter be accommodated, transformed, or contained?

The Religion, Politics, and Law program, under the leadership of Michael Kessler, explores the shifting configuration of religion, politics, and law, around the world and across religious traditions.

**FACULTY LEADER: MICHAEL KESSLER**

Michael Kessler is Assistant Director of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University and a Visiting Assistant Professor of Government. His current work focuses on legal and political notions of fundamental rights, particularly about individual moral liberties and religious freedom. Kessler received his Ph.D. in religion and moral and political theory from the University of Chicago, where he was a William Rainey Harper Fellow and held a Henry Luce Dissertation Fellowship. He graduated with a B.A. with honors in Theology, a second major in Philosophy, and a Classics minor, from Valparaiso University. Kessler has also studied law at Georgetown University Law Center.
A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF POLITICAL THEOLOGIES

In March 2008, two leading contemporary thinkers, Mark Lilla from Columbia University and the Berkley Center’s José Casanova, explored the intersection of politics and theology through a discussion of Lilla’s recent book, The Stillborn God. In Fall 2008, the Center will inaugurate a project on the Future of Political Theologies with a major conference.

RELIGION AND THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

In collaboration with E.J. Dionne and the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, the Center sponsored several events in early 2008 focused on the presidential campaign.


In April 2008, Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) discussed with President John J. DeGioia how he engages with domestic and global politics as a person of faith.

Also in April, E.J. Dionne was joined by Ray Suarez, a senior correspondent for The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, to discuss Dionne’s new book, Souled Out, and the future of religion’s role in American public life.

JACQUES BERLINERBLAU BLOGS

THE GOD VOTE

A blog by Professor Jacques Berlinerblau, Associate Professor in the School of Foreign Service and Director of Georgetown’s Program for Jewish Civilization, explores the shifting role of religion in the 2008 election. It is part of Georgetown/On Faith, a collaboration between the Berkley Center and Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive’s On Faith site.
Through research, teaching, and outreach, the Religion and Global Development program builds knowledge about the role of religious communities in economic and social development—as a source of ethical commitment, material resources, professional expertise, and effective policy implementation.

The program, supported in part through the Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs, brings together practitioners and analysts for structured conversations about the challenges of development policy and the potential for deeper collaboration across the religious/secular divide.

**FACULTY LEADER: KATHERINE MARSHALL**

After a long career in the development field, including several leadership positions at the World Bank, Marshall moved to Georgetown in 2006, where she serves as a Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Government and leader of the Berkley Center’s Program on Religion and Global Development. Marshall has more than three decades of experience on a wide range of development issues, in Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and the Middle East; she led the Bank’s outreach on issues of faith and ethics in 2006. Marshall helped to create and now serves as the Executive Director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue. She is the author of several books about religion and development, the most recent (co-authored with Marisa Van Saanen) *Development and Faith: Where Mind, Heart and Soul work Together* (World Bank, 2007) and (with Lucy Keough) *Mind, Heart and Soul in the Fight against Poverty* (World Bank, 2004).
LUCE/SFS SYMPOSIA
Global Development and Faith-Inspired Organizations in the Muslim World

In December 2007, the Berkley Center and the Center for International and Regional Studies of the School of Foreign Service in Qatar hosted a symposium in Doha on the role of faith-based organizations in global development in the Muslim World. Topics included relationships among public, private, and religiously-inspired actors; financing issues, including the new landscape after September 11, 2001; and approaches to leading issues such as children, education, health, and gender. The meeting gave rise to a Center report, *Faith-Inspired Organizations and Global Development Policy: Mapping Social Economic Development Work in Europe and Africa*.

Faith-Inspired Organizations in Africa and Europe

In June 2008, practitioners based in Europe and Africa met in the Hague to take stock of the wide range of ongoing work by different organizations that are inspired by religious faith and to explore the policy implications that emerge from their interactions with development organizations. Topics included issues of governance and accountability, links to sectoral programs supported by international financing agencies, and practical issues such as blockages in funding channels. A report with background on faith-inspired organizations in Africa and Europe will be published in Fall 2008.

KATHERINE MARSHALL BLOGS FAITH IN ACTION

A collaboration with Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive's *On Faith* site, *Faith in Action* explores the intersection of religion and global development issues. It is part of *Georgetown/On Faith*, a web-based collaboration designed to bring faculty expertise on key topics to the attention of a wider public.
Undergraduate Initiatives

Undergraduates at Georgetown, like their counterparts at other colleges and universities, now confront unprecedented religious and cultural diversity. Inside and outside the classroom, they are challenged not just to tolerate but also to engage traditions other than their own.

Engaging difference intellectually and socially is vital to a well-rounded education. It also serves to better prepare students for success in a globalizing world, whether they go into business, government, the professions, or academia. The Center’s Undergraduate Initiatives are designed to increase knowledge of cultural and religious interaction among today’s students, and to empower them, through research and outreach activities, to deepen their engagement with religious and cultural differences while at Georgetown.

UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING AND INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING SURVEY

What knowledge do undergraduates have of diverse religious traditions? How open are they to engaging with the religious traditions of others? And how does the undergraduate experience—inside and outside the classroom—shape patterns of interreligious understanding over time? In fall 2007, the Berkley Center and Georgetown’s Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS) began a four-year longitudinal study to address these questions. This multi-year study will deepen our knowledge about connections between undergraduate learning and interreligious understanding; provide occasion to rethink and refine curricular offerings, and contribute to a wider societal debate about education and education policy in an era of growing religious and cultural pluralism, both nationally and internationally.
JUNIOR YEAR ABROAD NETWORK

The Berkley Center’s Junior Year Abroad Network links up Georgetown students immersed in a variety of different cultures. They share reflections on religion, politics, and society in their host countries with one another and the Georgetown community. Students write “letters from abroad” dealing with questions of religion, culture, and politics in a different part of the world. Upon returning, they share their knowledge and experience with the broader Georgetown community. In its first two years, the Junior Year Abroad Network has engaged over 60 Hoyas across six continents. In December 2007, the first cohort, upon their return to Georgetown, published a report outlining their experiences.

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS

The 2007 Undergraduate Fellows Program gave a select group of ten Georgetown undergraduates the resources to study the role of religious advocacy groups in United States Politics. Under the direction of Professor Clyde Wilcox of the Department of Government, the fellows spent 2007 defining their research agenda, collecting data on key issues relevant to the field of religious advocacy, and interviewing over 40 prominent religious advocacy organizations around the country. They published and presented their report, Religious Advocates: A Force in US Politics?, in January 2008.

From the Report:

“The strength of religious advocacy groups’ convictions and their ability to galvanize the voting blocs they represent has put religion into the forefront of national politics and in prime position to orchestrate changes to U.S. policy.”
Center databases are trustworthy resources for students, scholars, citizens, and policymakers eager to know more about how religion plays out in culture, society, and politics—in the United States and around the world. The fruit of collaboration between Georgetown students and faculty, the databases allow users to explore connections across traditions, eras, regions, and topic areas.

**FAITH 2008 DATABASE**
A searchable database that features presidential candidates’ statements on religion and politics, Faith 2008 grows out of the Center’s Religion, Politics, and Law program. Users can sort statements by four themes—international affairs, church/state relations, culture and society, and morality—and consult essays on key topics including faith-based organizations, Islam, and Evangelicalism. The database allows for the comparison of today’s rhetoric with that of presidents and candidates throughout history, as well as that of political leaders around the world.

http://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/databases/faith2008

**RELIGION AND DEVELOPMENT DATABASE**
Supported by the Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs, the Religion and Development Database maps religious organizations, programs, and events related to development around the world and across religious traditions. Users can explore by topic or geographical area. Issue coverage so far includes HIV/AIDS and gender, and is being expanded to include malaria, shelter, and governance issues. Current regional coverage includes US and Canada, Europe and Africa, and the Muslim World and will soon be extended to Africa and Asia.

http://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/databases/development
MUSLIM-WEST DIALOGUE SURVEY

Created in conjunction with the World Economic Forum Report, Islamic and the West: Annual Report on the State of Dialogue, the Muslim-West Dialogue Survey tracks organizations, programs, and events designed to advance the dialogue between the West and the Muslim world. The survey covers high level global events as well as national and local initiatives. It is designed to highlight best practices and facilitate communication and collaboration in important and growing field. The annual report provides essays and analysis that complement the database.
http://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/databases/muslimwest

RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES DATABASE

Different religious traditions approach ethical and political questions in diverse but related ways. The Religious Perspectives Database allows users to compare and contrast key scriptural passages across five traditions—Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism—as they relate to five perennial ethical themes: war and peace, wealth and poverty, health and illness, justice and injustice, and relations with the religious “other.” The database, which includes background essays by Georgetown professors, is designed as an educational resource for teachers, students, and the wider public.
http://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/databases/religious_perspectives
Melody Fox Ahmed, Program and Business Manager
Melody joined the Berkley Center in June 2006. Previously she worked at the Corporate Executive Board and with the Buxton Initiative, an interfaith dialogue organization in Washington, D.C. She received her B.A. from Vanderbilt University and is currently a candidate for Georgetown's M.A. in Global, International, and Comparative History.

Paul Beccio, Software Developer
Paul Beccio joined the Berkley Center in May 2007. Prior to Georgetown, Paul developed web-based applications for the Federal Aviation Administration. He has studied at the Lorenzo De’ Medici Art Institute. He also studied History at the University of Maryland as well as American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona.

Chris Vukicevich, Research Analyst
Prior to joining the Center in 2007, Chris studied in Georgetown’s Department of Government and Center for German and European Studies, earning Master’s degrees in each. He conducted thesis research on the politics of biotechnology in Berlin, Germany, with the support of a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) fellowship.

Amanda Gant, Events Coordinator
Amanda Gant joined the Berkley Center in January 2008 after graduating from Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, where she majored in International Economics. As an undergraduate, Amanda was a leader of the Georgetown UNICEF group and founder of OurMoment, the student group for international development.

Annie Hunt, Program Assistant
Annie Hunt joined the Berkley Center in June 2008. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2007 with a B.A. in the Program of Liberal Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, concentrating in courses examining the impact of religious, philosophical, and cultural influences on peace.
2007–08 BERKLEY CENTER
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

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