



Tracy H. Jentzsch



*in Kenya, 2008*



*in China, 2008*

In my "previous lives", I have worn many hats. I graduated from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in 1989 with a B.A. in Communication Arts, where as a student I did internships with IBM in corporate communications, FM 93, WPOC in promotions and Martin Marietta Aero and Naval Systems as a tech writer. Before I even graduated from college I accepted a position with Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., a Washington DC based leading edge technology firm, as a graphic designer. While working in DC, I began coursework at George Washington University towards a graduate degree in publishing. However, before I could complete that, I found myself joining the United States Army, counter intelligence. After a brief stint in the military, I came to Baltimore and landed a job as the Assistant Publisher for Trade & Culture Magazine, an international business magazine. It was a marvelous position, helping a publisher with a great idea see it through fruition, culminating in a first class publication. It included many challenges, learning experiences and a lot of travel (which is still one of my great loves!). But as marriage, and then my three children ensued, we made the decision that I would utilize my time and talents as a stay-at-home mother, a decision I never regretted.

However, time doesn't stand still! My children grew and soon, all of them were in school full time. I was itching to return to work. Trying to come back to a professional career track was not an easy task, but when I discovered the MALS program, I know I had found what I was looking for. My back ground is varied and my interests are great. I wanted a program that would allow me to explore many areas. I took a position in the History Media Center at the University of Delaware, and within my first few months here, I had applied to the MALS program. I can't say enough wonderful things about the courses that I have taken.

Graduate School is an opportunity to prepare for a new profession, advance in your current field, or explore advanced learning for self-enhancement. The MALS program allows you to do all three. My instructors have been fabulous, and included Dr. Kevin Kerrane, Dr. David Smith, Dr. Barksdale Maynard, Dr. David Ames and Dr. David Teague, along with wonderful professors in the Museum Studies Certificate program, which I did concurrent with my MALS courses. The classes were difficult, but in a most challenging and excited way. I can actually say I looked forward to each class, each discussion, each reading and each assignment. You learn from your professors, but you are in classes with a first rate peer group, people with life experience and career experience under their belts. People with different viewpoints that will challenge your own. And that's where the learning starts.

I have completed my coursework, and now I am working on my thesis. But I know I will probably continue to take MALS courses in the future for enrichment, and recommend the program to others. I consider myself a student of the world, and a lifelong learner, so MALS was definitely the right choice for me.