Happy Fall, friends of Theology! Welcome to the October issue of the Ignatian Herald.

First of all, a reminder that Dr. Martens has officially taken over as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Theological Studies. He can be reached at pmarten1@slu.edu.

The Mev Puleo Scholarship: If you are interested in applying for the Mev Puleo Scholarship, a program that enables SLU Theology Majors and Minors to live and study in Nicaragua for 6–10 weeks in the summer, please visit https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/mev-puleo-scholarship/home. Applications are due November 7.

Oxford: Earn a (second) BA at Oxford University in Theology, with a generous scholarship included. For information, visit www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/hall/dominican_jubilee_scholarship/ or contact David Borgmeyer at dborgmey@slu.edu.

Advising: October is also a great time to meet with your mentor(s) for your major(s). If you’re a theology major, please make an appointment with your mentor (mid/late October for juniors/seniors, early November for frosh/soph). If you don’t know who your mentor is, you can find it in Banner. And for sophomores and juniors, be sure to ask about the ABM degree where you can earn a BA+MA in theology in 5 years!

Major Spotlight: Bryan Melcher

Class of 2017
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Major: Theology and Political Science

Favorite theology course(s): My favorite course is always the one I am taking at the moment. However, I would say that Dr. Renard’s Sufism course (THEO497) takes the cake. As someone with little experience outside of Christianity, it was eye opening to see the mystical devotional style of Islam.

Continued on page 2...
FACULTY PROFILE: Dr. Peter Martens

Education: PhD, History of Christianity, University of Notre Dame (2014)

Theological Area: Early Christianity

Favorite Course to Teach: Theo 100

Current Research: I am finishing a study, translation and edition of Adrian’s *Introduction to the Divine Scriptures*, a 5th century handbook on how to read the Bible. I am also co-editing the *Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation*. Next year I hope to begin a book on the ways in which early Christians re-imagined Jesus’ death.

Pearl of Wisdom: Find ways to take care of your body! Sleep, exercise and eat properly . . . your mind will thank you.

Major Spotlight (continued)

**Why I chose Theology:** I think that this is a question that Theology majors get a lot, along with the "what are you going to do with that?" question. My response is almost always the same; I say, “I’m more concerned with what it is going to do to me." In this case, I hope it leads me to live well and love fully.

**Something unique about myself:** I am in three worship related singing groups on campus: Mass choir, Upper Room, and Six Eight a cappella.

**Future Plans:** I may pursue some sort of social ethics advocacy, or teach high school. I am keeping my options open.

**Advice for others:** Take the classes that you feel drawn to. And once you are there utterly devour the material.

Theology Course Preview (THEO 369):

**A Posthuman Future? The Ethics of Technology**

In a world where smartphones are mainstream, where people lead virtual lives online, and where human organs can be created by 3D printers, what is the future of humanity? Are humans becoming manufactured products? Are we creating a world of cyborgs? Machines are replacing humans at work and on the battlefield, and we are increasingly dependent on technology to survive in this fast-paced world. Technological advances are surely changing the way we understand human nature, and this course will provide the forum for asking if this is a change for the better. Just because we have the technology to do something, does that mean we ought to do it? Where do we draw the line? What are the values driving our pursuit and use of technology? This course will draw on the resources of theology, philosophy, science, and film to consider the ethical implications of a myriad of technological advances and, more broadly, what it means to be human.

Contact Dr. Block at blockes@slu.edu for more info!
News & Events

October 10: Catholic Studies
Join the SLU Catholic Studies program for Mass, a light lunch, and a talk by Dr. Paul Lynch of the English Department on the “Rhetoric of Pope Francis” on Friday, October 10 at 12:00pm in Jesuit Hall.

October 15: Newman Convocation
The 5th annual Newman Convocation will be held at 4:00pm in the Père Marquette Gallery in DuBourg Hall. Join us to hear Dr. Finucane and students from SLU, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and the Aquinas Institute address the topic of Lumen Gentium, the dogmatic constitution on the Church.

October 28: Bellarmine Lecture
This year’s speaker at the annual Bellarmine lecture (7:00-9:00pm in the Sinquefield State Room in DuBourg Hall) will be Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, Professor of Theology at Fordham University. The title of her talk will be “Is God’s Charity Broad Enough for Bears? Creation and the God of Love.” Sr. Johnson will also meet with Theology students from 2:15–3:30 in Adorjan 142.

Get to Know a Saint:
St. Ignatius of Antioch

St. Ignatius of Antioch was born sometime in the first century and died in the early second century. Very little is known about his life, but we do know that he was the bishop of Antioch, was arrested, brought to Rome, and martyred there. Ignatius is important for the study of early Christianity because he provides us with some of the earliest non-canonical writings by a Christian. On his way to Rome after his arrest, Ignatius wrote seven letters to the Christian communities along the way, urging them, among other things, to stay unified with their bishops. St. Ignatius of Antioch’s feast day is October 17.

Corny Religious Humor

Interested in completing a Master's degree in Theology while finishing your B.A.?

Check out our new accelerated B.A./M.A. degree: http://www.slu.edu/department-of-theology-home/degree-programs/abm-(ba-ma)
Interested in a Theology Major or Minor?

Please visit our webpage for more information:
http://www.slu.edu/department-of-theology-home/degree-programs/ba-theology

You can also check out this brief presentation:
https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/geoff-miller/theology-major-minor

For an insightful article on the study of theology, see:
https://docs.google.com/a/slu.edu/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=c2xiLmVkdXxo
aGVvMTAwGf4OjZkMWMwYmY4NzdMkW1YzE
(coppy and paste link into browser)

For additional information, please contact Dr. Martens at pmarten1@slu.edu

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Jordan Slavik ’14

Jordan Slavik graduated from SLU in 2014. He chose a theology major “because of the great amount of discussion associated with the inquiry into God’s goodness. While the discipline of theology is certainly filled with complex analysis, questions, and research, the strong level of compassion that resides at the center of theology is extremely attractive.”

After graduating from SLU, Jordan married his wife Ashley and moved to Maryland, where attends the University of Maryland College Park, and is pursuing a PhD in history. He also recently became a Lilly Fellow.

After completing his PhD, Jordan hopes to teach history at a faith-based institution. He notes that his theology degree has enabled him to bring compassion to his academic work and that "my background in theology will allow me to go about my life and my career with a higher purpose in mind."

See what other recent alumni are doing at
https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/theology-alumni