Welcome!

Greetings, Salve, Χαίρετε, and Guten Tag!

Welcome to the first issue of the Ignatian Herald, the monthly newsletter of the SLU Undergraduate Theology Program. The Herald is your primary source for theology-related news, events, and other fun stuff.

This month’s issue features our new department chair, Dr. Jim Ginther, current major Allison Walter, Puleo scholar Stewart Heatwole, and alumnus Dan Finucane.

Noteworthy events for September include the annual Fall Welcome for Majors and Minors on Sept. 13th, University Commons on Sept. 13th, and the Puleo Presentations by our summer immersion students on Thurs. Sept. 19th. See the News & Events section for more details.

This semester we will also be choosing a select number of students to represent the department as Theology Ambassadors. These students will promote the theology major in some classes and at certain events. Stay tuned for further details on how to apply.

When you’re not perusing the Ignatian Herald, you can keep up to date on the various happenings in the Theology Dept. by following us on Twitter (SLU_Theology) and liking us on Facebook (TheologySLU).

We hope you enjoy this first edition of our newsletter. Check your inbox on the 1st Monday of each month for future issues.

Major Spotlight: Allison Walter

Hometown: Shawnee, KS

Majors: Theology, Communication

Minors: Philosophy, Urban Poverty Studies, Manresa Program (Catholic Studies)

Favorite theology course(s): I loved THEO 100 with Dr. Lane because he tells the best stories, Marriage and Christian Vocation with Dr. Finucane because I learned a lot about life, and Gospels with Dr. Miller because I learned to read the Gospels with different eyes.

Why I chose Theology: I chose to major in theology because I wanted to spend my college years learning about something that interests me. I was undecided freshman year, and when I sat down to think about it, my theology

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“I was undecided freshman year, [but] my theology classes were my favorite... so I decided to follow that instinct.”

Faculty Profile: Dr. Jim Ginther

New Dept. Chair for Theological Studies!

Education: Ph.D. in Medieval Studies, University of Toronto (1995)

Theological Area: Medieval Theology

Favorite Course to Teach: The 200-level Medieval Christianity (although I don’t get to do that very often). Also any course on Anselm of Canterbury.

Current Research: I’m critically editing the Psalms commentary of Robert Grosseteste, a thirteenth-century theologian from Oxford. I’m also building the software to do it digitally at the Center for Digital Theology.

Pearl of Wisdom: Omnia discere, videbimus postea nihil esse superfluum – “Learn everything, and you will see later that nothing is useless.” A twelfth-century theologian, Hugh of St-Victor, wrote that, and I think the sentiment still holds today. Take advantage of your time at SLU to explore all kinds of knowledge. An open and learned mind will serve you for the rest of your life.

Major Spotlight (continued)

classes were my favorite. Also, I knew that I wanted faith to be the foundation of my future career. So, I decided to follow that instinct and study theology! I’m very happy I did.

Something unique about myself: I am taking Modern Dance this semester with seven of my best friends! We don’t really have any dance experience, but that should make it even more fun!

Future plans: I don’t have a plan yet, but sometimes that’s the best plan! I may go to graduate school or do a volunteer program. Maybe, I’ll travel somewhere exotic or hitchhike cross-country. All I know is I eventually want to work in a job where I can advocate for those whose voice isn’t heard, and I would love to have my own family that is as close as my family was growing up. If I can help make those things happen, I think God will smile.

Advice for others: Don’t just pick a course of study because it’s convenient. Trust your instincts. If Theology is something you’re passionate about, then go for it! You can’t go wrong having faith as the foundation of your future.

Theology Course Preview:
THEO 479 ANCIENT CHINESE THOUGHT

This course offers an introduction to Chinese thought through a study of thinkers from one of the most vibrant periods of religious-philosophical discourse in China covering the time from around the 5th century BCE through the unification of China in 221 BCE. We will examine early classical texts from the Daoist, Confucian, Mohist, and Legalist traditions, and follow arguments where the thinkers expand upon, dispute with, and respond to each other in regard to questions that are still important to us today. We will explore issues such as notions of the self, the role of rituals, conceptions of the greater cosmos, ideas about human nature, and the subjects of freedom and duty. Motivating the course will be the underlying question, What is the good life?

Offered Spring 2014. Contact Dr. Pauline Lee to learn more.
News & Events

Sept. 6 First Friday Mass & Speaker Series
This new Catholic Studies series starts with mass at 8am in the College Church lower chapel followed by a free breakfast and talk on the “Sacred Heart and Catholic Higher Education” by Fr. Chris Collins.

Sept. 13th Fall Welcome
Socialize with other majors, minors, & faculty. Eat free Pappy's BBQ and win door prizes! We’ll meet at Boileau Hall from 12:30-3:00pm. Come when you like, and stay as long as you like.

Sept. 13 University Commons
Each month Campus Ministry hosts students for an informal gathering centered around food, fellowship, and conversation.
Meet us at Campus Ministry (Eckelkamp Center) at 7:00pm for a lively discussion about the role of Women in the Church.

Sept. 19th Puleo Presentations
Listen to the experiences of our 7 Puleo scholars who spent this summer living, studying, and working with the poor in Nicaragua. They’ll share their experiences from 7 to 9pm on the 4th floor of DuBourg Hall (Sinquefeld Room).

Puleo Reflection: Stewart Heatwole

This summer I was blessed to receive the Mev Puleo Scholarship, where I lived and studied in Nicaragua for 10 weeks. When many friends and acquaintances asked me how my summer went, I was at a loss how I should respond, but I quickly stumbled upon a word that seems to capture much of my experience: challenging. The summer was challenging in both immediately gratifying ways and in ways that I am still coming to understand. Our group of 7 students and guide each lived with families in the city of Ciudad Sandino, a place of dirt roads but sturdy cinder block homes. These extended home stays allowed each of us to not only become close to a family but experience daily the reality of economically poor. Theologically, we speak of our relationship with God and others. My time in Nicaragua allowed me to see how God can be loved and how many people suffer as Jesus did on the Cross.

Stewart is currently a senior majoring in Theology.

Corny Religious Humor

The Puleo Scholarship enables SLU Theology Majors & Minors to live and study in Nicaragua for 6-10 weeks in the summer.
To learn more, visit: http://www.slu.edu/x14947.xml
Jesuit Trivia

Did you know...
There are 35 craters on the moon named after Jesuit scientists?

For next month...
How many times was Ignatius thrown in jail?

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 additional information, please contact Dr. Miller at gmille16@slu.edu

Where Are They Now? Dan Finucane ’10

Dan Finucane graduated from SLU in 2010. He chose a theology major because, in his words, “I enjoyed my first couple of theology courses at SLU and wanted to take more.” Through his theology courses, he discovered that “I grow deeper in my faith when I engage in theological conversation with folks.”

His main interests in theology are “ecclesiology in light of contemporary questions and challenges to the church.” However, he doesn’t want his work to be purely academic but “to remain tethered to the ‘people in the pews’ as well as the people who struggle with the church in order to find new ways of articulating the strengths of the Catholic Christian tradition.”

After graduating from SLU, Dan earned an MA in Theological Studies from Boston College. The following year he travelled to Africa, working with the OFM Conventuals in Kitwe, Zambia for 8 months.

This fall, he embarks on yet another adventure, teaching theology and working in campus ministry at St. Louis University High School.

Good luck, Dan!

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