Greetings, friends of Theology! I hope had an enjoyable summer. I spent mine in Israel. You can read all about it in the Summer of Theological Fun section of this newsletter. We’d also like to hear about your summers, especially if you did anything theology-related (e.g. mission trip, theology internship). If so, please send us a short description (about 100 words) to gmillet6@slu.edu.

This month we also welcome a new Director of Undergrad Studies for Theology, Dr. Peter Martens. Professor Martens specializes in the area of the Early Church, and he teaches a variety of courses at the undergraduate level, including Theological Foundations, New Testament, and Jesus’ Death: The First Thousand Years. He will now be assuming the reigns of the program from Dr. Miller, whose term ended in May.

Our annual Fall Picnic will take place Friday Sept. 26th, 11:30-2:30pm in Adorjan Hall. Come share some BBQ with your friends and theology professors (who are also friendly).

This year’s Theology Ambassadors will be selected in early September to represent the theology major on campus and online. Look for an email soon from Dr. Miller.

For other events this month, please check the News & Events section below.

Please also check out our recently revamped website: http://www.slu.edu/theology

Stay tuned for the next issue of the Ignatian Herald in early October. In the meantime, you can follow us on Twitter (SLU_Theology) and like us on Facebook (TheologySLU).

Major Spotlight: Nicole Palazzolo

Hometown: Springfield, IL
Major: Theology, Italian
Minors: Catholic Studies
Favorite theology course(s): THEO 334 Christians in the Middle East. Analyzing the history of the different/earliest practices of Christianity allows one to better understand Christianity today.

Why I chose Theology: I chose to be a Theology major because of my family. I learned most about religion from my father. We had many debates about different beliefs and practices. However, through these debates I realized that religion is an integral part of society. Without any concept of religion where would we be? Everyone needs something or
**Faculty Profile: Dr. Elizabeth Sweeny Block**

**Education:** Ph.D. in Religious Ethics, Univ. of Chicago (2013)

**Theological Area:** Christian Ethics

**Favorite Course to Teach:** I’ve always loved teaching students new to Theology because they’re often surprised to find that Theology is relevant and applicable to their interests and to global concerns. This semester I am looking forward to teaching Theo 360: Christian Morality and Health Care.

**Current Research:** My research is focused on moral anthropology, i.e., what we can learn about human beings through theological resources. I concentrate on the freedom and formation of conscience. I am presenting a paper at this year’s Society of Christian Ethics meeting entitled “A Violation of Conscience?”

**Pearls of Wisdom:** Allow yourself to be surprised by the courses you take. Be open to what is challenging and unfamiliar. I began college as a Biology major, and here I am now a professor of Theology!

**Major Spotlight (continued)**

someone to believe in, and that is always worth studying!

**Something unique about myself:** Coffee is an absurd necessity in my life that allows me to function on a daily basis.

**Future plans:** After I graduate I hope to eventually get my masters and possibly my doctorate. I hope to teach Theology at a college level someday!

**Advice for others:** Let go of your common assumptions of religion. Theology and morals play a huge role in everyone’s daily lives, and in order to truly study something like that, one cannot be biased. Instead you must go in with an open mind, and treasure all you learn.

“Go in with an open mind, and treasure all you learn.”

**Meet the Chair: Sept. 3rd**

Calling all Theology Majors and Minors!

We’d like to get more feedback from you on our undergraduate program. Come meet with our department chair, Dr. James Ginther, and our new Undergraduate Program Director, Dr. Peter Martens, to discuss your interests, your passions, and what you’d like to see in your theology major or minor. We want to hear what kind of course offerings you hope to see and any other input you can give us to enhance your experience as an undergraduate studying theology at St. Louis University.

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday Sept. 3rd at 5:00pm to meet with the Chair and Undergrad Director in Adorjan 142.

(Majors and minors should have received an email from the chair with more details.)
News & Events for September

Sept. 11th Theology Club
Join students for a night of pizza and fellowship, 5:30pm at Campus Ministry. All are welcome!

Sept. 12th 1st Friday Mass & Speaker
Join us for mass at Il Monastero and a talk on the Jesuits and Globalization of Christianity by Dr. Hal Parker (History), 12noon.

Sept. 13th Theology Club
Help the homeless at our monthly “Jammin for Jesus,” making PB&J sandwiches for St. Patrick’s Center, 12-3pm on the Quad near Gries.

Sept. 26th Fall Picnic
Join other majors, minors, and interested students for bbq with the faculty at our Fall Picnic in Adorjan 142, 11:30am-2:30pm.

Sept. 19th Matteo Ricci Speakers Series
Listen to Prof. Kristina Kleugten (Wash. Univ.) speak about 18th cent. Jesuit art in China, 3-5pm in the Pere Marquette Gallery (Dubourg)

Sept. 17th Catholicism, Baseball, and St. Louis
Spend an evening with Joe Garagiola, Jr, Senior VP of Major League Baseball, 7pm in the Business School Aud.

Summer of Theological Fun: Dr. Miller

This summer I spent two weeks in Israel. I took part in an archaeological dig near Haifa, excavating an ancient Phoenician city that had been inhabited since the Bronze Age (ca. 1500 BC). I joined several professors and students there, including our own Dan and Matt Greg! We found part of an old city gate, an Iron Age lamp, a pottery kiln, and countless potsherds.

On the weekends, we visited several sites in the Holy Land, including the majestic city of Megiddo, the largest ancient city excavated in Israel. We also traveled to many famous sites from New Testament Times, including Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth as well as Capernaum, where Jesus spent most of his active ministry. War between Israel and Gaza prevented us from visiting all the sites we wanted to see, but we did manage to dip our toes in the Jordan River and go for a swim in the Sea of Galilee. It was a nice respite, especially since summers in Galilee are as brutal as the ones in St. Louis!

Dr. Miller teaches courses in Scripture and THEO 100.

Corny Religious Humor

TAKES PATERNITY TEST
FINDS OUT HE IS THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

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)
Jesuit Trivia

Did you know...
Sao Paolo, Brazil (the largest city in S. America) was founded by the Jesuits?

For next month...
The Jesuits are officially called the “Society of Jesus,” so how did the term “Jesuit” originate?

We’re on the Web!
www.slu.edu/theology.xml

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TheologySLU &
SLU Center for Catholic Studies

The Ignatian Herald is a monthly publication of the SLU Theology Undergraduate Studies Program.

To subscribe/unsubscribe or request more information, please contact Andrew Chronister at achronis@slu.edu

Interested in a Theology Major or Minor?

Please visit our webpage for more information:
http://www.slu.edu/department-of-theology-home/prospective-students/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=c2x1LmVkdXxoAGVvMTAwfGd4OjZkMWMwYmY4NzdLMWliYzE (copy and paste link into browser)

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

Where Are They Now? Michael Schonhoff ’14

Michael graduated from SLU this past May and was eager to join the Alumni Service Corps for a year of teaching and service. “ASC gives Jesuit school graduates the chance to live in community and work at a Jesuit high school for a year,” he explains. Michael is currently at St. Louis Univ. High School, “teaching theology, working with Campus Ministry and service projects, coaching water polo, and diving into as many clubs and activities as I can.”

While at SLU, Michael added a theology major to his social work major because, in his words, “no other area of study forms you as a person the way theology does. I constantly find myself challenged, both academically and spiritually, by the material I learn in the classroom. Everybody has questions about God, faith, service, justice, relationships, etc. Theology opens the door to discuss these topics and, most importantly, to ask ourselves where we are called.”

Michael is grateful for his theology courses since “every important conversation we have somehow ends up relating back to theology. We’re all basically asking the same questions in life, and I think we clarify our own answers to these questions by discussing them with others.

I love these conversations and, for me, theology helps inform them.”

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