Greetings, friends of Theology. Welcome back to another academic year. We hope you are refreshed and rejuvenated after your summer break. We have big plans for our students in 2015-16, including world-renowned theologians giving talks on our campus, a Theology Awareness Week in October, and (fingers crossed) the first ever Theology on Tap series for SLU undergrads. We also anticipate a record number of Theology sweatshirt sales (sported by yours truly in the photo to the right). Please see the News & Events section for more details of what’s coming up this month.

Fall Welcome

Our annual Fall Welcome will take place Friday Sept. 25th, 5-7pm in Adorjan Hall. Come share some scrumptious food with your friends and theology professors (who are also friendly).

Theology Ambassadors

This semester we will once again select students to represent the department as Theology Ambassadors. These students will promote the theology major in some classes and at certain events, and they will also record videos for our website. Check out last year’s ambassadors here: http://www.slu.edu/departmen t-of-theology-home/prospective-students/ba-theology/why-theology. Stay tuned for further details.

Internship

Want to work as an intern in the Office of Young Adult Ministry for the archdiocese? Visit here: http://archstl.org/node/43807. Please also be sure to follow us on Twitter (SLU_Theology) and like us on Facebook (TheologySLU). Check your inbox on the 1st Monday of each month for future issues.

Major Spotlight: Liz Vestal

Hometown: Des Moines, IA

Major: Theology

Minor: Social Work

Favorite theology course(s): Enduring Questions of Good and Evil in Today’s Christian Society with Dr. Rubio, and Marriage and the Christian Vocation with Dr. Finucane.

Why I chose Theology: Theology is fascinating to me, as the more I know, the more questions I have. I love theology because it encompasses both past and future events, and is constantly changing. Plus, I’ve come to find that everyone has their own belief and value systems, and their own theology.

Continued on page 2...
Faculty Profile: Fr. Bill O’Brien, S.J.


**Theological Area:** Modern French Spirituality, Philosophical Theology

**Favorite Course to Teach:** Christian Spirituality. God relates to each of us on his or her own terms, and the study of spirituality can help us explore how others have expressed their relationship with God and to find parallels in our own lives. It can also help us to develop conscious contact with the One who has all the power.

**Current Research:** I’ve been doing work on the second generation of Jesuits and am currently preparing a translation of the 1933 critical edition of the *Intérieure occupation d’une âme dévote* (1608) by Pierre Coton (1564–1626), who was a confessor to the king of France.

Other research interests include the American philosopher Charles Peirce (1839–1914), and a study of how the doctrine of continuity helps us understand the grace/nature binome.

**Pearl of Wisdom:** No strange gods (Ex 20:3). Never give yourself away. Keep your powder dry!

**Something unique about me:** There was a 2-year period where I was on the back of the Honey Bunches of Oats boxes.

**Future plans:** I am looking at going to grad school for nonprofit management, but I might take a year off to do service.

**Theology Course Preview:**

**THEO 3535 Sex, Gender, and Christian Ethics**

This course introduces students to contemporary Christian thinking on sexuality. The goal is to present a wide range of positions within the Christian tradition (from the most traditional to the most radical), so that students can discuss and debate the available alternatives and come to their own reasoned positions. Issues considered include: dating, courtship, sexting, premarital sex, fidelity, contraception, the role of pleasure, sex as a practice, the social construction of sex and gender, John Paul II’s theology of complementarity, egalitarianism, sexual violence, homosexuality, same sex marriage, race and sexuality, sexual abuse in the Church, and HIV/AIDS. On each topic, the perspectives of feminist theologians or scholars of religion are considered. Discussion is central to the course, and students of all backgrounds and viewpoints are welcome.

Offered Spring 2016. Contact Dr. Rubio for more information.

“*Theology is fascinating to me, as the more I know, the more questions I have.*”
**News & Events**

**Aug. 28 University Commons**
Come to Campus Ministry any time between 7-10pm for an informal gathering centered around food and fellowship. All are welcome!

**Sept. 4th Catholic Studies 1st Friday Mass & Speaker**
Join us for mass and lunch at Jesuit Hall and a talk on Catholic Education by Fr. Dave Meconi, SJ at 12noon.

**Sept. 17 Theological Thursday**
Sport your Theology sweatshirt on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Don’t have one? Stay tuned for special sales of our highly coveted apparel!

**Sept. 25 Undergraduate Welcome**
Socialize with other majors, minors, & faculty. Eat free food (perhaps BBQ?) and win door prizes! We’ll meet in Adorjan Hall rm 142 from 5 to 7pm. Come when you like, and stay as long as you like.

**Oct. 2 Matteo Ricci Speakers Series**
Listen to world-renowned scholar Ronnie Hsia from Penn State Univ. give a lecture at the Pere Marquette Gallery in Dubourg Hall, 4-6pm.

More speakers coming...
Future guests include Paula Fredriksen and Willie Jennings.

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**A Summer in Nicaragua: The Puleo Program**

This summer seven SLU students embarked on a life-changing journey to Nicaragua. The students are current majors or minors in theology and were selected by SLU faculty to take part in this incredible experience.

Supported by generous scholarships granted through the Puleo family, these students lived with poor families in the city of Managua, Nicaragua. Over the course of the summer, they met with leaders in many different sectors of Nicaraguan society, including Church leaders, small Church community organizers, grassroots activists, social workers, politicians, student activists, medical workers, and farm workers. The goal of the program is to develop SLU students’ understanding of theology, which is enriched by their encounters with the poor in Latin America. Each issue of this year’s Ignatian Herald will feature a reflection from a Puleo scholar about their experience.

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**Corny Religious Humor**

![Image of a cartoon and a film with text: So I'm reading the bible. Jesus Dies.](image)

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**Keep up to date on all Theology Events at**
[http://www.slu.edu/x67717.xml](http://www.slu.edu/x67717.xml)

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**The Puleo Scholarship enables SLU Theology Majors & Minors to live and study in Nicaragua for 10 weeks in the summer.**

To learn more, visit: [http://www.slu.edu/x14947.xml](http://www.slu.edu/x14947.xml)
Interested in a Theology Major or Minor?

Please visit our webpage for more information:

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

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Where Are They Now? Scott Hessel ’13

Scott graduated from SLU in 2013. He chose a theology major because, in his words, “I appreciated the academic rigor, critical thinking and reading skills and analytical thinking style that was necessary for a theology major, that I believe will be an invaluable asset for any future endeavor. But also, more personally, because it gave me the ample opportunity to explore my questioning faith under the guidance of learned faculty and great moral thinkers. I appreciated the opportunity to study, read and reflect on many of the tenets of spirituality and faith that I have been able to authentically integrate into my own faith life.”

After graduating with a double major in English and theology, Scott joined the Alumni Service Corps and taught at SLUH here in St. Louis. He’ll be coming back to SLU this year to pursue a Master’s degree in English and do some teaching as well, hoping to return to the classroom and teach English at the high school level some day.

In all his adventures since graduating, Scott still feels that theology influences his outlook on life. “I believe it is always important to ask the difficult questions. When these questions are approached respectfully, creatively, and seriously by well-intentioned individuals who welcome a diversity of opinion, I believe we are all enriched. This is a practice I hope to continue throughout my life, and can definitely be applied to my professional endeavors.”

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