



Undergraduate Core

Saint Louis University

News From The Core

September 2023

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The Core Team: Meet Our New Staff



Liz Burke, Assistant Director

Liz Burke began as Assistant Director of the Core in July 2023. As a long-term faculty member in the ESL program at SLU, she has experience with undergraduate teaching and curriculum development, revision, and assessment. She is working to develop a Core communications strategy that includes regular program updates, a monthly newsletter, and a social media presence. Liz is also helping to manage the day-to-day operations of the University Core.

Monica Richardson. Program Coordinator



Monica Richardson joined the Core in March 2023. She has over 13 years of experience with data management and program administration. She provides administrative coordination and support for the Core and oversees the creation of sections for Core courses and manages the assignment of sections to instructors and peer mentors. Monica also oversees catalog and calendar management, and travel and event arrangements for the University Core.



Joya Uraizee,
Associate Director: Equity and Global Identities

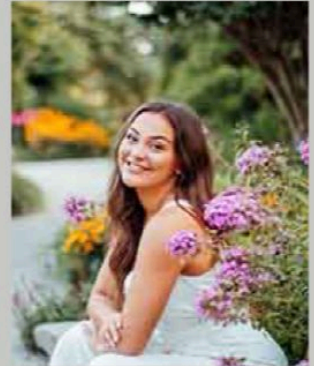
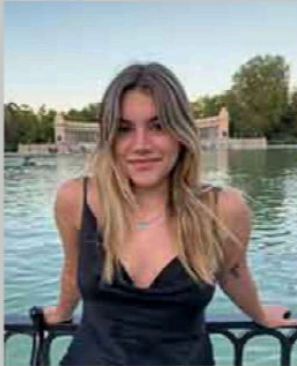
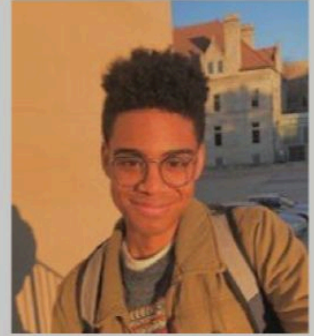
Joya Uraizee, Professor of English, joins the Core as Associate Director of Equity and Global Identities. She loves African literature and is passionate about social justice. Joya chairs the Equity and Global Identities subcommittee, which approves courses for these attributes. This year, she will also lead assessment of Core Learning Outcome 6: All SLU students will be able to recognize transnational or global interdependence.



Hamish Binns,
Associate Director: Madrid Campus

Hamish Binns joins the Core as the Associate Director for SLU's Madrid campus. He is also the Program Director for ESL, Modern Languages, and Education and coordinates SLU-Madrid's community and service learning projects. He chairs the Madrid Core subcommittee, collaborates on university-wide Core assessment, and this year is piloting a Core assessment portfolio. He is passionate about collaborating between St. Louis and Madrid campuses.

The Core Team: Meet Our Undergraduate Core Fellows



Undergraduate Core Curricular Fellows

This year, the Core welcomes eight Undergraduate Core Curricular Fellows. These fellows are dedicated to ensuring that SLU's Core is shaped by the voices and perspectives of undergraduate students. Each fellow sits on a Core subcommittee and works with SLU faculty to review courses from across the university for inclusion in the Core.

[Learn More](#)

In the Core Classroom: Spotlight on Ignite



Spotlight on Ignite: The Science of Helping

Dr. Jesse Helton, applied data scientist and Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, researches intersections between violence and health, specifically in relation to child abuse and neglect. When designing his Ignite Seminar, however, he wanted to focus on his area of expertise without overwhelming first-year students.

For their final project in this Ignite Seminar, students focus on a complex social issue and create their own answer to the questions, “How would you help?” Dr. Helton frames his course around the Evidence Based Practice model. This model asks students to consider three ways of thinking as an approach to helping others. First, who are the people they are hoping to help? Second, what does science say about the problem? And finally, what they they personally good at? By answering and interweaving these three questions, students create a framework for considering how to responsibly engage with complex social problems.

To incorporate the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm throughout the semester, Dr. Helton prompts students to consider Ignatian pedagogy and questions around vocation. One of his goals is for students to consider what questions excite them and how they can apply their learning to answer important questions. Dr. Helton says he loves how Ignite affords him the flexibility to bring in new content that can be tailored to student interests. He also enjoys getting to know students and being able to watch their growth over the course of the semester.

Are you also teaching an Ignite Seminar? We'd love to hear from you! Share your thoughts [here](#).



Being an Ignite Peer Mentor

Taniya Weston, sophomore, joins the Core this year as an Ignite Peer Mentor working with Dr. Ellen Crowell's Ignite Seminar: Reasons for Poetry. In this Ignite Seminar, students together read one new poem each week. Then, they conduct independent research on the poem and come back the following week to collaborate to understand the poem in more complex ways.

Taniya enrolled in this Seminar as a freshman in Spring '23. When she walked into the classroom, she quickly realized that this was a different kind of course than she was used to. "There was not one right or wrong answer," she said. "Instead, the expectation was to come as you are and write as you are." She learned that the central goal of this course was for all students to bring themselves to the content.

At the end of the semester, Taniya volunteered to be a Peer Mentor the next time Dr. Crowell taught her Ignite. Taniya is excited about being present this fall for a new group of Reasons for Poetry students. All Ignite Peer Mentors attend every class session and work closely with an Ignite faculty member to coordinate efforts to support students. They often serve as role models and resources for first-year students, offering advice for student success.

Taniya plans to meet with students one-on-one in a place of their choosing so that there is a "relaxed vibe." She also wants to help first-year students see that, although they may feel challenged and overwhelmed, they are not alone in their struggles. She notes, "Hey, I get it. We can all go through this together."

Would you like to have a peer mentor for your future Ignite Seminar? [Let us know!](#)

Upcoming Core Events

Eloquentia Perfecta Week

Eloquentia Perfecta Week (EP Week) is a five-day series of events that invites the SLU community to reflect on writing, creative expression, speaking, visuality, and all forms of media and communication. Events will engage both students and faculty to explore how communication is part of the undergraduate college curriculum, how communication connects us to ourselves and society, and the role that expression and listening play in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition. Events include student focused workshops (both skills based and reflective) as well as faculty events (including curricular development, training, and keynote speakers).

Round Table Discussion

Several of our 2023-24 Core Curricular Innovation Faculty Fellows will gather for our fall round table discussion focused on the exciting new courses they are designing for the Collaborative Inquiry requirement in our University Core. The Associate Director for Collaborative Inquiry will also attend to discuss Collaborative Inquiry in more detail and the process for developing Collaborative Inquiry courses.

If you are interested in learning more about designing a course to count for Collaborative Inquiry, join us virtually as your schedule permits on either Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 12-1:30 or Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 12-1:30. RSVP to core@slu.edu by Oct. 2 to receive a calendar



**ELOQUENTIA
PERFECTA
WEEK**

Saint Louis University
Core Curriculum
Academics

EP Week Kick Off Presentation
Monday 2:00-3:00p.m., Pere Marquette Gallery

Student Writing and Art Event
Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00-12:00p.m., Clock Tower

Iterative Multimodal Pedagogy Workshop
Tuesday 3:00-4:00p.m., Adorjan Hall 142

"What Octavia Butler Can Teach Us About Eloquentia Perfecta?"
Thursday 3:30-4:30p.m., Cook Hall Room 236

Printing Press Workshop
Friday 3:00-5:00p.m., Des Peres Hall 206


Full Details Here

Submit Courses for Confluence Program

Ignite Seminar instructors (current and future) are invited to collaborate with the Confluence Program, an initiative funded by the Teagle Foundation to support humanities education for STEM students. Interested participants will be asked to include in their seminar certain "transformative texts"—primary source works that raise some of life's most profound questions—which they can choose in conversation with the program directors. Participants will receive a \$2,000 stipend.

Questions? Reach out to Harold Braswell at harold.braswell@slu.edu or Pascale Perraudin at pascale.perraudin@slu.edu

Important Deadlines

Oct. 16 Ignite Seminar proposal submission deadline

Oct. 16 Priority deadline for courses to be submitted to the Core for AY 24-25

Submit Your Ignite Proposal Here

Core Resources

Instructor
Resources

SLOs and
Assessment

Curriculum
Overview



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