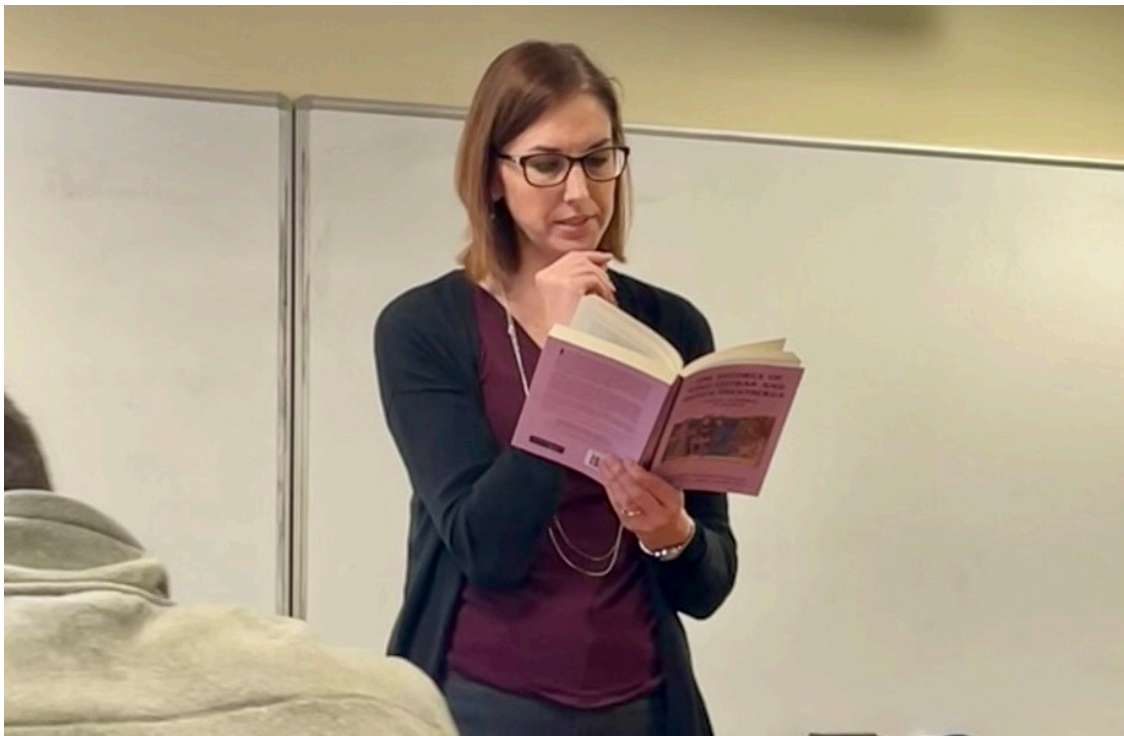


News From the Core

February 2026

Core Happenings Looking Back / Looking Forward

This spring, the first cohort of students on the new Core will cross the graduation stage at commencement. These students began their time at SLU in Ignite Seminars and Cura Personalis 1 courses and are the first group to experience the Core curriculum in its entirety. As this inaugural Core cohort graduates, we asked several of our original Core Associate Directors and our graduating Undergraduate Core Fellows to share what the Core has meant to them over the years.



***Looking Back: Atria Larson, Associate Director
for Ultimate Questions***

The first group of Associate Directors began their work in July 2020 to make the Core a reality for all SLU students. Throughout this spring semester, we are asking several of these Associate Directors to look back over their past two terms and to share insights about some of the challenges and successes they experienced while helping to build and establish a University-wide general education curriculum here at Saint Louis University.

As the original Associate Director for Theological and Philosophical Foundations, Dr. David Kaplan, Professor in the Department of Management, has helped develop and grow the Collaborative Inquiry area of the Core into what it is today. One of the biggest surprises she encountered as Core Associate Director was...

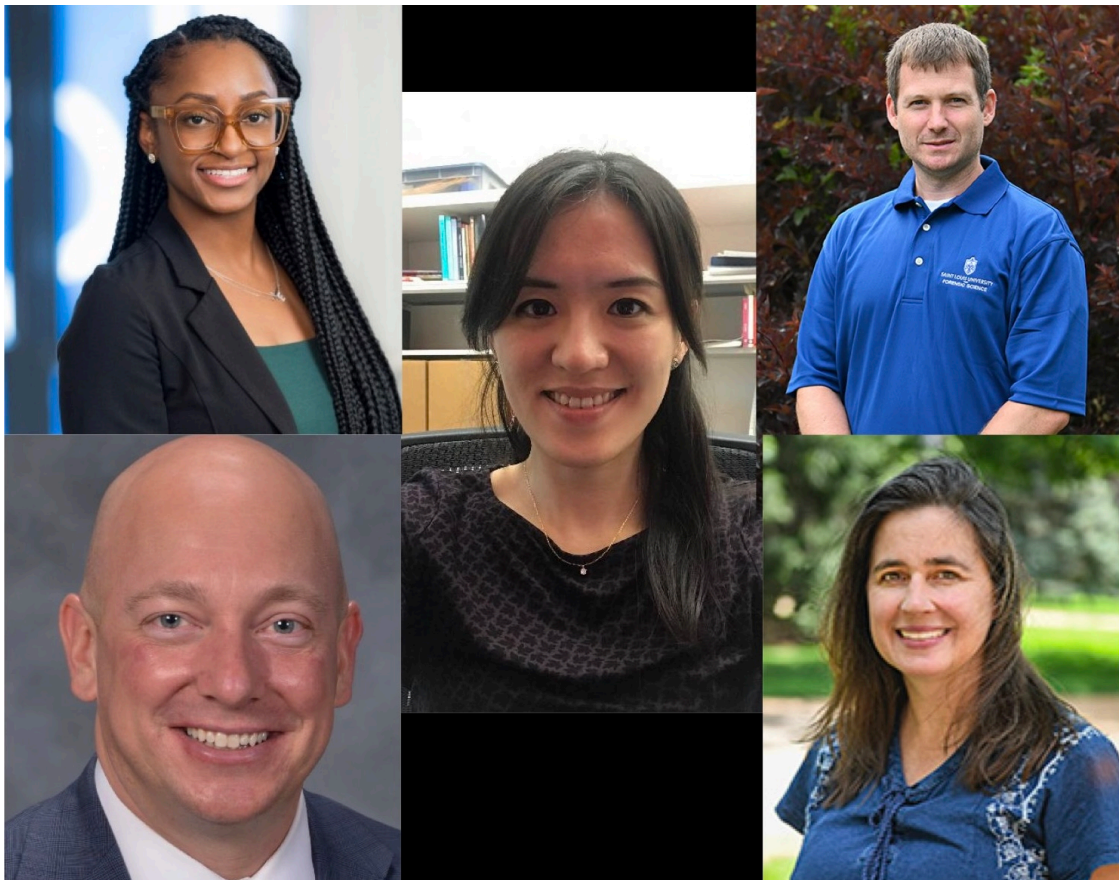


Looking Forward: Amanda Kovathana, Senior, Undergraduate Core Fellow

Early on in its development, the Core invited undergraduates to join the work of curricular development and consciousness raising about the Core. These Undergraduate Core Fellows have a unique perspective on the shape and impact of the Core on students' intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual experience and growth. Throughout this spring semester, we are asking our graduating Core Fellows to look forward to how they believe the Core has uniquely prepared them for their next steps beyond the University.

Amanda Kovathana, senior Biology major with concentrations in Biological Chemistry and Molecular Biology, has joined the Core as an Undergraduate Core Fellow this academic year. In her video, Amanda reflects on...

In the Core Classroom: Core Curricular Fellows



For a fifth year, the University Core has offered the Core Curricular Innovation Fellowship program which invites faculty and staff to lead the way in demonstrating how the Core encourages innovative content and/or pedagogical strategies that provide a range of dynamic learning opportunities for all of our students. Since its inception in 2021, [78 Core Curricular](#)

[Innovation Fellows](#) have designed and redesigned Core courses and experiences. For the 2025-26 award cycle, the Core particularly encouraged proposals for courses and experiences that count for Cura Personalis 2, Cura Personalis 3, and Reflection in Action.

This year, five of our Core Curricular Fellows gathered for a roundtable discussion about the courses and experiences they developed and redesigned.

- Dr. Eboni Chism, Program Coordinator-Jesuit Worldwide Learning in the School for Professional Studies, significantly revised the SPS version of CORE 3500 to better help non-traditional SLU students articulate the value of their SLU education
- Dr. Jake Redden, Associate Professor of Health Management and Policy in the College of Public Health and Social Justice, developed HMP 3000: Millionaire for Good: From Graduation to Generosity by 35 as a Cura Personalis 3 course open to all undergraduates across the University
- Dr. Yun Lee, Assistant Professor of Chinese in the College of Arts and Sciences turned an existing Taiwan study abroad program into a course that counts for Cura Personalis 2 (CHIN 2900)
- Professor Erik Hall, Director of the Forensic Science program in the College of Arts and Sciences, created a Cura Personalis 2 peer mentoring program for students who are peer mentors in the Forensic Science program
- Dr. Leah Sweetman, Director of Community-Engaged Learning in the Center for Social Action, redesigned CORE 2510: VITAS (Vocational Inquiry Through Actions and Service) which counts for Cura Personalis 2 and Reflection in Action to be offered in an online format over the summer

The Core is very grateful to all of our CCI Fellows for the time, dedication, and creativity they have put into building engaging courses and experiences for SLU undergraduate students!

SLU's Core at the First-Year Experience Conference



In mid-February the Core is headed to Seattle to present on SLU's unique approach to the first-year Seminar (FYS) and how our FYS faculty professional development has evolved over the past four years. When SLU's FYS--the Ignite Seminar--was first launched in 2021, faculty were encouraged to design an open topic "passion course" that aligned with SLU's mission and Jesuit tradition. While this approach fostered creativity and faculty engagement, the Core realized that, without a common language uniting our Ignite Seminar topics, students often experienced Ignite as disconnected from other courses.

To make visible to students the shared goals and transferable skills of the Ignite Seminar, we redesigned our Ignite workshop series to focus on decentering disciplinary content and aligning around shared modes of inquiry as the central goals of our first-year seminar. Through this expanded approach, over 200 faculty members have now been guided in designing and delivering courses distinct to them as individual faculty that nonetheless decenter content and emphasize a way of learning that is portable. By offering multiple opportunities for faculty to talk about the holistic structure of Ignite and how they uniquely embody it within their distinct courses, the Core has helped faculty effectively model for students how to deepen their connection to their own learning and transport it beyond the Ignite classroom.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

February 24

Core Instructor Coffee, 8:30 - 9:30 am
Verhaegen Hall, Room 219

March 10

SLU-Madrid Core Assignment Redesign Workshop,
9:30, PRHA 008

March 11

SLU-Madrid Core Assignment Redesign Workshop,
17:00, Viña Auditorium

March 24

Core Brown Bag, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Full List of Core Events



Questions? Email core@slu.edu

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