

News From The Core

April Updates

In The Core Classroom

Launch of Confluence
Microcredential

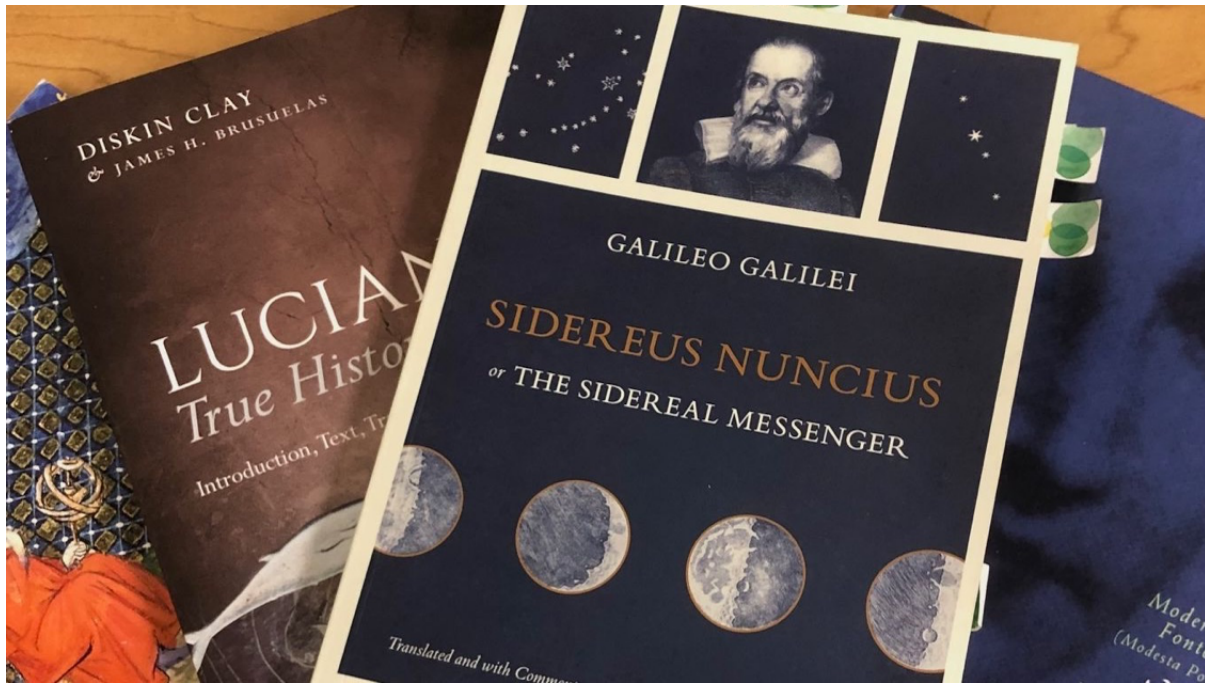
Core Initiatives

Campus Read and
Mining for Literary Gold

Events and Deadlines

Upcoming Core Events
and Deadlines

In The Core Classroom



Humanities Across Disciplines: Confluence Microcredential Launches

"Confluence: Interdisciplinary Humanities," a new microcredential launching in Fall 2025, provides a way for students, regardless of major or program, to find meaningful Humanities pathways through the Core. The microcredential begins with Ignite Seminars that focus on transformative texts—rich primary source texts, typically known as “great books,” that ask fundamental questions about humanity and the world. From early modern astronomical treatises to Frederick Douglass’ autobiography—and beyond—these texts can originate from any time, period, culture, or region, but they share a capacity to inspire students today. After the Ignite Seminar, students take two additional upper-level courses that help them foster deeper engagement with the act and art of reading. This coming fall, nearly 60 courses will carry the “transformative texts” designation as options for students interested in the Confluence microcredential.

Beyond making the Humanities more accessible to all students, including those in STEM fields, this interdisciplinary microcredential will unify faculty from across colleges and schools around a shared goal of designing courses around meaningful textual study. Through such cross-disciplinary collaboration, the Confluence microcredential offers faculty a space to build a sense of community and praxis that transcends traditional academic silos. The Confluence Interdisciplinary Humanities program will offer both faculty and students the opportunity to use transformative

texts as the jumping off point for creating space to discuss the big ideas that shape and transform our inner lives.

Do you teach transformative texts? Interested in learning more about the Confluence microcredential? Reach out to core@slu.edu or [Harold Braswell](#), [Katherine McKenna](#), or [Pascale Perraudin](#).

Core Initiatives

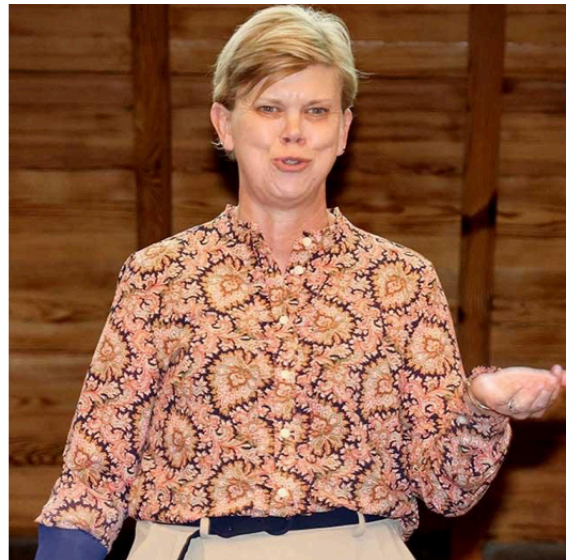


Mining for Literary Gold: Campus Read Liaises with Core Ignite Seminar

Saint Louis University's Campus Read initiative, led by Ted Ibur, is a cross-disciplinary program that strives to make literature accessible to the entire SLU community and beyond. Each year, the program provides an opportunity for SLU faculty, staff, and students to read and discuss a significant work written by the annual Literary Award recipient. A wide-ranging series of Campus Read workshops and discussions culminates each April with a visit from the award recipient, including a public presentation and a craft talk with students. SLU's 2025 Literary Award recipient, Colson Whitehead, is on campus this week to engage in dialogue about his book "The Underground Railroad" and other works as well.

A small group of SLU undergraduates, enrolled in Professor Martha Allen's Ignite Seminar "Mining for Literary Gold," has had a chance to engage deeply with the SLU Literary Award. Allen's Ignite Seminar guides students to deepen their connection with the ideas presented in texts written by both current and past Literary Award winners. "Mining For Literary Gold" also brings Campus Read's mission of building a sense of community around a shared love of reading to new SLU students.

Allen's class is structured around reading two transformative texts—one by the current year's Literary Award recipient and a second book chosen by students from a list of past Literary Award winners' works. To help students engage with the authors and select a text they will connect with, Allen incorporates interactive activities such as author speed dating and "Guess who" author scavenger hunts to help familiarize students with SLU's long list of prior Literary Award winners. Students even visit the library archives, where they explore historical artifacts from the time periods of the authors they may choose to study. By bringing the Campus Read program into the classroom, Martha Allen's Ignite Seminar encourages students to follow their interests and connect with profound and transformative texts that engage them in ways they never anticipated.



Celebration of Teaching Award: 2024 Ignite Instructors of the Year

Each year the University Core recognizes two outstanding Ignite Instructors with the Ignite Instructor of the Year Award. This award, selected via student nominations, highlights instructors who inspire their students to engage in the world of ideas in new

and exciting ways. This past December, the Core celebrated our 2024 award recipients: Dr. Shannon Cooper-Sadlo, Associate Clinical Professor of Social Work, for her Spring 2024 Ignite Seminar "Conversations With a Mom, but Not Your Mom," and Dr. Meadow Campbell, Associate Professor at the Center for Anatomical Science and Education, whose Fall 2024 Ignite Seminar was entitled "Dissecting a Timeline: Anatomy Through the Ages."

This past week, Drs. Campbell and Cooper-Sadlo were recognized at the Office of the Provost's second annual Celebration of Teaching for their hard work and dedication to their students. Congratulations, Dr. Cooper-Sadlo and Dr. Campbell!

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Application Deadlines

Core Curricular Innovation Fellows

Are you interested in developing a new Cura Personalis 2, Cura Personalis 3 or Reflection in Action course or experience? If so, consider applying for a Core Curricular Innovation Fellowship [via this form](#). Faculty receive \$1500 in professional development funds.

Deadline: Monday, April 28, 2025

Undergraduate Core Curricular Fellows

Do you know an outstanding undergraduate student who is passionate about the Core? If so, encourage them to apply to be an Undergraduate Core Fellow! The call for applications [can be found here](#).

Deadline: Friday, April 25, 2025

Core Peer Mentors

Would you like to have a peer mentor in your CORE-subject code course next fall? Reach out to that student to confirm their interest and availability and then email

core@slu.edu to let us know!

Apr. 11

Core Reengagement Workshop, 2:30-4:00, Des Peres Hall, Room 109

Email core@slu.edu if you would like to attend.

Apr. 15

Collaborative Inquiry Coffee, 9:00 - 10:00 am, Verhaegen Hall, Room 219

Apr. 15

Cura Personalis Brown Bag Lunch, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, BSC, Room 254

May 6

Ignite Workshop #1: Madrid, 16:00-18:00, Zoom link forthcoming

May 9

Ignite Workshop #1: St. Louis, 12:00 - 4:00 pm

[View email in browser](#)

University Undergraduate Core

Verhaegen Hall, 3634 Lindell Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63108

<https://www.slu.edu/core/index.php>
