

Dear Colleagues:

Among many memorable reveries in St. Augustine's *Confessions*, one addressing friendship often comes to my mind and always inspires:

All kinds of things rejoiced my soul in their company—to talk and laugh and do each other kindnesses; read pleasant books together, pass from lightest jesting to talk of the deepest things and back again; differ without rancor, as a man might differ with himself, and when most rarely dissension arose find our normal agreement all the sweeter for it; teach each other or learn from each other; be impatient for the return of the absent, and welcome them with joy on their homecoming; these and such like things, proceeding from our hearts as we gave affection and received it back, and shown by face, by voice, by the eyes, and a thousand other pleasing ways, kindled a flame which fused our souls and of many made us one.

In these words, we read a beautiful call to friendship, one that we properly idealize and should sincerely heed. True enough, at the stage of life that he here describes, St. Augustine cherished his friends too much, which is to say idolatrously; he cannot find in friendship a spiritual repose that only God can offer. However, he pens this moving remembrance of friendship well after his conversion and ordination. In mature faith, St. Augustine celebrates the well-ordered love of one's friends: "Blessed is the man that loves Thee, O God, and his friend in Thee, and his enemy for Thee."

Let's hold in mind this exquisite portrait of friendship as we undertake our service in and beyond the Honors College. Speaking of which, here are some things to note and to honor:

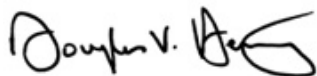
- Did you know that—in addition to our own Honors College faculty—over 30 faculty representing at least 16 academic departments around the University are teaching honors-level courses for our students this fall? Join me in gratitude for the friendship and good will of colleagues from Accounting, Art, Biology, Chemistry, Classics, Economics, Film and Digital Media, History, Journalism, Math, Modern Languages and Cultures, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, and Religion, among others I may have missed. Honors education at Baylor thrives because we have strong partnerships with faculty in so many departments.
- On Thursday, October 10, at 7:00 p.m., [Victor Boutros](#), CEO of the Human Trafficking Institute in Washington, D.C., will present the twenty-sixth annual Laura Blanche Jackson Memorial Lecture. Victor is an alumnus of Baylor, Harvard, Oxford, and Chicago, a former federal prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice, and a dear friend to many of us. Victor's lecture, entitled "**Slavery's End: Why Human Trafficking Thrives and the Path to Freedom**," will inform and challenge, and I encourage you both to attend and to invite your students and colleagues as well.
- On Tuesday, October 22, at 4:00 p.m., [Jane Kelly Rodeheffer](#), the Fletcher Jones Chair of Great Books at Pepperdine University, will present our tenth annual Drumwright Family Lecture. The title of Jane's talk is "**From Ithaca To Emmaus**:"

Recognition of the Stranger in the *Odyssey* and the *Gospel of Luke*. Many of us know Jane through her exemplary service as president of the [Association for Core Texts and Courses](#) (ACTC).

By design, the Drumwright Family Lecture Series does not emphasize specialist papers prepared for professional audiences, but engaging talks equally accessible for our undergraduates and stimulating for our faculty. We want students to see models of learned grappling with significant issues, informed in useful ways by their Honors College curriculum. Jane's talk promises to fulfill these aims admirably.

- Congratulations to **Robert Miner**, professor of philosophy in the Great Texts Program, for his work as translator and editor of [The New Science](#) by Giambattista Vico (Yale University Press). Undertaken collaboratively with Jason Taylor of Regis College, and featuring an introduction by Yale's Sterling Professor of Italian Language and Literature, Giuseppe Mazzotta, the book's early reviewers praise it as "the now-definitive edition of one of the greatest books of the millennium" and as "philologically faithful, philosophically competent, and eminently readable." Fantastic work, Rob!
- Likewise, congratulations to **Scott Moore**, associate professor of philosophy and great texts in the Great Texts Program, for his daringly entitled new book, [How to Burn a Goat: Farming with the Philosophers](#) (Baylor University Press) "Full of self-deprecating humor," the book explores questions at the interface of philosophy, literature, and farm life: "Does Plato's 'city of sows' ring true?," "Can Ockham help break a recalcitrant heifer?," "How can Heidegger help with raising swine?," and "What insights does Iris Murdoch offer for pest control?" Well done, Scott!

All the best,



Douglas V. Henry | Interim Dean

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