

Dear Colleagues:

I beamed with pride last week at the public interview of *New York Times* columnist [David Brooks](#) that was conducted hospitably and insightfully by our colleague **Alan Jacobs**, distinguished professor of the humanities in the Honors Program.

The interview ranged across David's recent books, including *The Social Animal*, *The Road to Character*, and *The Second Mountain*, and it featured touching self-revelation, charming wit, and sensible appraisal of American political life. David and Alan emphasized how political reflection and practice stand within morally and spiritually significant frames of reference. Something so obvious—say in the work of Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Dante, Machiavelli, Shelley, Marx, Weil, Arendt, and not least of all, the Bible—is, alas, too often neglected in the *realpolitik* of contemporary partisanship.

The evening left me gratified that our students benefit from an Honors College curriculum that, attuned to “the best which has been thought and said,” explores a history, literature, philosophy, politics, and theology that they need to know. They need to know what we can teach them in order to practice morally responsible citizenship and spiritually grounded political engagement, to be sure. But they need to learn from the wisdom of authors and texts we teach even more for the sake of their flourishing as human beings who, through the grace of Christ, are invited to lives of meaning and fulfillment, solidarity and sacrifice, and forgiveness and generosity.

Alan was joined in leading the evening event by **Elizabeth Corey**, director of the Honors Program, who moderated the Q&A. Along the way, David championed the value of his own great books education. Well done, Alan and Elizabeth—and thanks to our good friend **Byron Johnson**, director of the [Institute for Studies of Religion](#), for his sponsorship of a wonderful program.

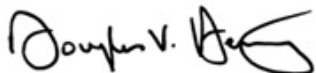
In honor of our work together, please note:

- **Victor Hinojosa**, associate professor of political science in the Honors Program, has for some time done praiseworthy research and teaching within a signature initiative of *Illuminate*, [Baylor in Latin America](#). His course on “Child Migration in the Western Hemisphere” has given rise to an undergraduate policy papers series, a data mapping project rooted in asset-based community development, and a bilingual children's book. At this week's [Together at the Table: Hunger & Poverty Summit](#), sponsored by the Texas Hunger Initiative (now with a new name and enlarged mission as the [Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty](#)), Victor will put his expertise to work in a plenary address on Hunger and the Migration Crisis. Moreover, as an original research fellow of THI, Victor's profile is moving to a new level through his role in the Baylor Collaborative's Global Hunger and Migration Project. We're inspired by your work, Victor!
- We can do more to encourage students' exploration of post-baccalaureate scholarship, graduate education, and career opportunities. First, **refer students to SPARK** (Scholarship Programs, Awards, Research, Knowledge), led by former Honors College

faculty member **Andy Hogue**, the current associate dean of engaged learning for Arts and Sciences. Students will be especially helped by completing SPARK's Undergraduate Student Profile, which opens personal communication about Rhodes, Fulbright, Marshall, Truman, and other competitive scholarship opportunities. And second, **encourage students to visit the [Career Center](#)**, check out its online resources, and meet with a career success professional. It's true that knowledge is intrinsically valuable and that liberal education can free one from servility. It's also true that knowledge can be useful and that liberal education enables one to serve others freely and wisely. We want our graduates to find good and worthy work after they leave Baylor, right?

- Congratulations to **Michael Foley**, associate professor of patristics in the Great Texts Program, for his recently published translation of and commentary on St. Augustine's Cassiciacum dialogues. Part of a planned four-volume set, [Against the Academics](#) (vol. 1) and [On the Happy Life](#) (vol. 2) have been released by Yale University Press. Lauded as an "erudite guide to the Cassiciacum dialogues" and author of "commentary that is both learned and engaging," Mike is bringing to life marvelous dialogues written during the halcyon months St. Augustine spent among friends after his conversion. We're proud of you, Mike!
- Joining the Honors College Advisory Council as new members are **Bret and Laurie Sanders**, an outstanding couple with a long record of entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and philanthropic vision. Bret's accomplishments at [Sanders Morris Harris](#) and at [Ryan Sanders Sports & Entertainment](#), and their shared passion for Sunshine Kids and HeartGift, among other benevolent interests, are laudable in every way. Bret and Laurie further strengthen a superb set of external advocates for the work of the Honors College and bring new possibilities of support through their networks.

All the best,



Douglas V. Henry | Interim Dean
Honors College | Baylor University
baylor.edu/honorscollege | 254.710.7689