

May 2018



## From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This "Graduation Edition" of our newsletter is a retrospective of our spring events and a celebration of the many kinds of dialogue that the Hank Center has facilitated this year. The core mission of CCIH is to serve as a venue for faculty, students, and staff to learn about, and investigate, Roman Catholic thought and its links to all academic disciplines. Our strong emphasis on scholarly research and discussion, along with providing various settings where the fruits of our shared engagement can be explored and debated, are expressions of the fundamental goal established in 2006: to foster constructive dialogue about compelling issues in the service of faith, justice, and reason. We take this charge seriously and I am happy to report that we have had a most productive year.

Our conversation takes many forms and you are invited to be a part of it. From conferences and colloquia, to live performances and utilization of various media platforms, most of our proceedings are filmed and readily available on our [video channel](#). You will encounter a rich variety of presentations and interlocutors on this channel—students, faculty, honored guests, and esteemed scholars. I would like to highlight here an exciting new initiative "The Hank Center Presents: Live from Loyola," a public voices series that features

important public figures in intimate conversation with yours truly. Our first two episodes feature a pair of wildly different guests bound together by a high regard for the common good: author [George Saunders](#) and [Bishop Robert McElroy](#).

Conversations by the scholarly community at Loyola are also in full swing. Our semester-long course, "All Things Ignatian: Catholic Intellectual Life and the Common Good," gathers 12-15 faculty from across the disciplines and colleges to study in a systematic way Loyola's Catholic, Jesuit heritage as a reference point and resource for our social, spiritual, and intellectual life at LUC. The seminar focuses on the life of Ignatius, the history of the Jesuits, Ignatian pedagogy, and the interplay of faith, reason, and justice as it pertains to teaching and scholarship. Funded by the University's 2020 strategic plan, the seminar has been a great success-so much so that, in addition to running cohorts at LSC and WTC-we will build out to HSC in the coming year. The goal of the seminar is to make faculty more literate about our mission and to invite them into deeper dialogue with that mission.

Finally, none of these various conversations would be possible without a dedicated staff. I want to thank our Program Coordinator, Gabija Steponenaite, our Graduate Assistant, Meghan Toomey, and our Catholic Studies student interns-Amy Christenson,'18 (congrats, Amy!), Emily Kate Marticello, and Joseph DeLarauze for all that they have done to contribute to the Center's flourishing. And thanks to you as well, dear reader. We hope to dialogue with you next fall (and beyond) at our events, in our Faculty Book Club or Seminar, or in person if you visit the Center. Many thanks and,

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

THE HANK CENTER  
CONGRATULATES THE

2018

LIVING TRADITION  
AWARD RECIPIENT:  
DR. JON NILSON



CCIH honored [Dr. Jon Nilson](#) with its annual [Living Tradition Award](#). Dr. Nilson, Professor Emeritus of Theology at LUC, is a scholar who has exemplified the Catholic intellectual heritage in his work and life.



### [CARDINAL BERNARDIN COMMON CAUSE LECTURE](#)

*Forming a Catholic Political Imagination in a Time of Cultural Crisis*

On April 18th, CCIH welcomed [Bishop Robert W. McElroy](#) of the Diocese of San Diego to deliver the second annual lecture in honor of Cardinal Bernardin's legacy. The bishop is pictured above with (left to right) Dr. Michael P. Murphy, Director of the Hank

In his remarks, Bishop McElroy explored how a well formed political imagination cultivates prayer, improves public moral discourse, and encourages active, engaged citizenship in the Catholic tradition. Following his prepared remarks, Bishop McElroy participated in a lively and edifying [dialogue with faculty, students, and other guests](#) about how a Catholic imagination can amplify a national moral aspiration founded in justice, freedom, and solidarity.

[CATHOLIC  
CONVERSION  
NARRATIVES IN  
MODERNIST  
AESTHETICS](#)



In collaboration with [KU Leuven](#), CCIH was pleased to sponsor this international and interdisciplinary conference. Scholars explored a variety of modern conversion narrative, especially investigating language and other modes of expression that seek to make the spiritual event of conversion accessible outside of religious discourses.



**[SYMPOSIUM: HABEMUS PAPAM +5](#)**

***Pope Francis, Five Years After Becoming the First Jesuit Pope***

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of Jorge Mario Bergoglio's election as the first Jesuit Pope, the Hank Center welcomed [Massimo Faggioli](#), Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University on April 5, 2018. Faggioli recounted the first five years of Francis' pontificate, emphasizing the pontiff's pastoral style and his Gospel centered approach to ambiguity and human fallibility. Respondents to Faggioli included [Miguel Diaz](#), The John Courtney Murray, SJ, University Chair in Public Service and Retired Ambassador to the Holy See, and [Melanie Barrett](#), Chairperson and Professor in the Department of Moral Theology at University of St. Mary of the Lake.

LUC CATHOLIC  
STUDIES STUDENTS  
HOST 5TH ANNUAL  
JOHN COURTNEY  
MURRAY, SJ STUDENT  
FORUM



**SEEKING THE WHOLE**  
*Living and Exploring Our  
Catholic Identity*

On April 10th, CCIH co-sponsored this student-led, student-centered event which focused on the multifaceted and diverse identities of those who make up the Catholic Church. Participants shared stories about living their Catholic heritage through discussion, art, and music.

**THE HANK CENTER  
PRESENTS: LIVE FROM  
LOYOLA**



**GEORGE SAUNDERS  
RADIO HOUR**

Following a day-long symposium dedicated to Saunders' work on March 1st, the Hank Center collaborated with [LUC's Department of Fine and Performing Arts](#) (DFPA) to host this special show. The evening featured a dramatic reading from *Lincoln in the Bardo* by DFPA faculty and students, live music



**[SYMPOSIUM: 1968 SERIES, PART 1](#)**

***The Legacy of Humane Vitae and What it Means to be "Pro-Life"***

On March 21st, CCIH welcomed a number of scholars to LUC's Water Tower Campus who offered presentations and led discussion on the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, originally promulgated in 1968 by Pope Paul VI. Dialogue at the event focused on the lasting significance of the influential document from the vantage point of the past fifty years and featured panelists [Julie Hanlon Rubio](#), Professor of Christian Ethics, St. Louis University; [Charles Camosy](#), Associate Professor of Theology, Fordham University; and [Rebecca Bratten Weiss](#), Independent Scholar. [Therese Lysaught](#), Professor of Theological and Health Care Ethics at the Institute of Pastoral Studies, LUC moderated the event.

performances, a live reading by Saunders', and an intimate interview with Saunders by CCIH's Director, [Michael P. Murphy](#). After a brief audience Q&A, Saunders and audience members alike were delightfully surprised by the appearance of Abraham Lincoln himself, who put his own questions to the accomplished author.

**[2018 CARDINAL  
NEWMAN LECTURE:  
LEAH LIBRESCO](#)**



***From Javert to Jesus: An  
Atheist's Conversion***

On February 8, 2018, this year's Cardinal Newman lecture was given by Leah Libresco Sargeant. In her talk, Leah shared her journey of conversion from argumentative atheist to Catholic apologist.

Recounting her years as a student at Yale University, Leah highlighted the many books she read, her extensive blogging, and many late-night debates she held with the campus Catholics as highlights in her progression from what she called her "hawkish dismissal of religion" to an appreciation for Catholicism. This shift in her appraisal eventually led her to conversion and Leah was received into the



**[GEORGE SAUNDERS SYMPOSIUM](#)**

***Good God, But Life Could Be Less Than Easy: The Fiction of Radical Humanism***

On March 1st, CCIH had the pleasure of hosting critically-acclaimed author, [George Saunders](#), at a day-long symposium which featured a keynote address from Saunders, several academic panel discussion, and a reading of the creative written works of school-age and high school students in affiliation with [826CHI](#), a local creative writing non-profit organization for youth.

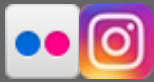
In his address, Saunders talked about the writing process and his journey of becoming a renowned novelist. Academic presentations explored both Saunders's latest publication, [Lincoln in the Bardo](#) (winner of the 2017 Man Booker Prize for Fiction), as well as his collection of short stories, [Tenth of December](#) and earlier work. The Symposium concluded with a book-signing.

Catholic Church in 2012. Leah's work has appeared in *First Things*, *America*, *The American Conservative*, and *Commonweal*, among other publications.

The Hank Center wishes to thank everyone who participated in our programs and events this year!

We wish all a happy and restful summer, and we look forward to sharing more programming and events with you next fall.

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### **COLLOQUIUM: FAITH AND NEUROSCIENCE**

#### ***Perspectives on Personhood: Resources in Science, Philosophy, and Theology***

On February 20th scholars from various disciplines spent the afternoon discussing different perspectives on personhood, weaving together a dialogue that offered a comprehensive interdisciplinary consideration of personhood that was not exclusively restricted to scientific theories. The program offered two multidisciplinary panels of scholars who placed theories of personhood in dialogue with theories of evolution and reductionism, followed by an edifying keynote address offered by [Dr. William Jaworski](#) of Fordham University. Dr. Jaworski's reflection, "Can Science Study the Human Soul?" investigated conscious thoughts, feelings, and experiences of the physical world from the perspective of neuroscience, connecting this perspective with traditional philosophical and theological conceptions of soul and personhood.



and gender by calling awareness to harmful patriarchal or sexist patterns and fostering a Church that embraces all of its members with equity and justice. Below are a few notable novels for your summer reading lists. Books are chosen for the monthly recommended list because they integrate, interrogate, and celebrate the Catholic intellectual and artistic tradition.

**[The House of Broken Angels](#)** (2018)

By Luis Alberto Urrea

*"All we do, mija, is love. Love is the answer. Nothing stops it. Not borders. Not death."*

Pulitzer Prize finalist, Luis Alberto Urrea, presents the quintessential American story in this powerful and poignant novel about the American dream as experienced by the Mexican American de La Cruz family. Urrea artfully crafts a narrative that takes readers on a multigenerational journey spread across two countries and one border, calling forth the dreams, disappointments, and hopes common to all families.

**[In This House of Brede](#)** (2005)

By Rumer Godden (Edited by Amy Welborn, with an Introduction by Phyllis Tickle)

This extraordinarily sensitive and insightful portrait of religious life centers on Philippa Talbot, a highly successful professional woman who leaves her life among the London elite to join a cloistered Benedictine community. This edition of the book includes an introduction by best-selling Christian writer Phyllis Tickle, as well as discussion questions designed to help deepen the reading experience for both individuals and reading groups.

**[A Confederacy of Dunces](#)** (1987)

By John Kennedy Toole (with a Foreword by Walker Percy)

In this comic masterpiece, John Kennedy Toole introduces one of the most memorable characters in

American fiction, Ignatius J. Reilly, a "flatulent frustrated scholar deeply learned in Medieval philosophy and American junk food... in violent revolt against the entire modern age." Set in New Orleans, *A Confederacy of Dunces* is filled with unforgettable characters and zany plot twists bound to dazzle any reader with its originality and true-to-life portrayals.

## Contact Us

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## About the Center

The Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage exists to help faculty and students recognize and research Roman Catholic thought and its link to all academic disciplines in the university. It also seeks to convey that thought to other audiences inside and outside Loyola University Chicago.