



MILETUS

AUGUST 2024

A NEWSLETTER FROM THALES COLLEGE



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2023–2024 IS A WRAP! OUR INAUGURALS ARE HEADING INTO SENIOR YEAR!!

Time flies when you are learning and having fun with friends! Term 3 of 2023–2024 is over....That wraps up our inaugural undergrads' second year, which means they are about to be SENIORS at TC!

Our fourth Summer Institute was a blast, and we enjoyed meeting families from all over the country who joined us. All of our undergraduates moved into new internships or continued current internships, as they learned to master professional skills in the real world. And, in between it all, we had some great classes, some great outings, and definitely found our way to the pool to cool off!

Our next school year kicks off in September–We can't wait to see new and old faces then! In the meantime, have a great summer break!



FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK



Greetings,

Two years ago, our inaugural class first began their undergraduate journeys at Thales College. It is an exciting time as they are about to enter their third year, which is their senior year in our accelerated program! This class truly has been a group of brave and tenacious trailblazers and continue to make us all proud with their growth and hard work. Furthermore, they serve as valued friends and mentors for incoming students, which has nurtured a uniquely close-knit and beautifully supportive student culture at Thales College.



Summer is a particularly special season at Thales College as our first-year students enter their internships and we host our annual Summer Institute program for rising high school juniors and seniors. We are encouraged to watch our growing classical college with integrated professional training becoming a place that students and families nationwide seek out as part of their educational journeys, whether for a weeklong summer program or three years in our halls as an undergraduate. The students and families that come to us are of the highest caliber, and it is a true blessing to witness such a virtuous, truth-seeking, and caring community gather in these times of so much distraction and division in the world at large.

As our students continue to seek to embody our Thales College motto—*scientia et sapientia* (“knowledge and wisdom”)—I encourage them to endeavor to accomplish this pursuit to its best outcome by living a good life and in service to others. As James 3:13 guides: “Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.”

I wish each of you a restful summer break and look forward to welcoming our current students and faculty back as well as meeting our new entering class of undergraduates when we kick off the 2024–2025 school year this September.

Regards,

Bob Luddy
Founder, Thales College

—
“Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.”

James 3:13
—



SUMMER INSTITUTE '24

A Recap from our Annual Week-Long Summer Enrichment Program
for Rising High School Juniors & Seniors!



The week of June 24–28, 2024, we hosted our fourth annual Summer Institute program for rising high school juniors and seniors. This year, we offered three track options: 1) Stability, Utility, & Beauty: Drawing and Designing Using SOLIDWORKS; 2) The Historical Imagination: How to Sympathetically Encounter History; and 3) Measurable Marketing: Selling Products with Integrity & Accountability.

High school students from all over the country joined us for a week-long intensive hands-on class where they learned alongside our Thales College undergrads. Our high school students enjoyed a real college class experience taught by a Thales College professor and were enriched by readings, discussions, projects, and field trips. In addition to mastering new material, our Summer Institute students particularly enjoyed working together on projects, the fun and food infused each day, and getting to know some of our undergrads and faculty.

The field trips mid-week were also a highlight. Two of our tracks enjoyed a trip to a Raleigh-area design firm started by a local entrepreneur—Laut Design—and got a wonderful presentation from their team, including their Design Director and Senior Industrial Designer, and a tour of their creative and inspirational workspaces.

(Thank you, Laut Design!) These tracks also walked around downtown Wake Forest, observing architecture, collecting market research data from prospective consumers on the street for their project product pitches, and enjoying local coffee shop and ice cream treats. Our third track took a trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art and made their way afterward to a historical cemetery, observing art and history with a new lens from their studies.

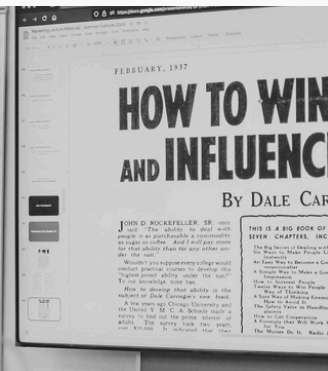
Our Stability, Utility, & Beauty track and Measurable Marketing track combined for a lot of activities and lessons during the week, as well as the field trip, bridging product design and marketing efforts in a symbiotic way for these students. (This also allowed for the students in a different course to interact with and get to know more peers beyond lunchtime!)



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The Stability, Utility, & Beauty track:

- Learned basics of SOLIDWORKS 2D & 3D modeling
- Studied design communication with technical drawings
- Read Vitruvius' *On Architecture*
- Took an off-campus walk to observe classical architecture examples
- Toured a local firm, Laut Design, to see how visual representation informs product design process
- Collaborated with business students to create product models
- Created 3D rendering of selected buildings from the observed classical architecture on their walk



The Historical Imagination track:

- Read a 200-page documentary reader that included sources from the middle ages, antiquity, modern Europe, and American
- Spent a day at the North Carolina Museum of Art exploring visual history
- Participated in a series of Socratic seminars about core historical figures
- Developed their philosophies of history
- Prepared a set of lesson plans equipping them to teach the units learned



At the conclusion of the week, our Summer Institute participants and their families gathered with our undergraduates and faculty as well as our founder, Mr. Luddy, for a final presentation and catered family dinner on Friday night to celebrate the end of Summer Institute. The week always passes too quickly, but the memories, lessons, and friendships last. We look forward to next year already!

The Measurable Marketing track:

- Learned the basic principles of human motivation and persuasive communication
- Practiced entrepreneurial thinking and new product ideation
- Developed and pitched unique product concepts to panels of peers and faculty
- Read and analyzed selections from *Scientific Advertising* by Claude Hopkins and *The Copywriter's Handbook* by Robert Bly
- Studied vintage advertisements found in early printed copies of *The Saturday Evening Post*
- Visited a local firm, Laut Design, to learn about marketing and design considerations and process





BOB LUDDY, DR. ANTHONY ESOLEN, AND OTHERS PRESENT TALKS AT CONFERENCE OF MILETUS

On July 8, Thales Press, Thales Academy, and Thales College collaborated to host the second annual *Conference of Miletus*, a free virtual conference on classical education. Using the form of short TED-Talk-style talks, the goal of this conference is to showcase why the commitment to what is true, good, and beautiful and the intellectual inheritance of the Western tradition are so crucial for students today.

This year's theme, "First Principles," spoke to four key principles in education: 1) Natural Order: Teach students to recognize beauty in the order of the universe and the basic principles that govern it, both in the natural realm and the human realm; 2) Our Intellectual Inheritance: As teachers and students at a classical school, we have received as our inheritance the literary and historical treasures of the Western canon; 3) Moral Philosophy: Educate students to cultivate practical wisdom (prudence) and the ability to make moral decisions in the Judeo-Christian and Aristotelian tradition; and 4) Human Dignity: Teach students to preserve the dignity and uniqueness of every individual in alignment with the *imago dei* and the attendant concept of natural law.

Mr. Winston Brady, Director of Thales Press and Director of Curriculum at Thales Academy, opened the conference with a speech entitled, "Human Dignity & the Classical Tradition." In this talk, he argued that the acknowledgment of our Creator is fundamental for effective education and that students need this foundation of understanding that they are free moral agents and subjects of profound value to maximize their confidence and joy.

Mr. Bob Luddy, Founder of Thales College, spoke next about "Natural Order & Curiosity-Driven Science Education." In describing science education with natural order at its roots, he noted, "Natural law is on the hearts of all humans and must be our conscience," and "The goal of science in the classical world is not absolute control of the natural world, but Truth."

Dr. Anthony Esolen, Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Thales College, presented next: "The Western Tradition & Our Intellectual Inheritance." As he announced, "I am speaking today to defend the teaching of Western civilization to people who live in the west. It is absurd to have to defend it!" In this talk, Dr. Esolen presented five reasons why the great works of the Western tradition should be taught and the impact it can have on students.

Finally, Mr. Matthew Ogle, Head of Classical Education at Thales Academy, closed out the conference with his talk: "The Virtue of Prudence: Moral Philosophy & Wise Decisions." Mr. Ogle stated: "Ultimately, we want not only our students, but ourselves, to have the desire to lead this virtuous life: A life of moral goodness, a life of fulfillment or happiness—the *eudaimonia* that was spoken of—the life well-lived; and, it is our responsibility to choose what is good, to share what is good, and to instill what is good in the students that we have around us."

This conference was rich in wisdom and in values we hold dear at Thales College. We encourage you to listen to the full talks on YouTube (link below)!

Watch the full talks from the *Conference of Miletus*!
<https://www.youtube.com/@ThalesPress>





DEAR MILETUS...

WHY DOES THALES COLLEGE REQUIRE CALCULUS FOR ALL STUDENTS? WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF THIS MATH?

At Thales College, our motto is *scientia et sapientia*—which means “knowledge and wisdom.” Our curriculum is designed to establish foundations of knowledge in the pursuit of cultivating wisdom.

One cannot possess practical wisdom if one does not understand some basics of how to think and of how the world works. In that sense, theoretical knowledge—especially of mathematics and science—is intensely practical. The four traditional Liberal Arts known as the Quadrivium—arithmetic, geometry, music (a math-based art), and astronomy—were intended to meet this need. At Thales College, we explore mathematical and scientific knowledge, updated for the 21st century: all students study logic, calculus, physics, statistics & probability, and Austrian economics to become “grounded in reality.”

Calculus, no doubt, is a tough math for many students. However, as the study of change, it is a root math, and one with benefits we believe are worth the challenge:

- Calculus develops logic and critical thinking.
- Calculus teaches one how to solve problems by breaking them down into workable components.
- Calculus hones abstract thinking, broadening one’s mind to think beyond what is directly tangible.
- Calculus boosts memory capabilities because it requires regular practice in retention and recall.
- Calculus demands work ethic, discipline, and perseverance to succeed, skills that are fundamental to career and life success.
- Calculus is multi-faceted in application; it helps us understand the world around us as well as find solutions in many fields, including business.

Calculus gives our students an immediate competitive edge in the marketplace upon graduation for these reasons above as well as ones specific to Entrepreneurial Business:

- Calculus is fundamental to the best understanding of cost, revenue, profit, supply & demand, risk assessment, and other essential concepts in business.
- Calculus-based complex economic models improve decisions in business operations and thus business outcomes via projections in value, analysis of various trends and scenarios, and more.
- Calculus demands the consideration of quantitative data in business decisions versus just relying on assumptions, casual observations, and “gut feelings.”
- Calculus gives a stronger basis of understanding for many product considerations and designs that improve the strategic implementation of ideas.

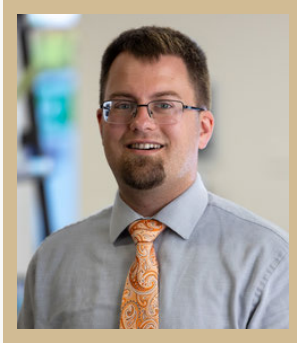
One thing certain in our world is change, so to study the mathematics of change is simply a no-brainer. We encourage our students to consider our curriculum requirement of this challenging math as a true asset in their arsenal of “tools” with which Thales College equips them as they approach their fields of choice and life overall.

When reflecting on their experiences in Calculus, our students often express gratitude to their professor for having pushed them to find the fortitude to keep trying until they mastered the concepts. Often our hardest challenges are the most rewarding; our graduates emerge proud they have conquered Calculus and grateful to have the knowledge to apply as needed in business and life.





SPOTLIGHT



DR. JOSH HERRING
PROFESSOR OF CLASSICAL EDUCATION,
THALES COLLEGE

Q. Which college/graduate schools have you attended, and for what degrees? **Dr. Herring:** Hillsdale College, B.A. in History with Departmental Honors; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Master's in Divinity with Concentration in Pastoral Ministry; Faulkner University, Ph.D. in Humanities with Concentration in Literature.

Q. What drew you to want to be a part of Thales College? **Dr. Herring:** I've watched the decay of the contemporary college scene for years and want to be part of restoring liberal arts education to the core college experience. I've also been part of the growth of Thales Academy (2013–2023) and am excited to be part of building a new institution. When I learned about Thales College, I immediately realized that this was the opportunity I had been looking for, and that now is the perfect time to begin.

Q. What is one of your favorite things about Thales College? **Dr. Herring:** I love that all of our students have a common liberal arts foundation. Working through the texts, ideas, and timeline of the Western tradition gives all students a common foundation on which to build friendships, careers, and a future.

Q. How is Thales College different from other colleges? How is it similar? What makes it special? **Dr. Herring:** Most colleges focus narrowly on career preparation. We go far beyond career preparation by helping students develop their full potential as human beings. Many colleges have abandoned the idea of a core curriculum; we embrace the liberal arts through our double major model. Seeking both timeless wisdom and practical application in careers makes Thales College a unique place; these elements are often in tension. That's not a problem to resolve – it produces great elements of our college life.

Q. What is one of your favorite memories so far? **Dr. Herring:** I love working on a team, and the way our faculty, leadership, and support staff all come together to pull off events like the Sydney & Cecile Smith Lectures on Virtue, the Southern Consortium of Classical Educators conference, or the events with Dr. Esolen are some of my favorite moments being at the College.

Q. What classes have you taught so far, and what will you be teaching this coming fall? Which of those makes you most excited to teach? **Dr. Herring:** I've been teaching major courses in the Classical Education Department (Classical Pedagogy, History of Education, Fairy Tales, Legends, and Mythology, Studies in the Novel); next fall, I'll be teaching an independent study, Philosophy of Education, Teaching American Civics, and Western Civilization I. I'm very excited for both Philosophy of Education and Western Civilization I.



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SPOTLIGHT

(Continued from Page 7)



DR. JOSH HERRING
PROFESSOR OF CLASSICAL EDUCATION,
THALES COLLEGE



Q. What inspired you to create the CCEP continuing education program, and what is your vision for it as it grows? Dr. Herring:

The Certificate in Classical Education Philosophy (CCEP) was born out of a recognition that classical schools (like Thales Academy) cannot hire enough people who received a classical, liberal arts education in their formative years. For the classical renewal movement to grow, we need methods for existing teachers to learn what it means to teach classically. At the same time, I am convinced that lecture is rarely the best pedagogy. So, I built the CCEP around a Socratic learning model centered on the reading of books in classical education. We've had an enormously encouraging response; as of this writing, I have over 50 adults registered for courses in the fall, and we have room for more! Parents, administrators, and teachers have all found this program to be helpful. The model is straightforward: each class lasts 9 weeks, and meets 5 times over those 9 weeks. Participants read 100-200 pages over two weeks, and then meet for a guided 90-minute seminar on the reading. Eight of those courses build to the Certificate.

As we grow, I hope to recruit other classically minded teachers to lead sections of the CCEP. This is not just my understanding of classical education; it is instead a rich tradition that many people can help pass to those who want to understand classical education. I'm very excited that this next term Dr. Sean Hadley and Mrs. Mandi Gerth will both teach in this program. As we grow, I want to scale this model to keep class sizes capped at 12 participants per section but be able to expand to meet the demand globally. We've got a growing Canadian and African presence in this program, and I hope to have an increased global participant-body as the classical renewal movement expands. To learn more about this program and/or apply, visit ThalesCollege.org/CCEP, or reach out to me (Josh.Herring@ThalesCollege.org)!

Q. If you could give first-year undergraduate students one piece of advice, what would it be?

Dr. Herring: Don't rush your time here. You have three years to do college – do it well. Study, play, work – each in its time. Build relationships; find your passion. Get to know your professors. "For every season under the sun, there is a time." You'll soon be out in the workforce with bills, responsibilities, and families. Take this time to dig deep into everything Thales College can teach you. These years are for polishing, developing, and growing yourself. Make the most of this time.

Q. What is your favorite quote? Dr. Herring:

"To acquire a horizon of interpretation requires a fusion of horizons. The text is made to speak through interpretation. But no text and no book speaks if it does not speak a language that reaches the other person."

Hans-Georg Gadamer
(Truth and Method)





CAMPUS COMMUNITY



Sports on the Courts!

Pickleball is all the rage in the Triangle area, and our students took to the courts to show their pickleball skills. The ever favorite spikeball also made its appearance along with Dr. Forrest!



There's a Club for That!

Want to chat about books? Join Book Club! Want to be play Bingo and other "old people" things with friends? Join "Old Ladies Club"!



Hobbies & Internships

Summer means internships for our first years, & hobbies can translate into job skills!



Product Design

Our second year mechanical engineering students conceptualized, designed, and created a real grill cover and tested heat transfer!



Cool Surprise!

Student Life leaders stocked the freezer full of ice cream treats for our students to cool off on the hot summer days!



Puzzle Mania!

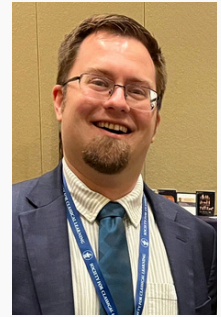
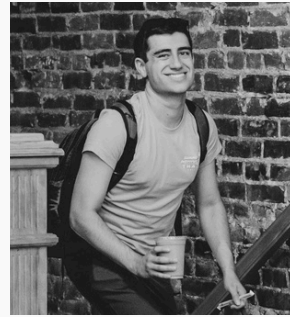
Our student lounge was a busy space for puzzles this summer.



TERM 3 – SUMMER 2024



COLLEGE COLLAGE

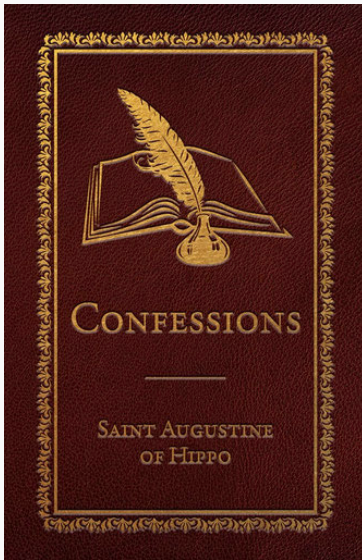




BOB'S BOOKSHELF

Reading Recommendations from our Founder

CLASSIC:

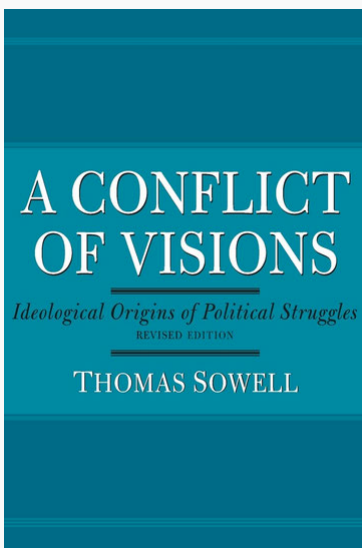


Confessions – Saint Augustine of Hippo

"And men go to gaze upon mountain heights, and the whelming waves of the sea, and rivers flowing afar, and the all-surrounding ocean, and the winding paths of the stars, and they leave themselves behind..."

Both an autobiographical masterpiece and a timeless work that explores the Christian doctrine, *Confessions* presents a firsthand account of a man's journey as he struggles with the temporal versus the spiritual and ultimately emerges with a firm faith. The sincerity of his writing and the universal contemplations have touched human hearts over the centuries, and its philosophical and theological messages continue to leave their mark generation to generation.

CONTEMPORARY:



A Conflict of Visions: Ideological Origins of Political Struggles – Thomas Sowell

"There are no solutions. There are only trade-offs."

In this unique analysis of the inherent dichotomies and ideological differences in political persuasions throughout history, Thomas Sowell pinpoints a pattern that sheds light on two conflicting visions that contribute to partisanship. With a fair analysis of each vision, Sowell helps readers contemplate opposing views and better understand "the other side."





ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Calling the Class of 2025!
Apply now for Fall 2025!**

Affordable tuition, accelerated degrees, classical core + career + character, close-knit community

ThalesCollege.org/Apply



**Fall 2024 Open House
Saturday, September 14,
11am-1pm!**

Spread the word and bring a friend! Come visit and learn more about Thales College! Register:

ThalesCollege.org/OpenHouse



**Don't miss our
undergraduate scholarships!**

Founder's Scholarships (50% tuition grant) & Miletus Merit Scholarships (25% tuition grant)

ThalesCollege.org/Scholarships



**Adults Interested in Classical Ed:
Check out our new CCEP Program!**

Our new Certificate in Classical Education Philosophy consists of 8 continuing education virtual courses for working professionals.

ThalesCollege.org/CCEP



Our Sydney & Cecile Smith Lecture Series on Virtue Returns This Year!

We are looking forward to hosting some wonderful guest speakers for 2024-2025. To inquire about tickets, contact:

Events@ThalesCollege.org



**Don't miss upcoming events &
the latest TC news!**

Follow us on social media and/or ask to be added to our email list to keep up with everything TC!

ThalesCollege.org/Contact

