

# Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education

---

Volume 33

Article 3

---

4-1-2008

## Letters to the Editor

Richard Escobales

Steven I. Miller

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations>

---

### Recommended Citation

Escobales, Richard and Miller, Steven I. (2008) "Letters to the Editor," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 33, Article 3.  
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol33/iss1/3>

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your editorial and survey of the philosophy and theology requirements in the cores of 23 Jesuit Colleges. As a 1965 graduate from the Honors Program at Saint Peter's College, I look back with fondness on my undergraduate courses in philosophy and theology there.

As someone who loves Sacred Scripture, a love fostered by my late mother and by the fine courses required in theology at Saint Peter's, I am deeply saddened that today's graduates from many Jesuit colleges will not be afforded such an experience, because requirements in theology have been so drastically curtailed.

In the course of my time at Saint Peter's I also got to know and love the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Ignatius was happily obsessed with the New Testament, and Ignatius also had a deep respect for the thought of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas.

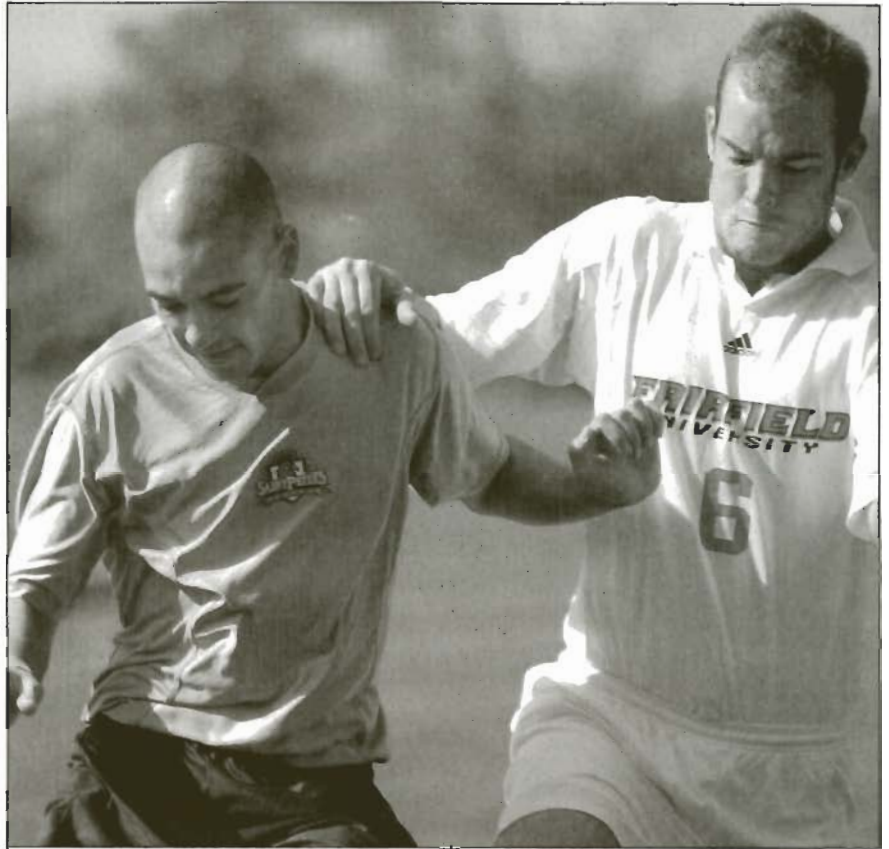
As one who regards two required courses each in philosophy and theology as too little, the meager requirement of one course each in theology and philosophy mandated by Holy Cross College mocks everything that St. Ignatius stood for.

Evidently, there is no room either for St. Ignatius or for Him in the Inn at Holy Cross.

And a Happy Christmas to all.

Sincerely,

*Richard H. Escobales, Jr., Ph.D.  
A.B. Saint Peter's College, 1965*



Saint Peter's College and Fairfield University students battle it out on the soccer field.

To the Editor:

I just wanted to congratulate you on the recent fine edition of *Conversations*. However, you may want to expand the "conversation" in the future in a bit of a new direction. That direction has to do with the understanding that other traditions (e.g. Buddhism, Tibetan, Zen/Chan and others) are not necessarily contradictory to the Christian/Jesuit tradition. (In some publication, a number of years ago, there was actually a Jesuit that was a Zenist-how refreshing!). The Big-Bang (if one actually came about) did not result in only one way of looking at the universe. Buddhism,

if properly studied, has enormous benefits psychologically and metaphysically to the Christian/Jesuit tradition. Two examples would be the nature of "mind" (not brain) and the ethical responsibilities of our species.

This is not about "religion" but rather the answer of the first Buddha question: Why are we here? Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

*Steven I. Miller, Professor Emeritus  
School of Education, Adjunct  
Department of Philosophy  
Loyola University*