Advice and Memories from Core Alumni

After poring over my old Core books, papers, and lecture notes for something profound yet pithy to say about my Core experience, I came to the following conclusion: trying to summarize Core in two sentences is like trying to put God in a box. But I will say one thing: the Core is like a "magic eye" painting . . . it doesn’t matter how long it takes for you to see it, but when you finally do, everything comes into focus, the world falls into place; something clicks and you just "get it" Thanks Prof. Nelson!

-Amanda Hollis

Core showed me that the barriers between disciplines were not rigid but permeable: science blended with philosophy and literature was by turns abstract and concrete. Our professors were intent on resolving the history of human thought into one endlessly diverse but traceable progression.

-Dorian Fox

I loved Core because it exposed me to texts and concepts that I would not have seen to simply taking divisionals. The comprehensive nature of Core, and also the interconnection between the classes, gave me the most well-rounded and supportive education that I could have asked for. I also am greatly indebted to Core for the amazing quality of the professors who lectured and taught courses on a daily basis. I really feel like Core opened up the University to me, as well as the doors to a fuller education for me and my life.

-Kelly Schar

Core is a community in the finest sense of that word.

-Luke Huisenga

Prof. Mendillo’s comment in CC105 sums up my Core experience: "The sun shines in the daytime when it’s already bright."

-Jess Myers

Core didn’t just teach me concepts and ideas, it gave me a better ability to analyze and digest information.

-Jessica Eschman

What the Core gave me was a taste, a sampling platter of the books that I should have read long before. It has also given me the chance to sing with a philosophically-based yet fun-loving barbershop quartet. Core has given me the appreciation of fine art, music, and just plain shooting-the-breeze with others about nothing in general. I have gained the ability to tie philosophical meaning to the most menial tasks imaginable.

-Lars Andersen

Core means Plato conversations over Warren burritos, loud cheers for Marscher’s tunes, smiles when Ricks relates everything to Bob Dylan, and satisfaction when I realize just how much knowledge I learned in two years. Core isn’t just about internalizing the lessons of old; it’s about learning to break through the conventional boundaries and establish yourself as a well-educated, confident individual in the world.

-Holly Naylor

Reading Dante doesn’t make sense without reading Virgil; reading Virgil doesn’t make sense without having read Homer. In Core, you read it all, so that you can see the context within which the writer is working.

-Leah Nichols