



Sam Agra  
Theological Studies Department 2020 Award Winner

The Department of Theological Studies has chosen Sam Agra as recipient of the James D. Collins Award. Sam is a double major in Philosophy and Theology, and he also has a minor in Catholic Studies.

One of his professors, Dr. Dan Finucane, described Sam as “tenacious in his work ethic. His comments in class were always of the sort that furthered the insights of the group, and contributed to the learning of other students. In both oral and written formats, Sam’s arguments were deeply rooted in a command of the course readings and themes.”

His Capstone professor, Dr. Atria Larson, notes that “Sam began his time at SLU in Parks College. Although we are sure Sam would have made an excellent engineer, we are thrilled that Sam became captivated with the inquiry and ideas in the fields of philosophy and theology. His work consistently demonstrates an engagement with sophisticated concepts and advanced theologians at a level that supersedes what even many Masters students manage. He understands the intricacies of complex arguments and can also write lucidly when speaking about them or forming his own arguments. He does not just articulate the theological viewpoints of others; he expresses compelling viewpoints of his own, in deep and respectful dialogue with the Christian tradition as a whole. We wish him the best as he moves to the northeast where he will pursue a Masters in Theological Studies at our fellow Jesuit institution, Boston College.”