



Dr. Thomas E. Strunk

Associate Professor of Classics, Department of Classics and Modern Languages

ICP Mission Project Summary: Cohort 13

Project Title: Celebrating the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) at Xavier University

Project overview: For my project I helped plan two distinct events on the UAPs. In the fall, we held an Academic Showcase celebrating the UAPs as part of the Inauguration of Xavier's new president, Dr. Colleen Hanycz. I served as the co-chair of the subcommittee planning this event. The Academic Showcase offered a high profile event at which faculty articulated how they animate the UAPs in their work at the university. We recorded [videos](#) of about fifteen faculty, which were shared at the event; in addition, we had live presentations by four faculty, one from each of our four colleges. I introduced the UAPs and served as master of ceremonies for the entire event. As a follow up to our Manresa mission orientation program, I also planned an event for first and second year faculty and staff, which we called Manresa Reunion. We gathered in the spring semester to share the UAPs and provide participants time for conversation and reflection on their experience of the UAPs at Xavier so far and on their own contribution to them going forward.

Rationale: I have been active in [promoting the UAPs at Xavier](#), particularly through my role as Director of Faculty Programming in the Center for Mission and Identity, which I completed in May. The Academic Showcase and the Manresa Reunion provided opportunities for the Xavier community to learn about the UAPs and to hear how they can be lived out at Xavier.

Project details

- Over 20 faculty submitted abstracts to participate in the videos and presentations for the Academic Showcase.
- The entire Xavier community was invited to the Academic Showcase, and the audience included faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, alumni, and community members.
- At the Manresa Reunion new faculty, staff, and administrators, who had met only via Zoom or with masks and social distancing, came together, mask optional, for a meal.
- Participants of the Manresa Reunion brainstormed ideas of how the university, their department, and they themselves could embody the UAPs.

Indications of successes

- Both events were well attended: ca. 125 people for the Academic Showcase (and more on the livestream), ca. 35 for the Manresa Reunion.
- At both events, faculty and staff were educated on the Universal Apostolic Preferences.
- Faculty and staff were able to articulate how their work ties into and can build on the UAPs.

Challenges

- Organizing the Academic Showcase and reception required a good deal of planning and resources, human and financial.
- The Manresa Reunion involved recruitment of busy first and second year faculty and staff.
- The incorporation of the UAPs into the work of the university requires ongoing education and commitment.