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Letter from the Editor: The Adventure Continues

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The Adventure Continues

by Ardith Baker, Editor

Who doesn't love an adventure? This particular adventure began several years ago with the spark of an idea, the dedicated work of several faculty (see "[A New Adventure](#)"), and the encouragement of several others ("[Community, Collaboration and Celebration: The Launching of SoTL-CHEd](#)"). With excitement and enthusiasm, those faculty set out on a quest to create a new journal—but not just an ordinary journal. They wanted to create a journal specifically for Christian educators in higher education in which articles, editorials, and book reviews, all related to the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), could be published.

All throughout this quest, many questions were raised about SoTL. In this issue, we hope to address some of those questions and, as a result, enlighten and encourage you to develop your own SoTL project. One thing that has come to light throughout the creation of this journal is that there is a multitude of information on SoTL, but what exactly is SoTL? In this issue, you'll find an explanation along with a review of current literature in "[Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: A Review of the Literature](#)." You will also find several good SoTL websites in this article. If you are still uncertain about SoTL and what it means to you as a faculty member, then a [review of the text *Scholarship Assessed: Evaluation of the Professoriate*](#) may help clear things up. For further clarification, read "[Learning to Appreciate What Teachers Do](#)" for a review of three other important SoTL texts.

What does SoTL research look like? The article "[Effectiveness of a Writing Intensive Program to Increase Student Learning in an Introductory Chemistry Laboratory](#)" is a good example of empirical research. In addition to this, we present a theoretical article ("[Using Top Ten Lists to Encourage Faith Integration Discussion in Economics Courses](#)"), which examines current literature and then suggests an additional application. You may ask: Why all the fuss over SoTL anyway? Have you forgotten what it was like to be a student? Why not read "[The Other Side of the Teacher's Desk](#)," and you'll soon understand why SoTL is so important.

This inaugural issue of *The Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for Christians in Higher Education (SoTL-CHEd)* may be the end of our adventure that began not long ago, but it is also the beginning of a new one that we hope will involve you. Your adventure in SoTL research will take careful planning. Start with your spark of an idea and nurture it, research it, and then plan how you will measure improvement in learning. Plan ahead to obtain any necessary permissions from students or other copyright holders if you want to use examples of their works. Plan to replicate your results, which may take time, depending on how often you teach that course. Write about it as you go so that you won't be overwhelmed in the end. Finally, submit your paper to *SoTL-CHEd*. By sharing your adventure with the Christian Academy through *SoTL-CHEd*, you will encourage others to begin their adventure too.

Letters to the Editor are always welcome. E-mail: SoTL_CHEd@oru.edu

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