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Letter from the Editor: The Example of Leadership

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The Example of Leadership

by
Timothy Norton, General Editor



Education is the mother of leadership.

--Wendell L. Willkie (American Presidential candidate in 1940; 1892-1944)

This edition of the *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for Christians in Higher Education* (a.k.a., *The Journal*) focuses on leadership and academic leaders, so it is serendipitous yet timely that the founder and first General Editor of *The Journal*—Ardith Baker—has just defended her dissertation and thus completed her Ph.D. Dr. Baker's vision and leadership led to the formation of a group of university faculty members who met for a year to establish the foundation of what would become *The Journal*. Now in its fifth year of publication, *The Journal* is very pleased to be among the first to congratulate Dr. Baker on finishing her doctoral degree.

In this Deans' Edition, four deans, each engaged in the education of others, speak to leadership from different perspectives. Campus leaders, scientific leaders, theological leaders, and "everyday" missionaries are highlighted to make evident the structure of leadership. As deans, they encourage others to lead as they present professional educational standards in their own fields. Whether functioning collaboratively, mixing faith and reason in the laboratory, designing future curricula, or inspiring others to learn, they record some of the frameworks found in the development of leadership. In the editorials, the book review, and the theoretical article in this *Journal*, they demonstrate how their own scholarship can be the catalyst for the scholarship of others.

Dr. Thomson Mathew, Dean of the College of Theology and Ministry, comments that "...many Doctor of Ministry curricula fail to adequately reflect the influence of post-M.Div. learning needs of ministers..." In his editorial, "Seminaries Must Balance the 'Ought to Learn' and the 'Need to Know,'" he points out that "the nature of the D.Min. curriculum—especially generalist D.Min.—appears to be a list of subjects students ought to learn as decided by smart theologians in the academy." His review of the past and current research on this topic demonstrates that "the challenge is to put the 'ought to' and the 'need to' together in a responsible way that requires the intentional effort of teachers, learners, and researchers." He concludes that "the time for theory-based D.Min. curriculum development has come."

Dr. Kim Boyd, Dean of the College of Education, in her editorial/review emphasizes the concept that collaboration needs to be part of the university understanding. She comments that "While businesses and other organizations have instituted teamwork and collaboration as a way of doing business, higher education institutions are historically created as silos..." She continues by pointing out that "Kezar and Lester provide a well-organized, research-based resource for how higher education can reorganize to foster more collaborative work."

Dr. Marty Crossland, former Dean of the ORU Online Campus and currently the Associate Vice President for Technology, Chief Technology Officer, and a professor at MidAmerica Nazarene University reviews *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* by Dr. Francis S. Collins. The book chronicles the journey of faith taken by Dr. Collins, who, as indicated by Dr. Crossland, received "worldwide name recognition as head of the Human Genome Project," which unlocked "the genetic codes embedded in the famous, wondrous piece of organic chemistry known as DNA." The three main parts of the book, "The Chasm between Science and Faith," "The Great Questions of Human Existence," and "Faith in

Science, Faith in God” are discussed along with the author’s journey in his quest for Truth. Dr. Crossland then introduces an aspect of the issue not presented by Collins and ponders whether it might have been a different way for Collins to view his scientific/faith perspective. Dr. Crossland concludes by asking the question, “Is Collins’ book, *The Language of God*, worth the reading?” Within this review lies the answer to his own question.

Dr. Dominic Halsmer, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, along with two engineering graduates, Jon Marc Asper and Ben Zigrang, have authored the article *Enhancing Science and Engineering Programs to Equip and Inspire Missionaries to Technical Communities*. They discuss the development of a course engaging science and faith “in an effort to better equip and inspire science and engineering graduates to serve as ‘everyday’ missionaries in their chosen fields.” In the discussion of the course content, they elaborate as to the knowledge that will be presented to the students that will allow them to learn the delicate nature of combining their faith with the realities of science. They point out that one of the intentions of the course is to give the students “the knowledge and skills necessary...to engage in fruitful dialogue with seekers from high-tech and highly-educated societies.”

The deans in this Deans’ Edition are truly representative of the academic excellence in each of the Colleges at Oral Roberts University. The expression of their works exemplifies the cohesive nature of the academic whole. Their dedication to the purposes of education allows for developing of leadership both in their lives and in the lives of those within the colleges and universities to which God has so graciously called them. The editors thank them for their commitment to excellence and their willingness to demonstrate it in this publication.

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