

# Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for Christians in Higher Education

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## Letter from the Managing Editor

Linda Gray

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# LETTER FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

Linda Gray

*T*his year, 2024, marks another year that citizens of the United States prepare to vote for their president, their leader. This act, this election, comes around every four years, yet its frequency does not lessen the importance of this vetting of candidates, of listening to their plans if elected, of actually casting ballots. It's a solemn duty. Good leadership is crucial to how well a country or city, a university or organization operates, but it is not a skill everyone has. Recognizing the ongoing need for effective leaders, numerous universities have included leadership among their stated university goals and created leadership programs or emphasized leadership in their curriculums.

Two of the articles in this issue of *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for Christians in Higher Education* (SoTL\_CHEd) deal with leadership. "Worship Leadership in Action," by Hayoung A. Lim, posits that worship of God should be integral in the lives of Christians and that worship leaders can effect more meaningful worship experiences for the Christian communities they serve. She points out, "The deepest level of worship is praising God through the pain, thanking God during the trials. . . . At my lowest, I praise his name on high since God is my hope." The second leadership article is the Q&A, an interview of Eric Newberg—a pastor, professor, scholar, and leader—and the author of *Paradigms of Global Spirit-Empowered Leaders*. He summarizes his book as "a multi-faceted study of the genre of Spirit-empowered leadership... organized in four parts: defining characteristics, notable leaders, global paradigms or models, and benchmarks for leadership development." In the interview he gives us the background and impetus for writing this thoroughly researched book and what he hopes to instill in his readers.

Amonda Matthewman-Isgrigg's theoretical article titled, "Supporting Student Success in the Classroom: Creating a Socio-Emotional Healthy Environment for University Students," cites several studies indicating that currently students often enter "the university unprepared for the academic requirements, are stressed . . . and are not [very] resilient in adapting to the expectations of higher education." She adds that for some international students, university studies are additionally challenging due to language barriers and different customs. The author discusses problems and potential solutions to employ so that students receive the support they need to succeed in academia.

Van Hnuai Kim's empirical article, "Integration of Faith and Learning in Online Programs," is a case study of online curriculum at a Christian university in the Midwest. The article includes an extensive review of the literature and clearly explains the methods and considerations in setting up the research study. The researcher/author notes, "One research question guided the study: How is faith integrated with the curriculum in the online programs?" Out of the 15 online programs at the university, two were chosen for the case study: business administration and psychology. With online programs continuing to grow, this article is timely and beneficial.

This issue's book review is of *The Holy Spirit and Higher Education: Renewing the Christian University* by Amos Yong and Dale M. Coulter (Baylor University Press, 2023). Reviewer Patrick Otto lays out the key elements of the book—such as two major rifts in the Church over the centuries: Eastern vs. Western and Catholic vs. Protestant—and the gradual move away from the role of the Holy Spirit. Otto then comments on the authors' proposal to restore the focus on the Holy Spirit as the Church did before the rifts.

This 2024 edition of SoTL\_CHEd offers fine articles, editorials, a book review, all of which can help readers with several issues at their own universities. May you be blessed as you lead students, faculty, or staff by caring and sharing God's love. Oh, and remember to vote.

Linda Gray  
Managing Editor