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Introduction

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Introduction

Abstract

An introduction to the inaugural issue of *Northwestern Review*.

Introduction

Dan Young calls his article in this inaugural issue “Natural Law and Agonistic Pluralism: A Work in Progress.” All scholarship is, in a sense, work in progress. The work of seeking to know and to understand is ongoing, never complete.

A calling to scholarship is part of the calling to be a member of faculty in higher education—and not just of faculty in institutions with large numbers of graduate students. Scholarship is normally necessary for completing the preparation to be full-time, tenured faculty, and it is also normally necessary for keeping faculty members and their teaching vital.

So we believe here at Northwestern College, where our mission is Christ-infused liberal arts learning.¹ The calling is a good one: “Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding” (Prov. 3:13, NRSV). It is, however, fraught with difficulties and temptations: “of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh” (Eccl. 12:12); “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up” (1 Cor. 8:1). And, mindful of the Creator, who is light and love (1 Jn. 1:5 and 4:8), and in whose “light we see light,” (Ps. 36:9), the end of knowledge and understanding is ever tantalizing yet elusive: “Love never ends. But . . . as for knowledge, it will come to an end. . . . For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known” (1 Cor. 13:8, 12).

This journal, like scholarship, is in a sense a work in progress. At the DeWitt Library, we are new to journal editing. Nonetheless, we understand that part of our task as librarians is to support the faculty as well as students in scholarship. We are housed in a building called the Learning Commons, and we see this journal as an important piece of fostering a corporeal as well as a virtual learning commons. This issue is the first of what we intend to be an annual online, open access periodical featuring the scholarship of Northwestern College faculty. We hope that it can be an encouragement to our own learning community and to others. We would be delighted if it also helps engender other online publications here.

We are pleased at the variety of faculty and disciplines on offer in this inaugural issue. In articles, we have contributions by a liturgical musician (Heather Josselyn-Cranson), a historian (Michael Kugler), a philosopher (Donald Wacome), and a political scientist (Dan Young). In collaborative work, we have poster projects by biologists (Laurie Furlong, Sara Tolsma, et al)

¹ Our official mission statement is as follows: Northwestern College is a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world.

and psychologists (Terry Chi et al). In the fine arts, we have two hymns by a composer (Heather Josselyn-Cranson) and two contributions by visual artists (Emily Stokes and Phil Scorza). For a book review, we have a historian (Douglas Firth Anderson). All told, these suggest the variety of our liberal arts curriculum and the vitality of our faculty's scholarly endeavors. May they also foster further fruitfulness, here and elsewhere.

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