

## EDITOR'S NOTES

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This issue of the journal features a broad collection of essays which readers of the journal, I trust, would find interesting, insightful, and useful. Geoff Brieger's essay returns us to an earlier Oakland, the Oakland of 1963, and shows why so many talented young faculty chose Oakland for their career rather than accept lucrative offers elsewhere. Brieger's essay nicely contextualizes Sherm Folland's dismal scientist who queries just how good is Oakland. Geoff Potts's essay sees love as a chemical and biological thing and not merely a thing of the heart or head. Much of the discussion in this presidential election year continues to focus on the value of experience as criterion for leadership. David Levine, in his piece, seeks to account historically and statistically for why experience has never been a credible factor in the election of a president. A team of faculty members from the School of Nursing has been exploring in their collaborative research issues regarding health care for vulnerable older adults. In fact, a recent BBC News series, "The Long Goodbye," explored, globally, this very subject, especially Alzheimer's. Responding to this health care crisis, countries such as South Korea are constructing housing facilities designed specifically for care of the elderly and Alzheimer's patients. Introduced by Linda Thompson Adams, the articles by Ann Whall, Barbara Harrison, Cheryl Riley-Doucet, and Karen Dunn explore dementia and memory retention and loss. Some also offer ways to combat memory loss and how to age successfully.

As usual, the journal showcases literary pieces, poems and short stories by Armstrong, McQueen, Ballard, Light, Brieger, Bryne, and Van Vliet, but also witty pieces, such as Alberto

Rojo's, which, with reminders of H. G. Wells's *The Time Machine*, imagines by means of quantum teleportation a way of ordering a slice of pizza in the same way we send a fax. Christine Nguyen's essay reads the causes and states of clinical depression through Coleridge's poem "Dejection: An Ode," and Peter Coyle's essay observes changes in the transcription of Mandarin motivated by literacy and politics. The Forum addresses teaching at Oakland with two companion pieces by faculty recognized for their excellence in teaching. Referencing OU's 2020 Vision, which calls for among other things a "high quality and challenging undergraduate education" provided by an "inspired faculty" dedicated to "the teaching-learning process," and examining Oakland's overall performance in The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) report, Peter Bertocci challenges the faculty to reengage meaningfully with students and to consider means to improve student engagement in the learning process. He calls on the Teaching and Learning Committee to exercise leadership toward this effort. In her essay, Dagmar Croom probes how differently students today learn, and suggests that our teaching should adapt to such changes in the learning process. We need "to know what learning skills each student has and does not have," Croom suggests, "to provide mechanisms for students to improve the skills they lack," "to redefine our expectations of students to the reality of their collective learning skills," and, finally, "to change the way we teach to take that knowledge into account." This issue of the journal concludes with Paul Kubicek's review of Paul Collier's *Why the Poorest Countries are Failing*. As always, we covet your best writing, thinking, and creative expressions. Submissions received by October, if accepted, will appear in the winter issue of the journal. I am again grateful to Dawn Schricke, editorial assistant, along with the Honors College staff, Dawn Deitsch and Karen Conn, for their assistance with the journal.