

Introduction to *Zeal* 4.2

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April may be the cruelest month for T. S. Eliot, but in Northeast Pennsylvania, April is a month of hope. Daffodils dot the campus of King's College; the robins, sparrows, and finches warble from tree branches newly festooned with vibrant green leaves; and sunshine and warm breezes encourage professors to assent to the perennial student request to hold class outside. Take a moment, if you can, to celebrate the new beginning that spring offers in its resplendent glory.

The first essay in *Provocations & Occasions* begins in winter with the author's musings during this season about what is essential. In "*Lectio Entropia: A Contemplative Practice for Engaging Science*," Steven G. Mayer recounts his adaptation of the ancient Christian practice of *Lectio Divina* into *Lectio Entropia* in his Physical Chemistry courses to offer "a structured way of engaging a text that infuses the scientific concepts with deep philosophical meaning." This pedagogical practice of contemplative engagement allows his students to engage thoughtfully with new scientific principles and new ways of thinking. The second essay, "Entropy, Relation, and the Signature of God," has Mayer and Bridger T. Ueek exploring both the New Testament and quantum theory to demonstrate the recognizability of the Triune God: "when one attends closely to the forms by which the world coheres, to the minimal structures of relation that make order intelligible, one may discern style, a signature of triune authorship." These *Provocations & Occasions* essays demonstrate *Zeal's* commitment to publishing essays that cross disciplinary boundaries and engage in spirited critical inquiry.

The forum in this issue further plumbs the inherent satisfaction to be found in critical inquiry. Janice A. Thompson curates an Author Meets Critics forum on Zena Hitz's bestselling book, *Lost in Thought: The Hidden Pleasures of an Intellectual Life*. In a decade where graduate programs in the liberal arts are contracting, teaching loads and class sizes for faculty are increasing, and spending time on research may feel solipsistic, the essays in this forum affirm deep thought, writing and research, and academia itself as worthwhile endeavors.

I encourage our readers to submit essays for *Provocations & Occasions* or to query about curating a forum on Transformative Teaching, Ethics in Focus, Author Meets Critics, Liberal Arts Starts and Circuitous Routes, Great Books and Beyond, and Powerful Expressions. Please share

this issue of *Zeal* with your professional networks. *Zeal* is an open access journal; submissions for the peer-reviewed Provocations & Occasions section may be sent to zeal@kings.edu. More information about submitting essays to *Zeal*, as well as the full descriptions of our forums, may be read at our website: <https://zeal.kings.edu/zeal/about>.

As ever, I am grateful to our contributors, peer reviewers, and editorial and advisory board members for their time, energy, and intellectual labor. Special thanks goes to Dr. Joel James Shuman, Professor of Theology at King's College, for his years of support for the journal through his meticulous review work. May his retirement be filled with good books, good bourbon, and hope and zeal.