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# WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Calogero A. Miceli

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As Chairperson of Word in the World, it is my pleasure to present to you our latest issue: 'Theology Unbound' Volume 3, Number 1.

With this issue, Word in the World enters into a new phase of its history. Since our last issue, the reins of the journal have been passed down from one committee to an entirely new one. Along with the transition have come great strides of improvement and great successes. Following in the steps of our predecessors, the 2009-2010 Journal Committee continues to build upon the legacy, history, and tradition that is Word in the World.

We have, in the past year, continued the efforts of the previous committee to bring the journal to a higher level of sustainability. In order to achieve this we have printed fewer copies of the journal, used only recyclable materials, and have brought our issues to a new eco-friendly platform via the internet. Our new website **[www.wordintheworld.ca](http://www.wordintheworld.ca)** is an extraordinary achievement for the members of this committee and we hope that it will ensure a more sustainable journal as well as allow open access of our articles, making them available to a wider audience.

Along with all of these achievements, the new committee has also reached out to

other academic journals, namely *Scriptura: Nouvelle Série*, an academic journal based at l'Université de Montréal and *KannenBright: Concordia University Undergraduate Journal of Theological Studies*. *KannenBright* has recently begun to grow as a journal within the department of Theological Studies at Concordia University. Having two academic journals stemming from the same Theology department at Concordia University is a testament to the high level of academic integrity of the students and this department. We wish both *Scriptura* and *KannenBright* much success.

The future of Word in the World looks bright and with each new committee the journal continues to grow and blossom. I have no doubt that this academic journal will continue to publish peer-reviewed academic articles on a yearly basis for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire Word in the World Executive, Robert Smith, Elisa Pistilli, Matte Downey, Lily-Catherine Johnston, and Colin Babin for their dedication and hard work. Also, I would like to thank Jean Daou and Sara Terreault for their wisdom and guidance throughout the entire process. All of your help was invaluable for this publication.

On behalf of the entire Word in the World Committee, I would also like to extend a

word of appreciation to all those who have contributed to this journal and made this issue possible. A special thank you to the following for their generous financial support: *Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL)*, *Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA)*, *Concordia University Graduate Student's Association (GSA)*, *Department of Theological Studies*, *Theological Studies Graduate and Undergraduate Associations (TSGSA & TSUSA)*, and the *School of Graduate Studies*.

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# EDITORIAL

Elisa Pistilli

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This issue of *Word in the World* was inspired by a graduate conference organized by the Theological Studies Graduate Students Association (TSGSA) “Theology Outside the Classroom” held March 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> 2009, at Concordia. The conference was conceived as a way to open the discussion between students in theological studies and other disciplines.

We at *Word in the World* (WITW) feel that the conference was the recited embodiment of our journal’s role in the Concordia Community; rendering it the perfect place to harvest great thoughts on the open communication between Theology and the other fields of study one can adopt in a University setting. The team came up with the title *Theology Unbound* as a metaphor for the limitlessness to the interplay between disciplines and genres that lend themselves to theological interpretation.

This issue begins with an excerpt directly from that 2009 conference by **David K. Goodin** who examines the theological groundwork for a reformulation of today’s economic market. The next two articles deal with the origins of Gnosticism in relation to biblical interpretation and one of the Nag Hamadi discoveries—with special attention to *the Apocryphon of John*. In her article **Lindsey Sandul** argues that the origins of it can be mapped back to pre-Christian era. Similarly **Robert Smith**

examines the Hellenistic, Jewish and Christian precursors that influenced Gnosticism as is especially evident in the *Apocryphon of John*. Finally **Melanie Perialis** examines the influence of pre-existing art practices –pagan and Judaic– on early Christian art found in Roman Catacombs.

Next we have two reflective contributions showcasing the indiscriminate nature of a theological approach. **R. Joseph Capet** involves the reader in an interaction with a sculpture in the New York Public library and **Martha Elias Downey** offers a unique and inspiring exchange with Psalm 127. A short story by **Martin Sartini Garner** follows in which the reader is invited to observe a bible study group from an insider’s perspective.

Capping off this issue are four poems; each poet—**R. Joseph Capet**, **Mary Gedeon Harvan** and **Sam Logiudice**—offers a personal perspective on scripture and spirituality that truly takes “Theology Outside the Classroom.”

The WITW team is very proud to offer this issue to our community, and we hope you enjoy reading and interacting with it as much as we enjoyed producing it!



*Drankensburg*

*Martha Elias Downey*