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## From the Editor

Mark Murphy

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Mark C. Murphy

This is my last issue as editor of *Faith and Philosophy*. It is of course a bit of a relief to pass along the job to someone else. But there are a lot of joys that come with this position, as well as occasions for gratitude that it is a pleasure to bring to mind.

I am very grateful for the work of Michael Peterson, who was the only Managing Editor that *Faith and Philosophy* had for its first 37 years. Mike has seen the journal through so many changes, most saliently the transformation of *Faith and Philosophy* from a print journal to an entirely online, open-access journal. As he hands off his position to Helen De Cruz, I hope that all readers of *F&P* join me in thanking Mike for his unstinting service to the journal and to the Society of Christian Philosophers, the journal's sponsor. I owe thanks also to Meghan Griffith and Alicia Finch, both of whom served in the role of Book Review Editor during my term, and to Leigh Vicens, who currently occupies that role and who will continue under the new Editor. And I owe a great deal to David Hunt, who was Associate Editor when I took over, and to Scott Davison, who took over from David and in the last four years has done the unrelenting work of screening new submitted manuscripts, to the tune of 180 or so each year.

The editorial office could not have functioned smoothly in its everyday operations without the careful and conscientious work of the three editorial assistants with whom I worked over the past five years. Dominic LaMantia, Karen Rice, and Melayna Schiff kept the flow of manuscripts moving, making sure that our process was appropriately anonymized, submitters were kept informed, and the editors received the materials that needed to be assessed and circulated further. They also were the first, and a very effective, line of defense against terrible typos and sentences with missing *nots* ending up in the journal pages, and more than once they found philosophical fogginess in allegedly final versions that could be cleared up before publication.

I owe thanks also to the Society of Christian Philosophers, and in particular to its Executive Committee, which both generously entrusted me with this responsibility and has firmly supported the journal and its transformation into an open-access resource.

I want finally to thank the philosophers and theologians who have refereed for the journal. One of my sources of stress as I took on this position



was the received wisdom that securing referees' reports for journal submissions is a very unpleasant job: that folks are by and large unwilling to agree to do refereeing work; when they do agree, they tend to drag their feet and be very late; often they will ghost entirely; and when they do produce, they will likely produce something that is not particularly useful for the editor in making decisions or for the author in making revisions. Whatever things are like in the profession as a whole, this has not at all been my experience at *Faith and Philosophy*. I sent out over 1200 referee request e-mails, and about two-thirds of them were answered with an agreement to referee. While a lot of refereeing is done by members of the Board of Editorial Consultants, who are wonderful servants of the journal, the refereeing work has been widely distributed: just about 400 different scholars have done this work for *Faith and Philosophy* over the past five years. I can count on one hand the agreements to referee that did not result in referees' reports, and the quality of these reports is, by and large, quite high. Journals entirely depend on this uncompensated and largely unrecognized work. I cannot express how grateful I am to these good people who have given me their good counsel.

As I have been so well-rewarded over the past five years by asking people for things, let me conclude with a few more requests. If you are a member of the SCP, I ask that you continue to support the journal through paying the SCP's modest membership dues. If you are not a member, and are eligible for membership (to be eligible you need only identify yourself as a Christian and as a philosopher), I ask that you mull over the possibility of joining up, thus supporting the SCP's many projects, including *Faith and Philosophy*. Or, if you are not able or not inclined to join, I ask that you consider making a small donation directly to the journal to support its open-access publication. In any case, I ask that you pray for Tom Senor, the seventh editor of the journal, that he will have the same joy and support as editor with which I have been blessed; and I ask that you pray for the journal's continued success, that it will continue to serve the flourishing of the Christian philosophical community and of the broader philosophical and Christian communities.