

EDITORIAL

The First Fifty Years at the University of Calgary and the First Few in Qatar

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This special issue of JET is devoted to some of the educationally interesting problems that relate to a relatively new venture, namely the development of a limited objective branch campus of one university in a very different setting from the location of the original university. The university in question is the University of Calgary which sponsors this publication. The limited objective branch plant is a nursing school in Qatar opened on the request of the government of that kingdom on the basis of the excellence of the nursing school at the University of Calgary. The University of Calgary was founded out of a branch of the University of Alberta fifty years ago. In those fifty years the University of Calgary has gone from being initially an extension of a provincial normal school to being a world ranked university. Rankings of the universities under fifty years of age have seen the University of Calgary move from nowhere to being ranked not only the number one young university in Canada but the present number one young university in North America. In the process it has gone from a handful of students and faculty members in 1966 to being a university with over 32,000 students and three thousand faculty members as well as a large cadre of support staff. At the present time the University of Calgary, even in comparison with the older Canadian universities, is ranked as a research institution on nearly all measures in the top five of Canadian university institutions.

The University of Calgary is, in Canadian terms, a medical comprehensive university that covers all traditional faculties and has a medical school as one of those. In fact it also has now a number of faculties named after generous donors: the Haskayne School of Business, the Schulich School of Engineering, the Werklund School of Education and the Cumming School of Medicine with the benefits that the generous funding from the named donors brings to those faculties. It also has a very large Faculty of Arts recently combining a number of former faculties including a faculty of fine arts, a faculty of general studies and the earlier faculty of arts. Its graduates include a recent Canadian prime minister. Its science faculty covers a broad spectrum of scientific specialties and does exceptional work in physics and biology. Its medical school is a pioneering one that at its beginning created a three year program in medicine and its nursing faculty is equally original. The university physically hosted the Winter Olympic Games in 1988 and the legacy of that event is prominent in the university's Olympic Skating Oval where nearly all the worlds records have

been and are still being set. Our present Chancellor is a graduate of our school of engineering and a former NASA astronaut who has brought an interesting international perspective to his guidance and leadership of our institution.

One of the more adventuresome things that the University of Calgary has pioneered is the locating of a branch of its nursing school in the middle Eastern kingdom of Qatar. This has proven to be a challenging venture but a very successful one. This special issue is in celebration of both the first fifty years of the University of Calgary and of its Faculty of Nursing that is presently pioneering the graduation of nurses in Qatar working in the English language with students whose background is primarily Arabic and whose beliefs and understanding come from a different vantage point than the usual nursing students at the University of Calgary. May both this venture and the venture of the University of Calgary continue to be pathbreaking and as successful for the next fifty years as it has been in the first.

Our guest Editors for this Special Issue of the Journal of Educational Thought are Willam Kay and Mary Saudelli, until recently both teaching staff at the university's nursing school branch in Qatar. I would like to thank them for the interesting and important papers they have put together for this issue and to wish them success in their future ventures.

*Ian Winchester
Editor*