

FOREWORD

This issue of the ABAC Journal brings the readers both continuing features and a new emphasis. The new emphasis takes the form of a book review that initiates our commitment to present to our readers' critical, insightful reviews of academic and other serious books of interest. The overall mission of the journal is to allow our readers to get insights into current work that is being accomplished in a wide variety of fields through representative samples of articles from many fields. But such expansion of reader awareness is also enhanced through expert reviews of larger form of works and bodies of work that illuminate the current state of discussion in important areas of research. Although the journal has presented book reviews in the past, we intend in the future to place a new emphasis on such reviews and also on surveys of recent work on particular topics of interest in a variety of fields. This expansion of this area of our coverage is demonstrated in this issue with a review of a recent philosophical work on a topic – essentially the ancient question of “How should I live” asked by Socrates in Plato’s *The Republic* – that must certainly be of interest to all serious persons.

In light of this expanded coverage, the editors of the ABAC Journal want to encourage our readers to share their expertise by contributing to it book reviews and academic literature survey articles. As with all submissions to the journal, the reviews should be on topics that will be of interest and comprehensible to a wide non-specialist audience of both academics and non-academics. The reviews should both present the main ideas of the book or field and provide perspective to the ideas by relating them to other related work and/or providing a critical evaluation of the author’s position. So whether your primary interest is in the humanities, the social sciences, the sciences, business, education or any other field, we urge you to look for compelling current works and help us accomplish our goal of expanding the intellectual horizons of our very curious and concerned readers.

Continuing is another installment in Professor Ioan Voicu’s reports on important international events. Often these are reports of meetings, whether academic or governmental, that typically bring together many persons of diverse viewpoints to discuss important current topics and thus these illuminating articles provide still one more method of keeping our readers up to date with current discussions. In his current report, Dr. Voicu considers not a meeting but a focus of interest during the current year in the problems of young people that was declared by the United Nations General Assembly. By reviewing the issues and proposals in his article Dr. Voicu provides all our readers a general perspective to consider and perhaps to contribute to an increase in our understanding of youth and also of our ability to effectively make use of their energy, ideas, and capacities for making the world a better place.

This emphasis on youth is continued in two articles on education. Dr. Chan Mei Yuit directly addresses the issue of harnessing the energy and intelligence of youth in a review of a program designed to enhance the rhetorical and communicative capacities of young people. Without such skills, particularly when expressed in an international language like English, their efforts will not be fully efficient. Of particular interest is the use of online media to enhance the capacities of future leaders who will inevitably function within an environment dominated by such media. In a globalized world international communication, both face-to-face and online, is very critical and Assistant Prof. Md. Kamrul Hasan has addressed this issue straight on in his article about the teaching of English writing skills in universities in Bangladesh. His conclusion that an integration of a variety of approaches to such teaching certainly will contribute to ESL writing programs not only in Bangladesh but throughout the world.

The ABAC Journal has its institutional home in a university that places a great deal of emphasis on the training of future business leaders and articles on business have always played an important role in the journal.

Thanapon Sathitwitayakul, a graduate student of Assumption University, and his professor Dr. Kriengsin Prasongsukarn provide a detailed mathematical analysis of the fluctuations of value of the Thai baht that they suggest will provide a method of predicting the future value of the currency. Predictability of currency value is, of course, very important for both businesses and governmental agencies and we thus predict a wide interest in this article. Also critical for business success are strategies for developing an organization's human resources and these strategies are explored, using a Bangladesh bank as an example, in Professor Ayesha Tabassum's article. Because the process of recruitment and selection is often, though not exclusively, oriented towards those who are starting out their careers, this article also is highly relevant to the theme of youth and education that is central to the ABAC Journal and particularly to this issue.

In this issue's review, by Professor John Maturri, of Queens College, City University of New York, might, because of its philosophical nature, seem to be less practical than the other articles but because it deals with basic questions of the meaningfulness of life that abstraction may be an illusion. In *All Things Shining: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age*, philosophers Herbert Dreyfus and Sean Dorrance Kelly advocate nothing less than a return to the values associated with religions of the early Greeks. Professor Maturri places this radical claim in the context both of the results of modern cognitive science and Heideggerian philosophy and raises basic questions about the authors' analysis. Whether one agrees with the authors of the book or not, it and the review provide much that is worth pondering.

Such pondering is, of course, the essential element of a generalist publication like the ABAC Journal, and we encourage our readers to consider what in their field would a community of intelligent, interested readers find worth pondering and submit to the journal original articles, survey articles, and book reviews.

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