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Letter from the Editor

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Spring 2014

Dear Colleagues in Christ,

We hope you will find our second issue of the *Justice, Spirituality, and Education Journal* enriching, engaging, and thought-provoking. We wish to acknowledge our founding editor, Dr. Fred Ramirez; the School of Education team; our [advisory and editorial boards](#), and especially the authors for their thoughtful contributions to this issue.

“STRENGTH TOGETHER” JSE CONFERENCE:

We hope to see you at our next [Justice, Spirituality, and Education Conference](#) on Saturday, **November 15, 2014**. Our theme will be *strength together*, calling us to remain in a posture of humility as we learn from the different other. Our [keynote speakers](#) will be **Dr. Michael Mata**, Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary, and **Dr. Judy TenElshof**, Professor of Spirituality and Marriage & Family, Talbot School of Theology.

JSE CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS:

We invite scholars and graduate students to present on the following topics:

- Building Community
- Appreciating Diversity Across Class, Race, Ethnic and Gender Boundaries
- Culture, Spirituality and Education
- Pursuit of Justice in Academics
- Justice, Spirituality & Education in the Arts
- Christians in Action

Papers and/or presentations are due September 1, 2014 and should support conference presentations. Papers should be submitted as articles in APA format, no longer than 20 pages, following [JSE Journal Submission Guidelines](#) and need to distinctly address the intersection of justice, spirituality, and education or delve deeply into a core issue in one of these domains. To submit your paper for the 2014 JSE Conference, click [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you November 15, 2014 for the next [JSE Conference](#), where we consider the theme of *strength together* on Biola University’s campus in La Mirada, California.



As we launch this second issue of the JSE Journal, we want to recognize the diligent work of School of Education alumna and fifth grade teacher Lori Clock (BA '85, MSC '86), who was recently honored with the California Teacher's Association's Lois Tinson Human Rights Award for her orphanage work in Kenya and awareness raising on her Gardenhill Elementary School campus in La Mirada, California. Recipients of this award are honored for those "activities [that] have helped to achieve significant progress on behalf of equal opportunity

for African Americans". Lori first traveled to Kenya some years ago and started the [Smiles OverSeas](#), or SOS, Club at Gardenhill that helps raise money to help the [ByGrace Children's Home](#) in Kenya's Rift Valley. Thank you, Lori, for your dedication to education in both Africa and North America and for your example in the importance of being strong together.

As we aim to serve students of all backgrounds with excellence, we wanted to bring to your attention the results of a US Department of Education study that discusses the importance of recognizing the diverse backgrounds of all students and how [colorblindness increasingly harms our diverse public schools and nation](#). In light of our 2014 conference theme of *strength together*, may this be a challenge for all of us to consider what our schools and nation would look like where we recognize all of our students, and neighbors, as unique image bearers of God.

In closing, do take note of Biola University's other journals, [Christian Education Journal](#), [Great Commission Research Journal](#), [Journal of Psychology and Theology](#), and [Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care](#). We hope that all of Biola's journals will be a great blessing to you and your community as you seek to embody and carry out the gospel message to the nations.

With appreciation,

Handwritten signature of June Hetzel

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