

July 2024

Note from the Managing Editor

David Ochabski
dochabski@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/elevol8iss1/2>

Recommended Citation

Ochabski, David. 2024. "Note from the Managing Editor." *Eleutheria: John W. Rawlings School of Divinity Academic Journal* 8, (1). <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/elevol8iss1/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Rawlings School of Divinity at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Eleutheria: John W. Rawlings School of Divinity Academic Journal by an authorized editor of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

Note from the Managing Editor

Abstract

Note from the Managing Editor

Cover Page Footnote

David Ochabski, PhD

Note from the Managing Editor

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the departure of several editors: myself, Sherene Khouri, and Aaron Malbuff. Our announcement comes with sadness because of how far we have come and thus what we will be leaving. Yet it also comes with joy because of the prospect of where the journal can go.

We relaunched with a strong first issue in 2021, redesigning the website, marketing to students and faculty of multiple institutions. Planted on the foundation of a strong team of advisors, editorial staff, and peer reviewers, we built great relationships with repository administrators, university staff, publishing companies, and Christian scholars. There were a number of initiatives that we piloted that returned with resounding success. In all of these endeavors, *Eleutheria* has remained faithful to its mission to advance God's kingdom through scholarship in a way that was mutually beneficial to all those involved.

As I envision where the journal will be in 2027 and look forward to the new generation of editors, I foresee immense possibility. Processes we have built have been standardized, but I can see them automated and optimized. Training was created, but I can see job descriptions delineated with task KPIs captured, SOPs translated to workflows, and data reporting informing further improvements and partnerships. This may not be the direction that the journal goes—there are a variety of options open to the new managing editor. However, the talent of the editorial team, however they are organized, provides me with the assurance that *Eleutheria* can only be taken to the next level.

I am grateful to God for the blessings he has provisioned during the course of this journey: the institutional support Liberty University has provided with its focus on research, the systems and architecture put in place by the numerous developers who have gone before us, the teams of people having gone above and beyond their job, the culture of servanthood and stewardship that kept morale high, and the readership that has spanned across the globe. Since the relaunch, I have prayed that the scholarship produced was both a blessing to the submitters, reviewers, administrators, and readers. I now pray that the journal continues to be a nexus of intellectual spiritual formation, intervening in the lives of the writers and readers as they fulfill the vocation of being made in God's image—being agents of God's creative order.

Below are some brief comments from our departing associate editors. First, Sherene Khouri:

Serving with Eleutheria has been a rewarding journey and deeply fulfilling, as it aligned with Liberty University's core mission of training champions for Christ. During my years of service as an associate editor, I found immense joy in contributing to a platform dedicated to upholding

traditional values and being faithful to the Great Commission and the Christian goal—as outlined in 1 Peter 3:15—to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us.

Serving alongside passionate colleagues who shared a commitment to nurturing academic Christian dialogue was truly fulfilling. Looking to the future, I hope to see the journal continue to evolve as a beacon of scholarly exploration, delving into our culturally complex issues with a steadfast commitment to Christian principles.

And second, Aaron Malbuff:

The goal when I decided to join the editorial team was not only to relaunch this journal but to develop a strong core of editors and reviewers with a high standard of scholarship for our students at Liberty University. We have accomplished this goal. We have seen great success with the articles we have published and the development of our students as they continue to grow and put out quality research for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have always had in mind that others will come after us to continue and set even higher standards for these goals. It has truly been an honor to serve with my fellow editors, who have represented Christ through this journal.

We hope this issue of *Eleutheria* is of great value to you, and we look forward to the work of the new editorial team in the months to come.

David Ochabski, Managing Editor

John W. Rawlings School of Divinity
Liberty University