



Richard G. Bowker

Of the many measures of universities, the successes of students and the scholarly contributions of faculty to their disciplines are most important for me. The former is obvious; the latter is often poorly understood and yet crucial for several reasons. First, scholarship synergizes teaching. Active scholars bring to their classrooms an infectious enthusiasm for discovery and exploration and consequently open important new pathways for some of our students. Simply learning that accumulating knowledge about a subject is a very different activity than working as a scholar and advancing the disciplinary knowledge base is an important lesson for our students to learn. Discovering that research or creative activities are accessible to them is an even more important one. Fostering this transition from student to scholar is one of the most important responsibilities of the professoriate, and it is the active scholars who catalyze this change. The process involves providing students with the disciplinary knowledge base and skills to frame appropriate questions, nurturing their intellectual curiosity, and encouraging them to succeed. We at WKU can be rightfully proud of both the numerous opportunities we provide for our students and for the scholarly successes that ensue.

Second, the creative and scholarly work of faculty provide a base of ideas that may enrich the world either directly or indirectly. Many university scholars work in a world of ideas and discoveries that may seem arcane, or worse, irrelevant to those outside the academy. Perhaps this interpretation results from our failure to educate them about the fundamental importance of new ideas and the ways the discovery process works. Unfortunately, basic discoveries leading to significant applications are frequently met with puzzlement or even derision, until they are applied. Yet pure and applied scholarship are intimately related as noted by the great French scientist Louis Pasteur almost 150 years ago:

"Il n'existe pas de sciences appliquées, mais seulement des applications de la science".
(There are no such things as applied sciences, only applications of science.)

In this issue of the *WKU Scholar* you will find a spectrum of scholarship that ranges from fundamental discoveries and explorations to significant applications of scholarship. Enjoy the scholarly endeavors of these members of the WKU family.

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