

# How Healthy is Your Curriculum?: Dealing With Challenges of a Virtual University

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In the past two volumes of *Scholé* I have titled my introduction to the invited commentary section “How Healthy is your Curriculum?: Challenges for Integrating Leisure and Health” (Volume 13), and “How Healthy is Your Curriculum?: Challenges for Survival” (Volume 14). In an attempt to continue the theme during my tenure as *Scholé* editor, I have chosen to use the same primary title one more time. Much like last year’s invited commentary author, Dr. Ramsey Eric Ramsey is sending us a wake up call. Ramsey is not part of a Recreation faculty, but instead finds his home in the Communication Studies Department. He is highly respected by his peers and colleagues for his ability to view life from a philosophical perspective and to share his views eloquently in his writing and discourse.

The commentary that follows speaks to what many of us now call the virtual university. It is not a “how-to” nor a “here’s what we’ve done” piece. Instead, Ramsey offers us a picture of “what if,” as well as “why?” It matters none what academic discipline we come from, as many of us can, and probably will, be impacted by a virtual world before we retire. The questions remain “what impact will a virtual world have on the ‘university’ as we currently define it?” and “Are we enhancing or damning our own destiny by engulfing technology?”

As was the case with Marilyn Jensen’s invited commentary in last year’s *Scholé*, the issues discussed by Ramsey will not simply go away. We will, to the extent that we can, be the creators and shapers of our own destiny... whatever form that may take.

I have found that to truly understand the message and appreciate the sentiment of Dr. Ramsey’s commentary, you need to read it several times. By including this piece in *Scholé*, whose mission relates directly to the shaping of Recreation and Leisure Studies curricula in higher education, it is my hope that each of you will truly think about the effects and impacts of a virtual university. Once again, these issues may be difficult to swallow at first, but without being proactive, and thinking strategically about your department’s future, you might wind up having to react to others’ decisions. Either way, the impacts and advancement of technology are likely to radically change the “university” in the near and distant future. It is our role to help determine “why” and “in what way.”