Editorial

Major themes of the 6th Spirituality Leadership and Management Network conference [Fremantle WA, February 2004] were Ken Wilber’s integral theory and Dr Clare Graves’ spiral dynamics. It is not unexpected, therefore, that these two theories take centre stage in the refereed section of the journal. Mark Edwards’ paper “Integral Theory Perspective on Spirituality in Organisations” provides a pathway for explaining how organisations can become more spiritual. Built into his explanation are a range of definitions of spirituality that emerge from Wilber’s integral model. Edward’s paper provides a useful road map to spirituality in organisations and demonstrates the importance of understanding each of Wilber’s quadrants.

William Varey’s paper “Transforming Sustainability: An integral leader’s sustainability framework” makes the point there are literally thousands of definitions of sustainability today and in that context the word loses its impact. Drawing on Wilber’s integral theory Varey provides a fascinating interpretation of sustainability which gives new meaning to this overused and abused word. Varey writes about the three dimensions of sustainability – time, depth and span – and then builds on this using Graves eight existential states that comprise his spiral dynamics model. Varey’s paper makes an important contribution to the debate on sustainability and I recommend it to you.

The third refereed paper by Deborah Bloch, Neil Davidson, Vlad Demitrov and Adam Hulbert is called “Sublime Learning”. The paper provides a case for learning how to transfer knowledge into wisdom. They make the point that wisdom thrives on the energy of the mortal body, mind, heart with the “timeless tandem soul-spirit” and weaves together the logic of mind, the passion of heart, the longing of soul, and the might of spirit. They stipulate that there are five necessary conditions for developing learning. These five conditions and the overall tenor of the paper make it a stimulating read.

Besides the refereed papers, I commend you to read the papers in the general section. Jocelyn Dawes from the Findhorn Foundation backgrounds The Quest and its application in business. The Quest is an educational package that can be studied independently of others or in learning cycles. Details on The Quest are available on the internet (http://www.findhorncollege.org/courses/quest.html). The SLaM Network is intending running learning cycles on The Quest in the not too distant future. Mike Bell’s paper on “The Earth’s Jurisprudence” is a reprint of a paper published first in The Trumpeter in Canada. The paper is a seminal one on the management of the earth’s resources and for that reason the SLaM Journal is proud to reprint it. Paul Van Heusen’s paper looks at leadership skills and the role of emotional and spiritual intelligence in developing these skills. It is a how-to-do-it type paper. Christo Norden-Powers’ paper provides a model for integrating spirituality with 21st Century Business. The final paper by Monica Richter is a study of sustainable development and the role of the corporate sector.

As a concluding remark it is worth repeating that the SLaM Journal is dedicated to fostering research into spirituality as it applies to leadership and management in organisations and communities and to the natural world. Besides fostering research we seek also to foster the exchange of information generally on these issues. If you have a paper that you think might be of interest to our readers, please don’t hesitate to send it in.

Kerry Cochrane
Editor