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Matters of Consequence

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Matters of Consequence

Over the summer I thought a lot about the things that matter in my personal and professional experience. My toddler granddaughter, Christina, and the time she and I spend touching, playing, talking, and journaling during my visits home to Pennsylvania so that our lives connect is surely a matter of great consequence for me.

During one of my visits this summer we shared a day that included feeding some wild ducks and watching them swim. Christina was delighted when the ducks surrounded her as she broadcast bits of stale bread and ground corn, then ran with them to the water's edge. When our rations were depleted and it was time to leave, Christina's aunt, my sister, said, "Tell the ducks good-bye." We expected she would wave or make some childish response but she turned to the flock, opened her arms and extended her hands in a gesture of benediction, and said, "Good-bye ducks and thank you; thank you for all the fun."

Christina is my teacher in revisioning the world.

I have reconsidered my professional vision as well. The decision, a year ago, to become the editor of Teaching & Learning was not made lightly. One of my goals in moving to the University of North Dakota was to involve myself in the journal's publication as I had admired the journal and the work of its editor, Robert King, for some time.

As I reviewed the past year from my summer retreat, I recalled my own child-like delight when manuscripts arrived, when a reader expressed having gained some insight from an article, when my dean let me know she thought Teaching & Learning looked good, and most of all when Bob King sent encouraging and outrageously funny notes that supported me as I learned a new craft.

So ...

Thank you, thank you for all the fun Christina, Bob, the Editorial Board, the editorial staff in the Bureau of Educational Services and Applied Research—most especially Bev Solseng and Cheryl Sterf—and Amy Carroll, Nancy Peotter, our writers and readers.