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Message from the Editor

Shannon E. French

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Message from the Editor

Shannon E. French

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Here at the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence, we are committed to providing a variety of open and respectful forums, bringing diverse voices and perspectives to the table to explore the most urgent questions in ethics, from how to end conflicts to the nature and source of rights to the responsible development of new technology to the just distribution of society's goods. We also teach and discuss topics in ethics to and with a broad range of audiences and conduct abstract and empirical research on ethics and ethical leadership in both its practical and theoretical aspects. This *International Journal of Ethical Leadership* is an essential part of our efforts to contribute to the advancement of ethical leadership, locally and globally.

The Inamori Center was founded in 2006 at Case Western Reserve University through a generous gift from Dr. Kazuo Inamori and the Inamori Foundation of Kyoto, Japan. Since 1985, the Inamori Foundation has presented the prestigious Kyoto Prize—Japan's highest private award for “those who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind,” in the categories of Basic Sciences, Advanced Technology, and Arts and Philosophy. Inspired by this example, the Inamori Center at Case Western Reserve University has, since 2008, presented the annual Inamori Ethics Prize, which recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exemplary ethical leadership on the global stage, making lasting contributions while trying to improve the condition of humankind.

These are the first eight recipients of the Inamori Ethics Prize:

- Dr. Francis Collins, leader of the Human Genome Project and current Director of the United States National Institutes of Health (2008)
- The Honorable Mary Robinson, former (and first female) President of Ireland, former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and founder of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice (2009)

- Mr. Stan Brock, conservationist and founder of the health care nonprofit Remote Area Medical (2010)
- Advocate Beatrice Mtetwa, Zimbabwean human rights lawyer and defender of social justice (2011)
- Dr. David Suzuki, Canadian environmentalist, author, award-winning broadcaster and documentarian (2012)
- Mr. Yvon Chouinard, American entrepreneur, leader in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and founder of Patagonia, an outdoor clothing and gear company committed to ethical and sustainable practices (2013)
- Dr. Denis Mukwege, physician and women's health and rights advocate in the Democratic Republic of Congo and international activist against sexual violence (2014)
- Prof. Martha C. Nussbaum, renowned Philosophy scholar and global expert on ethics, human rights, moral and political theory, education, social equality, emotions, feminism, and ancient Greek and Roman philosophy (2015)

This issue of our journal includes transcripts from the 2013 Inamori Ethics Prize events, as well as insightful essays from scholars, students, and practitioners of ethical leadership from all around the world. You will also find a case study in global corporate ethics, originally published in the *Harvard Deusto Business Review*, describing the inspiring philosophy-based turnaround of Japan Airlines led by Dr. Kazuo Inamori. We are also pleased again to present transcripts of the public radio program *Talking Foreign Policy*, which airs on the NPR affiliate WCPN in Cleveland, Ohio and is hosted by Case Western Reserve University Professor and School of Law co-Dean Michael Scharf. This program features a roundtable of experts examining the ethical, legal, and social issues associated with current international events and the implications for world leaders shaping foreign policy.

As Dr. Kazuo Inamori reminds us, “human beings have no higher calling than to serve the greater good of humankind and society.” To answer this calling, we must attempt to discern what the greater good is and how we can best serve humankind and society. This is no easy task. Thank you for taking the time to join us in the struggle to grasp what ethics demands of each of us in whatever endeavors we choose to engage.