

*Dante Alighieri, Ernest Boyer and Scholarship Reconsidered Anew*

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In *Scholarship Reconsidered*, Boyer described four distinct categories of scholarship for those who have chosen the academic life: (1) the scholarship of discovery (research); (2) the scholarship of application (service to the profession and to society), (3) the scholarship of integration (making connections among the disparate disciplines; and (4) the scholarship of teaching (inspiring others' minds). Each of our careers has its own unique blend of these four ingredients. Borrowing from the literature of the Renaissance, a richly evocative metaphor for the possible stages of scholarship in our lives can be found in Dante Alighieri's *Il Convivio (The Banquet)*. Dante offers a model for the passage of time in our lives moving from the innocence of birth, through the struggle of adolescence with its virtues and vices and then on to the years of wisdom culminating in death, relating the living of one's life to the apparent celestial movement of the sun across the sky from sunrise to sunset. As the sun rises, our attention is focused on the external world, making new discoveries and gathering "light" and attention among our peers. At the setting of the sun, our attention is turned ever more inward as we seek to make some sense of all that has transpired, searching for connections and hoping to leave our hard won wisdom for those that will follow. The present work shall explore the connections in some detail between the model of scholarship proposed by Boyer and a model for life as described by Dante Alighieri.