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FUTUREtakes publishes the *WFS Learning Section Bulletin* by special arrangement with the World Future Society (WFS) Learning Section Steering Team. Issues of the *WFS Learning Section Bulletin* typically include foresight education exercises, an educator spotlight column, and synopses of the annual WFS Education Summit.

Educator Spotlight

Thomas J. Lombardo, Ph.D.

Center for Future Consciousness



Tom Lombardo, Ph.D. is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Future Consciousness in Scottsdale, Arizona and a leading researcher, writer, and speaker on the topic of the future. The author of *The Evolution of Future Consciousness* and *Contemporary Futurist Thought*, Dr. Lombardo brings a unique and powerful synthesis of contemporary science, psychology, and philosophy to the field of future studies and futures education.

An award-winning educator with over thirty years professional experience, he has supervised college faculty and faculty departments and designed innumerable college courses, including complete undergraduate and graduate programs. Aside from psychology and philosophy, he has extensively studied intellectual history, evolutionary theory, cosmology, the philosophies of science and time, science fiction, and most recently futurist literature, ranging from the future of science and technology to the future of psychology, human society, culture, and religion. In addition, he has worked in clinical education and mental health settings and is well versed in theories and practices of human growth, personal development, and self-fulfillment.

Dr. Lombardo's two most recent books on the future, *The Evolution of Future Consciousness* and *Contemporary Futurist Thought*, provide a detailed psychological study of the human capacity to think about the future and trace this capacity from prehistoric times through myth, religion, secular philosophy, evolutionary science, science fiction, and futures studies, concluding with a comprehensive review of contemporary theories and visions of the future. *Future Survey* describes the books as "awesome," "heroic," and an "ambitious synthesis"; Wendell Bell, Professor Emeritus of Yale University, uses the terms "brilliant," "encyclopedic," and "masterpiece"; Walter Truett Anderson, President of the World Academy of Art and Science, states that the books represent "a maturing of future studies, placing it solidly within the larger frameworks of human thought, and I would recommend it to anyone practicing or teaching in that field" and Tim Mack, President of the World Future Society, refers to the

books as “innovative, thoughtful, enlightening, and entertaining.” As he states, “Dr. Lombardo has accomplished what most of us can only dream about. He has produced two innovative, thoughtful and weighty overviews of the study of the future, written from two dynamically different perspectives, at the same time. And as an added bonus, the two books compliment each in highly original ways.”

In his faculty position as chair of psychology and philosophy at Rio Salado College, over the last ten years Dr. Lombardo has been spearheading a comprehensive approach to teaching and assessing deep learning, critical thinking, educational ethics, and wisdom related capacities within all the courses in his departments. In addition, he has created a faculty self-evaluation and self-development plan as well as a workshop that focuses on the growth of wisdom in teachers and educators. In his view, the development and modeling of wisdom should be the central goal of education. Specifically regarding his ongoing interest in the virtue of wisdom, which he describes as the “highest expression of future consciousness,” he has contributed numerous papers to the premier wisdom website *The Wisdom Page*. As resident futurist faculty at the college, Dr. Lombardo provides various workshops and presentations on futures related topics for Rio Salado staff and students, most recently on “Globalization,” “Ecology, Sustainability, and the Future,” and “The Exploration and Colonization of Outer Space.”

Aside from the publication of his two books and his ongoing interest and study of wisdom, Dr. Lombardo’s most recent work in future studies includes articles and presentations on the future of human psychology, the enhancement and evolution of future consciousness, education and character virtues, the future of marriage, personal responsibility and the future, and a series of articles for *Learning Tomorrow* on science fiction and the future.

Dr. Lombardo is one of the key developers of the World Futures Study Federation *Pedagogical Resources in Futures Studies* and serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Future Studies*. His website (www.centerforfutureconsciousness.com) contains a wealth of informational resources on the study of the future. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and the University of Minnesota and a graduate fellow of Cornell University. He has served as the Chief Psychologist and Educational Director at John Madden Mental Health Center, the Dean of Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, and the Chair of the Psychology Instructional Council at Maricopa Community Colleges. His first book, *The Reciprocity of Perceiver and Environment*, is the best selling volume in Lawrence Erlbaum’s *Resources in Ecological Psychology* and has been translated into Japanese.

Tom and his wife Jeanne, also an educator and writer, recently presented at the World Future Society conference on “Utopian Visions and Values for the Future,” and together they continue to develop *The Center for Future Consciousness*, an educational institute dedicated to the enhancement of future consciousness and the evolution of humanity. Unique features in their educational approach include connecting the development of character virtues to heightened future consciousness and pulling together the psychology of future consciousness with the study of the future. When they are not in their study, Tom and Jeanne enjoy hiking in the desert, weightlifting, gardening, swimming, art, and music.

Professor Lombardo can be contacted at 480-451-4273 (H) 480-580-5239 (Cell) or via e-mail at tlombardo1@cox.net. His Web page is www.centerforfutureconsciousness.com

