From the Publisher

Arne Selbyg

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Tom Christenson, Capital University

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**From the Publisher:**

*Intersections* and the Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference give focus to a rich heritage of learning. It is a heritage that enables a community of scholars, as the late Ernest Boyer once said, to “probe both the deep places of the mind and the deep longings of the human spirit.” This ability, as we know, is not frequently found in higher education today and the lack of it has become an obvious weakness in late twentieth century education. This journal and the conference with which it is connected are meant to widen the scope of inquiry that the separation of mind from spirit has curtailed. I hope they will continue to be places of exciting and important ideas.

At the 1998 conference, another announcement will be made to strengthen this effort. I will be able to tell you of a publishing project named in honor of the late Conrad Bergendoff, a scholar and former president of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. His writing, speaking, and teaching were penetrating expressions of faith and learning. Every few years the Division for Higher Education and Schools will publish a volume in the Conrad Bergendoff Series. These works will be written primarily by faculty from our ELCA Colleges and Universities and will support the development of an Academy of Scholars in Lutheran Higher Education.

The first volume, written by Professor Ernest Simmons of Concordia College, is now being published and will be available at our Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference this summer. It is a book to help faculty explore this heritage of learning and will be, as I indicated, the first of ongoing publications from the various academic disciplines.

My hope is that these three ventures - *Intersections*, The Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference, and the Bergendoff Series - will be vehicles to help faculty in our colleges and universities expand scholarship that probes both mind and spirit. If we do, we will benefit both church and academy. Just as importantly, we will also provide a distinctive education for students that is as rich as it is rare.

Robert W. Sorenson
Division for Higher Education and Schools
ELCA