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## About the Cover

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**Intersections** is a publication by and largely for the academic communities of the twenty-seven institutions that comprise the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU). Each issue reflects on the **intersection** of faith, learning, and teaching within Lutheran higher education. It is published by the NECU, and has its home in the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, the institutional sponsor of the publication. **Intersections** extends and enhances discussions fostered by the annual Vocation of the Lutheran College Conference, together lifting up the vocation of Lutheran colleges and universities. It aims to raise the level of awareness among faculty, staff, and administration about the Lutheran heritage and church-relatedness of their institutions, especially as these **intersect** with contemporary challenges, opportunities, and initiatives.

## About the Cover

Sheila Agee

*Hiawatha*, 2018

Oil on wood door

80" x 144" (four 80" x 36" panels)

Sheila Agee lives and works out of her studio near Brandon, South Dakota. Her work most often reflects whatever nature has to offer—hoping to capture the light of the sky or reflect on the essence of a more intimate detail. *Hiawatha* depicts the essence of the vivid details left behind by loving, thoughtful persons—evoking a lasting impression.

The piece is part of a “Seeing Dakota” installation ([seeingdakota.com](http://seeingdakota.com)), in which Sheila Agee and Ann Pederson, Professor of Religion at Augustana University, Sioux Fall, South Dakota, bring together the artistic process and works of a visual artist with the reflections of a theologian to cultivate imaginative and possibly transformative ways of seeing and interpreting the world. They intertwine not only two different professional practices of art and theology, but also their two different ways of seeing Dakota. Their hope is that those who see the installation will see Dakota in a new manner. They invite people to look with intention, to ponder the images and words, and to gather insight from the art and words.

The following is part of Ann Pederson’s reflections on the broader landscape surrounding *Hiawatha*:

The location of the cemetery within a nearby golf course gives me the creeps.

Massive bur oaks shelter the graves of 121 Native Americans who were once inmates of the Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians. They were buried *en masse* on the 5th hole. Brilliant green grasses cover the bodies of men and women who were once warehoused within the massive walls of brick. Family members still come to honor their ancestors.

Faint outlines appear where individuals were buried. Simple crosses mark two of the graves. Red, yellow, white, and black ribbons on the fence posts flap in the wind. The deaths of these people are not shadows of a distant past. They reveal the present horror of what happens when evil is covered up.