

2004

From the Publisher

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Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Selbyg, Arne (2004) "From the Publisher," *Intersections*: Vol. 2004: No. 19, Article 2.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol2004/iss19/2>

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Purpose Statement

This publication is by, and largely for, the academic communities of the twenty-eight colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is published by the Division for Higher Education and Schools of the ELCA. The publication has its home at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio which has generously offered leadership, physical, and financial support as an institutional sponsor for the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators which have addressed the church - college/university partnership. The ELCA has sponsored an annual Vocation of the Lutheran College conference. The primary purpose of *INTERSECTIONS* is to enhance and continue such dialogue. It will do so by:

- * Lifting up the vocation of Lutheran colleges and universities
- * Encouraging thoughtful dialogue about the partnership of colleges and universities with the church
- * Offering a forum for concerns and interests of faculty at the intersection of faith, learning, and teaching
- * Raising for debate issues about institutional missions, goals, objectives, and learning priorities
- * Encouraging critical and productive discussion on our campuses of issues focal to the life of the church
- * Serving as a bulletin board for communications among institutions and faculties
- * Publishing papers presented at conferences sponsored by the ELCA and its institutions
- * Raising the level of awareness among faculty about the Lutheran heritage and connectedness of their institutions, realizing a sense of being part of a larger family with common interests and concerns.

From the Publisher

While the primary source of articles for this journal is the papers presented at the annual conference on "The Vocation of a Lutheran College," we now receive other submissions for it as well. We also ask for permission to publish papers based on other presentations we hear that deal with "our" topics. In Issue 17 last year we published four papers that were developed by participants in the **Lutheran Academy of Scholars in Higher Education**, and this issue includes some other papers by participants in that academy.

The Lutheran academy was started with generous grant support from Lutheran Brotherhood and the Lilly Endowment, but those grants have now been exhausted. Fortunately, the colleges and universities that are related to the ELCA recognized that the academy could be a very valuable faculty development opportunity, so the academy has been continued with support from the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools and from the colleges themselves. Especially important is support from St. Olaf College, which made it possible for Dr. DeAne Lagerquist, professor of religion at St. Olaf, to take on the task of being the director for the academy.

In 2004 the academy has returned to Harvard University, and the leader is again Dr. Ronald Thiemann, the John Lord O'Brian professor of Divinity at Harvard. At the academy, each of the participants work on scholarly papers in their discipline, and they also participate in scholarly exchanges about the relationships between their faith and their profession, and between religion and society, and they work on interdisciplinary papers, learning from each other both in topical discussions led by the leader and in critiques of the work each faculty member presented.

In addition to the papers presented in *INTERSECTIONS*, numerous other scholarly articles and books have been published by the participants based on the work they did as participants in the academy. We want to especially draw your attention to a book written by the editor of *INTERSECTIONS*, Dr. Tom Christenson, *The Gift and Task of Lutheran Higher Education*, published this year by Augsburg Fortress. That volume should be of special interest to the many people who are fascinated by the topics of this journal.

Arne Selbyg

Director, ELCA Colleges and Universities

From the Editor

It must be that I'm getting old; time is becoming more valuable to me every year and I find that I am becoming less patient with not having enough of it. And please don't be fooled — time is not money. Increases in salary are often accompanied by decreases in time. I don't know how my students do it, but some of them lead such multi-tasked lives — school, work, family — how do they manage it? The candle they're burning must have three ends. I'm able to dance to only one drummer at a time (and that not too well), and some of my previous dance partners are finding that I'm already dancing with someone else (or distractedly, as if with someone else). All of this is by way of saying that I'm looking for someone who's willing to take over this job — I already have too many others to do well. But it's a job I think is important to do so I hope someone is willing to do it.

So I thought to post a help-wanted ad:

Wanted: editor of Intersections. Salary, none. Released time, none. Work load, light with periodic chaos. Experience required, none. Rewards, great if you've got a vivid imagination. Everything else, negotiable. Application deadline, sooner or later.

This issue features the work of three friends and one new acquaintance. By reading what they have written you may become well-informed about the state of Lutheran higher education, about the significance of the work of Paul Ricouer, about the implications of being a reformation community, about the perils and difficulties of teaching ethics. All of these authors would be pleased to hear your comments on their work.

Tom Christenson

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