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From the Editor

Tom Christenson

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We feel pretty confident that the church will have to rely on the colleges and universities to accomplish many tasks in order for the more general goals to be reached. At this time we do not know what those tasks will be. But I want to assure the readers of *INTERSECTIONS* that nobody has proposed to do away with this journal, with the conferences on which it is based, or any of the other programs that help illuminate the difference it should make at a college or university when it operates in relationship with the Lutheran church. We suspect that *INTERSECTIONS* will be one of the tools the larger church will use to reach its strategic goals.

Arne Selbyg

Director, ELCA Colleges and Universities

FROM THE EDITOR

Two years ago I oversaw the creation and mailing out of a questionnaire for ten-year alumni / alumnae of the university where I teach. We asked them a number of questions including asking them to rank the importance of our stated learning goals, asking them to assess the kind of job the university had done in teaching these goals, and where, if at all, they had learned the skills, attitudes and knowledge the goals talked about. Many of the outcomes of the questionnaire were surprising. One of the surprising patterns of response was the large numbers of students who said that they learned these essential skills, attitudes and knowledge in programs and experiences they had outside the classroom and outside the domain (physically speaking) of the university. These things had been learned best, or most thoroughly, or most memorably, in practica, internships, travel-study occasions, service-learning projects, or in unprogrammed intersections between their lives, their part-time jobs, and their classroom studies.

The responses to this questionnaire taught us at least two things: 1) to take off-campus experiences more seriously as part of the learning agenda of students; 2) to see that learning matters most that coincides with the personal development of students.

Last summer's Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference focused on education and global outreach, as all the papers in this issue of *INTERSECTIONS* testify. Global study programs, particularly those that are service-connected or where students get to live with the native populations, are life-changing. I only wish every one of our students could have such experiences.

Tom Christenson

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