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From the Publisher

Arne Selbyg

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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 inauguration of the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators which have addressed the church - college/university partnership. 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

This journal grew out of the annual conference on "The Vocation of a Lutheran College" and it usually features presentations made at those conferences. But four years ago the Division for Higher Education and Schools of the ELCA and its Council of College and University Presidents received a grant from the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation, later on followed by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, to start a **Lutheran Academy of Scholars in Higher Education**. Each year since, this academy has gathered about a dozen faculty members to a two week seminar about scholarly issues, the first three years at Harvard University, last summer at the University of California at Berkeley, and then these faculty had reunion conferences in the winter and summer that followed. The first three seminars were led by Dr. Ronald Thiemann, the John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School, and we are very grateful to him for his excellent scholarly guidance.

At the academy, each of the participants worked on scholarly papers in their discipline, and they also participated in scholarly exchanges about the relationships between their faith and their profession, and between religion and society, and they worked 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.

The papers presented in this issue of *Intersections* grew out of the discussions among the participants in the first Lutheran Academy. We will present other papers from the same cohort in future issues. The official theme for that academy was "Finding Our Voice – Christian Faith and Critical Vision", but informally the theme became "**What's Faith Got To Do With It?**" The four papers in this issue have answers to that question with reference to teaching and the classroom situation. Can you apply these ideas to your own teaching and learning?

Arne Selbyg
Director, ELCA Colleges and Universities