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## From the Editor

Tom Christenson

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Universities, Sue Edison-Swift. Push the button for FREE STUFF to get copies of our brochures. Look at our advertisements in *The Lutheran*, *Lutheran Partners*, *Seeds for the Parish* and the ELCA Yearbook. If you have not already done so, read the book by Professor Ernie Simmons that we had Augsburg-Fortress publish: *Lutheran Higher Education - An Introduction*. Check the higher education stories in the ELCA video magazine - *Mosaic*.

You can also help us by telling us what works well. If you notice an ad or a story about Lutheran colleges or universities, tell us where you spotted it, and what made it catch your eyes. And if you hear a presentation that you think deserve a wider audience among one or more of our constituencies bring it to our attention, or have the author submit it to Tom for his consideration.

Arne Selbyg  
Director for Colleges and Universities

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## FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Intersections* was fun to put together because of the diversity of pieces that it contains. It includes Darrel Jodock's inaugural lecture as he assumed the Bernhardson chair at Gustavus Adolphus College. His lecture raises for me the question, "What would a religious tradition be like that had no sense of humor?" I'm sure that such exist, but I'm very happy to say that I do not personally know them. I had a returning student (I think she was in her mid-fifties) in a class a few years ago. One day I discovered that the traditional aged students in the class referred to her among themselves as "the church lady from hell." She condemned everyone she encountered in that class: the authors of the texts, me, her fellow students. She went on to point out in detail what was wrong with our views, prefacing each sentence with the words, "God and I think..." When I challenged her condemnations she said, "Don't you believe in the absoluteness of God?" I said I did, and that this was why I did not consider any human version of the truth as absolute. Not hers, not even my own. When I told her that Luther referred to his own theology as "a bag of farts," she was not amused. Sad.

Ernie Simmons' article follows. This was a talk he gave at last summer's Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference which I thought would be of interest to faculty at all our institutions because it researches so thoroughly what our current crop of students are like and what the difficulties and opportunities are that they present to us. This is followed by two short pieces that came out of a travel-study opportunity for faculty and students in South Africa. These pieces by Brian Wallace and Corin Wesner demonstrate what a soul-opening opportunity such cultural relocation can occasion. I thought it made very good sense to publish them together with some of the photographs they brought back. Finally there are two reviews of important books that came out this year. I was very happy to review Richard Hughes' book. I had heard him deliver some of it's chapters as public addresses and wanted to see how he fit them together into a larger argument. Joy Schroeder's review of Robert Benne's book concludes this issue. It is a book that deserves a discussion on each of our campuses.

If any of you are interested in reviewing books for future issues please let me know.

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