

2001

From the Editor

Tom Christenson

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections>

Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Christenson, Tom (2001) "From the Editor," *Intersections*: Vol. 2001: No. 12, Article 3.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol2001/iss12/3>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Intersections by an authorized administrator of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.

been a success. Since I had the privilege of sitting in on the first of these two-week sessions in 1999, I can tell you that the seminars had the kind of academic intellectual exchanges that we most of the time only dream about having at our own institutions.

In 2002 the academy will move to the University of California, Berkeley, and the scholarly leadership will be provided by professor Ted Peters. The theme will deal with the intersection of faith and science, but the exact title has not yet been selected. But if you want to be part of a great academic experience, look for our announcement, or contact me now to get on our mailing list so you receive a copy of it, and then send in a well-supported application.

Arne Selbyg
Director for Colleges and Universities

FROM THE EDITOR

The first three offerings in this issue were first given as talks at the Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference held the summer of 2000 at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. Leonard Schulze had been asked to keynote the conference before he had become the executive director of DHES. So we thought we were getting a faculty member as speaker but got our new division leader as well.

These pieces illustrate the advantage of hearing a diversity of voices. Each speaks to the call of learning and teaching in a different voice informed by personality, experience, as well as by academic discipline and work experience. We hope that they provoke our readers as much as they provoked those of us who heard them as presentations.

Speaking of provocations, let me recommend to you two books I have recently read. 1.) Peter C. Hodgson. *God's Wisdom: Toward a Theology of Education*, Westminster John Knox Press (1995). This is not a book about theological education, but a book that attempts to see the task of education (generally considered -- it's not just about faith-related education) as a movement toward God. The consequence of this vision changes both how we understand the task of education and how we understand the relation of God to the world. Irenaeus's axiom may be as adequate a summary of Hodgson's view as anything: "The glory of God is human beings made fully alive ... the aliveness of human beings is in beholding God." 2.) Douglas Sloan. *Faith and Knowledge: Mainline Protestantism and American Higher Education*, Westminster John Knox Press (1994). This book was recommended to me by Paul Dovre and I thank him for putting me in touch with it. It focuses on the relation between faith and knowledge in higher education and the historical process by which these two ideas have become pretty thoroughly dissociated from each other. This dissociation left faith-related institutions hard-pressed to explain what it meant to be a college / university related essentially to a faith tradition. Sloan reads the history of theology in the 20th century as attempts to answer that question and he believes that the attempts have, for the most part, failed. Sloan thinks that the relevance has been lost and that we need to rethink our epistemology, the way we think about knowledge, in order to recover it. This is a challenging book which invites responses from thinkers in the sciences as well as in philosophy and theology.

Tom Christenson
Capital University