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## From the Editor

Tom Christenson

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More publications can be expected, based on the parallel initiative started in 1999, The Lutheran Academy for Scholars in Higher Education. And as you can see from this issue of *Intersections*, the debate continued last year at the "Vocation" conference at Susquehanna University. Next August the conference will take place at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, just outside of Omaha. The focus will be on what differentiates Lutheran colleges and universities within American higher education, in educational philosophy, in teaching and learning, in research and scholarly endeavors, and in service activities. Welcome to that event.

December 1999  
Arne Selbyg  
Director for Colleges and Universities  
ELCA-DHES

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### **From the Editor**

This is the eighth edition of *INTERSECTIONS*. When Bob Sorenson, at the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools endorsed the idea of such a publication a few years ago, there had been no Vocation of a Lutheran College Conferences and no Lutheran Academy of Scholars either. Bob, together with his staff, made a commitment to move forward with all of these efforts. Each of them has made a substantive contribution to the dialogue regarding the connection of church relatedness and academic calling at our institutions of higher learning. I think the conversations are livelier, the issues more fully informed and the voices in the discussion more diverse because of these developments. For all of these things we express our gratefulness to the DHES staff and especially to Bob Sorenson, since he has now announced his imminent retirement.

This issue of *INTERSECTIONS* is a good example of the kind of discussion that these efforts have generated. It includes analyses and arguments from people who are insiders to Lutheran theology and from those who are outside, from those who have spent many years at our institutions as well as those recently arrived. All of these voices are valuable, for they point out to us what we ought to be about, what we claim we are about, and what we are actually, in practice, about. What we discover is that these are not always the same thing. What I conclude from reading these essays is that what is can do well to be informed by what ought to be, *and* that what ought to be needs to be informed by what is. The livelier the dialogue between such voices, the better for all of us.

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