

1998

From the Editor

Tom Christenson

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

Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Christenson, Tom (1998) "From the Editor," *Intersections*: Vol. 1998: No. 5, Article 3.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol1998/iss5/3>

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.

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 presently 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.

What is the purpose of such a publication?

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators which have addressed the church - college/university partnership. Recently the ELCA has sponsored an annual Vocation of the Lutheran College conference. 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 Editor

This issue of INTERSECTIONS illustrates the great diversity of interests and points of view we intend for all our issues. **DeAne Lagerquist's** essay is a wonderful example of the intersection idea, exploring the connection between faith orientation, academic methodology, and personal outlook. The essay by **Kyoko Mori** explores the dimensions of art (and its contrast with ritual) with some vivid examples from her own experience. **Elizabeth Baer**, disclaiming any gift of prophecy, explores the metaphor of falling walls within academia and the role that chapel plays in doing that. The talk by **Conrad Bergendoff** is included here as a memorial to him. We had originally been in contact with him to write a "What I Have Learned" column for this issue. His passing last December made us value these earlier words of his all the more. Our thanks to David Crowe for facilitating and editing the text of that talk. The "Discussion" section of this issue features a provocative essay by **Robert W. Funk**, the founder of the Jesus Seminar, and an engaging response by **Mark Powell**, himself a prolific author on New Testament texts and issues. We're sure these essays will generate further discussion in our pages.

As I have talked with the editors of other journals I have discovered that I do not have the problem that most of them have. They have the problem of receiving many more manuscripts than they can possibly use. Consequently the time between when someone submits an article and when it finally appears in print can be, in the case of some publications, years. As I said, we do not have that problem. Though the quality of submissions to INTERSECTIONS has been excellent, the quantity has been "just barely enough." So, what I'm urging is, *send us your good stuff!* I know there are more excellent chapel talks, excellent essays, excellent poems, excellent reviews, responses, and excellent works of art that should be shared in these pages. Share your gifts!

We hear occasionally that there are problems with the distribution of INTERSECTIONS on the campuses. We've heard stories of boxes unopened, copies undistributed, and of people who want copies who haven't got them. If that is so on your campus, please write and let us know. At present we have the name of one person on each campus who has agreed to be our distributor. If we've got the wrong person, or are routing it the wrong way, or are not sending enough copies to your campus please let us know. The most successful distributions we've heard about are at faculty meetings, where we've been told "they go like hot cakes."

In the past I have used this note from the editor to recommend some good books. This past year has been a sabbatical year for me (a whole year of Saturdays!) so I have a list of good books to recommend, all of which are non-specialized enough to be pursued by the intelligent reader. I hope you find time to read some of them.

Best books recommended by colleagues:

Kieran Egan, *The Educated Mind: How Cognitive Tools Shape Our Understanding*. (1997, Univ. Of Chicago).

Robert Coles, *The Call of Stories: Teaching and the Moral Imagination*. (1989, Houghton Mifflin).

Best books found while browsing:

Daniel Kemmis (The Mayor of Missoula, Montana), *The Good City and the Good Life*. (1995, Houghton Mifflin).

David W. Gill, editor, *Should God Get Tenure? Essays on Religion & Higher Education*. (1997, Eerdmans).

Sallie McFague, *Super Natural Christians: How We Should Love Nature*. (1997, Augsburg Fortress).

Best books in my own field:

Roger Scruton, *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Philosophy*. (1996, Allen Lane / Penguin).

E.M. Adams, *A Society Fit for Human Beings*. (1997, SUNY).

Best books recommended by my kids:

Freeman Dyson, *Imagined Worlds*. (1997, Harvard).

Anne Colamosca & William Wolman, *The Judas Economy: The Triumph of Capitalism and the Betrayal of Work*. (1997, Addison Wesley).

Best picture books:

John Gribbin & Simon Goodwin, *Origins: Our Place in Hubble's Universe*. (1997, Overlook Press).

Gary van Wyk, *African Painted Houses: Basotho Dwellings of South Africa*. (1998, Harry N. Abrams, publ.).

Best poetry:

Wisława Szymborska, *View with a Grain of Sand: Selected Poems*. (1995, Harcourt Brace).

Best fiction:

Rereading Flannery O'Connor, *The Complete Stories*. (1971, Noonday Press).

If you have such a list, share it with us!

Tom Christenson, Capital University

From the Publisher:

Intersections and the Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference give focus to a rich heritage of learning. It is a heritage that enables a community of scholars, as the late Ernest Boyer once said, to "probe both the deep places of the mind and the deep longings of the human spirit." This ability, as we know, is not frequently found in higher education today and the lack of it has become an obvious weakness in late twentieth century education. This journal and the conference with which it is connected are meant to widen the scope of inquiry that the separation of mind from spirit has curtailed. I hope they will continue to be places of exciting and important ideas.

At the 1998 conference, another announcement will be made to strengthen this effort. I will be able to tell you of a publishing project named in honor of the late Conrad Bergendoff, a scholar and former president of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. His writing, speaking, and teaching were penetrating expressions of faith and learning. Every few years the Division for Higher Education and Schools will publish a volume in the Conrad Bergendoff Series. These works will be written primarily by faculty from our ELCA Colleges and Universities and will support the development of an Academy of Scholars in Lutheran Higher Education.

The first volume, written by Professor Ernest Simmons of Concordia College, is now being published and will be available at our Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference this summer. It is a book to help faculty explore this heritage of learning and will be, as I indicated, the first of ongoing publications from the various academic disciplines.

My hope is that these three ventures - Intersections, The Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference, and the Bergendoff Series - will be vehicles to help faculty in our colleges and universities expand scholarship that probes both mind and spirit. If we do, we will benefit both church and academy. Just as importantly, we will also provide a distinctive education for students that is as rich as it is rare.

Robert W. Sorenson
Division for Higher Education and Schools
ELCA