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From the Editor

Tom Christenson

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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 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

Jim Unglaube, who has served the ELCA's Division for Higher Education and Schools (and before that in the same office of the ALC) has made a career move. Beginning the first of January he has begun his duties at Carthage College, his alma mater. Jim has been the coordinator of the three previous Vocation of a Lutheran College Conferences, and has served as the Publisher of INTERSECTIONS. Both of these things he has worked diligently at, planning, enabling, and finding funding for them as they have developed. In both projects he has obviously been concerned to initiate and continue a significant dialogue about the meaning and possibilities of Lutheran higher education in the ELCA. He has done all this in his own quiet, modest, and efficient way. We all, whether we are directly aware of our connection to him or not, owe him a debt of gratitude. Let me personally say that it has been a pleasure to work with him and learn from him. Thank you Jim! Our best wishes to you on your new endeavors.

In previous issues of INTERSECTIONS I have used my editorial space to recommend some reading to you. I'm doing the same again. The book is *Keeping Faith: Embracing the Tensions in Christian Higher Education*, edited by Ronald A. Wells and published by Eerdmans. I recommend this book not only because of the interesting essays it contains but because of the kind of model it represents. It is a series of essays written and collected on the occasion of the installation of Gaylen Byker as the new president of Calvin College. What a great thing for a college to do, to collect the thoughts of significant people who have connection with the institution to reflect about the meaning of its mission and education there. We should do something like this in our ELCA institutions.

This issue of INTERSECTIONS includes several provocative pieces. Richard Hughes has revised and expanded the text of his address to last summer's Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference for inclusion here. We include some selections from a serious, yet ironic treatment of theological topics in dictionary form written by Carl Skrade and Spencer Porter. Gregory Clark has written a challenging essay about themes of peace and violence embedded in the rhetoric that shapes education. His essay is included here with a question-raising response by Karla Bohmbach.

This issue of INTERSECTIONS also initiates some new features which we hope will continue: **What I Have Learned** - an essay by one of our senior or emeritus faculty reflecting on their long experience as scholars and teachers in our institutions, initiated by Richard Ylvisaker; **Reviews**, - where recent books, the arts, films, and other media presentations can be reviewed by our readers, initiated with a review by Karla Bohmbach; **Bulletin Board** - where news of programs that may be of interest to faculty/administration at all our institutions may be listed. Please feel free to submit material or suggestions for all three of these features as well as response to what you read here.

Tom Christenson
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Capital University