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From the Outgoing and Incoming Editors

Robert D. Haak

Jason A. Mahn

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From the Outgoing Editor

Well, it has been a pretty good run.

With some fear, I took over the task of putting together *Intersections* from its founder and long-time editor, Tom Christenson of Capitol University. I remember asking him, “So how do you find the articles to include?” I was worried, I guess, that everything had already been said about the vocation of ELCA colleges and universities and that was why he was leaving the work to me! I remember his response, something like, “Don’t worry. The articles will find you.” I’m not sure I believed him at the time, but I find myself giving the same advice to Jason Mahn who will be taking over this task from me. And I have found it to be true. Thinking and working on issues of vocation has brought me into contact with a whole host of folks who think this is an important conversation—and who have provided words and wisdom as we have continued to work this out together. Some of these voices have been holding forth for a long time: Dovre, Jodock, Christenson, Simmons, Morgan, Olsen and Wilhelm. Others are new(er) to the conversation: Mahn and Bussie and...and.... As with any list of this sort, the risk of omitting someone who should be on it is great. But the joy of it is to remember the powerful voices that have driven this conversation, and to recognize that fresh (and more articulate?)

voices are entering the dialogue. It is clear that the power of these ideas enlivens and refreshes this conversation even as the people involved change. That is surely the work of the Spirit among us.

As I leave the position of editor, I must say that the people with whom I have been brought into contact because of this work has been the greatest delight of this work. I thank each of you.

And the ideas still are important. Who are these Lutherans and what sort of schools are these? Someone (probably someone on the list above—I don’t quite remember) said, “Lutherans are the ones who ask those sorts of questions!” How do we take seriously the word of the gospel in this day? How do we see students in ways that treat them as whole persons living in community and in a world that matters? How do we relate to others in conversation about these issues, especially those who don’t seem to be like us? And the questions continue—questions that are crucial for our survival today as institutions, but even more crucial for the sort of students we hope to influence in their time with us.

I turn the work over now to Jason—and wait with eagerness the new that springs to life!

ROBERT D. HAAK

From the Incoming Editor

When I interviewed at Augustana five years ago, it was Bob Haak who picked me up from the airport (in a pickup truck), who walked me around campus (with a gyratory limp—Bob needed hip surgery), and who discussed the need for vocational reflection at every level of our ELCA schools: individual, departmental, and institutional. My learning from Bob continued through the two issues of *Intersections* for which I served as guest editor.

The title of the present issue, “Lutherans on Faith and Learning,” is decidedly broad, but it does name central issues that Lutherans are equipped to face: What does religious conviction have to do with public knowledge? How might Christianity and academic disciplines remain in ongoing and open dialogue? The opening essays by Dovre and Jodock remind us that Lutherans do have a clear, if also nuanced, standpoint when it comes to faith and

learning. McDonald then pairs that Lutheran approach with tensions surrounding the service-learning movement. Sermons by Turnbull and Jodock call us back to heart of our callings; they remind us that downsizing our dreams (Turnbull) or curtailing our concerns (Jodock) may lead to efficiency and safety but not to lives well lived. Even Hill’s short poem pursues the tensed relation between faith and knowledge: “each questing mind / Stands to the Ocean as foam to the wave.”

I am thankful to Bob, Mark Wilhelm, and many others for persistently considering the vocation of Lutheran education. I look forward to editing *Intersections* in the time ahead.

JASON A. MAHN

ROBERT D. HAAK *has served Augustana College (Rock Island, Illinois) as professor of religion (1983-2005), as Director of the Center for Vocational Reflection and Associate Dean (2005-2011), and as Director of the Community Engagement Center (2011-2012). He has accepted a new position as Vice President and Dean of the College at Hiram College, a small liberal arts school in Ohio, and will be leaving his editorial duties behind as he lives into that new calling. Bob began editing Intersections in Spring 2006; the present issue is this thirteenth and last.*

JASON A. MAHN *is Assistant Professor of Religion at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.*