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Editor's Introduction to the 28th Issue

Aubrey Immelman

St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, aimmelman@csbsju.edu

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Editor's Introduction to the 28th Issue

At its inception in 1982, founding editor Robert L. Spaeth named our fledgling faculty journal *Symposium*, with the mission “to disseminate ideas generated by faculty development activities in a more permanent form and to a wider audience than can be achieved by workshops, lectures and social gatherings.”

In 2004, co-editors Lisa Ohm and Gregory Schroeder renamed the journal. Noting that “headwaters are the sources of something much larger than themselves, of streams that merge to form rivers,” Ohm and Schroeder wrote:

The name *headwaters* suggests the beginning of something else for our academic community, such as the springing forth of a new idea, or the opening of a discussion, or the sharing of experiences from the larger world around us. Perhaps in its own small way, *headwaters* can contribute to creativity and reflection here among us and further downstream as well, wherever the current takes us.

Headwaters are the sources of something much larger than themselves, of streams that merge to form rivers. For us, the name *headwaters* also evokes the essence of our natural surroundings. The region where we live and work is the source of the Mississippi River, and ... the area and its identity are “steeped in water,” the splendid, shining waters of both lakes and rivers.

Reflecting the evolving function of the journal envisioned by Ohm and Schroeder, the cover of this year's edition of *Headwaters* features a photograph of the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park, Minnesota, by **Bill Lamberts**.

The cover photograph, “Mississippi River Headwaters,” sets the tone for the lead article in this year’s issue, “The Floral Charms of Saint John’s: A Survey of Botanical Communities” by **Stephen Saupe** and **Paul Melchior**, who describe Saint John’s as a landscape paradise with a floral wealth resulting from several converging terrestrial biomes along with diverse aquatic habitats of lakes and wetlands.

Next is **Karen Erickson’s** poem “Early Sunglow,” followed by **Anthony Cunningham’s** philosophical reflections on the notion of happiness, titled “Immersion.”

In “Liberal Arts Education and the End of the World As You Know It,” **Bruce Campbell**, in a convocation address, orients incoming Saint John’s University students to four years of immersion in multiple ways of knowing and questioning.

“THEO 111 at Saint John’s Bible” is a poetic arrangement by **Ephrem Hollermann**, OSB, compiled from direct quotes from one semester’s set of student response papers written after the class’s lecture tour of the Saint John’s Bible.

In a College of Saint Benedict convocation address, **Mary Jepperson**, in “Accounting for Life,” uses the metaphor of an accounting lesson to offer new students advice for making the most of a college education.

Reflecting on his growing-up memories in hurricane-prone Southwest Louisiana, **Ozzie Mayers**, in “Coming Out Into the Hurricane,” discovers an analogy between coming out of the closet and stepping into a hurricane.

Next is “I Know Women,” a poem by **Mara Faulkner**, OSB, followed by three *Phi Beta Kappa* addresses: “Splitting Stars and Splitting Wood” by **Erica Stonestreet**; “Meditation on a Page” by **Vincent Smiles**; and “The Mysterious Stranger” by **Scott Richardson**.

“In My Opinion: Life on the Editorial Page” is a compelling reminiscence by **Derek Larson** on more than 150 opinion columns he wrote in more than a dozen years as a newspaper columnist, a reflection on what it taught him about writing and communicating with non-academic audiences, and a recognition of how that public role has become a significant part of his intellectual and professional identity.

“So, Where Am I?” and “In the Garden” by **Will Marwitz** provide a poetic interlude before the solemn closing piece, “Vietnam Remembrance Day,” in which Vietnam War veteran **Larry Davis** reflects on the personal significance and emotional impact of a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

This issue of *Headwaters* concludes my tenure as editor of the journal. The new editors are Rachel Marston and Jason Schlude.