



A flower in the formal garden at the Airlie Retreat Center in Warrenton, VA.

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**ATLA SharePoint for Members Communities**

By Barbara Kemmis, Director of Member Services



**Want to maintain that conference collegiality all year long?** Try out the new ATLA SharePoint for Members Communities. The ATLA Communities Pages provide space for Individual, Student, and Lifetime members to convene and collaborate online. You can login to update your profile, join an interest or denominational group, or find a friend. Member publications are posted here and easily accessible.

You'll also find that Interest and Denominational Groups now have a collaborative space for work in between conferences. The group tool box includes a shared documents library, a wiki, a discussion list, calendars, and many other helpful features.

**Looking for a friend?** Use the enhanced membership and committee directories to find up to date contact information for your pals and peers in the association.

Remember that content in the Member Communities depends on YOUR input and participation. ATLA members may now post documents, announcements, and events in their spaces. Log in now to get started. Click on Member Login at [www.atla.com](http://www.atla.com) and enter your new member login and password. (This was provided to you in the May newsletter. If you don't remember it, simply enter your email address and click "Forgot Password" and you'll receive an email with the information you need.)

**What's next?** Look for an overhaul of [www.atla.com](http://www.atla.com) beginning this summer. Stay tuned for opportunities to test and critique these improvements.

**Save the Date!** I will be hosting a webinar, open to all members, to provide an overview of the new ATLA Communities pages on August 10 and 16 and September 14 and 18. I'll send an invitation out in July with exact times.

**P.S.** Representatives of institutional members still have access to member publications and ATS statistics via [www.atla.com](http://www.atla.com). Please contact me with any questions.

**Not an Individual member?** Join Now at [www.atla.com](http://www.atla.com)!

**From the President**

**Ingenuity: The Capacity to Grow and Learn When We Have To**



In a rare instance of being sensibly prepared for a lengthy road trip about a month ago, I stopped by our

beautiful neighborhood library before leaving town, and picked up several audio books. The one I ended up listening to (eight CDs, running to nine hours in length!) was James M. McPherson's *Tried By War: Lincoln As Commander in Chief*.

The story of Lincoln and his often-troublesome generals was familiar enough, yet as I traversed several midwestern states, I found that McPherson's new account held my attention completely. It's because of the way he develops this idea: though circumstances placed Lincoln in a situation without precedent, and one for which his own indifferent military experience provided meager preparation, he found in the thick of that terrible conflict both the incentive and the wherewithal to master precisely the tactics and strategy required to prevail.

The word "ingenuity" doesn't capture completely his remarkable achievement, but it at least puts it in terms we can relate to. Our life-experience and our education are excellent assets. But at those times when they aren't equal to the situation, what we can learn will often count for more than what we know already.

Cheers,

David R. Stewart

## From the Executive Director The Welfare of the Association



We are going through times of great economic uncertainty and upheaval in our country, and that turmoil is causing many of the Association's institutional members to make significant cuts in services, faculty, staff,

and resources. For some institutions it is a time to consider consolidation, merger, or even closing.

In preparation for the Association's annual conference we have sought to provide help and assistance to those of our members who are the most deeply hurt by the current economic downturn. We have more than tripled the number of travel grants awarded to help members attend the conference (from 10 in past years to 35 this year); we are providing more luncheons and food options that help lower cost; we have extended the deadline for early bird registration rates and lower hotel room costs; and, most importantly, we are offering programs (including an all-conference luncheon) that will focus on what members can do to cope with the current situation.

It is often said of public libraries that times of economic distress are times when they are most important and most valuable to their constituents. I believe that the same can be said about associations. This is the very time when ATLA can be of greatest support and assistance to its members. This a time when the Association can and should and will remain a strong organization: strong in financial stability, strong in staff, programs and resources to assist members, and strong in the distribution of its products that are vital to the academic fields of theology and religious studies.

I hope that you will help us continue to be a strong, creative, visionary, and wise Association that can provide guidance and support to all of our members as we move forward into a future that holds both challenges and opportunities.

-Dennis A. Norlin

To register to receive regular Friday updates of my blog, go to [http://edblog.atla.com/?page\\_id=62](http://edblog.atla.com/?page_id=62).



## Exciting New ATLA Institutional Member Benefit

ATLA is pleased to announce the expansion of the ATLAS® for ALUM program. This program offers an unprecedented opportunity for librarians and administrators such as alumni relations officers to partner together to offer a wide-ranging research tool at no cost to their alumni/ae. It is supported by generous funding from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Multi-year grants are available to institutional members of ATLA that are also accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The schools' alumni/ae will receive a subscription to ATLASerials® (ATLAS®), an online collection of more than 140 major religion and theology journals selected by leading religion scholars, theologians and clergy. To learn more about the ATLAS for ALUM program, contribute your success stories if you are an existing subscriber, or to read details about upcoming webinars, please visit our online resource guide at <http://www.atlasalum.com>. ATLA is involved in a multi-faceted communications campaign, so you may also hear about ATLAS for ALUM from your administrators and institutional advancement officers.

If you are planning on attending the ATLA Conference this June, we welcome you to visit us at our ATLA booth, or to attend one of our two ATLAS for ALUM sessions:

1. ATLAS for ALUM Showcase: Thursday, June 18th, 8:30-9:15am
2. ATLAS for ALUM Roundtable: Friday, June 19th, 11am-12pm

For personal assistance, please contact Laura Wrzesinski, ATLAS Product Marketing Specialist directly at [atlasalum@atla.com](mailto:atlasalum@atla.com) or +1.312.454.5100, ext. 4435.

We welcome your submission of news, photos, and other items of interest for the ATLA Newsletter. All submissions are due on the first business day of the month preceding publication. Contact Sara Corkery (right) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

ATLA Newsletter Contact Information:  
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## Member News

### Reference Module Task Force Meets in Chicago

Members of the Reference Module Task force met at ATLA's headquarters on May 14 and 15.



Above, seated, left to right: Jim Skypeck and Derek Hogan; standing: Pat Ziebart, Bonnie Falla, and Clair Powers.

### Journal's Editorial Board Comes to ATLA Headquarters

The Theological Librarianship: an Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association editorial board met in Chicago on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19-20.



Above, seated, left to right: Beth Sheppard (Section Editor, Bibliographic Essays) and Melody McMahon (Section Editor, Reviews); standing: Ron Crown (Co-editor), Andy Keck (Section Editor, Columns), and David Stewart (Co-editor).



### John Weaver Appointment Announced

As of August 1, 2009, John B. Weaver will be the new Director of the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary in New York. "Weaver is an accomplished scholar and academic administrator," said Jim Neal, Vice President

for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, in announcing the appointment. "Dr. Weaver brings extraordinary experience and expertise to both Columbia and the Seminary."

An ordained minister, theological librarian, and biblical scholar who writes and teaches extensively about religious literature and theological practice, John has served as Head of Public Services at Pitts Theology Library, Emory University since 2005. You can read the full press release about John at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/news/libraries/2009/2009-04-09.weaver.html>. ATLA wishes John well as he assumes his new position.

### Marvin Hunn Named Library Director

In May, the Board of Directors of Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) appointed Marvin Hunn to the faculty as Library Director. Marvin has been on staff at the DTS library since 1978, first as Reference Librarian, then moving up to Assistant Director, Associate Director, and finally Interim Director (after Bob Ibach retired in 2007). With 31 years of experience, Marvin has a Master of Theology degree from DTS and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of North Texas. ATLA congratulates Marvin on his appointment.

### Library Construction Update

Jeff Siemon, Digital Resources Librarian at Fuller's David Allan Hubbard Library, reports that the expansion and renovation at the library were finished on schedule. For photos and links to stories in the press, visit <http://documents.fuller.edu/library/construction/>.

### Melody Layton McMahon Featured at FOCLIS Breakfast

Melody Layton McMahon, Director at Catholic Theological Union's Paul Bechtold Library in Chicago is the speaker for "The Contours of Christian Librarianship," The Fellowship of Christian Librarians and Information Specialists (FOCLIS) breakfast at ALA's Annual Meeting in Chicago. Melody will speak about the theological librarianship experience in both public and seminary libraries, as well as other related topics. The breakfast takes place

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on Monday, July 13th, 7:00 AM, Room W-186c, at the McCormick Place Convention Center. The cost is \$15.00 and may be paid with cash or check at the door.

**Steven Crocco Authors Colloquy Article**



Steven Crocco, the James Lenox Librarian at Princeton Theological Seminary, contributed an article for the Spring 2009 issue (vol. 17, no. 2) of *ATS Colloquy*. Entitled "Everything I learned about the profession of theological education . . . . I learned as a member of an ATS evaluation team," Steven's piece examines the value of occasional participation in site visits as "the best and maybe the only opportunity to give faculty members a rich and manageable way to get to know theological education as a profession." Visit <http://www.ats.edu/Resources/Publications/Documents/Colloquy/09SpringColloquy.pdf> to read Steven's article online.

**Lorraine Olley and Barbara Kemmis Present at Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) Convention**  
Lorraine Olley, Library Director at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, and ATLA Director of Member Services Barbara Kemmis will serve as panelists for a discussion on library fundraising at the 43rd Annual AJL Convention in Chicago. The convention will take place at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, 301 East North Water

Street, from July 5 - July 8, 2009. More information can be found at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org>.

**AMBS Gets Gold for Green**

The United States Green Building Council awarded Gold Certification to the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) Library, nearly two years after the space was first occupied. In a June 4 celebration, a seal commemorating the award was unveiled. Librarian Eileen Saner, credited with the idea for making the new library a green one, was honored at the event, in company with the building's architects, contractors, and engineers. Visit the AMBS website at <http://www.ams.edu/news-and-publications/events-and-news/certification> to read more about the library and the award.

**Lyris Software Upgrade**

There will be a major upgrade to the Lyris software on June 29th and 30th. ATLANTIS and all other listservs will be unavailable during this time. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

**Routine Systems Maintenance**

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, July 13, and Monday August 3, 2009. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CDT) on those days. Services that will be affected include ASE, ListServe, and the ATLA Website. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

**Job Postings Online**

Whether you are looking for a new position or a new employee, the ATLA Job Posting web page is the place to look. Visit [http://www.atla.com/member/job\\_openings.html](http://www.atla.com/member/job_openings.html) to see what's new online.

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**ATLA Calendar**

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**June**

17-20 2009 ATLA Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri

**July**

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in August ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 3 ATLA Office closed for Independence Day
- 10 Submissions due for Summary of Proceedings for the ATLA Sixty-third Annual Conference

**September**

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in October ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 7 ATLA Office closed for Labor Day
- 19-23 Margot Lyon at BETH Conference, Prague, Czech Republic

## **Tools for a Tough Economy**

### **ATLA All-Conference Luncheon Takes Shape**

Whatever type of library you serve, the economic downturn is affecting all of us. ATLA is aware of the challenges faced by members, and is pleased to provide a forum for discussion on how to "survive and thrive" during these difficult times. On Thursday, June 18 from 12:30 - 2:00PM, all 2009 ATLA Annual Conference attendees are invited to What Works Now? New Best Practices for a Changing Reality.

Grounded in statistics from a recent ATS survey, the luncheon program will incorporate an overview of the field's financial situation with a panel discussion of key questions designed to formulate new best practices. Small group discussion at the lunch tables as well as a question and answer period will discern answers and promising strategies to navigate the turbulence.

#### **Agenda**

- 12:30 - convene and eat
- 12:45 - begin program with statistical overview
- 1:00 - small group discussion at tables (Board Members, panelists and ATLA Staff Directors to lead discussions at each table)
- 1:15 - panel discussion

Moderator: David R. Stewart, Director of Library Services, Luther Seminary Library; Panelists: Roger L. Loyd, Director, Divinity Library, Divinity School Library, Duke University; Eileen K. Saner, Librarian and Director of Educational Resources, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary Library; Bruce Keisling, Associate Vice President for Academic Resources and Seminary Librarian, James P. Boyce Centennial Library, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Sharon Taylor, Director of the Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Dan LaValla, Director of Library Services, Biblical Theological Seminary Library

- 1:45 Q&A
- 1:55 Welcome video from 2010 Local Hosts

## **ATLA 2009 Annual Conference Updates**

### **Dressing for Success**

Not sure what to pack for the 2009 Annual Conference? For the most part, conference-goers tend to dress casually, but there is no rule. You will see attendees in jeans, shorts, and summer dresses as well as sport jackets and suits (but few ties, if any). Because the weather outside in St. Louis can be fairly warm while hotel meeting rooms tend to be cool, wearing light layers can help you adjust accordingly. Attendees do tend to dress up for the Closing Banquet, but again, the style is more business casual than truly formal.

### **How to Access Free Internet Service**

Free Internet service is available in the guest rooms via an Ethernet connection. Once you initiate a connection to the Ethernet server, a charge will appear. Go ahead and accept the charge as it will be reversed on the final bill when you check out of your room.

### **Parking**

Hotel parking is \$9 per day. If you are not registered at the hotel but need parking on a daily basis, please see the ATLA registration desk for a voucher before you exit the parking lot.

If you are staying at the hotel, you may use your key card for in and out privileges.

### **Day On Campus - Bus Service**

Bus service to the Concordia campus begins at 7:30 am. Once they are filled, buses will depart.

If you wish to take the noon bus from the Concordia campus directly to the airport on Saturday, please sign up at the Registration Desk.

The last bus leaving Concordia on Saturday for the return trip to the Millennium will depart at 3:30 pm. To board a bus back to the hotel, simply return to the area where you were dropped off in the morning.

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## **Final RIO Celebration**

ATLA is about to reach an historical milestone: we will be publishing the 40th and final volume of Religion Index One: RIO. The end of print RIO signals the end of all ATLA print products. By the time Volume 40 is shipped to customers, we will have created 541,203 index records for articles appearing in more than 700 theological and religious studies journals.

We are planning a reception to honor all former editors of RIO, to take place in early July (probably on Friday, July 10th). The following people have served in an editorial capacity for one or more issues of RIO: Heidi Arnold, G. Fay Dickerson, Cameron J. Campbell, Carolyn K. Coates, Steven W. Cole, Tim Elston, Karl J. Frantz, Ruth F. Frazer, Don Haymes, R. Dean Hudgens, Matthew E. Moore, John A. Peltz, Paul D. Peterson, David B. Rust, Joel R. Schorn, Gregg Taylor, Erica Treesh, and Jerry Dean Weber. We are indebted to these editors as well as to the more than 100 individuals who have served the Association as Indexer Analysts through the years.

## From the International Collaboration Committee

### The Fifth Conference of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians



I had the privilege to attend the fifth conference of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians (ForATL) on behalf of ATLA's Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration, March 10-14, 2009, at Trinity Theological College in Singapore. The theme of the conference was "Asian theological libraries moving on and reaching out: Professional Development and Collaboration in the Light of Emerging Technologies." In attendance were librarians from China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand.

Three workshops were interspersed with the business sessions: library automation, website design, and advances in technology and digital librarianship. Among the business that was discussed was a continuing conversation about indexing Asian theological journals and theses. This has been a topic of conversation for some time in ForATL, and some progress seems to have been made. The group agreed to use DSpace as a place to index the journals, with institutions invited to provide indexing of journals from their countries.

On Wednesday, March 11, I had the further privilege to deliver the keynote address for the conference, entitled "International Collaboration for Theological Libraries." Among other things, this address includes a good deal of information about how ATLA fosters international collaboration. Coincidentally, 2009 marks the fiftieth anniversary of a consulting tour by Raymond Morris (Yale Divinity Librarian, 1932-1972) to Southeast Asia, an occasion of which the participants in the conference were well aware.

In addition to my paper, representatives from other professional associations delivered reports about how their organizations foster international collaboration. Rosemary Watts reported for ANZTLA, Alan Linfield for ABTAPL, and Odile Dupont for BETH. Michael Poon (Trinity Theological College) reported on the activities of the Documentation, Archives, Bibliography, and Oral History (DABOH) study group of the International Association for Mission Studies. Martha Smalley reported on the work of the Fund for Theological Education in Southeast Asia, on whose board she serves.

In closing remarks I asked for feedback for ATLA. All agreed that ATLA products are prohibitively expensive. I would note, however, that many of the theological libraries in Asia are quite small, and students at many do not read Western languages. Any program put forth by ATLA should likely be focused on the larger schools, especially those offering advanced degrees.

*-Paul Stuehrenberg , Chair*

## ATLA Staff Updates



Evan Boyd's last day as EPS Assistant at ATLA will be June 18th. Evan recently completed the Master of Library and Information Science program at Dominican University and plans to move to Minnesota. ATLA is grateful for Evan's contributions and wishes him well in his future endeavors.



"Suzie" Park resigned her position as an Indexer-Analyst to accept a "finishing grant" from Harvard. We wish her well as she completes her dissertation this coming year.



Nic Weiss has moved to Texas but will continue to index material remotely in Eastern religions, religion and science, and philosophy of religion for ATLA. Nic's linguistic and educational background uniquely suits him for this work.

## **Have You Heard?**

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### **Management Training for Librarians**

Andy Keck reports that he went through the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) Management Training Program for Librarians last year and highly recommends it for associate directors or those newly in charge of a library department. The program "was designed with input from library directors to support talent management and succession planning efforts by addressing gaps in the preparation of librarians for management roles in the current environment."

Tuition for non-members is \$1,500 for the five-day intensive seminar, which takes place in November 2009. There is a limit of 30 participants - 15 from TRLN Libraries and 15 from the wider academic library community. Applicants must provide a letter of support from the director along with all application materials by June 30, 2009. Selections will be announced July 24, 2009. You can click [here](#) for a link to the application form.

### **Chapel Cars Digital Collection**

As part of her MLIS internship at Dominican University, ATLA Preservation Assistant Kate Elgayeva recently assembled a fascinating digital collection. Housed within the Loyola University Archives and Special Collections, Kate created the Chapel Cars collection using a combination of images from the Catholic Church Extension Society Chapel Car Photograph Collection and missionary logs from the Catholic Church Extension Society Chapel Car Records. The chapel cars were part of an effort by the Catholic Church Extension Society to reach out to remote areas that did not have immediate access to a church or a priest. An exemplar of ministerial work in the 20th century, this mobile mission set out to perform regular church services, accommodating Catholics across the nation in need of confession, baptism, and marriage services. Kate says, "The photograph and missionary log collections are particularly interesting because collectively they allow for a more contextual representation of what missionary travels on the chapel cars were really like. The collection also delineates the society's scope and the extent of mobile missionary work within the United States."

The content of the collection encompasses records and images of three chapel cars - Chapel Car St. Anthony, Chapel Car St. Paul, and Chapel Car St. Peter. Most of the dated items in the collection for St. Anthony range from 1906 to 1926, with the bulk being in 1909. For St. Paul, the items encompassed years 1915 to 1932, with the bulk in 1917. The items for St. Peter Chapel cover 1920 to 1921. There are frequent requests for images from the Catholic Church Extension Society Photograph Collection, so it's very helpful that the images are available to the public through the Loyola Archives. Click [here](#) for a direct link to the collection.

### **Looking for Letters**

Ted A. Campbell, Associate Professor of Church History at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University is on the editorial board of the ongoing set of Works of John Wesley. He is currently editing vol. 3 of Wesley's letters and wants to make sure that all available letters to and from Wesley are documented. Therefore, he is eager to hear from you if your institution or any private individuals you know own any of these letters. Please contact him directly at [tedc@smu.edu](mailto:tedc@smu.edu) if you can assist.

### **On the Lighter Side**

The Preservation Department of Duke's university library recently unveiled the entrants in its "Edible Book Festival." You can view the visual feast of literary concoctions cooked up by library staff, students, faculty, and volunteers [here](#).

## ATLA Member Profile

Daniel Kolb



*Title:* Library Director  
*Institution:* Archabbey Library, Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology  
*Years as a theological librarian:* Three  
*Years as an ATLA Member:* Three.

*How did you become involved in the field?*

After teaching philosophy and humanities for 24 years, I turned to librarianship as a sort of second career. I always had teaching and research interests in areas that are closely related to theology, such as philosophical theology, ethics, and history of philosophy; and I spent a lot of time over the years doing research in special collections and archives. I have also worked closely with college librarians on collection development issues. When I started work as a librarian, theological librarianship seemed like a very good fit, especially collection development and research assistance. Another reason I choose theological librarianship was that I hoped to continue teaching. The seminary at Saint Meinrad has proved a very congenial setting for part-time teaching, and teaching has helped me to work more effectively with seminary faculty on library issues.

*What do you love most about your profession?*

For me the most important part of my job is supporting the mission of the seminary and the monastic community at Saint Meinrad. The library is able to make a real, substantial difference in the quality of seminarians' formation, the research of faculty, and the lives of the members of the monastic community. Because we are such a close community, we have the satisfaction of directly observing the beneficial effects of our work in the library. I'm not sure this would be possible in very many settings.

*What has been the biggest change and/or challenge you've experienced while working in theological libraries?*

The biggest challenge I have is juggling the various tasks that my position entails. In addition to being library director, I am responsible for collection development, rare books and special collections, research assistance, and arranging online access for journals. I am also called on to organize and execute special projects, such as mold eradication or establishing a seminary archives. When I was full-time faculty member, I was able to spend all of my time doing pretty much two things, teaching and subject-oriented research. The parts of the job that naturally engage me, such as collection development, research assistance, and rare books, could easily take up all of my time. Other aspects of the position, such as maintaining library systems and organizing online access, are personally less engaging, but equally necessary. Prioritizing tasks requires daily triage decisions that I am still getting used to.

*How does your institution benefit from its membership in ATLA?*

Our institutional membership in ATLA has been very valuable. Through ATLA we get access to ATLAS for our alumni. Beginning this July we will be purchasing five of our most important databases through ATLA at a substantial discount over previous subscriptions. The annual conference and ATLA email lists are valuable for all kinds of help and professional development. ATLA provides a network of helpful professional librarians who have

made the transition to theological librarianship much easier for me than it would have otherwise been.

*Would you recommend theological librarianship as a profession, and if yes, why?*

I would certainly recommend theological librarianship as a career. It is not for most people; but for someone with an interest in the subject matter and a desire to be of service to the study of theology, it can be a rewarding career.

*Your institution subscribes to ATLAS for ALUM. What kind of feedback have you received from your alumni/ae about the program?*

We have had feedback from a handful of alumni about ATLAS for ALUM, and it has been very positive. My sense is that a small percentage of our alumni are using ATLAS for ALUM but those who are using it are very enthusiastic about it. People we have heard from are very grateful that we are able to provide them access to high quality literature that helps them with their professional lives. There are no close substitutes for the literature in ATLAS; and for many of our alumni, they would not have access to ATLAS if we could not provide it.

*How has the ATLAS for ALUM program helped the library to connect with alumni/ae?*

At our institution alumni access to ATLAS for ALUM is linked through our alumni website, not the library website. So, it does not really connect them directly to the library. We steer alumni to the link at the alumni website when we get requests for online literature. The Alumni Office has really been grateful for ATLAS for ALUM. It gives them an ongoing asset to offer alumni that keeps them connected to the institution and keeps them returning to the website.