



From the President

Becoming a Theological Librarian

“So how did you happen to become a theological librarian?” This question and variations of it remain one of my favorite questions to ask colleagues. I have yet to hear of anyone who as a child piped up with “theological librarian” in the midst of playmates wishing to become doctors, firemen, or garbage collectors. Many of us came into theological librarianship after college and entry into librarianship or theological studies. We started out as a student worker in the seminary library; we found an internship or first job in a theological library; we were introduced or recruited by a theological librarian; or we attended an ATLA Annual Conference.

I met with a prospective student last week who discovered theological librarianship at the ATLA Annual Conference in St. Louis. He had been

encouraged to attend as a student in library school and received one of our scholarships to make attendance possible. The ATLA Conference was a watershed moment as he got to know the membership and entered into the conversation. He mentioned our colleague André Paris as one whom he connected with at the conference and was quite sorry to hear of his passing.

This got me to thinking about our role in recruiting, encouraging, and, hopefully, hiring the next generation of theological librarians. Have you talked to your student workers? Have you recruited interns from your local library school? Or interns from your local college? How do we talk about our profession? And at ATLA Annual Conference, how can we be most welcoming to those interested or simply curious about theological librarianship? How can we begin to engage them in the conversation? Some of us find this work as a “calling” and others as a “career,” but each of us can do our part in continuing to welcome new people into this important work.

-- Andrew Keck



The William Broadhurst Library at Nazarene Theological Seminary

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ATLA at the AAR & SBL Annual Meetings

The Annual Meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) were held jointly in Chicago, November 17-20. A very important event for ATLA, it offers the best venue for reaching the faculty, students, scholars, and members who use ATLA products and provides opportunities to meet with current and potential business partners.

Hundreds of the estimated 10,000 attendees visited the ATLA exhibit booth to inquire about our products and membership options. Some loyal patrons stopped by to offer their thanks and encouragement and were offered a chance to win an iPad donated by one of our vendors, Integrated Data Storage (IDS). We also gathered video testimonials from loyal fans. ATLA partner and friend, Jenee Woodard, was also on hand to visit with users and fans of her website, The Text This Week.

ATLA proudly welcomed members, partners, and customers to our hometown with two well-attended receptions. Over 60 people enjoyed Saturday evening hors d'oeuvres and spirits served with a beautiful view of the river and downtown Chicago from the offices of the Quarles & Brady law firm. Monday morning coffee, pastries, and bagels were enjoyed by over 40 early risers in the Burnham Pointe building in Printers Row.

Overall, AAR & SBL was a huge success for ATLA on many fronts, and we will continue to reap the benefits of this success throughout the coming year - and beyond.

ATLA Opens Call for Publication Grants

The ATLA Publications Committee will award up to \$4,000 in grants to support the development of works with a bibliographic focus or scholarly works that advance some aspect of theological librarianship. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2013. Please visit the [Publication Grant web page](#) for more information.

The purpose of the Publication Grant is to facilitate the creation and/or organization of scholarly resources and primary source materials in areas related to theological librarianship. The committee encourages new research projects, especially those that would otherwise lack adequate support.



(Left to right) ATLA Members Lugene Schemper and Matthew Thiesen speak with Gregg Taylor, ATLA Licensing Manager, at our Saturday evening reception hosted by Quarles & Brady.



ATLA booth at AAR & SBL Annual Meetings

ATLA Endowment Appeal Letters Sent

On November 26, 2012, two letters were issued to members from the ATLA Endowment Committee.

The ATLA Endowment Appeal aptly titled, "Securing the Future of ATLA; the Commitment of Roger L. Loyd" and a second letter written by former Chair Roger L. Loyd.

The letters discuss Loyd's commitment to securing the future of ATLA as a member organization and a request to donate a tax deductible contribution. According to Loyd, "The Endowment Fund will make a significant difference in our profession."

As the calendar year comes to a close, please honor Loyd's career and legacy by [making a tax deductible contribution](#).

ATLA Welcomes Seven Titles to *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®)

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is pleased to welcome seven titles that will be available in forthcoming releases of *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®), ATLA's online full-text collection of more than 220 major religion and theology journals.

New historically significant ceased titles include Chicago Theological Seminary Register, by Chicago Theological Seminary and significant content from the highly acclaimed *Christianity and Crisis*, by Christianity and Crisis.

In addition, ATLA welcomes five currently published titles:

- *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership*, by Christian Leadership Center of Andrews University
- *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, by Journal of Pastoral Care Publications Inc.
- *PentecoStudies*, by Equinox Publishing Ltd.
- *Prism*, by Prism Publishers, Inc.
- *Touchstone*, by University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Theology
- Gregg Taylor, ATLA's Licensing Manager, commented, "These new additions bring thoughtful perspectives on both academic and practical aspects of religion. We are especially pleased to offer, for the first time in digitized form, the influential journal *Christianity & Crisis*, which will be a rich resource for scholars and clergy."

Access the press release [here](#).

ATLA Publications Committee Meets in Chicago

The ATLA Publications Committee met November 14-15, 2012, in Chicago, IL. The meeting was chaired by Daniel Kolb and attended by committee members Lisa Gonzalez and Miranda Bennett.

Among the topics discussed were the ATLA Publication Grant, which provides support for the development of a scholarly work that advances some aspect of theological librarianship. Information about this year's grant application process is provided further in this issue.

Additionally, the Publications Committee discussed the ATLA Book Series with series editor Justin Travis. The discussion focused on future directions for the Book Series' acquisitions and formats for publication.

Finally, the Publications Committee devoted a significant amount of time and energy to a thoughtful

Job Openings

Are you in the market for a new position? Be sure to check the ATLA [web listings](#) to see who is hiring now.

Positions posted this month:

- Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, CO, is seeking a [Reference and Instruction Librarian](#) and [Public Services Library Assistant](#).
- Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, is seeking a [Chief Librarian](#).
- Perkins School of Theology, Houston, TX, is seeking a [Reference and Digital Services Librarian](#).
- Concordia University, Irvine, CA, is seeking a [Distance Education and Technology Librarian](#).
- Divinity School Library, Durham, NC, is seeking a [Digitization and Technology Librarian](#).
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is seeking a [Systems Analyst](#).

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, January 7, 2013. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE, listservs, the ATLA website and member community sections. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.



Publications Committee (left to right): Miranda Bennett, Lisa Gonzalez, and Dan Kolb (chair)

discussion of the Committee's contributions to the ATLA Organizational Ends, helping to further align the work of member groups with the overall goals of the Association.

The Committee will continue discussions and work via e-mail and reconvene for meetings in the spring.

Poster Session Proposal Deadline Extended

The deadline for submitting poster session proposals has been extended to Thursday, January 31, 2013. You can submit your proposal [here](#).

ATLA aims to offer many avenues for members to share interesting and creative projects. Therefore, ATLA is continuing to invite proposals for poster sessions at the 2013 Annual Conference, June 19-22, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Scheduled in a 60-minute time slot, poster sessions are informal. The presenter(s) develops a poster and handouts which deliver useful information to the theological library community. At the conference, ATLA will provide each poster presenter with a three-panel poster board, double-sided tape, push pins, and glue for their presentation.



Posters may address a potentially wide range of topics of interest to theological librarians, such as:

- Outreach initiatives
- Building digital collections
- Assessment
- Information literacy
- New library services
- Creative marketing
- New collaborative models
- Cooperative collection development
- Redesigned library space
- Professional development
- The library in society

This is an opportunity to try out new ideas and receive instant feedback from your ATLA colleagues. We sincerely hope you will consider [submitting](#) a poster proposal by Thursday, January 31, 2013.

ATLA Calendar

December

14: ATLA office closed in the afternoon for Staff Holiday Event

24-25: ATLA office closed in observance of Christmas

31: ATLA office closed in observance of New Year

January

1: ATLA office closed in observance of New Year

2-5: Academy of Preachers, Atlanta, Margot Lyon attending

21: ATLA office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

23-27: Calvin Symposium on Worship, Grand Rapids, Margot Lyon attending

25-29: American Library Association Midwinter Conference Meeting, Seattle, Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending

February

6: ATLA Finance Committee meeting, Chicago

7-9: ATLA Board of Directors meeting, Chicago

25-26: NFAIS Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Veronica Simms, Lavonne Cohen, Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending

Annual Conference and Education Committees Meet in Charlotte

The ATLA Annual Conference Committee and Education Committee met November 8-10, 2012, at the Westin Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, site of the 2013 ATLA Annual Conference. The meetings were chaired by Leslie Engelson (Annual Conference Committee) and Richard Lammert (Education Committee) and attended by Steve Perisho, Robert Mayer, Eric Benoy, and Lisa Grover of the Annual Conference Committee and Stephen Sweeney, Michelle Spomer, Tracy Powell Iwaskow, and David Mayo of the Education Committee. ATLA President Andy Keck also attended the meetings.

The committees participated in a tour of the Westin Charlotte to help begin the planning of the 2013 Conference, and then began the important work of reviewing an outstanding collection of 2013 Conference proposals. Over 50 proposals were accepted for inclusion in a very exciting program at the 2013 ATLA Annual Conference.

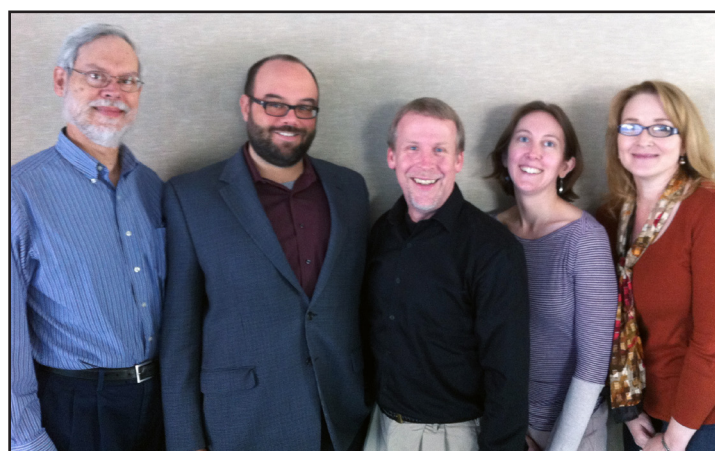
The Committees also met with staff from the Center for the Study of Information and Religion at Kent State University, with whom the 2013 Conference will be co-located.

Finally, the Committees devoted a significant amount of time and thought to improvements in the way the committees work together to plan future conferences.

The 2013 ATLA Annual Conference is scheduled for June 19-22, 2013, hosted by the Carolinas Theological Library Consortium.



Annual Conference Committee: (Front row, left to right) Leslie Engelson, Lisa Grover, (Second row, left to right) Robert Mayer, Steve Perisho, and Eric Benoy.



Education Committee (left to right): Richard Lammert (chair), Stephen Sweeney, David Mayo, Tracy Powell Iwaskow, and Michelle Spomer.

Member News

Member Gerald Truman Retires

Gerald Truman, Director of Library Services at Urshan Graduate School of Theology, will officially retire June 30, 2013, but will spend the next six months on sabbatical leave in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Truman has served the Urshan Graduate School of Theology for 12 years, since their founding, and wishes to extend special thanks to the theological librarians of the St. Louis area for their support and collegiality over the years. ATLA extends our congratulations to Gerald on his retirement.

ATLA Welcomes New Members

ATLA welcomes Naropa University's Allen Ginsberg Library (Boulder, CO) as a new Institutional Member Library and Queens University of Charlotte's Everett Library (Charlotte, NC) as a new Affiliate Member Library.

ATLAS® for ALUM Grant Recipients and Renewal

As previously announced, the Lilly Endowment Inc. grant funding for ATLAS® for ALUM has run its course and all funds have been dispersed to EBSCOhost to pay the cost of subscription for grant recipients, regardless of your start date, through April 2013. In addition, ATLA is pleased to announce an extension of payment for your subscription through June 2013, effectively providing a two-month grace period as you prepare to absorb the cost of continuing your subscription. As a reminder, subscriptions to both ATLA Religion Database® and ATLASerials® through EBSCOhost are prerequisite to a subscription to ATLAS for ALUM. The cost is based on the number of living alumni/ae of the subscribing school. Rick Rybak, Senior Business Development Representative, is available to serve as liaison with EBSCO for this transition. Rick can be contacted at atlasalum@atla.com; (888) 665-2852 ext. 4435.

ATLA Endowment Committee Meeting

The ATLA Endowment Committee met November 13-14, 2012, in Chicago, IL. The meeting was chaired by Dan LaValla and attended by committee members Marti Alt, Bill Faupel, and Dennis Swanson, along with ATLA staff liaisons Brenda Bailey-Hainer and Marie Jacobsen.

The committee reviewed their charge, and discussed it in the context of ATLA's overall mission and organizational ends.

Marie Jacobsen provided an update on the current value of the Endowment Fund, which was \$290,360 as of November 1, 2012.

Several options for making it easier for donors to make contributions were discussed, including payment of pledges to be made over a set period of time, recurring credit card payments, accepting PayPal account payments, and adding a donation option to the conference registration form.

A representative from the UNIVEST Foundation provided an overview of Charitable Giving Annuities (CGA) via conference call. The committee will be

investigating whether CGA should be made available as an option to support the ATLA Endowment Fund in addition to the planned giving option.

A mailing soliciting donations was planned for the end of November. Roger Loyd, recently retired former chair of the committee, graciously offered to write a letter encouraging members to make donations. ATLA will be matching, dollar for dollar, all donations made between June 1, 2012, and May 31, 2013, up to a total amount of \$7,500.

The Endowment Committee will have an increased presence at the

2013 ATLA Annual Conference through an exhibit booth with information about donation options, an update on retired and lifetime ATLA members, and by placing an ad in the conference program. In addition, the committee will make a brief appeal to members during the business meeting.

During the next six months, the committee will work on creating literature and presentations that provide a clear case statement for contributing to the Endowment Fund.



Endowment Committee (left to right): Marti Alt, Dan LaValla (chair), Dennis Swanson, and D. William Faupel

ATLA Product Support Team At Your Service

Technical questions about ATLA products? The ATLA Product Support team is ready and eager to assist you. If you are uncertain how to use an ATLA product or partner product, are experiencing technical difficulties with a database and need assistance, or have issues with product functionality, please contact us at support@atla.com / 312-775-9437. Someone should respond within 24 business hours.

Also, for other detailed product information, please view the [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) and [video tutorials](#) located on the ATLA website.



**Jennifer Butler
Database Specialist**

Staff News

ATLA Staff Presents at NFAIS Workshop

Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer and Indexer Analyst/Information Technology Advisor Steven Holloway were part of a panel at a recent NFAIS workshop, *Indexing and Indices: An Essential Component of Information Discovery*. Their presentation, *The Art of Indexing: ATLA's Perspective*, described the challenges posed by the nature of religion and theology scholarship and how ATLA improves discovery of materials through its indexing practices.



ATLA Welcomes Veronica Simms as Business Strategy Analyst

ATLA welcomes Veronica Simms to the Business Development Department as Business Strategy Analyst.

Veronica has extensive industry experience, most recently at Gallup as a Client Development

Consultant. She is an expert in market research, competitive analysis, scripting interviews, surveys and focus groups.

She has an MBA from Loyola University and a BA in drama from Kenyon College. We are pleased to have her on staff and look forward to her contributions.

Contact Information

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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 newsletter@atla.com with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

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ISSN 1946-1518

From the Executive Director

A Giving Season



December is often a time when we reflect back on the past year. We reminisce about both sad and happy times, and remember those colleagues whom we lost during the year. It's also a time for reflection about those institutions that we hold dear.

For me, ATLA is one of those institutions. It is the home of professional activities related to theological librarianship. The annual conference provides a place for learning and sharing with colleagues, greeting old friends, and making new ones. The triennial colloquy, jointly offered by ATLA and the Wabash Center, will challenge and nurture a new generation of leaders. Grants for promoting theological libraries on campuses further our common purpose of advocating for the role of libraries in our institutions.

ATLA President Andy Keck has said, "ATLA has long been the center of my service to the profession and indispensable for my advancement in the profession. Success and advancement in my own workplace has been made possible by the numerous opportunities to write, speak, serve, lead, and learn from my colleagues at ATLA."

All of us can work together to make sure those same opportunities are available to future theological librarians and that ATLA remains a strong and vibrant association. Whether it's in honor of Roger Loyd's retirement, in memory of one of our cherished colleagues whom we lost this year, or simply because ATLA is an important part of your professional life, I hope you'll join me in making a donation to ATLA's Endowment Fund. It will help secure the future of theological librarianship.

--Brenda Bailey-Hainer