

# ATLA

# newsletter

American Theological Library Association



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# ATLA Newsletter

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the American Theological Library Association is to foster the study of theology and religion by enhancing the development of theological and religious libraries and librarianship.

## Subscription Information

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# ATLA

# Member News

a professional association of theological libraries and librarians

## President's Message



### "Where Good Ideas Go to Die"

You really don't have the time, but if you did happen to Google the phrase above, you'd find that this jaded assessment has most frequently been used to describe (who'd have thought?) the U.S. Congress, and what tends to happen (or not happen) there.

It would be completely tactless for me, as a non-U.S. citizen, to express either agreement or disagreement, but the phrase does stand as a vivid example of the contrast between a place's perceived potential and what it actually delivers.

Among the different resources at a library's disposal, ideas are both easier to take for granted and harder to quantify than others. But I think a case could be made that they are among our most valuable resources: the value of all our other assets (staff, spaces, collections, budgets, etc.) will only be enhanced if they are lined up in support of really good ideas; conversely, if we have all the other resources but are short on ideas and creativity, we are sure to underachieve.

When LIS students ask me now and then for suggestions on what kind of questions they should ask in job interviews, one I always recommend is "what can you tell me about how good ideas are moved forward in this library? How many steps would there normally be to implement a really good idea, when someone came up with one?" This is a good question from both sides of the interview process: from the candidate, because it suggests both an interest in being creative and a curiosity regarding

how decisions get made; from the search committee, because it helps them think about how (or whether!) good ideas come along in their workplace, and what their fate is when they do.

Summer is a propitious time to think about our good ideas (and almost everyone has a few), and whether their life spans will be short and unremarkable or long and productive. There are a couple of reasons this is the "growing season" for good ideas: the comparative quiet of our schedules (when we can give them more sustained attention) and the just-ended ATLA conference, which is an incubator *par excellence* of good ideas, as well as a terrific opportunity for discussing them, formally and informally.

Among other things, we are all in the curiosity business: we want our libraries to be places where good ideas—our own or those of our always-intriguing patrons—can take shape, proliferate, and thrive; where ideas come to flourish, not to breathe their last. With this in mind, a few simple suggestions for making the most of your great ideas:

- If you attended the Annual Conference, set aside some time at a staff meeting soon to swap ideas with your colleagues, thinking especially of how what you have learned can be put into action where you work.
- Go back over your conference program and notes, and come up with two or three new ideas you'd love to see moved forward where you work. Just as important, stake out some space on your fall planning calendar now to provide space for your best ideas to be put into action. Summer is a great time to do this, and October is not.
- Think about a good idea you want to "put legs under" by submitting a program proposal for the 2009 Annual Conference in St. Louis. The deadline for proposals is October 10th.

- (You knew this was coming . . . ) Take a good idea you've already given some sustained thought to, and write something for *Theological Librarianship*. One of the purposes of our new journal is to provide a venue for discussion of great ideas, best practices, and so on: why not you? why not your idea? (The Editorial Team would be glad to hear from you by July 31).
- If you happen to be a Director, or if your work overlaps in some other way with broader campus planning discussions, make sure that the ideas you are working on get some attention beyond the sphere of the library. You might consider using Theological Libraries Month, coming up in October—see [http://atla.com/tlm\\_home.html](http://atla.com/tlm_home.html)—as a venue to showcase some of your best.

I'll leave you with your great ideas and these few suggestions about where to go with them, and look forward to an intriguing year to come in ATLA.

One last thought, for now: considering it is summertime, the Board is in a very active phase right now.

- Reviewing and revising the process for evaluating annual performance appraisals.
- Planning an extra board meeting for the fall, solely for the purpose of revising ATLA's Organizational Ends ([http://atla.com/about.html#mission\\_and\\_ends](http://atla.com/about.html#mission_and_ends)). Watch for updates on that process in the months to come.
- Engaging a new auditing firm for ATLA.

These, and all of our efforts and activities, are on behalf of you, the members. Your questions and encouragement are always welcome.

With all best wishes,

David R. Stewart

Report of the Secretary of the Board of Directors



**ATLA Annual Conference, 2008,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
Minutes of the Business Meetings  
June 26 and 28, 2008**

**Business Meeting I, June 26**

The first business meeting was convened by Board President Martha Smalley at 2:00pm, Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Roberta Schaafsma presented the Secretary's report. Members of the Teller's Committee

were Charles Bellinger, Debbie Hunn (chair), and Lila Parrish. They received the election results via e-mail from Survey & Ballot Systems and verified that 350 valid ballots were received. The membership elected Cheryl Adams, Eileen Crawford, M. Patrick Graham, and David Stewart to the Board of Directors for the 2008-2011 term of office. The Secretary's report was accepted.

President Smalley introduced the new Board officers: Eileen Crawford (Secretary), Roberta Schaafsma (Vice-President) and David Stewart (President).

Martha Smalley announced the formation of three new committees—Audit Committee, Governance Committee, and Special Committee of the Association for Diversity—and introduced the committee members. She also introduced the Interest Group chairpersons.

Roger Loyd reported on the work of the Endowment Committee. He indicated that the fund is used to sustain member services including providing funds for the new journal, *Theological Librarianship*.

Paul Stuehrenberg presented a report for the ATS Statistics Task Force (Mitzi Budde, Bill Hook, Sara Myers, Paul Stuehrenberg). He described the differences between the current ATS library statistics form and the new proposed form. The floor was opened for discussion and several changes were suggested to the task force.

The presentation of ATLA's 2008-2009 budget was given by Pradeep Gamadia and the organization's financial condition remains very healthy.

The business meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

**Business Meeting II, June 28**

The second business meeting was convened by Board President Martha Smalley at 12:15pm, Saturday, June 28, 2008.

Chris Beldan presented a report for the Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration describing the grants given in the past year and the work on the wiki. He also introduced three of the international librarians who were in attendance.

A report of the work of the Professional Development Committee was provided by Angela Morris including information on the regional grants program and a scholarly writing course.

Carisse Berryhill gave an update on the Theological Librarianship course which has been offered for the past three years. The course is now appearing as an option through fifteen library schools due to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's participation in a consortia. Five scholarships are available for minority members.

The inaugural issue of a new online journal, *Theological Librarianship*, was launched. Editors Ron Crown, David Stewart, Andy



*The 2008-09 Board of Directors. Standing, left to right: Carisse Berryhill, Saundra Lipton, Cait Kokolus, Eileen Crawford, Cheryl Adams, Roberta Schaafsma, Laura Wood; seated, left to right: Jim Pakala, David Stewart, Pat Graham, Duane Harbin, and Allen Mueller.*

Keck, Beth Sheppard, and Melody Layton McMahon described the sections of the journal, how to be involved in submitting articles, and the location of the journal: <http://www.theolib.org>.

Martha Smalley delivered her presidential address.

The business meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

#### **Board of Directors Meetings**

Board discussions included the new EBSCO digital product of ATLA historical

monographs and serials, the recommendation of the Audit Committee to change auditing firms, and the recommendation of the Governance Committee to work on revising the Organizational Ends. Reports were heard on the work of the following committees: Audit, Endowment, Governance, Special Committee of the Association for Diversity, and Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration. The Board engaged in a review of the conference with the Education and Annual Conference Committees. Enhancing the historical

record of ATLA through an oral history program with retired members was proposed and this idea will be explored with ATLA committees that may also be considering a similar project.

*Roberta A. Schaafsma, Secretary  
ATLA Board of Directors*



Welcome

ATLA

New Members

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**  
Ms. Meg Ashcroft, Albuquerque, NM  
Mr. Paul Burnam, Westerville, OH  
Mr. David E. Cassens, St. Louis, MO  
Ms. Catherine Eilers, Kansas City, MO  
Mr. Thad Rian Horner, Wilmore, KY  
Mr. Neil Curtis LeMay, St. Paul, MN  
Mrs. Laura Rhoden, Whitsett, NC  
Ms. Patricia S. Shufeldt, Greenville, SC  
Dr. Stephen Spencer, Wheaton, IL  
Mr. Dax Anthony Stokes, Corinth, TX

**STUDENT MEMBERS**  
Ms. Ekaterina Elgayeva, Chicago, IL  
Mrs. Mary M. Haggerty, APO, AE  
Mrs. Alexia Kaye Riggs, Midland, TX

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS**  
Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL  
St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, ON, Canada

*evd*

**editorial verbo divino**

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at the ATLA Annual Conference  
in Ottawa.*

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## 2008/09 Committees of the Association

*Each ATLA committee is listed below with a brief description and a roster of members with their terms and current offices held.*

**Audit Committee:** negotiates a contract with an auditing firm for the Association. (*Standing Committee of the Board*)

Pat Graham, chair  
David Stewart  
Laura Wood

**Annual Conference Committee:** the strategic and long-range planning agent for annual conferences. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

John Weaver (07-09), Chair  
Sara Myers (08-11), Vice-Chair  
Bruce Keisling (07-10)  
Eric Stancliff (06-09)  
Matt Ostercamp (08-11)  
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio  
Denise McFarlin, staff liaison

**Diversity, Special Committee of the Association for:** coordinates the Association's activities regarding diversity, reviews and awards scholarships to promote diversity in theological librarianship; serves as a liaison with library associations to learn and apply relevant diversity efforts; and plans ATLA conference activities related to diversity. (*Special Committee of the Association*)

Diana Brice, Chair (2011)  
Cait Kokolus, Board Liaison (2011)  
Serge Danielson-Francois (2011)  
Susan Ebertz (2011)  
Mayra Picos-Lee (2011)  
Barbara Kemmis, staff liaison

**Education Committee:** identifies and responds to needs for continuing education of ATLA members at the Annual Conference. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

Blake Walter (05-09), Chair  
Nancy Adams (07-10), Secretary  
Sandy Ayer (06-09)  
Kelly Campbell (08-11)  
Garry Truman (08-09), Local Host Liaison  
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio  
Denise McFarlin, staff liaison

**Endowment Committee:** informs the membership of the purpose of the Endowment Fund, the cultivation of donor relationships, and the solicitation of major gifts through planned (estate) gifts and other funding sources. (*Committee Appointed by the Board of Directors*)

Roger Loyd (05-12), Chair  
Mary Bischoff (05-11)  
Elmer O'Brien (05-10)  
M. Patrick Graham (05-09), Board Liaison  
Dennis A. Norlin, Staff Liaison

**Governance Committee:** conducts the new board member orientation, ascertains that the Board Policy Manual follows the policy governance language and format and assists the board in interpreting the Policy Governance model. (*Standing Committee of the Board*)

Laura Wood  
David Stewart  
Duane Harbin

**International Collaboration, Special Committee of the Association for:** coordinates the Association's activities regarding international theological librarianship, supports efforts of individual libraries and librarians to participate in international theological librarianship activities; serves as a liaison with international theological library associations; and plans ATLA conference activities related to international theological librarianship. (*Special Committee of the Association*)

Paul Stuehrenberg (06-10), Chair  
Margaret Tarpley (07-11)  
Chris Beldan (05-09)  
Elizabeth Johnson (08-12)  
Eileen Crawford, Board Liaison  
Barbara Kemmis, Staff Liaison

**Nominating Committee:** nominates candidates for election to the Board of Directors. (*Standing Committee of the Board*)

Susan Ebertz (06-08), Chair  
M. Patrick Graham (07-09)  
Melody Layton McMahon (08-10)

**Professional Development Committee:** determines the continuing education needs of members and provides appropriate opportunities for members to obtain this professional development outside the context of the Annual Conference. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

Angela Morris (06-09), Chair  
Kris Veldheer (06-09)  
Seth Kasten (07-10)  
Timothy Lincoln (08-11)  
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio

**Publications Committee:** serves as a catalyst within the Association for encouraging and supporting scholarly publication; serves as an advisory committee to editors of each ATLA Scarecrow series and to the ATLA Communications Specialist; develops a strategic plan for publishing critical tools for use by members of the profession in keeping with the mission and organizational ends of the association; and consults with the Professional Development Committee, the Annual Conference Committee, the Membership Advisory Committee, and the Education Committee to develop and promote workshops and programs related to scholarly publication. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

Beth Bidlack (07-10), Chair  
Amy Limpitlaw (08-09)  
Michelle Spomer, (08-11)  
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio



## Member Notes



### New Religious Studies Reference Model Task Force Meets in Chicago

On Friday, May 2, a task force created by the Professional Development Committee met at ATLA headquarters. The new Religious Studies Reference Module Task Force was charged with exploring the possibility of developing a religious studies reference module that could be offered to library and information science faculty for use in humanities reference courses. The task force conducted research, surveys, and interviews, and forwarded its recommendation to the Professional Development Committee.

Top photo, left to right: Dennis Norlin joins task force members **James R. Skyeck**, Head of Public Services, Boston University School of Theology Library); Linda Smith, Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate School of Library & Information Science University of Illinois; **Patricia Smiles Ziebart**, Reference & Electronic Services Librarian, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University; and **Marti Alt**, chair, Lifetime Member, formerly of Ohio State University.



### ATLA/ATS Statistics Task Force Convenes in Pittsburgh

On Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2, the ATLA/ATS Statistics Task Force met at the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) headquarters in Pittsburgh. Task force

members reviewed and drafted substantial revisions to the library section of the ATS statistics form and met with ATS staff to discuss implementing the revised form. Specific information will follow from the task force in June.

Bottom photo, left to right: **Paul Stuehrenberg**, chair, Divinity Librarian, Yale University Divinity School Library; **Mitzi Budde**, Head Librarian, Virginia Theological Seminary, Bishop Payne Library; **Sara Myers**, Director of Library, Columbia Theological Seminary, John Bulow Campbell Library; **Bill Hook**, Director, Vanderbilt University Divinity Library. (Not pictured: Barbara Kemmis, ATLA Director of Member Services; **Bill Miller**, ATS Director, Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation; Chris Meinzer, ATS Director, Finance and Administration, and Chris Olsztyn, ATS Director, Information Technology.)



### The Journal has Launched!

With the click of a mouse, the first issue of the new ATLA journal, *Theological Librarianship*, was officially launched during a lunch meeting on June 28 at the recent annual conference in Ottawa. The launch was preceded by brief presentations by the members of the editorial board. **Andy Keck**, who had served previously as a member of the ATLA Publications Committee, detailed some of the history of discussions and planning in ATLA which led to the decision to start a journal. Co-editor **David Stewart** presented the rationale for the journal in terms of fulfilling the ATLA mission of "enhancing the development of theological and religious libraries and librarianship." Co-editor **Ron Crown** described some of the logistics of the editorial work that went into the production of the first issue and sketched the respective content and aims of the two sections of the journal devoted to essays and peer-reviewed articles. Recognition was also given to the members of the journal's advisory board and

the contributors to the first issue who were present. The section editors for Columns (Andy Keck), Bibliographic Essays (**Beth Sheppard**), and Critical Reviews (**Melody Layton McMahon**) then made brief



*Journal Co-editors Ron Crown (l) and David Stewart answer questions during the launch.*

presentations regarding their respective sections.

Then, with that simple mouse click, the table of contents for the first issue was displayed to the attendees on a large screen. After co-editors David Stewart and Ron Crown answered a few questions from the audience, the entire editorial board was much gratified by a standing ovation at the conclusion of the presentation.



### Anne Womack Retires

On June 10, 2008, Vanderbilt Divinity Library held an open house in honor of **Anne Womack's** retirement from the Vanderbilt Divinity Library. Anne will continue to work for the library in a part-time role, supporting the Revised Common Lectionary website and visual arts-related aspects of the collection.



### LYRIS Software Upgrade

The planned LYRIS software upgrade for ATLANTIS and all ATLA hosted discussion lists that took place on Monday, May 5

*(ATLA member names appear in bold)*



were successful. The upgrade included major improvements to the graphical user interface that will be apparent from the moment you log in. Settings for users who were temporarily switched from digest to normal viewing have been restored.



## Take the TLM 2008 challenge

When Theological Libraries Month was launched in 2006, 20 institutions were active participants. Their events included exhibits of rare books, special worship services, receptions, contests, quizzes, library tours, and instructional sessions on making use of library collections. In 2007, TLM in a Box was developed to help facilitate the marketing and promotion of TLM on campus. Participation more than doubled, with 47 different institutions offering an even wider range of creative celebrations, including a movie screening, scavenger hunts, and a special lecture by a renowned New Testament scholar.

In order to keep the momentum going and help support the TLM programming on your campus for 2008, ATLA will award ten grants of up to \$500 each. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; the deadline to apply is September 15, 2008. For more information, contact Barbara Kemmis (bkemmis@atla.com).



## Member Book Published

**Charles Bellinger**, Theological Librarian and Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas has published a new book on theological anthropology, *The Trinitarian Self*. For more information, go to <http://wipfandstock.com/> and type "bellinger" into the search box at the lower left.



## International Collaboration Grant

The ATLA International Collaboration Committee (ICC) invites proposals for

projects between ATLA institutions/members and partner institutions abroad that foster international collaboration that is mutually beneficial. Projects might include, but are not limited to, improving the documentation of world Christianity (collection development, exchanges, archives, etc.), professional development, improving the tools of scholarship, and the like. The proposal deemed to have the most potential impact will be awarded up to \$1000. The recipient will be asked to write a report after the project is completed. Details and application can be found at the top of the ICC web site ([http://www.atla.com/international\\_collab/website.html](http://www.atla.com/international_collab/website.html)).



## Barbara Kemmis Attends VII RLIT Encuentro

Barbara Kemmis, Director of Member Services, represented ATLA at the VII RLIT Encuentro (Red Latinoamericana de Información Teológica) in Asuncion, Paraguay, July 14-18. Also representing ATLA was **Mariel Deluca Voth**, the Latin American representative of the Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration. While there, Kemmis met with several libraries in Buenos Aires and from around Latin America to discuss ATLA member services and new consortial pricing for libraries in developing countries.



## Beacon University Announces Closing

"It is with deep and sincere regret," said Dr. Ian Bond, President of Beacon University, Columbus, Georgia, "that due to circumstances beyond our control, it looks like it will be necessary to begin the process of closing the institution at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year."

Dr. Bond continues, "The University has every intention of honoring its obligations to students who have completed 75% of their program, and we will continue to offer courses so that they will finish their degrees over the next year.

"Starting in the fall, we will not be able to accept new students. We believe, though, that Beacon University, a Christian interdenominational liberal arts university, is a genuine asset to the community, and it is our hope that we can reach out to leaders in the community to build a consortium which will enable Beacon University to continue its mission.

"There are precedents for such action in the past in Columbus. We believe Beacon's record justifies such support. BU offers degrees in Leadership Studies, Human Services, Religious Studies and General Studies. Our graduates serve in countries around the world and in local communities around Columbus. Also, in response to Congressman Johnny Isakson's request, Beacon University worked with the military to train chaplains for the Army, some of whom are now deployed to Iraq."



## 2008 ATLA Annual Conference Report from the IIG

This conference was a busier conference than usual for the Introverts Interest Group. While the membership once again felt no need to convene, the membership also felt no need to be represented on the gathering of the ATLA bird watching group. Rumor has it that some introverts did indeed attend the bird watching expedition, but only in a strictly unofficial capacity. Also, several of us did manage to login to our Facebook accounts at the same time from our hotel rooms, but since we promptly set our chat status to "offline," it did not constitute a meeting of the group. I am pleased to announce that the new T-shirts are selling briskly: "IIG—You didn't have to be there."

Ottawa was wonderful. I'm looking forward to not seeing anyone again next year.

*Blake Walter*

*Ex Officio Chair/Lifetime Member, IIG  
Brimson Grow Library, Northern Seminary*



## Member News

### In Memoriam



#### Dr. William S. Sparks, Th.D., 1924-2008

Dr. William S. Sparks died on Sunday, June 15, 2008, after a short battle with cancer and complications from pulmonary edema. He was Director Emeritus of Library and Information Services and Professor Emeritus of Theological Bibliography and Research at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri until retiring in 1993, after a total of 27 years there. Dr. Sparks received his Bachelor of Divinity from Phillip's University in Enid, Oklahoma. He also had a Master of Divinity from Butler University-Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana; a Doctor of Theology from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, and a Library of Science Degree from the University of Denver. Dr. Sparks was ordained in the Methodist Church in 1952; he had been a minister in the Christian Church since 1942. He served as a librarian at Kansas Wesleyan University until 1966.

Dr. Sparks was united in marriage for 60 years to Joy Eleanor Young. They have two children and two grandchildren. Online condolences may be made at [www.sandersfuneralhome.com](http://www.sandersfuneralhome.com). (Information excerpted from an obituary in the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, 6/17/2008)



#### Anne Wilbur Van Dusen, 1961-2008

With great sadness we mourn the unexpected death of Anne Wilbur Van Dusen, Senior Research Associate at the Alban Institute. Anne passed away in her sleep on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, in Ottawa, Ontario. Anne was representing Alban and the Congregational Resource Guide, both ATLA affiliate members, at the ATLA Annual Conference.

Anne was a friend and colleague to some of ATLA's members and staff. Anne and her colleagues served as consultants to ATLA on the development of *ATLASerials*® for congregations and clergy, and she also worked with ATLA on various Lilly Endowment related planning committees. Her funeral was held on July 2, in Blue Hill, Maine. Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development, attended the funeral to represent ATLA. Alban has set up a special website in Anne's honor at: <http://www.alban.org/about.aspx?id=6190>.



## JOURNAL OF Markets & Morality

**Newly Indexed on ATLA Religion Database**

Promoting intellectual exploration of the relationship between economics and morality from both social science and theological perspectives, the *Journal of Markets & Morality* brings together theologians, philosophers, economists, and other scholars for dialogue concerning the morality of the marketplace.

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## Perspectives on Professional Development

A homiletics professor once told me that a good sermon is one that you keep thinking about after leaving church. As I've thought about his rule and listened to more sermons, I've come to agree with him. If that rule is valid, is the mark of a good session at a conference one that you keep thinking about after you get home?

The bad thing about conferences is that you can't ever attend all the sessions that look interesting. I attended a lot of good ones in Ottawa and regretfully had to miss others. From those that I did attend, there are snippets that I keep mulling over. The session that I keep returning to time and time again was the one on "Strategery: When and Why to Engage in Strategic Planning" led by David Stewart and Laura Wood.

David and Laura both discussed their recent experience with "strategery" (their word borrowed from George Bush). Concepts presented in Laura's presentation keep popping into my head since my return to work. Her comment that strategic planning is about the accomplishment of something, but that the plan for doing it is just as (if not more) important, has taken up permanent residence in my brain.<sup>1</sup> Since June 28th, every thorny issue I've tackled has yielded when I have thought about it strategically and then planned my attack. Strategic planning—whether we hate it, love it, or accept it as a necessary tool—is relevant to all librarians and the work that we do.

The reason we hear so much about strategic planning is that it works. If one takes the time to develop a strategy to reach a defined objective before starting the work, that objective has a much better chance of being attained. I'm a case in point. For a number of years, I worked as a paraprofessional in libraries. I took some classes toward my M.L.S. but wasn't motivated to complete it. After finally finishing my graduate thesis

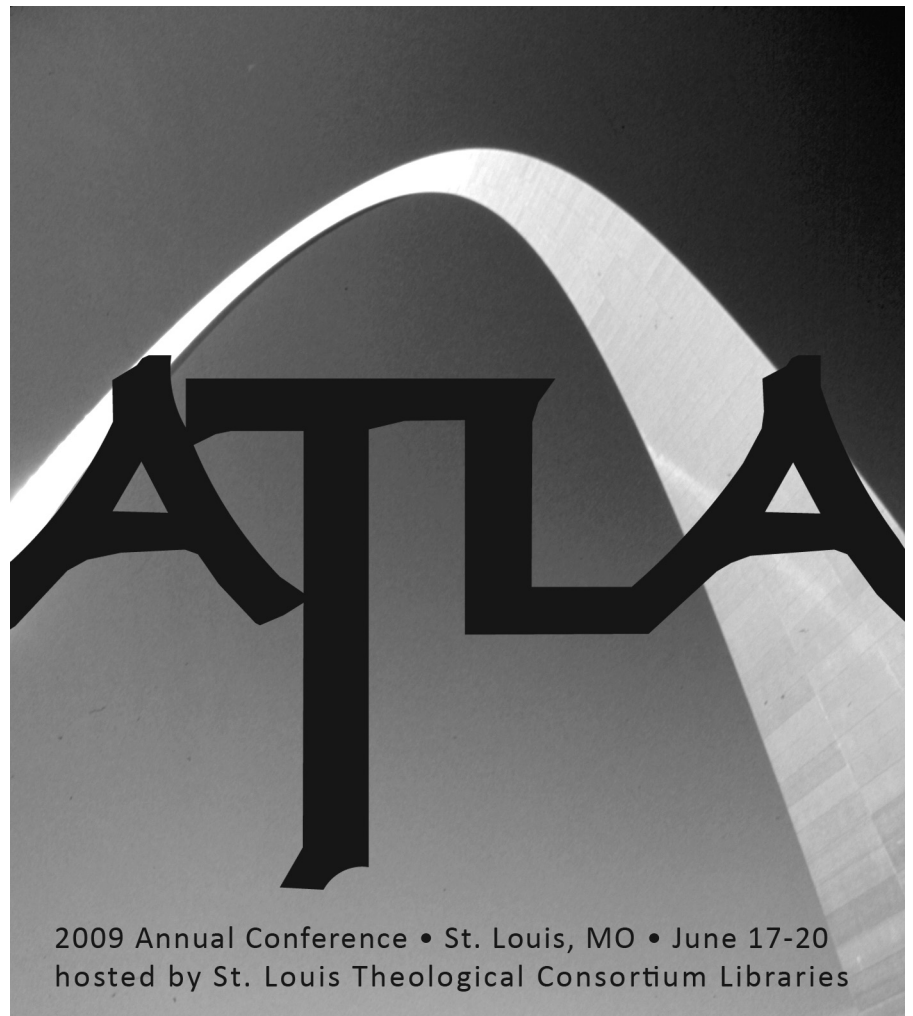
<sup>1</sup> The full account of David Stewart and Laura Wood's presentation will be in the upcoming *Summary of Proceedings*, sixty-second Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association, Ottawa, Canada, June 26-29, 2008.

in another area of study, having a second child, and being diagnosed with a chronic illness, I did some hard thinking and realized that I didn't want to wake up at fifty (which seemed an advanced age at the time) and regret not becoming a librarian. With my objective clear, I then developed a plan for reaching it. Three years later I had the degree and, fortunately, was offered a professional-level job.

What do *you* want to achieve professionally? What do you need to do to get there? The Professional Development Committee was created to help our members find ways to answer these questions. Check out our current initiatives at [http://atla.com/member/professional\\_development.html](http://atla.com/member/professional_development.html). Will one of them help you reach your professional goals? Are there other ways we can assist you in achieving those goals? Let us know.

Other members on the PDC are Seth Kasten, Kris Veldheer, and Timothy Lincoln. We'd like to help you reach them and be able to proclaim, "Wow, I did it."

*Angela G. Morris, Chair  
ATLA Professional Development Committee  
Ernest Miller White Library, Louisville Theological Seminary*



### Report from the OCLC/IFLA Early Career Fellows Visit



Atanu Garai

*Pictured, left to right: Hanan Erhif, Information Specialist, OCP Group, Morocco; George M. Needham, Vice President, Member Services, OCLC; Atanu Garai, Online Networking Specialist, Globethics.net, India; Sarah Kaddu, Librarian, National Library of Uganda, Uganda; Kamai Giri, Library Officer, Ministry of Water Resources, Nepal; Nancy Lensenmeyer, Program Officer, Education and Professional Development, OCLC; Cyrill Walters, Librarian (Music Specialist), University of Cape Town, South Africa; and Barbara Kemmis, ATLA Director of Member Services.*



It was July last year, I was visiting Zurich to have meeting with Christoph Stueckelberger, CEO of Globethics.net at his home. What a pleasant surprise! George M. Needham, Vice President - Member Services of OCLC congratulated me being the IFLA/OCLC Fellow for the year 2008. IFLA/OCLC Fellowship is a fellowship award given every year to select number of young professionals in the field of library and information science as a recognition of their future leadership potential in this sector. Besides IFLA and OCLC, the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) sponsors every year one fellow with a background or experience of theological librarianship. For 2008, I received ATLA sponsorship because of my involvement with Globethics.net and contribution towards development of the Globethics.net Library, a global digital library on ethics. Globethics.net Library is scheduled to be launched in this Fall.

Fellows have come from Asia and Africa, with varied professional interests. Sarah Kaddu is the Librarian at National Library of Uganda in Kampala. Hanan Erhif works as the Information Specialist Moroccan Institute for Scientific and Technical Information in Rabat in Morocco. Kamal Kumar Giri is the Library Officer of Ministry of Water Resources in Kathmandu, Nepal. And Cyrill Walters works in University of

Cape Town as Librarian (Music Specialist) in Cape Town, South Africa.

Chicago was a pleasant surprise for us after our tour through Dublin and Washington D.C. Chicago's cultural, linguistic and population diversity is striking for a new visitor like me. On top it, most library associations have their offices in this beautiful city. Chicago will remind any Indian of the historical connection that Swami Vivekananda, a great Hindu philosopher and theologian built in the first ever World's Parliament of Religions of 1893. For the first time ever Vivekananda introduced Hinduism to the West and the world as a major religious tradition.

At ATLA, the power of knowledge networking becomes more visible. The richness and depth of theological literature around the world, represented through the collections, libraries and their users of the ATLA Members is in a way fascinating. Evidently the literature is growing enormously and indexing and maintaining this rich digital and print collection is becoming difficult. Such difficulties were discussed intensively in our discussions and we saw increasingly the needs to cooperate - nationally and internationally - to bring together scholarly literature and community.

In the field of ethics, Globethics.net will bring together scholarly literature on ethics and communities working on ethics issues in a single platform over the internet. The importance of convergence of knowledge objects and the process of knowledge creation itself is becoming more and more apparent, as the world is using internet to cut down the distance between libraries and its users. Globethics.net Library as the global digital library on ethics, therefore, will be a vital infrastructure for ethics debate, discussion, reflection and action that take place in Globethics.net Community. This interaction is dynamic, mutually beneficial, enriching and self-sustainable.

ATLA's leadership in theological librarianship is well recognized and at Globethics.net, we realize the need to cooperate on number of issues. Religious ethics, for instance, will be of one such window to explore possibilities of content sharing.

*Atanu Barai  
Online Networking Specialist  
Globethics.net, India*



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# Scholarship and Grants Annual Fund Donors

September 1, 2007 through July 23, 2008

International Collaboration Committee

International Collaboration and Storytelling

International collaboration was not something I had ever thought about participating in formally. I had grown up in Los Angeles with immigrant parents and everyone I knew was international.

At the 2007 ATLA Conference in Philadelphia, Eileen Saner introduced me to Katharina Penner, a visiting Head Librarian from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in the Czech Republic. She was a new face among many new friends I made at the conference. Several months later, Katharina sent me an email inviting me to present a workshop at a conference to be held in Moscow for theological librarians in the Commonwealth of Independent States. I spoke to Roger Loyd and Eileen Saner about the idea of participating in Russia and learned that ATLA had an International Collaboration Committee that offered grants to aid international collaborative work.

What grew from having received the ICC Grant was an opportunity to help develop and translate librarian skills and information to a new audience from a world unlike my own. This meant that there was much to learn in a short period of time. Creating presentations that would be useful for people whose countries I had never visited before (Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Minsk, Kiev, Khrakov, and others) became a collaborative effort as I built my presentation by testing my ideas against Katharina's expertise.

Both Katharina Penner ([www.ibts.eu](http://www.ibts.eu)) and Alexander Popov, Head Librarian at Moscow Theological Seminary ([www.moscowseminary.org](http://www.moscowseminary.org)) were the first with whom I collaborated, using email as our primary source of connection, in spite of the 8 hour time difference. On the other side of the Atlantic, they had already joined efforts with Dr. Sergei Sannikov, Director of the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association (<http://www.e-aaa.org/>) to frame the conference and "*Library Support for Educational Programs in Theological*

*Schools*" was scheduled to be held April 30 – May 3 in Moscow, Russia.

Back in North Carolina, I made it my work to communicate in some way with everyone who was put in my path so that I could learn how each person, in their own culture, communicated information I would need to pave my way to the conference and to see it materialize. No matter how slim the odds, I sent emails to folks in Moscow to see if there might be an opportunity for them to either attend the conference, or meet with me at their institutions. Some replied to my emails, some did not. It was in this way, that I met Dr. Sergei Nikolaev, Rector at the new Russian United Methodist Seminary and, Dr. Alexei Bodrov, Rector at St. Andrew's Biblical and Theological Institute—both of whom I visited at their respective seminaries.

Although this sounds seamless and scripted, it was not easy. The level of difficulty in making what appeared to be basic arrangements (like getting a visa) was greater than expected because of the complicated and ever-changing rules of the Russian culture. I spoke to at least three others who had started the process of planning to attend and then withdrew for a variety of reasons.

Having the support of ATLA and additional funding from the Donn Farris Fund from Duke University Divinity School Library was really crucial to being able to navigate the travel and any unexpected events. I set up a blog (<http://lubasmoscow.blogspot.com/>) to document the trip and to be a resource to anyone who wants to find theological librarians in the CIS. Upon my arrival I began to write what became my Moscow travels, stories about what happens when we leave what we know and experience the discombobulation of crossing cultures:

**Carp**

In flight, sliding off the Coach Class seat, sleep never comes. I am wide awake and restless. By the time this fourteen hour flight ends, and I find my way through the passport check station to my luggage and then to the men who hold the placard



with my name on it in English, I already carry the kind of exhaustion that makes my judgment poor.

We walk to the car for the long drive through Moscow with me unable to take in the vast beauty of the rivers we cross and the historic Kremlin tower while trying to negotiate the broken Russian I haven't spoken well since childhood. Thankfully, Alexander's English is good.

"There is so much to do and we must stop at the supermarket to store up on groceries," Alexander suggests. I have arrived a few days early for this conference and will help host other incoming participants. "You'll have a meal for Katharina—(or did he say Meri?), okay?"

"Sure. I'd be happy to do that." I say.

We arrive at the seminary, drop off my luggage and walk the two blocks to the market that takes credit cards and begin to wheel through the aisles, choosing potatoes, beets, mushrooms, eggs, water, and how about a live carp?

"It's very traditionally Russian and fresh, too." Alexander says.

I stare into the tank at the wide-eyed, gray, air-sucking fish and say, "Sure, let's get one."

"You'll have to scale it . . ."

"I know, I know. I'll have to gut it, and well, how do I kill it?"

"Just cut its head off, that's all. Some American's feel sorry for it and wait for it to die."

## Member News

“Okay,” I say.

So we tell the blue-gloved Russian woman we'd like a carp and she plunges her hand into the large tank and pulls one out, alive and squirming, and throws it into a plastic bag to weigh it.

On the way home, I wonder what I've done. Why didn't I just take the chicken instead? What was I thinking?

We get back, unload the groceries into the refrigerator, and take a quick tour. At supertime, I tell myself I can't bear to deal with the messiness of the fish right now, so I improvise a rice dish with vegetables deciding to make carp for breakfast.

The next morning I brave myself and pull the fish from the fridge where it is still in the plastic bag. I take it out, set it on the kitchen counter, get the sharpest knife I have and prepare to cut its head off, but the carp is still breathing. It's still alive. I throw it into the sink, hoping the fall will put it out of its misery. I grip the knife tightly, pick up the carp, determined to cut its head off, but the blade won't go through. I try another angle, but the slimy skin makes it impossible to grasp, so I get a towel and try again.

I think it was the motion of the breathing gills that made me give up. I put the carp back into its plastic bag, set it in the fridge, sad, defeated and hungry.

### The Importance of Storytelling

In the end, it is this telling of stories after the long conference days that is part of international collaboration. It's what we did over meals after sessions on collection development, distance education, cataloging, open source software, information literacy, the OPAC, Moodle and Greenstone2 open source software products, re-collection development for the Library of Foreign Literature ([www.libfl.org](http://www.libfl.org)) after the resources were destroyed during the Revolution.

All the presentations were done in Russian. There were translators who worked at giving those of us with less proficient Russian skills a clear English window into what was being presented. But what the language missed was the cultural context

into which these presentations were being filtered: i.e., the scarce resources for building collections in the theological libraries of the CIS, an understanding of the importance of theological education outside the purview of American capitalism and even the detail of a separate (not universal) Russian classification system (so the cataloging rules are different).

But it didn't miss the people. You didn't need a translator to see the dear, bright and tenacious people who draw their strength from a well so deep that, even as an American of Russian descent, I marveled with awe at what it takes to do the work we can take for granted here.

### One Never Knows

In America, I believe I can safely say that we live with a sense of security regarding our daily activities: we get up, go to work, mail our bills, drive to the store and buy our food, visit with friends and family and take whatever unexpected events occur without too much stress. Or, during very stressful times, we have ways of managing that undergird the unspoken freedoms we have.

When we visited Danilov Monastery, Katharina bought some honey to take back to Prague. I wasn't certain I'd have room to take this home in my suitcase, so I waited, deciding after we ate our piroshky that I'd like to buy some too. But without

notice, the store closed. This was not an isolated event, but happened several times in different ways. For example, the first metro ticket I bought with Alexander's help was in denominations of 8. The next day, they didn't sell that ticket anymore—you could only buy denominations of 2, 5, 10, etc. I was confused. But this small change, like random store closings, is normal here, creating an insecurity and fear that manages the masses.

I was one of those masses during my time there and continued to be so until I left. The plans I made on that side of the Atlantic were ever-changing, laden with a world view unlike what I know. Perhaps it is in such a place of insecurity that we can begin to understand that collaborating with people from worlds unlike our own is hard, hard work and takes a tenaciousness that seems to be inherent in these good, Slavic peoples. Perhaps bringing this message back was part of my task.

---

*Luba Zakharov is the Reference and Serials Librarian at Duke University Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. Her attendance at this conference was funded by a grant from the American Theological Library Association ([www.atla.com](http://www.atla.com)) and Duke University Divinity School ([www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu)). You can find her blog at <http://lubasmoscow.blogspot.com/>.*



*Opposite page: Luba in Moscow. Above: Conference attendees. (photos courtesy of Andrei Gorbachenko)*



## Report of the ATLA Birding Passion Group

**ATLA Birders Do Ottawa: June 26, 2008**

"I'll probably be the only 6'7" guy with a pony tail and binoculars waiting in the Westin Hotel drive-through at 5:30 a.m." This string of field marks seemed to satisfy Ken Allison, owner of the voice at the other end of the phone, who'd agreed to take Lynn Berg, Eric Friede, Paul Friesen, and me on a birding trip of the Ottawa area during this year's ATLA conference. I'd originally contacted Ken several months ago via the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. We'd discussed via e-mail possible target species for our morning outing, finally deciding on golden-winged warbler and Virginia rail, species that would be life birds for three of the four of us.

Ken pulled up to the Westin at about 5:20 the next morning, and after some brief introductions we headed off in the direction of Kanata, a bedroom community about an hour west of Ottawa. During the pleasant drive along the Ottawa River, Ken pointed out the islands on the river on which ring-billed gulls were nesting. Besides the gulls we saw only Canada geese and mallards, perhaps because we were paying more attention to the blueberry muffins that Ken's wife had baked for us and the lavishly illustrated *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario* that Ken, one of the contributors to the project, had brought along. But then the action began to pick up—"Did I just see wild turkeys?" asked Paul, who enjoys the epistemological side of birding. "Osprey!" called Ken a few minutes later, and we all got a chance to see the bird as it winged its way south over a shopping mall.

Shortly after we reached Kanata, Ken pulled over on Goulburn Forest Road after crossing some disused railway tracks. He suggested we follow the tracks west on foot for a couple of kilometers because they pass through a prime breeding area for golden-winged warbler. The dawn chorus was in full swing, and Ken began calling out the names of the singers: gray catbird, yellow warbler, eastern phoebe, warbling vireo, northern flicker, rose-breasted grosbeak. He also tried to lure the birds into view

by using the conventional "psh-psh-psh" sound as well as a novel "ch-ch-ch" sound that the rest of us found utterly compelling. However, the birds, with the exception of song sparrow and common yellowthroat, completely ignored it.

A red blur and "scarlet tanager" from Ken came just too late for Paul, who'd never seen that species (though he'd heard it during our 2006 outing near Chicago). The deciduous forest had by now given way to an overgrown hayfield. "Bobolinks!" someone called, and sure enough several males were singing their buzzy liquid song and flying slowly on stiff, fluttering wings to perch on nearby fences. They showed the characteristic white stripe down the center of their backs that has given the species its nickname: "skunk bird." Perched with them were their mates, who showed the characteristic drab coloration that has given rise to the expression "little brown job" ("ljb" for short).

"Eastern meadowlark," called Ken in response to a distant "seeeooaa seeeeadoo," a much less complex and melodious song than that of the virtually identical western meadowlark, with which Paul and I are more familiar. "There it goes!" I called, as the chunky yellow-breasted bird, flapping vigorously, made a lumbering beeline from one end of the field to the other. Paul had never seen or, more to the point, heard one before, so this was our first life bird of the trip.

The land fell away into a willow-choked wetland, and we began to hear the musical trill of swamp sparrows. "Wood Duck!" called Ken, as one shot forth on a diagonal from the ditch beside the tracks, then "Green Heron!" as two flew over in the distance. Looking down at the tracks Ken noticed a depression surrounded by chunks of a leathery white substance. "Turtles love to lay their eggs between the tracks for some reason. These have probably been eaten by a raccoon or a skunk." We could hear a woodpecker drumming in the distance. "Pileated," Ken declared, "hear how the drumming peters out towards the end?" As if in confirmation, the bird let loose

with its signature Woody Woodpecker-like demented whinny.

The swamp came to an end, and we entered a stretch of dense leafy undergrowth with a backdrop of taller trees. "Ideal golden-winged habitat," said Ken, who began making bird-attracting sounds again, but the birds were probably too preoccupied with feeding young and with not disclosing the location of their nests to predators to bother with us. Other warblers had begun to stir, though, and most of us caught the "wee-see-wee-see-wee-see" of a singing black-and-white warbler. "Don't you think some of those yellow warbler songs have a really abrupt ending?" Ken wondered aloud, thinking he was hearing the "pleased, pleased, pleased, to meet-cha" of the chestnut-sided warbler among the "sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet" of the ubiquitous yellow. "Got it, up in that tree with the branch curving off to the right." Seconds later, so had the rest of us.

In our preoccupation with the warbler we failed to notice that a porcupine had made its way onto the tracks a mere ten meters in front of us. Lynn rushed forward to try to pet it, but it ambled off into the bush before she could get close enough.

Ken wanted to take us to a couple of additional sites, so we turned around and birded our way back to the car. "Great spangled fritillary," he called out, then, "chalk-fronted skimmer"—these weren't birds, but species of butterfly and dragonfly—then "American redstart; did you catch the brief emphatic song?" "Black-throated Green!" I called out, pointing out to Eric and Lynn that once it crosses the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel its song shifts from "zee-zee-zee-zoo-zee" to "zed-zed-zed-zoo-zed."

I began to ask Ken about the flowers we were seeing, since he'd mentioned earlier that he worked for the federal government as a botanist specializing in invasive plants. Each brightly-colored flower that I pointed out, from the tiny brilliant orange daisies to the tall lupine-like blue flowers in the ditches, turned out to be a noxious invader. Only the purple irises in the swamp seemed to

## Member News

be true wildflowers. Meanwhile, the rest of the group, who had fallen about 100 meters behind us, was staring at something in the bushes. “What do you have?” I called. “A brown thrasher,” Eric replied, but by the time Ken and I arrived on the scene the bird had taken to skulking in the undergrowth and scolding us with its “chuck” call. We gave up on trying to flush it, and the conversation turned to the kinds of objects, such as plastic bags blowing in the wind, strangely-shaped branches, or tufts of grass, that birders have mistaken for birds.

Back at the SUV, Ken broke out some bottles of water, and we passed around the muffins again. “Who’s the Michael Card fan?” I asked, noticing a cd by the popular Christian singer on the dashboard. “Pretty well our whole family.” It turned out they attended a local Baptist church. “I wasn’t sure at first,” he said, laughing, “what to make of the ‘theological’ in ‘American Theological Library Association.’”

Our next stop was a nearby river that broadened into a marsh on the south side of the road. A belted kingfisher flew off from its perch on a wire as we approached. This was supposed to be a good place for Virginia

rail. At any rate, one we got out of the car we could hear a marsh wren singing its rattling song, and then a pair of common terns flew over, calling “**kee-ar, kee-ar**” as they went. A northern waterthrush, that only Ken managed to hear, rounded out our avian encounters here.

We drove on, pausing for a few minutes at a marsh, where an American bittern, looking every bit like a clump of long-stemmed grass, was foraging out in the open—unusual behavior for this normally secretive species. Ken then drove us along the Thomas Dolan Parkway to Carp Ridge, a southern extension of the Canadian Shield. Here mixed forest with patches of bare rock predominated. Field Sparrows vocalized at our first stop. At our second, I caught sight (in bad light) of a bird that was singing a squeaky song of paired notes. “Indigo Bunting,” I thought, and sure enough, once it moved to a more visible perch, we were able to see its metallic blue plumage. At the bottom of the next hill, I thought I saw cattle egrets foraging in a field, although my view was partially obscured by tall grasses. We stopped. I got out of the car, and wouldn’t you know it, the “egrets” turned out to be

white plastic bags flapping in the breeze! As compensation we were treated to the sight of a family of eastern bluebirds diving for insects from their power line perch.

Thanks to Ken’s generosity we’d seen or heard 67 species (versus 54 on last year’s excursion) in just over four hours. (This number increases to 72 if you include the black-crowned night-heron Paul saw flying over the Ottawa River one morning, or the chimney swifts, common ravens, Cooper’s hawk, and northern cardinal that I encountered in various parts of Ottawa during the conference). We’d had such a rich time that no one was concerned in the least about missing our target birds

Next year in St. Louis the main attraction will be Eurasian Tree Sparrow. This species is not native to North America. The U.S. population is descended from 12 individuals that were imported from Germany and released in Lafayette Park in 1870.

*H.D. (Sandy) Ayer  
Alliance University College, Canadian  
Theological Seminary*



### Trip List (Birds Heard or Seen)

American Bittern	Willow Flycatcher	Veery	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Least Flycatcher	Wood Thrush	Swamp Sparrow
Green Heron	Eastern Phoebe	American Robin	White-throated Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Great Crested	Gray Catbird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Wood Duck	Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher	Indigo Bunting
Mallard	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling	Bobolink
Osprey	Warbling Vireo	Cedar Waxwing	Red-winged Blackbird
Wild Turkey	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Ring-billed Gull	Blue Jay	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Common Grackle
Common Tern	American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Rock Pigeon	Tree Swallow	Black-and-White Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	American Redstart	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Ovenbird	House Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	White-breasted	Northern Waterthrush	
Northern Flicker	Nuthatch	Common Yellowthroat	<b>Total species: 72</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	Black-capped	Scarlet Tanager	
Downy Woodpecker	Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow	
Eastern Wood-pewee	Marsh Wren	Field Sparrow	
Alder Flycatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Savannah Sparrow	

2008 ATLA Annual Conference Summary

“La Connexion française,” the 2008 ATLA Annual Conference, was held in Ottawa, Ontario. As a recently hired employee in the newly created meeting specialist position, I was delighted to be a part of this international gathering for this premiere ecumenical library association. Our conference was well attended and attracted a very diverse group of divinity librarians who hailed from nearly every province in Canada, as well as Africa, Brazil, France, India and Italy. André Paris, chair of the Local Host Committee, did a great job in overseeing all of the host committee activities and making the attendees feel welcomed and very much at home in his beloved city. ATLA’s annual conference had not been held in Canada since 1993—and what a wonderful experience Ottawa provided for the more than 300 members, exhibitors, and guests in attendance.

Along with the other 34 first-time attendees, I appreciated the attention to detail, the wealth of information, and the enthusiasm displayed by the presenters, exhibitors, and staff who played such an important role in the execution of the annual conference. The interest groups, panels, papers, and roundtables were well attended. Highlights of the conference included the launch of ATLA’s new online journal *Theological Librarianship* at the Saturday Business Meeting and our visit to St. Paul University’s library, where we were warmly welcomed by the staff and previewed an amazing collection of rare books.

Another first for our conference will be showcased on our new ATLA YouTube channel, [www.YouTube.com/ATLAone](http://www.YouTube.com/ATLAone), where visitors will be able to view videos of the plenary sessions, business meetings, and the town meeting. We plan to retain this as a permanent feature of our future conferences as we feel it will serve as great exposure for our proceedings and provide an additional benefit to our membership.

As usual our many wonderful photos taken at the conference will be available to members to download and/or print via Shutterfly.com (see facing page for instructions on how to access these images). Also—don’t forget to submit your conference evaluations! It’s a great way to make sure your voice is heard for next year’s planning. Go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5k4sdGJosEUlybVn0gvBZw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5k4sdGJosEUlybVn0gvBZw_3d_3d) and let us know what you think.

Last, and certainly not least, thank you to everyone who contributed to the overall success of our conference: the Annual Conference, Education, and Local Host committee members, the board of directors, our speakers, presidors, regional, denominational and interest group members, ATLA staff, and other ATLA members who made me feel extremely welcomed and a part of this great association. I feel exceptionally fortunate, privileged, and blessed.

My attention has already turned to next year’s conference. See you in St. Louis, June 17–20, 2009.

*Denise A.M. McFarlin  
ATLA Meeting Specialist*





For more 2008 conference photos go to:  
<http://atla08conference.shutterfly.com> —password: ATLA08 (case sensitive!)

For 2006 and 2007 conference photos go to:  
<http://atlaconferencepast.shutterfly.com> —password: ATLA1 (case sensitive!)

For video of the plenary sessions and business meetings, go to:  
<http://www.youtube.com/ATLAone>



**Opposite page**, top to bottom: browsers in the exhibit hall; the International Collaboration Committee and international guests aboard the Ottawa river dinner cruise; Members of the 2009 local host committee exhort the crowd to reconvene next year in St. Louis for the annual conference.

**This page**, clockwise from upper left: Plenary speaker Gregory Baum in action; excursion to the Library and Archives Canada Preservation Centre (*thanks to Tony Amodeo for this photo*); choir practice; André Paris and his wonderful library staff at the University of Saint Paul; ATLA President Martha Lund Smalley and plenary speaker Leslie Weir; retiring ATLA members Paul Schrodt and Dottie Thomason deliver their farewell addresses during the closing banquet.

# ATLA Product News

*providing access to the scholarly literature of religion and preserving it for future generations*

## ATLA Product Notes

### Direct Sales of ATLA's products

Over the past year, we've seen a dramatic migration of subscribers shifting to online versions of our products via our aggregators. This trend has caused us to reverse our previously announced plans to develop and offer certain products on our own ATLA platform. Therefore, this is the final year that print and CD-ROM products will be distributed directly from ATLA. For further information, please contact sales@atla.com.



### New Models for Sites in Developing Countries

Historically, ATLA has offered a 50% discount to sites in eligible developing countries as determined by World Bank

*Publisher meeting, Front Row, l-r: Sister Jean Bostley, Executive Director, Catholic Library Association (CPLI); Father Joseph Jensen, Executive Director of the Catholic Biblical Association, and Publisher of Old Testament Abstracts (OTA); Christopher R. Matthews, Managing Editor, New Testament Abstracts (NTA); Laurie J. Arras, OTA Consultant; Debbie Winarski, CPLI IT specialist*  
*Back Row, l-r: Zhongwen Jin, ATLA Programmer Analyst; John Dlutowski, ATLA Product Support Analyst; Father Chris Begg, Editor, OTA; Audra Adomenas, ATLA Product Support Analyst; Tami Luedtke, ATLA Director of Electronic Products and Services; Karl Frantz, ATLA Database Administrator; Cameron Campbell, ATLA Director of Indexes; Dennis Norlin, ATLA Executive Director; Margot Lyon, ATLA Director of Business Development; Pradeep Gamadia, ATLA Director of Financial Services.*

criteria. For 2008, we are working with our aggregators to offer further pricing accommodations for sites in these countries, including consortial discounts and waiving of other fees. Your institution may be the "bill-to" address, which is similar to the former "buy-and-donate" program. Please contact sales@atla.com for further information.



### Publisher Meeting

On Wednesday, July 9, 2008, ATLA staff met with staff from its three publishing partners—Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI), Old Testament Abstracts (OTA), and New Testament Abstracts (NTA)—to explore ways in which to create efficiencies and add desirable features to our products (*see photo below*). The groups shared with one another the details of their production processes, and then staff of all three publications met separately with Tami

Luedtke and the staff of the Electronic Products and Services Department, with Cameron Campbell, Director of Indexes, and Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development. It was a productive meeting and all parties agreed to meet again next summer when ATLA hopes to have its new production software in place.



### ATLASerials® (ATLAS®) Expands Title List in ATLASerials (ATLAS) Online Collection of Major Religion and Theology Journals

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is pleased to announce that the ATLASerials (ATLAS) online collection of major religion and theology journals has recently added four new titles, including two new Spanish language titles:

- *Estudios Eclesiasticos*



- *Family and Community Ministries* (formerly *Journal of Family Ministries*)
- Kairos
- *Reformation and Renaissance Review*

Dennis Norlin, ATLA's Executive Director, stated "we are delighted to offer these four new titles to the ATLAS collection. It is our intention to offer journal literature from every major field of theology and religious studies, and we are particularly pleased to be expanding our offering of Spanish-language titles."



**EBSCO Publishing and American Theological Library Association Announce Digital Archives**

EBSCO has partnered with American Theological Library Association (ATLA)

to provide new collections of historical monographs and serials in digital format. *ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: 19th Century*, *ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Early 20th Century*, and *ATLA Historical Serials Collection* will consist of digital versions of rare and historical primary sources. For the full release, visit <http://www.ebscohost.com/uploads/thisTopic-dbTopic-1052.pdf>



**ATLA Preservation Department**

The ATLA Preservation Department is vibrant and going strong, and we have two years left on the NEH grant entitled, "Religious Periodical Literature of the Indigenous and Hispanic Peoples of the Americas 1850 – 1985." Diane Pugh, Manager of Preservation Projects, oversees

these efforts. Kate Elgayeva also recently joined the department as Preservation Assistant.

Understandably, because of the major digitization efforts, we have temporarily suspended any new orders for microfilm and microfiche. We anticipate that in the future, we will likely be able to resume the distribution of the material. If you have any immediate concerns or questions on availability, please contact [sales@atla.com](mailto:sales@atla.com).

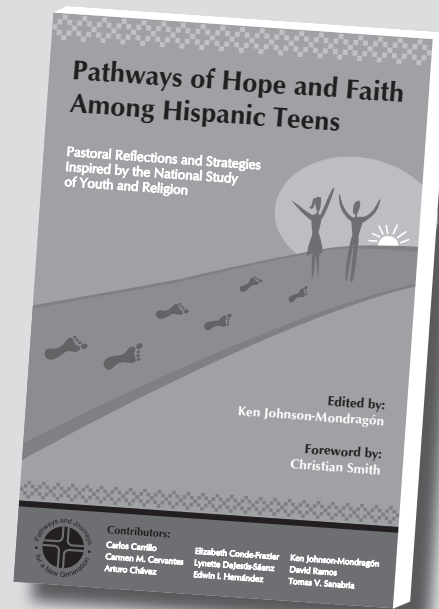


**"Pathways of Hope and Faith** is a monumental achievement, for the first time capturing vital, hard-to-find research on the religious lives of Latino young people and presenting it with passion for parents and people in ministry."

**- Kenda Creasy-Dean, Ph.D.**  
Parent, Pastor, and Associate Professor of Youth, Church & Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary

This book is a must-read for anyone who cares about the faith development and wellbeing of Latino/a adolescents.

- New research from the National Study of Youth and Religion illuminates the major issues affecting the religious development and life prospects of Hispanic teens.
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# ATLA Staff News

*serving ATLA members and customers*

## From the Executive Director



### The Ever-Rolling Stream

At the end of every ATLA annual conference, when all of the meetings are over, when new officers are installed, and when the banquet is completed, we all rise and sing what has become the ATLA hymn: *O God Our Help in Ages Past*. This year as I joined in singing with the 195 in attendance at the closing banquet, I found a real irony in the fifth verse of the hymn we sang:

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.*

It's ironic because one of the most wonderful aspects of our Association is that members are not forgotten; they are remembered and honored and cherished. This year again we remembered, memorialized, and gave thanks for the lives of four ATLA members who had died during the past year. We include these memorials in our Annual Proceedings, and it is an encouraging and wonderful thing to be able to read about the lives of these remarkable people, theological librarians who have helped create our profession, our Association, and our identity.

At this year's conference members shared memorials for these members who had died during the past year—

- Roger Loyd offered a memorial for Harriet Leonard;

- Stephen Crocco offered a memorial for Dikran Hadidian;
- Ray Olson offered a memorial for Louis Voigt; and
- Lynn Feider offered a memorial for David Wartluft

As I thought about those we memorialized, I thought about three other groups of ATLA members as well—the growing number of lifetime members, ATLA staff who have reached longevity milestones, and the growing number of new members playing an active role in the Association.

When I joined ATLA in 1995, we had about 25 retired members; we now have more than 90 lifetime members, members who belonged to ATLA for 10 years or more and have retired from their positions. This year we welcomed three newly retired members to the Lifetime Membership group: Dottie Thomason, Paul Schrodt, and Anne Womack.

I find the ATLA Proceedings (online in ATLAS) a remarkable source of information for many things. Most recently I have been culling information about the history of the ATLA Preservation Program. Starting with the 1981 conference in St. Louis (site of next year's conference, too), I found the names of many current lifetime members over and over again in descriptions of programs and efforts to develop, maintain, and strengthen the Association's preservation activities, names like John Bollier, Ronald Deering, Charles Willard, members who helped create the remarkable collection of 30,000 historical monographs and 2,500 historical serials preserved on microfilm. And I also found volume after volume of the Annual Proceedings edited by Betty O'Brien, nine in total, I think. Our lifetime members are a living treasure of memories and accomplishment that has greatly benefitted the Association.

This is also a year that I have special reason to give thanks for the talented and dedicated members of ATLA staff. In my thirteen years at the Association I've been continually amazed by our ability to attract the brightest and the best to the Association's staff. 2008 marks special anniversaries for a number of our staff. It's the twentieth anniversary for Karl Frantz, Steven Holloway, and Lowell Handy. It's the tenth anniversary for Tami Luedtke and Pradeep Gamadia; the fifth anniversary for Jack Liu (other staff who have completed at least twenty years of service include Erica Treesh and Judy Knop; at least ten years of service—Zhongwen Jin and me; at least five years of service—Cameron Campbell, Beverly Thompson, Diane Pugh, and Gregg Taylor.

ATLA staff are the talented and dedicated people who provide support and counsel for ATLA member programs and services and create the marvelous products that not only assist member libraries and librarians in their mission, but generate the revenue stream that support all of the Association's activities.

The third ATLA group that has definitely caught my attention is the class of new theological librarians who have joined the Association in the past several years. In April 2007, for example, fourteen new theological librarians attended the Colloquy for New Theological Librarians at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. At this year's conference, 11 of the fourteen attended the conference and 8 participated in programs, workshops, or presentations—

- Jennifer Bartholomew, Luther Seminary
- Beth Bidlack, University of Chicago
- Kelly Campbell, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Anthony Elia, McCormick Theological Seminary

- Tolonda Henderson, New Brunswick Theological Seminary
- Teresa Lubienecki, Christ the King Seminary
- Matthew Ostercamp, Trinity International University
- Mayra Gloria Picos-Lee, Palmer Theological Seminary
- Thomas P. Power, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto
- Joan Pries, Regent College
- Jennifer Ulrich, Eastern Mennonite University

It was exciting to see so many new members assume active roles in the Association and the annual conference. This year's conference surely set the record for first-time presenters and/or speakers. And it gave me confidence that our remarkable Association is continuing to renew itself and prepare itself for a future that may be very different from its past. At the same time, we remain rooted in and indebted to the strong foundation erected by ATLA members who have gone before. The commitment and vision of the Association's founders is matched by the same qualities in our newest members. While it is not yet clear what the future may hold, we can be very certain that the Association's members and staff together will enable the American Theological Library Association to continue the pursuit of its mission with intelligence, creativity, and commitment.



*Dennis A. Norlin*  
*ATLA Executive Director*

### Staff Updates



On May 27, Ekaterina ("Kate") Elgayeva started work as ATLA's new full-time Preservation Assistant. A graduate of DePaul University, Kate is currently enrolled at Dominican University, where she is earning her MLIS with a course specialization in Archives and Special Collections. Please join us in welcoming her to ATLA.



ATLA is pleased to announce the appointment of Denise McFarlin as Meeting Specialist. Denise brings twenty-seven years of meeting planning, committee, and member service experience for the Chicago Urban League as well as volunteering and consulting with a variety of local and national organizations. Denise took up her new duties on May 14, 2008 and is responsible for conference planning as well as staffing several committees. Please join us in welcoming her to ATLA.



For helpful tips, ideas, and information, go to  
[http://www.atla.com/tlm\\_home.html](http://www.atla.com/tlm_home.html)



## Calendar

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### August

- 2-5 ATLA Products and Services staff at the Catholic Biblical Association, Fordham University, Bronx, New York  
15 Membership renewal invoices sent

### September

- 1 Labor Day, ATLA office closed  
7-17 Dennis Norlin representing ATLA at BETH meeting in Leuven, Belgium  
26 Special Committee of the Association for Diversity meets at ATLA headquarters

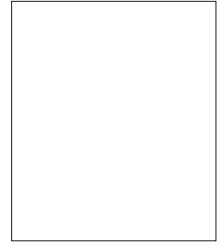
### October

- 4-5 ATLA Board of Directors meets at ATLA headquarters  
6-7 Publication Committee meets at ATLA headquarters  
16-17 Professional Development Committee meets at ATLA headquarters  
29-Nov. 1 Annual Conference and Education Committees meet at ATLA headquarters

### November

- 1-3 ATLA Products and Services exhibition/member and publisher reception, AAR 2008 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois  
6-7 International Collaboration Committee meets at ATLA headquarters  
22-25 ATLA Products and Services exhibition/member and publisher reception, SBL 2008 Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts

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*Cover photo: View of Parliament from the twenty-third floor terrace at the Ottawa Westin Hotel*