



General Theological Seminary. Photo courtesy Barbara Kemmis.

**LOC Genre/Form Project Update**

In July, 2008, the Library of Congress Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access (ABA) management team approved five new genre/form projects to be undertaken by the Policy and Standards Division (which was then called the Cataloging Policy and Support Office): cartography, law, literature, music, and religion. In addition, LC identified the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) as the organization through which comments on the religion terms would be centralized.

For more information, ATLA has put up a page on its web site about the project: [http://www.atla.com/member/collaborative\\_projects/genre\\_form\\_terms.html](http://www.atla.com/member/collaborative_projects/genre_form_terms.html). The Library of Congress has also developed a web page describing the larger project that includes maps, music, law, etc.: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsoc/genreforgeneral.html>. Please note that this phase of the larger project is addressing only genre/form terms that would pertain to religious materials.

Please watch ATLA's web site for further news about this after our June launch.

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**"Oh well, we'll catch up some other time"**

I borrowed my title from a nice ballad (there's a swell Bill Evans/Tony Bennett version: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBrOkNg2iNI>) all about time moving on too quickly, intended conversations

that somehow never happened, etc. Which captures part of the sensation of writing the last of my monthly snippets for ATLA's newsletter after - whoa! - two years as Board president. Strongest impressions and memories from a stretch that went by quickly?

- the privilege of good work: never a doubt that what the Board does really matters.
- the honor of serving with good people: working alongside such creative and dedicated colleagues has made me a better ATLA member.
- the importance of keeping the Ends in view, and not getting sidetracked.

Best advice:

Don't be left wishing you had gotten to know people better - "some other time" - make it happen while it's on your mind. Pick up the phone, send a quick email, connect on Facebook, or - no better time than now - set up some visits in Louisville, and make it your Greatest. Conference. Ever.

ATLA has no greater treasure than the fine people who comprise its membership.

Thanks for the opportunity.

Cheers,

## Dr. Dennis A. Norlin Announces Retirement



Dr. Dennis A. Norlin has announced to the ATLA Board of Directors his decision to retire early from the position of Executive Director, effective June 30, 2010.

Dr. Norlin has asked that the following be shared with the ATLA members:

"It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as this unique association's Executive Director for the past 15 years. It has certainly been the highlight of my professional life, and I have been blessed and enriched by my relationships with ATLA's members, staff, and friends.

I leave with a light heart and great confidence for the Association's future. Led by a forward thinking Board of Directors, supported by incredibly talented, professional staff, and enriched by the energy, creativity, and collaboration of its members, ATLA has every reason to be confident as it enters the next chapter of its history.

I want to thank the Board of Directors, the staff, and the members with whom I have worked during my tenure here. It has truly been a remarkable adventure."

During his tenure ATLA has grown to include more than 1,000 members and the provision of programs, products, and services in support of theological and religious studies libraries and librarians has been greatly strengthened. The American Theological Library Association is deeply grateful for Dr. Norlin's dedication and leadership over the past fifteen years.

A nationwide search for ATLA's next Executive Director will commence early this summer.

-David R. Stewart  
President, ATLA Board of Directors

## Member News

### CIU Library Damaged by Fire



On May 8, an early morning fire at the G. Allen Fleece Library at Columbia International University led to substantial damage in the building. The library was closed at the time and there were no injuries.

Several days after the fire, CIU Library Director Jo Ann Rhodes took time to thank ATLA members for their support after the crisis. "We hired an excellent disaster recovery company who came in the week after the fire and packed up everything that was salvage-able and it has been shipped off to be cleaned... books, journals, archives, microfiche and film, some furniture," Jo Ann reported. "The bad news is that, unfortunately, we have irreparable damage to a little more than 41,000 books and media (some BRs, all the BSs and BTs are gone except what was checked out at the time) and all our media except CDs. In addition, the PN-Z section was a total loss as was all our shelving."

Jo Ann says that "with repair we also hope to do some renovation which was badly needed anyway. So I consider this to be a blessing, albeit in disguise, at this point."

As a result of the fire, Jo Ann will not be able to attend the conference in Louisville, but she "wanted to send this note of thanks and greeting to all of you, and trust that the conference is an enjoyable and refreshing one for all who attend."

For more information, visit <http://www.ciu.edu/news/newsitem.php?id=525>.

### Wesley Staff Announcement



Wesley Theological Seminary has named James Estes (above) as its Information Services Librarian effective July 1, 2010. James received a library science degree from Catholic University of America and earned a Masters degree in Theological Studies from Wesley. James brings ten years of library experience

to his new position, having served at the Montgomery College library and at the information center at George Washington University. He joined Wesley's library staff as Interim Reference Librarian in August 2009 on a part-time basis following the untimely death of Howertine Farrell Duncan. James is currently a doctoral

student at The Catholic University of America, where he is studying the history of Christian spirituality. He is an active member of the United Church of Christ and is preparing for ordination.

### **New Theological Journal Launched**

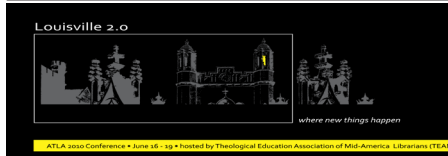
Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, New York just published the first issue of its new online theological journal, *Seat of Wisdom*. Content will include research, lectures, homilies, essays, book reviews, and contributions are welcome. The new publication is available at <http://www.seatofwisdomjournal.org>.

ATLA member Elyse Hayes, Director of Library and Information Services at the seminary, reports that feedback is welcome.

### **Routine Maintenance Reminder**

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, July 12, 2010. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CDT). Services that will be affected include ASE, ListServe and the ATLA Websites. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

## **ATLA 2010 Annual Conference News and Updates**



### **Featured Products and Services**

Several of our conference exhibitors will provide an in-depth look at what they have to offer during this year's "Showcase of Products and Services."

On Thursday, June 17 from noon to 12:45pm, ATLA will present Lunch and Learn about ATLA's Products (as the title suggests, lunch will be served). Digital Commons will help you to Learn about Digital Commons, and De Gruyter will discuss the Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception and Best of Religion e-dition Package.

During the second session, on Friday, June 18, from noon- 12:45pm, there are several more sessions to choose from. EBSCO will present The Complete Discovery Solution; OCLC will discuss The Future is Now: OCLC Web-scale Management Services; The Association of Christian Librarians will present an Introduction to the Christian Periodical Index; Copyright Clearance Center will introduce their work in Learn about Copyright Clearance Center; Westminster John Knox Press will provide an introduction to "Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible" and other New Academic Series; and USAMadrid Books will discuss the books of University of Navarre Publications. Find more information on the official conference website at [http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf\\_2010/conference\\_home.html](http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2010/conference_home.html)

## **ATLA Calendar**

### **June**

16-19 ATLA 2010 Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky

### **July**

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in August ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 4-7 Barbara Kemmis at Association of Jewish Libraries Convention in Seattle, WA
- 5 ATLA office closed for Independence Day holiday
- 10 Submissions due for Summary of Proceedings for the ATLA Sixty-fourth Annual Conference

### **September**

6 ATLA Office closed for Labor Day holiday

## Local Host Update

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### The Trifecta of Sweets

By now like locals you can appreciate Louisville as the "Greatest" city. We have world famous horse racing, legendary baseball bats, steamboats, etc. You probably think we've exhausted all we have to offer. Well, we've saved some of the best for last. Louisville and Jeffersonville, Indiana, which is just across the Ohio River, offer three options for your sweet tooth that are sure winners -

- the Trifecta of Sweets. You won't want to miss any of them. We'll have info about them at the local host table
- and maybe even some samples. Depending on levels of interest, we might even be able to arrange some hosted excursions.

Graeters Ice Cream (<http://www.graeters.com>)

Although Louisville is not technically the home of Graeter's (Cincinnati based), we're not above appropriating it as our own.

Graeter's French-pot ice cream is the the best in the world, and we're not exaggerating. They use so much cream that they can only make two gallons in a pot. All their ingredients are the freshest -- so much so that even the banana flavored ice cream tastes like real bananas (and I don't like bananas apart from their peels).

Schimpff's Confectionary (<http://www.schimpffs.com>)

Located just across the river, Schimpff's (see candy counter photo above) is one of the oldest family owned and operated candy businesses in the US. They are famous for their red hots and lemon drops. They also offer demonstrations of the candy making process. At their store you can pick up a regional candy specialty known as the Modjeska— a caramel covered marshmallow. A great treat to take home for family and friends.

The Homemade Ice Cream and Pie Kitchen (<http://www.piekitchen.com>)

Hopefully you haven't overloaded on sweets, and have saved room for some pie. The Pie Kitchen is about more than just pies, but in the hierarchy of sweets, pie is at the top. (The Pie Kitchen does have a caramel cake that is another regional favorite.) Pie borders on a religious experience for me, and the Pie Kitchen is like the Pantheon.

They have cream pies and custard pies, single crusts and doubles.

Frozen pies and those that want warmth. There are regional pies like chess pie and chocolate chess and of course pecan and chocolate chip pecan. The ultimate experience is, of course, the fruit pies. Too many to talk about, but the best of the best is the Dutch crumb-topped apple pie with caramel icing. It takes you to a new realm. You have all the goodness of the fresh apple filling, to which they add the Dutch crumb topping. The whole thing is then covered in the regional specialty of caramel icing. This pie helped me decide I could live in Louisville.

I feel like a full disclosure is warranted, though. While I've been writing this summary, I've been walking around Pike's Place Market and other places in Seattle. We're here on an annual family visit to Seattle, my wife's home town. Can I really say Louisville's offerings are the "greatest" when I compare it to places like Pike Place? Well, truth be told, we have to admit the greatness of some other places, too. But Louisville's greatness for ATLA is measured not just by food and public acclaim. This is your hometown, and you've been gone too long. Come home, relax, and let's have some pie and ice cream and catch up on the news. It may not be the greatest to everybody, but it is for us.

Best, Bruce Kiesling, Local Host Committee



## **New Member Benefits**

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### **ATLA Member Services Department Partners with the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC)**

Over time, ATLA members have requested discount and consortial access to e-resources. While staff has been successful in negotiating several arrangements, ATLA decided to seek a partner that could provide broader offerings at the best price to libraries. SCELC was selected due to its cooperative, library-focused reputation and affordable fee schedule. ATLA's Institutional and Affiliate Members in the United States will now have the opportunity to license certain electronic resources not currently available through local consortial agreements. All eligible ATLA institutional and affiliate members may elect to become ATLA/SCELC Affiliates; they will then be able to acquire access to certain electronic resources at reduced rates negotiated by SCELC. Both ATLA and SCELC staff members are available to assist potential affiliates throughout this process.

SCELC has many years of experience negotiating and managing cooperative licensing of electronic resources for libraries of nonprofit private academic and research institutions in California, including many ATLA institutional members. We are pleased to present the ATLA/SCELC Affiliate Program as the latest in a series of valuable member benefits.

For more information about this program, please contact any of the following individuals:

- Barbara Kemmis, Director of Member Services, ATLA, [bkemmis@atla.com](mailto:bkemmis@atla.com) (for questions about eligibility)
- Rick Burke, Executive Director, SCELC, [rburke@scelc.org](mailto:rburke@scelc.org) (for general inquiries)
- James Wisner, Assistant Director, SCELC, [jwisner@scelc.org](mailto:jwisner@scelc.org) (for questions about specific offerings and billing)

Or visit: <http://scelc.org/atla/application>

### **ATLA Member Services Department Partners with JSTOR**

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is pleased to announce a new partnership with JSTOR to offer accessible pricing to ATLA Institutional, International Institutional and Affiliate Member libraries affiliated with free-standing seminaries.

JSTOR and ATLA have worked together to make JSTOR collections available for reduced fees. We have taken into account the unique research and collection development needs of ATLA member institutions and developed a fee model that will enable more institutions to access this important scholarly content. The reduced fees are available for free-standing ATLA member institutions (those not affiliated with or sharing library resources with other institutions that do not meet JSTOR's classification standards).

The fee model will allow ATLA members to select one or several of JSTOR's collections, offering options which will allow access to the broadest set of multidisciplinary content to meet your needs. "JSTOR has been the single most popular resource we have made available since I arrived at CTU two years ago," said Melody Layton McMahan, Director of the Paul Bechtold Library at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. "We subscribe to seven collections which provide us with multidisciplinary coverage I thought we could only dream about!"

To learn more about how to participate in JSTOR including pricing information, please contact JSTOR directly at [participation@jstor.org](mailto:participation@jstor.org).

For eligibility and ATLA membership information, contact Barbara Kemmis, ATLA Director of Member Services, at [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com) or 888/665-2852.

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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 Sara Corkery ([scorkery@atla.com](mailto:scorkery@atla.com)) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

## Report From Abroad (no. 2)

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Above: Alvaro Perez (l) and Sandy

### Libraries and Birding in San José, Costa Rica

I recently spent a few days in San José, Costa Rica on a brief busman's holiday (May 5-7) before joining a twelve-day birding tour of the country.

"Do you have public libraries in Canada?" asked Marvin, my taxi driver, after I told him my profession. He was, he said, the proud patron of one of the many public libraries in San José. If Marvin is anything to go by, Costa Ricans take libraries and learning in general seriously (the country has a 95% literacy rate).

Marvin drove me to la Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana (UBL) where I would be staying for three nights while I visited the UBL library and the libraries of el Seminario Nazareno de las Américas (SENDAS) and la Escuela de Estudios Pastorales (ESEPA). My accommodation and transportation had been arranged by UBL's library director, Álvaro Pérez, with whom I'd become acquainted at a couple of ATLA conferences in the 90's.

Over the next few days, Álvaro and I had numerous conversations about theological librarianship and libraries in Latin America. He knows his subject well. In fact, he's writing a textbook on the history of librarianship in Costa Rica. He also teaches a course on the philosophy of librarianship at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNCR), and he recently received a national award for outstanding contributions to librarianship. Álvaro is also the founder of an organization similar to the ATLA, la Red Latinoamericana de Información Teológica

(Theological Information Network for Latin America). Unfortunately, the Red recently became inactive, but plans are afoot to revive it.

The UBL library, with 35,000 volumes (most of which are in Spanish or English), is the largest of the three that I visited. The older materials in the collection have been classified according to the Union Seminary system. Álvaro is attempting to convert these items to Dewey, but neither he nor his staff has the time to devote to retrospective conversion. Anyone for a volunteer vacation? Lois Longenecker recently spent three months working on the project. She's made a significant dent in the backlog, but much work (16,000 volumes worth) remains to be done.

On the morning of 6 May, Álvaro drove me to the campus of SENDAS, where his protégée, Gladys Vindas, directs the library. Hers is a much smaller operation (16,000 volumes). Despite my limited Spanish, I was able to gain an impression of some of the challenges she has to face. She was, for example, astounded to learn that many North American theological libraries do relatively little original cataloging. She must catalog from scratch almost every book she receives, since she doesn't have access to OCLC or any other database of catalog records (or the means to download them if she had). Fortunately, her library owns a copy of the Spanish-language version of the Dewey Decimal Classification as well as a thesaurus of Spanish theological subject headings that was developed by Álvaro in conjunction with the theology faculty at UBL and two of his students at UNCR. Gladys also uses the thesaurus to compile a home-grown index of the periodicals to which her library subscribes, since no appropriate Spanish-language periodical indexes are available.

That afternoon Marvin drove me to ESEPA, where I met with the rector, Mark Padgett, and the dean, Floyd Elmore, because the school does not currently have a librarian. They showed me around the institution's brand new facility. We concluded our tour on the fourth floor, which is dedicated to the library. Fortunately, the collection, which currently stands at about 12,000 volumes, has plenty of space for expansion. The two administrators wanted to know whether there was any way of getting the books cataloged and onto the shelves without a librarian. I gave them the standard advice: try to solicit volunteer help through the Association of Christian Librarians or ATLA; develop a rudimentary collection

development policy based on curriculum support and use it as a means of determining which books ought to receive priority in cataloging. While we were examining the books in the backlog, we heard a squawk, turned around, and saw a Crimson-fronted Parakeet with its beak pressed against the window. This I took to be a positive omen (for me, at least).



Above: Crimson-fronted Parakeet

In addition to the constraints I've already mentioned, I also discovered that none of the three libraries (even that of UBL, whose faculty do a considerable amount of scholarly research) subscribes to the ATLA Religion Database® with ATLASerials®. This essential resource is simply too expensive. Nor does any of the three have a web-based OPAC, although UBL has just received a grant that will enable them to make the necessary upgrade.

As I reflected on my visits and conversations, I began to wonder what sort of initiatives would most benefit the three libraries (and perhaps theological libraries in Latin America in general). Here, in random order, are some of my preliminary thoughts:

- subsidized access to the ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials
- funding for web-based integrated library systems and a union catalog with Z39.50 capability to permit the sharing of catalog records
- an e-mail discussion forum along the lines of ATLANTIS
- a revitalized Red Latinoamericana de Información Teológica that would offer conferences and workshops
- an online version of the above-mentioned list of subject headings and a means of updating it
- a network of North American librarian-volunteers (with some degree of proficiency in Spanish) willing to provide advice and onsite help

As for the birding trip (May 8-19), the visitation of the Crimson-fronted Parakeet was indeed auspicious: I saw 383 species, of which 272 were "life birds." To put that in perspective, in more than 20 years of birding I've seen only 370 species in Canada.

## Staff News



ATLA  
Employee  
Attends  
NASIG  
Rick  
Rybak,  
Electronic  
Products  
and  
Services

Assistant, was chosen as an award recipient to attend the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) conference in Palm Springs, CA, June 3-6.

-H.D. Sandy Ayer

## **Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration**



### **2010 Mid-Year Meeting of IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee, Stellenbosch, South Africa**

ATLA, IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), and OCLC are joint sponsors of the Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program that provides early career development for librarians from developing countries. Each year, six individuals, including a theological librarian, are eligible for selection to this five-week Fellowship program. Participants are announced at the annual IFLA meeting.

As the Africa representative on the International Collaboration Committee (ICC) of ATLA, I elected to attend the 2007 IFLA World Library & Information Congress (WLIC) because it was meeting in Durban, South Africa. I subsequently joined IFLA as an individual member.

In 2009, I was appointed to a four-year term on the Africa Section Standing Committee of IFLA. My responsibilities for this committee include attending the annual conferences as well as the mid-year committee meeting. Each August, WLIC meets in various venues around the world. In February, the Africa Section Standing Committee members meet in an African venue.

Stellenbosch University, about 30 miles west of Cape Town, was chosen for the February 15-16, 2010 mid-year meeting of the Africa Section so that it would take place in conjunction with the Presidential Meeting of IFLA President Ellen Tise (Senior Director of the Stellenbosch University Library) on February 18-19 and the Stellenbosch Symposium--Management of Library Associations (MLAS) Midterm Meeting on February 19-20.

The Africa Section Standing Committee mid-year duties are to plan the Africa-focus session at the next WLIC and to work on strategic plans for the next several years.

"Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress" is the theme of the 2010 WLIC in Gotenberg, Sweden. We tried to choose papers that related to that topic. Fifty presentation abstracts were received from which we chose four, plus an alternate. The committee always tries to select at

least one presentation in a language other than English. This year a French presentation was selected; French was the dominant non-English language of submissions. The IFLA program called "Building Strong Library Associations" (BSLA) is being launched in Africa to promote development & strengthening of library associations. We nominated Cameroun as the site of a BSLA workshop because it's bi-lingual as well as relatively central.

After our meeting concluded, the Africa Section members were invited to be guests for the February 17, 2010 pre-symposium workshop "Library Associations Driving Access to Knowledge: Models, Management, and Advocacy" featuring speakers from Europe, the U.S., and South Africa. The South African Ministry of Culture underwrote the Wednesday supper (traditional barbeque) for the delegates.

- Margaret Tarpley

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### **Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale Staff Visits ATLA HQ**

ATLA recently welcomed senior staff from Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale (RILM), <http://www.rilm.org/>, to our headquarters on May 21. RILM is a comprehensive bibliography of writings on music serving the global music research community. Today RILM has over 550,000 records in 214 languages from 151 countries. RILM's International Center is housed at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. The visitors included: Barbara Dobbs Mackenzie, Editor-in-Chief, Zdravko Blazekovic, Executive Editor, Murat Eyuboglu, Managing Editor, and Heather Brown, Subscriptions Director. ATLA staff and RILM staff spoke about best practices for indexing and production and business and strategy issues.

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