



An icon on display at the Concordia Seminary Library.

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From the President



The Gift of Summer

"Do not assume that because I am frivolous I am shallow;

I don't assume that because you are grave

you are profound."

-Bishop Sydney Smith (1771-1845)

Summer's rarely a time of complete leisure; most of us are probably finding that we are still busy, only in different ways. (Is anyone else out there savoring the infrequency of committee meetings?) But while it's still with us, this season offers an excellent opportunity to ask the kind of questions that help us maintain (or recover) the balance we need. Such as:

- Am I enjoying my work as much as six, or twelve, or eighteen months ago? Why? How about the people I work with?
- How are new technologies actually helping us serve our patrons?
- How and where, exactly, are the effects of budget cuts most likely to be felt, internally and externally, in the next year?
- What possible realignments and efficiencies does a time of fiscal restraint **encourage us to consider?**

No doubt you've got some fine questions of your own worth pondering, and asking them candidly now is a good way to keep cultivating the equilibrium required to excel in our vocation.

David R. Stewart

Report of the Secretary of the Board

ATLA Annual Conference, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri Minutes of the Business Meeting

The business meeting was convened by Board President David Stewart at 2:00p.m., Thursday, June 18, 2009.



Eileen Crawford presented the Secretary's report. The Teller's Committee was composed of Don Meredith, Sheila Owen, and Jane Williamson. They received the election results via e-mail from Survey & Ballot Systems and verified that 306 ballots were received. The membership elected Sandy Ayers, Carrise Berryhill, Carrie Hackney, and Laura Wood to the Board of Directors for the 2009-2012 term of office. The Secretary's report was accepted.

Allen Mueller introduced the Board officers for 2009/2010: Eileen Crawford (Secretary), Roberta Schaafsma (Vice President) and David Stewart (President).

President Stewart recognized and thanked departing Board members Cait Kokolus and Allen Mueller. President Stewart awarded Dr. Martin E. Marty a Lifetime Membership to ATLA under the provisions of 1.7.b. in the Bylaws of the Association. Dr Marty was present to receive his plaque and grace the assembly with a brief address. President Stewart delivered his presidential address. The Business meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Board of Directors Meetings

The Board discussions included a review of the charges written for the Policy Governance and Audit committees and a conversation about how new policy is written, vetted, and enacted. A revised draft of the Organizational Ends in the Board Policy Manual was reviewed and a timeline established to finalize the document in time to solicit input from the membership at the next conference. Reports were received on the work of the following committees: Audit, Endowment, Governance, and Special Committee of the Association for Diversity. A charge for a Task Force for Live History was approved and its members will be appointed by the ATLA President. The Board engaged in a review of the conference with the Education and Annual Conference Committees. The January Board meeting was set for January 15-17, 2010 at ATLA Headquarters.

-Eileen Crawford, Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors

From the Executive Director The View From Here



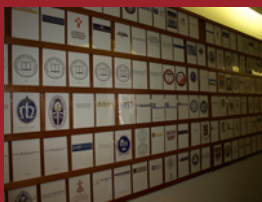
The other day I read about an amateur astronomer discovering evidence of a large object colliding with Jupiter. The story told about astronomers booking time in all of the major observatories to study this event. One of them

commented on our good fortune that Jupiter, with its huge gravitational field, attracts these objects from outside the solar system, serving as our protector.

It made me think about the worldview of astronomers and what it must be like to focus, not on local, state, or national news and events, but on cosmological events. This observation made me reflect further that our view of how things are going is shaped by our field of vision.

At ATLA headquarters our field of vision differs markedly from the view shared by most of our members. We don't have patrons asking for materials or assistance; we aren't a department or unit of a larger administrative unit; we don't order our lives by the academic calendar; we aren't approached by vendors trying to sell us books and journals and subscriptions to electronic resources.

That's why it's so important for us to be in communication with our members, to hear the view from theological libraries, and to address the concerns that our members are facing. I think that our collective response to the current economic turmoil was evident at our annual conference in the programs and projects that addressed those concerns.



Every day when I come to work, I pass by our member wall, a large frame that holds the logos of each of our institutional members. It's a visual reminder to the staff and me that we work

for an incredibly rich and diverse collection of theological libraries of every stripe and size and denomination. At ATLA headquarters, we are keeping you in view.

-Dennis A. Norlin

To register to receive regular Friday updates of my blog, go to http://edblog.atla.com/?page_id=62.

ATLA 2009 Annual Conference Summary



Congratulations to the Libraries of the St. Louis Theological Consortium. When they said "Meet me in St. Louis," they really meant "What a great meeting St. Louis will be!"

The 2009 ATLA Annual Conference held at the Millennium Hotel St. Louis was well planned and organized, creating an excellent conference experience for all members that attended. Once again, I was delighted to be a part of this international gathering for the premiere ecumenical library association. Our conference was well attended and attracted a very diverse group of divinity librarians who hailed from Africa, France, Belgium, Jamaica, and Taiwan. Allen Mueller and Jim Pakala, co-chairs of the Local Host Committee, did a great job implementing all of the host committee activities and made us all feel welcomed and very much at home in this venerable city, which serves as the country's "Gateway to the West." Volunteers at the Local Host Table ably filled in all of the blanks that surfaced at the conference, providing a wealth of information to us all. ATLA's annual conference attracted 300 members, exhibitors, and guests - no small feat in this economy.

In attendance this year we had 34 first time attendees, 35 new members, and 5 international members; 35 members received travel grants. We experienced the attention to detail, the knowledge imparted, and the enthusiasm displayed by the highly regarded presenters, exhibitors, and staff that played a very important role in the execution of the annual conference. All of the interest groups, panels, papers, and roundtables were well attended. The highlights of the conference were our two plenary speakers, the luncheon panel presentation on the economic downturn, and, of course, our day on Concordia's campus. Last, but certainly not least, all involved will certainly remember the eventful tour of Covenant's library.

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

As usual, the many wonderful photos taken at the conference will be available to members via Shutterfly.com. Download and/or print your favorites (password is atla) at <http://atla2009annualconference.shutterfly.com/>

2008 Annual Conference photos can be found at <http://atla08conference.shutterfly.com/>

Photos from 2007 and 2006 are at <http://atlaconferencepast.shutterfly.com/>

The case-sensitive password for entering each of these sites: atla

Coming soon: videos of the plenary sessions, business meeting, town meeting, and audio of the Saturday worship (featuring the ATLA Choir) will be available on the ATLAOne channel at YouTube.com. Look for an announcement once all of the sessions have been uploaded. In the meantime, you can see the enjoyable and humorous 2010 Local Host Committee video "Louisville, the Greatest."

Don't forget to submit your conference evaluation at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8PrYdDR8gsr0uwOUZ034Kg_3d_3d. It is a great way to make your voice heard for next year's planning.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone that contributed to the overall success of our conference: the Annual Conference and Education committee members, the board of directors, our speakers, presidors, regional, denominational, and interest group members, ATLA staff, and all the ATLA members who make me feel extremely proud to be a part of this great association. I am exceptionally fortunate, privileged and blessed.

My attention has already turned to next year's conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The Annual Conference and Education Committees recently sent out an invitation to members and friends of the American Theological Library Association to submit proposals for pre-conference workshops, in-conference workshops, papers, panel presentations, interest group presentations, roundtables, posters, or other special sessions. You can find the invitation at http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2010/presenters_call.html. The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, October 2, 2009.

See you in Louisville, June 16 - 19, 2010.

-Denise AM McFarlin, ATLA Meeting Specialist

Member News

Membership Renewal Season is Here!

Individual and Student members are invited to log in to www.atla.com today to instantly renew their memberships online. Simply click on the "Renewal Online" choice under the Membership tab and pay with a VISA or MasterCard. You can also select "Bill Me" to receive an invoice by email. (Please remit payment to ATLA upon receipt of the email.) While visiting the new online community, be sure to take a moment to update your profile and explore the publications and groups available to you here.

Institutional, International Institutional and Affiliate Member representatives will receive their institutional renewal invoices by August 15, 2009.

Final Rio Celebration

On July 10, 2009, we celebrated the publication of the 40th and final volume of Religion Index One: Periodicals (RIO) with a reception at the ATLA Office (*below*).



Several of those who served in an editorial capacity for one or more issues of RIO were present, including Cameron J. Campbell, Carolyn K. Coates, Karl J. Frantz, Don Haymes, Joel R. Schorn, Gregg Taylor, and Erica Treesh. Visit http://www.atla.com/member/RIP_RIO.html to read a short history of RIO assembled by Dennis Norlin.

ATLA SharePoint Communities Webinars

All ATLA Individual and Student members are invited to participate in this newly developed online training. Designed to help you maximize your networking capabilities through the new ATLA SharePoint Communities, we expect that these user-friendly webinars will especially benefit participants in ATLA's Interest and Denominational Groups.

You'll discover how to access your member benefits (publications, announcements, and membership in various groups), update your member profile, renew your membership, set up alerts and feeds to organize SharePoint

information traffic, and post content in Community sites.

Sessions are scheduled for:
Monday, 8/17/09 (2pm CDT)
Friday, 8/28/09 (11am CDT)
Monday, 9/14/09 (2pm CDT)
Friday, 9/18/09 (11am CDT)

To RSVP for one of these sessions, email bkemmis@atla.com.

Exciting New ATLA Institutional Member Benefit Reminder

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

Multi-year grants are available to institutional members of ATLA that are also accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The schools' alumni/ae will receive a subscription to *ATLASerials® (ATLAS®)*, an online collection of more than 140 major religion and theology journals selected by leading religion scholars, theologians and clergy. To learn more about the *ATLAS for ALUM* program, contribute your success stories if you are an existing subscriber, or to read details about upcoming webinars, please visit our online resource guide at www.atlasalum.com. ATLA is involved in a multi-faceted communications campaign, so you may also hear about ATLAS for ALUM from your administrators and institutional advancement officers. The deadline for priority consideration is October 1, 2009.

For personal assistance, please contact Laura Wrzesinski, ATLAS Product Marketing Specialist directly at atlasalum@atla.com or

Attention OCLC Subscribers to the ATLA Religion Database and ATLASerials

On July 31, 2009 OCLC released to subscribers the *ATLA Religion Database* and *ATLASerials* on its new WorldCat.org user interface. While surprised by this time frame, we are eager to work with OCLC to improve the interface and access to ATLA products. If you are using this new interface and supplying feedback to OCLC technical support, please take a moment to copy ATLA technical support on your concerns at support@atla.com. We will make every effort to act on your concerns and thank you for your assistance.

New Books by Member Authors

Scarecrow Publishing has just released *The Wilderness, the Nation, and the Electronic Era: American Christianity and Religious Communication, 1620-2000*. This annotated bibliography by ATLA Lifetime Member Elmer J. O'Brien contains over "2,400 annotations of books, book chapters, essays, periodical articles, and selected dissertations dealing with the various means and technologies of Christian communication used by clergy, churches, denominations, benevolent associations, printers, booksellers, publishing houses, and individuals and movements in their efforts to disseminate news, knowledge, and information about religious beliefs and life in the United States from colonial times to the present." In *Visions of Apostolic Mission: Scandinavian Pentecostal Mission to 1935*, author David Bundy examines the role of Scandinavian missionaries in the spread of Pentecostalism across the globe. An Institutional Member Representative, David is Associate Provost for Library Services at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Rev. James Else Dead at 88

TLA Lifetime Member James "Jim" Prentiss Else died on Friday, June 12, 2009. A Methodist minister, military chaplain, and D-Day veteran, Jim also worked at the Claremont School of Theology and the Graduate Theological Union Library. The family has asked that donations in his memory be made to the American Cancer Society or the Yosemite Association.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, September 7, 2009. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CDT). Affected services include ASE, ListServe and ATLA Websites. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

The First-Ever ATLA Salary and Benefits Survey

ATLA is surveying its North American Institutional and Affiliate member libraries to benchmark salary levels and benefits offered in the field.

Although current economic turbulence may lead to rapid fluctuation in compensation levels, it is more important than ever to document this aspect of the field to provide data for your future budget and human resource decision-making.

The survey is intended to gather data reflecting your entire theological library staff so that the information is most useful for planning purposes. Representatives of member institutions received an email from Survey and Ballot Systems to complete the survey online on July 31, 2009. If you did not receive your email invitation, please contact Barbara Kemmis at bkemmis@atla.com or 888.665.2852.

Tools for a Tough Economy

Webinars to Focus on Congregations and the Economic Downturn

Alban Institute and the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University are collaborating on a webinar series to help participants learn more about how the economic situation is being experienced by congregations and how they are responding to it. Entitled *Congregations and the Economic Crisis: Conversations on Perspective Guidance*, the series will examine such topics as "Stewardship in Lean Times" and "Staff Anxieties in a Changing Economy." To read more about the series and learn how to register: <http://www.alban.org/learningdetail.aspx?id=7850>

ACRL 2009 Strategic Thinking Guide for Academic Librarians in the New Economy

Distinguished panelists will discuss the questions that were presented at the ACRL 14th National Conference in Seattle last March during a program session entitled "Brother Can You Spare a Dime? ACRL 2009 Strategic Thinking Guide for Academic Librarians in the New Economy." The panel is intended to spur strategic conversation, planning, and action in academic libraries. More information is available here: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/future/futures.cfm>.

From the Professional Development Committee



Solving Problems the MacGyver Way

In the 1995 film *Apollo 13*, there is a scene in which engineers try to figure out how to fix the carbon dioxide filters on the Apollo space craft using only materials already on the ship. The team leader dumps a bag of stuff on a table and announces that the problem is, essentially, how to make a square peg fit into a round hole using the odds and ends strewn on the table. The engineers solve the problem and save the astronauts' lives by using (among other things) a sock, the cover of the flight plan, and duct tape.

MacGyver, that great TV improviser, would be proud.

In theological librarianship, we face many problems that need to be solved with the materials at hand. Sometimes the problems are rather mundane (another paper jam in the copier), some are technical (the ones that your spouse pretends to be interested in when you talk about them at the dinner table), and some involve challenges in leadership (another fiscal year, another year of lobbying for the library budget). In some cases, we must respond to difficulties not of our own making. In other cases, we are trying to use emerging technology or implement a new service to make our libraries better contributors to teaching, learning, and research.

The argument for taking your professional development seriously is based on two premises. First, you did not learn everything that you need to know about librarianship in library school. Second, you participate in a community of professionals who willingly share their expertise. ATLA provides several options for professional development that may help you address thorny problems that you face in your day-to-day work or prepare to take on more professional responsibility. Details of these professional development opportunities are available on the Member Page of the ATLA website.

Professional development makes us better MacGyvers, better problem solvers, better librarians.

-Timothy Lincoln,
Chair

Welcome New Members

Institutional Members

Earlham College, Richmond, IN
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

Affiliate Member Organization

USA madrid Books, Chicago, IL

Individual Members

Leon Bloder, Eustis, US, FL
Ms. Donna R. Campbell, Philadelphia, PA
Mrs. Karen Cushing, Memphis, TN
Sarah Dryden, Nashville, TN
Rev. Dr. W. James Gerling, Geneva, NY
Rev. David Gilliland, Craigavon, United Kingdom
Jeremy W. Labosier, Willow Grove, PA
Ms. Lorraine H. Olley, Mundelein, IL
Dr. William Soll, Kirkwood, MO
Rev. Dr. Janet Winslow, Tujunga, CA
Rev. Dr. Nancy Krohn Young, Midland, MI
Rev. James Thomas Zang, III, Lockport, NY

Student Members

Mr. Tom Brennan, Meridian, US, ID
Kathleen Buescher-Milligan, Saint Louis, MO
Mr. Robert Huttmeier, Fort Worth, TX
Mr. Brandon Locke, Pittsburgh, PA
Mrs. Rebecca D Stapleton, Knoxville, TN

ATLA Staff Profile : Beverly Thompson



Beverly Thompson, ATLA's Administrative Manager, retired as of August 1, 2009. She graciously consented to answer a few questions about her time as an employee of the Association.

How many years have you worked with ATLA?

I have worked for ATLA 7½ years.

What changes have you seen in your job and ATLA?

Technology, in my opinion, has been the most significant change, not only to my job but the association as a whole. The ATLA staff is very capable and is doing a wonderful job of making the necessary changes to keep ATLA relevant in this age of digitization. Most information is now disseminated electronically and there is no longer the need for the large copy jobs, mass mailings of products, catalogs, and correspondence to the membership.

What will be your most enduring memory?

I have to say that serving as Chair of the Local Host committee for the 2006 Annual Conference. The committee did a great job putting it altogether and I enjoyed working with all of them. I think it was Barbara's first conference here at ATLA and she was able to keep us all on target.

What will you miss most about your job?

I have worked for over 40 years and not being scheduled to go to work each day will take some getting use to. I worked for corporate America for most of my career, and I must say that ATLA has been the most rewarding experience. ATLA is a place where you are not just a number and there is a genuine concern for you as a person and your family. I think that comes from the leadership and is something that is almost unheard of in most companies.

What are your future plans?

I have a variety of things planned but first I am going to spend the month of August with my daughter in California. I also plan to visit my siblings in Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico at some point. There are so many activities for seniors now, that some of my retired friends have planners because they are involved in so many things. Some of the activities in which I plan to participate are the senior fitness classes at the health club, book discussions at my local library, monthly lectures at the library, the chess classes at the local school district, quilting and volunteer work at my church. I would also like to work about 15 hours a week. I think I may need a planner too.

2009/10 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, Sandra Lipton.*

Annual Conference Committee: the strategic and long-range planning agent for annual conferences. (Committee Appointed by the Executive Director) • *Sara Myers (08-11), Chair, Ken Boyd (09-12), Vice-Chair, Bruce Keisling (07-10), Matt Ostercamp (08-11), Julie Hines (09-12), 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(08-11), Chair, Cait Kokolus (08-11), James Pakala (09-11), Board Liaison, Susan Ebertz (08-11), Mayra Picos-Lee (08-11), Dennis Norlin, 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) • *Kelly Campbell (08-11), Chair, Richard Lammert (09-10), Secretary, Jennifer Bartholomew (09-12), Jennifer Ulrich (09-12), Dan Kolb (09-10), 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 (05-10), 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) • Cheryl Adams, Duane Harbin, Laura Wood.

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), Terry Robertson (09-13), 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) • M. Patrick Graham (07-09), Chair, Melody Layton McMahon (08-10), Ellen Frost (09-11).

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) • Timothy Lincoln (08-11), Chair, Ellen Frost (09-12), Seth Kasten (07-10), Christina A. Torbert (09-12), 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 (09-12), Michelle Spomer, (08-11), Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio.

ATLA Calendar

August

- 20 ATLA Office closed at noon for the ATLA staff summer outing
- 28 CATLA meeting at ATLA Office

September

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

October

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in November ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 2 Special Committee of the Association for Diversity meeting at ATLA Office
- 4-7 Margot Lyon and Tami Luedtke at Lilly Websites Consultation and Duke University
- 7-9 Publications Committee and Theological Librarianship editorial Board meet at ATLA Office
- 21-24 ACC and EdCom 2010 Conference planning meeting, Louisville, KY
- 28-29 Barbara Kemmis attending SWATLA in Dallas, TX

ATLA Newsletter Contact Information:
Sara Corkery, Communications Specialist
scorkery@atla.com • 888.665.2852