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A young couple courts by a tree in this image from *Medizinisch-Astrologisches Hausbuch* from the collection at Concordia Seminary Library, St. Louis, MO. From ATLA's Cooperative Digital Resource Initiative (CDRI) database.

From the President

Vocational Horizons: Two Scenarios



An interesting case of “conceptual whiplash”: this past Thursday evening I met for the semester’s final session with my MLIS class of 18 students. As in previous years, those of us so inclined

reconvened afterwards to a nearby Irish pub. Our conversation turned at some point, as it often does, to job prospects, not only for these very gifted students, but for librarians more generally.

Segue with me to my regular coffee place, where I noticed the past day or two something markedly different in the clientele: as it happens, the annual state conference of the Future Farmers of America is convening nearby. These youthful delegates really do stand out, and I’m not referring only to their natty outfits. There’s a contagious energy and optimism that (as I overhear their conversations) has at least something to do with their sense of the future, and their place in it. No vocation is completely secure from change and challenge, but I suppose the FFA delegates possess a high degree of confidence that one way or another there will continue to be a need for exactly what they bring to the table.

Here’s what these two very different scenarios help remind me of: we can never separate our vocation and its prospects from the bigger context. What, exactly, are our services, products, and contributions to the world around us? In what unique sense do they fill a need? And how is that need changing? There is no better setting than the ATLA community to consider such intriguing questions as these.

Cheers,
David R. Stewart

Upcoming Board Nominations

Do you know someone who has the skills and dedication necessary to become a successful member of the ATLA Board of Directors? If so, the Nominating Committee for the ATLA Board of Directors would appreciate your suggestions. Information on the process and a list of qualifications for board members may be found in the Bylaws of the Association (see Article 4) and the ATLA Board Policy Manual (pp. 29-32). Be sure to review this information (found in the shared documents section of the Members Only web pages) before forwarding your suggestions to the committee. There is no need for you to contact the person(s) you are recommending as committee members will do so if they are interested in selecting this person as a potential candidate. Please send your suggestions by June 1, 2009 to Pat Graham, chair (libmpg@emory.edu), Melody Layton McMahon (mmcmahon@ctu.edu), or Ellen Frost (efrost@smu.edu).

From the Executive Director



On April 17th I had the opportunity to attend the meeting of the Chicago Area Theological Library Association (CATLA) on the campus of the

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. CATLA is one of 17 regional groups affiliated with ATLA, and the program was interesting and encouraging.

Ruth Gaba presented a report about her ongoing research about the environments and settings that theological students favor for scholarly reading and writing. This important project helps librarians learn the importance and impact of the physical environment they offer to students.

We also had the opportunity to learn about plans for the new library being built at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana (*see article in Member News section for details*). Director Robert Roethemeyer shared all of the factors that are involved in a successful library building project, just as Concordia was set to break ground (Tuesday, April 21, was the groundbreaking).

Eileen Saner, our host for the day, told us about all of the factors involved in building their new library (completed in 2007), the first LEED certified green building in northern Indiana. We even got to see the pipes from the geothermal heating system employed in the building.

It was a wonderful day, and it was encouraging to see the creativity, commitment, and energy that our members have for creating spaces, developing programs, and providing services that offer excellence to theological students and faculty.

-Dennis A. Norlin

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

Member News

IFLA/OCLC Fellows Vist ATLA Office

On Monday, May 5, several members of ATLA's staff met with librarians from six different countries. Participants in the Early Career Development Fellowship Program, these librarians visited ATLA headquarters as part of their two-week stay in the United States. Jointly sponsored by OCLC and IFLA, the program offers early career librarians an opportunity to sample a variety of library and information science sites and to make connections with their American counterparts.



Above, standing, left to right: Nancy Lensenmeyer (Program Director, Education and Professional Development, OCLC), Saima Qutab (Pakistan), Ani Minasyan (Armenia), this year's ATLA Fellow, John Kiyaga (Uganda), and Caleb Ouma (Kenya). Seated: George Needham (Vice President, Member Services, OCLC), Raymond Sikanyika (Zambia); Vesna Vuksan (Serbia) and Jason Lee, recipient of the OCLC Minority Fellowship.

For more information about the Fellows and the program, go to <http://www.oclc.org/community/careerdevelopment/fellows/default.htm>.

ATLA Receives Protech Award

During the recent 2009 Protech Customer Care Conference, ATLA received the "The Fast Track Excellence Award" from Protech Business Solutions in recognition of the significant results we've achieved within the first year of our new software implementation.

ATLA Hosts Methodist Digital Group

On April 23-24, ATLA hosted a group of ATLA members from Methodist theological schools as they explored the possibility of developing a program to digitize Methodist materials of potential value for classroom use and research. Organized by Andy Keck of Duke University, the group included representatives from 10 different ATLA institutional members plus Robert Miller, Director of the Internet Archive.



Seated, left to right above: Andy Keck, Duke University Divinity School; Pat Graham, Emory University; Christopher Anderson, Drew University. Standing: Logan Wright, St. Paul School of Theology; Paul Burnam, Methodist Theological School in Ohio; Beth Shepperd, Garrett-Evangelical and Seabury-Western Theological Seminaries; Robert Miller, Baltimore, MD; Debbie Creamer, Iliff School of Theology; Roberta Schaafsma, Southern Methodist University; Jack Ammerman, Boston University School of Theology; Bill Faupel, Wesley Theological Seminary.

Debbie Creamer Appointment



Effective June 6, 2009, Dr. Debbie Creamer will be appointed as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Iliff School of Theology. In his announcement to the Iliff community, Albert Hernandez, Dean of the Faculty and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Designate, said, "Dr. Creamer will continue serving

as Director of the Ira J. Taylor Library and as Assistant Professor of Theological Bibliography. As Associate Dean, her responsibilities will include working with students and the curriculum, and overseeing our Distributed Learning Initiative, which she has been directing since January."

Walther Library to Expand

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Walther Library expansion and renovation project took place at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana on Tuesday, April 21. Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod President Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick (at center in photo below) drew the first shovel of dirt, followed by seminary President Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe and CTS Director of Library and Information Services Rev. Prof. Robert Roethemeyer (far left).

The \$8 million dollar expansion is scheduled to begin this summer. "After many years of patient, prayerful planning, we are delighted to have a



concept for the expansion of the library that excites our donors, surpasses our programmatic dreams, honors our Saarinen village, and provides a shovel-ready, value engineered project as we seek to hold up a bright future in the midst of these dark times," commented Roethemeyer.

Routine Systems Maintenance

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, June 1st, 2009. 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 Website. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Job Postings Online

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

ATLA Calendar

May

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in June/July ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 15 Early Bird Deadline for Conference Registration Conference Housing Deadline

June

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

July

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

ATLA 2009 Annual Conference Updates

Exhibitors

As you make your final plans to join your fellow attendees in St. Louis, be sure to check the conference website for updates. With over 40 tables representing over 30 different exhibitors, you can plan your trip to the exhibit hall in advance when you check the handy list of exhibitors and the schedule of exhibit hall events. As always, ATLA thanks the generous sponsors whose support helps make the Annual Conference possible. This year's sponsors are:

Major Sponsor

EBSCO

Supporters

Critchell, Miller & Petrus
CZ Marketing
First Bank and Trust
Fortress Press
Harbor Group Management Company
OCLC Online Computer Library Center
Protech
Vanderbilt University

Many popular exhibitors will be returning to the 2009 conference, including BRILL, Casalini Libri, David C. Lachman, EBSCO, Editorial Verbo Divino, Einsenbrauns, OCLC, Puvill Libros, Scarecrow Press, Stroud Booksellers, Theological Book Network, The Scholar's Choice, Walter de Gruyter, and many more!

We also welcome 11 New exhibitors:

- BiblioLife- helps libraries and archives distribute historical books in print and electronic formats.
- Concordia Publishing House - a Christian Publisher of Professional and Theological Resources based out of St. Louis, Missouri.
- Emery-Pratt Company - a distributor of books and AV materials from over

70,000 publishing sources, giving personal service to libraries and hospitals nationwide.

- Hendrikson Publishers- a publisher of biblical stories and books.
- Midwest Library Service - provides books, processing, and collection development services including firm order, approval plan, out-of-print, and standing order programs
- Missouri Library Network Corp. - a multiple-library consortium based in St. Louis offering discounts and resources from a variety of vendors as well as training in the management and use of information.
- Orthodox Witness- its mission is to make the Orthodox Christian faith known to those around us through modern means of communication.
- SIL International - serving the peoples of the world by facilitating language-based development through research, translation, and literacy.
- Stop Falling Productions - a distributor of librarians' shirts and accessories.
- Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion - supports teachers of religion and theology in higher education through workshops, grants, a journal and other resources to make accessible the scholarship of teaching and learning.
- Word Aflame Press- Since 1945, the Pentecostal Publishing House and Word Aflame Press have provided resources for the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) movement.

Visit the list on our website for the most complete and up-to-date list of exhibitors and sponsors.

Tuesday Carillon Concert Opportunity

For those arriving in St. Louis before Tuesday evening, the Local Host Committee alerts you that there is a carillon concert from 7 - 8 p.m. on the Concordia Seminary campus. Part of the seminary's carillon recital series, the June 16 event will feature carillonneur Sharon Hettinger of Kansas. If you'd like to attend, please contact ATLA Conference Coordinator Denise McFarlin, dmcfarlin@atla.com, as group transportation may be coordinated if interest in the event is high.

Local Host Help

Be sure to visit the local host page of the website to see the helpful resources available for conference attendees. You'll find a map of the St. Louis area to direct you to major attractions and conference excursion venues as well as a generous list of local restaurants (with links to their websites when available).

Invitation: Participate in the Conference Choir

The ATLA Singers, a small volunteer choir that sings at one of the conference worship services, will perform during worship service at Concordia Seminary on Saturday morning, June 20. The choir is looking for new members to swell its ranks, particularly individuals with some choir experience, blending voices (and the technique to control vibrato, if any), and some ability to read music. The music is sent out to singers so that they have the opportunity to learn it ahead of the limited rehearsal time at the conference. If you would like to join, please contact the choir director, Seth Kasten, at skasten@uts.columbia.edu. Past singers, please note that the list of singers is be-

ing rebuilt from scratch, so you should resubmit your name to insure that you'll receive the music ahead of time.

Early Bird Deadline

Mid-May is your last chance to enjoy \$50 savings on full conference registration fees. Be sure to register by May 15. And remember, it's not too late to sign up for the wonderful range of pre-conference workshops. Several of these valuable sessions still have space available.

Memorials and Retirees

Every year we take time at the annual conference to honor retiring members and to remember ATLA members who have died in the preceding twelve months.

Retirees are honored during the banquet on Saturday. This year's memorial service is scheduled for Saturday following the worship service. If you are retiring or if you know of any ATLA members who have passed away since June 2008, please inform Barbara Kemmis, bkemmis@atla.com.

Job Placement Services

A book of job openings submitted by employers will be available at the conference registration table. Job seekers will be welcome to look through the book and make mutually convenient arrangements to meet with the hiring employers. If you will be hiring at that time and want your position to appear in the book, please send your information to Barbara Kemmis, Director of Member Services, at bkemmis@atla.com.

Endowment Drive

ATLA's annual endowment drive continues during May. Please consider making a gift to this important fund, dedicated to insuring the future of ATLA as a member association. Join your colleagues who have contributed to the Endowment Fund during the past year (see below. Go to <https://www.atla.com/formprocess/endowment/endowmentform.asp> to donate now on our secure webpage.

Endowment Fund Donors

(August 15, 2008 to April 29, 2009):

Memorial Donors

James R. Skyeck in memory of his father, John R. Skyeck

David B. Whitney in memory of Harvard Divinity School's Mrs. Grossman

In Honor of

Christine A. Torbert in honor of Allen Mueller

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Organizational Donors

Covenant Theological Seminary
Adam Matthew Publications

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

Member Benefit Update

New Website = New Benefits

If you've registered for the 2009 Annual Conference, recently renewed your membership, or newly joined the Association, you've probably already experienced some of the enhanced tools offered on the ATLA website.

The Beta-version of the new members-only website is open to all Individual, Student, and Lifetime members. We are pleased to invite you to visit this space and explore. Several tasks you may want to accomplish on your journey:

- update your contact information and communication preferences
- view SharePoint community sites for your interest and denominational groups
- search the enhanced membership and committee directories
- read special content reserved for ATLA members
- explore a host of additional exciting features

To access this space, go to: www.atla.com and click on Member Log-in. Enter your username and password. Once you've successfully logged in, you have the option of changing your password to suit your preferences.

Remember, this ATLA Community site is new and under continuous development. Much of the content is dependent on Member participation and feedback. Have fun and let us know how you like it!

Representatives of Institutional, International Institutional and Affiliate members who are not Individual Members will still be able to access their member publications in the customary location on the website (<http://www.atla.com/member/publications.html>).

Club Quarters Lowers Rates

With summer on its way, remember to take advantage of your ATLA Member Club Quarters benefit at www.clubquarters.com. Club Quarters just announced that it has lowered 30 day rates in Chicago, San Francisco, London, and New York effective immediately.

Scholarship and Grants Annual Fund Donors

(August 15, 2008 to April 29, 2009)

Individual Donors

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Organizational Donors

Adam Matthew Publications
Bethel Seminary San Diego Library
Covenant Theological Seminary
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

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



From the Special Committee of the Association for Diversity

I want to make sure that everyone has a chance to attend the first pre-conference workshop sponsored by the Special Committee of the Association for Diversity (SCAD) at the 2009 ATLA Annual Conference this year in St. Louis. I am including a description of the workshop and I urge you to consider attending. I think you will find it an excellent use of your time and money. The cost is \$50 and worth every penny. If you haven't already, please think about signing up and let others know about it. I'll see you there.

Diversity 101: Unpacking Our Suitcases and Our Briefcases - An Interactive Workshop for Front-Line Service Providers and Managers

Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 1-4:30pm

Tracie D. Hall, Consultant, ATLA
Through engaging presentation, interactive exercises, open dialogue, and resource-sharing, this three-hour session guides participants through some of the concepts (bias, discrimination, privilege) subsumed under the construct of diversity (age, class, disability, ethnicity, gender, look, nationality, race, sex, skin color, sexual orientation, etc.) for a look at how some of our preconceived and often unconscious notions of difference and otherness can show up in our personal lives and workplaces. Intended for front-line service providers and managers, this workshop is designed to get participants thinking about ways to break down sometimes invisible barriers to effective service

inside and outside the library. Take-aways include a personal-action plan and a diversity and inclusion implementation plan for your library or organization.

Please note another program of interest recommended by the Special Committee of the Association on Diversity.

Racial Diversity in the Library Staff: A Conversation on Recruiting, Supporting, and Savoring Its Gift

Thursday, June 18, 2009, 4-5:30pm

Cait C. Kokolus, Director of Library Services, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; M. Patrick Graham, Margaret A. Pitts Professor of Theological Bibliography and Director, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University; Sharon Taylor, Donald G. Miller Librarian and Director of the Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Some library directors may wonder if the effort it takes to build a racially diverse library staff is worth the benefits. Others may be convinced that a diverse staff is more representative of their institutions or faith commitments, but have no idea about how to integrate racially diverse staff into their libraries. Some directors may have experienced the challenges of hiring, integrating and retaining racially diverse staff members in their institutions. During this panel presentation, participants will focus on best practices to hire, retain, integrate, and promote a more racially diverse library staff. The issues to discuss will include, but are not limited to, the wording and placement of advertisements, the recognition and removal of obstacles in the institutional culture, and concrete ideas for the celebration of the differences among staff while maintaining a cohesive group.

Also, I want to remind you about the \$1000 scholarships that will be offered again this fall by the committee to help students attend the Theological Librarianship course. Please pass the word:

ATLA is pleased to offer up to five \$1,000 scholarships to students from underrepresented minority populations to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign LEEP course, Theological Librarianship (LIS 590TL). The deadline for submitting your application is June 1, 2009. Information about the application process for the scholarships is posted on the ATLA webpage. Enrollment queries about the Theological Librarianship course, which will be offered this fall on Wednesday, from 4-6 p.m. CS, should go to Rae Montague, rae@illinois.edu, or to Associate Dean Linda C. Smith, lcsmith@illinois.edu.

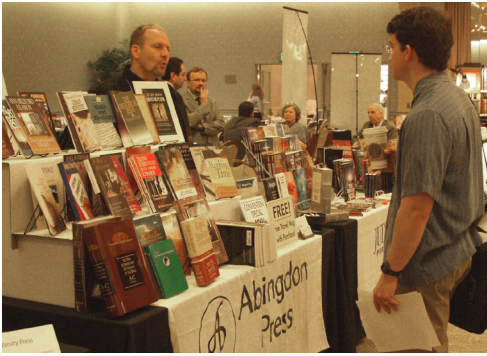
Queries about the course content should come to Carisse Berryhill at cmb04c@acu.edu.

Please email me if I can answer any questions for you at dibrice@lstc.edu.

-Diana Brice, Chair, Special Committee of the Association for Diversity

ATLA Member Profile

Abingdon Press



Bryan Williams (left) of Abingdon Press speaks with a visitor to the Abingdon Press booth at the ATLA 2007 Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Bryan will be at the conference again this June.

Name: Mary Catherine Dean

Title: Editor-in-Chief, Abingdon Press

Years as an ATLA Affiliate Member Organization: Seven.

Please describe your organization's relationship to theological librarians and their work:

Abingdon Press publishes resources for a broad ecumenical audience of clergy and other church professionals, scholars, and students engaged in leading congregations and theological education. These resources fit the mission and purpose of ATLA members.

Why did your organization join ATLA?

To connect with the people who need, want, purchase, and use our resources and the institutions where they are found.

What is the most rewarding benefit of your membership?

Networking with member libraries to find out what types of resources and formats their institutions are requesting and using.

What do you enjoy most about working with theological librarians?

They have a wide-ranging interest in resources for their institutions. Often they want their libraries to represent varying approaches to and perspectives on the discussions and debates that are going on in the classroom.

What has been the biggest change and/or challenge you've experienced while working with theological librarians?

Finding the best way to enter the electronic book world with and for libraries. With so many formats and distribution possibilities, it is difficult to find consensus among users and publishers as to what formats are best suited and preferred for classroom, library, and personal use.

Tools for a Tough Economy

Collective Wisdom

Earlier this year, a few of the library directors who are also leaders in the association answered some key questions in regards to the current economic outlook:

- How do you position your library for the future at a time when resources are scarce or uncertain?
- What strategies have worked - saved money, time, etc.?
- How do you know they worked?
- What resources do you wish you had?
- How do you advocate for the library among competing demands on your campus?
- What advice do you have for other ATLA members?

With their responses, these directors, from both stand-alone seminaries and university-based divinity schools, are helping to share the collective wisdom of ATLA members.

Their essays are published in the members-only section of the website, accessible when you go to www.atla.com and click on Member Log-in.

Do you have memos, budgeting tools or other resources that you would be willing to share with other ATLA members?

What specific tools have you used when planning—websites, books, articles, people? Please forward any contributions on these topics to Barbara Kemmis, bkemmis@atla.com.