



# ATLA Newsletter

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## From the President Time to Celebrate

*Submitted by Matthew Ostercamp,  
ATLA President*

I love it when a plan comes together! I hope that 2017 has seen each of you make progress towards some of your significant goals and would encourage you to take time this month to reflect on and celebrate that progress. I often

find it easier to either dwell on the detours and disappointments or when successful to move immediately to the next plan. In this column, I want to take a moment to relish progress our Association is making on our plans.

For some time the Board has been briefed on confidential ATLA initiatives to move toward our vision so I'm happy to publicly report on product developments (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/atlasplus/>) that directly contribute to becoming the worldwide hub of scholarly communications in Religion and Theology.

The records from the *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*<sup>®</sup> (*ATLA CPL*<sup>®</sup>) are now going to be included in the *ATLA Religion Database*<sup>®</sup> (*ATLA RDB*<sup>®</sup>). This will add valuable content to the database and eliminate the need for students to search both ATLA RDB and CPL. But wait, there's more! The announcement of *ATLASerials PLUS*<sup>™</sup> (*ATLAS PLUS*<sup>™</sup>) (<http://www.atla.com/products/prodinfo/Pages/ATLASPLUS.aspx>) speaks to ATLA's ongoing commitment to increase ATLA's ability to provide full text coverage of the global scholarly conversation on Religion and Theology.

These developments are the result of careful allocation of research and development funds that have led to technology upgrades and the identification of new content. A lot of the credit goes to Director of Production, Maria Stanton, and her A-Team of production and metadata specialists who have worked hard to provide maximum access to content while keeping the costs to libraries as low as possible.

I hope all you have a very happy holiday season and enjoy the company of family, good food, and good books.



## From Staff Leadership

### Listening, Learning, and Sharing: Reflections on eLearning Africa (Part 2)

*Submitted by Maria Stanton, ATLA  
Director of Production*

*This is part two of the series  
Listening, Learning, and Sharing.  
Read part one in Reflections on  
ANTZLA (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/staffleadership-november/>).*

Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development, and I attended eLearning Africa 2017 (<http://www.elearning-africa.com/>), in Mauritius in September. We have spent considerable time listening to individuals from the region and members who have traveled to Africa to help establish libraries or support students. We seek to understand how we could better serve ATLA's mission to support the study of religion and theology in the Majority World. This conference, which brings together educators, scholars, and businesses supporting elementary, secondary, and tertiary education, was highly recommended to us as an opportunity to learn about the context within education is taking place. For now, I will focus on some high-level takeaways. I would be happy to discuss specific presentations with anyone who is interested.

### Themes at eLearning Africa 2017

Individuals who have achieved a university education that we have previously met at our conference or at AAR and SBL are fortunate. Repeated themes included the lack of trained teachers (especially at the primary school level), low literacy and numeracy issues, capacity issues (defined variously for example as lack of infrastructure, lack of access to educational materials), government budgets more committed to the military and guns over education, and lack of broadband even when internet is somewhat available.

### Themes that conference attendees did not shy away from:

- African solutions to African problems—rather than Western scholars and companies presupposing what Africans need
- Gender gap – there need to be intentional investments in training girls and women
- Digital divide – to some degree current access

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### Listening, Learning, and Sharing Continued

to internet/technology is continuing to be something individuals of privilege enjoy, and the marginalized continue to lack access. This needs to be reversed.

- Only 10% of Africans have access to the Internet.
- Successful projects tended to be micro-solutions contextualized to the needs of a singular location.

### Visiting Institutions in Mauritius

Margot and I visited several institutions to discuss the state of libraries, librarianship, and the study of religion in a Mauritian context. Mauritius is committed to having trained librarians in every school starting at the secondary level; individuals interested in librarianship no longer must leave the island. The study of religion is integrated into the curriculum (i.e., not really a stand-alone department).

Maria and Margot visited MBTI (<http://www.mbti.mu/>), a Christian seminary in Mauritius. The seminary, along with the library, is in a house. The faculty travel throughout the island to meet and teach students where they live. We met with Keweralo Lohe, Jude Rabbani, and Jocelyn (who is the acting librarian).

This experience is giving a great deal to think about as we consider how to better support students and scholars in Africa.

## An Endowment Fund Donation is a Strategic Investment in the Future of ATLA

*Submitted by Brenda Bailey-Hainer, ATLA Executive Director*

Many good things happened at ATLA this past year. The ATLA Digital Library (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/endowmentfund/ATLA%20Digital%20Library>) was launched, creating a digital repository that lays the groundwork for a collaborative effort to provide online access to the abundant special collections at our member institutions. A robust publishing structure was established with the help of editorial board members that will oversee ATLA's new forays into open access publishing. A new product — *ATLASerials PLUS™* (*ATLAS PLUS™*) — was released in November, making more than 100 additional full-text journals in religion and theology from all over the world available to ATLA customers. All of this was in addition to the many professional development opportunities offered to members, including the Annual Conference and an on-going series of webinars.

These quality projects and programs address ATLA's core purpose of promoting worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers. We continue to make progress each year toward achieving that purpose, but the Association's work is never done. ATLA is committed to providing these services for the long term, but we need your help.

The ATLA Endowment Fund was established to ensure that in the future ATLA will still be here to help the profession of theological and religious studies librarianship thrive. Over the years, the Endowment Fund has grown to over \$600,000. Generous donations from ATLA members like you have helped make that possible. For the last several years, all income from the Fund has been rolled back into it to help increase its value more rapidly. In addition, income from ATLA products has been used to match donations for the last several years.

Your tax-deductible donation to the ATLA Endowment Fund is a strategic investment that will ensure that the benefits of membership you enjoy now will continue to be available to future generations of theological and religious studies libraries and librarians. Please consider making an [online donation](#) or mail a check to:

ATLA Endowment Fund  
300 S. Wacker Dr.  
Suite 2100  
Chicago, IL 60606

On behalf of the Association, thank you for helping ATLA support the continued success of theological libraries and librarians.

## A Proposal from the Board of Directors to Revise ATLA's Membership Categories

ATLA's Board of Directors has been watching the changing demographics of the Association, and membership in the Lifetime category represents 13.3% of the voting membership as of the end of the fiscal year 2017. While ATLA values these long-time members and benefits from members that continue active participation in the Association, the number of retired members who are active in the Association is small compared to the number who choose to pursue other interests in retirement. To address these trends, the Board commissioned a task force of current and lifetime members to consider making changes to the membership categories. The task force looked for a way to allow longtime and retired members to indicate their desired level of participation without losing their connection to the Association.

To that end, the Board of Directors has proposed a replacement for the Lifetime Membership category in the ATLA Bylaws. We invite you to read through the proposed changes on the SharePoint Community Site, Bylaws Update 2018 (<https://www.atla.com/community/bylaws/SitePages/Home.aspx>). You will need to login to access the Community section of the ATLA website. If you have trouble logging in, please contact us at [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

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### Lifetime Membership Category Continued

To learn more about these proposed changes, we encourage you to read the November President's column in the ATLA Newsletter "New Membership Categories" by Matt Ostercamp (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/president-november/>).

The proposed Bylaws change will be voted on electronically during the 2018 ATLA Board of Directors Election, January 4-31. Learn more about the election. All Individual, Institutional, and Lifetime Members in good standing as of January 1, 2018, will be eligible to vote.

The Board welcomes your feedback and has established several communication channels and venues for discussion.

- Via email at [bylaws@atla.com](mailto:bylaws@atla.com)
- An Open Forum webinar was held on Thursday, November 30 and hosted by Christina Torbert, Kelly Campbell, and Roger Loyd of the Lifetime Membership Task Force. The recording is available in the Community section of the ATLA website.

All Individual, Institutional, and Lifetime Members in good standing as of January 1, 2018, will be eligible to vote.

A detailed FAQ is available in the Community section of the ATLA website to address any other questions you may have and will be updated as new questions arise.

### 2018 ATLA Board of Directors Election and Ballot Initiative Opens January 4

The 2018 ATLA Board of Directors Election will open on Thursday, January 4, 2018, and will close on Thursday, January 31, 2018. The election will be performed via electronic ballot by Survey & Ballot Systems.

Ballots including candidates' biographical information and statements will be posted on a customized website hosted by Survey & Ballot Systems. Candidate information can also be found on the ATLA *Newsletter* site (<https://newsletter.atla.com/>).

This year's ballot also includes a proposal from the Board of Directors to revise ATLA's Lifetime Membership category. The Board is proposing creating two new membership categories to replace the existing category of Lifetime Member. Retired Members will have the same rights and privileges as Individual Members and will be assessed dues equivalent to the dues of the lowest established amount for Individual Members. The second proposed membership category is Emeritus Member which is a non-voting member class that will not be assessed membership dues.

More information on this proposal can be found on the SharePoint Community site (<https://www.atla.com/community/bylaws/SitePages/Home.aspx>).

Personalized access codes to the voting site will be sent via e-mail to eligible voting members (Institutional Member Representatives, Individual Members, and Lifetime Members) in good standing as of January 1, 2018. The e-mail will come from the ATLA Election Coordinator and the displayed e-mail address will be [noreply@directvote.net](mailto:noreply@directvote.net). You may wish to add this address to your address book or alert your IT staff to allow it through your institution's firewall.

If you are an Individual member who also serves as an Institutional Member Representative, you will receive two distinct ballots with different access codes in order to fulfill your voting opportunities as articulated in the ATLA Bylaws.

If you have any questions about voting procedures or your membership status, please contact a member representative at [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com) or Gillian Harrison Cain, Director of Member Programs, at [gcaain@atla.com](mailto:gcaain@atla.com).

### 2018 Board of Directors Candidate Statements

The Nominating Committee has named the following candidates for the four director positions to be filled on the Board for the term of 2018-2021.

The election will be conducted via electronic ballot from January 4 through January 31, 2018. For information about voting, read the 2018 ATLA Board of Directors Election article (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/2018boardelection/>).

The Board candidates have been asked to make statements based on questions which have been identified by the ATLA Board as providing an important window into a candidates' perspective on Carver Policy Governance. (Read the questions here: <https://newsletter.atla.com/board-questions/>.)

The candidates are (in randomized order by [www.random.org](http://www.random.org)):

- Ellen L. Frost, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
- Megan Welsh, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO
- Jason Fowler, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC
- Armin Siedlecki, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- Myka Kennedy Stephens, Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA
- Donna Campbell, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA
- Matthew Thiesen, Cline-Tunnell Library, Western Seminary, Portland, OR
- Shaneé Yvette Murrain, Ingram Library, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

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## Board of Directors Candidate Statements Continued

**Ellen L. Frost****Current Position**

Head of Technical Services, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

**Previous Position**

Acquisitions Librarian, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

**Leadership Positions in ATLA**

- Treasurer/Chair of Finance Committee – 2017-
- Member, Finance Committee – 2015-
- Member, ATLA Board of Directors – 2015-
- Nominating Committee – 2016-2017
- Nominating Committee – 2009-2011 (chair 2011)
- Professional Development Committee – 2009-2012 (vice chair 2011/2012)
- World Religions Steering Committee – 2009-2015 (vice chair 2012/13, chair 2013/14)
- Collection Evaluation and Development Steering Committee – 2014-2015
- ATLA Singers – Director 2012-2015

**Leadership Positions Outside ATLA**

- Voyager Migration to Ex Libris Alma Database Cleanup Team Chair, SMU – 2015-2017
- SMU Capital Campaign Team, Perkins School of Theology staff representative – 2015-2017
- Bethany Lutheran Church, Dallas, Church Council – 2017-
- Bethany Lutheran Church, Dallas, Choir Director – 1985-1992, 2003
- Bethany Lutheran Church, Dallas, Worship & Music Team – 1994-2002
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Council troop leader – 2000/2001-2013/2014

**Statement**

I find that serving on the Board is a humbling experience; I am more aware now of how little I know than I was three years ago. Serving on the ATLA Board of Directors is an ongoing learning process. As a new Board member, I learned about Carver Governance and the administrative aspects of board governance: monitoring the mission statement and organizational ends, ensuring compliance of the CEO to these ends, reviewing the financial health of the organization, and studying the organizational bylaws. All of these things help define who the organization is. I work closely with other Board members who bring different skills and talents to the Board, who come from libraries of varying sizes, who represent various religious practices. All of us strive to represent the diversity of ATLA and to serve the organization as we envision the future. How do we move forward in the world? How do we share information? How do we collaborate and strengthen connections? How do we work towards ensuring that all those we serve have the information they need in religion and theology?

I have the utmost respect and highest regard for my colleagues on the Board and for all the Board members who have served before us. In the process of collaborating with these Board members on the many aspects of governance on the ATLA Board, I have grown as an individual while helping in a small way to grow our organization into the future.

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**Megan E. Welsh****Current Position**

Interdisciplinary Arts & Humanities Librarian, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder

**Previous Position**

Reference & Instruction Librarian (Fall 2012 – Summer 2013), Resnick Library, State University of New York (SUNY) Delhi

**Leadership Positions in ATLA**

- Chair, World Religions Interest Group (Summer 2016 – present)
- Chair, Professional Development Committee (Summer 2016 – Summer 2017)
- Secretary, Professional Development Committee (Summer 2014 – Summer 2016)
- Vice Chair, World Religions Interest Group (Summer 2015 – Summer 2016)
- Member, Local Host Committee, (Spring 2014 – Summer 2015)

**Leadership Positions Outside ATLA**

- Member, Faculty Personnel Committee, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder (Spring 2017-Present)
- Founding Member, Outreach Group, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder (Fall 2014 – Present)
- Chair, Recruitment to the Profession of Academic Librarianship, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder (Spring 2015 – Spring 2017)
- Member, Symposium Committee, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder (Spring 2014 – Fall 2016)
- Budget Coordinator, Student Libraries Advisory Board, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder (Fall 2015 – Fall 2016)
- Founding Member, Student Libraries Advisory Board, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder (Spring 2014 – Fall 2016)
- Member, Recruitment to the Profession of Academic Librarianship, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder (Spring 2014 – Spring 2015)
- Delegate, State University of New York Library Association (Summer 2012 – Summer 2013)

**Statement**

The challenges of understanding the variety of views represented within ATLA, among its leadership, owners, and stakeholders, parallels the challenges of understanding the variety of needs of our patrons amidst evolving technologies and expectations within academia and the profession of librarianship. As librarians, we strive to connect our library patrons with the best resources and empower them with information literacy skills. So, too, should the leadership of ATLA seek to build connections and empowerment within the ATLA community by actively listening and acting on what we hear. I have experience both listening and acting on ATLA member needs through my involvement as Chair of the Professional Development Committee (PDC). To provide members with learning experiences to enhance their professional selves, the PDC solicited feedback from members about their professional development needs. We gathered demographic information which highlighted the challenges of serving a membership comprised of librarians at all different phases in their careers and in various roles within their libraries. The variety of expressed needs of ATLA members directly informed the development of a successful webinar series targeting those at various levels of experience and with various job responsibilities. Additionally, this data was used for goal setting and planning the PDC's activities for 2016-2017 at the PDC's annual retreat. I am also familiar with ATLA's Strategic Ends, which were used in PDC planning meetings to guide future-based outcomes.

As a leader in ATLA and at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU), I bring the strengths of thoughtfulness and deliberation which demonstrates the value I place on understanding context before problem-solving. I approach goal-setting by being ready to learn from past successes and weakness and I always consider how processes may be improved in a way that strengthens the community. In order to affect change, it is important to continually assess not only the needs of the community but also achieving outcomes. Through the PDC, we gauged the effectiveness of webinars through anecdotal information and the number of attendees and asynchronous views. My experience deliberating in a diverse group, whether within ATLA or in libraries, has strengthened my skills in ensuring all voices are heard, gaining buy-in across the group, facilitating strategic decision making, and establishing consensus. As the Chair of the Recruitment to the Profession Committee, colleagues at CU valued my leadership and facilitation of open discussion while directing the conversation to focus on shared values which allowed for group consensus. I work hard and appreciate the consideration of applying this work ethic to the ATLA community as a Board of Director.

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## Board of Directors Candidate Statements Continued

## Jason Fowler

**Current Position**

Director of Library Services, The Library at Southeastern, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Previous Positions**

- Library Director (Acting), (September 2013-January 2014), James P. Boyce Centennial Library, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Associate Librarian for Research Services and Archivist (August 2012-January 2014), James P. Boyce Centennial Library, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Archives and Special Collections Library (June 2004-September 2013), James P. Boyce Centennial Library, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Leadership Positions in ATLA**

- Advisory Board, *Theological Librarianship* (2015-Present)
- Participant, Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow (2014-2015)

**Leadership Positions Outside ATLA**

- Member, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives Advisory Board (2017-Present)
- Vice-Chair, Kentucky Council on Archives (2012-2013)
- Member, Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board (2011-2014)
- President, Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions, (2010-2012)
- Vice President, Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions, (2008-2010)
- Webmaster, Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions, (2007-2014)
- Chairman of Deacons, First Baptist Church Fairdale, Kentucky (2009-2014)
- Member, Academy of Certified Archivists (2006-Present)

**Statement**

ATLA is a diverse group composed of both individual and institutional members. Among the individual members, the ideological diversity is likely as broad as the population of the Americas. Among institutional members, you also have great diversity – divinity schools and seminaries; well-funded institutions and schools that are scraping by; those with strong religious ties and those with none. In light of ATLA's diversity, two challenges face the Board. One challenge is hearing from a wide enough set of voices to make certain that its decisions and governance are equitable. Whether through the use of surveys, focus groups, or online working groups, the Board needs to ensure that it makes available opportunities for ATLA's broad ownership to be heard. A second challenge is to supply equitable governance that remains focused on the mission of ATLA.

To serve on the Board, one must be able to listen to a variety of perspectives and make equitable decisions that will be in the best interest of the group as a whole. In all honesty, I have never represented a group as broad or large as ATLA's membership. I have also never been involved in determining future-based outcomes for an organization that works quite like the governance of ATLA's Board does. I have, however, served in positions where I had to work with representatives from various types and sizes of institutions. These roles required me to listen to the constituency and try to represent them fairly. As a library director, I regularly have to listen to faculty, staff, and students and try to understand their needs and desires. I have also had to transition those needs and desires into actionable plans for our future. I enjoy working with people from backgrounds different from my own as well as learning from them. When working in groups, I tend to play well with others. Although I am naturally quiet, I enjoy participating in deliberation and debate provided that the discussion has a purpose and a goal.

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## Board of Directors Candidate Statements Continued

## Armin Siedlecki

**Current Position**

Head of Cataloging, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University

**Previous Positions**

- Catalog Librarian (2001-2007), Pitts Theology Library, Emory University
- Visiting Instructor (1999-2000), Department of Religion and Philosophy, Drury University

**Leadership Positions in ATLA**

- ATLA Liaison for the American Library Association's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA; 2016 to present)
- Chair, ATLA Technical Services Interest Group Steering Committee (2010-2013)
- Member, ATLA Technical Services Interest Group Steering Committee (2009-2015)
- Chair, ATLA Special Collections Interest Group Steering Committee (2014-2015)
- Member, ATLA Special Collections Interest Group Steering Committee (2009-present)
- Member, ATLA Board of Directors Nomination Committee (2012-2014)

**Leadership Positions Outside ATLA**

- Representative of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America on the Board of Trustees of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives for Region 9 of the ELCA (2016 to present)
- Chair, RDA Test Group at Emory University (2010-2012)
- Chair, Cataloging and Authorities Working Group at Emory University (2005-2007)

**Statement**

One of the most remarkable qualities of ATLA, which confirmed my decision to enter the field of theological librarianship is the cooperative ethos that characterizes the organization. The shared goal of making the best possible resources available to our patrons must be informed by a diverse membership that contributes a variety of experiences and positions. The most important challenge for any governing board is to ensure that all voices and viewpoints are heard and are included in the discussion. My experience on the ATLA Board of Directors Nomination Committee has given me an appreciation of the importance of having a board that is diverse with regard race and gender as well as denominational affiliation, geographic location, and size of an institution.

Diversity is especially important for the strategic governance of a professional society, as is reflected in the operational model of ATLA with a governing board authorizing and monitoring an administratively effective CEO. My experience on the steering committees of several Interest Groups and as ATLA's liaison to the CC:DA has provided me with a familiarity of negotiating various viewpoints. I am usually seen as a good observer and a cooperative and respectful group member. In addition, I would bring to the Board a cataloger's eye for detail and my ability to synthesize and communicate information succinctly and effectively.

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## Board of Directors Candidate Statements Continued

**Myka Kennedy Stephens****Current Position**

Seminary Librarian and Assistant Professor of Theological Bibliography, Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary

**Previous Positions**

- Independent Information Professional (2006-2014), worked with various local churches, national office of United Methodist Women, the National Association of Deaconesses and Home Missioners, and Mondelēz International
- Cataloger (2004-2006), Pitts Theology Library, Emory University
- Periodicals Assistant (2003-2004), Pitts Theology Library, Emory University
- Senior Circulation Assistant (1999-2001), Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University

**Leadership Positions in ATLA**

- Manager, ATLA-Ministry Discussion List (2006-2010)
- Participant, Future of Libraries in Theological Education Conversation (2014)

**Leadership Positions Outside ATLA**

- President, Southeastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association (2016-2018)
- Member, Communications Committee, Southeastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association (2015-2019)
- Newsletter Editor, Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association (2008-2011)
- Website Manager, Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association (2009-2011)
- 1st Vice President, Metro-Atlanta Chapter Church and Synagogue Library Association (2007-2009)

- Deaconess of The United Methodist Church (2009-present)

**Statement**

It is a great honor to be nominated by my peers as a candidate for the ATLA Board of Directors. It is a rare opportunity to serve in a position that allows oneself to offer strengths and talents and to receive new knowledge and skills simultaneously. I believe serving on the Board of Directors is one such opportunity. Planning and policy-making are among the strengths that I have sharpened in my current position at Lancaster Theological Seminary. I served on our seminary's strategic planning committee and led collaborative efforts to write institutional policies on intellectual property rights and the use of recording and teleconferencing technology in the classroom. As a library director, I have developed and successfully implemented a way to integrate visioning, strategic planning, and ongoing assessment into library leadership to create a dynamic management environment. These are skills and experiences that, when combined with the new knowledge and experience of the Board's governance structure, would inform my service as a member of the ATLA Board of Directors.

ATLA members represent many types of diversity and perspectives. I am deeply committed, both personally and professionally, to honoring and respecting diversity in all its forms. Respectful conversation and debate within a group are essential for collective wisdom to emerge. My experiences as a member of the Action Council for the Social Responsibilities Round Table of ALA and as president of SEPTLA taught me that we have much to learn from one another when we can both listen and speak respectfully. At a time when many theological libraries are facing moments of crisis and significant change, it is especially important that we remain committed to mutual understanding and open communication with one another. Under the Board's judicious governance, ATLA encourages our collaborative work and promotes the flourishing of our field. As a member of the Board, I would support ATLA's ongoing mission with thoughtful participation, respectful collegiality, and sincere dedication.

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## Board of Directors Candidate Statements Continued

## Donna Campbell

**Current Position**

Technical Services & Systems Librarian, Montgomery Library,  
Westminster Theological Seminary

**Previous Positions**

- Acquisitions & Cataloging Librarian (2007-2010), Westminster Theological Seminary
- Librarian/Assistant Professor (2005-2007), Missouri State University
- Library Catalog Specialist III (1993-2005), William & Gayle Cook Music Library, Indiana University, Bloomington
- Librarian (2003), Short-term Volunteer, Theological College of Central Africa, Zambia

**Leadership Positions in ATLA**

- Chair, Technical Services Interest Group Steering Committee (TSIG) (2012-2016)
- Member, Technical Services Interest Group Steering Committee (TSIG) (2011-2017)

**Leadership Positions Outside ATLA**

- Project Leader, Theological Libraries E-Book Lending Project (TLELP) (2013-Present)
- Chair, Catalogers' Interest Group, Southeastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association (SEPTLA) (2008-2011)
- Interest Group Leader on Executive Committee, Southeastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association (SEPTLA) (2008-2011)
- Chair, Technology, Archives, Preservation, & Sound Committee (TAPS), Music Library Association Midwest Chapter (MLAMW) (2005-2007)
- Secretary, Board of Directors, Condominium Association (2015-2016)

**Statement**

I see one of the greatest and critical challenges to understanding the views of our organization's ownership is the scarcity of opportunities to listen. This includes giving ample time for members to contemplate ideas and articulate their perspectives. My education and leadership background, which includes two certificates in Project Management and Leadership & Management from Temple University, has helped me develop sensitivity towards the ways various personality types process information. In conjunction, my experience working in institutions—small, midsize, and large—has helped me to grasp how decisions could affect each of these institutions. Furthermore, I am grateful to have experience on both sides of determining future-based outcomes. While the TLELP Leadership Team has informal oversight, I have been blessed to collaborate with numerous diversely-gifted librarians throughout TLELP's innovative development. Past and present members contributed invaluable insights into future-based outcomes that benefit the group's members. In my leadership roles, my constant question is "How can we make this better?" I am by my nature a forward thinker and an enthusiastic learner. This enables me to visualize a high-quality end-product and a practical action plan for attaining it.

My monitoring experience ranges from managing employees to serving in a fiduciary capacity on a condominium board. I believe in setting high standards and allowing the freedom for responsible delegated parties to utilize their gifts and abilities to accomplish goals. Respecting their expertise while monitoring the end goals is essential. One useful tool for this endeavor is the completion of successful coursework in Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision-Making at Penn State University. My strong analytical and problem-solving skills, combined with integrity and mature work ethic, are assets to this process. The liberal arts side of my educational background, which includes a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education at Indiana State University and a Master of Library Science with Specialization in Music Librarianship at Indiana University, Bloomington, primes me to look forward to the possibility of serving in a professional environment, such as the ATLA Board of Directors, where divergent but thoughtful viewpoints are encouraged and carefully considered. This atmosphere will foster goodwill among board members and spill over in communications with the broader membership in whatever decisions are made. My colleagues comment that I listen intently to varied viewpoints, come prepared, and am engaged in meetings. After critical processing, I can analyze the matter concisely and propose solutions.

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## Matthew Thiesen



### Current Position

Associate Library Director, Cline-Tunnell Library, Western Seminary

### Previous Positions

- Outreach & Instruction Librarian (2/2015 – 12/2016), Paul Nystrom Library, William Jessup University
- Reference & Instruction Librarian (5/2013 – 2/2015), Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Collection Development & Services Librarian (11/2011 – 5/2013), Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

### Leadership Positions in ATLA

- Member, Conference Committee (7/2015 – 6/2019)
- Participant, Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow (6/2014 – 6/2015)
- Participant, Wabash Colloquy on The Role of Theological School Librarians (4/2013)

### Leadership Positions Outside ATLA

- William Jessup University – Member, Graduate Academic Committee

### Statement

From the very beginning of my career, ATLA has been instrumental in providing opportunities to learn and develop as a professional librarian. I was grateful to be accepted into both the Wabash Colloquy and the Creating Leaders of Tomorrow programs and have benefitted greatly from the training provided therein. My participation on the Conference Committee has allowed me to begin giving back to ATLA, as well as continuing to learn how to collaborate with a team to provide programming that meets the needs of our diverse association. I feel honored to be nominated to the Board of Directors, and if elected, will be proud to continue serving my peers and our association in this function.

My experiences working in three different institutions have provided valuable insight into how different organizations function and are governed, as well as experience in learning to adapt to different positions and contexts. I possess a strong sense of “context” and a desire to see how everything fits together to achieve the desired results. I think this strength could be of service on the Board, as it weighs the causes/effects of the issues affecting the membership. I am a team player, and strive to promote and support the good of the whole unit, be that my library, a committee, or potentially, the Board.

I am thankful for this opportunity to give back to ATLA and further participate in the life and development of our association.

**Continued on the next page**

## Shanéé Yvette Murrain



### Current Position

University Archivist and Assistant Professor, Ingram Library, University of West Georgia

### Previous Positions

- Director of Library Services and Archivist, Reverdy C. Ransom Library, Payne Theological Seminary (2015-2016)
- Reference and Public Services Librarian, Duke Divinity School Library (2013-2014)
- Project Coordinator, Religion in North Carolina Digital Collection, Duke Divinity School Library (2012-2013)

### Leadership Positions in ATLA

- Member, Diversity Committee (2014-2016)
- Chair, Special Collections and Archives Interest Group (2017-2018)
- Member, Conference Planning Committee (2016-2020)

### Leadership Positions Outside ATLA

- Vice-President/President-Elect, Society of Georgia Archivists (2018-2019)
- Intern, Committee on Education, Society of American Archivists (2016-2017)
- Member and Third Year Chair, Brenda A. Banks Award Subcommittee, Society of American Archivists (2017-2020)
- Co-Chair, Special Collections and Archives Interest Group, Academic Library Association of Ohio (2015-2016)
- Co-Chair, Advocacy Committee Society of Ohio Archivists (2015)

### Statement

The variety of ATLA's activities (such as the Annual Conference, vending theological products, bibliographic and committee work) provide many opportunities to reach today's wide range of theological library users in new ways. With four years of experience planning, implementing and coordinating digitized procedures and workflows for two grant-funded large-scale digitization projects, I am skilled in walking the fine line between oversight and interference. The first step in that walk is providing planning leadership that motivates and equips project partners to independently meet benchmarks. The second step in that walk is ensuring stakeholders are getting the most out of their investments of both time and financial resources. The third step in that walk is actually accomplishing the task of bringing unique, important, or institutionally relevant content to the academic community and to the larger world. I am confident that my quick wit, strong commitment to understanding all sides of the story, and appreciation for administrative minutiae will make a joy to work with on the Board of Directors.

As a member of ATLA's Diversity Committee, much of the work we did involved deliberating together on the concrete ways our concerted effort could advance a culture within the association and the profession that affirms the intrinsic value of all. From my work teaching diverse groups, I've learned that community is built by sharing our lived experiences, recognizing that others have something we need, they know more than us, we have something they find useful and our work is compatible. If selected for the Board I will continue to advocate for programs that create space for diplomatic discussion and outreach to new professionals. I'm excited by the opportunity to continue working with the membership to advance this important work.

Continued on the next page

## Register for Two Free Webinars this December

Join us this December for two free webinars hosted by ATLA to foster the exchange of ideas within the theological librarianship profession and share information about important resources. This free webinar series was developed by the Professional Development Committee.

### Small Libraries Collaborating to Create Information Literacy Videos

**Thursday, December 7, 12 noon CST**

*Susan Ebertz, Associate Professor & Director of the Library, Wartburg Theological Seminary*

*Karl Stutzman, Director of Library Services, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

*Vance M. Thomas, Director of the Library, Central Baptist Theological Seminary*

At the 2016 Annual Conference, participants of the Small Libraries Interest Group talked about various collaborative projects. A few libraries in this group are created information literacy videos to be shared with other small libraries. This session will cover the overall organization of the project and talk about how the videos were created and shared.

Register now (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/574643645760318723>)

### The (Virtual) Human Touch: Promoting the Spirit of Inquiry Through (Distance) Research

**Wednesday, December 13, 1 pm CST**

*Melody Diehl Detar, Librarian for Religious Studies & Theology, Regent University*

*David E. Schmersal, Reference and Digital Services Librarian, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University*

As theological education increasingly adapts to online environments, librarians are being challenged to provide parallel experiences for both on-campus and distance students, per ATS standards. How do we provide the human touch to distance students who we rarely or never see? How can we provide the same easy access to advice or information on-campus students can receive in person? How do we encourage students to use this service?

This presentation will consider ideas for providing quality reference and instruction to distance students and pose thoughtful questions: (1) How do you promote a spirit of inquiry and thorough research, especially among distance students? (2) What effective strategies have you found for actively collaborating with professors/ administrators regarding the development of curriculum and the use of information resources? (3) Is what you do for online classes different from what you do in face-to-face situations and if so, how so? Topics may include online literacy instruction, marketing library resources and services to distance populations, providing reference remotely, recommended tools for virtual librarianship, and more.

Register now (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6534777321561903619>)

ATLA's past webinars are available from the OnDemand Learning site. We invite you to revisit past programs, including "Let's Talk about Power: Why Diversity and Cultural Competence are Important to LIS," presented by Dr. Nicole Amy Cooke, Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This webinar briefly discussed the history of unequal access in LIS, and discuss the ways in which librarians can combat this history by becoming culturally competent professionals.

Listen to the recording: <https://vimeo.com/215062869>

## Call for Posters: 2018 ATLA Annual Conference

ATLA aims to offer many avenues for members to share interesting and creative projects. Therefore, ATLA invites proposals for poster sessions at the 2018 Annual Conference, June 13-16, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Scheduled in a 60-minute time slot, poster sessions are informal. The presenter(s) develops a poster and handouts which deliver useful information to the theological library community.

Submit your poster proposal by Wednesday, January 31 (<http://bit.ly/2018ATLAProposal>).

At the conference, ATLA will provide each poster presenter with a three-panel poster board, double-sided tape, push pins, and glue for their presentation.

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

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

This is an opportunity to try out new ideas and receive instant feedback from your ATLA colleagues. We sincerely hope you will consider submitting a poster proposal (<http://bit.ly/2018ATLAProposal>).

## The SCOOP: We are ALL Scholarly Communications Librarians

Submitted by Christine Fruin, ATLA Scholarly Communication/Open Access Publishing Manager

*The SCOOP, Scholarly COmmunication and Open Publishing, is a monthly column published to inform ATLA members of recent developments, new resources, or interesting stories from the realm of scholarly communication and open access publishing.*

The Organizational Ends of ATLA (<https://www.atla.com/about/who/Pages/MissionStatement.aspx>) state that "...information professionals have the tools they need for robust scholarly communication in the fields of theology and religion." This declaration recognizes not only the increasing need of librarians to be versed in scholarly communication issues but also ATLA's commitment to supporting librarians in achieving competency in this area.

During my career as a librarian, I have specialized in scholarly communications as an area of professional practice. However, I have also witnessed librarians of all types being called upon to serve as a resource for scholarly communications questions or as collaborators in projects that improve upon the system of producing and disseminating scholarly information. For example, access services librarians search open access repositories for requested content, e-resources librarians negotiate licenses to preserve the right of fair use, and liaison librarians provide guidance on evaluating open access journals. Further, in smaller libraries where librarians customarily wear the hats of the cataloging, acquisitions, and reference librarians, they must now also don the hat of the scholarly communications librarian to accommodate their patrons' growing awareness of and involvement in scholarly communications initiatives.

### NASIG Core Competencies for Scholarly Communications Librarians

This summer NASIG released its Core Competencies for Scholarly Communication Librarians ([http://www.nasig.org/site\\_page.cfm?pk\\_association\\_webpage\\_menu=310&pk\\_association\\_webpage=9435](http://www.nasig.org/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=310&pk_association_webpage=9435)). Although the report directs its recommendations to persons whose primary job assignment is scholarly communications, the compiled list of five areas of emphasis provides a framework for librarians and libraries of all types. These five categories of competency represent the growing areas of need not only for libraries but for all actors within the scholarly communication system that libraries interact with, including scholars, authors, and publishers. The five areas of emphasis are: (1) Institutional Repository Management, (2) Publishing Services, (3) Copyright Services, (4) Data Management Services, and (5) Assessment and Impact Metrics.

Despite the growing need for competencies and expertise in scholarly communications, library schools have been slow to offer courses focused on scholarly communications

issues such as copyright and open access. Librarians frequently turn to tools or courses library associations offer such as ACRL's Scholarly Communication Toolkit (<http://acrl.libguides.com/scholcomm/toolkit>) and SPARC's webinars (<https://sparcopen.org/>) on open access and open education resources. ATLA also strives to serve as a resource for its members to provide training and tools for the development of their scholarly communication knowledge base. The ATLA Task Force on Scholarly Communication in Religion and Theology is focused on developing initiatives to further scholarly communication in the field, and I will soon offer webinars and develop subject-specific resources to strengthen the scholarly communication competencies of members. Please feel free to email me ([cfruin@atla.com](mailto:cfruin@atla.com)) with suggestions of topics you'd like to see covered.

### Recommended Further Reading

Report from ACRL on the Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/publications/whitepapers/Intersections.pdf>). See Section 3 on New Roles for Librarians: "In order to integrate the full scope of scholarly communication issues into their work, liaison librarians have to sufficiently understand copyright and fair use, authors' rights, open access, citation metrics [traditional and "alt"], publishing options, digital preservation, and institutional repository development and management."

Clifford Lynch's excellent call to action for libraries to engage further in scholarly communications: Updating the Agenda for Scholarly Communications (<http://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/16577/18023>). ("In setting an agenda for scholarly communications, we need to be profoundly mindful that for virtually all faculty and graduate students, the dissemination of their scholarly work has become a complex, confusing, time-consuming morass of funder mandates, institutional policies, choices about publishing venues, article processing charges, and questions such as whether or not to release preprints at various stages of the development of their work. We have got to find ways to simplify and streamline this mess and to honor the increasingly scarce time of researchers, hopefully in ways that lead to very desirable outcomes for the broad scholarly community and for stewardship institutions.")

Evidence of the increasing need for scholarly communication expertise through a review of recent job advertisements (<https://jisc-pub.org/articles/abstract/10.7710/2162-3309.1236/>), as well as an examination of the paucity of training to prepare librarians for this new role, published in the *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*. ("Scholarly communication will soon be considered a core component of academic librarianship, alongside the traditional pillars of the trade [references and instruction, collection development, cataloging].")

## New ATLA Institutional Members: Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary and Canadian Mennonite University

Please join us in welcoming our new members who joined in November. We would like to take this opportunity to help you get to know these institutions better.

### Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) (<http://www.cmu.ca/>) was founded in 2000 as the result of the amalgamation of three colleges: Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Canadian Mennonite Bible College, and Menno Simmons College. In addition to several undergraduate degree programs, CMU offers MA degrees in Theology, Christian Ministry, and Peacebuilding and Collaborative Development.

The CMU Library collection specializes in areas of Christian studies and music, and efforts are underway to increase library holdings in newer program areas such as peace and conflict studies, international development, psychology, sociology, political studies, and business and organizational administration. The Library also helps to maintain a smaller reference collection in the Mennonite Heritage Center Archives (<http://archives.mennonitechurch.ca/>).

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary, Jordanville, New York

In 1948, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary (<https://www.hts.edu/>) was founded as an offshoot of the Holy Trinity Monastery. The Seminary is the only seminary within the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. The Seminary trains students to be active leaders in the Church as clergy, monastics, choir directors and cantors, iconographers, and lay leaders.

About half of the collection at the Holy Trinity Seminary Library (<https://www.hts.edu/library.html>) is in Russian or Slavic languages and much of the collection is considered unique, being made up of rare pre-revolutionary theological, historical, and philological titles as well as interwar émigré publications. In 2009, the Seminary, with help from the Hoover Institution of War and Peace, completed a preservation and microfilming project (<http://archive.hts.edu/findingaids/index.html>) sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## ATLA Job Board

- ATLA, Chicago, IL, is looking for an Editorial Manager, Digital Products
- David Allan Hubbard Library, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, is looking for an Electronic Resources Generalist
- Brandel Library, North Park University, Chicago, IL, is looking for a Director of Archives, North Park University
- Ingram Library, The University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA, is looking for a Dean of the Library, University of West Georgia
- Jean-Léon Allie Library and Archives, Saint Paul

University, Ottawa, ON, is looking for a Head of User Services, Saint Paul University

- JKM Library, Chicago, IL, is looking for a Digital Instruction Librarian
- Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library, St. Meinrad, IN, is looking for a Associate Library Director, Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library

Find the job listings here: <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/default.aspx>

## Welcome New Reciprocal Borrowing Participants

Please join us in welcoming our most recent participants to the Reciprocal Borrowing Program. If you are interested in adding your library to this program, please read and complete the participation agreement (<https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/Documents/ATLA%20Reciprocal%20Borrowing%20Participation%20Guidelines%20and%20Agreement.pdf>) and send to [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

To find a participating library near you, check out the full list of libraries and corresponding map available on the ATLA website.

### Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary, Ankeny, Iowa

The John L. Patten Library (<https://www.faith.edu/resources/library/>) provides professors and students of Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary with the information resources necessary for teaching and research. In order to accomplish this goal, the library staff selects, maintains, and accesses print, audio, video, electronic, and other information materials inside the library.

### Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

The Christiansen Memorial Library (<http://www.lbs.edu/library/>) is located in the lower level of the seminary building and houses over 22,000 print volumes, seventy periodical titles, and other special collections. Additionally, The Christiansen Memorial Library is also now home to the Church of the Lutheran Brethren Archives.

### Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, Ohio

The Ransom Memorial Library (<http://payne.edu/library/>) participates in the research and education program of Payne Theological Seminary by facilitating access to relevant information through the development of library, archival, and closed research collections. Its purpose is to assist students in preparation for Christian ministry within the A.M.E. Church, the African American community, and other Christian traditions.

### Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois

The Buswell Memorial Library (<http://library.wheaton.edu/>) provides collections, services, and study space at two locations on campus: the main library building and the third floor of the Billy Graham Center. The Library owns approximately 400,000 printed books and adds about 7,000 new books every year.

## The ATLA Products Blog: *The Shaker Quarterly*

ATLA offers a prestigious product line of electronic resources to support the scholarly study of religion and theology and we want to share with you the stories behind the journals that have been carefully curated for our users. So, we have created the ATLA Products Blog (<https://productsblog.atla.com/>) to give an insider's perspective and spotlight just some of the journals found in our databases.

We begin this blog with the stories behind our newest product offering, *ATLASerials PLUS™* (*ATLAS PLUS™*), which was announced in November (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/atlasplus/>) along with plans to integrate the *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index®* (*ATLA CPL®*) into the *ATLA Religion Database* (*ATLA RDB®*).

### Shakers: Digitizing a Legacy of Religion and Community

ATLA is honored to have participated in the digitization of the *Quarterly* with the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village community. We are just as excited to make the entire archive available online for the first time ever in the *ATLASerials PLUS™* (*ATLAS PLUS™*) full-text collection.

Published by the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village from 1961 to 1996, *Shaker Quarterly* was the preeminent journal, newsletter, and occasional catalog of the Shaker community. Focused on Shaker history, religion, and theology, this journal provides a record of a Shaker legacy.

Read the whole story on the ATLA Products Blog: <https://productsblog.atla.com/2017/atlasplus-shaker/>

*ATLAS PLUS* is a new offering of more than 425 full-text journals in many diverse areas of religion and theology, with full-text content in 16 languages from more than 30 different countries. *ATLAS PLUS* includes all the titles in ATLA's original full-text product, *ATLASerials®* (*ATLAS®*) as well as more than 100 additional full-text titles at launch (see list: <https://www.atla.com/products/resources/Pages/ATLASPLUS-Titles.aspx>). *ATLAS PLUS* is available for purchase via EBSCO (<https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/atla-religion-database-with-atlaserials-plus>).

## Modifications to the 2018-2019 Board Slate

The Nominating Committee has named a new candidate to the slate for the four director positions to be filled on the Board for the term 2018-2021 since one of the candidates previously announced in October 2017 is unable to run for election to the board.

The candidates are (in randomized order by [www.random.org](http://www.random.org)):

- Ellen L. Frost, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

- Megan Welsh, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO
- Jason Fowler, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC
- Armin Siedlecki, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- Myka Kennedy Stephens, Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA
- Donna Campbell, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA
- Matthew Thiesen, Cline-Tunnell Library, Western Seminary, Portland, OR
- Shaneé Yvette Murrain, Ingram Library, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

Learn more about the candidates (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/2018board-statements/>) or about the election process (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/2018boardelection/>).

The Nominating Committee members are Tammy Johnson (Chair), Timothy D. Lincoln, and Jeffrey Waldrop. The Secretary of the Association is Stephen Sweeney.