



Courtyard garden in Leuven, Belgium during annual BETH meeting.
-photo courtesy of Dennis Norlin

ATLA 2009 Board Elections

The Nominating Committee, Susan Ebertz (chair), M. Patrick Graham, and Melody Layton McMahon, have named their slate of seven candidates for the four places to be filled on the Board of Directors. The term of office is three years, from 2009-2012. The candidates are (in order drawn by lot):

- Dr. Ken Boyd, Director, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky
- Dr. Carisse Berryhill, Special Services Librarian, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas
- Mr. Sandy Ayer, Director, Ambrose University College, Calgary, Canada
- Mrs. Cait Kokolus, Director, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania
- Mrs. Carrie Hackney, Divinity Librarian, Howard University, Washington D.C.
- Ms. Laura Olejnik, Director, Univ. of St. Thomas Grad School of Theology, Houston, Texas
- Ms. Laura Wood, Director, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Nominations other than those submitted by the Nominating Committee may be made by petition signed by no fewer than ten individual members, and filed with the Secretary, Eileen Crawford, no later than December 1, 2008. Ballots and the candidates' biographical statements will be sent in January to voting members in good standing. The 2009 election will be performed via electronic ballot; ATLA has contracted with Survey and Ballot Systems, Inc. to administer the web election process. Members will be notified via e-mail when the poll opens and will be provided with complete information on the voting process. Members who do not have e-mail addresses on file with ATLA will receive a paper ballot and instructions.

-Eileen Crawford, Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors

ATLA Board Election Time Line

- October 15, 2008 - ATLA reports slate of nominees to membership.
- December 1, 2008 - Deadline for write-in candidates.
- December 6, 2008 - ATLA delivers final slate and biographies to Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS).
- January 15, 2009 - SBS executes the broadcast e-mail and opens Web balloting site.
- January 15 to March 1, 2009 - SBS monitors and maintains Web voting activity.
- January 15 to March 1, 2008 - SBS receives paper and Web ballots, validates members and processes paper ballots.
- March 2, 2008 - SBS tabulates and delivers results to Nominating Committee by 12 noon EST.



Thanks to our November sponsor.

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From the President

"Whinge Not"

Is the word whinge (verb or noun) a part of your vocabulary yet? You might find it useful, right up there with "bloviate" - but I digress. Let me explain.

OED defines whinge as "to whine; esp. to complain peevishly." One of the things we librarians are prone to whinge about (getting a feel for it?) is our frightful busy-ness, how under-resourced, overextended, etc., we are--maybe especially now, early in the year. Join a few librarians in conversation, and talk is likely to turn to this busy-ness, how unmanageable it all is, and how unfair. See? Now we're whinging, and it doesn't take long to segue from the merely recreational whinge to whinging at the competitive level--"my busy-ness is way worse than yours."

There are many reasons why whinging is a waste of time, but the best is to be careful what we wish for. Some forms of busy-ness are nothing more than annoyances, it's true. But often what lies behind the high expectations we feel is a genuine respect for the library's capacity to serve its community with poise and wisdom.

A library people expect less of? Now that would be something to whinge about . . .

-David R. Stewart



From the Executive Director

For many, many years (1953-1993) the ATLA Newsletter was produced as a labor of love by Donn Michael Farris and Joyce Farris in the basement of their home in North Carolina (Donn Michael was the Director of the Duke Divinity Library for many years). They produced the newsletter on a manual typewriter, and its format was a collection of typed pages.

I had the opportunity to visit with the Farris's when I became ATLA's Executive Director in 1996, as we made changes to the newsletter format - layout in columns, magazine format, and inclusion of advertisements and photos. The Farris's were enthusiastic about the changes that we were able to introduce. I'm sure that if they were still with us today, they would welcome this new monthly format with enthusiasm, pleased that this reliable means of communication with ATLA members has migrated to more frequent publication, more flexible format, and at a significant savings in production and postage.

It is my hope that this new monthly online format will make the ATLA Newsletter more attractive and useful while maintaining its role as the primary communication between and among staff and members of the Association.

-Dennis A. Norlin

Member News

Committee Meetings in Chicago



On Friday, September 26, members of the ATLA Special Committee on Diversity met at ATLA headquarters. Left: Mayra Picos-Lee, Serge Danielson-Francois,

Diana Brice (chair), Susan Ebertz, and Cait Kokolus (board liaison).



On Monday-Tuesday, October 6-7, members of the ATLA Publications Committee met at ATLA headquarters. Committee members are Beth Bidlack (chair), Michelle Spomer, and Amy Limpitlaw (at left, l to r).



The Professional Development Committee held their meeting at ATLA headquarters on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17. The members of that committee are pictured at left, left to right: Seth Kasten, Timothy Lincoln, Kris Veldheer, and Angela Morris (chair).

International Collaboration Committee members Paul Stuehrenberg (Chair), Margaret Tarpley, Chris Beldan, Elizabeth Johnson, and Eileen Crawford (Board Liaison) plan to meet on Thursday and Friday, November 6-7 at ATLA headquarters.

Annual Conference Planning Meeting

From October 31-November 1, members of the Annual Conference Committee (ACC) and the Education Committee

(EC) met in St. Louis with Meeting Specialist Denise McFarlin and Director of Member Services Barbara Kemmis to plan for the 2009 ATLA Annual Conference.

Pictured, left to right below: Sara Myers (ACC Vice-Chair), Blake Walter (EC chair), Dan Kolb (ACC), Eric Stancliff (ACC), John B. Weaver (ACC Chair), Sandy Ayer (EC), Garry Truman (EC Local Host Liaison), Kelly Campbell (EC), Matt Ostercamp (ACC), Denise McFarlin, and Nancy Adams (EC Secretary).



Poster Session Submissions

Try out new ideas and receive instant feedback from your ATLA colleagues - they'll want to hear about your interesting, creative projects! Share your plans by presenting a poster session at the 2009 Annual Conference, June 17-20, 2009, in St. Louis, MO. Posters may address a potentially wide range of topics of interest to theological librarians. Click here to find out how to submit a proposal by the January 31 due date.

AAR Breakfast Meeting

On Monday morning, November 3, AAR attendees stopped by ATLA headquarters to enjoy a complimentary breakfast and a visit with ATLA staff and other members.

SBL Reminder

ATLA wants to hear from you if you're attending the SBL meeting in Boston from November 22-25. Please email memberrep@atla.com and let us know you're coming so that we may better welcome you.

ATLA Publication Series Update

The American Theological Library Association is pleased to announce the release of *Discovering World Religions at 24 Frames per Second* by Julien Fielding as ATLA Publications Series #4. This book prepares scholars and students to see the influence of world religions upon recent cinematic films.

Research on the expanding role of religious imagery and themes in popular media is growing, and that sub-discipline is well-served by this study. The ATLA Publications Series is a joint effort by the ATLA and The Scarecrow Press to offer resources for theological librarianship and learning. ATLA members receive a 20% discount from The Scarecrow Press on orders within the three ATLA/Scarecrow books series.

TBN Has Moved

The Theological Book Network (TBN) facilitates the growth of developing world church leaders and educators by providing theological and scholarly texts to under-resourced seminaries and libraries. This rapidly-growing non-profit organization has recently moved to a new facility, motivated in part by the tremendous support of ATLA schools. Please take a look at their newsletter for details of the move and other recent activities, or visit the TBN website to get more information and find out how you can help.

Institutional Name Change



SEMINARY OF THE
SOUTHWEST
AN EPISCOPAL SEMINARY

On September 2, 2008 the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest (ETSS) became Seminary of the Southwest, an Episcopal Seminary (SSW) when it launched its newly designed website for student recruiting. The new web address is www.ssw.edu and all email extensions are now @ssw.edu.

Member Profiled Online

Seth Kasten, head of Reference and Collection Development at Burke Library, is profiled in Columbia Libraries bi-monthly newsletter, Inside CUL. You can read all about him here.

New Public Services Librarian at CTS

The John Bulow Campbell Library, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA is pleased to announce the appointment of Erica Durham as Public Services Librarian effective immediately. Erica earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Christian Education from Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC. She received a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary and a Master of Library Science degree from The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Erica has been the pastor of churches in Pilot Mountain, NC and Tuscaloosa, AL. She also served as Director of the Resource Center and Co-Operative Video Library of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley in Birmingham for four years and as Interim Associate Executive Presbyter for that presbytery for two years. Most recently, she has been a Public and Outreach Services Intern at the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library at The University of Alabama. She also worked in Gorgas Library and the Center for Public Television at The University. In addition to her membership in ATLA, Erica is a member of the American Library Association and the Alabama Library Association.

ATLA Office Closed

On Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 the ATLA office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Routine Systems Maintenance

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, December 1, 2008. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. (CDT). Services that will be affected include ASE 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. Click here to see what's new online.

ATLA Endowment Fund Contributors

August 15, 2008 - October 13, 2008

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TLM Recap

October 2008 marked the third year of Theological Libraries Month, and participation in the event continued to grow apace.

As of November 1, 45 institutions officially celebrated TLM 2008, with activities ranging from scavenger hunts, contests, and rare book displays to special worship services, lectures, and book signings. (If you haven't already, be sure to send descriptions and photos of your celebrations to scorkery@atla.com so that they may be posted on the TLM website.)

A total of 6,650 bookmarks were ordered, and six finalists were chosen in the second annual TLM Cartoon Caption Contest. Voting for the best captions is open until November 24, 2008. Winners of the contest will be announced in the December ATLA Newsletter.

From the Publications Committee

The Publications Committee is charged with promoting professional and scholarly publication by ATLA members through publication grants, programming at the annual conference, and other professional development opportunities. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to remind you of a few of these opportunities. First, the Committee encourages you to apply for a 2009 publication grant. One of our favorite tasks is the awarding of grants to help potential authors accomplish their publication goals. Each year, we award grants of up to \$4000 for reimbursable expenses. These awards are given to aid in the development of scholarly work that advances some aspect of theological librarianship or provides bibliographic access to a significant body of literature within theological or religious studies. The upcoming deadline for application is January 16, 2009.

We also encourage your participation at upcoming events, such as the non-credit scholarly writing course offered through the University of Illinois. I participated in this course and found it to be a very rewarding experience. Not only did I meet great colleagues, but I also improved my writing skills. The goal of the course is "to introduce the student to the major genres of scholarly writing primarily through actual writing and editing assignments and discussion of essential elements and approaches to scholarly writing." During the six-week course, we read and critiqued a variety of genres, including abstracts, annotations, reviews, editorials, columns and other opinion pieces, case studies, best practices, surveys and focus group research, and scholarly articles. Believe it or not, reading the work of published authors empowered me to write. The feedback I received on my work was invaluable and effectively demonstrated the connection between reading and writing.

*-Beth Bidlack, Chair
ATLA Publications Committee*

ATLA Calendar

November

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in December ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 1-3 ATLA Products and Services exhibition/member and publisher reception, AAR 2008 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois; Breakfast at ATLA Headquarters, Monday, Nov. 3, 7:30-9a.m.
- 6-7 International Collaboration Committee meets at ATLA headquarters
- 22-25 ATLA Products and Services exhibition/member and publisher reception, SBL 2008 Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts
- 27-28 ATLA Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

December

- 1 Deadline for write-in candidates for 2009 ATLA Board of Directors Election
Submissions for inclusion in January ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 1-2 Theological Librarianship Editorial Board meets at ATLA headquarters
- 12 ATLA Office closed for Holiday Party
- 24-26 ATLA Office closed for Christmas holiday
- 31 ATLA Office closed for New Year's holiday

January

- 1 ATLA Office closed for New Year's holiday
Submissions for inclusion in February ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 14 ATLA Endowment Committee meets at ATLA headquarters
- 15 2009 ATLA Board of Directors Election opens and online ballots are distributed
- 15-17 ATLA Board of Directors Mid-winter meeting at ATLA headquarters

Staff Updates



Justin Harkins has resigned his position as an indexer-analyst at ATLA to return to Nashville with his new wife and complete his dissertation. We certainly appreciate the many contributions Justin has made to ATLA during his time with us and we are pleased that Justin has agreed to continue on as the Scarecrow Book Series editor. Please join us in wishing the couple well as they head into their new life.



On August 4, Jarrod Bogucki started work as ATLA's new full-time Digitization Specialist. Jarrod earned his MLIS from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where he worked on a number of digital repository and archive projects. Jarrod will work with the Electronic Products & Services department on numerous serials management and digitization responsibilities. Please join us in welcoming him to ATLA.

Have You Heard?

On November 19-20, 2009, a workshop on *Migration, Christianity and Identity-construction* will take place at KADOC-K.U.Leuven in Leuven, Belgium. The workshop will explore the many aspects of the interaction between Christianity and migration in Western Europe, with a focus on "the old (mainly Christian) intra-European migration flows." Proposals for papers (max. 500 words) should be addressed by e-mail to Henk Byls, henk.byls@kadoc.kuleuven.be, by December 31, 2008. Conference participants will be asked to produce an article for a volume in the international peer reviewed series KADOC Studies on Religion, Culture and Society. For more information, visit <http://migration-religion.be/en/index.html>.

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August 15, 2008 - October 13, 2008

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