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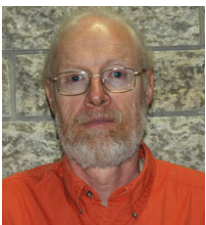
<http://www.booksforlibraries.com/shelving.asp>

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Board Members Elected for 2009-2012

The following candidates have been elected to serve a three year term (2009-2012) on the ATLA Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the membership of the Board Secretary's report at the 2009 Annual Conference:



Sandy Ayer Carisse Berryhill



Carrie Hackney Laura Wood

The nominating committee and the Board of Directors express their thanks to all candidates who appeared on the slate and for their many efforts on behalf of the Association.

-Eileen Crawford, Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors

From the President



Just What The Doctor Ordered

"Depend upon it, sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully."

(James Boswell, *Life of Johnson*).

We all have our trusted sources for counsel and inspiration, I guess: what works for you won't work for me, and vice versa. Samuel Johnson (his 300th birthday is being marked this year, and - assuming my mind gets "wonderfully concentrated" - I'll be giving a paper about him in St. Louis) has a certain gloomy side to some of his perspectives - see the above quote - yet I find that this is the very thing that makes him so timeless and even delightful. Here is someone with a humble sense of what can be expected, of him and of others.

In the midst of a tough economy and other seemingly intractable problems, an outlook like the Doctor's seems not so much jaded as refreshingly reality-based. Isn't it tempting to expect some gifted leader or other to work magic, and make everything better? - a clear instance of what Dr. Sam referred to elsewhere as "the triumph of hope over experience." Setting our expectations - even of the most gifted leaders - wisely is often a reliable antidote to frustration and disappointment.

There's plenty more of The Doctor at <http://www.samueljohnson.com/>.

Cheers,

David R. Stewart

From the Executive Director



During March I was privileged to meet with the Membership Advisory Committee and the Professional Development Committee to discuss current and future programs that will benefit ATLA's institutional and individual members. We are indebted to the commitment of time, energy, and creativity that these committee members contribute to the Association and to planning its future.

The Member Services staff and I also worked closely with President Stewart and the Board of Directors to gather information about the way the current economic turmoil is affecting our member institutions, to develop forums for members to share their concerns and strategies, and to develop concrete and appropriate ways that we, as an Association, can provide assistance to our members.

I've also begun a weekly blog that will replace the weekly column that I wrote for our web update for the past 12 years. If you are interested in seeing the blog, please visit <http://edblog.atla.com/>. I invite you to register for the blog if you wish to receive notice of the weekly updates, and to register as a participant to offer your own ideas and comments in what will become, I hope, a conversation on topics of mutual interest.

-Dennis A. Norlin
dnorlin@atla.com

Member News



Membership Advisory Committee Meets in Chicago

The ATLA Membership Advisory Committee (MAC) met in Chicago on Thursday and Friday, March 19-20. MAC members - seated, left to right: Marsha Blake and Emily Knox; standing: Garry Truman and Bill Hook.



Professional Development Committee at Headquarters

Members of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) came to Chicago for their meeting on Monday and Tuesday, March 23-24. PDC members - seated, left to right: Kris Veldheer and Angela Morris (chair); standing: Seth Kasten and Timothy Lincoln.

Publication Grants Announced

The Publications Committee would like to thank this year's Publication Grants applicants. We received a number of thoughtful applications and are pleased to announce the following recipients of 2009 grants: Daniel Roland (Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University) for his project entitled "Online Data Sources for Research in Religion: An Annotated Bibliography;" and Edward Mathews (Assistant Professor, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary) for his project entitled "Ephrem Armeniacus: A Complete Bibliography."

Routine Systems Maintenance

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, May 4, 2009. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). 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. Visit http://www.atla.com/member/job_openings.html to see what's new.

From the Professional Development Committee



Angela Morris The phrase "lifelong learning" has always bothered me. Isn't this what we all do as adults? Whether the acquisition of knowledge is intentional, accidental, or labeled "lifelong learning," life requires continual learning. Our chosen

vocation as theological librarians certainly does. Think of all the learning, regardless of venue, that you have experienced in this profession. I've always considered it one of the best things about being a librarian.

The PDC was formed by ATLA to determine the continuing education needs of its members and to provide appropriate opportunities for this to occur. When the committee met recently to review past and on-going projects, we realized that the committee, in working toward this goal, has put together a curriculum for theological librarians.

That curriculum includes:

- Theological Librarianship course
- Scholarly Writing for LIS Profession
- The Role of the Theological Librarian in Teaching, Learning and Research
- Leadership Grants
- Scholarships to Promote Diversity in Theological Librarianship
- Reference module for LIS (in progress)

This curriculum offers a diverse range of options for members at different stages of their careers.

The regional grants program provides yet another venue for educational opportunities. This program has been expanded in recognition of the tough economic realities that many of our member institutions face. Additional funds are now available for members to travel to programming occurring at regional meetings. For a program funded in part by the PDC, the institution hosting the program for their regional group can apply for up to \$500.00 in travel funds to ensure that their ATLA members needing financial assistance to travel to the meeting have it. Visit http://www.atla.com/prof_dev/prof_dev_grant.html for more information on the new travel funds.

Many educational opportunities are available through ATLA that can help our professional lives be long and filled with learning. Which one can help you at this point in your career? Isn't it time to investigate a little further?

-Angela Morris, Chair, Professional Development Committee

2009 ATLA Annual Conference Update

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Registration is well underway for June's meeting in St. Louis. As of yesterday, 125 attendees have made it official by visiting the conference website (http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2009/conference_home.html) to sign up for the workshops, panels, roundtables, papers, and interest group presentations that make ATLA's meetings so valuable to theological librarians and their professional development.

If you haven't yet registered, be sure to do it soon. Some of the excursions (http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2009/excursions.html) are filling up fast!

Have You Heard?

International Summer School on Religion, Culture, and Society in Europe (1750-)

Leuven, August 17-26, 2009

A joint initiative of K.U.Leuven, the University of Fribourg, Lund University, Ecole Pratique des hautes Eudes, and Utrecht University, the 2009 Summer School on Religion, Culture, and Society in Europe (1750-) promises to offer "a closer and refreshing look at the complicated historical relationship between religion and modernity. Participants will get a solid introduction to the very different domains in which religion has influenced, (re)shaped and even embodied the modernisation process, but also to the continuous adaptation and transformation processes of the religious domain itself, thus finding a clear contemporary reflection in Europe's cultural identities." For more information, visit the summer school website (http://kadoc.kuleuven.be/summer_school/).

Library of Congress Report on Copyright Issues and Sound Recordings

"Copyright and Related Issues Relevant to Digital Preservation and Dissemination of Unpublished Pre-1972 Sound Recordings by Libraries and Archives," a commissioned report examining copyright issues associated with unpublished sound recording, addresses the question of what libraries and archives are legally empowered to do under current laws to preserve and make accessible for research their holdings of unpublished sound recordings made before 1972. The report was authored by June Besek, executive director of the Kernochan Center for Law, Media and the Arts at Columbia University. You can view the report here: <http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub144abst.html>.

ATLA Member Profile

Evan Boyd



Institution: Student at Dominican University GSLIS

Years as an ATLA Student Member: 2

How did you become interested in theological librarianship?

As a student at seminary, I had no idea what I would do after I completed my MAR. I enjoyed working in the seminary library. However, it took some guidance from a mentor - the Director of the Library at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Dr. Karl Krueger - for me to realize I had the skills and aptitudes - as well as the general enjoyment of what I was doing - to become a theological librarian.

What do you love most about the profession?

I love the interaction of the scholarship that is contained in theological libraries. Theological libraries contain many works that serve the purpose of critiquing, expanding upon, and dismissing works that came previously or current trends in the field. Theological librarians are helping prepare the next generation of religious leaders in the congregation and in academia, doing their best when they provide for

these future leaders' needs by providing information regardless of perspective.

In what ways has your ATLA membership supported your studies?

Throughout my time at Dominican University, classroom discussions and lectures have related to things being discussed at the ATLA Annual Conference. I remember my third week of classes when the NYTimes 'broke' a story about the Bureau of Prisons' approved resources for chapel libraries. Dr. Ingrid Mattson's plenary address at the Philadelphia conference allowed me to add a broader perspective to the concerns of access to information that neither I nor my classmates would have heard otherwise. Additionally, the learning curve for my course in Digital Libraries was simplified because of Leslie Weir's address giving a brief history and outline of the Scholar's Portal for Ontario Universities at the Ottawa conference.

How has your work as a part-time Electronic Products and Services Assistant at ATLA helped to inform your understanding of theological librarianship?

My work at ATLA has helped me see the complexity of the systems librarians encounter and use in their everyday lives that both simplify and complicate the process of information discovery.

Why did you join ATLA?

I joined ATLA for the opportunity to learn more about the field of theological librarianship through

experiences, such as the annual conferences.

What is the most rewarding benefit of your membership?

My fellow members are probably the most rewarding membership benefit: I enjoy keeping up with a few people I've met at the annual conferences via Facebook and look forward to one day taking the scholarly writing course offered through UIUC.

Why would you recommend theological librarianship as a profession?

Right now I'm not recommending anyone for the profession, as I'm currently in the job hunt process. Once my own future's secured, I would tell anyone - interested in the field or not - that theological librarianship is a rewarding experience where you get to do a little bit of everything in the world of libraries: cataloguing, reference, collection development, instruction, and administration. The materials a theological librarian will regularly encounter come from many fields-such as the natural sciences, music, ethnography, anthropology, philosophy, sociology - and perspectives - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Humanistic, Atheistic, and (thank you, The Atlantic and internet memes) Apatheistic.

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.

Tools for a Tough Economy

Comfort in Community

News of Executive Director Dennis Norlin's new blog at <http://edblog.atla.com/> (see "From the Executive Director" above) has prompted a reminder of how important the sense of community is to theological librarians.

With all of the changes afoot on campuses across the country due to the ongoing economic struggles, some librarians have found meaningful and constructive solace through dialog with their colleagues.

Back in the May 2006 issue of the ATLA Newsletter (Vol. 53, no. 3, p. 20), Laura Wood wrote an article about the usefulness of blogs as a professional development tool. As Laura observed, blogs can point you "to new resources and ideas, to new voices and alternative perspectives on the various library issues we face."

What better time to look for advice, suggestions, and commiseration on how to meet today's challenges? Laura's list, slightly updated, appears below. Please feel free to contact the newsletter editor (scorkery@atla.com) with your suggestions so that we may add to the list in future.

ACRLog · <http://acrlblog.org/>

Catalogablog · <http://www.catalogablog.blogspot.com>

Future of the Book · <http://www.futureofthebook.com>

Kept-Up Academic Librarian · <http://keptup.typepad.com/academic/>

LibraryLaw Blog · <http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/>

Library Weblogs (to discover new blogs) · <http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html>

LISNews · <http://lisnews.org/>

Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog · <http://orweblog.oclc.org/>

The Shifted Librarian · <http://www.theshiftedlibrarian.com>

TheoLib · <http://digilib.bu.edu/blogs/theolib/>

Views on Theological Librarianship · <http://theologicallibrarianship.blogspot.com/>

Wired Campus Blog · <http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/>

The Theological Librarians group on Facebook can be found here: <http://groups.to/theologicallibrarians/>

ATLA Calendar

April

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in May ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 17 Deadline for Annual Conference Travel Grant application

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