



Left: Duke McCall Welcome Pavillion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky  
Photo ©The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**ATLA 2010 Annual Conference**

**Registration Now Open**

Be sure to visit the conference website ([http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf\\_2010/conference\\_home.html](http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2010/conference_home.html)), where everything you need is just a click away . . . ATLA’s official conference website contains comprehensive conference information, links to area attractions, information about your conference hosts, and more. The conference website is updated frequently as a resource for you to plan your conference experience. This year’s conference offers a wide range of workshops, presentations, and networking events to benefit your professional development. You can preview all of the many exciting options on our web site here. Login to the member website and register for the conference.

The Attendees page includes useful links to conference housing, pricing, transportation and other valuable information that can help you plan your visit to Louisville.

The local host committee has produced a new video highlighting area coffee shops. According to committee member Bruce Kiesling, “While you are busy registering and doing the important things to prepare to attend, we have been busy checking on some not-so-important, but some would say still essential things. Like coffee. In the next installment of our video introductions to Louisville, we would like to introduce you to some of the notables among local coffee options. The Starbucks featured in the video is conveniently located on the first floor of the conference hotel.”

You can find the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1PxJJv9fXI>

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

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**The Shape of Our Work**



Here’s one predictable side-effect of adjusting to a new job: as I gradually get a sense of the dimensions and contours of the work, at some point I have to find a way to manage it, making sure that each dimension gets the attention it deserves.

An example? In the weeks leading up to this transition, I thought how helpful it would be if I could conceptualize everything I would be responsible for as fitting into one of, say, five folders. Each one with a different color.

Two months in, I’m sure five would hardly get me started. Colors? Cute, but not helpful.

These are not the musings of someone in despair, but of one who is a.) both intrigued and energized by the challenge of figuring this out, and b.) utterly convinced that a great deal of the effectiveness we long for hangs on somebody being able to do this well in the place where we work.

A question (which I will post to ATLANTIS as well): Where did the librarians who excel at this learn to manage? (Anecdotally, I have yet to meet a librarian who looks back on required MLS/IS management courses as having been useful.)

Cheers,

David R. Stewart

## From the Executive Director



### Testing the Direction of the Wind

When I was a little boy my father taught me to wet my finger and hold it in the air so that I could feel which way the wind was blowing. When I assumed the role of Executive Director at ATLA, I began attending a conference every February in Philadelphia - NFAIS. [Formerly the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing

Services, NFAIS is now the National Federation of Advanced Information Services]. It's the place where I go to test which way the wind is blowing for publishers of bibliographic and full-text databases like ours.

With its change in name (though not acronym) a few years ago, NFAIS signaled its intention to include many additional organizations that are not indexing and abstracting services. Today, the attendees include representatives of search engines, government agencies, software developers, academic librarians, and start-up information entrepreneurs.

There have been frequent alerts sounded at NFAIS that have often challenged and troubled database producers. One year, it was the proliferation of government-funded databases like MedLine. Another year, it was the threat of Google. Last year, it was the advent of Discovery Services.

This year, the focus was on the impact of social networking as the primary means for gathering information. We even heard a librarian say that, in her own research, she doesn't use library tools because they are too quickly out-of-date. Instead, she consults her academic friends for relevant and important information.

There was a lot of emphasis on speed of information, and the incessant demand for increasing the ability to search and retrieve information. Because most providers at NFAIS are from the STM (Science, Technology, and Medicine) areas, the primary focus is on the latest research, the most current data, the most important ongoing projects.

As I listened to speakers tell about the ability to search literally hundreds of database and retrieve an enormous amount of records, sorting them through various filters, programs, and criteria, I began to wonder if they ever actually read an article.

Theological and religious studies disciplines are fields that require reflection and judgment and critical thought, not just rapid data retrieval. And critical thought, analysis, judgement, and creative thinking all take time. And, while it definitely is very helpful for theological and religious studies scholars to be able to move quickly through large volumes of material and to find digital versions of many things to which they never before had access, there is no way to accelerate the pace of critical thought, scholarly reflection, and creative thinking and writing.

I think I'm in the right field.

-Dennis A. Norlin

To register to receive regular Friday updates of my blog, go to [http://edblog.atla.com/?page\\_id=62](http://edblog.atla.com/?page_id=62).

## ATLA Staff News

### New Preservation Assistant



ATLA has hired Dolores Barbers as a new part-time, temporary Preservation Assistant to help with the remainder of our NEH-funded microfilming

grant, Preservation Microfilming of Religious Periodical Literature of the Hispanic and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (known as "HIP" to those of us who have been involved in the project). Dolores is a retired librarian and archivist who has continued to work on temporary, part-time preservation projects into her retirement. Her extensive cataloging and archives experience will no doubt prove invaluable during the final portion of the grant.

### Deana Rice to Leave ATLA

Deana Rice is resigning from



ATLA, effective Friday, March 5, 2010. She has accepted a part-time position within the Calumet City School District and will

continue pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Please join us in expressing our thanks to Deana for her service, and wishing her well in pursuit of her new goals.

## Have You Heard?

### Study to Assess Role of Libraries in Supporting PhD Students

2CUL, a partnership between the libraries at Cornell University and Columbia University, has announced a study to discover if the library can help ameliorate high attrition and low completion rates for doctoral students in the humanities. The goal of the project is to listen to graduate students' concerns and determine whether the library can develop strategies that will help directly with their research and contribute to their success. <http://www.knowledgespeak.com/newsArchiveviewdtl.asp?pickUpID=9723&pickUpBatch=1377#9723>

## **EBSCO Offer**

### **EBSCO Offers Free Trials to ATLA Members for Historical Monographs Collections**

EBSCO has partnered with ATLA to provide new collections of historical monographs and serials in digital format. ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: 19th Century, (<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=1152>) ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Early 20th Century (<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=1153>) and ATLA Historical Serials Collection (forthcoming) consists of digital versions of rare and historical primary sources.

The monograph collections contain more than 29,000 monographs covering religion and theology. The majority of the monographs date from 1850 through 1923 with the earliest monograph from 1322. The monograph collections are estimated to include 7.5 million pages of content. The historical serials collection will contain more than 1,200 serials from the early 19th Century to the early 20th Century and are estimated to include 5.4 million pages of content.

With each collection, researchers can view all of the typography, graphics, and drawings as they were originally presented. EBSCO enables libraries to purchase ownership of each collection rather than provide leased access which is required with subscription-based databases. Digital archive products are typically sold as "static" collections for a one-time purchase price with an annual maintenance fee. EBSCO provides access via its EBSCOhost® interface, one of the most-used research platforms available.

EBSCO is offering ATLA members free trial access to the ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 1 (13th Century to 1893) and ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 2 (1894 to 1923) through June 30, 2010. If you are interested in participating in this free trial, please send an email to [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com) with the following information before March 31, 2010:

Site name; Address; Contact name; Phone number; Email address; trial set up on "main" profile or on a separate trial profile

For sales information, please contact your EBSCO representative directly.

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## **ICC International Collaboration Grants**



The International Collaboration Committee invites you to attend our Roundtable session this June in Louisville to hear from this year's recipients of our International Collaboration Grants. Andrew Keck from Duke Divinity School and Fang-Lan Hsieh from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will speak about the progress they have made in

implementing their proposals.

Duke Divinity School's grant is to share resources with the Institut Supérieur de Théologie d'Abidjan-Doumein (ISTHA) in the Ivory Coast. Duke Divinity School is particularly interested in ISTHA resources that document the history and current practice of Methodism in the Ivory Coast. These resources include scholarly works, locally produced materials, hymnals, worship books, periodicals, papers of conferences, and books. In exchange, Duke Divinity School will provide copies of faculty publications, their alumni magazine, and other core resources (especially relating to Methodism) that are of interest to ISTHA. To provide these resources they are undertaking a joint digitization project (with proper copyright clearance). The Internet Archive, a U.S. non-profit engaged in digitization, has offered to digitize the first 100 volumes and to provide perpetual storage for the digital files. The two institutions will continue to explore other areas of potential collaboration.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is undertaking a collaborative project with Singapore Bible College to provide training for Singapore Bible College staff to improve the management of their music collection. Singapore Bible College has a strong church music program that trains future ministers and church musicians in Singapore, China, and other countries in the region. The School of Church Music offers both bachelor's and master's degrees in church music. The library staff have limited knowledge of music librarianship in general and of music cataloging in particular. Fang-Lan Hsieh from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will spend two weeks at Singapore Bible College to provide training for their staff in cataloging music materials and managing the music collection.

We are pleased that we received several grant proposals this year. We thank all who took the time to apply, and encourage them to submit proposals again next year. We welcome all who are interested in international collaboration to come to the ICC Roundtable and join in the discussion. We especially encourage those considering submitting a grant proposal for next year to attend. We will set aside time for a discussion of the criteria the Committee uses in evaluating grant proposals.

- Paul Stuehrenberg, Chair



## Member News

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### Publication Grant Award Announced



ATLA Publications Committee members Beth Bidlack, chair, Amy Limpitlaw, and Michelle Spomer, participated in a spring meeting by web conference on Thursday, February 11. The Publications Committee is pleased to announce that Timothy Lincoln (left) has been awarded a publication grant for his project "Theological Students at Work: A Phenomenological Study."

### Diversity Committee

Members of the Special Committee of the Association for Diversity came to Chicago for their meeting on Friday, February 26.



Above, left to right: Mayra Picos Lee, Susan Ebertz, Diana Brice, chair, Jim Pakala, Board Liaison. Not pictured: Cait Kokolus, whose flight was cancelled due to bad weather. Cait was able to participate by telephone.

### Travel Grants for 2010 Conference

Generous gifts to ATLA from corporate and member donors make it possible for us to offer grants of up to \$500 each to support attendance at the conference. Just as we did last year, we have expanded the program to provide additional grants for any ATLA student and individual member

## ATLA Calendar

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### March

- 1 Submissions for April ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 1 ATLA 2010 Annual Conference registration and housing reservation opens
- 1-2 Dennis Norlin, Margot Lyon, and Tami Luedtke at NFAIS Conference in Philadelphia
- 4-8 Barbara Kemmis to visit member libraries in the Denver, CO area
- 9-10 ATLA Professional Development Committee to meet by conference call

### April

- 1 Submissions for iMay ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 6-8 Barbara Kemmis at Catholic Library Association Convention in Minneapolis

### May

- 1 Submissions for June/July ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 31 ATLA office closed for Memorial Day holiday

who receives no financial assistance from their institutions to attend the conference.

You may apply for a travel grant until April 16, 2010. Simply contact Barbara Kemmis by email ([bkemmis@atla.com](mailto:bkemmis@atla.com)) to express your interest. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis and winners will be notified on or before April 23, 2010. Applicants not selected to receive a grant will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted if a selected recipient cancels. If you are chosen to receive a grant, Barbara will contact you by email and you must be prepared to register for the conference shortly thereafter. In the interest of privacy, we will not announce the names of the recipients; however, we will announce that grants have been made.

ATLA values all our members. We hope that this support will allow those of you who might not otherwise be able to attend the conference to join your colleagues in Louisville.

### Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, April 5, 2010. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE, ListServe and the ATLA Websites. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

### ATLA Adds Three Prestigious Oxford University Press Journals to *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®)

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The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is pleased to announce that an expanded agreement has been reached with Oxford University Press to add three prestigious titles to *ATLASerials* (*ATLAS*), an online collection of more than one hundred and fifty major religion and theology journals. Visit <http://www.atla.com/news/press/press10.html#022310> for the full news release.