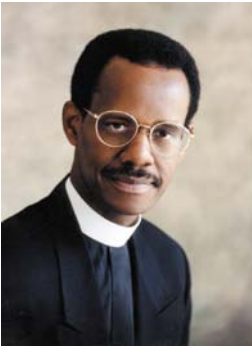


COLLOQUY

Transition into the presidency

Jim Echols and Anne Anderson gave the opening plenary at the Seminar for New Presidents in ATS Institutions. Their topic, Transition into the Presidency, was then discussed among small groups. The following excerpts from their presentations represent a sampling of the discussions at the New President's Seminar held January 12–14, 2006, in Savannah, Georgia.



James Kenneth Echols
President
Lutheran School
of Theology at Chicago

Jim Echols highlighted four dimensions of transitioning into the presidency.

Transitioning into another *sitz-in-leben* (i.e., a different vocational and occupational setting)

"To become a seminary president is to move from one setting to another," he said.

Echols remembered his transition into the presidency at Chicago meant "ceasing to look over my presidential colleague's shoulders in Philadelphia and realizing that those shoulders were now mine."

He challenged the new presidents to examine their transitions into the role of presidency. "Have you carefully reflected on the dimensions and dynamics of your own transition into the presidential office and both the opportunities and challenges created by it? If so, what have you discovered? If not, why not?"

"Whatever the nature of your move into the presidency, you are now in a different setting, and this new setting requires a kind of institutional exegesis as you enter it. What is the meta-story? What are the traditions? What are the tensions? Who holds the informal power? Where are the pitfalls? In what kind of shape is the institution?"

Transitioning into a complex role of leadership

Echols cited "The Seminary President as Chess Player" written by Tom Gillespie: "Essentially, presidents work simultaneously with various constituencies to advance the mission of their schools, recognizing that there are different dynamics and power relationships at work vis-à-vis each constituency," he said. "While I'm not sure it's the only metaphor that could be introduced, it strikes me as a useful one as long

as presidents as chess players have a coherent approach or strategy to playing chess that informs the various games. Otherwise, it could be a formula for disaster as one makes moves at cross-purposes."¹

Transitioning into positions of considerable strain and stress

"The moment finally comes when the honeymoon period ends and major, contentious issues arise in the community," Echols said. "It is as if strain and stress are constant companions on the journey. Yet to recognize this is not to suggest that they must inevitably become debilitating. Rather, to recognize them is to attend to them, to find resources and ways of, if not overcoming, then of holding them in check."

Transitioning into the process of periodic, if not constant, discernment

Finally, Echols said that transitioning into the presidency involves moving into a process of periodic discernment that might well border on constant discernment.

"My point is that to care deeply about the missions of our schools and the preparation of our students is to risk the possibility of leaving them or to risk hearing people say that it may be time to leave," he said. "This should in no way preclude presidents from fully and energetically engaging their responsibilities. It is only to suggest that transitioning into the presidency is to maintain an awareness of the possibility of transitioning out of it at an appropriate point for appropriate reasons."

NEW PRESIDENTS continued on page 8

Educating pastors

Nancy Merrill, the Association's director of communications and external relations, talks with reporters and media representatives almost every week. Recently, she asked me to return a call to a *New York Times* reporter who was working on a story about MDiv students who do not plan to become pastors. Before I made the call, I looked up some data from the *Graduating Student Questionnaire*. From spring 2000 to spring 2005, the percentage of men MDiv graduates indicating that their first choice after seminary was parish ministry dropped from 60 percent to 50 percent. The percentage of women MDiv graduates indicating parish ministry was their first choice after graduation dropped from 56 percent to 40 percent. I was stunned. Could it be that parish ministry is rapidly losing out to other expressions of ministry?

The first thing to do with troubling data is to test it. The *ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire* is used electively by about half of ATS member schools. In 2000, 1,937 MDiv graduates from 103 schools completed the survey, and in 2005, 2,530 MDiv graduates from 137 schools completed the survey. Maybe the changes in percentages are a function of differing schools participating across the six years. While almost half of ATS member schools participate in this program, the schools that do participate may not be typical of all schools. We know that smaller schools are less likely to participate in the *Questionnaire*, as are Roman Catholic schools. Maybe these data underestimate the percentage of graduates who intend to pursue pastoral ministry. The average age of students in member schools is getting younger after decades of getting older, and we know from research conducted by the Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education that younger students are less likely to pursue pastoral ministry than older students. Maybe the declining percentage indicating "parish ministry" is a function of the declining age of graduates. Maybe these data are all wrong. But then, maybe these data are more accurate than misleading.

While I think these data may have exaggerated the shift in preference of ministry setting following graduation, I don't think the data can be explained away. A declining percentage of MDiv graduates are choosing parish ministry as their first choice ministry setting. So what? I have spent

A declining percentage of MDiv graduates are choosing parish ministry as their first choice ministry setting. . . . no troubling financial data about ATS member schools . . . has alarmed me as much as these data.



a career in ordained ministry that has included very few years in the pastorate. I have never considered myself to be less a minister. Ministry is full of rich and varied expressions, and each one contributes to the overall well being of the life and witness of communities of faith. Ministry continues to take new shapes as it seeks to meet new needs. Not every MDiv graduate needs to be, or should be, a parish minister. However, no troubling financial data about ATS member schools (which has been in ample supply) has alarmed me as much as these data.

To the extent this picture is true, it cuts at the heart of the mission of most ATS member schools and, more critically, cuts at the heart of congregational leadership. Congregations and parishes are not just important parts of a broad religious ecology; they are crucial foundation blocks on which North American Christianity depends. They are communities of worship, education, mission, service, and fellowship. They comprise the settings in which the Word is preached and sacraments administered. They are the source of the volunteers and much of the money required by noncongregation-based ministry. Congregations are crucial, and they need leaders who have been educated in the deep contours of the tradition. They need leaders who know the text and how to preach it, who know theological constructs and how to engage them in ordinary human lives, who know what to do and why they do it. They need leaders who have been educated in the very ways that a good seminary educates pastors. But what if fewer and fewer MDiv graduates want to serve in parish and congregational settings?

I think congregations in the United States and Canada have become very complex and demanding environments. The pay is poor, the hours are long, conflict can be personal and intense, and the results of hard work are difficult to discern. However, it would be tragic if students mistakenly concluded that these difficulties are the dominant characteristics of pastoral ministry. Data from the Pulpit and Pew Project convincingly demonstrate that an overwhelming percentage of pastors are fulfilled

PERSPECTIVE continued on page 5

Aspiration & Accountability: Accreditation in Theological Education

The 2006 Biennial Meeting of the Association and the Commission on Accrediting will focus on current issues in accreditation—both in theological education and in higher education more generally. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the redeveloped ATS Standards of Accreditation in 1996. It is also the seventieth anniversary of the first standards adopted in 1936 by the (then) American Association of Theological Schools.

An external evaluator of the ATS process that resulted in the 1996 standards described the resulting standards as *aspirational* in character in that they identified goals toward which theological schools should orient their work in addition to minimal standards to which schools must be *accountable*. Hence, the theme of this 45th Biennial Meeting: Aspiration & Accountability.

Plenary Sessions

Michael Gilligan, president of The Henry Luce Foundation and assistant director of accreditation at ATS during the project that redeveloped the ATS standards, will speak at the opening plenary on Saturday, June 24. He will reflect on the decade of use of the 1996 standards as one who was integrally involved in their development. **Judith Eaton**, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), will address current issues and agenda in higher education accreditation in the second plenary on Sunday. **Daniel Aleshire**, ATS executive director, will focus on the future of accreditation in theological education in the final plenary session on Monday morning. Other agenda items related to accreditation will be a discussion of assessment by representatives of regional accrediting agencies in the United States and the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies and luncheon discussions about ATS accreditation and the standards.

Workshops

Five workshops will present cases on **assessing student learning** in the Master of Divinity degree program. They will be offered by representatives of the ten schools that developed assessment models through participation in the ATS project on the Character and Assessment of Learning for Religious Vocation. Their cases will

be published in the spring 2006 issue of *Theological Education*, which will be distributed prior to the Biennial Meeting. The customary pattern of workshops on **institutional leadership issues** will continue with a series of eight workshops on Sunday that will be repeated on Monday.

Business Sessions

This Biennial Meeting is the first since the corporate reorganization of ATS into two Pennsylvania corporations: The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools. The occasion will celebrate the first meeting of the two corporations (most schools being members of both) by focusing on the history and value of accreditation in theological education.

Special Gatherings

A number of special gatherings will be held in the context of the meeting. They are listed in the Biennial Meeting section of the ATS Web site—www.ats.edu. Watch for invitations or additional information about these events.

Meeting Registration

The program brochure and registration materials will be mailed to the offices of the chief administrative and chief academic officers later this month. Online registration for the meeting is not being offered, but the ATS Web site will soon provide a link to the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place for online room reservations at the ATS negotiated rate of US \$149 per night. Meeting registration is US \$325 (Canadian currency at par). An abbreviated agenda for the meeting is available at www.ats.edu.

Seminar for Chief Academic Officers

Sponsored by the Chief Academic Officers Society (CAOS), the seminar will precede the Biennial Meeting, also at the McCormick Place Hyatt, beginning Friday, June 23, with the theme “Management, Methods, and Models.” Academic deans will receive a separate registration brochure for the deans’ meeting, in addition to the Biennial Meeting materials. The registration fee is US \$150 (Canadian currency at par). ♦

Deans’ Seminar
Friday, June 23 to
Saturday, June 24

Biennial Meeting
Saturday, June 24 to
Monday, June 26

Hyatt Regency
McCormick Place
Chicago, Illinois

www.ats.edu

Newsmakers: People, places, and things making headlines



Sharon Watson Fluker

Sharon Watson Fluker and **Melissa Wiginton** have been appointed vice presidents of The Fund for Theological Education (FTE). Fluker serves as FTE vice president for Doctoral Programs and Administration. She continues to direct FTE's doctoral programs for racial/ethnic doctoral students in religion, biblical studies, and theology, who are traditionally underrepresented in the academy. Fluker assumes new management responsibilities for operations at FTE's Atlanta office and for initiatives to strengthen and enhance diversity throughout all FTE fellowship programs. Wiginton now serves as vice president for Ministry Programs and Planning. In this capacity, Wiginton assumes increased management responsibilities for long-range planning and strategy in addition to FTE's Ministry and Undergraduate Fellowships and related programs. She will also provide leadership for the new FTE Calling Congregations program, an ecumenical partnership of churches nationwide committed to supporting vocational discernment among youth and the consideration of ordained ministry in particular.



Melissa Wiginton

Former ATS President **David L. Tiede** (2002–04) has been named to the Bernhard M. Christensen Chair in Religion at Augsburg College—the first endowed chair in the college's history. In this position, Tiede will carry out research and

writing, lecture and conduct on-campus workshops, represent the college at various events sponsored by Lilly Endowment, and work with Augsburg students who have been designated as Lilly Scholars and who have demonstrated an interest in studying for ministry.

The University of Winnipeg has appointed **James Christie** as the inaugural dean of its Global College. In this position, Christie will lead the Global College in its commitment to help define Canada's international responsibilities, raise the profile of international concerns both at home and abroad, and chart a course of action for the challenges of the new century. He is a member of the board of governors of the United Theological College in Montreal and vicechair of the governing board of the **Montreal School of Theology**, where he heads a task force to establish a Doctor of Ministry program.

Westminster Theological Seminary's Montgomery Library and the Craig Center for the Study of the Westminster Standards recently acquired the Early American Imprints Series I and II, electronic collections of books, pamphlets, and periodicals published in the United States between 1639 and 1820. Early American Imprints provides access to previously out-of-print primary source material. Series I, upon completion, will consist of full-text access to more than 37,000 works and 2.4 million page images. Series II, when completed, will provide full-text access to an additional 36,000 American books, pamphlets, and broadsides published in the first nineteen years of the nineteenth century.

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities received the 2005 Faith & Form Religious Architecture Award for the unique design of its Bigelow Chapel. According to the Faith & Form jury, "rather than thinking in terms of a Christian worship space, the design describes a spiritual space with a trinity of qualities: intimacy, warmth, and light. The first two qualities are conveyed through a series of translucent, quilted maple panels that ripple up and down the interior of the sanctuary's west-facing stainless-steel curtain wall. As sunlight passes from the curtain wall through the maple veneer panels, the panels filter and enrich the interior light. Light also enters the sanctuary through clerestory windows along the east wall and through skylights." ♦



Bigelow Chapel at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Educational technology: Exemplary Practices workshops to be offered online

For the last two years, ATS has been looking at the way member schools have been continually adapting to educational technology. An important impetus for the expansion of the applications of educational technology by member schools were two competitive grant programs sponsored by Lilly Endowment Inc., which provided funding for the acquisition and implementation of hardware and software.

Guided by a Minnesota-based project management team (PMT) consisting of **Jim Rafferty** and **Jan Viktora**, the project began with two workshops that sought to provide a venue for sharing information and case studies and to enable the PMT to discern common, predictable elements characteristic of the implementation of educational technology, which ATS has put on its Web site as a developmental model.

The PMT is also developing a series of online topical workshops for 2006 on exemplary practices using several different technologies including Breeze online meeting software.

Three Exemplary Practice workshops are currently offered by invitation only:

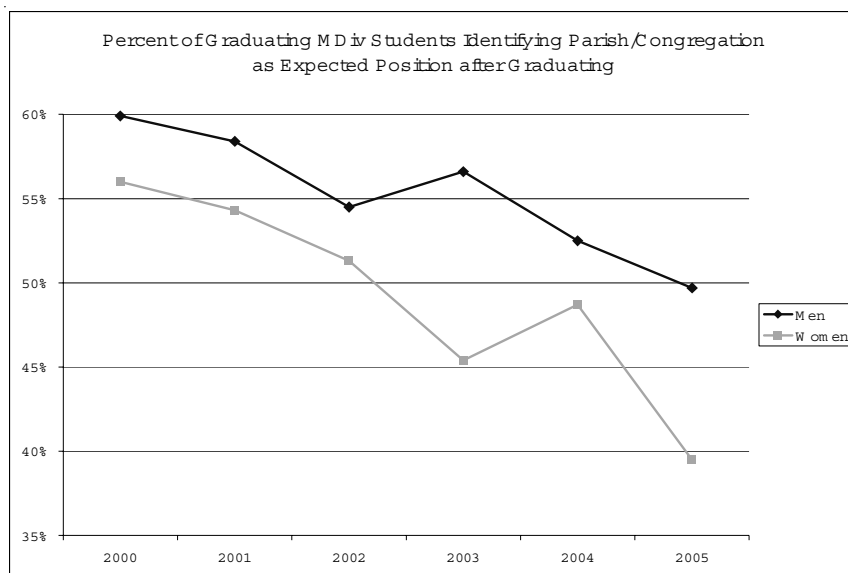
- ◆ **Exemplary Practices: Preaching.** The original session immediately filled, prompting a second session to be offered that also filled quickly. Both sessions include a prerequisite asynchronous review of online materials followed by a live, one-hour Breeze meeting. The presenters are Sebastian Mahfood, Deborah Organ, and Linda Carrillo. A recording (video and audio) will be accessible from the ATS Web site along with a blog that will provide follow-up opportunities for discussion and sharing. The blog is open to all: <http://resources4seminaries.blogspot.com/>.
- ◆ **Exemplary Practices: Scripture** (scheduled for April)
- ◆ **Exemplary Practices: Church History** (scheduled for June)

ATS will also offer at least two workshops on other topics related to technology and theological education over the summer months, but dates are not yet set. These topics will include issues related to distributed learning, models of faculty training, and technology and learning.

This fall, ATS will offer a national, summative workshop/conference on educational technology.

Information on the live, Internet-based workshops as well as recordings of the events, together with other information related to educational technology, will be regularly available and updated on the Technology and Educational Practices section of the ATS Web site: http://www.ats.edu/projects/theo_edu.asp. ◆

PERSPECTIVE continued from page 2



in their work, find their work rewarding, and would do the same thing all over again. I hope that our schools are teaching MDiv students about the quintessential importance of pastoral work and its sustaining satisfactions.

It is not the seminary's job to recruit pastoral leaders for the church; in many ways, that is the church's job. It is the seminary's job to make sure that it educates effectively for pastoral ministry, supports and affirms students who are considering parish ministry, and nurtures the call students may sense for pastoral ministry. In 2000, 4.6 percent of men and 5.5 percent of women MDiv graduates indicated that they were "undecided" about their first placement after graduation. In 2005, 9.1 percent of men and 18.1 percent of women were undecided. While the job of seminaries may not be to recruit pastors, maybe it is their job to work closely with the growing percentage of students who are completing seminary undecided about the direction of their future ministry. ◆

2006–07 Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology announced

The Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology program of ATS supports the research of full-time faculty at accredited and candidate member institutions. The program seeks to solicit and fund theological research projects of high scholarly quality that have the promise to contribute to theological inquiry and provide leadership in theological scholarship. It hopes to nurture scholarship that contributes to the understanding of people of faith and to enrich the work of communities of faith in North America. Finally, it seeks to cultivate research that provides intellectually rigorous perspectives for consideration by publics beyond the academy and the church.

ATS is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2006-07 Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology awards:



Jerome P. Baggett

Jerome P. Baggett

Associate Professor of Religion and Society
Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

Christianity and Contemporary Culture

*Sense of the Faithful:
An End and Beginning of American Catholicism*

Despite the persistence of such sociological shibboleths as the one conflating secularization with the inexorable decline of religious belief and commitment, it is more apt to say that American Catholics are differently religious—not necessarily less so—than in times past. Exploring this difference and exploring the manner by which a purposefully selected sample of active Catholics understand their connection to the sacred and how that redounds into their everyday lives is the purpose of this project.



D. Bruce Hindmarsh

D. Bruce Hindmarsh

James M. Houston Professor of Spiritual Theology
Regent College

History of Christianity and the Church Today

*The Roots of Evangelical Spirituality:
A Historical Conversation*

The aim of this project is to discover and expound the distinctive features of evangelical spirituality in its first generation—the age of John Wesley and Jonathan Edwards. Moreover Hindmarsh would like to make the insights of this generation of Christians more understandable and available to believers today. It is roughly three hundred years since the awakenings of the North Atlantic region marked the beginning of the modern evangelical movement. Hindmarsh wants, therefore, to ask what those of us living in an age that is self-consciously post-modern can learn from Christians who were living on the very cusp of modernity. His goal is to produce a scholarly but very readable



Kevin Madigan

book aimed primarily at a Christian audience and with implications for contemporary Christianity.

Kevin Madigan

Professor
Harvard University Divinity School

History of Christianity and the Church Today

*Apostle of Doubt, Apostle of Faith: Thomas
in the History of Western Christianity, 200–1500*

Madigan plans to concentrate virtually all of his attention on what Glenn W. Most in his book *Doubting Thomas* called the “exegetical” (and Madigan adds) “theological,” “spiritual,” and “pastoral” reactions of writers from the ancient and medieval worlds, ca. 200–1500. He intends to trace the way in which the figure of Thomas was used, interpreted, appropriated, and transmitted in different ecclesial, historical, and cultural contexts. Sometimes, Thomas emerges as an exemplar of blindness, skepticism, and even stupidity. At other times, of vigorous belief and robust orthodoxy. An apostle of doubt. An apostle of faith.

Otto A. Maduro

Professor of World Christianity
and Latin American Christianity
Drew University Theological School

Ministry and the Practice of Communities of Faith

*The Role of Pentecostal Congregations
in the Creative Adaptation of Hispanic Immigrants
to the United States*

U.S. Latinas/os, the largest and fastest-growing minority in the nation (14.2 percent) and New Jersey (13.3 percent), are increasingly adopting Pentecostalism as their religion of choice (cur-

rently 9 percent). To advance our understanding of this little-known phenomenon, Maduro plans to conduct research in Newark (New Jersey's largest city, 29.5 percent Latina/o, with 50+ Latina/o Pentecostal congregations) on the following aspects: (1) the variegated journeys through which Latinas/os (especially recent immigrants) appropriate, and are transformed by, Pentecostalism; (2) the multidimensional wealth of the Pentecostal experience among Latinas/os; and (3) the differences and commonalities of Pentecostal experiences among Latinas/os of diverse backgrounds and generations.

Gene Outka

Dwight Professor
of Philosophy and Christian Ethics
Yale University Divinity School

Christianity and Contemporary Culture

The Ethics of Love and the Problem of Abortion

This project brings an ethics of love resident in Christianity to debates about abortion in contemporary North American culture. It asks how extended generosity as part of what this love enjoins may illuminate what matters to each side. One conclusion is that bona fide claims on each side deserve to be recognized. It will not do to reduce either set of these claims to plain sophistry or bad faith. The project attempts to offer a resolution. It cannot please everyone or have everything. Yet it endeavors to remain fair along the way. A book-length manuscript is the telos of the project.

Gabriel Said Reynolds

Assistant Professor
University of Notre Dame
Department of Theology

History of Christianity and the Church Today

*Reading the Qur'an
in Light of a Jewish-Christian-Islamic Tradition*

Reynolds plans to pursue research on the Qur'an from the perspective of Christian theology that will lead to a book in which he will analyze a number of Qur'anic passages that confound the earliest generations of Muslim exegetes, demonstrating that these passages can be better understood in light of Biblical literature.

Reynolds will thereby suggest that the Qur'an is a homiletic work that uses biblical literature for its theological purposes. Thereafter he will discuss the approach of later Muslim exegetes to those same passages, describing how Muslim-Christian competition led these scholars to develop apologetical and dogmatic interpretations. When the question of competition is overcome, scholars today might be free to see the Qur'an in a new light. Instead of as a foreign and antagonistic text, the Qur'an might appear to Christian theologians and pastors as a work in conversation with Judaeo-Christian tradition.

Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza

Krister Stendahl Professor
Harvard University Divinity School

Bible and the Church

*The Rhetoric of Empire and Ekklesia
in the Pauline Tradition*

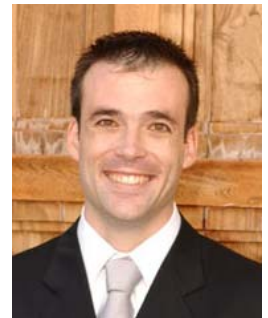
By carefully exploring the rhetoric of empire and ekklesia inscribed in Scripture, this study seeks to contribute to the research engendered by the Bible and Church category of the Luce fellowship program. In order to probe the theological dimensions of Scripture in its historical and contemporary contexts, this project investigates how the rhetoric of empire and ekklesia shapes the Pauline tradition and through it contemporary discourses. The rhetoric of ekklesia (i.e., the decision-making democratic assembly and the Christian community) and that of empire are two political discourses that are embedded in the Pauline and Post-Pauline literature. This study will thus continue and deepen the theoretical and practical contributions to New Testament scholarship that Schüssler Fiorenza has articulated in my work on the book of Revelation, on feminist biblical hermeneutics and history, as well as on the rhetoric of inquiry and the ethics of interpretation. ♦



Otto A. Maduro



Gene Outka



Gabriel Said Reynolds



Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza

**Watch for the 2007–08
Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology
applications arriving in early summer.**

From colleague to leader: Through a glass darkly (1 Cor. 13:12)

Anne Anderson set many “firsts” in her transition into the role of dean. She is the first woman to be dean at St. Michael’s, the first nonordained person to be dean, and was appointed from within the faculty. She found that the metaphor of a chess player mentioned by Jim Echols did not fit with her reality.

“I offer to you the image of a juggler, a harlequin, if you will,” Anderson said. “In the classical world, particularly in opera, the harlequin has many functions—as do we who have accepted the invitation to ecumenical theological education today.”

Mission and ethos

She compared her school’s 1999 demographics in the Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology with those of today. In 1999, 90 percent were full-time seminarians and 10 percent were lay students. Today, it is reversed with 10 percent seminarians and 90 percent lay students, the majority of whom are part time. Also notable was the reduction in full-time, tenured teaching faculty from twenty-five to eight.

“One of the major issues at the outset,” she said, “was re-appropriating our mission in a new context, with new consumers and new providers in a Church that is facing more than one internal issue. I found it an awesome responsibility that along with leadership comes the *stewardship of mission*.”

“At that point in time, the culture in the faculty was not mission driven and definitely not one of team collaboration—rather a culture of entitlement prevailed—one wag succinctly described our faculty as ‘a group of private entrepreneurs, held together by a common heating system.’”

Anderson told of how the faculty committed themselves to working through Donna Markam’s book, *Spiritlinking Leadership*,² as the first step in redefining themselves in the context of their mission preparatory to engaging in the development of a strategic plan.

Revitalization and recruitment

“Our plans for revitalization took on the shape of a revolving door,” Anderson said. “To recruit students, we needed faculty who were energetic and alive and in touch with the context in which

these students were being prepared to minister. “To get permission from the finance committee to hire new faculty, we needed to support our request with enrollment numbers. Enter the concept of the ‘loss leader’—a presentation made to the finance committee with a modest faith and immeasurable trepidation.”

The strategy worked and with a new hire the university’s enrollment increased as did the number of students from other colleges who began to cross-register in the new courses.

“Meeting these objectives,” she said, “helped the finance committee to ‘untie the purse strings,’ and our revitalization plans came to life. Since 2001, we have had six hires: three junior scholars, two midcareer scholars, and one advanced scholar.”

Fiscal issues

Anderson noted that financial viability and increasing the endowment has been a priority during this past term and that it will remain so in the foreseeable future.

“Perhaps the area of fiscal responsibility and accountability has been the most formative of all,” she said. “The basis for continuing excellence in ecumenical theological education most certainly includes ongoing cost-benefit analyses.”

The juggler (harlequin) herself

Anderson describes her four and a half years of being dean as “challenging and formative”:

- ◆ “I have learned that creative tension assists in the art of juggling—allowing oneself to be stressed out is not helpful.
- ◆ “The juggler wears multicolored robes but she is not a chameleon; rather, she uses the prisms of color to reflect the interest of various groups. As dean/president, development of the skills necessary to interact with a wide spectrum of stakeholders is imperative. Research and creativity usually produce a more fruitful interaction and, in the end, are time savers.
- ◆ “Clear and frequent communication with faculty and staff is essential.
- ◆ “It is a discipline to remain engaged in one’s own academic field of interest. Resist the

NEW PRESIDENTS continued on page 9

“In the classical world, particularly in opera, the harlequin has many functions—as do we who have accepted the invitation to ecumenical theological education today.”

African-American presidents discuss variety of institutional issues



In January, a group of African-American presidents of ATS member schools gathered at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, to talk about diverse issues facing their institutions. Currently, there are twelve African-American presidents, six of whom head historically Black theological schools and six of whom serve in predominantly white institutions. Seated are James T. Roberson Jr. of Shaw University Divinity School, Marsha Foster Boyd of ATS, Edward L. Wheeler of Christian Theological Seminary, and Bertram L. Melbourne of Howard University School of Divinity. Standing are James K. Echols of Lutheran School of Theology of Chicago; Dwight Reginald Whitt, OP, of Dominican House of Studies; Myron F. McCoy of Saint Paul School of Theology; Daniel Aleshire of ATS; Michael A. Battle of Interdenominational Theological Center; and John W. Kinney of Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology.

NEW PRESIDENTS continued from page 8

temptation to give up 'trying to get something published.' Sometimes, for me, the best antidote to a bad day is to retreat into a new article in my own area of interest from my cache of 'to be read before I die' material.

- ◆ "Boundaries need constant attention. Time for prayer, family, friends, and leisure need to be jealously guarded lest the pressures of this ministry rob you of the time to recreate and reflect—tasks which are essential to the

ongoing vitality of this work.

- ◆ "Leadership is a solitary ministry at times, but with a little humility and some networking skills, any issue can be solved. There is always someone willing to share how he or she solved a similar issue." ◆

ENDNOTES

1. Thomas W. Gillespie, "The Seminary President as Chess Player," *Theology Today* 61 (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary, 2004): 149–54.
2. Donna J. Markham, *Spiritlinking Leadership: Working Through Resistance to Organizational Change* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1999).

Board of Commissioners January meeting report

The ATS Board of Commissioners met at the ATS office January 30–February 1, 2006.

The Board considered reports from evaluation committees for the following schools:

Athenaeum of Ohio, Cincinnati, OH
Bangor Theological Seminary, Bangor, ME
Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, Cochran, AB
Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA
Duke University Divinity School, Durham, NC
Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West, SC
(The) General Theological Seminary, New York, NY
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary,
South Hamilton, MA
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Huron University College Faculty of Theology, London, ON
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Fresno, CA
Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS
Saint Francis Seminary, St. Francis, WI
Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology,
Wickliffe, OH
San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA
Shaw University Divinity School, Raleigh, NC
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary,
Wake Forest, NC
SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, MI
University of the South School of Theology, Sewanee, TN
University of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology,
Toronto, ON

The Board approved the following changes in membership status:

From Candidate to Accredited Status:

Florida Center for Theological Studies, Miami, FL
Logsdon Seminary of Logsdon School of Theology of
Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX

From Associate to Candidate Status:

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary,
Jacksonville, TX
Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, IN

The Board authorized initial accreditation visits to the following schools:

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies,
Arlington, VA

The Board considered petitions for new or revised degree programs, changes in degree programs or nomenclature, and other petitions regarding course-offering sites, distance and extension programs, and removal of notations from the following schools:

Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, NS
Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO
Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, MO
Athenaeum of Ohio, Cincinnati, OH
Bethel Seminary of Bethel University, St. Paul, MN

Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield, PA
Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, KS
Church of God Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN
Denver Seminary, Littleton, CO
Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, MI
Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West, SC
Evangelical School of Theology, Myerstown, PA
Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR
Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA
George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Portland, OR
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary,
South Hamilton, MA
Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI
Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
Heritage Theological Seminary, Cambridge, ON
Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NC
Institut de Formation Theologique de Montreal de Grand
Seminaire de Montreal, Montreal, QC
Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary, Miami, FL
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, MO
Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY
Lincoln Christian Seminary, Lincoln, IL
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia,
Philadelphia, PA
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary,
Kansas City, MO
Montreal School of Theology, Montreal, QC
Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, PA
New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY
North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD
North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
Notre Dame Seminary, St. Benedict, LA
Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX
Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK
Phoenix Seminary, Phoenix, AZ
Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Berrien
Springs, MI
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary,
Wake Forest, NC
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY
St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, SK
St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, MD
Talbot School of Theology of Biola University,
La Mirada, CA
Toronto School of Theology, Toronto, ON
United Theological Seminary, Trotwood, OH
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA
Wycliffe College, Toronto, ON

The Board acted on reports received from the following member schools:

Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA
Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, OH
Barry University Department of Theology and Philosophy,
Miami Shores, FL
Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN
Bethel Seminary of Bethel University, St. Paul, MN
Bexley Hall Seminary, Columbus, OH
Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA
Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI
Capital Bible Seminary, Lanham, MD

Carey Theological College, Vancouver, BC
 Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, NY
 Cincinnati Bible Seminary of Cincinnati Christian University, Cincinnati, OH
 Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY
 Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA
 Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB
 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
 Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN
 Denver Seminary, Littleton, CO
 Dominican House of Studies, Washington, DC
 Dominican Study Center of the Caribbean, Bayamon, PR
 Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, MI
 Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX
 Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA
 Harding University Graduate School of Religion, Memphis, TN
 Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
 Heritage Theological Seminary, Cambridge, ON
 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA
 Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NC
 Immaculate Conception Seminary of Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ
 Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA
 Logos Evangelical Seminary, El Monte, CA
 Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
 James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University, Atlanta, GA
 McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON
 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO
 New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ
 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA
 New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY
 Northeastern Seminary of Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, NY
 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA
 Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA
 Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH
 Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK
 Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS
 St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, SK
 St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA
 Saint Meinrad School of Theology, St. Meinrad, IN
 Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO
 St. Peter's Seminary, London, ON
 St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, South Canaan, PA
 Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA
 St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY
 Shaw University Divinity School, Raleigh, NC
 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC
 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY
 Taylor Seminary, Edmonton, AB
 Trinity College Faculty of Divinity, Toronto, ON
 Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH
 University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA
 University of Notre Dame Department of Theology, Notre Dame, IN
 Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC
 Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA

Western Seminary, Portland, OR
 Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI
 Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA
 Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA
 M. Christopher White School of Divinity, Boiling Springs, NC
 Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Findlay, OH
 Yale University Divinity School, New Haven, CT ♦

Commission on Accrediting invites third-party comments

The following member schools are receiving comprehensive evaluation committee visits during the spring semester:

- ♦ Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO
- ♦ Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield, PA
- ♦ Emmanuel School of Religion, Johnson City, TN
- ♦ George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Portland, OR
- ♦ Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY
- ♦ Lincoln Christian Seminary, Lincoln, IL
- ♦ Mount Angel Seminary, Saint Benedict, OR
- ♦ New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA
- ♦ Talbot School of Theology of Biola University, La Mirada, CA
- ♦ United Theological Seminary, Trotwood, OH

The ATS Board of Commissioners invites any member school to submit third-party comments on any school scheduled to receive a visit. Comments should be addressed to the attention of the Commission on Accrediting and sent by mail, fax, or email to Susan Beckerdite, sbecker@ats.edu by April 1, 2006. ♦

PETITION DEADLINE

Petitions to the ATS Board of Commissioners must be received by April 1 for consideration in its spring meeting and by November 1 for consideration in its winter meeting.

Daniel O. Aleshire
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Ext. 229/aleshire@ats.edu

Marsha Foster Boyd
 DIRECTOR, ACCREDITATION AND LEADERSHIP EDUCATION
 Ext. 248/boyd@ats.edu

Tisa Lewis
 DIRECTOR, STUDENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONAL EVALUATION
 Ext. 228/lewis@ats.edu

Jeremiah J. McCarthy
 DIRECTOR, ACCREDITATION AND INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION
 Ext. 249/mccarthy@ats.edu

Chris A. Meinzer
 DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
 Ext. 232/meinzer@ats.edu

Nancy Merrill
 DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
 Ext. 234/merrill@ats.edu

William C. Miller
 DIRECTOR, ACCREDITATION AND INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION
 Ext. 247/miller@ats.edu

William R. Myers
 DIRECTOR, LEADERSHIP EDUCATION
 Ext. 252/myers@ats.edu

Chris Olszyn
 MANAGER OF TECHNOLOGY
 Ext. 233/olszyn@ats.edu

Louis Charles Willard
 DIRECTOR, ACCREDITATION AND INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION
 Ext. 226/willard@ats.edu

ATS OFFICE
 10 Summit Park Dr.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15275
 Phone: 412-788-6505
 Fax: 412-788-6510
 Web site: www.ats.edu

THE MISSION
 of The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada is to promote the improvement and enhancement of theological schools to the benefit of communities of faith and the broader public.

EDITORS
Nancy Merrill
 DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Linda D. Trostle
 COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT COORDINATOR



The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1103
Phone: 412-788-6505 • Fax: 412-788-6510 • Website: www.ats.edu

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EVENTS IN MARCH & APRIL

ATS/FTE Consultation on Diversity

March 9–11, 2006 • Atlanta, GA

Entering Student Questionnaire Workshop

March 13, 2006 • Pittsburgh, PA

Retreat for Senior Women Administrators

March 17–19, 2006 • Bethany, WV

PoM Introductory Workshop

March 30–31, 2006 • Pittsburgh, PA

Faculty Seminar on Vocation and Governance

March 31–April 2, 2006 • Pittsburgh, PA

Student Personnel Administrators Network Conference

April 20–22, 2006 • San Antonio, TX

**BIENNIAL MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND THE COMMISSION**

**June 24–26, 2006
(Saturday–Monday)**

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place

**2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago, Illinois**

The Biennial Meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and will conclude by noon Monday, June 26.

Registration materials will be mailed to the offices of the chief administrative and chief academic officers in March 2006. When registration materials are mailed, there will be a link on the ATS Web site to make hotel reservations online at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place for the ATS group rate of US\$149 per night.

Please see page 3 for more information.

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