

2010 Section Report on the Midwest SBL/AOS Meeting Held at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN February 12-14, 2010

Survey

A survey will be sent out to all conference attendees requesting them to evaluate the conference

Attendance

- MWSBL-MWAOS/ASOR: Had a total of 108 register for this year's conference, up from last year's 94. Of these, 95 sent in their registration by mail and 13 registered on-site.
- SRSC: 40-45 people attended the Friday conference. Last year's attendance was 69. One reason for the decline was that students from Tulane University did not come this year.
- Banquet: Approximately 70 attended the banquet. 94 attended last year's banquet.

General impressions:

The plenary papers were excellent, and the number of people in the sessions and the participation in discussion were for the most part impressive.

New Vice President

Professor **Ann Fritschel** of the Wartburg Seminary and Professor **Clare Rothschild** of Lewis University will serve as Vice President elect and President of the MWSBL for the next two years, respectively.

Grad Paper Winners

Among the graduate student papers submitted for the competition, there was one excellent NT paper and two excellent Hebrew Bible papers. The turnout for this year's graduate student award paper session was very low. The following suggestions were made for next year's grad paper winners:

- The winning papers should be integrated into the regular sections.
- The winning papers should be given 15 extra minutes than the regular papers. For the sessions in which these papers are being presented, the half-hour breaks in the middle of sessions should be shortened by 15 minutes to accommodate the extra length.
- The winners should be announced and recognized during the banquet.

Papers

The quality of papers was generally very good. The society must continue to encourage student participation, and at the same time, ensure that the meetings remain intellectually attractive to the regular membership. To ensure quality, the chairs are encouraged to:

- Request a finished paper from student presenters whenever there is doubt as to the quality of their papers.
- Direct weaker proposals/papers to the SRSC.

New Section Chair

George Heider of Valparaiso University will take over as chair of the **Hebrew Bible section** replacing **Laurie Braaten** who will be retiring from Judson University in May. The society expresses appreciation to Prof. Braaten and wishes him well.

Book Review Panels

The following suggestions were made about book review panels.

- Host a book review panel on a recent book published by a minority scholar
- Host book review panels on books published by senior scholars to further encourage their participation in the region
- Have a budget for inviting authors
- Conduct the panels in ways that will encourage discussion among the members of the audience.
- Announce the book(s) to be reviewed in the initial publicity for the conference so that interested persons can read it and better participate in the discussion
- Get a variety of views on the publication in order to facilitate balance and discussion.

Student Coordinator

Student coordinator **Alec Lucas** of Loyola University Chicago introduced **Teresa Calpino** and **Lauren O'Connell**, both from Loyola University Chicago, as replacements for his position next year if he receives an award for overseas study. He also reported that the student lunch participation was about 30. Canadian student papers did not materialize this year although the Canadian OSR came to the meeting.

Next Year's Theme

Is "Reconsideration of Hermann Gunkel's Chaos Kampf Hypothesis"

Individual section reports

- Gospels: It was the "best ever" with lots of attendance.
- Hebrews and the General Epistles: Had only two papers, but they were good. Attendance was strong. The theme for next year is "Faith and Faithfulness"
- AOS: Attendance was not as good, but there were some excellent papers.
- Hebrew Bible and Early Interpretive Literature: Had above average papers. Attendance was good on Saturday.
- Bible Meaning through Time and Tradition: Had excellent papers, but attendance was poor. Next year's theme will be "Characters in Ruth," then "Nebuchadnezzar" the following year.

- Early Christianity/Patristics: Had good papers. Attendance was good. Next year's theme is "Canon," tentatively
- Pauline Epistles: Had lots of papers, and attendance was excellent, especially on Saturday. Next year a book review will be included in one of the sessions.
- Gender Studies of the Bible: Had one decent paper and one bad one. About 15 people attended.
- Apocrypha and Cognate Literature: All seven papers in the Apocrypha and Cognate Literature were good. Four of the seven papers were from graduate students. Attendance was good as well, as many as 20 at one point. Excellent discussions followed all the paper presentations.
- Teaching the Bible: Had good conversation. 7 people attended (up from last year). Next year will still be a round table discussion and will focus on assessment/evaluation.
- Apocalyptic Literature: Had one paper, but a good paper. It was the first paper in two years. The session was well attended.

Proceedings

An email will be sent out to this year's presenters inviting them to publish their papers in the Proceedings.