SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

November 2010

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Letter to the Members

The Society of Biblical Literature is an extraordinary organization—an organism really—consisting of 8,697 moving parts (as of today), with individual interests and opinions, sometimes expressed quite fiercely and openly. Each part is highly qualified and motivated. How could it not be in a field that takes nine years to degree (the median registered time) and a lifetime to master? Each moving part exercises its skills in countless ways outside this organization in classrooms of one type or another. But within the organization, the figures and activities are staggering: 398 volunteer on councils, committees, boards, and task forces: 133 offered their time and attention to the Journal of Biblical Literature, Review of Biblical Literature, or the 21 active books series (27 books were published and 429 books were reviewed); and 607 members donated to the Society Fund or SBL's several scholarships. In total, 3,229 members participated as chairs, presenters, presiders, or panelists at the eleven Regional Meetings (attended by members from Nova Scotia to Hawaii), the International Meeting in Estonia, and the Annual Meeting in Atlanta; 5,754 attended those meetings. In other words, more than half of all who attended meetings participated in the program this year. Members accept new service on committees or boards each year. New

members join. Some members pass away, and we collectively remember and celebrate their contributions.

The Society of Biblical Literature is a community of volunteer scholars, a remarkable expression considering the many occupational demands on time, the wide spectrum of methodological approaches, and the variety of our professional contexts. As a community of volunteers, each member owns SBL in exact proportion to each other. As partners we have a right to participate, steer, and serve. As owners we have a responsibility to envision its future in order to foster its future. It is good to cast a glance past our individual work and consider the wider context and collective aspirations we share: "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea" (Antoine de Saint-Exupery). The subject of our association together is indeed an endless immensity of sea. And we sail the ship we build together.

Thank you for letting me be of service as a part of this community.

Yours,

John F. Kutsko Executive Director



The Society of Biblical Literature

Fostering Biblical Scholarship since 1880

The Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest international scholarly membership organization in biblical, theological, and religious studies. Founded in 1880, the Society has experienced a history of growth, keeping pace with the changing needs of its membership, which has grown to over 8,697 scholars, teachers, students, religious leaders, and individuals from around the world, all of whom share a mutual commitment to dialog in the critical investigation of the Bible.

The Society's mission, to foster biblical scholarship, is a simple, comprehensive statement that encompasses the Society's aspirations. Our vision is to offer members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development as teachers and scholars; organize congresses for scholarly exchange; facilitate broad and open discussion from a variety of perspectives; encourage study of biblical literature and its cultural contexts; collaborate with educational institutions and other appropriate organizations to support biblical scholarship and teaching; develop resources for diverse audiences, including students, religious communities and the general public; and publish biblical scholarship.

Opportunity

The Society makes available to its members essential electronic resources that promote research and teaching. Our digital collaboration with several partners makes numerous resources available to our members. The SBL Font Foundation is developing specialized fonts for biblical studies that are available to individuals at no cost. The Society supports women and under-represented racial and ethnic minorities in the profession with mentoring and recruiting programs. Special tools and sessions are provided for students and those outside the academy. The Society also fosters biblical scholarship through a variety of publishing partnerships.

Community

SBL's congresses promote the exchange of ideas both within and outside the academy and on an international scale. The meetings are designed as forums that encompass the diverse needs of our members, from the intimate regional meetings, to the diverse and growing International Meeting, and to the energized Annual Meeting. As they have for well over a century, SBL's meetings keep scholar-

ship active and up-to-date, introduce scholars to the latest tools and resources, and connect scholars from down the street to across the ocean.

Scholarship

The Society publishes a rich selection of resources from study bibles and reference works to classroom textbooks and highly specialized monographs. The *Journal of Biblical Literature*, published since 1880, is the flagship journal in the field of biblical studies and remains on the cutting edge by publishing articles on newer and traditional methodologies. The *Review of Biblical Literature* provides the most comprehensive, international, and timely review of books in the field of biblical studies.

Membership offers many benefits including:

Opportunity to

- Gather for the exchange of ideas at regional, national, and international meetings
- Publish books and articles
- Review books for Review of Biblical Literature
- Participate in the governance of the society
- Participate in professional development

Free access to

- Journal of Biblical Literature online from 1880–2010
- Iobs online
- SBL's Member Directory
- Specialized fonts and rare documents
- The SBL Handbook of Style

Eligibility for SBL Awards, including

- Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship
- David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Biblical Scholarship
- Regional Scholar Awards

Substantial discounts on

- Print versions of JBL and RBL
- Registration for congresses
- Non-SBL journals
- All SBL books through semi-annual sales

Informational publications, including

- Annual Meeting Session Guide
- Annual Meeting Abstracts Online
- SBL New and Recent Titles Catalog
- SBL Newsletter and SBL Publications Newsletter

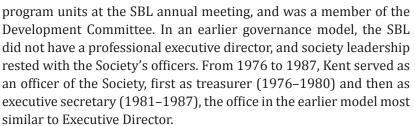
Fostering Biblical Scholarship Celebrating the Contributions of Kent Harold Richards

Kent Richards's career is an embodiment of the mission statement of the Society of Biblical Literature, to "Foster Biblical Scholarship." In 1970, as an assistant professor in his first full-time teaching job at the University of Dayton, Kent Richards was a founding member of the Eastern Great Lakes Section (now Region) of the SBL. Even at the very beginning of his career, Kent recognized the importance of engagement with the learned society of one's academic discipline.

A review of Kent's CV shows the time and energy he gave in the years following to the SBL as a volunteer, even before assuming the pro-

fessional full-time job of its executive director in 1995. He served on the program committee of the Rocky Mountain– Great Plains Region, as a member or chair of

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 16, 2010 the Council of the Society of Biblical Literature unanimously voted to bestow on Kent Harold Richards the title of Executive Director Emeritus of the Society of Biblical Literature. We are pleased in this way to recognize and affirm Dr. Richards's ongoing connection to the Society he has so ably led for many years.



One of Kent's most innovative contributions as a volunteer derived from his service as chair of the International Meeting program (1982–1992). Kent recognized the importance of opening up the SBL to international partners—through the international meeting, international memberships, and partnerships with international publishers, to name but a few initiatives.

As a volunteer, Kent also served on the Board of Trustees of Scholars Press (1976–1987), its executive committee (1978–1987), and its Board of Directors (1980–1985), service that continued when Kent became SBL Executive Director. As a volunteer member of the Scholars Press leadership team, Kent participated in negotiations to bring Scholars Press to the Emory University campus. He was instrumental in securing grant money to help build the original Scholars Press building, which



SBL Executive Secretaries

1880–1883 Frederic Gardiner

1000-1003	Trederic Gardiner
1883–1889	Hinckley G. Mitchell
1889–1890	Charles Rufus Brown
1890–1915	William H. Cobb
1916–1933	Henry J. Cadbury
1934–1946	John W. Flight
1947–1950	Kenneth W. Clark
1951–1952	Louise Pettibone Smith
1953–1961	Charles F. Kraft
1961	Albert C. Sundberg, Jr., pro tem
1962–1965	Kendrick Grobel
1965	Richard T. Mead, pro tem
1966	Lawrence E. Toombs
1967	Walter J. Harrelson
1968–1974	Robert W. Funk
1975–1976	George W. MacRae
1977–1980	Paul J. Achtemeier

Kent Harold Richards

1981–1987



Dedication Plaque in the Luce Center

In tribute to
successive generations of the
Luce family & the Luce Foundation
for their vision, leadership, and
generosity in support of
the study of religion
and theology.

"We need the ardor of discovery, the forward look, the eager adventure." Henry Winters Luce

allowed Scholars Press to increase its presence and production as a press. Later, as Scholars Press grew, and the AAR and SBL also outgrew their former offices in Atlanta, Kent, in his capacity as SBL Executive Director, led in securing additional funding, negotiated land contracts with Emory University, and helped to shape the design for the Luce Center. This new building enabled the two largest U.S. based learned societies for the study of religion, as well as Scholars Press, to share physical space.

When Scholars Press ceased publication in 2000, the SBL Council, under Kent's leadership and in consultation with the professional SBL staff, decided to become a publisher in its own right. This was a bold decision on the SBL's part, because it meant taking on both the financial costs of running a press as well as the intellectual and scholarly benefits. SBL Publications

is now a member of the Association of American University Presses, operates in the black, and is a leader in many electronic publishing innovations (e.g., downloadable fonts for biblical languages). The SBL staff was very quick to recognize the contributions that electronic technologies could make to the work of the Society. The SBL website provides access to information and resources that enhance scholarly conversation and collaboration.

The infrastructure of any organization is key to its success in accomplishing its mission, and for a learned society, it is the responsibility of the administrative officer to ensure that the organization meets the accountability demands of its members. During his tenure as executive director, Kent led Council through a major governance restructuring and revision of the constitution and by-laws. The current governance structure now more closely resembles that of other non-profits and learned societies, as Council increasingly takes on the responsibilities of a governing board, ensuring sustained accountability to the

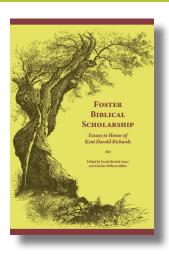
membership through its volunteer leaders. Under Kent's leadership, the SBL Executive Office has assembled a staff that is second to none at any learned society and who are indispensable partners with the volunteers who guide the Society's many projects. The quality and professionalism of the staff ensure that the work of the SBL Executive Office enacts the mission and values of the Society's members. As executive director, Kent also brought the

SBL into active participation with the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). Engagement with ACLS enhances the public scholarly profile of the SBL and fosters biblical scholarship by underscoring its place in general humanities research and education.

The contributions of Kent's leadership of the SBL are the work of a seasoned and talented administrator, who was able to imagine a vision for his organization and to lead others into participating in the hard work to bring that vision to fruition.







Announcing Foster Biblical Scholarship: Essays in Honor of Kent Harold Richards

edited by Frank Ritchel Ames and Charles William Miller

The twenty-fourth volume of the SBL's Biblical Scholarship in North America series highlights the mission of the Society and the leadership of the Society's longest-serving Executive Director. Foster Biblical Scholarship: Essays in Honor of Kent Harold Richards recognizes the far-reaching contributions made by Richards and discusses changes in twentieth-century biblical scholarship and twenty-first-century prospects. Richards served as an SBL member, volunteer, editor, officer, and, finally, as Executive Director, with a significant, enduring influence on the Society and on biblical scholarship. The title of the volume, Foster Biblical *Scholarship*, is the mission of the Society, and Richards played a key role in its formulation. In the volume's tribute to Richards, Gail R. O'Day writes, "The Society's mission statement is also a fitting title for this volume of essays because Kent's entire career is an embodiment of this simple sentence. Most scholars on the occasion of their retirement can reflect back on a career of teaching and scholarship as their contributions to their disciplines, and Kent's career has those traditional markers: the volume is edited by two of Kent's former students and contains many essays by Hebrew Bible scholars that reflect Kent's long-standing research interests. Kent's contributions to fostering biblical scholarship are marked not only by these traditional scholarly pursuits, but also by his career-long commitments to public scholarship. The values of public scholarship that have shaped his career include a commitment to scholarly collaboration and conversation, accessibility, accountability, and inclusiveness. His commitment to these focal values of public scholarship has led Kent to a career that is unmatched in its commitment to the SBL and its mission."

Contributors to the volume are Paul J. Achtemeier, Frank Ritchel Ames, Pablo R. Andiñach, Harold W. Attridge, Athalya Brenner, David J. A. Clines, John J. Collins, Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, J. Cheryl Exum, Erhard S. Gerstenberger, Norman C. Habel, Douglas A. Knight, Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, James Luther Mays, Charles William Miller, Gail R. O'Day, David L. Petersen, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Gene M. Tucker, and Vincent L. Wimbush, who, with the Society, express their appreciation to Kent Harold Richards.

SBL Past Presidents

2010 Vincent L. Wimbush	1968 James Muilenburg	1925 Julius A. Bewer
2009 David J. A. Clines	1967 Paul Schubert	1924 Clayton R. Bowen
2008 Jonathan Z. Smith	1966 John L. McKenzie	1923 Max L. Margolis
2007 Katharine Doob Sakenfeld	1965 Kenneth W. Clark	1922 William R. Arnold
2006 Robert Kraft	1964 Fred V. Winnett	1921 Kemper Fullerton
2005 Carolyn Osiek	1963 John Knox	1920 Albert T. Clay
2004 David L. Petersen	1962 Herbert G. May	1919 Edgar J. Goodspeed
2003 Eldon Epp	1961 Samuel Sandmel	1918 James A. Montgomery
2002 John J. Collins	1960 R. B. Y. Scott	1917 Warren J. Moulton
2001 Harold Attridge	1959 Robert M. Grant	1916 Morris Jastrow Jr.
2000 Adele Berlin	1958 William A. Irwin	1915 Charles Cutler Torrey
1999 D. Moody Smith	1957 Sherman E. Johnson	1914 Nathaniel Schmidt
1998 Patrick D. Miller	1956 J. Philip Hyatt	1913 George A. Barton
1997 Hans Dieter Betz	1955 Amos N. Wilder	1912 Lewis B. Paton
1996 Gene M. Tucker	1954 Millar Burrows	1911 Ernest de Witt Burton
1995 Leander E. Keck	1953 S. Vernon McCasland	1910 David G. Lyon
1994 Phyllis Trible	1952 Sheldon Blank	1909 Henry Preserved Smith
1993 Victor P. Furnish	1951 Erwin R. Goodenough	1908 Frank Chamberlain Porter
1992 Norman K. Gottwald	1950 Robert H. Pfeiffer	1907 James Hardy Ropes
1991 Helmut Koester	1949 Floyd V. Filson	1906 Paul Haupt
1990 Walter Brueggemann	1948 John W. Flight	1905 William Rainey Harper
1989 Paul J. Achtemeier	1947 Ernest Cadman Colwell	1904 Willis J. Beecher
1988 Philip J. King	1946 Leroy Waterman	1903 Richard J. H. Gottheil
1987 Elisabeth Schüssler	1945 Morton Scott Enslin	1902 Benjamin W. Bacon
Fiorenza	1944 Theophile James Meek	1901 Edward Y. Hincks
1986 James L. Mays	1943 Kirsopp Lake	1900 John P. Peters
1985 Wayne A. Meeks	1942 Kirsopp Lake	1899 George F. Moore
1984 Roland E. Murphy	1941 Julian Morgenstern	1898 George F. Moore
1983 Krister Stendahl	1940 Chester C. McCown	1897 Edward T. Bartlett
1982 Lou H. Silberman	1939 William F. Albright	1896 Edward T. Bartlett
1981 James M. Robinson	1938 Wm. Henry Paine Hatch	1896 Francis Brown
1980 Bernhard Anderson	1937 George Dahl	1895 Francis Brown
1979 Joseph A. Fitzmyer	1936 Henry J. Cadbury	1895 J. Henry Thayer
1978 James A. Sanders	1935 Elihu Grant	1894 J. Henry Thayer
1977 Raymond E. Brown	1934 Frederick C. Grant	1891–94 Talbot W. Chambers
1976 David Noel Freedman	1933 James Moffatt	1891 Charles A. Briggs
1975 Robert W. Funk	1932 J. M. Powis Smith	1890 Charles A. Briggs
1974 Frank M. Cross, Jr.	1931 Burton Scott Easton	1890 Francis Brown
1973 Norman Perrin	1930 William Frederic Badè	1889 Francis Brown
1972 Walter J. Harrelson	1929 James E. Frame	1887–89 Frederic Gardiner
1971 Bruce M. Metzger	1928 Loring Woart Batten	1880-87 Daniel Raynes
1970 Harry M. Orlinsky	1927 Irving F. Wood	Goodwin
	400 (0) () ()	

1926 Shirley Jackson Case

1969 Frank W. Beare

Reflections from the President

I am not sure what SBL (or any other observers) should make of the election of the first person of color as president. What exactly to do with it, what precisely to say about it should perhaps be left to others—contemporaries sensitive to social-cultural shifts and changes; and future historians of the times of which this moment and situation is a part. But I think all should agree that the situation and moment should be acknowledged and marked.

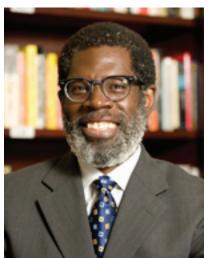
A venerable organization, with beginnings in the era of the founding of many of the oldest academic professional organizations, as well as the emergence of Jim Crowism and the "second slavery," and in spite of its expressed focus, SBL cannot confirm membership of more than one or two persons of African descent before the middle of the twentieth century. Indeed, something needs to be (re) marked. And as SBL faces its 131st year, at the beginning of the second decade of the twenty-first century, there is warrant for (re)marking the presidential election of an African American, as part of the critical reflection about things that matter most mission, orientation, agenda, membership inclusion, policy, failures, shortcomings, accomplishments, challenges, opportunities.

The current situation in which we find ourselves, in a very complex technologically and socially interconnected world, represents enormous challenges and opportunities for all, including an organization dedicated to fostering research on complex and freighted types of discourse. On the one hand, the rapidity with which communication and discourse of all types can be disseminated into practically every part

of the world represents potential for good. On the other hand, the rapidity and global reach of communication and discourse inspires—if it does not in fact force—tendencies toward obfuscation and relativization of difference, nuance, texture, qualification, and layeredness. In sum, the situation fosters but denies its facilitation of canonical forms, gestures, frameworks, and politics.

All contemporary communications and discourses, including those captured under the freighted category called "religion," are subject to the conditions, possibilities, and challenges that have determined our common current global situation. And there is a disturbing paucity of basic information about and critical analytical frameworks for theoriz-

ing about ancient and modern historical and contemporary globalized and vernacular discourses and rhetorics, forms of representations, power dynamics, and formations that constitute religion. Because the English term "scriptures" has been used most often to refer to the most significant source of and centering site for (the invention and structuring of) religious communications and discourses, the reconsideration of the breadth and scope and socio-political orientation of SBL's mission-toward critical comparative scriptures, reflecting the radically changed global situation—is all the more compelling. The time for this change, too, is late.



Vincent L. Wimbush

If in spite of its belatedness, the election of the first non-white president of the Society can be the catalyst for the provincialization of Euro-American discourses and the embracing of critical globalized discourses about scriptures as discourse across cultures, then there would be something truly re-mark-able.

Vincent L. Wimbush 29 October 2010

Vincent L. Wimbush is professor of religion and director of the Institute for Signifying Scriptures. He is author of *The Bible and African Americans: A Brief History* (Fortress, 2003) and editor of *Theorizing Scriptures: New Critical Orientations to a Cultural Phenomenon* (Rutgers University Press, 2008); *African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Textures* (Continuum, 2000, 2001); *Asceticism* (Oxford University Press, 1995, 2002; with R. Valantasis); and *The Bible and the American Myth* (Mercer University Press, 1999).

Professions

SBL's Executive Director has selected an interdepartmental group of SBL staff members to serve on a committee whose role is to discuss the Society's organizational initiatives as they relate to what we refer to broadly as "The Profession." In initial conversations, the group recognized that whatever the Society does to enhance the professional development of our members and to promote the future of the profession as a whole fits under the umbrella of "The Profession." It is clear that our various program areas (Congresses, Publications, Public Initiatives, Membership, and Communications) intersect as we provide service to our members—and communicate that service particularly with regard to the Profession.

International Cooperation Initiative (ICI)

A prime example of the intersection of these areas—and one that this 2010 Society Report will highlight—is found in the work of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). The ICI, which began in 2007, works to benefit biblical scholars and students globally with programs related to all aspects of the SBL. In addition to the programs already in place, the following initiatives have been successfully launched or enhanced in 2010:

Online Books—This has been a very productive year for the ICI Online Books program. We welcomed Sheffield Phoenix Press and the Catholic Biblical Association of America as participants in our Online Books program. There are now over two hundred books available for free download by members in ICI-qualifying countries from our new publishing partners, Brown Judaic Studies, and SBL.

Open-Access Publishing—The long-awaited online portal for International Voices in Biblical Studies was launched in July. One title has been published and two others have been accepted.

The other online series, Ancient Near East Monographs, has accepted a volume of essays that features the work of senior scholars in the field. We are pleased to see the success of these two open-access book series; scholars and students worldwide will appreciate their contributions to the field.

ICI Liaison Network—In order to promote awareness of the resources and opportunities made available through the ICI to scholars, teachers, and students, we have recently asked SBL members living in qualifying countries to become official ICI liaisons. The ICI Executive Board is building this new network in ICI-qualifying regions because it is thought to be the best way to publicize opportunities and to share resources with those who may need and benefit from them most. Over seventy people have answered the call and have volunteered their time to be liaisons; the organization of the network is taking shape and should be fully functional in 2011.

Book Donations—SBL continues to partner with the Theological Book Network (TBN) by donating SBL books for distribution in underresourced countries. In September, thirty-four cartons of books, including volumes from the personal library of Kent Richards as well as books from the Pitts Library at the Candler School of Theology, were given to TBN. These books will provide study and research opportunities to students and scholars that will enable them to participate more fully in global conversations in biblical studies and related fields.

SBL ICI Membership—The value of membership is repeatedly highlighted in the correspondence we receive from those who have taken advantage of the special rates available through ICI. As an example, one new member wrote to say thank you for the reduced membership fee that has made it possible for him to join. He can now submit papers for presentation at SBL congresses, which is a privilege he had previously been denied. In April, thirteen individuals from a seminary in Fiji became members by pooling their resources and sending one wire transfer to cover all the membership dues. A member in India has undertaken

a similar initiative. Through creative ideas such as these, new memberships from ICI countries have increased by 200 percent since November 2009.

Teaching Collaboration Program—The lists of scholars volunteering to teach abroad or via the Internet, and to mentor students anywhere in the world, continue to grow. SBL is especially interested in the potential for mentoring students in underresourced settings that include community colleges and small seminaries.

As an example of the multi-directional aspect of this initiative, one member writes, "Thanks to the ICI Initiative, I have had scholars from Colombia (the country), South Africa and the Philippines who have spoken or plan to speak with my students. I have found that such exchanges certainly enhance my students' engagement with biblical studies."

We encourage members to visit the web page on which the lists of scholars are posted (http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIscholarList.aspx) and think about creative ways this resource can be used to enhance the educational experiences of their students.

ICI Recognition beyond SBL—It is gratifying to also see that the work of SBL's ICI is being recognized outside the Society. The web site *The Bible and Interpretation* published an article "The Bible and ANE Studies at the Periphery," that mentioned SBL's Online Books project, the Ancient Near East Monograph Series, and an article on open-access publishing from the SBL web site. The entire article is at: http://www.bibleinterp.com/opeds/ane357909.shtml. This article was also distributed by the Agade listserv, giving ICI even greater exposure.

As we move into the fourth year of ICI programming, the Executive Board wishes to thank Kent Richards for his support and encouragement. His wisdom and leadership during the formative stages of the initiative were extremely valuable, and ICI would not have become a reality without his guidance.

Scholarly Awards and the Profession

Encouragement for younger scholars as they enter the profession comes in many forms. Through the following scholarly awards programs, the Society supports the exceptional work of persons who are either new to the field or in the early years of their careers. Each of these awards includes a \$1,000 stipend. Funds for these awards are made available by generous gifts to the Society Fund for the purpose of encouraging excellence in biblical scholarship.

Regional Scholar Awards

The eleven regions identify exemplary new scholars, particularly women and underrepresented minorities, for consideration and selection as one of the Society's Regional Scholars. A maximum of six regional scholars is selected each year and given stipends to cover a portion of the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, the award recipients present a synopsis of their research to the Regional Coordinators and discuss developments in this research since presenting it at the regional level. Along with the Society's other scholarship programs, the Regional Scholar Award fosters biblical scholarship by providing young scholars the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting, present their research to mentor-colleagues in an intimate setting, and establish connections for the future. The award also gives these scholars national recognition. Over fifty young scholars have received this award since its inception nearly fifteen years ago.

Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship

The primary goal of the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship is to stimulate the finest and most penetrating work in New Testament studies. The first recipient of the award is C. Kavin Rowe, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Duke University Divinity School. His paper, entitled "The Grammar of Life: the Areopagus Speech and Pagan Tradition," will be presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Kavin has been teaching at Duke University since 2003, published numerous articles, and authored several books. In addition, he has received other prestigious academic awards and has served as a volunteer with SBL for many years.

The David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship

This award will be granted for the first time in 2011. Papers submitted will be evaluated on the basis of three criteria: a persuasive thesis that engages the Hebrew Bible; clarity of expression and thought; originality and creativity. Papers must not have been published or accepted for publication. The awarded paper will be delivered at an SBL Annual or International Meeting with a panel discussion. The SBL member must have completed the doctorate and held a teaching or research position for a minimum of two years and ordinarily no more than ten years. The deadline for submissions for the first award is March 1, 2011.

Bible Odyssey

PEOPLE

PLACES

SEARCH

RESOURCES THEMES

Mary Magdalene

HOME

There are oodles of Marys in the New Testament, and that has led to some confusion. Mary Magdalene is probably the most confused of all -- not herself, as far as we can tell, but in the popular imagination. The misunderstandings abound.

For one thing, Magdalene is not her last name but a reference to her town of origin. Magdala (like Nazareth) was in the Galilean region. This should immediately distinguish her from Mary of Bethany, since Bethany is in a completely different area (and not far from Jerusalem). Many people are most surprised to learn that nowhere in the Bible is Mary Magdalene described as a prostitute. Her reputation as a reformed prostitute has no explicit biblical support, but it does have church support. Pope Gregory I (d. 604) gave this misinterpretation legs by delivering a sermon that equated both Mary of Bethany and the



PASSAGES



Public Initiatives

NEH Grant for Bible Odyssey

In August, 2010, the SBL submitted a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities requesting funds to design, build, and market a website for the general public on the Bible and its contexts, called *Bible Odyssey*. The site takes visitors on a journey to familiar places, people, and passages of the Bible, but also into unfamiliar territory, namely, humanistic approaches that illuminate and enrich their understanding of the Bible. The outcome of this journey will be increased knowledge of the Bible's contents and settings and an interpretive "tool kit" that helps visitors evaluate, appreciate, and connect with the complex views and voices that jostle between (and beyond) the covers of the Bible.

The SBL will hear a response from NEH in April 2011. Work will begin directly, with a tentative launch date of November 2011 at the San Francisco Annual Meeting.

The Bible in Secondary Schools

This initiative continues to provide academically sound resources to teachers of Bible electives in high schools, both private and public. Over the summer, an SBL student intern partnered with an Atlanta high school teacher to develop four lesson plans for the high school market. The plans cover: the sacrifice of Isaac in the Bible and the Qur'an; Hagar as insider and outsider; The Synoptic Question; and The Ten Commandments. In this difficult job market for recent PhDs, we hope that some may consider teaching at the secondary level. We continue to publish an e-pub for secondary teachers, *Teaching the Bible*. Its audience

also now includes SBL members who teach at community colleges and smaller schools.

Richards Lecture-Discussion Series

The purpose of this fund, established in honor of Kent H. Richards and in memory of Eva Richards, is to support the

discussion of the way sacred texts, and especially the Bible, play a role in and intersect with public policies. This series of public discussions will bring people and institutions together to unravel the past relationships of sacred texts and public policies and envision new ways to shape this lively intersection. The inaugural session will be presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Publications

Since the 2009 Annual Meeting, the SBL has published twenty-five new volumes, along with two Brown Judaic Studies volumes and fifteen paperback reprints of original Brill titles (see the list below). Among many high points during the past year, several deserve special mention.

First, the International Voices in Biblical Studies series published its first e-book: Knut Holter and Louis Jonker, eds., *Global Hermeneutics? Reflections and Consequences*. This volume, which includes essays from the XIXth Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, is available for free download at http://ivbs.sblsite.org/uploads/JONKER~1.PDF. Thanks to series editors Monica Melanchthon and Louis Jonker, the volume editors, and the volume contributors for this important addition to the SBL publishing program.

Second, the SBL, in partnership with Logos Bible Software, published a new, critically edited Greek New Testament in both electronic and print formats: Michael W. Holmes, ed., The Greek New Testament: SBL Edition (SBLGNT). The SBLGNT was created so that SBL members and other interested parties, especially those in underresourced regions, can have free access to an up-to-date, critically edited electronic Greek New Testament. The creation and free distribution of the electronic SBLGNT has been met with near-universal acclaim. In addition, the SBLGNT's liberal licensing policy has already led to its incorporation into software products such as BibleWorks, StudyBible, and WORDsearch, with other platforms soon to follow. The electronic edition of the SBLGNT can be downloaded for free in a number of formats at www.sblgnt.com. The hardcover Smyth-sewn binding print edition, which includes a full apparatus of variant readings from the four primary editions on which the SBLGNT is based and NA27, can be purchased from the SBL.

Third, in spite of the challenges of the current economic climate, SBL Publications enjoyed both an increase in total revenue and a decrease in expenses, compared to the prior fiscal year, and ended the year in the black. We are grateful to our volunteer series editors and to our numerous authors and volume editors, both past and present, for their contribution to our ongoing success.

Journal of Biblical Literature

During the past twelve months, JBL published 800+ pages of biblical scholarship, spread across four issues distributed both in print and online. Specifically, the last four issues of JBL (128:4-129:3) included forty-nine full-length articles and critical notes. Articles engaged a variety of topics across and beyond the biblical canon from varying ideological and methodological perspectives. That *IBL* continues to be regarded as the flagship journal of the field is demonstrated not only by its stable subscription numbers but also by the interest it generates from outside vendors. Not only is *IBL* available electronically via JSTOR (1890–2006), ATLA (1943-), EBSCO (1973-), and other online outlets, but it has also been added as an individual module for the Accordance and Logos Bible software systems. Further, JBL was recently accepted for inclusion in Johns Hopkins University Press's Project Muse, a leading provider of online access to academic journal collections. *JBL* will be included in Project Muse's Premium Collection beginning in 2011, which will make *IBL* available online to millions of users. Thanks to the efforts of general editor James C. VanderKam and the thirty-eight members of the editorial board, we anticipate continued excellence and further growth for *IBL* in the months and years to come.

(cont'd on p. 13)

SBL 2010 Publications

- Moore, Stephen D., *The Bible in Theory: Critical and Postcritical Essays* (RBS)
- Hull, Robert F., Jr., *The Story of the New Testament Text: Movers, Materials, Methods, and Models* (RBS)
- Reventlow, Henning Graf, History of Biblical Interpretation, Vol. 3: Renaissance, Reformation, Humanism (RBS)
- Reventlow, Henning Graf, *History of Biblical Inter*pretation, Vol. 4: From the Enlightenment to the Twentieth Century (RBS)
- Miano, David, Shadow on the Steps: Time Measurement in Ancient Israel (RBS)
- Hiebert, Robert J. V., editor, "Translation Is Required": The Septuagint in Retrospect and Prospect (SCS)
- O'Hare, Daniel M., "Have You Seen, Son of Man?": A Study in the Translation and Vorlage of LXX Ezekiel 40–48 (SCS)
- Culbertson, Philip and Elaine M. Wainwright, editors, *The Bible in/and Popular Culture: A Creative Encounter* (SemSt)
- Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth and Kent Harold Richards, editors, *Transforming Graduate Biblical Education: Ethos and Discipline* (GPBS)
- Ames, Frank Ritchel and Charles William Miller, Foster Biblical Scholarship: Essays in Honor of Kent Harold Richards (BSNA)
- Maidman, Maynard P., Nuzi Texts and Their Uses as Historical Evidence (WAW)
- Greer, Rowan A., Theodore of Mopsuestia: Commentary on the Minor Pauline Epistles (WGRW)
- Rollston, Christopher A., Writing and Literacy in the World of Ancient Israel: Epigraphic Evidence from the Iron Age (ABS)
- Runia, David T. and Sterling, Gregory E., Studia *Philonica Annual* XXII (2010)
- Bartor, Assnat, Reading Law as Narrative: A Study in the Casuistic Laws of the Pentateuch (AIL)
- Person, Raymond F., Jr., The Deuteronomic History and the Book of Chronicles: Scribal Works in an Oral World (AIL)
- Stone, Michael E., Aryeh Amihay, and Vered Hillel, editors, *Noah and His Book(s)* (EJL)
- Turner, John D., and Kevin Corrigan, editor,, *Plato's Parmenides and Its Heritage*, Vol. I: *History and Interpretation from the Old Academy to Later Platonism and Gnosticism* (WGRW Sup)

- Turner, John D., and Kevin Corrigan, editors, Plato's Parmenides and Its Heritage, Vol. II: Reception in Patristic, Gnostic, and Christian Neoplatonic Texts (WGRW Sup)
- Heil, John Paul, *Philippians: Let Us Rejoice in Being Conformed to Christ* (ECL)
- Heil, John Paul, Colossians: Encouragement to Walk in All Wisdom as Holy Ones in Christ (ECL)
- Martin, Gary D., Multiple Originals? New Approaches to Hebrew Bible Textual Criticism (TCS)
- Holter, Knut and Louis C. Jonker, *Global Hermeneutics?: Reflections and Consequences* (IVBS)
- Holmes, Michael, The Greek New Testament: SBL Edition

Brill Reprints

- Marcos, Natalio Fernández, *The Septuagint in Context*, trans. Wilfred G. E. Watson
- Finamore, John F., and John M. Dillon, *Iamblichus De Anima: Text, Translation, and Commentary*
- Penner, Todd and Caroline Vander Stichele, *Map*ping Gender in Ancient Religious Discourses
- Ernest, James D., *The Bible in Athanasius of Alexandria*
- Hill, Robert C., Reading the Old Testament in Antioch
- Gruenwald, Ithamar, Rituals and Ritual Theory in Ancient Israel
- Beetham, Christopher, *Echoes of Scripture in the Letter of Paul to the Colossians*
- Dively Lauro, Elizabeth Ann, *The Soul and Spirit of Scripture within Origen's Exegesis*
- Jackson-McCabe, Matt A., Logos and Law in the Letter of James: The Law of Nature, the Law of Moses, and the Law of Freedom
- Rainey, Anson F., Canaanite in the Amarna Tablets: A Linguistic Analysis of the Mixed Dialect Used by Scribes from Canaan. 4 vols.
- Glad, Clarence E., Paul and Philodemus: Adaptability in Epicurean and Early Christian Psychagogy
- Royse, James R., Scribal Habits in Early Greek New Testament Papyri

Brown Judaic Studies

- Hidary, Richard, *Dispute for the Sake of Heaven:*Legal Pluralism in the Talmud
- Levine, Michelle, Nahmanides on Genesis: The Art of Biblical Portraiture

Review of Biblical Literature

The *Review of Biblical Literature* (www.bookreviews.org) continues to foster biblical scholarship as the SBL's most widely distributed print or online publication—as well as the premier source of biblical studies book reviews in the world. During the past year, *RBL*'s webpages were visited approximately 2.25 million times, which equals almost 6,300 page loads each and every day. In addition, *RBL*'s weekly newsletters are sent to nearly 9,500 SBL members and nonmember subscribers around the globe. As usual, *RBL* also published an annual print edition (vol. 12) that makes available in print form 165 of the most significant reviews published between May 2009 and May 2010.

Since its inception twelve years ago, *RBL* has sought to provide both a large quantity of reviews and the highest quality reviews possible. Thus, the publication of 429 new reviews within the past twelve months brings *RBL*'s total number of reviews published to nearly 6,000 (5,923, to be precise). With an average of 3.5 pages per review, *RBL* provides more than 20,000 pages of freely accessible (and environment-friendly) scholarly material. In order to ensure and even improve the quality of all reviews published, this year *RBL* established the policy and practice of having every review vetted not only by SBL staff but also by a member of the *RBL* editorial board.

Outreach and Partnerships

The International Cooperation Initiative, which was launched by SBL members working closely with Publications staff, continues to expand its offerings to scholars and

students in underresourced regions. During 2010, Sheffield Phoenix and the Catholic Biblical Association of America agreed to make available a number of their books through the Online Book program (www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx). At present, the Online Books page offers members in underresourced countries access to 205 titles. The SBL will continue to expand this list and invite other publishers to participate in this service to international scholarship and underrepresented scholars.

Other ICI offerings include the teaching collaboration/mentoring program, reduced SBL membership rates for individuals in ICI-qualifying countries, and reduced subscription JBL subscription rates for libraries in those same countries. For a complete list of ICI programs, see http://www.sbl-site.org/InternationalCoopInitiative.aspx.

Everyone associated with the SBL, whether author, editor, or member, continues to enjoy the benefits of the Society's co-publication agreements with Brill Academic Publishing. Since 2002, nearly 160 SBL titles have been co-published as Brill hardback editions. In addition, the SBL has published affordable paperback editions of fifty-one Brill volumes over the past five years.

The SBL's collaboration with HarperCollins also remains productive. In addition to the publication of a revised HarperCollins Study Bible in 2008 (ed. Harold W. Attridge), the SBL and HarperCollins have partnered on an abridged edition of the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary (2009) and a fully revised, full-length edition of the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary (forthcoming, April 2011; both ed. Mark Allan Powell).

New Titles from SBL Fall 2010



Other SBL partnerships deserving mention are those with Brown Judaic Studies (SBL is the exclusive worldwide distributor of BJS volumes), Sheffield Phoenix Press (SBL is the authorized North American distributor), Logos Bible Software and Accordance (software developers who offer SBL books and journals), and the Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship (collaborators on books and scholarly conferences).

Both on its own and in partnership with others, SBL Publications continues to expand its presence and standing within academic biblical scholarship, as we seek to foster biblical scholarship through the written word.

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Congresses

The Society's meetings showcase the latest in biblical and related research, cultivate professional contacts, advance research in the field, and focus on issues of the profession. Here are highlights of our most recent Annual and International Meetings, as well as information about upcoming Regional Meetings.

Annual Meeting

As it has changed and grown significantly since its inception, the Annual Meeting remains a focal point in fulfilling the Society's mission. The Annual Meeting fosters biblical scholarship through high member participation and sessions and services that nurture the next generation of scholars. It is the largest gathering of biblical scholars in the world. Moreover, the Annual Meeting draws together colleagues who teach and do research across the study of antiquity, archaeology, religion, theology, ethics, ancient Near East, and comparative studies across humanities scholarship. As we prepare for this 136th Annual Meeting (2010), we look forward to the continued vitality of this community of scholars.

2009: New Orleans

The Society of Biblical Literature's 2009 Annual Meeting took place at the Sheraton New Orleans and the New Orleans Marriott Hotels, November 21–24. Amid the more than 475 talks and panels, some of local interest included New Orleans poets discussing Katrina and scholars of the Psalms discussing biblical lament. Curator Bruce Raeburn of Tulane University's jazz archive spoke on the spiritual dimensions of New Orleans brass band funerals. Other

sessions featured a screening of "Trouble the Water," a Sundance documentary winner, as well as discussions on the controversial Gabriel Tablet, virtual modeling of archaeological sites (Digital Qumran), and biblical interpretation in African American communities. Survey results from the 2009 Annual Meeting were very favorable and expressed general satisfaction with the meeting, its location, and the program. The top three favorite tracks were Gospels, Extra Canonical Sources, and the Historical Jesus; Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East; and Materials and Methods. Those surveyed also indicated a number of topics of particular interest for future meetings, including critical/secular versus theological scholarship and biblical studies vis-à-vis the humanities and higher education.

2010: Atlanta

The Society's 2010 Annual Meeting will take place at the Marriott Marquis and the Hyatt Regency hotels, November 20-23. Participation in program sessions at the Annual Meeting surged in 2008 and has held steady since then at just over 1,700, even though proposals have declined slightly in this period. Indeed, nearly 20 percent of SBL members present papers at the Annual Meeting. In an effort to serve members with sessions on professional development, SBL Publications has organized a special session on the challenges and opportunities presented by e-publishing, including open-access, online forms such as monograph series, journals, blogs, and other resources. The Student Advisory Board continues its practice of organizing a slate of relevant sessions on topics such as navigating the job market, getting a PhD, finding your "niche" in biblical scholarship, and incorporating into pedagogical practice teaching methods that engage diversity. Following survey

results from 2009, this year's meeting also includes sessions on secular criticism of the Bible and the relationship between faith and historical inquiry.

2011: San Francisco

On June 10, 2010, the Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion signed a Letter of Intent that outlines an agreement to hold concurrent Annual Meetings beginning in San Francisco in the fall of 2011. Dates and venues of the first three concurrent Annual Meetings are as follows:

- November 19–22, 2011 San Francisco
- November 17–20, 2012 Chicago
- November 23–26, 2013 Baltimore

This is a positive step for participants, exhibitors, and the myriad disciplines represented in both organizations. We hope that the upcoming concurrent meetings will reduce strain on travel

budgets and facilitate broad collaboration among our disciplines, for we see them as a "big tent" of scholarly identities that supports intellectual exchange and fosters biblical scholarship. The SBL Council holds that concurrent meetings will serve these interests and those of SBL members and will help advance the many disciplines and areas of study we represent. We look forward to building an exciting and collaborative future.

The Quatercentenary of a Classic

In recognition of the 400th anniversary of the 1611 publication of the King James Bible (KJV), SBL and the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the American Bible Society are jointly sponsoring special symposia at the 2010 and 2011 Annual Meetings, as well as the 2011 SBL International Meeting in London. The theme for the three symposia will be "The KJV at 400: Assessing Its Genius as Bible Translation and Its Literary Influence." In addition both organizations are working with Union Theological Seminary and other New York institutions to celebrate the momentous anniversary of the KIV with

a set of lectures, concerts, and exhibits in New York City in October 2011. Partnering organizations include Bard College, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Columbia University, and the Museum of Biblical Art. See www.utsnyc.edu/kjv400 for more information.

International Meeting

Entering its twenty-ninth year (2011), the SBL International Meeting continues to advance one of its founding goals: to be expansive and inclusive. Indeed, as Kristin De Troyer, Chair of the International Meeting Program Committee, has said, "With its sixty program units, its peer review procedure for evaluating the quality of paper proposals, and its strong international character, the SBL International Meeting truly embodies the mission of SBL and sets the standard for and advances scholarship in a host of related disciplines."





2010: Tartu, Estonia, at the University of Tartu, July 25–29

Despite participation (376) and registration (448) figures lower than recent years in Europe, partially attributable to global financial concerns and to travel complexities, the 2010 International Meeting in Tartu continued this tradition of setting standards. The meeting featured full collaboration between the Society and the European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS). In the course of her report to EABS members, current President of EABS Jorunn Økland said, "It should also be mentioned that the collaboration with SBL this year was excellent. We are looking forward to further collaboration in future years...." The Society's partnership with EABS represents the ongoing efforts of both organizations to foster scholarship cooperatively. The convergence of persons from 41 countries on this former Hanseatic town cultivated a genuinely global perspective for the program's 110 sessions and furthered SBL's pursuit of broad, open discussion and critical investigation of the Bible from a variety of perspectives. Our host, the University of Tartu, is a nearly 400-year-old center of higher education and one of the leading universities in eastern Europe. The faculty's brilliance, warmth, and energy gleamed brightly during the meeting.

2011: London, UK, at King's College London, July 4–8

Plans for the 2011 International Meeting in London are well underway. King's College London (KCL) will host the meeting on the Waterloo campus (Bankside, south of the Thames) in the heart of downtown London and within walking distance of Westminster Abbey, Lambeth Palace, the London Eye, and other historical and cultural at-

July 4–8, with the opening session on Monday the 4th. Historically, the opening session for the SBL International Meeting

highlights the host institution's role in biblical scholarship. This year is no different insofar as KCL's Dean, Richard Burridge, is organizing a presentation on KCL and its distinguished history. Unique this year is the addition of the Archbishop of York as a key speaker in the opening session. Archbishop John Semantu is known as an advocate for the young and an opponent of injustice and ethnic conflict; he will offer remarks on the history, significance, and legacy of the historic KJV as Bible translation, drawing from his wealth of personal and scholarly experiences. Calls for papers for the London meeting appeared online October 1, 2010. The CFP will remain open for presentation submissions until February 1, 2011.

Internationalization of SBL

The 2010 meeting in Tartu marked the 28th SBL International Meeting, and Estonia was the twenty-first country to host our members. Collective efforts from membership, volunteers, and staff have done much to advance bibli-

scholarship throughout the world, and plans are underway to hold upcoming meetings across the globe. While Europe remains home to the maiority of SBL members outside of North America, discussions with institutions in South America and Asia are ongoing; we hope to have meetings there in the near future. Selection of International Meeting sites involves strategic evaluation of potential costs the Society conducting the meeting and to attendees in terms of travel, accommodation, and per diem.

International Meetings

1983	Salamanca, Spain
1984	Strasbourg, France
1985	Amsterdam, Netherlands
1986	Jerusalem, Israel
1987	Heidelberg, Germany
1988	Sheffield, England
1989	Copenhagen, Denmark
1990	Vienna, Austria
1991	Rome, Italy
1992	Melbourne, Australia
1993	Munster, Germany
1994	Leuven, Belgium
1995	Budapest, Hungary
1996	Dublin, Ireland
1997	Lausanne, Switzerland
1998	Krakow, Poland
1999	Helsinki, Finland
2000	Cape Town, South Africa
2001	Rome, Italy
2002	Berlin, Germany
2003	Cambridge, England
2004	Groningen, Netherlands
2005	Singapore, Malaysia
2006	Edinburgh, Scotland
2007	Vienna, Austria
2008	Auckland, New Zealand
2009	Rome, Italy
2010	Tartu, Estonia
2011	London, England

The Congresses staff has developed a set of general metrics for accruing data on potential meetings sites and their costs, as well as additional data such as visa requirements for international travelers. With practical metrics at hand before any conversation with a potential host institution has begun, the Congresses staff will be able to pursue sites that not only advance the strategic mission of the Society and its internationalization but also meet sustainable business standards and will be affordable for our members.

Regional Meetings

Throughout the academic year, the eleven regions coordinate lectures and conferences that keep SBL members throughout North America active and up-to-date in the latest biblical research and teaching. Regional meetings also afford new and younger members to the Society the opportunity to acclimate to a scholarly conference before diving into the much larger Annual Meeting. Under the leadership of SBL's Regional Coordinators, the Society's regions have developed and are in the process of developing creative and constructive ways of involving undergraduate and graduate students, thus playing an integral role in the future shape of our discipline.

Regional Scholars Program

The eleven regions identify exemplary new scholars, particularly women and underrepresented minorities, for consideration and selection as one of the Society's Regional Scholars. A maximum of six regional scholars are selected each year and given stipends to cover a portion of the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. This year's regional scholars are Timothy P. Henderson and David M. Moffitt.

Timothy P. Henderson, Upper Midwest Region

Timothy P. Henderson earned his PhD in 2010 from Marquette University, where he studied in the Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity program. His dissertation examines the apologetic and polemical characteristics of the *Gospel of Peter*. For the past four years he has served as an adjunct instructor at Bethel Sem-

inary in St. Paul, MN. He has taught courses on the Gospels, Acts, the Pauline epistles, and Greek grammar. In addition, he also teaches New Testament courses at Concordia University (St. Paul, MN). Timothy's research interests include Jewish-Christian relations in antiquity, extra- and intracanonical gospels, Pauline theology, and intertextuality in early Christian literature. He has written numerous contributions for edited volumes that are forthcoming, and has presented papers at various regional and national conferences. The paper he presented at the 2009 Upper Midwest Regional meeting, which earned him this award, was titled, "Jesus the Murder Victim: Appropriating Scripture in the *Gospel of Peter's* Narrative of Deicide."

David Moffitt, Southeastern Region

David M. Moffitt is presently a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Program in Religion at Duke University and a Visiting Lecturer at Duke Divinity School where he has taught courses on Matthew and Hellenistic Greek. David spent a year of his doctoral studies researching at Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen as a Fulbright Scholar. He has presented papers at the Annual, Regional, and International SBL conferences, as well as at other academic conferences. David has published articles in the Journal of Biblical Literature, Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der Älteren Kirche, and a volume of essays on the Epistle to the Hebrews. His dissertation, which he is scheduled to defend this spring, is entitled "A New and Living Way: Atonement and the Logic of Resurrection in the Epistle 'To the Hebrews'." The article he presented at the Southeast Regional meeting, which earned him this award, was titled, "Blood, Life, and Purification: Reassessing Hebrews' Christological Appropriation of Yom Kippur."







David Moffitt

Annual Meeting Program Unit Chairs

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Adventist Society for Religious Studies Affiliate

Ernest Furness, Southeastern California Conference of SDA

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Cynthia Westfall, McMaster Divinity College

Randall Tan, Asia Bible Society

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Shabbir Mansuri, Institute on Religion & Civic Values

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Project Affiliate
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Writings (including Psalms)
Section

Donald Vance, Oral Roberts University

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2010

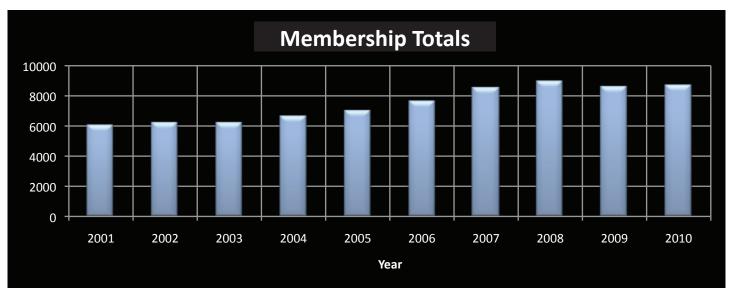
Central States	March 21–22, 2010	St. Louis Marriott West, St. Louis, Missouri
Eastern Great Lakes	April 8-9, 2010	Quality Inn & Suites, Richfield, Ohio
Mid Atlantic	March 10–11, 2010	Hyatt Regency Hotel , New Brunswick, New Jersey
Midwest	February 12–14, 2010	Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana
New England	April 16, 2010	Andover-Newton Theological School, New-
		ton Centre, Massachusetts
Pacific Coast	March 13-15, 2010	Arizona State University , Tempe, Arizona
Pacific Northwest	May 7-9, 2010	University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Rocky Mountains-Great Plains	April 9–10, 2010	Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska
Southeastern	March 5–7, 2010	Atlanta Marriott Century Center, Atlanta, Georgia
Southwestern	March 12-14, 2010	Marriott Hotel DFW North, Dallas, Texas
Upper Midwest	April 9–10, 2010	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

2011

	2011	
Central States	March 20-21	St. Louis Marriott West, St. Louis, Missouri
Eastern Great Lakes	March 31-April 1	Quality Inn & Suites, Richfield, Ohio
Mid Atlantic	March 17-18	Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, New
		Brunswick, New Jersey
Midwest	February 11–13	Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbannais,
		Illinois
New England	April 29	Andover-Newton Theo. School, Newton
		Centre, Massachusetts
Pacific Coast	March 27-28	Whittier College, Whittier, California
Pacific Northwest	May 13-15	Eastern Washington University-Spokane
		Campus, Spokane, Washington
Rocky Mountains - Great Plains	March 18-19	Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado
Southeastern	March 4-6	The Gault House, Louisville, Kentucky
Southwestern	March 4-6	Marriott Hotel, DFW Airport North
		Irving, Texas
Upper Midwest	April 1–2	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

Membership and Subscriptions

The Membership and Subscriptions Services department has good news for our members. The Society membership continues to grow and diversify. The membership of the Society of Biblical Literature has grown during the current year to reach its second highest level in the last decade. We currently have 8,697 members from around the world—a 30 percent increase from 2001. As would be expected, in the last ten years all categories of membership have risen steadily. Subscriptions to the two scholarly journals published by the Society have grown despite the economic downturns of the past year.

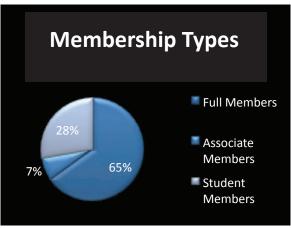


The majority of our members, 5,669, enjoy Full membership in the society. Our Associate category has grown to 618 members. The society continues to nurture student biblical scholars, with student members now totalling 2,410.

The membership of the SBL is more diverse than ever before. The percentage of International members has been slowly increasing over the last ten years. In 2001 International members made up only 23 percent of our total membership. Today, 30 percent of our members live outside of the United States. International members have more than doubled in number in the last decade—a 102 percent increase. US membership increased by only 32 percent in the same period of time. Women now make up 23 percent of our membership. Sixteen percent of our members, who identify ethnicity, identify themselves as Asian, Hispanic, Black, Native American, or Pacific Islander.

The majority of our members are in the age range of 31 to 59 years of age closely followed by the group between the ages of 51 and 65.

Our International Cooperative Initiative (ICI) has more than doubled in the last year. We currently have close to two hundred active members distributed all over the world. Sixty percent of our ICI members come from Africa and Asia/Pacific. We are in the process of building a network of ICI Liaisons; so far over seventy people have volunteered. We also have over fifty members who have volunteered as ICI Scholars.





The Journal of Biblical Literature and the Review of Biblical Literature are healthy and thriving concerns. All members have access to both journals on our website and many members are making exclusive use of these online options.

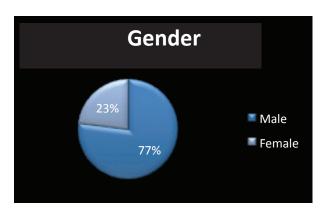
In Memoriam

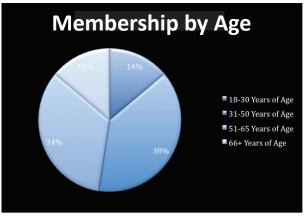
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2010 AND 2009

	<u>2010</u>	2009
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 986,698	\$ 906,455
Marketable securities	803,895	680,924
Accounts receivable	109,233	64,722
Pledges receivable, net	1,000	400
Prepaid expenses and other assets	28,203	27,691
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	40,354	40,265
Furniture and equipment,		
net of accumulated depreciation	28,557	42,277
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,991,183</u>	<u>1,986,856</u>
Total Assets	\$ 3,989,123	\$ 3,749,590
LIABILITIES AND NI	ET ASSETS	
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 215,248	\$ 236,597
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	445,690	419,955
Annual meetings	557,126	596,353
International meeting	<u>67,565</u>	<u>88,145</u>
Total Liabilities	1,285,629	1,341,050
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	2,202,506	2,001,937
Temporarily restricted net assets	217,293	123,453
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>283,695</u>	<u>283,150</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>2,703,494</u>	<u>2,408,540</u>
	4 0 000 100	4 0 - 10 - 6 -
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,989,123	\$ 3,749,590

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Smith & Howard PC, dated September 10, 2010, expressed an unqualified (clean) opinion on those financial statements.

At the end of fiscal 2010, SBL's Statement of Financial Position is up \$239,533 over the prior year. At first glance it would appear that this is due to an increase in the position of marketable securities, but that represents only a piece of the total picture. SBL's Publication department had budgeted a deficit of \$20,000 for fiscal 2010 but actually ended the year

over \$32,000 in the black. Congresses was also able to assist by carefully watching expenses, Professions' "Public Initiatives" project stayed within the \$40,000 NEH grant, and Development and Membership were also instrumental in improving the SBL's financial position for fiscal 2010.

Please note that certain amounts in the 2009 financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the 2010 presentation on the Statement of Activities. We believe this change in the presentation of revenues and gains assists the reader in seeing the correlation between revenues and expenses within a program area.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	<u>2010</u>	2009
Changes in Net Assets		
Revenues and gains		
Congresses	\$ 995,173	\$ 980,035
Membership		
Membership fees	441,725	435,932
Marketing	34,384	25,531
Professions		
Career Center	29,886	33,868
Grant Revenue*	34,033	0
Publications		
Book Sales	421,713	425,624
Subscriptions	370,586	375,304
Royalties	105,129	77,979
Marketing	34,450	106,177
Other	9,977	2,381
Development and fundraising	105,035	97,711
Investment income (loss), net	191,129	(318,845)
Rental income (loss), net	3,630	(1,534)
Loss on disposal of property		
& equipment	<u>(7,338)</u>	(13,013)
Total Revenues and Gains	2,769,512	2,227,150
Expenses		
Program expenses		
Congresses	729,479	1,001,092
Membership	154,752	132,095
Professions	227,061	261,518
Publications	909,656	934,881
Regions	93,954	87,160
Research and technology	<u>97,853</u>	<u>121,418</u>
Total Program Expenses	2,212,755	2,538,164
Development and fundraising	103,092	116,741
General and administration	<u>158,711</u>	<u>133,442</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,474,558</u>	<u>2,788,347</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	294,954	(561,197)
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	2,408,540	2,969,737
Net Assets at End of the Year	\$ 2,703,494	\$ 2,408,540

BUDGET 2010-2011

Revenues			
Capital Draw	\$ 33,800		
Administration	69,094		
Congresses	1,082,000		
Development	72,060		
Membership	557,096		
Professions	30,000		
Publications	964,235		
Regions	508		
Technology	4,306		
Total Revenue	\$ 2,813,099		
Expense	S		
Exec Dir In/Out	\$ 47,200		
Administration	119,205		
Congresses	833,246		
Development	121,810		
Membership	207,899		
Professions	211,476		
Publications	1,012,274		
Regions	104,344		
Technology	125,645		
Font Expense	30,000		
Total Expense	\$ 2,813,099		
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets 0			

The 2010–2011 operating budget reflects \$47,200 in expenses for the transition to a new Executive Director, and a capital draw of \$33,800 to help cover these expenses. SBL has a wait-and-see policy on capital draws, only drawing down funds if cash flow makes it a necessity. Last year's budget provided for a drawdown of \$45,000, and it was not necessary to take this draw. We are also taking the first steps toward building an operating reserve. Monthly we are sending funds to be invested for this purpose. Next year's financials will reflect this change.

Administrative Committee Volunteers

The work of the Society is guided by its Council and is administered through SBL's professional staff and key volunteers who serve on various committeees.

The **Council** consists of fourteen members of the Society and the Executive Director. This board approves general policies.

Loveday C. A. Alexander, Cheryl B. Anderson, Bruce C. Birch, Philip F. Esler, Jeffrey K. Kuan, Archie Chi-Chung Lee, Francisco Lozada, Carol Newsom, Adele Reinhartz, John F. Kutsko, ex officio, Fernando F. Segovia, John Strong, Christine M. Thomas, L. Michael White, Vincent L. Wimbush

Committees

The Annual Meeting Program Committee approves program units and program unit chairs, evaluates the Annual Meeting program, and recommends strategic directions for the growth and improvement of the program.

Robin Jensen, Jeffrey K. Kuan, Francisco Lozada Jr., Jodi Magness, Halvor Moxnes, Laura Nasrallah, Kathleen M. O'Connor

The **Development Committee** reviews and supports fundraising activities for the Society. Most recently this committee led the SBL's highly successful 125th Anniversary Campaign. The Society Fund, the annual campaign, is an essential part of the revenue stream for all programs.

Pamela Eisenbaum, Tom Gillespie, John Strong, David Tiede

The Finance/Audit/Investment Committee advises the Executive Director in preparing the annual budget for recommendation to the Council and oversees the societal investments.

Harold W. Attridge, Brian Blount, Philip F. Esler, Katharine Doob Sakenfeld

The International Meeting Program Committee approves program units and program unit chairs, evaluates the International Meeting program, and recommends strategic directions for the growth and improvement of the program.

Pablo Andiñach, David J. A. Clines, Kristin De Troyer, Elaine Wainwright, Gerald West

The **Nominating Committee** nominates the President, Vice-President, and Council members for election by the Society, and members of standing committees and other representatives for election by Council.

J. Cheryl Exum, Fernando F. Segovia, John Strong, James C. Walters

The **Regional Coordinators Committee** consists of liaisons from the eleven regions in North America. Coordinators oversee regional activities and award Regional Scholar grants.

Ardy Bass, Jeannine Brown, J. Bradley Chance, P. Richard Choi, Shawn Lisa Dolansky, Mark George, Mark Hamilton, Mignon R. Jacobs, Sheila E. McGinn, Vicki Phillips, Jeremy Schipper, John T. Strong

The Research and Publications Committee works with the Editorial Director, reviews publishing activities, recommends policies, and approves editors and editorial boards.

Ellen B. Aitken, Kristin De Troyer, James Nogalski, Jorunn Økland, Adele Reinhartz, James C. VanderKam

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee works in areas of mentoring and networking, opening the Society to greater participation by women and calling attention to the ways in which the Society speaks to and about women through its various activities.

Jennifer Bird, Nancy R. Bowen, Claudia V. Camp, Deborah A. Green, Nyasha Junior, Rannfrid-Irene Thelle, Seung Ai Yang, Molly Zahn

The Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee encourages the participation of minorities in all areas of biblical studies through mentoring, networking, and other forms of support.

Cheryl B. Anderson, Michael Joseph Brown, Gay L. Byron, Leticia Aída, Guardiola-Sáenz, Jeffrey K. Kuan, Frank Yamada

Boards

The Career Center Advisory Board supports career services initiatives for all members.

Brian P. Irwin, Sara Myers, Margaret Aymer Oget, Rebecca Raphael, Ellen White

The International Cooperation Initiative Executive Board facilitates mutual cooperation among colleagues from around the globe in the effort to foster biblical scholarship.

Leigh Andersen, ex officio, Ehud Ben Zvi, Roxana Flammini, Louis Jonker, Monica Melancthon, Nathaniel Levtow

The **NEH Planning Grant Advisory Board** advises on the direction and development of an interactive website, "The World of the Bible," that would improve public understanding of the Bible and its contexts.

John Dart, Nicola Denzey, Tamara Eskenazi, Mark Goodacre, Steve Mason, Carol Meyers, Jonathan Reed, Brent Strawn, Kristin Swenson

The **Student Advisory Board** coordinates student participation across all Society activities, committees, and programs in an effort to foster greater opportunities for student participation and leadership development.

Katherine Brink, Teresa Calpino, David L. Eastman, Michael Halcomb, Amy Beth W. Jones, Shelley Long, Patrick George McCullough, Elizabeth Morgan, Alicia Myers, Kari E. Pellegrino, Christopher Stroup, Erin Vearncombe, Brandon C. Wason

Task Forces

The Bible in Secondary Schools Task Force studies how the Bible is taught in secondary school classrooms and offers guidance, training, and academically-sound resources to teachers and school administrators.

Moira Bucciarelli, Mark A. Chancey, Steve Friesen, Richard Layton, David Levenson, Carleen R. Mandolfo

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Part-Time Student Interns

Crystal Anderson, Administration Brennan Breed, Administration Michael Chan, Professions Chris Hooker, Technology Josey Snyder, Membership Doug Watson, Publications

Giving to the Society of Biblical Literature

The Society Fund is the core element of the ongoing mission in fostering biblical scholarship. This fund:

- assists in providing complimentary membership to students and scholars in under-resourced countries.
- provides resources for the development of curriculum for teachers and school districts that are teaching the Bible in public schools.
- helps develop fonts and various research tools for all who are interested in the study of antiquity.

The International Cooperation Initiative provides free online PDF files for a variety of SBL publications to scholars and students who would not otherwise have access to this scholarship.

The David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Cre-

ativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship encourages the finest scholarship in biblical studies.

The Richards Lecture-Discussion Series supports the discussion of the way sacred texts, and especially the Bible, play a role in and intersect with public policies. This series of public discussions will bring people and institutions together to unravel the past relationships of sacred texts and public policies and envision new ways to shape this lively intersection.

The Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship stimulates the finest and most penetrating work in New Testament studies.

For information on how to donate to the SBL, go to http://www.sbl-site.org/membership/giving.aspx.

















