

COLLOQUY

Carol Lytch named assistant executive director

Carol Lytch joined the ATS staff in September as assistant executive director. Familiar to many faculty and administrators in ATS member schools, she has, for the past seven years, coordinated the Lilly Endowment Programs for Strengthening Congregational Leadership. In 1998, the Endowment invited accredited ATS member schools to submit proposals to two competitive grant programs: (1) Theological Programs for High School Youth and (2) A Program to Enhance Theological Schools' Capacities to Prepare Congregational Leadership. Lytch served as the coordinator for both streams of grant making from 1999 to 2006. From 2003 to 2006, she also served as adjunct faculty at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

An ordained minister in The Presbyterian Church (USA), Lytch holds an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary and the PhD from Emory University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Division of Religion, Department of Ethics and Society. A scholar of religion and society, her dissertation title was "Choosing Faith Across Generations: A Qualitative Study of Church Affiliated High School Seniors and Their Parents." She is the author of *Choosing Church: What Makes a Difference to Teens?* (Westminster/John Knox, 2004), now in its second printing.

Lytch is a member of the Board of Directors of In Trust and is the book review editor of *Family Ministry*, the journal of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has held numerous volunteer positions in The Presbyterian Church (USA) and in community and ecumenical organizations.

Of her appointment to the ATS staff, Lytch said, "I am delighted to be working for ATS because I am aware how much its work in accreditation and leadership education is valued by member

schools. Its research on trends in theological education enables schools and the general public to interpret the ever-changing social climate of education for ministry. I am honored to be joining an outstanding set of colleagues and look forward to being part of the team."



Daniel Aleshire, executive director of ATS, said in announcing her appointment, "Carol has been on scores of campuses of ATS schools and has worked effectively with almost 100 member schools in the context of the Lilly Endowment grant programs. She has considerable administrative skill, is an effective evaluator, and has a thoughtful understanding of a broad range of issues in theological education—all valuable abilities for the work of the Association."

The creation of the position of assistant executive director followed two years of consultation and evaluation of the overall administrative needs of the work of the Commission on Accrediting and the Association by the ATS Board of Directors and the Personnel Committee. The new position will afford Daniel Aleshire the time and opportunity to expand his public role as an advocate and interpreter of the value of theological education to the quality of ministerial leadership, a role the board has enthusiastically endorsed. ♦

In praise of theological libraries

At the Biennial Meeting in Chicago last June, I talked about a fundamental shift that is occurring in higher education accreditation. For two decades, now, the focus on resources in accreditation has been decreasing while the focus on educational effectiveness has been increasing. This shift is widespread and will be long-lasting. Pressure from the U.S. Department of Education will increase emphasis on standards related to assessing educational outcomes. If requirements for resources like good libraries or a full-time faculty remain central in the Commission's accrediting standards, it will be because ATS schools are committed to them. This year, I am devoting several of my columns in *Colloquy* to the fundamental value of educational resources. Resources don't guarantee results, but good resources contribute immeasurably to good results. In an era where measurement is increasingly crucial, measurability isn't the only value. The American Theological Library Association has declared October as theological libraries month, so I begin with praise of theological libraries.

If their collections have been thoughtfully developed, theological libraries hold views that the current faculty don't hold and have information that the faculty don't know. The library is the teacher of what history has thought and how that thought stretches through the present into the future. Theological libraries are a testament that what we know now is not all that should be known; that in theological studies, the newest idea may not be the best idea; and that all the voices not represented on the campus are as important to theological thinking as all the voices that are on campus. Available space on the shelves reminds us that good scholarship always has more work to do, that new eras require new information, and that old ideas can lead to new forms of wisdom.

A few years ago, I visited the Wren Library of Trinity College in Cambridge. Looking at alcoves of now antique volumes that once informed and recorded the thinking of the Enlightenment evokes a sense of reverence. Theological libraries have a way of connecting study and devotion. Wesley Theological Seminary was




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designed so that the chapel and library face each other, with glass walls on their facing sides. Study and worship are connected—maybe even draw from similar parts of the human spirit. The library at St. John's in Collegetown, Minnesota, has structural columns that expand in tree-like branches, reminding seekers of information of the Garden's tree. Knowledge can be used for good and evil, and we need places that remind us that learning for faith incites devotion, not destruction.

Good libraries, as best I can tell, are noisier and busier than I remember them in the days when the silence police patrolled the stacks. I think that is because good libraries are increasingly people places. On many ATS campuses, the library is a gathering place for students as well as a source of information. New libraries have rooms for group study and spaces for interaction. The main entrance to Denver Seminary's new library is through the coffee shop; the "no talking" sign is long gone. United Seminary in Dayton has a replica of the Wright Flyer (Wilbur and Orville's father, Bishop Wright, had connections with one of the predecessor seminaries of United), and it will cause people to talk.

Theological libraries are about people seeking information. The more information that is available, the harder it becomes to find the right information. As the number of new print titles continues to increase, the ability to purchase even a reasonable range of those titles diminishes. As information is housed in an increasing array of forms, students and faculty need guidance to reliable sources of information. As libraries are changing, librarianship is becoming more crucial, not less important. Choosing the most valuable titles among many is a more complex task than managing comprehensive purchases from designated publishers. Guiding students and faculty to the right digital sources requires more sophisticated bibliographic skills than the old reference room required.

If you haven't been to the library lately, take a few moments and stop by. Search the databases, explore new book titles, and speak to some people about what they are learning. It's OK to talk out loud. ♦

Disability and seminary education

In recent years, a number of ATS member schools have hosted conferences on issues related to disability and graduate theological education. Speakers and workshops have addressed practical and theological perspectives on disability, student services and support, integrating issues of disability into the curriculum, overcoming physical and attitudinal barriers with respect to disability, and preparing future religious leaders to minister to and with persons with disabilities, among other topics.

In February 2006, ATS convened a small consultation at Wesley Theological Seminary with persons whose institutions had sponsored disability events in order to explore how the Association might provide counsel and resources to member schools in the area of disability and enable seminaries to become welcoming environments for persons with disabilities.

Attending the consultation were Bruce Birch (Wesley Theological Seminary), Richard Bliese (Luther Seminary), John Crossin (Washington Theological Consortium), and Thomas Graves (Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond). Ginny Thornburgh, a trustee of Princeton Theological Seminary and vice president and director of the Religion and Disability Program of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), attended the meeting as a resource person. Thornburgh has worked extensively with congregations of all faiths across the United States to help them identify and remove barriers of architecture, communications, and attitudes. She also helped launch NOD's Seminary Project, whose goals are to encourage seminaries to explore a range of theological and educational issues with respect to people with disabilities; to help seminaries welcome faculty, staff, students, and visitors with disabilities; and to better equip future religious leaders to serve and serve with children and adults with disabilities and their families. (See the elaboration of the Seminary Project goals at www.nod.org > Religion and Disability > Seminary Project.)

The February consultation discussed ways in which ATS might assist member schools in dealing with the range of issues related to disability and seminary education. Following the consultation, Executive Director Daniel Aleshire reported on the conversation to the ATS Board of Directors, who endorsed the formation of a task

force to develop a policy statement that would provide advice and counsel to member schools on the subject of disability and seminary education. Over the course of time, the members of the Association have adopted policy statements at Biennial Meetings that, while distinct from the Standards of Accreditation, provide guidance to schools on a range of topics related to graduate theological education. (See the current policy statements at www.ats.edu > The Association > Policy Statements.) Task force members are currently being invited to serve.

To inform the task force's work, the Association invites member schools to share their formal policies related to disability with the task force members. Copies of disability policies may be mailed to the ATS office to the attention of Nancy Merrill, director of communications and external relations, or emailed to merrill@ats.edu. ♦

New officers elected

Officers of the Association elected at the 2006 Biennial Meeting in June were president, **Donald Senior**, president of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois; vice president, **John Kinney**, dean of Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia; secretary, **Leland Eliason**, executive director and provost, Bethel Seminary of Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota; and treasurer **Thomas Johnson**, partner with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a trustee of Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. ♦

New member schools

The Association welcomes four schools elected to Associate Membership at the 2006 Biennial Meeting:

- Mars Hill Graduate School in Bothell, Washington
- Salt Lake Theological Seminary in Salt Lake City, Utah
- Southern Evangelical Seminary in Matthews, North Carolina
- World Mission University in Los Angeles, California ♦

Selected highlights from the 2005–06 *Graduating Student Questionnaire*

The 2005–06 group profile from this spring's *Graduating Student Questionnaire* included 5,826 responses from 142 schools. The following highlights should provide a helpful sketch of the overall findings.

MDiv graduates were asked to indicate their satisfaction with progress in skills related to their future work. The top three areas were *ability to think theologically*, *ability to use and interpret Scripture*, and *knowledge of their own religious tradition*.

76.9 percent of MDiv students rated their field education *important* or *very important*. For these students, the two top effects of field education/internship were *better idea of strengths/weaknesses* and *improved pastoral skills*.

The top three rated choices of how satisfied graduates have been with a variety of seminary services and academic resources were *quality of teaching*, *helpfulness of administrative/staff support*, and *accessibility of faculty*.

Graduates cited *faculty*, *biblical studies*, and *interaction with students* as the three most important influences on their educational experience.

A list of sixteen statements explored graduates' satisfaction with their seminary experience. The three most important were *I have been satisfied with my academic experience*; *Faculty were supportive and understanding*; and *If I had it to do over again, I would still come here*.

42.0 percent of MDiv students reported working *more than twenty hours per week*.

66.2 percent of graduates brought no educational debt with them; 15.7 percent, however, came with a debt load of \$15,000 or more.

47.0 percent of graduates incurred no new educational debt during seminary; 33.4 percent had a debt load of \$15,000 or more at the time of their graduation.

44.9 percent of graduates had no monthly payments for educational debt; 6.7 percent had a monthly payment greater than \$500.

The three most important sources of income for graduates in rank order were *scholarship/grant*, *off-campus work*, and *spouse's work*. ♦

Celebrating God's Work through DIAP

Disney Coronado Springs Hotel
Lake Buena Vista, Florida
February 15–17, 2007
Thursday–Saturday

Preconference Sessions Thursday, February 15, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Raising Up Stewards to be Rich toward God!
Gary Hoag, Vice President of Advancement
Denver Seminary

New Development Officer Workshop: Putting It All Together
Richard Dubose, Vice President for Development and Seminary Relations
Columbia Theological Seminary

Keynote Speakers

David Harkins, Originating Committee Member and Development Officer
Eden Theological Seminary (retired)

Daniel Aleshire, Executive Director
The Association of Theological Schools

Ann Svennungsen, President
The Fund for Theological Education

Quentin Schultze, Arthur H. DeKruyter Chair in Faith and Communication
Calvin College

Gary Moore,
Counsel to Ethical and Spiritual Investors

ATS announces staffing changes

Tisa Lewis, who joined the ATS staff in August 2005 as director of student information services and organizational evaluation, joins Jeremiah McCarthy and William Miller this fall as senior staff in support of accreditation. "Tisa's work with the ATS schools over the past year, her knowledge of the accrediting standards, and her participation in a number of accrediting-related visits to schools in the past year will provide a smooth transition in staff support for the work of the Commission on Accrediting," said Daniel Aleshire, ATS executive director.

Of her change to full-time accrediting work as director, accreditation and institutional evaluation, Lewis said, "I will enjoy accompanying our evaluation teams on site visits, interacting with students and school personnel. A major goal in our work in accreditation is to help member schools, who are so good at what they do, to reach their full potential, not by just satisfying the Standards of Accreditation but through a culture of continual planning and assessment. ATS's own organizational evaluation then becomes informed by our staff involvement in institutional evaluation."



Tisa Lewis
Director, Accreditation
and Institutional Evaluation

ESQ/GSQ GO LIVE!

Announcing **online** versions
of ESQ & GSQ available:

Nov. 1, Graduating Student Questionnaire

Jan. 1, Entering Student Questionnaire

Visit www.ats.edu > Resources >
Student Information for more info.

Lewis's appointment to the accrediting staff fills the position vacated by the retirement of Louis Charles Willard last spring. The Board of Commissioners and the ATS Board of Directors approved a fourth professional accrediting position, pending the action of member schools to adopt a dues increase, which they did at the 2006 Biennial Meeting. The search to fill the fourth accrediting position will commence in this academic year.

Joining the staff as part-time coordinator of student information resources, **Helen Blier** will administer the two student information programs of the Association: Profiles of Ministry and the *Entering and Graduating Student Questionnaires* of the Student Information Project. A graduate in theology from Boston College, she holds a Master of Education from Boston College in religious education and the PhD in religion and education from the Graduate Division of Religion of Emory University. Her teaching experience includes courses on youth ministry and mentoring at Candler School of Theology, the Boston College Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry (IREPM), and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. As a research consultant, Blier worked with the directors of summer programs for high school youth at Candler School of Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and Duke University Divinity School to design and implement qualitative research protocols to investigate issues of youth faith development and vocational discernment. Prior to ATS, Blier was on the faculty at Boston College's IREPM, where she taught courses in field education and youth and young adult faith. She has also taught at Duquesne University and Candler School of Theology. ♦



Helen M. Blier
Coordinator of Student
Information Resources

Amendment to Degree Program Standard L

At the 2006 Biennial Meeting, member schools of the Commission on Accrediting voted to amend Standard L, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Theology (ThD), section L.3.2.0, by inserting the word "normally" as indicated below:

L.3.2.0 Courses, seminars, and colloquia for research doctoral degrees shall *normally* be completed on the main campus of the institution offering the degree. If course work completed at other institutions is to be accepted for credit in a Board-approved research doctoral program, that work shall have been eligible for credit in the research doctoral programs offered by the institution at which it was completed, or other advanced programs primarily oriented toward theological research and teaching. ♦

Commission on Accrediting

June meeting report

The ATS Board of Commissioners met at the ATS office June 12–14, 2006.

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

Alliance Theological Seminary, Nyack, NY
Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO
Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, MO
Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield, PA
Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA
Emmanuel School of Religion, Johnson City, TN
George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Portland, OR
Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NC
Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY
Lincoln Christian Seminary, Lincoln, IL
Mount Angel Seminary, Saint Benedict, OR
New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY
St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, NY
St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, SK
St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, Rochester, NY
Talbot School of Theology of Biola University, La Mirada, CA
United Theological Seminary, Trotwood, OH

The Board approved the following changes in membership status:

From Candidate to Accredited Status:

International Theological Seminary, El Monte, CA
The John Leland Center for Theological Studies, Arlington, VA

From Associate to Candidate Status:

Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril & Methodius, Pittsburgh, PA
Carolina Evangelical Divinity School, High Point, NC
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver, CO

The Board authorized initial accreditation visits to the following school:

Loyola Marymount University Department of Theological Studies, Los Angeles, CA

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:

Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, MO
Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, NS
Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Church of God Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN
Cincinnati Bible Seminary, Cincinnati, OH
Columbia Biblical Seminary and School of Missions, Columbia, SC
Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharine's, ON
Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO
Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, MA
Houston Graduate School of Theology, Houston, TX
Immaculate Conception Seminary of Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ
Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary, Miami, FL
Logsdon Seminary of Logsdon School of Theology of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX
Loyola University Chicago Institute of Pastoral Studies, Chicago, IL
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Fresno, CA
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO
Nashotah House, Nashotah, WI
Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO
New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ
New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY
Northwest House of Theological Studies, Salem, OR
Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX
Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH
Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK
Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
Saint Francis Seminary, St. Francis, WI
St. Stephen's College, Edmonton, AB
St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto, Scarborough, ON
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX
Starr King School for Ministry, Berkeley, CA

Commission on Accrediting invites third-party comments

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

Abilene Christian University Graduate School of Theology, Abilene, TX
Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN
Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN
Haggard School of Theology of Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA
McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
Newman Theological College, Edmonton, AB
Notre Dame Seminary, St. Benedict, LA
Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA

The ATS Commission on Accrediting 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 November 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.

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Taylor University College and Seminary, Edmonton, AB
Trinity College Faculty of Divinity, Toronto, ON
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL
Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA
Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC
Westminster Theological Seminary in California, Escondido, CA
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA
Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, MA

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

Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, NS
Alliance Theological Seminary, Nyack, NY
American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, CA
Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, MO
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Richmond, VA
Bethel Seminary of Bethel University, St. Paul, MN
Bexley Hall Seminary, Columbus, OH
Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, Cochrane, AB
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL
Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, KS
Chapman School of Religious Studies of Oakland City University, Oakland City, IN
Church of God Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY
Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN
Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX
Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley, CA
Dominican Study Center of the Caribbean, Bayamon, PR
Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, MI
Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX
Gonzaga University Department of Religious Studies, Spokane, WA
Heritage Theological Seminary, Cambridge, ON
Huron University College Faculty of Theology, London, ON
Knox Theological Seminary, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
Nashotah House, Nashotah, WI
Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, Alexandria, VA
Providence Theological Seminary, Otterburne, MB
St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, SK
SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, MI
Shaw University Divinity School, Raleigh, NC
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY
The University of Winnipeg Faculty of Theology, Winnipeg, MB
Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN
Washington Theological Union, Washington, DC
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA ♦



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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.

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SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS

Self-Study Workshop

September 21–22 • Pittsburgh, PA

Profiles of Ministry Introductory Workshop

October 5–6 • Pittsburgh, PA

Black and Hispanic Dialogue II

October 13–15, 2006 • Pittsburgh, PA

A Roundtable Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty

October 20–22 • Pittsburgh, PA

Women in Leadership Seminar

Understanding our Institutional Contexts: Challenges and Strategies

October 27–29 • Pittsburgh, PA

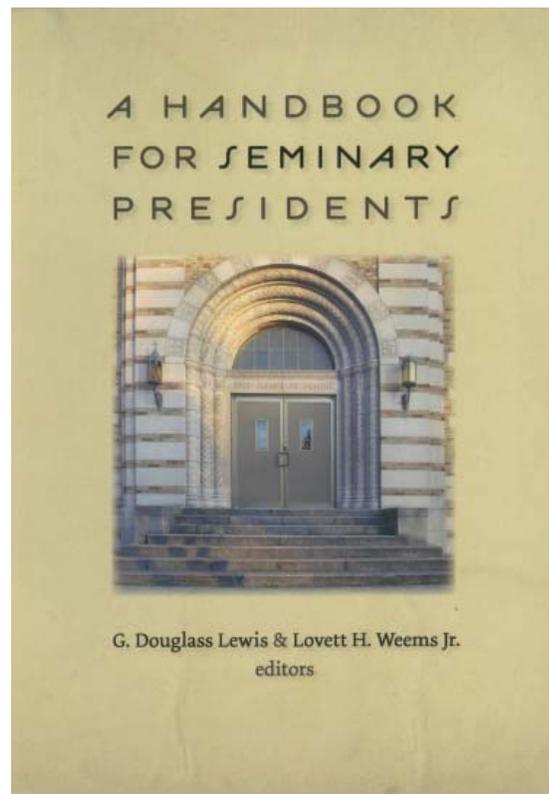
You're invited to . . .

ATS Reception at the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting

**Saturday, November 18, 2006
7–8:30 p.m.**

**Grand Hyatt Washington
Room: Constitution B**

Administrators, faculty, and friends of ATS member schools are invited to attend the ATS reception at the AAR/SBL annual meetings in Washington, DC. Please plan to join your colleagues and friends for refreshments and conversation.



G. Douglass Lewis & Lovett H. Weems Jr.
editors

A collective effort by more than four dozen presidential contributors, *A Handbook for Seminary Presidents* offers advice on everything from boards and enrollment to facilities and institutional advancement, with special discussions of women in leadership, Canadian schools, and the challenges of university-based programs. Contact Linda Giehll at ATS to order.

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The Commission on Accrediting

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