

Staff changes at ATS

Fourth accreditor joins ATS staff

Debbie Creamer has joined the ATS staff as director, accreditation and institutional evaluation, effective September 1, 2013. Her work includes facilitating accrediting reviews, providing education and support to member schools about the process of accreditation, and providing staff support to the work of the Board of Commissioners of the ATS Commission on Accrediting.



Prior to coming to ATS, Creamer served at Iliff School of Theology, beginning in 1997 as a member of the library staff, becoming a faculty member in 2005, then as director of the library, associate dean for academic affairs in 2009, and interim dean and vice-president for academic affairs for the 2012–2013 academic year. She is an MDiv graduate of Vanderbilt University Divinity School, has an MLIS from the University of Denver, and received her PhD from the Iliff School of Theology and University of Denver Joint PhD program.

Creamer is the author of *Disability and Christian Theology: Embodied Limits and Constructive Possibilities* (2009), a book that encourages new thought about categories like ability and disability. A former cochair and founding member of the Religion and Disability Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion, she currently serves on the AAR's Committee on the Status of People with Disabilities and is frequent speaker and author on the topic. She is also coeditor of *Women, Church, and Leadership: New Paradigms* (2012). While at Iliff, she was deeply involved in preparing that school's self-study reports and has served on a number of accreditation evaluation committees for ATS and other entities.

[Read her reflections](#) on the work of accrediting from her new vantage point at ATS.

Bill Miller retires from ATS

Bill Miller has retired from ATS after eight years as director, accreditation and institutional evaluation. He brought to that work more than sixteen years of service on ATS accreditation evaluation committees.



Miller came to ATS after twenty-seven years at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, where he had served as head librarian and professor of theological bibliography; director of institutional research and assessment; and dean of administration, chief financial officer, and chief operations officer. An Episcopal (Anglican) priest, he majored in religion at Indiana Wesleyan University and holds a PhD in higher education administration with a focus on theological education governance from Kent State University, a Master in Library Science from Kent State, a Master of Arts in Religious Studies (Christian Thought and Mission of the Church) from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Sacred Theology (Anglican Studies) from Nashotah House, and a Master of Business Administration from

MidAmerica Nazarene University. He is the author of *Holiness Works: A Bibliography* (Nazarene Publishing House, 1986) and was the editor of the initial three volumes of the *Journal of Religious & Theological Information* (Haworth Press, 1993–1998).

ATS wishes him well as he transitions into private consulting and partial retirement from his home base in Kansas.

Helen Blier leaves ATS for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary appointment

Helen Blier leaves ATS after seven years of service to join Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as director of continuing education and special events, effective September 1, 2013. In her capacity as director, student information and organizational evaluation at ATS, she oversaw the administration and use of data-gathering instruments used by the member schools and constructed assessment protocols for schools to evaluate institutional, student learning, and degree program outcomes. She also regularly presented at ATS and Lilly Endowment Inc. events on student data trends and assessment and conducted research at Auburn Seminary's Center for the Study of Theological Education and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.



Blier's new position at PTS represents a return to the academy. A graduate of Emory University (PhD) and Boston College (MEd and AB theology), she taught at Boston College in the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, Duquesne University, and Candler School of Theology. She has also served as an academic counselor at Emory College. 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. Her publications and presentations have generally focused on theological education and youth ministry. Blier is a member of the Religious Education Association, American Academy of Religion, and International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry.

ATS wishes her well as she embarks on this new chapter in her career.