

COLLOQUY

44th Biennial Meeting will convene June 26-28 in Garden Grove, CA

The 2004 Biennial Meeting of the Association will convene in Garden Grove, California, in late June. At this meeting, member schools will act on five recommendations from the Executive Committee and/or the Commission on Accrediting as follows: (1) the proposed organizational restructuring of the Association; (2) a proposed amendment of the current *ATS Constitution* related to the organizational restructuring; (3) a proposed change to the current *Procedures Related to Membership and Accreditation*; (4) a proposed change to the Doctor of Ministry degree program standard; and (5) proposed new *Procedures Related to Membership* for the Association and proposed new *Procedures Related to Accreditation and Membership* for the Commission on Accrediting.

An Open Hearing will be held on Saturday, June 26, from 10:30 am to noon in the hotel, prior to the beginning of the Biennial Meeting, to receive comments and to answer any questions from member schools regarding the proposed changes.

1. Organizational restructuring

The organizational restructuring would reincorporate ATS (currently an Ohio corporation) as a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation and separately incorporate the Commission on Accrediting in Pennsylvania. There are legal and organizational reasons for proposing this change. The principal *legal* reason is that current ATS practice is not compatible with some aspects of Ohio non-profit law. The principal *organizational* reason is that ATS has become more complex as an organization, its programming more diverse, and its assets larger. It needs an organizational and governance structure that clarifies fiduciary accountability, serves both the accrediting and service programs of ATS, and meets current regulatory and legal expectations for non-profit corporations.

In the proposed structure, member schools would *retain* the following *powers*: to elect

officers of the Association and committee members, adopt the dues, adopt the Standards of Accreditation and the Procedures for Accreditation and Membership, adopt changes to the Bylaws, admit new members to the Association, and appeal all accrediting decisions. Members of the Association corporation would *retain* the *duties* they currently have: continue to meet the eligibility requirements for membership and pay dues. Members of the Commission corporation would *retain* the same *duties* they currently have: continue to meet the eligibility requirements for membership, abide by the Standards of Accreditation, pay dues, and submit annual data.

To be eligible for membership in the Commission corporation, schools must be members of the Association.

The two corporations would be served by a common staff, with common administrative support services and facilities. The current dues formula would continue. The primary change is corporate structure. ATS would cease to be a single Ohio corporation and would become two Pennsylvania corporations—one would do everything but accreditation, and the other would do only accreditation. The proposed corporate change would also strengthen ATS compliance with U.S. Department of Education regulations.

2. Amendment of the current *ATS Constitution*

If the new organizational structure is adopted by the accredited members in June, legal counsel for the Association will file Articles of Incorporation and prepare and/or file all other documents necessary to incorporate the Association and the Commission as separate Pennsylvania non-profit corporations in accordance with the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law.

If any necessary third-party approval (Ohio Attorney General, Pennsylvania Attorney General, U.S. Department of Education, or the

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theological
schools
and the
church—

*finding
a future
together*

ats

The Association of Theological Schools
IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

ATS to consider two changes at upcoming meeting

As they have every other year since 1918, theological schools in the United States and Canada will gather for a Biennial Meeting this year. The first meeting was called in an effort to think about theological education and to consider ways to improve it, as North Americans were re-starting their lives following the war that was to end all wars. The 2004 Biennial Meeting will be the 44th meeting of the schools, and it will focus on issues about theological education and efforts to improve it.

Some things are constant across time. Other things change. The Association's membership includes four times as many schools as gathered in 1918. The increasing number of schools is, perhaps, less significant than the range of schools. Although the label didn't exist in 1918, the schools represented at that meeting were, by today's classification, virtually all "Mainline Protestant." This year, about half of the schools represented at the Biennial Meeting would claim that label. The other half would identify themselves as Evangelical Protestant, Orthodox, or Roman Catholic. Almost half of the schools likely to be represented at this year's meeting did not exist in 1918. The degree programs offered by all the schools have broadened and changed, as has the range of work graduates seek upon conclusion of their studies. Change has become a dependable presence in institutional and organizational life, and the Association will consider two changes at this June's Biennial Meeting.

The first is a changing reality that constitutes the programmatic focus of the meeting: the relationship between theological schools and the church. The old system in which students grew up in a denomination, attended a seminary funded primarily by that denomination, and entered ministry in the same denomination upon graduation is changing. While there are many examples of this older system alive and well among some ATS schools, this pattern is true of fewer and fewer institutions. For some schools, the change is

"Change has become a dependable presence in institutional and organizational life, and the Association will consider two changes at this June's Biennial Meeting."



most notable in funding; for others, it is most evident in the religious backgrounds of students; for still others, it is the wide variety of denominations in which graduates serve. For many schools, the change is evident in all of these dimensions. These are substantive changes, and they require theological schools to rethink their relationships with churches and ecclesial bodies. ATS will inaugurate a project at this Biennial Meeting on theological schools and the church. It will seek to identify the changes that are occurring and examine the ways in which schools can find future patterns of relationship that maximize the contributions of theological schools and the work of the communities of faith to which they relate.

Another change ATS will consider at the June Biennial Meeting is the governance structure for the Association itself. In early 2003, ATS had a legal audit conducted to determine if the Association was appropriately attending to a range of legal issues. ATS was incorporated in the 1950s, moved to Pennsylvania in 1991, and has, on occasion, revised its constitution and adjusted its structure. After reviewing the findings of the legal audit and considering possible responses at this time in the history of the Association, the Executive Committee, with the concurrence of the Commission on Accrediting, concluded that ATS should consider re-incorporating in Pennsylvania and strengthen its compliance with U.S. Department of Education regulations by separately incorporating the Commission on Accrediting. This proposal provided an opportune context to examine the Association's governance structure. Work has been under way for the past year to develop proposed bylaws that would provide a governance structure that retains the fundamental powers of the schools, enhances fiduciary care for the mission and resources of the organization, and meets the needs of the organization at this time. In some ways, this proposal is a technical adjustment; in other ways, it constitutes a creative response to the many changes that have accumulated in the fifty years since the Association was first incorporated. ATS has a more complex bud-

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44th Biennial. . .

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Internal Revenue Service) requires changes to the documents following the Biennial Meeting, the accredited members would need to vote to adopt the amended documents after the 2004 Biennial Meeting has adjourned and prior to the 2006 Biennial Meeting. For that reason, the Executive Committee is recommending that an article be added to the current *ATS Constitution* to authorize voting by use of a mail ballot.

3. Change to the current *Procedures*

In the process of preparing its petition for continued recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education, the Commission on Accrediting determined that, to remain in compliance with requirements of the Department of Education, it needed to clarify the different ways in which it formally states its concern with respect to conformity of member schools to the ATS standards. The Department has reinforced its concern that accredited institutions remedy instances of non-compliance within a strict, two-year time frame. This concern has required the Commission to define “non-compliance” with the standards, which is not language the Commission has formerly used. The Commission reframed the definitions it uses so that “notation” and “warning” signal proximity to a circumstance of non-compliance and only “probation” to indicate formal non-compliance. The Commission also determined to offer the minimal changes in the current *Procedures* required to reflect these revised policies. The *Procedures* it is proposing for the new Commission corporation reflect these changes more smoothly.

4. Change to the Doctor of Ministry degree standard

At its May 2002 meeting, the Commission on Accrediting authorized a task force to consider admission requirements of the Doctor of Ministry degree program, specifically, requirements with respect to Master of Divinity (M.Div.) equivalency and three years of experience in ministry subsequent to the first graduate theological

degree. The task force, which met in March 2003, consisted of David Esterline (McCormick Theological Seminary), Dorcas Gordon (Knox College), Donn Morgan (Church Divinity School of the Pacific) who chaired the task force, David Osborn (Denver Seminary), and Stephen Rasor (Interdenominational Theological Center).

The task force invited comments on a proposed change to the D.Min. standard from the chief administrative officers and D.Min. directors of member schools that offer the degree. The Commission is recommending that the Association amend F.4.1.2 to enable a school to admit as many as ten percent (10%) of the students in an approved D.Min. degree program without the requisite three years of prior ministry experience “provided that the institution has an objective means for determining that these persons have the capacity for the level of competence and reflection appropriate for advanced, professional ministerial studies. The admission of such applicants should be restricted to persons with ministerial experience that has prepared them for theological study at the advanced level.”

5. New *Procedures for the Association and the Commission*

The separate incorporation of the two entities, the Association and the Commission, will necessitate two sets of procedures, drawn from the current *Procedures Related to Membership and Accreditation* (Bulletin, Part 1). Drafts of *Procedures Related to Membership in the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada* and *Procedures Related to Accreditation and Membership in the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools* will be provided in the program book for the Biennial Meeting and posted on the ATS website. The drafts substantially reflect the content of the current *Procedures* with some changes in language to conform to the Bylaws of each entity and to reflect the membership of each corpo-

ration (Accredited, Candidate, and Associate schools in the Association, and Accredited and Candidate schools in the Commission).

Documents relating to all the proposed changes will be included in the Biennial Meeting Program & Reports book, which will be mailed to all member schools in May, and also posted on the “Biennial Meeting” segment of the ATS website <www.ats.edu>. With the member schools’ approval of the changes, implementation of the reorganization would take effect sometime in 2005.

The theme of the 2004 Biennial Meeting—“Theological Schools and the Church: Finding a Future Together”—will inaugurate a three-year initiative of ATS to examine the changing relationships of theological schools and church bodies. These changes are characterized by changing patterns of financial support for graduate theological education, the multid denominational nature of the student bodies in most schools and the need for individual schools to educate students to serve in a wide variety of denominations, and changing patterns of relationship with many schools’ founding church bodies.

The targeted area of the Association’s work over the next three years on Theological Schools and the Church will provide a variety of activities to document the current institutional relationships of schools and church bodies, the ways in which these relationships differ from previous patterns, and how current and emerging relationships can be strengthened. Throughout the project, ATS will convene theological educators, pastors, and denominational leaders to engage in a sustained discussion that will address issues about the church-seminary relationship, identify patterns of work that seminaries can engage to strengthen various patterns of relationship, and determine ways to advocate those patterns of work to member schools. ♦

DIAP “makes history” in Charleston

The Development and Institutional Advancement Program (DIAP) Conference 2004 met in Charleston, South Carolina, in February, focusing on this year’s theme: **“Making History Together.”**

Dale Zschoche, associate vice president of advancement at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and chair of the DIAP Steering Committee, welcomed the nearly 150 participants in attendance and served as the host for the weekend.

Invited speakers included: **Daniel Aleshire**, executive director of ATS; **Donald Senior**, president of Catholic Theologic Union; **Nancy Gray** and **Heather Patchett**, president and vice president for institutional advancement, respectively, of Converse College, and **John Wimmer**, program director for religion for Lilly Endowment Inc.

Aleshire discussed six observations he’s noted regarding ATS schools: (1) the old ways in which U.S. and Canadian theological schools derived their income have dissipated, and they’re not going to come back; schools need to develop new patterns of funding; (2) significant changes in the revenue structure of ATS schools require the development of a culture of realism about funding; (3) because most money will come from individual donors, ATS seminaries will need to enhance their capacity to make a compelling case for theological education; (4) schools need the technology of institutional advancement and they depend on professional expertise for this technology; (5) presidents and development officers need to nurture the discipline of asking for money at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way, and (6) DIAP participants work at the “wealthiest” theological schools in the world (in terms of resources).

“Theological schools have serious financial needs and as those needs are



John Wimmer, program director for religion for Lilly Endowment, addressed the group Sunday morning.

met, they develop an abundance that communities of faith desperately need,” he concluded.

Donald Senior examined money and giving in the biblical context, stating that giving is an expression of discipleship. “Believing that God is present in history, believing that the Word became flesh, means that we must be attentive to all of the significant dimensions of human life and their meaning for discipleship. Being aware of the practical realities of human life including money and jobs is not just an antidote to naiveté but is a responsibility of anyone whose mission is to proclaim the gospel,” he said.

Nancy Gray and Heather Patchett delivered a tag-team presentation regarding institutional advancement from the perspective of the president and chief development officer. Together, they stressed the importance of focusing on maximum effectiveness by working together as a collaborative team.

“Your goal is to place presidents in situations where they will shine...adjust to their styles,” said Patchett.

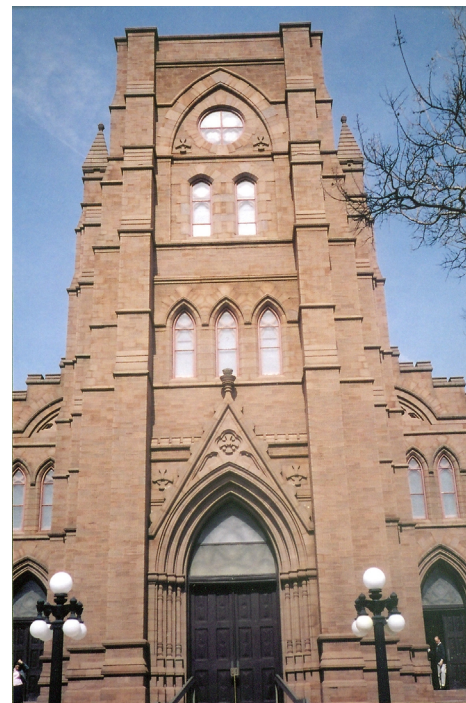
“If you can’t support your president, then you’re in the wrong spot,” added Gray.

John Wimmer closed the weekend with a talk about Lilly Endowment’s priorities, emphases, and its relationship to theological education. In addition, he spoke about what makes for a good proposal to the Endowment and mentioned the importance of a personal touch in fundraising efforts.

“Teach anyone within your reach how to tell stories (from their own lives) about relationships between faith and money,” he said.

The speeches given by Aleshire and Senior can be found in the Spring ‘04 edition of *Seminary Development News* or on-line at <www.ats.edu>. In addition to the speakers, seventeen workshops addressed a variety of aspects of professional institutional advancement in theological schools.

Next year’s conference will be February 17-19, 2005, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. ♦



The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, founded in 1821, located on Broad Street in Charleston’s historic district.

2004-05 ATS Lilly Theological Research Grants recipients named

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) has announced recipients of the Lilly Theological Research Grants for 2004-2005.

Supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment, the ATS Lilly Theological Research Grants program is designed to encourage research across the theological disciplines by scholars at all stages in their careers, whether or not they are eligible for a formal research leave. The program greatly increases the opportunities for faculty members at ATS accredited and candidate schools to receive substantial research support.

The program has three components: Faculty Sabbatical Grants, Theological Scholars Grants, and Research Expense Grants.

The **Faculty Sabbatical Grants** support faculty members with awards of up to \$25,000 each during a sabbatical or other leave. Awardees include: **Angela Bauer**, Episcopal Divinity School, *Reading While White: Strategies for Anti-racist Biblical Interpretations*; **J. Kameron Carter**, Duke University Divinity School, *Singing in a Strange Land: Religion and the Black Intellectual Imagination, 1896-1940*; **Mabiala Kenzo**, Canadian Theological Seminary, *African Christologies: From Postcolonial Condition to Postcolonial Discourse*; **Thomas Prügl**, University of Notre Dame Department of Theology, *The Interpretation of the Book of Job in the Middle Ages*; **Brent Strawn**, Candler School of Theology of Emory University, *Reasonable Doubt? Rethinking Intention in the Hermeneutics of Sin*;

and **Diana Swancutt**, Yale University Divinity School, *The Paideia of Paul: Instruction, Identity, and the Scriptures of Israel in Pauline Christian Judaism*.

The **Theological Scholars Grants** provide up to \$10,000 each for research apart from a formal research leave. Awardees include: **Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi**, Columbia Theological Seminary, *The Global Christianity Project: Movement, Growth, and Vitality of the Christian Religion*; **John Dadosky**, Regis College, *The Eclipse of Beauty and its Recovery: The Diné (Navajo) Contribution to a Theology of Beauty*; **Daniel Goodman**, Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, *"Equally Beloved of God:" Toward a Southern Baptist Theology of Jews and Judaism*; **Jin H. Han**, New York Theological Seminary, *The Poetics of Ellipsis in the Book of Job*; **Jeffrey Hensley**, Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary of Virginia, *A Strange Mercy: Theological Reflections on Adoption*; **Naomi Seidman**, Graduate Theological Union, *Faithful Renderings: Jewish-Christian Difference and the Politics of Translation*; **Jane Smith**, Hartford Seminary, *Christian-Muslim Dialogue in North America*; **Kirsi Stjerna**, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, *Women and the Reformation in Sixteenth Century Europe: A Textbook with Primary Sources*; and **John Vissers**, Presbyterian College of Joint Board of Theological Colleges, *Walter W. Bryden and the Neo-Orthodox Moment in Canadian Protestantism*.

The **Research Expense Grants** give up to \$5,000 each to as many as ten

scholars who are engaged in well-designed and significant research projects. Awardees include: **Basil Davis**, Notre Dame Seminary, *An Investigation of the Tradition of the Martyrdom of Thomas the Apostle*; **Paul Dekar**, Memphis Theological Seminary, *The Holy Transfiguration Community in Breakwater, Victoria, Australia*; **Clare Benedicks Fischer**, Starr King School of Ministry, *Educating for Public Ministry: Indonesian Christian Religious Leaders*; **Alicia Forsey**, Starr King School of Ministry, *Women Radical Reformers of the Sixteenth Century*; **Cheryl Giles**, Harvard University Divinity School, *Exploring the Spirituality of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Youth*; **Susan Hedahl**, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and **Lucy Lind Hogan**, Wesley Theological Seminary, *The New Stained Glass: A Critical Exploration of the Theological, Rhetorical, Aesthetic, and Historical Dimensions of Technologically Based American Christian Preaching*; **Marion Taylor**, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, *An Anthology of Nineteenth Century British Women's Biblical Interpretation*; and **Margie Williamson**, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, *Exploring the Impact of Learning Style Theories on Theological Education*.

ATS congratulates these faculty on their outstanding research and looks forward to each project's benefits to theological scholarship, the academy, communities of faith, and the broader public. ♦

SPAN examines its various roles at conference

Eighty participants joined together for this year's Student Personnel Administrators Network (SPAN) conference, "The Many Faces of Community: Student Services from Recruitment to Graduation," held April 23-25, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"In two short years, SPAN has emerged as an important feature of the Association's leadership education program," stated William Myers, director, leadership education and accreditation at ATS. "This event explores the variety of concerns met daily by persons like you, and does so through keynote addresses, daily prayer, 'best practices' workshops, and benchmark sessions."



(from left) Speaker Laura Mendenhall (Columbia Theological Seminary) and Diane Windler (Eden Theological Seminary).

Workshops addressed topics such as enrollment management, working with international students, disability services, software for seminary students, and the challenges of financing a seminary education, among others.

Laura S. Mendenhall, president of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, delivered the keynote address Friday afternoon, using biblical imagery to describe the many faces within the student population. Myers spoke about vocation and leadership Saturday morning, answering what it means to lead through student services. Melissa Wiginton, director of the Fund for Theological Education's ministry programs, gave the concluding address Sunday



(from left) Belva Brown Jordan (Harvard University Divinity School) and speaker Melissa Wiginton (FTE).

morning, using metaphors from the David and Goliath passage and referencing essay statements written by young students in FTE programs. Francis Lonsway, director, student information resources at ATS, closed the weekend through his discussion of evaluation and the next steps.

In addition to workshops and speakers, the group voted at its business meeting to accept its first mission statement:

The Student Personnel Administrators Network (SPAN) seeks to support and develop student affairs professionals in their ministry. Student personnel administrators are people who support students in theological education from recruitment through graduation and include, but are

not limited to, deans of students, admissions directors, and registrars.

To this end, SPAN seeks to:

- ♦ *provide a collegial network for support and information sharing;*
- ♦ *provide educational and professional development opportunities; and*
- ♦ *be an advocate for the place of student services within the professional realm of theological education.*

Leadership of SPAN will be rotated among the membership and supported by ATS.

The conference was designed and facilitated by the SPAN Steering Committee, a working group charged with not only this responsibility, but also with planning a seminar to be held in conjunction with the Chief Academic Officers Society (CAOS) Conference, March 31-April 2, 2005, in Savannah, Georgia. CAOS and SPAN will, in addition to their own workshops, develop a common plenary session to explore the relationship of academic deans and student personnel administrators.

For more information, visit SPAN's webpage at <www.ats.edu/programs/leader/span/spantoc.html>. ♦



SPAN Steering Committee members include (back row) Richard Haley (Andover Newton Theological School), Howard Wilson (Fuller Theological Seminary), Bill Myers (ATS), Peter Barbernitz (Washington Theological Union), (front row) Donna Melloan (Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary), Belva Brown Jordan (Harvard University Divinity School), Diane Windler (Eden Theological Seminary), and Barbara Haycraft (Tyndale University College and Seminary). Missing from the photo is Reid Kising (Dallas Theological Seminary).

ATS to consider two changes. . .

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getary process, a more complex programmatic agenda, and a very different economic model than it did in the 1950s. These changes create the opportunity to adjust the Association's corporate and governance structures. ATS members will consider the proposal for a corporate reorganization that accommodates the changes that have occurred and makes room for the changes that, no doubt, will define the agenda for theological education in the future.

Positive institutional change is always two-edged. Some things change so that other things will not change. Institutions are founded as conserving enterprises: they continue in the present affirmations and missions first articulated in the past. Institutions are also innovating enterprises: carrying past commitments into the future calls for redefinition and redirection. Institutions, particularly good ones, hold on to part of the past, let go of part of the past, carry some of the past into the future, and invent new expressions and perspectives—and they do all four things at the same time. Institutional life, drawing from these four dimensions, makes room both for continuity and creativity, and sustains both a heritage and a future.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's Biennial Meeting. ♦

PLEASE NOTE:

Petitions to the ATS Commission on Accrediting must be received by **April 1** for consideration in its spring meeting and by **November 1** for consideration in the Commission's winter meeting.

Baptist church in Virginia honors Aleshire

A prominent Baptist church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, recently provided funds to endow a faculty position in honor of ATS Executive Director Daniel Aleshire at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR).

Larry Haun, pastor of Fredericksburg Baptist Church, presented the church's gift to endow the Daniel O. Aleshire Chair of Practical Theology at the seminary's fifteenth anniversary banquet on March 13, at which Aleshire was the featured speaker.

Haun explained that Aleshire had been his professor and mentor while Haun was a seminary student.

"Dan Aleshire has had more positive influence on more Baptist pastors than any person I know. He certainly has been an influence in my life and ministry. Now in his post at ATS, he has the opportunity to exercise that same wonderful influence over an

entire generation of Christian ministers across this continent. It's altogether fitting that his name be associated with this seminary, which places its emphasis on preparing ministers for local congregations," Haun said.

The Fredericksburg church is observing its 200th anniversary this year, and Haun noted that the gift was in recognition of the significant milestones of both the church and the seminary. "We are partners in ministry, and this gift symbolizes the strength of our relationship," he said.

In accepting the gift, BTSR President Tom Graves expressed the seminary's appreciation and gratitude, and commented on the seminary's strong ties with the church. He also spoke of his personal friendship with Aleshire and of his pleasure at having "this joint recognition at BTSR of both one of the finest Baptist churches in the state and one of the finest Christian educators in the nation." ♦

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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ats EVENTS IN
MAY & JUNE

Commission on Accrediting Meeting
May 24-26, 2004 • Pittsburgh, PA

The Commission on Accrediting of ATS will convene for its semiannual meeting to conduct and give continued guidance to the ongoing accrediting work of the Association.

Seminar for Chief Academic Officers
June 25 & 26, 2004 • Garden Grove, CA

Immediately preceding the ATS Biennial Meeting, the agenda includes a new dean's brunch, a presentation on the CAOS website, workshops, and interest-based breakout groups.

The ATS Biennial Meeting
June 26-28, 2004 • Garden Grove, CA

The 44th Biennial Meeting will introduce a new three-year initiative: Theological Schools and the Church—Finding a Future Together. Events include the presidential banquet, plenary and business sessions, and a series of professional development workshops. For details, go to the Biennial Meeting segment of the ATS website <www.ats.edu>.



Retiring members of the ATS Executive Committee were recognized at its April meeting. They are (from left) Efrain Agosto (Hartford Seminary), public members Peter Steinfelds and Audrey Bronson, Bud Phillips (Vancouver School of Theology), and Walter Kaiser (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary). Missing from the photo are Martha Horne (Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia) and C.G. Newsome (Shaw University Divinity School).