

**Annual Midwest Regional SBL Conference Report**  
Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL  
February 11-13, 2011

**General Impressions**

- Papers were generally strong, and attendance was good at most of the sessions. It was noted that having 4 parallel tracks of paper sessions on Saturday morning caused some sessions to have smaller attendance.

**Attendance**

- *MWSBL*: 117 registered for the MWSBL conference, up from 108 last year; a combined total of 68 papers were given in the SBL and AOS sessions.
- *SRSC*: 45 registered for SRSC; 17 papers were given; 34 came to lunch.
- *Banquet*: About 70 attended the Saturday evening banquet.

**Registration**

- All registration will be online next year.

**Plenary papers**

- Impressive roster of scholars but needed better execution of the program.

**Student Papers**

- Graduate student papers will still require a professor's approval. In general, student papers that are pre-dissertation should be sent to the SRSC but exceptions can be made at the discretion of the section chair. The MWSBL will also still require full papers from first-time presenters.
- The proposal deadline will be moved to Dec 1 with section chairs submitting slate by Dec. 15 to the Regional Coordinator. The SRSC papers, however, will still be due on January 25.

**Graduate Student Paper Winners**

- Integrating the papers into the sections was well-received. The introduction of the winners of the graduate student paper competition at dinner was also well received.

**Student Coordinator**

- **Teresa Calpino**, current student coordinator, will be assisted next year by **Jeremy Miselbrook**, also of Loyola University Chicago. Jeremy will have responsibility for assisting Eric Mason with the SRSC and will help Teresa to coordinate the Graduate Student Luncheon. Teresa will continue to work with MWSBL and with the Student Advisory Board at the National level. Together, Teresa and Jeremy will be working to advance the On-campus Student Representative (OSR) network.
- 38 students attended the student luncheon on Saturday.

### **Breakout Session Programming**

- It was recommended that some of the programming be moved from Saturday to Sunday and that the number of presentations allowed per individual be limited in order to facilitate scheduling.
- Student presentations will be limited to one per student. It was also noted that not all officers need to be present for the regional scholar papers since it is the paper itself that is considered primary at the national level.

### **Theme for Next Year**

- Illness and Healing in the Ancient World

### **Breakout Session Reports from the Chairs**

- Gospels: A large number of papers but the quality was very mixed.
- Paul: Good papers. Good attendance.
- Hebrews/ Catholic Epistles: Good papers. There are plans to publish the invited conference papers (on the theme of *faith, faithfulness, and unfaithfulness*) with Mercer University Press.
- Early Christian Literature and Apocalyptic: Good papers. ECL intends to join with Hebrews/Catholic Epistles next year to pursue the topic of canon.
- Apocryphal Literature: Good papers.
- Hebrew Bible/OT: A number of good papers and two excellent papers. Many presenters were PhD students, pre-dissertation and ABD, however. The section chair voiced concern that more participation by senior scholars and faculty was needed.
- Bible Meaning Through Tradition: Three excellent papers on Ruth. Next year the focus will be on Nebuchadnezzar. In two years it will be on Song of Songs Chapter 3.

### **Book Reviews**

- Having two book reviews, one OT, one NT, was well received. One of the reviews had to be cancelled due to emergency situations with two of the participants.