5-2012

56th Annual Conference of the Association of Christian Librarians

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Florida will play host to two major events during the summer of 2012. The Republican National Convention will convene in Tampa on August 27-30 while the Association of Christian Librarians will meet in West Palm Beach June 11-14. This will mark only the second time that ACL has met in the Sunshine State. The previous occasion was in 1995 at Southeastern University in Lakeland.

Despite ongoing challenges for libraries and librarians, including tight library budgets, there are still “Oceans of Opportunities” for information professionals to make a positive impact and to serve in the information age. This service can take many avenues including being servant leaders, facilitators of learning, advocates, innovators, mentors — the list is as expansive and boundless as the ocean. During June 11-14, we anticipate exploring these and other opportunities together.

On the subject of service, community service is a tradition at Palm Beach Atlantic, a tradition instituted when our founder, Dr. Jess Moody, coined the term “Workship” combining ‘work’ and ‘worship.’ Workship embodies a spirit of servant-leadership modeled by our Lord Jesus Christ. Since 1968, undergraduate PBA students, staff and faculty have contributed well over two million hours of service to local nonprofit agencies, schools, and churches.

The entire Warren Library staff is eagerly looking forward to welcoming you to Florida, to the Palm Beaches, and to PBA. Our university motto here at PBA is “Enlightening Minds, Enriching Souls, Extending Hands.” We pledge to offer that experience and opportunity to you, as well.
Here are a few of the conference highlights that you can anticipate:

**Come early – Stay late**

You are more than welcome to come early and stay at the Hyatt Place one block from the campus or stay in one of our residential halls which will be opening to conference attendees and guests on the Saturday before conference. You may also want to stay on campus on Friday night after conference and check out on Saturday. Staying extra nights on campus will be very affordable – the lowest rates in Florida! You'll be pleasantly surprised at the low cost!

**Pre-Conference**

Conference attendees will have three pre-conference options from which to choose.

**Accreditation:** Dr. Randy Bell from the Association for Biblical Higher Education will lead an all day workshop on the ABHE accreditation process, ABHE standards for accreditation, the entire evaluation process, and will share valuable insights.

**Fund Raising:** PBA’s Interim President and longtime VP for Development, along with three other highly trained and experienced professionals, will lead a half-day Fund Raising Workshop. This workshop is designed to appeal to library administrators and others seeking to discover practical ideas for library fund raising initiatives. Topics being addressed include grant research/writing, working with advisory councils/alumni, and individual fund raising.

**Book Arts:** The Book Arts 101 pre-conference will be a one of a kind experience at the highly acclaimed Jaffe Center for the Book Arts on the Florida Atlantic University campus in Boca Raton and will be led by John Cutrone, the Jaffe Center director. Participants will be transported to the center and will enjoy an engaging presentation of artists’ books from the Jaffe Collection, operate the Vandercook 4 printing press and bind a book, too, that's yours to keep. The Jaffe Collection houses one of the largest and most varied collections of its kind in the country.
The Warren Library Lassiter Rotunda is an elegant reading room with a distinctly traditional flavor. While there are places for solitary study, the overall atmosphere of the Warren Library encourages conversation and collaboration.

A student art display in the Warren Library.

The cascading staircase is a prominent feature of the Warren Library and offers exercise opportunities for everyone.

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Devotions

The beautiful DeSantis Family Chapel will serve as the setting for the morning devotional sessions. Noteworthy features are the beautiful stained glass adorning the Chapel, as well as the busts of leaders in Christian history which encircle it.

ACL’s very own Robyn Reid, from Texas Christian University, will serve as Worship Leader. Devotional speakers from PBA’s School of Ministry will reflect a bit of the ethnic and cultural diversity that are trademarks of south Florida. Campus Pastor Bernie Cueto, who is Cuban-American, will speak on Tuesday on the leadership qualities and teachings of the Apostle Paul. Dr. Kathy Maxwell will speak on Wednesday on leadership as it relates to the great Protestant reformer, Martin Luther. Professor Terriel Byrd, who is African-American, will speak Thursday on leadership qualities as exemplified by the life and ministry of Dr. Billy Graham.

Keynote Speakers

ACL is fortunate in securing two outstanding leaders as keynoters, one in academic librarianship and one in Christian higher education. Sue Polanka serves as Head of Reference and Instruction for the Dunbar Library at Wright State University in Dayton, OH. She was honored as one of Library Journal’s Movers & Shakers in 2011. Ms. Polanka is a noted authority on developments in the e-book industry and their impact on libraries. She is the moderator for the popular blog, No Shelf Required, about e-books and has edited an ALA published book by the same title.

Dr. David Dockery has been the president of Union University in Jackson, TN since 1995. Under his capable leadership, Union has been listed among the top tier institutions in the South each of the past fifteen years by *U.S. News and World Report*. Dockery is the author or editor of thirty-five books, including the recent *Christian Leadership Essentials* (2011), and is a much sought after speaker on issues of culture and higher education.
Banquet at the Norton and Art after Dark

Conveniently situated as a neighbor to PBA, the internationally known Norton Museum of Art will serve as the host for what promises to be a memorable closing banquet on Thursday evening. The museum’s distinguished permanent collection features American Art, Chinese Art, Contemporary Art, European Art and Photography and is famous for its masterpieces of 19th and 20th century painting and sculpture by European artists, such as Brancusi, Gauguin, Matisse, Miró, Monet, and Picasso.

A delicious banquet meal is being planned in Café 1451, catered by Lyon & Lyon. After the meal and program, the museum’s exhibits will be open for ACL guests for the Art after Dark evening event.
New Conference Initiatives

Haiti Project

An exciting new conference project will offer all ACL members a chance to serve in new ways this year. Literacy rates in Haiti are estimated at 53% and schools are in dire need of books. Knowing the heart of ACL for service, the Haiti Book Project has been designed by CILA and PBA, as conference hosts, to supply much needed materials to selected Haitian Christian elementary schools. PBA stands perfectly poised to reach out to Haiti, with the help of ACL, through many campus contacts. Here’s how you can participate:

- Give at [www.acl.org](http://www.acl.org) so that CILA can purchase specially-published Creole children’s books and Christian materials. Any donation amount is tax-deductible and can be put to use for this project.
- Help us identify eligible Haitian Christian Schools and be our ACL/U.S. contact to assist communication with them, and possibly facilitate delivery of the books. Contact [cheri_dumee@pba.edu](mailto:cheri_dumee@pba.edu) for details.

It is hoped that this may be the first of many CILA/conference host service projects in which all members can participate.

ACL Book Award

Another entirely new feature of the ACL Conference this year will be granting the first ACL Nonfiction Book Award. This year’s inaugural award will be for books published in 2011. The nine member selection committee, under the direction of Greg Martin, has been busy since the end of last summer’s conference reading books that have been nominated by ACL members. The award winning book will embody excellence in writing and research and inspire serious discussion in the Christian community. This new award will be presented during the conference banquet on Thursday evening.

We here at PBA are thrilled to be the hosts for “Oceans of Opportunity.” A warm Florida welcome awaits you. Visit the conference website often at [http://conference.acl.org](http://conference.acl.org) for detailed information and updates. Thank you for the opportunity of serving you. We look forward to seeing you in June.