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ACL's 2010 Conference: "True North: Illumination, Inspiration, Information"

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ACL's 2010 Conference:

"True North: Illumination, Inspiration, Information"

Jane Hopkins
ACL Conference Coordinator

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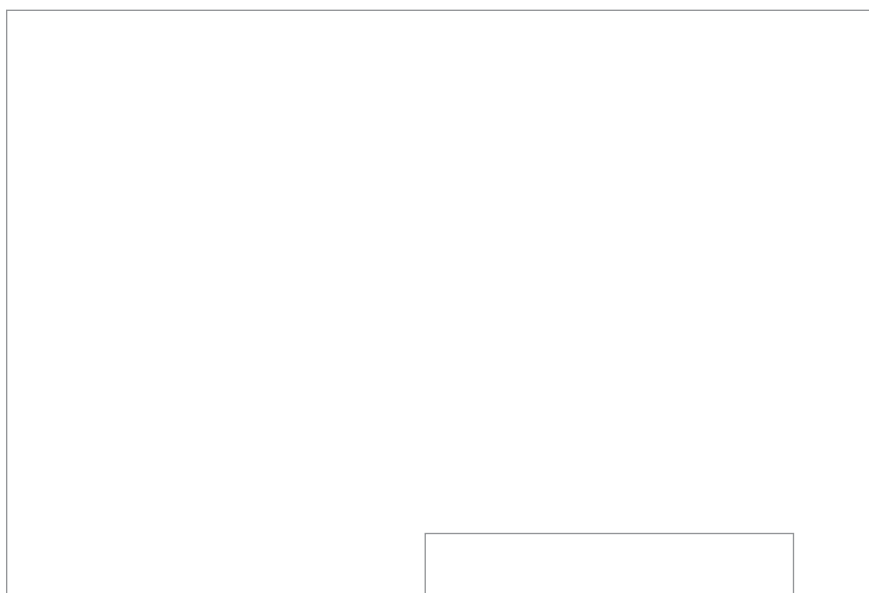
One hundred sixty attendees arrived at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota, for the 54th Annual Conference of the Association of Christian Librarians June 7-11, 2010, with the theme "True North: Illumination, Inspiration, Information." The Berntsen Library staff and other Northwestern staffers extended a warm hospitable welcome, with a refreshing ice cream social and lawn games overlooking Lake Johanna Monday evening after the opening meal.

Conference attendees included 142 ACL members and 18 non-members; twenty-four attendees were first-timers.

The Monday afternoon pre-conference entitled "Teaching Tips, Tricks & Techniques to Engage your Students" was led by Carole Cragg, Associate Director of Bethel University Library, and Jane Ann Nelson, Director of Library Services at Augsburg College. Nineteen registrants participated in exploring their very practical ideas.

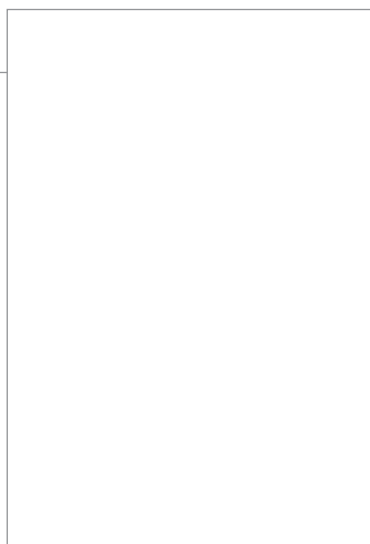
Tuesday morning's keynote speaker, Erin Walsh, whose presentation was entitled "Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the College Student Brain," took us on a quick tour of recent brain science developments and their implications for working with students. Ms. Walsh is a very energetic speaker and former representative of the National Institute for Media and the Family. Before ending its mission at the close of 2009, the Institute served as a prominent research-based organization that studied the effects of media on adolescents and youth. Ms. Walsh and her father, Dr. David Walsh, are continuing their work in examining the media's impact on children and families through a new initiative, Walsh Associates.

Wednesday's general session speaker was Christian novelist Lynn Austin, who shared her impressions of the history of books and the joys of librarianship under the title of "Inspiration for Librarians." Ms. Austin also led a discussion session for people who wanted to discuss her books or writing in general, and graciously autographed some of her books.



Beautiful Nazareth Hall Chapel on the Northwestern College campus

Keynote speaker Erin Walsh



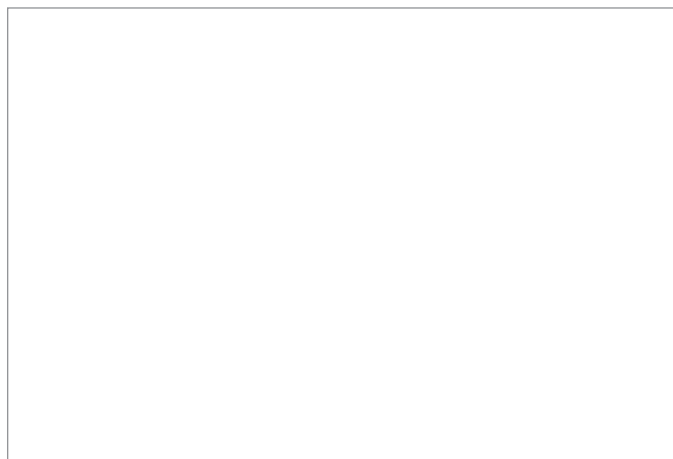
Thirty-six presentations, with seven being repeated later, included workshops, roundtables, and panels covering topics from preparing for accreditation to LibGuides, to gift books and deep web searching, kept attendees busy learning and making notes to take back home to implement in specific library situations.

Other special features included the Bible College Section's discussion of future projects and programs, along with an update from Dr. Randy Bell, Executive Director of the ABHE. The Liberal Arts Section presented a panel discussion "Through a Glass Darkly: Visions of the Future for the Christian Liberal Arts College Library," with panelists Linda Lambert, on the future of "the library as place," Craighton Hippenhammer, on the impact of new technologies, Sue Springer, on changes in library services, and John Jaeger, on the effects of socio-cultural trends. Other attendees gathered in the "Sui Generis" discussion group to meet librarians from various types of libraries, or in the Library School Students discussion group.

The Wed. evening general session led by the Commission on International Library Assistance (CILA) featured short reports from Terry Kennedy of Providence College and Seminary in Manitoba, who spent two weeks teaching English in Cuba in February, and Gail Heideman, who has been serving as librarian at Hinkson Christian Academy,

an MK school in Moscow, and was moving to work at the Russian-American Institute in Moscow, a CCCU-associate school. The CILA main speakers were LeAnne Hardy, librarian and author of children's books set in many countries where she has lived, and her husband, Steve Hardy, Director of Langham Partnership International, who spoke about leadership training issues in seminaries around the world, and the need for appropriate library holdings in those institutions.

The official Business meetings of ACL also occurred during the Conference, with presentations from various members of the Board concerning finances, elections, the rollout of the new website, and other announcements, as well as a time for members to make suggestions about future association endeavors.



The conference experience includes many shared meals with interesting colleagues

The speakers at the morning devotional series included Dr. W. Edward Glenny, Professor of New Testament Studies and Greek at Northwestern College, Professor Sue Payne, of Northwestern's Department of Christian Ministries, and Dr. Peter Dybvad, pastor and former professor at Northwestern. They all used the lovely stained glass windows depicting scenes from the Old Testament and the life of Christ in the Nazareth Chapel of Northwestern as inspiration for their morning messages.

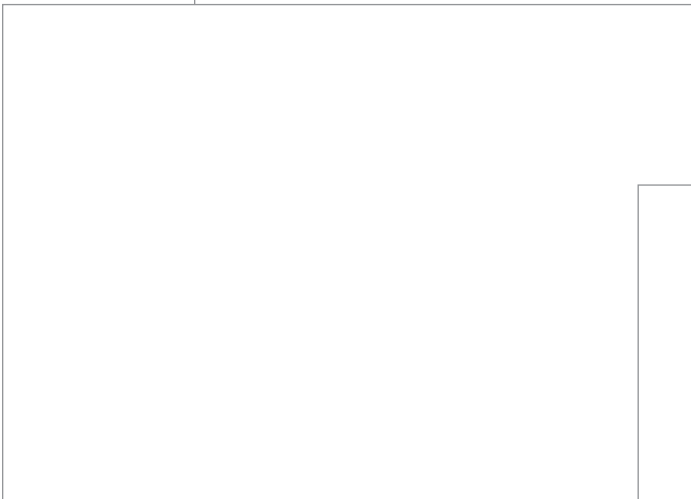
Host team member Nate Farley



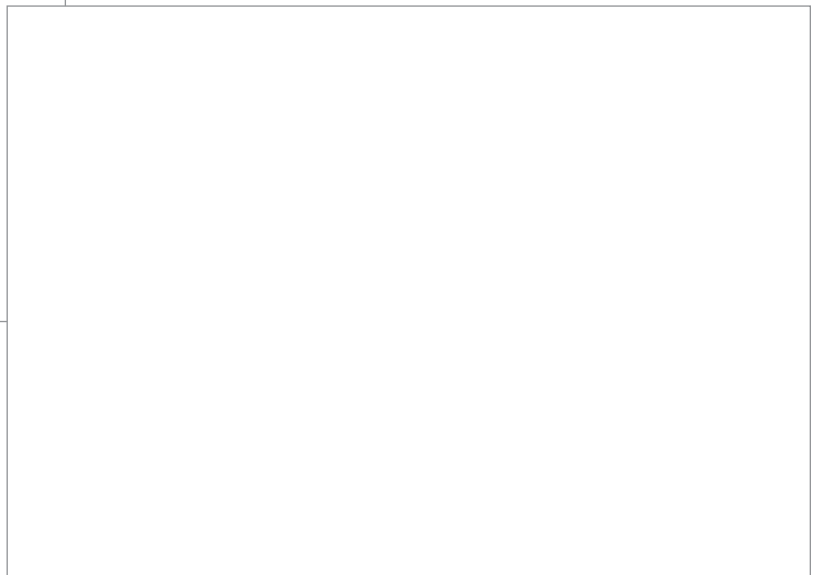
The meeting of the Christian Library Consortium, ACL's subgroup for institutional memberships which organizes vendor discounts and consortial projects, included announcements of the new discounts for TREN (Theological Research Exchange Network) resources and a new consortial netLibrary offering of religion e-books.

Wednesday included the Vendor Exhibits, which welcomed 20 vendors from publishers, booksellers, and library services and supply companies. Poster Sessions were held at the same time, featuring six poster presentations from attending librarians around the country.

The Thursday night program following the President's Banquet featured "Theater for the Thirsty," a two-person drama team from Minneapolis/St. Paul, performing their musical drama "The Psalm King." This husband and wife team, Jeremiah and Vanessa Gamble, brought a penetrating and often humorous overview of the life of David as he developed from shepherd boy to King, using many of David's Psalms to illuminate each phase of his life.



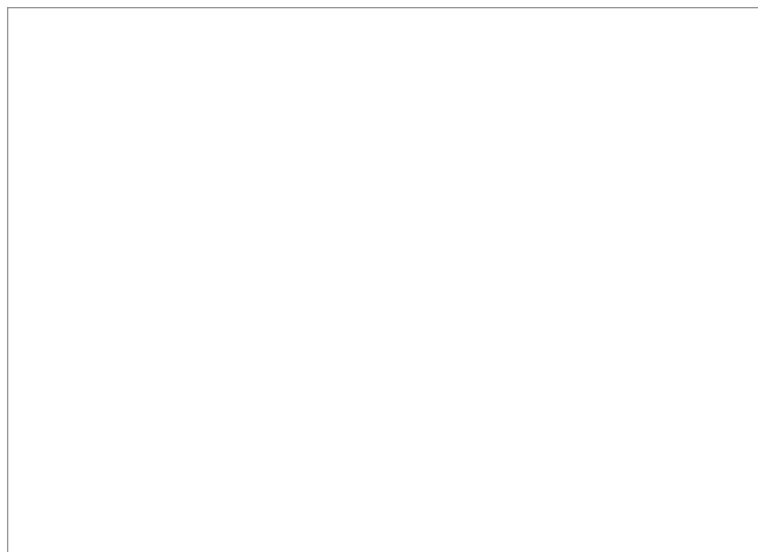
Phyllis Fox and Beryl Pagan enjoy a game of Polish Horseshoes



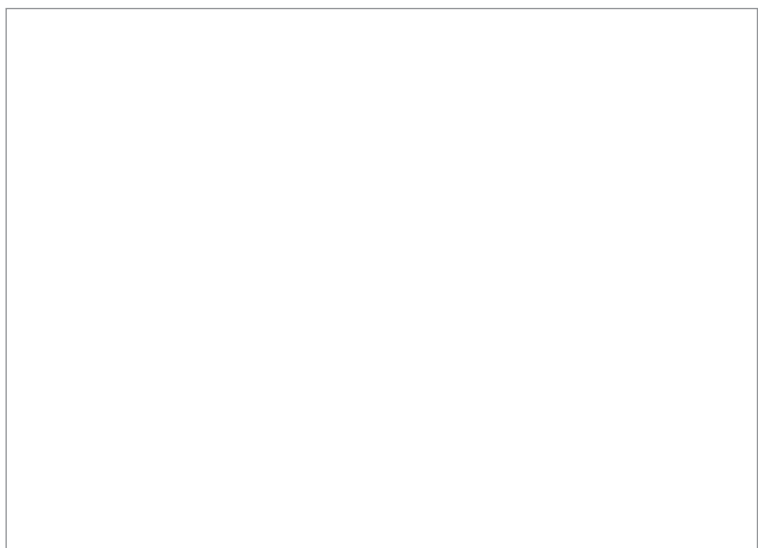
Cheree DuMee, Shelia Gaines, and Deb Quast prepare a treat

Evening recreational times included game night on Tuesday and Trivia Night on Wednesday led by Brent Etzel, including specialized questions on “North or West,” Mississippi River, and 1997 (the last time ACL had met at NWC). Thursday evening’s late night fun included a group of attendees making their way to downtown St. Paul for ice cream and views of city lights.

The 2010 Conference Planning Team included Brent Etzel, Conference Program Team Coordinator, Host Librarian Ruth McGuire, Sheryl Taylor, Poster Session Coordinator, Alison Jones, Presentations Coordinator, Lowell Walters, Asst. Presentations Coordinator, Terry Kennedy, Lois Oetken, Jaime Painter, Jane Hopkins, Conference Coordinator, and Susan Watkins, Assistant Conference Coordinator. Additional conference organizers included Rodney Birch, Vendor Coordinator, Carrie Beth Lowe & Carol Reid, Devotions Coordinators, April VanPutten, Conference Registrar, Janelle Mazelin, ACL Executive Director, the ACL Home Office Staff, and the entire Northwestern College Library Staff. †



Two Dales in deep discussion



Closing banquet entertainment