

For the Annual Midwest Regional SBL Conference, all abstracts should be sent directly to Section Leaders by **December 1, 2011**. Graduate students must submit a full manuscript, as well as an abstract. Submissions by senior scholars are especially welcome. If your proposal does not fit one of the sections below, please send it to P. Richard Choi ([choir@andrews.edu](mailto:choir@andrews.edu))

**1. Apocalyptic Literature:** This section involves presentations on Jewish and Christian apocalypses and related literature from the “dawn of apocalyptic” through the early Christian church. We also invite papers that deal with later appropriations of ancient texts. Since the theme for the 2012 meeting is "Illness and Healing in the Ancient World," proposals that engage those ideas in apocalyptic literature will receive special consideration.

Please contact Mark Whitters ([mwhitters@emich.edu](mailto:mwhitters@emich.edu)) for further information or to propose a paper.

**2. Apocrypha and Cognate Literature:** Participants are invited to present papers concerning the interpretation of apocrypha and cognate literature (Qumran, Hellenistic Judaism, Greco-Roman philosophy and religion, e.g.) and/or the use of these writings in the interpretation of canonical literature.

Please contact Russell Sisson ([rsisson@unionky.edu](mailto:rsisson@unionky.edu)) for more information.

**3. Bible Meaning through Time and Tradition: Nebuchadnezzar:** This section seeks papers that present interpretations of King Nebuchadnezzar as presented in any text, literature, art, or commentary of a post-biblical period. Should you be interested in presenting a paper related to the general theme of the year’s conference, do take thought of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 [attempts to deal with this story as a physical ailment have been legion], but any Nebuchadnezzar treatments are welcome. If you have presented papers before, we need only a title and abstract; if you are submitting for the first time we can preliminarily approve a paper with a title and abstract, but will need a paper (at least in rough draft) by December. This section is open to Bible scholars, graduate students, and interested lay people, but the papers must be of academic conference quality. FINALLY: Anyone, presenter or not, who is aware of any books, films, art, dramas, or any other items of interest to scholars of the history of Nebuchadnezzar interpretation are warmly invited to send that information to Lowell Handy who will provide handouts of such information at the section.

Please submit proposals to either Lowell Handy [lhandy@atla.com](mailto:lhandy@atla.com) or Esther Menn [emenn@lstc.edu](mailto:emenn@lstc.edu)

**4. Early Christianity/ Patristics:** The Early Christianity/ Patristics section provides a forum for papers/presentations dealing with any aspect of the early Church in its extra-canonical and patristic manifestations up to and including the sixth century CE. Papers reflecting the theme of the 2012 meeting, "Illness and Healing in the Ancient World,"

will be given special consideration, but all proposals are certainly welcome. A special session in conjunction with the Hebrews and Catholic Epistles group will also be held on the topic of the Canon of Scripture—for details see the special announcement below.

Please direct proposals or questions to Nancy Pardee at [pardee@sxu.edu](mailto:pardee@sxu.edu) or Larry Lahey at [lahey33@gmail.com](mailto:lahey33@gmail.com).

**5. Gender Studies of the Bible:** This section welcomes papers which engage in critical discussions of gender, sexuality, hermeneutics, critical theory and the Bible. These discussions may encompass such themes as gender identity, gender/sexuality and the social sciences, gender/sexuality and cultural studies, feminist/womanist/mujerista perspectives, and queer theory. Papers which explore using creative, interdisciplinary methodologies are especially welcome.

Contact Ann Fritschel ([afritschel@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:afritschel@wartburgseminary.edu)) or Elizabeth McCabe, ([b\\_a\\_mccabe@yahoo.com](mailto:b_a_mccabe@yahoo.com)) for further information or to propose a paper.

**6. Gospels:** The aim of this section is: (1) to encourage scholarly investigation of the NT and extra-canonical gospels in the Midwest region; (2) to support scholars of the Midwest region by providing an annual forum for critical discussion of their work; and, (3) to promote discussion on a wide range of topics on the Gospels for the benefit of all present. In 2012, this section is open, that is, dedicated to any new work scholars in the region wish to bring forward. Essays on the theme of illness, disability, and healing in the ancient world are especially encouraged.

Please submit application with abstract to session chair: Clare K. Rothschild, Lewis University ([ckrothschild@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ckrothschild@sbcglobal.net)).

**7. Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Early Interpretive Literature:** This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and early Post-Biblical interpretive literature. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year's theme, "Illness and Healing in the Ancient World," but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered. Session groupings will be determined later.

Please submit proposals to George C. Heider at [george.heiderr@valpo.edu](mailto:george.heiderr@valpo.edu).

**8. Paul:** This section invites paper proposals on any topic dealing with Paul. Papers addressing the theme of the 2012 meeting "Illness and Healing in the Ancient World" will be given special consideration. This theme, however, may be broadly engaged.

Please contact P. Richard Choi ([choir@andrews.edu](mailto:choir@andrews.edu)) to submit proposals and for further information.

**9. Teaching the Bible:** This year the theme is “Turning Research into Teaching.” Often, faculty feel that their primary areas of research are far removed from what they can bring into the classroom. We invite short presentations (15 minutes) in which you describe ways in which your research has informed your teaching. Presentations might involve a description of how your research has informed your teaching in terms of content. They could engage those present in an activity in which you demonstrate how you are using your research in teaching. Or they might discuss how your research has informed your thinking about the teaching task. We ask presenters to submit a title and a brief description. The presentations will be followed by group discussion and further informal sharing of ideas and experiences.

Inquiries should be submitted to: [hhearon@cts.edu](mailto:hhearon@cts.edu)

**10. Hebrews and Catholic Epistles:** This section welcomes proposals on any topic addressing Hebrews or any of the Catholic Epistles for an open session. A joint session with the Early Christianity/ Patristics group will also be held on the topic of the Canon of Scripture—for details see the special announcement below.

Please contact Eric F. Mason (Judson University) at [HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com](mailto:HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com) to submit proposals or to request additional information.

**11. Joint Session on the Canon of Scripture:** The 2012 program will feature a joint session of the **Hebrews and Catholic Epistles** section and the **Early Christianity/ Patristics** section on the topic of the Canon of Scripture. Papers may address any facet of canon as it pertains to the book of Hebrews, to the Catholic Epistles, and/or to extra-canonical Christian and even Jewish literature up to and including the sixth century CE. What constituted the set of authoritative texts for the various authors and communities of the early Church or their Jewish counterparts? What were the distinguishing features of these texts? How did the development of this collection reflect the delimitation of the Hebrew canon and the gradual acceptance of certain Christian texts? In what ways did authoritative texts differ from others cited by Christian and Jewish authors but not afforded the same level of importance? Why did Hebrews and many of the Catholic Epistles have a special set of difficulties in being accepted into the New Testament?

For information contact Eric F. Mason (Judson University) at [HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com](mailto:HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com), Larry Lahey at [lahey33@gmail.com](mailto:lahey33@gmail.com), or Nancy Pardee at [pardee@sxu.edu](mailto:pardee@sxu.edu).

**12. Student Member Professional Development Luncheon:** All graduate students are invited to lunch courtesy of the Midwest Region. We will use the time as an opportunity to network with other graduate student colleagues from regional institutions and to receive advice from established professors and researchers in the region on surviving and thriving in the academy. This year’s topic will be using technology in the classroom to enhance communication and learning. We will discuss the most effective ways to use technology, especially how much and which type of technology is most effective in different learning environments. Topics may include: blogs, electronic discussion

boards, the virtual/online classroom, use of web-based instructional materials, social networking technologies, as well as feedback and evaluation tools.

Please contact Teresa Calpino ([tcalpin@luc.edu](mailto:tcalpin@luc.edu)) with any questions.

**13. Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC):** SRSC debuted in 2007 as an initiative of the Midwest Region of SBL to encourage development of the next generation of biblical scholars. The conference provides an opportunity for students of various levels—undergraduate, seminary/divinity school, and graduate (pre-dissertation stage)—to participate actively in a regional conference in the supportive context of their peers and academic mentors. Students may present papers in various fields related to biblical and theological studies, including Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, New Testament, Second Temple or rabbinic Judaism, patristics and early Christianity, theology, historical studies, and comparative religions.

Please find the SRSC proposal/registration form on the MWSBL website. For additional information, please contact Eric F. Mason (Judson University) at [Midwest.SBL.SRSC@gmail.com](mailto:Midwest.SBL.SRSC@gmail.com).