

For the Midwest regional meeting, all SBL abstracts should be sent directly to Section Leaders by **January 8, 2011**. The paper presented at an SBL, regional or national, meeting must represent fresh research that has not been presented or published before. Graduate students should submit a full manuscript, as well as an abstract. If your proposal does not fit one of the sections below, please send it to P. Richard Choi (choir@andrews.edu)

1. Apocalyptic Literature: In accord with this year's theme of *Chaoskampf*, the sections on Apocalyptic Literature and Early Christianity/Patristics will join forces to explore all aspects of the events and outcomes of the eschaton. Because of this joint venture, time frames and topics are wide ranging. The Christian Era from the New Testament up through the early Middle Ages is included, as are the Jewish inter-testamental and early rabbinic periods. Possible general topic areas might include the anti-Christ, the Beast, the Dragon, Leviathan, Chaos personified, war/struggle in the heavens, the operation of the heavenly realms/spheres/bodies, how different groups interpreted some of the *Chaoskampf* imagery (i.e., orthodox and gnostic), apocalyptic contexts/writings and non-apocalyptic treatments (perhaps in commentaries or sermons) for *Chaoskampf* material.

Contact Mark Whitters (mwhitters@emich.edu) or Nancy Pardee (pardee@sxu.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) for more information.

3. Bible Meaning through Time and Tradition: Ruth: The section chairs will happily accept paper proposals for any character in the book of Ruth as presented in any text, literature, art, or commentary of a post-biblical text. 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.

Please send proposals to either Lowell K. Handy (lhandy@atla.com) or Esther Menn (emenn@lstc.edu).

4. Early Christianity/Patristics: In accord with this year's theme of *Chaoskampf*, the sections on Apocalyptic Literature and Early Christianity/Patristics will join forces to explore all aspects of the events and outcomes of the eschaton. Because of this joint venture, time frames and topics are wide ranging. The Christian Era from the New Testament up through the early Middle Ages is included, as are the Jewish inter-testamental and early rabbinic periods. Possible general topic areas might include the anti-Christ, the Beast, the Dragon, Leviathan, Chaos personified, war/struggle in the

heavens, the operation of the heavenly realms/spheres/bodies, how different groups interpreted some of the Chaokampf imagery (i.e., orthodox and gnostic), apocalyptic contexts/writings and non-apocalyptic treatments (perhaps in commentaries or sermons) for Chaokampf material.

Please email questions and proposals to Nancy Pardee, pardee@sxu.edu or Mark Whitters (mwhitters@emich.edu).

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) or Elizabeth McCabe, (b_a_mccabe@yahoo.com) for further information or to propose a paper.

6. The 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 for the benefit of all present. In 2011, this section is open, that is, dedicated to any new work scholars in the region wish to bring forward. Essays on the themes of “chaos” or “Kampf” are encouraged.

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

7. Hebrew Bible 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, *Chaokampf*, 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.heidder@valpo.edu.

8. Paul: This section invites paper proposals on any topic dealing with Paul. Papers addressing the theme of the 2011 meeting *Chaokampf* are especially welcome. This theme, however, may be broadly engaged.

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

9. Teaching the Bible: The focus of this section will be assessment and evaluation. This will be a round table conversation. Participants are asked to bring a hand-out describing one or more evaluative tools or strategies that they have employed to share with the

group. Questions to be explored include: what kinds of evaluative tools have you found most helpful in teaching? What different kinds of tools work best for different kinds of assessment (e.g. knowledge vs. analysis)? How do you correlate course objectives with evaluative tools? How do classroom evaluative tools work in relation to institutional assessment processes? The goal of this session is 'side-by-side' with emphasis on learning from each other.

Inquiries should be submitted to: 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. Another session (with speakers already scheduled) will feature papers specifically addressing the theme of faith and faithfulness (and unfaithfulness) in each of these texts.

Please contact Eric F. Mason (Judson University) at HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com to submit proposals for the open session or to request additional information.

11. 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 finding a position in the current job market. This will include tips on what hiring managers are seeking, how to avoid some of the common pitfalls of the job search, and how to stand out from the pack. The program will also focus on alternative careers outside of academia. Not everyone with an advanced degree is interested in a career within academia. The panel will discuss career options in the nonprofit sector and how your advanced degree can be directed to this field.

Please contact Teresa Calpino (tcaplin@luc.edu) if you have any questions.

12. Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC): SRSC debuted in 2007 as an initiative of the Midwest Region 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.

For additional information, please contact Eric F. Mason (Judson University) at Midwest.SBL.SRSC@gmail.com.