Greetings Colleagues and Friends,

We are pleased to announce RCA’s 2013 Scholar of the Year. Robert H. Woods, Jr. of Spring Arbor University has been one of the most prolific and consistent scholars in the field of Religious Communication, with many articles and books over the years featuring his long-standing work in media ethics and criticism. Last year’s three-volume edited work, Evangelical Christians and Popular Culture: Pop Goes the Gospel, represents an unprecedented cross-section of religious communication scholars, many of whom are long-time RCA members themselves. The 57 authors across 54 chapters represent nearly 50 institutions of higher learning, both public and private. Editing a corpus of this magnitude had to be a Herculean task. We’re justifiably proud of Dr. Woods and hope to hear more from him at this year’s preconference and banquet.

Also, I wanted to remind everyone of our banquet keynote speaker, Father Thomas Reese, Jr, who will be sharing his expertise with us regarding the recent changes at the Vatican. Please register as soon as possible for preconference at the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center on November 20th. We’ll have some information for you on how to get there. There’s also a handy registration form in this newsletter, as well as instructions on how to register for the preconference and awards banquet online through PayPal.

I hope you will also join me in thanks the many hands who made this conference possible. The work behind the scenes is always exciting, and this year has been no different. I am personally deeply grateful for the labors of our Executive Council, and I look forward to seeing them—and you—at this year’s events.

All the best,

J. Matthew Melton, Ph.D.
RCA President
Lee University

Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center

This year’s preconference will be held on Wednesday, November 20th from 10:30am until 9:30pm at the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC, 20004. Preconference registration fees range from $50 to $75 based on membership and includes lunch and light refreshments throughout the day and at the reception. We have a stellar line-up of presentations and discussion panels arranged, including a spotlight panel on this years award winners for RCA (see box to the right for the list of winners). Please join us for engaging conversation in the nation’s capital!
Thank you for considering my nomination.

Marissa Lowe
University of Illinois
Candidate for Councilor

I am grateful for the nomination and would be honored to serve as First-Year Councilor to RCA among my colleagues.

As a long-time member of both RCA and NCA, I would bring a variety of experiences to this position. I have served RCA in the roles of Councilor and Media Unit Chair, and have participated in the review process for the conferences and the annual awards. I have also held all leadership positions in the Public Relations Division of NCA.

I am a published religious communication scholar, including book chapters in The Oxford Handbook of Religion and the News, and Evangelicals and Popular Culture. My academic institution has a strong Christian mission that will support my service to RCA.

If elected, my vision would be to continue to build on the foundation of RCA’s strong leadership and advancement over the past several years; to continue advancing the quality, reach, and reputation of the Journal of Communication and Religion; and to promote RCA widely to extend our membership.

(Continued on page 4)
2013 Preconference & Banquet Registration Form

RCA Preconference
Date and Time: **Wednesday November 20th, 10:30am until 9:30pm**
Registration: Begins at 9:00am
Location: The Ronald Regan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., 20004
Included: Lunch and light refreshments throughout the day and at the reception

NCA/RCA Awards Banquet and Keynote Address by Fr. Thomas Reese, S.J.
Date and Time: **Friday November 22, 6:30 until 9:30pm**
Location: Congressional A, Omni Shoreham
Dinner Choices (CIRCLE ONE): Rosemary & Thyme Crusted Chicken Medallions OR Grilled New York Strip OR Vegan Lentil Stew, Sautéed Spinach and Basmati Rice

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Name as you would like it to appear on your badge: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Institutional Affiliation: ________________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail: ___________________________________________ Phone: ______________________________

INDICATE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _______________________________________________________

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**TOTAL DUE**

Make checks payable to RCA.
Print out and mail or email to:
Kristen Lynn Majocha  klynn@pitt.edu
Communication Department
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
450 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15904

Pay by PayPal:
• Enter your Total Due on PayPal
• Note in the “Special Remarks/Note to Seller” or send an email to Janie Harden Fritz (harden@duq.edu) regarding what you’re paying for (preconference, banquet,
I believe that I could furnish a fresh perspective to a distinguished group of scholars and teachers. I have been an active participant in discussions and activities circumscribing issues of diversity and interfaith dialogue on my institution’s campus, highlighted with participation in diversity seminars and chapel services, along with convocations in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. As a non-Christian faculty member who has had significant teaching experience at church-affiliated institutions, the work that my colleagues, students and I have done to generate “common ground” while maintaining a reciprocal respect for each others’ faiths and cultural traditions is no small achievement. The study of faith and culture is more compelling now than ever, given their important and influence within the geopolitical sphere. As we are all too aware, it is so easy for recognition of difference to devolve and deteriorate in the most divisive and destructive of ways, and as campuses are fortunately more diverse and inclusive, promoting healthy dialogue can be even more challenging. I have never eschewed these challenges and the results have been quite positive, and oftentimes far surpassing expectations. I would like to bring some of my insights and ideas to RCA’s Executive Council, so that—with that unity of mind and spirit, we can all achieve tikun olam—repairing of the world—so very needed in our fractured world. RCA is the place where I would embrace the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded colleagues on the Executive Council and continue the work which you have begun.