The Religious Communication Association is an academic society founded in 1973 by people interested in the study of all aspects of public religious communication. As an interfaith scholarly and professional organization, RCA seeks to promote honest, respectful and profound dialogue which reflects the diversity of religious beliefs, subject matter concerns, methodologies, and professions of its members.

Call for 2011 Book, Article & Dissertation Awards

(Continued from Page 1)

RCA encourages self-nominations for each category of awards. RCA recognizes the award recipients at the RCA Pre-Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2011, from 10:30am—9:30pm. We will meet at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA. An article about Dr. Harris will appear in the summer RCA newsletter and Dr. Harris will be recognized at the upcoming convention.

What a gift it is that we are growing in both numbers and quality. Please invite friends and colleagues to join RCA and bring those friends and colleagues along to the RCA events at the conference. I look forward to seeing you in exciting New Orleans!

Rodney A. Reynolds, President
Religious Communication Association

Nominations for honors open until June 1

The Religious Communication Association (RCA) is accepting nominations for its annual awards during the period from May 1, 2009 to May 1, 2011. Nominators should send a copy of the article as a PDF file along with a 1-2 page letter of nomination (scanned document fine) outlining the significance of the article.

RCA Scholar of the Year and other awardees as well. Save these dates.

The summer newsletter will include details about registering for the RCA pre-conference and the Awards Dinner and will contain more information about the exceptional slate of programs for the convention that Vice President Kathleen Edelmayer is organizing. Make sure to register for all RCA events early as last year we were at capacity for each function.

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J. Matthew Melton, 2nd Vice President
Lee University

The Royal Sonesta is located in the French Quarter near antique stores and restaurants and far enough away from the “other” part of Bourbon Street that some of our members may not appreciate. The RCA Awards Dinner is scheduled for Friday, November 18 at 6:30pm. We will be honoring the RCA Scholar of the Year and other award winners as well. See these dates.

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Religious Communication Association
The Journal of Communication and Religion (JCR)

The Religious Communication Association publishes The Journal of Communication and Religion (JCR). JCR is a journal addressed to the concerns of the religious communicator and the communication scholar and includes reviews of current publications in the field of religious communication. JCR publishes a variety of research and scholarship on communication and religion. Calvin Troup, Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University, is the journal’s editor. The journal’s editorial board is comprised of scholars in the fields of rhetoric, media, journalism, and communication studies. The journal is published twice a year and sent in hard copy to all members of the Religious Communication Association. Along with the National Communication Association journals, and many others, JCR is searchable through full-text publication by EBSCO. All scholars of communication and religion, new and established, are encouraged to submit articles to The Journal of Communication and Religion.

Pre-Conference | November 16, 2011 | New Orleans

Join RCA at the Royal Sonesta Hotel located in the French Quarter!

RCA will convene its annual pre-conference on Wednesday, November 16 from 10:30am—9:30pm. RCA’s annual meeting is scheduled concurrently with the National Communication Association (NCA). The RCA/NCA conference runs from Thursday, November 17 to Sunday, November 20.

This year, the conference will be held in New Orleans. This year’s pre-conference will meet at the Royal Sonesta Hotel located at 300 Bourbon Street. The hotel is one to two blocks away from the RCA/NCA convention locations in the French Quarter, yet far enough away from typical Bourbon Street nightlife.

All submissions to RCA/NCA are peer reviewed. The submissions that receive recommendations for conference presentation are placed first at RCA/NCA and then at the pre-conference.

More details about the pre-conference will be distributed via the RCA listserve and will be in the next newsletter.
RCA Awards Banquet 2010

Fun and fellowship was had by all! The event sold out so be sure to register early this year. And make sure to bring colleagues and friends!

A new feature: Religious Communication on the Campus

Members of the Religious Communication Association study religious messages: communication sent and received. On many campuses, religious messages are conveyed visually in the form of public art. Each spring issue of the RCA Newsletter will feature a work of art—a painting, a sculpture, stained glass, or architecture—with a distinctively religious message.

This issue’s feature is the stone sculpture on the campus of Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. Long-time RCA member Paul Lakey, PhD, Professor of Communication at Abilene, knows the artist who designed the sculpture.

Lakey says, “'Jacob’s Dream' is the dream production by my friend Jack Maxwell. I never tire of visiting the site as I always discover a new perspective. It inspires me to continue climbing toward the lofty goals of my Savior.” The 34-foot high statue includes bronze angels, water, rocks, and plants. "'Jacob’s Dream' catches my eye but the viewer is reminded by the negative space view of the cross of what is truly important in life," Lakey says. "I have been blessed to teach class at the site—amazed and humbled by God and His gifts to us." The stones are engraved with scriptures from Genesis 28 where Jacob lay his head on a pillow of stone, dreamed of angels, and received a blessing from God.

If your campus, or one with which you are familiar, has a piece of public art that you would like to see featured in the Newsletter, contact Editor Kristen L. Majocha at klynn@pitt.edu.

Has Your RCA Membership Expired? Check it out

Janie Harden Fritz, Executive Secretary
Duquesne University

Be sure to renew your membership. For your convenience, the fee structure is explained at our website http://americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcamembershipinfo.html.

If you are in doubt about your membership’s expiration date, send an email to harden@duq.edu.

Current Membership Fee Structure

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Mail to: Janie Harden Fritz, RCA Executive Secretary
600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15282