

Executive Council of the Religious Communication Association

<p>President: Robert H. Woods, Jr. Department of Communication and Media Spring Arbor University 106 E. Main Street Spring Arbor, MI 49283 517-750-6490 rwoods@arbor.edu</p>	<p>2nd Vice President: Kathleen M. Edelmayer Department of Communication and Writing Madonna University 36600 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 734-432-5560 kedelmayer@madonna.edu</p>	<p>Mark Williams (Term expires '11) Department of Communication Studies California State University Sacramento 6000 J. Street Sacramento, CA 95819-6070 916-278-5941 MWilliams@csus.edu</p>	<p>Coordinator of Electronic Communication: Michael E. Eidenmuller Department of Communication The University of Texas at Tyler Tyler, TX 75799 903-566-7093 eiden@uttyler.edu</p>
<p>Immediate Past President: Janie Harden Fritz Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies 600 Forbes Avenue Duquesne University Pittsburgh, PA 15282 harden@duq.edu</p>	<p>Executive Secretary: Ken Danielson 11 Dandelion Drive Boiling Spring, PA 17007 610-683-4889 danielso@kutztown.edu</p>	<p>Kristen Lynn Majocha (Term expires '10) Communication Department University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown 450 Schoolhouse Road Johnstown, PA 15904 814-525-8693 klynn@pitt.edu</p>	<p>Journal Editor: Journal of Communication and Religion Calvin Troup Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies 600 Forbes Avenue Duquesne University Pittsburgh, PA 15282 troup@duq.edu</p>
<p>1st Vice President: Rodney A. Reynolds Department of Communication Studies Azusa Pacific University PO Box 7000 Azusa, CA 91702 626-815-6000 ext. 5288 rareynolds@apu.edu</p>	<p>Councilors: Mark Allan Steiner (Term expires '12) Department of Communication Studies Christopher Newport University 1 University Place Newport News, VA 23606 757-594-8406 mark.steiner@cnu.edu</p>	<p>Newsletter Editor: Daniel S. Brown, Jr. Department of Communication Studies Grove City College 100 Campus Avenue Grove City, PA 16127 724-458-3793 dsbrown@gcc.edu</p>	

Brown's Statement

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and Indiana Wesleyan University prior to my 2001 move to Pennsylvania's Grove City College. I was educated at Bob Jones, Miami and Edinboro Universities before earning my PhD from Louisiana State University. I took post-doctoral work

at The Ohio State University and was a Fellow at Northwestern University's Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization.

I was the founding chair of Bryan's communication program, founding director of the institution's honors program, and chair of the division of humanities. At IWU, I directed a two-

year commuter campus for traditional students in Indianapolis. With two years of full-time pastoral experience, I continue to be active in lay ministry.

My research has appeared in the *JCR*, the *Review of Communication*, and *Communication Teacher*. Additional essays have been printed in *Communication Education* and *Christian Library Journal*. I am general editor of

the book project *Interfaith Dialogue in Practice: Living Between the Abrahamic Traditions* planned for release in 2012.

With my wife Susan K. Brown, an RCA member and an elementary education faculty member at Slippery Rock University, I reside in Grove City, Pennsylvania.

Melton's Statement

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taking part in panels over the years, aiding in planning, reviewing proposals and serving on the awards committees for articles, books and dissertations. A very few of you may recognize me as the winner of the first dissertation award many years ago. I have found that I enjoy the work. While these efforts are

essentially anonymous, I derive pleasure and profit from engaging my peers and colleagues on this level.

I bring this otherwise unwarranted attention to my role only to answer the basic question of motive for office. In short, I'm willing to do more to serve the organization and aid in its success. While I'm seriously happy to continue doing what I've been

doing for years, this particular step requires a broader vote of confidence.

My 20-year academic career began with the MA and PhD from Regent University, continued with a brief sojourn at George Fox and moved on to Lee University in southeast Tennessee in 1995.

During that time I have served in more administrative and leadership

roles than not, as editor, producer, director of forensics, director of student publications, director of honors programs, department chair, faculty council chair and finally college dean. I believe objectives are achieved through collegial collaboration rather than through directive, and I prize partnering with others to build better things.

Thanks again for this singular opportunity.

Ferguson's Statement

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(per the mission statement) to broad audiences nationally and abroad, engaging in issues related to religion (construed broadly and diversely) and its relevance and impact to society and world events.

Also, based on my experience on NCA's Legislative Assembly as Chair of the Public Relations Division, NCA seems to be grappling with the issue of its identity, i.e., whether it is appropriate to take positions on social and legislative issues, and if so, which issues and

positions. As this has direct relevance to RCA and its members, I would like to engage these types of discussions and how our mission informs them.

I would be pleased to employ my experience in all offices of an NCA division and with broader NCA

processes, my previous experience in RCA on last year's book award committee and previous conference presentations, and my ongoing faith-related research and involvement in broad religious works (book chapters in the *Oxford Handbook and Evangelicals and Popular Culture*) in support of RCA's mission as a counselor.

THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
THE R C A NEWS
AN INTERFAITH SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Welcome to San Francisco, NCA 2010

Robert H. Woods, Jr.
President
Spring Arbor University



Welcome to NCA 2010! By the time most of you read this, the pre-conference will be under way. We have an excellent line-up of papers and panel discussions at this year's event.

ready for submission.

Also, note that RCA's business meeting takes place on Monday, Nov. 15, 12:30-1:45 p.m. in the Parc 55 Hotel, Divisadero room.

Finally, plan to join us later that evening for the RCA Awards Banquet, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Hotel Nikko San Francisco.

At the banquet, we will celebrate our 2010 scholarship award winners and our scholar-of-the-year, Dr. Richard Mouw, President, Fuller Theological Seminary.

Our slate of RCA panels at the main convention (beginning Sunday, Nov. 14) includes 18 panels of top-flight scholarship. Special thanks to our program planners and reviewers who helped get this year's program

Statement from the Executive Secretary-Designate

Note: As directed by Article VI of RCA's Constitution, one candidate for Executive Secretary is submitted to the Membership at the annual (business) meeting for a vote of approval or disapproval. The candidate is selected by the Nominating Committee and is determined to be qualified with the necessary skills and institutional support required for the office of Executive Secretary.

I would be honored to serve as Executive Secretary of the Religious Communication Association and am grateful to the Nominating Committee and the Executive Council for bringing my name forward.



Janie M. Harden Fritz
Immediate Past President
Duquesne University

Ken Danielson, who has served this organization faithfully and with outstanding success over the last five years, has pledged his support to assist in the transition.

If I can do a tenth of the job he's done, RCA will be fortunate. With the help of many, then, I will serve RCA to the best of my ability as Executive Secretary.

With best regards,
Janie M. Harden Fritz
Immediate Past President, RCA

—NCA 97th Annual Convention— —2011 Call for Participation—

“Voice” New Orleans, Louisiana November 17-20, 2011



Among all the places in the United States, New Orleans is the one location that is etched in the minds and hearts of people around the globe.

Although most of us are familiar with the city's cuisine, jazz, writers, and Super Bowl champions, sadly, we also cannot shed the vivid images of the two major catastrophes that struck the city over the past 5 years: Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill. Both tragedies, especially Katrina, have wreaked unimaginable havoc on the city and yet its citizens have persevered and their steadfastness remains exemplary.

Much work remains in order to assist the many vulnerable people who still reside in many of the affected neighborhoods. And, since we are communication

experts, we have a unique opportunity to add our voice while we honor the various voices both in and out of our field of study. As an academic association dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of communication, now is the time—and New Orleans is the place—for our organization to show how we're making a difference.

In 2011, we will create a community of engagement—all in a city that is a model of resiliency. While we celebrate NCA's 97th Annual Convention, we not only will showcase our scholarship, teaching, and creative achievements, we will also partner with various organizations and with citizens who have demonstrated unimaginable tenacity, courage, and strength.

We cannot and should not lose sight of the fact that as

NCA members, a key part of our mission is to “improve the quality of human life and relationships” and to use knowledge about communication “to solve human problems.”

New Orleans is our opportunity to honor our words with actions. Please join us for this very special convention experience. Details on the NCA 97th Annual Convention will be posted soon to the NCA Convention Website (www.natcom.org/convention) and communicated in upcoming issues of the Convention Newsletter.

Richard J. West
Primary Program Planner
Richard West,
NCA First Vice President
Emerson College

“The human voice can never reach the distance that is still small voice of conscience”
--Mohandas Gandhi

RCA 2010 Pre-conference and Awards Banquet Registration

I. Pre-conference & Welcome Reception: Saturday, November 13, 2010 10:30 a.m.—9:30 p.m.

- On-site Registration in the Third Floor Lobby Area from 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and throughout the day.
- LOCATION: **hotel nikko san francisco**, 222 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94102, phone: 415-394-1111.
- Afternoon refreshments are included in registration fees.
- A box lunch and the evening reception are included in registration fees.

II. Awards Banquet and Keynote Address: Monday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m. during the NCA conference.

We'll be honoring RCA scholarship awardees, including our Scholar of the Year and recipients of the RCA Book Award, RCA Article Award, RCA Dissertation Award, and the RCA Student Paper Award.

- The banquet will take place at **hotel nikko san francisco** at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the banquet is \$25.00 for members (and student members) and \$45.00 for guests (nonmembers).

	Pre-conference	Awards Banquet	Total
RCA Member	\$35.00	\$25.00	
STUDENT	\$25.00	\$25.00	
GUEST	\$45.00	\$45.00	
	Total Amount Due		

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Office Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Check here if you prefer a vegetarian option at the banquet: _____

Make checks payable to RCA and send to this address:

Kristen Lynn Majocho
Communication Department
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
450 Schoolhouse Road
Johnstown, PA 15904

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Do you need to renew before the Conference?

Find the RCA membership forms by linking to the RCA website at www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcamembershipinfo.html

Mail your membership fee to

Ken Danielson
 RCA Executive Secretary
 11 Dandelion Drive
 Boiling Spring, PA 17007

Statements

From Candidates for Second Vice President and for Councilor

With immense gratitude to and affection for the RCA community of scholars, I am honored to be nominated for Second Vice President.

I am a member of long standing in our association. Beginning in graduate school, I attended our panels at NCA and later presented my own research with the association's sponsorship. I reviewed papers and panels for RCA's conferences and later served as a reviewer for the Book of the Year Award. I benefitted from the scholarship published in the *Journal of Communication and Religion* and later published my own work in our national journal. For the past three years, it has been my privilege to serve as editor of the *RCA Newsletter* and to sit on the Executive Council.

Daniel S. Brown, Jr.
 Ph.D., Louisiana State

**Candidate for
 Second Vice President**

Grove City College
 Grove City, Pennsylvania

I am convinced that RCA's mission is more relevant to human advancement than at any other time in history. Because we are uniquely positioned "to promote honest, respectful and profound dialogue which reflects the diversity of religious beliefs . . . of [our] members," we can make a significant contribution to the academic world. I propose that we continue to seek ways to provide additional opportunities – in the form of seminars, conferences, publications, and workshops – to highlight our members' scholarship, teaching, and cultural impact. Among other initiatives, we should pursue the goal suggested by our bylaws and seek "appropriate mutual relationships with other organizations in order to facilitate the fulfillment of the purposes of the organization."

I have engaged in higher education as a teacher, administrator, and researcher for over 25 years. I taught at Miami University, Bryan College,
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I am very grateful for the nomination for the post of 2nd Vice President of the Religious Communication Association.

I believe it's customary to provide a platform of sorts for seeking office. I hope I can be forgiven for offering a simple alternative. I've known personally several of the fine people who have served the RCA in this and other capacities, so I am aware of the level of work and service the offices require. Behind the pledges and the dreams for the organization as a whole, there lies a basic willingness to push the plow through the furrow of mundane tasks. I think we all know that this willingness is what these offices are really about. I have a great deal of respect for those who have shouldered the load before, and I feel indebted to them for their service, as I'm sure we all do. They have done superior and extraordinary work, and they have my thanks.

J. Matthew Melton
 Ph.D., Regent

**Candidate for
 Second Vice President**

Lee University
 Cleveland, Tennessee

I've not been a highly visible member of the RCA, and until now I have preferred it that way. But I have been an active member since the early 90s and, to be completely honest, my only purpose for showing up at NCA lo these many years has been to interact with the good people of the Religious Communication Association. I have felt the truest form of scholarly kinship among the people of this group and, regardless of the outcome of my candidacy, that will certainly continue to be the case. Just being around these folks for a few brief days reassures me, refreshes me and revitalizes my own sense of calling in higher education. As a college dean, I have many options for professional development. I choose the RCA.

I've participated quietly, certainly not at the intense level of many others, but
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In the many years that I have attended the simultaneously-held RCA and NCA annual conventions, I have remained most fond of RCA colleagues and have found the RCA presentations the most consistently stimulating. My background includes chairing two programmatically diverse communication departments, publishing in various sectors of the field—religious communication, rhetoric, mass communication, interpersonal communication—and teaching at both Christian and public, state institutions. Currently, I chair the Department of Communication

Dennis Cali
 Ph.D., Louisiana State University

**Candidate for
 First-Year Councilor**

University of Texas at Tyler

at the University of Texas at Tyler and teach rhetorical criticism and media ethics. I have also served often as a reviewer of RCA paper and panel proposals and as awards judge.

My most recent publication is *Faith and the Media: Reflections by Christian Communicators* (Paulist Press, 2010), and my most recent project concerns examination of the Trinity as a paradigm of communication studies. I would offer this same experience and fondness and appreciation of the RCA tradition as one of its councilors.

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Leadership experience: Currently on International Commission on Public Relations Education, comprised of representatives who are leaders in international academic and professional public relations organizations. Also Chair of the NCA Public Relations Division, 2008-2009.

Denise Ferguson, APR
 Ph.D., Purdue University

**Candidate for
 First-Year Councilor**

Indiana Wesleyan University

Faith, as well as current multi-volumes works in progress such as the *Oxford Handbook of Religion and the News*, and *Evangelicals and Popular Culture*, and numerous articles in news magazines and other publications.

There is great interest within academic institutions and organizations, as well as in larger society, in religion, witnessed by last year's RCA book award winner, *Blind*

The RCA mission promotes the study of public religious communication in all forms and through changing media formats. Guided by the mission, I would like to extend our study and honest, respectful, and profound dialogue

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