

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

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FROM THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

**Robert Woods, President**  
*Spring Arbor University*



Greetings, RCA members, colleagues, and friends. Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2010 issue of the RCA Newsletter. The spring semester for your executive council has been a busy and rewarding one, filled with NCA program scheduling and RCA pre-conference planning, to name just a few activities. We look forward to the summer months as we work on final preparations for NCA 2010 and take care of several other pressing items.

This newsletter includes a photo-review of the 2009 RCA-NCA conference, information on renewing your

2010 RCA membership, and an update on the *Journal of Communication and Religion*. You'll also find a summary of our 2009 scholarship award winners.

We are excited to announce the location of the RCA Pre-conference, scheduled for Saturday, November 13. This year we will meet at the Hotel NIKKO San Francisco, located across the street from the main NCA convention site. The Pre-conference is a top-notch venue that provides a terrific opportunity to network with members and others outside the association. We hope you can attend. First Vice President Rodney Reynolds provides some additional details on the pre-conference in this newsletter.

The RCA Awards Banquet will be held on Monday, November 15, at the Hotel NIKKO San Francisco, the

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**An Invitation From RCA's First Vice President**  
**Pre-Conference | November 13, 2010 | San Francisco**

**Rodney A. Reynolds, First Vice President**  
*Azusa Pacific University*



Join the Religious Communication Association for the annual pre-conference at the Hotel NIKKO on Saturday, November 13, 2010. The location and timing of the event is planned to help jump start the National Communication Association conference experience.

The NCA conference runs from Sunday, November 14 to Wednesday, November 17 at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square. The NCA conference is at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square, 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Located directly across the street from the Hilton is the site of this year's RCA pre-conference, the Hotel NIKKO San Francisco, 222 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, Phone: 415 394-1111.

The registration, meetings, and panel programs run from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Many strong programs—panels and papers—were not able to be paneled at RCA/NCA because of time and space restrictions. The preconference permits some of those programs to find an intellectual home. The pre-conference schedule is slightly expanded this year to accommodate those who wish to attend multiple RCA division meetings.

More details about the preconference will be distributed via the RCA listserv and the RCA Newsletter later this summer.

*Hotel NIKKO San Francisco is the site of the 2010 RCA Pre-Conference on Saturday, November 13.*



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.

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site of RCA's Pre-conference. During the Awards Dinner we will honor our scholar-of-the-year (to be announced in our Summer 2010 newsletter). RCA scholarship award winners will be recognized during the banquet as well. Please consider attending this year's banquet.

In summary, here are some key dates to save: November 13 (Pre-conference) and November 15 (Awards banquet). Please consider inviting your colleagues to the Pre-conference and Awards banquet this year. The Summer 2010 newsletter will contain more information about the line-up of RCA panels for the NCA program, as well as additional details regarding the Pre-conference and Awards banquet. The RCA program at NCA is currently available on NCA's All Academic website.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful as you prepare for this year's NCA convention. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!



### Congratulations to RCA's 2009 award recipients

Scholar of the Year: **Charles Taylor**, McGill University.

Article of the Year : **James M. Farrell**, University of New Hampshire, *The Rhetoric(s) of St. Augustine's Confessions*, *Augustinian Studies* 39:2 (2008) 265-291 (Photo 1).

Dissertation of the Year : **Brian T. Kaylor**, James Madison University, "I'm a Believer: Presidential Campaign Rhetoric in an Age of Confessional Politics," University of Missouri-Columbia, (Mitchell S. McKinney, dissertation chair) (Photo 2).

Student Paper of the Year : **Pavica Sheldon**, Louisiana State University, "Jesus' matters: Gender and Religiosity Impact on Forgiveness Behavior and Conflict Avoidance" (Photo 3).

Book of the Year : **Paul Marshall**, Hudson Institute; **Lela Gilbert**, Hudson Institute; and **Roberta Green-Ahmanson**, Journalist, *Blind Spot: When Journalists Don't Get Religion* (2009, Oxford University Press) (Photo 4).

Awards were presented by First Vice President Rodney Reynolds at the RCA Awards Banquet held at University Center, Chicago.



### Call for Award Nominations 2010

RCA solicits nominations for its 2010 outstanding Book, Article, & Dissertation awards. The Call for Nominations appears on the RCA website

[www.americanrhetoric.com/rca](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca). June 15, 2010 is the deadline for submission of nominations and supporting materials.

### Journal of Communication and Religion Call For Papers

JCR publishes a variety of research and scholarship on communication and religion. Calvin Troup, Associate Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University, is the journal's editor. His term runs from January 2010 to December 2012. Craig E. Mattson, Associate Professor of Communication Arts at Trinity Christian College, is the Book Review 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. 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*.

Detailed guidelines are available at the RCA website [www.americanrhetoric.com/rca](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca).

# Luther College's "3D Life Tree"

## Religious Communication on the Campus

Religious messages are often conveyed in the form of public art. American sculptor Paul Granlund (1925-2003) created 3-D Life Tree which is installed on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Luther College was for five years the host institution of the National Communication Association's Summer Faculty Development Seminar, also known as the Hope Conference.

The bronze sculpture is a combination of several figures. The central clothed figure, representing Jesus, has upraised arms. Orbiting around the central figure are people in various stages of life which form a 3-D Life Tree. Roots of the tree extend from the bronze base. It was produced in an edition of 5 in 1998. The bronze base of the sculpture is anchored to a concrete plinth.

*"Images that don't deserve our attention litter our lives. We need some that enrich our gaze, and thus our lives."*

Granlund (1925-2003) graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and received his MFA degree from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1954. Granlund was head of the sculpture department at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design until he joined the faculty of Gustavus Adolphus College in 1971, becoming their sculptor-in-residence until his retirement in 1996.

This sculpture was given to Luther College by Ruth and Wilfred Bunge in August 2007 in honor of their parents. It was formally dedicated on October 5, 2007, in an outdoor chapel service in front of the sculpture at which Will Bunge presided. Bunge spoke about the meaning of the sculpture as a "family tree, without the specificity of the usual family tree. The model is an

ideal model, to be sure." Bunge stated, "Come and see. Look often as you walk by. Images that don't deserve our attention litter our lives. We need some that enrich our gaze, and thus our lives."

Granlund's work has been exhibited in over 70 one-man shows throughout the United States. One of his most well-known sculptures is of Charles Lindbergh which is located at Le Bourget Field in Paris. Sculptures have also been placed on the campuses of many colleges, at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, and at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

If your campus has a piece of public art—a painting, a sculpture, stained glass, or architecture—that you would like to see featured in the *Newsletter*, contact Editor Daniel S. Brown with details at [dsbrown@gcc.edu](mailto:dsbrown@gcc.edu).



Credit: The Luther College Fine Arts Collection. Photo and text used by permission of the College.

### Check it out — Has Your RCA Membership Expired?

**Ken Danielson, Executive Secretary**  
**Kutztown 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 me an email at [danielso@kutztown.edu](mailto:danielso@kutztown.edu).

### Current Membership Fee Structure

**Type of Membership:**

- Regular (\$25)
- Institutional (\$50)
- Emeritus
- Student (\$12.50)
- Sustaining (\$45)
- Life (\$250 once – a great deal!)

(International Memberships add \$10.00 per category)

**Mail to:** Ken Danielson, RCA Executive Secretary  
11 Dandelion Drive, Boiling Spring, PA 17007.

*Make Checks Payable to: The Religious Communication Association*

Dinner, Panels, Awards Revisited

# Chicago Conference Highlights 2009



## Five Years Out

Anticipating the 100th anniversary of NCA in 2014, the RCA's "FIVE YEARS OUT" PANELISTS (center) focused on "Contributions to Scholarship and Human Community."

A conference highlight, the program featured RCA scholar-leaders **Ronald Arnett** (Duquesne University), **Cliff Christians** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), **Helen Sterk** (Calvin College), **Quentin Schultze** (Calvin College), and **Paul Soukup**, (Santa Clara University). **Janie Harden Fritz** (Duquesne University) chaired the panel.

Send your story ideas, announcements, and tips for the next newsletter to:

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