

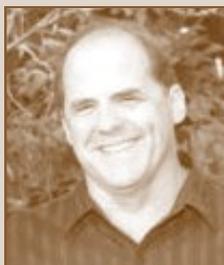
THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

# THE R C A NEWS

AN INTERFAITH SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

## Welcome to New Orleans, NCA 2011

Welcome to RCA and NCA 2011! We have a great set of panels and discussions at the RCA pre-conference and the NCA conference. Please take a moment in the coming weeks to join me in expressing appreciation to all of our executive council members and to all the reviewers who helped prepare the program for the RCA events this year.



We need you to be a part of RCA at the RCA BUSINESS MEETING Friday, November 18 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM in the Southdown room on the Fourth Floor of the Sheraton New Orleans.

Finally, please join us as we celebrate our 2011 scholarship award winners at the RCA Preconference

Awards Panel Wednesday November 16th, 2011 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel -- New Orleans from 6:00-7:15 pm in the Oak Alley/Madewood rooms. Please then join us for the formal awards at the RCA Awards Banquet, Friday November 18, 2011 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Court of Two Sisters, 618 Royal Street, New Orleans.

You will not want to miss the keynote address at the banquet by Dr. Tina Maria Harris, our 2001 RCA Scholar Award recipient.

In particular, please thank: Kathleen M. Edelmayer for her excellent work in coordinating the program and contracting for our events; Robert H. Woods, Jr. for his role as the chair of the nominating committee; J. Matthew Melton for coordinating the awards with Mark Williams, Mark Allan Steiner, and Denise P. Ferguson; Kristen Lynn Majocha for her excellent work with the public relations for RCA.

## —NCA 98th Annual Convention— —2012 Call for Participation—

“Celebrate COMMunity”  
Orlando, FL  
November 15-18, 2012

Orlando is a place synonymous with celebration. It is fitting that when the NCA meets in Orlando, we will celebrate the values, concepts, and principles that unite us as a communication association and discipline. The 2012 NCA convention theme, “Celebrate COMMunity,” seeks to affirm the ideas that unify the communication discipline, as well as celebrate the diverse community of scholars, educators, and practitioners that constitute the National Communication Association.

As we approach the association’s centennial, the convention theme encourages conversations about the principles and ideas that provide coherence to what we study and teach. As the largest professional communication association in the world, NCA is a place where educators,

scholars and practitioners with diverse methods and perspectives are welcomed home. The theme seeks to facilitate a sense of community by encouraging conversations that identify our common “home” within the community of ideas that

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constitute the communication discipline.

Although the NCA constitution describes the various units in the organization as divisions, select programs at the Orlando convention will focus on unity, exploring common intradisciplinary and cross-division connections among

the various divisions, contexts, methods, and paradigms of communication study. But there would be no COMMunity to celebrate or unity to envision without the diverse people and paradigms that add richness to our common goal of “advancing all forms of human communication.” To celebrate COMMunity is also an opportunity to value the diversity of the association and the multiple disciplinary perspectives that are embedded in our past, resident in our present, and anticipated in our future. Please join us in Orlando for a celebration of what unites us as a communication community—“Celebrate COMMunity.”

Steven A. Beebe  
NCA Second Vice President and Primary Program Planner  
Texas State University, San Marcos

## 2011 RCA AWARD WINNERS

**RCA Scholar Award**  
Tina Harris, PhD.  
University of Georgia

**Book Award**  
Kristy Maddux, PhD,  
University of Maryland  
*The Faithful Citizen: Popular Christian Media and Gendered Civic Identities.*  
Baylor University Press, 2010.

**Dissertation Award**  
Jason R. Moyer, PhD, Luther College  
*Not Just Civil Religion: Theology in the Cases of Woodrow Wilson, John Kennedy, and Barack Obama.*  
Diss. University of Iowa, 2011.

**Article Award**  
Andre E. Johnson, PhD,  
Memphis Theological Seminary  
“The Prophetic Persona of James Cone and the Rhetorical Theology of Black Theology.”



Mark Ward Sr., Ph.D.  
University of Houston-  
Victoria  
*Candidate for  
Second Vice President*

Having been both a practitioner and a researcher, the mission of RCA is very immediate and important for me. My years as communications director for several national membership associations and religious organizations provide experience in internal and external communication, from member recruitment to public relations. I am the author of two books on religious broadcasting, my ethnographic research on Christian fundamentalism has appeared in the JCR and other venues, and my new book, "Deadly Documents: Technical Communication, Organizational Discourse, and the Holocaust," is due out next year.

To be nominated for RCA Second Vice President is an honor for which I am deeply grateful and humbled. Service in the office affords the chance to give something back to our community of scholars.



Mark Williams, Ph.D.  
University of California,  
Sacramento  
*Candidate for  
Second Vice President*

I have been a member of RCA for over a decade. I love the organization, admires its scholarship, and generally hang out with people here in a shameless attempt to enhance my own ethos.

I am an associate professor at California State University, Sacramento. I teach courses at the undergraduate and (occasionally) graduate level on the intersection of communication and religion. I have also just begun editing a text on how communication critics grapple with questions of religion.

My research interests also include history and development of rhetorical theory, ethical underpinnings of persuasion, exploring the intersection of values and rhetoric, and informal logics. I look forward to serving RCA in any capacity in the future.

## Statements From Candidates for Second Vice President and for Councilor



Dan Brown., Ph.D.  
Grove City College  
*Candidate for  
First-Year Councilor*

I would be honored to serve as Councilor for RCA. Working alongside RCA colleagues has been among the highlights of my professional career. I served as the editor of the *RCA News* from 2007 to 2010 during which time I sat on the Executive Council. I received an APEX 2010 award for "The RCA NEWS" presented in the "Most Improved Newsletter" category. And I have organized our preconference Outstanding Undergraduate Research Panel since 2009.

A professor of communication studies at Pennsylvania's Grove City College, I am editor of the new book *Living between the Abrahamic Faiths: Interfaith Dialogue in Practice*. My other research interests include Holocaust studies, cultural studies, public address and rhetoric.



Elizabeth McLaughlin,  
Ph.D. Bethany College  
*Candidate for  
First-Year Councilor*

I encourage students to find their voice through academic and personal writing to express their unique call as persons created in the image of God. My research interests include: faith and gender, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien; visual rhetoric; women and quilting as expressions of religious faith; spirituality and popular culture.

I also have a broad background in advertising and public relations serving in several local not-for-profits and local agencies as public relations director, account executive and copywriter.

Other personal interests include: recreational fencing, sword collecting, reading most everything, singing tenor in the Clay United Methodist Church choir, mild exercise and mime. I look forward to serving RCA and being part of our organization's continued growth and success.

## Executive Council of the Religious Communication Association

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