

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.

From the President

**Janie Harden Fritz, President
 Duquesne University**

Greetings, members and friends of RCA. Welcome to the Spring issue of the RCA Newsletter. This newsletter includes a photographic review of the RCA activities in San Diego last November. We also have included information about renewing your membership and signing up for the RCA list serve.



One of our most exciting news items is the announcement about the location of the RCA Pre-Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2009. We will meet at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, located on Michigan Avenue in Chicago, literally a few steps from the Hilton Chicago. Spertus is grounded in Jewish values that invite people of all ages and backgrounds to explore the multi-faceted Jewish experience.

Through its innovative public programming, exhibitions, collections, research facilities and degree programs, Spertus inspires learning, serves diverse communities and fosters understanding for Jews and people of all faiths, locally, regionally and around the world.

The RCA Awards Dinner is scheduled for Friday, November 13. We will be honoring Charles Taylor, widely-recognized author of *A Secular Age* and *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity*, as the RCA Scholar of the Year. Other awardees will be recognized as well.

Save these dates. The May-June 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 Vice President Robert H. Woods has organized for us, including a 5-years-out panel featuring a number of RCA scholars. You can check out the programs already on the All Academic web site by searching the program by sessions and selecting "Religious Communication Association" under the "Unit" menu. To see the 5 Years Out panel, select "Five Years Out"

Call for 2009 Book, Article & Dissertation Awards

Nominations for honors open until June 1

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

The Religious Communication Association (RCA) is accepting nominations for its annual outstanding Book, Article, & Dissertation awards.

RCA Book Award: The RCA grants the Book Award for the outstanding scholarly book on religious communication published between 2007 and 2009. Nominators should send four copies of the book and a 1-2 page letter of nomination outlining the value of the book in its area of study. For consideration, please include a

short synopsis of the book (3-5 double-spaced pages).

RCA Article Award: The RCA grants the Article Award for an outstanding article on religious communication published during the previous (2008-2009) academic year. Nominators should send a copy of the article as a PDF file along with a 1-2 page letter of nomination (scanned document is fine) outlining the significance of the article.

RCA Dissertation Award: The RCA grants the Dissertation award for an outstanding dissertation in religious communication completed

during the two prior academic years. To be eligible the author must complete the dissertations during the period from May 1, 2007 to May 1, 2009.

Dissertation advisors or department chairs should submit a 1-2 page nomination or as a supporting document to accompany a nominations.

The award committee requires that the nominee or the nominator make available an electronic version (pdf or MS Word format) of the completed dissertation.

**See Call for 2009 Awards
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New Journal Editor Named by Executive Council: The Journal of Communication and Religion

John Pauley, Editor, Journal of Communication and Religion; Chair, Ad Hoc Editor Search Committee Eastern University

The Executive Council of the Religious Communication Association announced recently that it has named Professor Calvin Troup of Duquesne University as Editor-Elect of *The Journal of*

Communication and Religion. Professor Troup is a long-standing member of RCA and has served in a number of leadership roles, the most recent being President of the Association for the 2007-2008 term.

Professor Troup will serve in the capacity of Editor-Elect until December 31, 2009 and will assume the three-year term as

Editor of the *Journal* on January 1, 2010. From this point forward, all manuscripts submitted for consideration to JCR should be emailed to Professor Troup. His email address is troupe@duq.edu.

Our best wishes and prayers are with Professor Troup as he assumes this responsibility.

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. The journal is semi-annual. Your membership includes a subscription to both the journal and the Association's Newsletter.

Pre-Conference | November 11, 2009 | Chicago

Join RCA at the Spertus Institute to Jump Start Your NCA experience

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

This year's pre-conference will meet at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. The programming runs from 12:30 to 7:00 p.m.

RCA will convene its annual pre-conference on Wednesday, November 11.

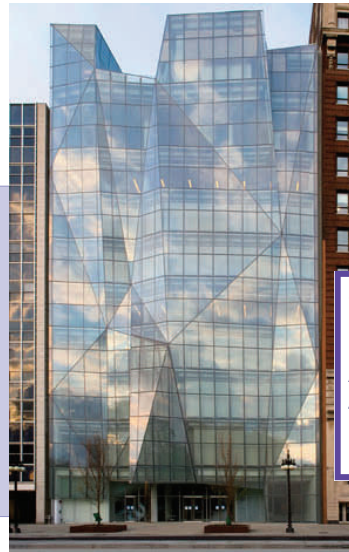
RCA's annual meeting is scheduled concurrently with the National Communication Association (NCA). The RCA/NCA conference runs from Thursday, November 12 to Sunday, November 15,

Many strong programs—panels and papers—were not able to be paneled at RCA/NCA because of time and space restrictions. The pre-conference permits some of those programs to find an intellectual home.

This year, the conference returns to Chicago.

More details about the pre-conference will be distributed via the RCA list serve and the Newsletter in the weeks ahead.

**RCA
Pre-Conference
2009
Spertus Institute of Jewish
Studies
Wednesday, November 11
12:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**



Spertus is a Jewish institution located at 610 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago, just steps from the NCA convention hotel, Chicago Hilton.

Sign Up for the RCA Listserv

You may join the e-mail based listserv by sending a message to majordomo@calvin.edu with no subject line and the words "subscribe rca" in the message body text. (Don't include the quotation marks in the address or the message).

You can unsubscribe by sending a message to majordomo@calvin.edu with the text "unsubscribe rca" in the message body. To post a message, simply address it to rca@calvin.edu.

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 issue of the *RCA Newsletter* will, for the next year or so, feature a work of art—a painting, a sculpture, stained glass, or architecture—with a distinctively religious message.

On the campus of Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego, California, a bronze sculpture sits along side the school's major pedestrian thoroughfare. A life-sized bronze version of "The Calling" sculpture, created by Scott Stearman, which depicts Jesus' call to Peter to

"Come and follow Me," was unveiled in November 1997 at the campus of Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego, California. Two years previously, the Church of the Nazarene colleges and universities commissioned a home-sized version of this dynamic sculpture for presentation to new ordinands.

Early in 1997, the Women's Auxiliary at Point Loma Nazarene College made the commitment and raised the funds for a life-sized sculpture of "The Calling" to be created for the college campus.



Sculptor Scott Stearman's sculpture, "The Calling," engages passersby on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University.

At the unveiling ceremony, attended by several hundred, Scott Stearman explained this meaningful sculpture as "more than just a piece of art, but a permanent medium of communication that will keep on delivering its message to honor the high calling into Christian service for generations to come."

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 Daniel S. Brown with details and contact information. Email dsbrown@gcc.edu.

Has Your RCA Membership Expired? Check it out

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.

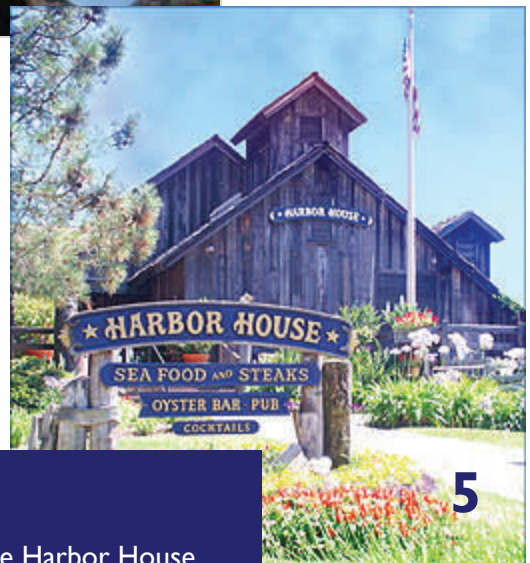
Current Membership Fee Structure

Type of Membership

(International Memberships add \$10.00 per category):

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

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



RCA Awards Banquet 2008

The 2008 Banquet, held on Friday, November 22, 2008, at the Harbor House (Photo 5) in San Diego's Seaport Village, was attended by some 60 members and friends of the association. Many who enjoyed the dinner and programming are pictured in Photos 1-3, 6 and 8. The Banquet featured **Prof. Michael Graves'** Keynote Address in addition to the awards recognition program.



Congratulations to RCA's 2008 award recipients.

Book Award: **Terry Lindvall**, Virginia Wesleyan College (Photo 4)
 Student Paper Award: **Andrew Swenson**, Concordia University, Nebraska (Photo 7)
 Article Award: **Michael Graves**, Liberty University (Photo 9)
 Dissertation Award: **Craig Maier**, Duquesne University/Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh (**Ronald C. Arnett**, dissertation chair) (Photo 10)
 Awards were presented by First Vice President **Robert Woods** at the RCA Awards Banquet.

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

Daniel S. Brown,
Editor, RCA News



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

Call for 2009 Book, Article & Dissertation Awards
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The award committee would prefer a URL address where there is open online access to the dissertation.

DEADLINE: June 1, 2009 is the deadline for the submission of nominations and materials for all awards. RCA encourages self-nominations for each category of

awards.

RECOGNITION: RCA will recognize the award recipients at the annual RCA meeting occurring in conjunction with NCA in Chicago, IL. There are CASH AWARDS in each category.

Send nominations and materials to:

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