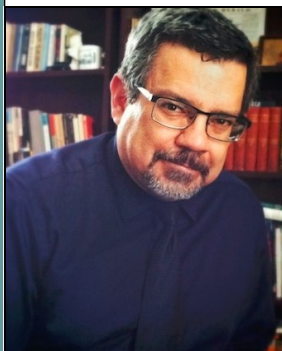


Gearing Up for November



J. Matthew Melton Along those lines, I'd like to announce our featured banquet speaker for this year. Father Thomas Reese of Georgetown University. Fr. Thomas is a strong current voice in the realm of the intersection of faith and public policy. You can read his bio here: <http://ncronline.org/authors/thomas-reese> and a recent article by him about the moral questions involved in U.S. intervention in Syria here: <http://ncronline.org/news/global/what-moral-theologians-say-about-getting-involved-syria>. Thanks to past-president Kathleen Edelmayer for alerting us to Fr. Thomas' work.

Well, we've clocked almost another year since we were last together as a

body. Like laughter in a speeding convertible, the summer has passed us by. Committee meetings are accumulating and student papers are clamoring for attention. I don't know about you, but I'm thinking pretty fondly of escaping to a conference. I hope you'll join us in the nation's capital for our annual pre-conference, our association sponsored NCA sessions, our business meeting and our annual awards banquet. These great events get started November 20.

Plans for the upcoming pre-conference and the associated awards move forward. For those who haven't been part of the inside task force that puts these things together, let me assure you that this is a pretty labor-intensive undertaking. Your colleagues—who are every bit as plugged into their real jobs as anyone else—are doing heroic work to make

this event succeed on every level from the quality and composition of the sessions to the coffee and cookies available for our consumption.

Special thanks to RCA Vice President Mark Williams, 2nd VP Kristen Majocho and Executive Secretary Janie Hardin Fritz who, along with our Councilors, Denise P. Ferguson, Daniel Brown, and Sara Drury have worked hard to bring you the best of what the RCA has to offer. Thanks also to the inimitable Ron Arnett, at the editorial helm of the *Journal of Communication & Religion*, who has brilliantly handled the burgeoning interest in our scholarly outlet.

Many of you reading this now have also assisted in the "grunt" work of the reviewing process for the RCA and NCA session slots as well as for dozens of awards and journal submissions. You have our deepest thanks.

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Memo from the First Vice President Washington, DC Welcomes RCA and NCA this November

Mark A. E. Williams, First Vice President California State University, Sacramento

By almost any measure, Washington D.C. is one of the world's premier cities. Virtually all of the museums are free — as a gift of the people of the United States to the world. The narratives within those museum displays, the monuments to persons and moments the nation has found defining, the ideals made, quite literally, visible in the space and architecture of the city, the legal wrangling between the branches of

government and the people governed, the tensions between the religious assumptions that so permeated the culture of the founders and the governmental organizations they so carefully rooted in an Enlightenment vision of autonomous intellect: all this and more should be an irresistible siren song for any communication scholar. Each of us will stroll the streets with such a riot of heuristic excitement pounding within our minds that we will run three pens dry and fill five journals with possible research topics before returning home.

And it is all there, indeed, waiting for you. But hopefully you will manage to steal a little time away from the city in order to attend what I certainly think will be another wonderfully heuristic experience: the RCA preconference as well as the RCA sponsored panels at the NCA convention this year. These panels have assembled themselves into a topically diverse and methodologically interesting collage of research that, we hope, will leave you often wishing you could be in two panels at once.

On reflection, though,

I've misspoken: these panels didn't assemble themselves. They are the result of very much hard work by very many good colleagues and capable reviewers. Submissions were heavy this year but our membership stepped up to the challenge, and I want to publicly acknowledge my sincere gratitude to those of you who reviewed submissions and offered insightful critiques.

Our preconference will kick off on November 20 at 10:30 A.M. Our last panel will be the Spotlight Panel at 5:00 P.M., showcasing our

(Continued on page 2)

RCA 2013 Convention Information

This year the National Communication Association Convention will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel and the Marriot Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. The majority of the panels and

events sponsored by RCA will be in the **Omni Shoreham Hotel**, including the RCA Award Banquet held on the evening of Friday, November 22nd. The Executive Committee has been working

hard to finalize details for the preconference and the banquet. This information will be posted on the RCA website within a few weeks. Stay tuned for more information to come and visit our website often!

(See page 4 for more information on accommodations and travel for the convention)

Updates at: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/>

First Vice President Continued , Page 1

(Continued from page 1)

award winners for the year. But the last panel is not the last event: RCA will host a reception at 7:30 and we hope to see everyone there. This, of course, is in addition to our usual RCA Awards Banquet, which will be scheduled during NCA proper.

The schedule for the preconference is found in this newsletter, and I invite you to look it over. Of course, in addition to the preconference, there are RCA panels within the NCA program, and these can be found on their convention webpage in more detail. Do look over those; some will tweak your curiosity and some will call you by name. As you plan your NCA events, please make a special note of the RCA Business Meeting, which is scheduled for 12:30 - 1:45 on Friday, November 22, in the Hampton Room, Lobby Level of the Omni Shoreham. There is, as usual, a good deal of business for us to conduct and we urge everyone who possibly can to be a part of that session.

I think we are headed into a great conference, and I look forward to seeing you all there!

Mark A. E. Williams



Preconference Schedule | Wednesday, November 20, 2013 [Location in negotiation]

SESSION ONE: 10:30—11:45am

Connecting the Binaries: When Religion and Health Collide (Panel)

Chair and Respondent: Margaret M. Quinlan	University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Presenter: Aaron Duncan	Ohio University
Presenter: Andrea Iaccheri	Ohio University
Presenter: Peter Raposo	Ohio University
Presenter: Paige Toller	University of Nebraska, Omaha

Religion and religious beliefs often play a role in individual health decisions. Historically, healing has been identified as an integral part of the religious experience. In this panel the presenters draw on the expertise of individuals holding a position with a religious community as well as personal experience to examine the following areas: hospital chaplainries, the sacrament of the anointing, behavioral disorders and religion, and pastoral power and narrative of illness.

Philosophy and Faith, Then and Now (Paper Session)

Chair: Cassie Costantini	California State University, Sacramento
Respondent: Joel Ward	Duquesne University
"Close Encounters of the Symbolic Kind: Rethinking the Geertz-Asad Debate on the Religious Symbol and its Communicative Authority"	Mark Nagle, Indiana University
"Levinas, 'Listening Otherwise' and Ethics of 'Responsive Ethical I'"	Cyril Latzoo, Duquesne University
"Ecomium Colbert: Connect Stephen Colbert to Erasmic Catholicism"	Matthew Pittman, University of Oregon William Brown, Regent University Terence Lindvall, Virginia Wesleyan College
"St. Augustine's Ideal Christian Rhetor"	Dominic Ofori, Duquesne University

Lights, Camera, Prayer! Media in Faith and Vice-Versa (Paper Session)

Chair: Greg Armfield	New Mexico State University
Respondent: Mark A. E. Williams	California State University, Sacramento
"Inflections of American Pluralism: The Shifting Grounds of Religious Deference in the Elite Media's Reaction to Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ'"	Ronald Lee, University of Nebraska, Lincoln Karen Lee, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
"A Schulzian Approach to Religion: Exploring Faith in the Mainstream Media"	Stephen Lind, Washing and Lee University
"Influence of Christian Faith on Media Education: Case Study of Christian Schools for North Korean Refugees in South Korea"	Jiwon Yoon, Roosevelt University
"'This Has All Happened Before and Will Happen Again': Religious Iconography in Caprica"	Alanna Miller, Temple University

Preconference schedule continued on page 6

HOTEL AND TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR THE 2013 CONVENTION

EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION
RATES FOR
THE
CONVENTION
END
**SEPTEMBER
18TH!**

**REGISTER NOW
AND SAVE SOME
MONEY!**

The NCA 99th Annual Convention will convene at the **Marriot Wardman Park Hotel** and the **Omni Shoreham Hotel**. NCA has negotiated the following rates:

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

2660 Woodley Road NW
Washington, DC 20008
General Phone: 202-328-2000

Single Standard Room: \$208
Double Standard Room: \$228

Reservation Deadline: October 29, 2013

Reservation Phone: 1-877-212-5752, reference "NCA 2013 Annual Convention"

Reservations online also available (see <http://www.natcom.org/travel/> for more details)

Omni Shoreham Hotel

2500 Calvert Street
Washington, DC 20008
General Phone: 202-234-0700

Single Standard Room: \$208
Double Standard Room: \$228

Reservation Deadline: October 29, 2013

Reservation Phone: 1-800-545-8700, reference "NCA 2013 Annual Convention"

Reservations online also available (see <http://www.natcom.org/travel/> for more details)

PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENT RATE ROOMS ARE NOW SOLD OUT AT BOTH HOTELS.

NCA has also negotiated discounts on travel for members through specific vendors, including United Airlines, American Airlines, Amtrak, Thrifty Car Rental, and Dollar Rent A Car. Please see full details concerning travel information at <http://www.natcom.org/travel/>.

Religious Communication Sessions at NCA Washington, DC 2013

Fifteen sessions are scheduled for the convention in November, including RCA's Business Meeting. Unless otherwise indicated, the sessions below are individual paper sessions. Titles of individual papers and names of participants are available online at NCA Submission Central and in the print edition of the NCA Program.

Thursday, November 21

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

When the Spirit Catches You:

Spirituality from the Demonic to the Divine

Place: Marriot Wardman, Marriot Balcony B

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Enacting Connections: Organization and Performance at the Intersection of Faith and Communication

Place: Omni Shoreham, Directors Room

12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Connection and Disconnection: Competing Views of Community and Communication

Place: Omni Shoreham, Council Room

2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Connecting Theology and Communication Scholarship:

Contributions of Contemporary Christian Theologians on

Communication Theory and Practice

Place: Omni Shoreham, Council Room

3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Boundary Conditions: Connections at the Borders of Expectations

Place: Omni Shoreham, Council Room

Friday, November 22

8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Shall It Not Utterly Wither?: A Discussion on Religion's Growing Rhetorical Disconnect with the Outside World (Panel Discussion)

Place: Omni Shoreham, Capitol Room

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

We Are a [*fill in preferred faith here*] Nation: Connecting Political and Religious Identity, from Ancient Rome to Contemporary America

Place: Omni Shoreham, Embassy Room

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Come Again?: Responses to Joshua Gunn's

"Maranatha"

Place: Omni Shoreham, Embassy Room

12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Religious Communication Association Business Meeting

Place: Omni Shoreham, Hampton Room

Saturday, November 23

8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

The Once and Future Saints:

Connecting the Rhetorical Past and Present in Augustine, Paul and the Stoics

Place: Omni Shoreham, Blue Room

12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Connections of Biblical Proportions?: Biblical Authority in the American Public Square

Place: Omni Shoreham, Calvert Room

2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Theorizing about Interfaith Dialogue: Connecting Again for the First Time (Panel Discussion)

Place: Omni Shoreham, Calvert Room

3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Movies, Music, and the Antichrist Online: Divine Connections in Mediated Spaces

Place: Omni Shoreham, Calvert Room

Sunday, November 24

8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

We [**heart**] Mom: (Dis)

Connecting the Dots in Constructed Images of Faith-filled Motherhood

Place: Omni Shoreham, Cabinet Room

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Stumbling Toward Moral: Faith and Relationship as the Connective Tissue of the Good Life

Place: Omni Shoreham, Cabinet Room

Most RCA panels are scheduled in the Omni Shoreham Hotel in historic Washington, DC. See the map on page 2 for more detail.



*Pre-Conference Schedule | Continued from Page 3***SESSION TWO: 1:00—2:15pm****The Publicity of Religion: Rhetorical Perspectives on a Connective Tissue (Paper Session)**

Chair: Ira Allen	Indiana University Bloomington: The European Graduate School
"Defining Religion Rhetorically"	Indiana University Bloomington: The European Graduate School
"Neoliberalism as Civil Religion: Austerity Politics and the American Jeremiad"	Stephen Rahko, Indiana University
"Political Theology in the Public Sphere: Jesuits and Theorhetoric"	Steven Mailloux, University of California Irvine

Practically Divine: Conducting the Material Matters of Religious Organizations (Paper Session)

Chair and Respondent: Janie Harden Fritz	Duquesne University
"Familiar Discourse: Analysis of a Conversation in a Coptic Orthodox Church Board Meeting"	Andrew Ishak, Santa Clara University
"Understanding Small Group Communication in the Catholic Church"	Peter Raposo, Ohio University
"The role of Memorable Messages in Determining Individual-Organizational Fit in Religious Institutions"	Greg Armfield, New Mexico State University
Religious, Mission-centered, Community-based Entities, and the Effects on Organizational and Operational Sustainability: Transnational and Faith-based Approaches to Organizational, Individual, and Community Development"	Willona Olison, DePaul University

The Good, the Evil, and the Marketable: Rhetorical Shell Games (Paper Session)

Chair: Andrea Terry	Texas A&M University
Respondent: Teresa Morales	Cameron University
"By the Fruits of Mother Teresa's Labor: Using Walter Fisher's Narrative Paradigm to Reveal Prophetic Rhetoric"	Kristen Majocha, University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown
"Dropping the 'e-bomb': Implication of Evoking 'Evil' in Interfaith Encounters"	Charles Soukup, University of Northern Colorado James Keaton, University of Northern Colorado
"The Secular Problem of Evil: A Rhetorical Defense of Civil"	Brandon Chase Goldsmith, University of Memphis
"What a Trend We Have in Jesus': Thoughts Toward a Market-Centered Conceptualization of Christian Media"	Jim Trammell, High Point University

SESSION THREE: 3:30-4:45pm**Sex, Politics, and Religion: Can you Hear me Now? (Paper Session)**

Chair: Don Boileau	George Mason University
Respondent: John Katsion	Northwest Missouri State University
"Prayers, Sex, Islam, and Electric Guitars: A Rhetorical Criticism or the Taqwacores"	Margaret Moore, Abilene Christian University
"What would Jesus do?: A Rhetorical Examination of Catholics' Arguments for and Against Same-sex Marriage"	Cassandra Costantini, California State University, Sacramento
"God's Pink Slip: The Death of God Trope and the Stylization of Religio-Secular Affect in the Great Recession"	Mark Nagle, Indiana University
"Coping with the Stigma of Polygamy"	Michael Ault, University of Oklahoma

Preconference schedule continued on page 7

Pre-Conference Schedule | Continued from Page 6

Quo Vadis, Communitates? — New Media: New Directions in Community Experiences of Faith and Education? (Paper Session)

Chair: Daniel Brown	Grove City College
Respondent: Celeste Grayson Seymour	Western Governors University
“Religious Negotiation of New Media Technology: A Modified Social Shaping of Technology and Uses and Gratifications Model”	Wendi Bellar, Texas A&M University
“A Personal Relationship with God: Effects on Self-Concept, Coping with Stress and Life Satisfaction”	Jennifer Matoske, Boise State University
“Religious Perspectives on Advertising: A Theoretical Foundation for Teaching the Millennial Generation”	Terri Cornwell, Lynchburg College
“The Connection between Facebook Use and Religious Embeddedness among Emerging Adults”	Heidi Campbell, Bob Jones University

Rhetorics of Power in the Christian Tradition (Paper Session)

Chair: Joseph Rhodes	Penn State University
Respondent: Bob Rhodes	Unaffiliated
“To Speak with Power and Authority: Exousia as Rhetorical Transformation”	Nathan Crick, Texas A&M University
“The Flesh is Weak? Paul’s Somatic Rhetoric”	Michele Kennerly, Penn State University
“The Power of Proclamation”	Joseph Rhodes, Penn State University
“The Power of the Oath”	Jeremy Engels, Penn State University

Interest Group Business Meetings

Discussion and Planning for NCA 2014

Media Studies Division	12:00-12:45pm
Rhetorical Studies Division	2:30-3:15pm
Communication Studies Division	5:00-5:45pm
Performance Communication Division	5:00-5:45pm

**SESSION FOUR: 5:00-6:45pm
RCA Awards Spotlight Panel**

**Please join us
for conversation and refreshments
during the reception from
7:30 until 9:30pm after the final
session of the evening.**

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

Gearing Up for November: From Page 1

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Celeste Grayson Seymour, newsletter editor, has made us all look good with her fine attention to this publication. We appreciate her endeavors and her diligence.

Finally, I would like to extend a very special thanks to Michael E. Eidenmuller, who has served several years as RCA's e-communication coordinator. His service hosting and maintaining our online presence at americanrhetoric.com has been invaluable. Michael is passing on the torch this year and we hope to have more news soon about that transition, but for now, I just wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for Michael's labor of love over the past several years. And thanks to all the membership for my year as president. I've greatly enjoyed working with so many very fine people in this association. This brief sojourn has been one of my most rewarding endeavors, and I am so glad to have had the opportunity to share thoughts, words and cheer

with this great collection of people. Thanks again for entrusting me with these duties. I will be moving into the enviable role of past president with the greatest confidence in the people who are now stepping forward.

Blessings to all,

J. Matthew Melton
 Lee University

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR RCA 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

Preconference and awards banquet registration forms will be made available shortly.

Send story ideas and information to RCA Newsletter Editor:

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