

From the President

Greetings Colleagues and Friends,

We are pleased to announce RCA's 2013 Scholar of the Year. **Robert H. Woods, Jr.** of Spring Arbor University has been one of the most prolific and consistent scholars in the field of Religious Communication, with many articles and books over the years featuring his long-standing work in media ethics and criticism. Last year's three-volume edited work, *Evangelical Christians and Popular Culture: Pop Goes the Gospel*, represents an unprecedented cross-section of religious communication scholars, many of whom are long-time RCA members themselves. The 57 authors across 54 chapters represent nearly 50 institutions of higher learning, both public and private.

Editing a corpus of this magnitude had to be a Herculean task. We're justifiably proud of Dr. Woods and hope to hear more from him at this year's preconference and banquet.

Also, I wanted to remind everyone of our banquet keynote speaker, **Father Thomas Reese, Jr.**, who will be sharing his expertise with us regarding the recent changes at the Vatican. Please register as soon as possible for preconference at the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center on November 20th. We'll have some information for you on how to get there. There's also a handy registration form in this newsletter, as well as instructions on how to register for the preconference and awards banquet online

through PayPal.

I hope you will also join me in thanks the many hands who made this conference possible. The work behind the scenes is always exciting, and this year has been no different. I am personally deeply grateful for the labors of our Executive Council, and I look forward to seeing them—and you—at this year's events.

All the best,

J. Matthew Melton, Ph.D.
 RCA President
 Lee University

2013 Preconference Venue Has Been Determined!



Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center

This year's preconference will be held on **Wednesday, November 20th** from 10:30am until 9:30pm at the **Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center**, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC, 20004. Preconference registration fees range from \$50 to \$75 based on membership and includes lunch and light refreshments throughout the day and at the reception. We have a stellar line-up of presentations and discussion panels arranged, including a spotlight panel on this year's award winners for RCA (see box to the right for the list of winners). Please join us for engaging conversation in the nation's capital!

2013 Keynote Speaker & Annual Awards Banquet

This year's annual awards banquet will be held at the **Omni Shoreham** hotel, one of the sites of the national convention (see page 3 for more details and registration form). Our keynote address will be given by Fr. Thomas Reese, S.J., senior analyst for *National Catholic Reporter*. Please join us as we celebrate this year's award winners for Book of the Year, Article of the Year, Dissertation of the Year, and Student Paper of the Year. The winners are: **Book of the Year:** William D. Romanowski, *Reforming Hollywood: How American Protestants Fought for Freedom at the Movies*, Oxford University Press (2012)

Article of the Year: Margaret M. Poloma and Mathew T. Lee (University of Akron, Ohio), "Prophetic Prayer as Two-Way Communication with the Divine"
Dissertation of the Year: Christy E. Mesaros-Winckles (Bowling Green State University), "Only God Knows the Opposition we Face: The Rhetoric of Nineteenth Century Free Methodist Women's Quest for Ordination"
Student Paper of the Year: Jamie Downing (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) "An Ancient Modern Rhetoric: Calling upon Traditional Rhetorical Practice in the Fight for Jewish Emancipation"

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Statements

From Candidates for Second Vice President and for Councilor

The prospect of serving as First-Year Councilor for the Religious Communication Association excites me. I attended a Christian college as an undergraduate where I was challenged to think deeply about the integration of faith and learning. As a Ph.D. candidate at

Marissa Lowe
University of Illinois

Candidate for Councilor

the University of Illinois, I am continually drawn to the intersections among rhetoric, religion, and visual culture. Since discovering RCA last year when I presented the top student paper at the pre-conference, I have been impressed with the excellent scholarship and conversations that come out of RCA—as a young scholar, I feel like I have found my niche. I am encouraged by the increasing visibility of religious studies and communication; I have personally benefited from the *Journal of Communication and Religion* and the Baylor Press series on rhetoric and religion in my own research. Thus, I would be pleased to learn from and serve alongside other RCA council members.

As outlined in the mission statement of RCA, I am also committed to promoting “honest, respectful and profound dialogue” that examines important issues regarding faith and communication. At the University of Illinois, I participate in a variety of interdisciplinary panels and reading groups that fosters this kind of dialogue. As a Councilor I would welcome the opportunity to promote the work of RCA among my colleagues.

I am grateful for the nomination and would be honored to serve as a First-Year Councilor.

Andre Johnson
Memphis Theological
Seminary

Candidate for 2nd VP

Upon hearing a call to serve, I am submitting my name for the office of second vice president of RCA. I do this because first, not only do I bring theoretical and academic experience, but also being a pastor, I bring to the group practical experience as well. I also bring to the group NCA experience. I am just finishing my term as chair of the African American Communication and Culture Division and will now serve on the legislative assembly for two years. I believe my time in NCA elected positions would be valuable. Lastly, I believe the diversity and eclectic nature of my research, spanning from prophetic rhetoric to Hip Hop, would be something that members of RCA would appreciate.

As for what I would like to see in the future of RCA, I would like for us to grow numerically of course, but also increase our diversity of members, panels, cultures and faith traditions. I would like to be a part of those discussions.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

To have been invited to place my name in nomination for First-Year Councilor to RCA is a true honor. In light of RCA's mission, I am confident that my leadership, scholarly and pedagogical experience is commensurate with the high standards of excellence and integrity achieved within the organization and that my presence would strengthen its 40-year tradition and contribute to its vision for the future.

Adrienne Hacker Daniels
Illinois College

Candidate for Councilor

Currently a full professor at Illinois College, a church-affiliated liberal arts institution, I have held several important leadership positions including a six-year stint as Chair of the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Chair and member of the Retention, Tenure and Promotion Committee, and search committee chair for several tenure-track positions within the department. My scholarly activity includes a contribution to the book edited by Daniel Brown, *A Communication Perspective on Interfaith Dialogue: Living Within the Abrahamic Traditions*, in which I explore the ways in which Wayne Booth's theory of rhetorology can be used to understand and enhance interfaith dialogue, along with other scholarly projects in which I am currently engaged, which include exploring faith and religion on other rhetorical landscapes. My pedagogical experience has at its core, key dimensions of interfaith materials, intersecting as they do—explicitly or subtly—in core courses such as *Communication Ethics*, *Introduction to Mass Communication*, *Freedom of Expression*, and elective courses such as *The Rhetoric of Comedy*.

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I am honored to receive the nomination for 2nd VP of RCA.

As a long-time member of both RCA and NCA, I would bring a variety of experiences to this position. I have served RCA in the roles of Councilor and Media Unit Chair, and have participated in the review process for the conferences and the annual awards. I have also held all leadership positions in the Public Relations Division of NCA.

I am a published religious communication scholar, including book chapters in *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and the News*, and *Evangelicals and Popular Culture*. My academic institution has a strong Christian mission that will support my service to RCA.

If elected, my vision would be to continue to build on the foundation of RCA's strong leadership and advancement over the past several years; to continue advancing the quality, reach, and reputation of the *Journal of Communication and Religion*; and to promote RCA widely to extend our membership.

Denise Ferguson
Pepperdine University

Candidate for 2nd VP

2013 Preconference & Banquet Registration Form

RCA Preconference

Date and Time: **Wednesday November 20th, 10:30am until 9:30pm**

Registration: Begins at 9:00am

Location: The Ronald Regan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., 20004

Included: Lunch and light refreshments throughout the day and at the reception

NCA/RCA Awards Banquet and Keynote Address by Fr. Thomas Reese, S.J.

Date and Time: **Friday November 22, 6:30 until 9:30pm**

Location: Congressional A, Omni Shoreham

Dinner Choices (CIRCLE ONE): Rosemary & Thyme Crusted Chicken Medallions OR Grilled New York Strip OR Vegan Lentil Stew, Sautéed Spinach and Basmati Rice

Name: _____

Name as you would like it to appear on your badge: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

INDICATE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

Circle amounts that apply	PRE-CONFERENCE	AWARDS BANQUET	SUB-TOTALS
STUDENT	\$50 →	\$40 MEMBER → \$65 NONMEMBER	
RCA MEMBER	\$60 →	\$60 →	
GUEST OF MEMBER	\$65 →	\$75 →	
NON-MEMBER	\$75 →	\$85 →	
MEMBERSHIP DUES (Circle one) Regular \$50 Institutional \$50 Student \$25 Life \$500 Already a Life Member \$0			Write in membership amount here →
TOTAL DUE →			

Make checks payable to RCA.
Print out and mail or email to:
 Kristen Lynn Majocho klynn@pitt.edu
 Communication Department
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 450 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15904

Pay by PayPal:

- Enter your Total Due on PayPal
- Note in the "Special Remarks/Note to Seller" or send an email to Janie Harden Fritz (harden@duq.edu) regarding what you're paying for (preconference, banquet,

Adrienne Hacker Daniels, Candidate for Councilor, Continued from Page 2

I believe that I could furnish a fresh perspective to a distinguished group of scholars and teachers. I have been an active participant in discussions and activities circumscribing issues of diversity and interfaith dialogue on my institution's campus, highlighted with participation in diversity seminars and chapel services, along with convocations in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. As a non-Christian faculty member who has had significant teaching experience at church-affiliated institutions, the work that my colleagues, students and I have done to generate "common ground" while maintaining a reciprocal respect for each others' faiths and cultural traditions is no small achievement. The study of faith and culture is more compelling now than ever, given their important and influence within the geopolitical sphere. As we are all too aware, it is so easy for recognition of difference to devolve and deteriorate in the most divisive and destructive of ways, and as campuses are fortunately more diverse and inclusive, promoting healthy dialogue can be even more challenging. I have never eschewed these challenges and the results have been quite positive, and oftentimes far surpassing expectations. I would like to bring some of my insights and ideas to RCA's Executive Council, so that—with that unity of mind and spirit, we can all achieve *tikkun olam*—repairing of the world—so very needed in our fractured world. RCA is the place where I would embrace the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded colleagues on the Executive Council and continue the work which you have begun.

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

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