

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

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.

Volume 32, Number 2

From the President

**Calvin L. Troup, President
Duquesne University**

Welcome to this special edition of the *RCA News* designed to provide you with an overview of this year's RCA-sponsored programming at the National Communication Association (November 21 to November 24) and the RCA Preconference scheduled for Thursday, November 20.

Along with RCA First Vice President Janie Harden Fritz, I invite you to take full advantage of the scholarly panels and presentations planned for November in San Diego. Dr. Harden Fritz also from Duquesne University was the primary planner for our Preconference and the RCA conference held in conjunction with NCA.

RCA Councilor G.L. Forward has coordinated our arrangements at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), his home institution.

Each year the Religious Communication Association meets at the same time and place as the National Communication Association, with which it enjoys official affiliation. RCA convention panels, papers and programs represent varied aspects of religious communication through the divisional interests of the association. The programs at San Diego represent a mix of panels formed through open competition and others invited by program planners.

Be sure to look through this entire brief edition of the *RCA News*. In these few pages you will find a current listing of all programs scheduled for the annual conference scheduled Friday, November 21 through Monday, November 24.

In addition, you will find registration information on the RCA Preconference scheduled Thursday, November 20 at PLNU from 12:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Notice that an afternoon snack and a light dinner are included in your registration for the RCA Preconference on Thursday.

Calvin L. Troup, associate professor at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University, directs the University's Ph.D. program in rhetoric.

Plan to attend the RCA 2008 Awards Banquet and Keynote Address scheduled for Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. during the NCA conference. The registration information for the Preconference and the banquet are included on the form on page two.

All members are encouraged to attend the RCA Business Meeting on Saturday morning.

I look forward to seeing you in San Diego.

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@ PLNU

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.)

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THE R C A NEWS

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RCA 2008 PRECONFERENCE AND Awards Banquet Registration

I. Preconference & Welcome Reception: Thursday, November 20 12:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Point Loma Nazarene University

- Transportation provided between Pre-Conference and Convention Hotel
- Scheduled pick-ups from the Manchester Grand Hyatt at 12:15, 1:00, and 4:00 PM
- Return from PLNU to the Manchester is after the buffet dinner (around 9:00 PM)
- Afternoon snack and light dinner included

II. Awards Banquet and Keynote Address: Friday, November 21 6:30 p.m. during the NCA conference

	Preconference	Awards Banquet	Total
RCA Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	
GUEST	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00	
	Total Amount Due		

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Office Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Check here if you prefer a vegetarian option: _____**Make checks payable to RCA and send to this address:**

G. L. Forward, PhD
 Professor of Organizational Communication
 Point Loma Nazarene University
 3900 Lomaland Dr..
 San Diego, CA 92106

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION? Do you need to renew before the Conference? Find the RCA membership forms by linking to the RCA website here: [RCA Membership Information.](#)

**RCA-Sponsored Programs
National Communication Association 2008**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2008

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Community Model as a Key to Understanding the Indirect Communication Practices of Flannery O'Connor, J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S.

Lewis, and Dorothy Sayers

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

"Fragments of Bonhoeffer's Indirect Communication Found in Flannery O'Connor's Works of Grace in a Fallen World"

Benson P. Fraser (Regent University)

"Imagination as the Way to the Real: Indirect Communication and the Writings of C. S. Lewis"

Thomas Carmody (Vanguard Univ of Southern California)

"Dorothy Sayers and the Mystery of the Written Word"

Nina M. Rusher (Regent University)

"J. R. R. Tolkien's Mythic Imagination at Work in the Community of Saints"

Mark Keuthan (Regent University)

FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Understanding the Influence of Religion on Perception, Identity, and Conflict: Four Case Studies

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

"A Study of the Demographics, Exposure Levels, and Perceptions of Pastor Joel Osteen's Viewing Audience"

Michael S. Jeffress (Regent University)

"African Americans' and White Americans' Understanding of the Relationship between Religion and Health Behaviors"

Tina M. Harris (University of Georgia), Celeste M. Condit (University of Georgia), Bethany L.

Keeley (University of Georgia), Samantha Barrientos (Pepperdine University), Marita

Gronnvoll (University of Georgia), Lijiang Shen (University of Georgia), Jamie Landau

(University of Georgia), Christopher R. Groscurth (University of Michigan), You You Cheng

(University of Georgia), Josue Cisneros (University of Georgia)

"Excommunicated Identity: Sensemaking among Pastors of Disfellowshipped Churches"

Brian T. Kaylor (Univ of Missouri, Columbia)

"Speaking Up at Church: Exploring Organizational Dissent in Churches"

Johny T. Garner (Pepperdine University), Michelle R. Wargo (Pepperdine University)

**Look for the RCA
Preconference
2008
Program**

The RCA Preconference Program will be posted directly to the RCA website.

The Preconference is hosted on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University from 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2008.

The University will provide shuttles for RCA Preconference participants from the NCA conference Headquarters Hotel in San Diego. PLNU shuttles will pick-up conferees at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel at 12:15 p.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. RCA Preconference participants should gather at the Manchester Grand to meet the PLNU shuttle.

A bus will take participants from PLNU back to the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel after the RCA buffet dinner around 9 p.m.

Friday, November 21, 2008 continued

FRIDAY**12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.*****Unconventional Use of Electronic Media for Religious Experience***

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 805

“Geopolitical Proselytizing in the Marketplace for Loyalties: Rethinking the Global Gospel of American Christian Broadcasting”
Michael James Serazio (Univ of Pennsylvania)

“Remixing and Rebirthing the Church: The Hip Hop Prayer Book as an Unconventional Tool to Bring the Altar to the Streets”
Matthew C. Maddex (Louisiana State University)

“Good Catholics Use Condoms: The Function of Ideology in an Electronic Space of Action”

Alexander David May (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)
Jessica A. Gourley (Univ of Nebraska, Lincoln)

FRIDAY**2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.*****Does G-d Have a Website? Jews and Mormons unconventionally Using Virtual and Mediated Communication***

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

“Jewish Law Encounters the Internet”
Menahem Blondheim (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

“Media Events for Political-Religious Socialization Purposes: A Sociological and Communicational Reflection On the Ancient Jewish Hak'hel [Assembly] Ceremony”
Tsurriel Rashi (Bar-Ilan University)

“The Virtual Side of the Mormon Church: The LDS Church Reaching Out Online”
Arlyn T. Anderson (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire)

“Asking Questions Online: Ask-A-Rabbi.com as a Way to Reconnect to Judaism”
S. David Zuckerman (California State Univ, Sacramento)

FRIDAY**3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.*****Unconventional Portrayals: How the Media Uses Christian Themes or Symbols and How Religious Institutions Use the Media***

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

“The Portrayal of Christ through Film History: A Rhetorical Analysis of Significant Christ Films”

Aaron V. Burton (Bowling Green State Univ)

“Examining the Performance of Religion in the Medium of Myspace.com”
Benjamin Cline (Culver Stockton College)

“Do the Media Play a Role in How Religious Organizations Communicate?”
Dedria Givens-Carroll (University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

Friday, November 21, 2008 continued to Saturday, November 22, 2008

“Sharing God's Love in the Twenty-First Century: Faith-based Health Care Institutions Use Technology to Spread Their Mission”

Shawna K. Malvini (California State Univ, Sacramento)

“What Then Shall I Do with this Man called Neo?: The Matrix of Christianity and Media”

Michael Milford (Tarleton State Univ)

“Turn Your Attention to the Screen, Please: How Religious Institutions are Using the Media and Technology”

Shonna Tropf (University of Central Missouri)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Religious Communication Association Business Meeting

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

SATURDAY

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Religious Bodies – Symbolic Bodies

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 705

“Embodying the Tradition”

Erik Garrett (Duquesne University)

“Somatic and Semiotic Aspects of Sunyata in Zen Buddhism”

Joel W. Krueger (Southern Illinois Univ, Carbondale)

“Embodied Spirituality in a Secular Workplace”

Robyn V. Remke (Copenhagen Business School)

“Embodying Eco-Spiritual Disembodiment: Why Faith is Required for an

Interconnected Field of Self, Sign and Ecosystem”

Curt A. Gilstrap (Drury University)

“Embodied Elements of Mission”

Janie M. Harden Fritz (Duquesne University)

SATURDAY

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

The Not-So-Naked Public Square: Unconventional Religious Voices in Contemporary Discourse

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 806

“Twenty-First Century Atheism as Our Church of Reason”

Nicholas A. Thomas (Penn State University)

“Post 9/11 Atheist Apologetics: Persuasive Diatribes and Snarky Polemics”

Joe E. Rhodes (Louisiana State University)

Learn more about
Point Loma
Nazarene
University

Host of this
year's RCA
Preconference

www.pointloma.edu

Saturday, November 22 continued

“Unconventional Belief: Secularization, Individuals, and Communicative Religiosity”

Samuel I. Boerboom (Univ of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

“The Catholic Workers, World War II, and the Rhetoric of Spiritual Pacifism”

Sara Ann Mehlretter (Penn State University)

SATURDAY

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Unconventional Confrontations: The Possibility of Prophetic Voices in the Contemporary Wilderness

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 705

“Important Trivialities and Sweeping Allegations: Prophetic Chastisement in Michael Moore Documentaries”

Naaman K. Wood (Tidewater Comm College)

“Prophets in the Marketplace: Media, Religion, and Social Change in American History”

Kevin Healey (Univ of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

“The Necessary Challenge of Prophetic Imagination”

Christine Danforth

“Abraham Joshua Heschel on Prophetic Inspiration After the Prophets”

Paul D. Patton (Spring Arbor University)

“From Is-ha-elohim to Nabi: The Undoing of Prophetic Engagement in Modern Media Reform Rhetoric”

Ripley Smith (Northwestern College)

“The Messianic Meets the Prophetic in Miracle on 34th Street”

Jennifer Letherer (Spring Arbor University)

SATURDAY

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

St. Augustine in Continental Rhetoric and Philosophy

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

“Arendt and Augustine as the First Existentialist”

Ronald C. Arnett (Duquesne University)

“Lyotard’s Augustine”

David J. Depew (University of Iowa)

“The Belief of Unbelief and the Doubts of Faith: Uncovering a Philosophy of Communication in a Camus–Augustine Encounter”

Ramsey Eric Ramsey (Arizona State Univ West)

“Confessions with Continentals”

Calvin L. Troup (Duquesne University)

Saturday, November 22 continued

SATURDAY

5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Screening Conflict or Voicing Complimentarity?: Religious Discourse in the Contemporary Mediascape

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

“The Confession of Jimmy Swaggart: Expressivism, Speech, Politics”

Dave Tell (University of Kansas)

“The Congregation of the Spectacle: The Rhetorical Functions of Large-Scale Video Displays in Megachurches”

James G. Gilmore (University of Maryland)

“Religious Rhetoric in the Postmodern Context: Three Complimentary Voices in Dialogue”

Daniel E. Rossi Keen (Ohio University)

“Augustine’s Anxiety: Ungovernable Speech and the Rising Tyranny of Text in Christianity”

*Kenton Martin Camper (University of Maryland)***SATURDAY**

6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Religious Communication Perspectives on Enhancing and Enforcing Civic Engagement

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 617

“Christian Faith and Political Action: Mike Huckabee and the 2008 Republican Primary Campaign”

Martin Medhurst (Baylor University)

“Civic Engagement from Religious Grounds”

Calvin L. Troup (Duquesne University)

“Reconceptualizing American Evangelical Christian Public”

Mark Allan Steiner (Christopher Newport Univ)

“Christianity and Prophetic Rhetoric: A Revisionist Look at Darsey’s Thesis”

*Thomas M. Lessl (University of Georgia)***SATURDAY**

6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Evaluating Faith’s Unconventional Partners: Law, Culture, and Politics

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

“Are You Sure You Want to Combine Faith and Politics? A Case Study Exploring the Challenges of an unCONVENTIONAL Interfaith Social Justice Collaboration”

*Jennifer R. Considine (University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh)**Leah Schnall (University of Montana)*

**Learn more
about
San Diego**

**Location of
this year’s RCA
and NCA
conferences**

www.sandiego.org

Saturday, November 22 continued to Sunday, November 23

"A Mixed Methods Analysis of French-Muslim Reactions to la Loi 2004-228: A Law Banning Religious Symbols in French Public Schools"

Stephen Michael Croucher (Bowling Green State Univ)

"Relationship Management, Communication, and Socialization: Religious Leaders and Role Emergence in Community Settings: A Case Analysis"

Willona Olson (DePaul University)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Religious Imagination as Cultural Ethos: Vico, Weber, and the Topology of Folk Hymnody

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

"The Ingenium of Religion"

Alessandra Beasley (Wake Forest University)

"Temporal Imagination in Weber's Protestant Ethic"

Andrew W. Leslie (Salem College)

"The Landscape of Prophecy: Inventing the Sacred in Anglo-American Folk Hymnody"

Margaret D. Zulick (Wake Forest University)

SUNDAY

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Religion in the 2008 Campaign: From the Unconventional to the Conventional

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 706

"The Construction of Unconventional Religion in the 2008 Campaign"

Nicki L. Michalski (Lamar University)

"Mike Huckabee: An Unconventional Presidential Candidate in An Unconventional Campaign 2008"

Jerry Frye (Stephen F. Austin State Univ)

"No Farewell to Falwell: His Complex Legacy Lives"

Jim Towns (Stephen F. Austin State University)

SUNDAY

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Explorations in Islamic Communication

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 705

"How Islamic Theology Configures Communication: An Overview"

Janet G. Metzger (Palm Beach Atlantic University)

"Balagha, the Divine Rhetoric of Islam: Toward an Islamic Theory of Rhetoric"

James W. Crocker-Lakness (Univ of Cincinnati)

"Egalitarian Communication in Islam: Balancing Freedom of Expression with Obedience in the First Four Decades of the Islamic History"

Ahlam H. Muhtaseb (California State Univ, San Bernardino)

Sunday, November 23 continued

“Prayer and the Body: The Case of Salat”

David C. Klope (Mt. Mercy College)

“Islam and the issue of Democratic Discourse: Division and new Directions”

Soterios C. Zoulas (Eastern Nazarene College)

SUNDAY

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Inconvenient Truths or Unconventional Ideographs?: Religious Rhetoric and the Generation of Public Arguments

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

“Pastor, Preacher, Brother, Ladies: Rhetoric as a Generative Source of Cultural Alienation in American Protestant Fundamentalism”

Mark Ward, Sr. (Clemson University)

“Uncovering Hidden Tensions in University Discourse: A Case Study Using an Unconventional Reading of McGee’s Ideograph”

Andrew Swenson (Concordia University)

“Combating the Rhetoric of Essenism: St. Paul’s Language Strategy in Penning the Epistle to the Colossians”

H. Curtis McDaniel (Duquesne University)

“The Postmillennial Prophetic Genre and Pat Robertson: A Distinction with an Apocalyptic Difference”

Michael Souders (University of Kansas)

SUNDAY

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Intersections of Community and Religion: The Role of Narrative and Ritual

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt/ Parlor Room 724

“The Other Side of Othering: How Muslims Construct American Christians through Dialogue”

Lori DeWitt (Salisbury University)

“Ritualistic Communication in the Atheist and Agnostic Community”

Joshua Frederick Hoops (Washington State University),

Jinghe Wang (Washington State University),

Mei Hua (Washington State University)

“The Effect of Biblical Narratives on Emotions after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita”

Michael Rold (Louisiana State University),

James M. Honeycutt (Louisiana State University),

Stephanie H. Grey (Louisiana State University),

Anne-Liese J. Fox (Louisiana State University)

“Catholic Parishes as Neighborhood Storytellers”

Christopher Chavez (Univ of Southern California)

**Learn more
about NCA’s
Conference
Programming**

**Register Online
for the NCA
Conference**

www.natcom.org

Highlight Events

RCA 2008 Preconference & NCA Convention November 20 – 24, 2008

Shuttle transportation to RCA Preconference @ PLNU

Point Loma Nazarene University shuttles will pick-up conferees at the Manchester Grand Hotel at 12:15 p.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20. RCA Preconference participants should gather at the Manchester Grand Hyatt to meet the PLNU shuttle.

A bus will take participants from PLNU back to the Manchester Grand after the RCA buffet dinner around 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

12:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Preconference and Welcome Reception

LOCATION: Point Loma Nazarene University

- Transportation provided between Pre-Conference and Convention Hotel
- Afternoon snack and light dinner included

Registration: RCA Members \$20.00

Students \$10.00

Guests \$35.00

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

6:30 p.m.

RCA 2008 Awards Banquet

LOCATION: (TBA)

Tickets: RCA Members \$25.00

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Religious Communication Association Business Meeting

LOCATION: Manchester Grand Hyatt, Parlor Room 724

Executive Council of the Religious Communication Association

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