

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

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

Call for 2011 Book, Article & Dissertation Awards

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dissertation. (The award committee would prefer a URL address where there is open online access to the dissertation.)

DEADLINE: June 15, 2011 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 New Orleans, LA. Each category carries a cash award.

Send nominations and materials to:

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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.

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From the President

Rodney A. Reynolds, President
Azusa Pacific University

Greetings and blessings from RCA. This Spring issue of the RCA Newsletter includes a photographic review of the RCA activities in San Francisco last November. Also included is information about renewing your membership and signing up for the RCA list serve.



I am pleased to announce that the RCA Scholar of the Year for 2011 is Dr. Tina Harris from the University of Georgia. An article about Dr. Harris will appear in the summer RCA newsletter and Dr. Harris will be recognized at the upcoming convention.

I am also pleased to announce the location of the RCA Pre-Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2011, from 10:30am—9:30pm. We will meet at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, located at 300 Bourbon Street, just one to two blocks from the NCA convention locations. The hotel's website is www.sonesta.com/royalneworleans/.

The Royal Sonesta is located in the French Quarter near antique stores and restaurants and far enough away from the "other" part of Bourbon Street that some of our members may not appreciate. The RCA Awards Dinner is scheduled for Friday, November 18 at 6:30pm. We will be honoring the RCA Scholar of the Year and other awardees as well. Save these dates.

The Summer 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 that Vice President Kathleen Edelmayer is organizing. Make sure to register for all RCA events early as last year we were at capacity for each function.

What a gift it is that we are growing in both numbers and quality. Please invite friends and colleagues to join RCA and bring those friends and colleagues along to the RCA events at the conference. I look forward to seeing you in exciting New Orleans!

Blessings,
Rodney A. Reynolds, President
Religious Communication Association

Call for 2011 Book, Article & Dissertation Awards

Nominations for honors open until June 1

J. Mathew Melton, 2nd Vice President
Lee University

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

during the two prior academic years. To be eligible the author must complete the dissertations during the period from May 1, 2009 to May 1, 2011.

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

RCA Article Award: The RCA grants the Article Award for an outstanding article on religious communication published during the previous (2010-2011) 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.

Dissertation advisors or department chairs should submit a 1-2 page letter of nomination as a supporting document to accompany the nomination. The award committee requires that the nominee or the nominator make available an electronic version (pdf or MS Word format) of the completed

RCA Book Award: The RCA grants the Book Award for the outstanding scholarly book on religious communication published between 2009 and 2011. 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

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

See Call for 2011 Awards Continued on Page 6

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JCR Guidelines

The *Journal of Communication and Religion* publishes original articles that advance theory and research about communication in religious contexts. Outstanding articles will use rigorous theory and methodology to develop insightful arguments that will further knowledge, understanding, and care about the intersections of communication and religion.

The journal accepts articles dealing with communication within the purview of any religion. Manuscripts should show strong scholarship, exemplary in its research type (either quantitative or qualitative). Writing should be clear, aesthetically pleasing, and effective. Its style should be gender sensitive. At best, articles will contribute to the stock of knowledge in communication and religion, offering insights that can lead to positive religious, social, and cultural change.

The Journal of Communication and Religion (JCR)

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.

JCR publishes a variety of research and scholarship on

communication and religion. Calvin Troup, Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University, is the journal's editor. The journal's editorial board is comprised of scholars in the fields of rhetoric, media, journalism, and communication studies.

The journal is published twice a year and sent in hard copy to all

members of the Religious Communication Association. Along with the National Communication Association journals, and many others, JCR is searchable through full-text publication by EBSCO.

All scholars of communication and religion, new and established, are encouraged to submit articles to *The Journal of Communication and Religion*.

Pre-Conference | November 16, 2011 | New Orleans

Join RCA at the Royal Sonesta Hotel located in the French Quarter!

RCA will convene its annual pre-conference on Wednesday, November 16 from 10:30am—9:30pm. RCA's annual meeting is scheduled concurrently with the National Communication Association (NCA). The RCA/NCA conference runs from Thursday, November 17 to Sunday, November 20,

This year, the conference will be held in New Orleans. This year's pre-conference will meet at the Royal Sonesta Hotel located at 300 Bourbon Street. The hotel is one to two blocks away from

the RCA/NCA convention locations in the French Quarter, yet far enough away from typical Bourbon Street nightlife.

All submissions to RCA/NCA are peer reviewed. The submissions that receive recommendations for conference presentation are placed first at RCA/NCA and then at the pre-conference..

More details about the pre-conference will be distributed via the RCA list serve and will be in the next newsletter.

RCA Pre-Conference
Wed. November 16, 2011
10:30am—9:30pm

RCA Awards Ceremony
Friday, November 18, 2011
6:30pm



The Royal Sonesta Hotel is located at 300 Bourbon Street, just steps from the NCA convention hotels New Orleans Marriott and the Sheraton New Orleans.

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.



RCA Awards Banquet 2011

Nominations are now being sought for the 2011 awards. RCA book, article, and dissertation award information appears on page 1 of this newsletter. The nomination deadline is June 15th!

Congratulations to RCA's 2010 award recipients!



RCA Awards Banquet 2010

Fun and fellowship was had by all! The event sold out so be sure to register early this year. And make sure to bring colleagues and friends!

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

This issue's feature is the stone sculpture on the campus of Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. Long-time RCA member Paul Lakey, PhD, Professor of Communication at Abilene, knows the artist who designed the sculpture.

Lakey says, "Jacob's Dream' is the dream production by my friend Jack Maxwell. I never tire of visiting the site as I always discover a new perspective. It inspires me to continue climbing toward the lofty goals of my Savior." The 34-foot



The stone sculpture at Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas.



"Jacob's Dream" invites visitors to reflect, meditate, and worship.

high statue includes bronze angels, water, rocks, and plants. "Jacob's Dream' catches my eye but the viewer is reminded by the negative space view of the cross of what is truly important in life," Lakey says. "I have been blessed to teach class at the site—amazed and humbled by God and His gifts to us." The stones are engraved with scriptures from Genesis 28 where Jacob lay his head on a pillow of stone, dreamed of angels, and received a blessing from God.

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 Kristen L. Majocho at klynn@pitt.edu.

Has Your RCA Membership Expired? Check it out

Janie Harden Fritz, Executive Secretary
Duquesne 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 an email to harden@duq.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: Janie Harden Fritz, RCA Executive Secretary
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