

RCA NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter of the Religious Communication Association

Fall 2007 (October)

From the President What's Brewing?

When I ran for the position of Second Vice president a few years ago, I did so on the platform of working to explore more ways for RCA members to present scholarship. Over the past three years I have explored many ideas which have resulted in nominal success. To that extent, I believe that the RCA pre-conference is the best avenue available to provide a small, intimate gathering for scholars to share their scholarship.

Securing leadership for the pre-conference has been challenging as well. We have been blessed and fortunate this year that Ruth Anna Abigail from Azusa Pacific University stepped in to oversee this thankless task. She has run into roadblock after roadblock this year trying to make this year's pre-conference happen. But she did it! Ruth Anna has scheduled a wonderful pre-conference complete with the traditional RCA banquet and an outstanding speaker.

In order to make sure that the pre-conference becomes an annual event, I have introduced a constitutional change that will include the pre-conference planner as a member of the executive committee. You will be receiving a separate snail mail that will explain the amendment in detail along with several other changes to the constitution that we will be voting on in November. Please read the material closely and carefully and come to the RCA Business Meeting in Chicago prepared to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve RCA over the past three years. It has been a blessing and a joy.

Kevin Jones, Chapman University

Plan now to attend the BUSINESS MEETING
Thursday, November 15th, 3:30-4:45, Palmer House, Crystal Room

Deadline for Pre-Conference October 31!!!

**Religious Communication Association
Pre-Conference**

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

**12 – 5 p.m. Pre-Conference
6 – 8 p.m. Dinner, with guest speaker Juliana Stratton**

Location:

**Jaks Tap
901 W. Jackson Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 666-1700**

**Jaks Tap is located 1.88 miles from the Chicago Hilton Towers (according to Mapquest)
and is about a \$5 cab ride from the hotel**

**\$50 Registration fee includes coffee break and dinner
\$25 Dinner only (this will be our traditional RCA banquet)**

Call for Papers or Panels—due October 12, 2007

Abstracts, papers, or panels concerning religious communication must be submitted **ELECTRONICALLY** to Ruth Anna Abigail (raabigail@apu.edu) by October 12, 2007 for consideration. Depending on the number of papers or panels submitted, concurrent sessions may be scheduled.

Schedule

12:00 – 1:00 Registration
1:00 – 3:00 First Session
3:00 – 3:15 Break (registration fee includes coffee and snacks)
3:30 – 5:30 Second Session
6:00 – 8:00 Dinner and Guest Speaker Julie Stratton

JULIANA WIGGINS STRATTON is principal owner of *JDS Mediation Services, Inc.* She has trained mediators (32-hour mediation skills course) and led a variety of other workshops on the topic of conflict resolution both locally and nationally. Juliana was trained by the Institute for Christian Conciliation in biblical peacemaking and has assisted Christian marriages and families with improving communication and working towards resolution of interpersonal conflicts since 1999. In addition, she has served as staff Conciliator for the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago, mediating marital and intra-congregational disputes for the congregation. Juliana has served on numerous government-based and private alternative dispute resolution panels including for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. Postal Service, United Airlines, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Center for Conflict Resolution, Cook County Mandatory Arbitration, and the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Juliana currently serves as a Deputy Hearing Commissioner for the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and as an Administrative Law Officer for the City of Chicago Department of Administrative Hearings. She has been a volunteer with the Center for Conflict Resolution for 15 years, is a member of the Illinois Judicial Council, and is active with the Chicago Chapter of Jack & Jill of America. Juliana earned her Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law.

Questions and abstracts should be addressed to:

Ruth Anna Abigail, Ph.D.
Center for Adult and Professional Studies
Azusa Pacific University
901 E. Alost Avenue
Azusa, CA 91702-7000
(626) 815-5030
raabigail@apu.edu

Pre-Conference Registration Form

Return to: Ruth Anna Abigail, Pre-Con Coordinator
Center for Adult and Professional Studies
Azusa Pacific University
901 E. Alost Avenue
Azusa, CA 91702-7000

Name _____

Name on Badge _____

Institution _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

- I will be attending the pre-conference and dinner (\$50)
- I will be attending the RCA banquet only (\$25)

Please make check payable to Religious Communication Association

Conference registration and dinner fees MUST be paid by October 31, 2007

The 2007 RCA Convention Program At-A-Glance

From the First Vice President

Convention Update

The 2007 RCA program is ready to go for Chicago. I believe we have been blessed this year with the ability to offer everyone a very strong selection of offerings from a very diverse pool. The selection process was again very competitive this year. Thanks to Ruth Anna Abigail and the pre-conference for providing additional opportunity for the presentation of worthy scholarship!

While our 14 panels represents a drop in the number of slots from previous years, what we lack in quantity we more than make up for in quality. Our panels represent a very broad array of fascinating timely topics and research.

Business Meeting

Our business meeting will be held Thursday, November 15th, 3:30-4:45, Palmer House, Crystal Room! The presentation of the annual RCA awards will take place at this meeting!

Spotlight Panel

In the spirit of the 2007 NCA Convention theme, “Communicating Worldviews: Faith—Intellect—Ethics,” the NCA First Vice President and the Religious Communication Association will be sponsoring a spotlight paper presentation by Dr. Martin Marty. Dr. Marty, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at the [University of Chicago](#) Divinity School, will address “Sightings of Religion in Public Communication” on Saturday, November 17 at the Chicago Hilton/Boulevard C from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

An ordained Lutheran pastor since 1952, Dr. Marty is dedicated to serving the Church, the academy and the public. He has taught at the University of Chicago Divinity School for 35 years. Author of more than 50 [books](#), including *Righteous Empire*, for which he won the National Book Award, and over 5,000 essays, Marty’s scholarship has promoted issues of “public religion” in scholarship. He also has served as the president or director of several associations and institutions, including the American Academy of Religion, the American Society of Church History, and the American Catholic Historical Association. He has been the recipient of numerous honors, such as the National Humanities Medal, the Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Distinguished Service Medal of the Association of Theological Schools. Marty is an elected member of the American Antiquarian Society and of the Society of American Historians, an elected fellow of the American Philosophical Society, and is the Mohandas M. K. Gandhi Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences. Marty has received 75 honorary [doctorates](#).

Dr. Marty will address current communication dynamics regarding rhetoric, civility, and ethics in the public square. Dr. Marty’s extensive contributions to scholarship and continuing service as a public intellectual on questions of religion and public life position him uniquely to speak to these issues in ways that will appeal to a broad spectrum of the NCA membership and challenge us with well grounded, provocative perspectives. In this regard, Dr. Marty’s enduring commitment to consider questions at the center of this year’s convention theme suggest that he is well suited help us pursue faithfully the difficult personal and public demands placed on a nation publicly committed to religious freedom.

Thank You

Putting together the RCA program is never the work of a single person and I would be extremely remiss if I did not acknowledge and give a loud THANK YOU to our division chairs! Thanks to each of you for your diligence!

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you. I trust you will be blessed by this year's convention and find the scholarship diverse, stimulating, and thought provoking! See you in Chicago!!

For your convenience, a program reminder is included in the newsletter to help you in your convention planning.

Calvin Troup, 1st Vice President
Duquesne University

Nominations for Executive Council Offices (election at business meeting)

For 2nd Vice President (2 nominees; vote for one). The 2nd Vice President serves as a member of the Executive Council and is particularly concerned with membership and recruitment. After one year they succeed the 1st Vice President who oversees convention planning for RCA. In the following year, that person succeeds the President of RCA. Both of these positions entail a three-year commitment; a full description of their duties is in the Constitution and Bylaws on our web site at <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcaconstitution.html>.

Vice President

Barbara Spies is Assistant Professor in Communication Arts at Cardinal Stritch University, a Franciscan Roman Catholic university, where she has taught for the last 5 years. She earned a Ph.D. in Speech Communication from The Pennsylvania State University in 1994, with a dissertation focusing on the rhetoric of Antoinette Brown Blackwell. Blackwell was the first woman to be ordained as a minister in the United States, in 1853, and spoke for woman's rights, abolition, and the purity movement.

Teaching areas include Public Speaking, Interviewing, Communication Research, Family Communication, Media, Argumentation & Debate, and Senior Seminar. Her research focuses on rhetoric and public address, especially in relation to speeches falling into the genre of the jeremiad. She also has conducted studies in the area of Academic Service Learning and the Communication Classroom. She requires students in my Public Speaking courses to participate in Academic Service Learning.

Robert Woods is Associate Professor of Communication at Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, Michigan, where he teaches media ethics and research at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has a B.A. in communication from the University of New Mexico and a Ph.D. in communication from Regent University, Virginia. He also holds a J.D. (Juris Doctor) from Regent University and is licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

RCA Councilor (two nominees; vote for one)

G.L. Forward, Professor of Organizational Communication, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA. RCA and NCA have remained my primary intellectual homes. I served 2 terms as the Chair of what was then called the Interpersonal/Organizational Division (now Communication Studies) of RCA. During that time I was most pleased at encouraging the involvement of my PLNU departmental colleagues and even undergraduate communication students in RCA activities. RCA has also been an outlet for much of my own work in conferences papers and publishing. I am currently a member of the *JCR* editorial board and recently published a fourth empirical article in our journal.

RCA needs to continue to provide quality convention programs, an intellectually rigorous, diverse, and accessible journal, as we are doing, and to represent the constituency of those already here and many others who will – by accident or Providence - continue to “discover” all that RCA has to offer. If elected as Councilor, it would be my privilege to assist all those leading our organization into an exciting and fulfilling future.

Ray McCormick. For the last 22 years, I have taught in the Communication Studies Department of Azusa Pacific University. During this time, I have been called upon to teach a variety of classes ranging from introductory courses in communication studies, mass media, and argumentation to major classes in rhetorical theory, criticism, communication theory and a senior seminar dealing with ethics and communication. In terms of educational background, I received my M.A. in Speech Communication from California State University at Long Beach, a Masters of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, and a PhD from the University of Southern California.

I have been a member of RCA for the past 18 years and a life member for the last 15 years. RCA has been a blessing to me in that it has provided opportunities for me to meet and learn from my colleagues in Christian colleges and University across the country. The time of fellowship and opportunities of scholarship that comes each fall with the annual meeting contributes greatly to my standing as a scholar and my effectiveness as a teacher. While I have not had the opportunity to serve RCA in an official capacity, I welcome this nomination. I would be delighted to represent this organization and its membership. Thank you.

Pre-Conference Planner

Biff Rocha. I currently teach at Benedictine College, a small private liberal arts school located in Atchison, Kansas. I am still in the process of finishing my dissertation and Theology Ph.D. at the University of Dayton I've been involved in the RCA for three years and ask to be considered for the position of Pre-Conference Planner, which as I understand it, would help to organize our one day gathering prior to the annual NCA meeting. I would look to our membership to determine an appropriate pre-conference theme, and then I would send out the call for papers and work with the first Vice President in finding a conference venue satisfactory to our needs. To give you a little background on myself, I have a variety of scholarly interests but most revolve around the general area of religious communication. My first MA degree in Speech Communication and Rhetoric is from Miami University located in Oxford, Ohio. My thesis involved the formation of a Christian Rhetorical Theory. My second MA came from the University of Dayton's Religious Studies Department where I did a rhetorical analysis of the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* signed by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church. My dissertation studies the origins of the famous *Baltimore Catechism* written during the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884 and used as a Catholic religion textbook ever since. As you can see I like to work with texts, so overseeing the RCA's call for papers should be right up my alley! Thank you for your consideration.

RCA Executive Council

President: Kevin Jones, Chapman University, kjones@chapman.edu

First Vice President: Calvin Troup, Duquesne University, troup@duq.edu

Second Vice President: Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University, harden@duq.edu

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RCA Newsletter Editor: Paul Lakey, Abilene Christian University, lakeyp@acu.edu

Join the 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.

Visit Your Website . . . www.americanrhetoric.com/rca

RCA 2007 MEMBERSHIP

Fill out this form for **memberships** (new and renewals) and mail to:

Ken Danielson
11 Dandelion Drive
Boiling Spring, PA 17007
(610) 683-4889
danielso@kutztown.edu

Make checks payable to RCA. Thanks! [Overseas memberships: Add \$10 in US currency to amount listed.] Your canceled check will serve as your receipt.

RCA 2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Complete the following (please print):

- Renewed Membership
 New Member

Last Name : _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Business Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Type of Membership:

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

RCA CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2007

THURSDAY

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Selling the Sacred: Multi Media Methods of Marketing Religion

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 17

The purpose of this panel is to examine convergences of religion and popular culture within multi-media texts. Our current moment enables hitherto fore unprecedented modes of interpersonal and institutional communication, accelerating information distribution and changing traditional experiences of time and space. These changes present new opportunities for “witnessing,” but also complicate the already hazy boundaries between secular and sacred, capitalism and conversion.

THURSDAY

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Integrating Faith and Reason: The Challenges of Teaching Communication and the Arts at Religiously Affiliated Colleges

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 17

Many students at religiously-affiliated colleges retain firm convictions from training at home or church that present challenges to the study of communication. Few are equipped to face the worldview test of pluralism and most maintain sharp sacred/secular distinctions. These challenges become especially apparent when teaching ethics, theater, rhetoric, and mass media. An integrated instructional model allows faculty to side-step the tendency to uphold time-honored indoctrinational models in favor of more discursive, interactive, and results-oriented approaches

THURSDAY

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

C.S. Lewis, The 20th Century’s Great Communicator of the Christian World View

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 18

This panel explores C. S. Lewis as one of the Twentieth Century’s great communicators of the Christian world view. Papers describe his use of narrative form to critique scientism, his applications of communication theory embedded in his works, his talents as a biblical commentator for a popular audience, and his use of ancient sophistic and rhetorical theory to describe worlds of reason and faith.

THURSDAY

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Religious Communication Association Business Meeting

LOCATION: Palmer House/ Crystal Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Communicative Action: Christian Ethics, Practice, and Activism

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 8

Paper Session.

FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Communicating Worldviews: Integrating Faith at a Public Institution

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 16

At religious affiliated universities, the integration of faith is accepted, and often expected. However, public institutions are often concerned about the incorporation of faith issues in the classroom experience. This panel examines the problems, obstacles and joys of integrating faith at public supported institutions.

FRIDAY

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Communicating Faith-Grounded Worldviews through Approaches to Communication Theory: Incarnation, Action, and Discourse

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 16

This panel addresses approaches to communication theory and practice from a variety of faith-grounded worldviews: a Levinasian understanding of care, a Trinitarian approach to communication theory, an incarnational understanding of interpersonal communication, a Lewisian treatment of domestic courtesy, an understanding of Divine discourse as persuasive, and communication principles drawn from monastic practices.

FRIDAY

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Cyber-Religion: Issues in Mediated Religious Communities

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 16

Paper Session.

FRIDAY

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

What Would Jesus Say?: The Religious Right in the Public Square

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 16

Paper Session.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Faith & Communication Theory in Conversation: Theoretical and Methodological Engagements

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 8

Paper Session.

SATURDAY

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Communicative Implications of Religious, Cultural, and Gendered Identities: Fragmentation in Search of Reconciliation

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 16

Paper Session.

SATURDAY

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

“Sightings” of Religion in Public Communication

LOCATION: Chicago Hilton/ Boulevard C

NCA First Vice President Special Program:

Dr. Martin Marty will address current communication dynamics regarding rhetoric, civility, and ethics in the public square. Dr. Marty’s extensive contributions to scholarship and continuing service as a public intellectual on questions of religion and public life position him uniquely to speak to these issues in ways that will appeal to a broad spectrum of the NCA membership and challenge us with well grounded, provocative perspectives.

SATURDAY

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Christian Teens and Young Adults in a Digital World: Newer Media Influences on their Religious Beliefs and Practices

LOCATION: Palmer House/ Salon 7

Some scholars have claimed that religious beliefs and practices are being or will be significantly changed in our increasingly mediated culture and through the use of many newer media and their various features. The purpose of this panel will be to present the results of four studies which explore in various ways how and why Christian teens and young adults are using specific newer communication technologies or have immersed themselves in particular popular media environments and how this may be influencing their religious beliefs, practices and lifestyles. Each study is among the first of its kind with this particular focus,

SATURDAY**2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.***God-Talk in the White House: Rhetorical Accounts of Presidential Discourse*

LOCATION: Palmer House/ Salon 5

Paper Session.

SATURDAY**3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.***Mediated vs. Traditional Ministry: Methods of the Evangelical Ministry of Tony Campolo, C.S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer and Billy Sunday*

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 8

The purpose of this panel is to demonstrate the affects of mediated communication and the emergence of communication methods throughout history which have affected the message construction and delivery for evangelical misters including Tony Campolo, Francis Schaeffer, C.S. Lewis and Billy Sunday. The strength of traditional communication channels including oral (Sunday) and print (Lewis, Campolo, and Schaeffer) communication will be compared to mediated channels including radio (Sunday & Lewis), music (Schaeffer), and television (Campolo) during the panel discussion.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2007**SUNDAY****8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.***Varieties of Christian Experience in Popular Culture*

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 8

This is a panel about the ways that popular culture mediates “Christian” experience, with special focus on the issue of family values. By focusing on the production of religiously marked figures such as Ted Haggard and Mitt Romney, and on mass mediated texts such as *The Di Vinci Code* and the *Left Behind Series*, we hope to isolate some of the forms, ideological investments, and affective ties that cumulatively produce the varieties of “Christian” experience in popular culture.

SUNDAY**9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***Religious Traditions as Sources of Rhetorical Invention*

LOCATION: Palmer House/ PDR 8

This panel explores and extends the work of seven rhetoric scholars whose reflections on religious traditions as sources of rhetorical invention first appeared in a special issue of *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* (winter, 2004) edited by Martin Medhurst. In this roundtable setting, participants will address more fully how their religious rhetorical tradition (manifested through distinctive topoi, reasoning patterns, narratives, rituals, etc.) has contributed to how they think about rhetorical invention.