

President's Memo to the Religious Communication Association

Rodney A. Reynolds,
RCA President
California Lutheran
University



RCA is at another Ephesians 3:20 moment – The work going on within us is indeed “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” Please join in as we boldly proclaim to anyone who can hear (or read) that RCA is THE international voice for religious communication scholarship. Our Newsletter and our Website are earning awards and recognition. Our journal is moving onto a larger stage and attracting scholars from all over the globe. Our association is strong with membership gradually

moving well beyond North America. The development in the levels of scholarship is more than impressive. Each year there is clear evidence of renewed and increasing interest in RCA by both new and established communication scholars. There are major proposals before us for extensions of our scholarly outreach beyond our preconference and our

NCA conference offerings. We have justifiable hope in a strong and vibrant future for RCA.

These improvements and advances are the result of calm spirit-led service by many of our members. We regularly benefit from gentle and kind reminders of how generations of our members reach forward to encourage new endeavors and efforts. The outreach to the NCA community continues to strengthen as we turn and invite others in. When our members review papers, serve on committees, chair or respond to papers, bring colleagues to panels, and attend our panels, banquet, and preconference, we extend RCA hospitality in

subtle ways to many others. Thank you for the honor to serve with you.

Please take some time to express appreciation to 1st VP Kathleen Edelmayer (Madonna University) for her work this year in

planning our conference and pre-conference. The untold story is the way that Kathleen did all the planning and arranging while mastering a new paper submission and review system at NCA (past experience did not really

apply). Kathleen will be modest and tell you about how being a forensic coach is good practice for such a

job and all about the good fortunes that came her way, but she really deserves our appreciation. We have a great year ahead as Kathleen

“RCA is THE international voice for religious communication.”

steps into the role of being RCA President at the business meeting in New Orleans.

2nd VP J. Matthew Melton (Lee University) has given freely to the work of building up our membership and keeping after our RCA scholarship awards. Matthew did much of his work while traveling with students and while serving as a Dean. Many of you may just be learning that Matthew (with encouragement from me) has taken the first steps toward bringing RCA into the social media age (join in on our Facebook Page by searching for The Religious Communication Association once you are on Facebook). There are other social media advances coming in the near future. Our wonderful councilors, Mark Allan Steiner (Christopher Newport University), Mark Williams (California State University Sacramento), and Denise P. Ferguson (now at Pepperdine Uni-

Memo from the First Vice President New Orleans Welcomes RCA and NCA in November

Kathleen M. Edelmayer
1st Vice President
Madonna University



As I type during the waning days of summer, thoughts are on fall: a new academic year, the change of seasons, and November in New Orleans. I am very

excited for our upcoming conference. We're returning to a city that has hosted NCA a number of times and while much has changed since that first conference in 1970 (as SCA), much of what draws folks to “New Awlins” remains constant. In our first time back after the devastation of Katrina, NCA will sponsor a day of service; many panels will analyze policies, responses and impacts; and our

thoughts and prayers turn to those who are still recovering.

We have a wonderful convention prepared for you, both at the RCA pre-conference and at the NCA conference. This combination will be one of our largest, with over 30 slots, including co-sponsored and “theme” panels, interest group meetings, and opportunities for networking and fellowship (and food!).

“Research collaborations have begun ‘over coffee’ at RCA.”

The pre-conference will be held on Wednesday, November 16th at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. This AAA 4-diamond hotel is located in the French Quarter, only a few blocks from the Canal Street convention hotels. The hotel captures the flavor of New Orleans, “with traditional gabled

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First Vice President Kathleen M. Edelmayer | Continued from Page 1

windows, French doors and wrought-iron lace balconies, the hotel is distinctively European and unmistakably New Orleans.” We will follow the expanded pre-conference schedule as developed

last year. Our interest group meetings are scheduled at distinct times to encourage members to attend and participate in as many areas as possible. New this year, is the “Awards Research Panel”.

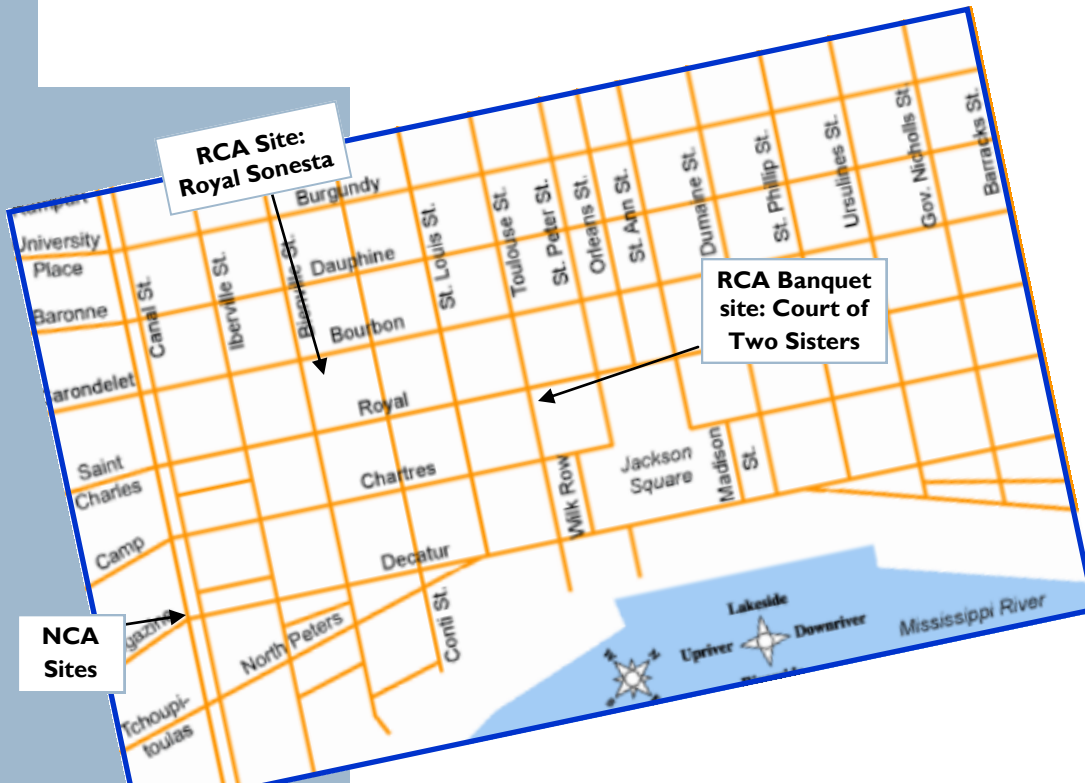
This panel will showcase the research by those who have been selected as recipients of the Book, Article, and Dissertation of the Year Awards. We will also have a room open all day for

conversation and fellowship. Please see the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter for details. I also hope that you will be able to join us for our annual awards banquet, to be held on Friday, November 18th at *The Court of Two Sisters*.

This year, you may select your dinner option (chicken topped with lump crab meat OR tenderloin of beef OR vegetarian). Please submit your reservation before November 16th. Rodney has a wonderful program planned for the evening.

I encourage all of you to invite friends and students to the pre-conference. Because of its size and schedule, I believe this is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in religious communication to visit with friends, reconnect with colleagues, and develop new relationships.

A number of research collaborations have begun “over coffee” at RCA, let’s continue that trend. Graduate students -- don’t hesitate to say “hello” to those members whose articles you’ve read in class! Members -- be sure to welcome new participants! Everyone -- make an effort to meet (and converse) with at least two new people during the weekend! Let’s be sure to make it known that “All are welcome in this place!” See you in New Orleans!



NCA-RCA Conference Site 1	NCA-RCA Conference Site 2	RCA Pre-conference Site
New Orleans Marriott 555 Canal Street New Orleans, LA Phone: 800-266-9432	Sheraton New Orleans 500 Canal Street New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: 504-525-2500	Royal Sonesta Hotel 300 Bourbon Street New Orleans, LA Phone: 504.586.0300

President’s Memo to RCA Membership | Continued from Page 1

versity) played a major role in the scholarly award process. Matthew will soon tell us all about the dedicated service by many others in the RCA who helped in the scholarship award reviewing process.

Calvin Troup (Duquesne University) continues to build the quality of our journal in multiple ways. We have high hopes to hear some important news about the Journal of Communication and Religion at our business meeting.

Janie Harden Fritz (Duquesne University) stepped into the role of RCA Executive and is confidently making great strides in sharpening

our systems and processes. Janie has made an efficient transition from Ken Danielson’s years of service. We will no doubt be hearing about the progress on several projects in that office at this year’s business meeting.

Kristen Lynn Majocha’s (University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown) is doing great work building up the newsletter and keeping us on track. We can expect some new communication initiatives from Kristen this coming year.

Michael E. Eidenmuller (The University of Texas at Tyler) has earned RCA a number of distinctions for our RCA website. [http://](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/)

www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/ Our association with the americanrhetoric.com website is paying off in many different ways.

Many of you know that I transitioned this year to an administrative position at California Lutheran University. This move brought both traditions (we moved back to our house) and new horizons. A key part of those new horizons is the opportunity I now have in 2012 to serve as the RCA Immediate Past President. As I visit with you at our events this year, I hope you will share with me your inspirations for the future of RCA. With God’s help, we will all look back at 2011-12 as a new beginning.

2011 Religious Communication Association Scholar Award Recipient to talk on

“Creating a Space for a Religious Voice”

As a student and emerging scholar, Tina M. Harris became glaringly aware of the marginalized status of voices that were on the periphery. Communicative experiences of the proverbial other often times failed to be included in those accounts featured in journal articles or books claiming to reflect the realities of everyday people. Following in the footsteps of others, Harris began to direct her attention toward giving voice to otherness that seemed to be lacking in the mainstream communication scholarship. In addition to race as a central part of her intellectual landscape, a considerable amount of her research has been channeled into the area of religious communication.

Harris is a person of the Christian faith who has explored the role of religious frameworks in informing one's communication processes. Specifically, she has used religious identity as a lens to explore the ways in which these socially constructed identities inform understandings of and decisions about one's health. Although her perspective is specific to Christianity, her scholarship is inclusive of and applicable to other faith perspectives and communities. Her publications on religion are consistent with the goals and mission of the Religious Communication Association, which is “to provide a setting in which persons of various faiths, or no faith, can study the problems of communication and religion.” Further, she too “seeks to promote honest, respectful and profound

dialogue which reflects the diversity of religious beliefs, subject matter concerns, methodologies, and professions of RCA's members.”

In her scheduled talk titled “Creating a Space for a Religious Voice,” Harris will discuss the importance of giving an authentic voice to experiences that have been for too long marginalized. She will discuss the importance of centering religious identities in our scholarship while causing a healthy and strategic disruption of traditional and exclusive approaches to communication scholarship. Dr. Harris will conclude her talk with a charge to religious communication scholars to dare to push borders and boundaries in pursuit of “voice” in an ever-changing world.



Tina Maria Harris, Ph. D., is a Professor at the University of Georgia in the Department of Communication Studies. She is a communication scholar with research interests

in interracial communication, pedagogy, diversity in the media, and in race and ethnic disparities and religious frameworks in health communication. She has co-authored the 2008 textbook *Interracial Communication: Theory to Practice* with African American communication scholar Mark P. Orbe. She has a forthcoming co-edited anthology with religious communication scholar Stephen Croucher (Marist University) titled, “*Religion and Communication: An Anthology of Extensions in Theory, Research, and Method*,” being published by Peter Lang. Professor Harris's most recent and notable accomplishments include her selection as UGA's 2010 Josiah T. Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor (the university's highest teaching honor) and the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents 2005 recipient of the “Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning,” among many others.



“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” (Psalms 100:4, KJV)

Religious Communication on the Campus

by Lynn Stewart
RCA Member
since 2009

Psalm 100:4 comes to mind when I see the “Guardian Angels” that stand prominently at Loyola University's, Mundelein Center, in Chicago, Illinois. The Mundelein Center was designed by Nairne W. Fisher in 1929 and is designated as an official Chicago landmark.

The Guardian Angels represent Uriel, “the light of God,” and Jophiel, “the Beauty of God.” Both Angels stand majestically with Uriel pointing to a cross on the 14th floor of the building and Jophiel lifting high his torch of knowledge while holding the Earth.

I am both captured and captivated by the beauty of this piece. I find myself reflecting on the many opportunities I have received. Even more so I find myself inspired to continue learning not only about my chosen discipline, but about God. I am inspired by this piece to maintain a heart, mind, and spirit of gratitude regarding my education.

We often get caught up in our accomplishments. Yet this piece reminds us to recall that He is the giver of all good and perfect gifts. The “Guardian Angels” stand as a reminder that to whom much has been given, indeed much is required.

RCA Pre-conference Schedule

Time	Room	Panel
10:30 to 11:45	Oak Alley/ Madewood	<p>C.S. Lewis and Others: Looking to Disparate Voices for a Broader Understanding of Lewis' Thought Chair: Benson Fraser, Regent University Respondent: Michael Graves, Liberty University Presenters:</p> <p><i>C.S. Lewis and Flannery O'Connor's Contribution to Indirect Communication</i> Benson Fraser and William Brown, Regent University</p> <p><i>Deconstructing Lewis' Argument from Desire, Intellection and Reason in the "Great War" Debate and Surprised by Joy: Barfield Speaks</i> Kevin Crawford, Regent University</p> <p><i>The Sound of Satire: Lewis and Pratchett on Gods and Demons</i> Steven William Halliday, Regent University</p> <p><i>Repressed and Unfettered Laughter: The Other Issue in Armand Nicoli's "The Question of God" with Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis</i> Terrence Lindvall, Virginia Wesleyan College</p> <p><i>Fact and Myth and Primary Words: Reading C.S. Lewis in Light of Martin Buber</i> Andrew Harris, Pensacola Christian College</p>
10:30 to 11:45	Teche/ Belle Grove	<p>In the Aftermath of Catastrophe: Competing Religious Voices Interpreting Hurricane Katrina and Japan's Earthquake Chair: Pamela Royse, Kutztown University Respondent: Pamela Royse, Kutztown University Presenters:</p> <p><i>Creation and Annihilation of the Universe: The Hindu Explanation of Destruction as Collective Karma, Annihilation of the Ego, and Divine Play</i> Ramesh Rao, Longwood University</p> <p><i>"The Whole Thing is in God's Hands": Post-Disaster Media Messages about Deity and Prayer</i> David Weiss, Montana State University, Billings</p> <p><i>Did God do it or Not? Examining the Impulse to Attribute Divine Retribution to Disaster Rhetoric</i> Michael Dreher, Bethel University</p> <p><i>Unknowing Complicity and the Need for Theodicy: How Internal Voices Compete to Explain Disasters</i> Ken Danielson, Kutztown University</p>
10:30 to 11:45	Gris Gris	<p>Undergraduate Research Panel Chair: Daniel S. Brown, Jr., Grove City College Respondent: J. Matthew Melton, Lee University Presenters:</p> <p><i>Hillsong United: Messages in their Songs and Perceptions from their Listeners</i> Philip C. Gruber, Grove City College</p> <p><i>An Autoethnographic Study of a Closed Religious Community through Communication Ethics</i> Carolina Londono, University of Waterloo (Ontario)</p> <p><i>The Effects of Communication, Personality, and Religiosity on College Student Conflict Management Style</i> Page Sandberg, Nicole Lynn, Elizabeth Womack, & G. L. Forward (mentor), Point Loma Nazarene University</p>

(RCA Pre-conference Schedule Continued)

Time	Room	Panel
12:00 to 12:45	Gris Gris	Media Studies Interest Group
1:00 to 2:15	Oak Alley/ Madewood	<p>Religious Voices in Politics, Society, and Social Movements Chair: Renata Kolodziej-Smith, Wayne State University Respondent: Adrienne Hacker Daniels, Illinois College Presenters:</p> <p><i>Love Thy Neighbor. . . Unless He is a Jew</i> Claire Rhodes, University of Memphis (debut paper) <i>Apocalyptic Narratives and Fundamentalist Politics</i> Jonathan Edwards, University of South Carolina <i>Silencing of the Lamb: An Argument for a Theological Approach to Obama's 2009 Inaugural Prayer Service</i> Teresa Morales, Georgia State University <i>The Rhetoric of Sojourners Ministries: The Intersection of Liberal Politics and Evangelical Theology</i> Christopher Salinas, Southern Methodist University <i>"Form and Freedom": Truth as Rhetoric in Francis Schaeffer's Christian Manifesto</i> Eric Miller, Penn State University</p>
1:00 to 2:15	Teche/ Belle Grove	<p>C.S. Lewis and Alien Voices: Using Reason and Imagination in the Search for Serenity Chair: Dale Sullivan, North Dakota State University <i>Serenity and the Tao: Joss Whedon Meets C.S. Lewis</i> Bruce Edwards, Bowling Green State University <i>The Rhetoric of Ransom and the Poetics of Perelandra</i> Gregory Anderson, Union Church, Hong Kong <i>Must we Exterminate the Veusians? An Analysis of J.B.S. Haldane's, Olaf Stapledon's and C.S. Lewis' views on the issues</i> Dale Sullivan, North Dakota State University</p>
1:00 to 2:15	Gris Gris	<p>Vodou Voices: Here and Now Chair: Michele Fogg, College of Southern Nevada Presenters:</p> <p>Jennifer Basquiat, College of Southern Nevada Thomas Steinfatt, University of Miami Brandi Kelley, Vodoo Authentica of New Orleans Cultural Center and Collection Jesse Brunet, Houngan, Houma, Louisiana Andrew Spieldenner, Latino Commission on AIDS</p>
2:30 to 3:15	Gris Gris	Communication Studies Interest Group

(RCA Pre-conference Schedule Continued)

Time	Room	Panel
3:30 to 4:45	Oak Alley/ Madewood	<p>The Varied Voice of God: In Song, in Wisdom, in Scripture, in the Soul, in Sorrow, in Joy</p> <p>Chair: Darlene Graves, Liberty University Respondent: John Katsion, Northwest Missouri State University Presenters:</p> <p><i>Hearing the Musical Voice of God</i> Alison English, Vanguard University of Southern California</p> <p><i>The Voice of Wisdom: My Son, Give Attention to My Voice</i> Jacqueline Glenny, Northwestern College</p> <p><i>God's Voice of Creation and Law – A Psalmist's Response</i> Marcia Berry, Azusa Pacific University</p> <p><i>A Spritual Epiphany: The Voice of God in the Soul</i> Rachel Williams-Smith, Oakwood University</p> <p><i>Recalling the Voice and Touch of Christ: The Voices of Mary</i> Melissa Frame, Clearwater Christian College</p>
3:30 to 4:45	Teche/ Belle Grove	<p>A Critical Examination of the Religious Voice: Prophecy, Hermeneutics, and Habermas</p> <p>Chair: Jeff Lohr, Duquesne University Respondent: Bryan Kampbell, Buena Vista University Presenters:</p> <p><i>Prophecy as a Potential Continuum: Prophetic Rhetoric's Historical Trajectory</i> Kristen Majocho, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown</p> <p><i>Prophetic Rhetoric as Religious Communication</i> Andre Johnson, Memphis Theological Seminary</p> <p><i>After Much Discussion: Religion and Hermeneutics</i> Joshua Danaher, Arizona State University West</p> <p><i>What Would Habermas Do: Religion's Dialectical-Other to Modernity in Habermasian Theory</i> Alanna Miller, Temple University</p>
3:30 to 4:45	Gris Gris	<p>Religious Voices and Organizations: Examining Influence and Narratives</p> <p>Chair: Jennifer Basquiat, College of Southern Nevada Respondent: Allyssa Groom, Duquesne University Presenters:</p> <p><i>Corporate Religion: Religious Identification Inducements in Fortune 500 Companies</i> Amorette Hinderaker, North Dakota State University</p> <p><i>Communicating Purpose: An Expanded Taxonomy for Contemporary Faith-Based Organizations</i> J. Jacob Jenkins, University of South Florida</p> <p><i>Understanding the Socialization Process of Ministers: A Question of Spirituality, Faith and Obligation</i> Peter Knutson, University of Kansas</p> <p><i>"A Burning in the Bosom": Latter Day Saints' Experiential Belief in the Book of Mormon</i> Rosemary Avance, University of Pennsylvania (debut paper)</p>
5:00- 5:45	Oak Alley Madewood	Rhetorical Studies Interest Group
6:00- 7:15	Oak Alley Madewood	2011 RCA Awards: Panel Presentation by Award Winners
7:30- 9:00	Fleur de Lis Suite	Reception

2011 Registration Form

RCA Preconference

Date and Time: **Wednesday November 16th, 9:30am until 9:00pm**

Registration: Begins at 9:30am on the 2nd floor of the Royal Sonesta

Location: Royal Sonesta Hotel 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans LA 70130, phone (504) 586-0300

Included: A boxed lunch, refreshments throughout the day, and the evening reception

NCA/RCA Awards Banquet and Keynote Address

Date and Time: Friday November 18, 6:30 pm

Location: Court of Two Sisters, 618 Royal Street, New Orleans LA 70130, phone (504) 522-7061

Included: Soup, salad, entrée, dessert, coffee, and tea

Name: _____

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

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Entrée Choice (circle one): **Chicken with lump crab** **Beef** **Vegetarian**

INDICATE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

Circle amounts that apply	PRE-CONFERENCE	AWARDS BANQUET	SUB-TOTAL
FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE	\$20	\$20	
STUDENT	\$20	\$20	
RCA MEMBER	\$35	\$25	
GUEST OF MEMBER	\$45	\$45	
NON-MEMBER	\$45	\$55	
MEMBERSHIP DUES (Circle One)	Regular \$25 Institutional \$50 Student \$12.50 Sustaining \$45 Life \$250	Write in Membership Amount Here →	
			→

Make checks payable to RCA and send to:

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THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

THE R C A NEWS

AN INTERFAITH SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION



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

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