

RCA NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter of the Religious Communication Association
January, Winter 2006

From the President . . .

This year marks an anniversary of sorts for our association—or, more accurately, a milestone for this newsletter. Though the Religious Speech Communication Association began in 1973, (borrowing part of our name from the Speech Communication Association, which later became the National Communication Association), Volume 1 of the newsletter did not appear until 1976, 30 years ago. Our journal soon followed, with its first volume arriving in 1977. At that time, the founders described the association as “for teachers, practitioners, and scholars in all phases of non-print religious communication.”

As membership increased, so did research interests and now virtually all manner of religious communication finds a home, including print-based materials. We are also non-sectarian and non-denominational by design; in fact, one need not have any religious affiliation in order to belong to the RCA—only an interest in any phase of religious communication.

How are we doing?

Of its initial three tasks (supporting teachers, practitioners, and scholars), the Association has done a better job in fostering scholarship in religious communication, with the *Journal of Communication and Religion*, panels at the annual NCA conference, pre-conferences or conferences of our own, and the RCA Listserv. We also foster scholarship through annual awards for best book, article, dissertation, and student paper.

Thanks to Baylor University Press, the dissertation award will carry a significant cash stipend.

With the inclusion in EBSCO’s full-text database “Communication and Mass Media Complete,” the journal has increased its visibility. The added pre-conferences have increased not only slots for papers but opportunities for conversation among our members. The listserv has the potential for fostering greater contact and discussion about research but it remains—for the most part—potential.

While some panels and convention discussions address teaching, we have not often consciously supported the teaching of or teaching about religious communication in other ways. As more and more members work at religiously affiliated schools, we have a good opportunity to offer significant help in this area. I invite us to more consciously reflect on what we might do. For example, can we help or inspire each other through shared syllabi or class materials on the RCA website?

Over the years we have probably fostered teachers and scholars more than practitioners, since these more typically attend the annual convention and publish in and read the journal. The most likely exception here are those engaged in homiletics. To my knowledge we have few religious broadcasters, bloggers, or performers among our

Special points of interest:

- Presidential Messages
- 2006 RCA Call
- Call for Awards
- Boston report

RCA Call

Boston

Deadline

Feb 15th!

[www.natcom.org/
convention](http://www.natcom.org/convention)

Details on page 2

**RCA
Convention
San Antonio
Call Deadline
Feb 15!**

membership. What might we do to attract and support this group?

The general interest in religious communication is growing; in addition to our own journal, there is the *Journal of Media and Religion*. Both Baylor University Press and Sheed & Ward (Rowman and Littlefield) have book series featuring religious communication. There are also conferences and research institutes on media, religion, and culture. There is the NCA Spirituality Division. Perhaps we can reach out more to others with interests similar to our own.

2006 Challenges

Two significant challenges face us in 2006. First, as discussed at the 2005 RCA Business Meeting and on the listserv, the Executive Council must decide whether to renew our contractual agreement with EBSCO. Our current contract calls for an exclusive agreement, whereby the Journal's full text may appear only on the EBSCO database, though its content descriptions (author, title, keywords) may appear in any index. The RCA membership has access to the full text online journal at no charge through the RCA website. We have received a fair number of comments from the membership at this time.

Second, we plan another pre-conference this year. That conference will occur in San Antonio in the afternoon and evening before the NCA meeting. While a planning group is in place, the details remain. Feel free to contact S. Alyssa Groom on the Executive Council with any ideas.

Paul A. Soukup, S.J., President

Santa Clara University

From the First Vice President . . .

2006 RCA CALL FOR PAPERS

RCA Convention Planner: Dr. Kevin T. Jones, Department of Communication Studies, Chapman University, One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866 (714) 744-7921
kjones@chapman.edu

The Religious Communication Association is pleased to announce the call for submissions for the 2006 NCA Convention to be held November 15-19, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas.

Deadline: February 15, 2006

The Religious Communication Association invites thematic panel proposals and competitive papers concerned with communication and religion. Members are also encouraged to submit proposals and papers for discussion panels, as well as program ideas or papers that might fit panels co-sponsored with other units. Papers, panels, and proposals which incorporate the convention theme - "Creating Sites for Connection and Action" are strongly encouraged.

In addition to the usual submission options of papers and panels, this year NCA is introducing two new submission options: Agora and Scholar-to-Scholar sessions. An Agora will function like a group discussion where the emphasis will be upon participant involvement. Scholar-to-Scholar sessions will resemble poster sessions but will be

much more interactive and include peripatetic respondents. **Please read the NCA guidelines and instructions regarding these options before making your submissions.** RCA will welcome Agora and Scholar-to-Scholar submissions which deal with issues of religion and communication. All Agora and Scholar-to-Scholar submission must be made directly to the RCA convention planner and NOT to a specific RCA division.

Submission method: All papers and proposals must be submitted on-line to the All Academic site.

Individual papers MUST be submitted to the appropriate RCA division. All panel proposals, Agora Sessions, and Scholar-to-Scholar proposals MUST be submitted to the RCA convention planner via the general RCA area.

The areas of scholarship in RCA are organized within three broad headings of Mediated Communication, Communication Studies, and Rhetorical Studies.

The paragraphs below should help you to decide to which RCA division your papers should be sent. You should submit to the appropriate RCA area on All Academic.

Mediated Communication: Derrick Rosenior, Communication Division, Vanguard University, 55 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; drrosenior@hotmail.com. This division embraces all forms of mediated communication (film, television, radio, etc.). Submissions in the areas of public relations, advertising, theory, and curriculum/instruction (as related to media) should also be sent to this division.

Communication Studies: S. Alyssa Groom, Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, 340 College Hall, 600 Forbes Avenue, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282; 412-396-6436; grooms@duq.edu. Submissions in the areas of interpersonal and organizational communication as well as relevant panels and papers dealing with theory, curriculum/instruction, gender and cultural studies should be sent to this division.

Rhetorical Studies: Robert McManus, Communication and Media Studies, Marietta College, 215 Fifth Street, Marietta, OH 45750 740-706-1898 robert.mcmanus@marietta.edu Submissions in the areas of public address and performance should be sent to this division, as well as panels and programs pertaining to rhetorical theory and curriculum/instruction.

Evaluation Criteria: All papers, panels, and submission will be evaluated through a blind review process that will assess the scholarship, pedagogy, appropriateness, broad appeal, quality of writing, theoretical grounding, intellectual insight and merit, and heuristic contributions to the discipline that the submission provides.

All submissions should be done online via All Academic (www.natcom.org/convention). Papers authored solely by students or persons who have never presented at the NCA convention should be marked "student" or "debut" in the appropriate All Academic box.

Requests for audio-visual equipment should only be made only if this is genuinely vital to the proposed presentation. Such requests must be made with the paper and panel proposals by the February 15 deadline. Participants are asked to submit no more than one paper per unit.

**Visit Your
Website . . .**

**[www.american
rhetoric.com/
rca](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca)**

For additional information refer to “How to Submit Papers and Panel/Program Proposals” in the general NCA call. Also see “Competitive Paper Submissions” and the call’s description of “discussion” panels.

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From the Second Vice President . . .

2006 CALL FOR BOOK, ARTICLE & DISSERTATION AWARDS

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

RCA Book Award: This award is granted for the outstanding scholarly book on religious communication published between 2004 and 2006. Nominators should send four copies of the book and a letter of nomination outlining the value of the book in its area of study. For consideration, please include a short synopsis of the book (3-5 pages).

RCA Article Award: This award is granted for an outstanding article on religious communication published during the previous (2005-2006) academic year. Nominators should send four copies of the article along with a 1-2 page letter of nomination outlining the significance of the article.

RCA Dissertation Award: This award is granted for an outstanding dissertation in religious communication completed during the two prior academic years. Eligible dissertations will have been completed during the period from May 1, 2004 to May 1, 2006.

1-2 page nominations may be made by the dissertation advisor or department chair. Nominees are asked to forward an electronic version (pdf or MS Word format) of the completed dissertation.

DEADLINE: Nominations and materials for all awards must be submitted by June 1, 2006.

Self nominations for all three awards will be accepted.

RECOGNITION: Winners will be recognized at the annual RCA meeting occurring in conjunction with NCA in San Antonio. Cash awards are presented in each category.

Encourage a
colleague to
join RCA!
(form on back)

Send nominations and materials to:

Calvin L. Troup, Ph.D.
 Associate Professor of Communication & Rhetorical Studies
 Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15282
 412-396-6444
troup@duq.edu

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2005 CONVENTION IN BOSTON**Award Recipients:**

Book Award: Stephen Webb. *The Divine Voice: Christian Proclamation and the Theology of Sound*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2004.

Journal Article Award: Thomas Lessl. The Mythological Conditioning of Scientific naturalism. *Journal of Communication and Religion*, Vol 28 (2005).

Dissertation Award: Kristin Emery Saldine. "Preaching God Visible: Geo-Rhetoric and the Theological appropriation of Landscape Imagery in the Sermons of Jonathan Edwards." Dissertation, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2004.

Student Paper Award: (Tie)

- Monika Alston, University of Maryland, "Exploring the Rhetorical Form of "Testifyin" in the Rhetoric of Maria W. Stewart."
- Benjamin Kruger, Pennsylvania State University, "Strategic Prophecy and the Rhetoric of Arab Pan-Nationalism: The Case of Saddam Hussein's September 5, 1990 Call for Jihad.

Leadership additions:

Calvin L. Troup of Duquesne University was elected 2nd Vice President, Thomas Carmody of Vanguard University, Councilor. John Pauley was named editor of The Journal of Communication and Religion.

THE JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION AND RELIGION

welcomes your submissions. We publish high quality communication research that takes the intersection of religion and communication seriously. Please check out the RCA website for submission guidelines: www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcajournals/html

John Pauley, Saint Mary's College
 108 Moreau Center for the Arts, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5001

Editor, *The Journal of Communication and Religion*, jpauley@saintmarys.edu

Also, be sure to encourage your institution's library to subscribe to our journal! It's a great deal at only \$50.00 per year for U.S. mailing and a great way to support RCA and the quality scholarship of its members and contributors. Make a point right now to contact your institution's library to check if they subscribe and if not, encourage them to do so. Have the library personnel contact Jim Crocker-Lakness directly at the address below for more information.

RCA Executive Council:

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psoukup@scu.edu

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kjones@chapman.edu

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lakeyp@acu.edu

RCA MEMBERSHIPS: NEW AND RENEWALS

If you believe that *"insight into the communicative process is vital in understanding and practicing of religion (RCA Constitution),"* then RCA is the place for you.

You may access membership information at <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcamembershipinfo.html>.

or please fill out this form and mail to

Jim Crocker-Lakness,
RCA Executive Secretary,
Department of Communication,
PO Box 184, University of Cincinnati ,
Cincinnati, OH 45221.

Tel. 513-556-4479

James.Crocker-Lakness@uc.edu.

Make checks payable to RCA. Thanks!

[Overseas memberships: Add \$10 in US currency to amount listed]

Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

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!)

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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.