

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.

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July 2008

From the President

*Calvin L. Troup, President
Duquesne University*

Please plan to attend the 2008 RCA Pre-Conference at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California on Thursday afternoon and evening prior to the 2008 NCA Convention.

First Vice President, Janie Harden Fritz is planning the program and G.L. Forward, our new councilor from Point Loma Nazarene University, is serving as local arrangements coordinator for the RCA pre-conference in San Diego. Be sure to read their columns in this issue.

2008 RCA PRE-CONFERENCE—San Diego, California

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Noon-8:00 p.m.

Point Loma Nazarene University

Registration: \$20.00 (Current RCA Members)/\$10.00 (Students)

Afternoon Snack & Light Dinner Included

Transportation Provided between Pre-Conference and NCA Hotels

More information is forthcoming via the RCA listserv.

This year's pre-conference will feature the work of colleagues from all three RCA divisions—Communication Studies, Media Studies, and Rhetorical Studies. The pre-conference will kick off with a set of student panels to which RCA colleagues will respond. The student session will be followed by three sessions of scholarly work submitted to RCA and selected by competitive review. Look for program details in the August/September RCA newsletter. The pre-conference will include a mid-afternoon snack. Sessions will conclude around 7 p.m. followed by a light dinner at Point Loma Nazarene University. A shuttle between Point Loma and the NCA convention hotels will be provided.

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Convention 2008: First Vice President Report

*Janie Harden Fritz, First Vice President
Duquesne University*

We're looking forward to a strong set of programs in San Diego.

With the assistance of RCA Division Chairs **Craig Mattson, Mark Allan Steiner, Chuck Aust, and Kathleen Edelmayer** and many able and diligent reviewers (all

of whom will be named in the next newsletter), we've put together 17 RCA-sponsored programs for this November's conference (plus an additional one for the business meeting).

Two of these programs are co-sponsored, one with the Political Communication division and another with the Semiotics and Communication division. Of 55 submitted papers, 26 were accepted; of 16 panels, 10 were accepted.

We have the pre-conference planned, as well, at Point Loma Nazarene University, thanks to Councilor G.L. Forward. The pre-conference will begin at noon on Thursday, November 20. Be sure to read G.L.'s invitation to Point Loma and the pre-conference on page three.

Stay tuned for more details about the pre-conference and the conference programming, which are forthcoming in the September newsletter.

Update on JCR: The Journal of the Religious Communication Association

John Pauley, Editor, Journal of Communication and Religion Eastern University

Production of volume 31 of JCR is well underway.

JCR 31.1 should be mailed within the next few weeks. Hopefully it will arrive in RCA members' mailboxes before this newsletter gets published.

JCR 31.2 should be on schedule for fall publication. Craig Mattson is the new Book Review Editor for JCR. He assumed that position after the death of Michael Casey.

JCR 31.2 will be the first issue in which Craig serves in the capacity of Book Review Editor.

I am pleased to announce that

JCR is planning a special issue next year. Tom Lessl of the University of Georgia has agreed to guest-edit a special issue on "religious approaches to civic engagement."

As always, information about the *Journal*, including the Call for Papers, can be found at the RCA website: <http://americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcajournals.html>

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. The journal is semi-annual. Your membership includes a subscription to both the journal and the Association's Newsletter.

Serve the RCA: A Call for Nominations

Kevin Jones, Immediate Past President Mid-Valley Christian Academy

As Immediate Past President, it is my honor and privilege to prepare the list of candidates for next year's election.

We are seeking nominations for Second Vice President and for Councilor.

The Second Vice President is responsible for overseeing the annual awards in the first year. In the second year they become First Vice President and oversee the collection and organization of papers for the annual meeting. In the third year they serve as President and in the fourth year they serve as the Immediate Past President and oversee the election of new officers.

The Councilor serves a three year term, serves on the Executive Council, and serves as a member each year of the awards committee.

Complete job descriptions and details are available on the RCA website.

If you know of someone who would be an excellent candidate for either position, please contact me at drkevintjones@gmail.com. I may also be reached at (503) 798-0773. Self nominations are welcomed. If you are planning to nominate someone, please make sure that you have spoken with that person and they have agreed to serve.

Nominations will be accepted through the end of the summer. Candidates will be asked to submit a brief statement to be included in the fall newsletter.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and I look forward to receiving your nominations.

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.

Second VP's Memo: RCA Scholarship Awards Update, Membership Reminders

Robert Woods, Second Vice President
Spring Arbor University

The RCA continues its tradition of recognizing the best scholarship through its series of annual awards. Meanwhile, recruiting and retaining RCA members remains a priority.

The review process for our annual book, article, and dissertation scholarship awards is well under way. I was pleased to receive such a terrific pool of nominations in each category. Many thanks to those of you who agreed to serve as reviewers.

Last year's (2007) winners included **Mark Steiner**, Christopher Newport University, *The Rhetoric of Operation Rescue: Projecting the Christian Pro-Life Message* (Book of the Year); **Richard Hardin**, University of Kansas, *Apocalypse Then: Tamburlaine and the Pleasures of Religious Fear*,

Baylor Journal of Theatre and Performance (Article of the Year); and **Christine Gardner**, Wheaton College, *Choosing to Wait: Rhetorical Agency as Persuasion in the Evangelical Sexual Abstinence Movement in the United States and Africa* (Dissertation of the Year).

Who will this year's winners be? Stay tuned.

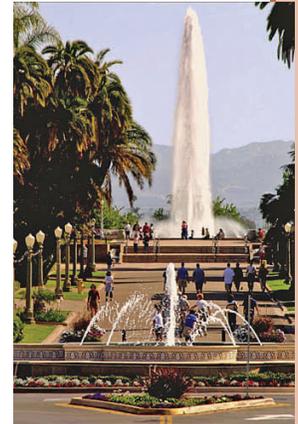
Winners will be recognized at the annual RCA meeting occurring in conjunction with NCA in San Diego this fall.

Part of my responsibilities as 2nd VP includes membership recruitment. As you know, RCA membership comes with a wonderful assortment of services and opportunities.

Advertising in journals and on websites is one way to get the word out, but personal contact is just as important. Each of us probably knows at least one person who should be involved in RCA. You

might consider inviting this person to join RCA or attend one of our RCA sponsored panels this fall. Sharing a copy of our journal —*The Journal of Communication and Religion*—or pointing someone to our website are other ways to introduce prospective members to the organization: www.americanrhetoric.com/rca.

Please send any ideas or suggestions for membership recruitment to me at rwoods@arbor.edu, or feel free to call me at: 517.740.0668.



San Diego, the NCA and RCA 2008 host city boasts grand vistas like the Balboa Park Fountains, Plaza de Panama, Balboa Park.

Religious Communication Association

Pre-Conference

2008

Point Loma Nazarene University

Thursday, November 20,

12:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Invitation

Join RCA at Point Loma University to Jump Start Your NCA experience

G.L. Forward, Councilor
Point Loma Nazarene University

I was sharing with someone on my campus about the RCA pre-conference and they asked, "can you guarantee perfect weather for the conference?" sadly, of course, I cannot. As you might know, San Diego has only 360 perfect weather days in a typical year. However, I can guarantee a beautiful location on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, a vibrant college campus, and engaging

research focused on communication and religion.

This year's pre-conference will convene on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University on Thursday, November 20, 2008. The pre-conference program has already been filled, in part because of the very strong panels and papers that members submitted, but were not programmed at NCA.

Encourage your colleagues and students to attend the pre-conference. As we

solidify the details, more information will be forthcoming. Check the next newsletter for program details.

Can I guarantee "perfect" weather? No, but I'd be willing to bet on it (if I bet, which I don't... because it violates my moral principles, I'm just saying...well, you get the point)! Feel free to be in touch with me directly with questions GLForward@pointloma.edu.



Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, provides the setting for RCA's 2008 preconference on Thursday, November 20.

THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

RCA

AN INTERFAITH SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

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

Daniel S. Brown,
Editor, RCA News



Grove City College
100 Campus Avenue
Grove City, PA 16127 USA

dsbrown@gcc.edu

RCA is on the web at:

www.americanrhetoric.com/rca

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: Ken Danielson, RCA Executive Secretary
11 Dandelion Drive, Boiling Spring, PA 17007.

Make Checks Payable to: The Religious Communication Association

Need More Information? Go to <http://americanrhetoric.com/rca>

Has Your RCA Membership Expired?

Ken Danielson, Executive Secretary
Kutztown University

Earlier this year, I sent out an announcement on the RCA listserv and got a great response to my pleas for corrected addresses for “lost” members. Now let me issue a plea for lost membership fees.

Since the *RCA Newsletter* is now online, it has become more difficult to determine when your RCA membership has expired. My suspicion is that there are many people who think they are members, but actually are not any more. If you have not received a copy of the *Journal of Communication and Religion* lately, your membership has likely lapsed. To determine your membership status, send me an email query at danielso@kutztown.edu.

Some members have simply forgotten to forward their membership check. Some think they renewed it at the last convention they attended, but actually did not. Some could be thinking that their pre-conference fees included membership fees. Some are waiting for a renewal notice through the U.S. Postal Service. (RCA has not sent renewal notices for many, many years.)

Our second vice president, Robert Woods, has made a plea in a separate column about increasing our association’s membership. Let me encourage our current members to be sure to renew their membership. For your convenience, the fee structure is explained in the sidebar and at our website <http://americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcamembershipinfo.html>

Again, if you are in doubt about your membership’s expiration date, send me an email at danielso@kutztown.edu. Thank for all you do to help us keep RCA’s records accurately updated.