

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.

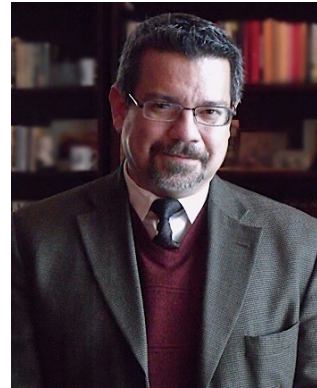
Greetings from the President

J. Matthew Melton, President
 Lee University

Greetings from the RCA!

It's spring and heading pell-mell on to summer. I'm sure most, if not all of us are still just recovering from ceremonies and a host of end-of-term events.

What better time to plant reminders about upcoming RCA happenings so you can be sure to get them into your calendar before summer projects, classes, family vacations, and pool-time get started? As for me, I



have a retaining wall to build in my backyard. The project reminds me of the poem by Robert Frost, but in this case, I'm trying to keep a mountain of earth from sliding down, which is more a metaphor for my job than for my neighbor.

One of our big pushes this year is for increased association membership. Our 2nd VP Kristen Majocho is stepping up recruiting correspondence, and it would be wonderful if you would help us out with this project in any small way you can. All of our external business as an association, particularly with regard to our journal and to our cachet when inviting featured speakers, depends heavily on our membership numbers, which are low in comparison to many other affiliated NCA groups and divisions.

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From the 1st Vice President

Mark A. E. Williams, 1st VP
 California State University,
 Sacramento

Washington D.C. is one the premier cities of the world and a delightful location for the 99th annual NCA convention. The NCA Conference will run from November 21st to the 24th at the Marriott Wardman Park and the Omni Shoreham Hotels. Reservations should open on July 1, and are likely to go fairly quickly. Be ready to roll! Of course, RCA will be hosting our annual preconference on Wednesday, November

20th. We are still finalizing details about the venue, but the options look great so far.

RCA has a dynamic program at NCA this year, with fourteen panels and discussion groups. This is three more than we had in 2012, and we are thrilled with the increase; certainly we had zero trouble filling the extra space. At the time of press, we are within a week of sending out decision letters, so by the time you read this, you may already have heard from us about your submission. I will tell you that we had a wonderful

set of papers, panels, and discussion proposals this year: some 64 individual papers, 6 panels and 4 discussion submissions were reviewed. Both the quality and the quantity have been impressive, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to our members who read and critiqued these proposals. Reading through their comments often impressed me almost as much as the submissions themselves. Our reviewers were insightful and demanding but also encouraging. A public thank

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The Journal of Communication and Religion Transitions to New Editor

Calvin Troup, Immediate Past JCR Editor
 Duquesne University

The editorial transition at the *Journal of Communication and Religion* is now complete. **Dr. Ronald C. Arnett is the new editor** and is receiving manuscripts.

To see the call for submissions, visit our website: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rcajournals.html>

In the past three years, *JCR* has moved from publishing twice a year to publishing three times a year and is now on a trajectory to become a

quarterly journal under Ron Arnett's leadership. Through *JCR*, the Religious Communication Association continues to develop the quality, the significant, and the international reach of religious communication scholarship.

JOIN 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.

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's editorial board is comprised of scholars in the fields of rhetoric, media, journalism, and communication studies. The journal is published three times 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 in the field of communication and religion, new and established, are encouraged to submit articles to *The Journal of Communication and Religion*.



Has Your RCA Membership Expired? Renew online!

Janie Harden Fritz, Executive Secretary
 Duquesne University

Be sure to renew your membership. For your convenience, **you can now renew your membership via PayPal** on our website: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcamembershipinfo.html>

If you are in doubt about your membership's expiration date, send me an email at harden@duq.edu.

Current Membership Fee Structure

Type of Membership
 (International Memberships add \$10 per category):

- Regular (\$50)
- Student (\$25)
- Life (\$500 once – a great deal!)

Prefer to send in your membership by mail?

Mail to: Janie Harden Fritz, RCA Executive Secretary, 340 College Hall, 600 Forbes Avenue, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15202

From the President (continued from p. 1)

Please help us by renewing your own membership promptly and by encouraging your colleagues to sign up. See information about membership renewal on page 2.

The NCA Convention will be in Washington DC, November 21-24. This places the RCA Pre-Conference on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, the banquet on Friday, November 22 and the business meeting somewhere in between. We're working on convenient venues for both of these and we should have more details for you in our next newsletter. NCA Convention registration will open on July 1 and we'll be letting you know soon when you can register for the pre-conference.

VP Mark Williams reports that we have another terrific set of submissions for the RCA offerings at this year's convention, with the bonus of three more presentation slots than we had last year! This is wonderful news that means we will have access to a higher percentage of papers and panel submissions than we've seen in the recent past. Please see more information on that in Mark's section of the newsletter.

Wishing you the best of summers!

J. Matthew Melton, Ph.D.
RCA President

Religious Communication Association 2013 Call for Book, Article & Dissertation Awards

The Religious Communication Association is accepting nominations for its annual outstanding Book, Article, and Dissertation awards.

RCA Book Award: The RCA grants the Book Award for the outstanding scholarly book on religious communication published between May 2012 and May 2013. 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 short synopsis of the book (3-5 double-spaced pages).

RCA Article Award: The RCA grants the Article Award for an outstanding article on religious communication published during the previous academic year between May 2012 and May 2013. Nominators should send a copy of the article as a PDF file along with a 1-2 page letter of nomination (pdf attachment is fine) outlining the significance of the article.

RCA Dissertation Award: The RCA grants the Dissertation award for an outstanding dissertation on the topics of religious communication successfully defended during the prior academic year. To be eligible the author must have successfully defended the dissertation during the period between May 2012 and May 2013. 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 dissertation (a URL address where there is open online access to the dissertation is preferred).

DEADLINE: June 8, 2013 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 Washington, D.C. Each category carries a cash award.

Inquiries: Kristen L. Majocha, RCA 2nd Vice President: klynn@pitt.edu or (814) 269-7205

Nominations and materials to:
Kristen L. Majocha, Ph.D.
Department of Communication
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
450 Schoolhouse Road
Johnstown, PA 15904



**The 2012
RCA
Awards
Banquet
in sunny
Orlando!**



Congratulations to RCA's 2012 award recipients!

Book Award: **Thomas M. Lessl**, University of Georgia (Photo 2)
 Student Paper Award: **Marissa E. Lowe**, University of Illinois (No Photo Available)
 Article Award: **Jon P. Radwan**, Seton Hall University (Photo 1)
 Dissertation Award: **Elizabeth Molina-Markham**, University of Massachusetts (Dissertation Director: **Donal Carbaugh**) (Photo 3)
 Scholar of the Year: **Father James Martin, S. J.** (No Photo Available)



Kathleen Edelmayer
 (Madonna University) is recognized for her service as RCA President



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:

Celeste Grayson Seymour
 RCA Newsletter Editor
 Western Governors University
celeste.grayson@gmail.com

From the 1st Vice President (continued from p. 1)

you to all who served.

Finally, we are on schedule to publish a *Proceedings of the Religious Communication Association* that will archive papers from the 2012 convention. The volume should be available by the end of the summer. We plan to publish the 2013 *Proceedings* as well, and we will keep you posted on those developments as we draw closer to the time of the convention.

Seeing the impressive work you do from theory to application has done nothing but increase my pleasure in being part of RCA.

Mark A. E. Williams, Ph.D.



Executive Council of the Religious Communication Association

President:
J. Matthew Melton
 Lee University
 Cleveland, TN
mmelton@leeuniversity.edu

Johnstown, PA
klynn@pitt.edu

Executive Secretary:
Janie Harden Fritz
 Duquesne University
 Pittsburgh, PA
harden@duq.edu

Journal of Communication and Religion Editors:

Immediate Past President:
Kathleen M. Edelmayer
 Madonna University
 Livonia, MI
kedelmayer@madonna.edu

Councilors:

Denise P. Ferguson
 (Term expires '13)
 Pepperdine University
 Malibu, CA
denise.ferguson@pepperdine.edu

Coordinator of Electronic Communication:
Michael E. Eidenmuller
 The University of Texas at Tyler
 Tyler, TX
eiden@mail.uttyl.edu

Ronald C. Arnett
 Editor, JCR
 Duquesne University
 Pittsburgh, PA
arnett@duq.edu

1st Vice President:
Mark A. E. Williams
 California State University
 Sacramento
 Sacramento, CA
MWilliams@csus.edu

Daniel S. Brown
 (Term expires '14)
 Grove City College
 Grove City, PA
dsbrown@gcc.edu

Craig E. Mattson
 Book Review Editor, JCR
 Trinity Christian College
 Palos Heights, IL
craig.mattson@trnty.edu

2nd Vice President:
Kristen Lynn Majocho
 University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Sara A. Mehlretter Drury
 (Term expires '15)
 Wabash University
 Crawfordsville, IN
drurys@wabash.edu

Newsletter Editor:
Celeste Grayson Seymour
 Western Governors University
 Pittsburgh, PA
celeste.grayson@gmail.com