

From the President: Service is the Heart of Religious Communication Association

Janie Harden Fritz
President
Duquesne University



It has been a pleasure to serve RCA for the last three years, and I look forward to a final year of formal service as Immediate Past President when the presidential gavel is passed to Robert Woods in Chicago this November. As I reflect on my time in office, I am struck by the enduring commitment to service that RCA engages, from the members who submit and evaluate papers, attend sessions, and vote on policies to the councilors and officers who offer the energy of leadership to chart a course for RCA's future.

This service is recognized with gratitude and thanks, fitting tribute to service rendered from the heart, and is accompanied by (and I believe I speak for officers past and present) the knowledge that one has given one's time and energy to a worthy institution. Moving out of formal leadership is a continued call to

service in other ways; the service does not stop. This history of commitment to service is one of RCA's greatest strengths, a strength recognized by its members over the years and one that I pray will continue over the course of

RCA's upcoming future. It is a commitment worth preserving and supporting.

Service is the heart of RCA. As RCA's scholarly reputation grows, as interest in questions of religious communication become increasingly prominent in a world where faith traditions are contested and vie for adherence, RCA will face decision points that will shape its future. There are many avenues for RCA to continue its legacy of service to its members through investment in scholarship and in the students it nurtures—students who will become future scholars and leaders of RCA,

embracing a faith commitment accompanied by the knowledge that it is possible to serve God with one's mind as well as one's heart, or who will find places of contribution and service in the marketplace, bringing applied faith to all avenues of life and work. I would offer this benediction over RCA's future:

- May RCA remain committed to excellent scholarship. Our journal, the *Journal of Communication and Religion*, has continued to provide a significant outlet for research productivity for many; our scholarship is being read more widely, its readership increases yearly, and its articles are in demand. Continued collaboration with scholarly data bases such as EBSCO will ensure positioning of our journal prominently within the reach of scholars nationally and internationally.

One way to continue a focus on scholarship is to initiate a series of conferences, perhaps

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Memo from the First Vice President Chicago Welcomes RCA and NCA this November

Robert Woods,
First Vice
President
Spring Arbor
University



Greetings. Our pre-conference this year will be held on Wednesday, November 11, at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, in downtown Chicago, directly across the street from Grant Park with beautiful views overlooking Lake Michigan.

Spertus is about 200 steps from the NCA's main convention center, the

Hilton Chicago. (I actually counted the steps myself!) Special thanks to Quentin Schultze who recommended Spertus as a possible pre-conference site. See page 2 for more information about Spertus.

The pre-conference begins one hour earlier this year (as the schedule beginning on page 3 indicates) to make room for the large number of excellent papers and panels we received. The scheduled sessions

represent the richness of our field in both subject matter and methodology. Please take time to review the schedule and alert me to any necessary changes on or before September 1 (rwoods@arbor.edu).

We will have final printed copies of the schedule available along with floor maps of Spertus at the registration table in the main lobby on November 11.

Each year I look forward to the pre-conference as a great way to share ideas, catch up with old friends, and make new ones. I hope your pre-conference

experience this year is a positive one. Please invite a friend or colleague, or encourage a student to attend. Members and non-members are welcome.

Also, in this newsletter we've included a list of RCA's scheduled panels at the main NCA convention. As Janie mentioned, in addition to our usual number of allotted panels, we have two co-sponsored panels with the Organizational Communication Division and one NCA Spotlight Panel that presents the past, present, and future contributions of RCA to

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Pre-Conference | November 11, 2009 | Chicago

Join RCA at the Spertus Institute to Begin Your NCA experience

RCA will convene its annual pre-conference on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. The pre-conference program appears in this Newsletter on Pages 3, 6, and 7.

The actual NCA conference runs from Thursday, November 12 to Sunday, November 15, RCA's annual meeting is scheduled concurrently with NCA.

This year's pre-conference will be

held at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. Spertus is located one block north of the Hilton Chicago.

Spertus is a Jewish institution grounded in Jewish values that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to explore the multi-faceted Jewish experience. Through its innovative public programming, exhibitions, collections, research facilities and

degree programs, Spertus inspires learning, serves diverse communities and fosters understanding for Jews and people of all faiths, locally, regionally and around the world.

The institution's logo is a flame accompanied by the biblical phrase, *yehi or*, "let there be light". It symbolizes the Spertus commitment to learning—through education and the arts, today and for the future.

Go to www.spertus.edu for more information.



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the field. Representing RCA on this panel are Clifford G. Christians, Ronald C. Arnett, Helen Sterk, Paul Soukup, and Quentin Schultze.

Finally, as Janie's opening comments suggest, this year has been a busy, yet enjoyable, one filled with additional opportunities for the Executive Council to serve its members, heighten RCA's visibility, and promote its members' scholarship to the larger NCA body. We welcome your input as we continue to work in these areas.

It has been my pleasure to serve alongside Janie, Rodney, and the rest of the Executive Council. I look forward to another year of service.

I hope to see you all in Chicago!

Pre-Conference Schedule | Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies | 610 S. Michigan Avenue | Chicago

www.spertus.edu

PANELS (SESSIONS 1-4) *All session rooms are located on the 7th floor
REGISTRATION (11:15 -12:30 pm) – Main Lobby Entrance

SESSION I (12:30-1:45 pm)

**Session IA (Room 713): Undergraduate Research Papers
in Religious Communication (Paper Session)**

Session Organizers, Daniel Brown & John Pauley	Grove City College; Eastern University
Chair, Dan Brown	Grove City College
Respondent, Scott Turcott	Indiana Wesleyan University
"Missionaries Using Communication Technology: The Effectiveness of New Media on the Mission Field"	Cristina Hoyt, Grace College
"Power Play: The Intersection of Religion and Gender in Christian Women's Narratives"	Sally Spalding, Southwestern University
"The Discourse of Stability and Change in the Rhetoric of Scott Hahn: A Pentadic Analysis"	LeeAnn C. Yeckley, Grove City College
"A Question of Commitment: How Growing Up as a Third Culture Kid Affects Love and Marriage"	Abigail Nishimoto, Grace College

**Session IB (Room 721): Disrupting the Ritual: Exploring the Controversy Surrounding
the Prayers at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration (Paper Session)**

Session Organizer, Ronald Lee	University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Chair, Benjamin Krueger	University of Maryland
Respondent, Martin Medhurst	Baylor University
"'Bless Us with Anger, Bless Us with Tears': A Rhetorical Analysis of Bishop Gene Robinson's Inaugural Prayer"	Dayle Hardy-Short, Northern Arizona University; Brant Short, Northern Arizona University
"Rick Warren's Inaugural Prayer and the Irony of Religious Tolerance"	Matthew Barton, Southern Utah University
"Black Prayer and White Resentment: The 2009 Inaugural Benediction of Reverend Joseph Lowery"	Ronald Lee, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Karen Lee, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Session IC (Room 722): Negotiating Stability and Change in the Catholic Church: Individual Identities and Pedagogical Perspectives (Paper Session)

Session Organizer, Nancy Curtin-Alwardt	Millikin University
Chair, Kathleen Edelmayer	Madonna University
Respondent, Pat Arneson	Duquesne University
"Conflicting Identities: Personal Narratives of a 'Good' Catholic Woman"	Nanci Burk, Glendale Community College
"'We Cover this Stuff Anyway': A Case for Catholic Social Teaching in the Communication Classroom"	Maggie Sullivan, Loras College
"The Virgin Mary: The Influence of Mary on the Performance of Female Catholic Identity"	Patricia English-Schneider, Gustavus Adolphus College
"Feminist Catholic/Catholic Feminist: Negotiating Identities of Catholicism and Feminism"	Nancy Curtin-Alwardt, Millikin University

Pre-conference Schedule Continued on Page 6

RCA 2009 PRE-CONFERENCE AND Awards Banquet Registration

***I. Pre-conference & Welcome Reception: Wednesday, November 11, 12009
2:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.***

- On-site Registration in the Main Lobby from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- LOCATION: Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 610 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago phone: 312.322.1700. See the map of Downtown Chicago on Page 2.
- Box lunch, afternoon refreshments, and light supper included. Pre-conference meals are Kosher.

II. Awards Banquet and Keynote Address: Friday, November 13 6:30 p.m. during the NCA conference. We'll be honoring RCA scholarship awardees, including Scholar of the Year (Charles Taylor) and recipients of the RCA Book Award, RCA Article Award, RCA Dissertation Award, and the RCA Student Paper Award.

- The banquet will take place at University Center, 525 State Street, (three and one-half blocks from the Hilton Chicago) at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the banquet is \$25.00 for members (and student members) and \$45.00 for guests (nonmembers).

	<i>Pre-conference</i>	<i>Awards Banquet</i>	<i>Total</i>
RCA Member	\$35.00	\$25.00	
STUDENT	\$25.00	\$25.00	
GUEST	\$45.00	\$45.00	
	Total Amount Due		

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
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Check here if you prefer a vegetarian option: _____

Make checks payable to RCA and send to this address:

Janie Harden Fritz
 Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies
 Duquesne University
 600 Forbes Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15282

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
RCA MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION?**

Do you need to renew
before the Conference?

Find the RCA
membership forms by
linking to the RCA
website at
[www.americanrhetoric.com/
rca/rcamembershipinfo.html](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcamembershipinfo.html)

The date of your
membership's expiration
is on your mailing label.

Religious Communication Sessions at NCA

Chicago 2009

Nineteen panels are scheduled including two co-sponsored panels with the Organizational Communication Division, one NCA Spotlight Panel, and RCA's Business Meeting. Unless otherwise indicated, the panels below are individual paper sessions. Titles of individual papers and names of participants are available online at All-Academic and in the print edition of the NCA Program.

Thursday, November 12**8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.**

New Questions, New Vistas in International Communications Research

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Salon 1**12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.**

C. S. Lewis's Rhetorical Depictions of Scientism

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Salon 7**2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

Exploring the Confluences of Religion and Contemporary American Politics

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Salon 7**3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

Theological Stability and Social Change: Examining Catholic Alternatives to Secular Social Discourse

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Kimball Room**Friday, November 13****8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.**

Let "Us" Pray: Rhetoric, Religion, and the 2009 Presidential Inauguration (Panel Discussion)

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Logan RoomThe Religious Communication Association Five Years Out Panel: Contributions to Scholarship and Human Community **Unit:** Five Years Out Programs**Place:** Hilton Chicago, Continental Ballroom B**9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

That's the Spirit: Motivation and Spirituality in the Workplace (co-sponsored by RCA and Organizational Communication Division)

Place: Hilton Chicago, Meeting Room 4C**2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

Religious Communication Association Business Meeting

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Wabash Room

Secular and Sacred: Communication and Organizing in Religious Organizations (co-sponsored by RCA and Organizational Communication Division)

Place: Hilton Chicago, Meeting Room 4C**3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

Religious Politics in an Age of Consumerism and Commercial Media: Competing Discourses

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Wabash Room**5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.**

Redefining Religious Theology and Practice in a Sea of Social Change: Strategies of Inclusion and Exclusion (Panel Discussion)

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Indiana Room**Saturday, November 14****8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.**

Possibility and Permanency: The Resources of Ritual for Liturgy and Mission

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Salon 7**9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

Professional Christian Communication: Implications for Pedagogy and Practice (Panel Discussion)

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Kimball Room**11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

Religion, Politics, and Tolerance in the Public Square: Diverse Approaches to a Critical Issue

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Kimball Room**2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

"Divided by Faith...Race & Gender": Roundtable Panel on Underdeveloped Areas of Religious Communication Studies (Panel Discussion)

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Kimball

Room

3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Discourses of Stability and Change for the Religiously Dedicated

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Kimball Room

Most RCA panels are scheduled in the Palmer House Hilton at 17 E. Monroe Street. The historic Palmer House is located north of both Spertus and the Hilton Chicago. See the Downtown Chicago map on Page 2.

Sunday, November 15**8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.**

A Discourse on the Upcoming Handbook of Communication and Religion (Panel Discussion)

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Indiana Room

The More Things Change: Negotiating Conflict and Change in American Evangelical Rhetoric

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Salon 7**11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

De-stabilizing perspectives: Exploring discourses with the power to change religious narratives

Place: Palmer House Hilton, Salon 7

Pre-Conference Schedule | Continued from Page 3

SESSION 2 (2:00–3:15 pm)

Session 2A (Room 713): Archetype, Dialectic and Total Depravity: Religious Rhetoric and American Film (Paper Session)

Session Organizer, Michael Finch	Regent University
Chair, Thomas Carmody	Vanguard University
Respondent, Mark Steiner	Christopher Newport University
“Evangelical Heroics: Myth and Archetype in <i>Facing the Giants</i> ”	Andrew Harris, Pensacola Christian College/Regent University
“Ricoeurian Rhetorical Analysis of X2 (The Second Film in the <i>X-Men</i> trilogy)”	Michael Finch, Regent University
““You Can’t Stop What’s Comin’”: Anticlarical Critique of Joel and Ethan Coen’s <i>No Country for Old Men</i> ”	Kevin Crawford, Regent University
“Narrative Theory as Public Moral Argument in <i>Life is Beautiful</i> ”	Chad Neuman, Southeastern University

Session 2B (Room 721): The Holocaust and Genocide: Communicative Representations of Faith, Change, Hope, and Fear (Paper Session)

Session Organizer, Daniel Brown	Grove City College
Chair, Susan K. Brown	Slippery Rock University
“Can Our Work Set Us Free?”	Daniel Brown, Grove City College
“Whispers of Innocence: Children’s Discourse in Holocaust Films”	Sheri Whalen, Frostburg State University
“‘Genocide’ vs. ‘Holocaust’: What’s in a Name?”	Alfred G. Mueller II, Pennsylvania State University, Mont Alto
“The Juxtaposition of the Suffering of Christ on the Cross and the Jews in the Holocaust in the Art of Rick Wienecke”	Scott Turcott, Indiana Wesleyan University
“The Legacy of the Holocaust Frames the Mediation of Contemporary Genocide: The Case of Darfur”	Amy D. Richards, University of Edinburgh
“Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s Sponsorship and Manufacturing of Holocaust Denial”	Suzanne Larson, Southern Utah University

Session 2C (Room 722): The Emerging Church Movement: Discourses of Stability and Change within the Christian Tradition (Panel Discussion)

Session Organizer, Sheryl Lidzy	Emporia State University
Chair, Craig Mattson	Trinity Christian College
Maria Dixon	Southern Methodist University
Navita James	University of South Florida
Rachel Kosko	Duquesne University
Christy Mesaros Winckles	Bowling Green State University
Larry J. King	Stephen F. Austin State University

SESSSION 3 (3:30-4:30 pm)

Session 3: Discussion and Planning for NCA 2010

Rhetorical Studies Division	Room 713
Communication Studies Division	Room 721
Mediated Communication Division	Room 722

SESSION 4 (4:45-6:00 pm)

Session 4A (Room 713): Media, Multiplicity and Religious Expression: Opportunities for and Constraints on the Expression of Faith in a Mediated World (Paper Session)

Chair, Calvin Troup	Duquesne University
Respondent, Ripley Smith	Bethel University
“Concentrated Religion: The Impact of the 1996 Telecommunications Act on Religious Radio Ownership and Programming”	Mark Ward Sr., Clemson University

Pre-conference Schedule Continued on Page 7

Pre-Conference Schedule | Continued from Page 6

Session 4A (Continued from Page 6)

"Media's Historical Development and Increasing Impact on Jewish Responsa from the Eighteenth to the Twenty-First Century"	Tsuriel Rashi, Bar-Ilan University
"Muslims and Multiculturalism in the European Union: Putting Diversity, Acceptance and Equality to the Test"	Alessandra Beasley Von Burg, Wake Forest University

Session 4B (Room 721): Church, Ministry and Vocation: Communicating Stability and the Need for Change (Paper Session)

Chair, Ken Chase	Wheaton College
Respondent, Rodney Reynolds	Azusa Pacific University
"Challenges Inherent in the Hospice Chaplain Role"	Kristin Lindholm, Trinity International University
"Communication Orientation, Religiosity, and Attitudes Toward Authority in a Church-Related University"	Gordon Forward, Lisa Garber, Brian Holland, and Amber Briggs, Point Loma Nazarene University
"C. S. Lewis: Chronicles of a Master Communicator"	Steven Beebe, Texas State University, San Marcos
"The Rhetoric of Silence: Providing Ground for Prophetic Rhetoric"	Kristen Majocha, University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown

Session 4C (Room 722): Priests and Prophets: Defining and Theorizing Discourses of Priestly Stability and Prophetic Change in Communications Scholarship (Panel Discussion)

Session Organizer, Kevin Healey	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Spring Arbor University
Chair, Quentin Schultze	Calvin College
Laurie Britt-Smith	University of Detroit Mercy
Clifford Christians	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Kevin Healey	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Paul Patton	Spring Arbor University
Ripley Smith	Bethel University
Naaman Wood	Tidewater Community College
Robert Woods	Spring Arbor University

SESSION 5 (6:15-7:30 pm)

Session 5A (Room 721): Sermonic Discourses: Meaning-Making in the Midst of Change (Paper/Performance Session)

Session Organizer, Alison English	Vanguard University of Southern California
Chair, Darlene Graves	Liberty University
Respondent, John Katsion	Multnomah Bible College
"The Choice Before Us: To Make Meaning Out of a Changing World"	Jacqueline Glenny, Northwestern College
"The Samaritan Woman: Encountering the Change Master"	Marcia Berry, Azusa Pacific University
"The Paradox of Perfection: A Perfect 10 in an Imperfect World"	Alison English, Vanguard University of Southern California

Session 5B (Room 722): Stability and Change in Holocaust Discourse: Where the Research is Headed (Panel Discussion)

Session Organizer, Daniel Brown	Grove City College
Chair, Daniel Brown	Grove City College
Tim Good	DePauw University
Suzanne Larson	Southern Utah University
Alfred G. Mueller II	Penn State University, Mont Alto
Amy D. Richards	University of Edinburgh
Jennifer Scott	Grove City College
Scott Turcott	Indiana Wesleyan University
Sheri Whalen	Frostburg State University
David Worthington	DePauw University

LIGHT SUPPER (7:30) – served on the 2nd floor landing

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM/GALLERIES TOUR – Information available on site at RCA registration desk, main lobby entrance.

Service is the Heart of the Religious Communication Association: From Page 1

(Continued from page 1) every other year, with invited scholars and contributed papers culminating in an edited publication, funds from which would revert to RCA. Hosting such conferences at universities and colleges with commitments to religious traditions or to religious scholarship would provide excellent access to RCA's work and recognition for host institutions.

Another way is to continue to publicize our scholarly awards, a process begun this year. Recognition for the work of RCA award winners benefits RCA, awardees' host institutions, and the larger scholarly community.

Continued connection with NCA seems important; this year witnesses additional co-sponsored panels with NCA divisions. While we have increasing points of contact with NCA, remaining independent and affiliated balances multiple goods.

Finally, preconference activities

can continue to serve membership well; without the need to plan a yearly conference, energy can be devoted to preconference activities with an eye to potential connections to biennial conferences.

- May RCA remain committed to students. Through mentoring, providing opportunities for presentation and publication, and modeling a commitment to scholarship, teaching, and service, RCA can provide encouragement and support to the next generation of scholars and leaders in the area of religious communication in the academy and marketplace—and provide secure leadership continuity for RCA.

- May RCA remain committed to service. RCA will remain as strong as its service commitment. The offices taken on by leadership are service positions, taken on by teacher/scholars with other commitments; they are engaged as contributions to the

organization, to the academy, and to faith traditions grounded in servant leadership. Gratitude and knowledge of work well done reward such service.

I offer thanks to Robert Woods, Vice President, with whom it continues to be a pleasure and joy to work; Ken Danielson, Executive Secretary, whose knowledge of and commitment to RCA know no bounds and whose wisdom and sense of humor have sustained us for so long; to Calvin Troup, Immediate Past President, for his outstanding leadership over these last years; to Rodney Reynolds, 2nd VP, for his willingness to take on leadership and for heartfelt care for RCA; to John Pauley for his careful and diligent editorship of *JCR*; to Dann Brown for keeping everyone informed of RCA events and happenings with exceptionally high-quality newsletters; to Michael E. Eidenmuller for his won-

derful work as web master; to councilors Matt Althouse, G. L. Forward, and Mark Williams for their support and assistance in so many ways, and to all award evaluators, paper and panel readers, paper and panel contributors, and RCA members for countless contributions through service and participation that keep RCA thriving!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve RCA—I'll see you in Chicago!

Has your RCA membership expired? Check it out.
 Your membership's expiration date is on your mailing label. To renew your membership, go to www.americanrhetoric.com/rca/rcamembershipinfo.html.

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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