

## *Context of Religious Research*

**December 2011**

William H. Swatos, Jr., Executive Officer

Welcome to the first issue of Context printed in the Review of Religious Research. If you were a member of RRA prior to the end of 2011, you should have received a final mailed issue of Context through the mail one side or the other of the turn to 2012. Henceforth only dues notices and ballots will come through the mail. Member news and other business materials relating to the RRA will come through this means. By the time you receive this issue of the Review, you also should have received a billing for and paid your 2012 RRA dues. If not, you will be receiving one more notice. If you do not pay that prior to late May, your subscription to the Review will end.

At this time we are looking forward to 2012 officer elections and RRA's annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix, November 9-11. We hope you will participate in both of these important aspects of our organizational life.

This year we will be seeking nominees for the following positions. If you have names to suggest, including self-nominations, please have them to Nominating Committee Chair Deborah Bruce (deborah.bruce@pcusa.org) no later than May 1. If the Review begins to appear as it is supposed to across the calendar, then candidate information will be in the September issue, with ballots due October 1. If the Review should fall behind, this information will be mailed to you.

The following offices need to be filled: Two Directors-at-Large—retiring are Larry Iannaccone and Paula Nesbitt; the Chair of the Nominating Committee and two Nominating Committee members—retiring, in addition to Deborah, are Helen Rose Ebaugh and Elaine Howard Ecklund; remaining are Peter Beyer and Sally Gallagher. Directors-at-Large serve a four-year term and are expected to attend the RRA Board of Directors meeting annually during their terms. This meeting is held the day before the RRA/SSSR Annual Meeting, which occurs between the middle of October and the middle of November. Board members receive neither travel nor accommodation expenses for their service. Board member attendance at the meeting is extremely important to the functioning of the RRA, because certain decisions—not least the budget—cannot be taken except by the Board sitting as a board. There are normally no other called meetings of the Board that require travel, inasmuch as the RRA has an Executive Board that can deal with nonfinancial matters in the interim.

At this time I also wish to announce and recognize the successful 2011 Constant H. Jacquet Award recipients:

Laura Andrews, University of Arizona, “God is Great, God is Green: Evangelical Protestants in the Environmental Movement”

Zahra Ayubi, University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), “What is Islamic? Debates over Ethical Approaches to Muslim Gender Reform”

Eileen Barker, London School of Economics “New Religious Movements and their Aging

Converts”

John Eicher, University of Iowa, “How States and Interest Groups Defined their Identities through Interaction with Mennonites”

Justin Farrell, Princeton Theological Seminary, “The Role of Religious Meaning in Human Action: The Case of Environmental Conflict”

Brad Fulton, Duke University, “Congregation-Based Community Organizing: The State of the Field”

Daniel Loss, Brown University, “The Afterlife of Christian England: 1944-1994”

We extend our congratulations to these individuals and express our appreciation to all those who applied, as well as to the Jacquet Committee: Mary Lou McNamara, Chair, Michael Cieslak, and Deborah Kapp.