

## **University of British Columbia, British Columbia**

Jinhua Chen and Jessica Main

UBC welcomed several new graduate students pursuing research related to Buddhism supervised by Nam-lin Hur, Jinhua Chen, Ted Slingerland, and Tsering Shakya. Biographical details of these current Doctoral and Masters students are available online at the Department of Asian Studies website (<http://www.asia.ubc.ca/>). The number of undergraduate and graduate courses covering Buddhism (<http://ubcbuddhism.wordpress.com/program/teaching/>) is growing, with courses on method in the study of Asian religions and Theravāda Buddhism to be added in future years.

UBC regularly hosts special events and programs in Buddhist studies. Programs and lecture series that were active this past year include: (1) Buddhism and Contemporary Society Program, (2) Kameyama Lecture Series on Buddhist Studies, and (2) UBC-TCU-Renda Program on Buddhist Studies.

The Department of Asian Studies' Kameyama Lecture Series hosted several speakers over the past year: John McRae (Cheng-chi University, Taiwan) on early Chan history, Julie Iezzi (Professor of Hawai'i at Manoa) on Buddhism and Kabuki dance, James Benn (McMaster University) on the early history of tea in China, and Eun-su Cho (Seoul National University) on 19th century Korean Buddhism.

Jessica Main organized a series of special events for the Buddhism and Contemporary Society Program, made possible by the generosity of the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation. The series welcomed Michael Zimmermann (University of Hamburg), John McRae (partnered with Kameyama Lecture above), Phakchok Rinpoche (Taklung Kagyu Lineage), and Mark Unno (University of Oregon). Each lectured on Buddhism and social ethics: violence, social engagement, development, and inter-religious dialogue. The Program hosted its first full conference in October of 2010 titled "Buddhism in Canada: Global Causes, Local Conditions," featuring over twenty papers and two keynote speakers, Charles Prebish (Utah State University) and Raphaël Liogier (University of Aix-Marseille, France). More details about this program are available at the program's website (<http://ubcbuddhism.wordpress.com/>).

Jinhua Chen directed UBC's contribution to the UBC-TCU-Renda Program on Buddhist Studies. This three-year joint project between UBC, Tzu Chi University in Taiwan, and the People's University of China, held its third intensive summer session in July and August of 2010. More than sixty graduate students from fifteen countries and regions, including mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada, United States, and a few countries in Europe, travelled to Suzhou and Sichuan for study. Seven international scholars were invited to teach seven seminars. More details about this program are available at the program's website (<http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/jchen/>).

## **Brock University, Ontario**

Michael Berman

The Philosophy Department at Brock University (St. Catharines) will be offering numerous courses on Asian, Buddhist and Comparative Philosophy in 2010-11. In addition to the department's regular undergraduate courses on Chinese, Buddhist and Indian Philosophy, the graduate program will include advanced studies in these areas.

Specifically, in the fall term of 2010, Prof. Michael Berman will teach a class on "Merleau-Ponty and Nagarjuna", while Prof. Richard Brown will lead a course on "The Bhagavad-Gita". In addition, the Philosophy Graduate Program will offer a team-taught course on "Comparative Methodologies in Comparative Philosophy."

During the 2011 winter term, Prof. W. C. Chan will be the instructor for "Yogācāra and Phenomenology." More information is available at:

<<http://www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/philosophy>>.

## University of Calgary, Alberta

Leslie Kawamura

The Numata Chair in Buddhist Studies, in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary, will be hosting a number of visiting scholars over the next two years. Most recently Dr. Ronald Davidson of Fairfield University, visited the Department from October 24 to October 28, 2010. Dr. Davidson gave a talk on October 26, titled “Mahayana Buddhist Rituals and the Method of Coded Phrases (*dhāraṇ ī*)”, at the Calgary Buddhist Church. The Numata Chair of Buddhist Studies, the Department of Religious Studies and the Asian Studies Group, University of Calgary presented the talk.

During the period from the winter of 2011 through the spring of 2012 the Numata Chair of Buddhist Thought will host the following visiting scholars at the University of Calgary (dates are currently being determined):

Winter (January - April) 2011

- 1) Jonathan Silk (Kern Institute, Universiteit Leiden, Netherlands)
- 2) Collett Cox (University of Washington, Seattle).

Fall (September-December) 2011

- 3) Gregory Schopen (UCLA )
- 4) Chen-kuo Lin (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)

Winter (January - April) 2012

- 5) Chen-kuo Lin (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)
- 6) Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto).

## University of Lethbridge

John Harding

McGill-Queen's University Press published *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada*, edited by John S. Harding, Victor Sogen Hori, and Alexander Soucy, in March 2010 (<http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2497>). In the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Lethbridge, John Harding used this edited volume in Fall 2010 for a new course, "Modern Buddhism and Buddhism in Canada." This seminar relates Buddhism in Canada to Modern Buddhism worldwide with emphasis both on cross-cultural currents between Asia and the West that have shaped this tradition and the various forms, traditions, and unique contexts in which Buddhism has become a local presence within Canada's increasingly diverse religious landscape.

The University of Lethbridge community also benefited from an October 2010 guest lecture by Raphaël Liogier, who is Director of the *Observatoire du religieux* and Masters Program for Religion and Society at the University of Aix-Marseille, France. This presentation explored how his early work on Buddhism in the West revealed patterns and processes of cultural globalization, which prompted insights that have informed his larger sociological theories about the nature of religion and belief in advanced industrial countries.

Other activities are related to organizing conferences or participating in panels and workshops about Buddhism. The University of Lethbridge hosted the annual conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC) in early October 2009 and John Harding presented "*Crises and Adaptations of a Jōdo Shinshū Temple in Canada*" for this gathering. Away from Lethbridge, Harding presented "*Buddhism, Canada, and the Western Frontier*" at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) in Montreal in November 2009 and "*Modern, Global Buddhism(s): Theoretical and Methodological Reflections*" at the "Researching Buddhism and Modernity: Conceptual and methodological issues" workshop in Skagen, Denmark in June 2010. Finally, in terms of conference activity related to Buddhism, Harding was one of the organizers for the conference "Buddhism in Canada: Global Causes, Local Conditions," held at the University of British Columbia as part of the Buddhism and Contemporary Society Program funded by the

Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation. This conference at UBC also received support from SSHRC and the Numata Foundation subsidized the travel of graduate students presenting in this forum.

## McMaster University, Ontario

James Benn

### Buddhist Studies at McMaster University

Buddhist Studies is an integral component of the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster, which has maintained a longstanding and continuous commitment to the academic study of Buddhism since 1964. Internationally renowned scholars such as Jan Yün-hua, Robert Sharf, and Koichi Shinohara have taught at McMaster. Distinguished graduates of the program in Buddhist Studies include: Dr. Gregory Schopen (MA, 1974), Professor of Indian Buddhism, University of California, Los Angeles; Dr. Albert Welter (PhD, 1987), Professor of Chinese Buddhism, University of Winnipeg; Dr. Chen Jinhua (PhD, 1997), Canada Research Chair in Chinese Buddhism, University of British Columbia; Dr. Kevin Bond (PhD, 2009), Assistant Professor of Japanese Buddhism, University of Regina.

There are three faculty members in the department who actively supervise graduate students in Buddhism. All three obtained their PhDs within the last ten years. Dr. Benn, Dr. Clarke, and Dr. Rowe are all highly active in disseminating their research through publications and conferences. With their three areas of specialization (medieval Chinese Buddhism, monastic Buddhism in pre-modern India, Buddhism in modern and contemporary Japan), Buddhist Studies at McMaster offers students extensive geographical and historical coverage of the subject. Despite their range of interests, Drs. Benn, Clarke and Rowe work in collaboration with each other and emphasize an understanding of Buddhism in its multiple social and historical contexts in their research and graduate training.

- **James A. Benn** (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles; MA, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; MA, BA, University of Cambridge), Associate Professor, Chinese Buddhism. At McMaster since 2005, his recent publications include: *Burning for the Buddha* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2007), and *Buddhist Monasticism in East Asia* (Routledge, 2009).

Web site: <http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/bennjam>

- **Shayne Clarke** (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles; MA, BA, University of Canterbury (NZ)), Assistant Professor, Indian Buddhism. At McMaster since 2006, his recent publications include: "Locating Humour in Indian Buddhist Monastic Law Codes: A Comparative Approach," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 37/4 (2009), and "Monks Who Have Sex: Pārājika Penance in Indian Buddhist Monasticisms," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 37/1 (2009).  
Web site: <http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/clarsha>
- **Mark Rowe** (PhD, Princeton University; MA, Princeton University; MA, Kyoto University; BA, McGill University), Assistant Professor, Japanese Buddhism. At McMaster since 2006, his recent publications include: "Death, Burial, and the Study of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism," *Religious Compass*, 3/1 (2009), "Where the Action Is: Sites of Contemporary Sōtō Buddhism," *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 31/2 (Fall 2004).  
Web site: <http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/rowemar>

Over the past four years, the three core faculty members have completely revised the sequence of graduate seminars and comprehensive examinations so as to prepare MA and PhD students to become productive researchers and teachers of Buddhism. Students are required to take seminars with all three faculty members so that they receive training in Chinese, Indian, and Japanese traditions as well as theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of Buddhism.

We expect the students we train to be able to carry out original research in Buddhist Studies using primary sources in Asian languages. All of our PhD students are therefore required to master two canonical languages (e.g. Sanskrit, Pali, literary Chinese, Japanese, Tibetan) and to be able to employ modern languages relevant for research in Buddhist Studies. Under our guidance, students learn how to read and understand written texts, and develop interdisciplinary research skills as they employ historical, art-historical, and ethnographic materials.

There are currently six PhD students in Buddhist Studies (three in Chinese Buddhism, one each in Indian Buddhism, Japanese Buddhism, and Buddhism in North America), and two MA students (one in Indian Buddhism, one in Chinese). Our students come from China, Taiwan, Hong

Kong, and the United States, as well as Canada. In April 2010 five of our students gave papers at the North American Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference.

In 2009-10 we offered the following graduate seminars in Buddhist Studies.

***RS 711 / Topics in Buddhist Thought and History: Indian Monasticism—Nuns***

***RS 715 / Readings in Indian Buddhist Texts***

***RS 718 / Topics in Buddhist Studies: Recent Scholarship***

***RS 719 / Topics in Modern and Contemporary Buddhism***

McMaster University cooperates with University of Toronto in the Yehan Numata Buddhist Studies Program. In 2009-10 McMaster hosted the following events in that series:

**Michael Como (Columbia University)**

**Lecture:** Scandalous Monks and Healing Lineages in Ancient Japan.

**Christian Luczanits (Universität Wien)**

**Reading Group:** The Eight Great Siddhas in Early Tibetan Painting from c. 1200 to c. 1350.

**Hiroko Kawanami (University of Lancaster)**

**Reading Group:** Keepers of the Faith: The Buddhist Nuns of Sagaing Hills (documentary film) and “Can Women Be Celibate? Sexual Abstinence in Theravāda Buddhism.”

**Will Tuladhar-Douglas (University of Aberdeen)**

**Reading Group:** On Why It Is Good to Have Many Names: the Many Identities of a Nepalese God.

**Alicia Turner (York University)**

Intentionality, Performance and Identity: the Zediyingana Footwear Debates in Colonial Burma.

**Nareshman Bajracharya (Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal)**

**Lecture:** An Introduction to the Newar Buddhist Daśakarma Ritual.

**Allan Grapard (UC Santa Barbara)**

**Lecture:** What is a Three-Dimensional Mountain Mandala?

**Reading Group:** Mountain Mandalas. Friday, March 19, 2010, 4-6 pm

**Isabelle Henrion-Dourcy (Université Laval)**

**Reading Group:** Women in the Performing Arts: Portraits of Six Contemporary Singers.

## Simon Fraser University, British Columbia

Paul Crowe

In the absence of a department dedicated to Asian Studies or Religious Studies, courses related to Buddhism are taught exclusively through the interdisciplinary and text-focused Department of Humanities and its Asia-Canada Program. Presently, two individuals provide this instruction: Michael Newton, a long term sessional instructor, and Paul Crowe who directs the David Lam Centre at SFU and teaches for the Department of Humanities and the Asia-Canada Program.

Two Buddhism-related courses were offered during the last two semesters:

Michael Newton taught a third-year course, *ASC 300: Asians and North Americans in Public Discourse: Popular Romance with Asian Warriors and Buddhist Monks*. In the context of discussion that reflected on orientalism, foundational myths, transnationalism and globalism the class examined the relationship of Buddhism and martial arts in Asia and then proceeded to consider how this relationship has been constructed in the west through the second half of the twentieth century to the present.

Paul Crowe led a fourth-year Asia-Canada seminar, *ASC 400: Asian Religions in British Columbia*, using the book of the same name edited by Larry DeVries, Don Baker and Daniel Overmyer and published through UBC Press in 2010. Three other chapter authors gave talks in the seminar: Cam Van Thi Phan a Vietnamese Buddhist nun and doctoral student in Asian Studies at UBC spoke about developments subsequent to the writing of her chapter on Vietnamese Buddhism in BC; the subject of Thai and Lao Buddhism was addressed by James Placzek of Langara College and Larry DeVries provided insights concerning various South Asian religious communities on the Lower Mainland. Students visited religious sites in teams of two or three and provided field reports for their fellow students through discussion, video and photographic presentations.

Based on work at the Gold Buddha Monastery in late December 2009 Paul Crowe recently submitted a chapter titled “Amitābha’s Birthday and the Liberation of Life” for a forthcoming book which is part of an introductory series aimed at university students with the intention of shedding light on the fieldwork experience. John Harding is editing the

volume titled *Studying Buddhism in Practice* (New York: Routledge) and Hillary Rodrigues (University of Lethbridge) is the series editor. Crowe also presented a paper titled “Dhārma on the Move: Authenticity and Adaptation” at the Tung Lin Kok Yuen sponsored conference, *Buddhism and Diaspora*, hosted at the University of Toronto at Scarborough in May 2010. The paper, currently being expanded for publication, examines tensions between claims to identity and orthodoxy in relationship to radically shifting immigration demographics and the newly emerging Conservative Party language framing expectations of integration voiced by Minister Jason Kenny and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Crowe has recently completed an article that provides a brief historical outline of Universal Buddhist Temple; founded in 1968, it is the oldest functioning Chinese Buddhist temple in BC.

The David Lam Centre at SFU hosted a public forum that addressed the resurgence of religion in the People’s Republic of China and, given the spike in immigration from the PRC to British Columbia during the past ten years, considered the local implications. The forum included a screening of an independent Canadian documentary filmed in China, *The Gods Come Home*. The director-producer, Christopher Sumpton, Ven. Heng Cang Shr of Gold Buddha Monastery, Emeritus Professor Daniel Overmyer (UBC Asian Studies) and Paul Crowe comprised a panel that provided reflections on the film and the situation in BC and responded to questions from the audience.

## University of Toronto, Ontario

Christoph Emmrich

If one were to look for a possible red thread running through events in Buddhist Studies in 2010 one could perhaps choose that of a self-reflexive interest in exploring and representing the local. U of T as a place of young emerging scholarship, Toronto as a place of displaced yet flourishing Buddhisms, the things GTA Buddhists grow, eat and grow up on and the mindfulness that makes scholars of the mind tick: these were the themes of some of this year's more prominent events.

To start with those events which may have resisted this trend, in 2010 the annual University of Toronto/McMaster University Numata lecture and reading group series hosted Nareshman Bajracharya, Fulbright Visiting Professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University, who spoke on Newar Buddhist vows, York University's Alicia Turner throwing a light on education and the concept of religion in colonial Burma, Natasha Heller (UCLA) discussing Buddhist asceticism in the Yuan dynasty and finally Todd Lewis (College of the Holy Cross) who will have talked about a 20th century hagiography of the Buddha situated in the literary world of the Kathmandu Valley.

On April 9-12, 2010 the Department for the Study of Religion held the North American Graduate Student Conference in Buddhist Studies with Isabelle Henrion-Dourcy (Université Laval) on Tibetan drama performances and Marc des Jardins (Concordia University) on contemporary Bön reform movements as keynote speakers. The conference organized by Matt King, Ben Wood and Sarah Richardson brought together young Canadian and US-American scholars who engaged in discussions with guest and local Buddhist Studies faculty and demonstrated a vigorous academic culture that promises well for the next generation of Buddhist Studies scholars from Canada.

This year's Tung Lin Kok Yuen conference invited speakers to talk about "Buddhism and Diaspora" (May 14-16, 2010) dealing with the question, in the words of the organizers, "whether there are specific ways that Buddhism has answered the challenges, problems, and expectations that accompany displacement and relocation". Victor Hori (McGill University) and Will Tuladhar-Douglas (University of Aberdeen,

Scotland, UK) gave keynote addresses, the former about dispersion as a key feature of Buddhism, the latter on the relation between Buddhist immigration and the endorsement of Tibetan Buddhist institutions by the Scottish Nationalist Party. Among the speakers were Anne-Sophie Bentz (Université Toulouse, France) D. Mitra Bhikkhu (Wilfrid Laurier University), Robert Chang (New York University), Paul Crowe (Simon Fraser University), Kory Goldberg (University of Quebec in Montreal), Gregory P. Grieve (The University of North Carolina, Greensboro), Sarah Haynes (Western Illinois University), Ana Cristina Lopes (University of Sao Paulo Brazil), Jessica Main (University of British Columbia), Janet McLellan (Wilfrid Laurier University), Jessica Patterson (Reed College), James Placzek (Langara College), Alexander Soucy (Saint Mary's University), Frank Andre Weigelt (University of Lucerne, Switzerland) and John Whalen-Bridge (National University of Singapore).

As a consequence of his visit the University of Toronto Scarborough was happy to have Will Tuladhar-Douglas return as TLKY Distinguished Visiting Professor for the fall of 2010. Besides teaching a graduate course and lecturing on the contribution of Buddhist communities to the diversity of agriculture and gardening in the GTA, Professor Tuladhar-Douglas, assisted among others by Sean Hillman, organized a workshop called "How is this place Buddhist?" on Nov. 5-6, 2010 in which the issues raised by him in his talk were discussed among agriculturalists, Buddhist practitioners, mothers, faculty and graduate students.

Finally, the University of Toronto was honoured by the visit of H.H. the Dalai Lama who on October 22, 2010 gave the keynote address at a symposium on "Cognitive Science, Mindfulness and Consciousness" organized by Laura-Ann Petitto, Adam Anderson, Zindel Segal and Tony Toneatto. In a statement which concluded the gathering H.H. remarked enthusiastically that "[i]n the past, science used to look at objects; now scientists are investigating themselves". We should be well advised to not neglect that part of doing research, even if compared to this year in the next years we should turn out to be slightly less interested in ourselves.