

## McMaster University

James Benn

There are currently five PhD students in Buddhist Studies (two in Chinese Buddhism, one each in Indian Buddhism, Japanese Buddhism, and Buddhism in North America), and one MA student in Indian Buddhism. We also have one PhD student in East Asian Religions who has a minor in Buddhism. We welcome applications to study at the PhD or MA level, and interested students should consult the information on our website:

<http://www.religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/graduate-program/admissions>

Mark Rowe (Japanese Buddhism) is on research leave in Japan for academic year 2011–12. His new book, *Bonds of the Dead: Temples, Burial, and the Transformation of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism*, was published by University of Chicago Press. Shayne Clarke (Indian Buddhism) will be on leave in 2012–13. His book will appear soon from University of Hawai'i Press. James Benn (Chinese Buddhism) currently serves as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies.

In 2010–11 we offered the following graduate seminars in Buddhist Studies in addition to first and second-year Sanskrit.

- RS 713 / Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts II: Indigenous Chinese Writings
- RS 714 / Topics in Indian Buddhist Texts: Monastic Law Codes (Vinayas) and the Study of Indian Buddhist Monasticism
- RS 716 / Topics in Japanese Buddhism

McMaster University cooperates with University of Toronto in the Yehan Numata Buddhist Studies Program. In 2010-11 McMaster hosted the following events in that series:

- Natasha Heller (UCLA)  
Lecture: How To Be a Buddhist Recluse in the Yuan Dynasty.
- Todd Lewis (College of the Holy Cross)

Reading Group: Sugata Saurabha.

- Charlene Makley (Reed College)  
Reading Group: The Melodious Sound of the Right-Turning Conch: Buddhist Counter-Development among Tibetans in China.
- Anne Monius (Harvard University)  
Lecture: With No One to Bind Action and Agent: The Fate of Buddhists as Religious 'Other' in Tamil Saiva Literature.
- Albert Welter (University of Winnipeg)  
Lecture: The Buddhist School of Principle and the Intellectual Climate of Song Dynasty China.
- Christian Wedemeyer (University of Chicago)  
Reading Group: Locating Tantric Antinomianism: An Essay toward an Intellectual History of the 'Practices/practice Observance' (*caryā/caryāvratacaryā/caryāvrata*).
- Shayne Clarke also organised a major international conference sponsored by BDK on Buddhist nuns in India held at University of Toronto in April 2011.

Contributors were invited to examine the religious lives of ordained Buddhist nuns in India from the time of the Buddha until the eventual disappearance of the Bhikṣuṇī saṅgha from Indian soil from a variety of sources and scholarly orientations, including philology, art history, epigraphy, and literature.

The conference commenced with a public lecture by UCLA professor Gregory Schopen, titled "The Limited Reach of Religious Doctrine: Debt, Slavery, and Who could Become a Buddhist Nun (or Monk) in Early India." The weekend saw two full days of academic presentations and lively discussions, each summarized and reflected upon by a panel of respondents: Profesors Masahiro Shimoda, Paul Groner, and Andrew Skilton.