

## University of Toronto, Ontario

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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.