

Rutgers University, who presented “A Poet’s Repertoire in Early Medieval China,” on Buddhist and Lao-Zhuang thought in the works of Sun Chuo (314-371). In December we welcome Professor Burkhard Scherer, topic TBA, of Canterbury Christ Church University (U.K.), currently Numata Visiting Chair in Buddhist Studies at McGill University.

## **Carleton University**

Angela Sumegi

In March, 2014 the College of the Humanities Religion Program hosted The Annual Edgar and Dorothy Davidson Lecture: “Pali Buddhist Practices of the Self.” Renowned Pali scholar Steven Collins situated Buddhist meditation in the larger context of spiritual practices and technologies of the self. He began by noting that “the denial that there is an eternal, unchanging self does not invalidate ordinary language talk about self; ‘practices of the self’ refers to an area of mental/physical focus, not to an item of metaphysics.”

Collins is the Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He specializes in the social and cultural history of Buddhism in premodern and modern South and Southeast Asia, and in Pali language and literature. Among numerous other works in the field of Pali Buddhist Studies, Professor Collins is the author of *Selfless Persons: imagery and thought in Theravada Buddhism*, Cambridge University Press, 1982, and *Nirvana: concept, imagery, narrative*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

## **McGill University**

Victor Sōgen Hori

Professor Lara Braitstein spent the summer of 2014 at the Rangjung Yeshe Institute in Kathmandu, Nepal, developing her research on the life of the 10th Shamarpa Chōdrup Gyatso (1742-1792). Professor Victor Hori was on sabbatical leave during 2013-14. He spent three months at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture in Japan, two months as Visiting Researcher-in-Residence at VU University in Amsterdam and a term at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at University of Victoria in B.C. He worked on his SSHRC-funded research project “The Modernization of Buddhism in Global Perspective.”

Hori's co-edited book, *Flowers on the Rock: Global and Local Buddhisms in Canada*, was published in August by McGill-Queen's University Press. The fellow editors are Professor John Harding of the University of Lethbridge and Professor Alexander Soucy of St. Mary's University. *Flowers on the Rock* is a sequel to *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada* (2010), the first collection of essays on Buddhism in Canada, also co-edited by Harding, Hori and Soucy.

The Numata Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies for 2014 is Professor Burkhard Scherer of Canterbury Christ Church University in the U.K. where he is the chair in Comparative Religion, Gender and Sexuality. At McGill, he is teaching a course titled "Issues in Contemporary Buddhism(s)" and will be giving a public lecture on "Variant Dharma: Buddhist Queers, Queered Buddhisms" (the third event in the following series).

During fall term 2014, the Numata Foundation and the Faculty of Religious Studies are presenting a speaker series on Buddhism and Gender:

Ajahn Brahm

"Women and Gender Equality in Theravāda Buddhism"

October 20, 5:00 pm, Birks Heritage Chapel

Khenpo Sodargye

"Women in Tibetan Buddhism"

November 5, noon, Birks Heritage Chapel

Professor Bee Scherer

"Variant Dharma: Buddhist Queers, Queered Buddhisms"

November 19, 4:30pm, Birks room 111

## McMaster University

James Benn

There are currently six Ph.D. students in Buddhist Studies (three in Chinese Buddhism, three in Indian Buddhism), and two MA students (both in Indian Buddhism). Stephanie Balkwill (Ph.D. candidate) currently holds a Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Buddhist Studies, and Chris Jensen (Ph.D. candidate) holds a BDK Canada scholarship that supports his research in Kyoto.

We welcome applications to study at the Ph.D. or M.A. level, and interested students should consult the information on our website: <http://www.religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/graduate-program/admissions>