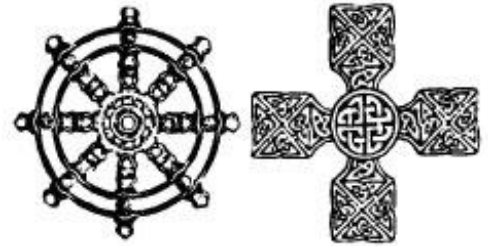


# Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies



Vol. 50

Fall 2012

## *News of the Society*

### **In this Newsletter**

The Fall Newsletter carries information on our annual meeting, held during the AAR Annual Meeting in Chicago. This issue includes:

- ❖ The two SBCS panels at AAR
- ❖ Other AAR panels on which SBCS members appear
- ❖ Announcement of the awardees of the Streng Book Prize and Student Essay Prize
- ❖ Calls for nominees for prizes for next year
- ❖ The European Society for Buddhist-Christian Study's call for papers for its summer 2013 conference
- ❖ Information on an upcoming retreat led by Paul Knitter and John Makransky
- ❖ The contents of the 2012 edition of *Buddhist-Christian Studies*

**2012 SBCS Annual Meeting**  
**American Academy of Religion (AAR)**  
**November 17-20, 2012**  
**Chicago, Illinois, USA**

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**Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Board Meeting**

**Friday - 9:00-11:30 a.m., 1-3:30 p.m.**

Hilton Chicago-4M

Our yearly meeting brings together members to discuss ongoing events (publications, panels, awards) and special projects. To be placed on the agenda, please contact Terry Muck [terry.muck@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:terry.muck@asburyseminary.edu).

### Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, Panel 1

Theme: Contemplative Pedagogy: Pitfalls and Potentials

**Friday - 4:00 PM-6:30 p.m.**  
McCormick Place East-260

Panelists:

John D. Copenhaver, Shenandoah University  
Kristine T. Utterback, University of Wyoming  
Andrew O. Fort, Texas Christian University  
Judith Simmer-Brown, Naropa University

Responding:

William H. Green, Tougaloo College

Presiding:

Wakoh Shannon Hickey, Alfred University

### Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, Panel 2

Theme: The Ethics of Wealth in a World of Economic Inequality: Buddhist and Christian Perspectives

**Saturday - 9:00 AM-11:30 a.m.**  
McCormick Place West-182

Panelists:

Joerg Rieger, Southern Methodist University  
Alan Jay Richard, Realistic Living, Inc.  
Carol S. Anderson, Kalamazoo College

Responding:

Mark Wood, Virginia Commonwealth University

Presiding:

Alice A. Keefe, University of Wisconsin

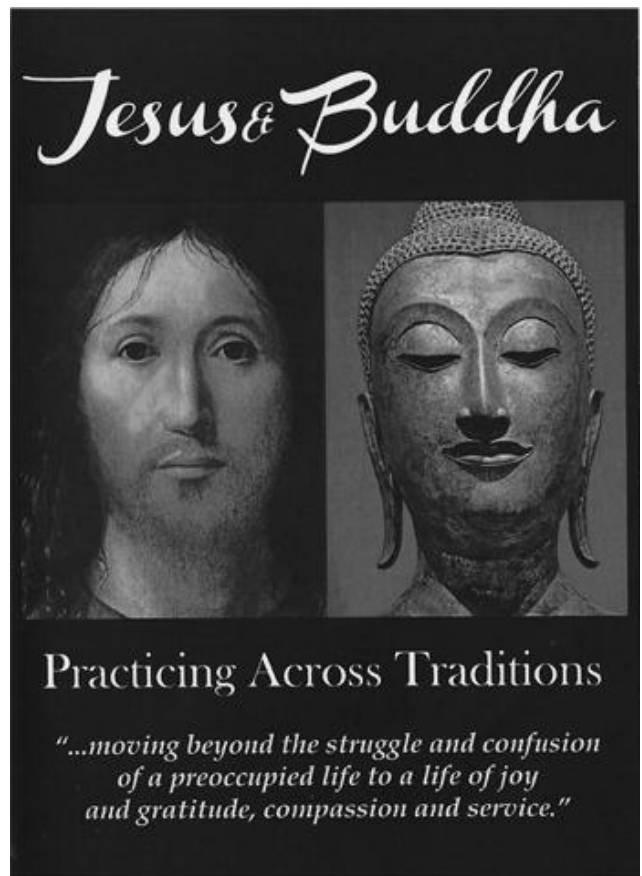
### Film: Jesus & Buddha: Practicing Across Traditions

**Friday 8:30 -10:00 p.m.**

Hilton Chicago Hotel PDR #2

Presiding: Paul F. Knitter, Union Theological Seminary

Can engagement with Buddhism deepen one's understanding of Christian faith? This new documentary film (Old Dog Documentaries, 2012) explores this question in interviews with three leading figures in today's Buddhist-Christian dialogue - Father Robert Kennedy, Chung Hyun Kyung and Paul F. Knitter. A discussion will follow the film.



Information on this film is also available from the distributor: <http://olddogdocumentaries.org/>

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## Christian Spirituality Group

Theme: *The Spiritual "Self" in a Religiously Plural World*

**Tuesday - 9:00-11:30 a.m.**

As attention to religious plurality and to multiple religious belongings increase in the West, this session explores what that means for the construction of Christian spiritual identity. How are constructions of the self and of meaning and identity shifting in contexts where religions overlap, embrace, or collide in personal or communal praxis? Specific papers will address the enactment of Buddhist-Christian identity, the appropriation of Buddhist and yogic practices by Roman Catholic women seeking to resist misogyny in the church's hierarchy, the efforts of Jews and Christians to become "befriended outsiders" around shared table fellowship practices, and how encounters with religious "others" shape the spiritual self — drawing on the narratives included in the recently released book *My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation* (Jennifer Howe Peace, Or N. Rose, and Gregory Mobley, eds., Orbis Books, 2012).

Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Fordham University

*Interreligious Spirituality for Catholic Feminist Survival*

Duane Bidwell, Claremont School of Theology

*Enacting the Spiritual Self: Buddhist-Christian Identity as Participatory Action*

Jennifer Peace, Andover Newton Theological School

*Accounting for the Spiritual Other in the Spiritual Self: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth and Transformation*

Lisa Hess, United Theological Seminary

*Befriending Outsiders: Table Fellowship, Habits of Mind, and Devotion Amidst Difference*

Responding:

Ruben Habito, Southern Methodist University  
Francis X. Clooney, S.J., Harvard University

Presiding:

John Sheveland, Gonzaga University

## Korean Religions Group

Theme: *Buddhist-Christian Dialogue in Korea*

**Tuesday - 9:00-11:30 a.m.**

Korea is the only country in the world where the Buddhist and Christian populations are more or less equal in number. Whereas the conflict between Buddhism and Christianity has been visible, the dialogue between the two religions has often failed to attract attention. However, in the turbulent socio-political situations in modern and contemporary Korea, Korean Buddhists and Christians have worked together for the betterment of society. This panel highlights the ongoing and growing significance of a socially engaged Buddhist-Christian dialogue/diapraxis in Korea and assesses its contribution to social changes in Korea. Paper presenters and respondents will offer their views on the dialogue with the hope that this will generate interest in the field and cooperation between the two traditions in Korea.

Young Woon Ko, Lorain County Community College

*Wonhyo's Theory of Hwajaeng and Buddhist-Christian Dialogue*

Kyeongil Jung, Union Theological Seminary

*Liberating Seon: A Christian Experience*

K. Christine Pae, Denison University

*Buddhist-Christian Interfaith Social Activism in Gang Jung Village of Jeju Island from an Eco-Feminist Perspective*

Responding:

Paul Knitter, Union Theological Seminary  
Sung-hae Kim, Sogang University  
Robert Buswell, University of California, Los Angeles  
A. Charles Muller, Tokyo University

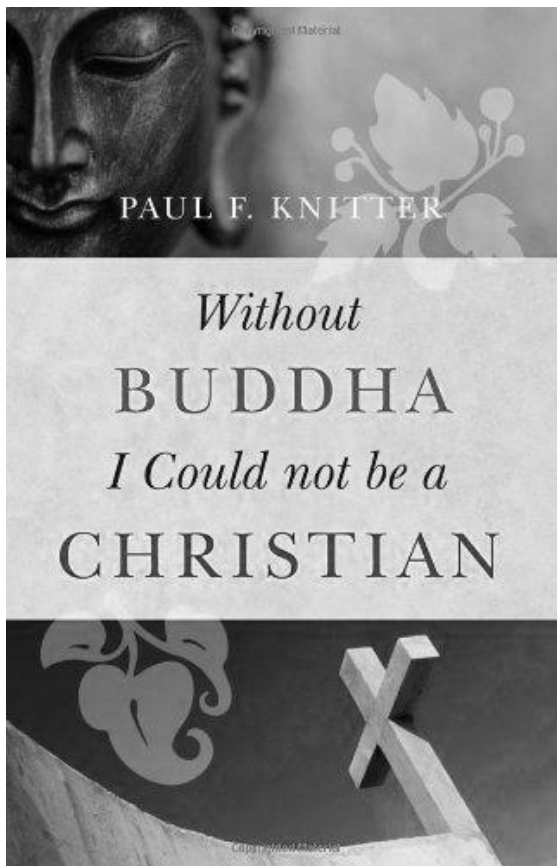
Presiding:

Miriam Levering, University of Tennessee

*The descriptions provided here come directly from the AAR Annual Meeting Online Program Book.*

## SBCS AWARDS

### Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Frederick J. Steng Book Award 2012



The winner of the 2012 Frederick J. Steng Book Award is Paul Knitter's work *Without Buddha I would Not Be a Christian* (Orbis, 2009).

One of the endorsements for the book comes from SBCS member John Makransky: "A ground-breaking work of inter-religious dialogue, comparative theology and social ethics. The rarest combination of theological acumen, humility and humor. Like a thrilling mystery, the insights of each section build to the final chapter, a tour de force, in which Knitter rediscovers the very meaning of serving others. A must read for anyone who wants to renew their faith and rediscover their humanity in intimate dialogue with the faiths of others."

### 2013 Steng Award Call for Nominations

The Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies is now receiving nominations for the 2012 Frederick Steng Book Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies. Nominations must be received by Dec. 31, 2012. The winner will be announced at the annual meeting of the Society.

The criteria for nominating and making the award are:

1. The subject matter of the book should be inspired by and relevant to Buddhist-Christian relations, but subject matter is not narrowly limited to books on dialogue or to books that are half on Christianity and half on Buddhism.

2. The scholarship must be original and the writing clear. The book must make an important contribution to issues relevant to the context of Buddhist-Christian dialogue.
3. Books can be considered for nomination within five years of their publication date (i.e. the 2012 award must be for a book published in 2007 or later).

Nominations can be made by any person other than the author(s) or editor(s), using the [downloadable nomination form](#) or the [online form](#). The completed form may be sent electronically to Abraham Velez: [Abraham.velez@eku.edu](mailto:Abraham.velez@eku.edu). Self-nominations are not permitted. Publishers of books must be willing to supply review copies to members of the committee for evaluation in order for the book to be considered.



## Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies 2012 Graduate Student Essay Winner

We would like to announce that PJ Johnston is the winner of this year's SBCS graduate student essay competition. Ms. Johnston is a doctoral candidate in Religion Studies at the University of Iowa.

Her essay, "Dharma Bums: The Beat Generation and the Making of Counter-Cultural Pilgrimage" will be presented at 10:30 am Saturday, November 17 during the SBCS session in Chicago. Ms. Johnston writes that her dissertation will engage in "in thick ethnographic description of Tamil popular Catholicism in India and Réunion in order to question the standard classifications of religious phenomena in terms of the world religions paradigm and highlight marginal phenomena such as magic, bodily

mortification, and multiple religious belonging within Tamil popular Catholicism in order to develop a more inclusive theological understanding of Catholic identity." Her advisor is Frederick M. Smith.

The SBCS graduate student essay competition was started recently in the hopes of getting greater student participation in the Society. We congratulate Ms. Johnston and we hope to continue student interest in the Society through this award.

## 2013 Call for Papers

As part of the effort of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies to encourage the participation of graduate students, the Society is continuing its graduate student essay award competition.

We are currently accepting papers written by graduate students for one of their classes in the area of Buddhist-Christian studies. Faculty members are asked to recommend the students with the best papers to submit them for consideration of this award.

To submit a paper, please email it to. Together with your submission, please include a cover letter that includes your name, your program, your institution, email address, the class for which the paper was written, and the professor of that class. Deadline for submission is *May 30, 2013*.

The winner of the competition will receive a \$500 award and must present the paper during the annual meeting of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies in 2013.

Further information on the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies can be found at:

<http://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/>

For more information about the essay competition, please email Glenn Willis: [glenn.r.willis@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.r.willis@gmail.com)

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## Conferences, Seminars, and Retreats

### European Network for Buddhist-Christian Studies (ENBCS) and the Catholic University of Leuven



### Call for Papers: History as a Challenge to Buddhism and Christianity

27 June – 1st July, 2013

#### The Old Abbey Retreat Centre, Ghent

The theme of the 10th ENBCS conference, to be held in cooperation with the Catholic University of Leuven, is: History as a Challenge to Buddhism and Christianity. Invited speakers will address five themes: the traditional concept of salvation/liberation history in Buddhism and Christianity; Jesus and the Buddha: Fact and Fiction; Buddhist and Christian Historiography; Dangerous Memory; Permitting Historical Consciousness in Buddhism and Christianity. Invited speakers include: Mark Blum; Terrence Merrigan, John Strong, Sven Bretfeld, Giovanni Filorama and Rita Gross.

In addition, papers from postgraduate research students and experienced researchers are invited for sessions on Friday evening and Saturday morning. The Network places great importance on giving postgraduate research students the opportunity to share their research and gain feedback. It also welcomes papers from experienced academics working within Buddhist-Christian Studies.

Proposals need not be on the theme of the conference but should relate to Buddhist-Christian Studies. Each paper will be allocated 30 minutes. It is expected that the actual paper will not last longer than 20 minutes leaving 10 minutes for discussion. Further details about the conference programme are available on the Network's website: <http://www.buddhist-christian-studies.org>

Proposals should include: your name, address and academic position/affiliation; title of paper; a synopsis of the content of the paper that demonstrates its relevance to Buddhist-Christian Studies.

Proposals for the consideration of the Network's Management Committee should be e-mailed to Dr Elizabeth Harris, President of the Network, by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012: [harrise@hope.ac.uk](mailto:harrise@hope.ac.uk)



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## Meditation, Interfaith Learning, and Social Service: Deep Learning Across Religious Boundaries

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Gasson 100, Boston College, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A day-long contemplative retreat and interfaith dialogue, taught by Professors John Makransky (Boston College) and Paul Knitter (Union Theological Seminary)

Co-sponsored by the Boston College Department of Theology and School of Theology and Ministry (for information contact Gloria Rufo, [gloria.rufo@bc.edu](mailto:gloria.rufo@bc.edu))

This day-long retreat is for those new to contemplative practice or experienced in it, who serve others in family or community, or who work in social service or for social-environmental justice.

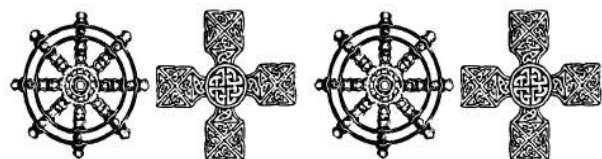
Participants will learn powerful meditations of compassion and awareness adapted from Tibetan Buddhism for people of all faiths and backgrounds. Such meditations from Buddhism can freshly illumine elements of our own spiritual formation (Christian, Jewish or other), generating new insights into the nature of relationship, service and social action.

The meditations evoke an unconditional attitude from within that nourishes all while challenging us to see greater potential in all. We will explore the relevance of contemplative practice for becoming more fully present to self and others, healing inner wounds, and challenging injustice. We will note implications for inter-faith learning and connections to faith-based social activists, such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton and the Dalai Lama.

Guided meditations will be interspersed with dialogue between Professors Knitter and Makransky on fresh possibilities of Buddhist-Christian learning in connection with contemplation, service and action. Time will be provided for questions and discussion.

**Paul Knitter** is the Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions, and Culture at Union Theological Seminary, New York. Previously, for some 30 years, he taught theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. He received a Licentiate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome (1966) and a doctorate from the University of Marburg, Germany (1972) Throughout his 40-year academic and teaching career, Paul has been primarily engaged in exploring how the religious communities of the world can cooperate in promoting human and ecological well-being. He is considered one of the world's leading scholars of interreligious learning and dialogue. In his recent book, *Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian*, he suggests what Christians can learn from Buddhists, especially in the areas of spirituality and social-engagement.

**John Makransky** is an associate professor of Buddhism and Comparative Theology at Boston College and senior advisor to the Centre for Buddhist Studies of Kathmandu University in Nepal. John was ordained a Tibetan Buddhist lama in 2000, and since then, has developed new ways of taking mediation practices from Tibet into the worlds of social service and social justice by making them newly accessible to people of all backgrounds and faiths. John is on the board of directors of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies and is co-founder of the Foundation for Active Compassion, which provides contemplative training for service and social justice in interfaith settings. Author of *Awakening through Love* (Wisdom Publications, 2007), in recent writing John has also been developing methods of Buddhist learning from Christianity and other faiths.



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## The 2012 Journal

The 2012 edition (Volume 32) of *Buddhist-Christian Studies* has been printed and mailed. All current members should have received a copy.

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“Yes, We’re Buddhists Too!”

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Canada and Pure Land, A New Field and Buddha-Land: Womanists and Buddhists Reading Together

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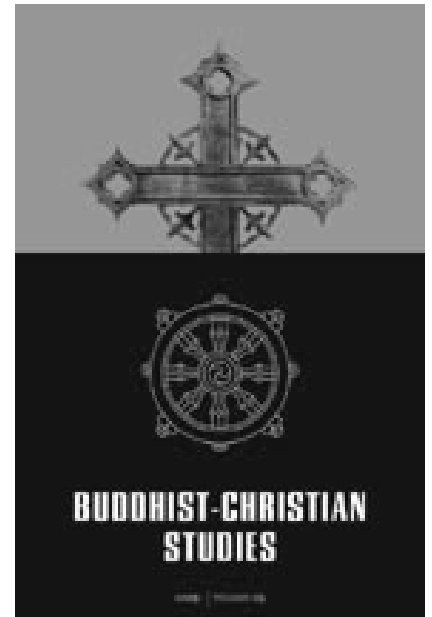
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**MEMBERSHIP IN THE SBCS**

To enroll as a member of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, complete the on-line form on our website <http://society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/appform.html> or send your name, address, and membership fee to:

Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies  
c/o Guy McCloskey  
1720 S Michigan Ave #3303,  
Chicago, IL 60616-4865

Enclose a check for \$45.00 (\$10.00 for students, \$25 for senior citizens) payable to "Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies." The Society cannot accept foreign currency or personal checks from foreign countries unless drawn on a U.S. bank. International money orders in U.S. dollars are acceptable.

Members receive the Society's *Newsletter* and our annual journal *Buddhist-Christian Studies*.

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**CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER**

The *Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Newsletter* is published twice annually: in the spring and the fall. Please contact the Editor to share information with our readers. The deadline for the fall issue is September 1.

In addition to reports on our annual meeting (concurrent with the American Academy of Religion) and calls for the Frederick Streng Book Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies and for the Graduate Student Essay Prize, the *Newsletter* also publishes information on conferences, retreats, lectures, and other events. We welcome obituaries or reports on major figures in the field of Buddhist-Christian Studies.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. Send items to Jonathan Seitz [jaseitz@gmail.com](mailto:jaseitz@gmail.com).

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**SOCIETY FOR BUDDHIST-  
CHRISTIANSTUDIES  
NEWSLETTER**

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