

# Society for Buddhist- Christian Studies



Vol. 52

Fall 2013

## *News of the Society*

### **In this Newsletter**

The Annual Meeting next month is an opportunity to meet, to reconnect, and to share our work.

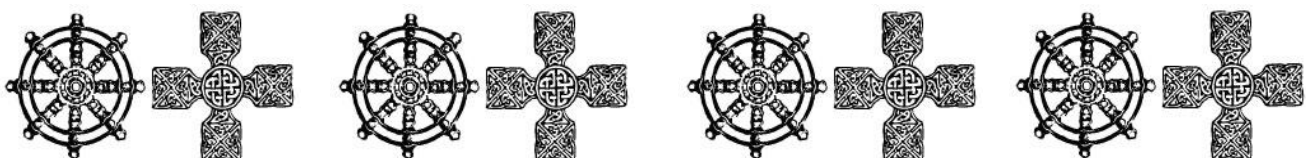
In addition to the Friday Board Meeting and a Members' Meeting on Saturday, this year there are two regular panels, "Deep Listening and Spiritual Care" and "New Perspectives on Buddhism and Multiple-Religious Belonging." There is also a panel by the Comparative Theology and Contemplative Studies groups on Loyola and Shantideva that includes several of our members.

In this newsletter, also find information on:

- ❖ Union's recent conference,
- ❖ An ACLS grant program
- ❖ An upcoming Woodenfish study seminar in Sichuan, China
- ❖ News for Buddhist-Christian studies, including the upcoming World Council of Church's 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Busan, Korea

If you are not a member of the Society, we invite you to join via our [website](#) or at the conference. If you have any announcements to share, feel free to contact me and they can go in the next newsletter or on our facebook page.

Jonathan A. Seitz, SBCS Newsletter Editor, October 2013



## 2013 SBCS Annual Meeting

### Society for Buddhist Christian Studies Annual Meeting Schedule, Nov. 23-24, 2013

#### **P22-103/203 Board Meeting**

Friday, Nov. 22, 9:00-11:30 am; 1:00-3:30 pm;  
Pickersgill Room at the Hilton Baltimore

Last year's meeting included a fruitful updating of SBCS constitution and bylaws, bringing us into the digital age. Common meeting topics include journal and panel topics, the state of our membership, ways to promote the work of the Society, and special topics.

#### **SBCS Panel 1: Deep Listening and Spiritual Care**

Friday Nov. 22 4:00 pm-6:30 pm  
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 348

Alice A. Keefe, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Presiding

Panelists:

Duane Bidwell, Claremont School of Theology in the Claremont Lincoln University consortium

Sandra Costen Kunz, Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana

Judith Simmer-Brown, Naropa University

Willa B. Miller, Harvard Divinity School

Responding: John Makransky, Boston College

In the Buddhist contemplative care movement, the practice of Deep Listening involves both empathetic openness to religious others (their perspectives and needs) and close attention to one's own multiple religious voices and perspectives. This panel explores the interdependence of spiritual care,

compassionate action, and deep listening to others and to one's own religious diversities.

Panelists are invited to (a) explore the importance of attention to a practitioner's multiple religious voices in the context of spiritual care and other compassionate actions and (b) offer particular methods, examples, and/or recommendations to inform this kind of engagement. Papers that draw from personal experiences in spiritual and pastoral care, teaching, worship/liturgy, and/or preaching/proclamation are especially encouraged.

The panel represents an initial formal exploration of a "practical theology" of religious multiplicity, Buddhist-Christian thought, and spiritual care informed by Buddhist-Christian studies.

#### **SBCS Panel 2: Buddhism in the West Group and the Society for Buddhist Christian Studies**

##### **New Perspectives on Buddhism and Multiple-Religious Belonging**

Saturday Nov. 23 9:00 am-11:30 am  
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 318

Wendy Cadge, Brandeis University, Presiding

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Panelists:

Harold Kasimow, Grinnell College  
*Reflections on Jewish and Christian Encounters  
with Buddhism*

Richard K. Payne, Institute of Buddhist Studies at  
the Graduate Theological Union  
*Integrating Christ and the Saints into Buddhist  
Ritual: The "Christian Homas" of Yogi Chen  
Proposal*

Emily Sigalow, Brandeis University  
*Hybridizing Beliefs: Jewish-Buddhist Perspectives  
on Death, Suffering, and God*

Kristin Johnston Largen, Gettysburg Lutheran  
Theological Seminary  
*Whose Buddhism? Whose Identity? Presenting  
[and/or Misrepresenting] Shin Buddhism for a  
Christian Audience*

Responding: Donald K. Swearer, Harvard  
University

This session presents four new perspectives on the growing conversation about Buddhism and multiple religious belonging. Current scholarship about multiple religious belonging focuses predominantly on Buddhist-Christian cases, asking questions about whether Christian theology has the flexibility to make possible, from a dogmatic standpoint, Buddhist-Christian multiple religious belonging.

The papers in this session shift conversation about multiple religious belonging away from issues of Christian theology and towards the development of a useful descriptive term for understanding issues of religious globalization and their expression at the level of individual religious commitment.

\*Cosponsored with Buddhism in the West Group

### **SBCS Annual Business Meeting**

Terry Muck, Presiding  
Saturday Nov. 23, 11:30 am -12:00 pm; Baltimore  
Convention Center, Room 318

If you have special announcements, concerns or requests, please contact Terry Muck or Sandy Kunz ahead of the meeting to be added to the agenda.

### **Comparative Theology/Contemplative Studies Panel**

#### **Overcoming False Paths in the Way of Conversion: Comparing Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises and Shantideva's Way of the Bodhisattva**

Sheraton Inner Harbor, Loch Raven II

Karen Enriquez, Xavier University, Presiding

#### **Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

Through the comparison of particular passages and themes in Ignatius of Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises* and Shantideva's *Bodhicharyavatara*, this panel will propose possible diagnoses and solutions for three interrelated, fundamental problems in contemporary understandings of contemplative practice in Catholic and Buddhist traditions: perceived problems of negative self-evaluation (sin, shame) in contemplative practice, and a recovery of the life-affirming nature of negative self-evaluation in the context of religious commitment; the problem of contemplative practice as a perceived escapism, including problems of disembodiment and dislocation from the specificity of one's lived experience; and the problem of largely unconscious epistemologies that increasingly seek apophatic experience without understanding the important relationship between *apophasis* and *kataphasis*.

Through these comparisons, the panel seeks to demonstrate several connections between these problems, and to answer objections regarding the role and the power of spiritual practices for the life of faith in Catholic and Buddhist traditions.

Glenn Willis, Boston College

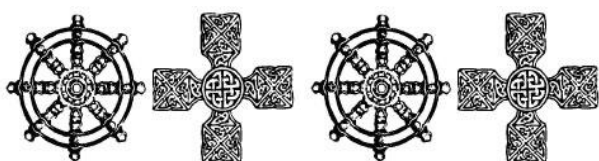
*Negative Self-Evaluation in the Confession chapter of the Bodhicharyavatara and the First Week of the Exercises*

Karen Enriquez, Xavier University

*Surrender to the Transcendent and to the World:  
The Wisdom chapter of the Bodhicharyavatara and  
the Fourth Week of the Exercises*

Kevin Johnson, Boston College

*Poetic Knowledge -- Expanding Epistemology  
Through Contemplation and Inverted Intention in  
The Bodhicharyavatara and The Spiritual Exercises*



from each other and how can they collaborate in their common goal of ending suffering?"

More than thirty major scholars and activists gathered, most with a long history in Buddhist-Christian dialogue. The conference featured six plenary sessions, breakout sessions, several special events, a film screening, and a closing session. The plenary sessions had the following themes: The Suffering of Economic Injustice, The Suffering of War and Violence, The Suffering of Sexism, The Suffering of Racism, Ecological Suffering, and Spirituality and Liberation.

The event also commemorated the retirement of Dr. Paul Knitter, who in June concluded his tenure as the Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture. The event was sponsored by Great Seon Master Jinje, Supreme Patriarch of the Jogye order of Korean Buddhism and UTS. The event calendar remains online and media of the event is to be published. The conference also maintained a facebook page, which includes images, follow up articles, and other materials

2013 International Buddhist Christian Conference  
**Enlightenment and Liberation:**  
 Engaged Buddhists and Liberation Theologians in Dialogue



Participants include:  
 • Cornel West • Sallie B. King •  
 • Rita M. Gross • Ivone Gebara •  
 • A.T. Ariyaratne • Paul F. Knitter •  
 • Sulak Sivaraksa • Bernie Glassman •  
 • Robert Thurman • Gustavo Gutiérrez •  
 • Rosemary Radford Ruether •  
 • Mercy Amba Oduyoye •

April 17 – April 20, 2013  
 Union Theological Seminary  
 in the City of New York  
[www.utsnyc.edu/ibcc](http://www.utsnyc.edu/ibcc)



### Recent UTS Conference “Enlightenment and Liberation”

Union Theological Seminary (New York City) hosted a 2013 International Buddhist-Christian Conference April 17-20, 2013 on the theme “Enlightenment and Liberation: Engaged Buddhists and Liberation Theologians in Dialogue.” The conference brought together “Buddhist and Christian activists and scholars from around the world to discuss the unnecessary sufferings that afflict person and planet today.” It posed the questions:

“If widespread suffering, due to what Buddhists call greed and Christians call injustice, can serve as a common ground for dialogue, what are the similarities and differences in the ways Buddhists and Christians diagnose and seek to remedy these problems? What can they learn

### Grant/Study Offerings

#### The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation/ ACLS Program in Buddhist Studies

COMPETITION	DEADLINE
1. Dissertation Fellowships in Buddhist Studies	November 5, 2013
2. Postdoctoral Fellowships in Buddhist Studies	November 5, 2013
3. Collaborative Research Grants in Buddhist Studies	November 5, 2013
4. Visiting Professorships in Buddhist Studies	January 15, 2014

Applications for the new Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation/ACLS Program in Buddhist Studies are now available online!

To start your application register at [ofa.acls.org/](http://ofa.acls.org/) or click the Online Fellowship Application tab on the program's [page](#). You may view any of the application forms without registering by clicking the [sample application](#) links on the program page.

The new initiative supports research and teaching in Buddhist studies and is funded by a \$1.9 million grant from [The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation](#). Working with the Foundation, ACLS will offer an articulated set of fellowship and grant competitions to expand the understanding and interpretation of Buddhist thought in scholarship and society, to strengthen international networks of Buddhist studies, and to increase the visibility of innovative currents in those studies.

This is a global program. There are no restrictions as to the citizenship or home university of applicants, the location of their research, or the language of the scholarly work that results.

More information on the program may be found on the ACLS website at [www.acls.org/programs/buddhist-studies/](http://www.acls.org/programs/buddhist-studies/).

Please send inquiries to [BuddhistStudies@acsls.org](mailto:BuddhistStudies@acsls.org).

International Programs  
American Council of Learned Societies  
[www.acls.org](http://www.acls.org)  
[facebook.com/acsls1919](https://www.facebook.com/acsls1919)  
[@acsls1919](https://www.facebook.com/acsls1919)

## Woodenfish Project with Ann Heirman

Woodenfish Project: Vinaya Workshop in China led by Professor Ann Heirman

December 28, 2013—January 4, 2014

Venue: Sichuan Bhikkhuni Buddhist College  
(Sichuan Nizhong Foxueyuan 四川尼眾佛學院)  
- Buddhist College

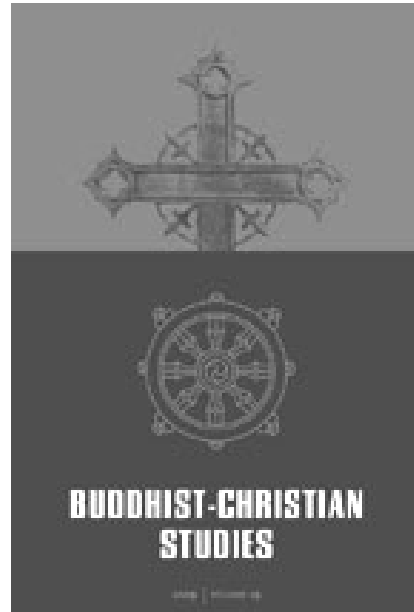
Website: <http://www.nzfxxy.org/> (Chinese only)

Eligibility: Faculty, graduate level and advanced undergraduate students as well as ordained nuns and female priests of any Buddhist tradition

Application Deadline: December 1, 2013

To Apply: To download the application form, please visit our website:  
<http://www.woodenfish.org/china/vinaya>

## *Buddhist-Christian Studies*



Our journal, *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, is published annually. It is a peer-reviewed academic journal, now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> volume. Each issue typically includes some articles revised from papers presented at the SBCS AAR panels, submitted or requested articles, recent news and views, and book reviews.

A style guide for submissions is [available online](#) (pdf).

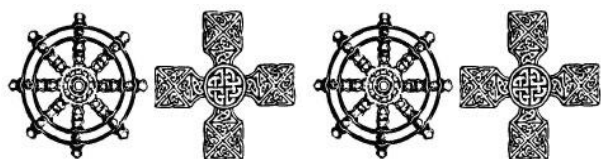
To propose books for review or for related questions, contact [Sid Brown](#). If you would like to share in the News or Views section, contact [Jonathan Seitz](#). For other questions about the Journal, contact the co-editors [Wakoh Shannon Hickey](#) and [C. Denise Yarbrough](#).

## Updating Membership

Last year's efforts to expand our membership have had some promising results. The SBCS owes it strength to the friendships and cooperation of its members. Current members are encouraged to reach

out to those who may be interested in participating in SBCS. Memberships are set at \$45 for regular members, \$10 for students, and \$25 for members over 65.

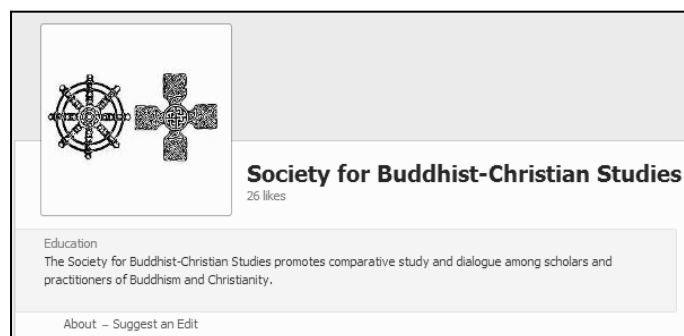
If you have not updated your membership, please do so now. Keeping up to date on membership guarantees you will receive the journal and will be included in all of our mailings. For membership questions contact SBCS Treasurer Guy McCloskey.



### SBCS Facebook Page

There is now a facebook page for the Society. The site provide updates, offer an informal location for people to learn about our work, and allows us to share materials on conferences, calls for papers, retreats, and other events.

You can just search for “Buddhist-Christian Studies” in facebook, or the static page is: <http://www.facebook.com/BuddhistChristianStudies> It is a “page,” and anyone may like it or comment on it.



### 2014 Streng Award Call for Nominations

The Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies is now receiving nominations for the 2014 Frederick Streng Book Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies. Nominations must be received by Dec. 31, 2013. 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 2014 award must be for a book published in 2009 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 Vélez de Cea ([abraham.velez@eku.edu](mailto:abraham.velez@eku.edu)), who will respond to all nominations.

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 Graduate Student Essay Call for Submissions**

*May 30 Deadline*

In order to encourage the participation of interested graduate students in the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, the Society is continuing its annual graduate student essay award competition this spring.

We are now accepting any essays written by graduate students for classes related to the area of Buddhist-Christian studies. Faculty members are asked to encourage those students who have written excellent papers to submit those papers for consideration.

To submit a paper, students themselves should e-mail it to Glenn Willis at [willisg@bc.edu](mailto:willisg@bc.edu). Together with the submission, students should include a cover letter that includes the following: student's name, program, institution, e-mail address, the course for which the paper was prepared, and the professor of that course. The deadline for submission is May 30, 2014.

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 Chicago, IL, Nov. 17-20, 2014.

Please do not hesitate to contact Glenn at the e-mail address above with any questions. Thank you!



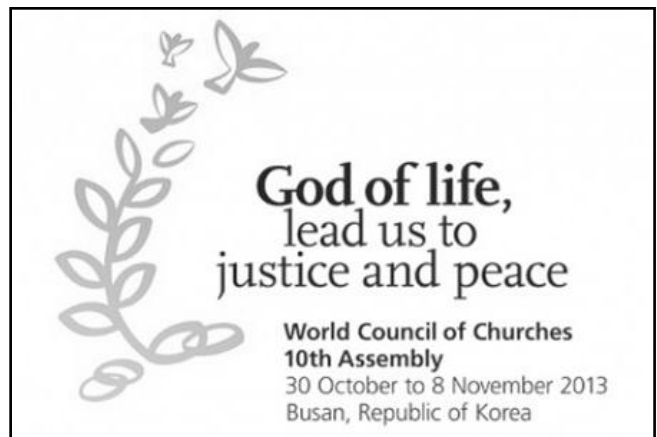
**BUDDHIST CHRISTIAN STUDIES IN THE NEWS**

**World Council of Churches 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Busan, Republic of Korea**

30 October-9 November 2013

Theme, "God of Life, Lead us to Justice and Peace"

The World Council of Churches (WCC) meets approximately every seven years for its General Assembly. This year, for the second time, it meets in Asia, in Busan, Korea. A subtheme is often religious dialogue and this year's meetings will include panels on "Religions Working Together for Peace and Freedom," "Co-Existence with Neighbouring Religions," "Exploring Christian Self-Identity in a World of Many Faiths," and "Learning to Live in Multifaith Europe."



The website is: [wcc2013.info](http://wcc2013.info)



**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*.

## 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.

Your contributions ensure the continued existence of our newsletter. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. Send items to Jonathan Seitz [jaseitz@gmail.com](mailto:jaseitz@gmail.com).

All other correspondence related to the Newsletter at the return address below.

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## SOCIETY FOR BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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