
Society for Buddhist- Christian Studies



Vol. 51

Spring 2013

News of the Society

In this Newsletter

Greetings from the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies!

In this newsletter you will find:

- An in-depth summary of our November 2012 annual meeting in Chicago
- Announcement of the conference “Enlightenment and Liberation” April 17-20 2013
- Updates on the Journal
- Information on a new facebook page
- Calls for book and student prizes awarded by the Society (the student prize is due May 30)
- Information on submitting to the newsletter
- How to update membership status

Thank you again for your participation in the Society. *Newsletter Editor*

2012 SBCS Annual Meeting Chicago, Illinois, USA, November 17-20, 2012

Sandra Kosten Kunz, Secretary
Jonathan A. Seitz, Newsletter Editor

The SBCS is one of more than two dozen scholarly societies that have been formally recognized by the American Academy of Religion as “Related Scholarly Organizations.” The pattern for many years has been for the SBCS to hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the AAR. On the Friday before the

AAR’s annual meeting begins, the Society’s Board meets in the morning and early afternoon, followed by an AAR-advertised session late that afternoon. On Saturday, another paper session or panel is followed by the Society’s annual members meeting.

Board Meeting

A highlight of the 2012 SBCS annual meeting was the unanimous approval, first by the governing board, and later by the membership in attendance, of a major revision of the society’s bylaws. This

revision focused largely on updates necessitated by the changes in the day-to-day communication among scholars, in scholarly publications, and in international banking connected with the expanding use of electronic media. This revision was well over a year in the making, with particularly generous input of time and thought by former board member Grace Buford, treasurer Guy McCloskey, and with efficient guidance by president Terry Muck.

Another highlight of this 2012 gathering was the announcement at the board meeting that the SBCS's reapplication for formal status as a "Related Scholarly Organization" of the AAR was accepted for another five years. Among other privileges, this status makes it possible for us to communicate our calls for papers, session plans, and annual meeting schedule through AAR's website and print publications.

At the governing board meeting treasurer Guy McCloskey noted an increase of more than 7% in paying members, but it was agreed that the society could carry out its purposes more effectively if we were to welcome more new members. One especially notable new member is Denise Yarbrough (University of Rochester) who was unanimously approved at the members meeting as co-editor of the society's journal, *Buddhist-Christian Studies*.

Until now, we have mailed printed copies of the newsletter twice a year free of charge to a small number of international members. We will now instead distribute print copies of the newsletter at the annual members meeting with the goal of reaching a wider audience.

Rita Gross, who formerly co-edited the Journal and was president of the Society, was elected to the governing board, replacing Amos Yong whose term ended this year. We are extremely grateful for his leadership in many areas, including the Streng Book Award Committee. Abraham Vélez de Cea was unanimously approved to chair the Streng Book Award Committee, with Mary Jeanne Larabee continuing on the committee and David Gardiner being approved as the third member. Alice Keefe, in her vice-presidential role as program chairperson, took note of the lively discussion about possible topics for next year's meeting.

Panels & Film

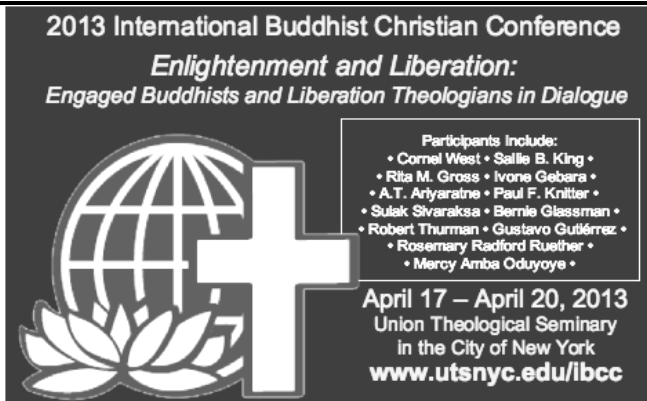
The Friday afternoon seminar was titled "Contemplative Pedagogy: Pitfalls and Potentials." Panelists included: John D. Copenhaver (Shenandoah University), Kristine T. Utterback (University of Wyoming), Andrew O. Fort (Texas Christian University), and Judith Simmer-Brown (Naropa University). The respondent was William H. Green (Tougaloo College) and Wakoh Shannon Hickey (Alfred University) presided. Versions of the four panelists' papers are included in the current volume of the Journal, as well as additional papers on the topic by other authors.

In lieu of its customary field trip, this year the SBCS encouraged participants to attend the new film "Jesus & Buddha: Practicing Across Traditions," which was screened Friday night. Paul F. Knitter (Union Theological Seminary, New York) presided. The film (Old Dog Documentaries, 2012) interviewed three leading figures in today's Buddhist-Christian dialogue: Robert Kennedy, SJ (St. Peter's College, Jersey City), Chung Hyun Kyung (Union Theological Seminary, New York), and Paul F. Knitter. A discussion followed the film.

The Saturday panel was "The Ethics of Wealth in a World of Economic Inequality: Buddhist and Christian Perspectives." Panelists included: Joerg Rieger (Southern Methodist University), Alan Jay Richard (Realistic Living, Inc.), and Carol S. Anderson (Kalamazoo College). The respondent was Mark Wood (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Alice A. Keefe (University of Wisconsin) presided. At the end of this session, before the members meeting, we enjoyed P.J. Johnston's (University of Iowa) summary of her essay which won the Graduate Student Essay Award and the announcement of this year's Streng Book Award for Paul Knitter's *Without Buddha I Could Not be Christian*.

The next annual meeting will occur alongside AAR in Baltimore, Maryland, November 23-26, 2013. The board meeting (guests are welcome) is typically the Friday before the start of the meeting, which will be November 22.





2013 International Buddhist-Christian Conference 'Enlightenment and Liberation'

The organizers have asked us to share the following announcement on the conference:

Greetings!

Final preparations are underway for the [2013 International Buddhist-Christian Conference](http://www.utsnyc.edu/ibcc) at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York.

The conference, themed "Enlightenment and Liberation: Engaged Buddhists and Liberation Theologians in Dialogue," will take place April 17 - 20, 2013.

Conference participants include Sallie B. King, Cornel West, Paul Knitter, A.T. Ariyaratne, Ivone Gebara, Sulak Sivarkaska, Bernie Glassman, Rita Gross, Gustavo Gutierrez, Robert Thurman, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Mercy Amba Oduyoye and numerous other Buddhist and Christian theologians from around the world!

This conference will also provide the occasion for final farewells to Dr. Paul Knitter, Union Theological Seminary's Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture. Dr. Knitter will be moving on to retirement in June.

Registration is still open online at www.ustnyc.edu/ibcc.

We ask that you help us spread the word about the conference to friends, students, colleagues, faith communities and social justice networks by:

- (1) Posting or electronically forwarding the attached PDF flyer to your email lists.
- (2) Posting the attached image to your organization's website.

(3) Spreading the word on Facebook (via your personal Facebook profile or your organization's page). The URL for our page is www.facebook.com/IBCC.UTS, please 'like' and share the page as you are able.

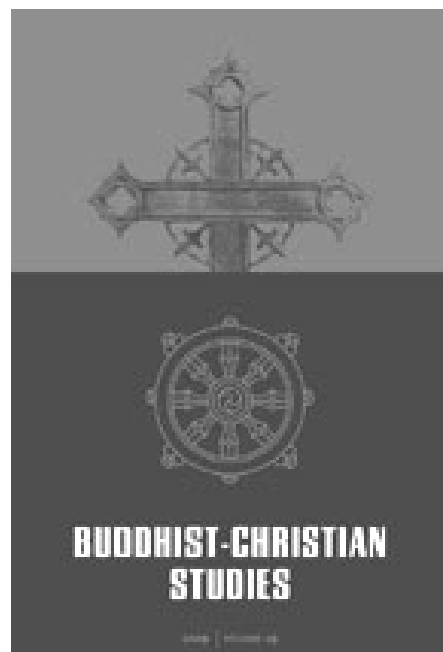
Thank you,

Lily Tinker Fortel
with Paul Knitter



Buddhist-Christian Studies Updates

This year's journal is currently with Hawaii and should be mailed by fall. The editors, Wakoh Shannon Hickey and Denise Yarbrough, are updating the Journal in some significant ways and we look forward to welcoming new members to the Editorial Board.



In addition to articles submitted from the annual meeting, the current issue includes "eleven articles and essays discussing efforts to integrate contemplative practices into many kinds of academic courses. These reflect the experiences of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates."



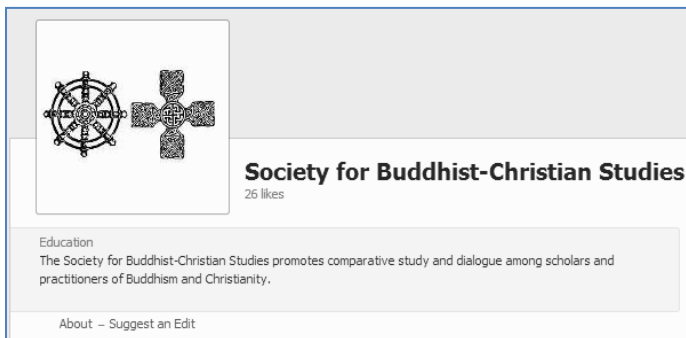
SBCS Facebook Page

Wakoh Hickey has also created a facebook page for the Society. The site will provide updates, offer an informal location for people to learn about our work, and allow 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 listed as a page, so anyone can like it or comment on it.

We hope it will be another way to share information on the Society and to allow for interaction around a range of topics. Wakoh has created a post to discuss the use of meditation in classrooms, drawing on student essays included in the Journal.



2013 Streng Award Call for Nominations

The Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies is now accepting nominations for the 2013 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 2013 award must be for a book published in 2008 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). Abraham will respond to all electric 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.



Graduate Student Essay Call for Submissions (Due May 30)

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 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 them for consideration.

To submit a paper, students themselves should e-mail it to Glenn Willis at willisg@bc.edu. Together with the essay submission, students should include a brief cover letter or paragraph that includes the following: student name, program, institution, e-mail address, and any advising professor for the essay submission. The 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 Baltimore in 2013.

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



Membership in the SBCS

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 the SBCS.

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. 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 members over 65) 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.

All other correspondence related to the Newsletter may be sent to the return address below:

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