Mission and Vision

The Center for Buddhist Studies is a research and outreach center in the College of Humanities at the University of Arizona. The Center collaborates with departments and communities within and outside the UA to promote academic research on the Buddhist tradition and its related religious, intellectual, social, cultural, and artistic aspects in all geographical regions in the world.

The Center also engages in the preservation of the Buddhist heritage in its textual and artistic forms and in cutting-edge research on all aspects and traditions of Buddhism in the world. The activities and programs the Center initiates include, but are not limited to, Buddhist studies lecture series, academic conferences and workshops, publication of academic articles, journals, and books, digital scholarship, training and education in related fields, visiting scholar programs, contemplative studies, community outreach, and financial assistance to scholars and students of Buddhist studies. The Center for Buddhist Studies was established in 2017 with a generous seed donation from Dr. Su Wukang and financial and administrative support from the College of Humanities.
Dear faculty, students, fellows, and friends of the Center of Buddhist Studies,

This is an exciting time for the Center for Buddhist Studies as we complete a successful year and celebrate our first anniversary. It has been an extraordinary year with the inaugural ceremony, conferences, new research initiatives, lecture series, and exceptional faculty and student achievements, all aimed at the Center’s core objective of fostering research, teaching, and outreach for Buddhist Studies locally, regionally, and globally.

As the Center’s founding director, it has been my very great pleasure to work with our faculty, staff, visiting scholars, fellows, and students to achieve the accomplishments we highlight in this newsletter. The past year was also full of the spirit of philanthropy due to the generosity of our donors, friends, and alumni who created new opportunities and connections. We thank them for making our Center an inspiring place to invest, engage and develop. We hope that you, too, feel inspired to join us.

I am excited to announce that the Center will start a fundraising campaign in 2019 to build an endowment to support Buddhist Studies. A minimum donation of $25,000 will help us start a named fund to serve humanity through increasing knowledge about the Buddhist religion and preparing our students to become skillful, responsible and ethical professionals in all fields.

I am proud of our achievements during 2018 and look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Jiang Wu, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Buddhist Studies

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Center in the News

“College of Humanities Launches Center for Buddhist Studies,” UANews (September 12, 2017). An article explaining the center’s mission, vision, events, opportunities for faculty and students, and outreach to the community.

“New Center for Buddhist Studies created to spread and encourage Buddhism research,” Arizona Daily Wildcat (September 30, 2017). A report about the Center with Director Jiang Wu and Professor Albert Welter.


“UA Researches How Distinct Form of Buddhism Originated,” UANews (November 27, 2017). A feature article on the Hangzhou Buddhist Culture Project, led by Professor Albert Welter.

Newsletter Editors:
Nan Ouyang and Hannah Greene
To celebrate the establishment of the Center for Buddhist Studies, an official inaugural ceremony was held on March 28, 2018. Center Director Jiang Wu, Acting Provost Jeff Goldberg, Vice Dean of the College of Humanities Kimberly Jones, and Department Head of East Asian Studies Albert Welter spoke at the ceremony.

About one hundred UA faculty, students, and community friends joined the event. Guests were entertained with traditional Chinese music and martial arts provided by professional musicians from the Center of Chinese Music and members of Shaolin Temple Cultural Center of Arizona.

All events were cosponsored by the College of Humanities, Department of East Asian Studies, and the Khyentse Foundation.

Dr. Shyling Glaze, a recent graduate working on Chinese Buddhism at UA, won the Khyentse Foundation Student Award in 2017 for the successful completion of a dissertation on the Chinese Chan master Yongjue Yuanxian.

“In 2017, we added not only the Center for Buddhist Studies, but also a Center for Digital Humanities, and a new academic department, the Department of Public and Applied Humanities. The College of Humanities has an ever more expansive and multidisciplinary research profile, and among our other areas of excellence, we now have the potential to become a national leader in Buddhist Studies.”

QUOTE FROM VICE DEAN KIM JONES’S SPEECH

“Buddhist studies as one of the components of Asian Studies has been developed by our previous faculty, such as Robert Gimello. In recent years, the Department of East Asian Studies has experienced remarkable growth under the leadership of Dr. Albert Welter, especially in Buddhist studies. Several experts on Buddhism and Asian religions were recruited, making us one of the leaders in the field of Buddhist Studies.”

QUOTE FROM DR. JIANG WU’S INAUGURAL SPEECH
Partnerships

Support Student Success

Thanks to the generous support of Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou, China, the Center established a group of student awards in 2018. Two graduate studies fellowships, each worth $10,000, will support two qualified doctoral students to complete a major project related to Hangzhou Buddhist culture. Lingyin Temple is also supporting a Buddhist Studies Best Graduate Research Paper Award for students who demonstrate superb research abilities through writing and publishing. The partnership also created ten Undergraduate Study Abroad Travel Awards of $1,000 each for UA students. For information about eligibility and the application process, please contact buddhist-studies@email.arizona.edu. A Lingyin Lecture Series is under development for Spring 2019.

The Center for Buddhist Studies has recently become an institutional partner of the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) project “From the Ground Up: Buddhism and East Asian Religions,” led by the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia. The Center will support the research clusters of this project from 2017-2022 and CBS Director Dr. Jiang Wu will lead the “Extended Textual Communities” Cluster.

The Center will collaborate with Prof. Sheng Kai of Tsing-hua University on a five-year interdisciplinary project titled “Social Life History of Chinese Buddhist Monks,” funded by a major grant from the Chinese National Social Sciences Fund.

ZEN IN EAST ASIA

In conjunction with the Opening Ceremony of the Center, an international conference Creating the World of Chan/Sŏn/ Zen: Chinese Chan Buddhism and its Spread throughout East Asia took place on the UA campus from March 29-31, 2018.

CONFERENCES

Zen enthralled the scholarly world throughout much of the 20th century, and Zen Studies became a major academic discipline in its wake. Toward the end of the 20th century, some of the biases inherent in Zen Studies began to be exposed, and the parameters of the field shifted markedly into new directions. In addition to Abbot Guangquan’s keynote, Robert E. Buswell, Jr., UCLA Distinguished Professor of Buddhist Studies, gave a talk titled “Zen Enlightenment: Is it Sudden or Gradual?: Insights from the Korean Buddhist Tradition.” The conference was hosted by the Department of East Asian Studies and Center for Buddhist Studies and sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies (Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation), Fo Guang University, Chung Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies and Sheng Yen Educational Foundation.

The fourth conference on the Buddhist canon, Tripitaka for the Future: Envisioning the Buddhist Canon in the Digital Age, took place on Nov. 2-3, 2018, on the UA campus. Despite rising interest in research on modern East Asian Buddhism in recent years, studies on how Buddhist textual traditions cope with modernity and reinvigorate as a vital force for religious change in the digital age are conspicuously missing. Participants reflected upon the most recent trends in the compilation, translation, and digitization of the Buddhist canon in East Asia. The conference was organized by the Center for Buddhist Studies, the Department of East Asian Studies, the Department of Religious Studies and Classics, and the Center for Digital Humanities. Sponsors included the World Buddhist Youth Foundation, Society for Promotion of Buddhism (BDK America), Richard L. Evans Office of Religious Outreach, Brigham Young University and Su Wukang East Asia Research Fund.

TRIPITAKA: BUDDHIST CANON

The fourth conference on the Buddhist canon, Tripitaka for the Future: Envisioning the Buddhist Canon in the Digital Age, took place on Nov. 2-3, 2018, on the UA campus.
Initiated and led by Professor Albert Welter, the Hangzhou Buddhist Culture Project is an ambitious multi-year research and educational program which aims to reformulate the history of East Asian Buddhism. China actively reimagined Buddhism in unique and indigenous ways to form an intrinsically authentic form of East Asian Buddhism. From the Hangzhou region, new forms of Buddhism spread throughout East Asia. The most prominent among these is Chan Buddhism, known in Japan as Zen and Korea as Sŏn. The project's collaborative partners include the UA Center for Buddhist Studies, Zhejiang University, Jiliang University, Lingyin Monastery and the Hangzhou Buddhist Academy, and the Hangzhou Academy of Social Sciences.

Faculty Research

Scholars will create a body of research that will both enhance our knowledge of East Asian Buddhism and lead to new perspectives regarding its meaning and significance. A series of conferences in Hangzhou and at UA will explore various aspects of Buddhist culture in the greater Hangzhou region.

Paradigm Changing

“Through this project, we aim to reframe East Asian Buddhism from a thoroughly East Asian perspective, with a focus on the central role played by Hangzhou.”

Quote from Albert Welter's speech at the Center’s inaugural ceremony.

Student Field Work

Graduate students will visit Buddhist monasteries, meet with fellow scholars at partner institutions and conduct field work in Hangzhou. Utilizing a collaborative team approach, students will assume roles over key aspects of the project.

Curriculum

Courses related to Hangzhou Buddhism have been offered at undergraduate and graduate levels. Professor Welter is developing a new course about the Hangzhou region, to be offered at UA in 2019.

Study Abroad

UA undergraduates study language, tea and Chinese culture, Buddhist meditation traditions and Chinese calligraphy during an intensive summer program in Hangzhou.

Virtual Reality

In collaboration with the Center for Digital Humanities, the project will enable the creation of visual materials designed for new generations of learning, including maps, videos, web-based materials and a “virtual” Hangzhou.
Preserving Buddhist Texts

Digitization of Translation Notes of Rinzai Roku

The Center acquired a set of rare translation notes of The Record of Linji (Rinzai Roku) in the summer of 2017. These translation notes were the collaborative work of Ruth Fuller Sasaki, Philip Yampolsky, Burton Watson, Gary Snyder, Iriya Yoshitaka and Yanagida Seizan, who participated in a translation project in the 1950s. The documents are currently preserved in the Center library.

The Center is in the process of digitizing the physical copies and making them public through the UA library system in collaboration with the UA Libraries, the Center for Digital Humanities, and undergraduate and graduate students. A preliminary investigation of these precious documents shows that they will refresh our understanding of The Record of Linji and have a significant impact on the studies of classical Chan texts. The fifteen binders contain multilingual printed texts, diagrams of sources, maps of Chan monasteries and handwritten notes. They also show how an East Asian classic can be translated into English, making them highly valuable as teaching tools for translation studies.
Pu Yin Buddhist Studies Lecture Series
The Center for Buddhist Studies presented seven lectures in the Pu Yin Buddhist Studies Lecture Series in 2018, sponsored by the Pu Yin Educational Center.

Pu Yin Buddhist Studies Lecture Series was started in Spring 2018, including talks on the Hangzhou Buddhist Culture Project (Albert Welter), Chan Buddhism in Bailin Temple, China (Chu Yaling), History of San Francisco Zen Center (Norman Fischer), Feminism and Buddhism (bell hooks), Buddhist Ethics (Robert Thurman), Zen and Poetry (Henry Shukman).

Khyentse Foundation Lecture Series
After the Center's Inaugural Ceremony on March 28, 2018, Master Guangquan, Abbot of the world-renowned Lingyin Monastery in Hangzhou, China, delivered a keynote speech titled “Telling the Story of Chinese Buddhism: Promoting exchange and mutual learning among civilizations” as part of the Khyentse Foundation Buddhist Studies Lecture Series. Robert E. Buswell, Jr., UCLA Distinguished Professor of Buddhist Studies, gave a talk titled “Zen Enlightenment: Is it Sudden or Gradual?: Insights from the Korean Buddhist Tradition” on March 30, 2018 after the conference on Chan/Zen/Son in East Asia.

Khyentse Foundation Lecture Series
Under the auspices of the Khyentse Foundation Lecture Series, A. Charles Muller of the Center for Evolving Humanities, University of Tokyo gave a lecture titled “Ti-Yong ("Essence-Function"): Toward a More Thorough Understanding of the Ethico-Soteriological Prioritizing Principle for East Asian Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism” at COH Poetry Center on Nov. 2, 2018.
Arizona in Hangzhou

Professor Albert Welter leads the program in Hangzhou, the capital and most prosperous city in China's Zhejiang Province. This program offers a unique opportunity to experience firsthand China’s dynamic Buddhist Tea culture. Students may enroll in two courses: Tea & Chinese Culture (EAS 295) and East Asian Buddhism: Focus on the Hangzhou Region (EAS 484B).

Arizona in Kyoto

Kyoto, the former capital of Japan for over a millennium, is the heart and soul of the nation’s cultural traditions. Students will delve into the rich food culture of Kyoto and discover how Japan’s enormously influential pop culture took root and flourished. Students may enroll in two courses: Topics in East Asian Studies: Japanese Food Culture (EAS 295) and Religion and Japanese Culture (JPN 220).

Arizona in Bhutan

In 2017, Professor Rae Erin Dachille launched a program for students to explore spiritual ecology and independent, mentored student research as they experience Buddhist temples, monasteries and pilgrimage sites in Bhutan. Ten UA students participated in the first trip and Dachille plans to return to Bhutan in June 2020.

“Engaged learning opportunities like study abroad and the sand mandala provide students access to the kind of direct experience of religious traditions that spark exciting and meaningful questions for them.”

Quote from an interview with Prof. Dachille (UA Parent & Family Association Newsletter 2018, Vol. 12, Issue 5)

Lingyin Buddhist Studies Undergraduate Study Abroad Travel Award

Thanks to the generous support of Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou, China, the Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Arizona establishes ten Undergraduate Study Abroad Travel Awards for students enrolled at the University of Arizona. Each award is $1,000. Awardees will be selected and supervised through the Department of East Asian Studies. The Center for Buddhist Studies will make the announcement of winners every year in May.

Arizona in India

Professor Caleb Simmons and Professor Alison Jameson direct the Arizona in India program. Students study and experience religious life and culture in Karnataka, India, enriching understanding of contemporary Indian religious traditions through firsthand encounters. In addition to visiting Hindu, Christian, and Muslim religious sites, students visit Buddhist temples that have been established as a result of the recent revival of Buddhism in India. Students may enroll in two courses: Religions and Cultures of India (RELI 230) and Religion and the Arts in India (RELI 345).
The Department of East Asian Studies offers Ph.D. and M.A. degrees specializing in Buddhist Studies. For undergraduates, the College of Humanities offers a Buddhist Studies minor, an interdisciplinary program featuring offerings from the departments of East Asian Studies and Religious Studies.

**Category I: Undergraduate Courses**
- EAS 160A1 Worlds of Buddhism
- EAS/RELI 222 Introduction to Zen Buddhism
- EAS/RELI 333 Buddhist Meditation Traditions
- EAS/RELI 484A History of East Asian Buddhism I
- EAS/RELI 484B History of East Asian Buddhism II
- JPN/RELI 485 Japanese Religions: Ancient

**Category II: Related Courses**
- EAS/RELI 130 Asian Religions
- JPN/RELI 220 Religion in Japanese Society
- RELI 230 Religions and Cultures of India
- EAS 220 Korean Religion and Culture
- CHN/RELI 241 Introduction to Chinese Religions
- JPN 311 Death in Traditional Japanese Literature
- CHN 345 - Buddhists, Bandits, and Beauties: Masterworks of Chinese Fiction from the 1500s to the Digital Age
- JPN/RELI 489 History of Japanese Religions: Modern
- OIA: Contemplative Pedagogy: A Course in Theory and Applied Practice

**Category III: Graduate-Level Courses**
- EAS/RELI 584A History of East Asian Buddhism I
- EAS/RELI 584B History of East Asian Buddhism II
- EAS 596A Topics in East Asian Buddhism
- JPN/RELI 585 Japanese Religions: Ancient
- JPN/RELI 586 Japanese Religions: Medieval
- RELI/EAS 582 Tantric Buddhism
- RELI 550 Theories and Methods for the Study of Religion
Dr. Wu spoke at 5th World Buddhist Forum in Putian, China and delivered a keynote speech at the general assembly on Oct. 30, 2018. The title of his speech is “Buddhism as a Transforming Agent in World Civilizations.” Over 1,000 Buddhists, scholars and representatives from 55 countries and regions attended the forum, jointly hosted by the Buddhist Association of China and the China Religious Culture Communication Association.

Our faculty produced award-winning research, secured grants and reached out to the community

Professor Alfred W. Kaszniak, in addition to his academic duties, is a teacher (Sensei) in the Soto Zen tradition. With C.H. Rushton and Roshi Joan Halifax, founding abbot of the Upaya Zen Center. He published two papers in 2018: “Leadership, morality and ethics: Developing a practical model for moral decision-making” in MindRxiv and “Cultivating essential capacities for moral resilience” in Moral resilience.

Transforming moral suffering in healthcare, edited by C. H. Rushton. In October, 2018, Dr. Kaszniak gave five presentations on empathy, compassion, and other topics at the Cultivating Compassion: Buddhist Practice and Contemporary Science retreat in Thekchog Choki Gatsel, Paro, Bhutan.

Professor Jiang Wu co-edited a book with Greg Wilkinson titled Reinventing the Tripiaka: Transformation of the Buddhist Canon in Modern East Asia. The volume, which was published in September 2017, explores the most significant developments regarding the Chinese Buddhist canon in modern East Asia, including canon formation, textual studies, historical analyses, religious studies, ritual invention, and digital research tools and methods. Dr. Wu’s book Leaving for the Rising Sun: Chinese Zen Master Yinyuan and the Authenticity Crisis in Early Modern East Asia (Oxford 2015) won the inaugural Tianzhu Book Prize for Excellence in Chan Studies in 2018. In addition, Dr. Wu received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Judy Chu (27th District of California) and an Award of Recognition from the City of Rosemead, California.

Professor Albert Welter and Dr. Jeffrey Newmark from the University of Winnipeg edited the book Religion, Culture, and the Public Sphere in China and Japan, published in 2017. The collection examines the impact of East Asian religion and culture on the public sphere, defined as an idealized discursive arena that mediates the official and private spheres. In March 2018, Welter also published the book The Administration of Buddhism in China: A Study and Translation of Zanning and his Topical Compendium of the Buddhist Order in China.

Faculty News

Professor Jiang Wu

Professor Albert Welter

Finding Happiness Through Training the Mind

Dr. Wu spoke at 5th World Buddhist Forum in Putian, China and delivered a keynote speech at the general assembly on Oct. 30, 2018. The title of his speech is “Buddhism as a Transforming Agent in World Civilizations.” Over 1,000 Buddhists, scholars and representatives from 55 countries and regions attended the forum, jointly hosted by the Buddhist Association of China and the China Religious Culture Communication Association.
Nan Ouyang, the program coordinator in the Center for Buddhist Studies, received a 2017-2018 College of Humanities Graduate Student Research Grant. Her proposed project, “The Making of a Sacred Place: The Rise of Mount Jiuhua in the Ming-Qing Period and Republican Era (1368-1949),” was selected for a $5,000 grant.

Dr. Albert Welter received a $28,500 UA International Research and Program Development seed grant, a $173,292 grant from the Khyentse Foundation, and a $25,000 conference grant from ACLS.

**More Faculty News**

**Professor Rae Erin Dachille** published an article in Religions in 2017 titled “Piercing to the Pith of the Body: The Evolution of Body Mandala and Tantric Corporeality in Tibet.” In June, she spent a month in Kathmandu, Nepal at the International Buddhist Academy with the support of a College of Humanities Faculty Research Grant. Professor Dachille presented papers for both the Buddhism and Buddhist Philosophy sections at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November. She teaches courses in Tibetan Buddhism and Tantric Buddhism. She created new courses in Graduate Readings in Theories and Methods for the Study of Religion for Fall and Buddhism and Healing for Spring.


**Professor Caleb Simmons** was the lead editor, with Moumita Sen and Hillary Rodrigues, of *Nine Nights of the Goddess: Navarātri Festival in South Asia*, published in 2018. He also published “History, Heritage, and Myth: Local Historical Imagination in the Fight to Preserve Chamundi Hill in Mysore City” in Worldviews, “Family, God, and King: Vamśāvali as Royalist Literature” in Clio and her Descendants: Essays in Honor of Keshavan Veluthat edited by Manu Devadevan. Professor Simmons received a Digital Humanities Pilot Award from the UA Center for the Digital Humanities for a project titled “Preserving Kannada Script Knowledge: Creation of a Database for Early, Medieval, and Colonial Kannada Paleography.”

**Jinhui Wu**

Jinhui Wu, a doctoral student in the Department of East Asian Studies, received a 2017-2018 College of Humanities Graduate Student Research Grant. The initial stage of her proposed dissertation project, titled “The Transformation of Buddhist Cosmology in Early Modern China: A Study of Establishment of the Dharma-Field with Illustrations (Fajie anli tu),” was selected for a $5,000 grant.
**Center Personnel**

**Senior Fellows**
Chia-lin Pao-Tao, Professor Emerita, UA East Asian Studies
Andrew L. C. Wong, Chairman, Maitreya Culture and Education Foundation Limited

**Visiting Scholars**
Waifang Xu, Professor, School of Urban Culture, South China Normal University

**Advisory Board**
James Benn, Director, Center for Buddhist Studies, McMaster University
Ann Heirman, Director, Center for Buddhist Studies, Ghent University
Roger Ames, Humanities Chair, Peking University
Lewis Lancaster, Director, Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiatives (ECAI), University of California at Berkeley
Karen Seat, Department Head, Religious Studies and Classics, University of Arizona
Javier D. Durán, Director, Confluence Center, University of Arizona

**Donors and Grantors: Thank you!**

**Institutions**
250K+ Hangzhou Lingyin Temple (China)
170K+ Khyentse Foundation (USA)
25K+ American Council of Learned Societies (USA)/Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation (Taiwan)
10K+ Buddhist Ortho-Creed Association/Dharma Seal Temple (USA); World Buddhist Youth Foundation (USA)
5K+ Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai America, Inc. (USA)
2.5K+ Richard L. Evans Office of Religious Outreach, Brigham Young University (USA), Chung Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies (Taiwan), Fo Guang University (Taiwan), Sheng Yen Educational Foundation (Taiwan)

**Individuals**
100K+ Dr. Su Wukang (China)
10K+ Ven. Zheng Hong (USA)
10K+ Ven. Dr. Sheng Kai (China)
3K+ Chan P. Lim & Irene O. Lim (USA)
2K+ Daniel Leung (through Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, USA); Dr. Chia-Lin Pao Tao (USA); Dr. Jiang Wu & Ms. Jing Liu (USA)
100+ Brian Friedman (On behalf of Lida Lane, USA)

(All amounts, including pledges, are cumulative to date and in US dollars)

To become a member of The Friends Of The Center For Buddhist Studies, go online at https://cbs.arizona.edu/give or mail the following information or check payable to “UA Foundation – Center for Buddhist Studies” to 341C, Harvill Building, 1103 E 2nd St, Tucson, AZ 85721.

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