NOTES AND NEWS

INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES
AND
IBS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY
SHIN BUDDHIST STUDIES

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:
SEPTEMBER 1995–NOVEMBER 2000

I. IBS New Academic Program

A new core academic program was designed during the 1995–96 academic year and implemented during the 1996–97 academic year. This program provides both a quality education for ministerial aspirants and programmatic flexibility for others. Three aspects of the Institute’s academic program were revised: the set of courses offered, the degrees offered, and responsibilities for ministerial education and training.

A. Course Offerings

In keeping with its Mission Statement, the academic program of the Institute takes as its organizing principle the contemporary application and development of Shin Buddhist thought. Based upon this principle a set of priorities for the instructional program have been developed:

1. Shin Buddhism and Pure Land Buddhism,
2. Japanese Buddhism and Japanese religions,
3. Mahayana Buddhism,

The Institute’s curriculum has a coherent organizing principle—contemporary Shin Buddhist studies—and priorities for curricular offerings.

B. Degree Program

IBS offers two graduate degrees.

1. A Master of Arts (Buddhist Studies) degree. This is an academic degree, and is jointly administered by the Institute and the Gradu-
ate Theological Union. Its minimum requirements are fourteen courses, a foreign language relevant to the study of Buddhism, and a thesis.

2. A Master of Buddhist Studies (MBS) degree. This degree program is administered by IBS for those students who wish to pursue a systematic study of Buddhism, but are not interested in receiving an academic degree.

C. Ministerial Training

Ministerial aspirants have a three-year program of study, in either or both degree programs. Course work includes an introduction to Shin Buddhist thought, the history of Indian, East Asian, and Japanese Buddhism, the three Pure Land Sutras, and the history of the Shin Buddhist tradition. There is a focus on a three-course sequence of Reading Tutorials in Shin Buddhist Texts; a three-course sequence on The Writings of Shinran, and a course called Shin Buddhist Services and Ceremonies, which is to be taken every semester that the student is enrolled in the program. In addition, the BCA Ministerial Candidates’ Affairs Committee (MCAC) supervises Ministerial Candidates in fieldwork experience placements.

II. On-going Research Programs

Four areas serve as the focal points of on-going research and study at IBS under the coordination of the Center for Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies. The areas and their facilitators are:

- Buddhism and Psychology—Dr. Richard Payne
- Buddhism in Contemporary Culture—Dr. Eisho Nasu
- Self–Salvation–Society—Rev. David Matsumoto
- Shin Buddhist Propagation in the West—Rev. David Matsumoto

IBS research programs include a variety of activities, including study sessions, occasional seminars, conferences, and publications.

III. IBS Public Lectures

A. BCA Centennial Lecture Series

1. Toward a Contemporary Understanding of Pure Land Buddhism: Constructing a Shin Buddhist Theology in a Religiously Plural World.

   A symposium held on September 13, 14 & 15, 1996 at IBS and the Pacific School of Religion.
2. The Life and Thought of Rennyo Shonin
   Two public lectures by Prof. Jitsuen Kakehashi on September 26, 1997 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and September 28, 1997 at the Gardena Buddhist Temple.

   Two public lectures by Professor Akira Omine on August 14, 1998 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and August 16, 1998 at the Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

4. The Essence of Shin Buddhism.
   Two public lectures by Prof. Takamaro Shigaraki on September 10 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and September 16 at the Orange County Buddhist Temple.

B. Other Public Lectures


3. Seminar on Buddhism and Christianity at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, October 1, 1999.
   Lectures by Dr. Nasu and Dr. Payne on Christianity in Pre-modern Japan and Buddhism in Modern America, respectively.

   Panel at the AAR conference in Boston, organized by Dr. Payne, with papers by Dr. Nasu, Prof. Hallisey, Prof. Kasulis, Prof. Keenan and responses from Prof. Hirota and Prof. Mark Unno.

5. Honen and Shinran: Master and Disciple.
   A seminar on October 23, 1999 by Professor Taishin Kawasoe, an IBS visiting scholar from Ryukoku University at the New York Buddhist Church.
   A seminar on October 21, 2000 by Prof. Hank Glassman of IBS, at the New York Buddhist Church and NY Buddhist Academy.

7. Love and Great Compassion: Ai to Jihi.
   The Professor Nagatomi Memorial Public Lecture by Professor Naoki Nabeshima of Ryukoku University on November 17, 2000 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

IV. IBS Lectures

A. Ryukoku Lectures/Seminars

B. Numata Lectures
   2. “Toward a Contemporary Understanding of Pure Land Buddhism,” by Prof. Dennis Hirota & Rev. David Matsumoto (Fall 1996).
   4. “Shinjin in Shinran’s Thought,” by Prof. Takamaro Shigaraki & Rev. David Matsumoto (Fall 1999).

C. Special Lectures
5. “A Shin Buddhist View of Terminal Care,” by Prof. Naoki Nabeshima (September 12, 1999).

V. Visiting Scholars
1. Prof. Mitsuya Dake of Ryukoku University (June–July, 1997). Work on the IBS translation project.
2. Prof. Naoki Nabeshima of Ryukoku University (September 1998–September 1999). Research on the issues of Buddhist terminal care and bioethics in the US.

IV. Continuing Education for Ministers
V. Other Educational Programs


2. Ministerial Students’ Research-Exchange Seminar (June 6 to 18, 1998): A seminar in Japan providing students of Shin Buddhism with an opportunity to study the history and thought of the Shin tradition from a number of professors from Ryukoku University.

3. IBS Summer Seminar 2000 (August 11–13): A seminar directed toward temple leaders, Dharma School teachers, prospective IBS students, and all other persons who wish to learn more about the history, teachings, and contemporary significance of Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism generally. Lectures by IBS faculty members on the topics of:
   - Visualization, Meditation, and Ritual,
   - Shin Buddhist Liturgical Tradition,
   - Gender Issues in Japanese Buddhism,
   - Shinran’s View of Buddha-nature and its Social Implication.

4. BCA Study Tour 2001 (June 11–23, 2001). A seminar in Japan that will allow students of Shin Buddhism to encounter the teachings, practices and history of Shin Buddhism. To be sponsored by the Ministerial Candidate Affairs Committee of the BCA, with support provided by IBS.

VI. Translation Projects


2. A Study of Shinjin by Takamaro Shigaraki.


5. The Shin Buddhist View of Birth and Death: the path transcending life and death (BCA Centennial Keynote Address) by Jitsuen Kakehashi.

6. Articles translated and prepared for the Pacific World, including
those by Akira Omine, Jitsuen Kakehashi, Tomoyasu Hayashi, Ryusei Takeda, Risho Ota, Yukio Yamada.

**VII. IBS Website**

Located at [http://www.shin-IBS.edu](http://www.shin-IBS.edu), this site provides information about the IBS educational program, including courses, public lectures, translations, publications, the IBS library, and other news items. Developed and maintained by Prof. Eisho Nasu.

**VIII. Other Publication Projects**


**IX. Institutional Development**

The IBS Board of Trustees has approved a plan for the development of the IBS educational program and its facilities. Specifically, IBS will actively pursue the attainment of the following goals:

a. Full membership in the Graduate Theological Union,
b. Independent accreditation,
c. New IBS educational facilities within the expanded GTU complex in Berkeley.

The Association of Theological Schools voted in July to grant affiliate status to IBS. This action can be seen as a favorable indication that ATS welcomes IBS’s immediate participation in its activities, even during IBS’s application for accreditation as a seminary by ATS.
BDK ENGLISH TRIPITAKA SERIES: A Progress Report

As we enter the dawn of the 21st Century, the BDK English Tripitaka Series has reached a milestone with the publication of the twenty-first volume in this First Series, bringing the total number of English Tripitaka volumes to thirty-one.

The following volumes have thus far been published. (For additional information about a specific volume, please see previous issues of the Pacific World journal, especially the Fall 1999 issue.)

The Biographical Scripture of King Asoka [Taisho 2043] (1993)
The Lotus Sutra [Taisho 262] (1994)
The Sutra on Upasaka Precepts [Taisho 1488] (1994)
The Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions [Taisho 2087] (1996)
Senchaku Hongan Nembutsu Shu (A Collection of Passages on the Nembutsu Chosen in the Original Vow) [Taisho 2608] (1997)
The Blue Cliff Record [Taisho 2003] (1999)
Kaimokusho or Liberation from Blindness [Taisho 2689] (2000)

The next volumes tentatively scheduled for publication are:

**A Comprehensive Commentary on the Heart Sutra (Prajnaparamita-hrdaya-sutra) [Taisho 1710]**

This text by K’uei-chi, a disciple of Hsuang-tsang and a leading figure in the Fa-hsiang (Hosso) school, is the earliest Chinese commentary on the Heart Sutra, part of the voluminous Mahaprajnaparamita literature. The Heart Sutra is so-called because it is said to contain the essence, or “heart” of the Prajnaparamita (“Perfection of Wisdom”) teachings. K’uei-chi gives a line-by-line analysis of the sutra from the viewpoint of Yogacara (Fa-hsiang) doctrine, sometimes contrasted with a Madhyamaka position. The author drew on a variety of textual sources for his commentary, including the Ch’eng wei-shih lun (published as Demonstration of Consciousness Only in the volume Three Texts on Consciousness Only, translated by Francis H. Cook, Numata Center, 1999), the Avatamsaka Sutra, the Yogacarabhumi-sastra, the Mahayanasamgraha, the Samdhinirmocana Sutra (published as The Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning, translated by John P. Keenan, Numata Center, 2000) and the Dazhidulun.

**Two Esoteric Sutras: The Adamantine Pinnacle Sutra [Taisho 865] and The Susiddhikara Sutra [Taisho 893]**

These volume contains two of the most important scriptures in East Asian Esoteric or Tantric Buddhism. The Adamantine Pinnacle Sutra, translated into Chinese by Amoghavajra, is part of the Sarvatathagatasamgraha, a seminal text of the Yoga tantras, one of the four classes of Buddhist tantric literature. It describes the rituals associated with the Great Mandala “Adamantine Realm.” The Susiddhikara Sutra, translated into Chinese by Subhakarasimha, is one of the Kriya (“Action”) Tantras, the first of the four classes of Buddhist tantras. It provides a comprehensive description of the basic practices associated with the Kriya Tantras.
Lives of Great Monks and Nuns: The Life of Asvaghosa Bodhisattva [Taisho 2046]; The Life of Nagarjuna Bodhisattva [Taisho 2047]; Biography of Dharma Master Vasubandhu [Taisho 2049]; Biographies of Buddhist Nuns [Taisho 2063]; and The Journey of the Eminent Monk Faxian [Taisho 2085]

The five texts in this volume include brief biographies of three important Indian Mahayana Buddhist masters, Asvaghosa (first-second century C.E.), Nagarjuna (second century C.E.), and Vasbandhu (fourth-fifth century C.E.); a survey of the lives of sixty-five Chinese Buddhist nuns dating from the fourth to sixth centuries; and the Chinese monk Faxian’s account of his journey in Central Asia and India, from 399-414 C.E., to collect Buddhist texts on the Vinaya to bring back to China.

These volumes can be purchased through most bookstores, online at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble’s BN.net or directly from the Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research.

This year we also marked Dr. Kenneth Inada’s retirement as chairman of the Publication Committee. We thank him for his years of dedication and diligence to this project and wish him and his wife good health and happiness.

In appointing a new Publication Committee Chairman, the BDK English Tripitaka Project was most fortunate to secure the services and wisdom of Dr. Francis H. Cook, recently retired professor of religion at the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Cook brings to this Committee and Project many years of presenting Buddhist thought and theory, including several years of study in Japan at Kyoto University. He is the translator of *Three Texts on Consciousness Only*, published by the Numata Center in 1999.

The Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research as well as the Publication Committee of the BDK English Tripitaka Project look forward to continuing to publish volumes of the English Tripitaka Series. Through this work we hope to help to fulfill the dream of founder Dr. Rev. Yehan Numata to make the teaching of the Buddha available to the English-speaking world.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In 1984 the Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research published the first English translation of the Buddha-Dharma, which was adapted from the Shinyaku Bukkyo seitien (The Newly Translated [Concise] Buddhist Canon), first published in 1925 in Japan.

A revised second edition of this volume, numbering over 900 pages, will be published next year. Included in this new edition will be Introductory Notes for each book, a listing of scriptural sources, a glossary, and a detailed index.

The “Buddha-Dharma” has often been described as a “Buddhist Bible.” Noted scholars such as Alfred Bloom, Taitetsu Unno and Robert Thurman, and Pulitzer Prize-winner Gary Snyder have all endorsed this unique and useful reference guide to the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha.
Dr. Masatoshi Nagatomi
September 1, 1926–June 2, 2000

In Memoriam

The Institute of Buddhist Studies lost a great supporter, teacher and champion with the passing away of Dr. Masatoshi Nagatomi on June 3, 2000. Although he will be deeply missed by all who knew him, the impact produced by this great scholar-priest will far outlive the lifespan of any one human being.

Dr. Nagatomi has left the world with a legacy of outstanding academic achievement and profound religious faith. During his long scholarly career in the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies and the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University he demonstrated notable expertise across a wide range of languages, traditions, and specializations in the fields of Buddhist and religious studies. In addition, he directed his considerable energy and concern to his many students and colleagues. The wise guidance and instruction he gave to them surely influenced their intellectual development and lives in countless ways.

Concrete examples of Dr. Nagatomi’s particular commitment to the Shin Buddhist tradition could be found in his service on the Board of Advisors of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, as well as his tenure as the President of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies. He challenged Shin Buddhists not only to exercise rigorous discipline and academic honesty to the study of their tradition, but also, in his words, to “articulate the essentials of Shinran’s religious insight in and through diverse foreign religio-cultural spheres today.”

We at IBS remember with immense gratitude his participation in a symposium hosted by our school in 1996, where he revealed once again his far-sighted and hopeful vision regarding the “contextual translation” of the Shin Buddhist message in today’s religiously plural world. At the same time, we were able to witness the deep sense in which Shinran’s religious insight held value and meaning within his own religious life.

Now, following his untimely passing, his wife, Mary, and the Institute of Buddhist Studies have established a memorial fund in order to honor Dr. Nagatomi’s memory and continue in his work. By providing financial support for educational programs at IBS, the Nagatomi Memorial Endowment Fund will become a vehicle for the fulfillment of his dream of making Shin Buddhism a full participant in today’s “global community of faith.”

We hold his memory as an inspiration to our future work,
The Board, students, faculty and staff of the
Institute of Buddhist Studies
The Pacific World—Its History

Throughout my life, I have sincerely believed that Buddhism is a religion of peace and compassion, a teaching which will bring spiritual tranquillity to the individual, and contribute to the promotion of harmony and peace in society. My efforts to spread the Buddha’s teachings began in 1925, while I was a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley. This beginning took the form of publishing the Pacific World, on a bi-monthly basis in 1925 and 1926, and then on a monthly basis in 1927 and 1928. Articles in the early issues concerned not only Buddhism, but also other cultural subjects such as art, poetry, and education, and then by 1928, the articles became primarily Buddhistic. Included in the mailing list of the early issues were such addressees as the Cabinet members of the U.S. Government, Chambers of Commerce, political leaders, libraries, publishing houses, labor unions, and foreign cultural institutions.

After four years, we had to cease publication, primarily due to lack of funds. It was then that I vowed to become independently wealthy so that socially beneficial projects could be undertaken without financial dependence on others. After founding the privately held company, Mitutoyo Corporation, I was able to continue my lifelong commitment to disseminate the teachings of Buddha through various means.

As one of the vehicles, the Pacific World was again reactivated, this time in 1982, as the annual journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies. For the opportunity to be able to contribute to the propagation of Buddhism and the betterment of humankind, I am eternally grateful. I also wish to thank the staff of the Institute of Buddhist Studies for helping me to advance my dream to spread the spirit of compassion among the peoples of the world through the publication of the Pacific World.

Yehan Numata
Founder, Mitutoyo Corporation

In Remembrance

In May of 1994, my father, Yehan Numata, aged 97 years, returned to the Pure Land after earnestly serving Buddhism throughout his lifetime. I pay homage to the fact that the Pacific World is again being printed and published, for in my father’s youth, it was the passion to which he was wholeheartedly devoted.

I, too, share my father’s dream of world peace and happiness for all peoples. It is my heartfelt desire that the Pacific World helps to promote spiritual culture throughout all humanity, and that the publication of the Pacific World be continued.

Toshihide Numata
Chairman, Mitutoyo Corporation