# Belmont University
## Asian Studies Symposium
### Representations of Buddhism
#### February 13-17, 2017

**Monday • FEBRUARY 13**

10:00 - 10:50 a.m. • JAAC 4094 • Creative & Performing Arts Convocation
"Living Hells and Heavens: the Art of Buddhist Rebirths"
Dr. Katherine Anne Paul, Curator, Arts of Asia, Newark Museum of Art

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • GCLDP Convocation
"Zen Master Dogen on 'Moon' from the Shobogenzo"
Dr. Kimyo Murata-Soraci, Asian Studies, Belmont University

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"The Buddhist Art and Architecture of Angkor"
Dr. Paul Lavy, Southeast and South Asian Art History, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

**Tuesday • FEBRUARY 14**

10:00 - 10:50 a.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"The Miraculous Buddhist Images of Southeast Asia"
Dr. Paul Lavy, Southeast and South Asian Art History, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"Faith Warriors: The Ikko Ikki and Jodo Shinsu Buddhism"
Dr. Cynthia Bisson, East Asian History, Belmont University

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"History and Hagiography in Tibetan Life-Writing"
Dr. William Gorvime, Chair, Religious Studies, Hendrix College

**Wednesday • FEBRUARY 15**

10:00 - 10:50 a.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"Contemplative Pedagogies in the University Classroom"
Dr. William Gorvine, Chair, Religious Studies, Hendrix College

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"The Perilous Journey: An Interpretation of Journey to the West (Xiyou ji)"
Dr. Qingjun Li, Asian Studies, Belmont University

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"Buddhism in Personal Journeys and American Culture"
Dr. Marty Bell, Religion, Belmont University, Panel Chair

**Thursday • FEBRUARY 16**

10:00 - 10:50 a.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"Buddhist Ethics and the Superhero"
Dr. Todd Munson, Director of Asian Studies, Randolph-Macon College

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
"The Vimalakirti Sutra"
Dr. Andrew Davis, Philosophy, Belmont University

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. • JAAC 4094 • GCLDP Convocation
"Buddhism and Prison Ministry"
Dr. Cathy Benton, Chair, Department of Religion, Lake Forest College

**Friday • FEBRUARY 17**

10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. • JAAC 4094 •
The Past, Present, and Future of Buddhist Symbols in Japan” Society and the Arts & Sciences Convocation
Dr. Todd Munson, Director of Asian Studies, Randolph-Macon College

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Writers, pilgrims, devotees and artists have represented aspects of Buddhist tradition and belief in a multitude of manners and perspectives. The 2016-17 Asian Studies Symposium Representations of Buddhism at Belmont University is designed to balance both the breadth and depth of this remarkable array of resources and depictions. The February 13-17, 2017 Symposium is intentionally constructed to support the exhibition Secrets of Buddhist Art: Tibet, Japan, and Korea opening in the Ingram Gallery of the Frist Center for Visual Arts on February 10. Dr. Katherine Paul, Curator of the Arts of Asia collections of the Newark Museum will open the Belmont Asian Studies Symposium and other national speakers such as Paul Lavy, Todd Munson, Catherine Benton, and William Gorvine will highlight divergent facets of Buddhism’s representation through art, literature, popular culture, and social activism. A special panel composed of regional practitioners will share their personal journeys in the Buddhist way.
Dr. Marty Bell, Professor of Religion at Belmont University holds a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in the History of Christianity. His interest extends beyond Christianity to the history of religions and practices as explored in his popular World Religions course at Belmont. In 2016, he offered the Keynote Address, "Jung and World Religions." to the Summer Dream and Spirituality Conference of the Haden Institute. For the Asian Studies symposium, Dr. Bell will chair the panel, "Buddhism in Personal Journeys and American Culture."

Dr. Paul Lavy, is Associate Professor of South East Asian Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Lavy is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Belmont University where his primary interest is in ontology, the study of what is. He works in the 'western' philosophical texts of Aristotle and Hegel and also studies the Buddhist artistic traditions associated with Mekong Delta and Preangkorian Khmer civilizations and their relationships with the art of South Asia (ca. 5th – 9th cent.) Cambodia, and Thailand. Dr. Lavy's symposium presentations are "Buddhist Art and Architecture of Angkor" and "The Miraculous Buddhist Images of Southeast Asia."

Dr. Qingjun Li, is a professor in the areas of Asian Studies at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). Her expertise is in the study and translation of the life of Shardza Tashi Gyaltsen (1859-1934), one of the most influential figures in contemporary Bön. Her current research focuses on the religious lives of Muslim women in a small 14th century Indian village established by Sufi saints. She has also worked with her students at Lake Forest College to explore the service of American Buddhists serving the prison community in different regions of the U.S. This work will form the background for her symposium presentation, "Buddhism and Prison Ministry."

Dr. Todd Munson, Director of Asian Studies, Randall College is the author of "Japanese and American visual and popular cultures. His two symposium presentations are "Buddhist Ethics and the Superhero" and "The Past, Present, and Future of Buddhist Symbols in Japan."

Dr. Cathy Benton is Chair and Associate Professor of Religion at Lake Forest College. She holds a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Her current research focuses on the religious lives of Muslim women in a small 14th century Indian village established by Sufi saints. She has also worked with her students at Lake Forest College to explore the service of American Buddhists serving the prison community in different regions of the U.S. This work will form the background for her symposium presentation, "Buddhism and Prison Ministry."

Dr. Andrew Davis is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Belmont University where he works in the 'western' philosophical texts of Aristotle and Hegel and also studies the Buddhist artistic traditions associated with Mekong Delta and Preangkorian Khmer civilizations and their relationships with the art of South Asia (ca. 5th – 9th cent.) Cambodia, and Thailand. Dr. Davis’s symposium presentation will be devoted to the Vimalakirti Sutra, a fascinating and beloved Mahayana Buddhist text.

Dr. William Gorvine, Chair, Religious Studies, Hendrix College is a specialist in the religions of Asia and his Ph.D. is in the History of Religions from the University of Virginia. His focus is especially directed to the culturally Tibetan areas of northern India and his research largely focuses on the minority Bön religious tradition in Tibet. His two symposium presentations are "History and Hagiography in Tibetan Life-Writing" and "Contemplative Pedagogies in the University Classroom."

Dr. Cynthia Bisson teaches in the area of East Asian History at Belmont University and she holds a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. She teaches courses Survey of East Asian history, as well as specialized courses in Modern Japan, Modern China, and the World of the Samurai. For the Belmont Asian Studies Symposium this year her presentation is entitled, "Faith Warriors: The Ikko Ikki and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism."

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Dr. Kimiyo Murata-Soraci teaches in the areas of Asian Studies and Japanese Language at Belmont University. Her Ph.D. in Philosophy is from Boston University and she is widely published in areas of Continental Philosophy, Phenomenology and Existentialism. She is the author of *A Study of Difference, Translation, and Transference in Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Derrida*, editor of *Psychology of Mindfulness* and co-editor (with Dr. Sal Soraci) of *Visual Information Processing*. Dr. Murata-Soraci’s symposium presentation is entitled, “Zen Master Dogen on ‘Moon’ from the Shobogenzo (Treasure of the True Dharma Eye).”

Dr. Katherine Anne Paul is Curator of “the Arts of Asia” at the Newark Museum. To celebrate the centennial of the Museum’s renowned Tibet collection in 2011, she re-installed a suite of six Tibetan art galleries, created three temporary exhibitions of Tibetan art and hosted His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his seventh visit to the Newark Museum. Since her appointment at Newark in 2008 she also has created nine temporary exhibitions from other regions of Asia—including the special exhibition *Secrets of Buddhist Art: Tibet, Japan, and Korea* for the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. On view in the Frist Center’s Ingram Gallery from February 10 through May 7, 2017, the exhibition features 109 paintings and sculptures from the Newark Museum’s world-renowned collection of Buddhist art made between the late thirteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dr. Paul lectures and publishes widely and holds a Ph.D. in the Languages and Cultures of Asia from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she studied Sanskrit, Tibetan and Nepali. As a Fulbright scholar, Dr. Paul lived in Nepal and has performed field research in seventeen Asian nations during the past nineteen years. Her symposium presentation is entitled, “Living Hells & Heavens: The Art of Buddhist Rebirths.”