

# FACULTY NOTES

ACTIVE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS, NAROPA PROFESSORS ARE ALWAYS ADDING TO A LIST OF DISTINGUISHED ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Utilizing his contemplative Mind Moving seminar lectures, **Keith Kumasen Abbott, Writing and Poetics**, wrote two essays on Zen Priest and poet Philip Whalen: one on his use of koans, "Satori Kitty Roshi Style," and the other on his use of jazz, "Rhythm-N-Ning," which appeared in *Big Bridge* and *NEW* magazines. Abbott's reviews of *Gary Snyder and the Pacific Rim* and *The Collected Poems of Philip Whalen* were recently published in *The Beat Studies Book Review*. At the Western Literature Association 2007 Abbott presented the essay "Raymond Carver: The Anonymous Potlatch: Social Class and Status in 'Why Don't You Dance?'"

**Michele Blumberg, Contemplative Education**, is currently helping to train the teachers of a parent education program she developed through Jewish Family Service of San Diego and the First 5 Commission of California. Funded by a \$2.5 million grant that will extend over five years, the 'Peaceful Parenting' program is based on contemplative education as expressed and explored at Naropa University. Its teachers will impact four to five thousand families a year.

**Richard Brown, Contemplative Education**, has been on the Leadership Council of Garrison Institute's Initiative on Contemplation and Education since fall 2006. He has been helping develop and teach workshops for pre-K-12 teachers to improve the social and emotional learning climate in their classrooms. The approach combines contemplative pedagogy, awareness practices and scientific knowledge of emotion. The workshops in New York, Denver and Philadelphia have been very successful in helping teachers to synchronize with their own emotions and to integrate emotional intelligence into their students' educational experiences.

**Writing and Poetics Chair Junior Burke** performed original songs as part of the High Street Concert Series at Roger's Hall in Lyons, Colorado, and at Swallow Hill in Denver. In 2007, Burke celebrated the release of his debut CD *While You Were Gone* (Red Thread Records).

**Jeanine Canty, Environmental Studies**, serves on the editorial board of a new online journal, *Our Totality*. In February 2008, Canty was the featured teleseminar guest at the Institute of Noetic Science's Shift in Action program, *ConverZations that Matter: Frontiers of Race, Cosmology and Consciousness*. Canty engaged in a dialogue about her dissertation work, which explored how those in western culture can shift their consciousness from a paradigm of scarcity to one that is regenerative.

In February 2008, **Contemplative Counseling Psychology Chair Lauren Casalino** was published in the collection *Brilliant Sanity: Buddhist Approaches to Psychotherapy* with a chapter entitled "Psychotherapy and the Paramitas: Walking the Bodhisattva's Path." This came after her return from a six-month stay in Thailand where she led multi-day workshops on Buddhism and healing with communities in the troubled south of the country. Casalino also conducted a weekend workshop on working with dying and grieving, and gave several presentations on the joining of Buddhism and psychotherapy to senior mental health clinicians and psychiatrists in Bangkok.

**Sherry Ellms, Environmental Studies**, presented workshops on personal sustainability at the past two Bioneers conferences. One workshop addressed how to strengthen one's internal resources and stay connected to one's inspiration. The other explored the transformation of old structures of thinking and being "out of the box."

An article by **Michael Franklin, Transpersonal Counseling Psychology**, titled "Contemplations of a Middle Man: Anima Rising" was published in *Art Therapy: The Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*.

A translation by **Sarah Harding, Religious Studies**, titled *Esoteric Instructions: A Detailed Presentation of the Process of Meditation in Vajrayana* was published by Snow Lion Publications in February 2008. The work is part of *Jamgon Kongtrul's Treasury of Knowledge*, an encyclopedic masterpiece embodying the entire range of

Buddhist teachings as they were presented in Tibet. *Esoteric Instructions* is an ancient collection of intimate records of private teachings originating with Indian masters that passed into Tibet through the Eight Practice Lineages.

**Poet Anselm Hollo, Writing and Poetics**, recently published a collection *Guests of Space* (Coffee House Press, 2007), his translation (from Finnish) of Pentti Saarikoski's novel *The Edge of Europe* (Action Books, 2007) and his translation (from Finnish) of Paavo Haavikko's *One and Twenty* (Aspasia Books, 2007).

Working with Rev. Pam Roberts of the Colorado Springs Samaritan Center, **Victoria Howard, PhD, Religious Studies**, has developed the first contemplative Clinical Pastoral Education training unit to be offered nationally. Howard and Roberts presented this contemplative model to the Regional Convention of Clinical Pastoral Education supervisors in March 2008.

*Stories from the Origin*, the new book by **Environmental Studies Chair Anne Parker, PhD**, was published in 2007. The series of short stories is derived from her two years living with Aboriginal communities in the central desert of Australia. Through respectful encounters the stories reveal the history, culture and complexities of the cross-cultural dynamics. In addition to teaching in the Environmental Studies Department, Parker currently consults and teaches in the European tradition of the master builders in the Boulder area and via her website [www.latitudewithattitude.com](http://www.latitudewithattitude.com).

An article by **Deb Piranian, Transpersonal Counseling Psychology**, titled "Rock Climbing and Meditation: Can Climbing Be a Spiritual Path?" was recently published in *Perspective* (Association for Humanistic Psychology).

**Poet Andrew Schelling, Writing and Poetics**, recently returned from a yearlong sabbatical, four months of which were spent in India. Schelling lectured and read poetry at Delhi University at a program on bhakti (devotional) poetry. Under the auspices of Dzongsar

Khyentse Rinpoche, he visited Deer Park Institute to teach Dharma & Art as well as a class entitled Satori and the Arts. He is currently at work on an anthology of India's devotional poetry for Oxford University Press. Recent publications include an essay in the November 2007 issue of *Tricycle*, which gives an account of a Naropa poetry class on Green Mountain. His chapbook *Towards Arcturus* was published, as well as an artist's edition of translations from Sanskrit, KAMINI, produced by emdash studios in St. Louis.

*Judith Simmer-Brown, PhD, Religious Studies*, is co-editing a book on contemplative pedagogy in religious studies for Oxford University Press. With associate professor Richard Brown, Judith Simmer-Brown was a world wisdom scholar-in-residence at Florida International University in February 2008. In March 2008, Simmer-Brown was keynote speaker at the Buddhist Women's Conference in Chicago, which was cosponsored by the Buddhist Council of the Midwest and DePaul University.

Attending the International Association of Tibetan Studies conference in Germany in January 2008, *Religious Studies Chair Phil Stanley* presented a paper offering extensive comparison between the Tibetan and Chinese Buddhist canons. In addition, he continues his related work on the Tibetan Buddhist Canonical Collections Project, a collaboration between Naropa University and the University of Virginia, to catalogue and digitize the entirety of 5,200+ Tibetan texts.

An interview with *Visual Arts Chair Sue Hammond West* titled "Industrial Felt, Animal Fur and Meditative Practice" was published in the spring 2007 issue of *Surface Design Journal*.

*Deborah Young, Contemplative Education*, coordinates a small nonprofit initiative called Americas Association for the Care of Children (AACC). AACC designs and directs community development programs serving women and children in rural villages and impoverished urban areas of Central America.

## By Andrew Schelling

### BELOW FOURTH OF JULY MINE

Clark's nutcracker hid a seed  
400 years ago—  
twisty thick-trunk limber pine;

lightning sizzles along the broken granite ridge

cold hailstone hands;  
safe from storm tea;  
that long gone bird who  
gave me shelter.

*16:viii:03*

### HAIBUN DARK FOREST

Utter dark forest, rest of dark forest utter. The fir trees are stunted, & boulders drip a hunter's green moss. There's a sharp ascent to the ridge at 10,000 feet. The story goes that Mrs. Chapin saw on the east face two snow ravines intersect in a Y and announced, "Its name shall be Ypsilon Peak." Lying on her belly M suggested we bring the old script to life. Dark forest beside her. She'd copied two lines of Kalidasa from my notebook, swift brush in her hand. Tomorrow I'll photocopy & enlarge the original so the script has more bristle. Did you notice the lodgepole needles, two to a cluster, how they curl upwards? Might make a good brush. We're having a hard time in the icy dwarf forest: stunted trees like our thoughts twisted with the karma of centuries. When we break through and see Ypsilon what a relief. That YMCA crew must've felt the same, 1910—they thought god carved the letter high on the slope & went crazy.

Unfelt heart  
pines once recollected—  
lifetimes in love ago.

Mummy Range  
26:v:02

### MARCH CRESCENT MOON SONG

Bow-bent luminous ice peak refraction  
brittle dry snow-horn Arikaree  
foot squeak no moisture Kiowa pine formal purity—  
And humans? humans always this  
clumsy at love?