

# FACULTY NOTES

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

From *Staying in Touch: Compassionate Characterization*, **Keith Kumasen Abbott's, *Writing & Poetics***, sabbatical project on contemplative techniques, the essay "The Things I Used to Do," will appear in *The Writing Workshop Model: Is It Still Working?* (University of Pittsburg Press). His study "Rhythm-A-Ning: Philip Whalen's Rhythmic Inventions" will be reprinted in *The Beats and Philosophy* for the University of Kentucky Press Popular Culture series. During the American Literature Association's 2008 conference, he contributed some Carver letters with related biographical materials for Carol Sklenicka's forthcoming Raymond Carver biography. At the Western Literature Association 2008 he will present "Twisting in the Wind: A Memoir of Ken Kesey." His review of Deborah Baker, *A Blue Hand: Beats in India*, ran in *The Beat Studies Book Review*.

**Zoë Avstreich, *Somatic Counseling Psychology***, presented at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Dance Therapy Association held in Austin, Texas, October 30-November 2, 2008. As a lineage holder in Authentic Movement, she participated in a panel exploring the diversity of ideas, theoretical approaches and techniques that have evolved in the field of dance/movement therapy over the past forty years.

**Jeanine M. Canty, PhD, *Environmental Studies***, co-presented at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) in May along with Suzanne Benally, associate vice president for academic affairs and senior diversity officer; Barbara Catbagan, core faculty and diversity seminar faculty leader; and Samantha Wall, diversity seminar instructor. The five-day conference was held in Orlando, Florida, and brought together more than two thousand participants. Their presentation was titled *Contemplative Education and Diversity: A Unique Model*. In addition, during June and July, Jeanine rafted for twenty days along the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, flowing 297 miles with seven friends.

*iEpiphany*, a book of poetry by **Amy Catanzano, *Writing & Poetics***, has just been released from Anne Waldman's Erudite Fangs Press. A forthcoming collection *Multiversal*, selected by

Michael Palmer for the 2008 Poets Out Loud Prize with Fordham University Press, is due out in early 2009 in hardcover and paperback. She has poetry appearing in the upcoming anthology *A Best of Fence: The First Nine Years* as well as in the literary journal *La Petite Zine*. Her poetry has been published in literary journals such as *Conjunctions*, *Web Conjunctions*, *Volt*, *Fence*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Aufgabe*, *American Letters & Commentary*, and *Colorado Review*.

In January 2009, **David Chernikoff, *Transpersonal Counseling Psychology***, will teach a program entitled *Aging and Awakening* at Dzogchen Beara, a Tibetan Buddhist retreat center under the guidance of Sogyal Rinpoche. Located in southwestern Ireland, it's also a spiritual care center for people with life-threatening and terminal illnesses. See [www.dzogchenbeara.org](http://www.dzogchenbeara.org).

**Jack Collom, *Writing & Poetics***, was plenary speaker at a "Poetic Ecologies" Conference in Brussels this May. His collaborative book of poetry with Lyn Hejinian, *Situations, Sings*, was published this spring.

**Barbara Dille, *Performing Arts***, has been creating a contemplative arts ensemble, "dEsOLaTeDeLiGHt Project," which is committed to sustainable, meditative and spontaneous performance art in movement, light, text and sound. The first version, "Mythologies of a Species," was performed in April 2008 at different venues around Naropa. Version 1.5, "The Bright Presence of Things," performed four shows in August 2008 at the Boulder International Fringe Festival. She also directed the Third Annual 'dance.art.lab' in June 2008 with thirteen participants. The lab is based in the 'gift economy,' which allows the art tribe to assemble and enjoy one another's company.

**Jessica Giles, PhD, *Community Studies***, published an article entitled "The Girl Next Door: Sex, Politics and Desire in Suburbia" in *Just Like a Girl: A Manifesta*. She also co-wrote an article on cultural perceptions of aggression published in *Infant and Child Development*.

**Victoria Howard, PhD, *Religious Studies***, is joining the Boulder County Community Leadership Council, a project of the federally funded Area

Agency on Aging. The mission of the Council: that "all age well" in Boulder County. She will be working with a particular task force within the council with the goal of supporting elders in and through community. She has also been invited to serve on Shambhala International's "working group on aging." The mission of the working group is to find ways of addressing the issues of sickness, aging and death within the Shambhala sangha.

In the previous academic year, **Bhanu Kapil, *Writing & Poetics***, was a panelist at The Small Press Traffic conference, AGGRESSION, in San Francisco. She visited a class and presented her work at California State University. She also gave readings at California College of the Arts, the Bowery Poetry Club in New York and the David Buuck Reading Series in San Francisco. Excerpts from a forthcoming book of experimental prose, *Humanimal*, appeared in the journals *XCP*, *mem*, *Denver Quarterly* and *President's Choice*.

**J. Ryan Kennedy, *Somatic Counseling Psychology***, recently completed writing and editing *The Survivors' Guide to Healing (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, a handbook and resource manual for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The book was written in association with the WINGS Foundation, Inc., a Colorado not-for-profit organization whose mission is to break the cycle and heal the wounds of childhood sexual abuse by providing education, support services and advocacy to women and men throughout Colorado. The book is available directly from the WINGS Foundation.

**Fleet Maull, *Contemplative Psychology*; David Chernikoff, *Transpersonal Counseling Psychology*; Tenpa Gyaltzen, *Religious Studies*; and Judith Simmer-Brown, PhD, *Religious Studies***, presented at Meditate '08, a nonpartisan event in Denver coinciding with the Democratic National Convention. Meditate '08 brought together leading teachers from around the country to provide a space for contemplation and meditation at the DNC.

**Mark Miller, *Music***, was recently featured on soprano saxophone in a performance of *Missa Gaia*, a choral mass written by Paul

Winter. The work, which was performed in celebration of Earth Day, was produced by members of the Pender Island Choral Society with musicians from the Vancouver, BC, area, including the award-winning duo of vocalist Mae Moore and guitarist Lester Quitzau. He is on sabbatical leave during the 2008–09 academic year, working on a book about a contemplative approach to improvisation.

**Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche and Judith Simmer-Brown, PhD, Religious Studies**, participated in a roundtable on working with emotions along with John Tarrant Roshi and Sharon Salzburg. The discussion was published in the summer 2008 edition of *Buddhadharma Magazine*.

**Elizabeth Robinson, Writing & Poetics**, is the recipient of a 2008 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists Award. Her new collection of poems, *Inaudible Trumpeters*, was published in spring 2008 by Harbor Mountain Press, and Fence Books will publish a collection of prose poems, *The Orphan and its Relations*, in November 2008.

**Andrew Schelling, Writing & Poetics**, has a new edition of *Dropping the Bow: Poems from Ancient India* from White Pine Press. This book, when it was first released in 1991, received the Academy of American Poets translation prize. Andrew also presented a paper at the University of Maine's June conference on Poetry of the 1970s, "Post Coyote Poets." His poetry book *Old Tale Road* was released in early fall 2008.

In September, **Judith Simmer-Brown, PhD, Religious Studies**, was invited to present a paper at an Interreligious Dialogue Symposium at Boston College on the topic of "Dialogue and Discernment," exploring the theological roots within Tibetan Buddhism for dialogue. Her paper, "A Contemporary Unbiased (Ri-me) Tradition," and the papers of the other nine presenters will be published in a book, edited by Professor Catherine Comille. On August 29, Simmer-Brown was the keynote speaker at the Women in American Buddhism conference, sponsored by the Denver Buddhist Temple and the Institute of Buddhist Studies. The title of her keynote was "Being Buddhist, Being Female: Obstacle or Inspiration?" In November in Chicago, Judith Simmer-Brown will be presenting a paper to the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies on the topic of "Thomas Merton Meets Tibetan Buddhism,"

as part of a panel of papers on Merton's dialogue work. Currently, she is co-editing a collection of essays for Oxford University Press, entitled *Teaching from Within: Contemplative Pedagogy in the Religious Studies Classroom*.

Distinguished Professor of Poetics **Anne Waldman, Writing & Poetics**, has recently published a book of performance pieces that emerged from writing experiments in Poets' Plays classes at Naropa. It is entitled *RED NOIR* and was published by Naropa alumna Gary Parrish. She has also released a new CD, *Matching Half*, with music by her son Ambrose Bye that includes pieces by Kerouac. School Summer Writing Program faculty member Akilah Oliver. It is co-produced by Fast Speaking Music and Farfalla, McMillan & Parrish. Penguin Poets will be publishing Anne's new long interspecies poem, *Manatee/ Humanity*, in spring 2009. Coffee House Press will publish an anthology edited by Anne Waldman and Laura Wright (Naropa MFA alumna) in spring 2009, based on the Naropa Poetics Archives entitled *Beats at Naropa*. It includes unpublished lectures, talks and interviews by Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, Gary Snyder, Philip Whalen, Joanne Kyger and Diane diPrima.

**Candace Walworth, PhD, Peace Studies**, completed a doctorate in interdisciplinary studies (concentration in peace studies) at Union Institute and University in March 2008. Her biographical dissertation examines the partnership of two spiritually based social activists, Elias Amidon and Elizabeth Roberts. The biography explores turning points in their lives and the larger historical and social movements they have helped shape, and have been shaped by, thus illuminating a larger story of socially engaged spirituality. With **Sudarshan Kapur, PhD, Peace Studies**, she co-authored and presented a paper, "Mohandas K. Gandhi and Joanna Macy: Reflections on the Role of Spirituality in their Social Activism," at the Media, Spiritualities, and Social Change Conference at the University of Colorado at Boulder in June 2008. The Student Union of Naropa presented Candace with the 2007–08 Students' Choice Award for Faculty Excellence at the May commencement ceremonies. She now serves as chair of the Peace Studies program.

**Stephanie Yuhás, Religious Studies**, has been named coordinator of the Justice and Peace program at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. She recently presented a paper at the regional AAR conference titled *Using Intertextuality to Unmask the Concealed Meaning in Religious Texts*.

## The Mind, Anthologized

One place where Trungpa Rinpoche's vision to bring East and West together becomes particularly evident is in the Contemplative Counseling Psychotherapy Department, where the fusion of Buddhist/contemplative and Western/scientific studies of the mind is near complete. This past summer, the department collected thirty years of avant-garde scholarship on the subject and published it in the anthology *Brilliant Sanity*. The book was presented at the American Psychological Association Conference in August, and the department hosted a book launch in September. Contributing authors include Mark Epstein, Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche and Han de Wit, as well as Naropa faculty Karen Kissel Wegela, PhD, and MacAndrew Jack, PhD.

