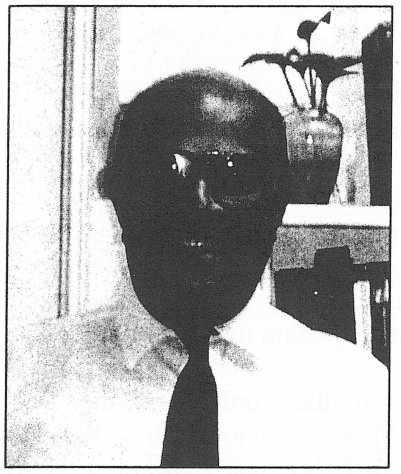
Editor's Note



It gives me immense pleasure that for the sixth time it has been possible to keep to our commitment to publish the Journal within months of our mid-January International Conference.

With my assistant Hee Jong You deployed at Andrews Air Force Base as a Staff Sergeant of US Air Force to care for the war wounded, the task of compiling and formatting the articles fell on Yun Chang Liu and Venerable Yin Gen, assisted by Venerable Hui Sheng and Jamie Johnston. They rose to the occasion with confidence and carried out the arduous work with diligence. I am ever so grateful to them.

All major articles are presented exactly as received with little or no editing. The authors are responsible for their content and opinions, which are not necessarily in conformity with the official position or policy of the University of the West or the Board of Trustees.

The University upholds a comprehensive policy of academic freedom and this is particularly manifested in the book reviews. The Journal invites reactions and responses in a spirit of encouraging dialogue and a genuine search for the truth.

We are glad that this issue of the journal deals with a wide variety of subjects on the main theme of "Humanistic Buddhism and Culture" as well as on other areas of Buddhist Studies.

The Journal reflects a significant feature which the annual conference has developed over the last six years: The senior faculty of the University of the West and a number of regular international specialists (e.g. Dr. T. Dhammaratana of France, Dr. Bhikkhu Pāsādika of Germany, Padmal de Silva of Britain, Dr. Wang Zhong Yao of China, and Dr. O'Hyun Park, David Blundell, Ingrid Aall and Cyrus Lee of USA.) have welded themselves into a team of scholars who examine each year the impact of Humanistic Buddhism on a chosen area of human activity.

My own experience in this exercise is that the five articles so far published and three other prepared for other international conferences could be compiled into a new book under the title "BUDDHIST ANSWERS TO CURRENT ISSUES." Other scholars have produced papers, which could likewise be presented in book form.

At the Sixth International Conference, an entire day was set apart as the "Chinese Buddhist Culture Day" and Dr. Cyrus Lee was invited to be the moderator. Adopting innovative group dynamic techniques, which have made him a popular animator of discussions in both USA and China, Dr. Lee made it an occasion to

remember. I am grateful to him for his participation.

I am equally appreciative of the kind cooperation of Professor Robert E. Buswell for honoring us by accepting the award as IAB Honoree for the year 2004 and addressing the Conference on "Countercurrents of Influence in East Asian Buddhism: The Korean Case".

IAB Conference in January 2006 will be on the theme of Humanistic Buddhism and Economic Development and, as usual, keynote speakers have been invited to deal with various aspects. (Please see the Announcement) Papers are requested on related subjects as well as on any other topics of interest from scholars and students of Buddhist Studies.

Pursuing a suggestion of many participants we are planning the themes for the annual conference to be announced two or three years ahead. Accordingly, the eighth conference in 2007 is to investigate the theme of "Humanistic Buddhism and Science."

In conclusion, let me express my sincerest thanks to all who have cooperated in making the annual Conference and Journal possible through their participation, scholarly contributions, book reviews and organizational support.

I also invite new participants to join us in this exciting intellectual interaction to explore the academic underpinnings of Humanistic Buddhism, as interpreted by Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun of Fo Guang Shan.[1]

Ananda W. P. Guruge, Editor

[1] For a comprehensive overview of Humanistic Buddhism, see Ananda W. P. Guruge: ***Humanistic Buddhism for Social Well-being***, Hacienda Heights, California, Buddha Light Publishing, 2003.