

## Editor's Note



2006-2007 has been a period of transformation in the University of the West. Its accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in February 2006 was a distinct milestone in its progress. Approval as a Title IV institution eligible to receive federal and state financial aid followed. WASC granted approval to two Masters of Arts programs in Buddhist Psychology and Chinese. University commenced expansion and the Board of Trustees facilitated the process by appointing Venerable Dr. Yi Kung as Resident Executive Trustee. In a process of normalization, the administration was revamped with the recruitment of professionals and the enhancement of service conditions of the faculty. The retirement of Dr. Lewis R. Lancaster from the post of President resulted in the appointment of Dr. Roger Schmidt as interim President. As the Journal goes to the press, an eminent educationalist with nearly three decades of experience in US higher education – Dr. Allen Huang – has been appointed full-time President. An innovative plan of action is already in place to achieve the target of matching qualitative improvement with quantitative growth.

During this period, the University lost the services of Dr. Hung Tung Kuei, Vice-president, Dr. Thich An-hue, Chair of Religious Studies, Dr. Richard Kimball, Professor, Venerable Dr. Chanju Mun, Adjunct Professor, Venerable Dr. Yifa, Chair of Religious Studies and Dr. James A. Santucci, Co-chair of Religious Studies. Amidst the changes, it has been possible for the International Academy of Buddhism to hold its annual Conference in January 2007 and the theme was Humanistic Buddhism and Science. As usual, the meeting of minds proved to be extremely stimulating and useful. The Journal, however, is not a complete coverage of the proceedings because the papers submitted by Drs. James A. Santucci on Scientology, Bruce Long on Buddhism and Quantum Theory and Kenneth Locke on God were not available for publication.

On an executive order of the interim President, the practice of including the contents in Chinese with Chinese abstracts of all papers has been discontinued pending a feedback from readers.

The next International Conference on Humanistic Buddhism will be held from 14 to 18 January 2008 and the theme will be Buddhist Psychology. Papers on the theme as well as on any other subject pertaining to Buddhism are invited from scholars and students.

The International Academy of Buddhism is being revitalized to achieve its objectives and to widen its services.

– **Ananda W.P. Guruge, Editor**