Shundo Aoyama was born in 1933 in Ichinomiya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. At the age of five, she was adopted by her aunt, who was a Soto Zen nun at Muryoji Temple. Aoyama Roshi became ordained at the age of 15 and trained at Aichi Senmon Nisodo in Nagoya. She received a Master’s degree at Komazawa Soto Zen University and studied for five years at the Soto Zen Educational Center. She has taught at Aichi Senmon Nisodo since 1964 and became the abbess in 1976. In 1979 and 1987, she visited Europe and stayed monasteries as a participant in Monastic Interfaith Dialogue. She made pilgrimages to India in 1971, 1982, and 2007, and observed Mother Theresa’s charity work there. She has traveling to the United States three times to lecture on Buddhism. She also lectures widely all over Japan and teaches zazen, tea ceremony, and flower arrangement. She has written more than a dozen books, including Zen Seeds, which has been translated into several languages.

Severina Angelova Balabanova received an M.A. in Chinese Studies and a Ph.D. in Chinese Literature from Sofia University in Tokyo. A native of Bulgaria, she is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Academia Sinica in Taipei, doing research on the societal roles of Buddhist nuns and Taoist women in medieval China. Her research interests include Taoist and Chinese Buddhist religion and literature of the Six Dynasties period.

Susmita Barua grew up in an invisible minority Buddhist community in Kolkata, India, before coming to the U.S. in 1985. Since then, she has explored nonsectarian Dhamma practice and engaged Buddhism. She holds M.Sc. and M.A. degrees in geography and urban-regional planning. Her passion to understand the nature of reality and self from a universal perspective led her to discover her own unique path in life. She is a mindful awareness practitioner, sacred cyber activist, speaker, community networker, and visionary engaged in raising human consciousness, both globally and locally. She is committed to individual empowerment and planetary transformation through writing, workshops, and creative ideas in diverse fields.

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**Christie Yu-ling Chang** In 2001, Dr. Christie Yu-Ling Chang started as a volunteer for the Sakyadhita International Association of Buddhist Women and is currently serving as president. She is the Resident Director of the Taipei Study Center for the Council on International Educational Exchange, responsible for its study abroad program in Taiwan. She received her doctorate in Linguistics from the University of Hawai‘i with research on cross-cultural language learning. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at National Taiwan University. She is also actively involved in training translators and language teachers at National Chengchi University.

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**Nancy Feng-chu Cheng** received an M.A. in English Literature at Tamkang University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the English Department at the same university. She is also a part-time lecturer at Yuan Pei University in Hsinchu. Her research interests include the study of mind in Buddhism and related issues in ecocriticism.

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**Karma Tashi Choedron** is a Malaysian nun in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. She received her sramaneri ordination from Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche and holds a Ph.D. in Environment and Resource Studies from Mahidol University, Thailand. She has worked in the field of conservation for almost a decade, coordinating several social development/sustainable livelihood projects for indigenous communities, such as the Orang Asli under the Small Grants Programme by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UNDP/Global Environment Facility (GEF), and conducting conservation value assessments. She contributes her expertise in the field of conservation in Malaysia and Indonesia, striking a balance between her spiritual life and volunteer work with animals, and has authored two books and several articles pertaining to community-based conservation in South-East Pahang, Malaysia.

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**Bhiksuni Chuehmen** received ordination in January 1991 under the guidance of Master Hsing Yun. She coordinated the historic 1998 Bodhgaya-India *bhiksuni upasampada* and was stationed there for several months to administer the grand event.

**Adrienne Cochran** received her Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa in 1999. Formerly an associate professor at TransPacific Hawai‘i College in Honolulu, she now teaches at Green River Community College in Oregon. Her article entitled, “Teaching Non-Western Students about Western Culture: Western Values Considered in a Global Context,” was published in *Networks: An On-line Journal for Teacher Research*.

**Diana Cousens** is a former Vice Chair of the Buddhist Council of Victoria and well known for her booklet, 'Buddhist Care for the Dying,' which was distributed to all hospitals, nursing homes and prisons in the state of Victoria. She is a Tibetologist and has published on the Tibetan treasure tradition and on the temple of Triloknath in north India. For ten years she was the Director of the Melbourne Sakya Centre and was appointed to this position by H.H. Sakya Trizin. She works as an administrator at RMIT University in Melbourne. Her policy on disability access to Buddhist temples was adopted as the national policy for Australia by the Federation of Australia Buddhist Councils.

**Tenzin Dadon (Sonam Wangmo)** is a *sramanerika* from Bhutan who practices in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. She is currently in the final year of an M.A. program in Buddhist Studies at Delhi University. Sonam Wangmo became a nun at the age of 16 and spent 13 years at Jamyang Choling Institute in Gharoh, Lower Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh (India), where she learned Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan language, and literature. Since 1997, she has participated in seven Sakyadhita conferences, as a presenter, translator, and moderator.

**Ranjani de Silva** is a founding member of Sakyadhita: International Association of Buddhist Women and served as its president from 1995 to 2002. Since 1987, she has been an active force in promoting the welfare of Buddhist women and coordinating higher ordinations to restore the lineage of full ordination for nuns in Sri Lanka. In 2000, she established the Sakyadhita Training and Meditation Center outside of Colombo for the training and education of nuns.

**Elise Anne DeVido** holds a Ph.D. in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University. She has been happily involved with Sakyadhita since the 2000 Conference in Lumbini, Nepal, and currently serves as Vice President of Sakyadhita USA. She taught world history, and women's and gender history as an associate professor in Taiwan for many years and is one of the founding members of Sakyadhita-Taiwan. Her publications include the book, *Taiwan's Buddhist Nuns*, and numerous articles on religions in Taiwan. She is now teaching World History and East Asian History at St. Bonaventure University in New York State and is researching Buddhism in 20th century Vietnam.

**Bhikkhuni Dhammananda** (Sư cô Nguyên Hương) was born in Vietnam. She received her first ordination in 1994 in the Thien Lam Te lineage (Zen). She traveled to Myanmar to learn more about Theravada Buddhist philosophy and practice and received a B.A. in Buddhadhamma at the...
International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. She received *bhikkhuni* ordination in the Theravada tradition in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, and completed a Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies in 2008 at the Post-graduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya. She is currently practicing and teaching Buddhism in Australia.

Bhikkhuni Dhammananda (Chatsumarn Kabilsingh) received her doctorate from Magadha University in Bodhgaya, India, and was a professor of Philosophy at Thammasat University in Bangkok for many years. She currently devotes her energy to training programs for nuns at Songdhammakalyani Temple and works to establish the lineage of full ordination for women in Thailand.

Geraldine Dubreuil is affiliated with Shenten Dargye Ling, a Yungdrung Bon Center in France, founded by Yongdzin Tenzin Namdak in 2005 and directed by Khenpo Tenpa Yungdrung. She is a student of Yongdzin Tenzin Namdak and Khenpo Tenpa Yungdrung, and a friend of Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche. She took refuge in the Yungdrung Bon of the Buddhas in 2003. She translated for Dr Vyner’s *Healthy Mind Interviews* (3 vol.) from English to French (Volumes I, II and IV).

Monica Lindberg Falk is a social anthropologist, lecturer, researcher and director of studies at the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University, Sweden. Her research interests include gender, Buddhism, anthropology of disaster, education and social change in Southeast Asia. Her scholarship includes extensive fieldwork in Thailand. She has published the monograph *Making Fields of Merit: Buddhist Female Ascetics and Gendered Orders in Thailand* and several articles on themes related to gender, Buddhism, and religious movements. She is currently publishing articles based on findings from her research project, funded by the Swedish Research Council, on gender and Buddhism’s role in the recovery process after the 2004 tsunami catastrophe in Thailand, such as “Recovery and Buddhist Practices in the Aftermath of the Tsunami in Southern Thailand,” *Religion* 2 (2010).

Roseanne Freese is a senior international trade specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and has been with the U.S. Government for 20 years. She has given many trade capacity building seminars to the Governments of Cambodia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, and Vietnam in the area of food safety administration and World Trade Organization rights. Fluent in Chinese, she has served as an agricultural attaché in Beijing and undertaken graduate study in Chinese Philosophy at National Taiwan University. She received the Three Refuges from Bhiksuni Tian Yi in Taiwan in 1979 and has presented papers on the contributions of the first nuns of China at a number of conferences, including Sakyadhita International, the American Academy of Religion, and the Hamburg Congress of 2007.

Hema Goonatilake received her Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, in 1974. She was a senior faculty member at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, until 1989. Since then, she has served as a gender and development expert to UNDP and UNIFEM (New York), and UNDP (Cambodia), and as an advisor to the Buddhist Institute,
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**Karun’a’ Guo** is a social activist, painter, and composer. She is currently the president of the Society for Neo-Humanistic Awareness in Taiwan, an activist group established in 2006 to advocate non-differential spiritual practice, promote social service, and engage in educational artistic activities. As a painter, she has held exhibitions on various occasions and, as a musician, has composed over 400 songs, inspired by Buddhism, Daoism, and Chinese poetry, ancient and modern. She has taught “mind-painting” and poetry appreciation/singing at Yuan Chi University, Taipei Educational University, and other colleges and universities in Taiwan for many years. In 2010, she was Resident Artist of the Year at National Taipei University.

**Bonna Devora Haberman** returned to Israel in 2004, having taught at Harvard and Brandeis Universities in the United States, where she founded and directed the Mistabra Institute for Jewish Textual Activism. She has lectured and researched at Hebrew University and initiated an Israeli movement for women's public participation and leadership of religious practice, “Women of the Wall.” In Jerusalem, she currently works an an activist and scholar, and the co-director of an Israeli-Palestinian community theater project. Her books include *Blood and Ink: Feminism Liberating Judaism* and *Israel Spirit Matters: Inspiring Zionism from Jewish Sources*.

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**Hsiao-Lan Hu** teaches Asian religions and women and gender issues in world religions in the Department of Religious Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies Program at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her primary field of research is Buddhist-feminist social ethics and globalization. She is currently translating the anthology *Buddhist Women in a Global Multicultural Community* to Chinese for Sakyadhita Taiwan. Her book *This-worldly Nibbana: A Buddhist-feminist Social Ethic for Peacemaking in the Global Community* will soon be released.

**Tomomi Ito** graduated from Australian National University with a Ph.D. thesis on Buddhist debates in 20th-century Thailand, focusing especially on the ideas proposed by Bhikkhu Buddhadasa. Currently she teaches Southeast Asian studies at Kobe University in Japan. Her research focuses on contemporary movements of female Buddhist renunciants in Thailand.
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Shen-chon Lai has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from National Taiwan University and a second Ph.D. in Philosophy from Ludwig Maximilian Universitäet in Munich. Currently, he is a professor and chair of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at National Taipei University, where he created the Research Center for Eastern and Western Philosophy and Hermeneutics in 2002. In recent years, Lai has served as the president of Modern Buddhist Studies in Taiwan and the editor-in-chief of Thought, Language, and Social Studies Research Magazine. His published books (in Chinese) include Buddhist Hermeneutics, Contemporary Buddhist Studies and Buddhist Tradition, and The Interweaving of Taoism, Zen Buddhism.

Wan Teng Lai is a lecturer at the Women’s Development Research Centre (KANITA) at Universiti Sains Malaysia. She has a B.A in Chinese Studies and Gender Studies from University Malaya, Malaysia, and received an M.A. degree in Gender and Development Studies from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Prior to this, she worked in a local women’s organization and was passionately involved in various gender-related training programs, research and advocacy.

Boontha Learthevorntham

Bhikkhuni Dr. Lee

Yuchen Li is an associate professor in the Department of Chinese Literature at National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. Her research interests include the gender issues in religious studies,
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**Thich Nu Tri Lien** (Nguyen Thi Tuyet) received a Ph.D in Buddhist Studies and a Ph.D in Psychology from Delhi University. She is currently a research associate in the Department of Buddhist Studies at Delhi University.

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**Manju Thapa Magar** as worked as a Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Specialist since 1989. She has worked for the Local Governance & Community Development Program of the Ministry of Local Development as a consultant of UNDP, Nepal; and prior to that, as a Gender Specialist for the Decentralized Local Governance Support Program, UNDP, Nepal. She was previously a Team Leader/NGO Coordinator for Sama Bikash Abhiyan Nepal. She holds M.A. degrees in Buddhist Studies (2010, Matripa College, Portland Oregon, USA) and Anthropology (2000, Tribhuvan University, Patan Multiple Campus, Lalitpur Nepal) and a B.A. in Education (1996, Tribhuvan University, Mahendra Ratna Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal).

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**Lars Mathiesen** is Canadian born with a German background. He is currently living and teaching yoga in Taiwan. His primary training and practice is in Ashtanga yoga, with additional training in Anusara and Yin yoga. He believes that yoga is a way to prepare the body for whatever happens in life. Community, learning, and personal growth are among his key guiding themes on and off the yoga mat. He teaches because he wants to share what has been passed along to him during a 12-year journey of yoga – to support each person’s own personal journey and help make the world a better place.

**Aiko Mizuno** has spent her entire life within the atmosphere of lay Buddhism. She is a member of Zaike Bukkyo Kokoro no Kai (The Heart of the Lotus, International), a lay-Buddhist association originating from Japan. Though born and raised in Japan, she spent her high school and university years in the United States, and graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Employed since 2004 as an assistant fellow at the Essential Lay Buddhism Study Center in Tokyo, Japan, Aiko has re-entered university life to pursue Buddhist Studies at Toyo University. She is especially interested in examining the roles of women in Buddhism and how Buddhist ideas are truly reflected in all aspects of life.
Susanne Mrozik is Associate Professor of Religion at Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, USA. She received her Ph.D. in the Study of Religion from Harvard University in 1999 and her M.T.S. in World Religions from Harvard Divinity School in 1990. Currently she is on an extended sabbatical in Sri Lanka, where she is researching the Sri Lankan bhikkhuni revival.

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Wasfia Nazreen was born and raised in Bangladesh. She has had an international career in advocacy, research, writing, development, environment and human rights work for more than a decade. Her writing has been published in Newsweek and numerous other venues and her photographs have been exhibited worldwide. She was intimately involved with the International Tibetan Freedom Movement and a distant-scholar of Buddhism at Samye Ling Monastery, Scotland. Currently she is running a solo campaign ‘Bangladesh on Seven Summits’ where she intends to climb the highest points of each continent in celebration of forty years of her motherland’s Independence. [https://www.facebook.com/BangladeshOnSevenSummits]

Thich Nu Tinh Nguyen is the vice-president of Bikkhuni Affairs in the Department of Vietnamese Buddhist Sangha.

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Tenzin Palmo spent 18 years practicing in the remote Himalayan region of Lahaul. In 1973, she traveled to Hong Kong to receive the bhiks.un.i ordination. She is the founder of Dongyu Gatsal Ling, a monastery for the training of togdenmas (female yogic practitioners) near the community of Tashi Jong in northern India. Her story has been documented in A Cave in the Snow. She is the author of Reflections On A Mountain Lake: Teachings on Practical Buddhism.

Susan Pembroke is a practicing psychotherapist and founder and guiding teacher of Insight Meditation of Ventura. She began meditating in 1986 and has studied with a number of teachers in the Theravada tradition, including Ayya Khema. Susan is the founder and president of the Alliance for Bhikkunis and editor-in-chief of its magazine Present. Founding this organization to support monastic women of the Theravadin tradition is her way showing gratitude to Ayya Khema and honoring her memory.

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Gene Reeves is an American professor from the University of Chicago who has lived in Tokyo for over 22 years studying, teaching, and practicing Buddhism. He is a founder of the International Buddhist Congregation with headquarters in Tokyo. He is the translator from Chinese into English of The Lotus Sutra: A Contemporary Translation of a Buddhist Classic. His most recent book, published last year, is The Stories of the Lotus Sutra. He has taught at the University of Tsukuba, University of Peking, University of Chicago, Wilberforce University, and Tufts University. He is currently a distinguished professor at Renmin University of China in Beijing and international advisor at Rissho Kosei-kai.

Bhikkhuni Rattanavali

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Marisol Mercado Santiago is a doctoral student in the School of Engineering Education (Purdue University, Indiana, United States). She originally began undergraduate studies in Environmental Design. In university extension programs and other institutions she took several courses in visual arts. She holds a B.S. in Computer Science and a M.E. in Computer Engineering. She is interested in (1) culturally responsive education, (2) Buddhist studies, (3) ethnic studies, (4) science and technology studies, and (5) art and engineering education. Her future dissertation is the development and research of an introduction to engineering for Tibetan students in a school in India. Her work is supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is interested to network with Buddhist nunneries and schools to support possible engineering education initiatives in a future.

Brooke Schedneck is a Ph.D. Candidate in Asian Religions at Arizona State University. Her main scholarly interests include the intersection of Buddhism and modernity as well as the emerging global Buddhist landscape. Her dissertation explores the discursive pedagogical strategies and hybrid religiousities within Thailand’s international meditation centers. She has been published in *The Buddhist Studies Review* and *Contemporary Buddhism* and maintains a blog called Wandering Dhamma (wanderingdhamma.wordpress.com).

Suellen Semekoski, MA, ATR-BC, LCPC, is an artist and registered and certified as an art therapist, a licensed clinical professional counselor, and an adjunct associate professor at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago. She is a member of Spiritual Directors International and member of Lakeside Buddha Sangha in Evanston, Illinois.

Zhen Yuan Shi received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from the International Buddhist College in Thailand. She is currently a lecturer and director for Administrative Affairs, at the College as well as president of the Than Hsiang Buddhist Welfare Association in Malaysia. She is the author of *Venerable Fang Lian’s Contribution towards the Development of Buddhist Education in Penang, Malaysia*.

Guo Chii Shi was educated and trained at Dharma Drum Mountain in Taiwan, R.O.C.

Guo Cheen Shih has been a practitioner of Buddhist contemplative practices for 20 years. She has translated, written, and made presentations on the meditative practice of listening extensively, opening to the sound of silence, accessing inherent wisdom and compassion, hearing the sounds of suffering in the world, and extending help with skills developed through this practice. She was instrumental in the launch of Charter for Compassion in Seattle and helped organize “Compassionate Seattle: It’s Up to Us,” an initiative in which the Seattle City Council and the mayor signed a proclamation declaring Seattle a compassionate city. Karen Armstrong and other notable figures have been moved to visit personally to recognize Seattle as the first compassionate city in the world.
Guo Hsiang Shih was ordained in 1980, soon after graduating from the English Department of Soochow University in Taiwan. She served as the Taiwanese dialect interpreter for the founder of Dharma Drum Mountain, Bhiksu Sheng-yen, for 23 years and frequently lectures on Buddhism in three languages, both in Taiwan and abroad. She is concerned with peace building through cooperation among religious figures of different traditions and is also very concerned about improving conditions for the world’s Buddhist women.

Bhikkhuni Silananda

Venita Tanusuwito is an active member of the Indonesian Buddhist Women’s Fellowship and heads the Education Division at this organization. She is interested in how to best educate and improve opportunities for young Buddhist women, so that they can be more effective in the community. She is also active in the Indonesian branch of Tzu Chi Buddhist Compassion Relief. As a dentist, she practices at several clinics, including Tzu Chi Hospital in Jakarta.

Emma Tomalin is a senior lecturer in Religious Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Leeds in the U.K. Concurrently, she is a research associate with the DfID Religions and Development Research Programme Consortium.

Karma Lekshe Tsomo is an associate professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego, where she teaches Buddhism, World Religions, and Comparative Religious Ethics. She studied Buddhism in Dharamsala, India, for 15 years and received a doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, with research on death and identity in China and Tibet. She is a founder and past president of Sakyadhita: International Association of Buddhist Women and director of Jamyang Foundation, an initiative to provide educational opportunities for women in developing countries.

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Malia Dominica Wong, O.P., is an associate professor of World Religions at Chaminade University of Honolulu. She received a Ph.D. from the University of Creation Spirituality in 2000 with a dissertation titled, “The Gastronomics of Learning From Each Other: Parallels in Spiritual Practices.” She has been involved with Buddhist-Christian practices since 1986 and has been steadfastly working to build bridges of harmony among peoples of all denominations.
Jean Wookee

**Barbara Wright** is a clinical psychologist and author of *Metta: The Map, The Formula, The Equations*. She received her doctorate from United States International University and has been a contributing and associate professor at Fuller Seminary, Pepperdine University, and the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Wright was the first women to become the chief of staff at a free-standing psychiatric hospital. A practicing Buddhist for over 30 years and student of Thanissaro Bhikkhu for 13 years, she integrates Buddhist principles, medical wellness, and stress reduction therapy in her clinical practice. For the past eight years, she has used the Metta Map in colleges, hospitals, school, and private practice. Recently she taught this method of conflict resolution and stress reduction at twelve graduate universities in India.

Malia Dominica Wong, O.P., is an associate professor of World Religions at Chaminade University of Honolulu. She received a Ph.D. from the University of Creation Spirituality in 2000 with a dissertation titled, “The Gastronomics of Learning From Each Other: Parallels in Spiritual Practices.” She has been involved with Buddhist-Christian practices since 1986 and has been steadfastly working to build bridges of harmony among peoples of all denominations. She is grateful to be a member of Sakyadhita and to be at its service.

Rotraut Wurst (Jampa) studied Protestant Theology and Comparative Studies in Religion, receiving a Ph.D. from the Freie Universität in Berlin. Her dissertation research on Tibetan Buddhist Nuns and the Sakyadhita Network was published as Identität im Exil. In 2001, she founded the Institute for Further Development, Meditation, and Buddhist-Christian Dialogue in Altenholz, Germany. In 2006, she founded Hilfe für Alt und Jung, where she teaches, motivates, and supports young people and disabled adults.

Hyangsoon Yi is an associate professor of Comparative Literature and director of the Korean Language and Literature program at the University of Georgia. She received her Ph.D. in English (minor in Film Studies) from Pennsylvania State University. Her book *Piguni wa Han'guk munhak* (Buddhist Nuns and Korean Literature) was selected by the Korean Academy of Sciences as an outstanding scholarly book of the year 2009. She also co-authored *Welcome to Korean!* She has published extensively on Korean literature and film, and history of Korean Buddhist nuns.

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