Facing the rapidly increasing destruction of planetary life, the PCC community is jumping into action this Spring. Faculty and alumni have been busy publishing new books that demonstrate the ways that individuals as well as communities can transform and become more engaged. New translations of Rick Tarnas’ Passion of the Western Mind and Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker’s Journey of the Universe demonstrate the continuing global demand for the PCC vision (see p. 4). But PCC is not just sending books around the world - Sean Kelly has been building bridges between SF and Japan and Drew Dellinger has traveled through England and Scotland with his Change the Worldview, Change the World tour (see p. 5).

This summer, faculty and students are also bringing the integral worldview to the 10th Annual International Whitehead Conference in Claremont, CA - the largest Whitehead conference to date - and the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences in San Diego, CA (see p. 3). In addition to spreading the word, PCC students are putting philosophy into action at home with new student groups that provide tools and support for conscious entrepreneurs to launch and grow their projects (see p. 3). Many more opportunities to engage in the transformation of our civilization can be found on the PCC website.

David Steinrueck
PCC PROGRAM ASSISTANT
In this book, you bring together thinkers as diverse as John Dewey and Desmond Tutu. What are some shared similarities?

They are all significant in that they each combine some element of intellectual power. They have a lot of knowledge but they are also seekers, they are spiritual in some way. Some of them are religious, some are spiritual in the sense of trying to see the interior, see depth, see something beyond. I didn’t choose thinkers who were just social, political, or scientific I chose ones that are combining what are usually kept apart - spiritual and intellectual, which of course Steiner did brilliantly. They are all still very important. They have endurance, they brought something distinctive that the world still needs.

You say that Buber, Jung and Steiner all began their careers in response to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason, what is it that these thinkers are trying to do, what is their relationship to access to the Real and breaking that boundary?

Kant set a line, and he did it so brilliantly that you had to be equally brilliant to penetrate it. The line says you cannot have certain knowledge of God, freedom or the enduring self. The thinkers in this book either ignore Kant, or they really take him on as Steiner did early in his life. Before he was an esoteric teacher he was writing philosophy of freedom, saying yes, you can [have certain knowledge]. He said it’s possible for human beings to break through the line. Buber and Jung and Steiner all began reading Kant when they were 14 years old, and they all three really set as their task to break through the line to know Spirit, to know God, to know freedom, etc. I’m a little unusual as a student of Steiner in that I’m not so upset about - I’m happy about - uncertainty and knowledge which is not certain. I’m very comfortable with that. I sometimes say I’m an imperfectionist but I’m also a person who lives with that incertitude. And I think the quest for certitude, to use John Dewey’s title of one of his books - is not the most important quest we could have. I want more and better, but I don’t focus on best. But Steiner is quite firm that we can know for certain, that we can be certain about things. But after you read Freud, you can’t be so certain about what we know and whether we are lying to ourselves.

In the book, you speak about of the Three Jewels of Buddhism - Buddha (Teacher), Dharma (Teaching and Practice) and Sangha (Community) and the importance of these for engaging with these great spiritual and intellectual teachers. How does PCC participate in the ideals of the Three Jewels?

Community is hard, I think that PCC has created a community. - year after year it forms. Some people stay on, but a lot of people come in new and within the year they are saying this is my community - its quite remarkable. And Some of it has to do with the faculty, some with the ideas that we hold together and a lot of it has to do with the quality of the people we are attracting. It’s quite wonderful. PCC attracts idealists who have a lot of knowledge about the world. I think you can’t avoid community but it’s hard to find one that is nourishing, hard because people [usually] aren’t sufficiently devoted to it. So we try to make community here. We don’t just go to class and go home. (The full interview can be watched here).
Alfred N. Whitehead stands as one of the most important 20th century philosophers, outlining an ensouled view of nature and laying the groundwork for process philosophy. For this year’s International Whitehead Conference - “Seizing and Alternative: Towards an Ecological Civilization” - Matt has been invited to put together a track to critique contemporary reductive scientism and to re-construct a more viable vision for a future ecological society. The track, says Matt, “will focus on the way that the classical Enlightenment dualism between morally responsible human souls and a morally neutral mechanical nature has, in the late modern period, been replaced by a pseudo-materialistic monism.” In response, the interior dimensions of the world must be re-imagined. We must take knowledge and love seriously as having real effects on the course of human history. To take human knowledge and love seriously requires that we root these powers ontologically, that we ground them in the energies of cosmogenesis itself.

Pcc presenters include: Rick Taranas, Brian Swimme, Sean Kelly, Elizabeth Allison, Jacob Sherman, Aaron Weiss, Matthew David Segall, Becca Tarnas, and David Steinrueck.

The Parliament, famous for its inaugural event in Chicago, 1893, during which Swami Vivekananda emerged as the most significant interpreter of Hinduism for a generation of westerners, has reemerged in the last twenty years as an organization dedicated to bringing religious practitioners, leaders, and scholars together in dialogue, promoting a mission of interreligious harmony and planetary well-being.

As stated in the panel description, the speakers “seek to interrogate the ways in which particular relations to ecological place, and particular engagements in locally-identified Buddhist practices, including the conscious cultivation of Buddhist virtues, contribute to – or impede – ecologically-sensitive attitudes and behaviors in Buddhist societies.”

Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker’s film “Journey of the Universe” will also be screened at the conference. Watch a preview here.

A panel of PCC/ESR students is heading to the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences conference in San Diego (June 21-24) to offer some fresh perspectives on the new geological era known in the scientific community as the ‘Anthropocene’. The panel undertakes a critical analysis of the term “Anthropocene” from the point of view of post-structural theory, speculative philosophy, art and imaginal ecology. In a time of ecological crisis. What responsibilities and opportunities do humans have to imagine a different world – a mutually enhancing human/Earth relationship – and are there perhaps more appropriate terms to symbolize this transition? Presenters include Kim Carfore, Becca Tarnas, Sam Hinds, and David Steinrueck.

CONFERENCES

PARLIMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS

PCC Faculty Elizabeth Allison, PCC doctoral student Elizabeth McAnally, and PCC Program Coordinator/ACS PhD student Aaron Weiss will speak on a panel at the upcoming Parliament of the World’s Religions, taking place in Salt Lake City, October 12, 2015. The panel will be entitled “Buddhism and ecology: Place, practice, and virtue in environmental attitudes and behaviors in Buddhist societies.”

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NEW STUDENT GROUPS

Impact @ CIIS

PCC Masters student Abeer Desai has organized a new student group aimed at putting big ideas into action. The group, called Impact @ CIIS, is dedicated to bringing entrepreneurial rigor to the creative visions of the PCC community. “We create a safe space to share progress, ask for help, and receive peer-supported training on critical business skills,” says Abeer. Access website here.

Transgress

Teaching Radical Awareness for Neglected Students and Groups by Revolutionizing and Eradicating Suppressive Systems - Access the group page here.

SEIZING AN INTEGRAL ALTERNATIVE

MATTHEW DAVID SEGALL ORGANIZES A TRACK FOR THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL WHITEHEAD CONFERENCE IN CLAREMONT, CA.

Alfred N. Whitehead stands as one of the most important 20th century philosophers, outlining an ensouled view of nature and laying the groundwork for process philosophy. For this year’s International Whitehead Conference - “Seizing and Alternative: Towards an Ecological Civilization” - Matt has been invited to put together a track to critique contemporary reductive scientism and to re-construct a more viable vision for a future ecological society. The track, says Matt, “will focus on the way that the classical Enlightenment dualism between morally responsible human souls and a morally neutral mechanical nature has, in the late modern period, been replaced by a pseudo-materialistic monism.” In response, the interior dimensions of the world must be re-imagined. We must take knowledge and love seriously as having real effects on the course of human history. To take human knowledge and love seriously requires that we root these powers ontologically, that we ground them in the energies of cosmogenesis itself.

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Matthew David Segall
PCC Faculty and alumni have been busy re-enchanting the world with new books that address the pressing issues of our time.

In addition to the featured selections in this newsletter, keep an eye out for forthcoming books and papers on the PCC faculty pages, including *Integral Ecologies* (edited by Sean Kelly, Sam Mickey, and Adam Robbert) and *Waste and Worldviews: Garbage and Pollution Challenges in Bhutan* by Elizabeth Allison (can be accessed here).

The PCC message is also spreading to distant audiences with new translations of Rick Tarnas’ *Passion of the Western Mind* into Slovak and Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker’s book *Journey of the Universe* into Russian, Korean, and Chinese.

In this original book, Sam Mickey argues for the transdisciplinary significance of philosophical concepts that facilitate understandings of and responses to the boundaries involved in ecological issues.

The *Conversions* focuses on a group of people grappling with various forms of personal conversion and change in the midst of massive upheaval—a conversion on a planetary scale—brought about by the end of the age of oil.

Whole Earth Thinking and Planetary Coexistence focuses on newly emerging approaches to ecology that cross the disciplinary boundaries of sciences and humanities with the aim of responding to the challenges facing the current era of planetary interconnectedness.

Exploring the meeting of mystical and philosophical theology, *Partakers of the Divine* shows that Christian philosophical and contemplative practices arose together and that throughout much of Christian history, philosophy, theology, and contemplation remained internal to one another.


“Everything is shining in glory 
everything 
singing a story 
if love is a language 
then I am just 
learning to spell 
while there’s a story 
that the stars 
have been 
burning 
to tell”

[Excerpt, "soulstice," by Drew Dellinger]

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SPREADING THE WORD

Change the Worldview, Change the World

Drew Dellinger - speaker, poet, writer and PCC PhD alumn - embarked on a speaking tour last fall through 14 cities in England and Scotland. The tour, called Change the Worldview, Change the World, aimed at exposing the dysfunctional worldviews underlying the ecological, social, and economic crises of the present and inspiring action.

Drawing on the contemporary movements for racial, gender, class, and environmental justice, as well as the visions of Thomas Berry and Martin Luther King Jr., he emphasized the need to build movements that connect ecology, social justice, and cosmology, using the power of dream, story, art, and action. The tour culminated with a keynote address to 335 leaders from around the world on the opening day of the New Story Summit at Findhorn in Scotland.

SEAN KELLY IN JAPAN

SEAN KELLY SHARES HIS INTEGRAL VISION

This past Fall, Sean Kelly continued his important work bridging ecological activist communities in Japan and the Bay Area. Together with his wife, Yuka, and Transition Japan founder, Hide Enomoto, Sean facilitated workshops for a group of leading environmental activists based on Joanna Macy’s ‘Work That Reconnects’ and his own integral ecology research.

“IT FEELS GOOD AND RIGHT TO BE BRINGING MORE OF JOANNA MACY’S WORK AND RELATED INTEGRAL APPROACHES TO JAPAN AT THIS MOMENT. ”

Macy’s ‘Work That Reconnects’ and his own integral ecology research. In the wake of the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, there is a rapidly growing engagement with Joanna and Sean’s work across Japan.

In addition to lecturing and offering workshops, Sean and Yuka are incubating the idea for the Kyoto Center for the Great Turning. The center will aim to catalyze and make more coherent the various strands of activism around Japan - the Transition Movement, anti-nuclear, renewable energy - by bringing leaders from these groups together. Through workshops, conferences, and classes, the center will act as a critical link between ecological research in the PCC community and on-the-ground activism in Japan.

In addition to their professional work, Sean and Yuka celebrated a second wedding in traditional Japanese fashion (see picture below). For more reading on integral ecology, see the forthcoming book The Variety of Integral Ecologies, edited by Sean Kelly, Sam Mickey, and Adam Robbert.

Sean and Yuka’s wedding