

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Awards 48 Degrees

法界佛教大學頒發四十八個學位

5月23日星期六，法界佛教大學舉辦了2009年的畢業典禮，並頒發了中文系、佛學教育系、翻譯及語言系、佛學修持系等學位。畢業生中，除了獲得佛學修持系碩士的萬佛城方丈恆律法師外，還包括了其他不同國家及文化背景的學生。有些學生的親友甚至遠從法國和亞洲地區來參加這個盛典。

洛杉磯的胡果相居士榮獲人文學系榮譽博士學位。主要是獎勵胡女士在國外各地貧困的地方創辦了多所學校，也為許多無法就學的學生提供獎學金。榮獲這項殊榮後，她說：「雖然我已經七十多歲了，這個榮譽促使我要更加努力！」

法大創辦成員之一的恆賢法師（柏克萊大學博士），得到了榮譽教授獎之殊榮，此獎是肯定她多年來在教學上的努力，以及協助創辦法大的種種貢獻。

史密斯·休士頓博士是一位世界著名的學者，他曾經在PBS的一個特別節目上與梅意爾斯·比爾做了一個叫「人類宗教」的講座。史密斯現在已經是九十多歲的高齡，他表示了對法大這麼一所重視學術以及實際修行的大學的激賞，並且說：「如果時光能倒轉五十年，我會去那兒教書。」

典禮會場上坐滿了學生的家人，以及前來觀禮祝福的人，氣氛非常的和諧溫馨。最後大家齊聲把典禮的功德迴向給法界眾生，祈求世界和平，為這殊勝的畢業典禮，寫下了圓滿的休止符。

編按：為了培育弘法人才，上人於一九七六年在萬佛聖城創辦法界佛教大學，以仁義道德為宗旨，慈悲普度為目標。法界佛教大學不僅傳授專業知識，更注重人格品性的修養；藉著淨化心靈而啟發自性本具的智慧與慈悲，以發展每個人最大的潛能。欲知詳情，請至網址www.drbu.org 或 email: info@drbu.org 查詢。

(易果參文)



On Saturday, May 23rd, Dharma Realm Buddhist University held its 2009 Commencement ceremonies. Degrees were awarded in Chinese Studies, Education, Translation, and Buddhist Study and Practice. The graduates included not only the Abbot, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, who received a Master of Arts in Buddhist

Study and Practice, but also students from many countries and cultures. Family and friends from as far away as France and Asia joined in the event.

Helen C.M. Woo, who is from Los Angeles, was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letter for Humanitarian Contributions in the Field of Education. Ms. Woo has built schools, primary through university, in poor rural communities abroad as well as providing scholarships to students who would otherwise not have the means to obtain an education. In receiving the award she said, "Although I am in my seventies, having received this award, I will have to work even harder."

Dharma Master Heng Hsien, a founding faculty member of the University, (Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley) was awarded Professor Emerita status in recognition of her many years of hard work in teaching and her help in establishing Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

World-renowned scholar, Huston Smith, author of the bestselling text *The World's Religions* and most well-known for a five-part PBS Special with Bill Moyers entitled "The Religions of Man", spoke via distance media. Now in his nineties, he expressed his admiration for a university that is dedicated not only to scholarship but also practice and wished that he could "turn the clock back fifty years and teach there."

The commencement hall was filled to overflowing with family and well-wishers, and all joined together in closing with a Dedication of Merit praying, "May every living being, our minds as one and radiant with light, share the fruits of peace with hearts of goodness, luminous and bright."

Note: To develop individuals who can propagate the Dharma, the Venerable Master founded the City's Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) in 1976. Its guiding principles are humaneness, justness, the Way, and virtue; its goals are kindness, compassion, and the rescue of all beings. Not only does DRBU impart knowledge in specialty areas, it emphasizes the development of one's virtue and moral character. As students purify and transform their minds and spirits, they activate their inherent wisdom and compassion, thereby realizing their greatest potential. For more information see its website: www.drbu.org or email info@drbu.org (By Terri Nicholson)