

# 2016年法界佛教大學畢業典禮

**Dharma Realm Buddhist University**

**Celebrates 2016 Commencement**



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法界佛教大學畢業典禮於五月二十七日舉行，今年的畢業典禮有兩大特色：第一是首度在法大新校區善財參學中心舉行；其次是六名獲頒學位者，皆為法大新碩士學程「佛教經典碩士」畢業生。

法大原有學程的學生已於2015年全部畢業，新學程第一班碩士生也於去年畢業，今年舉辦的是新學程第二班碩士生畢業典禮。

法大校長蘇珊·朗思在畢業典禮中致詞時指出，法大全體師生的相聚，彼此互相帶來深遠的影響。如同一首廣受歡迎的歌曲「永遠」，最後一句歌詞正是如此：「因為認識了你，我已永遠改變。」

接著放映一段幻燈片，回顧這一年法大的最新進展以及舉辦過的多項活動，包括啟用善財參學中心與新教學大樓的動土典禮。今年的畢業生計有比丘近傳、段親

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Dharma Realm Buddhist University held its commencement ceremonies. This year's commencement was special for two reasons. It was the first commencement at Sudhana Center, the new campus of the University. Secondly, the six 2016 graduates are all part of the new Master's degree program in Buddhist Classics.

Students from Dharma Realm Buddhist University's original program all graduated by 2015. The first cohort of the new Master's degree program graduated last year as well. This year's commencement ceremony was for the second cohort of the new Master's degree program.

Dr. Susan Rounds, president of Dharma Realm Buddhist University, began her address by saying she was reminded of the concluding phrase in the popular song, "For Good": "Because I know you, I have been changed for good." Because, in their encounters with each other, the members of Dharma Realm Buddhist University community have greatly influenced one another.

A slide show was played reviewing major DRBU developments and events in the past year, including the opening of Sudhana Center and the groundbreaking ceremony for DRBU's new building. The six graduates this year are Bhikshu Jin Chuan, Trinh M. Doan, Tony Fairbank, Donna Farmer, Petra Lamberson, and Leonie G.M. Tan. Their families and distinguished

道、湯尼·費爾班克、當娜·法摩、佩特拉·蘭波森、陳玉梅。畢業生的家人與來賓合計約百人到場參與盛會，畢業典禮全程透過電腦網路即時播出。

「佛教經典碩士」的兩年課程，包括佛教經、律、論；東西方哲學思想從孔孟老莊到柏拉圖、笛卡爾、叔本華、尼采、康德、沙特等。多數課程以英文授課，並有充份的提問與討論，上課氣氛很熱烈活潑；另須上梵文、中國古文、打坐課、專注訓練等課程。

畢業生紛紛表示從這些課程中受益很多；近傳法師是今年畢業生中唯一的出家人，他說：「我發現這個碩士學程是很珍貴的機會，可深入研究、了解佛法。學習的環境又很支持、尊敬出家眾。法大課程加深我對佛殿功課與修持的認識；僧團的作息讓我將書上所學實際應用於生活中。」

大部份的課程去除了我原本對人生的假定，〈道德經〉說：『為學日增，為道日損』。乍看好像異於直覺，但真正的意思是：在法大學習，目標並非變得更自負，而是培養一顆謙卑的心，能够深入傾聽別人，傾聽智慧的文詞，傾聽我們本具的智慧。」

協助歐巴馬總統降低貧窮與不平等的「信仰與鄰里結盟顧問委員會」顧問之一尼朋·梅塔是今年法大畢業典禮的主講人，他是多個公益團體包括「服務空間」的創辦人，他的同修古芮是法大校董。尼朋·梅塔以「讓道德快速流傳——不確定時代的畢業典禮演講」為題，強調內在轉化與心定的力量，他談到人工智慧為全人類帶來的危機，建議法大畢業生要從做好小事着手、懷抱服務精神、儘快推廣道德。

guests, a total of about 100 people, attended this momentous occasion. The entire ceremony was streamed live on-line.

The two-year program of the new Master's degree in Buddhist Classics covers Buddhist Sutras, Vinaya, and Shastras; Eastern and Western philosophy including Confucius, Mencius, Lao Zi, Zhuang Zi, Plato, Descartes, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Kant, and Sartre, among others. Most of the classes are taught in English and offer opportunities for ample inquiries and discussions. The atmosphere during classes is enthusiastic and active. There are also classes in Sanskrit, the Chinese Classics, meditation and mindfulness training.

Graduates expressed their appreciation for these classes which benefitted them greatly. Dharma Master Jin Chuan, the only monastic graduate this year, said: "I found the MA program to be a precious opportunity to bring depth of study and understanding of the Dharma in an environment that is supportive and respectful of the monastic form. The university classes deepened my



understanding of the Buddhist ceremonies and practices; the monastic schedule provided context and a living laboratory for the texts that I was reading.

Also, much of the program was 'unlearning' my own assumptions about life. The *Dao De Jing* says: 'One who learns gains everyday. One who cultivates the Way, loses everyday.' This might seem counter-intuitive, but what it means is that the aim of study in DRBU is not to become more prideful, but rather to develop a humble heart that can listen deeply to others, to texts of wisdom, and to our inherent wisdom."

The keynote speaker, Nipun Mehta, is a member of President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships which serves to help reduce poverty and inequality. He has founded several non-profit organizations including ServiceSpace, which he founded with his wife. His wife, Guri, currently serves on Dharma Realm Buddhist University Board of Trustees. Nipun delivered a speech entitled "Make Virtue Viral: A Graduation Speech for Uncertain Times" in which he emphasized the power of stilling the mind and inner transformation. He talked about the crisis of Artificial Intelligence that humankind is facing and suggested Dharma Realm Buddhist University

法大創辦之初，即參與申請成立過程的比丘尼恒持法師，長期在法大授課，近年開講〈楞嚴咒〉、〈彌陀要解〉等課程，於2016年法大畢業典禮上，獲頒「永久榮譽教授獎」。最後在全體唱誦英文「迴向偈」與法大校歌「盡虛空」的歌聲中，圓滿結束2016年的法大畢業典禮。✿

graduates to orient themselves towards small acts and small effects with a heart of service and help make virtue go viral.

Bhikshuni Heng Chih, who was involved in the process of application when DRBU was originally founded, received the Award of Professor Emerita. She has been teaching at DRBU for many years and recently taught classes such as “Shurangama Mantra” and “The Essential Commentary of Amitabha Sutra”. The “Dedication of Merit” and the school song “Jin Xu Kong” (Pervading Empty Space) were sung by the assembly to conclude the 2016 DRBU Commencement. ✿

