

法界佛教大學2016年秋季班開學

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Fall 2016 Convocation



薛凱文/譯

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法界佛教大學於8月16日在瑜伽市校區「善財參學中心」舉行2016年秋季班開學典禮，歡迎這學期入學的12名新生，加入法界佛教大學這個大家庭，並認識所有教職員與舊生。

校長蘇珊·朗思(果載居士)致詞指出，來法大求學、教學、工作的人，都願從世世代代的智慧傳統中，探索追尋自我的生命；也都相信追求知識而欠缺道德的指引，終將成為空洞的努力。正如宣公上人曾說：「教育是無始無終，沒有一個地方不能學習，沒有一個時候不能學習。」因此我們以辛勤耕耘來滋養善根，並以誠敬耐心的專注力迎向未來的工作。

學務長恒良法師則說，法大畢業生都有同樣的感想，那就是在此求學是一段脫胎換骨的經驗；跟初入學相較，畢業時已成了完全不同的人。我們相信他們的改變都是積極正面的，而且豐富了他們的生命。良法師期許本學期的新生也能有同樣的經驗。此外，新生都要在簽名簿上簽名，良法師說：「這本簽名簿為那些『入法界』的人，留下活的紀錄。我們期望這群

Dharma Realm Buddhist University held its Fall 2016 Convocation ceremony at the Sudhana Center in Ukiah on August 16th. Twelve new students joined the family of Dharma Realm Buddhist University. They were introduced to the faculty, staff and returning students as well.

President Susan Rounds pointed out that students, faculty and staff are here because they have a desire to examine their own lives in the light of the wisdom traditions of the ages, and that they are here because they believe that intellectual endeavor without a moral compass is an empty exercise. She quoted Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, "Education is without beginning or end. There is not a single location that is not a place of learning, and there is not a single moment that is not a time for learning." She continued, "We can keep our good roots nurtured with the soil of our diligent effort and our sincere and patient attentiveness to the work before us."

Dharma Master Heng Liang, Dean of Student Affairs, said that students who have gone through our program so far have said that their experience here was transforming, and that upon graduation, they were completely different people from when they entered. "We took this to mean that their transformation was positive and life-enriching. I wish the same for all of you." She also said that new students are required to enter their names into 'the book.' "This book is a living record of those



殊勝的人，都將成為你終身的朋友。」

永久榮譽校長易果容指出，法大提供的教育是全球其他地方都找不到的；學生不僅求知，也要掌握情緒，並啟發本有的慈悲與智慧。他以一則有趣的佛教故事結束致詞：一名弟子在湍急河流的岸邊，河上沒橋也沒船。弟子對著彼岸的師父大喊：「我怎麼到彼岸？」師父回喊道：「你就在彼岸！」

易果容的故事贏得台下的熱烈掌聲。一位法大學生表示，她覺得這個故事說明了佛性人人本具，不假外求。而法大課程的設計重點，正是幫助學生體會這個道理。

法大課程中，原有中西經典研讀，今年新開設「印度經典」課程，並為課外活動增加了新項目：週一至週四早晨七時至八時的打坐，以及三寶茶社。

由於法大在2016年夏天正式獲得美西大學聯盟認證候選資格，法大助理教授暨認證工作協調人吳適有表示，法大學生的助學金將不受影響。法大有資格列入參加聯邦學生貸款的學校名單，原已入學的法大學生，不會被要求申請學生貸款。法大畢業生若擬進入其他高等學府深造，在申請法大成績單時，可要求附加美西大學聯盟認證候選資格的通知。✿

who have ‘entered the Dharma Realm’—a rare and precious group of people who we expect will become your life-long friends.”

Ron Epstein, the president emeritus of DRBU, noted that students will get an education here that is not available anywhere else on the globe. He said, “Not only does this education involve your intellect but it will also engage your emotions and activate your own inherent compassion and wisdom.” He ended his remarks with an interesting Buddhist story: “A student is on one side of a raging river. There are no bridges. He has no boat. He shouts out to the master on the opposite bank. ‘How do I get to the other side?’ The master shouts back: ‘You are on the other side.’”

Dr. Epstein’s story won him a round of applause. One student felt this story tells us that everyone is replete with the Buddha nature, and that there is no need to look for it outside. The focus of DRBU classes is to help students understand this principle.

Both Chinese and Western classics are part of curriculum. This year a new class, “Indian Classics” has been added. There are also new extracurricular activities this semester: morning meditation from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., as well as the Three Treasures Tea Club.

In the summer of 2016, DRBU obtained Candidacy status for accreditation from the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). Franklyn Wu, DRBU Assistant Professor and Accreditation Liaison Officer, explained that this does not affect students’ financial aid. With Candidacy, DRBU, as an institute, is now eligible for Federal Title IV funding. No students currently enrolled will be asked to take out students loans. Notice of Candidacy with WSCUC can be included with transcripts upon request. ✿

