

2017年法界佛教大學畢業典禮

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Celebrates 2017 Commencement



編輯部整理/比丘尼近簡 英譯

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法界佛教大學於5月19日在瑜伽校區善財參學中心舉行2017年畢業典禮，今年共有七位法大新碩士學程「佛教經典碩士」第三班的畢業生：比丘尼恒圓、比丘尼近山、梁親澄、麥瑞英、謝若莊、梅根·斯薇特、陳原霖。

法大校長蘇珊·朗思在畢業典禮中首先致詞指出，凡是來到法大的人，無論學生或教職員，都是為了提出困難的問題，深入思考重大議題，互相學習，也從人類史上追尋生命意義、真實本質的過程中學習。這需要堅忍、心胸開放、以及勇氣。今年所有應屆畢業生的努力，都已超過校方的期望，為學弟妹們立下很高的標準。

接著觀賞法大「回顧這一年」短片，片中顯示法大新教學大樓整修工程已竣工。法大副校長鮑果勒說，歡迎大家抽空參觀這座將在2017年8月秋季班開始使用的新校舍。

畢業生接著相繼致詞，比丘尼恒圓法師說：「每個人都有自己的智慧，在法大攻讀的兩年期間，學會聆聽不同的觀點，對於放下執著很有助益。」

Dharma Realm Buddhist University conducted its 2017 commencement ceremony at the Sudhana Center in Ukiah campus on May 19. There were seven graduates from the new Master's degree program in Buddhist classics: Bhikshuni Heng Yuan, Bhikshuni Jin Shan, Connie Luong, Maureen McIver, Seah Jock-Cherng, Meghan Sweet, and Yuen-Lin Tan. They are the third cohort of this program.

DRBU President Susan Rounds said in her speech during the commencement: People who come to DRBU, whether students, faculty and staff, ask difficult questions, ponder deeply about important issues, learn from each other, and learn from texts drawn from the long history of human inquiry into the meaning of life and the nature of reality. This work takes persistence, an open heart and mind, and courage. Those who are graduating today due to their efforts have surpassed the expectations of DRBU, and they have set a very high standard for other students to follow.

A slide show entitled, "The Year in Review" followed in which the newly renovated DRBU building was shown. Doug Powers, DRBU Vice President for Finance and Administration, invited everyone to tour this central classroom building which will be used for classes at the start of the Fall semester in August 2017.

Bhikshuni Heng Yuan was the next graduating student to give her speech. She said, "Everyone has his/her wisdom. During my two years at DRBU, I've learned to listen to different perspectives which helps to let go of my attachments."

比丘尼近山法師指出，從前讀佛經，雖然理解經文，但感覺不到跟自己的關係。而法大獨特的教學方式讓修行與經文之間互相印證，她說：「最後我終於感受到佛經在對我說話。」

梁親澄的父母本來反對她來法大求學，禁不起她磕頭才同意。結果證明「這兩年是我求學生涯中最美好的時光，」梁親澄笑說：「學習的方式讓經典直接重現在學生的身上與心中，讓我們成為最好的人。」

麥瑞英說，很感謝在法大就讀的這兩年，感恩所有教職員的付出，也很珍惜在萬佛聖城有見到出家眾的機會。

謝若莊則表示：「法大的課程獨一無二，我們大家互相學習。正如宣公上人所說，『老師就是學生，學生也是老師。』」

梅根·斯薇特說，過去從未看到如此誠心、善良、仁慈、為人著想、又很發心的一群人。經文很棒，也很具啟發性，但若非這群人將經文的道理具體落在他們的心中，對我而言，不過是書架上的另一本書罷了。

今年畢業生中出席者，唯一的男眾陳原霖感謝所有教職員，以及許多為這個碩士班辛苦付出的人，陳原霖說：「因為他們送出了一份大禮。現在輪到我們將所學深耕、落實，用於我們自己和他人身上。」

今年的主講貴賓傑考布·尼都曼為舊金山州大哲學教授，著作等身，也是著名的哲學書刊編輯。尼都曼說，宣公上人住世時，他曾和友人共同拜見上人。在進入萬佛殿時，尼都曼感覺牆上的一萬尊佛像代表著加持力環繞四周，同時也在我們的內心裡。尼都曼認為，古老的宇宙充滿意義，不但有外在的大宇宙，還有人身小宇宙，那就是我們的意識、注意力、觀看等的能量，可用於療癒這個世界。生而為人，就要尋找自身以外的意義，人類架構的一部分就是愛人與服務。

當畢業生依次從校長蘇珊·朗思手中接過畢業證書時，不僅獲得師長親友們的祝福，背後一對善財童子與龍女獻珠的雕像，也彷彿獻上「童子求道訪知識，龍女獻珠速成佛」的祝福。

Bhikshuni Jin Shan pointed out that in the past when she read a Sutra, she understood the meaning, but had never related it to herself. The unique pedagogy at DRBU encourages interaction between spiritual exercises and the texts so that the texts become alive. She concluded, "I finally saw that the Buddhist Sutras are talking to me."

Connie Luong's parents originally opposed the idea of her going to DRBU but they changed their minds when she made a bow to them. Connie said with a smile, "These two years have been the best years of schooling I've experienced in all my years in school. We are taught ways to make sutras come alive in our minds and bodies, allowing us become the best humans we can be."

Maureen McIver said, "I appreciate my two years at DRBU and the dedication of the faculty and staff, and treasure the monastic presence maintained here at CTTB."

Florence Seah said, "Our program is original and nondual. We learn from each other. Just like Venerable Master had said, 'Teacher is student and student is teacher.'"

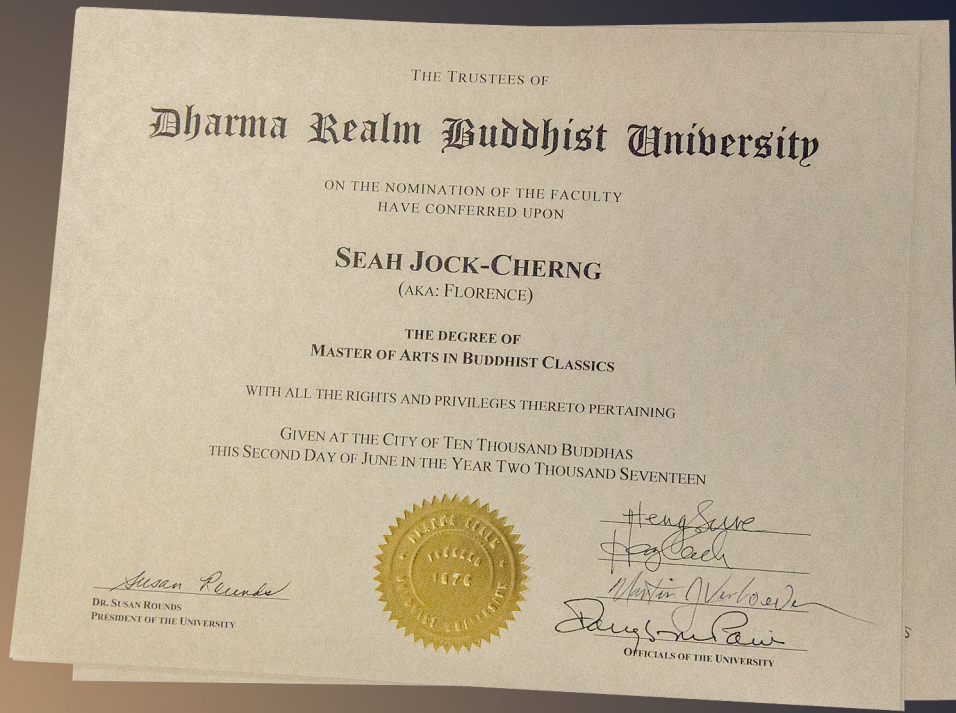
Meghan Sweet said, "I've never found a community of people before who are so sincere, wholesome, kind, thoughtful and dedicated to their purpose. The texts are wonderful and inspiring, but if it were not for the people here who bring it to life in their minds and hearts, it would just be another book on a shelf for me."

Yuen-Lin Tan (the only male student of this graduating class) expressed his gratitude to the teachers and staff who had exerted painstaking efforts for this program. He said, "The teachers, staff, and the many hardworking people have given us a great gift. It is now up to us to take this knowledge and deepen it, embody it, and put it to use for ourselves and others."

The keynote speaker is Jacob Needleman, Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University. He has published many books and has been general editor of famous philosophical publications. Professor Needleman said that he and a friend had met Venerable Master when Venerable Master was still in the world. Upon entering the Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas, he felt the ten thousand Buddha statues represent a force of protection and blessing all around and inside of us. The ancient cosmos is full of meaning. There is the outer cosmos. There is the inner cosmos of the human being which is the energy of consciousness, attention, perception, and so forth, and it can heal the world. We are born to search for meaning beyond ourselves. Part of the human structure is to love and to serve.

When the graduating students in succession received their diploma, not only did they receive the blessings from their elders, teachers, friends, and family, but behind them were the statues of Sudhana and the Dragon Girl offering a pearl. They are also giving their blessing: "Sudhana seeks the Way by visiting many Wise Advisors; the Dragon Girl offers her pearl to quickly become a Buddha."

Five members of DRBU Board of Trustees, Dharma Master Heng Sure, Dharma Master Heng Chih (Chair of the Board), Susan Rounds,



Martin Verhoeven and Doug Powers signed on their diploma. Dharma Realm Buddhist University has been awarded Candidacy for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission. Once DRBU receives accreditation, the diploma of this year's graduates will also be accredited. ❁



五位法大校董恒實法師、恒持法師（校董會主席）、校長蘇珊·朗思（果載）、馬汀·衛何文（果廷）、道格·鮑爾（果勒）在他們的畢業證書上簽名。法大目前已具美國西區大學聯盟認證候選資格，一旦通過最後的認證評估，今年的畢業生的學歷也將獲得認證資格。❁

