

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Celebrates 2020 Commencement

法界佛教大學2020年畢業典禮

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On 6 June 2020, during the coronavirus pandemic shelter-in-place, a commencement ceremony for the DRBU Class of 2020 was held via a video conference with the community, families and friends. Despite the physical distancing, the DRBU commencement committee brought everyone together online with a thoughtful, creative and heartfelt program. In her welcoming speech, Dr. Sue Rounds, the President of DRBU, expressed her confidence in and gratitude for the resiliency of the DRBU community in this time of uncertainty. Rev. Heng Sure encouraged the graduates to continue their journey by “following affinities, making wholesome ties,” and sang the song “Better Times Will Come” in both English and Chinese. Dr. Martin Verhoeven, Dean of Academic Affairs, spoke about Venerable Master Hsuan Hua having planted deep roots of both scholarship and virtue in the foundation of

2020年6月6日，在美國新冠病毒大流行而居家避疫期間，通過視頻會議，法界大學與社區、家人和朋友們一道舉行了2020年畢業典禮。雖然大家異地相隔，法界大學畢業典禮委員會通過周到、富有創意又溫馨的節目安排，使大家在網上歡聚一堂。

蘇珊·朗思博士，法界大學校長，在歡迎辭中表達了她對在這一前景不明的時期，法大全體成員的適應能力充滿信心和感激。

實法師鼓勵畢業生們以「隨緣，又廣結善緣」繼續他們的旅程，並用中英文演唱了歌曲「更好時光將來到」。

教務長馬丁·維荷文博士談到了宣公上人已將學識與美德兩個根深植於法界大學的基礎之中。在這個動盪的時代，這一點既帶來新知，又富有改良力，歷久而彌新。

學務長比丘尼恒良法師強調了將仇恨轉為慈悲心的重要性，以及如何做到要靠我們每個人。她分享了宣公上人於一九八七年在萬佛聖城舉行第一次世界宗教會議時發生的一則故事。當時，有一群人在聖城山門外抗議，因為他們認為佛教是邪惡的。上人到山門去邀請他們進來休息。當一位抗議者在會議上對參會者說：「我信仰耶穌，只有祂才能拯救我們。」上人指著他，用英文說：「我信仰你。」



法界佛教大學 2019-2020 Stan Shoptaugh 攝影
DRBU 2019-2020 Photos by Stan Shoptaugh

DRBU, which was informative and transformative, and timeless and timely in these tumultuous times. Dharma Master Heng Liang, Dean of Students, emphasized the importance of turning the spirit of hatred into the spirit of compassion, and how doing so lies within each of us. She shared a story about Venerable Master Hsuan Hua during the first conference of world religions held at CTTB in 1987. A group of people were protesting outside the CTTB gate because they believed that Buddhism was evil. The Venerable Master went to the gate and invited them to come inside to rest. When one of the protestors spoke to the attendees at the conference, saying “I believe in Jesus and only He can save us,” the Venerable Master pointed to him and said in English, “I believe in you.” Doug Powers, Vice President, reminded us to not merely see the differences in people but to trust the basic human goodness in everyone. DRBU resident photographer Stan Shoptaugh put together a slideshow of DRBU 2019-2020, which brought back many heartwarming memories on campus.

After the intermission with music offered by the graduates, 12 student speakers, including Bhikkhu Jin Wei (MA’20), Bhikshuni Jin Jung (BA’20), Bhikshuni Jin Tyan (MA’20), Bhikshuni Jin An (Translation Certificate’20), and eight other students, expressed their deep gratitude for their learning and growth at DRBU and CTTB, and their concerns for the world. MA graduates shared a video of the entire cohort of 11 students, who originally came from seven countries, saying “thank you” in English or their native tongues to the teachers and the DRBU community. Christine Buck (MA’20), who met Venerable Master Hsuan Hua in 1974 and became a disciple thereafter, articulated a sense of responsibility

副校長鮑果勒提醒大家，不僅要看到人與人之間的差異，也要信任每個人都有的人性本善。

法界大學駐校攝影師 Stan Shoptaugh 製作並放映了法界大學 2019 至 2020 學年的幻燈片，讓大家重溫了校園許多溫馨的回憶。

中場休息時播放了畢業生們提供的音樂。之後，十二位學生代表致辭，表達了他們對能在法界大學和萬佛聖城學習及成長的深深的謝意，及他們對世界現狀的關注。這些學生代表包括：2020 年碩士班比丘近威師，碩士班比丘尼近田師，本科班比丘尼近中師，翻譯證書班比丘尼近安師及其他八名學生。

碩士畢業生們分享了一個所有十一名畢業生的視頻。在視頻中，這些來自七個國家的畢業生用英文或母語對法界大學的老師們和全體成員說「謝謝！」

2020 年碩士畢業生克莉絲汀·巴克她發言表達了對弘揚佛法 and 減輕世界痛苦的責任感。克莉絲汀·巴克在一九七四年見到宣公上人，並隨後拜上人為師。2020 年碩士畢業生黃慧萱創建了一個文件，列出了相關信息供人們參與「黑人的命也是命」運動。2020 年本科畢業





to carry on the teachings of the Dharma and help relieve the suffering of the world. Xuan Ooi (MA'20) created a document that listed information for people to get involved in the Black Lives Matter Movement. In her love letter to the world, Kristina Zavaleta (BA'20) urged the audience, "Do not turn your back on the people who have suffered tremendous losses from the coronavirus. Do not turn your back on your black brothers and sisters who are more likely to experience police brutality.... Do not turn your back on the destruction of our ecosystems and all the lives they hold." Other student speakers were: Kathleen Irby (BA'20), Trevor Yoho (BA'20), Justin Lee (MA'20), Lupita Vives (MA'20) and Sophie Wu (MA'20). After group photos were taken online, the commencement committee gave the graduates a surprise gift, a digital yearbook on the DRBU website, where graduates each have a page for the larger DRBU community to write comments and wishes for them. Then, each graduate was celebrated as their names were called by Dr. Sue Rounds, and everyone else cheered for them. The ceremony ended with Bhikshuni Heng Liang leading the Dedication of Merit. "May all who sorrow leave their grief and pain; may this boundless light dispel the darkness of their endless night.... May all become compassionate and wise."

While an online celebration can never match the intimate quality of an in-person one, this commencement was truly a gem, which will rest in the hearts of all the graduates of the Class of 2020 for a lifetime.



生Kristina Zavaleta在給全世界的愛心書中敦促讀者：「不要捨棄那些因冠狀病毒而損失巨大的人們。不要捨棄那些更可能遭受警察暴行的黑人兄弟姐妹們……。不要無視對生態系統及其所支持的所有生命的破壞。」其他的學生發言者包括：2020年本科畢業生Kathleen Irby、和Trevor Yoho，2020年碩士畢業生李伯欣、Lupita Vives和吳夢笑。

在網上拍攝集體照後，畢業典禮委員會贈送畢業生們一個令他們驚喜的禮物——法界大學網站上的數位畢業紀念冊，每位畢業生都有一頁供法大全體成員給他們寫留言和祝福。之後，蘇珊·朗思博士叫每位畢業生的名字，大家為他們喝彩、祝賀。畢業典禮在比丘尼恒良法師領眾迴向中結束。「願所有悲傷者擺脫悲傷和痛苦；願這無邊光明驅散他們漫漫長夜的黑暗。……願所有眾生慈悲、有智慧。」

儘管在線慶祝活動永遠比不上親臨現場的慶典，但這一畢業典禮確實是一塊瑰寶，它將永存於2020年所有畢業生的心中。❀

