

# Reflections of DRBU 2021 Convocation and Student Life

## 法大2021年開學典禮與學生生活的省思

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On August 13, DRBU Convocation 2021 started with words from President Susan A. Rounds, “Great adversities call for great virtue.” Her words resonated with everyone as we reflected on various adversities that we had overcome in order to gather for this new school year. Susan’s noble call for “virtue” set a tone for the rest of the convocation. Faculty members welcomed new students and introduced themselves with a smile behind their facemasks. Consequently, new students went up to the stage to introduce themselves. We, new students, also shared a theme or a word of the day as we introduced ourselves. After the formal ceremony, students gathered around the DRBU courtyard to get to know other members of the community.

For me, personally, the convocation was a great opportunity to see everyone from the campus community together. With the openness of faculty and students, I got acquainted with almost everyone who was present at the convocation. During my conversations, I was interested to know the reasons they

2021年8月13日，法大開學典禮以校長蘇珊·朗思的致詞展開：「嚴重的困境需要偉大的德行以對。」校長的話引起我們每個人的共鳴，尤其是回想起我們排除萬難，才能在新的學年度和大家共聚一堂。校長的「德行說」為這項開學典禮定下基調。法大師長歡迎新生並自我介紹時，紛紛面帶笑容，只是笑容藏在口罩之後。接著，新生上台自我介紹。我們這些新生在自我介紹時，也和大家分享今日一字或一主題。正式的典禮結束後，學生們聚集在法大庭院互相認識。

對我個人而言，這項開學典禮是很好的機會，可以認識我們這個大家庭的成員。因為師生彼此坦誠以待，所有出席開學典禮的人，我差不多都認識了。



chose to come to DRBU. The first thing that I noticed was that people came from varied backgrounds. And yet, most people came for somewhat similar reasons. It was exciting to hear people's stories. Some people had come from their year-long travel in India. Some had flown thousands of miles from the other part of the world. Some of us drove all the way across the US to finally arrive at DRBU!

Our reasons for coming here were not as different as our backgrounds. Most students shared that they came here to truly improve themselves. As I'm writing this, we have already spent several weeks some time at campus after the convocation. I can already see that the program really challenges one on a fundamental way to look at everyday habits and conditions. If one closely reads the texts and earnestly engages in conversations, there is no way this process does not improve the person.

So far, I have noticed that "reflection" is a huge part of living in a community here. Whether it is through meditation, discussion, reciting, or even casual conversation, we are reflecting on ourselves and the nature of the world around us every day. In addition to reflection, community work seems to be a big part of DRBU life. Students cultivate the art of working harmoniously with others as the work life can often involve tackling various situations together.

The openness and authenticity of students and faculty make some aspects of the life at DRBU quite smooth. It does, on the other hand, challenge one to go deeper into self-reflection, inquiry, and reading the texts, which bring about their own sets of challenges that force one to grow. ❀

在交談中，我對大家選擇來到法大的理由深感興趣。我首先注意到的是，每個人都來自不同的背景；然而，絕大部分的人都是因為相似的原因前來。聽到每個人的故事都很令人感到興奮。有些人在印度旅行一年後來法大唸書；有些人遠從數千哩之外的地球另一面搭機前來；還有些人則是開車橫越全美，最後落腳法大。

我們來此的緣由還沒有我們的背景那麼不同。大部分學生分享說，他們來法大是為了真正改進自我。當我寫下本文時，我們在開學典禮後，已在學校待了一段時間。我能看到法大的學程是從根本上挑戰學生，讓學生審視自己的習性和狀況。如果學生仔細研讀課文，認真與人交流，這樣的過程不可能不讓一個人自我改進。

到目前為止，我已注意到「省思」是住在這個大家庭裡很重要的一部分。不論是透過打坐、討論、持誦、或者只是閒聊，我們都在自我省思，也省思每天圍繞我們的這個世界的本質。除了省思之外，社區服務似乎也佔了法大生活的一大比例。學生們要修的是與人和諧共事的藝術，因為我們的工作經常必須共同面對不同情境的挑戰。

師生之間的坦誠以待使得法大生活的某些方面進行得非常順利。另一方面，這也使得我們要深入自我省思、質疑，並閱讀課文，這又為我們帶來一堆挑戰，推動我們成長。❀