

# Dharma Realm Buddhist University Celebrates 2023 Commencement

## 2023年法界佛教大學畢業典禮

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On May 20, 2023, Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) held its 2023 commencement ceremony. The ceremony took place in-person at the Sudhana Center in downtown Ukiah, making its first return to this venue since before the Covid pandemic. The DRBU Board of Trustees, together with the faculty, awarded degrees to four undergraduate students, fourteen graduate students, and two translation certificate students.

DRBU President Susan Rounds acknowledged the graduates for being valiant pioneers as DRBU navigated the covid pandemic. The BA students spent

2023年5月20日，法界佛教大學在位於瑜伽市中心的善財參學中心舉行了2023年畢業典禮。這是自新冠疫情以來第一次重返善財參學中心舉辦畢業典禮。法大董事會與教職員工一起為4名本科生、14名研究生頒發了學位，也為2名佛經翻譯研修班學生頒發了證書。

法大校長果載居士（蘇珊·朗思）對畢業生們作為法大疫情時期勇敢的先鋒表示謝忱。這一屆的本科畢業生們在Zoom上遠程完成了大三的學業，而後在大四與碩士班學生們一起重返校園。校長果載居士分享道：「你們都已經成為了採集鼻拭子、戴口罩、保持社交距離和遵守防疫規定的藝術大師。」與此同時，「你們在課堂上完成了高難度

their sophomore year on Zoom and came back in person their junior year, joining the MA students. “You have all become masters at the art of nasal swabbing, mask wearing, social distancing, and protocol following,” President Rounds shared. All the while, “you did the difficult work in your classes. You asked the hard questions... You pushed yourselves to be vulnerable, to listen respectfully to your peers, and to work together to uncover what lay for you in the text.”

The commencement speaker was Preeta D. Bansal, J.D.. Bansal is a graduate of Harvard Law who served as a law clerk for the United States Supreme Court and served in both the Clinton and Obama administrations. She was a leader of President Obama’s advisory committee on faith-based and neighborhood partnerships, focusing on poverty and inequality in America. She now devotes her time to civic and philanthropic endeavors, spiritual practice, and grassroots network models of change.

Bansal acknowledged the families, ancestors and loved ones, near and far, who “set in motion and nurtured the ripples that allow us to be here today.”

While Bansal has had a very successful career, she reflected that “The truth is, I, and others like me, who have walked the realms of so called external and societal power, have so much to learn from each of you. It’s you who have had the foresight, as well as the insight, to set off the beaten path, and to choose to study at a remarkable institution like this—an exceptional incubator of wisdom and virtue.”

She encouraged the graduating students to reflect upon the following ancient wisdom, transmitted through the Venerable Master Hua: “off by an inch in the beginning, off by ten thousand miles at the end.” Working in the big, complex, institutions of our modern era, it can be difficult to discern when something is misaligned. “Nevertheless, we each are called to continuously evaluate our work, not by its impact but by our sense of joy and sense of alignment with it, and to recalibrate what’s off by an inch for each of us,” she said.

Many graduating students gave speeches, reflecting on their time at DRBU and offering gratitude. Graduating

的工作。你們提出了深刻的問題……你們真誠勇敢地打開了你們的心，尊重地傾聽他人，並共同努力揭示經典中為你們深藏的含義。」

此次畢業典禮的演講嘉賓是法學博士普雷塔·班塞爾（Preeta D. Bansal, J.D.）。班塞爾畢業於哈佛大學法學院，曾擔任美國最高法院的法律助理，並曾在克林頓和奧巴馬政府任職。她是奧巴馬總統關於信仰和社區伙伴關係的諮詢委員會的領導者，專注於美國的貧困和不平等問題。現在，她將時間投入於公民和慈善事業、精神修持和基層變革模式。

班塞爾感謝遠近的家人、祖先和摯愛——是他們「啟動並培育了讓我們今天能夠在這裡的漣漪。」

儘管班塞爾曾經擁有非常成功的職業生涯，但她反思道：「事實上，我和其他像我一樣走過所謂外在在社會權力領域的人，有太多可以向你們每個人學習的地方。正是你們具有遠見和真知灼見，踏上了不平凡的道路，選擇在這樣一個傑出的學府學習——一個卓越的智慧與美德的孵化器。」

她鼓勵畢業生們深思以下傳承自宣公上人的古老智慧：「差之毫釐，謬之千里。」在現代社會大而複雜的機構中工作，我們可能很難辨別什麼時候出現了錯位。「儘管如此，我們每個人都有被感召來不斷地評估我們的工作——不根據其影響力，而是根據我們內心的喜悅和契合感——並調整我們每個人偏差的每一毫釐。」班塞爾說道。

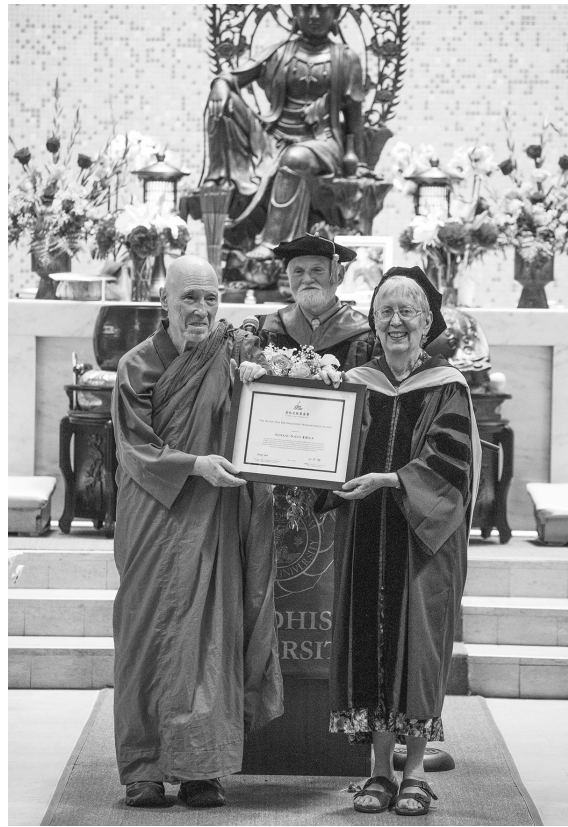
許多畢業生發表了演講，回顧他們在法大的時光並表達感激之情。本科畢業生菲尼克斯·溫特斯（Phoenix Winters）說道：「這所學校一直待我很友善和有益。我不認為我能夠在其它任何大學做得這麼好或成長得這麼多。」本科畢業生奎恩·安德森（Quinn Anderson）分享道，這所大學「為學生們創造了一個有意義和影響力的生活。這種生活與標準化教育所倡導的以生產力為核心有著質的區別。它讓學生們找到了一個完全屬於自己的空間，一個能讓自己完全沉浸在自己本有的內在美德與力量的空間。它加深並轉化人際關係。」

碩士畢業生桑朱·巴拉爾（Sanju Baral）表

BA student Phoenix Winters said, “This school has been so kind and beneficial to me. I don’t think I could have done nearly so well or grown so much at another university.” Graduating BA student Quinn Anderson said the university “creates for its students a life of purpose and of impact. A life that is qualitatively different from standardized education aimed mostly at productivity. It allows students to find a space to be wholly in themselves, in their own innate virtue and power. It deepens and transforms relationships.” Graduating MA student Sanju Baral said, “I think being in this cohort, which is so diverse, we all learned what it takes to have a civilized and meaningful conversation when other people in the room are very different than us.” Graduating MA student Ziqian Feng shared, “I became more in touch with my inner confidence and independence, and I also learned to forgive more, to be more accepting of differences, to care from a more genuine and clear place, and to cherish each other without holding on too much.”

Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi was awarded the Hsuan Hua Distinguished Humanities Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the global Buddhist community, as an exemplary bhikkhu, practitioner, scholar, author and translator. Dean of Academics Martin Verhoeven said the award is given to outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to promoting virtue, goodness, and understanding in the contemporary world through any and all fields of human endeavor. The award happened to be given on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi’s ordination as a bhikkhu. Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi led the spring semester Contemplative Immersion Exercise week at DRBU in the days leading up to graduation and was present in-person to receive his award.

The commencement ceremony ended with the singing of “Dedication of Merit,” group photos, and a reception. ❀



Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi was awarded the Hsuan Hua Distinguished Humanities Award.

長老菩提比丘被授予宣化卓越人文獎。

示：「我認為在如此一個多元化的學生群體中，我們都學會了如何與其他和我們非常不同的人進行有禮貌且有意義的對話。」碩士畢業生馮子倩分享道：「我更加接觸到了自己內在的信心和獨立性，也學會了寬容多一些，對於互相之間不一樣的地方接受多一些，從一個更真實和清晰的源點關心他人，和少一點執著地珍惜彼此。」

在畢業典禮現場，長老菩提比丘（Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi）被授予宣化卓越人文獎，以表彰他作為一名模範比丘、修行者、學者、作家及翻譯家對全球佛教界的傑出貢獻。教務長馬丁·維荷文（Martin Verhoeven）表示，該獎項是頒發給通過任何和所有人類領域為在當今社會促進美德、善良和理解做出重要貢獻的傑出人士。頒獎當日正是長老菩提比丘受具足比丘戒的50週年之日。在畢業典禮前的幾天，長老菩提比丘在法大主持了春季學期的觀照修行週；在畢業典禮當日，長老菩提比丘親臨現場並接受了頒獎。

畢業典禮在唱誦功德迴向、合影留念及招待會中結束。❀