

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Welcomes New Students and Launches 2023-2024 Academic Year

法界佛教大學展開2023-2024新學年迎接新生

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Amid the heat of late summer in the Ukiah Valley, Dharma Realm Buddhist University came alive with the arrival of new students and the return of dedicated faculty and staff.

This year, DRBU welcomed twenty-six new students from twelve different countries spread across four continents: Oceania, North America, Asia, and Africa. From the USA, students came from as close as the Bay Area and as far as the East Coast.

“It was inspiring to finally meet the new students in-person after supporting them in their admissions process,” said Hasan Friggle, Associate Director of Recruiting and Enrollment. “Some of the younger students got on planes for the first time, leaving their hometowns to make their way to DRBU.”

The new students began their DRBU journey with a week-long orientation program designed to acquaint them with the DRBU way of life. Throughout the week, the new students delved into the foundations of DRBU, exploring the institution’s mission statement, community guidelines, and discussion-based pedagogy, all while finding time to tour campus and get to know one another. The week culminated in the Convocation ceremony, a rite of passage that marks the students’ formal induction into the DRBU community.

Faculty and staff were also engaged in their own preparations for the start of the year. The Fall University Retreat gave

瑜伽谷的夏末，暑意仍熾，然而隨著新生的報到，和敬業的教職員重返校園，法界佛教大學充滿了生機。

今年，法大26名新生來自12個不同的國家，遍佈四大洲：大洋洲、北美洲、亞洲、和非洲。而美國境內的新生，近的來自舊金山灣區，遠的來自美東。

「在支援招生過程後，最終能親自見到新生真是令人鼓舞。」錄取註冊處副主任哈桑·弗里格爾說：「有些年輕的學生還是第一次坐飛機，離鄉背井前來法大就讀。」

新生們藉著為期一週的迎新活動和新生訓練開始了法大之旅，藉此熟悉法大的生活方式。在這一週中，新生們深入研究法大的基礎知識，探索本校的宗旨、團體生活準則和以討論為主的教學方式，同時抽出時間參觀校園並相互了解。開學典禮是本週的壓軸項目，這是標誌著學生正式成為法大這個大家庭成員的儀式。

faculty and staff a chance to bond, introspect, and realign themselves with DRBU's mission.

Recent graduate and new staff member Sanju Baral reflected, "It was my first DRBU University retreat. We started with a shared inquiry on Borges's poems. It was fascinating to be in a shared inquiry circle with faculty and staff, some of them my professors from only a couple of months ago. Dharma Master Jin Jr led the circle, saying that shared inquiry is as much about deep and active listening as it is about sharing your ideas. We had a fun game where we got to write about each other, which created an atmosphere of appreciation and being appreciated. We came up with ideas to make this academic year more meaningful; everyone shared their intentions for this year. Overall, the University retreat felt like a retreat—relaxing, bonding, and rejuvenating."

In the midst of this vibrant beginning, DRBU's President Susan Rounds also embarked on a new term as president, marking the continuation of her commitment to the university's mission. Reflecting on her journey, she shared her roots tracing back to the late 1970s when Master Hua first founded and laid the foundation for DRBU.

Dr. Rounds shared, "I was inspired by the Master's broad and comprehensive vision for an institution that would do more than simply convey knowledge and confer degrees but would take as its mission the development of its students' wisdom and character in order to benefit the world." She continued, "It has been an unanticipated blessing and privilege to return to the university so many years later, and to be a part of the next stage of the grand educational enterprise that Master Hua envisioned. His teachings on the importance of using wisdom, compassion, unselfishness, and generosity as guiding principles for life and work continue to provide the strong foundation for what DRBU is now and for what it will become in the future."

As another school year begins, DRBU continues to evolve, honoring the legacy of Master Hua and fostering the growth of global citizens guided by compassion and wisdom. ☸

教職員也都為新學年而準備。秋季大學靜修活動為教職員提供了一個聯繫、反思和重新調整自己，以配合法界佛教大學使命的機會。

法大新進職員珊菊·芭拉兒今年夏天才剛從法大畢業，她表示：「這是我第一次參加法大靜修。我們首先共同探討了博爾赫斯的詩。與教職員一起參與共同的探究圈是一件很有趣的事情，其中一些還是我幾個月前的教授。近智師領導了這個圈子，她說共同探究既是深入、積極的傾聽，也要分享你的想法。我們玩了一個有趣的遊戲，我們互相描述對方，這營造了一種欣賞（別人優點）和被欣賞的氛圍。我們提出了一些想法，讓這個學年變得更有意義；每個人都必須分享他們今年的構想。總的來說，大學靜修實際上感覺就像是一次真正的靜修——放鬆、聯繫和恢復活力。」

在這個充滿活力的開學季裡，法大校長蘇珊·朗思（果載居士）也開始了新的校長連任任期，標誌著她繼續致力於大學的使命。回顧自己的歷程，她分享了自己和法大的因緣，可追溯到20世紀70年代末，當時宣公上人初創法大並奠定基礎。

朗思博士分享道：「上人對（高教）機構的廣泛而全面的願景啟發了我，這所大學不僅傳授知識和授予學位，而且以發展學生的智慧和品格為己任，以造福全世界。」她接著說：「多年後重返大學，並成為宣公上人前瞻的宏偉教育事業下一階段的一部分，是我意想不到的祝福和榮幸。上人以智慧、慈悲、無私和慷慨，作為生活和工作指導原則的教誨，繼續為法大的現在和未來，提供堅實的基礎。」

又一個學年開始，法大繼續發展，弘揚宣公上人大願，為這個世界培育造就慈悲又智慧的公民。☸