Dear Alumni,

During these challenging times in the world, Rinpoche, the monastery, and Rangjung Yeshe Institute were wondering how all of you are doing. Please let us know if there are any ways in which we can support you.

As you know, RYI completed its spring semester classes online and is continuing its summer classes online, and also RYI’s support staff remains available to you. Please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Also, as a reminder: Given the present Covid-19 situation, RYI and Rinpoche’s activities have made new online resources available to support everyone at home. Please enjoy:

https://www.ryi.org/online-resources
https://shedrub.org/news/onlineressources/

Warmly
Tina Lang

Head of Student Services
Student.services@ryi.org
OUR ALUMNI OFFER

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?

- Discount offer for certain online courses - [https://www.ryi.org/alumni](https://www.ryi.org/alumni)
- Continued access to the RYI Library
- Access to the new Dharmachakra Library
- Career support
- Networking and invitation to events
- Invitation to join RYI Student Society Club activities
- Assistance with the replacement of KU certificates and transcripts.

Contact [admin@ryi.org](mailto:admin@ryi.org)

- Access to RYI Alumni Services
- Access to volunteering opportunities at Gomde Centers and Dharma Houses
HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

- Engaging with RYI in a way meaningful to you
- As a scholar, giving guest lectures, weekend workshops, and much more.
- As an employee, looking to work with us
- As an employer, looking for graduates with particular expertise
- As an expert, for example, offering staff training for our employees
- Becoming a research affiliate
- Mentoring or volunteering to support students or staff
- Giving career talks
- Organizing alumni events
- Providing placement and opportunities for our students
- Engaging with us on social media
- Writing an article for our newsletter
- Fundraising
- Donating to RYI [https://www.ryi.org/get-involved/giving](https://www.ryi.org/get-involved/giving)
- Supporting students in need, for example, by donating towards scholarships or creating new scholarships
- Fundraising for or donating to the RYI alumni fund

CONTACT

- [student.services@ryi.org](mailto:student.services@ryi.org)
EVENTS

ALUMNI DINNER NOVEMBER 2019

This academic year’s annual alumni dinner in Boudha was held at the monastery’s new restaurant, Utpala Cafe. Approximately 50 alumni and staff spent a wonderful evening making new friends and renewing old friendships, enjoying the cozy atmosphere and a delicious dinner. RYI Principal, Philippe Turenne, welcomed everyone and gave a short presentation on RYI’s new developments.

Please mark your calendars for next year’s alumni dinner, which will happen again during the annual fall seminar (circumstances allowing). It would also be wonderful if some of you could have online get-togethers and events with former RYI students and staff. If you do, please send a photo and a few words about it to student.services@ryi.org, so I can share it with all alumni.

Thank you.
CONVOCATION CEREMONY 2019

Congratulations to our new graduates!

Front row (left to right): Pemba Prayag Sherpa (BA), Choki Gurung (BA), Sangay Gyalmo Ongdi (BA), Laxmi Bajracharya (BA).

Back row: Gilad Yakir (BA), Rebecca Sunden (BA), Maria Vasylieva (MA), Wesley Oisebe (BA)

Not in photo: Sujeet Sharma (BA), Gonzalo Perilhou (MA), Robert Offner (MA) and Isobel Jones (BA)
OPENING OF NEW RYI RESEARCH LIBRARY

During the fall seminar 2019, Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, together with our Principal, Philippe Turenne, opened the Dharmachakra Library, RYI’s new research library which is next to the Utpala Cafe. Both Rinpoche and Philippe emphasized that this library will contain primarily Buddhist scriptures in canonical languages. Our hope is that the Dharmachakra library will become a center for scholars interested in the study of Buddhist languages and the study of Buddhist canonical materials.

For more photos, please visit https://shedrub.org/news/inauguration-of-the-new-dharmachakra-library-of-rangjung-yeshe-institute/
NEWS

SUMMER COURSES 2020 - AVAILABLE AS DISTANCE LEARNING

In light of the current Covid-19 situation in the world and recent travel restrictions, and in order to proactively ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community, RYI has decided that the RYI Summer Program will be provided as distance learning online.

Registration for all courses is now open until June 7. As enrollment for some courses will be capped at a maximum number of students, we encourage students to register early to reserve their spot in a given course. To register and to find out more information, visit our main summer program page by clicking here.

All courses will take place from June 10 to August 7 and will be offered with both for-credit and not-for-credit options and run for eight weeks. RYI will offer a 50% discount on the regular tuition rate.
RYI STUDENT SOCIETY
Focus on Environment

With growing concern over the climate crisis, Rangjung Yeshe Institute students and faculty have made a dedicated effort to finding local solutions. In September, the film “The Way Out” was screened with nearly 50 students in attendance. A group discussion of the interdependence of philosophy, community, and environmental ethics followed. This marked the official start of the RYI Environmental Protection Committee.

In October, Mr. Govinda Sharma was invited to give a public lecture at Utpala Cafe on permaculture; theory and practice. Mr. Govinda is renowned for his contribution to sustainable agriculture in Nepal. At the beginning of November students were invited to attend a workshop to calculate their CO2 emissions, particularly those generated by jet aircraft. Also in November, a second composting and recycling seminar was held for students and staff. At the end of November students collaborated with monastics from KNSL to collect over 50 bags of trash from the grounds of the monastery and surrounding areas.

The last event of the semester was a flea market, hosted to encourage students to recycle and choose pre-owned, over new goods. This event was the inspiration for the Shenpen Flea Market Fundraiser held February 2020. Students and other community members brought in lightly used goods, which were resold at the Saturday market. In one single day, 100,000 NPR was raised for the various education initiatives which Shenpen promotes.

For regular updates, please check the RYI Environmental Protection Committee website. [https://ryiss.org/2020/01/16/environmental-protection-committee/]
Thank You, Andy!

Since 2017 Andy Hallahan has served our student body as a representative and more recently as the Head of the RYI Student Society. During this time the Student Society restructured, developed new, extended guidelines, and has become very active with a great variety of clubs. Andy’s style was very inclusive, and he was able to encourage many students to become more engaged and contribute to the student body, staff, alumni, as well as the broader community of Nepal. Andy is now focusing on finishing his MA thesis, and therefore passed on his leadership role to other representatives of the Student Society.

Message from the New Head of Student Society, Rachel See:

If we have not met yet, let me introduce myself: My name is Rachel. I grew up in a rural village setting in the United States. Now I am a resident of the State of Hawaii. I’m relatively new to Buddhist studies. In the past I studied Ethnobotany and Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaii. For many years I have worked in the fields of conservation, sustainability and environmental education.

This year the Student Society is lucky to have another enthusiastic group of student leaders. We are orienting most of our events around community volunteer work and environmentalism. The Student Society is also focused on providing increased support to local and foreign students. So far this year we have hosted a bike ride to Nagarkot, and a flea market fundraiser for Rangjung Yeshe Shenpen. Many more events are currently in the works - including a lunch time Language Improvement Club, Tibetan Debate Club, Art Retreat, and trip to view the Prajñā Pāramitā.
RYI FLEDGLING TRANSLATORS AT ANNUAL NGONDRO RETREAT

For the month of January, 16 of RYI’s alumni, students, and staff attended the annual Ngondro Retreat at Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling monastery. Laxmi Bajracharya reported that 600 people attended this retreat, where they spent several days studying and practicing together each of the preliminary practices of the Chokling Tersar’s Barchey Kunsel cycle. Rinpoche and the monastery not only guided the retreat and provided the space, but they also offered free teachings, some practice materials, and breakfast and lunch for all participants. We are especially proud of RYI’s Laxmi Bajracharya, Birat Bajracharya, Karma Tashi (Bhuwan Tamang), Phuntsok Dolma, Luoxi Yang, and Victor Roithmann, who helped to translate into Nepalese, English, and Chinese. The next one-month Ngondro Retreat will probably start again around Christmas 2020 and promises to be particularly special, as Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche aims to guide retreatants as much as possible. If you are interested, look at Rinpoche’s Facebook page in fall 2020 for more details on registration.
International retreatants our RYI students and staff translated for
Pranav Narayan Manadhar, one of our former one-year Certificate Course students, had entered his film, “Portrait of MaNe” at the Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival. This sensitive and nuanced portrait of a young alcoholic man, MaNe, premiered at the 2019 festival. “Portrait of MaNe” won Best Documentary Nepal Panorama award in KIMFF 2019! The film is available here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrpedQs_B29A. Congratulations, Pranav!
RYI alumnus and language instructor, Andrew Krakower, wrote and directed “Yarne,” a short film starring the monks of Choky Nyima Rinpoche’s Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling monastery. Cinematography was provided by DharmaSun administrator, Michael Eisenbach.

“Yarne” was selected to compete for an Oscar-qualifying jury prize at the 2019 Austin Film Festival. The film has since been selected by numerous film festivals and on April 14th, won a prize at the 53rd annual Houston International WorldFest, qualifying Yarne for a Canadian Screen Award. After “Yarne” has completed its festival tour, it will be made available to the public.

Follow “Yarne” for the most up-to-date info on screenings.
https://www.facebook.com/yarnefilm/
https://www.instagram.com/yarnefilm/
Website: https://yarnefilm.com/
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p-PnXUEPrg

Just for Fun - Fr. Greg’s “15 Minutes of Movie Fame”

This fall, our dear Professor Gregory Sharkey has been the entertainment on Nepal Airlines flights! He was featured in a documentary about the Kumari and Newar Buddhism, which is from a French television series called Enquête d’ailleurs. This episode is titled “Kumaris, les enfants-dieux du Népal”. Several friends sent photo shots of the movie screens on their flight.
Alba Curos, one of our regular summer and online students, filmed the 50-minute documentary “The Goddesses of Dharavi” in Mumbai. Alba received the Award of Recognition at the Hollywood International Independent Documentary awards in September 2018, and the Best Film Editor (documentary) and Best Story (documentary) awards at the 6th Darbhanga International Film Festival Awards in 2019. Recently, this documentary won the Best Documentary award at the 2020 Lakecity International Film Festival Awards in New Delhi. The documentary is filmed in Asia’s largest slum, Dharavi. It explains the story of three girls who through great effort want to pursue their dream to become Bollywood stars. Congratulations, Alba, we are so proud of you! Through the following link, you can watch this brilliant documentary www.albacurosvisuals.com/goddessesofdharavi.

Would you like to share some news about yourself, other alumni, or former staff? We would love to share more information here in this newsletter. Please email student.services@ryi.org.
STAY CONNECTED

Update your contact information:

Please contact us at admin@ryi.org to do so. Keeping your contact information up to date will allow us to send you our bi-annual newsletters and other important news.

Are you interested in staying connected with other activities of Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche?

Would you like to find out if there is a Dharma center, a practice or study group near you? Please check out www.shedrub.org or contact Tina, Head of Student Services at student.services@ryi.org. Furthermore, you are welcome to sign up for the newsletter of Rinpoche’s activities and the student photo site for Rinpoche at https://shedrub.org/connected/.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF FURTHER STUDIES AT RYI?

RYI offers two Master’s programs, a PhD program, as well as a Translator Training Program. If you are interested in any of these, please visit https://www.ryi.org/programs/graduate
https://www.ryi.org/programs/translator-training