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Dear RYI alumni,

Warm greetings on behalf of everyone at RYI.

I hope you are all safe and healthy and living through the pandemic without too many hardships. I am happy to introduce our Alumni Newsletter for this fall. Despite the difficulties we have been facing since the spring brought the COVID-19 pandemic to Nepal RYI students have been able to complete their semester, and we were able to conduct our summer program online as well as starting the fall semester with a record number of students.

Our administrative staff and faculty have made this possible through their extremely hard work, creativity and dedication, and our students have allowed us to keep going with their own flexibility, understanding, and perseverance.

This kind of crisis makes us rethink our priorities and deep aspirations, and is therefore a great time to reconnect with our community of alumni, current students and staff. I hope the news and teaching videos can rekindle our sense of being together and find meaning during these current difficulties.

I hope you enjoy our alumni newsletter, and hope to be able to be in touch and reconnect in person soon.

With warm wishes,

Philippe Turenne
Principal, RYI
Dear Alumni,

It seems the situation in the world is getting more and more challenging, not only with regards to COVID-19, but many other issues and situations that might be causing you some distress. Please know that Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, our monastery, and Rangjung Yeshe Institute are here to support you during these times. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.

It was wonderful to see so many of you participate in the birthday video for Rinpoche, organized by the RYI Student Society. Rinpoche was very happy to see you all and wishes to thank you for your kind wishes.

Because of the present online format of its classes, RYI is also very excited that quite a few of our alumni are able to enjoy classes again. We hope we can continue to serve you better in the future. Please feel welcome to send your suggestions to us any time.

Also, as a reminder; given the present COVID-19 situation, RYI’s and Rinpoche’s activities have been made available online to support everyone at home. Please enjoy:

https://www.ryi.org/free-online-resources

https://shedrub.org/news/onlineresources/

You are also welcome to also find some support and information here: https://www.ryi.org/covid-19

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)
- Career support
- Networking and invitation to events
- Invitation to join RYI Student Society club activities (also online)
- Become an RYI research affiliate and do your research in Nepal
- Assistance with the replacement of Kathmandu University 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
- Continued access to the RYI library and new Dharmachakra Library once we are back on campus

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 a potential 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 job and internship placements and other 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.service@ryi.org](mailto:student.service@ryi.org)
FALL SEMINAR AND ANNUAL ALUMNI GATHERING

40TH RYI FALL SEMINAR - NOVEMBER 20-24, 2020

We are happy to announce that this year’s topic for the RYI annual fall seminar is Buddha Nature. Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche will teach for five days, beginning on Friday, November 20th and finishing on Tuesday, November 24th, Guru Rinpoche Day. Lama Tenzin will also guide meditation sessions. If you would like to be notified directly about updates on how to join, you can sign up to our newsletter by clicking here. Alternatively, we will be making announcements on our Facebook page. We are looking very much forward to studying and practicing the Dharma with you during this special event.

ANNUAL ALUMNI GATHERING – HELP REQUESTED

Once we learn of more details with regards to the fall seminar, we will decide on the details for the annual alumni gathering. It would be wonderful if some of you could advise or help with planning this event, which will be held for the first time online. Please contact Tina at student.services@ryi.org. Thank you.
NEWS

NEW ALUMNI: CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUDDHIST STUDIES
Andreia Mara Mota De Souza (Ani Jigme Choedzin), August Sundin, Christian Chicorelli, Dedy Irawan, Justin Levine, Kuenga Yarpel, Luoxi Yang, Maitri Berners, Sagnik Dutta Roy, Victor Olin, Haphuong Thi Truong

MASTER OF ARTS BUDDHIST STUDIES
Andrew Hallahan, Rolf Truhitte, Shey Rigel

MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSLATION, TEXTUAL INTERPRETATION, AND PHILOLOGY
David Teasdale, Ellen Johannesen, Jordi Roig
FALL 2020 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS - AS OF OCTOBER 9, 2020

These numbers do not count students enrolled in our regular online program

270 students from 41 countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPAL</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINA</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMANY</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus 30 more countries

Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA PREP</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA BS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA TTIP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERTIFICATE COURSE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON DEGREE</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISITING</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH AFFILIATE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(we have more TTP students but they are enrolled in other programs)

Continents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICA</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPE</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details: nationalities A-Z

Afghanistan 1, Algeria 1, Argentina 2, Australia 9, Austria 3, Bangladesh 2, Belgium 2, Bhutan 4, Bolivia 1, Brazil 3, Canada 12, China 17, Colombia 2, Denmark 1, Finland 1, France 12, Germany 8, India 20, Israel 1, Italy 2, Kazakhstan 1, Malaysia 1, Mexico 3, Nepal 36, Netherlands 2, Norway 1, Peru 1, Poland 1, Portugal 1, Russia 2, Singapore 5, South Korea 1, Spain 7, Sri Lanka 3, Sweden 3, Switzerland 3, Taiwan 1, Ukraine 2, UK 9, USA 74, Vietnam 8
RYI STUDENT SOCIETY – NEW OPPORTUNITIES WHILE STUDYING ONLINE

Warm Greetings to RYI Alumni from the RYI Student Society!

The summer and fall semesters of 2020 have been unlike any before, bringing unusual challenges as well as emerging student leadership as we adjust to our new digital format. In the 2019/2020 school year, the Student Society had one of its most productive and engaging years so far. We are currently re-imagining how to continue to serve students in their creative, scholastic, social/environmental, and personal practice endeavors.

Several online groups have been formed, and are accessible through Teams. Tina Lang leads Chod Practice every Thursday, and Yoga Club is led bimonthly by certified instructor Xinzhen Wang McMinn. We have also hosted one event, “Talk Story” that is intended to highlight individual and collective myth making, and the transformative power of storytelling.

Current student August Sundin has teamed up with exchange student & alumna Jasmijn Olk to host an online Sanskrit Reading group. This series allows participants to prepare translations of various Sanskrit texts and attend a discussion and reading of the text with an expert Sanskritist. Texts and associated lecturers include Divyāvadāna by Joseph LaRose, Ratnākaraśānti on Hevajratantra by Daniel McNamera, and Taming of Maheśvara by Ryan Damron.

Also planned for this fall is Dashain AAYO! - a digital event showcasing the creative/leadership abilities of our local Nepali students. Organized by Raj Kamal Thokar, and aided by numerous other local and foreign students, this event will share the story of Dashain, including guest video specials on preparing local delicacies and making kites. Our tentative date and time is Saturday, October 24th, 6-7:30 pm. For questions, please contact: contact@ryistudentsociety.org.

Many of the RYI public lecture or RYI online events are open to alumni. If you would like to join an event, please email admin@ryi.org for instructions.

The Student Society has a new Facebook page. If you are interested in following updates on this year’s digital events, you can find us at https://www.facebook.com/ryistudentsociety.

We also now have a student led website and digital arts journal! Our new website can be found at this address >> https://ryistudentsociety.org

If you haven’t yet, please visit our digital arts journal, which is also available as a PDF down-
load. This was a collaborative work between students and staff, following the creative vision of Sameer Dhingra.

You will be happy to know that the RYI student community is as strong as ever, and striving to find innovative ways to connect and foster personal growth in these strange times. Do you have content you would like to share with us? If so, you can email us at contact@ryistudentsociety.org. We are especially interested in videos of students playing instruments, visual art, prose, or poetry. If you would like to be published on our Facebook page, please ensure you add your name, what and when you studied at RYI, and specify whether you wish to be published anonymously or with public attribution.

Rachel See
Chief Student Society Representative
contact@ryistudentsociety.org
GUEST LECTURES FOCUSING ON ART

In an effort to build a bridge between textual studies and embodiment of these principles in everyday life, this RYI series of guest lectures focuses on Buddhist artists (dance, ritual, sculpture, music, and visual arts) and art history. Being part of a Buddhist art course, this series explore the notion of kinesthetic delight, Buddha nature, the relationship of form to emptiness, the indivisibility of emptiness and interdependence. These lectures also focus on the living process underlying any actions and activities.

Audio of the first conference with Barbara Dilley

https://soundcloud.com/rangjung-yeshe-institute/barbara-dilley-embodied-wisdom

Guest lecture series – link to the Facebook page

https://www.ryi.org/khenpolodrorabsal
SPECIAL FEATURE:

THREE VIDEOS ON DEALING WITH CHALLENGES

Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche - “Key Points for Dealing with Challenges”
Erik Pema Kunsang - “Eat the medicine! Apply the dharma personally!”

About Erik:

Erik Pema Kunsang, Dharma teacher, was co-founder of RYI and is a translator of numerous sacred books.

Appointed to teach the Dharma by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, he now guides retreats on love and insight, simplicity and naturalness.

In 2016 Erik founded the Bodhi Training education in Denmark, giving participants an opportunity to connect with the dharma in a gradual, experiential and interactive way.

In his own words:

“These days I enjoy a quiet life with my wife Tara, singing mantras and Buddhist songs and doing no-dig gardening. It brings me deep happiness to make the original poetry of Dharma possible to chant in English, especially the sadhana texts of Padmasambhava.”

erikpemakunsang.com

Graham Sunstein – “Graham’s Advice for Stressful Times”

About Graham:

Graham Sunstein attended the first RYI Fall Seminar with Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche and the first classes in 1981. From 2001 to 2004 he taught meditation at RYI and attended classes.

He studied and practiced directly under the guidance of Kyabje Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche at Nagi Gompa and with other Masters. Graham completed seven years of retreat and continues to focus on retreat.
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 Chokyi 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 students.service@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/.

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
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF FURTHER STUDIES AT RYI?

You can now sign up for RYI’s Online Learning Classical Tibetan courses. Applications for the For-Credit and Interactive courses will be accepted until March 15, 2021. Students may register and begin courses in the Self-Study format at any time. These courses differ from the Classical Tibetan courses that RYI is also offering online while the campus is closed. The Online Learning courses consist of prerecorded classes which allow you to study outside of the regular scheduled semester, and at times that suit you. For more information, please visit:
https://www.ryi.org/programs/online-learning/himalayan-languages

Applications are also open for RYI’s two Master’s programs, the PhD program, and the 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