Welcome from Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche
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Dear Alumni,

I am thinking of all of you and wondering where you are and what you are doing. Please don’t forget Rangjung Yeshe Institute!

With love and blessings,

Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche

Dear Alumni,

First of all, thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of RYI! It is wonderful to hear that many of you are presenting at, participating in, or supporting Buddhist Studies conferences and centers around the world, and it is especially touching to see how much you are doing for the world.

We eagerly await having you more involved in our alumni program and in being a wonderful resource for our present students.

Looking very much forward to seeing many of you at our annual alumni dinner in November, here in Boudhanath,

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Alumni Events: Annual Alumni Dinner

RYI invites each of you to our annual alumni dinner, which is being hosted during the annual RYI Fall Seminar. This year, the dinner will be on Saturday, November 23, at 6 p.m. If you are able to join, please RSVP by November 20 to www.ryi.org/contact-us.
Have you ever studied or taught at RYI?
Then you (and your significant other) are invited to join RYI’s annual alumni dinner

RSVP:
Please let us know whether you can attend or not by Wednesday, November 20.
Please email: student.services@ryi.org.

RYI Alumni Dinner
Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Utpala Café Boudha, Nepal

RYI Office Tel: 01-491-5975

New Alumni! Congratulations RYI Graduates of 2019!
Eleven students graduated from RYI/CBS this spring (eight from the Bachelor of Arts program, two from the Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies program, and one from the Master of Arts in Translation, Textual Interpretation, and Philology). Congratulations to everyone!

New scholarships available
Are you interested in coming back to RYI, but need financial support? Please see RYI’s various options for financial aid here: https://www.ryi.org/students/financial-aid. In particular, the Tsadra Foundation now offers three different scholarships for Western students committed to the in-depth study of Buddhist philosophy in the Tibetan language. The scholarships support students who aspire to study in the following programs:

- The Master’s Preparatory program (one-year scholarship available)
- The Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies (two-year scholarship available)
- The Master of Arts in Translation, Textural Interpretation, and Philology (also two years)

For more information, please visit https://www.ryi.org/tsadra-foundation-scholarship.
New RYI Meditation Room is also open to alumni!
The RYI meditation room was created in summer 2019 in response to requests from students, and is located at Utpala Cafe across from the monastery compound. It is aimed at supporting holistic wellness on campus as well as the diverse faiths represented at the RYI community. The space is intended for those who seek a quiet place to reflect, meditate, or pray, and is available for use to all students, faculty, staff, and alumni. For more information, please contact www.ryi.org/contact-us.

Utpala Café
Utpala Café is the new restaurant replacing the former RYI restaurant. It is situated on the West side of the monastery and has a beautiful garden, including some small lotus ponds, many trees, and a performance pavilion. While Utpala Café aims to serve healthy and affordable food to RYI students and staff, it is also open to the public and offers breakfast and dinner options. It is open on weekends and hosts the organic Friday market as well as a new Saturday market. At the back of the restaurant, you will find the RYI Meditation Room and the new research library. Please visit this beautiful new place when next you are in Boudha and mingle with current students and staff.

Student Society focuses on the environment
This year, the RYI Student Society is engaging with the global eco-crisis by exploring sustainable and spiritual solutions to our environmental problems. The Society will host several environmental events at RYI, starting with introductory movies and discussions, and lectures by specialists. If you are interested, please contact the Head of the Student Society at www.ryi.org/contact-us.

Philosophy classes taught by ordained professors
During the fall 2019 semester, these classes are being taught by our monastic faculty:

- *Bodhicaryāvātara* (སྤྱོད་འཇུག་, The Way of the Bodhisattva), taught by Khenpo Gyaltse.
- *Madhyāntavibhāga* (དབུས་མཐའ་རྣམ་འབྱེད་, Distinguishing the Middle and Extremes).
  Taught by Lopon Zopa Sangpo.
- *Root Knowledge of the Middle Way* (Root Knowledge of the Middle Way). Taught by Khenpo Tsondru Sangpo
- *Gateway to Knowledge* (Gateway to Knowledge). Taught by Lopon Thekchok Tendar
Student Demographics: Fall 2019
This fall, RYI is pleased to welcome approximately 160 students with 32 different nationalities. The largest minority of these students (24%) is from Nepal, with 23% of our students from the U.S., 8% from China, and 6% from Germany. The remaining 39% of students are from the other 28 countries represented in our student body. The diversity of our student body adds to the richness of the educational experience here, and the connections made between students from quite different cultures is inspiring to see.

The number of Asian students studying at RYI has increased since last year, as has the number of ordained sangha members, especially those from the Theravada and Chinese Mahayana schools. And we’re happy to note that after the start of our cooperation agreement with Oregon State University in early 2018, the second contingent of students from Oregon State is currently studying here now. RYI also signed a cooperation agreement with SOAS London this spring and one of their MA students and researchers who studied with us this summer is now also studying with us during fall 2019. Negotiations for cooperation agreements are in progress with three other institutions, and we hope to welcome their students here at RYI next year.

During September, Prof. Jan Westerhoff from Oxford University and Lama Prof. John Makransky from Boston College each taught a one-week series of lectures for the benefit of our students and the larger RYI community.

- Within a presentation of the historical sweep of Buddhist philosophical thought in India from the time of the Abhidharma up to Dignāga and Dharmakīrti, Prof. Westerhoff recounted the development key philosophical ideas and schools, including discussions of Madhyamaka and Yogachara and the relationship between them. These lectures will soon be available at RYI's SoundCloud page.

- Prof. John Makransky presented the theory and practice of the Innate Compassion Training model (ICT) that he has been teaching abroad to both Buddhists and people in caring roles and professions. His lectures have included the opportunity to experience the practices used in the ICT model that are key to developing the capacity for sustained compassion toward ourselves and others.
Library membership is available for RYI alumni and former staff. Please visit our gorgeous new library whenever you are in Boudhanath.

RYI Student Society club events open to alumni
RYI Student Society hosts a great variety of clubs, including the: Sanskrit Chanting, Chod Practice, Futsal, Bollywood Dancing, Tibetan Dancing, Environment, Music Therapy, and Friends of Silence Clubs. If you are interested in joining, please see the announcements on the Student Services bulletin board.

Discount for online classes
A fifty percent tuition reduction for one online course per year is offered to any alumnus or alumna who has studied on campus at RYI for at least two semesters or for one summer intensive course, and who is not currently in a program on campus. The discount also applies to anyone who has completed a course online for-credit. Please contact us here www.ryi.org/contact-us to register for your class.

Sample a Class
Would you like to get re-inspired? RYI offers its alumni to sample classes for up to five days per semester, as an observer, free of charge, during the fall and spring semesters. Please register in the RYI office at least one day in advance.

Would you like to explore the world and contribute to or work at Gomde centers? Many of the Gomde centers around the world provide internship opportunities, looking for translators, language teachers, Buddhist Studies teachers, or offering a general internship. Choose a center at https://gomde.org/ and contact them about internships.
Update your contact information: Please contact us at www.ryi.org/contact-us to update your contact information. Keeping this information current allows us to send you these bi-annual newsletters and other important news.

RYI Matching Scholarship Fund: In 2014 Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche gave directions to RYI’s Executive Committee, to increase the number of Himalayan students in the programs at RYI. Today we are proud to have achieved exactly that. When RYI started in 2002 a mere 8% of the students were Nepalese. In 2010 Nepalese and students from SAARC made up 10% of the student body. Last year the number of students from South Asia and Himalaya regions climbed to 30%!
How did we get there? We increased our communication, targeting young adults from the Himalayan Region. Dorjee Gyalpo, RYI’s marketing assistant, toured a couple of high schools in northern India, Bhutan and Nepal, gave presentations to those students and answered questions. RYI also participated in education fairs in Kathmandu and advertised in the local newspaper. However, the most important contribution to this success may be the increased number of available South Asia and Himalaya Scholarship awards. This scholarship program is available for Nepal and SAARC citizens and covers 100% of RYI and Kathmandu University registration, admission, and examination fees, 80% of tuition fees at RYI for the fall and spring semesters and 100% of all required class materials, for example, texts, textbooks, and course readers.

Student testimony:

“I am Moondil Jahan, currently a first year MA student after completing one year MA preparatory course. Unfortunately, my family is unable to contribute financially toward my education. Additionally, my personal savings are not sufficient to cover the educational expenses.

It has been a wonderful experience studying at RYI and it continues to enrich me with both in terms of academics and personal practice. In addition to learning Buddhist philosophy with Khenpos and western professors, I am learning Sanskrit and Classical Tibetan, both providing a deeper understanding in reading the sūtras and śāstras.

The financial aid has a significant role to make my studies possible. Without such generous support, I would not have been able to continue my studies. I sincerely thank all the donors for bringing it to fruition.

RYI has a diverse student body and in a way, we have renounced some important aspects of our usual lifestyle to come here to study and practice the dharma. Such a change in life is very difficult, especially when it comes to financial matters. Please accept my deepest gratitude for your kindness and generosity”.
Raj Thokar says:

“My father is the only person working in my family and his income is hardly sufficient. The lump-sum payment of the semester fee is a significant burden for my father. My studies are going smooth so far and it is a prime period in my life for my spiritual development. So, I try to practice all the things that I learn in class. I feel that I’ve started focusing more on other’s benefits. I had some anger issues in the past but now through meditation and learning Buddhism, I feel it has reduced significantly.

If I had not received the scholarship then there would have no other options left than to work. If I was working then I would not have been able to give enough time for my studies. For me, studying is a priority and I’m so grateful to have received the scholarship.

I cannot do anything other than to say thank you at this moment of time. I regard my respected donors as the manifestation of the Buddha himself because it is due to their kindness that I’m able to learn the Buddha’s Dharma”.

RYI supported 13 students with the South Asian Himalayan scholarship in 2018. 68 other South Asian and Nepali students attended our programs last year without being supported by scholarships, which creates a difficult situation for them and for RYI.

The South Asian and Himalaya scholarship is funded by the Khyentse Foundation and RYI through a matching grant. A key challenge for RYI is to raise an equal amount of scholarship funding and we are therefore connecting with all alumni, friends, and supporters to ask you to consider contributing to RYI’s scholarship fund, recognizing that every dollar donated will be matched by the Khyentse Foundation up to the limit stated. No donation is too small, and every dollar contributed will help make the study aspirations of some highly deserving and capable students become a reality. If you would like to make a donation please follow this link: https://www.ryi.org/get-involved/giving
Are you interested in staying connected with other activities of Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche? If you’d like to know if there is a Dharma center, a practice group or a study group near you, check out www.shedrub.org or contact www.ryi.org/contact-us. 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 like to contribute to this bi-annual alumni newsletter? We would love to hear from you and learn more about where you are living and what you are doing now. It would be wonderful if this newsletter became YOUR newsletter, so please keep your ideas coming on how it can best cater to your needs and interests. If you would like to be more involved in any of its aspects (such as contributing articles, helping with layout, etc.), please let me know. You can email me at www.ryi.org/contact-us.

I would also like to invite each of you to join the RYI Alumni Facebook page and become an active participant in sharing readings and resources, job opportunities, and announcements concerning courses and teachings around the world. Please help to make the Facebook page become “more alive,” so it is a helpful tool and builds a sense of community for all those connected to RYI.

Many greetings from your RYI family, and we’re looking forward to helping you stay connected with Boudhanath, RYI, and the monastery.

RYI Student Services