



# RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

### THE 2011 RYI SUMMER PROGRAM



Tibetan instructor drilling conversational Tibetan with RYI students.

Enrollment for the Summer Course 2011 is now open! Our popular language programs in Tibetan, Nepali, and Sanskrit are filling up quickly. Coursework is fun, engaging and takes place in a cultural immersion environment so that optimal learning occurs both inside and outside of the classroom.

We are pleased that Dr. William Waldron will join us again this summer to co-teach the Buddhist Studies course together with our monastic teachers. Professor Waldron comes to us from Middlebury College, USA where he teaches courses on Hinduism and Buddhism, Tibetan religion, comparative psychology, and theory in the study of religion.

Enrollment closes May 15th. Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore Buddhist philosophy more deeply through study and practice, improve your language skills, or begin study in a new language. For more information or to apply, visit our website. Come enjoy the summer with us in Kathmandu!

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## VISITING INSTRUCTORS 2011

We are pleased to welcome three visiting instructors to RYI this coming academic year: Dr. John Dunne (Emory University), Dr. Karin Meyers (University of Chicago) and Dr. Philippe Turenne (McGill University). John Dunne's return is much awaited, since his last teaching visit to RYI was in 2008. This time he will teach a research class to the MA students and upper-level BA students during the fall semester 2011. Karin Meyers and Philippe Turenne are both joining RYI to teach in the BA program and, in particular, to guide the MA program, where next year more than ten students will be writing their theses.

We look forward to welcoming John, Karin and Philippe to our campus.

## RYI SIGNS EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS WITH LEIPZIG AND VIENNA



Prof. Dr. Arthur Mettinger (Vienna) and Greg Whiteside (RYI) with Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche during the agreement signing ceremony.

The Centre for Buddhist studies has further expanded its international network of collaborating universities through exchange and cooperation agreements with the University of Vienna and University of Leipzig.

Under the terms of these agreements, students at Vienna and Leipzig may earn academic credit by studying at RYI-CBS. Similarly, RYI-CBS students may study in Europe and earn credits at two of its most prestigious Buddhist Studies Departments.

The agreements further allow for the exchange of faculty members and joint research projects. RYI would like to thank Dr. Klaus-Dieter Mathes (Vienna) and Dr. Per K. Sorensen (Leipzig) for facilitating these agreements.

## ONLINE COURSES IN THE FALL 2011

In addition to the Buddhist philosophy courses already available online, RYI is now offering a new

type of course that may appeal to many international students. Foundations of Buddhism, taught by our senior instructors, Joanne Larson and Hilary Herdman, examines Buddhism as it is practiced in various cultures, emphasizing its philosophy, history, ritual and practice. It is the perfect course to explore your interest in the historical and social aspects of Buddhism with the support of our experienced course moderators.



Study from anywhere, at anytime.

We will also continue to offer courses in the Way of the Bodhisattva and Buddhist Ethics. Feedback from our interactive students tells us that the Online Learning Program is much appreciated due to the extensive support they receive from our moderators and fellow students.

Visit us at [www.shedra.org/study-online](http://www.shedra.org/study-online) and stay tuned for more news about RYI's Online Learning Program!

## THE 2010 SYMPOSIUM



Prof. Tom Tillemans at the 8th Annual RYI Symposium.

Rangjung Yeshe Institute successfully hosted the eighth International Symposium on Buddhist Studies at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on 11th December 2010. Speaking to the theme of "GREAT DEBATES" six eminent scholars from Asia, Europe and North America addressed a packed and highly engaged audience.

This year the speakers were:

- ◆ Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche ~ Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Nepal
- ◆ Ven. Dr. Dhammhaso ~ Mahachulalongkorn University, Thailand
- ◆ Dr. Georges Dreyfus ~ Williams College, USA
- ◆ Dr. Jonardon Ganeri ~ University of Sussex, UK
- ◆ Dr. Pascale Hugon ~ Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria
- ◆ Dr. Tom Tillemans ~ University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Sponsorship for the event was generously provided by local businesses and suppliers who donated over 80 attractive items for a silent auction. Our thanks go out to all the guest speakers and student volunteers for making the day such a resounding success!

## RYI STUDENT FEATURE: JOOST PALENSTIJN



RYI student Joost Palenstijn enjoying Nepal.

When Joost Palenstijn of The Netherlands first heard about RYI, he was a student of classical Tibetan at a university in Spain. The Spanish university was fine for studying classical Tibetan, but Joost felt that more was needed to learn colloquial Tibetan, as in Spain he had no one to practice speaking Tibetan with! Originally, Joost had intended to join the RYI Intensive Tibetan Summer Program, but when he realized we also offer a Translator Training Program, he immediately knew he wanted to join.

Joost says his life is now saturated with Tibetan. He studies in class for three hours a day and practices his spoken Tibetan for another two hours a day with Tibetan language partners. After class he spends his time studying with other TTP students in local cafes, and later he goes home to his Tibetan host family for evenings of conversation over dinner. "Yes, it's intensive," he says,

"but I am learning so much!" Joost does, however, take a break by going for long motorcycle rides on weekends! After the Translator Training Program, Joost looks forward to continuing his Tibetan studies and aspires to a PhD in either anthropology or religion.

## CHÖKYI NYIMA RINPOCHE'S SUMMER SCHEDULE



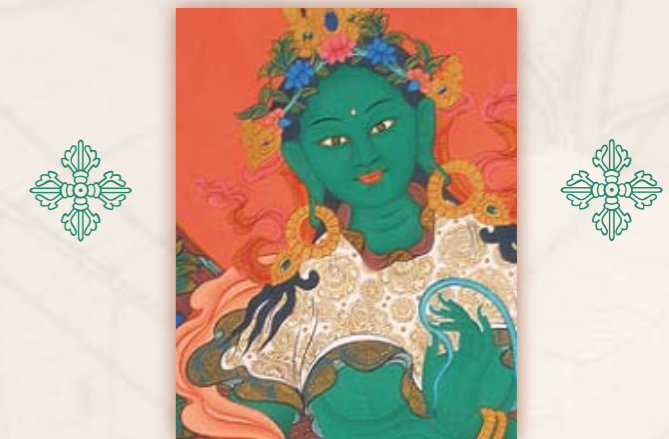
Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche during his travels.

RYI's founder, Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, will once again visit many countries around the world to teach and share the wisdom teachings of the Buddha. Rinpoche has been invited to many centers around the world and will visit the following regions in 2011:

- ◆ Southeast Asia: May 10 – 27
- ◆ Europe: June 24 – July 23
- ◆ North America: August 21 – September 7

For further details of Rinpoche's travel schedule, please visit [www.shedrub.org](http://www.shedrub.org)

## NEW ONLINE MEDITATION PROGRAM



Headed by Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, Dharmachakra Practices is now offering an online meditation program based on Tara, the female Buddha. This program covers the entire Buddhist path through practical instructions

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meant for personal experience. With its rich and vibrant interface the online course is perfectly accessible and enriching for both beginners and seasoned practitioners. The meditation program offers teachings by Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche and Lama Tenzin, all structured around daily, guided meditation sessions. In the student forum, participants can ask questions and share their experiences. To find out more about this new online practice community, visit [www.DharmaSun.org](http://www.DharmaSun.org).

### A GOOD FRIEND OF RYI PASSES AWAY

On December 16, 2010, renowned scholar-practitioner and friend of Tibet, E. Gene Smith passed away in New York City. Throughout his life, Gene had worked tirelessly to preserve the endangered literary heritage of Tibetan Buddhism. The crowning of his efforts was the creation of the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center ([www.tbrc.org](http://www.tbrc.org)) where numerous rare Tibetan texts and manuscripts are made available for free viewing.

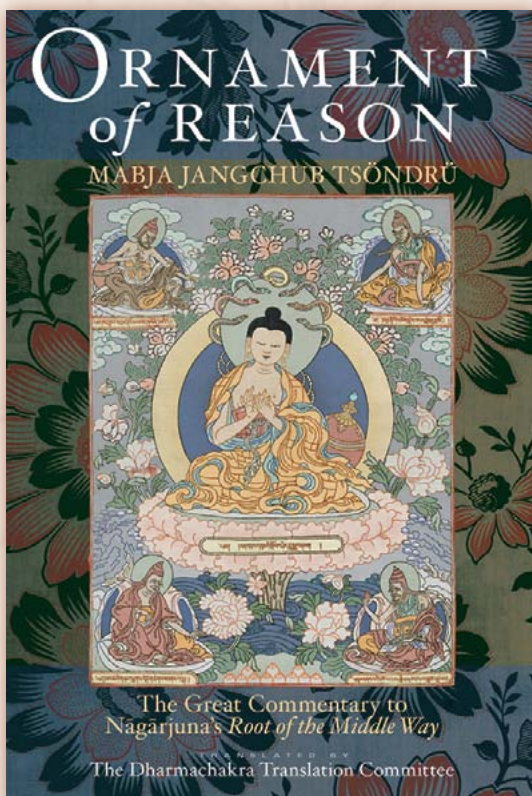


E. Gene Smith and Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche at TBRC in 2010.

Gene Smith was a long-time friend of RYI who on several occasions visited Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling to offer his help in securing access to the TBRC manuscripts. Thanks to Gene, the students at RYI now enjoy full online access to all the works in the Tibetan Buddhist canon. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

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### New Book: *Ornament of Reason: The Great Commentary to Nāgārjuna's Root of the Middle Way*



By Mabja Jangchub Tsöndrü.

Foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Translated by Dharmachakra Translation Committee. Snow Lion Publications, 2011.

The *Ornament of Reason* is one of the earliest and most influential Tibetan commentaries on Nāgārjuna's crucial work, *Root of the Middle Way*. Nāgārjuna's lucid and fearless verses present a method of reasoning that unfolds in a series of insightful and penetrating investigations. Through Mabja's incisive commentary we can follow Nāgārjuna's clear and direct steps, as the gateway to the inconceivable emerges. Both texts are included in this book.

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[WWW.SHEDRA.ORG](http://WWW.SHEDRA.ORG)

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