Welcome from Head of Student Services

Dear Alumni,

It was wonderful to see so many of you during our annual alumni dinner in Boudhanath in November!

Specially featured in this newsletter are the two RYI programs to be offered abroad: the already existing RYI summer program at Gomde California, and the new RYI summer program at Gomde in Austria. I hope many of you take this wonderful opportunity to extend your studies and to reconnect with others from the vaster RYI mandala.

Warmly,
Tina Lang
Head of Student Services
student.services@ryi.org
ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER:

The annual alumni dinner during RYI’s fall seminar took place on November 17th, 2018, at Hotel Tibet International in Boudha. About 55 alumni as well as former and present staff celebrated together. Some of our alumni were founding directors of RYI and remember the first meetings, which also took place at Hotel Tibet, where the brainstorming on how to start a Buddhist university began. Since that time, RYI has come a long way, and the number of students and staff who have studied at RYI is over 4,000.

Please mark your calendars for next year’s alumni dinner, which will happen again during the annual fall seminar. It would also be wonderful if some of you could have regional 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.
Convocation Ceremony 2018

Congratulations to our newest graduates!
Front row (left to right): Cho Hei Chio (BA), Martina Cotter (MA BS), Laurie Lange (BA), and Bimala Ghising (BA).
Back row (left to right): Erica Merritt (BA), Costanzo Allione (MA BS), Johanna Knutzen (BA), and Kuenga Yarpel (BA).
Not in photo: Sagnik Dutta Roy (BA), Joseph Faria (MA BS), Julie Jay (MA BS), Nicholas Schmidt (MA TTIP), Oriane Lavole (MA TTIP), and Stefan Mang (MA TTIP).
New Summer Courses at RYI

RYI is delighted to announce that David Higgins and Constance Kassor will lead an Advanced Classical Tibetan seminar this summer. This seminar earns MA-level credits, and BA-level credits with special permission. The seminar is for eight weeks beginning June 17th - August 9th.

David Higgins received his doctorate from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland and is currently a Post-doc Research Fellow in the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the University of Vienna where he is exploring the relationship between Mahāmudrā and Madhyamaka philosophies in Bka’ brgyud scholasticism. Dr. Higgins will teach during the first half of RYI’s summer semester, from June 17th – July 12th, 2019, where he will read a short text by the great 14th-century Dzogchen master Longchen Rabjampa (1308–1364) entitled Quintessence of Profound Meaning (Zab don snying po) with the students in RYI’s Advanced Classical Tibetan Reading Seminar.

Constance Kassor is an assistant professor of religious studies at Lawrence University in the USA, where she teaches courses on Buddhist thought and Asian religious traditions. She earned her PhD degree at Emory University in the USA. Prof. Kassor will teach during the second half of RYI’s summer semester, from July 15th – August 9th, 2019, where she will read the Synopsis of Madhya-maka (dbu ma’i spyi don) by Go rams pa bSod nams Seng ge (1429-89) with the students in RYI’s Advanced Classical Tibetan Reading Seminar. The Synopsis is an extensive, encyclopedic Madhyamaka treatise that presents the mainstream Sakyapa philosophical view and consider topics such as the two truths, the divisions of Madhyamaka into sub-schools, and the nature of buddha-hood.

More information will be available soon at http://www.ryi.org/programs/summer-intensives/classical-tibetan

RYI’s Student Society in Full Bloom

RYI’s Student Society has been very active in the past years. Besides publishing a literature journal, holding events such as talent shows, parties, and yoga day, they have also been supporting school children in need of funding and similar projects.

This year, the Student Society supports nine clubs (for the first time ever!):

1. An Alternative Perspective (discussing philosophical texts)
2. Awakening Band (for RYI musicians)
3. Bodhiprajna Mandala Chöd Group (weekly Chöd practice, seminars)
4. Chanting Club (chanting texts in Sanskrit etc.)
5. Chess Club (playing chess, possible tournament)
6. Cycling Club (cycling to Sankhu, etc.)
7. Poetry Club (reciting and writing poems in different languages)
8. Shedra Futsalball (weekly futsal games, tournament)
9. Tibetan Culture Immersion (poetry and classical grammar)

Some of these clubs are also open to RYI alumni. Come and have fun on your next trip to Nepal!
RANGJUNG YESHE GOMDE CALIFORNIA SUMMER PROGRAMS

We invite you to study, contemplate, and practice the Buddha’s teachings with us this summer at Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche’s beautiful Northern California retreat center. Our programs can be taken for academic credit and will include daily teachings on Mahayana and Vajrayana practice with Lama Tsultrim Sangpo, meditation instruction from qualified lamas, and extensive study opportunities.

These courses also include attendance to seminar teachings by Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, and Lama Tsultrim Sangpo. Students may also remain after the program for discounted attendance to teachings by Jetsun Khandro Rinpoche.

BUDDHIST STUDIES SUMMER PROGRAM

The Buddhist Studies Summer Program (BSSP) is a two month program that focuses on different elements of the Indo-Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Each session includes daily teachings on a traditional Buddhist text with the resident Tibetan Lama, Tsultrim Sangpo, meditation training from Tibetan and Western Lamas who have completed the traditional three-year retreat, and daily lectures on Indo-Tibetan history and philosophy by faculty from Kathmandu University’s Centre for Buddhist Studies (RYI). Academic credit is available through our partnership with RYI and Kathmandu University. For more information, please visit: https://gomdeusa.org/all-programs/buddhist-studies-summer-program/

DHARMACHAKRA TRANSLATION CENTER INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL TIBETAN SUMMER INTENSIVE

Led by the faculty of Kathmandu University’s Centre for Buddhist Studies, this course will focus on developing the students’ ability to read diverse genres of Tibetan Buddhist literature through the application of the formal rules of classical Tibetan grammar. Though the program’s emphasis will be on reading Tibetan Buddhist literature, ample time will be given to the review of important points of Tibetan syntax. Academic credit is available through our partnership with RYI and Kathmandu University. For more information, please visit: http://gomdeusa.org/all-programs/dtc/dipa%E1%B9%83kara-translator-training-internship-program/
Situated in the lush hills of Upper Austria, surrounded by forests and lakes, Gomde Germany-Austria is a serene sanctuary for study, reflection, and practice. For over 14 years the center has upheld daily Dharma practice, the Rinpoches of Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling visit the center regularly and fill it with their blessing. Lay and ordained sangha are there to support your study and practice and you have the option to join them for teachings and practice on the weekends if you wish. This is a well established center in a remote and quiet atmosphere, with a pond where you can swim during the hot days, 3 cooked meals a day, a relaxed lounge area, a library and lots of nature to explore in your free time.

**RYI Summer course at Gomde Germany- Austria**

From June 12th to August 19th 2019 Gomde Germany-Austria will be hosting a RYI summer course for the first time!

The topic of the course is “Introduction into Buddhism: History, Practice and Modern World”, will be taught by James Gentry (chief editor of 84,000) and Ana C. Lopes. Classes will also be taught by a Khenpo of Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling and will be translated by Dominic Sur. This course will integrate traditional approaches to the Buddhist view, meditation, and conduct with contemporary academic perspectives on the historical development in India and Tibet. The course will also focus on the application of these three principles in the modern world in fields as diverse as neuroscience, pedagogy, healthcare, and the arts.

Daily meditation sessions and 2 weeks of meditation retreat will give you the chance to integrate knowledge into experience.

The course will be held in English, 6 credits can be earned!

Registration is open!
Just send an email: info@gomde.eu or check out their website: https://gomde.eu/en/program/2019/acad-summer-course-introduction-to-buddhism
~ Alumni Offers ~

Early Application Fee Reduction:

Alumni Discount for Online Learning Courses
A 50% tuition reduction for one online course per year is offered to any student who has studied at least two semesters or one full summer intensive course on campus with us, but who are not currently in a program on campus, and to any one who has completed a course online for-credit. Please contact us to register for your class.

Library Membership for RYI Alumni and Former Staff
As a special alumni perk, RYI alumni and former staff are welcome to either keep their library memberships, or if you haven’t joined yet, you are welcome to sign up and enjoy the great diversity of academic and religious books.

Would you like to explore the world and contribute to or work at a Gomde center?
Many of the Gomde centers around the world provide internship opportunities, are looking for translators, language teachers, Buddhist Studies teachers, or are offering a general internship. Choose a center at [https://gomde.org/](https://gomde.org/) and contact them internships.

~ Alumni Opportunities ~

Fulbright Scholarships for American and Nepalese citizens
In the years since Rangjung Yeshe Institute was founded, a number of Americans, both professors and researchers, have been affiliated to RYI. American alumni might want to consider applying for one of the many research or teaching fellowships administered by the Fulbright Foundation/US Educational Foundation. Scholarships are also offered to Nepalese alumni. For more information, please visit: [http://www.fulbrightnepal.org.np/](http://www.fulbrightnepal.org.np/)

~ Alumni 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.

• **Support a monastic or local lay student to study at RYI:** Scholarship funds are needed to help students who would otherwise not be able to study with us. Please consider contributing to our special alumni fund. $10 a month can go a long way!
• Are you interested in staying connected with the 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 student.services@ryi.org. Furthermore, you are welcome to sign up for the newsletter outlining Rinpoche’s activities and if you have taken teachings from Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche and would like to stay connected with him, you can join his student community by uploading your photo and information. Rinpoche will then be able to browse through all the photos and names of his students. You can upload your photo and access the newsletter at https://shedrub.org/connected/

• Are you interested in contributing to this bi-annual alumni newsletter? We would really love to hear from you and learn more about where you are 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. And if you would like to be more involved in any of its aspects, please email student.services@ryi.org.

RYI would also like to invite all 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 looking forward to helping you to stay connected with Boudhanath, RYI, and the monastery.