



RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER - FALL 2011



TRANSLATOR TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES IN ACTION

As the Translator Training Program enters its fourth year, it's time to look back and see what our graduates have been up to since completing the program. The Translator Training program is designed to turn somebody with a basic understanding of Tibetan into a competent translator within one year, so it's fair to ask, "How successful have we been?" Our graduates have indeed been busy! Two of them, Adam Kane and Timothy Hinkle, have run the Kumara Internship Program at Rangjung Yeshe Gomde USA, where they translated teachings by Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery's Lama Tsultrim. Having returned to Mexico and America, respectively, Daniela Labra and Sarah Schneider have translated for high lamas such as Mingyur Rinpoche and Tulku Sang Ngag. Our program

even inspired the Rigpa Sangha to launch a similar program at Namdroling Monastery, and one of our graduates, Mélanie Slomka, is leading that program. Adam Kane translated for our summer Buddhist Studies Program, which included a retreat at Asura Cave, and several of our graduates, including Adam, are continuing their studies at RYI, studying for their Master's degrees. Miguel Sawaya is teaching Tibetan classes at RYI, and Joost Palenstijn is teaching Tibetan in Spain. A few graduates now help out with the Translator Training Program, and Anna Zilman, from the first year of the TTP, now runs the program. As you can see, the graduates of the Translator Training Program have been at work all over the world. Keep an eye out for them at a dharma center near you!

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SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAMS 2012: ADMISSION IS NOW OPEN!

"FANTASTIC PROGRAM, THE BEST OF ITS KIND!"
SUMMER 2011 TIBETAN LANGUAGE STUDENT

RYI's summer intensives are a great way to get a head start on learning Tibetan or Sanskrit, or to deepen your knowledge of Buddhist Studies from an academic and practice perspective. An exciting community is created each summer at RYI when the summer students arrive on campus. Students join us from MA and PhD programs from around the world, creating an environment fruitful for study and for making connections with others in the field. This summer, students from the University of Michigan, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Colorado, Harvard University and McGill University, as well as many other distinguished institutions,

completed language requirements for their degrees.

Our Buddhist Studies course was a particularly great success this past summer, thanks to our talented teaching and translating faculty, which included William Waldron, PhD (Middlebury College, USA), and our learned lopons from Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery. This course offers a great way to expand your knowledge of Buddhist Studies and explore the workings of your mind. Registration opened on October 1, 2011, so you have plenty of time to make plans to visit us in Nepal for two months this coming summer. For more information, please visit www.summer.shedra.org. We hope to see you in June 2012!



MEDITATION CLASS: NOW FOR CREDIT!

For the first time in RYI history, we'll offer a 3-credit meditation class at RYI during the Spring semester 2012. The course will combine the critical tools of the academic study of religion with practice of the techniques being explored, using three main approaches:

1. becoming familiar with the basic meditation practices of Himalayan Buddhism through theoretical study;
2. reflecting critically on how those practices have been presented and understood; and

3. gaining intimate familiarity with different practices by actively participating in meditation exercises.

The course should be helpful to students who are already involved in meditation practice and want to enhance their reflections on that topic as well as to those who simply want to know and understand more about this important aspect of Buddhism.



CHECK OUT ONLINE LEARNING'S NEW COURSE OFFERING: FOUNDATIONS OF BUDDHISM

RYI's Online Learning team is now creating courses to meet the needs of academic students and practitioners alike. Our short courses - Buddhist Ethics and Cultivating Patience - are designed to make study accessible for students who don't have much time in their busy lives to devote to study. Cultivating Patience explores our relationship to anger in today's fast-paced world. This month-long course makes it easy and enjoyable to study anywhere, at anytime.

Our new semester-long course, Foundations of Buddhism, is a great way to explore more deeply the philosophical and societal contexts of Buddha Shakyamuni's teachings. This course features an interactive discussion forum facilitated by a moderator, video and audio lectures, and course readings, all designed to support your understanding of the material. We are also currently offering a course on the classic Buddhist text The Way of the Bodhisattva for self study. We invite you to join one of our courses this year; registration is now open. RYI Online Learning is a great way to explore your interest in Buddhism academically, or to support the



deepening of your practice through study. Please visit www.patience.shedra.org or www.foundations.shedra.org for more information.

RYI'S SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Here at RYI we recognize that social media is important for connecting our community. Currently you can engage with us by watching videos on our YouTube channel, following our Twitter profile, liking our Facebook page and reading a wonderful archive of campus life on our student blog. Our community is growing all the time, and this is a great way to keep in touch. Why not join us?



We are here:

YouTube - RYIonline · Twitter - @RYI_Online 2 · Facebook - Rangjung Yeshe Institute
Blog - <http://ryi-student-blog.blogspot.com>

BENEFITS OF OUR LIBRARY

Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery's lending library had its beginnings in 1985 when 108 new Dharma books, in English, were kindly donated to the monastery's abbot, Tulku Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche. Prior to this, Rinpoche had kept a handful of Buddhist books on his personal bookshelves which he would loan, in an informal way, to his students or to inquisitive Western visitors.

As the decades passed, the library's treasury of books grew to more than 3,000 titles; enough to completely fill 12 floor-to-ceiling bookcases. Today, the library's collection includes the latest Dharma books available in the Western marketplace, as well as a number of rare, valuable and out-of-print editions. Topics range from all schools of scholarly Buddhist philosophy and esoteric practice to Asian art, history and culture, Tibetan and Ayurvedic medicine, yoga and the healing arts, language study manuals, and travel guidebooks.

While Dharma books in English predominate,

the library also includes books in German, French, Spanish, Russian, Danish, Japanese, Chinese, Nepalese, Sanskrit and Tibetan.

Also, books published by Rangjung Yeshe Publications, Dharma Publishing, and other Dharma publishers - as well as a large assortment of sadhana practice materials and Dharma photos - are available for purchase in the library during its opening hours.

While the library was initially designed to serve both the large international community residing in Nepal as well as the steady stream of travelers interested in Tibetan Buddhism, since 1997 it has become an invaluable reference library for the faculty and students of the Kathmandu University Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, and it has served our students well. The library operates on a "lifetime" membership basis, requiring a modest membership fee and refundable deposit, and is open to the general public three hours per day Monday through Friday.



PASSING OF A GOOD FRIEND

On September 7, 2011 we lost one of our friends and co-workers, Horst Koch, who died in a beautiful high-mountain area at the monastery site of Dolpo Tulku in Dolpo, Nepal. The official cause of death was cardiac arrest from altitude-related cerebral edema. Horst died in the presence of Dolpo Tulku, who, together with his father, immediately performed the phowa ritual of transference for Horst. Horst began working for RYI in 2008, and in 2009 became our Technical Advisor for the new Online Learning Program. He was a key figure in getting the program started, helping to make it possible for people to study Buddhism with us from their home countries. Horst studied geology in Munich and received his Diploma in Forest Science at the Freising Institute, but he was first and foremost a computer and network specialist. At a time when hardly anyone knew what the "Internet" was, Horst was teaching about it to Dharma centers in Germany.

On a trip to Kathmandu in the early 90's he met Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, who later became his main teacher. Horst then went to study at the Karmapa International Buddhist Institute in Delhi. During his studies there he took care of their computer and networking systems. He also taught the 17th Karmapa how to use the computer, and played com-

puter games with him.

Horst was a mountain lover from an early age, and was particularly inspired by the Himalayas. Even before he moved to Nepal, he travelled to the Everest region in Nepal and climbed to 6000 meters. He died in a place of both spiritual and emotional importance to him. On September 26, 2011 his cremation ceremony was held in Kathmandu, near the Swayambhunath stupa. Eleven monks performed puja and Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche was also present. Many friends and staff members of RYI came to say a final goodbye to him.

On October 15, 2011 at 3:00 pm Horst's urn was buried at the cemetery in Niederstotzingen, his home town. Dolpo Tulku had by chance just arrived in Munich and he met with Horst's parents. He was present with Horst at his last moments and felt he could perhaps help Horst's parents deal with their loss. At RYI, we've established an online scholarship in Horst's name, to give a study opportunity to someone who might otherwise not have the chance. Horst always believed people should have access to dharma teachings regardless of their finances, so we have chosen this way to honor him and thank him for his contributions to RYI.

Farewell, dear Horst-we'll miss you.



OTHER NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Denmark (gomde.dk)

Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche
Discovering the Buddha Within
December 27 - January 1, 2012



Germany-Austria (gomde.de)

Bodhicitta & Tonglen - Tara Terma Practice Seminar - December 30 - January 1, 2012
Gradual Training Program - Tara Terma
Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche - January 1 - 5, 2012
Mahamudra Seminar - Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche January 5 - 8, 2012



Russia (rangjungyeshe.ru)

Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche has approved the final design of Thubten Ling Gompa in Moscow. Construction will now begin on the foundations and basement.



UK (gomde.org.uk)

Woodland Work retreat
October 25 – 30, 2011
Winter Seminar based on recorded teachings from Chökyi Nyima's winter seminar in Nepal.
December 28 - January 2, 2012



USA (gomdeusa.org)

Personal Practice Retreats
October 10, 2011 - May 31, 2012

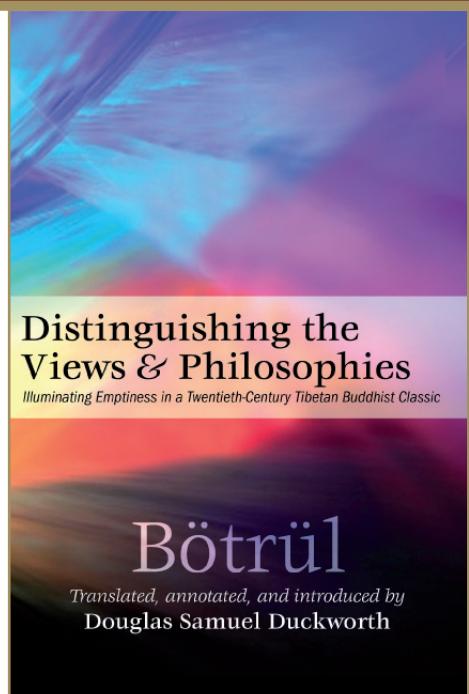


Nepal (shedrub.org)

If you would like to get involved with the new 1,000 Buddha Temple in Lumbini, contributing your time, skills, energy or financial support, connect with us at www.shedrub.org

FROM OUR TRANSLATORS

A paperback version of Douglas Duckworth's translation of *Distinguishing the Views and Philosophies* is coming out in January from SUNY Press. This text is a "meaning commentary" on Mipham Rinpoche's Beacon of Certainty. Also, Douglas's book entitled *Jamgön Mipam: His Life and Teachings* is being released by Shambhala Publications in December of this year.



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