



# RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

## NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

### NEW ONLINE LEARNING COURSES START IN JANUARY



Lopon Karma Gyurme and translator Zack Beer being taped for an Online Learning course

The famous Wisdom chapter of Śāntideva's *Way of a Bodhisattva* (*Bodhicaryāvatāra*) is available online from January 2011. For those of you who have not already studied the *Way of a Bodhisattva*, or who simply don't have time to juggle a full-time job with a two-semester course, we are offering the Wisdom chapter of this text as a separate course taught in one semester.

This chapter offers an overview and refutation of various Indian philosophical schools, both Buddhist and non-Buddhist, in order to show the primacy of the view of the Middle Way. A short introduction to the first eight chapters of the text is followed by a detailed examination of Chapter 9, the Wisdom chapter. Like all of our courses taught by Tibetan Khenpos, the methodology of the course combines traditional Tibetan monastic word-for-word text commentary with Western-style academic

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Online Learning provides all the benefits of Rangjung Yeshe Institute, plus the comforts of home.

—Online Learning continued:

contextualization. The course is taught by Khenpo Jampa Donden, translated by Sophie Greenwalt and moderated by Mort Ostensen.

Also new this semester is an Interactive version of the short Buddhist Ethics course taught by Dr. Stephen Jenkins, which will be moderated by Dr. Andreas Doctor for five weeks. In addition to being able to study the material on your own, you'll now have a forum to ask questions of the moderator and to discuss the various ethical implications of the topics with your fellow students. Given the nature of the topics (vegetarianism, compassion, gender, and violence), the discussions should be quite informative and thought provoking.

To join us for online learning in the spring semester, sign up at our website now!

### PHD PROGRAM AT RYI

In an exciting new development, the Centre for Buddhist Studies at RYI has received approval from Kathmandu University for the launch of a PhD program from the fall of 2011. This will be a monumental development in the history of our Institute, as we will now be offering the full extent of modern academic studies within the scholar-practitioner environment that has become the model for scholarship at RYI. This will also be the first time that university level students can spend nine years in an educational environment that combines Tibetan monastic college education with the methodological approaches of the modern academy. We look very much forward to embarking on this momentous project.

### LEARN TO TRANSLATE



Students and instructors of the current Translator Training Program

Once again we are ready to accept applications for the groundbreaking Translator Training Program

at RYI. The current program, which began in June 2010 and ends in the summer of 2011, has five very diligent students enrolled who study classical and colloquial Tibetan intensively. The unique feature of this program is that after just two months of study, students begin to practice their translation skills by interpreting for Tibetan monastic teachers, while being supervised by experienced western translators. The group is progressing admirably and we have high hopes for their continued progress and bright futures.

### SKILLFUL MEANS FOR A GREENER KA-NYING SHEDRUB LING



Rinpoche getting first-hand information on solar power

Over the past few years, Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche has voiced a strong commitment to applying Buddhist principles for environmental preservation. In a recent interview with renowned author Daniel Goleman, Rinpoche said, "We talk a lot about protecting and safeguarding the environment... The point, however, is not just to talk about it, but to make sure that we actually do take care of our environment."

In this spirit, enthusiastic staff and students at RYI are working together to make our campus "green". Building environmental awareness is our long-term goal, so we are starting with a simple recycling and composting program. WEPCO, a UN-funded waste-management cooperative, will train monks, staff, and students to ensure the sustainability of the program. The Student Society is planning a fundraising event in early 2011.

Look out for news of a greener Ka-Nying this spring!



### STUDENT FEATURE: JASMILHE UCHITSUBO



Jasmilhe at the Great Boudhanath Stupa

Born in New York City to Japanese and Argentinean parents, Jasmilhe has always been traveling. She admits that she didn't intend to join the RYI Shedra program when she first came to Nepal. Initially she came here with a work project, but later joined the Shedra once she learned about our new Buddhism and Development course. As she says, "I am interested in both Buddhism and development and was wondering how the two could be combined."

She says her studies at RYI are challenging and require effort and discipline, but she remains certain that her decision to study at RYI is the best thing she could do for her career. Jasmilhe says she now wants to bring Buddhism into development. "We need to focus on action as well as motivation... but these days NGOs only seem to focus on action."

### NEW COURSE: BUDDHISM AND DEVELOPMENT

We are pleased to announce that a new Buddhism and Development course began this semester. Students explored topics including the history of development practices, its theory and critique, political economy, and the ethics of Engaged Buddhism. The course introduced students to the rich dialogue on effectiveness in the delivery of aid, specifically in Nepal and South Asia. Students researched social action organizations to understand different models being implemented to address suffering. By the end of the course, students better understood the main issues in contemporary development and examined

the personal motivations behind their desire to benefit the local community around our campus in Boudhanath and in their home communities.

### STUDENT PORTAL

The new RYI Student Portal is now available for course information and registration. At the Student Portal you can view our current course catalog and detailed descriptions of courses available online or on-site at the Centre for Buddhist Studies here in Nepal. You can also apply to our programs, register for courses and evaluate the classes you have completed. Once you are registered at the Student Portal, you will be able to update your contact information so that we can keep in touch by sending you the latest news of RYI/CBS. Check out the Student Portal at [www.shedra.org/portal](http://www.shedra.org/portal).

### SUMMER PROGRAM 2011



2010 Summer students during an informal chat with Rinpoche

Join us to study in Kathmandu this summer! Admissions for our Summer Intensive Programs will be open online from January 1, 2011. Once again we are pleased to offer our popular courses in colloquial Tibetan (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced), Sanskrit, Nepali, and Buddhist Studies. As always, in addition to formal classroom instruction, the summer language courses involve extensive one-on-one conversation time with our trained language partners. Students in the summer programs come from all over the world to study in one of the most unique and rewarding programs in Asia. In this way the summer programs are a perfect way to learn a new language, experience a fascinating culture and meet new friends from all over the world. See you in the summer!

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## TRANSLATING THE WORDS OF THE BUDDHA



Image of Lord Buddha at Gomde Austria/Germany

In October 2010 the Buddhist Literary Heritage Project, an organization founded for the purpose of translating the Buddha's teachings (in Tibetan known as *Kangyur*), launched the first round of sponsored translations. On Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche's encouragement, the Dharmachakra Translation Committee applied to translate several of the Buddha's general discourses (sutra) as well as a selection of

the more specialized teachings (tantra). Several faculty members and senior students from RYI will take part in this historic effort to present the entire collection of the Buddha's precious teachings in English. It is planned that the translation projects will start from January 2011. For updates on this important project, visit the official website: [www.buddhistliteraryheritage.org](http://www.buddhistliteraryheritage.org).

### NEW BOOK FROM DHARMACHAKRA TRANSLATION COMMITTEE



*A Practice of Padmasambhava: Essential Instructions on the Path to Awakening* by Shechen Gyaltsap IV and Rinchen Dargye. Translated by the Dharmachakra Translation Committee (Snow Lion Publications, March 2011).

*A Practice of Padmasambhava* presents two practical and compelling works related to the practice of Padmasambhava as found in the teachings of renowned nineteenth-century master Chokgyur Lingpa. These writings give an introduction to the preliminary trainings, the visualization and mantra recitation of the practice, and step-by-step instructions on the visualized image, skillfully guiding the reader into a tantric practice common to all of Tibetan Buddhism.

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