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2020

Commencement



Pacific Buddhist Academy

WHO WE ARE

An independent, accredited, four-year high school, Pacific Buddhist Academy offers teens of all spiritual traditions a student-centered, college preparatory curriculum that integrates peace education and Buddhist values such as gratitude, compassion and respect. Situated adjacent to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin in Nuuanu, PBA is the first and only Shin Buddhist high school – and one of just a few high schools of any Buddhist tradition – in the United States.

THE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE US • The Six Paramitas

The Paramitas, or Six Perfections, are expressions of gratitude for the compassionate guidance we constantly receive. At Pacific Buddhist Academy, the cultivation of peace in individuals, community and the world is based on the practice of these six Buddhist precepts.

DANA

Selfless giving

SILA

Virtue, moral conduct

VIRYA

Effort, endeavor

KSHANTI

Patience, perseverance

DHYANA

Meditation

PRAJNA

Wisdom

TRUSTEES

Leigh-Ann Miyasato CHAIR

Eugene Nishimura

Patricia N. Liu VICE CHAIR

Dr. Warren Tamamoto

Christopher S. Lee TREASURER

Deidre Tegarden

Lisa Leong SECRETARY

Jerry Tsuda

Reverend Toyokazu Hagio

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Susan Lampe

Puanani Burgess

Dr. Dexter Mar

Dr. Janet Ishikawa-Fullmer

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Tomio Moriguchi

Alton Miyamoto

Frederick Nonaka

Stephen Nash AIA

David Randall

ON THE COVER

The phrase 自利利他 or Ji-ri-Ri-ta on the cover of this program was chosen by Bishop Eric Matsumoto, 16th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and written by calligrapher Brandon Goda. It conveys Bishop Matsumoto's aspiration for the graduating PBA seniors. Ji-ri-Ri-ta expresses the ideal Buddhist way of living where both "self-benefit" (Jiri) and "benefiting others" (Rita) are perfectly realized in every action.

PUTTING PEACE INTO MOTION • The PBA Logo

The Wheel of Dharma is the universal symbol of Buddhism and the central feature in the Pacific Buddhist Academy logo. It represents the way of peace that Shakyamuni Buddha taught 2,500 years ago which has “turned,” and in turning, spread throughout the world.



Olive boughs, a Western symbol of peace, cradle the wheel. The wheel is a shade of deep indigo, the leaves green – colors associated with spirituality and growth respectively. Together, the two symbols represent a spiritual tradition of peace that began in the East, and now has taken root in the West in Pacific Buddhist Academy.

DRAGON, PROTECTOR OF THE DHARMA • The PBA Mascot

Images of the dragon in Buddhist temples represent the mythical protector of the Buddha and the Buddhadharma, or the Buddha’s teaching. In Buddhist myth, the dragon is associated with rain, clouds and tempests. He lives among the clouds; his breath condenses into life-giving rains.



It was the Dragon King Kulika who sent sweet rain to bathe the historic Buddha Siddhartha at his birth. Muchalinda, the Serpent King, sheltered the adult Siddhartha for a period of seven days as he sought enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.

Pacific Buddhist Academy’s mascot symbolizes the dragon’s role as protector of the Buddha and his teachings.

FACULTY & STAFF Staff

Josh Hernandez Morse	PRESIDENT & HEAD OF SCHOOL
Patrick Ito	BUSINESS MANAGER
Debbie Martin	OFFICE COORDINATOR
Rüdiger Rückmann	DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT
Liane Vloria	COLLEGE & CAREER COUNSELOR
Blanche Yarnell	DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Faculty

Dr. Benjamin Bruch
Kena Heffernan
Shah Hoshida Bento
Dr. Steven James
Verena Mellein
Loren Otake
Van Velasco

Adjunct Faculty

Zachary Agcaoili
Brandon Nitta
Wayne Takazono
Jay Toyofuku
Marion Yasui

Chaplain

Rev. Kazunori Takahashi



Emily Axt



Dylan Chang



Ashley Galicinao-Ripley



Alexandrianna Harman



Tony Cheng



Yong-Ming Foo



Shoshi Hashimoto



Royce Hirai



Tadashi Kamiya



Amy Nguyen



Yuma Tochika

Class of
2020



Kassandra Slowey



Otomi Tochika



GOLDEN CHAIN OF LOVE

I am a link in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong. I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.

I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others.

May every link in Amida's Golden Chain of Love be bright and strong and may we all attain perfect peace.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SHIKISHO

The shikisho is a stole worn by lay followers of the Buddha.

At graduation, seniors are presented with a PBA shikisho as recognition of their engagement in the Dharma, or Buddha's teachings, during their studies at Pacific Buddhist Academy. The PBA shikisho symbolizes the students' continuing commitment to demonstrating Buddhist values in their adult lives.

SIGNIFICANCE OF REGALIA

The regalia that PBA seniors and faculty wear is fashioned after academic dress worn daily by teachers and students in the universities of medieval Europe.

Traditionally the gown was dark in color or black. The square cap or mortarboard is derived from the Roman pileus, a type of skullcap. The color and lining of the hoods worn by faculty represent the university or college from which the faculty member graduated, and each degree that he or she earned.

SIGNIFICANCE OF KUKUI NUT LEI

The ancient Hawaiians so valued the kukui nut that they brought it with them when they traveled to these islands. They used the oil of the nut to make candles, and the spine of the coconut frond for a wick. The PBA graduation candidate presents a kukui nut lei to family members as an expression of gratitude for the love and light received from them on their path to awakening and peace.



**PACIFIC
BUDDHIST
ACADEMY**

1754 Lusitana Street • Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808)532-2649
www.PacificBuddhistAcademy.org