

The Student Files

Name: Fred Mayer
School: Drexel University
Major: Arts administration
City: Philadelphia

With strength and courage from chanting, I decided to reenter school in September 1995 — after being out for six years.

During my struggle to adjust to graduate school (while working full time), I took on an independent study to examine the issues of the Philadelphia Orchestra strike. My supervising professor was so impressed that I practiced Buddhism that he insisted I include a Buddhist perspective on labor relations in my final paper and had me lecture one of his honors classes about the belief system of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.

In April 1997 I started a part-time assignment with a nonprofit organization that works for humane conditions and humane treatment of prison inmates. Now I can actualize my Buddhist ideals as a program coordinator of art workshops in the prisons — the culmination of my prayers to the Gohonzon for the most meaningful way to contribute to society.

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