



NAROPA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Charge to the Graduates

President Stuart C. Lord
Naropa University

December 12, 2009

You are now certified to the world at large as alumni of this university. She is your kindly mother and you her cherished sons and daughters. This exercise denotes not your severance from her, but your union with her.

The university is not the campus, not the buildings on the campus, not the faculties, not the students of any one time—not one of these or all of them. The university consists of all who come into and go forth from her halls, who are touched by her influence and who carry on her spirit. Wherever you go, the university goes with you. Wherever you are at work, there is the university at work.

The education you received here has helped you develop respect for community, for service, and for learning, working, and living with people of all backgrounds and all circumstances, and for listening to each other and finding common ground.

You have the means to achieve much in this life you have been given this great opportunity. Go forth and meet the world as it is and change it for the better. With hope and faith, I welcome you into the fellowship. I bid you farewell only in the sense that I pray you may fare well.

You go forth, but not from us, we remain, but not severed from you.

Upon successful completion of degree requirements, by the authority vested in me, I confer on you the degree of Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Fine Arts with all of the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.