



August 26, 2011

Dear Community:

Contemplation for the week:

A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person.

~Dave Barry, "Things That It Took Me 50 Years to Learn"

Kindness is truly fascinating to observe. So often we express true loving-kindness to those that we deem worthy – or those who have somehow proven to be valuable to us. But the real measure of how we conduct ourselves is how we treat those that may not offer us as much.

Kindness expressed to all is a key aspect of a truly mindful person. To see a server as a human being with the same kind of joys and heartaches I face makes me more aware of a kind word or a smile that can demonstrate compassion. This is not some kind of looking down on those we perceive as “lesser,” but in fact, looking at every other person as my equal and embracing their strength and nobility.

As we enter this academic year, let us strive to be expressive of kindness to all.

Appreciations:

While I often try to acknowledge individuals in our Friday letter, this week I want to acknowledge a large body of people we call faculty. As we have begun the work with the new first-year seminar, and begun the implementation of the academic plan, our faculty have undertaken a great deal, and will continue to be adjusting and learning throughout this academic year.

We have five new school directors, and some new faculty members, all working together to make Naropa an amazing education institution, combining both experience and information to create a contemplative and holistic education. Without their passion, insight and care, none of the work we do would carry the meaning that it does.

As we embark on a new adventure this academic year, I thank the faculty for being brave, diligent and deeply committed to our students and our institution.

Remember, if you want to nominate someone for an appreciation, just respond to this e mail.

Ask the Cabinet

We are still seeking to answer questions that have come in to the Cabinet. Many came in after we had prepared the last responses, and we have a new list of questions and answers which should be posted on the website early next week at [https://my.naropa.edu/ICS/Ask the Cabinet/](https://my.naropa.edu/ICS/Ask_the_Cabinet/),

However, we will seek to highlight one particular question each week. This week's question is:

Who are the members of the Contemplative Administration Committee?

You may recall several months ago, we put out a call asking for nominations or self-nominations for this committee, and the committee was selected from that list. Alan Hartway will chair the committee and its members are currently:

Liz Acosta	Jeremy Lowry
Stephany Antrobus	Brent Ries
Richard Brown	Z Robison
Michael Girodo	Robin Weeks
Giovannina Jobson	

If you have any further questions, please contact Todd Kilburn at tkilburn@naropa.edu. As always, you may submit questions directly or anonymously through a third party.

President's Awards

Five people received the President's Award after being nominated by their peers on campus. Those five people are:

- Doug Dupler, Faculty member
- Judith Simmer-Brown, Faculty member
- Sarah Rhett, Staff member
- Nancy Morrell, Staff member
- Sarah Steward, Staff member

Special congratulations to these individuals for excellence in their work!

Direction for the Days Ahead

Some of you may be new to the university and wonder just what the pathway forward is. There are three key documents or strategies related to how Naropa is doing its work.

The first document is our strategic plan which has, as its theme, Deliver Distinction with Excellence. If you would like to read a summary of the plan, you can find more information at <http://www.naropa.edu/strategicplan/index.cfm>

The second document is our Academic Plan. As the Strategic Plan was developed, a plan to enhance our academics was created to help support the overall theme of delivering distinction with excellence. The Academic Plan can be found at:

<http://www.naropa.edu/academicaffairs/documents/AcademicPlan-v3.pdf>

The final document related to the Title II grant which we received last year to assist in Transforming the Undergraduate Learning Experience. It can be found at <http://www.naropa.edu/reorg/titleII.html>

These three documents, developed collaboratively with the Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and students, shape the direction toward which we are headed.

Last year's visit from the Higher Learning Commission for reaccreditation brought to the forefront some specific issues that the university needed to address. Information on the Higher learning Commission's visit can be found at <http://www.naropa.edu/about/accreditation.cfm>

Correction

In the list of staff positions listed and read at Convocation, we incorrectly identified Karen Bauman's position. She is **Counseling Practicum Coordinator**, not Contemplative Practice Coordinator. We apologize for any misunderstanding. Our Contemplative Practice Coordinator is Sherry Ellms, and she continues to do wonderful work in that role.

Two people also were hired this last year in Wilderness Therapy. They are:

Ben Kugel - Wilderness Therapy Trip Coordinator

Dan Riggan - Wilderness Therapy Internship Coordinator

Welcome to Ben and Dan as well as all the new members of the Naropa staff and faculty.

Go Naropa!

In the spirit of service,

Stuart C. Lord, President

Share your thoughts: Presidentlord@naropa.edu

For general rules of using Naropa's staff and faculty mailing lists, visit:

<http://eropa.naropa.edu/staff/it/GeneralRulesofusingNaropasStaffandFacultyMailingLists.asp>