



NAROPA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 5th, 2011

Dear friends and honored guests,

Although I am unable to be with you in person I want, on behalf of Naropa University, to welcome the Sakyong, the Sakyong Wangmo, our treasured friends, honored guests, and my dear Naropa community, to the Shambhala Ball. I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year, and all good wishes for the Year of the Iron Hare!

As Jamison reads this letter on my behalf, I will be traveling to Washington D.C. to represent Naropa University at the 'American Counsel on Higher Education.' Despite my absence however, I want to encourage you to do three things:

1. Enjoy yourself! As you all know, life is a beautiful dance; busy, complex and constantly changing. Due to our many passions it is often that there are collisions of deadlines and activities which have the potential to distract us from the joy of the moment. But tonight, I want to encourage you to take the time to truly revel in delight. Please, enjoy yourself and enjoy each other!

2. Connect with someone new tonight. Look around the room and know that each person here has brought with them unique gifts. Perhaps they bring the gift of vulnerability, compassion or tenderness. Perhaps they bring a sense of strength, structure or passion. Whatever it is, please bond with someone new tonight, share your passion and gifts with them, and revel in theirs. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful community; tonight please create new bonds to strengthen our communal connection. Alone we are

strong, however it is when working together that we achieve the potential for greatness! Let us join and realize that dream tonight.

3. Cherish the night's moments. I often think of my mind as a photo album, filled with emotive snapshots of the many experiences I have had over my life. Because I am unable to join you all tonight, please, for me, take at least one mental photograph and share it with me upon my return. Maybe it is the memory of a speech, an inspiring conversation, or a hug and reunion long overdue. Whatever it may be, please cherish it, and when you can, share it with me, so that I will have not missed the magic of this night.

I wish I could be here with you – this is a special and meaningful evening for our community. If I were here I would smile and say welcome, my friends, welcome home to Naropa, the realized vision of our founder and mentor, Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche.

With my best wishes and deepest delight,

Stuart C. Lord
President