





## Q&A with Regina Smith

Interim Director of Diversity and Inclusivity

Recent events across the nation, and here on our own campus, have inspired a renewed effort to examine Naropa's relationship to diversity, equality, inclusion, community, and justice. Part of that effort includes engaging all community members—Naropa leadership, faculty, staff, and students—in the conversation. Recently, we had a chance to sit with alumna Regina Smith, Naropa's Interim Director of Diversity, to hear her thoughts on the role of community in creating an inclusive environment at Naropa. The full interview is available to read at [naropablog.com](http://naropablog.com).

**DUR:** How do you think Naropa can offer a more inclusive campus environment?

**R.S.:** I think that there are different levels that we need to work on simultaneously. Like the intrapersonal. I think each individual needs to commit to deep, inward examination, identifying the places in which they're holding bias, or privilege, or ignorance, or unwillingness, resistance, and working with those individually, which I think is not a simple thing. I mean, you're basically asking people to unlearn who they think they are in order to buy into this collective identity that's really kind of anti- the way Americans are taught to view the self.

And, yes, the dissolution of the self—and that whole positive disintegration that is necessary—is painful. So few

people, willingly, undertake that. But then, the next level will be looking at our interpersonal relationships, and how we treat each other interpersonally, and looking at ways in which we take up space and use our power, and use our privilege, to either support others or—even if it's not consciously—oppress others. And then there's the institutional level, which includes looking at our policies and our practices, and our procedures and how we operate, for all of the places in which bias continues to influence how we operate.

**DUR:** Do you have specific goals that you want to achieve?

**R.S.:** It will be great if we get the multicultural center open, for a start, as well as training and awareness/ consciousness-building, on campus for as many people as possible.

I would say getting a wider array of candidates for jobs, too, and being more intentional around diversity in recruitment—definitely for staff and faculty. Also, beginning to shape a cohort-based scholarship program, where we brought in fifteen or so students and qualified them socioeconomically. Hopefully the crossover would also bring in other diverse applicants, more diverse students. That's what I did before I came to Naropa. I was the assistant director of a scholarship program at another institution, and we brought in fifteen new students every year. I really would love it if Naropa had



*Regina Smith, Interim Director of Diversity and Inclusivity*

a version of that to diversify our student body.

**DUR:** Are there a few of those initiatives that you think are more urgent, that require immediate action?

**R.S.:** The consciousness building, for sure. Once people view this as not "someone else's problem," I think everything else will be impacted. Once someone's consciousness changes around these topics, and they view it as part of their mission, then this office or this role doesn't have so much pressure on it, because then we're truly creating community. And I think that's going to happen. It can happen. I think diversifying the student body and the people here shift the consciousness. Once they get here, they want to stay here because no matter who they're interacting with, they understand that that person gets it. That's what keeps people here, and gets them here—creating a culture where they want to stay.



*Dennis Kerr, current student*

## Warriors for Healing: Veteran's Day Events at Naropa

By Dennis Kerr

As the student group leader for Naropa Student Veterans, I'm excited to share with you that on November 9, 2015, we will host an opening ceremony for the exhibit "Warriors in Healing: Veterans in Route to Peace." The Veterans exhibit will be on display for a little more than twenty days. If you are a Veteran with an interest in sharing your work, we welcome Naropa alumni submissions to the exhibit.

We invite members of the Naropa community in the Boulder area to save the date and join us on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, for a Veteran's Day Town Hall event in the Performing Arts Center on Naropa's Arapahoe Campus. As these events continue to develop, we hope to gain support and have participation across the community. We have already confirmed a military and family life counselor and a few student veterans and alumni veterans who plan to attend. We hope you will join us in honoring and recognizing veterans at Naropa this coming Veteran's Day.

## The Importance of Annual Giving

Annual gifts to Naropa from alumni, parents, faculty, staff, trustees, and friends fill the critical gap between tuition and the actual cost of education. Every gift of any size not only has a direct impact on the educational experience of each student, it is also a way for you to show you believe in the important work that is happening at Naropa.

One of the most important sources of funding for Naropa University is your gift to the Annual Fund, which allows us to meet the ongoing needs of the university as we deliver an extraordinary education to our students. Annual gifts support vital programs such as need-based scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students, improving student services, enhancing faculty development, and improving our facilities and grounds.

Making an annual gift will offer Naropa the greatest flexibility in supporting our mission. Learn more about ways to give by visiting [naropa.edu/give](http://naropa.edu/give).



## Naropa hosts the Unreasonable Institute

Over the summer, Naropa University was pleased to serve as the host of the Unreasonable Institute ([unreasonableinstitute.org](http://unreasonableinstitute.org)), a Boulder-based nonprofit organization that has quickly established an international reputation for their flagship summer institute. Each year, the Institute brings a dozen international entrepreneurs and connects them with world-class mentors and investors to help them bring their businesses to scale. All told, more than ninety entrepreneurs have gone through the Unreasonable Institute's programs, and have positively impacted the lives of more than eight million people around the world.

Acting as a host for this event is consistent with Naropa's growing emphasis on social entrepreneurship and

innovation. Recent examples include the creation of Naropa's Authentic Leadership Center, the launch later this fall of our School for Extended Studies and Professional Development, Board Chair Jerry Colonna's keynote presentation with Etsy's Matt Stinchcomb for Boulder Startup Week, an upcoming leadership retreat for the Social Enterprise Alliance following their national conference in Denver in September, as well as Professor Laura DeLuca's social innovation class, which began last fall and will continue this coming year.

We are incredibly excited to have hosted the Unreasonable entrepreneurs; it signals a new chapter in Naropa's engagement with the social entrepreneur network in Boulder and beyond.



*Jill Goldvarg with Naropa students in Bhutan*

## Connecting with Study Abroad Students in Bhutan

By Jill Goldvarg, BA '98

A few months back, I had the fun and auspicious opportunity to host the Naropa Bhutan Study Abroad group with Professor Anne Parker here in the capital, Thimphu. It was something I had been dreaming about since I heard about the program's conception a few years back.

To see even one Westerner/foreigner here in Bhutan is still a rare sight. So, to actually have a group of fellow Naropans at my house was really over-the-moon exciting for me! They were, just as I suspected, uniquely authentic. They talked about how much they are enjoying their time in Bhutan—mixed feelings with only one month to go. I could see their longing for more time here.

We had tea and shared stories and experiences. What I loved so much about them was how spacious and relaxed they were. This is why I feel a Naropa education is needed so much in the world, and especially here in Bhutan. Naropa students and faculty who are living, studying, and teaching in Bhutan have something rare and precious to share with Bhutanese society. My greatest wish is for this new relationship with Naropa University to grow into something wonderful, for the individual and for the country as a whole. Read the full story at [naropablog.com](http://naropablog.com). Plus, you can learn about my business at [cypresshimalaya.com](http://cypresshimalaya.com) and plan your own trip to Bhutan.

## In Memory of Pamela Krasney

By President Chuck Lief

As some of you may know, Pamela Krasney, Naropa alumna and longtime member of the Naropa Board of Trustees, died at home in California on June 9, 2015. Pamela was deeply committed to Naropa, our founder, and our mission. She was among the most generous people I have ever met, offering her spirit, her passion, and her resources for decades.

The Naropa community marked Pamela's death in June with a traditional Buddhist Sukhavati ceremony in the meditation hall of the Lincoln Building, led by Acharya Emerita Judy Lief. In the fall, we plan to celebrate Pamela's lifetime of service, not just to Naropa but to so many other organizations and individuals. More information will be shared as that event is planned. Please keep Pamela in your hearts as her journey unfolds.



## Naropa University Purchases Rights to Boulder College of Massage Therapy

Naropa University recently purchased the intellectual property and most of the physical assets of the former Boulder College of Massage Therapy (BCMT). Through this purchase, Naropa intends to open a new massage therapy school.

"Boulder has developed an internationally renowned reputation for training and certifying massage therapists, and Naropa's planned launch of a new school to replace BCMT ensures that Boulder will remain at the center for years to come," said President Chuck Lief. "Skilled massage therapists are in growing demand, and the skill is applied at a much greater frequency as physicians and health insurers recognize the benefits of massage in support of physical and mental health."