



# 2017

## ANNUAL REPORT



*Maitripa College President Yangsi Rinpoche presents an honorary Maitripa College degree to His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the 3-day Environmental Summit hosted by the College in 2013*

## Mission Statement

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Maitripa College is a Buddhist institution of higher education offering contemplative learning culminating in graduate degrees. Founded upon three pillars of scholarship, meditation, and service, Maitripa College curriculum combines Western academic and Tibetan Buddhist disciplines. Through the development of wisdom and compassion, graduates are empowered with a sense of responsibility to work joyfully for the wellbeing of others. We serve our students and the region through diverse and relevant educational, religious, and community programs.

# Welcome from the Dean

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Dear Friends,

It has been another inspiring and impactful year at Maitripa College. It is hard to believe that Maitripa has been doing the work of educating hearts and minds for over a decade now; we are at once really taking root and simultaneously still so new!

I was reminded of the importance of the kind of education we are offering here at Maitripa College by an experience I had recently in which I had to undergo a series of fairly invasive medical tests and exams to follow up on a previous health issue (just a check-up, everything is fine). During the experience of these tests, which were, superficially and by most standards, pretty unpleasant, I found myself repeatedly and naturally closing my eyes and directing my mind into my

daily meditation practice, and, despite the unpleasantness I was experiencing, really feeling quite good. I am not a particularly disciplined or focused practitioner, but I have had a fairly consistent practice over the years, and have spent some time in meditation retreat, and like anything else it seems that the mere habit of directing the mind towards a positive state resounds. It is very clear to me today that the internal resources I have been working to develop over these years with a sincere but largely aspirational altruistic motivation are actually paying off in the here and now.

This in turn reminds me that the work we are doing here at Maitripa College—grounding students in learning based on intellectual understanding, contemplative reflection, and active service—is groundbreaking and fundamental.

One of the most important messages from the Buddha's teaching from my perspective is that we can, and should, embody what we know, and act on it, and that the heart of that knowledge and behavior should be wisdom and compassion. At Maitripa College, with the support of all of you, we strive every day to create a place in which this can be learned, taught, and experienced. It is an honor and a pleasure to share this report on our activities of 2017 with you, and to continue to move forward together on this journey.

Please enjoy this report, and I hope to see you very soon.

With love,

Namdrol Miranda Adams  
Dean of Education & Assistant to Yangsi Rinpoche  
Maitripa College

# Letter from the President

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Dear Friends of Maitripa College,

I am very happy to present you with the 2017 Maitripa College Annual Report.

This report highlights some of the activities of 2017 that Maitripa College has been able to offer to our students, our community, and to the world. In the history of Maitripa College, we have been very fortunate to always be surrounded by very kind and dedicated friends in support of our mission and vision, and, thus far, have been able to facilitate the sharing of Buddhist education in a very beautiful way. So thank you for that.

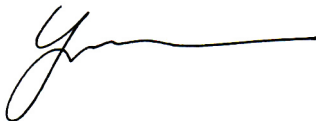
Some of the accomplishments for the year include:

- Observation and celebration of traditional Tibetan Buddhist holy days, pujas, practices, and celebrations
- The visits of several esteemed guest lamas and professors, including Ganden Tri Rinpoche Losang Tenzin (formerly the Jangtse Choje Rinpoche), Khangser Rinpoche, Geshe Dadul Namgyal, Venerable Thubten Chodron, Venerable Sangye Khadro, William Magee, PhD, Jan Willis, PhD, and Roger Jackson, PhD
- Our ninth graduation of degree students from Maitripa College, and the continued success of our degree program students and alumni in service to the world

This report should give you a clear picture of where we are and where we are heading. I hope this information will be helpful in assessing the effectiveness and responsibilities of Maitripa College. As you read the report, please consider areas in which you may be able to contribute. Without you, Maitripa College would not exist, and certainly cannot thrive and grow.

In particular, the kindness of Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche and FPMT International in supporting the birth, development, and flourishing of Maitripa College is foremost in my mind and thoughts. This incredible kindness has been the ground from which the College has arisen, and is really indescribable. So from my heart, on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees of Maitripa College, thank you, to Rinpoche, FPMT, and to all of you.

Sincerely,



Yangsi Rinpoche  
President and Board of Trustees  
Maitripa College



# Philanthropy at Maitripa College



*Maitripa College President Yangsi Rinpoche welcomes supporters during the 2017 annual Winter Benefit and Silent Auction*

Since our founding in 2006, Maitripa College has relied heavily on the generosity of supporters to accomplish our mission. 2017 was no different. Our donors and their support made funding over 50% of our operating budget a reality.

Giving at Maitripa College takes the following forms:

- ⌘ Annual Giving through the Maitripa College Annual Fund, including the Spring and Winter Campaigns, support the programs of the College today.
- ⌘ Gifts to the Teachers Fund, Scholarship Fund, and the Library Fund afford progress on building resources for a competitive and exceptional student experience.
- ⌘ Gifts to our Endowed Chair Funds or Planned Giving Funds provide stable funding for years to come.

## Philanthropic Highlights

### The Annual Fund

The Maitripa College Annual Fund is the College's foremost fundraising effort, providing significant annual resources to our highest priorities. Every aspect of Maitripa College is impacted by your donations to the Annual Fund, and has made our growth thus far possible.

This year, as a community, we gave over \$200,000 to annual fund needs. Donations of all sizes provide significant and meaningful support to the College throughout the academic year, and we can't thank you enough!

### The Teacher's Fund

In 2017, the Yeshe Khorlo Foundation continued its support of the Maitripa College Teacher's Fund, which secured our ability to create life-changing learning opportunities for our students. The Teacher's Fund is used to diversify the College's curriculum by attracting extraordinary visiting faculty, scholars, and Buddhist teachers.

Thank you to the Yeshe Khorlo Foundation for your generous gift!

# Income and Expenses Review

## 2017 BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Cash	\$52,104	Grants	\$18,229
Investments	7,900,723	Accrued Liabilities	-
Accounts Receivable	45,036	Total Liabilities	18,229
Equipment, Net	6,050	NET ASSETS	
Other Assets	(2,304)	Unrestricted	60,448
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,001,609</b>	Permanently restricted	7,922,932
		Total Net Assets	7,983,380
		<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,001,609</b>

## 2017 OPERATIONS STATEMENT

	General Fund	James Blumenthal Library Fund	Lama Zopa Rinpoche Endowed Chair	Three Pillars Endowment	Total
REVENUE					
Tuition, net	\$113,715	\$1,380			\$115,095
Donations and Public Programs	206,388	20,155	\$450,000	\$7,000,000	7,676,543
Investment Income	37,732		35,200		72,932
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	50,000		(25,000)	(25,000)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>370,103</b>	<b>21,535</b>	<b>462,732</b>	<b>7,010,200</b>	<b>7,864,570</b>
EXPENDITURES					
Faculty, Staff, Travel, Visitors	335,688	10,000			345,688
Public Relations	17,735				17,735
General Office administration, overhead, rent, fundraising	59,623	909			60,532
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>413,046</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>423,955</b>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(42,943)	10,626	462,732	7,010,200	7,440,615
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	78,108	14,657	450,000		542,765
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$35,165</b>	<b>\$25,283</b>	<b>\$912,732</b>	<b>\$7,010,200</b>	<b>\$7,983,380</b>

# Our Three Pillars of Education

The unique pedagogy of Maitripa College centers on three core aspects of our education: Scholarship, Meditation, and Service. Combining rigorous academic study with meditation and community service requirements results in a superior, integrated education in Buddhist Studies. Our programs are designed for students seeking an in-depth understanding of Buddhist thought in the context of both traditional and academic scholarship.



## Scholarship

2017 graduates offer thanks to Yangsi Rinpoche, President and main faculty member of Maitripa College, during commencement ceremonies.

## Meditation

Yangsi Rinpoche provides traditional meditation instruction on lojong, or training the mind, to Maitripa College students in the Jokhang Meditation Hall.



## Service

Maitripa College student Julie Dreyer and alumnus Carl Jensen (among others) at graduation from Clinical Pastoral Education Residency at Providence Portland Medical Center.



# Highlights from 2017



Ganden Tri Rinpoche (formerly Jangtse Choje Lobsang Tenzin) blessed Maitripa College with teachings on Refuge and tantra, offered the ceremony for Taking Refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and conferred the Vajrasattva empowerment.

Roger Jackson, PhD, Visiting Professor, offered the course “Buddha: Stories, Songs, Theories, Devotion,” co-taught Buddhist philosophy with Yangsi Rinpoche, and delivered community talks on the nature of mind, enlightenment, and potential for Buddhahood.



For three intensive weeks, guest faculty member Jan Willis, PhD, pioneered her multimedia course “Making the Invisible, Visible: Working with Unhealthy Bias and Up-rooting It,” at Maitripa College, addressing the ways in which Dharma can help us understand and heal the wounds of racism in this country. Dr. Willis’ community talk, “Dharma and Activism,” drew a large crowd to hear her life story, from Jim Crow Alabama and marching with King, to meeting Lama Yeshe in India in the 1970s, to a new chapter in Buddhist Studies and social activism.



Venerable Thubten Chodron offered an inspiring commencement address at the celebration of the graduation of three MA students: Liam Dodson, Brandon Long, and Yian Liew. Rinpoche warmly invited them to continue to consider Maitripa College their welcoming spiritual home. Venerable Chodron also compared early Buddhist concepts of just leaders with our current social norms and politics in a series of teachings on “Practical Ethics.” *(photo: Ven. Chodron with Maitripa College faculty, staff, and 2017 graduates)*



William Magee, PhD, taught our eighth Classical Tibetan Language Summer Intensive. A joyful and inspiring example of dedication to study and practice was set by the participation of five ordained nuns! *(photo: Tibetan class with William Magee, PhD, on far left standing)*

The James A Blumenthal Library hosted its first Book Fair and fundraising sale of our new Maitripa College tote bags. Dozens of students, area scholars, and community members made donations or joined or renewed their Friends of the Library membership and brought home books from our overstock.

Maitripa College was also very fortunate this year to enjoy visits, Dharma talks, lectures, and retreats with Khangser Rinpoche, Venerable Sangye Khadro, Jose Cabezon, PhD, Merry Colony, Geshe Dadul Namgyal, physicians and an astrologer from the Tibetan Astro-Medical College, and regular dharma talks and Tara retreats with President Yangsi Rinpoche.





Maitripa College is proud of the professional, academic, and leadership accomplishments of our alumni. Most of our graduate students are supported by scholarships. As these graduates' stories illustrate, they go on to repay that kindness in the work they do for others. By working in chaplaincy, translation, Dharma education, research, and activism, they contribute to the forms Buddhism takes in the West, and create positive change in our world.

## Rachel Ryer

Four years ago, I noticed my mind and level of compassion was in a state of extreme burn out. I took a daring vacation and went to the other side of the planet. Through the kindness of my teachers I was following a dream. The result was the capacity to continue to study Dharma, meditate, and serve at a depth beyond knowledge and even breaking through my own constructed barriers of self worth and perceived capacity. I had to let go of family and the familiar. I went deep and long to connect with purpose, rewire my brain and transform my mind by facing fears, limits and loneliness face on. I dedicated my time to serving others even by acting as a senior student teaching the precious Dharma, studying the Tibetan language, sustaining a community of fellow translators, and learning how to learn to use my mind in new ways such as mind palaces and listening skills.



My education at Maitripa College was an important piece of developing the foundation for my spiritual practice, from which I have learned to use everything and trust that nothing is wasted. I began to see that a major key is the practice of cultivating contentment while engaging in creating community and exercising compassion. Now I am jumping into the ocean that is Thubten Norbu Ling as Spiritual Program Coordinator and Support Teacher. I hope to manifest the advice of HHDL and be of some benefit by addressing the need we all have to understand how the mind functions, the root of disturbing afflictions we experience as emotions that motivate our every action and how to make improvements in our world, our life, bringing alive the understanding of the wisdom from the Nalanda tradition helpful attendance for those and their loved ones in their darkest hour. I continue my Chaplaincy practice attuned to others in despair going through paradoxically engaging and life enriching encounters with others.

## Venerable Tenku Ruff

*Excerpt from Ven. Tenku Letter "Greetings from the Incoming Board President" to Soto Zen Buddhist Association.*

Venerable Tenku Ruff, MDiv '14 was appointed Board President for the Soto Zen Buddhist Association this year. As a Zen Priest, Ven. Tenku spends much of her time in interfaith gatherings organized to promote peace and in response to hate crimes. She graduated from Maitripa College in 2013.

These are her words. "This sense of heaviness imbues the world around us these days, even as people split further into 'us and them.' People share feelings of hopelessness and despair with me more than I have ever heard before. As heavy as the world feels though, our Zen training provides us with the capacity for being with people in such grief, and for being in such grief ourselves. Our Zen training provides us with the skills to hold heaviness without shying away and to help people understand that there is no "us and them" in the Dharma. Our temples, our communities, and the world need us to bring our training and skills to the exigent circumstances of hate and intolerance all around us, starting with ourselves and our own Zen communities, where the hate and intolerance is much more subtle and harder to see. We can do more to ensure that all sentient beings benefit from the Dharma treasure by examining the ways we unintentionally keep people out."

In closing Ven. Tenku writes, "We must double-down on compassion and wisdom, on being upright and on Right Speech. We must slow down and meet each Buddha where they are, speaking and modeling the truth of interconnectedness. And we can make efforts to be more visible in our unity, even as we continue to appreciate our differences." Ven. Tenku represents an outstanding graduate of Maitripa College who is choosing each day to be a strong Buddhist leader for social justice.



## Kristen Mullen

As a Buddhist minister I practice staying in the moment attuned to another's emotional and spiritual needs. I pay attention to what it takes to be awake and present in the most difficult circumstances with others, remembering the importance of gentleness and kindness and its skill full means in doing so. Awakening to that present moment in attunement with another to vicariously introspect about their emotional and spiritual state. I have learned this, and developed it, in my life and at Maitripa College.

CPE training has taught me to continually learn how to use my feeling realm as guidance to resonate with other's suffering in anxiety when others are distraught, devastated, or in traumatic holding patterns. My work as a chaplain encourages my own transformation to be able to listen into another's wisdom. It is work in progress for me, my chaplaincy path and my life. The CPE residency encompasses the ground, path and fruition aspects of learning how to provide genuine ministry in the clinical setting. It is both inspiring and exhausting to be a helpful attendance for those and their loved ones in their darkest hour. I continue my Chaplaincy practice attuned to others in despair going through paradoxically engaging and life enriching encounters with others.



# Our Dedicated Team

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## 2017 Maitripa College Board of Trustees

Alberto Fournier, PhD—Chair  
Pamela Cayton—Vice-Chair  
Jose Cabezon, PhD  
Venerable Damcho Diana Finnegan, PhD  
Maria A. Garcia  
Lynn Ogden  
Nicholas Ribush, MD  
Yangsi Rinpoche, Geshe Lharampa  
Scott South  
Mark T. Waller

## 2017 Maitripa College Faculty

Yangsi Rinpoche, Geshe Lharampa  
Namdrol Miranda Adams, MA  
LaShelle Lowe-Charde, Ed.S.  
Leigh Miller, PhD  
Dan Rubin, PsyD

## 2017 Visting Faculty

Roger Jackson, PhD  
William Magee, PhD  
Jan Willis, PhD

## 2017 Visiting Teachers

Ganden Tri Rinpoche Lobsang Tenzin  
(formerly Jangtse Choje Rinpoche)  
Venerable Thubten Chodron  
Khangser Rinpoche  
Geshe Dadul Namgyal  
Venerable Sangye Khadro  
Merry Colony  
Jan Willis, PhD  
Roger Jackson, PhD  
William Magee, PhD

## 2017 Maitripa College Administrative Staff

Yangsi Rinpoche—President  
Namdrol Miranda Adams—Dean of Education  
Leigh Miller—Director of Programs  
Tiffany Patrella Blumenthal—Director of Student Services  
Jacob Lindsley—Registrar and Assessment Officer (through July)  
Sunitha Bhaskaran—Bookkeeper  
Alfredo Piñeiro—Director of Information Technology  
Louise Light—Graphic Director and Webmaster  
Amanda Russell—Environmental Coordinator



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(The Foundation for the Preservation  
of the Mahayana Tradition)  
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