



School of History, Philosophy, & Religion

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05/24/2022

Dear Tsadra Foundation,

I write to recommend Gerry Prindiville for the Tsadra Foundation Advanced Contemplative Scholarship.

I have known Gerry for twenty years, since we were both students at the Rangjung Yeshé Institute. In all of those years I have known him to be a good friend, trusted mentor, and exceptional dharma practitioner. From the first time we met, his devotion to the dharma has been unwavering. Indeed, in all our years of knowing each other, it seems we talk of little else. But it was not all just talk: Gerry has devoted his life to study and practice. When we first met, this involved attending classes on Buddhist philosophy and Tibetan language at Rangjung Yeshé Institute. Later, after I had already returned to the United States, Gerry fulfilled his longstanding ambition by completing three years of solitary retreat under the direct instruction of Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche.

After his retreat, Gerry returned to the United States, and we continued our friendship, meeting most often at Gomde California, Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche's retreat center. There I not only continued my friendship with Gerry, but also got to watch him teach and lead others as a resident lama. My most significant interaction with Gerry in this role was in January of 2021, when I attended a (virtual) New Year's retreat that he led. I am myself a teacher, and while teaching in a university is a different thing than teaching practitioners, I still think I have the experience to say that Gerry's teaching style and ability was excellent. I was repeatedly impressed as he gently guided people through the complexities of the ritual practice, as well as dispensing general advice on life and dharma.

Gerry is now looking to undertake another three year retreat. I have no doubt that he will be successful, and that the undertaking will make him an even better teacher.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Barstow".

Geoffrey Barstow

Associate Professor
School of History, Philosophy, and Religion
Oregon State University