

Tulane Students' Experiences in India are Focus of New Film

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Kathryn Hobgood Ray
khobgood@tulane.edu
504-865-5229

Karma Walkers, a documentary about the experiences of 12 Tulane University students from the School of Social Work who leave New Orleans for India to work with orphans, lepers and Tibetan refugees in the mountaintop kingdom of the Dalai Lama, premieres on Tuesday, May 4 at 8 p.m. at the Freeman Auditorium in Woldenberg Art Center on the uptown campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Since 2002, Ron Marks, dean of the School of Social Work, has led students on annual month-long immersion trips to Dharamsala, India in the Himalayan Mountains, home of the Dalai Lama and the epicenter of the Tibetan government in exile. There students have taught English, worked with orphans in the Tibetan Children's Village, consulted with the Tibetan government officials and learned about traditional Tibetan medicine.

Documentary filmmaker Bill Delano, the Travel Channel host of "Not Your Average Travel Guide," joined the group in 2007, documenting their daily activities as students, as social workers and as visitors in a new land. The result is *Karma Walkers*, a 65-minute film that explores the transformative power of travel.

"*Karma Walkers* hopes to document how widening one's own circle of compassion can help facilitate the growth of a happier, more confident world," said Delano. "If you've ever thought about dropping everything to travel to the other side of the world to champion the cause of a displaced people, then this film might just inspire you to try."

A one-hour reception beginning at 7 p.m. will precede the film. There will be a question and answer session afterward with Delano, Marks, Tsering, a Monk from Nepal who was one of the trip guides, as well as some students who went on the trip.

For more information visit <http://tulane.edu/socialwork/>