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REPORT ON THE ANHS MEMBERS MEETING

KALAMAZOO, MI, SEPTEMBER, 2012

The 2012 Annual Members' meeting of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies took place at Western Michigan University on September 21, 2012. It was held at the Second Himalayan Studies Conference, which was organized by Mahendra Lawoti in conjunction with the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs. President Mary Cameron opened the meeting at 1:12 PM by welcoming the 44 persons attending and inviting them to enjoy the lunch ANHS was providing.

Mary acknowledged the extraordinary work that outgoing President Geoff Childs and retiring *Himalaya* editor Arjun Guneratne had done during their tenures as leaders of ANHS. Their efforts have transformed the organization into the vibrant and active Association it is today. She also thanked Milan Shrestha, as his term on the EC ends, for his tireless work setting up and maintaining the ANHS website. She also thanked Mahendra Lawoti and the staff of Western Michigan University for the fine job they have done organizing this Second Himalayan Studies Conference. Things have gone extremely well thanks to their efforts.

Mary then introduced the current Officers and Executive Council members of ANHS: Mahendra Lawoti, Paul Karan, Teri Allendorf, Megan Adamson Sijapati (Treasurer), John Metz (Secretary), Jessica Birkenholtz (new), Geoff Childs, Sienna Craig (ex officio), Mark Turin (ex officio), Mary Cameron (President). She noted that we are seeking new EC members and hoping that some in the meeting will step forward. Mark Turin and Sienna Craig are the new co-editors of *Himalaya* and so are *ex officio* members of the EC. She announced that Sienna has been able to secure from Dartmouth sufficient financial support to continue to subsidize the cost of *Himalaya*.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Megan Adamson Sijapati then gave the Treasurer's Report. Megan announced that the organization has assets of approximately \$21,000, which will decrease to about \$17,250 after Arjun publishes volume 31 of *Himalaya*. At its annual meeting the previous evening the EC approved the draft budget for 2013. We will again offer the \$1500 Senior Fellowship and \$100 Dor Bahadur Bista prize for the best graduate student paper submitted. We will continue to fund the Kathmandu Research Centre for visiting scholars, so she invited those present who are doing research in the Himalaya this year to use our facilities. We have applied for a major grant from the Department of Education, and should we be successful, this will provide considerable new resources. Megan concluded by explaining that memberships are

extremely important to ANHS's finances and work, so she urged all those who are not yet members to join today.

Mary then presented plaques to Geoff, Arjun, and Milan for their great work for the organization.

HIMALAYA REPORT

Next Arjun Guneratne presented his report on our journal, *Himalaya*. He assured the audience that the journal is in good hands as he turns over the editorship to Sienna Craig and Mark Turin. Volume 31 is complete and should be in the mail to members even as he spoke. Volume 32, a special issue on Ladakh, is in preparation.

MEMBERSHIP

President Cameron then reported on the membership numbers of the organization. We have 140 individual members and 12 institutional members. She emphasized that membership is crucial to the strength of the organization. Non-members who are present should join. We are also seeking new Institutional Members.

MAJOR EVENTS

Mary then reviewed the Association's major events of the previous year.

- a. We held the First ANHS Himalayan Studies Conference, at Macalaster College, St. Paul, MN, in October 2011
- b. ANHS co-sponsored with Social Science Baha and British-Nepal Academic Council the First Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya, from July 18 to 22 in Kathmandu, Nepal; this conference was supported by the US Embassy.
- c. ANHS continues to maintain our Kathmandu Research Center (KRC) in collaboration with Social Science Baha (SSB). The KRC helps American scholars secure housing and research assistants; it also provides office space and library access; finally the KRC Director, Deepak Thapa, assists scholars with contacts and networking.
- d. ANHS Kathmandu Speaker Series is an on-going series of lectures and workshops the organization offers to the local scholarly community; this series is supported by royalties from the publication of articles first appearing in *Himalaya* in a book series (the Himalaya Series in Nepal Studies) published in Nepal by Himal Books.

Mary strongly urged US scholars to plan to contribute to this series; anyone visiting Nepal should contact Mary for advice on participating. Deepak Thapa at SSB is the contact in Nepal.

e. The organization has applied for a \$61,000 grant from the Department of Education as an Overseas Research Center

f. ANHS will apply for Full Center Status as a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in early 2013.

g. ANHS awarded the 2012 Fellowship for Senior Scholars to Anna Marie Stirr and the 2011 Dor Bahadur Bista prize to Sarah Besky; the 2012 prize will be awarded in the next week, after this year's submissions have been evaluated.

LOCATION OF 2013 MEETING

Lastly, President Cameron announced that ANHS has tentatively decided to hold the 2013 meeting and conference at the South Asia Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. There are some possible alternatives, but they are only tentative, so the EC will decide soon and announce the choice via email. (post-script: the EC did choose to meet at the South Asian Conference in Madison, WI in 2013).

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business, so the President adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.

John Metz
Secretary



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO ANHS COUNCIL

The Council of the ANHS invites nominations to fill two vacancies in the Executive Council of the Association. These may be self-nominations from people interested in serving on the Council or nominations by third parties with the agreement of the candidate. Nominees must be members of the Association. Send names and a brief paragraph describing research and scholarly interests to the President, Mary Cameron, at mcameron@fau.edu. The ANHS seeks to have a Council that reflects the diversity of disciplinary and regional interests of Himalayanists.

The new members of the Executive Council will be elected by the Council at its annual meeting to be held in Madison, WI in conjunction with the South Asia Conference in October 2013. The 4-year term will begin immediately thereafter. Please visit <http://anhs-himalaya.org/> for more information on the Association and the Executive Council.