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President's Letter

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President's Letter

Dear ANHS members and friends:

I have the opportunity to share a long list of exciting developments at the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies. The first accomplishment to note is in your hands, or on your screen. "Popular Music Across the Himalayas" is the first edition of *HIMALAYA* under the editorship of Mona Bhan and David Citrin. It instantiates the vision Mona and David have to build upon the many strengths of the journal and to expand the breadth of the material—geographical, stylistic, and disciplinary—as well as to use social media and on-line formats to create a journal that continues to live beyond paper. As incoming Managing Editor, Scott Halliday has been pivotal in making this possible, along with Swati Chawla, who joins as the new Digital Features editor. The support of others at Macalester College, the University of British Columbia, the University of Washington, and DePauw University have also been invaluable. Mona and David have learned much in the last year, while outgoing editors Mark Turin and (recently named Guggenheim Fellow) Sienna Craig have made a seamless handover and transition.

At ANHS, we are fortunate to be able to offer fellowships and prizes to recognize and support scholarship on the Himalayan region. We were able to acknowledge 19 exceptional students working in the Himalayas through

our Asian Students Fellowship. At the Himalayan Studies Conference in Boulder in September, we were also able to acknowledge Jan Brunson's research on birth timing in Nepal with the Senior Fellowship, as well as Samuele Poletti's research on divination with the Dor Bahadur Bista Prize; excitingly, an updated version of his manuscript appears in this current issue of *HIMALAYA*. We also celebrated the inaugural year of the James Fisher First Book Prize, which recognizes exceptional monographs that exemplify the rigorous scholarship of Jim Fisher. *The Buddhist Art of Living in Nepal* by Lauren Leve and Sara Shneiderman's *Rituals of Ethnicity* share this award. Demonstrating the depth and strength of Himalayan scholarship, the committee presented an honorable mention to Gina Drew's book, *River Dialogues*. One of the most enjoyable tasks I have with ANHS is to be able to support the scholarly community with these on-going fellowships.

The ANHS community was visible and vocal at the fifth Himalayan Studies Conference hosted at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where more than 200 members showed up for beautiful mountain views and excellent panels. Acclaimed author Manjushree Thapa challenged us to think about underrepresented voices in Nepali literature and Lama Jabb dazzled us with poetry about Tibetan lakes and people. The ANHS

community will next come together at the Madison conference in October 2018. There, Carole McGranahan will offer a keynote address that will open our minds, as well as the geographical boundaries of the "South Asia" conference. ANHS will be hosting a symposium on Thursday, October 11th to kick off the conference entitled "Across the Himalayas," seeking to further emphasize the importance of scholarship that reaches beyond national boundaries.

There are also new developments related to ANHS services to researchers while abroad. The Kathmandu Research Center (KRC) continues to offer services to ANHS members, including supporting scholars needing permits and advice about language instructors. ANHS is also in the process of creating affiliations with institutions in Bhutan and India, and hopes to expand and develop those connections. The results of surveys of the ANHS membership have demonstrated to the organization the importance of offering services such as permit and visa facilitation, academic connections, and community not only in Nepal, but throughout the wider Himalayas. We are working towards that, and eagerly welcome further ideas and connections from ANHS members. Another member survey called for Himalayan language education in the region. This is a long-time goal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies and one we will

redouble our efforts towards, inspired by the interest of members and the on-going US Government investment in international education.

In my conversations with Presidents of other overseas research institutions, I am reminded of the unique strength of ANHS as a membership-based organization, supported by the funds and ideas of people with a commitment to Nepal and the Himalayas, all 400+ of us. We need your ideas and your time to keep this exceptional community alive. Please send your research and writing to us, via *HIMALAYA*, your suggestions to me by email, and we welcome your contributions of time and/or money. Please donate in these diverse ways to help us continue to grow in numbers, breadth, and spirit.

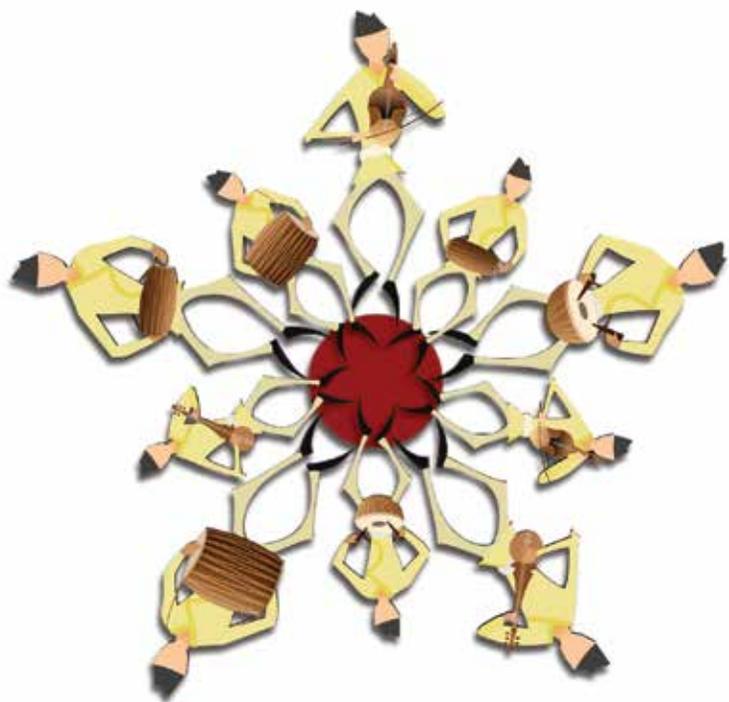
It has been a privilege to be the President of ANHS this year, working alongside the hard-working Executive Committee and our staff in Wisconsin, sharing ideas with people at conferences, and reading members' scholarship. I am excited to see everyone in future conferences or to hear from you by email.

Take good care,

Heather Hindman

President, Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

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Jamarko workshop poster, 2016.