

FAAN Newsletter

Vol.6 No.1

September 2002

Publication of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Nepal (FAAN)

From the President



Namaste Dear FAAN Members and Fellow Fulbrighters: It is indeed a great pleasure for me to write a few words in this issue. The present executive committee has been elected on July 30, 2001. This is the sixth Executive committee since FAAN's inception in 1991.

Nationally and Internationally, the year 2001 and the first half of 2002 witnessed the unimaginably awful events of June 11 in the Narayanhiti Royal Palace, the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in US and the ongoing Maoist insurgency in Nepal. Even in this hardship period, FAAN conducted its regular monthly programs and hosted some special memorable events. On April 15, 2002 FAAN members hosted a welcome dinner party at the Malla Hotel in Lainchaur in honor of His Excellency US Ambassador Michael Malinowski and Madam Karen Malinowski. Fellow Fulbrighters had a good opportunity to exchange views with the Ambassador on various topics of their interest and that was a wonderful enjoyable evening. We are very much thankful to Ambassador Malinowski for being with us and for his remarks of encouragement. We are also grateful to the Ambassador for hosting a reception for the new FAAN Executive committee and Advisory Board members at his residence in March 2002. On June 16, 2002, FAAN hosted a farewell dinner to Mr. Robert Kerr, Director of American Center, Embassy Public Affairs Officer and USEF Board Chair. In addition, Mr. Kerr had served as one of our Advisory Board Members. It was really very difficult to say good bye to somebody like Mr. Kerr who was always so good to FAAN. His invariably supportive and generous advice to FAAN will always be remembered. Ms. Constance C. Jones the new director has already joined the Center. We look forward to having her support and advice.

We hope that the rest of the year 2002 will be more favorable to Nepal, the USA and to FAAN. Two of our FAAN members, Dr. Prakash Saran Mahat and Dr. Miranda Rijal have recently been nominated as the members of National Planning Commission. FAAN extends its hearty congratulations to them, and to FAAN Executive Committee Member Dr. Ram Bhadur Chhetri, who has recently returned from USA. In addition, another FAAN Executive Member Mr. Alok Rajouria, has recently left for US, while Dr. Lakshman Upadhyaya will be leaving soon to the States to participate in a Fulbright Alumni Initiative Award. I congratulate all of them for their achievement and wish them a grand success. We expect they would contribute more than ever to FAAN on their returns to Nepal! We think it would be worth to hold a Regional, or if possible an International Fulbright workshop /seminar to share the views and extend friendship with Fulbrighters from around the world. Coincidentally, from Oct. 10 to 13, 2002, I shall participate in the U.S. Fulbright Association's 25th Anniversary Conference in Washington D.C. I hope that this would be a good opportunity to explore the idea of holding the seminar in Nepal. Finally, I am thankful to USEF Executive Director Mike Gill in so many ways. We are also planning to undertake some of the research projects to strengthen the activities of FAAN. But to realize our aims, we need the interest, cooperation and strong support of all FAAN members. We are holding General Body Meeting soon I sincerely hope and request all our members to participate and render your invaluable advice and suggestion to work ahead.

Greetings to all for Subha Vijaya Dashami and let us all pray for victory over all evils restoring peace.

Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya

New Executive Committee of FAAN

The election for the Executive Committee (2001-2003)

Executive Committee	
President	Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya
Vice President	Dr. Ananta Raj Paudyal
General Secretary	Dr. Prakash Mahat
Secretary	Mr. Madan Mohan Das
Treasurer	Mr. Ram Bhakta Amatya
Member	Dr. Ram Bahadur Chettri
Member	Mr. Hrishikesh Upadhyaya
Member	Mr. Alok Rajouria
Member	Dr. Laxman Upadhyaya
Member	Dr. Dambar Narayan Yadav
Member	Dr. Dhruva Lal Shrestha

was successfully held on July 30, 2001. The election was conducted by an election commission consisting of Chairman Dr. Shishir K. Shapit, and members Mr. Surendra Man Joshi and Mr. Tula Raj Basyal. The executive committee and the advisory committee are as follows:

A new advisory board for the Executive Committee was formed with the following members:	
Chairman:	Mr. Yog P. Upadhyaya
Members:	Mr. Ajit Narayan Singh Thapa
	Prof. Shanti Basyat
	Mr. Keshab Bhakta Mathema
	Mr. Michael Gill
	Mr. Ramawatar Yadav
Member Sec.	Prof. Dilli Devi Shakya



Reception hosted by H.E. Michael Malinowsky for FAAN members

Project Committee Formed

A project committee has been formed which has met several times to discuss and develop potential projects for FAAN. The committee has identified and prioritized crucial areas where FAAN has the capacity to work in. The areas that were identified were privatization and globalization, civic education, mountain development and network development of greater Fulbright alumnus network and the development of a profile of Fulbright students. FAAN executive committee encourages all members to take this opportunity of developing project ideas, concept notes and proposals in their areas of expertise.

Activities: Welcomes and Farewells

H.E. US Ambassador to Nepal Michael and Karen G. Malinowski organized a reception for the new Executive Committee of FAAN and its Advisory Committee and Fulbrighters at His Excellency's residence at Kamaladi on March 6, 2002.

FAAN held a Welcome Dinner Party in honor of His Excellency U.S. Ambassador at Hotel Malla on April 15, 2002. The same day a meeting of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board was held. This gathering gave FAAN members an opportunity to get acquainted with His Excellency and to discuss various issues with him.

A farewell party was organized by FAAN in honour of Mr. Robert Kerr, Director of American Center and PAO (Public Affairs Officer) with the American Embassy.

Monthly Talk Programs

The Executive Committee has continued the productive and informative monthly talk programs in which experts from various disciplines make presentations on their areas of expertise. Open to all, these talk programs have become an effective forum for discussing topics and issues that cover a wide range of subjects. During the period the following talk programs were held:

- **Oct. 17, 2001:** Dr. John Adams, Professor at the University of Virginia, Center for South Asian Studies gave a presentation on "Reflection in the Mirror: Self Images and Realities in Nepalese Economic Social Progress" Dr. Adams shared his observation of the Nepalese economy in a very interesting way through 10 myths. Dr. Adams is Pro-

fessor Emeritus at the Northeastern University.

- **January 10, 2002:** Dr. Dilli Ram Dahal, Reader, CNAS, TU made a presentation on "Cultures of Family and Work in the USA: Some Observations of a Nepali Anthropologist". Dr. Dahal says a comparative prospective is ultimately the best way to understand the currents in our society.
- **March 29, 2002:** Ms. Kathryn Myers, Associate Professor of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs made a presentation on "America Art Influenced by Art and Cultures of South Asia and vice versa." Ms. Myers has been presenting solo and group exhibitions since 1987.
- **May 3, 2002:** Dr. Purusottam Prasad Mainali, Director General of Dairy Development Corporation gave a presentation on "Milk Holiday Problem in Dairy Sectors". Milk holiday has become an important issue because the milk produced and sold, mostly by marginal farmers, is not fully procured by milk collection and processing industries because of market glut. As a result, farmers who invested in livestock, many through credit, are losing. Dr. Mainali states that the word "holiday" indicates relief and relaxation, but to the farmers it is a painful blow to their enterprise.
- **June 14, 2002:** Dr. Linda Smith, Fulbright Senior Scholar and a Geologist gave a presentation on the arsenic poisoning problem that has surfaced in the Terai region, particularly in Nawalparasi district. During the presentation, Mr. Amar Neku and Nirmal Tuladhar demonstrated using a portable kit to detect arsenic contamination. Dr. Smith is a specialist on stratigraphic modeling and sequence stratigraphy and had studied 13 sedimentary basins around the world.



A rapt audience at the monthly talk programme at American Center

Our sincere gratitude to the Fulbright Commission for providing refreshments and logistic support in FAAN activities

EXPERIENCES

Back to America

Dr. Ram B. Chhetri
Tribhuvan University

The Fulbright Alumni Initiative Award (AIA) made possible for me to visit the University of Georgia, Athens (UGA) from the beginning of February till the middle of July 2002. This program funds projects aimed at creating sustainable institutional linkages between the home and host institutions of alumni of the Fulbright Scholar Program. I had first visited the Department of Anthropology at UGA in Fall 1997 as a Fulbright Post Doctoral Fellow and thus was able to compete for the 2001 Fulbright AIA. The Fulbright award this time was made in response to my proposal "Academic and Research Collaboration between TU (Nepal) and UGA (USA): Institutionalization of the Linkage for Sustainable and Mutually Beneficial Relations". The initiatives proposed in my project (to be undertaken between October 2001 and September 2003) are: (i) Joint Curriculum Development and Teaching; (ii) Faculty and Student Exchange; and (iii) Collaborative Research and Publication. Here I want to talk about my visit to the US which has been very fruitful both from the professional as well as personal points of view.

My host at UGA during both my visits was Prof. Robert E. Rhoades whom I have known since 1982 (when we both were part of a study-team evaluating the National Potato Development Program supported by Swiss Association for Technical Assistance). For the Spring Semester 2002 Prof. Rhoades had decided to offer a course titled "Anthropology of the Mountains" as a way of doing something about the mountains during 2002—the International Year of the Mountains. He invited me as a co-instructor with him for the course. This graduate seminar was very lively—and I must admit that I was able to learn about people and the mountains in the Andes while contributing to the course on the basis of my understanding of anthropology in the Nepal Himalayas. The discussions and the readings for the course made Prof. Rhoades and me more keen in undertaking such a comparative research project—comparing the peoples and cultures (e.g., with a focus on perceptions about global climate change or similar issues) of the Andes and the Himalayas. We have decided to pursue this idea and have discussed it with colleagues including those in Peru. We will be doing some activities along this line in the near future (I hope to share the information about such activities later).

As soon as the Spring Semester ended, we (my wife Gyanu had arrived at UGA by mid-April) were invited to visit Ithaca by the Cornell-Nepal Study Program (CNSP). Prof. Dick Gaulton, the Director of the program did everything he could to make our visit pleasant and fruitful. Although the visit to Cornell University was only for one week, we were able to meet with Profs. David Holmberg, Kathy March, etc., and discuss about how to make the CNSP in Kathmandu more effective, successful and interesting for the students.

On our way back to Georgia from Cornell University, we stopped for a few days in Washington DC. I was able to visit the CIES office and talk to Amy E. Rustic about my program at the UGA.

Felicitations:

Heartly congratulations to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Birkram Shah Dev, Her Majesty Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah and their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess on the joyous occasion of the birth of his Royal Highness the Nava Yuvaraj.

Congratulations

FAAN would like to congratulate **Dr. Minendra Rijal** (Fulbright 1987) and **Dr. Prakash Mahat** (Fulbright 1988) for appointment as members in the National Planning Commission.

FAAN congratulates **Alok Rajouria** (Fulbright 1994), who is also a FAAN Executive Member for East West Center Fellowship Award for Ph.D. program at the University of Hawaii.

FAAN also extends its congratulations to **Dr. Lakshman Upadhyaya** for being awarded the Fulbright Alumni Initiative Award. He will be associated with the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.



Farewell dinner to bid Robert Kerr "Goodbye" and "Thank you"

Obituary

Mr. Ram Chandra Malhotra passed away early this year of a massive heart attack. He was among the first Fulbright students of 1952. Mr. Malhotra served the Nepalese government as well as International Development Organizations during his long professional life. He was a notes expert in monitoring and evaluation systems and methods. We wish his departed soul eternal peace. We will miss him

In June we were in South America. Prof. Rhoades had been invited to present a paper at the International Conference on Mountains titled "Mountains Towards 2020: Water, Life and Production" (Huaraz, Peru, June 12-14, 2002). He and his wife Prof. Virginia Nazarea-Rhoades had kindly made arrangements for Gyanu and me to participate in the conference. We were able to meet a number of faculty members from different universities in Peru and discuss our ideas of pursuing a research project to comparatively study the Andes and the Himalayas. Some faculty members from a University in Lima are already planning to bring their students to Nepal for a "Study cum Research Visit" sometime towards the beginning of 2003. We are also discussing the possibility of a student exchange program in this context.

There are a number of other interesting details that I could talk about in relation to my recent visit to the US on a Fulbright. I will have to do that in another write-up—perhaps in my project report to be written later this year. The few activities and achievements noted above should make it very clear that my visit to the US with a Fulbright AIA has been quite rewarding.

Finally I want to share another experience which has given me a profound sense of satisfaction—once again to be credited to the various awards that I have received through the USEF/ Nepal. On our way back to Kathmandu we decided to stop in Hawaii for a few days. My intention in doing this was to be able to see my Gurus (from the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center), friends and 'family'.

Some of my Gurus had retired. I feel lucky that I was able to meet a number of them while talk to others on the phone (too bad that some of them were away!). We also met a number of friends—both American and non-Americans—who have stayed on in Honolulu to work after completing their studies. Towards the end of our stay in Hawaii, we visited Maui to see Ann and Dougal Crowe (they have chosen to live in a peaceful and very beautiful place after retirement)—who have been like parents for Gyanu and me ever since we first met them in Honolulu in the early 1980s.

I would like to thank the East-West Center which was responsible for making it possible for me to undertake my Ph.D. studies at the University of Hawaii.

FAAN Lifers

Have you become a FAAN Lifer as yet? If not, it is time you become one! Become a life member and do away with the hassle of renewing your FAAN Memberships every year. All it takes is Rs. 2000 to become a FAAN Lifer. Register Now!

Dr. Jaya Raj Acharya	84
Mr. Poorna K. Adhikary	67
Mr. Ram Bhakta Amatya	'71
Prof. Mukunda R. Aryal	'78
Ms. Dyuti Baral	93
Mr. Tula R. Basyal	'95
Dr. Prabha Basnet	'66
Ms. Asha Basnyat	'89
Dr. Shanti Basynat	'92
Ms. Chandra K. Bhadra	'89
Mr. Upendra D. Bhatta	'83
Dr. Krishna B. Bhattachan	'95
Mr. Binod Bhattarai	'95
Mr. Asutosh N. Chaudhary	'86
Dr. Ram Bahadur Chhetri	'98
Mr. B.P. Daibagya	'66
Mr. Yogendra P. Dhakal	'70
Mr. Kunda Dixit	'84
Mr. Ajaya Ghimire	'91
Mr. Ram Ashish Giri	'88
Dr. Durga D. Joshi	'70
Ms. Jharna Joshi	'00
Ms. Rupa Joshi	'92
Mr. Shiva Das Joshi	
Mr. Surendra M. Joshi	'67
Ms. Joyti R. Kansakar	'95
Ms. Nani Hira Kansakar	'66
Mr. Amresh P. Karmacharya	'95
Dr. Bijay Kattel	'89
Prof. Bal Kumar K.C.	'87
Ms. Bijaya K.C.	'79
Dr. Leela Devi K.C.	68

Dr. Prakash C. Lohani	62
Dr. Prakash S. Mahat	'88
Prof. Mangal S. Manandhar	'66
Dr. Krishna B. Napit	'84
Mr. K. B. Napit	
Mr. Bikash Pandey	'97
Mr. Sher B. Pandey	'68
Mr. Ananta R. Poudyal	'93
Dr. Radhe S. Pradhan	'93
Dr. Bimal C. Rajbhandary	'85
Mr. Deepak Rajbhandary	88
Mr. Alok Rajouria	'94
Ms. Alka R. Rijal	'95
Dr. Minendra P. Rijal	'89
Dr. Dilli D. Shakya	'90
Mr. Dhruva R. Sharma	'92
Mr. Devi Sharma	'95
Dr. Pitamber Sharma	'75
Dr. Badri P. Shrestha	'64
Dr. Dhruva L. Shrestha	'70
Mrs. Indira Shrestha	'71
Mr. Mahendra K. Shrestha	'92
Mr. Mahesh K. Shrestha	'85
Ms. Sunity Shrestha	'82
Mr. Varun P. Shrestha	'69
Dr. Shirshir K. Sthapit	'91
Ms. Agatha Thapa	'92
Mr. Ajit N.S. Thapa	'68
Dr. Jyoti Tuladhar	'77
Dr. Sumon K. Tuladhar	86
Mr. Yog P. Upadhaya	'93
Dr. Lakshman K. Upadhaya	'93
Ms. Sunita Upreti	'91

Ms. Gomathy Venkateswar	'87
Dr. Dambar N. Yadav	63
Prof. E. Bendix	SLM
Mrs. H.M. Bendix	SLM
Mr. Michael Gill	SLM
Mr. Philip P. Hoffman	SLM
Mr. Basu Dev Kafle	SLM
Mr. Tika B. Karki	SLM
Prof. Birendra K. Mallik	SLM
Dr. David McCrohan	SLM
Mr. David Queenslm	SLM
Ms. Jaya R.L. Shah	SLM
Ms. Prabha Thacker	SLM
HE Sandra Vogelgesang	SLM
Dr. Penny Walker	SLM
Dr. Geoffery Wolfe	SLM
Mr. Gregory W. Oliveri	'95
(SLM: Special Life Member)	

NEW SPECIAL LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Bob Kerr
Mr. Jane Haris Aiken

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Madan Mohan Das	
Mr. Mahendra Subba	'96
Mr. Sugandha Tuladhar	'92
Mr. Keshav B. Mathema	'94
Mr. Chandra B. Joshi	'98
Mr. Ananda Sharma	'95
Mr. Satya Narayan Rajbhandary	'63
Dr. Buddhi K. Khadge	'01
Dr. Ramawatar Yadav	'74

FAAN, GPO Box 380, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: 414 598, 415 845, email:fulbcomm@mos.com.np
Write up: Dr.Dilli Devi Shakya and Alok Rajouria , Design and Layout: Seema Rajouria, Editorial Advisor: Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya