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President's Letter

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President's Letter

Dear ANHS members and friends:

Change can be a cause for celebration or reflection. This year has brought many kinds of changes to the Himalayan region, the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, and the world. The Association has recently been able to consolidate some of its administrative labors in the U.S. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where we are pleased to be working with Anne Naparstek and John Burmaster. Anne and John have been responsible for helping us to implement new ideas such as the regular email newsletter, and improving our membership processes. We are also trying to increase member awareness and use of the Kathmandu Research Center. Here, ANHS can offer Nepal-based assistance to members, from help in navigating bureaucratic processes to providing research support and office space. Information about these services is available on the ANHS website.

The next few months will be busy with conferences. The annual summer Kathmandu conference has drawn a record number of paper proposals and the fifth Himalayan Studies Conference in Boulder is looking to be the largest ever. Starting in 2017, ANHS will also begin offering a first book prize, named in honor of James F. Fisher. We believe this to be a great way of celebrating and recognizing the scholarship that inspires us and at once support those who are beginning their careers.

Many transitions are also afoot at the ANHS. We celebrate both those

who have worked so hard for the organization and those who have graciously agreed to take on new labors. *HIMALAYA* editors Sienna Craig and Mark Turin have already begun working closely with Mona Bhan and David Citrin, the Editors Elect, who will assume full-time editorship in early 2018. CAORC, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, of which ANHS is a member, is particularly important these days. The former director of CAORC, Christopher Tuttle, has left that position and the organization is looking for a new leader. With threats to reduce funding for essential international programs including Fulbright, Title VI, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and other U.S. government projects on which many of us who work in the area rely, CAORC is actively reaching out to politicians to advocate for the importance of area studies knowledge in our global and interconnected world. Please consider contacting politicians in your area to emphasize the critical nature of such programs. ANHS and CAORC are happy to help you in this effort.

The special themed contributions in this issue, "A New Kathmandu for a New Nepal?" point to the resilience and fragility of hope, with few conclusions about the direction of Nepal in the 21st century. I have had the privilege of working with Andrew Nelson to edit these contributions to this special issue of *HIMALAYA*.

Across the world, change is the only constant, yet all changes have the potential to offer both harmony and violence. Recent discussions within

the ANHS Executive Council have reminded us all how much we value the community that has built up around the Association over its nearly 50-year history. I appreciate the work of the EC as well as our entire membership in making ANHS a space of collegiality and hope. I continue to work to broaden our outreach while maintaining the convivial spirit of the Association. Do not hesitate to reach out to me or members of the EC with ideas, suggestions, or opportunities. We *are* stronger together.

I wish you a joyful Spring and hope to meet you in Kathmandu or Boulder!

Heather Hindman

President, Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies