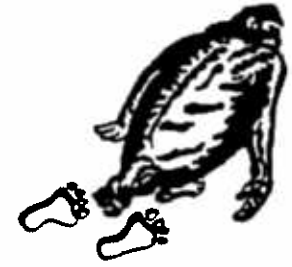




YETI VIEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHEASTERN AMERICA

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Quarterly

Oct97-Jun 1998

A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NASA

Dear Friends:



NASA's 7th annual convention in Oxford, MS, during the past Labor Day weekend provided an excellent opportunity to renew our friendship, make new friends and enjoy the programs. I, on behalf of NASA and all of the participants, would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal, coordinator of 1997 NASA convention, as well as to the hosting families and students for their endless efforts in planning and organizing a very enjoyable program. Thank you to members, families and friends for your overwhelming support. Your attendance and active participation in various activities of NASA provides strength and help us become more ambitious and productive in our community.

Many thanks and appreciation to the artists, who spent many hours preparing, performing and entertaining the audience. Thank you to children, young people and adults for your talent which is well-recognized and appreciated by the audience. We are proud of you and we salute you for your contribution to NASA.

NASA has become a topic of conversation. Many members and friends of NASA ask me "How is NASA?", "Where is the next meeting going to be?", etc. Most members and friends of NASA know that every year we celebrate our annual convention in a different part of the southeastern region, which makes it more interesting, more exciting and fun. In this way, we meet new friends and make new friends; we learn new ideas and support each other when we need a support. We get together for fun, travel and spend some time with our friends, we express and share our ideas.

We are anticipating a very enjoyable joint convention with the Florida Nepal Association (FNA) in Jacksonville, Florida in the Sunshine State, during the next Labor Day weekend. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to visit a new place, make new friends and renew our old friendship with the members of FNA.

I welcome your input, suggestions and any news articles. Please E-mail me at: Hdhungana@aol.com. Or call me at 770-943-9478. Let's join together and have fun. I hope, you all will participate and enjoy a combined culture show as well as a beach volleyball contest. Looking forward to meeting you all in Jacksonville, FL. Thank you and have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,
Hari Dhungana

NASA'S 7th ANNUAL CONVENTION IN OXFORD, MS.

-Lee Ghimire, AZ

The seventh annual convention of Nepalese Association in Southeastern America (NASA) was held in during the first weekend of September, 1997 (August 30 to September 1st) in Oxford, Mississippi. It was a weekend full of activities that included a concurrent session, talk program, youth program, cultural program, dance party and sports. It was attended by more than two hundred Nepalese and friends of Nepal from several states.

The convention started with a reception on August 30, 1997, hosted by the Nepali families and students living in Oxford, MS. And lively musical entertainment "an evening in Oxford", a Nepali movie everyone enjoyed the southern hospitality given by the local hosts. Thanks to all those who contributed to it.

The second day program started with the talk program. To begin with Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal welcomed the convention delegation, students and friends. Dr. Samanta Thapa, the president of NASA, highlighted the achievement of NASA during the year and expressed his gratitude to the delegation for attending the convention.

The Mayor of Oxford, the keynote speaker in the convention, welcomed the visitors to Oxford and highlighted the growth of the various ethnic nationalities, job and educational opportunities in Oxford.

Jay Dhakal shared his experience in Spain during the Summer of 1997 and Shradha Thapa, Rachita Acharya and other students expressed their concern and role in NASA. During the morning session Mr. Dibya Hada, president of America Nepal Friendship Society, appealed to support the petition submitted to His Majesty's government of Nepal on the role of non resident Nepalese (NRN). Then followed by the concurrent sessions.

The presentors were Dr. Veer Dev Bista on Meditation, Acharya Khemraj 'Keshav Sharan' on Sanatan Dharma, Mr. Tilak Shrestha on comparative study of religion, and Mrs. Rebecca Dhungana presented a Nepali video called "Jesus".

In the afternoon the NASA conducted its business meeting and elected its new executive committee for 1998.

One of the afternoon activities organized by NASA was a tour to Oxford city in a double deck bus. During this tour, Mr. Shakt Aryal invited the visitors/guests to his business and offered an unlimited cold drink to quench their thirst in a hot afternoon.

The evening was full of fun as well. The cultural program followed the delicious dinner. It was organized and moderated by

Please Evolve Today!

Dr. Govinda Lohani, (from AR) and Mr. Shaubhagya Shrestha from (GA) and included Bhajan, songs, dances and skit. Trophies and certificates were distributed by the President of NASA, Samant Thapa to participants of the cultural program. The third and the last day of the convention included sports activities and picnic in the park. At the concluding session, more trophies and certificates were distributed. The president of NASA thanked everybody for their active participation. Everyone expressed that the convention was a grand success. ■

NEWS FROM AUBURN, AL

-Suraj Shrestha, Auburn, AL

Dr. Mahendra L. Joshi has accepted a position in the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), New York. He graduated from Auburn University, School of Forestry in Spring 1997 and worked there as Research Associates for couple of months before joining the new position. In UN system his responsibility will be UNDP's Global Forestry Program and Intergovernmental Forum on Forest (IFF) under the Commission for the Sustainable Development. Congratulations to Dr. Joshi

Dr. Ram N. Acharya has started as a faculty position in Arizona State University at Mesa, Arizona. He graduated from Auburn University in Fall 1997. Congratulations to Dr. Acharya.

ACADEMIC INTERCHANGE Agreement between Auburn University and Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation /HMG/NEPAL Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, USA, and Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, wishing to development cooperative relations on the basis of established contacts and mutual understandings, especially to develop academic and cultural interchange through mutual assistance in the areas of education and research, agree as follows:

The area of cooperation includes, subject to mutual consent and appropriate conditions, any program offered at either institution and proposed by either as desirable, and contributory to the fostering and development of the cooperative relationship between the two institutions. All understandings and assistance shall be subject to availability of funds and the specific approval of the President of Auburn University and of the Special Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation/HMG/Nepal, through such activiteor program as:

1. Exchange of faculty members/forestry Professionals and technical staff
2. Exchange of students and conduct joint research activities
3. Participation in seminars and academic meetings
4. Special short-term academic programs
5. Cultural exchange activities
6. Joint participation in international training courses
7. Provide graduate and undergraduate training with course work at Auburn University
8. Provide opportunities for staff development for both insitutes by participation an in sabbatical leave and other personnel development programs
9. Forestry related technology transfer
10. Other activities as deemed mutually appropriate.

This agreement will remain in force for five years subject to the availability of funds; any amendment and/or modification of mentioned agreement which requires a written approval of the both institutions. After five-year period, this agreement may be renewed by mutual written concent. ■

IMAGES OF WASHINGTON, DC

-Sagun L. Shrestha, Powder Springs, GA

I was on a week long (Dec. 7-13, 1997) study visit to Washington, DC, under a program sponsored by *Closeup Foundation*. I was among the nine students from my school (McEachern High School). There were 129 students from Georgia, Arkansas, California, New Mexico, Colorado and Puerto Rico and all of the students had wide perspective about the government during the trip.



Washington is a fascinating place: a city of great people and historic events; of politics and national monuments; the home of President, Congress, and the Supreme Court, and the bureaucracy; and the site of the white House and State Capitol. Washington, an international city, is the site of more than 100 foreign embassies and home of many foreign dignitaries. I had a chance to talk with The high officials like key policy makers, media personalities, representatives of the executive branch, and with a member of congress from Georgia.

I attended a lot of seminars, workshops, and discussions, which were very educational. I

have a tour to the White House, Washington Monument, Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Capitol Building, Supreme Court, and many other places.

The first tour was to the Arlington National Cemetery. This historical Site covers 612 acres of land, where 245,000 servicemen and their family members have been buried. We also saw the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and we also got to see the Changing of Guards. There are approximately 20 burials done here everyday. Since the Civil War, Americans who died on wars have been buried here. This piece of land belongs to the family of general Robert E. Lee who was a famous General of the Southern Confederate Army.

Then We visited the Vietnam memorial and the Korean War Memorial. There we had a hot discussion on whether the U.S. Government should have sent troops during these wars. There were both pros and cons. Those who did not agree with sending troops to Vietnam and Korea were of the opinion that U.S. should have given more attention to the problems at home rather than sticking its nose in other countries business. Those who agreed said, that U.S. is a leading democratic nation and it should help people who are being oppressed by Communist Dictators. Korean Memorial has a wall filled with pictures of Americans who died in Korean War. There were also life-sized sculptures of the brave Americans who fought during the war.

The next visit was to the Supreme Court. In front of the court, there is a sign of EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW meaning that, everybody is equal under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. There are two statues, one on each side of the Courthouse. The female figure on the left symbolizes the Contemplation of Justice and the Male figure on the right Symbolizes the Guardian of Law. James Erle Fraser made both of these statues. I was surprised to find that the courthouse was not built until 1935, after 146 years of existence of the Supreme Court. It was built after the Chief justice William Howard persuaded the Congress to build a permanent home for the Court. Architect Cass Gilbert designed the building in Corinthian style. ■

My First Impression

- Rajib (Joshi) Acharya, GA

It is very difficult to imagine without personally experienced what would look like

or feel to be in the US first time in one's life. Before I left Nepal, I thought I would miss the Nepalese culture, friendship and contact with Nepali friends.

After my arrival to Atlanta, I found out that it was almost like my own hometown. Just to mention a few, the Nepali community, the Nepalese Association and the annual gathering of Nepali meetings made me feel at home. I truly appreciated the Nepali tradition and festivity of Nepali families.

I had an opportunity to attend the 7th Annual convention of Nepalese Association in South Eastern America (NASA) in Oxford, MS. In this convention, I met many friends that I never had met before. I enjoyed the whole program, friendship and culture show. This experience was beyond my imagination. I am grateful to the NASA executive members, friends and families who work hard to maintain the Nepali tradition and support each other whenever possible.

I sincerely hope that we will continue this tradition in the US even though we are few and away from our own home country. I am looking forward to participating in added program and activities in the next NASA's 8th Annual convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mercer Music Series

- Avi Malla, GA

Mercer University had put up a huge performance at the Grand Opera House on the 6th of December 1997. Due to the inefficiency of the transportation, I was not able to witness the grand opening of the show. Having arrived late, I tried to find a seat as quietly as possible so that I didn't disturb the concentration of the audience.

My father had influenced my liking for classical music and I usually listen to the great composers like Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, Bach, Tchaikovsky etc; but I never had the pleasure to experience a live performance of such excellence in my life due to the poor background of musician our country. The feeling of being present in the arena was totally different from listening to those great composers within the confined lonely walls of my room. I could feel the wave, "the rise and fall". Though I went to



see the performance in order to earn just two extra credit hours, I earned twice as much of satisfaction for being able to witness such a performance of art.

All the singers look very familiar. Those were the faces that I see everyday in Mercer University. "Oh, oh." Min Jun, Munich, David, Bilal... I never expected them to turn up in such a place of art. I could see their mouth open and close, (but I couldn't see their 'well brushed teeth' because I was seated way back on the balcony of the first floor). I could hear the deep expressive chords of music in their voice. Then for a while I had this feeling, "Everybody in this world is a good musician." But I was quite disappointed to learn that I would not qualify in that category when the audience were asked to sing with the 'Singers', I sounded like a bass guitar which had not been tuned for decades.

The mellifluous vocals combined with the soothing music held everybody in a spellbound. I could see the bond between the performers and the observers. The conductor stood in front of the stage like tree in a windy day. The performance was of such high standards that the audience even confused the performers by starting to clap outrageously to show their appreciation for the music.

Except my friend and I, the rest of the audience well dressed up. I had never attended such shows in my life, so, obviously, I was not aware that we had to dress up. At the beginning, we were quite uncomfortable with the curious eyes surrounding us. But later it made no difference in appreciating the music. I was enjoying the euphoria as much as they all did.

MY PERSONAL VIEW

- Shyam Bhattarai, GA

Suppose a young Nepalese was asked, "Which would you prefer the most, either choosing going to heaven after death or going to the USA in this life." Of course, without hesitating he would give a quick answer: "it would be better to go to the USA." This answer would be based upon two reasons: first, everyone has very high enthusiasm to see the world's most powerful and developed country. Second, if they have the opportunity of getting a better job there, they can make a better income compared to working in Nepal. Because the Nepalese government has not yet been able to pay full attention to its people's welfare, the majority of youths from middle

class families are sick of being harassed about improving their standard of living. They have no job guarantee to fulfill their needs and they try endlessly to go abroad for a better opportunity. Instead of going to other Asian or Arabian countries, the USA is their first choice. Everyone has heard of the wonderful aspects of the USA, peace and freedom.

It is not that easy to fulfill this dream. You can not think today of going and make a flight on the following day. Getting a visa in Nepal is like winning a big lottery in the USA.

I too had thought a lot about coming to the USA and spent several years with this expectation; finally, with the kindness of my respected uncle and aunt I am in the country where I wanted to be now. After living a couple of months in Atlanta, I found many differences compared to my expectation while I was in Nepal. In fact, life is not as easy as people think before coming to this country. In our country, the theory of "more the man power, the more work done" has been emphasized usually by the government; but it is totally opposite here. In my analysis, any quantity of work that is barely done by five people in one day in Nepal is usually done by a single person here in a single day. Negligence, carelessness or slow motion are not seen anywhere in a working environment whether it is a government office or the private sector. Everyone has to work very hard and be punctual, regular and sincere. These are the important factors which, I think, are the building blocks for a more rapid, developed, and successful country like the USA.

The present situation of the Nepalese people, mainly the youth, is unsatisfactory as the end of the 20th century comes to a close. It is not just because of the poor economy of the country, but the changing and unstable government is equally responsible for creating obstacles in its development. As the population is increasing incredibly, the ratio of educated people is also increasing; therefore it is difficult to find a job even after graduation from higher education. The government does not have the money which would utilize more manpower. Therefore, employment is practically limited to those that have a blessing from a full minister or a high ranking official. Even to obtain a very ordinary job, one has to visit a political leader which still does not guarantee a job position. Also, job and political discrimination occur when one party gains authority in a business, or office. This system of favoritism in Nepal has caused

citizens to be very unsatisfied with the government. Everyone is wondering how the newly achieved democracy will work in Nepal. Now I ask the question, "Who is responsible for the current condition of the Nepalese people?" I personally believe the answer is "the government." The selfish leaders of Nepal have not really tried hard enough to improve the development of Nepal's economy or the quality of life for the Nepalese people. Instead, greedy political leaders only try to make more money for themselves and their relatives. Without a stable government it will take more than a dozen years (if not longer) to develop a more prosperous and beneficial country. The condition of Nepal today is being pushed backwards rather than forwards. In fact, we Nepalese people have developed a very passive attitude that is found in every field of Nepal. It is not our fault; it has developed since ancient times and has always been a part of our culture. In my opinion, this is why we are so slow in taking action and in accomplishing simple tasks. This behavior only contributes to our "backward" standard of living. So, unless we get rid of these major problems, we will never have our personal or national development.

Finally, we should be proud of the very successful establishment of NASA and its several sister associations throughout the United States of America. Hopefully, they will always take a positive view towards assisting Nepalese people coming to accomplish their dreams in America and will continue to preserve Nepalese culture and tradition as well. ■

RESULTS OF LOTTERY VISA PROGRAM (DV-99)

- Saubhagya Shrestha, GA

There are 226 lucky applicants from Nepal who won the DV-99 lottery visa. The highest number who won the lottery visa is from Ghana-5,531, followed by Nigeria-5443, with third highest being Bangladesh-5,031. This was stated in the Press Release from U.S. Department of State dated

May 6, 1998.

The lottery visa program makes available 50,000 permanent resident visas annually to persons from countries with low rate of immigration to U.S.

Only participants in the DV-99 program who were selected for further processing have been notified. Those who have not received notification were not selected and may wish to try for next year's DV-2000 lottery. The dates for the mail-in period DV-2000 lottery are scheduled from noon on October 1, 1998, until noon on October 31, 1998. Instructions on entering the DV-2000 program will be widely publicized sometime in August 1998.

NASA members, friends, and the Nepalese community as a whole were very sorry to hear of the loss of Dr. & Mr. Baral's son recently. Our condolences go to them and their family during this difficult time. May God give them comfort and ease during this time of sorrow. Dr. Baral is an active life members of NASA and resides with his wife and family in Winona, MS. If anyone wishes to send them a card, the address is:

Dr. & Mrs R.C. Baral, 304 Church St.
Winona, MS38967.



Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to the newly wedd couple Mr. & Mrs. Ram Raj Dongol.

Our Advance congratulations to Ms. Namita Dhakal and Mr. Ford Ballantyne iv; Mr. Lekanath Sharma and Ms. Srijana Khatiwada on their upcoming respective wedding ceremonies

Special Thanks to those who contributed donations to in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Baral's son. NASA appreciates your generosity. ■

NASA's homepage is under construction by Damodar Dangol. If anybody is interested in helping him or have some good suggestions please do not hesitate to contact him. You can reach him in the following add: DDongol@aol.com. ■

Mr. & Mrs. Pradeep Ghimire have been blessed wiht a beautiful baby girl. Congratulation on arrival of the new member in the family. ■

NASA Executive Committee (1997-98)

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Mr. Hari P. Dhungana

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Mr. Chet N. Ghimire

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Mr. Suman Silwal

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NASA AND FNA MET IN JACKSONVILLE, FL

NASA's Excecive Committe met with the Florida Nepal Association (FNA) early this year to discuss regarding upcoming joint conventions which will be held in Jacksonville, FL during the Labor Day weekend in September, 1998.

The meeting was hosted by the President of FNA Mr. & Mrs Lamsal at their residence. The outcome of the meeting is highlighted below:

Saturday evening: NASA's members, guests, friends and families check in to a hotel. After the reception, there will be a social hour and Nepali movie.

Sunday: Joint registration, convention programs, lunch and sight seeing in the areas; NASA's general meeting, election and business meeting in the late afternoon. Then follows social hour, dinner and jointly presented cultur show.

Monday A.M: Beach volleyball and/or sightseeing, swimming, etc.



Graduation & Academic Excellence

Nasa would like to congratulate the following students who will be successfully graduating this year.

High School Graduates:

1. Rachita Acharya (H.S) Atlanta
2. Narayani Dangol (H.S) Atlanta
3. Damodaar Dangol(H.S) Atlanta

University Graduates: (Bachelor's Degree)

4. Ganesh Kunwar (Mercer Univ. Atlanta)
 5. Surya Chataut (UAB, Birmingham)
 6. Shailesh Kasaju (UAB, Birmingham)
 7. Nischal Shrestha (UAB, Birmingham)
 8. Vinaya Halabe (UAB, Birmingham)
 9. Pema Lama (UAB, Birmingham)
- M.B.A. from UAB, Birmingham
10. Akhil Dhungana

Paras Ghimire (son of Chetnath & Namita), a 8th grader has been selected for the International Baccalaureat Program Starting in the Fall, 1998. Congratulations Paras, keep up the good work!!!

Avi Malla (nephew of Shaubhagya & Ganga Shrestha) & Tara Dhungana (daughter of Hari & Rebecca) have appeared on the dean's list for their academic excellence from Mercer University and Berry College respectively. Congratulations to all the graduates and these bright students!!!

First High School in Kanku

According to a letter from Radha Krishna Dhungana (Hari's brother), a high school has opened in Kanku, Nepal. The school is named "Sharada Madhyarnik Vidhyalaya", and currently about 120

students have enrolled. The school has been granted temporary status by the government until it has adequate enrollment and becomes self-sufficient.

About 30 thousand residents of Kanku now have a high school for the first time and many young people will be able to get a high school education in their own town. People have expressed appreciation and gratitude to NASA. This is the first educational project that NASA has sponsored. We hope to continue with similar projects in the future. Thank you for your contribution. ■

Back to Nepal...

Nineteen Climbers Summit to Mt. Everest - Kathmandu, Nepal(AP).

Nineteen Climbers reached the summit of Mount Everest on the 20th of May, including one American mountaineer who placed an instrument atop the world's highest mountain measure its growth. Storms had delayed the climbers until Tuesday, creating a back log of teams eager for good weather in which to make their attempt on the 29,028-foot summit.

American Wally Berg, 43, a mountain guide from Boulder, Colo., climbed all night and reached the summit about 9 a.m. His base camp reported the weather was so clear that Berg spent two hours on the summit - an exceptionally long - drilling a hole in its solid rock to insert the Global Positioning System Receiver.

Since New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay first conquered the mountain in 1953, more than 700 people have reached Everest's summit and nearly 150 have died on the mountain. ■

Computer Software Factory Opens in Nepal.

Pilgrim Software, from Tampa Florida, has opened a Computer Software factory in Nepal. While this software maker was searching for a suitable location for its business, on the advice of Atulya Risal (vice president of Research and Development), the founder and President of the company Ami Utji decided to consider this location and opened the Software Development facility in Kathmandu in March, 98. This company has employed 25 Nepalese experts so far. For further information check out its web site.

< <http://www.pilgrimusa.com> > ■



FROM THE DESK OF EDITORIAL BOARD

Editorial Board would like to invite all NASA members, friends, students and interested individuals to send articles, poems and news items for the Yeti Views newsletter. We are preparing for the next publication which will highlight detail program of joint convention of NASA and Florida Nepal Association (FNA) in Jacksonville, Florida.

Send your E-mail to: Suraj P. Shrestha
Shrestha@forestry.auburn.edu

OR

Sharad Chhetri: Sharadc@aol.com

OR

Avi Malla: avimalla@hotmail.com



NASA MET IN BIRMINGHAM

The 3rd Executive Committee meeting was held in Birmingham, AL on 2/28/98 and was sponsored and hosted by the board members in Birmingham. Mr. Hari Dhungana chaired the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting was to share and update the information from Jacksonville, FL. A combined meeting between NASA and Florida Nepal Association (FNA) was held early this year and some NASA executive members could not be there.

During the meeting, all members discussed and shared their ideas and suggestions. All members agreed to work together and support each other to make the next jointly held convention a success. Mr. Sharad Chhetri offered to serve in the editorial board and Mr. Suman Silwal, the Student Vice President, will develop and organize a hotmail system to facilitate our communication system to link with other members.

In addition to mentioned members, the following members were present at the meeting: Dr. Samanta Thapa, Mr. Saubhagya Shrestha, Mr. Dhanajaya Mudbury, Mr. Sailesh Kasaju, Mr. Jay Shrestha and some other guests. Thank you Jay, Sailesh and Sharad for the refreshment and your time. The first meeting was held in Nashville, TN and was hosted by Dr. & Mrs Samant Thapa. NASA appreciates their contribution and support. ■

WE ALL ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN NASA

Please join NASA (Nepalese Association in Southeastern America) and support our activities. NASA is a non-profit organization and its membership is open to all Nepalese and friends of Nepal.

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