

# The South Asia Newsletter

A Publication of Cornell's South Asia Program

Spring 1993

## *Cornell, Poona work to understand environment*

Does the popular environmental injunction to "think globally, act locally" need to be rephrased? Thinking locally, especially in developing nations, may be a key to solving global environmental problems.

New work by scientists and humanists at Cornell University attempts to study why lush sacred groves continue to exist in India despite great environmental degradation outside their boundaries. The reason: local folklore. For example, soon after a coal merchant from Pune purchased a sacred grove in Maharashtra he died suddenly, vomiting blood. Local villagers decided that his death was a swift punishment sent by the angry goddess of the grove, reacting to the violation of her domain. They then prevented further tree-felling, saving the rest of this extensive grove from exploitation. Today, this goddess' wooded domain stands as a last refuge of the magnificent vegetation that once covered the entire region.

Cornell's South Asia Program is working in collaboration with University of Poona in Maharashtra on a wide-ranging environmental project. Both universities are striving to formulate a program with the aim of incorporating local knowledge into environmental solutions. This follows the growing awareness that indigenous traditions imple-

mented through locally organized initiatives can indeed provide effective strategies to achieve ecological balance and sustainable growth. This project will involve faculty members and graduate students of both institutions.

Cornell's South Asia Program differs from those at most other universities. Others are largely based in literature departments and oriented toward the humanities. The Cornell South Asia Program's particular strengths, however, lie in applied social-scientific work. Current faculty areas of specialization include irrigation water management, women in international development, development communication, agricultural economics, urban development, science and technology policy and the politics and anthropology of ecological issues. A former South Asia Program director, Norman Uphoff, now heads the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD). In addition, a Center for the Environment (CfE) was recently established to "build a sound scientific understanding of environmental problems and a basis for developing solutions to these problems and sustainable approaches to the environment."

The University of Poona is a major center of postgraduate study in India. The Indian Graduate Commission recently ranked it

third among the nation's research universities. Like Cornell, the University of Poona has close links with surrounding rural areas through 122 affiliated colleges in the state of Maharashtra. Leading the research team in India is S. Gupte, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Poona and Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies. Poona has also recently established a School of Environmental Sciences (SES). This institute is particularly concerned with environmental problems that immediately affect the area surrounding it: industrialization in the Pune metropolitan area, degradation of Maharashtra's forests due to development projects and increased energy demands and soil and groundwater deterioration due to uncontrolled agricultural development. The creation of environmental awareness among local populations is also a high SES priority. The Cornell-Poona collaboration's focus on indigenous knowledge is thus highly appropriate for both universities' theoretical and practical agendas.

Each culture, with its varied resources and construction, will address the problems of environmental degradation differently. However, experience gained in incorporating local Indian knowledge with appropriate technology to solve environmental problems can be put to use elsewhere on the globe.



# Faculty News

## New leadership takes helm of SAP

Professor Ron Herring was appointed as Acting Director of the South Asia Program on December 15. He replaces Professor Daniel Gold, who is conducting research in India under a fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies until mid August. Also in December, Assistant Professor Christopher Minkowski was appointed as Acting Associate Director of the program.

Herring has taught at Cornell as a professor of Government since 1991, and brings an added impetus to the program with his con-

siderable expertise in several areas of South Asian studies. He began his work in South Asian Studies in 1973 when he traveled through Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Southern India to conduct research for his dissertation on redistributive agrarian policy. He initiated a program in political economy at Northwestern University in 1976, and has also taught at the University of Texas-Austin, the University of Washington and the University of Chicago. During this time he periodically returned

to India and Sri Lanka to continue his research. Herring has worked extensively on local and global environmental issues during the last decade, leading several vital projects funded by sources such as the Social Science Research Council, the Smithsonian Institu-

an Assistant Professor of Asian Studies and Classics. He continues his teaching this semester, and acts as chairman of the South Asia Library Committee. Minkowski was heavily involved with the development efforts which led to the expansion and relocation of the South Asia Collection into the new Kroch Library. As Associate Director his experience will undoubtedly prove invaluable as he guides development initiatives for the entire South Asia Program.

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*South Asia Collection Curator Ved Kayastha (left), Acting Director Ron Herring and Director Daniel Gold in the new Carl A. Kroch library.*

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tion and the Ford Foundation. Many of the projects, along with the workshops and lecture series Herring has convened since arriving at Cornell, focus on crucial environmental problems in India and the subcontinent.

Professor Minkowski recently returned from his travel and research in India, which included working with the collaborative environmental research project between Cornell and Poona University on the Bhima River. He has taught at Cornell for four years as

Professors Herring and Minkowski plan to work together to focus on several priorities during their appointments. One priority is to increase the sense of community within the program by concentrating on interdisciplinary themes such as the environment. Other priorities include increasing development efforts, improving contacts with the program's student clientele, reinvigorating the publications program and regularizing the program's strength in history.



# Student News

## Travel opportunities abound at Cornell

For the 1993-94 academic year, Cornell will offer two diverse and exciting opportunities abroad in South Asia—the Cornell-Nepal Study Program and the Inter-collegiate Sri Lanka Education (ISLE) Program.

The Cornell-Nepal Study Program is the first and only study abroad program in Nepal that

brings North American students together with their Nepalese counterparts in a joint study and research program on social and cultural diversity and ecological and environmental studies. Two realms of study are offered—one in the cultures and peoples of Nepal and the other in environmental and ecological diversity. In

Kirtipur, students will live in a Cornell-Nepal Study Program House with Nepalese students from outside the Kathmandu Valley.

The ISLE Program provides students the chance to observe and participate in the multicultural environment of the University of Peradeniya and the city of Kandy. Upon comple-

tion of their fundamental course work, students may choose from a variety of elective courses as well as independent study options. Various tours to the ancient sites and the southern parts of the island will be pursued between sessions.

Contact Cornell Abroad at (607) 255-6224 for more information.

## Grads tackling global problems abroad

Some recent Cornell Ph.D. graduates are continuing their work on South Asia. Here are a few examples: Stacy Pigg, Ph.D. '90 Anthropology holds a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the Uni-

versity of British Columbia. She recently published an article in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, which required her to visit Nepal for additional research on local development.

In the field of nutrition, Sarita Neupane,

Ph.D. '91 took a position with UNICEF in which she specializes in maternal and child nutrition. In addition, Anna Winkvist, Ph.D. '91 Nutrition has been pursuing her postdoctoral work in reproduction, fertility and health in

Pakistan.

Harihar Acharya, Ph.D. '90 Anthropology is working with the World Bank in Nepal on local international development and forestry.

We welcome hearing your news, so please stay in touch.

## FLAS winners earn accolades

The Department of Education recently honored several students with Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Awards for their outstanding achievement in South Asian languages for the 1991-92 and 1992-93 academic years. For this fellowship, the students received variable tuition fees and stipends. Funding for the awards stems from the National Resource Center grant given to the South Asia Program by the Department of Education.

### 1992 FLAS Recipients

Narendran Chanmugam  
Michelle Gamburd  
Rebecca Letterman  
Caitrin Lynch  
Karen Richter  
Rajiva Senaviratne  
Jacqueline Vavra

### 1993 FLAS Recipients

David Chandler  
Narendran Chanmugam  
Bernadette Joseph  
Rebecca Letterman  
Karen Richter

## Students bring South Asia to CU

In an effort to create unity among their South Asian communities, Cornell's student organizations made strides in bringing their culture to the forefront of the Cornell community with numerous programs, speakers, performers and celebrations.

The Society for India at Cornell University (formerly the Indian Student's Association) held two successful banquets this year, one for Diwali on November 6 and another for Baisakhi and Holi on March 6. The

large turnouts indicate the wide-spread support of student events.

This semester the Pakistani Students Association hosted the Ambassador of Pakistan, Syeda Abida Hussain, to discuss "Modern Issues in Pakistan." They also held a fundraising dinner on November 21 for flood relief in Pakistan.

The Sri Lanka and Nepal Students Associations have also been active in sponsoring seminars for the Cornell community (see p. 10).

# Kroch Library

## Library offers the best of all Asian worlds

Cornell's newest library, the Carl A. Kroch Library, opened on August 24, 1992 to help alleviate the overcrowding in the adjoining Olin Library. It has more than thirty miles of shelving, space for 1.3 million volumes and more than 20,000 cubic feet of manuscript material.

The project for this state-of-the-art library started two years ago with an excavation extending fifty-two feet below the level of East Avenue. Today, the landscape between Stimson and Goldwin Smith Halls has been returned to its original appearance. There is a unique three-story atrium in the center of the building above which are four skylights

designed to give the library as much natural light as possible.

The Kroch Library houses two main collections: the Asia Collection and the Rare and Manuscript Collection. The Asia Collection includes the Echols Collection on Southeast Asia, the Wason Collection on East Asia and the South Asia Collection. It is located on the top floor, which also accommodates the Severinghaus Asia Reading Room.

An unusual feature of the new Asia library is the intershelving of three major collections on South, East and Southeast Asia.

The South Asia Collection is the fourth largest of its kind in the

United States, and has material on India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Himalayan State of Bhutan. This collection contains more than 250,000 volumes, making it the largest and most accessible intershelved collection combining both Indic and Western languages.

The Wason Collection, or the East Asia Collection, has more than 450,000 volumes, and is growing at a rate of 12,000 volumes per year. It includes material from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Tibet and Macao. Among the many strengths of the collection are the reprint of a 1500 volume series

on religion, history and classical literature of third century, B.C. China, and a comprehensive collection of Noh plays from Japan.

The Echols Collection on Southeast Asia contains 350,000 volumes and microtext volumes on Southeast Asia in Indonesian, Vietnamese, Thai, Malaysian, Burmese, Filipino, Khmer, and Laotian, as well as in a number of Western languages. The Indonesian collection is the largest in the country. The Echols Collection also includes an unusual series of "Cremation Volumes," necrological records preserved by Thai families, that contain biographical information on the dead.

## South Asia Collection moves to new home

As the home of the fourth largest South Asia Collection in the United States, Cornell's new Kroch Library is intended to be the campus hub of South Asian academic and cultural exploration for faculty members, students and community members.

Curator Ved Kayastha, with 30 years of experience in the field, has developed a diverse compilation of materials that focuses on Nepal and Sri Lanka, the

Gandhi Memorial Library, a complete collection of British colonial period ephemeral literature (i.e. pamphlets, leaflets and flyers), movies and documentaries in Indian languages and a wide selection of Indian newspapers.

The significant magnitude of the South Asia Collection has been made possible through the support and participation of faculty members. Starting last year, individuals began contrib-

uting toward a South Asia Library Endowment by fund-raising among themselves as well as among various generous alumni. The monies from this fund will be used for further acquisitions and hiring much-needed staff.

As an indication of the South Asia Collection's importance, the University has identified the pre-1979 records as a top priority for conversion to the On-Line Catalog. This allows for easier

accessibility for research, but is a difficult task since the reference cards are mostly printed in the non-Roman scripts of South Asia.

"The library is the heart of any research program. With only a relatively small effort toward contributions and acquisitions, we could have a truly excellent collection," stated Professor Christopher Minkowski, chair of the South Asia Library Committee.



## Fine Arts & Alumni

### Come one and all to Reunion Week

All are invited to join faculty members and friends at the South Asia Program's Reunion Week Open House on June 11 at Cornell. The open house provides a prime opportunity for

all to discover the diversity and breadth of the program and its faculty members. This function will run in conjunction with the campus-wide Reunion Week.

#### **South Asia Program Reunion Festivities**

**June 11, 1993**

**11:30-1:00 Display at Barton Hall**

**3:00-5:00 Open House, Asian Studies Lounge, 374 Rockefeller**

The day's events will include a display of South Asia-related research at Barton Hall from 11:30-1:00 p.m., when faculty members will have the opportunity to get to

know our guests. We are also hosting an Open House from 3-5 p.m. in the Asian Studies Lounge, 374 Rockefeller, so that alumni and faculty members can meet.

We are very eager to hear about what you are doing as well as to share with you the growing potential of Cornell's South Asian Studies.

## Fine Arts Committee strives to broaden horizons of students and community

With the intention of inspiring appreciation and awareness of South Asian culture, Cornell faculty members and local community members have collaborated to bring the arts of South Asia to the Cornell campus.

This collaboration originated from the suggestion of Dr. Lalitha Seetharam, an Ithaca physician with a background in music and dance, to sponsor intensive South Asian fine arts programs for Cornell students and the Ithaca community. Faculty members in the dance, theater arts and music departments met the idea with much enthusiasm, and in response developed the Fine Arts Committee, a group of Cornell faculty and community members, to oversee the progress of this project.

The Fine Arts Committee plans to bring talented South Asian artists to teach at Cornell and in community workshops. Furthermore, the program will present performances of South Asian clas-

sical dance and music and will work with surrounding communities and colleges to encourage teaching and performing the South Asian arts.

As its first priority, the committee is currently putting together funds to invite dance guru Rajee Narayan to teach at Cornell. Mrs. Narayan is an accomplished South Asian dancer and musician. Additionally, she is the founder of the Nritya Geethanjali Dance Academy and the author of a special book of dance songs, which has been translated into Tamil, Hindi and English. While the Music Department and the South Asia Program will help to finance Mrs. Narayan's visit, additional support from the community will be needed to make her visit possible. Generous donors have already pledged \$1600 of the \$6000 needed to make this a reality.

The Fine Arts Committee also plans to work with the Cornell

student organizations to sponsor performances. The newly-founded Ithaca chapter of SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Art Amongst Youth) already succeeded in hosting Pandit Jasraj, one of India's most prominent Hindustani classical vocalists, last summer.

Four South Asian cultural events were presented this spring, the first of which was a March 9 performance of North Indian improvisational vocal music by Warren Senders. Next, the Cornell India Association sponsored "An Evening in India" on April 2, a lively springtime celebration of Indian song, music and food. The third event, an Indian classical concert with Shiv Kumar Sharma and Shafaat Khan, took place on April 16. The season concluded with a musical performance on the mandolin by U. Srinivas on April 21.



# A WORLD *South Asia* A WORLD

## *Offering a range of experience*

- \* a center for study, research and practical experience in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- \* faculty in more than 20 disciplines
- \* one of nine federally-funded National Resource Centers

## *International Opportunities*

- \* affiliations in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal for study and research abroad
- \* visiting scholars teach and conduct research at Cornell

## *More than 60 courses to choose from*

- \* intensive language study in Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Pali, Sanskrit, Sinhala, Tamil and Urdu
- \* alternating summer programs in Nepali and Sinhala
- \* classes in more than 20 departments in all of Cornell's seven colleges

## *Diverse Faculty and Staff...*

- \* Agricultural Economics: Randolph Barker, Thomas Poleman, Daniel Sisler
- \* Agricultural Engineering: Michael Walter
- \* Anthropology & Women's Studies: David Holmberg, Kathryn March
- \* Anthropology & Asian Studies: Ann Grodzins Gold
- \* Art/Photography: Barry Perlus
- \* Architecture: Bonnie MacDougall
- \* Asian Studies: Daniel Gold, John McRae
- \* Classics & Asian Studies: Christopher Minkowski
- \* Classics & Linguistics: Alan Nussbaum
- \* Communication: Royal Colle, Shirley White
- \* Ecology & Systematics: Kenneth A.R. Kennedy
- \* Economics: Mukul Majumdar
- \* English: Satya Mohanty



South As  
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# Cornell U



TO EXPLORE  
*a Program*  
TO DISCOVER

*Sponsored Activities*

- \* weekly seminars
- \* film series
- \* international speakers
- \* student events

*Graduate and undergraduate programs*

- \* undergraduate and Master's concentration in South Asia
- \* advanced graduate degrees in social sciences and professional schools
- \* strong interdisciplinary programs, including development studies, environmental and women's studies

*Student Activities*

- \* six student organizations focused on South Asia
- \* group-sponsored lectures, concerts, receptions, holiday celebrations and art exhibits

*Library Resources*

- \* a major collection of Asian texts
- \* more than 250,000 volumes on South Asia
- \* books in Western and Asian languages

*...of International Experience*

- \* History: Rafiuddin Ahmed
- \* History of Art: Stanley O'Connor
- \* Human Development & Family Studies: Barbara Lust
- \* Industrial & Labor Relations: Sarosh Kuruvilla
- \* Library: Ved Kayastha
- \* Language & Linguistics: Constance Fairbanks, James Gair, Jay Jasanoff, Shambhu Oja, Dipali Sudan
- \* Political Science: Ron Herring, Mary Katzenstein, Norman Uphoff
- \* Regional Planning: Porus Olpadwala
- \* Rural Sociology: Eugene Erickson, Shelley Feldman
- \* Science, Technology & Society: Sheila Jasanoff
- \* Acting Director: Ron Herring
- \* Associate Director: Christopher Minkowski
- \* Executive Staff Assistant: Susan Campbell
- \* Secretary: Sue Baker-Carr

a Program  
Hall

New York 14853-7601  
-8493

University





## Visitors

### Dr. Bharucha shares wealth of environmental knowledge

This fall, Cornell was host to an extended visit by Dr. Erach Bharucha, a Professor and Head of Surgery at Bharatee Vidyapeeth's Medical College in Pune, India. He is a prominent environmental activist, working with such groups as the Bombay Natural History Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature. He is also a noted wildlife photographer and a wildlife biologist.

Dr. Bharucha gave several inspiring lectures at Cornell on environmental degradation, preservation and resource management in India. He also spent time developing support for his proposal for an environmental education unit in Bharatee Vidyapeeth, and traveled with Acting Director Ron Herring to Ann Arbor, Michigan for a meeting of the group working on Imple-

mentation of International Environmental Accords.

His visit to Cornell was sponsored by a grant from the Ford Foundation to the Committee on Global Climate Change of the Social Science Resource Council (SSRC) and local support from Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) and the South Asia Program.

### Indian activist Kothari leaves mark on Cornell

Smitu Kothari, a South Asia Program Visiting Fellow, has returned to India after teaching at Cornell and working closely with faculty and students from several departments. Kothari was a Visiting Humphrey Fellow at Cornell from 1991 to 1992, and taught "Environmental Aspects of International Planning," in the Department of City and Regional Planning last fall. His course was extremely popular, allowing him to interact with students from a variety of fields and cultural backgrounds.

Kothari worked with grassroots organizations and other

popular movements in India towards enhancing the control local communities exert over productive resources. He is also striving to ensure accountability in public decision making and policy formation, often providing research, legal advice and media support. He is the founding member and editor of the *Lokayan Bulletin*, a publication for social and political movements in South Asia.

Kothari has worked with faculty members in a variety of fields, including the Departments of Government and City and Regional Planning. He was a speaker in the

South Asia Program's environmental lecture series, in which he discussed "Some Reflections on Biological and Cultural Diversity in India," sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources. During a brief return visit to the United States this March, Kothari delivered a lecture for the South Asia Program's history series regarding "India After Ayodhya: The Future of Pluralism and Tolerance." All of us who worked with and learned from Kothari hope to do so again, and we wish him the best of luck as he returns to his home.

### In memoriam: Professor Paul Toomey, author and anthropologist

Paul Michael Toomey, a former member of the South Asia Program faculty, died of complications from AIDS on July 21, 1992. He was 40 years old. Paul was a graduate of Bowdoin College and received a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Virginia in 1984. In the following two years he taught in the Departments of Anthropology and Asian Studies at Cornell. He is remembered here for his devotion to teaching, his finely crafted courses and his love of

India. Paul's courses and his life were filled with unconventional and serendipitous juxtapositions. He was as at home in the world of European art history as he was in South Asian anthropology.

Many who knew him as a scholar did not realize that he was also a nationally ranked figure skating champion. He later became a professional in the John Curry company and appeared as a principal in nationally televised productions with Curry and Janet

Lynn. He is perhaps the only person to have held an American Institute of Indian Studies fellowship who took his skates to the field and knew where to use them.

During the years immediately preceding his death, Paul was employed as an analyst in the Department of Defense. Author of a book on the Krishna cult due to be published this year, he has also written numerous articles and reviews on South Asian ethnography. -Bonnie G. MacDougall



# Faculty News

## Recent Academic Activity

Below is a listing of some of the books and grants by faculty members:

### Rafiuddin Ahmed

*Islam, Identity and Political Mobilization: The Bengal Muslims, 1905-1947*, Oxford University Press, due 1993.

### James Gair

Worked with Vijay Gambhir in finalizing the national "generic" set of proficiency cards for testing in South Asian languages.

Developed Sinhala conversation proficiency cards with W.S. Karunatilake and John Paolillo.

### Ann Grodzins Gold

*A Carnival of Parting*, University of California Press, 1992.  
Council for the International Exchange of Scholars Fulbright Scholar Award for research in India: Cultural Construction of the Environment in Rajasthan.

### Daniel Gold

"Rajasthani Naths Through their Genealogists," a research project funded by the American Institute for Indian Studies, to be carried out in 1993.

### David Holmberg

1992 paperback issue of *Order in Paradox: Myth, Ritual, and Exchange Among Nepal's Tamang*.

### Sheila Jasanoff

"Humanistic Studies of Science, Technology and the Global Environment" granted funding by the Rockefeller Foundation.

### Christopher Minkowski

*Priesthood in Ancient India: A Study of the Maitravaranu Priest*, De Nobili Research Series 18, Vienna, 1991.

### Norman Uphoff

*Learning from Gal Oya: Possibilities for Participatory Development and Post-Newtonian Social Science*, Cornell University Press, 1992.

Co-principal planner for research proposal to USAID for 10-year Collaborative Research Support Program on Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (SANREM).

## Cornell-Nepal Study Program

Offering unique research opportunities for students and faculty members

Cornell Abroad is proud to present a new and unique study program called the *Samyukta Adhyayan Karikram Nepal*, or the "Cornell-Nepal Study Program." It is the first and only program of its kind that involves North American students together with their Nepalese peers in a study and research program. Starting this year, approximately 10 students will have the opportunity to experience Nepal through this Cornell University program. Different from the other "bubble programs," this new venture provides for genuine peer relationships and support for all students and faculty members.

Cornell-Nepal will offer study and research options in two areas, one focusing on the cultures and peoples of Nepal, the other on environmental and ecological diversity. Each focus is intended to help students develop and begin research in Nepal. All courses will be officially taught in English at Tribhuvan University and at the Cornell-Nepal Study House. Core instructors are selected from among the regular faculty members at Tribhuvan University while language professors have had additional experience teaching foreign students.

Arriving students from outside Nepal will be hosted for a few days at the homes of members of the newly formed Cornell-Nepal Alumni Association. The program contin-

**continued on page 11**



# Lecture Series

## History Lecture Series focuses on contributions of Indian scholarship

The South Asia Program recently co-sponsored a series of lectures to promote understanding of various aspects of the history, society and politics of South Asia while examining a variety of new approaches to the study of colonial and post-colonial history.

The History Lecture Series was preceded by a lecture by Professor Myron Weiner of MIT, "If Not Now, When? Ending Child Labor in India," which evaluated the economic and social ramifications of child labor. He touched on topics from his book, *The Child and the State in India*, and stressed the urgent need to implement existing legislation for mandatory school attendance and restrictions on the exploitation of children.

Tapan Raychaudhuri, Professor of Indian History and Civilization, and Director of the Center for Indian Studies at Oxford University, presented the keynote address for the series. Under the premise that the traditional approach towards the study of history has ignored the significance of the masses, "New Horizons in the Historiography of Colonial In-

dia," and the workshop that followed explored change in scholarly attitudes towards the study of Indian colonial history. Raychaudhuri discussed various aspects of the subalternist and other new schools of thought. In addition, he emphasized the significance of the subalternist reinterpretation of colonial history for other regions of the world. Raychaudhuri's lecture was followed by a lively workshop featuring historians Gyan Prakash (Princeton University), Geraldine Forbes (SUNY-Oswego) and Richard Eaton (University of Arizona). Sherman Cochran, chairman of Cornell's History Department, served as moderator and remarked that the workshop was one of the finest he had ever witnessed.

Richard Eaton, Professor of History at the University of Arizona, focused on Islam in medieval Bengal in a subsequent lecture. He discussed the findings from his book, *Islam at the Bengal Frontier, 1204-1760*, which deals with the spread of Islam in areas considered peripheral to the center of the religion. Eaton's lecture

shed new light on the existing interpretation of the spread of Islam in India, explaining how the proliferation of Islam is closely associated with deforestation and the expansion of agriculture through the efforts of charismatic "saint-entrepreneurs."

The series ended with "The Policing of Tradition: Colonialism and Anthropology in Southern India," by Nicholas Dirks, Professor of History and Anthropology and Director of Southeast Asia and South Asia Studies at the University of Michigan. His seminar explained the impact of British Colonial influence on social and religious customs of South Indian Hindus.

According to Cornell Professor Rafiuddin Ahmed, the History Lecture Series generated great interest in the study of South Asian history and society, both among faculty members and students. In addition, the seminars attracted attention to the relevance of recent developments in South Asian historiography, which can be utilized to interpret similar conditions in other developing areas.

## Speakers reflect upon causal factors of unrest in Sri Lanka

The South Asia Program and the Cornell Sri Lanka Student's Association invited a number of distinguished speakers to talk on recent Sri Lankan politics. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the ethnic riots that rocked Sri Lanka in July 1983, instigating a bloody civil war. The series was a retrospective examination of different aspects of Sri Lankan politics and society.

The series began with a talk on "The Deterioration of Democratic Institutions in Sri Lanka" by Dr. Sisira Pinnawala, Senior

Fulbright Fellow with Cornell Peace Studies. Pinnawala, Professor of Sociology at Peradeniya University, spoke of the negative effects of the ruling United National Party's reliance on patronage to retain its political support among the masses. He discussed these issues in the context of current politics.

The next lecture dealt with the need for constitutional reform. Entitled, "Constitutional Reforms as a Means of Defusing Sri Lanka's Ethnic Crisis," Dr. C.R. DeSilva, Chairman of the History Depart-

ment at Indiana State University, emphasized the need to decentralize political authority and administrative responsibility while giving more power to the local provincial councils.

Dr. Stanley J. Tambiah, Professor of Anthropology at Harvard and author of two scholarly works, ended the series with "The Crisis of the Nation State and Secular Politics in South Asia." He provided explanations of the causes of the civil war as well as how politics have affected ethnic relations in Sri Lanka.



# Study Abroad

## Innovative study abroad program integrates culture and research

### continued from page 9

ues with a five week in-country orientation that includes intensive practice in Nepali conversation and cultural orientation plus a 10-day field trip and trek.

A wide range of course options will be offered including Nepali Language, Contemporary Issues in Nepali Studies, Field Research and Methods in Sociology/Anthropology, Ecology/Environment and Guided Field Research. There will also be opportunities for participation in course work in other areas and courses at the University.

Language study is an integral part of this program: Nepali, Newari and

Tibetan languages can be studied at either beginning or more advanced levels. Supplementary programs are available for those students desiring an intensive course of language study. Individual research and internship opportunities are also important components: students are expected to spend at least one month engaged in field research, which will be closely supervised by appropriate departments at the University. Also included is a study tour outside the Kathmandu Valley which provides opportunities for collaborative research and exploration of important historical, cultural and environmental sites. The program supports addi-

tional enrichment activities, such as a weekly open-house and lectures.

The setting of Cornell-Nepal adds to the scope of academic possibilities. Tribhuvan University is located at the foot of Kirtipur, a hilltop town rich in history, which provides the perfect environment for a program of this kind. Visitors are usually welcomed everywhere and students will be free to discover the culture.

Unlike other Nepal study programs, this one allows students to live with their Nepalese peers at the Cornell-Nepal Study Program House, where life will follow Nepalese style in foods and furnishings. More diverse field trips and

homestays are an important part of the program experience, but the Program House provides a comfortable base.

Cornell-Nepal plans to create mutually advantageous study and research opportunities for all involved students and faculty while working to develop applicable experience to prepare students for field research in Nepal. In addition, the program plans to develop a research system that fosters collaborative work among scholars and enhances the research capabilities of Tribhuvan University.

Openings are still available. For more information contact Cornell Abroad at (607) 255-6224.

**In order for us to know you better, please fill out the following questionnaire and send it to:**

**South Asia Program  
170 Uris Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853-7601**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Employment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CU Class & Major:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Specific Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to continue to receive information from us?** ☐ yes ☐ no



# Announcements

## NEW SOUTH ASIA PROGRAM PUBLICATIONS

***Human Skeletal Remains From Mahadaha:  
A Gangetic Mesolithic Site.*** Kenneth A.R.  
Kennedy, John R. Lukacs, Robert F. Pastor,  
Thomas L. Johnston, Nancy C. Lovell, J.N. Pal,  
Brian E. Hemphill, and Christopher B. Burrow,  
1992. **\$29.50**

***Nepali: A Beginner's Primer, Conversation  
and Grammar, Part I.*** Banu Oja and Shambhu  
Oja, 1992. **\$15.00**

***Nepali-English, English-Nepali Glossary.***  
Elizabeth Uphoff, Shambhu Oja and Banu Oja,  
1992. **\$15.00**

**Shipping: \$3 first book, \$.50 each additional book**

## ***Contemporary Global Issues: Making Connections in Global Studies A Course for Teachers***

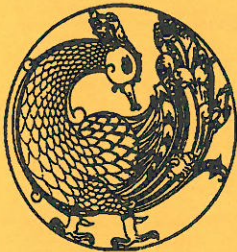
**Cornell University, June 28-July 2**

*Faculty members from the combined area  
studies programs at Cornell University will  
address themes on the context of global change  
to aid teachers in instructing global studies  
courses.*

For more information contact John Oakley, Institute for  
European Studies, 120 Uris Hall, Cornell University,  
Ithaca, NY 14853-7601 (607) 255-7592

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*This newsletter was written and designed by students  
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