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Mary Hubbard - Montana State University

Nepal Lectures

While in Nepal during the late fall of 2023, I spent some time in the field with Nepali MSc students from the Central Campus of Tribhuvan University. We spent a day near the town of Galchi collecting pseudotachylite that was recently discovered by one of the students (Fig 1). The implication was young or re-activated fault movement at the lower boundary of the Greater Himalayan Sequence rocks. We were able to sample and now, in hopes of getting an age of the pseudotachylite, we have sent the rocks to a lab in the US for analysis.

Later in the month, I traveled to Pokhara, Nepal with a group of Montana Rotarians. Another retired MSU faculty member, Dr. Cathy Whitlock (GSA fellow and National Academy of Sciences member) was with this group so together we gave a joint lecture at the Pokhara campus of Tribhuvan University (Fig. 2). The new geology department has a young, energetic woman as the department head, Durga Khatiwada (Fig. 3). She has recruited a large group of undergraduate students with a high percentage of women. Following our talk we had a tour of campus where we saw a giant rock named Bim that was presumably deposited during a massive flood event (Fig. 4).



Figure 1. Galchi: Sampling pseudotachylites with Dr. Lalu Paudel and students from the Central Campus of Tribhuvan University.



Figure 2. Cathy Whitlock and Mary Hubbard following their lecture at the Prithvi Narayan Campus of Tribhuvan University in Pokhara.

Just before leaving Nepal in early December, the Nepal Geologic Students' Society hosted my lecture at the Central Campus of Tribhuvan University in Kirtipur. The presentation was completely organized by the students. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet with so many students and faculty from Nepal and Bangladesh. I look forward to my spring trip where I hope to have similar great experiences with earth and environmental scientists!



Figure 3. Durga Khatiwada with teaching faculty at the Prithvi Narayan Campus.



Figure 4. Large boulder named Bim on the Prithvi Narayan Campus.