

JAMES B. THOMPSON, JR.

DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL LECTURE TOUR 2023-24

Mary Hubbard - Montana State University

Japan, Indonesia, India, Bhutan & Nepal

On a snowy March 1st, my husband, Jobie Carlisle, and I loaded our bags in the car to head to the airport for the first flight of our journey. This is the spring trip for the GSA Thompson International Lecture Tour. My focus is south and central Asia, but I've included Japan given the history of Kyoto University geoscientists working in the Himalayas. So, our first stop is Japan.

After sleeping through most of the trans-Pacific flight, we landed at the Tokyo Haneda airport and made our way from baggage claim to the Shinagawa station to



Kinkakuji or Golden Temple in Kyoto.



Photo of Mt Fuji taken from the bullet train between Tokyo and Kyoto.

catch the bullet train to Kyoto. The process was quick and efficient, the day was gorgeous, we caught a nice view of Mt. Fuji and were in Kyoto by about 8:45AM. While it was too early to check into our hotel, the front desk staff were accommodating and helped us store our luggage and make a plan to visit a nearby temple where we could also do a hike on the mountainside above the temple. The temple, Ginkakuji, was a great introduction to Kyoto temples and the history of the area. We returned to the hotel late in the afternoon and exhausted.

We used the first couple days in Kyoto to see some sites and to get over jetlag. The city is amazing with hidden architectural gems in unlikely neighborhoods in addition to the classic historical sites. My personal favorite was the Golden Temple or Kinkakuji.



Mary with Drs. Tetsuo Kawakami and Harutaka Sakai outside a restaurant in Kyoto.

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Wednesday March 6th we went to Kyoto University where we met with my host, Dr. Tetsuo Kawakami. We had a chance to visit with the petrology/structure group before my lecture. We also met retired professor, Dr. Harutaka Sakai who has worked most of his career in the Himalaya and he continues research there. After my lecture we enjoyed a nice Japanese meal with professors Kawakami and Sakai.

After a train journey from Kyoto to Tokyo's Narita airport, we headed to Indonesia. Jakarta was a transfer stop and then on to Kupang on the island of Timur. We were met by Dr. Maria Lobo, director of the International Program Office and professor of mathematics. I first met Dr. Lobo when visiting



Jobie Carlisle and Mary Hubbard are hosted by Undana faculty Dr. Lien Bale, Dr. Maria Lobo, Dr. Suthree Djahimo, and student Ben Djahimo in Kupang, Timur Indonesia.



Local Timur resident has collected a type of seaweed that is used in making agar.



Photo of students and faculty from Universitas Nusa Cendana, known locally as "Undana". The "U" made by thumbs and index fingers is for Undana!

Kupang in 2011. She then spent a term at Utah State University where I was serving as the Vice Provost for Global Engagement and geology faculty. She had organized the logistics of my presentation and recruited students from environmental science, English language studies, and the mining program. After the presentation we had a nice lunch by the sea where we were joined by several faculty who had attended the presentation or who I had met on my previous visit or had visited Utah State University in past years.

On the two days following my talk Maria took us outside of Kupang to visit sites on the coast and to a large irrigation dam inland. On one of the beaches, locals were gathering seaweed that is used to make agar.



Coral reef and tropical fish off the Indonesian island of Sebayur.

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After Kupang, we took a few days off from the Lectureship circuit for a visit to the Indonesian island of Sebayur where we relaxed and enjoyed one of the country's living coral reefs. After a few days in the sun (and rain), it was back to work. My husband flew back to the States and I traveled on to India.

In Bangalore, I was met at the airport by Dr. Jaishree Bhatt who I have known for the past 5 years or so. She is a researcher at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR). This institution is a multidisciplinary research center that covers a broad range of scientific disciplines in the science and engineering fields. I was provided accommodation at their very nice guest house on



Mary poses with Dr. Jaishree Bhatt and Mrs. Rao at the JNCASR in Bangalore, India.



Professor C.N.R. Rao welcomes Mary and Jaishree in his office at JNCASR.



Mary and Dr. Kathakali Bhattacharyya with her students at IISER Kolkata.



Mary with lecture advertisement at the Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata.

campus. Prior to my lecture I was able to meet faculty, visit labs, and to meet the founding president of the institution, Dr. C.N.R. Rao and his wife. The lecture was well-attended by graduate students and faculty from a broad set of disciplines. There were also students from a local college who have an interest in pursuing science careers.

Next stop was Kolkata. My first lecture there was at the Indian Institute for Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata.



Students and faculty with Mary in the museum at ISI Kolkata following her lecture.

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I was hosted by Dr. Kathakali Bhattacharyya, who I had met during a GSA poster session several years ago. We share similar interests in Himalayan faults and shear zones. The campus is nearly an hour's drive north of Kolkata in a beautiful agricultural region. I arrived on campus first thing in the morning and was able to spend the whole day there. During that time, I saw a bit of the campus and had a chance to hear from Dr. Bhattacharyya's graduate students about their research projects.

My second day in Kolkata I visited the Geological Studies Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata and had a tour of their geological museum before my lecture. Following the presentation and some Q and A



Mary's former MS student Pragnyadipta Sen and his father host her for a biryani dinner in Kolkata.



Dancing at the Paro Festival.



Paro Taktsang, also known as the Tiger's Nest Monastery, outside Paro, Bhutan.

with students, I had a nice biryani dinner with my host Dr. Tridib Kumar Mondal and Dr. Shreya Karmakar.

I had an additional day in Kolkata and was able to spend the day with my former MS student, Pragnyadipta Sen. He showed me some of the historic sites of Kolkata and then we joined his father, who I had met in 2006, for an Oudh period biryani. Oudh was the name for the regional state prior to the British annexation in 1856.



Geology faculty, Dr. Karma Tempa and Dr. Lily Gurung accompany Mary on a visit to the president of the Royal University of Bhutan College of Science and Engineering, Dr. Cheki Dorji.

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From Kolkata I flew to Paro, Bhutan. The situation in Bhutan involves paying a daily fee that covers your visa, your lodging, all food and domestic transportation, plus a guide and a driver. I was met at the airport by my guide, Sonam, and my driver Dorji. My arrival day was during Paro's annual festival so Sonam and I visited the local monastery to watch the Lama's dancing. It was a colorful day with many locals and very few tourists in attendance. The next morning Sonam and Dorji took me to the trailhead for the Tiger's Nest Monastery (Paro Taktsang) that sits at 10, 240 ft above sea level, a 1700 ft elevation gain and 2 miles from the trailhead. Because I had been at sea level for the previous 3 weeks, I was a bit worried about the walk. It was a gorgeous day and we took it slowly and made it up in a couple



Students who attended Mary's lecture at the Royal University of Bhutan College of Science and Engineering in Phuentsholing Bhutan.



Weaving is a strong tradition in Bhutan and this weaver is working with silk threads while working in her studio in Thimpu.



View from the flight between Paro, Bhutan and Kathmandu, Nepal. The high peak on the left is Mt. Everest (Chomolungma, Sagarmatha) and the peak on the right is Makalu.

hours. In the afternoon we drove to the Royal University of Bhutan Phuentsholing Campus which is about a 5 hour drive south, nearly to the Indian border. There I stayed in a campus guest house for the night. I was hosted by two geological engineering faculty, Drs. Karma Tempa and Lily Gurung. The next morning, they took me to meet the campus president, Dr. Cheki Dorji and then on to the lecture hall. The room was filled with lots of students, women on one side of the room and men on the other. The numbers were fairly equal. Following the lecture we all gathered for a group photo.



Exchanging appreciation at Birendra Multiple Campus, Bharatpur, Nepal.

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DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL LECTURE TOUR 2023-24

After the campus visit and lecture Dorji drove Sonam and me back north to the capital of Timphu. We spent a night there and were able to see some tourist sites the next day. As a professional tour guide, Sonam knows all the places that people like to see, and she has a great knowledge of the history of the Kingdom. For me the highlight was the textile museum because Bhutan has had a long history of colorful weaving.

From Bhutan I flew to Kathmandu, Nepal. My flight was early in the morning and the skies were clear, thus enabling some fantastic views of the High Himalaya. My knowledge of the Nepalese Himalaya allowed me to identify the peaks of Kanchenjunga, Makalu, Everest, and most of the other peaks between there and Kathmandu.

Once in Nepal I took some time to visit a Rotary project in which I am involved that is assisting six schools around Kathmandu. I also had an opportunity to visit the Bardiya National Park in southeastern Nepal. Following my Bardiya visit, I stopped in Bharatpur to give a lecture on the Birendra Multiple Campus of Tribhuvan University. This small campus has a very committed and visionary Campus Chief and many enthusiastic students. I was hosted by Mr. Niraj Singh Thakuri, the young and enthusiastic Geology Department Head. In the afternoon I visited several classes including the English language classes that were filled with non-traditional students learning English to

help them in their careers. In the morning I gave my presentation in a room that was not quite big enough for the number of attendees. With high temperatures I was worried that everyone would wilt. They seemed to be used to the conditions and were unfazed by the situation! After the presentation, I had about 45 minutes for Q & A with students and no faculty. They eagerly asked questions about studying overseas, about being a



Mary poses with Drs. Vinee Srivastava and Malay Mukul at IIT Bombay in Mumbai, India



Student group at the TriChandra Multiple Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal.

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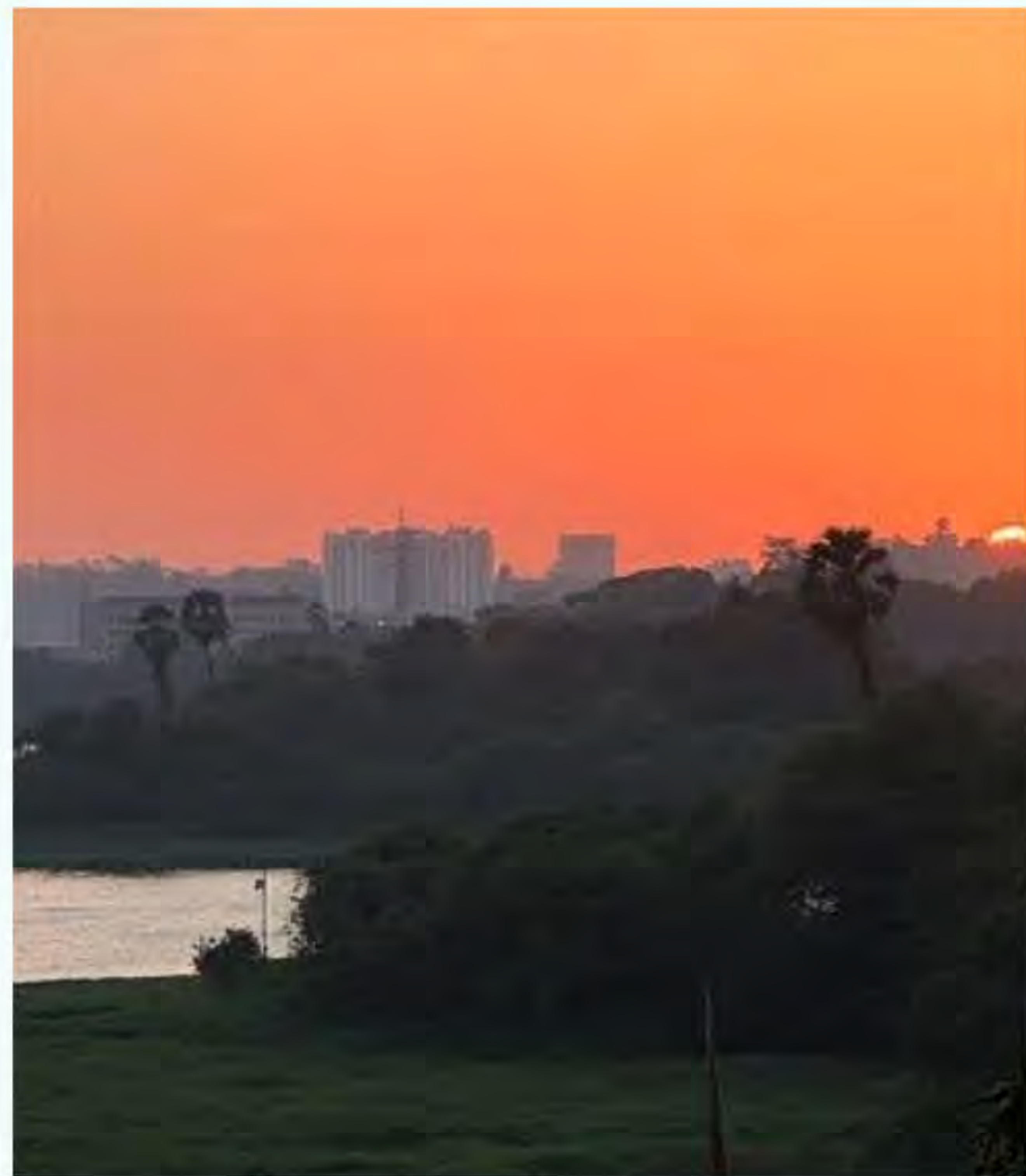
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woman in geology, and other issues related to their potential career paths.

My second lecture in Nepal on this trip was back in Kathmandu on the TriChandra Multiple Campus of Tribhuvan University. This is the oldest campus of the university and their Geology Department has hosted me twice for Fulbright Fellowships. Dr. Subodh Dhakal, the Geology Department Head, coordinated this visit. While I was in the department as a Fulbright Scholar as recently as 2022, I hadn't given a lecture to their current cohort of students at either the Bachelor's or Master's levels. Even one of the young waiters from my hotel who always asks me about my work, attended the lecture! We tried to convince him to study geology!!

From Nepal, I flew back into India to the city of Mumbai for a visit to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay where I was hosted by Dr. Malay Mukul. His former student, Dr. Vinee Shrivastava, came over from her faculty position at the IISER Bhopal. The three of us were able to discuss our work on Himalayan cross faults before my presentation. Malay and I were also able to spend some time preparing our EGU presentation that was going to be delivered several weeks later in Vienna by our co-author, Dr. Ananta Prasad Gajurel. I stayed at the university guest house that has a fantastic view westward over the Powai Lake.

My time in Mumbai was the last on my spring lecture tour. From there I headed back to Montana after 6 weeks, 21 flight segments, 5 countries, and 9 lectures. I am pleased to say that all flights went as scheduled and I had no baggage issues or other travel surprises! I hope the next awardees of the J.B. Thompson Jr. Distinguished International Lecture fellowship have the same fruitful and rewarding experience during their travels.



Sunset over Powai Lake on the IIT Bombay campus, Mumbai, India



A selection of hard copy boarding passes from Mary's spring 2024 lecture tour.