



# West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey Colloquium Series

Presenting

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West Virginia Geological  
Economic Survey

Time Change

Date: **Monday October 20, 2008**

Place: **Large Conference Room behind Publication Sales**

Presentation: **Begins at 11:30**



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## What is being an American in a developing country?

### West Virginia to Nepal and back again



In April 2008, I traveled to Pokhara, Nepal to teach English to grades 2-9 during a two-month stay. Living with a native family, I learned the daily life of the Nepalese people. I lived with a local family of a husband, wife, two sisters, and two servants. Teaching in the schools everyday, I learned all the hardships that the school systems have along with the hardships of the children and their families. Most children are unable to attend school because their families cannot afford such luxuries.

During my two month stay, I was also able to witness the transition of a country that has been part of a corrupt monarchy for over 230 years become a Republic. To view this transition firsthand was an invaluable learning experience; but, simultaneously an extremely daunting experience (even more so after my directed warning from the US State Department). The transition was complicated even more so with the presence of 67 different parties in the country and guerrilla insurgency.

Hinduism being the predominate religion in Nepal accounts for 80% of the population with the other 20% practicing Buddhism. Learning all the differences of these two religions was exceptionally interesting because of the longevity of these religions.

Come escape to the Himalayas on Monday 20, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. in the lower conference room of the West Virginia Geological Survey. Where we can learn why cows have more rights than pedestrians or cars in Nepal.