



## *Message from the President*



Greetings to you all on behalf of our members, staff and affiliates. Many important developments have taken place since our last newsletter. I will highlight some of the key developments and events that have taken place at the Institute and at our member institutions.

Moving forward with the vision of our leaders, Prime Minister Mr. Stephen Harper and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, enshrined in the Canada-India education Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed

by the two governments, an MOU on academic relationship between Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and the Government of Saskatchewan was signed on **April 13, 2012**. The MOU outlines the broader parameters of co-operation and collaboration between the province of Saskatchewan and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in the field of education, innovation and research.

Shastri Institute organised a national conference, titled: **Engaging India- Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology** in Calgary on June 3 and 4, 2012. Various scholars from Canadian Universities, community and business people from Calgary participated in this conference. Immediately following the conference was **Canadian Members Council Meeting** at Mount Royal University in Calgary on June 5, 2012. The meeting was attended by Mr. Jean Labrie, Deputy Director at the Canadian Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Ms. Venna Ish, Joint Secretary, MHRD, Government of India

A bi-national and bilingual conference- the first of its kind conference- was held on **Engaging Canada - Engaging India: the French Canadian Context** on June 11 & 12, 2012 at Pondicherry University in collaboration with Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute. This event was of special interest to scholars and institutions from India, and from French and English Institutions from the French Canadian Province of Quebec, as well to French Canadian Studies faculty in India and Canada.

The **Indian Members' Council meeting** was held at India International Centre on June 16, 2012, and the **Annual General Meeting** was held on June 17, 2012. These annual Shastri meetings had a good attendance of Indian member Institutions. The Institute was privileged to have the presence of Mr. Jim Nickel, Deputy High Commissioner of Canada to India, and Ms. Veena Ish, Joint Secretary, MHRD, for the IMC meeting. With the term of Dr. Balraj Chauhan- an EC member- coming to an end, an election saw Prof. Ravi Shankar Rao emerging as the new EC member.

The Executive Council continued to engage with DFAIT and one of our bi-national Executive Council Member met the DFAIT representatives on July 16, 2012 at Ottawa for future funding of the Institute. The Shastri President along with our bi-national team of Executive Council Members continue to engage in advocacy and outreach for Shastri's unique niche in the Canada-India Education corridor. In India, our dialogues with the Ministry of Human Resource Development have been very fruitful and mutually beneficial. On the Canada side, we continue our dialogue with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Provincial governments.

Our Institute is pleased to have announced many new programmes recently which are available on our website. As always, keep in touch and do not hesitate to contact the Shastri office for information, programming /grants questions, or other member benefits.



# SICI News

# Shastri Activities

## Engaging India: Human and Social Dimension of Science and Technology



A multi-disciplinary conference on “**Human and Social Dimension of Science and Technology**” was organized by the Shastri Institute at the University of Calgary on June 3 and 4. The conference was attended by hundreds of scholars, faculties, community members, organizational representatives and graduate and undergraduate students from Canada and India. The Conference provided a unique opportunity to bring together the diverse disciplinary perspectives to debate and examine the important contemporary issues and challenges faced by Canada and India.

The inaugural session was kicked off with a welcoming speech by Dr. Braj Sinha, President of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute who welcomed His Excellency Shrir Shashishekar Gavai, High Commissioner for India to Canada; Hon. Manmeet Bhullar, MLA and Minister of Service Alberta; and Dr. Elizabeth Cannon, President of the University of Calgary. In her greeting address, Prof. Cannon noted that 6% of the University of Calgary’s full-time visa students are from India, 48 undergraduates and 115 graduate students, a third of which are in the Schulich School of Engineering. Dr. Cannon acknowledged the University of Calgary’s commitment to facilitate the dialogue between Canada and India.

The Engaging India conference featured a total of 9 panel presentations, 25 individual presentations and 2 roundtables. The discussions on Canada-India Collaborations were launched by a presentation by Dr. Balbir Sahni, Professor Emeritus at the Carleton University, on the research collaboration and student mobility programs between Institutions in Canada and India. Dr. Sahni showed the immense work and exchange being achieved between both countries. This collaboration includes MoUs and Collaborations ranging from simple student exchanges to specific collaborative projects attracting public and private sectors at federal and sub-federal levels in each country. Dr. Sahni presented the following statistics to illustrate the MOUs signed by region between both countries:

|                                 |                 |            |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>Central Canada – Ontario</b> | <b>123 MOUs</b> | <b>40%</b> |
| <b>Prairies</b>                 | <b>91 MOUs</b>  | <b>29%</b> |
| <b>Central Canada – Quebec</b>  | <b>60 MOUs</b>  | <b>19%</b> |
| <b>West Coast</b>               | <b>26 MOUs</b>  | <b>8%</b>  |
| <b>Atlantic Canada</b>          | <b>12 MOUs</b>  | <b>4%</b>  |

The presentation triggered discussions on current collaborations as well as future plans of the Shastri member institutions for strengthening the relationship between Canadian and Indian Institutions.

Two topics were discussed during the roundtables. The first was around ways of connecting academy and industry. The second examined student mobility and exchange programs between India and Canada. The roundtables were very interactive and they reviewed the collaboration between the two countries in these two areas. The discussions were also an opportunity to share information about the challenges faced.

The Engage India Conference stressed the need for institutions in the two countries to create knowledge partnerships. It also emphasized the importance of Shastri’s work as an intermediary between India and Canada.

The concluding plenary session summarized the discussions of each panel and the issues and actions that were raised. The event showed a clear sense of commitment in ensuring that education cooperation involving research and scholarship finds meaningful resonance and acknowledgement of deep connection between Canada and India.

## Canadian Members Council Meeting



Following the Engaging India conference, the Shastri Institute organized its annual Canadian Council meeting at the University of Mount Royal on June 5. The meeting was attended by Shastri's Canadian member representatives across the country as well Mr. Jean Labrie, Deputy Director at the Canadian Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Ms. Venna Ish, Joint Secretary, MHRD, Government of India. The meeting was an opportunity for the Shastri Executive Council to update the members and the government officials on the activities and recent developments at the Institute.

Dr. Robin Fisher, Mount Royal University Vice Provost, welcomed everyone at his university and wished everyone a very fruitful meeting.

President Dr. Braj Sinha opened the meeting by welcoming the EC members, representatives of the Governments of India and Canada and the Canadian members. Dr. Sinha, Dr. Ranbir Singh and Dr. Shanthi Johnson (Vice President and Secretary Treasurer respectively) reported on the different activities the Institute undertook in Canada and India.

Mr. Jean Labrie discussed DFAIT's recent cancellation of the Canadian Studies in India due to DEFAIT's budgetary cuts. Nevertheless, he praised the work of the Shastri Institute in continuously strengthening the bilateral relationships between the two countries. Ms. Veena Ish declared that India currently inked formal MOUs with 42 countries for international collaborations.

Smt. Veena Ish mentioned three key areas with major challenges, where building strong international collaborative programs with Canada may help India significantly:

1. Faculty development: The Government of India is planning to gradually raise the GER up to 30% by 2022. This would lead to an increased demand for qualified faculties. Hence the value of promoting academic exchanges between Canada and India, in particular, those involving faculties, graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral students.
2. Vocational training development: About 98% of the current workforce in India has no formal qualification. This constitutes a huge gap in terms of vocational training. A gap that is only made larger with the steep population growth in India. Vocational collaboration between institutions in Canada and India would assist Indian institutions in learning about governance models, development of curriculums and training methodologies.
3. ICTE development: There is a large body of information and knowledge, available electronically, that has yet to be incorporated as part of the ICT education processes. Both students and teachers would benefit greatly from widening up their knowledge accessibility through a close collaboration with Canadian institutions.

Ms. Ish reiterated the support of the Government of India to the Shastri Institute's efforts in promoting academic collaboration between the two countries.

The Executive Council, under the leadership of Dr. Vissandjee, engaged the Canadian Council members in a brainstorming exercise on the future sustainability of the Institute. Three main areas were discussed:

### Resource Mobilization

- Involving Provincial governments;
- Exploring possibilities of funds from Indian/Canadian Diaspora;
- Mobilizing funds from large corporations in India and Canada;
- Holding high level workshops and conferences to increase Shastri's visibility and draw support from UNO and UNESCO.
- Submitting funding proposals to the UNO & UNESCO for theme based projects;
- Creating an endowment fund by member institutions;
- Requesting funds from Ministry of External Affairs, Home Affairs or Corporations;
- Partnering with organizations, such as AUCC, IDRC, Azim Premji Foundation, Ashoka Foundation, Asia Pacific Foundation, Indian association of Canadian Studies, Quebec Studies;

## Program Priorities

- Faculty and student mobility;
- Internships and joint degree programs between Indian and Canadian institutions;
- Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant for participating Conferences in Canada;
- Programs focusing on Social sciences;
- Partnership seed grants for organizing India study tours for Canadian Students;
- Books and journal Programs;
- Academic exchanges between French Canada and India;
- Matching funds for Faculty.

**Member Services:** The members indicated the Shastri Institute should consider the following:

- Play the role of linking all Canadian Studies Centres in the country for Resource sharing;
- Promote knowledge generation and sharing through e-journals;
- Attribute the task of organizing seminars; hosting meetings to Shastri new member institutions;
- Coordinate closely with international offices at members universities;
- Develop a database of Canadian and Indian Faculty for research collaboration and faculty exchange, including retired Faculty members and faculty members on sabbatical;
- Provide assistance in Student Mobility by displaying Canadian Universities admission dates, requirements in the Institute website.

The exercise allowed the council members to interact and share their experiences and vision.

During this meeting, Dr. Shanthi Johnson was elected as the Vice President/President Elect. and Dr. Rajesh Tayagi replaced Dr. Johnson as the Secretary Treasurer. The meeting was concluded with the Canada Office staff thanking the president Dr. Braj Sinha for his deduction and assistance during the entire year.

## Engaging Canada - Engaging India: The French Canadian Context

In collaboration with the Pondicherry University, the Shastri Institute organized the first bi-national and bilingual conference of its kind on June 11 and 12 at the Pondicherry University, India. The conference was an opportunity to forge relationships between Canada and India through a common bonding language of French used in both countries.

A large delegation of scholars from Canada led by Ms. Piché, Assistant Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Research, Quebec, took part at this event. The conference featured 7 individual presentations, 5 panel presentations and 2 roundtables. The conference covered various topics including education, health, culture, literature and multiculturalism.



From left: **Ms. Christiane Piché**, Assistant Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Research, Quebec; **Dr. J.A. K Tareen**, Vice Chancellor of Pondicherry University; **Mr. Iqbal Singh**, Lieutenant Governor of Pondicherry; **Dr. Braj Sinha**, President of the Shastri Institute; **Mr. Benoit Jean Bernard**, Quebec Government Representative in Mumbai; **Dr. R. Venkataraman**, Dean, icherry

M. Benoit Jean-Bernard praised Delhi and Mumbai University for joining the Association of Francophone Universities (AUF). He stressed out that Pondicherry University should follow their lead. He assured that the Quebec office would provide necessary support to become a member of the AUF. In fact, the Pondicherry and Jawaharlal Nehru university are in the process of submitting a request to the Association of Francophone Universities.

The longstanding bilateral relationship between India and Canada was the focus of Lieutenant Government Iqbal Singh's intervention. Mr. Singh explained that this relationship was based on shared democratic values, multi-cultural, multi ethnic and multi-religious nature of two societies and strong people-to-people contacts. Mr. Singh also discussed the importance of building knowledge to generate value. According to him, knowledge is one of the key factors in competitiveness. Knowledge of languages in particular is critical.

Ms. Piché explained that global exchanges led to growth in many sectors and an incomparable development in technology. This generated new issues that require international attention and cooperation. As the world becomes more knowledge-based, innovating international strategies are needed in universities.

Dr. Tareen, the Vice Chancellor of Pondicherry University discussed major international issues and focussed on two particularly challenging ones. The first is recognizing one's strengths and weaknesses. The second is how to devise strategies so that deficiencies are made up with mutually beneficial schemes. Higher education is growing at a considerable pace and there is a steep increase in spending on education. However, while there is an increasing pressure from demands for higher education, there still exists the challenge of finding young minds for research and teaching.

The round tables were also an opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics. These included:

- The role of the French language in an Anglophone environment.
- E-partnerships; capacity building; credit transfer; trainer training.
- Bilateral research to identify required fields of expertise.
- Building on existing excellence networks (AUCC, IDRC, CIDA).
- Identifying opportunities for involvement of each university.
- Extend partnerships beyond Indian, Canadian and Quebec studies.
- Targeting various funding sources (seed grant, pilot project, MRI, MELS and MDEIE).
- Identifying student categories for exchanges program purposes (mobility programs).
- Knowledge sharing in various topics (linguistics, micro credit, etc.)
- Contribution of exchange programs to business development and building the next generation.

The "Engaging Canada - Engaging India: The French Canadian Context" conference was an opportunity to showcase the role of Quebec in India-Canada relations and discuss future opportunities for collaborations.

## Shastri Indian Members Council Meeting

On June 16, the Shastri Institute organized its annual General Meeting in New Delhi, India. This general meeting was attended by the Shastri Indian members from across India. The meeting aimed at updating the Shastri Indian member institutions about the various activities undertaken by the Institute, its members and the Executive Council. The meeting was attended by Ms. Venna Ish, Joint Secretary at the Department of Higher Education of the Indian government and Mr. James Nickel, Deputy High Commissioner of the Canadian High Commission.



Dr. Braj Sinha, the Shastri President, welcomed the newly joined members of the Institute namely: the University of Winnipeg; the University of Quebec at Montreal and the University of Jamia Millia Islamia. Dr. stressed the need to develop specific strategies to engage the governmental agencies in pursuing goals in the education cooperation. He also discussed the recent termination of DFAIT's Understanding Canada Program due to budgetary cuts.

In his report and address, Vice President/President Elect, Dr. Ranbir Singh, highlighted the achievements and challenges of the Institute during 2011-2012 and updated the members with the continuing efforts in building bridges between the two countries and ways to meet future challenges.

Ms. Veena Ish commented that India has a young population whose capacities need to be utilized. She added that India and Canada can bank upon each other's strengths. In order to support their individual institutions, she called on the members to seek short-term assignments through the Shastri Institute for members of the Indian diaspora. She urged the members to organize a workshop in order to discuss collaboration strategies with Canada and thus constitute a joint research partnership. Ms. Veena Ish reaffirmed the understanding between India and Canada despite the constraints that both countries are facing. The Joint Secretary stated the commitment and continuous support of the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD) for the Institute.

Mr. James Nickel acknowledged the Institute's commitment to higher education and praised the Institute's contribution in building relations and academic linkages. According to him, Canadian academic institutions will continue to collaborate with Indian counterparts in the field of curriculum development, faculty and student exchanges, science and technology and in the health sector. The Institute can play a lead role in identifying and developing collaborations between India and Canada.

Similarly to the Canadian Council, the members of the Indian Council were involved in a brainstorming session to tackle questions around the Institute's sustainability. Discussions focussed mainly on securing funding and identifying alternative funding options, building future partnerships, faculty and research discipline selection, Shastri's expansion plans and member services. The brainstorming session was found both enriching and productive by the participants. They shared their institutions' concerns regarding exchange collaboration between India and Canada.

The India Office Director, Mr. Chanchal Sinha, shared the highlights of 2011-12, and thanked MHRD and DFAIT for their support.

During the meeting, Dr. Ravi Shankar Rao was elected as a member of the Executive Council replacing Dr. Balraj Chauhan.

## Shastri Programming

**Grants - Programs Currently Accepting Applications:** Details are available at <http://www.sici.org/home/>

- **Policy Research Grant - Deadline Sept. 27**
- **Student Excellence Award - Deadline Oct. 1**
- **Youth International Internship Program - Deadline Oct. 1**
- **Internship Project for Indian Students - Deadline Oct. 1**
- **Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant - Deadline Oct. 1**
- **Shastri Lester Pearson Memorial Lecture - Deadline Oct. 1**
- **Kanta Marwah Lecture Series - Deadline Oct. 1**
- **Lester Pearson Award for 'Best Paper' And 'Best Doctoral Dissertation' of the Year - Deadline Oct. 1**
- **Lal Bahadur Shastri Student Prize - Deadline Oct. 15**
- **Indian Membership Fund - Deadline Nov. 15**
- **Canadian Membership Fund – Deadline Dec.15**

### Kanta Marwah Lecture In India

**Kanta Marwah lecture Series** taking place in India is scheduled on **September 24** at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. The lecture will be delivered by Prof. Ganesh from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and will deal with the issue of "Bio-energy for Uttaranchal and learnings from Canadian experience".

To learn more this event, please visit these links:

<http://www.sici.org.in/uploads/Kanta%20Marwah%20Lecture.pdf>

## Shastri Grant Recipients

The Shastri Institute would like to thank all applicants to our grant programs and we would like to congratulate all the successful recipients. Shastri is proud to have awarded the following grants :

### Meena Srinivasan Memorial Awards for Indian Artists:

Anil Kumar Sukumara Pillai – Indian Classical Dance

### Faculty Mobility Program

Meetu Khosla - Delhi University  
Sushil Kansal - Panjab University

## Student Mobility Grant

Vani Damodaran - IIT Madras  
Sourav Mondal - IIT Kharagpur

## Québec International Tuition Fee Exemption for Indian Students

The following Indian Students will be affiliated at these institutions as part of their studies:

### HEC Montréal

| Name                   | Discipline              | Program |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Badugu Raja Sudeep     | Business Administration | Masters |
| Balasubramonium Rajesh | Business Administration | Masters |
| Kandey Harminder singh | Business Administration | Masters |
| Samtani Mukul          | Business Administration | Masters |
| Srinivasan Durga       | Business Administration | Masters |
| Varma Sujith           | Business Administration | Masters |

### National Institute for Scientific Research

| Name              | Discipline        | Program  |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Lalit Kumar Lalit | Water Sciences    | Doctoral |
| Shahare Manju     | Sciences de l'eau | Doctoral |

### Concordia University

| Name              | Discipline                           | Program |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Mohanram Chandhni | Computer Sciences - Security Systems | Masters |

### Montréal University

| Name                       | Discipline                     | Program  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Irulappapillai Dinesh Babu | Forest Sciences                | Doctoral |
| Janmeja Navina             | Science and Food Technology    | Doctoral |
| Pathak Mayank              | Science and Food Technology    | Doctoral |
| Purohit Nupur              | Molecular and Cellular Biology | Doctoral |
| Uppari Naga Rpaveena       | Neurobiology                   | Doctoral |

### University of Québec Trois-Rivières

| Name        | Discipline                   | Program  |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Ubald Siyad | Energy and Material Sciences | Doctoral |

### McGill University

| Name                 | Discipline   | Program  |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| Hukken Shivappa      | Plant Science                                      | Doctoral |
| Singh Padda Ranjit   | Microbiology et immunology                         | Masters  |
| Bhattacharya Devarun | Computer science                                   | Masters  |
| Sharma Divyaalok     | Electrical Engineering                             | Masters  |
| Vaghela Ruchikbhai   | Sciences de l'alimentation et chimie (agriculture) | Masters  |

## Appointments - Announcements

### Dr. Shanthi Johnson appointed to the National Seniors Council



On June 27, 2012, the Honorable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, the Honorable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, and the Honorable Alice Wong, Minister of State (seniors), announced the appointment of Dr. Shanthi Johnson as a new member to the National Seniors Council (NSC).

Dr. Johnson is the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Regina. She holds a Ph.D. in Kinesiology, a Master of Science in Nutrition and a Master's Certificate in Business Fundamentals. She has also held professor and assistant professor posts at Acadia University and the University of Western Ontario, and has lectured at Avinashilingam University in India.

Dr. Johnson's academic career and vast research experience in the field of seniors health and nutrition will be a genuine asset to the Council", said Minister Finley. For more information on the NSC, please visit [www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca](http://www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca).

Dr. Johnson is also the Vice President/Elect of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. To learn more about Dr. Johnson, please visit this link: [www.sici.org/about/executive-council/](http://www.sici.org/about/executive-council/)

### Dr. Bipasha Baruah appointed to Western Ontario Research chair in global women's issues

Professor Bipasha Baruah joined the Western Ontario, Women's Studies and Feminist Research Faculty as a tenured associate professor on July 1, 2012.

Dr. Baruah was recently awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in International Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Baruah's interest of study is gender and globalization, grassroots women's organizations, urban land and housing rights, urban basic service delivery, and informal sector labor issues in South Asia. In addition to academic appointments, she has served as a consultant to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

Dr. Baruah has also worked as a researcher and a development practitioner in India, Indonesia and the Eastern Caribbean countries of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts and Nevis. Her new book, *Women and Property in Urban India* (University of British Columbia Press, 2010) explored the challenges and opportunities that low-income women face in securing access to land and housing in urban informal settlements in India



### Dr. Mateti Prabhakar – Kalatiya University



As part of the Canadian Studies Faculty Enrichment Fellowship 2010-2011, Dr. Mateti Prabhakar from Kakatiya University designed a new course on Canadian Literature titled "Canadian Literature and Managing Cultural Diversity":

The Shastri Institute is pleased to announce that the Board of Studies in English of Kakatiya University has approved to include this course syllabus as part of their teaching Program.

The main objectives of this course are:

- Increase student's knowledge and understanding of the cultural mosaic of Canada and Canadian Literature;
- Improve the knowledge of Canadian values with regard to Cultural Diversity, Women's Rights, Environment and Survival;
- Become aware of how Canadian Diversity differs from Indian multiculturalism ;
- Develop bilateral relations between Canada and India;
- Promote cosmopolitan ways of thinking among student and research community.

The course includes the following units:

- Cultural diversity in Canadian literature
- Canadian women's writing
- Environment in Canadian literature
- Survival in Canadian literature

## Remembering Shastri Friends

### Ms. Devika Wasson - University of Hawaii (1981 –2011)

Devika was joyfully pursuing field research in India when tragically and shortly after her 30th birthday, she passed away in Cheruthuruthy, India, from asthma. Beloved by her brother, Raj; father, Avtar; mother, Connie Harvey; family, and many friends, Devika was a graduate of Ottawa University and the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, and a PhD candidate at the University of Hawaii.



Devika was awarded with a 3 months Student Language Training fellowship as part of the Shastri India Studies Fellowship for 2011-2012 and was getting ready for her research fellowship.

### Ms. Meena Srinivasan (1969 – 2011)



A devoted mother, friend, musician, and teacher left us for her heavenly abode on June 30, 2011. In her young life, she gave us cherished memories and inspired all through her community involvement.

To honor her legacy in Carnatic music, donations amounting to approximately to \$ 3,000 were made to the Shastri Institute which were used to set up a grant program. The program was called “Meena Srinivasan Memorial Awards for Indian Artists (MSMA)”. The grant aimed at assisting two talented young Indian artists in Carnatic music and Indian classical dance.

### Dr. Joseph O’Connell - University of Toronto (1940 – 2012)

Dr. Joseph T. O’Connell passed away on May 6th, a noted scholar of world religions in Lenox Hill Hospital, Manhattan. Dr. O’Connell was surrounded by his loving family.

From 1968-2000, he taught at St. Michael’s College and at the Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto. His distinguished academic career included teaching appointments at Oxford University, Visva-Bharati University, India and more recently at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he has been instrumental in the establishment of the Dept. of World Religions and Culture for the past ten years.



Dr. O’Connell’s involvement in India was parallel with the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute mandate. He received some grants from the Institute including:

- Senior Research Grant “Rupa Gosvami and bhakti rasa-sastra” in 1984
- Medieval Bengali language study in 1977
- Elementary Hindi language study in 1975

To learn more about Dr. O’Connell, please visit the following links:

<http://news.iskcon.com/node/4383#ixzz254TuYiU8>

### Dr. Rajendra Singh – University of Montréal (1943-2012)



Dr. Singh passed away on August 24 in his home in Pierrefonds, a suburb of Montreal. He was sixty-nine.

Dr. Singh joined University of Montreal in 1972. He was a Professor of Linguistics. His 1987 article 'Well-formedness conditions and phonological theory' was a much-cited landmark paper that helped change the course of phonology. His book “Explorations in Seamgless Morphology” introduced and developed the thesis that words have no internal grammatical structure and that any correlation between shape and interpretation or distribution are to be accounted for in terms of rules that make no appeal to word-internal boundaries or brackets of the sort that have become popular.

Dr. Rajender Singh was an alumni of the Shastri Institute’s India Studies Fellowships Program for 2009-2010.

To learn more about Dr. Singh, please visit this link: <http://probaleo.blogspot.in/2012/08/rajendra-singh-has-passed-away.html>



# SICI News

# Members Activities

## Wilfrid Laurier University

Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) organized the 2012 conference of the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE). The conference provided the attendees with the opportunity to meet with other social work educators and practitioners and debate the purpose and function of social work education in the local, provincial, national, and international contexts, examine the impact of social work education, and propose new directions for social work education.



Dr. Tambe, Associate Professor of Department of Sociology at the University of Poona, attended the event as part of the Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant. She presented a paper on “Washing the Dirty Linen: Women Domestic Workers’ Unions in Maharashtra, India”. Dr. Tambe shared her special impressions on a very enriching experience that allowed her to take part in an exchange of theoretical and methodological insights on the situation in India. The exchange also involved stimulating discussions about the Canadian context. Exchange of ideas about implementation of MDGs and possible policy reforms will motivate further research.

## HEC Montréal

Every year, HEC Montréal offers grants for student as part of a « Campus Abroad » program. This year, the Department of International Business organized 3-campus abroad activities for HEC Montréal’s students to carry out an intensive MBA program. India is among these campuses. The program provides a unique opportunity for students to immerse into a business climate in India and:

- Gain a deeper understanding of a foreign economy’s cultural, political and socio-economic environment.
- Expose students to local business practices through direct interactions with entrepreneurs, executives and government officials.
- Explore the value of different economic models as used in global business practice.

The MBA Program for India covered the period of June 25 to July 7, 2012.

## Ryerson University

Opened in April 2010, Ryerson University’s Digital Media Zone (DMZ) is a multidisciplinary workspace for young entrepreneurs infused with the energy and resources of downtown Toronto. This hub of digital media innovation, collaboration and commercialization is home to both entrepreneurial startups and industry solution-providers. Since its launch, the Digital Media Zone has incubated and accelerated 47 companies to launch more than 90 projects. Currently the Zone houses 207 innovators in 46 teams.

This summer Ryerson’s Digital Media Zone (DMZ) welcomes its first international fellows into its downtown Toronto hub. The Indian fellows, nine individual entrepreneurs in seven teams, have been selected for four-month terms in Toronto.



They join the DMZ from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi), and the Indian School of Business (ISB Hyderabad economy through spending and job creation. During their tenure at the DMZ, the entrepreneurs will focus on developing forward-thinking and innovative digital products and services for launch in

India while learning with and alongside the DMZ's other 39 teams. Although this is a first for the DMZ, Ryerson has an extensive history of international collaboration with more than 100 partners.

### University of the Fraser Valley



Canadian Consul General of India, Chandigarh, Mr. Scot Slessor visited the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies on July 16th. Mr. Slessor spoke to invited UFV faculty, staff and community members on the roles of the office in Chandigarh, as well as the business opportunities available in Chandigarh for young entrepreneurs. Mr. Slessor also discussed the contributions made by the Chair on Canada India Business and Economic Development and the continuing partnership between Chandigarh, the Chair, as well as the UFV Campus in Chandigarh.

### Exhibition Opening at Sikh Heritage Museum

July 15th saw the unveiling of the second exhibition opening at the Sikh Heritage Museum titled Punjab-the people, the land, the legacy. Pioneer families, dignitaries, and many others from the community attended and viewed the beautiful paintings. This second exhibition featured the art work of acclaimed local artist Manjit Singh Sandhu.

Mr. Sandhu painted individual images of some of the key pioneers who immigrated to Abbotsford, Canada in the early 20th century. The exhibition also featured traditional Punjabi artifacts.



The museum is open to the public seven days a week and all are invited to view the exhibition which will be on display until December 2012.

### Concordia University

During an interview with India Abroad, Dr. Balbir Sahni, Professor Emeritus of economics at Concordia University, welcomed Canada's contribution of over 3 million internationally mobile students. This contribution has been increasing considerably over the past few years. He expressed his satisfaction with the Ministers of Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) as they showed diligence in educational trade, and technological linkages, expected to yield reinforcing rewards.



"There have been several factors responsible for the increase in students choosing Canada" Dr. Sahni told India Abroad. "Some date back to the origin of the Canadian studies programs facilitated and coordinated through the International Council for Canadian Studies in over 30 Countries and others through more recent initiatives including the promotion of the Canadian brand of education, stepped up science and technology and free trade agreements and more realistic monitoring and insurance of student visas as well as work permits also permitting applications for immigrations from graduates while still in Canada. He also said it was important for Canada to dwell on a more effective two-way flow of students as all interlinked developments like education, trade and technology required that "students and experts seek short term study and work terms abroad. The Canadian Studies Program should also be "sustained and not discontinued as recently announced", Sahni said.

Dr. Sahni referred to the Shastri Engaging India Conference held in Calgary. During the conference, experts revealed a growing number of memorandums of understanding and collaborative Canada and India projects. These projects were attracting more and more participants from both countries. "Now that several segments inside and outside of the official sectors have managed to target the socio-economic contributions of internationalization of education, we can expect a momentum" Dr. Sahni said.

## OCAD University Students among Winners of 2012 Applied Arts Student Awards



Photographer: Irina Luca  
([www.irinaluca.com](http://www.irinaluca.com));

Nine OCAD University students and recent OCAD University grads have been selected to receive the 2012 Applied Arts Student Awards. Judges from across North America reviewed a record number of submissions from various countries including Singapore, the Netherlands, Ireland, Switzerland and Germany.

Applied Arts magazine will showcase all of the winning work in its November/December 2012 issue. An annual Applied Arts Award Winners Exhibit & Creative Schools Expo will be held on October 31 and November 1 at Artscape Wychwood Barns in Toronto. The awards program will also feature an online winners gallery.

The winners include **Andrea Rodriguez**, BDes Graphic Design; **Andrew Robb**, Advertising; **Antonio Lennert**, 2012 OCAD U Medal Winner, Graphic Design; **Bo Roberts-Leung**, BDes Advertising; **Irina Luca**, BFA Photography; **Kari Silver**, BDes Graphic Design; **Lynden Joudrey**, Illustration; **Marc O'Brien**, 2012 OCAD U Medal Winner, Illustration; **Vanessa (Ness) Lee**, BDes Illustration.

## Gujarat University

**Mr. Rakesh Babu** from Methukummal, Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu is conducting research in Canadian Literature on the playwrights James Reaney and Sharon Pollock in Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, and Kerala.

During his visit to the James Reaney Canadian Centre, Dr. Ranjana Harish, Director of the Centre, provided a tremendous support to Mr. Babu and facilitated his visits to the library and material collections for his research. Mr. Babu is expressed his deepest gratitude for this opportunity and is thanking Gujarat University and Dr. Ranjana for maintaining a resourceful document centre. According to Mr. Babu, the library plays a very important role in supporting researchers and faculty members in their work.



Mr. Babu has collected materials from 40-50 books. He is proud to touch and see *James Reaney's own collection of books and letters wrote by Mr. James Reaney*.



From left: **Dr. Ranjan Harish**; **Ms. Susan Reaney**; **Elizabeth Reaney**  
(daughter in law and grand daughter of James Reaney)

As part of the Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant, **Dr. Ranjan Harish**, Director of the James Reaney Canadian Centre visited the Reaney family in London, Ontario.

Late James Reaney, known poet and dramatist of Canada donated his personal library in 1992 to Gujarat University. This Library, named after the donor, is housed in the Canadian Study Centre of Gujarat University. The library became one of the main resource centres for research on Reaney.

The objective of Dr. Ranjan's visit was to review Reaney's remaining library and other materials such as videos recordings and pictures and to enrich the Centre with his additional treasures. During this visit, collections of books and videos were donated to Reaney Centre in Gujarat. It is worth noting that in 2010, Elizabeth Reaney, James Reaney's granddaughter, visited the Centre. Dr. Ranjan said that this kind of contact and exchange have been strengthening the relationship between the Reaney Family and the James

## M.S University of Baroda

Prof. Nanavati attended the ICCS international conference titled “Cultural Challenges of Migration in Canada” which was held on May 22, 23 and 24 at the University of Carleton and Ottawa. She presented a paper on “Social Capital, Cultural Attributes and Economic Wellbeing Correlates of Immigrants and Native Born in Canada. The paper dealt with the three major forms of Social Capital: bonding, bridging and participation in voluntary organizations and how they are impacted by various ethno-cultural attributes and income status.

On June 4, 2012, Prof. Arti Nanavati presented a lecture on “Determinants of Social Capital of Immigrants in Canada” at Global Studies Centre, San Jose State University. Her presentation discussed various forms of social capital among immigrants from Asia, Europe and other countries and natives in Canada. She posed the question whether ethnicity and/or gender played an important role in impacting the nature of social capital. The policy implications were discussed and the audience commented on the findings with the experience of the USA.



## University of Agricultural Sciences – Dharwad



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, New Delhi and Dr. W. R. Coffman, Director, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA were conferred honorary doctorate degrees by His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka on June 30, 2012 at Bangalore.

Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Shri G. S. Nyamagouda, Shri Muralidhar S. Bellur, Dr. T. V. Muniyappa, Hon'ble Members, Board of Management, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. H. S. Vijayakumar, Registrar, Dr. B. M. Khadi, Dean (PGS) and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

## American Students at UAS, Dharwad

As part of international academic collaboration between University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Iowa State University, Ames, USA, a group of 16 American students and two faculty members, Dr. ManjuReddy and Dr. Sarah Francis visited India to participate in the Food, Nutrition and Health: Service Learning in India from May 18-31, 2012. This programme was designed to help American students to understand the nutrition issues, food security and rural livelihoods in India.



Two villages, Kalasankoppa in Dharwad district and Utnal in Bijapur district, were chosen for field activity. Hands-on experience on following issues was gained by the students during the training programme.

Dr. R.R. Hanchinal, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad monitored this programme. Dr. L. Krishna Naik, Director of Extension and Course Director, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. S. Hemalatha and Dr. R. S. Poddar, Associate Professors, UAS, Dharwad co-ordinated the overall programme. Dr. M. B. Chetti, Dean (Agri.), College of Agriculture, Dharwad, Dr. M. B. Khadi, Dean (PGS), UAS, Dharwad, Dr. A. B. Alagawadi, Dean (Agri.), College of Agriculture, Bijapur and Dr. Rama K. Naik, Former Dean (Home Science) guided and supported this programme in several ways.

#### **UAS, Dharwad : Grantee under Obama - Singh Knowledge Initiative**

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad has been selected as a grantee for the Obama-Singh 21<sup>st</sup> Century Knowledge Initiative. UAS, Dharwad is one of the eight winning partnerships selected during the first round of Obama-Singh Initiative. This programme was initiated to promote strong linkages between Indian and U.S. educational institutions.

#### **Special Grants for UAS, Dharwad**

The Government of India in its Union Budget 2012 has allocated financial support of 50 cores as special grants to UAS, Dharwad. With this University is embarking on mega project “**Enhancement of productivity and resource conservation, knowledge empowerment of farmers and initiation of research in frontier sciences**” to enhance educational opportunities, upgrade research capabilities, initiate research on frontier sciences and creating facilities to serve the farming community through various sub projects.

## **Upcoming events**

#### **Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute - Conference on Higher Education - India**

With the Collaboration of Mumbai University, the Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute is planning to organise a Conference on ‘**Higher Education in India and Canada: Opportunities and Challenges**’ on **29th November 2012**.

The Conference aims at generating discussion and awareness around the following.

- Higher Education in India- present status and the way forward to take advantage of the strength of Canadian institutions;
- role of different bodies / Institutions in regulating and improving collaboration and exchange between the two countries
- Higher Education in Canada- present status, areas and opportunities for Indian institutions and students

More details will follow. Please visit <http://www.sici.org/home/>

#### **McMaster University**

McMaster University is organizing the 20th Annual Gandhi Peace Festival On **September 29** at Hamilton City Hall.



For more information, Please visit the Gandhi Festival website at: [www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/gandhi](http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/gandhi)  
Info: Centre for Peace Studies: 905-525-9140 ext. 23112; [mcpeace@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mcpeace@mcmaster.ca)

### University of Winnipeg's gallery 1c03 presents "Story Time"

Gallery 1C03 at the University of Winnipeg is proud to present "Story Time", a two-person exhibition of new collaborative book works and short animated films created by Glen Johnson and Leslie Supnet. Stemming from their mutual interest in the tradition of illustrated stories and a shared affinity for anthropomorphizing in their respective practices, Johnson and Supnet transform Gallery 1C03 into a mock library reading room. "Story Time" offer visitors the opportunity to read Johnson and Supnet's paired stories and drawings which take the form of oversized illustrated children's books. A series of animated stories will be screened in a retro living room setting as well. "Story Time" runs from **September 6 – October 6, 2012**

For more details, please visit this link

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/uw-news-action/story.861/title.uwinnipeg-s-gallery-1c03-presents-storytime->

### Fraser Valley University

#### Presentation by Dr. Kathy Marsden

On Monday, **October 15** from 5 to 7pm, Babeeta Chhabra will be presenting a Sri Sri Natya workshop and yoga class. Sri Sri Natya offers a beautiful combination of Dance, Music, Yogasanas and Meditation. It enables one to simultaneously enjoy the language of Indian classical art forms and Yoga. It also provides an experience of joy through movement and the healing effects of music. This workshop will take place at the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies located in the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, BC.

### International Forum of Physical Education and Sports Science (IFPESS 2012) - Punjab University

The International Forum of Physical Education and Sports Science (IFPESS 2012) will be held on **October 20-22** at Panjab University, Chandigarh. The conference will provide a scientific forum for professionals from all areas of applied and integrated sports sciences, including sports psychology, health promotion, biomechanics, sports medicine, training methods, nutrition, exercise physiology etc. in understanding of how physical activity influences human life. Prof. Mig Kai has helped assembling over 25 speakers from almost 20 countries to share their expertise and research findings in various sub-disciplines of physical education and sport science. For registration, please visit this link: <http://ifpess2012.com/register.aspx>

### International Conference on "Spatial Configurations: Canada and India - University Of Kerala

This International Conference scheduled on **November 16 – 17, 2012** seeks to explore how different kinds of spaces are produced in India and Canada. The recognition of commonalities and differences in the shaping of such spaces indicate the kind of world we create for the future. The conference will explore the following areas of study: Peace Studies; International Relations (Third Sector); Social Space; Literary and Cultural Studies; Environment and Technology; Heritage Studies; Economics and Globalization; Human Rights; Performance Studies. For further details please contact **Dr. B. Hariharan**, Director, UGC area Studies Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Kerala at 011-91-94-46-20-30-08 / [harirang@gmail.com](mailto:harirang@gmail.com).

### Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change; Adaptation and Mitigation – Mumbai



The 3<sup>rd</sup> International conference of Urban Biodiversity and Design (URBIO 2012) is being organized by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and will be held in Mumbai, India October 8 to 12, 2012.

URBIO is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research that aims at promoting biodiversity in the urban context through a continuing dialogue with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Partnership on Local Action for Biodiversity.

### The International Association for Intercultural Research – Jawaharlal Nehru University

The 2012 International Association for Intercultural Research conference will be held on 10-12 December at Jawaharlal Nehru

University. The conference is jointly organized with the Centre for French and Francophone Studies, the School of Language, Literature and Culture, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. The main objective of this event is to study the issues relating to the interface between cultural research and social development. For more details, please visit this link: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/Conference/ARICJNU2012/>

### **National Seminar on "Popularizing Environmental Issues through Popular Culture" - Goa University**

The conference will take place on **January 28-29 2013**. For more details, please contact:

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### **Call for Papers – Department of English, Patna University & Indian Society for Commonwealth Studies**

The international conference on "*Commonwealth Literature: New Dimensions*" will take place at Patna University, Patna, from **September 29 to October 1, 2012**. The three-day conference will take stock of contemporary Commonwealth writing and critically assess its contribution to the world literature.

The conference will allow the discussion on the following subjects: Indian Diasporic Writing; Women's Writing; Adivasi and Aboriginal Writings; Protest in African & African-American Literatures; Literatures of the Indian Subcontinent

### **Call For Papers: 4th International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation**



The 2012 Sustainable Irrigation Conference provides a unique forum for multidisciplinary discussion. The purpose of the conference is to provide examples of how irrigation can become more sustainable.

The event is co-sponsored by The University of Lethbridge. The conference is scheduled on 11-13 December at Adelaide, Austria.

Papers are invited on the following topics: Irrigation management; Irrigation modeling; Irrigation systems and planning; Economic incentives and instruments; Groundwater resources and contamination; Climate change effects; Water trade; Economics of irrigation; Governance for sustainable irrigation; International issues; Drainage; Water quality and remediation Water Re-use. For more information visit: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/12-conferences/sustainable-irrigation-2012.html>

## **Publications**

### **Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy Final Report**

On August 14, 2012 the Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, released the final report of the Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy, [International Education: A Key Driver of Canada's Future Prosperity](#). The report outlines a vision for Canada to become a 21st century leader in international education, and successfully attract top talent from around the world to study, conduct research, and potentially immigrate, thereby contributing substantially to Canada's future prosperity. The panel's 14 recommendations are grouped under five themes:

- Targets for success - achievable goals for the growth of international student numbers as well as an increase in international mobility opportunities for Canadian students;
- Recommendations related to policy coordination and ensuring sustainable quality;
- The promotion of education in Canada via practical recommendations such as selecting priority markets and honing Canada's Brand and use of new media;
- Required investments, including how Canada should package its scholarship offerings;
- Aligning promotional efforts with study permit issuance and Canada's immigration policies.

The Government of Canada will carefully review the Advisory Panel's recommendations over the coming months, and a formal response and implementation plan for Canada's International Education Strategy is forthcoming.

To view the full report, please visit the following links:

<http://www.international.gc.ca/education/report-rapport/strategy-strategie/index.aspx?view=d>

[http://www.international.gc.ca/education/assets/pdfs/ies\\_report\\_rapport\\_sei-eng.pdf](http://www.international.gc.ca/education/assets/pdfs/ies_report_rapport_sei-eng.pdf)

### **India-Canada Bilateral Trade and FDI Flows: Performance, Prospects and Proactive Strategies**

**By Arti Nanavati and Sarah Ahmed**

In her book, Dr. Nanavati, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, highlights the areas of enhancing trade and FDI bilateral flows between India and Canada and the strategies that could be adopted. The book contains the selected edited papers which were presented in an International Conference organized by the Centre for Canadian Studies, M.S. University of Baroda with Department of Economics and Federation of Gujarat Industries, Vadodara, on January 2011.

### **Public Hinduisms**

**By John Zavos, Pralay Kanungo, Deepa S Reddy, Maya Warriar, Raymond Brady Williams**

The book critically analyses the way in which Hinduism is produced and represented as an established feature of modern public landscapes. It examines the mediation, representation and construction of multiple forms of Hinduism in a variety of social and political contexts, and in the process establishes it as a dynamic and developing modern concept.

### **Canadian Women and the Struggle for Equality**

**By Lorna R. Marsden**

This book considers often-overlooked topics such as birth control, abortion, employment opportunities, and the role of immigration. It is full of insight and understanding of the complex ways that a society like Canada can and does change. To order, please visit this link: <http://bit.ly/JmDp73>.

### **Listening Up, Writing Down, and Looking Beyond: Interfaces of the Oral, Written, and Visual**

**By Susan Gingell and Wendy Roy**

The book is an interdisciplinary collection that gathers the work of scholars and performance practitioners who together explore questions about the oral, written, and visual. To order, please visit this link: <http://bit.ly/Kdwlsn>

**The Shastri Institute would like to thank all its members for the support and collaboration with both offices in the adjudications, affiliations of scholarly exchanges between Canada and India. The Institute is very grateful for the members' commitment and contribution.**

#### **SICI NEWS**

**A Newsletter from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute**

**Enquiries, Comments / Suggestions, please contact:**

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**Please send submissions for the Fall Newsletter by November 23th**