I’d like to wish all of our students, staff, faculty, and community members a warm welcome to the 2014-15 academic year. The CSAS had an exceptionally busy last year with (now past) President Mary Sue Coleman’s launch of a university-wide India initiative in Fall 2013 and a CSAS hosted Theme Semester on “India in the World” in Winter 2014. The India initiative was launched in November 2013 when President Coleman led a delegation to India to meet with alumni, to strengthen existing institutional relationships, and to forge new ones. The trip was a wonderful success, and resulted in: the signing of three new Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), with Delhi University, Ashoka University, and the National Council of Applied Economic Research; the fostering of a deeper, collaborative relationship between U-M and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences; and laid the groundwork for six U-M units and schools—including the CSAS—to expand their study programs in India. The MOUs and opportunities created by the Presidential India initiative herald a new era for U-M’s engagement with India.

Following on from the momentum created by President Coleman’s trip to India, the CSAS worked to raise awareness of and knowledge about India on campus by hosting a Theme Semester, India in the World. The semester featured: 46 courses that ranged across disciplines, from American Culture to Music to History and communications; five exhibitions organized by U-M faculty—on the South Asian diaspora, South Asia maps, plant life, zoology, and paleontology; four conferences/symposia—including one on “India as a Regional Power” that brought speakers to campus from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka (see box p. 13); a media series, that included presentations by Indian documentary filmmakers Sunjai Kak and Safina Libeen; 42 public lectures; in subjects across the social sciences and humanities; 16 music and dance performances, including the internationally acclaimed Manganiyar Seduction and Adi Ali Khan; and visits by two of India’s preeminent contemporary artists: Nilima Sheikh and Mitu Sun. All in all, it was a particularly vibrant year at the CSAS.

The keynotes address of “Recalling Democracy,” on September 5 (4:15pm), kicks off our Scholarly Lecture Series for the year, which will include talks by 11 M faculty and visitors. Our new colleagues Tarifa Faisalzah and Ritchie Mott will be speaking on December 5 and January 30 respectively, Faisalzah, an award-winning poet, joins the U-M faculty this fall as the Zeit Visiting Professor of Creative Writing. Mott, who joined the School of Public Health in 2012, works on cancer prevention. You can read more about these new faculty members on pages 8-9 below. The Scholarly Lecture Series will highlight the work of a number of visitors through the year. Also, we look forward to welcoming Arundhati Roy (Rajigopal Communications, NYU); Daisy Rockwell (literary critic, translator, and artist, whose “Green Goddess” adorns our cover); Vikram Chandra (Art & Architecture, Cornell); Richard Welford (Theology, Harvard); Alison Busch (Hindi literature, Columbia); and Viney Godiwala (Geography, University of Minnesota). And in conjunction with the Institute for the Humanities we will be hosting two award-winning authors: Arundhati Roy and Vikram Chandra. Our full program is on p.15 below, and more detailed information on all talks is on our website (ilumich.edu/csas).

We hope to make this year just as exciting. The year begins for us with a flourish of activity, as the CSAS hosts a two-day major international conference, “Recalling Democracy: Lineages of the Present,” co-organized by Professors Mitali Sinha (Department of History) and Manu Goswami (NYU). Taking place on September 5 & 6, the conference will assemble an international group of scholars to rethink India’s democratic politics in the concrete political landscapes of late-colonial and postcolonial India (details at: www.ilumich.edu/csas/events/conferences).

By now it is widely known that President Mary Sue Coleman took a four-day trip to India in November 2013 to help build on the University of Michigan’s longstanding ties with the South Asian country.

The India delegation by Coleman included representatives from the University of Michigan Health System; Stephen M. Ross School of Business; College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Institute for Social Research; Center for South Asian Studies; and College of Engineering. Their goal was to discuss new research collaborations and to expand on existing partnerships. Furthermore, they aimed to explore new opportunities for Michigan students to study in India, and find ways to welcome more Indian students to Ann Arbor, and to reengage with the vibrant and enthusiastic alumni community.

Coleman first visited India in 1993 and was excited to be back in the country, where she met 10 hangs from several Indian institutions. Coleman discussed overall international achievements made by the University during her tenure as president. “Since becoming the University’s president 12 years ago, I’ve worked with faculty to build our academic partnerships in China, Ghana, South Africa, and Brazil,” she said. “I’m proud that we have deepened our work in five countries on three continents because it means deeper experiences for students and faculty.”

James Holloway, the University of Michigan vice provost for global and engaged education, was enthusiastic about the trip and said the visit would provide unique opportunities for students. “It will allow our students to engage in global educational experiences that benefit both the people of India and the students who participate there,” he said. This excitement was shared by Coleman and the delegation of University of Michigan representatives.

Coleman’s trip began on November 13, 2013 with a signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding with Ashoka University, one of the first private liberal arts universities in India. Under the agreement, the two universities will share opportunities for faculty exchange, innovative teaching methods, opportunities for student exchange and mutual visits of fellows and research scholars.

On November 14, 2013, the University of Michigan expanded its partnership with the AIID India Institute of Medical Science (AIMS), one of India’s top academic medical programs. The relationship involves collaborative research on cancer genetics, immunology, trauma and disaster medicine.

Coleman and her delegates went to the Vice Regal Lodge, office of the vice chancellor of the University of Delhi, in New Delhi on November 13, 2013. Despite the rain, they discussed an agreement developed between the University of Michigan and Delhi University. This agreement provides opportunities for collaborative research both in India and in Ann Arbor. It also allows University of Michigan students the opportunity to participate in a unique program involving long train trips across India. The educational journeys are inspired by Malina Gandhi, who rode the rails as a way to find her way back to her homeland when he returned after living in South Africa for two decades. President Coleman reacted to this aspect of the program opportunity in a very positive way. “I am very excited that U-M students will be able to take the train journeys. There are some experiences that are best learned by reading about it,” she said.

Farina Mir, the director of U-M’s Center for South Asian Studies, added to Coleman’s insights by noting that a global education has become central to student learning. “Our world is increasingly globalized and our partnerships with Indian institutions will provide opportunities for students to have a unique experience,” she said.

Finally, the delegation rounded out their trip with a stop in Mumbai to attend the India Business Conference sponsored by the University of Michigan India Alumni Association, where Coleman was hosted by Michigan alumnus, Sanjay Reddy, managing director of Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd.
India in the World: A Multidisciplinary Success

The campus-wide India in the World Theme Semester of Winter 2014 was centered in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and coordinated by the Center for South Asian Studies, a faculty steering committee, and a student advisory board. India in the World brought an incredibly wide variety of South Asian events, performances, lectures, and scholars to Ann Arbor and reached students, faculty, and community members in ways the center has not been able to do in the past. The success of the semester would not have been possible without the generous support of the Office of the Dean, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the International Institute; the Office of the Vice-Provost for Global and Engaged Education; and the many participating schools, centers, and departments.

The center is proud of the breadth of events and activities that took place throughout the theme semester. Among these were five exhibitions that were organized around University of Michigan faculty expertise and collections, on:

• The South Asia diaspora
• South Asia maps
• South Asia plant life
• South Asia zoology
• South Asia paleontology

The Theme Semester also included a media series, four conferences, 16 music and dance performances, and 42 lectures. The center was thrilled to be able to work with the University of Michigan Museum of Art and the Penney W. Stamps School of Art and Design to bring three influential contemporary South Asian artists to campus: Nilima Sheikh, Shaizia Sikander, and Mitu Sen. Along with the weekly media series, the center hosted two of India’s student advisory board. The center hosted a reception to mark the end of the Theme Semester where CSAS director, Farina Mir, and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts’ Interim Dean, Susan Gelman, gave remarks. The College’s student government representative, Dhanunjaya Premawardena, also presented awards for the India in the World writing and art contests. It was a great way to end the semester as many of the participating schools, centers, and departments were present. India in the World sought to engage faculty and students and raise the profile of South Asia at Michigan. The level of energy, commitment, time, and thoughtful participation from faculty, students, and community members exceeded all expectations. The center hopes to continue to provide a space for rigorous thought and discussion about India and South Asia.

India in the World: Cultures of Activism—
Arts, Expression, and Pakistan

The Pakistan Students’ Association collaborated with the CSAS to organize the 4th annual U-M Pakistan Conference, held on April 4, 2014. This year’s conference was focused on activism, with an emphasis on art and urban culture. The conference featured talks by three eminent Pakistanis, each a force in his/her respective field.

The second speaker of the day was Arif Hasan. Based in Karachi, Hasan is an architect, planner, activist, social researcher, and writer. He is the recipient of a Hauli-Irani, Pakistan’s highest award for its citizens. Since 1982, he has been involved with the Orangi Pilot Project, which focuses on development in urban slums, and is the founder Chairman of the Urban Resource Centre, Karachi, since its inception in 1999. Hasan spoke about his career, how he turned to addressing urban problems, and discussed specific development projects he has been involved with.

The discussion with each of the speakers centered on the role of activism in their practice, and how they see their work impacting Pakistani society. The conference closed with a screening of These Birds Walk, directed by Omar Mullick and Bassam Tariq. The celebrated 2013 documentary examines the work of the Edhi Foundation, a Pakistani charity, by tracing the life of a runaway boy. The conference attracted well over 100 people through the course of the day, and was marked by engaging discussions about the breadth of activities through which Pakistanis are addressing contemporary social and political problems, and reshaping their society.

Still from These Birds Walk, directed by Omar Mullick and Bassam Tariq.
It is the translation of the magnum opus of Gendun Chopel (1903–1951), regarded as the greatest Tibetan au-
thor of the twentieth century. A former 
Buddhist monk, Gendun Chopel spent 
1934–1945 traveling throughout South 
Asia, including Sri Lanka. Gains of 
Götz is an account of his journey, with 
detailed descriptions of South Asian 
History, geography, and culture. It 
includes a scurrying account of Euro-
pean colonialism, a lengthy descrip-
tion of Islam, and the first Tibetan 
exploration of the compatibility of 
Buddhism and science. Gendun Chopel 
was also a distinguished painter, 
producing dozens of watercolors that 
he intended as illustrations for Gains of 
Götz. Most of these have sadly been 
lost, but those that have survived were 
published last year in Lopon Gendun 
Chopel: Tibet’s First Modern Artist ( 
Seinvik 2013).

Recently, 
Leela 
Fernandes, 
Glenda Dicker-
son College Professor of 
Women’s Studies and 
Politics, published and 
edited the Routledge Handbook of 
Gender in South Asia (2014).

She also taught a course for the 
Winter 2014 Theme Semester, India 
in the World called “Women, Politics and Society” which is now 
a permanent course she is teaching in 
Women’s Studies.

Fernandes is currently serving on 
the Fulbright National Select Commit-
tee for undergraduate and graduate 
research and study in India.

Stephen Rush, Professor and Interim Chair of Performing Arts 
Technology, this summer admin-
istered and guided a group of 
students on the UM Varna (India) 
Program, a Hindu music immers-
ion program. This summer marked 
the ninth student group that he has 
guided, which has resulted in over 
110 students traveling and studying in India.

Mininalini Sinha, Alice Freeman 
Palmer Professor of History, served 
an apprenticeship year as Vice 
President of the Association of Asian 
Studies (AAS), which ended after 
the annual AAS conference in Phila-
delphia, in March 2013, when she 
began her term as President. Sinha is 
honored and excited to have this 
opportunity to build on and extend 
many of the initiatives begun by her 
predecessors.

She is committed to AAS’s global 
outreach initiatives, and was fortu-
nate enough to see the AAS-in-Asia initiative—conceived at the annual 
AAS conference in Hawaii in 2011— 
hosting a series of mini-conferences in 
different locations in Asia in partner-
ship with local institutions—come to frui-
tion during her presidency. She opened the inaugural 
AAS-in-Asia conference in Singapore in 
July 2014, organized with the 
AAS’s local partners, the Asian 
Research Institute and the National 
University of Singapore. The confer-
ence—there were some 500 people 
from 30 different countries registered for the conference—exceeded all 
expectations in many ways. The 2015 
AAS-in-Asia will be held in Taipei and 
the 2016 in Kyoto. Sinha’s hope is 
that there will be an AAS-in-Asia in South 
Asia in 2017. 

Sinha also looks forward to what 
she thinks is one of the more pleasant 
duties of the President, visiting and 
addressing the annual conferences of 
the several regional AAS affiliates in 
North America. She attended the 
Asian Studies Conference Japan— 
(AISCJ), the only international AAS 
affiliate, in Tokyo and will be starting on 
her other visits this fall. In 
the meantime, Sinha continues to work 
with the AAS officers and the AAS 
secretariat on various initiatives for the 
memberships and for outreach.

V.K. (Sug) Ganeshan-
anthan concluded five 
years as the Dalhousie Vis-
iting Professor of 
Creative Writing in the Helen 
Zell Writers’ Program this 
spring. This fall, she heads to the Radcliffe 
Institute of Advanced Study for a 
year long fellowship. In the fall of 
2013, she will join the faculty at the 
University of Minnesota. Her story, 
“H Becomes K,” which was in the 
Fall 2013 issue of Ploughshares (ed-
ited by Professor Peter Ho Davies), 
will be included in Best American 
Required Reading 2014. Sugil will be 
misssed at U-M; we wish her the 
best in her future pursuits.

Jeff Wilson, 
Department of Earth and 
Environmental Sciences, 
spent February 2014 in India 
researching dinosaurs and other 
continental vertebrates from the Late 
Cretaceous period (ca. 67 million 
years ago), Jeff and colleagues con-
ducted field work in Madhya Pradesh and 
university libraries and museums collected research at the 
Indian Museum, Geological Survey 
of India in Kolkata. Jeff and colleague 
Bandana Sarmat established a formal 
research collaboration to better under-
stand how India’s backed-up animals 
responded to its dynamic geological 
and geographic history.

The two-day conference at Michigan is the second to emerge out of the 
project. The first conference was held in New Delhi on January 10 & 11, 
2014 with a focus on India’s political imaginations. The Michigan confer-
ence assembles an international group of scholars to rethink India’s 
democratic politics in the concrete political landscapes of late-colonial 
and postcolonial India. Scholarly evaluations of India’s democracy have 
been as contentious as the phenomenon in question. The purpose of the 
conference is neither to adjudicate existing disciplinary debates or defini-
tions of democracy as such nor to offer yet another normative evaluation. 
It is rather to foster a consideration of India’s democracy as a trans-
disciplinary object, paying attention to its long run making across distinct 
practices, infrastructures (institutions and concepts), and conjunctures.

Mininalini Sinha, Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History, 
University of Michigan 
Manu Goswami, Associate Professor of History, New York University 
For further details on the conference please see the CSAS website: 
http://www.iium.edu/csas/events/conferences

New Director of the 
International Institute 
LSA Interim Dean Susan 
Gelman has named Pauline Jones 
Luong director of the International Institute. She 
started her three-year term on July 
1, 2014. Jones Luong is also 
the director of the International Studies Program and 
was instrumental in the launch of the 
Global Islam Initiative colloqui-
um series and the recent establish-
ment of the Islamic Studies Virtual 
Curriculum. She earned a Bachelor of 
Arts degree in Political Science and 
History from the University of 
California, Berkeley, and a Master of 
Science degree and Ph.D. in Govern-
ment from Harvard University.

Over the past year, Nachiket 
Chanchori, Assistant Professor of 
History of Art and Asian Languages 
and Cultures, developed and taught 
four new courses: “Art of Yoga,” 
“Himalayas: An Aesthetic Explora-
tion,” “Ocean of Stories: Telling Tales 
in the Indian Subcontinent,” and 
“Home and the World: Introduction to 
South Asian Art.” His forthcom-
ing essays include, “The Jageshwar 
Archives of Asian Art” in 
“the Jageshwar 
Grains of Gold: Tales of a 
Cosmopolitan Traveler (University of Chicago Press, 2014).
Manan Desai

After receiving his Ph.D. in English at the University of Michigan in 2011 and spending time at Syracuse University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Manan Desai is returning to U-M as an Assistant Professor in American Culture. Desai began working on a book manuscript titled The United States of India while at Syracuse University. He has served on the board of directors for the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA), since 2010, where he has helped build collections to the South Asian diaspora. Desai is interested in postcolonial studies, Asian American studies, and twentieth century American literature.

CSAS: First, welcome back to Michigan! Tell us a little bit about what you have been researching and writing during your time at Syracuse University.

MD: Thank you – I look forward to returning! My time at Syracuse coincided with my involvement with the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA), and one of the things I do with SAADA is to provide original archival research, write short pieces, and write up metadata for the items in our repository. This work has put me in touch with materials that I hadn’t been able to access during my dissertation research—things like Angel Island immigration files, Chautauqua lecture pamphlets, and so on. As a result, I’ve started a new project on visual representations of South Asians in the U.S., before the waves of migrations that began in 1965, from photographs of early South Asian laborers that circulated in North American media to mid-century performers like Kurla Pandit.

CSAS: What courses will you be teaching in the upcoming academic year?

MD: I will be teaching a course titled “Counterculture” and another on “Comedy and Social Change” in Fall 2014. In the Winter term, I am planning to teach a graduate course on race, performance, and visual culture, and will be co-teaching a course with Penny Von Eschen titled “Practice of American Culture.” I am also planning to teach a course on the South Asian Diaspora in North America in the near future, for which I’m really looking forward to, since it was a course I wished I could have taken when I was an undergraduate at U-M.

CSAS: You helped build the South Asia diaspora collections for the South Asian American Digital Archive during your time on its board of directors. In what ways will this influence the courses you will be teaching?

MD: I hope to use SAADA to incorporate primary sources for students, especially as they pertain to the history of the South Asian diaspora and 20th century transnational networks. I am also looking forward to working with graduate students who are interested in producing similar sorts of digital projects, archival or otherwise—I envision all of SAADA started when we were all graduate students.

CSAS: What is one thing you are looking forward to doing again in Ann Arbor?

MD: That’s easy—going to Encore Records on Liberty Street, again.

Tarifa Faizullah

In Fall 2014, Tarifa Faizullah joins the University of Michigan’s Helen Zell Writers’ Program as the Delbanco Visiting Professor of Creative Writing in Poetry. She is also a writer-in-residence for InsidOut Literary Arts and co-edits the Organic Weapon Arts Chapbook Press & Video Series with Jammal May. She is an accomplished writer, with many awards and prizes to her credit, including the 2012 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award, a 2009 Cohen Award, the APR Intro Journals Project Award, and a Copper Nickel Poetry Prize. We are very excited to welcome her to U-M!

CSAS: Your collection Seam has garnered an impressive amount of positive feedback for its ability to bridge the lingering and painful past of the British empire. Tell us a little about the motivations behind this collection.

TF: My former professor, David Wojahn, has said that our obsessions tell us a lot about who we are and draws you to the University of Michigan.

CSAS: What are you most looking forward to doing as the Nicholas Delbanco Visiting Professor of Creative Writing in Poetry? Do you have specific plans for what you would like to accomplish during your time at U-M?

TF: I’m looking forward to any number of possibilities and opportunities that might arise to do better work with more heart. Cross-disciplinary conversation is something I’m particularly interested in, as well as being engaged by the work my students and colleagues are doing. I believe that everything affects everything else, so I’m looking forward to seeing the way my worldview is affected by being at the University of Michigan as I continue to work on my memoir and second book of poems.

CSAS: What courses have you taken to prepare you for your teaching at U-M?

TF: I haven’t had the opportunity to explore much of the greater state of Michigan yet, but here are a few things: the largeness of the sky, the flatness of the land, which reminds me so much of where I grew up in West Texas. The openness of folks here, how they are kind rather than, like 24-hour access to chili cheese fries. A deep and abiding love of the arts, and a desire to make space for it. Detroit, where I live, is one of my oldest and most ancient cities: I’m drawn to its power.

CSAS: What are you currently researching and writing about?

TF: My current research project, David Wojahn, has said that our obsessions tell us a lot about who we are and draws you to the University of Michigan.

CSAS: Do you have any specific plans for what you would like to accomplish during your time at U-M?

TF: I’m delighted to be joining the University of Michigan, where I look forward to collaborating with colleagues in the English department as well as South Asian studies scholars across the university. I know several people who have spent time in Michigan in various capacities, and so I’ve been hearing wonderful things about the university.

CSAS: What are you looking forward to doing in Ann Arbor?

TF: I’m looking forward to doing a variety of different places. What draws to you Michigan?

CSAS: Are you planning to teach a graduate course on transnational poetry, and is the spring the right time for a course on the undergraduate level, on debates in the subfield known as world literature? I’m also teaching one of my favorite courses in the spring, called “Global South Asia,” which is an introductory course covering the vast and exciting terrain of South Asian writing in English.

Madhumita Lahiri

Madhumita Lahiri joins the University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. She has a BA from Yale and a PhD from Duke University. Prior to joining the University of Michigan she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick, in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies. Before that she held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa at the University of the Witwatersrand, and a Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University. Lahiri’s interests include (but are not limited to): postcolonial, South Asian, and world literatures; her research focuses on translation, genre, and multilingualism. Lahiri’s in- terests include (but are not limited to): postcolonial, South Asian, and world literatures; her research focuses on translation, genre, and multilingualism.

CSAS: Tell us a little about yourself, your work, and the projects you are bringing to the University of Michigan.

ML: I’m coming, most recently, from a town named Royal Leamington Spa, which is in the center of England and has been my home while I have been at Warwick. It is a biographical sense, I finished my schooling from New Delhi, spent my undergraduate and graduate years in Connecticut and North Carolina, and then had a wonderful year in Johannesburg, South Africa, before moving to London and then finally to England. All this moving has been wonderful for my own research interests, which are focused around questions of transnational circulation, reception, and collaboration.

CSAS: You’ve written widely on a variety of topics including postcolonialism, internationalism, and translation. Tell us a little bit about what you’re currently researching and writing in your future projects you have in mind.

ML: I have two current projects that would be of particular interest to scholars and enthusiasts of South Asia. The first examines the adoption of sound technologies in Indian commercial cinema in the 1930s, arguing that the eventual mixed Hindu-rituals of what we now know as Bollywood film was part of a political and social consensus-making project for a common language for the entirety of the subcontinent—a utopian dream which the technology of the cinema, then radically new, seemed particularly well poised to accomplish. My second project concerns the discourses of pan-Asianism of the early 20th century, considering how artists, intellectuals, and writers from Japan, China, and the Indian subcontinent worked together and learnt from one another in the attempt to form a new Asian novel. The book manuscript that I am completing, Pictures of Internationalism: Framing intellectual and literary collaboration across the globe, with this new project, I am tracing them across the Himalayas, positioning South Asian literature firmly in its continental context and not, for instance, within the frame of the British Empire.

CSAS: Tell us about one thing you’re looking forward to doing in Ann Arbor.

ML: I think perhaps too much time is spent trying to recreate the delicious Indian meals of my childhood, and so I’m particularly excited about Ann Arbor’s great farmers’ markets. I’m also college basketball fan, so March may be a busy month for me – go Blue!

Ritesh Mistry

Ritesh Mistry received his Ph.D. from the UCLA School of Public Health and completed his post-doctoral training at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education and has spent a significant amount of time and research focusing on South Asia. As such, we are very pleased to welcome him as a CSAS faculty affiliate.

Professor Mistry has conducted studies in the U.S. and internationally on areas of tobacco use, physical activity, food choice, and health care utilization. Among his many accomplishments, he was a recipient of a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar Award to study the tobacco control policies of India’s tobacco control policy and adolescent tobacco use. Professor Mistry is giving a talk as CSAS’ scholarly lecture series on January 30, 2015 at 4:00 pm (School of Social Work Building, Room 1363). The talk is titled “South Tobacco Control in India: “We look forward to the contributions he will make to the center.”
This past summer, 19 University of Michigan students traveled to locations across India to work with farmers, community leaders, nonprofits and other civic-minded organizations to tackle information challenges and implement socially impactful solutions with wide-ranging applications.

Students from the School of Information (UMSI), Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Health Informatics program, School of Public Health, and Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning teamed up to address various issues facing Indian citizens, leading one group to help create India’s first accessible website for the disabled community.

Working with the National Institute for Speech and Hearing in Kerala, the students helped build AccessHub/India to address shortcomings in accessibility to disability law and policy information. The website offers up-to-date disability news, a discussion forum, a localized disability service search facility, and policy information at state, territory and national levels.

The project was developed by one of six teams comprising the Global Information Exchange Program (GIEP), an innovative approach to learning that brings together nonprofit, research and educational organizations to create projects addressing information problems across multiple domains. The program is directed by Joyjeet Pal and Kelly Kowatch in the School of Information.

Each GIEP project allows students to engage internationally through application development, needs assessment, product design, information management and other skills obtained while studying for graduate degrees.

In addition to AccessHub.org, the following projects comprised GIEPs 2014 session:

- Humans Rights Advocates Connect partnered U-M students with the Alternative Law Forum in Bangla- des. HRAC (hrac.in) includes a directory of lawyers, a legal material archive and a forum for lawyers to connect and respond to one another’s queries. These resources allow citizens to find legal professionals to aid with human rights concerns and give professionals opportunities to consult with each other and develop cases.
- Visualizing India’s Cities built reliable urban metrics for Indian settlements. Students developed a Web mapping and data visualization tool with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements and helped create a database that provides researchers access to demographic and economic data and a way to visualize the information in real time. The website is currently privately hosted, with updates posted on umsgejurbaninformatics.com.wordpress.com.
- Data Driven Healthcare crafted performance metrics and tools to improve quality of care in hospi-tals. Students partnered with Indian healthcare providers Birla Hospitals, Quantum and Apollo. Investments to understand global data manage-ment standard applicability to Indian healthcare, and propose modifications. More information at giepwebw.bhusay.com.
- Hampi Arts Initiative surveyed, documented and archived Hampi region arts and crafts with the goal of educating the community about Hampi’s rich cultural heritage. These students collaborated with Jaaga Trust, an entrepreneurial, activist, designer and artist community in Bangalore. More informa-tion at teamhampiuctosey.com.
- Harvesting Knowledge added Digital Green, a New Delhi nonprofit committed to improving rural livelihoods, health and nutrition by training local farmers to facilitate discussions on agricultural techniques. Students developed a prototype to grow the organization’s training efforts and worked with its tech team to integrate the application into Web services. More information at harvesting-knowledge.wordpress.com.
- Kowatch in the school of information.
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- Kowatch in the school of information.

The Global Information Engagement Program

Joyjeet Pal and Kelly Kowatch

Ross School Initiatives in India

Multidisciplinary Action Project Sponsored by Equitas in Tamil Nadu

Karen Lewis

The Multidisciplinary Action Project (MAP) at the Ross School of Business is a critical component of the Ross MBA program. Interested first year Ross MBA students dedicate themselves to MAP for seven weeks each spring as a requirement of the MBA core curriculum. The MAP projects selected have proven to be fantastic corporate, entrepreneurial, and nonprofit projects both domestically and internationally. The MAP projects require analyti-cal rigor, critical thinking, teamwork, and are guided by faculty advisors. The kinds of projects selected are examples of how Ross has built bridges between academia and the business world.

This year’s C.K. Prahalad MAP team was sponsored by Equitas. Equitas operates as one of the most efficient and fastest growing microfinance institutions in India with a goal of extending micro credit to low income households that are under-served by mainstream banking channels. The primary objective of Equitas is to make credit products available at a reasonable cost in a transparent manner.

The MAP team’s main objective was to conduct a study to identify the financial services requirements of the base of the pyramid customers in Tamil Nadu.

In order to satisfy this objective, the MAP team formulated a structured interview questionnaire that was conducted in the urban and semi-urban areas of Tamil Nadu. From the questionnaire, the MAP team concluded that financial services must take into consideration the voice of the customer, and that major barriers to utilization of financial services included convenience, access, trust, and consumer education.

Ross August Course

Liz Muller

In August 2014, the Ross School of Business, through a collaboration of India Initiatives and Global Initiatives, launched its first-ever short course in India. The Ross August Course in India, also known as Strategy 320: Doing Business in India, enables undergraduates from all U-M schools with an interest in Indian culture or international business development to travel to multiple citi-es in India for two weeks of intensive study and exploration. 22 undergraduates joined the course for August 2014.

This action-based course, led by Professor Anuradha Nagarajan, involved exten-sive exploration of business in India and a broad array of lectures, company visits, cultural visits, interactions with local alumni and students, and group projects.

During the Winter 2014 semesters prior to departure, students attended three required course meetings, in which they built leadership skills, established goals for their trip, gained insights into Indian culture, prepared for travel, and con-nected with their fellow India course teammates. Once students arrived in India, classroom instruction familiarized them with Indian cultural attitudes, economics, politics, history, and social issues. Lectures and site visits provided insights into India as both a source for talent acquisition and idea generation and as a market with a large and increasingly upwardly mobile population. Visits to govern-ment institutions, manufacturing plants, outsourcing firms, and multinational companies enabled students to see first hand the standards practices of Indian businesses, speak directly with Indian business leaders, and learn about Indian entrepreneurial strategies to expand and succeed within a developing country.

Participants took trips to nearby cities and historic or culturally important sites. During free time, students were able to explore local shops and markets, participate in cultural events, and enjoy outdoor activities. Lastly, students were able to have interactions with students from Indian universities as well as local residents, which helped broaden their cultural understanding immensely and in a way that only total immersion can.
Student News

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Farida Begum will be a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of History. She was the recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu, and spent this summer learning Bengali at the American Institute of Indian Studies in Kolkata, India and visiting archives and libraries. Much of her time was spent reading the biographies, essays, and letters of the Bengali feminist, writer, and educator Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, who opened the first school for Muslim girls in Calcutta in the early twentieth century. Farida is currently interested in the role Hossain played for Muslim girls in Calcutta in the early

Leslie Hampson is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History. She spent the 2013-14 academic year conducting research for her dissertation, “The Social Fabric of Khadi: Experiments in Industry in Twentieth-Century India.” She will continue this research during the fall semester. Her research is focused on a full-length study of textile and dyeing in the Chengalpattu region of Tamil Nadu, India. Her research interests include the process of textile production in South Asia, the role of local craft traditions, and the impact of social change on women as workers in the industry.

Eleni Lazarou, a FLAS recipient in both 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, has studied Hindi and focused on Indian studies. She recently graduated from a BA in Women’s Studies and Asian Languages and Culture and is beginning a Master’s program at Mt. School of Social Work this year, where she will concentrate on Community Organization. Her academic goals include improving current reproductive health education systems and researching the effects that menstruation education (or lack thereof) has in reinforcing gender binaries.

Alexander Persaud, a Ph.D. student in Economics and recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu, recently completed a Critical Languages Scholarship for Urdu study in Lucknow, India. She continues her attention to public health work, and is currently researching the effect of the rural urban shift on adolescent stress levels for her undergraduate honors thesis. Sarah is currently applying to graduate schools to pursue a degree in public health, focusing on international epidemiology.

Nishita Tripathi, a Ph.D. student in the Anthropology Department and recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu, recently finished seven weeks of preliminary field research in Kashmir, India. She was examining political economic transformations caused by the ongoing conflict. Nishita also spent time at the Jamia and Kashmir Bank, her primary fieldsite, along with various indigenous business communities (shawl weavers and apple producers notably). During this time, she also worked on her Kashmiri language skills. She will be returning to Kashmir late next year to carry out her long term dissertation research.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Sarah Cunningham, an LSA student, received a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu this summer and completed her Critical Languages Scholarship for Urdu study in Lucknow, India. She is now turning her attention to public health work, and is currently researching the effect of the rural urban shift on adolescent stress levels for her undergraduate honors thesis. Sarah is currently applying to graduate schools to pursue a degree in public health, focusing on international epidemiology.

Pedro Fialho, an LSA student, participated in a new program established between the University of Michigan and Delhi University. As a participant in this program, Pedro became part of a student faculty team at DU that is studying the process behind the assignment of credit ratings to countries and sovereign states, as well as the consequences that arise from the credit rating agencies’ activities. In the winter 2015 semester, he collected and organized data regarding this topic in Ann Arbor. Then, in the summer, he went to New Delhi to work with the professors and students involved in the project.

Shazia Gha, a student in the Ross School pursuing a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a minor in Asian Languages and Cultures, received a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu. She is currently working at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation in San Jose, California. The foundation works to integrate technology and classroom practices, as well as to prepare students for high school. She has continued to practice her Urdu speaking skills outside of the classroom as frequently as possible with family and friends. Furthermore, after the two semesters at Michigan, she plans to graduate and hopes to go on to start a non-profit organization.

Zamirah Jhan, an LSA student, received a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship recipient for Urdu, in a senior double majoring in International Studies of Global Health and Psychology. She is currently working on a psychology lab project on exploring the relationship between personality traits and multidimensional spirituality. This coming year she will be writing an honors thesis examining the role of different dimensions of spirituality in predicting psychological maladjustment, such as depression and anxiety, using hope as a mediating factor. This past year she received the Anne Rudo Memorial Award which is a $1,000 scholarship to conduct research in the field of Psychology, which she hopes to use to present research at conferences. Zamirah’s future plans consist of completing the Accelerated Degree Program to achieve a Masters in Psychology and apply to PhD programs in either Public Health or Clinical Health Psychology.

Haseeb Khan is currently a junior in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts with a concentration in neuroscience and a minor in South Asian studies. He was the recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for the study of Urdu. He hopes to become a translator for the US army and use his knowledge of Pashto and Urdu.

“India as a Regional Power” Symposium

On January 20th, 2014, the CSAS hosted a one-day symposium on “India as a Regional Power.” The symposium focused on regional dynamics in South Asia, and India’s rising prominence in geopolitics, particular attention was paid to how India is perceived in and its impact on Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. The symposium brought together an interdisciplinary group: Mohammed Hanif, special correspondent for BBC Urdu, Karachi, Pakistan, and one of Pakistan’s premier fiction writers. Aurij Sen, Senior Editor Northeast India, CNN-IBN. Bhavani Fonsko, lawyer and Senior Researcher, Centre for Policy Alternatives in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Raneem Mohaiemen, visual artist, writer, New York and Dhaka. Mohaiemen is also an Ph.D. student in Anthropology at Columbia University. The symposium had an impressive turnout leaving standing room only for its opening session. The speakers led lively discussions and presented evidence with unique and thoughtfull insights throughout the day.

Mohammed Hanif with Furina Ng.
Summer in South Asia Fellows 2014

The Summer in South Asia (SIFA) Fellowship Program was established in 2006 with a generous endowment from an anonymous donor. Each summer, the CSAS sends select undergraduate students to India to conduct their own research projects, in conjunction with an institution—usually an NGO—in India. Including this year’s fellows, the program has now supported 56 students to go to India on projects they devise and execute.

This year we had an impressive group of 30 applicants. After a rigorous review process, a faculty selection committee chose the eight students below. Please join us on October 24, 1636 School of Social Work Building at 4pm, for a symposium where the fellows will present their research findings.

Lucia Ceroni, Sophomore, Nursing. Lucia interned at Samiti Virekananda, a new civil society in Bangalore, India through its grassroots to policy level action, in health, education, and community development sectors. While interning there she gained nursing experience by working in a local hospital under a mentor. Additionally, Lucia taught health care related workshops to the English speaking community members.

Brookiana Lavelle-Hahn, Junior, Engineering. Brookiana Lavelle-Hahn worked alongside BLUElab India, a multidisciplinary student organization at the University of Michigan dedicated to co-designing sustainable, appropriate technology with the communities and in around the city of Kolkata in India. BLUElab India is focused primarily on solutions to health problems that are caused by lack of potable water. She worked at Youth headquar ters in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Her primary work was under the position of program associate where she directly worked in the already existing partnerships with government funded schools. Through this position, she worked to supplement her social research project and senior thesis by analyzing how international NGOs operate and remain sustainable in a place with high levels of poverty.

Emily Preuss, Junior, LSA. Emily worked with Jeelavila Development Society for approximately eight weeks, in Kolkata, India. Jeelavila is an organization dedicated to furthering women's rights—particularly the rights of women in poetry—through research and the provision of resources. She collaborated with Jeelavila to run a survey about the marriage of young girls in India and investigated the ties between these marriages and the stigma of female sexuality. The survey was conducted within the communities outside of Kolkata that Jeelavila works closely with.

Daniel Veglioth, Junior, LSA. Daniel spent summer 2014 as a research and development intern at Yava Unstoppable, an NGO that acts as a catalyst for the disadvantaged youth of India, in Ahmedabad, India. As part of the research and development team, he worked on analyzing the effectiveness of programs the organization completes, which includes rebuilding schools, digital literacy programs, hope centers, and much more. Along with his internship Daniel conducted independent research on the motivations and attitudes of Indian students on education. The survey was administered to middle-class students in the city of Ahmedabad.

Lydia Lopez, Junior, LSA. Lydia worked with a youth oriented NGO called Yve Unstoppable. She worked at Youth headquarters in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Her primary work was under the position of program associate where she directly worked in the already existing partnerships with government funded schools. Through this position, she worked to supplement her social research project and senior thesis by analyzing how international NGOs operate and remain sustainable in a place with high levels of poverty.

Mian Khan Lei, Junior, Stamps School of Art and Design. Mian worked in Dharmsala, India with the environment/waste management organization Waste Warriors. Overly-discard waste is a widespread problem across India. Mian Khan learned about waste management systems that strive to reduce the social stigma attached to waste in order to improve the quality of life of those who work in the waste industry. Her main goal was to focus on waste workers in Dharmsala who make their living by picking waste and to assess how the NGO has made a difference in their lives.

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