



AMERICAN CENTER



This month's theme: Education

November 2011

## Expanding U.S.-India Educational Opportunities by Ana Himelic



A turning point in my life was the semester I studied abroad during my junior year of college. This experience gave me the opportunity to interact with several other international students and learn about the amazing history and culture of my host country. I returned to the U.S. with a new perspective on my education, and more importantly, a personal insight and greater appreciation for the various issues faced by other nations. My initial exchange experience 13 years ago sparked my interest in international affairs, which has since taken me to many foreign countries and has eventually brought me to India for my current assignment.

Whether by personal experience or empirical data, it is abundantly clear that higher education improves economic opportunities and quality of life. Both President Obama and Prime Minister Singh share this belief and are committed to expanding exchange opportunities in India and the United States, in order to meet the demands of a changing world economy. During a recent bilateral strategic dialogue, they emphasized that it is through cooperation on education and development that global challenges are met – from food security to public health, from climate change to workforce development and women's empowerment.

India and the United States share a special relationship in the field of education. There are more than 100,000 Indian students currently studying in the United States and with a recent 20 percent increase in Indian student visas, this figure is likely to rise even more in the future. There are already several alumni associations and person-to-person contacts who are building bridges between our nations. Recognizing the importance of this relationship, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh focused their attention on expanding educational exchange possibilities and future academic ties in both countries.

In November 2009, the two leaders met, and agreed to put education at the top of their bilateral agenda. They noted "these partnerships are critical to strengthening scholarship and research in each of our countries, improving and expanding access to quality education, and developing greater mutual understanding and lasting relationships in numerous fields of endeavor." Two years have passed since this public commitment and significant progress has followed.



(L-R) Assistant Secretary for South & Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake, Jr., U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Indian Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal, and Shiv Shankar Menon speak at the U.S.-India Education Summit in Washington, D.C. Oct. 2011

Below are three highlights from the recent steps taken by both countries to increase the opportunities for students, faculty members and education institutions in both the U.S. and India.

### Fulbright-Nehru Expansion

The United States and India enjoy a long tradition of educational exchanges. Since 1950, the bilateral U.S.-India Educational Foundation established by the two governments has awarded more than 8200 Fulbright, Fulbright-Nehru, and other scholarships to U.S. and Indian students in every field of human endeavor. It is impressive to note that the Fulbright program in India recently celebrated its 60th anniversary and has benefited more than 17,000 American and Indian students and scholars.

In 2010, the binational Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship Program was expanded through a 45 percent increase in funding by each government to support increased exchanges of students and scholars in priority fields, bringing total support for these scholarships to 6.7 million dollars in 2011.



Secretary Clinton and Minister Sibal launched the U.S.-India Higher Education Summit in Washington on October 13, 2011; Americans and Indians engage in exchange of ideas supporting the initiative.

### Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative Launched

To meet the serious demands of the 21st century, the newly announced Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative will provide an extra ten million dollars in combined funding to increase university linkages and support junior faculty development between U.S. and Indian universities.

Additionally, just this October, Suresh Kumar, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, led a U.S. Department of Commerce education-focused trade mission to India which advances the shared agenda underscored by the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative. This mission, organized in partnership with the U.S.-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), included representatives from 21 U.S. institutions of higher education who

### The American Center

4 New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020 (Tel: 2262-4590; Fax: 2262-4595)  
E-mail: [mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov); Website: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

### H O L I D A Y S

November 7: Bakri Id  
November 11: Veterans' Day  
November 24: Thanksgiving Day

Continued from page 1

met with Indian partners to explore education opportunities, helping foster economic growth and opportunity.

### The U.S.-India Higher Education Summit

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal chaired the U.S.-India Higher Education Summit on October 13, 2011, in Washington, D.C., to encourage further collaboration between participants in a wide range of academic and commercial fields.

In addition to traditional academic topics, including student, faculty and research exchanges, accreditation, and joint degrees, there was also a drive to link the private sector into academic and industry partnerships and nonacademic, research and development, and workforce development initiatives.

The above examples demonstrate the important steps that have been taken by both countries to increase future educational opportunities.

The U.S. Consulate General and the American Center in Mumbai encourage prospective students to take advantage of the free resources offered by USIEF to fully research the many excellent academic options available to them, and to learn to protect themselves from visa fraud rings. All legitimate students are welcome to study in the U.S.

Here are some great websites to get you started:  
[http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/educational\\_exchange.html](http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/educational_exchange.html)  
<http://www.state.gov/youthandeducation/>  
<http://www.usief.org.in>

I urge all of you to consider taking part in an international educational exchange program. I hope you find it as rewarding as I did.

### A WORD FROM THE CENTER

By the time you read this, we at the American Center will be in a full court press (that's a basketball term meaning totally engaged in) for our move to our New Consulate Compound (NCC) in the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC). American Center programs are on hiatus and the American Library is temporarily closed. After more than 30 years in our building at Churchgate, we are readying a brand-new facility to support us, and all of you, in the 21st century and beyond. Wow!

We are sad and excited at the same time. As I've mentioned in the past in the "Word from the Center," change is not easy. And this is a huge change! We know that many of you share our emotions – some are sad at losing the American Center at Churchgate, which was a "home away from home" for you. Others are excited, as we will now be closer to your residences or places of business, more conveniently located for us to meet your needs. And some of you are in a "wait and see" mode – curious about what might be waiting for you in BKC.

No matter which category you place yourself in, we will still be your American Center and your American Library. We want you all to move with us and continue to be a part of our programs. It

will take us a little time to get the new facility in order and ready for you, so please be patient with us – and you'll be pleasantly surprised. Once all is set, what a grand opening we will have! We'll be in touch when the time comes – until then, you can keep up by following us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/amcentermumbai>

**As we focus on the move and reopening, we will not be publishing a December e-Bulletin.** All the more reason for you to keep abreast of our events through Facebook!

See you soon at the NCC in BKC!

Anne E. Grimes  
Public Affairs Officer



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C H U R C H G A T E  
H E L L O 😊  
Bandra-Kurla!

[facebook.com/amcentermumbai](http://facebook.com/amcentermumbai)

like us 👍 on Facebook to keep current with our move to Bandra-Kurla and win prizes between now and **NOV. 24 THANKSGIVING** we are

giving away **m u g s**, **teeshirts**, **mp3 players** and a **FLIP CAMERA**

to our old and new **Facebook friends** check your inbox for notification

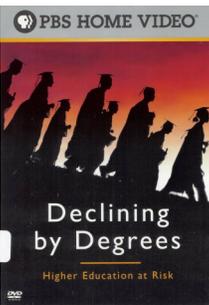
**we ♥ our fans!** *humse fraandship karogey?*



## NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY Select Resources Available on Education

The American Library, Mumbai, is pleased to offer its members access to eLibraryUSA at no extra cost. eLibraryUSA provides access to a broad range of online resources and databases. The collection includes resources on English language learning, study and travel to the United States, U.S. historical and cultural information, civil society, business and entrepreneurship, and science and technology. For details, please e-mail: [libref@state.gov](mailto:libref@state.gov).

### Documentaries



#### ***Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk***

PBS Home Video  
(2005, 120 mins)

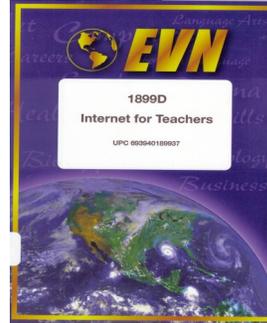
Veteran correspondent John Merro takes viewers behind the scenes of American higher education to experience college through the eyes of the students, professors, and college administrators. Set on four different college campuses across the country, *Declining by Degrees* examines both the promise and the peril in higher education today.



#### ***Information Literacy: The Perils of Online Research***

Cambridge Educational  
(2006, 21 mins)

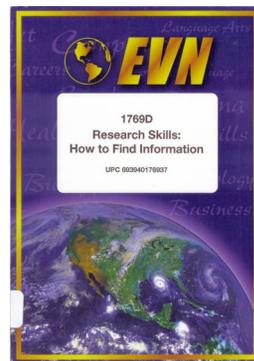
With a focus on the Internet, this video explains how to conduct solid online research by collecting information in an organized, efficient, and ethical way. Prof. Maurita Holland provides expert commentary and guidance on a range of research activities, including evaluating the credibility of web content, documenting online sources, and paraphrasing – not copying – the words of others.



#### ***Internet for Teachers***

Educational Video Network  
(2005, 17 mins)

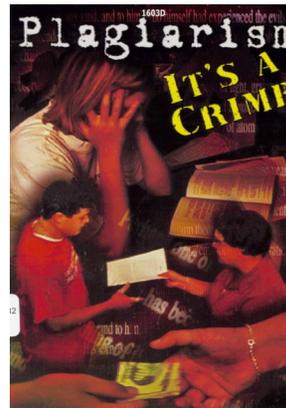
Students have embraced the Internet and know that it can enhance their educational experiences. Now, teachers can focus on what the Internet can do for them. This video discusses how educators can find lesson plans, download ancillary materials for the classroom, e-mail colleagues, and sign up for online college courses.



#### ***Research Skills: How to Find Information***

Educational Video Network  
(2009, 22 mins)

This program teaches one how to find and organize information. It explains the tools and methods that are useful for research. Plagiarism and the consequences of committing it are also discussed here.



#### ***Plagiarism: It's a Crime***

Educational Video Network  
(2006, 22 mins)

This video defines plagiarism, reasons why people plagiarize, types of plagiarism, and strategies to avoid plagiarism. It guides students on better time management and implementing proper research and documentation strategies.

**The American Library is closed from November 1 until further notice.  
It will reopen soon at the new premises in the Bandra Kurla Complex.  
While the Library is closed, members can still use the eLibraryUSA databases at  
<http://elibraryusa.state.gov>**

E-Bulletin Editor:  
**Swati Patel**  
Designed by:  
**Milburn Fernandes**

Admission to American Center programs, restricted to persons over 14, unless otherwise specified, is on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open 30 minutes before the start of the program.



Vice-Chancellor Professor A.V. Afonso of Goa University expresses gratitude to Consul General Peter Haas for donating the American Studies Book Collection set.



A scene from the play *Almost, Maine* featured as the highlight event on Oct. 13. Written by an American playwright and performed by Indian theater company Cathayaatra, the play had the audience laughing and clapping in the 9 scenes expressing love in its myriad forms.



Information Resource Officer Linda Parker interacts with librarians on the “Use of Social Media in Promoting Reading Habits” at Goa University.



“The Joy of Serving,” a Community Service Beach Clean-up on Miramar Beach led by Consul General Peter Haas, American Center staff, and the International Centre Goa.



Press conference on Oct. 11 launched “America Days Goa” where American Center Mumbai and partners detailed the three-days of events in Goa.



Goan musicians “Noxious Ire” and Shalisha Fernandes, both winners of American Center sponsored “Mirchi Sound Check” contest by Radio Mirchi are featured acts for the Daniel Pearl World Music Days concert on Oct. 14 at Kala Academy.



Some participants of one of the four rounds of Spelling Bee contests at the Trivia Mania Mall Event on Oct. 12. Each participant walked away with a great prize.

Library staff & USIEF engage with Goans at the American Center booth at Caculo Mall about resources available to them even in Goa as well as information on studying in the US. In addition to material ranging from education to science to culture, the booth also featured a Knowledge USA quiz contest with great prizes.



Consul General Peter Haas engages with members and officials of the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry on “U.S.-India Trade Relations” Oct. 13.



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