

**THE PROCEEDINGS
OF
INVEST ODISHA SYMPOSIUM**

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THE ODISHA SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS
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Organized by
OSA-Ohio Chapter

TRACK B: HIGHER EDUCATION

SESSION CHAIRS:

PROF. SANTOSH MISHRA
PROF. TRILOKI N. PANDEY
DR. HARLAL CHOUDHURY

SPEAKERS:

PROF. ANNAPURNA PANDEY
PROF. BISHUN PANDEY
PROF. ANIL PRADHAN
DR. SULTANA NURUN NAHAR
DR. BA-SHEN T. WELCH
PROF. ABANI PATRA

HE.S1: OSA Higher Education Initiatives for Odisha – A Pragmatic Assessment & Potential Next Steps

Prof. Annapurna Pandey

Abstract: Overall educational development in our home state of Odisha and specifically higher education has been core to heart of many OSA members and NRO community in North America. In addition to contribution by many OSA members for educational development of the state in personal & professional capacity, OSA has always provided a platform for deliberation, networking & many activities like workshops, open house in Odisha & US for sole purpose of educational development of state.

During 2011 -2013, OSA executives set up a committee to organize activities on Higher Education opportunity for students and faculty and to collaborate with the leaders of Higher Education in Odisha. At present, the OSA Higher Education Committee has ten members who are highly committed towards achieving the set goals:

- Helping students from Odisha Universities/Institutes for higher studies in US/Canada.
- Establish specific student/faculty exchange program between Universities in US/Canada & Odisha.
- MoU & tangible next steps between Odisha & US/Canada Universities for collaborative research, joint study program etc. for mutual benefit.

Some of the Recent Initiatives:

1. [Workshop on Higher Education & Research Opportunities in North American Universities at Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar \(Dec 2011\)](#)

The objective of this workshop was primarily for information sharing on potential opportunities for higher studies and research in North American Universities.

2. [Symposium on Higher Education of Odisha – Challenges & Opportunity \(July, 2012\)](#)

HE.S2.1: OSA Higher Education Initiatives for Odisha – A Pragmatic Assessment & Potential Next Steps

Prof. Bishun Pandey

About the Speaker: Dr. Bishun Pandey is Associate Dean, The Ohio State University Marion, and Professor of Mathematics with interests in Applied Mathematics.



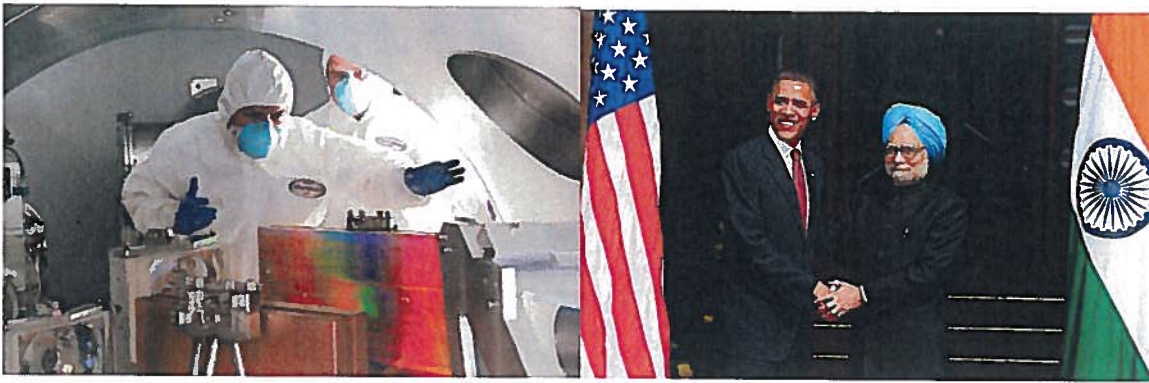
HE.S2.2: Training STEM Faculty at Higher Education Institutions in Odisha - Leveraging Obama-Singh Grant

Prof. Anil Pradhan & Dr. Sultana Nurun Nahar

Abstract: "The Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative is a comprehensive framework for US-India collaboration. As part of this agreement the US-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) has awarded a few grants for joint partnerships between U.S. and Indian universities. The Ohio State University is the recipient of the USIEF grant for training world-class Science-Engineering-Technology-Mathematics (STEM) faculty at higher education institutions in India (see attached announcement). The Government of India has identified training of faculty as the highest priority item. It is envisaged to expand the USIEF pilot project nationally to universities across India. It is necessary to leverage the Obama-Singh Initiative in conjunction with agencies of the Government of India, such as the University Grants Commission and the Department of Science and Technology, overseen by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development. Up-to-date progress and future plans should be discussed in order to develop a strategy for greater involvement of U.S. and Indian universities in an Indo-US consortium. The role of central and state universities is also crucial. It would be especially worthwhile to seek support from governments of states such as Odisha, where the need for capacity building of higher education faculty is especially acute. In addition, involving the private sector and universities would be highly desirable."

About the Speaker: Prof. Anil Pradhan is Professor in the Departments of Astronomy, Chemical Physics Program, Biophysics Graduate Program at the Ohio State University. His research and scholarship is highly acclaimed and he has achieved much peer recognition. Most recently he has led an effort under the Obama-Singh framework for an alliance between Ohio State University and Aligarh Muslim University.

Dr Sultana Nurun Nahar is a physicist and astronomer at the Ohio State University and a John Wheatley awardee for: "For efforts to promote physics research and teaching through collaboration, mentoring, and philanthropy in several third-world countries, and in particular for her promotion, as both an advocate and role model, of Muslim women scientists."



HE.S2.3: A Strategic Partnership between Ravenshaw University, Odisha and Miles College, AL: A Success Story and Lessons Learned

Dr. Ba-Shen T. Welch

Abstract: Over the last decade, the United States and India have deepened strategic ties. The administration of President Barack Obama characterizes the United States-India relationship as one of the defining partnerships of the twenty first century as he has demonstrated with his visit to India 2010. Miles College and Ravenshaw University entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2008. Miles College, founded in 1898, is a premier liberal arts institution located in metropolitan Birmingham within the corporate limits of the City of Fairfield. The noble founders of the institution saw educated leadership as the paramount need in the Black community. Miles is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Baccalaureate degrees and is the only four-year institution in historic Birmingham, Alabama designated as a member of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Ravenshaw University is located in Cuttack, Orissa, on the east coast of India. It was founded in 1868 and is one of the oldest and largest colleges in India. It was awarded University status in 2006. Prior to this, it was affiliated with the University since 1943. Not only is this Institution an epitome of learning but also a piece of unique Victorian architecture in the country. The international partnership between the two institutions of higher education has the foci: to raise awareness of the diverse global interests and influence of India; promote greater participation in international dialogue and exchange; expand reach of ideas; and expose faculty members and students to different cultures and ways of thinking and learning. Miles College faculty and students have visited Ravenshaw University as a result of this MOU. In 2009 a delegation of faculty, to include Dr. Ba-Shen T. Welch and Dr. Digambar Mishra visited Ravenshaw University. Dr. Welch had given numerous lectures on Smart Power during that visit. In March 2012, nine students, under the leadership of Dr. Welch visited Ravenshaw University. While there, they interacted with the students as well as the faculty of Ravenshaw University. Dr. Niranjana Barik and Dr. Asima Sahoo, Political Science professors at Ravenshaw University, visited Miles College in April 2012. Dr. Niranjana Barik was a visiting Full Bright scholar at Miles College during the academic year 2007-2008. Dr. Welch conducted additional lectures in 2013 on topics such as Corporate Responsibility in 5 states throughout India.