The 2015 Florida International Summit, co-hosted by UCF and FSU, focused on “Opportunities and Challenges for Human Society and Development,” and was attended by students, faculty, practitioners, and community members. The summit is the annual, signature event supported by the Florida Network for Global Studies (FNGS). Through established global studies programs at various Florida universities, FNGS aims to advance the exchange of information on economic, political, social, and technological change taking place in an increasingly globalized world.

The panels highlighted three regions: Europe, South Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Each panel and presentation focused on challenges for society, such as human trafficking, illegal narcotics, and political violence.

The South Asia panel featured Govind Mohan, Economic Minister for the Embassy of India, who discussed the potential for greater economic cooperation between the United States and India. Also on the panel, Persis Khambatta, BowerGroupAsia Senior Director for South Asia, compared the progress of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, and Convergence Center for Policy Resolution Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer Aakif Ahmad ended by talking about prospects for Pakistan, underscoring the favorable possibilities for human and economic development during the long term. The panel was moderated by Steve McDowell, John H. Phipps Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at FSU’s College of Communication and Information.

Click here for more information on the 2015 Florida International Summit.

Inside The India Center’s Fellowship

My experience at The India Center definitely gave me more insight about the issues regarding India in terms of politics, economics, culture, and technology. It was a great opportunity for me to spend the semester researching women’s rights in India, as it is a significant issue that needs to be addressed. The weekly briefs and blogs were additional activities that enabled me to learn more about news, major issues, and events going on in India. I think anyone who is interested in India’s global impact and international relations in general would find the fellowship to be a great writing and research experience.

- Sayyada Fazal, Spring 2015 India Fellow

For more information on our internships and fellowships, please click here.
In January 2015, Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson, Arun Gandhi, announced the 2015 Gandhi Global Center for Peace essay contest for students to share their vision for nonviolence and peace around the world. Gandhi, a past UCF India Center distinguished visitor, serves on the Global Perspectives Internationalization Advisory Board.

In partnership with the Gandhi Global Center for Peace and Gandhi’s Be Magazine, the annual essay contest took place during “A Season for Nonviolence,” marking the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30 and Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4. During this time, students around the world were invited to write and submit their essays on one of three focus questions under four categories: College/University, High School, Middle School and Elementary.

“I am overwhelmed by the response of young people to the essay contest organized by the Gandhi Global Center for Peace. This is a virtual hub designed to give young people a platform to express their hopes, concerns, and desires for the world,” said Gandhi.

In May 2015, the winners were announced. They consisted of one elementary school and one middle school student from India, and three college/university students from Indonesia, Nigeria and Vietnam.

To learn more about each winner’s story, please click here. Also, be sure to keep an eye out for the 2016 Gandhi Global Center for Peace Student essay contest here.

**Tune in to India-themed programming on WUCF-TV**

**What is the next wave of globalization?**

Technology and entrepreneurship expert Vivek Wadhwa joined host John C. Bersia to discuss challenges the United States faces in the 21st century.

These include rising concerns over the United States losing its competitive edge to rising powers such as India and China. Wadhwa says the United States should focus on its strengths by reinventing itself through innovation, entrepreneurship and new technologies.

To learn more, be sure to tune in to the Global Perspectives show on the WUCF-TV channel or visit here.