



St. Francis
College for Women
Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016
(Autonomous & Affiliated to Osmania University)

Centre for International Studies Annual Report 2025-26

Activity One

After the MOU: Best Practices to Activate U.S.–India Academic Partnerships

Date: January 16, 2026

Time: 9:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

The Centre for International Studies and American Corner Hyderabad co-hosted a professional workshop, “**After the MOU: Best Practices to Activate U.S.–India Academic Partnerships,**” focused on transforming formal agreements into sustainable collaborations.

Session Highlights:

- **Inaugural:** U.S. Consul General Ms. Laura Williams and Prof. Uma Joseph emphasized that MOUs are starting points for long-term engagement rather than end goals.
- **Session 1 (Prof. Tarun Kanti Panda, IIT-H):** Discussed the "win-win" framework needed to democratize academic opportunities and improve accessibility for Indian students.
- **Session 2 (Dr. Rohit Negi, IIIT-H):** Focused on interdisciplinary research networks and strategies for building international research clusters to solve global challenges.
- **Session 3 (Ms. Emilia Smith):** Navigated the landscape of funding, grant mechanisms, and the role of public diplomacy in academic exchanges.
- **Session 4 (Mr. K. Subodh Kumar):** Addressed Ethics and IPR, outlining four critical areas for safeguarding intellectual property in collaborative environments.
- **Panel Discussion:** Experts from TGSCHE, Politeia Research Foundation, and SFCW shared actionable strategies for deepening policy frameworks and institutional ties.

The day concluded with a valedictory session summarizing key takeaways and awarding participation certificates.

Activity Two

Session by Canada West University

Resource Person - Dr. Arif Shaikh

Total Participants - 40

A session was organized with the aim of providing students with practical exposure and insights into management and entrepreneurship. The session was graced by Dr. Arif Shaikh, who was the esteemed guest speaker for the event. Dr. Arif Shaikh holds a PhD in Management Science and is also the Co-founder of the startup "Skillshawk." He has extensive experience in the field of management, skill development, and entrepreneurship, which made the session highly informative and inspiring for the students. During the session, Dr. Arif Shaikh spoke about the importance of management skills, innovation, and adaptability in today's competitive world. He shared his journey from academics to entrepreneurship and explained how theoretical knowledge can be effectively applied in real-world business situations. He also highlighted the role of startups, skill-based learning, and continuous upskilling for students aiming for successful careers. The session was interactive, with students actively participating and asking questions related to startups, career planning, and management education. Dr. Shaikh patiently addressed all queries and motivated students to think creatively and develop problem-solving skills. Overall, the guest lecture was highly informative, motivating, and impactful. It provided valuable insights into management studies and entrepreneurship, making it a memorable and enriching experience for all participants.

Activity Three

International Lecture Series

The Centre for International Studies organized a day long International Lecture Series in collaboration with the California Baptist University on 10th March, 2026 from 9:30 am to 2:20 pm for all the Department of Social Sciences

Session One - Faith, Practice, and Public Voice: Exploring Social Work, Biblical Justice, and Mass Media Communication

Resource Person- Dr. Kendra Flores-Carter, D.S.W.

Total Participants - 70

Mass Media Communication for the students of BA I MLP, MLPsy, BA III MLP and MA I MCJ. The lecture was conducted in Mass Communication Lab 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m on 10th March 2026 and witnessed active participation from 70 students and 4 faculty members. The session was delivered by Dr. Kendra Flores-Carter, D.S.W. Associate Professor of Social Work and Co-Director, Center for Community Engagement and Social Innovation (CESI), Co-Chair, Global Engagement Committee. During the session, Dr Carter focused on helping students understand how faith, social work, biblical justice and mass media combine to shape public discourse and advocacy. She highlighted the importance of ethical communication

through mass media, especially new media, maintaining honesty, confidentiality, dignity, and mutual respect when reporting on issues of the marginalized communities. Using case studies and audio visuals, Dr Carter encouraged students to reflect on and derive the role of media in restoring justice and healing communities. The session garnered enthusiastic participation and positive feedback from students, who actively engaged and contributed to the discussion enriching it.

Session Two - From Moments to Movements: CBV's Social Work Model of Applied Biblical Justice and Social Action.

Resource Person - Dr. Antonio Mejico Jr., Ed.D.

Total Participants - 70

The lecture highlighted how small individual actions can grow into larger social movements that promote justice and social transformation. Dr. Mejico emphasized on ways how students and professionals can work towards achieving their goals while strengthening their academic knowledge and using it to serve society. During the lecture, various dimensions of justice were discussed, including social, economic, retributive, restorative, and biblical justice, which is connected to the concept of shalom—peace and harmony in society. The speaker also explained the importance of social movements and activism, encouraging individuals to support marginalized groups and stand with the oppressed. Core theological concepts such as compassion, Imago Dei -the belief that all humans are created in God's image, community, and stewardship were highlighted as guiding principles for social work and social responsibility. In conclusion, the lecture inspired participants to move beyond passive concern and engage actively in promoting justice and equality. It emphasized that through compassion, solidarity, and responsible action, individuals can contribute to building a society that reflects love, fairness, and collective well-being.

Session Three - Human Development on Purpose – The Big Story About What It Means to Be Human

Resource Person: Dr. Emilio R. Bermejo, DSW

Total Participants: 80

The session began with Ms Keerti introducing Dr. Emilio R. Bermejo, DSW, who began by asking a few interesting questions that encouraged students to reflect on the meaning and purpose of human life. During the lecture, he explained the role of social workers and highlighted the importance of the Social Work Code of Ethics. He also discussed human behavior and how it is influenced by society and social environments. The speaker introduced Erik Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development, focusing on stages such as infancy, adolescence, and young adulthood, and explained the concept of human lifespan development along with some limitations of Erikson's theory. Dr. Bermejo also spoke about the Biblical grand narrative and related themes of psychosocial development, explaining that humans are relational, have agency, are embodied, and are in need of redemption. In addition, he discussed the

strengths perspective mindset and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, including the concept of self-transcendence. The session concluded with a reflective question, "Where does our meaning come from?" The program ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr Uma Mahesh, expressing gratitude to the resource person for the informative session.

Session Four - "Leadership, Institutions and Organizational Culture."

Resource Person - Dr. Bryan Davis

Total Participants - 80

Dr. Bryan Davis, who shared insights on how leadership, institutional structures, and culture influence organizations and society. Dr. Davis began by explaining the role of institutions such as governments, corporations, and universities in shaping decisions and opportunities in modern society. He also introduced the concept of sociological imagination, which helps individuals understand the connection between personal experiences and broader social issues. The speaker discussed bureaucracy and authority, referring to Max Weber's ideas on hierarchical structures, formal rules, and specialized roles in organizations. He also highlighted the importance of leadership styles, explaining James MacGregor Burns' concepts of transactional and transformational leadership. The workshop further explored organizational culture, including Edgar Schein's three levels of culture and Deal and Kennedy's model of corporate culture. Dr. Davis also briefly explained institutional isomorphism and the process of public policy formation. The session concluded with a discussion on organizational learning and adaptive leadership, emphasizing how leaders must adapt to challenges and promote innovation. Overall, the workshop was informative and helped students understand the importance of leadership and institutions in shaping organizations and public policy.

MOUs Concluded during the Academic Year

- 1. Canada West University - University Canada West (UCW) and St. Francis College for Women (SFCW)** signed an MOU in November, 2025. The scope of collaboration on academic and research activities under this MOU may include, but is not limited to the following: exchange of faculty, staff, and students; exchange of publications in fields of interest to both institutions; collaborative professional development; joint educational programs; articulation and pathway progression opportunities; and other activities as mutually agreed.
- 2. Invosystems Solutions Pte Ltd - Concluded in April, 2026.** As part of the Green Literacy and Green Skills Development Programme, this collaboration aims to inspire and empower students, educators, and educational institutions to become active climate leaders, contributing to a sustainable future by promoting climate action, strengthening green skills and sustainability competencies, and encouraging responsible consumption through behavioural change to support campus and national Net Zero goals. The MOU included Student Climate Action Internship, Green Literacy and Green Skills Development Programmes.

MOU Discussions in Progress

1. University of Bedfordshire -

- 3+1 model, which is, 3 years of undergraduation at SFC and 1 year post graduation at University of Bedfordshire.
- Summer Programs, Student exchange and series of guest lectures

 7/11/26