

Bringing Research to LIFE

Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn

Hosted by the Eureka Project

Topic: How technology start-ups and SMEs can access the bank's capital

Join us for expert start-up tips and a complimentary lunch

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Smartpark
Event Centre
100 - One Research Road

Please RSVP to Wanda at
(204) 262-6400 or
wanda@eurekaproject.ca

Are you interested in how we might increase research interaction between biomedical and clinician scientists?

Join Drs. Peter Cattini and Greg Nyomba, along with four guest speakers, who will present a full-day session on this topic and participate in discussions with YOU and an expert panel.

November 17, 2011
8:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Room 204
Brodie Centre
Bannatyne Campus

To register for this free CIHR-funded event, and to obtain lunch/refreshments at the meetings, please RSVP to:

Judith Olfert
olfert@cc.umanitoba.ca

The Year of India in Canada hits the prairies

BY MELNI GHATTORA

The High Commissioner of India to Canada rolled into town and he did not come alone. Kicking off a weekend full of events was a night of musical entertainment and dancing; a Bollywood Musical Sandstorm.

Ila Arun, and her troupe of 39, performed for the first time in Winnipeg. Held at the McPhillips Street Station Casino, the audience was treated to over two hours of singing, dancing, and instrumentals.

Arun, an internationally known actress, playwright, poet, lyricist and reality television star, was joined on stage by her daughter Ishita Arun. Ila jokingly tells the crowd, "This is our first time performing together on stage...in a casino!"

On a stage full of energy paired with supersaturated traditional Rajasthani attire, Arun and her daughter mesmerized the crowd with a beautifully intertwined arrangement of Gujarati folk, traditional Rajasthani and Bollywood/pop dance numbers.

This coming together of traditional Indian music, food, and entertainment was a well-suited segue into the Manitoba-India Symposium, scheduled for the following morning.

The "Celebrating Manitoba-India Cooperation in Higher Education: Academic Symposium," welcomed His Excellency Mr. Shashishekhar M. Gavai, High Commissioner of India to Canada. The day-long conference was held in the University of Manitoba's Engineering, Information and Technology Complex.

In his Keynote Address, Gavai spoke about the rapid and growing collaboration between the two countries, India and Canada, specifically highlighting the University of Manitoba's agricultural collaborations.

November 9, 2011 will mark one year since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries of India (MoFPI) to train IICPT staff and students at the U of M as well as to exchange faculty members between the two organizations for long-term research into better crop storage and processing systems in India.



Submitted Photo

Panel discussion participants listen in on a variety of topics presented at the all-day symposium.



Submitted Photo

Members of Ila Arun's troupe of 39 perform an exhilarating Bollywood dance number that has the audience dancing in their seats.

The event agenda also included four panel discussions on a variety of topics ranging from "key issues in Manitoba-India partnerships" to "best practices in partnerships in health sciences."



Submitted Photo

His Excellency Mr. Shashishekhar M. Gavai, High Commissioner of India to Canada, giving his Keynote Address.

"Our hope is that a year or two from now, we will look back on this forum and see that the outcomes of our discussions are being realized all around us," says University of Manitoba's Vice-President (Research and International), Dr. Digvir Jayas.

The symposium presented the university with the opportunity to share, with its Indian partners, collaborative research in other areas that is currently being done in India by university faculty members.

The Centre for Global Public Health (CGPH) presented "Cbowdike," an eight minute video that tells the story of the traditional sex workers in Karnataka. These women, known in India as Devdasis, use music to share their message of safe sex practices to reduce the spread of the HIV virus.

"For the Winnipeg audience, this video illustrates how one can use traditional talents to share a message and spreading the word of HIV/AIDS," said Dr. Shiva S. Halli, professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, in the university's Faculty of Medicine.

"There are very powerful messages in some of the songs. It's like peer education between Devdasis and it's been found to be much more effective than us going out and talking to them. Coming from someone similar to them, the message resonates."

Halli has been instrumental in mobilizing the CGPH's HIV/AIDS research in Karnataka, his birth land. The team at the CPGH, led by Drs. James Blanchard and Stephen Moses, were key in obtaining much needed funding from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to fight HIV/AIDS in the region.

In addition to talks of research collaboration and exchanges between the university and its Indian partners, event organizers enlisted the talents of the university's Indian Students' Association (ISA).

A group of ten ISA members took part in a comedic skit that revolves around three students whom have come from India, bringing to light some of the cultural and academic difficulties they are facing and how the university helps such students.

The event, which wrapped on the eve of Halloween, was a great success. "This forum marks the coming together of the University of Manitoba and our partners in India, to discuss where we were, where we are and where we want to go," says Jayas. "And that's what I am most excited about, the future."