Report on the India Trip November 1-13, 2011

Dr. Cathy Meschievitz (FAU Office of International Programs) and Professor and Associate Dean Somnath Bhattacharya (FAU College of Business) traveled to India to visit several business schools to explore collaboration activities for students and faculty. This trip followed activities in 2010-2011 linked to the FAU India Initiative sponsored in part by the Institute for International Education (IIE) and the U.S. Departments of State and Education. FAU was one of ten universities selected to participate in the IIE IAPP program. [Dr. Meschievitz also spent Nov 7-9 in Bangalore at the IIE-USIEF- EducationUSA school fair and had FAU representation at the Chennai fair Nov 11-12.]

S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR) Mumbai

Website: http://www.spjimr.org/

CM and SB met the following people:

--Dr. Advani, Prof and head of international connections

--Dr. Pallavi Mody, Prof and head of the “Doing Business in India” program. This is a set but flexible 10 days tour of global India, with lectures, industry and corporate visits and lectures from business leaders and faculty. Students from Cornell and Vanderbilt have come on such programs.

--Dr. Malay Krishna, Prof. (new faculty member, came from Pittsburgh where he worked with PNC bank)

SPJIMR is one of the best graduate business programs in India. Different rankings all place them in the top ten. They can be selective in who they partner with, and Advani was chilly and somewhat pushy at the meeting. They have tie ups with schools in Dubai and Singapore, the links are not precise SPJIMR schools but alliances. Advani set them up. 85-90% of their students are undergraduate engineering students, who then take the MBA. They have 350 students in the PGIM and EMBA programs.

SB indicated that FAU MBA and other students would enjoy a FAU specific “Doing Business in India” program. It would be turnkey for SPJIMR to design and run for a fee. SB wants it to be part in India and part in Dubai/Singapore/Sydney. FAU needs the balance of 2 places per program at the start, since it would be more attractive at the start than just all India.

SB also says in return SPJIMR students may want to enroll in the top ranked on-line MS in Forensic Accounting. This 30 credit course costs $4,500 per credit normally but we could explore a different price point for their students if enough enrolled. The MS also has certificates in health fraud and business valuation, but they may not be open to their students yet. Forensic Accounting is a growing field and SPJIMR students could get in on the ground floor of a new field.

FAU is also the gateway to the Caribbean and Latin America. We do short tours in this area and a new program could be developed if this was of interest.

SPJIMR folks say the accounting degree might be of interest. Advani made some difficult requests then:
--can students take grad courses and also do an OPT? CM will find out but also said tuition had be paid unless there is a 1 to 1 exchange

--wanted to know “how good” we are, they are very brand conscious

--can we do placements in the US? We said no.

--can we host a SPJIMR faculty who does placements? We said probably not.

Mody became friendlier as Advani got slightly demanding. She will send the costs for a standard DBII program. We then visited a student hostel, it was better than we expected but still somewhat spartan for American tastes. MBA and EMBA will need a local hotel for a DBII stint.

We also met two other faculty (Lalwani and Niranjan), very nice folks but not clear their SPJ based programs are of interest to FAU.

**Manipal University - TAPMI the graduate business program**

**Website:** [http://www.tapmi.edu.in/](http://www.tapmi.edu.in/)

SB and CM met Dr PS James on Sun Nov 6, 2011. We talked over lunch and then toured TAPMI. James is ex-army and a nice guy, been with TAPMI for 14 months or so. He was hired since he has some int’l experience with int’l link-ups. Their push is to expand numbers from 240 to over 500, and start a new PhD program. We discussed the way FAU could help the new PhD program and get their marketing and management students to spend time in FAU or even get an FAU degree.

FAU can benefit from a tie up to the first AASCB accredited school in India and TAPMI can benefit from the link to an established AASCB school in the USA. New student blood into the FAU PhD tracks could help FAU as well.

SB suggests that FAU could send faculty to TAPMI over a summer to teach in the program and also teach students how to teach, and be faculty. Many FAU types might find this of interest. India needs a new cadre of faculty able to teach in colleges and universities as they expand in India over the next 20-30 years. TAPMI alone will be adding 15-20 new faculty as part of this push.

Mon 11/7 we met three others at TAPMI: Dr Simon George, Dr. Sivakumar and Dr Prasad. Sivakumar is heading the new PhD program and he had clearly already talked to Dr James. TAPMI plans to come to Tampa FL in 2012 to get the AASCB award, and might visit FAU after that. We welcomed them for such a visit.

We discussed possible joint faculty appts and sabatticals at TAPMi.

Faculty research will emerge as needed, we will send each other our faculty profiles and let the individuals contact their peers if they want, it cannot be forced.
TAPMI and Manipal University in general has great infrastructure. Good buildings and dorms and overall set up for the size overall of 17,000 students. Hostels are very nice and new.

[Non business study abroad aside: The Global Alliance and Manipal University sponsor two undergraduate study abroad semester experiences that may work well for a small number of FAU undergraduates interested in India. The programs emphasize classic Indian Studies and Sanskrit, and modern India, and also as an alternative global health. The latter could be of interest to pre-med students. OIP will look into these further.]

**Infinity Knowledge Group: Kolkata.**

**Website:** [http://www.ikvpl.com/](http://www.ikvpl.com/)

This is somewhat of a nascent venture by a group that recently divested itself of an IT outsource service provider in Tampa, FL, and has now turned its interests towards educational initiatives. Their focus is two-fold: Vocational training and certification in Infrastructure & Construction Skills; Healthcare Services; Tourism & Hospitality; IT Enabled Services; and Electronics. SB attended this without CM. SB sees no immediate areas of collaboration with FAU here. However, IKVPL has also taken over two pan-Indian business schools operating under the aegis of the University of Burdwan in W. Bengal, India (a tertiary-level University at best), and there is some potential for collaboration with FAU on this front. The immediate thrust would be in the area of Hospitality and Tourism. SB is in touch with the principles but any collaborative work for FAU with IKVPL remains a long-shot at the present time.