

International Connections Faculty Grant Report

Nandini Deo

- How did you use the Faculty Grant for International Connections that you received for work with Gateway House in India?

I used the funds to travel to Mumbai India for a ten day visit. I had previously had some limited contact with this think tank but had never been able to really develop any kind of collaboration.

- How has your partnership with Gateway House expanded since that experience?

Since traveling to spend this time with Gateway House the most immediate impact has been in terms of my research. The organization hosted a book launch/discussion of my book *The Politics of Collective Advocacy* with one of their senior fellows acting as moderator. A number of diplomats and representatives from civil society organizations attended the discussion which was great because the book is really targeted at activists in the non-profit sector.

This past year they invited me to contribute a brief essay on dynastic politics in South Asia for a special publication they produced on democracy in the region. Because their membership includes academics, the corporate sector, government and the nonprofit sector I was able to share my research on the importance of kinship in politics with a much wider range of readers than is possible with traditional journal publications.

- Is there still an internship opportunity there for Lehigh students?

The internship is still evolving. Gateway House usually only take on graduate students as interns. We are still in discussions about how Lehigh might send one or two undergraduates who by taking the right courses could demonstrate their competence to handle the research expectations at the think tank.