Senior fellow Anne Murphy whose project is “Seva (Service) and the Making of Sikh Ethical Practice” gave three presentations in February, 2010: at Punjab University, Chandigarh on the “State of the field of Punjabi and Sikh Studies in North America,” at a two-day conference at Punjab University and at a Punjabi Literature Conference on “Punjabi and Punjabi Literature and their study in North America.” Reports of her activities and interviews with her have been published in local newspapers such as the Hindustan Times.

Anne Murphy teaches Punjabi literature at the University of British Columbia. She is a regular visitor to India and went on to do her doctoral research on Sikh history. As of now, Anne is in the process of completing her book, titled Materialising History: Representation of Sikhs Post. She adds, “The manuscript of my book is an extension of my research work. The book has taken into account the religious objects and items associated with Sikh rituals and ceremonies related to other forms of historical representation, and the ways in which they have been transformed and are being reassembled from the 19th century to 1921 in relation to changing social and political circumstances in Punjab.”

After receiving a PhD from the Punjab Archives Department, “The toughest part is to gather the relevant information, but now things are improving. One can have access to a few more missing volumes,” says Anne. She continues, “This project brings out the arts of service to the community from the days of Bhupindar Ranjit Singh to the present day. Sikh families settled in Victoria.” It’s not only history but also modern Punjabi literature that interests Anne. “There are so many wonderful writings and when I teach my students, they are surprised to know that so many issues have been touched upon in Punjabi literature. The youth here too should feel attached to the language. Please don’t lose it,” says Anne.