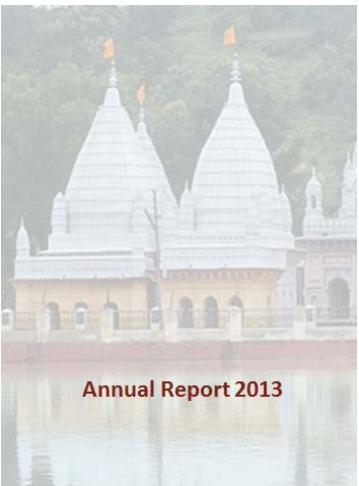




UBEROI FOUNDATION
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Annual Report 2014





Professor Ved P. Nanda
Chair of the Board
Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
Denver, Colorado

December 2014

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies was established in November of 2007, just a little more than seven years ago. In that short time, the Foundation has accomplished a great deal. Chief among those accomplishments may well be the profound human relationships which have developed in the United States among a number of our Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, and Jain colleagues – all of whom are our sisters and brothers within the Dharmic traditions. In addition, the ties we have woven between the United States and India are equally personal and meaningful. Before his passing, our benefactor, Mahinder Uberoi, expressed a hope that the Foundation might make significant contributions over time to the scholarly study of the Dharmic traditions. This we have begun to do; and in addition, the Foundation has made significant contributions to the promotion of human interaction, about which we believe Mahinderji would also be very pleased.

With regard to the Foundation's primary areas of focus in teacher training and textbook reform, the Foundation has now expended more than \$1.25 million in programmatic investments since our inception. A list of those investments appears in this annual report, as well as a detailed description of each of the eleven grants made by the Foundation during calendar year 2014.

Finally, allow me to express my deep gratitude for what was a truly an exceptional annual Experts Meeting, held this year in Boulder, Colorado, in the month of September. Naropa University served as our host, and for all of their logistical support and hospitality, President Charles Lief and Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown from Naropa have our most sincere appreciation. A description of the program, entitled "Compassion in the Four Dharmic Traditions," and brief biographies of the participants appear in this report.

On behalf of my treasured colleagues – Parveen Setia, Anu Bhatia, Sneha Harjai, and Jyothi Bhatia – each of whom serves so ably and selflessly as fellow Trustees of the Foundation, and Katharine Nanda and Jim Polsfut, our Secretary and Treasurer/Executive Director, I look forward to another year ahead in pursuit of creating awareness of the Dharmic traditions within North America, as Mahinder Uberoi charged us to do.

Sincerely yours,

Ved P. Nanda



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Section I:

Overview of the Foundation



Vision and Mission

Mahinder Uberoi saw a world of many facets. He cherished the Dharmic tradition that was his birthright and felt its power as a vehicle for spiritual awakening and fulfillment. Professor Uberoi grasped the breadth of this tradition across the land of its origin and its range of experiences known as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies is Mahinder Uberoi's legacy. After his death in November 2006, a will was read in which he wrote, "I leave all my assets for the scholarly study of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, and other related religions and their music and arts." In order to honor his wishes, the Foundation was established on November 14, 2007, to encourage and support the work of scholars in these Dharmic traditions and to extend the reach of this knowledge in the United States in particular. The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies provides a unique opportunity for the scholars of these traditions to explore their common ties in the Dharmic source.

The mission of the Foundation is summarized in these few words: *The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies serves to raise awareness of the four major Dharmic religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism in an effort to promote understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the diverse peoples of the world.*



Mahinder Uberoi: The Invisible Benefactor



Mahinder Singh Uberoi was born in Delhi, India shortly after World War I, on March 13, 1924. He ultimately earned a doctorate degree in engineering and lived for most of his adult life in the United States, primarily in Boulder, Colorado. Professor Uberoi passed away in 2006 as a retired academic having chosen to live with very little pretense and ostentation. His wealth, however, was considerable, and his assets today help to raise awareness of Dharmic religions in an effort to promote understanding, communication, tolerance and peace in the world.

Education

Professor Uberoi grew up in Sialkot, India, and received a bachelors of science degree from Punjab University in 1944. Subsequently, he studied in the United States, earning a masters degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1946 and a doctorate degree in engineering from the Johns Hopkins University in 1952.

Academic Leadership

Professor Uberoi began his academic career on the faculty of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Michigan from 1953 until 1963. During that period, in 1958, he earned early professional distinction as a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellow at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

In 1963, Professor Uberoi moved to Boulder, Colorado, where he lived for more than forty years until his death in 2006. From 1963 to 1975, he served as the chairman of the Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences at the University of Colorado. Four U.S. astronauts graduated from the Department during those years, including Ellison Onizuka who died with other members of his distinguished crew aboard the space shuttle Challenger in 1986.

As chairman, Professor Uberoi added faculty and advanced basic research in the fields of fluid mechanics, modern control systems, and the biological sciences. Adolf Busemann, the father of supersonic aerodynamics, joined the department in 1963. Much of Professor Uberoi's academic career involved research and teaching far from his adopted city of Boulder, Colorado. In 1966, he was an exchange scientist with the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Between 1972 and 1974, he was an invited professor at the

University of Quebec, followed thereafter in 1974 as a visiting scientist at the Max Plank Institute of Astrophysics in Munich. From 1975 to 1976, Professor Uberoi was an honorary research fellow at Harvard University, and he returned to the University of Colorado between 1981 and 1982 as a Croft professor.

Scientific Achievement

Professor Uberoi made innumerable contributions to scholarly literature during his career, on topics such as turbulent flow, magneto-hydrodynamics, and combustion. He was the editor of *Cosmic Gas Dynamics* by Evry Schatzman and Ludwig Bierman. He served on the steering committees associated with the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics from 1966 to 1969 and with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences from 1967 to 1969 at the University of Colorado. He organized the all-university Seminar on Environment and Public Policy from 1970 until 1975. He directed and organized a science of flight program of High School Honors Institute from 1968 to 1974, directed the Summer Institute for Disadvantaged High School Students in 1969, and directed and lectured in the Pre-Engineering Program for many years.

Posthumous Orientation

Mahinder Uberoi passed away on November 25, 2006. He never married and had no children. In 1986, twenty years before his death, he signed his last will and testament. In that document, Professor Uberoi ordered that his assets be used to establish a foundation “for the scholarly study of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, and other related religions and their music and arts.” In implementing his mission, he made it clear that his intent was not to proselytize. “Scholars need not have any particular faith or beliefs,” he wrote. To carry out his mission, Professor Uberoi intentionally left much judgment to the men and women who would be named as trustees of the foundation. Nevertheless, by way of example, he wrote, “Obvious candidates for support are persons who are regularly engaged in scholarly work, such as universities, institutes, and religious centers.”

Deploying the assets of Professor Uberoi upon his death, the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies requested and subsequently received authorization as a tax-exempt private foundation by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on December 13, 2007. The five founding trustees of the Foundation wish to express particular gratitude to a former student of Professor Uberoi, Mr. Randy Nishiyama, for his tireless and selfless work in helping to lay the groundwork for the Foundation. Along with founding trustee, Parveen Setia, Mr. Nishiyama provided a most thoughtful and invaluable service in memory of the man who was once his educator.



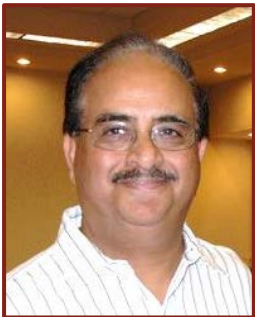
Board of Trustees



Professor Ved P. Nanda
Chair, Board of Trustees

Professor Ved P. Nanda is John Evans University Professor and Thompson G. Marsh Professor of Law at the Sturm College of Law, University of Denver and serves as Director of the International Legal Studies Program there. In 2006 Professor Nanda was honored with the founding of the Nanda Center for International Law. He was also Vice Provost at the University of Denver from 1994-2008, and since 2007 he has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iliff School of Theology, Denver. He holds or has held numerous official posts in international, regional, and national professional and civil society organizations.

Among numerous national and international awards, he has received the World Jurist Association's Highest Order of Justice and its World Legal Scholar Award, the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Award for Peace-Building from Soka Gakkai International and Morehouse College, the Human Rights Award from the United Nations Association, and Civil Rights Award from B'nai B'rith. He has received honorary doctorates from Soka University in Tokyo, Japan and from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, India. He is widely published, having authored or co-authored 23 books in various fields of international law and over 180 chapters and major law review articles. He is a frequent guest on television and radio and writes regularly on international issues for the *Denver Post*.



Mr. Parveen Setia
Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

Parveen Setia, Vice-Chair, has been a US citizen since 1987. He is married to Minaxi Setia, sister-in-law of Anu Bhatia, and has three children, all in college. Mr. Setia graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and earned his MBA from Webster University, 2008. He is employed as Pharmacist Team Leader at the Lakeland Medical Center in Lakeland, Florida. He is actively involved in the Ekal Vidalya project to support education of children in Indian villages.



Mrs. Anu Bhatia
Trustee

Anu Bhatia, eldest of the three nieces of Mahinder Singh Uberoi, lives with her husband and two daughters in Delhi. She graduated from the St. Ann's Convent in Hyderabad in 1979 and obtained a diploma in Textile Designing with Distinction in 1983 and went to work for four years in a textile printing house. After she married in 1984 she has managed the family textile business. Mrs. Bhatia also takes a keen interest in social activities such as raising funds for under-privileged children and has taken part in discussions regarding social issues on national television.

Regarding her uncle's legacy, Mrs. Bhatia says, "Living thousands of miles away, the most difficult task was finding people in U.S.A. who would take interest in fulfilling our Uncle's wishes. God has been kind and we are very fortunate to have such good friends to work with. As work progresses on the Uberoi Foundation we sincerely hope as trustees that by carefully choosing the plan of action we wish to act upon, we are able to achieve the vision of our late Uncle."



Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia
Trustee

Jyothi Bhatia lives with her husband and two daughters in Noida, on the outskirts of New Delhi. She graduated from St. Ann's High School in 1980 and completed her diploma of two years in Fashion Designing in 1982. She then worked with Paris-based garment house "Jack and Jack" for five years. She travelled extensively all over the country and to Nepal between 1982 and 1987. She has her own fashion design studio and the couple has been successfully running their own business for the last 10 years.

Mrs. Bhatia and her husband were married in 1988. He is a real estate consultant in Delhi. They have two daughters -- Sahiba (20 years) who is doing her Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA) and Vrinda (17 years) who is studying in the 10th standard.

Mrs. Bhatia is actively involved in religious activities at the "Bhakti Dham Mandir," a hillside temple and ashram in Nakuchiatal, Nainital, in the Himalayas. The ashram also serves as a school to educate poor children. She says, "I thank God for this wonderful opportunity that we have, to fulfill our uncle's wishes."



Mrs. Sneha Harjai
Trustee

Sneha Harjai is the youngest of the three sisters. She graduated from Kamla Nehru College of the University of Delhi with a BA degree in Honors English. She studied travel and tourism and worked as the Travel Assistant with the Grand Hyatt Hotel for two years. She was married in 1989 to Sunil Harjai, who recently was awarded for his success as an entrepreneur in an Indian small industry. She brought her love and experience in travel to her work with her husband in their shoe exporting

business, "Siddharth Exports," for which she handles the interactions and correspondence with foreign buyers, especially in the UK, Germany, and Italy. The couple has two children.

About the Uberoi Foundation, Sneha says, "Our uncle has left us a purpose to fulfill which we hope to achieve with the help of our dear friends who head our foundation. We would like to put in our best efforts and move towards the goal of our foundation."



Executive Staff



Mr. James T. Polsfut
Executive Director and Treasurer

Jim Polsfut has served as the executive director of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies since its inception, as well as its treasurer since 2011. In addition, he serves as the treasurer of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation and as the vice chairman of the advisory board of the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies.

Professionally, Mr. Polsfut has focused on financial services and Latin America throughout his career. Currently, he serves as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of the North American Specialty Hospital, with its first facility in Mexico scheduled to open in 2017. Previously, he helped to create a private bank and trust company called First Western Trust Bank, based in Denver. In that capacity, he served as president of First Western Development Corporation, a division of the bank responsible for corporate acquisitions. Earlier in his career, Mr. Polsfut served as general manager for GE Capital in Mexico City and in the United States, as Denver Mayor Federico Peña's assistant for finance for the City and County of Denver, and as an associate in the public finance office of Smith Barney.

Mr. Polsfut earned an undergraduate degree in Government from Harvard University and an MBA from Stanford University.



Mrs. Katharine Nanda
Secretary

Katharine Nanda, MA, JD, University of Denver, has practiced law for many years and is currently working in the criminal area through the Office of the Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel. She has been actively involved with many organizations serving the Indian community in Colorado, having served as the Chair of the Hindu Society of Colorado and a founding board member and Secretary of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (Denver).



Programmatic Summary

Since Program Inception in 2008

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies seeks to propel the vision of its benefactor, Professor Mahinder Uberoi, in the programmatic efforts which it undertakes. The Foundation focuses principally on annual Grant Awards and an annual Experts Meeting.

The Foundation does not accept unsolicited requests for funding, but rather, extends invitations to proposed applicants based on their areas of expertise and engagement within the Dharmic traditions. A review of the Grant Awards made in 2014 appears in Section II of this Annual Report. A summary of the Experts Meeting 2014 appears in Section III.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
2008	Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Experts Meeting 2008: Denver, Colorado</i>	\$ 14,150
2009	Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2009: Orlando, Florida</i>	\$ 94,206
2010	San Diego State University Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Research on Tantric Culture</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2010: Denver, Colorado</i>	\$ 241,902
2011	McGill University, Faculty of Religious Studies USF Foundation Inc Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Longwood University San Diego State University Research Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation The Regents of the University of Michigan Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Conference</i> <i>Eastern/Indigenous Perspectives on Global Sustainability, Conflict Resolution</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Communications Studies & Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Database and Writing</i> <i>Finalization of book on Dharma</i> <i>Sikhism Workshop</i> <i>Science and Vedanta Symposium</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2011: Los Angeles, California</i>	\$ 231,565
2012	Southern CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Hindu University of America, Orlando Southern CA School of Theology Southern CA School of Theology University of Michigan Cambridge in America SDSU Research Foundation California State University Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Int'l School for Jain Studies (ISJS) at Claremont Lincoln</i> <i>Dharma education outreach efforts</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Vedic Traditions</i> <i>Research/publishing on books by Rajiv Malhotra</i> <i>Hindu Perspective of Ageing, Death, Dying, and Euthanasia</i> <i>Dharma Studies Publishing Project</i> <i>Confluence Integrative Studies Institute Syllabus Project</i> <i>Sikh 7-Day Seminar</i> <i>PhD studies of Varun Khanna at U of Cambridge</i> <i>Database and Writing</i> <i>TeachIndia! Teacher training</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2012: Denver, Colorado</i>	\$ 247,591

2013	Southern CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Loyola Marymount University Maharishi University of Management Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Meru Education Foundation Himalayan Academy CSULB Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India via Claremont Lincoln</i> <i>HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform</i> <i>Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies</i> <i>Perennial Philosophy of the Dharmic Religions, an Introduction</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Indigenous Social-Economic Institutions of the Vedic Tradition</i> <i>Meru Curriculum Leadership Training</i> <i>Review of California School Textbook Framework for Bias Treatment of Hinduism</i> <i>TeachIndia! Project at California State University Long Beach and Northridge</i> <i>Create Documentary Teaching Resource on Hinduism and Indic Heritage</i> <i>Doshi Bridgebuilder Award</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2013: Dartmouth, Massachusetts</i>	\$ 228,010
2014	Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Calif. State Univ. Long Beach Fnd Loyola Marymount University Claremont Lincoln University Hindu University of America University of Colorado Foundation University of Michigan Hindu American Foundation Institute of Advanced Sciences University of Michigan Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Hindu India: 300 to 1850 CE</i> <i>California School Textbook Controversy Revisited</i> <i>TeachIndia! Project at California State University Long Beach and Northridge</i> <i>Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies</i> <i>ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training at Center for Jain Studies</i> <i>Teachers Empowerment on Hindu Dharma</i> <i>Annual Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies at the Univ. of Colo. and Naropa</i> <i>Teaching Sikhism</i> <i>Comprehensive Education Reform</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Indian Religions Encyclopedia</i> <i>Colorado Teacher Training Program</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2014: Boulder, Colorado</i>	\$ 199,995

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Total Programmatic Outlay Since Inception in 2008: \$ 1,257,419

Section II:

Grant Awards in 2014



Grant Awards in 2014

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies serves to raise awareness of the four major Dharmic religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, in an effort to promote understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the diverse peoples of the world. The Foundation's primary source of grant-making revenue is investment proceeds from the perpetual endowment created by the estate of the late Professor Mahinder Singh Uberoi.

In 2014, the Foundation awarded eleven grant allocations as listed below and as more fully described in the pages which follow.

1. **Himalayan Academy:** *Hindu India: 300 to 1850 CE*
2. **Himalayan Academy:** *California School Textbook Controversy Revisited*
3. **California State University Long Beach Foundation:** *TeachIndia! Project*
4. **Loyola Marymount University:** *Masters of Arts in Yoga Studies*
5. **Claremont Lincoln University:** *ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training at Center for Jain Studies*
6. **Hindu University of America:** *Teachers Empowerment on Hindu Dharma*
7. **University of Colorado Foundation:** *Annual Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies*
8. **University of Michigan:** *Teaching Sikhism*
9. **Hindu American Foundation:** *Comprehensive Education Reform*
10. **Institute of Advanced Sciences:** *Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions*
11. **University of Michigan:** *Indian Religions Encyclopedia*

1. Himalayan Academy

Project: *Hindu India: 300 to 1850 CE*
Applicant/Lead: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: Create a 20-minute documentary style video suitable for middle and high schools based on Chapters Two and Three of *The History of Hindu India*. The time period of these chapters is from 300 ce 1850 ce, with the major political events being the early pan-Indian kingdom of the Gupta, subsequent smaller kingdoms, beginning of Muslim incursions leading to rule over most of India to the advent of the British East India Company. Societal elements include the nature of the cities and villages, family life, science, art and medicine. Religious elements include the patronization of all religions by the kings (including Buddhism and Jainism), spread of Hinduism to Southeast Asia, advent of temple worship, saints, the major scriptures, bhakti movement, and the impact of conversion efforts by both Muslims and Christians. Artistic areas cover music, dance, art and architecture. A professional videographer will create the movie based on a script worked out by Hinduism Today and Dr. Bajpai and reviewed by appropriate parties.

2. Himalayan Academy

Project: *California School Textbook Controversy Revisited*
Applicant: Shiva Bajpai
Lead: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: This project seeks to renew the academic struggle to revise the narrative of Indic religions and heritage in the extant California School Textbooks in World Civilizations, which present a negative portrayal of Indic history and culture. Some success in this direction was achieved in 2006, but the state policy did not allow substantive changes in the textbooks. In 2014, CA Department of Education will have to do its five yearly periodic review of what is called “Framework and “standards” which determine the content outlines for the publishers to produce textbooks. This process is also known as the Textbook Adoption Process that allows for public comments and review of the textbook materials, thereby affording the parents and concerned community an opportunity to correct the negative and misleading narratives of Indic history and culture. My project will identify the existing erroneous and negative portrayal of Indic religions and culture and present an improved, accurate and authentic version of the content outline of the “Framework” and textual write-up for the adoption by the state and the publishers.

3. California State University Long Beach Foundation

Project: *TeachIndia! Project*
Applicant/Lead: Shiva Bajpai

Project Plan: A week-long teacher training workshop on Indic religions and heritage covering a variety of themes related to religious theology, philosophy, and forms of

worship and practices based on textual accounts as well as historical practices. The workshop will provide an overview of historical developments over time dealing with social formation, economic conditions, intellectual and spiritual movements, and the creation of knowledge systems and the arts (including plastic arts, architecture as well as the performing arts involving theater, music, and dance). Additionally issue-oriented topics such as yoga and meditation, gender roles over time, and ideas and strategies of conflict resolutions will also be addressed.

4. **Loyola Marymount University**

Project: *Master of Arts in Yoga Studies*
Applicant/Lead: Chris Chapple

Project Plan: The Master of Arts in Yoga Studies program, initiated this semester at Loyola Marymount University, is a two-year graduate program designed to provide students with the tools needed to succeed in the practice and teaching of Yoga. At the end of the program, the students will have the requisite credits to obtain the 500 E-RYT, Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher. All four Dharma traditions are included in the curriculum and students are required to pursue deeper studies in one of the four traditions. The program also plans to establish fellowships so that graduate students can conduct in-depth research projects designed to promote understanding of Yoga practices.

5. **Claremont Lincoln University**

Project: *ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training at Center for Jain Studies*
Applicant: Whitney Braun
Leads: Yashwant Malaiya and Sulekh Jain

Project Plan: The core concept of this proposal is an India-based program on *ahimsa* for high school teachers across North America. In 2012, a trial program was held for a group of teachers with virtually no financial resources, and with amazing results. The unexpectedly enthusiastic response to that initial summer program is the primary reason for bringing this grant proposal to the Uberoi Foundation once again.

The Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India was created in order to expose U.S. high school teachers to the dharmic traditions and to train them to practice and teach *ahimsa* in their schools across America. This first-of-its-kind program was not about winning religious converts but about *ahimsa* and its dharmic (esp. Jain) roots. The program teaches people how to make *ahimsa* a way of life and incorporate it into traditional U.S. K-12 education, so that the teachers can influence thousands of American students. An overarching principle is that *ahimsa* practice enhances personal and social harmony, personal development and wellness, and global peace.

The responses by participating teachers to the program in 2012 and again in 2013 was overwhelmingly positive. They also included helpful suggestions for modest course and itinerary adjustments, which will be incorporated. Teachers who complete the program in full receive an Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India certificate with the designation "Ahimsa Fellow."

6. Hindu University of America

Project: *Teachers Empowerment on Hindu Dharma*
Applicant/Lead: Abhinav Dwivedi

Project Plan: Hindu University of America (HUA) proposes to conduct a pilot program in Tampa, Florida to train teachers and staff and thereby empower them with relevant and up-to-date information on all four Dharmic traditions that originated in India (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism). It also proposes to equip and empower local Hindu community leaders and Dharmic organizations so that (i) they can have an ongoing dialog with local schools and school boards on topics that affect them and (ii) they can actively participate in planning and conducting the event in their own city/county. HUA will team up with them, guide and supervise them, and provide them with training and presentation material. Specific aims are:

- (1) To train teachers, staff and school board officials about Dharmic traditions and India
- (2) To show our appreciation to the contribution made by teachers, staff and school board officials.
- (3) To engage local Hindu students, their parents, and other local organizations in planning and conducting the event and there by instill respect and pride for their heritage.
- (4) To develop a teachers-kit that can be used in the future.

7. University of Colorado Foundation

Project: *Annual Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies*
Applicant/Lead: Holly Gayley

Project Plan: The Department of Religious Studies at CU Boulder is collaborating with Naropa University to launch an annual lecture series in Buddhist Studies. This lecture series is intended to enhance the academic study of Buddhism in Colorado and to contribute to the broad base of public interest in and knowledge about Buddhism along the Front Range and beyond via electronic media. This is being planned as an ongoing lecture series in order to invite leading scholars in Buddhist Studies to Boulder for an annual lecture, free and open to the public, to be held in alternating years at CU and Naropa. We are applying for a "seed grant" to launch the lecture series in a sustained fashion after the inaugural lecture held in the fall of 2013.

8. University of Michigan

Project: *Teaching Sikhism*
Applicant/Lead: Arvind Mandair

Project Plan: This proposed workshop has several objectives: (i) to examine the current state of pedagogy in Sikh studies; (ii) to explore new methods for fostering communication in this subject area between teachers, between teachers and students, and between students; (iii) to enable teachers to Sikh studies to function more efficiently

across disciplinary divides, and to connect their subject area to teachers of other 'dharmic' traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism) with insights into the peculiarities of teaching Sikhism in the North American classroom environment.

9. Hindu American Foundation

Project: *Comprehensive Education Reform*
Applicant: Suhag Shukla
Collaborator: Murali Balaji

Project Plan: The Hindu American Foundation seeks to expand funding for its education and curriculum reform initiatives, including the Director of Education and Curriculum Reform and national training/outreach strategy that has already been launched in close to 20 states.

10. Institute of Advanced Sciences

Project: *Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions*
Applicant/Lead: Bal Ram Singh

Project Plan: As a continuation to the program implemented first in 2009, a one week workshop will be organized in Massachusetts during the summer of 2014. By way of background, the Uberoi Foundation sponsored a pilot program held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth campus, during the summer of 2009, and that program has continued annually thereafter. The intended audience for the program each year is high school teachers. The objective is to broaden the teachers' views of India as a country and, in particular, of the Dharmic traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism. Since the inception of the teachers training program, dozens of teachers have taken part.

Over five days, individualized workshops cover a general introduction of India followed by in-depth background on Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism, and on the final day, a comprehensive conclusion. Local and regional experts lead the workshops. The participating teachers also enjoy cultural activities, such as a classical Hindustani music concert, a tour of a nearby Hindu temple, and a trial of Indian clothing such as saris, lehngas, dhotis, and kurtas. On the final day of the training, participating teachers showcase the lesson plans they prepared throughout the week as well as their designs to continue working on lessons plans oriented for use in their high schools back home.

11. University of Michigan

Project: *Indian Religions Encyclopedia*
Applicant/Lead: Arvind Mandair
Collaborator: Arvind Sharma

Project Plan: Employ an assistant to help in the completion of the Indian Religions Encyclopedia.

Section III:
Experts Meeting 2014



Prior Sessions of the ANNUAL EXPERTS MEETING

Beginning in its first year of operation in 2008, the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies has placed a high priority on gathering together experts from the four Dharmic traditions – in one city and in one room, in order to share, collaborate, brainstorm, and engage. A brief recap of the Experts Meetings held previously follows below, along with the agenda and the list of participants for the Experts Meeting 2014.

2008: During its first year of operation, in October of 2008, the Uberoi Foundation hosted in Denver, Colorado, more than a dozen renowned scholars of Dharmic traditions. The scholars used their time together to sketch out the contours of the Foundation’s work. Representatives of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism were on hand in person, and a representative of Sikhism was present by conference call. Remarkably, the scholars noted how unusual it was for them to be together to reflect on the common threads that bind these Dharmic traditions and that, as scholars, they rarely, if ever, have that opportunity. It was a wonderful and meaningful beginning to the work that the Foundation had launched.

2009: Over two days in late October of 2009, the Foundation organized a second opportunity to meet with scholars. To participate in its “Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting,” on location in Orlando, Florida, the Foundation invited twenty academicians to collaborate with its five-member board of trustees in three joint sessions. In the months leading up to the sessions, the Foundation announced its intention at the Experts Meeting to delve deeply into the commonalities of the four Indic Dharmic traditions as well as

into the ways in which those traditions contribute to society. For the Experts Meeting, Shiva Bajpai prepared a paper on *Theism: The Ultimate Reality* and Arvind-Pal Mandair and Bal Ram Singh prepared a paper on *Karma*.



At the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado: The 2010 Experts Meeting

2010: The Foundation’s Experts gathered in Denver in October of 2010 at the Iliff School of Theology. Over two full days of fast-paced discourse, the Experts revealed their considerable talents and scope. In so doing, they demonstrated a high level of academic rigor in their presentations and conversations.

Deliberations at the Experts Meeting among the scholars very successfully met the lofty charge set by the organizer, Dr. Arvind Sharma, who selected the topic of “Decolonizing Indic Studies.”

2011: In the beginning of October in 2011, the Foundation's Experts had the pleasure of meeting over two days in Los Angeles, California, with the significant assistance of co-sponsors Loyola Marymount University and Nalanda International. The 2011 Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting, entitled "In Our Own Voices: Dharma Education in North America," sought to facilitate the emergence of innovative and creative theories, approaches, and methods to education and scholarship in Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh Dharma traditions. "In Our Own Voices" drew attention to the fact that Dharma traditions are not at the center of the dominant global discourse on contemporary issues and challenges. The voices (wisdom and discernment) of the Dharma traditions are currently on the margins. Yet they are of great significance and relevance to the crises that face humanity. The on-going goal is to position the insights of Dharma as integral to addressing these challenges. The term "In Our Own Voices" does not refer to who is talking or writing but rather refers to which lens is being used to define and understand the Dharma traditions.

2012: In mid-October of 2012, the Experts of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies once again had the opportunity to meet together over a period of two days. Gathering in Denver, Colorado, the Experts began with reflections on the tragic attack brought upon the Sikh Gurdwara in Wisconsin earlier that year. The Experts then turned their attention to practical, in-depth discussions on the two programmatic priorities of the Uberoi Foundation – namely, training U.S. school teachers in Dharmic traditions and correcting distortions and inadequacies of Dharmic traditions in North American textbooks. The Experts concluded their time together by sharing brief presentations of pivotal work underway on each of these two programmatic priorities by likeminded organizations and experts.



At the Daniels Fund in Denver, Colorado: the 2012 Experts Meeting

2013: In the summer of 2013, the vitality of one of the Uberoi Foundation's primary grant-making programs served as the centerpiece of the Foundation's annual Experts Meeting. Assembling in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, the trustees gathered together a smaller, core group of Experts for reflection on the Foundation's strategy and participation in the annual teacher training program held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Twenty Experts began their time together on July 31 with a mini-symposium in recognition of the 150th birthday anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and, specifically, on the impact of his travels to the western world in 1893. The mini-symposium's discussion included the participation of Uberoi Foundation chair Ved Nanda and Uberoi trustees Yashwant Pathak, Shiva Bajpai, and Bal Ram Singh. Witnessing the detail of the training provided to the teachers, the trustees took part mid-week in a focus placed on Jain beliefs, lifestyle, and culture, as well as an evening dance demonstration by UMass Dartmouth student Anuradha Tata. In a strategy session held in the afternoon of August 1, the Uberoi trustees brainstormed on how best to implement the intended mission of Professor Mahinder Uberoi, especially with regard to the Foundation's two fundamental priorities for the next several years – the training of U.S. teachers in the Dharmic traditions and the correcting of distortions about the Dharmic traditions in U.S. textbooks.



**UBEROI FOUNDATION
EXPERTS MEETING 2014**
Boulder, Colorado: September 12 to 14, 2014

Compassion in the Four Dharmic Traditions

AGENDA

Friday, September 12, 2014

7:00 - 8:00 pm **Chogyam Trungpa Lecture**

Sponsored by:

University of Colorado

Naropa University

Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies

Speaker:

John Makransky, Professor of Buddhism at Boston University

Saturday, September 13, 2014

8:30 - 9:15 am **Keynote**

Speaker:

Rajiv Malhotra, President, Infinity Foundation

*Lessons I have learned from my 25 years of full-time
work in improving the state of Dharma Studies*

9:20 - 10:35 am

Compassion in the Foundations of the Dharmic Traditions

Moderator:

Judith Simmer Brown, Naropa University

Creating Enlightened Society: Compassion in the Shambhala Tradition

Speakers:

- Dilpreet Singh Jammu
- Evan Finkelstein

The Experience of Oneness: The Basis of Compassion in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism in Light of their Universal, Common Ground

10:40 am - 12:10 pm

Relationship with Other Traditions and Faiths: Tolerance and Acceptance or True Respect?

Moderator:

Christopher Chapple, Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology, Loyola Marymount University

Speakers:

- Rita Gross: *Compassion and Religious Diversity – Some Buddhist Perspectives*
- Yashwant Malaiya: *Interactions among the Dharmic Traditions: With Emphasis on Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism*
- Loriliei Biernacki: *Abhinavagupta's Tantric Theology of Becoming and Contemporary Secularism*
- Harry Walker: *Inter-Religious Dialogue in the Greco-Roman World*

12:15 - 1:30 pm

Luncheon Keynote

Speaker:

Charles Lief, President, Naropa University

1:40 - 3:10 pm

The Application of the Concept in the Form of Service (Seva)

Moderator:

Yashwant Pathak, University of South Florida School of Pharmacology, International Center for Cultural Studies

Speakers:

- Elaine Yuen: *Humility and Humanity: Buddhist Perspectives of Healthcare Chaplaincy*
- Frank Tedesco: *Compassion and Service in Buddhism*
 - R.S. Dwivedi
 - Samir Kalra: *Compassion through the Preservation of Human Rights*

3:15 - 4:45 pm

Relationship with the Natural World and our Environment

Moderator:

Bal Ram Singh: *Compassion in the Four Dharmic Traditions – Relationship with the Natural World and Our Environment*

Speakers:

- Appachanda Thimmaiah
- Holly Gayley: *The Compassionate Treatment of Animals – Contemporary Buddhist Approach in Eastern Tibet*
- Christopher Chapple: *Nature Connection in the Yogavāsistha*
- Veena Howard: *Animals are Persons, Too*

5:15 - 6:30 pm

Challenges to Compassion: Violence, Conflicts, and War

Moderator:

Shiva Bajpai, Professor Emeritus, California State University, Northridge

Speakers:

- Claude d'Estree
- Yashwant Pathak
- Bill Goldstein

Sunday, September 14, 2014

8:15 - 9:00 am

Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 am

Review of Uberoi Foundation's Activities

10:30 – 11:45 am

Concluding Interactive Session

SPEAKERS

(in alphabetical order)

Shiva Bajpai	California State University, Northridge
Loriliai Biernacki	University of Colorado, Department of Religious Studies
Christopher Key Chapple	Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California
Claude d'Estree	University of Denver, Korbel School of International Studies
R.S. Dwivedi	International Center for Cultural Studies, Baltimore, Maryland
Evan Finkelstein	Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, Iowa
Holly Gayley	University of Colorado, Dept. of Religious Studies
Bill Goldstein	Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, IA
Rita Gross	Mindrolling Lotus Garden Meditation Center
Veena Howard	California State University, Fresno
Dilpreet Jammu	Sona Capital, Parker, Colorado
Samir Kalra	Hindu American Foundation, San Francisco, California
Yashwant Malaiya	Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado
Rajiv Malhotra	Infinity Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey
Yashwant Pathak	Univ. of South Florida School of Pharmacology, Int'l Cntr for Cultural Studies
Judith Simmer-Brown	Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado
Bal Ram Singh	Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Frank Tedesco	University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
Appachanda Thimmaiah	Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, Iowa
Henry Walker	Bates College, Maine
Elaine Yuen	Naropa University



Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting 2014

Boulder, Colorado
September 12 through 14, 2014

Participants

(in alphabetical order)

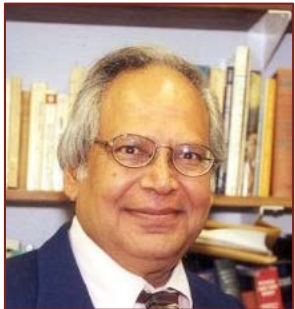


Acharya Arumuganathaswami is the Managing Editor of Hinduism Today magazine, Himalayan Academy's internationally renowned religious journal. He coordinates dozens of journalists, photographers and writers around the globe, assigning their quarterly projects and assembling their writings and reports. He has been involved in the California textbook issues since 1993. In 2006-10, he worked with Dr. Shiva Bajpai to produce "The History of Hindu India," a 120-page book aimed at California middle schools to replace or supplement those in use in 6th grade and above. In 2013-14, he oversaw an Uberoi-funded project to create a 22-minute documentary movie from chapter one of the book for use in 6th grade. A subsequent installment for chapter two is in process. Also in 2014, he and Bajpai have produced a academic analysis of the California textbook situation, beginning with the State laws governing education, to the guidelines issued by the Department of Education to the final textbooks, all of which demonstrate a systematic bias against Hinduism.

From 2009-2012, he oversaw a project to photograph the entire palm leaf manuscript collection of the French Institute of Pondicherry involving 1.2 million photos. He works to develop story books for children and teens focusing on life lessons and moral learning. He is a member of the Saiva Swami Sangam of the Kauai Aadheenam, Kauai's Hindu Monastery. On monastery retreat days he oversees Himalayan Acres, the monastery's 312-acre agricultural lands on which they cultivate fruit trees, hardwoods, palms and specimen trees.



Murali Balaji, Ph.D. is the Hindu American Foundation’s Director of Education and Curriculum Reform. A Fulbright Specialist and former journalist, he has taught at Temple University, Penn State University, and Lincoln University, where he served as Chair of the Department of Mass Communications, overseeing assessment and curriculum building efforts. A longtime advocate of minority issues, Mr. Balaji is the author of several books and the co-editor of the seminal anthologies *Desi Rap* (2008) and *Global Masculinities and Manhood* (2011). A native of the Philadelphia area, Mr. Balaji earned his B.A. in journalism from the University of Minnesota and his doctorate in Mass Communication from Penn State.



Dr. Shiva G. Bajpai, Ph.D. served as Professor of History and Director of Asian Studies at California State University, Northridge, Los Angeles, from 1970 to 2003; as Professor Emeritus continued to teach (2003-2009). He has BA and MA from the Banaras Hindu University and Ph.D. from SOAS, University of London, UK. He also taught at the Banaras Hindu University, India, (1958-68) and worked at the University of Minnesota (1967-70). He has received many awards including an AHS-NSF Senior Fellowship and AHA & AAS best book awards for his coauthored work; a regular Examiner of Ph.D. theses of many Indian Universities. He has published, many articles on various aspects of Indian history and culture including contributions to *Hindi Vishvakosha* (Encyclopedia) and *Encyclopedia of Asian History*. He co-authored a major reference work: *A Historical Atlas of South Asia* (1978: University of Chicago Press & Updated 2nd edition. 1992: Oxford University Press; 2005: The Digital Library of South Asia, Chicago University Press.) His forthcoming books and works in progress include *The Empire-State (Raja-Mandala): Dynamics of Geopolitics in Classical India*; *Trade and Patterns of Commerce in early Medieval North India (c.700-1200 C.E)*; *India through the Chinese Buddhist Pilgrims' Eyes*; and *Early India in World History* Following the California Textbooks Controversy, he has collaborated with the Hinduism Today in their publications) of *Hindu History Lesson Supplements in 5 parts*, (2007 & 2010) to the World History School textbooks.



Anu Bhatia is a trustee of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. She is eldest of the three nieces of Mahinder Singh Uberoi and lives with her husband and two daughters in Delhi. Mrs. Bhatia graduated from the St. Ann’s Convent in Hyderabad in 1979 and obtained a diploma in Textile Designing with Distinction in 1983 and went to work for four years in a textile printing house. After she married her husband in 1984 she has managed the family textile business. Mrs. Bhatia also takes a keen interest in social activities such as raising funds for under-privileged children and has taken part in discussions regarding social issues on the national television.

Regarding her uncle’s legacy, Mrs. Bhatia says, “Living thousands of miles away, the most difficult task was finding people in U.S..A. who would take interest in fulfilling our Uncle’s wishes. God has been kind and we are very fortunate to have such good friends to work with. As work progresses on the Uberoi Foundation we sincerely hope as trustees that by carefully choosing the plan of action we wish to act upon, we are able to achieve the vision of our late Uncle.”



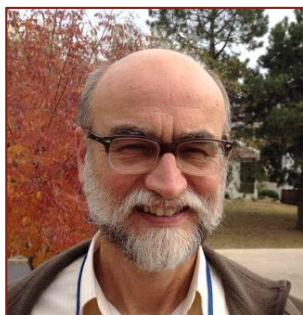
Jyothi Bhatia is a trustee of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Noida, on the outskirts of New Delhi. Mrs. Bhatia graduated from St. Ann's High School in 1980 and completed her diploma of two years in Fashion Designing in 1982. She then worked with Paris-based garment house "Jack and Jack" for five years. She travelled extensively all over the country and to Nepal between 1982 and 1987. She has her own fashion design studio and the couple have been successfully running their own business for the last 10 years.

Mrs. Bhatia and her husband were married in 1988. He is a real estate consultant in Delhi. They have two daughters -- Sahiba who is doing her Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA) and Vrinda who is studying in the 10th standard.

Mrs. Bhatia is actively involved in religious activities at the "Bhakti Dham Mandir," a hillside temple and ashram in Nakuchiatal, Nainital, in the Himalayas. The ashram also serves as a school to educate poor children. She says, "I thank God for this wonderful opportunity that we have, to fulfill our uncle's wishes."



Professor Loriliai Biernacki is Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her research interests include Hinduism, ethics, gender and the interface between religion and science. Her first book, *Renowned Goddess of Desire: Women, Sex and Speech in Tantra* (Oxford, 2007), won the Kayden Award in 2008. She is co-editor of *God's Body: Panentheism across the World's Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2013). Dr. Biernacki is currently working on a study on the 11th century Indian philosopher Abhinavagupta within the framework of wonder, the new materialisms and ideas of the body and the body-mind interface.



Dr. Christopher Key Chapple is Navin and Pratima Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University. He is Founder and Director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies, now entering its second year of robust enrollments, welcoming enthusiastic students from around the world. He received his undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature and Religious Studies from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his doctorate in the History of Religions through the Theology Department at Fordham University. He served as Assistant Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions and taught Sanskrit, Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism for five years at the State University of New York at Stony Brook before joining the

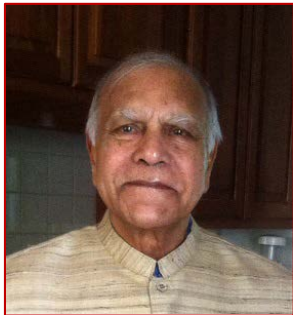
faculty at LMU.

Dr. Chapple's research interests have focused on the renouncer religious traditions of India: Yoga, Jainism, and Buddhism. He has published several books, including *Karma and Creativity* (1986), a co-translation of the *Yoga Sutras* of Patanjali (1991) and *Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Traditions* (1993), *Hinduism and Ecology* (2000), a co-edited volume, *Jainism and Ecology: Nonviolence in the Web of Life* (2002) and *Reconciling Yogas* (2003). Most recently he edited the book *Antonio T. deNicolas: Poet of Eternal Return* (2014).



The **Ven. Prof. Claude d'Estrée** is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School where he focused on comparative religion and comparative spiritual disciplines at the Center for the Study of World Religions (CSWR) and served as an Assistant Director at CSWR. He was appointed as the first Buddhist Chaplain at Harvard University by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. While at Harvard he was the Teaching Fellow to Prof. Harvey Cox and Dean (Bishop) Krister Stendahl and taught for many years with The Rev. Prof. Peter Gomes. Since leaving Harvard he has also been the first Buddhist Chaplain at George Mason University, the University of Arizona, and the University of Denver. He has been a Dharma Teacher and Spiritual Director for over 30 years and was the co-founder of the first inter-faith school for the training of spiritual directors in the U.S. Prof. d'Estrée is a lineage holder in both the Gelug-pa tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and the Son (Zen) tradition of Korean (Chogye) Buddhism.

Presently he is a professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. His main passion and areas of research are forced labor and human trafficking, torture, and international humanitarian law of armed conflict. He is the Director of both the Human Trafficking Center and the Center on Rights Development (CORD). Prof. d'Estrée is also the Director of the International Human Rights Degree Program and the Buddhist Chaplain at DU.



Radheyshyam Dwivedi is a Cell Biologist and an Emeritus Professor of Biology at Howard University, Washington, DC. During his academic career, he has been associated with USDA Beltsville Agricultural Resource Center, Beltsville, and Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, in Maryland and the Universities of Illinois (Urbana), Texas (Austin), Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) and Washington (Seattle) in USA; Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) in Canada, and CSA Agricultural University, Kanpur, and CPRI (ICAR) Shimla in India. He was a founder trustee of the Hindu Temple of Metropolitan Washington (DC) and a founder member of the Vedanta Center of Washington, DC area, a Ramakrishna Mission center.

Dr. Dwivedi is a director of the MARG Foundation and a senior editor of its bimonthly publication MARG. He is a member of the advisory council of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), USA, and Sanskrit Bharati, and a trustee of Sewa International, USA. He is also currently the President of the International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS), USA Inc., an organization dedicated to academic research in ancient traditions and cultures of the world. He has also been an ardent student of literature, philosophy and religions of India all through his life.



Dr. Evan Finkelstein is professor of Comparative Religion and Maharishi Vedic Science at Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, Iowa. He has written articles that identify the common ground inherent in many of the ancient wisdom traditions. He has taught numerous courses on the universal principles that can be located in Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.



Professor Holly Gayley is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her research focuses on the revitalization of Buddhism in Tibetan areas of the PRC in the post-Maoist period. Dr. Gayley became interested in the academic study of Buddhism through her travels among Tibetan communities in India, Nepal, and China. She completed her Masters in Buddhist Studies at Naropa University in 2000 and Ph.D. at Harvard University in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies in 2009. Dr. Gayley is currently preparing a manuscript on the life and love letters of a contemporary Buddhist tantric couple, who played a significant role in the Buddhist revival in eastern Tibet since the 1980s. The manuscript is tentatively titled, *Scripting Destiny: The Lives and Letters of a Buddhist Visionary Couple in Contemporary Tibet*.

Her current research explores the emergence of Buddhist modernism on the Tibetan plateau and a new ethical reform movement spawned by cleric-scholars at Larung Buddhist Academy in Serta. Her recent publications include "Reimagining Buddhist Ethics on the Tibetan Plateau (*Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, 2013), "The Ethics of Cultural Survival: A Buddhist Vision of Progress in Mkhan po 'Jigs phun's Advice to Tibetans of the 21st Century" in *Mapping the Modern in Tibet* (International Institute for Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, 2011), "Ontology of the Past and its Materialization in Tibetan Treasures" in *The Invention of Sacred Tradition* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), and "Soteriology of the Senses in Tibetan Buddhism" (*Numen*, 2007). Within the study of religion, her research and teaching engage in issues of ritual, ethics, hagiography, gender, and religious modernism. She teaches an array of courses on Buddhism—Foundations of Buddhism, Women in Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Buddhist Ethics, and Transnational Buddhism—as well as thematic courses on Ritual Theory and Hagiography.



William Goldstein is a practicing attorney in Fairfield, Iowa. In that capacity, he serves as legal counsel for the Maharishi University of Management. Mr. Goldstein earned a bachelor's degree and a juris doctor degree from the University of Pennsylvania.



Professor Rita Gross is a Buddhist scholar-practitioner who is both a university professor and a dharma teacher. She has published widely on Buddhism and gender and has recently published the groundbreaking book *Religious Diversity—What's the Problem: Buddhist Advice for Flourishing with Religious Diversity*. She has been authorized as a senior dharma teacher (*acharya* in Sanskrit, *lopon* in Tibetan) by Her Eminence Jetsun Khandro Rinpoche. In that capacity, she teaches at Mindrolling Lotus Garden Meditation Center and also throughout North America at various Buddhist dharma centers.



Sneha Harjai is the youngest of the three sisters. She graduated from Kamla Nehru College of the University of Delhi with a BA degree in Honors English. She studied travel and tourism and worked as the Travel Assistant with the Grand Hyatt Hotel for two years. She was married in 1989 to Sunil Harjai, who recently was awarded for his success as an entrepreneur in an Indian small industry. She brought her love and experience in travel to her work with her husband in their shoe exporting business, “Siddharth Exports,” for which she handles the interactions and correspondence with foreign buyers, especially in the UK, Germany, and Italy. The couple has two children.

About the Uberoi Foundation, Sneha says, “Our uncle has left us a purpose to fulfill which we hope to achieve with the help of our dear friends who head our foundation. We would like to put in our best efforts and move towards the goal of our foundation.”



Professor Veena R. Howard, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Asian Religions at California State University, Fresno. She received her degrees in India, the United States, and the U.K. Her research interests include Gandhi’s philosophy of asceticism and social action, animal narratives in Hindu epic literature, and Hindu-Muslim relations. In addition, she is involved with a project of developing pedagogical tools for the study of Indian traditions.

Her publications include the book *Gandhi’s Ascetic Activism: Renunciation and Social Action* (SUNY Press, 2013), and several articles such as “Rethinking Gandhi’s Celibacy: Ascetic Power and the Empowerment of Women” (*The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2013), “Non-violence and Justice as Inseparable Principles: A Gandhian Perspective” (*Justice and Mercy Will Kiss: The Vocation of Peacemaking in a World of Many Faiths*, 2008), and “Gandhi, The Mahatma: Evolving Narratives and Native Discourse in Gandhi Studies” (*Religion Compass*, May 2007). She has also translated three books from the modern Sant tradition from Hindi into English. Professor Howard is a frequent presenter at the American Academy of Religions and various national and international conferences on Hinduism, Indian philosophy, and nonviolence. Most recently, she gave a plenary address at the Gandhirama 2012 at JNU, Delhi and an invited lecture at GITAM University, Visakhapatnam, 2013.



Dilpreet Singh Jammu believes that as citizens of our planet, we all play a number of roles while we visit this world and its many inhabitants. In one role, Mr. Dilpreet Jammu is a member of the Sikh community and has lived in Colorado since 1994. As there are no “priests” or “ministers” within the Sikh faith, Dilpreet is one of many lay persons who speak on behalf of Colorado Sikhs. As a co-director of the Khalsa School Denver, he also teaches religion, history and the Punjabi language to Sikh children. Dilpreet is on The Board of The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, is Vice-Chairman for the Long Range Planning Committee at the Douglas County School District, and is also a co-founder of Colorado Sikhs.

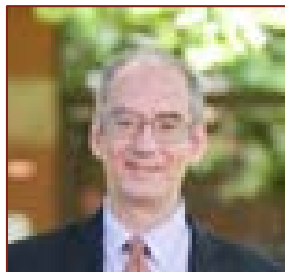
On the professional side, Mr. Dilpreet Jammu brings nearly two decades of international and domestic strategic business development, operations and investment experience in the telecommunications, cable and new technology sectors. Since 1987, he has held senior business,

technology and investment positions for several companies including, Jones Intercable, AT&T, Bell Northern Research, BCI Inc. and Nortel Networks. Mr. Jammu's academic areas include a Bachelor's Degree in physics and one in electrical engineering, from the University of Prince Edward Island and the University New Brunswick respectively, and Executive Education at Wharton School of Business.



Samir Kalra, Esq., Director and Senior Human Rights Fellow for the Hindu-American Foundation based in the Bay Area, CA, holds a JD from Santa Clara University School of Law. Mr. Kalra leads the Foundation's human rights advocacy efforts and has served as a panelist at the National Press Club and multiple Congressional briefings on human rights and religious freedom in South Asia. In January 2013, Mr. Kalra conducted a one week human rights fact finding mission at refugee camps in Jodhpur, India, that house Pakistani Hindu refugees. He authored the Foreword for a book on Bangladesh entitled *A Quiet Case of Ethnic Cleansing: The Murder of Bangladesh's Hindus*.

Mr. Kalra authored formal comments to the FBI's Advisory Policy Board to support the addition of an anti-Hindu hate crime category to the FBI's data collection program, and he submitted on the record testimony to a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing in 2012 on "Hate Crimes and the Threat of Domestic Extremism." He serves as a member of Rep. Eric Swalwell's (D-CA) Immigration Advisory Committee and is a member of the American Society of International Law and the South Asian Bar Association. He is also an Advisor/Contributor at *The Interfaith Observer Journal* and is involved with the Indian Subcontinent Partition Documentation Project.



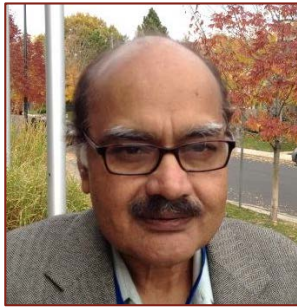
Charles G. Lief is president of Naropa University. He has been an active part of the Naropa community for 39 years, having participated in some of the earliest discussions that culminated in the creation of the Naropa Institute in 1974. An early North American student of Naropa's founder, the Venerable Chögyam Trungpa, Rinpoche, he was an original member of the Nalanda Foundation board of directors (Naropa's nonprofit home for its first decade). He has been a member of the board of trustees since its formation in 1986. Lief was elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees in May, 2011.

After receiving his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law, Lief served as a managing partner of a Colorado law firm, Roper, Lief, Mains and Cobb, from 1977-83. He was the first president of the Yonkers, New York-based Greyston Foundation, one of the earliest and best-known models of integrated nonprofit social enterprises and service providers in the country. Under his leadership Greyston Foundation grew from a startup with a handful of employees to an organization with 180 employees and a \$20 million annual budget. Greyston's mix of services includes permanent housing for formerly homeless families, accredited childcare, HIV/AIDS housing and health care and the well-known Greyston Bakery, which provides employment to low income residents of Yonkers and among many other products, supplies millions of pounds of brownies to Ben and Jerry's.

A principal in the Hartland Group, Community Developers and Consultants of Burlington, Vermont, he has been instrumental in the creation of mixed income housing and economic development projects in Vermont and New Hampshire. He has also served as the strategic planning consultant to Amida Care, a highly regarded nonprofit Special Needs HMO serving 5,000 low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. For decades Chuck has served on non-profit boards in New York, Vermont, Nova Scotia and nationally, includes This board work includes service as Chair of the Intervale Center in Burlington, which develops farm-and land-based enterprises generating economic and social opportunity

while protecting natural resources; Vice-Chair of the board of the Vermont Community Loan Fund and member of the Center for Cartoon Studies and Vermont Works for Women boards. He was the Chair of the national Social Enterprise Alliance, as well as as board member and past Chair of Shambhala International.

He and his wife, Judith, a distinguished former Dean and chief executive of the Naropa Institute, have two daughters, both Naropa University graduates, and two grandchildren.



Dr. Yashwant K. Malaiya is a Professor in the Computer Science Department at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He has published widely in the areas of his professional discipline and on Jain history. He has been an invited speaker at the Biennial JAINA (Jain Associations of North America) Conventions for 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007 conventions and is the coordinator for office of Alumni Affairs for ISSJS (International Summer School for Jain Studies). He was the founder of the India Association of Northern Colorado and has served as its President for two terms. Dr. Malaiya was the creator of the first website on Hindi language, and the first major website on Jainism. And he is the moderator of a forum on Indian Archaeology. He has served as a general chair for several international conferences in the USA, India, and China. He received the IEEE Third Millennium Medal in 2000 and IEEE CS Golden Core

Award in 1996.



Born in 1950, **Rajiv Malhotra** is an Indian–American researcher, writer, speaker and public intellectual on current affairs as they relate to civilizations, cross-cultural encounters, religion and science. He studied physics at St. Stephens College in Delhi and went for post-graduate studies in physics and then computer science to the USA. Rajiv served in multiple careers, including: software development executive, Fortune 100 senior corporate executive, strategic consultant, and successful entrepreneur in the information technology and media industries. At the peak of his career when he owned 20 companies in several countries, he took early retirement at age 44 to pursue philanthropy, research and public service. He established Infinity Foundation for this purpose in 1994.

Rajiv has conducted original research in a variety of fields and has influenced many other thinkers in India and the West. He has disrupted the mainstream thought process among academic and non-academic intellectuals alike, by providing fresh provocative positions on Dharma and on India. Some of the focal points of his work are: Interpretation of Dharma for the current times; comparative religion, globalization, and India’s contributions to the world.

He has authored hundreds of articles, provided strategic guidance to numerous organizations and has over 300 video lectures available online. To best understand Rajiv’s thoughts and contributions, his books are a good resource. Besides “*Invading the Sacred*”, in which Rajiv is the main protagonist, he has authored the following game-changing books: *Being Different: An Indian Challenge to Western Universalism*; *Breaking India: Western Interventions in Dravidian and Dalit Faultlines*; and *Indra’s Net: Defending Hinduism’s Philosophical Unity*.

Currently, Rajiv Malhotra is the full-time founder-director of Infinity Foundation in Princeton, NJ. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Center for Indic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and is adviser to various organizations.

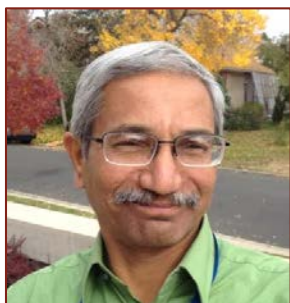
Infinity Foundation has given more than 400 grants for research, education and community work. It has provided strategic grants to major universities in support of pioneering programs including: visiting professorships in Indic studies at Harvard University, Yoga and Hindi classes at Rutgers University, research and teaching of nondualistic philosophies at University of Hawaii, Global Renaissance Institute and a Center for Buddhist studies at Columbia University, a program in religion and science at University of California, endowment for the Center for Advanced Study of India at University of Pennsylvania, lectures at the Center for Consciousness Studies at University of Arizona.



Katharine Nanda, MA, JD, University of Denver, is Secretary of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. She has practiced law for many years and is currently working in the criminal area through the Office of the Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel. She has been actively involved with many organizations serving the Indian community in Colorado, having served as the Chair of the Hindu Society of Colorado and a founding board member and Secretary of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (Denver).



Dr. Ved P. Nanda, Chair of the Trustees of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies, is John Evans University Professor and Thompson G. Marsh Professor of Law at the Sturm College of Law, University of Denver and serves as Director of the International Legal Studies Program there. In 2006 Professor Nanda was honored with the founding of the Nanda Center for International Law. He was also Vice Provost at the University of Denver from 1994-2008. He holds or has held numerous official posts in international, regional, and national professional and civil society organizations. In addition to serving as the Uberoi Foundation chair, he was the founding president of and is currently a Trustee of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (Denver), and is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iliff School of Theology, Denver. He has received numerous national and international awards, including honorary doctorates from Soka University in Tokyo, Japan and from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, India. He is widely published, having authored or co-authored 24 books in various fields of international law and over 200 chapters and major law review articles. Professor Nanda is a frequent guest on television and radio and writes regularly on international issues for the Denver Post



Dr. Yashwant Pathak completed his education (M.S., Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Technology) from Nagpur University, India. He is Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Chairman and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the College of Pharmacy, Sullivan University, Louisville, Kentucky. With extensive experience in academia as well as industry, he has to his credit more than 100 publications, including a book in his professional field and several book chapters.

Dr. Pathak has travelled extensively and is actively involved with many cultural organizations, including as the founder and International Coordinator for the International Center for Cultural Studies. He has organized several international cultural conferences, including the World Hindu Conference at Durban in 1995, attended by more than 45,000, people and addressed by President Nelson Mandela. Actively involved in academic

research on ancient traditions of the world, he has recently organized a conference on Hindu-Buddhist Dialogue to be attended by Buddhist monks from six different countries, on the theme “Martial Arts, Non Violence and Spirituality,” which will discuss all the Dharmic traditions of the world including the Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist traditions. Dr. Pathak also serves on a number of boards and advisory committees for several cultural organizations in India and the USA.



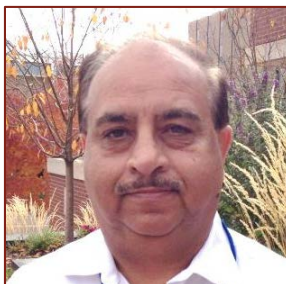
Jim Polsfut has served as the executive director of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies since its inception, as well as its treasurer since 2011. In addition, he serves as the treasurer of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation and as the vice chairman of the advisory board of the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies.

Professionally, Mr. Polsfut has focused on financial services and Latin America throughout his career. Currently, he serves as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of the North American Specialty Hospital, with its first facility in Mexico scheduled to open in 2017. Previously, he helped to create a private bank and trust company called First Western Trust Bank, based in Denver. In that capacity, he served as president of First Western Development Corporation, a division of the bank responsible for corporate acquisitions. Earlier in his career, Mr. Polsfut served as general manager for GE Capital in Mexico City and in the United States, as Denver Mayor Federico Peña’s assistant for finance for the City and County of Denver, and as an associate in the public finance office of Smith Barney.

Mr. Polsfut earned an undergraduate degree in Government from Harvard University and an MBA from Stanford University.



Sadhaka Jayanatha is a member of the Ganapati Kulam, which is responsible for publications in the Kauai Aadheenam, Kauai’s Hindu Monastery. He is being trained in the practical skills of journalism, web design and coding, image manipulation and color correction, video production, project management, construction and agriculture. His native art and writing skills are also being honed while learning to write and edit articles for Hinduism Today.



Parveen Setia is Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees, of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. He became a US citizen in 1987. He is married to Minaxi Setia, sister-in-law of Anu Bhatia, and has three children, all in college. Mr. Setia graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and earned his MBA from Webster University, 2008. He is employed as Pharmacist Team Leader at the Lakeland Medical Center in Lakeland, Florida. He is actively involved in the Ekal Vidalya project to support education of children in Indian villages.



Dr. Harvinder Sahota, who was born in a small town in Punjab, is one of the foremost cardiologists in the world. The Los-Angeles-based Dr. Sahota invented the perfusion balloon, the device which is in widespread use to open blocked arteries of the heart in the angioplasty procedure, which was patented in 1985. He is extremely active in the Sikh community in the US and Los Angeles-area.



Dr. Bal Ram Singh, a former Professor of Biophysical Chemistry and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and currently a Professor and Director of Botulinum Research Center at the Institute of Advanced Sciences, has been conducting research for 27 years on the molecular mode of action of botulinum and tetanus neurotoxins, cranberry natural products, Ayurvedic and herbal products, and lately also on yoga, mind, and consciousness. His teaching career in the past 31 years has included courses in General Chemistry, Science of Kriyayoga, Biochemistry, Physical Biochemistry, Chemical Biology and Technology, and a graduate course on

Chemistry of the Mind.

Dr. Singh's research on biodefense and biotechnology is internationally recognized, and he has served on many national and international scientific panels. As the Founding Director of Botulinum Research Center at UMass Dartmouth (2003-2013) he has been the Organizer of the Annual International Botulinum Research Symposium since 2007, which continues at the Institute of Advanced Sciences.

Dr. Singh has published over 175 research articles, has edited/co-edited 10 books, and has obtained 8 patents. He is the Editor of The Botulinum Journal and Managing Editor of Ayurveda Journal of Health. Dr. Singh has served on several national and international Blue Ribbon Expert Panels of US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, US Department of Homeland Security, and US Department of Defense. He has been reviewer of journal articles of numerous international journals and of grant proposals of national and international agencies. Dr. Singh has been Keynote Speaker, Chair of sessions, Coordinator and Organizer, Chief Guest, and Speaker at many international conferences, symposia, workshops.

Dr. Singh is also the President and CEO of Prime Bio, Inc., a biotechnology company. He received his B. Sc. from Avadh University in India in 1977 in Biology and Chemistry. He received his M.Sc. and M. Phil. Degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India in Life Sciences during 1979-1982, and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Texas Tech University in 1987. He completed in post-doctoral training in University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1990. Dr. Singh joined the faculty at UMass Dartmouth in 1990, was tenured in 1995, and rose through ranks to become full professor in 1999. He has held visiting professorships at Georgetown and Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Singh took retirement from UMass Dartmouth in June 2014 to set up the Institute of Advanced Sciences, in Dartmouth, MA, to advance his research and educational interests independently. The Institute currently hosts the National Botulinum Research Center and the School of Indic Studies. The latter has setup an initiative on Ayurvedic Science and Technology to complement and advance current knowledge and practice of health and allied sciences.

While at UMass Dartmouth he was recipient numerous recognition for his teaching, research and service, including as the First Scholar of the Year Award in 1996 and Service Award in 2004, and

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award in 2009 at UMass Dartmouth, and has been active in many University governance bodies, including Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees.



Professor Judith Simmer-Brown, Ph.D., has been Professor of Religious Studies at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado since 1978. She has practiced Tibetan Buddhism for 40 years and is an Acharya (senior dharma teacher) of the Shambhala Buddhist lineage of Sakyong Mipham, Rinpoche and Chogyam Trungpa, Rinpoche, Naropa's founder. She serves on the steering committee of the American Academy of Religion's Contemplative Studies Group. Dr. Simmer-Brown lectures and writes on Tibetan Buddhism, American Buddhism, women and Buddhism, interreligious dialogue, and contemplative education. Her books are *Dakini's Warm Breath: The Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism* (Shambhala) and, with Fran Grace, an edited collection of articles called *Meditation and the Classroom: Contemplative Pedagogy for Religious Studies* (Religious Studies Series, State University of New York Press, 2010). She is married to Richard Brown, a Naropa University professor, and has two young adult children and three grandchildren.



Frank M. Tedesco, aka Saddharma or True Dharma, discovered, or rather he feels he re-discovered, the Dharmic traditions of India independently when he was fifteen, in New York in 1961. After many adventures around America as a penniless truth seeker, he graduated in Religious Studies at UC Berkeley (B.A. 1971), and continued as a student of Buddhism for an M.A. at the University of Lancaster (1974) in the U.K., and doctoral studies in Medical Anthropology and Buddhist Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Dongguk University in Seoul, Korea, where he was granted a Ph.D. in 1998.

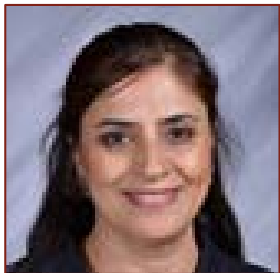
During his prolonged doctoral period, Dr. Tedesco worked as a clinical researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, completed a residency in transcultural psychiatry through Hahnemann Medical School, and engaged in clinical studies at Johns Hopkins Medical School, Office of Psychohormonal Research. He also did a stint in the U.S. Peace Corps as a Hansen's Disease (leprosy) public health field worker in rural South Korea. He has taught and been a guest speaker and symposium organizer in several academic and religious institutions as well as international organizations: University of Maryland (Asian Division), University of South Florida, UNESCO Korea, World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB), Taiwan, Malaysia and Australia. His articles, book chapters and popular publications encompass personal interviews, bioethics, inter-religious tensions, death and dying and Korean Buddhist culture.

Dr. Tedesco is very interested in how diverse, evolving sects of Buddhism meet the challenges of service to others. He is a "socially-engaged participant/observer" of Buddhism; especially in the areas of community service, hospital, and hospice end-of-life concerns. He has worked and mentored people in a wide variety of settings, including prisons, healthcare facilities, etc. While he founded the True Dharma International Buddhist Mission – a 501(c)(3) religious charity for compassionate action – he also obtained secular certifications in Thanatology (Death, Dying, Bereavement), Advance Care Planning, Compassion Fatigue Counseling, and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR).

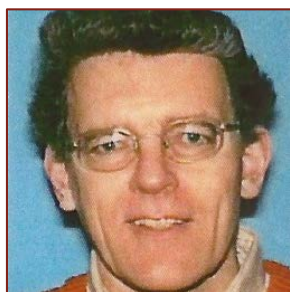


Dr. Appachanda Thimmaiah is an expert in climate smart agriculture promoting low-carbon green approaches for rural development. Through constant innovation & research, he has developed many low-cost farming solutions utilizing natural resources which are benefiting thousands of farmers in different countries. Globally he has played a leading role in the development, coordination, implementation of strategies, programs & policies addressing the issues of food security, climate smart sustainable agriculture, rural poverty reduction, sustainable development & Gross National Happiness (GNH). He has advised various international organizations, agri-business corporations, governments and NGO's in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Italy, Holland & Costa Rica. In Bhutan he developed the National Organic Standards of Bhutan, zero-cost certification systems, training manuals, strategies & other documents to empower poor farmers & facilitate the nation to be 100% organic and carbon neutral. Thimmaiah is also a Board Director of Demeter Association Inc. of US.

He is a member of the faculty at the Department of Sustainable Living, Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, Iowa where he teaches courses in Organic farming, Biodynamic Agriculture and Vedic Organic Agriculture.



Indira Walia is originally from Himatchal Pradesh, India, and has lived in America for almost 35 years. She holds two Master's Degrees: one in Political Science and the other in Instruction and Curriculum, and has 13 years of experience in middle school education. Her philosophy of education is to equip students with the necessary tools that they need to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and lifelong learners. In addition to being a middle school social studies teacher, she teaches Hindi language in private classes in addition to being an adjunct faculty member at the University of Denver. Mrs. Walia is a leading member of the Indian community in Colorado, where she served as the President of India Association of Colorado, and also directed the Uberoi Foundation's Teacher Training Program in 2014.



Henry John ("Harry") Walker is a Lecturer in Classical and Medieval Studies at Bates College. He received his B.A. in Classics from Trinity College Dublin (1982) and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Classics from Cornell University (1985 and 1989). Dr. Walker's research is on myth and social ideals in the ancient world. He has published *Theseus and Athens* (Oxford 1995), a work that studies the concept of the hero-king in Athens, and a translation of Valerius Maximus' *Memorable Deeds and Sayings* (Hackett 2004), a collection of stories that reveals Roman attitudes on a wide range of social issues. He is currently studying Sanskrit and working towards a book on the Indian Ashvins and the Greek Dioscuri.



Upadhyaya (Reverend) Elaine Yuen, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Lead for the Master of Divinity Program at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado, where she teaches courses on spirituality and ritual, Buddhism, and pastoral care. She is a Senior Teacher and Buddhist Minister in the lineage of Shambhala International. A Buddhist practitioner since the early 1970's, Dr. Yuen is cross-trained as a social science researcher.

She has taught national and international programs exploring the interfaces between Buddhism, meditation, creativity, and contemplative care-giving. She continues her exploration of contemporary life through many activities as a teacher, parent, and artist.

Professor Ved Nanda
Chair of the Board
Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
PO Box 13169
Denver, CO 80201
(303) 377-6438
Nandas@Earthlink.net

James T. Polsfut
Executive Director
Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
PO Box 13169
Denver, CO 80201
(303) 807-1783
Jim@Polsfut.com



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