

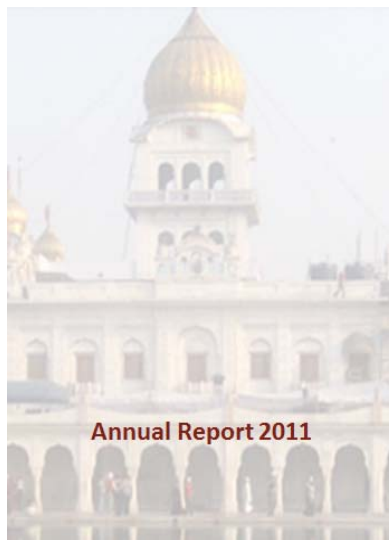


UBEROI FOUNDATION
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Annual Report 2015



Annual Report 2010



Annual Report 2011



Annual Report 2012



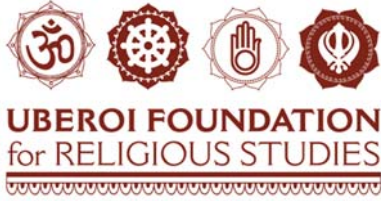
Annual Report 2013



Annual Report 2014



Annual Report 2015



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

December 2015

2015 was a banner year for the Uberoi Foundation, as our planning began in earnest to expand to India the Teacher Training Program, which has been one of the priority projects of the Foundation. Soon we will launch a pilot project to take selected teachers to India to visit sites of learning of the four Dharmic Traditions, where distinguished scholars representing those traditions will provide experiential learning. The plan is to visit Delhi's Jain Vijay Vallabh Smarak Jain Mandir Complex, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya (DSVV) in Haridwar, Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, and a Buddhist facility yet to be determined. Dr. Bal Ram Singh is heading the project and seeking suggestions from the Uberoi experts with prior experience in the selection process and curriculum and logistics. He anticipates taking the first group of participants in the summer of 2016.

The Uberoi Experts' Meeting at the University of South Florida in Tampa attracted many rising academic stars in the field of the Dharmic Traditions. These included Dr. Vishwa Adluri from Hunter College in New York; Prof. Tim Keirn from California State University, Long Beach; Dr. Narinjan Kaur Khalsa from Loyola Marymount University; Dr. A.S. Pandya at Florida Atlantic University; Prof. Andrew Schelling from Naropa University; Mr. Matthew Spurlin, a PhD student at the University of Denver; Dr. Sthaneshwar Timalsina from San Diego State University; Dr. Darshan Thakkar from Boston; Dr. Lavanya Vemsani from Shawnee State University; and Dr. Alice Wood from Bethune-Cookman University. We are so grateful to these talented individuals for sharing their time and expertise with us, and so proud of their tremendous accomplishments. We were especially fortunate to be joined by the Jijnyasa Foundation, which co-sponsored the meeting, and its Executive Director, Dr. Gururaj Mutalik, who also serves as Principal Content Editor of its Ancient Indian Wisdom Web project. A special vote of thanks goes to Dr. Yashwant Pathak, Advisory Committee Chair, and to Shri Parveen Setia, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees and his wife, Smt. Mini Setia, for hosting the meeting, for their untiring efforts to ensure a very effective and successful program, and for providing exceptional hospitality for the comfort of the participants in the beautiful city of Tampa.

The Trustees feel a great deal of satisfaction and pride that the Foundation has thus far provided more than \$1.6 million in grants and other programmatic investment to fulfil the cherished objective of Dr. Mahinder Uberoi – to promote awareness of these Dharmic Traditions in North America. In addition to our priority projects – teacher training and textbook corrections – numerous scholars dedicated to the study and dissemination of these traditions have been assisted in furthering their goals.

December 2015

Page Two



I am pleased to report that selected papers from the exciting 2014 Experts' Meeting at Naropa University in scenic Boulder, Colorado, have been edited into a book, Compassion in the Four Dharmic Traditions. It will be published early next year by a widely respected publisher, Prabhat Prakashan of New Delhi. Shri Prabhat Kumar is especially invested in ensuring a superb publication which will be widely distributed.

These success stories notwithstanding, the objective of promoting awareness presents a huge challenge in the United States, where there is little understanding and appreciation of the Indic traditions, viewed by many as simply exotic or potentially threatening. The younger generation, Indian American children growing up in this country, find little attention, and even less authentic information, given to these traditions in their schools. This is why it is critical that teachers in middle and high school get acquainted with these traditions, which will lead to enhanced understanding and appreciation. The task is enormous and will require patience and perseverance. This goes equally for the textbooks, which have little content, and that too often distorted, about these traditions. We understand that the Uberoi Foundation is only one of many likeminded groups, all of which are needed to pool their concerted efforts toward meeting this challenge.

We are indeed deeply grateful to our experts, with special gratitude to those talented individuals who give their time and effort to serve on the Advisory Committee and the Grants Committee, and on planning committees for each annual Experts' Meeting. The Trustees deeply appreciate the valuable contributions of Jim Polsfut, our Executive Director and Treasurer, and Katharine Nanda, our Secretary, which enable the Foundation to function efficiently and effectively. And last but not least, we all are indebted to our colleagues at First Western Trust Bank, who skillfully manage our portfolio.

Respectfully,

Ved P. Nanda



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Section I:

Overview of the Foundation

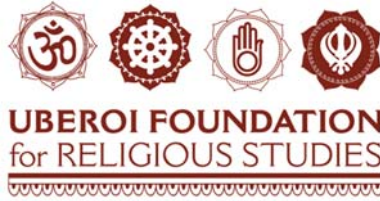


Vision and Mission

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.

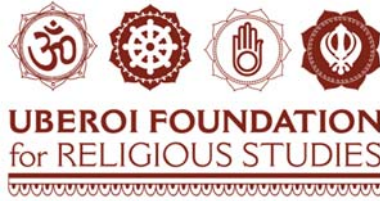
Scientific Achievement

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.



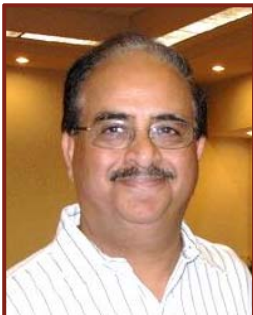
Board of Trustees



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 in Delhi with her husband. They have two daughters. 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."



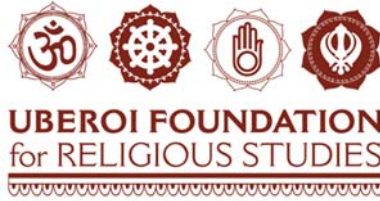
Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia
Trustee

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 and Vrinda. 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 chair of the advisory board of the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies (the Social Science Foundation) and as a member of the boards of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation and the IPODERAC Orphanage in Puebla, Mexico.

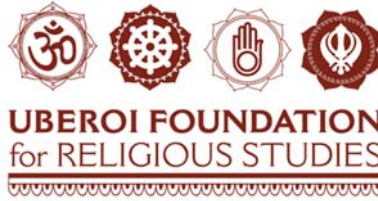
Professionally, Mr. Polsfut has focused on financial services and Latin America throughout his career. Currently, he serves as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of the North American Specialty Hospital. Previously, he helped to create a private bank and trust company called First Western Trust Bank, 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 2015 appears in Section II of this Annual Report. A summary of the Experts Meeting 2015 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	U of MA Dartmouth Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2009: Orlando, Florida</i>	\$ 94,206
2010	San Diego State U Frnd U of MA Dartmouth 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 U of MA Dartmouth Longwood University San Diego State University Research Foundation U of MA Dartmouth University of Michigan U of MA Dartmouth Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</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	So CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation U of MA Dartmouth U of MA Dartmouth U of MA Dartmouth Hindu University of America, Orlando So CA School of Theology So 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)</i> <i>Dharma education outreach efforts</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Vedic Traditions</i> <i>Research/publishing on books by R Malhotra</i> <i>Hindu Perspective of Ageing, Death, Dying</i> <i>Dharma Studies Publishing Project</i> <i>Confluence Integrative Studies Institute</i> <i>Sikh 7-Day Seminar</i> <i>PhD 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

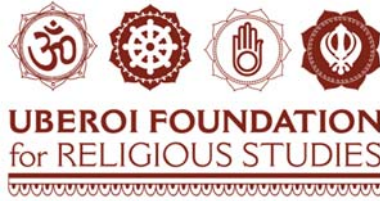
2013	So CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Loyola Marymount University Maharishi University of Management U of MA Dartmouth U of MA Dartmouth Meru Education Foundation Himalayan Academy CSULB Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India</i> <i>HAF Director of Education and Curr. 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 Institutions of the Vedic Tradition</i> <i>Meru Curriculum Leadership Training</i> <i>Review of Calif. School Textbook Framework</i> <i>TeachIndia! Project at California State University Long Beach and Northridge</i> <i>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 Inst. of Adv. 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</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>	\$ 242,273
2015	Hindu University of America Inst. of Adv. Sciences McGill University Insight Meditation Community of Colorado Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Int'l Documentary Asn Hindu American Foundation University of Michigan Himalayan Academy Forum for Rel. Freedom SSU Development Foundation CSULB Research Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Inst. of Adv. Sciences Himalayan Academy Inst. Of Adv. Sciences Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Denver Teacher Training Program</i> <i>Nationwide Teacher Training Program</i> <i>World Religions Conference in Sep 2016</i> <i>Earth Sila Project: Dharma-Based and Interfaith</i> <i>Int'l Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS)</i> <i>Creation of Center(s) for Sikh and Jain Studies</i> <i>American Veda Documentary Project</i> <i>HAF Director of Education and Curr. Reform</i> <i>Translation of Punjabi Clarifying Publications</i> <i>History of Hinduism Documentary Part 3</i> <i>Writing on Vedic Correlation with Dharma</i> <i>OH Forum: Indian Cultural Heritage in Global Age</i> <i>TeachIndia week-long training</i> <i>California School Textbook Controversy Revisited</i> <i>Master in Yoga Studies</i> <i>Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Program</i> <i>TeachIndia classroom material</i> <i>Uberoi Teacher Training in India</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2015: Tampa, Florida</i>	\$ 329,706

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Total Programmatic Outlay Since Inception in 2008: \$ 1,629,402

Section II:

Grant Awards in 2015



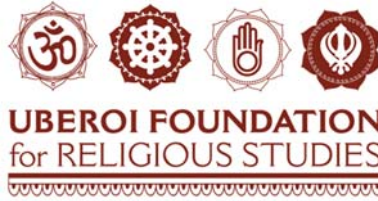
Grant Awards in 2015

A Summary

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 2015, the Foundation awarded seventeen grant allocations as listed below and as more fully described in the pages which follow.

1. **Hindu University of America:** *Denver Teacher Training Program*
2. **Institute of Advanced Sciences:** *Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions*
3. **McGill University:** *World Religions Conference in September 2016*
4. **Insight Meditation Community of Colorado:** *Earth Sila Project: Dharma-Based and Interfaith*
5. **Loyola Marymount University:** *ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training at Center for Jain Studies*
6. **Loyola Marymount University:** *Creation of Center(s) for Sikh and Jain Studies*
7. **International Documentary Association:** *American Veda Documentary Project*
8. **Hindu American Foundation:** *HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform*
9. **University of Michigan:** *Translation of Punjabi Clarifying Publications*
10. **Himalayan Academy:** *History of Hinduism Documentary Part 3*
11. **Forum for Religious Freedom:** *Writing on Vedic Correlation with Dharma*
12. **SSU Development Foundation:** *Ohio Forum: Indian Cultural Heritage in Global Age*
13. **California State University Long Beach Research Foundation:** *TeachIndia! Program*
14. **Himalayan Academy:** *California School Textbook Controversy Revisited*
15. **Loyola Marymount University:** *Master in Yoga Studies*
16. **Institute of Advanced Sciences:** *Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Program*
17. **Himalayan Academy:** *TeachIndia! classroom material*



Grant Awards in 2015

In Detail

1. Hindu University of America

Project: *Denver Teacher Training Program*
Applicant/Lead: Indira Walia

Project Plan: 2015 marks the second year of a what was in its 2014 inaugural year a very successful teacher training program in all four Dharmic Traditions for middle school and high school teachers within the area of Denver, Colorado. A class of some 25 to 30 teachers is expected in 2015, participating in a four-day introduction to the Dharmic traditions. Leading the training program is Indira Walia, originally from Himatchal Pradesh, India, prior to residency in America for now more than 30 years. Mrs. Walia has more than a decade of experience as a middle school teacher, and outside of the classroom, she is a private teacher of the Hindi language, an adjunct faculty member at the University of Denver, and a former president of the India Association of Colorado.

2. 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 2015. 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.

3. McGill University

Project: *World Religions Conference in September 2016*
Applicant/Lead: Arvind Sharma

Project Plan: The Third Global Congress on World's Religions After September 11 is scheduled to take place on September 15, 2016, in the city of Montreal. The project connects the prior global congresses in an attempt to formulate a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions. Work on this initiative has proceeded through the previous conferences, and the goal of the third global congress is to release the text which has resulted from these efforts.

4. Insight Meditation Community of Colorado

Project: *Earth Sila Project: Dharma-Based and Interfaith*
Applicant/Lead: Lloyd Burton

Project Plan: The Earth Sila Project is a support network for environmental affinity groups within Buddha Dharma sanghas (spiritual communities) seeking both guidance and access to reliable scholarship on the Buddha's teachings on living in harmony with our environment. Support was sought to help fund the buildout of the scholarly resource aspects of the Learning function of the Earth Sila website.

The world's leading climatologists and other environmental scientists have long since concluded that we are living in a period of unprecedented and perhaps uncontrollable environmental change, brought on mostly as a result of human activity. And they, along with spokespersons for the world's major religious traditions, have also concluded that human responsibility for mitigating remediating these changes is at its most fundamental level a crisis of the human spirit, regarding our difficulty as civilizations and as a species to take full moral responsibility for the consequences of our actions.

To address this problem, the Learning function of the Earth Sila Project has been designed to harvest and share references to basic texts from Buddhist canons (as well as other Dharma traditions) in which the Buddha teaches the importance of care for all sentient beings, and contemporary commentary on these teachings; and factual, reliable introductory science and policy-based knowledge related to putting the Buddha's teachings into effect.

5. Loyola Marymount University

Project: *ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training at Center for Jain Studies*
Applicant/Lead: Chris Chapple

Project Plan: For the past ten years, Dr. Shugan Jain has welcomed professors and graduate students to India for six weeks. More recently he has brought undergraduate students for a four-week study immersion experience of the Jain faith in India. For the past three years, dozens of high school teachers have traveled to India under the auspices of IJJS to live and learn for three weeks in India, studying nonviolence, Jainism, and the other religious traditions of India. This ongoing project has resulted in the advancement

to professorship of several well qualified persons, the publication of many articles and forthcoming books, and a greater appreciation for legacy of India's religions worldwide.

The Teachers for Ahimsa Program who have gone to India in last 3 years have started in-class exercises and discussions on alternative to violence (himsa), guns, and killing. Their students learn first-hand about the need for and importance of ahimsa. The participants who participate in this program are committed, practicing teachers, and bear a major portion of their expenses.

In 2015, our goal will be (via significant promotion of this program) to target a class of 60 teachers from schools across the USA. This grant will help continue the tradition of excellence in community based learning. Students will live in clean, safe facilities operated by the Jaina community. They will receive lectures from a variety of experts (see attachments). They will interact with religious leaders in several Indian cities, including Delhi, Jaipur, and other important centers.

6. **Loyola Marymount University**

Project: *Creation of Center(s) for Sikh and Jain Studies*
Applicant/Lead: Chris Chapple

Project Plan: The Jain faith and the Sikh faith are under-represented in higher education in North America. Only one named professorship is dedicated to the Jain faith (Florida International University) and despite the existence of named professorships and chairs for the study of Sikhism, the emphasis at these universities has tended to emphasize more the historical than the theological aspects of Sikhism.

Loyola Marymount University is uniquely poised to offer a center/s for the study of these faiths that will involve extensive community outreach and programming, as well as having impact on both undergraduate and graduate students at Loyola Marymount University. In 1977, LMU established the forerunner to its Center for Religion and Spirituality. This Center provides on-the-ground training for religious and spiritual leaders of various faiths, resulting in an array of certificates such as Pastoral Care; Bible Leadership; Yoga Philosophy; Yoga, Mindfulness, and Social Change, and many others (see appendix). With support of the Martin Gang Institute, the Center regularly supports the activities of the Hindu Catholic Dialogue, the Buddhist Catholic Dialogue, and other interfaith events. The Center served as the incubator for the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies program, which attracts students from around the world for in-depth studies of the Sanskrit language, Vedanta, Vaisnavism, Shaivism, Yoga, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jain Religion. LMU, in keeping with open theological message of the Second Vatican Council, also includes a program in Jewish Studies. The Department of Theological Studies includes 22 tenured and tenure track experts in such fields as Christian history, biblical studies, and philosophical theology as well as professors who specialize in Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Jain Religion.

To build on these strengths, LMU seeks seed money to develop a Center or Centers for Jain and Sikh Studies. In order to move forward, LMU needs to hire a full time Clinical Professor to develop programming. Similar to the existing profile of the Doshi Professorship, this person would be responsible for two or more major annual events of

related to the two faiths. Each year, the Clinical Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies would coordinate a conference with external funding on a topic of mutual interest to both Jains and Sikhs. These might include, to name a few, the challenge of maintaining minority identity in the midst of majority religions (whether Hindu, Christian, or Islamic); sociological analyses of immigrant Jain and Sikh populations in North America; theological topics such as the nature of God; literary insights and commonalities; issues of shared ethical concern such as justifiable war or euthanasia or abortion. These conferences would be designed to spark lively conversations and may result in publication of the proceedings. These conferences will be both regional and national events, attracting speakers and attendees from broad constituencies. The conferences may also form the foundation for the issuance of continuing education credits or perhaps a certificate program, such as some of the ones listed above.

The California State Department of Education recently approved the re-consideration of textbooks for the K-12 curriculum. LMU would seek a Clinical Professor who will become actively involved in these conversations. This professor will engage in conversation with students preparing to become teachers.

The Clinical Professor will organize a featured lecture in the semester opposite the conference semester. This may take the shape of a Jain speaker one year, a Sikh speaker the next year, or, depending on community interest and support, may result in two special lectures. Invitation to present this lecture will be a high honor, not unlike the Doshi Bridgebuilder Award program.

Unlike other Clinical Professors at LMU who are expected to teach four courses per semester, this Clinical Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies will teach two courses per semester. The course load will include undergraduate single-focus core courses to be created by the professor, one on Jain Religion and one on Sikhism, under the category of Faith and Reason. The professor will also be invited to either teach the existing graduate course on Jain Yoga or propose a new course on Jain Religion, perhaps in conjunction with ISSJS, as well as develop a graduate course in Sikhism. It might also be possible to teach an existing core course in Comparative Theology comparing Jain Religion and Sikh Religion, or teach the existing core course in World Religions in Los Angeles. The Clinical Professor will be expected to devote the equivalent of two courses each semester to the development of the programming outlined above.

7. **International Documentary Association**

Project: *American Veda Documentary Project*
Applicant/Lead: Philip Goldberg

Project Plan: The International Documentary Association is requesting Uberoi grant funds to support Phase One of the *American Veda Documentary Project (AVDP)*, which uses multiple media platforms to chronicle the remarkable story of Dharmic teachings coming to the United States over the last 150 years, and to analyze their profound impact on American culture. Phase One of the project's development includes consultations with scholars to develop core content and curriculum outlines; archival film and audio research and duplication for scripting; and the filming of initial foundational interviews with experts. The completed project will consist of a three-hour series for Public Television,

based on Philip Goldberg's book *American Veda*; scholar-designed curriculum and study guides for high schools and universities; a companion traveling museum exhibit; and a robust interactive website. The AVDP will also create a searchable online archive that will include various research materials, filmed interviews, transcripts, and footage (both original and acquired) that does not end up in the finished film. We will also seek a permanent academic home for the non-digitized components of this archive.

8. Hindu American Foundation

Project: *HAF Director of Education and Curriculum 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 a Director of Education and Curriculum Reform and national training/outreach strategy that has already been launched in close to 20 states.

9. University of Michigan

Project: *Translation of Punjabi Clarifying Publications*
Applicant/Lead: Arvind Mandair

Project Plan: The project seeks to translate from English into Punjabi an interview-blog based on the ideas of the published scholarly works of Dr. Arvind Mandair, consisting of 45,000 words.

10. Himalayan Academy

Project: *History of Hinduism Documentary, Part 3*
Applicant/Lead: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: Create a 12-minute documentary style video suitable for middle and high schools based on Chapter Three of The History of Hindu India. The time period of this chapters is from 1000 ce 1850 ce, with the major political events 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.

11. Forum for Religious Freedom

Project: *Writing on Vedic Correlation with Dharma*
Applicant/Lead: Rajiv Malhotra

Project Plan: Starting from early Vedic sources and numerous commentaries and subsequent development, this research establishes how certain central principles in Vedas became transferred into the other dharma traditions. It shows the correlates

between Vedic and X, where X could appear to be a very different idea found in Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism or modern Hinduism. Even as experts debated and disagreed with each other, they used many similar ideas, and there was extensive cross-borrowing from one another. New vocabularies were invented and many adaptations made. But core Vedic principles spread throughout the various dharma traditions.

12. Shawnee State University Development Foundation

Project: *Ohio Forum: Indian Cultural Heritage in Global Age*
Applicant / Lead: Dr. Yashwant Pathak
Collaborator: Dr. Lavanya Vemsani

Project Plan: This project will invite a number of scholars from various fields of Study on India to the Shawnee State University in Southern Ohio to introduce the subject of India. The presentations will lead to the publication of a book, which will provide valuable insights and resources on a number of aspects of India, including the religion, culture, society, and politics. The conference will highlight the special features of India, and at the same time will introduce the India to Southern Ohio region, an underprivileged and underserved region of the state which has very little exposure to the religions of the world.

13. 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.

14. 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 began 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. The 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.

15. **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 in the fall of 2013 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 includes fellowships so that graduate students can conduct in-depth research projects designed to promote understanding of Yoga practices.

16. **Institute of Advanced Sciences**

Project: *Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Program*

Applicant/Lead: Bal Ram Singh

Project Plan: For five consecutive years, the Uberoi Foundation has provided grant-making in support of teacher training for middle school and high school teachers, beginning in 2010 at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth under the direction of Dr. Bal Ram Singh. The trustees of the Uberoi Foundation would now like to incorporate a training program for certain teachers and school administrators in India, beginning in the summer of 2016. Grant proceeds in 2015 will go toward the development of such a program.

17. **Himalayan Academy**

Project: *TeachIndia! Classroom Material*

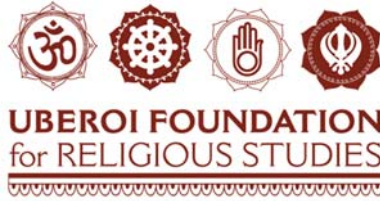
Applicant: Shiva Bajpai

Lead: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: In support of the *TeachIndia!* program, the Uberoi Foundation is requested to provide funding to print the extensive and comprehensive classroom material which serves as an important component of the effectiveness of the program

Section III:

Experts Meeting 2015



Historic 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 bios of presenters in the Experts Meeting 2015.

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



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

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*.

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.

2014: As Fall colors descended upon the valley of Boulder, Colorado, the Uberoi Foundation gathered in mid-September on the historic campus of Naropa University. The Foundation's annual Expert Meeting began with a special Friday evening event organized by the University of Colorado and Naropa University called the *Chogyam Trungpa Lecture*, sponsored by Uberoi. Dr. John Makransky, professor of Buddhism at Boston University, served passionately and inspirationally as the keynote speaker. On the Saturday and Sunday which followed, the Foundation then focused exclusively on its theme for the Experts Meeting in 2014 – *Compassion in the Four Dharmic Traditions*. A total of 21 speakers participated in the featured sessions, along with keynote speeches offered during meal times. Following the Experts Meeting, the Uberoi Foundation assembled and edited the papers delivered over the weekend into a book for subsequent publishing and dissemination.

2015: In the beginning of October of 2015, the Uberoi Foundation gathered once again for its annual Experts Meeting, this time in Tampa, Florida, on the campus of the University of South Florida. The Jijnయా Foundation co-sponsored the meeting, represented by its executive director, Dr. Gururaj Mutalik, among others from its network.

Uberoi Foundation Advisory Committee Chairman Dr. Yashwant Pathak was a most gracious host, as were Uberoi Vice Chairman Shri Parveen Setia and his wife, Smt. Mini Setia, who reside in southern Florida. *Dharma Education in the United States – Challenges and Opportunities* served as the focus of the 2015 Experts Meeting, with many first-time



Dr. Bal Ram Singh makes a point at the 2015 Experts Meeting in Tampa, Florida

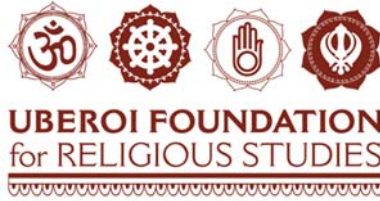
participants taking part, and in so doing, adding tremendous value. Those individuals included Dr. Vishwa Adluri from Hunter College in New York; Dr. Narinjan Kaur Khalsa from Loyola Marymount University; Dr. A.S. Pandya at Florida Atlantic University; Prof. Andrew Schelling from Naropa University; Mr. Matthew Spurlin, a PhD student at the University of Denver; Dr. Darshan Thakkar from Boston; Dr. Lavanya Vemsani from Shawnee State University; and Dr. Alice Wood from Bethune-Cookman University.



2015 Experts Meeting
West Side Conference Center, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
October 2-4, 2015

Friday, October 2 – West Side Conference Center	
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Registration and Informal Gathering
6:00 – 6:15 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks – Yashwant Pathak, Jim Polsfut, Ved Nanda
6:15 – 6:20 PM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Arti Hirani
6:20 – 7:00 PM	Keynote Speaker – Rajiv Malhotra: <i>The Battle for Sanskrit</i>
7:00 PM	Jijnyasa Foundation Web Launch
7:30	Dinner and return to hotel
Saturday, October 3	
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel
8:00 - 8:30 AM	Transportation to West Side Conference Center
8:30 - 10:00 AM	<p>Session 1: Chair, Chris Chapple Presenters: Chris Chapple – <i>Experiential Learning and Dharma Traditions</i> Ramdas Lamb – <i>Alternative Approach to Teaching About the Dharmic Traditions</i> Levanya Vemsani – <i>History of Academic Study of Hinduism and India in the US</i> Ram Agarwal – <i>Bioethical Perspectives of Dharmic Traditions Remain Unrecognized by Contemporary Western Bioethicists</i> Matthew Spurlin – <i>Ancient Buddhist Philosophy in Modern Education: Applying Madhyamika Logic to Curriculum Theory</i></p>
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Tea Break
10:15 AM – 11:45 PM	<p>Session 2: Chair, Bal Ram Singh Presenters: Bal Ram Singh – <i>Integration of Dharmic Disciplines in Modern Academic Fields</i> Frank Tedesco – <i>Dharma Education Outside Academia: Multicultural Buddhasasaasana at the Grassroots</i> Vishwa Adluri – <i>Dharma and Dialogue – Indian Philosophy and the Academy</i> Acharya Arumuganathaswamy – <i>tba</i> Shivi Chandra – <i>tba</i></p>
	Lunch and Speaker

	Return from Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 PM	<p>Session 3: Chair, Yashwant Pathak Presenters: Tim Kiern – <i>Being Attentive to Teacher Knowledge and Practice: Facing the Challenge of Teaching the Dharmic Traditions in American Public Schools</i> Indira Walia – <i>Teaching Dharma Traditions in K-8</i> Shekhar Patel - <i>Transforming the Dharmic Exosystem: Challenging but not Impossible</i> Samir Kalra and Murali Balaji – <i>Challenges and Opportunities in Teaching About Dharma Traditions in US Classrooms</i> C. Rajan Narayanan - <i>The Challenges of Standardization of Yoga, the Core of All Dharmic Traditions</i></p>
2:30 – 2:45PM	Tea Break
2:45 – 4:15 PM	<p>Session 4: Chair, Sthaneshwar Timalisina Presenters: Sthaneshwar Timalisina – <i>Rethinking the Philosophy of Education Through the Dharma Perspective</i> Yashwant Malaiya – <i>Jain Academic Studies in the West</i> Alice Wood - <i>The Spiritual Disciplines Project and the Challenges of teaching Dharma Religions</i> Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa – <i>Experiencing Sikh and Jain Practice in the University</i></p>
4:15 – 4:45 PM 4:45 – 5:15 PM ***** 5:15 – 7:00 PM	<p>Gururaj Mutalik – <i>The Concept of Free Will in Vedantic Philosophy</i> Acharya Arumuganathaswamy - *****</p> <p>Roundtable: Chair, Ved Nanda Presenters: Claude d’Estree Andrew Schelling – <i>Zen and the Teaching of Haiku</i> Dilpreet Singh Jammu – <i>Teaching Dharma to Non-Dharmic Educators: A Singh Perspective</i> Vasudha Narayanan – <i>The Role of Temples in Dharma Education</i> Pravin Shah – <i>Jaina Education in the US</i> Darshan Thakkar – <i>Effects of Social Media – How Religious Discussions are Taking Place Outside the Prayer Halls</i></p>
7:00 – 8:30 PM	Dinner
Sunday, October 4	
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Grant Reports – Chair, Jim Polsfut and Parveen Setia
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Open Discussion
11:30 AM – NOON	Concluding Remarks – Yashwant Pathak and Trustees



Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting 2015

Tampa, Florida
October 2 through 4, 2015

Presenters

(in alphabetical order)



Dr. Vishwa P. Adluri is Adjunct Associate Professor of Religion at Hunter College, New York and the author of over a dozen articles and essays on the Mahābhārata. His work mainly focuses on the reception of ancient thought—both Greek and Indian—in modernity. He is the author of *Parmenides, Plato and Mortal Philosophy: Return from Transcendence* (London: Continuum Publishing, 2011), *The Nay Science: A History of German Indology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), and *Philology and Criticism: A Guide to Mahābhārata Textual Criticism* (London: Anthem Press, forthcoming in 2016), and has edited numerous volumes on the Mahābhārata (including a two-volume edition of Alf Hiltebeitel’s collected essays—*Essays by Alf Hiltebeitel*, 2 vols. [Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2011]). Vishwa has a PhD in Philosophy from the New School, New York and a PhD in Indology from Philipps-Universität Marburg.



Dr. Ram Agarwal is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami. For the past forty years, he has worked in the field of anti-cancer and anti-retroviral drug development. He has presented his work nationally and abroad, authored more than 90 peer reviewed scientific papers, book chapters and reviews, and has served as a scientific reviewer for various scientific journals and the Study Sections of NIH. Dr. Agarwal possesses a keen interest in Yoga as a therapeutic component of integrative medicine. He is a member of the Cancer Center, Center for AIDS Research, and the Bioethics Program at the University of Miami, and formally served as a President of the American Association of Indian Scientists in Cancer Research. He is involved in developing the educational standards of bioethics in biomedical research in India through the CITI-India program. His current research includes Hindu perspectives of bioethics.



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 supplement those in use in 6th grade and provide a comprehensive history of India for higher grades. 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. The History of Hindu India, Part One, has now passed 700,000 hits on YouTube. Documentaries based on chapters Two (16 minutes) and Three (20 minutes) have been completed and will be released at the coming Uberoi meeting. Also in 2014, he and Dr. Bajpai have produced an 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.



Dr. 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, Dr. 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, Dr. Balaji earned his B.A. in journalism from the University of Minnesota and his doctorate in Mass Communication from Penn State.



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 in its third 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 joined the faculty at LMU in 1985 and teaches courses in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and World Religions and Ecology.

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) and *Yoga and the Luminous: Patanjali's Spiritual Path to Freedom* (2008). Most recently he edited the book *Antonio T. deNicolas: Poet of Eternal Return* (2014) and published new photo-illustrated book, *Sacred Thread: Patanjali's Yoga Sutras* (2015).



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 35 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.



Satya Gupta was born in a small village of Rajasthan, India, in 1941. Leaving his law studies, he joined the Indian Army at the age of 21 years during the emergency of 1962 and served for about five years mostly in the operational areas, first the insurgency war in Nagaland and then in Punjab, including the 1965 Indo-Pak War. After coming back from the army and completing his law studies, he joined the Civil Services of India for about 12 years and came to USA in March 1980 for treatment and rehabilitation of his 2 years old deaf son.

Mr. Gupta graduated from Harvard in May 1981 in Public Administration. He did one and a half years of service in the Budget Dept. of the City of Miami and then switched over to business where he continued. Having almost retired from business, he devotes his time reading, writing and volunteering. He became fascinated by Ramcharit Manas, which he rendered in English verse. It took about fifteen years to get it published as 'Tulsi Ramayan in English Verse.' He translated another small book on Ramayan, as well, written by Shri Lallan Prasad Vyas. Since 1994, he has been engaged with the H U A. and WAVES. For the last three years they have started the South Florida Campus of HUA. For about two years he has been volunteering for the Coast Guard Auxiliary of America also.



Dilpreet Singh 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, Mr. Jammu 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. Mr. Jammu 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. 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 of New Brunswick, respectively, and Executive Education at the Wharton School.



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.



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*.

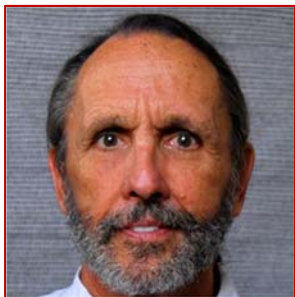
Mr. Kalra authored formal comments to the FBI's Advisory Policy Board to support the addition of an anti-Hindu hate crime category to the FBI's data collection program, and he submitted on the record testimony to a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing in 2012 on "Hate Crimes and the Threat of Domestic 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.



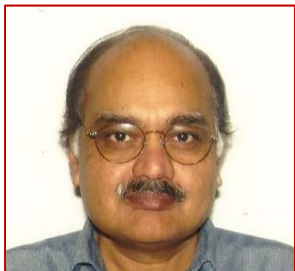
Dr. Tim Keirn, having been educated at UCLA and the London School of Economics, holds a joint position in the Department of History and the College of Education at California State University, Long Beach. At CSULB, he is the Coordinator of the History-Social Science Credential Program, and Interim Director of the Yadunandan Center for India Studies. He is also the current President of the Society for History Education. He has led workshops in history education and teacher preparation in India, Cambodia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Korea, Russia, and Qatar. Dr. Keirn is the Chief Reader for AP World History and Co-Chair of the College Board's 6-12 History-Social Science Development Committee. His most recent major publication is (with Norbert Schürer) *British Encounters with India, 1750-1830* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). His article (with Eileen Luhr) "Subject Matter Counts: Historical Thinking and the Pre-Service History Teacher," published in *The History Teacher*, won the 2014 American Historical Association's Gilbert Prize for the best research article in history education.



Dr. Nirinjan Khalsa is the newly appointed Clinical Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. She received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Arizona in 2000 and Ph.D in Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Michigan in 2014. Her work examines both historic and modern Sikh devotional music with particular attention paid to the mystical and embodied realms of performative practice as well as the ideological debates and identity politics surrounding its pedagogy and history. Professor Khalsa's ongoing research investigates how the diversity of lived devotional practices and musical styles in the Sikh Diaspora question gendered and religious norms. Professor Khalsa has conducted ethnographic research throughout Northern India since 2000, during which time she also became the first female exponent of the *Amritsari* tradition of Sikh drumming (*jori-pakhawaj*).



Ramdas Lamb is an Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Hawai'i, where he has been teaching for more than two decades with a specific emphasis on teaching about the Dharma traditions in America. From 1969 until 1978, he was a Hindu *sadhu* in the Ramananda Sampraday India, during which time he began his study and practice of traditional methods *sadhana*, including *ashtanga yoga*. His current research includes a focus on the Ramanandis and on rural education in central India, looking at the various methods and tools that can be incorporated to help facilitate a more meaningful and useful educational experience for students.



Dr. Yashwant K. Malaiya is a Professor of Computer Science Department at Colorado State University. He has researched widely in the areas of security vulnerabilities, fault modeling, software and hardware reliability, testing and testable design. He has also published more than dozen articles on Jain history and demography, Jain society, and Jainism in USA. His first publication in 1971 was on Jain history. He has investigated the legendary Jain temple of Gori, Pakistan and the wooden Jain temple at the 1904 St. Louis world fair.

He served as the General Chair for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering, Denver, 2003, IEEE Asian Test Symposium, Shanghai, 1999, Int. Conf. on VLSI Design, Bombay, India, 1993, IEEE Int. Symposium on Microarchitecture, Albuquerque, 1991 etc. He edited "Software Reliability Models, Theoretical Developments, Evaluation and Applications" and "Bridging Faults and IDDQ Testing" published by IEEE Computer Society. He has served as an ABET commissioner and as a volunteer for IEEECS in several capacities. He has received the IEEE Third Millennium Medal, 2000 and IEEE CS Golden Core Award, June 1996.

Dr. Malaiya has been an invited speaker and panelist at the biennial JAINA (Jain Associations of North America) Conventions for many of the conventions and other forums in the US. He has been the coordinator for office of Alumni Affairs for ISSJS (International Summer School for Jain Studies) he has also been an invited speaker at other Jain forums. He was the founder of the India Association of Northern Colorado and has served as its elected President for multiple terms. He was the creator of the very first website on Hindi language, and the first major web-site on Jainism. He is the moderator of an internet forum on Indian Archaeology.



Rajiv Malhotra, born in 1950, 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.

Mr. Malhotra 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*; *Indra's Net: Defending Hinduism's Philosophical Unity*.

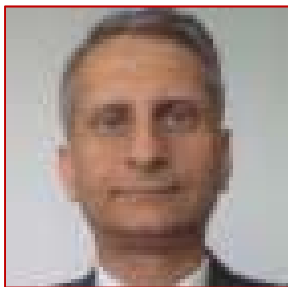
Currently, Mr. Malhotra is the full-time founder-director of Infinity Foundation in Princeton, NJ. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Center for Indic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and is adviser to various organizations. Infinity Foundation has given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



Dr. Gururaj Mutalik is an internationally known physician. He was born in India in 1929. He has worked as a professor, and as chairman of the department of medicine, and dean of B.J. Medical College, Pune; and director of medical services, and health services of the state of Maharashtra, India. He was a director in the World Health Organization at New Delhi, Geneva, and New York. He served as CEO of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), in Boston, MA. IPPNW was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. He specialized in human genetics and genomics, and was a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Mutalik is a Sanskrit scholar, and scholar of Indic studies, Ayurveda, and yoga. He is an author of two books, including “Integrative Approaches for Health (Biomedical Research, Ayurveda and Yoga)”- AP/Elsevier Publication, 2015. He has also written over hundred scientific articles on wide-ranging subjects such as disarmament and development, medicine, human genetics, Ayurveda and Yoga, and Integral medicine and aging. He is currently executive director of the Jijnyasa Foundation for Education and Research and is working on a project of web portrayal of Ancient Indian Knowledge Systems. Dr. Mutalik lives and works in Sarasota, FL.



Dr. C. Rajan Narayanan is one of the founders and inspiration behind the formation of Life in Yoga Institute and Foundation. He has developed the Life in Yoga 5 by 3 by 1 Approach, and the techniques of CRE breath, Dance Yoga, Gentle Yoga, Chandogya Upanishad Meditation and several mudras like the AtmaVyakta Mudra, BrahmaVyakta Mudra, etc. He has also translated and written a commentary on the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali. He has studied Yoga techniques from Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’s Institute, Satchidananda Ashram of Yogaville (Virginia), and Swami Bua of New York. He is also a Reiki master and

Pranic Healer and has been trained by Dr. Vasantha Krishnaswamy of Chennai, India. In December 2009, SVYASA (Vivekananda Univ) honored him for his innovative and original contributions in the field of yoga. His current area of research is in the area of measurement of Naadis of yoga using EAV instruments. In his approach to analysis he views the impact of yoga in five areas: musculo-skeletal system; bio-chemistry; genetic expression; vitality; immunity.



Dr. A.S. Pandya is a professor at the Computer Science and Engineering Department, Florida Atlantic University (FAU). He also has joint appointments with the Dept of Communications Disorder and Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences. He received his undergraduate education at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Syracuse University, New York. During his 30 years of academic career he has been involved in cross-disciplinary research involving, physical sciences, brain science, medical sciences, engineering and computer science. He has

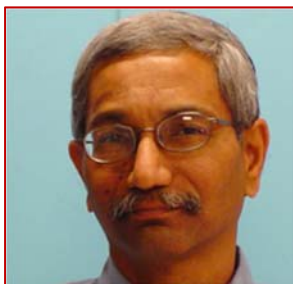
worked in both industry and university setting.

Dr. Pandya has worked as a visiting Professor in various countries including Japan, Korea, India, etc. From 2003-2004 he served as the Director of International programs at FAU. He has extensive experience in dealing with various cultures and has worked with top university administrators for setting up successful international collaborations. He serves on the Board of Trustees (in charge of international relations) of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital and Nirma University, India.

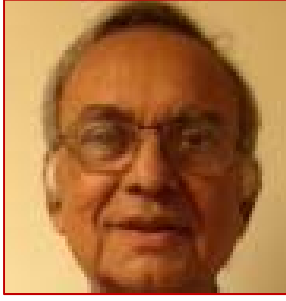
Dr. Pandya has published over 150 papers and book chapters, and a number of books. He has received over \$6 million in research funding over the last two decades. He consults for several industries including IBM, Motorola, Coulter industries and the U.S. Patent Office. He also serves on the Editorial Boards of several international journals. His current research focuses on paradigms that are inspired by biological intelligence and this mandates cooperation with researchers from a variety of other disciplines. His areas of research include Neural Networks, bioinformatics, Electronic Health Records, Applications of AI and Image analysis in Medicine, cognition, computational modeling, pattern recognition and machine learning. His clinical research interests involve studies on clinical populations with speech, language and auditory processing disorders, hearing loss and Tinnitus.



Dr. Shekhar Patel is Vice President of Strategy & Development at Hindu University of America. In addition, he currently serves as the President of International Center of Cultural Studies USA (ICCS). Previously he was a Director at PepsiCo Advanced Research, PepsiCo Inc. Dr. Patel received his Doctorate in Biosystems Engineering from Oklahoma State University.



Dr. Yashwant Pathak completed his education (M.S., Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Technology) from Nagpur University, India. 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. Since 2007 he has edited over 16 books: six in the field of nanotechnology, four in nutraceuticals, and two each in the fields of drug delivery systems, conflict resolution, and cultural issues. 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.



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. B.V.VenkataKrishna Sastry, Ph.D., Sarasota, Florida, USA (aka BVK Sastry) hails from a South Indian Vedic orthodox family at Bengaluru, Karnataka. He has formal education in science, engineering and management disciplines. He has a doctoral degree in Sanskrit, with specialization for research in Vedic traditions and Dharma-Shastra's. Dr. Sastry inherits a family heritage of five generations in Vedanta, Yoga, Dharmashastra and Sri-Vidya practicing traditions. He is family-trained in traditional Vedic studies, priestly services, Vedic-astrology and allied disciplines of Vastu, Yoga and meditation practices.

Dr. BVK Sastry has contributed to many print and digital publications through International Sanskrit Research Academy, founded by him in 1990's. He is an online programs developer and educator in the areas of many Indian traditional disciplines.

Dr. Sastry is a passionate researcher in South Indian secret yoga traditions. He is the current master of Vak-yoga (Spiritual linguistics), a long time dormant tradition of studying Samskrutham as Vedanga, Mantra-Yoga and Shabda-Brahma darshana. This dormant tradition is encrypted in Paninian Samskrutham grammar 'Ashtadhyaya' and commented by Patanjali as Shadanushasana Vak-yoga. Vak-Yoga holds the key to unfold the secrets of living traditions and practices related to Srividya, Tantra, Mantra-healing in Ayurveda. Yogopanishad's works provide further practice guidance. Dr.Sastry is an avid Researcher in Samskrutham and Yoga traditions, an Educator, a Language Technologist, a Visionary working to unify Jnanam and Vijnanam for loka-samgraha. Dr. Sastry has travelled widely across the globe, published hundred plus articles, many conference presentations, developed on-line teaching courses, participated and organized many international conferences. He is working to establish Yoga-Samskrutham University in Florida, USA with the mission: Fostering Yoga-Samskrutham Language Excellence, an effort to transform local Gurukul to Global University.



Andrew Schelling is a poet, translator, and student of Zen Buddhism. He has published six books of translation from India's poetry; Dropping the Bow: Poems from Ancient India received the Academy of American Poets translation award in 1992. Recent titles include two anthologies, The Oxford Anthology of Bhakti Literature and Love and the Turning Seasons: India's Poetry of Spiritual & Erotic Longing. Schelling's own poetry works with landscapes of the American West, ecology, and Asian and indigenous American traditions. He teaches at Naropa University, in Colorado, and at Deer Park Institute in India's Himalayan foothills.



Pravin K. Shah is a founding member of Jain Study Center of North Carolina (Raleigh). He is a chairperson of JAINA Education Committee and adviser to YJA and YJP youth organizations. He is also a member of the Harvard University Pluralism Project Advisory Council and director of Triangle Interfaith Association. He is an Electrical Engineer, retired from IBM and lives in Raleigh North Carolina, USA.

Mr. Shah is a Jain scholar, vegan and activist against animal cruelty. He has published several articles and books on Jain philosophy, cruelty to animals, and comparative religions. His primary objective is to provide Jain religion education to Jain youths borne in the Western world. He offers two-day workshop on Jainism to prepare teachers for Jain Pāthashālā (Sunday school).

As a chairperson of Jaina Education Committee, Mr. Shah has published a complete set of Pāthashālā Educational Material covering from elementary level to college level education. Today more than 3500 Jain Pāthashālā students across North America use this material. He is also the author of the books: (1) Jainism - a Religion of Ecology and Non-violence, (2) The Book of Compassion and (3) Essence of World Religions. Mr. Shah established the Jain BBS (electronic Bulletin Board Services) in 1993, which later expanded to the Jain eLibrary website www.jaineLibrary.org, providing Jain religious information worldwide electronically. At present more than 2000 books (700,000 pages) of Jain literature information are available on this site. The literature covers many aspects of Jain philosophy and religion such as Jain scriptures, commentaries, rituals, conduct, art and architecture.



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, Institute of Advanced Sciences, has been conducting research for 28 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.

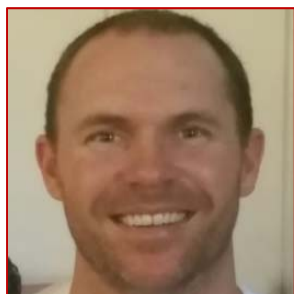
His research on biodefense and biotechnology is internationally recognized, and he has served on many national and international scientific panels. As the Founding Director of Botulinum Research Center at UMass Dartmouth (2003-2013) he Organized of the Annual International Botulinum Research Symposium,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

Dr. Singh has published over 200 research articles, has edited/co-edited 10 books, and has obtained 10 patents. He is the Editor of The Botulinum Journal, Managing Editor of Ayurveda Journal of Health, Associate Editor of International Journal of Indian Culture and Business Management, Associate Editor of Biochemical and Biophysical Reports, and Editor-in-Chief of Vedic WAVES blog. 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.

Through the Institute of Advanced Sciences in Dartmouth, MA, Dr. Singh continues 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.



Matthew Spurlin earned a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado—Denver and a Masters degree in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with Tibetan and Sanskrit languages from Naropa University in Boulder. He lived and taught English in Oita, Japan for two years and McLeod Ganj, India for six months. He has taught English and social studies in a variety of public and private institutions in both traditional and alternative settings. He has also taught English Literature, Writing Pedagogy, and Buddhist Studies courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He is currently writing his dissertation on contemplative education in the PhD program in Curriculum

and Instruction at the University of Denver.

Mr. Spurlin participated with Claude d’Estree in the 2014 and 2015 Denver Teacher Training in the Dharmic Traditions program sponsored by the Uberoi Foundation, instructing the middle- and high-school teachers in the basic principles of Buddhism to enable them to teach with greater sensitivity.



Dr. Frank Tedesco, Ph.D. (Buddhist Studies) is engaged in living and teaching Dharmic values as a chaplain in hospices and prisons in Florida. He represents Buddhadharma at interfaith leadership events and wonders how we all can get along better for the sake of future life on this small planet.



Dr. Sthaneshwar Timalisina joined San Diego State University in 2005 after completing his PhD from Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany. His dissertation, published under the title *Seeing and Appearance* (Shaker Verlag, 2008), relates to classical Advaita philosophy. His areas of research include classical Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain literature and philosophies with a specific focus on consciousness studies. Timalisina also works in the area of Tantric studies and his recent publications, *Tantric Visual Culture: A Cognitive Approach* (Routledge, 2015), and *Language of Images: Visualization and Meaning in Tantras* (Peter Lang, 2015), relate to the cognitive and cultural

domains of the practice of visualization. Timalisina teaches courses related to Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain religious, philosophical, and literary traditions. His current areas of research include comparative and cognitive studies of the theories of mind, in particular the cognitive aspects of recognition, memory, imagination, and emotion.



Dr. Darshan Thakkar obtained his PhD in education, JD in law, and BS in economics and chemistry. He is the vice principal of a K-8 School in the Boston area. Prior to working in secondary schools he worked as professor of law in the Boston area. During his professorship and law practice involving schools and student rights at the turn of the millennium, he decided that he could be more useful to society by working with underprivileged students in urban areas and thus became a school administrator. He has authored peer reviewed articles in the area of multicultural education and worked with many state and

private universities in designing their online educational programs. He is a National Language Service Corp certified level 4 Hindi translator for the U.S. Government with security clearance and is also fluent in Spanish.



Dr. Lavanya Vemsani, award winning scholar and professor of History specializing in Indian History and Religions, is Distinguished Professor of History in the department of Social Sciences at Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, Ohio. She holds two doctorates in the subjects of Religious Studies from McMaster University (Hamilton, Canada) as well as History from University of Hyderabad (Hyderabad, India), respectively. Dr. Vemsani's research and teaching interests are varied, and multifold. She researches and publishes on subjects of ancient Indian history and religions as well as current history of India. She is the author of *Hindu and Jain Mythology of Balarama* and

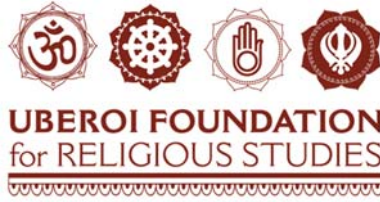
a number of articles on early History and Religions of India. Her second book *Krishna in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia of the Lord of Many Names* is an encyclopedic study on Krishna. She is currently working on two book projects, *India: A New History* and *Ancient Settlement Patterns of South India*. She is the editor of *International Journal of Dharma and Hindu Studies*, and associate editor of *Journal of South Asian Religious History*.



Mrs. Indira Walia is originally from Himatchal Pradesh, India, and has lived in America for 36 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 would 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 and 2015.



Dr. Alice Wood, Associate Professor of Religion, earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Rice University, Houston, Texas, in 1997 and has taught at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach since 2000. Since 2006 she has served as the Chair of the Department of Religion, Philosophy, and Humanities. Her teaching responsibilities include World Religions, Religion in America, and History of Christianity. Her research interests center around the adaptations of religious texts over time to reflect changes in culture, theology or religious politics.



In Memorium



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

Professor Gross was an esteemed and cherished member of the Uberoi family of experts. She participated in the Experts Meeting 2015 in Tampa, Florida, just shortly before her unexpected and tragic loss. The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies will be forever grateful for her engagement, learned contributions, and friendship.

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