



UBEROI FOUNDATION
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Annual Report 2016



Annual Report 2010



Annual Report 2011



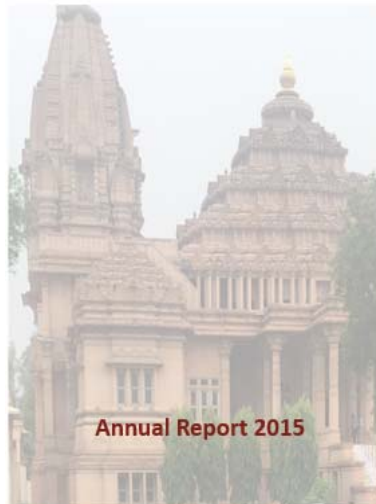
Annual Report 2012



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 2016

Reflecting on the Uberoi Foundation and its activities and impact in 2016, I am especially struck by the Trustees' passion and the unequivocal dedication of the Foundation officers – the Executive Director and Secretary. It is always exciting and a matter of pride to me to hear so often of the accomplishments of the Foundation's extended family – our esteemed Experts who frequently meet for dialogue and presentations on selected perspectives of India's Dharmic Traditions; namely, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. I will briefly report on selected highlights for the past year.

The Foundation grants again this year supported projects that aligned with the priorities set by the Board of Trustees – Teacher Training and Textbook Correction – with allocations for a few special research projects, as well. It is especially noteworthy that, during the very short period since the inception of the Foundation in 2008, the amount of our grants and projects has reached nearly \$2 million, spreading and enhancing the awareness of these Dharmic traditions in North America. Of course, we are also beholden to the Advisory Committee and the Grants Committee for their guidance and help.

Teacher Training was conducted in Colorado and Massachusetts, as in past years. In addition, the Foundation launched a new initiative, Uberoi Teacher Training in India, under which a selected group visited prestigious centers of these traditions in Delhi, Amritsar, Hardiwar, and Dehradun. Dr. Bal Ram Singh, who pioneered the foundation's teacher training program in the US, led this important initiative. The Indian Trustees were instrumental in making contacts, accompanying the group, and providing needed help. The experiment succeeded beyond our expectations and has prepared the Foundation to more expansive pilot programs in the future.

The book, *COMPASSION IN THE FOUR DHARMIC TRADITIONS*, a compilation of selected papers presented at the Foundations' experts meeting at Naropa University in the fall 2015, was ceremoniously launched at the prestigious New Delhi Constitution Club in April 2016 in the presence of several hundred civic leaders. A representative of each of these traditions spoke at the occasion. Several months later, in New Delhi, I addressed a vast gathering of more than 700 professors and almost 60 vice chancellors from all over India, and I was pleased when several professors complimented me on the book, saying they were using it in their classes. The book

December 2016
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has already given great visibility to the Foundation in many universities where it was distributed by the publisher, Prabhat Prakashan, of New Delhi.

In September, the Trustees and a group of the Foundation's Experts joined Professor Arvind Sharma, Birks Professor of Comparative Religions at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, a regular participant in our Experts Meetings, for the Third Global Conference to launch the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions. This was a very special event, as this Declaration complements the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

As we look forward to 2017, the Foundation Trustees do not intend to stand still, simply resting on their laurels. We are planning many activities to further the critical goal of raising awareness of these traditions in North America.

Respectfully,

Ved P. Nanda

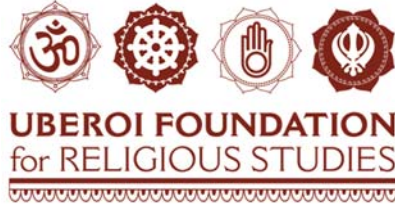
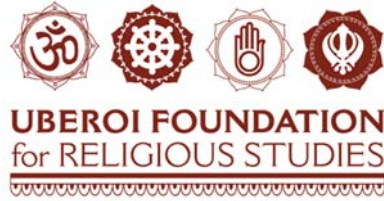


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Section I:

Overview of the Foundation

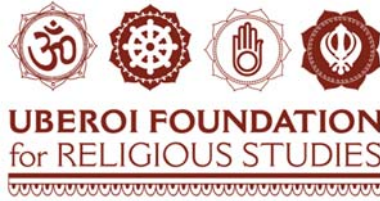


Vision and Mission

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.

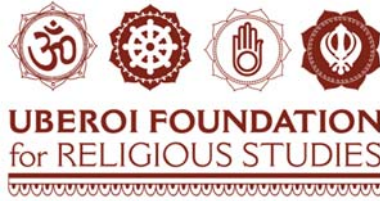
Scientific Achievement

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.



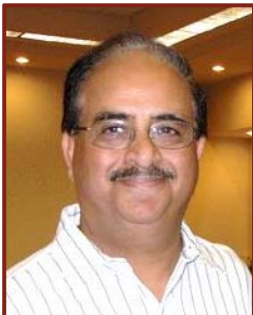
Board of Trustees



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."



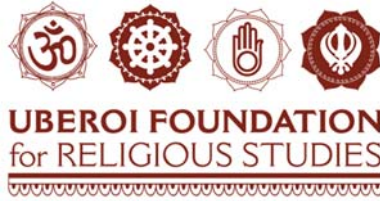
Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia
Trustee

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.

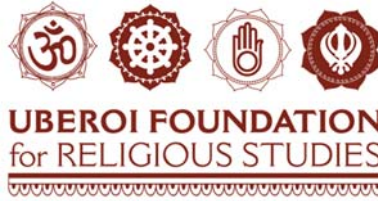
Professionally, Mr. Polsfut has focused on financial services and Latin America throughout his career. Currently, he serves as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of the North American Specialty Hospital. Previously, he helped to create a private bank and trust company called First Western Trust Bank, 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 2016 appears in Section II of this Annual Report. A summary of the Experts Meeting 2016 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

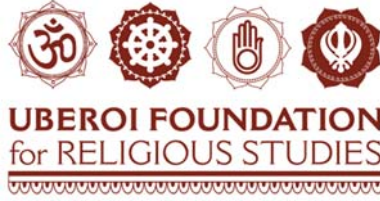
<p>2013 So CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Loyola Marymount University Maharishi University of Management U of MA Dartmouth U of MA Dartmouth Meru Education Foundation Himalayan Academy CSULB Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program</p>	<p><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></p>	<p>\$ 228,010</p>
<p>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</p>	<p><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></p>	<p>\$ 242,273</p>
<p>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</p>	<p><i>Denver Teacher Training Program</i> <i>Nationwide Teacher Training Program</i> <i>World Religions Conference in Sep 2016</i> <i>Earth Sila Project: Dhama-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></p>	<p>\$ 324,706</p>
<p>2016 McGill University Inst. Of Adv. Sciences True Dharma International Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Hindu University of America CSULB Foundation Hindu American Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program</p>	<p><i>World Religions Conference in Sep 2016</i> <i>Nationwide Teacher Training Program</i> <i>"Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth" resource book</i> <i>Indian Monasticism: Ramananda Sampraday</i> <i>History of Hinduism Documentary Part 4</i> <i>History of Hinduism Documentary Part 5</i> <i>California Textbook Issues and Teaching Aids</i> <i>Int'l Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS)</i> <i>Scholarships -- Study of the Dharma Traditions</i> <i>Professorship of Jain and Sikh Studies</i> <i>Denver Teacher Training Program</i> <i>TeachIndia week-long training</i> <i>HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2016: Montreal</i></p>	<p>\$ 225,611</p>

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Total Programmatic Outlay Since Inception in 2008: \$ 1,850,013

Section II:

Grant Awards in 2016



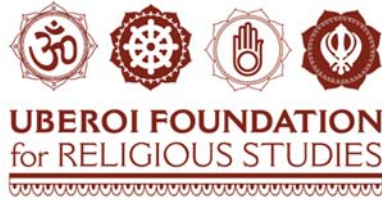
Grant Awards in 2016

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 2016, the Foundation awarded thirteen grant allocations as listed below and as more fully described in the pages which follow.

14. **McGill University:** *World Religions Conference, September 2016*
15. **Institute of Advanced Sciences:** *Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions*
16. **True Dharma International:** *"Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth" Resource Book*
17. **Himalayan Academy:** *Indian Monasticism: Ramananda Sampraday*
18. **Himalayan Academy:** *History of Hinduism Documentary, Part 4*
19. **Himalayan Academy:** *History of Hinduism Documentary, Part 5*
20. **Himalayan Academy:** *California Textbook Issues and Teaching Aids*
21. **Loyola Marymount University:** *International Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS)*
22. **Loyola Marymount University:** *Scholarships -- Study of Dharma Traditions*
23. **Loyola Marymount University:** *Professorship of Jain and Sikh Studies*
24. **Hindu University of America:** *Denver Teacher Training Program*
25. **California State University Long Beach Foundation:** *TeachIndia! Program*
26. **Hindu American Foundation:** *HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform*



Grant Awards in 2016

In Detail

1. McGill University

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

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

2. Institute of Advanced Sciences

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

Project Plan: Groundwork will continue in 2016 for the continuation of a one-week workshop on the Dharmic traditions organized in Massachusetts in the month of July. 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 thereafter through 2015. 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. True Dharma International

Project: "Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth" Resource Book
Applicant/Lead: Frank Tedesco

Project Plan: There is a dire need for a "Death and Dying Resource Book of the Four Dharmic Traditions" to fill a void in the training of chaplains and medical personnel about Indian religions in the United States. As present and future generations of Asian and Western adherents of the Four Dharmas age and pass away in increasing numbers under hospice care at home or in hospital/hospice settings, their spiritual and cultural needs must be served with understanding if not appreciation by medical and caregiving professionals. Chaplaincy and clinical pastoral education in the U.S. is dominated by clergy of the Abrahamic faiths. There are many misunderstandings of the world views, concepts and terminology, practices and goals, depths and complexities of the Dharmic traditions. To refine this work, first drafts will be presented of this practical resource manual and digital/multimedia tools at talks and workshops at medical and nursing schools, hospitals, hospices and related organizations around the US. (Beginning with the Suncoast Hospice Spiritual Care Advisory Council of which Frank Tedesco is on the Executive Committee).

A state of the art website to supplement and update the text will include bios and in-depth video interviews with diverse practitioners of the Four Traditions as they approach death. These are intended to touch the hearts and minds of viewers with the beauty, wisdom and spiritually transcendent and transformative power of the Four Dharmas. What is a "good death", a "blessed death" from Dharma perspectives? What is meant by "auspicious rebirth"? Consultations will be included with diverse spiritual leaders within the Four Dharma Traditions and leading medical personnel who work with the terminally ill and grievously traumatized populations of all ages. Participation will also include death specialists in the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) to share research and experience for the mutual benefit of all. The Death and Dying Resource Book will be incorporated in the curriculum of the nascent HUA Hindu Spiritual Counseling/Hindu chaplaincy and clinical pastoral education programs as well as the HUA Masters of Divinity program.

4. Himalayan Academy

Project: *Indian Monasticism: Ramananda Sampraday*
Applicant/Lead: Ramdas Lamb

Project Plan: Indian *sadhus* and renunciants comprise one of the least understood aspects of the Dharma Traditions, yet they are a fundamental part of the promotion and maintenance of religious teachings and guidance throughout much of India. In contemporary popular media and even in academia in the west, they are more often depicted negatively than they are as holy men/women whose lives are committed to doing *sadhana* and providing religious guidance and practice to villagers. The largest order of *sadhus* is currently the Ramananda Sampraday, of which I have been a member since 1969. I plan to conduct research on them primarily but also plan to include some interviews with and research on *sadhus* of other *sampradays* as well as Jain monks. I have already written a variety of journal articles and book chapters on the Ramanandi order,

but now want to conduct some final research to complete a book for western audiences on the Ramanandis.

There are two primary goals of the book that will result from the research. The first is to dispel a common misrepresentation in popular media that most *sadhus* are chillum smoking vagrants whose lives are consumed with intoxicants and a combination of laziness and an involvement in various nefarious activities. The second is to expose westerners, and even some urban Indians, to the depth of commitment to their practices and to *dharma* that is part of the bulk of Ramanandi *sadhus'* lives. This includes strict vows of sense restraint, the practice of yoga, and the study of Sanskrit and classical and medieval Hindu scriptures. Many also study *ayurveda* and other traditional arts. I see the project in line with the Uberoi Foundation's goal of furthering a more accurate understanding of the Dharma Traditions in the West, and my long time association with the order gives me a unique opportunity to conduct such research.

5. Himalayan Academy

Project: *History of Hinduism Documentary, Part 4*
Applicant/Lead: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: Create a 12-minute documentary style video suitable for middle and high schools based on Chapter Four of The History of Hindu India. Part One surpassed 800,000 hits on YouTube by November 2015. Chapter Four covers the colonization of India by Britain, the 1857 revolt, the British Raj, and the fight and ultimate victory for independence. Swami Vivekananda is covered in some detail, along with the principles of satyagraha and Gandhi's methods which were later adopted in the US by Martin Luther King. There is a section on the basics of Indian food from the tradition of Ayurveda. The section on religion and cultural practices includes the samskaras, rites of passage for childhood, coming of age, marriage and death, as well as the principles of religious initiations. We hope to include video of the famed Vivekananda Rock Memorial and adjacent Tiruvalluvar statue at Kanya Kumari, the tip of South India.

6. Himalayan Academy

Project: *History of Hinduism Documentary, Part 5*
Applicant/Lead: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: Create a 12-minute documentary style video suitable for middle and high schools based on Chapter Five of The History of Hindu India. This is the fifth installment in our video documentaries being created from The History of Hindu India. Part Five will cover the birth of independent India, August 15, 1947, the tragedy of partition, the incorporation of the princely states, the adoption of the constitution, the formation of states along linguistic lines, India's international relations and the formation of Bangladesh. We will cover India's economic development and remarkable accomplishments in increasing literacy and life span of her people. On the religious side, we will cover pilgrimage, including Rameshwaram. The final section will cover the impact of Hindu ideas on the world today, through the spread of scriptures, Hindu swamis, yoga, the "New Age," meditation, Ayurveda, culture and the Hindu concept of chakras. We

conclude with a map of where Hindus live in the world today, and six key Hindu ideas increasingly found in world culture.

7. Himalayan Academy

Project: *California Textbook Issues and Teaching Aids*
Applicant/Lead: Shiva Bajpai
Collaborators: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: The first priority is to monitor and participate by providing comments, edits and scholarly backing for the California Framework Narrative revision process which is expected to conclude in 2016. 2) The new framework will then require publishers to revise their textbooks for subsequent adoption in 2017 or 2018, and efforts will be made to contact and inform the publishers on improved presentation of Indian history in their books. 3) Education of parents on working with school districts to influence which books are adopted as some have a more favorable presentation of India than the others (as seen in the 2006 adoption process). 4) Creation—initially focused on sixth grade—of on-line teaching modules with lesson plans, class exercises and resources following Common Core methods on Indian history and religions. These will include *The History of Hindu India* book and documentaries and other related new materials. 5) California’s recommended reading list of fiction and non-fiction books for K-12. Presently it includes a mere 60 books on India out of 7,000. The Department of Education is receptive to proposals for additional books on India and its religions for all grade levels. For all these goals, scholars, teachers and research assistants will need to be hired for the work.

8. Loyola Marymount University

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

Project Plan: For the past ten plus 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 several 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 several years have started in-class exercises and discussions on alternative to violence (Ahimsa), 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.

Sixty teachers are targeted 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.

9. Loyola Marymount University

Project: *Scholarships -- Study of Dharma Traditions*
Applicant/Lead: Chris Chapple

Project Plan: The primary goal of the scholarship support will be to raise awareness of the four major Dharmic religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism to future teachers and practitioners of Yoga with the ultimate goal of promoting understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the diverse peoples of the world. The scholarship can also be offered to students in Theological Studies, particularly those who pursue studies in the foundations of Yoga and Yoga Philosophy.

To apply for the scholarships, students will respond to the following questions:

- What is your interest in the study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism?
- How would you envision sharing your knowledge of these traditions in the future?

The students will be pursuing an M.A. in Yoga Studies or pursuing undergraduate degrees in Theological Studies.

10. Loyola Marymount University

Project: *Professorship of Jain and Sikh Studies*
Applicant/Lead: Chris Chapple

Project Plan: Loyola Marymount University seeks renewed support to fund the professorship of Jain and Sikh Studies for the 2016-2017 academic year. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa, Ph.D. has been retained for the academic year. The goals of the project are to:

- Maintain a Jain and Sikh Studies professorship at Loyola Marymount University.
- Provide courses and community programs to emphasize the theological aspects of Jainism and Sikhism.

11. Hindu University of America

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

Project Plan: 2016 marks the third 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. Once again, in 2016, a class of local teachers will participate in a four-day introduction to the Dharmic traditions. Leading the training program was 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.

12. California State University Long Beach Foundation

Project: *TeachIndia! Project*

Applicant/Lead: Tim Keirn

Project Plan: The *Teach India!* Project provides professional development for middle and high school history and social science teachers. It is in the middle and high school social studies classroom, particularly in world history, where American students learn about India. However, most secondary history teachers have had little academic preparation in the Dharmic traditions or the history and heritage of India. Moreover, state curriculums often omit or misrepresent the history of India. *The Teach India!* Project provides professional development for teachers that not only deepens their knowledge of India and the Dharmic traditions, but it also maps curriculum in such a way that provides opportunities for teachers to “teach India” while abiding by state frameworks and standards. Importantly, the *Teach India!* Project also provides teachers with curricular materials and resources, and the means for creating lessons, that are research-based instructional strategies and that have immediate application in the classroom. Lessons and materials introduced in *Teach India!* are inquiry-based and develop student historical thinking skills aligned with the requirements of Common Core. Lastly, the *Teach India!* professional development program engages teachers with the current scholarship of what they teach, and this intellectual engagement provides not only a depth of knowledge that provides confidence in teaching India, it also provides a dispositional shift and enthusiasm to Teach India!

In the summer of 2016, the *Teach India!* Project will be offered for the first time on both coasts, and the number of teacher participants will be doubled to 50. A week of full-day workshops will be offered on the campus of California State University, Long Beach (July 25 through 29) and at the Sri Siva Vishnu Temple in Lanham Maryland (August 8 through 12). Middle and high school teachers at both locations will meet with a number of local scholars who will present lectures relating to Indian religious and philosophic traditions as well as history. The topics are balanced to meet the needs of both middle and high school teachers teaching ancient, early modern, and modern India. In addition to presentations by scholars, the teachers will receive and read a number of scholarly books and articles pertaining to a daily topic. In a seminar-type format for deep and extensive discussion of these texts, teacher participants and the scholar will read and discuss primary as well as secondary texts. The teacher participants will also work with David Neumann – an experienced teacher and the Director of the History Project at CSULB – to consider effective instructional practices to deliver the scholarly content and concepts that were learned into appropriate lessons for middle and high school students.

Each of the 50 participants will create a full lesson plan with all accompanying instructional materials. Each lesson is organized around a central question of inquiry and should promote student historical thinking skills as well as knowledge of dharma and India, and do so in alignment with the Common Core literacy standards. The lessons will be reviewed, edited, and modified by Professor Keirn and Neumann. Teacher participants will receive an honorarium of \$500 for attending the weeklong workshop. They will receive an additional \$500 honorarium for submitting an *acceptable* lesson plan. Teachers will have the opportunity to ‘bank’ these honorariums and use them to subsidize

a trip to India with Professor Keirn. Travelling to India is an important means for developing teacher dispositions and enthusiasm for teaching India.

13. 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 for its Director of Education and Curriculum Reform and national training/outreach strategy that has already been launched in close to 20 states.

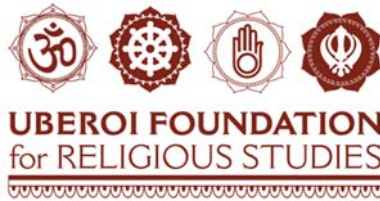
For decades, Hinduism in American education has been framed as a “foreign Other,” marginalized, and inaccurately represented in both textbooks and classroom instruction. The Aryan Invasion, caste hierarchy and caste-based discrimination, multiarmed gods, cow worship, subjugation of women, and Buddhism as an “improvement” upon all that was corrupt in Hinduism, is the frequent narrative that most of the major publishers provide.

To tackle the poor state of Hinduism as taught in K12 education, HAF has launched a comprehensive curriculum reform and teachers training initiative. By working directly with publishers of textbooks and participating in state-level textbook reform, HAF has met significant success over the past several years in ensuring an accurate and balanced portrayal of Hinduism. HAF’s education team has also, with the assistance of subject-matter experts, created a comprehensive Hinduism 101 curriculum, which includes an anticipated 21 to 22 primers, lesson plans, and powerpoints on key topics. The materials are geared towards grades six through nine. Accompanying this curriculum is HAF’s teacher’s training program, in which teachers are provided an overview of Hinduism and introduced to the Hinduism 101 curriculum. We have already trained over 1500 teachers, and staff of four major publishers, on this increasingly popular program. With only three or four certified trainers at this time, we are unable to keep up with the demand.

In order to scale these education and curriculum reform initiatives, including the Director of Education and Curriculum Reform and national training/outreach strategy that has already been launched in close to 20 states, HAF is training an elite corps of “teacher trainers” in partnership with Chinmaya Mission and other community organizations. Increasing the number of trainers beyond HAF staff and Executive Council members will allow us to meet the demands for trainings, as well as reach out to new markets.

Section III:

Experts Meeting 2016



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.

2016: On September 15, the Uberoi Foundation assembled in Montreal for its annual Expert Meeting in order to attend a special program of an Uberoi grantee, McGill University. Professor Arvind Sharma, faculty member of Religious Studies at McGill and a regular expert of the Uberoi Foundation, served as the lead organizer of the “Third Global Conference on World’s Religions since September 11: From Faith to Interfaith.” Co-sponsored by the Uberoi Foundation, the Conference called upon many prominent keynote speakers, including Deepak Chopra and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Following the Conference, members of the Uberoi Advisory Committee and of the Uberoi Grants Committee met in strategic planning sessions in order to review the programmatic priorities of the Uberoi Foundation and the implementation of those priorities through the Foundation’s grantmaking process. A renewed commitment resulted with regard to the Foundation’s focus on teacher training and textbook reform.

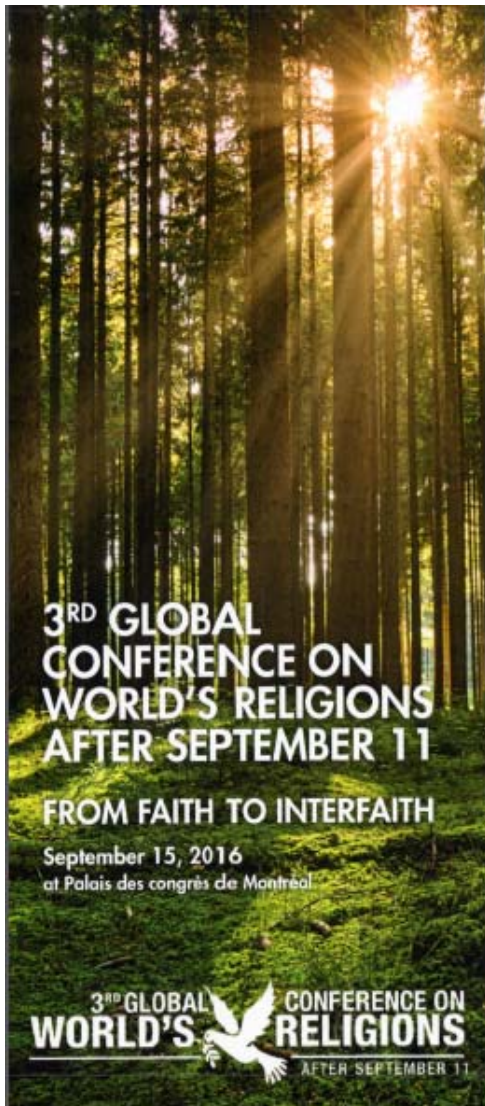


UBEROI FOUNDATION
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2016 Experts Meeting

Palais des Congrès de Montréal
Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada

September 15, 2016



HISTORY

The 1st Global Conference on World's Religions after September 11 was held in September 2006 and was attended by over 2000 delegates. Its motto was: "Can Religion be a Force for Good?".

Visit <http://www.worldsreligionsafter911.com>

The 2nd Global Conference on World's Religions after September 11 was held in September 2011 and was attended by over 3000 delegates. It was inaugurated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Its motto was: "Peace through Religion".

Visit <http://www.gcwr2011.org>

The 3rd Global Conference on World's Religions after September 11 will be held on September 15, 2016 at Palais des congrès de Montréal, which was also the venue of the previous conferences. Its motto is: "From Faith to Interfaith".

Visit <http://www.worldsreligions2016.org>

CONTEXT

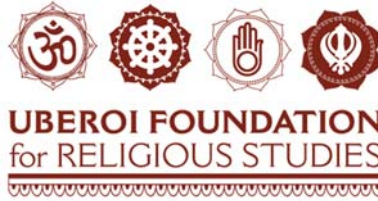
Extremism in any form, secular or religious, poses a threat to human flourishing. It is not often realized that secular extremism in the form of fascism, communism and other forms of totalitarianism was on the rise at the beginning of the last century. Nothing was done to stop it until after WWII, when the United Nations adopted a Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.

Religious extremism is now on the rise around the world. It is time to adopt a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions *now*; hopefully, avoid the excesses of religious extremism rather than wait for it to run its course.

GOAL

The aim of these conferences is to lead to the adoption of such a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions, which will promote human flourishing by overcoming the divide between the secular and the religious realms, as well as the divide among the various religions themselves. Such a Declaration has been on the anvil since 1998, and will be released, in its present form at the 3rd Global Conference on World's Religions after September 11.

Join us on September 15, 2016 at Palais des congrès de Montréal to participate in this important event.



Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting 2016

Montreal, Quebec, Canada
September 15 and 16, 2016

Expert Attendees

(in alphabetical order)



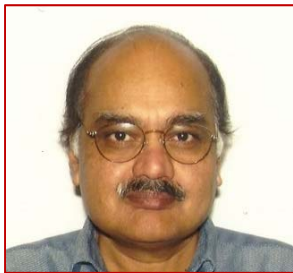
Dr. Christopher Key Chapple is Navin and Pratima Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University. He is Founder and Director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies, now entering in its third year of robust enrollments, welcoming enthusiastic students from around the world. 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.



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.



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.



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.

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