



UBEROI FOUNDATION
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Annual Report 2017



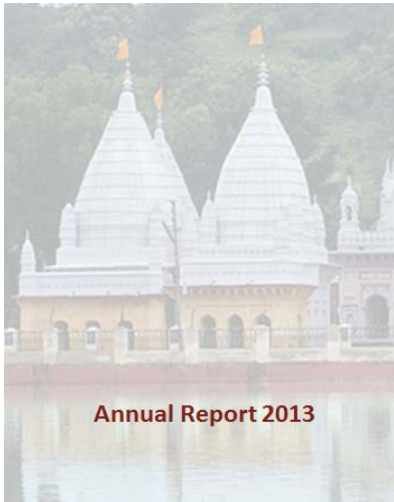
Annual Report 2010



Annual Report 2011



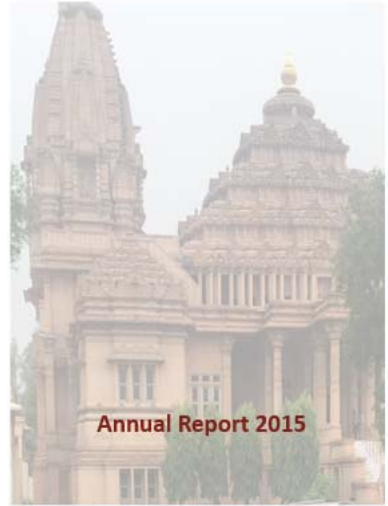
Annual Report 2012



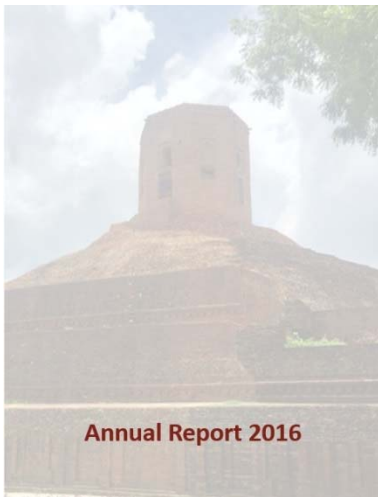
Annual Report 2013



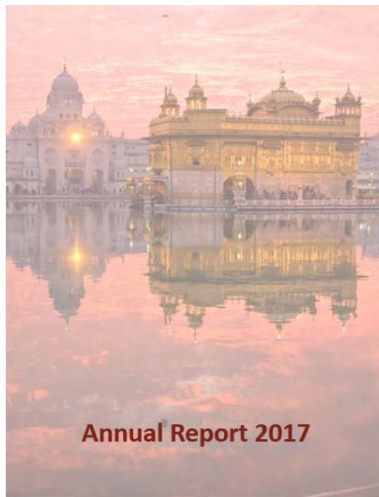
Annual Report 2014



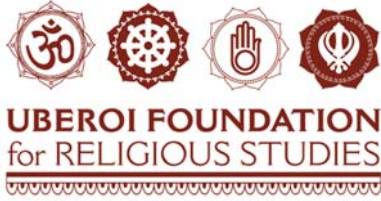
Annual Report 2015



Annual Report 2016



Annual Report 2017



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

December 2017

Established in November 2007, the Uberoi Foundation celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, a milestone indeed!

With a pat on the back, the Foundation has made enormous strides toward meeting the goals set by our benefactor, Professor Mahinder Uberoi. We have disbursed more than \$2 million in grants and programs to enhance awareness within North America of the Dharmic traditions – Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. The greatest enjoyment for me, which I deeply cherish, is the acquaintances, leading to friendships, developed over the years with more than a hundred leading scholars and practitioners of these traditions, along with the camaraderie and closeness among the Foundation’s trustees – Parveen Setia, Anu Bhatia, Jyothi Bhatia, and Sneha Harjai – along with officers Jim Polsfut and Katharine Nanda. This journey has been a transformation, for I have delved much deeper into these traditions than I would otherwise have done.

Five years ago, the Foundation Trustees committed the Foundation to two long-term priorities: 1) the training of U.S. middle- and high-school teachers in these Dharmic traditions so they can impart that knowledge to their students; and 2) correction of distortions about these traditions in U.S. textbooks for schools. These priorities as the focal point for the Foundation have been affirmed over the years by our Advisory Committee. I am proud to inform you that in the last five years our grant-making efforts have clearly reflected and advanced this commitment.

Nevertheless, priorities frequently should be rigorously evaluated, and so the Uberoi Foundation will once again perform the appropriate assessment to see if and how our efforts might to be adjusted for greater effectiveness. For now, though, based upon feedback from teachers who have participated in our training sessions, the need is dire to continue that program. Dr. Bal Ram Singh first initiated this project in Massachusetts with his visionary leadership and also compiled a booklet giving a bird's eye view of these traditions. The program will be expanded to many more sites in several states in the coming years.

I should add that, based upon the Foundation’s Teacher Training program, we embarked on a pilot project in 2016 of sending an alumni group of teachers trained in this program as Uberoi Teacher Training fellows in India (UTTI) led by Dr. Singh. A new group will travel to India during the summer of 2018 under the leadership of Dr. Chris Chapple, another eminent U.S. scholar in these traditions. Our Indian trustees have untiringly put in countless hours traveling and making the necessary connections to ensure the UTTI’s success, and we are also beholden to so many friends in India for their guidance and kind support.



On the textbook correction project, we can celebrate the recent victory in California as several major changes have been accepted by authors and publishers to ensure that U.S. school textbooks contain a proper representation of these traditions. Two of our grant recipients – the Hindu American Foundation and a team working under the leadership of the late Dr. Shiva Bajpai and Acharya Arumuganatha Swami of the Himalayan Academy in Kauai, Hawaii – played a significant role in securing these changes. Hundreds of California students and their parents traveled to Sacramento, along with the presentation of voluminous written and oral evidence from scores of leading U.S. scholars, and this is what ultimately convinced the publishers to make the needed changes. However, much more needs to be done, as in many other states the same issue has caused alienation and resentment among Indian American schoolchildren and their parents. The Uberoi Foundation intends to remain in the forefront of this effort.

The other activities supported by the Foundation, including grants to scholars and hosting a yearly experts' meeting, were again conducted this year with the usual due deliberation and rigorous planning done by the Grants Committee and the Advisory Committee. A lively and very successful meeting was hosted by the University of Denver on the theme of Sustainable Development in the Dharmic Traditions. Two very special features of this meeting were: 1) the participation of three special individuals responsible for the founding of the Foundation – Mr. Randall Nishiyama, a former student of Dr. Uberoi at the University of Colorado, and Mr. John Buckley and Mr. Bruce Buell, Colorado attorneys – and 2) participation for the first time in our experts' meeting of three Native American leaders, whose traditions are very similar to the Dharmic traditions. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Yashwant Pathak, chair of the Foundation's Advisory Committee, for this great initiative in bringing together the elders from this ancient tradition to join with us.

Finally, I pay tribute to Dr. Shiva Bajpai, a renowned scholar and a founding member of the Foundation, who chaired the Foundation's Grants Committee and was a continuing source of inspiration to all of us, and was, as well, a close personal friend and colleague, having left this year for the heavenly abode.

Without a doubt, the Foundation's success depends upon the work of so many friends and colleagues to whom I remain deeply indebted.

Respectfully,

Ved P. Nanda

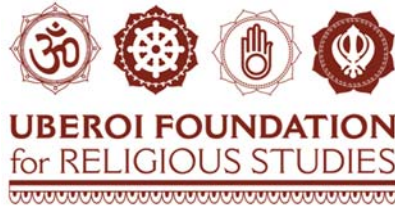
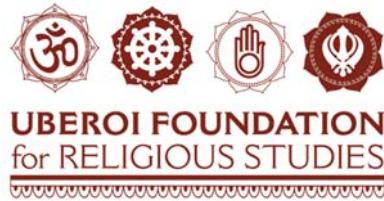


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Section I:

Overview of the Foundation

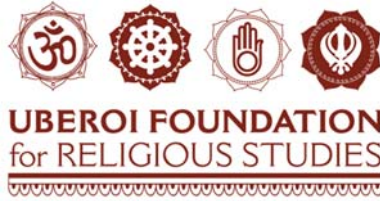


Vision and Mission

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.

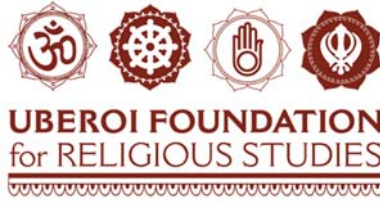
Scientific Achievement

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.



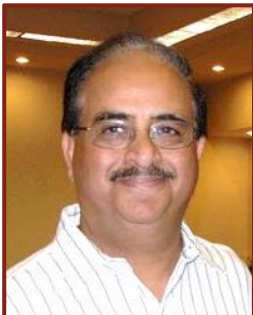
Board of Trustees



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."



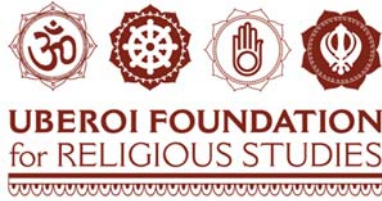
Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia
Trustee

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.

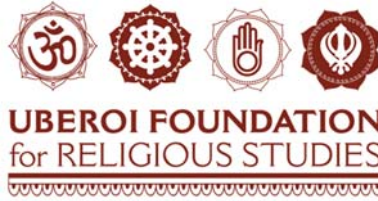
Professionally, Mr. Polsfut has focused on financial services and Latin America throughout his career. Currently, he serves as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of the North American Specialty Hospital. Previously, he helped to create a private bank and trust company called First Western Trust Bank, 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 2017 appears in Section II of this Annual Report. A summary of the Experts Meeting 2017 appears in Section III.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
2008	Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Experts Meeting 2008: Denver, Colorado	\$ 14,150
2009	U of MA Dartmouth Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Experts Meeting 2009: Orlando, Florida	\$ 94,206
2010	San Diego State U Fndn U of MA Dartmouth Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Research on Tantric Culture Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Experts Meeting 2010: Denver, Colorado	\$ 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	Universal Declaration of Human Rights Eastern/Indigenous Perspectives on Global Sustainability, Conflict Resolution Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Communications Studies & Dharmic Traditions Database and Writing Finalization of book on Dharma Sikhism Workshop Science and Vedanta Symposium Experts Meeting 2011: Los Angeles, California	\$ 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	Int'l School for Jain Studies (ISJS) Dharma education outreach efforts Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Vedic Traditions Research/publishing on books by R Malhotra Hindu Perspective of Ageing, Death, Dying Dharma Studies Publishing Project Confluence Integrative Studies Institute Sikh 7-Day Seminar PhD of Varun Khanna at U of Cambridge Database and Writing TeachIndia! Teacher training Experts Meeting 2012: Denver, Colorado	\$ 247,591

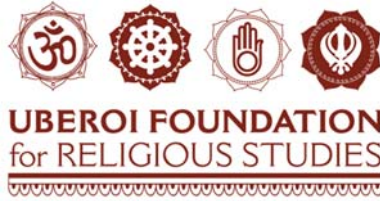
<p>2013 So CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Loyola Marymount University Maharishi University of Management U of MA Dartmouth U of MA Dartmouth Meru Education Foundation Himalayan Academy CSULB Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program</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</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 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 CSU 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: 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></p>	<p>\$ 324,706</p>
<p>2016 McGill University Institute of Advanced 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>

<p>2017 Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Hindu University of America Hunter College Himalayan Academy Naropa University University of Michigan University of Colorado Foundation Institute of Advanced Sciences Hindu University of America CSU Fresno Foundation Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program</p>	<p><i>International Summer School for Jain Studies</i> <i>Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies</i> <i>Scholarships: Study of Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>1 Day Dharmic University Program</i> <i>The Nay Science: Reader's Guide</i> <i>Teach India Videos</i> <i>Yoga & Hindu Studies, Naropa University</i> <i>Consciousness Studies in Indic Traditions</i> <i>Trungpa Lecture in Buddhist Studies</i> <i>Nationwide Teacher Training Program</i> <i>Denver Teacher Training Program</i> <i>Women, Goddesses, Yogis, and Others</i> <i>Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI)</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2017: Denver, Colorado</i></p>	<p>\$ 175,143</p>
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Total Programmatic Outlay Since Inception in 2008: \$ 2,025,156

Section II:

Grant Awards in 2017



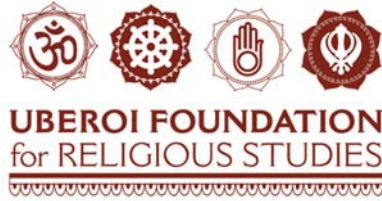
Grant Awards in 2017

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 2017, the Foundation awarded thirteen grant allocations as listed below and as more fully described in the pages which follow.

1	Loyola Marymount University	<i>International Summer School for Jain Studies</i>
2	Loyola Marymount University	<i>Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies</i>
3	Loyola Marymount University	<i>Scholarships: Study of Dharmic Traditions</i>
4	Hindu University of America	<i>1 Day Dharmic University Program</i>
5	Hunter College	<i>The Nay Science: Reader's Guide</i>
6	Himalayan Academy	<i>Teach India Videos</i>
7	Naropa University	<i>Yoga & Hindu Studies, Naropa University</i>
8	University of Michigan	<i>Consciousness Studies in Indic Traditions</i>
9	University of Colorado Foundation	<i>Trungpa Lecture in Buddhist Studies</i>
10	Institute of Advanced Sciences	<i>Nationwide Teacher Training Program</i>
11	Hindu University of America	<i>Denver Teacher Training Program</i>
12	CSU Fresno Foundation	<i>Women, Goddesses, Yogis, and Others</i>
13	Loyola Marymount University	<i>Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI)</i>



Grant Awards in 2017

In Detail

1. Loyola Marymount University

Project: *ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training at Center for Jain Studies*

Applicant/Lead: Sarah Herrington

Project Plan: For more than 12 years, Dr. Shugan Jain has welcomed professors, undergraduates, and graduate students to India to learn about the Jain traditions of Yoga, including Preksha meditation and its emphasis on nonviolence. The ISSJS offers four programs in India: a four-week Jaina Yoga program, a four-week introductory program, a six-week advanced program, and a three-week program for high school teachers. Participants study nonviolence, Jainism, and the other religious traditions of India. This experience has resulted in the advancement of several candidates to professorship positions, the publication of many articles and forthcoming books, and a greater appreciation for the legacy of India's religions worldwide.

Loyola Marymount University seeks renewed support to fund a graduate student from its Department of Theological Studies or its M.A. in Yoga Studies program to assist the ISSJS in recruiting and assessing applicants for its 2017 summer programs. The graduate fellow will help develop a marketing plan to recruit graduate students, undergraduates, and professors to attend the various programs. In addition, funds are sought to support the efforts of consultant Laura Hirshfield, a teacher who co-founded the program that brings high school teachers to India. This program enables teachers to explore ways they can live more peacefully, to visit schools that promote nonviolence, and to meet with leaders who have dedicated their lives to nonviolence. Teachers who have graduated from the program have implemented a number of innovative efforts in their own schools, such as in-class exercises and discussions on alternatives to violence (ahimsa), guns, and killing. Their students learn first-hand about the need for, and importance of, nonviolence. In 2017, the goal is to target 60 teachers from schools across the United States and around the world.

2. Loyola Marymount University

Project: *Professorship of Jain and Sikh Studies*

Applicant/Lead: Chris Chapple

Project Plan: Loyola Marymount University (LMU) seeks renewed support to fund our Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies. This critical faculty position is necessary to lead

academic courses and offer community programs that emphasize the theological aspects of Jainism and Sikhism. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa, Ph.D., served capably as the Clinical Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies last year and she will continue to hold this position during the upcoming academic year. Our current request would ensure support of Professor Khalsa during the 2017-2018 year. Professor Khalsa has three primary responsibilities: developing and implementing a robust academic program; training teachers, including resource development and textbook analysis; and coordinating events such as conferences, lectures, and community certificate programs for teachers.

Professor Khalsa has taught four classes thus far which welcomed guest speakers and offered students engaging learning opportunities and first-hand experiences of the Jaina, Sikh and Hindu traditions. In fall 2015, her class titled "Hinduism, Jainism, Yoga," covered the Hindu and Jaina religious traditions, with a special focus on the history, theory and practice of Yoga. The class also included the reading of primary texts such as the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, the Acaranga Sutra, the Tattvarthasutra and the Yoga Sutras, and participation in rituals, workshops, and class activities at Jaina, Hindu and Yoga centers. A second class in fall 2015 titled "Comparative Theology: Sikhism and Christianity," examined the major beliefs and practices of Sikhism and Christianity, comparing their approaches to the ultimate questions based on readings of the Guru Granth Sahib and the Bible. Students had the opportunity to visit Sikh gurdwaras and Christian churches, as well as to engage in service learning within these religious communities. In spring 2016, Professor Khalsa taught a class in Hinduism, Jainism, and Yoga, as well as a new class in Sikhism.

Professor Khalsa also coordinated the Annual Virchand Gandhi Lecture on February 25, 2016, which featured Professor Whitney Kelting from Northeastern University presenting on the topic of "Jain Temple Building Projects." In addition, Professor Khalsa convened a successful conference, "The Music and Poetics of Devotion in the Jain and Sikh Traditions." The event, which was held on February 26 and 27, 2016 at LMU, featured speakers from India, Europe, and the United States as well as two concerts, one at LMU and one at the Jain Center of Southern California. Twelve scholars spoke during the conference and seven musicians performed at the concerts. Finally, Professor Khalsa curated an exhibit at LMU's Hannon Library on the role of music in Sikh and Jain devotion.

3. Loyola Marymount University

Project: *Scholarships -- Study of Dharma Traditions*
Applicant/Lead: Susan Abraham

Project Plan: Loyola Marymount University (LMU) requests continued support to provide scholarships to promising students who might otherwise face financial challenges in completing their studies in Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism. Two scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing an M.A. in Yoga Studies or Philosophy, or an undergraduate degree in Theological Studies during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 academic years. In order to apply for the scholarships, students will be required to complete an essay describing their interest in the study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism and discuss how they would share their knowledge of these traditions in the future. Professor Abraham will closely monitor the performance of students selected for the scholarships,

including their GPA, class attendance, and timely graduation rates. Ultimately, support for these students is an investment in the next generation of scholars and leaders who will promote understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the world's diverse faiths.

4. Hindu University of America

Project: *1 Day Dharmic University Program*
Applicant: Yashwant Pathak

One Day Dharmic University is an interesting concept which is inspired by the One Day University (<https://www.onedayu.com/Events/Index>). One Day University® brings leaders of the academic world to cities across the country to give their most thought-provoking talks. Their students experience award-winning speakers and countless fascinating ideas - all in one day. One Day University was founded by Steven Schragis in 2006. He originated the idea after he dropped his daughter at college in upstate New York to start her freshman year. The school had a dozen or so professors spread around campus giving short talks about a variety of subjects. All the parents had a great time and had the same reaction: "I wish I were the one going to college!"

This One Day Dharmic University Program will include four to six established experts in each of the Dharmic traditions: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism. It will also seek to include people belonging to ancient traditions and cultures which have existed for over 2,000 years such as Native American Elders, African Religions experts, Pagans and other ancient cultures which also claim themselves to be more of a way of life than religions.

The program will take place on a Saturday and include at least four locations in the first year: Orlando (headquarters of Hindu University of America), Houston, Boston, and San Francisco. The time frame will be between Spring Semester 2017 to Spring Semester 2018. Each program will be for 6 to 8 hours. Each of the Dharmic traditions and cultures will get equal time between presentation and interactive session. The men and women who believe in lifelong learning will be invited and will come together at One Day Dharmic University. Students will represent the mainstream American society irrespective of their religious, racial background and ethnicity.

5. Hunter College

Project: *The Nay Science: Reader's Guide*
Applicant/Lead: Vishwa Adluri

Project Plan: There is a growing awareness among Indian intellectuals and others interested in the fate of the works of Indian civilization in a complex and multipolar world that the role of Western academic Indology with respect to these works has not been merely that of a disinterested, 'scientific' observer, as has been shown by recent controversies such as the Murty Classical Library affair. But a thorough theoretical and genealogical inquiry was lacking into the fundamental orientation and preconceptions of academic Indology, not merely in terms of a broad investigation of 'Orientalism', but in terms of the specific interventions which had already for more than a century shaped the academic reception of key texts such as the Mahābhārata.

This specific and rigorous investigation was finally carried out in Adluri and Bagchee's *The Nay Science: A History of German Indology*. To unlock the full potential of this text, however, further work is necessary to make the substance of its argument available to a non-specialist audience and to unpack its broader implications. Adluri and Bagchee's painstakingly documented research has as its goal something potentially accessible to a wide readership outside of academia, namely the unraveling of a scholarly project the purpose of which has been to delegitimize the tradition of Indian commentary on Indian texts and to build an institutional edifice benefiting Western scholars upon the dismemberment of the Hindu tradition. If the sacred and foundational texts of that tradition are to be made fully available in all their richness to inform India's future and to benefit human civilization as a whole, they must be freed from the shackles of a Western intellectual project that for all its vaunted scientificity and humanism, has in fact served a sectarian Christian agenda and failed to provide a sustainable spiritual and ethical environment for the flourishing of non-Western indigenous civilizations.

The significance of the project of *The Nay Science* thus transcends the question of Indology and even of India, but India, due to its power in the world and the continuity of its tradition, has the key role to play in undermining the project of Western interventionist philology. This will require, however, making accessible to the widest possible readership the most crucial insights of the book so that the symptoms of interventionist philology can be immediately discerned and critiqued wherever they are to be found. A decisive contribution to this effort is a work that will guide the reception and appropriation of *The Nay Science*, summarizing its findings, clarifying its stakes, and providing tools for the widespread, popular application and extension of its critique by all interested parties inside and outside the academic world.

6. Himalayan Academy

Project: *Teach India Videos*
Applicant/Lead: Acharya Arumuganathaswami

Project Plan: This project seeks to create two video shorts of seven or eight minutes. The first topic is the home shrine room and daily worship of a devout Hindu. The second topic is India food according to Ayurveda. The final topics may be changed as planning advances. In addition to the videos, an on-line common core module will be created for each video to assist teachers in presenting the material to their class. An example of this concept is found at 13:29 of *The History of Hindu India, Part Three*, "Teaching Religion Through Songs" which is five minutes long and includes a very basic introduction to the concepts of raga, tala and improvisation in Indian music. The first of these Teach India videos to stand alone is on Indian dance, and it is in the final phases of completion. Like the music video, it is a very basic introduction to the concept of Indian dance as a form of storytelling and artistic expression.

7. Naropa University

Project: *Yoga & Hindu Studies at Naropa University*
Applicant/Lead: Judith Simmer-Brown

Project Plan: Funds are sought to support a new Core (tenure-track) faculty in the Department of Wisdom Traditions who will teach in the undergraduate program and develop graduate-level courses in Yoga and Hindu Studies at Naropa University. Naropa

has a popular and well-conceived undergraduate program in Yoga Studies which includes an option for yoga teacher certification. Naropa is now hiring a new full-time faculty with expertise in Hindu Studies and Sanskrit language. This grant application to the Uberoi Foundation seeks course-release support for this new faculty member to develop additional Master's level courses at Naropa in Yoga & Hindu Studies.

8. University of Michigan

Project: *Consciousness Studies in Indic Traditions*
Applicant/Lead: Arvind Mandair

Project Plan: This workshop aims to examine different models of mind and consciousness deriving from the Indic traditions. In particular, the workshop will focus on the way Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and Jain concepts, texts, and practices have and are being used by teachers, practitioners of new contemplative practices and neuroscientists with a newly discovered interest in spiritual practices (especially those drawn from Indian traditions). These include a wide range of philosophical reflection and practice, which work to harness the power of the mind/consciousness to bring about healing and well-being.

The goal of the workshop will be to foster a dialogue between three groups of people: (i) scholars of Sikh and other Indic traditions specializing on theories of mind and consciousness; (ii) experts on the history of science and medicine in the West, and (iii) practitioners of these contemplative practices from the American religious and spiritual community. In doing so, it is expected that an understanding will emerge of how these ancient practices and texts are informing and changing understandings of Western medicine, its limits, and its relationship to a notion of suffering and its remedies at the nexus of mind and body. With the emergence of these new categories, new ways will surface as to how to think about the relationship between various South Asian traditions, and how they have, despite their unique histories of translation and transmission into the West, re-encountered each other in different contexts in the United States and Europe.

9. University of Colorado Foundation

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

Project Plan: The Department of Religious Studies at CU Boulder is in its fifth year of collaborating with Naropa University on an annual lecture series in Buddhist Studies, named after Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, the founder of Naropa who first came to Boulder in 1971 at the invitation of CU professors. Free and open to the public, the annual Trungpa Lecture enhances the academic study of Buddhism in Colorado and contributes to public understandings about Dharmic Traditions along Colorado's Front Range. With the help of the Uberoi Foundation and private Naropa donors, four eminent scholars have appeared for the Trungpa Lecture: Janet Gyatso (Harvard University) in 2013, John Makransky (Boston College) in 2014, José Cabezón (University of California Santa Barbara) in 2015, and David Germano (University of Virginia) in 2016. The lecture is held in alternating years at CU and Naropa with a luncheon colloquium for graduate students from both institutions with the guest speaker. This year, at CU Boulder, Charles Ramble (Oxford University) will to speak about Sacred Landscape in Himalaya, a topic which will include Buddhist interactions with Bön and Hindu sites and rituals.

10. Institute of Advanced Sciences

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

Project Plan: The proposal is to expand the current Uberoi Foundation Fellowship program for teachers into a national initiative with multiple regional centers to reach teachers who teach India-related courses in middle and high schools of the United States. In 2017, the program is proposed to run through a national center in Massachusetts as well as three regional centers throughout the country. These regional centers will work on curriculum and programming with a central coordinator and consultants, and engage local and national volunteers, speakers, and participants as usual.

The Institute has solicited leadership applications for the regional centers from teachers who have participated in the Uberoi teacher training program, or others who have demonstrated equivalent experience or expertise. Professor Bal Ram Singh has led the UFF and Uberoi Teacher Training India (UTTI) pilot program for the past seven years, and is now directing the program's expansion. The planned regional workshops will likely constitute centralized lectures on a fixed curriculum, with individual activities and engagements facilitated in local areas. The program expected to run in collaboration with school districts, which can share the cost of local expenses as successfully run in Denver for the past three years. Eventually, a goal is to run Uberoi workshops in all fifty states.

11. Hindu University of America

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

Project Plan: 2017 marks the fourth year of 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 2017, a class of local teachers will participate 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.

12. California State University Fresno Foundation

Project: *Women, Goddesses, Yogis, and Others*
Applicant/Lead: Veena Rani Howard

Project Plan: Veena Howard is the editor of a book whose working title is *Women, Goddesses, Yogis, and Others: Gendering in Indian Philosophy*. The edited volume, under contract, is to be published by Bloomsbury Publishing, U.K. This book is a comprehensive collection of novel, theoretically-informed essays by a group of internationally esteemed scholars investigating various dimensions and conceptualization of gender (goddesses, yogis, women, and others) in a broad variety of Indian philosophical texts and traditions—Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh—ranging from ancient to modern eras. This book highlights roles and representations of women and various gender issues in Indian

philosophical texts and traditions. It underscores rich debates on these issues in each traditions' texts, and it has the potential to serve as a tool to remove gender biases as have been portrayed in the media.

As the most comprehensive and first volume of this nature, this collection will include theoretically-informed essays investigating issues in gender through various interdisciplinary approaches. Written by a variety of esteemed scholars, the collection will provide a dialectical examination of complex gender constructions as well as theoretical frameworks in relation to contemporary debates on women's roles, gender discourse in theology, ecology and the feminine, as well as their implication on the practiced religion. This collection aims to theoretically and creatively engage with conceptualizations of gender in Indian texts and traditions while also highlighting culturally unique attitudes toward gender as illustrated through the models of goddesses/gods, yogis/yogins, women/men, and others in Indian philosophical literature (Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh).

13. Loyola Marymount University

Project: *Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Program*
Applicant/Lead: Chris Chapple

Project Plan: For many 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, thereafter expanding elsewhere such as into Denver in 2014. The trustees of the Uberoi Foundation introduced in 2016 a training program for certain teachers and school administrators on-site in India, led by Dr. Bal Ram Singh. The second undertaking of the Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) program will take place in the summer of 2018, led on this occasion by Dr. Chris Chapple.

Section III:
Experts Meeting 2017



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 2017.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

2012: In mid-October of 2012, the Experts of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies once again had the opportunity to meet together over a period of two days. Gathering in Denver, Colorado, the Experts began with reflections on the tragic attack brought upon the Sikh Gurdwara in Wisconsin



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

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.

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 participants taking part, and in



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

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.

2017: Between September 29 and October 1, the Uberoi Foundation met in Denver in association with the Ved Nanda Center and the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver to focus on *The Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability from the Perspectives of the Four Dharmic Traditions*. Professors Rita Sherma, Veena Howard, Ramdas Lamb, Mugdha Yeolekar, Bal Ram Singh, Lavanya

Vemsani, Subhash Kak, Haragopal Parsa, and Appachanda Thimmaiah provided the Hindu perspective; Professors Claude D'Estree, Joan Policastri, and Matt Spurlin the Buddhist perspective; Professor Nirinjan Kaur Khas and Mr. Dilpreet Singh Jammu the Sikh perspective; and Professor Chris Chapple, Dr. Sulekh Jain, and Professor Yashwant Malaiya the Jain perspective. A most interesting dimension of the 2017 Experts Meeting was the offering of a perspective on the topic from the U.S. indigenous tradition, led by Lakota elder Grandmother Regina Brave, Lakota leader Doug Good Feather, Professor Andrew Reid, and Professor Yashwant Pathak.



THE 2017 EXPERTS' MEETING

September 29 to October 1, 2017

2017 AGENDA AND UBEROI FOUNDATION EXPERTS

Co-Sponsored by:

The Nanda Center for International Law
Sturm College of Law
The University of Denver



2017 EXPERTS' MEETING

***THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM THE
PERSPECTIVES OF THE FOUR DHARMIC TRADITIONS***

**University of Denver, Ved Nanda Center for International Law
September 29-October 1, 2017**

***Hampton Inn & Suites (Hilton) Denver Cherry Creek
4150 E. Kentucky Avenue, Glendale, Colorado 80246***

Friday, September 29 - Hampton Inn (Hilton)	
4:00 - 5:30	Arrival, Registration and Informal Gathering – at Hotel
5:30 - 6:30	Welcome – Reception
6:30	Dinner
7:30 - 8:30	Opening Session – “UN Sustainable Development Goals – Challenges and Opportunities” – Prof. Ved Nanda
Saturday, September 30 -	
6:00 a.m. onward	Breakfast at Hotel
8:00	Transportation to the University of Denver
8:30 - 9:45	Session 2: Perspectives from the Jain Tradition Presenters: Prof. Chris Chapple, Chair Dr. Sulekh Jain Prof. Yashwant Malaiya
9:45 - 10:00	Break
10:00 - 11:15	Session 3: Perspectives from the Hindu Tradition - I Presenters: Prof. Rita Sherma, Chair Prof. Veena Howard Prof. Ramdas Lamb Prof. Mugdha Yeolekar

11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:45	Session 4: Perspectives from the Buddhist Tradition Presenters: Ven. Prof. Claude D’Estree, Chair Ms. Joan Policastri Mr. Matthew Spurlin
12:45	Lunch – Prof. Kamal Bawa – Integrating Science, Traditions, and Culture to Combat Global Environmental Change
2:00 – 3:15	Session 5: Perspectives from the Sikh Tradition Presenters: Prof. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa, Chair Mr. Dilpreet Singh Jammu
3:15 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 4:45	Session 6: Perspectives from the Indigenous Traditions Presenters: Prof. Yashwant Pathak, Chair Prof. Andrew Reid Mr. Doug Good Feather, Lakota Leader Grandmother Regina Brave, Lakota Elder
4:45 – 5:00	Break
5:00 – 6:30	Session 7: Perspectives from the Hindu Tradition II Presenters: Prof. Bal Ram Singh, Chair Prof. Lavanya Vemsani Prof. Subhash Kak Prof. Haragopal Parsa Prof. Appachanda Thimmaiah
6:30 – 6:45	Break
6:45	Dinner, Awards Ceremony, and Cultural Program

Sunday, October 1	
6:00 a.m. onward	Breakfast at hotel
8:30 – 10:00	Reports from Grantees and Sharing of Experiences
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:30 – 11:45	Open Session
	Lunch and Adjournment



Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting 2017

Denver, Colorado

September 29 to October 1, 2017

Expert Attendees

(in alphabetical order)

THE 2017 UBEROI FOUNDATION EXPERTS



Kamal Singh Bawa

Dr. Kamal Singh Bawa is interested in global change and biodiversity. The overarching theme is to generate knowledge about the impact of land use and land cover change, climate change and human use of natural resources on biodiversity. He is particularly interested in developing new paradigms of conservation that take into account alleviation of poverty and institutions. His research on climate change in the Eastern Himalayas is focused on modeling climate change, the impact of climate change and biodiversity and agriculture, and development of adaptive strategies that assign a central role to local knowledge. Research on sustainable use of ecosystem services including such provisioning services as non-timber forest products constitutes an important element of the overall global change program. Dr. Bawa recently led an initiative to define research priorities in tropical biology. He has also been a part of DIVERSITAS team that has developed a science plan for agrobiodiversity. At the regional level, he has led efforts to define research priorities in the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot. Since he founded the [Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment](#) (ATREE), and cofounded the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in the Environment and Development (CISED), which later merged with ATREE, he has particularly interested in institutional building to foster conservation and sustainability science. Finally, Dr. Bawa still pursues his basic interests in plant population biology. He is currently writing a book synthesizing his work on the impact of land use and climate change on genetics and reproductive traits of plants.



Grandmother Regina Brave

Known as “Grandma Regina” among the Native community, Regina Brave is a direct descendant of Ohitika, Chief Red Cloud’s brother and a negotiator of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. She is a member of the Oglala band of the Tetonwan (Lakota) Council Fire of the Seven Council Fires of the Oceti Sakowin (the Great Sioux Nation). She was raised in the traditional way in Oglala on the Pine Ridge Reservation and received the history and culture of her People passed down orally from her father. In 1960, she left the Reservation to serve in the US Navy and was an Honor Guard for President John F. Kennedy. After her military service, she returned to her home and became active in the Native resistance to continuing US colonial occupation of Native peoples. She is a survivor of the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee and was a coordinator for the state of Colorado for the Longest Walk, a five-month march from San Francisco to Washington DC to expose the treatment of Native peoples by the United States. In 1986, she worked with Dine (Navajo) and Hopi elders to bring a peaceful resolution to the Big Mountain controversy when the US tried to partition their lands. She’s continued her advocacy for Native peoples, and, more recently, was one of the last to be forcibly removed by the government from the Oceti Sakowin encampments during the Standing Rock opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. She recently was awarded the ACLU’s highest honor, the Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty. She is also the recipient of the 2017 Chora Prize from the Metabolic Studio.



Christopher Key Chapple

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, welcoming enthusiastic students from around the world. He received his undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature and Religious Studies from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his doctorate in the History of Religions through the Theology Department at Fordham University. He served as Assistant Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions and taught Sanskrit, Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism for five years at the State University of New York at Stony Brook before joining the faculty at LMU.

He has published twenty books on topics that include studies of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Yoga, and religion and ecology, 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), *Reconciling Yogas* (2003), and the recent edited book *Antonio T. deNicolas: Poet of Eternal Return* (2014).



Claude d'Estree

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

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



Douglas Good Feather

Doug Good Feather, Wiyáka Wasté of Standing Rock Indian Reservation (home to Sitting Bull), is a Lakota Spiritual Leader, Iraq War Veteran (two tours), stage and screen actor, international cultural ambassador, Grammy Award-winning Lakota singer, Pow Wow Fancy Dancer, father, holder of psychology and counseling degree (2015), and a Sun Dancer. Good Feather is the spiritual teacher of the Lakota Way Healing Center based in Colorado, and the spiritual leader of the Spirit Horse Nation, which is a community of like-minded organizations, tribes, and people from every background and school of thought working to elevate the consciousness of Mother Earth. Good Feather was shown a life-altering spiritual vision where Wakhan Thánka / Creator instructed him to share Native Ways and Medicine with all of humanity in a good way. Today, Good Feather's vision has become a worldwide movement of Spiritual Healing through Native Ways. On September 13 and 14, 2017, he spoke and opened up with a prayer at the Tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples.



Veena R. Howard

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

Her publications include the books *Dharma, Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh Traditions of India* (ed.), *Gandhi's Ascetic Activism: Renunciation and Social Action* (SUNY Press, 2013), and several articles, including "The modern monastic Santmat movement of Bihar: building bridges between Sanātana Dharma and Sant-Mat (*International Journal of Dharma Studies*, 2017); "Lessons from 'The Hawk and the Dove': Reflections on the Mahabharata's Animal Parables and Ethical Predicaments" (*Sophia International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*, 2016), "Rethinking Gandhi's Celibacy: Ascetic Power and the Empowerment of Women" (*The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2013), "Non-violence and Justice as Inseparable Principles: A Gandhian Perspective" (*Justice and Mercy Will Kiss: The Vocation of Peacemaking in a World of Many Faiths*, 2008), and "Gandhi, The Mahatma: Evolving Narratives and Native Discourse in Gandhi Studies" (*Religion Compass*, May 2007). She has also translated three books from the modern Sant tradition from Hindi into English. Professor Howard is a frequent presenter at the American Academy of Religions and various national and international conferences on Hinduism, Indian philosophy, and nonviolence.



Sulekh Jain, Ph.D.

Sulekh C. Jain, Ph.D., is a Founder or Co-Founder of more than a dozen organizations and institutions in North America, including Jain Center of Greater Boston, Jain Society of Houston, JAIN DIGEST Magazine, JAINA Library, Young Jains of America, Jain Center of Central Ohio at Columbus, Jain Academic Foundation of North America, Mahaveer Vision Inc., JAIN SPIRIT International Magazine, Ahimsa Times, World Council of Jain Academies, JVB Preksha Meditation

Center in Houston and International School for Jain Studies (ISJS) in 2004.

Dr. Jain is the past Secretary and President of Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA), Jain Society of Houston, Jain Center of Cincinnati/Dayton and several other organizations. Currently he is the Chairman of International School for Jain Studies Governing Council USA. Dr. Jain has written several dozen papers on Jain related subjects, recently authoring a 328-page book entitled "An Ahimsa Crisis: You Decide."

Dr. Jain has received many awards from religious organizations, particularly the JAINA Ratan award (highest award by JAINA) and Award of Excellence by International Jain Sangh of New Jersey, USA, from Jain Society of Houston, Texas.

Professionally, he has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and an M.B.A and has taught at several Universities in USA, Canada, U.K and India. He has received awards from the American Society

of Mechanical Engineers and General Electric Company. He has nine US and International technical patents, and has authored more than 50 technical papers.



Dilpreet Singh Jammu

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

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 New Brunswick respectively, and Executive Education at Wharton School of Business.



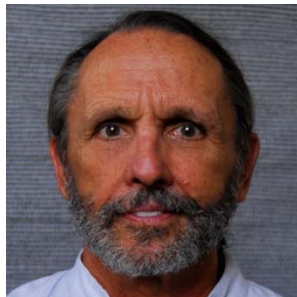
Dr. Subhash Kak

Subhash Kak is Regents Professor and Head of Computer Science Department at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Apart from numerous research papers on science and Indology and 18 books, he has written on science for the general public and his work has been showcased in the popular media including Discovery and History Channels, PBS, Dutch Public TV OHM, and most recently in a documentary on music (www.ragaunveiled.com). Amongst his awards are British Council Fellow (1976), Science Academy Medal of the Indian National Science Academy (1977), Kothari Prize (1977), UNESCO Tokten Award (1986), Goyal Prize (1998), National Fellow of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (2001), and Distinguished Alumnus of IIT Delhi (2002). His recent publications include books, *The Wishing Tree: Presence and Promise of India* (2015), *Mind and Self* (2016), and *The Astronomical Code of the Rigveda* (2016), and an article, *The Mahabharata and the Sindhu-Sarasvati Tradition* (2015).



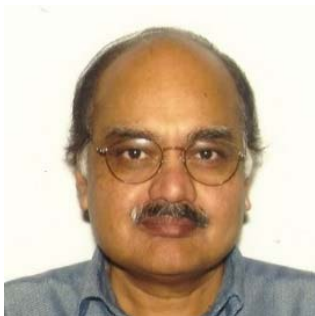
Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa

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*). She is honored to now be a part of the Uberoi family and looks forward to many great years of collaboration to promote the Jain and Sikh traditions.



Ramdas Lamb

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.



Yashwant Malaiya

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 is

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.



Haragopal Parsa

Dr. Haragopal Parsa holds a PhD from Virginia Tech, an MS in Food Science, and an MSc in Genetics. He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research* and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar (2005). Dr. Parsa is the Barron Hilton Professor of Lodging Management at the University of Denver Daniels College of Business. His research interests include corporate social responsibility, marketing and pricing strategies, and analysis of restaurant and food trends. He is quite active in the Denver Hindu community.



Yashwant Pathak

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. He recently received a Fulbright Fellowship to work in Indonesia, from which he has just returned.



Joan PolICASTRI

Joan PolICASTRI began studying Buddhism in 1997 in the Shambhala Tradition where she completed the Sacred Path of the Warrior and attended Warrior Assembly at Karne Chöling in July, 2000. She attended the Y2K Dathun at RMSC and took refuge vows in January, 2001. As part of her continuing studies she has taken classes from Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche during retreats at RMC, with Jetsun Khandro Rinpoche where she did a 10 day course on the Seven Points of Mind Training (and took Bodhisattva vows) and has done several in-person and online courses with Pema Chödrön. 30 days of January in Vermont (at Karne Chöling, as preparation for Vajrayana Seminary), and a 10 day solitary retreat at Dorje Khyung Dzong (Colorado) were also educational highlights. In the Dzogchen Tradition, she studies with Ponlop Rinpoche's Nalandabodhi sangha, starting with a memorable sangha retreat at a Catholic nunnery in the San Francisco area where she began Vajrayana practice. She also spent 4 weeks at Nitartha's summer institute in Duncan, B.C. Finally, she attended Thich Nhat Hanh's program at CU Boulder and attempts to follow his profound practice of Engaged Buddhism.

Joan began her academic studies, and was inspired on her spiritual path, in the Political Science Department at the University of Colorado, Denver, where her Masters' thesis was a comparative study of seven countries' policies towards indigenous peoples. Major topics of the study were the environment and religious issues. Joan was also the Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian at the University of Denver, co-edits an electronic resource guide on Humanitarian Law for the American Society of International Law, and is currently a faculty member of the University of Colorado Law School Library.



Andrew Reid

Professor Reid has been engaged in social justice work most of his life, including over four decades working as an activist, attorney, and expert within indigenous and environmental communities both within the United States and internationally. His work has been widely covered and resulted in over 60 often precedent-setting legal opinions. He has lived and taught on the Menominee Nation and Oglala Sioux Nation as well as in Japan where he studied Buddhism and martial arts. He was the delegate of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers to the United Nations Earth and People's Summits in Brazil in 2014 and the delegate of the National Lawyers Guild to the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Bolivia in 2010 which drafted the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth. More recently he participated in the 5th International Degrowth Conference in Budapest, Hungary in 2016. He is currently a member of the legal team engaged with the grassroots Native and non-Native challenge to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

At the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, he teaches the courses on the international and human rights of indigenous peoples and on environmental ethics and justice, and

is associated with the Ved Nanda Center on International and Comparative Law. He has law and graduate degrees from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Denver with specializations in Environmental, Natural Resources, and Water Law and Policy.



Rita Sherma

Professor Rita Sherma is the Director of the GTU's *Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies*, Associate Professor of Hindu Studies, and Core Doctoral Faculty at the *Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA*. Formerly, she was the Swami Vivekananda Visiting Professor in Hindu Studies, at the University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, where she was the recipient of the USC 2014 Professor of the Year Recognition Award for her contributions to the student body. The awarding body stated that "Prof Sherma has been described by her nominators as inspirational, passionate dedicated, and a creator of active young thinkers and leaders by constantly challenging her students to think critically as well as creatively." She is the co-founder of the Hinduism Program Unit of the American Academy of Religion and Vice-President of DANAM (Dharma Academy of North America), the first scholarly association in North America to offer a dedicated forum for the dialogical study of the Vedic Traditions, Jainism, and Buddhism. A contributing author to numerous publications, Dr. Sherma is also Associate Editor for the *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions*, and the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Dharma Studies*. Dr. Sherma is a lineage holder in a Shakta transmission. Her most recent and forthcoming books include *Radical Divine Immanence: A Hindu Ecotheology of Shakti* (2018); *Hinduism and the Divine: A New Introduction to Hindu Theology* (2018); *Engaged Hinduism: Service as Spiritual Practice* (2018); *Vivekananda: New Reflections on His Life, Legacy and Contemporary Relevance*; and *Prayer, Worship, and Contemplation in Hindu and Jain Worlds* (2017).



Bal Ram Singh

Bal Ram Singh, PhD, has been a professor since 1990 at UMass Dartmouth (until 2014) and Institute of Advanced Sciences (current), conducting research on botulinum and tetanus neurotoxins, and also on yoga, mind, and consciousness. He has published 12 books and nearly 300 articles, including articles related to India's philosophy and traditions.

Dr. Singh is Editor/Associate Editor of four journals, including Biochemical and Biophysical Research Reports, Ayurveda Journal of Health and International Journal of Indian Culture and Business Management, and is the Editor-in-Chief of Vedic WAVES, an online blog of the World Association of Vedic Studies.

He is the President of the Institute of Advanced Sciences. At the Institute, he is also the Executive Mentor of the School of Indic Studies where his research includes Ayurvedic science

and technology, Yoga and Consciousness, Vedic education pedagogy, and Vedic social and political traditions. Dr. Singh has been visiting professor at Georgetown University, Harvard Medical School, Yang Ming University (Taiwan), and Jawaharlal Nehru University (India). He is Honorary Professor of Amity University Haryana, Gurgaon, India, and Dean of International Academic Programs at Srimaharshi Research Institute of Vedic Technology (SRIVT), Guntur, AP, India. He is also Director of the Uberoi Foundation's Teacher Training Program.



Matthew Spurlin

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 and teaching at the Boulder High School. For four years Mr. Spurlin has participated with Claude d'Estree in the Denver Teacher Training in the Dharmic Traditions program sponsored by the Uberoi Foundation, instructing middle- and high-school teachers in the basic principles of Buddhism to enable them to teach with greater sensitivity.



Appachanda Thimmaiah

Dr. Thimmaiah is an expert in regenerative organic agriculture promoting low-carbon green approaches for rural development. Through constant innovation & research, he has developed several low-cost farming solutions utilizing natural resources which are benefiting thousands of farmers in different countries. Globally he has played a leading role in the development, coordination, implementation of strategies, programs & policies addressing the issues of food security, climate smart sustainable agriculture, rural poverty reduction, sustainable development & Gross National Happiness (GNH). He has advised various international organizations, agri-business corporations, governments and NGO's in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Italy, Holland & Costa Rica.

As an advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan during 2008-2013, he developed the National Organic Standards for Bhutan, zero-cost certification systems, training manuals, strategies & other documents to empower poor farmers and facilitate the nation to be 100% organic and carbon neutral. Thimmaiah is a member of the Boards of Directors of Natura Agroconsultants Pvt. Ltd. India, the Demeter Association Inc. of US, Sustainable Living Coalition (SLC), Iowa, US, Gold and Green LLC, Illinois, US, and The Cows Foundation, West Virginia, US.

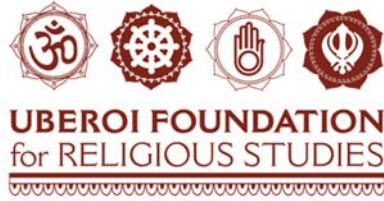
At present he is a senior faculty at the Department of Sustainable Living, Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, Iowa, where he teaches courses in Organic farming, Biodynamic Agriculture and Vedic Organic Agriculture. Also he is the Program Director for the 10 month Regenerative organic Agriculture program.



Lavanya Vemsani

Professor Vemsani is an award winning scholar and professor of History specializing in Indian History and Religions 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) and History from the University of Hyderabad (Hyderabad, India).

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 the Journal of South Asian Religious History.



In Memoriam



Dr. Shiva G. Bajpai, Ph.D. served as Professor of History and Director of Asian Studies at California State University, Northridge, Los Angeles, from 1970 to 2003; as Professor Emeritus, he continued to teach (2003-2009). He earned a BA and MA from the Banaras Hindu University and a Ph.D. from SOAS, University of London, UK. He also taught at the Banaras Hindu University, India (1958-68) and worked at the University of Minnesota (1967-70). He received many awards including an AIIS-NSF Senior Fellowship and AHA & AAS best book award for his co-authored work. Dr. Bajpai published many articles on various aspects of Indian history and culture including contributions to Hindi Vishvakosha (Encyclopedia) and Encyclopedia of Asian History. He co-authored a major reference work: *A Historical Atlas of South Asia* (1978: University of Chicago Press & Updated 2nd edition. 1992: Oxford University Press; 2005: The Digital Library of South Asia, Chicago University Press.) Following the California Textbooks Controversy, he collaborated with Hinduism Today in its publications of Hindu History Lesson Supplements in five parts (2007 & 2010) to the World History School textbooks.

Dr. Bajpai was an esteemed and cherished member of the Uberoi family of experts. He participated in multiple Uberoi Experts Meetings, dating back to the early days of the foundation. The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies will be forever grateful for Dr. Bajpai's engagement, learned contributions, inspiration, boundless energy, and deep and abiding friendship.

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