

**UBEROI FOUNDATION**  
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

# Annual Report 2019



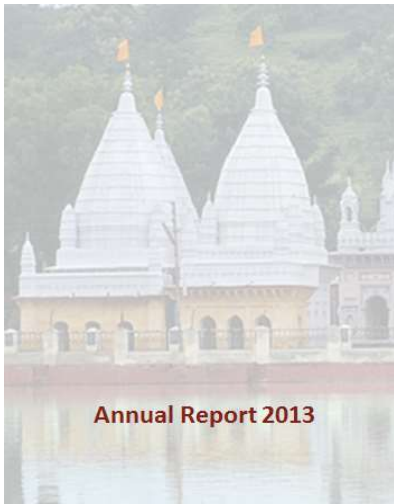
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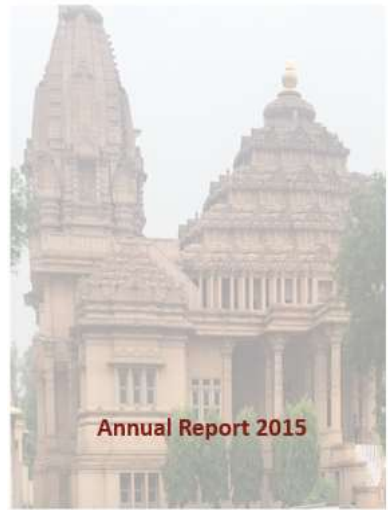
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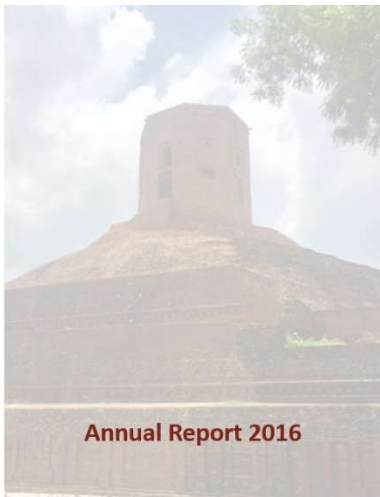
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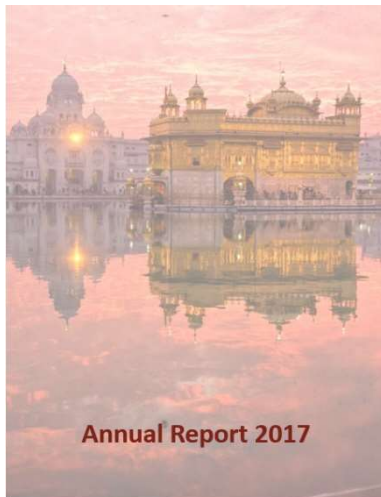
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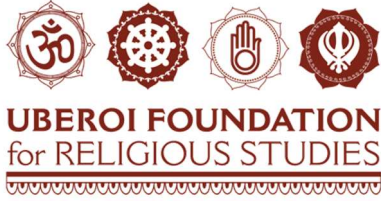
**Annual Report 2016**



**Annual Report 2017**



**Annual Report 2018**



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

*December 2019*

*What a tremendous pleasure and what a distinct honor it has been for me to serve as chair of the Uberoi Foundation for these many years. Twelve anniversaries have passed, in fact, since the Foundation became incorporated on November 14, 2017.*

*So much learning has been shared since inception. So much has been invested in programming – over \$2.5 million. And so many deep and meaningful collegial friendships have been forged. I couldn't be more thrilled by the accomplishments.*

*In preparing to complete my term on the board of trustees, I first turn in thanks and admiration to Parveen Setia, our cherished vice chair from the Foundation's inception, who like me is departing after these twelve years. Parveenji provided constant support, unwavering enthusiasm, and deep intellect to his service on the board. No doubt, he will be greatly missed. And I thank the three sisters who have served so long – and will continue to serve: Anu Bhatia, Jyothi Bhatia, and Sneha Harjai. You each are an inspiration. Without Jim Polsfut, our executive director, the Foundation never could have launched so effectively, with each element of fiduciary discipline and programmatic focus in its proper place. And without my wife, Katharine, the secretary of the board, neither I nor the institution could have functioned.*

*At this time, please allow me to extend my warmest best wishes to Dr. Yashwant Pathak and to Dr. Ramdas Lamb, our incoming chair and vice chair, respectively. Together, they not only have the knowledge and the insight needed by the Foundation, but they also have the spirit and the soul to lead and inspire the many people within its wide orbit.*

*You – the trustees, the staff, the experts, and the grantees – all mean so much to me. May you continue to pursue the mission of the Foundation as established by our benefactor, Mahinder Uberoi. And in all other ways, may your lives be full and rich and blessed.*

*With appreciation,*

*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.

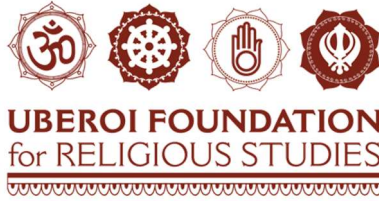
### **Scientific Achievement**

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.



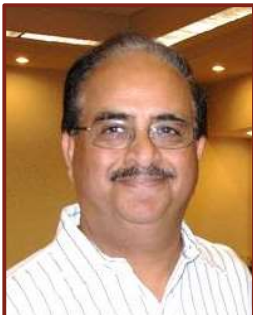
## Board of Trustees



**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."



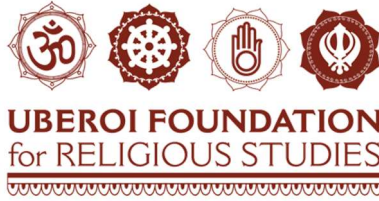
**Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia**  
**Trustee**

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 2019 appears in Section II of this Annual Report. A summary of the Experts Meeting 2019 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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
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	Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India HAF Director of Education and Curr. Reform Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies Perennial Philosophy of the Dharmic Religions Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Indigenous Institutions of the Vedic Tradition Meru Curriculum Leadership Training Review of Calif. School Textbook Framework TeachIndia! Project at California State University Long Beach and Northridge Documentary Resource on Hinduism and Indic Heritage Doshi Bridgebuilder Award Experts Meeting 2013: Dartmouth, Massachusetts	\$228,010
2014	Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Calif. State Univ. Long Beach Fnd Loyola Marymount University Claremont Lincoln University Hindu University of America University of Colorado Foundation University of Michigan Hindu American Foundation Inst. of Adv. Sciences University of Michigan Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Hindu India: 300 to 1850 CE California School Textbook Controversy Revisited TeachIndia! Project at CSU Long Beach and Northridge Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training Teachers Empowerment on Hindu Dharma Annual Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies at the Univ. of Colo. and Naropa Teaching Sikhism Comprehensive Education Reform Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Indian Religions Encyclopedia Colorado Teacher Training Program Experts Meeting 2014: Boulder, Colorado	\$242,273
2015	Hindu University of America Inst. of Adv. Sciences McGill University Insight Meditation Community of Colorado Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Int'l Documentary Asn Hindu American Foundation University of Michigan Himalayan Academy Forum for Rel. Freedom SSU Development Foundation CSULB Research Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Inst. of Adv. Sciences Himalayan Academy Inst. Of Adv. Sciences Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Denver Teacher Training Program Nationwide Teacher Training Program World Religions Conference in Sep 2016 Earth Sila Project: Dharma-Based and Interfaith Int'l Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS) Creation of Center(s) for Sikh and Jain Studies American Veda Documentary Project HAF Director of Education and Curr. Reform Translation of Punjabi Clarifying Publications History of Hinduism Documentary Part 3 Writing on Vedic Correlation with Dharma OH Forum: Indian Cultural Heritage in Global Age TeachIndia week-long training California School Textbook Controversy Revisited Master in Yoga Studies Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Program TeachIndia classroom material Uberoi Teacher Training in India Experts Meeting 2015: Tampa, Florida	\$324,706
2016	McGill University Inst. Of Adv. Sciences True Dharma International Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Hindu University of America CSULB Foundation Hindu American Foundation	World Religions Conference in Sep 2016 Nationwide Teacher Training Program "Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth" resource book Indian Monasticism: Ramananda Sampraday History of Hinduism Documentary Part 4 History of Hinduism Documentary Part 5 California Textbook Issues and Teaching Aids Int'l Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS) Scholarships -- Study of the Dharma Traditions Professorship of Jain and Sikh Studies Denver Teacher Training Program TeachIndia week-long training HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform Experts Meeting 2016: Montreal Unexpended Return of Grant 2015-11	\$225,611

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Hindu University of America Hunter College Himalayan Academy Naropa University University of Michigan SSU Development Foundation University of Colorado Foundation Institute of Advanced Sciences Hindu University of America CSU Fresno Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University	International Summer School for Jain Studies Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies Scholarships: Study of Dharmic Traditions 1 Day Dharmic University Program The Nay Science: Reader's Guide Teach India Videos Yoga & Hindu Studies, Naropa University Consciousness Studies in Indic Traditions Uberoi Seminar on Indian Culture and Globalization Trungpa Lecture in Buddhist Studies Nationwide Teacher Training Program Denver Teacher Training Program Women, Goddesses, Yogis, and Others California Textbook Controversies and Issues Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Experts Meeting 2017: Denver, Colorado	\$178,020
2018	Institute of Advanced Sciences Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University True Dharma International Hindu American Foundation Manthratalk Organization Himalayan Academy Graduate Theological Union McGill Univ. School of Religious Studies Hindu American Foundation	Nationwide Teacher Training Program International Summer School for Jain Studies Scholarships: Study of Dharmic Traditions "Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth" training Hinduism 101 and Educator Professional Dvlpmnt Annual Meeting of American Academy of Indic Studies Teach India Videos GTU Global Sustainability Initiative Remedying the Misinterpretation of Hinduism Comprehensive Education Reform Project Experts Meeting 2018: Tampa, Florida	\$209,680
2019	CSU Fresno Foundation Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Buena Vista University Institute of Advanced Sciences True Dharma Int'l Buddhist Mission Hindu American Foundation University of Michigan Hindupedia California State University Fresno Foundation Loyola Marymount University	Gandhi's Global Legacy: In India and Beyond Clinical Professor of Yoga and Health Uberoi Foundation Scholarship in Dharmic Studies ISSJS Teaching for Peace Institute Uberoi Teacher Training -- Iowa Nationwide Teacher Training Program Good Death Auspicious Rebirth Training Getting Hinduism Right: Empowering Educators Indic Contemplative Traditions in College Classrooms Hindupedia's Textbook Reform Uberoi Teacher Training -- Fresno Uberoi Teacher Training India (UTTI) Experts Meeting 2019: Denver, Colorado	\$227,410
<b>Total Programmatic Outlay Since Inception in 2008:</b>			<b>\$2,465,123</b>

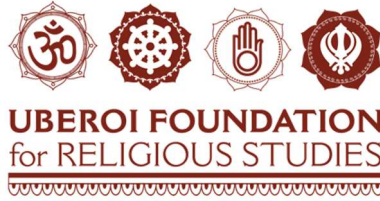


## **Section II:**

### **Grant Awards in 2019**







## Grant Awards in 2019

### 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 2019, the Foundation awarded twelve grant allocations as listed below and as more fully described in the pages which follow.

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | <b>CSU Fresno Foundation</b>                         | <i>Gandhi's Global Legacy: In India and Beyond</i>          |
| 2  | <b>Loyola Marymount University</b>                   | <i>Clinical Professor of Yoga and Health</i>                |
| 3  | <b>Loyola Marymount University</b>                   | <i>Uberoi Foundation Scholarship in Dharmic Studies</i>     |
| 4  | <b>Loyola Marymount University</b>                   | <i>ISSJS Teaching for Peace Institute</i>                   |
| 5  | <b>Buena Vista University</b>                        | <i>Uberoi Teacher Training -- Iowa</i>                      |
| 6  | <b>Institute of Advanced Sciences</b>                | <i>Nationwide Teacher Training Program</i>                  |
| 7  | <b>True Dharma Int'l Buddhist Mission</b>            | <i>Good Death Auspicious Rebirth Training</i>               |
| 8  | <b>Hindu American Foundation</b>                     | <i>Getting Hinduism Right: Empowering Educators</i>         |
| 9  | <b>University of Michigan</b>                        | <i>Indic Contemplative Traditions in College Classrooms</i> |
| 10 | <b>Hindupedia</b>                                    | <i>Hindupedia's Textbook Reform</i>                         |
| 11 | <b>California State University Fresno Foundation</b> | <i>Uberoi Teacher Training -- Fresno</i>                    |
| 12 | <b>Loyola Marymount University</b>                   | <i>Uberoi Teacher Training India (UTTI)</i>                 |



## Grant Awards in 2019

### In Detail

#### 1. CSU Fresno Foundation

**Project:** *Gandhi's Global Legacy: In India and Beyond*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Veena Howard

Project Plan: This four-part project is built to culminate in Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary international conference at Fresno State in Fall 2019. Over the course of two years, this project will comprehensively analyze M.K. Gandhi's global legacy of nonviolence by 1) teaching study groups focusing on Gandhi's legacy 2) holding lectures 3) organizing an international conference for Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary 4) producing a post-conference edited volume. The study groups will educate students on Gandhi's teachings, which will in turn make them informed and engaged participants in the lectures and conference, the fundamental basis for the edited volume. The particular design of this project will help students, activists, and scholars to consider solutions to issues of social justice, peace, economic, equality, and sustainability.

A student-focused project on Gandhi is conducive to promoting nonviolent problem-solving and creating framework to understand the relevance of Gandhi's philosophy in the face of 21<sup>st</sup> century issues. Gandhi's teachings have influenced numerous leaders and movements across the globe—from Martin Luther King, Jr. and Caesar Chavez to Vandana Shiva and Gayatri Parivar. The international conference and edited volume will emphasize the fact that Gandhi incorporated many teachings and principles of Dharma traditions, including Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh religious traditions into his life and methods. He made the Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist ethical principle of *ahimsa* central to his strategy of activism and he often emphasized the power of this virtue. In his rendering of the method of satyagraha he drew upon the Hindu (also Sikh) concept of Sat (Truth and Reality). Education and analysis regarding the religious roots of Gandhi's practices will prompt a thorough understanding of how Gandhi created strategies for social change.

#### 2. Loyola Marymount University

**Project:** *Clinical Professor of Yoga and Health*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Chris Chapple

Project Plan: This grant will support and enhance the teaching of health sciences as informed by the Dharma traditions of India: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. The project includes community outreach and university instruction leading to certificates and degrees. The activities supported by the grant will contribute to the teaching of the

four-year Yoga Therapy Rx program offered by LMU’s Center for Religion and Spirituality; the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies; and the Post-Graduate Certificate in Yoga Therapy.

The work of this grant will build on prior jointly funded activities in the area of health sciences. In October 2017, LMU Yoga Studies presented a two-day conference with support from the Uberoi Foundation, the Doshi Bridgebuilder fund, and individual donors: Ayurveda: Health for Body and Mind. This event showcased the longstanding work at LMU in the area of Indian approaches to health science. The conference continues to be available on the LMU Yoga Studies You Tube Channel. Representatives from all four Dharma traditions presented their research on how yogic lifestyle can help enhance overall health and wellness. For the purposes of continuing and expanding this good work, LMU Yoga Studies seeks to establish a funded three-year Clinical Professorship of Yoga Studies, simultaneously seeking funds for an endowment to ensure that this work continues into the fourth year and beyond.

The Clinical Professor will effectively manage the operations of yogic wellness activities at LMU and beyond including classroom instruction and supervised internships. This programming will meet the goals of advancing knowledge and application of human health through the lens of Dharma traditions. Specifically, this individual will be responsible for the teaching of ongoing courses including Yoga and Health Science and the LMU Extension study of Yoga Therapy in India as well as the development of new courses including Yoga and Health Science II, Yoga Therapy Applications, and Yoga Therapy Practicum.

This new position will allow for the development of continuing and new clinic opportunities that will grant LMU students much-needed internship opportunities. These emerging clinics target a range of populations, from private paid clients to underserved patients for whom free care is provided. Existing programs include the Venice Family Clinic, the Braille Institute, and offerings to Doshi clients at El Segundo Public Library. New programs will include serving the inner-city Hispanic community through the USC Wellness Center; support classes for persons with cancer, Parkinson’s disease, and other maladies; the Jewish Home for the Aged in Playa Vista; Fountainview Westside Senior Community; Culver City Community Center, and other locations. Additionally, clinical research into the effect of Yoga practice on the LMU undergraduate population will continue, building on data gathered for the past several years as part of a class taught in multiple sections each semester. LMU Yoga Studies continues to train Yoga teachers for LMU’s Family of Schools through which Yoga wellness instruction is provided to 2,500 K-12 students weekly.

### **3. Loyola Marymount University**

**Project:** *Uberoi Foundation Scholarship in Dharmic Studies*

**Applicant/Lead:** Chris Chapple

Project Plan: The Uberoi Foundation Scholarship in Dharma Studies will support two Master of Arts in Yoga Studies candidates as they pursue completion of their degrees. This continuing support will ensure the development of qualified Yoga instructors and

practitioners and further literacy in the Dharmic traditions, contributing to the overall Yoga Studies program at Loyola Marymount University.

The primary goal of the scholarship support will be to support students who are studying the four major Dharmic religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism, thereby raising awareness of these traditions. With this support, students will become future teachers and practitioners of Yoga and Dharmic traditions with the ultimate goal of promoting understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the diverse peoples of the world.

#### 4. Loyola Marymount University

**Project:** *ISSJS Teaching for Peace Institute*

**Applicant/Lead:** Chris Chapple

Project Plan: Funding will support Teaching for Peace, a three-week seminar in India for K-12 teachers conducted by the International Summer School for Jain Studies and support of a K-12 teacher to be a guest teacher at the Vallabh Smarak Bhogilal School in North Delhi or at Hira Lal Jain Senior Secondary School in Old Delhi for three months.

The three-week experience, designed for K-12 teachers from North America, will provide skills drawing from the religions of India to integrate practical nonviolence into the classroom. Intensive course work entails morning lectures, afternoon discussions, field trips to institutions such as schools and businesses practicing nonviolence, interactions with people who live a nonviolent lifestyle, as well as conversations with scholars. Participants will learn the basics of ahimsa through the study of historical figures and living examples. Applications of ahimsa will be discussed with regard to interpersonal relations, business practices, and the environment. Participants will learn how to model and teach nonviolence behavior in the classroom.

The seminar will take place in Delhi, Jaipur, Jaigaon, and Pune from July 9 to 30, 2019. Lectures by expert practitioners and scholars will be given each morning, with group discussion and presentation scheduled for the afternoon. Visits will be made to Jain Bharati Mrigavati Vidyalaya, a K-12 on the campus of Vallabh Smarak in Alipur, North Delhi; the Hira Lal Jain School, an upper school in Old Delhi; the Gandhi Museum; the Taj Mahal; the Anubhuti Schools; and Wagholi, a rehabilitation center for adult learners. Expert faculty will include Drs. Shugan Jain, Atul Shah, Benjamin Zenk, Viney Jain, and others. Logistical support will be provided by Rachael Hammerlein and Namita Jain, educators who have worked with young children (Rachael) and high school students (Namita).

The three-month residency program will enable a teacher from North America to contribute to the learning of children informed by values of nonviolence and religious pluralism. The schools that participate in this program serve middle class and underprivileged children through a comprehensive curriculum.

## 5. Buena Vista University

**Project:** Uberoi Teacher Training -- Iowa

**Applicant:** Swasti Bhattacharyya

Project Plan: During the training program, educators from around northwest Iowa will have the opportunity to learn about the four primary Dharma traditions of India: Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Along with introducing these four traditions, pedagogical strategies to best teach this material, on a variety of levels, will be presented and discussed. Finally, these classes will provide a background for participants in the Iowa program to apply for the 2020 residential UTTI summer experience in India.

The five-day/ten-session experience will familiarize participants with the core teachings and practices of traditions within Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Along with introducing these religious traditions, participants will also focus on the best pedagogical strategies that will enable them to utilize the content in their various settings. The training will take place on the campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Following an application process, 10 participants will be invited to the campus for the study of the four Dharma traditions. Participants will commit to meeting one Saturday a month for five months: Sat 14 Sept 2019, Sat 12 Oct 2019, Sat 16 Nov 2019, Sat 7 March 2020, and Sat 18 Apr 2020. The sessions will include instruction by Dr. Bhattacharyya as primary professor, cultural events (food, music, dance), visit to the Hindu temple in Madrid, IA and, where possible, guest lectures. One day will be devoted to each tradition, and the best pedagogical strategies, with the final day a time for summation, presentations, and reflection.

The textbook for the course will be the Uberoi-supported volume *Dharma: The Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh Traditions of India* published by I.B. Tauris and edited by Uberoi grantee Professor Veena Howard of Cal State Fresno.

## 6. Institute of Advanced Sciences

**Project:** Nationwide 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 2019, the program is proposed to run through a national center in Massachusetts as well as five or six 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 nine years, and he is now directing the program's expansion. The planned regional workshops will constitute centralized lectures on a fixed curriculum, with individual activities and engagements facilitated in local areas. The program is expected to run in collaboration

with school districts, which can share the cost of local expenses as successfully run in Denver for the past four years. Eventually, the hope is to run Uberoi workshops in all fifty states.

#### 7. True Dharma International

**Project:** *“Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth” Training*  
**Applicant:** Frank Tedesco

Project Plan: Funds from the Uberoi Foundation will be used to create end-of-life Dharma training modules for teaching in medical and nursing schools, hospitals and hospices. Modules will be inclusive of the four Dharma traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, and other worldviews found in India and among overseas Indians. The multi-media curriculum will include filming interviews with dying patients, their family members and attending medical personnel with a focus on discussion for advance care planning, living wills, and spiritual preparation for a happy or “good death” and confidence in an “auspicious rebirth”.

#### 8. Hindu American Foundation

**Project:** *Getting Hinduism Right: Empowering Educators through Professional Development*  
**Applicant:** Suhag Shukla

Project Plan: Since August 2013, HAF has offered Hinduism 101 professional development opportunities nationwide, and trained over 3,150 teachers. Resources provided through the program have enabled curriculum supervisors and educators to enhance content and assessment materials related to Hinduism. Furthermore, this initiative has helped to forge long-lasting partnerships with other organizations, including universities, social studies councils, and history education groups. This effort has enabled educators around the country to improve their accuracy and cultural proficiency when teaching about Hinduism.

In order to meet growing demands for both content and teacher trainings, HAF seeks to continue its partnership with Uberoi to further scale this successful initiative. With these funds, HAF will enhance its professional development efforts to better meet the needs of K-12 teachers in the United States. There are three ways in which HAF proposes to triangulate its education efforts to ensure accurate and concise instruction on Hinduism. These three items are concurrent and interrelated:

1. Create extended lesson plans and interactive thematic units
2. Hold teacher centered focus groups and brainstorming sessions
3. Expand professional development services and offerings to include cultural proficiency

#### 9. University of Michigan

**Project:** *Indic Contemplative Traditions in College Classrooms*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Arvind Mandair

Project Plan: This project focuses on a workshop designed to create pedagogical resources for engaging “contemplative practices” based in Indian spiritual traditions as a

form of experiential learning in the university classroom. One of the most difficult pedagogical problems facing the study of Indian traditions in academia lies in accounting for the place of “contemplative practices,” an ever-evolving category of activities including meditation, yoga and mindfulness largely derived but in many ways now distinct from their source traditions. Within the context of the history of Indian religions, meditation, yoga and similar practices can be taught and researched as just one of many tools developed in the study of Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism to a variety of spiritual ends, conducted in almost innumerable varieties across time and tradition. They can as well be taught as philosophical and spiritual innovations ever evolving in the global religious landscape, open to active interpretation and dialogue with other religious traditions, and presenting a new opportunity to engage the commonalities between Indian traditions as they have evolved in a new cultural and spiritual landscape in the West.

The project is designed to engage directly the question of what potentials and risks exist when bringing these practices into the university classroom. In addition, it seeks to engage the widespread interest and production of research by neuroscience, clinical psychology, psychiatry and other scientific disciplines around these cultures in the religious studies classroom in order to bring the sometimes divergent perspectives of natural scientific and humanities on mind and consciousness into productive conversation.

The goal of the workshop is two-fold. First, to collaborate on a scholarly publication outlining the future research necessary to continue a rigorous and systematic conversation on the future of pedagogies of Indian religions. Second, to begin creating a guidebook of pedagogical resources for integrating contemplative practices into the Indian religious studies classroom as a form of experiential learning. The goal of the handbook will be to create an institutionally legible definition of contemplative practices, contextualize their development and arrival in the university setting, create guidelines, and collect resources for navigating several ethical concerns that have arisen based on existing models for their inclusion in the university classroom. Another major goal will be to create ways to integrate interdisciplinary engagement to frame the conversations around “neuro-culture,” that is, Western scientific studies of the mind that have deeply engaged the relevance and effectiveness of Indian spiritual and contemplative practices, in new terms in the college classroom. These resources will include sample syllabi and activities, as well as suggestions for integration into lessons, guidelines for concerns about mental health, issues of identify, and legal concerns in the classroom.

## 10. Hindupedia

**Project:** *Hindupedia’s Textbook Reform*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Krishna Maheshwari

Project Plan: This project is to drive reform of textbooks as they cover Dharmic traditions in ancient and medieval India. Fifty-four citations from Hindupedia’s review of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) were used by the California State Board of Education in their banning of HMH from California from selling History Social Science Materials for



grades K-8 until 2028 resulting in a 14% drop in their stock price and thus giving Hindupedia an unprecedented opening.

At this stage, Hindupedia's focus is on the textbooks used outside of California for these materials (grade varies by state but generally the topic is covered once anytime between grades 6-10). Professor Kundan Singh (of Sophia University) has been engaged on a full-time basis as a Sr. Fellow in support of this effort.

#### 11. California State University Fresno Foundation

**Project:** *Uberoi Teacher Training -- Fresno*

**Applicant:** Veena Howard

Project Plan: During a ten-session training program, teachers and professors will learn about the four primary Dharma traditions of India: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. The course will provide preparation for these teachers and professors to apply for the 2020 residential experience in India.

Collectively, the sessions will familiarize participants with the core teachings and practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism on the campus of California State University, Fresno. Professor Howard is currently working with the Kremen School of Education at CSU Fresno to determine which one of the following models will work well. The Dean of Liberal Studies offered his support and suggested considering the course as an elective course with 2 units. ONE: During a week during the summer of 2019, Fresno campus students as well as teachers will participate in a five day study of the four Dharma traditions. This will include instruction by myself as primary professor, guest lectures, cultural events (food, music, dance), and, where possible, home and temple visits. One day will be devoted to each tradition, with the final day a time for summation and reflection. MODEL TWO: Registered students will take the course to one Saturday a month over the course of five months (Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb) for the study of the four Dharma traditions. This will include instruction by myself as primary professor, guest lectures, cultural events (food, music, dance), and, where possible, home and temple visits. One day will be devoted to each tradition, with the final day a time for summation and reflection.

The textbook for the course will be the Uberoi-supported volume on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism published by I.B. Tauris.

#### 12. 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.

### 13. 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.

### 14. 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.

### 15. 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).

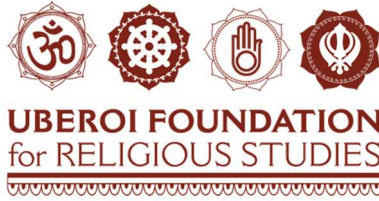
#### 16. Loyola Marymount University

**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 2019**





## 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 since the Foundation’s inception appears below.

**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 150<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

**2018:** In Mid-October, the Uberoi Foundation met once again in Tampa, Florida, and on this occasion at the Patel College of Global Sustainability on the campus of the University of South Florida. Yashwant Pathak served as the chair and the host of the 2018 Annual Experts Meeting and the inauguration of a second decade of Experts Meetings, with this now as the eleventh in a series. Over a day and a half, a total of nine sessions took place on the topic of *Human Rights and Human Dignity: Rooted in the Four Dharmic Traditions*, a theme developed thoroughly through the presentation of 28 separate abstracts.



*The 2018 Experts Meeting began with prayers from each of the Dharmic traditions.*



*Final remarks in 2019 from out-going chair Ved Nanda.*

**2019:** From October 11 through 13, the Uberoi Foundation met in its annual Experts Meeting, once again held in Denver. This year, the theme was *Health and Well-Being in the Four Dharmic Traditions*. Its focus was simple – namely, what do the Dharmic traditions reveal about how each person might live to his or her full potential? Wisdom was shared by accomplished and talented speakers from all over the country – from Florida to Hawaii and from Boston to Los Angeles.

## **2019 EXPERTS MEETING**

### ***“THE CONCEPT OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE FOUR DHARMIC TRADITIONS”***

**Denver, October 11-13, 2019**

**Hosted by the Ved Nanda Center for International & Comparative Law,  
University of Denver**

*Hilton Doubletree Hotel Denver Tech Center  
Greenwood Village, Denver, Colorado*

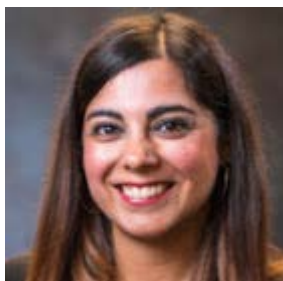
<b>Friday, October 11 – Doubletree Hotel</b>	
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Arrival, Registration and Informal Gathering – at Hotel</b>
<b>5:30 – 7:00</b>	<b>Drop-In Reception</b>
<b>7:30 – 9:30</b>	<b>Dinner – Garnish Fusion Restaurant (transportation by cars) Casual</b>
<b>Saturday, October 12 – Doubletree Hotel</b>	
<b>6:00 a.m. onward</b>	<b>Breakfast at Hotel</b>
<b>8:30 – 9:15</b>	<b>Welcome Guru Nanak Ji’s 550th Birth Anniversary Celebration Mahatma Gandhi Ji’s 150th Birth Anniversary Celebration</b>
<b>9:15 – 10:45</b>	<b>Session 1 (7) Co-Chairs / Presenters: Bal Ram Singh and Darryl Macer  C. Rajan Naryanan, Pravin Shah, Chris Risom, Haragopal Parsa, Shereen Bhalla</b>
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11:00 – 12:15</b>	<b>Session 2 (6) Co-Chairs / Presenters: Ramdas Lamb and Suhag Shukla  Alok Kumar, Darshan Mehta, Tracy Joosten, Frank Tedesco</b>
<b>12:30 – 1:30</b>	<b>Lunch – Garnish Restaurant – (transportation by car)</b>

<b>1:45 – 3:00</b>	<b>Session 3 (6)</b> <b>Co-Chairs / Presenters: Rita Sherma and Dilpreet Jammu</b>  <b>Joan Policastri, Mandip Sachdeva, Naveen Sharma, Lori Rubenstein Fazio</b>
<b>3:00 – 3:15</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:15 – 4:30</b>	<b>Session 4 (6)</b> <b>Co-Chairs / Presenters: Yashwant Malaiya and Lavanya Vemsani</b>  <b>Jerry Solfvn, Lloyd Burton, Appachanda Thimmaiah, Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra</b>
<b>4:30 – 5:15</b>	<b>Tea / Coffee</b>
<b>5:15 – 6:30</b>	<b>Roundtable</b> <b>Co-Chairs: Yashwant Pathak and Ved Nanda</b>  <b>Parveen Setia, James Polsfut, Anu Bhatia, Jyothi Bhatia, Sneha Harjai, Indira Walia, Anjali Nanda, Sridhar Talanki, Madhu Bhat, Sumanth Talanki, Shardul Takalkar</b>
<b>7:00 – 8:30</b>	<b>Dinner – Garnish Restaurant (transportation by car)</b>

<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	
<b>6:00 a.m. onward</b>	<b>Breakfast at hotel</b>
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	<b>Executive Director’s Report</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>Selected Uberoi Grantee Reports</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Open Session</b>
<b>10:30 – 11:30</b>	<b>Uberoi Foundation Plans for the Future and Announcements</b>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Lunch – box lunches from Garnish Restaurant</b>

# ***THE EXPERTS***

## Shereen Bhalla



Shereen Bhalla is the Hindu America Foundation (HAF's) Director of Education based in Washington, DC. Dr. Bhalla holds a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from Drake University, an M.A. in International Relations from St. Mary's University, and a PhD in Culture, Literacy, and Language from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). Prior to joining HAF, she was the Online Manager and Research Associate for the Center for Applied Linguistics. An advocate for culturally and linguistically diverse students, Dr. Bhalla has over ten years of experience teaching both English learners as well as pre-and in-service educators on how to best meet the needs of their students. Dr. Bhalla has taught for UTSA, George Washington University, the Inter-Development Bank and Johns Hopkins University.

## David Burton



David Burton is a registered nurse turned filmmaker with 20 years of patient care experience in the acute care hospital setting on medical, surgical, cardiac, and intensive care units. David was the President of *Phi Theta Kappa* the International Honors Society for 2 years and named to the All-Connecticut Academic Team in 2005. Now living in Tampa, Florida with his family, he continues working at a local community hospital while pursuing his independent filmmaking career. After making several short films and music videos, he found his calling in creating feature length documentaries that have a positive impact on his community. David spent 2 years writing, directing, and editing his first feature documentary *inGREEDients*, a film that has successfully blended his career as a healthcare professional with his passion for filmmaking.

In 2009, *inGREEDients* took the independent film festival circuit by storm winning six awards and self-distributing thousands of DVDs around the globe. The *inGREEDients* movie went international in 2010 when Burton signed a deal with Russia Today (RT) who has broadcasted the film to over 70 countries on six continents. The *inGREEDients* Movie turned into the *inGREEDients* Movement with an outreach program that included speaking engagements and screening the film at schools, churches, libraries and yoga centers throughout Florida. Most recently, he has been focusing his efforts speaking to children at schools about the connection between diet and disease while working with Frank Tedesco in the creation of the *Good Death Auspicious Rebirth* educational film project. The Good Death Auspicious Rebirth program will once again perfectly blend David's experience and passion for the delivery of compassionate healthcare with his filmmaking skills.

## **Lloyd Burton**



Lloyd Burton, Ph.D. is a Professor Emeritus of law and public policy at the School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver; where he served as founding director of the school graduate program in environmental law and policy. On retirement in 2016, he also served as founding leader of the Colorado Sierra Club's Issue Team on Environmental Justice and Social Equity.

He attended his first Insight Meditation retreat with friends and root teachers Joseph Goldstein, Jack Kornfield, and Sharon Salzberg in 1975, and has been doing the practice ever since. In 1985, he incorporated the organization that founded the Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, California. In 2000, he graduated from its Community Dharma Leader seminary program. From that time to this, he has been serving as the resident Guiding Teacher (and more recently, environmental chaplain) at the Insight Meditation Community of Denver. He also serves as founding president of the Insight Meditation Community of Colorado.

## **Lori Rubenstein Fazio**



Yogachemmal Lori Rubenstein Fazio, PT, DPT, MAppSc, C-IAYT is a Clinical Professor at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles where she teaches yoga and health in the Yoga Studies Master of Arts and Post Graduate Certificate in Yoga Therapy programs. She is the Clinical Director of Yoga Therapy at LMU where she has been teaching since 2008. In 2013 she designed and implemented the first Yoga Therapy internship within an integrative medical clinic where yoga therapy interns provide mentored one-on-one sessions to underserved patients at the Simms Mann Venice Family Clinic in Los Angeles. Her research interests include the effects of spirituality and subtle body practices on health and well-being. A practicing physical therapist and yoga therapist, she is a lifelong student and practitioner of Yoga and compassionate care. [www.mosaicpt.com](http://www.mosaicpt.com)

## **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.

### **Tracy Joosten**



Tracy Joosten builds and nurtures intentional communities and effective, cohesive teams in various physical and virtual spaces. Her work in the fields of experiential education and study abroad focuses on authentic expression in cross-cultural situations and the ethics of service. She has an abiding interest in the experiences of youth grappling with the development of social competency and emotional intelligence, an interest explored during the pursuit of a master's degree in peace and conflict studies at the School for International Training's Graduate Institute. At Kathmandu University's Centre for Buddhist Studies, she taught development theory and Buddhist ethics, and directed the centre's summer intensive and online learning programs for Buddhist philosophy and Tibetan language from 2009–2017. Prior to her time in Nepal and India, she facilitated dialogue with youth from conflict zones around the world through World Learning's Global Youth Exchange Programs from 2004–2010. Outside of the professional sphere, Tracy has been studying and practicing in the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism since 2001. In addition to completing numerous contemplative retreats oriented toward the experience of the mind and its nature, she has studied extensively with a number of scholars and adepts of Tibetan Buddhism. She also has a passion for music, the written word, and creative expression of all kinds, with which she seeks to connect daily.

### **Alok Kumar**



Alok Kumar is a Distinguished Teaching Professor of physics at the State University of New York at Oswego. He was born and educated in India. Later, he taught at California State University at Long Beach. He has been teaching in the American higher education for about four decades. In Oswego, Kumar has received Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the President Award for Creative and Scholarly Activity or Research. He has authored/coauthored four books: (1) Science in the Medieval World, S. I. Salem and Alok Kumar, 1991 and 1996; (2) Sciences of the Ancient Hindus: Unlocking Nature in the Pursuit of Salvation, 2014; (3) A History of Science in World Cultures: Voices of Knowledge, Scott Montgomery and Alok Kumar, 2015; and (4)

Ancient Hindu Science: Its Transmission and Impact on World Cultures, 2019. He is a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany and a NOVA/NASA fellow. He is active in the fields of atomic physics, chemical physics, history of science, and science education.

### **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.

### **Darryl Macer**



Darryl Macer is President of American University of Sovereign Nations (AUSN, [www.ausn.info](http://www.ausn.info)), and Professor of Bioethics and Biomedicine at AUSN, where he also serves as Provost. He served from 2004 until 2013 as UNESCO Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific. He is credited with over three hundred academic publications (45 books; 230 Peer Reviewed papers in academic journals and books; and other academic publications in academic journals). Dr. Macer taught undergraduate and graduate students as a Foreign Professor at the University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba Science City from 1990-2005. He also serves as Affiliated Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Kumamoto, Japan (since 2007); and Director, Eubios Ethics Institute, (New Zealand; Thailand and Japan (since he founded it in 1990, [www.eubios.info](http://www.eubios.info)). Dr. Macer is also Director of the International Peace and Development Ethics Centre and Peace Park at Kaeng Krachan, and a Research Fellow at the Center for Ethics of Science and Technology, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Dr. Macer is also the Secretary of the Asian Bioethics Association.

Born in 1962 in Christchurch, New Zealand, he has a B.Sc (Hons) in Biochemistry from Lincoln College, University of Canterbury, 1983; Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, and Trinity College, University of Cambridge, U.K., 1987; and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy from Kumamoto University, Japan in 2009. He has since worked in UK, New Zealand, Italy, Japan, Thailand and USA; and is a member of many international bioethics committees.

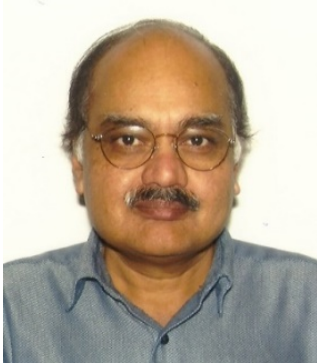


## **Debidatta Mahapatra**



Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra has a doctoral degree from the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. His areas of interest include conflict management and peacebuilding, South Asia, and Indian thought. He was a recipient of the Scholar of Peace Award (New Delhi, 2007) and the Kodikara Award (Colombo, 2010). He was a Charles Wallace India Fellow at the Queen's University at Belfast in 2010. His writings and comments have been published by reputed publishers, magazines and news agencies like Reuters. His publications include *Gandhi and the World* (2018), *Conflict Management in Kashmir* (2018), *Conflict and Peace in Eurasia* (2013), *World Order, Multipolarism and Terrorism* (2011), and *Central Eurasia: Geopolitics, Compulsions and Connections* (2008). He is Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Center for Nonviolence, Human Rights and World Peace at the Hindu University of America.

## **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 in several capacities. He has received the IEEE Third Millennium Medal, 2000 and IEEE CS Golden Core Award, June 1996.

Dr. Malaiya has been an invited speaker and panelist at the biennial JAINA (Jain Associations of North America) Conventions for many of the conventions and other forums in the US. He has been the coordinator for office of Alumni Affairs for ISSJS (International Summer School for Jain Studies) he has also been an invited speaker at other Jain forums.

He was the founder of the India Association of Northern Colorado and has served as its elected President for multiple terms. He was the creator of the very first website on Hindi language, and the first major web-site on Jainism. He is the moderator of an internet forum on Indian Archaeology.

## **Darshan Mehta**



Darshan Mehta is Medical Director and Director of Medical Education for the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (BHI-MGH) and Director of Education at the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School

Dr. Mehta received his BA in Biology from Illinois Wesleyan University and an MD from University of Texas-Southwestern Medical School. He completed his residency in internal medicine at University of Illinois-Chicago Hospital. In 2008, he completed a clinical research fellowship in complementary and integrative medicine at the Harvard Medical School Osher Research Center, during which he received a Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health.

His educational and research interests include curricular development in complementary and integrative medical therapies, mind/body educational interventions in health professions training, and promotion of professionalism in medical trainees. He directs medical student and resident rotational electives at BHI-MGH and the Osher Center. Dr. Mehta sees patients at both locations in a consultative role for use of complementary and integrative medical therapies, as well as mind/body interventions for stress management and stress reduction.

Dr. Mehta is active in the Massachusetts Medical Society, and is a member of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Mehta is board-certified in Integrative Medicine and has completed professional training in mindfulness-based stress reduction at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He serves on the Education and Membership Committees for the Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine (CAHCIM) and is on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, and is a new student in the journey of fatherhood.

## **C. Rajan Narayanan**



C. Rajan Narayanan, PhD, C-IAYT is the chief clinician and researcher of Life in Yoga's Measured Yoga Therapy and serves as the Executive Director of two non-profits: Life in Yoga Foundation (estd 2006) and Life in Yoga Institute (estd 2011). Measured Yoga Therapy is based on Naadi measurement that instantly predicts the outcome of 3 months of practice of a specific yoga protocol. His publication [Bioenergy and its Implication for Yoga Therapy](#), reflects his research of several years. He led Life in Yoga Institute to become the first yoga institution to get independent accreditation to give continuing medical education credits to doctors in 2014. He established a therapy clinic in Maryland

in 2013. Since 2016 beginning with the curing of an incurable condition for a SEWA director in Houston with Measured Yoga Therapy, and following up with similar impact on chronic conditions for others in Houston, he established therapy clinics in Houston and Phoenix. On October 19, 2019, a therapy clinic is being opened in Wilmington, Delaware.

### **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 Colorado Hindu community.

### **Yashwant Pathak**



Yashwant Pathak is Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at Taneja College of Pharmacy, University of South Florida. He has extensive experience in academia as well as Pharmaceutical Industry. He has published over 200 scientific research papers, reviews and chapters in the books. He has to his credit over 30 edited books published by Taylor and Francis, Springer, Elsevier and John Wiley. His books are in the field of nano particulate drug delivery systems, nutraceuticals and advanced drug delivery systems. He has been working in the area of Dharmic traditions for last 30 years and has organized many national and international conferences. He has also published several books in the field cultural studies and conflict resolution and management. He has received several national and international awards including two Fulbright fellowships, Global Engagement achievement award, Endeavor executive fellowship from Australian Government, CNPQ research award from Brazil Government, outstanding faculty award from USF.

He has been associated with Uberoi foundation since its inception. He has travelled in more than 90 countries and lectured in many universities.

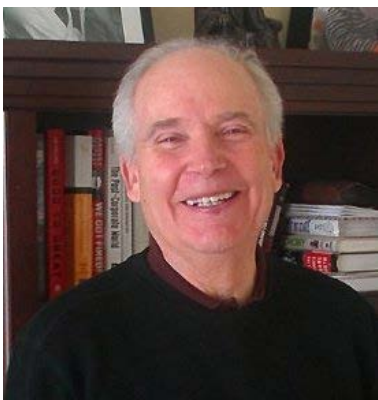
## **Joan PolICASTRI**



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.

## **Chris Risom**



Chris Risom was born in New York City on February 23, 1948, a first generation American born of immigrants of Danish, German and English ancestry. I was raised as a Catholic. I met SGI Nichiren Buddhism in June 1973 and started practicing seriously in December 1973. He has held a variety of leadership positions in the SGI-USA over these past 45 plus years and is currently the Rocky Mountain Coordinator of Peace and Community Relations, as well as a neighborhood Men's leader.

Chris has worked in the restaurant business, the computer and high tech industries, and for the last 15 years, in online education. Currently he teaches online for Post University in Waterbury Connecticut.



## **Mandip Singh Sachdeva**



Mandip Singh Sachdeva is a Professor of Pharmaceutics at Florida A&M University in the area of Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery. He has a Ph.D in Biopharmaceutics from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and has extensive experience in the area of Nanotechnology. He has been awarded honors such as being an American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences Fellow and a Fulbright Fellow. He also has been awarded the Davis Productivity Award from the State of Florida three times in the last 20 years. He is very interested in yoga, meditation, pranayama, and techniques of relaxation.

## **Pravin Shah**



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

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

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

## Naveen Sharma



Dr. Naveen Sharma is a wellness specialist and has been at YO1 Wellness Center in Monticello, New York since November 2018, where he provides nutritional counseling and customized wellness therapies to the Center's guests. Prior to that time he was a director of the Balaji Nirogdham Naturopathy Center, with responsibility for all aspects of the Center's functions, including nutrition, health and wellness therapies, yoga, and many areas of programming to provide a high level of customized spa and naturopathy care. Before this, he was a wellness consultant with Nature Healz from December, 2013 through February, 2015. He has a Master of Science in Yoga, post graduate diploma in Therapeutic Nutrition and Diabetics, and Bachelor of naturopathy and yogic sciences.

## Rita D. Sherma



Rita D. Sherma holds an MA in Religion, and a PhD in Theology & Ethics from Claremont Graduate University, CA. She is Director and Associate Professor at GTU's *Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies* in Berkeley, CA; Co-Chair of *Sustainability 360*; Core Doctoral Faculty at GTU. Formerly, she was the Swami Vivekananda Visiting Professor in Hindu Studies at USC, Los Angeles. Amongst her published books and volumes pending publication are: *Prayer, Worship, Ritual, and Contemplation in Hindu Traditions* (Routledge, 2020) • *Hinduism and the Divine* (Bloomsbury, 2019) • *Woman and Goddess in Hinduism: Reinterpretations and Re-envisioning* (Palgrave, 2011) • *Hermeneutics and Hindu Thought: Toward a Fusion of Horizons* (Springer, 2008), and a major project and edited volume on *Sustainable Societies: Interreligious Interdisciplinary Response* (Springer Publ. International). Dr. Sherma is on the Editorial Board of *Reading Religion* (a journal of the American Academy of Religion), Senior Editor of *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*; and founding Vice President of DANAM, a scholarly society for research and publishing on Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain religious worlds, which holds its annual meetings in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion. She is founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Dharma Studies* (Springer).

## Suhag Shukla



Suhag Shukla, Esq., is Executive Director and co-founder of Hindu American Foundation (HAF). She holds a BA in Religion and JD from the University of Florida. Ms. Shukla has helped steer the Foundation to being recognized as a leading voice for civil rights, human rights, and religious freedom. She's been instrumental in the development of a broad range of educational materials, white papers, and blogs for a variety of platforms, and was an integral member of HAF's Take Back Yoga project.

Ms. Shukla is a member of the board for the National Museum of American Religion and serves on religious advisory committees for the Council on Foreign Relations, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Department of Homeland Security's Subcommittee for the Prevention of Targeted Violence Against Faith-Based Communities. She's also a member of the First Amendment Center's Committee on Religious Liberty and the United Nations Women's Gender Equality and Religion platform.

### **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, vaccines, antidotes, drug delivery, and also on yoga, mind, and consciousness, along with Ayurvedic biotechnology. He has published 13 books and over 325 articles, latest being *Protein Toxins in Modeling Biochemistry* (Springer, 2016).

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. He is President of Prime Bio, Inc., a biotech company of 19 years, working with botulinum and tetanus toxins, vaccines, antibodies, detection and diagnostics, drug delivery, biosensors, Ayurvedic green chemistry, nanomaterials, and drug development.

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. He is currently a Fellow at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies.

Dr. Singh is the President and Director of Maryada Foundation (USA), a non-profit organization to promote science and education. He is also the President of ABHAS (*Antarrastriya Avadhi Bhasa Samiti*) Foundation, located in Greater Boston, MA, USA. In India, Dr. Singh is the President of Kuruom Jankalyan Sansthan, and Manager of the Kuruom Vidyalaya. He is also the President of Shri Gayadeen Singh Trust.

His honors and awards include Chancellor's Innovative Teaching Award (1995), UMass Dartmouth; Scholar of the Year Award (1995), UMass Dartmouth; 1997 Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award. Dr. Singh's other recognitions include 2004 University Service Award, UMass Dartmouth Alumni Association, New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce in 2008, Chancellor Colloquium Speaker at UMass Dartmouth in 2009. Dr. B. K. Singh Memorial Lecture speaker at Department of Chemistry, University of Allahabad, India, in 2010, A.C.

Mukherjee Distinguished Annual Lecture Speaker, Department of Philosophy, Allahabad University, India, in 2012. Uberoi Foundation Award for Exemplary Scholarly Accomplishments, 2017, Sanyukta Chaudhary Memorial Lecture, Miranda House, Delhi University.

Dr. Singh has been invited speakers to over 285 seminars and presentations, in addition to chairing dozens of meetings, conference and symposia sessions at national and international levels. He has received over \$19 million in research funding from federal & state agencies, corporation, and foundations over the past 29 years. He has been consultant to several national and international biotech, biopharma, and legal companies.

Dr. Singh serves on the Boards of Directors of World Association of Vedic Studies (WAVES, USA) and Education Society for the Heritage of India (ESHA, USA), Expert Advisor to Hindu University of America, Advisory Board of MLBD Research and Resource Foundation (India), Executive Committee, Center for Excellence in Integrative Medicine (Boston, MA), Founding Member, Anterios (sold in 2016) and Eirion Biopharma (NY). He is the Chairman, Board of Directors, Boston Center of Excellence in Health and Human Development, Boston, USA, to advance the values of Yoga and Ayurveda in integrative medicine and human development.

Dr. Singh currently is owner or co-owner of 4 different corporations in USA (2), Europe (1), and India (1), together worth over \$1 billion. He has been highlighted in media – NBC news, Fox News, Dartmouth Cable Television, Doordarshan National, DD News, DD Bihar, DD Urdu, Lok Sabha TV, All India Radio, Fall River Radio WSAR, and various news papers in USA and India. He has started a news media outlet TCN productions in collaboration with *Kuruom Jankalyan Sansthan* in Sultanpur (UP) for documentaries (*Aarohan* series) featuring inspirational stories of common man's success throughout the world. TCN also produces an interview program *Aapki Baat Hamare Saath* on current topics.

Dr. Singh received his B. Sc. from Avadh University in India in 1977 in Biology and Chemistry. He received his M.Sc. and M. Phil. Degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India in Life Sciences during 1979-1982, and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Texas Tech University in 1987. He completed his post-doctoral training at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1990, before joining the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

### **Jerry Solfvin**



Jerry Solfvin is adjunct associate professor with the Center for Indic Studies at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and the School of Indic Studies at Institute of Advanced Sciences (INADS) in Dartmouth, MA. He holds a B.A. in mathematics (Bridgewater State University), an M.S. in psychology (North Carolina Central University), and the PhD in social science (State University of Utrecht, Netherlands). His teaching career includes the US Air Force Technical Training Command, and several universities including University of West Georgia, John F. Kennedy University, California Institute of Integral Studies, and San Francisco State University.

Solfvin's primary research interests revolve around extraordinary human experiences (EHEs), from transpersonal experiences of nondual connectedness, to apparent telepathy, clairvoyance, & precognition (classic ESP), to spontaneous outbursts of apparent psychokinesis (recurrent spontaneous



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### **Frank Tedesco**



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

### **Appachanda Thimmaiah**



Dr. Thimmaiah is an expert in Vedic regenerative organic agriculture, agroecology and traditional knowledge systems. He received his Master's degree from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and PhD from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. Thimmaiah has advised several projects in 10 countries and worked with Governments, United Nations, International organizations, Agribusiness corporations, non-governmental organizations, and farmers associations in systems of regenerative agriculture and agribusiness. He advised the National Organic program of the Royal Government of Bhutan for 6 years to transition the Himalayan Kingdom to organic and carbon neutral. He serves in the board of many international organizations, notably, Carbon Underground US, Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), SAFE Network, Indonesia, Demeter, US and trustee, the Cows Foundation, US. Thimmaiah has published several papers in reputed international journals, written books and presented numerous talks at international conferences/events. He lives in Fairfield, Iowa.

## Lavanya Vemsani



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