

Michigan SIKH Chair Grants in 2011 and 2012 from Uberoi Foundation

“University of Michigan will be celebrating 25 years of the setting up of a Sikh studies program designed to serve the student population and **to further the knowledge of this Minority Dharmic tradition to the broader public.”**

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<http://www.uberoireligiousstudies.org/reports/UFRS-Annual-Report-2012.pdf>

Vision and Mission UBEROI FOUNDATION

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.

(Comments: please note **“Will of Mahinder uberoi”** does not read Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism are part of any Dharma Tradition. All these are separate Independent/unique religions in India).

Annual Report 2011

Grant Award to Michigan UNI sikh chair in 2011 page 13

University of Michigan:
Sikhism Workshop
University of Michigan

Project:

Sikhism Workshop

Lead: Arvind Pal-Mandair

Grant support from the Uberoi Foundation was used to support a two-day workshop at the University of Michigan

on Sikhism within the Public Sphere and to set up a website

dedicated to coordinating activities between the Sikh Community and the University of Michigan.

Workshop: In 2011 the University of Michigan will be celebrating 25 years of the setting up of a Sikh studies program designed to serve the student population and to further the knowledge of this minority dharmic tradition to the broader public. In the Fall of 2011, in conjunction with an inaugural lecture by Professor Arvind Pal-Mandair, the two-day workshop took a closer look at ways in which Sikhs in the North American can negotiate the public sphere. This has become especially urgent after 9/11 with the rising number of hate crimes and backlash from the majority community targeting Sikhs in particular. Website: The new website is designed to coordinate activities between the Sikh community (especially in Michigan) and the University of Michigan. The purpose of the website is to act as a portal for bridging the divide between academic and community

UBEROI FOUNDATION Grant Awards to UNI Michigan Sikh Chair in 2012

<http://www.uberoireligiousstudies.org/reports/UFRS-Annual-Report-2012.pdf>

Grant Awards in 2012

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 2012, the Foundation awarded twelve grant allocations as summarized below.

University of Michigan page 15

Project: Sikh Seminar Applicant/Lead: Arvind Pal-Mandair, University of Michigan
Project Plan: Beginning in July 2012, the University of Michigan will be host to an intensive, seven-day, annual summer workshop-seminar focusing on Sikh Literature, Philosophy, and Ethics. The course will be taught jointly at the University of Michigan and during the evenings at the Hidden Falls Sikh Community Center, Plymouth, Michigan. It is targeted at a joint community and college audience. Building on the tried and tested model of the annual Gurmat Camps (for pre-college age Sikhs) that have become an integral feature of Sikh American community's heritage transmission to children, this intensive summer workshop-seminar in Sikh literature, philosophy, and

ethics will bring the rigor of semester-based teaching within the reach of adult Sikh communities in the USA and Canada. It will contribute greatly to the continuing education for interested student in Sikhism. As one of North America's premier research universities, the University of Michigan has been home to an endowed chair in Sikh studies for over a decade. Despite the availability of Sikh studies courses at the University of Michigan, these courses remain unavailable to a wider section of the community. The Sikh seminar will carry the University of Michigan's usual stamp of excellence and rigor. The course is aimed at a diverse audience including (i) teachers from the Sikh community; (ii) heritage and non-heritage students; (iii) undergraduate students from across North America; (iv) members of the general community; and (v) non-Sikh professionals working in education, police, welfare, and other specializations

FOR DETAILS CLICK ON UBEROI FOUNDATION of Religious studies

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B.At a Glance Plans Of Dharma Education IN NORTH AMERICA THRU SIKH CHAIRS.

A "In Our Own Voices - Dharma Education in North America"

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
September 30th to October 2nd, 2011

Co-sponsored by
[Loyola Marymount University](#) and [Nalanda International](#)

Vision

The 2011 Uberoi Foundation Experts' Meeting, "In Our Own Voices: Dharma Education in North America," seeks to facilitate the emergence of innovative / creative theories, approaches, methods to education / scholarship in Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh Dharma traditions.

Objectives

- Identify the principal elements of "Dharma," both in terms of an overall paradigm and in regard to the distinct ideas and ideals that characterize these Dharma traditions
- Provide a supportive, nurturing, and facilitative forum to uncover ways and means to promote innovative and intersubjective scholarship in Dharma traditions

- Distinguish those elements of Dharma thought and practice that are relevant for and may be applied to the pressing concerns of our time
- Determine how the intellectual traditions of the Dharma systems of thought and practice such as theories of knowledge, methods of interpretation and understanding, and philosophies of teaching innate to Dharma frameworks of thought, can be integrated and brought to bear in Dharma education
- Survey the current contexts—in terms of both problems and solutions—of education in these traditions, from the elementary to the university levels, in order to determine helpful strategies for the future expansion and deepening of Dharma education
- Explore methods of communication between the academy and the Dharma heritage communities that address the needs and sensibilities of both, and create bridges of understanding between the two
- Ascertain specific approaches to support endowments, publications, curricula, syllabi, programs, and other forms of assistance for scholarship in, and teaching of Dharma traditions
- Examine ways in which the voice of Dharma can be accorded a legitimate and respected place in global intellectual discourse
- **Support collaborations among the different institutions that are working towards the promotion of Dharma education**

"In Our Own Voices" draws our 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. We seek 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.*

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A Summary Report of Projects Funded by Uberoi Foundation

- Professor Arvind Sharma
- Professor Yashwant Pathak and Professor Gurleen Grewal
- Professor Bal Ram Singh
- Professor Sthaneshwar Timalsina, Professor Sunil Kumar and Sushri Mary (Bimala) Hicks
- Shri Rajiv Malhotra
- Professor Arvind-Pal Mandair

Dharma Education in North America“Sikh panelist” 2011 @ Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA September 30th to October 2nd, 2011

1. Professor Balbinder Singh Bhogal
2. Professor Gurleen Grewal,
3. Professor Arvind-Pal Mandair
4. Professor Prabhsharandeep Singh Sandhu presenter information uploads in progress.

C. PLAN AS APPEARS FROM TWO PAPERS PRESENTED IN 2011

**Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
September 30th to October 2nd, 2011**

Shri Karthik Venkataramani writes “The path ahead: How should Hindu engage Americans in a discussion on Hinduism and caste? Should we contrast Hinduism and Abrahamic religions, in particular Christianity? The options for the Hindus: melt into the pot vs. influence the West. **Negating the negative impact of western portrayal of Hinduism on Hindu children. Empowering Hindu children by going back to the traditional Hindu framework of nyaya, purva paksha etc. Using the power of the Internet to create a better awareness for the Hindus and those westerners that are disenchanted with Abrahamic religions and the lack of ethical scruples in western society. Going beyond ideology to create a value proposition.....”**

Professor Kundan Singh writes “One of the objectives of the Uberoi foundation for dharma education in North America is to "provide a supportive, nurturing, and facilitative forum to uncover ways and means to promote innovative and intersubjective scholarship." Given that all the dharma traditions have their roots in India, it is considered mandatory in our opinion for scholars from North America to visit India and engage themselves in textual and experiential study of its various traditions..... **In consonance with the above-stated objective of Uberoi foundation, I will be conducting a survey of few places in Pondicherry, Chennai, Bangalore, and Delhi where scholars from North America can come and station themselves for various lengths of time to conduct dharma-based scholarship. My visit will explore the infrastructural support that the said places can afford. This is just the beginning of our long term goal of establishing various study abroad programs in India which will encompass the study of spirituality, culture, and history of India. At the meeting, I will present** a visual presentation of my findings resulting from my visit of the aforementioned places.”