



# JAIN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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**“One who is non-vigilant and covetous of sensual objects is called an instrument of violence.”**  
**Bhagwan Mahavir**

### From the Desk of Chairman

By establishing “**Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies**”, Florida International University, Miami (USA) has given us a platform and allowed us to implant this seed the flowers of which are going to blossom for many years to come.”

– Dr. Dipak Jain

### From the Desk of President

I want to thank all volunteers, donors and supporters of the unique initiative “**Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies**” established in FIU. We have received overwhelming support in the US as well as from our colleagues in India, as evident from Dr Katz’s report of his India trip. It is timely that we Jains spread and stand for our core principles of Peace and respect for all living beings – humans and animals alike.

We are fortunate to receive enthusiastic and generous support from Jain community across the USA. Below is the list of current donors for the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship endowment to-date. We will update this list as more donors get included. Our heartfelt thanks to our esteemed donors. We appeal to all like-minded persons, particularly to the Jain community in the USA to take part in this historic endeavor with generous donations to the endowment fund. All donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3).

Please! visit our website at [www.jaineducation.org](http://www.jaineducation.org) and [religion.fiu.edu/mahavir](http://religion.fiu.edu/mahavir), and drop your comments or ideas.

– Sapan Bafna

### Upcoming Event

**PHYLLIS GRANOFF**

**TO DELIVER FIRST ANNUAL MAHAVIR JAYANTI LECTURE**

**APRIL 13th**



Phyllis Granoff, the Lex Hixon Professor of World Religions at Yale University, will deliver the First Annual Mahavir Jayanti Lecture at 6 p.m. on April 13, 2011, at FIU’s Patricia and Phyllip Frost Art Museum, 10975 SW 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

She will present an illustrated lecture, “Images of the Conqueror – Jain Art,” based on her most recent book. Copies will be available for purchase and signing.

The program will open with a raga by Jorge Alfano on the bansuri flute and Jeffrey Dean on the table, and followed by a reception hosted by the Jain community.

Granoff is one of the world’s leading scholars of Indian religions whose work has focused on mythology, cults, image worship, art, literature, poetry and medieval Indian law codes. She is fluent in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Ardha Magadhi, Bengali, Hindi, Assamese, Gujarati and Oriya. Among her books are *The Forest Thieves and the Magic Garden: An Anthology of Medieval Jain Stories* (1998), *The Journey: Stories by Kishor Charan Das* (2000), *Images in Asian Religions* (2004), *Pilgrims, Patrons and Place: Localizing Sanctity in Asian Religions* (2003), and *Speaking of Monks: Religious Biography in India and China* (1992).

The event is sponsored by the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship and the “Target After Hours” program at the Frost Art Museum, and co-sponsored by the Jain Education and Research Foundation, FIU’s Department of Religious Studies, FIU’s Asian Studies Program, and TAK Religious Studies Honors Society. It is free and open to the public.

### **Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies: A Historical Milestone**

The Jain Education and Research Foundation was established to foster the core principles of Jainism, Nonviolence (*Ahimsa*), Multiplicity of views (*Anekantvad*) and Limited Possession and Consumption (*Aparigraha*) at the academic level within the United States. The foundation established a historic milestone when it endowed a perpetual professorship in Jain Studies at FIU in 2010. This was the first ever endowed professorship on Jain studies anywhere



outside of India. The efforts of JERF have received notable acclaim including special blessings from HH Acharya Mahapragya and HH Dalai Lama. This is a unique initiative in western world by the Jain community and intends to pave the way for many more to come in near future.

In photo from left to right -- Dr. Nathan Katz, Sapan Bafna (President – JERF), Dr. Mark Rosenberg (President – FIU), Dr. Dipak Jain (Chairman, JERF), Dr. Ken Furton (Dean – FIU), Samani Charitra Prajna ji, Bob Conrad (Vice President, FIU)

### **Prof. Nathan Katz, First Bhagwan Mahavir Professor, FIU**

Prof. Nathan Katz is constantly exploring new and wider planes for Jain studies and research in the western world. He has said that our approach is to infuse Jain perspectives across the university curriculum, in fields such as the health sciences, social work, the social sciences, education, environmental studies, management and entrepreneurship, development economics, women's studies. etc. – what he calls “applied Jainology.” He also is initiating courses in “classical Jainology,” which includes the history and development of Jainism, its philosophy, literature, art, and religious practices. All Jain Studies, applied or classical, revolve around the three cardinal notions of non-harm (*Ahimsa*), non-absolutism (*Anekanta*), and non-possessiveness (*Aparigraha*). He also envisions an interdisciplinary center for religious pluralism, rooted in the Jain philosophy of *Anekanta*, to be housed in FIU's prestigious School of International and Public Affairs. In the very first year of the professorship, Prof. Katz and Dr. Chaitanya Pragma have developed two on-campus courses based on the study of the Jain classical texts, Acharanga, Upasakadasha, Tattvartha Sutra, and others. In these courses, students explore the texts to understand the core principles of Jainism. An online program in Jainological Studies is forthcoming.



**Dr. Nathan Katz, an FIU professor who specializes in the religions of India, was named the first Bhagwan Mahavir Professor of Jain Studies. Dr. Katz's career studying comparative religions has shown Jainism's profound global impact. He sees Jainism as a numerically small religion with vast influence in the world.**

### **Action Plan**

The action plan presented by Prof. Katz is as follows:

Based on many conversations with colleagues in India, as well as my meeting with the JERF board on December 22, I recommend that we pursue the following objectives immediately from this academic year 2010-2011:

1. Announce the “Bhagwan Mahavir Junior Faculty Fellows” program, by which younger FIU faculty would go to India to engage scholars about their work, gaining Jain perspectives on their fields – whether economics, business, religious studies, literature, social work, education, peace studies, conflict resolution, etc. I propose we offer \$2000 (to cover a summer air ticket and a small living stipend) and that we rely on host institutions in India to provide hospitality as well as facilitating meetings with Indian scholars. Part of the rationale is that if we send young faculty, there will be at a point in their careers where they to integrate Jain materials into their teaching and research over many years to come. I would hope JVBU would be our key link in connecting our faculty with Indian counterparts.
2. Advance two new course proposals at FIU: “Introduction to Jainism” and “Field Work in Jain Studies”. The former is obvious; it would be the keystone of our certificate program in the future. The latter would enable our students, as well as students at other North American colleges, to receive credit based upon their written reflections about their learning in JVBU’s summer program, or perhaps in the ISJS summer program, or for field work among Jain communities in India and in the Jain diaspora. This field work course could be repeated twice with change in content.
3. I am willing to attend both the JAINA convention, July 1-4 in Houston, and the DANAM-AAR meetings, November 19-22 in San Francisco. I would ask our JERF board to help me obtain a speaking slot on the JAINA program.
4. We should move ahead with our on-line certificate program. Of course, this could not be implemented until sufficient funds are available. We need to pay a decent honorarium to professors who take the lead in developing the actual courses, as well as for technical support. We need to work out financial arrangements with FIU administrators who run our on-line courses, and they are found in the College of Business.
5. Promote April 13<sup>th</sup> lecture by Phyllis Granoff; seek ideas for second Mahavir Jayanthi lecture.

**Research Fellowship:** From this academic year (2010-11) Prof. Nathan Katz has introduced the following research fellowship to open new doors for research in Jainism at FIU.

### Florida International University

Call for proposals from junior faculty in all fields:

#### **BHAGWAN MAHAVIR JUNIOR FACULTY SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS**

Junior faculty members in any field are invited to apply for the newly established Bhagwan Mahavir Junior Faculty Summer Fellowship. The Fellow will receive airfare between Miami and India and an internal travel stipend from the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship. Hospitality throughout India will be provided through Jain Vishva Bharati University in Ladnun, Rajasthan.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide FIU faculty members at early stages in their career with an immersion in Jainism and introductions to colleagues at a variety of institutions in India. The purpose is to gain a Jain perspective on the fellow’s field of study. It is hoped these experiences might evolve into teaching and research interests. There is no restriction as to field, but among the possibilities are Religious Studies, Anthropology, Literature, Women’s Studies, Asian Studies, Business or Entrepreneurship, Architecture, Social Work, Education, Development Studies, Economics, Philosophy, etc.

One fellowship will be awarded for summer 2011.

A statement of interests should be sent to Nathan Katz, Bhagwan Mahavir Professor, at [Nathan.katz@fiu.edu](mailto:Nathan.katz@fiu.edu), by March 1, 2011.

Fellowship awards will be announced by March 7, 2011.

#### **Summer School for Jain Studies**

Since 2008 FIU students have been visiting Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnun to study Jainism during its summer school. From the academic year 2010-2011 Prof. Katz has developed the summer school program as “Field Work in Jain Studies”. The announcement for the application to the summer school is as follows:

## Summer 2011

### Study at Jain Vishva Bharati University!

Where: Ladnun, (Rajasthan), Northwestern India

When: **July 23-August 12**

Courses: **Jain Philosophy, Ethics and Meditation**

Cost: **\$500** which includes tuition, room and boarding. (contact: samanijfiu@gmail.com)

### Dalai Lama Blesses JERF Donation for Jain Studies to FIU

An elegant ceremony was organized on October 25th in Miami Beach in honor of HH Dalai Lama by the Princess of Vietnam. Dr. Dipak Jain, ex-Dean of Kellogg School of Management and Chairman of JERF, the Board of Directors of JERF and many leaders of Jain Society including President of JVBU Samani Charitra Pragya, Samani Dr. Chaitanya Pragya, Mr. Bharat Desai, Ms. Neerja Sethi and Mr. Rajiv Jain were present on the occasion. Dr. Dipak Jain presented a check to HH Dalai Lama as the second installment of a multi-million dollar plan with FIU towards Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship for Jain studies. Addressing the exclusive gathering, HH Dalai Lama called Jainism and Buddhism "twin brothers" from India.



Samani Dr. Chaitanya Pragya, Samani Charitra Pragya, Dr. Ken Furton, Dr. Dipak Jain, HH Dalai Lama, HH Prince Thi Nga of Vietnam, Dr. Nathan Katz, Bharat Desai, Neerja Sethi and all the Directors of JERF

In the public talk at the famous synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, HH Dalai Lama mentioned the global values of Jainism such as non-possession, non-violence and self-restraint specially practiced by the Jain ascetics. The visit by HH Dalai Lama gave good exposure of the precepts of Jainism to the western world and highlighted how the teachings of Jainism can help resolve the problems of the modern world. Following the ceremony, a delicious

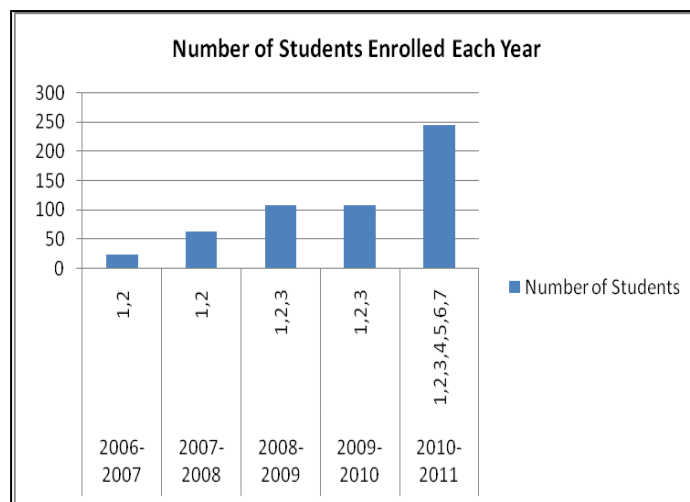
lunch and beautiful cultural program was hosted by Princess Thi Nga of Vietnam. Prof. Nathan Katz and Prof. Ken Furton, Dean of Arts and Science College of FIU, celebrated Jain studies at FIU and the contribution of the Jain community for this noble cause.

### Jain Studies Infused in Various Courses in Florida International University

Jain Studies, with FIU's administrative and academic assistance, has grown to offer seven popular courses in this year's Spring semester from its first small course in 2006. The courses and student enrollment are as follows:

#### Key

- 1 Jainism & Nonviolence
- 2 Religion Life & Vegetarianism
- 3 Intro to Asian Religions
- 4 Religions of India
- 5 Religious Classics of Asia
- 6 Seminar on Sacred Sources
- 7 Intro to Sanskrit Language



Under the faculty exchange program in collaboration with Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnun, FIU has infused Jain studies in various courses. The Samani faculty members at FIU have been providing their services for this good and noble cause. Samani Charitra Prajna, the Vice-Chancellor of JVB, laid the foundation of Jain studies at FIU in 2006. Samani Dr. Chaitanya Pragma and Unnata Pragma are currently leading the endeavor. In April 2010, a historical milestone was established in the field of Jain studies by endowing Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship to Dr. Nathan Katz, a renowned senior Professor at FIU, to perpetuate Jain studies there.

## Extra Curricular Activities in FIU

### Participation in International Conferences

Samani Dr. Chaitanya Pragma and Unnata Pragma participated in the following international conferences: *"Holistic Science and Integral Living"* organized by Holistic Science Research Centre, Tennessee, from August 27 to 29, 2010 and *"Total Health—Modern Medicine, Yoga and Ayurveda: Research Perspectives"* organized by VYASA International, Bengaluru and Hindu University of America, Orlando from Sep. 26-29, 2010. The research papers were focused on the diverse levels of human existence & its health.



Research undertaken in Jain Vishva Bharati University was presented showing a significant change in physical, mental, emotional & spiritual wellbeing of the person.

### Guest Lectures

Samani Dr. Chaitanya Pragma was invited by Prof. Oren B. Stier, scholar of Judaic Studies at FIU, to give a seminar talk on the subject "Jain Idea of Violence and Non-violence". She presented the Jain view of non-violence from a socio-political, psychological and spiritual point of view. The graduate student audience participated in discussion & analysis of the concepts of just war and fast unto death etc. from the Jain perspective.



Dr. Chaitanya Pragma and Unnata Pragma were invited by Daniel Alvarez and other professors to give talks on Jainism for the course "Religion: Analysis and Interpretation". Jainism, being nearly unknown to this part of the world, fascinates the students. The talks explored subjects like Jain history, culture, philosophy, and ethics.

## Special Events

**Visiting Lectures on Vegetarianism & Gandhi's Legacy of Ahimsa:** R.P. Jain, Director of Motilal Banarsidass Publication, New Delhi, was invited to lecture on "Vegetarianism" and "Gandhi's Legacy of Ahimsa". He presented a holistic view of the concept of Food from an Indian perspective.



**Workshops on Sound Sleep & Stress Relief (13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Oct):** During the Fall semester, Preksha Meditation held two workshops focusing on the most relevant student problems. In the first workshop, students were introduced to the concept of sleep, not as mere relaxation, but as a tool for exploring the unconscious treasure. Many tips and techniques were taught to help sound sleep including Jain meditation.

The second workshop addressed one of our students' biggest concerns, stress. The workshop explored how different

techniques heal different kinds of stress and ended by providing guided meditation CDs to help the students carry the practice at home.



## Preksha Meditation Club at FIU

The PM Club at FIU organizes seminars, workshops, lectures, and meditation sessions on Preksha Meditation to promote a healthy mind and soul. Sessions are held every Monday & Tuesday on FIU's main campus.



## Professor Nathan Katz's Visit to India

To further Jain studies and bring awareness to our cause, JERF sponsored a trip to India for Dr. Nathan Katz from Nov 21st until Dec 3rd, 2010. Professor Nathan Katz shares his experience below:

*"I arrived at IGI Airport, New Delhi, late on November 21, and was warmly received by about a dozen individuals from the Jain community, and taken to a hotel booked by Shri R. P. Jain, proprietor of Motilal Banarsidass Indological publishers.*

*Between November 21 and December 3, I visited scholars of Jainism, as well as religious and community leaders in Delhi, at Jain Vishwa Bharati University in Ladnun, Rajasthan, and in Indore.*

For the most part, I rested on November 22. I met with Professor Navras Jaat Aafreedi of Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, about common research interests, and for the most part of the day, I walked around the city and tried out its very impressive new metro system.

I met with Professor P. K. Kumaraswamy of Jawaharlal Nehru University over breakfast on November 24. We have mutual research interests, and I also sought to enlist JNU on a US government grant to provide training in Indian critical language for American students.

At noon I visited Motilal Banarsidass, and this eminent publisher expressed interest in bringing out a series of books on Jainology, edited at FIU. This would be a fine project for the future, once our Center is up and running and producing high-quality research.

That evening, we called on Dr. Karan Singh. We discussed our work at FIU, and I extended an oral invitation for our School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) to speak at FIU the next time he was in the U.S. We have applied to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for a two-year visiting professor in Jain Studies and Conflict Resolution/ Peace Studies. As Dr. Singh is the chair of ICCR, naturally I hope our conversation will help our efforts to land this prestigious grant. Dr. Singh's visit and lecture would advance relations between the university and the Indian-American community in general.

The next day, November 25, Shri Jain took me to a "Seminar on Jainological Studies" at Vidya Bharati School in Suriyanagar. Professor Muni Mahendra Kumar led the event. (I found Muniji to be delightful, a man of penetrating intelligence and warmth; I look forward to interacting with him over the years.) There were some academic papers, and I spoke about our project at FIU. Lively discussions followed. The seminar was graciously coordinated by Dr. Kusum Dhanpat Lunia, who invited participants to her home for conversation and a meal.

Following that event, I went to meet with Dr. Shugan Jain and several faculty at the International School for Jain Studies (ISJS). They are very interested in having us facilitate bringing American students to study Jainism in their programs, which highlights on-site, rather than classroom studies. I think FIU can play a role in facilitating North American college student participation at ISJS.

November 26 was spent travelling by car to JVBU in Ladnun. I was greeted by the Vice-Chancellor, Samani Charitra Prajna, whom of course I know from her years at FIU. November 27-29 was the "National Seminar on the Application of Non-Possession (Aparigraha) in Jainism," organized by JVBU staff. Scholars from all around India participated, and this was an ideal occasion for me to meet with a wide range of academics, ranging from classical Jainological textual studies, to the application of Jain principles to business and the environment. My overall impression is that we are on the right track in highlighting "applied Jainology" rather than "classical Jainology" at FIU. Most everyone I engaged in discussions reinforced this opinion.



In particular, there was keen interest in exchanging views about business management and entrepreneurship, social work, development economics (Ven. Mahaprajna's notion of "relative economics" in particular), and environmental studies, and during the course of the seminar I came up with idea to send some of our junior faculty from FIU to interact with Jain colleagues in India. I propose we initiate the "Bhagwan Mahavir Junior Faculty Fellowship" program at FIU.

The organizers of the seminar were most kind in allotting an hour to a dialogue about our proposed FIU Undergraduate Certificate in Jain Studies, which I hope will be offered both on-line and in-person. There was a good deal of give-and-take, and we are moving toward the goal of a fully on-line Jain Studies program, as well as more classroom courses at FIU and a field work program. At the conclusion of the seminar on Nov. 29, Ven. Samani Charitra Prajna took me to Durgergadh to meet H. H. Acharya Shree Mahashramanaji. The Samani and I told Acharyaji about our work at FIU, and he was very encouraging and supportive of our efforts. After this audience, I was taken to meet the leader of all the Terapanthi nuns, Ven. Sadhvipramukha Kanak Prabha, a poet, scholar and influential religious authority.



November 30 was a long day of travel, by auto to IGI Airport, New Delhi, to catch a flight to Indore. I was once again regally greeted at the airport and escorted to a lovely hotel room, thanks to the Indore Jain community, especially Professor Anupam Jain of Devi Ahilya University.



December 1 was filled with lectures and meetings. We started at Kundakund Gyanpi-  
tha (KKJ), a Jainological research institute affiliated with Devi Ahilya University. We began with a “National Symposium on Jainology,” at which I spoke about our work at FIU. Sharing the platform with me was the Vice-Chancellor, Professor P. K. Mishra. During the day, several times he expressed his university’s strong desire to have an ongoing relationship with FIU in a number of fields – not only Jain Studies, but economics, sciences, business, etc.

I was shown the remarkable Jain manuscript collection and witnessed the inauguration of a new exhibition. KKJ is a remarkably rich resource for traditional Jainological studies. My host, Professor Anupam Jain, is a mathematics professor at Devi Ahilya University, and I was enthralled by his work on Jain mathematics, a field of tremendous research potential.

After lunch I was taken to Holkar Autonomous Science College, also affiliated with Devi Ahilya University. The event was the inauguration of their Certificate Program in Religion and Science, the first of its kind in all of India, and I was asked to speak about contemporary research into this field in America. I believe some of our FIU faculty would benefit from engaging our Jain colleagues in Indore about this field. Again, the Vice-Chancellor was present, and he reiterated his great interest in collaborating with FIU.

In the afternoon, we returned to KKJ for a dialogue session about our work at FIU, about the on-line certificate program, and about possible avenues for collaborative research. Leading this dialogue session was Professor N. P. Jain, a scholar and diplomat, who will be sending us a draft proposal. Overall, I was very impressed with the opportunities at Indore, a charming city with a very rich Jain community.



Following this dialogue and a brief reception at the private home of one of KKJ’s chief benefactors, I was taken back to the airport to return to Delhi. December 2, I met with Professor Ranabir Chakravarti, a very eminent historian at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). I have known Professor Chakravarti for many years, including one year he spent as a Fulbright professor at FIU. He has been doing very interesting research about Jain history, especially Jain merchants and their relations with religious life, and he is training some of his doctoral students in this field. We had many areas a mutual interest, including funding a solid successor at the Bhagwan Mahavir Professor at FIU. That night, Professor Chakravarti took me to IGI Airport for my return to Miami.

I am very grateful to my hosts and my colleagues who worked very hard to create a very stimulating and promising visit to India. I also found my hosts to be remarkably gracious. Sometime in the not-too-distant future, I hope to visit other Jainological centers in India, perhaps including universities and institutes in Chennai, Mysore, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, and Kolkata.”

### Gratitude-Letter



Sardarshahar Nov 08, 2010, on behalf of all the members of Jain Education and Research Foundation, Miami, USA “**Gratitude-Letter**” was presented to His Holiness Acharya Mahashramanji by Mr. Nirmal Baid, one of the Directors of JERF. The gathering of over 1500 included Jains from as far away as Mumbai and Hyderabad along with the local community.

Dr Baid said that it is the blessings and vision of HH Acharya Mahapragya and untiring effort of the faculties of Jain Vishva Bharati University due to which Jain community of America could achieve success in establishing a historic milestone named “**Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship**” at FIU.

HH Acharya Mahapragya firmly believed that Jain teachings are based on deep insight and eco-human values. The teachings must be shared with the people outside Jain community through the mainstream of education



system of the world. JERF is the foundation established to realize the dream of this great saint and philosopher of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The establishment of the professorship through JERF is a result of tireless efforts of Samani Charitra Pragya, Samani Unnata Pragya and the Jain community over past five years. Currently, Samani Chaitanya Pragya is leading this effort at FIU. Dr Baid said that we are grateful to Acharya Mahashraman for his blessings, guidance and also for sending Samanis at FIU.

In his discourse, His Holiness Mahashraman said, "The Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship in Miami is an unprecedented initiative, and this endeavor of teaching Bhagwan Mahavir, will result in betterment of the society in US and beyond. I wish the Jain community success in carrying this vision forward". Following the discourse, Dr. Baid presented a "Gratitude-Letter" to His Holiness on behalf of the JERF Board and asked for his continued blessings and support.



### Book Donation to FIU

In a ceremony jointly organized by the Jain Center of South Florida (JCSF) and the Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF) on Aug 15 at the Jain temple in Weston in South Florida, JERF made a gift of books on Jainism to the Florida International University library. This was also an occasion in which Prof Nathan Katz, the first Bhagwan Mahavir Endowed Professor, was introduced to the local Jain community.

The FIU team was represented by Prof. Nathan Katz, Mr Robert Callahan, Asst Dean of College of Arts and Sciences and by Ms Ana Mendoza, Associate Dean of the Libraries of the Florida International University.

More than 50 books on Jainism in English were presented to the Florida International Library where these books will be catalogued and put into the general circulation for use by student, faculty and research scholars. The books were presented to Ana Mendoza, Associate Dean of FIU libraries.

### Our Esteemed Donors

We are fortunate to receive enthusiastic and generous support from Jain community across the USA. The following is a list of donors for the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship endowment to-date. Our heartfelt thanks to our esteemed donors. We appeal to all like-minded persons, particularly to the Jain community in the USA to take part in this historic endeavor with generous donations to the endowment fund. All donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3).

**Many employers also have a program of matching donations to charitable institutions. We encourage all pro-**

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<b>Nagji Vira</b>	<b>Mody Mukund S. &amp; Jayshri</b>	<b>Narayanan Meeta &amp; Govindrajan</b>	<b>Nahata Prakash &amp; Madhudrajan</b>
<b>Nahata Suparas Mal &amp; Kiran</b>	<b>Nahar Kiran D</b>	<b>Nahata Babu &amp; Mala</b>	<b>Parekh Ashok &amp; Ami</b>
<b>Parekh Dilip &amp; Sushma</b>	<b>Patel Jayantilal V. &amp; Sudha</b>	<b>Parmar Ramesh &amp; Suba</b>	<b>Perikh Bina ( Vidya Vihar)</b>
<b>Rekha Ramesh</b>	<b>Parekh Ramesh</b>	<b>Parikh Mita &amp; Sanjay</b>	<b>Srimal Sangita and Neptune</b>
<b>Sal Praschnik Inc.</b>	<b>Surana Vikas &amp; Deep</b>	<b>Surana Prakash &amp; Lata</b>	<b>Sacheti Sandeep &amp; Madhumita</b>
<b>Shah Ashok &amp; Premlata</b>	<b>Sancheti Suraj &amp; Jyotsna</b>	<b>Sanghvi Manoj &amp; Urvashi</b>	<b>Sethy Vimala H.</b>
<b>Shah Dilip &amp; Darshna</b>	<b>Shah Bhavana</b>	<b>Shah Bindesh &amp; Roopal</b>	<b>Shah Bipin &amp; Rekha</b>
<b>Shah Kirit R.</b>	<b>Shah Guni</b>	<b>Shah Hemendra M. &amp; Unita</b>	<b>Shah Kirit &amp; Harshida</b>
<b>Shah Nayan</b>	<b>Shah Kunal</b>	<b>Shah Mehul &amp; Anita</b>	<b>Shah Naresh K &amp; Indira</b>
<b>Shah Tushar</b>	<b>Shah Neeral</b>	<b>Shah Rajen &amp; Beena</b>	<b>Shah Rajni</b>
<b>Surana Manohar Singh</b>	<b>Shah Vasant &amp; Mona</b>	<b>Sipani Dhanraj</b>	<b>Surana Ajay</b>
<b>Tolia Kishore</b>	<b>Suresh Chitalia</b>	<b>Dr. Satish &amp; Geeta Shah</b>	<b>Thakker Hemant &amp; Taru</b>
<b>Tolia Mihir</b>	<b>Talati Dipak &amp; Siddhi</b>		

We members are delighted by presenting the first issue of the newsletter of JERF to our intellectual & enthusiastic readers. In this special issue, the readers can find some glimpses of the academic endeavors of JERF through Florida International University. The newsletter is supposed to be issued in the end of each university semester, so that our readers can be updated about the work and progress of the semester and new possibilities and plans for the next semester we have for the Jain studies and research. We invite our readers to participate in submitting ideas or other contributions to our mission and project at large.