

International School for Jain Studies organised the following programs (June 1st to August 8th 2013):

Program	Subject	Duration	Participant profile	Number
ISSJS-2013.4W	Jain Studies	6/1- 6/30	U. Graduate students	15
ISSJS-2013.6W	Jain Studies	6/1 – 7/15	Graduate students, PhD and faculty members	15
Teachers for Peace	Ahimsa	7/15-8/8	High school teacher	14

The participants for the first two programs (in their ninth year of offering now) came from seven universities and five countries of USA, Canada, Czech, Poland, UK, Japan and Spain while those from the third program came from USA and Russia.

The first two programs were conducted at Delhi-Jaipur- Varanasi-Aligarh and Jalgaon. Each program consisted of six course modules like History-culture and literature of Jainism, Philosophy, Karma Doctrine, Ethics, Applications to modern day issues and reading of one Jain Holy text. The participants of ISSJS-2013.6W were also required to undertake one week of independent research and present a well documented research paper on relevant subject of study. They were also taken for day's pilgrimage to Hastinapur, visits to temples and monks in Delhi and participate in some religious rituals. A typical day consisted of two to three 1.5 hours of academic interactive lectures in the morning followed by group discussions in the afternoon. A typical work day started at 08:00 A.M and lasted till 09:00 P.M in the evening.

The AAA (Ahimsa, Anekant and Aparigraha) and karma doctrines were discussed at length during the program along with ways and means to enhance self improvement for enlightened thinking and happiness. In all 15 qualified and experienced faculty members from India and Germany delivered the lectures as well as guided the participants in their afternoon discussions. ISJS provided excellent and comfortable living space, Jain wholesome vegetarian food, unlimited and uninterrupted internet access and library facilities to the participants. The participants earned three (4W program) and six (6W program) credit units from Mangalayatan university for transfer to their graduate programs of studies in their home countries. During the passage of time the participant's involvement in studies in the classroom and outside increased till the last day as was seen from the comments they made and the regular feedback received from them on a daily basis. All the participants wrote excellent research papers after extensive research at Parshwanath Vidyapeeth, Varanasi. These papers will be published by Parshwanath Vidyapeeth (an associate and part of ISJS), in its quarterly journal SHRAMAN to be brought out in September 2013.

The third program, popularly called as **Teachers ready for peace** is the second time offering by ISJS. It aims at training the High School and Primary School Teachers in the doctrine and practice of Ahimsa (non violence) in their personal life as well as in

their class room to reduce violence and violent behaviours, enhance wellness and learning by the students to attain sound social and emotional values and skills to contribute towards lasting peace and happiness and self improvement.

The program was designed in three modules, namely Fundamentals of Ahimsa, Observations of its practice in different types of schools (urban, inner city, rural and high end private schools), followed by lectures on applying the doctrines learned in first module in the class room. The entire program was designed on the concept of providing a family environment for learning by three eminent experts in philosophy and IT, Sociology and Science. Shugan and Uma provided not only the faculty and expert resource but as the family ensuring comfort and fearless ambience, own life experiences on each topic and easy access to food, water, tea-coffee and savouries all through. Extreme care was taken to avoid religion and replace it by universal spiritual values like Self improvement first, equanimity of all living beings, love, tolerance, forgiveness, fearlessness, reconciliation and non-acquisitiveness as the guiding spiritual values and constituents of ahimsa. The program used all techniques, like movies, mood breakers and quotations, daily Morning Prayer, three interactive academic lectures, afternoon discussions and paper presentations by participants (they were asked to write a paper on a topic identified by ISJS prior to their arrival for the program). Each school visited was discussed at length afterwards and if required the principal of the school visited was requested to come again for detailed discussions. Special emphasis was given on Mahatma Gandhi, his life and practice of ahimsa (Gandhi Research Foundation Jalgaon with an excellent state of the art Gandhi museum and library and two schools run on Ahimsa principles strictly) by Gandhians and Value education program developed by Bharatiya Jain Sangathana, Pune. A day long open house was also organized by inviting scholars of all popular religions (Christianity, Islam, Hindu and Buddhism) to talk on ahimsa in their religions as the one of the main sources of knowledge i.e. religion that is conspicuous by its absence in the present day education and dominated primarily by Science and technology and body comforts. It was indeed a great learning for ISJS also to see how young and experienced teachers alike in a totally alien environment, culture and subject, were deeply involved continuously from 08:00AM till 10:00 PM daily in learning through classroom and discussions amongst themselves organized by ISJS. The participants and the faculty touched the life of all the persons visited and met as well The participants and the faculty touched the life of all the people in schools and partner institutions as well. At the end everyone involved expressed transformational experience for better and a promise to go back to their institutions committed to share their experiences and learning. The participants expressed keen interest in returning to ISJS to rejuvenate themselves with the doctrine of ahimsa along with more colleagues.

Other significant developments during the summer 2013

CLU (Claremont Lincoln University) support: The program would not been so successful without the whole hearted support of Prof Philip Clayton (policy issues), Ms. Lidiya Potapenko for admission processing and Mrs. Stephanie Vernon Hughes for promotion of Teachers for Peace program and excellent coordination of all programs in India.

Others: Ms. Laura Hirshfield from AB School System Boston Mass and Prof. Julie Ashworth from South Dakota were instrumental in guiding the courseware preparation as well as motivating their colleagues to join the program.

Award to ISJS: JAINA of USA bestowed the award of Outstanding Jain education services globally to ISJS in their 17th Biennial convention in Novi Michigan USA. The award was received by Dr. Shugan Jain, Chairman ISJS

ISJS alumni going places:

- **Dr. Ana Bajzelz**, outstanding ISSJS Alumni (2010) from University of Ljubljana Slovenia received her PhD on Concept of Change in Jainism as enunciated in the works of Kund Kund and Uma Swati. She is now coming to The Centre for Advanced Studies University of Rajasthan, (an affiliate of ISJS) for one year scholarship by Indian Council of Cultural Relations for Post doctoral research in Jain ontology through commentary literature. She has in the mean time acquired good knowledge of Prakrat, the language of Jain scriptures at ISJS affiliate in Jaipur. She will start her work in September 2013 and also spend significant time at Parashwanth Vidhyapeeth.
- Prof. Tim Kragh and Mrs. Kragh (PhD scholar at Leiden University Holland), ISSJS Alumni (2010) are coming to ISJS the third time for learning Prakrat, Apbhransh and now Hindi to enable them study Jain scriptures. They both are now students for PhD in Jainism (Prof. Kragh earlier earned a PhD in Buddhism from Harvard University and Mrs. Kragh MA from the same university) after attending ISSJS 2010 program. They will spend significant time in internationalizing the academic work of Parshwanath Vidhyapeeth.
- ISJS partners promise to give greater support to ISJS: Sh. Shantilal Muttha of Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana Pune, Dr. Bhavarlal Jain of Gandhi Research Foundation Jalgaon and Mr. Sugalchand of Chennai, Mr. N.K. Jain, Secretary General. Atam Vallabh Smarak Shiksa Nidhi Delhi and Hira Lal Jain SS School Delhi (as a laboratory of peace program) have promised significantly greater organizational and financial support to ISJS to globalize its programs, particularly the **Teachers for Peace** program

About ISJS: Started in 2005, more than 400 students from 20 countries and 35 universities have benefitted from its summer programmes. As a result of these programmes, Jain studies have been introduced in more than 10 universities in North America and Europe with seven of its alumni earning PhD degrees in Jainism. Similarly 30 high school teachers, primarily from USA have attended and benefitted from Teachers for Peace program. Continued learning and improving the content and delivery of its programs is a part of ISJS culture.



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Mangalayatan University, Aligarh; Jain Vidhya Sansthan, Jaipur;
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Claremont Lincoln University, USA

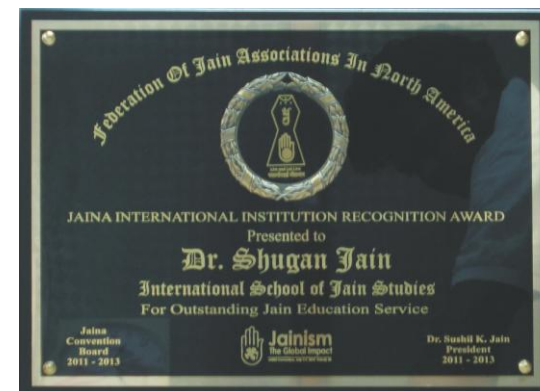
Words from few participants

- “Nourished by the people I have met, grateful for everyone’s presence, wants to continue cultivating relationships built here”

Ms. Laura Hirshfield

- “Transformative, I feel transformed by the people, the country etc., would go home and tell my students the stories of people like us”

Dr. Julie Ashworth



Award by JAINA



ISSJS-2013.4W Group



ISSJS-2013.6W Group



ISSJS-2013.Teachers Ready for Peace

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