



International School for Jain Studies

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..Newsletter

ISJS makes significant advances in its mission of promoting Academic Studies of Jainism in the universities overseas. Highlights for the month of May are given below:

- Fulbright scholar:** Mr Christopher Fleming, who had come to ISJS in August 2011 has completed his studies of Sanskrit based on Jain holy text 'Ratna Karand Shravachar' on May 18th 2012. He has since been admitted to Harvard Divinity School for a PhD program. His thesis title is 'Digamabar Jain tradition in South India'. He will write the thesis in Sanskrit. As a part of his PhD studies he will spend significant time with ISJS in India as well. We extend our best wishes to Mr Fleming and hope this as the beginning of a new activity of ISJS.
- Prakrat Studies:** Five language scholars from Europe and Australia have spent more than 6 weeks each with ISJS at Jain Vidhya Sansthan Jaipur to study Prakrat language. They intend to return for such advanced studies in near future as well as recommend the same to their colleagues and students.
- ISSJS 2102 at Bangkok:** The fifth ISJS at Bangkok Thailand was held from April 25th to May 12th 2012 at Mahidol University College of Religious Studies. **Eleven** students and five Buddhist monks attended the program. Mr Wisitsak from the group is attending ISSJS2012.4W in India to further enrich his knowledge of Jainism. ISJS has also commissioned a study at by College of Religious Studies (Dr Nomnian) Mahidol University to conduct research on Jains in Thailand and their contribution to Thai society.
- ISSJS2012 in India:** ISJS is organizing three ISSJS programs namely 3W for undergraduates, 4W for graduates and 6W for research scholars and faculty members. Today the programs start in Delhi with the 3W program already completing their stay at Somaiya Vidhya Vihar Mumbai and are now in Indore. The record number of students attending these programs are as follows:

i.	3W	Three weeks	6	Mumbai, Indore, Delhi and Jaipur
ii.	4W	Four weeks	18	Delhi, Aligarh, Varanasi, Jaipur
iii.	6W	Six weeks	14	Delhi, Jaipur and Varanasi
		Total	38	

Highlights of the year's program are award of 3 credit hours for 4W participants and their acceptance by VCU, CLU and FIU. Prof Chris Chapple is the foreign guest faculty this year. Prof Daniel Smith from VCU is providing academic support to the 6W participants.

- ISSJ2012-3W Ahinsa:** ISJS is organizing a special program of three weeks on Ahinsa /non violence for school teachers from USA. **Fifteen** teachers from USA and **two** senior administrative services officials from Spain and Japan are attending this program which starts from July 1st in Delhi-Aligarh and Jaipur. This program is a very special project which presents a golden opportunity to Jains to extend their doctrine of Non Violence to help youngsters, school teachers and administrators alike improve their performance. JAINA is actively supporting this program which is coordinated by Ms Laura Hirshfield from Boston USA.

So this year we have sixty six participants attending various ISSJS2012 programs, indeed an achievement we all members of ISJS family can be proud of.

- Extension of ISJS programs by University of Ottawa:** Prof Anne Vallye of University of Ottawa who had been associated with ISJS for last six years has brought a group of 14 students to University of Mumbai for Jain studies for three weeks. Congratulations Prof Vallye, an alumni and key executives of ISJS for last seven years, for your supporting the mission of ISJS to promote Jain Studies overseas. We hope many more such experiments will flower in future.

Please wait for more update on other interesting developments in the pipeline shortly.