



Hindu University of America

- A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions -

Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1

July 2001

Highlights:

- New Orlando campus for HU
- First 10 years of HU
- HU Conference on Tulsidas and his Works

HU is working towards "Spirituality through Education"...

Sanskrit, Yoga and Pranayama classes in summer 2001.

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Hindu University Acquires 9.7 Acres of Property for Its Campus in Orlando

Hindu University of America (HU), which is incorporated in the State of Florida, is entering a new phase of its activities. It has recently acquired a 9.7-acre property in East Orlando, near Valencia Community College and the University of Central Florida. Appropriate zoning has been granted by Orange county and the county has welcomed this choice of the Hindu University in Orlando.

This facility will provide the home for a campus of the university, housing university offices, class rooms, faculty offices, library and some residences. Earlier the University has been offering courses since 1993, from its temporary facilities located in Central

Florida, and through correspondence program. The mission of HU is to provide for learning, research and education of Hindu philosophy, religious traditions and culture with the objective of enhancing the quality of human life.

Regular instructions at the campus, in Hinduism related areas, are planned to start in Fall 2001. The Hindu University is authorized by Florida State Department of Education and the State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities for master and doctoral programs in seven areas – Hinduism, Hindu Philosophies, Yoga Philosophy & Meditation, Yoga Education, Divine Music, Ayurvedic Sciences, and Hindu/Vedic Astrology.

Swami Lalitananda Ji on HU Campus as Summer Guest Faculty

Orlando, May 2001. Swami Lalitananda Ji, a renowned teacher of Yoga, Vedanta and Sanskrit has been invited to HU campus as summer guest faculty. She is teaching non-credit classes in Sanskrit, and in Yoga and Pranayama.

Swami Ji has been associated with HU since mid-nineties. She is listed on the faculty of HU. She is listed on page 11 of HU Handbook as Prof. K. Saraswathi Rao. Her brief biography there reads as: "Prof. K. Saraswathi Rao was the in-charge of Yoga Studies, Andhra university, having earlier studied at S.V. Yoga Research Institute in Tirupathi and Canada. Since coming to USA, she has taught Yoga teachers training course and advanced teachers' training course. She has been teaching Raja Yoga, Gyan Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Hatha Yoga, etc., and is also a musician."

Professor K. Saraswathi Rao was initiated into sanyas in Sivananda's Ashram and

is now known as Swamini Lalitananda Ji. Swamin Ji is a life-long educator. A former teacher from Andhra Pradesh, India, Swamini Ji grew up in a traditional Vedic family. She studied under the guidance of her grandfather, Sri Suryanarayana Murtisastri, a well-respected teacher of Sanskrit and Vedanta. She then furthered her studies in Anaikatty Coimbotour, Tamil Nadu (South India), and in Rishikesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himalayas, under Swami Dayananda Saraswati, a Vedanta teacher of note. She also studied in Kailash Ashram of Rishikesh, the oldest school of Vedanta in this "City of the Saints."

Swami Ji teaches various aspects of Yoga and Yoga Philosophy. Students have benefited from her classes in Hatha Yoga, Stress Management (Yoga Nidra), Yoga philosophy, Patanjali's Yoga Sutras, and other treatises on yoga.

Swami Ji will stay on HU campus in Orlando till July 26th.

**Newsletter features
to be included in
forthcoming
issues:**

- **Readers Forum**
- **Book Reviews**
- **Questions and Answers**

**Please contribute
articles to HU
Newsletter. The
deadline for next
Issue is
September 1, 2001.**

From the Editor's Desk...

Since the last issue of this Newsletter, Hindu University of America has seen number of changes. A number of these are highlighted in this issue. As the headline article describes, a new campus of the University is operational in Orlando. A number of faculty appointment offers have been made. There has been substantial reorganization of the Board of directors of the University. For the first time, a Manager for Administrative Affairs has been appointed as the first salaried employee of the University. As the delay in publishing this issue of HU Newsletter (after the last issue that was sent in late July 1999) indicates, we are still working towards our goal of quarterly publication of these newsletters!

We like the Newsletter to be a forum for informal exchange of views, as well as an organ for the dissemination of news about HU plans and activities. Your help and cooperation are needed for developing this

Newsletter. Please come forward with your suggestions, comments, and advice. Contribute by writing for the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter. Current plans are for publishing the Newsletter quarterly in July, October, January and April. Articles, letters, reviews, etc. intended for publication need to be received one month ahead of the publication date. The deadline for the material for the next issue (planned for October 2001) is September 1, 2001. Electronic submission of the material is preferred. Please send an e-mail to the address given below for details.

We look forward to hearing from you and to receive from you articles, news, and reviews to be published in this Newsletter. One of the reasons for delay in publishing this issue has been the lack of articles. Your help and cooperation are needed.

Kuldip C. Gupta
Ganesh Subbarayan

Recent Donors and Founding Patrons of HU

Last year, through our association with Community Foundation of Central Florida, a matching grant arrangement was worked out with Edith Foundation. Edith Foundation matches the individual contributions made. The following contributions have been received under this plan:

- Braham R. Aggarwal \$10,000
- Krishna Aggarwal \$10,000
- Avanish Aggarwal \$10,000
- Anil Deshpande \$10,000
- Suresh Gupta \$10,000
- Rohini Gupta \$10,000
- Vishal Gupta \$10,000
- Sarita Gupta \$10,000

- Nikhil Tiwari \$5,000

FOUNDING PATRONS

Hindu University had decided to honor the first 108 donors of \$10,000 or more as Founding Patrons of the University. We welcome the first 8 persons listed above as new Founding Patrons of the University. Thank you. Our earlier roster of HU Founding Patrons includes:

Anand & Sarita Aggarwal, Satya & Vidya Chalsani, Raj & Bharti Gandhi, Ram & Pushpa Goswami, Kuldip & Usha Gupta, Vasudev Kulkarni, K. Parekh, Arun & Vimla Patel, Jitendra Patel, Vishnu Patel, and G.V. & Geeta Raghu.

Thank You!

THANK YOU!

**HU operations
depend solely on
generosity of
individual donors.**

Hindu University Newsletter is published by Colorado Center of HU on behalf of the Hindu University of America. Editing and publication is handled by a committee led by Kuldip Gupta.

Please send all correspondence to:

HU Newsletter, 4685 Pawnee Place, Boulder, Colorado 80303-3918

E-mail: newsletter@hindu-university.edu or gupta@colorado.edu

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Hindu University of America, Administrative Office: 5401 Kirkman Road, Suite 525, Orlando (Florida) 32825

The Hindu University of America admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic or other University Administered programs.

Hindu University – First Ten years

THE START

Hindu University (HU) of America was incorporated in October 1989. In October 1999, we have completed first 10 years of our presence. This article reflects on HU's foundation-laying accomplishments during this period, the infrastructure that will help us to build up for the next decade and beyond.

Like any other new organization, first decade has been the decade of struggle, and we have won our first battles. After incorporation, we started two important activities. One to seek a non-profit organization status as a 501-c (3) organization as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and we were granted that status on Jan 17, 1991. This status helped our donors/supporters to be able to deduct their contributions to Hindu University of America from their gross income for the income tax purposes.

The second action was to work with the State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities (SBICU) of the Department of Education, State of Florida. The major part of this work was to come up with a Handbook of the University, with course descriptions and a list of faculty. In this process, many people helped us, but the contributions of Prof. Yog Dhyan Ahuja, Dr Deendayal Khandelwal and Prof. K.C. Gupta need a special mention. Spending weekends after weekends, they gave the gross structure to our Handbook. After some revisions, in October 1992, we secured the permission from SBICU to operate in the State of Florida. They initially accepted our plans to Award degrees of Master of Hindu Studies and Doctor of Hindu Studies in four different fields: Hinduism, Hindu Philosophies, Yoga Philosophy and Meditation, and Yoga Education.

Inspired by the commitments of three persons to join the Hindu University Faculty, we went ahead and planned for starting the teaching activities of the University on the Vijayadashami day (October 23) 1993. Prof. P.C. Mehta of Ft Collins, CO (originally from Mumbai) joined us as the first faculty member and Miss Samhita Dwivedi of Orlando registered as the first student of the University. The opening Ganesh and Saraswati poojas were hosted by Dr. Raj Gandhi of Atlanta, GA, one of our Founding Patrons and the first lecture for the course on "Principles of Hinduism" was delivered by Prof. Mehta to our first student and to the community members present as

honorary students. Several persons from outside Orlando area had participated, including Honorable Ambassador of Nepal who inaugurated the 'Vidyarambha Dinam' and Prof. Adesh, who read a poem that he had composed describing the Hindu University.

Following the first class that was held in the Hindu Mandir in Casselberry, FL, a facility of the Hindu Society of Central Florida, the classes continued in local motel rooms. Later, we got the use of a house located at 7775 Conroy-Windermere Road in Orlando, FL, and we operated from there till January 1996, when we moved to Tarpon Springs, Florida, in the Days Inn facility. Hindu University functioned at Tarpon Springs for about two years, until that property was sold. The following two years were difficult from physical facility point-of-view, until University decided to purchase the property at Econlockhatchee Trail in Orlando.

FOUNDING PATRONS

While our first Founding Patron was a complete surprise in many ways, the next few were due to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Gangadhar Choudhary of Atlanta, GA. His enthusiastic communication to people about Hindu University not only enrolled several Founding Patrons; it also set new dimensions in such other areas as new active workers, additional funding, publicity and public relations etc.

Our next wave of Founding Patrons came from Michigan through the efforts of Dr. Lakra and Dr. Goswami. In the first decade we had eleven Founding Patrons and several more had contributed significantly towards their being the Founding Patrons. The Founding Patrons have been the key source of funds for sustaining the current operation of the University and in that sense; they truly have proved to be the real contributors to the foundation of the University. Our thanks to those who are on our rolls and we extend an open invitation to others. Our Founding Patrons in the first decade came from the states of Colorado, Georgia and Michigan.

STUDENTS

Starting with one registered student in the first class, we have enrolled about 130 students to date. While no one has completed all the requirements for the degree, several have taken multiple courses towards their goal of a

(Continued on page 6 ...)

This historical review of the growth of Hindu University highlights significant infrastructure development in the first ten years.

This article was originally compiled by Dr. Deendayal Khandelwal, the founding Chair of Board of Directors of Hindu University, and has been put in its present form by Professor Kuldip C. Gupta.

Founding Patrons of HU are the real contributors to the foundation of the University.

A Trip for Peace between Pakistan and India & for Blessings from Dalai Lama

By

Braham Aggarwal, Chair HU Board of Directors

**Six Americans
of Paki and
Indian origin
visit South
Asia on a
peace mission.**

**India and
Pakistan share
the common
heritage of
Indus valley
civilization.**

**Dalai Lama
blesses the
efforts for
peace in the
region.**

It has been my burning desire to see that Pakistan and India reconcile their differences and live as good neighbors. No price is too big to achieve peace in the region, as this would contribute to diverting a lot of resources to other priorities as education, health and economic development of both the countries. Thus I grabbed this opportunity to join a group of Pakistani and Indian friends to visit the two countries to talk to people at various levels with the intention of inducing the two parties to start a dialog to resolve the conflict. In Florida, the group met Dr. Maqbool Bhatti, a journalist, a diplomat and the former Ambassador of Pakistan to China and other countries. He promised to help the mission by arranging meetings with people in all walks of life in Pakistan.

We traveled by Pakistan International Airlines, which allowed us an opportunity to have a lot of discussions with the PIA staff about the conditions in Pakistan. At a reception in the evening, when we reached Lahore, we met some important people including a principal of Law College in Lahore and the son of former president Zia ul Haq. Everyone was of the opinion that it was a great cause and they will get involved in the process.

The following morning after a round of Lahore city before it got busy, we went to a function arranged by the principal of Pakistan College of Law in Lahore. There we met the staff of the college, and a lady activist, who belonged to Muslim League Party working for the rights of the women. She strongly believes that the Quran gives equal rights to women and nowhere it is mentioned that the women are inferior to men as advocated by the clergy. There were about 400 people at the function and seven speakers expressed their viewpoints about the conflict and possible solutions to it.

I greeted the gathering with “namaste” and went on to explain the meaning that it is bowing down with my indriyas, heart, and head to the divinity within each one in front of me. It was pointed out these people had a great culture and belong to a civilization which is 5000 years old (Mohenjodaro). If Europe could form a powerful union/community of 15 countries with different lan-

guages and culture who had been fighting with each other for centuries, we could do the same in South Asia.

After lunch, we went on to Delhi with two Pakistani friends. We proceeded to Dharamshala by train where a group of about 60 business executives and management consultants got together for three days. This group of people subscribes to an idea of “Open Space” wherein freedom of expression on any topic is encouraged, and whatever happens is accepted. . Some of us stayed in Chinmaya Mission in Sidhabari while the others stayed in a hotel.

We were fortunate to have a meeting with the Dalai Lama at his monastery. It was a wonderful experience and a big attraction for the group. Dalai Lama was totally relaxed, in a very jovial mood, simple and sincere. He spoke to us through a question/answer style for about an hour. I was extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to talk to him personally while he had my hands in his hands for a few minutes on our way to the door. I told him about our peace mission to go to Pakistan for a dialogue with senior politicians and public members for a peaceful solution of the conflict between the two countries. He was very happy and emphasized the importance of resolving the issue through nonviolence and discussions, instead of warfare.

On April 30th, we were also fortunate to have a Darshan and guidance from Swami Tejomayananda who arrived that very morning. The previous evening we had visited a social work project undertaken by Chinmaya Mission workers in villages near the ashram. This is a very comprehensive program in which through a lot of volunteers (and other dedicated committed enthusiastic workers), a lot of different self-help projects for the upliftment of various nearby villages are being handled under the leadership of a lady physician.

Back in Delhi on May 1st, we had a meeting with Dinesh Chandra, P. Kaul (former ambassadors to US), J. N. Dixit (former Foreign Secretary) and a few government and military officials. They showed their enthusiasm and willingness to help in the process of

(Continued on page 5 ...)

International Conference on Tulsidas And His Works organized by HU

By Dr. Ram Prakash Agarwal, Co-Chair of the Conference & Member HU BOD

For more than four centuries, the works of Goswami Tulsidas, especially *Ramcharitmanas*, have had great impact on individuals, society, political systems, arts and culture and will continue to impact these in future. This influence has widened to cover many nationalities through different languages of the world. There have also been great academic activities centered on Tulsidas and his works, resulting in a large number of Ph.D. theses, books, articles, symposia, conferences, academic/social organizations, and centers. Also films have been produced on the life of Tulsidas and on *Ramcharitmanas*. His poetic compositions have been sung by the best of the singers.

In order to recognize his works and celebrate the fifth centenary of this great personality, Hindu University of America organized an International Conference on November 26-28, 1999, at Florida International University, Miami. The World Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES) and the Department of Religious Studies of Florida International University sponsored the conference.

The goal of the conference was to bring together scholars, researchers, authors, writers of different world languages who have contributed on Tulsidas and his works, persons of arts, music, media, films, press and above all a very large number of persons who love *Ramcharitmanas*

and other works of Tulsidas. It was first big conference of its kind and magnitude in the western hemisphere.

More than 250 delegates represented 13 countries including China, India, Mauritius, U.S.A., Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname, Holland and Romania.

More than 170 papers presented as seminars, symposium and discussion groups varied so much that it was difficult to group them. However, all the deliberations were centered on Tulsidas's work in one form or the other. Examples of some the subjects covered are: Goswami Tulsidas' life and message; Tulsis' Philosophy and Purport; comparative study of various versions of Ramayana; *Ramcharitmanas* and *Bhagwat Gita*; Sanskrit compositions of Tulsidas; major works inspired by Tulsidas; Influence of Tulsidas outside India; relevance of Ramayana for the present and the future generation; women characters of Tulsidas; presentations of *Ramcharitmanas* in popular forms such as *Ramlilas*, films, plays, and community recitations; *Ramcharitmanas* in Persian and Urdu; role of *Ramcharitmanas* in the freedom struggle of India; and important role of *Ramcharitmanas* and Tulsis in shaping of Indo-Caribbean Community.

(Continued on page 7 ...)

A Trip for Peace ...

(Continued from page 4)

developing a dialogue to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. They appreciated the initiative taken by Indian and Pakistani Americans in this direction with the help of Jim Butcher, a management consultant and strategic planner (a member of our group).

On May 3rd, we went on to Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. There we had a meeting with the foreign minister, Abdul Sattar, a very able and frank person. He was very appreciative of our efforts and agreed that it is obvious that it would be in the overall interest of both countries and their image at the world at large. The following morning we had two other meetings in the capital with different organizations involving former foreign ministers, ambassadors, intellectuals and military person-

nel. They put forward the Pakistani perspective and the fear that India will one day try to undo Pakistan. We also met the Indian ambassador in Pakistan to find out what was the Indian perspective in the whole conflict and his views to resolve the issues

The next day, we went to see Takshashila (Taxila) University Museum that is about 40 miles north of Islamabad. The museum and the surroundings have a lot of history, including images of Buddha and other items. The museum is well maintained and has a lot of publications bringing out Pakistan's glorious heritage of Takshashila period.

On return to Florida, it has been very gratifying to note that Vajpayee, the Indian Prime Minister, has invited the President of Pakistan for a dialogue in India!

Tulsi Conference organized by HU was the first of its kind and magnitude in the Western Hemisphere.

Chinamaya Mission has organized extensive seva programs in Himachal villages.

Takshashila University Museum depicts the ancient glorious heritage of the region.

First Ten Years of HU ...

(... continued from page 3)

degree or otherwise. There are some very serious students and on many occasions these are the University resources that have prevented the students from completing more courses than what they have. Although, we had not publicized the University for last couple of years for the want of a working place, the student population has continued to increase.

CENTERS & COLLABORATIONS

Starting with our center in Orlando, we have initiated several other centers around the country. These include Boulder CO, Houston TX (Institute of Hindu Studies), Chicago IL, Pittsburgh PA, and Tarpon Springs (Tampa) FL. This springing of centers shows the interest that exists in the minds of the people, and is a measure of the success that we can capitalize on in the direction of establishing independent colleges affiliated with Hindu University, a vision that we have had for our growth from the very beginning of our functioning. We already have a formal working relationship with American Council of Vedic Astrology that has started American College of Vedic Astrology (in Sedona, Arizona), with International Association for Scientific Spiritualism (India) for Ramcharitmanas diploma course, and informal relationship with Alandi Ashram (Colorado) for Ayurveda.

FACULTY and INSTRUCTION

We started with a modest number of faculty members listed in our first Handbook. The numbers have steadily increased. To date, approximately 40 persons have been affiliated with the University in this capacity and the numbers are ready to increase rapidly. In this area also, availability of University resources had limited our growth.

Most popular mode of instruction at Hindu University has so far been correspondence courses in Hinduism, in Sanskrit, and in Ayurveda. When University functioned in Tarpon Springs, a number of weeklong intensive courses were offered on topics including Principles of Hinduism, Patanjali's Yoga Darshana, Basic Sanskrit, Principle and Practice of Yoga Meditation, and Introduction to Ayurveda. Classroom instructions have taken place at University's Centers in Colorado (in Ayurveda and Devine Music) and Pittsburgh (in Yoga Philosophy and Meditation).

PROGRAMS

We started with four graduate study programs approved by SBICU, Department of Education, State of Florida. Subsequently, we have added three more areas of study, Ayurvedic Sciences, Divine Music and Jyotish (Hindu Astrology). We have outline for the program on Hindu Psychology on the table and several others are in various stages of evolution.

Implementation of undergraduate program has been our long-term focus from the very beginning. There have been refinements in this thinking. The current thinking is to implement the program with the second half (junior and senior years of study) of the undergraduate program in one or more fields of study.

LIBRARY

A start has been made to build the University library with the acquisition of about three thousand books in various areas of interest to various academic programs in HU.

CONFERENCES AND ORGANIZATIONAL COOPERATION

During the first ten years of its operation Hindu University has sponsored and cosponsored various conferences and workshops. These conferences and workshops include: International Conference on "Revisiting Indus-Saraswati Age and Ancient India" in Atlanta in 1996, World Association for Vedic Studies (Waves) Conference in Los Angeles in 1998, and VESCO Conference in Los Angeles in 1997. Most importantly, HU organized an International Conference on "500 Years of Tulsidas and His Works" in Miami in 1999.

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

Several articles and advertisements about Hindu University have appeared in various newspapers and magazines. HU has been publishing a Newsletter aperiodically since 1990. Plans for publication activities under the banner of HU Press and for starting of a scholarly journal have been chalked out and debated but have not been given top priority at the stage of University's development.

This all this infrastructure work accomplished in the first decade of University's existence, we are poised for rapid growth in the second decade and beyond!

More than 130 students have benefited by courses offered by HU.

Seven Academic Programs at HU:

1. **Hinduism**
2. **Hindu Philosophies**
3. **Yoga Philosophy & Meditation**
4. **Yoga Education**
5. **Ayurvedic Sciences**
6. **Divine Music**
7. **Vedic/Hindu Astrology**

With the infrastructure developed in the first decade, HU is poised for rapid growth in decades to come!

International Conference on Tulsidas And His Works ...

In an specially arranged banquet, a number of distinguished persons were honored for their meritorious contributions on Tulsidas and his works and for their contributions to popularize the Tulsi's work throughout the world.

The conference was considered as one of the most successful events with a lot of scholarly information and of practical use. The audience and the participants were so overwhelmed with the contents of the conference that it was considered

necessary to bring out full deliberations in a book form, which is currently under preparation.

This conference was made possible by untiring efforts of Co-Chairpersons of the conference, Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma. Dr. Ram Prakash Agarwal and Shri Satya Dev Gupta, a number of dedicated local volunteers and generous contributors from a number of others.

More than 170 papers were presented at the Tulsi Conference

The Boards of Directors

Hindu University of America

cordially invites you to

Inaugural Function for Orlando Campus

On

Saturday, September 8, 2001; 9:00 am

At

113 N. Econolockhatchee Trail, Orlando (Florida) 32825

R.S.V.P.: Braham Aggarwal 407-352-7275, Rana Tiwari 407-366-9972

Hindu University of America announces

Commencement of Instructional Activities on Orlando Campus

with courses on

Principles of Hinduism by Professor Rewaty Raman Pandey

Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30 pm –8:45 pm, starting Tuesday September 11, 2001;

Basic Course in Sanskrit by Swami Lalitananda

Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30 pm –7:45 pm starting Monday September 10, 2001;

and

Elementary Hatha Yoga by Swami Lalitananda

Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00 pm –7:15 pm, starting Tuesday September 11, 2001.

Self-Paced Distance Education courses

Principles of Hinduism by Professor Klaus Klostermaier

Basic Course in Sanskrit by Professor Ram Karan Sharma

For details of HU admission and courses, please see HU website at www.hindu-university.edu

Interested students should contact

Rana Tiwari at 407-275-0013, or

Braham Aggarwal at 407-352-7275, or

send an e-mail message to admin@hindu-university.edu



Hindu University of America

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

HU Newsletter
4685 Pawnee Place
Boulder CO 80303 USA

Visit us on the Web:
<http://www.hindu-university.edu>

I would like to be on your mailing list to receive HU Newsletter and other information.

I would like to participate in the planning and implementation activities of the University.

I am interested in being a volunteer for the University and would like to have more information about the plans.

I am interested in studying at the Hindu University. Please send me a copy of the Handbook and an application form. A fee of \$5.00 is enclosed.

I am proud to support this project on "Spirituality through Education" with a tax-deductible donation of \$____ (make your check payable to Hindu University of America).

Please return this form to:

Hindu University of America
5401 S Kirkman Rd, Suite 525
Orlando, FL 32819

Name: _____

StreetAddress: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Daytime: _____ Evenings: _____

E-mail address: _____

The Hindu University of America is a federal tax-exempt non-profit organization (Tax I.D. # 59-2977691).

The mission of the Hindu University of America is to provide for learning, research and training in a broad spectrum of topics related to Vedic/Hindu culture including religions, philosophies, practices etc. The University aims to promote the catholicity of Hinduism, and to establish harmony among Eastern religious thoughts and modern sciences, thereby contributing to better human understanding and global peace. The University is committed to a comprehensive and liberal education with a broad curriculum at baccalaureate, masters and doctoral levels in various areas related to Hindu religions, philosophies and culture providing the students with a practical Vedic base for their spiritual growth. The University fulfills the growing need of modern western society to obtain authentic and unbiased understanding of the vast and rich heritage of Hindu culture traditions, philosophy, etc.