

HINDU UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA

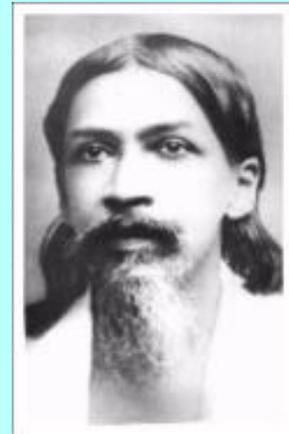
A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

NEWSLETTER - March, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sri Aurobindo Conference - May 4 and 5

Indian philosopher, poet, mystic and Yogi, Sri Aurobindo (1872-1950), argued that human society has evolved throughout history and is destined to move towards better organization of life. His aphorism '*All Life is Yoga*' is in consonance with his evolutionary philosophy and Integral Yoga that encompass every aspect of human life and society. Following Advaita Vedanta, he believed that there is a fundamental unity as the very basis of existence. He expressed dissatisfaction that the modern individual, busy with mundane life and outward activities, has decreasing interest in the ancient Indian wisdom. Sri Aurobindo's seminal contribution cannot be confined to a particular discipline as his genius touched almost every branch of human knowledge. The conference would cover some aspects of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy and its applicability to contemporary problems confronting the human society and the world. Despite the profundity of his philosophy and its wider implications, Sri Aurobindo and his ideas are relatively less known in the West, and there have been few events to make an in-depth study of his philosophy. The conference aims to fill this gap. It is not only interested in the theoretical aspect of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy, but also its practical and educational aspects.



[Sri Aurobindo Conference](#)

Talk on the UN and International Peace - Wednesday, March 22



HUA professor, Dr. Debidatta Mahapatra, will interact with the faculty from the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida (USF), Tampa, Florida, and give a lecture to the students for the class on the **"UN and International Peace."**

[Upcoming Events](#)

Public Lecture - Friday, March 3 from 4:30 - 6:00pm

Dr. Manohar Shinde, a long time friend of HUA, will give a lecture on:
Making Academia Inclusive: Engaging with Hindu Civilizational Discourse.



The lecture aims to address the asymmetry in the academic discourse on religion, civilization and culture. It argues an inclusive dialogue can help promote better understanding between cultures and civilizations. In this context, it needs emphasis that India with its rich heritage and ancient wisdom can play an effective role towards making the discourse pluralistic as well as inclusive. The lecture would also argue that for this task, it is necessary to develop a well-equipped global network of Hindu civilizational scholars, which can

work as a forum to articulate the challenges the human civilization is confronting and to devise ways to address them by drawing from rich Indian wisdom.

[Upcoming Events](#)

ONGOING EVENTS

Sri Aurobindo Study Circle

The Sri Aurobindo Study Circle meets at least once a month. It was inaugurated on August 15, 2016. The aim of the Study Circle is to develop a regular platform to discuss, disseminate and reflect on the ideas and philosophy of Sri Aurobindo, the Indian philosopher, freedom fighter, poet, mystic and Yogi. The next Study Circle will meet on Monday, March 20 from 5 - 6pm.

[Ongoing Events](#)

PAST EVENTS

Lecture at HUA



Dr. Jonathan Edelmann, Assistant Professor of Religion at the University of Florida, delivered a public lecture titled *"Hinduism and Science: Reexamining Bhāgavata Purāna Concepts in Light of Contemporary Thought."*

Sri Aurobindo Study Circle

The 8th Sri Aurobindo Study Circle met at HUA to celebrate the 139th birth anniversary of The Mother, the Collaborator of Sri Aurobindo. They watched videos and listened to audios on the Mother.

[Past Events](#)



STUDENT and FACULTY NEWS HUA Doctoral Student - Madhu Sharma

Hindu Chaplain Delivers Invocation for New North Carolina Governor

Madhu Sharma has served Duke University since 2011

By Aziz Haniffa

Delivering the invocation, Duke University's Hindu chaplain Madhu Sharma joined clergy colleagues in welcoming North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper during an interfaith prayer service for his recent inauguration.

The Jan. 6 communal worship at the First Baptist Church in Raleigh, an African-American congregation, drew a large number of Indian-Americans, including state Sen. Jay Chaudhuri (D-Wake), the first Asian-American elected to the state legislature, North Carolina Pro Tem Mayor Steve Rao and Morrisville City Council member Satish Garimella.

"It is such an honor for Madhu to have been invited to participate in the governor's inauguration," said Christy Lohr Sapp, associate dean for religious life at Duke. "It is wonderful that she was able to represent the community - both Duke and the broader Hindu and interfaith communities - in this way."

For his part, Cooper, the state's former attorney general, is no stranger to the Indian-American community. He and his family have attended the annual Indian Independence Day



Madhu Sharma delivering the invocation

celebrations at the Hindu Society of North Carolina temple.

The Democrat said he was pleased to have Sharma participate in the service. "It was important for our prayer service to represent a variety of

faith traditions," he said. "Celebrating our state's diversity of worship is just one way we can work toward building a better North Carolina for all."

Duke is one of a handful of U.S. universities with a Hindu

chaplain. Sharma, who has been the school's chaplain since 2011, said she was humbled by the chance to deliver the invocation at Cooper's ceremony.

"Over the years, I have been

invited to give invocations at many interfaith events and to speak at many churches," she said. "But this experience of offering prayers and blessings at the interfaith prayer service as part of Governor Roy Cooper's inaugural ceremony was clearly a tremendous honor and truly a humbling experience. It is recognition of the contributions the Indian-American community has made in North Carolina and in the U.S. It is also a testament to Governor Cooper's great vision in being the governor for each and every North Carolinian."

Garimella, who was born in India, recalled his town council swearing-in with Gangadhar Sharma, founder of the Hindu Society of North Carolina, officiating. "To witness his daughter, Madhu Sharma, do the interfaith prayers for the governor was very symbolic for Hindus and creating awareness of the growing American Hindu population in North Carolina," he said.

Sharma is also a volunteer campus Hindu minister at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina and president of the Triangle Interfaith Alliance in Raleigh. She is a former board member of the Hindu Society of North Carolina.

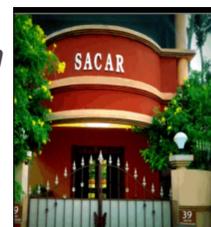
[India Abroad](#)

SACAR SEMINAR

The HUA Affiliate, SACAR (Sri Aurobindo Centre for Advanced Research) is organizing the seminar on **"The Element of Wisdom in Management"** on March 4th, 2017.

Having organized three seminars on Perfection, Harmony and Power, they now explore the third pillar of integral management - Wisdom. Anyone who is interested can register for the seminar.

Some of the presenters are connected with HUA:



-Dr. Ananda Reddy is a faculty of HUA.

-Dr. Narendra Joshi recently got a Doctorate from HUA

-Kisholoy Gupta is pursuing a Doctorate from HUA through our affiliation with SACAR.

[Seminar](#)



WELCOME to HUA

HUA introduces a new staff member, Asha Patel, as a "Student Affairs Coordinator" starting in March in place of Yogini Bhave.

STAY CONNECTED

