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http://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/u-c-riverside-announces-new-endowed-chair-in-jain-studies/article_f637edd2-f867-11e6-9331-0bb7f02676dd.html

FEATURED

U.C. Riverside Announces New Endowed Chair in Jain Studies

By GIOVANNI ALBANESE Jr./India-West Staff Reporter Feb 21, 2017



The University of California at Riverside's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, as well as the Department of Religious Studies Feb. 17 signed papers for the establishment of the Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies. If the required funds are raised by the end of May, the chair could be in place for the fall 2018 semester, Dr. Nitin Shah, Indian American past-president of JCSC, told India-West. (photo provided)

U.C. Riverside's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and the Department of Religious Studies Feb. 17 announced the establishment of its latest endowed chair, the Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies.

The chair is named after renowned Indian poet, philosopher, scholar and reformer of Jain principles Shrimad Rajchandra, who lived from 1867 until 1901. Several institutions and places throughout India use Rajchandra's name in dedication for charitable activities.

The U.C. Riverside chair is the first to bestow the Rajchandra name as a dedication outside India.

The university requires \$1 million to endow a chair. The Indian American families of Mahesh Wadher and Jasvant Modi each pledged \$250,000 but have signed for \$1 million, while the Jain Center of Southern California and Jain Temple of Los Angeles have agreed to help raise the remaining funds. Additionally, the family of Vijay Chheda has pledged \$100,000 towards reaching the \$1 million threshold.

The chair, which has yet to be filled, will be decided by U.C. Riverside officials. The university will set up a committee to conduct interviews of applicants and make a decision on the chairperson.

It will be focused on Jain religious principles with the chair expected to teach classes in Jain studies.

"To teach Jain religion, principles, culture, etc., to undergraduate students," Dr. Nitin Shah, past-president of JCSC, told **India-West** when asked about the goals of the chair. Shah is also chair of the External Education Committee at JCSC, professor of anesthesiology at Loma Linda University and chief of surgical ICU at Long Beach VA Healthcare System.

Additionally, the chair will be expected to conduct research about Jain and other religions as well as teach the three main principles.

"Namely, ahimsa (non-violence), aparigrah (non-possessiveness) and anekantvad (multiplicity of views) to mainstream American students with the goal of developing tolerance amongst people, accepting different religions and living a non-violent peaceful

life,” Shah explained. “We believe that Jain principles have lot to offer to the world and this will be one of the baby steps towards it.”

The chair has to be signed by U.C. president Janet Nepolitano before U.C. Riverside can begin its search for the chair.

Shah said that if the required funds are reached by the end of May, the university could have a chair in place for the fall 2018 semester.

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Department of Religious Studies
2022 CHASS INTN
900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521

September 30, 2019

Dear Dr. Jasvant Modi and Dr. Meera Modi, Mr. Mahesh J. Wadher and Mrs. Usha Wadher, Mr. Vijay Chheda and Mrs. Madhu Chheda, Dr. Nitin Shah,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the *Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies*. I joined the faculty at UC Riverside in October 2018 and was appointed at that time by the faculty and administration as the *Shrimad Rajchandra Chair*. The proceeds of this esteemed endowed chair have been used for my research activities, the organizations of events, and support of student engagement in Jain studies.

My biggest research achievements during the first year at UCR are two books. The first book is a translation of Nāgārjuna's *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā (The Fundamental Verses on the Middle Way)*. The translation of this philosophically demanding Buddhist classic took several years of work and was published at the end of 2018 by KUD Logos, a Slovenian publisher that is renowned for its translations of classical texts. The other book is *Insistent Life: Principles for Bioethics in the Jain Tradition*, co-authored with Brianne Donaldson. The book is currently under review with the UC Press Luminos (Open Access) program. With the help of the donors of this chair we promoted the book to the Jain community in the *20th Biennial Jain Convention*, a volume published by the Jain Center of Southern California.

One of my other research projects in the last couple of years has been work on the Jain doctrine of liberation. This work bore fruit in the form of a journal article, entitled "Like a Castor Seed: Jain Philosophers on the Nature of Liberation," which was published in May 2019 in *The*



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS,
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 2019

Dr. Jasant Modi and Dr. Meera Modi
4221 Hampstead Rd.
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi,

900 University Avenue
3413 HMNS Building
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel 951.827.2762
Fax 951.827.4537
www.chass.ucr.edu

I am pleased to present the 2018-19 endowment report for the *Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies Fund* in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS).

We are thankful that you have chosen to make UCR and CHASS one of your philanthropic priorities. An endowed fund is a testament to the value our donors place on our intellectual and educational achievement. Your support through the UC Riverside Foundation provides essential resources, in perpetuity, that are essential to the fulfillment of our educational mission.

This academic year we celebrated faculty being nominated for the Simpson Literary Prize and Eisner awards. We continue to create thought-provoking exhibitions at UCR ARTS that are inspiring the local community and beyond. Additionally, UC Riverside celebrated finding the oldest evidence of animal life, 100 million years before the Cambrian Explosion. You can read about each of these achievements, and more, on our new website at chass.ucr.edu.



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

November 2019

Dr. Jasvant Modi
Dr. Meera Modi
4221 Hampstead Rd.
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi:

Have you been hearing the buzz surrounding UC Riverside?

With your help, we are elevating the national higher education dialogue and experience – and we're doing this with a deep understanding and appreciation of the past, present, and future.

900 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel 951.827.5201
Fax 951.827.3866
www.ucr.edu

It is who we are and will always be to ensure an environment and structure that foster innovation to solve society's greatest challenges. But we couldn't do it without you!

Government funding is far less predictable than in years past, so the university's success is only possible with the help of generous donors and like-minded supporters like you, who are wholly dedicated to improving our community and world.

UCR is the number one ranked university for student social mobility by U.S. News & World Report as well as the top ranked public university conducting the highest levels of research activity on the 2018 CollegeNET social mobility index, the number 12 public university in Forbes America's Best Value Colleges list, the number 12 on CNBC's list of public universities that pay off the most, the number 15 public university in the nation according to Washington Monthly, and in 2019 we became America's fastest-rising ranked university in U.S. News and World Report.

November 2018

Dr. Jasvant Modi and
Dr. Meera Modi
4221 Hampstead Rd.
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi,

I am pleased to present the 2017-18 endowment report for the *Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies Fund* in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS).

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Riverside, CA 92521
Tel 951.827.2762
Fax 951.827.4537
www.ucr.edu

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I am constantly amazed at the strides that our students and faculty are making each and every day. This academic year we have celebrated faculty being a finalist for the Eisner Award and another being the recipient of the Octavia E. Butler Memorial Award for acclaimed science fiction writing. Once again, our fall exhibition at UCR ARTS (formerly ARTSblock) has been lauded internationally. The Center for Ideas and Society was awarded a grant from the Mellon Foundation. You can read about each of these achievements, and more, online at <http://chass.ucr.edu>.



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

November 2018

Dr. Jasvant Modi
Dr. Meera Modi
4221 Hampstead Rd.
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi:

900 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel 951.827.5201
Fax 951.827.3866
www.ucr.edu

Thank you for all that you do for UC Riverside. With your support, the past year has been among the most exciting in recent memory!

We welcomed two Nobel Laureates to our faculty, one of whom is a UCR alumnus. We climbed 39 spots in the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of best colleges and universities – more than any ranked university in the nation. We continued our work on the 180,000-square-foot Multidisciplinary Research Building, scheduled to be completed later this year. Our UCR Arts museums in Downtown Riverside, the California Museum of Photography and the Barbara & Art Culver Center of the Arts, were both featured in the coveted *Los Angeles Times* Art section.

From science to art, the nation is taking note that UCR is one of the fastest rising public research universities in the country. This is made possible through the generous philanthropy and active engagement of supporters like you, who also enabled UCR to



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AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 2017

Dr. Jasvant Modi and Dr. Meera Modi
4221 Hampstead Rd.
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Drs. Modi,

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 endowment report for the *Sirimaad Rajehandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies Fund* in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS).

900 University Avenue
3413 HMNS Building
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel 951.827.2762
Fax 951.827.4637
www.chass.ucr.edu

We are thankful that you have chosen to make UCR and CHASS one of your philanthropic priorities. An endowed fund is a testament to the value our donors place on our intellectual and educational achievement. Your support through the UC Riverside Foundation provides essential resources, in perpetuity, that are essential to the fulfillment of our educational mission.

I am constantly amazed at the strides that our students and faculty are making each and every day. This academic year we have celebrated faculty being nominated for the National Book Award and being granted the Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance. Our fall exhibition at ARTSBlock has been lauded internationally. Additionally, UC Riverside celebrated the launch of *Bilingualism Matters* which will provide a context for creating a conversation between those conducting research on

November 20, 2017

Dr. Jasant Modi and Dr. Meera Modi
4221 Hampstead Rd.
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

900 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel 951.827.5201
Fax 951.827.3866
www.ucr.edu

Dear Drs. Modi,

As part of the annual report of the UC Riverside Foundation Endowment, it is my pleasure to write in gratitude for all that you do for UCR.

The past year at UCR has been nothing less than historic. We welcomed our largest ever incoming class. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities honored UCR with a national award for our student success efforts. We broke ground on the 180,000 square foot Multidisciplinary Research Building. Our schools of medicine and public policy both graduated their first students. And if all that wasn't enough, we launched the first ever comprehensive fundraising campaign in UCR history. It is truly a great time to be a Highlander!

We couldn't accomplish any of this without the support of so many. On behalf of the entire UCR community, I thank you for your generosity. Your investment in UCR is changing lives in California and around the world. Thank you!

Sincerely,

