

CHiTra Core Faculty

Anita Anantharam, *Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research*

Vasudha Narayanan, *Religion*

Jason Neelis, *Religion*

Whitney Sanford, *Religion*

Travis Smith, *Religion*

Jason Steuber, *Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art*

Gene Thursby, *Professor Emeritus Religion*

Other Faculty

Joan Frosch, *Theatre and Dance, UF*

Kathleen Erndl, *Religion, FSU; courtesy appointment with UF's Department of Religion*

Michael Gressett, *adjunct, Sanskrit*

Howard Resnick, *Sanskrit*



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

For more information contact:
**Center for the Study of
Hindu Traditions (CHiTra)**

Vasudha Narayanan, Director
104 Anderson Hall
PO Box 117410
Gainesville, Florida 32611-7410
Telephone: 352-392-1625
Email: vasu@ufl.edu

**Office of Development
and Alumni Affairs**

2012 W. University Avenue
PO Box 14425
Gainesville, Florida 32604-2425
Telephone: 352-392-5471
Email: clas@uff.ufl.edu

**CHiTra: Center for the
Study of Hindu Traditions**



**College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
University of Florida**

UF

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HINDU TRADITIONS

How do you say “Go Gators” in Sanskrit? **Makaro Vijayatu!**

The Center for the study of Hindu Traditions (CHiTra) makes global culture local at UF. The first interdisciplinary center for Hindu studies in North America, CHiTra brings together scholars, students, community leaders, and performing artists from around the globe

Faculty at CHiTra work with Hindu culture across national borders and across disciplinary boundaries. With expertise in multiple areas, we study and teach art, texts, rituals, texts, and the environment and their connections with gender issues and social justice, health and well-being.

The University of Florida has created the nation's first Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions (CHiTra) to encourage research, teaching and public understanding of Hindu culture and traditions. Housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the new center encompasses the diverse fields of art, architecture, Asian languages and literatures, philosophy, performing arts, healing, women's studies, the environment and peace studies—bringing together experts from across UF's campus to collaborate on research, create new course offerings and host lectures, seminars, symposia and conferences. For the first time the study of Hindu traditions transcends its traditional boundaries in one or two departments and is integrated into mainstream academic study across the campus. We study its rich heritage not just in India but in many



parts of the world including South East Asia, the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa, and explore its expansion into a transnational phenomenon.

By encouraging interdisciplinary studies and by focusing on global culture, CHiTra contributes towards the internationalization of the campus and the curriculum. The courses, lectures, and performances will help students become conversant with the culture of what can well become one of the largest emerging markets in the next few years.

The center enriches the understanding of Hindu culture both within the academic community and among the general public.

In today's ever changing global environment, CHiTra helps enhance public appreciation of the Hindu tradition by reaching out to the community through sponsored art exhibits and dance and musical performances in collaboration with UF's College of Fine Arts and the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art.

The Oxford Connection

Joining hands with the only other program of its kind, the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, CHiTra and Oxford are exploring collaborative ventures. Oxford graduates started to teach at the University of Florida in Fall 2005.

Giving Opportunities

- Gator Gujarat Fund
- Friends of Hindu Studies General Fund
- Classical Indian Music Endowment Fund
- Lectures in Hindu Culture Endowment Fund

