

Claremont McKenna College  
March 23-25, 2018

# SASA 2018

## CONFERENCE

*South Asian Studies  
Reimagined*



# SASA

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Understanding South Asia's Cultures, Histories, Issues, and Opportunities

SASA 2018 IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART VIA GRANTS FROM NAVIN & PRATIMA DOSHI AND SANNAM S4 GROUP

Welcome to *SASA 2018: South Asian Studies Reimagined* –

We are delighted to welcome old friends back to our SASA Annual Conference, at the very wonderful Claremont McKenna College, and we extend equally warm welcomes to new friends.

SASA is now in our second decade. To date we have hosted 10 annual academic conferences at colleges and universities across the US, in India, and in Russia. We have also published six scholarly books and five editions of the journal *Exemplar*, and we've bestowed 18 *Exemplar Awards* to stellar individuals.

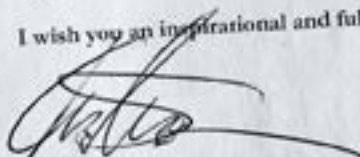
Beginning in 2017, our Board determined to widen SASA's purview so as to recognize South Asia in broader contexts. While still embracing traditional fields of scholastic study, we committed to also assess and address the region's booming realms of business, trade and investment, as well as its vast societal needs and the important work of the region's NGOs and nonprofits. We committed also to work to attract speakers and attendees to our conferences who come from these worlds. We believed that the blending of diverse disciplines, and the diverse individuals who are active in these disciplines, will ideally lead to exceptional shared experiences and outcomes for all. This is the genesis of *South Asian Studies Reimagined*.

During this SASA 2018 weekend you'll not only have access to 80+ scholarly presentations, by presenters from almost a dozen countries, but also to three exceptional Plenary Sessions, as well as a 1-on-1 Fireside Chat with Mukesh Aghi, the globe-trotting President of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum. Mukesh will also receive SASA's first-ever *Exemplar Award for Business Leadership*. Recognized with SASA's *Exemplar Award for Academic Achievement* will be Loyola Marymount University's Dr. Chris Chapple, and receiving SASA's *Exemplar Award for Community Service* will be USC's Varun Soni.

SASA 2018 is the result of a very special and growing collaboration. One pillar is the SASA team, a wonderful blend of our dedicated and seasoned Board members from academia, now combined with our newest Directors from the realms of business, nonprofits, and philanthropy. The other pillar is Claremont McKenna College and members of its senior leadership. Within SASA I particularly thank Vandana Asthana, Deepak Shimkhada, David Blundell, Bradley Clough, Mishka Michon, and our newest Directors, Navin Doshi, Rafiq Dossani, and Arnold Peter. For Claremont McKenna, deep appreciation goes to President Hiram Chodosh, Associate Vice President Cynthia Humes, and Director of Special Events, Dorothy Buchanan.

Sincere gratitude also goes to our benefactors, Pratima and Navin Doshi, Sannam S4 Group and its CEO Adrian Mutton, Claremont Graduate University, the Indic Foundation, the International School for Jain Studies, the Jain Center of Southern California, and those individual donors listed on Page 14. Appreciation too to the very gifted individuals who agreed to dedicate their time and talents to speak on our Plenary Sessions, Panels and roundtables, and to the many volunteers who support us as well, and are also listed on Page 14. Each of you has also made SASA 2018 possible. Thank you one and all.

I wish you an inspirational and fulfilling weekend,

  
Ken Silverman  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION • 2





Office of the President

March 23, 2018

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Claremont McKenna College and The Claremont Colleges, I am pleased to welcome you to our campus and to the South Asian Studies Association's 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference.

South Asia is a strong focus of our global liberal arts program. We attract an extraordinary group of leading students from the region each year. Our college features exemplary scholarship and teaching in international relations, economics, history, and religion in South Asia. Our faculty focus on ancient texts, education, religion, globalization, the environment, and law reform in India. CMC also offers many student opportunities for research and sponsored internships in the region each summer. Thus, we are eager to learn over the course of the weekend from the many scholarly contributions in South Asia that will be shared by a large and diverse set of faculty coming to Claremont from all over the globe.

I am also excited to welcome to campus many significant leaders with substantial ties to South Asia in the areas of business, government, academia, nonprofits, and philanthropy. Many of these leaders will participate in three Plenary Sessions, with the first focused on U.S.-India cross-border alliances in the higher education space. The second will address NGOs, nonprofits, and philanthropy, both within South Asia as well as others located in the United States and associated with South Asia. Finally, the third interactive forum features significant CEOs and entrepreneurs. These issues are of critical importance for all of us. We are eager to bring you together in the search for deeper understanding and truth and collaborative leadership we need to solve complex problems in our world.

I look forward to joining you and wish you all the very best for an enjoyable weekend and successful conference.

Very truly yours,

Hiram E. Chodosh



Bauer Center, 500 E. Ninth Street, Claremont, California 91711-6400 Tel: 909.621.8111 Fax: 909.621.8790 president@cmc.edu  
Member of The Claremont Colleges

# FIRESIDE CHAT

**MUKEHS AGHI, PHD.**

President & CEO, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Association

**KEN SILVERMAN**

Chairman & CEO,  
South Asian Studies Association  
Head, North America / Sannam S4

INTERVIEWED BY

---

## PLENARY SESSION I:

### US-INDIA HIGHER EDUCATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP: CROSS BORDER ALLIANCES

#### MODERATOR:

**HIRAM CHODOSH**

President,  
Claremont McKenna College

#### SPECIAL REMARKS:

**DR. SONNY RAMASWAMY**

Director, National Institute of  
Food and Agriculture USDA

**AMBASSADOR V. ASHOK**

Consul General of India  
(San Francisco)

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS

**MUKESH AGHI, PHD.**

President & CEO, US-India  
Strategic Partnership Forum

**DR. LARRY COX**

Associate Professor, Entrepreneurship,  
Pepperdine University

**DR. MEGHANA JOSHI**

Program Director, Biocon-KGI Program,  
Keck Graduate Institute

**ADRIAN MUTTON**

Founder & CEO,  
Sannam S4 Group

**DR. BRIAN PENPRASE**

Dean of Faculty,  
Soka University of America

---

## PLENARY SESSION II: SOUTH ASIA: NGOS, NON-PROFITS AND PHILANTHROPY

#### MODERATOR: ROBIN MEILI

Director, International Programs, The RAND Corporation

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS

**DR. VANDANA ASTHANA**

SASA Director  
Founder, Eco Friends (India)

**NAVIN DOSHI**

SASA Director  
Philanthropist, Investor, Author

**ADRIAN MUTTON**

Founder & CEO,  
Sannam S4 Group

**JASVANT MODI**

Philanthropist,  
Benefactor, Pratham USA

**B.U. PATEL**

Founder,  
The Tarsadia Foundation

**VANDANA TILAK**

CEO,  
Akshaya Patra USA

---

## PLENARY SESSION III: ENTREPRENEURS & CEOs / AN INTERACTIVE FORUM

#### MODERATOR: ARNOLD PETER, ESQ.

SASA Director - Managing Partner, Peter Law Group

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS

**AJIT SINGH**

Managing Director, Artiman Ventures

**RAVI KAPUR**

Founder & CEO, Diya TV

**VIJAY SATHE**

C.S. & D.J. Davidson Chair  
Professor of Management,  
Drucker School of Management  
Claremont Graduate University

**SMITA BAGLA**

President, The Indus Entrepreneurs  
(TIE) Southern California

**WILLIAM SIMON**

Global Sector Leader,  
Media & Entertainment, Korn Ferry

**JULIAN LEUTHOLD**

Founder & CEO, GetGlobal



# SASA 2018 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## FRIDAY MARCH 23

5:00 – 8:00 pm Registration: Informal Opening Reception / Bauer North

## SATURDAY MARCH 24

8:15 – 8:55 am Registration, Coffee, Networking / Bauer North

9:00 – 10:30 am Concurrent Panels (3) First Session / Bauer North

10:30 – 10:45 am Coffee Break / Bauer North

10:45 – 12:15 pm Concurrent Panels (4) Second Session / Bauer South

12:30 – 1:30 pm Luncheon / McKenna Auditorium

1:15 – 2:30 pm Fireside Chat - Mukesh Aghi, PhD.,  
President & CEO, USISPF / McKenna Auditorium

2:00 – 3:15 pm Plenary Session I: / McKenna Auditorium  
US-India Higher Education & Entrepreneurship:  
Cross-Border Alliances

3:15 – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 – 5:00 pm Concurrent Panels (4) Third Session / Bauer North

5:00 – 6:15 pm Plenary Session II: / Bauer South – Pickford Auditorium

6:30 – 7:15 pm South Asia: NGOs, Non-Profits, and Philanthropy

Networking & Cocktail Reception / McKenna Auditorium

7:15 – 8:30 pm Banquet & Exemplar Awards / McKenna Auditorium

8:30 – 9:30 pm Instrumental Music/Sri Lankan Dancers / McKenna Auditorium

## SUNDAY MARCH 25

8:45 – 9:15 am Coffee Break, Networking / Bauer North

9:15 – 10:45 am Concurrent Panels (3) Fourth Session / Bauer South

10:45 – 11:00 am Break

11:00 – 12:30 pm Concurrent Panels (3) Fifth Session / Bauer South

12:45 – 1:45 pm Luncheon & Remarks / McKenna Auditorium

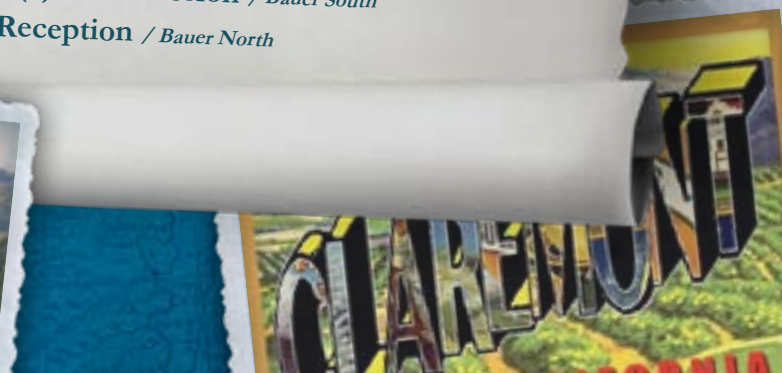
1:30 – 2:45 pm Plenary Session III: / McKenna Auditorium

Entrepreneurs & CEOs – An Interactive Forum

2:45 – 3:00 pm Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm Concurrent Panels (4) Sixth Session / Bauer South

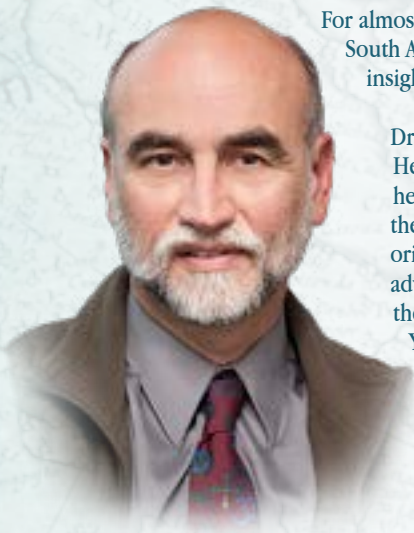
4:30 – 5:30 pm Informal Closing Reception / Bauer North



## 2018 EXEMPLAR AWARD FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

### DR. CHRISTOPHER KEY CHAPPLE

DOSHI PROFESSOR OF INDIC & COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY, LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY



For almost 40 years Dr. Christopher Chapple's passion and profession have been focused on the culture and religions of South Asia. He has been a virtually lifelong student and teacher, ever searching, researching, and sharing his wisdom and insights. His work has touched and forever changed the lives of untold thousands of individuals.

Dr. Chapple is currently the Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University. He is also Director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies program at LMU, a first of its kind in the nation which he inaugurated in 2013. He has published more than twenty books and edited many more volumes, primarily in the area of religion and ecology, and he has authored hundreds of articles, essays, and lectures. He also helped originate the series of conferences and books on world religions and ecology at Harvard University and serves as an advisor to the Centre for Jain Studies in London, to the International Summer School for Jain Studies in Delhi, to the Uberoi Foundation in Denver, to the Ahimsa Center in Pomona, and to the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale. Together with philanthropists Pratima and Navin Doshi, he convenes the annual Doshi Bridgebuilder Award events at LMU.

Dr. Chapple launched his study of Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Religious Studies at Stony Brook University and launched a 12-year affiliation with SBU's Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions.

He subsequently earned his doctorate in the History of Religions at Fordham University. He joined Loyola Marymount University in 1985 and has enlightened and inspired a generation of students and colleagues. He has been LMU's Chair of the Department of Theological Studies and, for four years, served

as Associate Academic Vice President, overseeing its Center for Religion and Spirituality, and separately the LMU Center for Global Education, and the LMU Los Angeles Center for International Studies. Dr. Chapple additionally hosted the first SASA Annual Conference at LMU, in 2007, and he has been a frequent speaker at subsequent SASA conferences.

## 2018 EXEMPLAR AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

### DR. VARUN SONI

DEAN OF RELIGIOUS LIFE VICE PROVOST, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

For Varun Soni, providing benefit to others has been a central theme of his life. As Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California --- the first Hindu to serve as the chief religious or spiritual leader of an American university --- he develops and implements programs that benefit not only the tens of thousands of students and faculty who annually comprise the USC community, but also the much wider rainbow of ethnic and religious communities that comprise Southern California.

In 2017 Dr. Soni was also appointed USC's Vice Provost of Campus Wellness and Crisis Intervention. He is additionally a USC Adjunct Professor of Religion and University Fellow at the Annenberg Center on Public Diplomacy. Prior to USC, he spent four years teaching in the Law and Society Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. As a national interfaith leader, he has organized and hosted many programs and events with prominent spiritual, scholarly and civic leaders from across faiths and he was one of the organizers of the historic Concert for Pakistan, a benefit concert at the United Nations General Assembly.

Dr. Soni received his B.A. degree in Religion from Tufts University, where he also earned an Asian Studies minor and completed the Program in Peace and Justice Studies. He holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard Divinity School, and an M.A. degree from UC Santa Barbara. He additionally received his J.D. and his PhD degree from UCLA. As an undergraduate, he spent a semester living in a Buddhist monastery in Bodhi Gaya, India, through Antioch University's Buddhist Studies Program, and he subsequently spent months doing field research in South Asia through UCSB's Center for Sikh and Punjab Studies. He is a prolific public speaker, writer, and commentator whose works and words appear in media across the US and globally. He is the author of several books including *Natural Mystics: The Prophetic Lives of Bob Marley* and *Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan*, and he contributed to the edited volumes *My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation*. Born in India and raised in southern California, Dr. Soni has family on five continents and they collectively represent every major religious tradition in the world.



## 2018 EXEMPLAR AWARD FOR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

# DR. MUKESH AGHI, PHD.

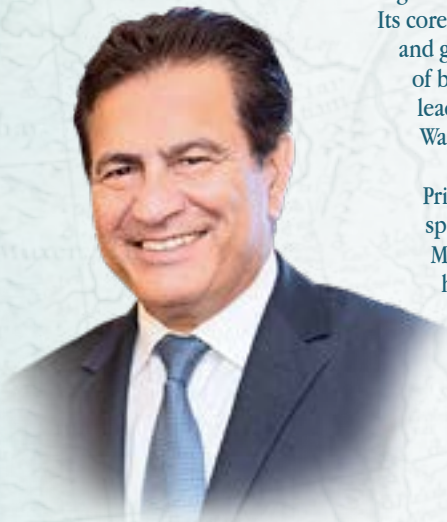
PRESIDENT & CEO, US-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM (USISPF)

For the critical past half-decade, there is likely no individual on earth who has been more in the exact middle of the crossroads between U.S. and Indian cross-border business, trade, and investment than Dr. Mukesh Aghi. His work, and that of the organizations that he has led, have been unrivaled in helping to lift and grow the economic interests of business enterprises and government trade bodies in both countries.

Dr. Aghi is the founding President & CEO of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, a leading bilateral trade organization. Its core premise is that the most powerful strategic relationship between U.S. and India can best be achieved by business and government coming together to create meaningful opportunities that have the power to positively change the lives of both nations' citizens. It fosters dialogue and exchange between American and Indian business and government leaders and its Board of Directors includes leaders of preeminent corporations in both countries. In addition to Washington D.C., the USISPF has offices in New York, Silicon Valley, Mumbai and New Delhi.

Prior to the USISPF, Dr. Aghi was President of the U.S.-India Business Council one of 25 country-specific and region-specific business councils and initiatives under the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Previously he was CEO and a Board Member of LTI, the multinational information technology arm of India's giant Larsen & Toubro Group, and earlier he was Chairman and CEO of the Asia-Pacific region for India's Steria, Inc. He was additionally the founding CEO of Universitas 21 Global, the world's largest consortium of research-led universities and global leader in providing post-graduate online education. Still earlier, Dr. Aghi was President of IBM India.

Dr. Aghi earned an advanced management diploma from Harvard Business School, a Ph.D. in International Relations from Claremont Graduate University, an MBA in International Marketing from Andrews University, and a B.A. in business administration from the Middle East College, in Beirut, Lebanon. He additionally serves as a trustee of Claremont Graduate University.



## PRIOR HONOREES

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

SASA 2008 CONFERENCE  
**DR. NEENA BANSAL**

President & CEO, State Bank of India (California)

SASA 2009 CONFERENCE  
**ANIL DESPANDE & CHITRA DESHPANDE**

Philanthropists; Founders, Park Square Homes

SASA 2010 CONFERENCE  
**NAVNEET CHUGH**

Managing Partner, The Chugh Firm

SASA 2011 CONFERENCE  
**RON SOMERS**

President, U.S.-India Business Council

SASA 2012 CONFERENCE  
**DHIREN MEHTA**

Southern California President, Pratham USA

SASA 2013 CONFERENCE  
**GUNJAN BAGLA**

Managing Director, Amritt, Inc.

SASA 2014 CONFERENCE  
**DINESH PATEL**

Partner Emeritus, Signal Peak Ventures

SASA 2017 CONFERENCE  
**PRATIMA DOSHI & NAVIN DOSHI**

Philanthropists; Founders, Nalanda International

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

SASA 2008 CONFERENCE  
**DR. PRATAPADITYA PAL**

South Asia Curator, Boston Museum of Fine Art  
and Los Angeles County Museum of Art

SASA 2009 CONFERENCE  
**DR. HAROLD GOULD**

Professor South Asia Studies, University of  
Illinois and University of Virginia

SASA 2010 CONFERENCE  
**DR. STANLEY WOLPERT**

Professor Emeritus, History University of  
California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

SASA 2011 CONFERENCE  
**DR. JOE DYE**

South Asia Curator, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

SASA 2012 CONFERENCE  
**DR. ALFRED HILTEBEITEL**

Professor of Religion, George Washington University

SASA 2013 CONFERENCE  
**DR. ALEXANDER DUBIANSKY**

Professor, Tamil Studies, Moscow State University

SASA 2014 CONFERENCE  
**DR. PAUL R. BRASS**

Professor Emeritus, Political Science & International Studies  
University of Washington

SASA 2016 CONFERENCE  
**MINOTI CHAKRAVARTI KAUL**

Author, Professor, Delhi University

SASA 2017 CONFERENCE  
**DR. RAFIQ DOSSANI**

Director, RAND Center for Asia Pacific Policy  
Sr. Economist & Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School

# WELCOME TO SASA 2018!

## COMPLETE SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018**

**5:00 - 8:00PM**

**RECEPTION, WELCOME REMARKS  
FOUNDER'S ROOM, BAUER NORTH**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**

**8:15 - 8:55 AM**

**REGISTRATION  
BAUER NORTH**

**9:00 - 10:30AM**

**SASA CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3  
BAUER SOUTH**

**Panel 1A: Education in South Asia:  
Past Present and Future**

**Bauer Center Room 23 • Chair: Nita Kumar**

Susan Seymour, Pitzer College:

**Going Out to School: The Impact of Girls' Education  
on Family and Gender System in Bhubaneswar, India.**

Carol C. Mukhopadhyay, San Jose State University:

**Family Matters: Understanding Educational  
Choices and Gendered science in India.**

Rachel C. Fleming, Colorado College:

**"If you have education, you have everything":  
Multigenerational attitudes towards women's  
education in Bangalore, India.**

Nita Kumar, Claremont McKenna College:

**The hidden curriculum in Indian education,  
1985 to the present.**

**Panel 1B: Rountable 1:**

**Samkhya and Accounting for the Real**

**Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Christopher Key Chapple**

Mikel Burley, University of Leeds

Marzenna Jakubczak, Jagellonian University

Ana Funes, Eastern Connecticut State University

**Panel 1C: Asian Art History: Reverberations  
in South Asia and Beyond**

**Bauer Center Room 25 • Chair: Ingrid Aall**

Punam Madhok, East Carolina University:

**Contemporary Embroidery of India:  
Tradition, Revival, and Globalization.**

Nalini Rao, Soka University of America:

**Archaeology and Community Identity:  
The Case of Siddhapur in Western India.**

Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont School of Theology:

**Womb: The Creative Genesis of Sushma Shimkhada.**

Miroj Shakya, University of the West:

**Arniko's Legacy and its Influence on  
the Buddhist Art in China.**

**10:30 - 10:45 am COFFEE BREAK**

**Bauer South**

**10:45 - 12:15 PM**

**SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 4  
BAUER SOUTH**

**Panel 2A: China Pakistan Economic Corridor:  
Economic and Geostrategic Implications**

**Bauer South Room 23 • Chair: Muthusami Kumaran**

Murad Ali, German Development Institute/ Deutsches  
Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Bonn Germany:

**Is China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)  
a form of South-South Cooperation?**

Iram Naseer Ahmed,

University of Lahore, Punjab Pakistan:

**Building the Nation and Regional Stability,  
Constructing the Infrastructure:  
CPEC, Benefits, Apprehensions and Future.**

Ashok Chandra Shukla, Independent Scholar,  
New Delhi, India:

**South Asian Perspectives on  
China Pakistan Economic Corridor.**





**Panel 2B: Improving Outcomes through Pedagogical Innovations in the United States and South Asia**  
Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: : Purnima Bhatt

Adam Pave, San Bernardino Valley College:  
**Teaching the Moral Issues of World Hunger.**

Mayuri Deka, University of the Bahamas:  
**Re-visioning Stereotypes in the Multi-Ethnic Literature Classroom: Bias and the South-Asian body.**

JoAnne Pandey, Cal. State. University, Northridge:  
**Preliminary Results from a Classroom-Based Writing Therapy Intervention to Help Students Cope with the Psychological Impact of the Gorkha Earthquake in Nepal.**

Rhea Handa, Scripps College, Claremont:  
**A Lesson in Learning: Improving Learning Outcomes in India via Pedagogical Innovation.**

**Panel 2C: Understanding the Glocal, Hybrid and Identity Politics in South Asia**  
Bauer South Room 25 • Chair: Susan Seymour

Agata Joanna Lagiewka, National University of Ireland:  
**Wealth, Poverty and the Attraction of Beauty in India.**

Sayanti Mondal, Illinois State University:  
**Picturing Experience: The Performing of Transnational Identity in *The London Jungle Book*.**

Jon Paul Sydnor, Emmanuel College:  
**Globalization, Minoritization, and the Retreat into the Local: India Moving Forward.**

Young Hoon Oh, University of California, Riverside:  
**Himalayan Ambassador: The Rise of Ethnic Sherpa through Mountain Tourism.**

**Panel 2D: Buddhism, Monasticism and Yoga**  
Bauer Center Room 22 • Chair: Bradley Clough

Wijitha Bandara, Salt Lake Community College:  
**Ideals of Virtue in Monasticism.**

Khang Bao Nguyen, Claremont Graduate University:  
**Unbounded Wholeness and Emptiness.**

Leslie Roth, Claremont School of Theology:  
**Fifty Shades of Yoga.**

Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno:  
**Vaishnava Devotionalism and Gandhi's *Ahimsa*: A Method of Love and Compassion for All Beings.**

12:30 - 1:30 pm **LUNCHEON**  
Bauer South

**1:15 - 2:00 PM**  
**FIRESIDE CHAT - MUKESH AGHI, PHD.,**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO, US-INDIA STRATEGIC**  
**PARTNERSHIP FORUM**  
**MCKENNA AUDITORIUM**

**2:00 - 3:15 PM**  
**PLENARY SESSION I**  
**MCKENNA AUDITORIUM**  
US-India Higher Education and Entrepreneurship:  
Cross Border Alliances

3:15 - 3:30 pm **COFFEE BREAK**  
Bauer South

**3:30 - 5:00 PM**  
**SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 4**  
**BAUER SOUTH**

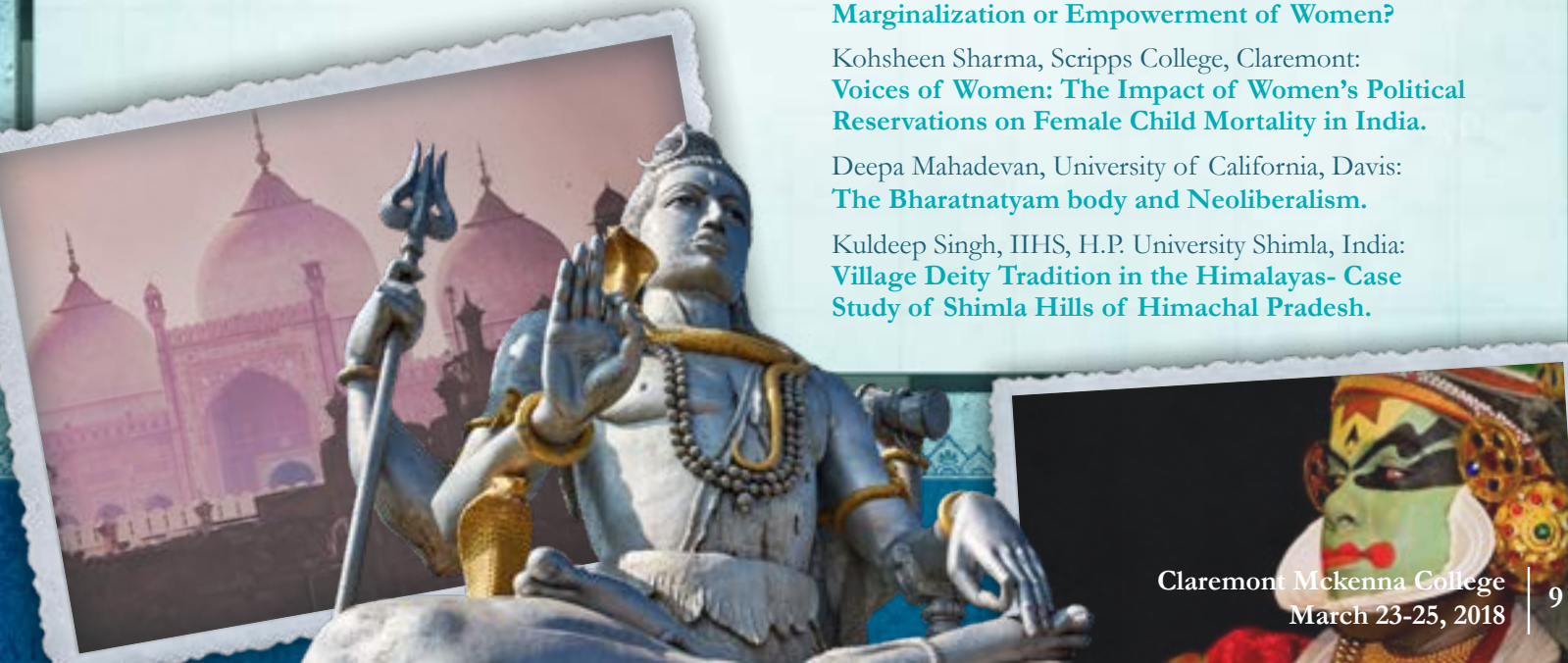
**Panel 3A: Voices of Women:**  
**Marginalization, Empowerment and Resilience**  
Bauer South Room 23 • Chair: Carol Mukhopadhyay

Purnima Mehta Bhatt, Hood College:  
**An Exploration of Spirit Possession in India:**  
**Marginalization or Empowerment of Women?**

Kohsheen Sharma, Scripps College, Claremont:  
**Voices of Women: The Impact of Women's Political Reservations on Female Child Mortality in India.**

Deepa Mahadevan, University of California, Davis:  
**The Bharatnatyam body and Neoliberalism.**

Kuldeep Singh, IIHS, H.P. University Shimla, India:  
**Village Deity Tradition in the Himalayas- Case Study of Shimla Hills of Himachal Pradesh.**



**Panel 3B: Roundtable 2:**  
**Samkhya and Accounting for the Real**  
Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Christopher Key Chapple

Geoff Ashton, University of San Francisco  
Christopher Miller,  
University of California, Davis  
Al Collins, Independent scholar  
Christopher Key Chapple,  
Loyola Marymount University

**Panel 3C: Religious Philanthropy,  
Intercivilizational Understandings and  
Challenges of Civil Society in India and South Asia**  
Bauer South Room 25 • Chair: Ashok Chandra Shukla

Kuldeep Singh, Nanak Sadan Sikh Temple:  
**Sikh Langar - A Philanthropic Model  
for Food Insecurity.**  
Nitin Shah, Loma Linda University:  
**Compassion in Action.**  
Durgesh Kasbekar, Independent Scholar, Canada:  
**Agar Ab Bhi Na Jage to and Khudabaksh Oriental  
Public Library: Milestones in Intercivilizational  
Understanding in India.**  
Muthusami Kumaran, University of Florida:  
**The Stifling of Civil Society in South Asia:  
Weak Governance, Rise of Special Interests,  
and Restrictive Regulatory Frameworks.**

**Panel 3D: Caste and Social Justice**  
Bauer South Room 22 • Chair: David Blundell

Pradnya Garud, Independent Scholar:  
**Space, Caste, and Disasters.**  
Ravikiran Shinde, University of Arizona:  
**Lack of Diversity in South Asia's  
Biggest Film Industry.**  
Suraj Yengde, Harvard University:  
**The Genre of Neo-Dalit Identity**

**5:00 - 6:15 PM**  
**PLENARY SESSION II**  
**PICKFORD AUDITORIUM**  
South Asia NGOs, Non-Profits, and Philanthropy

**6:30 - 7:15 PM**  
**COCKTAIL RECEPTION**  
**MCKENNA AUDITORIUM**

**7:15 - 8:30 PM**  
**BANQUET AND EXEMPLAR AWARDS**  
**MCKENNA AUDITORIUM**

**HONOREES:**

**Academic Achievement: Dr. Christopher Key Chapple**  
Doshi Professor of Indic & Comparative Theology  
Loyola Marymount University

**Business Leadership: Dr. Mukesh Aghi, PhD.**  
President  
US-India Strategic Partnership Forum USISPF

**Community Service: Dr. Varun Soni**  
Dean of Religious Life  
University of Southern California (USC)

**8:30 - 9:30 PM**  
**CULTURAL PROGRAM**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018**

**8:45 - 9:15 am COFFEE & SWEETS**  
Bauer South

**9:15 - 10:45 AM**  
**SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 3**  
**BAUER SOUTH**

**Panel 4A: Understanding the Diverse  
Needs of South Asian Americans**  
Bauer Center Room 22 • Chair: Purnima Bhatt

**The Importance of Data Disaggregation in  
Understanding the Diverse Needs of South  
Asian Americans and the Need for Innovative  
Outreach in Mainstream Programs.**

Leepi Shimkhada, Los Angeles County  
Department of Health Services

Riti Shimkhada Relan, UCLA Center for  
Health Policy Research & UCLA Center  
for Global and Immigrant Health

Attorney Ravi Mahalingam, Savant LLC,  
General Counsel and Partner



**Panel 4B: Mahayana Buddhism and Yantra**  
Bauer Center Room 24 • Chair: Bradley Clough

Ralph Craig III, Loyola Marymount College:  
**Theologies of Awakening: Dharmamegha Samadhi in the Yoga Sutra and Bodhisattva-Marga Literature.**

Joseph Cadiff, Loyola Marymount College:  
**The Culmination of the Mahayana: Dzogchen and the Nine Vehicles of the Nyingmapa.**

Catherine Weiss, Loyola Marymount College:  
**Anatomy of a Yantra.**

**Panel 4C: Art in Nepal**  
Bauer Center Room 25 • Chair: Ingrid Aall

Maureen Drdak, Independent Scholar:  
**Eternal Visions—Contemporary Forms: A Twenty-first Century Guru-Shikshya Art Relationship Reimagined.**

Supriya Manandhar, The Record, Kathmandu, Nepal:  
**Exploring Public Art Archetypes in Kathmandu Valley Researcher.**

Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont School of Theology:  
**Churning of the Ocean of Milk-Tension of a Cosmic Scale: What are the Lessons Learnt?**

Ashmina Ranjit, Visual Artist, Nepal:  
**The Expanding Self: A Newari Artist's Journey from the Local to the Global.**

10:30 - 10:45 am Coffee Break

**11:00 - 12:30 PM**  
**SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 3**  
**BAUER SOUTH**

**Panel 5A: Modernity, Nationalism and Politics**  
Bauer Center Room 23 • Chair: Deepak Shimkhada

Md. Mizanur Rahman, Illinois State University:  
**'Modernity' in Question: Rise of Islamic Public Sphere in Bangladesh.**

Haydn Campmier, Claremont School of Theology:  
**Padmaavat, Right-Wing Hindu Protests and Global Anti Muslim Bias.**

Naumana Kiran, University of Lahore, Pakistan:  
**Muslim Mystics of the Punjab and the Pakistan Movement.**

Sundus Jaber, Claremont School of Theology:  
**What Killed Muhammad Dārā Shikūh: Syncretism, Apostasy or Politics?**

**Panel 5B: South Asian Buddhism: Ancient Roots, Contemporary Developments**  
Bauer Center Room 24 • Chair: Adam Pave

Bradley Clough, University of Montana:  
**Reviving Meditation: A Modern Debate in Buddhist South Asia.**

Frank Tedesco, True Dharma International:  
**Dharma and End-of-Life Care: Indian Spiritual Paths & Western Medicine.**

Gautama Prabhu, Foundation of His Secret Majesty, India:  
**The Journey of Buddhists in South India: From Buddhist towards untouchability to Hindu untouchables to Buddhists.**

David Blundell, University of California, Los Angeles:  
**GIS Mapping Historical Buddhism in Southern Asia.**

**Panel 5C: Religion and Embodiment**  
Bauer Center Room 25 • Chair: Jon Paul Sydnor

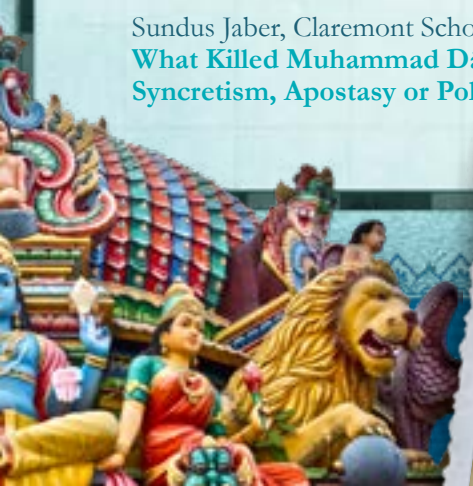
Taylor Remington, Claremont School of Theology:  
**The Energetic Bodies of Tomorrow: A New Look at the Philosophies of Sri Aurobindo as Applied to Bodily Resurrection in Christian Scriptures.**

Jamie Mills, Claremont School of Theology:  
**The Use of Tantric Alchemy and Solidified Mercury by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev in the Consecration of Linga Bhairavi.**

Fiona Angela Cruz Scott, Claremont School of Theology:  
**Near Death Experience in the Hindu Context. Princess O'Nika Auguste, Claremont School of Theology: The Kama Sutra of Solomon.**

Neel Adhiraj Kumar, Pomona College:  
**Expressing the Ineffable: The Formless Divine in Kabir's Poetry**

12:45 - 1:45 pm **LUNCHEON**  
**McKenna Auditorium**



**1:30 - 2:45 PM**  
**PLENARY SESSION III**  
**MCKENNA AUDITORIUM**

Entrepreneurs And CEOs: An Interactive Forum

**3:00 - 4:30 PM**  
**SASA CONCURRENT**  
**ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS 4**  
**BAUER SOUTH**

Roundtable 6A: Performance in India  
and Possible Global Links  
Bauer Center Room 22 • Moderator: Nita Kumar

William Alves, Harvey Mudd College

Paul Livingstone,  
Musician and Educator, Los Angeles

Irfana Majumdar,  
Founding Artistic Director, NIRMAN  
Theatre and Film Studio (NTS), Varanasi, India

Gaurav Saini, Theatre Trainer, Actor, Director,  
and Short-Film Maker, and Artist-in-Residence at  
NIRMAN, Varanasi

Sheetal Gandhi, Choreographer and  
Multi-Disciplinary Artist, California, USA

Roundtable 6B: Jainism and Philanthropy  
Bauer Center Room 34 • Moderator: Nitin Shah

Jasvant Modi,  
President, Jain Center of Southern California

Mahesh Wadher,  
President, Anekant Community Center, First VP,  
Federation of Jain Association in North America.

Prafulla Shah, Board Member,  
Jain Center of Southern California, Coordinator,  
Tender Care Community Outreach Program

Nitin Shah, Professor of Anesthesiology  
and Critical Care, Loma Linda University

Roundtable 6C: Ayurveda and  
Alternative Medicinal Practices  
Bauer Center Room 35 • Moderator: Dr. Habib Sadeghi

Habib Sadeghi, Be Hive of Healing:  
Of Mind and Medicine

Discussant: Navin Doshi,  
Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

Discussant: T SS Rajan, MD Internal Medicine/  
Cardiology, Temple Medical Associates, CA

Roundtable 6D: Social Consciousness  
and Education in South Asia  
Bauer Center Room 36 • Moderator: David Blundell

Benjamin Kaila,  
Friends for Education International (FFEI)

Naresh Barsagade,  
Independent Scholar

David Blundell,  
University of California, Los Angeles

**4:30 - 5:30 PM**  
**CLOSING RECEPTION: HIGH TEA**  
**BAUER NORTH, FOUNDERS ROOM**



### THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES


**ASSOCIATION (SASA)** is a California-based US 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. SASA was founded in 2007 by an alliance of deeply committed college and university scholars from the US and elsewhere globally. The shared purpose was to strengthen and expand this critically important field of study. In our first decade, under founder Dr. William Vanderbok, SASA successfully hosted 10 conferences on three continents, we published multiple books and the journal *Exemplar*, and we recognized 18 exceptional individuals for their academic achievements or community service related to South Asia interests.

Beginning in 2017, under longtime SASA Director and new CEO Ken Silverman --- a veteran South Asia focused business strategist and executive --- SASA expanded the scope of the organization and of SASA conferences to include South Asia related business, trade, and investment, and more recently NGOs, nonprofits and philanthropy. We also broadened the Board of Directors of SASA to include prominent leaders in these fields.

Going forward, SASA is now deepening our engagement with scholars and institutions in North America, South Asia, and elsewhere globally. We are additionally building new collaborations with individuals and organizations everywhere that are involved in South Asia related business and nonprofit sectors. SASA invites all parties with compatible goals to contact us to explore how, together, we may all be more positive catalysts for increasing understanding of, and involvement with, South Asia. Benefits will accrue worldwide.



**KEN SILVERMAN**  
SASA  
Chairman of the Board  
Chief Executive Officer




**DR. DEEPAK SHIMKHADA**  
SASA President,  
Claremont School of  
Theology




**DR. BILL VANDERBOK**  
SASA President Emeritus  
Honorary Director




**DR. VANDANA ASTHANA**  
Eastern Washington  
University



**DR. PURNIMA BHATT**  
Hood College  
(Retired)



**DR. DAVID BLUNDELL**  
National Chengchi  
University  
UCLA



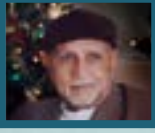
**DR. BRADLEY CLOUGH**  
University of Montana



**DR. CATHLEEN CUMMINGS**  
University of Alabama




**DR. CAROL DAVIS**  
Franklin and  
Marshall College



**NAVIN DOSHI**  
Philanthropist, Author




**DR. RAFIQ DOSSANI**  
The RAND  
Corporation




**DR. CYNTHIA HUMES**  
Claremont McKenna  
College



**DR. CHANDRIKA KAUL**  
University of  
St. Andrews



**ARNOLD PETER, ESQ.**  
The Peter Law Group



**DR. PARKES RILEY**  
University of California,  
Riverside



**MISHKA MICHON**  
SASA  
Secretary & Treasurer

**SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
251 South Orange Grove Boulevard  
Suite Two, Pasadena, CA 91105  
[www.SAsia.org](http://www.SAsia.org) • [KSilverman@SAsia.org](mailto:KSilverman@SAsia.org)

**PAST SASA CONFERENCES**

- 2007 LOYOLA MARYMONT UNIVERSITY
- 2008 CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
- 2009 UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
- 2010 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- 2011 VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
- 2012 CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
- 2013 RUSSIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE HUMANITIES / MOSCOW
- 2014 WESTMINSTER COLLEGE
- 2016 TERI UNIVERSITY / NEW DELHI
- 2017 CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

## SASA ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SASA 2018 is a collaboration of individuals who share a passion for South Asia, home to one-quarter of the earth's population. Whether linked to this part of the world by virtue of birth, lineage, social commitment, scholarly studies, cultural appeal, business, chance, or otherwise, all share a fascination and an appreciation that keeps us ever more engaged. In addition to the 100+ individuals who will speak in our Panels, Round Tables, and Plenary Sessions, the individuals and organizations cited below are especially recognized for their commitments of time, energy, and resources so as to bring SASA 2018 to fruition.

### CONFERENCE CHAIR

KEN SILVERMAN

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE CHAIR

DR. VANDANA ASTHANA

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

DR. DAVID BLUNDELL  
DR. BRADLEY CLOUGH

### ADDITIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DR. DEEPAK SHIMKHADA  
DR. PURNIMA BHATT  
MISHKA MICHON

### SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

The SASA Board of Directors extends particular appreciation to the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Claremont McKenna College for their exceptional vision, generosity, kindness, and support of our mission and efforts. We particularly acknowledge the following individuals.

HIRAM CHODOSH  
President

DR. CYNTHIA HUMES  
Associate Vice President  
Chief Technology Officer  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

DOROTHY BUCHANAN  
Director of Special Events

### SASA 2018 PLATINUM SPONSOR

PRATIMA AND NAVIN DOSHI

### INSTITUTIONAL & CORPORATE SPONSORS

CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY  
GETGLOBAL & CEO JULIAN LEUTHOLD  
INDIC FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR JAIN STUDIES  
JAIN CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
SANNAM S4 GROUP & CEO ADRIAN MUTTON  
TIE / THE INDUS ENTREPRENEURS - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

DR. SULEKH JAIN  
DR. HARVINDAR SAHOTA  
MAHESH WADHER  
DR. JASVANT MODI  
DR. NITIN SHAH

### DEDICATED SUPPORTERS

SASA additionally thanks the many supporters, collaborators, and volunteers --- as individuals and representing many organizations --- whose invaluable assistance and encouragement has contributed to making SASA 2018 possible. We specifically wish to cite the following:

### INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

ARVIND GUPTA  
HUI-JI WANG  
AKSHAY VARAHAM

### STUDENTS OF CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

PRINCESS O'NIKA AUGUSTE  
SUNDUS JABER  
TAYLOR REMINGTON  
ANGELA FIONA SCOTT  
HAYDN CAMPMIER  
JAMIE MILLS  
LESLIE ROTH

### STUDENT OUTREACH AMBASSADORS

RHEA HANDA / SCRIPPS COLLEGE  
MEERA KOLLURI / SCRIPPS COLLEGE  
JAHNAVI KOTHARI / SCRIPPS COLLEGE  
NANDEEKA NAYAK / HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

SASA THANKS JULIAN LEUTHOLD  
Founder & CEO, and all of our friends at



### CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

Adding particular pleasure to our Saturday evening SASA 2018 Exemplar Awards Banquet are the following very gifted individuals:

### NORTH INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

DAVID TRASOFF / PERFORMING ON SARODE  
JAVAD BUTAH / PERFORMING ON TABLA

### DANCES OF SRI LANKA

Presented by a troupe of very talented performers interpreting classical Sri Lankan dances.

With a Special Introduction by  
MRS. SWARMA GUNARATNE  
Consul General of Sri Lanka

### SASA 2018 CONFERENCE JOURNAL

Special appreciation is also extended for the vision, talents, commitment, and long hours devoted by the team responsible for designing and producing our SASA 2018 printed Program:

FRED TATLYAN, GOLIATH GRAFFIX  
Pasadena, CA / GoliathGraffix.com





# SANNAM S4

EXPLORE • ENTER • EXPAND

## Sannam S4 is Proud to Support the 12th Annual South Asian Studies Conference

Sannam S4 is pleased to participate in SASA 2018, the annual conference of the South Asian Studies Association, and we are delighted to congratulate our dear friend Mukesh Aghi, President of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, on his selection as the first recipient of the SASA Exemplar Award for Business Leadership



**Adrian Mutton**  
Founder & CEO



**Ken Silverman**  
Head of  
North America



**Krista Nortup**  
Director of Education  
North America



**Doug Sessions**  
Vice President  
Client & Stakeholder  
Relationships

Sannam S4 is a leading market-entry organization serving India and 20 additional international markets. For more than a decade we've assisted hundreds of corporations, large and small, as well as leading universities, nonprofits, trade associations, and government agencies to successfully explore and expand globally.



EXPLORE

ENTER

EXPAND



**CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY**

**Congratulates our Distinguished Trustee**

**MUKESH AGHI**

*on being Honored as the First Recipient of the  
South Asian Studies Association*

**EXEMPLAR AWARD**

**FOR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP**