

# **Oxford Centre for Vaishnava and Hindu Studies**

## **Trustees Report for the period ended December 2002**

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002.

### **Trustees**

Mr Ross Andrew, Mrs Sharmila Bhattacharya-Ford and Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das have served as trustees throughout the year.

The Trust Deed of the Charity governs appointment of trustees. The Board of Trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing trustee. The Charity's trustees are named on page one of the document.

### **Investment powers**

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to authorise any investments comprised in the trust fund to be held in the name of any clearing bank, trust corporation or stock-broking company that is a member of the Stock Exchange as nominee for the trustees, although no such investments are presently held.

### **Constitution, objects and policies**

The OCVHS is constituted by a Trust Deed and its objects are the advancement of education in the field of Hindu Studies.

The Centre ended the year in an increase in the student population and increase in lecturing and tutoring for the University. The Centre launched two Hindu studies courses and attracted funding for one short-term and one long-term fellowship. Thus its population of visiting scholars has been greatly enhanced and significant outreach programmes have further developed its educational capacity and its relationship with the Indian and Hindu communities. The formation of a Development Council is a positive step which will help with forward planning and help secure the financial viability of the Centre.

### **Development, activities and achievements**

#### **Development Council**

In May of this year our Director, Shaunaka Rishi Das offered invitations to selected members of the professional and business communities to join the OCVHS Development Council. This body will assist the executive planning of the Centre and help to assist and oversee developments in the fields of accounts, budgeting, financial management and fund development. An inaugural meeting was held in the Regency Hotel, Kensington, London. The members of this Council are, Mr Harish IK Patel, Mr Subhash Thakrar, Mr Hasu Manek, Mr Bharat Bhundia, Mr Nitin Palan, Mr Jayesh Popat and Mr Sanjay Gadhvi.

#### **Oxford in the USA**

During the Easter vacation OCVHS Director, Shaunaka Rishi Das and Dphil student, Ravi Gupta accepted an invitation to make presentations about the Centre to communities in Florida. The trip was organised by Mrs Sharmila Bhattacharya Ford, Board member and Trustee, and Mr Bob Cohen. Mr Dave Dobson sponsored the main venue.

In a weekend visit three meetings were held eliciting a positive response. The aim of the trip, to raise awareness of the Centre's programmes and activities in the USA, were met and four attendees pledged funds for future development.

#### **Research Projects**

##### **British Hinduism Oral History Project**

After its successful launch last year this project has progressed by conducting interviews in different locations around the country. The BHOHP will attempt to achieve a good gender balance, Indian ethnic balance and a broad geographical mix. Thus far prospective interviewees and community leaders have enthusiastically welcomed the project. It serves to increase awareness of the unique journey that the Asian community has made in this country and to develop the community's historical consciousness.

### **Digital Shikshapatri Project**

This project is engaged in the digitalisation of the Bodleian Library's *Shikshapatri* manuscript (the most revered scripture of the Swaminarayan movement). It is employing a range of multimedia tools to help people of all backgrounds to better understand its significance.

The project is funded by the New Opportunities Fund under partners: The Indian Institute Library, The Refugee Studies Centre and OCVHS. The Digital Shikshapatri website is provided by the University of Oxford's Bodleian Library. Dr. Gillian Evison of the Bodleian Library's Indian Institute said, "We are pleased with what we have been able to achieve with the Digital Shikshapatri site. It is a scholarly resource for those who want to study the text but it also contains plenty of accessible material, including audio and video, for those whose interest is more general."

The Shikshapatri manuscript was originally gifted to the Indian Institute Library from whence it came into the possession of the Bodleian Library. Written by Shree Swaminarayan, founder of Swaminarayan Hinduism, it outlines moral and spiritual codes for everyday life and is venerated by its followers both as a holy relic and for its writings. The demand for this fragile Sanskrit manuscript presented the Bodleian with an unusual challenge as the 900 or so annual visitors needed more access to the manuscript than the library, which is organized around the requirements of small numbers of specialist academics, could readily provide. Its delicate condition precludes it being handled except under highly controlled conditions. The project is due for completion in 2003.

### **Hindu Youth Survey**

Research officers, Savita Bhanot and Romila Santosh are presently analyzing data gathered from this unique survey and propose that a report can be published early in 2003. The findings from this project will be of great value to scholars, researchers and Indian community leaders.

### **Scholarship Fund**

Following the sad passing of Tamal Krishna Goswami, Mr Anand Aggrawal, USA, has offered a scholarship for a deserving student to complete their studies at Oxford, in the name of Tamal Krishna Goswami. Miss Amanda Mills was granted this award in 2002.

## **Lectures and Seminars**

### **Michaelmas Term (Oct – Dec)**

#### **Lecture Series**

#### **The Ramayana of Valmiki, Prof. M. Narasimhachary**

In the course, Prof. Narasimhachary gave four lectures that introduced the celebrated Indian epic Ramayana, composed by Valmiki in Sanskrit more than 2000 years ago, and highlighted its inner meaning and function in elaborating and substantiating the meaning of the Vedas. The course also included a comparison of the epic poem to another great Indian epic, The Mahabharata. Commentaries on the Ramayana and explanations of the important verses from the seven books of the Ramayana were also a part of the course's agenda. Particular reference was made to the Srivaishnava commentary, 'Bhushana,' composed by the Govindaraja in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The lectures were especially useful for students preparing papers in the study of Hinduism, although no background knowledge of Hinduism or the Ramayana was required to take the course.

#### **Hindu saints and Poets; Perspectives and Examples, Prof. Charles S. J. White**

In the course, Prof. White emphasized the historical development of Hinduism as an adaptation of religious 'anthropology' to express the deepest issues in the Hindu religion. The course focused on the history of Hinduism as it encompasses the religious experience of men

and women who eventually become icons for the religious community. The lectures also illustrated the contributions of Hindu saints, who were gifted philosophers and poets in their own right, to the history of Hindu literature. Finally, modern history-of-religions and literary-critical approaches were also discussed as means of understanding the saintly phenomena of contemporary Hinduism.

**Classics of Hindu Theology 1: South Indian Vaishnavism's Srimad Rahasyatrayasara (Compared with Shivism's Civananacittiyar), Prof. Francis X. Clooney, S.J.**

In the course, Prof. Clooney introduced the students to systematic philosophical and theological thinking in Hindu theistic traditions. The course examined the Srimad Rahasyatrayasara (The Essence of the Three Holy Mysteries) of the 14<sup>th</sup> century South Indian Vaisnava theologian Vedanta Desika and was compared and contrasted to another great classic, the Saiva Civananacittiyar (The Perfection of the Knowledge of Siva) of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Saiva theologian Arulnanti, highlighting similarities and dissimilarities in the cosmology, metaphysics, epistemology, religious learning and practice, and the understanding of God as Visnu or Siva present in both works. Also, special attention was given to the problems in interpretation and comparative methodology. The lectures were intended primarily for students in theology and religious studies, although no background in the aforementioned areas of study was required to take the course.

**Seminars**

**Amanda Mills**, D.Phil. Student, Mansfield College

*"Pains of Separation: Narratives of Suffering in the Bhagavata Purana"*

**Alexander Wynne**, D.Phil. Student, St. John's College.

*"The Brahminic Origins of Buddhist Meditation"*

**Shailendra Bhandare**, Ashmolean Museum.

*"Coins and Icons: Vaishnava Imagery on Indian Coins"*

**Hilary Term (Jan-Mar)**

**Lecture Series**

**India's Upanishads in Theological Perspective**, Prof. Francis X. Clooney, S.J.

In the course, Prof. Clooney introduced the religious and philosophical texts of ancient India from the 9<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BCE, The Upanishads, which are a record of the speculations of seers and sages of the time about the ultimate meaning of life and the path to liberation. The course emphasized the point that although The Upanishads are rooted in older traditions, they continue to test bold new ideas about the world, the self, and the highest truth.

The lectures examined the major thematic and stylistic trends in key Upanishads and highlighted interpretations made by great Hindu thinkers of the ancient texts. The Upanishads' relevance to comparative and Christian theologies was also discussed, as well as the problems associated with interpretation and comparative methodology. The lectures were intended primarily for students in theology and religious studies. No background in the aforementioned areas of study was required, although some knowledge of Sanskrit was useful to students taking the course.

The lectures were held Wednesdays during the Hilary Term at the Examination Schools Building.

**Theology Seminar**

**Developing the Study of Comparative Theology**, Prof. FX Clooney & Prof Keith Ward

The two seminars, given by Prof. Clooney and Prof. Ward respectively, focused on the developing field of comparative theology and its possibilities, directions, and relevance.

**Seminar One**, by Prof. Clooney, was on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and

**Seminar Two**, by Prof. Ward, was on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Trinity Term (Apr-June)**

### **Lecture Series**

**Nondualist Vedanta Theology as Propounded by Sri Sankara**, Prof. M. Narasimhachary  
In the course of four lectures, Prof. Narasimhachary introduced the Nondualist (Advaita) Vedanta theological system as propounded by Sri Sankara, the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE Hindu theologian, and focused on Sankara's contribution to Vedanta theology, particularly Nondualist Vedanta. The course laid the basis down for students to explore Theistic Vedanta articulated by later Vedanta theologians like Ramanuja, Madhva, and Vallabha once the understanding of Sankara's works was established. Other aspects of the course included Sankara's critiques on Buddhism and Jainism, his successful reestablishment of the Vedanta method for interpreting the Upanishads, his commentaries on the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutras, and the Bhagavad Gita, his poetic hymns such as Bhaja Govinda Stotra and Kanaka Dhara Stotra, and finally a look at post-Sankara Nondualist Vedanta classics like Brahmasiddhi, Naiskarmyasiddhi, Istasiddhi and the Advaita Siddhi.

### **Seminars**

#### **Hindu-Muslim Encounters in Bengal**

Dr. Joseph O' Connell

#### **Tagore on Western Science, Technology and Medicine**

Dr. Kathleen O' Connell

### **Academic Outreach**

#### **The IK Foundation Lectures: Indian Culture in the Modern World**

Prof. M. Narasimhachary, Prof. Francis X Clooney SJ

The three lectures highlighted the practice, relevance, and application of Indian and Hindu tradition today. The series was successful in providing a forum for discussion and reflection on the issues of religious identity, thought, and practice in an Indian context. It also touched on topics like western interpretation of Indian culture, the definition of a Hindu, and the caste system today. Finally, the lectures created an awareness of the essence of Indian culture, spirituality, history, and art and how they are relevant and applicable in contemporary Britain.

The lectures were given at Kadwa Patidar Centre in Harrow on February 27<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, and October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The OCVHS owes a great debt of gratitude to Mr Harish IK Patel for his generosity in facilitating this lectures and for his on-going support for the Centre.

### **Hindu Studies Courses**

#### *Adult Education Programmes in London & Oxford*

The Centre, in response to requests from members of the Hindu community, offered two Hindu Studies courses this year. The London course was an experiment to test the interest in an adult education venture and to explore methods of teaching such a vast subject area. The Oxford course was offered in partnership with Oxford University's Continuing Education Department.

#### **London: Introductory Hindu Studies Course**

Prof. M. Narasimhachary & Ravi Gupta

In the series, throughout the span of 8 lectures, Prof. Narasimhachary and Ravi Gupta approached the study of Hindu communities through culture, identities, politics, philosophies, ethics, traditions, spiritualities, and worship. The course presented students with the perspective of practicing Hindus in the UK and encouraged them to both develop a correct picture of Hinduism and to reflect on the relevance of Hinduism in the modern world and in their own lives through intra-religious and inter-religious dialogue.

This course, sponsored by Mr Harish IK Patel, were held Thursdays during the Michaelmas Term from 7:00-9:00pm at the Regency Hotel in London.

#### **Oxford: Hindu Studies: Mapping the Field**

*In partnership with the Continuing Education Department of Oxford University*

Peggy Morgan, MA, Prof. M. Narasimhachary, Prof. Francis X. Clooney, Shaunaka Rishi Das  
In the course, which was a continuation from the Michaelmas term, Peggy Morgan, Prof. Narasimhachary, Prof. Clooney, and Shaunaka Rishi Das approached the study of Hindu communities through culture, identities, politics, philosophies, ethics, traditions, spiritualities, and worship. The course presented students with the perspective of practicing Hindus in the UK and encouraged them to both develop a correct picture of Hinduism and to reflect on the relevance of Hinduism in the modern world and in their own lives through intra-religious and inter-religious dialogue.

The ten lectures were held Tuesdays during the Trinity Term from 7:30-9:30pm at Ewert House in Oxford.

## **Students**

The centre welcomed six new students this year, a major boost in our student population. Below we outline their backgrounds and present focus.

### **Anuradha Dooney, Ireland**

BA in Social Studies, University College Dublin  
Currently pursuing an MSt in Religion, University of Oxford

### **Jonathan B Edelmann , USA**

BA Philosophy, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2002. Senior thesis: 'The metaphysical presupposition of neo-Darwinism and their relationship with a Vaishnava theology of nature.'

Currently pursuing an MSt Science and Religion, University of Oxford

### **Martin Ganeri O.P., UK,**

Is a member of the Dominican Order within the Catholic Church. He has been in Oxford since 1993 for priestly training and studies. Since 1999 he has been doing doctoral research on the embodiment cosmology of the Vedantic thinker Ramanuja and its relation to the creational account of Thomas Aquinas. Martin is committed to Hindu-Christian dialogue and is a member of the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Other Faiths.

### **Aleksandra Nijemcevic, former Yugoslavia**

BA in Philosophy, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, 2002.

Presently reading for a MPhil degree in Classical Indian Religion at the Oriental Studies Faculty of University of Oxford.

As a part of my undergraduate studies I had acquired a basic knowledge of Sanskrit, and was introduced into the study of Hinduism as an academic discipline. Together with other optional modules I had chosen to study in my undergraduate degree, such as Cosmology,

### **Jean-Marie Schmitt, France.**

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Bard College, USA, 2000.

Master of Arts in Indian Philosophy from Banaras Hindu University, India, 2002.

Jean-Marie is currently pursuing a Dphil in the Theology Faculty exploring Shankaracarya's interpretation of the concept of the deity.

### **Christopher Wood, UK**

BA Joint Honours, Philosophy & Theology, Birmingham University, UK. Thesis: "The Separation of Praxis & Theory in Western Religion & Philosophy".

Currently pursuing an MSt. In the Study of Religion, Oxford University.

## **Degrees Awarded**

Amanda Mills and Travis Chilcott, both of Mansfield College successfully completed their Master of Study in Religion programmes. Amanda will pursue a Dphil in theology in Oxford and Travis will pursue his PhD at the University of California at Santa Barbara through the Religious Studies Department. His research interests are in South Asian religions generally and early religious practices of the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition specifically. He also has interests in Sanskrit, Bengali, Islam in South Asia, Popular religion in South Asia, contemporary Vaishnava traditions, mysticism, and religion and science issues.

## **OCVHS Library**

The Library was bequeath the library of Tamal Krishna Goswami, a substantial contribution to our Fellows library at the Centre. We are most indebted to his Estate for their thoughtfulness. The Centre also benefited from a contribution of books from Mr Ramesh Chauhan, Bisleri Water, India.

## **Community Outreach: Hindu Youth Festivals**

After the very successful Hindu Youth Festival 2001—held to create awareness of the OCVHS; provide thought-provoking programmes for young people and attract potential donors to the Centre—the trustees agreed to host the youth initiative for one more year. This will allow the successful development to establish itself, leading to registration as a separate charity.

This year festivals, running under the banner of, 'Get Connected', were held in three cities, London, Birmingham and Preston. Below we include an overview of these very successful events and two messages of support from the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister.

"The festival of Diwali has become an important religious festival in this country. It is very encouraging to see young people planning for the future of this and other festivals, and thereby ensuring the development and continuity in this country.

Possibly even more important is your commitment to 'get connected' with young people from backgrounds other than your own. Presenting your tradition to society at large in this way can only help the all-important cause of cultural understanding amongst the many different communities that make up the British people. This is very much the message of the 'Respect' programme I launched earlier this year through my Prince's Trust, so I am delighted that young Hindus are working to preserve and develop their traditions at the same time as learning about other cultures from the environment in which you live.

It is heartening to see your vision, concern and commitment to building a strong sense of your Hindu community within the context of British society and I am so glad your Hindu Youth Initiative has produced good results and I pray it will go from strength to strength."

### **Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales**

"I am delighted to send my very best wishes to everyone attending the Diwali Youth Event at Alexandra Palace. This event provides young British Hindus with an important opportunity to explore their culture and their faith. It will also give the participants an opportunity to discuss what it means to be a young Hindu in Britain today.

This event gives young Hindus the opportunity to come together in the run-up to Diwali. Diwali is obviously and most importantly a festival celebrated by Hindus. But it is also a festival that contains a message for all of us, whatever our faith. Diwali is the festival of lights symbolising joy, brightness and happiness. The victory of light over darkness and of good over evil. It is, most importantly, a time of goodwill and understanding between all communities."

### **Rt. Hon. Tony Blair MP, The Prime Minsiter**

## **London**

Get Connected took place at the prestigious Alexandra Palace on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2002.

- 33 groups participated in the event from spiritual, cultural, community-based, and university-based organisations.
- An astonishing 9,500 people attended the event over two days. The stage saw 2 full days of acts from young children singing to Bollywood dance numbers.

- Respected leaders in the community, media representatives and members of parliament attended the opening ceremony. It took 10 months of planning, 23 big meetings, and 100's of small meetings.
- Over 160 people participated in the event from start to finish.
- It took 1 full day to set-up... and 2 hours to break down!
- The event was funded totally by the generosity of the Hindu community.

### **Birmingham**

Get Connected took place at the prestigious Centenary Square and REP Theatre in Birmingham on Saturday 16th November .

- 3,000 people attended the event.
- The event was the last of the three 'Get Connected' events in the country and the only one that was both indoor and outdoor.
- It formed part of the Annual Diwali celebrations and was organised in conjunction with the Hindu Council of Birmingham.
- It was attended by a number of dignitaries including Claire Short MP.
- The Main stage outside in the Centenary Square hosted comedy acts, dramatisations, singers and Bollywood dancers.
- The Square also consisted of food stalls and career stalls.
- The entire event was organised within 2 months.
- Over 70 volunteers participated in the planning and organising of the event.

### **Preston**

Get Connected took place at the prestigious Guild Hall in Preston on Saturday 13th July 2002 .

- 3,500 youth, volunteers, dignitaries and families descended on the Guild Hall to attend the event.
- The event was specifically developed for the Northern region.
- It was the first of three groundbreaking national events.
- It formed part of the 'Spirit of Friendship Festival' and Golden Jubilee celebrations.
- It began with a procession through the city centre with the distinct beat of the 'Dhol'. Dignitaries such as Mark Hendrick MP and the Mayor of Preston, Jonathan Saksena later joined the procession.
- The evening cultural show featuring comedy acts, dramatisations, acapela singers and dance acts by youth groups and societies from Manchester, Preston, Bolton, Liverpool Glasgow, Oldham, Ashton-Under-Lynne, Blackburn, Warrington and Wigan.
- The entire event was organised within 2 months.
- Over 50 volunteers participated in the planning and organising of the event.

### **Board of Governors Meeting and Dinner**

The annual Board of Governors meeting was held in June. The Board was sad to accept the retirement of Board member, Prof David Patterson and offered its heart-felt thanks for the wise counsel and advice he was always available to offer to the Centre's officers. Prof Patterson's involvement in forming the Centre's policies of academic excellence and integrity, and using the Hebrew Jewish Centre as its model was considerable. The Board wishes him every success for all his efforts in his retirement.

The meeting was followed by a dinner held in the Oxford Union dining hall. Sixty-five people, including representatives from the Indian High Commission, prominent Indian business people, senior academics from Oxford, Cambridge, London and Leeds, and students of the University, attended the Dinner.

### **OCVHS Awards and Fellowships**

The Board of Governors of the OCVHS granted Emeritus membership of the Board to Professor David Patterson in recognition of the very significant contribution he has made to the Board and to the development of the Centre since its inception.

#### **Shivdasani Fellowship Award**

Mr Azad Shivdasani, a London-based entrepreneur and an alumni of Oxford University, offered an annual Fellowship for Indian scholars to visit Oxford and spend a term, based in the Centre. The Fellowship will greatly enhance the aim of the OCVHS to build bridges between Indian and Western scholarship. The visiting scholars will be able to use the important resources of Oxford University and develop relationships with scholars here to help further their scholarly work. They will also be able to offer lectures and seminars to the university and tutorials to students of the Centre. We thank Mr Shivdasani for his vision and commitment in establishing this opportunity.

The first Shivdasani Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. M. Narasimhachary** recently retired as the Head of the Department of Vaishnavism at the University of Madras. His specialist subjects include the Pre-Ramanuja Religion and Philosophy, Pancharatra Agama Literature, Telugu and Sanskrit Literature and popularisation of Sanskrit as a spoken tongue. He has published a number of articles and monographs in academic journals on topics such as the Samskrita Svapnah, Bhakti & Prapatti in Srivaishnava Philosophy and the Pancaratra-kantakodhara.

#### **Tamal Krishna Goswami Fellowship Award**

Mr Bob Cohen, USA offered this occasional Fellowship in memory of Tamal Krishna Goswami. This Fellowship was awarded to **Prof Charles S. J. White**. Prof White is Professor Emeritus and former chairman in the Department of Philosophy and Religion of the American University in Washington, D.C. He has Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Hinduism and the History of Religions from the University of Chicago and an M.A. degree in Estudios Hispano-americanos y Creacion Literaria from La Universidad de las Americas in Mexico City. He has published translations and commentaries on Hindi literature, for example, The Caurasi Pad of Sri Hit Harivams and The Remaining Hindi Works of Sri Hit Harivams. He has also published numerous articles on the history of religions and Hinduism in general and, more especially, the medieval and modern saints of Hinduism and the history of Hindu holy men and women. His published articles, chapters and books include those on the Sai Baba Movement, Swami Muktananda, and Jnanananda Saraswati: Mother Guru of Chennai, India. He has also published a book about American followers of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. He recently published a book-length catalogue of the Adyar Library-The Institute for Vaishnava Studies-and-The American University Microfilm Collection of Vaishnava Literature with an explanatory essay about the project and a complete alphabetical index.

#### **OCVHS Visiting Fellowship Awards**

**Clelia Bartoli**, born in Palermo, Sicily, in 1973, received her degree in hermeneutics, comparative philosophy and ethics from the University of Florence in 1998. From that time until 2002 she taught in the Italian High School system and then began a Ph.D. in Human Rights from Palermo University, focusing on human rights issues in contemporary India. Clelia is member of the board of directors of the Journal 'Kykeion' (Florence University Press). She has been published in a number of academic Journals, including 'Kyksion; Orientamenti Pedagogici; Problemi di Pedagogia'.

She co-authored, with F. Squarcini, 'Il Monoteismo Hindu. La Storia, i Testi, le Scuole, Pacini', Pisa 1997; and Clelia has two other volumes in print: 'Dovere e Piacere. Unoantologia filosofica, LibriLiberi', Firenze 2002, and 'Conoscenza e Immaginazione. Unoantologia filosofica, LibriLiberi', Firenze 2003.

**Federico Squarcini**, born in Pisa, Italy in 1967 has focused his studies on the History and Political Sociology of South Asian Religions. He has a degree (Laurea, magna laude) in History of Religions from University of Florence, and is a Ph.D. candidate in the Historical and Sociological Study of Religion at Bologna University. Federico is currently 'Cultore in materia' at the Chair of Sanskrit Language and Literature, University of Florence.

Federico conducts seminars at the Department of Sociology of the University 'La Sapienza' of Roma, and lectures in the Department of Oriental Studies of the University 'La Sapienza' of

Roma; the Department of Oriental Studies dell'Istituto di Studi Orientali dell'Universita di Napoli and in the Department of Social Sciences in the University of Florence. He is member of the board of directors for the Journal 'Religioni e Societa' (Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane), and member of the board of directors for the Journal 'Kykeion' (Florence University Press).

He wrote and edited the following volumes: F. Squarcini, C. Bartoli, 'Il Monoteismo Hindu. La Storia, i Testi, le Scuole', Pacini, Pisa 1997; E. Fizzotti, F. Squarcini (eds.), 'L'Oriente che non tra-monta. Movimenti religiosi di origine orientale' in Italia, LAS, Roma 1999; F. Squarcini (ed.), 'Verso l'India, Oltre l'India. Scritti e ricerche sulle tradizioni intellettuali sudasiatiche', Mimesis, Milano 2002.

**Prof. Joseph O'Connell (Director of Academic Affairs 1999-2000)** is Professor Emeritus in the Study of Religion at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Since his Ph.D studies on 'Social Implications of the Gaudiya Vaishnava Movement' at Harvard University (USA) and Government Sanskrit College (Calcutta), he has researched, taught and published extensively on religion and society in India and Bangladesh, especially on Vaishnavas and Muslims in Bengal. He has edited or co-edited several volumes on Bengali studies and Gaudiya Vaishnavism.

**Dr. Kathleen O'Connell** is a scholar of comparative literature (M.A., Jadavpur University, India) and modern Bengali culture (Ph.D. University of Toronto, Canada). She has published translations of short stories by Satyajit Ray, Bravo! Professor Shonku (Rupa 1985) and a history of Rabindranath Tagore's educational project at Santiniketan, Rabindranath Tagore: The Poet as educator (Visva-Bharati, 2002). She teaches courses on the humanism of Satyajit Ray and philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore at the University of Toronto. Currently she is preparing an anthology of Tagore's own writing on education and doing research on ideas about medicine in Bengal at the turn of the twentieth century.

#### **In Memorandum: Tamal Krishna Goswami (1946 – 2002)**

His Holiness Tamal Krishna Goswami, a sannyasi and Governing Body Commissioner for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, was killed in a car accident in India, in March, 2002.

TKG, as he was affectionately known lived in Oxford for the last year of his life and made a rich contribution to the scholarly life of the OCHS. He took to scholarship late in life yet was accepted as a DPhil student in the Divinity School, of Cambridge University, working with Dr Julius Lipner.

May we join with his many friends and followers in offering our respects not only to the Goswami himself, but to his ethos of academic originality and integrity.

#### **Statement of Trustees responsibilities**

The trustees are required to comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory or modification of that Act) with regard to:

1. The keeping of accounting records for the Charity
2. The preparation of annual statements for the Charity
3. The auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of the Charity
4. The transmission of the statements of account of the Charity to the Commissioners.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation and submission of an annual report and return to the Charity.

#### **Approval**

This report was approved by the board of directors and trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on its behalf.