

Loyola Marymount University's Dr. Christopher Key Chapple
Doshi Professor of Indic & Comparative Theology
Named Recipient of the South Asian Studies Association's
2018 Exemplar Award for Academic Achievement



DR. Christopher Chapple
Doshi Professor of Indic & Comparative Theology
Loyola Marymount University

Pasadena, California – March 5, 2018: The South Asian Studies Association (SASA), an alliance of international scholars, academicians, business and civic leaders, today announced that its *2018 Exemplar Award for Academic Achievement* will be presented to Dr. Christopher Chapple Doshi Professor of Indic & Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University. The announcement was made on behalf of SASA's Board of Directors by Ken Silverman, SASA Chairman & CEO.

In making today's announcement, Mr. Silverman stated, "For almost 40 years Chris 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. From his earliest years engaged with the Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions at Stony Brook University, through the years at Fordham University where he earned his doctorate, to his three-plus decades at Loyola Marymount, where he's enlightened and inspired a generation of students and colleagues, to his numerous published books and hundreds of articles, essays, and lectures worldwide, Chris' work has touched and forever changed the lives of untold thousands of individuals. He has also been a dear friend and ardent supporter of SASA since our inception and we are delighted to formally recognize his multifaceted accomplishments this year with our *2018 Exemplar Award for Academic Achievement*."

In acknowledging his selection, Dr. Chapple stated, "I am deeply honored by and grateful for this recognition by the Board of Directors of the South Asian Studies Association. I understood their mission from the outset, and I was delighted to play a role in their birth and through the succeeding years at SASA conferences across America. As SASA continues to expand, now also focusing on diverse realms including South Asia's business and trade, and the roles played by NGOs in addressing the region's societal needs, I look forward to continuing to support their mission and initiatives. I also look forward to active involvement again this year at *SASA 2018*." The award will be bestowed to Dr. Chapple at the *SASA 2018 Conference*, to be held at Claremont McKenna College, during the weekend of March 24-25, 2018. The Conference, with attendees and speakers from across the US, South Asia, and elsewhere, will feature 18 individual panel sessions and three major plenary sessions separately will focus on South Asia's higher education cross-border alliances, on NGOs and philanthropy, and on business & entrepreneurship.

Headquartered in Pasadena, California, SASA (www.SAsia.org) was founded in 2007, by university scholars engaged in this field of study. Its mission has been to build recognition and expansion of South Asian studies amongst universities and colleges worldwide. More recently its scope has widened to include the realms of business and nonprofit initiatives across South Asia. To date, SASA has presented conferences across the U.S. and in India. It has published six authoritative books and five editions of the scholarly journal *Exemplar*. Its annual *Exemplar Award* has been made to distinguished individuals in academia, in fields of community service, and most recently for business leadership. Outside of his role as Board Chair of SASA, Mr. Silverman is Head of North America for Sannam S4 Group, the leading global market-entry organization which represents US and other international universities, corporations, and nonprofit organizations in India and elsewhere.

Dr. Chapple launched his study of Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Religious Studies as an undergraduate at Stony Brook University. This also began his 12-year affiliation with SBU's Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions. He earned his doctorate in the history of religions at Fordham University, and subsequently joined the faculty of Loyola Marymount University in 1985. He has been LMU's Chair of the Department of Theological Studies and served for four years as Associate Academic Vice President overseeing LMU's Center for Religion and Spirituality, the Center for Global Education, and the Los Angeles Center for International Studies. Currently he is the Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at LMU and Director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies. He has published more than twenty books and edited many more volumes, primarily in the area of religion and ecology. He also helped originate the series of conferences and books on world religions and ecology at Harvard University. In 2013 he inaugurated the nation's first Master of Arts in Yoga Studies at LMU, and he is an advisor to its Center for Religion and Spirituality. He is additionally an advisor to the Centre for Jain Studies in London, the International Summer School for Jain Studies in Delhi, the Uberoi Foundation in Denver, the Ahimsa Center in Pomona, and the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale. Together with philanthropists Pratima and Navin Doshi he convenes the annual Doshi Bridgebuilder Award events honoring luminaries ranging from Deepak Chopra and Zubin Mehta, to Thich Nhat Hanh and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D- Hawaii). He also hosted the first SASA Conference at LMU, in 2007, and has been a frequent speaker at subsequent SASA annual conferences.

The 2018 SASA *Exemplar Award for Business Leadership* will be presented to Dr. Mukesh Aghi, President of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, and the 2018 SASA *Exemplar Award for Community Service* will be presented to Dr. Varun Soni, Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California (USC). The *SASA 2018 Conference* is made possible in part via grants from Pratima and Navin Doshi, and from Sannam S4 Group (www.SannamS4.com). Information about the South Asian Studies Association, and the SASA 2018 Conference, can be found on SASA's website, www.SAsia.org.

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