

ABSTRACT
Center for South Asia
University of Wisconsin- Madison

The Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison continues to provide resources for a greater understanding of South Asia on the local, regional, and national levels in five significant ways: 1) through faculty specialization, teaching, and research on South Asia in **sixteen disciplinary departments**; 2) by increasing the U.S. pool of South Asia experts through specialized training of students at the **B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. levels**; 3) by increasing the U.S. pool of experts in South Asian languages through **intensive South Asian language instruction** from the elementary to advanced levels in five modern languages and two classical languages during the academic year; 4) by serving as the **host institution and organizing center for the South Asia Summer Language Institute (SASLI)**, offering nine modern and one classical language each summer to B.A., M.A., Ph.D. and non-degree students; and 5) through a vibrant, **goal-oriented outreach program** that focuses on K-12 **teacher training**, business, media, and the general public.

The Center's activities during the next four years will include continued support for the teaching of Hindi, Urdu, introduction of Pashto (years 3 and 4), and support for courses focusing on Islam, Hinduism, and the political and cultural history of northern Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Center will develop a new **Interdisciplinary MA program in South Asian Studies** and develop new courses on **South Asian culture and language** to meet the needs of several types of students, including those in **Business** and **ROTC (Army, Navy, Air Force)**.

Four new faculty with South Asia focus are targeted for hire in 2006-10: **South Asian Legal Systems** (Law School), a **Modern South Asian Historian** (History), a **Persian or Islamic culture** position (department to be determined), and an **Islamic Art Historian** (Art History). Additionally, the current vacancy in Tibetan Buddhism is a priority remaining to be filled and the Center has requested seed money to support potential hires in **Geography**, **classical South Asian Art History and Civilizations**, and **South Asian Islam**.

Major emphasis will be placed on the development of improved language teaching during the academic year and in the summer language program (SASLI) through continued pedagogy training, the standardization of computer Unicode fonts, the use of web-based teaching resources, and the development of national standards for language proficiency testing.

Increased funding for library resources and the development of improved systems of access and delivery for print, audio and video materials will continue to be an integral component to the Center's mission. **CSA** will continue to collaborate with professional schools and local K-12 institutions to prepare teachers for teaching about South Asia.

With institutional support CSA will coordinate with other NRC/FLAS Centers at Wisconsin to carry out a **comprehensive external review** of all the Centers using a **professional evaluation agency** focusing on quantifiable, outcome-measure-oriented data. This agency will also evaluate our data collection methods and make recommendations for improved procedures.