work of university professors and graduate students in many parts of the world. During ISSJS, students experience Jain and Indian hospitality; see some beautiful sights, meet scores of saints/ascetics, scholars, Jain professionals, leaders and businessmen. They also have a chance to interact, exchange and discuss issues, items and knowledge of mutual interests with many within and outside the class rooms. In the class room, they are exposed to broad aspects of Jain philosophy, history, culture, and the society. By attending ISSJS in India, they have a chance to get an insider’s view of Jainism, which could not be replicated in America or anywhere else in the world.

By the end of July 2010, more than 190 students and scholars from many universities in the world including Brianne Donaldson will have benefited from ISSJS programs. This is a historic accomplishment. ISSJS has no building, no campus or faculty of its own in India. It is solely based on mutual collaborations and actively works with and utilizes resources of nearly two dozen Jain organizations and universities in India.

ISSJS goal during the next five years is to educate several hundred more scholars. They in turn will educate thousands more. Some of its alumni are now considered respectable scholars in Jain philosophy and are frequently being invited by various Jain Centers in North America to speak at major Jain functions. In the universities of the world (especially in USA and Canada) nearly one thousand students are attending regular approved courses in Jainism. Until very recently this was not the case. To serve the needs of these and other scholars, ISSJS and Parshwanath Vidyapeeth management have together opened a year-round Center in Indology for study and research at Varanasi in India at the campus of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth Research Institute. This again is a first.

To date nearly half a million US dollars have been raised and spent to float the program. This year it is costing $2,000 per participant. This covers their travel, food and lodging in India, a cash stipend plus a travel allowance to senior level faculty and Grad students.

None of this would have been possible and ISSJS would not be in its strong position today without the vision and hard work of Prof. Cromwell Crawford (Prof. Emeritus, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA), Dr. Shugan Chand Jain (ISSJS India Director, New Delhi, India) Jain, Mr. Pramod Jain, Bangkok Thailand, Dr. Atul Shah, London, U.K., members of the ISSJS Academic Councils and Governing Councils plus a band of committed donors, supporters and volunteers in North America, India, U.K and Thailand.

Prof. Crawford at a meeting of ISSJS Board at Eastern Connecticut State University