ESHA Award for Best Paper

**College & Graduate Level**

In order to encourage college students to excel in learning about Indian culture and traditions, ESHA has established an Award for Best Paper. College professors who teach Dharmic (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain) traditions, or Comparative religion, can inform their students about the ESHA Award if the course includes a research paper on a topic related to Indic culture or traditions; for example, yoga, meditation, Ayurveda, philosophy, historical development of any Dharmic tradition or Indic civilization, scientific developments from Indic civilization to the present day India, and Dharmic perspectives on current social issues, including Ahimsa: meat vs. vegetarian food, environment, capital punishment, abortion, etc.

References to authentic sources for some of these topics are provided in the ESHA website  www.ESHAusa.org that is organized under the topics of Yoga, Ayurveda, Philosophy, Science, History, Education and Culture. Students may look at the ESHA website as a resource to select any topic of interest that is relevant to the course content but they would need to do further research beyond what is on the ESHA website.

ESHA will offer a $100 award to (up to) three undergraduate students and $250 award to (up to) two graduate students for Best Papers each semester. Awardees will also receive an Award Certificate which may be used in their resumes.

Specifications: Minimum 4 pages of original writing (not copy and paste) for college students, 5 pages for graduate students, on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, Times Roman 12 pt font, single-spaced with one inch margins on all sides. List all the references used for the research as footnotes or on the last page. Include Student's name, date of submission, college/university, and email. Any paper suspected of plagiarism will be removed from consideration. ESHA's judgment will be final. Date of submission: On or before January 15, and July 15, of each year.

The research papers would be graded and judged by the professor who teaches the course and recommends to ESHA the Best Paper from their class for the award. ESHA will review all the papers received by the due date, select and announce the best undergraduate and graduate papers selected every semester, and send check(s) with certificate(s) signed by the ESHA President to the professor(s) to be given to the student(s).

For further information and expression of interest to participate in the program, please send email to: ved.chaudhary@gmail.com