EVENTS
MAY GRADUATION
DONOR NEWSLETTER
SUA EDUCATION FUND
1ST ANNUAL GALA
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

THE FACE OF SUA
RYO KONDO

IN PROFILE
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DONATIONS
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT DANIEL Y. HABUKI, PH. D.

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AWARD
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IN THE SWIM AT SUA
OLYMPIC DREAMS TURN INTO MEDALS
Welcome to the first issue of SUA Founders, a newsletter dedicated to all of the people who have helped make Soka University of America a reality. It is because of your generous support to the university that we are able to offer young people of the world an opportunity to participate in a student-centered education that promotes peace and human rights by fostering a global humanistic perspective on the world in which we live.

This academic year we are fortunate to have a “complete” campus with a full compliment of students from freshmen to seniors. SUA is very lively and full of dialogue with students from 32 different countries, each with their own unique cultural background and experience. Our students interact in the classroom as well as throughout the campus and most of them participate in at least one of our 35 student clubs.

We are always honored to have you, our caring supporters, visit the campus. It is the perfect way for you to see your donation in action. SUA’s students are our most precious resource and the best way for you to get to know them is to stop by and visit the university. So please come for a visit whenever you are near Aliso Viejo.

Daniel Y. Habuki, Ph. D.

President
SUA FOUNDERS  VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1  FALL 2004

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CIEE STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD
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The Soka University of America campus in Aliso Viejo is poised for many new experiences during the 2004-05 academic year:

- Our first group of students will graduate on May 22nd
- We are launching the Donor Newsletter
- We will hold our first annual fundraising Gala in the fall of 2005
- The International Festival will take place on May 7th
- Announcing the creation of the SUA Education Fund

The first 120 students to attend SUA-Aliso Viejo were from 18 foreign countries and 18 different states. They have lived on the Aliso Viejo campus since 2001 attending classes, making new friends and learning how to add value to their society. They have all spent a semester living abroad where they experienced a new language and culture. And they will graduate in May of 2005, realizing a portion of Makiguchi’s dream of creating an international university on the pacific coast of the United States.

This is the year that, in the words of SUA President Danny Habuki, “We have become complete”. The campus is buzzing with four full classes of students. Incoming freshmen are getting used to the campus life and making new friends. The sophomore class is reacquainting themselves with old friends and settling back in to college life. Half of the junior class is studying abroad while immersing themselves in a new culture and speaking a non-native language. The senior class is continuing their pioneering role as they prepare for the first graduation on the Aliso Viejo campus.

In the fall of 2005, SUA will host a gala event to raise funds for the university. The black-tie event will feature an evening of fun including a sit down dinner, a keynote speaker, a silent auction, a live auction and wonderful entertainment. Invitations for the event will be sent to our local donors and prospective SUA supporters in August. If you are interested in being a part of the fun and live outside of the local area, or if you just want to make sure you get an invitation, please send your name and regular mail address in an email to lsafran@soka.edu.

The fourth International Festival will take place on Saturday, May 7. This is our annual community event honoring people of all nations and celebrating the birthday of the Aliso Viejo campus. Please plan to join us if you will be in the area.

As SUA matures, so do the needs of the campus. In an effort to meet those changing needs we are announcing a change in policy regarding donated funds. Beginning July 1, 2005, all donations to SUA will be directed into the SUA Soka Education Fund. This fund will be used to satisfy the current need on the campus of SUA (operating, scholarship, etc.). This change in policy will allow SUA to operate more efficiently over the years without having to make frequent policy adjustments as the campus situation changes. At the same time, in an effort to streamline our investment strategies, we will be changing the requirement for named endowments to a lump sum donation of $100,000. Please feel free to contact Linda Safran in the Development Department at 949/480-4072 if you have any questions regarding this change.

The walls of Founders Hall are quickly becoming full with the names of our wonderful donors. As a result, we will soon be adding an honor roll on the columns outside of the Ikeda Library. Benefactors ($5,000 to $9,999), Silver Benefactors ($10,000 to $19,999) and eventually Gold Benefactors ($20,000 to $99,999) will be recognized by name on beautiful Corian plaques. Founders Circle donors ($100,000 and above) will continue to be honored by name in bronze letters around Peace Fountain outside of Founders Hall.
Given that real estate is the largest single asset category – now valued at over $15 trillion in the U.S. - and the fact that real estate has appreciated so much in recent years, it is logical to consider the use of real estate for philanthropic intent. Many people are in possession of properties that may not fit their current lifestyle or own investment properties that they no longer wish to manage. By making a gift of these assets, a person can achieve his or her charitable goals with an illiquid asset and avoid significant costs by doing so.

Not so fast, you say, “My real estate is worth much more than I wish to give!” No problem. By granting an option on the property to SUA, you can determine how much of the total value of the property you would like to give and how much you wish to retain. Capital gains taxes are avoided on the gift portion of the proceeds in addition to the income tax deduction you will receive on that amount.

SUA has partnered with Donation Exchange (DNX), a company specializing in real estate donations for non-profit organizations, to make the process easy and flexible. DNX can present multiple scenarios to you, based on your gift desires, showing you possible tax outcomes for each scenario. They provide complimentary consultation with no commitment. Of course, you should always consult your personal advisors on matters of tax consequences before making any decision.

Here’s how the donation works. Let’s say you have a property you no longer wish to own that has a fair market value of around $250,000 and you would like to make a gift to the University of $100,000. You could grant SUA an option to acquire the property for $150,000. Once granted, SUA and DNX actively seek a willing buyer. Once the buyer is identified (assume a sale price of $250,000), SUA exercises the option upon close of the transaction, receiving the difference between the net sales price and the option amount, or $100,000. You would receive $150,000, avoid the hassles of selling, get a tax deduction for $100,000 and would avoid capital gains taxes on the gift portion of the sale.

In fact, by having the ability to split the value of the property, many possibilities are opened up. For example, even properties that are encumbered can be used as a gift, using the proceeds to retire the debt.

Or consider this: If you desire an income from the proceeds of the property, you can structure the option amount to fund a commercial annuity that pays a guaranteed income for as long as you live. There are a multitude of annuity programs that can be structured. Even if the property is geographically remote, it’s not a problem; DNX provides its service throughout the U.S.

If you would like more detail about these programs, or if you would like to discuss a specific transaction, please feel free to contact the offices of Donation Exchange. They can be reached at (800) 524-4138 or on the web at www.dnxllc.com. To discuss this with SUA, please call Linda Safran, Director of Philanthropy at (949) 480-4072 or email at lsafran@soka.edu.
Cecilia Ocambos, or Ceci as she is known by her friends, is spending the first semester of her junior year studying abroad at Soka University of Japan (SUJ). Twenty one year old Ceci was born and raised in Argentina. This is how she described her decision to attend SUA: “When I look back, I feel that all my life has been a preparation to come to SUA. At the age of eight I read a newsletter in which our founder, Daisaku Ikeda, talked about his dream to create Soka University of America. That same year I was starting to take English lessons everyday. I always wanted to study in the US…and I wanted to fulfill our founder’s expectations. SUA became my dream because it included both aspects.”

In 1999, Danny Habuki, President of SUA, came to Ceci’s home town to receive an honorary doctorate on behalf of Mr. Ikeda. “I felt it was so significant for my life that the president of SUA had come to my hometown. That same year the most significant event that brought me to SUA happened. Our provost, Dr.

CECILIA OCAMPOS
CLASS OF 2006

Tomoko Takahashi, was visiting Argentina to generate an exchange between the Universidad Nacional del Comahue and SUA, Calabasas. Ceci was nervous but decided to call her hotel and ask for a meeting. “It was my first time talking over the phone in English to a native speaker. Dr. Takahashi was very friendly and suggested we should meet for lunch the next day. That lunch defined the rest of my life.” At lunch Takahashi told Ceci about SUA and encouraged her to apply as soon as possible.

On August 15, 2002, Ceci arrived on the SUA, Aliso Viejo, campus. She experienced “an immense sense of joy and the beginning of a dream coming true. I also knew it was the beginning of a life of constant growth, dedicated to contributing to humanity.”

Ceci describes her three favorite things about SUA. The first is the power of friendship. The second is what she calls “education for the heart” or Soka education, where the teachers, staff and founder are constantly taking care of the students, showing them their love and consideration. Third is the future of SUA students as individuals devoted to the happiness of humanity. She believes the students have a great mission and she can already see that mission unfolding in her fellow students on campus.

In describing one of her favorite professors at SUA Ceci says, “I respect him deeply. He has taught me that Soka education means to make 1000 percent effort to achieve complete victory. He taught me that if I put all my effort and energy in to accomplishing something, there is nothing too hard to achieve.” Of another favorite she says, “He teaches us that our potential as human beings goes beyond our limited understanding. I learned that success comes from within and that I can always improve.”

Ceci thinks SUA is different from other universities because it believes that students can and will make a difference in the world. She states, “The 20th century has been a century of war. SUA believes that through education, the 21st century can become a century of peace.”

Thank you for helping SUA educate young people like Ceci who want to help make the world a peaceful place. ■ SUA FOUNDERS
WE LOVE OUR DONORS

At SUA we love our donors. It is through the generosity of donors like you that we are able to provide our students with an education that Daisaku Ikeda describes as “an education that fosters love for humankind, that develops character—that provides an intellectual basis for the realization of peace and empowers learners to contribute to and improve society.” We are launching this donor newsletter to help keep you, the patrons of SUA, informed about what is happening on campus. Initially you can expect to receive a newsletter twice a year. If we have your email address it will be delivered on your computer. If we do not have the information to contact you via the internet, we will send your copy through regular mail. (If we don’t have your email address as part of your donor profile and you would like to share it with us please send it to cscherfghara@soka.edu)

IN THE SWIM AT SUA
OLYMPIC DREAMS TURN INTO MEDALS

Did you feel the impact of Soka University of America as you watched the summer Olympics in Greece? For the fourth time in his career Dave Salo, SUA Swim Coach, was selected to be on the coaching staff for the U.S. Olympic Swim Team. Also joining Salo on the Olympic staff was the latest addition to SUA Athletics, Assistant Swim Coach Jon Urbancheck. This was Urbancheck’s fifth Olympic staff assignment. He will be joining the swim staff at SUA in Spring of 2005.

During the regular season, many swimmers, including Olympic hopefuls, train in the beautiful Olympic size pool at SUA under the direction of Coach Dave.

The world was watching as the U.S. swim contingent won the second-highest number of medals in the history of the games. Among those who won in Greece were several from the Irvine Novaquatics Swim Team who were training at SUA:

Arron Pierson (three Gold medals and two world records)
Amanda Beard (two Gold and one silver medal, and set a world record)
Jason Lezak (two medals, including a Gold, and set a world record)
Lenny Kravitzelberg (Team Captain and won his fourth career Gold)
Colleen Lanne (Bronze Medal)
Gabe Woodward (Bronze Medal)
Ryo Kondo is a 22 year old senior at SUA. He was attending school at the University of Illinois studying to be an electrical engineer when his mother encouraged him to investigate the new Soka University of America campus being built in Aliso Viejo, California.

After exploring the plans for the new university, he decided he had to attend. "I felt that if I didn't try to get in, I would regret not having the opportunity to help build this school," Ryo said. He especially liked the international focus. "To me it is important that people focus not only on themselves, but on the global perspective."

That is what SUA is all about. With students from 32 countries interacting on campus everyday, you can't ignore the rest of the world because everything that happens on the globe affects someone on this campus.

Ryo feels that he has developed a broader awareness of the world because of the diversity of students that he encounters on a daily basis on the SUA campus. The character of the school combines with the great dreams of the students. The result, according to Kondo, is that "students push their limits at SUA, they are not just going for what is comfortable." Additionally, he says, "Interactions with teachers and students make you grow more aware and we actually act upon the awareness."

Every student that attends SUA participates in a semester of study abroad in a country where the language they are studying is spoken as a primary language. This opportunity allows the student to practice what they have learned in the classroom by immersing themselves in a new culture that speaks a language that is not native to them.

Ryo spent last semester in Beijing. As a part of his semester abroad he pledged to not speak any English while he was in China. Eventually Ryo developed a relationship with a local restaurant owner. When asked by the chef's daughter, a 4th grade student, to help with her English, Ryo modified his promise so that he could take on the role of teacher.
There were numerous phone calls and emails from fellow students to show support... “It was good to know they were thinking of me and my family.”

Then Ryo’s father unexpectedly passed away on April 7th while Ryo was still studying abroad. Within six hours of receiving the news by phone from his mother, he was on a plane back to Chicago to be with his family. The SUA community reached out to support Ryo by making a poster signed by his university family and sending it to his home.

A friend in Nanjing who was studying calligraphy created a special piece of work and sent it to him in Chicago. There were numerous phone calls and emails from fellow students to show support for their friend in a time of need. Ryo said, “It was good to know they were thinking of me and my family.”

Ryo thinks the professors at SUA are exceptional because they are supportive both inside and outside of the classroom. His favorites are Professor Phat Vu, who has been his mentor for the last four years, and Professor Hong-yi Chen, because she is so supportive while teaching one of his favorite subjects, Economics.

Ryo was the first recipient of the Ikeda Scholarship for outstanding academic accomplishment and demonstrated service and leadership during the academic year of 2001-2002. The Ikeda Scholarship includes full tuition plus room and board for one year.

What will Ryo do after participating in SUA’s first graduation ceremony in May 2005? He has several ideas. He wants to help his fellow man by participating in micro-financing (helping individuals with no collateral, no credit history or bad credit get loans), which is something he learned about during a research project for one of his classes. He might also look again at electrical engineering.

Whatever path Ryo chooses to follow, you can be sure he’ll do it with a global perspective and spirit that cares about his fellow man. ■ SUA FOUNDERS
Hideyuki Hiruma studied abroad in Guanajuato, Mexico, in Spring 2004 with the CIEE Study Abroad Program. This year 10 students were nominated from various sites for the CIEE Student Recognition Award and this award was given to Hideyuki Hiruma. The 2004 CIEE Student Recognition Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, community service and/or leadership at a CIEE Study Center.

Hideyuki was invited to attend CIEE's Annual Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico in November where he formally received the award.

Here is Hideyuki's nomination:
CIEE Guanajuato would like to nominate Hideyuki Hiruma from Soka University for the Student Recognition Award. Hide demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, exceptional cultural sensitivity, and a motivation to learn that was inspiring. A Japanese national studying at a U.S. university with a significant Japanese population, this experience was a double immersion of sorts for Hide, who was the sole Japanese student among 10 American peers, and a foreigner in his Mexican homestay as well. He was able to use his learning about Mexican culture to help him understand more about both American and Japanese culture, observing his own reactions in comparison with his classmates, and finding unexpected parallels sometimes between Japanese and Mexican society.

Hide wrote weekly essays in English (his second language) in the Core Course in which he analyzed
different aspects of everyday life in Mexico, submitting beautiful and thoughtful analyses of the people, customs, and places he interacted with. Never shy to challenge his own previous ideas, his writing was exemplary of the sorts of transformations one hopes to see in students’ thought processes abroad. For the final three weeks of the program, he undertook independent research with a local reserve park dedicated to ecological conservation and environmental education. Hide earned the respect and affection of the staff at the park, wrote a probing paper about local conceptions about the environment in which he re-thought a good many ideas, and taught a group of local children using games and activities he designed himself.

Hideyuki demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, exceptional cultural sensitivity, and a motivation to learn that was inspiring.

Throughout the entire semester, Hide was engaged, respectful, and dedicated to his homestay family and his learning process. In sum, Hide was the sort of superior student and success story that inspires everyone who is involved in on-site international education host-families, teachers, program staff, and peers. ■ SUA FOUNDERS
WAYS TO GIVE TO SUA
There are many ways to leave a legacy at SUA. Some of them are:

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<th>Gifts of Cash</th>
<th>Gifts of Real Estate</th>
<th>Estate Gift through a Will or Trust</th>
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<td>Gifts of Marketable Securities</td>
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<td>full interest or partial interest, you can even donate a home and continue to live in it</td>
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<td>name SUA as a partial or full benefactor</td>
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<td>• Can avoid capital gains tax if the trust is funded with long-term appreciated assets</td>
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<td>• Provides fixed payments for you and/or your beneficiaries for life based on the amount of the gift and the age of the donor</td>
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<td>• Annual income from the trust is paid to the charitable institution for a specified number of years</td>
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<td>• Principal passes to non-charitable beneficiaries (often children or grandchildren) upon expiration of the trust</td>
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<td>• Use to reduce taxes while ultimately passing ownership to family members</td>
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Fostering a steady stream of global citizens dedicated to living a contributive life.