Dear Friends and supporters,

Welcome to the Winter 2008 issue of SUA Founders. It is my hope that this newsletter will keep you informed of the happenings at Soka.

It is not easy to be a donor. First you must spend your precious time understanding what our institution is about and deciding if you think what we are doing is valuable and will help improve the global community. Then you must make the effort to give. I hope you know the deep appreciation that is felt by our individual students who would not have been able to attend SUA without your support.

Your support has also made possible SUA’s recently announced offer of free tuition to eligible admitted students whose annual earned family income is $60,000 or less. I wish you could meet all of the eager young students who are now in the process of applying to SUA because of this opportunity. Students who never thought they could afford to go to a private university now have new dreams – and you have made them possible.

In January our students will participate in what many of them consider the most creative part of their Soka Education, the Learning Clusters. This is a three and a half week block period where small groups of students are mentored by a professor in a research seminar. The seminar is designed to bridge theory and practice in the investigation of a specific question. Students work in teams to propose, research and model constructive approaches to local, regional and/or global issues. Learning Clusters are designed to help students learn to apply a range of investigative and analytical tools in the discovery and presentation of trends and ideas, including policy recommendations that bear upon the quality of the human condition. Six Learning Clusters have received a boost of support from the Luis and Linda Nieves Family Foundation this year which will enable the participants to travel to various areas of the world conducting in depth research in their chosen investigation.

These six Learning Clusters are:

- NGOs, NPOs and Rural Poverty Reduction Programs in Panama led by Professor Hong-yi Chen
- Politics of Memory in East Asia led by Professor Dongyoun Hwang
- Greening the Campus led by Professor Robert Hamersley
- Sustainability in the Peruvian Amazon led by Professor Anthony Mazeroll
- Integral Education in India led by Professor Nalini Rao
- Gender & Inequality in Post Civil-War Guatemala led by Professor Sarah England

On October 11th we held the fourth annual Peace Gala, Celebrating a Vision of Peace. Over 470 guests enjoyed an entertaining evening, featuring a performance by Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe winner Paul Williams and once again emceed by actor Patrick Duffy. This year more than 100 students participated in helping raise almost $750,000 for the Scholarship Endowment. Mark your calendars now for the next gala which will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2009.

On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, I would like to thank you for your belief in our students and support of their education to develop global citizens that will add value to their communities and the world. I would also like to wish you and your families a happy holiday season and a healthy new year.

With sincere appreciation,

Daniel Y. Habuki, Ph.D.
President, Soka University of America
The fourth Annual Peace Gala, Celebrating a Vision of Peace, held at the picturesque university campus in Aliso Viejo on October 11, 2008, netted approximately $750,000. The money raised by the gala goes directly to SUA students via the Scholarship Endowment. The Venetian-themed evening featured the music of Oscar, Grammy, and Golden Globe-winning songwriter Paul Williams, with Patrick Duffy serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

“SUA is blessed to have such loyal and generous donors and sponsors who, during this most difficult financial crisis, rose to the occasion to graciously support our students,” said SUA President Daniel Y. Habuki. “I am also very grateful to our wonderful Gala Committee led by event co-chairs Joan May and Dita Shemke, who create an event each year that amazingly surpasses the year before. I also owe my heartfelt thanks to the students who were an important part of the evening’s program, allowing our guests to truly appreciate the magnitude of their gifts.”

“The brilliant students of SUA added a special ambiance to the evening that cannot be purchased or found at any other fundraising event,” said event Co-Chair Joan May. “Approximately 100 students lent their talent to the beauty of the evening. The students lining the bridge over Peace Lake, holding candles and connected by a chiffon ribbon, personally thanking the guests as they crossed from one venue to another was especially poignant.”

Over 470 guests enjoyed the music of Paul Williams, a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and responsible for such treasured classics as “Just an Old Fashioned Love Song,” We’ve Only Just Begun,” and of course, the jewel of his long-standing relationship with the Muppets, “The Rainbow Connection.”

However, the highlight of the evening for most was when five students, representing five different continents, recounted their journeys to SUA, the lessons they have learned while at the university and their dreams for the future. This was followed by a student performance of the song, “On the Path of Peace,” written by members of the fourth class. The students, faculty and staff at Soka want to thank all of you who participated by attending and/or supporting the gala and thus ensuring the success of the evening. Mark your calendars now for the Fifth Annual Peace Gala which will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2009.
Elizabeth Pastor, Peru, Class of 2009
Childhood Experience

“The one word that describes my childhood is perseverance. My family was poor throughout my whole life and from birth I had many health problems. I had a very difficult childhood…my mother helped me with all my school work so I wouldn’t have to quit school. My parents have been relentless in supporting me in my studies… Despite our poverty, my parents never gave up their dreams that my brothers and I could have a great education. This commitment grew even stronger when political tensions exacerbated our situation…Because of my parents’ love and determination for us to have a better life, they always reminded us how important education is to understand and overcome our situation. My parents never succumbed to poverty or fear but made the impossible possible for me and my brothers to study and become people of great character and dignity.”

Hiro Ishikawa, United States, Class of 2012
SUA Acceptance Experience

“During high school, I began to question the purpose of my life and the direction I wanted to take. I tried but failed to find meaning in my daily life. I went to school without knowing why; I looked for a greater purpose in life but couldn’t find it. Hawaii during this time was experiencing an economic low and my dad struggled financially as he worked until midnight every day. I came to believe that my goal was to make a lot of money in the future so he would be free from the financial burden. This became my new dream. I came to believe that money was the sole purpose of life. I graduated and entered University of Hawaii with this new goal. Then I met a group of students who unlike me were selflessly working to create positive changes in society. One of these people was a graduate of SUA. I was inspired by her and continued to improve my Spanish... At my internship I was able to interact with many Argentines and share my Soka values. They were all interested in the Soka Education philosophy and I felt I was able to represent myself as an ambassador of Soka Education. Later we were able to apply Soka’s mission statements in our work for immigrant women and children. These small incidents have made me realize how much Soka Education has influenced, guided, and shaped my life and my way of thinking. When I returned to SUA I was filled with tremendous appreciation for the unique opportunity I had been provided. Study Abroad helped me open my eyes to a world of possibilities. Thanks to the education I received here at Soka, I found a voice I never knew I had.”

Amy Samuels, England, Class of 2009
Soka University First Year Experience

“After arriving at SUA and settling into the flow of classes and studies, I began experiencing a recurrence of severe personal struggles. Had I been at a larger campus, I could have easily hidden the problem and it would have gone unnoticed…however at SUA, with such close interaction with students and faculty, my struggles became more exacerbated but also being at Soka was instrumental in me facing and challenging my personal difficulties. My fellow students, upperclassmen, and faculty really supported me to challenge my circumstances. They actually cared and wanted me to succeed…. I saw that students took Soka’s values and missions seriously and were working not just for their own successes but for every student to have the most meaningful experiences on this campus. With their support I made it through my freshman year and have gone on to have the most profound life experience both inside and outside of the classroom.”

Shreyanka Rao, India, Class of 2009
Study Abroad Experience Buenos Aires, Argentina

“I chose to learn Spanish and went to Buenos Aires, Argentina. I selected this program because I felt the program was both academically challenging and culturally enriching... My first two weeks in Buenos Aires were utterly miserable…I never knew that language could act as a barrier. One thing that I learned from my three years at Soka was that problems existed for the sole purpose of making us stronger and better, therefore I refused to give up and continued to improve my Spanish... At my internship I was able to interact with many Argentines and share my Soka values. They were all interested in the Soka Education philosophy and I felt I was able to represent myself as an ambassador of Soka Education. Later we were able to apply Soka’s mission statements in our work for immigrant women and children. These small incidents have made me realize how much Soka Education has influenced, guided, and shaped my life and my way of thinking. When I returned to SUA I was filled with tremendous appreciation for the unique opportunity I had been provided. Study Abroad helped me open my eyes to a world of possibilities. Thanks to the education I received here at Soka, I found a voice I never knew I had.”

Tommy Yotes, Indonesia, Class of 2009
Senior Year Capstone and Future

“I’m from Indonesia, a country with the largest Muslim population in the world, and it is also the third largest democratic country… I’m proud of my country’s uniqueness, and I hold a deep interest in investigating the extent that Islam, as the country’s prevailing religion, has contributed to the making of a successful democracy, and how Islamic civil societies and educational institutions can promote and actually coexist with the ideology of democracy… In order to graduate, every SUA student must complete a 30 - 50 page thesis called the Capstone. I believe that my Capstone can be very crucial as a rebuttal of the misconceptions and prejudice towards Islam that are held by some in the Western world…I don’t know what awaits me after graduation but with the self-empowerment to create change in the world I have learned at SUA, I will do my best to make the world a better place for everyone. I am determined my Capstone will be the springboard for my future academic career as I move on to graduate school. I come from a developing country, and Soka education has provided me with the platform to go out into the world to face the best and to face the worst, and no matter what, strive to create value in all situations.”

Thank you for making our education possible through your generosity.
Hong-Yi Chen was born into a middle-class family in Shanghai, China. Both of her parents were educated and supported her lifelong pursuit of knowledge. However, with the upheaval of the Cultural Revolution in China, she was exiled to the countryside to live alongside the peasants, laboring every day in a struggle for food. Though Mao Tse Tung believed that education only cultivated an elitist mentality, Hong-Yi persevered through the difficulties determined to continue her studies and eventually discovered a way to give back to the world: teaching!

As the very first teacher at the village elementary school in the countryside, she began teaching language, art, music, mathematics and sport. She felt that she was secretly reconstructing society. After eight long years, Hong-Yi was able to leave the countryside just as students regained the right to attend Chinese universities. A great lover of the humanities, upon acceptance to the elite Fudan University in Shanghai she was ready to pursue her education in Chinese Literature. However, after arriving at the university she began to question how studying Chinese Literature would enable her to contribute to the lives of the peasants with whom she had lived for so long. At that time, most people could not read or write, and Hong-Yi was concerned that her work did not reach the ordinary people that she would not fulfill her duties as a contributive citizen of the world. In a moment of clarity she realized that government policies should be in the best interest of ordinary people and changed her major to Economics.

Ultimately, after finishing her Masters program and teaching at the prestigious Fudan University for seven years, Hong-Yi was accused of promoting independent thinking and forced to resign from her position during China’s 1989 democratic movement. The Ford Foundation discovered her predicament and made special arrangements for her to pursue her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, despite having been blacklisted by the Chinese government.

Hong-Yi moved to northern California with her husband and young daughter and completed her Ph.D. program. While her family stayed behind, she accepted a teaching position at California State University, Fullerton. Three years later she learned from a colleague about a job opportunity at a new university that was still under construction in Aliso Viejo. While researching Soka on the web, Hong-Yi quickly discovered that the Soka mission closely paralleled her own ideals. She understood SUA to be the perfect medium through which she could be a globally contributive individual and devote herself to building the university from the ground up.

For the past seven years, Hong-Yi Chen has taught as a professor of Economics at SUA in an unforgettable way. She has won the Professor of the Year Award four times in a row. She has changed what it means to study Economics and has revolutionized the concept—transformed it from a tool of domination and subjugation to a medium of change, hope and the fundamental reconstruction of government policies.

Hong-Yi’s recommendation for all students is simple: Never give up your dreams and passions.
My name is Menelik Tafari and this is my first year at Soka University of America. I’m very appreciative of this school for giving me a full-ride with respect to my tuition, without which it would be difficult for me to have attended school this semester. Thank you for having faith in the mission and goals of this school. Without your fiscal support I wouldn’t be here.

I just started my eighth week at school. The great thing about classes at SUA is that Soka focuses on dialogue -- to learn and grow as individuals and as a class. We discussed questions such as, ‘What does it mean to be human?’, ‘How can we define good and bad?’, ‘What is real?’, and ‘How should we live once we answer these questions for ourselves?’

Now that the first semester of my college career is well under way, I’m growing more excited for the future. I find something that intrigues me within each class, every discussion I have with professors, and within the context of each of my club meetings. This university is inspiring, and the people who surround me carry stories of unparalleled difficulty, opportunity, growth and luck through which they were able to survive, prosper and end up in the classes by my side.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Thank you for supporting the hopes and dreams of youth. Thank you for caring about the world around you and the people who will be forever intertwined with you as neighbors and friends on this little green planet we call home.

Menelik Tafari
Culver City, CA USA
Class of 2012

Over my 4 years at Soka, I can begin to put into words what an amazing and life-changing experience it has been to be a student here. It is through your support of this university, its educational entity. And by expressing this appreciation, I want to thank each and every donor for your continual support in helping create a nurturing school and environment.

It is with your generosity that we, as students, can reach our fullest potential. The successes of each students’ 4 years here can definitely be attributed to the trust and faith you have devoted in us. By supporting the hopes and dreams of youth, you have truly made a difference in the lives of students. The difference that you have made in the lives of students to receive so many remarkable contributions, it would be impossible for the vast majority of students to reach our full potential.

Thank you so much again!
Dearest Donors,

First and foremost, from the very bottom of my heart, THANK YOU for donating to Soka University of America! Without your support, I, as a student, would not be able to partake in the wonderful and amazing education that you support at this institution. As a scholarship recipient, I would not be able to even stand on this campus in Aliso Viejo if I did not receive the Soka Scholarship that you as donors support. Once again, thank you!

This campus, though still young, is blossoming into a foremost university in the world. I cannot even fathom each day the beauty of this campus, the quality of my interactions with friends, staff, faculty and administrators alike, and ultimately, I have so many of you to thank for contributing to the building and development of this campus. As students, we often speak of you as a donor in highest regards, feeling such great appreciation for your donations, but more importantly, a deep debt of gratitude as we strive to really cherish our moments here, and as we begin to utilize our talents which we refine here at SUA for the betterment of the world now and on in to the future! Please know that we are forever indebted to you, and we will continue to work diligently to become globally-aware citizens, continuously contributing with every ounce of our lives.

I can never say this enough: THANK YOU!

My best and my all,

Eric Reker
Ft. Collins, CO USA
Class of 2009
Soka Student Union Executive Council President
I always knew that study abroad was a time for self assessment and challenge: mentally, physically, intellectually and emotionally. Although I had always kept this in mind, I was sure that Buenos Aires was no place for a person like me: an island girl in love with nature. I vividly remember crossing Buenos Aires off the list of my study abroad choices at the orientation meeting. I never even considered Buenos Aires until I found out that I could no longer participate in the program I had originally applied for. It must have been fate, because I am now writing from the exact place I told myself I would never go to: Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Soka provided me with all the necessary tools to be successful abroad, but I wasn’t using them correctly. The first week of class, I couldn’t stop shaking as I sat in the same classroom with students who had been taking Spanish for seven or eight years or were majoring in Spanish. All of my professors glanced in my direction during the first week and, out of concern, asked if I was okay. Unfortunately I couldn’t even force a “yes” out of my throat in Spanish, nor could I nod. So I did the only thing that I could do: look into the eyes of every single one of my professors as my vision hazed over with tears.

Familiar mountains, beaches and sunsets were replaced with lights, pollution and a mass amount of people, and I couldn’t appreciate Buenos Aires and what it had to offer for the first couple of weeks. Things such as unwanted catcalls, turbulent construction noises every single morning at six and penetrating stares from locals that pierced my soul had turned me against Buenos Aires.
Pre-study abroad, I always liked to have a sense of control over my life. Living on a clear path was something ideal to me, and planning each moment down to the minute was natural. However during study abroad, I realized that life can be a blur, and consequently, understood that my thoughts and emotions must also be clear in order to manage this blurry path.

Since having this realization, I was able to see Buenos Aires in a new light; almost as though I had arrived in a brand new city. Ironically, I also found a list I titled “Things I Want To Achieve During My Soka Years” that I wrote upon graduating high school. I hadn’t seen this list since the summer before my sophomore year and I was thrilled to find I could check off the following things here in Buenos Aires:

- See snow for the first time.
- Experience the real fall and winter seasons.
- Find another opportunity to play tennis competitively.
- Find a new passion.
- Be thankful for something that wasn’t supposed to happen.

Although some of these things may sound silly or insignificant, they allowed me to reminisce on what I had accomplished during my stay in Buenos Aires. I have a pocket full of stories to share in regards to my past two months here in Buenos Aires, and each story has a very special place in my heart. One story, or rather a moment in time that especially struck me occurred when Kusho (a fellow SUA student in Buenos Aires with me) and I were walking down on a pedestrian strip after an eventful and cultural afternoon. We walked past what looked like an ordinary man, only to realize that he didn’t have the ability to use his hands. Instead, he was sitting in a chair, painting a magnificent picture, with his toes! We couldn’t believe what we were seeing, especially since his paintings were very precise, intricate and stunning. All of this man’s paintings were of El Caminito, a colorful alleyway in Buenos Aires where all of the best artists (painters, photographers, tango dancers and musicians) gather to display their talent. Whatever his mission in life may be, his talent and passion reassured me that every dream that we wish can come true.

Till this day, the reason why I was sent to Buenos Aires is unclear. However, I am beyond certain that my mission here in Buenos Aires is something truly unique, and I cannot be more grateful for fate or whatever it may have been that brought me here. Now I cannot imagine myself being in any other city aside from Buenos Aires – the very city that I had crossed off first, the very city that I had initially despised, the very special city that has allowed me to accomplish so much – so much that now I am able to:

- Look at myself in the mirror and say, “Wow Erika, you’ve done something great.”
I found out about the CDQ Millennium Award in 2006 when it was won by a friend of mine, Leema Yamada. It was an honor and a delight to hear that my professor and boss Arie Galles had nominated me for the award. At first I was unsure if I deserved the award or could win it at all, since art isn’t my major. However, the community service aspect of the award intrigued me, so I wrote about my efforts in teaching art to elementary kids each summer at an arts day camp in my hometown. After viewing myself as a teacher as well as a student of art, I forged a personal relationship with the award and could see myself as a strong candidate to win.

The CDQ Millennium Award is important because it helps promote Soka Education. It provides leverage to young people for finding jobs and opportunities which relate to the mission of SUA. Winning the award is great, but it is also a reminder that the work for Soka Education doesn’t stop at graduation. Winning this makes me want to give back to my community 500 percent.

I am already using the money to take a watercolor painting class through the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance in my hometown. It also helps to pay the bills.

At the moment I am spending a year or two in my hometown to take care of my father Raymond who is very sick with a terminal illness. Then I plan on attending graduate school, perhaps Stanford, perhaps somewhere else. My plans are open really, I just need to see where I am needed, and there I will go. Being at SUA taught me to never give up, and enjoy every minute, even when you are suffering or struggling, because each moment has the ability to create value and enrich your life.

Ultimately I want to become a great teacher and one day start my own school to help young people become empowered and compassionate members of Democratic society. I also want to become a great writer and produce work that reminds people of the true value of books as agents of social and personal transformation.
I never had a specific reason for applying to SUA. All I knew was that I had always wanted to go to a school in the Soka school system. My father, being an administrator, had exposed me to the Soka lifestyle early-on, and I had already made many great memories hanging out with the Soka students and had always been inspired by them. They helped me realize that I too wanted to be able to inspire others.

The mission statement of the school also really made me decide to go to SUA because I knew I wanted to become a person capable of making a change for the better. I thought that studying in a new university would be challenging, but I was certain it would be a great experience that I would not be able to get anywhere else. The atmosphere of the campus, the students, the faculty, and staff are perfect for nurturing oneself.

I believe that the support that I received from the people around me encouraged me throughout these four years to do the best in all aspects of my life. I have not only been able to gain new knowledge and perspective, but also to grow as a human being. I am a different person from when I entered as a freshman and I am grateful for that change! SUA taught me many valuable life lessons).

Most importantly, I learned that challenging oneself to the utmost will open a path of victory. I also came to recognize the importance of friendship; the importance of studying; and the importance of appreciation. These life lessons have been critical in cultivating who I am today. In fact, before I came to SUA I didn’t attempt to challenge myself enough or encourage myself to step outside of my comfort zone. SUA helped me work through these issues, and I became determined to challenge myself and uncover my true potential – so I applied to Harvard. I believe that I have the tools necessary to overcome any challenges I encounter at Harvard. SUA has prepared me to read a lot, write a lot, and especially help me understand the importance of time management. I feel like the workload at SUA was a lot more intense, and I’m confident that I can manage the work at Harvard.

I would like to keep Soka Education at the center of my life. I will be pursuing my career in International Education Policy and as a result I believe it’s important to have Soka Education at the core, spreading humanistic education which the world needs today. I would like to help propose educational policies which will make students’ happiness and fulfillment the main focus. Although I hope to do administrative work in education, ultimately, I would like to become a teacher who can directly inspire students and convey the importance of education.
Charitable Remainder Trust:  
A Win-Win for You and Soka University of America

How would you like to make a substantial gift to Soka University of America and get income at the same time? Well, you can by establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). Through a CRT you can:

- Provide income for yourself and/or one or more other persons for a period of time up to 20 years or for life
- Receive a current income tax charitable deduction in the year you create the trust with the ability to carry forward an unused deduction for up to five additional years
- Avoid estate and capital gains taxes
- Have professional management of assets on a temporary or permanent basis

We know that many of our supporters desire to leave a lasting legacy to show that their lives have made a difference in making the world a better place. By creating a CRT, you may be able to make a gift to Soka larger than you have dreamed possible. When the last income beneficiary of the trust dies, the remainder in the trust is distributed to Soka University of America to benefit the area of the university that you designated in the trust agreement.

There are two types of remainder trusts, the Unitrust (CRUT) and Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT).

When you establish a CRUT, you determine the payout rate you would like to receive taking into consideration the age of the beneficiary(ies), the fair market value of the gift and other factors. The payout rate cannot be less than 5% of the unitrust as revalued annually. As the CRUT grows in value, you have an opportunity to have increased future income. Because unitrust payments fluctuate with the market, this form of life income gift may provide a hedge against inflation. CRUTs can be funded with cash, marketable securities, real estate and personal property.

If you don’t want to let your future retirement dollars ride the ups and downs of the stock and bond market, you may want to consider a charitable annuity trust. An annuity trust provides a fixed income for you and/or other beneficiaries based on a percentage of the initial fair market value of the property on the date of the gift. CRATs can be funded with cash or marketable securities. For CRUTs and CRATs, you are subject to income tax on receipt of your trust payment, depending on the type of income earned by the trust.

For more information on Charitable Remainder Trusts, please contact Linda Safran, Director of Philanthropy for Soka University of America at 949.480.4072.
2008-09 calendar of Events

THROUGH DECEMBER 31

Voices of Silence Voices of Hope - Rhea Carmi Art Exhibition, Founders Hall Art Gallery (both floors), 9 am - 5 pm, M-F, Free.

DECEMBER 5

Student Music Recital, Founders Hall 3rd Fl, 7 - 9 pm, free and open to the community.

JANUARY 23, 2009

Jazz Monsters Concert with The Roy McCurdy Trio - Llew Matthews (vocals, piano), John Belzaguy (bass) and Roy McCurdy (drums). Founders Hall 1st Fl, 7 pm, $15, free for under 18. Tickets sold at the door. Come early and have dinner at the Soka Bistro -- $10 for all you can eat including dessert and beverages. Dinner served 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. info@soka.edu, 949.480.4081

FEBRUARY 7 & 8

Soka Education Conference, Pauling 216, 12:30 - 6 pm, Free. Sponsored by the Soka Education Student Research Project. Contact: esandoval@soka.edu

FEBRUARY 27

Jazz Monsters Concert with The Duo - Larry Koonse (guitar) and Darek Oles (bass). Founders Hall 1st Fl, 7 pm, $15, free for under 18. Tickets sold at the door. Dinner served 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. info@soka.edu, 949.480.4081

MARCH 27

Jazz Monsters Concert with Larry Vuckovich’s Trio from San Francisco. Founders Hall 1st Fl, 7 pm, $15, free for under 18. Tickets sold at the door. Dinner served 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. info@soka.edu, 949.480.4081

MAY 2

Soka University’s 8th Annual International Festival, Peace Lake area, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm, Admission at gate. Enjoy over 600 international musicians and dancers performing on three stages, wonderful international food, street-painting, children’s Adventure Land, student projects, ceramics and 130 exhibitors.

MAY 20

Descarga! Jaime Valles’ Latin Jazz Explosion, Outdoor Campus Green Stage, 7 pm, $15 for adults, free for under 18, Lawn Seating. No reservations required. Tickets for concert sold at the door. Free parking. Directions and map are available at www.soka.edu/directions. Questions: info@soka.edu, 949.480.4081

MAY 22

Commencement for Class of 2009, SUA Recreation Center, 2 p.m. By invitation only.

For more information on these events, please contact Soka University of America at 949.480.4000 or visit www.soka.edu/sokanews.
Have You Moved Recently?
We would like to keep you informed of the wonderful news from SUA, so if you have a new address, please let us know by sending an e-mail to Coleen Scherf-Ghara at cscherfghara@soka.edu or contact her directly at 949.480.4073. If you know someone who has mentioned they no longer hear from SUA, please make sure they contact us so we can update their information.

A New Way to Support Your Favorite SUA Fund
The Development Department now has the ability to set up recurring online credit card donations. Just call Coleen Scherf-Ghara at 949.480.4073. Every month your donation will be charged to your credit card and automatically deposited in the Soka fund of your choice. What could be easier?

Just How Are Donors Recognized on the Soka Campus?
Did you ever wonder just what happens to your donation once it has been received by the Development Office at Soka University of America. Coleen Scherf-Ghara records the donation in our database where a file in your name is kept complete with your name, address, telephone number and email address (if you have provided it to us).

Twice a year we analyze the donor database to find cumulative donations that are above $5,000, $10,000, $20,000 and $100,000. For any donors that are new to any of these categories, we order a donor recognition name plate. This could be the name of the donor or the name of someone the donor wishes to honor by having their name on the SUA donor walls. Then during the Spring and Fall of each year, the names are installed on the various SUA Donor Walls.

Currently, our donors are recognized in the following locations:
Donors who have contributed between $5,000 and $9,999 are recognized as Benefactors and their name plates are located outside of the Ikeda Library.

Donors who have contributed between $10,000 and $19,999 are recognized as Silver Benefactors and their name plates are located outside of the Ikeda Library. (Note: Depending on when cumulative donations reached the Benefactor or Silver Benefactor level, the name plates might be located in Founders Hall.)

Donors who have contributed between $20,000 and $99,999 are recognized as Gold Benefactors and their name plates are located inside of Founders Hall.

Donors who have contributed $100,000 and above are recognized as Founders Circle Donors and have their names located on the wall behind the fountain on Peace Lake.

Please be sure to visit your donor recognition plate the next time you are on campus.