SUA FOUNDERS
Soka University of America Benefactors & Donors

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2011!
DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Welcome to this issue of SUA Founders. I hope you enjoy browsing through these pages to take a closer look at Soka University of America (SUA) as I share a few highlights of our last year. This year marks an auspicious milestone in SUA’s history with the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the campus opening in Aliso Viejo.

This past May, we held the Commencement Ceremony for the Undergraduate Class of 2011 in our new completed Soka Performing Arts Center with 86 graduates receiving their Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts. The ceremony was truly special as it marked the official opening of the performing arts center. We were delighted to have as our commencement speaker Mr. Hiroshi Ikeda, the eldest son of the university’s founder, Daisaku Ikeda. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Soka University (Japan), a member of the Board of Directors for the Miss-Os Concert Association and an Executive Advisor to the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum. He has also published two books including a collection of essays titled My Path of Study, chronicling his early years as well as his experiences as a teacher and as a representative of his father on various occasions across the globe. Mr. Ikeda has been a strong supporter of SUA and Soka education throughout the years and this year’s ceremony marked the second time that Mr. Ikeda has attended SUA’s commencement ceremony.

Among other activities commemorating our tenth anniversary, we held our tenth annual International Festival commemorating the university’s opening of the Aliso Viejo campus on May 3, 2011. This year’s festival welcomed over 6,200 festival participants from throughout Southern California who experienced many cultural performances as well as educational presentations by the students. Over 250 exhibitors and three performance stages filled the campus as we witnessed the release of white doves at our commemoration ceremony. I believe the opening of the Soka Performing Arts Center and community events like the International Festival are wonderful ways in which we can further our network of friends and supporters in the community.

I wanted to share briefly about two of our alumni who currently live in northern Japan where the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit in March of this year. Junko Sato (Undergraduate Class of 2005), a native of the area, is currently working for the Miyagi International Association and has been significantly involved in supporting foreign nationals who live in this region. Katherine "Kat" Sine (Undergraduate Class of 2007) has been teaching English for three years as part of the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) in Ishinomaki city of the Miyagi prefecture. Despite requests by family members to return home to the United States, Katherine chose to remain in Japan to support her friends and fellow community members as they begin their efforts to rebuild their lives. Junko and Kat have both shared that their time at SUA has been their catalyst and inspiration for their continued efforts. I was deeply moved by their actions to help their community despite the conditions surrounding them and we firmly convinces that our students, with the experiences and education that they receive at SUA, are truly becoming those global citizens who can make a positive difference in the world for the sake of peace.

We are truly indebted to all of you, our generous donors who support our students and the university. As over 80% of our students receive some form of financial aid, your generous support directly helps our students be able to attend and experience all that SUA has to offer.

We will continue to do our best to offer the level of academic excellence and access for all students, regardless of need, that will foster the future leaders for peace. We wish you and your families the very best and thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

Daniel Y. Haruke, Ph.D.
President

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Celebrating a Vision of Peace

SEVENTH ANNUAL PEACE GALA

OCTOBER 8, 2011

Five-thirty in the Evening

Featuring Grammy Award Winning Latin Jazz Artist

NESTOR TORRES

For reservations or sponsorship information, please contact
Linda Kennedy 949-480-4072 or lkennedy@soka.edu

Proceeds benefit the SUA Scholarship Fund

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

Purchase your tickets at gala.soka.edu

General information: www.soka.edu

A message from the
PRESIDENT

"...our students, with the experiences and education that they receive at SUA, are truly becoming those global citizens who can make a positive difference in the world for the sake of peace."

The mission of Soka University of America is to foster a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life.
“Lucky seven, class of ’11’ proclaimed senior Krystal Roush proudly as she and the 86-member Class of 2011 received their diplomas on Friday, May 27, 2011. The Class of 2011 was Soka University’s seventh graduating class to receive bachelor’s degrees in liberal arts education. Many of the graduates processed wearing leis and adorned their mortar boards with the numbers 7 and 11—all were greeted by loud cheers from the hundreds of family members, donors, and friends present to share in the celebration. With approximately 40% of SUA’s students coming from over 40 countries around the world, the university was pleased to take advantage of state-of-the-art technology by introducing online video streaming at this year’s ceremony, which enabled families from around the world to share in the joy of the graduation festivities.

The Class of 2011 was lucky in more ways than one, as they were the first class to graduate in the school’s new 1,000-seat performing arts center. The Soka Performing Arts Center features acoustics designed by Yasushi Toyota of Nagata Acoustics, who also designed acoustics for the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The commencement ceremony served as the dedication for the new center and was among many events held as continued next page
part of the school's 10th Anniversary celebration.

We were honored to have Aliso Viejo mayor Carmen Cave as a guest speaker at the ceremony. She also had attended the university's first commencement ceremony in Aliso Viejo. Ms. Cave praised the graduates on their accomplishments and encouraged them to strengthen their bonds of friendship and camaraderie as they go out into the world. She also extended congratulations to the entire SUA community on their tenth anniversary in Aliso Viejo and the accomplishments she has witnessed over the years.

Dean of Students Jay Heffron shared the message to the graduates prepared by the university founder, Daishuku Ikeda, who called upon the graduates to "bear the banner for new paths of peace and our humanity." Mr. Ikeda also urged them to live "each day in joy and great care, whether your choice of work or pursuit. Advance along your chosen path one sure-footed stride at a time and become a person who is indispensable by being the best at what you do."

We were honored to have Mr. Hiromasa Ikeda, son of SUA founder Daishuku Ikeda, to be the commencement speaker for the afternoon's celebrations. Mr. Ikeda drew upon advice given to him by his father as he encouraged the students to be patient and persevere. "We are able to achieve our greatest when we work in partnerships," he told the audience.

Three graduating students, Ali Abain, Krystal Roush and Astrid Dorantes were chosen to share remarks with fellow students. The highest award for SUA students, the Founders Award, was presented to Elaine Sandoval, who will attend Oxford University in England to pursue her graduate studies in music. The SUA orchestra and choir gloriously concluded the ceremony with an SUA tradition, a rousing rendition of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" from his ninth symphony.

Meet Zane Romano – Class of 2009:

JUST ANOTHER SUA ALUM LIVING A CONTRIBUTIVE LIFE.

Zane Romano traveled west from his hometown of Chicago, Illinois, to attend SUA, and recently reflected on how Soka created a foundation for his career. Romano believes SUA encouraged him to reach heights he never dreamed possible. Originally studying psychology, Romano eventually changed his concentration to International Studies. Romano believes the education SUA provided in liberal arts combined with his chosen concentration on International Studies developed his academic and intellectual abilities. He believes the principles on which the school was built, peace, human rights and the sanctity of life, enhanced his overall learning experience. Romano also feels that living and studying among SUA students from so many different countries opened his eyes to the commonalities between people and ignited his passion for diversity. He is convinced that his experiences at Soka continue to influence him in his current role as a special investigator with the US Office of Personnel Management, and inspire him to dream about a future position as a diplomat with the State Department, where he hopes to be involved in the process of ensuring peace and security around the world.

Romano currently lives in Chicago, Illinois. In his free time he enjoys teaching himself Portuguese, running and dancing.
SUAN Honored Guests

Here is a partial list of the dignitaries we have welcomed to SUA during our first 10 years.

Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., Ph.D., D.D.
Dean of the Chapel, Professor of Philosophy
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
Morehouse College

Arum Gandhi
Founder, M.K.Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence

David Krieger, JD, Ph.D.
President, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Michael Nobel, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board, Nobel Family Society
Chairman, Non-Violence Foundation

Linus Pauling, Jr., MD
Linus Pauling Institute of Science & Medicine

David P. Romelle, Ph.D.
President, University of Delaware

Joseph Rosenblat, Ph.D.
Nobel Peace Laureate
President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

Betty Williams
Nobel Peace Laureate
World Centers of Compassion for Children Intl

Sherin Ernady
Nobel Peace Laureate

Anwarul K. Chowdhury, M.A.
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative for the United Nations Office of the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States

SUA Students
WIN AT MUN

in Germany

Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, and diplomacy. SUA Model United Nations (MUN) endeavors to create extensive networking with other universities and other MUN clubs around the world for the purpose of promoting Soka University of America. In the past, MUN has traveled to such places as Egypt, Italy, Taiwan, and Canada. These conferences provide an opportunity for SUA students to travel abroad and visit prestigious universities and institutions, while also enriching their cultural and intellectual capacities.

This year was the first time the MUN group traveled to Munster, Germany, to compete and collaborate with other students from around the world in the Munster University International MUN Conference (MUIMUN). Three SUA students were recognized for their outstanding achievements during the conference and brought home awards. Jolie Parkhouse ‘14 and Christopher Larkin ‘13 won the Best Delegate awards (the highest honor for delegates), and Rachel Lucien ‘13 won Honorable Mention. The theme of the conference was “Humanity vs. Greed: A Roadmap to Global Accountability.” “Undoubtedly, our Soka education based upon humanistic principles greatly influenced our success at this conference,” stated Ali Alsham ‘11. In reflecting back on the experience, Alsham shared great pride over the achievements of his classmates, adding “This year’s team thoroughly impressed the conference organizers and fellow participants.”

MUN is just one of many enrichment opportunities offered to SUA students and would not be possible without the generous funding and support from our donors.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Cultures from around the world converged on the Soka campus for the 10th Annual International Festival held on Saturday, May 7, 2011. The crowd of over 6200 people enjoyed music and dancing by more than 900 performers. The festival was part of the Orange County Imagination Celebration presented in cooperation with Arts Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education.

SUA President Danny Habuki welcomed guests and dignitaries and invited them to share a piece of specially prepared birthday cake to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Alius Viejo campus.

The shores of Peace Lake were surrounded by white tents which housed over 250 exhibitors ranging from nonprofit organizations to street style vendors. The guests were delighted by the wide array of international food, art, and ceramic demonstrations, and the air was filled with the delectable aromas of foods from around the world. There was something for everyone – even the children were entertained by an assortment of games, crafts and inflatable rides.
Deepened Understandings and Insight on Global Concerns

Learning Clusters are research seminars where students work in teams with faculty facilitators to investigate a specific question or social issue. They are designed to bridge theory and practice while eliciting educated outcomes or responses. Learning Clusters occur in 3-5-week block periods and take full advantage of opportunities for field and service learning.

Thanks to the generous funding from the Luis and Linda Nieves Family Foundation, SUA's students traveled to places like South Africa, Northern Ireland, Brazil, South Korea, Guatemala, and Mexico. Following are highlights from just a few of the 2011 Learning Clusters:

Education about East Asia: Dr. Dongyoun Hwang, Associate Professor of Asian Studies, and a group of students traveled to South Korea where they focused their studies on Comfort Women, a product of Japanese colonialism and a euphemism for women forced to serve as prostitutes for the Japanese military during WWII. Students also studied issues pertinent to migrant workers in South Korea under globalization.

Poverty and Education in Brazil: Dr. Ian Read, Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies, led students to Brazil to determine whether an effective connection was being made (or can be made) between education and positive social change in Santa Maria, a favela (shantytown) in Rio de Janeiro.

HIV/AIDS, Education, and Outreach in South Africa: Dr. Gail Thomas, Professor of Sociology, and students traveled to South Africa to research AIDS education and outreach in South Africa, focusing primarily on youth. The main purpose of this study was to raise awareness of the ongoing and growing crisis of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa. The students enjoyed a visit from Soka alum Wandelle Mkhaluse '08 who traveled 20 hours from his hometown of Johannesburg to greet them.

Race in America: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives in Savannah, Georgia: Dr. James Spady, Assistant Professor of American History, and his group of students explored African American history in America through the lens of this southern city.

Labor and Migration in Tijuana/San Diego; Border-Labor Issues in Tijuana, Mexico: Dr. Tomás Crowder-Taraborrelli, Visiting Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies, facilitated students as they gain a comprehensive understanding of the economic policies and social conflicts that have shaped the economy of the San Diego-Tijuana Border region. They examined both the positive and negative aspects of economic development along the Border and suggested ways to improve working conditions.

Fast Facts About Our SUA Professor, Gail Thomas

I was born and grew up in a small town in Florence, South Carolina that was racially segregated. From preschool until my completion of high school and college I attended schools that were legally segregated and predominantly black. Upon pursuing graduate studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, I studied education and racial and social inequality. I subsequently became a social activist and applied social scientist and teacher. Teaching and research for me were never merely for the sake of knowledge, publication and reputation. Rather, they were and remain tools to better hone my humanity, and for me and my students to contribute towards achieving a more just, equitable and peaceful world. As a faculty member at SUA, I am committed to helping students learn and enjoy learning by drawing upon their own experiences, and by formulating questions, critically evaluating, and seeking answers and perspectives from diverse peoples, cultures and sources within and outside of Soka.

1. From which institutions do you hold degrees? Master's and Doctorate (1973-1975) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Postdoctoral Studies John's Hopkins University (1976-77)

2. What attracted you to SUA? The university's mission and its founder, due to his broad world vision and humanistic views regarding education, people, and life. Prior to joining SUA, I read about Mr. Ikeda and his dialogues with scholars, activists, students and all types of people around the world. He impressed me as a global citizen and educator who walks the talk and who is truly vested in improving education and cares about and appreciates students and all people throughout the world.

3. What are your favorite things about SUA? Continuing to be a co-creator with colleagues, students, staff, administrators and others in further developing and improving our university is one of my favorite endeavors. I also continue to enjoy the beauty of our campus and the surrounding natural environment.

4. What distinguishes Soka Students? Their desire and passion to save the planet. Additionally, their creativity and willingness to challenge themselves, and their commitment to better understand and advance Soka Education and Soka philosophy.

5. What inspires you? One of the things that inspires me is people who struggle against great odds, who persist with resilience and hope, and thereby inspire others. One example is 12 year old Nkosi Johnson, a South African AIDS victim (1989-2001) who said, "Do all you can with what you have in the time you have, in the place where you are." I am also inspired by the numerous individuals (many unknown) who selflessly engage in community service to help those who are less fortunate. There are also many great world leaders, activists and humanitarians whom I admire including (but certainly not limited to): Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi, Betty Williams, Wangari Maathai, Kancia Ikeda, and the list goes on! I also am inspired by and greatly appreciate my elders within and outside of my family whose shoulders I continue to stand upon. I also admire and greatly appreciate my colleagues at Soka who toll and exert themselves on behalf of our students and Soka's mission.
Our very own SUA President Daniel Habuki recently received the 2011 Chief Executive Officer Leadership Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The award honors institutional leaders for outstanding contributions to their campus communities, for efforts promoting public understanding of education, and for supporting advancement at their respective campuses. President Habuki joins the ranks of many prominent recipients from past years including Chapman University President James Doti and Pepperdine University President Laura Skandera Trombley. President Habuki was recognized for his honor at a CASE luncheon held on March 4, 2011.

As stated on the CASE website, “In the words of his nominator, Danny has one-on-one meetings with every student. He helps them set goals and monitors their progress, their involvements, and their aspirations. He is involved in all hiring decisions at the university. His success is evident: the faculty members are accomplished and have developed a rigorous academic program that includes a mandatory study abroad requirement. I know of no other individual who planned every detail of an institution and led it to national prominence within ten years of its opening.”

Soka University of America was listed in the Spring 2011 Kaplan/Newsweek guide for “Finding the Right College for You.” According to Newsweek, “This year, the guide debuts its first ever college rankings, which are very different from the usual rankings that come out this time of year. The intriguing and fun 12 categories, which include 25 schools each, address the real concerns of prospective students and their parents in an increasingly complex admissions process and cover all the aspects of the undergraduate experience: academics, social life, school size and location, diversity and even the ability to get some sun.” SUA was also mentioned in a report on the rankings by MSNBC television.

SUA was named in the “Top 25” in the following categories:
- Most Desirable Suburban Schools
- Most Desirable Small Schools
- Great Diverse Schools
- Great Schools with Great Weather

To view the rankings online, including a detailed explanation of each category, visit www.kaplancollegeguide.com

Looking at the Past 10 Years

2001
- SUA Dedication Ceremony (May 1, 2001)
- SUA 1st Entrance Ceremony (August 24, 2001)

2002
- Construction (January 1999)

2003
- 9/11 Memorial Gathering (Nobel laureate Betty Williams, speaker (September 11, 2003)

2004
- SUA 1st Commencement Ceremony (May 22, 2005)

2005
- 7th student visited when seniors introduce the student song, “On the Path of Peace” (January 30, 2005)

2006
- SUA Founder Dr. Shigeo Ikeda names alumni group (September 2006)

2007
- Opening of Soka Education Exhibit (May 2009)

2008
- Soka Performing Arts Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (May 27, 2011)

2009
- Newsweek includes SUA on Top Schools in America list (September 2010)

2010
- SOKA UNIVERSITY NAMED TO FOUR NEWSWEEK “TOP 25” COLLEGE LISTS

2011
- SUA FOUNDERS | Summer 2011
- SUA FOUNDERS | Summer 2011
A Gift for Tomorrow

As Soka University celebrates its 10th anniversary on the Aliso Viejo Campus, we are reminded of all of the generous benefactors whose gifts over the last decade have helped build a truly unique educational institution—a university that graduates young men and women who go on into the world, serving others locally and globally, and dedicated to the cause of peace.

Many of our donors desire to leave a lasting legacy to ensure that Soka University of America flourishes for decades and centuries to come. So when you wanted to make sure that the work you supported during your lifetime continue well into the future—we listened. And we've turned this idea into a real possibility.

To honor those who would like to include Soka University of America in their estate plans, the university has established the Legacy Society. The Legacy Society encourages donors to think beyond their lifespan to make certain that the mission and vision of Soka University continues and thrives.

Too often, estate gifts are unrecognized because they come at the end of the donors’ lives. The Legacy Society provides a way to recognize and thank donors during their lifetimes. You may always choose to remain anonymous in your philanthropic support of Soka. However, participation in the Legacy Society can be an inspirational experience, and may encourage others to look toward the future and how they too can help ensure the vitality and viability of Soka for generations to come.

By including Soka University in your estate plans, you may also enjoy tax advantages and do much more than you ever dreamed possible for SUA. Through careful planning you can maximize the impact of your assets and ensure that these assets will be distributed according to your wishes upon your death.

There are several ways you can include SUA in your estate plans, including:

- Making a bequest through your will or revocable trust
- Naming Soka as a beneficiary of an IRA or other retirement plan
- Making Soka a remainder beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity
- Establishing a charitable lead trust designating the charitable distribution to Soka
- Making Soka the owner of a paid-in-full insurance policy or the beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- A retained life estate which enables you to donate your home today to Soka and live in it for the remainder of your life.

To gain membership in the SUA Legacy Society, simply notify the university about your gift intention of $5,000 or more. But the most fulfilling benefit of becoming a member of the Legacy Society is the satisfaction of knowing your legacy gift will impact the future of Soka University of America and in doing so, the future of the world.

If you would be honored to join the Legacy Society or would like additional information about making a gift to Soka through your estate plans, please contact Linda Kennedy, Director of Philanthropy, at 949-480-4672.

Founders Circle near the Peace Fountain almost full—thanks to the generous support of our donors.

Since the campus opened we have recognized the generous Founders Circle Benefactors on the wall behind Peace Fountain. Because of you, our very sincere donors, we now find ourselves reaching capacity on the wall. Upon completion, we will begin recognizing Founders Circle Benefactors on another wall overlooking Peace Lake.

Other Donor Recognition Locations on Campus

- Founders Hall (D) nameplates for Benefactor, Silver Benefactor and Gold Benefactor level. (Benefactor and Silver Benefactor levels are full at this location.)
- Soka Performing Arts Center (E) nameplates for Founders Circle Platinum, Diamond and Pillars of Soka Education level.
- Ikeda Library (I) new location for nameplates for Benefactor and Silver Benefactor level.
- Founders Circle (FC) location for nameplates for Founders Circle Benefactor level.
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 going to our website www.soka.edu/giving/u.s.-donor-address-update.aspx or send an email to Colleen Scherf-Ghura at cscherfghura@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.

JULY

Class Works 2011
Date: 05.20.2011 - 08.19.2011
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Founders Hall Art Gallery

16 German Artists
Date: 05.20.2011 - 08.19.2011
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Founders Hall Art Gallery

AUGUST

Jazz Monsters Concert Under the Stars presents Paul Kreibich and Mulligan Stew - A tribute to Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker
Date: 08.26.2011
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: Outdoor Campus Green Stage

SEPTEMBER

Soka Performing Arts Center Grand Opening featuring the Pacific Symphony with Horacio Gutierrez
Date: 09.17.2011
Time: 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

OCTOBER

Arie A. Galles: HEARTLAND Reflected-Light Paintings
Date: 09.08.2011 - 01.06.2012
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Opening Reception 09.17.2011
Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Location: Founders Hall Art Gallery

Lions Roar Student Campus Day for Juniors and Seniors
Date: 10.22.2011
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

NOVEMBER

Lions Roar Student Campus Day for Juniors and Seniors
Date: 11.12.2011
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center