Celebrating a Vision of Peace

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
NINTH ANNUAL PEACE GALA

OCTOBER 12, 2013
Six o’clock in the Evening

Gourmet Dinner, Live Auction & Entertainment by Esperanza Spalding & Wayne Shorter

For reservations or sponsorship information, please contact:
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Proceeds benefit the SUA Scholarship Fund

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The mission of Soka University of America is to foster a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life.
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 from our spring semester.

On May 24, 2013, we held the Commencement Ceremony for the undergraduate Class of 2013 in the Soka Performing Arts Center with 114 undergraduates receiving their Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts. This year we were honored to welcome Mr. Herbie Hancock as our Commencement speaker. Mr. Hancock is a legendary jazz pianist, composer and great friend of our university. He has supported our University in many ways, including his special performance at one of our past Peace Galas. Recipient of an Academy Award and 14 Grammy Awards over five decades of his professional life, Mr. Hancock has served as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. He shares the same dedication to humanistic principles as envisioned by the university founder, Mr. Daisaku Ikeda, who held a dialogue with Mr. Hancock along with another jazz legend, Wayne Shorter. This dialogue which explored jazz and its role in the advancement of culture was later published as Soul Freedom: Jazz, Life and Buddhism. And, in 2002, he received the SUA Honorary Ambassador Award for his humanistic contributions to the performing and creative arts.

Among other activities in the spring, we welcomed the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, along with Grammy award winning cellist Mr. Yo-Yo Ma, to play in the Soka Performing Arts Center in February. The concert served as a means to introduce SUA to many first time guests. At the same time, I was truly happy to see the Soka Performing Arts Center serving as a gleaming center of music and culture for south Orange County and Southern California. With his passion and dedication, Mr. Ma truly exemplified what it means to inspire people through his music, as demonstrated that evening. He also noted his joy and appreciation for the concert hall and its world-class acoustics. With this in mind, we are reminded that this university is supported by so many sincere individuals around the world offering their support to SUA so that our community can also enjoy these beautiful facilities.

We are truly indebted to all of you, as your generous support directly helps our students be able to attend and enjoy a meaningful academic experience, including our Learning Clusters. As an innovative and creative part of our curriculum, the Learning Clusters provide students and faculty with the opportunity to propose original topics that allow their academic research to take place both in the classroom and in the field. This year the courses cover a broad range of topics from peace, education, linguistics, environmental science, and power & sexuality. For example, “Hiroshima, the Victims and the Question of Peace,” “Participatory Photography and Justice in Brazil,” “European Union: Greatest Peace Pact in History?” and “Education Reform in China and US” were among the subjects this year. Once again, through the generous support of our benefactors, seven Learning Clusters travelled to such locations as Canada, Brazil, Korea, Japan, India, Argentina, Belgium, Germany, France, and to areas in United States to enhance their learning experience.

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. Habuki, Ph.D.
President
The ninth commencement ceremony took place in the Soka Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 24th. The audience of 1,000 students, friends, family, faculty and donors watched as 114 global citizens received their diplomas.

The ceremony began with the Soka student chorus singing the National Anthem. SUA President Danny Habuki provided a warm welcome to everyone followed by a message from the university founder Daisaku Ikeda, which was read by Dr. Jay Heffron, Dean of Students.

The student chorus entertained the crowd a second time singing the student song *On the Path of Peace*.

Then legendary jazz pianist, composer, and fourteen time Grammy Award winner Herbie Hancock eloquently delivered the commencement address *Is We the New Me?*

The crowd cheered as Academic Degrees were conferred by Dr. Ed Feasel, Dean of Faculty and presented to the students by President Danny Habuki.

Three student speakers were chosen by their classmates to represent the Class of 2013 by speaking during the ceremony. Ginevra Geracitano, Martin Saito, and Taeko Iwamoto continued on page 7
Presenting the Class of 2013
shared their experiences at SUA and their hopes for the future.

President Habuki then presented Charlie Kerhin with the prestigious Founders Award, the highest honor given to a student at SUA. From the podium Charlie thanked his parents, family, friends, classmates, professors and donors for their unwavering support throughout his career at Soka.

The student chorus and student orchestra concluded the ceremony with a moving performance of *Light of Hope* written by Daisaku Ikeda and Wayne Green.

A dessert reception on the lawn followed allowing everyone to join in the celebration!
My grandfather deeply respected the university founder, Mr. Daisaku Ikeda. Many decades ago, he attended an event in which Mr. Ikeda spoke about the importance of creating a peaceful world. My grandfather, who was in his twenties at the time, was four years younger than him. He was very inspired to see a young person like the university founder to have great ambitions. This was post-war Japan, and a lot of people, including my grandfather, were poor and ill.

Some years later, he heard that Mr. Ikeda was establishing a system of schools based on the principles of peace and humanism. This school system would include elementary, junior high, and high schools, and eventually a university. He was again inspired and encouraged to hear about Mr. Ikeda achieving what he had set out to accomplish. After suffering the horrors of war and its aftermath, my grandfather also believed that an education based on peace and humanism was essential to young people. Seeing someone take sincere action to create a more peaceful world, my grandfather was certain that he could look up to someone like him.

Although he, his wife, and their three children lived in a small wooden shack with no plumbing or heating, my grandfather somehow managed to save enough money to send my mother and her two older brothers through the Soka schools. He even took a side job at a small tofu store to help pay for tuition. That was his determination – that no matter what the circumstances, his kids were going to get their education. He was firmly convinced in the promises of a Soka education in what it could do for society.
My grandfather passed away four days before my graduation ceremony. Upon receiving the Founder’s Award, I acknowledged my own parents for having the same spirit as my grandfather in sending me to SUA. More importantly, one of the first words I spoke that day was in appreciation to Mr. Ikeda for founding our school.

In the summer before the start of my senior year in Fall 2011, students were informed that the founder had composed a song for SUA students. The song was titled, *Light of Hope*. Our beloved underclassmen sang this beautiful song for us at the end of our graduation ceremony. As they performed the song, I closed my eyes and listened to each word, and I truly felt how much the he believes in us. He poured his heart into crafting this majestic song. *Light of Hope* symbolizes the grand dreams that the Mr. Ikeda has for each one of us.

Because we were seated alphabetically, I had the privilege of seeing clearly each member of the Class of 2012 walk across the stage joyfully and victoriously. For each face I saw, I, too, was filled with a sense of joy for being able to have spent the past four years with my classmates. Between day one and graduation day, we all experienced our good times and not-so-good times, successes and failures, and ups and downs. But in the end, we did it together. I am proud to be part of the Class of 2012.

At the same time, I am also greatly appreciative of the many upperclassmen who paved the way for us. These students who came before us made it possible for us to reach new heights and achieve our dreams. At the same time, we would not have had our great experiences at SUA without the past efforts of our upperclassmen, faculty, staff and our donors.

Currently, I am attending law school at the University of California, Davis. I chose UC Davis because of its commitment to justice; the school is housed in a building named after Martin Luther King Jr. I also wanted to go to a law school that resembled SUA – a warm learning environment with friendly professors and supportive classmates – and UC Davis School of Law is exactly what I was looking for. I am truly appreciative of the support that I am receiving from my friends and professors at the law school. This summer, I will be working for a federal district judge at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

I want to share a quote from the founder; this passage has always encouraged me whenever I experience my own roadblocks and failures: “Nothing is irredeemable in youth. Rather, the worst mistake you can make when young is to give up and not challenge yourselves for fear of failure. The past is the past and the future is the future. Keep moving forward with a steady eye on the future, telling yourselves: ‘I’ll start from today!’ ‘I’ll start fresh from now, from this moment!’”

*Daisaku Ikeda*
Study abroad for a semester can teach students much more than how to get along in a foreign country. Some SUA students actually find that the experience helps them choose a future path.

**Gabrielle O’Connor (2014)** is from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. At SUA she decided to study and learn the Japanese language. When it came time to choose a study abroad destination, our sister school, Soka University of Japan (SUJ) in Hachioji, Tokyo, Japan, seemed to be the perfect place. Her goal while living in Japan was to become more fluent in the language and better understand a new culture. This would be her first time to travel outside the United States, and she was excited about the possibilities.

While at SUJ, Gabby lived in the dorm with a Japanese roommate and initially found it a struggle to adapt to the new culture. However, her living arrangement combined with her favorite Japanese-listening class really accelerated her ability to speak Japanese. And watching Japanese movies without subtitles helped her learn the common “slang” and improved her ability to speak Japanese faster.

Gabby said she learned that “If you have a goal in life, it needs to start today, and every day must be a step toward that goal.” The study abroad experience made her fall in love with Japan, and now she hopes to live there one day to teach Japanese students her native English language.

**Leia Marasovich (2014)** chose to study abroad in Ecuador and knew it would be challenging to live among people every day who spoke a language different from what she was used to hearing on a daily basis. During her semester abroad, her favorite class was the agriculture class in which she learned about native agriculture crops and plants. In addition she made good friends with the local residents who also worked in the school garden.

Outside her formal education at Universidad de San Francisco, Quito, Leia volunteered for the NGO program, Un Techo Para Mi Pais (A Roof for My Country) where volunteers build homes for financially disadvantaged families. At first she wondered what she had gotten herself into as she endured a four-hour bus ride to one of the poorest and most remote parts of Ecuador. Lia joined a team of 11 people who were assigned the task of building, in just three days, a new home for an indigenous family. When she was introduced to the recipient family of a mother, father, and three beautiful children, she was shocked. The conditions they lived in were far worse than she had ever imagined: no running water, no actual bathroom, dirt floors for beds, and continual high winds.

From the beginning, Leia built strong connections with the children who spoke the local language of Quechua very
One of the goals Shinichi Yoshino (2014), from Nagoya, Japan, wanted to achieve during his semester abroad was to make at least one good Chinese friend, so he chose to study at the Beijing Institute of Education. There he met his roommate, a young Chinese man who loved Japanese culture, especially Japanese animation and professional baseball. They immediately developed a friendship that will last a lifetime.

Shinichi’s study abroad semester took place last fall during the peak of the anti-Japanese sentiment. Because he is Japanese, he endured some difficult circumstances, including one that has changed his life forever. One day Shinichi was approached by a young Chinese man whose eyes were filled with animosity. The hatred in the young man’s eyes scared Shinichi so much that when asked if he was Japanese he replied, “No, I am Korean.” But those eyes continued to haunt Shinichi as he wondered if there was a legitimate reason for the man’s hate or if the young man had ever even met a person from Japan. This experience made him realize the importance of not only studying the history between the two countries, but also doing whatever he could to understand the strife that existed. He also felt the urge to do something to help the unpleasant situation.

A kindred spirit was found online in another Japanese student who, like Shinichi, was wondering if there was something he could do to improve the relationship between the two countries. Together they decided to plan a Chinese-Japanese film festival that would allow the two communities to put aside their differences to enjoy a common interest. It began with Chinese and Japanese students coming together peacefully every weekend to enjoy a movie. It worked. People with differing opinions could watch a documentary and have civilized discussions afterward. To further cooperative experiences, Shinichi and his friend have planned a Chinese-Japanese film festival that will take place later this year.

Experiencing hatred in the eyes of another human being was very scary. However, that experience motivated Shinichi to find a peaceful way to build a bridge between the two opposing sides, and is a demonstration of his Soka spirit.
Please provide a brief background about yourself

I am Associate Professor of Anthropology at SUA where I teach courses in urban anthropology, urban poverty, globalization in Oceania, human origins, and research methods. I have conducted research in the islands of Micronesia but also in the large cities of the United States. One of the greatest things about working at SUA as a social scientist is that it is a perfect fit for my interdisciplinary background. As a cultural anthropologist, I mainly study how social and cultural change plays a role in the differential mental health of youths and families’ well-being. In addition, I have written about the culturally meaningful dimensions of managing key domains of family routines like child care and the household budget, particularly for low-income families in the U.S. Before coming to SUA, I had a wonderful opportunity to work with world renowned psychologists, economists, sociologists and anthropologists on how welfare reform policies in the United States affected children and their families. I bring some of what I learned from these scholars into my teaching and my research at SUA. Finally, this past year I had the good fortune of being named the Editor-in-Chief for the journal Ethos: The International Journal for the Society of Psychological Anthropology.

From which institutions do you hold degrees?

I have a B.A. in Anthropology and a B.S. in Psychology from Texas A&M University. I received my Ph.D. at the University of California – Irvine. I also completed a 2-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Center for Culture and Health in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the University of California-Los Angeles.

What attracted you to SUA?

When I applied for the position at SUA in 2005, I was looking for a place where I could develop the kind of teaching practice that placed engaged student learning front and center. While at other universities, I was worried that undergraduates were not getting the educational experience that would really challenge them to grow intellectually and ethically at a critical window of opportunity in their life spans. At the other universities where I taught before SUA, I saw too many students become alienated from deep, meaningful engagement in the learning process. When I came to the campus for the first time, I could tell right away that SUA was different. SUA seemed like just the place where I would be given the resources and space to develop the kind of teaching practice that I believe is truly meaningful and effective for undergraduates. I am very pleased that this initial intuition has proven correct. Working with the students at SUA has proven to be challenging but also consistently rewarding.

What distinguishes Soka students in your opinion?

I think undergraduates at many schools like SUA care deeply about the most significant problems of our time and are looking for a college experience that will give them the tools to pursue careers where they can make significant contributions toward solving these problems. I believe SUA students are unique in how eagerly they seek a partnership with the faculty and staff at SUA in developing learning experiences where they can acquire these
tools. SUA students really appreciate learning as a mentored process of enlivening the mind rather than a passive process of reproducing course content through examination. They are willing to meet high standards and regularly surpass them. I often marvel at the things SUA students accomplish in my classes, over the course of pursuing their four-year degree, and as graduates. They are simply terrific!

What inspires you?

I am inspired by people who are steadfast in their commitment to the difficult, decades-long project of mastering their professional craft while being just as committed to patiently passing that craft on to the next generation. I am equally inspired by people who find creative ways to maintain a healthy balance between their professional lives and their lives with those they love. As an example, I have a friend who is a talented, skilled, and productive artist. His work has been shown in galleries around the world. What inspires me about my friend is not only that he is successful, or that he finds such joy in his work as an artist, or how much he values both hard work and precision in teaching students. What really inspires me is that my friend always ensures that he takes time to connect with friends and family in ways that are little and large. One little way is that he writes or paints how much he loves his wonderful wife somewhere in each and every painting that he creates. This little act inspires me to try and find ways to stay connected to what really matters in life no matter how busy I am professionally.

SUA Alumni return to share their post-graduate experiences with current SUA students

Akira Kawada (2008) arrived on campus on January 6th to share his post-graduation journey with current SUA students. As a diplomat in the First North American Division at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served as a control officer coordinating events at the Japanese Prime Minister’s official residence during a visit by Vice-President of the United States Joseph Biden. Currently, Akira is attending Columbia University where he is working on a Master’s Degree in the School of International and Public Affairs.

Sachiko Kondo (2010) visited campus to speak to students eager to learn about teaching a foreign language in higher-education, going to graduate school, various graduate program across the US, and utilizing capstone as the source of future research projects. She spent time speaking to students eager to learn about real-world experience that Sachiko went through. Currently a visiting professor at Oberlin College, Sachiko candidly answered questions that students asked regarding teaching a second language.

Ryan Hayashi (2012) passionately spoke about the Teach For America Program that he is currently participating in. Giving detailed descriptions of what his teaching experience has been like, student who participated had a chance to see what putting Soka Education into practice in the classroom environment was like. Ryan helped students see the importance, the challenges, and the rewards of what SUA graduates do in the real world after graduating from SUA.
Erendro Leichombam

Erendro (known as Leichom by his friends) from the undergraduate class of 2007, visited the campus on Monday, February 4 of this year. The topic for discussion was “International Development as a Career.”

Born and raised in Manipur, India, it was a dream for Erendro to attend Soka University of America (SUA). Hearing the ideals behind Soka education and the founding principles of SUA, he knew that he had to attend. Coming from one of the poorest neighborhoods in Manipur, Erendro was accepted into the third entering class of 2007, receiving scholarships to attend. After graduating, Erendro went on to attend the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with a Master’s in Public Administration in International Development in which he graduated in 2012.

In March 2012, with the desire to do something to support his hometown, Erendro founded The Manipur International Center. The mission of the Manipur International Center “is to mobilize and engage all global citizens for achieving peace and development in Manipur, and the Northeastern region of India.” As a founder of this Non-Profit Organization (NPO), Erendro has been invited to speak at universities including Harvard University and University of Chicago. Erendro has been traveling across the United States and within Manipur, engaging supporters to help the people of Manipur.

Erendro noted that a career in international development entails:

- Fighting against poverty and disease
- Advocating and researching for democratic human rights
- Educating for community development
- Empowering individuals
- Breaking barriers and practicing global citizenship
- Creating humanitarian causes
- Traveling the world, learning, connecting, and having fun!
Alison Finnegan Etcheverry (Class of 1996) was born and raised in San Francisco. In 1988 she had the opportunity to visit Soka University in Japan and promised herself that one day she would return as an English teacher. After earning a B.A in English from UCLA and multiple subjects credential from San Francisco State University, Alison realized an opportunity to fulfill her dream when Soka University of America opened in Calabasas in 1994.

While studying on the Calabasas campus, Alison’s favorite class was Discourse Analysis with Dr. Terrie Mathis because she found it fascinating to learn about the intricacies of interpersonal communication. Her favorite assignment was analyzing the communication style of twin 5-year-olds doing imaginary play with action figures. As Alison learned about Mr. Makiguichi and Mr. Toda, she realized the power and impact of teachers. At that point her career path became clear and she decided to become the best teacher she could be. After completing her Masters, Alison went onto to fulfill her dream by teaching at Soka University as a full-time lecturer for four years.

Currently, Alison teaches third grade in the San Francisco Unified School District where she has been employed full time since 2002. She recently celebrated her second wedding anniversary with her husband John. Their Italian Greyhound therapy dog, Jack McCoy, joins Alison’s classroom as often as possible to integrate the Soka Education pedagogy she acquired in unique ways.
The twelfth Annual International Festival was held on the Soka campus on Saturday, May 4. Approximately 900 performers entertained a crowd that exceeded 6,000 while 265 vendors offered their goods and services to the visitors. The all-volunteer crew orchestrating the day consisted of 120 students, 45 faculty/staff members, and 50 community volunteers. The International Festival began in May 2002 as a way to celebrate the birthday of the campus. Over the years it has grown to a much anticipated annual event that brings the community together in celebration of peace and diversity.
The Soka Education Student Research Project (SESRP) is a student-initiated and student-run project at Soka University of America. Project members engage in the study, research, and exhibition of Soka Education as a unique educational philosophy. Their mission is to inspire individuals to embody and perpetuate the spirit of Soka Education and to create a community united in protecting the values of Soka Education.

The 9th annual Soka Education Conference was held on the Aliso Viejo campus on February 16th and 17th. For two days, the Pauling 216 conference room was packed with students and educators who actively engaged in lively discussions about Soka education.

This year there were many “firsts” at the Soka Education Conference. Dr. Peter McLaren, a professor from the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA, provided an outlook on education based on his theory of critical pedagogy and social justice. This is the first time in the history of the conference that the keynote speaker has not had a prior connection to or experience with Soka education. It is also the first time the majority of the participants of the conference consisted of SUA alumni who presented their own practical knowledge gained through their work in the field of education. In addition, for the first time, the conference was streamed live online, making it possible for viewers from around the world to watch the conference.

On January 18, the Distinguished Visiting Scholar program was honored to present Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

Ambassador Chowdhury began his lecture by reflecting on his life work focused on global peace-building initiatives and his many years serving in the United Nations. He noted that achieving a culture of peace is a process and underscored that it is also a process of self-transformation. He detailed foundational elements that can strengthen a culture of peace and self-transformation including emphasizing that each person has his own energy, talents, interests, and a unique role to play. Ambassador Chowdhury also stressed respecting every individual, trusting in yourself and the importance of self-confidence in making an effective difference, seeing issues from all dimensions and various angles, maintaining personal integrity and standards, and finding personal time and space for spirituality in one’s life. Ambassador Chowdhury also pointed out the importance of having a vision, discovering one’s purpose as a global citizen, and exploring ways in which to serve. He encouragingly acknowledged that each person can make a meaningful contribution in cultivating peace.

In conclusion, he asked students to remember that strife and conflicts are created by militarism and that violence cannot be solved by the use of more violence. He stated that peace is not just an absence of war; peace requires a society based on tolerance, non-violence, development, and equality.

SUA thanks the Luis and Linda Nieves Family Foundation for sponsoring the Distinguished Visiting Scholar series of lectures.
Learning Clusters

Learning Clusters are among the most unique and popular academic programs at Soka University. A Learning Cluster is a three and a half week research seminar where students work in teams with faculty facilitators to investigate a specific question. It is designed to bridge theory and practice, and elicit an educated outcome or response. Students propose, research, and model constructive approaches to the issues. The course is designed to teach students 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. Students experience a sense of becoming global citizens, making a difference during their learning cluster experience.

**Participatory Photography and Justice in Brazil with Ian Read, Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies**

*Topic of Investigation:* Social Conditions in the Valley of Jequitinhonha, Brazil

*What did students learn:* In Jequitinhonha SUA students benefitted from an unusual technique called Photovoice, a respected method that builds skills within disadvantaged and marginalized communities using innovative participatory photography and digital storytelling methods, giving participants the opportunity to represent themselves and create tools for advocacy and communications to achieve positive social change. Children between the ages of 14 and 17 were given cameras and asked to photograph the world around them, paying special attention to injustice.

*What did students accomplish:* The crucial part of the project for the community within which it took place is that by recognizing injustice and marginalization, the community can gain an ability to change from within.

**European Union: Greatest Peace Pact in History? With Jay Heffron, Dean of Students and Professor of History**

*Topic of Investigation:* The level of success of the European Union in the peaceful integration of Europe around sound fiscal and political policy that:

- Respects the sovereignty of member states;
- Protects human rights and the rule of law; and
- Upholds the federalist goals and aspirations embodied in the original Maastricht Treaty of 1992 and the Lisbon Treaty on European Union in 2009

*What did the students learn:* Each student prepared a policy brief that examined a particular EU policy, assessed its strengths and weakness, and made recommendations for future improvements.

*What did students accomplish:* Students met with various officials at the ambassadorial and consultative level, with leading civil society organizations developed to support and advise
the EU, with representatives from the largest all-European political party, the European Peoples party. They also toured two Parliaments (Brussels and Strasbourg) and the European Central Bank in Frankfurt. In addition, students were able to have a question and answer session with the secretary general of the European Council of Ministers.

**Changemaking through Social Entrepreneurship with Gail Thomas, Professor of Sociology**

**Topic of Investigation:** What is Social Enterprise and how do its leaders positively change the world?

**What did the students learn:** SUA students studied the innovative organizations and visionary leaders who apply business models to transform intractable social issues in both the profit and non-profit world.

**What did students accomplish:** SUA students met the charismatic leaders of local and globally transformative social enterprises, such as Revolution Foods (eliminating childhood obesity), Kiva (microfinance “loans that change lives), and AUL (providing insurance services to underserved communities, and humanistic values to the workplace). Through study, speakers, and site visits, they learned how, when applied with integrity, business and profit act for the benefit of humanity, and what types of leadership qualities are necessary to launch and drive a mission driven organization.

Would you like to be a mentor for SUA alumni and/or students?

Would your company be interested in hiring an SUA alum?

A new website has been created specifically for SUA alumni where they can stay up to date on the lives of their classmates and build their network for career opportunities. One of the most important parts of the website is the mentor section that will connect alumni with successful business professionals in a specific industry. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Linda Kennedy at 949-480-4072 or lkennedy@soka.edu for further information.

Another important part of the website will be job postings. If there is an opening in your company that you would like us to post on the SUA Alumni Website, please contact Jennifer Cunningham at 949-480-4191 or jcunningham@soka.edu.

**Shatter Me**

by Tahereh (Haddadi) Mafi, Soka Class of 2009, is #10 on the **New York Times** Bestseller List

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Soka Meets the Real Freedom Writers

In March, the Soka Changemakers hosted New York Times best-selling author Erin Gruwell to screen the documentary *Stories from an Undeclared War*. The event attracted a standing-room-only crowd that included SUA students, faculty, local community, and a busload of enthusiastic high school students from Santa Ana Valley High School who are part of the program, High Schools Inc.

The new film offered live footage capturing events in Gruwell’s life made famous by the Hollywood film *Freedom Writers*, starring Hillary Swank. The evening included a book signing preceded by a lively, interactive, panel discussion with Gruwell and some of the “freedom writers” featured in the film.

The event was emceed by Soka graduating senior and Changemaker Aileen Mokuria, who recently accepted a post-graduation position with Teach for America. “What inspired me the most,” she said, “was to see local high school students leave the event feeling invincible.”

The visiting High School students sent enthusiastic notes of thanks. “Getting to go in person to the University was mesmerizing,” said Maribel Martinez. “The presentation was really life changing and inspiring and also surprisingly relatable,” said Jesus Ayala. “We got to meet the great and mighty freedom writers…I think this is maybe the best field trip I have been on since I had fun, learned a lot of stuff and even cried,” said Miguel Deloya.

Soka Changemaker Alessandra Aristimuno said, “The event was very powerful…some of my friends visited from Los Angeles and said they felt their passions were ignited.”

Former Extremist Promotes Peace & Democracy at SUA

Maajid Nawaz made a special appearance on campus in January to discuss his new autobiography, *Radical: My Journey From Islamist Extremism to A Democratic Awakening*. The event, which was open to the public, was hosted by Soka Changemakers and Frank & Susan Kavanaugh, friends of SUA.

Dubbed “The Repentant Radical” by *Newsweek* magazine, Nawaz left his life of extremism and now warns of a resurgent al-Qaeda unless critical work is done at a global grassroots level. Nawaz shared his story about being an upper-class British youth who experienced a series of violent, racist incidents. This ultimately led him, angry and rebellious, into a life promoting Islamic extremism. He was eventually arrested and served four years as an Amnesty International “prisoner of conscience” in Egypt, which led to a personal transformation and a new path.

Now a leading critic of his former Islamist ideological dogma while remaining a Muslim, Nawaz is co-founder of the Quilliam Foundation, the world’s first counter-extremism think tank set up to address the unique challenges of citizenship, identity, and belonging in a globalized world.

Quilliam stands for religious freedom, equality, human rights, and democracy. The organization offers internships to students. During his visit, Nawaz made himself available to Soka students for informational interviews concerning his work. More information about Nawaz is accessible online. He has been profiled by CBS 60 Minutes, *Larry King Live*, BBC *Newsnight*, and he has spoken at the TED conference.
Remember Soka

Ways to Give

We hope you will consider including Soka University of America in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, this type of gift offers these main benefits:

- Simplicity – Just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. The official legal bequest language for Soka University is: “I, (name), of (city, state, zip code), give, devise and bequeath to Soka University of America (written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property) for its unrestricted use and purpose.”

- Flexibility – Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, if your circumstances change you can change your mind at any time.

- Versatility – You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate to SUA.

- Tax Relief – If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift entitles you to an estate tax charitable deduction.

How it works

To make a charitable bequest, you need a current will or revocable living trust.

Your gift can be made as a percentage of your estate, or you can make a specific bequest by giving a certain amount of cash, securities, or property. After your lifetime, SUA receives your gift.

Putting Your Family First

When planning a future gift, it is sometimes difficult to determine what size donation makes sense. Emergencies happen, and you need to make sure your family is financially taken care of first. Structuring a bequest as a percentage of your estate ensures that your gift will remain proportionate no matter how your estate’s value fluctuates over the years.

Soka University of America Legacy Society

To honor those of you who would like to include Soka University of America in your 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 of America will continue and thrive.

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

You can download an application for the SUA Legacy Society at http://www.soka.edu/files/documents/giving/legacy-society-form.pdf or contact the Development Department.

Questions?

Please contact your attorney or Linda Kennedy, Director of Philanthropy, at lkennedy@soka.edu or 949-480-4072.
Sixteen SUA students along with their advisors, Michelle Hobby-Mears, Director of Student Activities and Residential Life and Julian Velarde, Assistant Director of Student Programs, spent the week of Spring Break in one of our country’s most economically challenged cities, Detroit.

Preparations for the trip began last fall with weekly training and educational meetings where students were introduced to complex human issues, including pervasive poverty and homelessness, which they would face during their trip. Students pay their own expenses for the program and their on campus fund raising netted them $4,440 to help defray the cost of the trip.

The week’s activities were orchestrated to involve students with those living in urban poverty. Working closely with social service providers in Detroit, SUA students quickly learned the value created in humanizing those individuals affected by homelessness. The young men and women from SUA worked side-by-side with impoverished men, women and children establishing meaningful connections.

Their labor included cutting and clearing persistent invasive plants and trees at the Belle Isle conservancy, and moving and stacking bricks following the demolition of a city owned building.

In addition, they participated in a round table discussion with ASB students from Wayne State University, took a social justice tour of Detroit, experience the Heidelberg Project and the First congregational Church’s interactive Underground Railroad Museum, and toured world renowned Motown records.

Of course, the true measure of ASB’s success is to be found in the intangibles of the trip and the extent to which SUA students experience an internal change. One participant of this year’s ASB trip summed it up by saying, “I honestly feel like I learned a whole year’s worth of information and life skills in only one week.”
Ivan Rutherford has performed the role of Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables* more than 2,000 times on Broadway, national tours, and regional theatres across the country. On Monday, April 1, in the Soka Performing Arts Center, Erica Turrell, Professor of Music, hosted a Master Class with Ivan for her students. After delighting the audience with songs and stories from his illustrious career, Ivan worked one-on-one with five lucky students, helping them to perfect their singing talent and auditioning techniques.

When asked what he thought of the hall, Mr. Ma replied, “Phenomenal!” In addition, he shared with the event organizers that the hall was the best venue in Orange County. He stated that other venues were nice but “this place is on another level.”

At a post-performance celebration President Danny Habuki thanked Yo-Yo Ma for his incredible performance and thanked Yasuhisa Toyota, the acoustician of the Soka Performing Arts Center, for his hard work to create a world-class venue for SUA and the community.
A DAY IN THE LIFE of SOKA STUDENTS
## 2013 Cross Country Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MEET</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 7</td>
<td>UC Irvine/Asics Invitational</td>
<td>UCI – ARC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 22</td>
<td>Race for the Cure – Susan G. Komen</td>
<td>Fashion Island – Newport Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 5</td>
<td>Triton Classic</td>
<td>UCSD Campus, La Jolla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 12</td>
<td>Vanguard Invitational</td>
<td>Fairview Park, Costa Mesa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 19</td>
<td>Cougar Challenge</td>
<td>CSU San Marcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 4</td>
<td>Cal Pac Conference Championships</td>
<td>Woodward Park, Fresno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 23</td>
<td>NAIA National Championships</td>
<td>Vancouver, Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 2013 Men’s Soccer Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday August 17</td>
<td>Arizona Christian University</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday August 23</td>
<td>William Jessup*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday August 25</td>
<td>Simpson University*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday August 29</td>
<td>Pacific Union College*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday September 7</td>
<td>CSU San Marcos</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday September 15</td>
<td>La Sierra University*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday September 20</td>
<td>Cal Maritime*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday September 26</td>
<td>Vanguard University*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday October 1</td>
<td>La Sierra University*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday October 4</td>
<td>Embry Riddle University*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday October 6</td>
<td>UC Merced*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday October 11</td>
<td>Marymount College*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday October 18</td>
<td>Bethesda University*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday October 25</td>
<td>Menlo College*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday October 27</td>
<td>UC Merced*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday October 30</td>
<td>Marymount College*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday November 10</td>
<td>Embry Riddle*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes Cal Pac Conference Game

## 2013 Women’s Soccer Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday August 16</td>
<td>Bethesda University</td>
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<td>7 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday August 23</td>
<td>William Jessup University*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday August 25</td>
<td>Simpson University*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday September 2</td>
<td>Occidental University</td>
<td>Home</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday September 7</td>
<td>CSU San Marcos</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday September 12</td>
<td>Arizona Christian Univ.</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday September 14</td>
<td>Mills College</td>
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<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday September 27</td>
<td>Vanguard University</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday October 4</td>
<td>Embry Riddle University*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday October 6</td>
<td>UC Merced*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday October 11</td>
<td>Marymount College*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday October 18</td>
<td>Simpson University*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday October 19</td>
<td>William Jessup University*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday October 25</td>
<td>Menlo College*</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday October 27</td>
<td>UC Merced*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday October 30</td>
<td>Marymount College*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday November 3</td>
<td>Menlo College*</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday November 10</td>
<td>Embry Riddle University*</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>12 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes Cal Pac Conference Game
**JULY 2013**

**Mexico At The Hour Of Combat:** Sabino Osuna’s Photographs of the Mexican Revolution  
Date: 05.20.2013 - 08.23.2013  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Location: Founders Hall Art Gallery 2nd Floor

**Class Works 2013**  
Date: 05.20.2013 - 08.23.2013  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Location: Founders Hall Art Gallery 1st Floor

**All-American Boys Chorus – America: The Dream Goes On!**  
Date: 07.13.2013  
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Los Angeles Guitar Quartet**  
Date: 09.21.2013  
Time: 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Soka International Jazz Festival, featuring Delfeayo Marsalis**  
Date: 09.27.2013 - 09.29.2013  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**OCTOBER 2013**

**Soka University’s 9th Annual Peace Gala**  
Date: 10.12.2013  
Time: 6:00 pm - 12:00 am  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center and Recreation Center

**Pacific Symphony – Sundays At Soka**  
**Gabriela Martinez, piano**  
Date: 10.20.2013  
Time: 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Soka University’s 12th Annual Halloween Fair and Haunted House**  
Date: 10.25.2013 - 10.26.2013  
Time: 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm  
Location: Recreation Center

**Italian American Opera Foundation – Vivaldi Gala: The Four Seasons and Violin Concerto in A Minor**  
Date: 10.25.2013  
Time: 8:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Italian American Opera Foundation – Viva Verdi: Overtures, Arias and Duets**  
Date: 10.26.2013  
Time: 8:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Italian American Opera Foundation – Baroque Passion: Arcangelo Corelli and Johann Sebastian Bach**  
Date: 10.27.2013  
Time: 8:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Juilliard String Quartet**  
Date: 10.29.2013  
Time: 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**NOVEMBER 2013**

**Keola Beamer with R. Carlos Nakai – “Malama Ko Aloha”**  
Date: 11.02.2013  
Time: 8:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Estonian National Symphony Orchestra with Narek Hakhnazaryan, Cello**  
Date: 11.03.2013  
Time: 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Jazz Monsters – Fred Hirsch Trio**  
Date: 11.10.2013  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**DECEMBER 2013**

**New York Polyphony**  
Date: 12.01.2013  
Time: 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**Aliso Viejo/Soka University of America Holiday Show**  
Date: 12.07.2013  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**South Coast Symphony with Susan Egan**  
Date: 12.13.2013  
Time: 8:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**All American Boys Chorus**  
Date: 12.15.2013  
Time: 4:00 pm  
Location: Soka Performing Arts Center

**To purchase tickets, visit www.soka.edu or call the box office at 949-480-4278**
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 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.

News Bites

New Founders Circle Location

The generosity of SUA donors has provided us with the good fortune of having filled up the original travertine wall behind Peace Fountain that showcases the names of our Founders Circle donors. The new location to honor benefactors who have contributed between $100,000 and $249,999 to support SUA students will be located on the travertine wall between Peace Fountain and the Recreation Center. We sincerely appreciate and honor the efforts of every donor to Soka University of America. Thank you!

NEW PARKING STRUCTURE ON SOKA CAMPUS

On January 28, 2013, President Danny Habuki officially opened the newly constructed parking structure. The four level-parking lot provides 683 parking spaces. There is a car counting system that displays the number of available spaces on each level as a car enters the structure. To accommodate guests with electric cars, two electric vehicle charging stations are available on the lower level. A gate system prevents parking on the roof level until it is needed. This was done in deference to the neighbors, so that lighting would be kept to a minimum unless it was absolutely necessary. The total number of parking spaces now available on the SUA campus is 1,732.