

**Virginia Culture Department On the Move**  
**BY SHARON GUZMAN & MARIE MONTEAGUDO**  
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The Virginia Headquarters Culture Department is taking action. Some 30 members and guests met today to tackle the issue of diversity at a seminar co-sponsored by the Old Dominion University SGI-USA Student Group.

After an overview of SGI President Ikeda's views on becoming a global citizen, each Culture Department division met in small groups to share their thoughts. In the healing arts division, the members shared with each other the struggles on their jobs, and Dr. Alwin Harding from Washington, D.C., stated that in order to heal others, we must first heal ourselves.

The arts division came up with a list of ideas, including creating a mural, craft and music classes, creative writing workshops and co-sponsoring a youth talent show.

The legal division grappled with ramifications of the diversity issues unearthed by the O.J. Simpson case. The consensus of the educators and academic divisions session was to put an emphasis on youth, such as sponsoring an essay contest addressing issues of diversity. Other points included working with senior citizens and developing programs with the PTA and the community.

Greg Henry, an arts professor from Christopher Newport University, said the meeting was a great start. "Those attending today are really concerned for making the Culture Department an oasis for everyone," he said. "We have developed a lot of ideas we can act on. We are a nucleus of different things to come in the future.

"By doing Culture Department activities we can really touch people's lives and focus on the members. We can help them develop their creativity and uniqueness. They will be excited to develop their lives and see the purpose of practicing Buddhism."

Jennifer Bryant of the educator's division, who traveled from Washington, D.C., seemed to capture the spirit of the day by sharing her impression that Virginia Headquarters is really on the move. "I am just so happy" she said, "to see how excited the members are here to really follow through with the Culture Department and not be afraid to take a first step to actualize our charter on culture."

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