

INTRODUCING SUA'S STUDENT AFFAIRS TEAM

Edward M. Feasel, Ph.D., Dean of Students and Professor of Economics, Michelle Hobby, Director of Student Activities and Residential Life, and Hyon Jung Moon, Assistant to the Dean of Students, make up Soka University, Aliso Viejo's new Student Affairs team.

In 1998, Edward M. Feasel was appointed the first dean of students at Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo as well as Professor of Economics. Ed came to SUA, AV from the Public Policy Institute where he was a research fellow from 1996 to 1998. He was also a visiting professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley in 1997. Ed shares his excitement about joining SUA: "It's very rare to have this opportunity to develop a new university, literally from the ground level. The students who come to SUA are going to be pioneers — they will help establish the traditions and policies that will set the stage for SUA's future development."

He has also lectured at a number of European universities prior to his appointment to SUA, AV, including in the Department of Economics, University of Economics, Bratislava, Slovak Republic and the Department of Economics, Central European University, Prague, Czech Republic (1991–92).

Ed emphasizes: "One of the benefits of going to a small liberal arts college like SUA is that students get to interact with faculty beyond the classroom. Student activities, clubs and athletics are all arenas where our faculty will be engaged with students. Serving as both Dean of Students and Professor of Economics, I hope to facilitate this close interaction between faculty and students in new and exciting ways."

Ed received his training from UC Berkeley, earning his Ph.D. in Economics (1994) and his BA also in Economics from Yale University in New Haven, Conn. (1988).

With less than a year to go before SUA, AV opens its doors in fall 2001, Ed has been working hard and heads a team that is developing policies and procedures related to student affairs and residential life. "Our goal is to make SUA a nurturing community where students feel inspired to learn and to become the very best human beings they can be," Ed says.

Helping Ed in Student Affairs is Michelle Hobby, who is the Director of Student Activities and Residential Life. Michelle, who is proficient in Spanish and Japanese, joined SUA, AV in September from the University of California, Irvine Extension, where she served as Student Affairs Officer for the last seven years directing a unique housing program. At SUA, Michelle's responsibilities will be similar, including overseeing student activities programs on and off campus and managing the university's housing and residential life.

"What we want to do here is provide an environment that is supportive, and where students can develop positive relationships both in and outside of the classroom," notes Michelle. "We want to provide them with services that are going to stimulate both their academic and personal growth, and help them to become well-rounded people."

Hyon Jung Moon is the Assistant to the Dean of Students and will help Ed with all aspects of administrative support, communications with students and vendor relations for Student Affairs. Like Michelle, Hyon joined SUA, AV in September with international experiences. She has worked as a translator and interpreter at the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum

and as a Project Specialist and International Management of Technology Fellow for American Express Travel Related Services.

“I’m really looking forward to working with our students,” mentions Hyon. “I can say that all of us in Student Affairs are striving to provide students with an atmosphere that is positive, and one that they can easily call their home.”