

**INTRODUCING SUA'S LIBRARY DIRECTOR JOHN SHERIDAN AND
LIBRARIAN CAROL WITHERS
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When John Sheridan was appointed Library Director of the Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library on the Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo campus in January 1999, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity he just couldn't pass up...the rare chance to build a new library book by book.

"There are not too many university libraries being built from the ground up in the country today," notes John. "So I really have to say this experience is a lifetime opportunity that was hard to say no to."

John hopes to put together a college library that supports student curiosity as well as the university's curriculum with books, journals and electronic resources.

"A library is a place where students can safely lose track of time in the process of learning" says John. "I think a library should be place to foster independent learning investigations by students that go beyond their classroom assignments."

Prior to joining SUA, AV, John spent 15 years as the Head Librarian of Tutt Library at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo. He served as an American Library Association/United States Information Service Library Fellow at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla in Ukraine from December 1996 to May 1997. While in Ukraine, John established that country's first automated library system in the capital city of Kiev. John was also Head Librarian at Transylvania University for seven years, and prior to that held similar positions at Knox College and Kearney State College.

"As head librarian I will be able to put into practice the concept of student learning at the center of the library," says John. "And to me that was something that was not often evident at other college libraries."

John received his M.A. in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and an A.M. in Classical Studies from Indiana University. He earned his B.A. in Classics from City College of New York, where he won the Ward Medal in Latin and was a Regents Scholar.

Helping John collect the thousands of volumes that will be sitting on the shelves when the campus opens for instruction in August 2001 is Librarian Carol Withers. Carol came to SUA, AV from Indiana University, Purdue University and Indianapolis University Libraries.

One of Carol's primary duties is helping to build the massive library collection, including purchasing books, journals and various electronic resources to use once the campus opens next year.

"We want the students to take what they learn here and apply it to life after college," notes Carol. "This takes an ability to find, evaluate, and analyze credible information sources...a lot more than just surfing the Web."