

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE HONORS SGI PRESIDENT

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS



Dr. Lawrence Carter (left) introduces a portrait of SGI President Ikeda and Mrs. Ikeda that will be displayed at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel from next spring.

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SGI President Ikeda was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars of Morehouse College, Atlanta, by Dr. Lawrence Carter Sr., dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College on Sept. 7. The induction ceremony was held during the 49th Soka Gakkai Headquarters Leaders Meeting, which took place at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, Japan. That evening, a dialogue on the life of Dr. King was conducted among President Ikeda, Dean Carter and Dr. George D. Miller, a philosophy professor and director of the Scholars Academy of Lewis University in Illinois.

LINUS PAULING EXHIBITION IN ATLANTA

Ending the Millennium in Peace

By ANGELA HARRIS
ATLANTA CORRESPONDENT

Atlanta, home of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of the 20th century's greatest advocates for nonviolence, civil rights and peace, is currently hosting the "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" exhibition, sponsored by the Pauling family, Oregon State University and the Soka Gakkai International. The exhibition opened Sept. 14 and will run through Dec. 6 at Schatten Gallery in the Woodruff Library of Emory University's prestigious campus.

Other events such as a film festival, the Children's Peace Day, Women's Peace Poetry

Workshop and discussions on health and spirituality have been scheduled to promote dialogue on peace and prosperity into the 21st century.

SGI President Ikeda and Dr. Linus Pauling, a renowned scientist and social activist known as the father of modern chemistry, became great friends during the last years of Dr. Pauling's life. The two humanists engaged in an ongoing dialogue, later published under the title *A Quest For Peace*, geared toward humanity's successful evolution.

Linus Pauling Jr. discovered this relationship when he

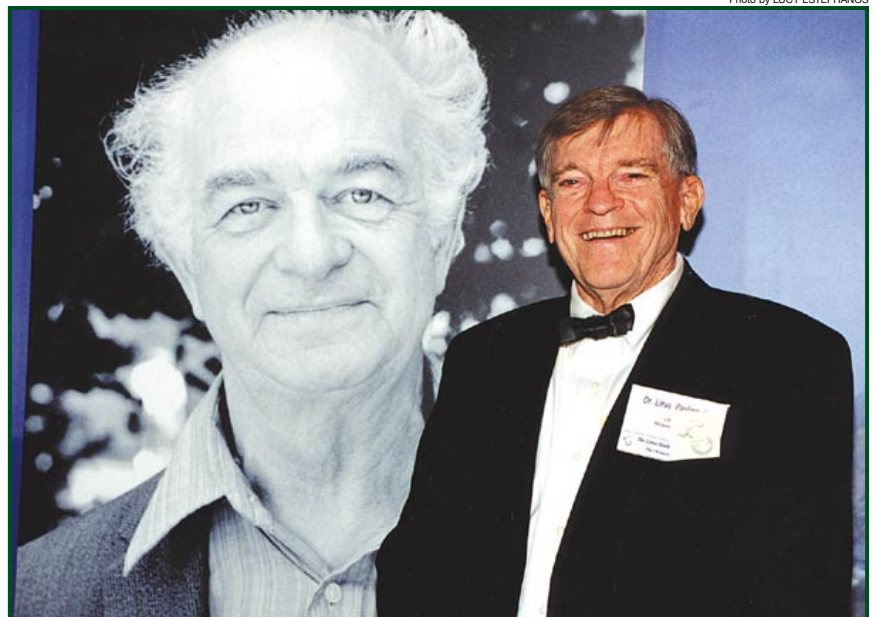


Photo by LUCY ESTEPHANOS

Linus Pauling Jr. stands in front of a portrait of his father at the opening of the 'Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century' exhibition at Emory University in Atlanta, Sept. 14.

PLEASE SEE PAULING, 10

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 uni-

versity, 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.



(L-r) Hyon Jung Moon, Ed Feasel and Michelle Hobby.

"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." **WT**



A L I S O V I E J O C A M P U S

Send in your own questions, and we'll share the answers!

Question:

I would like to visit the SUA, Aliso Viejo campus and see it for myself. How do I arrange a tour?

Answer:

SUA, Aliso Viejo's next Family Tour Day will be May 5, 2001. Everyone is welcome, and you may make a reservation by e-mailing us at info@soka.edu or calling (949) 472-3051. If you are applying for the fall 2001 entering freshman class and wish to see the campus before that date, please contact us at the same number, and we will arrange a time for you to visit the campus.

Question:

My parents cannot afford to send me to SUA. Can SUA provide financial aid?

Answer:

Yes. The admission process at SUA is based upon merit and does not consider your ability to pay. Once a student has been admitted to SUA, we will work with each family that has submitted the required financial aid form to put together a financial aid package especially for them. A typical package will include student loans, student work/study and a scholarship grant from the university. Some of these grants will be made possible by the SGI-USA Scholarship Fund. SUA's goal is that all admitted students will be able to attend SUA, regardless of their economic status.

If you have questions of any kind about SUA, please send them to SUA at either admission@soka.edu or info@soka.edu. We will use this World Tribune column to share our answer with others who might have the same questions.

Interested in Working at SUA?

Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo currently has seven staff positions and one faculty position open. Check our employment page regularly at www.soka.edu for current job openings.

SUA Seeks a Director of Development

The Director is responsible for the overall management of fundraising activities for the University. She/he will work closely with the President, Vice President of Administrative Affairs and the Director of Community Relations. In consultation with this group, the Director designs, plans, directs and implements all aspects of the program; identifies and cultivates prospective donors; maintains communi-

cations with established donors and develops promotional materials and publication and oversees their production. Working with a small staff, she/he prepares status reports, coordinates submission of proposals to foundations and corporations, maintains and records gifts, and prepares financial reports. SUA is seeking a person who has strong leadership, management and organizational skills and who has a successful proven track record in fund-raising, and also the motivation, creativity and initiative to surpass goals.

Candidates should have: A Bachelor's degree/Master's degree preferred, minimum of five years professional experience administering development programs within a university, nonprofit corporation

or comparable institution, or other related experience required. Development experience in California (Orange County) desirable.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. SUA also offers a competitive benefits package. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. To apply send a letter of interest, resume, salary requirements and three professional references to:

Katherine M. King, PHR
Human Resources Manager
Soka University of America
1 University Drive
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-4105

Soka University of America is an equal opportunity employer.

S O K A U N I V E R S I T Y , A L I S O V I E J O

SUA Honors Gandhi and Pauling Families

By TED MORINO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo has named its first two academic buildings after Mohandas and Kasturba Gandhi and Linus and Ava Helen Pauling. The university's intent is to commend not only Gandhi, who fought for peace through non-violence, and Pauling, father of modern chemistry and winner of a Nobel Prize for peace, but also their wives who contributed significantly to their efforts.

Currently under construction and scheduled for completion by spring 2001, these will serve as a stage for SUA students to develop into leaders for peace. SUA hopes to create a great tra-

dition by inheriting the spirit of these historical figures.

In response to the announcement, Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi and founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, said: "I see SGI President Ikeda's worldwide activity for peace as a precious example of the inheritance of my grandfather's spirit of nonviolence. It is my sincere wish that SUA will carry on the founder's example and build a splendid university."

"I and others in the Pauling family are greatly honored that an SUA building will be named after my parents," said Dr. Linus Pauling Jr. "I am sure that my parents would feel the same way if they were alive. I expect graduates of SUA to be at the forefront of peace promotion." **WT**



S U A A T A G L A N C E

	Calabasas Campus	Aliso Viejo Campus
Academic Program	Graduate School	Liberal Arts College
Dedication date	Feb. 3, 1987	May 3, 2001
Degree offered	Master of Arts (MA)	Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Major	Second and Foreign Language Education	Liberal Arts
Concentration(s)	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)	Humanities; International Studies; Social and Behavioral Sciences
Program duration	1 1/2 years	4 years
Fall 2001 admissions deadlines	April 30, 2001	Jan. 15, 2001 (Regular)
Admissions e-mail	grad_admissions@soka.edu	admissions@soka.edu
Admissions telephone	818-878-3717	888-600-SOKA (toll free), 949-389-9500
Fax number	818-880-9326	949-472-3059, 949-362-3775
Web page	www.soka.edu/calabasas	www.soka.edu/homeav.html
Address	26800 West Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas, CA 91302	1 University Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

*Ring in the
New Year
With Soka
University,
Aliso Viejo!*

Celebrate the beginning of the real New Millennium at Soka University's New Year's Eve Gala on the new Aliso Viejo campus site! Dress: Black Tie and Tennis Shoes. Donation: \$100 per person. All proceeds benefit the SUA Millennium Scholarship Endowment Fund. This special evening includes walking tours (sparkle up those tennis shoes), dinner and Big Band dancing. Please contact info@soka.edu or call (949) 472-3051 if you would like to receive an invitation with all of the details or make a reservation. **WT**



- Concrete is being poured in front and back of the Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library.

- Eight lily ponds have been constructed near Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Hall.

- The atrium (dome) ceiling in Founders Hall is now completed. (Founders Hall was formerly known as the Student and Community Services Building. It has been renamed for all the people helping make the university possible.) **WT**



Uruguay Issues Stamp Commemorating SGI's 25th Anniversary

On Oct. 2, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay's Postal Service unveiled an official stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the SGI in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Republic presented SGI President Daisaku Ikeda with a commendation in recognition of his leadership of the SGI and its peace activities. The stamp, designed by E. de Ogueta, features reliefs of first and second Soka Gakkai presidents, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, respectively, and the SGI logo. The stamp can be viewed on Uruguay Postal Service's home page, at www.correo.com.uy/filatelia/frames/index_ingles.htm.

Engraved Rock Dedicated at Tobong SGI Peace Park, Seoul, Korea

On Oct. 10, a rock monument engraved with a portion of an epic poem by SGI President Ikeda was unveiled at Seoul's Tobong SGI Peace Park. The park was officially entrusted to SGI-Korea's care in April of this year by the Tobong District of Seoul, South Korea.



The park covers 51,774 square feet and is filled with 200 luxuriant maiden-hair trees planted in the spring by local SGI-Korea members.

SGI Human Rights Exhibition Opens in Italian City

On Sept. 16, the SGI's human rights exhibition "Toward a Century of Humanity — An Overview of Human Rights in Today's World" opened at Castel Senese, built by the Medici family in the Middle Ages, in Grosseto City, Italy. The exhibition displays photographs and facts on the history of human rights, violations of freedom of thought, religion and expression, and the rights of women, children and displaced people. Approximately 400 guests came to the opening, including Grosseto's mayor and other government officials. The exhibition, supported by the United Nations Information Center

(UNIC), has traveled to five cities where 77,000 have viewed the exhibition.

SGI Children's Exhibition Opens in Wolfratshausen, Germany

On Sept. 13, the SGI "World Boys and Girls Art Exhibition" opened in Wolfratshausen, Germany. The exhibition includes 150 drawings and paintings by children of 100 countries and regions, as well as 250 by local children. Approximately 300 guests, including Wolfratshausen's mayor, attended the opening. This is the second showing in Germany, following a November 1999 showing in Hamburg.

SGI-France Holds Music Festival

On Oct. 1, SGI-France youth hosted a music festival in Paris. About 4,000 people participated in the festival, held in the afternoon and evening. Approx-

imately 300 youthful performers staged a colorful cultural performance that included choruses, ballet and a fire-and-drum corps. SGI President Daisaku Ikeda sent a message, asking the young people to blaze a trail with passion and hope for a human renaissance in the new millennium. Andre Fage, the co-founder of the Val de Bièvres Photo Club, was among the guests.

Four Thousand SGI-Peru Youth Sponsor Music Festival

On Sept. 24, SGI-Peru youth sponsored a music festival commemorating Soka Gakkai's 70th anniversary, the SGI's 25th anniversary, and the 40th anniversary of Oct. 2, World Peace Day. SGI President Ikeda began his worldwide journey for peace on Oct. 2, 1960. The theme song for the festival, "Song of Victory," is a Japanese pop-tune written by Okinawa-based singer Alberto Shiroma, originally from Peru. Four thousand youth gathered for the event at an outdoor theater in Lima, Peru.

Courtesy of SOKANET (www.sokagakkai.or.jp)

BUDDHISM IN DAILY LIFE

The Three Existences

One of the most fundamental tenets of Buddhism is the eternity of life. Human beings perceive the continuous flow of time in terms of past, present and future. These three are inextricably linked by the law of cause and effect. The Contemplation on the Mind-Ground Sutra states: "If you want to understand the causes that existed in the past, look at the results as they are manifested in the present. And if you want to understand what results will be manifested in the future, look at the causes that exist in the present (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 279).

While it is very important that we take responsibility for all the effects we are experiencing at this moment and not diminish our own power by apportioning blame to some third party, the emphasis in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism always is to practice the Buddhism of the True Cause; that is, to concentrate solely on the cause we are making in the present, thereby assuring that we create positive effects in the future. We are encouraged to establish firm goals, linked to the highest goal of kosen-rufu, in order to advance with a sense of purpose and hope.

It is human to become discouraged at times. If the progress toward our goals could take the shape of a straight line on a graph proceeding unhindered from bottom left to top right corner, then this pursuit could be managed totally by the intellect and we would not need Buddhism. Faith in Buddhism, however, opens our lives to a world of infinite possibility, of limitless power.

In *Space and Eternal Life*, a dialogue between eminent astronomer Chandra Wickramasinghe and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, Mr. Ikeda states: "Buddhism expounds the principle that 'the Universe is one's self.' It teaches that the human being is essentially one with the Universe and clarifies the vastness of the human mind. Spatially the infinite expanse of the Universe in the ten directions and temporally the eternal flow of time spanning the three existences of past, present and future — all this is contained in a single moment of one's mind" (p. 6).

From the standpoint of Buddhahood, our past, no matter how murky, becomes a reason to be joyful; it is what got us here, to this moment. The future exists only in our imaginations, and we are free to imagine ourselves as happy, confident peo-

ple who are winners in life.

In the 53rd installment of "The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra: a Discussion on Religion in the Twenty-first Century," Daisaku Ikeda has this to say: "Now is eternity. Right now is the 'beginning.' The past is gone. The future has not yet arrived. The present moment is all that exists.

"The present in an instant becomes the past. We may say that it exists; we may also say that it doesn't exist. This is the meaning of non-substantiality. Life continues from moment to moment. Apart from this moment, life has no actuality. One moment we might feel happiness; the next, misery.

"To view this moment of life as the direct effect of some cause made in the past is to think in terms of the True Effect. To think, in other words, 'I did that, so this happened.' But that perspective alone will not give rise to hope.

"The key is to view one's life at the present moment as the cause for creating future effects. This is the True Cause that reaches the very depths of one's being. It is not a superficial cause.

"Temporally, our lives are rooted in the life of time without beginning. Spatially, they are the True Cause that per-

vades the entire realm of phenomena. This is Nam-myoho-enge-kyo, the eternal cosmic life, the great principle that moves the entire universe and sparks constant development.

"Therefore, when we believe in the Gohonzon as the embodiment of that Law, chant the Mystic Law and take action, at that moment we are experiencing eternity. And it is then that the eternally pure and boundless life force that is 'neither created nor adorned, but remaining in its original state' (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 759) wells forth. We enjoy complete freedom in both the present and the future. Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism is the Buddhism of hope."

"No matter how bad our present circumstances might be, even if it seems we are fighting a losing battle, we must stand up determined not to be defeated, and from there show actual proof of the limitless potential of the Mystic Law. Is this not the true purpose of faith?" (*October Living Buddhism*, pp. 32-33).

When we are struggling to bring about some great change in our lives, it is only natural that we start to observe our negative thoughts and responses. However, having once established during our daimoku that we definitely are going to change, then each time negative thoughts come in, we can immediately counteract them. Let's say we have determined to treasure every person. The next

time the phone rings in the middle of our favorite "soap," we may find ourselves groaning "Oh, no!" but in the time it takes to get up and answer, we can decide, "Whoever this is, I'm going to treasure them!" It is small continual efforts like this that bring about big, dramatic changes. As President Ikeda says, this is not a superficial cause, but one that reaches the very depths of our being.

Courtesy of UK Express



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M O R E H O U S E C O L L E G E H I G H L I G H T S

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE HONORS SGI PRESIDENT

On Sept. 7, Morehouse College, the alma mater of American civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., inducted SGI President Ikeda into its Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars. The ceremony was held at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji and officiated by Dr. Lawrence E. Carter Sr., dean of the college's King International Chapel. Dr. Carter was accompanied by close friend and colleague Dr. George D. Miller, professor of philosophy at Lewis University in Illinois.

Commencing the ceremony, Dr. Carter lauded President Ikeda for promoting the unconditional love and spirit of nonviolence embodied by Jesus Christ, Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. King (see Dr. Carter's speech below). Dr. Carter then read the induction citation, which pays tribute to the SGI leader's humanistic contributions and proclaims him to be a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars. It states: "You are strengthening global democracy by educating us through your emphatic dedication to the mentor-disciple principle.... [Y]our voice and life echo the teachings and activism of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas Karamchand 'Mahatma' Gandhi."

After formally handing the citation to President Ikeda, Dr. Carter then presented Mr. and Mrs. Ikeda with an enlarged photograph of an oil painting of the two of them standing together with Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, the first and second Soka Gakkai presidents. He explained that the original oil would be unveiled on April 1, 2001, in the Great Nave of the King International Chapel for induction into the school's International Hall of Honor.

In his acceptance speech, President Ikeda touched on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, which is regarded as one of the greatest speeches of the 20th century (see Oct. 13 *World Tribune*). Dr. King delivered the address on Aug. 28, 1963, during the historic civil rights march on Washington D.C., which was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declaring an end to slavery. At the time, Dr. King was 34.

Before a crowd of some 250,000, Dr. King declared: "I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream." President Ikeda observed that Dr. King, true to his words, dedicated his life to the lofty



SGI President Ikeda is inducted by Dr. Lawrence Carter into Morehouse College's Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars, at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, Sept. 7.

dream of social justice and died a martyr for that cause.

Relating how Tsunesaburo Makiguchi likewise died in prison in pursuit of the dream of justice and peace, Mr. Ikeda said that he wished to dedicate this honor, symbolizing the glory of the Soka Gakkai's 70th anniversary, to the founding president. The SGI leader also discussed the convictions of Dr.

Benjamin E. Mays, the sixth president of Morehouse College, who had met Mahatma Gandhi in India in the 1930s and became Martin Luther King Jr.'s mentor.

Founded in 1867 and located in Atlanta, Morehouse College has a proud tradition as one of the country's leading institutions of higher learning catering chiefly to African-Ameri-

can students. Its graduates, who are active in all areas of society, include ambassadors, university presidents and Olympic gold medallists.

The King International Chapel seeks to raise awareness of the achievements of Dr. King and other champions of human rights, and to transmit the message of nonviolence to future generations. **WT**

Tribute to Dr. Daisaku Ikeda

The following is a speech given by Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr. at the 49th Headquarters Leaders Meeting in Hachioji, Japan, Sept. 7.

Speech by Dr. Lawrence Carter

Good afternoon, I bring you warm greetings from the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Morehouse College, our 3,000 African American students, 150 faculty, the president and the 35 trustees. I am personally very happy to be at Soka University as the guest of Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, whom I admire and consider one of my spiritual mentors.

Dr. Ikeda, you have kept your mind in creative, productive work. You are one of the most highly educated persons in the civilized world. You have

plunged into the sea of books to think your way out of the wilderness of ideas to climb the mountaintop of unquestionable enlightenment. You are a lover of learning and hence, the richest and happiest of men. You recognize that reading minds are growing minds. To read well is to think well. Your books and poems are not written for money, but to inspire higher impulses, adding to the world's humanity, wisdom, understanding, knowledge and joy. You are replete with curative virtues against the maladies of mediocrity and superficiality.

You are endowed with treasures that make the poorest person rich. You have a spiritual wealth that no power can diminish, a dedication to liberal

education and an eternal New World of wisdom. Your life gives glory and grace to humankind. Dr. Ikeda, you are the quintessential model of civility recalling the world to sanity by increasing our moral, intellectual and spiritual love. You are strengthening global democracy by educating us through your emphatic dedication to the mentor-disciple principle. Therefore, it is my sincere honor to induct you into our highest society of value creation in the American Academy.

Your citation reads:

Morehouse College, be it known to all that Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, Third President of Soka Gakkai, Founder of the Soka School System of Japan and Soka University of America;

Because of your life's mission, the relevance and the universality of your scholarship for the 21st Century; because your

voice and life echo the teachings and activism of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas Karamchand "Mahatma" Gandhi; and because of your good character in the tradition of the New Testament Good Samaritan, and because you are the spiritual mentor to generations of people of the world, you are hereby proclaimed a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars.

You are henceforth recognized for having embodied the ecumenical moral laws. These laws are a synthesis of philosophical ethics originating in Judeo-Buddhist-Hindu-Islamic-Christian scriptures, tradition and ancient African history. Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi lived their lives and led the nonviolent civil and human

M O R E H O U S E C O L L E G E H I G H L I G H T S

Set Examples of Nonviolence!

Dean Lawrence E. Carter, of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College in Atlanta, and Dr. George D. Miller, a philosophy professor of Lewis University in Illinois, discussed the life of Dr. Martin Luther King with SGI President Daisaku Ikeda. The dialogue took place on the evening of Sept. 7 at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall, following the 49th Headquarters Leaders Meeting, at which the SGI president was inducted into Morehouse College's Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars. The following is a summary of their discussion about the battle waged by Dr. King to establish human equality:

SGI President Ikeda: We have just concluded the ceremony. You must be tired. I appreciate your taking the time for an informal dialogue with me.

Dean Carter: Today, I feel that I have completely changed my life on its deepest level.

Ikeda: Many people want to learn about Dr. King. Could you, who carry his spirit, speak about his justice and truth?

Carter: Yes. I will speak about how he truly was as I knew him.

Ikeda: You really look like Mr. Mandela. I heartily respect the former president of South Africa. I understand he once visited Morehouse College.

Carter: He once came to Morehouse College on a goodwill trip to the United States. Ours was the only college in America that he visited in person. However, he received honorary doctorate degrees from as many as 38 colleges in 20 minutes. His entire visit to Morehouse was just over one hour.

Ikeda: I have heard that you personally met Dr. King when you were 17. What was your first impression of him?

Carter: I met him in 1959 when he was 30 years old. Our meeting took place at the Union Grove Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. I saw him in the pastor's study room after the morning service. He was sitting there all by himself when I entered the room. I thought it was empty. I had asked permission to go into the pastor's study to

look at his library. I began examining the books near the entrance. When I turned around to view the rest of the library, Dr. King was sitting on the opposite side of the study watching me. He asked my name and if I had considered going to college. When I said, "Yes," he recommended Morehouse College. However, I informed him that some people close to me opposed the idea of my going to Morehouse. I, therefore, decided to attend a different college. I met him for the second time in the second semester of my freshman year at Virginia University of Lynchburg. He delivered a speech titled "The American Dream." It was the most powerful address I had ever heard. I knew with certainty I was supposed to be at Morehouse College.

I called my mother, but her response to my idea of going to Morehouse was negative. I deliberately entered Boston University after graduating from college, where Dr. King had studied for his Ph.D. degree. My feeling was that I wanted to study under the very same professors who taught him. These professors were near retirement, already retired or deceased. I believe I was one of the last African American students to study with Dr. King's teachers at Boston.

Carter:
Generally speaking, Dr. King is believed to have inherited his non-violent temperament from his mother.... He did not want to attack people, but rather injustice.

In 1979, the president of Morehouse College, Dr. Hugh M. Gloster, offered me the chance to be the first dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. I was thus finally able to become part of Morehouse College. It took me from 1959 to 1979 to complete my journey.

Ikeda: What do you think made Dr. King advocate non-violence?



(L-r) Dr. George D. Miller, Dean Lawrence Carter and SGI President Ikeda enjoy the view from Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall after the 49th Headquarters Leaders Meeting, Sept. 7.

Carter: Generally speaking, Dr. King is believed to have inherited his nonviolent temperament from his mother. He also realized that oppressed African Americans could not win a violent confrontation against the larger American social order that was highly oriented to militarism. He did not want to attack people, but rather injustice. He believed that the "end" was pre-existent in the "means."

Ikeda: I see.

Carter: It is said that his robust, bullish courage came from his father, Martin Luther King Sr. whom everyone fondly called Daddy King. The senior King was extremely brave. In front of his son, he once challenged a prejudiced southern white police officer. When Dr. King was a child, one day he was riding in the family car with his father. A white police officer stopped their car and said to Daddy King, "Boy, show me your driver's license." His father, pointing to his son, said fearlessly to the policeman: "This is a boy! I am a man!" It was rare in those days for blacks to stand up to whites like that. Black people usually became frightened when intimidated by white people in authority.

Here is another story: It happened when Dr. King's father

and he went to buy a pair of shoes for the younger King. When they were waiting in the front of the shoe store where only white people were generally served, a clerk requested them to move to the back of the store. Daddy King quickly responded, "I will buy a pair of shoes from this seat! Otherwise, I will take my business elsewhere!" After being rebuffed and holding his son's hand, the father stepped out of the shop and said to his son, "I have had enough of discrimination. You are no longer Michael. From this day forth your name shall be Martin Luther King Jr., and you will fix this situation."

Ikeda: These are indeed precious stories. What a wonderful father! By the way, what words of Dr. King do you like most?

Carter: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And, "You should be judged by the content of your character and not by the color of your skin."

Ikeda: Great! What is your greatest memory of encountering Dr. King?

Carter: When I was a freshman at Boston University, Dr. King came to Harvard University to preach. The service was supposed to start at 11 a.m. but

because he was trapped answering the questions of newspaper reporters at the Boston International Airport, he arrived at Harvard two hours late. No one left Harvard Memorial Church before his arrival. The entire congregation was patiently waiting for his arrival. On that occasion I had a chance to speak to Dr. King after the service. I asked him if he remembered me. He stared hard into my face as I reminded him of our encounter in Columbus, Ohio when I was an eleventh grader, the time he recruited me to go to Morehouse College. A light came on in his head and he said, "Oh yes, I remember you."

Ikeda: Is that right?

Carter: Not only that, he was very happy to know that I was a student at Boston University, School of Theology, his alma mater. He then signed a book for me.

Ikeda: That must be unforgettable for you. By the way, Dr. King is famous for his historic "I Have A Dream" speech he gave. Through it, he touched so many people's hearts and motivated them to stand up in the battle for freedom. What in his address captured his listener's hearts?

Carter: As is well known, Dr. King was a powerfully elo-

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M O R E H O U S E C O L L E G E H I G H L I G H T S

quent speaker. And he made use of wonderful metaphors. Beautiful sounding words naturally gushed from his heart and his expressions were very poetic and picturesque. Here is a good example: When he referred to the lips of the governor of Alabama who opposed the integration of the public schools of that state, he said, "The Governor of Alabama with his lips dripping with interposition and nullification."

I am afraid that our interpreters may not get what he meant by that expression. Dr. King's large words were probably not understood by the large crowd who heard him referencing the Governor of Alabama. They knew Dr. King was criticizing the Governor for being an obstacle to African American freedom. And the polysyllabic sound of the words, "interposition" and "nullification" appealed to the highly developed sense of tone color in the ear of African American culture. Hence, the 250,000-member crowd before the Lincoln Memorial roared their approval and laughter.

Ikeda: You are a wonderful storyteller for Dr. King. By the way, where were you when Dr. King was assassinated? How did you first hear of his death? [Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee on the evening of April 4, 1968.]

Carter: When he was killed, I was at Boston University watching a play with my fiancée. It was a play about the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. During the intermission, the dean of the School of Theology, Dr. Walter G. Muelder got the attention of my preaching professor, Dr. Robert E. Luccock, who was seated in front of us and invited him out of the auditorium. Dean Muelder was one of the signatories on Dr. King's degree and later on mine. I saw the two men standing outside having a serious talk. Concerned about what might have gone wrong, I went outside and asked was everything all right. Dean Muelder, in a very stern voice, told me, "Dr. King has been shot." After I caught my breath, I asked him if he was all right. Dean Muelder replied, "He died a few minutes ago."

Hearing this news sent a shock throughout my body. I instantly decided to leave the theater with Marva, my fiancée.

Walking hand in hand very slowly, we started down Commonwealth Avenue toward the center of the university to Daniel Marsh Chapel. We entered the darkened sanctuary and sat on the last pew in the rear of the nave looking up at the rose of Sharon stained glass window of Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. With tears flowing down my face, I prayed out loud, "Help me dear God to do something great for Martin Luther King Jr. before I die!"

Ikeda: Your words are indeed profound. I understand that you will be giving a sermon and a lecture at Harvard University Jan. 14 and 15, 2001, for the anniversary of Dr. King's birthday. What will be your theme?

Ikeda:
Dr. King received an honorary doctorate from Morehouse College when he was 28. It was right after his courageous, wise leadership in the famous bus boycott movement in Montgomery, Ala.

Carter: I have not clearly decided upon a theme yet, but I will share with you what is on my mind now. I may address Dr. King's awareness of the importance of affirmative action. He always believed like his mentor, Benjamin Elijah Mays, that when you start behind in the race of life, you have to run faster to catch up. I have been concerned that politicians are trying to exploit the use of Dr. King's name to abolish affirmative action programs. Dr. King believed that affirmative action was necessary to realize equal competition between blacks and whites, since whites have been more advantaged for several centuries in the United States.

I may also address Dr. King's view of Christianity. It was not a narrow-minded perspective on religion. Dr. King had a big heart for embracing everybody irrespective of their faith tradition. He accepted everyone regardless of their religious creed. He took seriously Jefferson's words that "... [A]ll men are created equal.

Ikeda: That is a very important viewpoint.

Carter: Let me give a concrete example. At one time Dr. King was asked, "Who is the greatest Christian of the 20th Century?" His answer was, "Mahatma Gandhi," a Hindu. He was able to transcend institutional religion and to deeply understand the spirituality of all people.

Ikeda: Dr. Benjamin Mays, the sixth president of Morehouse College and your own mentor, was a great educator. He developed your college into an international institution. He is also known as Dr. King's mentor. What is the most important thing that you learned from President Mays? By the way, the other day you sent me a book on President Mays that you wrote. I am deeply grateful.

Carter: You are most welcome. President Mays would often stress the point that we should see the humanity of our oppressors. He taught us not to hurt others for any reason. He thus taught us to help others to get rid of the injustice that exists in their hearts. In this way he taught us to put a stop to unjust activities.

Ikeda: Dr. Mays was selected as one of the 53 most influential African Americans in United States history. What do you think was the biggest role Dr. Mays played in human history?

Carter: Dr. Mays resolved to become a person of integrity and made every effort to do so in an age when segregation was rampant. In so doing he planted the seeds of revolution in the hearts of Morehouse students. Many of them acknowledged him as their mentor and went on to become social engineers. He helped these students from his famous Tuesday morning Chapel talks to become the still, small whisper of the mighty wind that blew down the walls of segregation. He said to Morehouse men that even if they had to ride segregated buses, that after they deposited their money in the front and took their seat in the rear they should keep their minds in the front of the bus.

Ikeda: What a wonderful spirit! His words touched my heart deeply. Nowadays in Japan there is a serious cry for reformation in education. So many cases of youth violence have been reported in recent years. How do you think adults should deal with children who are compelled to resort to violence?

Carter: This is a very important question.

Ikeda: It is the most serious issue in Japan today.

Carter: Arun Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson says, "Anger is a form of passive violence." I believe that the best way to solve the issue of violence among the children is for adults to demonstrate nonviolence through their concrete actions. Children learn more from what they see us do than from what they hear us say. Gandhi is right, "We must be the change we wish to see."

Ikeda: You are right. These words are very enlightening and provocative. In a nutshell, what do you think is the purpose of education?

Carter: It is to empower children with the capacity to emancipate themselves. Put another way, education is supposed to show students how to become mature, civil, humane, ecumenical, and the importance of being able to learn from members of the opposite sex.

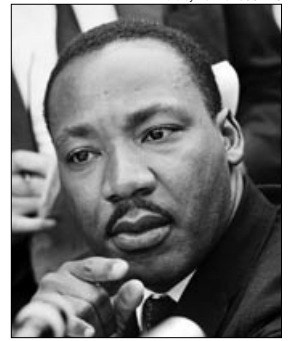
Ikeda: You founded the Gandhi Institute for Reconciliation in April of this year.

Carter: Yes, we founded it to cope with the very issue that we are talking about, violence.

Ikeda: What is the part of Morehouse College's history you are most proud of?

Carter: I have the deepest pride in the fact that our College has produced many great individuals such as Howard Thurman and Martin Luther King Jr. President Hugh Gloster used to say that if we had only graduated these two men our existence would be justified.

Dr. Thurman, who graduated in 1923, was the first African American to meet face to face with Mahatma Gandhi in 1936 and to interview him on the relevance of nonviolence for ending American segregation. Thurman interviewed Gandhi for half a day when he and his wife returned to Howard University where Thurman was the first Dean of Chapel. He reported to Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, a Morehouse College graduate of the class of 1911. President Johnson was so impressed with the report on Gandhi by Thurman that he called an unscheduled meeting of the faculty in Andrew Rankin Chapel for Thurman to give his report. In the audience was Benjamin Mays. Thurman urged both Johnson and Mays to go to India to confirm his findings with Gandhi. Presi-



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., June 1966.

dent Johnson was already busy turning the Howard University Law School into the West Point of the Civil Rights Movement. He chose a Morehouse man, James Madison Nabrit Jr., class of 1923 and the roommate of Howard Thurman, to teach the first course ever taught in the United States on civil rights law. Nabrit's most famous student was Justice Thurgood Marshall who won the famous 1954 Supreme Court case of Brown vs. the Board of Education that desegregated all American schools.

Ikeda: Your story tells of truly respectable people's great efforts to establish equality. Dr. King received an honorary doctorate from Morehouse College when he was 28. It was right after his courageous, wise leadership in the famous bus boycott movement in Montgomery, Ala. On the occasion of awarding Dr. King's first honorary degree in 1957, Dr. Mays said the following with deep emotion: "Your alma mater, Morehouse College, is very happy to become the first College to bestow an honorary doctorate degree upon you in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of our founding." I sense the existence of an immortal spiritual heritage in your college.

Carter: Yes, you're right. Another individual I want to mention is President Emeritus Hugh M. Gloster, who founded the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, established the Morehouse School of Medicine and built 13 buildings on our campus. Dr. Gloster was the first American to teach in Japan after World War II. He is now 92 years old and is in good health and high spirits. He was the seventh president of Morehouse and was mentored by Howard Thurman and Dr. Mays. Thurman was the College Chaplain

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

THE GLORY OF THE UNREQUIRED

The following is a speech given by Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr. at Kansai Soka High School, Sept. 9.

Because your school motto is "wisdom, passion and glory," I have decided to speak today from the topic "the glory of the unrequired."

How many of you intend to be great? If it is not you, it will surely be somebody else. Greatness, like money, power and prestige, are not ends in themselves, but byproducts of our commitment to something beyond ourselves. Greatness, like success, is a moving target. Just because you are having an easy passage through high school does not mean that the wheels of success are permanently greased. No, they are not permanently greased for anyone, not now or ever. The only fate that the future has depends on the choices you and I make

in this year 2000.

To choose or elect the unrequired is the first step toward greatness, and the top, where there is plenty of room. If you choose the unrequired, it is the first indication that you've got the COURAGE for glory.

Doing the unrequired is the only way to bring out the stars.

The glory of the unrequired involves not just a contribution but a commitment.

Vote for the best. Don't vote for safe ideas, the least, the easiest or the cheapest in yourself. If you vote cheap, you'll be cheap. But if I were you, I would vote for the road less traveled, and that will make all the difference in the world. Let yourself be used by great ideas, chase the rainbow, build air castles, grasp after the moon, and yes, you reach for the stars.

In the Hebrew Bible, the book of Genesis 1:16, you will find these words: "And the Creator made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser to rule the night; He

Speech by Dr. Lawrence Carter

made the stars also."

The stars, however, are the giant glories of creation. Nobody knows how many billions of stars exist. And the text says, the Creator created the stars also—"also." Think of the immensity of the "also." The Creator is always throwing in a little extra, going beyond the call of duty.

Are you in tune with greatness? The Creator is. Jesus is, the original Buddha is, Martin Luther King Jr. is, Leontyne Price is, Coretta King is and Dr. Ikeda is.

If you want to move mountains with faith and force, becoming dedicated deliverers in the tradition of Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, then you must do the unrequired.

Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, Martin Luther King Jr.'s mentor

said: "It must be borne in mind that the tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal, the tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with unfulfilled dreams, but it is a calamity not to dream. It is not a disaster to be unable to capture your ideal, but it is a disaster to have no ideal to capture. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is sin."

Do you have the nerve and courage to advocate the alternative to violence? I'm talking about a commitment, something extra, going beyond what is required, being a winner.

If you think you are beaten, you are;

If you think you dare not, you don't;

If you'd like to win, but you think you can't

It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you've lost

For out in the world you find
Success begins with a fellow's will—
It's all in the state of mind

If you think you're out-
classed, you are;
You've got to think high to
rise;
You've got to be sure of your-
self before
You can ever win the prize.

Think big and your deeds
will grow;
Think small and you'll fall
behind;
Think that you can and you
will—
It's all in the state of mind.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster
person;
But sooner or later he who
wins
Is the one who thinks he can.

—"The Winner" (author unknown)

FROM TRIBUTE, 5

rights movement based on these principles.

This citation, my good sir, then lists the twenty ethical principles in six philosophical categories. They are the principles of:

- Consistency
- Autonomy
- Coherent Valuation
- Consequences
- The Best Possible
- Situational Relevance
- Variety and Depth
- Ideal Control
- Ecological Integrity
- Self Realization
- Altruism
- The Ideal of Personality
- Cooperation
- Social Devotion
- The Ideal of Community
- Nonviolent Caring
- Conflict and Reconciliation
- Fallibility and Corrigibility
- The Metaphysical Source
- And
- Ethical Adaptation to Ultimate Reality

Testifying to this investiture, and

In Witness whereof under the seals of the College and the Chapel, the signatures of duly authorized officers are here

unto affixed, the seventh day September, 2000

Per Dominum Nostrum Jesum Christum. (Through Jesus Christ Our Lord)

Otis Moss Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Walter Eugene Massey, President of the College

Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Fifty-two philosophers of these principles are here referenced including Nichiren Daishonin, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, Josei Toda, and Daisaku Ikeda.

Dr. Ikeda, I call you forth; Mrs. Ikeda, would you join us?

In token of this investiture on April 1, 2001 at 11 anti meridiem, your official oil portrait will be unveiled in the Great Nave of King Chapel for induction into our International Hall of Honor, designated for those world citizens who have contributed the most to the civil and human rights nonviolent movement in the 20th Century. We have brought to Japan an enlarged photograph of the oil portrait of you, your wife, Kaneko Ikeda, the first president of the Soka Gakkai, and its second president, your mentor. You have our sincerest congratulations! **W**

FROM DIALOGUE, 7

to Morehouse when Dr. Gloster was a student in the early 1930s. The spiritual heritage of our College is based on the view that the highest form of spirituality is cooperation. It has been a salt and pepper cooperation that has helped Morehouse College to become a profound contributor to the building of our nation.

Ikeda: I am told that Professor Miller is an excellent philosopher. Professor Miller, who would you name as the five greatest philosophers in the history of humankind?

Professor Miller: I would first mention Socrates. Also, Brazil's Paulo Fraire had a strong influence on my life. He taught the poor how to read and write. He aimed to develop their interest in politics. In his masterpiece, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, he stresses the importance of dialogue as you, Dr. Ikeda, do. He contends that education should be an opportunity for both teachers and students to enlighten and learn from one another. More than half a million copies of this book have been sold. It triggered a wave of educational reformation in the United States. I personally met him before he died.

I also would say that Hegel and Sartre were great philosophers. Lao-tse of China also deserves our attention. A trend of organizational reformation is growing today in the United States, advocating a transition from a pyramid-style structure to a reverse-pyramid style. Leaders exist to spontaneously serve their constituency in this new organizational structure. Lao-tse provides a philosophical basis for this organizational reformation.

What is common to excellent philosophers is the fact that they are not mere ideologists but men of action. They always work among the people.

Ikeda: Professor Miller, how did you come to know Morehouse College?

Miller: I became connected with Morehouse through Dean Carter, whom I dearly respect. I was invited to the King International Chapel last year to give a lecture. I spoke about hope at that time. As I am an avid reader of Dr. King's books, I feel an upsurge of hope simply by being at a place that is crowned with his name.

Ikeda: Dr King says to the effect that "People move leaders, not vice versa."

Miller: It is no good, even on campus, if professors always

act as professors and students always as students. Everybody should be both a professor and a student.

Ikeda: Chancellor Mays of Morehouse College states to the effect that "Materials, power, fame, house, property, stocks and securities may maintain us physically and give us economic and social stability. But only with a great ideal can we truly live our lives." I see truth in these words. Buddhism teaches, "The treasures of the heart are the most valuable of all" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 851). Where do you think we can find the key to enabling young people to understand such an ultimate principle for living?

Miller: We can compare our own existence to a piece of cloth and our ethics to threads that make up that cloth. We should not fall into the error of hypocrisy. We should always etch in our minds that we must show a great example to others through our actions.

Ikeda: The world of academia and the world of education are supreme worlds for the human species. I hope we will carry on a lasting friendship. Thank you very much for your precious time. **W**

EXPERIENCE — ELLEN TALIAFERRO, DALLAS

Physician Strives for a Violence-Free Society

Emergency physician Ellen Taliaferro founds the Violence and Intervention Prevention Center, which provides services for victims of violence.

Twelve-year-olds shooting each other for jean jackets?" Something inside me snapped one day as the paramedics rushed a gunshot victim into the San Francisco General Hospital Emergency Department. That was it—I had to take action.

A decade ago, I began to dedicate my life to violence prevention. As a faculty emergency physician, it made sense: Why spend all our time patching people up when we could prevent the damage in the first place? Shortly thereafter, Dr. Patricia Salber and I co-founded Physicians for a Violence-free Society, a national organization aimed at heightening awareness of victims of violence and developing leadership among healthcare providers. My official journey in the world of violence-prevention had begun.

When I moved to Dallas, I became a faculty member of the Division of Emergency Medicine in the Department of Surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. There I worked in the Emergency Department at Parkland Memorial Hospital and continued to be active in PVS. Our PVS activities began to focus heavily in the area of domestic violence. In 1995, Dr. Salber and I wrote a book, *The Physicians Guide to Domestic Violence*, and spoke at many conferences on domestic violence.

In early 1996, I conceived the idea to create a Parkland Center that would exclusively take care of victims of violence. At most hospitals this new and seeming outrageous idea would have been immediately rejected. However, our CEO at Parkland Hospital, Dr. Ron Anderson, an enlightened and compassionate physician as well as a visionary, provided guidance about how to form such a unique center. A small group of fellow faculty members began to meet monthly to write a proposal for funding.



Dr. Ellen Taliaferro is the medical director of Violence and Intervention Prevention Center at Parkland Health and Hospital Center in Dallas.

It was slow going and many obstacles popped up along the way. On most days, it seemed impossible. One major benefit came through. I had the opportunity to go to the Florida Nature and Culture Center in June 1996 to present SGI President Ikeda with an award from PVS. During this visit, I received encouragement from a senior in faith. I told her that my mission was to become employed full time in violence prevention and to establish the new center. But I was frustrated. I was working hard but getting nowhere. She encouraged me to earnestly continue chanting Nam-myohorenge-kyo and "just persist, and little by little it will happen."

I returned home to work again toward this mission. I proposed that we name our center the Violence Intervention Prevention Center. The name stuck. By mid-1997, the proposal was finished and approved. Finishing the proposal was a major milestone, but the reality was that no action could occur until major funding was secured. At the end of the summer in 1997, I took a vacation that ended in a long drive across the western United States. During this journey, I vowed to become fully engaged and employed in violence prevention within the next 12 months.

Once home, frustration and the feeling of "being stuck" set in again. The prospect of working full time in violence prevention seemed quite bleak. My division chairman was adamant that I had to work full time in the emergency department unless significant funding could be obtained. No funding was forthcoming. The elation of finishing the proposal gave way to the reality of "no money, no mission."

Much of my despair was from the frustration of knowing

that funding for such a project could be obtained from various foundations and agencies in the Dallas area. However, faculty members are not allowed to approach these funding sources without approval from the development office. That approval was not forthcoming for many reasons. I was simply stuck. Chanting and persistence sounded good, but the reality was that I was getting nowhere

Once more I sought encouragement from another senior in faith, sharing with him the ensuing frustration of "getting stuck." He remarked that my previous guidance was absolutely correct. What was missing was the understanding of converting chanting and persistence into the realization of my mission. The missing key, he said, was "bringing the Buddha to work." Do this, he assured me, and it will happen.

I doubled my efforts and resolve. The major obstacle of no progress continued, but I persisted in focusing on bringing the Buddha to work by treating every person with the highest respect. One day, a phone call came from a social worker who worked with a local agency that helped survivors of human torture become legal citizens of the United States. Many of her clients arrived in this country with only their shattered lives. When they became sick, it was very difficult to get them taken care of. Someone had told her that I might be able to help her get her clients into the Parkland system.

We talked for a long time. I was impressed with her concern for her clients and her never-quit spirit. Still, every suggestion I had for her was met with the fact that she had already tried that route and had

met frustration. She told me about finally getting a patient registered and then going through an all-day ordeal when the patient needed to have blood drawn for a laboratory test. Unfortunately, this particular patient had been previously tortured with needles and became hysterical when a needle was introduced to draw his blood. The health workers dealing with the patient became frustrated and demanding, which made the patient's plight worse. When I heard this, I blurted out, "If only we can get the VIP Center open!" Here was a proposed center that could teach doctors and healthcare workers how to work with such patients.

She was immediately intrigued by the idea and asked many questions. "This is just what our clients need," she said and requested information in writing about the project. She wanted to give it to her sister who was the executive director of their family foundation. A jolt of hope shot through me. My job prohibited faculty from approaching a foundation, but there was nothing in the rules to keep me from singing like a bird if approached by a foundation.

The information about the proposed VIP Center was quickly furnished, but once again, the drab reality of no activity ensued. The excitement faded. Two months crawled by. Time was running out for me to find the opportunity to make my dream come true in Dallas. Reality was reality. Perhaps I had the right idea in the wrong place?

I put my house up for sale and began to think about returning to San Francisco. I had mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, I was very homesick for northern California and my family. On the other hand, it was hard to let this magnificent opportunity to start a one-of-a-kind multidisciplinary major center slip away. A wise co-worker scoffed at me. "Ellen," she said, "there are many people in San Francisco who do this work. San Francisco doesn't need you. Dallas needs you." It was good encouragement—but just that, encouragement. Still, the clock of no change ticked incessantly in the background. Another two months went by.

Early in May, I wrote a letter to my old chief at San Francisco General Hospital. It began, "Dear Alan, remember when I left and you told me if I ever

wanted to come back to let you know?" For good measure I faxed the letter as well as mailed it and awaited Alan's usual quick response.

That afternoon I was out of the office when my pager went off to indicate that I had voice-mail. "It must be Alan," I thought. I was wrong. When I retrieved the voice message, it was from the executive director of the Harold Simmons Foundation. She was interested in the proposal and wanted to meet.

The rest, as they say, is history. Within the month, we were notified that the foundation would provide full funding for the creation of the VIP Center and its first two years of operation.

As the medical director for VIP, I represent the center to the public. I also have my hands full teaching and doing outreach, on top of making myself available to train or assist fellow physicians and physician assistants, as well as seeing patients.

The VIP Center has now been open for more than a year and a half. During this time, we have had the opportunity to serve and learn from many patients who have sought the services of the clinic, including victims of torture and domestic abuse. We are doing our best to provide holistic care by assessing and documenting physical and emotional injuries, providing a safety plan, spiritual and emotional support, and follow-up care. Equally exciting is that we are networking with other organizations in the community to provide the most comprehensive care possible. Local press and news coverage has been very supportive of our efforts and has frequently highlighted our work, which has helped spread the news of our center to many victims of violence.

We have started research activities that we anticipate will make a major impact in preventing domestic violence. In the future, my dream is to start a violence-prevention fellowship for physicians and professionals in other healthcare fields.

Every day I go to work, I am mindful and thankful for another day to bring the Buddha to work. In the true spirit of never give up, our work continues. We plan to become a national demonstration center and help many hospitals throughout the nation start their own VIP Centers. After all, why just bring the Buddha to one workplace? **WT**

FROM PAULING, I

found the book in his father's office. The younger Pauling initiated contact with President Ikeda, who proposed a traveling exhibition in honor of Linus Pauling's lifework.

Dr. Pauling and his wife, Ava Helen, devoted their lives to increasing social awareness of the dangers of nuclear war. Already a 1954 recipient of the Nobel Prize in the area of chemistry, Dr. Pauling's activities to promote peace yielded a Nobel Prize for peace in 1962. Dr. Pauling died in 1994, but his fight for peace lives on, spearheading a positive message for the next century through this exhibition.

Kicking off the exhibition was a grand reception party hosted by the SGI-USA members of Atlanta on Sept. 15 in the Gallery's Jones Room. There were inspiring and thought-provoking speeches from guests representing Emory University, the Atlanta mayor's office and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Sponsor messages were delivered by Dr. Linus Pauling Jr., Oregon State University and the SGI.

Cliff Mead, head of Special Collections at Oregon State University, Dr. Pauling's alma mater, stated that the exhibition includes a half million items, the largest collection of any exhibition.

One showcase captured the atmosphere of Dr. Pauling at work. The area emulated his hectic schedule and busy office demeanor. Original objects owned by Dr. Pauling were arranged as if he was still at work and had temporarily stepped away.

Highlighting the exhibition was a luncheon on preventive medicine featuring guest speaker Dr. Michael McQuaide, an Oxford College professor; the Children's Peace Day, a half-day event to unite and promote peace among youth; and a two-day Peace Film Festival to stimulate dialogue and awareness of oppressive and abusive situations in our environment.

Dr. McQuaide, a highly respected sociology professor among his colleagues and peers, was happy to see so many familiar faces among the attendees. "It was really informative," said Nishant Shah, an Emory medical student. "He [Linus Pauling] asked the question very differently as to why the interest in alternative medicine in America arose now as op-



SGI-USA member Princess Riley, a storyteller, engages children in a fable during the Children's Peace Day, a half-day event to unite and promote peace among youth. It was held during the 'Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century' exhibition, sponsored by the Pauling family, Oregon State University and the Soka Gakkai International.

posed to before. It shows who we are as a society and where we are going."

Children's Peace Day was a gathering of youth ranging from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. The event was formulated to provide a safe, fun and educational setting where children came together to explore, develop and express their ideas on peace and justice through games, art and dialogue.

Peggy MacKenzie, a guest and co-worker of local SGI-USA member Eleanor Hunter, was very complimentary of the SGI's efforts to support children. She and granddaughter Alana participated in the fun-filled activities organized by SGI-USA members, who volunteered their time in making this day a total success. Peggy stated she wants peace and is supportive of SGI's involvement with children. As an English teacher and person who works with refugees, Peggy was happy to see an organization dedicated to such worthwhile causes.

Eleanor experienced the effectiveness of volunteering one's efforts for peace, mentioning that through this activity, she learned to kick her life into fifth gear. "I've been coasting along comfortably in my Buddhist practice third or fourth gear," she said. "I thought the Children's Peace Day would be easy. However, in helping the kids, I've learned to push myself to the limits. My life is now in fifth gear. I'm giving it all I've got to accept the challenge and win."

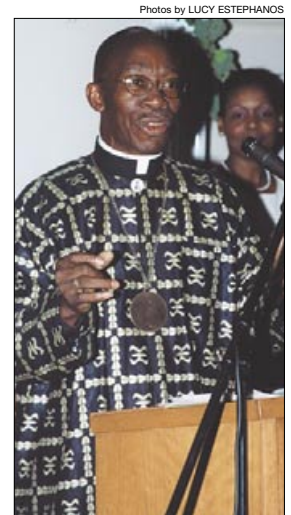
The Peace Film Festival

event also sparked interest in the SGI peace movement. Paul Gresham Hays, an Emory alumni with special interest in Atlanta's farmers and homestead, heard of the film festival through an environmental organization called The Green, and was impressed to see the SGI taking a stand on peace and our environment. He stated: "These kind of movies need to be on CNN or public television so that this message of peace can reach more people."

Dr. Billy Frye, chancellor of Emory University, commented:

"This exhibition comes at a most opportune time. We at Emory have entered into our Year of Reconciliation as declared by President Chase last year. This year we are dealing with reconciliation in a great range of contexts: race and ethnicity, social justice, violence, alienation, global conflict, business ethics, healthcare and collaboration among academic disciplines.

"The connection between these varied venues is the search for truth as a foundation for understanding one another for a just, human life and



The Reverend E. Randall Osburn from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference speaks at the exhibition's opening. The SCLC is headed by Martin Luther King III, who is also Honorable Chair of the exhibition.

sustainable future. Dr. Pauling's work and influence are woven around two strong and passionate strengths. Science as a way of knowledge and understanding, and humanitarian acts as a moral responsibility for each of us. His life epitomizes the links between these two strands to the common ideas of truth and justice and our responsibility to build links to one another in pursuit of these objectives."

Gloria Sylvester and Gloria Jean Royster contributed to this article.

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SGI-USA Participates in Religious Summit

By MARY MACK
NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

Symbolism and ceremony greeted approximately 1,000 of the world's pre-eminent religious and spiritual leaders as they gathered together at the United Nations for the First Millennium World Peace Summit on Aug. 28. This unprecedented event sought to bring together the leaders of the world's great faith traditions to discuss how to forge a partnership of peace with the United Nations and coordinate spiritual leadership as a driving force for building tolerance, fostering peace and encouraging interfaith dialogue. The conference, spanning four days, was attended by an SGI-USA delegation headed by SGI Vice President Guy McClosky.

Following the ceremonial blowing of a conch shell by Swami Bua, an Inca Blessing by Peruvian Q'ero Elders and a call to Prayer by Sheikh Ahmed Tijani Ben Omar, religious leaders of all the world's faiths conducted prayers for peace and the success of this gathering. Through the words of these representatives, it became evident that just as conflict begins in people's hearts, so must peace. Numerous speakers



SGI-USA representatives participate in the First Millennium World Peace Summit at the United Nations, Aug. 28, in New York.

urged those present to guard against the misuse of religion by those in power.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan addressed the gathering, urging those gathered to work together with a spirit of justice, equality, reconciliation and faith. He expressed hope that religious leaders be the first to speak out when they see injustice and stressed that no religion can claim a monopoly on tolerance. There must be no room for religious bigotry in the 21st century.

Ted Turner, honorary chair of the Millennium World Peace Summit and vice chair of Time Warner Communications, related his personal experience in the development of this event. Mr. Turner had considered a religious

vocation in his youth and maintained an interest in religion and philosophy, studying doctrines of the world's great religions. Through this background, and through a simple conversation with Secretary-General Annan, this gathering became a reality.

In an assemblage composed of a majority of men, women representatives made three especially powerful and challenging addresses. The Honorable Ela Gandhi, great granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and member of Congress in South Africa, stressed the importance of active, rather than passive, nonviolence. Betty Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate from Northern Ireland, reminded all that it was the women of that region who moved to stop the violence. Finally, Reverend Bishop Vashti McKensie of the African Methodist Episcopal Church challenged the assembly to examine our role in conflict, stressing that "peace doesn't just happen, it must be pursued." She

further stated that "if we can come together in this room, then the world will follow us."

The response to these women was so positive that the organizers held a breakfast meeting on the final day titled "Women and the Birth of World Peace." Attended by approximately 80 women and a few men, this session provided one of the few opportunities for informal dialogue and networking. The women present expressed concern that the over-all representation so heavily favored men, and agreed to aim for equal participation in the future.

As the summit progressed, the many difficulties facing ongoing dialogue became evident. Historic animosities surfaced as well as symbolic reconciliations. In an especially moving moment, Benjamin Waparia, a Shaman from the Amazon Region in Brazil, stood before the gathering dressed in body paint and traditional ornaments, stating that this was the first time one of his people had ever been invited to address the United Nations. He stressed that they must remember the image of him standing there and he would remember looking at them. Together we must make peace happen, he concluded. **WT**

'Aging Healthfully' in New York

By BILL BLACKARD
NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

The Golden Stage Group of New York held its second meeting of the year at the New York Culture Center on Sept. 10. The theme of the meeting was "Aging Healthfully."

More than 200 members and guests attended the meeting, whose format was a symposium shared by three medical professionals who are SGI-USA members. Joan Stroud, M.D., spoke on seeking proper medical care. Sylvia Elbaz discussed the value of proper nutrition. Lastly, Bill Thompson emphasized the necessity of physical exercise.

Sylvia Smith spoke of her experience of being unaware that she had suffered a mild heart attack until she went for a routine physical. She then quoted SGI President Ikeda: "The moment we resolve to become healthy and strong, to work cheerfully for kosen-rufu, our lives begin



Members learn simple exercises during the Golden Stage Group meeting at the New York Culture Center, Sept. 10.

to move in that direction." She then related she had improved her health by changing her diet and exercising.

Tariq Hassan, SGI-USA

men's leader, stressed the importance of living long lives to prove the power of the Hohonzon. He also mentioned that he is always most encouraged by

the Golden Stage Group because these are the members who built the foundation of kosen-rufu in the United States and the world. **WT**

The World SGI-USA's Weekly Newspaper

General Director
Daniel Nagashima

Publisher
Fred M. Zaitso
Assistant Publisher
Greg Martin
Editor in Chief
Ted Morino

Managing Editor
Margie Hall
mhall@sgi-usa.org

Associate Editor
Jeff Farr
jfarr@sgi-usa.org

Staff Writers
Stephanie Celano
scelano@sgi-usa.org
Jamie Liptan
jliptan@sgi-usa.org

Contributing Writer
Terry Ellis

Contributing Artists
Stephanie Sydney
ssydney@sgi-usa.org
Linda Eberle

Staff Translators
Jeff Kriger
Shin Yatomi

Contributing Photographers

Gregory Nakasuji
Kirk Condyles
Jonathan Wilson
Dixon Hamby
Carol Barnstead
Martin Cohen
Jean Pritchard

Photo Editor
Lisa Hollis
marvillisa@cs.com

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READERS COMMENTS

Send to:
Mailbox
606 Wilshire Blvd. PO Box 1427
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or e-mail: wt@sgi-usa.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1-800-835-4558
or e-mail: SGIUSUBS@aol.com

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THIS BEAUTIFUL EARTH: PHOTO ESSAY BY SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA



May at Taplow Court

May is our season. With the fresh scent of greenery has come a time of growth for all. Poplar, cherry, sycamore, pine and cedar — new May leaves burgeon in place of the old.

In April, Mother Nature is still languid, not fully awake from the slumber of life; her limbs are still sleepy, heavy and unwilling. But in May, Mother Nature grows active, full of life.

May is the month of flora — peonies and tulips in bloom, flame-red azaleas; wisterias rippling in the breeze; irises and poppies; carnations and trefoils; dead nettles and honeysuckles. Roses bloom red and yellow; dogwoods bear white blossoms. White lilies, purple irises, deutzias, paulownias and daisies hold a beauty contest among myriad flowers. Yet even more pleasant to behold is the rich verdure of new leaves.

May opens hearts and puts a spring into our steps. Honeybees, butterflies and birds dance in the pristine air. Pennants and streamers fly in the flower-scented breeze.

Hills and meadows change garb in May. Bamboo shoots, coltsfoot and barley are ready for harvest. Reed-pipe melodies echo through sunny hillsides fragrant with new tea leaves.

In May, heaven and earth stretch, ready to breathe life into something new. The month of May saw the births of Dante, Pushkin, Balzac, Emerson and Whitman. In Britain, Earl Russell, Mill and Pope gave their first cry in May.

May is a golden season in Britain, where winter is long. March and April are not yet fully spring. It is May when days grow long and warm. The English expression “March winds and April showers bring May flowers” well describes this transition.

The momentum of time is unstoppable. Winter, however severe, will eventually give way to spring. The May Day festival is a joyous celebration of this long-awaited season.

On May Day, young women once went into the forest before the dawn to collect morning dew from the leaves, which they would apply to their skin. Accord-

ing to legend, bathing in the May Day morning dew brought beauty and good fortune. Meanwhile the young men would fell a tall tree and set it up in the village square. Around this maypole young men and women danced. Young women would visit each house in the village and bring garlands or branches of hawthorn still wet with morning dew — as if to deliver to everyone the new life of spring.

May is a month of youth; it is a time for all creatures to sing an ode to life. I know the English autumn, as well as her winter; but England is most wonderful in May.

It was also May when I was invited to have a dialogue with Dr. Arnold Toynbee. In 1972 and 73, two years in a row, I visited him in the season of mayflowers. “If I were young, I would seek the essence of Buddhism in the Orient and put it into practice,” said the renowned historian. In May of 1975, Dr. Toynbee lay on his sickbed. So I entrusted his secretary with the newly published collection of our dialogues, *Choose Life*.

In May 1989, 14 years later, Taplow Court, a castle of culture, was opened. Located west of London, the Court stands atop a gently sloping hill overlooking the flow of the Thames.

As I strolled Taplow, my eyes fell on a handmade pine bench beside a bubbling spring, which is said to have been there for at least two millennia. People naturally settled around this secure hill where water was plentiful, as evidenced by a sixth-century burial mound on the grounds.

A 400-year-old legend has it that a youthful Queen Elizabeth I was imprisoned at Taplow Court at a time of political turmoil. About 150 years ago, the building was remodeled into its current Gothic style. Close to Windsor Castle, the principal residence of the British Royal Family, Taplow Court has over the years hosted many members of British royalty as well as royalty from other nations.

British prime ministers such as Churchill and Chamberlain, and well-known literary figures such as Kipling, Wilde and Wells were fond of this place, and

apparently used it as a sort of “intellectual country club.” The Court was also used as a dormitory for nurses of the Royal Canada Hospital and as a girls’ school. During World War II, Taplow Court became an evacuation facility for small children displaced by the air raids.

I am very happy that Taplow Court has now transformed itself into a garden of friendship that is loved by the community.

While I was there, Soka University alumni who live in Britain arrived for a joyful gathering. Wherever I go these days, I encounter my dear Soka graduates. All are advancing along the path of their missions with the same “spirit of May” they had in their youth.

The women of the Rose Chorus performed, celebrating the grand opening of Taplow Court. They sang of their pride that cannot be taken away. Their resounding voices were indeed triumphant: “No one can take away our belief!” “No one can take our love for our friends!”

It was May when President Toda became the second Soka Gakkai president. It was May also when I became the Gakkai’s young third president. Since then, many a May third has come and gone, some bright, some overshadowed by darkness. But our fellow members have overcome everything and won. They have triumphed alongside me.

The spirit of May is eternal hope; it is the heart of youth, a passion for progress. As long as the spirit of May burns in our hearts, a profusion of flowers will always unfold along the path before us.

May is a time to take a step forward on our eternal journey. The spirit of May lives in my heart every day, even amidst the solitude of autumn, the trying hardships of winter or the stormy nights of summer!

In my heart always spreads the dazzling blue sky of May 3.

In my heart always rises the bright sun of May, the sun of eternal beginning!

Seventeenth in a series