

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, ALISO VIEJO DEDICATED TO PEACE

Four days of bright blue skies graced the ceremonies surrounding the dedication of Soka University of America in Aliso Viejo, California. It is the latest and most impressive example of the Soka Education system founded by Soka Gakkai International President Daisaku Ikeda (left).

The first event on May 2 was the dedication of the Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Hall, which coincided with the opening of the "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" exhibition, that's on view at SUA, AV through June 10.

More than 2,500 attended the May 3 dedication ceremonies of the university. The new campus, which will begin classes in the fall offering a four-year, liberal arts education, welcomed visitors from all over the world, bringing warm wishes of congratulations. Representatives of Aliso Viejo and many neighboring communities brought resolutions proclaiming May 3 Soka University of America Day. Messages were also received from politicians, scholars and human rights activists around the world, including U.S. President George W. Bush, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and civil rights heroine Rosa Parks.

The founder stated in his message: "It is my hope and desire that an unbroken succession of outstanding leaders will depart from these gates to serve humanity in the 21st century. It is my hope and desire that these waves of world citizens, united and awakened to a genuine global ethic, will spread without cease into an ever more brilliant future."

On May 4, the university's first public event was a speech by the distinguished dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, Dean Lawrence Carter Sr.

In his lecture titled "Growing Into Democracy's Crown," Dean Carter praised President Ikeda as the founder of SUA. "For the sake of democracy envisioned by our forefathers, for the sake of civilization as conceived by Mahatma Gandhi, and for the sake of civil rights imagined by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we need new educational institutions to teach us Daisaku Ikeda's civility for the uplift of all human personality and the environment. We need Dr. Ikeda's Soka University of America to help us grow up into democracy's crown."

"Daisaku Ikeda holds a crown above our heads with the hope that we will grow tall enough to wear it. He encourages us, in Gandhi's words, to "be the change we wish to see."

Friends, neighbors and supporters, many with their families, came to SUA on May 5 for an open house and guided tour of the campus. Faculty and staff escorted groups throughout the campus explaining the state-of-the-art facility and answering questions.

In his message to the dedication on May 3, the founder Daisaku Ikeda states: I have asked that the following principles will serve to guide SUA in its endeavors.

- 1) Foster leaders of culture in the community.
- 2) Foster leaders of humanism in society.
- 3) Foster leaders of pacifism in the world.
- 4) Foster leaders for the creative coexistence of nature and humanity.

SUA is . . .

- The inspiration of Daisaku Ikeda, president of Soka Gakkai International, a lay Buddhist organization dedicated to peace, culture and education in 165 countries
- A private, non-profit, four-year liberal arts college opening August 24 to 120 freshman students
- A nine to one student–faculty ratio
- An international campus open to top students of all nationalities and beliefs
- Planned to grow to about 1,200 undergraduate and graduate students
- Initially offering a BA in liberal arts with emphasis on humanities, international studies and social and behavioral sciences
- Where all students concentrate on a foreign language and participate in an international internship and study abroad (included in tuition)
- Equipped with computer ports in all buildings, residence-hall rooms and outside gathering areas (3,800 ports on campus)
- A 225,000-volume-capacity library
- 18 buildings (first phase) with about 750,000 square feet
- Where future phases will include additional academic buildings, residence halls, a music hall and fine arts facility, research institutes and a major performing arts center
- Starting tuition for fall 2002 school year at \$17,000 (room and board will be an additional \$7,500) and need-based financial aid is available

Students!

Deadlines for 2002 applications: Early Admission — October 1, 2001 and Regular Admission — January 15, 2002. For more information visit the SUA web site: www.soka.edu or by phone at (888) 600–SOKA

Upcoming Open House and Family Tour Dates (all are 9 am to noon): August 4, September 29, December 15, 2001 and May 11, 2002.