

**ALISO VIEJO CELEBRATES SUA OPENING
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Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo held its first public event on May 4, welcoming nearly 2,000 people to the new campus. The event included the university's first guest lecture, delivered by Dr. Lawrence Carter Sr., dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, and a beautiful concert by the Aliso Viejo Symphony and other guest artists.

Among those performing were Pascual Olivera and Angela Del Moral, widely considered the world's best Spanish-style dancers. Their performance, which they dedicated to the SUA founder, SGI President Ikeda, brought the audience to their feet over and over again.

In his lecture titled "Growing Into Democracy's Crown," Dean Carter praised President Ikeda for founding SUA, declaring that "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."

"Today, more than ever," he continued, "we need a certain kind of educational institution that promotes international exchange, cross-cultural dialogue and the environmental justice that is needed for all of us to blossom and self-actualize to the maximum.... Why not Dr. Ikeda's idea of a university founded to use the power of education to promote respect and peaceful coexistence around the world?"

The evening also included the debut of two pieces composed by Michael Golden, professor of music at SUA, performed by the Aliso Viejo Symphony, and Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 5," performed by the American Victory Orchestra of SGI-USA.