

**NEW YORK TIMES FEATURES SUA
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On July 25, *The New York Times* featured a front-page article on Soka University of America's new Aliso Viejo, Calif., campus. The article, titled "New West Coast College, Born of the Far East," quotes extensively from SUA faculty, the campus's architects and members of the surrounding community, who all speak glowingly of the new university.

The article clearly communicates the SUA staff's enthusiasm at starting a new university from the ground up. "You don't get to start up new liberal arts colleges," Anne Houtman, SUA's professor of biology, is quoted as saying. "It just isn't done. The idea of being able to start from scratch and say, 'What is it that a global citizen should know about science?' was just incredible."

Also clarified is the SGI's interest in supporting the university. "The fact is they are a very engaged kind of Buddhism," says Phillip E. Hammond, a professor of religious studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara and co-author of *Soka Gakkai in America: Accommodation and Conversion*. "They are not trying to escape from the world, they're trying to change the world."

The SUA staff is already reporting an increase in East Coast applications for its second class, and the *Times* article has been picked up by many other newspapers around the country.

"*The New York Times* is perhaps the most well-respected voice in the American media," says SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima. "This shows that the world is carefully watching our activities. As SGI-USA members, we need to be prepared to answer our friends' questions about these kinds of articles, confidently sharing the value of Soka education and the intent of our kosen-rufu movement."