

the CORNERSTONE

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THE ALUMNI/AE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIFICATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Father siezes the moment in Uruguay

(The following article is based on a report by Dr. Mickler.)

UTS was well represented at the important conference, "Ecumenism in the Americas: Toward One Christian Family Under God," jointly sponsored by the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace (IRFWP) and the Washington Times Foundation. The conference was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, December 11-15, 1995. In addition to Drs. Frank Kaufmann (79) and Thomas Walsh (79), who coordinated the gathering, and Frank Lagrotteria (94) and Taj Hamad (86), who managed its general affairs, President Shimmyo and Dr. Mickler attended as participants. The conference itself drew 120 Christian leaders from North and South America. The five day gathering was held at the Victoria Plaza Hotel which is owned by the Unification Movement and is considered to be the top hotel in Montevideo.

The proceedings focused on such issues as an assessment of Christianity's historical role in the Americas; the challenge of bridging intra-Christian divisions between Catholic-Protestant, North-South, Liberal-Conservative; the role of religion in the creation of the good society; and the role of Christianity in the emerging unity of North and South America.

This conference marked a continuation of Father's emphasis on the importance of South America, as evidenced by the assignment of last year's graduating class to missions in Latin America and the Caribbean. IRFWP,

in attempting to support this emphasis, sponsored a conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico last June which brought together about 20 Christian scholars from North and South America under the theme "Christianity in the Americas." This gathering laid the foundation for the larger Uruguay conference.

Those who arrived in Montevideo included Rev. Jerry Falwell and Rev. Nilson de Amaral Fanini, International President of the World Baptist Alliance. Dr. Mickler noted that, "The range of church leaders and scholars who came together for this meeting, many at short notice, offers a good deal of hope."

Dr. Mickler reported his renewed admiration for Father for the way in which he chose to challenge the par-



ticipants when he could rather have basked in their gratitude. When, at the closing banquet, Father was presented with a book containing the expressions of gratitude of many of the participants, he launched into what Dr. Mickler described as "a three-hour, few-holds-barred session, punctuated by the fairly liberal use of certain participants' heads and shoulders as teaching resources."

According to Dr. Mickler, "He easily could have conformed to the mood of the occasion and accepted the conferees' accolades as a genial patron of contemporary

ecumenism but this he refused to do, choosing instead to challenge the attendees with the 'Completed Testament' kerygma, thereby demonstrating both fidelity to God and respect for the conferees in revealing himself and his message so fully before them."

Father told the participants that God needs a partner and that, in the same way, Jesus should have married. He urged the participants to give all they have and to forget what they gave because this is God's nature and to do so is the way to meet God. In speaking of the Unification Church, Father told the participants that they should not, under any circumstances, persecute the UC as this will result in the decline of their own churches.

In reflecting on the tone of the conference, Dr. Mickler noted that the strategy suggested by many participants for bringing about the spiritual unity of the Americas focused less on new organizations or political action and more on the necessity, "to pray and work toward a megamovement of God in the hearts of the pastors, religious leaders and the people of our churches." Rev. Falwell, in particular, sounded this evangelical note.

In looking to the future, Dr. Mickler hoped that there will be a fuller representation of liberal, evangelical and Catholic Christians at future conferences.

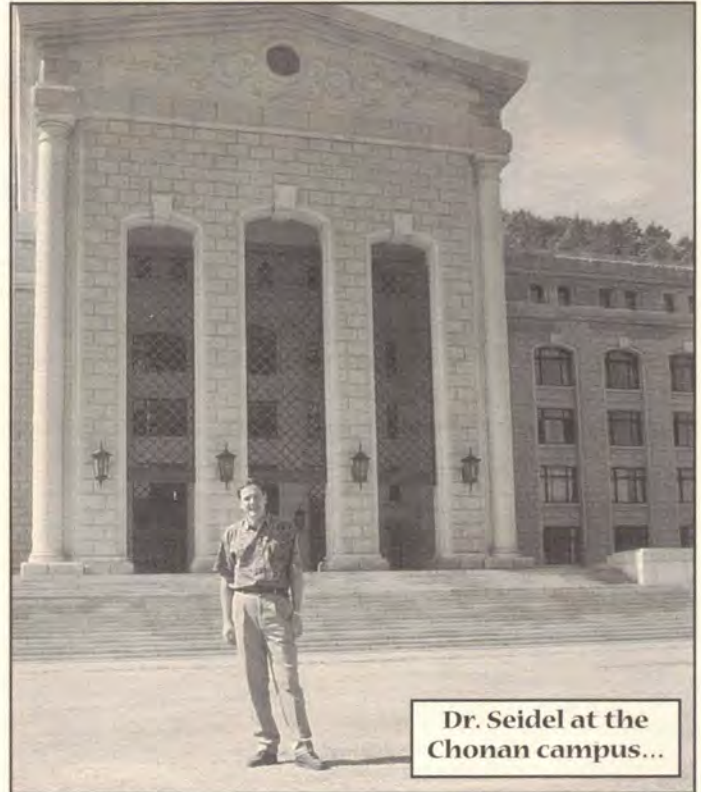
(At the time of writing, President Shimmyo is once again in Uruguay for a meeting of heads of state. We will include a report in the February issue.)

Towards a Global University System:

Teaching at Sun Moon University

(In an effort to increase cooperation and scholarly exchange between Sun Moon University (SMU) and UTS, the presidents of the two institutions, Dr. Se Won Yoon and Dr. Theodore Shimmyo, agreed to start a program of visiting professorships. In the fall term of 1995, Dr. Dietrich Seidel was invited to teach courses on Christian theology at SMU. This article describes some of his impressions and experiences while teaching in Korea.)

When I boarded the plane bound for Seoul, it became clear to me that my scheduled four month stay in Korea would be something quite different from any of the past one week ICUS conference visits. There was a sense of awe for the unknown, not only in terms of exploring the Korean culture but also with



Dr. Seidel at the Chonan campus...

regard to the task of fulfilling my teaching assignment within a Korean academic environment.

Upon my arrival at SMU, I could see how seriously Father pursues his vision for a global university system, by making a tremendous investment in building a full-fledged university literally from scratch. Presently, SMU has two campuses, one in the city of Chonan and the other in the adjoining city of Asan, about one hour drive south of Seoul. The Chonan campus enjoys the reputation of having to date the largest stone structure in Korea, a thoroughly impressive building with marble interior and spacious offices and class rooms. It houses the Korean Language Institute, the College of Theology and the most recently established Graduate School of Theology. I stayed also in this building in a guest room on the sixth floor having Dr. Yoshihiko Masuda (class of 1977), the newly appointed Dean of the Graduate School of Theology, as my neighbor. I offered two courses at the Chonan campus, one entitled 'Contemporary Christian Denominations' was for fourth year students of the undergraduate program, while the 'Seminar on Christian Eschatology' was presented to the senior students of the graduate program. The classes were conducted in English which turned out to be a definite challenge for the Korean students. Nevertheless, there was a lot of good interaction with the students who often surprised me with their sincerity and enthusiasm in their studies.

To present a better overall impression of SMU, a few things should be said about the Asan campus, where I stayed for about one week to work out my visa situation.

I was lucky that I could see our True Parents who visited the campus to conduct a dedication ceremony for two newly finished buildings and a ground breaking ceremony for a new building that will house the social sciences. This campus is now in the process of rapid expansion, eventually receiving all the facilities needed to run a large university. Our Father emphasized in his luncheon address during the dedication ceremony that SMU needs to become thoroughly international, not only with regard to the student population but also in terms of faculty appointments. Only in this way SMU will be qualified to set the standard for the global university system. Presently, the Asan campus houses the College of Humanities (all foreign language programs, in particular English, Japanese, Chinese and Russian) and the colleges of the Social Sciences, the Natural Sciences and Engineering. In addition to its teaching responsibilities, SMU has developed several research organizations covering theology and the natural sciences. In particular, the Unification Theology Institute promotes publication and research of topics related to Unification doctrine within a global theological context, whereas the Research Institute for Industrial Development and the Center for Science and Advanced Technology sponsors research projects within the natural sciences, inviting participation from private companies that represent the industrial sector.

During the last academic year, SMU enrolled more than 2000 students in its various programs. Less than 10% of the student population at the Asan campus are members of the Unification Movement, whereas the majority of students at the Chonan campus are members. A similar demography applies to the SMU faculty. During my stay at SMU, I realized that it is an ongoing task of the SMU administration to inspire non-members to achieve a high ethical and academic standard and to lead them to a better understanding of the vision of our True Parents.

My teaching experience at the Chonan campus was quite enjoyable. I felt the full support of all staff and faculty who would many times go out of their way to offer assistance. In particular, Dr. Masuda and Dr. Jin Choon Kim (class of 1995) were extremely helpful in sorting out any kind of problem or difficulty that a Western person may encounter in Korea.

In my view, it must have been part of the cultural uniqueness of the Korean people to be most of the time concerned with creating an atmosphere that can be best described with the phrase 'unity of heart'. This does not mean that there is always consensus of opinion, but it implies that things are done together. On numerous occasions, I felt that spirit of doing things together among the faculty members of the College of Theology. I would receive invitations to a mountain trip, to common lunch

or dinner meetings and also to visits to nearby hot spring baths. This list can be continued with common sports events and prayer vigils. In short, we got to know one another on a heart to heart level through our common extracurricular activities and also through helping one another in our professional work.

In general, I encountered hardly any difficulties in adjusting to the Korean culture, with the exception of not being able to communicate as I wanted to. However, my daily exposure to the sound of the Korean language provided an ongoing inspiration to spend some time learning frequently used phrases and going over the Korean lessons I learned at UTS. It became clear to me that without knowing Korean there is no way to understand and appreciate the Korean culture. Repeatedly, I had to reflect on the situation of those Korean brothers and sisters who are investing so much to learn English so that they can follow classes conducted in English. Their hard work



...and at the Asan campus with Dr. Yoshihiko Masuda (UTS '77), Dean of the Graduate School of Theology.

is now for me an ongoing inspiration to be more serious in studying Korean.

In closing these reflections about my stay in Korea, I express my gratitude to President Se Won Yoon and Dean Chae Hee Lee who consistently offered their help and

inspiration. I thank also the faculty and staff of SMU who often went out of their way to make my stay pleasant and meaningful. In particular, I take this opportunity to thank Dean Yoshihiko Masuda, Dr. Jin Choon Kim, Dean Youn Joo Hack, Dean Yong Suk Kim, Prof. Ju Youl Choi and Won Sook Song who touched my heart in offering their friendship and assistance.

Dr. Thompson is hospitalized

The new term had barely begun at UTS when we received the disturbing news that Dr. Henry Thompson had entered hospital for surgery to remove one or more tumors. We have since learned that his doctors have confirmed the presence of colon cancer but, at the time of going to print, the prognosis was unclear. Everyone at UTS looks forward to the return of the much-loved 'Unification Optimist' and we have conveyed our best wishes to him. If you wish to write to Dr. Thompson and his wife Joyce, their address is 2942 Valley View Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901-2107.

Faculty Members Attend AAR Conference

Several members of the UTS faculty and community attended a meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Philadelphia last November. These included President Theodore T. Shimmyo, who attended sessions on Karl Barth, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Arthur, Dr. Michael Mickler who attended sessions on New Religious Movements and Mark and Catherine Bradley. Catherine is currently working on a doctorate in philosophy and attended sessions on philosophy.

Dr. Shimmyo relished the opportunity to purchase a highly acclaimed, recently published book on the theo-

logical development of Karl Barth, and to meet many friends and former classmates. This conference, he said, was on the cutting-edge of theological scholarship, and he felt that if the thousands of theologians and religious thinkers who were there could know the essence of Father's teaching concerning the Will of God today they could be instrumental in swiftly bringing God's Kingdom. Debbie Truin

Religious Freedom Threatened in Russia

When Tom Phillips (UTS '92) moved to Moscow three years ago, there was much talk of a 'window of opportunity' as the new freedoms and a spiritually hungry people combined to produce a fertile environment for Unificationists and others who brought their messages of hope to the former Soviet Union. That window is now closing and may be firmly shut if the enemies of reform have their way.

During a recent visit to UTS, Tom reported that while the resurgent communists and the Russian mafia may be reported to be the greatest threats to Russian society, he believes that the rise of nationalism is the darkest cloud on the Russian horizon. He cautions that it would be a mistake to think of Russian nationalism in the character of Vladimir Jirinowski who has grabbed the attention of the West with his extreme views and bizarre behavior. Tom stated that the Russian people, whom he sees as proud and noble, feel humiliated by their recent relegation to being a third-rate nation and that many blame this development on the 'invasion from the west.'

The religious dimension of this 'invasion' is increasingly being vilified by politicians who wish to capitalize on the resentment of the Russian people and to align themselves with an increasingly powerful Orthodox Church. No less a figure than Prime Minister Victor S. Chernomyrdin recently pledged that he will do everything he can to remove 'dangerous totalitarian cults and all foreign missionaries.' He added that he respects the religious sensibilities of the Russian people and the supremacy of the Orthodox Church and that he will work to maintain harmony between 'traditional religions.' The latter phrase has become a code for those faiths which existed in Russia before the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Orthodox Church has actively encouraged this increasingly intolerant stance. On December 4, 1995, representatives of all 43 political parties were called to a



Kostya Vasilyev (a member of Moscow CARP), Tom Phillips, Oksana Semenchova (the first Russian student at UTS) with Tony Devine and Dr. Richard Arthur.

meeting at which leaders of the Church called for the reinstatement of the title, "Holy Russia." Russian Muslims, Protestants and others are deeply troubled by the possibility of the establishment of a state religion. Their fears are heightened by the growing number of proposals in the duma (parliament) for laws which would severely restrict the activities of all churches other than the Orthodox Church. For example, one proposal limits the work of these churches to social work only and an even more restrictive form of this idea demands that churches desiring to perform social work should simply give the necessary funds to the Orthodox Church, allowing the latter to perform the work.

In this increasingly challenging climate, Tom believes it is more important than ever to contextualize the teachings of the Unification Church, showing that, far from being an alien faith, our teachings are based in universal values and themes which are just as deeply imbedded in Russian culture as in any other. To this end, he feels that it is essential that native Russians take on more of the leadership roles in the Unification Church in Russia and throughout the C.I.S.. Also, Tom believes that many Russian members could benefit greatly from a Seminary education and he hopes that Oksana Semenchova, who arrived at UTS this term, will be the first of many.

Supporting the Founder's Tour

The Barrytown community was there in strength when Father spoke in Philadelphia at the start of the American section of his successful worldwide speaking tour. 16 nations and 60 speeches later, the UTS bus was there again in Toronto, Canada, on December 7, for the victorious conclusion. Throughout the tour, True Parents were accompanied by Mr. Peter Kim who will graduate from UTS this June.

The Toronto event concluded with an intimate gathering of Unificationists who were treated to one of Father's inimitable, frequently hilarious homilies on the husband-wife relationship. It was the subject of many conversations on the long bus ride home to Barrytown.

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

(If you wish to submit an item to Alumni/ae News, please include a recent photograph.)

Ki Yeal Lee - Class of 1995

When he finally received his visa last October, Ki Yeal Lee left New York for Bolivia, his assigned nation, and the life of a missionary. In the three months since his arrival, he has gained a new respect for those UC missionaries who were sent out to the world in 1975. Bolivia is a very poor country and he has so far supported himself by selling roses in restaurants.



Mr. Lee has made some progress in learning to speak Spanish and is determined to be able to teach Divine Principle in his new language within the next nine months. He feels a strong sense of mission in Bolivia as there are only 40 full-time members there and True Parents' tradition is not yet strongly planted. He has discovered how influential the Washington Times can be as his business card bearing the paper's name has so far opened the doors to the offices of three former presidents of Bolivia.

At this time, Mr. Lee's wife Seiko (yes, the famous singer!) is still in New York with their infant son. He misses them a lot but still recommends the missionary life for all those who wish to remove some fallen nature and to meet the heart of True Parents.

Alfred O'Connor (Class of '88) gains his Ph. D.

Congratulations to Alfred O'Connor on gaining his Ph. D. from the University of Wales last November. His thesis was titled, "An Understanding of Sin and Redemption in Traditional Christianity and in Unification Theology." Alfred's doctorate represents a successful conclusion to a determined effort which began after his graduation from UTS in 1988.

Upon returning to Britain, he was initially engaged in the Tribal Messiah/Hometown providence in Manchester. He worked as a part-time lecturer (in Social Science) at South Manchester College and also participated in outreach to Christian ministers and in interfaith activities on the local level. For two years, he also served as a publicly-elected representative on the Race Sub-Committee of Manchester City Council.



For over a year, Alfred searched to find a University department which was both willing and able to supervise a Ph. D. degree thesis on aspects of Unification Theology. Eventually, through Dr. Ursula King, he was put in touch with Dr. Paul Badham at Saint David's College which is one of the colleges which make up the University of Wales.

While researching and writing his thesis, Alfred worked full-time as a science teacher at a high school in Birmingham, the city where he still lives with his wife Marie and their two small children. "At last," says Alfred, "after five and a half years, with the loving Heart and strength of Heavenly Father, the sacrificial support of my wife and family and a sustaining vision inspired by True Parents, I was able to successfully attain my Ph. D. degree in November 1995. Praise be to God!"

Alfred now serves as one of the assistant pastors of the Unification Church in Birmingham, with some involvement in interfaith work. Marie is the Sunday School Co-Ordinator for the region and has developed a Sunday School Curriculum which has been much appreciated by parents and children alike in Birmingham and beyond.

Alfred and Marie O'Connor, 36 Westbourne Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 BAT, England.

A New Class on "Spirituality and the Visual Arts."

(The following is based on an interview conducted by Debbie Truin.)

Hendrick (Hank) Dijk is no stranger to UTS since he has lived in Kingston for many years and his wife Maria works here as the Benefits Administrator. Since returning to the art world in 1992, he has become quite well known in the Kingston area through his involvement in projects like the revitalization of Block Park where he painted large murals on the handball courts and organized an outdoor sculpture exhibition.

In a recent interview, Mr. Dijk expressed his belief that there is a special meaning to the heightened interest in the arts today. In a time when the world is searching for peace, he said, it is natural that people would turn to art and he contrasted art and sports saying that sports are



Mr. Hendrick Dijk

a civilized version of warfare and that the arts represent peace. He said that this is also a time of greater emphasis on the role of spirituality in bringing about a higher culture and that the arts have a great role to play. A central theme of the course will be what it takes to create a higher culture, including the need to harmonize many opposites and to incorporate the good influences of many cultures. He cited the tremendous growth which took place when the Hellenistic culture and the Hebraistic cultures met during the Renaissance. He will also deal with the concepts of beauty, balance, proportion, geometry and the reality of man as a spiritual being.

Mr. Dijk wants his students to realize they will be participating in a pioneering effort. In making the effort to teach about art and spirituality he said it is as though students would come to him and say, 'I want to go to the art world' and he would have to respond, 'Fine, there are more than more than one million planets to visit, where do you want to go first?' Therefore, to a large degree, the direction of the class is affected by the background and interests of the students who enroll. Students who are practicing artists have the opportunity to show their work in class, and the students will be invited to visit the instructor's studio as well.

Mr. Dijk was deeply involved in the art scene in his native Holland from 1968 to 1973 and since immersing himself once again in this world, he has completed a Master of Fine Arts degree at the New York Academy of Art and currently holds the position of vice president of the Arts Society of Kingston. He was recently featured in the Woodstock Times for his exhibition, at The Loft, of geometric abstract paintings.

We can see clearly now!

These 'before and after' pictures tell a tale of two winters. Last year, Lecture Hall 1 had plastic sheeting over the windows but this year, the new windows reveal the beauty of winter. Thank you to those who contributed another \$6,700 in the first two weeks of January and a special thank you to Jeff Gledhill whose generosity has placed the class of '79 in an unassailable position. Their donations now total \$8,600. Please note that we will soon be making the plaques which will recognize the major contributors (\$500 or more) to the New Outlook Campaign, so please send in your donations as soon as possible.



Total donations (windows plus others) in the first two weeks of January exceeded \$9,000 so we're off to a great start in this new year.

BLIZZARD OF 1996



Monday, January 8, saw twenty-eight inches of snow arrive at UTS.



Cars? What cars?



...but it looked lovely!



Blizzard? What blizzard? UTS studies continue!

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