

UTS Receives MSA Accreditation "An Historic Milestone"

On Monday, December 11, President Shimmyo received notification that the Seminary's application for accreditation had been approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) which is a unit of the Middle States Association (MSA.) This means that UTS will now be recognized nationally and internationally as a graduate educational institution and that,

consequently, the degrees held by UTS graduates will be universally acknowledged as valid master's degrees.

A long struggle

It was in October 1987 that UTS first applied to the CHE for candidacy. In May 1988, UTS received a visit from an MSA evaluation team and was approved for candidacy. For the next eight years, the Seminary would endeavor to respond to the concerns and the advice of the various consultants and evaluators who visited the campus.

In the Spring term of 1993, the Seminary's "Self Study" process began as a requirement toward accreditation and in May 1994,

President Shimmyo and his new administration took over and completed this unfinished task. In April 1995, an evaluation team led by Dr. Mathew Quinn of Carroll College, Montana, was impressed by much that had been done at the Seminary but still expressed some concerns and the CHE determined that these were serious enough to warrant a deferral of any

action on accreditation pending a report followed by another team visit. The following twelve months were a period of intense activity as the Trustees, administration, faculty and staff tried to ensure that every concern was fully addressed. When the evaluation team paid a follow-up visit to UTS in October 1996, they described the efforts and improvements of the past year as "remarkable" (see the October issue of *The Cornerstone*) and on November 20, 1996, the commissioners of the CHE voted to accept their report and to approve the application of the Unification Theological Seminary.

While reviewing the victory, President Shimmyo expressed his

"the most significant development at UTS since the granting of the absolute charter."



gratitude to certain key contributors. "UTS was very lucky this time because, at the right time, we had a capable Controller, an able Plant Director and a new Board chairperson who helped to address the three MSA concerns about us: financial stability, physical plant and governance. I deeply appreciate them and also others," he said.

This is perhaps the most significant development at UTS since the Seminary received its absolute charter from the New York Board of Regents in 1990. New York State is unique in that it grants accreditation as well as charters. Dr. Jennifer Tanabe reports that this uniqueness has sometimes been problematic. "Being accredited by New York State alone has limited the recognition accorded to UTS degrees," she said. "Institutions in other states and countries don't always recognize New York State accreditation without regional (MSA) accreditation and that is why this recent victory is so important."

What is MSA?

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools was established in 1887 as a nonprofit, voluntary association dedicated to educational improvement through evaluation and accreditation. The member institutions are located in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia and several overseas locations with institutions which are chartered in one of the states within the MSA region. There are five other regional accrediting associations in the United States, each responsible for a specific geographic area.

MSA activities are carried out by three commissions which work with institutions at the levels of elementary, secondary and higher education. The Commission on Higher Education, which handled UTS's application, was established in 1919. It has four major purposes:

- To evaluate institutions of higher education based on standards developed by the member institutions.
- To accredit those institutions which meet the standards for accreditation.
- To assist institutions in as many ways as possible to improve their programs and services.
- To work closely with other organizations in promoting educational improvement.

CHE member institutions are evaluated every five years and the CHE is itself evaluated every five years by the US Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation. These, however, are not themselves accrediting bodies.

In assessing the significance of MSA accreditation, Academic Dean Dr. Michael Mickler, who was instrumental in preparing the Self-Study document and the follow-up report, pointed out that the phrase "regional accreditation" can be misleading. "There is no national accrediting body which oversees the regional associations," he said, "and so it would be incorrect to think of MSA

accreditation as 'merely regional.' Beyond the level of the regional associations, institutions usually seek accreditation from associations of peer institutions which share their specialty. In the case of UTS, this would be the Association of Theological Schools," he said.

UTS Seminar on Religion and Science

Scholars from Bard and Marist Colleges were among those who gathered at UTS on November 6 for a seminar titled Religion and Science: Advancing the Dialogue. The event was organized by Dr. Dietrich Seidel, Assistant Professor of Theology, and was supported by a grant from the Templeton Foundation which was established in 1987 in order to further the study of the relationship between religion and science. Keynote speaker Professor James Crichton began his address by noting the consonance of thinking between John Templeton and Reverend Moon on this subject.

Keynote Address

Dr. James Crichton has taught physics and related subjects since 1965 at the Seattle Pacific University. Beyond his profession as a physicist, Dr. Crichton has shown interest in boundary issues between science and theology. Recently he studied relativity, cosmology and theology at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. He is the author of "Science, the Eternal Enjoyment," published in the Seattle Pacific University Review.

Dr. Crichton's address was titled "How the Genius of the Creator is Revealed in Modern Physics" and Unificationists in the audience smiled when he began, just as Divine Principle begins, by quoting the familiar words of Paul to the Romans, "Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible nature...has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made."

Dr. Crichton then launched into a review of the physics of the twentieth century to show how the findings of modern physics have helped in the quest for a robust natural theology. He reviewed the areas of the very small (atomic and subatomic scales) the very large (extraterrestrial to supragalactic scales) and the very early (the "creation" epoch.) This review was to some extent personal and anecdotal.



Dr. James Crichton

Two problems appeared, which he seized as opportunities. The first was that human beings have not appeared in a natural way in the currently-understood map of space-time, matter and energy. We seem to be random occurrences in a cosmic game of chance, as many articulate scientific materialists point out. A second problem, relatively minor, much less threatening to human self-esteem, is that we appear to be at the end of physics; the great achievements of this century seem to have run their course.

To deal with both issues, Dr. Crichton looked at the entire sweep of cosmic history as we have been privileged to see it. He argued that the emergence of complexity, undergirded by the laws of physics and the particular values of the physical constants which occur in our cosmos, indicate that the universe is a marvelous contrivance; it betrays an exquisite design. This is, of course, the strong anthropic principle, an argument for both the existence of God and the worth of human beings. It is apparently God's purpose to have a universe inhabited by communities of intelligent beings for, as Dr. Crichton observed, "we live in a remarkably hospitable universe."

He discussed briefly the future of science and then specu-

lated on the future of life and mind in the universe, making extrapolations suggested by the history of the cosmos thus far. Such speculation he offered as the anthropological and eschatological content of a natural theology unique to our time. A lively question and answer session followed which covered a wide variety of topics including the Talmud and the elegance of mathematical equations.

Panel discussion

After a delicious Korean dinner, the panel discussion began. The panel members were the keynote speaker; the organizer, Dr. Dietrich Seidel, Assistant Professor of Theology at UTS and 1996 Templeton Prize winner for a course in Science and Religion; Dr. David Burton, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Bridgeport; Glenn Carroll Strait, Natural Sciences Editor, *The World and I*; and Dr. Richard Lewis, Editor of the *Unification News* and science writer.

Again there was plenty to discuss: did God fiddle with evolution, how does Eastern medicine interface with modern physics, the possibilities of teleportation a la *Star Trek*, and the critique of the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics in view of David Bohm's theories implying a holographic universe.

In addition, a host of philosophical and theological issues were raised relating to issues such as the actual common ground of science and religion, God's self-limitation as suggested by the problem of evil and the assertion that a comprehensive study of creation has to include the study of mind, consciousness and human history.

The visiting educators and students all vigorously participated in the discussion and pronounced the seminar a stimulating success. Dr. Seidel concluded the seminar with an appreciation of the Templeton Foundation whose grant had made the event possible.



Dr. Crichton with the panel and seminar staff.

Church and State Debated

Public speaking usually appears near the top of the list of greatest fears. Public speaking in a language other than one's native tongue is even closer to the top and doing so in a public debate with native speakers must be somewhere way



President Shimmyo presented the trophy.

off the charts. For this reason alone, the 16th Annual Class Challenge Debate held on October 30 can be regarded as successful; several UTS students took a huge step forward in challenging their own limitations and fears.

The debate itself was captured, quite literally, by the Divinity Seniors. They supported the motion that "Church and State Should Not Be Separated" and, from their first speaker to the last, they succeeded in shifting the focus of the debate

The Divinity team of Cirilo, Henry and Chris.

by establishing various definitions of "Church" such as "the body of Christian believers," and "the combined Christian conscience" and "religious values—the universal church." Chris McKeon's training as a Baptist minister made him a particularly forceful presence and he was well supported by Henry Kiryowa of Uganda and Cirilo Jagopa-as of the Philippines. They interpreted the debate topic as the separation of religion from politics and argued that God should never be separated from secular affairs. "Separation from God is death!" shouted Henry.

The RE Seniors raised some pertinent questions in response. Satoko Matoyama of Japan asked "Which church are you talking about?" and Italian native Aldo Sensini began his comments with the statement "The universal church—I never saw it!" Prince Tambi of Sierra Leone hit on a key point in questioning his opponents' emphasis on "Christian believers" and raised the specter of persecution of other religions. "We need separation," he said, "for the sake of freedom!" The judges, however, concluded that the RE Seniors never fully succeeded in derailing their opponents. In presenting a summary of the judges' deliberations, Dr. Mickler noted that the Divinity team succeeded in shaping the content of the debate to their advantage and that the RE Seniors were not forceful enough in refuting their position. He congratulated all of the participants on their decision to participate. The trophy and prizes were presented by President Shimmyo.

New Journal at UTS

The Seminary is preparing to publish its own theological journal with Dr. Andrew Wilson as editor. The first issue will be published in the summer of 1997. In a letter of announcement, Dr. Wilson introduced the journal in the following way:

"The idea of a journal has been under discussion for many years but there was little movement until this year when Pres. Shimmyo signaled his desire to put his full resources behind it. On November 4, after several preliminary meetings with members of the fac-





Dr. Andrew Wilson

ulty and administration, the Seminary formally established the Journal of Unification Studies.

The journal will be a forum for the intelligent discussion of Unification theology, history, ministry and social commentary. There has long been a need for such a forum with a specifically Unificationist perspective, as distinct from the purely comparative and interreligious approach of IRF's journal *Dialogue & Alliance* or the inspirational sermons and testimonies of *Today's World*. We expect to find subscribers from among seminary libraries, interested theologians, Christian ministers, UTS alumni and Unification Church leaders.

The Journal looks to publish articles of several kinds. Critical studies of Unification texts, doctrines, and the history of the church can illuminate foundational issues with new clarity. Reflections on ministry can give new insights into the relationship between theory and practice. Analysis of today's pressing issues from a Unificationist perspective can contribute much to solving problems in the fields of theology and ministry, and even in the wider culture. The journal also welcomes dialogical pieces from people of diverse viewpoints who wish to engage with Unificationism's theology and its diverse ministries. Book and film reviews, as well as abstracts of current publications dealing with the church, will be regular features."

The guidelines for contributors are:

1. Articles submitted for publication must be respectful, constructive and relevant to unification theology, faith or culture. They should be thoughtful and well-researched, employing logic and critical reason to deal with the issue at hand. The journal is not the place for testimonies and inspirational sermons which are more suited to other Unificationist publications.
2. Articles should be written in a style accessible to a wide, college-educated audience. They should avoid excessive use of theological jargon or technical terms. If such terminology must be used it should be explained in language understandable to the non-specialist.
3. Essays can be from 5 to 30 pages, double spaced, in length. Book and film reviews should be 2 to 8 pages.
4. References to scripture and primary Unification texts may be given in parenthesis in the text. References to other sources must be cited in numbered endnotes.
5. Articles must be submitted on computer disk, accompanied by a double-spaced hard copy.

Initially, the Journal of Unification Studies will publish one issue per year. To receive the first issue of the journal in the summer of 1997, send \$10 (domestic) or \$14 (overseas) to UTS, attention Dr. Wilson. Checks should be made payable to UTS.

Faculty in Action

October-November is conference season for academics and several UTS faculty members traveled to conferences:

Dr. Arthur, Dr. Carlson and Dr. Winings attended the annual gathering of the American Academy of Religion in New Orleans where Dr. Carlson presented a paper to the Korean Religions Group (see article.)

Dr. Tsirpanlis chaired a session of a conference on Medieval-Renaissance Studies.

Dr. Seidel hosted a seminar at UTS on Religion and Science (see article.)

Dr. Tom Ward has been as active as ever in South America, lecturing to several specialized conferences.

Mr. Wayne Hill offered a presentation on Teaching English to Japanese at the New York State TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) conference in Saratoga Springs. Mr. Hill also taught at the University of Southern Maine last August, teaching English to Japanese students.

Dr. Mickler attended the annual meeting of the Middle States Association which recently approved UTS's application for accreditation.

Dr. Wilson recently published a book titled *True Family Values* which is now available from HSA headquarters. He will also edit the new UTS journal (see article.)

President Shimmyo and Dr. Carlson both published articles in a recent edition of Sun Moon University's *Journal of Unification Theology*.

Dr. Carlson at AAR

This was not the first time for Dr. David Carlson to present a paper at a conference of the American Academy of Religion. In 1991, he presented "Hak Ja Han: Wife, Mother and Spiritual Leader" at the Kansas City gathering. When he attended the conference in New Orleans in November, he therefore saw much that was familiar but one thing was markedly different; unlike last time, nobody stood up and attacked him for being a Unificationist.

That major difference was pointed out to Dr. Carlson by Dr. Kang-nam Oh, a respected scholar from the University of Regina who responded to Dr. Carlson's paper, "Ch'ondo-gyo and Tongil-gyo: Human Restoration as a Social Paradigm." This paper was presented to the Korean Religions group which this year addressed the theme "New Vision." In his remarks, Dr. Oh expressed his amazement at the idea of a wedding of 3.6 million couples and, reports Dr. Carlson, "he voiced a certain respect for the immensity of the whole idea. He stated that he now understood why Mrs. Moon, as a person in the position of True Mother, was traveling and speaking all over the world."

Following the session, Dr. Carlson was approached by several people who sought more information about UTS and he was able to greet some old friends including Dr. Andrew Sung Park, author of *The Wounded Heart of God*, whom he knew from his days at the Pacific School of Religion. There were many other familiar faces at the conference including Drs. Richard Arthur, Kathy Winings, Tom Walsh, Frank Kaufmann, Tony Guerra, Tom Selover, Janine Sawada and also Frank Lagrotteria.

Dr. Carlson's paper argued that Tongil-gyo (the Unification Movement) is a reform movement which is carrying to a new level the spirit of Ch'ondo-gyo, a movement of the late nineteenth century which was founded with the intention of building the kingdom of God on earth. "Niebuhr's gap between moral man and immoral society, exemplified in the Chondo-gyo reforms, could be bridged with the notion of restoration through indemnity," explained Dr. Carlson in a recent report. He went on to compare and contrast Choe Suun, the founder of Chondo-gyo, with Reverend Moon. "The founders of the two movements lived similar



Dr. David Carlson

lives and their ideas are quite similar. The one remained nationalistic and had little enduring effect; the other went global and is having a profound effect." Dr. Carlson attributed the latter's success to the understanding and practice of restoration through indemnity.

Alumni Association Meetings

Dr. Shimmyo and Dr. Tyler Hendricks, President of the UC of America, traveled the country in October and November in their positions as President and Vice-President of the UTS Alumni Association. Dr. Shimmyo was encouraged by what he found in New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. "We found many UTS graduates who, as leaders, are taking the present task very seriously," he said. That task, said Dr. Shimmyo, is "to work harder than anyone else to reach out to Christian churches given the completion of the 40-year wilderness course."

While Dr. Shimmyo's role was to urge the graduates to take on this responsibility, Dr. Hendricks provided the instruction and the materials on how to actually go about it. Dr. Shimmyo felt that they worked well together. "As fellow alumni, we made a good team because everywhere, I encouraged everyone to wholeheartedly support Church leaders such as Dr. Hendricks in their work for ministerial outreach. Dr. Hendricks, in turn, told people to listen to me," he said.

Graduates in Latin America

The role and responsibility of UTS graduates in Latin America became much clearer for ten of them in November when they were assigned to work with the new newspaper, *Tiempos del Mundo* (Times of the World) which is being produced in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Beatrice Steeghs and Enrique Ledesma joined more recent graduates Ed Heinz, Joseph Schinwald, Paul Greene, Bret Moss, Jim Humphreys, Dirk Anthonis, Takuya Ishii and Katsumi Kambashi.

The newspaper is an 80-page tabloid which will eventually be distributed via satellite to almost every country in South America. The media in the United States have expressed some surprise at the scope and impact of Reverend Moon's activity in the region. A recent *New York Times* article titled "Unification Church Gains Respect in Latin America" reported on the transformation of the Church's reputation. "Just how far the Unification Church has come in Latin America in the last 20 years," said the report, "was evident when former President George Bush and dozens of former and current heads of state from the region agreed to attend a party here to inaugurate a new Spanish-language newspaper."

President Bush's participation inevitably resulted in some questions being raised by the US media but this has not caused the former President to back down. James McGrath, a spokesman for President Bush, told the *New York Times*, "Mr. Bush under-



Sandor Vamos, the new president of the UC of Hungary

stands that some people will view his participation in this event as something more than meets the eye, but if the *Times* of the World does for Buenos Aires what The *Washington Times* has done for Washington, Argentina will be the better for it."

President Shimmyo and the UTS grads of '95 and '96 were invited to attend the celebration of True Children's Day on November 11 in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Founder met twice with the graduates, emphasizing their important mission as teachers in Latin America.

Meanwhile, Sandor Vamos (Class of '96) is no longer in Latin America but has returned to his native Hungary after being appointed, by Reverend Moon, to the position of President of the Unification Church of Hungary.

News from New Hope Farm

Mary Bratti (Class of '84) has just returned to the US after spending three months at New Hope Farm in Brazil. She is one of four Spanish-speaking UTS graduates who were reassigned to Latin America last August during the alumni workshop in Alaska. She serves as an IW for the other graduates in the region and works with President Yoon Sang Kim at the farm.

Reverend Moon visited the farm in the second week of December and urged the graduates to learn Portuguese as quickly as possible. He told them that they should work to bring people to the Blessing and should prepare to work with the newspaper which will be established in all the states of Brazil. Japanese graduates were told to work with the many second and third generation Japanese who live in Brazil although the language will still be a barrier as most of these people speak Portuguese exclusively.

At the New Hope Farm, four new dorms have been built and Reverend Moon told President Kim to build 12 more. Many fruit trees are being planted and Reverend Moon has told President Kim to develop tourism in the area and to offer educational programs in agriculture. Mary confirmed that the area is very beautiful. "Daemo-nim recently visited the farm and another farm nearby in a beautiful area with waterfalls. She said that this was the place she saw in the spirit world where a 'heavenly palace' should be built," said Mary.

Two Divine Principle seminars were held at the farm recently with guests (45 and 27) from the area, including business contacts, lawyers and others who attended the exposition in the city of Campo Grande. Mary reports that the graduates have been successful in their witnessing when they can go with a Brazilian seminarian, but there are only three of the latter at the farm right now. The study of Portuguese is therefore an urgent matter.

About The Cornerstone

The "monthly" format of The Cornerstone is now one year old and we have settled on a production schedule which takes account of the academic year at UTS. Three "joint" issues will be published each year during the longer recesses. There will thus be a June/July issue, an August/September issue and a November/December issue. Otherwise, The Cornerstone will appear monthly.

During 1996, we received a few reports from graduates on their current activities and we are always grateful to receive these reports. The focus of 1997 will be the 3.6 million couple Blessing and UTS graduates are being encouraged to work especially in the area of outreach to ministers. We would therefore be particularly interested in receiving news of any developments in this area. Thanks.

5, 10, 15 years ago in The Cornerstone

Interestingly, The Cornerstone issues for ten years ago (December 1986) and fifteen years ago (December 1981) both had front page headlines relating to accreditation.

15 years ago

In December 1981, the lead story was "UTS to Reapply for Charter" which reported that on December 14, the US Supreme Court declined to review the judgment and opinion of the New York Board of Regents which denied the Seminary a provisional charter. The article reports that "UTS is in the process of upgrading its academic program and taking steps to overcome the objections of the State Education Department concerning the financial solven-

cy and stability of the Seminary. UTS will reapply for a provisional charter in 1982."

10 years ago

In December 1986, the news was much better. "New York State Grants Seminary Charter" read the large headline and an article reported that, at the November 21 meeting of the New York board of Regents, the decision was made, by a 12-2 vote, to grant UTS a provisional charter. (By a strange coincidence, the MSA meeting which recently approved UTS's application for accreditation occurred on November 20-21, 1996.) The 1986 article praised the State Education Department for its courage. "In a strong and courageous manner, the SED defended the Seminary application before the Board of Regents stating that UTS has met the threshold of requirements and should be granted a charter without delay."

5 years ago

In December 1991, the headline read "Debate Victory Goes to Second Year Students" and an accompanying photo showed Welborn Rozier, Kazunori Furuichi and Frank LaGrotteria receiving the trophy from President Kim. The debate issue was "Government Funding Should be Provided for Bilingual Education" so maybe here also, Wayne Hill and the ESL department would see a tenuous link to accreditation!



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