Richard Panzer: Barrytown College to Welcome First Class of Students This Fall

Ariana Moon February 25, 2013



After two years of intensive efforts, Barrytown College of Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) has finally been approved by the New York Board of Regents, accredited by the Middle States Commission for Higher Education and is welcoming applications from prospective students for its first class entering in the Fall of 2013, according to Barrytown College President Dr. Richard A. Panzer.

Tuition for this accredited Bachelor of Arts degree program amounts to \$24,000 a year, and the college will be giving up to \$12,000 in the form of scholarships to students from Unificationist families. Applicants from the United States will be offered federal financial aid, including Pell grants, subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans and work-study, based on students' family income. Applicants living in New York State will also have access to Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grants, again based on students' family income.

Students will be able to graduate from this four year program with a Bachelor of Arts degree in World Religions and Philosophy and can also choose one of three minors – Business, Media Arts and Human Development/Family Studies – all of which may expand into majors based on student interest. Those with Advanced Placement credits or who have taken courses at other college have the possibility of graduating within three years.

"We've had two site visits by the New York State Education Department during which they observed the extensive campus renovations and construction of new dormitories and reviewed our academic and student-life plans. The process of accreditation took a while, but we did it!" said Dr. Panzer. He continued: "We plan to start classes at the end of August of this year for the Fall term. This will be a historic first class for the college. We've already gotten people contacting us from Europe, from Japan and of course, all around the United States. We plan to host an open house on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at Barrytown College for interested students who would like to know more about the college, meet the

professors and see the new dormitories. We want to invite them, and their parents, to come and visit our campus!"

A new website for the college will be launched this Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at www.barrytown.uts.edu. Those interested in attending the March 9th Barrytown College Open House can register online.

Dr. Stephen Murray, dean of Barrytown College, said, "Here at Barrytown College, what we're endeavoring to do is to create the first inter-religious religious liberal-arts college, where students can come from a variety of backgrounds – Unificationist, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu. [These backgrounds are] not only acceptable, but also welcomed in the classroom environment."

The college is required by the New York State Education Department to offer general-education courses as part of a "core curriculum," which for this Fall term includes courses in English composition, computer basics, foreign languages, including Korean, Spanish and French, college-level algebra, environmental science and probability-and-statistics.

"We may have students who have already completed their first year at another university, and so there's a good chance we'll be offering courses this Fall for second-year students as well," said Dr. Panzer. "These courses, taught by a mixture of full-time and adjunct faculty, will include Asian Culture and Civilization, Theories and Principles of Leadership, Interpersonal Relations and Communications, World Religions from the East and a course on Media Culture."

"Every single area of life is looking for good leadership," said Dr. Ann I., director of Student Life at Barrytown College. "The kinds of leadership skills that we'll be developing here are the kinds of leadership skills that will help [our students] be successful once they finish their courses here at Barrytown College."

John Redmond, CFO of Barrytown College, said, "This is a school where we're looking for people who are original thinkers. The courses are designed around Unification Thought, the education of intellect, heart and will. And so, each aspect of the college is designed to maximize [these aspects]. In doing that, we create something where your faith is not just tolerated, or demeaned, but is actually respected. Each student then can have an ethical framework to develop his or her life of faith."

"What we want to bring to the classroom is excitement and challenge," said Dr. Keisuke Noda, chair of World Religions and Philosophy Department. "We want to help students so that they can make discoveries even beyond their own perceptions and to cultivate potentials that they don't see in themselves."

"Barrytown College is a place to challenge yourself," said Dr. Panzer. "It's not just a place to study or to learn the skills needed for your future career – it's a place where you can learn how to impact the world and work together with others to impact the world. We really hope that you'll come join us!"

For more information, please visit http://www.uts.edu/barrytowncollege.html or contact Dr. Panzer.