

GPA

GENERATION
PEACE
ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER



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Interview With Roland Platt, GPA Director

Meet the GPASTaff

Kick-off Workshop 2011

GENERATION PEACE

VOL. 1 ISSUE 12



Above: First-year GPA member Aaron Roppoli stretches with his group during morning exercises.

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Platt.

BUILDING A GENERATION OF PEACE

In Jin Nim

Excerpts from the Sunday sermon given on September 18th, 2011

Brothers and sisters, this is an astonishing time as our True Parents are single-handedly taking the horns of providence, guiding and leading us to the new millennium of peace, love and harmony. I find it extremely exciting to know that on this very Sunday we are welcoming 120 new members of our Generation Peace Academy to New York City.

It is so exciting for me as the Senior Pastor to think about getting to know these beautiful young men and women of God and doing whatever we can to help, inspire, and propel them to be members of what I call a Generation of Peace, so that we can rebrand our world by changing the culture.

That's what it's all about, if you think about it. Our True Parents have come to teach us the Divine Principle, to teach us how to understand and inherit true love, true life, and true lineage in our lives. In essence, we can think of our lives as an opportunity to create something beautiful, to create the next generation, the new Generation of Peace—young men and women who first and foremost know our Heavenly Parent to be our eternal parent.

In understanding that we belong to a common parent, we understand that we actually belong to one family of God; we realize that with God as our Heavenly Parent, we are the children of God, His and Her eternal sons and daughters, with a divine purpose in life. Through the teachings of Reverend and Mrs. Moon we have been encouraged to live a life of altruism, living for the sake of others – the philosophy of thinking about others, wanting others to be better than ourselves, and wanting to raise up a humanity

of incredible people who understand their value and purpose and that we belong to one family of God.

The Generation of Peace needs to be a generation that understands the meaning of compassionate living, truly caring for others more than ourselves – not just through lip service or because we're going to get a reward at the end of the day, but by being a compassionate Buddha-like, True Parents-like, Jesus-like people who are living and breathing for the sake of others. This is not about dying for the sake of others, but about continuing to prosper, doing well in life, and being inspired, as we continue a life of compassion.

When we think about the Generation of Peace, we want to raise up young men and women who are excellent not only internally but externally as well, so that whatever they feel called upon in terms of their passion in life – in terms of being the best doctor, teacher, nurse, minister, or whatever they feel called to do – they will try their best to be not only good professionals, but also good people.

This is what I'm thinking about when I talk about creating the Generation of Peace. The Generation of Peace is going to contribute to our humanity a whole new culture. In terms of our mission work, in terms of trying our best to live a good and compassionate life, while also being an internally and externally excellent human being, what we are doing is building a new culture of true love. We are rebranding who we are. We are rebranding what our movement is by changing the culture that permeates our lives.

“THE GENERATION OF PEACE IS GOING TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR HUMANITY A WHOLE NEW CULTURE.”



A NEW VISION

Interview with Roland Platt,
Director of GPA.

“THE VISION STATEMENT OF GPA IS TO BE A PREMIER EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG UNIFICATIONISTS GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL,

Roland Platt, Director of Generation Peace Academy, or GPA (formerly known as Special Task Force or STF), says business is booming at the premier character-education program of the Unification movement.

“It’s obvious that the program right now is really appealing and fitting to what the second-generation need and want, which is why we’re getting such a large number of applicants and unparalleled interest in the program. We’re also reaching out to the older Blessed Children, and now there’s a growing number of participants who’ve already finished one, two, or three years of college who decide to do one year of our program to explore their faith before getting back into school.”

“This year has by far a record number of applicants. We actually anticipated a few years back that the number of applicants would decrease, based on the demographics. The number of Blessed Children graduating from high school for the last three years has been declining, and so we thought this program would get smaller and smaller. But despite this, last year we had a record number of applicants for its time – 111 first-years – and this year set an even higher record at 122. In addition to the first-years, we have 31 second-years, 8 third-years and 12 Core Staff, both full-time and part-time.

An Overview of Generation Peace Academy

“The vision statement of GPA is to be a premier education and leadership training program for Blessed Children graduating from high school,” said Platt in an interview Sept. 23, 2011. “The most important thing for us organizers to do is to provide an environment through which second-generation Unificationists can connect to God and True Parents through the True Children.



“The name is the most obvious change. I think the name is awesome, and feel that one day it will become as prestigious as the names of West Point Academy, or Princeton. The name “Special Task Force” is kind of limited – it doesn’t convey who we actually are. “Generation Peace Academy” is a name we can be really proud of. Right now we’re catering to Blessed Children mainly, but I can see in the future that GPA will become the training program for all the young people who want to learn about the Unification Movement and change their lives. When anything has been around a long time and then changes, it takes people time to adjust, so I’m sure there were many graduates of STF who struggled with the name change. But for the first-years coming in now, the name is quite natural for them.”

The Tripartite Module System

“In terms of how the program is structured, we thought of having “modules” last year. It’s a brilliant idea to divide the program into three completely different sections. First of all, before this system, STF was basically a whole year of fundraising, then a whole year of witnessing, and a year is a long time to maintain focus and inspiration. When we broke the program down into modules, the level of spirit and focus stayed with the participants all throughout the year. We’ve seen great results.

“So now the year is divided into three. There’s



Above: First-year GPA member, Matthew Rogers and GPA Director, Roland Platt chat after Lovin' Life's Sunday Service

the fundraising-training module, which develops character and on a deeper level allows the participants to experience God's and True Parents' heart by going out into the world. Then there's the leadership module, which takes place at the Lovin' Life Learning Center, during which the main purpose is to connect to Lovin' Life Ministries and all its programs, as well as get a taste of what it's like to witness and share our faith with others. This module in particular is a special opportunity because it's in this module that participants can personally interact with the True Family and share fellowship through the Ballroom Dance Ministry. The third module consists of international service for three weeks, which I think provides a powerful experience because many Blessed Children have never been out of America, in developing countries. When you live in America, you take a lot of things for granted, so when you go overseas, your heart and mind can expand greatly when you see how other people are living and how blessed we are to be in this country.

"This year we have nine group leaders and nine groups. Three groups will go through a module at a

time. We try to make every team balanced – there are leader types, supporter types, stronger types, milder types. So instead of making three big groups, we have nine smaller groups that rotate in different directions – some rotate clockwise, others counter-clockwise, others in a sort of triangle direction, so there's the maximum amount of interaction between all of the different participants throughout the course of the year. Otherwise you'd only get to know one-third of the participants of GPA.

"Workshops are interspersed throughout the program, and are an opportunity for all the participants of GPA to gather together and share their different experiences. The kick-off workshop lasts for a few weeks – it's happening right now – and it's a time during which everyone comes together to start off the year on the same page, grasp the vision and goals of GPA, and clarify their own motivation and goals for the year. Then everyone is split into three modules. We have two inter-module workshops where everyone comes together again, between the transition from the first and second module and then the second and third

66 GPA PREPARES THEM FOR THE BLESSING AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND PROVIDES THEM WITH A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. 99

module. Those are really exciting and there's a high level of energy there, because you have people coming in from all around the world – from Lovin' Life Ministries, from fundraising in the Rocky Mountains, from doing service work in Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, or other places, and there's a lot of sharing of testimonies. Then there's the conclusion workshop at the end of the program, where they reflect upon the whole year, wrap up, celebrate at the Commencement Gala, and prepare for the next step in their lives. At workshops, the participants bond through activities, attend lectures from guest speakers such as Rev. Phillip Schanker or Rev. Andrew Compton, and some time in the year we have a Blessing Workshop at which they learn about relationships."

Comparing GPA to STF

"The biggest change I see is that STF used to be an intense training course focused on challenging young people to push themselves physically, spiritually, mentally, and we had a lot of powerful transformations. But the program now as GPA is a lot more suited to prepare young people for life in a more holistic way. GPA prepares them for the Blessing and academic success and provides them with a strong spiritual foundation. I'm confident that the program now prepares them better for daily life and also to be integrated into the community after the program is over. STF before was a bit separate – you went through this intense boot-camp experience for a year, then once you graduated, it was very hard for you to transition and apply what you learned, what you gained, into daily life, despite the powerful experiences you may have had on the program.

"Also, Lovin' Life Ministries has had a huge impact on STF. I would say that STF is really a part of Lovin' Life. Because of Lovin' Life, it's easier for graduates of STF, now GPA, to go back into their communities and find ways that they can support and be active and engaged in them."

The Investment of Rev. In Jin Moon

"I've been involved in STF since August of 2001, so I'm now going into my 11th year. Ten years of STF, and now the first year of GPA. I joined the Mobile Fundraising Team (MFT) in 1993, and was involved for eight years. In STF I've been a team leader, a group leader, director, and pioneered Latin STF back in 2005.

"I feel that it is a tremendous privilege to do what I'm doing. I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing, even though my job is often challenging and sometimes overwhelming, it's an honor to be able to work closely with so many Blessed Children, to help them find purpose and direction in their lives, and to serve the True Family.

"I've always felt STF, now GPA, is True Family's program. STF was launched in 1994, and then in 2001, Hyun Jin Nim took leadership and re-vamped it, exactly seven years after the program was created. Then exactly seven years later, in 2008, In Jin Nim came and embraced the program, speaking at the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) almost the exact day Hyun Jin Nim had seven years earlier, in the very same room. I had an incredibly experience that day when I realized this.

"To In Jin Nim, I would like to say thank you. I'm extremely grateful for the personal love and care and investment I received from her. Her heart towards the Second-Generation is really amazing, and she's raised up this program. She's the one who transformed STF to what it is now, she's the reason we have so many applicants now, and that the numbers are only going to go up. She's transformed STF, and given it so much love. I wouldn't be surprised if the number next year reaches 200, and after that 300, because of how In Jin Nim has transformed the program into GPA."

- Courtesy of Familyfed.org

MEET THE STAFF

This year, with a record number of participants in the GPA program, we have a record number of staff onboard to help make it successful. So now, without any further ado we would like to introduce to you this year's 2011-2012 GPA Staff!

ROLAND PLATT

DIRECTOR OF GPA

Roland Platt was born in the English Channel Islands. Unfulfilled with his life he set off on his spiritual journey at 18 years old. He spent two and a half years traveling throughout India and Nepal, hiking the Himalayas and visiting holy sites and holy people.

Another two and a half years of traveling lead him through Asia, to Oceania where he sailed from New Zealand to Fiji. On a 24-hour layover in San Francisco he found what he was really looking for and that's where his new life began! (Dec '92)

Highly inspired, Roland completed eight years of MFT as a fundraiser and as a team leader under Dr. Seuk and Mr. Aoki who financially and spiritually supported the Providence in the Northeast Continent. During that time he was Blessed in '95 to his wonderful wife Jina from Far East Russia. They now have four awesome kids: Mi-hye, Hyo-il, Julia and Keila and live in Upstate, NY.



In 2001 Roland's team was called to support the STF program. According to Roland, the last 10 years have been like a dream, being able to work closely with the True Family and hundreds of Blessed Children and their families. He feels immensely blessed and privileged to have this mission. Roland has served STF as a team leader, as a group leader, and helped pioneer Latin STF in South America from 2004-2005. Now in his 5th year as Director, Roland is always grateful to his team of core staff, without which nothing would have been possible.

His passions include: traveling to remote places in developing countries, hiking / cycling / horseback riding / kayaking / running in the great outdoors, and trying to make a difference in the lives of others.

KENZO TANAKA

GROUP LEADER

Kenzo was born in Japan and joined the UC movement in New York while visiting America in 1994. He was Blessed in 1997 to his wife Anisa from Kyrgyzstan. They now have two daughters, Unja (5) and Yoshiko (3), and currently live in Colorado.

From 1994 to 1995 Kenzo served in CARP MFT, and from 1995 to 2000 in IEF MFT as a fundraiser and as a team captain. From August 2001 until now he has been on STF Staff also as a team leader and group leader. He is very happy working with the 2nd Generation because he sees them as the hope



of the UC movement and the hope of the world. He feels privileged that he can support them in this important moment of their life.

ANATOLI KAZAK

GROUP LEADER

Anatoli Kazak is 34 years old. He was Blessed with his wife at The RFK stadium in Washington DC in 1997. He has two lovely daughters. He was born in a very small town in a small country called Belarus. After finishing high school, Anatoli was unsure about what he wanted to do afterwards. He took martial arts and had wanted to continue in that direction, but eventually decided to study philosophy at a very prestigious university in the capital city. He entered the university at the age of 17 and studied there for almost a year. That year he met his spiritual mother and joined the church. Anatoli came to the United States six months later and invested



himself in supporting God's Providence through different missions. For eleven years he has been a part of STF now GPA, and he has participated in the education of the 2nd Generation which, Anatoli reflects, became his own education as well. "I grew a lot by being on GPA Staff. I came to understand God and True Parents more deeply." Anatoli feels immense pride in being a part of GPA.

AKIRA WATANABE

GROUP LEADER

Akira Watanabe grew up in the countryside of Japan in the Aichi prefecture. Since he was young he has dreamt of becoming a Super Hero, standing up for the weak. However, he became inspired to search for a deeper meaning in life when a friend shared her dream of becoming a Catholic nun to follow in Mother Teresa's foot steps. So in July of 1990 he set out for the United States. Upon being approached by an American Sister on Broadway Avenue in New York in January 1991, Akira responded with great enthusiasm.

He was well known in NY CARP as a struggling member because he could not receive a lot of result, but somehow he was inspired by witnessing and was able to raise two spiritual children both in the same year



that he joined.

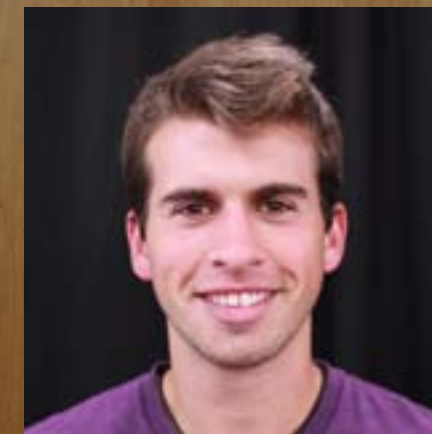
He has participated in the 36,000 Blessing in Moscow 1995, and later in 1999 he was re-blessed with an incredible Japanese sister who has contributed so much to build up STF from 2001 to 2007 as an IW. He has received three "wild" sons from Heaven.

Currently Akira is a group leader in GPA. His greatest hope for this year is that he can be somebody who believes that God is always present with us, so that he can give better guidance to the Second Generation.

KLEIN GAUTHIER

GROUP LEADER

Klein Gauthier was born on October 3rd, 1990 in Sudbury, Ontario. Raised in a small town in Canada, he spent most of his childhood exploring the outdoors and the beauties of life. Similar to Justin Bieber; he has a great voice and beautiful hair. Actually, Klein was known as the class clown throughout school. He had always enjoyed life. Since he began this spiritual journey in his relationship with God and True Parents, he started to become more serious in what life is truly all about. Still though, he cracks a joke here and there, and there and here, and again and again. Klein is here to support God and True Parents in the best way he can: to love his brothers and sisters, to help them in their own personal, spiritual journey, and in their



relationship with God and True Parents, so that everyone can see more and more the amazing love in their lives.

Every day Klein wakes up in the morning with two things in mind: to find a more fulfilling life in supporting True Parents and In Jin Nim, and food. His goals in life are to be the world's greatest husband, father, and plumber. Simply, he loves life, loves God and True Parents, and wants the same fulfilling and beautiful life for others as well.

HANA VILLAFANA

GROUP LEADER

Hana is a Mexican, American, and Japanese blessed child who has lived in both America and Mexico. She is 21 years old and is blessed to YoungBok Gomez, who is a team leader on GPA this year. She is a stubborn, outspoken, passionate person who loves sports, dancing, cooking and taking care of people. Initially, she came to the program as a participant giving the church one last try. After finding herself and finding God, she ultimately found new life. After being so blessed, she decided to stay longer hoping to be able to give back to others more than what



she had received. Each year as she grows in her faith, Hana also deepens her purpose for being here - to lead people back to God with love and raise them to be people who can love and support True Parents and True Family even better than she can.

YASTAKA ISHIDA

GROUP LEADER

Yastaka Ishida is from Miami, FL and is 22 years old. He is the oldest of two. He had an immense passion for music while growing up which started with taking violin lessons at the age of six, teaching himself guitar when he was in middle school, and doing other performing arts activities inside the community. Yastaka is currently in his third year of GPA, and he feels grateful for the amount of love and investment the staff, brothers and sisters, and most importantly In Jin Nim and True Family have given him for the past two years. He is offering his third year out

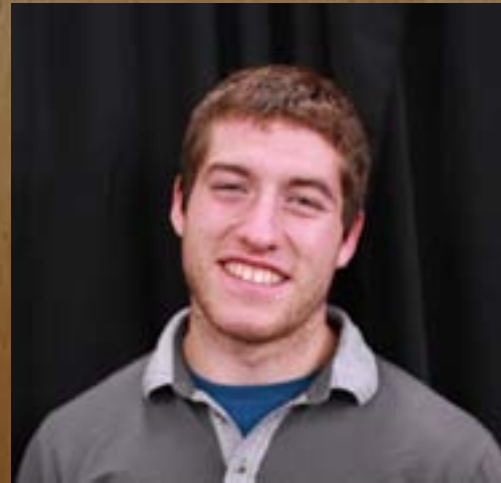


of gratitude towards the UC movement for what it has given him in his life - his family, friends, and more than anything, God and True Parents. These past two years have been a journey to help him build a strong foundation for his life of faith and build something that he can offer to support others.

ROSS WARD

GROUP LEADER

Ross is twenty years old from Bridgeport, CT. This will be Ross' third year in the program. His first two years have probably been the best two years of his life. Because so many people have invested their time and energy into him, for the sake of God and TP, Ross wants to do the same for the incoming group, and this is the main reason for his decision to return for a third year. He feels eternally grateful for the change that GPA has made in his life. Ross likes all kinds of sports,



especially football. To him, football is a sport that requires determination and the resilience to get back up no matter how many times you are knocked down. Ross seeks to encourage members to have fun and enjoy the journey.

JEFFERY SCHMIDT

GROUP LEADER

Jeffery Schmutd, aka "JJ" is 20 years old from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, also known as paradise. This year marks JJ's third year with GPA. He decided to offer one more year by living a public life - supporting and celebrating True Parent's life as well as guiding others to realize their value. JJ really wants to give all he has this year and to make it the best experience he can. JJ enjoys ballroom dancing as well as long walks on the beach. He loves watching and playing sports in his



free time. After GPA he plans on studying business with a concentration in accounting.

IZAK HERNANDEZ

GROUP LEADER

Izak Hernandez is from Dallas, Texas, his parents are Mark and Yuri Hernandez. He was born in Los Angeles, California, but now lives in a suburb of Dallas, Texas called Irving. He has three older brothers and two younger sisters. Growing up with a big family wasn't easy but there's nothing that he is more grateful for or values more than his family.

Izak has lived most of his life in church centers and his parents were excellent at never letting him forget that he is a Pastor's son. Many times it was difficult because his parents were away from home doing different missions. Because they have lived such public lives, his home has always been a place for



people to live and spend many hours congregating at every Sunday.

Izak enjoys swimming and being around all types of bodies of water. After GPA he plans to study and become a marine biologist. However, aside from that, he dreams of one day working for NASA and going to outer space.

KYRA MOYER

COUNSELOR/IW

Kyra Moyer is 20 years old. She lives with her parents, older sister, and younger brother in the beautiful state of Pennsylvania. She grew up loving the outdoors, reading, drawing, painting, and traveling the world. Her travels have taken her to Russia, Germany, Brazil, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Switzerland. Her dream is to continue traveling the world and seeing new and exciting places. After high school she decided to dedicate a year to building her relationship with Heavenly Father and discovering what she has to offer Him. That year turned into two, and now she's back again for a third year. She hopes that the work that she is involved in



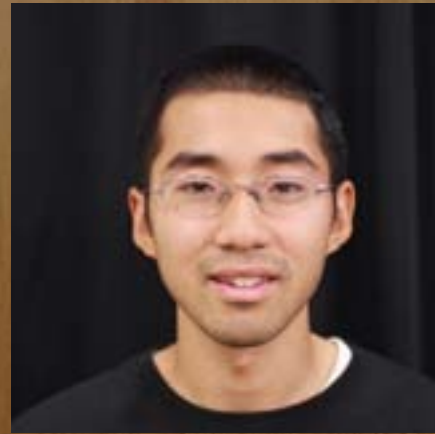
now will help the Second Generation better understand In Jin Nim's, True Parent's, and God's hope and dream for their lives. These past two years have taught her more about the world, about herself, and about God's heart than she could have learned anywhere else. She is excited to make the most of this new year and to do the best that she can to offer to her brothers and sisters.

THANH LE

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Thanh Duy Le was born in South Bend, Indiana in 1986 after both of his parents immigrated to the United States in 1985. In July of 2008 after completing an internship in Los Angeles. Thanh was approached by a Japanese sister who invited him to come and watch lecture videos. He became a Unificationist in August of 2008 and soon after, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in May of 2009. From May of 2009 until July of 2011 Thanh volunteered full-time fundraising and witnessing. Since August he has been the General Affairs representative of GPA.

Motivating Thanh every day is his desire to unite with the vision of our Senior Pastor, In Jin nim, and our GPA director, Roland Platt. Thanh believes that GPA is destined to be the finest post-high school character-building program in the world where appli-



cants from all different backgrounds will seek to gain leadership skills and intimate experiences with the Living God. Thanh devotes himself every day into making this kind of vision a reality.

Thanh will continue as full-time staff but also seeks to apply part-time to the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development in Fall 2012 to earn a Masters in Educational Leadership.

CHRIS STAIR

MEDIA DEVELOPER

Chris was born in Miami, Florida but currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is 21 years old. His hobbies include reading, writing, drawing, painting, music, audio/video, dancing and anything creative. He graduated from 2 years of the STF program in 2010 and afterwards studied at California State University East Bay. He was called back for the 2011-2012 GPA year to work part-time in the Media Development department of the new GPA program. He is responsible for the various visual projects such as the newsletter you are reading right



now. He loves the GPA program because it gives the youth in the UC movement amazing opportunities to find their true potential and value. When he sees signs of growth in the participants, he feels inspired and it makes him proud to be a part of this program.

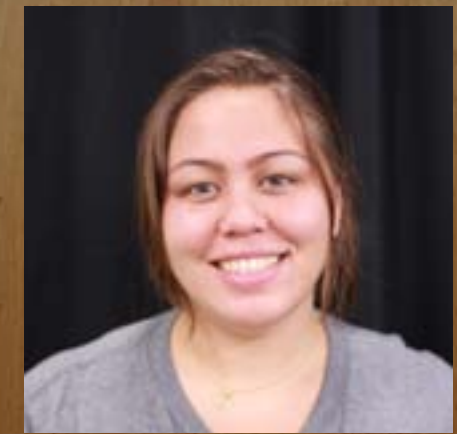
KEIMI KANNO

LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE COORDINATOR

Keimi was born to an American mother, Shirley (Saltz) Kanno, and a Japanese father, Shinichi Kanno in Maryland December 13th, 1983. Her parents were blessed on July 1st, 1982 and although she was born in America she spent her first five years in Paris, France.

She has a younger brother, Tokuwa, and a younger sister, Mika, both born in France. She moved back to America after she turned five, to New Jersey, and then spent some months in Japan due to her father's illness. After his passing, she continued to live in Maryland until her mother had a comfort blessing to an Italian when Keimi was sixteen. They spent the next ten years in Italy.

During that time, she went to high school in Italy, learned Italian, and entered the world of the European movement. She got



involved with HARP in Italy and collaborated with other countries and the European Second Gen Dept for workshops. She completed two years of STF Europe from 2003-05 and then attended a university in Italy. While studying full-time, She worked part-time as an English teacher and her part-time mission was with Jr. STF in Italy on a national level.

During her second year of STF she attended True Father's matching and blessing in New York and was blessed to Leonard Soaivan from New Jersey. She is now living in New Jersey and working as the GPA coordinator for the Leadership Module at 43rd street.

SOOGIN OGDEN

COUNSELOR/IW

Soogin Ogden is from Chicago, IL. She has expressed deep gratitude to be back to help with the program and seeks to support In Jin Nim's vision for the Second Generation. The reason why she came back is to help all the Second Generation come to realize and understand the value of who they are and what they represent.

One of Soogin's secret loves is Ikea. She claims that the meatballs at Ikea are the



best she has ever tasted. Even though Ikea is a furniture store, it has a cafeteria that serves various Swedish dishes.

KEISHU GREENE

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COORDINATOR

Prior to joining GPA, Keishu worked as the Marketing Coordinator for Meketa Investment Group, an investment consulting firm, where she focused on firm growth as a request for proposal (RFP) writer from 2008-2010. Before that Keishu was working as a Marketing Assistant for Punter Southall, LLC, a globally recognized investment consulting firm. She received her MBA from Clark University in 2008. She received her undergraduate degree in business management also from Clark University in 2006, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, and was twice inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society.

Born in the United States, she has had a life-long passion for traveling ever since her parents, Scott and Yoko Greene, moved the entire family of seven to St. Petersburg, Russia for missionary work during 1992-1996. When she was ten years old, she came



across a touching photograph of Mother Teresa caring for a sick, homeless man. That photograph inspired in her a desire to serve humanity. She is so excited to be part of the GPA family where her two passions can be realized and where she can help to create life-changing experiences for others.

Keishu is a relatively new addition to the GPA Core Staff having come onboard this Summer as the International Service Project Coordinator for GPA. Carrying the responsibility for the GPA Service Module, she sets up and organizes international service projects throughout the year.

JOHN GEHRING

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COORDINATOR

John has spent much of the last 25 years organizing international service projects with the RYS and later with STF and GPA. A graduate of the Unification Theological Seminary he later became an Adjunct Professor at UTS from 1993-1997. John served as the International Director of the International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF) and served as the International Director of the International Peace Sports Festival (2003-2007) where he also had the role of Co-Chairman. John has taught a wide range of seminars and training programs on subjects that include, marriage and family, sports for a better life, service learning and character building. He has created a sports for character program and brought it to countries in Asia and in the Caribbean. He enjoys developing creative approaches to teaching which



he has had a chance to bring to many of the 84 nations that he has worked in.

John wrote a book for the International Education Foundation entitled: *Service Learning: Building Global Citizens* and he has created training manuals including, *Implementing the Interfaith Ideal: A Guide to Organizing the RYS*. Currently he is working on creating a training manual for Generation Peace Academy. John and his wife Yoshiko were blessed in 1982 and they have five children.

ELISSA ALLEN

ASSISTANT SERVICE COORDINATOR

Elissa Allen is very excited to be joining the GPA team. She did three years of STF before attending college, and is grateful for the experience she had and the skills that she gained. She attended Binghamton University where she studied English Literature. Since then she has been working in the private sector, doing writing, editing, and client management for an online marketing company. When she heard about the opportunity to



support GPA, she became very excited. She believes that Foreign Service can be a great way to grow and develop an understanding of God's heart as well as a chance to give back.

EMILY ISEDA

COUNSELOR/IW

Emily Iseda is from Rosemead, California and is a fanatic of Mint Chocolate chip ice cream. She is 20 years-old. Following the trend of programs for young Unificationists, she has spent four years in South Korea on the GOP program and is currently dedicating her third year to GPA as a Counselor/IW. Her gratitude goes to In Jin Nim, to Jin Sung Nim and to all the core staff on GPA for bringing



together this family, culture and understanding of true love that she has experienced here.

NADYA KAMIYAMA

COUNSELOR/IW

Nadya was born in Yakutia, in the Far East of Russia. In 1995 she was fortunate to join the Unification Movement and was Blessed in August as part of the 360,000 couples Blessing. She graduated from Yakutsk State University with a Masters degree in History and Archives. From 1996 through 2001 she did fundraising and witnessing in Russia before coming to America. She supported STF as a team leader, as a Witnessing Center leader (In Maryland and Berkeley, CA), and as an IW (counselor). Her husband Satoshi was also a long-time staff member of STF



until January 2009. They now live in Chicago and have a newborn child, Sean. Nadya serves GPA as a part-time IW by visiting workshops and counseling members over the phone.

NADYA KAZAK

COUNSELOR/IW

Nadya Kazak was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia. She was witnessed to by her mother and joined the Unification Family at the age of 15. She has an older brother, and all of her family (parents and brother) are blessed.

She graduated Saint Petersburg State University with a Bachelor's degree majoring in Russian as a foreign language. She became an active (full-time) member in the church at the age of 18. She had a lot of witnessing experience as a student and as a center member. She grew a heart and passion for witnessing since then. After graduating from



the university she was engaged in a variety of activities. She traveled to many places in Europe and spent about eight months in Korea.

She was blessed in 1997 to Anatoli Kazak and could eventually come join him in America in 2005. She Joined STF/GPA in 2006 and has been helping the program ever since.

HIROSHI SUZUKI

SAFETY DIRECTOR

Born in Okayama, Japan. He picked up guitar when he was 13 and played in a rock band throughout his high school years. After graduating, he left Japan for college in Alabama in 1974. To pursue his dream to become a guitarist, he moved to Boston to go to Berklee College of Music where he met the Unification Movement in 1977.

In 1979, he joined the CARP rock band "The Sunburst" and traveled throughout the US extensively to perform on college campuses. In 1982, he joined Hyo Jin Moon Band, "YU", attending Hyo Jin Nim and playing guitar.

In 1988, he joined "Hyo Jin Moon Band," participated in the recording of "Re-birth," and traveled to Japan and France to perform concerts.



Blessed in 1982 in New York to his wife Eiko, they now have five children. The oldest daughter, Min Hwa graduated from two years of STF, and currently his second daughter, Hye Jin is a team leader for GPA. He is a graduate of UTS, class of '92, and also the voice actor for the Rosetta Stone Japanese Program.

This year he has been appointed as the Safety Director for GPA.

EIKA DAVIS

SERVICE PRACTICUM COORDINATOR

Eika Davis is a third year GPA member who will be dedicating her time to the Leadership Initiative Module this year. She is from Hawaii where her parents and younger sister currently reside. On the side, she loves to dance and sing, and she loves listening to the stories of the people's lives around her. Eika has completed one year at the University of Portland in Oregon and came to what was then STF in the Fall of 2009. This program and In Jin Nim changed her life and the way that she viewed religion.



The main reason she has come back for a third year is so that she can be as close to the providence as possible while serving it. She feels deeply that these last few years are years that history will never forget, and she hopes that in the future she will be able to look back and say, "I helped make a difference."

KICK-OFF WORKSHOP 2011 IN PHOTOS





First-year participants Katherine Williams and Michelle Han pose for a warm-hearted picture.

GPA KICK-OFF

On September 15th Generation Peace Academy was launched with a full impact, high-powered Kick-Off Workshop, setting the tone for the year to come.

The official start was heralded as the new participants rolled in their bags and found their names on the beds of the historic Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) dormitories. From there they were introduced to their 2nd-year mentors, and all of GPA participated in a day of fun and challenging group activities to break the ice and to build new bonds. To complete the day, the 2nd-year mentors performed a "Welcome Skit," with warm Disney songs re-made to offset the nervousness that the 1st-years might still be feeling on the first day of their journey.

On the following day, various presenters introduced to the participants In Jin nim's vision for GPA, as well as the learning objectives, culture and background of the program. The first week went by quickly as participants, loaded with an ample schedule, started their new spiritual lives. The participants trained every morning, focusing on identifying their limitation, and then trying to go beyond it. During the day, they sat in on presentations that were designed to help them clarify their motivations and to set clear goals for their year.

The presentation of personalized notebooks which the 2nd and 3rd-year leaders had prepared, was the most beautiful and tearful moment of the workshop. Accompanied with hugs and good wishes for the year, 1st-year participants received carefully hand-crafted notebooks. Made to reflect in, the team leaders intend these blank pages to be filled with many incredible experiences and deep meetings with God.



Above: (left to right) Klein Gauthier, Katerina Morgan and Yemi Harford in the crowd enjoying a Sonic Cult performance at Lovin' Life Ministries



Above: Rosako Wagner paints Layla Zomorod's face during a team building exercise.

The highlight of the first week was certainly Lovin' Life on Sunday September 18th, where In Jin Nim warmly welcomed GPA and laid out her expectations for the participants through her sermon. A couple days later participants were blessed by Jin Sung nim's visit and lecture at UTS. Jin Sung nim spent one unforgettable morning sharing, deeply and very personally, about the course of the True Children from a providential perspective. The participants felt so moved by the fact that In Jin nim and Jin Sung nim would share such personal stories of this beloved family with them. Through that experience, the participants became intimately connected to the True Family in a whole new way.



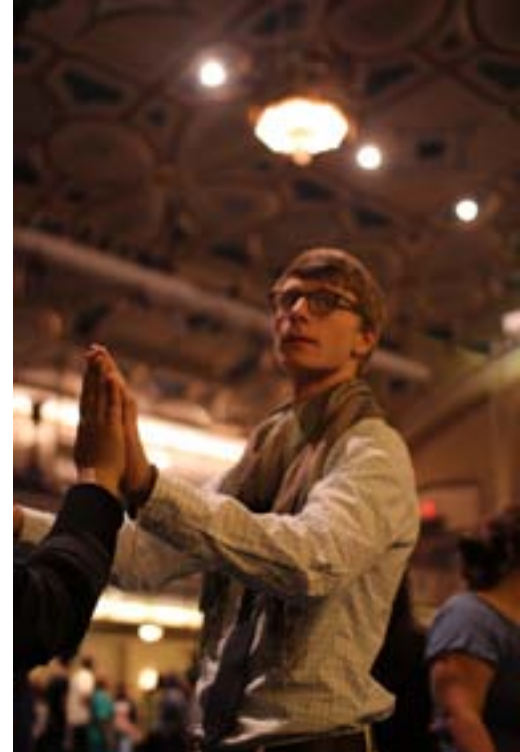
The conclusion of the first week culminated with internal guidances given by Core Staff in preparation for fundraising. On September 22nd, in high spirits, fundraising teams left UTS for a 12-day fundraising condition to introduce everyone to the fundamentals

of that most classic life of faith training - a box in hand and a determination to meet God.

On October 3rd the participants returned to UTS ready to finish off the workshop with a bang. Little did they know what God had in store for this already ground-breaking year of Generation Peace Academy. That night the 2nd and 3rd-year leaders received direction from In Jin Nim to travel to Las Vegas in support of our True Parents for a very timely providential event. Two incredible things happened. The first was the profound blessing that the 2nd and 3rd years received by being able to attend True Parents directly by helping to usher, to set-up for the event and to support True Family & Children directly. The other

was that while the leaders were gone, the 1st-year participants, who only in their 4th week as GPA members, were able to step up and assume all the responsibilities that their elders had.

1st-year participants took the initiative to lead their teams, keep time, hold discussions, conduct



ABOVE: (left to Right) Josh Hunter dances on Sunday, Katerina Morgan and Emily Giampaoli put their game faces on during team building and Anthony Hagen warms up for ballroom in the Grand at the Manhattan Center.

morning running training, practice Hoon Dok Hwae and much more. The Core Staff oversaw their work and were very moved by the heart and energy that the 1st-years invested in their responsibilities. They felt that this was truly a testament to True Parent's and In Jin Nim's incredible investment into the American movement.

Reverend Andrew Compton taught a full three days of Divine Principle workshops, during which he gave an overview of the entire Principle, effectively meeting one of GPA's learning objectives "to gain a deeper understanding of the Principle and its application." It was well received by participants and provided a solid foundation for the year.

One of the highlights for the workshop happened while the 2nd and 3rd-year leaders were in Las Vegas, the 1st-year participants put on an incredible "Entertainment Night" where many talented individuals performed.

Upon the return from Las Vegas, Jin Sung nim invited everyone to attend a lively ballroom social where all 150 participants hit the dance floor with the Red Hook community.

The Kick-Off Workshop concluded with the

team and module assignments for the year. The first 43rd module would be based around a choir that In Jin nim had initiated and will compete in the God's Day entertainment competition for our True Parents in Korea. The 40-person choir will be taught by a mother-daughter duo: Mrs. Kubo of the Sun Hak Choir and her daughter Mitsuru Hunter of Sonic Cult.

The Kick-Off Workshop ended in high spirits and everyone divided into their three modules: Leadership Initiative, International Service, and Fundraising. We look forward to coming closer to and meeting God and True Parents during these next 10 weeks!

GPA 2011

GPA September-October