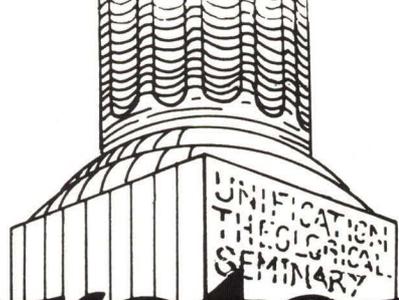


# The Cornerstone



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## Japanese Students Experience a Catholic Retreat



Japanese students at the Marist Retreat House

About 20 Japanese UTS students had a real taste of the life of a monk when they spent three days during spring break living in a Catholic retreat house in upstate New York, strictly following the Benedictine daily schedule. From March 15-17 they were the guests of the Marist Retreat House in Esopus and other neighboring holy orders and experienced a religious way of life that most had never had any contact with. The retreat proved to build bridges of compassion and understanding on both sides.

This unusual "field trip" was organized by Divinity Senior Shoichi Kimura and Junior Shinobu Ishimaru. Both of them had studied for the priesthood at Catholic seminaries in Japan and

wanted to give the other Japanese students, almost none of whom had a Christian background, an opportunity to broaden their understanding of a faith they had so far known only from theological study.

For three days and two nights the students experienced the strenuous schedule of the contemplative Benedictine order. Maintaining silence from 10:00 pm to 7:30 am, they also took all their meals in silence while spiritual readings were given. They were given talks by Shoichi in Japanese on the value of monastic life and the meaning of silence as a way to journey inward. The students also had many prayer and meditation periods for contemplation and self-reflection.

At the Redemptorist Convent at evening vespers, they experienced the deep heart of the nuns as the women prayed and sang a beautiful responsive liturgy. The students were also received graciously one afternoon by the monks at the Holy Cross monastery. One of the most unique and moving moments for the students was going through the Stations of the Cross, actually re-living step by step the pain of Jesus in his last week on earth.

### *"Your hearts can be opened"*

One of the students, Yushi Koshiba, summarized his experience this way. "Vespers with the nuns was a very rich spiritual experience. They spoke with such dignity and purity. It was incredible to see how they had made their whole life an offering to Jesus. Walking through the Stations of the Cross, I felt Jesus' pain very deeply. Just to imagine that for 2000 years the Catholics have been so completely dedicated to Jesus that they willingly re-experience his pain over and over through this ritual. I felt judged by them and had to really ask myself—do I have the same intensity of faith and practice?"

"I realized you cannot judge a religion by just reading about its beliefs. You have to try to understand what the people have lived through, how they have been sincerely trying through the years to cope with sin and evil. If you share these things with each other, your hearts can be opened, and you can clearly see how much you have in common. Treat

every religion like you would treat a person, trying to understand their struggles and what they went through in growing up. Then you can't judge them. Try to experience what they experience—I think that is the true way to ecumenism."

UTS Chaplain Shawn Byrne, who helped organize the trip, said that this unique event not only opened the eyes of the students but also the eyes of those who had invited them. He said at first the monks were a bit hesitant to invite Unificationists under their roof, but after three days, mutual misconceptions vanished and a genuine sincerity of heart was shared. Now a connection with another body of faith has been made in the Hudson Valley community that we hope will be a lasting and growing one.

By Laura Reinig

(Laura Reinig is a second-year student at UTS and the newest addition to THE CORNERSTONE staff.)

## New Courses at UTS

(Several new courses have recently been introduced at UTS. In this issue we offer a description of two of them.)

### Morality and Religion in Liberal Democratic Societies

What is freedom? What are the successes and limitations of liberal democracy? Can we be content that the demise of communism proves the success of liberal democracy, or is it, too, inherently unstable? What kind of society do



Mitsumi Kitagawa at one of the stations of the cross



The students were introduced to traditions at Holy Cross

we want to see for our children? These and many other questions were raised in this course by **Dr. Gordon Anderson**, Lecturer in Religion and Peace at UTS, through lively class discussion, based on up-to-date sources. Taught for the first time in the Winter 1992 term, the course used as source material a soon-to-be published book resulting from the Professors World Peace Academy Congress in London in 1989.

Essays by leading philosophers, theologians, and others covered liberal democratic theory and the Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant perspectives. Future scenarios were examined and specific issues looked at, such as the problems of post-communist societies, sexual morality and moral education.

Requirements for the course were structured along a combination of conservative and liberal lines—with a 40-question test on facts at mid-term and a take-home paper at the end, for which students were set the interesting task of writing three 3-page entries to a new encyclopedia being developed. Key topics to choose from included: The Roots of Modern Democracy, Catholicism and Democracy, Sexual Education, Freedom, Global Society, and others.

It was a valuable exercise for those of us participating to consider the nature of our own "ideology" and examine its roots, its development and its shortcomings.

As Secretary-General for PWPA International, Dr. Anderson was uniquely well-placed to pass on to the students important findings from the groundbreaking PWPA Congress, which, un-

der Rev. Moon's guidance, investigated these very questions, even assuming ahead of time the complete demise of communism and the accompanying uncertainties as well as new opportunities for mankind.

By David Hanna

(David Hanna is a new student at UTS.)

### Seminar of the Life and Thought of Sun Myung Moon

Offered each winter term at UTS since 1988, the Life and Thought of Sun Myung Moon seminar has stimulated much student and faculty interest. UTS graduate Dr. Daniel Davies, now on the faculty of Sung Hwa University in Korea, initiated the course because, as he put it, "to conduct Unification theology in all its varied aspects, Unificationists need a clear, comprehensive understanding of both the life and the thought of Sun Myung Moon." The seminar has since been team taught on a rotating basis by Unificationist faculty. (During the Winter 1992 term it was taught by **Dr. Michael Mickler** and **Dr. David Carlson**.)

Research projects have been an important feature of the seminar. This year's class undertook a variety of tasks, including the construction of specialized chronologies, interpretive essays, and translation efforts. Tatsuo Sasaki, for example, assembled an illustrated 40-page chronology of Rev. Moon's life from 1935 to 1961, while Gregg Jones covered Rev. Moon's "21-year Individual Course." Michio Fujii chronicled Rev. Moon's work in Japan since 1965, Eric Sylte addressed the question of "Rev. Moon and Environmentalism," Paul Savor examined "Evolutionary Trends in Rev. Moon's Treatment of Blood Lineage," Frederick Lacroix looked at Rev. Moon's speeches at UTS, and Hiroshi Suzuki dealt with "The Restoration of Culture and Hyo Jin Nim." Jin Ho Moon, one of Rev. Moon's relatives and an R.E. senior who added much to the seminar, translated a fascinating section from a Korean text on "Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Early Education."



Dr. Michael Mickler

At the suggestion of one seminar participant, all of this year's research projects are being collected together into a "Project Book" to be kept on file in the library. It is hoped that they will contribute to the further development of Unification theology and tradition.

By Dr. Michael Mickler

(Dr. Michael Mickler is Assistant Professor of Church History and Communications at UTS.)

## Unification Thought Seminar and Pre-ICUS Meeting

The Nineteenth International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences is scheduled to be held in Seoul, Korea, in August of this year. Before each conference, preliminary committee meetings are held for the scholars to discuss their paper topics, get advice, and become familiar with their colleagues of the ICUS "family," so that a unified spirit can be developed in their search for ways to apply absolute values.

Pre-ICUS meetings for three of the committees was held on March 27-29 in Clark, New Jersey. Simultaneously, a Unification Thought Seminar was held for the members of Committee III (Theory and Practice in Unification Thought), at the request of Dr. Sang Hun Lee, honorary chairman of the committee.

Ten Unificationists participated in this seminar, of which seven are currently either full-time or part-time faculty at UTS. Two other Unificationist scholars, Jack Hettema and Kathy Wittings, participated as paper writers in the other ICUS committees.

For the Unification Thought Seminar the Unificationists were asked to present papers on the application of Unification Thought, each focusing on a different chapter: Dr. Andrew Wilson (*Original Image*), Dr. Theodore Shimmyo (*Ontology*), Dr. David Carlson (*Original Human Nature*), Dr. Thomas Ward (*Axiology*), Dr. Dietrich Seidel (*Education*), Dr. Thomas Walsh (*Ethics*), Dr. Brian Saunders (*Art*), Dr. Michael Mickler (*History*), Dr. Jennifer Tanabe (*Epistemology*), and Dr. Frank Kaufmann (*Logic*).

For the pre-ICUS session, the roles were reversed and the ICUS paper writers presented drafts of their papers on the same topics for discussion by the committee.

Since our meetings in total lasted three days, in which we heard 17 presentations each followed by discussion, it was a formidable task for our chairman, Dr. Richard Rubenstein to guide us—a task which he accomplished admirably.

Two of the presentations on art provided some relief from the intensity of philosophical and theological debate. Dr. Brian Saunders, a new addition to the committee, sang some excerpts of Renaissance music to illustrate a point in his paper, and Dr. Betty Rubenstein treated us to a slide show in which she

included samples of art by the Unificationist painter Watanabe.

During the meeting it became clear that those scholars who participated in the previous ICUS committee on Unification Thought have developed in their understanding and now stand firmly in their efforts to apply Unification Thought to find solutions to problems in the world.

### *Desire to study Father's words*

Dr. Gene James and his wife, Dr. Nona Bolin, have been associated with the Unification Movement for 17 years, and while they argued forcefully that they find difficulties in the presentation of Unification Thought in Dr. Lee's writings, they suggested that they would like to study Rev. Moon's words on the subject directly. Similarly, Dr. John Kelsay is looking forward to reading Rev. Moon's speeches on "Home Church" and "Tribal Messiahship" to more fully understand the extension of the family into society for his presentation on Unification Ethics. I felt that Dr. Lee would be gratified to find that his great effort to bring Unification Thought to Western scholars is resulting in their desire to study Father's speeches directly.

Finally, I must mention that while our discussions were extremely spirited, even heated at times, there was a deep feeling that we are one "family" working together to deal with such issues as AIDS, homosexuality, and the role of women in the world. And, more importantly, that each person in the group is firmly committed to the value of Unification Thought and Father's teachings as the way to solve these problems.

In prayer one evening I had a clear vision that God had sent truth (through True Parents) and that we were all striving to make it substantial here on earth. I felt that we Unificationists should take the hands of our colleagues, for they are our true brothers and sisters, and we should work together on this task.

By Dr. Jennifer P. Tanabe

(Dr. Tanabe is the Director of Institutional Research at UTS.)



UTS Professors at the UT seminar and Pre-ICUS meeting

## Book Reviews

Two Books of Poetry Published at UTS

### SIGNS OF PRESENCE, LOVE, AND MORE

*Edited by Frank Bisher and Michael Mickler. Second Edition. Published by the Unification Theological Seminary, Barrytown, New York, 1989.*

*Reviewed by Dara Gujala*

This volume covers all levels of love and religion, both individually and as two powerful and irresistible forces that almost coincide, thus facilitating the achievement of some of the noblest goals in life.

Wars, materialism, poor education, jejune and vulgar movies, and myriads of negative forces oppose religion and love, but both survive. How strange! The Americans must be so confused. They have all the means in the world, the best medicine in the world, the most fabulous resources in the world, but their children are poorly educated. And they enjoy dangerous, undeserved freedoms. And too many pathetic citizens and confused politicians are critical of Unificationism, which could solve, and even prevent, at least some of our infernal problems by stressing beautiful values.

Please allow me to make a suggestion: do read these poems. What values! What beauty! What honesty! Even if you are not a Unificationist, just enjoy

the sublime universal values which survive easily; which create peace and tranquility for all; and which pull us upward, instead of hurling us into hell!

Please read and draw your own conclusions. You are a free, intelligent person. Do not listen to the fanatics. Do not listen to the Unificationists (I am not one). Do not listen to me. Just read, think, adopt enthusiastically, or reject rationally.

Good luck to you!

*Dara Gujala teaches in the History of Philosophy Department, Bangalore University, Bangalore, India.*

### PASSAGES OF HEART

*Edited by Kevin Convery and Eric Bobrycki. Published by the Unification Theological Seminary, Barrytown, New York, 1990.*

*Reviewed by Jin Chansu*

Poetry is sublime music. Divine poetry is even nobler, as it includes the additional elements of spirituality, idealism, and universal love. It is no wonder, then, that between the covers of this beautifully bound volume numerous sparkling jewels illustrate this point.

In his "White Swans" William Brunhofer begins thus:

*White swans paired by the new sun climb  
above the tall triumphant trees  
and these green resplendent hills  
out of the long and sorrowful night of  
waiting, and sail together into the welcoming  
day....*

Kevin Convery opens his long "Rite of Passage" in this way:

*Where are they?  
All the passing  
forest places,  
the pine carpeted chambers  
falling back  
off the trail, unmarked  
save by shredded streams of sunlight  
fading now....*

A spiritual hymn, by Kate Gwin, begins with divine melodies:

*I wake to the sound of  
violins, God  
a glad  
rising, a  
concerto  
of promises....*

You will enjoy countless more poems like these.

*Jin Chansu teaches at the Department of Culture Studies, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China.*

(Both reviews excerpted from the *International Journal on World Peace* and reprinted with permission.)

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