

African Student Wins 20th Oratorical Contest

Passion carried the day on February 21, when Raymond Otika, a junior student from Uganda, won the twentieth David S.C. Kim Oratorical Contest. Eight finalists from eight nations addressed the topic "Why Reverend Moon is the Messiah" and, at the end of the evening, Dr. Michael Mickler explained the view of the judges that those who spoke from their hearts came closest to true oratory.

Mike Armstrong, a Divinity Senior, gave Raymond his strongest challenge. He immediately captured the attention of the audience of 70 with his whimsical allusion to the well-known movie *A Miracle on 34th Street* in which a man claims to be Santa Claus and demonstrates all of the appropriate attributes. "He had a beard and a cheerful disposition and he knew all of the reindeer by name and yet nobody believed him except for one child!" Mike took an increasingly serious tone as he made his point. "Reverend Moon is striving, through his many works, to build the Kingdom of Heaven. Like the child in the movie, I believe in Reverend Moon - he has awakened me from a nightmare."

The eight finalists were chosen from an original field of 16



entries. They represented Zaire, Australia, England, Uganda, Canada, Nigeria and the Philippines. The variety of cultural influences was evidenced in the variety of approaches and styles of the finalists, ranging from rational persuasion delivered from the lectern, to emotional assault delivered on the move!

Perhaps it is fitting that a man who joined the Unification Church 20 years ago should win the 20th oratorical contest. Having recently arrived in the United States, Raymond Otika referred to his experiences during his recent travels. "When I went to Japan, I thought it was the Kingdom of Heaven - but then I met the Yakuza in a bath house. When I arrived in America, I thought it was the Kingdom of Heaven but then I read in the paper about two boys who threw another child out of a window and how another boy, aged five, dashed down the stairs to try to save his brother. This is our world; we are throwing each other out of the window and one man is dashing to save us."

Raymond also told the audience about his own powerful experience at the time of the matching and Blessing when he first met his Japanese wife. "In 1982, Reverend Moon took me by my shirt collar and said to my wife, 'Take this black man,' and to me, 'Take this yellow woman, and save the world from racism.' When my wife left behind the comfort of Japan to join me, I was deeply moved and knew that this must be the work of the Messiah." Raymond ended his speech with a challenge to the audience. "If you doubt that Reverend Moon is the Messiah, please take over."

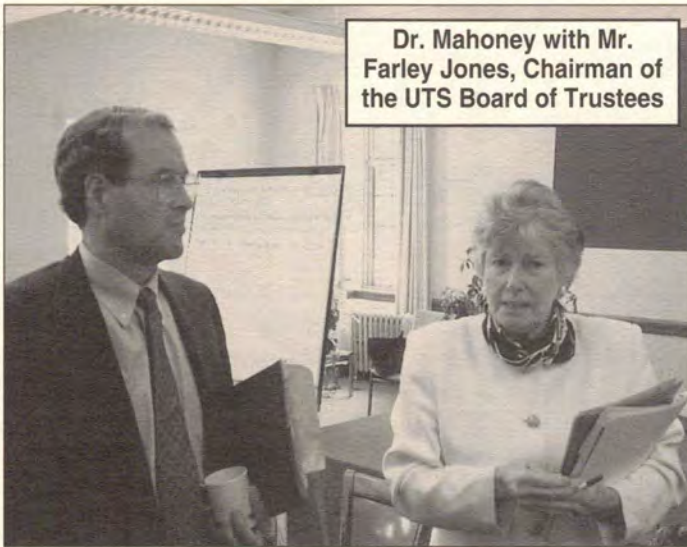
Mike Armstrong took second place and Serge Brosseau of Canada was third. G.D.

Trustee Seminar and Meeting

The Association of Governing Boards, of which UTS is a member, offers various seminars to its member institutions. On March 9, an AGB facilitator visited UTS to conduct a seminar on Board responsibilities. Dr. Colette Mahoney is president emeritus of Marymount Manhattan College in New York City where she served as president for 21 years. She has also served as president and member of the executive committee of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Ten Board members and five members of the UTS administration participated in the morning seminar which preceded a meet-

Celebrating the Founder's Birthday



Dr. Mahoney with Mr. Farley Jones, Chairman of the UTS Board of Trustees

ing of the Board of Trustees in the afternoon. Dr. Mahoney outlined the various dimensions of Board competencies and then asked the participants to divide into three groups to consider the relevance and application of these points to UTS. Each group then offered a summary of its main conclusions, allowing for an identification of common themes. Two groups suggested a further clarification of the Seminary's specific objectives and several points dealt with the need for further Board education, interaction and self-reflection. Dr. Mahoney urged those present to think in terms of actions which would best address these concerns. The warm applause which followed President Shimmyo's words of thanks to Dr. Mahoney suggested that the participants found the seminar to be a valuable experience.

The agenda for the afternoon Board meeting hinged upon the recommendations of the Board's committees which have been more active in this past year. After a lengthy and productive session, the day's meetings came to a close eleven hours after they had first begun. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, June 22 which is the day before graduation.

** Recognizing the value of the morning seminar for the future development of the Seminary, the fees paid to Dr. Mahoney and to AGB were covered by a donation from the Alumni Fund.*



Some had seen President Shimmyo playing the harmonica before but far fewer had seen him dancing and nobody could recall seeing him do both on the same day. That's the kind of spirit that hits people on Reverend and Mrs. Moon's Birthday. The twelve hour celebration on February 24 went from the Pledge Service at 7 a.m. until the evening Won Hwa Do demonstration in the dojang and in between, there was a lot of singing and playing and yes, even a little dancing.



Left, a Won Hwa Do demonstration; above, the African Chorus and a Yute tournament for all ages





Above, the Filipino Chorus and, left, a kilted Doug Williams leads the Scottish trio.

Raimon Panikkar at Maryknoll

On the evening of Monday, February 19, a group of UTS faculty and students attended a talk given by the eminent religious scholar Raimon Panikkar. The presentation, titled *The Future of Christian Missions*, was delivered at Maryknoll College, a Jesuit school, and now a missionary training center, located in Ossining, New York.

The first condition for spreading the Gospel, said Mr. Panikkar, is to know the person to whom we are speaking and we cannot know that person unless we know his or her beliefs and hence, that person's religion. Traditionally, he said, missionary intentions and methods have been wrong. "First we teach people about sin, then we call them sinners, and then we ask them to renounce their beliefs and embrace Christianity. We are allowed to pray for the Hindus but not with the Hindus. We must be able to pray with the Hindus without being hypocrites," he said.



Raimon Panikkar (bearded) with some of the UTS group

Panikkar stressed the need to communicate, not only through language, but more importantly through listening. He spoke of the art of listening which implies interior silence, "to listen, there must be silence in one's life and emptiness of mind," he said. The future of Christian missions, he suggested, is in the exchange of our respective gifts and through dialogue, especially in listening to the other. "We should be ready to learn more than to teach and to preach by example," he said. He warned against the temptation to "absolutize" the truth, preferring instead an openness to the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, he concluded, "The future of the Christian mission is the peace of the missionary spirit in all of us." *Mike Armstrong*

World Unificationist Student Review publishes first issue

Seven UTS students representing virtually every continent of the world, as well as both the Divinity and Religious Education programs, recently joined together to create UTS's first student-initiated and student-supported theological review. The first monthly, 20-page issue, published March 1, included student articles on Indemnity, the Third Blessing and the role of international blessed couples; an article introducing the review; an interview with Dr. Mickler, UTS Academic Dean; a short story feature; an editorial on the meaning of "family," and a review of Carlos Rangel's study of Latin America, *From the Noble Savage to the Noble Revolutionary*.

According to WUSR editor Christopher Mckee, WUSR hopes, in succeeding issues, "to receive submissions from UTS graduates, faculty and others who have something serious to say about Unificationism in both the American and world context." He notes that Dr. Kathy Winings, Dr. Dietrich Seidel and Dr. David Carlson have agreed to become the first members of WUSR's Academic Advisory Board whose purpose is to help the Review to develop and maintain high academic and professional standards.

The hope is to quickly develop a large and diverse Editorial Advisory Board from among UTS graduates and friends worldwide to help with the process of soliciting and receiving submissions, as well as furthering WUSR's subscriber base.

Subscriptions for ten issues per year cost \$25 in the U.S. and \$35 per year for foreign subscribers. Anyone who would like to participate in or subscribe to this review is invited to contact WUSR by writing to WUSR, c/o Christopher Mckee, 10, Dock Road, Bar-

rytown, NY 12507. The e-mail address is studentrev@aol.com or cmckeon@mhv.net.

New Korean Language Instructors



Mr. Taek Yong Oh
with junior student,
Prince Tambi.

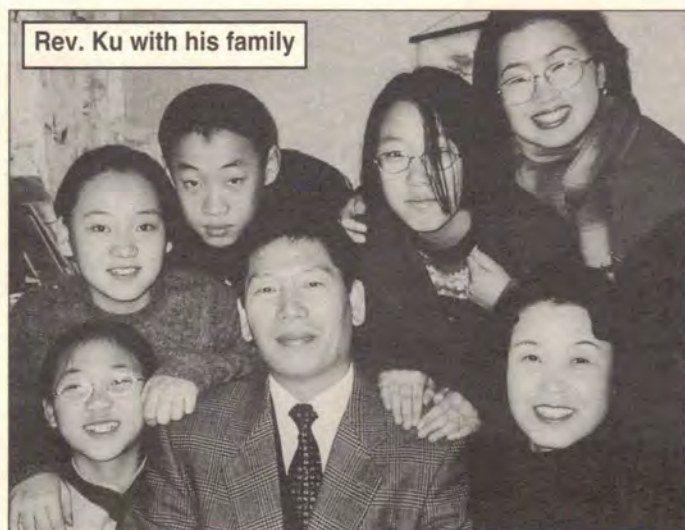
UTS welcomed two new Korean instructors during the winter trimester. Ms. Moon Sook Choi Yoon graduated from UTS in 1991 and is featured in this month's Alumni/ae News. Mr. Taek Yong Oh is a Th. D. candidate at Boston University School of Theology and is currently on a leave of absence from Sun Moon University where he is a full time lecturer in New Testament Studies.

The Students of UTS

This month, we are beginning a series of profiles of the Seminary's students. Who are they? Where are they from? What are they doing?

Reverend Dong Suk Ku

Reverend Dong Suk Ku has always been in the middle of everything. In a family of nine children, he was exactly in the center, with two older brothers and two younger brothers, and two older sisters and two younger sisters. At UTS too, he is usually in the middle of things, whether it is a yute tournament



Rev. Ku with his family

or the practice of a new Korean Holy Song which he leads with a resounding baritone.

Reverend Ku came to the Seminary in 1994 and during the past 18 months, he has concluded that "UTS is the very Kingdom of Heaven ...not only because of the beautiful surroundings but also because of True Parents' love and concern." He feels at home in the countryside as this is the kind of setting in which he grew up. School was a five mile walk away and all the children were expected to help with their parents' farming chores. Reverend Ku now recognizes that his parents were a strong influence on his life with their constant reminders of the importance of honesty, hard work and thriftiness.

He met the Unification Church in April 1966 when he was a middle school student. He had always despised religion but he was impressed by the quality of the church members, the humility of their surroundings and the instructive, philosophical way in which the ideas were presented. Most of all, he was moved by the way in which the members treated each other with love and devotion. One memory is particularly clear. "One day, I saw a young member who prayed sincerely, shedding tears, when some of us were playing ping-pong. It shocked me. At that time, I could not understand her because I did not know Divine Principle. However, that evening she visited my home. I was surprised because my house was far from the church and it was not easy to find in our village. She said that she came according to God's guidance and the short talk which she gave me planted a deep emotion in my mind."

Since that time thirty years ago, Reverend Ku has devoted himself to church work, gradually rising to the position of regional director which he held for four years before coming to UTS. Still, his most abiding memories are of the 1960's and 1970's, times of difficulty and struggle when the victories were hard-won and often single-handed. Inheriting one church with debts and no members, he decided to open a school and quickly had 30 pupils. Within three years, the church had 40 members coming to Sunday service.

These days, Reverend Ku is determined to fulfill Reverend and

rytown, NY 12507. The e-mail address is studentrev@aol.com or cmckeon@mhv.net.

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nalism at Columbia University in New York City.

Since coming to the states in December of 1995 and beginning classes in January 1996, Min has formed a good opinion of the Seminary. He is particularly moved by the helpfulness of the staff and faculty and the warmth and support he finds among his fellow students. He contrasts this to the competitive and strained environment his wife deals with at Columbia University. He is active on campus as the financial advisor for the Student Review, a new student newsletter and is taking a full load of seminary courses as well as an ESL offering on public speaking. He was part of a group of Chinese students who recently visited an elementary classroom in Red Hook to introduce Chinese culture to the children.

His background in China was materialism and he believes today's America may be tomorrow's China unless their economic system can come to be centered on a "great idea". Min says that especially the young people in China are looking for direction. The Unification Movement is not recognized in China because anti-communism is part of our teaching. Our members are able to work there but one never knows what response may come from the government. *D.T.*

Oksana Semenchova

The fact that she is the first native Russian to attend UTS is not Oksana Semenchova's only distinction. In 1992, while working in the Moscow headquarters of the Unification Church, she comprised half of the "team" which translated Level 4 of the Unification Principle directly from Korean to Russian, an accomplishment which she recollects with obvious pride. "If I don't do anything else in my life," she said during a recent interview, "at least I did that."



Oksana was born and raised in Moscow where everyone around her, including family and friends, was a firm believer in communism. As with all Russian children, Oksana went through the various levels of youth organizations which accompanied her early education. The Octoberists (6-10 years old), Young Pioneers

(10-14) and Komsomol (from 14 on), were all organized within the school system and all offered training in how to become a noble, public person. During her time as a member of Komsomol, she found herself reflecting on the purpose of her life, a question which she encountered repeatedly in the works of Gogol, Pushkin, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy which she enjoyed as a teenager and which were readily available in her mother's small library.

The late 1980's brought disillusionment on a national and personal level. "Belief in the Ideal Society quickly faded and the Communist Party became only a ladder to success. There was great dissatisfaction at this time." The nation's loss of idealism coincided with Oksana's own maturation and awareness of the reality of Russian life.

Oksana briefly attended linguistics school but decided that it was not for her and instead began teaching at an orphanage for mentally disabled children. "I remained there for six years teaching children aged three to eight years old and I found great joy in living for these kids."

She often worked 20-hour days but still continued with her English studies, a decision which she feels was guided by God. "During my last exam, our teacher told us about a religious seminar which would be held near Riga, Latvia. She told us it would be a good opportunity for us to study our English. I'm not sure what her motivation was at that time but anyway, she attended the Blessing in 1992!"

By this time, Oksana had already been thinking deeply about religion and had studied Hinduism before being baptized in the Orthodox Church in April 1991. She was also attracted by Catholicism but was troubled by its history of persecution, particularly the Inquisition. She determined to decide which religion was right for her and had already decided to go to the Baltics to attend an Orthodox Monastery to pray deeply as a nun. "I felt that if I can't change the world, at least I can pray for it!"

Instead, she went to the International Leadership Seminar where she was first introduced to the Divine Principle. Among the people she remembers from that summer are ILS staff members David Stewart (UTS '85), Dr. James Baughman ('78), Myra Stanecki ('89) and Larry Krishnek ('93). Oksana was particularly impressed by the reaction of the seminar staff to the news that a military coup had been staged in Moscow while the seminar was still going on. "I realized that these people were not afraid but were concerned for the future of the country. All of the staff did a three day fast and I felt admiration for them, especially when I did my own one-day fast and realized how difficult it was."

On returning to Moscow, Oksana decided to quit her job and to work with the Unification Movement. In these last five years, she has performed many duties in helping to establish and develop the Church in Moscow. In the summer of 1992, she joined the team which was responsible for translating many of Reverend and Mrs. Moon's speeches as well as the Unification Pledge and Level 4 of the Divine Principle. She also assisted William Haines ('92) in

editing a book on world religions which will be used in Russian schools.

At UTS, Oksana particularly enjoys Dr. Donald Gray's class on Systematic Theology. "It's like poetry," she said. "He's really an artist!" Playing ping-pong has been a helpful way of getting to know people and she is very good at it. She is the newly-crowned UTS ladies champion and, with Piotr Sucharski of Poland, also captured the mixed-doubles title. Oksana has only been in Barrytown for three months but is already planning and hoping to enter the three year Divinity program. *G.D.*

H. Adza Mould

Born in Ghana to a Ghanaian father and Irish mother, Adza grew up and attended school until the age of 20 in Ghana. His father was a government official and Adza grew up with a strong interest in the political life of his country, and saw firsthand some of the negative effects of American foreign policy on his country and the positive side of Russian foreign policy. At 18 he began proceedings to obtain dual citizenship with Ireland and Ghana. When he was 20 he moved to England to study accounting at the University of North London. He returned to Ghana only once in 1982 for political reasons. He was introduced



to the movement in 1986 when he came to the London Headquarters to pick up some posters for a political rally for democracy in Ghana which Mike Balcomb had made for him. While he was there Mike invited him to hear some Divine Principle lectures. Adza was impressed and made arrangements to attend a 7 day workshop. After that he went back to school but felt that it didn't make sense for him to continue to study accounting when the Messiah was on earth. So he joined the movement on God's Day 1987 and became part of a working members center. He attended the Berlin CARP convention in 1987, the British CARP convention in 1989 and the Paris CARP convention in 1990 and then joined a British fund raising team.

In September of 1987 he and the former Prime Minister of Ghana co-published a newspaper called African Review to show positive views of Africa in Britain. Adza was the managing editor. Adza comes from a government family and has been deeply involved in the political scene of his country over the years. He says however that even though he holds his country's future very dear he has made the decision to sacrifice the particular for the sake of the larger worldwide providence of which his country is a part. He says the new democracy has made strides towards a more prosperous economy such that the Ghanaian economy is deemed by the IMF and the World Bank to be one of the model economies of the developing world.

Adza had the ambition to attend the Seminary for many years before he finally arrived here in January, 1995. He was inspired by the Seminary graduates he met over the years such as Alfred O'Connor, David Hanna and Ginger Nichols. However, he encountered a lot of resistance from his leaders because he feels they do not want to lose their members. Since it is true that members are asked by Reverend Moon to do various missions around the world and cannot always return to their countries, he understands their concern and is anxious to make a contribution to his country while he is still a student. He says the high point of his life was the Blessing in 1992 when through a series of "heavenly coincidences," he came face to face with his lovely Thai wife, Nittaya, for the first time. She has now joined him here at the Seminary and they are working on building their relationship.

Adza has a strong desire to work in Ghana again, and is hoping to help put together a RYS/IRFF project in Ghana this summer. IRFF has a farm in Ghana and he would like to build an agricultural school there. He is talking with John Gehring and Dr. Kathy Winings here in the states and Jim and Cathy Stinard, who are working in Ghana, to set up a project. *D.T.*

Alumni/ae News

Moon Sook Choi Yoon ('91) returns to UTS

When Moon Sook Choi Yoon left Barrytown in 1991, she had little reason to expect that she would return as an instructor and even less reason to expect that she would return as a relative of Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Ang! At a reception, held at UTS, to celebrate the marriage of her brother, Jin Man Choi, to the Ang's eldest daughter Joanie, Moon Sook advised everyone that, given the nature of our church, we would be wise to never make any enemies because "we never know whose family we'll join in the future!"

In the years since she graduated, Moon Sook and her husband Kyung Jeon ('92) have produced two baby boys. Still, while raising her family and working at Seil Travel in Manhattan, Moon



Sook has found the time to continue working on a book on Korean Grammar. Her duties at UTS involve teaching Korean to Japanese students, thus replacing Yasuko Kim ('91) who is now in Korea where her husband Hyun Kwang ('90) teaches at Sun Moon University.

Many alumni/ae will remember Moon Sook's father Mr. Yong Suk "Tiger" Choi who ascended last November. At the time of his ascension, he was serving as the Vice President of the preparation committee for the soccer World Cup to be held in Seoul in 2002.

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A
winter's
afternoon
on the
pond



**Teddy Juanitas takes his first
steps on the ice**



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