

Dean Stephen Butley Murray of Barrytown College Looks Forward to Prospective Students

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The Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) is scheduled to offer an undergraduate program called Barrytown College on the Hudson (BCH) this upcoming school year, according to BCH Dean Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray. The college is still undergoing the accreditation process by the New York Education Department, but is on track to begin classes in the Fall.



Dr. Stephen Butley Murray, dean of Barrytown College

Dr. Murray received a Bachelor's degree in philosophy and religion from Bucknell University, a Master of divinity from Yale University Divinity School, and a Master of philosophy and Doctorate degree in systematic theology from the Union Theological Seminary. He has been a Visiting Professor of Religion at Endicott College and Auburn Theological Seminary, the Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Skidmore, and a Lecturer in Religion and Literature at Oxford University.

"I found the idea of being the founding dean of a college based on a Unificationist tradition an amazing opportunity," Rev. Murray tells the *UC Newsletter*.

He also says: "All faculty and students will get to step into a place still within formation and help define the culture of a school. The first students to come in will determine a lot in terms of which clubs and activities we'll end up fostering and what the student governance is going to be like. It's a real opportunity to break ground and have a voice in determining what the nature of the school is going to be."

According to Rev. Murray, the school will be a unique and awarding experience for three reasons:

"First, the fact that it's being created with the ideals of the Unification Movement at the center will make it a very welcoming place. Especially at the beginning, it's going to be very much grounded in and developed by people with Unificationist background.

"Second, it's going to be kept small intentionally. For the first class for this Fall, we're only hoping for 30 students. Then, for each year after that, we'll be looking for 60 students per class. Therefore, our total student body will be 240 students – a very small college. It'll be an intimate setting where you'll get to know students and the faculty well on an individual basis.

"Third, our focus will be to understand ourselves as global citizens through the study of world religions and philosophy. We hope to make these values applicable in a very practical way through internships and

experiential learning opportunities. All in all, I think it will make for a pretty good college experience,” Rev. Murray says.



More than 14 years ago, Rev. Sun Myung Moon spoke about creating an undergraduate college at UTS in Barrytown and prayed on the shores of the Hudson River for the future leaders who would be educated there.

This school year, BCH will offer one major and three minors: the major will be “religion and philosophy,” whereas the minors will be “business,” “media arts,” and “human development and family studies.” Rev. Murray says the plan is to have all of these minors become majors within five years, along with a “liberal arts and humanities” as a fifth major.