

Join the Universal Peace Academy

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Universal Peace Academy students enter the Cheong Shim Theological seminary where they attend classes.

“You need to be born again through words and truth and become a light in front of the world, don’t you?” True Mother asked the Universal Peace Academy students at the entrance ceremony held on March 4, 2013. “Your name will be carved on the first page of new history. Your spirit and youth will be the foundation of building Cheon Il Guk.”



Mr. Dong Seong Im, of Korea, a first-year student at the newly created Universal Peace Academy (UPA), said coming to the academy has helped him to think more deeply about his daily life, physical body and theology.

Universal Peace Academy (UPA) students, based on True Mother’s directive, are trying to build one world that centers on Heavenly Parent and True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Several students shared their testimonies on the UPA promotion video featured on tongilgyo.org. “When I came here, I felt that I was not as ready as much as I thought,” said Mr. Dong Seong Im from Korea. “At this program I learned more deeply about daily life, physical strength and theology. Yet, when I think about myself I still have things that need to be improved.”

A European second-generation Unificationist, Ms. Yana, also shared the reason why she joined the program: “I applied to this program because I wanted to understand and inherit True Parents’ heart. I want to use my strengths and skills for True Parents and to become a good leader.”

Ms. Jeong Hye Yeom, from Korea, said, “I knew that True Mother made this program with a desperate heart. I wanted to help True Parents, so I decided to participate in this program. It has been a pleasure

being here because I was able to uncover the potential within me that I didn't even realize I had. I understand that there are a lot of things I can do.”



Ms. Yana, a second-generation Unificationist from Europe, joined UPA to try and understand and inherit True Parents' heart.

Ms. Mion, from Japan, said “I was able to feel the deeper relationship between God and I, and felt His love. Also when I look at the nature, I was able to know Father's heart and his thoughts. This place is really close to Cheon Jeong Gung [the Heavenly Peace Palace]. I believe, here, this is the place that can receive True Parents' love and grace.”



Her desire to help true Mother promoted Ms. Jeong Hye Yeom to enroll in UPA and in the process she has uncovered her potential to help True Mother.

The UPA program is not only a place for the spiritual growth but also a place to pursue one's physical growth centered on the Divine Principle. The academy practices the martial art of *Wonhwado* as one of the methods to increase the body's physical strength. Mr. Bong Gi Han established *Wonhwado* based on guidance from True Father. According to the document on tparents.org, *Name and Symbol, Origin and History of Wonhwado* by James Michael Powell, *Wonhwado* is designed to help people harmonize with their original mind, which always pursues absolute goodness, and to help practitioners achieve mind-body unity through practicing WON-HWA—the motions of mind and body unity. Just as a healthy body depends upon a sound mind, spiritual joy is incomplete without physical well-being.



For Ms. Mion from Japan, UPA is the place where she can connect more closely with God and True Parents' and receive their love and grace.

“When we work in the field, our body can get sick,” expressed Mr. Tadakuni, a UPA student from Japan. “I was able to learn how to manage my sick body through my mind. I realized that I need to make strong body to lead the people in the field.”



Through the practice of the Wonhwado martial arts, Mr. Tadakuni of Japan is able to unite his mind and body, which he says is important for leading people in the field.

Another UPA student, Ms. Su Jeong Lee of Korea, actualized the Divine Principle through *Wonhwado*, “I realized, when I use my body in a principled way my mind also follow my body’s direction. I felt that I need to work on my body not only my mind. Also learning these martial art skills allows me to have strong attitude that can defeat the bad guys on the street. Learning and practicing *Wonhwado* is like killing two birds with one stone.”



“When I use my mind in a principled way I find that my body follows,” said Mrs. Su Jeong Lee of Korea, about practicing Wonhwado as part of the UPA physical training component.

The UPA students are learning the way to live for the sake of others by living as a group. Ms. Ga Hyeon Gu of Korea said, “At first time, there were times that I felt I had to keep up with others, but now we are trying to help each other a lot of the time. Now I’m getting use to group life.”