

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR SUA, ALISO VIEJO

On May 3, more than 700 neighbors and friends of the new Soka University of America campus in Aliso Viejo gathered on campus for a special ceremony: the cornerstone laying for the university's Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library. SUA President Daniel Habuki explained that the library was named after the university's founder and his wife because "they both teach by example."

While the Aliso Viejo campus will comprise 103 acres and 14 buildings, the library will "truly be the heart of the new campus," said John Sheridan, director of the library. Four stories tall, with a 225,000-volume capacity, the library will overlook the 4,000-acre Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. It will offer the latest in library technology to both SUA students and members of the community.

Eric Hauber, vice president for academic affairs, opened the cornerstone laying by saying that "it's the SGI members who have made this university possible." He explained how the ceremony was taking place exactly two years before the planned May 3, 2001, Dedication Day.

Symbolic of the school's focus on fostering global citizens, the ceremony had an international flavor: The African women's drum troupe ADAWE provided a rhythmic backdrop as 185 sets of coins (one set from each of the U.N. member nations) were placed in a time capsule by seven local students. The capsule will be sealed on Dedication Day and opened 100 years later, on May 3, 2101.

SUA, Aliso Viejo, will start as a four-year liberal arts college in the fall of 2001, welcoming its first 100 freshmen from around the world then. With a 5:1 student:teacher ratio for the first class, the school will offer a bachelor's of arts in three emphases: Humanities, International Studies and a unique course track called Self, Culture and Society. As the campus grows, the student:teacher ratio will change to 9:1.

All SUA students will take three years of a foreign language and spend a semester interning abroad. Tuition is expected to be about \$24,000 a year, including room and board, and need-based financial aid will be available. The first applications will be accepted in the spring of 2000. For more information, call (949) 472-3051 or e-mail Wendy Harder at wwharder@soka.edu.

— JEFF FARR

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