



Soka Education  
Student Research  
Project

6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# SOKA EDUCATION CONFERENCE • 2010



Soka University of America  
February 13th-14th, 2010  
Pauling 216

**EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE** | THEORY  
& PRACTICE

Soka Education Student Research Project • [sesrp@soka.edu](mailto:sesrp@soka.edu)

## Soka Education Conference 2010 Program

### Pauling 216

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Person</u>
12:30 – 12:45	Welcome Words	Phat Vu (SUA professor)
12:45 – 12:50	Introduction of Conference and Theme	SESRP Conference Committee Members
12:50 – 13:25	Music Education: Social Justice through Creativity and Inclusion	Elaine Chang Sandoval (c/o 2011)
13:25 – 14:25	Special Topic Session	Alumni, AD, ResLife, etc.
14:25 – 14:35	Break	<i>Please enjoy refreshments outside</i>
14:35 – 15:10	Advancing the Educational Experience of the Learner: SUA's Residential Life Co-Curricular Approach	Ruby Nagashima (c/o 2006)
15:10 – 16:10	Workshops	Menelik Tafari, Gail Thomas, Orin Kirshner, Jim Garrison
16:10 – 16:20	Break	<i>Please enjoy refreshments outside</i>
16:20 – 17:20	Keynote Speaker	Jim Garrison
17:20 – 17:30	Closing Words	Ryan Caldwell (SUA professor)
18:00 – 19:30	Open Reception at Founders Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Person</u>
12:30 – 12:35	Welcome Back	SESRP Conference Committee Members
12:35 – 13:10	Daisaku Ikeda's Conception of Cosmopolitan Education	Gonzalo Obelleiro (c/o 2005)
13:10 – 13:45	Establishing Social Justice through Education for Women: Evidence from self-help groups in India	Kajal Gulati (c/o 2006)
13:45 – 14:00	Break	<i>Please enjoy refreshments outside</i>
14:00 – 14:35	Soka Education for Laws: Choosing Process over Frame: A Ode to Abandon Fear and Accept the Universe	Jean Marcus (c/o 2011)
14:35 – 15:35	Workshops	Menelik Tafari, Orin Kirshner, Jim Garrison
15:35 – 15:50	Break	<i>Please enjoy refreshments outside</i>
15:50 – 16::35	Social Justice Begins in Kindergarten – Fostering Respect	Rekha Gokhale and Lisa McMillan (c/o 2007)
16:35 – 17:05	Debriefing	SESRP Conference Committee Members
17:05 – 17:15	Closing Words	Jay Heffron (SUA Dean of Students)

**Eric Kunimoto:** Hello Soka! My name is Eric Kunimoto and I am a proud graduate of the SUA, class of 2008. I traveled to SUA from my home state of Maryland, and after graduating, I returned home to attend Law School at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. It's been a grueling but fulfilling experience! I've interned at a number of places since attending UM Law, the most recently being the International Rescue Committee, an international NGO serving refugees, asylees, and displaced persons around the world. This March, I will be heading to Beijing to assist organizations implement micro-finance projects and broader development plans. While attending Law School, I became deeply interested in the concept of Property and America's fascination with and desire for it. Today, some of world's greatest challenges have to do with property: Economic recession, global warming, the lack of gas and water. My paper touches on the property dilemma that underlies these issues and discuss how Soka Education may play a role in surmounting that obstacle.



**Elaine Chang Sandoval** is currently a Junior at Soka University of America. Originally from San Jose, California, she is recently returned from her study abroad experience in Taipei, Taiwan and Nanjing, China. She began the studies of music at a young age with the flute and piano, and began to also study conducting due to her responsibilities in various music ensembles at SUA. Her passions include is music education and Soka Education, and she in fact first heard about El Sistema in Venezuela from an alumna that presented at the 2008 Soka Education Conference. After SUA she hopes to pursue graduate studies in music and/or music education



**Ruby Nagashima** joined Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo as Residence Hall Coordinator in July 2007. In that role, she oversees the residence halls, assists in developing and implementing the Residential Life Co-Curricular Model, supervises paraprofessional staff and coordinates student staff training. Nagashima graduated from Soka University of America in 2006 with a BA in Liberal Arts. She received her M.S.Ed. in Education, Culture and Society from the Foundations and Practices in Education Division at the University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education in 2007. Nagashima received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Obama for her dedication to building a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility in America through work with US Fund for UNICEF in 2009. Nagashima is a native speaker of English and Japanese and is proficient in Spanish. Nagashima resides in Aliso Viejo, California.



**Dr. Jim Garrison** is a professor of philosophy of education at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. He is a past-president of the Philosophy of Education Society as well as the immediate past-president of the John Dewey Society. His major interest is philosophical pragmatism, especially the philosophy of John Dewey. He highly values Soka Educaton because it aims the actualization of each student's unique potential as well as the implementation of student-centered education. He is currently engaged in a series of published dialogues with SUA founder Daisaku Ikeda and Larry Hickman, head of the Center for Dewey Studies.



**Gonzalo Obelleiro** is a graphic artist and a doctoral student of philosophy and education at Teachers College, Columbia University. In his native city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he pursued studies in art, architecture and design. In pursuit of wider intellectual interests, he joined the first graduating class of Soka University of America, where he discovered his passion for philosophy and developed a commitment to education as a means for personal enlightenment and social change. His current work focuses on the educational philosophies of Daisaku Ikeda and John Dewey in relation to the ideas of value creation and cosmopolitan education.



**Kajal Gulati:** I received my Bachelor's degree from SUA in 2006 as the second graduating class. After graduating, I received my Master's in Public Administration in International Development from Cornell University. I currently work at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C. At IFPRI, I am part of a team working on strengthening information, national capacity, and analysis for improved food security. Before joining IFPRI, I worked briefly at the Grameen Foundation in Seattle. At Grameen, I worked on the Community Knowledge Worker project in Uganda linking farmers with extension and other information services using ICTs.



**Jean Marcus Silva** is living his fiction and writing about it. But fundamentally, his own views can only work if Education is priority. This is the reason he joins mankind here and there to discuss the future, or possible ones, as an account of the safety for upcoming stories.



**Rekha Gokhale and Lisa McMillan:** "Social Justice Begins in the Kindergarten!" This presentation is a unique assimilation of experiences of SUA alumnae Lisa McMillan from Texas, U.S.A. and Rekha Gokhale from Pune, India. Lisa and Rekha taught English at the Microcosmos International Preschool and Kindergarten in Tokyo, an institution dedicated to actualizing Mr. Makiguchi and Founder of SUA Dr. Daisaku Ikeda's principle of Soka or Value Creating Education. In this presentation, we will discuss points covered in the paper and also include an exciting exercise to demonstrate techniques of fostering respect in a kindergarten setting.

