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EMERSON SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND COLGATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
TO GIVE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT SUA'S TWELFTH – AND FINAL --
GRADUATION CEREMONY AT CALABASAS CAMPUS

CALABASAS, CA – Sarah Ann Wider, PhD, Professor of English and Women's Studies at Colgate University (Hamilton, NY) and the President of the Emerson Society will give the commencement address for the Soka University of America (SUA) Class of 2006 on Wednesday, December 13, 2:00 p.m., at the SUA Calabasas campus, 26800 W. Mulholland Highway. It will be the university's final graduation ceremony at the Calabasas campus.

In 2007, the graduate school will move to the SUA Aliso Viejo campus, where applications are now being accepted for the 2007-08 academic year.

At the December 13 commencement ceremony, Tomoko Takahashi, EdD, LHD, Provost of SUA and the Dean of the Graduate School, will present the candidates for the Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Second and Foreign Language Education, specializing in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Since 1994, SUA Calabasas has held eleven commencement ceremonies, with a 96 percent graduation rate of its students. Ten students are candidates for MA Degrees at SUA Calabasas' 2006 Commencement Ceremony; they are from Japan, the United States and Venezuela.

Dr. Sarah Wider is a well-known authority on Ralph Waldo Emerson and has written extensively on Emerson and Henry David Thoreau's reception, especially by women

readers and listeners. She also works in the field of women's autobiographical and biographical writing. With Ronald A. Bosco, she is editing the extensive unpublished correspondence between Emerson and Caroline Sturgis. In addition to her work in the nineteenth century, she is firmly committed to the work of contemporary writers, in particular, Native writers across the Americas where social justice and poetry are a daily reality.

She is also the author of The Critical Reception of Emerson: Unsettling All Things (Camden House, 2000); Anna Tilden, Unitarian Culture and the Problem of Self-Representation (University of Georgia Press, 1997); and more than 22 articles and reviews, including: "Chladni Patterns, Lyceum Halls, and Skilful Experimenters: Emerson's new Metaphysics for the Listening Readers" in *Spires of Form: Essays for the Emerson Bicentennial* (Massachusetts Historical Society, 2006); and "The Contour of Unknown Lives: Mapping Women's Experience in the Adirondacks" in collaboration with Ellen Percy Kraly, *Biography* 25" 1 (Winter 2002): 1-24, Co-winner of *Biography's* International Life Writing Prize for 2001.

Dr. Wider earned a PhD in nineteenth-century American Literature at Cornell University in 1986; an MA at Cornell University in 1984; and a BA at the University of New Mexico in 1981, where she graduated summa cum laude with honors in English and Philosophy, with distinction in all subjects.

In 2006, she was presented with the Soka University Award of Highest Honor.

Soka University of America is an independent, co-educational institution of higher education. The Graduate School, located at the Calabasas campus, offers the Master of Arts degree in Second and Foreign Language Education with a concentration in TESOL as well as an Intensive English Program for students from Japan. The undergraduate college at the Aliso Viejo campus offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts with concentrations in Humanities, International Studies, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Soka University of America is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).