

## FFWPU USA: New CARP Chapters - University of Texas, Arlington and Community College of Philadelphia

Naokimi Ushiroda

April 24, 2023



*Photos courtesy of CARP USA*

Two new CARP chapters have emerged on campuses this year in Pennsylvania and Texas thanks to the hard work and dedication of their leaders and core members. The Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) officially welcomed CARP among its school clubs this spring semester, as well as a chapter established at the University of Texas, Arlington (UTA).

"It's been a long time coming," said Soonmee, founder of CARP CCP, in a recent CARP USA [report](#). "I am so grateful for the multitudes of people that have hoped for and anticipated this time. I can proudly say on behalf of those who I work with that these beginnings would not have been possible without the support of national and subregional CARP teams, as well as the ongoing relationship and rapport with the Philadelphia Family Church."



CARP CCP quickly hit the ground running, with weekly meetings held by Soonmee and her two sisters. The trio also organized the grand opening of the local CARP apartment, which featured special guest Rev. Naokimi Ushiroda, FFWPU USA President. "With the support of our advisor, we could host weekly

meetings in a room and lead discussions based on the [CARP curriculum](#)," Soonmee said. To clarify CARP's identity as a campus ministry, she said the group has so far discussed topics including 'Religion and Science,' 'God or No God,' and 'Family and Marriage.'



"The topics were voted on by those who participated in our kickoff meeting," said Soonmee, whose team consistently seeks ways to improve the program after each meeting. "My highlight and source of inspiration has been being able to witness how we engage as core members and express our care and concern over CARP and the students," she said. "Although our meetings always have a few disagreements and compromises are required, there is inevitable laughter and joy. I truly feel grateful and indebted to those who collaborate with me in every way."



One CCP student, a regular at CARP meetings, said, "[The club] has created a comfortable environment where I personally feel safe enough to share my honest opinions and values, and have those opinions respected and even celebrated."

"The club is a safe space for serious discussion with a variety of people who all think similarly, and if they don't, their views are appreciated and respected," they continued. "The leaders of the club carefully

prepare activities and materials for the members, and allow us to enjoy the act of learning and engagement. Even though there has only been a handful of sessions, the club has fostered camaraderie and intellectual fellowship, and most significantly, community is respected and appreciated."



The CCP chapter recently hosted a half-day seminar on April 7 covering the core principles of CARP's founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. "My faith is growing along with discovering and expressing new emotions," said Soonmee. "These past few months have been nothing short of questioning, asking, seeking, and waiting ... I have also never felt God working so closely in my life. It's almost as if leading CARP has put me in a place to have fresh opportunities to reexamine my faith, my perspective and relationships, my roots, and all that I have come to know - and, simply put, rebuild myself as a child of God."



In Texas, similar success has come about with the CARP UTA team, [led by students](#) Yuya, Mayra, and Carlos. "I am truly honored to be able to start CARP at my school," said chapter president Yuya, as he thanked supporters, their faculty advisor, and CARP USA's national president. "We are just getting started," said Yuya, "but I am sure there is going to be more progress in the future ... I am very happy to have an official presence on campus to spread the culture of CARP which centers on divine principles. The future is bright!"

You can connect with a CARP USA chapter near you [here](#).



CARP

# CARP in the City of Brotherly Love

March 29, 2023 · chapter-spotlight, monthly-newsletters, news

Contributed by Soonmee Iwasaki

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It's been a long time coming, but CARP Philadelphia has finally established a chapter for itself and officially became a club on campus this past February! I am so grateful for the multitudes of people that have hoped for and anticipated this time. I can proudly say on behalf of those who I work with that these beginnings would not have been possible without the support of National and Subregional CARP teams as well as the ongoing relationship and rapport with the Philadelphia Family Church. We were able to welcome Mr. Naokimi Ushiroda, President of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification USA, to the grand opening of our CARP apartment, hold a meeting with our local congregation, and clarify our identity as a campus ministry! Since then, we officially became a club at the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) and our weekly meetings have been led by myself and two of our core members, who also happen to be my sisters.





President Naokimi Ushiroda visited CCP campus and the "CARP Apartment"

With the support of our advisor, we could host weekly meetings in a room and lead discussions based on the [CARP Curriculum](#). So far, we have touched upon "Religion and Science," "God or No God," and "Family and Marriage." The topics were voted on by those who participated in our kickoff meeting and we've been following the order since then. Each week, after our meetings, we as the core team would come out with renewed determinations on how to improve the following meeting. My highlight and source of inspiration has been being able to witness how we engage as core members and express our care and concern over CARP and the students. Although our meetings always have a few disagreements and compromises are required, there are inevitable laughter and joy. I truly feel grateful and indebted to those who collaborate with me in every way. Although the days leading up to our meetings are often filled with dread, as if we are going in to present a school project, when the day comes and we go forth with it, it ends up being such a great time. We all feel it every time.



Photos from CARP Philly's first on campus CARP meeting

The following is a written testimony of Shobi Wise, a regular at our club meetings:

*"The CARP club at CCP has created a comfortable environment where I, personally, feel safe enough to share my honest opinions and values, and have those opinions respected and even celebrated. The club is a safe space for serious discussion with a variety of people who all think similarly, and if they don't, their views are appreciated and respected. The leaders of the club carefully prepare activities and materials for the members, and allow us to enjoy the act of learning and engagement. Even though there has only been a handful of sessions, the club has fostered camaraderie and intellectual fellowship, and most significantly, community is respected and appreciated."*

On that note, we are anticipating a half-day seminar on April 7th that will cover the core principles from which CARP derives its identity as a campus ministry! As of this week, we are putting a pause on the CARP meetings so the core members can meet and plan for our seminar— so for the time being, we will be enjoying an outing at the movies this Tuesday to watch Creed III!



In terms of personal growth, I want to touch upon my faith in this new year. My faith is growing along with discovering and expressing new emotions, too. These past few months have been nothing short of questioning, asking, seeking, and waiting. If I were to use a metaphor, sometimes I feel like all I could do is hold onto the one piece of a rock that represents the single truth I know, and it is sticking out from the ground and there is a storm around me. And the core of why I seem to be holding onto this piece of rock is due to the belief that I know I'm not seeing the whole picture and is the refusal to make a rash decision and to hold out until the storm passes. I seem to be so perplexed because I would have so many questions that makes me wonder if I will ever find any sound, intellectual answers. This is a milestone in my growth though because I used to be someone that halted when things became questionable. I used to have to stop and know— and to find out what was next before taking a step. Even though the state I am in is very uncomfortable, this conflicting state has been fulfilling because I can see just how much I've come to grow. If anything, it seems that all I care about these days are finishing what I started and in turn, I am relearning that the answers will come with time. Ironically, even with the questions and uncertainties I have in terms of my life of faith, I have also never felt God working so closely in my life. It's almost as if leading CARP has put me in a place to have fresh opportunities to re-examine my faith, my perspective and relationships, my roots, and all that I have come to know— and to simply put, rebuild myself as a child of God.



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# New Official CARP Club at UTA

March 31, 2023

CARP has officially registered as a club at a new university in the great state of Texas. Thanks to the hard work of student leaders Yuya Ogawa, Mayra Rivera, and Carlos Vasquez, CARP is officially registered at the University of Texas, Arlington. Already, CARP UTA has participated in the schools club fair, as well as hosted several CARP Talks. We are excited to see more great developments at UTA in the future!



Testimony from Yuya Ogawa, UTA CARP president:

"I am truly honored to be able to start CARP at my school. I would like to thank our supporters, faculty advisor, and CARP President Jinil Fleischman for greatly contributing to establishing CARP at UTA. We are just getting started, but I am sure there is going to be more progress in the future. Finally, I am very happy to have an official presence on campus to spread the culture of CARP which centers on divine principles. The future is bright!"

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### Connecticut

University of Bridgeport



### New Jersey

Montclair State University



### New Jersey

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)



### New Jersey

Princeton University

## Southeast



### Maryland

Montgomery College

## Midwest



### Illinois

Harper College



### Indiana

Indiana University–Purdue University  
Indianapolis



### Minnesota

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

## Southwest



Arizona  
Arizona State University



Texas  
Dallas College, North Lake Campus

## West Coast



California  
California State Polytechnic University,  
Pomona



California  
California State University, Fullerton



California  
California State University, Long Beach



California  
California State University, Los Angeles



California  
Chabot College



California  
Cypress College



California  
East LA College (ELAC)



California  
El Camino College (ECC)



California  
Pasadena Community College (PCC)



California  
University of California, Berkeley



California  
University of California, Los Angeles



Hawaii  
University of Hawaii at Manoa



Nevada



Nevada



Utah

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## Northeast



Massachusetts  
Boston



New Jersey  
Bergen Community College



New Jersey  
Rutgers–New Brunswick



New York  
Cornell University



New York  
Farmingdale State University



Pennsylvania  
Community College of Philadelphia

## Southeast



Florida  
Florida International University



Florida  
University of Florida



Georgia  
Georgia State University



Maryland  
University of Maryland



Virginia  
Northern Virginia Community College

## Southwest



Oklahoma  
University of Oklahoma



Texas  
University of North Texas



Texas  
University of Texas, Arlington



Texas  
University of Texas, Dallas

## West Coast



Alaska  
University of Alaska, Anchorage



California  
California State East Bay



California  
Santa Monica College



California  
University of California, Irvine



Colorado  
Denver



Oregon  
Portland Community College



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