

CARP's First Woman President, Victoria Roomet, Looks Forward To Supporting Unificationist College Students

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From left to right: Rev. Joshua Cotter, Hiro Hernandez, Victoria Roomet and Rev. In Jin Moon during the cake-cutting ceremony.

The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) welcomed its first woman-president, Victoria Roomet and celebrated the work of former CARP President Hiro Hernandez, on December 9, 2011. A crowd of more than 70, including members of the GPA Leadership module, the staff of HSA-UWC and local college students, gathered in True Father's Suite on the 30th floor of the New Yorker Hotel to congratulate Roomet on her new position.

Hernandez graciously passed the baton of CARP presidency on to Roomet and reflected on her strengths as a leader. Rev. In Jin Moon expressed her gratitude to Hernandez and encouraged the Blessed Children in the audience to live a life of internal and external excellence during their time in college. After cutting a celebratory cake with Hernandez, Roomet talked about her experience in college and her vision for the future of CARP.

Remarks From Hiro Hernandez

"Today's very historical because we're honoring the first woman president," said Hernandez. "What I can really be proud of in serving this organization is that In Jin Nim and the True Children redirected it to focus on something that for a long time had been overlooked but which is our most precious asset. Our brothers and sisters. And it's truly an honor to serve in that capacity, to serve you, to serve our brothers and sisters across the country. What's inspiring to me about serving In Jin Nim is her deep respect for first-generation and for all that they've done for True Parents, for really building a bridge between second-generation and the True Children. I truly believe that each of us has a longing to connect to our brothers and sisters and our True Parents, even if we may not know it.

"I'm so proud of Victoria stepping into the role of President of CARP. She's so courageous. She really fought to establish CARP on her campus in Brandeis University. I admire her creativity, her ability to think outside the box. I want to praise her love and heart of a child to our True Parents and I feel that that is her greatest asset – being a great example to our brothers and sisters across the country in building a

heartistic relationship to our True Parents and the True Family. I've always found Victoria to be a model, for me too, in knowing how to relate to them and to have the right heart. I'm truly excited for the future of CARP and all the amazing things that you guys will accomplish in college when you get there. Thank you again for this opportunity to be here. I also want to thank my wife Sylvia for all her support. If there ever was a good idea that came from me, it was always her idea." [Laughter].



"Knowing that you have resistance means that you are making a change," said Rev. In Jin Moon to Roomet. "Be persistent, tenacious, and once you set your goal, never lose sight of it."

Remarks From Rev. In Jin Moon

"I'm really delighted to share this moment with all of you, and I think this is a really exciting time for CARP," said Rev. Moon. "I want to take this time to offer my congratulations and heartfelt thanks to you [Hiro] for the time that you served. You've been a symbol of strength, trust and loyalty when it came to our True Parents so for that I will always be grateful to you and Sylvia. You are here on this important day to pass on the baton to a very lovely lady who will hopefully be taking CARP to a whole new level. You will always be dear to True Parents, True Family and your brothers and sisters, and I look forward to a continued relationship with you. I truly hope that you and Sylvia can really be that backbone behind the scenes now that Victoria will be stepping up to the task.

"CARP's single focus many times in the past was to witness, witness, witness. I still very much value that tradition, in that wherever you go, you should be witnessing. But instead of bringing people to workshops, how wonderful would it be if every Blessed Child became a catalyst in and of him or herself, in that you are so inspiring that everyone who comes across you wants to know what makes you so special. We should be great ambassadors and representatives of our True Parents wherever we go and whatever campus we hit. You are hand-crafted, unique and awesome young men and women. Believe in yourself and know how blessed you are. Become a natural witnesser on your campus.

"Young people, you have incredible power if you can represent your college in some capacity. If you are the president of the student body, you can pick up a phone and call anyone in the United States, including the White House, and say you're creating a forum and that you want to talk about the sex-trafficking or faith-breaking or human rights issues in the world that has been a source of heartache for different religious groups, such as the Unification Church, and invite politicians and celebrities to speak or be part of your panel. You have incredible power to make a change in your life and in the lives of your fellow students as you're going through college.

"We need to think more proactively than "I'm going to witness to a few people each day." Talking about

the Divine Principle is great, but living the Divine Principle is even more powerful. If people see you living it, they're going to wonder what you're all about. Instead of going after people, you're going to be a beacon of light that attracts people.

"I know that the True Family and True Parents are putting a lot on Victoria's shoulders – she's got a lot to live up to. She's going to need help, and I'm hoping all of you can work together with her to turn CARP into something that's exciting and vibrant. I'm hoping she can also travel from time to time and visit Europe and Asia and share a bit in terms of the good news, of all the things taking place on college campuses around the United States.

"Knowing that you have resistance means that you are making a change, Victoria. Be persistent, tenacious, and once you set your goal, never lose sight of it."



"I've learned a lot over the last couple of years under Hiro," said Roomet. "The thing I've constantly been impressed with is how deeply he cares for his younger brothers and sisters"

Remarks From Victoria Roomet

"It's an honor to be here today," said Roomet. "The weight behind a title such as President of CARP is starting to hit me. There's no way I would be here if it weren't for True Parents – I know a lot of us share in this fact. I know that in my journey of faith, particularly when I was on campus and going through my own challenges, I came to a point where I understood what True Parents really meant to me. I began to want to do something for True Parents so it's amazing that I have the opportunity now to serve them very directly through CARP.

"I would first like to thank True Parents and our International President Hyung Jin Nim. When I was in college, Hyung Jin Nim was posting his sermons online and they really helped me get through difficult times. I always appreciated how clear Hyung Jin Nim was and how lovable he was. Having access to his sermons on my laptop really helped me. I really appreciate the leadership he's taken. I've also been able to receive a lot of love and guidance from In Jin Nim. I first heard you [In Jin Nim] speak in New York and then in Boston. I was really excited about the things you were saying. One of the things that stood out to me was that you didn't have to choose between your mission and your family, that it was the same thing, and I thought, 'I totally agree with that!' I loved your vision and presence from the beginning.

"I had one experience with Hiro before he became CARP President. It was at Camp Sunrise and we went out fundraising for a few days and he was my fundraising captain. I was impressed with him from the beginning because he was so sincere. I always thought he was so sweet, humble and approachable. I

remember when he woke us up in the van, he started singing the 'Red, Red Robin' song, which my dad used to sing to me as a child to wake me up in the morning. Hearing that song from Hiro meant a lot to me and I always felt connected to him because of that. He's a solid, stable and calm person who is inclusive and inviting.

"After college, I joined Hiro's team at CARP. I always thought it was interesting that we were a team because we're very different in our styles. I thought that was cool because then we could balance each other out. I thought the combination was great. And I've learned a lot over the last couple of years under Hiro. The thing I've constantly been impressed with the most is how deeply he cares for his younger brothers and sisters. They were always his motivation, and I think the reason he decided to take on a position like CARP President during such a difficult time was because of his concern for his younger brothers and sisters.

"I have a lot to learn from him and I look forward to his being my advisor. There are a lot of people out there who could do a better job than I can, but I feel confidence and security because you're here, In Jin Nim. I've always been impressed with your vision and I know that it's going places. So as long as we hang on to you and listen to your vision, which I feel like is my vision and what I've always wanted for CARP, I think we can really go places."

CARP Activists

"We have an amazing team at CARP that is slowly growing," said Roomet. "We have Wendy Fiala, who started working for us a few months ago and brings a whole new perspective from the west side of the country. And we have our intern extraordinaire Emerson Lykes from Maryland. Things are really exciting at the CARP office and the emphasis is that we want to be able to take care of you guys as college students.

"There are also some all-stars in this audience. There's Sammy Vanderstock, who was taking a world religions class and noticed that the textbook for that class put our church together with very negative cults, giving people the impression that we are a negative cult. So she contacted her professor and asked that they do not use that textbook, got the professor to agree, and went even so far as to contact the person who wrote the textbook. The author ended up taking out the false information about our church.

The other day I talked to Seijin Tranberg, who's doing a bike trip across the country to raise awareness for the faith-breaking in Japan. One of the things he said was that if you feel like your dream is attainable, then you're not reaching far enough. When I asked him where he got that from, he said he got it from In Jin Nim! He started school right when In Jin Nim was starting ministry. So he heard In Jin Nim talking about all the things we're capable of and how second-generation should be shooting for the stars and becoming the next presidents and basically running the world! When he'd be shot down by his friends, he'd say "In Jin Nim believes in me. True Parents believe in me." He is now the student body president at his college. Isn't that awesome? He's taking the idea of creating the future you want to see to a whole new level. So one of CARP's jobs is to highlight what students are doing all over the country.

"Again I'm really honored and grateful to be here. I would also like to thank my parents, because I wouldn't be here without them. I love them and I really respect what they've been able to do with their own lives, and the ideals they strive for and believe in and followed through with and the family that they were able to build. I feel very blessed and lucky to have known two amazing people."