

## HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership Newsletter

Thomas G. Walsh  
June 14, 2024



### HJ International

GRADUATE SCHOOL for PEACE and PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

# NEWSLETTER

June 14, 2024 Volume II, Number 12



### President's Address at HJI Commencement

*Dr. Thomas G. Walsh*

To our esteemed members of the graduating class of 2024, congratulations. You make us proud. You're the best!

I listened to a speech delivered by our Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, a few days ago

in Munich, Germany. About 2500 members of Family Federation, along with many others from all walks of life, had gathered. During her speech, she proposed to the audience that we were living in a “golden age,” a great time to be alive. Perhaps she meant, as Dickens wrote, “the best of times, and the worst of times,” for she is deeply aware of the contemporary challenges our world is facing.

With this in mind, I believe she was telling us it’s the best of times to overcome and solve the worst of times. It made me think that, if you want to change the world, you graduates are here at HJI at the right time and in the right place.

[Continue Reading >>](#)

---



## **A Personal Reflection on HJI’s 2024 Graduation**

*by Mrs. Mika Deshotel, Associate Dean of Student Life*

This year’s Commencement Ceremony was extra special for our students living nearby to the NYC campus, and who were able to gather for a special Meet and Greet luncheon before many of them took part in the graduation ceremony that day. The informal gathering was organized by the Office of Student Life for the purpose of

inviting students to meet together in person, tour the campus, congratulate fellow classmates on their degrees, and recognize the Graduate Student Council for their contributions to the student community this year. We had 13 students in attendance, along with some of their spouses. Five of the thirteen were graduating that day, and three of the students participating were Council members.

It was a special treat for many of us to gather in person, and to meet face to face with many who had only been virtual classmates up until that point. Somehow, seeing one another in the flesh seemed to cement the relationship of camaraderie further. One of our Council members, who spends much of his time in Ethiopia, happened to be in Maryland when he got the invitation to come to NYC. With the help of another HJI classmate, who is also originally from Ghana but now living in the City, this student felt confident to make the trek up by bus. This was truly a beautiful thing to see and to know that HJI could help facilitate such friendships and support.

[Continue Reading >>](#)

---

[READ MORE HJI NEWS](#)

[UPCOMING HJI EVENTS](#)

---

**STAY CONNECTED**



## President's Address at HJI Commencement



*Dr. Thomas G. Walsh*

To our esteemed members of the graduating class of 2024, congratulations. You make us proud. You're the best!

I listened to a speech delivered by our Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, a few days ago in Munich, Germany. About 2500 members of Family Federation, along with many others from all walks of life, had gathered. During her speech, she proposed to the audience that we were living in a "golden age," a great time to be alive. Perhaps she meant, as Dickens wrote, "the best of times, and the worst of times," for she is deeply aware of the contemporary challenges our world is facing.

With this in mind, I believe she was telling us it's the best of times to overcome and solve the worst of times. It made me think that, if you want to change the world, you graduates are here at HJI at the right time and in the right place.



I hope we can all work to make our HJI name more than a slogan, and that each of you, as HJI alumni, will dedicate your lives to "peace and public leadership" with a heart of hyojeong.

Our dedicated HJI faculty and staff have done their best to provide you with a high-quality education, including mentorship to help assure your success as students, citizens, and members of the human family under God, our Heavenly Parent.

**You graduate today not simply as technicians or members of some elite intelligentsia, but rather as persons who have matured, gaining spiritual insight, and the needed wisdom to discern and navigate successfully through the competing**

**navigate successfully through the competing social, cultural, and spiritual currents of today's complicated world. You are now better equipped to help transform the "worst of times" into the "best of times."**

HJI has a covenant with its Founders, our board of trustees, our accrediting bodies, and the state of New York. The diploma that you received today is an expression of that covenant, indicating that you have succeeded as a student in your respective academic programs, and that we too, as faculty and staff, have succeeded in faithfully serving our mission and institutional goals.

I know that I speak for our trustees, faculty and staff, and alumni in saying that we deeply appreciate and remain committed to the vision of our Founders who established this school 49 years ago. They came to America as immigrants in 1972, committed to doing whatever it would take to preserve and strengthen what is best about this country. That commitment included their determination to establish a seminary, and one day a university that would contribute greatly to the providential mission, to build a world of lasting peace. Shortly after their arrival in America, they founded the Unification Theological Seminary, now known as HJI; that was 1975.



*HJI Faculty, Staff, and Board of Trustees*

They persevered, through the good times and the bad. No matter what, they always provided the necessary encouragement, inspiration, and support that sustained this institution and allowed it to provide a rigorous, broad, challenging, and horizon-expanding education that forms character, enriches the mind, and inspires the heart.

Studying at HJI, then UTS, was certainly a transformative experience for me, and for my wife, Lynn.

In her memoir, *Mother of Peace*, Dr. Moon spoke about the various schools she and her husband co-founded. She wrote as follows:

**“The purpose of all these schools [including HJI], is to ensure increasing numbers of talented young people who know God’s heart have access to education to support their commitment to creating a peaceful world.”**

There's not a person associated with HJI who does not long to see this school, and its graduates, rising up to meet the needs of not only our Family Federation community, but also those of the wider society and world.

Our HJI community manifests a deeply rooted aspiration that was there no doubt with Plato's Academy, where Aristotle studied; the University of Bologna where Dante and Copernicus studied; the University of Paris where St. Thomas Aquinas and Jean Calvin and Francis Xavier studied; the University of Erfurt in Germany where Luther studied; Cambridge University where Newton studied; University of Konigsberg where Kant studied; University College London where Gandhi studied; Boston University and Morehouse College where Martin Luther King, Jr. studied.

That aspiration was also there when Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, and the University of Chicago were founded. Indeed, the University of Peace in Costa Rica, and the UN University itself.

# The aspirations of HJI are as grand and noble as are the aspirations of our Founders.

In particular, at this time, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is making a great effort to strengthen the various academic institutions associated with our wider movement, and HJI in particular.

Sometimes there is a kind of despair when we compare our aspirations to the disturbing realities—political, economic, cultural, and social—we see everywhere around us.

When I studied at Vanderbilt University, I had the good fortune to work with a professor named Alasdair MacIntyre. At that time, he had written a book entitled *After Virtue*, which argued that the philosophies of modernity had reached a kind of dead end, attributed to a rejection of the Aristotelian and Thomist synthesis that sought to blend faith and reason, and affirm communitarian traditions and practices. He called for a “new St. Benedict” to come forward who would lead a new awakening, inspiring men and women to see through the idols of our contemporary world, its false gods, opening a way to a recovery of a God-centered and reason-centered worldview.



Dr. Thomas Walsh, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, and Dr. Thomas Ward with HJI graduates



Dr. Thomas Walsh, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, and Dr. Thomas Ward with HJI graduates

I do feel that our western world, and perhaps, in fairness, our entire world, has reached or is reaching some dead end—hopefully not a World War III. Populist nationalism is on the rise across the globe. Progressivism seems to be faltering, as it becomes more apparent. Religion or faith-based institutions have often cast their fate with either the left-leaning or right-leaning trends.

At the times when secular authorities lose their moral compass, it is necessary for religion to provide some kind of third way or some innovative alternative to the unappealing options that currently hold sway in the wider world. I believe we are at such a critical time in human history.

Dear graduates, make us proud of your accomplishments, your achievements.

For our part, we pledge that we will continue to work to make you proud of what is happening at HJI.

HJI's greatest days are still to come.

Your greatest days are yet to come.

Onward, upward. Let's work together to fulfill the hope of all ages, a world of lasting peace.



**HJ International**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL for  
PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Campus:  
4 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 563-6647



[Journal of Unification Studies](#)

[Subscribe to the HJI Newsletter](#)

[Faculty and Staff Directory](#)

[HJI Catalog](#)

## A Personal Reflection on HJI's 2024 Graduation



*by Mrs. Mika Deshotel, Associate Dean of Student Life*

This year's Commencement Ceremony was extra special for our students living nearby to the NYC campus, and who were able to gather for a special Meet and Greet luncheon before many of them took part in the graduation ceremony that day. The informal gathering was organized by the Office of Student Life for the purpose of inviting students to meet together in person, tour the campus, congratulate fellow classmates on their degrees, and recognize the Graduate Student Council for their contributions to the student community this year. We had 13 students in attendance, along with some of their spouses. Five of the thirteen were graduating that day, and three of the students participating were Council members.



It was a special treat for many of us to gather in person, and to meet face to face with many who had only been virtual classmates up until that point. Somehow, seeing one another in the flesh seemed to cement the relationship of camaraderie further. One of our Council members, who spends much of his time in Ethiopia, happened to be in Maryland when he got the invitation to come to NYC. With the help of another HJI classmate, who is also originally from Ghana but now living in the City, this student felt confident to make the trek up by bus. This was truly a beautiful thing to see and to know that HJI could help facilitate such friendships and support.

After our brief luncheon on the second floor of the campus, it was time to head downstairs to the main auditorium to prepare for the graduation ceremony. As someone who has previously helped in the dressing room, helping the grads into their robes for the first time, there is always a mixed feeling of excitement and nervousness in the air. This year, it was a palpable emotion. And even the beginning of the ceremony felt very serious and formal. Right at the start, we were missing our singer for the National Anthem, so we stood for a moment of silence instead, which seemed to mark the momentous occasion even further. Fortunately, by the time the degrees were conferred, the atmosphere changed to one of real excitement and jubilation.





I believe what helped “bring us home,” so to speak, throughout the entirety of the service was in large part due to a consistent reminder of our name, recently changed to better fit our mission, reflecting the nature of this institution and subsequent degrees into which we invest so greatly. Ambassador DeTrani’s speech also helped to drive home the point of the importance of our work at HJI. He made one thing very clear to us: constant and deliberate dialogue is crucial to the success of peacebuilding. I believe his message was a practical and important one for all of us in our continued efforts towards peace.



In addition to Ambassador DeTrani’s message and the reiteration of our role as seminarians and peacemakers, seeing the graduates walk across the stage with pride and joy, and hearing from some of them on behalf of their class was the icing on the cake for the whole event. It was evident that whether students could be present in person, via Zoom, or were represented in absentia, it was certainly the culmination of a tremendous amount of blood, sweat and tears. Added to that, this year, the number of family members who wanted to join in with the formal photos of the students, faculty and staff, was a testimony of how much pride they had for our graduates.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024, along with the families, friends, faculty, and staff at HJI who helped them to achieve such success.



**HJ International**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL for  
PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Campus:  
4 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 563-6647



[Journal of Unification Studies](#)  
[Subscribe to the HJI Newsletter](#)

[Faculty and Staff Directory](#)  
[HJI Catalog](#)



## News



JUNE 10, 2024

### President's Address at HJI Commencement

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh To our esteemed members of the graduating class of 2024, congratulations. You make us proud. You're the best! I listened to a speech delivered by our [...]



JUNE 10, 2024

### A Personal Reflection on HJI's 2024 Graduation

by Mrs. Mika Deshotel, Associate Dean of Student Life  
This year's Commencement Ceremony was extra special for our students living nearby to the NYC campus, and who were able to gather for [...]



JUNE 04, 2024

### Amb. Joseph DeTrani's Commencement Address

Ambassador Joseph DeTrani was the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate during HJI's 2024 Commencement Ceremonies held on May 25 at 4 West 43rd St. Amb. DeTrani is the former Special [...]



MAY 29, 2024

### Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

On Saturday, May 25, 2024, HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership (HJI) held its 48th Commencement in New York City to celebrate the class of 2024. Special [...]



MAY 22, 2024

### HJI holds its Third Annual Research Day

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership held its Third Annual Research Day Program at 7 PM on Tuesday May 14, 2024. This year's research projects were represented [...]



MAY 15, 2024

### HJI at Annual Spring Fest

On Saturday, May 4 representatives from HJI attended the annual Spring Fest organized by the Belvedere Family Church at the Belvedere Estate in Tarrytown, NY. It was an exciting celebration [...]



MAY 02, 2024

## Honorary Doctorate To Be Conferred Upon Ambassador Joseph DeTrani at the Graduation Ceremony for HJI

New York, NY, May 1, 2024 – The HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership is proud to announce the conferral of an honorary doctorate upon Ambassador Joseph [...]



APRIL 19, 2024

## Report on HJI Conference Session Published in "Bitter Winter"

Dr. Massimo Introvigne, Founder, CESNUR; Editor, Bitter Winter, commented on the success of the HJI International Conference in Bitter Winter. "While there are other critical situations, including in France, what is happening in [...]"



APRIL 19, 2024

## 1st HJI International Conference on Peace and Public Leadership

HJI held the 1st International Conference on Peace and Public Leadership: Addressing the Challenges of Our Times on April 11-13, 2024 with distinguished panelists from around the world. Ten sessions discussed topics central to the challenges facing [...]



Campus:  
4 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 563-6647



Journal of Unification Studies  
Subscribe to the HJI Newsletter

Faculty and Staff Directory  
HJI Catalog

Search for events

Find Events

List

Month

Day

< > Today Upcoming ▾

There are no upcoming events.

## Latest Past Events

JUN  
**13**  
2024

June 13 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Open House

Online

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership invites you to our upcoming virtual Open House on Thursday, June 13 at 7 PM ET which will highlight the opportunities for research by our HJI students. Join us to learn more about the value of an HJI degree and our programs of study. Dr. Thomas Walsh, HJI President, will [...]



JUN  
**6**  
2024

June 6 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Understanding the Catholic View on Social Justice

Online

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership is pleased to co-host a special program with the Higher Purpose Forum (HPF). We invite you to register for the presentation on "Understanding the Catholic View on Social Justice" to be held on June 6 at 7 PM ET. William Lay, Esq., Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and Human Security will be the host of [...]



MAY  
**25**  
2024

May 25 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### 48th Annual Commencement

You are cordially invited to join us in celebration of this year's graduating class at HJ International's 48th Annual Commencement Ceremony, to be held at our campus in New York City on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 2 PM ET. Ambassador Joseph DeTrani, former Special Envoy to the Six Party Talks with North Korea, will be the keynote speaker and the recipient [...]





**HJ International**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL for  
PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Campus:  
4 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 563-6647



[Journal of Unification Studies](#)

[Subscribe to the HJI Newsletter](#)

[Faculty and Staff Directory](#)

[HJI Catalog](#)

Copyright © 1974 - 2023 HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership.

---