

Involvement with worldwide alumni community

In 2001, the first Tipon Silliman was held in Chicago. A biennial convention of Silliman alumni in North America, the gathering has over the years become the biggest event among alumni in this part of the world.

The first Tipon in Chicago in 2001 accomplished much in terms of cementing the ties among the different alumni chapters in North America, foremost of which was the creation of the Silliman University Alumni Council of North America (SUACONA). This was to be an umbrella organization which would coordinate the efforts of the different alumni chapters in the U.S. and Canada in order for them to be able to benefit Silliman University in a way that is substantial, significant and relevant.

Along with the creation of SUACONA came the election of its first set of officers. Elected to serve as SUACONA Chairman for the term 2001-2003 was Dr. Sylvester Almiron, Jr. of New York. His past involvements in Silliman affairs as well as his vast experience in community leadership positions made him the ideal lead person in nurturing this nascent organization. Much of the accomplishments of 2001-2003 was organizational, reaching out to and coordinating with the various alumni chapters, as well as casting a vision of how SUACONA can be relevant in the overall operations of Silliman University.

Under Dr. Almiron's leadership, and in close coordination with the NYNJ Chapter, the second Tipon Silliman was held at the Glenpointe Marriott Hotel in Teaneck, New Jersey. Learning from the experiences of the first Tipon, the second convention was a very much improved version which offered varied substantive and fun-filled activities. It was held on the July 4th weekend, timed to coincide with that week's customarily big celebration in New York. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the 4-day gathering was the boat cruise around Manhattan to watch the Macy's 4th of July Fireworks. No less than 500 alumni and friends boarded the exclusively chartered boat, featuring food and dancing as the group sailed into the Manhattan sunset awaiting the marvelous display.

At the convention site in Glenpointe Marriott, vibrant discussions were going on, assessing our lives and relationships among fellow alumni, other chapters, and with Silliman University. In between these discussions, we were entertained by the choral group "Ating Pamana," a spin-off of the widely successful Silliman Choristers, who flew in directly from Dumaguete City.

A significant item discussed during Tipon 2003 was the proposal of the Silliman University administration of erecting a

Continued on the following page

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Congratulations to All Officers
of the
Silliman University
Alumni Association

From

Josephine Cagara
and
Beth Santos

Congratulations
to
Rebecca Pedregosa Antone



and
Silliman University Alumni Association's
New Officers of 2009-2011

With love from
**Donna, Erik
& Grandson Darren**

Involvement with worldwide alumni community

Continued from the preceding page

building on the campus which would substantially help tide over the finances of our alma mater. The Twin Portal Project was planned to be a building on the edge of the campus which would offer commercial and office spaces for rent to the public, the income of which would be plowed directly into the programs of the university. This was a novel way of putting up an endowment fund, where money is invested in real estate and rental earnings are collected as opposed to investing the money in a financial institution. The SU administration posed a challenge to the SUACONA convention to raise funds for the first of the twin buildings, and seeing that this was a worthy project which would significantly impact Silliman, the SUACONA delegates agreed to take on the challenge.

As SUACONA was now entering into a new and exciting phase in its growth, and with the advent of this new fund drive, the SUACONA delegates voted to extend the term of Dr. Almiron as Chairman until 2005.

Inspired by the success of the recent gathering, the NYNJ officers launched into action immediately after Tipon 2003. Jun and Jean Almiron hosted a caucus at her kitchen where Faith Garcia, Eula Bergado, Marty Visitacion, and several other NYNJ officers met with Prof. Leonor Briones and other Silliman officers to discuss how to proceed with the

fund drive. The goal was to raise \$700,000, and after much deliberation a simple formula was reached: We will look for 700 individuals who can give \$1,000 each. And how do you encourage people to donate \$1,000? By creating a Tree of Life on the lobby of the building – a permanent installation which will acknowledge the donors by entitling them to a leaf where they can decide on their own inscriptions on who to honor or memorialize. Marty Visitacion was tasked with creating a prototype of the Tree of Life, while Eula Bergado was designated to work on the financial strategy of the fund drive. With constant advise, guidance and encouragement from Nan Hawkins of UBCHEA, the Tree of Life (TOL) campaign was off to a great start.

SUAA-NYNJ Chapter, for its part, created its own strategy on how to encourage donations. With an eye on donating to Silliman University the profit the chapter earned by hosting Tipon 2003, NYNJ created a \$10,000 matching fund. By availing of this matching fund, the donor only has to raise \$800 for a leaf in the TOL; the chapter will put in the remaining \$200. This matching fund has totally been used up, and to date the donations from NYNJ Chapter towards the TOL amounts to no less than \$50,000. This is, by any stretch of imagination, the biggest donation by any chapter in terms of

Continued on the following page



Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to All!

Love,

Pedregosa-Antone Family

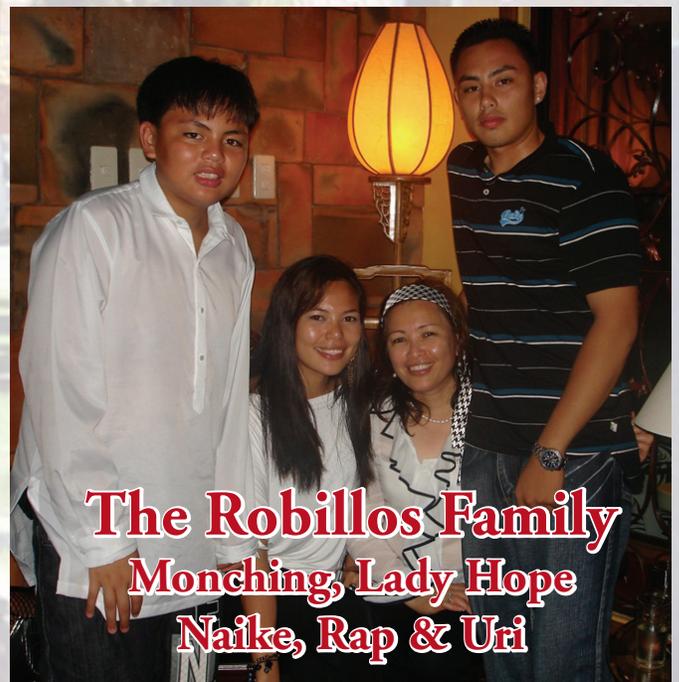
Congratulations to
Jo Juele Cesareo and Beth Lasmarias Santos
Members of the Board of Directors of
SUAA-NYNJ 2009-2011

From
James VaLouch
and
Merle Mateo

Congratulations
and continue the good work!
SUAA-NYNJ Officers
2009-2011

From
Heidi Timtim Batomalaque
Elsie Clavo

Congratulations to
Jing Mercialdo
and all the newly elected officers!



The Robillos Family
Monching, Lady Hope
Naike, Rap & Uri

Involvement with worldwide alumni community

Continued from the preceding page

the amount as well as the number of donors. NYNJ Chapter has intended this to be a grassroots campaign, and by all accounts it truly has been one because of the involvement of many individuals who were willing to share their finances for a worthwhile endeavor.

During Tipon 2007 in Toronto, Canada, another NYNJ Sillimanian assumed the Chairmanship of SUACONA. Joel Pal, a past president of SUAA-NYNJ, became the 3rd SUACONA Chairman (Dr. Renato Querubin of Ohio was the 2nd Chairman after Dr. Almiron). Acknowledging that the TOL campaign still had to reach its goal, Joel Pal's administration decided once again to make the TOL its flagship project – to give it one more big push by concentrating most of its efforts in this pursuit. This was also the result of Joel's constant dialogue with President Ben Malayang (they were high school classmates), who requested and encouraged SUACONA to intensify its TOL campaign as its success was really vital and significant to the university.

Several NYNJ alumni have also been involved in SUACONA committees where they served commendably by unselfish offering of time, talents and efforts. Faith Manigsaca Duran has been member of the Tipon Committee and TOL Committee. Evangeline Bravo-Manjares has served on the TOL

Committee and Nominations Committee. Joji Juele-Jalandoni served on the TOL Committee and consequently has been elected Secretary of the SUACONA Executive Committee.

Jocelyn Gerenia-Pajares has been Treasurer of SUACONA for at least two terms. Her expertise and diligence has made her an indispensable member of the team, that even after her term was over she still offers her services.

Eula Bergado has accomplished in the TOL Committee what no one else has – she was responsible for a big chunk of donations towards the project.

Marty Visitacion has been terrific. Aside from his great ideas and managerial expertise, he has also shared with SUACONA his creative soul. Not one to rest idly by, Marty is constantly at work with his mind and hands. Long plane rides make him restless, so much so that in one of his trips he was able to brilliantly design a logo for SUACONA. Crafted from the Silliman logo, but with a touch distinct from it, his design of the Lamp of Knowledge was consequently adopted by SUACONA as its official logo.

As we endeavor to pursue our work towards the benefit of our alma mater, more and more Sillimanians are getting to realize that we can do more when we work in tandem with other fellow alumni all over the world. We have, after all, become a global organization.



MABUHAY...

**to my dear daughter, Daday Kiamco-Millman,
and to all newly inducted officers of SUAA NY/NJ.**

**May God bless all the work you do
for Silliman University!**

Mrs. Estrella A. Kiamco



**Mom, Not sure how you multi-task this added
responsibility as SUAA chapter V.P., along with
Seton Hall work, doctoral studies, home and
family! Good-luck anyhow and L'Chaim!**

Love, Ariel



Silliman University Alumni Association of Southern California

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officers of the Silliman University Alumni Association, NY-NJ

From the SUAASC Governing Board 2009-2011

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Lady Hope Poculan Robillos, *President*
Archerie Calunod, *Vice-President*
Joji Kaindoy Amparo, *Secretary*
Faith Manigsaca Duran, *Treasurer*
Felenita Buaquina, *Auditor*
Dalisay Estoloso Spicer, *PRO*

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Teresita Hernando-Somera
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Victor Raval
Gideon Jay Vidal, Jr.
Paolo Carballo
Jaime Ponce De Leon
Kenneth Rhey Ravello

Rachel Gadiane Silliman, *Ex Officio*

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Turma Alava Buenafe
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Wilfredo Bartilad
Jovie S. Aclaro
Edgardo H. Arrieta
Florence Ferrolino Sanchez
Zenaida Duran Bennett
Eugene Tenorio
Rachel Gadiane Silliman

AREA COORDINATORS:

Jiji Elaine Masangkay
Leah Marie Abellon
Evelyn Lazola
Zoe Lynn Showkatian
Andy Bel Lajato
Lemuel Somera



Brief History

- *Founded August 28, 1901 by American Presbyterian Missionaries*
- *Started as Silliman Institute, on an initial US\$10,000 donation from **Dr. Horace B. Silliman** of Cohoes, New York*
- *Started with only 15 boys; Admitted girls in 1912*
- *Granted university status in 1938*

[This information is lifted from Dr. Ben Malayang's report to Tipon 2009]

Congratulations to
Jingjing Mercedo and all the new officers.
More Power to SUAA New York-New Jersey Chapter!

From

St. Luke's Hospital ICU Friends

*Ana Trueno, Janette Abella, Ben Burla,
Evelyn Taghap, Eva Tubo, Ella Llanos, Luz Penales,
Jheannie Santos, Donnie Gaité and Julie Pimentel*

To the newly elected Officers,
Members of the Board of Directors
and Advisory Board of the

**Silliman University Alumni Association
New York-New Jersey Chapter**

Best Wishes for a Successful Term!!!



From The “Twisters” of SUAA NY-NJ

**L-R: Elsa Cruzado-Trumata, Jean Almiron, Jennifer Villanueva-Pal,
Prossy Sevileno-Dagdayan, Daday Kiamco-Millman, Vangie Bravo-Manjares,
Ellen Cediño, Eva Baluma-Tubo, Joji Juele-Jalandoni,
Jingjing Dagpin-Mercido, and Dely Po- Go.**

This group represented the NYNJ Chapter at the Welcome Night Talent Show during Tipon 2009 in Orlando, Florida. They danced The Twist, depicting the music, movements and costume of the 1960s.



Distinctions

- *Named National Historical Landmark*
- *Granted Autonomous Status by CHED*
- *CHED CoE in Nursing Education & Teacher Education*
- *CHED CoD in Accountancy, Biology & IT Education*
- *USAID CoE in Coastal Resource Management*
- *Haribon Foundation Academic Center of Excellence in Biodiversity Conservation*
- *Has the most number of both undergraduate & graduate programs given the highest accreditation level (Level III) by the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines*

[This information is lifted from Dr. Ben Malayang's report to Tipon 2009]

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MIGUEL BRAGANZA II

Director/Choreographer

Miguel Braganza II is the Founder and Artistic Director of MB2NY Musical and Dance Theatre Projects and the Program Coordinator and Instructor of the NY Young Performers Workshop in New York City. Currently, he also handles the Musical Theatre (after school program) of the United Nations International School in Queens.

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Congratulations
and More Power to You!!

Jo Juele Cesareo
Beth Lasmarias Santos

From

Preciosa Legaspi

and

Crisilia Sino-ag Pascal

CONGRATULATIONS
to Joji and Joy
and ALL Officers of the
2009-2011 SUAA NY-NJ Chapter!



Love always,
Pops, Mom, Mario, Jackie, Mike, Jaji, John,
Jose Carlos, Jose Inigo, Michael, Lalaine & Lisa



F.I.R.E. The Quad-Focal Functions of Silliman as an Institution of Christian Learning

- **Faith** *To build a permanent substrate of strength & a commitment to serve God*
- **Instruction** *To build solid complexes of truths*
- **Research** *To build creative capacities to question truths*
- **Extension** *To build unshakeable conscience to apply truths in service of others*

[This information is lifted from Dr. Ben Malayang's report to Tipon 2009]

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Congratulations to Jenjen Pal
and all the newly elected officers of
SUAA-NYNJ Chapter

From

Alfredo & Jeanie Palanog

Jesse P. Marchan, Esq.

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