Boat ride in Manhattan with President Ben Malayang III
and the Silliman delegation.
July 4, 2009

SUAA- NYNJ Pictorials

SU President Ben Malayang III
speaking to alumni in New Jersey
July 4, 2009

About the Tree of Life at the Portal West Building

The Tree of Life is a project of SUACONA (Silliman University Alumni Council of North America) to recognize donations toward Silliman University's Twin Portal Building Project in general and the Portal West Building in particular. It consists of three parts – a South Tree, a North Tree and an Interactive Screen. Each tree has 350 leaves that recognize gifts of $1000 each and six rocks that recognize gifts of $5000 each. On each leaf or rock is a metal plate on which is written an inscription to usually memorialize or honor people who are special to the donating party. Further, a plate with corresponding inscription is also placed on either Tree's trunk to recognize a gift of $100,000 each.

As was originally intended, the Interactive Screen located at the center of the building's lobby provides a close-up view of leaves, rocks and trunks, their corresponding inscriptions and locations. Its role has since been expanded to provide donors with an opportunity to publish information on any subject of their choice by creating a page that is linked to their donor name. While the right to such informational page is free of charge to rock and trunk donors, leaf donors pay $100 each or its equivalent in other currencies for such a right. The Interactive Screen also lists other donors who gave less than that of a leaf while at the same time offering options for upgrading. One of the continuing functions of SUACONA, through its Tree of Life Committee, is to keep an accurate record of donor amounts, which would be useful in determining how much a donor needs to give in order to upgrade to a leaf and enjoy its corresponding privileges.

The two Trees of Life and Interactive Screen were formally inaugurated through special ceremonies on August 25, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. At press time, a total of 172 leaves out of a maximum of 700 for both Trees, all 12 rocks and one of the two trunks have been assigned. While the target of SUACONA's campaign has been and continues to be the more than 4,000 Silliman alumni and friends who have migrated to the United States and Canada, everyone is welcome to invest in the Tree of Life regardless of where they are located. For residents of the United States and its territories, gifts are tax deductible by writing checks or authorizing a credit card charge to the United Board. Full instructions for donating including downloadable donor forms can be obtained at the organization's website. Log on to www.suacona.com and click the TwinPortal Bldg tab. During Founders Week, donor forms will be available at the Portal West lobby for all visitors.

THIS FORM IS DESIGNED FOR DONORS RESIDING IN NORTH AMERICA

I am pleased to contribute to the United Board for the Twin Portals Project for Silliman University.

The United Board welcomes contributions by credit card or check, as well as contributions of appreciated stock or securities. Gifts to the United Board for this project are tax deductible in the U.S. to the full extent permitted by law. If you are contributing by **check,** please be sure to make it payable to the United Board and enclose it with this form. To make a **credit card** contribution (Visa or MasterCard only, please), please complete the credit card section below. You may also make a secure credit card gift on the web at <www.unitedboard.org>. Gifts of **appreciated stock or securities** may provide additional tax benefits. Please contact Shanna Hamilton (email:shamilton@unitedboard.org or phone: 212-870-2612) for the procedures to transfer appreciated securities to the United Board for this project.

Check: I am enclosing my check, **payable to the United Board**, for $_____.

Credit card: Please charge my gift of US $_____ to my MasterCard Visa

We especially ask our supporters outside the U.S. to make their contributions by credit card, due to the significant bank processing fees charged for checks from outside the U.S. Such a credit card contribution is similar to a credit card purchase from a U.S. vendor, so your contribution will be in U.S. dollars, as shown above.

Account Number: __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ Expires __ __/__ __

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ALL DONORS, please complete the information below:

Name: _____ Maiden name: _____
(as it appears on credit card, if you are making a credit card gift) (if applicable)

Address: _____

Phone: _____(day) _____(evening)

E-mail: _____ Yr. of Grad.: _____ Major:_____

Name of Silliman alumni chapter:

_____

I am are not currently affiliated with a chapter, but I would like to join one. I request that I be contacted with information about the chapter nearest me.

The first 700 contributions of $1,000 or more will be permanently recognized with a metal leaf on the building's "Tree of Life," on which the donor's name and/or the name(s) of any honoree or memorialee will be engraved.

Please complete and return this form, along with your donation to:

United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia
Attn.: Shanna Hamilton
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1221
New York, NY 10115

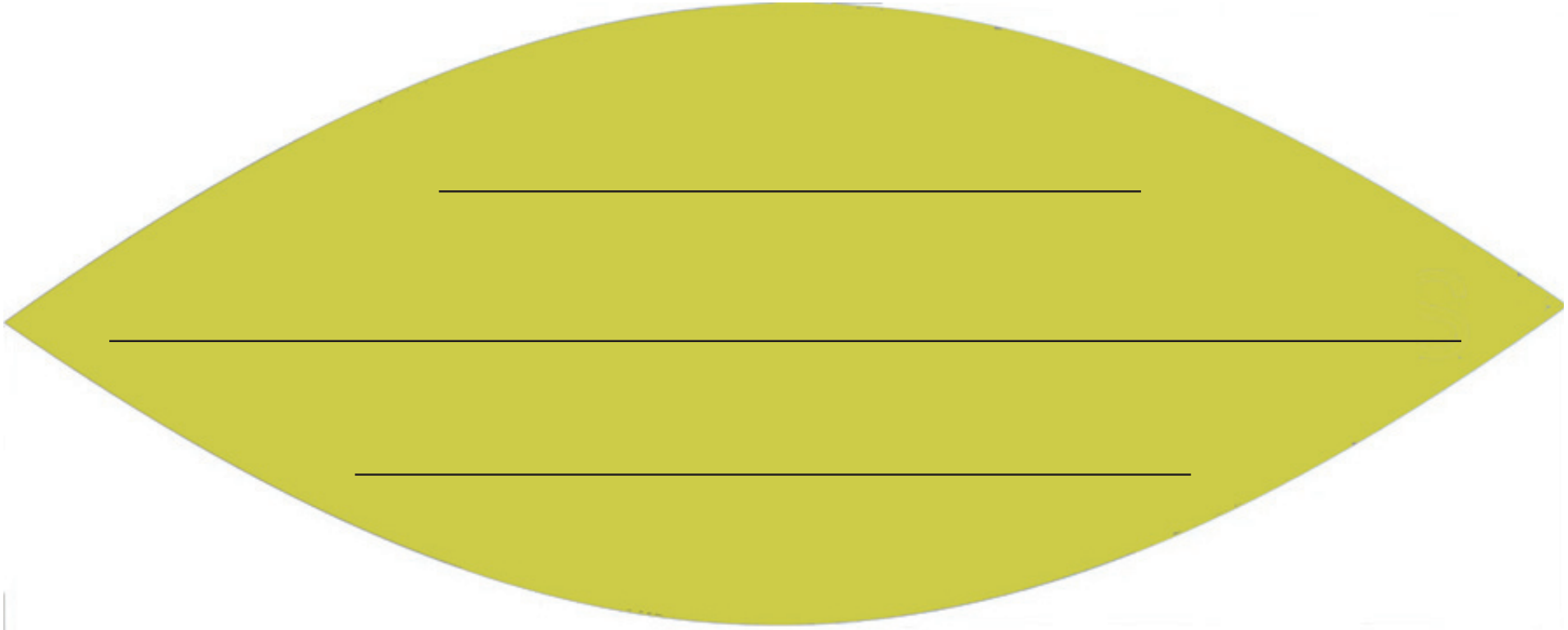
Beforehand, please make a duplicate copy of this form (both pages) and mail to:

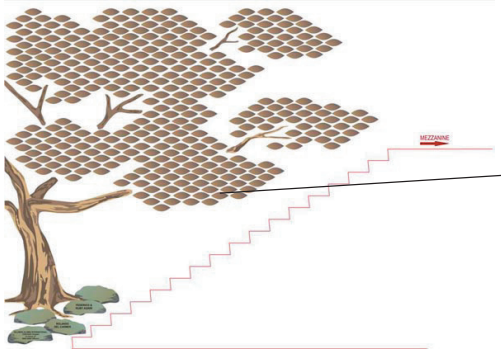
Mr. Jose Mari Antonio
Director of Institutional Advancement
Silliman University
Dumaguete, Philippines

Unless donors request anonymity, it is the United Board's normal policy to list donor names in the appropriate giving category of its annual report and to share donor and contribution information with Silliman University. As this started as a SUACONA project and continues to be promoted by them, the United Board may also share donor names and contribution amounts for this project with the officers of SUACONA, unless you request anonymity by signing the statement below. Signing this statement means that your name and the amount of your contribution will not be published by the United Board, SUACONA or Silliman.

I prefer that my gift be anonymous and request that my name not be published by Silliman, SUACONA, or the United Board _____
(Signature of donor)

Please write below the exact wording of your leaf inscription.
The ideal total length is 60 characters including spaces.





A reduced drawing of the Tree of Life.

A sample inscription on a leaf.

Indicate how you want to be listed in the alphabetized list of donors in the Interactive Screen *(Example: Smith, John & Mary)*

_____

Unveiling of the Tree of Life at the Portal West Building

SUACONA is distinctly proud to have been a part of this enormous and noble project, which is the Portal West Building. This is a very clear example of what the university and the alumni can do together if we pool our thoughts and resources into a common goal.

The Portal West Building is often alluded to as a fund raising project of SUACONA. While this allusion is flattering, we have our feet firmly on the ground in the thought that this is a fund raising project of Silliman University, as any fund raising is a project and responsibility of the university. Where we in SUACONA and other alumni organizations come in is when the university asks us to assist in raising funds. As we have said time and again, SUACONA's main thrust is to be responsive to the needs of the university as they are presented to us.

Undoubtedly, the biggest boost to our fund raising efforts had been the Tree of Life and the Interactive Computer, which we are inaugurating today. We could not think of a better way to acknowledge those whose generosity have made this building stand where it is now. The Tree of Life concept had been our guiding light, and it pleases me greatly, as I'm sure it does everyone here today, that we are finally inaugurating this meaningful installation which, aside from being an expression of gratitude to the donors, is a tremendous work of art in itself.

Dr. Federico Agnir and SUACONA's Tree of Life Committee, which he chairs, had been instrumental in seeing this installation come to fruition. As an ex-officio member of the TOL committee, I have watched closely how Dr. Agnir and his committee have been relentless in their drive to see this project through. I have also been witness to how Dr. Agnir worked cooperatively with Abe Cadelina, Bob Macalolot, Architect Manny Almagro, Engr. Uymatiao and Vice President Nick Fontelo – all working towards one common goal of installing the Tree of Life today, realizing its sustaining implications on this and other future fund raising projects.

The Tree has grown, but let us not forget that a Seed was sown a few years back. During Tipon 2003 in Teaneck, New Jersey, the SU administration made a presentation on the planned Twin Portals Building, and proposed to the gathered SUACONA to assist in the fund raising effort. Under then-Chairman Dr. Sylvester Almiron, SUACONA made a commitment to make the Twin Portals Building its flagship project. Right after the close of Tipon 2003, a meeting was held at Jean's kitchen (at the invitation of Mrs. Jean Almiron), where Prof. Leonor Briones, Ambassador Tony Villamor and SUACONA Chair Jun Almiron sat with NYNJ officers (Faith Duran, Eula Bergado, Marty Visitacion) brainstormed on how to raise $700,000. The consensus was to look for 700 donors who can give $1000 each. And how do we encourage people to donate $1000? By acknowledging their donations through the concept of a Tree of Life. Marty Visitacion was then tasked with coming up with a blueprint. All told, that was when the seed was sown.

Today, we are witnesses to how the tree has grown. SUACONA would like to dedicate all the efforts and love put into this project to our dear alma mater, Silliman University. Let this be our small contribution to the attainment of its mission to provide quality Christian education, as we continue to Walk His Way, Speak His Truth, and Live His Life.

Via Veritas Vita!

Dr. Sylvester Almiron, Jr., past Chairman of SUACONA, delivers his address at the unveiling of the Tree of Life installation in August 2008.

Portal West

THE TWIN PORTALS/TREE OF LIFE PROJECT

SUACONA's flagship fundraising event is the Twin Portals/Tree of Life project in which we are committed to raising money to build one of two buildings located in the campus of Silliman University. This project is in response to the appeal of the Silliman University Board of Trustees for its alumni residing abroad to help with their Twin Portals building project, which is designed to generate non-tuition money for the university. For more information, visit www.suacona.com.

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Congratulations and Best Wishes

to

Dely Po Go

PRESIDENT

SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK – NEW JERSEY

From all of us at

480 NORTH WALNUT STREET
EAST ORANGE, NJ 07017