

LASMARIAS-KELSO, PRISCILLA (AB ENGLISH 1961)

OUTSTANDING SILLIMANIAN AWARDEE EDUCATION, 2004



Professor Kelso has distinguished herself as a Silliman alumna on both sides of the planet. At Silliman, she was an outstanding student (AB English, *magna cum laude*) and faculty member who contributed extensively to Silliman in both curricular and co-curricular areas. Most notable are her achievements in campus journalism, forensics, and campus religious life. Her graduate degree in literature is from Stanford University where she was an international scholar in the 1960's.

In the United States, she excelled in the field of international education, holding responsible administrative positions in several prestigious institutions of higher education including the University of Pennsylvania, Northeastern University and Boston University. In connection with her work, she has traveled to a number of countries and spoken at conferences sponsored by such luminaries as Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Wellesley College. In short, she has become Silliman's own expert in the very important and highly specialized fields of international education and intercultural communication.

Professor Kelso has also published essays on the role of spirituality in higher education in understanding faith formation during the college years, as reflected in pedagogy and related academic values. As a bicultural person, she has also written about navigating

two-cultures as a Filipino-American. She is currently writing a book titled “Growing Two Gardens” – a metaphor of her Philippine beginnings and her American life.

At the same time, Professor Kelso has pursued her lifelong commitment to the mission of the church. She has held a variety of leadership positions in the Presbyterian Church and the Massachusetts Council of Churches. Along with her Presbyterian minister husband, the Rev. Bart Kelso, she engaged in missionary work, including a sabbatical at Silliman where he served as interim pastor at the Silliman University Church and she rejoined the English faculty. They have a married daughter, Rachel Maria, who works with global philanthropy.

“When you rise, lift someone up with you,” is a guiding principle in her life. With all the advantages of higher education, a two-track career, and the blessings of family and friends, she knows too well that there are many who follow a less-privileged path. In this regard, she has consistently supported educational opportunities for financially-distressed young students in the Philippines, particularly in Negros Oriental, and has advocated for full scholarships at Silliman as past president of the Silliman Association of New England (SANE).

She and her family have lived in Boston for 50 years and have extended hospitality to visiting Silliman faculty, staff and administrators. For Priscilla Lasmarias Kelso, the world is God’s garden and we cooperate in producing fruit for our lives and for the Gospel.