



THE U.P. BETAN

U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity of Northern California
Special Issue-30th Anniversary Celebrations

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Roll of Officers

Dave Villegas	Grand Princep
Gene Samson	Vice GP
Rotsen Lawas	Master of the Rolls
Ding Cavestany	Guardian of the Coffers
Ernie Tremor	Guardian of the Chattels
Dutch Aragonos	Chamberlain
Rick Velasco	Herald
Louie Ruiz	Examiner of the Coffers
Vee de Vera	Wielder of the Sword

Roll of Grand Princeps

Louie Cabaluna	1983-1987
Eric Punzalan	1987-1989
Eto Oliva	1989-1991
Iking Agana	1991-1993
Fred Aquino	1993-1995
Darius Munoz	1995-1997
Ike Araneta	1997-1999
Tatang Vergara	1999-2001
Gabby Moraleda	2001-2002
Johnny Regadio	2002-2005
Boy Ramos	2005-2007
Bong Beredo	2007-2009
Manolo Banzon	2009-2010
Gerry Abenes	2010-2012
Dave Villegas	2012-2014

CONTRIBUTORS: Ike Araneta, Babes Ignacio, Yay Topacio, Gabby Moraleda, Dutch Aragonos, and Johnny Regadio
Most photos by Willie Vergara

Thank you UP North for all my 16 years of editing, lay-outing, and providing pictures and articles to this newsletter. It was great fun being of service in various ways, but as they say, "all good things must end someday..."
by Willie Vergara, Editor

UP North holds its traditional 3-day festivities on its 30th Year

After many months of preparatory meetings, the festivities this Memorial Day weekend promises to be another joyous one. In keeping with the Chapter's tradition, the celebrations began with a Welcome/Hospitality Night (Saturday, May 25), a golf tourney the next morning (May 26) and the biennial Grand Fraternity Ball in the evening, and a send-off picnic/lunch (May 27).

Although the mantle of leadership was turned over 60 days after Dave's election in July 2012, the symbolic paddle of authority will be passed on by immediate Past GP Gerry Abenes during the night of the Fraternity Ball. Such rites will include the swearing in of Dave's new set of officers. (See box: Roll of Officers). Chapter awards will likewise be given.

The keynote speaker of the evening is our Central (formerly known as Mother Chapter) President Rolly Reyes. For the record, past presidents of the Mother Chapter have likewise graced our traditional weekend activity as special guests/guest

speakers, namely: Justice Raoul Victorino (1995), Atty. Boyet Fernandez (1997), Congressman Mat Defensor (1999), Congressman Romulo Lumauig (2001), DENR Secretary Victor O. Ramos (2005), and in



GP Dave Villegas '55
UP College of Law

the last fratball, DENR Undersecretary Rene de Rueda (2011). To complete the slate, Evelyn Jayme-Amurao took the place of Founder Jesus R. Jayme (died before the ball) as speaker in 2003. In 2009, we had no other than our co-Founding Father Melecio "Rico" Arranz as well as retired World Bank officer Edgardo Quisumbing. In 2007, UP North's Grand Elder Narcing Lopus, Batch '48, was the unanimous choice for this all-important role owing to his dedicated and con-

sistent service to the frat for 60 years as well as his role as the inspiration and symbol of unity especially during the Chapter's most difficult years.

The UP North ladies comprised of the Brothers' spouses and partners prepared a surprise number for the Welcome Night. As you read this tonight, you must have seen how they have shown their support to the chapter. The UP North's pride – A Band of Brothers – with all their many engagements in various occasions (some were paid and others for charity) have, without a doubt now belong to the professional class. They have been rehearsing new numbers and will again delight everyone with their polished music.

This year's venues have been chosen so that each of the events would be within a few miles from the Embassy Suite.

Many guests are expected to arrive from all over—Pilipinas, Canada, The Midwest and Eastern USA, NorthWest Chapter, Hawaii, and the ever-faithful, ever-true Brods and ladies of SoCal. — **By WV**

President Rolly G Reyes

By Willie “Tatang” Vergara

In history, there are transformational leaders, reform-oriented leaders, visionary leaders, inspirational leaders, technology-oriented leaders, leaders by example, synergistic leaders, game-changers. Tonight’s guest speaker, Rolly G Reyes, is all of the above.

He has been a member of UP Northern California Chapter since 2009 when he came over to speak at the International Forum, specifically addressing the matter of the changing face of the UP studentry vis-à-vis our recruitment efforts.

*A few months after that, he was elected as one of Central’s Board of Trustees and immediately initiated a year long-program called **2010: The Year of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity** that led to a series of organizational transformation activities, projects and initiatives at our Central (formerly known as Mother Chapter). Among these activities are (a) the all-important streamlining of the financial systems and controls; (b) heightened participation of the residents as well as alumni in activities—e.g. attendance in some frat activities increased ten-fold — from the usual 25-30 to as many as 250-300; (c) successfully reached out to the different groupings within the fraternity—e.g. the residents from different campuses helping each other in projects, the quite “insular” yet powerful groups that barely got involved, or were adamant to join, in Central activities such as the Makati Chapter and the Operation Big Brother Foundation; (d) reached out to other small groups and batches within the frat; (e) mobilized these groupings towards the successful implementation of the 2010 Tito de Santos Medical Mission in Diliman together with several Betan MDs and DMDs, backed-up by residents and alumni; (f) took the role of synergist after Brod Kim Cabatit pledged his support to finance the trip of scholars to the US; (g) availed the countless use of his Office in the conduct of almost all meetings related to the 2010 Initiative.*

During the Frat Ball of the UP Southern California Chapter (September 2010), he was invited as Guest Speaker where he was also granted an award for leadership and service in government.

Yet he was not yet in “full bloom” as a leader and mobilizer at the time of his recognition 3 years ago. The 2010: The Year of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity saw numerous and creative programs that put our



fraternity in the forefront among the most productive and relevant organizations in the University of the Philippines System. Our institutional image before the UP Administration and other interest groups has been completely reversed from a war-mongering group to one that is relevant, productive, and UP’s partner in development.

His contributions to the fraternity came in leaps and bounds. He successfully revived participation of our fraternity in the Christmas Lantern Parade (about 300 Betans including Founder Rico Arranz, with

snake dance and all!). Beta Sigma was the ONLY frat in this annual activity. (For the record, the last time the frat participated in this annual UP activity more than 40 years ago.) What more? He successfully advocated and led the revival of the traditional Fraternity Ball, which was last held in 2005 in Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club. He and Brod Boyet Fernandez were the main figures in putting up a Lawyers Council now comprised of about 50 Betan lawyers. Having a Betan Lawyers Council is a dream-come-true since my student days in the 60s—almost half a century! This Council has produced significant results, and as an example, our lawyers successfully appealed the case two residents who were expelled for physical injuries, and are now graduates. At this writing, a resident brod who was not allowed to enter the UP College of Law got a reprieve. Thanks to the timely and constant intervention of RGR and Joel P.

*Using as a jump-off point the successful program 2010: The Year of UP Beta Sigma Fraternity, he introduced another visionary program: **2010-2020: The Golden Decade of UP Beta Sigma** that would prepare the frat for our Diamond Anniversary in 2016 and our 75th Year in 2021. Read The Central Headquarters and Arboretum on page 8-9 among RGR’s current concerns. On-going projects include vaccination of animals, recruitment training for residents, and donation of a dialysis machine to UP Infirmary.) In the pipeline are as follows: (a) On the initiative of Sec Victor O Ramos—the completion of the Heritage book; (b) A Betan Park within the Arboretum; and (c) Scholarship funds and loan facilities for tuition fees.*

RGR worked in the broadcast and creative communications industry for thirty years. (see next page)

By Atenarai

Hear ye, Hear ye! I am pleased to announce the election of Brod Dave Villegas '55 as the new Grand Princep of the UP Beta Sigma Chapter of Northern California, for 2012-2014. Dave formally assumes the top post after a 3-month transition period after his election last July 14.

It comes as no surprise that Dave has finally answered the call to serve after having been an active member of the Chapter for a little more than a decade. I first met Dave at the bar of the Officers Club in Moffett field in Sunnyvale during the term of then GP Darius Munoz. The impression that I had of him then still holds true today...he epitomizes what most brods would call "sosyal". Not in a snobbish way but in a more refined "mabiro-mischievous" way and also in a "social gadfly" sort of way, as one brod put it. And in typical Betan fashion he also sizes you up to see if you're the "pikon" type. But many brods in the Chapter take this as his gesture of endearment. Ask Dutch Aragones.

Dave entered the Fraternity in 1955 during the term of the late Brod Pros Crescini. He still remembers his tormented days as a neophyte at the hands of the Agura and Concepcion brothers and the close bond he developed with "tiso" brods like Dennis Navaro, Enching Rodriguez, Mon Tongco, Mike Manguerra,



GP Dave has the very elegant Mercy Oria-Villegas for his first lady and #1 supporter

and Tito Garcia, among many others. Our chug-a-lugs here in UP North have certainly been enriched by Dave's stories of his resident days that he so proudly shares with us, always reminding us of how great our fraternity has always been.

After graduation from the UP College of Law in 1961 and being published as having been one of the top 100 to pass the bar exam, Brod Dave, had a short stint as an appointee to the Judge Advocate Office under the Macapagal administration. He then joined the Legal Office of the Mayor of Manila, Antonio "Yeba" Villegas, representing the poor people of Manila who needed legal assistance. He did this for a couple of years until Martial Law was declared. Due to political reasons he had to go

into hiding as both of his brothers were incarcerated; in fact, Jun Villegas, one of our brods and Dave's blood brother, was tortured during the dictatorship.

He finally migrated to the US with his wife and sons in 1975. Here in Northern California, Brod Dave made his home and raised his family for the past 37 years. He worked in the insurance industry and also had a stint as Ombudsman of the County of San Francisco. His youngest son is a Stanford graduate.

(RGR con't) He worked himself to the highest executive positions in this highly competitive, ultra-fast paced business until he ultimately became Chairman and President of the National Broadcasting Network from 2006-2010. He was also a top level government executive as USec of Tourism (2001), USec for Broadcast (2004), and USec for Government Mass Media Group (2006). Needless to say, his experience covers all aspects of management. He is currently CEO of Mobileminds, Inc. – a company that provides media solutions and strategies to offices and designs media packaging and marketing of events and personalities.

That's RGR—a heaven sent leader for all Beta Sigmans.

IN MEMORIAM



MARCY TREMOR



POGS GASPAY



DES QUEJADA

A Band of Brothers

By

Atenarai & Babes Ignacio

If there is one thing that still resonates in everyone's memory about our days on campus, it has to be the brods' love of music among the many other significant activities. This was apparent in the *haranas*, folkways, or just even jamming at the tambayan.

So as the years pass and we still happen to occasionally be in the company of brods, out would come a guitar or a karaoke machine. And a sing-a-long would ensue.

The history of UP North is no exception to this much-loved tradition. It is as one brod aptly put it a natural consequence of camaraderie and mirth...and not to mention amusement especially when the liquor starts flowing.

UP North is blessed with a handful of professional talents. Brod Kiko Delmendo has been playing the clarinet and the sax since high school and played professionally since college. He is also well known among Bay Area musicians. Brod Babes Ignacio played with bands in college and had he not continued on to law school would have played abroad as well. Brod Franklin Morales played bass guitar in clubs around Olongapo and at one time played with Mike Hanopol, an icon of Pinoy rock. Ike, always a hobbyist three-chord guitar banger, has in recent years added samba and bossa nova to his growing repertoire. So it was with this group of brods that jam sessions started to happen since the late '90s and early 2000s. Then the group got bigger with the addition of the vocals of Brods Vee Vera and Nestor Lawas. Until finally Brod Gerry Abenes bought a drum set and Dutch Aragonos chimed in with a conga set and the rest as they say, is history. Frat gatherings started experiencing live music that was in the beginning kind of rough on the ears but as time went by, incremental improvements and individual initiative made the band sound better.... sometimes even to the members' own astonishment. Thanks to Mercy Villegas who was an unabashed critic. Indeed she was the band's thermometer or decibel meter. Soon some of the wives too would stomp and shake to the beat. Cheng Valdez would chime in with some excellent licks on the piano, as would Tess Morales. Tanya on the tambourine. Then in the Christmas of

2007 the Band was assigned to play at the Christmas party. It was then that a contest to name the band was set in motion. Some of the entries were: Our Second Wind, Tumbleweeds, The Band UP North, Just For Fun, and A Band of Brothers. It was easy to see why A Band of Brothers was an easy pick given the relationship of its members. It was a "contextual" choice.

The band plays an assortment of songs from rock to Latin to jazz and funk. It has all the ingredients to develop further if time permits its members to practice together more frequently. The band has also played outside of the chapter gatherings and has recently played in restaurants/clubs where other Bay Area musicians gather to jam.

Although it's members have varying degrees of musical performance "maturity", the more seasoned members have been the mentors to those who are still developing as musicians. It owes its momentum to all the members of UP North who not only have been patient but also have come to expect the band to "go live", when called upon.

We can grow old and grey quietly, but we can choose also to learn and experience new things, discover new talents. If there is anything that the Band of Brothers has proven it is that old dogs can learn new tricks!

What's next? Well we can only strive to become better together or as individuals. But whatever happens we will always be a band of brothers!



A Toast to the Nurses of UP North

By Gabby Moraleda

Filipino Nurses have long been admired in America for their competence and dedication to the profession. Walk into any hospital and you would more than likely meet a Filipina nurse. They are in constant demand. However, the job can sometimes be a thankless one, stressful to say the least. Nurses every now and then find themselves under appreciated -- with patients, if not their families overly demanding and insensitive. In spite of these challenging circumstances, Filipina nurses have stood tall and has become shining stars, achievers in the hospital industry -- a worthy symbol of what is best in Filipinos.

UP North boasts of several of them.

Among its members are the brightest, prettiest and sweetest nurses and lifetime partners. Well, we even have a husband and wife team. They have hundreds of man years of world class, nursing care know-how -- in Medical/Surgical/Oncology, Pediatrics, Emergency Room, Research and Rehab among others and working in prestigious hospitals in the Bay Area such as Stanford Hospital, Mills Peninsula Health Services, Kaiser Hospital and Veterans Hospital. UP North has even benefited from their skills through the fun filled Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) sessions and first aid seminars they conducted for our members.

Their commitment to the profession is indeed remarkable -- a level of dedication that's infectious, inspiring and inherent in the rest of the ladies and spouses in the chapter. We are indeed blessed. Our lifetime partners are an amazing, hard working and devoted team -- always there when called upon. Their active involvement is recognized and appreciated. It is what sets us apart.

Let me introduce our nurses, in alphabetical order. Apologies for any errors &/or omissions.



Cy Abiog

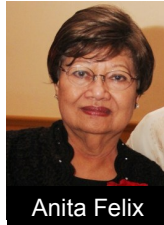
A graduate of University of Nueva Caceres (UNC) in Naga City Camarines Sur, Cy, is an Oncology nurse at Mills Peninsula Hospital where she has been working for 15 years. In addition to nursing, she is an excellent cook of tasteful Bicol dishes. No wonder Gabby is gaining extra pounds. Laing anyone?



Julie Cavestany

Julie completed her nursing education in St. Luke's School of Nursing in Manila and got her BSN at the PWU. Julie works as with Cy at Mills Peninsula Hospital Med /Surgical/Oncology department. She has been at Mills for 20 years. Julie & Ding (yes, they were

high school sweethearts) spend their spare time taking care grand kids.



Anita Felix

Anita is graduate of BS Zoology in UP. When she moved to the US, she took up nursing in Modesto Junior College and worked in the Medical/Surgical unit at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. Both brod Cecilio and sis Anita are active in the UP Alumni Association of Greater Sacramento Area.



May Gaspay

After 25 years of nursing, May has retired. She graduated from St. Lukes College of Nursing and was clinical instructor in Manila. She became a Medical/Surgical Crisis Nurse and was a Clinical Research Nurse at Stanford Hospital. Now a GM, May runs a daycare for infants & toddlers and was Pogs in house nurse.



Bobby & Harlean Pascual

The only brod in the list is Bobby batch 68A. He completed his premed in UP. He worked at Clark Air Force base before moving to the US. Bobby is An Emergency Room (ER) nurse at the Soledad Correctional Facility.

One of the first Ladies Corps (LC), Harlean is also an ER nurse at the Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. Like Bobby, she graduated from UP and completed her nursing education here in the US. Harlean is Bobby's college sweetheart. Every now and then they travel to Kansas to be with their children.



Marissa Ruiz

Marissa completed her nursing education from Sheridan College in Ontario Canada. She has been with Kaiser Permanente for 22 years and works in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. She and brod Louie Ruiz are now empty nesters and enjoy time to themselves.



Cheng Valdez

Cheng is now based in Manila. A Zamboangueña, she completed her college degree in St. Pauls college and became a hospice nurse in Pathways Inc. while the family was in the Bay Area. She is now a full time GM and 24/7 nurse to brod/Dr. Titing Valdez. Any need for medical advise when in Manila, call Titing or Cheng.

There's much talk about healthcare reform. It's a hot topic -- a cause for worry, for many. Well, not in UP north.

Simply ask the brods who are cared for by these lovely and loving nurses. They're in good hands.

So is the chapter. A toast -- to UP North nurses!



D' Eligibles



Movin' on...

Great UP Betan Legacies

UP Beta Sigma HQ By Willie Vergara * The Arboretum By Johnny Regadio

The Headquarters. During Central's fraternity ball "Strong and Alive at '65" held at Richmond Plaza Hotel last 2011, Founder Rico Arranz was awarded "The Order of the Supreme Grand Princep". In response, he said it has been the frat's life-long dream to have it's own permanent home. Spearheading the project were Brods Boy Morales, Mag Albarracin, Sec Mon Paje, and former Rep. Mat Defensor. RGR was tasked by then Central President Rene de Rueda to start the ball rolling, who immediately opened a separate account for the project. RGR approached during separate meetings the following brods: initial donors were Mags Albarracin-250k, Eding Hizon-200k and Eddie Jose-100k totalling 550k. Rolly Reyes, Boyet Fernandez and Tatang donated 50k. Mat Defensor and Sec Paje pledged to donate but still for collection. Brod Mags pledged to give another 250k when the funds reach 1M. Total cash on hand is 700K. GabbyM being himself held me by the arm and brought me to Sec Paje, who requested me to pledge on behalf of UPBSFI, Inc. half of the cost of the facility—3.5 million pesos! I politely declined and told him that as an outgoing prez, I don't want to commit anything that will tie the hands of my successor. Besides, these things have to be taken up at the UPBSFI, Inc. Board.

UP Beta Sigma Fraternity Corporate Headquarters will house the secretariat office of any current set of board officers, a small reception area, a conference room for meetings of the BOT and resident brods' executive committee. This will be equipped with telephone lines, fax, printer copier, and wireless connectivity. A corner will be dedicated to frat's memorabilia, photos, an audio-visual corner that can be used to view produced DVDs regarding the history of the brotherhood, photo slideshows, etc. a desktop publishing section that is capable of printing flyers, newsletters and communication materials.

It is not a frathouse where brods can make *tambay* for eating and drinking. A separate frathouse project is envisioned for that. From what I understand, our corporate headquarters will be a business center and office for UBSF Central (UP System).

The Arboretum. God created all things primarily for His glory. He created man as a steward of the things of creation and has dominion over them. However, due to ignorance, failure, negligence, indifference and contempt of God's design and purpose, man suffers the consequences of his actions.

The excessive cutting of trees has created an environmental disaster to the extent that everyone now feels the adverse effects of global warming. With the forests almost gone, man has to do something to restore the verdant mountains that used to be the source of water, food, and materials for infrastructures.

The concept of establishing a Betan Heritage Tree Park was first brought up in 2007 by Brod Rene de Rueda, a fellow forester who was then sitting as one of the Board of Directors of the UP Beta Sigma International, Inc. During that time, he was looking for an accessible area close to Metro Manila: the UP Land Grant, Mt. Makiling, or Mt. Arayat. The concept of the project was to establish a "green belt" that will be developed into a park in a suburban setting where people can enjoy the various amenities of a forest cover and eventually become a natural haven for wildlife. The trees and shrubs that will be planted will honor and immortalize the members of the fraternity who have passed on beyond this life by naming each tree in their honor. However, this was temporarily shelved because of other priorities.

Another project which was launched on July 14, 2008 was the Centennial Forest in UP Visayas which was initially supported by the UP Beta Sigma International, Inc. under the auspices of Brod Willie "Tatang" Vergara and Brod Rene de Rueda, with me as UPBSFI's project manager. The purpose of the project is to plant 100 indigenous tree species on a 3-hectare marginal land within the university campus. An awardee during UP's Centennial, the project is continuously being developed, maintained and protected by UPBS-Visayas residents and alumni.

The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on February 12, 2013 among the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Agriculture (DA), the Office of the UP Diliman Chancellor, and the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity has started a long sought dream of having an urban forest in Metro Manila. The MOA aims to establish an arboretum and a national botanic garden on a 16-hectare piece of land within the UP campus in Diliman.

A UPD Technical Working Group and an Oversight Committee, spearheaded by no other than UP Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association President Rolly G. Reyes and his BOT are now working on developing, maintaining and protecting a plantation of trees, shrubs and herbs for (see next page)

Father and Son

By Cesar "Yay" Topacio

"It is not flesh and blood, but heart which makes us fathers and sons" – Johann C. Friedrich von Schiller

This is not a synopsis of Turgenev's novel on conservatives and nihilists nor is it a frustrated writer's critique on Hemmingway's alter ego, Nick Adams.

This is nothing but a short, personal narrative—a simple tribute to a most esteemed father and brod, Ted and a humble accolade to a brilliant son and brod, Luigi. Born more than 3 scores apart, I am amazed with the parallels of these two specimens and their quite engaging "personas." I cheerfully share with you some of these striking similarities.

Luigi, like Ted was a consistent honor student from elementary to college and both graduated Cum Laude.

Both are good looking, dapper, gentle, cool and mild-mannered. Both are voracious readers, smart and intellectuals in their own right. Both love dogs, pure-bred or mongrels. Both are health conscious enough to shun other sinful delights and have the discipline to burn the bad cholesterol and other impurities by running or jogging.

Both were born on the month of November, Ted (30th) and Luigi (25th). According to the Universal Psychic Guild, *"Sagittarians possess a natural exuberance, sense of adventure and love of life that makes them one of the most optimistic zodiac signs of all."* Ergo, they believe that anything is possible.

Such a fitting description for these two! Ted at his "young" age of 88, is still doing community projects. Some of his colleagues dismissed one of these projects, the *One Health Approach On The Elimination Of Rabies In The U.P. Campus* as "cannot be done." With the help of brods, Ted proved the naysayers wrong as the program kicked off with a bang and will

Arboretum (con't from previous page) scientific, educational, environmental and aesthetic purposes. The concept is to introduce a collection of indigenous and exotic species, including the establishment of facilities, like greenhouses, herbariums, gardens, wildlife sanctuary and aviary. The arboretum can also be developed to propagate and protect endangered plants and trees to preserve bio-diversity in the ecosystem. Should this be a success, the Philippines will be put in the world map of environmental conservation and protection.

soon proceed to another "high risk" baranggay in U.P.

As for Luigi, I could not count anymore how many people tried to persuade him to pursue Medicine in lieu of the "more difficult to get in" VetMed. This strong willed Sagitarrean did not succumb to the well meaning advice. He studied harder and became more focused in pursuit of his dream to be a Veteri-

narian. Like Ted, Luigi proved anything is possible when he was recently accepted to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He will soon move to West Philadelphia and start this Fall semester.



From Left: Not yet a Betan, Luigi attended our Christmas Party 2006; Dean Ted Topacio, National Scientist; Luigi's Dad Yay, Mom Jin, Siblings Sergei and Alyssa

The most significant similarity is that both Ted and Luigi are dedicated Beta Sigmans. Both were initiated in U.P. Diliman, Ted in 1949 and Luigi more than sixty years later in 2010. Both of them were recruited by two distinguished members of UP North. It was Narcing Lapus, then a VetMed Senior who recruited Ted, a Junior and college scholar. It was Luigi's benefactor and ardent supporter-mentor, Willie "Tatang" Vergara who "recruited" him. It was funny how Luigi learned that dropping the name of Brod Tatang did not help at all in easing his initiation. I should have told him that such a declaration of affiliation to so called "respected" alumni brods is considered an "aggravating circumstance," and even perilous.

Let me end with a most profound similitude between these two: Both of them will always be adored and loved by this proud U.P. Beta Sigman, called Yay, son and Brod of Ted and father and Brod of Luigi.

A collaborative effort among the parties involved in the MOA has elicited interests among scientists, technocrats, investors, politicians, developers and managers by sharing their expertise and experiences in drawing up a Master Plan to be submitted to the UP Board of Regents for approval and confirmation.

This is a legacy to the whole world that will last for generations, and it needs full support and cooperation from all members of the fraternity.

Balita Tungkol Sa UPLB Residents

By Dutch Aragones, 78b

It was another fruitful 2012-2013 school year for our resident brothers in the Los Baños campus.

Last August 2012, the chapter celebrated its 62nd year with a mass of our founding date, August 13. The brods then went for a jug-a-lug at the Coop tambayan. By noon, a number of elders joined in. From August 14 to 16, an exhibit was held at the College of Arts and Sciences showing the history of our beloved fraternity, notable brods from their respective fields, School of Martial Arts, and past activities—a way to showcase our frat to the UPLB community.

August 17 was the campus day celebration, a joint event with the Sigma Betans. Roses were given to the pretty women (students and faculty). Luncheon was shared by the resident and elder brods and sisters with various UPLB faculty and personnel. Then a grand jug-a-lug afterwards. It was a day of laughter, reminiscing and endless bottles of beer. Some pro-

ceeded to the IC's bar for the after party. The celebration further strengthened the bond among the residents and elders while developing friendships with the UPLB community.

GP Raymond Juan'08e, 1VGP Paolo Hernandez'08d and 2VGP Karl Joseph Carreon'09b attended the GP summit in Davao from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2. Hosted by the UP Mindanao chapter they were joined by key resident officers of UP Diliman, UP Baguio, and UP Visayas. The summit proper was on the 2nd day and a frat ball was held the 3rd day. Together with some elder brods they discussed the initiation process, standardization of some doctrines and traditions and proposed changes to the constitution.

Operation Big Brother, now on its 39th year, was held on December 15 at Maquiling School. The residents spent the day with less fortunate children sharing the spirit of Christmas through games, gifts and hearty meals. They printed 200+ shirts, wrapped gifts/prizes and cooked food for the big day. Hired clowns delighted the kids with their magic tricks. A leadership training seminar was held last February 9 at Tahanan ng Ama in Putho-Tuntingin. With elders Brod Jim Labastilla'92b and Brod Jonas Tetangco'93a as speakers, they discussed ways and means to improve recruitment. On the Friday of the February Fair, the chapter spearheaded BATTLE ROYALE -- Laguna's largest amateur mix martial arts competition, as 800+ fans flocked to the Baker Hall. Two of the fighters were Chav Alo UPD'06c and Eleo Edquilag'11fF. Brod Chav dominated his opponent for most of the time, with quick hands and takedowns and won by TKO in the first round. Brod Eleo lost by TKO at 2nd Round. The activity brought the sport of mix martial arts a step closer to UP Los Baños. (See pics of BATTLE ROYAL



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@ www.upbsfi.org)

One thing the residents always do is to honor our graduating brods, namely, Froilan Jay Menguigo'09b, Antipas Criador V'06f and Felizardo Almares III'06f who got their undergraduate degrees in BS Forestry, BS Agriculture and BS Agribusiness Management, respectively, while Olympus Laforteza'02a and Joel Flores'12e received their master's degree in business. The night before graduation day of April 27, a testimonial dinner was held along with the Sigma Betans and their graduates at Splash Mountain Resort.

The guest speaker, Brod Roger Barroga'83a delivered an inspiring message for all attendees. The graduates shared their learnings as a resident member. The program ended with the graduate being inducted into the alumni association.

Editor's Note: At this writing, UPLB and UPBaguio are the 2 strongest Beta Sigma resident chapters.

The Legacy of GP Gerry Abenes

By Willie "Tatang" Vergara

Gerry Abenes, DVM, MVSc, Ph.D. took over the mantle of leadership in UP Northern California in mid-2011, after winning a 4-way election among Doctors of Veterinary Medicine. He inherited a strong chapter, and he raised the roof a bit further, with a lot of assistance and support from his loving spouse, Lleva.

Immediately upon his assumption, he asked Fred Aquino and Tatang Vergara to present a draft Constitution and By-Laws, a vital document that the Chapter never had since its founding in 1983. A draft CBL from way back was not approved. In 2 weeks, the CBL was ready for discussion by the body. This was eventually approved with a modicum of changes in spite of several discussions.

From this vital document defining the Chapter and what it is mandated to do, Gerry single-handedly worked on a seemingly impossible task: To secure a tax exempt status from both the Federal and State governments.

With an earlier approval of tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service, this latest approval by the California Franchise Tax Board makes the UP Beta Sigma of Northern California a completely legal entity that will enjoy full tax exempt privileges under both State and Federal laws. With regards to Federal Income Tax Returns, the Chapter can opt not to file at all starting next year, if the annual gross receipts do not exceed \$37,500 for the first year, \$30,000 after 3 years, and \$25,000 after the 4th year. Additionally, Federal laws also allows the Chapter to raise up to 35 percent of its receipts from outside sources, including through investments. It was a "good news to start the Year 2012."

This accomplishment, while not much was heard within the chapter, got the attention of no less than Webmaster Norman Bituin who called upon both the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity International, Inc. (UPBSFI, Inc.) and his own UP Southern California Chapter to possibly study the same path to a completely legitimate institution.

In keeping with a provision in this new Constitution of being a partner in promoting the image of the

fraternity in the Philippines, the Chapter under Gerry embarked on the following initiatives: (a) UP North in many years past has been reaching out to the UP resident chapters, which Gerry pursued with a vigorous mandate. UP Baguio was a recipient of a \$500 grant that went into the construction of the campus landmark now known as the Activity Garden. I personally went to visit this landmark garden, and is now reputed to be one of the most vibrant areas in the campus where the "cool" students hang out. To complete the needed project funding, Tatang through UPBSFI, Inc. pitched in with another \$225.



(b) UP North under Gerry partnered with UP Beta Sigma of Southern California in support of Diliman resident brods who were running for the UP Student Council—an initiative of our Central to get our young brods involved again in campus elections.

(c) Like the UP SoCal under Edsel Arceo, the chapter also hosted the awardees of the Brotherhood of Scholars Program who came to the US.

(d) UP North was also among the many units that supported the OBBF's project to raise seed money for the School of Martial Arts Center in Kamias, Quezon City.

Gerry also embarked on a project focused on helping its members in times of crises. The project, called Rainy Day Funds Project, aims to provide financial help to UP North family members in the event of death of a brod or his spouse. To insure sustainability of the project, the main source of the project's funding was institutionalized in the form of 20% share of the annual membership dues. The concept was an offshoot of an input from Johnny Salud where he shared that each member of an association where he belongs would chip in a few dollars every meeting.

One of Gerry's pet projects is the holding of a Spouse Appreciation Day, where a specific day within a year was chosen for an excursion among the brods and their respective spouses/partners. Others though preferred a more private way of celebrating their spouses.

Gerry was one of the key brothers responsible in growing the much ballyhooed pride of UP North, A Band of Brothers, where he acts as the drummer. He has opened his home to frequent practices, as well as small and large meetings, including the hosting of guest-brods from outside the Chapter. A lot of credit should also be given to Lleva, Gerry's number one partner in making this possible.



*Greetings and Congratulations to the Officers and Members of
UP Beta Sigma Northern California!*



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