



Tumbleweeds



The official publication of the Tumbleweeds Viber Groups of the UP Los Baños Beta Sigma Fraternity and Sigma Beta Sorority, College, Laguna, Philippines



101022 BALIK BETAN HOMECOMING HELD AT LOS BAÑOS, OCTOBER 7-9



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The Three-Day affair was well attended by brothers and sisters coming from all four corners of the globe. The celebration was ecstatic being the first homecoming after the dreaded virus paralyzed global air travel.

Capping the first day was the Malmon Cup Golf Tournament held at the Ayala Golf and Country Club in Calamba City. This activity was co-hosted by brods from Diliman and the event was participated by brods from other chapters. The day culminated with the Forestry Night Socials and Barn Dance held at Splash Mountain Resort and Hotel.

Next day, was a visit and Photo Ops at the UPLB Foundation Site near the Los Baños Municipal Hall. This site will soon be renovated with the joint efforts of the Brods and Sis.

Culminating the reunion was the traditional Loyalty Day parade at the UPLB campus and the after-parade luncheon and jug-a-lug.

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101022 BALIK BETAN HOMECOMING HELD AT LOS BAÑOS, OCTOBER 7-9



BALIK BETAN '22
by Vee de Vera

Here are some of the stories that circulated around the period of October'22 when BalikBetans came to town. Great build up of the hype from the weekly Zoom forum including travel requirements needed to enter P.I. Brod EdQ got baited into an internet link offering services and agreed to a charge of \$70.00 when in fact the services can be had for free ! Goodness ! Magaling talaga ang mga Noypi. But nonetheless, Zoom came to the rescue and Brod EdQ recovered his fee within minutes, live from the Zoom room.

Batch Mate Vic Tupaz was the center of info on incoming Balik-Betans as well as the hectic local activities, with a wedding on the side, and appearing on UPLB special social events. Whew! Midwest GP Caloy Belleza and wife, rekindled kinship with

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BALIK BETAN '22

by Vee de Vera

relatives in Manila before joining the "oldies" group on nostalgic trips. Florida based Brod Nick Galvez toured the South with wife before joining the slow moving BalikBetans on the road. Brod Emivoie Roman provided the usual spice in storytelling. Batangas contingent from Midwest Brods Olrac M and Jun C drove from Lipa and Brod Art DeVera flew out of Toronto, Canada.

Brod EdQ touched base with all his contacts from UPLB and was courteously offered service vehicle in all his trips, showing his strong influence within the UPLB academe. Fellow Repa Rotsen straight from Sacramento area, provided home base of whereabouts and what nots information on activities ably supported by family members and local talents .

Brod Tony Velasco (bigger and buffed), one of the remaining OG Repas in the Beehive scene, as Klinks, Yaks, Yob, Etnad, Xam, and others have passed on, came. He brought along Brod Edwin "Bok" Antonio who came in from Australia. Reconnecting with Dags was good for the soul.

Splash Mountain Resorts provided the venue for the usual "bullshitan" especially during breakfast and lunch times. Big time Southern host Brod Bing Garcia brought Durian and Solo Papaya. Vice Gov Corix "Tuls" Corvera came with wife Sis Shirley. Domans made good his promise to attend. Together they all joined Brod Jun Roa and Brod Jun "Bulag" Soriano who made the list of comers.

Australian couple Brod Jun Battad and Sis Yeyet came by joined by Italian connect Sis Daisy Ramos Magno.

Notable "Stage Blasters", "Bangkaan":

1. Bongkil and his "one string" slide guitar doing Cheers, Cheers, then brought down the house with his rendition of Frank Sinatra's "My Way" rhythmically timed with lyrics of counting in Spanish, starting with "Uno...that ends in "Sisenta'y singko " Bingo ! And that's how the song ended ! Hilariously good ! One for the archive !
2. Bong Lorenzo showed up in full celebratory mood with group of Alexis Domingo, Sonny "Tungro" Tuzon all G-cash ready.

Power batches of 70's, 80's, 90's and millennials came about, all protocols dropped, but most 60's sat safely masked and

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BALIK BETAN '22

by Vee de Vera

comfortably seated and enjoying. NAST Interim President Kabats Dong Rasco'67b came by. Wow Protacio said hi! Ric Escobin came late with more G-cash. Of course my pamangkin Konsehal Vincent Alvarez with buddy Dr. Thad Lawas bonded with their batch.

Edwin Maninang, Bebot Terso, Bobby Reyes, Viven Marfori, Critical Baguinon, Smiley Hernandez, The Ramoses, Sis Daisy, Teody Jr., Danilo (Sir Onilad), Ambo Lapis, Jojo Montecillo, Nonoy Tagaro, Paulo Mercado, Mayor Ruben Umali came with radiant glow in his face and looking younger than anybody else in his age group. Tony Frio and Koboy Fajards heavily masked fulfilled their desires to greet kobats and contemporaries alike. The 50's group walked up the stage with a huge standing ovations for Orly Sacay, EdQ, and Levy Perez.

Kawayan Cove escapade in Nasugbu, Batangas was a good country sidetrip with power couple Vic and Malou Tupaz hosting a 2-day respite from a hectic week of activities. Ever reliable Judge Alex Gabertan whose stern looking facial feature prompted Brod EdQ to ask "is Brod Alex Gabertan really a judge?" came with fresh catch Curachas from nearby Cavite City.

All in all, it was fun. We were all feeling the same feeling that somehow, we felt being a stranger in our own country. It's been a while since we all roamed the town alone. Everything's changed around but our Betan stories remain the same.

Mabuhay kayo!

P.S.

My apologies for missing out some names and attendees. Hopefully accompanying pictures put everyone in perspective.

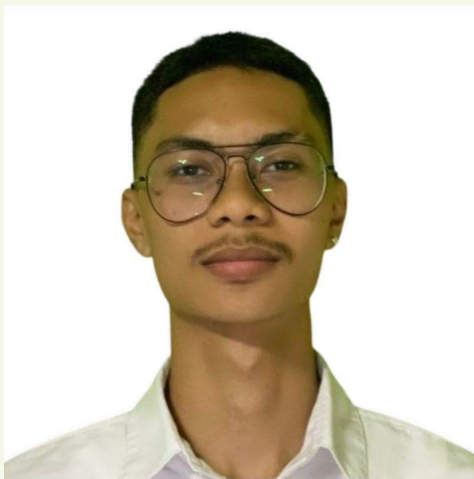




Brod Ralph Adrienne Ferrer Cauilan 22a
BS Agricultural and Applied Economics
Major in Agricultural Marketing and Prices
from Angadanan, Isabela
Contact: 0955 831 1630
rfcauilan@up.edu.ph

Other Affiliations

UP Isabela Society
UP Agricultural and Applied Economics Circle



Brod Erasto Enrique Dela Rosa Kahulugan 22b
College of Forestry and Natural Resources
Certificate in Forestry
30 Palacio St., Balian, Pangil, Laguna
Member Varsity Team of the University of the
Philippines Men's Basketball
Play instruments like
guitar, bass guitar, drums, ukulele, flute,
and others and have been practicing to be a
versatile musician
Addicted to motorcycle rides

WELCOME TO THE FOLD



Brod Joaquin Angelo Ebreo Posadas 22b
College of Forestry and Natural Resources
Bachelor of Science in Forestry
Calamba Park Residences, Brgy. Makiling,
Calamba City, Laguna
Student Council volunteer and the current co-head of
Gubatbakan 2022, an event/sportfest held at the
College of Forestry and Natural Resources
Jack-of-all-trades person and can produce smoke with his
mouth without the use of cigarettes or vape
Cycling is one of the sports he partakes
and also badminton
A very caring person, he is known as
“Kuya” to everyone



Sis Mary Louise Castillo 22c, is currently a junior BS Agriculture student at the university. She is known to the sisters for her sophisticated and elegant aura. She always projects a woman of grace and beauty. She is a dedicated young woman to the causes she advocated for.

WELCOME TO THE FOLD



Sis Aicelle Dagasdas 22c, is currently a sophomore BS Economics student at the university. She is well-loved by the sisters for her outpouring of courage and determination during the process. She is a woman who takes the initiative which exemplifies a Sigma Betan's characteristic of resourcefulness amidst adversities.



Sis Iris Christine Almadin 22c, is currently a BA Communication Arts student at the university. After joining the fold, she hails as an addition to the Betan Family of Sis Chiqui Almadin Labastilla. Despite the struggles she faced, she remained persistent in achieving her goals. She embodied resiliency and proved that despite some tussles in her way, she would still deliver.



BETAN FRIGHT NIGHT 2022: A night to remember
by Lyra Mae Puno

After 3 consecutive years of pandemic-related stagnation, the sisters were finally able to hold the first face-to-face Betan Fright Night post-pandemic last November 4, 2022 at the City of Springs, Los Baños.

The four-hour long event proceeded with the theme “Euphoria” adhering to the aesthetics of the fictional show. With the glitters and vibes of the theme, the Betan Fright Night had become a remarkable night of dazzling clothes and fun stories. The sisters, through this social event, deepened their sisterhood with each other while also engaging the freshly accepted sisters to the fold.

As the sisters shared their fair share of stories from the past, stories of the present became memorable remnants for the future. Certainly, the night of November 4 will surely be a night to remember for all the sisters.



“Ate Ko sa Hell Week Na ‘To”

by Glenize Santos

This event is a review session that aims to help the women students of the university for their upcoming examinations. Rather than the conventional review that is usually held in classrooms, the sorority brings the review itself to the dormers of the chosen dormitory. Moreover, snacks and drinks are given to the students to experience a comfortable and enjoyable review.

It was first held in 2018 and after two years in the COVID-19 pandemic, the sorority is now able to conduct face-to-face activities and events. Last November 14, 2022, the UP Sigma Beta Sorority Los Baños Chapter partnered with the UP Sigma Beta Sorority Alumnae Association, and a professor teaching the course CHEM 18 in conducting "Ate Ko sa Hell Week Na 'To" that assisted students before the midterm examinations. The event is a student-centered initiative that gives students a safe and learning-conducive environment to review for their exams, specifically in the course CHEM 18, as well as distribute a humble amount of snack and school kits. The sorority was able to distribute snack kits containing coffee, juice, chips, biscuits, and candies; school kits containing bluebook, $\frac{1}{4}$ yellow pad paper, ballpen, and highlighter; as well as meals to a total of 50 students in the Women's Residence Hall.

The event was sponsored by the UP Sigma Beta Sorority Alumnae Association under their scholarship project as a support for the Iskolar ng Bayan or UP students during the hell week. The UP Sigma Beta Sorority Alumnae Association believes that supporting the scholars in achieving academic excellence represents the sorority and embodies its meaning, Summation of Beauty and Brains.



BBB

by Dutch Aragonés '78

Big Brothers' Bounty is a project open to all UPLB elder brods who want to help the Fraternity in general and the residents in particular.

Each member contributes \$25 (or Php1000) every 6 months. Imagine at only \$4.17 (or Php167) per month, we help residents go through college without much financial burden to their parents, making the parents proud of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Each member gets to interact with one another through an exclusive google group. Opinions/comments are raised in a democratic way, and regular reports/developments are sent to all members.

Next year will be BBB's 20th year of service to our beloved Fraternity!

Eighty-two elders have committed for this semester:

Ben Hur Aguila'63	Bing Garcia'64
Jojo Alejar'79	Emman Garcia'92**
Mike Alcasid'79	Jerico Gascon'04**
Orlino Ancheta'64	Jim Gonzalvo'70
Rogelio Ancheta'61	Alan Hamoy'79
Nick Angel'83	Smiley Hernandez'74
Dutch Aragonés'78	Yoyoy Hernandez'80
Paolo Arejola'85	Ely Hilario'69
Pat Atos'81	Otto Kaufmann'67
Leo Balagot'69	Mar Lagua'67
Manolo Banzon'68	Rotsen Lawas'66
Caloy Belleza'64	Ned Leonor'79
Ador Beltran'51	Bu Liberato'71**
Joe Cabanayan'72**	Boying Liwag'75
Ryan Calma'98	Darius Llanto'94
Cris Catalla'84	Bob Lorenzo'78
Kire Catangay'02	Alex Lustria'77
Ponch Chan'99**	Olrac Malabanan'77
Bernie Clemente'93	Joshua Malana'08
Jun Cornejo'75	Frank Mamaril'56
Tomsac Criador'81	Jun Mamaril'80
Rene De Rueda'64	Edwin Maninang'73**
Vee De Vera'67	Mario Manzano'85
Julius Dimaano'99	Viven Marfori'69
Don Ganchorre'56	Waldo Miranda'79

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BBB

by Dutch Aragonés '78

Mark Nubla'79	Dindo Rivera'60
Adel Oviedo'78	Janus Rojo'90
Ting Oviedo'83	Rex Rosario'99
Marvic Pacoma'00	Bong Sabalvoros'80
Val Palattao'72	Erwin Salud'82
Ruben Panaligan'79	Jun Samaniego'85
Ross Panggat'94	Nikki Samaniego'79
Pipoy Perez'94	Cosme Santiago'67
Adrian Pinera'85	Jovenal Serna'63
Eric Punzalan'65	Plato Tirol'78
Ted Quijano'67	Allan Torneros'89
Ed Quisumbing'56	Vic Valdepeñas'63
Danny Ramos'78	William Valdez'81
JR Regadio'66+	Darwin Valenciano'93
Bobby Reyes'75**	Ric Velasco'67
Chito Reynoso'84	Tony Velasco'70**

** New Boosters

The following are BBB grantees for 1st sem AY2022-2023:

Ralph Caulian'22a (BS Ag Economics)
Angelo Del Rosario'20a (BS Ag Economics)
Russel Kim Manicad'14c (BS Forestry)
John Remo'18c (BS Forestry)
GP Keith Philip Tidon'15c (BS Applied Physics)

SPECIAL GRANTS

Brod John 'Tani' Famador'21b, an Agro-Forestry major, is the recipient of the Johnny Regadio Memorial Grant. He will receive \$400 for this 1st semester and another \$400 for next term.

This special grant is to honor the late Brod Johnny Regadio'66, a staunch supporter of BBB and who always lent a helping hand for brods in need.

The following brods made this happen:

Dutch Aragonés'78	Mario Manzano'85
Nol Banzon'68	Waldo Miranda'79
Ador Beltran'51	Val Palattao'72
Don Ganchorre'56	Dindo Rivera'60
Jim Gonzalvo'70	Bong Sabalvoros'80
Mar Laguna'67	Erwin Salud'82
Rotsen Lawas'66	Allan Torneros'89
Frank Mamaril'56	Ric Velasco'67

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BBB

by Dutch Aragonés '78

Nathaniel Domoguen'19b, BS Chemistry, will receive his third and final grant from the Johnny Singh Memorial Grant, from these elders who made this possible:

Jojo Alejar'79

Mario Manzano'85

Brandy Ancheta'61

Ross Panggat'94

Dutch Aragonés'78

Eric Punzalan'65

Vee De Vera'67

Dindo Rivera'60

Jim Gonzalvo'70

Bong Sabalvoros'80

Rotsen Lawas'66

Erwin Salud'82

Darius Llanto'94

Jun Samaniego'85

Frank Mamaril'56

Allan Torneros'89

Mico Acosta'18b (BS Agriculture) continues to be the recipient of Grove CT BBB Special Scholarship Grant. This is an initiative of Brod Dindo Rivera'60, honoring a group of Los Baños Betans who were not quite scholarly types, as a fitting reminder that grades of 5's do not close the door to a successful life after college. It is how you follow the principles of the brotherhood, how to be humble but street smart and apply these as we embark life after college.



JERICO GASCON, YOUNG BROD ON THE RISE

by Dutch Aragonés '78



From a gangling provinciano to leading the residents during a tumultuous time, Brod Jerico Gascon'04 has emerged as a business leader with a broad experience in strategy, marketing, customer management, and operational business management and team development. Jerico is also a mentor and coach to people within and outside the company organization.

This is how he evolved to be a top notch in his young professional career.

In his sophomore year during the 1st semester of 2004, Jerico was looking for an organization that will serve not only as "barkada" in the university, but also to prepare him for life after college. So he approached the newest member of the fraternity that time, Brod Kelmer Resuello '04B, who was also his *kabayán* from Rosales, Pangasinan, for an orientation.

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JERICO GASCON, YOUNG BROD ON THE RISE
by Dutch Aragonés '78



One key point that convinced him to join the fraternity eventually was the sense of brotherhood of residents and elder members that time. He also admired the sense of equality, leadership development for resident brods, and persistence of brods to recruit. So July of 2004, he was presented before the body, went through the initiation process for 2 weeks, and finally welcomed as a member on July 17th, 2004.

Jerico held various offices, starting out as Guardian of the Coffers in 2005-2006. In 2006-2007, he was the 1st Vice GP. His crowning glory was being able to recruit 7 batches or until 2006 G “Apocalypso”, the batch of John Andrew ‘AJ’ Torneo.

Ultimately, he was the GP in 2007-2008. The chapter was able to hold big-time activities such as the revival of Tumbleweeds Rodeo event and climate change seminar in Forestry, with Brod Delfin Ganapin, Jr. '72 as speaker. Another highlight was being the first to bring around 25 OBB kids to Enchanted Kingdom. These activities pushed through despite many resident brods, including him, getting suspended due to a rumble with Upsilon the year before.

During his suspension, he was a working student from January 2008 to January 2009 in Muntinlupa City, as a customer service representative handling credit card concerns and selling credit card insurance.

Jerico was recipient of a special grant, through the auspices of his *kababayan*, Brod Rogelio ‘Brandy’ Ancheta’61. This was for seven semesters until he graduated in 2009, with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Chemistry.

In his first job as a graduate, he was Registration Officer/ Chemist with Kemistar Corporation from January 2010 to May 2011. Here he handled fertilizer and pesticide products’ registration vis-a-vis quality assurance specialist of the company’s formulated products.

Jerico’s big break came when he worked with BASF Philippines Inc., starting as the Lead Technical Trialist from June 2011 to Nov 2011. His role was to oversee trials and at the same time lead a team of trialists for the crop protection division in the Mindanao region.

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JERICO GASCON, YOUNG BROD ON THE RISE
by Dutch Aragones '78

In such a short time he moved on to become the Marketing Head of Crop Protection from November 2011 to June 2014. In this role, he created a holistic technology package that addressed the farmer's needs, conceptualized and prepared marketing collaterals that enhanced the brand image and position of the various BASF crop protection products. Other responsibilities included implementing marketing strategies for farmers and channel partners designed to develop and establish market presence and increase revenues and profitability for BASF Agricultural Products Division.

Next stop was as BASF's ASEAN Sales Excellence Manager from June 2014 to November 2016, in which he supported ASEAN countries' sales and marketing managers in developing their sales forces towards being the benchmark for selling solutions to farmers. The job also entailed generating farmer demand for new/existing products, channel and farmer relationship management.

His impressive performance paved the way to be the ASEAN Marketing Manager from November 2016 to Feb 2019. This time he was accountable for all activities related to development and implementation of the regional and country marketing and product strategies to achieve the ASEAN short, mid and long term goals.

At present, Jerico is based in Bangkok as the Country Manager – Agricultural Solutions of BASF Thailand Limited. The whole Thailand! This means he is leading a team of 32 full time employees and 40 contract staff. It likewise calls for developing the market approach for the company's direct sales, key account and professional and specialty solutions business, through an improved market coverage and customer strategy, increased demand generation, and a strong digital approach.

Concurrent to his job, he is President of CropLife Thailand. This is his second term. He is expected to steer the crop protection association in Thailand in achieving their common goal of reduced hunger, safer agriculture and sustainable food production through advocacies, trainings of farmers and dealers, stakeholder engagements and partnerships.

Brod Jerico and his wife Sarah Jane Balahadia are happily living in Bangkok with their two kids, Hugo (7 y.o.) and Matthew (4 y.o.).

UPLB MEDICAL MISSION 2022
by Freddy Fajardo

BETA SIGMA Northwest, USA
Medical Surgical Dental Mission
UPLB Campus, Laguna
November 12 to 13, 2022

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49th OPERATION BIG BROTHER
MEDICAL MISSION

November 12-13, 2022, UPLB UHS

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Medical-dental mission at the University Health Service: L-R Chairman Ian Kalaw (Brgy Big Rock), AVC Villanueva, Vice Chancellor Cereno, Freddy Fajardo

Thank you very much to all our sponsors, volunteer doctors, nurses, and volunteer iskos at iskas, most especially to UPLB as co-partner in this medical-dental mission....



THE MEDICAL MISSION

(OBB SERVICE PROJECT: A PRINCIPLE FOR LIFE)

by Mark Jhon Patrick I. Rase '18A Carambola

The Fraternity in all its wisdom teaches us to embody certain ideals and principles to live by. One of these principles is service to our community and countrymen. This entails giving back to the people no matter what their statuses may be. This sense of unwavering servitude made activities like the Operation Big Brother (OBB) possible.

The OBB is an annual activity of the Fraternity which aims to share the spirit of Christmas to less fortunate children in various locations. Since its inception, the primary goal of the activity is to cater to children. Through the years, the activity has expanded from giving joy to young minds to giving the unasked help and assistance for the less fortunate. The 45th installment of the activity catered serving more than just children but also their families by giving them Noche Buena packages. The 47th and 48th version of the activity happened during one of the hardest years in the 21st century. Bombarded with calamities, natural disasters, and a pandemic, the Fraternity still managed to put the sake of their communities first. Different versions of the Operation Big Brother were formed from OBB Taal, OBB Marikina, and OBB Covid Response.

This year marked the 49th installment of the Operation Big Brother. This is a special case as it features one of the best portrayals of service to the community. From conducting parties and celebratory occasions to children, the activity shifted to a more serious and heartwarming version through OBB 49 dubbed Medical Mission.

The Beta Sigma Fraternity Los Baños chapter, Beta Sigma Northwest U.S.A., and the Sigma Beta Sorority Los Baños chapter, with the cooperation of the UPLB Office of the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs (OVCCA) and the UPLB University Health Service (UHS), managed to launch a medical mission featuring various services from consultations and free medicine, optical services such as free reading glasses, to dental extractions, and minor surgeries.



Brod Cosme Santiago (UPLB '67) recruited various doctors both from abroad and here in the Philippines to volunteer their expertise and services for the medical mission. Arriving in the
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**THE MEDICAL MISSION
(OBB SERVICE PROJECT: A PRINCIPLE FOR LIFE)**

Philippines weeks prior to the activity, Brod Cosme also gathered medical supplies to be given free on the day of the activity. His presence in the vicinity ensured that the mission would be carried out. He even arrived the day before the event, together with some of the brothers and sisters that are volunteers themselves. Feeling nostalgic about his days on the campus as a young Beta Sigman and reminiscing his memories of the former landscape of the university, he toured the campus with the volunteers showing them sights that reminded him of his *home* when he was a student here in the university. He also made sure that the volunteers will be well-oriented with the location of the event.



The residents of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and the UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority managed to recruit an army of student volunteers to help with the activity as it is a new version than that of the previous Operation Big Brother and it is a massive activity that will need a lot of manpower. These student volunteers came from various student organizations inside the university.

Day one of the activity started on Saturday November 12, 2022. It catered to the constituents Barangay Batong Malake Los Baños, Laguna. The opening ceremonies were conducted by the OVCCA and the UHS amidst the fairly fair weather. Patients were ensured of the availability of services offered during the mission. Pleasantries were exchanged and gratitude were spoken thanking the fraternity for this opportunity of giving much needed medical services. The chairman of barangay Batong Malake, Hon. Ian Kalaw was joyful for the chance that the fraternity gave for his constituents. The fraternity was in turn, thankful for the assistance that the barangay gave to the event like the barricades and the service vehicles used to assist patients to the area. The day continued as predicted, with lots of in-need patients ranging from children to the elderly. All throughout the day, different cases were observed from the patients present in the event.



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**THE MEDICAL MISSION
(OBB SERVICE PROJECT: A PRINCIPLE FOR LIFE)**

General consultations and free medicines were given. Minor surgeries were postponed due to unforeseen events. However, patients were still ensured that they would be prioritized the next day. At the end of the first day, the volunteers were treated to a buffet dinner by the OVCCA. Brod Cosme also awarded certificates to the generous volunteers who selflessly gave their time for the mission.

The second day (Sunday, November 13, 2022) was another service-filled day but this time, it catered to the constituents of barangay Tuntungin-Putho. Another set of surgeons from V-Luna Medical Center through the help of Brod Nathaniel Mendez (UPLB '95A) together with Brod Raphael Angelo Cauilan (UPB '11B) were contacted and without hesitation, they heeded the call. More than fifteen (15) surgeons from their organization came and offered their expertise for the mission. The surgery patients who were not serviced during the first day were called back to be prioritized. Moreover, the captain of the featured barangay, Hon. Ronaldo Oñate became one of the beneficiaries of the services offered in the medical mission. The surge of patients both pre-registered and walk-ins poured amid the rainy weather.

Dentists, nurses, doctors of different expertise, surgeons, pharmacists, and nurses were just a few of the classifications of the volunteers that were present during the medical mission. Both the brothers from the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and the sisters from the UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority were busy conducting different tasks to make the activity run smoothly. Despite the heavy workload, student volunteers from different organizations worked harmoniously with the brothers and the sisters to make the mission a success. Behind the face masks they wear, the glimmer of smiles can be observed from the eyes of both the volunteers and the beneficiaries of the medical mission. Although exhausted, volunteers, students and professionals alike, were happy that the embodiment of the principle of service was manifest. And it would surely put a great smile on everybody that were present, physically, and in-spirit, that the activity is a resounding success.

The Operation Big Brother Medical Mission proudly served more than ten(10) minor surgeries and still a greater number of other services. More than three hundred (300) patients received

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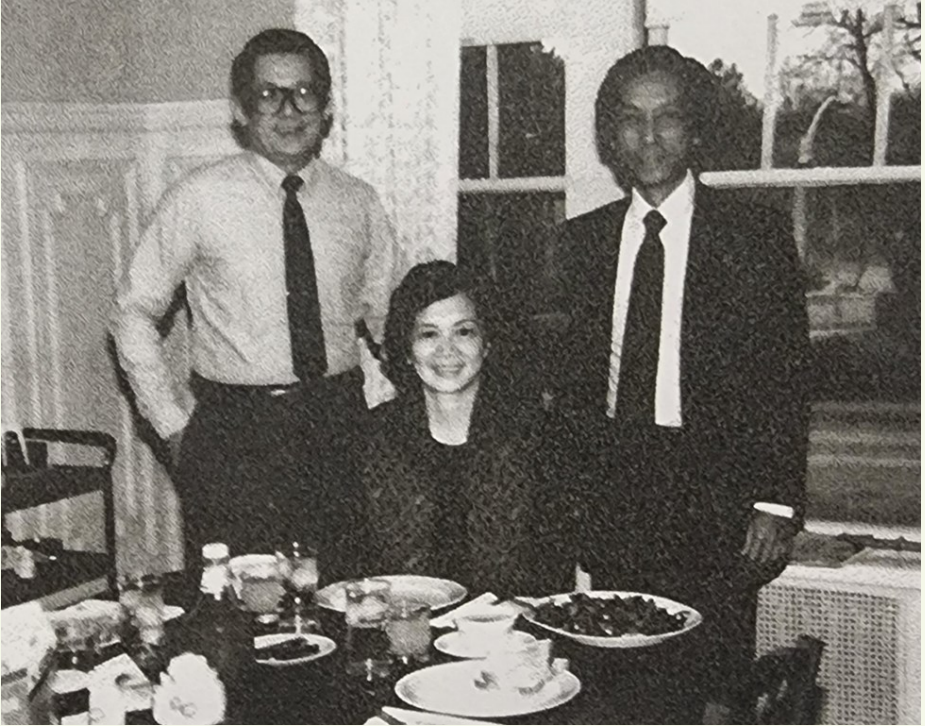
**THE MEDICAL MISSION
(OBB SERVICE PROJECT: A PRINCIPLE FOR LIFE)**

free consultations and over two hundred (200) individuals got free diagnostic exams. Dentists were working double time in their station as there were more than three hundred (300) tooth extractions that were conducted. And that data was just during the first day. The second day yielded an impressive result despite the constant downpour of rain. More than two hundred (200) consultations were conducted and another two hundred (200) for diagnostic tests. Over two hundred fifty (250) constituents received free glasses and more than one hundred fifty (150) dental patients were helped. During the second day, the operating room was overrun with patients as there were more than thirty (30) minor operations that were conducted. Overall, the efforts of all the volunteers yielded an impressive tally of more than one thousand and seven hundred (1,700) satisfied constituents, all who received medical services free of charge.

It is a challenging endeavor to venture in an unfamiliar event apart from the usual installations of the Operation Big Brother but it is a fulfilling and rewarding one. People often say that education can not be fully learned from within the four corners of the classroom. This activity surely is a great teacher for us students to broaden our horizons and serve the community at the same time. The lessons that we learned from academics cannot surpass the wisdom that planning and organizing, as well as conducting an activity of this magnitude can offer. To live as a member of the fraternity is to continue to improve and enhance one's personal being. Having been involved in giving life changing services to our community surely will fulfill the promise that all Beta Sigmans keep. For a Stronger Beta Sigma we shall forever be.



US ALUMNI FOUNDATION HONORS BETAN SURGEON by Philip Chua Diliman '55



The Former Philippine President Cory Aquino and her husband, Senator Ninoy Aquino, hosted for two days Betan Philip S. Chua, a family friend, at their home on 175 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Boston, in 1981. A year later, Ninoy visited Brod Philip in his home in Indiana for a medical check-up.

Philip S. Chua, MD, FACS, FPCS, (BetanHeart) UP Diliman '55, was honored by the FEUDNR school of medicine alumni foundation with a "*Lifetime Achievement Award*" at the Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

Brod Philip, a retired heart surgeon in Northwest Indiana, now based in Las Vegas, Nevada, was also a recipient of the *Sagamore of the Wabash* from the State of Indiana, the highest award then Governor Evan Bayh, later a Senator and a US presidential aspirant, could bestow a citizen for distinguished services to the State. Other past Sagamore awardees were US presidents Harry Truman and George H.W. Bush, TV host David Letterman, boxer Mohammad Ali, singer Willie Nelson, actress Ginger Rodgers, Astronaut Gus Grissom, etc. (Source: Wikipedia)

This 86-year-old Betan was also recipient of *the Most Distinguished Betan in Medicine*, the award presented by then President Joseph Estrada in San Francisco, California.

Currently a weekly columnist of MALAYA national daily in Manila, Brod Philip also writes for Asian Journal (USA) PhilippineNews Online, Philippine American Post (California), and Fil-Am MegaScene (Chicago). He wrote for the Cebu Daily

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US ALUMNI FOUNDATION HONORS BETAN SURGEON
by Philip Chua Diliman '55

News from 1998 to 2013. He is past president of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPS) and the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (SPSA). He is the Chairman of the Filipino United Network (USA), a United States 501(c)3 humanitarian foundation serving the victims of natural calamities in the Philippines (FUN8888.com). His book (available at amazon.com) website is philipSchua.com and his email address is SCALPEL-pen@gmail.com

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CONGRATULATIONS



The Fraternity congratulates our Brother, Eufemio "Dong" Rasco Jr. '67, for being the Interim President of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) of the Department of Science and Technology.

THE ORIGIN OF "REPA"

by Vee de Vera

Ever since its inception in the late 60's, it has flourished as a term of endearment in the LB culture of brotherhood. It has travelled to a lot of schools and cultures and though it has not been met with total positivity, the passage of acceptance was ever more scrutinized in the place of its origin- the coop Tambayan and how it gave birth to the term "Repa".

In my version of the events leading to the origin of "Repa" in the late 60's, the very strict adherence to the Betan code of conduct and to our Constitution and By-Laws has become a school of discipline with organizational skills among its members. The 60's produced a breed of high achieving residents. They were never afraid to expel members or suspend members with harsh treatment of ostracism. Sometimes your very own roommate, your best buddy Brod or just your favorite Brod could be suspended but then at least allowed him to sit in the Tambayan all by his lonesome and can only be called "Pare" (stranger) when addressed to. There are rules of engagement because if you are found to have violated the rule, then you get into trouble with the GP.

So a remedy was thought of to ease the pain of being ostracized. The pain of "Pare" (stranger) was inverted to calm the derogatory connotation and has become "Repa", a term of endearment for someone close and yet so far to you at the coop Tambayan .

Repa is 50 plus years old and has come a long way. It was our time and glad to know we're still celebrating.



NEW COOP TAMBAYAN

WHAT TO DO IN A CROWD CRUSH

credit: @belugasong

Knowing what happened in Indonesia and Seoul.. - an informational thread in light of the Itaewon-don Seoul tragedy

Even if you think this will never apply to you, taking a moment to learn what to do in this situation could save your life and the lives of those around you.

1) WHEN YOU ENTER A VENUE, MAKE NOTE OF THE EXITS

If you are attending a concert or large event, make sure you make note of where the emergency exits are when entering. Once it gets too crowded, the main exit may not be the most viable option.

2) LEARN HOW TO WATCH CROWD DENSITY

This may be the most important step in the thread. Once crowd density reaches 6 people per square meter or more, it becomes very dangerous and you may not be able to get out anymore. Prevention is key.

3) UNDERSTAND WHERE CROWD CRUSH HAPPENS

Most crowd crush deaths occur in small spaces such as alleyways, mosh pits, or exit hallways of venues. This is why it's best to leave early and not wait for things to get dangerous since others may get the same idea and crush at the exit.

4) ALERT PEOPLE

Since crowd crushes occur in loud environments, people outside the crush often have no idea what's happening. If you are at an organized event and notice a crowd crush, get up high. Alert security and event organizers to stop the music and make everyone aware.

5) MAKE SPACE AROUND YOUR CHEST

If you are stuck in the crowd and feel its density increasing, make space around your chest with your arms. Pining your arms to your sides or above your head leaves your chest open to being compressed.

6) DO NOT TAKE OFF BACKPACK

Your first instinct may be to make more space by removing a bulky backpack and putting it on the floor. This is a huge hazard. People being pushed into it may trip and cause a pileup.

Continue next page...

WHAT TO DO IN A CROWD CRUSH

credit: @belugasong

7) GO WITH THE FLOW

Once the crowd reaches 8-9 people per square meter, those inside can't move freely and the crowd behaves like a liquid. You will feel yourself being moved in different directions, but it's important you don't fight it.

8) DO NOT SCREAM AND PUSH

If you begin acting panicked, hostile, and inconsiderate of those around you, it will become contagious. In this situation, pushing one person can lead to a horrible chain reaction. Again, staying calm and moving with the crowd is the safest choice.

9) DO NOT FALL

This is pretty intuitive, but it's importance must be emphasized. Your top priority once the crowd crush starts is staying upright. Once you fall down, people will fall on top of you or climb you. You won't be able to get back up.

10) AVOID WALLS

Most people who asphyxiate in crowd crushes are pushed against solid objects like floors, barriers, fences, or walls. Do your best to avoid becoming trapped against walls or even the back of someone trapped against a wall to increase your chances of survival.

11) HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS ONLY IF YOU CAN

Assess the risk first. If someone is slipping down and you are in the position to help them you should, but if you are unstable and someone is yanking on you trying to get up, it could result in both of you falling.

12) AFTERMATH

When the crowd thins there may be people on the floor. Since these things usually result from lack of event planning, there may not be enough medical personnel to help right away. In this case, volunteers save lives. Follow the steps in doing CPR.



Last week, we took some friends to a new restaurant called "Steve's Place", and noticed that the waiter who took our order carried a spoon in his shirt pocket... It seemed a little strange. When the busboy brought our water and utensils, I observed that he also had a spoon in his shirt pocket. Then I looked around and saw that all the staff had spoons in their pockets. When the waiter came back to serve our soup I inquired, "Why the spoon?" "Well," he explained, "the restaurant's owner hired Andersen Consulting to revamp all of our processes." "After several months of analysis, they concluded that the spoon was the most frequently dropped utensil." "It represents a drop frequency of approximately 3 spoons per table per hour." "If our personnel are better prepared, we can reduce the number of trips back to the kitchen and save 15 man-hours per shift." As luck would have it, I dropped my spoon and he replaced it with his spare. "I'll get another spoon next time I go to the kitchen, instead of making an extra trip to get it right now." I was impressed. I also noticed that there was a string hanging out of the waiter's fly. Looking around, I saw that all of the waiters had the same string hanging from their flies. So, before he walked off, I asked the waiter, "Excuse me, but can you tell me why you have that string right there?" "Oh, certainly!" Then he lowered his voice... "Not everyone is so observant, that consulting firm I mentioned also learned that we can save time in the restroom." "By tying this string to the tip of our you-know-what, we can pull it out without touching it and eliminate the need to wash our hands, shortening the time spent in the restroom by 57%." I asked quietly, "After you get it out, how do you put it back?" "Well," he whispered, "I don't know about the others... " "but I use the spoon".

A wife came home late one night, and quietly opened the door to her bedroom... From under the blanket, she saw four legs, instead of just her husband's two. She reached for a baseball bat, and started hitting the blanket as hard as she could! Once she was done, she went into the kitchen to have a drink. As she entered, she saw her husband there, reading a magazine. He said, "Hi darling, your parents have come to visit us... " "so I let them stay in our bedroom."

