



# Tumbleweeds



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



## UPCA FOUNDATION SITE RENOVATION PROJECT by Leo Balagot '69

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Good news to all Brothers and Sisters. Last September 16, the Foundation Site Renovation Project was presented to the UPLB authorities and has garnered full support from all sectors. They were caught in awe during the opening statement of Sis Alice Quicoy, Sigma Beta Alumni Pres and the powerpoint presentation of Brod Plato Tirol, Beta Sigma Alumni Pres.

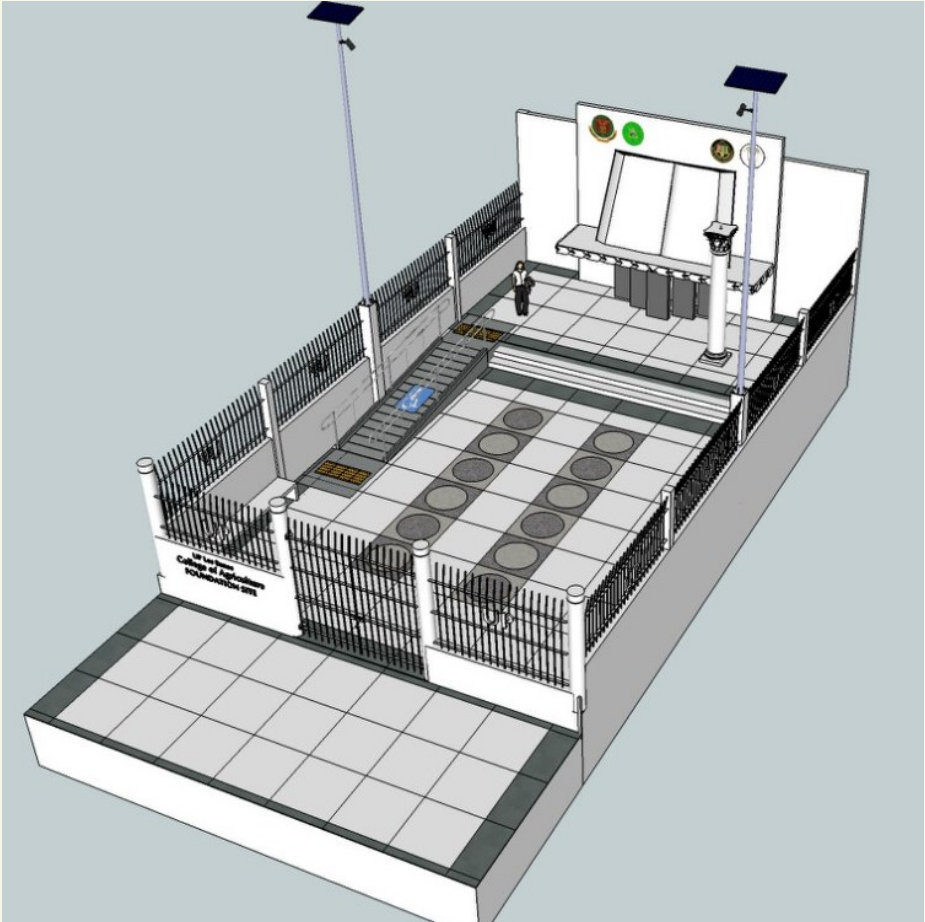
Chancellor Jose Camacho, Jr. Alumni Assn Pres Resty Collado and other Alumni stalwarts: DR Ramirez, Ruben Villareal, Emil Javier, Rex Navarro to name a few unanimously supported and lauded the project. The Chancellor even signified their intention to help in any way they could... Let the ball start rolling. The project is estimated to cost from **PHP 1.2-1.5M** and we are expecting full support from the "FOLD". It is envisioned that we rededicate the site in October 2022... See you all in our **10-10-22** Reunion.

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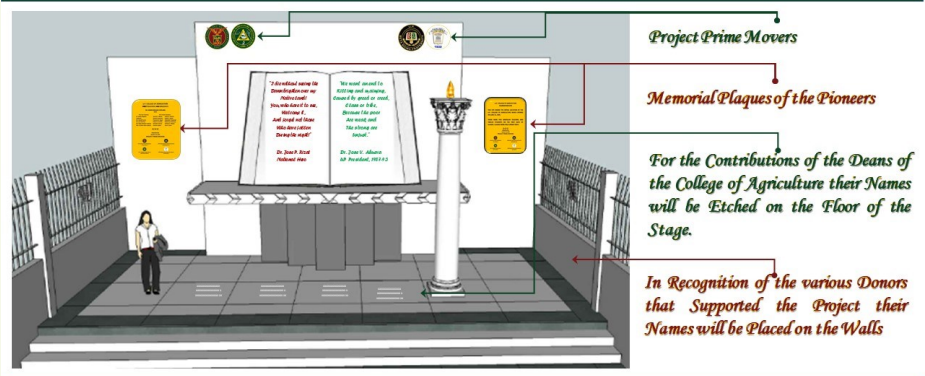
**UPCA FOUNDATION SITE RENOVATION**

PROPOSED FOUNDATION SITE

Drawn by Brod Architect Nap Cruz Dil '73C



Stage View



**Snippets of UPLB-CA History**  
by Freddy Fajardo '64

A quick look into the events that saw the birth, growth and development of the UPLB College of Agriculture starting from the early 1900's up to the 70's.

Date/Year	Event
1904	Dr. <b>David P. Barrows</b> , General Superintendent of Education, recommended the setting up of the University of the Philippines for professional training. The opening of undergraduate courses was set in June 1906.
1907	Hon. <b>Newton W. Gilbert</b> , Secretary of Public Instruction, reported that plans had been adopted for "the establishment of a large insular agricultural school in the vicinity of Manila for the purpose of giving instructions in practical agriculture. P100,000 was made available for the purpose." Dr. Barrows commissioned Dr. <b>Edwin Bingham Copeland</b> , Instructor of Botany at the Philippine Normal School, to look for an appropriate site for a school of agriculture. After many field trips, Dr. Copeland recommended <i>Los Baños</i> as the best site.

Continue next page...

Snippets of UPLB-CA History by Freddy Fajardo '64

June 18, 1908	The <b>University of the Philippines (UP)</b> was created by law (Act 1870). The Act required a minimum of 3 colleges to establish the university. UP will not have a president until June 1911.
March 6, 1909	The UP Board of Regents in its first meeting presided over by Secretary <b>Gilbert</b> unanimously decided to establish immediately a <i>School of Fine Arts</i> and a <i>College of Agriculture</i> .
1909	Dr. <b>Edwin Bingham Copeland</b> was appointed first Dean of the UP College of Agriculture and Superintendent of the Central Experiment Station. He recruited the pioneering teaching staff of the college from the Bureau of Education teaching force. They were: <b>Edgar Madison Ledyard</b> (AB) – Instructor in zoology and Secretary of the Faculty <b>Carrie Stein Ledyard</b> (AB) – Instructor in modern languages (English, German and French) <b>Sam B. Durham</b> (BS) – Instructor in animal husbandry <b>Harold Cuzner</b> (BS Forestry) – Farm Superintendent, and later, Superintendent of Buildings and Sanitation, Property Officer and Cashier
June 11, 1909	The <i>College of Agriculture</i> was the first in UP to hold classes with 12 students who were teacher <i>Pensionados</i> of the Bureau of Education. The classes were held in the house of Mr. <b>Edgar M. Ledyard</b> .
June 14, 1909	Tents were raised to serve as classrooms. The 12 students were: <b>Vicente F. Alvarez, Silvestre Asuncion, Florendo Bagui, Felipe O. Cevallos, Amado Laparan, Antonio Lejano, Andres F. Navarro, Eladio Sablan, Clodualdo Tempongco, Baldomero Velasquez, Valente E. Villegas, and Jose F. Zamora.</b>
1909	56 students enrolled in the College of Agriculture in Los Baños, 24 were insular and a few were municipal <i>Pensionados</i> . Others were working students. Very few of the college students then were high school graduates. Many were graduates of intermediate school but were deemed big and strong enough to do field work in agriculture.
April 1910	Act 1494, authored by Hon. <b>Jaime C. De Veyra</b> was approved by the Philippine Assembly. It provided for the establishment of the <i>Forest School</i> as a branch of the UP College of Agriculture.
June 12, 1910	The Forest School opened its doors to train forest rangers for the forest service under the Bureau of Forestry. Up to 1911, 24 <i>Pensionados</i> were selected to be enrolled for the Forest Ranger Course.
November 21, 1910	Governor-General <b>Cameron Forbes</b> signed Proclamation 106 setting aside 3,767 hectares of public domain in Mt. Makiling as <i>Makiling Forest Reserve</i> , at the disposal of the Forest School.
March 31, 1911	First Commencement Day of UP was held in Manila. The UP-CA graduates were <b>Manuel Roxas</b> , BS in Agriculture; <b>Clodualdo Tempongco</b> and <b>Jose Zamora</b> , both BAgriC.
August 31, 1912	<b>Charles Fuller Baker</b> arrived in Los Baños on a horse-driven carriage. He was the first professional agriculturist to join the faculty of the College of Agriculture.
1912	15 out of 25 enrollees in 1910 comprised the first batch of Forest Ranger graduates. The graduates were <b>Agustin Angeles</b> of Batangas, <b>Barros Cayetano</b> of Ilocos Sur, <b>Aquilino Contreras</b> of Iloilo, <b>Damian Domingo</b> of Tarlac, <b>Ramon Fajardo</b> of Sorsogon, <b>Ceferino Feraris</b> of Cebu, <b>Felix Franco</b> of Pampanga, <b>Eladio Leano</b> of Ilocos Norte, <b>Alejandro De Mesa</b> of Pampanga, <b>Cruz Manasque</b> of Leyte, <b>Ysmael Pascual</b> of Bulacan, <b>Antonio Racela</b> of Tayabas, <b>Bernardo Rendel</b> of Negros Oriental, <b>Florencio Tamesis</b> of Tayabas, and <b>Anechito Villamil</b> of Negros Oriental.
1914	In the evening of the 1914 Commencement Exercises of UP, a meeting of 20 alumni was held in Manila. They decided to organize the <i>College of Agriculture Alumni Association</i> . <b>Bienvenido M. Gonzalez</b> became the first president and <b>Nemesio Mendiola</b> secretary-treasurer.
February 04, 1916	Act 2578 established the Forest School as a separate entity from the College of Agriculture.
August 1917	Dean <b>Copeland</b> retired and left the College of Agriculture at age 44.
December 1917	Dr. <b>Charles Fuller Baker</b> returned to Los Baños from leave of absence in Singapore (as assistant director in charge of tropical plantings) to become the new Dean of the College of Agriculture.
October 10, 1918	193 students and 27 faculty members of the College of Agriculture volunteered to join the Philippine National Guard. Training began in Manila. However, when armistice was signed between the Allied Forces and Germany one month later, the National Guard was disbanded and the volunteers were sent home.



**Snippets of UPLB-CA History by Freddy Fajardo '64**

July 1921	The College of Agriculture Student Body passed a resolution requesting the BOR to set aside October 10 as <i>Loyalty Day</i> and also as a permanent holiday in the College of Agriculture calendar. The BOR approved the resolution.
1927	The University of Illinois sent a team that evaluated the quality of university-level education in the different colleges of UP. Only the College of Agriculture was rated "A".
April 20, 1939	Dean <b>Bienvenido M. Gonzalez</b> of the College of Agriculture was elected UP president by the Board of Regents presided over by Philippine President <b>Manuel L. Quezon</b> .
April 26, 1939	UP President <b>B.M. Gonzalez</b> announced to the faculty the appointment of Dr. <b>Leopoldo B. Uichanco</b> as dean of the College of Agriculture.
December 8, 1941	World War II reached the Philippines. On Christmas day, 3 Japanese bombers attacked the campus around mealtime. One bomb hit Molawin Hall and completely destroyed it. None of the military trainees were hurt - they were detained by a long sermon by the Catholic Chaplain.
February 23, 1945	Filipino and American guerillas liberated the College of Agriculture from the Japanese Imperial Army.
1948	Rehabilitation of UPCA was accelerated with the release of Philippine US War Damage Funds.
1950	Continuous rise in enrollment at the College of Agriculture began.
July 01, 1952	The UPCA-Cornell University Contract was signed. This program brought US professors to Los Baños , and College staff to the US for graduate studies thus accelerating improvements in instruction, research and extension.
1958	The first UPCA foundation site marker was installed. It was an initiative by the officers and board of directors of the UPCA Alumni Association (UPCAAA) 1958-1959. The officers were President <b>Jose F. Zamora II</b> , 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President <b>Jose J. Mirasol</b> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President <b>Francisco M. Sacay</b> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President <b>Hermenegildo R. Rosales</b> , Executive Secretary <b>Francisco O. Santos</b> , Secretary of the Board <b>Julian A. Agati</b> , Treasurer <b>Jose R. Velasco</b> , Auditor <b>Gil O. Opiana</b> , PRO <b>Artemio E. Gesmundo</b> . The members of the Board of Directors were Dean <b>Leopoldo B. Uichanco</b> (ex-officio), Undersecretary <b>Amado M. Dalisay</b> , Dr. <b>Fernando C. Ordoveza</b> , Dir. <b>Cornelio V. Crucillo</b> , Dir. <b>Eugenio E. Cruz</b> , Col. <b>Osmundo Mondonedo</b> , Dr. <b>Alexander R. Gordon</b> , Dir. <b>Domingo B. Paguirigan</b> , Col. <b>Jacinto B. Leoncio</b> , Dr. <b>Nicanor G. Teodoro</b> , Mr. <b>Alejandro R. Apacible</b> , and Dr. <b>Gerardo O. Ocfemia</b> .
1967	The new UPCA gate was built. Mosaic art replaced the carabao heads.
November 20, 1972	Los Baños units (UPCA, UPCF, ACCI and DTRI) together became the <b>University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB)</b> through PD 58 granting it full and complete autonomy.
1973	Dr. <b>Abelardo Samonte</b> was appointed the first chancellor of UPLB.
1977	Restoration of the UPCA foundation site was implemented by the officers and board of directors of the UPCA 1977-1978. The officers were President <b>Nelia T. Gonzalez</b> , Vice-President <b>Conrado O. Sta. Romana</b> , Executive Secretary <b>Amando E. Libunao</b> , Treasurer <b>Eduardo S. Paje</b> , Auditor <b>Leodegario M. Ilag</b> , and PRO <b>Francisco G. Rentutar</b> . The members of the Board of Directors were <b>Leon M. Arceo</b> , <b>Gregorio V. Bautista</b> , <b>Bernardo S. Castillo</b> , <b>Martin S. Celino</b> , <b>Jorge G. Davide</b> , <b>Venancio C. Duarte</b> , <b>Francisco M. Fron-da</b> , <b>Edwin D. Magallona</b> , <b>Aurelia P. Briones</b> , <b>Ramon L. Samaniego</b> , and <b>Clemente P. Juliano, Jr.</b> The ex-officio members of the board were <b>Eugenio E. Cruz</b> , <b>Amando M. Dalisay</b> , <b>Faustino T. Orillo</b> , <b>Cledualdo B. Perez, Jr.</b> , <b>Francisco O. Santos</b> , and <b>Orlando J. Sacay</b> .

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*Bernardo, Fernando A. 2007. UPLB: A Century of Challenges and Achievements. UPLB Alumni Association, Inc.*

*Bernardo, Fernando A. 2007. Centennial Panorama. UPLB Alumni Association, Inc.*



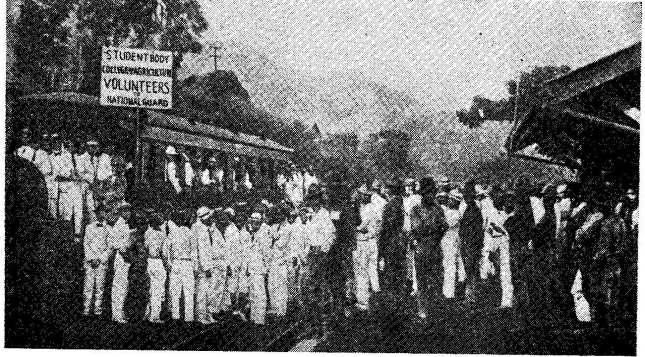
Sept 16, 2021	UPLB Chancellor <b>Jose V. Camacho, Jr.</b> and the UPCA Alumni Assn Board of Directors represented by its Pres. <b>Resty Collado</b> approves the project proposal of the <b>Beta Sigma Fraternity</b> and <b>Sigma Beta Sorority</b> to renovate the UPCA Foundation Site envisioned to be rededicated on October 2022.
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## WHY LOYALTY DAY

by Freddy Fajardo '64

On October 10, 1918, 193 students and 27 faculty members of the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture enlisted to join the Philippine



Student volunteers of the College of Agriculture leaving for Camp Claudio in 1918. The mass enlistment of faculty and students in the National Guard on October 10, 1918, is now remembered every year as Loyalty Day.

National Guard. Subsequently training began in Manila. However, armistice was signed between the Allied Forces and Germany one month later. As a result, the National Guard was disbanded and the volunteers were sent home.

In July 1921, the College of Agriculture Student Body passed a resolution requesting the Board of Regents (BOR) to set aside October 10 of every year as Loyalty Day and make the date a permanent college holiday in the College of Agriculture academic calendar. The BOR, with the endorsement of Dean Charles Fuller Baker, approved the resolution.

For the first time, the Student Body celebrated Loyalty Day on October 10, 1921. It was a simple celebration at the Plant Physiology Hall. Mr. Gil Opiana gave a series of reminiscences of National Guard days. Dean Baker and President Guy Potter Beaton delivered short speeches defining and emphasizing the spirit and value of loyalty and patriotism

For the UPCA alumni Loyalty Day has come to mean a time to renew their pledge of loyalty to school and country. The feelings evoked during its celebrations have come to typify the **Los Baños spirit** which is said to be “a compound of loyalty, fellowship, scholarship, and clean living”. Alumni from all over the world feel the pull of attachment when Loyalty Day approaches. It is coming home day for all true aggies, and now for alumni from other colleges of UPLB as well.

### References:

*Nora J. Cruz, The UP College of Agriculture, 1909-1951. Published in the Philippine Agriculturist, Vol. XLIII, June 1959, No. 1*

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## LOYALTY DAY PARADES

a compilation since the 50's

By GRINE GRIÑO

I was president (grand princep) in 1951 when the frat was tasked to coordinate the participation of UPLB student organizations in the October 10 Loyalty Day parade. We thought we had done a good job only to realize before the parade was to start that Beta Sigma had no float of its own. We hurriedly washed up a Manila brod's rundown antique Ford jalopy, swiped some seedlings, fruits and vegetables from Agronomy which were placed in baskets on top of the car, tied a couple of goats from Animal Husbandry to the rear bumper and wrapped the car in canvass emblazoned with "OFF TO THE FARM TO DISSEMINATE BROTHERHOOD" and the Beta Sigma logo.

"In front of the parade reviewing stand, the dilapidated vehicle with curious put-ons blew off the loudest air horn one could ever hear which caught everyone's attention. It was the only parade participant which saw print in the special feature page of a national newspaper after the event."



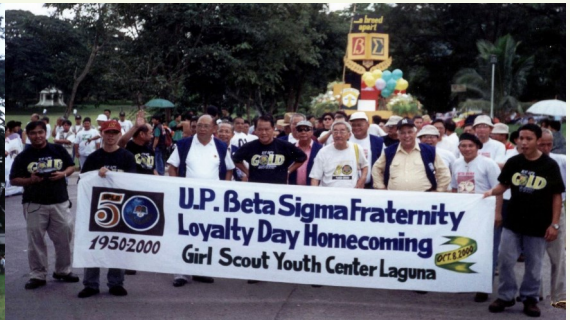
The Betan Float participating in the Loyalty Day Parade (circa 1950s).



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LOYALTY DAY PARADES a compilation



ABOVE: Brods Fel Calora, Grine Griño, Eddie Mabesa, Joseph Madamba, with other alumni and resident brods

LEFT: Charter Member Grine Griño and Founder Eddie Mabesa





## PRELUDE TO UPLB LOYALTY DAY

by Tony Frio '60

reprinted from BUKAS issue No. 5, January 2017

published by the UPLB Alumni Association

Fourteen unforgettable years and still going. It was the fifteenth, this year 2016. It is called the “Prelude” to Loyalty Day of the UPLB.

This “Prelude” has carried on the so-called Los Baños Spirit alive. It has also kept the UPLB alumni connected even though they occupy different spaces in this planet. To the UPLB alumni, this Los Baños Spirit traces its roots to the volunteerism shown by more than half of the then UPLB students and faculty on October 1918, who enlisted for service in France during World War I. Since then, every October 10 has become UPLB's alumni homecoming.

The “Prelude” came about as a natural development in UPLB's growth and expansion as an autonomous unit of the UP system. In the early 80's to the 90's, UPLB grew into a separate campus of the UP system with more colleges, institutes and units added to the original colleges of agriculture and forestry that were both founded in 1908 and 1909, respectively.

In 1998, Mr. Mannie Barradas UPLB '70 brought his skydiving team as added attraction event to the Loyalty Day celebration. He believed that this could offer some distinct entertainment to the UPLB community of students, faculty, alumni, children of alumni and faculty. The community took to this event heartily and it became a regular activity on Loyalty Day.

In 2000, the skydiving team did not participate in the Loyalty Day celebration. The original organizers led by Mr. Barradas thought of some other events that would sustain the camaraderie and the ever-growing Los Baños Spirit generated by the yearly skydiving attraction in the Loyalty Day.

In one of the regular meetings of the very active Tanauan based UPLB alumni, the late Rosie Baltazar, wife of Steve Baltazar (UPLB '67) suggested that the group sponsor an alumni gathering separate from the Loyalty Day alumni homecoming. They called this the “Prelude” to Loyalty Day. This was to be held on a Saturday nearest to October 10 of each year. Thus in 2001, the first “Prelude” was held in Mr. Barradas residence in Santor, Tanauan, Batangas. About 300 alumni came from all over. The hosts served various menus while other alumni came with several unsolicited contributions... PRELUDE, as is now known... and the rest is history...

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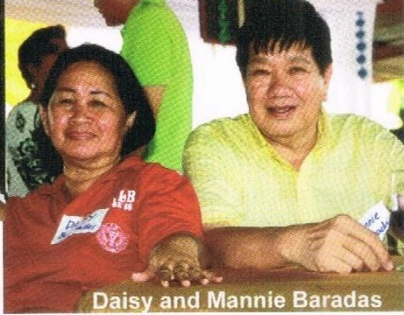


**PRELUDE TO UPLB LOYALTY DAY by Tony Frio '60**

THE MAIN ACTORS OF THE PRELUDE: Led by Francis Laurel (UPLB '70), the Barradas husband-and-wife Mannie (UPLB '70) and Daisy (UPLB '67) and the very active Tanauan-based UPLB alumni.



Francis Laurel



Daisy and Mannie Baradas



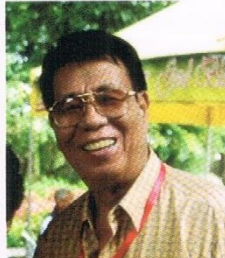
Billy Gualberto



Jimmy Tolentino



Bert Mailum



Steve Baltazar



Nick Chavez



The following brods will be awarded during this year's UPLB Loyalty Day celebrations on October 10, 2021.

### **THE OUTSTANDING UPLB ALUMNI AWARDEE**

**BROD DR. FRANCISCO D. GORREZ**

Brod Dr. Frank is Batch '52, College of Agriculture and obtained



his BS Agriculture degree from the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture in 1955, MSc (agronomy and extension) from the Araneta University (1985), and PhD (agricultural science) from the Pacific Western University, Los Angeles, USA (1989).

He has distinguished himself internationally as an Agronomist, Extension Specialist, Project Manager of various agricultural projects in Asia and Latin America. Dr. Stephen A. Szadek, Director, USAID Agriculture and Rural Development Office at Jamaica wrote: "Dr. Gorrez is a technically broad-based, quick study individual who has the experience and capabilities to work at all levels of planning, managing and implementing agricultural development activities. He is extremely skilled in transferring technology, working within the cultural and political realities of a given situation to make things happen."

Through his hard work and missionary spirit in the field of international agriculture, as well as his technical competence in agronomy, farming systems, and technology transfer, Dr. Gorrez has gained an international reputation and has brought much honor to his Alma Mater, the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Philippines.

His latest accomplishment was shared by her daughter, Jo Ann de Larrazabal: "So proud to share our 86 yr.old dad, Dr. Frank D. Gorrez, with the Shalom Science Institute (SSI) in far away Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur in Mindanao. He has set up a Rice-Garden & Gulayan sa Paaralan (Vegetable Growing in School). A rice expert for 50+ years, he is sharing his expertise in SSI, a Christian school, within a predominantly Muslim population.

His program integrates sustainable agriculture into the curriculum of Grades 9 & 10, with participation of their farmer parents. The school is growing rice & will be providing palay (rice grains) to the farmers in the community to plant. They have also started planting corn, radish, pechay, kalabasa, string & winged beans, tomatoes, green chili and ampalaya. SSI and the surrounding communities are very excited!

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## **OUTSTANDING GOLDEN JUBILARIAN**

BROD DR. EUFEMIO T. RASCO, JR.



Brod Dong is Batch '67 in the fraternity and a graduate of BS Agriculture in Animal Science in 1971 and MS in Plant Physiology in 1974.

For dedicating four decades of his professional life to public service as researcher, professor and head of various institutions- Director of UPLB Institute of Plant Breeding, Dean of the UP Mindanao College of Science and Mathematics and Executive Director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute- all aimed at moulding the minds of the youth, discovering knowledge and helping rice and vegetable farmers improve their conditions;

For his outstanding contribution in the field of plant breeding- white potato breeding and developing hybrids and cultivars of tropical vegetables- which to this day continue to benefit vegetable farmers, and for advocating rural transformation through science-based support systems for rice farmers;

For his outstanding achievements as scientist which has earned for him recognition as Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Professor Emeritus of UP Mindanao, various outstanding alumnus awards from UP Los Baños, The Outstanding Young Scientist (TOYS) award by the then National Science Development Board, and The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award by the JCI Philippines;

For all these and many more, the Golden Jubilarian Class (1971) is proud to call Eufemio T. Rasco, Jr. as one of its own.

## **DISTINGUISHED UPLB ALUMNI AWARDEES**

### **1. BROD VICENTE M. TUPAZ**



Brod Vic is a proud UPLB Alumnus. He graduated in 1970 with a degree in BS in Agriculture. In 1992, he succeeded in establishing a 100% family-owned corporation in the animal farming and veterinary industries, Agfield International Corporation. Its coverage was initially

focused on Luzon and eventually expanded nationwide reaching parts of Visayas and Mindanao. Hard work, perseverance and dedication to this business led to years of growth.

Along the way, he set-up three allied businesses namely,

***Continue next page...***

**2021 UPLB LOYALTY DAY ALUMNI BETAN AWARDEES**

Agfield Urban Pest Management, Inc., Nutri-sol Livestock Care Corporation and Pam's Pet Care Station. All these businesses both contributed and strengthened Agfield's portfolio in the animal health and veterinary services sector.

In 2009, Brod Vic became the President of the Philippine Veterinary Drug Association (PVDA). It is a private non-profit organization composed of multi-national and local companies whose primary duty is to raise and safeguard the standard quality of the veterinary drugs and products in conformity with the existing national laws, rules and regulations. Currently, he is the President of the Philippine Veterinary Drug Association Foundation.

Brod Vic became a full-pledged Beta Sigman in 1967. He got involved in sports, cultural, academic, and political activities. In fact, he associated many of his meaningful memories of his college years with his being part of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity. To cap it off, he was elected as President of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association, Inc. (1999-2000 ) and President of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity , Inc. Central 2018-2020. The fraternity molded him as to who he is today.

2. BROD DR. ARVIN MARBIBI



Brod Dr. Arvin is Batch 1990 College of Arts & Sciences & graduated in 1994 in UPLB & entered the brotherhood in 1994 as a freshman medicine proper student in DLSU Dasma. Cheers Cheers to Brod Dr. Arvin!!

Last year (2020), Brod Doc Arvin was also given an award by the Las Piñas City Government for outstanding work as a Health Worker Frontliner!

3. BROD DR. LOI SOLOMON GARCIA (PNP Col ret)



Brod Dr. Loi Batch '86a UERM will be awarded as one of the Distinguished Alumni of UPLB (Batch '80, BS Food Technology) during the Oct 10 UPLB Loyalty Day celebrations. He graduated in 1985 & entered the brotherhood in 1986 as a freshman in UE Med Proper (Class 1989). CHEERS Brod Dr.Loi!

He wears many hats & worked too with CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) team, Counter terrorism group, Security and PNP Covid 19 Pandemic Response. CHEERS CHEERS!



## **“LIGHT IN THE CROSSROAD”**

by Eufemia Tobias Munn, SSI President

*A TRIBUTE TO BROD DR. FRANK GORREZ '52 from the President of SHALLOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE (SSI) , Lanao del Sur, Mindanao.*



I stand in awe gazing at a green landscape of rice and vegetables on a corner lot across the street from Shalom Science Institute! (SSI). What four months ago was a pasture land, dump site, and abaca dryer has become the “talk of the town”-a visible testimony to the miracle of planting seeds and now, a bountiful harvest of rice and vegetables.

Shalom Science Institute’s Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG) has become the “Light in the Crossroad” whose beam has reached far and wide and many a curious person look in amazement and admire. RVG speaks volumes for what it has become through growing different varieties of rainfed rice (palay) and multi-cropping of vegetables.

This transformation of a dumpsite, however, into a beautiful garden did not just happen. Is it an answer to prayer? Definitely Yes! A year ago I surrendered SSI to God that if it was His will, to send us someone to help us. It has gone through drastic changes due to recent overhaul of Philippine education system and SSI is relegated to Tract 3 –Vocational Livelihood. We decided to start agri-business. How? Where? What? Who?

August 24, 2015 on LinkedIn Dr. Frank Gorrez, a retired international agronomist read my profile and was curious about Shalom Science Institute, a non-profit Christian school. He asked if he could be of assistance. I read his book, “How to Grow Paddy Rice” with fascination, but his professional accomplishments at the end of the book made me really wonder if a person of his rank will come to a remote municipality, 600 miles south of Manila that many would refer to as “no man’s land.” I explained all pros and cons but he decided to come, saying that “God precedes me wherever I go and I believe this is a Divine Appointment.”

In April–May 2017 in the midst of the on-going Marawi war, Mayor Nhazruddin B. Maglangit, Al Hadj with his agricultural staff in Kapatagan Municipality, Lanao Del Sur visited SSI and invited Dr. Frank D. Gorrez to extend the SSI-3TS Development Program Assistance to 15 Barangays of Kapatagan, under his administrative jurisdiction. It was there that Frank Gorrez, SSI Consultant and BOT member, conducted workshops and distributed free rice (palay) seeds to 84 farmers! Palay seeds were harvested from SSI Rice and Vegetable Garden. SSI is proud to assist the farmers by giving them free seeds. Then, Frank conducted a seminar-workshop in the Municipality of Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao sponsored by Gawad Kalinga/Konomics, Mar. 22-24, 2018.

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**“LIGHT IN THE CROSSROAD”**

Shalom Science Institute’s RVG is bridging the gap between Christians and Muslims through students’ participation, community awareness, free distribution of palay and vegetable seeds. We at SSI are very fortunate and grateful to Frank Gorrez, who, like a stone dropped in a pond, ripples of his work are reaching out to the needy and to a local plantation owner.

All these events in a remote municipality are made possible through the generosity of many people: The Gorrez Family, Kay Wong and Friends, Harry Yu, Ike Araneta, Lisa Bauer, Amy Saxton, Sonny de la Fuente, Jo Ann de Larrazabal, Cristy and Jeff Hofer. I thank you all very much from the bottom of my heart. What we do is to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity.



This is the implemented “Rice & Vegetable Garden” school program in SSI, Lanao del Sur, Mindanao, that started in 2016, and is on-going to-date (2021), being included in the school curriculum per Dep Ed approval.

The SSI –Rice & Vegetable Garden (RVG) Project  
2016 to PRESENT  
**SHALLOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE (SSI)**  
Banago, Balabagan,  
Lanao Del Sur  
Mindanao



## 2021 GRADUATED BRODS from the UPLB Beta Sigma Facebook page



## 2021 GRADUATED SISTERS from the UPLB Sigma Beta Facebook page



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**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
by Mark Nubla '79D

**INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT**

As of September 15, 2021

**CASH IN**

Initial fund from 2018 c/o Arnel Bandian	40,000.00
Trust Fund c/o Arnel Bandian	16,000.00
Seed Money– UPBS Central	50,000.00
UAAP	8,000.00
Annual Dues	14,950.00
Annual Dues 2021	18,000.00
10-10-19 Tickets/Donations	145,250.00
Loyalty Day 2021 Donations	177,383.30
Internet Allowance Project	16,000.00
Miscellaneous	16,238.85
Interest Income	66.94
<b>TOTAL CASH IN</b>	<b>501,889.09</b>

**CASH OUT**

Annual Dues Expenses	24,900.00
10-10-19 Expenses	125,300.00
Internet Allowance Distribution	8,000.00
Business Permits 2021/BIR/OR/Others	18,000.00
Meals– Meetings	2,000.00
Donation- UPLB Stranded Dormers	40,000.00
Donation- Lennie Tetangco	5,000.00
Donation– Frank Cornejo	10,000.00
Loyalty Day 2021 Platinum Ad	100,000.00
Abuloy– Brod Ericson	5,000.00
Bank Charges/Checkbook	820.00
Withholding Tax	13.38
<b>TOTAL CASH OUT</b>	<b>339,033.38</b>
<b>NET CASH IN/(OUT)</b>	<b><u>162,855.71</u></b>

**CASH HOLDINGS (Sept 15, 2021)**

Cash in Bank- Checking	29,418.85
Cash in Bank- Trust Fund	29,000.00
Cash in Bank- Savings	11,053.56
Cash on Hand- MGN Loyalty Day 2021	70,383.30
Cash on Hand– MGN (Mark G Nubla)	20,000.00
Cash on Hand– Annual Dues	3,000.00
<b>CASH POSITION</b>	<b><u>162,855.71</u></b>

**A reflection from the essay, *Our Family Story of War and Peace, Love and Remembrance* by JOSE V. ABUEVA**

Weblink Credit

<https://www.daisakuikeda.org/main/peacebuild/friends/jose-abueva.html>

## Refusing to Hate

*(From the book One by One by Daisaku Ikeda, a collection of essays in which he reflects on his encounters with various world figures, scholars and activists who have inspired him.)*

It was 1944. The sixteen-year-old boy dragged the oars through the water again and the small boat moved slowly against the shoreline. He was searching for his parents who had been taken prisoner by the Japanese soldiers occupying the Philippines. The boy's father, Teodoro Abueva, had refused to cooperate with the invaders of his homeland, becoming a member of the Bohol Provincial Board in the anti-Japanese resistance government. The boy's mother, Nena Veloso Abueva, was head of the Bohol Women's Auxiliary Service in the resistance. Teodoro and Nena had three daughters and four sons; the boy in the boat was their second son, Jose.



Daisaku Ikeda and his wife Kaneka meet with then University of the Philippines President Jose V. Abueva (February 1998)

Thus begin some of the recollections that Dr. Jose Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines, kindly wrote down for me under the title "Our Family Story of War and Peace, Love and Remembrance."

He continues . . .

The Japanese military had been hunting Teodoro for a long time. On one occasion, they had captured his sons Jose and Billy as well as his mother. But they let Jose go and told him to tell his Teodoro that if he wanted to see the others again, he must surrender to the Japanese.

Several days later, Billy came staggering back home, groaning in pain. He was almost unrecognizable. His face was swollen, his front teeth knocked out, and his body bruised and battered. The implied threat to Teodoro from the Japanese military was clear: "If you continue to resist, we will also torture and kill your mother." But Billy carried a secret message to Teodoro from her: "Do not surrender, no matter what happens to me. I am old. You have a wife and seven children to live for."

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A year later, after hiding in the mountains with the rest of the guerrilla forces, the Abueva family—except for Jose and Billy who were living with others—were captured. The Japanese military separated husband and wife and tortured them. The children were forced to listen to their parents' agonized screams. Then the soldiers took Teodoro and Nena away, freeing the children. Billy looked after his brothers and sisters while Jose, together with a cousin, set out in a boat in search of his parents.

### **Tragic Climb**

It was to be a sad journey. Jose landed at the town where the family had been taken. News of the American recapture of the Philippines was spreading, and there was not a Japanese soldier to be seen. Praying that by some miracle his parents might still be alive, Jose searched for a clue to their whereabouts. He heard rumors of people who had been killed and hurled down a cliff, and was advised to start his search there. As Jose came closer to the cliff, he heard more stories of resistance members being executed on a nearby hillside and set off in that direction. But still he refused to believe his parents were dead. He climbed the hill. The sun shone down fiercely from a cloudless sky. He walked into a clearing with some bushes beyond it. Suddenly, an acrid smell assaulted his nostrils as he came upon an executioner's handiwork. He saw a soiled white shirt with blue stripes and immediately recognized it as his father's. Then he saw a piece of his mother's brown dress. He also found fragments of rosaries and belts that he recognized as having belonged to them.

Despite the horror of the experience, Jose didn't cry. He was so emotionally and physically drained, tears would not come. When he noticed his surroundings, he was looking to the shining sea stretching toward Mindanao. Thoughts of what had happened to his parents flooded his mind. They were martyrs who had fought for their love of freedom and their love for their country. For that they had been tortured and killed. This hill was where their lives had ended in such a cruel sacrifice. He heard that the bodies had been left there for more than a week, exposed to the elements and wild animals.

Jose gathered his parents' remains and got back in the boat. The sea of his homeland was almost blindingly beautiful. The Allied forces under General [Douglas] MacArthur had already landed on the Filipino island of Leyte on October 20.

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Jose's parents had been killed on October 23. For them, the liberation of the Philippines had come just moments too late.

The surviving seven children decided their parents' tomb should be in a garden next to the town's elementary school. Friends and relatives gathered and a mass was said in their honor. Dr. Abueva writes: "Looking at the big crowd from the veranda, I was one with our grieving family. I finally broke down and cried my heart out. . . . Although this story happened half a century ago, it is indelibly etched in my mind. I will never be able to forget." How many others will face the demonic cruelty and madness of war—memories that can never be erased?

In sharing his recollections, Dr. Abueva also observed: "For many years Japanese leaders still stubbornly refused to admit—and apologize for—the grievous wrongs they committed in the countries they invaded in World War II. Japanese history textbooks have purposely concealed the truth, or justified the wrongs. Fellow Asians," he continued, "were outraged by the insensitivity and dishonesty of the Japanese. How could they gloss over the sordid truth that so many had witnessed and endured, recorded and remembered?"

### **Turning Point**

After the war, the orphaned Abueva children pulled together to support each other as they struggled to continue their education. The siblings would go on to contribute to society in such fields as the arts and education. Jose Abueva studied at the University of the Philippines and then the University of Michigan before eventually returning to become a professor at his *alma mater*.

During his distinguished career in education and development, he has served in posts around the world, including Nepal, Thailand, Lebanon, the United States and Japan. His fond memories of his loving parents have sustained him wherever he has gone, and his determination to work for peace is still motivated by his wish to honor them. All that he has achieved, he says, started with his climb up that hill on that fateful day. He has been utterly devoted to peace, determined to keep others from experiencing the kind of tragedy that he did.

When Dr. Abueva spoke at Tokyo's Soka University in April 1990, he expressed concern about any moves that Japan might make toward rearmament. But he showed no trace of personal

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bitterness: “My parents were killed by Japanese soldiers. But none of us seven children bears any hatred toward Japan. I like the Japanese. And I believe the people of Japan and the Philippines share the same love of peace.”

I was amazed. Even through extreme suffering, he has maintained his noble beliefs. Truly, he is a greathearted person. How has he been able to overcome the urge, so understandable in his case, to bitterness and hate? He himself wonders how it has been possible to forgive, and credits his parents’ religiosity and their “message of love and forgiveness in the midst of suffering and death.”

“The great irony of my life,” he remarks, “was my recruitment to serve at the headquarters of the United Nations University in Tokyo.” For a total of almost eight years, Dr. Abueva and his family lived in Japan, the land of their former enemies.

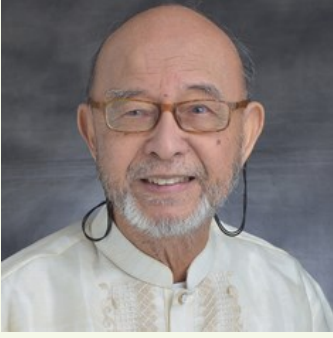
During the first year in Tokyo, his children often asked: Why did the Japanese kill our grandparents? Dr. Abueva could only explain that his parents had resisted Japanese invaders from love of their country and had paid for that love with their lives.

At the United Nations University (UNU) Dr. Abueva worked with a team of talented and dedicated scholars from throughout the world to advance UNU’s mission of coordinating research on such global issues as eliminating hunger, managing natural resources and promoting social development. Throughout their stay in Japan, Dr. Abueva and his family made a conscious effort to make friends and be ambassadors of goodwill, learning the Japanese language and culture. “By living, learning and working in Japan, by fate or accident, we’d like to feel that we helped to achieve on a limited scale a reconciliation between Filipinos and Japanese.”

### **Fostering Leaders for Peace**

Returning to the Philippines, Dr. Abueva helped [President] Corason Aquino in peace talks between the government and the MNLF separatist guerrillas in the south of the country. In 1987, he was elected president of the University of the Philippines.

“Throughout history there have been many leaders of war,” he declared with great passion, “but there have been few leaders of peace. I am determined to help change this.”



Jose V. Abueva Dil '50

The University of the Philippines is the country's top school, and its graduates are destined to become leaders in all fields of Philippine society. But Dr. Abueva was concerned that the students also be aware of their duty to society, that they have the willingness and enthusiasm to lead the way in finding solutions to the problems that confront their country. It is his firm belief that a university must above all deepen students' quality as leaders in the service of their people and country.

Dr. Abueva told me that on becoming university president what had saddened him most was the decline in enrollment of students from poorer families. To rectify the situation, he instituted a policy by which students of wealthy families paid higher tuition to subsidize those of poor students.

As president, he put special emphasis on the creation of a "House of Peace" for international exchange. I am very proud that exchange students from Soka University have studied at the University of the Philippines and I am deeply grateful for Dr. Abueva's kindness to them, even inviting them to his home. He believes that building deeper and broader relations between peoples is more important than relations between governments. In particular, he sees youth and cultural exchanges as vital currents in the great flowing river of peace that he is determined to create.

### **House of Peace**

In May 1993 Dr. Abueva invited me to the official opening of the Balay Kalinaw or House of Peace at the University of the Philippines. He also named the building the Ikeda Hall, saying he hoped it would be a symbol of friendship between the Philippines and Japan. In my remarks on that occasion, I talked about my mentor Josei Toda, second president of the Soka Gakkai, who stood up against Japanese militarism and who was imprisoned for two years as a result. He was deeply convinced that Japan could only be considered a nation of peace to the extent that it is trusted by its Asian neighbors."

I also declared my determination to devote my life, as an individual Japanese citizen, to the people of Asia. Without mutual understanding, we can achieve nothing.

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**From Story of War and Peace Essay of JOSE V. ABUEVA**

At that time I quoted the following lines of poetry which were composed by the great Filipino poet and national hero José Rizal, who was executed in 1896 before he saw his dream of independence for his homeland realized:

***I die without seeing the dawn  
Brighten over my native land!  
You, who have it to see, welcome it—  
And forget not those  
Who have fallen during the night!***

Dr. Abueva's parents were among those who fell in the night, without seeing the dawn of peace. I shared my belief that the same cry must have issued from his parents' lives as they entrusted him with his mission.

I saw Dr. Abueva remove his glasses. As he dabbed at the tears that filled his eyes, I felt I caught a glimpse of a half century of his family's life.

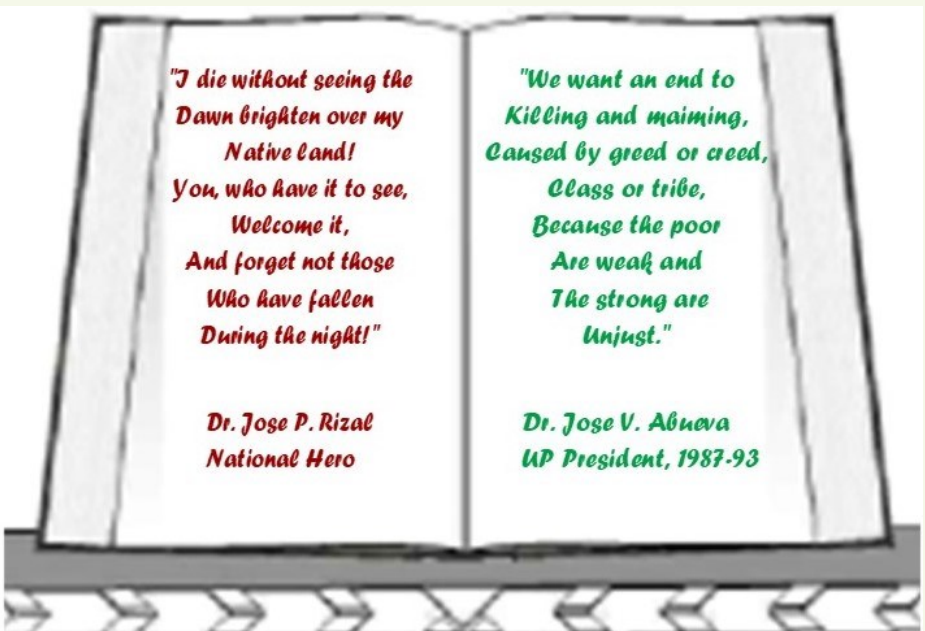
In response to my speech, Dr. Abueva rose from his seat and quoted from a poem of his own:

***We want an end to killing and maiming  
Caused by greed or creed, class or tribe  
Because the poor are weak and the strong are unjust.***

His voice rang through the House of Peace, and it seemed to reach all the way to that hill he climbed so many years ago.



Quotations that will be etched on the pages of the book in the UPCA Foundation Site



# PEACE COVENANT FOR NON-VIOLENCE

by Freddy Fajardo '64

## A COVENANT FOR NON-VIOLENCE, PEACEFUL AND CIVIL CO-EXISTENCE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE UPLB COMMUNITY BETWEEN BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY AND UPSILON SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY

WHEREAS, BETA SIGMA Fraternity has been in existence in UP since 1946 and has been, until now, remained an active and responsible member of the UPLB community

WHEREAS, UPSILON SIGMA PHI Fraternity has been in existence in UP since 1918 and has been, until now, remained an active and responsible member of the UPLB community

WHEREAS, both fraternities have been engaging in decades-old fierce non-physical competition be it in the academic front or political arena in the confines of UPLB

WHEREAS, both fraternities have resorted to physical confrontations in the past to settle their trivial differences which unfortunately have resulted to physical injuries for both its members, with some confrontations resulting to the eventual filing of legal cases in the local courts of justice

WHEREAS, as a result of these confrontations, the involved members and top officers of both fraternities automatically undergo a minimum of 30-days preventive suspension without prejudice to the formal investigation being done by the Office of Student Affairs, Student Disciplinary Tribunal and UPLB Police Force.

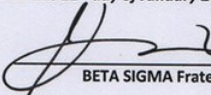
WHEREAS, in the end, instead of concentrating on purely academic concerns, all members of both fraternities suffer the stigma of always being "on alert status" for possible intrigues and petty squabbles that may escalate into a full-blown physical rumble between their respective fraternities.

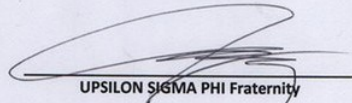
*The founding fathers of both fraternities did not envision, that decades later, their respective fraternities will devote majority of their academic life wondering on whether any untoward physical incident against another fraternity will happen. With great foresight, the founding fathers of both fraternities envisioned a brotherhood of common minded young men with similar interests and who value academic excellence and political maturity as a gauge of being first among equals inside and outside the UPLB community.*

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, both BETA SIGMA Fraternity and UPSILON SIGMA PHI fraternity should, from now on, strictly observe peaceful and civil co-existence inside and outside the UPLB community

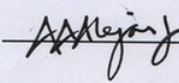
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, both officers and members of BETA SIGMA Fraternity and UPSILON SIGMA PHI Fraternity will from now on exhaust all avenues for a peaceful resolution to all personal conflicts, whether apparent or in silence, between their respective members.

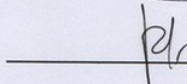
Signed on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.

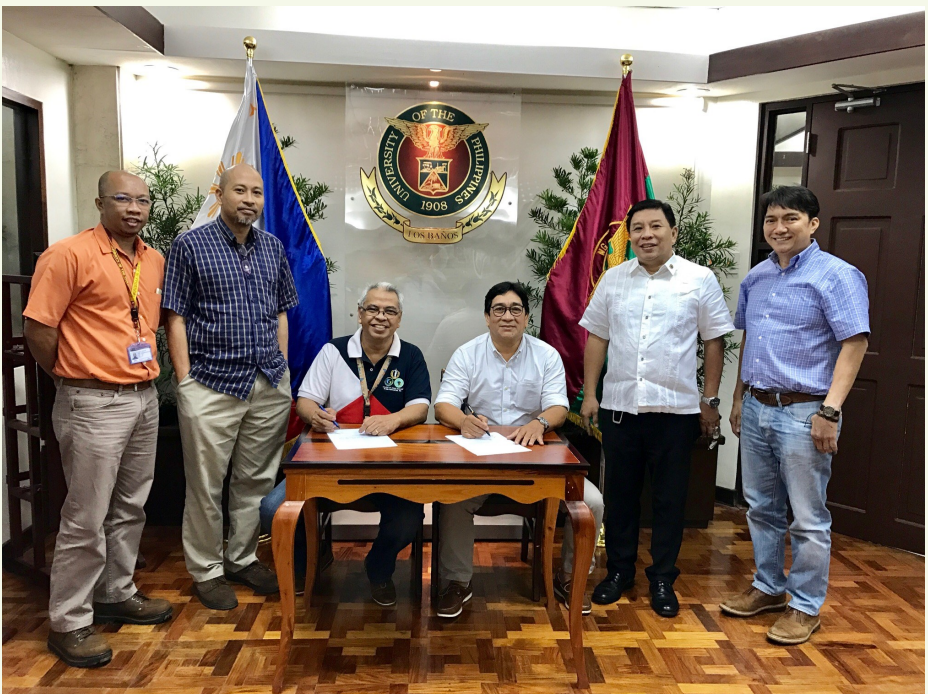
  
BETA SIGMA Fraternity

  
UPSILON SIGMA PHI Fraternity

Witnessed by:







L-R: Glenn Lubuguin, Baron Alqueza, Riki Sandalo, Brod Ambo Lapis, Chancellor Fernando "Dindo" Chinte Sanchez, Jr. and Brod Jojo Alejar



## COMING HOME

It was 5 o'clock at dawn of Sunday the 10th day of October in the year of the Lord 2010. Despite the still active southwest monsoon (*habagat*) in this western part of Luzon, the morning was unusually cool because of an early northeasterly (*amihan*)



breeze. I was up and sipping my morning coffee by the front window of our house where I habitually watched the dawn's activities whenever I was at home in La Huerta.

Today being a Sunday, people in our community started the day earlier than on other days of the week. The stillness of dawn was broken by the chatter of people going to the *bulungan* fish market by the seashore; by the roar of tricycles ferrying early shoppers to the market a stone's throw away; by the

purring of pump boats (motorized fishing bancas) of fishermen going out to sea; by the shouts of hawkers of *taho*, *puto*, *goto* (tripe porridge) and hot *pandesal*; by the clatter of people hurrying to catch the early morning Sunday mass at the St. Andrew Cathedral; and by the noise of barangay street sweepers clearing the streets of the previous day's trash. Beside my coffee on the table was a bowl of hot *goto*, my favorite for breakfast whenever it was available. Since I would be heading for UPLB to join the Loyalty Day parade, I finished my breakfast hastily without savoring the hot *goto*. I "jugalugged" my coffee then said goodbye to my wife. After a few minutes walk I was at the barangay outpost by the main road. I was able to flag down a taxi after waiting for ten minutes. It would be a 20-minute trip to the bus terminals. I used to take the regular LTBCo bus in our town plaza during my student days, or when I would be in a hurry I took the Kapalaran bus (the Kapalaran buses were reputed to travel faster than the LTBCo buses) in Pasay on Taft avenue in front of Cartimar (where one shopped for US Post exchange goods). Later in the mid 60's the bus terminals for South Luzon transferred to E. delos Santos Avenue (EDSA) in Pasay City. When heavy traffic became a problem on EDSA with the modernization of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) terminals on EDSA gradually shifted to the area at the intersection of Taft Avenue and Buendia. The area was already busy when I last saw it 5 or 6 years previously and buses picking up passengers for Batangas and Quezon province were parked on an empty lot in front of the old site of Arellano University. There was

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**MY JOURNEY TO THE BETAN BROTHERHOOD**

space for 7 to 8 buses and bus departures were written on a small blackboard. Passengers were loaded by the sidewalk and food was available from vendors hawking their wares. Presumably the Buendia road was the widest and most convenient entry to SLEX. Now the area proximal to the corner of Taft and Buendia was occupied by bus companies (DLTB, JAM, JAC, etc.) with destinations as far south as Iloilo, Bohol, and Davao.

Brod Frankie Colanta, during the Fraternity Ball the previous Friday night, briefed me on how to take a bus going to UPLB. Guided by his instructions I asked my cab driver to take me to the JAC bus terminal where I found an air-conditioned bus destined for Lumban and Sta Cruz departing at 6:30. I bought my ticket at the ticket booth and got a window seat on the left side of the bus. I boarded promptly and made myself comfortable. I started reminiscing about the time I was a student taking the LTBCo bus at Divisoria when the fare to College from Manila was only 65 centavos. I paid 100 plus PhP for my current seat. As a student then a hundred pesos would cover my monthly salary of 55 pesos as a student assistant, my 2-week meals at Mommy Bautista's boarding house and still have change for beers or a long-necked bottle of rum plus *pulutan*. My bus left at exactly 6:30 and the sun was up by the time it reached the access to SLEX. Once inside the expressway the video machine started showing an English movie while I was busy watching the Sunday morning sunrise and people residing along the expressway starting their day. Traffic built up near the tollgate maybe because people wanted to take advantage of the good weather to enjoy the countryside and the beaches in Batangas. Past the toll gate the bus took off like a racehorse out of the starting gate. We went past places I used to remember as a student 54 years ago. We went past the old site of the Alabang cemetery, now a bustling commercial center and transportation hub for South Luzon (the dead gave way to the living and the living gave in to the money). Every time I passed the Alabang area I didn't fail to miss the Alabang stock farm where we used to hold a few finals of the Fraternity. We zipped past Alabang and San Pedro and then made a stop at a food center in Sta. Rosa. People got off the bus to get hamburger, coffee, fried chicken or soft drinks. Gone were the days of vendors selling *shingaling*, *espasol*, *puto seco*, boiled bananas or roasted peanuts. In less than 15 to 20 minutes we were on our way again. The sun was fully up by then and from my window I could see from afar the blue green, lopsided silhouette of Mt. Makiling, my

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**MY JOURNEY TO THE BETAN BROTHERHOOD**

birth place as a Betan 53 years ago. I started getting nostalgic. I had been to Los Baños frequently to visit brods, to participate in Beta Sigma Fraternity activities when I was a resident member at Diliman in the late sixties, and as a political activist in the early seventies. However, I never had any occasion, opportunity or excuse to join the Loyalty Day celebrations and parade until now. Today, as part of the Beta Sigma Fraternity's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 10-10-10 celebration, I would be joining the parade together with the brods and sisters. I reclined on my seat and continued reminiscing. As we ran south the lopsided shape of Mt. Makiling emerged from the early morning mist. On the foothills of this mountain is the campus of UPLB, my birth place as a Betan. As I gazed at the mountain, the images of my past experiences with the Fraternity at Los Baños came back to me - our grueling and punishing weeks of initiation (the harsh fire that tempers and transforms a neophyte into a Betan); the missions, the sessions, the hiding out in some forested corner of the campus with a few of my ka-batch to gain a few moments of respite from the eagle eyes and claws of the relentless masters; the finals, the pinning ceremony and the high school girl who tacked my Fraternity pin; our political campaigns with the Duty Above All Party; Betan presentations such as H.M.S. Pinafore, Dreamslayer, Glee Club concerts (forerunner of the Folkways) to name a few; hanging out at the Coop (then at the basement of the former Library) with brods; TGIF's, monthly socials, barn dances, jugalugs, and the "high" of physical confrontations (in other words rumbles) with the "Pepsies". All of those images flashed before me clearly like a power point presentation.

Had my wife and I not attended the Betan Grand Ball the previous Friday, October 8, I would have had some misgivings and mixed feelings about joining the brods in this parade. Who would be there and who would not be there? (It is always sad knowing about Brods who would no longer be with us.) Would my batch mates be there? (A Betan always feels secure when with his batch mates.) Maybe I wouldn't recognize the old brods or they wouldn't recognize me. How would I be received? The Betan Grand Ball erased all of my misgivings for as soon as my wife and I entered the foyer of the venue, Betans young enough to be our grandchildren sensed I was a brod and introduced themselves. When we went up to register I was backslapped, hugged and pummeled by brods who recognized me. "Popoy is it you?" "Popoy guess who I am?" Brods from everywhere - the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and all parts of the Philippines –

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MY JOURNEY TO THE BETAN BROTHERHOOD



and brods whom I had known only through the Fraternity website I finally met in flesh and blood. There were a lot of brods present whom I had not seen in the last 50 years. That night I renewed bonds of brotherhood with hundreds of brods from both the UPLB and Diliman campuses. It was an emotionally charged evening for me and I had to hide my tears.

Now, finally, I am going home, and I recalled Loyalty Day in 1958. That day, after the Loyalty Day parade, I went out for lunch with Tony Bautista, Ning de la Paz, Frankie “Hopia” Colanta, Jess Pido, Julito “Igan” Leones and Tony “Kilay” Asuncion. We had lunch at Sis Cely Kalaw’s eatery at Grove where Metring, Cely’s brother and cook, promised a special Loyalty Day treat for us. Metring’s *azucena* and *adobong kuhol* were consumed along with copious quantities of San Miguel beer. After lunch we sauntered to the bungalow where, after a short rest, we began the serious business of getting drunk. We started with rum, then gin, then washed it down with a cocktail of Essex rum mixed with orange (distilled in San Pablo at 1.20 PhP per flat bottle). By 12 midnight we had run out of fuel. We decided to attend the Loyalty Day Ball. We showered alfresco on the front yard of the bungalow not to sober up but to neutralize the lingering smell of rum made more evident by the odor of fried dried *dilis*, our main *pulutan*. After donning on hastily borrowed and unpressed *barong tagalog* our group sashayed down the road to Baker Hall and gatecrashed the ball. We dispersed to pursue the ladies of our interest. Then, at around two in the morning when inebriated enough with sips from Tony Bautista’s smuggled bottle of rum, Jess Pido and Hopia instructed me and Igan to approach the orchestra band leader Verling Villapando. (The orchestra usually played during our frat balls). We were to ask permission for Igan to sing to a girl whom he and Tony Asuncion were both running after. Verling recognized us and was very accommodating. He even introduced Igan. After a hasty conference with Verling, Igan started his song “Always”. He sang it with all his heart that it brought the house down. The song always reminds me of Brod Igan every time I hear it.

As I reminisced about the events on that Loyalty Day in 1958 I realized that of the six brods with me only Frankie Colanta was still living. (Now, as I write this article, Frankie “Hopia” Colanta has also gone away.)

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**MY JOURNEY TO THE BETAN BROTHERHOOD**

Our bus slowed down as it approached the toll plaza. I was brought back to the present. Past the town of Calamba and the hot spring resorts of Pansol. I recognized the landmarks of Los Baños. We went past the old town and at the Junction at College, I got off the bus and took a jeepney to the UPLB campus. The jeepney entered the campus gate, turned right, and when I saw the Church Among the Palms, a very old and familiar landmark, I got off the vehicle. Checking my bearings, I walked towards the Coop. I had to remind myself that the Coop was not where it used to be which was at the basement of the Library, now the Humanities Building. The Coop was now a structure across the road at the back of the former Library. At the Coop I joined up with some brods and after putting on my 10-10-10 souvenir T-shirt, we sauntered to the parade assembly area.

At the Palma bridge a vaguely familiar brod hailed me. "Popoy si Vee ito!" I didn't readily recognize him because the last time I saw him was 25 years or so ago. He was with his brother Boy during a Diliman - LB dual meet. Then he had a beautiful Afro hairdo and was slimmer and darker. We caught up with a few brods from Mindanao and proceeded past Baker Hall, the venue of the Loyalty Day Ball in the days of old. We passed by the former Infirmary across which was the UPLB parade grounds, and then on to the road between the Animal Science Complex and the parade grounds. (The complex was known as the Animal Husbandry Department during our time and there was no road there then.) This was the assigned assembly area and there were like two companies of Infantry huddled in loose groups. As we approached we were greeted by shouts of recognition. This was the biggest assembly of brods and sisters that I have seen and joined in more than half a century of being a Betan. We joined the group and for a few moments I was speechless as I looked at the commotion around me. Brods and sisters were milling around exchanging greetings and shouts of recognitions. Brods were hugging each other, looking for special brods – batch mates, dorm mates and jugalug mates. Some were trying to compress in a few sentences experiences accumulated during years of absence, shouting ribald jokes, insulting each other, punching each other, in a way that only Betan brods could indulge in. Betans from all walks of life were massed on that section of the road that day in October. I saw a millionaire brod hugging a brod recently granted amnesty, and a Consul brod exchanging punches with a farmer from Agusan. Barely audible from the distance was the music of the band to

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**MY JOURNEY TO THE BETAN BROTHERHOOD**

signal the start of the parade. More Betans joined up further swelling our ranks. We started to walk and as we marched along more brods and sisters came to be part of the parade. Some familiar faces showed up - Dakoy Gorrez whom I met diving with Jacques Cousteau in Palawan, Ben Legazpi, and Orly Magistrado (now, as I write this article, Orly has also gone away) from Fine Arts who settled in UPLB. We were cheered as we went along and when we neared the grandstand the emotional high of the entire column peaked until everyone was cheering and shouting hurrahs in unison. When we passed the grandstand I saw people standing up and clapping. I got misty-eyed. I felt so proud to be a Betan. Everyone was taking photos of everyone else and there was continuous clicking and flashing of cameras. An atmosphere of emotional high pervaded the entire column. **I was truly home.**

**Editor's Note:**

*Watch Part 5 of this journey in the forthcoming issue of this newsletter.*

**ORIGIN OF THE "TUMBLEWEEDS"**

Weblink Credit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dATZsuPdOnM>

**Tumbleweeds Rodeo Team Trivia**

The name "Tumbleweeds" was thought of by Brod Albert Chiongbian '59 in the early 60's and since then was used as the name of our rodeo team. The original logo was designed by brod Tony Lu which we are using as our profile pic.

What is tumbleweed? Tumbleweed are formed by uprooted plants in the dry areas or desert that breaks off near the ground and is tumbled about by the wind, thereby dispersing its seeds. Tumbleweed is made up of several plant species that are plentiful in the steppe and the prairie regions. They typically break off from their roots when they are mature and they dry into rounded tangle of branches and tumble before the wind, often covering long distances scattering seeds as they roll along. Most species of tumbleweeds are from the whole plant except the roots while in some other plants, tumbleweeds could be formed from an inflorescence or hollow fruit that could be without the stem and root systems.





**"Malmon Make Love Not War"**  
by Vee de Vera '67

This article refer to two different times or generation of brods but nonetheless they express the same humorous ways of dealing with insults and/or extreme alaskahan bordering on harassment. They are meant to be reactions to certain shocking terms so that the harassing person would not be able to recover from a brod's embarrassing counter move.

My mind has been wading in a pool of thoughts about how best the brods can stand brutal alaskahan without resorting to brutal physical reaction. What I came up with is humorous but has a practical appeal and could be effective.

Read on brods!

***In The Shoes of a 2021 Brod***

The golden rule of alaskahan is - *pag napundi ka, talo ka*. So how do you deal with a rival frat's ultimate alaska against you?

Well, for a start, one must have patience. Timing is everything. We all know that our rival's ultimate "nuclear bomb" (so they thought) was calling us "tae". This label has marinated in our rival's flavored language since the mid 60's up to the present. It was not until recently when I realized that the best retaliation is making the alaska work in one's favor. How? By hurling it back with some shockingly gross explanation. The gross label rivals hurl at us is in fact the same biological matter that they have inside their body! Everybody has it including them! They deal with it every morning. The "tae" they hate is actually living rent free in their own bodies every single moment of their lives! We're inside looking out. Their family has it and their brods have it. It's present in them till the very end.

So how to win the battle of alaskahan? Let them do the talking. Talk is cheap. Just say, "Oh yeah, we're inside you. We're under your pants. When nature knocks, we remind you of us".

So what gives?

Stay safe, I'm behind you always.



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*(Just recently written)*

I'm quite sure every resident brod had experienced how authorities mishandled punitive actions against erring organizations and their individual members. Such mishandling led to confusing reprimands and nearly catastrophic consequences for a fraternity of noble deeds and ideas. But what happened cannot be reversed. Thankfully, we survived.

We are now wiser. We still go to battle and combat and we continue to hone our discipline when we practice martial arts.

We no longer shoot straight from the hip but instead from the lip. So no more physical fights but more of verbal exchanges and hurling insults.

*A common scenario:*

Somehow, rivals enjoy calling us "tae" not realizing that they have it in their bodies. Rather than feeling insulted at being called such, we can weaponize the term and use it against them.

Say, you're passing by a rival group and you hear "amoy tae". Just stop and say, "Paki check ang pwet nyo" then walk away.

*Best case scenario:*

You're in your high school reunion and some of your friends and classmates have joined a rival frat. You also boast of your close buddies that belonged to your frat. All these people are your friends though superiority can always show in certain ways.

A conversation may sound like:

"Oh so pare, how do you feel being called "tae?"

And you would answer, "I feel like I'm staying in your body rent free 24/7."

Expect silence from your friend, then end the friendly banter by asking your friend, "Will you pick me up when I'm down?"

Silence again, then say, "Good night classmate."



## MASTER OF STEALTH AND OWNER OF THE NIGHT

Ninja master of stealth and owner of the night. The most prodigious and fearsome killer. Baloney! Exaggeration! and Hollywood hype! The true master of stealth is the one that attacks the ninja while he is sleeping in his own home. By the time the ninja becomes aware of an attack the culprit is long gone. Yet the effect of the attacks persists and lingers on. It affects the ninja by causing an unimaginable distraction. Distraction so great that even kujikiri, the hand and fingers exercise used by the ninjas to concentrate and focus, becomes impossibly difficult to perform.

I also have numerous encounters with these masters of stealth. The latest encounter occurred last night. It was 2 am and I was already in second stage of sleep when I became aware of the attack. I woke up with numerous welts on my body and extremities. These severely itchy lesions are the only traces of the attacks. They are nowhere to be found. But I knew better and have learned from experience where to look for the culprit. I looked under my mattress and sure enough, saw about 2 scores of the buggers. Most of the culprits hurriedly scampered away but a few of the bloated ones were either too slow or already fast asleep. As I looked down on the assailants, I can imagine their beady eyes staring defiantly and challengingly at me. A cold electric current ran down my spine and my hands started to tremble. I stared back at them and gave them the finger. No, not the middle finger but the index finger, because I started squashing those little hateful buggers with great satisfaction. Later, when I looked under the rubber matting beneath my mattress, I realized that the buggers already possessed my matting and it was beyond redemption. The only course of action was to burn the rubber matting.

Attack from these culprits comes in 3 stages. The first stage is incidental attack from a chance encounter. The second stage is occupation. This happens when the culprit starts to take over your territory or possession. During this stage one can still drive out the invader and reclaim what is yours. However, when one fails to drive out the culprit then the next stage is possession. This occurs when they gain total control of your possession as in the case of my rubber mattress. The only solution is to destroy utterly by incineration the possessed object.



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## **COVID SCARED**

Last July 31, 2021 my daughter in law, who was five months pregnant, went to her obstetrician at a nearby hospital for a regular check-up. She followed the health protocols yet, after two days, she lost her sense of taste and smell and had a slight cold. That was all that happened but scared us no less.

After a week my son, her husband, started coughing, got colds and had fever. He also began to lose his sense of taste and smell. Scarier even and which gave me more fear and anxiety, was their 3-year old, my second grandson, nursing a fever.

My daughter-in-law took only Biogesic. My son used a lot more - Lianhua Quinqen, Ivermectin, Immunopro, Manuka Immune Response, Decolgen and Manuka chewables. My grandson's temperature fluctuated and he was crying from pain. We could not determine where the pain was coming from.

Fortunately for us it helped that we have a CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP (CFC) prayer brigade in addition to family prayers and my grandson's prayers. My grandson knows how to pray before meals and before sleeping. One night after his evening prayers, he told his mom that somebody told him, perhaps an angel, that Jesus Christ was coming to rub oil on him and he would be cured. That was on the third day of his illness. And on that same hour all of their symptoms disappeared as if nothing happened. It was the second time Liam, my grandson, told us of the angel.

***Articles sent by Brod Dr. Stephen Tay from the Big House which were bundled by our author:***

## **JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED**

That was the reason our beloved great leader proposed the speedy trial wherein a court case is supposed to be decided by the judge handling it in 180 days. I was stupid enough to sign up for a speedy trial and my case is far from being decided after four long years. Now, calling the process in our justice system as proceeding at a turtle's pace is an insult to our reptile friends and a great injustice to their speed. How can we have faith in our justice system when even our great leader does not have faith in it? This is the very reason why he resorted to extrajudicial this and extrajudicial that. In short, our great leader became the "summarizer". Reminds me of someone from the far north.

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By the way, do you realize that there are many agriculturists in our country? Most of our government officials specialized in the agricultural technique called **grafting** while most of our police agencies specialized in **planting**. Hoping to become a self-sufficient agricultural country?

### **SUPPORT GROUP**

There are a lot of support groups active in the DCJ annex. Foremost among these groups is Narcotics Anonymous (NA). This group is composed of members whose only objective is to stop the use of drugs. D is an inmate who is in jail for murder. He was so inspired by NA that he laid out his plan to start a support group for killers and murderers. He planned to call his group Killer Anonymous (KA). In movies we have seen how an NA meeting is conducted. Imagine now how a meeting of KA would go.

D: Hi! I am D and I am a murderer. It's been seven months since my last kill. Some nights I still wake up in cold sweat having visions of plunging an ice-cold blade into a warm pumping heart. I can only thank my higher power that these visions are only dreams.

M: Hi D. That is some serious problem you are having; I suggest you talk to your sponsor.

D: But I have already done that.

M: So what did your sponsor say?

D: My sponsor told me to shut up or else he will cut my tongue and slit my throat.

No wonder D's dream of having a support group for killers never materialized. However, if in the future KA does come into existence, I know for sure the name of the organization for their co-dependents. It will certainly be called Victim Anonymous (VA). By the way, I forgot to tell you that D is actually a pro. No, no, not a professional hitman but a *probinsyano*. Actually, D reacted violently to being called a pro claiming he is not in the same league as Coco Martin, his idol. Level lang daw ni Domengsu.

### **Editor's Note:**

*More articles from Brod Dr. Stephen Tay will be published in the forthcoming issue of our newsletter!*