



Dona nobis pacem

SUAF elects officers

SUAF member elected Dec. 9 a new set of officers for 2013-2014, succeeding the administration of **Laarni Catague Gularek** which ends Dec. 31. (Report on page 5)



In photo are the new officers: **Dinah Penaflorida**, vice president, **Julie Jacinto**, president, **Fely Narvaez**, secretary, **Allen Garrido**, treasurer and **John Bandala**, auditor.

Also chosen is Pastor **Teo Tawagon** as the only elected member of the Board of Directors. The existing board is comprised of previous presidents (See OFFICERS page 4)

Members fete Xmas

Members held its annual Christmas party Sunday, Dec. 9 at the community room of the Mira Mesa library.

Fellowship, food, game times, caroling, and family activities ushered the holiday season for San Diego Sillimians.

Grace Tan, social committee chair, and husband **Nate** made short work of the lechon. **Prescy Madrid** refereed the game sessions, while **Cory** and **John Bandala** led the carol- (See XMAS, page 4)

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SD Portal

December 2012

Xtra

Carson years implemented university status for Silliman

American Missionaries
Last in a Series

by Ligaya
Magbanua Simpkins

Arthur L. and Edith S. Carson

1939—1953

The Presbyterian Board approved the election of Dr. **Arthur L. Carson** as the new president of Silliman University in 1939, a year after Silliman had been formally recognized as a university. Dr. Carson obtained a B.S. from the Pennsylvania State College in 1919 (Ag. Ed.) where he was the Holder of the Louise Carnegie Scholarship and was conferred a Ph. D. by Cornell University (1931) in the field of rural education.

His teaching experience was extensive and covered both sides of the globe: Cambridge

High School, PA (1920-21); Pui Ting Middle School, Canton, China (1921-23); Wen Hua Middle School, Wei Hsien, China (1923-26); George Junior Republic, Freeville, NY (1928-29); and, while serving as an agricultural and educational missionary for 18 years in China, he was on the faculty of Cheeloo University in North China (1931-1939).

The Carsons arrived at Dumaguete as Silliman was celebrating its 38th Founders Day. They and their children, **Ruth, Robert** and **Jean**, were embraced by the Silliman community and the family quickly adjusted to their strange and new surroundings. Edith Carson helped her husband organize faculty and staff meetings at the president's home as well as potluck suppers to give the faculty an opportunity to socialize.

Armed with an extensive educational background and experience, Dr. Carson immediately addressed the administrative problems facing the university by setting out to revise the Silliman Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, standardize the salary scale for faculty and staff and provide housing for the faculty. Fellowships were made available to faculty members for advanced degrees through continuing education programs at Silliman and in (See CARSONS page 2)



About the Series:

The feature on the Carsons is the last to be carried by *PortalXtra*, the 12th since our January 2012 issue.

Ligaya Simpkins who researched and wrote the series will continue her work on over 150 other fraternal workers. The articles published in this newsletter are only a portion of a book-length publication she hopes to complete in the coming year.

Gaya and husband **Joel** have jointly spent time conducting research and collecting information, archival materials and photographs. During family visits to Dumaguete, they spend more than half the time working on the book project, searching library references and archives and contacting alumni and surviving kin for personal and anecdotal referrals.

Both Gaya and Joel are retired research scientists with Bristol Myers-Squibb Co. (36 years) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, respectively. They have relocated from New Jersey to the San Diego area. Gaya has authored and co-authored 50 scientific publications, and is co-inventor in 12 US and foreign patents.

Gaya has deep Silliman roots, SUES '52, SUHS '56, and a BS Chemistry degree, '61 *cum laude*. She has a M. Sc. Chemistry from The Ohio State University, 1965.

A 1996 Outstanding Sillimian Awardee (OSA) for Chemistry, Gaya received a Fulbright/Smith Mundt grant from the US Educational Foundation in 1962.

Joel also did research for Rutgers University and the NJDEP.

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Manila to meet the need for filling important positions in the university.

Dr. Carson's plans for the future were stated in his "Outline of a Five-Year Plan for Development for Silliman University" with four goals in terms of a university setting: "(1) To achieve high ideals of scholarship and efficiency in the professional fields for which the institution was offering preparation; (2) To inspire and guide successful Christian living; (3) To produce efficient Christian citizens; and (4) To give social



The Carsons during a 1962 Silliman visit. Also seen in photo are Graduate School dean Herman Gregorio, and partly covered by Edith Carson is business manager James Palmore. Behind Dr. Gregorio is Manuel Utzurum.

vision and intelligent desire for social service."

Faculty positions were filled by renowned Filipino professors. New buildings -- a gymnasium, library and an engineering-industrial building-- were added to Hibbard Hall and the Silliman Church. The students saw the implementation of a common first year liberal arts program, demonstration projects for the agricultural program, an extension service allowing community access to the university's resources, and research projects geared to local needs and materials. Loan funds, self-help opportunities and a student guidance service were also extended to the students. All these programs were in place by the time Dr. Carson left Silliman University.

The war years found the Carsons and other Silliman families in Malabo, one of the four evacuation sites identified for the "Jungle University". Studies and fellowship went on despite the shortage of books, food, shelter and clothing and constant danger. Robert Carson, then a teen-ager, recounted exhausting walks, half-cooked meals, leaky roofs, muddy floors and the illnesses they suffered, Robert from dengue and Dr. Carson, malaria. Having eluded capture, the

the Carsons and the Roy Bell family were aided by friends and couriers as they travelled to Bayawan and met up with other American families for rescue by the *USS Narwhal* in February, 1944.

With the war coming to an end in the Pacific theatre, Dr. Carson was appointed in Washington to be the technical adviser in the U.S. Program providing supplies to the liberated areas in the Philippines. The Presbyterian Board, other missionaries and alumni contributed to the prepara-

need.

Ruth was born in Hongkong, China. After growing up in Cheeloo and Silliman, she attended Barnard College in New York City. She married seminary



Dr. Carson, hosting radio talk on DYSR.

student **Charles West** in September 1944 soon after her parents' rescue and return to the United States.

In June 1945, a month before the birth of their first child **Russell** in July, Charles was ordained and both were commissioned as Presbyterian missionaries to China. They arrived in China in March, 1947 and served in Cheeloo University. With the threat of Communist takeover looming in the horizon, Ruth left China with son Russell in March 1949 for the Philippines and served one year on the faculty of Silliman while Charles remained in China. After the family was reunited in Hongkong in June 1950, they served as fraternal workers for three years with the Protestant Churches in Berlin and Mainz, Germa-

tions for the rehabilitation and opening of Silliman. Dr. Robert Silliman facilitated the ordering, packing and shipping of supplies and despite all the difficulties encountered, Silliman University was able to open its doors to the students after the liberation.

Edith S. Carson was a graduate of the Trenton State Normal College and had obtained her A.B. from Cornell University. She had experience teaching in the public elementary and secondary schools in the U.S. and in social settlement work. The University's pilot projects in community development from 1947-1950 were in the barrios of Malabo and Palimpinon and Mrs. Edith Carson, the leading proponent for the Malabo project, organized a number of community development projects with the help of several Silliman faculty and students. The welfare work accomplished through her leadership was recognized in Resolution No. 481, drawn up by the Municipal Board of the City of Dumaguete. In the Silliman University Alumni Bulletin (March, 1953), Mrs. Carson was dubbed "missionary extraordinary" in recognition of her zeal in service for those in



Ruth, shown with Helen Mahy. The Rev. Gordon Mahys were in Silliman from 1949 to 1961.

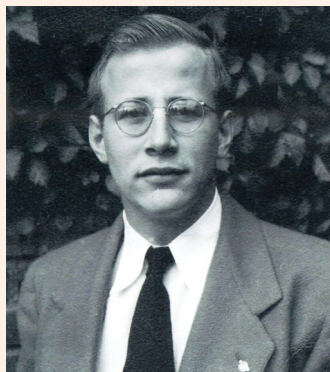
ny, where a second son, **Walter**, was born. A third son, **Glenn**, was born in New York City in 1953. From 1956 to 1961 they served at the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches, a conference and study cen-

Continued next page.

ter which drew Christians from all over the world. In 1961, Charles was called to be professor of Christian Ethics at the Princeton Theological Seminary, a post which he held until his retirement in 1991.

They visited Silliman once more in the summer of 1972. Ruth taught a graduate course in the university and Charles taught ethics in the Divinity School. In 1974, Ruth earned a doctorate in Special Education at Teachers College, Columbia University and taught, among other places, at Monmouth University where, at her retirement in 1990, she was Chair of the Department of Education. They remain active at the ages of 90 and 91.

Robert pursued a medical degree at Reed College (Oregon), where he met his wife, **Beverly**, who provided help and encouragement during his years of studies and work. He had practiced in the field of Psychiatry for a number of years before moving into the upcoming and promising field of acupuncture. He suffered from numerous health problems and spent his last years at the New York Hospital where he had once practiced. Robert died in Valhalla, New York, on Sept. 29, 2007. Beverly lived the remainder of



her life with her older daughter until she passed away. Robert and Beverly are survived by two daughters.

Jean had been born with Turners' Syndrome, a chromosomal disorder yet unknown at that time. With the loving support of her parents and siblings, Jean lived a full and good life. She went to college to study agriculture but ended up pursuing a successful career in occupational therapy. She served as an occupational therapist in many New York Hospitals and in the Peace Corps in Venezuela for three years. She died in 1999 and her ashes are at the First Presbyterian Church in New York City where she had been a deacon.

After leaving Silliman, Dr. and Mrs. Carson returned to live in New York City. Dr. Carson continued to serve the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions and became more involved in the Board's interest in Asia. He travelled to Hong Kong and Taiwan to oversee the construction of two Christian colleges and completed the History of Silliman project as part of his assignment. When he retired from the Presbyterian Board he continued to work for the United Board for Higher Christian Education, and was eventually sent to Manila to assist in the Church World Service in the Philippines which he headed as Director in 1962. He became the first President of Trinity College in Quezon City, serving a term from 1963-1967.



Jean with Dr. Carson.

On their departure in 1953, the retiring president and his wife wrote in a letter quoted in part *"We are grateful for the privilege of having served these years at Silliman. The Philippines is a fair and gracious part of earth... In such a setting Silliman comes to possess a unique character, unique both in the quality of its effort for young people and in the hold it takes upon the heartstring. The face of a student uplifted in the choir in the morning church service, the reunion with alumni and former students wherever we go and the assurance of their contribution of devotion to high ideals and to good citizenship as well as of professional skill-these are rewards one who has once held dear can ever be taken away..."*

Dr. Arthur Leroy Carson passed away in April, 1980, and was preceded in death by Edith Scott Carson in June, 1973. They are buried in a family plot in Tionesta, Pennsylvania.

Ruth Carson West muses *"I think that one could say that in one sense the Carsons never left Silliman. The experience of Silliman guided my father's work for the remainder of his life. He and my mother welcomed many Sillimanians to their New York home, and never missed an opportunity to spend time with them. But I think that gives Silliman a special place as well in the history of Christian Higher Education in Asia, because of the thoughtful leadership of the generation of faculty before us who agreed that leadership in higher education should be shared."*

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Feedback on Series:

These series about the early missionaries were eye-openers to me. I was a student at SU for four years and worked there for another three years. I took subjects from and met some of the later missionaries. But the rest were essentially just names of cottages, buildings, or rooms. The articles gave me a better appreciation of what they have done for Silliman and us.

Oscar Monera

Thank you for sharing with us the history and contributions of these missionaries. We enjoyed reading about the Channons and now the Bells. It is interesting to note that when Rosemary was in Los Gatos, we met her and she attended our SUAANC gatherings. She had a grand time with us as we also enjoyed her presence and participation. Thank you for your efforts and in-depth researches on this project.

Frank and Lorna Beltran

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ing and songs.

Simple décor provided by the association and its members laced the hall, and the spirit of the season filled the air.

Membership sign-ups were undertaken by **Alma Lavergne** and **Allen Garrido**. They also took orders for a chapter fundraiser with the selling of Hometown Buffet tickets consisting of discounted offers for restaurant dining in San Diego establishments.

OFFICERS, from page 1

of the organization.

Permanent board members are: **Amelia Buluran**, **Susan Monte de Ramos Soldwisch**, **Nathaniel Tan**, **Fely Narvaez**, **Sofia Pelias Jodloc**, **Rev. Isaias Paniamogan** and **Miriam Tan Cole**. Current elected members whose terms expire Dec. 31 are: **Mary Olivar Garrido**, **John Olivar** and **Alma Lavergne**.

The current officers headed by **Laarni** complete their two-year terms at year's end: **Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins**, vice president, **Precila Garrido**, secretary, and **Nathaniel Tan**, auditor. **Allen Garrido** returns for another two-year term as treasurer.



Cory and John Bandala leading the singing.

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Christmas Party Pictures, Dec. 9, 2012

How difficult is it to pass a pretzel on a stick? Pretty darn hard.

But it was a lot of fun for Fely's grandkids Emma and Jed Narvaez.



Bert Abelaneda, and Laarni looked amused as son Sean Gularek try the tricky pretzel maneuver with Gaya. Seated in back is guest Bing Cordura.



Hey Nate, how about hurrying up with the carving?

Keeping the spirit alive.

By **Laarni Catague Gularek**
SUAF president, 2011-2012

Merry Christmas, everyone. Once again, we are gathered here for our annual Christmas party. It's also an alumni and friends homecoming. It's great to see all of you and I welcome you all. I want to congratulate the new officers of 2013 – 2014. I wish them the best of luck. For the current executive board, our term will soon be over and I thank you for a productive and phenomenal two years. Hard work and teamwork particularly among a few dedicated, competent and committed members played a role to our success. I'm also thankful for the support from the working committees and their leaders. Each of them--- social, ways and means, membership, scholarship, nominating and election committee, OSA committee, newsletter, website, book and ad hoc committees have given their time and energy to perform their tasks. Our organization has so much potential to be nurtured. We're proud to have accomplished not only the goals of the organization but also contributed to its transformation. We leave behind a legacy of a vibrant and thriving organization.

Our first goal: To maintain and enhance ties with Silliman University, our Alma Mater.

We have several to be proud of. One is the scholarship program. **Jason Tubog**, a student of the College of Business Administration whom we sponsored for 3 years now is the fruit of our labor. He will be graduating in 2013. We are confident that his GPA will qualify him for Cum Laude Honors at graduation. Next, as an active member of SUACONA, we believe and share their mission and vision for Silliman. San Diego has participated in all its teleconferences and Tipon activities. In Tipon 2011 Alaska, San Diego found a new recognition from other alumni organizations who knew little about us when a PowerPoint presentation was submitted depicting our chapter, members, goals and activities. SUACONA has also paved the way for our involvement in the Student Center project by co-sponsoring one of the rooms. The Student Center is the old Oriental Hall dormitory. Students now have access to all student services located in one building. From the 27 chapter members, we are the only chapter that submits a monthly publication of the SD Portal Xtra. It's new and original and its main feature portrays the lives, families and services of the missionaries and fraternal workers of Silliman. The feedback has been amazing. It has rekindled memories among the alumni who knew the missionaries and their families. It has also received support and endorsement from President Ben Malayang. A historical display was created in their honor at the SU library and the publication of a coffee table format book with personal reflections will be launched at the next Tipon in 2013. Our members **Gaya** and **Joel Simpkins** have embarked on the idea and worked in this project with the support of the San Diego chapter.

Beginning with the tribute to the missionaries, our chapter has added more milestones in its history. One living missionary, Mrs. **Thelma Appleton**, celebrated her 100th birthday, in Pasadena in February, 2011 and our members were among the first to gather and celebrate with her. Another milestone was reached when we hosted the first visit of a president from Silliman University to San Diego. And finally, we are honored that one of the Outstanding Sillimanian Awards was conferred to our member **Maria Christina R. Esperat** in the field of Nursing Research, Practice, Education and Administration. This was the first of such award in the chapter. A special OSA committee was created to ensure no stone was left unturned for the nomination.

Our second goal: To participate and contribute to the well-being of our communities.

What did we do? Our members were among the volunteers to clean up the San Diego River. We held fundraising drives like the Souplantation and Pennies with a Purpose to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities. We sent monetary assistance to the victims of Typhoon

Sendong as well as to the earthquake victims of Guihulngan, Tayasan and Ayungon. Some members also donated clothing to the hurricane Sandy victims in the North East US. Our latest contribution to the community was the book presentation in October. It was our 4th and the biggest presentation ever in terms of attendance and donations of Filipiniana books and other materials to the Mira Mesa library. Another of our successful fundraisers is the Hometown Buffet campaign.

Our third goal: To foster fellowship and mutual support among Silliman University alumni, their family and friends.

It is equally important to keep the morale and maintain the camaraderie of our members. Every year, we hold our summer picnic and Christmas party. This summer, we introduced the first Silliman Olympics, a friendly competition of Pinoy games between the San Diego and the LA chapters. In addition, members take tours and field trips for fun and fellowship to the Flower Fields in Carlsbad, apple picking in Julian, a movie, or a trip to Catalina Island. We've also visited our sick members and remembered those who died.

Goals are one thing. Laws are another. We must adhere to our organization's by-laws and to the changing federal and state laws for our organization to succeed and maintain our status as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Rightfully so, we were suspended many years ago for failure to file. Now that we are back to active status, it is imperative that we pay more attention to the law requirements. The current executive board has diligently reviewed the bylaws and has endorsed interim amendments relevant to the duties of officers, audit, fundraising, and tax filings in government agencies to keep the organization sound, robust and compliant.

Finally, our advice to the new officers. Read the bylaws, understand it and adhere to its provisions. It's empowering and vindicating.

At this time, I would like to recognize the members for their outstanding service to the organization. These members have stood out from the many members that also had their share of service.

Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins – for her exceptional accomplishments and unmeasured dedication and devotion to the principles and ideals of Silliman University Alumni and Friends of San Diego 2011-2012.

Gaya has consistently advocated following the by-laws and state laws for good reasons. She also wears many hats. She is the chairman/co-chairman of the Ways and Means, Scholarship and OSA committees. She writes articles in the newsletter and was responsible for carrying the bulk of the books from the Philippines to San Diego for the book presentation.

Fely Tan-Narvaez - for her untiring service, her loyalty and friendship to Silliman University Alumni and Friends of San Diego 2011-2012. For years, she has played a major role in keeping the organization together.

Oswald Esperat – for his dedicated service and efforts where they counted most. Oswald has been a member for two years but his service and dedication are unmeasured. As editor in our SD Portal Xtra, he has consistently met all expectations. He is also an advisor on legal matters. Although he resides in Texas, it has not stopped him from being involved.

Ben Sy - for his dedicated service and efforts where they counted most. A "friend" not alumnus is recognized for his service and efforts. For years, Ben has been the life of our parties by introducing one of-a-kind games. He has also participated in our community activities by reading to school children. His most recent contribution was being the master of ceremonies in our book presentation and his ideas for the event. He was also influential in getting Mayor **Bob Filner** as our guest speaker.

Thank you. May God continue to bless us and our new officers as they carry on the vision and mission of SUAF.

(This valedictory was given by Laarni Gularek, outgoing SUAF president, during the Christmas Party, Dec. 9.)