

## Interest perks up on series on missionaries

Last month's feature on the **Gordon Mahy** family, first in a series by **Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins** on American missionaries who served on the Silliman campus, has resulted in a stream of contacts for the author as she expands coverage on her research. (See *SERIES* next page)

### Members' milestones

#### Dinah heads SUCNAAI

SUAF member **Dinah Bibaoco Penaflo** is the new president of SUCNAAI, the international organization of Silliman nursing graduates outside the Philippines.

Silliman University College of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. holds its first US conference in Las Vegas March 21 to 24 at the Tropicana. Alumni nurses from all over the US have indicated participation in the combination conference and reunion where SU President **Ben Malayang** will also speak.

SUCNAAI previously was moderated by former SUCN faculty **Amy Rivera Vierich** (Los Angeles). It has now been transformed into a national (US) organization with alumni members across the US. The March event is co-sponsored with AAPINA (Asian American and Pacific Islander Nursing Association).

SUAF members expected to attend are **Amelia Buluran, Tenette Esperat** and **Fely Narvaez**.

Las Vegas is also the venue reunion of SUHS '70 Feb. 24—27. **Laarni Gularek** will attend.

### On to Canada

It will be a sad day next month for SUAF to bid long-time members **Veronica (Pinili) and Josedoro Garroville** as they move to Canada and retirement. Vivien and Jojo join daughter **Ann May** and husband **Samuel Malayang** in Alberta.

San Diego residents since 1996, they will alternate between Canada and the Philippines in their travels. Not a few SUAFers will forget the tango lessons the Garrovillos have shared with fellow members. We will miss you.



### Chapter activates book project

SUAF's book committee has the library project rolling again, following chapter approval Jan. 21 and providing funds and logistics for the book campaign.

The drive to provide books and media donations for the Mira Mesa library is chaired by **Mary Garrido**, assisted by **John Olivar**, and an expanded group of **Sonia Sheeks, Precy Garrido, Miriam Cole, Dinah Penaflo, Ligaya and Joel Simpkins, Fely Narvaez, Amelia Buluran, Teo Tawagon** and chapter president **Laarni Gularek**.

Consultants Revs. **Isaias Paniamogan** and **Jose Jacinto** have been involved with the on-going project since its inception in 1996.

Fund solicitations and book donations will augment the library's Philippine Heritage Collection.

Committee members took inventory of the materials Jan. 28 and will collaborate with librarian **Teresita Flores** in assessing needs and resources for the collection.

The chapter approved an initial fund of \$1000 and will conduct an aggressive

(See *BOOK* next page)

Silliman University Alumni & Friends @ SD

SD Portal Xtra

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American Missionaries  
2nd in a Series

### James and Ethel Chapman

1916—1950

#### Missionary of the Microscope

by Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins

The growth of Silliman Institute was marked each year by auspicious events and 1916 was no exception. That year marked the inauguration of the new Science building and the arrival of the Chapmans from Boston with 10 compound microscopes to add to the instruments assembled by other pioneer science teachers.



Dr. James and Ethel Chapman

Thus, Dr. **James W. Chapman** became known as the "Missionary of the Microscope".

Dr. Chapman's interest in nature led to an M.A. (Park College, 1907) and a Doctor of Science in Economic Entomology (Harvard University, 1913). This educational background along with his teaching experience in Physics and Biology, work experience at the USDA and work as a Boston City Entomologist, brought a new dimension of teaching and research to Silliman.

Upon his arrival, Dr. Chapman began to serve Silliman in various capacities. He took charge of the Department of Science and was the Head of the Biology Department for many years. In 1918, after consultation by Dr. Chapman with the faculty of the University of the Philippines, the pre-medical curriculum was established, necessitating the addition of organic chemistry and qualitative analysis to his teaching load which already included biology, zoology and comparative anatomy.

He took on the roles of being a Sunday School superintendent, elder in the church, bible teacher, and served as Dean of Graduate School (1935-1941) and Dean of the College of Science (1946-47), all while serving as the vice-President of Silliman from 1937 until his retirement in 1950.

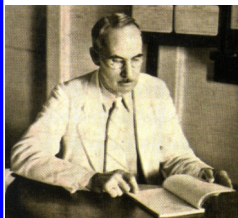
**Ethel Robinson Chapman** graduated from Park College in 1907, *magna cum laude*, specializing in Mathematics and Science. At Silliman, however, she was drawn into the field of English when she was (See *CHAPMANS* next page)



## Chapmans ...

asked to take over an English class, teach the history of Education and work out a course study where the only textbook available was a small volume of Bacon's essays. Having gained a reputation for excellence and being a master teacher in English Composition and Literature and the Literature of the Bible, Silliman University conferred its first honorary degree in 1950 — Master of Arts, *honoris causa* — to Ethel Chapman in recognition of her career as a missionary teacher.

The Chapmans survived the war years under extremely difficult circumstances in a Japanese concentration camp near Manila. Upon their return in 1947, Dr. Chapman personally supervised the rehabilitation of the science departments of Silliman.



Dr. Chapman had also acquired fame for his ant collection. With only 76 species of Philippine ants known then, he successfully identified over 500 species of ants, 150 of which were new. His list of ants of Asia was published by the Institute of Science and Technology before his retirement after which he continued his correspondence with fellow entomologists around the world.

Friends and former students established the James W. Chapman Research Foundation upon his retirement to encourage "research in the fields of knowledge of value to society, industry and government". When Mrs. Chapman died unexpectedly after her retirement, her husband and children **James Robinson, John A. and Katherine**, established the Ethel Chapman Scholarship in her memory.

One colleague wrote "*Whatever Ethel Chapman did, it was done quietly with no thought of praise...but with a real desire to help*".

After 34 years at Silliman, the community's sentiments were expressed in the dedication of the 1950 Portal yearbook: "*With their retirement, Silliman loses able minds, noble hearts. We, the students, shall miss firm but gentle guiding hands —two great teachers — and two great friends.*"

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The following books were used as references:

Carson, Arthur L. *Silliman University, 1910-1959*

Lauby, Paul, Proceso Udarbe and Jennifer Lauby, *Clouds By*

*Day and Fire By Night: The Silliman Story*

## Series ...

An email from **President Ben Malayang** lends impetus to a project which when completed will recall the services of fraternal workers and their families and document their contributions to Silliman.

President Malayang wrote: We will begin with two thrusts – historical visual displays in the Library, and then developing a coffee table format book with personal reflections from those fortunate to know them".

SU has created a working committee at Silliman to collect scanned and printed archival pictures and which will ultimately collaborate with Gaya. It is chaired by Professor **Carlos Magtolis, Jr.** Gaya hopes to work with the committee when she and Joel travel to Dumaguete next month.

Gaya has heard from **Ruth Carson West** and Drs. **George and Jan Beran**, and recently connected with Drs. **Leland and Lily Chou** who served in Silliman from 1964 to 1973. She is in communication with the **Smuckers, Macks, Laubys and Elwoods.**

"The years are beginning to take their toll on our collective memories, and most especially on these selfless individuals and families", Gaya explained. "They left a part of them in us as students and on Silliman as an institution we all shared one common affinity."

*SDPortalXtra* will feature next issue the Berans who will undertake a return "mission" to Silliman this coming August.

Gaya is requesting readers to help her collect information about any missionary or fraternal worker and provide her with leads for possible contacts. "Even the children in these families are now long in years... we are looking at fading memories. It can only be too late if we don't do something now", she added.

Email Gaya at [simpkins1922@att.net](mailto:simpkins1922@att.net). Or provide a phone number so she can get back to you.

**Joel** works on the pictures submitted or shared. These will all be safely returned.

## Relief for typhoon, quake

The typhoon *Sendong* relief effort involving the Silliman community and alumni around the world received support from SUAF as a chapter and from members' individual donations.

President **Laarni Gularek** reported that SUACONA which spearheaded the campaign among alumni chapters raised over \$9000.

SUAF has started a similar fund-raising drive to benefit the Feb. 6 earthquake victims. The hometowns of **Laarni, Precy Garrido and Chona Maribao** were affected.

### SUAF notes: guests and members

SUAF welcomed **Omar Hiponia** and his mother as guests to the Jan. 21 quarterly meeting. Omar, SUHS '80 and '84 mass communication grad, is a former SUAF member who recently returned to Chula Vista. **Apolinaria Hiponia**, Theology '55, taught at Silliman and currently resides in Los Angeles.

New member **Robert Gottlieb**, lawyer from Menifee signed on as "Friend" during the meeting.

### A memory of Christmas past

Hard to resist, but if you missed the Christmas party last December, eat your heart out.



### Book...

campaign for cookbooks, print and media materials on culture, history, tourism and dances, and Bibles (preferably in Tagalog). The drive received initial book donations from alumnus **MacArthur Corsino** and member **Len Pellettieri**.

A major committee goal is to create a list of recommended media for acquisition and a process to formally acknowledge donors and sponsors for their participation in the campaign, likely in October during Filipino American History month.

Treasurer **Allen Garrido** also presented the financial report during the meeting.

The quarterly meeting was held at the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa branch library.

### SUAF board meeting

Saturday Feb. 18, 11:30am at Roberto's, Mira Mesa. **Amy Buluran** presiding.

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