



Prexy Laarni reports, cites accomplishments

In her year-end report to members, SUAF president **Laarni Gularek** thanked members and highlighted areas of accomplishments achieved during 2011.

She listed continuing support for Silliman University and alumni affairs, community outreach projects, member activities, fundraising campaigns and during the year hosting alumni and friends visiting San Diego including President **Ben Malayang** and wife **Gladys**, and Rev. **Nihal Attanayake**, director of the United Universalist Church of the Philippines (UUCP) who completed theological training at Silliman University.

Laarni also revealed future plans to be discussed during the first meeting scheduled for Jan. 21.

SUAF@SD has provided solid support to the Silliman University Alumni Council of North America (SUACONA), recently funding one of the rooms in the newly-established Silliman Student Center. The chapter also sponsors a scholar at SU, **Jason Tubog**.

Members are active in San Diego campaigns for the environment, participating in community clean-up drives and supporting charity campaigns for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego. The chapter also answered the call for assistance to victims of typhoon *Sendong*. Fundraisers included the induction dinner dance in February and the Souplantation and Pennies for a Purpose drives.

The chapter arranged activities throughout the year for members to share outings such as a field trips to the Carlsbad Flower Fields and apple- (Next page, Report)

Silliman University Alumni & Friends @ SD

SD Portal Xtra

Monthly Bulletin

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Christmas fellowship 2011

SUAF marked its annual Christmas party Saturday Dec. 10 at the fellowship hall of the First Congregational Church of Perris.

Guest speaker during the event was Dr. **Elsa Penaranda-Ang**, retired US Navy physician and president of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Miramar chapter. Dr. Ang's father as well as sister Flor obtained degrees from Silliman University.

SUAF members in photo are shown with Dr. Ang (seated left), Pastor **Isaias Paniamogan**, **Amy Buluran**, **Fely Narvaez** and **Laarni Gularek**.

Spreading holiday cheer

Christmas 2011 meant more just caroling as an event for SUAF members, an annual weekend activity that starts mid-November when members take time to spread goodwill and Christmas cheer.

The caroling also raised money to fund a chapter project: the Filipino Heritage Collection at the Mira Mesa Library.

The SUAF choral ensemble made rounds of Filipino area homes and offices and were treated to holiday dinners by several hosts including **Bonette** and **Romy Cruspero**, **Amy Buluran** and **Rebecca** and **Rosben Majam**.

SUAF@SD Officers and Committee Chairs: 2011-2012

Laarni Catague Gularek, *president*; **Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins**, *vice-president*;

Precila Fabugais Garrido, *secretary*; **Allen Garrido**, *treasurer*;

Nathaniel James Tan, *auditor*

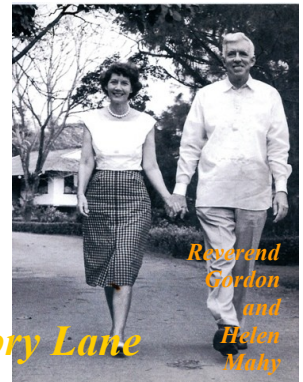
Board of Directors:

Amelia Hernandez Buluran, **Nathaniel James Tan**, **Fely Tan Narvaez**, **Rev. Isaias Paniamogan**; *at large*: **Mary Olivar Garrido**, **Alma Pinili Lavergne**, **John Olivar**, **Susan Monte de Ramos Soldwisch**, **Miriam Cole** and **Sofia Pelias Jadloc**.

Committee chairs: Membership: **Alma Lavergne**; Social: **Grace Tan**; Ways and Means: **Ligaya Simpkins** and **Fely Narvaez**; Budget: **Nathaniel Tan**; Publication/Website: **Fely Narvaez**; Book: **Mary Garrido**; Scholarship: **Pastor Isaias Paniamogan** and **Ligaya Simpkins**; OSA, **Dinah Penaflorida** and **Ligaya Simpkins**; Nomination/Election: **Pastor Paniamogan**; ByLaws: **Amy Buluran** and **John Olivar**.

SUAF General Meeting:
Saturday Jan. 21, 11am to 2pm
Place: Serra Mesa/Kearney Mesa
Branch library

American
Missionaries
A Series



Memory Lane

Out of their missionary zeal, they came to Silliman, stayed, and raised families. They also left lasting influences on Silliman University -- to the institution and to the students and faculty and staff who were blessed with their services, encouragement and fellowship. They were American missionaries who chose to live their lives in a country other than their own -- on a familiar campus by the sea. Beginning with this issue, under a series undertaken by **Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins**, *SDPortalXtra* will feature one such missionary family in the hope that their contributions can be revisited, appreciated and remembered again.

In December, President **Ben Malayang** indicated that Silliman University would eventually like to undertake this project in partnership with SUAF@SD and Ligaya and will provide resources for such a compilation work. He also endorsed a plan to set up an appropriate display in the library at Silliman with audio access to (Next page, Missionaries)

... Report

picking in Julian, the joint Silliman FD picnic at the SD embarcadero with the alumni chapter in Los Angeles, and a nostalgic visit in Pasadena with **Thelma Appleton** on her centenary birthday.

SUAF also created a new committee to participate in the Outstanding Sillimian Award program.

The chapter has maintained a sound and healthy coffer during the year. Financial records are available to members upon written request.

Laarni also chose in her annual report to recognize a few members for effort during the year and contributions to the chapter – **Ligaya Simpkins, Fely Narvaez, Amy Buluran, Oswald Esperat, John Olivar**, and citing **Alma Lavergne** and **Precy Garrido** as “rising stars”.

Future projects and activities include an outing to Santa Catalina Island and initiating a sports competition with SUASC (alumni chapter in Long Angeles), a possible casino fundraiser, and partnering with Silliman University on a book/compilation project to honor missionaries and their families.

Copy of Laarni's report is available at our website.

... Missionaries

collected information about these exceptional missionary families.

Initial work by Ligaya has yielded contacts with some families and/or surviving family members with offers to provide updated information and to supplement the limited written references on these families. We request readers that if you have **any** information direct or anecdotal, primary or secondary, or any knowledge about these families to please email Ligaya at simpkins1922@att.net and provide her a phone number for convenient contact. **Tressa Mahy Mangum** helped us with information about her parents.

Theirs were familiar names for those who studied at Silliman from 1940 to 1970 (or even earlier) – for example, the Berans, the Macks, the Munns, the Palmores, the Pfeifers, the Laubys and others. Join us on this project by helping us remember them all.

This issue — the Mahys. Next, we will feature the extended tenure at Silliman of Dr. **James** and **Ethel Chapman**.

Rev. Gordon and Helen Mahy: 1949—1961

Rev. **Gordon** and **Helen Mahy** came to Silliman with their five children, **Don, Carol, Helen (Popsie), Ken** and **Tressa** in 1949. The Mahys were Presbyterian missionaries in Tsingtao until the Communists took over China.

Gordon served as minister of Silliman University Church in 1952-53, taught English and at the College of Theology. Blessed with an excellent singing voice, he sang with university choral groups. Rev. Mahy also served in the University Cabinet representing the religious departments and interests.



A love for English literature led to a B.A. degree in 1924 and a masters degree in 1926 from the University of Pennsylvania. He received a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and later was awarded a Doctor of Divinity at Lewis and Clark College (Portland, OR).

“Tio Gordo” was well known for his story-telling program at DYSR featuring kids on campus. He loved reading aloud to his wife in that well-known booming voice.

Helen Mahy, a graduate of Wilson College (Chambersburg, PA), worked at DYSR, the Christian Broadcasting station that Silliman had started, serving as one of the directors, writing scripts for programs and other duties.

In 1961, the Mahys left Silliman partly because of health issues and returned to Warren Wilson College (Asheville, NC). He previously served as campus minister there during the war years and resumed teaching there until his retirement.

Dr. Mahy passed away in 1988. Helen Mahy remained in North Carolina with family members until her peaceful death in 2001.

While at Silliman, the Mahy children were active in school sports and in many music programs. The Mahys' love of music was well known to friends and neighbors who listened to music wafting from their home.

Don became a fine artist and ended up teaching art in the small college of Mars Hill (NC). He died at a fairly young age from cancer. Carol, the family historian, went to Princeton Theological Seminary as did Tressa. Carol is presently active in prison ministry. Popsie (Helen), involved in campus ministry for years following graduation from Union Seminary (Richmond, VA), works for a large business in the Philadelphia area.

Kenneth studied music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton and continues to compose. He has published many pieces and his music has been sung around the country. Tressa married a fellow seminarian, **Rob Mangum**, who was in church ministry for 30 years before retiring. Tressa has been working at the University of Colorado the past 15 years (currently in the office of Academic Support and Advising). She continues to be active in the church choir and in the Greeley Chorale.

A classmate wrote Tressa “I know that your family has shown us what God's grace is and we are fortunate through these years to look back and remind ourselves how your parents and you have shown us the face of God.”



Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins

To fellow alumni: If you would like to add to this write-up (and to forthcoming features on other missionary families) with personal recollections or shareable pictures/materials, please contact me.

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