

SUAF scholar gets cum laude

Jason S. Tubog obtained his bachelor in accountancy degree, *cum laude*, during this month's commencement at Silliman.

He becomes the first student supported by SUAF to complete his college education.



A resident of Masap-lod Sur, Dauin, Jason

earned his scholarship for the last three years, consistently making the Dean's List since his sophomore year and earned Class Honors during his college years.

"I may not know all the members of SUAF @ San Diego who contributed to my scholarship fund, but allow me to thank each and every one of you", he wrote to **Ligaya Simpkins**. Gaya, along with past president **Laarni Gularek** and treasurer **Allen Garrido**, was instrumental as scholarship committee chair in arranging for the financial grant.

In congratulating Jason for his accomplishment, Gaya wrote that "your successful journey will inspire SUAF @ SD to continue the tradition of helping needy and deserving students achieve their dreams at Silliman".

"You have made a difference in my life", Jason wrote. "Thank you for sharing your resources to send someone, although not a relative of yours, to this prestigious university. I will use my skills and talents to make a difference to others, as you did for me, to bring honor to Silliman and a sense of pride to your organization as one of your scholars", he added.

The scholarship program was initiated during the term of Pastor **Isaias Paniamogan** as president.

Silliman University Alumni & Friends @ SD

SD Portal

March 2013

Xtra

New officers take helm for '13-'14

The new officers of the Silliman University Alumni and Friends of San Diego Chapter for the 2013-2014 term were installed in an impressive ceremony and dinner dance at the MCAS Miramar Officers Club Ballroom, on March 23, 2013.

The officers were presented by **John Olivar**, and sworn into office by Atty. **Manuel Abellon**, president of the Negros Oriental Association of America.

The new officers: president – **Julia Datuin Jacinto**; vice-president – **Dinah Bibaoco-Penafiorida**; Secretary - **Fely Tan-Narvaez**; treasurer - **Allen Garrido**; and auditor - **John Bandala**.

Also inducted were the members of the Board of Directors: **Amelia Hernandez-Buluran**, **Susan Monte de Ramos-Soldwisch**, **Nathaniel Tan**, **Fely Tan-Narvaez**, **Sofia Pelias-Jadloc**, **Isaias Paniamogan**, **Miriam Tan-Cole**, **Laarni Catague-Gularek**, and **Teogenes Tawagon**.



2013-2014 officers taking oath before Atty. Abellon

More pictures on page 3

Two messages of inspiration and challenge were heard this night: the one from the incoming president, **Julia Jacinto**, which laid out a program for the future – including continued giving toward Silliman University's special needs, scholarships to students, and a closer association with alumni chapters in this country.

The other message, one of inspiration, was delivered by the speaker, **Jose Luis Alvarado**, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Education at San Diego State University, who was introduced by **Jose Jacinto**, one-time professor at Silliman. Dr. Alvara-

See *NEW*, page 2



Getting connected

In *PortalXtra*'s February issue, Dr. **Joe Jacinto** called upon readers (especially SUAF members) to share and bare their links to Silliman, and through our newsletter we anticipate to reconnect memories from the past to what we are today.

There is a notion that every man on earth can be linked to another by six degrees of separation, and even a popular game was developed by linking any film actor to **Kevin Bacon** in no more than six connections (or chains). Our goal is to hear from our readers about themselves and then we try to "re-connect" them to other Sillimanians we know -- by simply reading our newsletter. In a sense, because of the affinity we all share with Silliman University, it is not necessary to go to all the six degrees – one or two "chains" will suffice, as some examples below will indicate. Coincidentally, Professor Jacinto provides a direct link. And so does previous SUAF vice president **Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins**.

Tonette Geary, president of the Chicago-area alumni chapter, writes that she remembers the Jacintos: "Dr. Jacinto was my professor in philosophy, and I remember well his square-

See *CONNECTED* page 2

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CONNECTED, continued

dancing talents”. Tonette, SU student **Antonia Guatelara** during those pre-disco times, graduated from the college of nursing in 1965, along with **Beth Apostol** who with husband **Joel Rodriguez**, now reside in Los Angeles. “I remember Ma’am Julie from our nursing years, and met brother **Rudy Dautin** during a reunion in 1998”. There, an email from one reader, and we are able to “connect” at least six Sillimanians.

Another reader response came from **Felella Millman**, “**Daday**” **Kiamco** during her Silliman years as a student nurse, and is currently president-elect of the alumni chapter in New York-New Jersey. Dr. Millman, who is nursing director at Seton Hall University College of Nursing, remembers Gaya (last of the SUAA NY-NJ and now having served as SUAF chapter vice-president when she and husband **Joel Simpkins** retired west to San Diego).

Making similar connections was a reader response from OSA awardee **Eusebio Kho**, MD who recalled having met SUAF vice-president **Dinah Penaflorida** during Tipon 2011 in Alaska. Dr. Kho expressed thanks for the *American Missionaries* series by Ligaya Simpkins published last year in this newsletter.

Dr. Kho mentions the fact that he was a Masonic brother to Gaya’s father, Engr. **Juanito Magbanua** who taught for years in the engineering faculty and chaired SU’s Board of Trustees (1982-86). Gaya’s brother **Johnny Magbanua** is a fellow medical graduate of the UP College of Medicine as Dr. Kho (completed pre-med at Silliman) and is now consulting physician at SUMC. Dr. Kho remembers having taken Advanced Bible under Dr. Jacinto (1954-55), and a fellow classmate was **Agustin Pulido** who later became university president. This was before the Jacintos got married, and Dr. Kho adds he befriended Julie’s brother during their high school and pre-med years at Silliman, including subjects under Prof. **Dioscoro Rabor**.

There are enough links in the names mentioned above for our readers to make new “connections”. We could not have made this any easier but for the welcome email responses. We encourage readers to do the same. A Sillimanian does not need all those six degrees of separation to find connections. One email can do that.

Meet the new SUAF lead team

Julia Jacinto and **Dinah Penaflorida** will be supported by a new team during the next two years.

Fely Narvaez as secretary previously served as president for two non-consecutive terms. She goes back to years on campus — SUES in 1953, SUHS in 1957, and BSN in 1962.

Allen Garrido tacks in another term as treasurer. He also has deep Silliman roots — high school and engineering. He is married to alumna **Precila Fabugais**, SUHS 1977, BS in Medical Technology 1983 and BSN 1988. They reside in Valley Center, a San Diego suburb.

John Bandala new as auditor is BS in Agriculture, 1964. He and wife **Cory** lives in San Diego.

Teogenes Tawagon, BS Theology 1995 is the only elected member of the chapter board of directors. The others are past chapter presidents.



*Fely
Allen
John
Teogenes*

Chapter donates to SUCN

In a letter to SUCN dean Dr. **Florenda Cabatit**, SUAF @SD president **Julia Jacinto** presented a \$300 donation to assist an SUCN faculty member pursue advance education in memory of **Carmen Saavedra Andico Esperat**, mother of member **Oswald Esperat**.

SUAF donated \$200 and \$100 came from personal contributions from **Fely Tan Narvaez**, **Dinah Penaflorida**, **Priscilla Gallardo Madrid**, all three SUCN graduates, and **Julia Jacinto** who served as nursing librarian in the SUCN.

The late Dr. Esperat who served as regional chief of elementary education for DEC Region VIII in Tacloban City until her retirement, passed away February 7 in Zamboanga City.

New ‘apo’ for Sue and Bill

The third month of the year brought **Susan** and **William Soldwisch** their third granddaughter, **Teagan Harper Jovenal Soldwisch**, born March 20 to son **Jon** and wife **Gwen** at Cedars-Sinai Hospital.

Sue and Bill commute between California and Negros Oriental where two “apos” **Zara** and **Layla** by daughter **Shana** and husband **Ky Johnson** are with their parents in Manila.

NEW, continued

do’s theme was that higher learning was not only to be desired, but is within reach of those who have the heart and the strength of purpose to do so. And rewards are not only worth the effort of those who strive and succeed; but the world is the better because they have achieved their

goal. Dr. Alvarado’s personal story was not only inspiring; its message was “You can do it!”

SU president **Ben Malayang**, III, called SUAF @SD as “one of the more active alumni chapters around the globe” in his message to the chapter.

Overall coordinator of the event was BOD chair **Amy Buluran**.

SUAF has a membership roster of 85 Sillimanians and Friends.

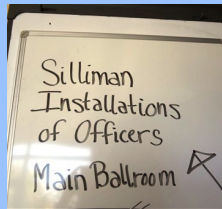
In its souvenir program, the chapter remembered members who have passed away: **Zosimo Jadloc**, **Jerry** and **Carol de la Paz**, **Mrs. Limpinado**, **Pamela Catague** and **Manny Narvaez**.



Dr. Alvarado

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SUAF@SD Induction of Officers, 2013-14



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Miramar Officers Club
San Diego, California

