

DOUGLAS AND BETTIE ELWOOD

(1960-1972; 1978-1990)

Dr. **Douglas Elwood** and his wife, **Bettie**, were appointed by the Presbyterian Board to teach at Silliman University. They arrived on campus in 1960 with their children **Brian Douglas** and **Dorothy Colleen** for what would be the start of 21 years of service at Silliman University.

Douglas Elwood was educated at Wheaton College (BA, 1947), obtained a Master of Divinity at Princeton Seminary in 1951 and a Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) in 1953. His previous appointments as organizing minister of the Highland Presbyterian Church in Maryville, TN (1954-1959) and campus chaplain and chairperson of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the Missouri Valley College (Marshall, MO, 1959-1960) bear testimony to the intellectual guidance he provided the Silliman community.

During his years of service at Silliman, Dr. Elwood served as philosophy and religion professor and department chairman in the College of Arts and Sciences, professor of theology and ethics at the SU Divinity School and professor of South East Asia Graduate School of Theology, and Interim Minister of Silliman Church. He also served as department chair for Religious Studies during the 1963-64 school year. In 1978, he was appointed Director for Graduate Studies for the Divinity School, and in 1986, he was chosen "Outstanding Teacher of the Year".



Dean's conference

Dr. Elwood is shown to the left of Dr. Proceso Udarbe at rear center.

While at Silliman, Dr. Elwood co-authored with **Patricia Ling Magdamo** a textbook for classes in Bible entitled "*Christ in the Philippine Context*". He also wrote other books, among which are "*Alternatives to Violence, Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Filipino People Power*" and "*The Crisis of An Idea, Some Implications for the Philippines of Europe's Anti-Communist Revolution*". His book "*Theology of People Power*" was awarded the Best Book of the Year by the Catholic Press in 1989.

Dr. **Bettie Carroll Elwood** was educated at Maryville College, Maryville, TN (B.A., 1956). She obtained a Masters in Developmental Psychology at Columbia University, New York City (1966), did graduate study in Community Service Education at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (1971-72) and was conferred a Ph.D. in Educational Foundations by the University of the Philippines in 1979. She became (See **ELWOOD** page 2)

American Missionaries
5th in a Series

The Elwoods, they keep serving...

21 years at Silliman

By **Ligaya M. Simpkins**



Silliman University Alumni & Friends @ SD

SD Portal **Xtra**
May 2012

OSA to SUAFer

One of the recipients of this year's Outstanding Sillimian Award is SUAF's nominee, **Maria Christina Roble-Esperat**, according to an announcement recently received by chapter president **Laarni Gularek** from director **Jocelyn de la Cruz** of the office of alumni and external affairs of Silliman University.

"This is the first time we have successfully nominated a member for the OSA award", Laarni announced. SUAF's OSA committee is headed by **Dinah Bibaoco Penaflorida** and **Ligaya Magbanaua Simpkins**, herself a previous OSA awardee.

OSA is an annual award given to alumni by Silliman University and is both a national and international search spearheaded by alumni chapters who nominate members. The award is presented during Founders Day festivities in August.

Tenette Esperat is a Silliman high school and nursing graduate, SUHS '61, BSN '68 and MA nursing '69. She taught at one time with the SU College of Nursing faculty, and has returned on campus the last few years to handle workshops and seminars at (See **OSA** page 2)



Tenette Esperat

PortalXtra is published monthly
by SUAF@SD in San Diego, CA.

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an instructor in Child Development at the College of Education and served as the organizing Chairman and Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of Arts and Sciences. She also founded and became the organizing Director of the Center for Women's Studies and Development.

A simple plea from a fellow missionary for help at a shelter for street children resulted in a profound change of direction for Bettie's life journey. She not only found herself working and teaching Sunday school at the shelter, but also had to redirect her energy towards the development of an intern program at the university to promote work at the shelter. She eventually gave up her teaching duties at Silliman to focus her time at the shelter, serving as Executive Director for the Dumaguete City Shelter for Homeless Children (Peace Shelter) and as a charter member of the Board of Directors for the shelter.

Brian and Colleen are well remembered by friends and classmates, having been deeply involved in church and other extracurricular activities at Silliman. Brian graduated from the Ateneo de Manila with a degree in Philosophy. Later he earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Tennessee. Brian now teaches Philosophy and World Religions, Logic and Ethics at



Colleen performing with Silliman icon Prof. Albert Faurot during good old times.

Pellissippi State College (Knoxville, TN) and Tennessee Wesleyan College (Athens, TN). He married **Gloria Arnaiz**. Their daughter, **Aletheia**, is presently a student at Silliman University.

Colleen has an M.M. in Music Pedagogy from Northwestern University (Illinois) and teaches

piano and creative dance in Alabama. Her daughter, **Charlotte**, recently received a scholarship at Tufts University (Boston) where she will begin to attend in Fall 2012.

The Elwood family grew in Dumaguete with the births of sons **Philip** and **Christopher** at the S.U. Medical Center. Philip earned his M.A. in International Business from the University of Miami. He and wife **Monica** and their daughters live in Florida where Philip currently works as the Technical Operations Manager for Convergys. He plans to visit Silliman this summer with daughter **Megan**. Christopher and **Tabitha Elwood** and their daughters live in California. Christopher earned a B.A. degree in English and Philosophy from Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. He has a teaching credential from Chapman University in California and teaches in a private Christian preparatory school in Santa Barbara. Christopher is also a tennis pro at the Montecito Valley Club.

In addition to their service at Silliman, the Elwoods also served one term at Tunghai University in Taiwan (1972-1975) and one term at the Union Theological Seminary and St. Andrews Seminary in Manila. They also spent the year in 1966 in New York City where Douglas was a visiting scholar at Union Theological Seminary and Bettie was a graduate student at Columbia

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SUCN. She is currently associate dean for clinical affairs and community engagement of the School of Nursing at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (Lubbock, Texas) where she is CH Foundation Regents professor in rural health disparities. She obtained her Ph.D in nursing in 1990 from the University of Texas at Austin.

"The OSA award reflects on Tenette's career and contribution to nursing research, practice, education and administration", Laarni noted.

Tenette also oversees the operation and funding of TTUHSC's federally-qualified nurse-managed clinic in east Lubbock serving medically-underserved population. She chaired the national organization of nurse-managed clinics from 2006 to 2008 and recently served on the national advisory committee implementing the 2010 recommendations of the Institute of Medicine initiative on the future of nursing in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

In 2004, along with previous OSA awardee **Luz Sobong Porter**, Tenette was inducted a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, becoming the first Philippine-trained nurses to gain the FAAN designation. Beginning in 2005 she served a three-year tenure as executive nurse fellow in RWJF's national program for senior nurse management in public health, clinical administration, and nursing education. She was an adviser for a subsequent RWJF fellow cohort.

Earlier, she sat for five years as member and in the executive board of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Education and Practice which advises the US Health Department secretary and the US Congress on nursing issues. A nurse practitioner, she also taught nursing at Northern Illinois University (DeKalb), Lamar University (Beaumont, Tx), and University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Tenette is a niece of the late SUCN dean **Maria Concepcion Roble**.

University from which she earned an M.A. degree. In 1971-72, Douglas was a research associate in Southeast Asian Studies and Bettie was a graduate student at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

The Elwoods were honorably retired by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1990. At their farewell program, Dr. **Lourdino Yuzon**, Dean of the Divinity School, said of Douglas Elwood: "*As a theological professor, he provided intellectual leadership for the academic community in the University and guided hundreds of students in the task of precise, logical, coherent, biblical and faith-grounded thinking in the field of Christian Theology and Ethics. Yet with the fame and laurels, he has remained a humble, soft-spoken and kindly individual in whom colleagues and students easily find a friend. In his simple lifestyle he exemplifies the kind of Christian life dedicated to reverence for God, the pursuit of truth and service to others, thus giving great honor to Silliman University*".

True to their belief that "*We should be stewards for a lifetime, not just two-thirds of our life*" Drs. Bettie and Douglas Elwood, then and now, remain heavily involved with street children and founded "Little Children of the World" (LCW), an organization (See **ELWOOD** next page)

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with the “Little Children of the Philippines” (LCP) as a branch non-profit corporation and primary recipient. They happily report that they recently observed the 25th anniversary of LCW this year, and that through the help of the mission, hundreds of children were lifted from poverty, with many having gone on to college. **Brigitt Villordon**, one of LCP’s sponsored children, is a tribute to the success of the LCP organization. She is a professor in the Silliman Biology Department and recently received a scholarship for graduate studies in Nice, France and will be working towards a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology.

References:

Drs. Douglas and Bettie Elwood, Personal Narrative, 2012
 Lauby, Paul T., Udarbe, Proceso U., Lauby, Jennifer ,
 “Clouds by Day and Fire By Night: The Silliman Story”
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Chapter puts *fun* into fundraising

Get a card for \$5, sell it for \$10 to someone who will benefit with \$50 worth of buffet dining. This is a new way that SUAF has adopted to raise money among members for its pet projects.

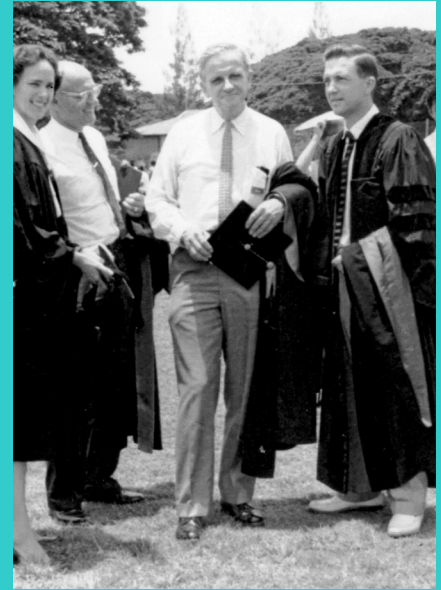
The fund-raising activity was proposed by **Amy Buluran** and was approved April 14 by members. Since then, **Fely Narvaez** and **Allen Garrido** have sold and distributed 50 tickets representing buffet cards accepted in several San Diego establishments including *Hometown Buffet, Country Buffet, Granny’s Buffet, Fire Mountain, Old County Buffet* and *Ryan’s*.

The program will net 50% profit for the organization, **Laarni Gularek** explained.

Every value card is good for four months and usually includes buy one and get one offers on menus served by the participating restaurants.

Members interested in securing more cards may get in touch with **Precy Garrido**.

Memory musings with the Elwoods



The Elwoods flank Dr. Merton Munn and United Board’s Dr. William Fenn.



Jay Dawn Malayang and Colleen with other elementary school children during Palm Sunday; Boy Scout Brian with Riodil Montebon.



◀ We think this archival picture courtesy of the Elwoods can be a memory exercise for our readers. The first reader who can identify correctly all the individuals in the picture will win a general admission ticket to San Diego’s Sea World.*

* Must claim prize in person. Not transferable, but may be donated to SUAF of SD.