

Donors augment *Filipiniana* section in Mira Mesa library

The *Filipiniana* section of the Mira Mesa Library will receive a revitalized collection of Filipino books and media when SUAF turns over a large donation as part of the chapter's community participation to commemorate Philippine-American History Month.

The new Philippine Heritage and Culture book collection will be presented to the public library in a ceremony featuring San Diego US representative **Bob Filner** (SD, HR 51st congressional district) as guest speaker. The presentation is at 1pm, Saturday, Oct. 27 at the library's community room on 8405 New Salem, St., San Diego.

Fely Narvaez chairs the Book committee which initiated the book drive last January among members and friends to gather Philippine-related books and media.

A partial list of donors include: **Senen and Irene Locso, Bonette and Romeo Cruspero, Vivien and Jojo Garrovillo, Jake Jacob, Dr. Elsa Ang, Mr. and Mrs. Dunsmore, Amy Buluran, Emeritus at Clairemont, Dick and Zeny Gonzales, Ernie and Francng Umali, Elvie and Rusty Magsarili;**

Rebecca and Rosben Majam, Len Pellettieri, the Cabanban family, Fely and Manny Narvaez, Hermie and Ma. Menchu Abrigo, Julie and Jose Jacinto, Pastor Isaias and Mila Paniamogan, Oswald Esperat, Joel and Ligaya Simpkins, Margie Penson-Juico, Leilani Chua, and the Philippine Office of Tourism at Los Angeles.

October is Mission Month. In an article entitled "One Body" written by Board of Trustees chair **Leonor Magtolis Briones** last year, she said: "This month the Christian churches are celebrating Mission Month. We reflect on an often neglected and even forgotten mandate to Christians — to spread the gospel and the good news of Christian salvation. Matthew tells us that Jesus commanded his disciples to "go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost..." Paul echoed this when he said in his letter to the Romans "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation...But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see; and they that have not heard shall understand".

Chairman Briones added: "We cannot disappoint the early missionaries who spent all their lives laying the foundations of our beloved institution".



Meeting set October 20

SUAF will hold its quarterly meeting Saturday, October 20 from 11am to 2:30pm at the Paniamogan residence in Perris. Agenda items include consideration of By-Laws revisions. The meeting is called by Pastor **Isaias Paniamogan**, election committee chairman.

A potluck lunch will be provided.

Channon work set stage for SU Divinity School

Rev. Irving and Mary Channon
1921—1931

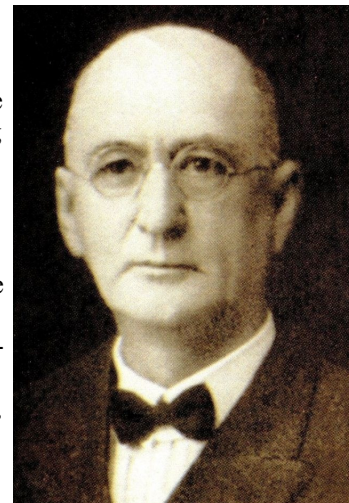
By Ligaya Magbanua
Simpkins

American Missionaries
10th in a Series

The Congregational church had made rapid advances in northern Mindanao and their missionaries began to feel an urgent need for a training school for deaconesses and evangelists in the south who were proficient not only in the use of English but also in the use of their own vernacular dialect.

Divergent views as to where to put up such a school eventually ended in negotiations for a Bible school for evangelists at Dumaguete. The American Board had presented a proposal for Silliman to open a "Department of Bible and Christian training" which promising boys from Mindanao could attend prior to entering the Seminary in Manila. A further compromise was made in 1918 stipulating that the school for future deaconesses and kindergarten teachers to be located in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental (now Cagayan de Oro city). The Presbyterians, whose personnel and resources were mostly concentrated in the Visayas, accepted the plan for this union enterprise.

Thus, in April, 1921, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions transferred a Congregationalist Missionary couple stationed in Cagayan to Silliman to take charge of the Bible School Department. In June, the "Silliman Bible School" was formally inaugurated with the assigned missionary to serve as Dean and his wife as initial faculty. They would remain the only full-time faculty of the Bible school until their departure in 1931. As students increased in number, assistance in teaching came from the Presbyterian field missionaries who served as part-time faculty at the then Silliman Institute. Seven students successfully completed the two year course and graduated during the first Graduating Exercise held on December 14, 1922.



Rev. Irving Channon

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Irving Monroe Channon was born in 1862 at Durant, Iowa. He received his education at Griswold College (B.A., 1887) and at Oberlin College (M.A.). He was conferred a B.D. degree by Oberlin Theological Seminary in 1890. He was ordained as a



Bible School: Faculty (sitting, l – r): Dr. Paul Dotlz, Ms. Francis V.V. Rodgers, Dr. David Hibbard, Rev. Irving Channon, Mrs. Mary Channon and Rev. W.J. Smith
2nd row (graduating class): Florencio Tubongbanua, Faustina Gicain, Alfonso Quinones, Silvestre Buntuyan, Adriano Santiago, Simeon Emelia and Isidoro Antivo
Back row (First Year): Blas Gesulga, Nicomedes Quinones, Honorio Pascua, Donato Caponong, Marcus Lagahit and Fernando Quinones.

minister of the Congregational Church in 1888. **Mary L. Goldsbury** was born in Davenport, Iowa on March 26, 1865. She too graduated from Oberlin College with a Ph. B. degree in 1886. They got married in 1887.

Irving and Mary Channon started their work under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1893 and served as missionaries of the Congregational Christian Churches for 40 years. Prior to their assignment in Mindanao, they were assigned to a mission training school at Kusaie (Caroline Islands) and from 1908-1913, conducted another training school and printing press in Ocean Island (Gilbert Group).

In Dumaguete, the Bible School for the first three years was located in a house which for many years later served as the office building of the Silliman High School. Under the guidance of the Channons, the Bible school started with a first year curriculum in Homiletics, Ethics, Old Testament History, The Prophets, Harmony of the Gospels, Preparatory church history and church Music. In addition to his teaching duties, Rev. Channon directed the choir and was also director for the School Press. Mary, an accomplished musician, taught high school music and history and was the accompanist to the choir.

The development of the old theology campus took place during Dean Channon's time. Rev. Irving Channon began by purchasing 7-1/2 acres adjoining the Silliman campus to the north where the residential dormitory named after him now stands. The ground floor of Channon Hall served as classrooms and students' quarters while the second story was used as residential quarters by the Channons. Another three hectares of land were purchased

as were more lots later on the other side of Hibbard Avenue. Along Hibbard Avenue, donations by friends from Worcester, MA went towards the remodeling of an old house which became known as Worcester Cottage and an adjacent guest cottage soon to be called Davao Cottage was built soon afterwards with funds donated by Dr. **Herbert G. Brokenshire**, a Congregationalist missionary in Davao. The royal palms which now beautify the College of Theology grounds were from seedlings secured by Rev. Channon from Hawaii during one of his furloughs.

In 1930, the entrance requirements for the Silliman Bible School were raised to the standard called for high school graduation. Two years of basic college work preparatory to the two years of theological studies were included and future graduates would receive a degree of Bachelor of Theology.

The year 1931 not only signaled the retirement of the Channons but also the merger of the Silliman Bible school



The Choir (l to r – front row): I. Strong, P. Sevilla, P. Coen, F. Strong; (middle row): C. Libo-on, G. Penalosa, D. Lyon, Mrs. M. Magdamo, M. Siokon, E. Venturanza, Mrs. M. Channon (accompanist); (standing): C. Gutierrez, P. Ikalina, T. Tayko, S. Pinero, J. Palmos, D. Ganzon, N. Quinones, E. Luzuriaga, Rev. Irving Channon (director)

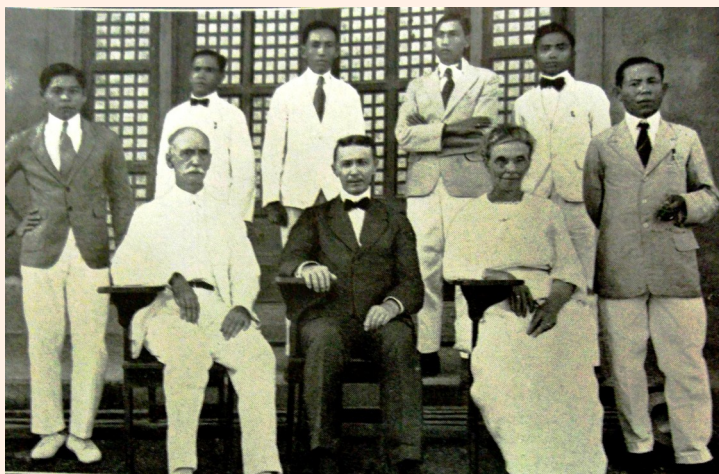
and the Girls' Bible School in Cagayan for training deaconesses. Miss **Alice Towne**, Directress of the Cagayan Bible School, brought her students to Silliman and from 1932 onwards, Channon Hall served as the Theology women's dormitory. That same year, Dean Channon had the satisfaction of seeing the Bible School raised to the status of a degree-granting seminary by action of the Silliman Board of Trustees.

When the Channons retired in 1931, they left behind a growing institution, a neat campus housed in three well-constructed buildings and an educational program which met the requirements for the training of future evangelists and deaconesses. Rev. Channon's personal books also formed the nucleus of the theological library. He was made *Dean Emeritus* after his retirement. In 1935 the Silliman trustees approved the naming of the principal building as Channon Hall in honor of its founder.

Irving and Mary Channon *See CHANNONS page 3*

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had nine children: **Hiram Bingham, William Perkins, Irving M., Jr., Stephen L., Paul, Mary, Lillian, Estella Mau** and **Grace Morrison**. Hiram Bingham Channon who passed away on Jan. 19, 1974, was born in Kusaie in the Caroline Islands on July 15, 1984 and graduated from Oberlin College in 1918. He received his A.B. in 1926 from the Harvard Medical School and served 20 years in the Army's Ordnance Reserve Corps until 1939, retiring with the rank of major. He worked for the Virginia Smelting Com-



First Graduating Class: (l-r standing): Alfonso Quinones, Florencio Tubonganua, Adriano Santiago, Silvestre Buntuyan, Isidoro Antivo and Faustino Gicain; Seated: Rev. Irving Channon, Dr. David Hibbard and Mrs. Mary Channon.

pany for 35 years and lived in San Diego with wife **Helen Spare** and his family since his retirement in 1960. Irving Monroe Jr. (wife **Ruth Mount**) was born in Kusaie on Jan. 24, 1902. After his graduation from Oberlin College in 1925, he pursued further studies at Western Reserve and Indiana University. He held a variety of positions as salesman, manager and superintendent for variety stores in Detroit, Chicago and California and passed away on August 25, 1982 in Escondido, CA.

William Perkins Channon was born on December 14, 1890, attended Oberlin High School, received his A.B. (Sociology) from Miami University in 1933, an A.B. degree in education from Cedarville College (1948) and pursued additional studies at the Bonebrake Theological Seminary. William served as a minister with the Miami, Ohio Conference of EUB Churches from 1928 to 1955, was dean of the Baptist Leadership Education Institute in Southington, Connecticut in 1958 and served as a supply pastor for the Southington Council of Churches and the New Haven Association of Connecticut Baptists. William died Dec. 15, 1976 in Brooklyn, Connecticut.

Rev. and Mrs. Channon spent their retirement years in the States, where Rev. Channon died on Nov. 1, 1942 and Mrs. Channon on November 18, 1957. A tribute which appeared in the *Philippine Presbyterian* declared: "**A host of friends will miss Mrs. Channon**

with her sweet, thoughtful, motherly ways, her ready wit and her beauty of Christian character."

"From the start, the Bible School's relationship to Silliman Institute was close" as a later account put it, "but it was not clearly defined for many years."

In 1935, the Bible school was renamed the College of Theology and while it operated under Silliman's institutional authority, it was without governmental recognition or supervision. By 1965, the college became known as the Divinity School to reflect its status as a seminary offering bachelor of divinity degrees.

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Readers' Feedback

The mention of those familiar names brings back pleasant memories and keeps us feel young. ... No secret. It keeps me close to Silliman, my first home, the place I love so much. ...I lost contact with Mrs. Mack after I had left for Butuan in 1961. I was told that at the time of Dr. Mack's accident, Nang Minnie Magdamo was badly affected. Instead of she consoling Mrs. Mack, it was the other way around...

Mrs. Mahy and I wrote each other for sometime after both of us had left Dumaguete. Somehow our communication bogged down. The next thing I knew was that she had graduated to heaven. But I'll forever remember her, what with the piano in our sala! When she told the DYSR family that they would go on a long furlough (for good *na diay tuh*), I immediately signed up as the prospective buyer of her piano and she did reserve it for me. After that, many approached her about it, but *naka una man* si Tellie. Other things which I bought from her were the Caliphone phonograph and Dr. Mahy's bicycle ...or was it Nang Minnie Magdamo who bought the bike?

Another lady I will never forget is Mrs. Thelma Appleton who gave me a piano scholarship when I was in second year high school. ...And I'm really grateful to Mrs. Appleton who gave me the opportunity to learn the basics. All the rest was self-study.

Esther "Tellie" Magdamo Amante

Silliman University Alumni and Friends @ San Diego (SUAF@SD) is registered with the State of California as a tax-exempt entity C2287071 since Jan. 28, 2002.

Its entity address is 10965 Bon Jon Lane, San Diego, CA 92131 and registered agent Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins of Fallbrook, CA.

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More looks at FD visit by SUAFeers



Gaya with other OSA awardees at wreath-laying before the bust of founder Horace Silliman



Laarni traveled to Guihulngan to endorse earthquake assistance to Fr. Raul Ingan.



Chona and Gino Maribao visited the Aglipayan church in Tayasan. Their contribution helped repair the damaged altar.

Four days for forty years

By Oswald Esperat

If one must experience a jaw-dropping contrast between Silliman in the 1960s and today, do what I did. I spent four days on campus last August and was stunned by the stark difference – essentially in the physical sense because in terms of the university's mission, values, and sense of community especially, they remain the same.

The short stay coincided with a visit my wife Tenette made for a nursing symposium (and indirectly to acknowledge her OSA recognition by her Alma Mater since she was unable to accept the award in person due to a prior commitment). But it was opportunity for me, albeit not ample enough and never will be, to revisit with people and familiar places not met nor seen since I was last on campus. That year was 1972.

Forty years is such a long stretch, and while more lucky alumni have had occasions to make regular campus visits since after graduation, I was faced with the anxious prospect of finally “resetting” ingrained images held far too long but for second-hand descriptions by others of changes simply too difficult to grasp. The initial view from a PAL airbus this time was one of awe -- so much had changed from the air since the days of the Fokkers and YS-11s, and the next few days would only make that impression much visceral and even more glaring, whether during the campus walks I took or in the company of an old friend who drove me around.

Trying to put perspective into this “new” campus required placing in my mind's eye what happened to buildings that no longer exist and appreciating those either altered, added to, or simply taken over by new constructions. During my Silliman years, I can recall of only two new buildings erected – Villareal Hall and the Divinity School chapel of the Evangel. And classrooms were either in shared buildings or temporary rooms. These days colleges have their own structures, there are no more T-rooms, and the campus is littered with new edifices serving special purposes – the Luce Auditorium, the university hospital, the university library, a new ROTC parade ground, and Portal West raised over the location where I used to attend courses in history and *(See FOUR next page)*

FOUR continued

social sciences. The landscape is new to me and locating some places that retained much meaning and memories was challenging to this old alumnus – and somewhat wrenching to no longer see some of them. I had to see these “changes” from my own prism. And all in four days.



Coffee break with Maj. Ragay, Col. Festejo and Col. Malahay and recalling ROTC days

Eugene Malahay (who goes back to my ROTC years) was very helpful in taking me around and I can't thank him enough – making the surrounding places including Valencia and Sibulan easily accessible were it not for the limited time to do so. One can reconnect with places in a cursory manner, but not as easily done with people ... and sometimes, this time especially, one makes do at a pace so regrettably brief and woefully compressed. The Beatles had a line about people and places we remember all our lives ... and that old familiarity was in full abundance during this trip, and even though encounters were brief and mostly resulting from chance, one can take comfort that even the long years still generate slivers of affinity with things and people Silliman. For instance, I met **President Malayang** during his visit to Lubbock in 2008, but before that never on campus. Came across **Rachel** and **Sam Gregorio** at Bethel House – I last saw them in 1972 in Ann Arbor when they were coopted as babysitters for my son **Dominic**. Flitting encounters included **Noel Villalba**, **Jimmy Magbanua**, **Hope Torres**, **Ruby Agus**, **Eve Villahermosa**, and the **Vicuna** siblings (**Vivien**, **Florante**, and **Virgie** along with engineer hubby **Lionel**) as well ROTC folks **Col. Bruno Festejo**, **Major Noel Ragay** and **Col. Malahay**. And at the Luce performance of **Handu Lantaw**, said hello to iconic twins **Myrna** and

Lorna Pena Reyes and OSA awardee **Dr. Enrico Sobong**. Throughout my undergraduate and law years at Silliman, they and countless others peppered (and spiced) one singular experience (mine) on this campus by the sea – years as classmates or fellow cohorts, as teacher or colleagues or friends. On a much smaller campus, Silliman was a place where everyone knew one another, albeit in varied levels and degrees of familiarity.

It was at a Wednesday jaunt to Malatapay that serendipity provided a bonus for my trip – Dr.

Rolando del Carmen was hosting a “*tabo*” lunch for a visiting family group. **Atty. DelC** (as he is affectionately known to those who knew him from student days) was one of two mentors who mostly shaped my eight years as a student, the other one being the late **Atty. Teodoro Cortes**. And during his



Malatapay meeting with mentor DelC

breakfast invitation the next day, one would almost wish that such a meal could have lasted hours more. Alas, even more than those who helped spring up brief moments of recall during these four days (e.g., burning candles at both ends, wearing my heart on my sleeve, keep-

ing the light on at my Woodward room all night. Did I really do all that?) much regret remain because so many who left indelible imprints during my student years have moved on -- **Dr. Luz Ausejo**, **President Cicero Calderon**, **Estanislao Alviola, Jr.**, **Dean Cortes** and the ubiquitous Cafeteria mainstays **Susan** and **Dadong**.

This is why, when Arts and Sciences dean **Margie Alvarez** graciously offered to



*Silliman years coincided with those of university administrators **Dr. Calderon**, **Dr. Paul Lauby** and **Dr. Proceso Udarbe**. A/S dean **Alvarez**, also a Pan Hellenic sis, is a current link to my student years.*

guide me on a walking campus tour, I proffered to do it on my own – “waking up the echoes” can be traumatic for one searching for the Silliman as it used to be. I first came to SU in 1961 for a degree in political science and history, stayed on for another four years in law school, left briefly in 1969 to prepare for the bar examinations while serving as legislative aide to Senator **Lorenzo Teves**. I remained in Manila post-bar as an associate in the law office of then UP law dean **Estelito Mendoza** (later on justice secretary), but then in 1971, returned to Silliman to become surrogate for President Calderon as assistant law dean. (Dean Calderon was elected ConCon delegate and had to be in Manila.) In August 1972, I left for a fellowship at the University of Michigan and was in Ann Arbor when martial law was declared a month later. The year away stretched out to be forty years.

Coming back last August was akin to hitting a reset button, and for four days I looked for remnants of that Silliman past. And so I did my walk around – ambled through the buildings and the now unfamiliar walkways, tried to locate the *Sillimanian* and *Portal* offices which I edited (used to be by Guy Hall and in Hibbard Hall, respectively) and found them in the Student Center now housed in Oriental Hall. Talk about change – in that and the



During booth opening night Aug. 21, with resident brethren of Gamma Phi fraternity and Gamma Sigma sorority. The elderly gents in the picture are Noel Villalba and Eugene Malahay.

Student Nurses Home, I must have spent an inordinate amount of time in those two places. And of course, Hibbard Hall is no longer the place it used to be – although for new students seeking entry to the three Silliman portals, it is the place to start. Reminiscing at the amphitheater was refreshing, and getting involved with some extreme frisbee competition in the quad with students was invigorating; in fact got to throw football spirals with visiting alumni, just like the old days. A fraternity brother once ex-

claimed: you must really love school! Silliman can do that to you, the school spirit does not diminish with age and there is no statute of limitations on learning.

Embedded into this essay are some snapshots of those four days reflecting happenstances I was too dazed to even think of picture-taking. Sadly they are few, taken more as afterthoughts, and yet they are memory markers of a long-delayed journey into the past – certainly incentives as prologue to a return much closer than another four decades.

A side trip to the Valencia resort Forest Camp became an illuminating half day on a natural resource managed by **Teng Vicuna**. The resort, a popular venue



With Teng, Virgie Ancheta, and Sylvia (Somoza) and Gene Malahay. Forest camp has overnight facilities.

for visiting alumni, has recovered nicely from the recent Banica river floods. Plus one gets to request a primer or demonstration on how to produce *malunggay* powder, a thriving dietary supplement so indigenously Filipino.

In hindsight now, my length of stay at Silliman was but eight years as a student, and yet those were equally defining years all associated with burning candles at both ends. The poet Edna St. Vincent Millay cautioned that while these candles may not last the night, they give such a lovely light.

Yes, Silliman has changed. And yet in some ways, she hasn't really changed at all.