

SUAFers back from Founders Day visit

SUAF was well represented in Dumaguete City during the 111th Founders Day — 17 members in all.

As accompanying pictures show (pages 2, 4 and 5), these were president **Laarni Gularek** and vice-president **Ligaya Simpkins**, **Dinah Penafiora**, **Susan** and **Bill Soldwisch**, **Tenette** and **Oswald Esperat**, **Frances** and **Steve Yoakem**, **Precy** and **Allen Garrido**, **Chona** and **Gino Maribao**, **Precy** and **Efren Madrid**, and **Clavel** and **Lloyd Limpiado**.

The 111th FD edition this year featured the general theme of “Empower Me, Spirit of the Living God”. As in previous FD, a slew of activities on campus almost always swamps the visiting alumni into a discriminating mode of what to participate in and how much. A case of too many things to do in so little time. Next year, with **Tipon 2013** on campus for the first time, that selection will approach critical mass.

But for this year at least, been there, done that.

Laarni and Ligaya represented SUAF in official capacities during SUACONA gatherings and activities surrounding the Outstanding Sillimanian Awards (OSA) for which member **Tenette Esperat** was one of the awardees. Laarni found time to relay earthquake aid to native town Guihulngan (as did the Maribaos and the Garridos for Tayasan and Ayungon, respectively) while Gaya made some headway with her continuing research on Silliman’s fraternal workers, the subject of her series **American Missionaries**. A special multimedia display section on missionaries in the university library was inaugurated Aug. 23. Both also made contact with **Jason Tubog**, the senior business student who is recipient of the academic scholarship sponsored by SUAF at Silliman University.

Dinah coordinated the 2012 **Balik Talent** conference “Global Health: An Interdisciplinary Action”, held Aug. 23-24 and 27 at the Luce Auditorium and Roble Hall on campus, which featured sessions on advanced practice nursing, climactic (see FD page 2)

Silliman University Alumni & Friends @ SD

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September 2012

Xtra

Wicklers transitioned war years to fraternal service at Silliman

By Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins

Howard and Dorothy Wickler 1955—1971

The introduction of the Wickler family to the Philippines was not the route you would usually expect a missionary or his family to take.

Howard O. Wickler was in the US Navy (Amphibious Operations) during WWII and was a participant in the famous Leyte landing of October 1944. American forces found their way into Manila by February 1945 but his unit stayed in Tacloban

until the surrender of Japan. He met missionaries who

had been held prisoners by the Japanese as they were released. It was during that period when Mr. Wickler gathered other servicemen to worship with the local congregations in Tacloban and met **Rev. Juan I. Pia, Sr** and **Dr. Angel Espina**, both of who would later serve in the Silliman Board of Trustees. While on a visit with Dr. Espina at the Maasin Institute later that year, he learned about Silliman University where Dr. Espina’s son **Benoni** was enrolled as a student.

Howard returned to Minnesota in December 1945 and married **Dorothy** on Feb. 1, 1946. Impressed by the Christian faith he witnessed which sustained the Filipinos through the war years, he wrote the Mission Board of the former E.U.B. Church and expressed his interest in teaching in the Philippines. Since no teachers were needed then in the Philippines, they were commissioned to work at the Red Bird Mission Appalachian School where they served for three years. After taking a year’s leave of absence to pursue his graduate degree, the Wicklers returned to the mission school to serve an additional three years.

A request for an industrial education teacher came from Silliman University soon after. The Wicklers requested consideration for this position and their request was accepted by the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. In May 1955, the Wicklers arrived in Dumaguete with their three children **Karen**, **Bruce** and **Diane**.

Professor Wickler had obtained his B.S. degree at Mankato State University (1949) and an M.A. from University of Minne- (see WICKLERS page 3)



Dorothy and Howard Wickler

Display honors past missionary services

Silliman University launched the “fraternal workers historical visual display project” at the Robert and Metta Silliman Library Aug. 23 as part of the 111th Founders Day activities.

The project sought to “correct an omission” and recognize the services of missionaries and fraternal workers in behalf of Silliman, SU president **Ben Malayang III** declared.

Intended to be a work in progress, more research will expand coverage of the section. The project was inspired by a suggestion by SUAFer **Ligaya Simpkins** whose series in this newsletter first drew attention to the works of fraternal workers.



Laarni and Gaya with SU alumni affairs OIC Moses Atega.

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changes and disaster management, and promotion of best interventions in medicine. Dinah is president of SUCNAAI, the international nursing association of Siliman alumni. SUCNAAI collaborated *BalikTalent* with the SU College of Nursing and the alumni association SUCNAA.



Tenette addressing BalikTalent 2012.

SUAFeer **Amy Buluran** is a SUCNAAI member.

Tenette gave the keynote address during the conference Aug. 23, but for a previous commitment in Hungary she was unable to receive the OSA award in person Aug. 28. Laarni and Ligaya represented SUAF as OSA nominating chapter during the ceremonies.

Prescy Madrid attended her BSN '70 class reunion and the *BalikTalent* conference. In addition to Dinah and Tenette,



Breakfast with President Malayang and the Berans.

Negros Oriental.

Also attending class reunions were Ligaya for her SUHS '56 class, and Laarni for her SUHS '70 class of which **Ben Malayang III** is also a member.

Susan organized a five-day reunion of her pre-med class, and she and Bill had activities involving the Divinity School for which both have volunteer commitments whenever they are in



SUAF readies library donation

For the *Filipiniana* section at the Mira Mesa library, SUAF's 2012 campaign to "restock" multimedia and book offerings will culminate in a presentation Oct. 27 with US Representative Bob Filner as featured speaker. October is Filipino American History Month in San Diego.

A community project undertaken by SUAF to provide local library patrons with sufficient materials on the Philippines, the chapter approved a new library drive early this year, appropriating \$1000 as seed money to collect via purchase and donations new reference materials for the library.

The special *Filipiniana* section has been maintained by the alumni chapter since its inception during the term of **Susan Soldwisch** as president and continued by **Nate Tan** and **Fely Narvaez** during their leadership.

The collection has since become dated and the physical condition has deteriorated requiring replacements for worn-out or lost books and media.

SUAF started the book and multimedia drive last January soliciting donations and contributions from members and non-member patrons for Philippine-related materials or those written by Filipino authors. Every item donated will be appropriately labeled with names of donors.

Chairman of the Book Committee is **Fely Narvaez** with members **Ben and Luisa Sy, Joel and Ligaya Simpkins, Sonia Sheeks, Isaías and Mila Paniamogan, Nate Tan** and **Laarni Gularek**. Consultants are librarian **Teresita Flores** and alumni members **Revs. Paniamogan** and **Jose Jacinto**.

The presentation October 27 will be at 1pm, at the Mira Mesa Library, 8405 New Salem St., San Diego. Rep. Filner represents the 51st Congressional district.

Chapter elections set Oct. 20

The next quarterly meeting of SUAF is scheduled for Oct. 20 and will feature the election of chapter officers for 2013 and 2014. The election committee headed by **Pastor Paniamogan** and **Alma Lavergne** will provide details as they become available. Members are requested to keep the date open.

Looking ahead – members are reminded that the annual Christmas party will be on Dec. 8. Caroling days are tentatively slated for Dec. 15 and 16, Dec. 22 and 23, and Dec. 29 and 30.

WICKLERS ... (from page 1)



The Wicklers pictured with great-grandson Tres, taken on occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary.

sota (1953). Upon his arrival, he became a faculty member in the College of Education, where he supervised and coordinated the workload of education students ready for student teaching. He also taught Practical Arts in the High School.

During the 1955-1956 school year, Howard Wickler became involved in the development and approval of a new curriculum offering a major in Industrial Arts and a minor in Agriculture. The Philippine Bureau of Private Schools had included Practical or Industrial Arts and Gardening in both Elementary and Secondary schools, disciplines which Silliman already had experience in because of Mr. Glunz's role in the development of the Industrial Arts program at the then Silliman Institute. (See June issue of PortalXtra on the Glunz family.) Rolando V. Magdamo, Danecio Flores and Maglitis Familiar were recruited as new faculty for the implementation of the new program, given scholarships for graduate studies, and all subsequently taught at both high school and college levels. They carried the program on after the Wicklers left in 1971.

In addition to all these responsibilities, Professor Wickler served on the College of Arts and Sciences faculty where he was the Assistant to the Dean of Instruction in Visual Aids and was a member of the "troika" administration for the High School when no principal could be found to succeed Mrs. Fe Mancao.

Dorothy Wickler became the Librarian of the Elementary school Library which she organized and secured books for through churches in the United States. Free transportation for these books was provided by the US Navy from California to Subic Bay and this practice continued until the writing and publication of children's books in the Philippines was started. She was also a member of the Silliman University Orchestra.

When the Bureau of Public Schools would no longer allow Dorothy to work at Silliman without a college degree, she was undeterred and decided to pursue her undergraduate studies at Silliman University. In 1971, she earned a B. S. degree, *summa cum laude*, with a major in Religious Studies and a minor in Library Science. She credits help in the pursuit of the required courses in Library Science to a visiting Librarian from Florida who had come to Silliman to organize books for the library.

As early residents of Silliman Park, they realized the difficulty in attending the Silliman Church's mid-week prayer services due to its distance from the university and the travel time involved, so they began prayer services for the Park residents at their home and hosting at other homes soon followed within the community. These Bible study groups have been reported to continue through the early 21st century. The Wicklers also participated in the Galilean Fellowships and other activities of the Silliman Church where Howard served as an elder.

The Wicklers lived at Silliman for 16 years and they welcomed into their family two more sons, **Stephen** and **Roger**, who were born in the Silliman hospital. In the true Wickler tradition, their children

and grandchildren (a total of 12), now live very interesting and fulfilling lives in the United States and around the world in the countries of China, Norway and Canada.

Daughter Diane has a B.S. in Education and teaches art in elementary and high schools across Kansas. Diane and her husband, **Herman Lambrecht**, a Methodist minister, also served as Salvation Army officers for 15 years. They have four adult children. During her years at Silliman, daughter **Diane Kay** was involved in the CYF, Pilgrim choir, GSP, Junior *Sillimianian* and the Junior Homemakers' Club. She returned to Silliman for a 2011 FD visit.

Karen Wickler Moore (B.S., Biology, M.S., Botany) and her husband, **Doug**, a Lutheran minister, have three children and live in New Brunswick, Calgary. **Bruce Wickler** got a certificate in air-conditioning, heating and refrigeration and owns his own business in Albuquerque, New



Family pose: Bruce, Steve and Diane in back. Seated: Roger, Dorothy, Howard and Karen.

Mexico where he and his wife presently reside.

Stephen Kent Wickler (B.S., Univ. of MN; M.S., Ph.D., Univ. of Hawaii) is working for the government of Norway as a marine archaeologist. He has 3 sons. **Roger Edwin Allen-Wickler**, wife **Chris** and their two daughters live in Sutton's Bay, MI where they are in the business of producing "wearable art". Both have BA degrees in Fine Arts from Univ. of MN and MA degrees from Univ. of Michigan.

In addition to being proud great grandparents to eight with two more on the way, the Wicklers are also proud to share some of the achievements of their grandchildren with the Silliman family.

Grandson **Philip Lambrecht** and his wife **Kim**, first worked under the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Spain and later found themselves in the tribal villages of Cambodia where they translated their oral language into written language for use in Bible translation. **Corrie Lambrecht Girdner**, an astrophysicist, works in the observatory at the University of New Mexico. Her hus- (See *WICKLERS* page 4)

WICKLERS... (From page 3)

band, **Nathan**, an engineer, helped develop a communication system for planes while working in oil exploration in Siberia, North Africa and Kansas.

Linnea Moore Vionette, obtained international acclaim when she first reported on her discovery of human cells that can destroy cancer cells at an international meeting in Japan. **Deborah Moore**, who taught in Korea for 5 years, is now teaching English in a school in China.

After their return to the United States in 1971, Howard earned a specialist degree in Vocational /Technical Education at the University of Wisconsin (Stout, WI) and was appointed to teach Professional Education courses and



Howard Wickler
David Respo
Howard with university comptroller David Respo doing campus beautification chores.

supervise student teachers at the Industrial Technical Studies Department of the University of Minnesota in Duluth, Minnesota.

In 1979, the Wicklers were commissioned to serve at the Lay Training Center of the Solomon Islands by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. In addition to their involvement in church activities and leadership training, they were tasked with teaching

students technology applicable to sanitation, water supply, nutrition, health, garment making and running a village store. In 1984, Dorothy had contracted severe malaria and they found it necessary to leave the Solomon Islands and return to the States. They retired and now live in McPherson, Kansas.

Dorothy states that **"The whole family remembers good times and purposeful living for 16 years"**.

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References:

1. Howard & Dorothy Wickler's Personal Notes, 2012
2. Lauby, Paul T., Udarbe, Proceso V., Lauby, Jennifer L., "Clouds by Day and Fire By Night: The Silliman Story"
3. Tiempo, Edilberto K., Maslog, Crispin C. and Sito, Valentino T. Jr., "Silliman University 1901-1976"

Readers' feedback on series

Am glad you are taking on this responsibility about keeping the "history" of the American missionaries at SU updated and recorded. A couple of years ago, I suggested to Pres. Ben that the Christian Ed room at the church (building donated by your DAD, if I remember right) be renamed the Paul R. Lindholm Library to hold memorabilia of American missionaries who served Silliman.

The closest missionary to me (and Lorna G.) was Mrs. Margaret Patterson Mack. She was my Bible teacher in elementary school and college. Her husband, Dr. Mack was my first boss at DYSR where I worked (with Minnie Magdamo) after graduation in 1962. My relative Elmo Lopez also worked at the station at that time with Ben Magdamo/Tants Bernardez/Ralph Milton/Juan "Dodong" Pia...and a slew of others. I was still at DYSR when Dr. Mack had an "accident" in Banilad and passed away.

Warwina Llamera

SUAFeers and SU's 111th FD

Parada Sillimaniana

**SUAFeers**

SUAFeers scholar

Quake aid for Guihulngan, Ayungon and Tayasan

More OSA snapshots



Aug. 28: 50th anniversary of the OSA awards instituted by President Cicero Calderon in 1962.



Other recipients of the 2012 OSA awards were: Kathleen Heceta (LL.B. 1962) for government service; Dr. Enrico Sobong, (Pre-Med 1967) for medicine; and Ambassador Antonio Villamor (AA PreLaw 1953) for diplomacy. Tenette (BSN 1968, MA in Nursing 1969), recognized for nursing research and administration, is the first nominee of SUAF to receive the OSA.



With the George Berans during alumni breakfast



At seafood restaurant Lab-as along Rizal Blvd.

Saying goodbye to summer

A field trip to mark the end of summer? For SUAFers, Santa Catalina island beckoned members with a fun day in Avalon, Sept. 22 — parasailing, glass bottom viewing, zip line propelling and island shopping.

