



PORTAL

SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

& FRIENDS @ SAN DIEGO

SUMMER 2011

Luncheon with President Malayang

By: Laarni Gularek

It was a Silliman fellowship like no other. On April 30, 2011, **Efren and Prescy Madrid** hosted at their residence the pot-luck lunch in honor of **President Ben Malayang III** and his wife **Gladys**. Sillimanians travelled from far and near and enjoyed the food and the fellowship. Prayers before the meal was led by **Pastor Yasie Paniamogan**.

Power point presentation was done by **President Malayang** that included data approved by the Board of Trustees regarding his report on the financial and infrastructure state of Silliman University. San Diego alumni were all eyes and ears listening to the report and were relieved to be informed that in the first five years of his term as the leader of their Alma Mater, President Malayang has steered the budget out of the red. Discussions followed after the presentation and President Malayang led the open discussions and questions raised by alumni present in this occasion. It was the general consensus that this was the very first time, alumni heard such a high ranking leader of the university present data and facts on the actual state of Silliman beside the Sea. True to the motto of VIA, **VERITAS, VITA** the presentation and open forum by President Malayang shed light to myths and allegations about Silliman.

Pictures of the San Diego Alumni donation in the past were shown - the repair of the seats in front of the Silliman Church. This chapter also donated to the proposed Student Center and the reconstruction of Oriental Hall. This Saturday fellowship ended with prayers and singing of the Silliman song.



THE FLOWER FIELDS

By: Fely Tan Narvaez

The long anticipated field trip has finally come. It was April 16th, 2011, and off we go to **The Flower Fields** in Carlsbad. For over sixty years this rolling hills of North San Diego County comes alive in the months of March up to May into one of the most spectacular and coordinated displays of bright natural color and beauty that you have ever seen in your lifetime. Surely one of a Kind!

Around nearly fifty acres of giant Tecolote Ranunculas flowers that make up the **The Flower Fields** in Carlsbad. The annual burst of color is also one of nature's official ways of announcing the arrival of spring in Southern California.



The place was already packed of people excited to see the flowers in bloom, the free concert of the Bluegrass Day- A Music Lover's Must! and of course the annual arts and craft by several hundreds of vendors all over the state.

In order to see the panoramic view of **The Flower Fields** all 12 of us took the antique wagon ride with the audio telling us the history of the place. Here we are: **Amelia Buluran, Fely Narvaez, Sol Caseres, Laarni and Frank Gularek, Nate and Grace, Ligaya and Joel, Cris Fetz, Tony Fetz and Lilo Wiss**. Lots of photos were taken by most of us for souvenir.

Please check our Website at SDSUAF.COM for more photos with music at the background created by Nate Tan to see more about the place, the flowers, and the hundreds of people that came to see beauty o

f nature of **The Flower Fields** in Carlsbad.

Visit to Mrs. Appleton

By Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins

We were blessed with a beautiful partially sunny day, not the rainy/stormy/snowy day predicted, on our 2-hr. drive to Pasadena for Mrs. Appleton's 100th birthday on Saturday, Feb. 26th (plus an additional hour for Laarni) .

Six of us (Laarni, Frank & Sean, Dinah Penaflorida and Joel & myself) from the San Diego Chapter met up with 10 others from the Southern California group and we all marched into the activities center of the Monte Vista Grove homes at 3:00 p.m. singing "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Appleton. I introduced the group and Zenaida Duran-Bennett gave a short speech on behalf of the SUACONA. We then presented her with flowers and gifts, one of which was a copy of the Silliman University Centennial Program that I brought for her to remind her of persons and places in Silliman University and Dumaguete City, followed by more songs and hymns. Much to her family's surprise, she sang along with us in the renditions of "You are my Sunshine" and the Silliman Song.

Her sons Don, Rick, David and their families were there. I only learned then that Rick and his wife also served as missionaries at Silliman in the early 70s and left shortly after martial law had begun in the Philippines. They were all overwhelmed by the presence and enthusiasm of the Sillimanians. We had a fun time with Faith on the piano and her husband, Jessie, playing the guitar!!

The Monte Vista Grove Homes is a beautiful Presbyterian retirement facility with individual cottages occupied by those who still live independently (about 60 missionaries), 16 in assisted living in another area, and 24 in the constant care group which Mrs. Appleton belonged to residing at the Hearth. The homes were just beautiful to look at and the entire facility so serene with beautiful tree lined streets. We were told that you had to have served as a missionary for a required number of years to qualify for one of the independent living homes but that they took others in the other two categories.

Dinah had been a student at Silliman when Mrs Appleton was Dean of Women, so they had a lot of interaction then. Dinah has promised to return and bring with her other nurses from Silliman for future visits.

Mrs. Appleton is in a wheelchair but she can still hear, see and carry on conversations. What a blessing!!



The Pala Experience

By Amy Buluran

On April 28th, we had the rare privilege of dining with the Prez and his spouse along with other SUAF Board of Directors members and friends. There were eleven of us.

It was at the peak of dinner time and we were all seated together like one big family due to the increased noise level, it was rather difficult to hear each other but we tried to engage the Prez in small conversation. Nate, John and Miriam were busy reminiscing about the campus and those precious years that they had in Silliman.

I wanted to ask the Prez some questions but I decided to inquire about one aspect of his presidency. My question was: I know that there are numerous challenges that you have to deal with as a President of a big university. What is the biggest and most important challenge that you had to face? His answer to the question had something to do with strengthening the bonds with alumni both locally and abroad (USA and Canada, etc.) and keeping them abreast with the progress of Silliman University in all facets of development. I wished the section that we were seated in was a bit quieter and we could have engaged the Prez in a more meaningful tete-a-tete but the environment was not conducive to it.

We (especially Fely, Joel and myself) enjoyed the crab legs and we each had a plateful of it. I noticed that Dr. Malayang ate only a small portion and he said that he is trying to lose some poundage. Well, good luck on that while in the U.S.!\

After the sumptuous buffet, we decided to part ways. The Malayangs, Joel and Gaya headed home to rest for the night while Fely, Nate, Miriam, John, Dinah and I decided to try our luck on the casino for a brief moment. Fely was somewhat lucky and had won some money while the rest of us called it quits. Dinah stayed with me in my room and claimed she was tired and I can understand that of course. We both woke up at 3:00 A.M. to watch the royal wedding on T.V. until mid morning then had breakfast at the Pala café and we parted ways.

I wish he had more time to get to know more about each other but our guests and their hosts need to prepare for the activities the next day.

OLD TOWN TROLLEY & SEAL TOUR-

By Ligaya Magbanua Simpkins

Our sightseeing adventure of San Diego, California's second largest city, started from the birthplace of California at the Old Town Market in Old Town State Park, where Mexican settlers started building their homes in 1821.

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Dr. Ben and Gladys Malayang, Laarni and Frank Gularek and Joel and Ligaya Simpkins hopped aboard a trolley at the Old Town Market, the first of 11 stops on a cool (mid to high 60s), partly sunny day. We wound our way along San Diego Harbor where the USS Midway is docked and proceeded to Seaport Village where we transferred to a Seal boat. After a few minutes of driving along the harbor where we viewed the Embarcadero, Star of India, tall ships, the PETCO park, Maritime museum and the Lindbergh airport, we entered San Diego Bay at which point our bus became amphibious and spent a good 1-2 hours on the water, viewing the San Diego cityscape, pelicans, fellow mariners and seals basking on docks.

On our return to Seaport Village, after a quick lunch of soup and sandwiches, we boarded our second trolley where our American conductor spoke welcome phrases in Tagalog. We wound around the Convention Center, Horton Plaza, the Gaslamp quarter known for the gaslamps and Victorian era



Prez Malayang and wife Gladys with Laarni and Ligaya

buildings that have existed since the 1880s, the Hilton Bayfront and then crossed the famous 11,000 foot long Coronado bridge to Coronado Island, home to a U. S. Naval station. This beautiful island was formerly home to brush and jackrabbits before it evolved into one of the highest priced real estate areas where tiny homes can command prices in the millions.

Our tour ended with visits to Balboa Park, and Little Italy, after which we made a quick stop at the San Diego City College. We then proceeded to National City to meet up with Jay and Desiree Lao and had halo-halo and other desserts at Red Ribbon, courtesy of the Malayangs.

It was a fun day that provided a birds-eye view of San Diego. We wish we had had more time to stop and look the sights in a leisurely manner but were proud to show Dr. and Mrs. Malayang the city and county many alumni now call home.

