THE LINK
Volume 43 Issue 2 / Winter-Spring 2013

FEATURES

TRIBUTE TO MRS. HEDRICK 3
THE MORNING 5
NON-ALUMNUS COMMENTS 7
AHS-WATERLOO HOSPITAL 11
DISAPPOINTED BUT UNDAUNTED 14
MY POINT OF VIEW 15
IN MEMORIAM: NAOMI HILADO 19
LATEST AUP COM UPDATES 23

DEPARTMENTS

4 From the President’s Desk
6 Editorial
10 Photographs & Memories
12 Under The Mango Tree
13 LETTER from AUP President
16 GNCC News
17 Loma Linda Chapter News
18 La Sierra Chapter News
19 News Flash: Med Techs Top Boards
20 AWESNA San Diego News
21-22 Los Angeles Chapter Link
26 BIOGRAPHY: Philip Trilles

AWESNA PAST PRESIDENTS
George Atiga, DMin.
Celedonio Fernando, M.D.
Romulo Valdez, M.D.
Eliseo Bautista, M.D.
John Tulio, Esq.
Honesto Pascual, Jr., M.D.
Ulysses Carbajal, M.D.
Alfonso Miguel, Jr., M.D.

Winter - Spring 2013
Early life, Career and Family

Willa was born in Portland, Oregon on March 4, 1925 to Kathie and William Hilgert. Her father was a Seventh-day Adventist minister who worked in the Pacific Northwest (Washington and Oregon) of the United States. His brother, Earl Hilgert, taught theology and history at Philippine Union College in the 1950s. Born as Willa Hilgert, in 1945 she attended school at Walla Walla College in Washington and received her Bachelor’s degree in Medical Technology at Loma Linda University in 1947 and her MA in Education at Wright State University, in Dayton, Ohio. She taught medical technology in Loma Linda University for several years before she and her husband, Dr. Elvin Hedrick, a medical internist, and a graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine (formerly called the College of Medical Evangelists) were called to serve as missionaries in the Philippines. “It was primarily my husband who was called to serve as a missionary to the Philippines,” said Mrs. Hedrick. “We went to the Philippines with our two children (one and three-year-old children). Jim, the youngest and the third of our children, was born in the Philippines.” The Hedricks served in the Philippines from 1952 to 1963. Willa Hedrick, now 87, has three grown up children and grandchildren. There’s a “legal epidemic” that runs in the family. We have seven lawyers and four doctors— in varying fields such as plastic surgery, pediatric and internal medicine, and one with PhD.” Meredith Hedrick-Trott is a high-powered attorney working in a big corporation of real estate. Priscilla Hedrick-Brunner is married to another lawyer. The youngest, James Hedrick, now a grandfather himself, is also a lawyer working in a real estate title company.

History AUP School of Medical Technology

By Mrs. Willa Hedrick

Three factors were involved in bringing about the opening of the new school: First, Our doctor's need for Laboratory support. Very few laboratory procedures were being performed at the hospital and most of those in a primitive way. My husband was the first American internist of the staff and he soon realized that his specialty training was useless without laboratory support for diagnosis and monitoring of progress. Second, our search for competent laboratory workers was unsuccessful. I had two small children and wanted to spend my time with them. But even working more than full time, it would have been impossible for me to perform all the tests needed. It was imperative that we have more help as well as a much more equipment. We found the only training program in the islands was at the government public health department. On a visit to its laboratory, we were told that there were no educational programs.
Greetings to all! I would like to thank God for the successful AWESNA 41st Annual Convention last August 31 to September 2, 2012 held at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel. I’m also thankful to president Carmelita Laoyan of Loma Linda Chapter and president Miguelito Fernando of La Sierra chapter with their respective members for co-hosting the 2012 AWESNA Convention. Many thanks also to Annie Madigan and Ernie Banaag for coordinating the program. There were many positive inputs that we appreciate coming from our alumni and non-alumni members.

Many AUPians, as we all know, are serving from all over the world in various capacities such as business and finance, education, government and law, medicine and the allied health professions, religion and theology, the sciences and technology and many more not to mention. All AUP alumni share one thing in common and that is service. We all came from PUC/AUP, the “School that Trains for service.”

Let me share with you some brief news and happenings from our local chapters. Last November 6, 2012, we inducted a new set of officers from San Diego chapter led by Crisamar Anunciado, the newly elected president. Pastor Willie Ombao, the outgoing president will serve as the adviser. San Diego and the Young Alumni chapters will co-host the 2013 Labor day weekend of the 42nd Annual AWESNA convention at the San Diego Marriott Hotel at La Jolla. From the Pacific Northwest chapter (Oregon and Washington), Ephraim Roxas, the chapter president, submitted membership payment to Fil Alcaide for its 15 members. Loida M. Miguel, president of Greater Los Angeles Chapter led a Christmas caroling in December 1, 2012 at Tom and Annie Madigan’s residence and in December 9, 2012 at Elmer and Lorie Bangloy’s residence. All proceeds of the caroling will benefit the working students at the Adventist University of the Philippines.

I would like also to encourage our fellow AWESNA officers and members to attend and support the First Joint Convention with the AUP National Alumni Association on April 4-7, 2013 at Taal Vista Hotel. Registration is extended to January 15, 2013.

The Endowment Board decided to put our fund to a better investment vehicle than CDS. As to this date our total Endowment Fund is $244,569.63 (Endowment $242,349.85 plus Income $2,219.78). Oscar Pablo, Chairman of Finance and Projects along with Rufino Magpayo are still hoping to buy and/or lease a space for the AWESNA Community Center with proper planning and execution.

In October 14, 2012 the AWESNA Board approved to support the College of Medicine project. However, in October 25, 2012 the CHED denied AUP’s application for the COM citing some needed requirements to get an approval. Although it comes as a disappointment to most of us, especially to many alumni who supported this project we are still hoping for better things to come. AUP is actively pursuing efforts that will meet the CHED requirements. Let us continue to pray and pour our unwavering support for this project. In 2 Corinthians 1:20, it says, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”
The blissful morn, its calm and quiet peace -

It overcomes the night so dark and void,

And morning’s sun comes with its bounding beams,

Which fill the earth and are indeed enjoyed.

The morning dew, it trickles through the ground

And with the sun it brings life to the land.

It wakes the earth and makes it hear the sound,

The sound of day renewed by nature’s hand.

A meadowlark sings sweetly through the air;

The rooster crows to let the whole world know,

“A new day has begun, do not despair

For the earth still has blessings to bestow.”

A new day is a gift that’s unsurpassed,

A gift to be remembered once it’s passed.
The central theme of the cross demonstrates God’s saving power and that each of us is a channel of His saving grace only if we allow ourselves to be used by Him. “The Holy Spirit is waiting for channels through whom to work. If all would do the work to which they were appointed, thousands of people might be saved. Satan will not always triumph.” (E.G. White). Channels by definition mean a passage or transmission. A range of frequencies of sufficient width for a single radio or television transmission. Each of us can be a power of influence around us; and if we allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and use us to demonstrate His love to others, that will create a ripple effect upon others. In Ellen White’s advice to her son, Edson, she wrote, “the more humble you keep, the closer you draw to God and show you trust Him as a little child trusts its parents, the more surely you will walk. Your strength is wholly in God—in your simple, entire trust in God. As alumni, we are channels of God’s saving grace. “Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16, NRSV).

God’s saving grace is the cross by which everyone is saved through faith. A new person in Christ will demonstrate His love to others. “The love of Jesus always leads to Christian courtesy, refinement of language, and purity of expression that testify to the company we are with—that like Enoch we are walking with God. There is no storming, no harshness, but a sweet fragrance in speech and in spirit.” It is easy to drop words of unkindness but its hard to draw it back. “Do not let anyone’s speeches, or thoughts revealed in actions, affect you. Let it be seen that your life is hid with Christ in God. Let there be no hasty speech, no cheap words, no slang phrases. We are representatives of His character in words, in deportment, that others may see and understand your good works and glorify God.” (E.G. White, Letter 171, 1897). In the book of Proverbs 25:11, it says, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” In everything that we do or say, let us use rightly fitting words and always be reminded that we are channels of God’s saving grace.

Edwin Araba
The AWESNA convention held in August 31 to September 2, 2012 was not the first convention of PUC/AUP alumni associations that I have attended since I married Janie, one of the three daughters of Dr. and Mrs. Herman Reyes in 2008. I am not an alumnus of PUC/AUP neither am I a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church yet. May I comment on the recent AWESNA convention:

I obtained my Civil Engineering degree in Silliman University (located in Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental, Philippines), in 1961. There were seven engineering students in the graduating class and five passed the board examination. I am happy to hear that you were using Silliman University as a model of your proposed School of Medicine. I can say it is a good school having spent five years in it, graduating at the age of 20. The majority of my active thirty eight years until retirement, I was working with the Boeing Company as a Scientist/Senior Engineer on the Space Shuttle Program.

My Alma Mater, as a university, is much older than PUC/AUP. It is the oldest university in the whole of the Visayas and Mindanao. And yet I noticed that the attendees in your conventions (I have attended no less than 4 of your conventions) were much larger than the attendees in the conventions of my Alma Mater. Could this be because your school has done a good job of capturing your loyalty to its goals and lofty ideals - PUC’s, “The School that Trains for Service”, and AUP’s “The School that Trains for Service and for Eternity”? I am inclined to believe so!

The message of the speaker, Dr. Hedrick Edwards, on grace sounded deep and rich. It was not parochial but universal. As a Roman Catholic I may not fully agree yet with his understanding but felt warm and comfortable with his presentation. Knowing a little more of him (I met him twice before and heard much of him from Dr. Reyes—they were colleagues at the Adventist seminary at Silang), I was not surprised when AWESNA conferred on him and his wife, not only the privilege of membership in your alumni association but adopting them as Filipino brethren.

The special numbers in the banquet program were what I could term lutong bahay (home cooked). I say this not to belittle them but with profound admiration. It is commonly accepted that home cooked dinners are much more palatable than any other dinners. I could imagine the many hours that the participants spent to perfect their numbers. Little mistakes, but who cares! And they save money for better use.

It pleased my heart to hear the kind remarks that President Gayoba made on AUP’s

(Continued on page 19)
prerequisites for students, admittance was by political recommendation. There were no formal classes and students were only allowed to observe, staying what ever length of time they wished. Most of the procedures performed were related to environmental and epidemiological concerns, rather than clinical needs. A pathologist at one of the medical schools offered to train a technician for us. It sounded wonderful until I asked how long it would take. He said, "about six weeks". We said, "thanks" but "no thanks". We were left in a dilemma-- we thought the Lord had led us to Manila yet my husband was feeling discouraged he was almost ready to give up--. He would not do for people what we knew was possible with the proper support. All we could do was pray for direction. Third, was the response of the Lord. One day three men appeared at the door of our home. Elder Merritt Warren, then President of the North Philippine Union, Dr. Ruben Manalaysay, the President of Philippine Union College, and the third gentleman, a stranger to me, was introduced as the Director of the Philippine Government's Bureau of Private Schools. They announced that they had come to formally request me to start a School of Medical Technology for the Philippines.

I was shocked, and horrified! Me? Start a School of Medical Technology single handed, with no equipment or supplies, no help, and very little space? true, I had taught in the School of Medical Technology of the College of Medical Evangelists (now renamed Loma Linda University) but how could I imitate that? True, PUC had most of the necessary pre-requisite courses to prepare students, but where would I get a faculty for Med Tech? I searched for an escape from this unthinkable proposal by politely suggesting the one area that usually brings preposterous propositions to a cold stop-- the cost. We would need a large amount of expensive equipment, most of which would require dollars that were nearly impossible to acquire at that time. The gentlemen instructed me to prepare a list of necessary equipment. As they left, I thought my list would silence that idea. However, the problem for the hospital was not solved and the Lord was not through with me. Soon I was informed that my list had been Approved. At this point. I began to wonder if the Lord was leading to answer our prayers and perhaps I should not limit His power. At least I should tread a little farther in the path to see where it might lead. School or not, the Laboratory must be improved. As I began to search for equipment, we found that because of the shortage of dollars for importation, local supplies had almost nothing to offer. Also, in my youth and innocence I had not been aware of the fact that a committee voting for an expenditure and the organization actually having the money to fund it are two very different things. The available funds proved to match the availability of equipment! But then, with my feeble little spark of faith, the miracles began, equipment seemed to come out of the woodwork! Strangers called me asking if I could use the very thing I was searching for! Others led me to dusty, cobweb filled bodegas of US Army surplus where I found glassware and chemicals for very little cost. Groups and organizations began to donate needed items or raise funds. Little by little, reagents were found and tests added to the Laboratory. Setting up a chemistry department was a particularly tedious process. Often the available chemicals were old, wet or contaminated and ways had to be found to assay or standardize them. No commercial standards were available. Hematology was my area of expertise but fortunately I also had a strong background in Chemistry. However I had had no experience since school in three important areas, Microbiology, Parasitology and Histopathology. I was at a loss to know how to cover those subjects. Then, perhaps the most important miracle-- One day, Mrs. Adela Kabigting, our Director of Nurses came to me saying, "I have someone I want you to meet". She arranged an appointment with Antoinette McKelvey, a former patient of the hospital. She was a young woman about my age, from the same city of my birth, a Registered Medical Technologist. Her husband was in business in Manila and she told me she was tired of card parties, etc. and would like to volunteer for the hospital if we could use her! Her areas of expertise were, would you believe, Microbiology, Parasitology and Histopathology! She had even been to New York and personally trained under Dr. Papanicolaou himself in the then new pap smears! How our Lord loves to prearrange for our needs! What a burden rolled off my shoulders! Now I had someone to share
with me, to compliment my deficiencies, and be a support. She enthusiastically began developing her areas of the lab and accepted responsibility to teach in her fields. Despite the original request from the Bureau of Private Schools to start a program, getting it approved proved to be another matter. After being referred through a lengthy chain of bureaucrats, finally one honest man said, "None of us knows what such a curriculum should be but you have been pushed around enough and even though I don't know either, I'm going to approve it". I assured him that if they didn't know what a state of the art Med Tech curriculum was, I did, and that was what I was proposing. PUC gladly agreed to offer the degree and its science department heads were very helpful in recruiting students and encouraging me on our advisory committee. The Lord gave courage to very competent students to risk being pioneers in this field. So, just a year after our arrival in Manila, the approved school opened with its first student, Jesse Umali, in the fall of 1953. Early in January, 1954 he was joined by Adoracion Yutuc and Avelino Oliva. the three constituted the first class. The program was 18 months. On January 20, 1954, our son, James, was born. Classed recessed for one week. The next year I was able to recruit two former science teachers to be included in the class, Ester Myape and Eliseo Repique, who took the course and then joined our faculty. Later another American lady volunteered for a short time. A Mrs. Theodore. Gradually as competent students graduated and gained work experience, they became involved in instruction: Tessie Escalaw is Serology, Ann Varona, Bacteriology, Lourdes Valenzuela, Chemistry, Lucy Fernandez, HistoPath. First Jesse Umali then Avelino Oliva became heads of the Laboratory. In 1957 Dr. Richard Lukens, a Pathologist from Loma Linda, came for a short term and a Pathology residency was established. The residents we assigned to take the Med Tech course along with our students as part of their training in Clinical Pathology. By this time the laboratory had been greatly enlarged and we had our own classroom. The reputation of the school became international and we were requested to accept students from Adventist Hospitals in Japan and Taiwan. In 1963, when we returned to the United States, Tessie Escalaw ably took my place and faithfully serve for a number of years, then she was followed by Ann Varona. I can only marvel at how the Lord opened the way step by step as our faith increased, and what was accomplished with so little in human and physical resources. There were times of discouragement, times of opposition, but also glimpses of miraculous power and divine preparation if we only stick a toe in the Red Sea. Now I know that "God's biddings are His enablings".
In Commemoration

with the

60th Anniversary Celebration

of the

PUC/AUP-AMCM (1953-2013)

School of Medical Laboratory Sciences
SIERRA LEONE, (West Africa) – **Weakness:** We have not secured the land to keep out those that encroach on it and who have built and continue to erect permanent structures within the property. Non-existent maintenance department. Lack of suitable housing for majority of the staff and employees who are dispersed far and wide, who commute to the hospital from as far as Freetown. Few certified, formally educated and trained national staff. Transparency and accountability(?); thus the need to computerize records in all departments for up-to-date inventory and day to day transactions.

**Opportunity**

There’s still ample room for further development within the boundaries of the property in support of the hospital’s mission. Hint: staff housing, farm, industries, etc. Establish or improve our own: Wellness and rehab facility, X-ray, scan, diagnostic lab, dental clinic, pediatric and maternity wards, food service/café, satellite specialty clinics, need for continuing education and upgrading personnel and staff that may require starting either our own business, vocational, industrial and medical arts (nursing, x-ray and lab tech, physiotherapy) programs or serve as an extension campus of a government recognized and accredited SDA university. Hospital Accreditation foster support system of transnational Sierra Leonean donors, volunteer staff, philanthropic institutions and business (e.g. ASI-Sierra Leone chapter).

**Threat and Challenge**

Regarding the need of securing our property: legal action or lack of it. With respect to the question: How might we stay ahead of other health providers in this country? Clinics, hospitals that are mushrooming around us. Perpetuating colonial culture of dependence and reliance on external aid. Need for indigenous leaders to take ownership of the institution so that mistakes of the past would not be repeated, such as threat of shutting down the facility consequent to the[^12]
I was reluctant to write a story of my life. I felt I was nobody. But there were three special people who prodded and inspired me to write it. The first was the late Prof. Ban Alsaybar. We were colleagues at Philippine Union College. He heard me mentioned the episodes of my life in my talks and sermons. He urged me to contribute to the first 12 mini-autobiographies of my colleagues, I found them not only interesting but very inspiring. I was hooked. I wrote mine for volume 2 of the said publication.

I included copies of MIRROFLECTS among the books read by my students in the AUP seminary extension schools I conducted. (Copies of MIRROFLECTS are not available in the homeland). The feedbacks from my students were terrific. They even asked permission to have copies made in the local copy shops in town. When Ban read my mini-autobiography entitled I COULD HAVE BEEN A MONK, he urged me to write a full one. He called me almost once every week by long distance (till his death) about it. I kept on promising that I could do it. I finally did it! This is it!

The second person is another colleague of mine, Dr. Gil Fernandez. He too, had heard my episodes. He advised me to put them in print. “Hundreds, nay thousands would benefit reading them!”

The third person was Dr. Ottis Edwards. We joined the staff of the PUC faculty at the same time in 1959. I preached often when he appointed me pastor of the college church. And heard my stories. He commented at the time and in his letters (we continue to communicate with each other) that my stories thrilled his soul!

I consider it a privilege to teach ministers-to-be at PUC and ministers at the Seventh-day Theological Seminary in the Far East. At retirement, I continued to do balikbayan trip to my Alma Mater, as an adjunct professor. The ravages of age have began to tell. Elmer (Dr. Bangloy) recently commented, “Dad, your knees are weak but I am glad that your brain is still clear and strong!” I wrote this book, thinking of you—ministerial students, ministers, and fellow travelers to the LAND MADE NEW. I wrote it for your encouragement and edification. God bless!

Note: I am giving all the proceeds of this book to a joint project of South Central Luzon Conference and its academy, Lipa Adventist Academy. This book and your donations are eternal legacy to our youth!
Dear Friends,

Today we got the surprise of our lives. One of our staff went over to the CHED to get a copy of the resolution approving our application for exception and allow MAMC to be our training hospital. When we read the resolution, it turned out that because MAMC can now be our base hospital, we are allowed to open the COM by June 2013! We were still hesitant because we were planning for June 2014. We only have two months left before opening of classes! Upon inquiry from the Region IV director herself, we discovered that we have to open this June. If we do not, we go back to square one in the application process. The permit to open allowed us to skip the return visit of the technical committee.

There are so many challenges! Please continue to include us in your prayers! The Lord is so good and we have no doubt He will provide for us the strength, the wisdom, and the people that are needed badly in order for the COM to open.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Francisco D. Gayoba, DTheol
President
Adventist University of the Philippines

March 27, 2013
Disappointed But Undaunted
By Alfonso Miguel, Jr. MD

The planned opening of the AUP College of Medicine on June 2013 was placed on hold after the CHED Technical Panel for Medical Education in the Philippines determined on their visit last October 25, 2012 that there are issues that needed to be addressed and corrected by the university. As most of us Alumni know from the recently disseminated open letter via the internet from AUP President Dr. Francisco Gayoba, most of the deficiencies mentioned during the exit report were related to “curriculum and instruction, faculty and location of the base hospital”. These deficiencies are being actively pursued and hopefully the outlook for opening the AUP COM will have a better chance next year.

I am sure most of us alumni here and abroad were greatly disappointed with this recent development. In a very personal note, the negative news profoundly dashed my enthusiasm having been involved with dialogues at various times between AUP and LLU leaderships as well as with fellow alumni especially among our local physicians who are actively in private practice and some who recently retired. In fact, in our last visit with Dr. F. Gayoba with the LLU President Dr. Richard Hart and LLU SOM Dean Dr. Roger Hadley plans were to schedule seminars for those who indicated interest to serve as faculty to the AUP COM for short term duration before June 2013. In addition, Dr. Gayoba and I met with the LLU School of Religion leadership who are actively involved in the integration of Religion and Spirituality in the training of future physicians. We also participated in the actual working of the program with the freshmen Class of 2013 in small group settings. Hopefully, the new AUP COM will follow the LLU COM model which will make it unique to our medical education program in the Philippines. Yes, there are many distractions, detours, setbacks, disappointments, you name it, along the road as we move forward, wrought with daunting difficulties but the opportunity of a realized dream of having our AUP COM soon is worth the time and effort and sacrifices to achieve it for God’s glory and honor.

We are all very proud and appreciative of the training we had at PUC/AUP. The school has equipped us to move on forward in our professional endeavors. We have been blessed and continue to be blessed in this adopted country. We can ensure the success and future success of our Alma Mater if we persist in our resolve to help sustain our continued loyalty and support in its various needs. As the old refrain from our School song says, “On ever onward, dear AUP! For true and faithful we will always be, by deeds and praises, we’ll honor thee; And God blesses thee our AUP.” Shine on! Forever…

I will certainly encourage all our well-meaning alumni and friends of PUC/AUP to keep our university in our prayer and thoughts. Let us Pray Until Something Happens (P.U.S.H.). We are surely disappointed, but undaunted with God leading the way in all our lives.
Bridging the Gap, the AUP COM Building Project
By Ephraim Roxas, BSC '62/PUC

There was no gap between alumni and AUP when for many years, even decades, we wished for a College of Medicine at AUP. On the issue of "Bridging the Gap", we should identify the beginnings of the gap and how this developed to the point that this is a real gap that we have now to make a bridge to solve it. All the commentaries previously given seem relevant and important. They provide information to different audiences and meet the need to enlighten many. But I feel that others are seeking more light into what gap needs a bridge to and eventually solve it. The gap was not quite visible when AUP announced that the College of Medicine (COM) program was submitted to CHED. Later AUP announced that CHED had virtually approved the COM program except that it needed a COM building. This was accepted as gospel truth by many alumni. The gap started visibly when AUP prematurely started the ground foundation of the supposedly COM building project knowing full well that CHED had not really approved the COM program. The gap grew when AUP acted on a campaign mode concerning the COM building project and AWESNA and EASNAC had not officially endorsed it. They were told to solicit alumni individually. This was remedied later by AWESNA when they endorsed it several months ago. The gap continued to widen when AUP did not make clear that this COM building project is solely a capital expenditure of the alumni and non-alumni and that AUP has no share in the monetary expenditure. This was emphasized in a rally in one of the AWESNA chapters.

The gap became big enough that it needs a bridge, when it became clearer that CHED did not approve the AUP COM program. But now the collected donations from alumni and non-alumni have all been spent. AUP spent a total of Php 18 million and using up all Php 16 million collected from alumni and non-alumni donation money leaving an overrun expenditure of Php 2 million which AUP is saying that alumni and non-alumni owe the COM building project. The eye opener that started this project under the label of COM building project was that this was going to be a multi-shared medical building for the Medical Tech., Dietetics, and the Dentistry colleges.*

AUP might have mentioned this in passing but the focus and emphasis of the marketing scheme was that of COM building project. AUP collected the donation money under a marketing scheme in the name of COM building project, where donors' names will be assigned various rooms/offices/lab/theater and various facilities in the building project. But all the donations collected, all Php 16million of them was spent in the ground foundation. This is the gap as I view it. We need a bridge to cross the gap and AUP should provide the bridge. The bridge needed is for AUP to make an accounting of the donation money collected in the name of the COM building project to its donors and list the names of all the donors. The approximate total received was Php 16 million. The bridge needed is for the AUP President to write all donors and enclose the financial accountability statements with the list of the donors of the project as an acknowledgement of appreciation to them. State the future plans for the COM program. The bridge needed is for AUP to pay back all donations spent to a ‘trust fund account’ under “COM building project donations” or at least acknowledge that this is AUP’s accounts payable to the ‘trust fund account’ for donations spent. This is the bridge that will later be a solid path of eliminating the gap that now exists between alumni/ non-alumni and AUP. This is the bridge as I perceive it. This bridge is plain and simple and may be very hard but very possible to happen, in my humble opinion. With much prayer and faith, I remain, Sincerely yours,

Ephraim Roxas
Greater Northern California Chapter News

GNCC Officers’ Meeting at San Jose.

The Greater Northern California chapter (GNCC) of AWESNA held a meeting at San Jose Fil-Am SDA Church in February 23, 2013. The meeting started at 4 p.m. with opening prayer and devotional by Pastor Joshua Mura. His topic was about “Divide and Conquer.” Those who attended the meeting were: Emily Garcia, Oscar Pablo, Edwin Araba, Dr. and Mrs. Ellacer, Jun Ellacer, Esther Tan, Cel and Obed Aposol.

One of the projects we have is helping the AUP’s working students. This April our chapter would like to give a little financial help to AUP’s working students, especially those that are in deep financial difficulty. We can make this happen with your donation of $20, $25, $50 or more. There are about 600 working students at AUP and we will help as many as we can. We are planning to select 15 to 20 academically excelling students who are in dire need of financial help. We will post their names in The Link and AUP Cyberlink and find sponsors who are willing to help them in full or in part with their tuition fees. If you are touched to share your blessings with others, please write a check to AWESNA so your donation will be tax deductible. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over…” Luke 6:38.

We will have a get-together, fellowship day on July 6, 2013 at 4 p.m. at Oscar and Odith Pablo’s residence on 1122 Cypress Run, Stockton, CA 95209. Please plan to attend and invite your fellow alumni to this potluck get-together. We would like to hold a fund-raising concert this year. We are looking for a singer who can help us stage this. There is a lot of work ahead of us and I hope that with God leading us, you can help in whatever way or means you can.

GNCC P.O. Box 582091 Elk Grove, CA 95758

THE LINK
The Link is published by the Adventist University of the Philippines Alumni of Western North America. Please send news articles, photos and comments to: The Editor, 9600 Flame Tokay Way, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

EDITORIAL BOARD
Fil Alcaide, Jr.
Alberto Bagtingto
Edwin Araba

Copyright 2013
All rights reserved

THE LINK STAFF
Editor / Layout & Design
Edwin Araba

Editorial Assistants
Kathy Leberinto
Emily N. Garcia
Jean Ramaniego
Edwin Dale Araba

Advisers
Eppie Manalo, PhD
Alfonso Miguel, Jr. MD

Reporters
All Chapter PROs

Email:
theLinkawesna@aol.com
LOMA LINDA AWESNA HOLDS HEALTH FAIR & ASSISTS IN CHURCH EVANGELISM

AWESNA- Loma Linda Chapter conducted a health Fair in October 7, 2012, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., joining the parking lot yard sale and food sale of the Loma Linda Filipino Church Community Services.

Services included consultation, cardiovascular screening with blood pressure and blood sugar checks, vision checks, lectures on nutrition and stress management. Free toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste were likewise handed out to patients.

The Loma Linda Chapter likewise assisted through health lectures during the Church Evangelistic Crusade in October 26, 2012 to November 10, 2012. Topics and alumni lecturers are shown in the Table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Let’s Manage Stress</td>
<td>Regelyn Checo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body as a Temple</td>
<td>Jethrone Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Balanced Diet (Part 1)</td>
<td>Clarita Siapco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Balanced Diet (Part 2)</td>
<td>Clarita Siapco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myths and Truth about Diet</td>
<td>Clarita Siapco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits of Water</td>
<td>Benjamin Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping Beauty (Importance of Sleep)</td>
<td>Benjamin Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Air We Breathe</td>
<td>Jethrone Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress-Effects to our Body</td>
<td>Serafin Lalas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Much, Too Little (Temperance)</td>
<td>Serafin Lalas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body and Exercise (Part 1)</td>
<td>Israel /Charity Cabreros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body and Exercise (Part 2)</td>
<td>Israel /Charity Cabreros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of Dietary Fiber</td>
<td>Benjamin Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin D: Bones need it</td>
<td>Benjamin Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Through Me</td>
<td>Jethrone Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music and Health</td>
<td>Jethrone Role</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LITA LAOYAN, Chapter president
La Sierra Chapter News:

La Sierra Chapter Holds Its 2013 First Quarterly Meeting

Taken from The e-Linkette by Lucy Fernando, Tessie Sajid & Ralph Tigno.

It was a sunny but blustery and chilly Sunday when the La Sierra chapter’s 2013 first quarterly meeting–cum-farewell party for Zell and Nestor Zamora was held in February 24, 2013 at the Social Hall of the La Sierra University Church’s Sierra Vista Chapel.

Regular members who came were: Leni Espiritu, Ernesto Ezpeleta, Mamerta Ezpeleta, Lucy and Miguelito Fernando, Gloria & Wenceslao Luib, Mario & Yolanda Manalo, Miami Manalo, Evelyn Psamba, Delio Pascual, Aurora & Renato Rada, Teresa Sajid, Betty & Ralph Tigno, Romeo & Teresa Torres, Abner & Eleanor Velasco, Herminia & Alva Verde, Blessie Zagala, Ellen & Eddie Zamora.

Several non-members and guests who also came included: Ange & Vida Boloyco, Ric Laurel, Carmen & Joey Ortiz, Kathy Pascual, Elizabeth Rada, Aida Rebadulla, and Pedrito Tongpo.

The meeting opened at 11:10 a.m. with a short devotional by the chapter treasurer, Lucy Fernando, who spoke on making sure that while one waits for the Lord’s promised return, one must “occupy” and use time efficiently and profitably.

The following devotional, the day’s agenda were discussed and acted upon as needed. These include the following:

1. The AUP Worthy Student Project. According to Lucy Fernando, the chapter treasurer, so far, at least $1,000 have been collected from La Sierra chapter donors/members towards the chapter’s Worthy Working Student scholarship project.

2. The Annual Membership Dues. All members were reminded to pay their annual membership dues of $25.00 per member. It is hoped that in 2013, the La Sierra chapter will have 100% participation (dues collection) compared to 2012 when only a little bit over one-half of the membership paid the annual membership fee.

3. The AWESNA Endowment Fund. All members were similarly reminded of the chapter goal of $1,250.00 per family/household contribution (payable either as a one-time lump sum or $250.00 per year X 5 years) to the AWESNA Endowment Fund. Several members have already given their full contribution. Those who have not done so are highly encouraged to turn it their share; December 31 is the annual deadline for those who have chosen to contribute yearly for 5 years.

A copy of the chapter’s 2012 Financial Report was distributed for everyone’s review and comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. To close the chapter’s meeting, Mamerta Ezpeleta offered the prayer and the blessing for the potluck meal which immediately followed.

During the potluck lunch, a long-time La Sierra residents and members of the La Sierra chapter, Zelle and Nestor Zamora, who were relocating to the Loma Linda area, were serenaded by:

- Wences Luib, who played Somewhere Over the Rainbow on his harmonica,
- A vocal ensemble, composed of Ric Laurel, Renato Rada, Pedrito Tongpo, Romy Torres, & Abner Velasco, with Delio Pascual as the piano accompanist; and
- Gloria & Wences Luib who sang their own version of Ang tanging Kong pag-ibig accompanied on the piano by Ralph Tigno.

As a “moving away” gift, the Zamoras received an enveloped full of cash from La Sierra chapter members and other well-wishers.
conferring the honoris-causa-Doctor of Humanities degree to Dr. Miguel and Dr. Bangloy. I heard my father-in-law say that this degree is much more prestigious than a PhD degree. A PhD degree is obtained after a candidate has fulfilled the requirements of a curriculum of courses, the most important of which was writing and defending a dissertation. Often times a small committee examine the candidate orally. On the other hand, a recipient of a Dr. of humanities degree, indicates that he has convinced the conferring institution, beyond any reasonable doubt, that he has undeniable love and service not only to the conferring institution but to the world/humanity at large. My acquaintance with two recipients of the honorary degree convinces me that AUP did not err in conferring them the honor. I have a few more comments but I probably have said a mouthful already.

In Memoriam: Naomi Diaz Hilado

It's sad to announce that Ma'am Naomi Hilado passed away in Pasay City. She was at one time Head of SMT. She was my teacher in Histopathology and I have wonderful memories of Ma'am Hilado. She had this distinct laugh and was a very energetic lady. She was the one who gave me my nickname “Majo” that stuck with me until now. Meet you in the morning Ma'am Hilado. Condolence to his son, Winston Hilado!” — Marjorie Ann Reyno

“Ako rin, nakikiramay sa pag-panaw ni Ma'am, condolence Doc Winston.” — Joe Balay

---

“ We will miss her for now, but joy comes in the morning when we will see her again. Bye, for now, see you in the morning! Soon!” — Lucy Fernando

“My sincere sympathies to Winston & family. Fond memories of and gratitude to a dear mentor and loving lady Ma'am Naomi Hilado.” — Pearl P. Portug

March 2013 NEWS FLASH:

AUP Med Techs Top the MLS Board Exam
(with 100% passing rate)

1. Gladys April Batan Catibog AUP 90.70%
2. Becky Dawn Lopez Chavez AUP 90.50%
4. Jonathan J. Macatiag IV AUP 90.10%
8. Gershon Mark Gabo Cortez AUP 89.00%

Recent promotion:

AWESNA would like to congratulate Angela Manalo-Lalas’ promotion to VP for Finance—Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center!
AWESNA San Diego Chapter Meeting

The new set of officers for the AWESNA San Diego chapter 2013-2015 had their first chapter meeting at Nelly Alamo’s residence in September 6, 2012 at 7 PM. The following were present during the meeting: Pastor Willie and Nitz Ombao, Doug and Cris Anunciado, Paz Agustines, Nelly Alamo, Josiel Apilado, Myrna Corrales, Rufino & Yessie Magpayo, Tom and Connie Mirasol, Lina Quezada, Dan and Fem Ramirez, Gerry and Flory Vasquez.

The devotional was led by Pastor Willie Ombao and it was followed by discussions regarding the forthcoming AWESNA international convention and the local annual convention and the search for the venue (Hotels) in San Diego. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

The following are the elected officers for the years 2013-2015:

President - Crisamar Anunciado

Vice-Presidents:

Religious - Pastor Limuel Liwanag
Socials - Jorilyn dela Cruz
Membership - Nelly Alamo
Young Alumni - Gemma Banaag
North County - Glory Maravilla

Secretary - Connie Mirasol

Associates:

San Diego Fil-Am Josiel Apilado
North County Blessie Mutya
Paradise Valley Florie May de Guzman

Treasurer - Ellen Esmillo

Asso. Treasurer - Lina Quezada
North County Nevin Napod
Auditor Paz Agustines

Asso. Auditor - David Reyes

PRO - Fem Ramirez
Asso. PRO Ember Suasi
Project/Scholarship - Flory Vasquez
Asso. P/S Myrna Corrales
COMELEC - Rufino Magpayo
Advisers Pastor Willie Ombao

Auxillary Head - Pastor Dale Barizo
Members:
1. Myrna Corrales
2. Esther Pressy
3. Edith Francisco
4. May Erasmo
5. Merle Conopio
6. Nitz Ombao
7. Merlinda Ranches
8. Melo Jean Zabala
9. Dina Zabala
10. Mar Mutya
11. Romy de Guzman
12. Tom Mirasol
13. Doug Anunciado
14. Dan Ramirez
15. Sam Ranches
16. Ernest Pablo
17. Chrigel Galang
18. Gerry Vasquez
19. Kim Liwanag
20. Meriam Alimango
Greater LA Chapter Went Caroling

Reminiscent of Christmas past in the Philippines, Loida Miguel, Chapter President, stirred her fellow officers to a fundraising Christmas caroling to benefit AUP’s needy working students and Tuition aid programs.

With great enthusiasm, the officers, together with their spouses and other alumni, donned their Christmas attire and with a joyful noise, they sang their hearts out with Christmas carols, at the festively decorated houses of Tom and Annie Madigan in December 1 and at Dr. Elmer and Lorie Bangloy in December 9, 2012. Our heartfelt thanks go to these couples for opening their beautiful homes and for their generosity.

Tony Marientes, a gifted guitarist, accompanied the carolers with his electric guitar. Everyone enjoyed singing, socializing, and of course the food. We were also entertained by Jeb Bangloy and his sister Jasmine with their rendition of Christmas specials. Even the two Bangloy granddaughters joined in the merriment by singing their favorite songs, with Grandma Lorie at the piano. The group enjoyed the experience that they are looking forward to another caroling for a worthy cause next year.

Our deep appreciation and thanks to the following participants: Alfonso and Loida Miguel, Ruth Ranchez, Cres Pimentel, Josie and Prodie Sta. Ana, Ramon and Ruth Suban, Esther Bautista, Fern Kintanar, Fe Asuncion, Minnie Tamayo, Helen Rivero, Don and Gladys Roman, Miriam and Paul Oconer, Ceres and Ray Gurango, Dely Mina, Esther Arafiles, Edith Buenoobra, Tony Marientes, Nemy and Pearl Legaspi.

In addition, we would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the Tuition aid and Rice Program projects: Elmer and Lorie Bangloy, Alberto and Violy Bagingito, Esther Bautista, Jose and Percy Canlas, Elisa Cucueco Liu, Annie Madigan, Paul and Miriam Oconer, Cres Pimentel, Ruth Ranchez, Minnie Tamayo, Ray and Esther Villanueva, ER Home Health, Inc., Alfonso and Loida Miguel. A generous amount of $3,650.00 received will enable the Greater Los Angeles Chapter to sponsor six (6) AUP deserving students with their tuition for the coming school year and will continue the Rice Program for needy students.

The Greater LA Chapter held its rally at Central Filipino SDA Church in March 2, 2013 Saturday, 4:00 p.m.. Dr. Vic Louis Arreola IV, director of the Asian-Pacific Ministries of Pacific Union Conference and North American Division, served as our Speaker for the Divine Worship Service and Devotional in the afternoon rally.

(More News on page 22)
Greater Los Angeles Chapter Holds Rally
By Philip Trilles, philuptrilles@yahoo.com

On March 2, 2013 the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of AWESNA held a rally at the Central Filipino Adventist Church in Los Angeles, CA. Loida Miguel, the new chapter president, welcome the alumni who came from nearby churches such as White Memorial and Pasadena Adventist. The focus of the rally, aside from fellowship and renewing of acquaintances, was to arouse members for action and re-ignite the enthusiasm to continue the various projects of the chapter in behalf of the working students of AUP. Two main projects: Tuition Aid and Needy Students (formerly Rice Program). Detailed reports on these planned undertakings were given by Esther Bautista on Tuition Aid and Ceres Gurango on Needy Students (formerly Rice Program). It was very heartening to note that some of the students who had been recipients of the benevolence had finished their courses and had graduated and now joined the work force in their communities.

The guest speaker of the rally was Elder VicLouis Arreola III, Director of the Asian/Pacific Ministries for North American Division and Pacific Union Conference. He was introduced by Dr. Elmer Bangloy. He spoke on Encouragers vs. Discouragers. One way or the other our influences exert some power over the minds or behavior of others. He admonished the audience: Let us all be encouragers to one another to keep our alumni association alive and well reaching our goals for the benefit of our alma mater.

After the program light supper was served followed by competitive games led by Don Roman with prices for winners of some games. Over all it was an evening well spent with fellow alumni and friends.
NEWS FLASH: CHED Approves AUP College of Medicine

During the AUP Commencement Exercises last March 24, 2013 the keynote speaker, Atty. Julito D. Vitriolo, Executive Director IV of Commission on Higher Education, made a very surprising announcement. CHED approved the application of AUP College of Medicine. Our very own AWESNA president, Alberto Bagingito witnessed the event. The AUP College of Medicine will open its classes on June 2013 and the training base hospital will be held at the Adventist Medical Center, Manila. (Source: Alberto Bagingito, Beth Casel, 3/27/13).

PRAISE GOD FOR MIRACLES!

Officially the AUP Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Miriam P. Narbarte, has received the Commission on Higher Education resolution that says the PROPOSAL to start the 2013 DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (AUP College of Medicine) is approved and that MAMC* is the base hospital. We asked for little, God answered more than we expect and there will be more blessings coming. WE PRAISE THE LORD! (Source: Facebook, AUP Cyberlink, 3/27/13, Joyosthie Basco Orbe).

* Also known as Adventist Medical Center, Manila.

REMINDEERS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

First International PUC-AUP Alumni Convention
Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, Philippines
April 2-7, 2013

AWESNA 42nd Annual Convention
San Diego Marriott La Jolla Hotel
La Jolla, CA 92037
August 30 - September 1, 2013
Years before I was born, my family entertained two individuals who came to our community selling religious books. They stayed in the house. There was something unique about those guests. Before each meal they bowed their heads, closed their eyes and prayed. They never talked about their religion. Neither did my parents bother to ask. To them they were just two nice people who needed a place to stay while in our barrio trying to sell their wares. Mother ordered three books—a Bible, The Great Controversy, and Christ's Object Lessons—all in Ilocano. When they came to deliver the books a few days later, Mother was alone in the house. Then, too, she did not have enough money to pay for the books she ordered. She went to a neighbor-relative and borrowed money. Those books became part of Father's collections which he read occasionally. Discovering the Ten Commandments, Father began to question which was the true rest day. He'd also felt uncomfortable with his religious belief regarding the state of the dead. He began to believe the things he read in the Bible. About ten years later a group of seventh-day keepers from across town came to the community and asked one family if they could hold meetings in their house during Saturday afternoons and invite some people from around the (To be continued on the next issue).