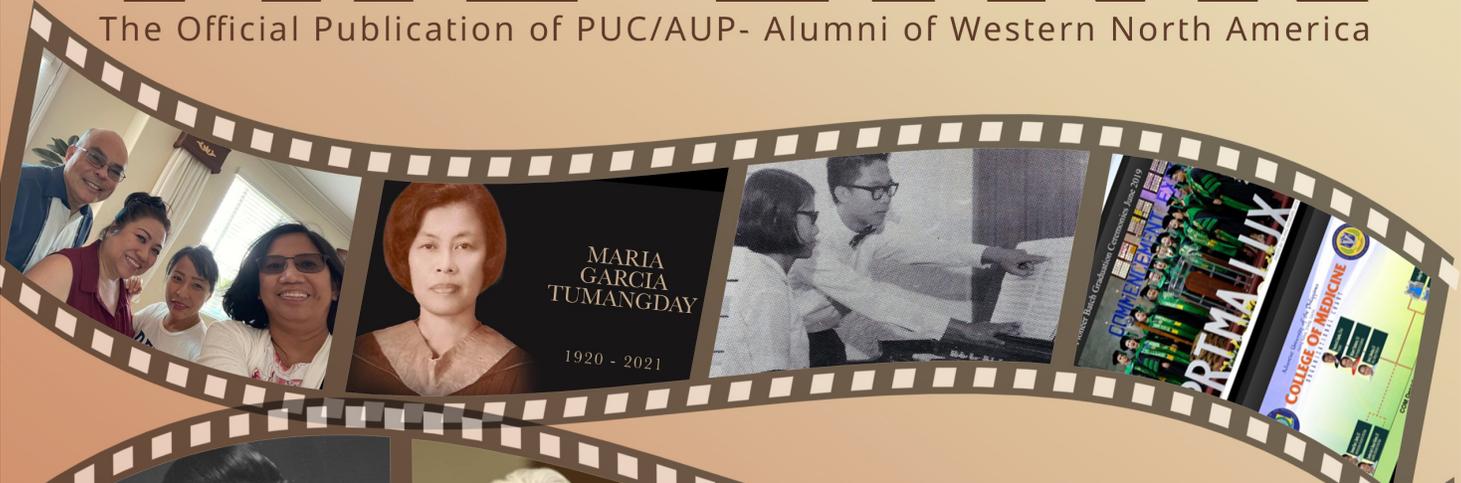


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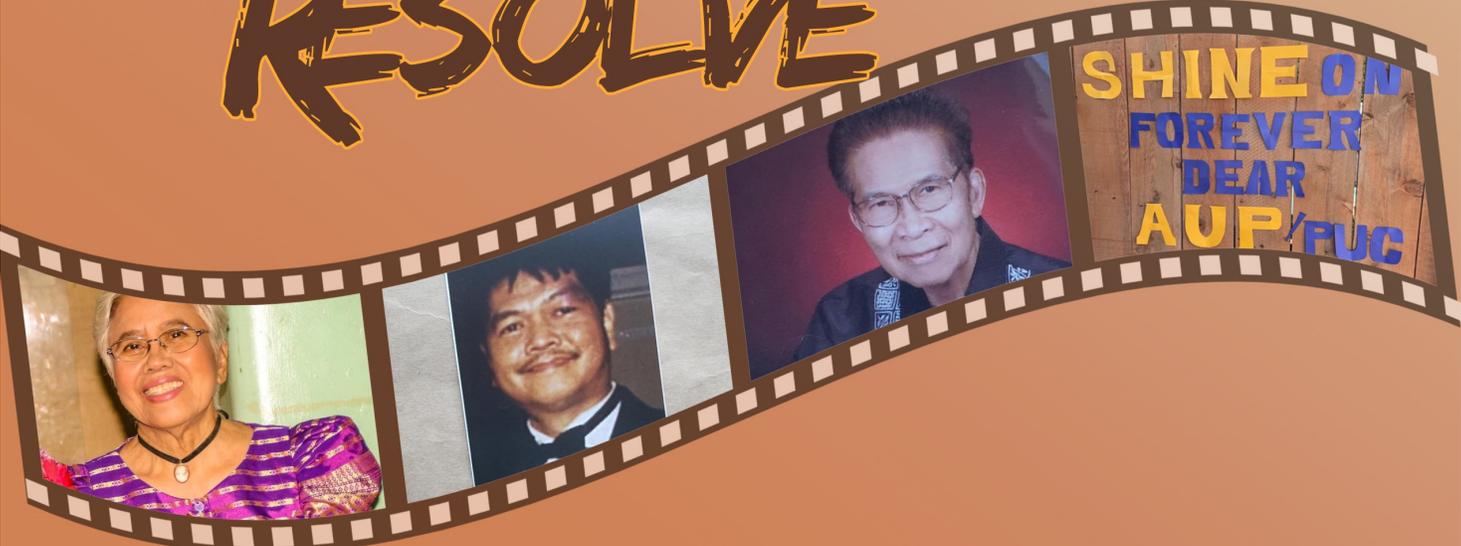
VOLUME 52, ISSUE 2

THE LINK

The Official Publication of PUC/AUP- Alumni of Western North America



RESILIENCE AND RESOLVE





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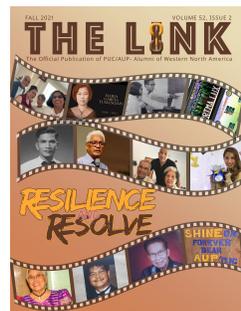
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Upper Strip: Silang Pioneers: Don Ferrolino, Arlene Ferrolino, Melody Mutya, Marjorie Reyno Huynh; Dr. Maria Tumangday; Nestor Zamora with piano student; PRIMA LUX Class, AUP-COM

Middle Strip: Dr. Ulysses Carbajal, Dionicio Rivera, Trio of Eugene Carbajal, Charles David, Jovita Carbajal, Khristine Jinkee Pineda

Lower Strip: Veneracion Cabana, Bangele “Nonoy” Alsaybar, Professor Nestor Zamora

Cover Page designed by Jeruel Ibanez, Layout Editor

Message from the AWESNA President



RESILIENCE AND RESOLVE

Life has been compared to a roller coaster. Crisis, failure, and success have been inevitable in our adventure in this world. When confronted with challenges that try our faith and drain our strength, we are faced with the crucial decision of either getting off or completing the bumpy and stressful ride. In moments like these, two words come to mind—**Resilience and Resolve**. Let me begin with a familiar story quoted in *Transforming Lives Through Resilience in Education, University of Texas, Austin (2021)*:

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway-it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all of his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Resilience. Dictionaries render this term as the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity; the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, tragedy or significant sources of stress. "It's your ability to withstand adversity and bounce back and grow despite life's downturns," says Amit Sood, MD, the executive director of the Global Center for Resiliency and Well-Being, creator of the Resilient Option Program, and former professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, quoted from *What is Resilience? Your Guide to Facing Life's Challenges, Adversities, and Crises* by Katie Hurley, December 10, 2021.

Resolve is a firm determination to do something. Common synonyms include decide, determine, rule, and settle; opposite terms are indecision, weakness, wavering, question, fear, cowardice.

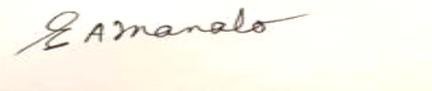
It cannot be overemphasized that this unprecedented time in global history and in AWESNA's experience require both of these skills/traits—**resilience** amidst the uncertainties and **resolve** to overcome threats to the association's goals and even existence. You and I have been witnesses to God's power through the current global pandemic. Despite the odds, our miracle-working God who has endowed us with resilience/resolve has enabled us to realize projects and be His heart and hands to the less privileged and our alma mater in unexpected ways in 2020 and early 2021:

1. **Spiritual Retreat - Miracle Springs Resort and Spa, Desert Springs (January 24-26, 2020). Despite the observable flaws and wide space for improvement, we saw more of the younger alumni join the retreat.**
2. ***Lucban Medical-Dental-Surgical and Evangelistic Outreach (February 2020). A total of 2,700 patients served and more than a hundred souls baptized.**
3. ***AWESNA sound system and website (January 2020)**

4. ***Financial assistance/tokens to AUP working students**
 - 4.1 Ongoing scholarships
 - 4.2 Inter-semester financial assistance of \$10,000 (June and July 2020)
 - 4.3 19 laptops for online learning/classes (October 2020)
 - 4.4 Christmas cash gifts, masks, sanitizers (\$10,000) for 156 working students (December 2020)
5. ***Salary assistance (\$20,000) to AUP workers adversely affected by Covid-19 (December 2020, March 2021)**
6. ***Financial assistance (\$2,300) for accommodation for the first batch (16) of graduates from the AUP College of Medicine taking the licensure exams this year in March (February 2021). Fifteen passed the exams with one making it as 6th placer.**
7. **Assistance amounting to \$200,000 from Endowment Fund earnings towards completion of Phase I of the College of Arts and Humanities building.**
8. ***Signing of Memorandum of Agreement between AUP and AWESNA for the university's Community Extension Services. Donation of \$5,000 extended for projects recommended and approved by the Community Affairs Committee.**
9. **Reviving of Visiting Professors program**
10. **Organizing of the San Gabriel Valley Chapter on August 15, 2021.**

God's leadership and unwavering alumni support have made us ever resilient and resolve firmly, to continue performing the ministry He has entrusted us through AWESNA (despite continuing threats from Covid-19)—to engage in outreach and extend assistance for priority projects that advance and enhance God's cause in AUP. Resilient Bible characters like Moses and Joseph, and above all, Jesus, who, despite ordeals and traumatic events never wavered but determined to focus and accomplish their ministries, testify to God's faithfulness: James 1:2-3— *2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* - Isaiah 41:10.

Sincerely yours,



Note: For purposes of relevance to the 2021 convention theme, this article has been modified and updated by the author from the original version printed in the last issue of the LINK.



Greetings to All Attendees and Participants of the AWESNA Convention:

As alumni, friends, and their families gather in this Convention, we praise God for such an opportunity. Despite the pandemic, you meet to encourage one another. The contagion has been part of our lives for more than a year now, even preventing AWESNA from holding a convention last year. Despite this, it has been a fruitful year for the Association as it worked hard to assist the University in responding to the challenges.

AWESNA and other alumni and supporters sent help to our students and employees when they were locked down in the initial days of the pandemic. Among other projects, you raised funds so working students who had no computers can continue studying online by providing laptops for them. Alumni and friends even sent money to provide for the quarantine needs of patients during the outbreak on the campus. In addition, you assisted the working students who lost income during the lockdown. When most of the students return to the campus, hopefully this January, they will be able to use the lower ground floor of the College of Arts building because of the generosity of AWESNA. The University would not have survived well this pandemic without your faithful and timely support. It will be written in the history of the University that our Alumni associations, under committed leadership, were there to help when we needed it most.

May the Lord continue to bless each of you and your families as you gather to encourage one another to use your means and influence to bless others.

Grace and peace to all.

Francisco D Cayoba, DTheol
President



August 17, 2021

EDITORIAL

Marjorie Reyno—Huynh, PIO

Dear Fellow Alumni,

WELCOME to AWESNA’s 51st Convention here at Doubletree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, Arizona this September 3-5, 2021. The theme of our AWESNA Link Fall edition is **Resilience and Resolve**.

Despite the surging delta variant of COVID-19 we are gathered here not only because we miss each other but to celebrate our organization and its accomplishments and gain inspiration from our speaker, Dan Smith and each other. As an organization, we had given light and hope to dark situations during this difficult time. I was inspired by the stories of our alumni who not only exemplified *Resilience and Resolve* but they have been a light in their corner. May their stories inspire you!

While working on this edition of the Link, this song came to mind, “This Little Light of Mine”. I was reminded of the verses in Matthew 5:14-16 (KJV): “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” AWESNA Alumni—Let us SHINE ON FOREVER! (and sing!)

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (Repeat 3x). Let it shine (Repeat 3x)

Everywhere I go, I’m gonna to let it shine (Repeat 3x). Let it shine (Repeat 3x)

Jesus is the Light, I’m gonna let Him shine (Repeat 3x), Let Him shine (Repeat 3x)

To get updates about AWESNA and to access the current and past LINK editions go to the AWESNA website at <https://puc-aupawesna.org>. Or Join our Facebook page, The Link-AWESNA and invite your friends!

Thank you to all the contributors of the Fall issue of the Link.

Stay safe!

Marjorie Reyno-Huynh



The Link-AWESNA



WEBSITE: <https://puc-aupawesna.org>

THE LINK

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AWESNA CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

By Esther Liongco-Ong, MD



Despite the global crisis of the Covid19 Pandemic last year, 2020, AWESNA was able to share blessings during the Christmas time to AUP workers and working students adversely affected by Covid19.

Through the initiative of the AWESNA Community Affairs, we were able to bless 156 AUP working students with P2,000 cash each and a bag of face shields, masks, and hand sanitizers per student. The gift-giving event took place on December 20, 2020, was led by Dr. Salvador Molina, VP for Student Services, PUC alumni Theodore and Beth Malagar (Representing AWESNA), Emer Rumarate, Coordinator for working students and Lowie de Ocampo, Chair, Office Management Department. Dr. Francisco Gayoba, AUP President, graced the event with his presence and encouragement to working students.

AWESNA conveys thanks to the following donors for making this project possible:

- Emiliano Manalo Foundation**
- Theodore & Beth Malagar**
- Mario & Esther Ong**
- Tablang Insurance Solutions, Inc.**
- Renato & Ceres Gurango**
- Naomi Ong**
- Regino and Esther Villanueva**
- Roldan & Morena Abello**
- Granville & Mary Jane Ampong**



Esther Liongco-Ong, AWESNA Community Affairs Chair giving a report during the BOO Meeting held at Loma Linda, CA on May 23, 2021.



Bag of Face shields, masks and hand sanitizers



Gift Giving ceremony at AUP on December 23, 2020 graced by Drs. Frank Gayoba (President), Salvador Molina (VP Student Services) with Theodore and Beth Malagar representing AWESNA and Emer Rumarate (Working student Coordinator) and Lowie de Ocampo.



Glendale Chapter Report

By Arlene Tordecilla-Ferrolino

Notwithstanding the dramatic and life-changing events of the past year, the Glendale Chapter has not slowed down. In a series of special meetings of a handful of core members on July 17 and July 24, 2021 the previous set of officers was confirmed along with the election of a new secretary—Wilma Alinsod Dauglash and a new treasurer—Norma Badiola Tobias. Leading the Glendale Chapter is Gordon Farinas. The officers and members of the chapter look forward to continued participation in AWESNA activities and events in the future.

During three Sabbaths in the month of July, we were privileged to host alumni of the AUP Ambassadors, now The Philippine Meistersingers, Rhody Morada and Josiah Paguio who provided music for the Hour of Worship at the Glendale Filipino Church. What a joy it was to relive memorable times from their past tours and to make more memorable moments with them?

Glendale Chapter officers and members pose for a quick photo after their meeting.

L—R: Back Row: Adviser Ernesto Banaag, Treasurer Norma Badiola Tobias, President Gordon Farinas, Pastor Lemuel Niere, Religious Vice President and Pastor Albert Regoso. Second Row: Adviser Don Ferrolino, Amelia Dizon, Social Vice President Arlene Ferrolino, Leticia Banaag, Angelina Regoso, Secretary Wilma Dauglash, Front Row: Betty Tordecilla



Reunion of Meistersingers and their hosts at the Ferrolino residence.

L— R: Nathan Dauglash, Kyari Alcantara Nava, Javier Nava, Emily Ferrolino, Josie Galang Dauglash, Rhody Morada, Richard Dauglash, Don Ferrolino carrying Buko. Seated: Arlene Ferrolino, Wilma Dauglash.



San Diego Chapter Report

By Marjorie Reyno-Huynh

The San Diego Chapter hosted the AWESNA Board of Officers Meeting on July 18, 2021 at the residence of the Chapter President, Mar and Blessie Mutya in Oceanside, CA. The welcome sign at the gate was eye-catching “Shine On Forever Dear AUP/PUC” in blue and gold colors (see cover page) and as you enter pass the gate to the backyard garden “On Ever Onward Dear AUP” sign made you want to sign the school song. It was lovingly prepared by Blessie Mutya, wife of Mar Mutya. The Devotional and Prayer was led by Pastor Dem Robles, and updates were given by the officers and chairpersons. For lunch, there was a lot of delicious food and cakes as we celebrated the birthday of Mar Mutya. It was an enjoyable, productive meeting.



Alumni News



Serafin Lalas, MD recently received a recognition award three years in a row as the **“Outstanding Teaching Attending in Psychiatry Award”** In recognition for his excellence and enthusiasm in the teaching of medical students 2020-2021. The award was given by the Loma Linda University Department Medical Student Education Program.

Dr. Lalas graduated from PUCA/AUPA in 1995 and earned his BS Biology from AUP in 1999. He received his medical degree from Manila Central University in 2002 and residency in psychiatry from Loma Linda University Medical Center in 2012. He is currently the Medical Director of the Child Inpatient Unit at the LLU Behavioral Health Institute and an Assistant Professor at the LLU School of Medicine since 2014.



Angela Manalo-Lalas, (AUPE '93, AUPA '97, AUP '02 BS Accountancy), MBA was recently recognized by Claremont University where she obtained her MBA degree as the “Most Distinguished Alumna 2021” . Currently, she is the Chief Financial Officer of Loma Linda University Health.

She finished her MBA in Strategy and Leadership from Claremont Graduate University—Drucker School of Management.

She was recognized in 2016 and 2017 as a “Rising Star in Healthcare” and one among the “CFOs to Know in Healthcare” by *Becker’s Hospital Review*, and one of the 15 “Up and Comer Award” recipients by *Modern Healthcare* in 2017.

She is married to Serafin T. Lalas, Jr., a child psychiatrist at Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center, and they have been blessed with two children, Anna Sophia and Serafin Alexander III. She is the daughter of Pastor Jose Manalo (AWESNA Adviser) and Dr. Eppie Manalo (AWESNA President).



Veneracion Cabana, Ph.D., F.A.H.A., PUC/AUP Alumna is an internationally recognized scientist characterized by a French Science News magazine as a Prolific Filipino Scientist. See Mongabay.com

Her accomplishments include:

1. Scientific publications reaching up to almost 100 titles listed by Google Scholar with over 2,900 citations by international authors.
2. Recipient of a National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) research grant amounting to more than P2.6 millions.
3. Honored with the scientific name of a newly identified species *Nepenthes cabanae*, endemic at specific elevations of mountain ranges in Central Bukidnon, Philippines.

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Maria Garcia Tumangday 1920- 2021

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Maria Garcia Tumangday. She served the denomination with a remarkable career spanning four decades of fruitful service and has been a valued member of the PUC/AUP family.

Dr. Tumangday was a dynamic leader, served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs for eleven years from 1976-1987, she also served the university in various capacities being an elementary teacher, school principal, department chair, and dean of the College of Education and because of her distinguished practice as an educator, administrator, church worker, and philanthropist, she was awarded “DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT in SERVICE to the UNIVERSITY AWARD” last August 25th of 2017. As a philanthropist, she had perennially supported the University’s promotion of Adventist education through the “Barkada Scholarship Grant” which provides financial support to promising young people.

BANGELE D. ALSAYBAR—MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD

Known by his Ilonggo nickname “Nonoy” or by his namesake “Bangele Jr.,” Dr. Alsaybar was born in Iloilo City on October 14, 1949. His father was then Principal of West Visayan Academy. Bangele Jr. was an active student leader at Philippine Union College (PUC). Among the major positions he held were President of the Student Association and Editor-in-Chief of the **College Voice**. He earned an AB in English degree and graduated as President of the Senior Class of 1970.

Dr. Alsaybar is a regular fixture as a violinist and orchestra leader in AWESNA Conventions. He is often seen performing with his students in church services and social events across southern California. Before coming to America in 1984, he divided his time between musical gigs and his job at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman where he was on the faculty. He taught courses on Philippine society and culture, and conducted field ethnographies of millenarian movements (Rizalistas, Lapiang Malaya). Nationalistic and anti-colonial, these groups revolve around a charismatic leader believed to be a reincarnation of Jose Rizal. It was at UP where he met his future wife, Nilda Almonte, college secretary and faculty member of the Asian Institute of Tourism (AIT)-UP. She was also a



researcher and faculty member of the Psychology Department (UP Clark). They were married in New Jersey and have a daughter Jenica Marie, a professional occupational therapist who holds a BA in Psychology (UCLA) and MA in OT (USC).

At the UP Conservatory of Music, he was an advanced violin student of Prof. Ramon Mendoza and a member of the UP Symphony Orchestra. He was a first violinist in the Metro Manila Symphony Orchestra (MMSO), the National Philharmonic Orchestra (NPO), the Young Artists Chamber Orchestra (YACO), and was a regular guest member of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO). In 1981 and 1982, he traveled to North Africa as part of a select musical/cultural contingent sent to Morocco to do command performances for King Hassan II. Upon the latter’s request, they also performed for then Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia, at his palace in Tangier, northern Morocco. Sent by First Lady Imelda Marcos, the group was led by Music Director Ryan Cayabyab. It included top singers Celeste Legaspi, Basil Valdez, and Pilita Corrales; five symphony violinists; well-known studio musicians, a dance troupe, and beauty queens.

There’s a side of Dr. Alsaybar that seems less known: he is an independent anthropologist with advanced degrees and extensive fieldwork experience both in the Philippines and California. (For two years, he hung out with the **Satanas**, the most feared Filipino fighting gang in Los Angeles. He immersed himself in the sub-culture of party and car crews, and he attended illegal street races.) He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), an MA in Anthropology from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, and an MA in Asian American Studies from UCLA. A high point of his years at UCLA was reached in 1999 when he was one of three outstanding graduate students of the College of Letters and Science who received the Charles E. and Sue K. Young Graduate Student



Award.

Continuing his research on transnational, Philippine millenarian expressions, he maintains membership in the **American Anthropological Association (AAA)**. The late Dr. Gottfried Oosterwal, an Adventist anthropologist and internationally recognized authority on millenarian movements, encouraged him to study Valentin de los Santos' Lapiang Malaya (LM). The late F Landa Jocano, a renowned Filipino anthropologist, was Dr. Alsaybar's mentor at UP.

He has presented papers at conventions of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), the Association for Asian American Studies, and the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHs). Used as required reading in some Asian American Studies courses, Dr. Alsaybar's research findings appear as book chapters in **The Second Generation: Ethnic Identity Among Asian Americans** (2002); **Readings in Asian American Psychology** (2005); in peer-reviewed journals: **Amerasia Journal** (1999), **Diliman Review** (1980, on the LM), and in **Filipinas Magazine** (1992), a nationally circulated magazine that covers many aspects of the Filipino Diaspora. He co-authored two published monographs with Dr. Jocano: **Children of the Lakeshore** (1976) and **Work: Four Community Studies** (1976).

Dr. Alsaybar has a lengthy record of active involvement and advocacy of issues in the Filipino community of Los Angeles. Starting as a gang outreach worker at **Search to Involve Filipi-**

no Americans (SIPA), he later came back to serve for many years as a member of the Board of Directors. **SIPA** is the premier Filipino social service agency in **Historic Filipino town**. At a public dialogue between the **Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)** and the Filipino American community of LA in 2005, he spoke and represented the community, sharing the stage with Chief Charlie Beck and his assistants who delivered the LAPD's side. Because of his expertise on gangs and youth issues, Dr. Alsaybar was often invited to speak at seminars and workshops in the Filipino and Asian communities.

Dr. Alsaybar's initial involvement with AWESNA was as **PRO and Link** Editor during the inclusive John Tulio administration (1995-1998). He thought it would be a one-time deal. But when his father passed way in 2007, President Alfonso Miguel requested him to take charge. Building upon the legacy of his father, Dr. Alsaybar has endeavored to steer the alumni community away from a world view of exclusivity and isolation, to an awareness of their situatedness in the larger world. Thus, his articles in the **Blue and Gold** situate alumni immigration and virtual transplantation of PUC Baesa within the context of the great Filipino Diaspora. Under his direction, three elaborate photo-historical exhibits were held, based on his periodization of AWESNA's stages of development.

In collaboration with PUC-bred literati, **MIRROFLECT 5**, a collection of biographical manuscripts left unedited by his father, was published. In early 2020, he organized a research group composed of schoolmates that attended PUC Academy between the years 1964 and 1968. Calling themselves the **PUC Baesa Historical Society**, the group aims to write a social history of PUC Baesa: a diasporic, Filipino SDA community based primarily on oral histories, interviews, and photographs. The project has two parts: the first is ongoing, an ethnographic reconstruction of the socio-religious world of the enclave in its physical setting. The second part will examine the process of migration and virtual transplantation of the enclave to North America.



Arizona Chapter Report

By: Malou Bathan

A new president for the Arizona Chapter was elected last June 2021 in the person of Pastor Ronald Yabut. The former president, Pastor Geoff Tio accepted a position in one of our Advent Hospitals in Mendocino, CA .

The Arizona Chapter was added during the time of AWESNA President, Lita Laoyan's term (2016-2019). The chapter officers were inducted into office on June 29, 2019 at Chandler Fil-AM SDA Church, Chandler, AZ.



Pastor Ronald Yabut, new President of the Arizona Chapter

Top: Pastor Ronald Yabut, new President.

Middle Left : Arizona Chapter in Portland, Oregon.

Middle Right: Pastor Ron Yabut with Lita Laoyan & Awesna guests during potluck.

Below: Induction of new officers/new chapter on June 29, 2019 in Chandler Church, AZ





La Sierra Chapter Report

By Lucy Fernando, Treasurer

We are currently continuing with the Project: WORTHY WORKING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT (WWSSP). We started this project four years ago and had helped quite a number of working students. We usually remit to the Director of Finance at AUP a yearly contribution of \$2000- 3000. For the school year 2019 -2020, we had about twelve worthy working students.

On June 27, 2021 at 3:00 pm, the AWESNA Convention Committee Meeting was held at the residence of Dr. Miguelito Fernando (President) and Lucy (Treasurer) in Riverside, CA. It was a productive meeting and our stomachs full.



LESSONS FROM MY DAD

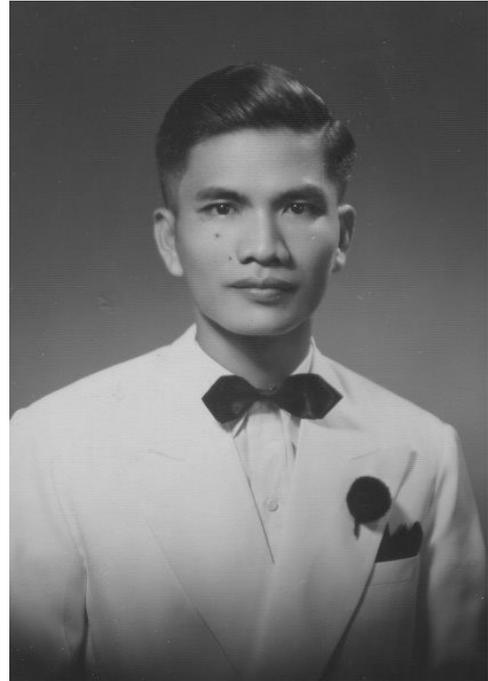
By Ritchie Carbajal

My dad's memory will linger in the halls of AUP and in the lives of many for years and years to come. Indeed, he made a difference in various organizations whether it be in the field of music, ministry or medicine. Perhaps you may have a distinct recollection of a moment in your life where he also made a difference.

I would like to share a few lessons I have learned from my dad—lessons gleaned from a much closer vantage point since my childhood.

My dad got things done. You might find it very difficult to come up with a project or goal that he would set out to accomplish that was left unfinished. It might have meant sacrificing sleep, a meal or two, or time spent with us kids, but he got things done.

He was selfless. Some may disagree with this point based on the numerous accolades he received (well-deserved, I might add), or his demeanor. But, trust me—the personal sacrifices he made tell a different story. The simple fact that he maintained a lifestyle unlike many of his peers when it comes to wealth, real estate, cars, and lavish vacations says it all.



His age did not matter. He continued to perform surgery well into his mid-80s. He would outlast players many years his junior on the tennis courts. He returned to his alma mater many years into his medical career to attend the seminary, rubbing shoulders with young men just starting out in the ministry!

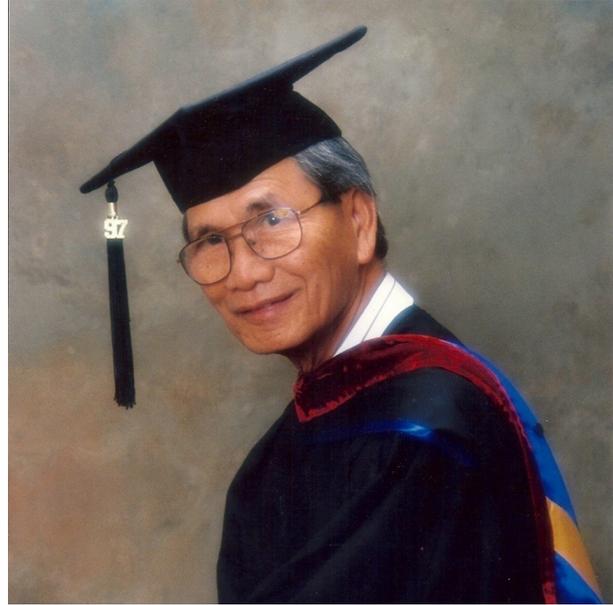
He picked the best people around him. I still remember his secretary at the clinic—Rachel Sicad—always many steps ahead of him. His architect and builder—Leandro Arlantino—from his first clinic on Vito Cruz in Manila to his last on Arrow Highway in Azusa. His 'hero'—Ban Alsaybar, the 'family pastor'—Dale Barizo, and colleague and best friend—Celedonio Fernando to add to my list. There are certainly dozens of others worth mentioning but we're limited by time and space.

However, the one person who deserves the most recognition is my mom—Jovita. Many of you know exactly what this means having seen her stand by his side through thick and thin, from their humble beginnings in Los Angeles to their retirement home in Highland. In every aspect of my dad's life, my mom remained close by. I will never forget her braving traffic and busy freeways just to faithfully sit quietly by his bedside from the time of his stroke 'til his last breath.

One special mention is that my dad was not afraid of technology. When required taking classes in Education at La Sierra, he got himself a laptop. He quickly transitioned from a slide projector to PowerPoint making presenta-

tions. He abandoned analog film for digital photography. Here's the best one, though. One day he asked me, 'How do I change my profile picture?' I was puzzled. Then he explained that he had just opened a Facebook account!

He stood for principle. He recognized that people were broken. Administrations were broken. The church was broken. And yet he stood for what he believed without complaining or attacking. He was independent in his thinking and his ways—sometimes going 'rogue' just to get things done. He bypassed boards to organize medical mission trips. He raised money, wrote articles and gave speeches to support causes he believed in both within and outside the church. He continued to give his support to religious entities financially and in kind in spite of an occasional lack in accountability.



Last, but not least, my dad understood a faith-based Gospel unlike the legalistic, works-based religion he and many of his peers were raised on. Just recently, I have been discovering other like-minded contemporaries of his including the late Ban Alsaybar. I witnessed my dad grapple with long-held doctrines that he quietly processed not realizing that he was leaving me with a legacy I will cherish the rest of my life.

He may not have been the 'perfect' parent, husband or choir director demanding memorizing the music. He certainly was not always likable in the OR when he yelled at the nurses. But like the rest of us, he realized his need of a Savior. He fully understood the gift of God's grace—Christ's perfect life and character covering ours till the very end. It is a gift. There was nothing about himself he could boast about. He knew that none of his accomplishments would earn him eternity. But he knew that he was giving the best he had to offer because he had ALREADY received the gift of eternal life!

My dad was at peace with God when he breathed his last. My personal wish is that many more would follow in his footsteps and truly pursue a life of determination, selfless service and principle, and seek for a deeper understanding of God and His salvation beyond the confines of their upbringing, education and traditions. May God helps us all, especially through these difficult times, have the peace and assurance that only comes through God's grace.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NIV



Ritchie Carbajal is currently on staff at the Tierrasanta SDA Church in San Diego. He sits on the board and serves as music director, Sabbath School teacher, and takes to the pulpit in the senior pastor's absence. He and his wife, Lederle, recently launched an online full-time ministry that reaches around the world holding weekly Bible study groups on Zoom. All of his four children are active in their respective churches leading out in ministry and music. He is a graduate of Loma Linda University and Andrews University where he received a BA in Ministerial Studies and Masters in Divinity respectively. His father, the late Ulysses Carbajal, is an alumnus of Philippine Union College, class of 1947.

NESTOR ZAMORA: Oct. 31, 1935—Aug. 2, 2021

By Nonoy Alsaybar, Joselito & Corazon Arevalo-Coo, & Tita Rose Rada

Prof Nestor I. Zamora, a highly respected and well-loved musician who devoted his entire career serving God and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, passed away on August 2, 2021 in Loma Linda, California. He was 86. A humble and intelligent man with broad and wide-ranging interests and abilities, his versatility brought him near-legendary status among generations of students and colleagues in the Philippines, Singapore, and the USA.

He could sing, play and teach piano, organ, stringed instruments (notably the cello), woodwinds, brass, and percussion. He composed and arranged music for choral groups, string quartets, school bands, and smaller ensembles. He wrote method books for beginning and intermediate violin. He directed choirs and conducted bands and orchestras. But his gifts were not limited to music. He was an excellent caricaturist, calligrapher, and painter. His youngest and only surviving brother, Eddie, said that his Kuya Nestor spent a summer with Dr. William Richli in Mountain View College (MVC) experimenting on how to make organ pipes using a type of wood from the nearby forests.

He was born on October 31, 1935 in Artacho, Sison, Pangasinan to Pastor Meliton Zamora and Fortunata Ibiel. His father was then Treasurer of the Northern Luzon Mission. He spent his elementary years at Northern Luzon Academy. When his father was reassigned to the West Visayan Mission, Nestor attended and graduated high school from West Visayan Academy. He then went to Philippine Union College (PUC) where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree, major in Music Education in 1957. On March 15, 1960, he married his high school sweetheart, Zelle Hilado, a dietitian. On the same year they moved to Singapore where their two children, Ray Colin and Zelle Lu, were born.

Prof Zamora taught music courses at the Southeast Asia Union College. He also directed the band and choir at the Far Eastern Academy where children of Ameri-



can missionaries attended school.

Returning to the Philippines in 1964, Prof Zamora taught music and headed the Music Department at PUC. He also continued cello lessons with Prof. Martiniano Esguerra of the UP Conservatory of Music. Prof Zamora joined the UP Symphony Orchestra in a grand All-Beethoven Concert at the UP Abelarado Hall Auditorium in 1967.

He and the family migrated to the USA in 1968 where he taught at the San Gabriel Academy, California. In 1971, he went to Andrews University in

Michigan where he received a Masters in Music degree, major in Music Education in June 1972. He returned to southern California where he taught band and choir at La Sierra Academy until he retired in 1998. While busy at school, he found time to serve his alma mater by being active in AWESNA during its formative years (when it was then called

WESNAC). He was the First President of the La Sierra Chapter, and served as Vice President of WESNAC during Dr. Eliseo Bautista's term (1992-95). He

enlivened many annual retreats and conventions through his participation as choral and orchestra conductor, pianist, and organist.

During the 1990s he served as Music Director for the annual Filipino camp meetings organized by the Filipino American Ministers Association of North America (FAMANA). Upon retiring from La Sierra Academy in 1998, he became Music Minister for the Central Filipino Church (CFC). He revitalized its music program and together with Juanito "Ito" Afenir III, started yearly



Christmas concerts of Handel's Messiah. Nonoy Alsaybar and his violin students served as resident ensemble for the project, designed to raise the musical standards of the church choir.

The maestro loved cross-country driving in the summer, visiting relatives in the East Coast and visiting tourist spots like the Luray Caverns, Yosemite, the Statue of Liberty, Smithsonian Institution and other famous spots in Washington DC. He recalls that in one of those trips, he attended the Fred Waring Workshops in Pennsylvania. Here he learned how singers should behave on stage, enunciate clearly, and put together a professional looking program.

Prof Zamora's wife Zelle predeceased him in 2013. He is survived by two children, Ray and Zelne; two grandchildren, Daphne and Daric; and a brother, Eduardo, a retired Chemistry professor. Two other brothers, Oseas and Crescente, passed away within a day of each other last November 2020. Ray Colin, an RN, teaches at the Summit Valley College and is a clinical



instructor at the LLU School of Nursing. Zelne lu, DNP, is an Associate Professor at the Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Nursing.

In a brief one-page autobiography, Prof Zamora disclosed that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2004. Reminiscent of Beethoven's resignation to his total deafness, Prof Zamora wrote in a similar vein, "Although I didn't shake, muscle coordination continued to slowly deteriorate each day which included my ability to walk, play the piano, organ, strings, woodwinds, and my speech became affected. My brain functions are okay, although the rest of my body takes longer to respond to what it commands. I am able to do one-finger typing and so I continue to write music (NoteWorthy Composer)." In the face of such a dire predicament, he remained courageous

and unbowed. He expressed gratitude to God for the many gifts bestowed on him. He ended his autobiography by declaring, "I will continue to serve Him as He mercifully allows me."

TRIBUTES AND REMEMBRANCES

We asked a few of Prof Zamora's closest colleagues to give us an "up close and personal view" of the man. Collectively, the tributes are a treasure trove of biographical details on Prof Zamora. Unfortunately, space limitations did not allow presentation of tributes in unabridged form. Delio Pascual's excellent piece on the formation of the PUC Orchestra is a valuable contribution to PUC music history. Dr. Nobleza Pilar's introduction to "Singapore Memories" emphasized the importance of God's leading. Among others, the late Nestor Zamora was instrumental in leading her to Southeast Asia Union College.

My Benevolent Boss

by Corazon Arevalo-Coo

I first heard about this musical "Wonder Man" when I was still a young girl. It didn't take long for me to be able to watch him from a distance. I was still in 6th grade when music was offered as a major in PUC. For the first time, in 1953, we had missionaries, Prof Colin and Ruth Fisher, who came primarily to develop our Music Department. Of the first PUC Music graduates, Nestor was one who continued to pursue music as a lifetime occupation and personal mission.

Interestingly enough, among the fewer than ten 1957 Music Education alumni of our school, Mr Zamora was reputedly the only one who could perform and play well enough on any musical instrument as well as conduct a vocal choir, band and orchestra, compose and teach! Soon after graduation he was called to Singapore to lay the foundation for a music department at the Southeast Asia Union College.

Following a term of service at SAUC, he returned to chair the PUC Music Department starting in the school year of 1965-1966. Three years prior to his arrival, I was teaching piano part time on commission for the school. Thus, I got to learn more about Nestor Zamora, as my Boss, up close and personal.

Continued on page 30

AFFIRMING ADVENTIST EDUCATION

With Resilience and Resolve

By Libni A. Cerdenio, Link Assistant Editor

Telling people that we affirm Adventist education is easy to do. Living it is the litmus test of genuine affirmation. It takes a lot of resilience and resolve to do that. Those values have been demonstrated throughout the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's (SDA) educational system - from the pioneers to the current practitioners, and from the administrators, faculty and staff to the students; they are in turn being lived out by those who go through and graduate from SDA schools.

Four alumni who I personally know did it; they are still doing it now, years after they [left Philippine Union College/Adventist University of the Philippines \(PUC/AUP\)](#). Their experiences represent commonalities among the thousands who have gone out of that gate with this iron-arch-wrought motto that said: "The School That Trains for Service." Even if they earned it, they do not necessarily yearn for recognition; they just desire to follow "God's plan for fulfilling His glorious purpose in the education of the human race."¹

Charles David (BS Bio '77) came to Philippine Union College (PUC) in Baesa, Caloocan City on June 6, 1974. He remembers the day quite well because it rained the whole week of his arrival.

I had already graduated then; in fact, I was already working at Philippine Publishing House (PPH) at that time. I came across Charles because PPH was in the campus of PUC, so I was still somehow woven into the fabric of campus life. I still remember his dramatic entrance, complete with tales about his epic journey from Bangladesh to PUC – the train ride, and the whole *aloo gobi*.

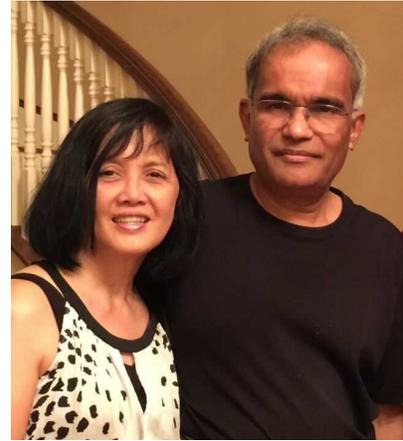
A very amiable guy, Charles circulated among the campus elite. Faculty, staff and students gladly invited him into their circle. He went with them on many outreach ventures into the provinces; he had been to more

places in the Philippines than the average, stationary Filipino like me. But beyond the ken of his friends, he lived a very secret life. He intimated to me recently that he would skim many meals, surviving on just Php 350.00 a month. Canned beans, PUC bread, peanut butter and jelly, and sometimes rice were the common fare during his three-year stint in Baesa.

Being a member of the GYMNAIRES was a much welcome opportunity in many ways. On sorties out of campus, he would hide in the bus, embarrassed because the people kept looking for him, quite eager to feed "the foreigner" in the group.

Determined to get an Adventist education, no bitterness lurked in his heart even if he didn't get a denominational sponsorship, like many of his friends.

Charles relishes with warm remembrances the lifelong friendships with fellow alumni forged at PUC. He also recalls with pleasure the hush and quiet ambience that fell on the campus on Friday afternoons in anticipation of the Sabbath. They have been delightful moments of soliloquy when reminiscing memories of his



Charles and wife, Amelia

life at PUC.

The values of integrity, dedication, and steady commitment met with God's favor and success as he sought education and training in the medical profession at the Far Eastern University (FEU) in Manila. Likewise, I have heard family and friends testify to these hallmarks in his successful practice as an ER physician in the US for more than 30 years.

Ever aware of Christ's commission to "go and teach", Charles decided to quit his lucrative medical practice to do full time, self-supporting mission work. His burden has been to preach the gospel to the billions of Hindus, Muslims, Jains, and Sikhs through the unique, gospel-oriented Adventist health message. I have heard his stories of teaching the medical profession elite in the most prestigious university and other places to reckon with in his homeland, the Continent of India.

I should not forget the fact that he has donated thousands of dollars for development projects, sponsorships of graduate students, and other worthy causes in Adventist educational institutions in the Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Africa.

A serious bout with glossopharyngeal neuralgia and the COVID-19 pandemic quarantines and lockdowns temporarily halted his missionary endeavors. He hadn't stopped though in supporting and planning for more initiatives in the meantime.

His passion for mission is sustainability, the principle found in John 4:10, 38. He hopes and prays that his witness for Christ would be like "rivers of living water" in the lives of those he touches with his ministry.

Khristine Jinkee Pineda (BSN '92) has what I can call a real "fairy tale" in Adventist education. From a little girl who had to bring a promissory note to be allowed to take exams at the Estancia Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Multigrade School in Estancia, Iloilo, she has become a successful nurse professional and finally

an entrepreneur, presiding as CEO and President over several enterprises in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Like many non-Adventist children enrolled in SDA schools, she first learned about the Bible in that church school. She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and Lord at age 11 – the first to become an Adventist in her family. Since then, she purposed to share the gospel to her family. Eighteen years after her baptism, her mother and



Khristine at home with her husband Raymond and their two sons.

nephew joined her in the Adventist faith.

Khristine's journey in Adventist education brought her to Pasay City Academy (PCA), where she graduated with honors and a leadership award. She was able to sustain her excellent and exemplary academic and extracurricular performance until she graduated Cum Laude from AUP in 1992.

Her professional excellence led her to be registered in 3 countries: the Philippines where she worked at St Luke's Medical Center; The United Kingdom at the National Health System (NHS); and finally, Indonesia as a Clinical Educator for Siloam Hospital's Group, the biggest, first international and Joint Commission International (JCI)-accredited medical care system in Indonesia.

God's providence swayed the trajectory of her life. With the welcome beckoning of romantic love, her heart's desire prevailed over her goal of moving to America. Instead, destiny guided her to an extremely enjoyable and successful family, professional, and missionary-oriented endeavors in Jakarta.

Service has been Khristine's consistent personal mission. She diligently reads on education and health to further equip her in those areas of ministry.

She earned a London-based Montessori Diploma and founded Bright School in 2010 with a 99 percent Muslim enrolment; her son Karlo was the only Christian kid in the school. Bright School later expanded and became Bright World Academy (BWA) in 2018. Serving vegetarian foods, it is the school to first ever offer and promote a healthy lifestyle program in Indonesia. BWA also provides free clinic services once or twice a year to serve the surrounding communities.

Her medical background has brought her to many wellness centers around the world, bench-marking how these ministries are efficiently serving their clientele.

Khristine and her family have solid plans to extend their witness, specially through health and wellness advocacy, in the Philippines, establishing *The Living Waters Wellness & Spa*, based in Palawan.

Khristine has also established Bright World foundation, which supports diligent students in Indonesia (Bright School) and the Philippines (AUP and other schools).

Together with some of her Briller Class 1992 friends, Khristine and they have been sponsoring ministerial students at AUP through the Bright World Foundation. Some of them have graduated and are already serving successfully in their chosen profession. She and her Briller friends support the pastors' projects even after their graduation.

Since Khristine became an Adventist, she had admired missionaries working in Africa, and wanted to be one.

Never did she realize that God was preparing her for a bigger and more challenging country, Indonesia - the fourth most populous nation in the world.

She and her family were given the opportunity to be significant witnesses specially among the socioeconomic elite in Indonesia. NEWSTART and other health programs were introduced to their friends; Khristine is a regular health speaker for the largest private bank in the country.

Looking back at her journey in Adventist education, and reflecting on her success in Christian service in a foreign land, Khristine told this writer, "I can see God working in my life by bringing me to a humble Adventist school in Estancia, until I reached PCA and AUP. Those schools brought significant influences in my life to prepare me for greater responsibilities and influences in this largest Muslim country in the world. Truly, there must be a reason why God brought me here!"



Dioni and Norma with their children and grandchildren.

The story of **Dionicio Rivera (BSC '75) and his wife Norma, nee Cabansag Villosa (BSN '75)** is to me a model of husband-and-wife alumni affirmation of Adventist education throughout their lives. Their parallel romantic and educational journeys span the spectrum of elementary, academy, and collegiate life. Their con-

sistent commitment to the values and virtues inculcated by Adventist education through success and challenges is exemplary.

Orphaned at the age of 7 Dioni, as he is called by friends, had a pendulous domicile during his early childhood. He and his brother were relayed by relatives from one to another until they were able to care for themselves, which happened quite early in their lives.

From childhood, he was very eager and decided to get an Adventist education, period. Through sheer grit and resolve, he was able to fulfill his dream, basically supporting himself all the way through graduation from PUC.

Those two life-defining backgrounds – his early childhood and his education – form the bedrock on which his family, professional, entrepreneurial, and ministry successes have been built on.

Dioni credits his serial successes – from overcoming the hardships of being orphaned early in life, to supporting himself through school, to working with the marketing arm of the SDA publishing work, to being a top Johnson & Johnson representative, to being administrator of stable skilled nursing facilities, to putting the Northern Luzon Adventist Hospital on the black, to presiding over several business ventures and charitable organizations – to God's providences in his life. While chatting with him on Facebook recently, he told me:

“Praise the Lord. It seems that sometimes I was all alone battling a difficult situation; then all of a sudden, I see the hand of God doing all the work without my lifting a finger.”

Dioni and Norma met and got acquainted with each other as classmates in Grade 5. They were together in school until they graduated from Northern Luzon Academy in Artacho, Sison, Pangasinan. Romance blossomed in their senior year. Courting the smartest brain in the class made the struggling student popular. Dioni

eventually got elected as senior class president.

From then on, when Dioni delivered his speech while standing behind the podium with borrowed shoes, through their tapestried togetherness through the years, they have been a formidable cord of three strands (with God), weathering the challenges of life.

Like most SDA parents I know, Dioni and Norma are 100 percent for Adventist education for their children. When Dioni got an offer for a better job, one of his first questions for the interviewer was, “Is there an SDA school in El Paso”?

[When the academy in which their children was enrolled attempted to close, Dioni made great initiatives to mitigate the situation. He was one key player in providing a solution to the problem that all the parents faced at that time. To them, Dioni told me, “Adventist education is not an option; it is the only option for my children”? And it has been for them.](#)

More than that, like all good PUC/AUP alumni, Dioni and family have been supporting Adventist education financially through donations to individuals and institutions. Recently, Dioni told me that he would like to establish a foundation that would directly assist struggling students at AUP.

Dioni and Norma's family is the moving force behind the success of “El Paso on the Move”. It is a target-oriented health and wellness initiative to engage El Paso residents, especially the youth, to raise a healthier community through physical activity. Their Facebook page states the mission behind their passion:

“Today, nearly 1 in 3 children and 1 in 3 adults in America are overweight or obese. The numbers are even higher among Hispanic and African-American communities -nearly 40 percent of that particular population group. If we don't solve this problem now, 1/3 of all children born in 2000 or later will suffer from diabetes at some point in their lives.

Many others will face chronic obesity-related health problems like asthma, hypertension, and heart disease.”

As a professional, Norma has had her own serial successes since graduating with a BSN degree from PUC in 1975. She earned a master’s degree in nursing from the University of the Philippines (UP). From being a seasoned intensive care unit (ICU) nurse, she has transitioned to being a successful entrepreneur, presiding over the operations of skilled nursing facilities.

Norma’s pinnacle of success, in my estimation, is her admirable role in the family. With two successful children with Dioni, she has displayed the care, concern, commitment, and dedication of an Adventist mother.

In one sitting, I finished reading her book, *In His Time*. Recently published by TEACH Services, Inc. it narrates and details the dramatic challenges her family faced during her only daughter’s fight – and triumph - over the devastating effects of lupus.

With fervent faith and sanctified courage, she and her family knocked relentlessly on Heaven’s door, opening God’s favor with her daughter Irish Faye’s healing from the dreaded disease. Her closing testament of faith in her book can inspire any reader, thus:

“I hope that someone going through much pain and suffering will also see the light at the end of the tunnel. God will not leave you alone and will provide a way of escape. When at last we see the puzzle come together and our eyes are opened, the things that perplex us, the things that confuse us, and the things that try us are divinely appointed agencies to refine us to pure gold. Our seemingly disappointed hopes will become our greatest blessing. Sometimes we do not understand, but His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Then at last we see a beautiful harmony; a series of lights at the end of the tunnel dancing like

crazy. Trials turned to triumph. Sorrows turned to joy. His plan laid out in flawless detail. Just when you are about to give up, He comes not a minute early or a minute late. He is right on time and His timing is perfect. In His time, God makes everything beautiful.”

Resilience and resolve are displayed most prominently by those alumni who, by self-sacrifice, personal initiative, and disinterested benevolence live out the ultimate goal of Adventist education – service to God (extending God’s purposes on Earth), and to fellow men (developing the potentials of individuals and communities).

[1 https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/1976.47#48.](https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/1976.47#48)

Accessed on July 30, 2021.



Libni A. Cerdenio, AB HPR '74 is a former editor of *The Link*. After graduation, Philippine Publishing House invited him to join its editorial staff. After 11 years editing the *Health & Home* magazine, he immigrated to the US with his family. He got education in, trained to be, and worked as a nurse until his retirement. Today, he and his wife Elizabeth (nee Mingua, BSN '75) spends their time in teaching about, advocating for, and promoting *Radical Wellness* through seminars, reaching, social and other forms of media. He is the author of *Seven Blessed Habits to Radical Wellness*, published by TEACH Services, Inc.



College of Medicine Update

By: Dr. Doris Mendoza, Dean

The College of Medicine (COM) is Adventist University of the Philippines’s (AUP) youngest college with its latest batch of Medicine freshmen, the Class of 2025.

The college opened its doors to its very first medical students in August 2015, to begin training to be a 5-Star Plus physician-missionaries with a Medicine curriculum that includes Religion, Whole Person Care and Lifestyle Medicine. Four years later, Prima Lux, the first batch of AUP-trained physician-missionaries graduated in June 2019.

During the March 2021 Physician Licensure Exam, the pioneer AUP Medicine graduates obtained a 93.75% passing rate compared to the National rate of 64%. One of the graduates, Dr. Vanda Charisse Dejolde garnered the 6th place.

Three of these newly license physician-graduated of AUP, namely: Dr. Serge Aclan, Dr. Lexan Cordial and Dr. April Garces have joined the College of Medicine with appoints as Junior Faculty and Assistant Year Level Coordinators while processing their specialization and professional upgrading.

During the last pre-pandemic White Coat Ceremony in 2019, the first five batches of medical students and their COM faculty had the blessed opportunity to come all together in a memorable photograph for posterity. Today, sans the traditional White Coat Ceremony, the College of Medicine welcomes thirty-three (33) courageous and determined Medicine freshmen, who despite the COVID situation and the purely virtual teaching/learning modality, have purposed in their hearts to pursue their dream of becoming physician-missionaries modeled after Jesus Christ, the Master Physician.



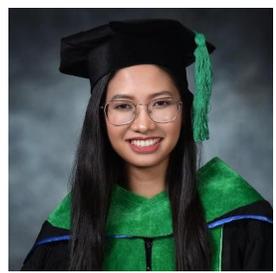
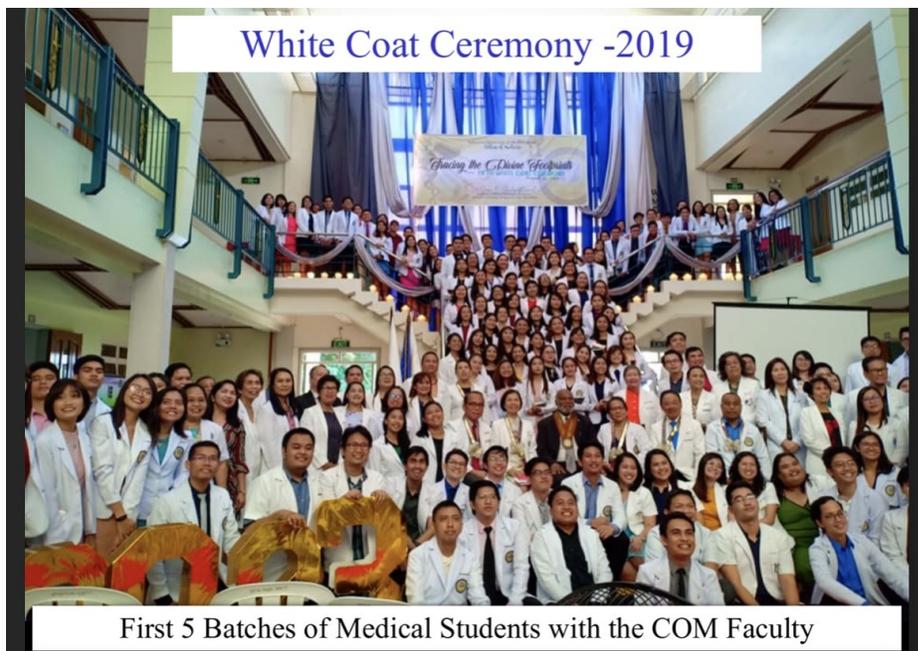
Top: Inauguration of COM, August 9, 2015

Bottom: COM Class of 2019 PRIMA LUX



The College of Medicine functions under the University leadership of President Dr. Francisco Gayoba, and the academic leadership of Vice President, Dr. Mirriam Narbarte. Dr. Doris Mendoza, the founding and current Dean is ever grateful for having a committed, supportive, and very able team working with her. The team is composed of:

- Dr. Demuel Dee Berto, Administrative Assistant to the Dean and Coordinator of Clinical Skills for Year Levels 1,2, and 3
- Dr. Carolyn Joy Felicen, Academic Assistant to the Dean and Coordinator for Year Level 2
- Dr. Ruth Palomero, Chair for Basic and Pre-Clinical Sciences and Coordinator for Year Level 3
- Dr. Bibly Macaya, Chair for Clinical Science
- Dr. Bienvenido Tamano, Chair for Family, Community and Preventive Medicine.
- Dr. Jahnen Tanamal, Coordinator for Year Level 1
- Dr. Elmer Valenzona, Overall Coordinator for Clinical Clerkship and Coordinator for the Clinicals of All Year Levels at Batangas Medical Center
- Dr. Linda Varona, Coordinator of Clinical Clerkship Mentoring Program at Adventist MCM
- Dr. Perida Cocos, Assistant Coordinator of Clinical Clerkship Mentoring Program at Adventist Medical Center Manila
- Dr. Cherry Ann Serra, Head of the Medical Education Unit and OIC for Research
- Dr. Rico Javien, Faculty-in-Charge for Religion and Whole Person Care
- Dr. Prudencio Sta. Lucia, Jr., Faculty-in-Charge for Legal Medicine, Medical Jurisprudence and Bioethics and serves as AUP Health Services Medical Director
- Mary Ann Grace Dorado, Head of the Human Simulation and Skills Lab and Admissions Officer
- Dr. Ma. Vinny Mina, Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine
- Dr. Teodie Flores, Chair of the Department of Surgery
- Dr. Belen Rajagukguk, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Dr. Doris Mendoza, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics
- Nerissa Gonzales, Secretary of the College
- Japhet Delima, Laboratory Technician and Custodian



Top: Vanda Charisse Dejolde, COM 2019, 6th Placer

Left: First 5 batches of Medical Students

LOMA LINDA CHAPTER REPORT

By: Perida Tongpo, Chapter President



The year 2020 had come and gone. Most people refuse to bring the year back to memory because of the overwhelming fear, uncertainties, sufferings, doubts, and confusion it brought. It has practically changed everybody's life and the pangs of the pain still linger.

At the early part of the year, the Loma Linda chapter officers planned for a very fruitful get together for the chapter members and simultaneously, we planned to do some fundraising by doing food sales at the Redlands open market once a week. All plans were set, the details carefully considered, but just before they were implemented, Covid 19 came, and lockdown got mandated thus all our good plans were thwarted. We did not know how to move on, so all our activities came to a halt.

But even with the dilemma, when Dr. Salvador Molina from AUP joined our virtual BOO meeting and appealed for the subsistence of the AUP working students, Loma Linda chapter participated benevolently to the project. The officers and some members gave their substantial contributions. Then another appeal came for the purchase of laptops which the students needed for their virtual classes, and again Loma Linda chapter responded graciously to the appeal. With necessary precautions, local selling of dragon fruits, moringa plants and leaves were done to raise funds for the cause.

The year 2021 came with the hope of a better outlook, still activities were limited. But such restrictions could not keep us bound, so the LL officers met virtually several times and planned for a chapter spring meet-up. It was well prepared, and we had it done on April 18, 2021. About 40 attendees were there by zoom, with guests from Riverside chapter and from Clairmont.

The program was opened with a short devotional with Dr. Joselito Coo as the speaker. Music was rendered by the Dr. Begee Francisco and family and Cecile Coo with her violin.

Members who have been laid to rest during the years 2020 and 2021 were given tributes by family members and friends. Then followed an acquaintance hour for every attendee who introduced him/herself to foster a better friendship and camaraderie. Lastly, a game consisting of AWESNA trivia was done by cahoots which afforded much fun for everyone.

The Loma Linda chapter cannot just quit amidst dilemma which tries to curtail its program. Officers meet very often via zoom to plan for upcoming activities. Plans were made to activate our large chapter so nobody would be left out. We designated each officer to handle the different churches inclusive of our territory and each one of us to select a coordinator from each church to help reach out all alumni in the church. Thus, we were able to reach our goal for our AWESNA convention souvenir program ads/greetings. By God's help we were able to quadruple our goal, and this includes 11 sponsors.

We give glory to God who owns everything as we are His stewards and vessels for the finishing of His work!

SAVE THE DATE

AWESNA Fundraising Event

October 24, 2021

Loma Linda Filipino Church, 11180 New Jersey St. Redlands, CA 92373



CASCADIA CHAPTER REPORT

By Ching Varona Pedernal

Our Cascadia Chapter through selected AUP Alumni and friends, launched a community retreat at Neilson Regional Park, Mission BC last Saturday, August 14, 2021.

About 200 people got invited by Inspire Ministries Company SDA Church to witness in the community park lake, the baptism of 3 young teens, who publicly declared their acceptance of Jesus as their personal Saviour.

A number of unchurched friends and community attendees got blessed as they watched these young boys gave their hearts to Jesus.

We praise the Lord for such decision and golden opportunity especially in these pandemic days where the future holds no certainty. The only hope we hold upon is to trust the One who holds the future.

Let's continue to lift the banner of our Alma Mater, "the school that trains for service."



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER REPORT

By: Esther Liongco—Ong



A new AWESNA Chapter is born! San Gabriel Valley Chapter was organized on August 15, 2021 via Zoom meeting witnessed by AWESNA President, Eppie Manalo. The youngest chapter has 28 members and the elected officers are:



President:
Esther Liongco—Ong



Vice President:
Judy Ines



Treasurer:
Tamerlane Mopia



Secretary:
Miriam Liongco



Associate Treasurer:
Roger Soriano



PIO:
Pearl Portugal



Auditor:
Sam Gragasin



COMELEC Rep:
Samuel Liongco



Adviser:
Jonathan Anunciacion



Adviser:
Ulysses Guadiz

Nestor Zamora, Continued from page 19

My Boss challenged me to do things I never would have tried on my own. I will never forget the time when he assigned me to conduct the choir for Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. I had already been conducting children's choirs, but most of their songs were in unison or easy 2-part arrangements. Reluctantly, I complied. He assured me I will make it. So, in front of a mirror I practiced the cues for the entrances of each part, dreamed about it, wishing it was just a nightmare from which I would wake up. Through my ordeal, he encouraged me. A BIG Thank You to my Boss for not giving up on me. Knowing the basics of choral conducting equipped me and gave me a measure of confidence to step up to the plate, especially when there was a particular need for someone able and willing to do the job!

Incidentally, my Boss was not bossy. He was benevolent. He impressed me as one who truly believed that music is a gift from God to be used primarily to praise the Giver. He was thoughtful. He believed a piece of music one practiced for hours should be listened to intently and not used as background sound. Inviting someone to provide music while the rest are eating or chatting was a No, No! People must be seated, meditating, not whispering or walking around during the Prelude in a church service. For worship, "Songs must be in the language that people understand. They must get the message!" He insisted that choir members understand what they sing about. I look forward to that glorious morning when my Boss will continue praising the Lord with his music or listening to others' music with joy and gratitude.

The Renaissance Man

by Raymond Puen

I was in the 5th grade in Artacho's Northern Luzon Academy, Nestor in the 6th, when we participated in a piano trio for a school recital. Eunice Malqued played the left-hand bass while Nestor played the more demanding runs of *Le Secret* on the right side, and I was scrunched in between, playing the oompah-oompah middle section between the two of them.



We went our separate ways, he to the Visayas, I to Baesa. The next time I caught up with him, we were in college. If ever there was a Renaissance man in my life, it was Nestor. He could do all the music things the other accolades will detail, plus draw, invent puzzles no one could figure out and tell jokes in a unique way. We numbered our jokes and, to save on time, he would just call out a number, cock his head to pretend to scroll down his list of jokes, and then let out a laugh. No matter how shallow our initial laugh was, it was rip-roaringly genuine by the time our sides split in laughter for the silliness of our invention.

We parted ways again when I came to the States but kept in touch by sending each other musical quizzes of our fertile imagination. He suggested a serious collaboration of my lyrics to his music for a cantata on Revelation but we never pulled it off. Our collaboration on the 1985 General Conference theme song was the closest we came to publication, but for the poorly-timed departmental reassignment of the music chairman who had selected our submission.

I persuaded School Music Coordinator Lorne Jones of our Southern California Conference to hire Nestor when he arrived in California, and that's how he switched destinations from Florida to San Gabriel, California. Indeed, a man for all seasons, Nestor stands tall in my personal pantheon of PUC alumni who have made a difference in people's lives.

Singapore Memories

by Nobleza G. Pilar

I had just completed my undergraduate music studies at Philippine Women's University in the summer of 1962 and did not know what direction to pursue, when a call came to me to serve as a music teacher at Southeast Asia Union College and Far Eastern Academy in Singapore. Instrumental to my call were Pastor Harry W. Bedwell, Philip G. Miller, Nestor Zamora and Daniel and Maggie Tan.

From Day One, Nestor was the loyal friend and colleague, totally supportive and always appreciative of whatever I contributed to his music ministry and academic endeavor to build the Music Program of SAUC and FEA. A gifted and all-around musician, Nestor dedicated his talents to serve God, enhancing the church worship, teaching and developing the potential musical gifts of young people in his choral and band programs. He inspired both youth and adults and was "patient as Job" believing that "Practice Makes Perfect". He loved God and God loved him and all those who had the privilege of learning from him and performing with him. He was deeply appreciated by all who came to know him! He was a much sought-after pianist, organist, cellist, and conductor all his life and

career. Many will miss him. I, personally, miss him, his kindness, his Christian grace and generosity, his sweet spirit and love for Jesus. We miss him in this mortal life but we will see him again, when we hear the trumpet sound at Christ's return. We will honor and worship our God and Savior with music. Nestor will be there, as usual, bright-eyed and in his place ready to use his talents and swell the glorious music of the Redeemed!

A Brief History of the PUC Orchestra

by Delio V. Pascual

I met Nestor Zamora the beginning of the school year 1953-1954. I was a junior in the academy while Nestor was a freshman in college. It seems like our friendship "clicked" right from the very start. I think that our love for music bonded our friendship.

He was a music major and had a vision of forming a school orchestra. He started with a small string ensemble with less than a dozen kids playing violins. From the beginning Nestor laboriously wrote the music for each section of the ensemble. Our repertoire was mostly sacred music and simple arrangement of classical music. I give him credit for enhancing my love for classical music.

From that small ensemble, a viola and a cello were added to give a new sound. Later on addition of brass and wind instruments enhanced even more the sound so that it was then called the PUC Orchestra. Nestor really put a lot of time and effort in developing this orchestra. He spent a lot of time writing music for each musician. Not only that, he also taught students how to play the instruments eventually added to the orchestra. To me, a great highlight of the orchestra happened in 1956 and 1957 college graduation when the orchestra replaced the organ to play the processional and recessional. This was a most satisfying experience for me.

Nestor and I had so much fun playing piano duets together. We received quite a few invitations to perform for different audiences. We recorded a few of our duets and I will always treasure these recordings. Playing piano duets is one of the memories that I miss the most. Nestor had touched hundreds (perhaps even thousands) of lives through his music. We all have missed his presence throughout his illness. Now, God in His mercy, has given him a temporary rest until Jesus comes when he will be resurrected never to suffer pain and sorrows. Undoubtedly, he will have a prominent role in the musical activities in heaven. Good night, my dear friend. I look forward to see-

ing you again beyond the river.

Missing My Music-Making Mentor

by Tita Rose Villanueva-Rada

[Excerpts from a feature article "These Were His Sons" in the December 18, 1975 issue of PUC's College Voice at the passing of Pastor Meliton Zamora, father of Nestor Zamora]

I first met Mr. Nestor Zamora when I signed up for piano lessons with him. I was only eight years old at that time and he was still single then.

Once he saw my amateurish scrawls and childish illustrations in my music assignment notebook, mislabeled them as "artistic talent", and proceeded to teach me how to draw better. He taught me how to use a pantograph, a device that one could use to enlarge pictures or illustrations.

The most memorable lesson was when he gifted me with my own GUESSER, a game he had invented. His inscription inside read:

Because you love ART... Don't waste your talents... Dedicate them ALL to God's use!

I would join him and his girlfriend, Zelle Hilado, for lunch at the cafeteria and they would both drill me with multiplication tables in between mouthfuls. Not long after, they got married and I was happy for them. When the Zamoras left for Singapore to be missionaries, it was a long time before I resumed piano lessons. When they returned to PUC five years later, with a little boy and girl in tow, Ray Colin and Zelne Lu, they were the most lovable toddlers on campus.

When Mr. Zamora formed the PUC band, I signed up to be one of the clarinetists. We played for out-of-town churches' Sabbath services, on-campus programs and PUC's jubilee (1917-1967) festivities. Not long after, together with his family, he left for the US to further his music studies.

I will always remember that throughout his life he was supportive of young people developing their musical gifts. He and his music-making will be missed but his life of loving music and living a music legacy will live on in the lives and music-making of those he taught, touched and lit with the spark of his gift of music!

PERIDA ILACAS TONGPO—2021 Leadership Awardee

A committed servant-leader and active PUC alumna, Perida Tongpo, currently serves as AWESNA Loma Linda chapter president and chair of the Fund-raising Committee. Hailing from a financially indigent family of eight siblings, furthering her studies was nil. However, her elementary graduation opened the way for her to proceed to the academy in her hometown where she studied from 1st to 3rd third year, through a full scholarship as class valedictorian of 88 graduates. Desiring to graduate from an SDA institution, she attended Northern Luzon Academy in her fourth year. After graduation, she had to stop for two years and joined the canvassing work and earn what was needed to be able to enroll at Philippine Union College.

While enrolled in the pre-nursing course on a full load at PUC, she worked hard to defray some of her tuition fees; but maintained her slot in the Dean's List. She was also actively involved in extra-curricular activities, among them as President of the Nightingale Guild and member of singing groups.

After pre-Nursing, she was offered a scholarship to continue her nursing course at North York Branson Hospital in Toronto, Canada, but her parents could not stand her absence, so she had to continue canvassing work for another two years, earned her down payment for the PUC School of Nursing clinical division where she graduated with the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 1969.

She worked in Manila Sanitarium and Hospital for one



year, then got married in April 1970 to her former classmate in nursing school, Pedrito Tongpo. True to her vow, she joined her husband in Mountain Provinces Mission, Baguio, where he served as mission nurse. There she served as a nursing instructor at Pines City Doctor's Hospital School of Nursing for two years and later migrated to the United States working as nurse manager at the Post Anesthesia Recovery of Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Virginia from 1972 to 1974. Simultaneously, she was requested

by the Roanoke School of Nursing to conduct a review class for Filipino nurses to prepare them for success in board exams.

With her family, Perida moved to Florida SDA Hospital where she worked for one-and-a-half years (September 1974-April 1976) as a surgical staff nurse; then later to Loma Linda University Medical Center (April 1976-January 1986) where she worked at several departments: Endocrine Unit, Intravenous Therapy as a charge nurse, Neonatal Intensive Care, and Pediatrics Unit. From there she served at a Developmentally Disabled Facility for two-and-a-half years as the Director of Nursing. Education was her passion, so she accepted a job offer as a Nurse Instructor at Concorde Career College, where she taught for 13 years, then taught at Summit Career College for five years. Among her rewarding experiences, was helping a friend open a Home Health Care facility (which achieved initial high rating), and working as the Director of Nurses.

She retired from employment but on her own schedule, continues to teach Basic Life Support (approved by the American Heart Association) for health-care providers; and simultaneously teaches Intravenous Thera-

py (approved by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians) for nurses.

As fundraiser for AWESNA, she organized two events for the association's Endowment Fund; and as president of Loma Linda Chapter, she mobilized her co-officers for fundraising activities.

Generously sharing God's blessings for His work, Perida and Pedring funded the Tirad View Academy building, the library, the girls' dorm, guest house, principal's house and some other projects; and donated a substantial amount towards the building of the Northern Luzon Adventist Hospital, in addition to financing numerous students to Adventist schools because they believe in Christian education.

As a member of Loma Linda Filipino Church, she served as head of the Music Ministry for 10 years, founded the *Aweng Ti Amianan*—a ladies' singing group which has existed for more than three decades; has been a church choir member; and organized *Praise*

Unlimited, a mixed singing group dedicated to LLFC music ministry.

Perida and Pedrito, her loving husband of 51 years, love traveling with tour groups, cruises, and driving to different states in America, enjoying the beauty of God's creation. They are blessed with precious jewels—two children, and six grandchildren.



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***Lita Laoyan

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**Araceli Quijada



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Marjorie Reyno-Huynh—Editor in chief & fb administrator

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- ***Liberty Olive Bautista
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- ***Alfonso Miguel

- *Chair
- **Co-Chair

The Adventist University of the Philippines—
Alumni of Western North America (AWESNA)



The Link

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To:



51st AWESNA CONVENTION

September 3-5, 2021

Doubletree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley

Theme: Resilience and Resolve

