



University of the Philippines

High School Class 1950

2010 April – June



60th Diamond Anniversary Special Edition

CONGRATULATIONS TO UPHS CLASS 1950 "DIAMONDS"!

By OPHELIA ONGKINGCO LAGMAY

Friends, let's rejoice for it's our glorious Diamond Anniversary! Our batch has turned 60 and we're still going strong. We thank God that most of us have survived and weathered the travails and challenges of life. As septuagenarians cognizant of the fleeting nature of our stay on Earth, we now spend more quality time with our families and strive to improve our health and financial condition as we prepare ourselves spiritually for the inevitable summons to "cross over" to the great beyond.

Fortunately, our class has been able to foster and nurture a distinctive unity and enduring camaraderie among us through our bonding moments together, our sundry activities, and modern electronics means of communicating & disseminating information (our UPHigh1950@yahoo.com site devised by FE ABARQUEZ-SUACO & son JUN and our new uphigh1950.org website created by JULIUS WILLIS, JR., with the cooperation of AGAPITO "Pete" MANANSALA and wife VILMA). Through the years, we have managed to keep the good old "U.P. fighting spirit" and our UPHS Class 1950 Alumni Association alive, hopefully till the last batch mate standing!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
UPHS CLASS 1950
•DIAMONDS•!**

Shown hereunder is the Calendar of Activities for our DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY:

I. FIRST-HALF CELEBRATION

APRIL 19, 2010 - Preliminary Meeting at Linda and Mark Floro's Buon Giorno Restaurant (Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City), finalizing arrangements for our June 5 Pre-Anniversary Reunion

JUNE 5, 2010 - Pre-Anniversary Reunion and Joint Birthday Party of our January to June Celebrators at Legend Hongkong Seafood Restaurant (D. Macapagal Avenue, Pasay City)

II. SECOND-HALF CELEBRATION

JULY 14, 2010 - Lunch Meeting of our Organizing Committee (Manila Polo Club, Makati City)

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER, 2010 - Two (2) class meetings to hear progress reports from various committees handling our Diamond Jubilee Reunion arrangements and to finalize the corresponding details.

NOV. or DEC. 2010 - Lecture on CANCER by our oncologist, Dr. TRANQUILINO V. ELICAÑO, JR., for the faculty and students at the U.P. Integrated System (formerly UPHS) campus in Diliman, QC.

DECEMBER 29, 2010 - UPHS CLASS 1950's DIAMOND (60th) ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Time : 6:00 p.m. to 12 midnight

Venue : Turf Room, Manila Polo Club
McKinley Rd., Forbes Park, Makati City

Attire : Semi-formal

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
UPHS CLASS 1960
-DIAMONDS-!**

DECEMBER 30, 2010 - GOLF TOURNAMENT between UPHS Class 1950 RP TEAM and our NORTH AMERICA CHAPTER at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City.

**OUR MEMORABLE
PRE-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



By OPHELIA ONGKINGCO LAGMAY

June 5, 2010 was a hot Saturday night outside the Legend Hongkong Seafood Restaurant in Pasay City, but once inside, we felt cool and comfortable as we enjoyed its festive ambience. Kudos to our hosts — the January to June celebrants and our

indefatigable officers, Paking Floro, Nanding Campos and Naning Bagabaldo, whose generous contributions ensured the success of our get together.

Despite their illnesses, our Secretariat's "Dos Marias" Delma D. Dungan and Patsy P. Sison contacted as many members as they could to remind them of the event. Due to severe pharyngitis, however, Del was absent. Everyone missed her and expressed wishes for her speedy and complete recovery. Our cozy function room buzzed with excitement and laughter while we waited for other arrivals. Warmly congratulated were our 2 batch mates who won their reelection bids last May 10: Lubang Island Mayor JUAN "Johnny" SANCHEZ and Cagayan Board Member (3rd District) VICTOR "Vic" PEREZ. On the other hand, the upsetting news about the defeat of long-time Pasay City Mayor WENCESLAO "Peewee" TRINIDAD evoked much regret and disappointment among the 30 attendees who had been confident of his reelection.

Favorite topics of conversation revolved around the recent national and local election results, as well as interesting tidbits about classmates and our coming December 29 Diamond Jubilee Reunion. At our table sat Paking and Ofel, Beth Aguilar and Nanding, Naning, Mayor Johnny, Cario and Letty Laurel, Mag "Big Ambo"

OUR MEMORABLE PRE-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Ambrosio, Jess Disini, Amador Casiño and me. Beside us was the table of elegant Mercia C. Aquino & daughter Meia, urologist Pons Bernardo, pulmonologist Tony Protacio, oncologist Jun Elicaño with wife Yvonne and only child T.R., retired general Conrado Valdez, Ramon Cruz Jr. & son Edwin, and Patsy. Another table was occupied by Vic Perez, who travelled all the way to Pasay City from Tuguegarao City in Cagayan (accompanied by "apo" Katrina and guests), Patsy's "apo" Tommy, and my son Arnold, who was our patient photographer for the evening.

The impromptu program started when our 2nd VP, Treasurer and emcee Naning called on 1st VP Nanding to lead the opening prayers for the class. Affable prexy Paking delivered his Welcome Remarks and invited us to fill our hungry tummies with the yummy dinner delights that filled the buffet table. Following the lively interlude, came the usual group picture-taking, as well as the two victors' inspiring messages to an appreciative audience. While we clapped and sang the immortal "Happy Birthday" song, these still-virile "Birthday Boys" blew the candles on their cake: MON CRUZ (Jan 12); PONS BERNARDO (Mar 11); CARLO LAUREL (Apr 10); JESS DISINI (Apr 11); MAG AMBROSIO (Apr 17); VIC PEREZ (Apr 20); AMADOR CASIÑO (Apr 30); PAKING FLORO (May 29); NANDING CAMPOS (May 30); and JOHNNY SANCHEZ (June 24).

The affair also served as an initial meeting to discuss plans for our forthcoming 60th (Diamond) Anniversary Celebration, summarized as follows:

1. Type of Event - Instead of a casual Hawaiian motif as suggested earlier, the body approved Nanding's proposal for a semi-formal reunion, considering that our Diamond Jubilee is a special and memorable milestone in our lives, involving the rare homecoming of able-bodied classmates in our country and our "balikbayans" & their spouses and guests. Semi-formal attire would preferably mean barong/coat & tie for gentlemen and cocktail dress/gown for ladies.
2. Committees - An Organizing Committee was initially formed, consisting of Paking, Nanding, Naning, Jun Elicaño & Ador Casiño and other members to be determined later. Mercia C. Aquino was designated to take charge of the invitation and Program Committee, while the Souvenir Directory/Publication Committee was assigned to me as coordinator. Aside from their activities as secretariat members, Delma and Patsy will assist the various committees when the need arises.

OUR MEMORABLE PRE-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Most of our batch mates started leaving at 9:30p.m. for their beauty rest or other commitments. As we were about to follow suit, Paking said, "Don't go yet, let's sit and talk awhile and finish this bottle of red wine. It's seldom that we get the chance to do this." So Paking, Ofel, Naning, Conrad, Mercia, Meia, Patsy, Tony and I lingered and talked animatedly about assorted topics, including some humorous events during our high school years.

What a great and happy feeling it was to see that despite the 60 years that have passed since our 1950 graduation, many of us remain ready to participate in our class activities. That delightful evening, filled with wholesome fun and laughter as we relived pleasant & funny memories of the way we were and swapped opinions on current events, health problems & family news, certainly proved that our friendship has endured and will be further enhanced "as time goes by".



Seated: Victor Perez, Paking Floro, Johnny Sanchez, Ophie Ongkingco-Lagmay, Mercia Crisostomo-Aquino, Patsy Putong-Sison, Jess Disini, Pons Bernardo.
Standing: "Big Ambo" Ambrosio, Ador Casiño, Nanding Campos, Naning Bagabaldo, Tranqui Elicaño, Cario Laurel, Mon Cruz, Tony Protacio and Conrado Valdez.

OUR MEMORABLE PRE-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As we eagerly look forward to our 60th Anniversary Reunion on DECEMBER 29, 2010, we earnestly urge all Class '30 members to attend this once-in-a-lifetime Diamond Jubilee. Around 30 foreign-based batch mates and their spouses/guests will be coming all the way from the USA, Canada and Australia, so let's welcome them heartily and spend wonderful bonding moments together.

Definitely, this won't be our "Huling Hirit" or "Last Hurrah" since we expect more unforgettable reunions in the years to come. Let's just remember that a general homecoming of this nature, size and scope with both RP-based and "balkbayans" classmates present may not happen again. So don't miss this rare occasion to celebrate 60 years of warm fellowship and lasting friendship. Be prepared to eat, drink and be merry together with our "ka-batch" and loved ones on DECEMBER 29, 2010! MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT!

Highlights



The Celebrants

Carlo Laurel, Victor Perez, "Big Ambo" Ambrosio, with Nanding Campos, Johnny Sanchez and Paking Floro, blowing the birthday candles, Mon Cruz, Jess Disini and Pons Bernardo. (Celebrants not in photo are Ador Casifio and Conrado Valdez)

OUR MEMORABLE
PRE-ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

Highlights



The birthday celebrants having their fill at the sumptuous array of food.

Jess Disini and Ador Casiño having a tete-a-tete, while Ophie Lagmay, Patsy Sison and Naning Bagabaldo are talking business.



Keeping in Touch

From: DOLORES ALMAZAR-SOMERA
James Down Tower #145
5000 W. Alta Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89107, USA

Your card and letter boosted my spirit so high that I felt I was actually flying. It's really so exhilarating to know that I'm still remembered and thought about so kindly despite the silence of so many years.

I'm sorry about the silence but we've been moving about so often, I can hardly find my breath. Besides, the fact is that I'm not in tip-top condition. As you know, I've had an open heart surgery to replace my aortic and mitral valves and I've not recovered completely yet.

x x x Warm regards to Delma and the rest of U.P. High '50. I haven't forgotten any of you. You're always in my prayers.

Regards,
DOLLY

Keeping in Touch

From: VICTORIA REYES-MACAGBA vickymacagba@hotmail.com
10075 Silverado Court, Santee, CA 92071-1600, USA

Thank you so much for remembering me on my birthday. It is always good to hear from you.

x x x Looking forward to seeing you all during our 60th Anniversary Reunion.
Blessings,
VICKY

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL & HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO APRIL-BORN CLASSMATES!

From: uphigh1950@yahoo.com On behalf of REBECCA MEMBRENO
becksyboo@msn.com

While I join in wishing the celebrants well, I have some bad news. My mother, Rosario Y. Masakayan-Simpson, has passed away as of 5:55am in NY, USA. Thank you for passing on information for my mother so that she still had connection with back home.

Sincerely,
REBECCA

From: dotpad@netzero.com

Dearest Becky,

We are very sad to hear about your mother Rosie's demise. We all share in your sorrow since we will miss your mother, too. She will be well-remembered by all her High School classmates. Please be consoled that she left us at about the same day our Lord was resurrected and that your mother was also resurrected into her new life. I feel certain that when she stood alone before the Great White Throne, she heard from Him Who sitteth there as Judge Supreme, these welcome words: "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Shalom,
DOC PADDY
Dr. Sinforoso Padilla, Jr.
Holland, MI, USA

Keeping in Touch

From: uphigh1950@yahoogroups.com On behalf of FeSuaco@aol.com

Dear Rebecca:

We are saddened with the news that our classmate Rosario has passed away. We would like to express our sincere sympathy to you and the rest of your family. May the Lord bless you all and give you comfort at this time.

We appreciate your informing us. We will surely miss her.

Take care,
FE A. SUACO
Secretariat

From: uphigh1950@yahoogroups.com On behalf of SYLVIA GAMBOA
srgambogey@yahoo.com

Dear Rebecca,

I am saddened with the news of your dear Mom passing on ... I will always remember our happy days with her a long time ago when we were both High School and your uncle "EEGA" (Jose) who has also passed away ... we cherish all those memories of the good times when we are all young and happy-go-lucky! Please accept our deepest sympathy and prayers.

SYLVIA ROQUE-GAMBOA

From: uphigh1950@yahoogroups.com On behalf of ROGER AUSTRIA
rogeraustria@yahoo.com

Dear Rebecca,

I speak for the UP High School Class 1950, North America Chapter, in condoling with you in the passing of your dear mother. Although your Mom was not able to join us for the mini reunions we have had in the US in the past few years, we always had her in mind when we celebrated the get-togethers. We tried to get in touch with her but for some reason we were not successful in making the reconnection.

It's been more than fifty years since some of us made our last contact with her but the last time we heard, she has been a highly successful doctor practicing in the NY area. Most of us do not know how many beautiful children she brought into this world in addition to you. Perhaps, if you might be interested, we invite you to come and join us in Manila on December 29 this year when we celebrate the 60th anniversary our high school class. Then you will get a chance to

Keeping in Touch

meet some of the friends (those who are still survivors, that is) and get to know about some of the happier days your Mom and Uncle Joe experienced in their lives. If you are interested, please get in touch with me so I can give you the details. My email: rogeraustria@yahoo.com (mailto:rogeraustria@yahoo.com); 414-352-6281.

Thank you, Rebecca for sharing your deep loss with us. We will pray for your Mom and please know that we have you in our thoughts.

ROGER & SIONY AUSTRIA

From: uphigh1950@yahoo.com On behalf of irdracine@wlr.com

Dear Rebecca,

My wife Elvie and I would like to extend to you and your family our deepest regrets on the passing of your mother, Rosario. Her sad loss is painful and we pray that the Lord assuage you with His love and blessings.

RUDY & ELVIE RAMOS
Racine, Wisconsin

From: uphigh1950@yahoo.com On behalf of PACTA SISON patsyisison@hotmail.com

Dearest Rebecca,

Our entire UP HIGH CLASS 1950 is saddened by the news of the recent demise of your Mom, Dr. ROSARIO "Rosie" MASAKAYAN-SIMPSON, who, together with your late uncle, Arty, JOSE "Eega" MASAKAYAN, belonged to our batch. We will never forget her friendly ways and the fun times we spent as Girl Scouts and as Teenagers Club members during our high school years. Several years ago, our classmate Grace Balmaceda (who passed away in New York City on July 4, 2006) requested our dear Secretary FE ABARQUEZ-SUACO to include your email address among those covered by our batch's yahoo.com site; hence, we are glad to know from your message that your Mom was able to get the latest news from home, about her Class '50 friends and their activities. Please accept our sincerest condolences and know that we're praying for the eternal repose of her soul in Heaven. We can never forget Rosie's amiable ways and the fun times we had during our young teenage years. We also pray that the Lord will grant you and your family all the strength, guidance and solace needed now and in the future. Hope you can contact soonest our North America Chapter's Chairman ROGER AUSTRIA as he suggested in his email of condolence.

Very sincerely,
U.P. HIGH CLASS 1950
Philippines

ALUMNI PHOTOS & NEWS



KEEP 'EM COMING, SYL!

Our "GOLF QUEEN", SYLVIA ROQUE-GAMBOA, added another award to her vast collection of trophies last February 19, 2010, a day after her 76th birthday. Above photo shows SYL and her partner Evelyn Grass with their trophies after winning "1st NET in the B-Flight" during their Member-Member LA PALOMA TOURNAMENT at the Dove Canyon Country Club, California, USA.

We agree with Syl's witty comment: "Not a bad win for an old lady like me who should be knitting — instead of golfing."

Too bad, though, Syl & hubby Doc Lu Gamboa won't be here for our Diamond Jubilee on December 29, 2010 and the Golf Tournament between our Manila-based and US-based golfers the following day, since "long travel is not healthy for Lou because of this replaced knee which gives him a lot of pain & discomfort on long flights and there is always the issue of forming an embolus that may cause serious complications."



He visited Kalamazoo on the 23rd of March to perform as a clown for the children at the circus the Shriners had sponsored in a Kalamazoo fund-raising for a worthy cause.

More power to this classmate.

Thank Reth for taking the pictures and sharing them with the rest of the class.

JOE



IN MEMORIAM: Hortencia "Horty" P. Salazar



We just received the sad news that our dear classmate and friend Ms. HORTENCIA "Horty" P. SALAZAR of Mandaluyong City, Philippines passed away last December 5, 2009 due to a lingering kidney disease and its complications. Her daughter Grace informed Delma Dojillo and Patsy Sison that she (Grace) and her older sister Hannah did not know how to contact the UP High alumni when their mom died after failing to undergo dialysis. Their receipt today of our invitation to the Diamond Anniversary Reunion from Naning Bagabaldo

enabled them to get in touch and notify us of the sad news.

During our high school years, Horty was known as "Miss Coca Cola Body". After graduation from college, she worked in the Supreme Court of the Philippines in an administrative capacity until retirement. She became an active member of the popular "Pacifica Dance Troupe" which had many performances in Japan and in our local corporate events. Eventually, she organized her own "Hannalei Group" of dancers performing in cultural presentations locally and in Japan. They provided the live entertainment during our Golden Anniversary Pre-Celebration Luau on May 28, 2000, together with our very own "Magnificent Seven" macho dancers (enumerated in our website's "History" page) who wowed us with their Polynesian dance medley choreographed by Horty.

Remembering Horty

From: evasjflorantino@aol.com

Dear Delma and Patsy, I apologize for not communicating. I have been quite occupied with life's stresses - my husband's illnesses and mine, too, but no reason to complain when we hear of the sufferings of others, especially of those who have gone before us.

I got word of Horty's death through Mercia's email. It happened last December, yet, but we did not know about it. I thought she might have gotten well because she told us that a nutritionist was taking care of her. And she believed she would one day get off the dialysis machine. Sometimes certain kinds of food do wonders for the body. I know of a couple who eat only raw vegetables and fruits and conquered their cancer, and now there are restaurants in LA that serve only raw food. Our son-in-law (Lisa's husband) does not eat red meat and his colon cancer has not returned. He survives on fish and veggies and some chicken once in a while. We all have cancer cells that are not actively dividing to bother us. Thank God.

IN MEMORIAM



I have been thinking of Horty recently and I reminded Alberto that she made the veil for my wedding and she accompanied us to Cabanatuan, NE for our wedding. I remember those halcyon days in UP Hi when we were young and carefree. I think we had pictures in our annual book with a group of us biking and hanging out. I do feel sorry for Horty and I miss her so. Remember, Del, the last time we met for merienda at a shopping center? We should have taken a picture. That was the last time I saw Horty, our loving friend. Recently, I asked Fe how Horty is doing. She said, she knows that she is very sick. And that was all she said.

Love to you and Patsy and I hope to see you again.
EVA



IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Rosario "Rosie"
Y. Masakayan-Simpson (Eega's
sister) of Laurelton, New York &
former practicing physician passed
away last April 8, 2010.

*Here rest their heads upon the lap of Earth
All Youths to Fortune and to Fame unknown.
Fair Science frown'd not on their humble birth,
And Melancholy mark'd them for her own.*

*Large was their bounty, and their souls sincere,
Heav'n did a recompense as largely send:
They gave to Mis'ry all they had, their tears,
And gain'd from Heav'n ('twas all they wish'd)
Their UP High School classmates!*

[From the EPITAPH by Thomas Gray which we learned in English class.]

OUR NEWSMAKERS



SUNDRY STROKES by Rosalinda L. Orosa
The Philippine Star April 10, 2010 edition

JOSE MACARIO LAUREL IV, Philippines Ambassadors Foundation president, kindly sent me a copy of *The Ambassadors' Journal* which, to my immense surprise, contains a photo of my grand uncle Felipe Agoncillo, and a brief write-up of him entitled *The First Filipino Diplomat*.

FROM THE STANDS
by Domini M. Torrevillas
The Philippine Star April 10, 2010 edition

A brochure published by DOT describes Lubang Island as part of the Verde Island Passage, its waters "home to some of the world's richest marine bio-diversity." Its attractions are coral reefs diving sites, stretches of white sand beaches, glorious sunsets, pristine forests. I'd like to add as attractions, solitary walks along the beaches, glorious sunsets,



pristine forests. I'd like to add as attractions, solitary walks along the beaches, peace and quiet, and just beautiful, clean air. Of great interest to visitors is the Onoda Trail and Caves, where the last Japanese straggler sought refuge for 30 years, coming out of hiding only on March 10, 1974.

Lubang Mayor JUAN M. SANCHEZ is quoted by the DOT brochure as he invites tourists to the island thus: "Lubang Tourism is still in its early infancy stage, but the place itself is an authentic paradise that offers the best unspoiled nature ranging from the rich marine life to the still virgin forests."

Lui promised to connect the Lubang Rotarians to DOT specialists who can size up the place's investment potential, and to visit it, with this columnist.

OUR NEWSMAKERS



The Philippine Star May 2, 2010 edition

CELL PHONES FOR CONSERVATION: In support of the conservation of marine protected area (MPA) Verde Island Passage, Smart Communications Inc. recently turned over 20 mobile phones to the municipalities of Lubang and Looc, Occidental. Communications support is vital to those who will be enforcing regulations in the MPA which encompasses the Lubang Islands in the Verde Island Passage (VIP) Marine Biodiversity Corridor. The Looc-Lubang marine protected area is the largest MPA in the Verde Island Passage, composed of a total 14,485 hectares. The VIP Marine Biodiversity Corridor, recognized as the global epicenter of marine biodiversity for having the 'highest concentration of marine species of any region in the world's oceans,' has been identified as one of the most threatened marine areas in the world due to changing climate temperatures. The marine area covers the provinces of Batangas, Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, and Marinduque. Smart's donation of mobile phones to help those policing the MPA in the Verde Island Passage is part of its environmental protection efforts under the corporate social responsibility and community service program KABALUKAT. Photo above shows Smart community partnerships senior manager Darwin Flores handing the mobile phones to Lubang Mayor JUAN SANCHEZ and Looc Vice Mayor Apollinar Tria.

UP High Class 1950
c/o Delma Dojillo-Dungan
1-10 St. Jude Street, Maries I Village
San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City 1116



prayer corner

Dear Lord,

You know my friend so much better than I do. You know his/her sickness and the burden he carries. You also know his heart. Lord, I ask you to be with my friend now, working in his life. Let your will be done in my friend's life. I believe you hear this earnest prayer from my heart and that it is powerful because of your promise. I have faith in you to heal my friend, but I also trust in the plan you have for his life.

I ask that you look with mercy and grace toward my friend. Nourish his spirit and soul in this time of suffering and comfort him with your presence. Let my friend know you are there with him through this difficulty. And may you be glorified in his life and also in mine. Amen.

Benny F. Agbayani
Ric "Chiqui" Cruz
Ernie Samonte
Jessie V. Marzan
Ramon Cruz