

# UPAACC NEWSLETTER

**SPRING 2024**



The Official Publication of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Central California

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### 2024-25 CALENDAR\*

Spring 2024 Board Meeting - March 9, 2024  
KUSINA Modesto

Induction of New Officers and Awards Ceremonies  
April 6, 2024, Saturday  
PARDINI'S, Fresno  
(see page 3 for details)

\*The schedule above is subject to change depending on the availability of venue. Watch for announcements in this Newsletter. □

## UPAACC Elects New Officers



UPAACC Fall 2023 General Meeting & Picnic - Woodward Park, Fresno

Light rain and chilly weather did not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of the more than 35 members and guests who attended the UPAACC Fall 2023 general meeting and election of officers held at Woodward Park, Fresno on September 30, 2023. After all, this was the first outdoor picnic/meeting in Fresno in over 4 years, after the COVID years. The last picnic/meeting in Fresno was held in 2019.

As always, the meeting was well attended with many coming from Lodi, Stockton, Modesto, Turlock, Fresno, and the vicinity. After enjoying a wide variety of delicious Filipino food, and, of course, the ubiquitous lechon, the meeting started promptly at 12:45 PM. By that time, the rain had stopped, the sun came out and it started to get warmer.

The highlight of the meeting was the election of new officers and members of the Board of Directors. As part of our constitution, "the term of the officers shall be two (2) years, and the leadership of the Association shall alternate between the two geographical areas

(UPAACC North & UPAACC South) every two years". This biennial rotation of the Association's leadership was envisioned by our wise founders.

This time the leadership moves its "headquarters" from UPAACC North to UPAACC South with Rey A. Elizondo as the new president succeeding Susan Mendiola, and the new vice president is Dr. Cheryl G. Villena (see the minutes of the general meeting on page 4, and their profiles on page 6).

In addition to the many day-to-day tasks that all UPAACC administrations have had to tackle such as raising funds to support the many projects and obligations of the Associations, the new set of leaders has the daunting challenge of recruiting new members as we have lost many in the past few years. We need new members to revitalize the Association and train the new sets of leaders as look forward to our Golden Anniversary in 2032!

As always, the new administration can be certain that we have good people to rely on for help and support. □



## UPAACC NEWSLETTER

**SPRING 2024**

The UPAACC Newsletter is the official publication of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Central California and published two times a year.

### Contributors in this Issue:

Johnny Abilay	Annabelle Atienza
Nenita Eballa-Dean	Orly Dyoco
Rey Elizondo	Juliet Espejo
Lydia Favor	Susan Mendiola
Cheryll Villena	

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## Name our Newsletter Contest



During the Fall 2023 general meeting in Fresno, the membership decided to continue its search for a new name of our newsletter. The contest is, of course, still open and winner will be selected during the next Summer meeting this year

The newsletter is the main means of communication among our members and assures our members that the Association is alive and well! Although the format of the newsletter changed several times through the years, the name remains the same.

This contest is open to all members of UPAACC and here are some simple rules:

1. Name and its meaning/significance to our Association.
2. Only one entry will be accepted from each member.
3. In the case of 2 or more of the same winning entries, the date of submission will determine the winner.

Please send your entry to Susan Mendiola by email ([gmend2031@yahoo.com](mailto:gmend2031@yahoo.com)) or by mail (2100 Amarone Ct., Modesto, CA 95355). The deadline for submission of the entries will be before the Summer general meeting. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$100. □

## The President's Corner

### REMEMBERING JOHNNY QUIJANO



2000 UPAACC OUTSTANDING ALUMNI CHAPTER AWARD

With sadness in my heart, I find solace in knowing that Johnny is in a better place, and I know he would not want us to dwell in sadness, but rather celebrate his remarkable time on earth.

Whenever I see the "2000 UPAA Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award" plaque on my bookshelf, I cannot help but remember Johnny and his many contributions to our Association. Although the UP Alumni Association (Diliman) awarded this to UPAACC during my first term of office in 2000, it was all Johnny's efforts that paved the way to this recognition. I always tell myself that this belongs to him and not to me.

I have known Johnny for over 46 years, since 1977. I first met him professionally when he was working at Tri-Valley Growers (TVG) in Modesto and I was with FMC Corporation, TVG's major supplier of food processing equipment. Even though we worked on a few projects together, I did not know him well until 1992 when I joined our Alumni Association.

As one of the founding members in 1982, Johnny was a prime mover of the Association. I have to admit that I reluctantly joined because of my preconceived notion that in many alumni associations, most members are motivated by self-interest and use the association as an excuse to party. I thought UPAACC was one of those associations.

As a fellow UP Los Baños graduate, Johnny was one of those responsible in convincing me to join the Association in 1992. After learning more about the Association and its objectives from Johnny and other members, I was proven wrong, and my perception of our Association changed dramatically. Early on, Johnny convinced me to join the Board of Directors, and during his term as the president in 1997 & 1998, he chose me as his vice-president. He became not only my mentor but also a good friend, even as my "big brother". Together, we worked on several fund-raising drives to help the Association attain financial stability. Johnny also initiated the publication of this newsletter in the early 1990's and to this day, its publication continues.

As I took over the Association's presidency in 1999, Johnny was very helpful in guiding me along in running the Association. His dedication to our Association was deservedly recognized by the UP Alumni Association (UPAA) with the **Outstanding Service Award** in 1999. Even after his presidency, Johnny continued to serve our Association as treasurer, member of the Board of Directors, and, more importantly, mentor to members and officers of the Association.

Now that I am taking over as the Association's president again (my second time around) after 25 years, I will always remember not only Johnny's influence in the Association but also to my personal growth and transformation as a devoted member. I can only hope to keep his memory and legacy alive, and to do my best to keep the Association he loved and cherished remains active, and continues to grow to serve our Alma Mater.

*Johnny, we will miss you!*

*Rey □*



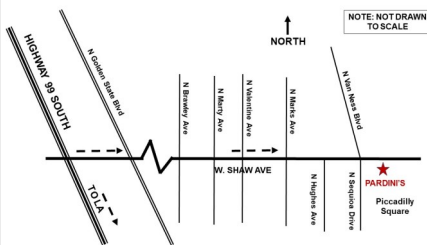
**Rey A. Elizondo**  
UPAACC President,  
2024 - 2025

# UPAACC INDUCTION OF OFFICERS: 2024-2025

## DIRECTIONS:

### From Highway 99 South to Fresno

- Take the West Shaw Ave Exit, going East
- Stay on West Shaw Avenue, drive past N. Golden State Blvd.,
  - ◇ Past N. Brawley Avenue,
  - ◇ Past N. Marty Avenue,
  - ◇ Past N. Valentine Avenue,
  - ◇ Past N. Marks Avenue,
  - ◇ Past N. Hughes Avenue,
- On W. Shaw Avenue, PARDINI'S Catering and Banquet Center is located on the corner of W. Shaw Avenue and N. Sequoia Drive (at Piccadilly Square)



For more information, contact/leave message  
 Fresno: R. Elizondo, 559-273-3653  
 Modesto/Turlock: S. Mendiola, 209-324-6104  
 Stockton/Lodi: C. Villena, 209-639-4608

## The University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Central California (UPAACC)

*Invites all Members and Friends to the  
 Induction of New Officers for  
 2024-2025  
 and Award Ceremonies*

at



# PARDINI'S



**CATERING AND BANQUET CENTER  
 2257 WEST SHAW AVENUE  
 FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93711  
 (559) 224-3188**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 at 11:00 AM**  
*Enjoy the Food, Fun and Raffle Prizes!!!*

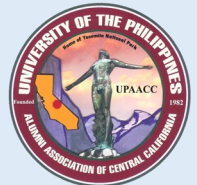


## **YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE UPAACC ANNUAL GIFT PROGRAM**

### **PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND IT TO:**

Armyn Carbonell, Treasurer, UPAACC, 1742 Morris Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611-2078

## **UPAACC Annual Gift Program**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Pay to the Order of UPAACC). Please designate my gift to the following: (check one)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> UPAACC-Crisologo Cabacungan Scholarship          | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Projects               | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Seminars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balik-Scientist Program                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory Equipment & Supplies Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> UPAACC General Fund  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Textbook/Computer/Kaagapay sa Pag-aaral Donation |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____        |

**TAX ID. NO: 47-3340773**

(specify)



**Woodward Park  
Fresno, CA  
September 30, 2023**

**I. Call to Order:** President Susan Mendiola called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM.

**II. Prayer/UP Beloved:** Elnora Bugay led the prayer. Tess Parayno and Johnny Abilay led the singing of UP Beloved.

**III. Introduction:** UPAACC members, family and friends introduced themselves.

**IV. Secretary's Report:** Nenita Dean read the minutes of the 2023 Spring General Meeting at Modesto on June 10, 2023. Mari-belle Dyoco moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Jet Belleza. The minutes of the meeting were approved with no corrections.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Annabelle Atienza provided the financial report and also reported that a new CD was opened last June, 2023 with a higher interest rate than a savings account. The financial report is summarized below:

**Current Balance as of 9/30/2023:**

A. *Checking Account* . . . . . \$25,296.07  
 B. *Savings Account* . . . . . 20,663.71  
**Total Checking/Savings . . . \$45,959.78**

**A. Checking Account Activities:**

**1. Total Income**

a) *UPAACC Gift Program* . . . . . \$350.00  
     *Elnora Bugay* . . . . . \$150  
     *Fe Castro* . . . . . \$100  
     *Paulina Antonio* . . . \$100  
 b) *Meeting Raffle* . . . . . \$140.00  
**Total Income . . . . . \$490.00**

**2. Total Expenses:**

a) *Project Expenses* . . . . . \$2,000.00  
     *Computer Donation* \$1,000  
     *Laptop (Scholar)* . . \$1,000  
 b) *Operating Expenses* . . . . . \$550.40  
     *Park Rental (Turlock)* . . \$80.00  
     *Park Rental (Fresno)* . . 60.00  
     *Flowers/Card (DeLeon)* 34.00  
     *Newsletter (Spring)* . . . 64.21  
     *Newsletter (Fall)* . . . . . 62.19  
     *Donation to UPMASA* . 200.00  
     *Contingencies* . . . . . 50.00  
 c) *CD Investment* . . . . . \$10,000  
**Total Expenses: . . . . . \$12,550.40**

**Total Checking Acct Balance . . \$13,235.67**

**B. Savings Account Activities . . . . . \$ 0.00**  
**Total Savings Acct Balance . . \$20,663.71**

**C. Total CD Account . . . . . \$10,000.00**  
**Total Chkg/Savings/CD Accts: \$43,899.38**

Renee Smith moved to approve the

Treasurer's Report. Jet Belleza seconded. The Treasurer Report was approved by the members.

**VI. 2024 Budget Review:** Rey Elizondo referred to the UPAACC 2023 Spring board meeting for the 2024 Budget proposal as follows:

A. Project Expenses:  
 1. *Scholarship Reserves* . . . \$5,000  
 2. *Computer Donation* . . . . 1,000  
 3. *Balik-Scientist Project* . . . 1,500  
 4. *Community Service* . . . . . 500  
**Sub-Total . . . . . \$8,000**

B. Operating Expenses:  
 1. *Newsletters (2)* . . . . . \$200  
 2. *Meeting Venues (2)* . . . . . 200  
 3. *Sunshine Fund* . . . . . 300  
 4. *Donations to other UPAA* 300  
 5. *Contingency Fund* . . . . . 100  
**Sub-Total . . . . . \$1,100**

**Total 2024 Budget . . . . . \$9,100**

The 2024 Project and Operating Expense Budget was approved as presented. Susan Mendiola suggested renewing the CD and checking other bank institutions for higher interest rates.

**VI. President's Report:** Susan Mendiola reported the support that UPAACC gives to other UP alumni associations. UPAACC gave \$200 to NCC UP MASA for a full page ad for Jubilarian Celebration. Susan mentioned the change in the lyrics of UP Beloved with contemporary rock. She thanked everyone for the attendance and support given to the Association.

**VII. Committees/Project Update:**

**A. UPAACC-Crisologo Cabacungan Scholarship:**

1. New Scholar: Our new scholar is John Paul A. Balines. Johnny Abilay gave a short biography of John Paul. His parents work as "kargador" in Divisoria. He started at UPLB as an Industrial Engineering major but decided to move to UP Diliman to major in Tourism (see page 7).

2. Funding through UP Foundation: The current funding of our scholarship is currently at PhP1,417,000 (~\$25,764) and \$5,000 (~PhP 275,000) will be added for a total amount of PhP1,692,000 in 2024 (~US\$30,764). (US\$1.00 = PhP55)

3. Amendment to the Scholarship Rules: Rey Elizondo proposed new amendments to the Scholarship Rules to rotate the selection to the various UP campus. He mentioned that the current number of

scholars awarded is 15 and distributed as follows: Diliman (10); Visayas (3); Los Banos (1); Baguio (1).

Current scholarship rules indicate that the scholar cannot transfer to another major or go on leave of absence without prior approval from the Office of Scholarship and Student Services (OSSS) but do not specify if the student can transfer to a different campus without losing the scholarship.

**ACTION:** After a spirited discussion that followed, it was decided to table the proposed amendment and create an ad-hoc committee for further evaluation and make recommendations to the membership during the next general meeting. Tabled for discussion are: (1) Rotate the scholarship to various campuses; (2) Allow change in major and/or transfer to another campus without losing scholarship; (3) Whether the scholarship is awarded to individual student or to the designated campus.

**B. Balik Scientist - Dairy Cattle Project:**

Johnny Abilay shared information regarding this project. He stated that it has been five years since this project was started, but breeding takes 10 years. The 10-year breeding program was accepted. The student assistant program would continue until graduation. This is a 5-year commitment in UP Los Banos. Johnny reported that subscription to Science Journal is US\$1,000.

**C. Computer Donation (2023):**

The 2023 computer donation is for UP Iloilo. UP Iloilo requested a Smart TV instead of a computer (see page 10). According to August Lansigan, if we send the donation directly, we will save the administrative fee charged by UP Foundation. Next year's (2024) recipient of the \$1,000 computer donation is UP Mindanao.

**D. Membership Drive:**

Rey Elizondo is in charge of putting together ads in church bulletins. It was approved that an ad be published for one year (52 weeks) at the local church in Fresno.

**E. UPAACC Gift Program:**

Thank you to Elnora Bugay and Fe Castro for their donations. Thank you also to Polly Antonio's recent donation that she gave to our treasurer Annabelle Atienza.

**F. Fund Raising Drive for 2023-2024:**

1) Sweatshirts with UPAACC logo sale;  
 2) UPAACC 2-yr calendar, 2024-2025.  
 Twenty-five minimum orders are required

*continued on page 9*

# UPAACC Fall General Meeting - September 30, 2023



## Remembering Johnny G. Quijano, Jr.



UPAACC members joining Paddy Quijano and family after the funeral services in Modesto

## Profiles: UPAACC's New President and Vice President



**Rey A. Elizondo**  
BS Agricultural Engineering '68  
UPAACC President, 2024-2025

**B**orn and raised in Calamba, Laguna, hometown of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, Rey grew up under the shadow of our national hero.

Rey received his BS degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1968 by attending both the College of Engineering-Diliman and College of Agriculture-Los Banos. At

UPLB, Rey was active in student activities as president of UP Society of Agricultural Engineering Students (UP SAGES), Councilor-at-Large, and Business Manager for the UPCA Student Council.

After graduating from UPLB, he worked as a Product Development Engineer at ROCKGAS-Philippines for a year, and another year as an instructor of engineering sciences at UPLB. In 1970, in the midst of the political unrest engulfing the Philippines, Rey came to the US to complete his MS degree at the Pennsylvania State University, and later his PhD degree at the University of Massachusetts. In between degrees, in 1972, he met and married his lovely wife, Ligaya, in New York City.

Rey's professional career encompasses both the academic and industry sectors of the food industry. A teaching position at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo brought Rey and his family to California where he served as Lecturer, Associate Professor, and, later, Adjunct Professor.

From Cal Poly, Rey joined FMC Corporation where he worked for 28 years, and moved up the management ranks as Application Engineering Manager, International Marketing Manager, Engineering Manager, Project Manager, and Technology Manager.

In these positions at FMC, Rey had the opportunity to travel all over the United States and to almost every corner of the world in marketing, designing and installing FMC's food processing systems and technology. Rey holds six US patents, authored over 30 technical publications, and served in various government and industry sponsored committees, as well as member of the advisory committees at Cal Poly and UC Davis.

After an early retirement from FMC, Rey returned to the academic community as University Lecturer at California State University-Fresno. However, his involvement in the food industry continued as consultant, instructor in various short courses, and speaker in symposia sponsored by the California League of Food Processors (CLFP).

In 2006 and 2007, Rey spent two summers as volunteer consultant to the US AID Farmer-to-Farmer program in the Ukraine. During the first summer, he joined a US-based team that introduced advanced food processing technology to increase food production at the Yahotyn Food Company. In the following year, he returned to develop and initiate the implementation of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) system. This system is recognized and used by the food industry worldwide to ensure sanitary, high quality food products.

In early 2020, prior to the COVID pandemic, Rey fully retired. Rey and Ligaya (retired registered OR nurse supervisor at Kaiser Hospital) are blessed with two sons, Siegfried and Mark, daughter-in-law, Gerry, and grandson, Peter. Rey & Ligaya love to travel and spend time with their family. □



**Cheryll G. Villena**  
Doctor of Medicine '83  
UPAACC Vice-President, 2024-2025

**C**heryll Adaniel Gallardo-Villena, MD, known by her patients as Dr. Villena, grew up in the beautiful island of Camiguin in Northern Mindanao. She speaks Cebuano Visayan. As a child, Cheryll has always wanted to help people. As she was growing up, she went to elementary and high school at a catholic school and received her undergraduate education at a famous catholic university run by the Jesuits in the Philippines. She was, therefore, exposed to several works of charity, sponsored by these schools, to help the poor, the sick, and the needy.

She found it challenging and rewarding to help sick people get well. Thus, she pursued a career in medicine. She graduated at the UP College of Medicine (Class of 1983) in Manila, and did her internship at the UP-Philippine General Hospital.

In 1988, she married the love of her life, Ronaldo, a US citizen. In 1990, they migrated to the US and had a son the same year, and a daughter in 1992. She did residency in Internal Medicine at Millard Fillmore Hospital at the State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, and became board certified in Internal Medicine.

In 1998, she joined The Permanente Medical Group, Inc. as a hospital-based specialist (HBS). She helped shape the Hospital Medicine program of Kaiser Permanente in Stockton during the first few years of the program.

She specializes in the care of patients who are in the hospital. She loves her job as a hospitalist. Her role is to treat, oversee, and coordinate the care of patients with the other health care team members in the hospital. She joined Kaiser Permanente in 1998 because it is a stable and well managed organization which aims at providing quality care and service to patients. Patients are treated with dignity and respect and the physicians have autonomy in clinical decision making. Specialty services, as well as ancillary, are readily accessible.

In 2010, the American Board of Internal Medicine offered for the first time board examination for Hospital Medicine. She took the challenge and became the first board certified hospitalist in the Central Valley. She continues to work in St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton, and in Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Manteca and Modesto, "taking care of not just sick but very sick patients."

Her philosophy of care is that patients should always be treated with respect as though they are part of the family. She spends most of her time in St. Joseph's Medical Center.

Cheryll and husband, Ron, live in Stockton. She loves baking and making desserts for her family and friends. At times, she also loves organizing family albums, playing the piano and traveling to places, locally or abroad with her family. □

## UPAACC-Crisologo Cabacungan Scholarship



**John Paul Balines**  
BS Tourism Student  
Asian Institute of  
Tourism, UP Diliman

Our UPAACC-Crisologo Cabacungan Scholar, John Paul Balines, completed his first semester of studies at UP Diliman, having taken 17 units and achieving a GWA (Grade Weighted Average) of 1.0588 (University Scholar/President's Lister/Summa Cum Laude Standing). As previously reported, John started his studies at UP Los Baños as an Industrial Engineering major but decided to change his major and moved to UP Diliman during the first semester, 2023-2024 to major in Tourism.

The following is the progress report on his studies:

My first semester at the UP Diliman was an eye-opening experience filled with novel adventures, challenges, and self-discovery. As a transferee from another UP campus, I set out on an excursion of academic exploration and personal growth that has enriched my understanding of myself and the world I live in. The first weeks of the semester had been an upsurge of emotions - excitement, nervousness, and a sense of independence.

The campus, once unfamiliar, quickly became my second home. Navigating through the labyrinth of lecture halls, dormitories, and bustling student activities, I gradually found my place in this diverse and vibrant community. Academically, the transition from an engineering program to a tourism program posed its own set of challenges. Engineering is based principally on physics, chemistry, and mathematics and their extensions into materials science, solid and fluid mechanics, amongst others - and tourism completely has nothing to do with them but in hospitality.

The rigorous coursework in Tourism desired a greater amount of self-discipline and time management. Balancing numerous projects, exams, and extracurricular pursuits entailed a strategic approach to prioritizing tasks and staying on schedule. My first semester had its fair share of challenges. The workload appeared overwhelming at times, and the level of difficulty of the coursework

tested me to the limit. However, these challenges behaved as enzymes for my personal development. I learned to adapt to a more self-sufficient learning environment, seek assistance when necessary, and cultivate resilience in the face of adversity.

As a result, I completed the semester successfully. I received a Weighted Average Grade of 1.05 (University Scholar/President's Lister/Summa Cum Laude Standing), and I am just hoping to continue what I have started in the next 3 years. Meanwhile, making connections with peers and setting up a support system were critical components of my first semester at UPD. My fellow students' diverse backgrounds widened my standpoint and comprehension of various cultures.



The friendships formed in those early weeks proved to be valuable assets of support during both of my academic and personal challenges, particularly the connection I made during our Academic Field Activity in Batad. To share a bit about what happened during our AFA in Batad, Banaue; it really was a great opportunity for us to deeply realize that it is significant for everyone to celebrate inclusivity across all ethnicities. Just in a span of 3 days, we were able to indulge ourselves with the culture and traditions of Indigenous people in *Batad*. We get to experience how to make their rice wine, rice cake and their traditional sword, while enjoying the time in *Tappiya Falls* and *Sa Bahay ni Mang Ramon*. Of course, this would not be possible without the financial support given by the UPAACC, and I just can't thank the foundation enough

Further, beyond the classroom, college life offered a plethora of extracurricular activities, clubs, and events. Engaging in these



activities not only provided a welcome break from academic pressures but also fostered a sense of community and belonging. Whether participating in a club meeting, attending a cultural event, or volunteering for a community service project. As someone who really wants to put himself out there, I have decided to involve myself in various organizations inside and outside AIT. Now, I am part of the Education and Research Committee of STAND UP AIT, and a peer support volunteer of UP Diliman *Ugnayan ng Pahinungod*. Indeed, nothing beats the feeling of delight when you can contribute something to your community, genuinely.

Pondering on my first semester, I realize how profoundly it influenced my personal and intellectual development. I've become self-sufficient, resolute, and tolerant. The hurdles I faced, while daunting at times, helped shape my persona and bolster my commitment to academic excellence. As I prepare for the upcoming semesters, I carry with me the lessons learned and connections formed during this early stage of my college life. The first semester has been a watershed moment in my academic career, and I'm looking forward to more growth and opportunities in the future. Indeed, college is more than just a place to learn; it's a vibrant community that encourages progress, personal growth, and the acquisition of knowledge.

**John Paul Balines** □



**John Paul Balines with Susan Mendiola and August Lansigan at UP Diliman**

## IN LOVING MEMORY: *Juan (Johnny) Gomez Quijano, Jr.*

(April 24, 1932 - January 5, 2024)



### UPAACC President, 1997-1998

**J**ohnny passed away peacefully at his home in Modesto, California on January 5, 2024 at age 91. He was born in Manila to Juan and Ceferina Quijano. He is survived by his wife Amparo (Paddy), his sons, Juan Quijano (Ann), Victor Quijano; daughters, Maria Johnson (Martin), Rina Quijano (Michael Cummins), and beloved grandchildren Lillian, Victor, and Grace.

Johnny's early childhood was spent in the Philippines with his siblings Peter, Helen, and Robert (Bobby). Despite living through the challenging times of the Japanese occupation during World War II, Johnny's childhood home was filled with laughter and love. At the end of the war, his family moved to San Francisco, California. It was during his teenage years in San Francisco that Juan was hired for his job, selling programs at Kezar Stadium. He remained a steadfast 49'er fan the rest of his life.

Upon graduation from George Washington High School in San Francisco, his family returned to the Philippines where he attended the University of the Philippines, majoring in Agriculture. There he met the love of his life, Amparo Pagulayan. After graduating from UPLB, they began their married life as farmers on the island of Mindoro where his acquaintance with real "hands-on" agriculture lasted for 11 years.

After the birth of their first two children, another challenge beckoned him. The young couple made the decision to move to California in 1966, and with extensive farm experience, he was immediately employed by the US Department of Agriculture as an inspector. Again, seeking a greener pasture and decidedly more challenging responsibilities, in 1969, the family moved to Modesto where they have lived for 55 years. Johnny joined Tri-Valley Growers (TVG) in the Environmental Services Division, and rose



through the administrative ranks because of his effective leadership and management abilities. By the time he retired as Manager of the Environmental Services Division in 1995, he was the only Filipino to have achieved this high level administrative position at TVG.

In 1982, Johnny was one of the founding members of the UP Alumni Association of Central California. He exemplified loyalty, dedication, and a distinguished service to his Alma Mater, and was awarded the UPAA Distinguished Service Award in 1999. He helped initiate the establishment of the UPAACC-Crisologo Cabacungan Scholarship in 1987, which has since graduated 14 deserving students at various UP campuses obtained their chosen degrees. He also started the publication of the "UPAACC Newsletter" which is well received and supported by the Association.

His leadership and influence in the Filipino community extended beyond UPAACC. He was a former president of the Mabuhay Club, Filipino-American Association in the Modesto area.

Johnny and Paddy spent their retired years traveling to many countries and continents. He loved exploring new places and meeting new people. Johnny believed in a life of service and volunteered with several organizations, such as the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Central California and the Mabuhay Club. Johnny loved to sing and was active in the Golden Valley Choir and St. Joseph's Church Choir.

Johnny was a devoted, generous, and loving husband, father, and grandfather. Quick with a smile and armed with a dad joke, his affable and gentle manner won over anyone he met. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. □



1999 UPAAC Grand Assembly & Reunion in Las Vegas with UP President Francisco Nemenzo



2007 UPLBAA Loyalty Day Celebration Santa Clara, CA





**HELEN Q. REYNOLDS' MESSAGE TO UPAACC MEMBERS (September 30, 2023)**

Greetings to all, Thank God Almighty, Jesus Christ, Holy

Spirit, for all His Devine Graces; now and all through eternity! Hallelujah!

**OMNIPOTENT, OMNIPRESENT, OMNISCIENT, AMEN**

Thank you all for continuing our UP Alumni Tradition, in Fresno, Group celebration and Host.

**Welcome to Everyone!**

Writing this note is not easy having attend-ed all UP functions, like this one in particular. I also joined the lechon or goat group contrib-uting, to glorify His Holy Name!

There is a lump in my throat, no matter how hard I do swallow it, it stays there, very sad for not being to be with you all together.

I do not shed tears, as when my late MOM died, but my heart hurts for not being able to be with you all. Lately, I ended up in the Emer-gency Room for one night!

When asked by the MD, what was the problem? My reply, "I have an Alumni reunion

which I could not attend coming up soon".

"My Family Love is intact, full of genuine Love, maintains the "Devine Doctrine" prac-tice, live it daily. Prayed regularly, runs this way:

**"Remember GOD as Number One, in All You DO! For the glory of GOD"! Do this to glorify His Holy Name!**

My friends, "I will miss you all! **Rey & Ligaya Elizondo** with him every meeting, all UP meetings, 100% attendance as sched-uled!

**Chola & Joe Pascua**, my most genuine friends in thoughts and in Deed. **Chola** – professionally, endowed, my friend, in word and in deed is the best of the finest, second to none! She is highly outstanding, profes-sional, and generous!

**Juliet Espejo**, my one and only non-blood sister, who was with me, on all person-al request for help special culinary needs for my professional friends, the most her being with me for post-operative eye car, private ophthalmologist, eye surgery as I do have glaucoma – very risky.

**Gemma Bischocho, ex-President** – I call regularly & intermittently, so soft spoken lady, my sister in Christ, her husband and family sing as church choir members!

**Dr. Orly Dyoco and charming wife,**

**Maribelle**, beautiful and very helpful in all chores, elegant, topnotcher, do assist us in all UP functions, works above and beyond her call of duty, worth outstanding member, her husband, being my special Pediatric Professor as a Nurse Practitioner student at Fresno State University where I graduated.

All of you are included in my daily prayers as my family!

**I LOVE YOU ALL!**

I miss all of you now, the togetherness, the luxurious preparation and take home food like lechon, which Juliet prepares for all of us! Thank you, Juliet. We all love YOU!

The Most is the Highest Integrity and Hon-or; we all have as a University of the Philip-pines graduate! We carry with us all the high-est education, ethics, etiquette to be 100% prepared intellectually, politically, and socially, worldwide, thank GOD!

**HALLELUJAH!**

I LOVE YOU and I miss YOU all! My pray-ers for you to be happy, healthy, safe, live a Long Life, one hundred ninety and counting, now through Eternity.

**AMEN, AMEN, AMEN**

Love,

**HELEN QUEZON PONCE REYNOLDS**  
UP BSN; Lt. Col. (Retired), US ARMY □

**Minutes . . . . continued from page 4**

for the sweatshirt. There were 16 orders Already placed as of 9/30/23. Rey Elizondo reported that currently the calendar project has garnered \$7,700. The printing cost was estimated at ~\$1,500 leaving a poten-tial of \$ 5,500 as gain. Pictures for the calendar should be sent to Rey by Novem-ber 15, 2023 (see page 10).

**G. Community Service:** The Fresno group would choose the recipient for 2024. The Crochet-A-Hat is still on-going per Chola Pascua and will be distributed this coming Christmas season.

**H. UPAACC Newsletter:** There were five entries for the **"Name Our Newsletter Content"**. The deadline to submit an entry was extended until the next general meet-ing in 2024. The criteria to enter the con-TEST were published in the Fall 2023 issue of the UPAACC Newsletter.

**I. Facebook/Social Media Project Review:** The members were reminded of the UPAACC Facebook/Social Media web-sites.

**IX. Other Matters:**

**A. Election of New Officers:** The election of

new officers for 2024-2025. The following election results:

- President: Rey Elizondo*
- Vice-President: Cheryl Villena*
- Secretary: Maribelle Dyoco*
- Treasurer: Army Carbonell*
- PRO: Elnora Bugay*
- Auditor: Annabelle Atienza*

**Board of Directors :**

**UPAACC North:** (San Joaquin, Stani-slaus, and Merced Counties): Johnny Abilay, Gemma Bischocho, Susan Mendiola, Silahis Pidlaon, and Rollie Simeon.

**UPAACC South:** (Madera, Fresno, and Tulare Counties): Susan Cayco, Orly Dyoco, Lydia Favor, Chola Pascua, and Renee Smith.

**B. Induction of 2024-2025 New Officers:** Planning of the induction of new officers will be done in January by the Fresno Group. The kind of celebration will be dis-cussed (see page 3).

**C. Pictures of 40th Anniversary Celebra-tion (September 2022):** Per Susan Men-diola, the photographer has returned from the Philippines and the pictures would be available.

**D. Special Announcement:** Rey Elizondo presented a plaque to Helen Reynolds at her home to recognize her service to UPAACC. Ligaya Elizondo read a very touching letter from Helen to UPAACC ex-pressing her appreciation to the organiza-tion and its members (see above). Helen will be moving from Fresno to retire and join her niece in Waterford, Michigan.

**E. Book Publication:** Johnny Abilay informed the members that he and Rey Elizondo will co-author a book on agriculture.

**X. Next Meeting:** The next general meeting will be announced (either Stockton or Mod-esto) after the induction of new 2024-2025 officers sometime in Spring 2024.

**XI. Adjournment:** Before the adjournment, the members thanked the 2023-2024 officers, especially President Susan Mendiola for her excellent service to the Association. The newly elected officers for 2024-2025 were applauded.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM. Group picture taking followed.

*Submitted by: Nenita Dean, Secretary*  
*Approved by: Susan Mendiola, President* □

**UPAACC NEWSLETTER**

1335 E. El Paso Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93720-2638

**OFFICERS 2024-2025**

- President Rey Elizondo
- Vice President Cheryl Villena
- Secretary Maribelle Dyoco
- Treasurer Armin Carbonell
- PRO Elnora Bugay
- Auditor Annabelle Atienza

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**NORTH AREA**

- Johnny Abilay Gemma Biscocho
- Susan Mendiola Silahis Pidlaolan
- Rolando Simeon

**SOUTH AREA**

- Susan Cayco Orly Dyoco
- Lydia Favor Chola Pascua
- Renee Smith

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

- Norma Espiritu Cris Cabacungan+
- Max Parayno, Jr.+ Cora Galvez
- Johnny Quijano+ Rey Elizondo
- August Lansigan Pete Mayol
- Orly Dyoco Helen Reyes+
- Nenita Dean Arturo Nisperos+
- Gemma Biscocho Johnny Abilay
- Lydia Favor Rolando Simeon
- Susan Mendiola

+ DECEASED

PLEASE MAIL TO:



**FELLOW ALUMNI:** *If your personal and/or professional information has changed, please complete this portion and mail to the above address. Use this form to inform us of potential new members and to update your address, phone number and e-mail address.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ UP Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2024 SPRING Newsletter FINAL

**NOTICE:** *If you are still receiving this newsletter by US mail, it means that we do not have your current e-mail address on file. You can help the Association save some money that can be diverted towards our General Fund to support our projects if we can send a copy to you by email instead.*

**UPAACC Project Update**



**Financial Report**

The 2024-2025 2-yr calendar fund raising project breaks the record of the previous one! After all the donations were received and all expenses paid, the project netted over \$8,800 vs previous calendar's net income of \$8,100. The following is the financial breakdown:

1-page ads with calendar month . . .	\$3,600
1-page ads no calendar month . . . .	2,650
Donations . . . . .	4,550
<b>Total Donations . . . . .</b>	<b>\$10,800</b>
Printing Cost . . . . .	\$1,847.34
Mailing Cost (USPS) . . . . .	121.05
<b>Total Cost . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,968.39</b>
<b>Net Income to UPAACC . . . . .</b>	<b>\$8,831.61</b>

Thank you for your support. This would have not been possible without your generosity. We sincerely hope that you will keep supporting our Association and maintain your interest in our activities. □



**UPAACC's SmartTV donation to UP Visayas (Iloilo)**

The 2023 computer donation recipient was UP Visayas in Miagao, Iloilo. UPV requested a SmartTV instead of a computer and software. It will be placed and used in the Teaching and Learning Resource Center-Audio Visual Room (TLRC-AVR).

The SmartTV will be of great help to the students, faculty, and staff of the university since TLRC-AVR is currently used as an alternative venue to conduct classes, research, seminars, workshops, and training. Instead of setting up a projector and screen every session, a fixed SmartTV will be much more feasible and easier to use.

In today's generation, classes, research work, and other presentations almost always require digital presentation. The donation was coordinated by August Lansigan with Katherine T. Valencia, OIC-Director, TLRC UPV. □

**UPAACC in the News**



**UPAACC's Elena Mangahas – 2024 Susan B. Anthony Award Honoree**

**10** women in San Joaquin County were awarded

the Susan B. Anthony Award on February 15, 2024. The event is held each year on the birthday of Susan B. Anthony. This year, San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women celebrated the 48th award ceremony at the Hilton Hotel.

Among this year's award honorees is our own Elena Mangahas. Elena is a Stockton resident who was nominated by Virginia Navarro under the category of Community Service. She is part of the governing boards for Little Manila Rising as well as the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS). Elena is also the 2023-2024 president of the Rotary Club of Central Stockton.

Susan B. Anthony was an American women's rights activist who fought for women's right to vote. Anthony, unfortunately, did not live to see that happen. She died in 1906. Women were granted the *right to vote* until 1920. She is the woman on the "one-dollar coins in 1979". (The Stockton Record) □