

# The SFI Chronicle

A Quarterly Newsletter of the PLM Scholars Foundation, Inc

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

Vol. 1 June 2020



# PLMSFI SPREADS SUMMERTIME CHRISTMAS CHEERS TO SCHOLARS

**C**HRISTMAS cheers came very early for the 36 scholars of the PLM Scholars Foundation, Inc. The scholars' Santa Claus, the Board of Trustees of PLMSFI, decided to give them a morale booster in the midst of uncertainty and desperation during the corona virus pandemic.

The darkness during the crisis was experienced by both the rich and the poor, not only in the Philippines, but throughout the world. Records show that 213 countries have confirmed close to eight million Covid cases as of June 2020 despite the lockdown and community quarantine imposed by their governments.

In the Philippines, the virus has claimed lives, wrecked havoc on the economy, and kept people locked in their homes, fearfully observing preventive measures to combat Covid-19.

The lockdown or the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) ordered by government to mitigate the spread of the virus, affected the livelihood of families, as companies and businesses stopped operations. Without work, breadwinners from low-income families, were faced with severe financial struggles, and have become dependent on government for subsidy for their daily subsistence.

The families of the PLMSFI scholars were likewise deprived of their meager monthly income and had to achingly make ends meet.

Given this situation, the PLMSFI scholars along with the other scholars in



PLM welcomed with gladness the decision of the PLM Board of Regents, on its April 2 meeting, to cancel what was left of the school year and to give all the students a passing mark for the second semester.

On May 2, 2020, the Board of Trustees of PLMSFI conducted an online meeting to discuss the abrupt end to school year 2019-2020 and to determine what help the Foundation could extend to its scholars.

In a Board resolution, the Board decided to relax its rules on scholarship, and to give the scholars their monthly allowance of P1,500 for March, April and

May, an action which would run counter to a provision in the scholarship rules that makes attendance in classes a requirement before the disbursement of allowances to a PLMSFI scholar can be made.

PLMSFI President Terry Galvante said the unanimous decision of the PLMSFI Trustees was meant to help the scholars and their families cope with the impact of the pandemic on their livelihood.

Ms. Winnie Cuico, PLMSFI Treasurer, who was tasked by the board, while on quarantine, to distribute the allowances via online banking system said that she became a little emotional when she received text messages from scholars who expressed gratitude for their early Christmas gift.

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# WITH A GRATEFUL

# Heart

The PLMSFI scholars pose for a souvenir photo with PLM President Emmanuel Leyco



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34

**T**HE PLMSFI Board bent its own rules to welcome the opportunity to give hope and encouragement to its scholars

**PLMSFI... From page 1**

Her husband, Mr. Rolly Cuico, on the other, disclosed that the PLMSFI Committee on Scholarship, which he chairs, will conduct a review of the scholarship rules of the Foundation to modify, enhance or revise some of its provisions to conform to the plan of PLM to implement an online learning method for academic year 2020-2021.

All adjustments to current rules are being made by the board to help the scholars cope with their various course requirements to finish their college education, get their diploma, and eventually pursue brilliant careers which could lead them to enjoy better days with their families.

Mr. Galvante echoed the board's sentiment by saying that the pandemic has taught everyone the value of sharing and the spirit of hope and love which normally keep burning in our hearts only on Christmas time.

Joyfully, Christmas is now permanently etched in our hearts, making us always ready to seize every opportunity to help and show kindness and compassion to those in need, be it during summertime, rainy season or Christmas time ...to pay homage and show gratitude to the Divine Child born on Christmas day.

ars during a pandemic that threatened lives and brought fears, panic, and disturbing times worldwide.

The PLMSFI Board had to respond at once to give assistance to its scholars whose family livelihood was upset during the ECQ or the Enhanced Community Quarantine. With warm and affectionate hearts, the Board, in one voice said "Give the scholars their three-month allowances now, for they need support and encouragement to survive this crisis".

The beneficiaries of the Board's generosity - their beloved scholars, quickly sent their meaningful messages, each one with a story on how their allowances have given relief, comfort and solace to their family in their time of distress. Love of family is felt in each message, that was written With A Grateful Heart.

"Covid 19 really gave us the fright of our lives because the adults in the family were prevented from working. This means no income for us because their company's policy is "no work, no pay". When I was told that our scholarship allowance will be given despite the "lockdown", we were really very happy. My family was able to buy the basic necessities that we need such as food, and specially my father's maintenance medicines. My mother, the Budget Officer in my family, is very grateful to all of you, PLMSFI, and she wants me to send you her heartfelt thanks."  
-Daniel Vengco

"The scholarship allowance I received from

PLMSFI lessened the financial burden that my family faced due to the pandemic. My parents were slowly losing hope during the "lockdown" period, but when the unexpected "rescue" came from SFI, we were gladdened, and our hopes, revived. We immediately bought some food and other basic needs to tide us over. SFI is truly a blessing to all of us poor students. You did not only help us during the normal times but extended your hands to us especially during this troubled times. God bless you, SFI!"

-Jovelyn Ellares

"When the ECQ was announced last March, my parents were worried because they were prevented from going to work, being senior citizens. Then, I received a call from a co-scholar informing me that our allowances were being distributed despite the "lockdown". We really thank the Lord, because the money we received helped us to start a small online food business. Thank you PLMSFI for not forgetting us and never leaving us especially during this time."

-Grei Carino Rebulanan

"Thank you PLMSFI for being a BIG HELP in this time of the pandemic. Our family was able to buy food and other basic necessities from the allowance you sent me. We did not even seek you PLMSFI, but, it was you which painstakingly sought us out to give our stipend. What a joy when we received a call from Ma'am Winnie Cuico who told us about this blessing! May the LORD continue to bless and protect PLMSFI and all our benefactors."

-Casey Perado

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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**M**ORE than 100 PLMSFI scholars, whose dreams were molded during college days, pursued their individual careers after graduating from PLM. PLMSFI is proud to know that most of them have started to reap the fruits of their hard labor to realize the dreams which PLMSFI planted in their hearts.

**ENGR. JAYSON B. NUVAL**  
BS Chemical Engineering

I would not have been a chemical engineer if it were not for the support of PLMSFI. More than the financial support it gave me as a scholar, the foundation boosted my morale and motivated me to become the professional that I am today. Now, I work as a Science Research Specialist at the Industrial Technology Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology. I am hoping that PLMSFI will continue its legacy of turning students' BIG dreams into reality."



**JASHPER ROYCE D. DELA CRUZ**  
Business Economics, Cum Laude.

As I take a look at my home in Grand Royale in Malolos, Bulacan, I remember how difficult it was to cope with a situation which saw me studying at PLM while being an NPA - a person with No Permanent Address.

My family had to transfer residence from Tondo to Sampaloc, Ermita, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Ana and other homes in various communities in Manila, and I could only dream of having my own house someday so my family would no longer worry about house rentals. It is good that PLMSFI came into my life which encouraged me to continue dreaming while working patiently toward the realization of that dream.

After graduation, and upon landing a job which I like, I worked hard and through continuous perseverance at Alveo Land Corporation, as real Estate Agent, I am far now from being an NPA.

My job is to make sure that a person's hard-earned money will continue to grow, and his family will have the best place he can call home.



**ENRICO OLIVEROS**  
BS Mathematics

I am a proud member of PLM Batch 2014,

bringing home with me a diploma that served as my passport to new ventures in my life.

I am currently involved in a pioneering project in Canada that enables decade-old Mainframe programs operational. I feel like bridging the strength and robust capabilities of the "old" to the quickly evolving "new" IT.

Working with TELUS International Philippines as Intermediate Application Developer makes me think of being in two different eras at the same time.

Seeing the trend as it unfolds motivates me more to aim for my space on the API arena and cloud. I am blessed to be part of this ambitious transition in the IT industry.

With all the "new" normal this current pandemic has set in motion, the value of how API's could enable people to work from anywhere is much more significant than it has ever been before.

**GERALYN THERESE ATIENZA**  
BS Accountancy

I would not have been the kind of person that my colleagues and friends would be proud of now were it not for PLMSFI's generosity and pure hearts!

PLMSFI treated us like real sons and daughters. It honed us by developing ourselves through informative sessions, seminars, monthly conversations and various activities.

Back then, I was just a passionate dreamer. Now, I am already a CPA, working and helping my family in the best way I can. I am presently working as an External Auditor of KMPG Qatar. KMPG is a global network of professional firms providing audit, tax and advisory services.

My successes have all been made possible



by God's grace, and I am grateful that one channel He used was PLMSFI.

## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES !

**I**T has truly been a tough year, but a great and blessed one for twelve PLMSFI scholars who are graduating on June 30.

Congratulations to Christian Bulasag (BS Architecture), Christina Cerezo (BS Psychology) Sweet Alannies Corre (BSBA Major

in Financial Management), Ferdinielle Fernandez (BSBA Major in Marketing), Ana Soledad Fran ( BS Architecture), Gwynelle Jacalne (BS Civil Engineering), Antonette Jaime (BS Psychology), Light Dawn Malutao (BS Financial Management), Perrine Rae Notarte (BSBA Finance and Treasury Management),, Ferlyn

Porcalla. (BS Civil Engineering), Nigel Ann Robasto (BS Psychology), and Danielle Vengco (BS Psychology).

Fly high ! You too will someday be in this section of The SFI Chronicle where you will be cited for your various accomplishments. Your proud PLMSFI Board will rejoice over your victory!

# The SFI Chronicle

**BOARD Talk seeks to show the recent strategic initiatives, policies and resolutions of the PLMSFI Board of Trustees in the pursuit of its goals and objectives. This narrative strives to show the common thread that underpins all its efforts and the unity of thought that guides the Board for achieving 'One Voice'.**

In this inaugural issue of The SFI Chronicle, the Board congratulates its Editorial Staff for their efforts to inform and thank the Foundation's stakeholders—scholar-students, benefactors and University administration, among others. This online newsletter serves as our medium of disseminating information and events that impact our stakeholders, employing digital tools of communication under the New Normal environment.

The timing of this maiden issue is serendipitous as it is published when the PLM celebrates its 55th anniversary on June 19th, 2020 under the able leadership of President Emmanuel A. Leyco. It is but fitting that the

SFI Board dedicates this newsletter to the glorious occasion.

This newsletter includes, among others, such columns as: 1) PLM News Updates which will cover some important academic pronouncements from the Office of PLM President in the form of Office Orders, Memorandum and Board of Regents approvals, particularly, the plans and programs of the University; 2) PLM Stories which will cover the accomplishments of past scholars; 3) Journeying with Partners which narrate the linkage-results of our benefactors, alumni associations and allied organizations.

With the outbreak of COVID 19, the Board, through our able and resourceful Treasurer, succeeded in providing the allowances of the scholars in the face of the lockdown—which started after classes were suspended early March of this year. As Trustee Bob del Rosario said in his column, the Board gave the 'summertime Christmas gift'.

In anticipation of the New Normal environment, the Board is reviewing its plans and



strategies on adapting its scholarship and entrepreneurship programs that suit the technical and logistical challenges of the times. Such challenges include: 1) how the foundation will adjust its guidelines in the selection and distribution of the scholar's allowances; 2) how to assist the students to adapt to the technical requirements of the new learning environment such as adoption of blended learning strategies and provision of online gadgets/tools; and 3) how to conduct entrepreneurship training programs under the New Normal conditions.

The Board is doing its best to find ways in fulfilling its objectives amidst uncertainty and serious challenges we are now facing in the world.

Enjoy and be safe always!

## FRESH MANDATE FOR PLMSFI OFFICERS

**THE current officers received a fresh mandate from the Board of Trustees of the PLM Scholars Foundation, Inc. when they were re-elected for another term during an online meeting on June 13, 2020.**

The annual election of officers of PLMSFI was scheduled in March, as specified in its by-laws, but the Enhanced Community Quarantine that was imposed on March 17, delayed the exercise.

Those elected for another one-year term were Terry Galvante (President), Roberto Del Rosario (Vice-President), Wilma Zetazate (Secretary), Winnie Cuico (Treasurer), Edith Del Rosario (PRO), and Chit Savaitnisagon and Plecy Hermogenes (Auditors)

The Trustees - Rebecca Cabrera, Mars Casipit, Rolly Cuico, Tita Fernandez, Joven

Jader, Maria Mabitad, Juan "Babs" Reyes and Abey Zetazate, in one voice said that the fresh mandate given to the officers showed their confidence in the leadership of Galvante who will be serving his 8th term as president.

Since he became its president, the foundation has seen an unprecedented support from local as well as foreign benefactors, allowing the foundation to increase the number of its scholars, and finance their career-development programs.

With another term given to the team of President Terry the foundation is set to accept the challenges of the new online learning method that PLM will adopt to conform with the realities of the times.

The newly-elected and appointed chairpersons of the various committees pledged

to help Mr. Galvante achieve his goals during these New Normal times. The chairpersons of the committees are Rolly Cuico (Committee on Scholarship), Mars Refugido Casipit (Committee on Ways and Means), Juan Reyes (Committee on Entrepreneurship), and Joven Jader (Committee on Training, OJT and Placement). A special sub-committee on Social Media Monitoring to be handled by Mr Joven Jader and Ms Tita Fernandez was created and placed under the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Galvante's team is currently finalizing its enhanced scholarship program for this coming school year, which the foundation is ready to sustain, as it ensures the non-stop operation of the foundation for its scholars, for many more years to come.



**THIS column narrates the recent policies and decisions made by the PLM Administration which are noteworthy to our students-scholars, benefactors, alumni and friends. The most significant news is the PLM's virtual Foundation Day celebration as it marks its 55th anniversary on Friday, June 19, 2020. University officials and Board of Regents led more than 300 members of the PLM community in a virtual celebration through Zoom teleconferencing – a first in PLM's history.**

During the anniversary celebration, the University President expressed his resolve

to face big changes to the way PLM operates in light of the pandemic. This underpins the recent University Administration's decision to convert the traditional classroom learning methodology to on-line learning system to all classes at all levels during the first semester of Academic Year 2021.

Accordingly, the University is investing in new equipment and software and has been preparing training modules for faculty to equip them for the shift to virtual learning, which has emerged as the most viable option to sustain education during the COVID-19 pandemic. All lectures will be done through digital means. Classes that will require on-site and laboratory components will be offered in the second semester, provided that quarantine rules will allow face-to-face schooling by then.

To show its compassion to the students who are all affected by the pandemic, the PLM Board of Regents approved during their May 29 meeting the proposal by the management to allow students with unpaid university fees to enroll in the first semester of Academic Year 2020-2021. Select students, particularly those

enrolled in master's degree and doctorate programs, pay tuition and miscellaneous fees every enrollment.

According to PLM website, the University will allow students with unsettled accounts to enroll next semester and will have one year to settle the unpaid balance of their tuition from the second semester of the previous academic year. Students will only be required to pay one-third of the unpaid balances while the remaining amount can be settled within one year, which may be split into three equal installments.

The SFI Board congratulates the PLM Administration, led by its principled President Emmanuel A. Leyco, for its proactive stance, agility and compassion in responding to the challenges posed by the Pandemic. In the same vein, the SFI Board thanks Mr. Garry Erwin de Gracia from the Alumni and External Affairs (AEA) of PLM who has been around to support us, especially on the operational aspect of our programs.



# JOURNEYING WITH PARTNERS

**S**EEKING partners that will help sustain its program for scholars has always been a major concern of the PLM Scholars Foundation Inc, since it launched its scholarship program eighteen years ago.

With only eleven students as the first beneficiaries of the program in 2002, the funds generated from pooled resources from former schoolmates



who were living here and abroad were enough to help these financially-challenged, but intellectually-gifted students of PLM.

With a larger number of scholars in its ward in recent years, PLMSFI needed to establish partnership with institutions whose objectives are aligned and in tandem with the mission of the foundation.

An institution that is blessing PLMSFI with its fruitful collaboration is the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry or ACPACI.

ACPACI began partnering with PLMSFI during the academic year 2017-2018. So far, 15 scholars have benefitted by this partnership.

In addition to the monthly stipend, ACPACI also provides some financial help, mostly from the personal funds of the officers, for the CPA Board review.

Established in 1973, ACPACI started as an institutional forum among a small group of certified public accountants in pursuit of common professional interest. Now, it has become one of the country's respected organizations contributing to the growth of the accountancy profession.

It is hoped that PLMSFI and ACPACI will have more years of effective collaboration, as they both contribute to the growth and development of the country through the scholarship of students who will be tomorrow's finest leaders.



**PLM, PLMSFI and ACPACI join hands as partners to ensure that "No student is deprived of college education because of poverty."**

## Bernardo David ANONYMOUS NO MORE

**P**LMMSFI has a roster of good-hearted benefactors coming from the university alumni and their friends. One of them chose to be anonymous but this time we choose to reveal him to all to pay tribute to his generosity as he crossed the great divide on May 31 this year.

Bernardo 'Bernie' David, our anonymous benefactor was a graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Economics at PLM in 1974. He pursued law at the University of the Philippines while working in government. He passed the Bar in 1986 and in 1987 migrated to Australia where he earned his Graduate Diploma in Law at University of Sydney.

As a barrister, he opened his law practice in Blacktown, in the state of New South Wales, assisted by his wife Chuchie with their eldest daughter, Mau-

reen, joining a few years later.

He provided legal assistance pro bono to children in detention centers in Sydney. He gained the title "King of the Kids" in Australia's Blacktown area for working to free detained children and reuniting them with their families. He was honored by a prominent New South Wales parliamentarian by recording his works in the Official Hansard of Australia's House of Representatives. A fete for a Filipino lawyer in Australia.

Guided by his belief that education is the only viable means of overcoming poverty, he regularly donated to PLMSFI which provided financial assistance to deserving PLM students as scholars. He was listed as the Anonymous benefactor in the Wall of Gratitude board of the Foundation at the President Ramon Mag-saysay Entrepreneurial Center Building.



In 2015, he was granted the Golden Harvest (Ginintuang Ani) Award by PLM Alumni Association for his outstanding service in law, jurisprudence and human rights.

An accomplished soul, Francis, his brother, noted that Bernie lived a quite interesting and adventurous life and while he left much too soon, he was able to leave a simple and practical model of how to live our lives. "It's that easy", as Bernie shared of how he journeyed through his accomplishments in life.



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Vol. 1 June 2020

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## WITH A GRATEFUL... From page 2

"My scholarship allowance helped our family to buy the food that we needed daily, plus some necessities. The allowance you gave us was spent wisely and we are very grateful. Thank you po very much. Someday, with God's mercy, we will be able to pay forward the good works that you have started in us."

**-Christina Cerezo**

"The money I received from PLMSFI was a big help to our family. Although we are aware that this should be used for our school needs, the amount helped our family greatly during this "lockdown" period. Thank you SFI family for allowing us to use our allowance to buy our food and our basic necessities and even pay some of our household bills. I am very grateful that you even took the time to reach out to us and we did not even have to go to PLM to get our allowance. We are indeed blessed to be part of SFI family. May God continue to bless you."

**-Antonnette Jaime**

"The scholarship allowance from PLMSFI helped us in buying the family's necessities in this time of crisis. My family is very thankful for this. Sincerely appreciated your efforts of reaching out to us during these trying times. PLMSFI, GOD bless you, po."

**-Christian Bulasag**

"The scholarship allowance given to us even as we were on "lockdown" was a big pleasant surprise. The money was able to provide the daily food of my family. I don't know how we could have survived without the assistance from PLMSFI. The good thing was that, even when they knew that the allowance should be used only for my school projects, they allowed us to use it to help our family buy our daily sustenance, without question. PLMSFI has a big heart, and so we send you a big thank you from our family. See you again soon."

**-Tristan Kyle Nathan Layug**

"Thank you PLMSFI for blessing us during this pandemic. The allowance you sent us put food on our table and allowed us to buy medicines as well. Thank you po, SFI."

**-Sweet Alannie Corre**

"The amount sent to me by PLMSFI was used to buy some food and vitamins for our family. I promise to study harder even during the "new normal" using online study system that PLM will soon implement to finish my course. Someday, I promise to help other students, as I was likewise helped and guided by our mentors at PLMSFI."

**-Monica Varona**

"It was such a pleasant surprise when I was told that we will be receiving our scholarship allowance from PLMSFI, even when school was suspended. Ms. Winnie Cuico of SFI called to ask what is the best way we can get it without going to PLM. She even made it easy for us. As soon as I got my allowance, my family used it to buy the necessities for our household. I

will never forget the good works that SFI is doing to us poor students of PLM. May your tribe increase."

**-Lightdawn Malutao**

"The stipend that I received from PLMSFI was added to our family budget to buy food, medicines and vitamins. Thank you po!"

**-Chrischelle Lim**

"My family bought some food and vitamins from the allowance I got from PLMSFI. I did not expect to receive our allowances during the suspension of classes. But thank God, PLMSFI is truly different, even as there was no school, our parents at PLMSFI reached out to us and sought us out to extend help.. What a blessing. We will continue to pray for our benefactors and donors at PLMSFI."

**-Aldrin Jhon Illescas Balderama**

"My family is very grateful for the allowance that was given to me. We used it to buy the basic necessities we need. Thank you po!"

**-Perrine Rae Mont Notarte**

"The allowance I received from PLMSFI was used to buy food and other necessities for our family. My parents are very grateful for this blessing. They told me to study harder and prove to PLMSFI that I am worthy to be one of their scholars."

**-Kryssten Janeo**

"This pandemic brought so much problems to poor families like us. With financial hardships during the "lockdown", we were praying that we survive these challenges in our life. Then, a fellow scholar told me that PLMSFI was releasing our allowances from March to May even when the school is suspended. I immediately found a way to get it and my parents were happy that we could use the allowance I received to buy our daily necessities. Thank you PLMSFI."

**-Richard Mel Daileg**

"The allowance that I received from PLMSFI helped my family cope with our daily basic needs. Without this allowance, it would have been hard for us to survive this "lockdown."

**-Joy Ramolete Magno**

"Thank you PLMSFI for the allowance you gave us even when the classes were suspended. Not only did we use it to buy our food but also to pay for our household utilities. God bless you for your generosity."

**-Samantha Gayle**

"The allowance that I've received helped our family during the pandemic, and my parents are very grateful as they were practically jobless, as they stayed home during the ECQ, and finding it difficult to provide basic necessities at home. Thank you for the help."

**-Angel Orias**

**The gesture of the scholars to give thanks for their three-month allowances gladdened the spirit of a Board that feels the pulse of these students who are entrusted to their care and guidance by the ONE that truly provides, a generous and loving BIG GOD. The PLMSFI Board gives back the glory to our God. To Him, our thanks and praise!**

