



PLMSFI EMBRACES THE NEW NORMAL WITH ITS 50 SCHOLARS



PLM opens classes on October 5 amidst pandemic

THE 50 scholars of PLMSFI for academic year 2020-2021 join the more than ten thousand PLM students in pursuing their college courses, as PLM opens its classes on October 5, amid a Covid 19 pandemic that continues to threaten the world.

Through online schooling, the students are

granted the opportunity to learn, get academic grades, and prepare for graduation, while continuing to stay safe at home to observe strict health protocols which are dictated by present-day realities.

To prepare for its October 5 opening of classes, PLM conducted on September 14 a one-day

simulation of the university's remote learning strategy. The simple and meaningful ceremony was witnessed by thousands who watched from their homes. With a subsequent dry run where students were asked to enter their virtual classrooms, the students started to adjust to the new normal in education.

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BOARD TALK
By Terry Galvante



TOWARD A HIGHLY RESILIENT AND RESPONSIVE PLMSFI

RECENTLY, the PLMSFI showed its capacity to adapt to the New Normal created by the COVID-19 pandemic and swiftly responded to needs of its stakeholders, principally the scholars. As a result of its resilience and responsiveness, PLMSFI has opened its doors this year to a total of 50 scholars—the highest number in its entire history. **Turn to page 4**

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Las Tuazon & Sons Foundation Inc.
Founder and CEO:
Mr. & Mrs. Edmundo & Thea Las
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PLM NEWS UPDATES
By Juan Reyes Jr.



PLM Hosts Virtual Classroom

THE Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila mounted a dry run of its virtual classroom set-up with students and faculty last September 14 to gauge the readiness of colleges for blended learning. Before the dry run, President Leyco issued the following statement: **Turn to page 4**

Prof. Emmanuel Leyco, the University President in an inspirational message said that, "The dry run provided us the confidence, that we can pull off blended learning modes, come Oct. 5."

After the dry run, the students responded positively to this newfound approach to education, filling the comment box in the FB pages of PLM, with comments that look forward to a challenging online schooling that will rely heavily on the effective use of appropriate gadgets like laptops or desktops and tablets, that are accompanied by strong wifi connections.

PLMSFI, for its part will provide each scholar with a pocket wifi, made avail-

able by perennial and committed partners, ACPACI (Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry) and PAMA (Philippine Association of Management Accountants) led by Ms Lolit Tang. With initial internet load required for pre-opening of classes orientation programs, PLMSFI readied the scholars for the Oct. 5 opening of classes.

It shall likewise guarantee continuing scholars' connectivity to internet, by providing a monthly allowance of P1,500 to enable them to stay focused on their daily online studies. PLMSFI has received an unprecedented financial assistance from generous benefactors to make this possible, for which the foundation and the scholars will forever be grateful.

With its benefactors and friends supporting a program to feed the hearts and minds of its scholars, PLMSFI will have its hands full in conducting online mentoring and life-coaching activities about human values that will help develop a strong character like Patience, Resilience, Honesty, Responsibility and Respect for Self and others, as it strengthens their scholars' capacity to endure the challenges of this New Normal.

Through webinars that it will conduct on a regular basis, PLMSFI is determined to produce PLM graduates who are LEARNED and EDUCATED, in the matters that matter, which the foundation is committed to do, to contribute to the building of a better future for the next generation of noble Filipinos.

PLMSFI discovers gold nuggets

FINDING 50 deserving PLM students to become PLMSFI scholars for Academic Year 2020-2021 proved not easy for the trustees of PLMSFI, especially under the Pandemic environment. Associating the number 50 with gold, as in THE gold standard, challenged them. They looked for the golden qualities of value and preciousness, lasting beauty, and unique endurance.

They held marathon meetings to assess the applicants' academic achievements and economic status. There, too, were the essays on why they needed the PLMSFI scholarship.

They assessed the applicants' response to questions relating to core values, leadership qualities and personal skills. Were the applicants up to the gold standard?

The interview was a perfect way to appreciate the character of the prospective scholars. Whether it was face-to-face or virtual (which sadly prevented personal human interaction) answers to questions posed by the trustees inevitably bared the heart and soul of the applicants and whose sincerity, honesty, faith in God, and their driving desire to help their families were revealed. Their pained words that had to be groped at times, as well as the tears, heightened the eloquence of their narratives.

"My mother is my role model. She walks to her place of work every day, and comes home in the same manner. She is a domestic helper. She and our father separated a long time ago."

"We live near the riles ng tren,

where noisy neighbors always meet up by our house to listen to the news. But I don't get disturbed. I always manage to find a corner to study. I hope our wifi connection cooperates. It might be a constant problem with online schooling. But you see, problems are not new to us."

"Since my father recently lost his job, he has become desperate and despondent, and I am afraid how the whole family is being affected. I am just glad that suicide is not among my options. I pray for light. And I pray that PLMSFI will bring me God's light."

Were they the gold nuggets that the Trustees were looking for?

"Their life stories brought tears to our eyes. How we wished we could embrace them," confessed a Trustee as she "held back the river" after the online interviews.

This was why choosing 50 among the many proved to be difficult for the Trustees. The score sheets were completed anyway and turned over to the scholarship committee for tallying. The first 50 had to be named.

And here they are, the gold nuggets waiting to shine in the gold mine of PLMSFI starting this October:

BS Psychology: Heloisa Albarda, Kryssten Jaine Janeo, Justine Nicole Rafael; **BS Educ. in Mathematics:** Anne Nicole Almeida; **BS Architecture:** Aldrin Jhon Balderama, Angel Michaela Orias, Greizel Claire Rebulanan; **BS Entrepreneurship:** Nathalie Canete, Geleen Castillo, Coleen April Pigao; **BS Tourism Mgt:** Pauline Castaneda, Nicole Cleo Mateo, Shiela

Ona; **BSBA in Business Economics:** Analiza Cidro, Ian Rhel Angelene Galarido, Aidynn Aireel Manalad, Rona Navarro, Glen Mark Ramos, Justine Monica Reyes, Ma. Jona Rose Valbuena; **BSBA in Financial Mgt:** Jovelyn Ellares, Joe Bhen Pascua; **BSBA Human Resource Mgt:** Chrischelle Lim, Joy Magno; **BSBA Operations Mgt:** Joseph Emmanuel Liwanag; **BSBA Marketing Mgt:** Kyle Hyden Mikhail Manalo, Jholo Yamson; **BSBA Finance and Treasury Mgt:** Casey Marie Pardo; **BA Public Relations:** Richard Mel Daileg, John Carlo Galvez, Monica Varona; **BS Accountancy:** Nicole Dela Pena, Jessel Morata, Jhelyn Bianca Operana, Georgina Francheska Ramirez, Michaela Russell Ramos; **BS in Information Technology:** Sofia Javier; **BS Civil Engineering:** Tristan Kyle Layug, Katherine Edhghie Octubre; **BS Biology:** Mark Robert Magsino, Patricia Ann Marqueses, Desiree Marie Montehermosa; **BA Communication:** Czanelle Bea Montances, Samantha Santos, Mylene Tan; **BS Mathematics:** Angela Marie Pangan; **BS in Hospitality Mgt:** Jane Rossan Pardillo; **BS Real Estate Management:** Jullie Anne Salazar; **BS Physical Therapy:** Hazel Tacorda; **BS in Government Mgt/ Public Adm.** Arly Kyle Valimento.

PLMSFI is proud to join them in their continuing life's journey. Like the gold that has to endure extreme pressure and heat to become dazzling charms, the foundation believes that its chosen scholars shall withstand the fiery test of time and be the crown jewels for all to behold and emulate.

PLMSFI's Gratitude Corner

Inside our PRMEC (Pres. Ramon Magsaysay Entrepreneurial Center) Building, one will see a Wall of Gratitude which our Foundation set up to express its gratitude to donors who have helped

the foundation through all the years it operated.

Inspired by the spirit that has guided the Wall of Gratitude, the Foundation

has thought of continuing its tradition of thanking all its donors, regardless of the amount of their donation. The Foundation salutes all those who are mentioned in this initial list of donors.

PLMSFI Donations Summary Report 2014-2019 As of September 15, 2020	
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“PLMSFI Trustees receiving pocket WIFI’s donated by Lolita Tang, President of PAMA”



“PLMSFI scholar posing with her pocket WIFI”



“PLMSFI scholar receiving her pocket WIFI”

TOWARD A HIGHLY RESILIENT AND RESPONSIVE PLMSFI

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How did the Foundation reach this highest achievement, or as what some Trustees said, “being able to serve gold nuggets amidst the pandemic?”

Firstly, the PLMSFI embraced the New Normal. Without hesitation, the Board of Trustees met during its regular meeting using the Zoom platform to discuss the factors defining the New Normal and facing its challenges. During one of its in-pandemic meetings, the Board adopted a resolution giving the scholars their monthly allowance for the months of March, April and May despite the suspension of classes starting the middle of March. The scholars were provided their allowances which they badly needed using on-line platforms of communication and delivery.

Secondly, the Foundation successfully published the first volume of The SFI Chronicle, its first digital newsletter. The newsletter served as the alternative medium of communication be-

tween and among the stakeholders of the Foundation, both local and international, thereby overcoming the constraints or barriers created by the pandemic. It is noteworthy to mention the jump in level of enthusiasm and engagement of all stakeholders, particularly the alumni and benefactors who raised their financial contribution to our scholars.

Thirdly, the Foundation responded to the on-line requirements of its scholars, such as giving them pocket WI-FI and internet load, with the help of our benefactors, notably ACPACI (Association of Certified Public Accountants, Inc.) and PAMA (Phil. Association of Management Accountants). The Foundation has received some pledges from various alumni and benefactors on donating laptop computers to our scholars.

Fourthly, the Foundation organized the scholars, both new and current, into Working Teams to enable them to effectively perform their tasks as PLMSFI scholars and actively engage them in carrying the Foundation’s programs and



projects, under the New Normal. As these teams are organized according to their fields of interest and specialization, each of them is guided by a PLMSFI Trustee who guides them in their volunteer work. Aside from acquiring new skills and competencies, the Working Teams learn how to collaborate in solving their problems and in the process gain OJT certification from the Board which they can use for their job application upon their graduation. As part of its organizational sustainability, the Board saw it fit to train our scholars into future managers of the foundation and future leaders of the country.

Indeed, the creative combination of these two traits: resilience (capacity to adapt to external environment) and responsiveness (ability to satisfy the needs of internal stakeholders), has helped the PLMSFI not only survive, but thrive as well in the New Normal.



From page 1

“I enjoin PLM students to take part in our virtual classroom rehearsal. It will not be perfect, but it is an opportunity for students, faculty, and the administration to identify possible issues and address them before the school year starts.” “This is all new to us. There may be a lot of difficulties, but we will manage,” he added.

The simulation was done weeks ahead of the October 5 opening of academic year 2020-2021, with the pandemic forcing PLM and other universities to resort to different modes of instruction. The University has adopted Microsoft Teams as its main platform for online sessions.

As a Professorial Lecturer of the PLM’s Graduate School of Business, I participated in the University’s training programs to equip the faculty on the use of online methodology of delivering the course content under the New Normal. I wish to congratulate our Dean, Dr. Angie Serrano who has shown empathy and flexibility in helping the faculty adjust to the new learning and

PLM Hosts Virtual Classroom

teaching methodology. She has formed several chat groups and free webinars to foster connectivity and continuous learning among the faculty while waiting for the resumption of regular classes.

The PLM’s Faculty did its own share too in embracing the New Normal by conducting some informal surveys to confirm the challenges their students are now facing and recommend clear action plans to address them. One of them is Dr. Antonio Casurao, Head of Finance Department who made the following observations: “Since majority of the students belong to the low income group, there will be issues on requiring them to purchase appropriate gadgets like personal computers and laptops. Most will be using smart phones which are not suitable for accessing online class and would be dependent on mobile data which is, by far, unstable compared with WIFI provided by lined facilities. Because of this, some students would opt for printed copies of the Modules, an added burden to the faculty. I propose the adoption of a modularized approach with blended modalities (synchronous and asynchronous) so as to accommodate everyone, regardless of his/her economic status.”

Dr. Casurao’s observation reaffirmed the statement from the Office of the PLM

President in regard to the University’s final preparations ahead of the October 5 opening of the classes: “ School officials are aware that not all of its students and faculty will be able to keep pace with the virtual learning channels. The short-term solution would be to provide printed modules for students, however, the University believes that equal internet access would ensure that everyone can migrate to the “new normal” with ease. “

“We cannot go back to how we were before. Times have changed—we need to reset, reconfigure, and re-orient our health and economic strategies and policies,” President Leyco added. These words encapsulate the message of PLMSFI’s President, Mr. Terry Galvante when he wrote in his column, Board Talk: “It is the combination of resilience and responsiveness that made PLMSFI not only survive from the present pandemic, but flourish as well.

From the statements made by President Leyco and PLMSFI President Galvante, I wish to propose a new Mantra (a call to action) that will guide us in serving the University’s stakeholders, especially the students under the New Normal: “ No one is left behind by technological limitations!”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

DIANA ROSE A. MAGTIBAY BSBA – Finance and Treasury Management, 2017

Serving as a Finance Analyst at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center is not a job alone but also a responsibility for Ms Magtibay. She believes that her job has an impact on the quality of service that they could provide to the patients and their families who are burdened with financial obligations.

She said her expertise gives her the opportunity to serve God who has been kind and generous to her.

She described PLMSFI with the following words: blessing, family, opportunity, learning, knowledge, big help, big brother, big sister. Ms Magtibay said that she is grateful to the PLMSFI trustees who were their life coaches and second parents.

To our present scholars: Cherish the ideals of PLMSFI and learn from its "Banana Cue" story. Soar after graduation day. Make our dear PLMSFI proud. Then, let's give back the kindness.



ANTONNET BENIN BS Accountancy, 2015

From Ms Benin: All the best to the 2020-2021 scholars of PLMSFI. There are endless possibilities ahead of you. Do not be afraid to take chances. You are always one decision away from a totally different life. Take heart and be of good courage!

Ms Benin is a Financial Analyst in Manulife Financial, one of the biggest insurance companies in the country today.

She loves reading for she goes by the dictum of Dr Seuss, who said that "The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go."



Engr.ELAINE JANE ILAGAN-TIDALGO BS Chemical Engineering, 2013

Engr Elaine Tidalgo currently belongs to a field of work that was formerly dominated by men.

As a process engineer at JGC Philippines, she is considered the "brain" of the whole plant design, ensuring that the design of equipment, piping configuration and simulation for different operation modes, are in place.

Working as engineer was a dream that was planted in her heart at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Matnila.

With the job that she enjoys now at the JGC Philippines, a renowned Engineering, Procurement, Commissioning company in the world, her dream has come true.

Her message to PLMSFI Scholars: Always seek the best version of yourself. Never give up on your dreams. As long as your direction is clear, you will get there.

MICAH ABON BS Tourism, 2018

"I am deeply appreciative of the financial support that PLMSFI has provided me. If it weren't for their help, I wouldn't have been able to reach my professional ambitions and to be where I am today," was Ms Abon's opening statement when asked for a comment about her being a PLMSFI scholar.

She is currently working as Program Coordinator for Resource Development at the Institute for Solidarity in Asia, a group that advocates for good governance and empowers public institutions to build a better Philippines.

She said that PLMSFI paved the way for her to dream to serve the people in the best manner she can. Her vision is to fight for social justice and advocate for the rights of the oppressed and marginalized. To help her achieve this goal, she is now a second year student taking up law in PLM.

As part of her work, she has organized a few community donation drives as her way of honoring her promise to the PLMSFI Trustees that she will give back the love and hope that she received from them.



TERRY GALVANTE*Chairman, Editorial Board***JUAN REYES JR.***Editor-in-Chief**Managing Editors/Writers***Edith del Rosario****Wilma Zetazate****Mars R. Casipit****Rebecca Cabrera***Editorial Consultant***Bob del Rosario***Research Team:***Rolly Cuico****Winnie Cuico****Tita Fernandez****Joven Jader***Layout Artist***Rannie Lao***Publisher:*

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JOURNEYING WITH PARTNERS

Las-Tuazon & Sons Foundation Inc.

Founder and CEO: Mr. & Mrs. Edmundo & Thea Las

THROUGH the years, PLMSFI has earned the integrity and trust of its benevolent donors/benefactors. Though most of these donors are fellow graduates of the Pamantasan and have established their own businesses and have reached the highest ladder of success in the corporate world, a good number are good-hearted private individuals and businessmen who have heard and learned about PLMSFI and its advocacy. They too wanted to be a part of the PLMSFI's worthwhile endeavor to help many underprivileged but brilliant students to achieve their dreams by sponsoring some of them as their scholars. One such benevolent gentleman is MR. EDMUNDO LAS of The LAS-TUAZON & SONS FOUNDATION.

The Las Tuazon & Sons Foundation Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectorial and non-government organization with address at number 3 Pinatubo Street San Martin de Porres Cubao Quezon City, founded by Mr. Edmundo G. Las and his better half, Ms. Thea Tuazon in 1996. Its members are their sons, Paulo, Ramil and Angelo T. Las.

Mr. Ed Las as he is fondly called by his friends had humble beginnings. During his high school days, he would be up by 4 o'clock in the morning and together with his parents would do his share in piling up the bananas in their small stall in Divisoria and in order to earn his "baon" for the day, would ply and sell the bananas around their neighborhood. Even as a young adult, Ed would think of his family's and other people's welfare before his own.

Growing up in Tondo, Manila was rather difficult. Everyday, he would see less fortunate children, less privileged families and witness crimes right under his nose, it was truly heart-breaking for the young boy. But unbeknownst to him, these dismal conditions drove him to work hard so he can provide for himself, finish his studies and help his family. Even in his youth, Ed had been very prayerful. He prayed

hard with sincerity for success believing it's the only way to achieve his dreams and help his family and others in need.

The many years of hardwork, fervent prayers and clean living paid off. As Ed gained success after success in his business endeavors, his past still haunted him and this inspired him to extend his blessings to others. It became his personal advocacy to help people in need, starting with his family and relatives. He created opportunities for the less privileged by offering them jobs and unselfishly giving assistance to the sick. But more than these, Ed realized that he wanted to do his own share in shaping the future of the less privileged children, to help fulfill the dreams of their parents and help protect the rights of these children. It is this desire that started his drive to accept sponsorship and grant scholarships to poor but deserving students.

To date, the Las Tuazon & Sons Foundation has been sponsoring ten (10) PLMSFI Scholars, fifty (50) AHS Scholars, five (5) independent scholars from poor families. The foundation also provides housing and education to seven to ten (7-10) orphans in the House of Mary Foundation (located in Sta. Maria Bulacan). Thus the Foundation is currently providing a total of seventy five (75) scholarship grants, not to mention extending donations to several elderly organizations, and assistance to the sick, among others.

"To help a person/child, realize his/her rights and create opportunities for him/her to develop and maximize his/her talents, knowledge, skills and capabilities by providing quality education that will help strengthen his drive and reach his full potential as an individual and achieve his personal vision, guided by the Lord's teachings in creating a much better world to live in," is the VISION of The LAS-TUAZON & Sons Foundation, Inc.

Its MISSION is "To help the less fortunate youths by granting scholarships, extend medical assistance to the needy, donate wheelchairs to the elderlies or the physically impaired, create opportunities that can lift the spirit of individuals, educate, inform and inspire them to understand their rights with focus on preventing and ending abuses."

