



Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

The SFI Chronicle

A Quarterly Newsletter of the PLM Scholars Foundation, Inc

Vol. 3 December 2020

100 SCHOLARS IN 2021



Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Office of the President

New Year's Message

As we welcome the New Year, we extend our Christmas celebration marked with gratitude, Pasasalamat. We are deeply grateful that we have not only survived but also prevailed over the tremendous challenges of the pandemic and natural disasters in 2020 and I am most certain that in 2021, we would be able to exceed what we have accomplished, with all of us together, giving our best.

We are grateful to the former students of PLM who were scholars themselves and are now giving back the blessings they had received as scholars. We are grateful to the former students who may not have been scholars but are grateful to have studied in PLM, and are now in the best position to share their blessings with students who have all the potentials to excel but are financially challenged. We are grateful to our officials and staff in PLM who work together in dedication to expand and sustain our scholarship network.

We need to tap more benefactors in this most trying time of the pandemic. While some



Pres. Emmanuel
A. Leyco

800 schools have been forced to close, PLM opened with more than 13,000 students. That is a significant 30% more than its physical capacity to accommodate a maximum of 10,000.

How did that happen? Well, we simply did not have the heart to turn down those who could no longer afford the tuition fees charged by their former schools, or those whose former schools had closed.

The fact that more students wanted to enroll simply means that there is a continuing desire among our youth to continue with their studies, even during this time of the pandemic. That, for us, is a most hopeful sign of better things to come, and PLM has responded by taking them in. Thus, we now have more students who would benefit from a scholarship.

As we have opened our classrooms, while before, we could conduct 71 simultaneous classes, now we can do that for 1,124 classes in virtual mode, through the digital platform. That is one other very significant advantage we have discovered despite the extreme restrictions we have been adjusting to.

Turn to page 3

THE Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Scholars' Foundation, Inc. (PLMSFI) welcomes 2021 with a strong resolve to double its number of scholars - from 50 to 100.

With the recent launch of Project C, PLMSFI is intensifying its campaign to reach out to more benefactors and cheer-givers, whose kindness and generosity will enable the foundation's scholarship fund to grow significantly to accommodate the 100% increase in its roster of scholars.

In 2002, when the foundation started its program of giving financial assistance to financially-handicapped but gifted students of PLM, its meager fund could only support 11 scholars.

Its pioneering donors and benefactors consisted of PLM graduates based in the Philippines and abroad who kept alive the gratitude in their hearts for PLM's nurturing when they were struggling college students. They shared their life's blessings with the needy students, encouraging other PLM graduates to come forward and share their blessings as well, to make the Cycle of Gratitude truly alive and working in PLMSFI.

Turn to page 3

BOARD TALK

By Terry Galvante



A CHALLENGING NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Story on Page 4

PASASALAMAT Celebrating GRATITUDE

Story on Page 2

PLMSFI SCHOLARS SOCIETY OFFICERS INSTALLED

Story on Page 7

PASASALAMAT Celebrating GRATITUDE

The PLMSFI scholars treated their beloved benefactors, university officials and the PLMSFI Board of Trustees to a morning of fun, show of God-given talents, and expression of gratitude.

In a program called PASASALAMAT, the scholars filled the air with their heartwarming messages of gratefulness and indebtedness to all those who are journeying with them towards their cherished graduation from college.

The scholars, who were grouped into 5 teams, were given the chance to take center stage for their presentation.

They had wished that their PASASALAMAT be done at PRMEC, their second home in PLM, but the pandemic has forced them to do it virtually via the internet services,



Team Program, composed of Joy Pauline, Nicole, Nicole Cleo, Katherine, Colleen, Hazel, Mylene and Jholo with their PLMSFI Life Coaches Mama Edith, Mam Wilma and Mam Becca were all-heart in their Thank You message.

“We are happy that you, our beloved benefactors, friends and university officials are here so you can hear us say how much we appreciate not only your financial assistance, but more importantly your love for us.

We pray that you will consistently put us in your budget list.

We know that it is hard at this time to dip your hands deeply into your pockets to share with us what could have been spent for your family’s needs or for your company’s funds, but you chose to support us.

We heart you!

Though we do not have any opportunity now to see each other so we can hold your hand, we feel your love for us, and please feel our love for you, too.

Maraming salamat po!”

The Team Social Media and Promotion composed of Richard Mel.



Angelene, John Carlo, Kyle Hayden, Czanelle Bea, Jessel, Jhelym Bianca, Georgina Franceska and Samantha, together with their Life Coaches Sir Joven, Mam Mars and Mam Tita made a touching salute to their benefactors.

“At this time of the pandemic, we honor our front liners who are risking their lives as they perform their duties in various health facilities.

We salute them for they deserve our respect, our admiration and our love.

A salute is a gesture to greet and recognize a superior in the military. It is also given by anyone to express respect and goodwill.

On this special day, the Team Social Media and Promotion, would like to salute you our benefactors as well as our university officials for your hard work to make our non-stop education possible despite the pandemic.

We salute you for always putting our welfare in your mind, and for helping us focus on the road to graduation.

Isang taos-pusong pasasalamat po.”



Team Database and Ways and Means sent their Thank You’s via a Christmas card with all of the Team’s members, Heloisa, Aldrin, Jhon, Analiza, Joseph, Jane Rossan, Justine Nicole, Greizel, Claire and Julie Ann, in their “thumbs up” hand gesture to show that they are OKAY because of their benefactors’ love for them.

“This pandemic has brought us problems with our family’s finances, health, coping with the new normal, and coping with our fears and doubts about the possibility of a bright tomorrow in the midst of this present-day darkness.

We have so many concerns, but we, the scholars of PLMSFI are happy that PLMSFI is helping us cope with these problems.

We appreciate your efforts to reach out to ask us how we are doing and if we needed any assistance.

We are OK, because our Life Coaches. Sir Rolly, Mam Winnie, Sir Joven and Sir Plecy make us always feel Okay.

We are okay because you encourage us to dream even during this pandemic that constantly threaten our lives.

We are okay because our benefactors make us feel that everything will eventually turn sunny after this storm.

We are okay because PLMSFI and PLM officials continue to show its concern for all its students.

Thank you. Maraming salamat po “



Team SFI Chronicle gave its virtual hugs during the event and sent a Christmas message, straight from the heart.

“They say that Christmas is no longer the kind of Christmas that we used to celebrate in the past.

But we say that it is the same Christmas that gathers a family to celebrate the first Christmas in Bethlehem that brought peace and love.

And today, it is the same Christmas that brings us to our PLMSFI Family, the family that gives the love of Jesus to each one of us

Team SFI Chronicle, composed of Anne Nicole, Krysten Jane, Mark Roberto, Patricia Ann, Desiree Marie, Angel Michaela, Angel Marie, Michaela Russell, Justine Monica and Jona Rose, together with our Life Coaches Maam Becca Cabrera, Tito Johnny, and Tito Bob, would like to give you our warm and tight hugs

Though virtually, we know you can feel our desire to express our gratitude to you for being such a wonderful part of our lives.

You have made quite a strong impact in our lives, and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

God bless. Thank you very much po!”

Team Creative and Events Documentation raised their cups, not wine glasses, for a toast to a bright 2021. Their message of hope for better days, was articulated during the event.

‘With our Life Coaches, Pres Terry, Tito Bob Mam Chit and Mam Maria, the members of Team Creative and Events Documentation, namely, Natalie, Jovelyn, Tristen Kyle Rona, Sheila, Casey Marie, Glen Mark, Arly Kyle and Monica, raise our cups and we ask God to fill these with more blessings, more love, more compassion and more patience, not only for us the PLMSFI scholars, but also for our benefactors, families, and PLM officials especially Pres Emmanuel Leyco



and his family.

We say Cheers to a sunny 2021!

Thank you PLMSFI.”

Thank you God for making us the adopted children of the Board of Trustees of PLMSFI. Bless them as they take care of us.”

The happy occasion was capped by a message from President Emmanuel Leyco that inspired the scholars and their benefactors, PLMSFI and the PLM alumni who were linked to the morning’s celebration.

Benefactors from Australia, Francis and Mayet David, Danny and Ping Nacua from Canada, Binerva Garrett and Perly Aguinaldo from the United States extended their messages of glad tidings during the whip around part of the joyous celebration. The PLMSFI supporters from the Philippines - Ms Edna Constantino of ACPACI, and Mr Garry De Gracia of PLM likewise brought in the warmest of warm greetings of the season.

True to her name Perly Aguinaldo, who was very pleased with the scholars’ presentations, became an instant Ninang to all the 50 scholars by giving each one a cash gift, her “aginaldo.”

It was evident that giving their PASASALAMAT - their heartfelt messages of gratitude, made the scholars very happy, for we know that no one can feel grateful and unhappy at the same time.

New Year’s Message of Pres. Emmanuel A. Leyco

From page 1

We will continue to seek out those who may need special support in the form of scholarships, and those who would extend the support. This way, there would be more graduates who would give back to others what they had received, from among the present scholars; and more former scholars and the PLM alumni as a whole who would continue to share us more.

PLM’s officials, faculty, and staff vow to enhance the delivery of quality education with competence, innovative approaches, and commitment. Education, we affirm, will continue to serve as a constant amidst changes, even upheavals, in our environment, to ensure that our youth now will be best prepared to take on the future as responsible citizens and inspired and compassionate leaders.

That is all part of PLM’s giving back, as a public university, to the Filipino taxpayers, through our continuing and expanding mission of public service.

Mga minamahal kong kasama sa paglilingkod sa PLM at sa bayan ipagpatuloy nating magsikap na isulong ang PLM bilang isang katangi-tanging pamantasan, a premier university! Isang mapagpalayang Bagong Taon sa ating lahat !

100 SCHOLARS IN 2021

From Page 1

Today, an increasing number of individuals and groups, including foundations, are active donors. PLMSFI is now trying to reach out to more who wish to share in the foundation’s vision that “No student is deprived of good college education because of poverty.”

As in the past, heartbreaking stories of applicants for scholarship for 2020-2021 further strengthened PLMSFI’s resolve to fulfill its mission. For these applicants, a scholarship from PLMSFI increases their opportunity to realize dreams of finishing college and moving on to a better life for themselves and their families. The pandemic has goaded more students to seek scholarships for various reasons, par-

ticularly family breadwinners losing jobs. These students continue to dream despite their economic deprivation.

Project C was launched during the Christmas gathering of PLMSFI scholars, benefactors and friends in Pasaalamat, the scholars’ online Christmas event to express the scholars’ gratitude to the people who continue to support their education, and allow them to graduate from the city’s finest university, the PLM.

Mr. Rolly Cuico and wife Winnie, the chairpersons of Project C said that the “C” stands for the Roman numeral 100, which is their goal to make the funds available for exactly that number of students who, like the PLMSFI, never give up the dream for self, family, community, and country.



Power couple Rolly and Winnie Cuico, confident of hitting their target.

A Challenging New Year to All!



WHILE most of us have embraced the New Normal brought about by Covid 19 pandemic, we see stiff challenges ahead of us. While PLMSFI has shown its resilience and responsiveness in the face of this pandemic, the Foundation prepares itself for greater uncertainties and risks as we enter the year 2021.

From the PLMSFI Board's perspective, we see some trends leading to the following scenarios in the coming years: 1) the continuing threat of the Covid 19 which threatens the lives of many Filipinos, especially the underprivileged; 2) the technological limitations of our on-line learning and teaching system that greatly impact on the academic performance of our students and PLM as an educational institution; 3) the continuing decline of our country's economic performance which affects our livelihood and purchasing power; and 4) the psychological stress our students, faculty, administration officials and our families encounter as we manage our daily lives in a pandemic environment.

Knowing the grave impact of these scenarios, if ever they occur, on our scholars, our Foundation has undertaken some stra-

tegic initiatives that will enable it to exercise adaptive leadership in managing the challenges in a proactive and effective manner. One of this is the continuing training of our fifty scholars' on how to cope with our present and future challenges. These scholars have been organized into the PLM Scholars Society whose set of officers was recently inducted by the PLM Office of Student Development and Services (OSDS) Director, Ms Cecil Sabordo. Since its formation, the Society has given the Foundation a strong helping hand in all its endeavours, including among others, the quarterly publication of the SFI Chronicle, PLMSFI Data Base and PLMSFI.COMM.

Rather than being intimidated by the uncertainties of the future, the Board of Trustees has thought of doubling our present number of scholars, from fifty to one hundred in the future. As to when will this be realized depends on many factors, the most important one of which is the wholehearted support of the benefactors and alumni community. While the strategy of realizing this thought is still being discussed by the PLMSFI Board, the Foundation has once again shown its strategic foresight in responding to the threat of the possible deprivation of some students of their right to education as a result of the systemic effect of the pandemic. In the same manner that PLM President Leyco has boldly opened the doors of PLM to new students, thereby doubling our present student population, we in the PLMSFI Board saw it imperative to embrace more deserving students who were badly hit by the pandemic.

As in the past, our Board continues to win over more benefactors and supporters and it

has shown its gratitude to them in various ways. Indeed, what is more propitious way of expressing our Pasasalamat to them than our ceaseless efforts to develop a growing number of dedicated and socially responsible scholars. In the years ahead, PLMSFI has opted to put more emphasis on the re-activation of our Alumni community if only to fully realize its mission to ensure no one is deprived of education by reason of poverty. While PLMSFI has engaged a growing number of alumni for its scholarship and entrepreneurial programs, the Foundation sees the need to systematically involve the alumni community -- a critical stakeholder of any successful undertaking that will redound to the benefit of the whole PLM community.

As President Leyco has said during his inspirational talk during the PLMSFI's Day of Pasasalamat last December 18, "The PLM University depends on the contribution of the entire alumni community to its growth and development." Toward this end, the Foundation is working with the Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs, and the Alumni and External Affairs with the end of mobilizing the alumni community for the betterment of the University especially in these trying times. Our efforts to engage an increasing number of alumni for the doubling of our scholarship grantees is a giant step to the whole journey of arousing, organizing and mobilizing our alumni community. Indeed, we need three things to succeed in this age of uncertainty: unity, unity and unity.

On behalf of the PLMSFI Board of Trustees, a Happy and Challenging New Year to All!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IT is with overflowing gladness that I congratulate the officers of the SFI Scholars Society on their oath-taking. I look back with gratefulness to my experiences as the President of SFI Scholars Society for three joyful years.

My first year as President of the Society wasn't easy, as I was new to the foundation, but our trustees and my fellow officers were all there to help me sustain our humble service for PLMSFI until things came naturally undemanding in the next two years.

How I wish I could do the job again and again for it was through it that I got a sense of fulfillment for doing the least thing for the foundation, which nurtured me.

Bringing with me the good image of PLM anywhere I go - in and out of the school, I was always reminded that being a PLMSFI scholar carried with it the responsibility of ensuring that aside from being outstanding academically, I was also motivated as a good leader with a heart.

PLMSFI armed me with an overflowing love that I shared with people I met - fellow students, school administrators, neighbors, and people closest to my heart in our home. I remember that it was at this part of the year when I and the officers would surprise PLMSFI with a well-prepared Christmas program held at PRMEC, which was our second home.

Oh, how I miss those face-to-face gatherings!

I am currently working as Accounts Specialist at Ayala Land, Inc. With God's grace, I know I can achieve my dream for my family, and make PLMSFI truly proud.

Thank you PLMSFI for three beautiful years as your scholar. I also hope that the foundation was delighted with the service I rendered as its scholars' president and may this serve as an inspiration to the new

set of officers who took their oath recently.

Thank you PLMSFI. With you, we got a massive dosage of fun, laughter and most of all, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.

JONATHAN S. CASTRO JR.

PLMSFI Scholar 2015-2018

PLMSFI has a bigger family this year, with 50 scholars! During my time, about 18 years ago, we were only 11. I am proud, and very much grateful, to be among the first 11 scholars of PLMSFI.

Now, the Senior Manager for News Gathering of CNN PHILIPPINES, I am still guided by the values and virtues I learned from my beloved PLM and PLMSFI. From humility to patience and hard work, to being appreciative and grateful, all these I carry not only to my work, but especially to my personal life.

Thank you PLMSFI and may you be successful in your new attempts to solicit more funds to multiply your current scholars. I hope and pray to give back to the community which nurtured me, but for now, please be assured of my prayers and support.

A blessed 2021 to us all! Let us continue praying that our unseen enemy be made to stop its destructive blows, to allow us to live a normal life again. Until then, let's enjoy our New Normal, as we pray to our loving Father in heaven for better days.

ED GABUD

PLMSFI Scholar, One of the First 11

PLMSFI SCHOLARS SOCIETY OFFICERS INSTALLED

THE PLMSFI Scholars Society has a new set of officers for Academic Year 2020-2021.

They were inducted into office during a simple, virtual ceremony attended by the PLMSFI Board of Trustees, PLM alumni, benefactors, and PLM officials headed by Dean Cecil V. Sabordo, who acted as Inducting Officer.

Comprising the new set of officers are Samantha Santos, president; Jane Rossan Pardillo, vice president-internal; Aidynn Manalad, vice president-external; Chrischelle Lim, secretary; Joy Magno, assistant secretary; Geleen Castillo, treasurer; Justine Monica Reyes, assistant treasurer; Joe Bhen Pascua, auditor; Rona Navarro, P.R.O. and Jona Rose Valbuena, business manager.

The PLMSFI Scholars Society was organized by previous scholars in 2015 to fulfill some responsibilities during important occasions of the foundation. In the following years, it evolved to become an association that aims to develop camaraderie, love and genuine concern among the scholars. This enabled the schol-

ars to nurture their bond of friendship that helped them endure the challenges of college life.

Externally, as an association, it gives them the legal personality to work closely with other in-campus student organizations on programs and projects that will benefit PLMSFI and the entire university as well.

One of the highlights of the induction rites was the inspirational talk of PLMSFI Trustee Plecy Hermogenes who eloquently spoke of honest and effective leadership. His speech inspired the officers as they begin their task of leading their fellow scholars in a year of meaningful activities and events that will surely add color and significance to their academic life in PLM.

The presence of Dean Sabordo of the PLM Office of Student Development and Services at the scholars' special day, was seen as a continuing effort of the university to reach out to its students and alumni and encourage healthy alliances among various organized groups in the campus.

A SCHOLAR LEADING SCHOLARS

“MY goal is to establish a healthy, productive and collaborative spirit at the PLMSFI Scholars Society.” This was the quick response of Samantha Santos, when asked about her plans as President of the PLMSFI Scholars Society.

Samantha Santos, a 3rd year BA Communication student joyfully accepted the challenging role to lead her fellow scholars during these difficult times, when she cannot be face-to-face with her team, for strategic meetings

that can hasten the formation of a productive and healthy organization.

Samantha In her first meeting with the officers of the society started to chart her leadership approach. She knew that the all-important step in achieving success is knowing the persons you are working with.

“Zoom meetings may be hard and costly for us, but since I need to know the strengths and weaknesses of my team, as I communicate and bond with them, I will strive to make each virtual meeting with them a most wonder-

ful experience,” says the pretty and intelligent leader.

Samantha smiled when told of her qualities that can spell success - pleasing personality, ability to communicate well, and a good example to persons she leads. All these she may have, but Samantha says that, “All I want is to possess a heart that understands and cares, and a mind that encourages positive thinking and action, so my team and I can walk together on the path to goodwill, fellowship and success, with God by our side.”

Truly, a scholar of PLMSFI.



On Samantha's first meeting with her team: “All of them showed enthusiasm in our work. We must make PLMSFI proud!”



A TOAST FOR A BRIGHTER 2021

Messages of Hope. Peace, Joy and Love



PLM Association of Alumni & Friends, Australia **Francis and Mayet David**

To our PLMSFI scholars: As you celebrate the glory and ecstasy that is Christmas, may you receive in your hearts, love, peace and joy to share with your families and friends. May these blessings continue and follow throughout the New Year! May we also pray fervently that this Covid-19 pandemic disappear entirely in this planet! All the best on your studies!

PLM Batch '69 AAI **Rolly Cuico, President**

May the message of the first Christmas, which is LOVE, keep burning in your hearts, as we approach the dawn of a new day on January 1, 2021.

The corona virus has made us forget how it is to laugh loud and gather happy memories.

Our wish is for you to always remember that it is NOT important what your hands can hold, but what your hearts can keep.

Las-Tuazon & Sons Foundation, Inc. **Ed Las, President**

A heartfelt and sincere greetings of a very BLESSED CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR full of HOPEFUL expectation of returning to NORMALCY by the grace of our GOD ALMIGHTY, the very reason for this season!

Association of CPAs in Commerce & Industry (ACPACI) **Board of Directors**

Christmas time has always been a special season for all of us. We Filipinos have the longest Christmas celebration. However, for this year, because of the pandemic, we will have to adapt a different mode of celebrating Christmas.

With or without the pandemic, let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas. Let us not forget about the child Jesus, born in the manger more than two thousand years ago who has come to live with us, and to show us the true meaning of loving and caring. Let us always keep in our minds that Christmas is about caring and giving. Let us all try our best to celebrate this season of joy with caring for others as foremost in our minds.

ACPACI's support for the scholars of PLMSFI is a manifestation of our mission to care for others. We hope that our assistance will make a difference in the lives of the scholars we are sponsoring. Let us continue to survive and face all the challenges that this coming year has in store for us.

May the true spirit of Christmas fill your hearts with joy and caring and remain with you throughout the coming year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!

PLM Overseas Alumni & Friends Association **Canada**

To our scholars: Wishing you all a much better future, filled with success and true joy which can sometimes be interrupted by some failures and disappointments. Don't be disheartened. These are all part of life, from which we learn lessons to make us become more resilient, strong and courageous.

We are certain that you have heard enough success stories that can inspire you to pursue your dreams despite setbacks and difficulties.

You just need to keep your Faith, stay focused on your school work, study hard, persevere and most of all, put GOD at the center of your lives all the time.

With GOD by your side, who can be against you! There is absolutely nothing impossible with GOD. You just need to ask in prayer, pray unceasingly for help and guidance, and see that HIS Great Love for you will see you through tough times. Have a Happy New Year!

PLM Batch '68 **Richard Prado, President**

To PLMSFI and its scholars: It is always said that poverty is the most challenging constraint, to both national and individual development. It is also a truism that education is the great equalizer for those who are less resourced to compete in gaining access to opportunities to achieve one's dream.

For those of us who have been given the chance to walk the PLM grounds, let us not lose our determination to cherish the value of achieving excellence in our own respective fields, despite paucity in resources, as we set our vision to achieving success in the fast approaching future.

PLM Batch '68 Foundation, being continuously inspired with the efforts of PLMSFI, encourages both PLMSFI and its scholars to "Aim High as excellence and its future is within your reach!"

May the Grace of God be with us all in the coming New Year!

Nick and Ruby Zerda **Texas, USA**

Merry Christmas to all the scholars and to the members of the PLMSFI Board of Trustees. Proud of all of you.

To the scholars, study hard, respect your professors and co-

students.

Learn as much as you can and always think of ways you can make this world better for all generations.

PLM Batch '67 Board of Directors

Rolando E. Villanueva, President

To PLMSFI and its scholars: We all hope that 2021 will be brighter. That the pandemic will soon be over. That we will soon be having normal lives again. That we will no longer be fearful when performing our daily chores outside of our homes.

I wish that you will see your classmates and friends normally again. I hope that PLMSFI will be able to meet each other regularly to provide hope and love to more scholars.

Zoom or other forms of online meetings might be useful, but there is nothing better than seeing each other face-to-face to talk about initiatives for better operation and communication.

Wishing you all a prosperous, joyful, brighter 2021 that is full of hope and love.

PLM Alumni Association, Canada, Inc.

Dani Nacua

Class 1972

Toronto, Canada

On-line learning via WIFI services (albeit slow and unreliable) have never been utilized in such a massive scale before. And that requires from you a great degree of self-discipline to effectively manage your time and the distractions that may be present in your

home environment. Please consider this process as a skill development which you will find very helpful when you eventually join the workforce.

The year 2020 has been very challenging for everybody. The pandemic caused so much difficulties to all sectors of the society everywhere. You, as students, have also been struggling to cope with the strains of the new learning methods.

The coming new year promises hope that things will start to get better. Always remember that in every difficult situation, opportunities abound waiting to be tapped. Be grateful that PLMSFI is behind you in meeting these challenges. Let us join hands in going through this difficult stage of your college education. With your resilience and your perseverance, we are confident we will overcome these obstacles.

Stay safe and healthy and see the brighter side of the New Year.

Binerva Garrett

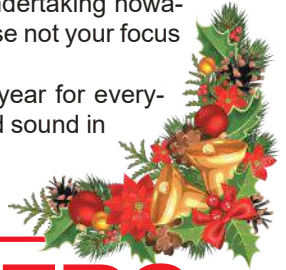
PLM Batch '67

California, USA

To our scholars, I know that every bit of undertaking nowadays can be challenging, but stay in course, lose not your focus on your goal and aspirations and be patient.

Let us all hope that 2021 will be a better year for everyone and may God keep us all healthy, safe and sound in body and spirit.

Merry Christmas everyone and God bless.



JOURNEYING WITH PARTNERS

The Joy of Giving

Then said a rich man, Speak to us of Giving.

And he answered: You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty. There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

Quoting a part of Kahlil Gibran's poem entitled ON GIVING, Francis David immediately captivated his audience as he got started with his speech at PLMSFI's BIG Day program.

He earned the admiration of everyone as he proceeded from one topic to another. "The importance of our PLMSFI initiative must be emphasized – it is an effort to keep young people in school and make them employable, after graduation."

His advice to scholars: Enjoy and relish the opportunity given to you even during these abnormal times of the Covid 19 pandemic. You need to get into the habit of studying smart because to be a genius needs 1 percent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration.

He said he knew that a lot of the scholars have varied issues in their lives, mostly concerning financial problems in their families. He shared he was like them when he was studying. His parents hardly had the means to give him an allowance for jeep or bus ride to and from PLM. His allowance for food was not also enough to buy a decent meal from the school canteen.

That did not make him give up on his stud-

ies. He continued to wash taxis, a part time job he started doing during his high school days to support his daily expenses.

He would wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning to prepare himself to wash taxis till he finished at about 6 or 7 in the morning. By then he would have earned about 3 to 4 pesos! A princely sum to buy meals and take his jeepney ride back home.

He emphasized that the road to success is never easy. "Do not be discouraged by family struggles, just keep going."

He said that the students have the power to decide their destiny as they have the power to make their future with their individual choices on professional career path.

"Never be satisfied with what you read in the media and on the internet. Research is needed to find the truth in all things, because progress depends on learning how to reject unreasonable conventions and presumed assumptions."

Thank PLM for the good college education it is giving you. However, you must get further training and practical experiences to bring you to the job that will take you to where you want to go.

Francis graduated from PLM with a Bachelor in Economics degree and worked immediately in government agencies in the Philippines.

He and his wife Marietta, also a graduate of PLM, migrated to Australia in 1979 to start a new life with their growing children.

Five years ago, he retired from his job with the Reserve Bank of Australia, where he worked for over 25 years.

Francis and Marietta, staunch supporters of PLMSFI's scholarship program, along with their PLM friends from Australia are consistently giving and joyfully sharing God's blessings with the financially challenged students, to increase their chances of getting their college diploma which is their passport to better days with their families.

Today, Francis and Mayet David attend

classes in languages like French, Spanish and Italian. They also go to their ukulele and singing classes. They never stop learning, making them appreciate the many opportunities for feeding of their mind and spirits, for growth and progress.

However, teaching ballroom dancing in various places in Sydney is the more fascinating activity for them. They teach senior Australians (over 55 years old) on a regular basis. At times, they entertain people through singing and dancing in nursing homes. Here, they give of themselves to make life a little merrier and meaningful for the seniors to savor and enjoy.

For Francis, GIVING gives him a joyful feeling. It gives him the motivation and energy to get up from bed every morning and to seize every opportunity to extend a helping hand to people who need his "heart and hand."

To PLM's gem, Francis David: here's to more of your loving and generous heart in 2021 - to help those in need, especially our scholars, who look up to you for inspiration to keep them going against all odds, so that just like you, they too may smell and taste the sweetness of success. Cheers!



For Francis David, real joy comes from one's giving of himself to serve his God and His children.



SINCE the pandemic crisis broke out, many schools are finding ways to solve a new challenge: overcoming academic stress. The disparity of access (in terms of gadgets and internet) becomes a harbinger of academic stress in students who would find themselves unable to avail online classes or submit their assignments, thus falling behind their peers in their curriculum. This has led to reports of symptoms of depression, anxiety, and in severe cases abroad suicidal attempts among students.

This academic stress has become so prevalent that some universities in Metro Manila have conducted webinars on how to manage psychological stress amidst the pandemic crisis. During our interviews of candidates for PLMSFI scholarship grants, I could not help from expressing my empathy to them while listening to some of their stories, to name a few: 1) "I have to limit my use of the cellphone as I have to share it with my brother;" 2) "I have to stop my learning activity whenever the train passes at the back of my house;" 3) "I would prioritize buying internet load and foregoing my food budget;" 4) "I was able to buy a second-hand computer after some people donated money;" and 5) "I had to go to the unlighted street just to get a good internet signal."

Overcoming Academic Stress

PLMSFI has done its part in providing support to its scholarship grantees like giving of allowances and pocket-WIFI. After Typhoon Ulysses, PLMSFI President Terry and some Trustees interviewed some scholars and offered whatever support they needed in those times of calamities. Organizing the scholars into a Scholars' Society and helping them in their academic and group activities are good working models that can be replicated to help our students in general to create 'psychological buffers' and 'peer group support' in the face of the challenges posed by the pandemic and calamities.

On his part, President Leyco has expressed his empathy and support to the students and faculty of the university amidst the pandemic. During his October 28th meeting with the faculty of the PLM School of Business, headed by Dean Angie Serrano, President Leyco said: "On-line teaching and learning has its cost; both students and faculty have to spend for their internet load, buy gadgets and spend time for learning how to use a learning management system or LMS". While listening to the performance reports of the various heads of the departments under the School of Business, President Leyco shared his own insights on how to improve our academic standing as a university amidst the pandemic crisis. Being a Professorial Lecturer I of PLM's Graduate School of Business, I shared the sentiment of some faculty that having this dialogue with President Leyco is a good 'de-stressor' and should be held regularly.

During the same meeting with President

Leyco, it was nostalgic for me listening to the reports of my old colleagues like Romark Resuelo, head of Economics Department and Dong Fernandez, head of Accountancy Department. President Leyco shared his view on the re-emergence of economics course in today's uncertain times when economic forecasting methods serve as key to strategic planning; he also expressed optimism that our accountancy graduates replicate the high standing of our medical graduates in board examinations. As a former economics student, I cannot help from admiring President Leyco's new concept such as increasing "broadband per capita" which I think is a strategic indicator of how well our economy is being managed under the 4th industrial revolution or information economy.

As we all move faster toward embracing the New Normal, I wish to thank the PLM University for giving the PLMSFI the privilege of reprinting the Foundation's quarterly digital publication, "The SFI Chronicle" in the PLM's institutional website. The said digital newsletter narrates actual experiences and expectations of the students of the University and some initiatives of the alumni for the betterment of PLM community. Rather than focusing on the negative side of everything we see today, the Newsletter chronicles our modest accomplishments in addressing both our day-to-day and strategic issues thereby creating an air of optimism, hope and de-stressing atmosphere.

A Happy and un-stressful New Year to All!



GROWING up as an only child of a middle-class family, people expected that I got everything I wanted as a so-called spoiled brat. However, rather than being given materialistic gifts, I thank God for His showering of an overflowing and endless love through a doting mother and father.

Starting university life was nerve-wrecking - new people to communicate with, and a new environment to walk on made me thinking if I could manage to stay in the battle of the fittest.

I still remember how my mother prepared my lunch during my first day in PLM, how my father sent me a message "Kaya mo 'yan." which encouraged me to hold on to my high hopes and dreams, for I was not alone in the battle. They were always behind me, supporting, doting, loving. I was even labeled in my block as "love ni mama/papa" because of my everyday lunches and my father driving me home.

We managed to get through the hard times together, which made the three of us develop a very strong bond. I could say that every day was a day of wonderful exchanges of I love yous, hugs and kisses, always showing affection to one another. However, the biggest storm in our life brought horrible blows this year - my father lost his job as a driver, he got sick, our savings were hitting zero and debts started piling up.

I had to do something to fill up our stomachs. Even as my father was strongly against it, I entered a part time job. I knew that deep inside my

father, he only wanted me to consistently be in school and study.

As I took a job, my father's condition got worse, and as days passed, he had to be brought to hospitals for check-ups. It was too hard for us. My father was especially worried about the school year almost nearby. Until, we were informed by the doctors that my father had a stage 3 cancer. We had to keep this to ourselves as we wouldn't want him to lose hope. Every tick of the clock made us feel hopeless.

On the 23rd of August, I applied for a scholarship at the PLMSFI, thanks to a fellow scholar for the information. It was like a ray of hope given to us. I excitedly told my father and mother about how nervous I was during the interview and how I wish I could get a slot as it could be a great help for me to continue my education.

Days and weeks passed by. My father's condition was deteriorating. The doctor claimed that his time was leaning on its end. Of course, I didn't believe such claim, I had to think positively. I filled myself with hope that he would get through all these and would survive to make his ultimate dream come true—to see me stand on the college graduation stage.

While I was at my part-time job, I got an e-mail from the PLMSFI congratulating me as one of its selected scholars. I couldn't resist crying. I knew that this news would spark joy and hope for my father. I was so happy that as soon as I got home, I enthusiastically showed the e-mail to my father. Lying in bed, he smiled and uttered his soft-spoken words, "Sabi sa'yo makukuha ka." Filled with love, I wrapped my arms around him and asked, "Proud po kayo sa'kin, Pa?" I would never get tired hearing in my mind his answer, that will forever ring loud and clear,

"Lagi akong proud sa'yo. Ikaw ang kayamanan ko, namin ng mama mo. Kaya 'wag mong papabayaang pag-aaral mo. Makapagtapos ka lang, masayang-masaya na kami ng mama mo kasi alam na naming magkakaroon ka ng maginhawang buhay."

He told me the scholarship made him happy and told me to be grateful that there are people who see education as a right that must be given

to every child born, that poverty isn't an obstacle to get an education.

After a week, his body couldn't take the pain anymore. He bid us a farewell we never expected to happen so soon. It was so painful thinking that the person I always admired and the person who would always lift me up has left the battle of life.

Life is much harder now. I miss him scolding me as I was still awake at 12 midnight studying, scolding me for crying over a few mistakes on a test and telling me to just enjoy studying and stop putting too much pressure on myself.

I miss his texts that told me he would be outside the campus to wait for me so we could go home together. I miss the times when we would pull a prank on my mother. And yes, I miss his unbelievable and repetitive jokes and stories which made me laugh.

Life will be more challenging for us now but there are things that would keep me going - our dreams, and the promises yet to be fulfilled. Being part of the PLMSFI family is a blessing, a gift that made me feel that I will never be alone in this journey, and that there are people who are willing to lift us on hard times. I thank God for this family I can always lean on, for heavy doses of strength and courage in my walk towards graduation, a magical moment for my Papa, who would be watching from heaven..



Michaela Russell Ramos, 3rd year, BS Accountancy, one of the 50 scholars of PLMSFI for Academic Year 2020-2021.



Gabby Barcelon
BS Accountancy 2017

NOW an ACCOUNTANT at a goliath in consumer products Procter & Gamble, Gabby is some David picking up awards after awards from his employer for good, honest work. This he attributes to PLM for the knowhow and PLMSFI for the guidance.

"PLMSFI gave the scholars a head start to get ahead and move up the corporate ladder. The trustees and alumni resource persons' business network and lessons were unselfishly shared to instruct and inspire.

They even offered on-the-job training."

Gabby regards PLMSFI a caring family. He won't be surprised if on knowing what has become of him, PLMSFI will shout out "Anak ko ito."



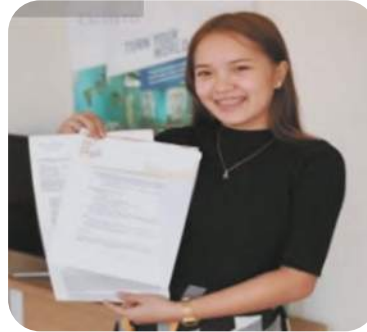
Rose Anne Gillo
BSBA major in Human Resources Operations Management 2018

Anne is thankful to PLM and PLMSFI for the values she has imbibed. What these are she did not say. Could be her story says it all and a lot more.

"I am in the administrative staff of a fast-food for a couple of years now. It is a blessing indeed to think that many have lost their jobs this pandemic. My mother was among those her employer had to let go because of slack in business. Sister was furloughed, wanted to work at home instead but could not as the internet speed was slow, on and off, and unreliable. I had to sleep in my workplace for three continuous months as there was no public transport. Good thing later I biked to and from work. But like a faint light of hope, last October I got my temporary license to be a finance consultant for PRU Life an insurance company."

Anne has a lot more to go, but what she is going through right now can only point up.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Mary Joyce DV Maliit
BS Business Economics 2018

What's cooking with Mary Joyce? She is in to what is real. She is into real estate with Ayala Alveo land as a property specialist. More real is her stirring the pot in her paluto

service and Online Lutong Bahay Delivery. She comes from a Pampanga family, that province known for beautiful women and good cooking.

"I was lucky to be a PLMSFI ward in 2017. Fourth-year was the busiest in Business Economics Major. There was a lot of research work in and out of Metro Manila. The stipend was a great help."

Mary Joyce remembers the every second Saturday of the month get-togethers of the PLMSFI family. The Trustees would ask how things were with her, her study and family. To her, PLMSFI was family, concerned, guiding, and supportive.

"PLMSFI equipped me with the skills and attitude. Thanks to those talks, demos, and examples." She advises, "We cannot choose where we come from, but we can choose where to go."



Mary Joy Pena
BSBA Major in Business Management 2018

Long before she got to work as Customer Relations Officer, then in a year as Brand Assistant and currently handling her own brand at RC Cola, Mary Joy had always had PLM and PLMSFI as her own RC, Rightful Comrades. She is grateful to PLM for her degree

and to PLMSFI for the stipends and inspiration provided with familial, love and care. She has taken to heart the PLMSFI mantra of DREAM BIG and take on life's challenges ready, confident and headstrong.

"When I started in PLM in 2014, I had no idea how I could survive college. For one, my parents were cash strapped to see me through. PLMSFI must have seen something in me to come to the rescue. I dedicate whatever beads of success I have so far strewn to my dear parents, and to all those people whose help led me to where I am now."

"So far 2020 is the most difficult year of my life. So is it with everybody. There is this Covid, the succession of surging typhoons, and a government wanting in honesty, leadership and respect. But we will tough out the tough times and we will come out stronger, better informed, positive and actively involved towards a Just, Blessed, and Brighter 2021."



Angeline Danica Mendoza
Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications 2018

Describing herself as Batang Tondo, Laking Tondo, resourceful and full of hope, Angeline chose to break free and escape the

repeated lockouts these pandemic times. Rather than sit and wait for customers, with her Baybayin Manila Online Shop, she went online to sell t-shirts with messages in graphic Baybayin; the same with her other business The Bellisima Flower Shop. All the while being a Property Consultant for Ayala Alveo Land. This is not surprising of a consistent PLM Dean's Lister, enjoying the free tuition and the help and inspiration from PLMSFI.

"I couldn't be grateful and thankful enough to PLMSFI for the stipends that helped me passed school projects. Once PLMSFI helped me mount an event I chaired. It allowed the use of the sound system and PRMEC premises. It was a success. Unforgettable. I well remember too those inspirational talks, those personal stories of Want, Making Do, and Success of PLMSFI TRUSTEES, particularly having banana cue, tap water and nothing more for lunch, a much-valued meal antedating Jollibee."



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Here's to a dazzling and radiant New Year!

We looked back over 2020, and we realized that despite the pandemic, we managed to keep the PLMSFI family going, with more family members to love and to care for - 50 children, our beloved scholars who are all beautiful, inside out.

We have been blessed with the friendship of PLM alumni and benefactors, whose effective partnership with PLMSFI is keeping the scholarship funds of PLMSFI sufficient for our scholars.

We have established a healthy relationship with PLM officials, who make our one big mission easier to fulfill - to serve our Pamantasang Mahal, which nurtured and nourished us during our difficult years in college.

We have joyfully embraced the wonders of a new technology that is now making communication and learning possible while staying at home. We remember with fondness our first zoom meeting, first online activity and first virtual experience, that gave us the thrill and excitement of the "new normal."

These made our memories of 2020 something we remember with gratitude in our hearts. We may have encountered difficulties, pains and feelings of uncertainty and fear, but the presence of God and His blessings are more than enough reasons to be hopeful for a new year that is filled with opportunities for new beginnings and breakthroughs for growth and progress.

To our God, thank you for the lessons of 2020, as we seek Your Wisdom and Truth in 2021. Thank you for Your never-ending mercies!

To you, our friends who are journeying with us, our never-ending gratitude. Cheers to new beginnings!

- PLMSFI Board of Trustees



Peace, Hope, Joy and Love in 2021!



Pamantasang Lungsod ng Maynila

The SFI Chronicle

A Quarterly Newsletter of the PLM Scholars Foundation, Inc

Publisher
PLMSFI Board of Trustees

Eleuterio Galvante, Jr.
Chairman, Editorial Board

Bob Del Rosario
Editorial Consultant

Rebecca Cabrera
Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editors/Writers

Edita Del Rosario
Mars R. Casipit
Wilma Zetazate

Columnists

Terry Galvante
Juan Reyes, Jr.

Research Team

Rolly Cuico
Winnie Cuico
Tita Fernandez
Joven Jader

Layout Artist

Rannie Lao

For comments and donations,
write to any of the following:

Terry Galvante
(t.galvante@gmail.com)

Winnie Cuico
(winnie.cuico@yahoo.com)

Mars Casipit
(skywaytravellersinn@yahoo.com)

**PLM SCHOLARS
FOUNDATION, INC.**

Pres. Ramon Magsaysay
Entrepreneurial Center
PLM Campus, Muralla St.
Intramuros, Manila