

CLSU Alumni Reunions Can Be Life-changing

The horrendous Covid-19 pandemic started its deadly havoc in 2020 and as much as it has lessened its effects this 2022, it seems like many of us are still scared or cautious of attending group events. This may be one of the reasons why our normally well-attended reunion was graced by less than 50 alumni. If you are one of those who missed our October 1st CLSU Alumni reunion at “The Orleans Hotel” in Las Vegas, these personal reflections that I am writing is for the sincerest purpose of encouraging you to take time & plan for the future ones. Please stay connected & try to join next time.

Why use the word “life-changing” when it seemed like a simple gathering of people who were once enrolled at our Alma Mater? Believe or not, there are numerous reasons why it can exceed one’s expectations of what simple gatherings are. Indeed, this one was an important event that we, as alumni, should consider life-changing in many ways. But not to bore you and as I promised that I will write a short one, let me focus on two major reasons: **like-mindedness** and **missing those who touched our lives** in the past & have passed away already.

First, let me explain what I meant with like-mindedness amongst our alumni. There was one prevailing purpose of thinking alike; that common attitude is to help selflessly. How? **The obvious & pressing GOALS: to help change the lives of many students who may not be able to graduate without scholarships from our Alumni Scholarship funds; to raise Endowment Funds that will be our financial legacy to CLSU for generations to come; and not to be ignored was everyone’s appreciation for one another as funds were shared.** Everyone’s efforts to contribute to our noble causes remained an infectious ingredient to our united family atmosphere during this reunion. You can’t help but go the extra mile to contribute, as well. You become a part of a higher calling to do something for those in real need of support for a better future; you also become a crusader for higher education.

We know that it’s not inexpensive to be in reunions. Some alumni came from Montreal & Alberta; and someone came directly from the Philippines just to make it on time for the pre-reunion dinner at the “Pinoy Joint Restaurant” Friday night. Hats off to them!

Now, to my second & last point: missing those who have gone before us. Yes, it was a joyful gathering mixed by a somber stillness at some point when deaths of some beloved alumni were discussed. So, after hearing the names of the people who already passed away, I looked at everyone intently so I will not forget their faces ever. I prayed for them and hoped to see their sweet smiles again next time.

As a person waiting for a heart donor myself, it brought tears to my eyes that I’ve been blessed to be alive and see the goodness in the hearts of my fellow alumni once again. I won’t take opportunities, like these, for granted. I will treasure the memories of those sweet, smiling faces forever.

All of us have some kind of struggles that we battle daily. May we all experience the grace of God daily; and find His peace & joy despite of our challenges.

Only two very important take aways but countless memories that will live on forever. Thank you!

See you all at the next CLSU alumni reunion!

(by Nenita Garcia Perez – 10/5/2022)