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## CLSU INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI GROUP (CIAG)

### CIAG Participates in 2011 CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming

By: Engr. Gerry Galinato



CIAG members had previously participated in several CLSU Alumni Homecomings in preparation for the celebration of our Alma Mater's Centennial year in 2007. However, the first time that CIAG formally participated in the CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming was in April 2011 since CIAG was formally organized as a non-profit organization in California in 2008. Approximately 42 CIAG members based in USA and Canada attended the Homecoming. The delegation was led by Engr. Rod Dioso, CIAG President and Engr. Gerry Galinato, Chair of CIAG Homecoming and Reunion (H & R) Committee. The following is a brief summary of major events that took place at CLSU during the Homecoming Program.

### CLSU - Here We Come!

Out of approximately 250 CIAG members and supporters in its email data base who received notices concerning the 2011 CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming, 42 people indicated interest and signed up to participate in the Homecoming event. To alleviate the challenges in traveling from Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila to CLSU, especially for those alumni who have not been back to CLSU for a long time, the CIAG H and R Committee coordinated with Dr. Zenaida Serna, ARO Director, about providing a vehicle to fetch new arrivals from the airport and pick up

others in a designated hotel. The pick-up date was firmed up to take place on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Through the effort of Dr. Serna, the Science City of Munoz offered a Coaster with a seating capacity for 30 people with the condition that the Group would be responsible for paying the fuel costs, per diem of the driver and travel coordinator from ARO, meals and other miscellaneous expenses. Ten CIAG members initially agreed to take advantage of this offer. However, due to some changes in travel plans by some CIAG members, only six were able to join the Coaster trip. Our sincere thanks to Mayor Efren Alvarez and Vice-Mayor Ester Lazaro for making the Coaster available to CIAG members.



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### Soft-Opening of Alumni Hostel

Some CIAG members arrived Wednesday afternoon on April 13, 2011 on time for the Soft-Opening and Blessing of the First and Second Floors of the CLSU Alumni Hostel. The cutting of Ribbon was performed by Pres. Ruben and Mrs. Giselle Sevilleja and the Hostel rooms were blessed by Rev. Fr. Rudy Ibale, Parish Priest of the

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## Soft Opening of Alumni Hostel

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University prior to official occupancy. A reception hosted by the CLSUAAI, CLSUAFI and the CLSU Alumni Office followed the Soft-Opening ceremonies.

Room sponsors and other donors to the Hostel were recognized during the ceremony. CIAG members and supporters who initially sponsored rooms included Gerry Galinato (Rm 203), Noli and Tino Galinato (Rm 205), Dan Galinato (Rm 210), Dr. L. Mateo, Dr. Gilbert Sigua, Mr. Coloma and Toronto Alumni & Friends (Rm 109). Other CIAG officers Johnny Raniel, Rod Dioso and Juanito Campus also sponsored a room each.

## CIAG Reception for Early Arrivals

The official start of the CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming was Friday, April 15. Prior to the core Homecoming activities, CIAG sponsored a Reception for Early Arrivals at the University Canteen. Approximately 20 CIAG members who arrived early at CLSU participated. Key CLSU administration officials headed by Pres. and Mrs. Sevilleja; Dr. Romy Cabanilla, CLSUAAI President; Dr. Eliseo Ruiz, CLSUAFI President; Dr. Zenaida Serna, ARO Director; and other CLSUAAI officials were also



invited to join the Group. Local foods were served including Halo-Halo for dessert. CIAG Pres. Rod Dioso donated several bottles and different types of famous California wines. He said, there would have been more, but his luggage was already overweight and he had to leave several bottles at the San Francisco International Airport. The highlight of the Reception and Get-together for Early Arrivals was the showing of various talents by both US and local representatives using the Karaoke machine. It was, indeed, a lot of fun for the participants. This event was coordinated by Lilia and Pete Lopez, CIAG members who are based in Las Vegas but are temporarily residing in Bical, Science City of Munoz, developing a residential subdivision at Bical

## 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Exercises

Friday morning was a free time for CIAG members but it was an opportunity to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises at CLSU. The Hon. Antonio Trillanes IV, a Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, was the Guest of Honor and Commencement Speaker. Sen. Trillanes is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy in 1995. Approximately 35 graduates were awarded graduate degrees (PhD, DVM and MS) and 645 were awarded undergraduate degrees (BS) with various majors from Chemistry to Civil Engineering. The highest number of graduates was those majoring in Business Administration (BSBA) with a total of 120 graduates, followed by Secondary Education (BSSE) and Information Technology (BSIT), with 62 and 61 graduates, respectively. There were 53 graduates majoring in agriculture (BSA) which used to be the popular major during the 50's, 60's and early 70's at CLSU. It is interesting to note that three of the graduates were supported by scholarships offered by the CLSUAAI.

## Luncheon and Special Meeting with the CLSU President

On Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, a Luncheon Program was hosted by the University which was

## Luncheon & Special Meeting With the CLSU Pres

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held at the Research, Extension and Training (RET) Conference Hall. The people invited at the Luncheon included Senator Trillanes, the Commencement Speaker, University Vice presidents, CLSUAAI, CLSUAFI, ARO, ADCO officials and early alumni arrivals including CIAG. Due to conflicting schedule, Sen. Trillanes was not able to attend the Luncheon. A special meeting was also held to specifically discuss the future of CIAG Scholarship Program, support for the alumni Hostel and other projects at CLSU. It was explained by Gerry Galinato, Chair of the CIAG Scholarship, Education and Awards (SEA) Committee, that the Endowment Fund would generate earnings which could be used to support scholarships and other projects at CLSU in the future. However, the current balance of the EF has not yet attained a sustainable amount to generate an appropriate level of earnings to support such endeavors. Nevertheless, CIAG created a special Scholarship Fund so that it can already start supporting two scholars starting SY 2011-12.

During this meeting, Pres. Sevilleja pleaded for help and mentioned that he has a wish list for us to consider when funds are already available including: 1) lack of classroom and laboratories and need financial support in this area, 2) dormitories, 3) strengthening capabilities for research (high end equipment for analyses), 4) engineering equipment (new or used), 5) advanced functional scientific equipment, 6) scholarships for students, 6) scholarships for faculties, 7) tuition fees and research grants, 8) teaching and research assistantship program for graduate students at CLSU, 9) graduate research assistantship program abroad, and 10) supporting subscriptions to professional and scientific journals at CLSU. Pres. Sevilleja acknowledged that most of these items are very manageable including items 6 through 10 and believed that the rest are also doable. CIAG President Rod Dioso encouraged President Sevilleja to send an official request to CIAG.

## Welcome at the Executive House

A Welcome and Fellowship Program was hosted by Pres. Ruben and Mrs. Giselle Sevilleja at the Executive House on Friday night. The program was attended by CIAG participants from USA and Canada, CLSU Deans and other University officials, early local alumni arrivals and officials of CLSUAAI, CLSUAFI and ARO Coordinators. A Welcome Remarks was delivered by Pres. Sevilleja followed by brief messages from Dr. E. Ruiz, Dr. F. Battad, Dr. Rudy Undan, all former CLSU presidents, and Dr. Romy Cabanilla, CLSUAAI President and Engr. Rod Dioso, CIAG President. The CLSU Gintong Butil Rondalla



provided the entertainment during the Welcome Program and Dinner. Annie Silva, CIAG VP for San Diego Area co-emceed the Welcome Program. Engr. Ohma Viray made a PowerPoint presentation of the highlights of the CIAG 2010 Reunion in Las Vegas and the Tour of the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.



## General Assembly Meeting

After the Motorcade and Registration, CIAG members participated in the Annual Alumni Homecoming and General Assembly Meeting on Saturday morning, April 16<sup>th</sup> held at the Multi-Purpose Gymnasium (MPG). A total of approximately 350 CLSU Alumni and Guests attended the event including CIAG delegates based in USA and Canada. CIAG members participated actively during the General Assembly Meeting presided over by Dr. Romeo Cabanilla, President of the CLSUAAI. Dr. Cabanilla and Dr. Eliseo Ruiz, rendered an annual report of the CLSUAAI and CLSUAFI, respectively. After the Alumni Homecoming Luncheon, socialization, games and fellowship followed. CIAG members actively participated in various games and contests. It was a lot of fun.

## Dinner and Recognition Program

After the CLSU Alumni Homecoming Dinner, a Recognition Program followed to present various awards to CLSU alumni. Six CIAG members based in the USA were bestowed various awards by the CLSUAAI. The CIAG recipients included Loretta Santiago-Malonzo, 2011 Gintong Butil Award for Entrepreneurship; Dr. Fiorello Abenes, 2011 Gintong Butil Award for Science and Technology; Valeriano Pascual, 2011 Achievement Award; Juanito Campos, 2011 Achievement Award; Engr. Johnny Raniel, 2011 Special Recognition Award; and Dr. Sonia Tiqua, 2011 Achievement Award. All the awardees with the exception of Dr. Tiqua were officially nominated by the CIAG Scholarship, Educational and Awards Committee chaired by Gerry Galinato. Although Dr. Abenes was officially recommended by another party, the CIAG SEA Committee provided support to his nomination. Dr. Abenes was asked to deliver a response on behalf of the Awardees.



Lorie Malonzo (middle) escorted by her husband, Opry, shown accepting her Gintong Butil Award from CLSU officials headed by Pres. Ruben Sevilleja.



The highlight of the evening program was a cultural presentation of various groups that included a) Gintong Ani Rondalla, b) Maestro Singers, c) CLSU SCS, d) CLSU Administration Choir, e) TAGA CLSU, f) Gintong Ani Dance Troupe, and g) CLSU Koro. This showcase of talents was really an excellent treat to the

attendees and would equal or may even exceed some of the cultural presentations by singing and dancing professionals in Manila.

## CIAG-Sponsored Breakfast

Using a Trambia, courtesy of PhilRice and other university vehicles, CIAG members were fetched from their hostels to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Research (BFAR) Floating House for breakfast on Sunday morning, April 17<sup>th</sup>. This breakfast was hosted by CIAG. Invited guests included officers of CLSUAAI, CLSUAFI, ARO, and other university officials headed by Pres. R. Sevilleja and VP's. CIAG specifically requested that local foods be served during breakfast including pandesal, carabao milk, tinapa, fried rice, tuyo, egg, nilagang saging, etc. After breakfast, a special CIAG meeting was conducted and presided by CIAG Pres. Rod Dioso. Several comments were offered concerning CIAG members' observations about the Homecoming event and how to encourage more participation by CIAG members in future Homecomings at CLSU. During this meeting, Dr. Eliseo Ruiz, CLSUAFI President made a pledge to contribute \$100,000 to the CIAG's Endowment Fund.

After the brief breakfast meeting, a campus tour to various projects was conducted. During the tour, the Trambia hitch broke (*not sure if this was caused by the extra weight*



*gained due to heavy breakfast by the Group*) while entering the Carabao Research Center and the tour was interrupted. However, with quick action by the tour host, University vehicles were made available to continue the projects tour.

## CIAG-Sponsored Luncheon

Following the tour, the Group went to RET Conference Hall for lunch. At this point, the tour participants really had a good appetite to eat after an exhausting but interesting tour of various projects and research centers at the university. The special CIAG meeting was supposed to be conducted after lunch but was rescheduled following the breakfast meeting at BFAR Floating House. The Group decided to rest instead to get ready for the next event at night.

## CIAG-Sponsored Dinner, Presentation of Officers and Dance Program

The finale of the CIAG-sponsored events on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> was the hosting of a Dinner, Presentation of Officers and Dance Program. This event took place at the RET Conference Hall. Invited guests included the University Officials, Officers of CLSUAAL, CLSUAFI, ARO Coordinators and members of the University Administration Choir. To encourage more participation by University officials, letters of invitation were prepared and signed by Gerry Galinato, Chair of the CIAG Homecoming/Reunion Committee. The invitations were personally handed to university officials with the help of Dr. Serna, ARO Director and her staff. Part of the letter says *"We are extending this invitation to you and your spouse and we will be honored if you will join us on this particular event. The suggested attire is Hawaiian...We hope to see you there. The Celebration will not be complete without you."* Approximately 100 people attended, all with colorful and exotic-looking Hawaiian costumes.

Prior to the start of the evening program, delicious and sumptuous Filipino-style dinner was served. The food was excellently prepared by the RET Cafeteria staff headed by Mrs. Thelma Marcelo, Cafeteria Manager. The evening Program was formally opened by Lorie Malonzo and Dr. Zenaida Serna, who served as co-hosts. Several CIAG former and current officers made brief comments including Rod Dioso, Gerry Galinato, and Val Pascual. Ohma Viray was supposed to lead singing the US National Anthem but had a sore throat. CIAG VP Juanito Campos led the singing surprisingly attaining the high notes of the *Star Spangled Banner*. Several CLSU officials also made brief remarks including Dr. Eliseo Ruiz (as shown below) who reiterated his pledge to donate \$100,000 within 3 years to the CIAG's Endowment Fund.



The newly elected CIAG Officers present were officially recognized and presented by CLSU President Ruben Sevilleja. The purpose of presenting the CIAG officers was to introduce them to CLSU officials and other guests so both parties would be more acquainted with each other. Hopefully, there would

be better coordination in the future in working with projects and activities sponsored or co-sponsored by CIAG (i.e. CLSU Alumni Hostel Project, supporting scholarships, etc.). The CIAG officers recognized and presented during the event include Engr. Rod Dioso, President; Prof. Juanito Campos, VP; Engr. Ohma Viray, Treasurer; Engr. Gerry Galinato, VP for Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West Region; Lorie Malonzo, VP for Northern California Region; Dr. Leo Abenes, VP At-Large; Lilia Lopez, VP for Las Vegas Region, and Bart Cinense, Business Manager. Annie Silva, VP for San Diego Region was present earlier during the Homecoming but was not able to participate in the CIAG's Recognition Program. (*Pictorial on Page 8*)

A Plaque of Recognition was presented by CIAG to Dr. Serna for her dedication, untiring support and excellent coordination with the CLSU International Alumni Group. Likewise, a Plaque of Recognition was also presented to Engr. Edgardo Alfonso, Member of the CLSU Board of Regents, for being a Guest Speaker during the Presentation of CIAG Officers and Dinner Program.

The evening program also included "Ballroom Dancing" or "Maski-Pops." With the colorful Hawaiian costumes of the participants, beautiful leis loosely hanging and dangling on everyone's neck and the excellent tropical decorations made by ARO staff at the Conference Hall, there was a common feeling that everyone was in a Beach Party in Hawaii. Topping it all, with the music provided by Remake Duet from San Jose City, the dance floor was never seen empty with every music they played. To encourage more CIAG members' participation and enjoyment during the Dancing Program, university



students (male and female) who were good ballroom dancers were invited to participate. The dance floor was always busy during the whole dancing event with CIAG

members and guests paired with student DI's. Everybody had a goodtime. CIAG members voluntarily gave some amount of gratuity to the students for their efforts in teaching and participating during the dance which contributed additional fun to the Group. The highlight of the evening program was the selection of CIAG VP Juanito Campos and CLSU First Lady Giselle Sevilleja as the "King" and "Queen" of the night, respectively.

## Post-Homecoming Get-Together

After the culmination of the Homecoming event at CLSU, CIAG members who were still at CLSU were invited by former CLSU President Rudy and Mrs. Berna Undan to have breakfast at their residence in the Science City of Munoz. Some key university and CLSUAAI officials were also invited. Approximately 15 people attended. Another traditional Filipino breakfast meal, fruits and pastries were served. Because the Undans prepared so much food, they encouraged us to stay for another serving of lunch. Additional fellowship and reminiscing the good old days at CLSU also took place after each meal. Dr. and Mrs. Undan had a professional-looking Karaoke machine set up at their backyard under the thick tropical fruit and shade trees so the Group was entertained by CIAG members and other guests who shared their singing talents.



## CIAG-Sponsored Tours in Central and Northern Philippines

During the planning to officially join the CLSU April 2011 Grand Alumni Homecoming, some CIAG members suggested if local tours could be organized to take place before and after the Homecoming. Because of the initial interest shown by some members, the CIAG R and H Committee developed various tour options in the Philippines before and after the CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming. Tour No. 1 would be in Boracay and Bohol in Visayas area before the Homecoming (Pre-Homecoming tour) and Tour No 2 would take place in Northern Luzon after the reunion (Post-Homecoming Tour). During the CIAG Grand Reunion in Las Vegas in September 2010, Dr. Romeo Padilla, CLSU alumnus, owner and President of the PanPacific University North Philippines offered the Group a free use of his university bus during the Tour No. 2 and free lodging at his hotel in Baguio City. The tour would have included visiting the Banaue Rice Terraces, Pagudpod (claimed to be the Boracay of the North), tour of Ilocos Region, Baguio City, visiting a beach in La Union, tour of Dr. Padilla's PUNP, Subic Bay, Tagaytay and other tourist spots in Southern Luzon. The only responsibility of the Group was to take care of the lodging and meals of the two drivers per bus and the cost of gas. Later Dr. Padilla also offered to take care of the fuel costs for a shorter trip. However, no CIAG members indicated interests in joining Tour No. 2 with the exception of two couples. Due to economies of scale (limited participation), Tour No. 2 was eventually cancelled.

Planned itineraries for Tour No. 1 including Boracay and Bohol were also developed. Gerry Galinato volunteered to coordinate with local tour operators, inquired group tour packages available, contacted various resorts in Boracay and Bohol, inquired interisland domestic flight schedules and fares, and investigated other tour logistics. However, a very limited interest was received when the tour itineraries were finally laid out and announced. Because considerable efforts were

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*Lettie & Gerry Galinato*



already spent in planning Tour No. 1, Gerry and Leticia Galinato decided to proceed touring Boracay, Panglao Island (Island Southwest of Bohol) and Bohol Island. The Bohol Island Tour package included Chocolate Hills, Tarsiers and Python Sanctuaries, Man-made Mahogany Forest, Loboc Safari River Cruise with lunch, Rajah Sikatuna Blood Compact Shrine, Baclayon Church and Museum, local industries and other tourist spots.

The selected resort at Panglao Island was the Bohol Beach Club and the resort in Boracay was Boracay Regency Garden Resort located in the mid-section (Station 2) at the west coast side of the Island.

## What is Next?

There was an informal discussion with Pres. Sevilleja, Dr. Serna and Dr. Romeo Cabanilla with some CIAG officers about the next formal visit of CIAG members and supporters to CLSU. It was explained to them that it would probably not possible to formally participate in the CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming every year for various reasons.

However, some CIAG members may elect to attend or participate in future CLSU Annual Grand Alumni Homecoming at their own pleasure and schedule. If requested, CIAG can coordinate with ARO and CLSUAAI if some members would be interested to participate in future CLSU Alumni Homecoming events.

Pres. Sevilleja suggested that perhaps the Group could consider participating formally again in April 2014. CLSU will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a university in 2014 and will also coincide with the third year of his second term appointment as CLSU President. That sounds like a very appropriate and excellent proposal. So let's see how the CIAG Executive Board will respond to this proposal. ....END.....

Visit our CIAG Website for more pictures during the April 2011 CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming and Tour. Bart Cinense was CIAG's official photographer during the Homecoming events and took approximately 550 pictures. Selected pictures during the various events were posted in our website by CIAG Webmaster Rob Bugawan. The pictures were grouped into various events including CLSU-Here We Come, Soft-Opening of Alumni Hostel, CIAG Reception for Early Arrivals, 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Exercises, Luncheon and Special Meeting with the CLSU President, Welcome at the Executive House, General Assembly Meeting, Dinner and Recognition Program, CIAG-Sponsored Breakfast, Meeting and Tour, CIAG-Sponsored Luncheon, CIAG-Sponsored Dinner-Presentation of Officers-Dance Program, and Post-Homecoming Get-Together. Pictures of the CIAG-Sponsored Tour in Boracay, Panglao Island and Bohol were taken by Gerry Galinato.

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## EDITORIAL



### Alumni Homecomings and Membership

*I*n the March and April issues of our newsletter, we touched on membership, homecoming and reunions. This month's issue presents the proceedings of the 2011 CLSU Grand Alumni Homecoming last April 15-17, including the early

arrivals event on April 14, written by Gerry Galinato, VP for the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain region and Chair of the Homecoming/Reunion and the Scholarship Committees for the past three years. It is the next best thing for those who were not able to attend and a sharing of missed activities for those who joined but had to take care of some urgent family or personal business in between events. Special thanks to the officials of CLSU, CLSUAAI, CLSUAFI and CIAG and to all the participants for a reunion that is worth remembering in a lifetime.

Some of us may recall that in March 2010, the Homecoming/Reunion Committee recommended to hold or sponsor a grand homecoming in the U.S. or Canada every two or three years and in CLSU every three or four years but will help members coordinate with the CLSU Alumni

Relations Office (ARO) in any given year. So far, the two local grand reunions held in July 2008 (Vallejo, CA) and in September 2010 (Las Vegas) and the 2011 CLSU grand alumni homecoming were all very successful and productive. Initial plans for the 3rd local grand reunion in September next year are in the offing. President Rod Dioso and the new Homecoming/Reunion Committee Chair Nenet Perez eyed Toronto, Canada as the venue but the VP for that region, Manny Buado declined the suggestion believing that they are not yet ready for such a big event. In all likelihood, the event will be held again in Las Vegas. Watch your email in the coming months for news updates or better still, browse our website, [www.clsuiag.org](http://www.clsuiag.org) regularly.

As we revisit the membership issue in our association, we get mixed emotions of joy and some disappointment. We did get many names and email addresses during our grand reunion in Las Vegas last year but after that event, our member recruitment tapered off. I've mentioned before that word of mouth is very effective in getting accurate and current email and residence addresses and phone numbers and every CIAG member should participate in this effort. Furthermore, our webmaster, Rob Bugawan has a running program that adds the information supplied by alumni so our membership roster can expand.. What else can be done to hasten the growth and expansion of our association? Will information sharing with ARO's international alumni data base help? Our Membership Committee, surely, has a challenging task this year and in the years ahead. -frg.

### CIAG HAWAIIAN NIGHT PICTORIAL—April 17th

