

January 2010

Dear Fellow Sillimanian:

Blue Moon: get it twice! The big surprise was that our side of the planet Earth enjoyed a Blue Moon last January. The first full moon was in the



sky on January 1, making the New Year truly bright, and there was another on January 30. Actually, there will be a double Blue Moon in 2010, as March will also have two Full Moons: March 1 and March 30.

Imagine Van Gogh's "starry night" when watching the blue

moon from the boulevard or the amphitheater. It was poetry unfolding when the branches of the acacia trees welcomed the moon's regal rising. Silliman Campus is still the most relaxing place for a moonlit promenade.

Twice after their retirement in 1973, the Berans have made two successful homecoming journeys to Dumaguete, in 2001 for the Silliman Centennial and on January 27 to February 6 this year. Dr. George W. Beran, the founder of Van Houweling Laboratory at Silliman University Medical Center, his wife Dr. Janice A. Beran who was a Physical Education teacher at Silliman and author of PE textbook came with their grandson, Danny, a varsity basketball player (who had a jam session with our Silliman Stallions).

After the establishment of the famous laboratory in 1960, the entire Negros island was rabies-free, and the program was extended to include Siquijor. The rabies control program was so successful that even hospitals in Mindanao availed themselves of its services. Dr. George

Beran's recent visit was not just for nostalgia but mainly to find opportunities to discuss concerns in Public Health. He had successful meetings with Governor Emilio Macias and Mayor Agustin Perdices. He also was able to discuss future possibilities with the staff of the Silliman University laboratories on medical microbiology, and he gave a lecture presentation for our Medical students. Back in Iowa State University, he is busy as curator of the newly established Museum for Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Janice Beran also had a reunion with the Physical Education family. A good number of former students showed up for the afternoon fellowship including former volleyball player , Naomi Baslot Romero, who came all the way from Davao. Mrs. Romero's college life was with the Berans as she was their work student. With the help of Dr. Sam Gregorio who offered to drive them around, the visiting Silliman heritage builders (as the Berans are considered) were able to meet with old friends and children of friends who have moved on, who also had fine memories of the Berans: the Florendos, the Garcias, the Tiempos, the Ravellos, the Udarbes, the Vistas and others.

In January, The Cultural Affairs Committee headed by Dr. Elizabeth Susan Vista Suarez presented two culture events at the Luce which featured groups from Mindanao. The acclaimed *Sining Kambayoka* of Mindanao State University performed the "Arkat A Lawanen," an epic of the Maranao people that is listed by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In the audience on this January 16 tribal dance concert were homecoming alumni who had extended their Christmas vacation, and watching the colorful Maranao epic was indeed a highlight in their visit.



The concert of Bukidnon State University Chorale on January 29 was facilitated by Dr. Angel Alcala who, as Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), knew of this choir from Malaybalay City. Bukidnon State University Chorale

received a standing ovation from the appreciative Silliman Community prompting Culture writer Ian Casocot to state that, "it was a great concert by the Bukidnon State University Chorale. Their rendition of ethnic Bukidnon chants and sounds was the stuff of heaven."

An indignation rally was held at the Quezon Park in Dumaguete City last January 22 to call for justice for Mass Communication student Jayfel Rayoso who was brutally killed by an unknown person. Jayfel was reported by his grandmother as missing since January 11. News of a body found in Isugan, Bacong, Negros Oriental led to the confirmation of his death. It was his father who identified the victim from his clothes. Jayfel's mother came home from Spain on the day of his funeral that was attended by the entire Mass Communication family of Silliman University.

IN MEMORIAM : Rodolfo M. Nobleza (Chemistry 1952) on January 2; Nonilon Vergara (BBA 1955) on January 3; former Chicago Alumni president Jessie Baldado Klemz (SUHS 1960, BSN 1965) on January 21; Engr. Rustico Emperado (SUHS 1932, BSCE 1951) on January 18; and Dr. Bienvenido Yap Jr. (AA Pre-Med 1951) on January 23 . (If you know of a Sillimanian not in our memorial list, please inform us.)

Thank you for always being there for dear old Silliman. President Malayang has requested this office to regularly update you about happenings on campus. We are also interested in knowing what you and your alumni chapter are doing. Please keep in touch and update your file with our office if you have not done so. We would truly appreciate it. You may reach the President's Office through this email address: [pres@su.edu.ph](mailto:pres@su.edu.ph) or our Alumni Affairs Office through this address: [sillimanguidingstar@gmail.com](mailto:sillimanguidingstar@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Jocelyn " JONG " Somoza de la Cruz  
Director of Alumni and External Affairs

cc: Dr. Ben S. Malayang III