



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA, INC.

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America, Inc. (UPAAA) was organized and founded by Dr. Arsenio Talingdan, who served as its first president, in New Jersey in May 1981. His vision for the alumni association was to unite as one organization the UP alumni chapters in America, with a communality of goals, foremost of which is to help preserve the University of the Philippines as the national center of academic freedom and excellence. UPAAA also aims to maintain open lines of communication between the University and the alumni in America, to include advancing the intellectual, cultural and economic pursuits of UP alumni.

Over the 36 years of its founding, UPAAA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the U.S., has a long list of accomplishments, including a Scholarship Fund, Professorial Chairs, recognition of and granting of awards to alumni in the US who excel in their profession and field of expertise. Since inception, past UPAAA presidents and their administrations have succeeded in raising funds and donating these to the Alma Mater. They have laid the seed and foundation for what UPAAA, Inc. is now.

A long held tradition since 1981 is the holding of a reunion, and later in the early nineties, it became a biennial Grand Reunion and Assembly, during which distinguished alumni are honored. The 19th Grand Reunion and Convention was held in Iselin, New Jersey in October 2017, with the 21st UP President, Danilo Concepcion, as the keynote speaker. His speech, “The State of the University of the Philippines”, was an eye –opener to the US-based alumni, describing how much assistance the alma mater needs to alleviate the myriad problems confronting the university. UPAAA intends to address some of these issues by embarking on projects, some of which were already started early in 2016 to 2017. New projects are being considered for 2018 to 2019.

To maintain lines of communication with the University and to raise awareness among UP students that the alumni are responsive to their needs, UPAAA has involved itself in various projects in the Philippines. In 2015, Project Agapay (Aral, Gawa, Payo) was launched, directly benefiting student organizations in Diliman and UP Mindanao. UPAAA either fully- or partially-funded the following: (1) the 1st GYPSEA Camp project by UP Mindanao students in the Badjao community of Matina Aplaya, Davao City; (2) the Hinabi project for senior high school students, and project Pamamahayag for elementary and high students, both organized by UP Mindanao BA Communication Arts students; (3) projects organized by UP Diliman Student Catholic Action (UPSCA); (4) Multipurpose Hall renovation in the Molave Residence Hall, Diliman; (5) full-body mirror for the UP Concert Chorus rehearsal hall in Diliman; (6) Project Tahanan for common areas in the Acacia Residence Hall in Diliman.

In 2017, UPAAA sponsored the registration fee of a UP Mindanao student at the Asian Pacific Future Leaders Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year, 2018, UPAAA is sponsoring the following: (6) a donation to the UP Diliman Men’s Varsity Baseball Team, for their uniforms; (7) partial to full funding for projects of the following student organizations in UP Mindanao – Food Technology; Dugong-Antro; Society of Programmers and Refined Computer Scientists (SPARCS); Pre-medical Association; The Navigators; UP Mindanao Mountaineering Society.

In its push to fulfill Dr. Talingdan’s vision of uniting UP alumni chapters in America, UPAAA has collaborated and will continue to work with various UP alumni groups. In 2016, UPAAA in partnership with UPMASA, co-presented the award-winning, internationally renowned UP Concert Chorus in a well-attended concert in Montclair, New Jersey. At the 19th UPAAA Grand Reunion and Convention, UPAAA partnered with UPAA-NJ in hosting the event. For the 20th UPAAA Grand Reunion and Convention in 2019, UPAA San Francisco will be the co-host.

In December 2017, UPAAA co-sponsored Simbang Gabi at the Philippine Consulate in New York City with UPMASA-NYNJCT, UPAA-NJ, UPNEC, Knights of Rizal (NY), and UP Alumni and Friends Rondalla. UPAAA participated in a “Homecoming sa Konsulado” annual event together with other UPAA chapters in October 2017. It is a gathering of alumni organizations from different universities in the Philippines sponsored by the Philippine Consulate General in New York. UPAAA will continue to collaborate with other UPAA organizations to fulfill its mission.