

## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

By Jovenia Soriano Celo, MD  
Executive VP and Scholarship Committee Chair



*From a tiny spark may burst a mighty flame (Dante, 1265-1321)*

Contributions to the Scholarship fund of UPAAA may seem small to some, but a tiny spark may be enough to result in a mighty flame. After all, one needs cents to make \$100.

Noel Gamboa, UP Architecture alumnus, donated his \$75 door prize during the UPAAA virtual New Year party cosponsored by UPAANJ, to the College of Architecture. We started a fund campaign on UPAAA's Facebook page, and by mid-February, a \$500 donation was raised and transferred to the College. This money will be used for student needs for distance learning.

We are deeply grateful to the following donors who added to Noel's first spark: UPAAA Board member Luz Sapin Micabalo, and the sisters of the late UP architecture alumnus Valentino "Sonny" Barros, class of '83 - Dina Barros-Ellorin (UP High '63, BS Food Technology '68), Carmelita Barros-Lopez (UP PreMed '68, MD 72b), Carmencita Barros (UP- GN '66, BSN '70) and Benita Barros-Murrell (BSE '71, MAT '75).

We announced the 2021 recipient of the UPAAA International Student Assistance Grant in January - Emmanuel P. de Leon, Jr., LPT, MM. He holds a Diploma for Creative and Performing Music Arts and a Bachelor of Music (both Major in Music Education with Voice Concentration), Class 2009, and a Master of Music, Major in Choral Conducting, 2016. He is currently enrolled in the University of Notre Dame - Sacred Music at Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana for a Doctor of Musical Arts, Major in Choral Conducting. Shortly after this announcement, UPAAA received donations from two UP alumni to add to the International Student Assistance Grant.

Olive Rocha-Aliga is a UP alumna with a Bachelor of Music, class of 1973, and was 2019 UPAAA Distinguished Alumna for Leadership, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. She is the President of the UP Vanguard Corps of Sponsors Alumni International (UPVCSAI), providing strong leadership from its inception in 2004. She recommended Eman for the above grant, then donated to the fund.

Juanita Francisco Caccam, PhD, UP BS Chemistry 1956, founded UPAA San Diego Chapter in 1983. She was 2019 UPAAA Distinguished Alumna in Biochemistry and Community Service. She was inspired by Eman's story and likewise donated to the above grant.

There are many more stories of donors contributing small amounts to UPAAA scholarship funds. To all donors - big or small - we extend the thanks of several UP students who receive your assistance. The need, however, continues, especially during these challenging times when distance learning puts even more stress on students trying to get by with meager financial resources.

Help UPAAA spark more flames, and watch mighty oaks grow from tiny acorns. For those who would like to donate, please scroll down below to see the many ways to support our scholars and give back to our Alma Mater. Thank you so much and God bless your kind hearts!