



# UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA, INC.



The University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America, Inc. (UPAAA) was organized and founded in New Jersey by the late Dr. Arsenio Talingdan, as its first president, in May 1981. His vision for the alumni association was to unite as one organization the UP alumni chapters in America, with a commonality of goals, foremost of which is to help preserve the University 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 38 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 and granting of awards to alumni in the US who excel in their profession and field of expertise. Past UPAAA presidents and their administrations have laid the seed and foundation for what UPAAA, Inc. is today.

A long-held tradition since 1981 is the holding of a reunion. In the early nineties, the reunion became a biennial event, during which distinguished alumni are honored and alumni celebrating their jubilee years are recognized. The 19<sup>th</sup> Grand Reunion and Convention was held in Iselin, New Jersey in October 2017, with the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 the myriad problems confronting the university. UPAAA is now gearing up for the 20th Grand Reunion and Convention, co-hosted by UPAA San Francisco Chapter, to be held at the Crowne Plaza at San Francisco Airport, Burlingame, CA on August 30-September 2, 2019.

The current UPAAA Board of Directors has launched projects beginning in 2017, to fulfill its mission and goals as an alumni association, supporting the University of the Philippines to maintain its tradition of excellence. In 2018, UPAAA established its Stipend Scholarship Program open to seven (7) constituent universities. Working with the College of Human Kinetics, UPAAA has started a program to alleviate Food Insecurity among athletes in UP Diliman. A monetary donation was given to Ilang-ilang Residence Hall to improve the inner courtyard of the dorm, under the Adopt-a-Dorm project. In 2018, Ms. Rosalia V. Ordonez, a UP Nursing alumna, donated \$5,000 to UPAAA for the College of Sciences and Mathematics in UP Mindanao for a much-needed renovation of its Food Processing Laboratory. UPAAA has also given monetary support to student-led community outreach projects in UP Mindanao and UP Visayas, to foster student-alumni relations and make students appreciate the importance of giving back to the University.

UPAAA will continue to face multiple challenges - endless needs of the University, new trends in alumni relations, and dwindling education funds. **Alumni: Unite!**