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Vol. 12

September 1, 2005

## Editorial

### Where Do We Go From Here?

This month marked the twelfth issue or pre-anniversary of our Global **newsletter**. This monthly circulation enabled Betans around the globe to read important news of what is happening in the organization, past and present. The great dedication shown by our Chief Editor and of course, the contributors made the **newsletter** reach our PCs and bulletin boards on time.

The anniversary is timely, considering we just concluded our first ever "International Reunion", thus enabling us to publish more news, activities and achievements this beloved fraternity of ours has accomplished.

Dubbed as the "Betans Reunion and Dinagyang", the occasion held at Puerto Real on August 4, 2005 was another milestone for us - a milestone towards reaching our vision and goals. I can say from the outset that the event was a huge success. The unselfish efforts of our North American and Visayas Betans brothers were hard to ignore.

Where do we go from here? Is gathering more than 200 Betans in one place enough for us to commend the event a true success? I beg to put reservations on my accolades. Why? The presence of alumni from different parts of the world at the reunion was a far cry from the total population of alumni Betans and residents considering the numbers calculated from the four chapters' list. There is still an enormous amount of work ahead of us. We need to do more to reach those who have not yet embraced our purpose. Let us find them. Others may have known the existence of the global

organization yet chose to take the observant route while trying to understand the real purpose of the organization. Some might have just plainly shut their doors looking for the right time when their questions are fully addressed.

My fellow brothers and sisters who are members of our global outreach, what are our plans as far as the others are concerned? Are we satisfied in sitting down and do nothing to reach others? Shall we shun the doubters and the undecided? Are we going to embrace them with wide-open arms and welcome to our fold? The Betans Grand Reunion is in the offing to take place in 2007. Many are interested for this big event to happen. I am all for it. Let us realize our dreams and aspirations by adopting the idea of "Each One - Reach One for 2007." Then, we can really say, our torch is truly burning with the unity of the four PBEFI Chapters (CPU, UI, WIT and USA).

Mabuhay ang Betans!!!

Let me take this opportunity to thank all that have contributed to this issue.

Bro. Alton Sandico  
Australia Betans  
Editor

#### A Betans Celebration

There are a lot of things that happened to our fraternity these past few weeks. Most notable of all was the "Betans Reunion and Dinagyang" on August 4, 2005 at Puerto Real, Lapaz, Iloilo. The gathering of the more than 200 Betans from all over the worlds is unprecedented. Thanks to the efforts of the US West Coast and Visayas Betans in particular in gathering the Betans in one place in such a short notice. At first, I was a little apprehensive about the idea but with the determination inherent to each and every Betan, the occasion was a true success.

We are celebrating, and yes, all the positive things that happened to our organization deserve a celebration. First, after the creation of PBEFI in 2004, we never paused nor stopped but we continued on going sometimes even treading paths we have never been before. What does that mean? That means that we have more confidence than before and we can attribute it to our success or vice-versa. We always believed that Betans can do more and we have proven it to the entire world. We might have done a little hesitation and pondering along the way but I am always thankful for the leadership of this organization and its supporters that we have weathered the storm.

Last June, we have celebrated the first anniversary of the Tambayan. This month is the pre-anniversary or the 12th issue of the **newsletter**. From the humble beginnings of this monthly publication, we have persisted and we have grown. We continued on challenging ourselves by adding new materials. The Betan spirit is alive, well and kicking. That's what makes us persevere and we plan to do so for a long period of time.

The idea of a **newsletter** came about as a result of a casual discussion in the Tambayan. Bro. Tony Morales was the one who brought the idea to the table. After that, Bro. Manny San Luis liked the idea and fervently supported it. As the Chairman of the Information and News Committee, I knew that something has to be done. After a few days, I started drafting the format and proceeded on sending test publications. I originally called it "The Betans" just to start it off. On September 5, 2004 I met with the Toronto Betans to gather more ideas and at the same time formally announced the birth of the

**newsletter.** So, on October 1, 2004 the first issue of the electronic **newsletter** hit the Betans PCs.

Just like any other topics, we discussed the official name of the **newsletter**. Again, many ideas were thrown in. A poll was conducted and that was how our **newsletter** ended up with its present name, "The 2125 Betans News". Of course it didn't end there. The header with the logo had to be re-designed. Mostly, it was Bro. Tristan and I trading ideas back and forth until I came up with the final design. On December 1, 2004, a couple of weeks before I left for the Philippines for the Visayas Betans Symposium, the **newsletter** with the new and revised logo was published.

Now the **newsletter** is a collective effort of all Betans from all over the world. The Editorship is rotated between each geographical location to give a chance to all Betans to speak up their minds and enhance their creativity. As expected the Betans have shown their usual drive and perseverance to accomplish things despite their busy schedules with their family and careers. I don't know about you but for me this calls for a celebration too!

On September 5, 2005, the Global Betans will also observe the First Anniversary of the First North American Betans Convention in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. That event was a very memorable one because it was the first official Betans meeting after the creation of PBEFI. Also, it was the occasion where the first set of PBEFI Officers was announced after the election that was held just a few weeks prior to the meeting.

If there is any doubt the Betans will go the distance, look at what happened on August 24, 2005. The Betans broke its own record of 802 messages in a month (recorded on August 2004). August 2005 is an all-time leader now with over a 1000 messages. That's a lot of emails in your inbox!

Like what Bro. Alton said in his above Editorial, where do we go from here? Have you seen Toyota's commercial, "Choose any direction as long as it's forward"? The Betans aims just like that. We do not have to drive a Toyota to do that though. The collective efforts of our brothers and sisters are enough motivation to move us through. There is no doubt that grander events are in store for us. Year 2007 is the Betans Diamond (60th) Anniversary. There is a plan for a bigger reunion and more activities. The Betans intend to break its own record of 200 participants. All it takes is the willingness to do it and the resolve to get things done. Let's go for it. Let's move forward.

Bro. Lochinvar "Ching" Bucane  
Chairman - Information and News Committee  
Chief Editor

## **From The Desk of the President**

### A Tribute to the Exemplary Betans

The recently concluded Betans Reunion and Dinagyang held at Puerto Real, Lapaz, Iloilo City, Philippines is a manifestation of how solid and unified the four chapters, CPU, UI, WIT and USA, of the Phi Beta Epsilon Fraternity. Though it was not the first time that the four chapters worked as one, having had the First North American Betans Convention, Toronto, Canada on September 2004 and the first ever Betans Symposium, Iloilo City on January 2005. Nevertheless it was the first reunion of Gentlemen and Lady Betans from the Global Betans community, where participants were recognized

based on their geographical affiliation rather than the school chapter where they came from.

We might say that there were many highlights during the event specially if we take it from the different perspectives of the attendees: the moments they want to treasure most and the events that will have a profound effect to them as to how they see and value the fellowship at the present and for the future.

But lest we forget, as most of us attendees still nurse ourselves from the emotional and physical hangovers of the Betans Dinagyang, the main highlight of the occasion was the presentation of the Ultimate Betans Award to the original Founding Brothers of our fraternity (posthumously) and recognition of those whose selfless support and dedication to our fellowship elevated them to the ranks of the very select list of the exemplary Betans. All awardees were conferred the titles Gentlemen and Lady Betan as the case may be. The event was a tribute to our brothers and sister whose ideals, visions and exemplary contributions to our fellowship gave us the momentum, strength and resolve to overcome the challenges we faced and other trials we may encounter in the future.

The Ultimate Betan Award is a brainchild of the Phi Beta Epsilon Fraternity International commonly known as the Global Betans Community to recognize the outstanding contributions of fellow Betans to the ideals, goals and mission of the fraternity. It is the highest award a fellow Betan can receive. The award will be presented to deserving Betans every two years and during which major gathering of members from all over the world will be held. The event may take place not only in the Philippines but possibly in the US or Canada or other PBEFI geographical locations where considerable number of members are based and would be able to host the occasion.

The first set of Ultimate Betan Awards were posthumously presented to the original Founding Brothers:

1. Bro. Celestino Javier-Represented by her three daughters
2. Bro. Arturo Rivera-Represented by daughter Mae Rivera-De La Cruz
3. Bro. Juan Sornito-Represented by his daughter and her family

The second set of awardees were presented to the following exemplary Betans:

1. Bro. Jorge Tamayo
2. Bro. Jorge Sabidong
3. Sis. Aurora Alerta-Lim
4. Bro. Sabas "Abay" Homena
5. Bro. Gerry Gepulango
6. Bro. Rudy Tipanan
7. Bro. Narciso Maravilla
8. Bro. Ely Bagtasus
9. Bro. Jessie Aling
10. Bro. Freddie Ortiz
11. Bro. George Pontino
12. Bro. Edmund Arias

Although the first set of awardees, our founding brothers, were not physically with us anymore during the occasion, our memories of them and their legacy made us all feel that they were with us in spirit and the success of the occasion was a sign that they are happy we have brought the fraternity this far and still moving strongly forward. Their memories also served and will continue to be our solid

foundation as we bring our fraternity to greater heights.

Brothers and Sisters, the next planned big event will be in 2007. Who will make it to the next select list of exemplary Betans? Don't be surprised if you get selected for you really deserve it.

Let us all support Bro. Alton's "Each One-Reach One for 2007"!

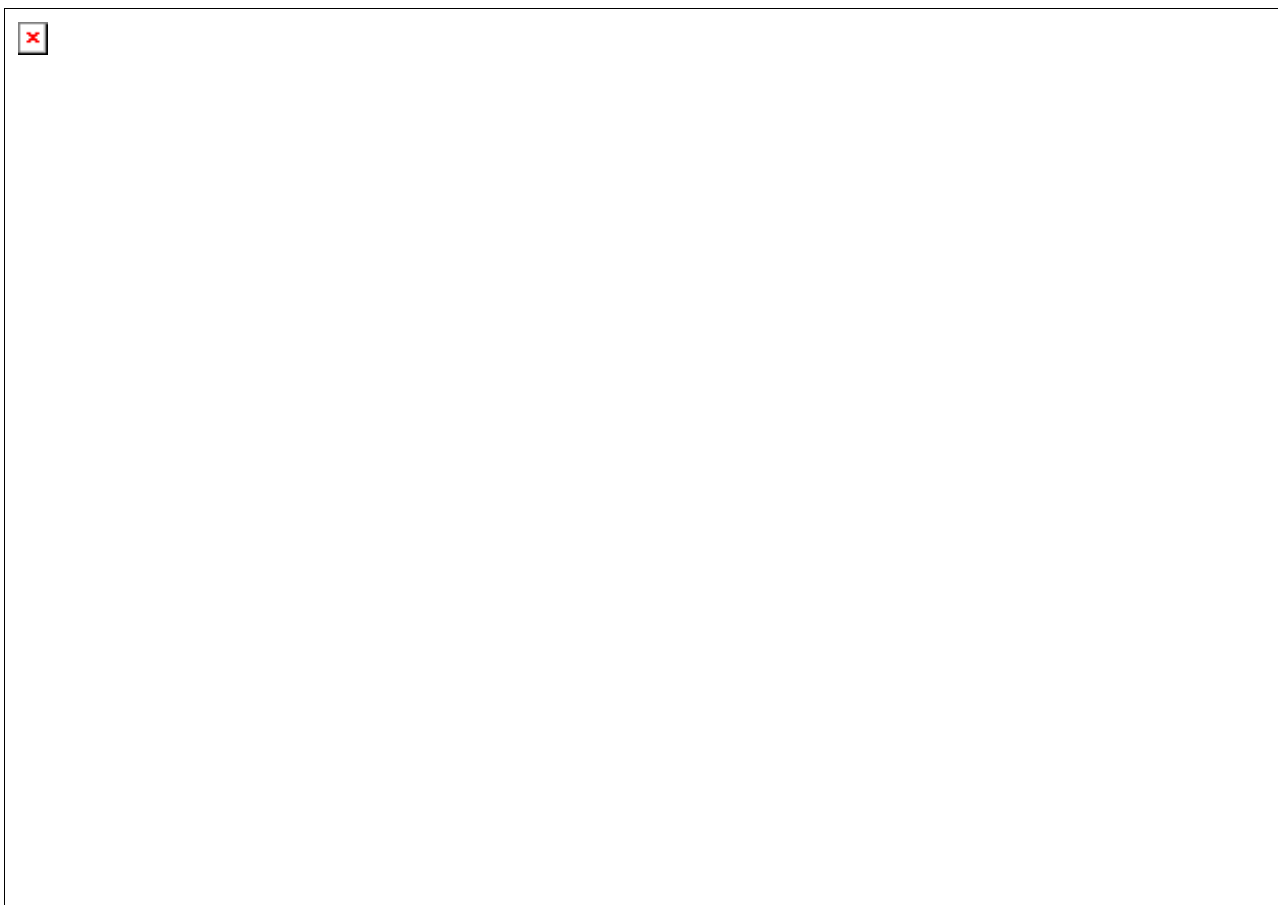
May Gods Blessings be with us all.

Bro. Julito "Tristan" Gancho  
President - PBEFI

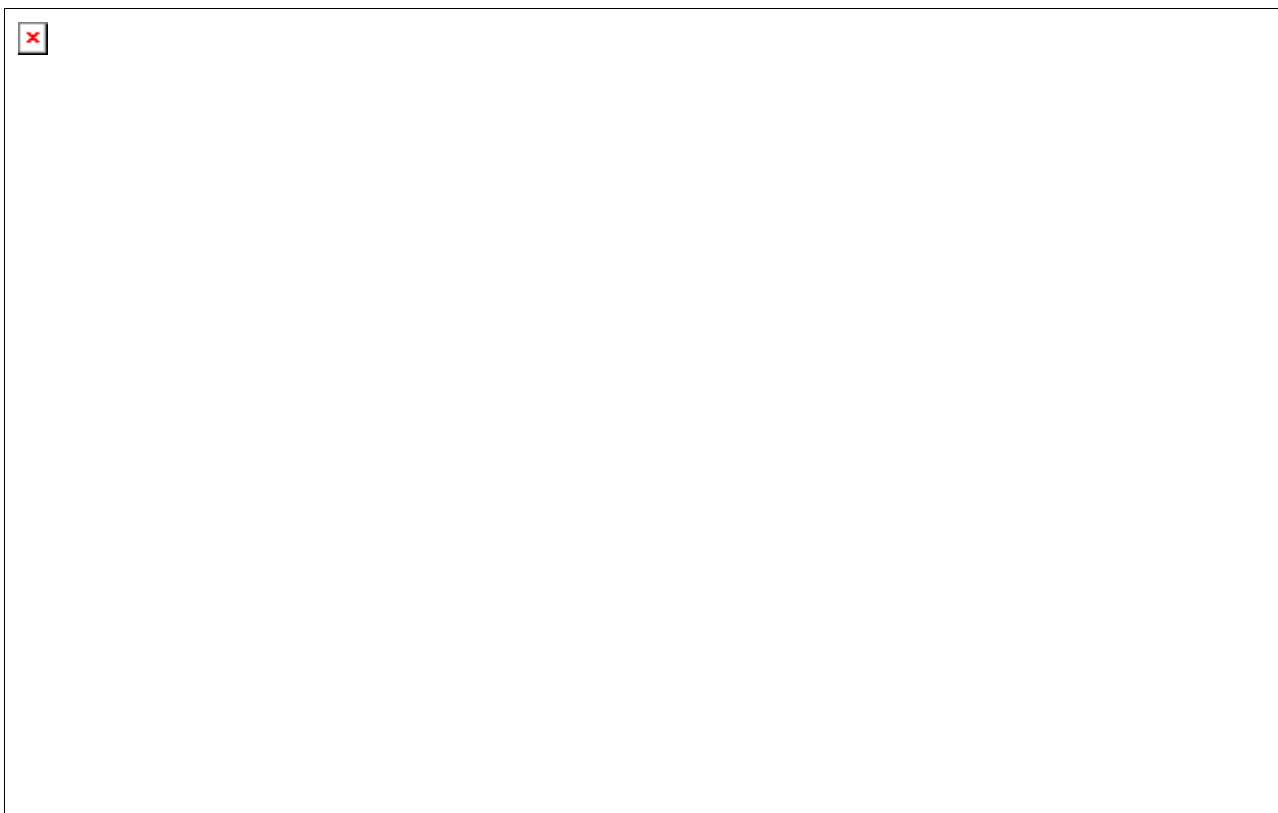
### **News from the Betans Global Community**

- Betans Reunion and Dinagyang Took Off with Resounding Success

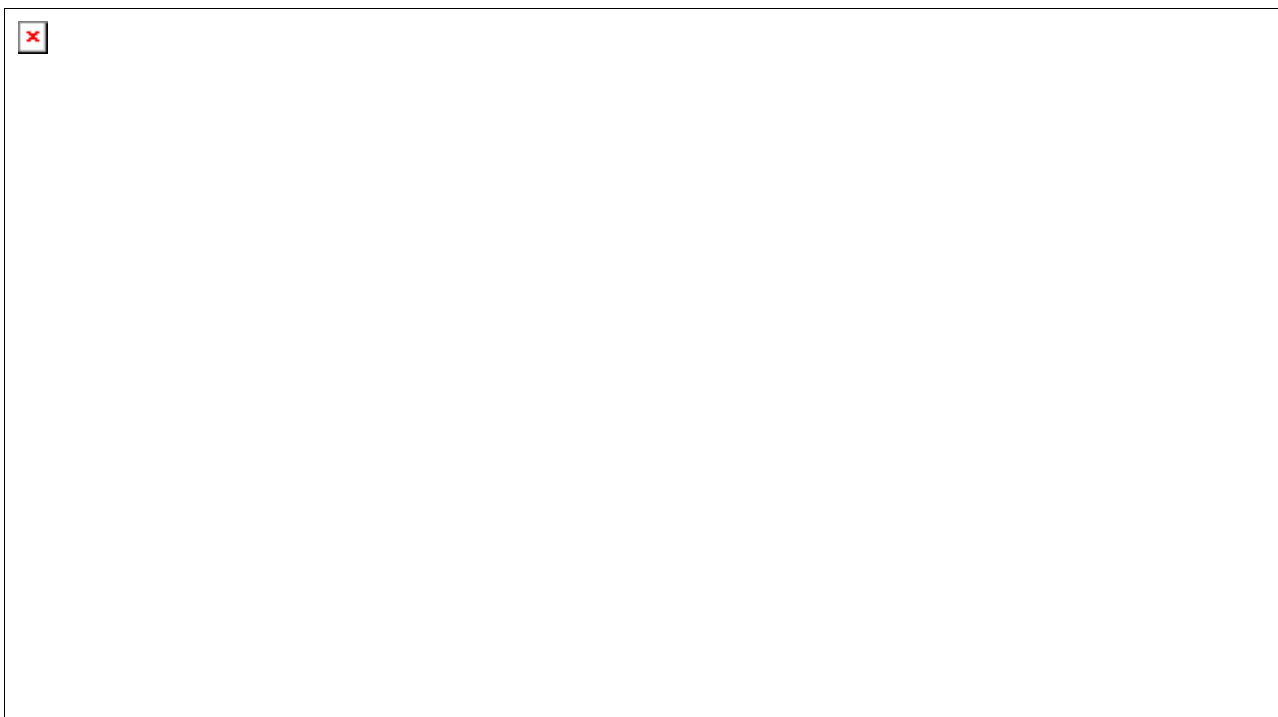
Iloilo City, Philippines. The Betans Reunion and Dinagyang was held at Puerto Real, La Paz, Iloilo on August 4, 2005. More than 200 Betans from the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, United States and Canada attended the round-the-clock event joined by their families and friends. There were speeches from alumni as well as fund-raising for the Scholarship Program and Basketball Tournament. The event was a tribute to the original founding brothers and exemplary members of the fraternity who were presented with the Ultimate Betan Award, the highest award to be given to a Betan. Recipients of the award were the Founders of the Phi Beta Epsilon Fraternity: The late Bros. Juan Sornito, Celestino Javier and Arturo Rivera. Sis Aurora Alerta-Lim, Bros. Sabas Homena, Gerry Gepulango, Jessie Aling, Narciso Maravilla, Jorge Tamayo, Ely Bagtasus, Jorge Sabidong, Freddie Ortiz, Rudy Tipanan, George Pontino, and Edmund Arias were also presented the Ultimate Betan Award, as exemplary Betans, for their outstanding contribution to the fraternity. The occasion featured a lot of singing, food and drinks and the good ol' Betan camaraderie.



The Presidential Table. From L-R: Bros. Sabas Homena, Sis Melanie Javier Misajon, Lydia Sornito Penacerrada, Bro. Jorge Tamayo, Sis Maya Rivera de la Cruz, Bro. Julito Gancho, Sis Aurora Alerta-Lim, Bros. Ely Bagtasus, Narciso Maravilla and Gerry Gepulango.



Recipients of Plaques of Recognition for their Outstanding Contribution to the Fraternity. From L-R: Bros. Humphrey Amistoso for Freddie Ortiz, George Pontino and Edmund Arias, Ely Bagtasus, Jorge Tamayo, Narciso Maravilla, Gerry Gepulango, Sis Aurora Alerta-Lim, Bros. Sabas Homena, Osmar Lagtapon for Jessie Aling, Julito "Tristan" Gancho (PBEFI President).





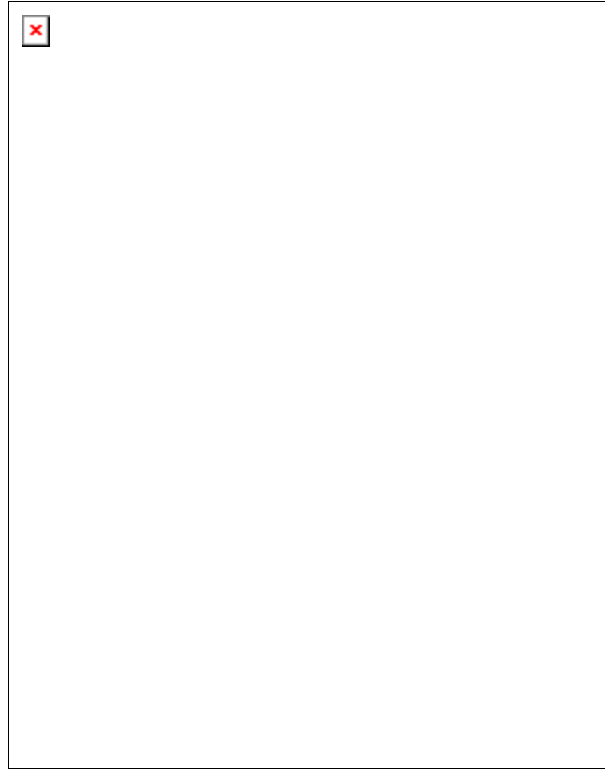
*Third row left:* Presenter of awards Bro. Al Aninao and Bro. Hernando Lagdamen (not shown). Bro. Tristan Gancho (observing).

*Third row right:* Bro. Suresh Karnani delivering the Closing Remarks.

*Fourth row:* Daughters of the late Bro. Celestino Javier, Miriam Javier de la Fuente, Lilibeth Javier, Prof. Melanie Javier Misajon, with the PBEFI President, Bro. Tristan Gancho.

*Fifth row:* Daughter of the late Bro. Juan Sornito, Lydia Sornito Penacerrada, her husband Victory Penacerrada and their children with the PBEFI President.

*Sixth row:* Daughter of the late Bro. Arturo Rivera, Maya Rivera de la Cruz, with the PBEFI President.



Clockwise from Left: Bros. Jed Panes, Nigel Jalea, Alton Sandico, Fabian Dionela, Manuel Gale, Jojo Gargarita, John Suelo and Melvin Junsay. Standing: Elan Villaluna.

- Betans Lecturers at CPU Centennial Celebrations

Central Philippines University (CPU) took the services of Betans who came home to Iloilo for the CPU Centennial Celebrations as Lecturers. The Betans Lecturers on August 1 - 3, 2005 are as follows:

Bro. Fred Golveo	Current Civil Eng'g Technology
Bro. Tristan Ganchoero	Structural Analysis Software
Bro. Ismael Ausmolo	Urban Planning
Bro. Milliard Villanueva	Proposed Coal Fired Power Plant
Bro. Vic Gumban	An Overview of Semiconductor Facility
Sis Aurora Lim	Sustainable Energy
Bro. Jairus Cancel	Concrete Quality Control and Assurance
Bro. Vic Golveo	Current Civil Engineering Technology

- New Betans from University of San Agustin Chapter

Iloilo City, Philippines. The USA Chapter of the Phi Beta Epsilon Fraternity with MEB Bro. Argel Laguda survived two new members namely, Bros. Jayson Cabanga and Vic Randy Mission on August 13, 2005 at Oton, Iloilo. Alumni Bros. Mark Audie Ferrer, Rholly Guerra, Robert Gaya, Cloyd, Chris and Emerson Encargues assisted during the initiation.

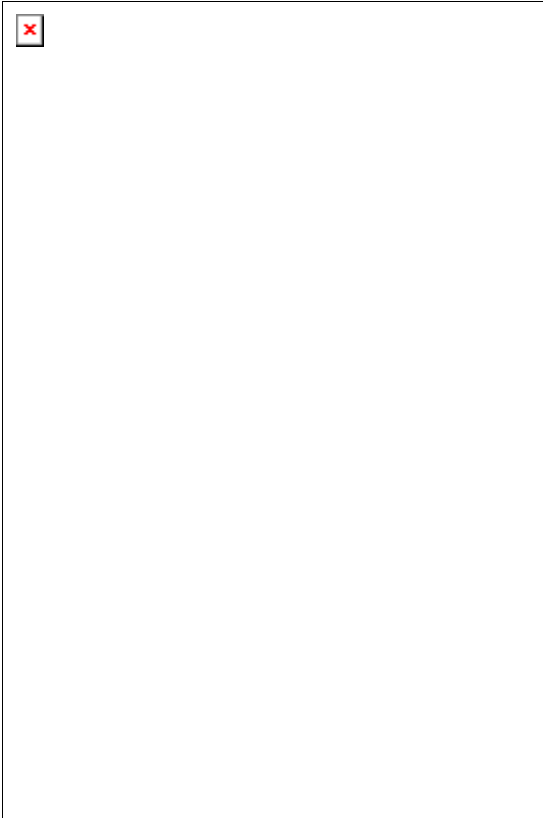
- Bro. Nilo Deypalubos Inducted as Major General

Manila, Philippines. Major General Nilo Deypalubos was one of the 15 newly-promoted generals and senior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines inducted by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in ceremonies in Malacañang on August 18, 2005.

## Featured Betan

The featured Betan for this month is Bro. Lydio "Jun" Trasporto, UI BSME, PBE 1975 Batch 12. Bro. Jun wrote,

I was born on the 4th of July, 1954 in Baluarte, Molo, Iloilo City, my mother's home town. My father is from Tigbauan. I am the eldest of the 7 siblings (5 boys and 2



girls) and we all grew up inside the housing compound of La Carlota Sugar Central where my father worked as “pay loader” operator at the warehouse. Growing up in the manufacturing environment inspired me to become one of those hard helmeted mechanical engineers. Not only those engineers were “big boys” in the plant but they were also easily included in the list of the most eligible bachelors of our own little town. *(Photo: Bro. Jun and Sis Malou Trasporto)*

Without further ado, of course, I studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Iloilo and graduated in 1976. It was in August 1975 during my final year in the university when I became a full blooded Betans (Batch 12). It took almost three years during the Martial Law era when the UI Betans realized that in less than two years, chances are that there will be no more resident Betans in UI. The lifting of Martial Law was nowhere to be seen in the horizon. During the first semester of the school year 75-76, the Betans decided to take a chance and went underground. I’m proud that I was one of the members of the Magnificent 7 that survived the very first underground batch of UI Betans during the Martial Law era.

We held our induction ceremony around 9pm at Villa Beach Resort and intimated to all our dates that everybody will be staying in because of the imposed 12 midnight curfew. Let alone, this was part of the whole scheme for everyone to have a chance to spend the entire evening dancing and hoping that something nicer will happen before sunrise. Lo and behold, something did happen right after 12 midnight when we all got arrested and brought to the holding cells at Fort San Pedro. We were later released around noon time but we had to cut some grasses and picked up a bunch of garbage around the camp ground. Considering that we got a bit scared when the military surrounded us with their M14 pointed towards our direction at the dance floor. Other than that, everyone enjoyed the evening including our dates. This is a fact, you put a group of Betans together anywhere in any given situation and they will be able to find a way to enjoy each other’s company.

After graduation, I was very eager to try my luck in the big city of Manila. At that time, I already realized that it will take years and years before my aspiration to be one of the “big boys” of Central La Carlota become a reality, that I have to wait and hope that one of the old timers would either resign, retire or pass on, not necessarily in this order for a young engineer to receive a promotion. I knew for sure that I do not have the time and patience to wait for these things to happen.

I vividly remembered it was Labour Day (May 1st, 1976) when I arrived in Manila. I then proceeded to 1133-A Danlig Street at Bo. Pinagkaisahan in Makati. This was the designated UI Betans residence in Metro Manila under Bro. “Tom” Lapizar and Bro. “Boks” Tigtig. This was also the regular hang out of Bro. Pangkoy Lagera and the current Major General Deypalubos (1st Lieutenant at the time) when he was not on mission flying his C47. He always tells Bro. Boks and myself that PAL pilots who landed planes smoothly were mostly ex-PAF pilots. He was proud to claim that our PAF pilots were considered amongst the best pilots in the world. Bro. Boks even

added "you guys should also be considered the bravest considering that you are still willing to fly those old PAF planes". Only Bro. Boks or any other Betans who belonged to the earlier batch like Bro. Pangkoy can make this type of comment, not from the younger Betans like me or the late Bro. Danny Tilos. Since the two of us were the youngest of the group, we usually ended up as designates to pick up their beer orders from the corner Sari-Sari store or prepare coffee and you know what happens to their coffee sometimes. It's all part of our brotherly love. All UI Betans trying to start a life in Manila or just transiting were welcome to stay in this apartment.

I landed my first job in June 1976 as a draftsman and at the same time Installation Supervisor at a small marketing firm in Mandaluyong called Teknik Mining for their commercial/industrial ionizer equipment. I started making only a little over the minimum wage. Every time I did some cost estimates for their prospective big clientele, I made it a point to find out if these companies have job openings that I can apply for. One time, I told Bro. Boks that I needed at least a double income to be able to afford and pay for my review in time to get ready for the board exam. Only then when I become a licensed engineer that I can expect to make a decent living. "Sounds like a good plan", he said and wished me good luck and hope that I make it. By September 1977, I was hired by PLDT and started to train to become one of their Quality Control Inspectors. This was considered the management training ground of PLDT and my starting salary was almost double as opposed to my last income from Teknik.

Just about a month after I finished my 3 months full time classroom training in PLDT, I received a telegram from Asian Development Bank (the Asian version of IMF-World Bank) scheduling me for an exam for a possible employment opportunity. By March 1978, I abandoned my dream to have an engineering career because ADB tripled the salary I was making with PLDT to hold a clerical position as Buyer in charge of building maintenance with full benefits and guaranteed yearly general and performance based salary increases. This was where I met my wife, Malou Dimaguila, from Novaliches, Quezon City. She worked as Indent Purchaser with the Bank. After working for 5 years in the Purchasing Department of the Bank, I saw a job posting that was interesting. It gave me the opportunity to travel abroad.

By May 1983, I became a Training Clerk in charge of administering trainings and conferences for Industry and Development Banks Department. During my first year on the job, I was administering programs that were held only within the Philippines. In my second year, I was given some assignments for programs held in Bangkok and Singapore. On the third year until I left the bank to migrate to Canada I was in charge of administering trainings and conferences in the South Pacific Islands. This gave me the opportunity to travel to Sydney, Australia; Auckland, New Zealand; Fiji Islands, Western Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga and the Cook Islands. I also had a chance to visit Honolulu, Hawaii. In 1988, I was given a special assignment to administer a training seminar for the power sector held in Oslo, Norway. This gave the Asian power plant engineers the opportunity to visit power plants across the Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Sweden and Finland. In this trip, I was also given a chance to visit other parts of Europe like Vienna, Amsterdam, Munich, Rome and London.

Please don't ask what made us decide to migrate to Canada because most of the time my answer is "I don't know". The only logical explanation I can give is that a few months before Malou and I got married in 1986, one of our supposedly Ninongs, who was Colonel of Manila's Finest, was ambushed and killed a few feet away from the headquarters of METROCOM along United Nations Avenue. Other than the homicide department that was in charge of the investigation, almost everybody in the Western Police District knew or had some ideas as to who gave the go ahead signal to kill him but until now no arrest was made. My wife always said that if we were to be given

a chance to migrate to another country that we have to take it before the situation in the Philippines gets worse. Almost regularly there was coup de etat attempt from our military.

Presently, I am in Toronto, Canada running my own bowling pro shop. This is a separate story and if some of you are interested to know how I ended up running a bowling pro shop, kindly visit my website [www.bowlerspro.com](http://www.bowlerspro.com) and go to the Our History Page. Malou works with the City of Toronto Housing Department as Community Office Supervisor. We have two adorable and never complain "alagas". The eldest is Jake who unfortunately passed away on July 2005 and the youngest is Harley. Other than my beloved wife, Jake and Harley, my other love is tenpin bowling and traveling.

Lastly and most importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the Executive and Special Committees of the Betans International for all the hard work you have done trying to bring us all together. For this, I am glad and proud to be a Betans! More power to our Global Community and let's continue to keep us all in the loop via our website. This is our new-found "Tambayan" and hope to locate and bring in more Betans on stream, we already found you!

My address        2023 - 5233 Dundas Street W., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9B 6M1

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## Feature Story

### My Betans Reunion and Dinagyang Experience by Bro. Pastor Jonan Castillon

*Editor's note: The Betans experiences at the recently concluded Betans Reunion and Dinagyang is broken into five parts, each with different author.*

I arrived at Puerta Real at almost 10:00 AM of August 4. There were twenty or more Betans milling at the entrance. Inside, Bros. were happily chatting from table to table. At that time, I estimated the attendance at fifty or more.

There were crowding in the registration area as Bros. from different places enlisted. I was lucky to be able to get a white shirt with Betan patch as it was the majority shirt for the occasion. We took our turn at Bro. Narcing's ID maker. Gradually, more Betans came as the clock neared 12 noon.

What were faceless names of brothers that I could only read in the Betan's membership list have become personal brothers to me. Betans who I have not met for years were there.

I was waiting for my turn at the registration queue when I turned around and saw a very familiar name printed boldly on the name tag. It sad PIO GO! I tapped him without hesitation considering his jolly and joyful character and introduced myself. He gave me a very tight embrace as if we have known each other for quite a time and haven't met for years. Wow, that was very heartwarming. That was enough spark for me to approach and met Bros. whom I considered my seniors.

I was dressing up in the restroom when I met Bro. Suresh who is an Indian national but got the Betan

blood while studying in CPU. He cancelled his planned trip to some places just to attend the International Betans Reunion.

Betans from Mindanao also came. I just don't have the exact numbers but I estimated the attendance at almost 200 people including guests, family and friends of Betans who came.

Speeches were made during the program. The first to cry was Bro. Ely. I guess everyone also choked and held back their tears as we listened to his love affair with the Betans. Towards the end of his speech, Bro. Tristan was on the verge of being emotional.

Well, who could avoid shedding tears of joy. It was quite a miracle that after several years of wishful thinking and even attempts of uniting the brotherhood, it is now a reality.

by Sis Aurora Alerta-Lim

The children of Founder, Bro. Celestino Javier came. The oldest is Prof. Melanie Javier Misajon, then Miriam Javier de la Fuente (wife of Maue) and Lilibeth Javier. Someone invited Maya Rivera de la Cruz, daughter of co-Founder Arturo Rivera, and Lydia Sornito Penacerrada (daughter of another co-founder Juan E. Sornito) together with her husband Victory and their children.

Bro. Jorge Tamayo was there, Bro. Fred Golveo and his wife Rosemarie, Sis Lourdes, Bro. Tazang and other older Betans. Former MEBs Melchor Deloso and Angi Tambora with Bro. Noel Diel came after lunch.

It was a pleasant surprise for the children of the founders when they were made to sit at the presidential table with name tags and after the delicious lunch were asked to receive a metal plaque on behalf of their fathers!

Myself, Bros. Jorge Tamayo, Abay, Papang, Narsing and Ely were more than surprised to get Plaques of Recognition too!

I gave the acknowledgement speech on behalf of the recipients. I also read the four text messages from Bros. Mario and Arlette from Canada. They called me early in the morning to acknowledge. The Betans International really thought of everything! Thank you Bros. from the bottom of our hearts.

Then the Scholarship Project was launched. The Visayas Betans pledged to raise P50,000. The Luzon Betans with Sis Lourdes Go Redolloza promised to come up with the same amount. The US, Canada, Australia, Singapore and Middle East. Betans agreed to match the amount raised by Visayas Betans on a 1:10 basis. So the minimum set for International Bros. is P500,000 or rounded to \$10,000.

That same afternoon, CPU Betans raised P17,000 with pledges of P15,000 or a total of P32,000! We are still waiting for our Bros. from UI, WIT, and San Agustin to add to this amount to raise the P50K or more. We agreed to start the scholarship in the form of tuition assistance this second semester.

The party lasted until 11 or so P.M. with more food and drinks. The others went home around 5 A.M. the following day.

Last night, we met some of the CPU Betans at the Engineering alumni reunion at Amigo Hotel. This afternoon they are gathering again in Bro. Narcing's home.

by Bro. Mark Audie Ferrer

I arrived at Puerto Real around 11:00 am. There were Bros. already standing outside the clubhouse. When I entered the venue I was met by the CPU Resident, Bro. Zeb Villaruel who asked me to register my name on the attendance sheet for the reunion. The sheet was arranged by chapter, i.e., CPU, WIT, USA and UI. We need to write our name, address, contact numbers, the year and batch number.

I was amused because some of our Bros. forgot their batch numbers because it's been a quite a while since they joined the frat. Some of the residents brought souvenir programs from their installation and were looking up names. After registration we went for a photo session, courtesy of Bro. Tristan's camera.

After the photo session, I went inside and the first one I saw was Bro. Pio. He was very noticeable because of his "Karay-a". I introduced myself to him and we had a few laughs. I went around and saw Bro. Al. We talked and had one stick of cigarette while waiting for the formal opening of the reunion. I was able to see Bro. Panoy too.

Bro. Patrick did the opening remarks and posed as emcee with Bro. Venny. Lunch commenced at past twelve after a short prayer led by Bro. Pastor Jonan Castillon. We started the introduction of the resident members at around 1 PM. The residents were asked what are their proposals in their chapter, e.g. projects, plans for the Betans, problems and issues. The WIT and USA Chapters were not there at the time because of the class and exams. In lieu of the residents, the alumni were asked to represent the absent chapters, so I stood up for USA, and Bro. Humphrey, a faculty, for WIT.

After that were the speeches by Bro. Ely (Visayas Betans President), Bro. Tristan (PBEFI President) and a few more Bros. that I can't remember. Bro. Jairus Cancel (PBEFI Treasurer) read the history of the Global Betans, how it was formed and how it came to be. After the speeches was the awarding of Plaques of Recognition to deserving Betans. After that we took a break of "30 minutes and 3 hours", just as what Bro. Tristan said, where drinks were served during that period.

Maybe it was around 3 PM when the USA Chapter residents arrived so they ate first before introducing them to Bros. Tristan, Jairus, Ely and the rest of the Bros.. Bros. Ely, Jairus and Tristan summoned them outside for their project proposals and issues especially on their installation because of my mention that from batch 32 to present were not installed as yet. After that was CPU Chapter's turn. They joined together with the rest of the residents to hear the Global Betans Lecture at the pool side. The meeting lasted up to 2 hours.

Around 6 PM, the WIT Chapter residents arrived. It was almost dinner time and the whole cycle of proposals, projects and issues were repeated to them.

After dinner, I left to send my wife home. I have introduced her to our Bros. earlier. I came back to Puerto Real because I was finishing up the attendance sheet. Bro. Jed asked for a copy in case they can host a reunion in Mindanao someday. There was a power outage at Puerto Real so I did not finish copying the attendance list to Bro. Jairus' laptop. Anyway, Bro. Jairus left early so he asked me to keep the laptop to retrieve back at CPU the next morning.

The Bros. especially the alumni were enjoying themselves singing. Bro. Tristan still continued with his lecture. I stayed with the residents listening to Bro. Tristan. I probably went home around 10 PM. We're supposed to meet again at CPU the next day. I heard that some Bros. went home after 12 midnight. So Bros. and Sis, this is my experience of the Betans reunion that I will cherish forever.

by Bro. Patrick Henry Divinagracia

I arrived at Puerto Real past 11 AM. Upon registering, Bro. Jairus asked me to prepare the Presidential Table. I was very busy then I had no time to reply to some of our Bros. who texted me. I also met Bro. Al Aninao who was busy preparing the program. I helped him make some revisions.

The program started around 12 noon with the invocation by Bro. Jonan. I introduced to the group our emcee, Bro. Venny and after that we decided to have our lunch. After settling down, we called on each MEB to introduce their members and their present projects. Bro. Jairus read the PBEFI history. Bro. Tristan called on the various representatives from the States, Australia and Singapore. The Manila Betans was represented by Bro. Nonoy Gale. The rest were Visayas Betans.

Awards were given with brief speeches from the awardees. Bro. Tris delivered his message while Bro. Suresh did the closing remarks. After which open forum followed on how to raise funds for our scholarship. One idea was to sponsor a Betan in the field of athletics so that whatever monetary prize he wins will be contributed to the fund. It was Bro. Narsing who started the fund raising discussion. The decision was that the Visayas Betans will contribute PHP50K (CPU, USA, WIT and UI), Manila Betans also PHP50K and whatever contribution we get will be x10 by the PBEFI (USA, ME, Australia and Singapore).

I believe PBEFI was committed to raise USD10K. Bro Narsing was able to raise 17K and we added another 16K from the registration although not everyone contributed to the registration. CPU residents were able to solicit 3.9K as their fund. The registration worked so that out of 400 fee, 300 will go to Visayas Betans project and 100 to the residents' funds. Besides this, Bro. Venny and I funded the second batch of T-shirt printing. So whatever income we raised for this, we decided to give to CPU residents. I think we raised 5K from T-shirts alone because all of the 83 shirts were sold out.

Bro. Venny decided at the end to contribute his capital for the T-shirts to the Australian Betans share. Not to be outdone, Papang solicited from Batch 1983 and above Betans for the uniforms of his Basketball players. I believe he had solicited 10K. It looked like a cockfighting arena at the end with all the pledges given through hand signals.

The food was limitless including the beer. Some were wondering where the drinks came from. Bro. Oquendo, a Barangay Captain in Roxas, brought the crabs that we ate in the afternoon. The goat donation by Bro. Jesus Lim was finished during lunch. Bro. Melvin Junsay's chicken were delicious

too. The several lechons at 4K were huge but we finished them all.

I was able to remember the rest that I met like Bros. Geony Provido, Ramon Orleans, Allen Atienza, Arlo, Joefer Espino, Joey Sioco, Boy Tisoy, Art Suyoy and his family, Harlan Gorriceta, Betita, Elan, Osmar, Tom Banas, Lionel Obsiana, Jerry Juaneza, Regie Borcillo, Sis May Lagtapon came from Negros, Bros Larry, Itik Fabregas, Dan Pongan, Bobby Buendicho and Fabian Dionela. Bro. Mario San Luis was also there.

The rest of the afternoon was spent on food and drinks. There were two tables for mahjong and Tong-its. Bros. Ely, Tris, Pio, Jairus and I organized to meet with the residents and gave them insights about the Betans in college, the opportunity of being a Betan and with the creation of PBEFI, not only to excel in the university but also in the community. The second part of the discussion was after dinner but I did not participate because I wanted to join the other Bros. also. We left around 9:30 PM when there were singing. I remembered it was Bro. Papang singing with Bro. Pio when I left.

We arrived at the hotel around 10 PM and some decided to have a drink and dance at Diversion Road. Bro. Allen and Sis May arrived at the hotel around 12 midnight. Bro. Alton treated us at Chowking for light snacks. Bro. Pio came later and we chatted again. Bros. Canja, Estares, Nonoy Gale, Oquendo and Reyvil joined us later.

by Bro. Julito "Tristan" Gancho

You may not believe it, but I have to leave Iloilo and be here in Guam in order for me to send e-mails. I just can not do it there in Iloilo. There were lots of fun and although there are hundreds of cybercafes in the city, I never had a chance to go to one. Actually I kept avoiding those places, afraid that if I go away from the gatherings I might miss something. Although at the back of my mind I'm always hoping that the Tambays at the Tambayan will understand why no report from the gatherings were sent in yet.

For me, it seems like the only time we would take a break from meeting brothers from other places and different generations, is when we go to sleep. The next morning phones will be ringing again and text messages will be the first order of the day then time and rendezvous points will be established and a new cycle of meetings and parties will start again, each time new names and faces will be added to the previous days' acquaintances. The adrenalin never stopped pumping until past midnight when everyone can hardly open their eyes, begging for even just a couple of hours of sleep.

When I first went to CPU, I went straight to Bro. Jonan knowing that at that point he will be the best source of info of the whereabouts of the Betans. Sure enough, from there on we never got lost contact with other brothers. Before Bro. Jonan guided me to where the other brothers were, he introduced me to Dr. Acanto, the CPU President. Through Bro. Jonan, he already heard of the existence of the PBEF International, so he was also happy to meet it's president. The CPU President told me how thankful he is of the support that our fraternity was giving especially in the Engineering Department. He also told me that the Betans are always welcome at his office.

Later on I found out that, Bro. Patrick and Bro. Alton were also there earlier, but instead of introducing them to the CPU President, Bro. Jonan introduced them to the President's Secretary who is really

'hot' in terms of beauty, and there I realized how smart Bro. Jonan is. His tactfulness and timing is really impeccable! He really deserve that position at the CPU President's office.

The Centennial engineering lectures went great. Most of the lecturers for the engineering department were Betans! I was able to talk to Dean Molina and he was so impressed. Now he knew firsthand what the Betans can do. Bro. Jairus Cancel, although not a CPU alumnus, yet he impressed the Engineering Department with his lecture that they requested him to be one of the guest speakers for the Engineering Day!

From the first day I stepped foot in Iloilo until I left for Guam which was the day right after the Betan's Dinagyang, everyone seemed to be saying " I am proud to be a Betan", and you can really feel it. Hugs were not just hugs, but tight embraces from one another most of whom we just met personally for the very first time. For so many times, Bro. Abay Homena commented that " Abi ko dugay na kamo nagakilalahay kag pirme kamo naga kilitaay" specially when we met with those who are Tambays in our Tambayan! Bros. like Bro. Tazang, Bro. Fred Golveo, Bro. Maing Ausmulo, Bro. Pio, Bro. Mackoy, etc.

The sense of fellowship in our fraternity is really a great common denominator. Though a lot of banter were exchanged, respect and tolerance for one another is maintained no matter which generation you belong. One time we were at Bro. Milliard Villanueva's house, and one of the Golden Boys asked if Bro. Sergio Candelario will be able to make it for the Betan's Dinagyang. So at 12:30 in the morning Bro. Pio called him in Zamboanga, and the poor Brigadier General of the Army, has to wake up, pick up the phone and receive orders from his Betan brothers! Such was the camaraderie! Though physically he was not able to attend the Dinagyang, he was very much with us in spirit. Bro. Junior Parcon, a PAL International pilot, has to 'park' his Boeing 747 in Manila so that he can be with his brothers. for a while in Iloilo. Bro. Venny Camporedondo, can't resist the excitement so he decided to fly from Australia. Bro. Suresh Karnani, cancelled some of his previously planned itineraries so he can be with us. Bro. Aden Rey Villanueva made it look like Singapore is just the next municipality after Pavia as well as Brod Art Suyo who planed in from Vietnam! So are Bros. Edgar Datlangin, Bobby Buendicho, Eden Alpas and Itik Fabregas from Mindanao, and many more similar accounts from other brothers.

We were also very happy that the resident members from all chapters made it to the Dinagyang. Though they arrived in Puerto Real at different times (because of exams and school schedules) they really made an effort to be there including their Fraternity Sweethearts. We had a heart to heart talks with them and we are very happy that they were very receptive of our ideals, goals and mission. We had Bros. Abay, Ely, Narcing, Vhicoy, Jun Pedregosa, Aden Rey Villanueva, Patrick, Suresh Karnani, Milliard Villanueva, Jairus, Pio and many more plus myself as their motivational speakers. While the majority of the Betans were inside the clubhouse enjoying the party and the socialization, the time we spent outside with the resident members was also very enjoyable, memorable and meaningful. I think we really closed the gap between the resident members and the alumni members with that heart to heart talk. Thanks to the initiative of Bro. Pio, Bro. Jairus and Bro. Patrick.

Well, there are lots more to tell. But let us give some space to the other attendees so that they can share to everyone their experiences and insights of that very successful reunion.

Our special thanks to Bros. Panoy Penacerrada, Al Aninao, Pio Go, John 'Asyong' Jamelo, Sis Au, Bros. Narcing, Ely, Boy Bacong, Milliard, 'Kends' Okendo, Osmar, a true and dedicated friend of Betans 'Sis' Manuela, Bros. Jonan, Mackoy, Alton, Patrick, and surprise attendee Bro. Venny Camporedondo, all those who contributed in cash or in kind, Bros. Arlette, Meloy, Jesus Lim Jr.,

Elarpio Alipio Jr., Dodge Barrido, all the MEBs and resident members and their FSs and to all those who in one way or another made the affair very successful. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

## This Month's Birthdays

A Very Happy Birthday to the following Brothers:

Bro. Jesie Carlito Occena, September 1  
Bro. Dion Tabul, September 6  
Bro. Medardo Biaco, September 6  
Bro. Leo Gepilano, September 6  
Bro. Nelvie Funtillon, September 10  
Bro. Danilo Feniola, September 11  
Bro. Romelo Perez, September 13  
Bro. Ricaredo "Tiloy" Docil, Jr., September 17  
Bro. Eustaquiao Alipio, Jr., September 27  
Bro. Eduardo Corda, September 29

## Special Announcements

- The US East Coast Betans will meet and celebrate Bro. Danny Feniola and his wife Sis Daisy's birthdays on September 3 at their home in Sicklerville, New Jersey. All Betans are invited.
- The Toronto Betans will hold a Fellowship meeting and observation of the First North American Betans Convention First Anniversary on September 5, 2005, 5 PM at Vietnamese Pho Baka Restaurant in Hurontario and Dundas, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.
- The Betans 60th Anniversary and Grand Reunion will be on December 28, 2007 (Friday) to December 29, 2007 (Saturday). Bro. Mars de la Cruz is the appointed overall Chairman of the Special Event. It is expected that this Diamond Anniversary Celebration of the Phi Beta Epsilon Fraternity will be the grandest of all Betans gathering ever.
- The 2125Betans News is also available on the world wide web. The URL of this **newsletter** is:  
  
<http://www.betans.com/news/news.htm>
- Please visit The Betans Store for a variety of Betans merchandize for sale.  
  
<http://www.betans.com/store/store.html>

## Inside Engineering

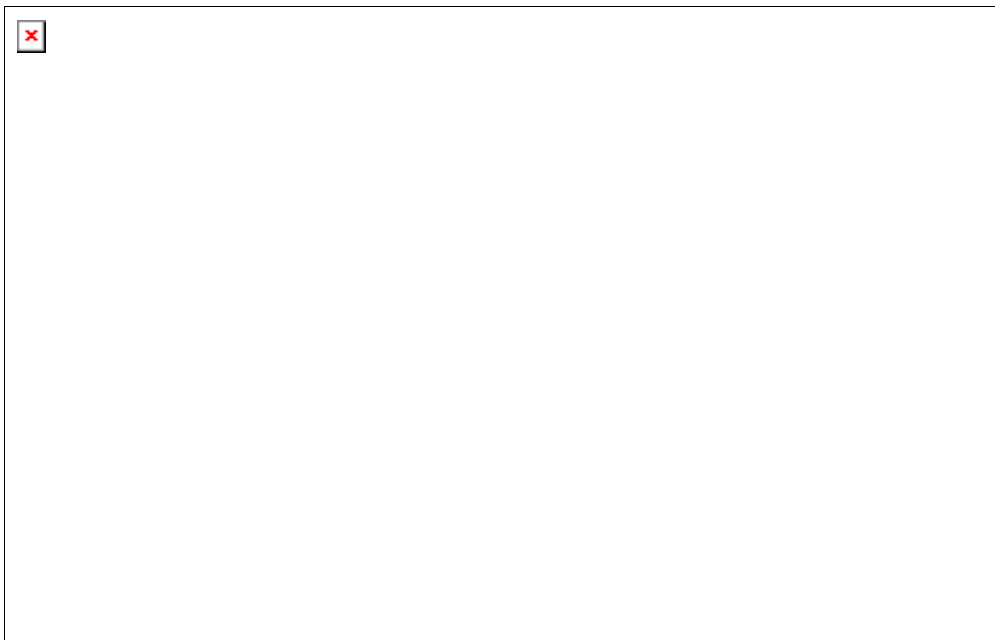
### Sydney Opera House - The Pride of Sydney and the Icon of Modern Australia By Bro. Julie Asma (WIT – Batch XVIII, 1981, BSCE 82)

Sydney Opera House is one of the great iconic buildings of the twentieth century, a masterpiece of modern architectural design, an image of great beauty which has become known throughout the world – a symbol not only for the city of Sydney but for the whole Australian nation and the continent. It is one of the most photographed, most recognizable images of the modern world – up there with the Eiffel Tower and the Empire State Building.

The Sydney Opera House is like no other structure on earth that its design is ironic because of its roof design evocative of a ship full sail which is arguably, beyond the capabilities of engineering at the time.

The Sydney Opera House is situated in Bennelong Point which reaches out into the Sydney harbour, and if viewed from a ferry or from the air, its proximity to the curves of Sydney Harbour Bridge plus the blue waters creates an unforgettable and dramatic panorama.

#### Design & Construction of Sydney Opera House – A Brief History



The story of the design and construction of this remarkable and improbable building is one of controversy and debate. Nothing like it has ever been built before, so new ways had to be found to make it happen.

It took more than two years for the first final design to implement after its conceptualized design had been chosen in 1957; the construction took more than 14 years to complete and original cost which was A\$7 million ballooned to A\$102 million after completion. The story of its construction is one of triumph and of tragedy. The creation of the huge over sailing roofs was a magnificent feat of

engineering and  
collaboration.

In the early 1950's Eugene Gossens, a resident conductor of Sydney Symphony Orchestra first suggested the idea for an opera house in Sydney. His lobbying paid off when, in 1952, the then Premier of New South Wales, John Cahill agreed. Ideas started to become reality when, in 1955 the location was chosen – a tram depot on the prime harbour position of Bennelong point, a headland at the entrance to the busy Circular Quay.

### Design Competition

In 1956, which was also the year Melbourne hosted the Olympics; the NSW government ran an international competition for the design of "National Opera House". The open scope of the brief and the outstanding location attracted 217 entries worldwide from 27 countries, including 61 from Australia, and 53 from UK. In the open competition the architects' submissions are anonymous. The jurors select the winning scheme on the basis of a prescribed set of drawings with little idea of the entrant's experience or abilities. Their decision is based on the architectural quality and the excitement of the submitted drawings, and the scheme that will be important architecturally. While the competition system does have the advantage of discovering new talents it runs the risk of selecting a scheme where the architect who can design but can not build and a building that does not or will not work.

In January 29, 1957, the winner of the competition which was to receive five thousand pounds was Joern Utzon; an architect from Denmark was announced. Much of the interests in Utzon's building were focused on the dramatic form of the roofs, and other striking and radical features of his design. Utzon himself wanted the building to be an individual face for Australia in the world of art. His modern vision was untried, but he was committed to using innovative industrial methods of construction including prefabrication, to make his dream a reality.

When Utzon won the competition, Ove Arup and Partners were engaged as structural and civil engineers directly by NSW government rather than by architect who was more normal in Australia by that time. Arup's group were also given the responsibility for all other engineering disciplines such as electrical, heating and ventilating, acoustic, and theatrical. This contractual structure conflicted with Utzon's own view of architect's pre-eminent role, and led to misunderstandings between Utzon and Arup in the later stage of the project which also eventually led to the former's resignation in 1966.

### The Construction

The construction started in Feb 1959, and the engineering company Ove Arup and Partners accepted the challenge to construct the building, describing the project as adventure into the unknown. The project was divided into three stages: Stage 1 – platform; Stage 2 – roof shells, tiling; & Stage 3 – walls and interiors.

Throughout the stages of construction, delays and mounting costs dogged the development of the project. The NSW government created a solution to fund the venture by establishing Opera House Lottery collecting some A\$101 million from 496 lotteries. One of the main causes of the problems was the technical challenge of how to construct the sculptural sail-like roof shells – a problem which took Utzon and Arup more than four years to solve. The ribs of the shells were built using pre-cast concrete segments fixed together with epoxy resin and held by steel tendons.

When they found the solution, they then had to revisit some of their earlier completed works and rebuild and strengthen the foundations so that they could support the revised structures. Issues such like this one fuelled controversy and took their toll on the troubled relationship between NSW government and architect. In 1966, these relationships shattered beyond repair and Joern Utzon resigned. Architects Todd, Hall and Littlemore completed the job over the next seven years. In 1973 Sydney Opera House was finally completed and Queen Elizabeth II opened it to the public in 20 October of the same year.

### The Building Is a Performance in Itself

Sydney Opera House was built as a performance venue and includes a concert hall, opera and drama theaters, a play house and studio. The concert hall's 2679 seat is home to Sydney Symphony Orchestra. It is lined with Birchwood, the ceiling towers 25m above the stage, making for an enjoyable visual, as well acoustical and spectacle. The drama theater seats 544 people in a revolutionary design which seeks to keep a constant temperature in the theatre without the incumbent noise of air conditioning marring the enjoyment of performance. The playhouse venue is more intimate still has 398 seats in front of stage. The studio is designed to cater performances and concerts for bands.

### Sydney Opera House Facts and Figures

- Was designed by Danish architect Joern Utzon
- In April, 2003 Utzon at the age of 85 was awarded the Pritzker architecture's Nobel
- In October 1995, Premier Carr of NSW offered Utzon to serve as the principal consultant to the Sydney Opera House Trust
- .. Was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 20 October 1973
- .. Initial Estimated Cost: A\$7million
- .. Final Cost of Building A\$102 million
- .. Six years behind schedule of completion
- .. Conducts 3000 events each year
- .. Provides guided tours to 200,000 people each year
- .. Has an annual audience of 2 million people each year for its performances
- .. Includes 1000 rooms
- .. Building Dimension: 185m long and 120m wide
- .. Has 2194 pre-cast concrete sections as its roof
- .. Has over 1 million tiles on roof and has roof sections weighing up to 15 tons
- .. Uses 6225 square meters of glass and 645 kilometers of electric cable

Sydney Opera House and  
Sydney Harbour Bridge

*(Photo by Bro. Julie Asma)*



## Spiritual Section

### Humility

By Alton John Sandico (son of Bro. Alton Sandico)

Humility is defined as humbleness of mind, meekness, lack of pride. The word humility or humble appears in the Bible 32 times. This shows how important to God the virtue of humility or humbleness. This attribute is lacking in today's society. How can then a person be humble?

1. Humble before God.

To be humble before God is to compare the nature of our humanity to that of God. It is through this comparison to do truly understand what humility really is. Like Job our eye must 'see' God in all His glory and perfection to know that we are nothing more than sinners. It is then do we realize that we are in need of forgiveness. Hence, to be humble before God is to repent of those sins and to ask God for his forgiveness. For many people to be humble before God is to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

2. Humble before men.

Humility before men is not the acts of service towards one another. Humility is a mindset, a character trait of a person. Humility before men is to esteem each other better than himself and,

as James writes to the believers, to be in subjection (be in submission) one to another. To be humble before men is to follow the example that Christ has set. "Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

**The Ten Commandments of Character**  
Contributed by Sis Gemma Sandico from a list by Pastor Jeff Owens

1. Thou shalt be on time for everything, every time.
2. Thou shalt do what is right, not what is easy or convenient.
3. Thou shalt work as hard for others as thou wouldst have them work for thee.
4. Thou shalt earn the right to own thy property.
5. Thou shalt respond to the alarm at the first time it rings, and thou shalt arise early in the morning.
6. Thou shalt finish everything thou hast started.
7. Thou shalt record each failure as another way not to succeed. Then thou shalt try another way and thou shalt never quit until thou hast succeeded.
8. Thou shalt take not shortcut that will diminish the quality of thy finished product.
9. Thou shalt live within the confines of thy means and not within the confines of thy credit card limits.
10. Thou shalt control thyself so that others are not forced to control thee.

### **Quotes to Live By**

Success is on the same road as failure; success is just a little farther down the road. -- Dr. Jack Hyles

### **Obituaries**

The Global Betans wish to extend the deepest sympathies to the families of:

- Bro. Julito "Tristan" Gancho for the passing away of his Aunt on July 21, 2005.
- Bros. Manny and Mario San Luis for the passing away of their niece Rodelyn, 40, on July 27, 2005.
- Bro. Hilario "Larry" Linas for the passing away of his father just before the Betans Dinagyang.

The Global Betans also sympathizes with the people who lost their lives, homes, properties and loved ones to the natural calamity, Hurricane Katrina, that swept the cities of New Orleans, Biloxi, Gulfport, Mobile, Bay St. Louis and other areas affected by the hurricane on August 29, 2005.

## Trivia Time

Did you know that...

The 16th Prime Minister of Australia (1945-1949), Joseph Benedict "Ben" Chifley was a former railway shopboy and train driver.

## Joke Time

### About Marriage

After a quarrel, a wife said to her husband, "You know, I was a fool when I married you." And the husband replied, "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice it."

### The Lone Ranger and Tonto go Camping Contributed by Bro. Mars de la Cruz

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent set up, they fell asleep. Some hours later, The Lone Ranger wakes up his faithful friend and say, "Tonto, look up at the sky and and tell me what you see." Tonto replies, "Me see million of stars." What does it tells you? asked The Lone Ranger. Tonto ponders for a minute, then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it is evident the Lord is all powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What it tells you Kemo Sabi? asked Tonto. The Lone Ranger is silent for a moment, then say, "Tonto", someone has stolen our tent.

**The 2125Betans News is published by PBEFI Information Committee. Members/Editors are Lochinvar 'Ching' Bucane, Edgar 'Bong' Orleans, Patrick Henry Divinagracia, Ric 'T-loy Docil and Pascual 'Pax' Delgado. Guest Editor for this month is Bro. Alton Sandico of Australia Betans.**

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