



The History of PNUGAA

PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY
GLOBAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Early Beginnings (2008)

On July 2, 2008, a group of 50 foreign-based alumni from PNS-PNC-PNU assembled at the Alumni Hall, marking the inception of the Philippine Normal University Global Alumni Association (PNUGAA). Professor Abundio Alolod, Dr. Dante Juanta, and Dr. Ciriaco Tismo convened the meeting. Dr. Rodolfo Bernardo from the USA moderated the meeting while Dr. Dante Juanta from Australia and Dr. Rosita Galang from the USA led the discussion of the Constitution and By-Laws which was approved in principle. The meeting was gladly hosted by Atty. Lutgardo Barbo, Philippine Normal University President.

Founding Leadership (2008-2010)

Dr. Rudy Bernardo was elected as the first President of PNUGAA, serving office from 2008-2010. Under the Modernization Program, the Torch Monument, which was the pet project of PNU President Lutgardo Barbo, was launched and within eight months it became a completed Torch Monument. Math and Science Scholarship Program was established to benefit the less fortunate but meritorious college students at PNU.



Leadership 2011-2013 And 2014-2015

2011-2013 - Alfredo "Freddie" Tivida Tesalona, (RIP)
Class 1964 assumed the Presidency from 2011-2013 after he lost the re-election as Vice-Mayor of Lubang Look in the province of Occidental Mindoro.

2014-2015 - Rudy Bernardo's second term as President and that's when he introduced and launched "BALIK TURO."

Balik Turo is a program wherein Alumni from abroad who have achieved prominence in their respective field of work will conduct seminars in the Philippines duly approved by PNU Officials.



First International Reunion (2016)

Dr. Rosita Gallega Galang, (RIP) Class 1965, took over as President in 2016. The first PNUGAA International Reunion was held on October 17-18, 2016, at The Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The event was a resounding success, with Class 1966 bringing in 36 alumni and guests, thus, winning the title "Best in Participation". The then PNU President Dr. Esther Ogena graced the event as Guest of Honor and Speaker.



Second International Reunion (2019)

Dr. Rudy Bernardo, Class 1962, returned as President for the second reunion, held on October 13-14, 2019. PNU OIC Dr. Antoinette Montealegre was invited to be the Guest Speaker and Inducting Officer. The event saw generous donations for the MSSP Program, including a \$10,000 contribution from philanthropist Ms. Linda Stone of Class 1966, at The Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Highlights included, 1) posthumous awards for Dr. Rosita Galang and Alfredo "Freddie" Tivida Tesalona, 2) Class 1966 winning two awards, and 3) the opening of a new bank account through the assistance of our treasurer, Atty. Johmy Fajilan. Four scholars were fully supported by our funds deposited with PNU Accounting Office.

Third Grand International Reunion (2022)

Cely de Sagun Anuran, Class 1966, after an election chaired by Dr. Rudy Bernardo and held in November of 2021, took the helm as **President and Reunion Chairperson** for the third international alumni gathering, held on September 18-19, 2022, at The Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Highlights included posthumous awards for Freddie and Rosita; Class 1966 winning two awards; and the opening of a new bank account. Our **PNU President Dr. Bert Jazmin Tuga** was invited to the event as Guest of Honor and Inducting Officer. What an honor to have had him joining the fun with the young and the not so young. What a trooper!



Officers and Board of Directors 2022-2024 inducted to office were:

President – Cely de Sagun Anuran, Class 1966, California; **Vice-Pres. for USA/Canada/Europe** – Eugene Espinosa, Class 1967, California; **Vice-Pres. for Australia/Asia** – Manuel Asuncion, Class 1965, Australia; **Secretary** – Maria Majan Basa, Class 2006, WA; **Treasurer** – Johmy Fajilan, Class 1970, California; **Press Relations Officer** - Aurora Marcellana Pagulayan, Class 1965, Nevada

Board of Directors inducted were: Rudy Bernardo, Class 1962, Special envoy to PNU Phils, Ohio; Freddie Tesalona, , Class 1964, New York; Dante Juanta, Class 1960, Australia; Elizabeth Zaide, Class 1979, California; Romulo Oconer, Class 1965, Hawaii; Evelyn de Asis Natividad, Class 1969, Illinois; Sofronio Navarrete, Class 1963, St. Croix, US Virgin Island.

At the reunion our PNU President and three outstanding PNUGAA alumni were given awards of recognition during the program: PNU President Dr. Bert Jazmin Tuga for his dynamic leadership as President; PNUGAA President Cely de Sagun Anuran for her Outstanding Leadership – Par Excellence; Erlinda Reyes Stone for her generosity and philanthropic ways to support the Math and Science Scholarship Program; and Rudy Bernardo for his support and dedication to the goals of PNUGAA.

All other Officers and Board of Directors present at the event were given trophies of distinction for all their support in putting together the year's reunion, namely; Eugene Espinosa, Johmy Fajilan, Tito Tejada, Evelyn de Asis Natividad, Beth Zaide, Aurora Marcelana Pagulayan, Michael StaJuana, Sofronio Navarrete (RIP), and Cleofe Calara Anciano. Evelyn de Asis Natividad and Eugene Espinosa emceed the program.



Recent Developments (2023)

In 2023, President Cely de Sagun Anuran represented PNUGAA at the Philippine Normal University Grand Alumni Homecoming in Manila, Philippines, and assisted in the unveiling of the new PNU Alumni Park. On a different day, on May 2, Madame Pres Cely received the Gawad Sulo for Eminent Alumni award, the highest award bestowed upon an alumnus with great achievements. Erlinda Stone, an awardee also was not able to attend the event.

Speaking of Scholarship, just recently, our MSSP senior college scholar graduated, and Rudy and I chose a new scholar for the freshman year from an assemblage of candidates through rigid scrutiny of their auto bios.

Gawad Sulo for Eminent Alumni Awarding Rites and National Awardee

The Gawad Sulo for Eminent Alumni award is a prestigious recognition given by the Philippine Normal University to outstanding alumni who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. The awarding took place on May 2, 2023, at the Geronima Pecson Auditorium, PNU in very formal ceremonies.

PNUGAA President Cely de Sagun Anuran and Erlinda Stone, both from Class 1966, were among the recipients of the Gawad Sulo award. The ceremony was a solemn and mesmerizing occasion, attended by esteemed guests, university officials, and fellow alumni. The award recognizes the recipients' exceptional achievements, leadership, and dedication

to their professions and communities. The Gawad Sulo award serves as a testament to the impact and influence of PNU alumni in shaping society and inspiring future generations.

The 2024 awardees nominated by President Cely de Sagun Anuran and Dr. Rudy Bernardo are: Evelyn de Asis Natividad of Illinois, Class 1969; Zenaida Macatangay Lyles of Oregon, Class 1966; Tito Tejada of Connecticut, Class 1970; and Gloria Cagadas Grifenhagen of North Carolina, Class 1966. Only Zenaida and Tito were able to attend. Going forward, PNUGAA will continue to scout and nominate deserving alumni.

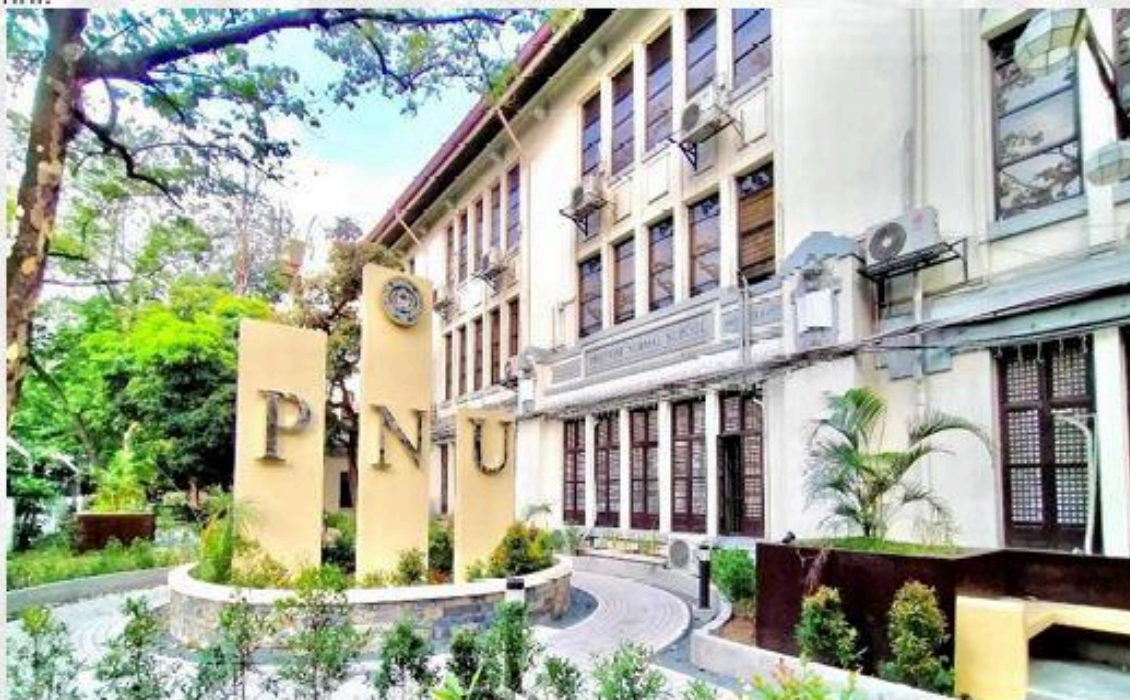
In the same year 2023, during the Grand Alumni Homecoming in the Philippines, **Johmy Fajilan** of Class 1970, PNUGAA Treasurer became **PNU National Awardee 2023**.

He was recommended by PNUGAA Auditor, Tito Tejada.



PNU Alumni Park

Prior to the Grand Alumni Homecoming in April 2023, PNUGAA President Cely de Sagun Anuran presented the concept and benefits of the Alumni Park to the global alumni.



The park aims to provide a serene space for students, faculty, and alumni to relax, reflect, and reconnect with their alma mater.

The PNU Alumni Park is a newly established park located within the Philippine Normal University campus. The park serves as a tribute to the university's rich history and a symbol of the enduring connection between PNU and its alumni. The park features granite plaques with the names of alumni who have contributed to its development. PNUGAA contributed much to the success of the subscription of granite plaques through advertisement and non-stop social media postings. PNUGAA took a major role in inspiring alumni to take part in the purchase of a granite plaque.



Setting the tone for excellent philanthropic values

In April 2024, Erlinda Reyes Stone, our forever philanthropist, and a member of Class 1966, returned to the Philippines with a noble mission. She established an initial one-million-peso Scholarship Endowment Plan to support deserving college students at the Philippine Normal University, empowering them to become the best teachers of the future.

On the same day as the Alumni Grand Homecoming, she signed the papers at the University President's office, formalizing her generous gift.

During the event, she was introduced to the audience as an inspiration, showcasing the impact of her wonderful contribution to her alma mater - a scholarship that will leave a legacy.

Outdoor Learning Space

Following the grand homecoming at PNU grounds in Manila, the combined resources and efforts of PNUGAA Class 1966 and Class 1966 in the Philippines led to another remarkable project. They donated six Outdoor Learning Spaces, aka 'Gazebos,' valued at sixty thousand pesos each.

The funds used were surplus of the Class 1966 Golden Jubilee collection in 2016. However, their generosity didn't stop there. Erlinda Reyes Stone further donated (4) four more Gazebos, completing a total of ten. This incredible display of giving is a testament to the sense of camaraderie and commitment to philanthropy that Class 1966 has developed over the past decade.

In addition to these ten donations, another alumna, Mirasol Ramos Dizon, Class 1995, generously donated a Gazebo in the name of her mother, Marciana Gumafelix Ramos, Class 1966. This brings the total number of donations of Class 1966 to (11) eleven.

The selflessness and kindness of this group are truly inspiring!



Epilogue:

The history, support, and dedication of PNUGAA to our Alma Mater will continue to grow and flourish for as long as there are good and dedicated leaders who will continuously adhere to the goals of the organization.

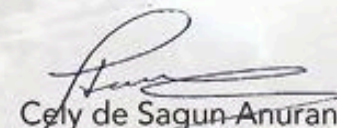
"A Message of Gratitude" - I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Rudy Bernardo for shedding light on PNUGAA's early years. His guidance sparked my creativity, helping me recount pivotal moments in our history. I also thank the Officers and Board Members for their inspiration, constructive challenges, and unwavering support. Your collaboration enabled me to reach the finish line.

Special appreciation goes to: Dr. Bert Jazmin Tuga, Dr. Maria Glenda O. de Lara, Dr. Lordinio Vergara, and Dr. Garry Galutera for joining us in celebration. We are honored with your presence.

To all PNU alumni worldwide, thank you for representing our university with excellence. Your dedication and excellence embody the spirit of "The National Center for Teacher Education." Heartfelt Thanks.

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."
- John C. Maxwell

Penned by:


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2023 Eminent Alumni Awardee

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October 6, 2024

