

# Making a Difference for MHPNHS

By Raffy Dela Rosa

President, M. H. del Pilar High School Alumni Association, Inc. (MAA)

The Board of Trustees of the MHPNHS Alumni Association, Inc. or MAA was elected in August 2015 during the general alumni homecoming attended by various batches and classes. I was subsequently elected as president of the Board.

I am happy to share with you the developments and programs that we have initiated and other plans that we are going to pursue.

The Board had articulated the vision and mission of MHPNHS Alumni Association:

**Vision:** *MHPNHS, restored in its good-old days glory, is a leading national high school in the country; extending to college starting 2018; then to university in 2030.*

**Mission:** *To make a positive difference for MHPNHS enabling the school to make difference in the lives of all the youth that it can possibly touch.*

The Board had agreed on an initial organization set up to engage the almost 60,000 living members as passionate stakeholders and to activate the core leadership of each batch to represent the batch to the MAA general assembly.

There are 65 batches in all if the reckoning will start from 1950. We are proud that there are still active and excited alumni from earlier batches. They will be our inspiration and council of senior leaders and mentors.

Every batch will be represented by a minimum of three officers—the batch president, the secretary, and the treasurer. The batch representatives will be the attending the general assembly meeting of the alumni association.

Every batch is encouraged to hold their quarterly officers meeting and annual batch assembly meeting.

The general assembly of the alumni batches representatives will be held on October and the alumni annual homecoming in December—these are all subject to the approval of the general assembly.

The Board had requested the MHPNHS principal for an access to the PTA-Alumni building for office and other administrative needs of the MAA, but the request, including the subsequent appeals, were denied by the Principal; even as the DepEd Superintendent had formally given his consent to our request, and the DepEd Region Director had decided not to intervene in his decision. However, we will continue to pursue our request.

The Board had approved the distribution of the brochure articulating the vision and mission of MAA, the funding and strategic plans of the association, and the financial housekeeping for good governance of the association.



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Opisyal na Publikasyon ng MHPNHS Alumni Association, Inc.

## MAA Leaders Assembly Set for August 27

A gathering of all batch or class leaders will be held on Saturday, **August 27, 2016** from 3 to 5 pm at the MHPNHS Campus in Sta. Isabel, City of Malolos.

This gathering will take the place of the scheduled August alumni homecoming. The 2016 Araw ng Alumni or general homecoming will instead be held in late November or early December to coincide with the inauguration and blessing of the new Bahay Alumni inside the school campus.

Raffy dela Rosa, MHPNHS Alumni Association (MAA) president, made this announcement as he urged all batches to choose a maximum of three (3) officers or leaders to represent the class in the said assembly.

During the gathering, the MAA president will present a report on the status of the programs and projects of the association, with special focus on the dream project, the Bahay Alumni.

The body will also finalize the official program and activities of the 2016 Araw ng Alumni where the following jubilarians will be honored: Class 1956 (Diamond); Class 1966 (Gold); Class 1976 (Ruby); Class 1991 (Silver).

Representatives of these milestone jubilarians for 2016 are strongly advised to send their representatives.

The body will also be informed that the MAA will start accepting nominations for the 2016 Gawad Anak ng Paaralan this August for the final selection and conferment during the Araw ng Alumni 2016.

Gawad nomination is open to all alumni and alumni groups who have shown meritorious service not only to the alumni association but to the school or alma mater as well. Those already nominated last year will automatically be included in the present year.

Last year's six Gawad Anak ng Paaralan awardees (2 groups and 4 individuals) were: Gintong Samahan ng MHPHS, MHPHS Class 1970, Iluminada de Jesus Catap ng C1968, Balbino "Ben" S. Vistan ng C1967, Felipe F. "FF" Cruz ng C1937, at Ernesto S. Ramos ng C1953.

The full agenda and other pertinent materials to be discussed in the assembly will be distributed to the attending batch leaders starting the first week of August.

All batches/classes are requested to send the names and addresses of their attending representatives to any member of the Board of Trustees.

Each class may send their incumbent officers (if there are) or their selected representatives (if no formal officers).

Officers and representatives of the different stakeholders of our Alma Mater have been invited to attend as the MAA strengthens dialogue, coordination, and communication among them: the Gintong Samahan of retired teachers of MHPHS/MHPNHS; the Faculty and Employees Association (FEA) of MHPNHS; officers of the school's student government; and the school principal and other administration officials.

Snacks will be served during the meeting.

### AGENDA

ALUMNI LEADERS ASSEMBLY  
MHPNHS Alumni Association, Inc.

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Discussion and Approval of the Treasurer's Report
4. President's Report
5. Discussion and Approval of the President's Report
6. Amendments:
  - a. Articles of Incorporation
  - b. By-Laws
7. Other Matters
  - a. Araw ng Alumni 2016 and Jubilarians
  - b. Gawad Anak ng Paaralan nomination
  - c. Alumni Database
  - d. Others

## Buhay Alumni

We del Pilarians are only too happy to give back to our Alma Mater. We all do, whatever we do, wherever we are.

But how do we pitch in? Let me cite some ways.

The MHPNHS Alumni Association, our mother ship, is doing its share. Our president Raffy Dela Rosa is leading a determined effort to get back our access to the Bahay Alumni, our “home” on campus and our “umbilical cord” to Alma Mater. Our intrepid historian Perfecto “Boy” Martin is launching the **Sinupan**, our online archive (Save the Republic Program) which has been work in progress for years. These are just some of our sustained efforts to keep our alumni’s affinity with Marcelo H. del Pilar National High School. Join us in words and in deeds.

We are also reaching out to younger alumni to share their impressions and experience. They bring fresh ideas and energy into our association.

We wish to harness our alumni’s talents overseas. That’s why we convened a meeting of alumni in Los Angeles last May when MAA board member Perfecto Martin visited LA. We call on alumni overseas to actively link up with fellow del Pilarians in their communities and with our mother association here so we can best pool our resources.



LET’S SAVE THIS! The “remains” of the facade of MHPNHS in the capitol grounds.

Some alumni may complain of “donor fatigue”, but I hope you avoid it by taking a broader view of “donation”. In fact there are various ways to contribute and give back. Cash is good for specific projects and initiatives. In crowd-sourcing, however, giving one peso is just as valuable, and appreciated, as giving 100,000 pesos. It’s the spirit that counts.

Alumni can also help by pitching in kind. You may, for instance, offer time and expertise. Good at digital design? Help improve our website. Good at organizing events? Volunteer to help put together a reunion. Likewise, you may simply share archival materials. You’ve kept some good pictures or mementos? Share them with us for archiving and dissemination. You have poignant or funny memories of times in school? Write them down and share with us.

I too hope to give back by initiating worthy projects. I recently drove by the neighborhood of our old campus, near the Hiyas and Lex buildings. Shockingly I found the old facade in decrepit state and in grave danger of getting “disappeared”. Alas, it’s one of the very few legacies left of our old campus, a poignant reminder of our school’s storied past. “It’s not just a chunk of an edifice,” Nestor Tinio, a fellow Bulakeño and steadfast heritage advocate, tells me when I brought up the idea of restoring and moving it to the current campus for posterity. He agrees to help. “It’s about all the people who walked daily under that gate,” he intones. “It evokes nostalgia, identity and association.”

Together, let’s save it!

Jaime A. FlorCruz (Class 1967)

## HUNTAHAN SA AMERIKA: Nostalgia and Involvement

What was planned as a brief orientation on the current activities and projects of the Marcelo H. del Pilar National High School Alumni Association (MAA) turned out to be a long afternoon of nostalgia and involvement.

Twenty alumni, representing eleven batches, attended *Huntahan sa Amerika* held at the Center of Hope on May 14, 2016 at downtown Los Angeles, California.

The event was graciously hosted by Pastor Benny Arañas and wife Aida Buluran Arañas, both alumni of MHPNHS, in the compound of Lord of Harvest at

2707 West Temple Street.

In attendance were alumni from the following classes: 1950, 1955, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1978, 1973, and 1978.

**1950:** Alejandro Solcruz; **1955:** Ofelia J. Buluran; **1963:** Eddie G. Agustin; **1965:** Benny Arañas; **1966:** Aida Buluran Arañas, Gerry Torres, Joey Villafuerte; **1967:** Josefina S. Narciso Sioson, Marina Ramos Kesecker, Paz de la Cruz Mabini, Lolit Teodoro Tongco, Danny Tongco; Aida Pimentel Pangandian; **1968:** Gleyce Roque Bagasin, Perfecto T. Martin; **1969:** Leni FlorCruz Florentino, Daisy San Juan

Blake; **1973:** Ric Lopez, Jerry C. Celis; **1978:** Virginia de la Rama de la Cruz.

The MAA brochure and the reprinted issue of *Alumni Republic-Malaya* newsletter (issued during the Araw ng Alumni in August 2015) were distributed at the start of Huntahan, and the video message of MAA president Raffy dela Rosa (C1966) was shown before the question-and-answer portion of the meeting.

In his video message, the MAA alumni president explained in detail the plans to have a place for the alumni inside the campus and the “dream to expand the school as a college and eventually, as a university in the future.”

President de la Rosa also explained the new financial housekeeping system being put in place by the MAA in order to make its operations more transparent and efficient.

Visiting member of the MAA board of trustees, Perfecto Martin, who acted as Huntahan moderator, discussed in detail the plan to construct a Bahay Alumni at the Sta. Isabel campus if and when the original plan to renovate the 1985 building—the PTA-Alumni Hall constructed through the joint efforts of the PTA and alumni led by Engr. F.F. Cruz and Justice Jose C. de la Rama—will be turned down by the school administration.

Pictures of the event, taken by Ric Lopez (C1973) who came all the way from New York, and Lolit Teodoro (C1967) are posted in the Facebook page of MAA. (P.T. Martin, C1968)



The MAA board expressed its gratitude to the Arañas couple for providing the venue of the first activity of its kind to be undertaken by the school’s alumni body. The couple, together with Ofelia Buluran, also prepared sumptuous merienda for the alumni who expressed to their readiness to support the MAA projects and get their batchmates more involved.

# Save Our School Heritage, Support Our Bahay Alumni!

This is the PTA-Alumni Hall constructed during the time of Judge Jose C. dela Rama (Class 1946) together with other alumni and members of the PTA, including Engr. Felipe F. Cruz (Class 1937) from 1983 to 1988.

We want to renovate it and realize our dream to have the BAHAY ALUMNI on the very same site. It will be an alumni house for the use of all the stakeholders of MHPNHS: the alumni, students, parents, faculty and administrators of our alma mater.

We are inviting all batches to join us in making this dream a reality as we hold our 2016 Araw ng Alumni in November or December.

Support to the BAHAY ALUMNI, in addition to financial contribution, can be in the form of equipment and materials.

Alumni groups (classes or batches) and individual alumni can send their support to the project through any of the officers of the MAA Board of Trustees: Raffy dela Rosa (Class 1966, of Parulan, Plaridel, Bulacan); Zenaida J. Ching (Class 1956, of Malolos, Bulacan); Tess C. Bularan-Granados of Class 1969, of Cabiawan, Malolos, Bulacan), Danny Santos (Class 1965, of Bagna, Malolos, Bulacan), Jaime A. FlorCruz (Class 1967, of Liang, Malolos, Bulacan / Maka-



ti City / Beijing, PRC), and Perfecto T. Martin (Class 1968, of Bambang, Bulacan, Bulacan / Paranaque City).

A financial housekeeping system has been put in place by the Board to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of project funds.

We urge all alumni of Bulacan High School / Marcelo H. del Pilar High School / Marcelo H. del Pilar National High School to unite and coordinate with us in this historic and major

undertaking to create an umbilical cord to our Alma Mater in the Sta. Isabel Campus.

#BahayAlumniMarcelo!

#SupportBahayAlumni!

Official depository bank of the MAA is PNB Malolos Branch (Account No. 3251-02161-3).

For those living abroad, please check PNB's overseas directory for remittance: ([http://www.pnb.com.ph/.../sto.../docs/PNB\\_Overseas\\_Directory.pdf](http://www.pnb.com.ph/.../sto.../docs/PNB_Overseas_Directory.pdf))



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# PTA-ALUMNI MULTI-PURPOSE HALL:

**I**t cost the completion of the PTA-Alumni Multi-Purpose Hall no more than a million, but it cost no less than the love, the sweat and the sacrifice of the parents, teachers, students and other people behind the project.

Conceived by MHPHS PTA in 1980 with Judge Jose C. dela Rama at the helm, the initial plan was to put up the hall in the quadrangle of the old MHPHS site. However, with the certainty to transfer the school to Sta. Isabel, the Board surfaced a better plan for the hall's construction.

In June of 1981, the school began collecting P20.00 from each family of the enrolled students. This was not met without protest; a handful of students demanded the return of the contribution. Judge dela Rama conceded to give back the amount if parents would request so in writing. Not a single one did.

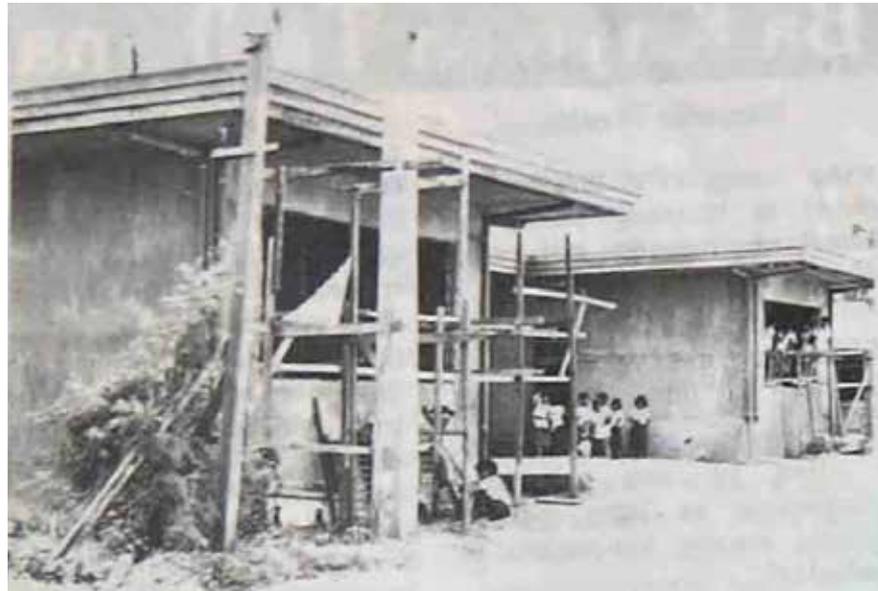
Hence, for the three years that followed, the school went on with the P20.00 collection. Yet faced with financial constraint, the project was not immediately started. The seemingly insurmountable problem but served to bind the parents, teachers and students in a gargantuan task that was bound to become a labor of love. The Filipino spirit of cooperation gave way. And the efforts of their hearts gave love another shape.

Much to the PTA's desire not to seek or rely on government assistance, proving all and sundry that they could push with the project all on their own hard but determined push, it took another three years of fund raising campaigns and solicitations from private individuals.

The years after 1985 saw the enthusiast support either in voluntary contribution or patronage of raffle tickets by parents, teachers and the community as well. A number of alumni paid back their Alma Mater with donations flowing in.

Not only did Engineer Felipe F. Cruz revised the original plan to allow future vertical expansion of the hall, but he also donated P50,000.00. Then Public Works Minister Blas F. Ople handed P30,000.00. Class '42 spent P21,000 for the improvement of the hall's right wing. Parents with the little they have, gave not only little.

From the heart's desire to better serve the welfare of the students, providing them enough space to take shelter in or additional room to hold their programs or even classes at, the PTA Hall would house the meeting of minds, and the partnership of efforts of parents and teachers to fill the needs of the student populace.



*Mayayari na ang PTA-Alumni Multi-Purpose Hall na sa ngayon ay ginagamit ding silid-aralan ng YDT at Practical Arts at madalas ay silungan din.*



*More than the realization of an eight-year old-dream, the PTA-Alumni Hall rises as the completion of a labor of love. . . a symbol of love.*

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# *A Symbol of Love*



*Engr. F.F. Cruz and Judge J. dela Rama perform the cornerstone laying ceremony, October 9, 1985.*



*PTA president, Judge Jose dela Rama and Mrs. Dick Nicolas, wife of Bulacan vice governor cut the inaugural ribbon at the left entrance of the hall. Meanwhile, Gov. and Mrs. Roberto Pagdanganan do the honors of cutting the ribbon at the hall's right entrance.*



## **PTA Board**

*Seated: Mrs. Filomena Pedroche (auditor), Mrs. Amparo del Rosario (adviser), Judge Jose dela Rama (president), Mr. Abelardo Galang (vice president), Atty. Elenita Quintana (secretary), Mrs. Adelaida Berroya (treasurer), Miss Epifania Fajardo (director).  
Standing: Mr. Atanacio Estrella (director), Col. Reynaldo Berroya, Mr. Dominador Adriano (director).*

On March 18, 1988, the labor of love was consummated, its fruit was inaugurated and was offered as a symbol of love. Love that was meant to have been begun, continued and fulfilled in the Divine Love. So that within the same halls may be imbued in both young and old that knowledge, wisdom and attitude are pleasing to God!

From *The Republic* Commencement issue (1988)

# PAMANANG HINDI MALILIMUTAN

*“Buong pusong pagmamahal na iniaalay ang gusaling ito sa mga kabataan ng lalawigan ng Bulacan sa pag-asang sila ang mangunguna sa patnubay ng Dakilang Lumikha sa pagtuklas ng isang bago, malaya, at maunlad na bansa, sa pamamagitan ng kanilang mga bisig, talino at pag-ibig sa lahat ng bagay na mabuti para sa Pilipinas. Ikaw na bumabasa nito ay dumalangin at tumulong sa ikatutupad ng pangarap na ito.”*



This is the dedication written on the marker on the wall in the middle of two front doors of the PTA-Alumni Hall. Here are the names of the PTA leadership at that time, a combination of school alumni and parents who have children studying in the school. (In those days, PTA officers stay as officers because they have children studying in the school like Justice Jose dela Rama, an alumnus, C1946, and also the father of five children who all studied in MHPHS; this may no longer be true in present-day MHPNHS.) Another alumna and PTA officer is Mrs. Adelaida Ignacio Berroya (C1941) whose children also studied in MHPHS. On the part of the teachers, included were Miss Epifania Fajardo (C1952), Mrs. Angelina Martinez whose son Robert (C1976) is now a commissioner at the Civil Service Commission, and Onofre Galvez, teacher with two sons, Manolo (C1970) and Onofre Jr (C1971). Dominador Adriano was also there and later on became a principal of MHPHS.

Here's the complete list of names on the marker--the people who worked hard in order to build the historic structure:

## PTA-Alumni Hall

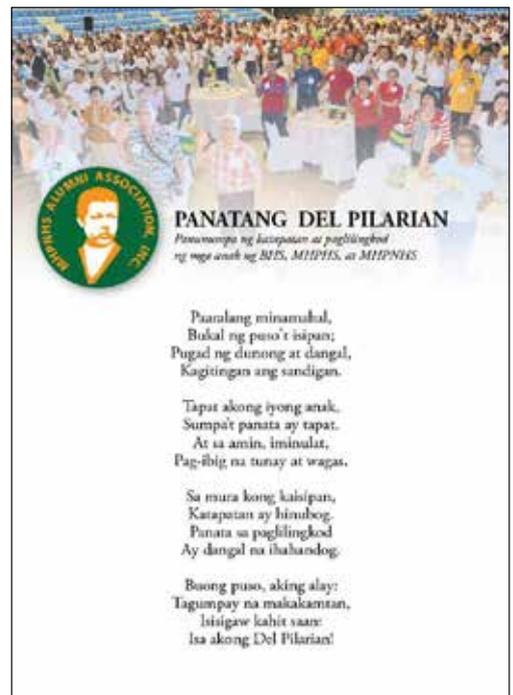
Sa masikhang pagtangkilik ng mga magulang at guro at mga nagsipagtapos sa paaralan ng dating Bulacan High School at gayon din ng ngayon ay Mataas na Paaralang Marcelo H. del Pilar, ang gusaling ito ay naitayo at pinasinayaan ngayong Marso 18, 1988, sa pagmamalasakit ng mga sumusunod na pamunuan ng Samahan ng Guro at magulang:

### 1980-1983

Pangulo: Abogado Jose C. Dela Rama  
 Pang. Pangulo: Enhiniero Filemon Zafra  
 Kalihim Ingatyaman: Gng. Adelaida Berroya  
 Tagasuri: Gng. Filomena Pedroche  
 Mga Kagawad:  
 Hukom Jose Torres  
 G. Antonio Bernardo  
 G. Prudencio Borlongan  
 G. Onofre Galvez  
 G. Conrado Santos  
 Abogado Maximo Tolentino  
 G. Dominador Adriano  
 Gng. Angelina Fajardo  
 Bb. Epifania Fajardo  
 Gng. Evangelina Martinez  
 Gng. Trinidad Tamayo  
 Tagapayo: Gng. Amparo Y. del Rosario

### 1983-1985

Pangulo: Abogado Jose C. Dela Rama  
 Pang. pangulo: G. Abelardo Galang  
 Kalihim: G. Dominador Adriano / Abogada Elenita Quintana  
 Ingatyaman: Gng. Adelaida Berroya  
 Tagasuri: Gng. Filomena Pedroche  
 Mga Kagawad:  
 Hukom Jose Torres  
 G. Antonio Bernardo  
 G. Onofre Galang  
 G. Conrado Santos  
 G. Dominador Adriano  
 Gng. Angelina Fajardo  
 Bb. Epifania Fajardo  
 Gng. Evangelina Martinez  
 Gng. Norma Ochoa  
 Tagapayo: Gng. Amparo Y. del Rosario



Panalang minamahal,  
 Bukal ng puso't isipan;  
 Pugad ng dungog at dangal,  
 Kagitingan ang sandigan.

Tapat akong iyong anak,  
 Sumpa't panata ay tapat.  
 At sa amin, iminulat,  
 Pag-ibig na tunay at wagas.

Sa muna kong kaisipan,  
 Katapatan ay himubog,  
 Panata sa paglilingkod  
 Ay dangal na ibahandog.

Buong puso, akong alay:  
 Tagumpay na malakamtan,  
 Isisigaw kahit saan:  
 Isa akong Del Pilarian!

### 1985-1988

Pangulo: Hukom Jose C. Dela Rama  
 Pang. Pangulo: G. Abelardo Galang  
 Kalihim: Abogada Ma. Elenita Quintana  
 Ingatyaman: Gng. Adelaida Berroya  
 Tagasuri: Gng. Filomena Pedroche  
 Mga Kagawad:  
 G. Dominador Adriano  
 Bb. Susan Cruz  
 Bb. Epifania Fajardo  
 Gng. Evangelina Marquez  
 G. Aurelio Mariano  
 Gng. Andrea Andres  
 Gng. Divina Abracosa  
 G. Atanacio Estrella  
 Bgy. Capt. Dionisio Luciano  
 Bgy. Capt. Sotero Bulaong  
 Tagapayo: Gng. Amparo Y. del Rosario

SAMAHAN NG MGA GURO AT MAGULANG 1980-1988

Inaanyayaman namin ang lahat ng Del Pilar-ian na magtungo sa ating bagong “pugad” dito sa Internet: ang **Sinupan**.

Ito ang pugad ng mga alaala ng Bulacan High School (BHS), ang una at pinamatandang mataas na paaralang pampubliko na itinatag noong 1905 sa lalawigan ng Bulacan. Noong 1951, ang BHS ay ginawang Marcelo H. del Pilar High School (MHPHS) sa bisa ng Batas Republika 618. At noong 2003 naman, idinagdag ang salitang “National” upang maging Marcelo H. del Pilar National High School (MHPNHS).

Sa pugad na ito tinitipon ang mga babasahin, larawan, at iba pang dokumento upang manatiling buhay ang mga gunita ng paaralan sa lahat ng nagkaroon ng kaugnayan dito: mga nagtapos at kasalukuyang mag-aaral; mga naglingkod at kasalukuyang guro at kawani; at lahat ng magulang ng mga mag-aaral na aktibong bumalik ng kanilang tungkulin bilang kaagapay ng paaralan.

Ang pugad na ito ang naging bunga ng panawagan ng ilang alumni ng MHPHS noong Marso 2016 na iligtas ang mga nalalabing kopya ng *The Republic* sa tuluyang pagkasira.

Tinawag itong “Save The Republic”, isang proyekto upang una, lumikha ng mga kopyang *digital* ng mga natagpuang lumang isyu ng pahayagan ng paaralan, at ikalawa, mangalap pa ng mga larawan at iba pang alaala ng paaralan.

Sa tulong ng mga alumni, nakapag-ipon ng isang maliit na pondo upang tustusan ang proyekto at nakapagplanong gumawa ng isang website na magiging tahanan ng mga nalikom na mga babasahin, larawan, at iba pang alaala.

Bukod sa mga babasahin, inaasahan nating sa hinaharap ay masisinop din natin ang mahahalagang dokumento ng ating



### The Milestone Jubilarians of 2016



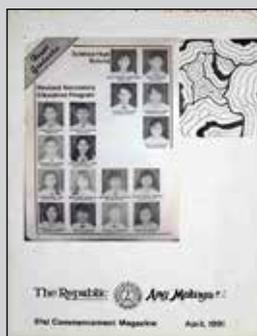
Class 1956  
Diamond Jubilarians



Class 1966  
Golden Jubilarians



Class 1976  
Ruby Jubilarians



Class 1991  
Silver Jubilarians

paaralan, lalo na ang mga rekord ng estudyante at iba pa, sa pakikipagtulungan ng mga namumuno sa ating paaralan.

Mahalaga ang kasaysayan upang maging gabay sa kasalukuyan. Sa pamamagitan ng mga alaalang matutunghayan sa pugad na ito, mapananatiling buhay ang kasaysayan at mga pamana ng Inang Paaralan sa isip at kalooban ng mga mag-aaral, guro, at kawani na naging bahagi nito.

Mahalagang tulong din ang pugad na ito sa mga iskolar at mananaliksik na nais mag-aaral sa mayaman kasaysayan at pamana ng BHS-MHPHS-MHPNHS.

Ang bahagi ng Sinupan ay ang:

Ang SINUPAN ay pinamamahalaan ng pangkat ng mga nagsipagtapos sa MHPHS at kusang nag-alok ng kanilang kakayahan at iba't ibang klaseng suporta upang maitaguyod ang proyekto. Binubuo ito nina Jaime A. FlorCruz (Class 1967), Tristan T. Zafra (Class 1985), Ruth I. dela Rama Dizon (Class 1985), Michael Angelo L. Benigno (Class 1994), at Perfecto T. Martin (Class 1968).

Kabilang naman sa mga tagapagtaguyod nitong proyekto sina: Gisela Guevarra Lubrin (Class 1971), Tess Buluran Granados (Class 1969), Joji dela Rama Martin (Class 1974), Efren de Jesus (Class 1968), Tristan T. Zafra (Class 1985), Jaime A. FlorCruz (Class 1967), Perfecto T. Martin (Class 1968), Cesar E. Yñiguez (Class 1963), Nicanor Antonio (Class 1972), Leni FlorCruz Florentino (Class 1969), Iluminada de Jesus Catap (Class 1968), Eugenia Kho Baria (Class 1968), Daisy Molina Quintos (Class 1968), Glicería Roque Bagasin (Class 1968), Beth Custodio Gomez (Class 1971), Solita de Jesus O'Brien (Class 1969), Marcelo Villanueva (Class 1967), Renato de Guzman (Class 1974), Rebecca I. dela Rama (Class 1970), Peng dela Rama. (Class 1979)

## The Lion's Den

With a deliberately paved path set before me, I dashed. Well, not dashed. I took small and cautious steps towards Senior High School, as if I were venturing into a lion's den. I wasn't exactly terrified but boy was I riddled with anxiety. As a natural skeptic, I didn't have high expectations of the curriculum that I was pioneering. I knew that there had to be flaws in the system and I braced myself for them.

What I didn't prepare myself for was the fondness I eventually developed for the said program. Granted, there were faults. But I would wholeheartedly concede that the long preparations done by Marcelo H. del Pilar National High School for SHS did not go to waste.

As a student taking up Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), I can testify to that. Most of the newly-hired teachers went beyond my expectations. Sure enough, I have this uneasy feeling towards the new classroom setting. Everything is just out of place--and so I was forced to step out and once again, face the new world ahead. By doing so, I was able to put things back into its right spot and find myself enjoying SHS life way beyond I can imagine it.

The last thing I remembered, numbers were flying across the board and I was hyped to solve the problems in Pre-Calculus I used to hate during the first weeks. Or the functions in Math I do not really know why you have to

look for something so complicated as 'x'. Later on I realized why the concept of function is sometimes dubbed as the “central idea in mathematics” and grasped the idea of using the relationship between x and y as application in real-life situations. Moreover, I used to see Philosophy as a work of art--the art of critical thinking for lovers of wisdom.

It certainly feels like I am in a college setting, which is a part that I really enjoy. The lessons maintained a balance between group work and individual tasks. Everything's just magical. In one way or another, I was thankful for having time to organize my thoughts and prepare myself for a much higher degree of education, two years from now.

MHPNHS caters to an ambitious goal to equip all of their Senior High students with skills that will drive them to become productive members of society. My overwhelming desire to know is not deprived. In fact, it is well fed. I am compelled to try new activities that I normally wouldn't show the slightest bit of interest.

The way I see it, the skill most enhanced in the program is flexibility. With that flexibility in my grasp, I soak up the lion's den which is the world. And so, I dash. (*Jade de Guzman, Class 2016*)

*Jade de Guzman, Class 2016, now in Grade 11 at MHPNHS will be part of Class 2018 of MAA*

# Batang Marcelo

## New Dean of TSU's College of Law, A Del Pilarian

Atty. Jose I. de la Rama of MHPHS Class 1979 has just been named the new Dean of the College of Law of Tarlac State University.

Atty. Peng, as he is fondly called, is also the current Governor of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Central Luzon chapter. He holds a Master of Laws degree from the University of Sto Tomas where he successfully defended his thesis with the grade of Meritus (cum laude). He is currently a candidate for Doctor of Civil Law also at UST.

He was the Senior Commissioner of the Commission on Bar Discipline of the IBP for about nine years where they heard administrative cases against erring lawyers and recommended to the Board of Governors appropriate measures for proper imposition of penalty. He is also a law professor and legal educator whose deep passion is to mold aspiring lawyers to be more God-fearing and nationalistic.

He is also actively involved in civic oriented causes such as the establishment of multi-purpose cooperatives to better the lives of the needy in communities, providing free legal assistance to those who couldn't afford it, and in spearheading the war against child abuse and violence towards women.

He has consistently been awarded as an outstanding law practitioner by various legal institutions. He is also a Reserve Officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his student years at MHPHS, Atty Peng was an active Boy Scout leader. He was an Eagle scout and a Jose Rizal scout awardee.

Atty. Peng follows the footsteps of his late father, Retired Justice Jose C. de la Rama, who was the first dean of the Bulacan State University's College of Law from 2002 to 2009. Justice de la Rama, who passed away on May 9, 2016, also graduated from the Bulacan High School in 1946 and was one of the longest serving PTA Presidents of the school he loved the most. Atty. Peng's other siblings are also products of MHPHS, namely, Rebecca (Class 1970), Josefina (Class 1974), Cynthia, (Class 1977) and Ruth (Class 1985). He is married to Maridel, who is a nurse by profession, and together, they have three children and one grandchild. (*Ruth I. dela Rama Dizon, Class 1985*)



## The Del Pilarian as a Student Leader

Life in the premier state university is not all about academics. It is not all about staying up late to finish your problem sets and machine problems. Rather, it is about realizing the sole purpose of being an *Iskolar ng Bayan* – to serve the people. And for **Eric Loyd Hilario** (Class 2014), being a student does not impede him in making this a reality as early as now.



Credits: facebook.com

In his third year in taking up BS Secondary Education (Math) in the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, Hilario envisions a proactive student body as he was hailed as the chairperson of the UP College of Education Student Council for the academic year 2016-2017.

*"[Nang] pumasok ako sa unibersidad, ang gusto ko lang ay makapagtapos at magtrabaho para sa aking pamilya. Ngunit nang makarating ako ng dito, nagbago ang aking mga pananaw. Masasabi kong namulat ako dito tungkol sa katotohanan ng ating lipunan."*

The university's cultural diversity and nationalistic involvement made him take his first steps in rendering service to the university, with high hopes that his efforts in helping his co-scholars would ripple to the greater mass.

Alongside with his remarkable dedication in the council, he is also a consistent honor student and is currently cum laude standing. He is indeed a living proof of the university's motto: *Honor and Excellence*.

Hilario is former news editor of *The Republic*. (*By Geleni Shalaine P. Bello, Class 2014*)

## Making a Difference

(continued from page 1)

The highlights of our continuing support as stakeholders of MHPNHS are:

*Programs to support school projects with funds raised by the association from corporations and institutions owned by or accessible to members, from donations by members, and other fund sources.*

*Leveraging the access of the association and its members to government offices and officials, NGOs, and various business corporations for the benefit of the school.*

*Provide college and job placements assistance to the graduates; and mentoring for the graduating students on career planning and success values.*

*Establish a study-now-pay later program for the students going to college and for the teachers pursuing higher education.*

*Rehabilitate the 30-year old PTA-ALUMNI HALL. The rehabilitation will retain the original purposes of the building, i.e.: alumni center, PTA center, and multi-purpose hall.*

The Board will pursue the efforts to engage with the MAA: the FEA, the PTA, the Student Council, and the Gintong Samahan of retired teachers, to work together and become active and vision-driven stakeholders of MHPNHS.

Thank you. I hope to be with you soon—the general assembly meeting with the batches representatives and the annual homecoming with all the class batches.

## ALUMNI

Republic of the Philippines

Opisyal na Publikasyon ng  
MHPNHS Alumni Association, Inc.  
Isyu 2 (Agosto 2016)

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