Central Philippine University celebrated her 110th Foundation Day on October 1 to 3, 2015 with the theme: “CPU @110: Honoring the Central Legacy, Embracing the ASEAN Unity” To make this momentous event more special, this year’s U-Day and Foundation Day Celebrations were combined. Sports competitions, literary – musical events and academic contests were held as early as the second week of September. The highlight week for the joint 110th Foundation Day and U-Day Celebrations was September 28 to October 3, 2015.

On October 1, Dr. Robles led University administrators, faculty, staff, and students, and alumni during the Memorial Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony at 6:00AM at the Philippine-American Cemetery on Commission Civil St., Jaro, Iloilo City.

Simultaneously, the Opening Program for the 2015 U-Day Celebrations was also held on campus. A festive foot and float parade and a city-wide motorcade soon followed.

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INSIGHTS by Cyrus A. Natividad

The Reunion

It was ‘now or never’- on our decision to organize an official alumni chapter for the Political Science graduates of Central Philippine University. We had to work hard as much as we’d like to take the opportunity to have it chartered during the 110th Foundation Anniversary of CPU.

The grand reunion started as a close group meeting of Pol Sci classmates (circa 1980-84) aimed at seeing everyone again. Coordination for the event was facilitated by cooperation; eventually fast-tracked by alumni and long lost classmate on social media.

Now it’s up and about on it’s mission with Eric Otayde, newly elected President of PSAA, and his obviously committed officers. I am thankful particularly with the CPU administration, with University President Dr. Ted Robles attending and warmly welcoming everyone during the PSAA Reunion program at the EMC. Kudos goes as well to the President and VP of the CPU AAI - Dr. Felice Garigalao Molina, and Mr. Dan Donillo, respectively for their inspiration and support to our new alumni chapter.

It was still the Central Spirit in our minds, and I believe there was also the spirit of reunion which prompted us to cooperate, coordinate and move on for a greater Political Science Alumni Association (out of the circle of friends called Pol Sci Organization). How else can we not be happy with all the realization of our dream and taste of success?

If there’s anything that makes people sad after a reunion, it’s that everyone has to be on his/her way back home (or elsewhere).

At this point I would like to thank and honor our friendly, thoughtful classmate who started it all. A few months ago Joneri (a.k.a Jun) Pasquin tagged me on facebook with black and white photos of our Pol Sci batch `83 classmates - from the yearbook, for sure. I commented that “we better post everyone’s picture on our page, and just call a reunion”. He was very happy and he started calling or looking up every possible Ruby, Rose, Jovy, Bert, Alma, etc. on his facebook.

Social media is so fast that we had many positive replies from our batch after a while, not to mention Pol Sci alumni who wanted the membership to include graduates from other years. We agreed, and registration payments came flying in thru Western Union, Lhuiller, Palawan and others. Thus, the First PSAA Grand Alumni Reunion came to fruition.

On the day of the reunion I saw Jun coming in to the EMC hall very early and was among the early birds to receive a gift. He was smiling..I can almost read a dialogue over his head saying “wow it’s my dream come true!”

(Fast forward)...but in the middle of the program where I am the host, Jun politely borrowed the microphone to inform everyone in the hall that he was leaving because he’s not feeling well. All of us seemed to understand Jun’s predicament, and nobody held him back. It must be his time to go, never to come back. He realized his dream to see our classmates in his first and last PSAA reunion.

There was no sadness in his face, though. I saw him smile back at me before he disappeared outside of the hall. Goodbye Jun! God be with you!

El Niño is upon us once again. Global Warming is indeed a global warning. Should I care? Should you CARE?

C - Check the situation. Our atmospheric blanket is now 37% thicker than 20 years ago. This is caused by pollutants.

A - Allow changes in our theological perspectives. “Subdue the Earth” does not mean we should abuse the Earth. There are 6 days of creation -- a reminder that all the creation of God is interconnected.

R - Repent from the sins that we have committed against the environment. The abuses that we have done like burning of plastics, throwing garbage everywhere and cutting of trees without planting a replacement are sins that we need to ask forgiveness for.

E - Engage in actions that will make this world a better place. We owe it to our children and the future generations to leave them a world that is better than what we have inherited.
The ABC of the Alumni Homecoming 2015

There was a lot of activities to enjoy with during the Alumni Homecoming on October 3. From morning till evening, everyone seemed to be joining a rush for the once a year get-together, knowing how’s one another, and getting registered ahead of everybody.

We were pleased with the flow of registration at the Rose Memorial Auditorium lobby, including short moments of hi! and hellos (with some shrieks) of people who had never seen their classmate or a friend for so long.

Moving inside the RMA was energetic with hot cups of coffee readily served at the sides. They came with native ‘pamahaw’ from courteous CHM students. Unless you’re filled with heavy breakfast at home, you would have enjoyed a lot of the deliciously prepared suman latik, baye-baye and bitso-bitso.

The letter A was for Alumni coming from afar - from other provinces, cities and abroad. They were there with their chapters and noticeable excitements, Otherwise, A was for Attractive ladies whose time came up with the announcement of the Homecoming Queen candidates.

Let me say B was for Beauties with Bouquets in their arms. The beautiful alumni candidates were serenaded by no other than seasoned City Councilor, and AAI board member Atty. Joshua Alim.

Letter C stood for Cooperation. Everyone was obviously looking forward to the success of this year’s Homecoming. The Alumni did their best to register early, and moved on to their designated places with members of their chapters. The luncheon and snacks were well served with good food.

Generally, we enjoyed the program. The discipline and undivided attention were present so that the homecoming program was apparently on the ‘next level’. The big support of the alumni was deeply appreciated and acknowledged by the organizers who look forward to greater and bigger event next year.

It was 5 PM, and time to dress up for the Alumni Night at Diversion 21 Hotel. / by CAN
German agency taps CPU Graduate students in rice production research

The Philippines is one of the countries in Asia that needs improvement in rice market access for its smallholder rice producers. This is the reason why a team of researchers from Germany was here in Iloilo last August 9 to October 3 to work on a special research-study commissioned by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The German team members led by Dr. Ekkehard Kurschner were Daniel Baumert, Christine Plastrotmann, Anna Katharina Poppe, Kristina Riesinger, and Sbrina Ziesemer.

The student counterpart from CPU were Joel H. Somosierra, Ian Jade Echavez, Veronica Togores, and Dante Manguito.

The study was based on research of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and knowhow for analyzing market access of smallholder rice farmers. The results was directed to the Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA), a public-private partnership project of GIZ. One of BRIA’s projects components is “Better Market Linkages”.

Specific recommendations on how to improve market access of smallholder rice producers were identified in the special project study – to raise awareness among national stakeholders to create a conducive environment for market access of smallholder rice producers in the Philippines.

The study group used a qualitative research approach. Data collection focused on market interactions of rice based farm households and their immediate business contacts along the value chain namely traders, millers, and processors.

Field research was conducted in collaboration with PhilRice and Central Philippine University with its select graduate students. By Cyrus A. Natividad

CPU holds Regional Dialogue for K-12

As K-12 enters its most critical stage which is the rolling out of senior high school, clear guidelines for parents and students on how to adapt to the new educational system is needed.

To ease the public’s apprehension on the government’s readiness to fully implement the law, the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), and Philippine Business for Education (PBEd) with support from the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), and Central Philippine University, as its regional partner, held a K-12 Regional Dialogue on October 27, 2015 from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM at the EMC Conference Room, CPU.

The dialogue served as an information drive on offered programs, and presented all viable solutions to transitional issues to Parents - Teachers Associations, faculty and staff of the represented schools.

CPU Handbell Ringers perform at APEC programs

The CPU Handbell Ringers, one of Central Philippine University’s cultural groups, was tapped by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) to perform in two cultural programs for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit meetings held in Iloilo City in September and October this year. The CCP was tasked by the APEC National Organizing Committee and the Department of Tourism to organize cultural presentation for APEC delegates.

The CPU Handbell Ringers performed in two dinners, Shining Through and Harvest. Shining Through was a welcome Dinner for participants to the Senior Disaster Management Forum at the Casa Real (formerly Provincial Capitol) on September 22. Harvest, the fellowship dinner for delegates of the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and the Blue Economy, was held at the Royal Garden Hall on October 5.

The cultural programs featured the music, dances and culture of Panay and featured Ilonggo artists and performers from Metro Manila.

The Handbell Ringers is the only active 5-octave handbell choir in the country. They produce beautiful music not with their voices but through the melodies produced by the bells they use during performance. The group has travelled to major cities in the country as part of cultural outreach exchange programs under the CCP Cultural Exchange Department and as guest artists for programs of corporate entities, and other private and academic institutions. They also collaborate with cultural and performing groups of partner Universities.

The Handbell Ringers are composed of students, faculty, staff and alumni of Central Philippine University. Members are trained extensively by their director Dr. Mai Lynn Bermejo Jacar who is also a member of the University’s dental team. Mrs. Hermely Agriam Jalando-on, University Purchasing Officer, is their adviser. By C.A. Natividad & Carmelle Frances Romero

The German Reasearch Team with their select CPU Graduate School counterparts.
It is uncertain when this picture was taken or if the seemingly freshly painted house was aided by color technique. But this is the Executive House, the official residence of the First Filipino President of Central Philippine University. It now serves as one of the university’s apartments and dormitories./CP

Beauty at her best

Maria Daziella Lazaro Gange, a graduate of the College of Nursing batch 2011, and Ms. Medicine and Miss CPU 2013 was crowned Miss Filipinas Heritage 2015 in Nueva Ecija on September 24, 2015. She will represent the Philippines in the Miss World Heritage pageant on November, 2015.

On October 9, Daziella visited her Alma Mater and gamely answered questions from Centrallians and members of the media in a press conference. Ms. Gange also holds the title of Mutya ng Palawan in 2011, and Mutya ng Guimaras in 2013.
CPU SPORTS

CPUHS Volleyball Girls 2015 ISSA Champion!

CPU Golden Lions Elementary football team (Champion ISAA). CPU Golden Lions played against West Bridge with the score of 4-0.
People transacting at the West Visayas State University can’t help but take notice of the yellow stickers on the computers of several employees at the university’s business office which read: “A CENTRALIAN WORKS HERE”. The CPU alumni working in this prestigious state institution take honor to announce to one and all that, yes, they are proud Centralians!

A front liner at the cashier’s office (Admin Officer II) is Mrs. Maria Regina Palacios Gabiota, a 1985 College of Commerce graduate married to Adonis, a CPUHS alumnus. The couple and their only child now resides in Buenavista, Guimaras province. When asked what she could recall about her alma mater, she said, “I have never regretted studying at CPU and will always be proud to be a Centralian!” She recalls her memorable campus life especially the fun and bonding with fellow students during University Day celebrations where enjoyment was never measured by money spent.

“Because of the Central Spirit, our bonding here (among Centralians) remains very strong even in a different environment…. and we could be easily identified as Centralians - maybe because we do have a distinct culture.”

The first Grand Alumni Reunion of Central Philippine University Political Science Association was held on Friday, September 25 at the CPU Educational Media Center Conference Hall with the theme “Coming Together, Working Together for Success”.

First success is that we were able to muster good attendance in a short period of time (thanks to FB, and all those who believed it’s time we organize a strong Political Science Alumni Association).

Secondly, it successfully conducted the election of officers— (thanks to CPUAAI President Dr. Felice G. Molina, and VP for Membership Dan Dorillo for their ardent support to PSAA). Eric Otayde, who is a successful executive at the provincial government of Antique is the newly elected President of PSAA.

CPU President Dr. Ted Robles commended all members of PSAA for their relentless effort at remembering their Alma Mater through the reunion. PSAA is the newest alumni chapter, and the 152nd to be chartered in the mother organization (CPUAAI) of all alumni associations here and abroad. The grand reunion coincided with the 90th anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences where Political Science belongs, and the 110th Foundation Celebration of the University.

PSAA aims to link up with CPU Alumni worldwide - to work together and help its beloved Alma Mater. To God be the glory!
June 21, 2015. The night was still too young for the 90 year old celebrator. The lovely daughters of Mr. Reuel Nuñez - Rosemarie (HS Class ‘66), Rosalie Fe, Rosa Bella and Ruby Jean - put together an enchanted evening for the 90th birthday of their dad Reuel, a “true-blooded” Centralian, as CPU President Ted Robles put it. The Kalantiao Hall of the Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center was filled with Centralians of yesterday and of the present to join in the celebration and to wish the celebrant more years. Spotted among the well-wishers were Evaline Arandela-Gerochi and Majel Caipang-Palacios whose dads spent a lifetime at CPU together with Mr. Nuñez. Then there was the ever gorgeous Lynn Degayo-Denila who made all the flower arrangements lending elegance to the occasion. Lynn, by the way, owns the most talked about flower shop in the city and made most of the flowers during my mom’s going away day. She of course is a sister to my favorite and crazy FB buddy, Natie Degayo-

President Ted Robles and former President Gus Pulido were there to give tribute to one of the last grand old men of CPU. The Chicago and Canada expatriates were present too. Rev. Godfrey Catanus, former CPUR VP, made an awe-inspiring talk that evening. He came with his wife, Nursing ’71 classmate Gloria Talaban-Catanus, who has really maintained her looks and figure. Also spotted were sisters Rose and Perla Azarcon, Panoy Peñacierada and wife Eileen, and Roger Quimpo. Sports Director Al Somo came with his lovely wife, Dean Lily Lyn Velasco-Somo.

Mr. Nuñez raised a beautiful family, all good looking girls and grandchildren. Truly talented, too, as they sang songs and played the violin dedicated to their Papang Reuel. Well, it couldn’t have been more enjoyable without the presence of The Technocrats Band - thanks to Rosemarie’s HS’66 classmate Monica Jimeno Espinosa, the band owner. Other ’66ers present were HS’66 Prez Boy Jalbuena, CPUAAI VP Dan Dorillo, Nona Tupas and moi.

We danced the night away with Mr. Nuñez giving in to just about anyone who wanted to dance with him. He also joined the Technocrats Band in belting out some oldies including one of his favorite songs made popular in the 1940s, “Charmaine”. The band went well-prepared for the event as they came with a repertoire of songs from the 40’s and 50’s. Everyone enjoyed Papang Reuel’s birthday bash, dancing the night away to the beat of Bus Stop, Achy Breaky and other back-breaking (for the seniors) numbers. Yes, it was a night to remember…. looking forward to another grand celebration after 10 years!

POSTSCRIPT
He sang with the band and danced all night. Papang Reuel was pure energy that belied his age …. and to think that CPU, @ 110, is just 20 years older than him! He started out as a work student at CPU and rose from the ranks to become Credit Manager and University Treasurer. He was a sportsman and was one of the mainstays of the CPU Tennis Club. He was a businessman who distributed cashew nuts from his hometown in Palawan and owned a jeepney which he himself drove during his spare time. He was a soldier, loyal husband, a loving father, a doting grand father, and a “true-blue” Centralian. What else has this man not done at 90? – Dan Dorillo.

THE 13th CPU ALUMNI INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
By: ISAGANI ‘Boy’ JALBUENA

The CPU ALUMNI GOLFERS ASSOCIATION held the 13th CPU Alumni Invitational Golf For-A-Cause Tournament and the 16th All CPU Alumni Golf Tournament on September 30, 2015 to coincide with the 110th Foundation Day of the University. This was a much awaited event organized yearly by golf enthusiasts from CPU. The CPU Alumni Golfers Association was organized in 2001 with Dr. Glenn A.M. Catedral as its first President and affiliated with CPUAAI as a special alumni chapter. The Charter Officers were inducted during the General Membership and Alumni Homecoming by then University President Dr. Juanito A. Acanto in September 2001. The current President of the Association is Mr. Edgar G. Jarantilla.

The proceeds of the Association’s yearly activity help support the projects of the mother chapter, CPUAAI, such as: Donation of two (2) 21” Colored TV to the CPU High School Department and Elementary Department for use as instructional equipment; With CPUAAI, jointly sponsored the payment of miscellaneous fees of deserving indigent high school graduating students from the Municipalities of Badiangan and Leon, Iloilo, with the opportunity for them to avail of the Work Student Program at CPU upon enrollment in college; Provided financial assistance to the CPU Sports Office; and Provided financial assistance to the on-going CPUAAI two story building project annexed to the Alumni Promenade and Concert Park to serve as dressing room and storage facility. All alumni were invited to join!