

Valedictory Address
RENATO QUERUBIN
Out-going SUACONA Chairman
TIPON SILLIMAN 2007
GALA NIGHT, June 30

President Ben Malayang, Immediate-Past President Agustin Pulido, Professor Briones, and the rest of the members of Silliman University Board of Trustees, Officers and Members of SAAI led by Judge Candelario Gonzales and other guest from the Philippines and abroad, fellow SUACONA officers and members, honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen, good evening. Allow me to extend my warmest felicitations to all of you for gracing this affair with your presence. It is my wish that President Ben Malayang will take back our genial and amiable greetings to the University as well as the assurance that our relationship with our Alma Mater will remain strong and steadfast so we can maintain a specific, goal oriented direction which will be mutually beneficial.

At the outset, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to the overall chairperson of TIPON IV Mrs. Betsy Jackson and the rest of the officers and members of ONSUAA for their enthusiastic support, utmost dedication and relentless effort, without which this affair would not have materialized. Will the officers and members of the ONSUAA Chapter please stand up?) Ladies and gentlemen lets give them a round of applause. They surely deserve our deepest gratitude.

It amazes me to think that my term as Chairperson of SUACONA is completed. My 2 years have been a journey of learning and understanding, of hopes and aspirations, of shaping and making the association more viable and visible to the community. As I exit as the 2nd Chairman of SUACONA, my thoughts turn gratefully to the out-going officers especially our dynamic executive director, Rev. Dr. Ed Agnir. (Will Ed and the rest of the officers please stand up?) I have nothing but high praises for them. They worked and supported me during my term as we faced great challenges with enthusiasm and with good spirits. Our partnership, attitudes and willingness to discuss ideas candidly have allowed us to fulfill the mission statement in our constitution and by-laws. I hope that they too found it rewarding as it was to me. I tip off my hat to the fulfillment of our goals and visions which was equaled with action. I would like to think of them as a beacon that guided the organization to stay on course during the last two years. As for the in-coming leaders of the association, I equally challenge them to realize the goals, to strive forward and to articulate our mission so we will have a focus that is greater than ourselves. I will be remised if I do not recognize my dear wife of 41 years, Esther, who has been the driving force in my life. She helped me and supported me in all my endeavors.

Allow me to quote these lines which I hope will be a word of wisdom to all leaders of SUACONA—duty is the most sublime word in our language. Let us therefore do our duty in all things—we have to desire to do more—and we should never wish to desire to do less.

As I have alluded on several occasions, the strength of our organization is in our members. The stability can be maintained by the number of membership. We need members and not only active participants. We need members who are willing to support the association financially. We need to build the future by paying our debts to our past by participating directly or indirectly on projects related to our dear Old Silliman. We need to look at the ideas and programs that will meet the needs of today and not be afraid to rework some of our approaches. In consonance with the theme for this years TIPON which is "MAKING A DIFFERENCE: LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT AND RELEVANCE", we need to keep and develop our active members to become leaders of tomorrow in both Executive Committee and Board of Directors level. We need to challenge the younger alumni, those who are in attendance tonight and those who are not here, who are sincere in their commitment to the dreams and ideals of our organization, to give their TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES and to take over the helm of our organization Let us therefore look at this biennial gathering not only as a mere get-together but also an opportunity to be a part of our governance.

As for me I will continue to serve SUACONA, not as your Chairperson, but as an advocate for the general membership. I equally challenge all of you here tonight to strive forward and to articulate our inherent charge as Silliman graduates so we will continue to be fired up with a vision to allow us to continue in creating a community of alumni who, in unity, can be proud of themselves and his Alma Mater. Therefore my friends and fellow alumni let us bind together and be united in the task of strengthening the framework and preserving the name of SUACONA and SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY. I thank you.