

An Invitation to All UP College of Dentistry Alumni

Contributed by Dean Vic Medina
 Wednesday, 11 January 2012
 Last Updated Tuesday, 22 July 2014

Our alma mater will celebrate its 97th Foundation Day on February 10, 2012 and the host class will be the Silver Jubilarians, Class 1987. Other celebrants will be the Diamond (Class 1937), Golden (Class 1962), Ruby (Class 1972) and Pearl (Class 1982) jubilarians. This year's foundation day, hosted by Class 1986, saw 180 alumni attending, with around fifteen coming from abroad. The total number of attendees was close to 350, including students, non-academic personnel and faculty members. We held it at the Bayanihan Center of UNILAB in Mandaluyong city to accommodate this large number of people. The 3 clinical sections (clinicians and faculty) and the 4 dentistry proper classes presented dance and song numbers to the delight of the young ones and young once. Class 1986 gave away certificates of appreciation to all their teachers and loot bags to the non-academic personnel who helped them when they were students. We also heard nuggets of wisdom from Mr. Francis Kong (an acknowledged inspirational speaker) and a message from the then in-coming UP President, Alfredo E. Pascual. The all night fellowship was capped by a message from our beloved former dean, Dr. Avelino Macasaet. Food was aplenty, courtesy of the host class, UPDAA President, Dr. Arnon Rivera and of course, UNILAB Corp.

Since 2010, when Class 1985 hosted the 95th Foundation Day, we have been successful in attracting the alumni, even those from abroad, to attend the affair. That class hosted the affair and donated close to half a million pesos worth of instruments, equipment and infrastructure projects to the college. Class 1986 will not be outdone and will donate to the college a substantial amount for a college project. The alumni at large have been very supportive, with regular donations coming from Class 75, UPDAA, UPDAA-USA led by Dr. James Young and Dr. Warren Yow. We are also regularly receiving balikbayan boxes from Canada and the USA. I would like to think that all these positive responses are due to our efforts at improving certain things in the college. Everybody has now heard of the thrust of the present administration to improve the graduation rate and to change the faculty-centered culture that has long prevailed in the college. This administration and the present faculty are serious in its efforts to change the culture to a student-centered and student-friendly one. I was part of the old school and have heard stories of how unhappy many alumni feel about the college. I would therefore like to apologize for all the hurt I have caused my former students. I have seen the ill-effects of the old ways and am now resolutely trying to improve relations between faculty and students. These changes will not happen overnight, and our efforts will get a much needed boost if more alumni will find it in their hearts to lend their support to the college. As an alumnus, you can help in our efforts to effect change by attending the 97th Foundation Day. Every year, we have seen how innovative the host class has become. I am sure Class 1987 will try their very best to host a better foundation day celebration this year. They are inviting Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto as the guest of honor and there will be many more surprises. Let us all come together on Feb 10, 2012 at the to reconnect with friends and reminisce the old days. Your presence will make it more meaningful and will go a long way in boosting morale and camaraderie. DEAN VIC MEDINA