



Pagbabalik

October 2001

Volume 9, Issue 1

WELCOME

Pagbabalik means "the act of coming back, returning." That is the exact reason why this newsletter is being published, for alumni to come back to a common place. After graduating and moving on with our career and lives, we still have a part of us that yearns to return from where we came.

As the Historical director of Pilipino Alumni Association for 2001-2002, my goal is to publish a newsletter quarterly. I hope the newsletter will not only provide updates and news to all the alumni near and far, but I am hoping that it will serve as a medium for communication.

"How?" you ask. Write to me about what you like, what you dislike, what you are feeling and what you are thinking. I believe the newsletter should not be the voice of a handful of people, but the voice of all the alumni out there. So I encourage you, no, I challenge you to get your ideas to me and let your voice be heard.

Since this is the first issue that I published, I hope you enjoy it. I know there is so much more potential for this newsletter. But unless I hear from all of you out there, the potential will be lost. So give suggestions, submit articles, and look out for the January 2002 issue. I would like to thank all the of the people who gave their contributions and support to the newsletter. Thank you for taking your time to read and taking interest in our newsletter.

For suggestions and future submissions contact: Mae Mallari
Historical Director @
mmallari@unum.com

A Better America Emerges From the Ruins of Sept. 11

By: Annalisa Burgos c/o 2000

On Sept. 11, terrorists slapped America in the face, wrenching us out of an illusion of invincibility and throwing us into a grim reality that we are not immune to the evils of guerrilla militias that plague third world countries.

We stared in horror at our TVs, as indescribable scenes of four hijacked planes crashing into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Philadelphia field replayed over and over on networks and in our minds.

"This can't be happening," we said.

"It's like a scene from a movie, it can't be real," we gasped.

But it was very real.

The attacks woke up a nation of generally apathetic citizens, oblivious to everything outside their immediate reality, from a false sense of security.

To put it bluntly, they threw us off our high horse.

A way of saying: "You aren't all that."

America - the land of the free and of the brave - had been attacked, on our own soil and by terrorists who manipulated the freedoms we often take for granted.



Like children realizing their parents can't always protect them, we realized that our self-proclaimed goodness and dedication to freedom and democracy would not keep us safe from acts of terrorism, things we associate with far-off countries ruled by corrupt militaries.

The fear of terrorism is real. You can see it in the eyes of a mother who won't take her kids to Disneyland, in the minds of employees who work in skyscrapers and downtown buildings or in the hearts of people who avoid flying.

Terrorists are no longer just villains in a Die Hard movie.

Nothing will ever compare to the images of planes bursting into flames in the World Trade Center, frightened people covered in soot running for their lives, the ominous gray cloud that covered New York City as the towers came crashing down, the rubble that was left of America's twin symbols of financial strength.

Continued on page 4

Alumni Spotlight - Barbara Gaerlan Ph.D.

By: Mae Mallari c/o 2000

Barbara Gaerlan, Ph.D. is the Assistant Director of the UCLA Center for Southeast (SE) Asian Studies. Before Dr. Gaerlan reached the position that she currently holds, she built a strong background that is as impressive as her current goals.

Barbara Gaerlan grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. Her interest in the languages and cultures of the Philippines first began when her family moved there during her high school years because her father was working for the Peace Corps. Dr. Gaerlan states that the move to the Philippines changed her life. She firmly believes that if she did not get the opportunity to move to the Philippines her interest in In-

ternational Education would not have been sparked. The move not only shaped her future career, but also her personal life, since Dr. Gaerlan married a native of La Union, Philippines.

After studying in high school for several years in the Philippines, Dr. Gaerlan attended college in the U.S. Then she returned to the Philippines and taught college-level history in Marawi City, Mindanao. She lived in the United States during the Martial Law period and worked at various universities including Har-

vard, Stanford, and U.C. Berkeley. After raising her family, Barbara Gaerlan returned to graduate school and completed an Ed.M. degree at Harvard in 1991. She then attended UCLA when she began working on her Ph.D. degree in Education under Prof. Don Nakanishi of Asian American Studies and Prof. Michael Salman of the Department of History. She completed her dissertation (a history of the University of the Philippines) in 1998.



Continued on page 4

Fundraising Benefit see Page 2

Are You a Member Yet? see Page 2

Message from the Chair see Page 3

Alumni Updates, Career Counseling, and more inside

2001 Fundraising Benefit: Promoting the Progress of the Pilipino Community Through Higher Education

By John Alfonso U. Aquino c/o 1998

On April 27, 2001, the Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA launched its Inaugural Fundraising Benefit to raise funds for scholarships. The theme of the night was "Promoting the Progress of the Pilipino Community Through Higher Education" consisted of bringing back alumni to celebrate accomplishments, reminisce about their days at UCLA, showcase culture, and raise funds. The benefit was planned months ahead resulted in great success. It raised close to \$8,000 towards the PAA Scholarship Endowment. PAA was able to raise funds through ticket sales, donations, and silent auction.

The benefit night, which was held at Luminaria's Restaurant in Monterey Park, began with a beautiful rendition of Rondalla music donated by alumni. It was followed by a mesmerizing performance of Kayamanan Ng Lahi's Pindulas and Singkil. Kayamanan Ng Lahi graciously donated the performances to the benefit.

The highlight of the night was the presentation of the PAA Awards for Distinguished Alumni of the Year, Distinguished Young Alumnus of the Year, and the Royal Morales Community Achievement Award. "Tita" Helen Brown, as she is affectionately known, was awarded the first PAA Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award. A member of the class of 1938, Tita Helen distinguishes herself through her devotion to the Pilipino heritage and culture through a lifetime of accomplishments such as establishing the Pilipino American Reading Room and Library (PARRAL).

Joel Jacinto was second to be awarded the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award for his work as director of Search to Involve Pilipino Americans and his work with Kayamanan Ng Lahi. A 1986 graduate with a degree in Kinesiology, Kuya Joel is the director of the non-profit organization SIPA, which serves the community through various grass-root efforts. Joel also serves as a Director for Kayamanan Ng Lahi, a folk arts and cultural organization that seeks to promote, and preserve the Pilipino Culture. During his speech, Joel implored alumni to take up the cause of starting the Center for Pilipino Studies, a dream held by the late Uncle Roy.

The first Distinguished Young Alumnus of the Year was awarded to Corky Pasquil, a 1991 Kinesiology graduate. Corky founded the Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA in 1993 while studying for a career in physical therapy. Corky also served as a coordinator for Kayamanan Ng Lahi. He now operates one of the first Pilipino dot-com business with mybarang.com.

The Royal Morales Community Achievement Award is awarded to an alumnus who embodies the type of commitment to serving the community as the late Uncle Roy. "Auntie" Annie Morales, Uncle Roy's wife, gave a testimonial to Uncle Roy's life and his achievements in serving and making a difference in the community. Auntie Annie presented the first Royal Morales Community Achievement Award to Casimiro Tolentino, class of 1972 (J.D. class of 1975). Cas, who is now an administrative law judge, founded Samahang Pilipino in UCLA. Among his other accomplishments have been working for various community projects advocating Pilipino issues.

As the night wound down, dining and dancing was held. Music filled the benefit night and history was made. What made this night incredibly poignant was that it was a mobilized effort to raise a scholarship endowment for the students of UCLA.

PAA awarded the Pilipino Alumni Scholarship to Liza Trinidad and Margerie Reyes, the Gaspar Engineering Scholarship to Angelo Umali, the Reyes Business Scholarship to Antonio Rayo, and the Solidum Public Policy to Margerie Reyes.

These individuals are acknowledge for their hard work in making the benefit a success: Roselma Samala, Katrina Hurtado, Patricia Anne Perez, Melissa Veluz-Abraham, Rebecca Mendoza, Aris Tagle, Karen Mangon, Leland Castro, John Aquino, Trisha Rose Elegino, and Rocelle Bade.

Are You A Member Yet?

By: Rich Mendoza c/o 1998

PAA's membership is growing and with each new member, we become a more powerful organization, arming ourselves with the ability to more effectively network among ourselves, provide guidance to students, and celebrate our Pilipino culture.

Our directory of members is a valuable tool for anyone looking to develop their career. Through networking, we can help lead each other towards the career goals that we envision. For career changers, our directory can help in the search for a new and rewarding career. As graduates of UCLA, one of America's top institutions of higher learning, we should and will be able to give each other the resources needed to help us become successful.

As an alumni organization, we strive to support the current students at UCLA. Through our mentorship programs, the advantages we give to current undergraduates are incalculable. Even if you are out of school for just a year or 30 years, just imagine the advice that you

can give to students. For example, recently a friend and I attended an undergraduate workshop on business schools. We were expecting to learn more about what it takes to get into business school; instead, we ended up running the workshop ourselves. We gave students advice on issues that only alumni would know about, such as why work experience is so important, and to never stop working hard. PAA can bring that same value to students, but on a much higher, more organized level.

Most importantly, through PAA's newsletter, bi-weekly e-mails, and our website, we keep our members informed on the latest news, opportunities for involvement and upcoming events. Why not stay attuned to what's happening in your community and join PAA? Your level of involvement is up to you. PAA membership offers a very easy way to network, give back to the community, and learn about our culture. We invite you to attend a couple of events, you might be surprised about you'll find.



What's Happening!

OCTOBER

- 16 SPEAR History Workshop (PAHM Event) 6-8pm Kerchoff State Room
- 20 PAA ANNUAL TAILGATE. UCLA vs. Berkeley (Homecoming) Football Game @ the Rose Bowl in Pasadena 4:30pm, Kickoff 7:30pm. \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members (includes game ticket, food and drinks). Money raised goes to scholarships and P-Grad. Reserve your tickets today!
- 21-27 Student Art Submissions (PAHM Event) Kerckhoff Art Gallery
- 23 Pilipino Cooking Demonstration (PAHM Event) Time & Location TBD. Contact Samahang Pilipino @ (310) 825-2727
- 26 Pinays Spoken Word (PAHM Event) 6-8pm @ Viewpoint Conference Room, Ackerman Grand Ballroom
- 28 Pilipino Community Festival (PAHM Event) 12-6pm Bruin Plaza

NOVEMBER

- 11 Veteran's Day Parade & Fair to celebrate our Pilipino Veterans @ P-town.
- Undergrad Senior Mixer
- Mentorship Kickoff

DECEMBER

- Cultural Workshop (Cooking)

* For more information on upcoming events, please contact PAA at paacla@hotmail.com.

Message from the Chair

Mabuhay! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to what we hope will be another exciting year for the Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA. Our organization has undergone great improvements in the past year, with the reorganization of the Board of Directors, the revitalization of PAA's newsletter, Pagbabalik, as well as the fruition of our inaugural scholarship fundraising benefit dinner. With your kind and generous contributions, we were able to raise over \$8,000 to go towards establishing a scholarship endowment fund, which we hope to establish in the next few years. In addition, we were honored to be able to present the first PAA Alumni of the Year awards, including the first Royal Morales Community Achievement Award.

Last year, Karen Mangon, former PAA Chair, invited you to "Grow with PAA". In our desire for continued growth this year, we turn to you, our brothers and sisters, and ask you to share with PAA. As a Board of Directors, we strive to make PAA a support system for the Pilipino alumni to further their own growth. Not only does this entail providing opportunities to mentor and network, but also sharing our successes as individuals, both professional and personal, in order to encourage and inspire our fellow alumni to do the same. In addition, we recognize that to be a true resource to our alumni and meet the



needs of our community, we must be conscious of what the current needs are of our membership. This is another way in which you can share with PAA: we challenge you to offer your suggestions, your comments, your criticisms; we invite you to take ownership of your organization; we ask you to help shape PAA to what you, the members, would like it to be.

As stated in our mission statement, the Board of Directors aims to give the alumni a place to unite, to reminisce, to encourage, to support, to share with each other. We want to maintain the ties that bind us - our culture and UCLA - and celebrate our accomplishments as a community. In addition, as the Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA, we seek to be one connection back to UCLA and our Pilipino community of students. Come back and give back. We all remember what it was like to be a student, especially the struggles we

faced as we approached graduation. PAA acknowledges our obligation to guide these students and help them be what we are

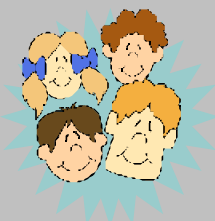
today: successful, educated and conscious graduates of UCLA.

On a more personal note, I would like to express how eager I am to be this year's PAA Chair. As a first time board member last year, I was interested in seeing how much potential this organization had. The 2000-2001 year was truly motivating for me as I look back on PAA's achievements. The success of last year's UCLA Tailgate gave me a sense of unity, knowing that we, as alumni, are still able to congregate to show our Bruin Pride and to enjoy each other's company. The networking night justified the fact that we (both alumni and students) need to be able to go to each other for guidance and support. And the benefit dinner proved how willing we are, as a community, to support the education and ambition of Pilipino students. Reflecting on these events

reminds me that we do have the potential to do great things for our community, and accomplish the goals that this organization was set out to carry out.

So share with us. Your contribution to PAA, whether it is as a volunteer, an advisor, a donor, or a participant, is very much appreciated. Both the Board of Directors and the PAA Advisory Board would like to thank you for your continued support. And I, personally, would like to thank the Board for their endless enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication to the progress of this organization. With this combined effort, the year is sure to be a success!

Alumni Updates



Antoinette Laudencia '93 just gave birth to her first baby girl, Isabella, on October 8, 2001.

Mark Pulido '93 and Gloria Perlas Pulido '91 are expecting their first baby very soon.

Aileen Lagman '96 and Omar Castillo '96 got married in August 2001.

Cindy Evangelista '97 and Lakan de Leon '97 are engaged to be married next year.

Last year's PAA Chair - Karen Mangon '99 has started a new life and career working for Nintendo in Seattle.

Anna Alves '92, former PAA Board member, has made the jump to New York City to work for the Ford Foundation.

* We would love to hear what's going on with you! Please share your announcements with PAA and friends. Send your announcements to Mae Mallari at paauc@hotma.com.

Where Are They Now?

The following past PAA members and friends have changed their location and information. Do you know where they are now? If so, please assist PAA by contacting us at paauc@hotma.com.

Abitria, Richard
Academia, Jerome
Acorda, Kat
Adriatico, Mark
Aguilar, Claudine
Albornoz, Allison
Alcantara, John
Alegado, Liza
Almeria, Aileen
Antolin, Jennifer
Antonio, Reggie
Antonio, Anne
Any, Sefa
Aragones, Jennifer
Asiman, Michael
Aspacio, Hedda
Atangan, Larissa
Atienza, Frances
Ayuyao, Alana
Ayuyao, Gil
Balabis, Joe
Balimbin, Sam
Balucan, Phillip
Balucan, Jen
Baluyut, Pearl Rose
Banta, Michelle
Basilio, Eleanor
Baskerville, Minda
Bautistia, Pete
Benipayo, Aumarie
Bernal, Ray
Bernaldo, Rodney
Besina, Jay
Bigornia, Ambrosio
Bis, Richard
Bragis, Marie
Buktaw, Jose
Bulygo, Marline

Burgos, Annalisa
Cabusao, Joanne
Caisip, Emily
Calimquim, Julie
Cambay, Eliza
Camiling, Jay
Capacillo, Christine
Caritan, Mary
Carrido, Kat
Carrillo, Angie
Castaneda, Janis
Castillo, Bernadette
Castro, Tanjay
Chou, Angela
Constantin, Glen
Corpus, John
Corrales, Warren
Coss, Kimberly
Danting, Michelle
Dawa, Alex
De Belen, Estelle
Vergel de Dios, Christine
DeFrancia, Marianne
DeGuzman, Paolo
Dela Cruz, Ann
Dela Cruz, Anne
Deleon, Joy
DeLuna, Andres
Dizon, Donna
Domingo, Jorell
Domingo, Michelle
Dormitorio, Edgar
Drona, Albert
Duca, John
Ebio, Raul
Ermino, Michael
Esperanza, Sylvia
Espinosa, Gilberto

Estacio, Donna
Evia, Aristotle
Federizo, Aileen
Fernandez, Charmaine
Ferrales, Audrey
Foronda, Nestor
Fortin, Lorna
Francisco, Marianne
Gagajena, PJ
Galoriel, Hannah
Gan, Juan
Gando, Jeff
Gatan, Angie
Gatdula, Lorena
Gil, Pam
Gomez, Maricar
Gomez, Sandra
Gonda, Gayle
Gosom, Michelle
Gubatan, Gerald
Guerrero, Stephanie
Guiala, Leonardo
Hebreo, Joseph
Hermogen, Elena
Hernandez, David
Hucherson, Sarita
Idos, Gregory
Ilomin, Mel
Imperio, Roswell
Intia, Rodol
Itchon, Edric

A Better America Emerges from Ruins of Sept. 11

Continued from Page 1

Now, more than a month later, everything seems so petty - Hollywood's flashy award shows and extravagantly dressed celebrities, overpaid athletes and sports games, shopping for the latest fashion trends, obsessing about Nsync and Britney, even our daily gripes about work or traffic.

Sadly, it took the lives of thousands of innocent people for us to open our eyes to what's really important and appreciate the freedoms we have in America - freedoms people in third world countries only dream about and die for, freedoms our Pilipino parents fought to obtain for us.

Perhaps more importantly, the attacks reminded us that we are not alone on this planet.

What many Americans don't realize - or care to admit - is that we are self-absorbed and ignorant of the outside world.

Millions of innocent people are killed each day in other countries and hardly anyone notices.

As young Pilipinos, for instance, we know very little of the problems in our native homeland.

But when Americans die, the whole world has to stop.

Are the lives of Americans worth more than the lives of those in other countries?

Even with the bombing of two American embassies in Africa and the USS Cole in Yemen in past years (acts of terrorism also linked to Osama bin Laden), few Americans really paid attention because it wasn't on our soil.

Undoubtedly, the tragedy on Sept. 11 brought out the best in America and changed us forever.

We watched as firefighters and police officers risked their lives for strangers and as doctors, nurses and other medical personnel did what they could to help the injured. We were touched to see Americans of every race and religion proudly show support through vigils and prayer and children donate their weekly allowance to a school drive to help the victims.

If Americans get anything out of this tragedy and our bombing of one of the world's poorest countries, I hope that it's a broader perspective of the world.

No longer can we live in our bubble of capitalism, content to

simply dangle \$10 American flags from our gas-guzzling SUVs, which ironically supports the Middle Eastern governments that harbor terrorists.

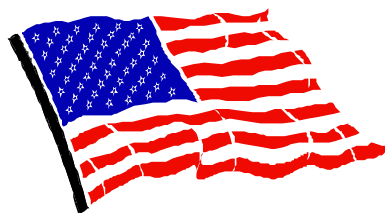
No longer can we throw around terms like Taliban and anthrax loosely and not know what they really mean.

If Americans paid more attention to international news, maybe they would understand why other groups harbor such resentment or hatred for our country.

There's so little we can do to affect the greater scheme of things. (That'll be left up to our nation's leaders. May God grant them wisdom.)

But we can assume the responsibility of educating ourselves and take the time to learn about what's happening in our country and in the world.

For we're not an island all to ourselves, and just because things may not happen here doesn't mean we aren't affected.



23

by Trisha Rose Elegino

Language is irrelevant

to a Brazilian street merchant

and an American traveler

when all we need is willingness to donate two hours of our time,

three cups of coffee and boundless energy

toward laughter, hand waving and acrobatic faces.

He asked me how old I was on the calculator.

The digits I punched

brought a moment of clarity to his eyes.

We smiled together

nodding at the screen.

* This poem was written on the Fall 2000 voyage of Semester at Sea, a study abroad program sponsored by the Institute for Shipboard Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Philippine Superstitions from Don't Take a Bath on a Friday by: Neni Sta.

Romana - Cruz

- A person with a mole in the middle of her nose will be rich but unhappy.
- Lying down with you feet facing the door will bring you an early death.
- If a pregnant woman wants to avoid the unpleasant symptoms of pregnancy, she should step over her husband while he's sleeping and all of her symptoms will be transferred to him.
- If you choke briefly at mealtime, someone far away remembers, or is talking about, you.

Alumni Spotlight - Barbara Gaerlan Ph.D.

Continued from Page 1

While at UCLA she joined a group of students who were lobbying for Southeast Asian courses -- the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee (APLCC). The group was successful in their efforts to establish SE Asian language courses, such as Tagalog, at UCLA. Dr. Gaerlan states that due to the changing demographics of California during the 1980s and 1990s, with increased admission of Pilipinos and SE Asians to the University of California, there was great demand to create SE Asian courses. But that was only the beginning. With continued hard work and lobbying, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at UCLA was born in 1999. In Fall 2001 the Southeast Asian Studies Interdepartmental Program was created, offering a B.A., Minor and Honors Degree Programs in SE Asian Studies for the first time.

Not only are SE Asian Studies classes now offered at UCLA, but there is also an expanded UC-wide Education Abroad Program that allows students to study and intern in the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries. Barbara Gaerlan spent the Spring quarter of 2001 in the Philippines setting up the program there. The program had an excellent start with eighteen students studying in the Philippines in 2001. She has also helped to establish a summer program in the Philippines that will begin in 2002. For more details on the study abroad program and the UCLA SE Asian Studies major and minor, please go to the website www.isop.ucla.edu/seasia.

Although so much has been accomplished in the development of SE Asian Studies, there is more that needs to be done to expand it. As alumni, there are a number of things that we can do to assist in developing a program that provides classes and learning opportunities about our heritage and culture. One suggestion is to give a scholarship to a student who is a SE Asian Studies Major/Minor, and/or a scholarship to send one student to the study abroad program. Since the Pilipino Alumni Association currently awards annual scholarships to students,

an additional scholarship can be added to the existing scholarship program that PAA provides.

The Center for SE Asian Studies is also trying to expand

Southeast Asia holdings in the UCLA library, so funds or donations of personal collections are always welcome. The

recruitment of additional faculty members is another goal that the Center hopes to accomplish. The Center can use alumni help to fund additional permanent faculty

members, as well as visiting professors and even very short-term visitors who can teach or lecture on a relevant topic. Research, such as on improved methods of language instruction, is also in need of support. Anyone interested in exploring these possibilities should contact Dr. Gaerlan at the Center.

There are endless opportunities where we, as alumni, can support the Center and get involved. Without the tireless work of Barbara Gaerlan, her colleagues, and other alumni

and students during the past ten years, the new opportunities that the Center for SE Asian Studies represents would not be available for UCLA and all

other UC campuses. Dr. Gaerlan hopes that this excellent beginning will be sustained with continued expansion in the future.



Career Counseling

PAA is providing another way to give back to UCLA students through mentorship. However, mentors don't have to give the full time commitment like our usual mentorship program.

What is Career Counseling?

- Students looking for jobs/internships/grad school in specific industries can sign up for an alumni in their field of interest.
- PAA will have a compiled list of volunteer alumni and their career fields.
- PAA would pair up student and alumni to meet (i.e. over lunch/dinner) and discuss specific steps to take in getting information in their career field (i.e. Accounting, law, med school, entertainment, etc.).
- Mentors will help student understand what should go on resume/application, what questions will be asked on interview, what skills looking for, what to wear on interview, what specific jobs in that industry, what companies to inquire about, etc. for that SPECIFIC career.
- This program will mostly likely apply to upperclassmen.
- We NEED alumni who are willing to meet with students at least one time to give them more personal connection with alumni, and more individual attention and actual experience/knowledge than the career center.

* If you are interested in mentoring for Career Counseling, please contact Frank Divinagracia at paa UCLA@hotmail.com.

Join us at PAA's Annual Tailgate Event UCLA vs. Berkley

Rose Bowl, Oct. 20 at 4:30pm
Kickoff at 7:30pm
\$30 members, \$35 non-members
includes game ticket, food and drinks
Proceeds go to scholarships & P-grad

Contact Rebecca at paa UCLA@hotmail.com



2001-2002 Pilipino Alumni Association Mission Statement

Pilipino Alumni Association (PAA) of UCLA established in 1993 strives to promote the academic and professional development of the Pilipino Community. PAA provides a vehicle through which alumni, students and friends of UCLA can unite, encourage and support one another. By continuing to build a strong foundation, we will ensure the growth and strength of our community.



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PAA Membership Application

Name _____ Spouse _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell/Pager _____ Email _____

Company _____ Title _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

UCLA Grad? Yes No UCLA Degrees & Years: _____

Degree(s) & Years from other Institutions: _____

Do you wish to have your information published in the PAA Membership Directory: Yes No

Annual Alumni Member:

____ \$35 New Annual Membership ____ \$20 Renew Annual Membership

____ \$25 New Membership for current grads (if applying within one year of graduation)

Please make checks payable to *Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA*

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Please indicate any areas of interest:

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Please mail completed application with payment to:

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