

MACUSA President's Report August 2005

In 2004, unlike 2002 and 2003, we had no major fund-raising activity. We all needed a break and so we only did a few little things that we enjoy. We did not have a lot of money so in terms of worthwhile projects, we did not venture in anything significant. We just contributed to the Marinducare and to the Liberty house.

So, what else did we do? We had our regular annual picnic in the mid-summer of 2004 then we had our usual Christmas Party last December. And yes, you may say that we were on a sabbatical. Almost, anyway!

After a long rest we started 2005 by going on our Easter pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows which is five hours away from Chicago. We chartered a tour bus that took our group of about sixty to our destination. That included some friends and supporters of MACUSA. We left in the morning after Good Friday and we were back in the afternoon of Easter Sunday. *(Unfortunately, our President-elect Ching Manalo was unable to join us. Like any "good lola", she chose to do her own "apostolic" duty. I guess that was her best way of fulfilling her spiritual needs during the Holy Week.)*

We started planning for our 25th anniversary as early as September of 2004. Originally, we were just thinking of having a dinner and dance for the members and some guests. But what the heck, this is the last year of my 2nd term and I was not about to end it with just a simple event that only involves dining, dancing and drinking. So for the third time during my tenure we featured the **Most Outstanding Mothers Award** in our event.

While we did not have as many awardees as the first two, we felt the need to recognize the past presidents who preceded me. There were 13 of them who not only guided the destinies of MACUSA but also helped pave the way for this non-Marinduqueno president.

We also recognized the importance of honoring the elderly members of the organization whom I fondly called the **Senior Grandmothers** of MACUSA. This title separated them from the younger members who are now also grandparents themselves.

In connection with this event, we managed to help defray the cost of the Putong Dancers' new custom-designed dresses that were tailored especially for them in the Philippines.

Later this year, I also proposed that we take advantage of the ABS CBN Foundation's "**Adopt-a-hometown-school**" program. We still have to do some further research before we finalize this. I proposed that the Marinduque High School will be the pilot school for this project. The Department of Education will be dealing with the school directly. If it is approved, my wife and I will be going to Marinduque after Christmas to witness the installation of the educational TV equipment and educational materials.

During our last meeting, one member suggested that I also visit the hospital in Boac. If I do that, I might as well visit the hospital in Sta. Cruz also which is the 2nd largest health care facility in the province.

And if I visit the hospitals, I might as well visit every patient-occupied room in the two hospitals. And I want to take advantage of this opportunity to give something to the infirm who will be currently confined on the day of my unannounced visit. We have yet to decide how much money to put in each of the envelopes that I will be handing the patients. The envelopes will include a list of our members but without addresses or phone numbers. The envelopes will be labeled “**MACUSA’s Gift of Love**” or possibly “**From MACUSA with Love**”.

My plans for next year are limited to supporting the new president. We do not plan for our incoming officers because in them we trust. We will give the new president the courtesy and privilege of imprinting her own style instead of copying others. So, for now, we look forward to the next 25 years with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

By: – Rudy Rubio