

Message from Gloria Smitka, UPINHF President

Greetings to our UPINHF Family, Colleagues, and Friends!

This year 2020 has been designated by the World Health Organization as the International Year of the Nurse. What an honor! It took a global pandemic to shed light on the dedication and commitment of nurses to healthcare, to the community and to the world. This year is also the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

On the UPINHF website (www.UPINHF.org) is an article written by our very own Life Member Dula F Pacquiao, EdD, RN, CTN-A, TNS, BSN 68 in celebration of Nurses Week (May 6-12). It is a shout out for courageous nurses in this perilous time. I find it an inspiring and relevant message.

As we rejoice in the international recognition as nurses, we especially remember and honor our colleagues out in the field who are the front-liners battling this SARS-CoV-2. Many have fallen ill while bravely caring for their contagious patients. Some have recovered, but others unfortunately did not. Since PGH was assigned as the Covid Referral Center for the Philippines, the pandemic is taking a heavy toll amongst UP Nurses, Doctors and other healthcare staff.

UPINHF has already sent three donations to PGH, towards the purchase of much-needed PPE's. Thank you all for your swift response to our call for donations to help the warriors at PGH. The SARS – COV-2 virus is still out there. With fear of a second surge, PGH is now appealing for donations for respirators.

Our help in this battle is ongoing, and UPINHF hopes that you will continue to partner with us. Let us make ourselves count! We can make every year “Year of the Nurse”.

International Forum for Nursing and Healthcare (IFNAH Journal) is Going Digital

Josie F Villanueva, BSN, MA, RN-BC, NE-BC, the Chairman of the Editorial Board of IFNAH, envisions the Journal playing a role during this global crisis. IFNAH as a centerpiece of UPINHF can be relevant to current events as a credible source of information. Despite the cancellation of this year's Fourth Annual Forum, IFNAH will continue to publish. We will go online for the first time, but we will also print hard copies on demand.

We welcome Dr. Minerva Salinas Guttman, EdP, APN, RN as the Editor in Chief and Maggie Ongkiko, MSN, BSN, RN, CCRN, as the Website Liaison.

Zoom Kamustahan with UPCN Dean Sheila Bonito

UPINHF is going virtual with its meetings. Kudos to Maggie Ongkiko for arranging our first Zoom event with Dean Sheila on June 18. It was well attended and informative, and we could include Q&A with the Dean. As per Glo Smitka, we now have a more comprehensive understanding on the role of UPCN with PGH, WHO and other agencies dealing with Covid-19 in the Philippines.

According to the Dean, UPCN is already converting their courses to e-learning. They are innovating, preparing to use tele-nursing care in place of on-site clinicals. Dean Sheila Bonito is the Head of the World Health Organizations Collaborating Center for Leadership in Nursing Development. She also teaches in the UP Open University. Thank you, Dean Sheila, for the job you're doing despite so many tasks on your plate! We hope to see you again in our next Zoom Kamustahan, hopefully along with other UPINHF members and friends.

Madelyn and Amy Yu, Imelda Lomibao Tolentino & Class '75 by Pinky Chance

We are grateful that our classmate, current PNAA President and UPINHF member Madelyn Dosado Yu has recovered completely from her Covid-19 infection. However, we were all deeply saddened by the passing of Mads' husband Alfredo (Amy) Yu, who succumbed to the disease in April. Amy had a huge impact on each of our lives, because we have known and loved him since we were students at the PGH Nurses Home. Amy truly enjoyed being in our class. He was actively involved and supportive of all Class 75 activities and reunions, as well as of Mads' PNAA travel and obligations. He was a dear friend to all of us, and will be missed.

Imelda Lomibao Tolentino, another classmate and life member of the UPINHF, has also recovered completely from Covid-19 Pneumonia, and has since returned to work in the ER in New York!



UPINHF Life member Madelyn and husband Amy Yu, (2nd and 3rd from the left in the 2nd row), with class 1975 UPINHF members and class adviser Mrs. Erlinda Aragonés-Moore, during the Gala Dinner Dance at the 2019 3rd UPINHF International Forum in Glendale, California.



UPINHF Board Member Marlene "Pinky" Cataylo Chance and UPINHF Life Member Madelyn Yu, also PNAA President were speakers at the UPCN Honor Society in February, 2020. Shown among others are UPCN Dean Sheila Bonito, Dr. Carmencita Abaquin, UP PGHSNAA Vice President and previous chair of the PRC Board of Nursing, and Gloria Smitka, UPINHF President.

NARSES: Mga Bayani Ng Mundo – Isinulat ni Tony N. Abad

Muli, kami ay nagpapasalamat sa laksa-laksang manggagawa sa larangang pangkalusugan, lalo't higit ang mga narses sa Pilipinas, sa Estados Unidos, at ibang panig ng daigdig. Kahanga-hanga ang inyong ipinakikita sa pagsasagawa ng inyong tungkulin, sa pagkalinga sa mga may-sakit at sa pagdamay sa kanilang kalungkutan at kasawian. Taglay ang dunong, buong-loob ninyong hinaharap ang panganib na kakabit sa pakikipaglaban sa pandemonyong sanhi ng sakit na naging buwang-bibig na ng marami: COVID-19. Di alintana ang hirap, patuloy kayo sa inyong pinanumpaang.

Nais namin na inyong mabatid na kami sa UPINHF ay mayroon ding pinanumpaang. Kasama dito ay ang pagkalinga at pagtingin sa kagalingan ng mga narses at manggagawang pangkalusugan, sa pagtataguyod ng ating propesyon, at paglilingkod sa lipunang aming kinabibilangan. Kung kaya, sa labang ito, manalig kayo, mga kaibigan, hindi kayo nag-iisa. Kapit-bisig, at puno ng pagasa, walang-humpay ang ating pakikibaka tungo sa ating ninanasa. Para sa isang malusog, makatao, at **maka-Diyos na mamamayan ng bayan at sandaigdigan, mabuhay!**

In Memoriam UP Tribute to Alumni who have succumbed to Covid-19
(Link: <https://youtu.be/BtbtSW3669A>). A very touching video, a “must” watch!

UPINHF RESPONSE to the PGH Covid -19 Appeal, by Iren Bobis Roldan

(Also on the UPINHF website: www.upinhf.org)

- \$1,000 from the UPINHF Operating Account sent to the PGH Medical Foundation;
- \$1,000 sent to the PGH Adult Infectious Unit for N95 masks; and
- \$1,200 from individual donors sent to PGH Medical Foundation for PPE and other needs.

To date UPINHF has sent \$ 3,200. We continue to solicit funds to help with respirators and other needs. It is never too late!

We thank everyone who has contributed financially towards the fight against Covid-19. Remember, a surge may be on the horizon. UPINHF continues to encourage donations; UPINHF is designated a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We encourage everyone to join us.

MARAMING SALAMAT, SALUDO KAMI SA INYONG KABUTIHANG-LOOB

The following alumni have generously contributed:

Erlinda Aragonés-Moore '55, Mely de Leon '61, Merle Borrero '67, Rizalita Placer '67, Laarni Medina '67, Mila Rivera '67, Lita Sulit Roldan '67, Ruth Guerrero Itchon '67, Magdalena Senon '67, Godie Valenzuela '67, Josie Villanueva '67, Connie Oliveros, 67, Dula F. Pacquiao '68, Jane Erlinda Starchman '68, Celia Agustin '68, Rosario Fajardo '68, Iren Bobis Roldan 69, Jessie Ivins 69, Evelyn Acosta 69, Belen Leung 69, Evelina Velasco 69, Gloria Smitka 69, Laginia Ambo '69, Rhodora Maligalig '72 , Maggie Ongkiko '73, Marilyn Boots '73, Lita Tsai 73, Elena Apostol '73, Jasmine Malabuyo '73, Emy Goodrich '74, Zeny Tabios '74, Fe Jularbal '74, Mayda de Castro '74, Imelda Enquera '74, Evelyn McLaughlin '76, Antonio Abad '81, Theresa Abad '81.

UPINHF is Moving Forward! Aiming Always for UP Excellence!

UPINHF continues to be very active despite the constraints of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and the restrictions it entails. UPINHF will not succumb to inertia in this critical environment. We will stay active and continue to update you with unfolding events through our Website and via our News Briefs. The members of UPINHF are on the move, in sync with others even at a distance, working as one engine under the active leadership of our president, Glo Smitka. Finally, in light of what’s happening in our country and globally, let me paraphrase Stephen Grellet:

“We will pass this world but once, therefore any kindness we can show, or any goodness we can do, let us do it now, for we will not pass this way again.”

We will overcome this sorrowful state!

Until then, let us be vigilant and work together in unity and stay safe!

Consider this News Briefs also as our July 4th Freedom Greetings!

MABUHAY!

By MERLE F BORRERO, RN
UPINHF Corresponding Secretary

UPINHF WEBSITE: <https://upinhf.org>

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