



Batch '91/ Class '95 Chemistry is what binds us

We share the stage as Silver Jubilarians with Class '96 and '97 to reminisce and to give back to the Institution which, 25 years ago, had nurtured our dreams and aspirations.

Back when the word pandemic or Covid 19 was unheard of and cellphones were almost non-existent, we were a class of about 40 or so divided into 2 blocks. We came from all over the archipelago, from different backgrounds, fresh-faced high school grads loving their newfound freedom in the old halls of Pav 1 and Pav 2.

For the first year, we went through the rigors of taking Chem 16 under Dr. Ratilla and Chem 17 under Dr. Quibuyen, our first taste of Chem and for some, their first experience of barely getting a passing score on exams. Lab classes were also exciting times, hair raising and sometimes hair burning experiences. We experimented, crammed through lab reports, studied in the CS Lib, walked to our next class and if for some reason you got Math in the newly built Math building or PE after Chem courses, then we had to run just to catch the next class. That would be our story for the next 3 years.

After the first year, some found other callings and shifted to a different course or college but for the rest of the batch, life just went on with Analytical and Organic chem coupled with Calculus, Comm 1 and 2 and other general subjects. We joined various organizations, Chemsoc, being the organization nearest the Pavs, but for others, opted to join UPSCA, UP Zoological Society, UP DOST Scholars Association or some regional organizations.

By third and fourth year, we were even faced with more serious classes with three PhyChem classes, Inorganic Chem and Biochem classes, back to back laboratory that lasted from 7am to 7pm and Sunday exams that ran the whole day. We learned patience, creativity and fortitude and these we carry to what we are now today.

After graduation, we went separate ways showing that Chemistry gives a good foundation to so many career paths. A few stayed in the academe to pursue research, teach or take further studies. Our Chem couple, Eiza Yu- Roberto and Rene Roberto continued their love of teaching. Rene is currently a lecturer at Miriam College while Eiza is a Professor at the MSI and currently the College of Science Associate Dean. Chadwick Tan is a faculty at the College of Arts and Science, World Citi Colleges. Arnold Tamayo pursued his PHD from the University of California Santa Barbara and currently connected with Next Energy Technologies Inc. Nerissa Puntaweis an International Chemistry teacher and author and consultant for Oxford University Press. Lastly, another batchmate, Carol Vargas took her PHD in Germany.

A bunch of us found their way to medicine. Maricar Malinisis currently the Medical Director of Transplant and Infectious Diseases at Yale University. Zen Abrera-Abeleda took her medicine degree from the UERM but is now in law school pursuing a career in Health Law. Philip Fullanteis a practicing doctor and currently a Clinical Associate Professor and medical specialist at the Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery at the PGH. Val Santiago-Dela Cruz and May Magomnang-Montojo are both making the lives of kids better by being the best Pediatricians. Val Zarza Geron is a Cardiologist at Makati Medical Center. Butch Ong is a Physical and Rehabilitation doctor in addition to his other pursuits as part of the OCTA Research group and Chief Science Research Specialist. Research and Development Division Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC). Christine Lagman is a Psychiatrist at the St Luke's Medical Center QC and BGC. Meng Roberto practices Internal Medicine and Rheumatology.

Other batchmates found their niche in other pursuits. Amy Bautista-Magadia is almost 26 years at Unilab handling Supplier Quality Management for raw materials. Janneth Uy-Savadera is a Chem. Lab Supervisor at Philippine Geothermal Production Co. Inc. Lessie Galindo is a Sales Manager at Brenntag Ingredients Inc. Janet Zuno Marcellana is an Application Advisor under Shell Construction and Road. Jenny Angelada is a CPA practicing in Ohio while Marga Paulino is a Finance Manager. Criser Abad is a science editor at Abiva Publishing House Inc. currently also working with another batchmate Pars Ramos who is a freelance editor. Jenny Saldana and Teresa Tan are both working in the US. Lastly, Jeff Chan is currently an IT manager at Emids and together with Eiza and Rene, established a supplementary science education provider called SEEd Lab Ph which gives hands-on science laboratory experiences for young students.

Almost 27 years have passed and some have moved on to other careers seemingly unconnected to chemical reactions and covalent bonds but no matter where we go or do, there's one thing that connects us all, it's our shared experiences of those privileged college years and our love of Chemistry.

- *Batch '91 / Class '95*

Reminiscing the early 90s

Who could ever forget the colorful 90s? Cult classics like Jurassic Park and Speed were on the silver screen. The foreign music scene was a battle between boy bands and grunge rock artists. In local entertainment, dance groups were gaining popularity. Indie pinoy bands like Eraserheads and Yano were just being discovered.

It was in this backdrop that the hosts for this year's alumni homecoming ('95, '96, '97) got into UP. In my freshman year (1991), the CS Library and Math Building were newly constructed. Philcoa Citimall was not yet built. I was amazed at the number of jeepney routes within the UP campus. Since the standard fare was around Php 1.50, I confidently returned the 25 centavo change to the IKOT jeep driver. "Sobra po yung sukli!"

Block sections were the norm for freshies in 1991. Every incoming isko and iska had the same class for the different subjects. This makes the bonding among first year students all the more tight. It feels like high school again, where you have the same teachers and subjects, and spend time together during breaks between classes. There were many times we had to study by candlelight during power outages at the peak of the energy crisis. Another challenge was making it to the next class on time if you have classes from the AS building (Palma Hall) and your next class is in the newly built Math building. I distinctly remember when we had to wade through fast moving flood waters which were ankle-deep during a thunderstorm. Our umbrellas could not match the ferocity of the heavy downpour. All of us were soaking wet by the time we arrived at our Math 17 class.

During lunch breaks, we could learn some martial arts techniques from the lightning quick ninja cleaners of CASAA. They would snatch our plate as we chewed the last morsel of food. At the Faculty center, we would wait for hours for our professors to photocopy readings, get classcards, or get a slot in their class ("prerog" in UP slang). The shopping center was a vibrant place of commerce where we would run to if we needed glassware, have readings photocopied by bulk, or buy budget meals.

The Institute of Chemistry was still in Pavilions 1 and 2 of Palma Hall. The hallways and classrooms give this retro vibe and was used as a location for some horror movies. For those who spent the night there for long experiments and research, it is not just a vibe. We have actual stories of supernatural encounters.

Some of those who graduated from the tripartite host batches stayed on as instructors, researchers, and masteral students in IC and it seemed like an extension of our undergrad days. Christmas parties were always held in the Pilar Herrera Hall and these people gave their full support for the IC entry to the UP Lantern parade

These places bore witness to friendships formed and triumphs celebrated. But sadly, some of these structures are no longer there. The only way we could visit these places is a trip down memory lane. Perhaps that is why homecoming and reunions should not be missed. It is an opportunity to travel back in time when we were young and full of energy. Just for a while, we could go back to the time when we would hear the noisy clattering of spoon and forks in CASAA,

the sounds of the violin solo of Mang Castor in the prep room and the songs of indie bands performing on UP grounds. As a stanza in an Eraserhead song goes:

*“lahat ng bagay ay merong hangganan
dahil ngayon tayo ay nilimot ng kahapon
di na mapipilitang buhayin ang ating pinagsamahan
ngunit kung sakaling mapadaan baka
ikaw ay aking tawagan
dahil minsan tayo ay naging
tunay na magkaibigan”*

So here’s to time travel, a brief journey back to the time when life was simpler, but never without stress. Here’s to the places and events we remember, the friendships we kept, and the laughter we shared. Happy reunion, everyone!

- *Chadwick Tan, Class ‘96*

Batch ‘93/ Class ‘97

On August 20, 2022, our batch, UP Diliman Chemistry ‘97 graduates, will be coming together to celebrate our 25th year graduation anniversary, coming home to our Alma Mater with great pride and hope for the future chemists currently being raised by the institute.

Perhaps it is not unique to our batch, but we consider our batchmates our extended family, and neither distance nor time will make strangers of us. We are mighty fortunate for staying in touch and keeping up with each other's lives. We hold pockets of mini-reunion when we can, whether in the Philippines, Australia, Canada, US, or anywhere else in the world, whenever the opportunity presents itself. (We’re not the shy types.) And this is in part due to the arrival of social media but also in large part due to our genuine care for one another.

While reunions can be fraught and anxiety-inducing to others, and one hears stories of alumni measuring their path against those of others, our ‘97 huge family, which is what it truly is, does not carry that burden. We are excited to catch up with life-long friends, learn stories behind those fun pictures on Facebook, and sing our lungs out together on karaoke battles (be forewarned). And for those who are not as active in social media, we look forward to knowing where the road after college had taken them with fascination and no judgment. We know this, because if there is one character that UP and especially the Institute of Chemistry has ingrained in our hearts, it is one of humility. We learned early on that while we, individually, were the creme de la creme of our high schools wherever that may be, we come to the institute offering different strengths, and in our togetherness, we found ourselves so much stronger. Transporting ourselves back to those teenage years more than 25 years ago, how many times did we burn the midnight oil, or more appropriately “nagsunog ng kilay” both literally and figuratively in the company of our friends, at CASAA, at the College of Science library, or sprawled on some corner of the pavilion? We can still smell the CCl₄ (yikes), hear our teeth grind with fear as we watch Ma’am Flores sit at her desk brandishing her red pen with flourish across our Chem 17 test papers. In those four years, we studied together, partied together, fund-raised together, and enjoyed the wonderful camaraderie.

Life, my dears, while not predictable with respect to career and family, has generously blessed us with sustainable friendships that blossomed from our days in UP Diliman. We hope that with this event and our batch project, we are able to somehow give back to the place that has given us so much. Today, we welcome you to join us in remembering the way we were, showing you where we have landed, and considering what we, and you, might yet become.

- *Batch ‘97 Graduates,
The Silver Jubilarians*



designed by freepik



The Silver Jubilarians'

Batch Project:

Kalesa Picnic Tables

For the Institute of Chemistry

(Delivered and installed in August 2022)

Thank you! 🌸🌸🌸

"Our sincerest gratitude to The Flower Man for the flower arrangements gifted to the silver jubilarians."

THE FLOWERMAN

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UP Chemistry Alumni Homecoming - Batch '97



All images from the Silver Jubilarians can be accessed at

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/TURC23R4>



A challenging time...

On March 9, 2020, The UP Diliman administration suspended all classes and directed skeletal workforce within the campus. It was the start of the adjustments that faculty, staff, research personnel, REPS, students, and parents were forced to adapt to in response to the pandemic. Indeed, the start of the pandemic was a very dark time for everyone.

While fear and anxiety were looming, reconfigurations in operations were being put in place. For its part, the Institute of Chemistry, in support of the various directives from the administration, implemented new policies in teaching and research, and responded to calls for assistance when it can. In the year 2020, it was almost as if time stopped. Every important movement was done in the background, and life slowly turned for what would be the *New Norm*.



In September 2020, the institute made a donation of alcohols to the UP Health Service.

Picking up in 2021

The year 2021 then became busiest and most complicated year of convalescing to more regular operations for the university. The College of Science instituted different schemes to ensure the safety of all its constituents, through the CS Post ECQ Team, lead by the Dean, Dr. Giovanni Tapang. Instrumental to these efforts were the contributions of the Associate Dean for Research, Innovation, Development and Enterprise, Dr. Ricky Nellas, a professor at the institute. In the Institute, safety and health of personnel were monitored by Dr. Allan Yago and Dr. Sean See.

Unpleasant but necessary

Retrofitting of transmission deterrents was done as early as the first Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in accordance with the directives from the Covid-19 Interagency Task Force (IATF) and the COVID 19 Task Force of the university. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) also provided guidelines on foot traffic, social distancing, room occupancies and schedules, and sanitation. You will find markings and posts of different kinds within the institute.



Entrants to the buildings are checked for temperature and health declarations

The comeback

The Institute of Chemistry started getting back on its feet in the latter part of 2021. Against the existing mental pressure of the pandemic, the Institute saw a 77.78% passing rate in the October 2021 Chemistry Licensure Examination.

The faculty roster also had an addition of a Ph.D. graduate from the University of Tokyo, Dr. Tiffany Sotelo.

Mr. Rodel Del Valle, the resident Electrician of the Institute, received the Dangal ng UPD Award.

In 2022, the Outstanding Young Scientist Award returned to the Institute of Chemistry through its recipient, Dr. Allan Christopher C. Yago, in the 44th NAST Annual Recognition



Participants during the bridging program of the Institute of Chemistry with Mr. Yasmin Edañol (rightmost), one of the instructors who supervised the training.

The Institute of Chemistry held its first Bridging Program in the mid-year term of 2022 to ensure that graduating and recently graduated students receive the necessary hands-on laboratory skills before they move in to the world of professional practice.

Finally, the Institute held its first hybrid recognition program in July of 2022. The event was successfully planned, managed, and executed



(From top) Various wall and floor markings that can be found in the institute buildings.



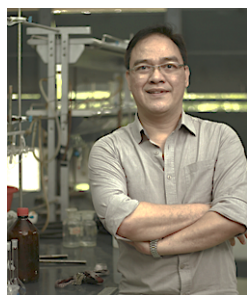
The Institute of Chemistry 2022 Recognition Program was held in the UPIS Gymnasium.

by the capable team of student representatives. There were 47 B.Sc. Chemistry graduates, and 2 M.Sc. Chemistry in total. The institute was blessed with **19 Cum Laude**, **12 Magna Cum Laude**, and **1 Summa Cum Laude** graduates. The Baldomero-Olivera & Lourdes Cruz awardees were Mr. Janrick Cayetano (Summa Cum Laude) and Mr. Joshua Jener Lopez (Magna Cum Laude) for AY 2021-2022, and Mr. Hernan Joseph Delizo (Magna Cum Laude) and Mr. Flloyd Kristoffer Tubiera (Magna Cum Laude) for AY 2019-2020. Leadership awards were given to Ms. Izabelle Dolores, Ms. Angela Gascon, Mr. Lorenzo Mapalo, Mr. Lester Dave Pua, Mr. Kim Somera, and Ms. Carla Mae Marie Tan.

Memories of dedicated service

Mr. Jolly Naigan retired after more than 30 years of service to the Institute.

As with most stories during the pandemic, the Institute is not without its share of losses.



We commemorate the rich career and remarkable contributions of our colleagues who have joined the Creator:

(L-R)

Dr. Leon Payawan, Jr. (1962-2020),
Dr. Eva Marie Ratilla (1961-2020), and
Dr. Florentino Sumera (1951-2021).

Thank you dearest Professors 🌸

Your Foundation accomplished the following during the past fiscal year (July 2019 - July 2022):

U.P. CHEMISTRY ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.

Chairman's Report

UPCAF Board of Trustees:

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Ma. Bella Brilliantes-Javier, UPChem'81	Adviser

Standing committees and their heads:

Alumni Homecoming	Chadwick B. Tan, UPChem'96
Fund Raising Activities	UPCAF Board
Newsletter	Meryl Christina Antonio

- We continue to hold regular Board via zoom.
- We published and sent out one issue of the UPCAF Newsletter.
- We continue to manage the secretariat for the Amando Clemente Memorial Foundation (ACMF).
- Through the UPCAF, the 2019 ACMF Award recognized the Chemistry Board Topnotcher, Andrew Exequiel Sanchez Tabilog of U.P. Los Baños.
- We supported the host Silver Jubilarians (UP Chem '94) in organizing the UP Chemistry 2019 Annual Homecoming held at the Institute of Chemistry Teaching Building, National Science Complex, attended by 89 alumni.
- We continued to liaise with the U.P. Institute of Chemistry, more specifically with regards to prioritizing the needs of IC, handling of the Institute's remaining funds, and educational assistance funds donated by previous reunion batches.
- This year's Annual Homecoming will be hosted by UP Chem'95, UP Chem'96 and UP Chem'97. We assisted Mr. Chadwick Tan of this Chem'96, in the preparation for the UP Chemistry 2022 Annual Homecoming.

UP CHEMISTRY ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.

Comparative Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2021 and 2020

ASSETS		2021	2020
CURRENTS ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalent	PhP	3,431,204.72	3,682,415.00
Receivables		50,000.00	50,000.00
Manuals		4,579.00	4,579.00
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
Office Equipment – Net		2,007.00	49,437.00
TOTAL ASSETS	PhP	3,487,790.72	3,786,431.00
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY			
Funds	PhP	3,242,185.34	3,117,754.00
Other Liabilities		3,430.00	4,188.00
	PhP	3,245,615.34	3,121,942.00
FUND BALANCES			
Capital Fund	PhP	243,320.38	665,634.00
Total Equity		243,320.38	665,634.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	PhP	3,488,935.72	3,787,576.00



Thank you for coming! Thank you for your continued support. 🧡💖💖💖