**14045, Marieta Yabut**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the new president of our alumni association I am thrilled to welcome all of you to Pasayaw, the 10th anniversary celebration of the APO Great Lakes Alumni Association. We have a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing planned but we’re also here to do some fund raising for our service projects for the year.

Ever since we were members in our college fraternities and sororities we have made it a point to be active in service projects. We are proud of the three cardinal principles of our association. Those principles are Leadership, Friendship and Service. Those principles have guided us as we make decisions regarding how we operate our association and the projects we choose.

Leadership – Being a leader is more than being in charge. It’s more than having authority or giving orders to others. Being a leader means setting an example to those around us. True leaders do not demand respect and obedience. True leaders inspire those behaviors in the people around them. In college we learned how to be leaders among our student body. Today in the workplace and in the communities around us we set the example of how to lead others. We do it in the decisions we make and the behaviors we exhibit. We don’t have to tell people we are leaders because our behavior. By naturally taking the lead and showing others how to lead by our example we help develop other leaders around us which makes our community stronger.

Friendship – True friendship isn’t just doing common things together and having fun. True friends reach out to those around them; they look to see what is needed around them and then they find a way to meet those needs. Running in the Detroit Marathon joins us in a bond with others in our community for a common goal and personal best.

Service – Leadership and Friendship are the feelings, beliefs and emotions we carry but Service is how we carry out those feelings, beliefs and emotions. Our service projects put feet to those feelings. When we participate in helping the homeless, feeding those who are starving, missions to The Philippines and world medical relief, we are walking out what we believe.

In order to fulfill these cardinal principles we need to stand together. We need to continue walking out those principles on a daily basis. We also need to remember that to carry out these principles requires funding, which is part of this event tonight. We have a lot of things planned for tonight and I encourage you to experience it all to the fullest. I thank every one of you for coming tonight and for being apart of our association because it takes all of us working together to make this all work.

It is an honor to serve as the new president of this association. But, it is a one of the greatest experiences of my life to be a member of this wonderful association.

Enjoy your evening everyone