**15309, Marieta Yabut**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome everyone to our annual alumni gathering. I am very proud to be the president of the ALPHA PHI OMEGA (APO) Great Lakes Alumni Association. I hope you’ll take the opportunity to introduce yourselves to one another tonight since you come from several different colleges and universities throughout the Philippines.

We are proud of principles of leadership, friendship, and service and we make a point of putting feet to our beliefs through the annual projects we complete. Just to remind you those projects are Forgotten Harvest, World Medical Relief, and St. Patrick’s Feeding the Homeless. In addition, since we joined the APO Alumni Council of North America (ACNA), we also support all their projects such as Adopt a Barangay and Medical Missions to the Philippines.

We hold those principles dear to our hearts and live them out daily. Leadership is more than just being the boss. There are people in every walk of life who hold no official title or authority, but people naturally follow them because they exude a natural leadership quality. People just know they can trust them. It’s not just a feeling. It’s seeing the quality of ethics and responsibility in the way a person carries them self and lives their life. Friendship is a quality that many people take for granted. Many times they mistake a casual acquaintance for a friend. But, true friendship is more than just knowing a person’s identity. It is caring what happens to that person, sometimes more than you care what happens to you. Service is a quality that develops out of leadership and friendship. When you have your own ethical foundation and you know how to be a true friend, then you automatically seek to serve those around you and in the greater world at large.

By volunteering for these projects and donating your time and talents, you are truly making a difference in the lives of our less fortunate brothers. You are showing your values and your foundation by deed as well as word. By attending Pasayaw, our yearly fundraising dinner and dance, and donating of your resources you are making a difference in a more concrete way, but an important way none the less.

Tonight we have some very specific goals for our fund raising and we’ll talk more about that tonight. I have faith in each and every one of you that you will be just as generous with your funds as you are with your time and talents. I encourage all of you to take full advantage of all the activities tonight. I want to thank each and every one of you for coming tonight and for giving of yourselves as members of this association. It takes all of us to accomplish our goals and this association has set the bar high for the members to participate, and you have never disappointed us in your participation.

I am honored to be the president of this association and happy to work with each and every one of you.