**15309, Marieta Yabut**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome everyone to our annual dinner and dance fundraiser event, Pasayaw. I am very proud to be the president of the ALPHA PHI OMEGA (APO) Great Lakes Alumni Association, and I want to thank all our members who work so hard to make our fund raising a success. I hope you’ll take the opportunity to introduce yourselves to one another tonight. If you have any questions about our association or the volunteer work that we do, please do not hesitate to ask and we will be happy to provide you with the information.

We are proud of principles of leadership, friendship, and service and we make a point of putting feet to our beliefs through three to six annual projects. 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 their time and talents, our members are truly making a difference in the lives of our less fortunate brothers. They are showing our values and our foundation by deed as well as word. By attending Pasayaw, our yearly fundraising dinner and dance, and donating of your resources you are also 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 generous with your funds. I encourage all of you to take full advantage of all the activities tonight. The members and I express our thanks to each and every one of you for joining us and for your generosity.

Now, feel free to take advantage of the great food and music tonight and enjoy yourselves.

Thank you