

**UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
(SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER)  
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND HEALTH CARE MENTORING PROGRAM**

The Science, Engineering and Health Care Mentoring Program was first conceptualized by Mario Castillo, Diosdado Banatao, Isagani Sarmiento and Satur Ocampo. It is currently under the auspices of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association – San Francisco Chapter. Amgen Foundation and Ayala Foundation-USA are the stalwart supporters of this project just launched last September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 during the Induction Ball of the association at the Clarion Hotel, Millbrae, CA. Other organizations collaborating with this project are the other UP Alumni Associations, UP KemGlobal and UPAE-USA.

***Objectives***

- to serve the community by encouraging & leading students to careers in science, engineering, and health care
- to utilize the cutting-edge knowledge, skills, and experience of UPAA-SF members & friends
- to foster friendship & collaboration with UPAA and the community
- to introduce students into networking, philanthropy and entrepreneurship

***Scope***

*Mentoring*

The main focus of the project is to provide mentors to the children of our alumni and their friends. Our community is rich with talented, passionate and caring scientists, engineers, teachers, medical health professionals and entrepreneurs that can provide guidance, advice, referrals, learning opportunities, training and skill development to our youth. Mentors will inform, inspire and lead students to pursue careers in science, engineering and health care. As a community, we can show our children the various paths, share with them our experience - pitfalls and success, guide them in the right directions and hopefully, they will be confident in making the right decisions that will lead to a better future.

Mentoring may be in the form of phone, mail and e-mail communication or through meetings. The best way is to have the student work with you in your lab or workplace. The student may just be shadowing or performing their own experiments under your supervision. Mentoring activities will be recorded for the students' safety consideration. Mentoring activities will be published on the UPAA-SF website.

*Scholarships/Internships*

Experts in the field will be on the lookout for available scholarships/internships in their areas. They can assist students with application procedures. Amgen offers a Summer Undergraduate Program and also collaborates with Biotech Partners in the bay area and the Dolan DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York. Other bio/pharmaceutical industries offer scholarships/internships that are the gateways to future jobs. NIH (National Institutes of Health), National Science Foundation,

Department of Defense and some of the universities can also be tapped. We are currently looking into the FMA's (Fabricators and Manufacturers Association) summer camp scholarship/internship.

#### *Activities*

The various student groups (sorted according to age range and interest) will be interacting with mentors and other facilitators in engaging activities that not only will stimulate thinking but also foster camaraderie and appreciation of the fields of science, engineering and health care. With the help of our seasoned entrepreneurs, we will help our students see beyond the textbook and apply the knowledge to create and invent new products and procedures that are economically viable. We will try to introduce students to business development, innovation, product design, production and marketing of high-value, useful products.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, students, mentors, parents and grandparents went to the newly opened California Academy of Sciences. Students were introduced to the various areas of study in biology. During the Thanksgiving Potluck, the students had a chance to meet some of our mentors and also got to try their steps with the bamboo dance. At the Holiday Potluck, participants were heralded by a performance from a couple of our students playing Christmas music on their string instruments. We also heard inspirational entrepreneurial talks from a couple of our mentors. We filled the rest of the night singing Christmas carols, some of them in Tagalog.

Other activities in the pipeline include a tour at the NUMMI (New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. in Milpitas) manufacturing facility, a tour of the Gilroy Food Manufacturing site, activities at the Alum Rock Youth Science Institute, bird watching and trail hikes. We are also tapping a possible grant from NUMMI.

With these activities, we are essentially duplicating the Lyceum Program of Santa Clara Valley. The Lyceum is an organization run by parents of children with IQ higher than 130. The UPAA-SF Mentoring Program is offering the same unique opportunities for ALL the children in our community.

#### *Seminars and Forums*

Our youth can learn from the wisdom of those who have gone before them. It is a venue to show them how we walked our paths. Conversely, we can learn from our youth how they see things, where they are now, how they do things and what their interests are.

Q&A with the mentors was held during the Thanksgiving and Holiday Potluck parties.

### **The Future**

Since this is a pilot project with solid support from Amgen Corporation, the focus is on science, engineering and health care. In the future, we can extend this to other fields such as the arts and music, sports, the social sciences, and other vocations. Presently, we are including mentees in the field of performing arts because a mentor-mentees relationship is already in place.

The goal in the future is to match an adult with every child. Our community has the resources to further the future of our kids. The alumni of the University of the Philippines are providing the channel and the mechanics to make this possible.

**Mentoring Program Committee**

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