



Southern California  
**MAPUA ALUMNI**  
www.socalmapua.org

# NEWSLETTER July 2022

Published Semi-annually

## President's Message



Ross Papilla, EE'75, PE, MBA

Greetings fellow Mapuans and friends! It's summertime and it's time for us to get together once again as a big happy group. I'm referring to our upcoming SCMA Annual Summer Family Picnic and Membership Drive on August 27 in our beautiful and welcoming city of Walnut. Please spread the word and come with your fellow Mapuan group, friends, and families. This is one of our most important events, and more so this year because we will start nominations for the new set of officers for 2023-2024. Let's make this year's picnic as successful as last year's, where we had over 110 people in attendance and a record number of new annual members, and new lifetime members.

This year, as the pandemic is abating, our organization has become more vibrant than ever. Our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Induction Ball and Dinner-Dance last April 30 at the Norwalk Doubletree Hilton hotel was a great success. We had a huge attendance – 216 guests, and we raised over \$5,500. We inducted our mostly young set of officers, pledged over 20 new lifetime members, honored our founding presidents and recognized members for their outstanding contributions to the success of the organization, all in a fun and elegant party.

Our golf tournament last June 25 at Alhambra Golf Course was also very successful after being in hiatus for 4 years. It was great to see our golfer alumni and friends, networking and having quality time at the golf course and the after-game dinner at Kami Buffet in Rosemead. We had 16 teams and we played Texas Best-ball Scramble. Congratulations to the winners of the Championship, 1st and 2nd Runner-up, Longest Drive and Closest-to-the-Pin trophies, as well as the putting contest and raffle prize winners. With special thanks to our sponsors and volunteers, we're happy to report that this fundraiser generated about \$2,600. Also, we are in the process of organizing two teams to compete against other Southern California Alumni groups. As you may know, we won the "Battle of the Alma Mater" tournament last year.

The traditional methods of raising funds have been augmented by new ones, including the Adopt-A-Scholar, Qualified Charitable Distribution, Scholarship Matching Fund, and Facebook Birthday Programs. The response to these programs, especially the Scholarship Matching Fund, has been quite good and we've increased our Scholarship Fund reserve to about \$20,000. One of our scholars has graduated and the other is near graduation. We are now in the process of on-boarding four (4) new scholars at our Alma Mater.

We are organizing a free Engineer-in-Training (EIT) course this fall to help our members and other engineers in their professional development. Let us know if someone you know would like to review for and take the California EIT board exam. Also let us know if you can teach a subject, offer to host a class, or if you have any ideas to help improve this course.

Our website has proven to be quite useful in automating the functions we used to do on paper, including membership application/renewal, event announcement/invitation, on-line payment/donation, messaging, and dissemination of information such as our mission/vision, membership/leadership, scholarship and career assistance programs, fundraising programs, and alumni life activities. There are also links to relevant websites, social media pages, photos, and documents.

Dear fellow alumni and supporters, Southern California Mapua Alumni is on a roll. The Strategic Revitalization Plan that we launched last year is working well and we're seeing a new level of enthusiasm among Mapuans. Come join us and see old friends and make new ones, and enjoy our bond as Mapuans, as we endeavor to give back to the community. Please visit our website at [www.socalmapua.org](http://www.socalmapua.org). We look forward to seeing you and your families at the picnic!

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## Membership Status and Membership Drive

After a year of hiatus (2020) due to this pandemic, SCMA saw a surge in membership in 2021 – twenty-one (21) new lifetime and seven (7) new annual-paying members, which has not happened in over 20 years. This can be attributed to the following reasons: (A) An energetic president who reached out to former co-workers, relatives, friends, business and community associates; (B) Our new website that fostered new interest and excitement in SCMA and made on-line membership applications easy and convenient; (C) Active recruitment by fellow alumni and classmates, and; (D) Promotional incentives such as a free Mapua T-shirt for new lifetime members and formal recognition at the dinner-dance event. To date, the total number of lifetime members is 128 and annual-paying members is 41.

Our annual family picnic and general membership meeting also serves as our annual membership drive. This year, the picnic will be held in Walnut, CA on Saturday, August 27. We are again promoting Lifetime Memberships with the same incentives plus a payment plan. Lifetime Membership reduces work on annual renewals on both the member and SCMA and ensures inclusion of the member's name in the dinner dance souvenir programs and the website for life. Mapua alumni may renew your Annual membership or upgrade it to Lifetime membership on our website at <https://www.socalmapua.org/membership>.

## SCMA Free EIT Review Course This Fall

One of SCMA's core missions is to provide career advancement assistance with free California Engineering Exam review classes, mentoring, networking, and job placement support to individuals in the engineering and technical fields. Engineer-in-Training (EIT) review classes for young engineers and alumni aspiring to pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and be granted a California EIT Certificate is one of the most popular of SCMA's public service programs. A review course typically consists of eight classes held on consecutive Saturdays and is scheduled when there are sufficient number of students. This fall, SCMA plans to conduct the EIT review classes, which will be facilitated by SCMA members and volunteers who have passed the exam and/or have a mastery of specific subject areas. We are now in the process of organizing the course and are looking for students and instructors. This year, we hope to be able to partner with organizations such as companies, government agencies and universities, and utilize technology to improve this program. Please let us know if you or someone you know is interested in participating in this course. For more information on this program, please contact us through our website at <https://www.socalmapua.org/eit-review>.

## 2022 SCMA Golf Tournament

Our 2022 SCMA Golf Tournament at the Alhambra Golf Course held last June 25 was a great success and we have raised just approximately **\$2,800** (sufficient to support one needy but deserving SCMA scholar student for 7 quarters at our Alma Mater). The weather was a bit hot that Saturday, but we have still had about 53 players in 14 teams who attended the event. The awarding ceremony was held at Kami Buffet restaurant in Rosemead. For the Texas Best-ball Scramble game, trophies went to: Teams 6 and 12 – 8 under par, and Team 5 - 10 under par. Trophies also went to Cecilia Lopez-Brod and Ernie Monzon for Longest Drive, and Michelle Papilla-Nguyen and Max Montero for Closest-to-the-Pin. We would like to thank all the players, volunteers, families & friends, and sponsors for their support. Special thanks to Nene Umali-Irlandez who solicited a lot of sponsor donations.

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## 2022 SCMA Golf Tournament



**Registration:** Desk Volunteers L-R: Ross Papilla, Grace Viloría, Minda Papilla, Emily Porras, Joselyn and Ed De Mesa.

**Not pictured:** Russel Viloría and Emil Venegas.



**Team 12 Golfers:** Joel Rigonan's team with golfers Dana De Vera, George Castillo, and Rick Garcia, with SCMA President Ross Papilla



**Championship trophy winners:** Team 5 golfers Vernon Tabirara, Jun Espiritu, Roy Rodriguez and Bert Tandoc with Ross Papilla and Tony Ballesteros, tournament organizers.

## SCMA's Four (4) New Scholars

SCMA is adding four (4) new scholars to our Mapua University Scholarship Program. We received fifteen (15) applications from Mapua's Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office in February 2022. Upon the request of the President to select three scholars per SCMA's process, our Scholarship Committee sprang into action and reviewed the applications remotely. Each member of the committee provided their individual score sheets, and the ratings were tabulated by the Scholarship Committee chairperson, Ms. Cecilia Lopez-Brod. The results were provided to SCMA's President prior to our dinner dance event in April 2022. The committee chose Hazella Jae Abanilla (CHE-3), Mel Patrick Malinis (CHE-3), and Nicole Maceda (CHE-3), as the new SCMA scholars. A fourth candidate was also identified as a possible future scholar, Kyla Athena Bermundo (CE-3).

The "Adopt-A-Scholar" program was recently activated when SCMA lifetime members Ms. Cynthia De Leon, PE, and Ms. Rosalinda J. Tandoc, PE, expressed interest to the President in adopting a scholar. They agreed to take Kyla Athena Bermundo, as their scholar. Also, as part of the earlier Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) Program, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Nable's level of donation this year entitled them to choose a scholar that they could adopt. Among the three scholars selected by the Scholarship Committee, they chose to adopt Nicole Maceda. To adopt a scholar under the Adopt-A-Scholar program, the Sponsor(s) should have the intention in making sufficient donations for supporting their scholar to the same level as SCMA's support (\$400 per quarter) until he/she graduates, and make donations for at least two (2) quarters in advance. The Adopt-A-Scholar program is a great way to help a scholar through tax-deductible donations to SCMA. For more information about this program, please visit our website at <https://www.socalmapua.org/sponsor> or call Ross Papilla at (909) 896-6160.

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## 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Induction Ball

Last April 30, 2022, SCMA's 45<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary Dinner-Dance and Induction Ball was held at Doubletree Hilton Hotel in Norwalk, CA. It was indeed an exciting and fun-filled event where Mapuans gathered to meet, enjoy themselves, and celebrate the association's achievements after the pandemic. Along with the induction of the incoming officers, pledging of new lifetime members, and recognition of those who have given so much of their time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of the association, we were able to take a break to dance to the music of the Hill Tops Band and enjoy various entertainment numbers.

We are grateful to all those who attended, volunteered, and donated to the association's causes, that made this event a huge success! Mapuans were able to meet and get to know new and fresh faces. The singing of the Mapua Alma Mater song by all alumni was unforgettable. This was definitely one of the most attended and enjoyable events that the association organized in the past few years. We were also able to raise a substantial amount of donation for our charitable cause. The Souvenir Program and pictures from the event can be seen by visiting our website at <https://www.socalmapua.org/alumni-life>.



**Officer Induction L-R:** Roald Bueno (PRO), Emil Venegas (Asst. Treasurer), Russel Vilorio (Auditor), Lourdes Jamer (Business Manager), Janiña Lyka Baiza (Recording Secretary), Berwyn Salazar (Vice President), Jesse San Miguel (Treasurer), Roderick Dela Cruz (Corresponding Secretary, not pictured). Rev. Fr. Tony Astudillo, Officiant.



### **Recipients of Presidential Award L-R:**

Glee Quiaot for Outstanding Service, Dan & Melanie Nable for Pioneering the Qualified Charitable Distribution Program, and Joe Rigonan for Pioneering the Scholarship Matching Fund Program.

With Award Presenters: Ross Papilla and Nene Umali-Irlandez.

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## 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Induction Ball



- More 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Induction Ball Photos (L-R):** [1] New Lifetime Members  
[2] Founding Presidents Ven Mungcal, Raul Domingo (represented by Tess Domingo), and Marte Tobias  
[3] All Mapua Alumni after singing the Mapua Alma Mater Hymn  
[4] Guest Speaker, Major Christie Papilla Cunningham, US Army

## SCMA Fundraising Program Boosted Our Finances

We are proud to announce that our traditional and new fundraising programs since the pandemic have generated amounts that exceed recent records. The Scholarship Matching Fund (SMF) was kicked off last Christmas Party on December 4, 2021, and was based on work done by Ross Papilla, President and Joe Rigonan, Former President. This new program allows donors to contribute directly to the SCMA Scholarship Fund and their donations are matched by patrons, thus allowing maximum impact of their donations while getting a tax deduction. To date there are 21 donations, and this program has raised \$6,325.

In January 2022, Ross Papilla, President. and Dan Nable, Former President, initiated a process whereby a retiree withdrawing his/her annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) can assign part of the RMD to a non-profit organization as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This program was recently approved by IRS and is non-taxable. This provides significant tax savings to the donor while benefiting SCMA. We've had a substantial donation from Dan & Melanie Nable in the amount of \$5,000. We are very grateful for such a large donation. This is a win-win situation, and we are looking for more donors who qualify for this program.

The new Adopt-A-Scholar Program was activated when BFF SCMA members Cynthia De Leon and Rosalinda Tandoc approached Ross Papilla, President on April 30, 2022, about "adopting" a specific SCMA scholar. To date, they have donated \$1,600 and more will come. We welcome more adoptive sponsors on this program.

Our traditional Dinner-Dance fundraiser raised a net \$5,510 at our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner-Dance last April 30<sup>th</sup> from souvenir program ad sales, dinner tickets, and raffles. 50% of this amount was transferred to the Scholarship Fund. In addition, our recently completed SCMA Golf Tournament last June 25<sup>th</sup> was a fun-filled event for players and volunteers. SCMA raised \$2,586 from sponsorship donations and player fees. Special thanks to Nene Umali-Irlandez for soliciting numerous donations.

From January 1, 2021, to date, our general fund doubled from \$13,560 to \$24,580, and our scholarship fund grew four-fold from \$4,827 to \$19,530. A big "thank you" to our members and supporters. Your generosity will change the lives of not only our scholars and other beneficiaries, but the positive effect of your good deed will extend through time.

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## Election of Officers for Term 2023-2024

It's time once again to elect our new set of officers. We are thankful for the current officers headed by Ross Papilla as President. The Covid-19 pandemic has limited some of our usual activities. With our officers' determination, we were able to have our Annual Family Picnic, Christmas Party, and even our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Induction Ball this past April.

According to our Constitution and Bylaws, nomination of officers shall be held every two years and at the annual family picnic. This year, officer nominations for the term 2023-2024 will start during our Annual Family Picnic to be held on August 27 at the Creekside Park, Walnut, CA. There are 9 positions to be filled. To be eligible for a position, an alumnus must be a lifetime member, or member for at least a year prior to nomination. He or she must have no outstanding debt to SCMA and must have paid the current membership fee by the month of nomination and the prior year. We are looking for alumni who can share their time and talent to lead our association. If you or someone you know would like to step up to the task, we'd very much like to hear from you. For more information, contact Ross Papilla at 909-896-6160 or visit our website at <https://www.socalmapua.org/leadership>.

## Mark Your Calendar!!!

# ANNUAL SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC

## Welcome All Mapua Alumni, Family & Friends !!!

**What:** Membership Drive, Meet & Greet, and Officer Nominations!

Fun games, prizes, and entertainment for all ages!

**When:** Saturday || August 27, 2022 || 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Where:** Creekside Park || 780 Creekside Dr, Walnut, CA 91789

SCMA will provide the paper/plastic goods and drinks. Officers will bring ice and rise, in addition to their main dish. Lechon/barbecue will be sponsored by: TBD – still looking for volunteer Mapua group(s).

\*\*\* Seating is limited so bring your chairs \*\*\*

<b>Potluck Food Assignments</b>	<b>Executive Board Members:</b>	Main Dish
	<b>For Alumni &amp; Guests, suggested goodies to bring are according to your last name:</b>	A to I – Main Dish J to Q – Dessert R to Z – Fruits & Veggies

**For more information & to RSVP, go to our website at [www.socalmapua.org](http://www.socalmapua.org) or call:**

Ross Papilla: (909) 896-6160 || Glee Guiaot: (310) 617-5245

Emil Venegas: (714) 822-6044 || Nene Umali-Irlandez: (909) 938-6022

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