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DJLF Foundation, Ltd.

Looking Back – The Years That Were



Through emails, five former cadets of the Philippine Military Academy living in various parts of the US – Maryland, Virginia and Florida – exchange notes on what they can do now to “give back to *Loakan* what we got from it during our youth.” *Loakan* is where PMA, their alma mater, is situated.

After several exchanges of proposals and counter-proposals, they ultimately agree on December 12th to raise money for a fund – to be known as Loakan Fund – dedicated to a project on youth education and development. As conceptualized, the project would start with a scholarship program that will benefit students at a high school in Loakan. They are joined by seven others; so, a total of 12 members participate in the first fund-raising event held in December.

They go by the initials DJLF, for Dumb Jones Loakan Fun club. As plebes or freshmen at PMA, they were called “dumb johns” by their upperclassmen. Dumb Jones, the ‘DJ’ in DJLF, thus becomes a sentimental reference to their Academy days. It is also a pointed reference to Dow Jones. And for good reason – part of their plan was to consider Wall Street as a vehicle for investing the Loakan Fund for growth, which dovetailed to their intent to familiarize the members with Wall Street, the stock markets and investment as a whole. This knowledge, the members feel, can only serve their personal goals, especially their preparations for retirement.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Merv Tiu" <mervtiu@netscape.net>
 To: <WArpon@aol.com>; <nalejandrino@mgfairfax.rr.com>;
 <hochoco@imf.org>; <MervTiu@netscape.net>
 Cc: <WArpon@aol.com>
 Sent: Saturday, December 11, 1999 3:25 PM

Subject: Re: (Loakan Fund)

Sir Arf-Arf,

How about Dumb Jones Loakan Fun Club since it is in the spirit of fun that we are embarking on the unknown and we were all dumb-joneses once in that hallowed place atop the Loakan hill.



Relying on the Internet as medium of communication, the members develop DJLF as an e-organization.



Following the successful, if modest results of that fund-raising in 1999 - \$52.50 was raised from the 12 participants – a decision is made to conduct it once every quarter, the recurring event to be known as “*Call-to-Quarters*” or CTQ. *Call-To-Quarters* evokes among DJLF members an event at Loakan barracks by the same name when they, as cadets, listened to the bugle’s call for them to refer to their respective quarters each day after dinnertime. Then and now, they heed that call.

DJLF members finish the year with four Call-to-Quarters under their belt.



The building of the Loakan Fund continues, not missing a beat, like it did during its first full year in 2000. Like clockwork, CTQs are held every quarter without fail, each rendition adding to the Loakan Fund.

DJLF, seeking to broaden its base, launches a drive to recruit more members. Setting a goal of 55 total members, the campaign is dubbed as “Duh Drive to 55.” Irwin Ver is designed as overall coordinator – and the man “behind the wheel.”

In 2002, Articles of Incorporation are drafted following consensus of a majority of members on formalizing the DJLF organization. A corporate structure is discussed basically consisting of a Board of Directors and a number of Foundation Offices.

15 DJLF members in the Washington area sign their names as incorporators of DJLF Foundation, Ltd. a non-profit organization. Papers are submitted to the state of Maryland on July 5th which were approved on July 7th.

Upon our incorporation in July, we had filled the final two slots of Founding Members from extreme ends of PMA classes, a Loakaner from the 90's, Luisito Angeles Class of 1992 and another Loakaner from the 50's, Brillante Ochoco Class of 1955.

All 55 DJLF members approve the By-Laws and DJLF is inaugurated on October 5th at Stafford, Virginia at the residence of Nebu Alejandrino who would assume the position of VP for Organizational Goals/OG.

By-Laws of the DJLF Foundation



ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. BASIC COMPONENTS. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THESE BY-LAWS, DJLF FOUNDATION LTD, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE FOUNDATION, SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO CONSIST OF THE THREE BASIC COMPONENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION: THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE VARIOUS OFFICES.

DJLF is formally organized as mandated in the By-Laws. 15 members compose the Board. DJLF is operated by the Foundation Offices: Office of the President and the Offices for Coordination, Communication & Quality Control/CCQ; Operational Deployments/OD; Operational Goals; Solicitation-General/SG; Funds and Investments/FI.

Other positions are added during the year: Counsel-General; two Assistant Solicitation-Generals; and a General Counsel.

RESOLUTION

Resolution 02-06

Resolution for the Designation of Gloria Calonge, Esq., as Legal Counsel

WHEREAS, SECTION 1 of Article III of the By-Laws of the Foundation provides the Board of Directors the authority, among others, to employ experts and establish and maintain bureaus committees, offices and agencies as necessary in the pursuit of its objectives;

.

WHEREAS, all the above point to the need for a corporate legal counsel and that Gloria Calonge, Esq., has indicated her willingness to assume the position of legal counsel to the corporation and accept the responsibilities attached to that position in consideration of an annual compensation of \$ 1.00;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the position of Legal Counsel for the DJLF Foundation, LTD., be created and that Gloria Calonge, Esq., be designated into said position with an annual compensation of \$1.00.

True to form as an e-org, the first meeting of the Board of Directors in Manassas, Virginia at the residence of Gil and Carla Osorio was an electronic meeting, with Board Director Irwin Ver participating in the Board deliberations from his home at Walnut Creek, California.

Year 2003 ended on a sad note. In December, DJLF's general membership was reduced when DJLF members said their final goodbye to one of its members.



In a message dated
12/23/2003 8:50:25 AM
Eastern Standard Time,
raguenza@bearingpoint.net
writes:

It is with a sad note that we received this news about Raul, all of us in the DC area have been touched by Raul when he was here last year for his Masters schooling. He was even with us for the 2002 XMas party.

Raul Heredia



Has been enrolled for Five Years as a member of the Crusade for the Holy Land (approved by the Holy See) and will participate in the thousands of Masses offered each year at the Sacred Places and share in the daily prayers and good works of the Franciscans of the Holy Land.

From The Members, DJLF Foundation
Date December 27, 2003

Franciscan Monastery
1400 Quincy St., N.E.



A decision is made to proceed, as originally scheduled in 1999, with the formal launching the Youth Scholarship Program in February 2005 during the Alumni Homecoming Week of the Philippine Military Academy. The Rotary Club of Metro Baguio whose jurisdiction includes Loakan is chosen as DJLF's partner-in-country for the scholarship program. A Memorandum of Agreement is in the works for this partnership to be formally signed in February 2005.

With the proximity of the launching of the program, DJLF launches Operational Plan/Oplan LOFTY, for LOakan Fast Track of the Year, to encompass fund-raising outside of the regular Call-To-Quarters.



In a message dated
2/12/2004 10:56:17 PM
Eastern Standard Time,
ipv70@yahoo.com writes:

I am quite amazed at the ingenuous proposals that were presented to accomplish our intended 30k goal. My inputs ... (Irwin)

LOFTY signals a shift from the previous CTQs which involved out-of-pocket contributions from each member to diversified fund-raising from without. In pursuit of the latter, DJLF pursues Community Sale, Family Nights and in partnership with the PMA Alumni Association of the East Coast, a Golf Tournament Series. Thus, DJLF's fund-raising now comprises two: the bread-and-butter Call-to-Quarters/CTQ and Call-To-Quarters Plus, the latter to include all activities to raise funds outside of the former.

Three golf tournaments are held – one in spring at Fairfax; another in summer at Williamsburg and the last one in fall at Fairfax National Golf Course – the culmination of what would henceforth be a year-round activity.

Upon further deliberation, the Board determines that to ensure the success of its Youth Scholarship Program, a larger project is necessary; thus, the creation of LEAP, for Loakan Educational Assistance Project. With the Youth Scholarship Program as its core component, LEAP will include four other programs: Faculty Enrichment; Facility Improvement; Equipment and Learning Aids Support; Leadership Development and Placement.

October 30th, on the occasion of the fellowship dinner following the Dual Meet between the East Coast Chapter and North East Group of the PMA Alumni Association, the names of five DJLF members are drawn: Dan Jimenez; Jude Tadeo; Levi Cleofe; Oby Antonio and Rhyss Hizon. They will be the “mentors” of the five scholars that will be chosen for LEAP Scholars, Batch of 2005.

On September 9, 2004, the DJLF Scholarship Committee is formed with Jake Duller accepting the offer to chair the committee. He is joined later by Bob Aviso, Del Lorenzo, Danny Alonzo and Rolly Malinis. The Duller-Aviso-Lorenzo-Alonzo-Malinis Committee becomes known as D'ALAM Committee, or The Knowledge Committee. **Alam**, in Filipino, roughly translates to knowledge.

November 13th, during its monthly meeting, the Board of Directors approve the interim Memo of Agreement between DJLF and Rotary Club Metro Baguio. In accordance with this agreement, RCMB screens candidates from among the seniors of the Baguio City National High School, Fort del Pilar Annex and chooses 10 scholars. The D'ALAM Committee deliberates and chooses the 5 principal and 5 alternate LEAP scholars.

DJLF Foundation rolls up its sleeves to prepare for the launching of LEAP, in particular the Youth Scholarship Program, on February 21, 2005 – the Monday following the Alumni Homecoming Week of the Philippine Military Academy. Agreement is reached between DJLF and RCMB on the Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed during the LEAP launching.

At year-end, OPLAN LOFTY, the Loakan Fast Track of the Year, also comes to a close, achieving its goal. From \$52.50 in 1999, the Loakan Fund reaches the \$30K mark. There is a prevailing sense of accomplishment among the general membership.

There is a growing confidence among the members, the officers and Board of Directors that the Foundation has done well in its formative years, 1999 through 2004. The basic infrastructure has been put firmly in place for LEAP becoming a reality - in 2005 and beyond.

*“I'm deeply honored to be offered this position. Since it has always been my desire to somehow share with the community the gifts and talents God has endowed upon me, I humbly accept your offer with nothing but a promise to do the best of my abilities. However, to be honest, I might need a little nudging from you now and then. Also, please be generous with your honest expectations and criticisms. My only goal is to make my contribution count. But, if it's not good enough, it won't hurt to let me know...
— Jake B. Duller*

The Loakan of Our Dreams

(Why DJLF?)

It was time to leave. Four years and a lifetime later, the journey must continue. The search was just beginning. As the bus passed through the hallowed gates and seeing the snappy salutes of the sentries, the graduate smiled and saluted back. He turned around for a parting glance, for one last look at the statue of his favorite hero, but the general on his majestic steed was covered by the trees and the oncoming darkness. There should be sadness in goodbye and leaving. But such did not matter. Deep within he knew, sans time, distance and circumstance, home would be there for him. Always. To comfort and to cherish. To nurture and to shelter. Home. The truth that would never fail, the faith that would never break.

Home was where he became a man and realized the nobleness of life's true purpose. Home was where dreams never died and youth was eternal. Home was where memories never aged and aspirations never insignificant. Home was LOAKAN. FORT DEL PILAR. PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY. It was the cradle of all he held so dear, the womb that gave birth to what he became.

The story repeats itself every year with every graduate.

More than anything else, DJLF is to nurture what PMA is all about- the challenge to prove – in words, in deeds, in everything – that impossibility is but an excuse!

Regardless of origin, social status, dialect, agenda, purpose and aim, the boy metamorphoses into a man. From the carefree and the uncommitted, comes the accomplished and the prepared. From the rudderless who goes where the wind blows, surfaces the potency of a driven goal - a can-do everything frame of mind. Irresponsibility is replaced by idealism, self adulation by self sacrifice. They all come from without, from savoring the softness, the decadence and the liberties of civilian life. Now, they march off ramrod straight; now soldiers offering their life, their future and all they got to the altar of God, country and people. Without hesitation nor reservations, they embrace the noble profession of arms. All because Loakan showed the way. All because Fort del Pilar cared. All because PMA remained the true "beacon of the land."

So how do we, PMayers, express gratitude? How do we pay a debt eternal? How can we reach out to our beginning that we may touch glory at our end? How can we

even approximate giving back what we have taken?

There is no commensurate payment to what we owe. Any attempt will fall short. Paying back the past is an exercise in futility. So we pay back the future.

DJLF Foundation, Inc. was an idea by a handful of PMayers in the United States whose common goal was to make gratitude tangible, to give back to the Academy a part of what she gave to us, and find a way to perpetuate the fulfillment of youthful dreams. The same dream each PMayer had when he entered the Academy. The same dream each one still carries in his heart today, wherever he is, wherever he may be.

DJLF is to acknowledge excellence among the underprivileged. DJLF is to provide the wherewithals to the gifted student who faces a handicapped existence. DJLF is to inspire capability and implant unyielding aspirations. DJLF is to fulfill a promise made beyond expectations. More than anything else, DJLF is to nurture what PMA is all about- the challenge to prove – in words, in deeds, in everything – that impossibility is but an excuse!

So we face the future optimistic and full of resolve. We will be ambitious and set our goals high. We will be vigilant and pursue our aims relentlessly. Such can be the only appropriate tribute to the home we truly revere. And yes, distance and time might prevent us to step on Loakan's hallowed grounds again. But this we believe: DJLF will take us home.

"DREAMERS, DOERS—TOGETHER"



The author, a graduate of PMA Class of 1977, is a Founding Member and one of the 10 incorporators of DJLF Foundation, Ltd. He serves as Director of the Board and occupies one of the positions in the Foundation Offices: Vice-President, Operational Deployments.

Musings and Ramblings of a Foreign-Ayer¹

Long Ago and Far Away

By Bob Dance

It is hard to believe that about this time 41 years ago, the members of PMA Class 68 were truly enjoying life in Loakan. Christmas 1964 in Loakan. The 100th Nite Show² had been a great success. The upperclassmen had departed in high spirits and were away (for Christmas break), and this was a time for us Plebes to be truly at play. The hops, walking into the Boodle Bar without fear of getting caught, stocking up on boodles at the Commissary – Oh, the great feeling of freedom! No classes, no draw cards³, no “Dumbjohn,”⁴ no “Ducrot,”⁵ no reporting. Somehow we shut out of our minds the harsh reality that our heavenly days of seeming utopia would shortly come to an end, and we would no longer be Kings of Barracks⁶. We would once again become plebes – reporting, squatting, squat-thrusting, rifle drilling, one-leg upping⁷ nonentities who on command would immediately load their bananas with feeling⁸. Damn, that was a great time. It’s hard to believe that it was so long ago and so far away.

For me, that and my whole tenure in PMA was a coming of age. In America, we were coming out of the seemingly idyllic fifties and entering into the socially conscious sixties. During the 22 years of my life at that time, I had lived through four U.S. presidents, two of whom had died in office – one from natural causes, the other from the bullets of an assassin. I had lived through two wars and was witnessing the start of a third, one in which I would eventually participate. I had been a participant in a social movement that saw the U.S. start to live up to the words of the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: That ALL men are created equal. . . .” Rock and Roll, mini-skirts, DC5 (Dave Clark Five), Matt Munro, the Beatles – What a time it was!

Those days in the Academy were the impetus that caused me to end up in my current career of diplomacy. As I have told others, I chose to go to PMA because my late uncle had served in the Philippines in WWII, a fact that caused me to have a fascination and a desire to learn about this country of islands on the other side of my world. My fascination had been fueled by an episode of



“Everyone (a bit of hyperbole) went to West Point. I wanted to broaden my horizon by going to another country, another culture. I must say that it was a unique experience in which I take great pride for having participated.”

the television series, “Victory at Sea,” which showed footage of pre-war Manila. What a beautiful city it was! I decided that someday I would visit this place called the Philippines.

Let me back up a bit. How did I end up in the Academy? Believe me, it was not planned, not even dreamed of. After high school, I went to college on a partial scholarship. Unfortunately, I found partying and bridge (not bridging⁹), more interesting than academics. Realizing I was not ready for the college experience and deciding I needed to mature more, I enlisted in the U.S. Army for three years in 1962. I was going to serve my three years and return to college to study chemistry and seek to work for one of the major industries in my hometown, Proctor and Gamble. Instead, I find myself soon to start my 44th year of government service.

While serving in the Army Security Agency in Turkey, I discovered that I could request entry into the USMA Prep School (which was then in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, located on the site of the current Commissary and PX). While attending the Prep School, my classmates and I were offered the chance to take the PMA Entrance Exam. 43 of us took it. I had the highest score and was offered a slot in the Academy. Without hesitation, I accepted. My rationale was that, “Everyone (a bit of hyperbole) went to West Point. I wanted to broaden my horizon by going to another country, another culture. I must say that it was a

¹ Author’s referral to himself ‘foreigner’ PMA graduate, called PeeMAyer or just Ayer

² Traditional show of the Cadet Corps during Christmas, 100 days before graduation

³ Start of daily examinations in each class, is signaled by the professor’s announcement of “Draw Cards!”

⁴ Name given to all plebes or fourthclassmen

⁵ Synonym of Dumbjohn

⁶ Plebes become Kings of Barracks during Christmas since all upperclassmen are on vacation

⁷ Bringing one leg up and maintaining that position as long as possible is a favorite exercise, especially for plebes

⁸ Cadet idiom, barracks lingo - a corruption of or play on ‘banana peeling’

⁹ Physical exercise for plebes – using the body as a bridge, for strengthening

unique experience in which I take great pride for having participated.

It was the PMA experience that has shaped my life and has led me on my current career track. In PMA, I learned to interact and appreciate other cultures. Rotting¹⁰ as plebes taught us all to work together and to look at each other not as members of particular nationalities, races, or cultures, but as brothers working together to achieve common goals: First, recognition, and then, graduation. I was invited to the homes of several of my classmates where I met their families and stayed in their households. What better way to learn about a different culture than participate in it!

In PMA, I gained an enhanced sense of service to country. The whole training process in the Academy inculcated the concepts of “Courage, Loyalty, Integrity”: Courage to do what is right, what is honorable; Loyalty to country and its citizens; and Integrity in daily life and in whatever we do.” The Academy experience strengthened my sense that service to country was a noble and honorable career, and as I look back on my life to date, I have no regret about the career path I have chosen.

That is not to say that everything came easily. That has not been the case. The first difficulty was separation from the Philippines and its people, particularly my classmates. After having shared the joys and pains of Academy life for four years and schooling in Fort Bonifacio and Fort Magsaysay for a further six months, on returning to the U.S. in September 1968, I found myself feeling a sense of loss at the separation from the Academy, my fellow cadets, and my adopted country where I became of age. It was a sad feeling that I initially was able to overcome by returning to the Philippines and the Academy as an exchange professor. It has been fully overcome by participating in the local Academy alumni chapter and by maintaining contact through the Internet.

A second difficulty was changing careers from military service to Foreign Service. Though I love the military, much of the routine that I experienced when stationed in the U.S. left me feeling as though something was lacking. My time spent overseas – in Turkey, Vietnam, and the Philippines – always left me with a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment. I became a Foreign Area Specialist in the Army, but felt that this was just not enough. Fortunately for me, my two years of enlisted service and four years in the Academy counted for retirement. In 1986 after almost 18 years of commissioned service (exactly 24 years of total service), I retired from the military and en-



Bob & Claris Dance

tered the U.S. Foreign Service. This was the best career choice I have made. As a Foreign Service Officer, I work in other cultures to bring about mutual understanding between the peoples of these cultures and the people of the United States. I firmly believe that if we can achieve understanding, we will avoid wars and have only peace. I came to this belief as a result of the totality of my training in PMA.

I am now a diplomat in the service of the Government of the United States of America. My career specialty is Public Diplomacy, a field aimed at bringing about mutual understanding amongst the peoples of the world. I have served countries in Central and South America and in Africa and know that in some small way I have made a difference. Though I tried on various occasions to be assigned to the Philippines, I never could get this to happen. I am a member of the Senior Foreign Service, meaning I have flag rank. I reach the mandatory retirement age of 65 in just a little less than two years. Life has been good.

I take pride in telling people, “I am a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.” I take this pride because it was the Academy experience that has made me what I am, that has given me the tools for a successful life. I have been blessed with a beautiful wife and three sons, including one in the Philippines. I have been blessed with a fair modicum of success. I have been blessed with the opportunity to attend the Academy and the chance to know the Philippines and its wonderful people. For these blessings, I must give Him thanks and praise for everything, including that experience that was so long ago and so far away.

¹⁰Cadet idiom for suffering

¹¹Official motto of PMA

¹²Author Dance is one of the most active members of the PMA Alumni Association, East Coast Chapter and DJLF Foundation, Ltd., both of which operate for the most part as e-organizations



DJLF-PMAAA Partnership and the Canadian Goose Story

By Willie Mejia

As I write this piece, I am keenly aware that I am 48 hours past my "drop-dead" deadline which makes it somewhat of a "double-dead" item. Four days earlier, I notified our "editor-in-chief"-cum-publications manager that I am suffering, albeit struggling, with a serious case of "writer's block," which comes from the fact that this writing assignment is facing the holiday season and with it came the anticipation of parties, get-togethers and reunions which I know will be - and for the most part they did - "blessed" or "cursed", as the case maybe, with food and spirited drinks.

Be that as it may, I still cannot escape the fact that I will write this piece. As such, the first resolution I had for the New Year 2006, which I made on the eve of it's first day, was to not imbibe a debilitating quantity of that toasting champagne knowing I would need to be sober for - thank God - a long holiday weekend to, yes, "30" this piece.

The first day of 2006 showed me how the Lord works in wondrous ways. For what else would it be that after almost 10 days of wracking my brain just to get started that the inspiration to write this piece finally came to me during the homily of that New Year's Day mass my wife and I attended. The celebrant was Father Alex Enriquez, a visiting priest from Red Bank, New Jersey, who for me must have delivered the most humorous, yet extremely dead on, homily I have heard in a long, long time. It was packed with anecdotes culled from his treasure chest of Filipino jokes, delivered in what else, Tagalog, otherwise they would have lost their punch in the translation to English. The anecdotes were woven tightly together to give a new take about the consistently recurring theme of unity in diversity. To me though, the most right on part of his homily was the Canadian goose story. But more of that later on in this piece.

Dreamers, Doers — Together

When the logo of DJLF was designed by a joint group of "dreamers, doers," they must have really had in mind the linkage between the Foundation and the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association (PMAAA). Although not all members of the Foundation are members of the Alumni Association, all members of the Foundation came to the Academy at one point in their lives and thus have a kinship with the community where the Academy has been situated in since 1905. Thus, there is that definite connection between the Foundation and the

Alumni Association. When I assumed the presidency of the East Coast Chapter two years ago, one of my first pronouncements was for the chapter to foster a close relationship with the DJLF Foundation and to support it in all its activities designed to establish and maintain an educational assistance program for the Loakan

schools. The chapter had joined hands with the foundation in its various fund-raising efforts to establish a scholarship fund that would be sufficient enough to finance full college scholarships for 5 high school graduates of the Baguio City National High School (Fort del Pilar annex) every year. By the time this scholarship program is in full swing in 2008, the Foundation will have 20 full college scholars at any one time enrolled in the schools, and pursuing courses, of their choice. This is when the close relationship between the Foundation and the Alumni Association will be most felt: for this will be the time when the one will lead the other, but with the lead buoyed up by the force of the follower. This is where the Canadian Goose story becomes relevant.

The Canadian Goose Story

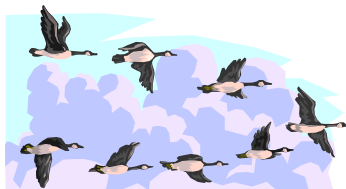
Fr. Enriquez's illustrated his homily's theme on unity with the Canadian goose story, source unknown, but contributed by Bob Brouwere and became part of the compilation of what is known as the Millenium Stories. The story has been paraphrased loosely to illustrate its applicability to the task that the DJLF and PMAAA have voluntarily undertaken together in the pursuit of a noble cause.

Have you ever wondered why Canadian geese heading south for the winter fly along in V formation? Here is what science has discovered why they fly that way.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By fling in V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.



People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. This sense of purpose is what has kept and will keep the strength of the partnership between the members of the Foundation and the Alumni Association.



When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag of trying to go it all alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in “formation” with those who are headed the same way we are. Just as once in a while some of our members lose touch with the rest of the organization for whatever reason, our members have always endeavored to find them and bring them back to the group because we know that we are in this together and we should stick together if we want to get where we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies in the point position.

In the Foundation, as it is with any organization, there is a need to take turns doing demanding jobs, in order to keep the “formation” headed to and attain its goals and objectives. We are confident and we have seen numerous instances when it is time for the rest of our membership to take more active leadership/management roles, they will step up and take the challenge to the best of their capabilities.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up with their speed.

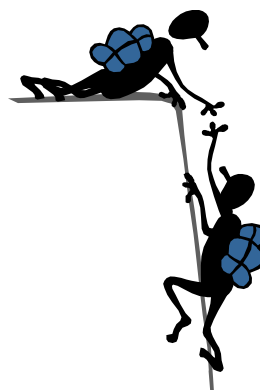
The Foundation’s leadership recognizes that there might be times when we are not “keeping up with our required speed.” Through feedback from the membership, which is their way of honking like the geese, the leadership reevaluates its “speed” and makes the necessary adjustment in order to maintain it.

Finally – and this is important – when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it

down to lend help and protection. They stay with the goose until it is able to fly. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group. If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

Corollary to the situation of a bringing a “goose falling out of formation” back to the group, the Foundation does all that it can to help other members in whatever way they can to ensure that we all keep with the group as much as we can.

I must say that the similarity between a flock of geese headed south and the members of the Foundation is clearly evident. We are impacted by the same actions and decisions in a very similar way. As a Foundation, we have and we will continue to have the same sense as the geese headed south for the winter so we can be back to face the new challenges in the spring.



About the Author



Willie Mejia is the immediate past president of the PMA Alumni Association, East Coast Chapter, USA, turning over the position to his successor only last month. He is a member of the Board of Directors and the Solicitation-General of DJLF Foundation, Ltd. In the latter capacity, he manages the members’ quarterly fund-raising event. Youth education comes close to his heart. The holder of a Master’s degree in Economics, he spent a good part of his naval career as instructor at his Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy. DJLF, the Loakan Educational Assistance Project in particular, reconnects him to his adopted hometown of Baguio City. His wife, Lennie, hails from the city.

THE DJLF MENTORING PROCESS

By Mel Tibay

In preparation for the launching of the Youth Scholarship Program in February 2005, Mel Tibay who had just joined the Office of the President of DJLF Foundation, Ltd. was requested in late 2004 to come up with a paper on a suitable Mentoring Process for the scholarship program.

The document that follows is the result of Mel Tibay's painstaking research. An IT specialist, he leveraged his experience in systems development and his vast presentation skills to develop a paper that has become a Guide to DJLF Mentors.

Considered a work-in-progress, this artifact is expected to benefit from the application by DJLF mentors themselves of the principles, concepts and procedures in this Guide.

Evidently following the lead of DJLF Foundation, Ltd., our LEAP partners, the Rotary Club of Metro Baguio, designated Rotary members as mentors to the LEAP Scholars at the start of school year 2005.

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Scholarship Program

Stride 1, The Youth Scholarship Program, provides financial support to selected scholars for tuition, books, and other expenses needed for a successful pursuit of a college degree in any duly accredited institution of learning in the Philippines. Each year, the program will support a set of scholars selected on the basis of financial need, academic qualifications, recommendations, and others as determined by DJLF.

The DJLF Scholar

A DJLF Scholar is a deserving high school graduate selected from applicants wanting to receive financial assistance from DJLF towards the pursuit of a college education. To be a scholar, one must pass all the qualifications required of an applicant by the DJLF. Once selected, funds are allocated to cover the costs of the college education. Equally as important is the assignment of a DJLF Mentor to a selected scholar.

About Mentoring

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the person being mentored. Mentors are good listeners, people who care, people who want to help young people bring out strengths that are already there. A mentor is not a foster parent, therapist, pa-

role officer, or cool peer.

Mentoring – the presence of caring adults offering support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples – is a powerful tool to helping young people fulfill their potential.

Mentoring can help by:

- Improving young people's attitudes towards their parents, peers and teachers;
- Encouraging students to stay motivated and focused on their education;
- Helping young people face challenges; and
- Offering young people opportunities to consider career paths and get much-needed economic skills and knowledge.

The DJLF Mentor

In DJLF, a mentor is a DJLF member selected to pro-



vide a scholarship grantee with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and constructive example.

What a DJLF Mentor has to offer

A DJLF mentor brings a wide range of life experiences to the mentoring relationship that can be a wonderful source of advice and information to the scholar. Having gone through the PMA and regardless of what profession a mentor eventually chose, the greatest gift a mentor can offer a young person (such as a DJLF scholar) is a genuine interest in the persons' lives and a his willingness to listen and advice them.

A mentor offers a scholar a consistent opportunity to communicate and share a scholar's wants, needs and expectations. A mentor, in turn, can help them find ways to fulfill those wants and needs.

Studies done by numerous mentoring programs show that young people say they want a mentor to help in three key areas: advice, access and advocacy.

Advice

From time to time, a scholar may need a second opinion or a different perspective. When offering advice, however, it is important to remember that while the roles of a mentor and parents or guardians may occasionally overlap, these are two distinct roles. A mentor is there to provide the scholar with another caring adult who helps them think through problems. A mentor's job is not to supercede parents or guardians.

Access

A mentor can help connect a scholar with people, opportunities, and information that are otherwise out of reach. That's what access is all about — helping a scholar find and get involved in new situations or find new resources. For example, a mentor can open up the vast resources of the internet to a scholar.

Advocacy

A mentor can be an advocate for a scholar — in other words, work on their behalf to get them the recognition they deserve or the resources they need to resolve issues or problems. Create opportunities to get to know the scholar as a person.

As you continue a mentoring assignment, you will come to find that the advantages you and your scholar offered each other are truly too numerous to count.

Role of a DJLF Mentor

- Establish a positive, personal relationship with a

scholar.

- Establish mutual trust and respect.
- Maintain regular interaction and consistent support.
- Help a scholar to develop or begin to develop life skills.
 - Work with your scholar to accomplish specific goals such as improved grades, time management, school attendance, self-esteem, and confidence.
 - Instill the framework for developing broader life-management skills (*i.e.*, decision-making, goal setting, conflict resolution, money management, etc.).
- Assist a scholar in obtaining additional resources.
 - Provide awareness of community, educational, and economic resources available to the scholar and how to access these resources.
 - Act as a guide, advocate, "coach" and role model.
 - Avoid acting as a professional case manager. View the role of mentor as a friend rather than a counselor.

Keep in mind that each mentor-scholar match is unique and will result in unique experiences.

Mentor Selection

A mentor is selected from amongst the membership of the Foundation by a process determined by the Board. The number of mentors selected corresponds to the number of scholars. One mentor is assigned to each scholar.

Mentor Tenure

A mentor is assigned to a scholar for the duration of the scholarship unless resigned or cause to be terminated for cause. Upon termination of tenure another mentor is selected to replace the erstwhile mentor.

The Mentoring Process

The mentoring process involves a person to act as a mentor (a sort of teacher, counselor, father, brother — all rolled into one) and to act as an adviser to a selected scholar. It also encompasses all the activities that contribute to the development of the scholar as an individual and a productive member of the society.

This process also requires that mentors take note and share their experiences to the membership. This

monitoring and feedback mechanism is essential for the Foundation to provide a basis for changes of procedures for better program implementation and amendments to existing policies to better address changing environments.

Getting to Know Your Scholar

A good way to start a relationship with your scholar is getting to know the person behind the scholar. There are numerous ways, some of which are:

- Obtaining your scholar's information packet from DJLF;
- Knowing the scholar's background, his/her family, school to attend, selected field of study, others; and
- Others...

Anyway you approach this activity, the purpose is to establish a comfortable relationship whereby your scholar will feel free to share his/her concerns with you. Remember: You as a mentor is preparing for the long haul.

Establishing Communications with Your Scholar

The mentor, having familiarized himself with the scholar's information should take the next step of initiating communications with the scholar. This can be done through various ways – email, letter, telephone.

Once contact is established, the mentor should introduce himself, the organization, the purpose and objectives of the mentoring process. Explain the mentor-scholar relationship and the expectations from each party.

E-mentoring

Online mentoring, or e-mentoring, is a mentoring relationship conducted via the Internet. E-mail can be the exclusive vehicle for DJLF scholars and mentors to connect. E-mentoring shares the goal of face-to-face mentoring: establishing a trusting, nurturing, positive relationship between the mentor and a scholar.

- E-mentoring takes place via the Internet and let mentors and scholars develop their relationship by exchanging messages online.
- Makes mentoring available to mentors and scholars who otherwise might not be able to meet easily because of time or travel constraints.

- Helps scholars learn more about high-tech communications and improve their writing skills.
- Offers scholars the chance to develop a relationship with the mentor and the Foundation.
- Enables scholars to work with mentors on special projects.

Monitoring and Feedback

As in any system, a monitoring and feedback mechanism should be in place to assist the Foundation in gauging the progress and health of the program. The information provided by this mechanism is necessary for the Foundation to make necessary adjustments to its program policies and be able to steer its direction to a predictable outcome.

Every mentor is encouraged to provide a regular and exception status reports that will be used to provide relevant input to the program.

Objectives

The objectives of the Monitoring and Feedback mechanism are as follows:

- To keep track on the progress of the scholars, specifically, and to the program, in general;
- To enable to identify potential difficulties a scholar may encounter and suggest appropriate course of action;
- To initiate and develop a mechanism of identifying, solving, and disseminating remedial actions to problems or potential problems; and
- To learn from the experiences of mentoring as a means to adjust, attune, and enhance the LEAP and other programs.

Reporting

At this time, it is left to the discretion of the mentor what is worth reporting. However, mentors are encouraged to make the following reports/assessments:

- End of School Year Assessment
- End of Scholarship Assessment
- Suspension/Termination of Scholarship Assessment
- Special Assessment

In time, from experiences gained from reports/assessments submitted, the Foundation will put in place a more formal and organized structure of reporting.

Issue Resolution

Decisions on actionable issues submitted to and acted by the Board shall be communicated back to the submitting mentor.

Tips for Building a Mentoring Relationship

1. Be There.

Communicate with your scholar every time your scholar needs help or struggles to make things work. Send a message that you care and that he/she is worth caring about.

2. Be a friend, not an all knowing authority.

Be the adult in your scholar's life that is just there for them, without having to fix them. Communicating with them is surprisingly developmental for the youth. Young people learn more "conversing" with adults than they do "listening" to them.

Of course, when your scholar comes to you for help or advice, it is appropriate to help them develop solutions. It's also okay to check in with them if you suspect that they are struggling with something. They don't want non-stop advice. So, take the pressure off of yourself and just enjoy your scholar's company.

3. Be a role model.

The best that you can do is to lead by example. By becoming a mentor, you've already modeled the most important thing a human being can do: care about another. Here are some other ways you can be a positive role model for your scholar:

- a. Keep your word: Call when you say you will. Send what you say you will. Be there when you say you will.
- b. Answer e-mails or telephone calls promptly
- c. Have a positive outlook.
- d. If you enter a competitive activity with your scholar, keep it in perspective and by all means do not cheat to help your scholar win.
- e. Let your scholar see you going out of your way to help others.

4. Be ready to help out.

When your scholar lets you know that he/she is struggling with an issue in their life you can combine the above tips to help them out:

- a. Be there for them. Let them know you want to help.
- b. Be a friend, not an all knowing authority: Don't fix their problem. Ask questions and help them figure out how to come up with answers.
- c. You can also be a role model by telling them how you overcame a similar problem in your life. Meta-

phor is a great teacher.

- d. Help your scholar have a say: Once he comes up with a solution, don't try to give him a better one. Make sure she has explored all the possibilities and support "his/her" solution.
- e. Be ready to help out by checking back and seeing how things worked out.





PMAAA-DJLF Charity Golf Invitational

The First Charity Golf Tournament in the West Coast



Nuts!

On March 6, 2005, as the California sun rose in cloudless splendor, a large group of golfers started to gather at the Lone Tree Golf Course located in Antioch. This group, composed mostly of Philippine Military Academy alumni residing in various cities in the West Coast was there for a golf tournament – the PMAAA NORCAL Golf Invitational, a charity golf tournament with proceeds going to the DJLF Foundation, Ltd, a non-profit organization in the state of Maryland.

Unknown to many of the participants, this tournament almost did not take place. Re-wind to a month before: a dialogue in progress among the Chairman of DJLF and the Steering Committee of the PMAAA-DJLF Charity Golf, on one hand; and on the other, the President of the PMA Alumni Association, Northern California and a couple of would-be NORCAL organizers, Bill Iban and Archie Almario.

At some point in the several e-Conversations, an email came from the DJLF Chairman asking if it would be more prudent to cancel or postpone the tournament; if NorCal was not yet ready, willing or able to sponsor the affair.

There were golfing decisions to make, to be sure. But the more important decision, it occurred to me personally, was not about the game of golf. Were we willing to miss out on an opportunity for our group to lend a hand to and be a part of a charitable activity of our fellow alumni, members of DJLF? Through their Loakan Educational Assistance Program, LEAP, a program that bears the name of the village where our Alma Mater is located, they had embarked on a worthy cause - sponsoring the college education of the poor yet deserving youth from none other than a high school located in the grounds of our Alma Mater. Would we deny them our support?

After due consultation, particularly with would-be Tournament Chairman Bill Iban and his very able assistant, Archie Almario, our response was on its way in cyber-





space to the East Coast: "Nuts!" Our counterparts in the West Coast would understand. Former students of the History of Military Art, a subject at PMA, they will remember that "Nuts" was the one-word reply that General McAuliffe gave to the Germans who were asking him to surrender the garrison at Bastogne during WW II.

But just to make sure our position was not misunderstood, I added to my email: "A winner never quits; a quitter never wins."

The rest is history.

The tournament was successful.

Within a week, a check in the amount of \$3090 issued to DJLF Foundation, Ltd. was on its way to Maryland. The amount, I was informed later, would be sufficient to support five scholars for one year. Knowing this, I felt NORCAL had just made a hole-in-one!

Basil "Butch" Moreto '54
President, NorCal Cavaliers





Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.
East Coast USA Chapter
&
DJLF Foundation, Ltd.

Golf Invitational Series Philippine Army Invitational



Saturday April 23, 2005

at

Penderbrook Golf Club

3700 Golf Trail Lane
Fairfax, VA 22033

Registration Time: 11:00—12:00

Start Time: **12:00 noon**





Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.
East Coast USA Chapter

2005 Golf Tournaments

Navy Invitational



Saturday June 25, 2005

Kiln Creek Golf Club & Resort
1003 Brick Kiln Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23602
Phone: (757) 874-2600

Registration 11:30am-1:00pm
Tee Time, Shotgun Start 1:00 pm



Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.
East Coast USA Chapter

2005 Golf Tournaments



Sunday October 16, 2005

Penderbrook Golf Club

3700 Golf Trail Lane

Fairfax, VA 22033

Phone (703) 385-3700

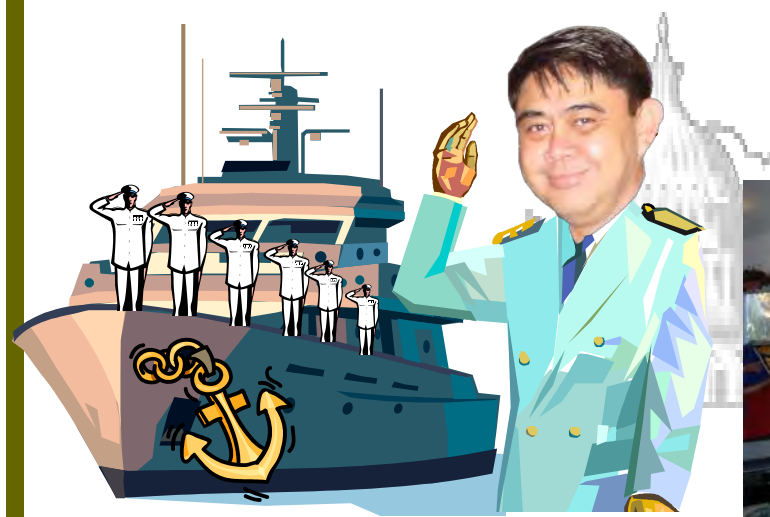
Registration starts at 11:00 am

Tee Time, Shotgun Start 12:00 noon



DJLF'S ANCHORS AWEIGH

FOR THE OUTGOING NAVAL ATTACHÉ



**November 20, 2005
DJLF Main Office
Deakins Hall**



DJLF RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2005-02

RESOLUTION ON THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAPTAIN VICTOR MARTIR, PN (GSC) TO DJLF FOUNDATION, LTD. IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS PHILANTHROPIC GOALS

WHEREAS Captain Victor Emmanuel Carr Martir PN (GSC) is concluding his tour of duty after three years of service as Naval Attaché, Embassy of the Philippines, Washington, D.C., USA;

WHEREAS following his assumption of the post, Captain Martir, an alumnus of the Philippine Military Academy, Class of 1978, was introduced to his fellow alumni who are members of the DJLF Foundation, Ltd, a non-profit organization in the Metropolitan Washington area;

WHEREAS Captain Martir, through this interaction with DJLF members became fully aware of the Foundation's project, the Loakan Educational Assistance Project or LEAP, of which the core component is the Youth Scholarship Program to provide financial support to scholars initially selected from the graduating students of the Baguio City National High School, Fort del Pilar Annex, and in the future from other schools in Baguio City, Mountain Province and other parts of the Philippines;

WHEREAS during the next three years, Captain Martir became a firm believer in and supporter of LEAP to educate and give hope to the Filipino youth and voluntarily and unselfishly joined DJLF Foundation and its members in its fund-raising activities for LEAP, occasionally assuming a role of leadership in connecting with the community in furtherance of DJLF'S philanthropic goals – invariably an active participant in those activities, notably the PMAAA-DJLF Charity Golf Invitational series of tournaments in which he was fully engaged as a member of the Steering Committee;

WHEREAS by this valuable service in the furtherance of a worthy project for his Alma Mater, his country and people, Captain Martir brought great honor and prestige not only to himself but to the Philippine Military Academy, to the Defense and Armed Forces Affairs Office, to the Embassy of the Philippines, to the Intelligence Service Armed Forces of the Philippines and to his branch of service, the Philippine Navy;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** as it is hereby **RESOLVED** that the DJLF Foundation, Ltd. through its Board of Directors and on behalf of the general membership, issue this resolution to Captain Martir as a token of grateful acknowledgment and appreciation of his contributions to DJLF Foundation, Ltd. and as a token of the collective best wishes for more successes in his military career and his personal life;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that a copy of this **RESOLUTION** be formally presented by the Chair and President, assisted by the Vice-Chair and Executive Vice-President, of DJLF Foundation, on the occasion of DJLF's Anchors Aweigh get-together for the Outgoing Naval Attaché;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that a copy of this **RESOLUTION** be formally transmitted to the Defense Attaché, DAFAO, to the Chief, Intelligence Service Armed Forces of the Philippines and to the Flag-Office-in-Command, Philippine Navy by the Secretary-General of the Board of Directors through the Office of Vice President for Coordination, Communication and Quality Control (CCQ).

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Secretary-General of the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at an electronic forum of the DJLF Foundation, Ltd. Board of Directors.

Harold S. Ochoco
Secretary-General, DJLF Board of Directors

Done on this 20th day of November in the year 2005 at DJLF Foundation, Ltd., Fairfax Extension Office, 4961 Collins Place, Fairfax, Virginia, USA.



5 OPERATING PRINCIPLES of DJLF Foundation

1 **Account for every dollar, every quarter, every dime, every nickel, every penny**

Every contribution to the Foundation should be properly accounted for to the last penny. There should absolutely be no doubt about where the money goes. We owe this to ourselves and to all others who contribute to our Foundation. In all matters, particularly in financial and monetary matters, this Foundation must be operated with utmost integrity. All transactions must be done honestly and honorably, as expected from a Foundation whose members trace their roots to the Philippine Military Academy.

2 **Let every dollar count**

Aside from accounting for every dollar, we need to ensure that every dollar is used wisely and judiciously. Endowment programs need to be developed that would serve the best and the highest interest of our chosen beneficiaries and redound to their maximum benefit and welfare.

3 **Keep your eye on the ball; let no one dilute our goal**

We are a non-profit, charitable, philanthropic organization and our goal is clear: to raise funds for the benefit of our chosen beneficiaries. Every member of the Foundation should stay focused on this goal, keep distractions to the minimum – or none at all. The Foundation should not be used for other purposes. We should resist and frustrate any attempt by anyone - inside or outside of the organization - to use the Foundation for personal gain, political, business, economic or otherwise.



4 **Do things well and do them right**

This Foundation should be committed to excellence, to doing things efficiently and effectively, members doing the best they can to pursue the Foundation's goal. But things have to be done the right way and the right way is the moral way, the ethical way. Hopefully, there should be no conflict between doing things well and doing them right, but should there be, our choice is clear: do it the right way, the ethical, the moral way should take precedence.

5 **Build for the long haul**

Let us build and develop, let us maintain and enhance for the long-term. This Foundation should be here to stay. Rome wasn't built in a day; neither should this Foundation. But having built it, we should keep it standing for all time. We should build and sustain it so that whatever we do today will live long after we are gone.

DJLF FOUNDATION LTD. Balance Sheet

Assets:			
Current Assets:			
Cash			
Cash in Banks (Bank of America Account)	\$	20,200.00	
Cash in Banks (Chevy Chase Account)		5,000.00	
Total Cash	\$		25,200.00
Receivables:			
Advance		1,500.00	
Notes - Trade		0.00	
Notes - Other		0.00	
Accounts - Trade		0.00	
Total		1,500.00	
Less: Reserve for Bad Debts		0.00	
Total Receivables			1,500.00
Other Assets:			
Stocks - Wal-Mart		2,005.69	
Stocks - Home Depot		589.08	
Stocks - Lifeway		1,500.00	
Misc. Assets		0.00	
Total Other Assets			4,094.77
Total Current Assets			30,794.77
Fixed Assets			
Land		0.00	
Buildings		0.00	
Machine & Equipment(Printer)		500.00	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(300.00)	
Total Fixed Assets			200.00
Total Assets			30,994.77
Liabilities & Fund Balance			
Current Liabilities			
Notes Payable - To Banks		0.00	
Notes Payable - Trade		0.00	
Accounts Payable		0.00	
Total Current Liabilities			0.00
Long Term Liabilities			
Bonded Debt		0.00	
Mortgages & Lien Payable		0.00	
Total Long Term Liabilities			0.00
Total Liabilities			0.00
Fund Balance			36,494.77
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$		36,494.77

Income Statement

Revenue:		
Receipts from Members Quarterly Fund-Raising (CTQs)		
QUARTER 1	965.00	
QUARTER 2	835.00	
QUARTER 3	570.00	
QUARTER 4	975.00	
	Total Receipts from CTQ's	\$ 3,345.00
Receipts from Other Fund Raising Activities		
Charity Golf - NORCAL	3,090.00	
Charity Golf - East Coast/Army Invitational	1,837.02	
Charity Golf - East Coast/Navy Invitational	2,123.11	
CharityGolf - East Coast/Welcome to Autumn	1,939.43	
Family Nights	0.00	
Other	0.00	
	Total Receipts from Fund Raising	\$ 8,989.56
Other Receipts		
Pledge for Scholarship/J. Paynor	3,000.00	
Special Member Contributions	840.00	
Other Receipts	0.00	
	Total Other Assets	\$ 3,840.00
	Total Revenue	16,174.56
Expenses:		
Disbursement to Scholars (March)	2,000.00	
Disbursement to Scholars (September)	1,000.00	
Disbursement to Scholars (October)	3,000.00	
Taxes Paid (Federal 2004)	2,325.01	
Taxes Paid (State 2004)	980.84	
Other Miscellaneous Expense	250.00	
	Total Expenses	\$6,555.85
	Net Income	\$9,618.71

SUMMARIZATIONS

REVENUES

Receipts from Members Quarterly Fund-Raising (CTQs)	\$ 3,345.00
Receipts from Other Fund Raising Activities	\$ 8,989.56
Other Receipts	\$ 3,840.00

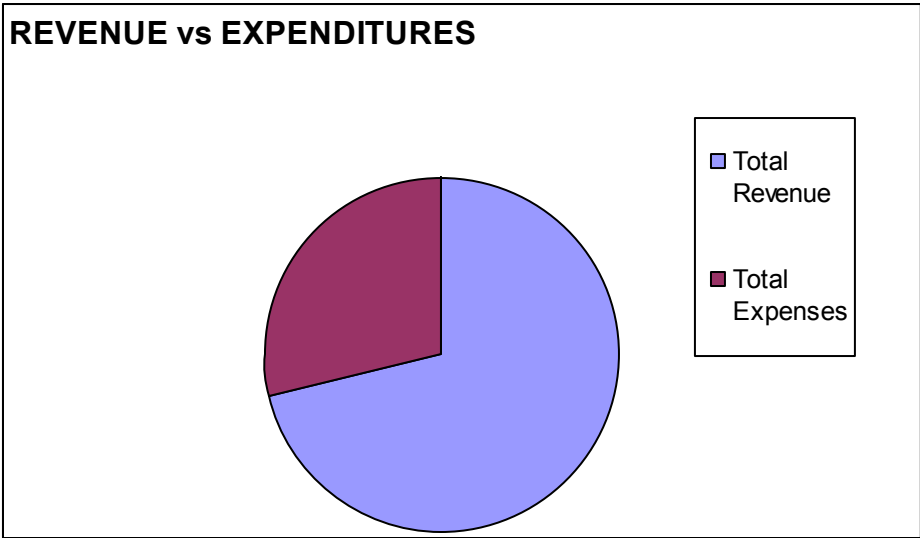
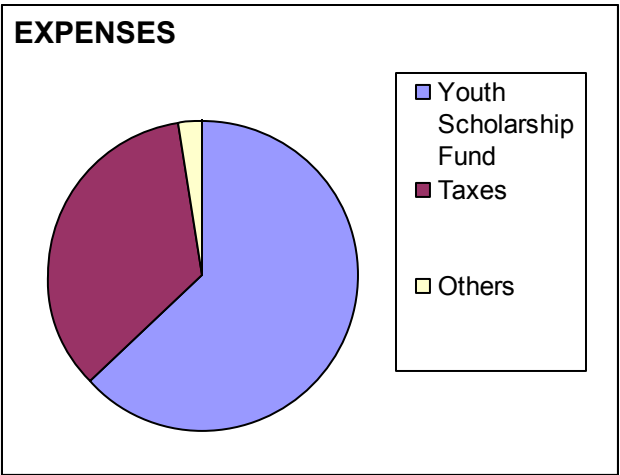
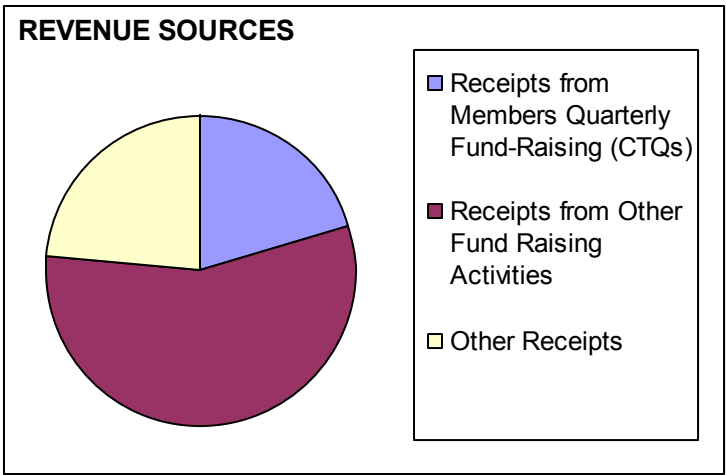
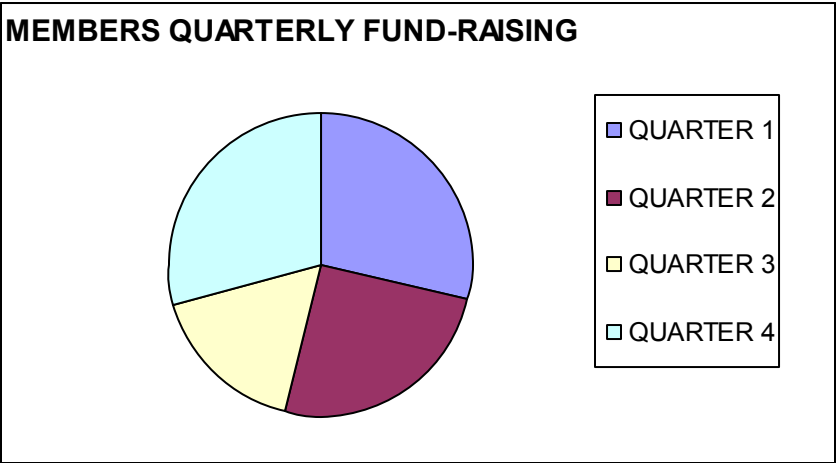
EXPENSES

Youth Scholarship Fund	\$ 6,000.00
Taxes	\$ 3,305.85
Others	\$ 250.00

INCOME

Total Revenue	\$ 16,174.56
Total Expenses	\$ 6,555.85

GRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



Youth, Education and Hope

Launching of the Loakan Educational Assistance Project/LEAP

Announcement and Awarding of LEAP Scholars, Batch of 2005

Baguio City National High School, Fort del Pilar Annex
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City
PHILIPPINES



To: djlf@yahooogroups.com

Subject: Countdown to Feb 21 Formal Launching of
LEAP/YouthScholarship Program

Date: Sun, 06 Feb 2005 01:20:41 +0000

The countdown towards this milestone - the Feb 21 Formal Launching of the Loakan Educational Assistance Project (LEAP) and in particular, its core component, the Youth Scholarship Program - continues.

A. How many days, oh Noble Cataline? 16 days; 384 hours; 23,040 minutes; 1,382,400 seconds; 2,764,800 ticks.

B. The 10 candidates selected by RCMB, eight girls, two boys: Sheryl Belwa; Alona Adawi; Katrina Mae Gumatay; Ellen Cayat; Maria Cristina Burlaza; Frannie Calixto; Roda Chinalpan; Muller Bato; Benedict Milo; Mary Luisa Sinaking

C. DJLF Scholarship Committee, D'ALAM Committee currently on "fatigue duty".... during the weekdays, through this weekend and possibly beyond - to choose the Five Scholars and Five Alternate Scholars. A big hand for D'ALAMos!

Chairman Duller, as you may have read in a separate posting, has submitted this status: The methodology is in place, the judging is still in process...and as to when the winners will be known...still up in the air.

More updates to follow. Stay tuned.....

Thanks and All The Best,

Winston G. Arpon
Chairman



"... all 78 members of DJLF Foundation would have been here today, but for distance, time and other personal circumstances. So, may I just take this moment to acknowledge the presence of DJLF members who made it to this occasion.... They have come a long way."

“Successful in their professional and personal lives, they have every right, by anyone’s measure or standard, to make this choice: to ride into the sunset, to enjoy the fruits of their hard toil and labor; in retirement, for the rest of their life.



“But they have made another choice by making this declaration:

“Loakan is the home of our youthful dreams that were a crucial part of our growth and development - of what we have become and where we are today. Loakan continues to be at the core of our character, of our desire to continue serving, of ever wanting to give back to Loakan what we got from her when we were young. Thus our commitment towards the education of the youth of Loakan and the rest of the country - and the world.”



“Their presence here and now is an affirmation of their commitment to a dream they shared as early as five years ago, before the turn of this present century – to try to build a Loakan Fund that will support what we now know as LEAP – the Loakan Educational Assistance Project.”



“The record of Rotary Club International as an organization in the service of humanity throughout the world is well known. DJLF Foundation is fortunate, therefore, to have the Rotary Club of Metro Baguio as partner in this worthy undertaking.”



“But in the final analysis, this is not about us – not about DJLF Foundation nor the Rotary Club.”

“...this is about these young boys and girls of this school, the Baguio City National High School, Fort del Pilar Annex who represent other young boys and girls in other schools of other barangays in this city, this province, this nation.”



“We hope to inspire and be inspired by them. We will draw our inspiration from their desire and resolve to be successful and by their promise to help their family, their community and this country.”

“We will be inspired by the thought of others in this school and other schools in this community and city who will follow in their footsteps.”

“Pulling off today’s launching of LEAP, in particular, the Youth Scholarship Program, is the easier part. Pushing it through in the years ahead is a greater challenge. For DJLF and the Rotary Club Metro Baguio; for current and future scholars and their family; for this school; for PMA our Alma Mater; and the community of Loakan.”

“We know our goal. We can do it. Together – we will do it!”

“They are the reason why we built and will continue to build the Loakan Fund. They are the reason why the partnership between DJLF Foundation and Rotary Club of Metro Baguio needs to endure.”

*“We have no Guest of Honor today —
We have 10 Guests of Honor - these 10 Scholars:*



Alona Adawi, Muller Bato, Sheryl Belwa, Maria Cristina Burlaza, Frannie Calixto, Ellen Cayat, Roda Chinalpan, Katrina Mae Gumatay, Benedict Milo, Mary Luisa Sinaking ”



“DREAMERS, DOERS—TOGETHER”

Picking the Right Seeds

In selecting the LEAP Scholars Batch of 2005, the DJLF Scholarship Committee was like a rookie rice farmer who needed to obtain the right seeds quickly and have them ready for the unexpectedly early planting season. The forecast for the coming rain was reliably certain, but the delivery of the seeds was quite delayed. The young farmer was on a hot seat. Time was running uncomfortably tight. Although the selection criteria had been defined, the rating process was yet to be worked-out. Getting expert advice was not within his budget. Luckily, he had enough good-natured, hard-working friends standing by to give their honest “balikbayan”¹ efforts the best they knew how.

The seeds that the members of the Scholarship Committee were waiting for did arrive finally on 25th of January 2005. There were ten different seed varieties, ten hopeful candidates who were members of the graduating batch of Baguio City National High School, Fort del Pilar Annex. Representing our local counterparts, Tom Panis of the Rotary Club of Metro Baguio (RCMB) -- one of the “good-natured, hard-working friends” -- had sent via FedEx the filled-out forms, documents and essays of the ten candidates. Addressed to the DJLF Main Office at Deakins Hall, the documents still needed to be shipped cross-country to my residence at Chino Hills, California.²

I received the FedEx shipment on 1st of February. We, the Committee members, from then on, had no time to waste. We were given a few days to evaluate the essays of the candidates, finalize the standings and recommend the best five to be the official DJLF Batch 2005 scholars, the “seeds” that hopefully would bear bountiful harvest in the days to come.

There were 5 members of the Scholarship Committee: three from the West Coast - Del Lorenzo and myself from Southern California and Rolly Malinis from Northern California; two from the East Coast - Bob Aviso from Pennsylvania and Danny Alonzo from New York. Right away, the first significant challenge: how to communicate efficiently given the distance between us. Given more time, we could have set up an internet chat session to collaborate among each other online. It was a luxury not availa-



ble for us then, so we settled for the next best thing: email.

After email addresses were exchanged, I immediately suggested that the Committee be on a “rally”³ mode, meaning drop everything else and concentrate on the evaluation process. It was easier said than done, we eventually found out. Each member had other family and work priorities to attend to. Nevertheless, the “rally” idea was not only well-received, Del Lorenzo declared, boldly if I may say, “*whatever it takes...let’s do it!*” Everyone was ready to roll up his sleeves, dig in and go to work.

The next significant challenge was how to physically distribute the essays to each member. My first impulse was to reproduce them, but this alone would practically take me a whole day at Kinko’s or Staples. Del Lorenzo, saving the day for us, came up with a practical alternative. He volunteered to scan the documents into Adobe software format (.pdf), hardcopies of which could then be sent as attachments to email. He picked up the originals from my house after work and in no time had them ready,

¹ Filipino - referring to Philippine nationals residing abroad, returning to the Philippines, temporarily or permanently

² Since then, this address has become the Chino Hills Extension Office of DJLF Foundation, Ltd.

³ PMA cadet lingo

sealed and delivered to all of us the next day. At the same time, emails were flying back and forth between members to finalize the methodology in scoring and evaluating the essays of the candidates. Rolly had submitted guidelines based on his previous experience, which jump-started the discussions on the issue.

The next day, Thursday, we finalized the worksheet to tally and combine the scores for 6 essays of each candidate. Since the process was subjective, we decided to adopt our own independent and consistent scoring scheme. Each member would rate each essay according to his own perception and report his overall candidate ranking. The rankings will be combined at the Committee level. The resultant ranking at the Committee level will then be further combined with RCMB's own ranking for the final recommendations. In the meantime, there were talks around DJLF that the selection process should not be compromised by lack of time. However, since the Certificate of Awards had to be printed, Dan Perico suggested that every candidate would be a winner, ten Certificates could be printed instead of just five.

On Friday, the 4th, I formalized the evaluation guidelines with accompanying worksheets as supporting documents. I must have been either excited, forgetful or in haste. According to Rolly's recollection, it took me 3 emails to completely send all the attachments. Also, on this day, I received an official reminder from the DJLF management that the Committee's deadline was Sunday, the 6th. I alerted the members with the same sense of urgency. Danny Alonzo, at this time, acknowledged receiving the .pdf documents and raised his issue with the deadline and the possibility of being unable to beat the deadline.

On Saturday, the 5th, the email exchanges were relatively few, each Committee member focusing on the immediate task of evaluating the candidates' essays. The activity had shifted from the internet to pdf and Excel documents. The email silence was broken only hours later. At around 10:26 pm, Rolly submitted his evaluation sheets.

The next day, Sunday, a what-if scenario was raised on a possible tie or close call. I addressed the question by an open discussion among the five, reaching a consensus on each and every issue. After all the evaluation sheets were received, I started the mechanical process of collating, summing up scores, sorting and ranking. At about 11:47 PM, I

published to the members the final ranking at the Committee level and asked them to review, raise issues, confirm and endorse the result.

It was quite a crazy week for all of us. Rolly had a bout with flu. Del Lorenzo and Bob Aviso had to forfeit their weekends with their families. The members' willingness and commitment to the process in spite of their conflicting concerns and even at the expense of their physical condition was admirable. An email was all I could do at this point:

"It's been a busy, busy weekend for all of us. Rolly, I hope you're feeling well now. Danny, although your New England Patriots won, I hope you have done all your other chores over the weekend. Del, I know you raised a very intriguing hypothetical issue. I hope you find the final result satisfactory, however. Bob, you did not raise any issue, but you've been there ready to put in your full support.

Thank you all for your hard work. You all should be proud for all the accomplishments of the Committee given the constraints we have had."

Monday, the 7th, was the day of endorsement from the members of the Committee. There were neither questions asked nor issues raised. The endorsement was positive, unanimous. The deed was done for the five best candidates, the focus shifted to the alternates - those ranked 6th to 10th. Danny Alonzo wrote:

"I'm OK with the final results. I wish we could give all 10 of them scholarships..." Bob Aviso: "It was a bit heart wrenching reading these kids' answers, as they reflect their hopes and aspirations. It was tough to make decisions on them. We can only wish we could get more funds for all of them." Del Lorenzo: "I have no objection (to the Committee result). I only wish we could afford to send all of them to college. I showed Mamer (Del's wife) the essays and I noticed that she was crying just before we went to bed. I thought she was worried about us leaving our kids for the trip to Manila to attend the homecoming. But she said her heart was broken knowing that five of them may not be able to attend college at all.



These remaining “issues” notwithstanding, the official report of the Committee had to be sent:

“This is to officially inform the DJLF Management that the Scholarship Committee has made its unanimous decision to endorse the final standing of the ten candidate scholars as shown in the above attached Excel document... The hard-copy final report will follow after all the documents are gathered and collated.

“Also, you must have perused the unsolicited remarks from the members of the Committee about those who missed the cut, the ‘alternates’. The Committee is also unanimous in recommending a modest amount to be awarded to them in the form of ‘educational gift certificate’, a sum that is redeemable only towards educational purposes, like for books, etc. There is no recommended amount as yet for this is still an idea, but if approved by the DJLF management, we can deliberate then...

“As you must have also surmised, it’s been emotionally-heavy and hectic days for the Committee members knowing that their endorsements will affect, maybe greatly but hopefully not adversely, the lives of the candidates. ... However, although emotionally drained, the members did a tremendous job of evaluating the candidates essays based on their own independent interpretation of what a great DJLF scholar should be ... and they deserve a big hand of applause from the DJLF membership. As the Chairman, it was a pleasure to be a part of the process and personally commend the Committee members for their extraordinary sense of belongingness, pride of participation and exemplary rendition of voluntary service. It’s been fun for all of us as well.

“The Committee thanks the DJLF for this opportunity. We hope that what we’ve done here will serve notice its legacy and purpose for the coming generations.”

The report was officially received. And almost instantly, I got the following feedback from Dan Perico, member of the DJLF Board and EVP:

“Indeed a big hand to the Chairman and members of the Committee. I can just imagine the pressure and emotions that you felt in going through the process. Your exemplary work is an inspiration to the members of the Foundation.”

And finally, signaling the conclusion of what to me and my fellow workers of the Committee was veritably “The Great Rally Week” of our lives since our heady days at Loakan, the official receipt and acknowledgement from the Chair and President of the Foundation:

“It is my pleasure to receive this report. You and your Committee have done an excellent job. The decision of the Committee reflected in this report is deemed final.

“The Certificates will be cut ASAP to reflect this final decision of the DJLF Scholarship Committee.

“I also wish to acknowledge the recommendation of the Committee to award a modest amount to the five alternates in the form of “educational certificates.” This will be referred to the Board of Directors for appropriate action. I am confident that the Board will be receptive to this.

“Please convey to the Committee the gratitude of the Foundation and my personal congratulations for a job well done.

“We cannot thank you enough for keeping us back on track for our Feb 21 launching of LEAP/Youth Scholarship Program.

Thanks and All The Best”

This was almost a year ago. The process for the LEAP Scholars Batch of 2006 has begun. This time perhaps, with a year of experience under our belt, we feel better prepared for the tasks at hand, confident that this go-around will run more smoothly. But like the first go-around, it would be emotionally fulfilling and spiritually uplifting.

LEAP SCHOLARS — BATCH OF 2005

THE SELECTION PROCESS



To: djlf@yahoogroups.com
 Cc: engr.tmpns@skyinet.net (Tom DJLFX.B-Panis)
 Subject: FLASH FLASH FLASH - DJLF Candidate Scholars Selected!
 Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2005 00:16:31 +0000

Today we received the names of the 10 candidates and other supporting documents chosen by the Selection Committee in the Philippines spearheaded by Rotary Club Metro Baguio and Baguio City National High School.

All documents have been forwarded to the DJLF Scholarship Committee. This Committee will choose the 5 Principal and 5 Alternate Scholars to be announced and certificates given during the Feb 21st launching of our Loan Educational Assistance Project (LEAP)/Youth Scholarship Program.

The Selection Committee's summary reports showing how they reached their decision based on points awarded for scholastic ability, financial need and extra-curricular/community-oriented activities were most impressive.

I hope you will have a chance to see them one of these days - they will certainly be in the "vault files" of our CCQ Fulbright Scholar after their use by D' ALAM Committee (Duller, Aviso, Lorenzo, Alonzo and Malinis) - our 'Knowledge(able) Committee. If you are in Jake Duller's neighborhood in Chino Hills, California now or in the next few days, I am sure he won't mind if you drop by to browse those, or even kibitz and connive during their e-deliberations. You should read the "short essays" written by each candidate as part of the selection process required by D' ALAM Committee and know how much DJLF Foundation will be helping them. They need and they deserve all the help they can get.

Engineer Tom Panis, designated RCMB LEAP Coordinator has delivered! We are pleased. So, please join me in thanking him, the Selection Committee, the President and members of the wishing the best of luck to D' ALAM Committee. They have only a few days left to complete their job but I am confident they will pull through.

We are also very confident that we will have a successful formal launching of the project at Fort del Pilar and more importantly a successful implementation of it!

eLN

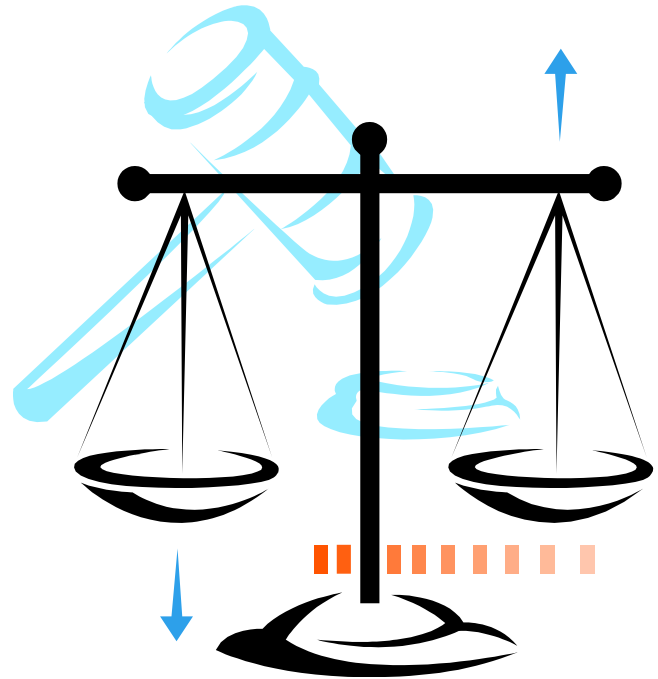
DJLF Scholarship Committee Selection Criteria

From the ten (10) candidates submitted for consideration by the Rotary Club of Metro Baguio from the graduating class of BCNHS-FDP, five (5) will be finally awarded the DJLF scholarship based on the following broad criteria:

1. Scholastic Ability
2. Financial Need
3. Extra-Curricular Involvement
4. Commitment to Education and Community Development
5. Leadership Potential
6. Sensitivity to Social and Economic Issues
7. Personal Vision for the Future

Items 1 thru 3 will have been addressed by RCMB Selection process which is expected to produce and transmit to DJLF a packet of necessary documentation (biographical data, transcript of records, letters of endorsements, income tax returns, certifications, etc.) for each candidate. Items 4 thru 7 will be subjective in nature and the DJLF Scholarship Committee plans to gain insight into each candidate's intrinsic fortitude and self-evaluation as a success predictor of his/her individual performance as a DJLF scholar and as a potential DJLF ambassador to promote by example the scholastic and charitable ideals of the Foundation. With this objective, the candidates will be required to respond in impromptu writing, not to exceed 200 words per item, to the following subjects or questions:

1. Describe your favorite community event and how you can participate in making it more beneficial to the fam-



- ilies in your neighborhood.
2. If you are appointed mayor for a period of six months, what will you do to help solve the poverty and youth drug problems in your town.
3. What do you think is the biggest problem of the Philippines today and what can you contribute as a concerned citizen to resolve it.
4. Describe your career plan; then picture and describe yourself, your family, your work and your involvement in the community ten years from now.
5. Why do you think you deserve to be a DJLF scholar? If selected, how can you promote the goals and ideals of the DJLF Foundation?
6. If you fail to be selected as one of the five (5) DJLF scholars, how do you plan to support your college education? If you will be unable to attend college, what is your alternative plan?

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS



It seemed like only yesterday when members of the DJLF Foundation LTD made the collective decision, through its Board of Directors, that it was time to sponsor full college scholars as part of its philanthropic goal of giving back to the community from where all its members once dreamed of pursuing their own careers.

Once this decision was made, the process through which this decision was to be made was set in motion. First, there was a mad but diligent scramble to find the men who will form the Selection Committee that will evaluate candidates and recommend to the DJLF Board the final 5 candidates who will receive the scholarships.

mittee that will evaluate candidates and recommend to the DJLF Board the final 5 candidates who will receive the scholarships.

This chronology attempts to not only capture the time element but also the emotional rollercoaster ride that the Selection Committee members went through as they discussed, argued, compromised

Before The Great Crunch Week

31 October 2004

Jake Duller, Chairman, Scholarship Selection Committee, submits the general selection criteria for the LEAP scholars to Winston Arpon, Chairman, DJLF Foundation Ltd

04 November 2004

Rolly Malinis, the next most senior member of the Selection Committee, requests for copy of general criteria for his first reading.

Two other members, Del Lorenzo Dan Alonzo, agreed to join the Selection Committee.

18 January 2005

Bobby Aviso joins the Selection Committee. Committee membership is complete.

25 January 2005

About 10 emails are exchanged among the Committee members from 11:01 am to 7:30 pm covering the details of the selection process. The initial email for the day is the notification to the committee members of receipt by DJLF Chairman Winston Arpon of FedEx shipment of application and summary of information of 10 selected candidates recommended by the Rotary Club of Metro Baguio (see e-mail insert), to establishing the fastest and most feasible communication link among the DJLF Chairman and the Selection Committee. At the end of this exchange, the links ranging from fax to scanners.

25 January 2005

Note that the 5 members of the committee were on either side of the continental divide and that it was a near physical impossibility for them to meet each other face-to-face, thus the need to establish the protocols for communication. Note also that at this point, the committee barely had 10 days to finalize the selection criteria and deliberate on the candidates.

The Week of the Great Rally

01 February 2005

TUESDAY

In a span of about 3 hours after receipt by Selection Committee chairman of the packet containing essays and credentials of the candidates, the committee established the procedure and rating system for the evaluation of the candidates' essays. Within this time period, essays were scanned and emailed to the committee members for the first pass.

It was also on this day that Jake Duller declared the Committee to be on an ALERT mode (which essentially means burn the telephone lines and stir cyberspace if need be 24/7 in order for the committee to submit its final ranking of the candidates in 7 days.

02 February 2005

WEDNESDAY

Committee members receive their packets of candidates essays and credentials. They also start the arduous task of going over candidates' credentials and essays.

03 February 2005 THURSDAY

Selection Committee Chairman Jake Duller sends out tally sheets for use in initially ranking the candidates. He also sends notice of the date the final selection was to be submitted to the DJLF leadership.

04 February 2005 FRIDAY

Committee members receive final guidelines in the evaluation and ranking of the candidates. (Side bar: One committee member revealed that Chairman Duller must have really been so excited about what the committee is about to do at this point that he uncharacteristically forgets to include the attachment to his broadcast email.

Deadline for submission of committee members' worksheets is set for Sunday, 06 February 2005, a mere 9 days away from the formal announcement of the scholars.

05 February 2005 SATURDAY

Committee observes a self-imposed period of silence although they still managed to exchange 28 emails among themselves mostly on questions about the evaluation criteria and the rating system.

The silence mode was broken at around 10:30 PM (Pacific Time) when Rolly Malinis set the record for submitting his evaluation sheets ahead of everybody else. Jake Duller was extremely pleased that the exchanges from 11:43 am to 10:32 pm)

06 February 2005 SUNDAY

This is the day committee members were to submit their evaluations and rankings.

Prior to the other committee members' submission of their rankings, Del Lorenzo raises the issue of how the committee will handle close rankings. Jake Duller assures the committee that any significant difference among ratings will be discussed and resolved to everybody's satisfaction as much as possible.

At about the stroke of midnight, Jake Duller, who did the final tally of the members' rankings, breaks the news that the results are in. With his announcement also comes the exhortation that if any committee member still has any points to raise or questions to ask, this is the time to do so or forever keep their piece.

Jake Duller thanks all the committee members for giving up their weekend in order to tackle the important task of choosing the Foundation's first batch of scholars.

06 February 2005 SUNDAY—continued

Side Bar: This was the Super Bowl weekend and Dan Alonzo sacrificed not watching most of his hometown team, the New England Patriots, play against the Philadelphia Eagles. Of course, he could not resist watching the dying moments of the game especially when Patriot kicker Adam Vinatieri kicked the ball for an additional point and put the final nail on the Eagles' coffin.

Rolly Malinis was also not feeling well from a malaise that has been bugging him all week. To him, though, and to the rest of the committee members Bob Aviso and Del Lorenzo, this was just too important a task to set aside in favor of rest or Super Bowl or whatever these guys may have planned to do that weekend.

07 February 2005 MONDAY

To the committee member, the day after which the individual member's rankings were submitted, turns out to be the busiest (email-wise) and most emotional moment of the whole selection process.

The final selection is unanimous but the real concern of the committee members was how to deal with those candidates who were not selected. Various suggestions are made as to how those not selected will somehow be rewarded for their good performance and for being even considered as finalists for the scholarship. Suggestions for reward ranged from giving them a certain percentage of the scholarship grant to be given the selected scholars to asking the Foundation members for a total of \$600 to be equally shared among the five not selected.

Del Lorenzo reveals that his wife Mamer, could not stop herself from crying in an obvious feeling of pity for the five not chosen, pointing out that they must come from poor families trying to get an education for themselves in order to improve their plight.

In the end, Bob Aviso reminds everyone that the DJLF Board will have to approve the means for however those not chosen were to be somehow rewarded, to which Jake Duller rejoins that he will let the DJLF Board know the committee's sentiments and will do his best to work something out.

The Selection Committee submits its final recommendation to the DJLF Board via email, a copy of which is shown below, that clearly manifests the emotional impact of the whole selection and how it may have changed each of the committee member's life knowing that they were part of a very difficult but meaningful decision making process that will surely change the lives of 5 young people from the community where all of them once pursued their own dreams.



From: "JB Duller" <dullerjb@hotmail.com>
 Subject: Final Report: DJLF Scholarship Selection
 Date: Mon, 7 Feb 2005 18:18:01 +0000

This is to officially inform the DJLF management that the Scholarship Committee has made its unanimous decision to endorse the final standing of the ten candidate scholars as shown in the above attached Excel document, under the "DJLF Final Standing" worksheet. The red-colored rows are the 5 candidates selected, the black-colored ones are alternates. The supporting worksheet are found in the other worksheets. The hard-copy final report will follow after all the documents are gathered and collated.

Also, you must have perused the unsolicited remarks from the members of the Committee about those who missed the cut, the "alternates". The Committee is also unanimous in recommending a modest amount to be awarded to the alternates in the form of "educational gift certificate", a sum that is redeemable only towards educational purposes, like for books, etc. There is no recommendation of the modest amount as yet for this is just an idea, but if approved by the DJLF management, we can deliberate then ... including the mechanics and the delivery aspect of it.

As you must have also surmised, it's been emotionally-heavy and hectic days for the Committee members knowing that their endorsements will affect, maybe greatly but hopefully not adversely, the lives of the candidates. The e-mails going back and forth will show the feelings of the members. However, although emotionally laden, the members did a tremendous job of evaluating the candidates based on their own independent interpretation of what a great DJLF scholar should be ... and deserve a big hand from the DJLF membership. As the Chairman, it was a pleasure to be a part of the process and personally commend the members for their extraordinary sense of belongingness, pride of participation and exemplary rendition of voluntary service. It's been fun for all of us as well.

The Committee thanks the DJLF for this opportunity. We hope that what we've done here will serve notice its legacy and purpose for the coming generations.

POSTSCRIPT:

On February 20, 2005, full college scholarships were awarded to the five successful candidates chosen by the Foundation. On that same day, an anonymous donor, moved by the same sentiment shared by the committee members during their deliberations regarding the 5 candidates who were not chosen, offered to pay for their tuition for the first semester of college. Before the end of this year, similar anonymous donors have offered to pay for the second semester tuition of these 5 young people.



Never Grow Old

By Dan Jimenez

Never grow old

Fate has mocked the humility of your birth
Silenced the voices of your ancestors
Laughed at your aspirations
Yet your blood is still of heroes' red
Your skin still of the brown earth
Your sinews still unbroken.

Never grow old

Surrender is only for the dying
An aged wisdom but an excuse
While destiny remains for the mountains and the oceans.
Your quest is to achieve your own perfection
That your weakness will compliment
That which makes you strong.

Never grow old

There must be sacrifice in every struggle
Lest victory will be hollow
and medals are but windchimes to the gathering storm.
Shrink not to every challenge despising either success or failure
for knowledge is only gained thru battle wounds.

Never grow old

Savor the gift of time with twilight's fading shadows
as you welcome the deserved rest of the dark
and the chance to renew the body's resolve.
Face the dawn always like a new born
full of anticipation, full of desire
no past nor reservation.

Never grow old

Fill your heart with gratitude
that you will not forget
the dreams you live by, the truths you will die for.
Listen and discriminate the words of prophets
and pretenders alike,
trusting your conscience regardless of doubts.

Never grow old

Righteousness is a mistake
Divinity is for God.
Accept mortality and imperfection
with peace and reason
never discounting what you will never know,
fully respecting the finity of your reach.

Never grow old

As the kite flies in children's unending glee
Flow with the song that your life defined
Even in life's waning days when memory fades
Answer the tempest's challenge and let youth and your spirit soar
unrestricted, unbound, unafraid
and fate will mock you no more.

YOU NEVER DID GROW OLD

A FEBRUARY TO REMEMBER

By Irwin P. Ver

These late in my life, Februarys come and go, uneventful as other months of the year - except perhaps December. But not February of 2005. And definitely not Monday, the 21st of that year. For on this day, the DJLF LEAP/Youth Scholarship Program was formally launched with the awarding of scholarship grants to ten graduating students of the Baguio City National High School (BCNHS), Fort del Pilar Annex.

That it happened ten months ago makes this remembrance a daunting challenge, perhaps an impossible task to accomplish for one whose memory cells have been ravaged by more than half a century of use. But knowing that you will spare me the critical eye, I will try to recapture as much as I can of those propitious days in February, to remember as much as I can.

I do remember the excitement that engulfed our e-group several weeks before the launching, with a daily posting on the countdown to February 21, broken down precisely into days, hours, minutes, seconds and ticks - just like we did at the old cadet barracks when, as plebes, we recited "How Many Days, Oh Noble Cataline."

With the countdown, came the daily headcount of DJLF members who were flying to the Philippines for the Big Event. The last count stood at 21. Would I be the 22nd?

DO I HAVE TO GO – AND WHY?

With my meager savings, I knew I could ill afford the trip to Manila. Quite understandably, therefore, my decision to make the trip was made at the very last minute.

During that long flight to Manila, the questions never left me. Why were 21 others and I making this trip? In the idiom of the Loakan barracks of our past, "What were we trying to celebrate?"

I knew that the answers, the reasons would come later than sooner. But of this I was certain: I would not miss this event at my Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City, Philippines. This was too historic an event to pass up. I just knew I had to go. Looking back, I am glad— and proud – that I did.

SUNDAY

We would converge at Baguio City from various points of

the North American continent and the Philippine Archipelago, it was agreed that on Sunday, the eve of the Big Event, an assembly in Baguio, a roll call if you will, was necessary to account for all attendees - and as always, for our group go over the final coordination and arrangements before D-Day.



Even for the weary travelers from thousand of miles away, there was no expectation of any elaborate dinner. A cadet-like chow or mess - "boodleflight" in Loakan barracks lingo, as in fighting for boodles or food - would suffice. But Major General Rudy Estrellado, former PMA Superintendent, one of the original 12 members of DJLF and one of very few members not residing abroad, had another idea in mind: dinner at the posh Baguio Country Club, hosted by him and his lovely wife. As expected, it was an elegant dinner complemented by fine wine and subdued lighting.

Thanks to our gracious hosts, the first ever "boodleflight" of DJLF outside the US was in the books, with the last dessert, coffee and tea and readiness of all to say good night and goodbye and hit the sack for tomorrow's Big Event.

But wait! Our gracious host was not about to call it a night. When I saw him flash that smile on his handsome face and about ready to say a few words for the group, I suddenly observed what I had missed before: the circular arrangement of the tables with a remote microphone. Then it became clear to me that this was also a business



The author is one of the founding members of DJLF Foundation, Ltd, joining the first five members - fellow Cavaliers Mervin Tiu, Nebuchadnezzar Alejandrino, Harold Ochoco and Dan Jimenez, and, Lizzie Fullon, daughter of another PMA alumnus - together, DJLF's first dreamers and doers.

He was one of the 12 that participated in the first fund-raising event of DJLF held in December, 1999. Since 2002 when DJLF was incorporated, he has served as member of the Board of Directors and as Counsel-General, in which position he advises the Officers of the Foundation, particularly the President.

Graduating in 1970 at the top of this class at the Philippine Military Academy, he is no stranger to, and in fact he is a proponent, LEAP's focus on youth education - and hope.

meeting.

On the agenda, of course, was the last-minute coordination for tomorrow's Big Event, the report of our advance party of one - Willie Mejia, a classmate of the PMA Superintendent. And then some - matters involving the Alma Mater; concern for the present state of PMA, 'precarious' seemed to be the consensus; the quality of the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines (I heard 'deteriorating' mentioned more than once; and the Honor System. Yes, the time-honored Honor System that in our time belonged to the Corps of Cadets - the need to revive the ideal and idealized application of the Academy's Honor Code.

In the serious, animated discussions of these agenda, it gave me great pleasure and reassurance to see the faces of commitment and idealism from all across the room. I was in good company of former cadets and Academy alumni that still cared.

MONDAY

Jet lag and all, I rose early Monday morning, allowing ample time to keep the 7 a.m. H-Hour assembly at the high school. With several minutes to spare, I passed by the clump of homes to the left of the gates of Fort del Pilar. This is the village of Loakan. The houses, which filled both sides of the narrow road, have multiplied into more than a hundred, which resembled Manila's shanties. The houses on the northern side stood on long stilts as they perched precariously above the deep ravine. One thinks of their living dangerously, but I suppose danger is the least of worries to a family that is starving and straining just to breathe.

With that realization of their sad plight I proceeded to the school of the children of Loakan. When I entered Fort del Pilar, the steel gates immediately reminded me of the countless times I had run from the cadet barracks to these gates during summer morning PTs and preps for the cadet cross country races. The gate was at the point of the run when we would be gasping for air, when our spirits dipped at its lowest, where we tried hard not to be discouraged that another half had to be run, and instead, psyched ourselves with the refreshing thought that the run was already half-done. And always, the sobering reassurance of a phrase shared by cadets, especially plebes, "This too shall pass...."

Several decades removed from Loakan, I have come to realize that graduating from PMA didn't mean that the run of our lives was over. We still keep on running. But now, for vastly different reasons: for our careers, for our families, for our communities, for our own self-actualization. Being a part of DJLF Foundation, participating in its endeavor, the Loakan Educational Assistance Project, giving something back to Loakan, is a part of that run.

I have enjoyed immensely the many marathons I have joined. With advancing age, I may cease to be a part of those marathons, but this DJLF marathon I plan to be a part of for the rest of my life.

Stepping into the schoolyard of BCNHS, I entered a world that certainly looked, felt and smelled familiar. The

Marcos-type prefabricated school buildings stood as modest as the box type schoolhouses of my elementary days. To level the courtyard, it was laid with gravel but most were fist size stones, many protruded from the ground poised to puncture the soles of my shoes. I remember my elementary school grounds. They did not have such gravel layer; when the rains came, mud caked under the soles of my rubber sandals, everyone in school and the rest of the community called, "smuggle."

I venture to guess that the question most asked while threading on these grounds is not about the size of the stones or the sticky mud when it rained. A more pressing

In the serious, animated discussions of these agenda, it gave me great pleasure and reassurance to see the faces of commitment and idealism from all across the room. I was in good company of former cadets and Academy alumni that still cared.

question asked many, many times, perhaps not outwardly, but inwardly within many a starving student. Why go to college, what is the value of a college education?

The typical American perspective focuses on the financial rewards: higher career opportunities, better pay, improved status in life, access to more leisurely pursuits, more baseball, more golf. The European answer: wider business networks, clearer appreciation of the arts and sciences, better understanding of what are valuable to human existence, more Italian pasta, more French wine. To either or both, the good life. La Dolce Vita.

The value of a college degree to the Filipino? In the throes of economic and political woes, the Filipino, I suppose would have this answer: escape from the shanties, three meals a day, and if luckily blessed, own a home with a little garden. Escape from problems, not enjoyment of life's pleasures. No Dolce Vita.

Our group arrived early, a full 29 minutes before the first item on the program - raising the Philippine flag and recitation of the Filipino Pledge of Allegiance. Was it



just habitual promptness of ex-cadets, was it discipline or was it an indication of commitment?

When we took our seats in the quadrangle among the Baguio pines, the entire student body was at our rear and flanks. I was drawn to their sweaty and dusty sunburned faces. Compared with the faces of their counterparts in US high schools, they looked many years young-

Compared with the faces of their counterparts in US high schools, they looked many years younger, thinner, with innocence in their eyes, and more hopeful. I also saw faces seasoned by want, cheeks furrowed by hard life, crooked teeth biting on lips in despair, and expressions imploring us to save them. Save them from want. They looked back at me with shy expectant smiles.

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Several students led the singing of the national anthem, and rendered a song midway into the program. The introduction came only after their performance. It turned out they were the ten scholar finalists. Scholars who could sing and dance!

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Three defining moments are etched clearly in my mind today - each moment associated with a person that, to me, stood out that day. In retrospect, they served to give clarity to our presence and purpose at Loakan on that day.

Firstly, Jake Duller. He came all the way from California, and like mine, his decision to make the trip to the Philippines was made on the last minute. He had to cancel previous appointments on his schedule. As Chairman of the DJLF Scholarship Committee, he was in his best element talking about the Youth Scholarship Program as a core component of LEAP. He was on a roll until he discussed the selection process itself. When he came to the part of the process where he and the members of the Committee had to choose the five candidates who would be the LEAP Scholars of Batch 2005, his voice cracked and it was plain for everyone to see that there was a tear or two in his eyes. This former officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, hardened by years at the military academy and the military service, couldn't continue.

He explained later that he just couldn't help it; he just couldn't tame his emotions before this public, this large audience. Addressing himself to those scholars, especially the five that were left out, he was reminded of himself some forty years ago. He was luckier than these five. PMA gave him an opportunity to pursue a free col-

lege education. While he was happy for the five LEAP scholars his Committee had chosen, he could not bear to think of what would happen to the other five.

Secondly, Jun Paynor. In DJLF circles, he goes by the nickname, Playfool (DJLF members invariably embed 'fool' in their DJLF nicknames). But there was nothing playful about what he did then and there, following Jake Duller's turn on stage.

Before this, I had watched the bit of drama unfold as each candidate was called on stage to receive his or her certificates. To the first five names called, their certificates as Alternate Scholars were no consolation; they would receive no scholarship grant, unless any of the Principal Scholars decided not to go to college, for whatever reason. I saw disappointment, incontrovertible hints of despair on their faces.

Jun Paynor saved the day when he rushed on stage and eventually made an unexpected announcement: an anonymous donor would pay for the first year scholarship of the Alternate Scholars. The announcement brought smiles on what were pained faces only moments ago. We did not know it then, but we eventually found out who that anonymous donor was. You guessed it! Jun Paynor himself. No surprise to us who knew that Jun Paynor was a graduate of the Baguio City National High School, before he joined PMA, graduating with the Class of 1971, serving with the Philippine Constabulary and opting later to serve his country in foreign service, rising to the rank of Ambassador.

He wasn't done yet. During the tour of the school classes that followed, the good ambassador took on the task of talking to one classroom full of students, about dedication to school work and of determination to improve oneself, urging them to work hard, and assuring his attentive audience that we were there to support them as much as we could.

And lastly, the scholars themselves. After helping myself to servings of local delicacies pancit, puto and dinuguan, I talked to the five scholars.

She was the youngest of three children, the first scholar told me. Her parents could only afford to send them to college one at a time. But their parents had just pulled out their first born from school for lack of funds; she had resigned herself to entirely missing out on college. As the third option, she knew she had no chance at all.

Another scholarship awardee had basically the same story, that their parents could only send one of their children to college. She is the fifth child. She would have to wait. College, at best, would be six to seven years away.

Before day's end, we gathered this most sobering fact: none of the ten scholars would have made it to college during school year 2005-2006.

THE DAYS AFTER

I continued to seek to understand the significance of this event, days after the deed was done. If I allowed myself to be carried into flippancy, a flight of fancy, if you will - so be it. But I had this fabulous image of cavaliers soaring like birds above the cloudy skies over Loakan, and

swooping down to earth to hand out scholarship cheques to the students, then flying off once more to the majestic blue yonder. A scene not unlike a flock of mythical men, with winged caps and sandals, like Hermes, the messenger of the gods to the mortals.

And from a transcendental perspective, when I think of our scholars, young and hopeful, I look back at the Loakan of our youth. Frozen with those memories of PMA is the idealism of our purpose, the pureness of our hearts, the boldness of our spirits. We were dreamers all. Collectively, we had pledged then that we were going to serve the Armed Forces of the Philippines, our country and people, as best we could; we were going to make our country better. Big dreams.

But to some of us, the reality is that those dreams were interrupted by circumstances beyond our control. There's neither time nor reason to dwell on them and on what might have been. But dwell we will on that one day in February of 2005, when we DJLF dreamers and doers acted together to make a difference in the lives of ten students, to help make a village a little better.

It was still winter when I returned to my home in California, colder than Manila. Inside of me, however, I felt no coldness, reveling in the warmth of this one, lasting thought and memory: to our adopted village of Loakan, especially to 10 of her youthful sons and daughters whose academic dreams would have been left cold and damp in a winter of despair, it was spring in February.

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What Our Scholars Say...



“ Thanking DJLF and Rotary Club of Metro Baguio continuously...College could have been much harder without help from anyone. DJLF and Rotary Club of Metro Baguio are providing that help...Clear is the support that is being given. From tuition, requirements, books and other college stuff, DJLF and RCMB handle the worry. No sweat for us when facing these things, because we know we're leaning on a great wall. Our only sweat is just facing the academic toil...”



Katrina Mae Gumatay
St. Louis University

“ I don't want to waste the blessings that I have now... I thank you all for being a part of my first year ”



Maria Cristina R. Burlaza
University of the Cordilleras

“ I always remember the people who helped us, people who are kind and supportive. I value all of these things. I pray (to) and thank God because once in our journey of life we met people like you.....Sir Rhyss (Hizon) and Tito Dan (Perico) gave me advice. Whenever I read their email, I am inspired and hope that someday I will be successful like them.”



Alona Adawi
St. Louis University

“ ... the launching of DJLF-RCMB Scholarship program. I think that was my most unforgettable moment... on the verge of depression because of the thought that I can't pursue higher education because my parents cannot send me to college but at that very moment, my world brightened... Now, I am studying at SLU as a Freshmen... A million thanks to all of you. God bless...”



Roda Chinalpan
St. Louis University

“ College – two questions come to mind. 'What course would I take?' 'Who will support me?'



Benedict Milo
St. Louis University

It was a great opportunity for me to be a DJLF-LEAP scholar because it opened a new door of hope for my future....Thanks to all of you who have a big heart... Mabuhay!”



Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines

What Our Scholars Say...

“ First day of June 2005 was my first day as a scholar of DJLF Foundation... Being a scholar really change(d) my life, it change(d) my attitude... I believe that the Foundation is expecting much from us, their scholars.. ”



Mary Luisa Sinaking
University of the Cordilleras



“ Anuse jun anak ja makeskuwela ta sigkato bengat e miaptawis ia ni parentes jo (Children, study hard because that's the only thing your parents can give)... words I always heard from the old men in our community since I was young....From Manong Irwin Ver, 'the Foundation doesn't only support you in financial but also in moral aspects.'...it is true... by giving us Ninongs, local and US-based...who will be our guidance counselors, second parents and angel de la guardias until we graduate.. ”



Muller H. Bato
University of the Cordilleras

“ As one of the DJLF scholars, I was respected in our community, even the younger teens always say, 'I wish I will be like you, chosen and a proud DJLF scholar.' ...College life is not easy (but) I can face it because I am surrounded by God's love. Aside from my parents, I have generous sponsors, the DJLF & the Rotary Club of Metro Baguio.....always inspiring me to move forward...keep my responsibilities in life...my responsibility to my parents, to my sponsors...and to finish my studies.. ”



Frannie Calixto
St. Louis University

“ “...the day of Feb. 21, 2005... proclaimed the ten scholars of the Loakan Educational Assistance Project....granted my greatest wish....All I can say is a big thank you to all the members of the RCMB and the DJLF Foundation. ”



Sheryl Belwa
University of the Cordilleras



University of the Cordilleras, Baguio City, Philippines

“ What beautiful words from our Batch 2005 Scholars, they all make us proud and do more! ”



Tom Panis
Project Coordinator
Rotary Club of Metro Baguio



2006 and Beyond

2006 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES



1st Quarter

- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Publication of DJLF yearbook 2005, “The Leap – Yeah!” (01/15)
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Complete Selection of LEAP Scholars Batch of 2006
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Awarding of LEAP Scholars Batch of 2006 (02/20)
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Charity Golf – Northern California Golf Invitational
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Charity Golf – Los Angeles Golf Invitational
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Membership Quarterly Fund-Raising (“Call To Quarters 2006-1”)



2nd Quarter

- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Membership Quarterly Fund-Raising (“Call To Quarters 2006-2”)
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Charity Golf – Metropolitan Washington Golf Invitational
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Charity Golf - Northeast Golf Invitational
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Community Sale
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Start-up DJLF yearbook 2006, “The Leap – Yeah!” (06/30)



3rd Quarter

- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Membership Quarterly Fund-Raising (“Call To Quarters 2006-3”)
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Charity Golf – Williamsburg Golf Invitational
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Charity Golf - New England Golf Invitational
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Family Nights
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Start-up, Foundation Year 2007 Planning



4th Quarter

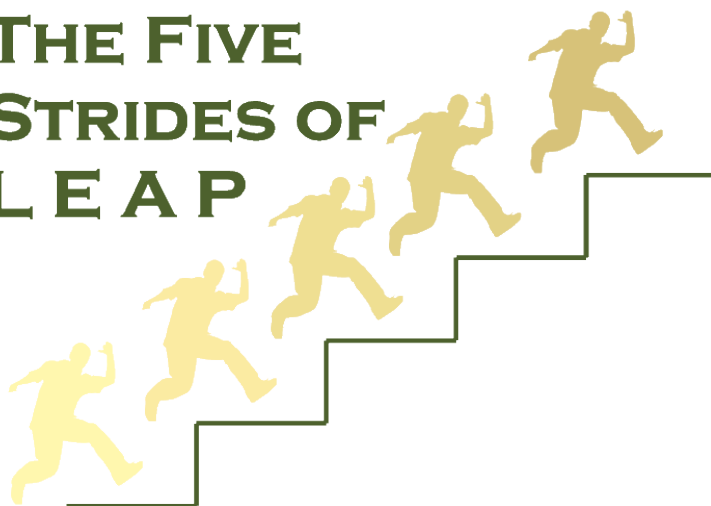
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Membership Quarterly Fund-Raising (“Call To Quarters 2006-4”)
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ 7th Anniversary, DJLF Foundation, Ltd. (12/12)
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Complete Foundation Year 2007 Planning
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Holiday Caroling
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Holiday Fellowship
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Start-up, Selection of LEAP Scholars Batch of 2007
- $\frac{1}{15750}$ Freeze Date for DJLF yearbook 2006, “The Leap – Yeah!” (12/31)

Youth Scholarship Program

Under LEAP is a Youth Scholarship Program to provide financial support to selected scholars for tuition, books and other expenses needed for a college degree in any duly accredited institution of learning in the Philippines. Each year, the program will be supporting a set of scholars selected on the basis of financial need and academic qualifications.

The **Youth Scholarship Program** is the core but by no means the only component of LEAP. Stride by stride with it are these four programs to be undertaken in support of and to ensure LEAP's future success:

THE FIVE STRIDES OF LEAP



Faculty Development. A program to help maintain a high standard of academic excellence, dedication, commitment and motivation of teachers.

Facility Improvement. A program to improve the physical environment of the school as a whole, the students' classrooms and the working conditions of the Faculty and administrative staff, in particular.



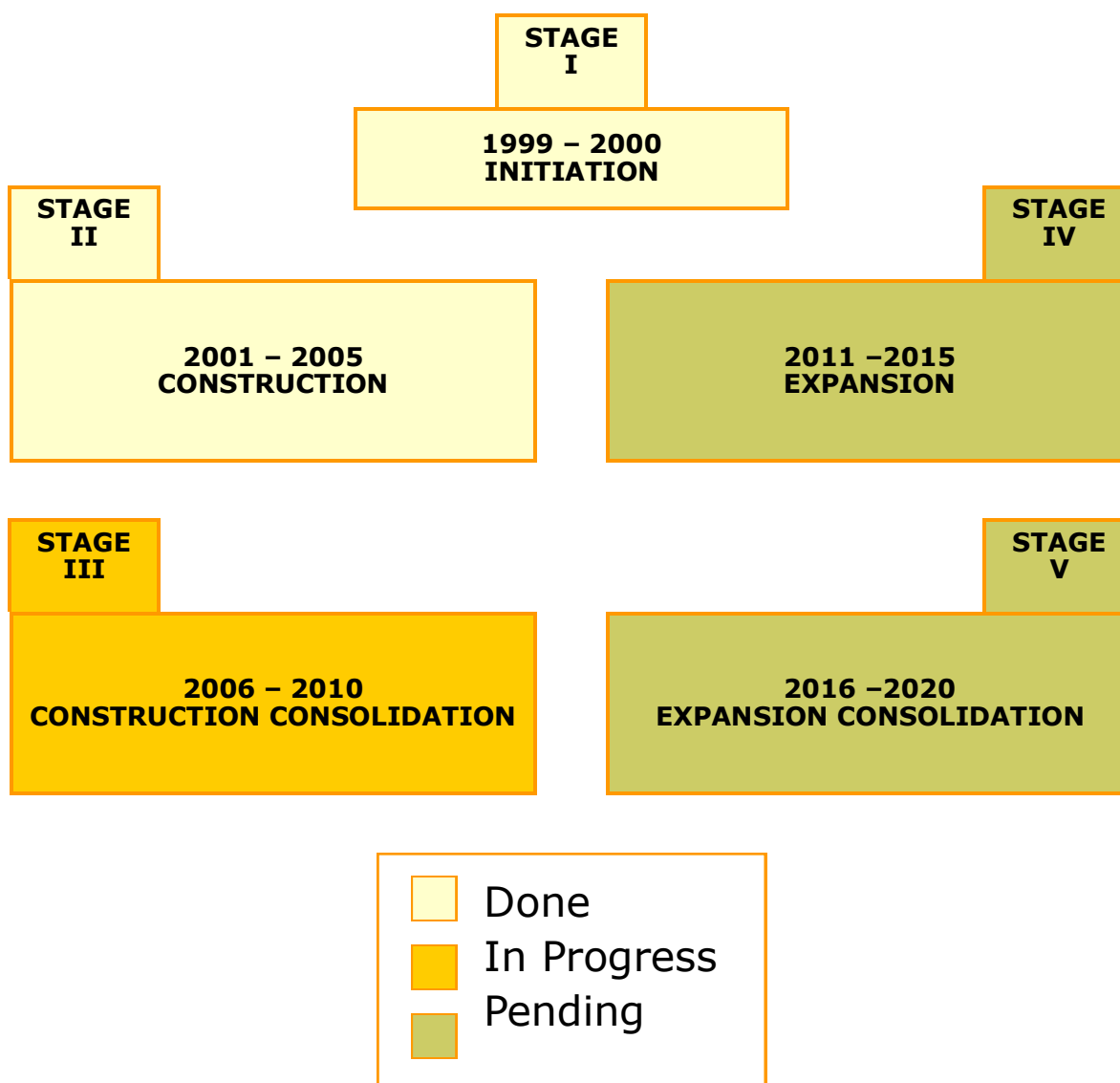
Teaching Aids Enhancement. A program to contribute towards the modernization of school equipment and tools of learning.

Leadership Development and Placement. A program to incorporate students into existing youth leadership development of the community.



"DREAMERS, DOERS—TOGETHER"

FIVE-STAGE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



DJLF FIVE-STAGE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Where We Have Been

STAGE I 1999-2000 INITIATION

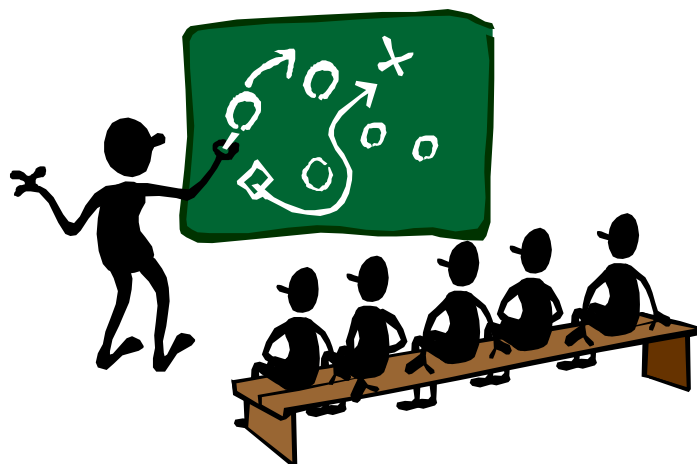
Conceptualization; Start-up of DJLF as the Dumb Johns Loakan Fun Club and Build-up of the Loakan Fund from membership quarterly contributions.

STAGE II 2001-2005 CONSTRUCTION

Build-up of membership base and contributions from that membership; incorporation of DJLF Foundation, Ltd.; Conceptualization of the Loakan Educational

Assistance Project/LEAP; Start-up of Revenue base from sources other than membership; Inauguration & Operationalization of the Youth Scholarship Program;

Start-up of the other Program Components of LEAP.



Where We Are Now

STAGE III. 2006-2010 CONSTRUCTION CONSOLIDATION

Consolidating the foundation established and gains made in Stages I & II, particularly Stage II; Setting up DJLF Foundation, Ltd. for Expansion in Stage IV.

Where We Will Be

STAGE IV 2011-2015 EXPANSION

Basically to determine an optimal point at which the Foundation can be sustained and bringing or expanding the Foundation to that point.

STAGE V 2016-2020 EXPANSION CONSOLIDATION

Basically a consolidation of the foundation established and the gains made in the Expansion Stage; the final major developmental stage of the Foundation; at the end of this Stage, DJLF Foundation, Ltd. is expected to be on "cruise control" mode, sustained and sustainable in all the years to come.



SPONSORS

"DREAMERS, DOERS — TOGETHER"