

A VOICE FOR ASIAN COLLABORATION

As a member of the United Board family, Dr. Betty Cernol-McCann has served in a range of roles: scholar, colleague, leader, friend. On the eve of her retirement, she reflects on her work over the past six years as Vice President for Programs.

WHAT HAS BEEN MOST SATISFYING ABOUT YOUR WORK AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMS?

My greatest satisfaction has been the privilege of knowing many friends who all work hard to make a difference in their own personal and professional

environments. Over time I have seen them grow in confidence and capability to respond to the many challenges they face. This includes my satisfaction in seeing Asian educators' appreciation for learning from each other, instead of seeing their United Board experience exclusively in terms of opportunities to learn from educators outside of Asia.

HAVE THERE BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES DURING YOUR UNITED BOARD TENURE?

One change is the way Asian institutions have taken the lead in assisting in the development of other Asian colleges and universities. We see this with Yunnan University and Lingnan University on service-learning; Miriam College on the Asian University Digital Resource Network; Silliman University on coastal resource management; Bishop Heber College on environment and health projects; and the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies on interreligious dialogue, collaboration and peace building. And the list goes on! Promising junior leaders from other Asian institutions learn from experience in these regional centers, and begin to form networks through which they can mutually assist each other's development in the future.



HOW CAN THIS SPIRIT OF ASIAN COLLABORATION BE ENHANCED?

The United Board must remain committed to helping all of Asia — north, east, south and southeast. I would like to see, on the near horizon, seed projects for subregions of Asia. This means investing more resources in learning the needs of educational institutions and their complex cultures, in greater China; in the Southeast Asian region of the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam; in the emerging higher education systems in Myanmar and East Timor; in the developed higher education institutions of Japan and Korea; and in the large educational system of India and its relations with countries in the south like Pakistan

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UNITED BOARD POSTCARDS

THE summer has been a time for learning, sharing, traveling and celebrating. These photos and captions — our “United Board postcards” — give readers a look at some of the ways we have worked with partners in recent months to develop exceptional leaders and educators.

AIR MAIL



MYANMAR

Local faculty are eager for training in service learning. (May 20-22)



THAILAND

An Asian University Leaders Program designed for ASEAN educators. (June 16-19)



HONG KONG

Time for reflection at the annual Institute for Advanced Study in Asian Cultures and Theologies. (June 2-July 6)



HONG KONG

A toast to the United Board at the 90th anniversary celebration. (May 18)



HONG KONG

Asian leaders in environment and health issues joined a study tour. (June 24-28)



HONG KONG

After the 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service Learning, some partners stayed for two days of focused discussion on issues, concerns and courses of action. (June 8-9)

MISSION

The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia works to support a Christian presence in colleges and universities in Asia.

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UNITED BOARD FELLOWS PROGRAM BECOMING A SERVANT LEADER

AS a nurse and educator, Dr. Prathana Langkarpint of Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, has read and learned about being a “servant leader.” But she found that “being a United Board Fellow at the College of Nursing, Valparaiso University and at Yonsei University increased my in-depth understanding of how leaders serve their colleagues and others.” Working alongside her mentors at Valparaiso and Yonsei, she recognized that “a visionary leader lays the foundation of the institution, and a strategic leader never waits for problems but prepares for any circumstance that occurs.”

During her placement at Yonsei University, she saw that leaders can apply “Christian principles in administration, be persistent, make a strong commitment and be humble.”

Communication is another essential component of effective leadership, and at Valparaiso University, she found that communication took many forms — email, administrative forum meetings, the university newspaper, among others — and engaged administrators, faculty, students, staff, and even members of the broader community, such as the local chamber of commerce and hospital.

One way that Dr. Prathana responds to the call to servant leadership is through her continuing involvement in the United Board Fellows Program, now in the role of a mentor. Dr. Prathana finds she can “share valuable experiences of my training in Valparaiso and Yonsei with my mentee, as well as the uniqueness of my Payap University.” Qiufeng Ji, a history professor at Nanjing University, was the beneficiary of Dr. Prathana’s hospitality during his recent United Board Fellowship placement at Payap University. Bringing a mentor’s “commitment, caring and cooperation” to her role, Dr. Prathana described her responsibilities as “focusing on the goals of the mentee, ensuring comfort and safety, encouraging the mentee to engage in activities, and communicating continuously.” In this way, Dr. Prathana puts her knowledge, experience and network in service to other scholars who are seeking new approaches to teaching and learning. **UB**



Dr. Prathana (right) with mentee Qiufeng Ji (left) and Payap interim president, Dr. Penpilai.

UNITED BOARD FRIEND REMEMBERING EARLY OPPORTUNITIES: WON CHUNG

WHEN Won Chung entered Yonsei University in 1955, South Korea had only started the long process of post-war rebuilding. But despite the difficulties of that time period, Mr. Chung vividly recalls the opportunities offered to him.



The first was the opportunity to resume his education after his military service. Mr. Chung studied commerce at Yonsei — “what we now think of as business administration,” he explained in a recent interview. South Korea wanted to develop the professional skills needed in a modern economy, so the U.S. Operations Mission to Korea (USOM) recruited American specialists to train Korean professors in fields such as statistics, taxation, customs management and traffic control. USOM support also enabled one Yonsei University student from the economics department and one from the commerce department to be awarded a full one-year scholarship. “I was given the commerce scholarship my senior year — 100 percent of my tuition,” Mr. Chung said.

When he graduated, “there were very few jobs available, only a few with banks and government,” he recalled. A door opened when USOM hired him to assist with its work. Working alongside a friendly young American at USOM, Wayne Olson, gave Mr. Chung another opportunity, “to become familiar with American culture.” That cross-cultural experience helped him during his business career, as he began to travel to the United States and eventually make his home in northern New Jersey.

He remembers those early opportunities with gratitude. So as the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation approached, he began to think about a gift to Yonsei University. “I feel I owe Yonsei because I had a scholarship,” he explained. Mr. Chung’s gift to support improvements at Yonsei University led him to the United Board, and as he shared his story with United Board staff, he discovered a surprising connection. Jonathan Wolff, the United Board’s Director of Scholarship and Fellowship Programs, also had worked with Wayne Olson during his Peace Corps service in Korea.

The United Board enjoys a fruitful relationship with Yonsei University, built on stewardship of alumni gifts and program support for shared interests in faculty development and other areas. It is pleased to steward Mr. Chung’s gift and welcomes discussion with other loyal alumni on ways to strengthen higher education in Asia. **UB**



Go Online

Go to unitedboard.org for more information on the United Board Fellows Program.

UNITED BOARD EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



MINDANAO-WIDE CONFERENCE ON "SERVICE-LEARNING: SHARING THE PEDAGOGY AND BEST PRACTICES"

August 20-22, 2013

Southern Christian College (Philippines)

PLANNING AND TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR COORDINATORS AND ADVOCATES (AUDRN)

August 28-30, 2013

Miriam College (Philippines)

DEADLINE FOR GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2014-15

October 31, 2013

DEADLINE FOR INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN ASIAN CULTURES AND THEOLOGIES 2014 APPLICATION

November 30, 2013

and Sri Lanka. In this way, we can continue to nurture leaders from Asia for the life and work of the United Board in Asia.

“We can continue to nurture leaders from Asia for the life and work of the United Board in Asia.”

HOW HAS CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION BEEN STRENGTHENED?

We have furthered ecumenical and interfaith awareness, acceptance and collaboration in all the programs we run. As a result, we see less of the relative isolation or compartmentalization of various religious institutions (Protestant versus Catholic, Christian versus non-Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc.) in programs like the Asian University Leaders Program (AULP) and Institute for Advanced Study in Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT). We



A scholar, educator and former university administrator, Betty shared common experiences with many United Board partners. Seen here at Payap University, Thailand.

have promoted an atmosphere of mutual respect so that program participants — of all religions and spiritualities — might aspire to that which is most excellent and profound in each of them. This is a huge strength to build upon.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR RETIREMENT?

Retirement immediately means time for family, my grandchildren and children, and God willing, time simply to enjoy life with

my husband. It means re-integrating myself into my world in Dumaguete City and the Philippines. But I will also be looking for additional opportunities to serve the people I have come to know and love through the United Board. I don't know what specific role I will finally decide on taking but, with God's grace, I face the future with trust and confidence, in part because of the trust and confidence I have been shown in my time at the United Board. **UB**



Betty found value meeting with United Board partners on their home campuses. Seen here at Stella Maris College, India.