

UNITED BOARD

HORIZONS

AUGUST 2012

UNITED BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASIA

A RICH LEGACY TO BUILD UPON

Dr. Michael Gilligan began his term as United Board chairman on July 1. He brings a wonderful combination of professional expertise in philanthropy, theology and education to this role, as well as a deep interest in the course that Asian higher education institutions are charting for the future. He has served as president of the Henry Luce Foundation since December 2002.

— Nancy E. Chapman



Dr. Michael Gilligan

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HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE UNITED BOARD?

When I moved to New York in 1998, my aunt said she hoped I might run into one of her former students, Rita Pullium, who worked for a nonprofit organization there. I thought the chances were slim, in a city of more than 8 million. But a week after I joined the staff of the Henry Luce Foundation, a colleague took me to a meeting at the United Board, where Rita was then the vice president. That was my introduction to the United Board staff and since then, I've found them to be some of my best teachers on current issues in Asia.

As a trustee (2000-2009) and vice chairman (2009-2011), I've seen firsthand the dedication of United Board trustees, staff and partners in Asia. Three innovative, faithful chairmen have led the board of trustees during my years of service: Jim Laney, Tim Light and, most recently, Wu Ching-mai. I'm honored to follow these distinguished leaders. And I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with Nancy Chapman, a recognized leader in education in the United States, China and other parts of Asia, during her first years as United Board president.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE INTERESTS THAT THE UNITED BOARD AND THE LUCE FOUNDATION SHARE?

Perhaps Elisabeth Luce Moore, the sister of our founder, Henry R. Luce, and a long-time trustee of the United Board, said it best: "We believe we can render a real service in widening academic

horizons." That certainly reflects the life's work of her father, Henry Winters Luce, a missionary educator in China. In fact, while on home leave in the 1920s, he was among the denominational leaders who created the United Board.

The Luce Foundation made its first grant to the United Board in 1938 and we've been cooperating with each other ever since. Together, we've supported the growth of institutions, from the Christian colleges in China, to Tunghai in Taiwan and Chung Chi in Hong Kong, to Southeast Asian colleges and universities like Silliman, Payap, Central Philippine University and Satya Wacana. Partnering with the United Board fits with one of our core goals, helping Americans to understand East and Southeast Asia. For example, by supporting the United Board's Institute for Advanced Study in Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT), we can help build a bridge between Asian and American theological conversations. That's an important priority for us.

WHAT STRENGTHS CAN THE UNITED BOARD BUILD ON?

I marvel at how the United Board has been able to harness its resources to address needs in Asia. Its long history in Asia, its relationships, its staying power — with these resources, the United Board offers more than grants to its partners. It can weigh needs, opportunities and capacity, and with great sensitivity, help its partners determine how they can have an impact.

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A RICH LEGACY TO BUILD UPON

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Now, under Nancy's leadership, the United Board is focusing on the role of whole person education. This focus addresses the concerns that we frequently hear from our partner institutions about the impact that both ranking systems and the job market have on higher education in Asia. As a high school teacher 40 years ago, I realized you need to focus on teaching people, not just subjects. Certainly education is more than preparing students for a test or a first job. It's a work of formation, of engaging the whole person in a lifelong

process of learning. Through that lens, the United Board can help instill and strengthen a core value at a range of colleges and universities across Asia. And the recent initiatives in the environment, interreligious understanding and peacebuilding, and local knowledge effectively complement this focus.

That's a big challenge. The United Board has been blessed by a loyal community of supporters, which has changed over time from North American denominational leaders to the participants in our

programs and alumni of the schools we've sought to serve. As we look to the future, we will need to grow this strong base — to draw others into the community — because the work is large and exciting, and because so many will benefit from our continued leadership. 

Go Online

Go to unitedboard.org for more information on United Board programs.

PARTNERS

MYANMAR INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY: PREPARING FOR A NEW ERA




"MYANMAR is entering a new era," said Samuel Ngun Ling, president of the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) in a recent interview, and this means his institution must now consider what role it will play in the future. One foundation to build upon is its innovative Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies (BARS) program, which engages about 565 students (male 215 and female 350) in liberal arts education.

"The Myanmar Christian community saw a collapse in the quality of education, so MIT asked what it can do for our young people," Dr. Ling explained. In 2000, it responded by

introducing a liberal arts program to promote participatory learning and critical thinking. This form of education, while new for Myanmar, seems a natural fit for MIT. Both liberal arts and theology degree programs are intended to educate compassionate leaders and skilled professionals who can help meet the needs of their fellow citizens.

Dr. Ling became president of MIT in 2010 — "I am still a young president," he points out — but he already recognizes that faculty development is essential to MIT's future. Education in Myanmar is likely to become more market-oriented, so "our institution must pay attention to the quality of its programs and its human resources," he said. United Board programs have been a gateway to acquiring new knowledge, skills and models. Through the Faculty Scholarship Program, 15 MIT faculty members have earned, or are on their way to acquiring, advanced degrees from institutions in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The United Board Fellows Program has given three more faculty members opportunities

to expand their professional networks while observing the practices of their peers at universities in Asia and North America.

Dr. Ling participated in the United Board's 2011 Asian University Leaders Program (AULP) soon after taking office, and he is also an alumnus of the 2004 Institute for Advanced Study of Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT). He appreciates the benefits of these exchange programs and others. "They open my eyes to see what projects are taking place in other institutions and to recognize the good things already happening in our own programs." It's an experience he hopes that someday MIT students, as well as faculty, can share. "That would certainly broaden the minds and thinking of our students." 

Go Online

Go to unitedboard.org for more information on the AULP and IASACT.

PARTNERS

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF PHNOM PENH: A BROADER HORIZON

INSIDE the classrooms of the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), students are working toward degrees in the sciences, humanities, information technology, foreign languages and other subjects. Meanwhile, outside the campus, Cambodia



and other ASEAN member countries are striving to become a fully integrated region, with open borders, by 2015. Taing You, RUPP's director of international relations, and his colleagues are preparing students to step into this globalizing region. "It's the sort of job where you have to be on your toes 110 percent of the time," Dr. Taing says.

Dr. Taing helped establish RUPP's Office of International Relations after spending four months in 2010 as a United Board Fellow at Valparaiso University in the United States. That experience "gave me a deeper understanding of how a school and community are enriched from fostering multicultural activities and building mutually beneficial international relations."

RUPP and the United Board began their relationship in the early 1990s, when the university made improvements to its library. During the last decade, they have focused on faculty development, as about 10 % of the RUPP faculty earned master's or PhD degrees through the United Board's Faculty Scholarship Program. Others received intensive English training, which Dr. Taing believes to be of "paramount importance" to RUPP. "We are well aware that to study abroad, one must have a very good working knowledge of the English language. It is also important to note that the majority of publications and references are in English." English proficiency also will help RUPP further internationalize its campus. "If we have competent, English-trained teachers, then RUPP can accept international students for the student mobility program now being piloted by Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand through the ASEAN University Network."

Dr. Taing knows the value of international experience. As a United Board Faculty Scholar, he received his PhD in science education and chemistry at De La Salle University in the Philippines. "It allowed me to challenge what I know and to strive for more learning, to achieve a broader horizon and a more cosmopolitan approach to everything I encounter." Now those lessons can be shared. "All the converging knowledge and skills motivate me to encourage sharing of ideas and to help our faculty see the benefits of further studies for their own professional development as well as RUPP's development." **UB**

Go Online

Go to unitedboard.org for more information on the United Board fellows program and faculty scholarship program.

UNITED BOARD FRIENDS

UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE: EVERY PENNY GATHERED

"**WE** realize the United Board values each and every penny gathered," Dr. P. M. Kuriachen writes, explaining the genesis of a recent contribution that he and some of his Union Christian College colleagues made to the United



Dr. T. Thomas Philip

Board. "It is our hope that our gift will help continue your ongoing mission" says Dr. P. Thomas Mathew.

Dr. T. Thomas Philip, principal of this college in Kerala, India, and six of his faculty members have a firsthand appreciation for the United Board's mission of increasing Christian presence and its efforts in leadership and faculty development. That's because all of them have participated in United Board programs: Dr. Philip joined the 2012 Asian University Leaders Program; Dr. Thara Simon and colleagues P.M. Kuriachen, David Saj Mathew and P. Thomas Mathew were United Board Fellows; Rachel Reena Philip joins the 2012-2014 class of United Board Fellows; and M.I. Punnoose has been involved in the Local Knowledge Initiative. Now, their generous gift will enable others to expand their horizons and develop new skills and lasting professional relationships.

"All of the four Fellows have been serving in responsible positions in the college, sharing the valuable expertise gained through United Board programs," Dr. Simon explains. She finds that they have brought back more than academic knowledge to the UCC campus. "We had thorough exposure to the administrative systems of the host institutions as well. We studied strategies in quality enhancement, in areas such as project implementation, faculty appointments, student enrollment, fundraising patterns and alumni relations." They also are finding ways to further internationalize their campus: UCC has signed memoranda of understanding with Hope College in the United States, which hosted Dr. Simon, and with International Christian University in Japan.

These UCC friends "valued the warmth with which we were received by the community of host institutions." Now, through their own warm expression of generosity, the United Board can offer opportunities to more rising stars at Asian colleges and universities. Dr. Simon concludes, "May we remember with gratitude Rita Pullium and Anne Ofstedal for their meticulous planning done for us, and our former UCC principals Dr. Raju K. John and Dr. Varghese John for their inspiring support. It is my proud privilege to express our deep sense of appreciation to the entire United Board family for all their efforts." **UB**

UNITED BOARD PARTNERED PROGRAMS

REGIONAL COASTAL PROTECTION SEMINAR

July 30-31, 2012

Hong Kong Baptist University (Hong Kong)

ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON "SERVICE-LEARNING: ENGAGEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION"

August 1-3, 2012

Madras Christian College (India)

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON "INTEGRATING COURSE-BASED SERVICE IN THE TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY: PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATION OF SERVICE-LEARNING" IN COOPERATION WITH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

August 16-17, 2012

Cebu City (Philippines)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICE-LEARNING

September 27-29, 2012

University of St. La Salle (Philippines)

2012 ASPEN CULTURAL DIPLOMACY FORUM ON "THE ART OF PEACE-BUILDING AND RECONCILIATION"

October 22-24, 2012

Aspen Institute and International Christian University (Japan)

6TH NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AND CONFERENCE ON "TOWARDS A MORE RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S CREATION"

October 25-27, 2012

Silliman University (Philippines)

ACUCA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND 19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON "WHOLE PERSON EDUCATION – TRENDS AND CHALLENGES"

October 26-28, 2012

International Christian University and Meiji Gakuin University (Japan)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "SCHOOLS SERVING SOCIETY: TOP-LEVEL ACTION AGENDA OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FOR MINDANAO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT"

November 15-17, 2012

Ateneo de Zamboanga University (Philippines)

DID YOU KNOW?



Photo credit: Archives of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia

IN diplomatic history, John Leighton Stuart is remembered as the last American ambassador to China before the Chinese Communist Party took power in 1949 and as the subject of Mao Zedong's essay, "Farewell, Leighton Stuart." But Stuart considered himself to be a missionary and an educator. He served in those roles in China for 45 years, most notably as the president of Yenching University (1919 to 1946), which was one of the three Christian colleges that formed the United Board in 1922. He wanted to be buried in China, the land of his birth, and 46 years after his death in Washington in 1962, his final wish was realized.

This last chapter of Stuart's life story reflects the loyalty of Philip Fugh, who served as Stuart's assistant at Yenching and at the American ambassador's residence. Fugh invested years of quiet, determined effort trying to persuade

the Chinese government to allow the return of Stuart's ashes to China, a cause his son, retired U.S. Army Major General John Fugh, later took up. Finally, after years of "knocking on doors," said General Fugh at a December 2008 program in New York, "the time was right," and a poignant ceremony was held at a Hangzhou cemetery on November 17, 2008.

"Stuart's odyssey symbolizes the course of U.S.-China relations over the last century," commented former U.S. Ambassador to China J. Stapleton Roy, himself the son of missionary educators, "from close ties, to estrangement and alienation, to the rediscovery of common roots." 

(Source: "Burying John Leighton Stuart," program held December 11, 2008 in New York. <http://www.ncuscr.org/programs/burying-john-leighton-stuart>)