



1958

HISTORY OF GAMMA SIGMA SCORPIONS

*By: Bro SPD2 Romel Derequito Y Musang PNP
Tuesday, February 7, 2012 Isabela City, Basilan*

The Gamma Sigma Fraternity U.P. Red Scorpions is the best and the first university based fraternity that originated from the University of the Philippines, Los Baños. It is a community based fraternity that is involved mostly in non-profit activities. On September 28, 1958, ten (10) college students from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) hiked to Peak 2, Mount Makiling. They decided to form a brotherhood that is different from the existing fraternities of those days. Fraternities before came from other campuses and would only allow those with influential family backgrounds to join. Accordingly, the ten young students gathered at the grounds of the Old Pathology Building (now Administration Building) to unite with a common purpose of helping one another, finished college and make their stay in Los Baños enjoyable and unforgettable. To test the loyalty of everyone, they agree on self-imposed "initiation" of strolling around the campus individually at 10 minutes interval with this route: from Old Pathology Building to Baker Hall, Pili Drive down to Senior Social Garden and back to Pathology ground passing through the Women's Dormitory (now Math Building). The initiation ended at the football ground (parade ground). After the initiation, they celebrated the birth of the organization name U.P. Red Scorpions with the Greek name Gamma Sigma Fraternity, popularly known as Alakdan over a bottle of beer and pancit at the Hongkong Restaurant (now occupied by Los Baños Square). Each member called each other "sama", a shortened term for kasama (fellow, buddy or companion). The Scorpion Club, as the ten students named it, was the first fraternity to be made in UP Los Baños that permits any male UP student, regardless of economic and family background, to join.

*"SCORPIONS'
UNITY IS
THE CHAIN
SEGMENT OF
ITS BODY
AND ITS
HUMILITY
IS ITS
BRAVERY"*

O n Recognition. In the 70's, the UPLB Administration required fraternities to adopt Greek letter, hence Scorpions became Sigma. Gamma which is stand for Great was added to Sigma to differentiate from other organization using the name Scorpions, and thus it was called "Gamma Sigma Fraternity U.P. Red Scorpions" or simply called Alakdan, Scorpions or Great Scorpions Fraternity or sometimes called Great Scholar. Other chapter called it sometime as Group of Scholar. During the declaration of martial law on 1972, the Gamma Sigma Fraternity along with other organization was recognized by the UPLB-Office of Students Affairs and was registered under the name Gamma Sigma Fraternity/Sorority/Confraternity.

F ounding Members. The ten (10) original founders of Gamma Sigma Fraternity were composed of young UP students such as follows; Bro Renato Aldemita (Los Baños, Laguna), Bro Cesar Bautista (Los Baños, Laguna), Bro Leopoldo Camino (Taysan, Batangas), Bro Ricardo Castillo (San Fernando Pampangga), Bro Crisostomo Casupang



(From Right to Left) Dudul Castillo, Billy Gualberto, Renato Aldemita, Vic Popalan, Leopoldo Camino and alumni brother during Golden Year Anniversary Foundation on September 2008.

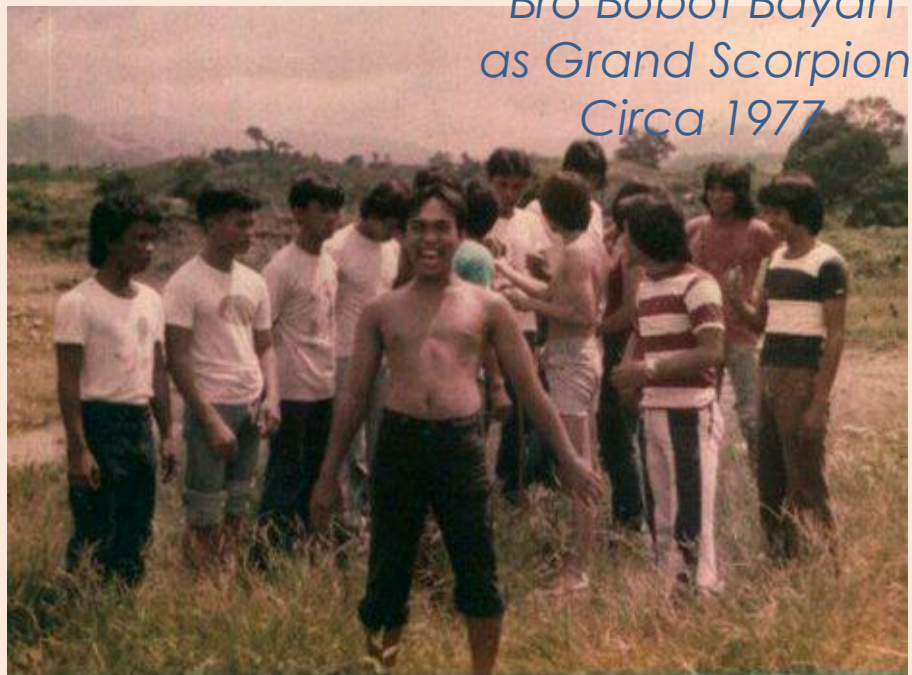
(Tanauan, Batangas) Bro Onofre Casupang Jr. (Los Baños, Laguna), Bro Felix Enriquez (Los Baños, Laguna), Bro Crisanto Gualberto II (Rosario, Batangas) and Bro Leon Jaron (Cotabato) and Bro Vicente Fopalan (Odiongan, Romblon) while the five (5) pioneering sisters were survived at GAUF Black Scorpions (now De La Salle Araneta University) at Malabon City on September 20, 1970 composed of the following: Sis Evelina Azinas, Sis Venus Asinas, Sis Evita Rufanan, Sis Leoner Vela, and Sis Mila Ang.

C hapters. Early 60's until the declaration of martial law there are a dozen known chapter of Scorpions exist. Aside from mother chapter UP Red Scorpions, the father chapter GAUF Black Scorpions (now De La Salle Araneta University, Malabon City) was organized when some UP brothers who have academic problem transferred to said school that became an staging point for expansion in Metro manila to established PCCr Crimson Scorpions (Phil. College of Criminology, Manila), PSBA Bronze Scorpions (Phil. School of Business Administration, Manila Campus), AU White Scorpions (Arellano University, Manila) and FEATI Golden Scorpions (Far East Air Transport Inc. University, Manila) and surrounding provinces such as LCBA Viridian Scorpions (Laguna College of Business and Art, Laguna), LC Blue Scorpions (Laguna College, Laguna), SPC Green Scorpions (San Pablo College, Laguna), DSAC Silver Scorpions (now Cavite State University, Cavite) and CLSU Maroon Scorpions (Central Luzon State University, Nueva Ecija).



Members from FEATI Golden Scorpions with GAUF Black Scorpions at Montalban, Rizal (Lower Right) and the neophyte' initiation rites during the incumbency of Bro Bobot Bayan as Grand Scorpion. Circa 1977

Gamma Sigma Sorority (UP Red Scorpions) is the only sorority that formed at UP Los Baños on July 20, 1975. Outside UP all existing Chapter has a combined membership of fraternity and sorority or Confraternity, these are PCAT Brown Scorpions (Philippine College of Arts and Trade, Manila), PNU Pink Scorpions (Philippine Normal University, Manila), LP Gray Scorpions (Lyceum of the Philippines, Manila), PMMS Navy Blue Scorpions (Philippine Merchant Marine School, Manila Campus), CVIT Aqua Marine Scorpions, AMEC Coppertan Scorpions (Ago Medical and Educational Center Ligaspi City), SLC Purple Scorpions (Southern Luzon College, Laguna), TI Orange Scorpions (Tanauan Institute, Batangas), Letran Calamba Platinum Scorpions (Colegio De San Juan de Letran Calamba, Laguna), URS Peach Scorpions (University of Rizal System, Rizal), GGCB Golden Yellow Scorpions (Golden Gate College of Batangas, Batangas City), LSPU Crome Scorpions (Laguna State Polytechnic University, Laguna).



Scorpions was brought to Central Luzon by Bro Felipe Papa to established CLSU Maroon Scorpions Chapter at Munoz, Nueva Ecija on March 12, 1968 along with other chapter such as follows NVSU Cream Scorpions (Nueva Vizcaya State University, Nueva Vizcaya), MVGFC Indigo Scorpions (MV Gallego Found. College, Nueva Ecija), TCA Vermillon Scorpions (Tarlac College of Agriculture, Tarlac), TSU Sky Blue Scorpions (Tarlac State University, Tarlac), CGC Tangerine Scorpions (Core Gateway College, Nueva Ecija), BASC Phantom Scorpions (Bulacan Agricultural State College, Bulacan), SRC Cyan Scorpions (Saint Rose College, Tarlac), SPU Yellow Scorpions (Saint Paul College, Cagayan), ISU White Scorpions (Isabela State University, Roxas Campus, Isabela), ISU Navy Blue Scorpions (ISU San Mateo Campus, Isabela), ISU Silver Scorpions (ISU Cauayan Campus, Isabela), ISU Flesh Scorpions (ISU Cabagan Campus, Isabela).



*Members from
CLSU Maroon
Scorpions
Chapter dated
January 24,
1970*



In Visayas Region it was first established through initiative of Bro Justinu M Quimio to form VSU Magenta Scorpions Chapter (Visaya State University) at VISCA, Baybay, Leyte on October 15, 1983 with SNC Turquoise Scorpions (Santo Niño College, Ormoc City), TC Violet Scorpions (Tagbilaran College, Bohol).

In Mindanao Area the first Chapter was established in Zamboanga Del Norte through ABC Biege Scorpions Chapter (Andres Bonifacio College, Dipolog City) and it grew rapidly and established different Chapters in Central Mindanao with brother from Viridian Scorpions Bro Dante Thirjul Tagabuan to formed three chapter in Cotabato area such as NDU Tangerine Scorpions (Notre Dame University, Cotabato City), NDMC Lilac Scorpions (Notre Dame of Midsayap College, Cotabato), USM Royal Scorpions (University of Southern Mindanao, Cotabato), BGFC Orange Scorpions (Bucas Grande Foundation College, Surigao Del Norte). From thereon, many chapters grew rapidly in the different areas of the Philippines and abroad to form the Gamma Sigma Alumni Association and Gamma Sigma Alumni Association International. It became involved in various activities for Colleges/Universities and its constituents and in communities.

Worthwhile Project for Cause. In 2003, the Scorpions ties-up with UP Engineering Society and Sigma Alpha Nu Sorority for a week long exhibition from Level-Up Inc. that culminated with the concert Sugarshock which was graced by two of the finest' band Slapshock and Sugarfree. The Fraternity had also been involved in the University Student Council as member. Likewise, it supports the activities of the Office of the Student Affairs such as Almusalan, a breakfast program for UPLB's freshman students.

Some of the fraternity's worthwhile project includes:

Maria Capra Concert, Ram Lopez Evergreen Concert, Stage Play of Gubat, Lungsod and Tabing-ilog.

Open Jam – This is a yearly activity that is early on the first semester featuring local and amateur bands for one-night free jamming. It's concert were everything is free from the registration to the entrance fee. Open to all, UPLB students are prioritized.

Original Libreng Sakay – A jeepney would roam around the campus offering a free ride to their departments and buildings. This is an original activity of the fraternity. Held during the Buwaan ng Alakdan.

Book Donations – Books are given away to less fortunate elementary schools to aid in the system. Held during the Buwan ng Alakdan.

Turog Dog – As the name implies, this activity involves a free vaccination of canine in a chosen barangay to prevent and keep community safe from rabies. Held during the Buwan ng Alakdan.

Tree Planting – The fraternity chooses an area to plant seedlings. Held during the Buwan ng Alakdan.

Daycare Olympics – A whole day activity and annual event that encourages all daycare centers in Los Baños to participate. Children would compete with each other either by group or by representation in a series of parlor games. Its complete with medals and trophies that would be awarded to those who accumulated the highest points. Held during the second semester.

Ngiti Kaibigan – Children from depressed area and of a specially chosen daycare center in different barangays of Los Baños are brought for a whole day field trip to the Manila Botanical Garden and Planetarium in coordination with DSWD Office. Held during the second semester.



On Friday, the 13th UP Red Scorpions held its first ever initiation rites, on wheel. Coinciding with February Fair in UPLB, this unique Breaking Away '81 Amateur Cycling Relay Competition was conceived for the purpose of the frats gaining ground as physical fitness and sport enthusiasts; and to foster closer camaraderie among the UPLB studentry.

Latest Activities. Some of the latest activities for a cause of Fraternity were as follows:

On September 2, 2011, a Fund Raising Music Event sponsored by UP Red Scorpions was held at Centerstage, Timog, Quezon City. The UP Red Scorpions, in cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR), organized a student symposium on the UN Decade on Biodiversity on September 9, 2011. Gamma Sigma Scorpions celebrates its much concluded 53rd founding anniversary on October 1, 2011 at South Spring Villas, Pansol Laguna with a theme "All Together in One" wherein said event were attended by members coming from different chapters. On December 8, 2011 Gamma Sigma Sorority UP Red Scorpions sponsored Yuletide Jam: An Acoustic Night for a Cause featuring different bands such as The Coors, Vavamroom, Eskambular, Tampo Band, Color Blind, Billy the Kid, Xestra, Chinchin Tabera, Lure, Inner Damon, Insert Here, Against the Lights and Last Action Heroes and on December 15, 2011 by feeding and donating school supplies (pencils, notebooks, crayons, etc.), text books (for kindergarten level), teaching aids and even old toys to the hundred students of Magnetic Hill Daycare Center all of Los Baños. On February 29, 2012, Gamma Sigma Sorority UP Red Scorpions sponsored HookUP: Like It's the End of the World featuring performances from Segatron, Juniper Face the Corner, Billy the Kid, Galactic Donuts, BlastWave, Mrs Norris and Red Scorpions Band.

At early part of first quarter of 2012, to strengthen the bond of unity, to rekindle the spirit of loyalty and to increase the participation of members in resolving issues and concerns affecting the Brotherhood, the Gamma Sigma Scorpions represented by the different chapters agree upon to form a Council of Elders. A series of organizational assembly/meeting was held and the Council of Elders as decided by majority was changed to Gamma Sigma Scorpions National Council but it did not materialize.