Dear Co-alumni,

Of all the months of the year, March is the most awaited for a young graduating student. This month represents the culmination of many years of hard work – classes attended, exams taken, research and social action projects conducted, internships, reports and theses completed…all toward the attainment of a coveted diploma.

You will agree that for each graduate, a diploma from a reputable institution is the key to the realization of one’s personal and professional goals. For a high school graduate, it improves admission into the college of choice. For a college graduate, it opens doors to the world of work or advanced studies.

You, too, will remember that euphoric feeling and extreme sense of achievement that you felt on your own graduation day. Armed with your diploma, you felt the world opened up to you, and anything was possible.

However, the jubilation a young graduate experiences is not felt by everyone. In recent years, more and more exceptional but underserved students have not been able to experience the joy that graduation brings because of a lack of resources. Many of them have had to stop schooling, sometimes on their 3rd year in school, to work at low-level jobs to help put food on the family table or send their siblings to school -- their long-term dreams put on hold for short-term needs.

But there is hope. At Miriam College, we keep our scholars’ dreams alive.

Consistent with our vision and mission, we aim to make our unique brand of values-infused, socially involved, quality education accessible to more exceptional underserved girls and young women by providing scholarships and financial assistance through our Endowment Fund. Currently, more than 900 scholars are being supported annually from our Child Study Center, Grade School, High School, MC-Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf, College, and Adult Education units. The majority of these scholars are adult learners and out-of-school youth enrolled in the Miriam Adult Education unit.

The Endowment Fund also supports faculty development. Our educators are the key to learning. They must be competent, with the knowledge, values and skills for effective teaching in a highly globalized world. The fund, which will support research, further training and professional growth of our teachers, translates to quality education for generations of students that we envision to be “women leaders in service” to God, family, community and country.

But we cannot do it alone. We need your help in ensuring that exceptional students and teachers are given the opportunities they deserve.
We cannot emphasize enough the immense value a good education can bring in improving the lives of underserved young girls and women. Access to education is access to countless social and economic opportunities. You will agree that “when a girl or young woman is educated, she is empowered to learn, lead and act on her vision of change for herself, her family and her community” (Girl’s and Women’s Education Initiative).

Help us empower more exceptional young women to learn, act and lead!

Your annual donation of PhP 2000 will not only ensure that they will have resources to help them achieve their dreams of having a better life, but more importantly, it will stop the cycle of need that has hampered their dreams for far too long.

My deepest gratitude goes to you who have supported the school in the past. Thank you for your trust and confidence in us and in our students. Thank you for being agents of change. Because of you, our scholars who have graduated are on the road to improving their lives and that of their families. You have inspired them to give back to their alma mater just like you have. Their testimonials, enclosed with this letter, are truly heartwarming.

Come graduation day, a young scholar-graduate, wearing a wide smile, will march up the stage with a mix of nervousness and excitement. As her name is called, she will walk over to me and jubilantly shake my hand. Clutching her diploma close to her heart, she will take a bow, and walk down the stage filled with the anticipation of a new beginning.

Help us change lives and fuel more dreams!

Sincerely,

Rosario Oreta Lapus, Ph.D.
President
Miriam College

Your PhP 2000 annual contribution can give a deserving student a chance for a better future and support the journey of a faculty member towards further professional development. Together, we can do so much!