



SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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SPU Manila Pre-Opening Activity 2015

Contributed by Dr. Mary Grace L. Leongson

The pre-opening program is an annual activity planned and organized in all Paulinian schools to welcome new and current employees, present the past year's accomplishments, and introduce new plans, targets, and programs for the coming academic year. This year's Pre-Opening Activity was held on 15-17 June 2015 in the HRM Training Center, 2nd Floor, St. Paul University Manila from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The event was attended by SPU Manila administrators, faculty (full-time and part-time) and staff. The University President, Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, opened the program by introducing the employees of the University and presenting the accomplishments of the school in the past academic year. Plans and targets for AY 2015-2016 were also presented.

The three-day pre-opening event featured presentations from the different divisions of the University, namely: Academic Services, Administrative Services, Student Services, Finance Services, and Christian Formation. Lectures from the recently concluded 26th SPC Educators Congress were echoed by selected SPU Manila administrators. The talk on Living in an At-Risk World was echoed



by Ms. Mabel Abear and Ms. Michelle Mijares on Day 1 while Dr. Mary Grace Leongson presented the talk of Mr. Peter Angelo Perfecto on Good Governance and Stewardship on Day 2. Relevant issues that the educational system is facing nowadays, like the ASEAN Integration and Senior High School, were also presented. Sr. Flordeliza Deza, SPC gave the audience an in-depth background on ASEAN Integration and Implications on Day 2. Sr. Felicitas Bernardo, SPC, on the other hand gave an orientation on Senior High School on the 3rd day. The talk of Dr. Miguel Rapatan on Responding to Millennial Learners concluded the 3rd day of the event.

Special thanks to the Activity Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Ramos, and her team for a well-planned and organized Pre-Opening Program. Also, congratulations to Dr. Arsenio Bignotia, Ms. Lalaine Vitug-Mallari, and Mr. Roel Suspendio for a job well done as Masters of Ceremony of the Pre-Opening Activity.



**This year's
Pre-Opening theme**

**Sr. Jesusa Tacad, SPC,
during her presentation.**



**Sr. Felicitas Bernardo, SPC,
explaining the Senior High School
Program.**

**Ms. Michelle Mijares receiving
her certificate of appreciation
as speaker from Ms. Aranas (left)
and Sr. Evangeline (right).**



ALUMNI AT THE SERVICE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR

Mita Almeda, High School 1965, recently received a certificate of appreciation "in grateful recognition of [her] generous and self-effacing contribution to the Apostolic Visit of Pope Francis to the Philippines on January 15 to 19 2015. Through [her] labor of love, the spiritual and missionary visit would linger as a melody of mercy and compassion for many years to come."



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Maria Concepcion Cariaga-Banatao, High School 1963, AB 1967, trustee of the PhilDev Foundation, recently spoke about the scholarship programs that she and her husband, Diosdado Banatao, have established for the Filipino youth.



"Setting up scholarship programs has given us a chance to use philanthropy to pass on our family values," says Maria Banatao, PhilDev trustee, who has helped set up more than one. Among them: a family-funded scholarship program that assists science high school students and engineering majors from Cagayan Valley, an Education Fund to help California Fil-Am high school students pursue careers in science and engineering, and a UC Berkeley scholarship program for community college transfers of STEM majors.

Maria finds fulfillment in witnessing how the programs she supports change people's lives.

She recalls how moved she was by a speech given at an Asian Pacific Fund event by a Stanford graduate who had been their scholar. "The whole room fell silent as he spoke of the hardships he had growing up: their home burning down, the sudden death of his dad in his young years, being homeless and being helped by relatives. He dreamt of going to Stanford and the scholarship award made it possible for him to be one. His speech made me realize how we can affect students' lives. It inspired others too in that crowd to start their own scholarships to help others. His story and many more success stories of scholars have made me even more passionate about generating support for our PhilDev programs in education."

ALUMNI GATHERINGS

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

**Malu Guidote-Vargas
(HS 1978, BS Psych 1982)
With mom and sisters, Maritess,
Mila, and Tina**



**Mona Salceda (HS 1980)
With classmates, Rissa Calica Jimenez,
Carol Salceda, and Angela Luz**