FOCUS ON ....
St. Paul University Manila Music Therapy Program and Center

God works in mysterious ways. The coming of Music Therapy in the Philippines started as a dream, wishful-thinking, an aspiration. Since Sr. Maria Anunciata Sta. Ana, SPC got appointed as dean of the College of Music and the Performing Arts in 2004, she had been wishing to offer Music Therapy but the big block was: we needed someone who holds a degree. No school is offering the course in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Annette Asuncion, our own graduate from the Conservatory of Music, in her more than 25 years of working as a music therapist in the USA, also had a dream to bring music therapy to her home country, the Philippines. She holds master's degrees in both special education and music therapy. Her passion for music therapy is authenticated by the many awards she has received.

When dreams meet in God's time, something phenomenal happens. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) gave St. Paul University Manila the approval to offer degree courses in Music Therapy; Sr. Lilia Therese Tolentino, SPC, the President of St. Paul University at that time provided a space within the campus of St. Paul University for a Music Therapy Center; the College of Music and the Performing Arts was designated as one of the Centers of Excellence in Music (COE) in the Philippines and the financial grant that accompanied the COE was allotted for the Music Therapy Program. With God's intervention, we now have a well-equipped Music Therapy Center, the first in the Philippines.

We gratefully acknowledge the incredible sign that God is at work in our endeavor. This school year 2016-2017, Annette is on Sabbatical. Her passion for the growth of music therapy in the Philippines brought her here, sacrificing resources, family and close relationships, and many more, in order to assist in the strengthening of the program. We are truly deeply indebted to her. Obviously God wants our people to experience what music therapy can offer. This is the mustard seed that we planted. Though the smallest of all seeds, when it grows, it is the biggest of shrubs, and the birds can build their nests on it.

Hence, the Second National Music Therapy Conference was also held, which aims to advance public awareness of the benefits of music therapy. The small ripple caused by the first Sound of Healing, as well as the impact on the more than 2,000 people who have attended our short seminars, are beginning to be felt. The passion and dedication to excellence of our Music Therapy resource persons—Annette Asuncion, Marisa Marin, Elizabeth Flordeliza—are very impressive and contaminating. What is more, the high level of enthusiasm among the music
therapy students indicates that the virus of this passion and dedication has been caught. They radiate pride in their work coupled with an intense sense of fellowship. May this information on music therapy bring the power of music therapy to people around you and beyond, helping to educate, inspire, and ensure access to quality music therapy services for every child, teen, and adult.

Music Therapy is new in the Philippines. St. Paul University Manila College of Music and the Performing Arts was given permission by CHED to offer degree courses in Music Therapy in the bachelor and the graduate levels effective SY 2013-2014. While there are many speech, occupational, and physical therapy centers in the Philippines, the first Music Therapy Center in the Philippines was built and completed in October 2014. This serves as the venue for the practicum and internship of the graduate students in Music Therapy and at the same time, it is open to the public to serve individuals with disabilities.

Since the St. Paul University Manila Music Therapy Center is the first in the Philippines, it will showcase how music therapy is used to help individuals with disabilities interact with music to evoke change in behavior and have a better quality of life.

The St. Paul University Manila Music Therapy Center is all about making music therapy available in the community. The Center provides experiential and educational services such as workshops, in-service training, and presentations on music therapy.

Music therapy interventions can be designed to address a variety of health care and educational goals:

* Promote wellness
* Alleviate pain
* Manage stress
* Express feelings
* Enhance memory
* Improve communication
* Promote physical rehabilitation and more

Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program.

Here are some pictures of the Music Therapy Center and the people behind it and of the Second Music Therapy Conference.
And the saga continues...

From time to time we feature the accomplishments of children of our alumnae. We believe that these young men and women have reached great heights in their careers partly because of the training they had in their growing up years with their parents.

We are now featuring the daughter of Remedios Gabriel-Alparce, High School 1954.

**PhilHealth board member recognized globally as a Filipina of distinction**

*Xander Alparce*-Villanueva, Board Member of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and Managing Partner of Health Prx Communications, Inc., was selected as one of the Most Influential Filipina Women in the World (Global FWN100™) by the Filipina Women’s Network.

The Global FWN100 Award recognizes 100 women of Philippine ancestry who are changing the face of leadership in the global work place, having reached status for outstanding work in their respective fields and are recognized for their achievement and contributions to society, “femtorship” and legacy.

Alparce-Villanueva was selected from an outstanding field of nominees from around the world. She will be recognized as an Innovator and Thought Leader, a woman who has broken new ground in helping improve the lives of others in the area of health. In her 20 years in the health care sector, she has facilitated corporate social responsibility programs that have helped save women’s and children’s lives. In addition, she has enabled many public-private partnerships to improve health, governance, and leadership especially in marginalized communities. After 20 years in corporate, she took an early retirement to serve the government and the Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations, a non-governmental organization advocating for stronger patient participation in health policy.

**NEWS IN PICTURES**

*Birthday of Sr. Alegria*

9 August 2016
Sr. Maria Anunciata, SPC: Musica Sacram Awardee

Nursing Capping, Badging and Candle Lighting Ceremony
20 August 2016
Chapel of the Crucified Christ

Happy Feast day
Dear
Sr. Marie Rosanne Mallillin, SPC
SPUS Chancellor
(August 23)
ALUMNAE GATHERINGS

High School 1973
Birthday of Popi Gutay

High School 1980
With Margaret Arce-Luna,
Helena Hedy Yalung,
Regina Santos-Tagle, Fe Makalinao,
Hiru Bhavnani-Ruskio, Tina Basa-Reyes,
Patricia Pablo and Cyndy Tugade

High School 1966
With August birthday celebrants
Mayda Tankiang, Mina Dilag,
Riqui Raymundo, Sonia Tan,
Cristy Garcia, and Letty Ongsip
With Roree Sta. Romana,
Agnes Devanadera, Noemi Gomez,
Toni Yap, and Rosario Magsino

High School 1965
Birthday celebration
Charter House-20 August 2016
Seated: Nora Villanueva, Rose Sapugay,
Lahla Lafortezza, Coci Andal, MOM,
Millie Braganza. Standing: Dottie Lucasan,
Angie Santiago, Mita Almeda,
Geepers Pascual, Tessie Meneses,
Beth Concepcion, Malou Tuason,
Corrie Mendoza, Teresa Tuason