



# SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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## LOOKING BACK...

### **2016 CEAP National Convention: Towards 2021–New Spirit, New Fervour at 75!**

The Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) held its National Convention in the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City on 28-30 September 2016. Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, University President, and the members of the Presidential Council attended the convention.

The three-day convention started and ended with a Eucharistic Celebration. The concurrent sessions were grouped according to the basic education and higher education tracks. Both tracks had a session on Catholic Identity and Mission. The basic education track had additional sessions on the learning environment, learner development, operational vitality, and leadership and governance. The higher education track tackled tertiary education management and maintaining quality in HEIs in its sessions.

Questions which were posed to the participants and which required reflection were (1) How do Catholic schools of the Philippines ensure the continuity of its mission? and (2) What are the values that need to be practiced so that these can enhance our life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?



**SPU Manila convention delegates:  
Marichen Dychangco, Sr. Angely,  
Sr. Jesusa, Sr. Evangeline,  
Sr. Alegria, and Mae Aranas.**

## **FOCUS ON GUITAR MAESTRO JOSE HIYAS VALDEZ**

The College of Music and the Performing Arts and the rest of the St. Paul University Manila community congratulate Jose Hiyas Valdez, Guitar Maestro, "The Many Faces of the Teacher 2016 Awardee." The award was given during "A Tribute to Teachers" on 1 October 2016 in the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City. Maestro Jose Valdez has been a guitar teacher in the College of Music and the Performing Arts from 1971-1975 and from 1998 to the present.

The SPU Manila Community honored Maestro Valdez on 6 October 2016, 11:00 a.m., in the Fleur-de-lis Cafe. Aside from the CMPA family, attendees of the tribute were University President, Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC; the VPs, (Dr. Ma. Encarnacion Dychangco, Sr. Jesusa Taccad, SPC, Sr. Angely Malan, SPC, and Ms. Myra Arañas), the unit heads, and guests, Dr. Greg Yu, from Guitar Friends, and the maestro's wife, Marie Melanie Quialey Valdez.



**The maestro  
with Sr. Evangeline (above right)  
and the tribute attendees...**



"The Many Faces of the Teacher" is part of an advocacy campaign of the Bato Balani Foundation Inc. and its partners. It aims to extol the virtues of teaching and help uplift the teaching profession by providing role models who can inspire excellence.

Following is an article from the Bato Balani Foundation, Inc. Some photo credits to Bato Balani Foundation, Inc.

### **Jose Hiyas Valdez, Guitar Maestro: Using the Gift of Music to Inspire Others** by Bato Balani Foundation, Inc.

The classical guitar expertise of Jose H. Valdez, one of the four honorees of The Many Faces of the Teacher 2016 (TMFT), has brought him to so many places, including prisons, churches, hospitals, and well-lit auditorium stages.

But these days, Valdez, a sought-after music teacher, can be seen performing before students who hope to master the art of playing classical guitar.

Maestro Valdez, also known as the "Father of Philippine Classical Guitar," divides his time between four schools, namely St. Paul University, Philippine Women's University, St. Scholastica's College, and University of the Philippines.

During his teaching career, which spans some 45 years, he has mentored over a hundred aspiring musicians from different age brackets and walks of life.

## **Life**

When Valdez was a child, he was diagnosed with German polio, a highly infectious disease that left Valdez with deformed lower limbs. There was no cure for that ailment back then but Valdez's folks remained hopeful that he would be healed. He shares that his mother, a Batangueña, would visit churches and offer prayers for him.

Meanwhile, his father, a military man who played the clarinet and conducted bands in the army, gave him a guitar and encouraged him to use it. No one in the family knew how to play the guitar so he studied it himself.

"He taught me music. There was music in the family but nobody played the guitar," he shares.

Years after the diagnosis, Valdez was cured of polio, an occurrence that he refers to as a miracle.

"It was a miracle. When I got well, the love of music stayed with me," Valdez says. "I persevered with my guitar. I got better and became a concert guitarist."

## **Music Career**

Valdez's first solo concert was held in the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Auditorium on Padre Faura, Manila, sponsored by a religious organization.

In 1971, the 18-year-old Valdez was the youngest and the first Filipino guitarist to perform at the CCP's Little Theatre, presently known as the "Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino."

That concert signaled the start of Valdez's career. From there, Valdez would hold performances in partnership with religious organizations to promote the guitar as a concert instrument.

Valdez hit another career milestone in 1973 when he introduced the first ten-string guitar in the country.

The ten-string guitar is used in Spain for the adaptation of lute music. Valdez changed the setup so he can play transcribed classical Filipino music from the 16th century.

## **Music Teacher**

In the early days of being a musician, he searched for a school where he can study guitar as his major instrument. It was a futile attempt because no school in Manila offered such a course.

That bend in the road led Valdez into the field of education. Since he already gained the reputation as a pioneer concert guitarist, he was asked to fill in teaching positions in different schools around Manila.

When Valdez started teaching, he found himself single-handedly developing a guitar curriculum, the first of its kind in the country. Due to his excellence in executing the program, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) finally recognized the guitar as a major instrument degree.

Valdez continues to enrich music education by publishing materials filled with compositions and arrangements for the guitar. So far, he has penned 29 books, covering a range of genres but mostly about Philippine classical music.

## **Apprenticeship**

In his guitar curriculum, there is a one-hour, one-on-one session between teacher and student called "Applied Music," patterned after the concept of apprenticeship.

"In music, you plant artistry, you see it grow. It cannot be mass produced. Every student is different, everyone has to be taught individually," he shares.

"The part of the teacher is to draw the instrument to the student. It is like saying, he has to fall in love with the instrument the way I did," Valdez muses.

He continues, "That way, the student would do it on his own even without me telling him to do it. Then I can say that truly I am a successful teacher."

## **Helping Budding Musicians**

Through "Kabataang Gitarista," an organization founded by Valdez and in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, formal training can be had by underprivileged students with the musical inclination.

Valdez shares that they provide college scholarships to select students from public high schools in Pasay, Manila, and Paranaque. "These kids are great. They really want to learn so they embraced the program," he notes.

To date, they already have three scholars, one studying in St. Scholastica's College and the other two in St. Paul University. His hope, he says, is to see an expanded guitar curriculum in all high schools in the country, to give students a choice between joining a rondalla or a guitar ensemble.

Valdez goes on to say that he formed another organization in Davao City National High School with a promising guitar ensemble. Educators also enjoy the fruits of Valdez’s labor. Last year, he says, the Department of Education (DepEd) launched a classical guitar program that is customized for teachers.

**AND THE SAGA CONTINUES...**

**ALUMNA AND SON SCORE DOUBLE WRITING WIN**

From time to time, we feature achievements of children of our alumnae. Now we are featuring an alumna and her son who both won writing awards.

**Constante Quirino:  
Son of Betty Ann Besa-Quirino, AB-CA 1977**



Constante Quirino, son of Elizabeth Ann Besa-Quirino, won a Plaridel Writing Award 2016 Honorable Mention for Best Personal Essay, for his essay, "Quirino at 125: A Statesman and Survivor." The award was given out by the Phil-American Press Club in the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco. The article was published in *Positively Filipino*.



On the other hand, his mother, Betty Ann’s (AB-Communication Arts 1977) article, "My Tarlac Lights up the World with Belenismo," also won a Plaridel Writing Award 2016 Honorable Mention-Best Tourism Feature.



Betty Ann shares, "I am honored and grateful. This is a win for Philippine tourism and for my cabalens in Tarlac, my hometown and province. Maraming salamat po!"

**Betty Ann Besa-Quirino**

**CONDOLENCES**

The Paulinian family condoles with Teresing Reyes-Hocson (HS 1963) on the death of her husband, Lito.

