



SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

Vol. VIII No. 9

18 May 2015

US Alumni Group Launches Website

St. Paul Manila Alumnae USA, the US based alumni membership organization, launched its website recently. The website highlights the SPMA USA mission to connect with alumni, to build an alumni community, and to support St Paul University Manila and communities in the Philippines.

"We invite all Paulinians to join our alumnae," Marilyn Abalos, Chair of SPMA USA, said. "Together we can serve our members and provide for our alma mater and communities through the Fleur-de-lis Fund. Connect-Community-Caritas!"

Greetings from St. Paul Manila Alumnae USA

It is with great pride to launch the St. Paul Manila Alumnae USA website: spma-usa-inc.org. We kicked off our alumni organization in the United States and Europe on the Feast of St. Paul, January 25, 2015. Our Board will manage our activities working towards achieving our mission to unite and serve classmates in the US and Europe and provide assistance to our alma mater and community programs in the Philippines.

The Executive Board

Officers

Chair, Marilyn Abalos
Co-Chair, Patsy Santiago-Schultz
Treasurer, Nieva Quezon-Burdick
Secretary, Consuelo Barretto-Babula

Directors

Winnie Abaya-Morgan,
Louie Atienza-Naing,
Carol Del Gallego-Limjoco
Marite Moreno-Vella

Advisers

Maria Cariaga-Banatao, '63
Soledad Balda-Ilagan, '65



One could say that the spark of the creation of our alumni group began at a social gathering in June 2014 in the residence of Bing Barretto-Babula in Yardville, NJ when classmates from Manila were visiting the NY NJ area. It was a special treat to meet up with Beibi Garcia-Bautista and Angelita Eugenio-Santiago from Manila. Classmates travelled to Bing's residence

for this casual get-together, including Techie Ignacio-Gonzalvo from Virginia Beach, VA and Winnie Abaya-Morgan from San Francisco, CA, as well as Nieva Quezon-Burdick, Patsy Santiago-Schultz and myself from New York. This impromptu Sunday luncheon was the spring-board for the formal mini reunion in Los Angeles leading to the creation of SPMA USA!

A number of us met in Los Angeles, California in October 2014 to discuss and organize our group. Carol del Gallego-Limjoco and Marite Moreno-Vella hosted us that weekend. We have since then formed a national network with links to Europe.

"So far we're doing good. The gathering motivated us to reach out to other classmates." said SPMA USA Board Secretary, Bing Barretto-Babula of New Jersey, "When you're here, you're all alone. But when we reach out and commit—I have another family. The world has gotten bigger."

We have caught the attention and received the support of St. Paul University Manila (SPU Manila) and the St. Paul Manila Alumni Foundation Inc. (SPMAFI). Monette Martinez, SPU Manila Alumni Relations Officer, said, "When we met Patsy Schultz and other High School 1969 graduates here in Manila last year, I did feel her energy and enthusiasm for your class getting organized for your golden jubilee and being of help to our alma mater. Since then, I have been amazed at how that energy and enthusiasm has been transmitted to you, Paulinians in New York, and has caught fire and ardor that has spread to other parts of the United States and across the seas to Europe. Fantastic! It reaffirms to me the strength and power of the Paulinian spirit."

From New York, SPMA USA Board Co-Chair, Patsy Santiago-Schultz said, "Life is short -- there's nothing more rewarding than taking the time to reconnect with old friends and classmates and spreading love and happiness around."

SPMAFI President, Sherry Alingod said, "I am so impressed and grateful that your class is so enthusiastic with matters of SPCM and your upcoming homecoming in 2019. I see only success and fun and togetherness with such a response and a continuing one at that. Paulinians have this unique gift in that we can speak on any and all topics with conviction, truth, and elan."

We invite you to join SPMA USA. Your membership will help sustain our effort to meet our goals. All Paulinians are welcome to sign up. We will be able to provide a national and even international system to connect with classmates and Paulinians.

We would like you to help out in various committees. We need your enthusiasm, expertise, and energy (like Patsy's!) from all over the US and Europe. The committees you can join include Fundraising, Marketing/Communications, Membership/Outreach and Programs/Special Projects.

"It's a lot of fun--come to the East Coast!" said SPMA USA Board Member, Louie Atienza-Naing, of Maryland, "We do have fun in-between but business is still the focus of what we are doing."

Encourage classmates to get involved and participate in alumnae activities, “We really need your participation no matter how small. And to those who have more to share in kind then our arms are wide open to accept.” An adamant member of the Finance Committee, she calls out, “We’ll toil away—just hand us the pay!!!”

We will be raising funds to support various initiatives of St. Paul and the Philippines. SPU Manila President Sister Maria Evangeline said, “St. Paul University aims to consistently provide integral Catholic education which is marked by academic excellence, research capabilities, and sustainable community development.” Acknowledging our commitment to giving back, she encouraged our generous backing for education and community programs.

At this time, we are coordinating with the Class 69 Manila Board headed by Chair Marilyn “Beibi” Garcia-Bautista for the 2019 Golden Jubilee. Other officers and directors include Luisa Andal, Co-Chair, Tess Cuevas-Mallari, Treasurer, Rachel Gutierrez-Martinez, Secretary, and Directors Lita Eugenio-Santiago, Ester Javier-Resurrection, Marites Pardo-Panlilio, Tes Pineda-Alpano, and Chris Ramirez-Samson. Sending congrats and best wishes, she said, “I am so happy and thankful that we are on our way.”



Monette Martinez said, “Indeed it has been proven that wherever we are, we Paulinians find one another and feel that bond, that tie that binds us as ‘children of this beloved school...’ Whether or not we are classmates, or even belong to the same generation, we feel something intangible that draws us to one another because we come from the same school where we spent ‘sweet...days of childhood...those golden links of girlhood...’”

From California, SPMA USA Board Member, Carolina Del Gallego-Limjoco, reflected, “Friends are treasures we are blessed with. We cherish and care for them and sometimes we can lose them and when the opportunity arises, rekindle that friendship.”

In closing, I can only reiterate the words of the SPMA USA Board, classmates, and colleagues in Manila. Please join—it is your alumnae group. Let us connect and build a community and give back to St. Paul! Your participation will be the firewood that will fan the embers of our

plan into a bright fire. As it takes all kinds of wood to make a successful fire; you are the tinder, kindling, and even the fuel to bring the glowing coals to dancing flames.

If you look at our old SPCM logo, the fleur-de-lis is sort of a flame. It's our torch! Let's heat up this campaign drive! We are the fiery comet in the sky over Manila! We will blaze a trail to our St. Paul! Connect—Community—Caritas! **Marilyn Abalos, Chair, SPMA USA**

Mission

To connect with our classmates and build an alumni community in the US and Europe, and to provide financial support for St. Paul University, its projects, and community programs in the Philippines. **Connect - Community - Caritas!**

Fleur-de-lis Plan

The Fleur-De-Lis Plan is a four year campaign to connect with classmates in the US and Europe and raise funds for Fleur-de-lis Fund to the benefit of St. Paul University and community projects in the Philippines.

Year I - Set up the groundwork and structure of the organization: to create alumnae programs to engage alumnae in the US and Europe, to identify financial goals and develop short term and long term fundraising strategies, to target support for projects of St. Paul and communities in the Philippines, to conduct marketing and communications efforts for the organization, and to establish and enhance relationships with the Filipino community in the US and Europe, community partners, and appropriate government agencies.

Year II-IV - Assess progress of previous year's goals and adjust year's objectives accordingly, continue to engage alumnae in the US and Europe, review and adapt short term and long term fundraising initiatives, continue to maintain relationships with the Fil-Am community.

Vigil House Benefit

The Paulinian Global Foundation (PGFI) will present "A Night to Remember" on Saturday, May 23, 6:00 PM, in the Sheraton Hotel, Pentagon City, in Arlington, VA.

The dinner dance is a fundraiser for the elderly St. Paul College nuns in the Vigil House in Taytay, Rizal. Tickets are \$70 per person. Paulinians, family, and friends are invited to attend. Dinner tickets may be purchased at www.paulinianglobal.org.

There is special group rate at the Sheraton Pentagon City for those who are travelling to the Arlington area to attend the event. For reservations, call 703-521-1900 or visit www.starwoodhotels.com.

Raffle tickets for PGFI are for sale. Prizes include two round trip tickets to Asia and cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$800. Tickets are \$5 per ticket. They are on sale now. Let me know if you



would like to purchase raffle tickets from us. Kindly email spmausa@gmail.com. Souvenir items like the ones in the photo will be available.

The SPC Vigil House is the retirement home of St. Paul College nuns. Designed by Edison Lacsa, the



four-story facility houses aging and ailing nuns. The Vigil House works with several hospitals, including the Philippine General Hospital, the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, and Manila East Medical Center. The Vigil House also provides a funeral space where wakes are held before deceased nuns are laid to rest in Antipolo at Our Lady of Chartres Convent's Garden of Peace grounds.

ALUMNI GATHERINGS

HS 1970
Lunch for Annie Tobias
with Pilar Almira



HS 1964
Dinner in Virginia
Dinggay LaO, Coralís Obligacion, Jane Singson-Fields

CONDOLENCES

The Paulinian Family condoles with
 Girlie Chua-Kitami (HS 1968, BSC 1972)
 on the death of her father, Inocencio Chua.

