



# SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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## PRE-OPENING ACTIVITIES HELD

Classes were suspended on 26-27 July 2018 to give way to the Pre-Opening Activities for all university personnel—administrators, faculty, administrative and maintenance staffs.

On the first day, Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, University President, set the tone for the cascading of the new strategic plans formulated in the operational planning session the week before.

### **I. Introduction**

*My dear Sisters, Paulinian educators, and non-academic personnel, co-workers in the Lord's vineyard, good morning and welcome to St. Paul University Manila in the new school year 2018-2019.*

*I consider the opening of every school year a blessing. Why? Because I believe that the start of a new school year is a new beginning. Whatever the past school year has been, the beginning of another year brings a fresh start, and with it, the chance to do better. For us, school leaders and administrators, it is a chance to do better in the decisions we make; in the implementation of our strategic plans towards the attainment of our vision-mission; in providing better infrastructures and facilities; and perhaps, even in the way we deal with teachers, staff, and parents. For teachers and the academic staff, it is a chance to be better not only in the delivery of instruction but much more in the way we relate with one another and with our students. Para sa mga support staff at maintenance personnel, ang pagbubukas ng klase sa ating paaralan ay isang pagkakataon na lalo pa ninyong mapabuti ang kalidad ng inyong paglilingkod sa St. Paul Manila dahil batid ninyo na kahit hindi kayo mga guro, malaki ang naibabahagi ninyo sa paghuhubog ng ating mga mag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakita ninyo ng kabutihan at kagandahang asal sa kanila.*

### **II. Three Elements in a Successful Journey**

*I would like to believe that our mission here in St. Paul University Manila can be likened to a journey. Ang ating mission dito ay tulad ng isang paglalakbay. Sabi nila, may tatlong bagay na kailangan natin para sa isang matagumpay na paglalakbay.*

**A. The first element needed for a successful journey is a MAP.** *It is not just any map but one that will lead us to the attainment of our vision-mission.*

Do we have a MAP? Yes, we do! Last school year, we determined our strategic directions and we came up with a map: **Our Strategic Plan**. We have identified our Key Result Areas (KRAs), which we consider our priorities. And what are these priorities?

1. Paulinian formation
2. Quality teaching and learning
3. Value innovated programs and services
4. Good governance and stewardship

For every priority (KRA), we have a main strategy. These are our strategies.

1. Deepen and intensify Paulinian formation.
2. Provide quality Paulinian education.
3. Innovate and connect.
4. Optimize resources.

How exactly do we implement these main strategies? There are countless things that we can do but we limited our specific strategies only to three because we believe that good things come in threes.

### **How to we deepen and intensify Paulinian Formation?**

1. Create, design, and implement a Paulinian Formation Program (PFP).
2. Intensify vocation promotion program.
3. Integrate "Student Care" in all programs and services.

### **How can we provide quality Paulinian education?**

1. Retool the whole academic community with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning-leaders mindset, focusing on:
  - a. Innovation
  - b. Communication and relational skills in a multicultural environment
  - c. Social entrepreneurship
2. Fully implement OBE in all academic and non-academic programs.
3. Utilize research and other available data/information to ensure excellence.

### **How do we add value to our programs and services?**

1. Design and implement a new marketing plan.
2. Innovate.
3. Link (forge new local, ASEAN, and international partnerships).

### **How do we optimize our resources (human resources, material, fiscal, knowledge)?**

1. Formulate succession planning (human resources).
2. Optimize resource management (material and fiscal resources).
3. Promote "Quality of Life" as the flagship advocacy of SPU Manila:

- Good education (intellectual)
- OFW concerns and issues (psycho-emotional)
- Protection of the sanctity of life and dignity of human being (pro-life;physical)
- Faith education(spiritual)
- Environment stewardship and disaster management (environmental/social)
- Peace education (psycho-emotional)
- Authentic social participation (social)

Our MAP can be found in a one-page document: *Our Strategic Map*

### **B. The second element needed for a successful journey is a PLAN.**

*Having drawn up our strategic plan for three years, we craft our operational plans every year which serve as blueprint to show us how we we can reach our strategic goals. We have identified **Key Performance Indicators (KPI)** which will indicate whether we have attained the goals that we have set.*

*On July 16, the management team, together with faculty and student representatives, met to review our accomplishments last year, to identify where we have succeeded, where have fallen short, and what adjustments we can make to move us closer to where we want to go.*

### **C. The third element needed for a successful journey is our GUIDES.**

*Who are our **guides**? They are leaders, champions, companions, co-workers.*

### **III. There are landmarks in our journey.**

**We cannot expect a journey to be always on a level plain.** *Kapag kayo ay naglalakbay nang malayo, inaasahan ba ninyo na laging patag at maayos ang daan? Hindi naman po, 'di ba? Sa isang paglalakbay, hindi maiiwasan ang mga balakid at ang mga pagsubok. There will be mountains and hills; there will be valleys; and there will be deep ravines.*

*Mountains represent two different aspects of our journey. Mountains can represent obstacles, difficulties, challenges, and struggles that we need to surmount. On the other hand, mountaintops symbolize strength and confidence. Climbing our mountain can signify rising to greater heights.*

**What were our mountains during the past school year?** *Our mountains could be the struggles of maintaining the quality of education despite our limited fiscal and material resources. Mountains could be the challenges that we went through in preparing well for accreditation despite limited manpower. Climbing our mountaintop could be the experience of working together to meet 23 out of the 33 or 70% of the targets that we have set during the year.*

**What about the valleys?** *Valleys represent fertility, abundance, generosity, and goodness. It is in the valleys, not on the summits, that we find trees, gardens, fruits, and flowers. If we are to identify our valleys in the past school year, these were the times when we found comfort and joy in the presence and support of our community; the times when we worked together for a project or to complete a report; the times when we shared our abundant blessings, talents, and time with one another; and the times when we reaped our successes. Valleys are the times when we*

*gathered to pray together or to reflect with one another during retreats and recollections; the times when we could just be ourselves, to relax and enjoy one another's company.*

**What were the deep ravines in our journey?** *The K-12 transition years, which in reality is full of uncertainty and turmoil, is in itself an experience of going through deep ravines. These are the times when we needed to clasp one another's hands to encourage one another as we trekked through the uncertainties and risks brought about by the Philippine educational reforms. These are the times when we faced the risk of not having enough teaching loads for the college teachers; the risk of losing our good teachers as we allowed them to serve in other educational institutions here and abroad. Just this year, we come face to face with the danger of losing our students to government owned state universities that are now offering free tuition fees. These are really tough times for private tertiary educational institutions in our country. But we are not without hope. As the saying goes, "Every cloud has a silver lining." It is really up to us now to be more creative... to find a ray of hope in every opportunity that comes our way.*

#### **IV. The journey continues.**

**As we begin a new academic year, the journey continues.** *There are **LAMPPOSTS** that we want to highlight. Every **LAMPPOST** is a symbol of **HOPE**. Every **LAMPPOST** is a beacon of light. We should allow each of these lampposts to light our way towards the direction that the Spirit wants us to take.*

- A. Our First LAMPPOST:** *In relation to quality teaching and learning, we would like to highlight our quest for **outcome-based education (OBE)**. Being a member not only of the SPU Manila academic community but of the entire Paulinian Education Ministry, each one of us here must be aware of the kind of Paulinian graduates that we want to produce.*

#### **What do we want our tertiary level graduates to be?**

- 1. Ethical, Paulinian **LEADERS** and **PROFESSIONALS** consciously expressing their Faith.*
- 2. Cutting-Edge, Resilient **VISIONARIES** and **INNOVATORS** demonstrating creativity and charisma.*
- 3. Engaging, Trustworthy **TEAM BUILDERS** and **MENTORS** fostering community through active collaboration.*
- 4. Reliable, Productive **EXPERTS** and **IMPLEMENTERS**, competently carrying out their mission in life.*
- 5. Dedicated, Transformative **SUPPORTERS** and **STEWARDS** of **ALL CREATION**, impelled by compassion and charity for all.*

#### **What do we want our Senior High School graduates to be?**

- 1. Mindful, self-directed learners and role models, consciously expressing their faith.*
- 2. Courageous, resourceful explorers and problem solvers, demonstrating their creativity and charisma.*
- 3. Credible, responsive communicators and team players, building community through active collaboration.*
- 4. Conscientious, adept performers and achievers, competently pursuing their mission in life.*

5. *Caring, committed advocates for peace and universal well-being, impelled by compassion and charity for all.*

*This list of attributes did not come from just one person. This is the outcome of the series of reflection sessions among administrators and faculty members coming from the 39 Paulinian schools all over the country, together with the foremost international expert on OBE, Dr. William Spady, who facilitated the process. I believe that this is a fruit of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. These are the attributes that we want every Paulinian graduate to have, regardless of which Paulinian school he/she comes from.*

*Lahat tayo, ano man ang ating posisyon, guro man o kawani, may responsibilidad ang bawat isa sa atin na maisakatuparan ang mga ninanais nating makita sa ating mga magaaral.*

### **B. This leads us to our second LAMPPOST: Paulinian Formation**

*Palagi po nating naririning ang mga katagang: "We cannot give what we do not have." Before we can even aspire to form our students into what we want them to be, we should first be concerned about our own formation as Paulinian leaders... as Paulinian teachers, ... and Paulinian lay personnel. There is no other way by which we can best form our students into the Paulinian graduates that we want them to be but to give premium importance to our own formation. Unless we are formed, it would be very difficult for us to participate in the formation of our students.*

*Maswerte tayo dahil ang KRA champion ng Paulinian Formation para sa SPC Education Ministry ay napakasipag—at siya ay nandito mismo sa St. Paul Manila. Last year, she convened her team for a series of meetings; and as a fruit of their labor, they were able to craft the Paulinian Formation Program for the entire Paulinian Education Ministry. Ang KRA champion para sa Paulinian Formation ay walang iba kundi si Sr. Jesusa Taccad (Sr. Ching), ang ating VP for Christian Formation. Palakpakan natin siya. This afternoon, she will present to all of us the Paulinian Formation Program. Kaya huwag kayong mawawala mamayang hapon, dahil importante pong malaman natin ang nilalaman ng ating Paulinian Formation Program.*

- C. **Our third LAMPPOST** is what we have highlighted in this preopening activity, the theme of which we have adopted from that of the 29<sup>th</sup> SPC Educators Congress: that is, **interculturality**. We are aware that because of the increase of internationality and migration in educational institutions, our campuses have become more diverse in terms of nationality, beliefs, and culture. How to attain solidarity amidst diversity has become a concern. Intercultural education has become more essential.

*In the keynote address of Sr. Lilia Thérèse Tolentino in the most recent SPC Educators' Congress, she made mention of the final report of the 1992 International Conference on Education, which suggests that the aims of Intercultural Education are 1) the reduction of all forms of exclusion; 2) the furthering of integration and school achievement; 3) the promotion of respect for cultural diversity; 4) the promotion of understanding of the cultures of others; and 5) the promotion of international understanding.*

Tomorrow, Sr. Leticia Garcia will devote a whole day to talk to us about our theme **"Mainstreaming Interculturality in Paulinian Education: Solidarity begins where Individualism ends."**

**D. Our fourth LAMPOST is INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY.**

*In our quest to add value to the programs and services that we offer, as well as in our effort to optimize our resources, we need to be INNOVATIVE and CREATIVE. This demands that we think out of the box. We cannot keep on doing the same things in the same way. Even the CHED is now beginning to think out of the box. CHED used to say that there are three focal functions of HEIs. Now it is no longer just INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH, and EXTENSION. In its pursuit to build stronger Higher Education Institutions which will lead to the building of a stronger Philippines, CHED has identified a fourth focal function: **PRODUCTION, which refers to the consolidation of learnings, skills, and knowledge into practical applications leading to income generation that can support other focal functions.** During this transition period when low enrollment is inevitable, we need to boost up production to keep us financially afloat. How? We leverage our being an accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provider for Education; our being an ETEEAP provider in music; our being an accredited delivering HEI. We can capitalize on the expertise of our faculty by offering short term courses related to our academic offerings. We can probably even explore how faculty and student research outputs can be turned into products and services.*

*Do you know that CHED is venturing into Adult Education in partnership with the Canadian Bureau of International Education? Just this March, we received an invitation from CHED to nominate a faculty member for the Adult Education Training Program (AETP). We nominated two but, after a very arduous screening, CHED only accepted one from every HEI. Dr. Amy Butial was selected to be one of those who will be trained as a trainer for the Adult Education Training Program in our country and in Canada. Seeing this as a great opportunity, it is now up to us to be innovative and creative and take advantage of this prospect for us to be an Adult Education provider.*

*As a school, it is not only the transformation of students which should take place in our midst. If we want to be relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we should also allow ourselves and our educational programs and services to undergo **transformation**. And that is not easy. As the American pastor and author, Rick Warren, says, "Transformation is a process and as life happens, there are tons of ups and downs. It's a journey of discovery—there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair."*

*Football star, Antonio Brown, for his part, says, "The journey is never ending. There's always gonna be growth, improvement, adversity; you just gotta take it all in and do what's right, continue to grow, continue to live in the moment."*

**V. We are not alone in this journey.**

*We have our alumni to support us. Very recently, Ms. Marionette Martinez, the Alumni Relations and Institutional Communications Officer, launched "A Hundred Dollars for a*

*Hundred Dreams,” a fund-raising project specifically to encourage Paulinians here and abroad—in the US, Canada, Australia—for them to sponsor the top up fee of financially challenged SHS students. Quite a number of High School alumni and have sent their donations and pledges. Mrs. Martinez has received over P280,000.00 in cash and pledges for P114,000.00. We are in the process of signing an MOU with one alumna, Mrs. Maria Lourdes Atienza-Naing, to formalize the establishment of the Atienza-Naing Scholarship Fund which provides for the continuing grant of Php 64,000.00 per year for four SHS scholars.*

*The college alumni have remained untapped for the HOPE Ablaze or the Hundred Dollar projects. It is my ardent wish that Deans, Program Chairs, and college faculty members help us reach the college graduates in their respective programs. You only need to give their names and contact details and introduce them to Ms. Mae Arañas, the Overall Campaign Chair, and she and Ms. Lalaine Mallari, the Communications Chair, will send the letters to them.*

*Yes, we are not alone. We have one another and we are counting on your support and cooperation for the implementation of our operational plans.*

*Yes, we are not alone. Above all, we have to remember that we have God who promised in the Old Testament, "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you" (**Deuteronomy 31:6**). Jesus, Himself, confirmed this in the Gospel of Matthew as he says "... behold, I am with you always, until the end of time" (**Matthew 28:20**). After all, this is His mission and we are only here to partake of it. And so, therefore, we beg the Lord to grant us all the graces we need to carry out the task that He has entrusted to us.*

*As we start a new school year, it would be good to get to know the new members of the management team and the new employees (introduction of management team and new employees follows).*

## ALUMNAE GATHERINGS



**High School 1968  
Reunion in SoCal**



**High School 1962  
Lunch with Vicky Amalingan-Sales**