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SPECIAL REPORT

Pre-Opening 2018: Call for Community Building and Paulinian Formation

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St. Paul University Manila's Pre-Opening Activity on 26-27 July 2018 focused on the theme, "Mainstreaming Interculturality in Paulinian Education: Solidarity Begins Where Individualism Ends," which was also the theme of the International SPC Educators' Congress 2018 held in St. Paul College Pasig on 16-18 May. The pre-opening also tackled Paulinian formation as a requisite not only for the students but equally vital for the administration, academic, and all other employees. Other highlights included discussion on the Privacy Act in the school setting and updates from the different divisions of the university.

Day 1 opened with a prayer led by the Campus Ministry, followed by Perspective Setting by Dr. Grace Leongson, Overall Chair of this year's pre-opening activity. Shortly after, Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC delivered the President's Message. Included in her message were the university's new strategic plans and priorities, namely Paulinian Formation, Quality Teaching and Learning, Value-Innovated Programs and Services, and Good Governance and Stewardship. Her message reflected optimism and hope despite the challenges faced by private higher education institutions brought by the decreased number of enrollees. She encouraged the employees to be open to change, development, and transformation so that the institution may achieve its mission.

Atty. Joseph Estrada continued the morning session with his discussion of the Data Privacy Act of 2012 in the educational context. This was basically about changing educational and organizational mindsets and cultures and being more conscious about the protection of student information. He clarified that "data" is not limited to electronically obtained data but includes essentially ALL types of data provided by the data subjects, namely students in the school setting. The data subjects have the right to information privacy, which means that they control the information to be seen or accessed publicly.

Since schools handle students' personal information on a daily basis, dealing with data can be tedious. However, with academic freedom, schools may impose policies to use data to further their purpose. Schools do not need to renew consent annually as the student's contract starts from admission and extends to graduation. School personnel must also be transparent about these policies, so that the data subject may be made aware of the purpose of data collection.

Policies, including responsible use of social media, which are declared must be legalized and proportionate to the purpose, Atty. Estrada emphasized.

Sr. Evangeline jumpstarted the afternoon with the annual traditional introduction of the management team, newly-appointed officers, and new employees. The university also established advocacy champions, with Ms. Elmgay Valeriano leading the team as Overall Chair.

Sr. Jesusa Taccad, SPC, Vice President for Christian Formation, presented and discussed the Paulinian Formation Framework, which is now being disseminated nationally. Sr. Jesusa spoke of the challenge of integration despite the different threats faced by the school community. She emphasized the importance of faith and religion in the formation of individuals, both students and employees, in a Catholic institution. The Paulinian Formation Program revolves around forming Paulinian formators who pursue excellence, preserve the faith, and serve the Church and society. As presented in the framework, "the holistic formation for discipleship, excellence, and mission is summarized in the Five Core Values of Paulinian Education" namely, Christ Centeredness, Charity, Charism, Community, and Commission. Moreover, the life of discipleship forms the heart, the life of excellence forms the head, and the formation of the hands results from the life of mission. Sr. Jesusa ultimately reminded the group of the Paulinian Identity: Paulinians are simple, warm, and active.

Other updates were also presented. Ms. Myra Arañas, VP for Student Services and Ms. Valeriano, Student Welfare and Development Officer, presented some modifications in the new Student Handbook. Ms. Valeriano explained that the revisions to the 2017 handbook were recommended by the PAASCU. Dr. Ma. Encarnacion Dychangco, Vice President for Academic Services, presented the new course offerings and changes in the different programs and colleges. Dr. Dychangco also discussed the use of the Outcomes Based Education in SPU Manila and updates on the upcoming second PAASCU accreditation visit. Furthermore, the Paulinian Faculty Formation was introduced. Sr. Ma. Alegria Avellaneda, SPC, Vice President for Administrative Services, presented the updates on the new acquisitions, renovations, and changes in several offices and divisions. Dr. Joanne Salve Osea-Popanes, Human Resources Director, reminded the community of some of the guidelines for employees found in the manual, like the use of the uniform, proper grooming, attendance and tardiness, under time, and attendance in institutional functions.

On Day 2, Sr. Ruby Abellana, SPC, Vice President of Finance Services, used her time to introduce the finance and operations' role in the university, acknowledge the people in the said office, and bring about consciousness or mindfulness among everyone to cooperate in the cost reduction efforts of the community. Sr. Ruby asked for the unified support of everyone in the efforts to generate resources and augment revenues. She sought for everyone's participation to respect policies and guidelines and called for the serious implementation of the elimination of wasteful practices.

The session continued with the main talk on the theme of the academic year: "Building a Community of Discipleship through Interculturality," by Sr. Leticia Andrea Garcia, DC. Sr. Leticia used funny anecdotes to communicate her message of evolving as an individual and as a community despite different perceptions due to cultural backgrounds. She invited everyone to

communicate and contribute positively to the institution. She continued to say that every individual has a gift, and that gift must be shared because each gift complements others, just as one part affects the whole body. Through this, an enriched cultural family will be formed in the Paulinian community. Sr. Leticia reminded everyone that just like a bridge, the physical structure of the institution is only a part of the Paulinian community. She said that in community building, it is important to look at values and strengthen relationships. A community should focus not only on one another's strengths but also on weaknesses. People are likened to the materials of a bridge. Just like materials, people are not perfect either, but even broken or defective materials can still be used to build a sturdy infrastructure.

The afternoon was concluded with a prayer led by the Campus Ministry. The two-day activity was held in the 3rd Floor Ballroom of the Hotel and Restaurant Management Training Center. (Pictures of the activity were not available so they will be posted in next week's IOB.)

ALUMNAE GATHERINGS



High School 1973
At the wake of the mom of Marilyn Gaité

High School 1968
Luncheon hosted
by Mary Uy Wong
for Jazz Gaité
The Manila Hotel!
5 August 2018



CONDOLENCES

The Paulinian Family condoles with
the Gaité sisters on the death of their mother,

Teresita Cuevas-Mallari (HS 1969)
on the passing of her mother,

Milagros Farolan-Salud (HS 1962)
on the death of her husband.

