



SPU MANILA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XVIII No. 2

Second Quarter 2025

PART TWO: ALUMNI NEWS

SPU MANILA CONFERS *HONORIS CAUSA* ON CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO

At the 86th Graduation Rites on 30 May 2025 in the Fleur-de-lis Theater, SPU Manila conferred the degree, Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, to Ms. Ma. Rosario "Charo" Santos-Concio. This is the first ever honorary degree given by the university. The choice of Ms. Concio for this honor was based on her outstanding leadership in Philippine media, her trailblazing role as President and CEO of ABS-CBN, and her unwavering commitment to values-based storytelling in film and television.

Full story is in Part One of this newsletter.



AB GRAD'S BOOK IS ON KINDLE HOMESPUN AND FUN: A PAULINIAN TOUCH

Contributed by Joy V. Mañalac AB 1979



The long homestay became a season of rediscovery. In the quiet, many turned to the comforts of home--cooking, crafting, gardening--and found joy in sharing simple joys online.

Joy Mañalac (AB Communication Arts alumna) gathered these homespun stories from family, friends, and classmates into her blog "Homespun and Fun," now a Kindle book, celebrating creativity, inspiration, and kinship. Paulinian classmates featured include Susan Ortega-Tañada, with grandkids Pia and Gibby, Loretta Cordero-Lopez, Myra Montoya-Nepomuceno, with daughter Nicole Skully, Eva Aguilar, Marites Daos-San Jose, Maloy Lourdes Castellano, Maria Teresa Bantug-Pama, Teresita Bermudez-Tablante, Maria Elizabeth Borja-Lapid, and Rose Castro.

"Homespun and Fun" is a quiet celebration of the joy that lingers—in each act of giving, every spark of doing, and every step of becoming. First shared to uplift and inspire during the season of pause, it now lives on in the Kindle edition "Homespun and Fun," ready to be enjoyed and shared. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DHPS7DNF> (Pictures in the album section below.)

BSN GRAD RELAUNCHES BOOK OF POEMS IN THE U.S.

Agnes Quimbo-Villarruz, BSN 1971, launched *Reveries*, a book of poems which she has written and which shows that a nurse has the same sensitive soul and caring heart as a poet. The book launch was held in the Gateway Gallery on 15 March 2025. Later, she had another book launching in her hometown, Roxas City. She relaunched her book in the United States with her fellow Vias.



BS PSYCHOLOGY GRADS JOIN ART EXHIBIT

It's ARTordable
ART BAZAAR @ TWINLAKES TAGAYTAY

Artists listed include: Ana Hil, Ana Manangan, Bernice De Leon, Chloé Celado, Charlotte Cabala, Em-Em Malabanan-Cantos, Faye Carandang, Felicity, Ica Maranan-Escorza, Nelli Angeles, Jeronimo, Mace Badiola, Maricha Castillo, Marlene Frang, Nancy Palma-Cruz, Nancy Lee, Precy De Guzman-Brady, Raechie, Riel, Rosanna Ruperto, Sia Miranda, Sofia Dombay, Tiana Estrella, Trixie Mabus, Yel, Art Luzano, Aron Carandang, Alan Escobar, Andrei Daligca, Barin Sangre Lee, Dexter Duquehan, Erwan Mabasa, Elmar Badal, Elias Paruelo Jr, Eliseo Orisco, Giovanni Dela Rosa, Joe Mapa, James Ryan Deyeri, Jay Dy, Jan Rocha, JC Castillo, Jharcho Corales, Jing Panico, Jho Castillo, Kark Castillo, Manuel Sambo, M. A. Rodriguez, Narda Carandang, Nelson Castillo, Norma Manaban, Oday Cruz, Raphael Berrazo, Richard Cruz, Abel Santos, Ramon Galgo, Ramon Calucan, Segamenz Kingday, Thomas Huang, Wayne Castillo, Webster Corrao, Zorrick Escorpaz, Organized & Curated by Jandelle Castillo.

Exhibit Duration:
March 23 to April 15, 2025
Indoor Exhibit
Weekend Art Bazaar (Saturday & Sunday) 4-Days
March 29-30 | April 12-13, 2025
Outdoor Tent Exhibit near Starbucks & Fountain Area
Admission: Free (2pm onwards)
March 30, 2025 @ 4pm
Outdoor Tent Event at Twinlakes Fountain Area

CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH:
TWIN LAKES MALL TAGAYTAY
OHA GALLERY

Two BS Psychology 1994 graduates were among the artists in this exhibit: Maricris Salazar-Castillo and Majoe Badiola (*cum laude*).



Maricris



Majoe

PAULINIAN THESPIANS SHINE IN FILM AND THEATER

Two actresses of whom St. Paul Manila is proudest recently starred in awesome productions, one in a movie, the other in a play.



Charo Santos was a natural in the movie, *Only We Know*, with popular actor, Dingdong Dantes. Theme of the film was friendship as the highest form of love.

Sherry Lara was likewise a natural in the comedy, *Mommy G*, which was part of the Virgin Labfest 2025. These Paulinians truly live up to the legacy of St. Paul Manila as a wellspring of dramatic talent, as well as of dedication and commitment to their art and craft.



... AND THE SAGA CONTINUES

Again, we feature children, grandchildren, nieces of Paulinians and their achievements in their chosen fields of endeavor, which illustrates that apples do not fall far from the trees.

JASMINE GONZALVO

Jasmine Gonzalvo has completed her MPH degree at Harvard and will continue to lead CHEQI with enhanced expertise and a focus on advocacy for community health. Celebrating Jasmine's remarkable achievement, her mom, Teresa Ignacio-Gonzalvo (HS 1969, BSN 1974) shared her interview on her graduation day at Harvard! People have asked, "What's next?" after completing my MPH degree at Harvard. There's never been a "next" planned for me. Now, I am better prepared to continue my journey as a fierce advocate for the same communities I've been serving my entire career. I'll continue to lead CHEQI with enhanced expertise and renewed energy. I'll use my voice to advocate for change, equity, and social justice. I'll shine my light in the dark and overshadowed spaces.



I'm grateful for my life changing Harvard experience and the incredibly compassionate and impressive individuals I met along the way. I couldn't have done it without the love and support of so many friends and family, but especially Jay and Teresa Ignacio Gonzalvo who made sure all the other life things didn't fall apart while I was consumed with school work for the past two years.

Pharmacist. Professor. Mother. Wife. Cancer Survivor. Harvard Graduate

BETTINA CALAQUIAN

Bettina Calaquian graduated this May from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelor of Arts in International Business: Intercultural Management.

Learn more about Bettina from her segment on the Amazon Prime show 'The College Tour':

<https://www.thecollegetour.com/segment/connecting-with-new-titans/>



Currently, Bettina works in the entertainment industry with Big.Ass.Kids (an independent music label) and SoFi Stadium (#1 ranked stadium in the world by Pollstar).



She is the granddaughter of Milagros Salcedo-Calaquian, High School 1964, owner of Primex Printers Inc.

RENEE CELIO



Renee Ann Celio...
then 2015 Westborough
Middle School, 4.0 average...
Now...
2025 Bob Jones University,
Criminal Justice Major
Summa Cum Laude.



Renee is the niece of Lenidia Morales Celio, Liacom 1983.

CHRISTOPHE MANAPAT



Christophe Manapat recently graduated from Vancouver College High School with flying colors! He received the following awards: President's Honors; Jazz Ensemble Award (Subject Award); Religious Studies Award (Subject Award); Brother G.P. Lyons Award; District/Authority Scholarship Award, The Ministry of Education. He was Vancouver College's Student Council (STUCO) President, Head of Grad Committee, Music Ministry Leader, among others. He will be taking Film Production studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

Christophe is the son of Desil Cabasug-Manapat, AB 1990.

MAXWELL PASCUA GARDOCE



Maxwell Pascua Gardoce graduated with consistent honors and Special Achievement Awards from South Pasadena Middle School on June 3, 2025.

He is the grandson of Josephine Concordia-Gardoche, BSN 1971.



MARIA INES MANUEL



Maria Ines Manuel graduated from Columbia College in Chicago on 8 May 2025 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts-Musical Theatre.

She is the granddaughter of Miriam Perez-Manuel, AB 1974.



LORENZO MA. ESCAREAL VELASCO



Lorenzo Ma. Escareal Velasco received the degree of Masters in International Studies, major in Asian studies, from De la Salle University Manila in June 2025.

Enzo is the son of Sunny Escareal-Velasco, High School 1975.



ISABELLE DIZON



Isabelle Rasco-Dizon graduated during SPU Manila’s 86th Commencement Exercises May 30, 2025, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Visual Design and Communication, *Summa Cum Laude*; Top 1-Class of 2025; UT Foundation Scholar; Gold-Estelita Juco Journalism Award; Silver-Sr. Maura Community Involvement Award; Silver-Performing Arts Award; Paulinian Star Award (2nd Generation Award).

DANIELLE DIZON

In the 9th Senior High School Commencement Exercises held on April 5, 2025, Danielle graduated with multiple recognitions: Academic Awardee- Gold; Special Award in Broadcasting – Gold; Special Award in Performing Arts – Gold; Certificate for Community Service; AY Foundation National Discipline Award 2024-2025; Microsoft Specialist Certifications in PowerPoint and Excel.



MARYANELLE DIZON



Maryanelle also made her mark before joining SPU Manila. She completed her Junior High School at Laverne Academy, Inc. on April 25, 2025, graduating with Honors and the following achievements: 1st Place-Science Quiz Bee; 7th Place-PSPC Science Writing; 10th Place-APSCI Science Encounter; Participant-APSCI Math Encounter; Loyalty Awardee.

All three are daughters of Rosalle Rasco-Dizon, BS Psychology 1994, currently the Head of External Relations and Academic Internationalization of SPU Manila.



BIANCA ALEXANDRA MARTINEZ



Bianca Alexandra Martinez, CSA Batch 2021, graduated from the Ateneo de Manila, with the degree of Bachelor of Life Sciences-Management Track, Honorable Mention.

She is the granddaughter of Marionette Ocampo-Martinez, High School 1954, AB-BSE 1958.



NICOLE BERNICE GANDIA



Nicole Bernice Gandia received the degree of Bachelor of Science, Major in Medical Biology, from De La Salle University Manila.

She is the granddaughter of Felisa Silva-Santos, High School 1962.



CAREER-WISE...

KIRSTEN AND KEVIN GLODAVA

The photo is of Kirsten and Kevin Glodava, with their families following their military promotion commissioning.

Kirsten completed the U.S. Army-Baylor University Masters Program in Nutrition, and now serves as a First Lieutenant. She is a registered dietitian working as an inpatient clinical dietitian at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, Texas.



Kevin achieved the Naval Rank of Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) with a Master of Science in Geoinformatics and Geospatial Intelligence from George Mason University in Virginia and has an undisclosed position in the Army in the State of Georgia.

They are children of Milagros Garcia-Glodava, BSE 1969.

NIKKI VALENCERINA-CRISOLOGO



Nikki Valencerina-Crisologo is a third-term Councilor of Quezon City District 1. She is shown in the picture at her oath-taking held at the Quezon City Hall on June 30, 2025, with her husband, former Congressman Onyx Crisologo. Nikki holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Master's in Business Administration from De La Salle Univeristy. She is the daughter of Ella Enriquez-Valencerina, High School 1965, who was also in government service, in the GSIS and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.



AND A LITTLE BIT OF LEVITY...



Wesley Amberson Chettri Reynoso
graduating Kinder Class of 2025

He is the grandson of Nina Reynoso-Ray
High School 1965, BSN 1970



Koko Unson

graduating
from Day Care

He is the grandson
of Corina Unson, HS
1970, AB 1974

SHARING... SHARING...SHARING

SPUM HS '68 Outreach Programs

Contributed by Cora Sia-Crisostomo

In September 2020, I began researching possible outreach projects for HS '68. I asked then Provincial Superior, Sr. Lilia Tolentino, to provide information on St. Paul owned an/or run schools that needed assistance.

St. Paul School General Natividad remains the poorest school owned by the Philippine Province of St. Paul Sisters. Most of the families in Misereor Village were displaced by flash floods and landslides in Dingalan, Quezon in 2004. The CBCP bought land for these displaced families. Part of the land is occupied by the school, built and owned by the CPCB. (Processing of the Deed of Donation of the school to SPC is now in progress.) It was part of the cluster of schools that included all Bulacan schools, headed by one Principal. SPSGN is situated in a remote and hard to access area. The parents and community members in General Natividad have very limited income sources.

In 2020, we sponsored eight student scholarships, provided a water dispenser, and helped purchase some supplies (lots of much needed photocopy paper!) with our initial donation of 100k. In 2021, we reached out to class members. Individual donations from both here and abroad, plus our class donation, allowed us to increase the number of scholarship grants to 26.



For school year 2022-23, the number of scholarships increased to 50. We also sent 11 boxes of gently used clothing for 'ukay,ukay' (funds raised used to augment the feeding program), children's books and much needed supplies. We also funded the purchase of three additional water dispensers and a big screen TV for English/Language classes. Other donations included 10 solar lights and two Philippine flags.

In February 2023, a team of 11 dentists, three assistants, and eight HS '68 volunteers conducted a successful dental mission that treated more than 130 children, staff, and parents. Scholars sponsored for 2023-24 reached a total of 61 students.

Our second Dental Mission in General Natividad in 2024 was another resounding success. The volunteer group of eight dentists and three assistants led by Dr. Ish Santiago Valle served 229 patients (students, parents, teachers, staff, and some members of the community). They provided Fluoride treatments, dental hygiene education, restorative treatments (fillings), extractions, and prophylaxis.

After the second successful dental mission in Nueva Ecija, a group of big-hearted GBs embarked on an ocular visit to two schools administered by St. Paul Sisters in Pangasinan. At no cost to the class, a group of hardy volunteers visited St. Isidore Learning Center (Kinder to Grade 6) in Burgos, Pangasinan and St. Andrew Catholic School (Kinder to Grade 10) in Bugallon, Pangasinan. Both are owned by the Diocese of Alaminos, Pangasinan (the poorest diocese in Pangasinan) and administered by our St. Paul Sisters. We donated three TV sets to St. Isidore and supported a Grade 10 student with a scholarship in St. Andrew.

For school year 2024-25, we sponsored 51 students. We also held a deworming program for the elementary students. (Photo taken after the deworming.) School year 2025-26 in St. Paul School Nueva Ecija began June 18th. Of the 87 Kinder to Grade 6 enrollees, we are sponsoring 35 children. For high school students, we are sponsoring 16 of the 80 students enrolled. The feeding program we sponsor provides lunch every Friday to the 87 younger children and teachers for the whole year (40 weeks). We are also providing subsidies for buying much needed shoes to a maximum of 200/student. Hopefully, we may be able to sponsor an additional seven high school students as funds allow.



Again, many thanks for the continued generosity of HS '68. Every little bit goes a long way to ensure the continued Paulinian education the children need. Caritas Christi Urget Nos!

BATCH AND FAMILY PICTURES...

High School 1962



Wake of Raj Roy,
husband of Rose Amor-Roy
in LA

High School 1964

Joint birthday celebration
in Lydia Yabut-Ochoa's home



High School 1965



Golden wedding anniversary
of Vince and Agnes Condez
Malate Church

and Century Park Hotel



Meet-up in Virginia
Nina Ray, Sol Ilagan,
Marcia Andres, and Tessie Ng

High School 1966



Sherry Lara's play, Mommy G
at Ignacio Gimenez Theater

High School 1968

Wake of Bonjin Bolinao
Loyola Chapels
Commonwealth



High School 1969

Second quarter birthday blowout
of Odette Hofileña, Maritess Panlilio,
Ester Javier, Tani Tankiang, Beibi Bautista



Second quarter birthday blowout of Odette Hofileña,
Tani Tankiang, Medy Cruz, Tess Mallari (BSC 73)

Wake of Gabby Panlilio,
husband of Maritess Pardo-Panlilio.



BSE 1969



Book signing
of Mila Glodava's book
SPUM Cafe

BSC 1970



Coffee and dessert in Starbucks.
Rhodora Dakanay (seated) and standing L to R:
Reggie Dalma-Salazar, Toni Valdez-Yap,
Gertie Aquino-Hernandez, Lynn Buenviaje,
Mina Reyes-Dilag, Fanny Racelis-Nubla,
Edna Buenaventura-Bernardo, Lyn Jacinto
Fernandez, Lou Jacinto, Charee Barcelon-Magsino

Birthday merienda
of Cora Alarcon-Finglass
Milky Way Café
MOM, Sherry Lara, Cora Finglass, Mina Dilag,
Edna Bernardo, Lynn Buenviaje, Lyn Fernandez,
Lou Jacinto, Mayda Tankiang, and Charee Magsino



High School 1973



(first row) Rosario Nacario, Bibs Benedicto Figueroa and Irene Obligacion.

Get-together on April 30, 2025
Palms Country Club.
Celebrating the birthdays of Anates
Arnaldo Oracion,
Ana Madamba Burgos,
Eloise Bonnevie Lozano,
Immy Concepcion, Eileen Lim
Fermin, Tinggoy Panganiban

High School 1975

Despedida for Deng Valera
with students from HS 75.
Marisa Martinez, Sunny Escareal
and Bina Melwani (plus daughter).



June Visita Iglesia

Birthday celebration
of Sunny Escareal-Velasco
Bar IX, Molito
with classmates
and the Southern Belles



High School 1977



June 14, 2025. Batch HS 1977 paying their respects to the family of the late Tetet Dolendo-Quisano, including Philippine Ambassador Lumen "Honey" Isleta (from middle back, second to the right), who recently retired from government service

June 11, 25 SPCM Batch HS 1977 "Gels" looking good and rocking their black and white Paulinian checkered uniform -inspired outfits!



June 11,2025 - SPCM Batch HS 1977 Thanksgiving Party of Anna Co-Puno following the successful staging of SB19's concert at the Philippine Arena. Also post-birthday reunion with April and May birthday celebrants, including CEZA Administrator Katrina Ponce Enrile.

AB 1979



Paulinian besties, several of them Homespun and Fun contributors reunited in joy and stories. Left: Ann Bernal, Maloy Castellano, Tess Bantug-Pama, Joy Mañalac (author of Homespun and Fun), Myra Montoya-Nepomuceno. Standing: Eva Aguilar. Right: Lori Cordero-Lopez, Cita Carlos-Espiritu, Beth Borja-Lapid, Sue Ortega-Tanada. Standing: Bot Obispo-Valdez Behind: Some hubbies, just happy to be there.



Catching up is always fun. Front row: Alice Soriano-Gilson, Tonette Henson, Myra Nepomuceno. Back row: Maloy Castellano, Beth Lapid, Hedy Pascual-Velayo, Eva Doydora-Domantay, Joy Mañalac, Bot Valdez, Eva Aguilar.

High School 1979

On April 10, 2025, SPCM High School 1979 batchmates visited Jubilee churches in the Diocese of Imus (Cavite). In photo from left : Lelin Guerrero-Golamco, Lelet Guerrero-Cruz, Mariza Perez-Garcia, Chiqui Escareal-Go, Cherry Caluag-Caluya and Carol Garcia-Beltran. Photo taken in front of the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Our Lady of the Pillar, commonly known as the Imus Cathedral.



BSC 1980



Renato - lunch in Shangri la

Red Day in Conrad



Evelyn, Heidi, Cecilyn and husband



Casa Recuerdos in Taal Batangas



65th Birthday of Angelina "Anji" Hayag Carungcong with the Paulinian Caviteñas—Anji, Heidi, Mary Grace and Delle

SUNDRY EVENTS AND FAMILY PICTURES



High School 1965 family
visiting Sr. Nieves on her birthday
in Vigil House

Opening of Angelos Entertainment Lounge



of George Tagle, son
of Beth Sison-Tagle,
HS 1965



Birthday of Meg,
daughter of
Tejie Tejada-Chiong HS 75

Escareal siblings
remembering their father
on his birthday





First death anniversary
of Amelia Ocampo-Visaya,
MOM's sister
The Village Sports Club

CONDOLENCES

The Paulinian Family condoles with the families of departed alumnae:

Sr. Carolina Agravante, SPC High School 1955
Lilibeth Ty-Lorenzo AB 1974
Henrietta (Bonjin) Bolinao AB 1972
Tess Huertas-Higa AB 1974
Olivia Somoza High School 1961
Tetet Dokendo-Quisano High School 1977
Sylvia Mesina High School 1965
Cecile Gamboa-Sason High School 1962
Cathie Abiva High School 1979
Grace Venezuela High School 1977



We likewise condole with the following alumnae who have lost their loved ones:

Nadine Joven-Liu High School 1963 on the passing of her husband, Harry
Susan Alarcon-Mendoza AB 1974 on the passing of the brother, Joey
Aida Lina-Bautista High School 1963 on the passing of her husband, Gerry
Ayie Cruz-Aligada High School 1977 on the passing of her mother, Josefina
Maritess Pardo-Panlilio High School 1969 on the passing of her husband, Gabby
Rosalinda Amor-Roy High School 1962 on the passing of her husband, Raj
Lourdes Chua-Afan BSN 1971 on the passing of her husband, Fernando
Patria Fermin AB 1969 on the passing of her brother, Cesar Augustus

Editor's note: The list may not include all departed alumni and family members, of whom I have not been informed. Do contact me if you know of any, for inclusion in the next issue.