



SPU MANILA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIX No. 1

First Quarter 2026

PART ONE: UNIVERSITY NEWS

PAULINIAN LEADERS FORGE GLOBAL ALLIANCES AT 2026 IAUP ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE

The St. Paul University System (SPUS) successfully strengthened its footprint on the global academic stage during the 2026 International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) Asia Pacific Regional Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from January 12 to 14, 2026.

Under the banner of “One SPC Education Ministry, One Paulinian University System,” the delegation joined university presidents and senior academic leaders at The Marriott Hotel to address the theme, “Global Connections, Collective Growth.” The conference served as a high-level strategic platform for dialogue on internationalization, academic innovation, and sustainable global partnerships in higher education.

The SPUS delegation was led by Sr. Marie Rosanne Mallillin, SPC (Chancellor, SPUS; President, SPU Surigao) and Sr. Ma. Nilda Masirag, SPC (Assistant Provincial for Education Ministry; President, SPC Ilocos Sur). They were joined by fellow institutional heads—Sr. Lilia Therese Tolentino, SPC (President, SPU Quezon City) and Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC (President, SPU Manila).

Also providing key leadership during the summit were Sr. Aileen Bonifacio, SPC (EVP, SPU Quezon City), Sr. Honorata Sahlee Trinilyn Palijo, SPC (EVP and Dean of Nursing, SPC Ilocos Sur), and Dr. Nikko T. Ederio (VPAA and Director for Quality Management, SPU Surigao). This strong representation affirmed the Paulinian commitment to inter-border innovation and collective academic leadership. A major highlight of the conference was the formal signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between SPUS institutions and international universities, paving the way for expanded collaboration in instruction, research, and academic exchange.



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Notable partnerships were established and strengthened with Inti International University (Malaysia), Siam University (Thailand), Nilai University (Malaysia), SEGi University (Malaysia), and CCN University of Science and Technology (Bangladesh).



Through these strategic alliances, the St. Paul University System aims to enhance educational quality and global competitiveness. The partnerships focus on student mobility and international exposure, faculty and researcher exchange, joint research programs, and the sharing of academic information and instructional materials. By fostering these global connections, the St. Paul University System continues to make meaningful contributions to the international academic community, advancing its mission of providing a transformative Paulinian education that makes a marked difference on the world stage.



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SPUM CELEBRATES UNIVERSITY WEEK 2026

In God's Kairos, we joyfully celebrated 114 *years of Joy in Giving, Hope in Loving!*

This year's University Week held thrilling, remarkable, and interactive activities that the school community surely loved!



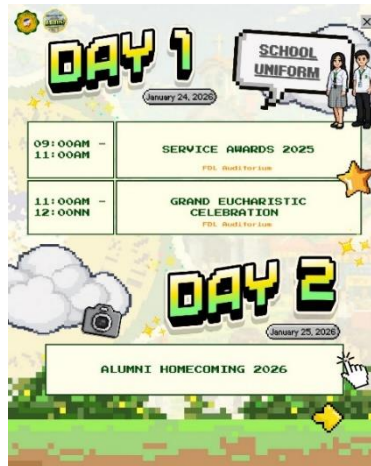
Day 1: A Legacy Opening

Day 2: A day of homecoming, reuniting, and reminiscing.

Day 3: All about music, groove, and rhythm.

Day 4: A competitive day full of challenges, growth, and excellence.

Day 5: The last day filled with engaging, inviting, and unforgettable moments.



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CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND EXCELLENCE

On **January 24, 2026**, SPU Manila honored the service of its loyal employees and celebrated the feast of St. Paul with a Grand Eucharistic Celebration!

Students were informed that their personal **QR codes** were sent via their **Microsoft Outlook emails**.

They were informed of their QR codes and reminded to have them ready as they now serve as the new University Week Passport and attendance!



St. Paul University Manila proudly recognized its Service Awardees and Retirees 2026.

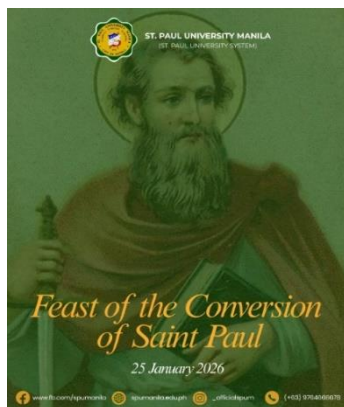
Their years of dedication, professionalism, and commitment have significantly contributed to the growth and success of the University community.

From 5, 10, 15, 20, to 30 years of service—and a lifetime of invaluable contributions—their journeys stand as a testament to perseverance, passion, and excellence. Their legacy continues to inspire generations to serve with purpose and heart.



SHARING SOME UNIVERSITY WEEK PICTURES...

Conversion of St. Paul



“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”— Galatians 2:20. From persecutor to preacher, from darkness to light, St. Paul reminds us that God’s grace can transform every heart.

On this meaningful feast, St. Paul University Manila joyfully wishes everyone a wonderful and grace-filled celebration. May the conversion of St. Paul inspire us to open our hearts to God’s transforming love, live our faith with courage, and follow Christ with renewed purpose.

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Service Awards



Opening Remarks
Sr. Marivic Estrella



Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio
12-year awardee



The SPC Sister-Awardees



The retirees: Judith Alderete & Amelia Callos

Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, University President, formally closed University Week 2026, expressing her heartfelt gratitude to all the people behind the success of the celebration- organizers, coordinators, student leaders, and staff who gave their time, talent, and effort to make the week meaningful and memorable.

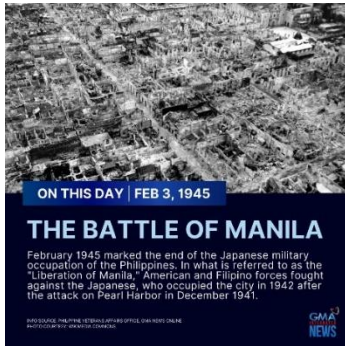
"For three days, the Paulinian community came together in prayer, fellowship, games, and joyful activities, truly living out the spirit of unity and gratitude as we honored 114 years of St. Paul University Manila. It was a celebration not just of milestones, but of faith, friendship, and the enduring Paulinian spirit. 114 years of Joy in Giving, Hope in Loving."

Once a Paulinian, always a Paulinian.



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SPU MANILA HOSTS 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MANILA



On February 3, 2026, St. Paul University Manila hosted the 81st Anniversary Celebration of the Battle and Liberation of Manila, which took place on February 3, 1946. The school was chosen to be the venue for this year's commemoration because it was one of the places in Manila that suffered greatly in the bloodbath that took place in Malate and Ermita.

The Anniversary of the Liberation of the Battle of Manila is observed on February 3 annually. It was an important battle of the Philippine campaign from 1944 to 1945. It was fought in Manila, the Philippines' capital, by U.S. and Filipino forces against Japanese invaders. The month-long conflict destroyed the city, and nearly 100,000 inhabitants died. Japanese troops massacred Filipino villagers, while American artillery also killed many during the battle. Japanese resistance and American gunfire ravaged most of Manila's architectural and cultural legacy. Manila was one of the war's most devastating capitals, along with Berlin and Warsaw. The conflict ended the Japanese military occupation of the Philippines (1942 to 1945). The capture of Manila was crucial to General Douglas MacArthur's reconquest operations. We reflected on the hardships of the past and reaffirmed a faith in Christ that stood firm amid destruction. Beyond the ruins of the war, we continue to carry a legacy of resilience—one that inspires hope, healing, and peace for generations to come.

Some pictures of the historic event...



With Mayor Isko Moreno

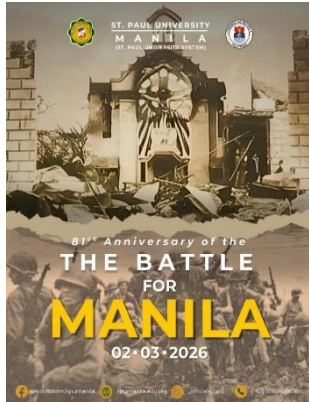


and Vice-Mayor Chi Atienza...



and ambassadors of many nations

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This gathering honored the bravery of the Filipino people, remembered the struggles endured during the war, and reflected on how our faith in Christ never faltered—even as our city was bombed and lives were shaken.

This chapel, built in 1927, destroyed during the World War II and restored in 1948, stands as both a place of prayer and a witness to history. On the 81st Anniversary of the Battle for Manila, we remember the countless Filipino heroes and civilians who gave their lives for freedom and dignity.

We remember not only the ruins of World War II, but also the resilience of faith that continues to guide our people towards hope, healing, and peace

SPUM REPRESENTED AT DADO BANATAO MEMORIAL

On the same day, February 3, 2026, SPUM was represented at the 40th Day Memorial for Diosdado Banatao, acclaimed tech genius, who used his incredible talent in the computer world, and more significantly, used his resources to give thousands of Filipino youths an opportunity for a better life.

The SPUM attendees were Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, Sr. Flor Deza, and Sr. Cristina Guytingco, a number of alumnae, batchmates and some students of Maria Banatao (HS 63) and batchmates of her sister, Puri. Icon Fernandez and Mikha Ashtom sang during the Mass. The tribute included videos of Dado’s life, accomplishments, and mission and sharing of memories by his closest friends and colleagues.

Sr. Evangeline shares an account of the event.



Blessed to be part of the occasion to celebrate the life and legacy of Dado Banatao, thanks to the invitation from his better half, Maria, a Paulinian, (through M.O.M.)

Dado Banatao: A Filipino Innovator and Educator at Heart

Diosdado “Dado” Banatao, born on May 23, 1946 in Iguig, Cagayan, rose from humble beginnings as the son of a rice farmer to become one of the Philippines’ most influential figures in technology.

After earning his engineering degree from the Mapúa Institute of Technology, he pursued graduate studies at Stanford University, laying the foundation for a remarkable career in Silicon Valley.

Banatao became a pioneer in personal computing, helping develop early Ethernet chips, graphics



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accelerators, and system logic technologies that powered the first generation of personal computers. He co-founded several successful tech companies and later led Tallwood Venture Capital, supporting emerging tech ventures.

Yet Banatao's impact extended far beyond engineering. Deeply committed to education and national development, he and his wife established the Philippine Development Foundation (PhilDev) and the Dado Banatao Educational Foundation. Through scholarships, mentorship, educator training, and collaborative programs, these initiatives aim to expand opportunities in science and technology for Filipino youth. Banatao believed that talent was abundant — what mattered most was access to quality education and the chance to innovate. His legacy reminds us that education, vision, and generosity can transform lives and communities.

Souvenir photos of the event...



...with Dado's wife, Maria (Babes)



Two of the speakers recounting their experiences with Dado...



**Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala,
Chairman of the Board, Ayala Corporation**



Sheila Marcelo, CEO, Care.Com

Paying tribute to a great man...



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SPU MANILA WELCOMES WORLD EDUCATION EXPO DELEGATES FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSIONS

Delegates of the World Education Expo visited St. Paul University Manila on February 4, 2026, as part of their campus tour and university visits. The delegation was composed of representatives from Universitas Malang (Indonesia), Institut Teknologi Bandung (Indonesia), James Cook University (Singapore), Edubridge (Malta), and HSE University Saint Petersburg (Russia). The visit was coordinated by Mr. Raymond Winarta of MWS Global.

The engagement provided a valuable opportunity to discuss possible academic and professional partnerships, strengthening avenues for international collaboration and institutional linkages.



Representing St. Paul University Manila were Dr. Mary Grace Leongson, Dean of the College of Business and Management; Prof. Rosalle Dizon, Head of External Relations and Academic Internationalization; and the SPU Manila Marketing Team, headed by Prof. Joseph Samuel Ortalla, together with Prof. Denice Mikaela Navarro and Ms. Calista Virginia Domingo. The visit underscored SPU Manila's continuing commitment to internationalization and global engagement in higher education.

SPUM PIPE ORGAN BLESSED

A historic event took place in St. Paul University Manila—the blessing and inauguration of the Pipe Organ in the Chapel of the Crucified Christ, held at 2:00 PM, February 17, 2026.



Blessing was done by Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ, who also officiated at the Mass afterwards. Aside from being an esteemed musician-composer, Fr. Francisco said he feels like an adopted Paulinian, as his mother and other relatives are alumnae of the school. Members of the Paulinian community—Sisters, faculty, staff, and alumnae—came together in gratitude and joy for this wonderful addition to the chapel and to the musical legacy of St. Paul Manila.

SPU Manila President, Sr. Maria Evangeline Anastacio, shared: February 17, 2026: Today is a day of gratitude and quiet joy for our university community as we gather for the blessing and inauguration of the pipe organ of the Chapel of the Crucified Christ. This instrument is not only for us—it is for the Church, for our students, and for all who will pray and worship in this sacred space in the years to come.

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This organ will do more than produce sound. It will support our liturgy, lead our singing, form our students, and lift our prayer.



After the Mass, the attendees were treated to a short program, featuring the SPUM Chorale, led by their conductor, Mr. Oliver Rodriguez, and two special guests, excellent musicians.



Ms. Aliyah Lamzon moved the hearts of the congregation with her breathtaking rendition of "Ave Maria" by Giulio Caccini. Her voice echoed beautifully through the sacred space, creating a profound atmosphere of reverence, reflection, and praise — a reminder of how music can touch souls and draw us closer to God. May the melodies shared on this blessed day continue to inspire faith, devotion, and unity within the Paulinian community.



Pipe organist Mr. Raphael Martin Andaya captivated the crowd with a powerful performance of the *Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5 in F Minor, Op. 42* by Charles-Marie Widor, its majestic notes resonating through the chapel and lifting hearts in praise.

May this sacred instrument continue to inspire worship, deepen faith, and fill every corner of the chapel with music that glorifies God for generations to come.



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We share the Opening Remarks of Sr. Evangeline so that everyone will know how this Pipe Organ came to SPUM:

Today is a day of gratitude and joy for our university community as we gather for the blessing and inauguration of the pipe organ of the Chapel of the Crucified Christ. Your presence makes this celebration even more meaningful, because this instrument is not only for us — it is for the Church, for our students, and for all who will pray and worship in this sacred space in the years to come. We also remember with gratitude the life and legacy of Father Louis Chauvet, the founder of the SPC Congregation. Yesterday marked his birthday, and today is the celebration of his baptism — a providential coincidence for this occasion. He himself was a musician who understood the power of sacred music in worship and formation. It is fitting that we bless this instrument under the memory of one who believed that beauty leads the soul toward God.

The journey toward this moment began with a simple but profound invitation. It was Fr. Ric Marpa who encouraged us to consider acquiring a pipe organ for our chapel, and he generously assured us that, should we agree, he would help facilitate the entire process—from identifying the instrument to arranging its acquisition and ensuring its proper restoration so that it would function fully before installation in our chapel. He connected us with the right people. That promise of guidance transformed what first seemed like a distant possibility into a concrete and hopeful undertaking. As a university blessed with a College of Music and Performing Arts, and as we pursue the offering of a Master's in Pastoral Liturgical Music, we recognized that a pipe organ — the historic "king of instruments" — would be both a liturgical necessity and an academic gift. It would anchor our commitment to sacred music and strengthen our mission of formation. A brand-new organ would indeed have been a treasure—and one requiring an extraordinary investment. Yet in humble and providential ways, we were led instead to a remarkable opportunity: a historic pipe organ formerly installed at Gee Cross Methodist Church on Stockport Road in Hyde, United Kingdom, a church founded in 1882 but closed down in 2021. The instrument proved perfectly suited to our chapel in both scale and character—neither too large nor too small—as though it had been waiting for its next home. Its journey from Hyde, United Kingdom to Manila speaks to the continuity of sacred music across cultures, religions, and centuries, carrying with it a legacy of craftsmanship and ecclesial heritage that now becomes part of our own story.

Bringing the organ home and restoring it required a significant commitment from the University, made possible largely through years of careful stewardship and savings. We were also encouraged by the support of members of our alumni community. In particular, we acknowledge High School Batch '75, who shared a portion of the proceeds of their golden jubilee fundraising event, "*Broadway of Herran*," with this project, under the leadership of Ms. Sunny Escareal Velasco. Their gesture, offered in affection for their alma mater, was a welcome contribution that accompanied the University's own efforts. We thank them for their kindness and solidarity. Representing the batch today is actress and singer Ms. Pinky Marquez Cancio, who also served as the musical director of "*Broadway of Herran*," and we extend our gratitude to her and to the entire batch.

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Because the Chapel of the Crucified Christ has been declared an important cultural property of the Philippines, this project demanded careful stewardship. We entered into a series of correspondences with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and the National Museum of the Philippines. Their representatives and technical team personally visited the chapel to ensure that every step would preserve its architectural and historical integrity. The organ itself weighs about 2.7 tons, so we also commissioned a structural engineer to certify that the chapel could safely support it. Even the instrument's placement required approval, so that its presence would respect and harmonize with the original design of this sacred structure.

After receiving the necessary clearances, we entrusted the instrument to Diego Cera Organ Builders for a complete restoration. For nearly two years, skilled hands worked patiently and lovingly to return the organ to its full voice. Toward the end of January, 2026, their team arrived to begin a four-week installation. Piece by piece, pipe by pipe, the instrument took its place in the chapel—until finally, it was ready. We offer our sincere thanks to the entire Diego Cera staff, led by its President, Mr. Cealwyn Tagle and Mr. Jowell Cruz, for their craftsmanship, dedication, and care in bringing this historic instrument back to life.

And today, we stand at the fulfillment of that long and careful journey. This organ will do more than produce sound. It will support our liturgy, lead our singing, form our students, and lift our prayer. May every note that fills this chapel draw us closer to God and remind us that beauty offered in worship is itself a sacred act. At the Mass prior to this program, we were already blessed to hear the St. Paul Manila Choral led Mr. Oliver Rodriguez, accompanied on the pipe organ by Ces Disini-Pitogo, Program Chair of the College of Music and Performing Arts. We will be hearing more of this uplifting music after the program, and we warmly invite you to stay and continue sharing in this gift of sacred sound. Welcome, and thank you for sharing in this historic moment with us.

We also share the talk of Diego Cera President, Mr. Cealwyn Tagle, to complete the narrative:

I am Cealwyn Tagle, head of Diego Cera Organ builders Inc. Together with my late colleague Edgar Montiano, we established the company in 1994 after our six years of studies and training in pipe organ building in Austria and Germany. We were scholars of the Bamboo Organ Foundation.

I grew up listening to a pipe organ, the Bamboo Organ and as a member of the Las Pinas Boys Choir in my childhood time, I always thought that church music was always with a pipe organ. Little did I knew that we were just lucky and blessed in Las Pinas that Father Diego Cera, an Augustinian Recollect missionary from Spain came to our town 200 years ago and built the Bamboo Organ and started a school to train locals in the art of building pipe organs. His other pipe organs are still existing and can be found in San Agustin Church in Intramuros, in the churches of Argao, Cebu and Baclayon, Bohol. Thus, it was right that we named our company, Diego Cera Organ Builders to pay homage to the builder of the famous Bamboo Organ.

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Aside from building new pipe organs, restoration of old historic pipe organs has always been our passion. One can always learn a lot in working with old instruments. This was the case with the restoration of the pipe organ of St. Paul University Manila. Built in 1910 by the company Edward Wadsworth and Brother from Manchester for a church in their area, it is characterized as having a true English pipe organ sound built in solid traditional English pipe organ quality. It has a mechanical action system on the two manual keyboards and a pneumatic action system for the pedals. It has 16 stops in a typical English style which is very good in the accompaniment of hymn singing. With a total of 820 organ pipes, it is categorized as a small/medium sized church pipe organ.

Our restoration primarily centered on making the instrument more adaptable to our humid tropical climate. Wood preservatives were applied and leather parts were replaced with local leather that lasts longer. All wooden pipes were dismantled to basic parts and were put back together using tropicalized wood glue since the old glue 100 years ago does not hold well in our warmer and humid climate. The same restoration process was done on the windchests of the organ, the heart of the pipe organ to ensure that all the vital parts can last longer. Since the organ was originally placed in a corner of a church, the left side of the casework was not available. Reconstruction of the case was done basically copying the right side of the case together with the fake façade pipes. Fortunately, it was also possible to somehow re-voice the organ so that it will sound better although with some limitations. Every pipe organ is different. Usually, pipe organs are custom-built to fit a specific space. When we design and construct pipe organs, we always have to study the church, measure its size and analyze its acoustics, and considering its architectural character. The instrument must not only fit physically, but also harmonize visually and acoustically with its surroundings.

The pipe organ of St. Paul University Chapel, though not originally built for this location, appears remarkably at home. It stands with dignity in the choir loft, its case design blending gracefully with the chapel's architecture. More importantly, its tonal design responds beautifully to the chapel's acoustics. It is as though the organ had been destined for this sacred space from the very beginning. We are deeply grateful to Sister Evangeline and to the community of St. Paul of Chartres for this opportunity to share our expertise and passion in reviving pipe organs and preserving traditional sacred music in the country.



From the chapel, the guests trooped to the Founders Lobby for a reception. There was a brief strong rain, which seemed to extend the Lord's blessing. It was a joyful gathering of old and new friends, marked by cheerful conversations, numerous photo-ops, especially with Fr. Manoling, who stayed and regaled the group with his presence.

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WALKING HERITAGE TOUR GROUPS VISIT SPUM

Two history and culture groups came to SPUM on their Walking Heritage Tour, specifically to visit our Chapel and St. Joseph Garden: 1) World War II Foundation at 4:15 PM, on Friday, February 20, 2026.



With the group was American James Scott, award winning author of *Rampage*, which details the 1945 Battle of Manila.



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2) Renacimiento, headed by Supremo Torres with 47 others, on 21 February 2026.



Meeting them was a worthy historical, cultural and social experience for us all.

From Sr. Flor: Thanks especially for the personal support of Jeannie, Ms. Judith, Ms. Gertrude, Ms. Hannah, Mika and Allie—and everyone behind the scenes.

All for God's glory and the good of SPUM.



SPUM JOINS SMEC RESEARCH CONGRESS

Contributed by Nitz Garcia-Brocay



De La Salle University Laguna Campus successfully convened the 8th SMEC Research Congress on February 19–20, 2026, at its campus in Laguna with the theme: "Truth, Transparency and Transformation: Research for Good Governance and Sustainable Futures."

The two-day academic forum convened scholars, researchers, and stakeholders to deliberate on the critical role of research in advancing ethical governance, institutional accountability, and sustainable development.

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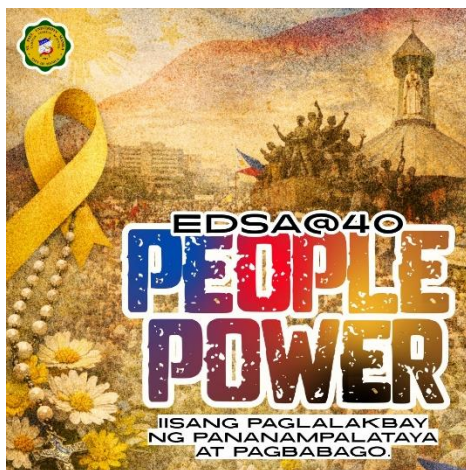
The St. Paul University Manila team was headed by Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, University President. Research presentations were delivered by distinguished faculty and scholars: Dr. Brian Bantugan, Dr. Jenny Olivar, Ms. Johanna Belale, Mr. Benedicto Modesto, and Ms. Michelle Mijares. Supporting the academic proceedings were key SMEC Committee members: Mr. Lamer Morales, representing the SMEC Research Committee; Ms. Rosalle Dizon, SMEC-SPUM Liaison Officer; Ms. Rowena Cayanan, Library Committee; Ms. Nenita Garcia-Brocoy, Ethics Committee; Engr. Henry De Guzman, Information and Technology Committee; and Mr. Lee Catura, RPQA Research Representative.

The event emphasized collaboration across disciplines to foster research that upholds truthfulness, promotes transparency in public systems, and catalyzes transformative solutions toward sustainable futures.



SPUM JOINS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDSA-PEOPLE POWER

Courage ignited EDSA. Hope sustained it. People power transformed a nation. Forty years later, we continue the fight against corruption and stand for truth and integrity. Paulinians, let us rise together.



FEB. 25
ACTIVITY DETAILS:

- Attire: UWeek Shirt '26
- Assembly Area: SPU Manila Quadrangle
- Assembly Time: 12:30 PM
- Bus Departure: 1:00 PM (bound for EDSA)

>10:00 AM – Eucharistic Celebration at the Chapel of the Crucified Christ
>12:30 PM – Assembly at the SPU Manila Quadrangle
>1:00 PM – Departure for the People Power Monument
>4:00 PM – Grand Marian Procession at the EDSA Shrine
>6:00 PM – Holy Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Socrates Villegas, D.D.
>8:00 PM – Departure from the EDSA Shrine

★ Reminder: All students and employees are required to answer the designated Google Form.

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40 Years. A Sacred Journey

In Scripture, the number 40 signifies a period of testing that leads to transformation. As we commemorate EDSA at 40, may we renew our commitment to truth, justice, unity, and prayer, entrusting our nation to God's guiding hand.

Attire: University Week Shirt '26

10:00 AM – Eucharistic Celebration at the Chapel of the Crucified Christ

12:30 PM – Assembly at the SPU Manila Quadrangle

1:00 PM – Departure for the People Power Monument

4:00 PM – Grand Marian Procession at the EDSA Shrine

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8:00 PM – Departure from the EDSA Shrine

Mass in Thanksgiving for 40 Years of People Power

February 25, 2026: In grateful remembrance of the 40th Anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution, we gathered as one community in prayer and thanksgiving.

We were deeply moved and delighted to see so many students attend the Mass upon their own volition — a beautiful witness of faith, patriotism, and hope.



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As we honored the courage of those who stood for truth and freedom, we also entrusted our nation's future to God — praying that the spirit of unity, integrity, and people power will continue to guide us.



Celebrating 40 Years of People Power at EDSA

On the 40th Anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution, we stood once more on historic ground — grateful, hopeful, and united. We were there — a living sign of our enduring love for the Philippines.

The fight is not over. We continue to stand against corruption. We continue to call for genuine reforms, including the passage of an anti-dynasty law. We continue to defend truth, justice, and accountable leadership.

Forty years later, the spirit of courage and people power lives on — not only in memory, but in action.

For our country.

For our people.

For the future we believe in.



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40 Years of People Power. A Legacy We Continue

On February 26, 2026, the Paulinian community gathered at the Founder's Lobby to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution through a meaningful Students' Exhibit and Reflection Gallery.



The Community gathered not only to remember history, but to encounter it—through stories, images, and shared reflections that reignited the spirit of faith, courage, and unity. The event was a collaboration between the Religious Education classes, handled by Ms. Judith Alderete, and the Art Appreciation classes, handled by Dr. Brian Bantugan and Ms. Gertrude Montenegro.



The program was enriched with powerful artistic tributes. "Until the Next Four Decades," a spoken word poetry by Cyd Mondia (BSN-2), echoed a generation's promise to carry the torch forward. The original composition "Bayan Mahal," written by Fr. Jillian Pentinio, resonated deeply through the heartfelt performance of Rex Vincent Medrana (voice), Fr. Jillian Pentinio (piano), Maria Ruth Paquera (violin), Luke Yea (cello), and Ken Ronald Dela Peña (contrabass).

The St. Paul University Manila Chorale, led by Prof. Oliver Rodriguez, united everyone in a communal song that celebrated love of country and shared hope.

Through a communal prayer led by Reign Ceballos and an inspiring message from Bishop Raul Dael addressed to all young people, the gathering became more than a commemoration—it became a call. A call to remember that People Power lives on whenever we choose truth, justice, compassion, and faith in action.

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Because 40 years later, the revolution continues—not in the streets alone, but in every heart brave enough to stand for what is right.

AND LOOKING BACK TO 40 YEARS AGO...

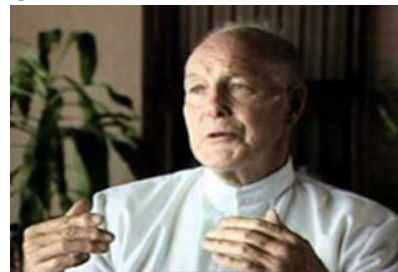
The Alumni Relations Office posted the following recollection on Facebook:

Today we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the EDSA Revolution. Many of you will remember EDSA and your role in that historical event. Others, who may be too young to remember it, will be proud to know that some Paulinians were part of that precedent-setting example of People Power, which made the world sit up and take notice of the Philippines.



June Keithley (HS 1965) is remembered for her role in the People Power Revolution of 1986, when she became the voice of EDSA on Radyo Bandido and called on the Filipino people to join the undertaking.

Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ, Chaplain of St. Paul Manila, who had discovered June as the star of SPCM's production of *The Sound of Music*, was with her again, blessing her and giving her courage and strength.



Lining the spiral staircase to the room at the top of the building were nuns from her beloved St. Paul Manila and from other schools, praying the rosary and putting their lives at risk, as June was.



Another Paulinian who was involved in People Power was Virna Lisa Loberiza (Mananzan), who became famous for singing the song "Magkaisa," which became one of the two EDSA anthems.

Virna attended St. Paul Pasig (GS) and St. Paul QC (HS) and is, therefore, a full-blooded Paulinian.

Unknown to many, singer Celeste Legaspi (HS 1966) was at EDSA, not on stage but in the sidelines, helping to cook meals for the soldiers.



She also joined fellow singers in recording the other EDSA anthem, "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo," featuring composer, Jim Paredes, and other OPM icons, including Pinky Marquez (also a Paulinian, HS 75).



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And one should never forget what Estelita G. Juco (HS 1948, BSE 1952) did for the country and the people's fight for freedom, not just at EDSA, but much earlier, as an activist and hard-hitting journalist.

She is among the modern-day Filipino heroes immortalized in the *Bantayog ng Mga Bayani* on EDSA. Soon after Cory Aquino was installed as President of the Philippines, she appointed Ms. Juco as Sectoral Representative for Women and the Disabled.



And of course, Juan Ponce-Enrile (JPE), who led the movement with Gringo Honasan, is the husband of Cristina Castañer, HS 1955.

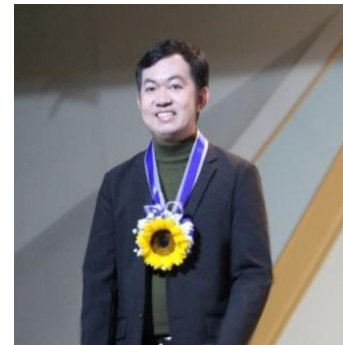


So, dear Paulinians of this generation and the next, be aware of the glorious heritage your predecessors blazed in the history of our beloved country and do whatever you can to live up to this legacy.

CMPA Graduation Recital

St. Paul University Manila College of Music and the Performing Arts proudly celebrated the Graduation Recital of Mr. Kurt Patrick Estudillo, a candidate for the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance (ETEEAP Program).

The recital was held at the Founder's Hall on March 19, 2026. Under the tutelage of Ms. Mary Anne Espina, Mr. Estudillo delivered a captivating and masterful performance—bringing to life a rich and diverse repertoire that showcased both technical brilliance and deep musical expression.



The recital featured timeless works from renowned composers: **Sonata in E Major, K. 380** by Domenico Scarlatti; **Concert Paraphrase on Verdi's Rigoletto** by Franz Liszt; **Etude Op. 10 No. 2** by Frédéric Chopin; **Tarantela (based on "Pen pen de Sarapen")** by Augusto Espino; **Two Pieces from "The Love for Three Oranges"** by Sergei Prokofiev; **Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Each piece was performed with passion, precision, and artistry—truly a testament to his dedication and love for music.

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SOME GOOD NEWS...

CELEBRATING CMPA EXCELLENCE AT THE 38TH ALIW AWARDS 2025



The College of Music and the Performing Arts (CMPA) of Saint Paul University Manila proudly honors its esteemed faculty members for their exceptional accomplishments at the 38th ALIW Awards held on 15 December 2025.

Ronan Ferrer – Best Male Classical Singer
Mary Anne Espina – Best Instrumentalist (Piano)
Jonathan Tad Tadioan – Best Lead Actor in a Play

Your passion, mastery, and commitment to the arts continue to shape excellence and inspire the next generation of Paulinian artists. SPU Manila is truly proud of you!

SPUM TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER AWARDED

On December 17, 2025, St. Paul University Manila proudly congratulated the SPU Manila TESDA Training and Assessment Center for receiving a Certificate of Appreciation and the Standards Adherence Award from TESDA Manila, in recognition of its valuable support, exemplary collaboration, and steadfast commitment to regulatory standards and quality assurance.

These recognitions reflect the Center's dedication to excellence, integrity, and continuous improvement in advancing skills development and educational services.

The entire SPU Manila community is immensely proud of you and your hard work and dedication.



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PROUDLY ANNOUNCING A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT

We are honored to formally announce that St. Paul University Manila is now an official Institutional Member of the Association of Administrators in Hospitality, Hotel and Restaurant Management Educational Institutions (AAHRMEI).

This institutional membership signifies our steadfast commitment to academic excellence, industry relevance, and continuous quality improvement in Hospitality and Tourism education. Being part of AAHRMEI strengthens our collaborative engagements with leading academic institutions and industry partners nationwide, fostering innovation, research development, and professional advancement in Hospitality and Hotel & Restaurant Management Education.

Through this affiliation, St. Paul University Manila further reinforces its mission to deliver transformative, outcomes-based education aligned with national and global standards in the hospitality industry.

We look forward to meaningful partnerships, academic collaboration, and sustained contributions to the advancement of hospitality education in the Philippines.



BS HOSPITALITY STUDENTS ATTAIN CAHP STATUS



Congratulations to the newest designation holders of the CAHP Program!

Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to professional development have led you to this remarkable achievement.

Your passion for excellence truly inspires us all.

We are proud of you and look forward to the positive impact you will make in your respective fields!

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TOURISM STUDENTS PASS INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

Our BSTM students have successfully passed their International Certification Examinations under the Global Professional Advancement Certification Program!

This achievement reflects their dedication, competence, and commitment to professional excellence in the field of tourism. Their success also demonstrates the institution's continuing effort to provide globally relevant training and certification opportunities for our students.

May this milestone inspire them to pursue greater professional growth and continue to uphold the standards of global service excellence.



TOURISM STUDENT COMPLETES FLIGHT ATTENDANT TRAINING PROGRAM



Congratulations to Ms. Chyna Ortiz, a BSTM student, on this amazing milestone!

She has officially earned her first wing from PTC Aviation Training Center after successfully finishing the 15-day Flight Attendant Training Program.

Proudly representing Batch 25–47 (AM Class)—your hard work, discipline, and dedication truly paid off.

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GRAD PASSES EDUCATION LET

From classrooms to credentials—another Paulinian success story! SPU Manila proudly congratulates alumna Patricia Dioquino, Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in English, for successfully passing the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET). Your dedication and passion for teaching continue to make the Paulinian community proud.



SPUM ADMINISTRATORS COMPLETE CSASSC



Francis George V. Calilan, Head, Student Affairs Office, and Edana Marie Sopoco, Administrative Assistant, Student Affairs Office, completed the Certified Student Affairs and Services Specialist Course 2025 (CSASSC) at the UST Center for Continuing Professional Education and



Development, a member of the Philippine Association of Practitioners of Student Affairs and Services (PAPSAS). The closing ceremony was held on January 31, 2026.

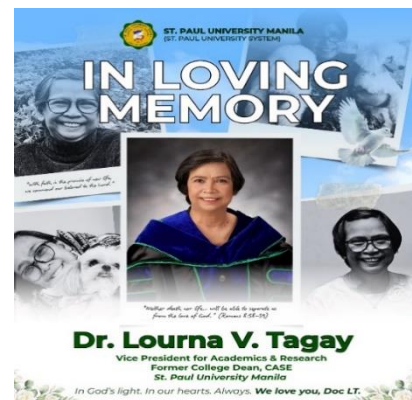


AND SOME SAD...

SPU MANILA MOURNS PASSING OF VP-ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

SPU Manila mourns the passing of our dearly loved Vice President for Academics and Research, Dr. Lourna V. Tagay.

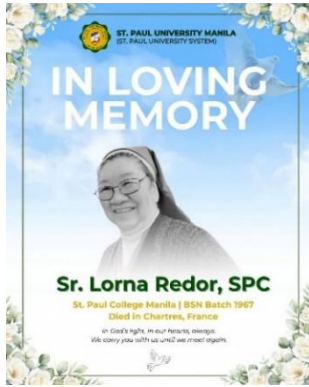
Her life was a profound witness to service, wisdom, and steadfast commitment to academic excellence and the Paulinian mission. As we grieve her loss, we remain anchored in our faith—trusting that death is not an end, but a passage to new life in God's eternal embrace.



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We commend Dr. Tagay to the loving mercy of God. Her legacy will continue to inspire and live on in the hearts of the Paulinian community.

SPC SISTER AND ALUMNA PASSES AWAY



We prayerfully commend to God our beloved SPC Sister, a proud alumna of St. Paul University Manila (BSN, 1967), who has now returned to the Father's loving embrace.

She offered her life generously in missionary service in France, witnessing faithfully to the Gospel and the Paulinian spirit through her whole life.

We give thanks for her vocation, her quiet heroism, and her enduring love for God and God's people. May she now rest in the eternal peace of the Lord she served so well.

AND THE LENTEN SEASON STARTS...

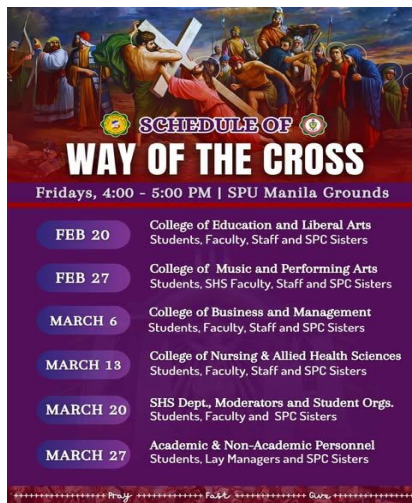
ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

On 18 February 2026, the Paulinian community gathered at the Fleur-de-lis Theater for the Ash Wednesday Holy Mass. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Geovanie Baco.



It was a sacred moment of humility, reflection, and renewal— a reminder that through repentance, God's mercy restores us and offers us a fresh beginning.

WAY OF THE CROSS



College of Education and Liberal Arts

In prayerful unity with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, the staff and students of the College of Education and Liberal Arts came together to mark the first week of Lent through the Way of the Cross.



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As we journeyed through each station, we were reminded of Christ’s boundless love and sacrifice—a call to reflect, renew our hearts, and grow deeper in faith this Lenten season.

College of Music and the Performing Arts



In solemn unity with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Music and the Performing Arts gathered to observe the second week of Lent through the Way of the Cross on the school grounds on February 27, 2026.

As we journeyed through each station, we were reminded that beyond every harmony and performance lies Christ’s enduring love and sacrifice—a call to deepen our faith, reflect on His Passion, and renew our commitment to live with humility and compassion this Lenten season. May this sacred observance continue to shape our hearts, guiding us to become instruments of peace, hope, and spiritual renewal within our Paulinian community.



College of Business and Management



United with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Business and Management came together for the Way of the Cross in observance of the third week of Lent. As we reflected on each station, we were reminded that true leadership is rooted not only in competence, but in sacrifice, integrity, and love.

Christ’s journey calls us to examine our intentions, align our goals with faith, and place service at the heart of all we pursue.

May this Lenten reflection inspire us to become ethical leaders and compassionate stewards —Paulinians who lead with purpose, act with justice, and serve with humility for the greater good.



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College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences



With hearts set in prayer and reflection, the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, together with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, gathered to observe the Way of the Cross as part of the Lenten season.

Walking the path of Christ's suffering invited quiet reflection on compassion, endurance, and self-giving love—values that lie at the core of the healing professions. It was a moment to pause, listen, and be reminded that true care begins with presence, mercy, and faith.



WE END THE FIRST QUARTER ON A HIGH NOTE...

KANTIYAWAN 2026: "OPM AT OPM"

Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPUM President, writes about this event:



More than a showcase of talent, Kantiyawan 2026 beautifully reflected three of our Paulinian core values: Charism, Community, and Charity.

Charism shone brightly as our employees and some students generously shared their gifts on stage—truly super galing! Each performer gave his or her best, offering their talents not for personal recognition but for the joy of sharing them with the whole community..

Community came alive in a very special way. On that stage, no one was too young or too old, too new or nearing retirement. No one was there as dean, faculty member, office staff, or maintenance personnel. Everyone simply belonged. Everyone worked together—onstage, backstage, and behind the scenes—to create something beautiful.

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It was especially heartwarming to see members of our maintenance staff, including many of the new ones, confidently taking part in the show.



And all this was done in the spirit of Charity, as the proceeds of the event will support the Student Assistance Program of SPU Manila, extending the joy of the evening to students who need help to pursue their education.



One could almost imagine our beloved late original director, Dr. Lourna Tagay, smiling from heaven, delighted to see the new directors, Ms. Rhej and Oliver, the performers, and the many people behind the scenes continuing the joyful spirit of Kantiyawan. Congratulations to everyone! Your talent, generosity, and unity truly brought our Paulinian values to life.

