



The Bedan **ALUMNUS**

The Official Publication of the
San Beda College Alumni Association
Third Epoch • Founded 1962 by Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB



Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB
Amazing @ 99



Comm. Rene V. Sarmiento, Jr.
New SBCCA President

San Beda College Alumni Association's **DUAL JEWELS**



SMART

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Hands down, the cover subject of this edition of The Bedan Alumnus pays tribute to two important personalities in the San Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA): Rev. Benigno Benabarre, OSB and Commissioner Rene V. Sarmiento. Fr. Benabarre recently celebrated his long and well-lived 99th birthday, while retired COMELEC Commissioner Rene has just been elected president of the SBCAA.

Editor's Note



Dr. Joffre M. Alajar
(GS '72, HS '76, CAS '80)

In this issue, the Editorial Board brought together the graduation speeches of distinguished *alumni/ae* who were invited to address the Class of 2014 during the commencement rites of the different academic departments of San Beda College. Their speeches are so inspiring, these deserve a space in our alumni magazine, hoping that these will further challenge the readers to be persons of prayer, work and peace for "San Beda, our country and God."

The new academic year 2014-2015 ushers in a new page in the rich history of the SBCAA, with the election of five new board trustees and a new set of dynamic and refreshing officers who will surely lead the SBCAA to an even higher level of service to the entire Bedan race.

Long-live the new SBCAA board! May they continue being the most important partner of our beloved San Beda College in further realizing its vision-mission and identity as a 114-year old Benedictine learning institution.

Enjoy, and hopefully, get inspired leafing through this issue.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It is a great privilege to be leading this year's San Beda College Alumni Association. Whatever I have accomplished in life, I owe it to the quality Benedictine education I received from SBC. And for me, it is payback time! I know however that I could do better and bring the SBCAA to even greater heights of excellence and service by working well with fellow Bedans who are now in the SBCAA Board. I vow to be in mission with you all as we bring the SBCAA to an even higher level of service for SBC, country and God.

I also welcome other Bedans who may wish to serve the SBCAA to feel free to approach us so we can further discuss how you can be of valuable help to our association.

Your SBCAA board trustees sat together to craft a strategic roadmap that is aligned with the College's two-year development plan. We see the SBCAA continuously being the College's formidable partner in the latter's mission of Bedan Education. And so we made sure, the SBCAA is in synch with the College in its plans and programs.

I take this opportune time to welcome the young bloods in our SBCAA board, namely: Dr. Christian Bryan Bustamante, the vice-dean of the SBC College of Arts & Sciences; Prof. Mike Rubio, prefect of academic affairs for school athletes; Atty. Alex Flores and Mr. Richard Guevara. I am sure they will provide the dynamism and innovativeness much needed in implementing the many plans and programs of our alumni association.

Of equal importance is the presence of seasoned board trustees, namely: PBA Commissioner Chito Loyzaga, NCAA management committee chairman (MANCOM) Jose Mari Lacson; Rex Bookstore Chair Atty. Dominador Buhain; businessman, Atty. Jonas Cabochan; Engr. Eriberto Gomez; Coach Ato Badolato; Justice Jose Reyes, and outgoing SBCAA Prexy Jojo Hautea. These outstanding Bedans will surely provide the stability and wisdom of experience needed in the SBCAA.

We continuously treasure the inspiring presence of Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB and Fr. Basil Apostol, OSB in our SBCAA office, together with Dr. Joffre Alajar who has been diligently and competently serving our Alumni office for the past 14 years now, and our able staff led by Wilma, Alex, Jovy and Alvin, who complete a strong support group. With them, I know we can achieve even more as an alumni association.



THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S LINE



One of our successful SBC Alumni Foundation programs is the Professorial Chair. To date, the College and the SBCAF have received a total of 16 professorial chairs in various academic disciplines from a number of generous Bedans.

At the start of AY 2014-2015, we are pleased to be informed that the Penson family has agreed to donate a Professorial Chair to be named Dr. Cecilio Halili Penson Distinguished Professorial Chair in Social Marketing. Nominated to receive this Professorial Chair is Prof. Pamela Tendero, chair of the Marketing Program of SBC-CAS. Thanks to the Penson family for continuously lending support to the many plans and programs of San Beda College. We understand that the Penson brothers are the top supporters of our College football team. More power to the Penson family, and we look forward to launching your Professorial Chair Program in Social Marketing.

Another highly successful program of the SBC Alumni Foundation is the Scholarship Fund Assistance to our financially-handicapped students. For AY 2014-2015, the SBCAF is pleased to have a new batch of scholars, namely: Calvin U. Fernandez (3rd year, BS Legal Management); Ma. Rafaela D. Pecante (4th year BS Accountancy); Angella Mari Recio (4th year BS Nursing); Francisco V. Offemaria (4th year, BS Legal Management); Tommy N. Ong (2nd year, BS Accountancy); Maria Concepcion C. Ignacio (2nd year, BS Psychology); Samantha Lovisa B. Ramirez (1st year, BS Accountancy); Roanne Mae G. Guerrero (2nd year, BS Accountancy); and Angelo B. Garcia (1st year, BS Accountancy).

We continuously knock on the doors of generous Bedans to support our plant a-native-tree advocacy of the SBCAF, dubbed: "Red Lions Living Highways; Let's Plant Native Trees. By your donation of Php2,500, you get the chance to plant a native tree in SBC Rizal and Mendiola campuses etc. To date, we have raised substantial funds from this project for our student scholarship and professorial chair program. At the same time, we are able to protect our environment through the planting of native trees.



Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, Jr. shares his thoughts...

On becoming SBCCA President...

Becoming the President of the SBCCA is a blessing beyond measure. Thinking of it every now and then is uplifting and inspiring. Like St. Paul who kept on thanking God (23 times he used the word thanks in his letters), I can only do the same and say Thank God!

But with this honor and privilege comes responsibility. Guided by the Benedictine monks and supported by my fellow Bedan alumni, my role is to contribute to the realization of the vision-mission-goal of the SBCCA which is best summarized in three letters, namely, S (spirituality, the Benedictine way), B (benevolence to others) and C (competence in this globalized world).

On how he wants to be remembered...

I hope that my term as President will be remembered as SBC, meaning Socially/Spiritually Benedictine in its Commitments/Concerns.

On his SBCCA Plans and Programs...

As President of the SBCCA, my plans/programs will consist of a harmonious synthesis of both internal and external activities. Internal will be the continuation of the customary activities being undertaken by SBCCAA (fellowship/spiritual/sports/frolics/fund-raising activities). External will be sponsoring and intensifying outreach initiatives (projects for the marginalized and poor) and environmental ventures. A combination of internal – external activities will be helping the school pass with flying colors the PAASCU accreditation to make San Beda College domestically and globally responsive and competitive.

On what keeps him busy these days after serving as COMELEC Commissioner...

What keeps me busy these days after government service are three Ls: law teaching and mentoring, law practice and counseling, and lay apostolate (as Eucharistic Minister of the Holy Eucharist and as member of the Liturgical Bible Study of Shrine of Jesus the Divine Word).



“ Go forth and defy!
Be unafraid of sacrifice!
Always take charge of your life! ”

Leila M. De Lima Secretary of Justice

On the Occasion of the Commencement
Exercises of the Graduating Class of 2014
of the College of Arts and Sciences of San Beda College
08:00 a.m.
28 March 2014
Philippine International Convention Center
Pasay City

Commencement speeches are one of the great collegiate traditions of modern civilization. It is the time when an academic institution invites a person perceived to have achieved significant success in his or her chosen field to address a graduating class and bestow upon it a wisdom shaped by personal struggles and triumphs.

In the letter of Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, to me, he said in one brief sentence the institutional perception and the institution's expectation of me. While only history can validate indeed if I was an *"accomplished Bedan and an ideal public servant,"* the freshly scrubbed faces of the graduates before me can immediately validate what Fr. Maranan *"confidently"* anticipates, which is that I can inspire the members of your class. I shall do my level best Father-Rector.

I remember reading from Time Magazine before that a successful commencement speech should be short, smart, poignant and uplifting. Graduates, parents and teachers, we will have a problem with *"short."* I am a lawyer, while diminutive, is still a lawyer. And as lawyers, we do have a professional predisposition to while away the time talking. Nonetheless, I shall try to keep you here for only under an hour.

On the *"smart"* front, I am assured that, as all of you in the graduating class, OUR San Beda education has seen to that particular requirement. However, I will even throw in wisdom for like most women, I believe I have been receptive and sensitized by the experience and beauty of pain and joy in my life. I say that again with all confidence for it is Women's Month after all. Remember to always have a woman's voice in any area of policy and influence. Believe you me a woman will hasten the resolution of issues and the realization of what once were merely possibilities. That is why I was most pleased to have just recently heard what is old news to everyone and that is San Beda College, since 2005, have already accepted women in the College of Arts and Sciences. Well done and bravo!

For the latter two - *"poignant"* and *"uplifting"* -, I shall endeavor to harness all my years of being a reader and communicate a message steep in inspiration and hope.

One of the biggest mistakes about education, most notably university education, is the view that the sole function of a diploma is to ensure employability. Yes, of course, I understand the need for employment. By earning, you support your family. By earning, you contribute to the dynamic calisthenics of our thankfully booming economy. But a university diploma is more than economics. An education is not merely a path to create the means but an opportunity to define yourself deeper and with more breadth and passion so that you can be a vital component to a society-in-healing such as our own.

I hope that everyone here realized very early on that college is the time you start to really mould the person you will become. It is the time to discover yourself. This should have been the time to answer the question: who am I?

Philosopher and social scientist C. Taylor said: I am a self only in relation to certain interlocutors, ellipses. A self exists only within what I call webs of interlocution! I think what he means to say is that "A Self" does not exist in a vacuum. You are a product of your constant engagement with society.

I understand that most parents toiled to send their children to school to land jobs and secure a stable future. As a

parent, I cannot help but agree with that. However, it is erroneous to think that your identity is hinged only on a job, on your earning capacity, on the kind of watch you wear or the bag you tote around. Your San Beda education is more than your paycheck. It is more than your position in a company or in Government. It is more than a hundred thousand followers in *Instagram*, more than the hundred thousand likes clicked on your *selfie*. It is more than your earnings in the bank or the jewels in the vault or the stamps in your passport.

If you were receptive, your San Beda education would have taught you that your value in society is magnified by the goodness of your deeds, the purity of your heart and the commitment to contribute for a good change in society. Your San Beda education would have given you, as it has given me, the courage to aspire to be a hero and saint, brethren and friend, counsel and supporter, follower and leader. One standard should resonate in all of us and that is we live to be the relevant change our society needs.

We are products of history and we are also beneficiaries of the defiance's of others. I am here because someone defied for me. I was educated because my father defied his impoverished roots so his children can claim their place in the sun. I was a young mother and placed eighth in the

bar exam because I stood on the shoulders of women who defied a society that scoffed at a woman's competencies and strengths. I enjoy the public's trust because there are officers in my stable at the Department of Justice that defy the lure of a lucrative practice to prosecute for witnesses who defied their fear of ridicule, distrust and their own termination.

I ask you, what will **YOU** defy? What defiance, rooted in conviction, integrity and good sense, will you do to benefit another, to benefit our society, and our country? Remember to defy because you want to give and not because you want to take. Remember to defy because **YOU ARE** the change. A full life is not determined by what you have but by what **YOU GAVE**.

You need not look further than the Benedictine monks who defied plagues, wars, barbarian invasions and cultural collapse. Their defiance was most manifest in how they successfully maintained and preserved the monastic houses as places of piety, work and scholarly activities.

Their defiance to simply exist amid the chaos or despite of it allowed humanity to preserve the very best of civilization.

By their hand we continue to read and argue today about the



metaphysics formulated by the Ancient Greeks. Through the monks' hard work, they pioneered in all forms of agriculture thereby contributing across epochs in the provision of food security for the communities around it. They helped establish advances in metallurgy, architecture and engineering.

And perhaps the most relevant to students and teachers alike, it was a Benedictine monk who defied the practice at that time in Europe when forms of scripts were written with no punctuation and spaces in between. Thanks to the defiance, perseverance and innovation of Abbot Fredegise² of the early ninth century AD, we now all know a form of writing with lowercase letters, space between words and punctuation. The development of this form of writing known as the Carolingian miniscule paved the way for rapid reading and writing, facilitating learning and knowledge-sharing and thereby shaping in a great and grand fashion the progress of civilizations. For those of you who will become law students, imagine the horror of reading law books without the benefit of the Carolingian miniscule where a 600-page law book would have been written in only one lingering sentence.

Do you feel that I have imposed upon you the grand narratives of history and philosophy? Do you think it fair for me to hold you in such lofty ideals? What I propose simply is this. Do not fear sacrifice. I do not mean grand acts of sacrifice. The farthest thing from my mind is for us to romanticize it. You need not engage in massive, grand elaborate acts of self-sacrifice. It could be as simple as giving up your seat on a bus, or at the MRT in favor of the elderly, the physically challenged, pregnant women or adults carrying little children. It is not about archaic concepts of chivalry, but a basic and pragmatic consciousness of your advantage over others, and using that to make other people's lives, or even day, a little better. These small yet consistent acts of selflessness could go a long way because you are not only conditioning yourself to be a better human being, but also helping ignite such compassion in other people. Grandiose acts of self-sacrifice

can be intimidating, but simple acts of selflessness is much more accessible and tangible and, hence, easier to replicate and to pass forward.

Thus, when an opportunity for sacrifice is before you, do not shun it. To live a meaningful life, it is not enough to work hard. Through moments of your life, you will need to give up a little or a big part of yourself for the sake of a cause or the upliftment of another. Welcome and be thankful for the opportunity of service. Sacrifice and you will see how life and love will recompense you.

We have told tales about defiance and sacrifice. I share my third lesson, if you can call it that, to make it a triumvirate. My final sharing is for all of you young ones to take charge of your life.

Let me validate what you all fear. There will be gut-wrenching disappointments. You will get hurt. You will suffer and you will know pain. If you have never known insecurities before, this time when you will need to engage the real world, you will not be as lucky. You will be gripped by anxiety and disappointment so intangible that one

social philosopher³ likened it to a bankruptcy of the soul that expended too much in hope and expectations.

Here is the thing. You cannot stop disappointment. You cannot stop failure. It is how you react to it that matters. Put a timeline on the fear, the disappointment, the insecurity. Don't make it last more than it should.

Graduates, never indulge into thinking of yourselves as victims of circumstance. Always take charge of your life. Take action. As one person said, choose to be an active hero of your own life. You will make mistakes. Remember them so you can calibrate your exposure to the bitter taste of regret. Learn the skill of forgiving yourself and always, but always, move on for failures do not define us. Neither will success. What defines us, ultimately, is how we react to failures and to success and the choices we make thereafter. Remember always to take action, take charge!

Take a leaf out of the page of the Philippine Government, which is taking that significant and critical initiative to raise the issue of the longstanding



territorial dispute with China before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea or ITLOS. If you know that you have the advantage of having the moral high ground and of having the law on your side, fight for what is right and take charge of the situation.

In my case, for instance, when the former President attempted to leave the country, prematurely invoking a yet ineffective TRO and with such unseemly haste as to indicate a clear attempt to evade charges against her for, among others, rigging the 2004 Presidential Elections, I took charge and made the tough call to prevent her from fleeing Philippine jurisdiction. So, too, when I was informed by the **National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)** that they have in their custody a witness who had startling and shocking news on the use and abuse of the Priority Development Assistance Fund, I took charge and supervised closely the criminal investigation of the same. I took charge of the handling and the treatment of the anxious whistle blowers and took bullets for my team during the Senate inquiry. In the same way when an informant told me that one prosecutor was extorting money from a party-litigant, I took charge and caused his entrapment. His



case is now being heard at the Ombudsman. When I was informed of the horrible degradation of the Ilocos coastline because of illegal black sand mining, I took charge. Not only did I go to the province and see for myself the sorry state of our beaches, I mobilized an operation headed by the NBI and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to put an immediate stop to the illegal operations. We also arrested the environmental criminals, now either deported to their country of origin or are undergoing preliminary investigation. On all of these issues and more, I continue to still take charge.

Ladies and gentlemen, Bedans, everything that has ever been accomplished in this world was made

possible by people who took charge of their lives and who took action because of such belief. Be the author of your story and hold accountability, always, for your life. When death is upon you, be assured that you will not be judged by your stumbles and missteps but by the shining humanity you revealed with constancy and grace when you lived.

You will have different battle cries as you go through your life's path. For now, I bequeath you mine: **Go forth and defy! Be unafraid of sacrifice! Always take charge of your life!**

Congratulations Batch 2014! I bid all of you good luck! Contribute well to the creation of the arc of our country's history. God bless all of you! *Maraming salamat po!*

Hail, the Incredible 99-year old Fr. Benabarre

by Dr. Joffre Alajar



Reports at the alumni office, Monday to Saturday, at 8:30AM; punches the keys of his computer as he keeps himself busy the whole day writing articles and books; makes himself available for various alumni meetings; and, up to one year ago, was accepting invitations to administer anointing of the sick, saying Mass for the dead or hearing holy confessions.

That is the typical Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB, assistant moderator of the San Beda College Alumni Association and adviser of

the San Beda Law Alumni Association. But what makes this Spanish Benedictine monk amazing is the fact that to date, he is 99 years and one month old, and still counting.

His latest medical records reveal the following: a normal blood pressure of 110/70; a perfect sugar level, and a cholesterol, uric acid and triglyceride which are within the acceptable range. Isn't that incredible?

Except for his difficulty in walking, due to the age-related

“Our life is over
like a sigh.
Our span is
70 years or
80 for those
who are strong”

— Psalm 90, 10.



degradation of the bones and muscles, Fr. Benabarre can still move around with or without a cane, happily discovering how disabled-friendly the world has become especially after his four months travel to Spain to attend the beatification of 39 Benedictine monks, 15 of whom he had lived for five years.

Recovering from a pneumonia which kept him in the hospital for more than a week, Fr. B. has bounced back and keeps again a rather full-day schedule. A freak accident in the washroom more than two years ago,

made his Abbey superiors decide to provide him with a special aide to keep him safe wherever he goes.

At 99, Fr. Benigno feels a drop in his physical energy, but manages to participate at 5:45AM in the community morning lauds and Mass, the 6:00PM vespers and the other prayer meditation sessions that all form part of his chosen Benedictine monastic vocation.

To date, Fr. Benigno has written more than 40 books and/or pamphlets, the latest of which are "A Bedan Companion" and

"Glimpses of the Lives of the First Four Abbots of Our Lady of Montserrat Abbey" (San Beda College). He writes a weekly article in Spanish, which is published in Puerto Rico. At the moment, Fr. Benigno spends the good part of each day writing another book which is amusingly titled "My first 100 Years!" For sure, his latest work would further inspire a string of inspirational, life-coaching books, and yes, how well life can be lived for a century type of book

A number of people would often ask him about his secret for

staying healthy and mentally alert at such an advanced age. Fr. B. is quick to share his secret: *"By the grace of God and eating the right food, not drinking liquor and not smoking and keeping perfectly chaste"*; well, he uses here another stronger expression. Indeed, a very pragmatic advice from someone who continuously lives well these important life lessons.

Here's wishing Fr. Benabarre more years of love, laughter and celebration. We hail his incredible gift of person!



Thumbs up for Fr. B

If the official papers are correct, last May 23, 2014, I became 99 years old; and Dr. J. Alajar, Director of THE BEDAN ALUMNUS, which I founded in 1962, requested me a short article explaining how I do feel.



HOW DO I FEEL AT 99?

Fr. Benigno Benabarre Vigo, OSB, PH.D.

My first answer is that I did not feel any special emotion on that May 23, for, day after day, I was preparing for it. 95, 96, 97, 99 years old...

Following Saint Benedict's advice in his Rule for Monasteries, Chapter 4, 47, that "the monk should keep death daily before his eyes," I must confess that the reality of death is one of the thoughts that, more frequently now at 99, than before, comes to my mind. And this thought, that to the monk who ardently wishes to see God "face to face" should be a consolation, disturbs me a little. Not a good sign!

Physically, I feel well, although I easily get tired and, since I take certain medicine against pneumonia, sleepy. No permanently pain at all.

I get up before the Community at 5:00, and without much difficulty, I minutely follow its daily schedule. I concelebrate in the conventual Mass, and recite or sing the whole Divine Office (thus are called the prayers that the priests and religious recite or sing every



Blowing the Cake for the 99th time



Posing with former students led by Comelec Commissioner Sixto Brillantes, Jr.



99 cheers for Fr. B



With Fr. B's SBC Law/Alumni Association Family led by Chairman Ave Cruz, Justice Nick Acosta, Dean Virgilio Jara, Atty. Edna Herrera, Atty. Jonas Cabuchan, Atty. Obet de Leon, Atty. Cheska Senga, Vice-Dean Rocky Delson, Dr. Joffre Alajar, Atty. Larry Mendoza, Mr. Sylvestre Austria and 2014 Silver Jubilarians



Fr. B shares his long-life secrets



Fr. B with his favorite "son", Atty. Ave Cruz with SBLAA staff. Wevy Hebron

day). To Saint Benedict, such recitation is so important that he says that "nothing be put before the work of God" (Chapter 43, 3). And to have the strength to do all these things without much difficulty is a great joy. I use wheelchair, but mainly to move faster and be sure that I arrive on time to the church and the refectory.

Mentally, I feel as agile as ever. I continue writing a weekly article, in Spanish, that is published in the weekly EL VISITANTE DE PUERTO RICO, owned and published by the Episcopal Conference of Puerto Rico, the island where I was missionary for ten years.

Not so important as that is that I continue publishing books. In 2012, I published my third best book: GLIMPSES OF THE LIVES OF THE FIRST ABBOTS OF OUR LADY OF MONTSERRAT ABBEY, MANILA (large size, 124 pp. Last February, came out of the press the pocket book A BEDAN COMPANION (191 pp), and I already have typed 105 pages of the next book, the title of which will provoke laughing everybody: MY FIRST 100 YEARS; a detailed account of my "life and miracles". "FIRST" means here two things: that I hope to live a few more years; and that that book will be NOT the last book, for I have two others in mind, both of them easy to write. It will be question of time and humor...

This is my present physical and emotional situation. I'm very conscious that it is not me but good God the one who prepares and writes the agenda and gives the strength to follow it. Man, ME in this case, cannot change anything in it. With Saint Benedict, I say: THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD BE GLORIFIED!

Rev. Silvestre H. Lacson OSB

A Man of Prayer and Work

by Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, Rector-President



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I woke up the early morning of June 11 Wednesday to the sad news of yet another revered Benedictine monk passing away. Fr Prior sent a text message that **Fr Silvestre Lacson** had passed away. And he died peacefully while asleep in his room at San Beda Alabang at the age of 88. *(He outlived most of his contemporary.)*

I hope you will not mind if I speak somewhat personal. As a Bedan student, I was a big fan and follower of Benedictine monks. And one of them was certainly **Fr. Silvestre H. Lacson, OSB**. When I entered the Abbey thirty years ago, exactly on June 1984, I held him in greater esteem. Then he became, as it were, a father and confidant to me when he was made prefect of cleric, a mentor when he guided me in my theology subjects and thesis writing, and a brother as a fellow Benedictine priest.

As the years passed by, the formal relation metamorphosed to a spiritual-

filial relation. When he started getting weak, I was completely mortified. He sought me for his penance in confession and asked for my blessings and prayers. He got my hands to his forehead. He started then treating me like I was his father. He even asked me to tell him stories. His down-to-earth and self-effacing ways were humbling experiences I will treasure forever.

Truly, one of the things I am grateful for in living at the monastery the past decades, is the privilege of living with monks, specially with Fr Silvestre. He provided a connection between fidelity to monastic traditions and flexibility to present monastic way of life. I know he had his flaws, as we all do; but he was an exemplary man of God. As a faithful son of St Benedict, 1) he was constantly aware of his prayer life. Communal and personal prayers for him were one flowing and continuing expressions of love for God. Whether inside or outside the monastery, his love for Divine Office were faithfully observed. 2) He was an obedient and humble monk. He was open to the tasks

given him, loyal and devoted and was always full of gratitude to everything and everyone around him. 3) he was a father with gentle and kind spirit. He was soft spoken in his dealings, generous in sharing his own and whole heartedly supportive of people who are in need. 4) he was a brother with intense love for peace. He was so attuned to silence and quiet life that solitude, tranquility of heart, and serenity of mind were his joys in life. In totality, that differentiated the life of a monk to other way of life. 5). He was a person with joyful disposition. He would disarm you with his sincere smile and share his contagious laughter in the midst of suffering and pains. In these, I could not help but know Fr Silvestre "*up close and personal*". He was sincere and marvelous in bringing others to the depth of monastic spiritual journey.

In various occasions, he intimated that he was most peaceful and joyful being a Benedictine. When asked what was his secret, he was quick to say there was no secret. He simply dared to live a happy, healthy, humble and

holy life. His religious life were all these because he was faithful to his vows, he was committed to his monastic life and he immensely loved God and fellow human persons.

Fr. Lacson, truly a man of prayer and work, will be remembered as the only Filipino priest in history, who had lived as a Benedictine for 65 years. He took his first monastic profession on May 19, 1949 in this Abbey church. Likewise, he spent 60 years in the priesthood, having been ordained by **Cardinal Rufino Santos** on March 22, 1954.

One of his challenging tasks was being prior-administrator of the Abbey from 1974 to 1980. It was a rough and tough period of Martial law, the despotic years of Marcos dictatorship, the so-called days of the *Yankee* go home, a tumultuous period of student activism and nationalism. Where religious and lay leaders were suspected as subversives, Fr. Lacson held the Benedictine community together like a Good Shepherd. With the grace of God, he faithfully led his flock, cared for them and

served them well.

Likewise, When he was rector of San Beda College Manila 1983 to 1986, it was not without trials and tribulations. He discovered that Counter Intelligence Agents or CIA of Marcos were enrolled at the college and were secretly monitoring the activities of the school. He recalled the few times uniformed men under the former AFP Chief Fabian Ver would invite him to a meeting and asked his cooperation and support for Marcos. As a wise and trusted steward, Fr. Lacson kept justice and peace, truth and freedom reign in the campus.

The years spent by Fr. Lacson as shepherd of the Benedictine community and as steward of San Beda College Manila and Alabang, have shown that he at heart was an amiable and unassuming man, a forgiving and loving father who brought Jesus to the hearts of everyone. He was a model priest whose discipline and prayer life were virtues that had influenced the lives of the younger generation.

In 2010, at the age of 83, Fr. Lacson met the biggest challenge of his life. He had a

triple heart by-pass surgery. The doctors asked for prayers. Our prayer for healing and speedy recovery were answered. But he had to undergo therapy. So much had happened in the last five years in the life of Fr. Lacson. How his love, his care, his faith and his strength became more visible than ever before. How we came to know and treasure in a new way what it meant to be his brother, friend and father. The mystery of life revealed itself to us. It was at this moment that we were most human, most in touch with what binded us together and discovered the deeper meaning of life.

Today, we shall bring Fr. Silvestre to his final resting place. Is this really the end of life? Is this the end of all those years of learning, sharing, growing and loving? We try to console one another. But our words of consolation seem hollow and ineffective. We seek consolation and we seek answer in the Word of God. - *"The souls of the just are in the hand of God. - Are you not aware that we who are baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? - I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will not perish but shall have eternal life"*. God tells us this



not the end and we must believe.

We make an act of faith. Faith in life after death. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus. Faith in our own resurrection. So that we should not fear our death. So that we should accept the death of those we love.

We make an act of love. We affirm our love for Him. We promise that our love will not die. As a sign of love, we accept his death. Love means letting go. We show our love by letting him go and attain the fullness of freedom.

We make an act of hope. We must hope to build a future that he wanted for us. The world has not ended with the passing away of our loved one.

In faith, hope and love, we give Fr. Silvestre to God. He was God's gift to us. Now let him be our gift to God.

For the last time, I would like to talk personally to Dear Fr. Silvestre. There had been many times that we should have said thank you but we missed the opportunity. We have taken for granted those occasions that Fr. Silvestre could have appreciated our

love and thoughtfulness.

Fr. Silvestre, thank you very much for being an exemplary man of prayer. Your faithfulness to divine office and devotion to private prayers have nourished in us the love for payer and fidelity to its observance.

Thank you so much for the good works and contributions you have done, for our good individually and as a community. We may have ignored them unwillingly but rest assured that we treasured them.

Thank you so much for the time you offered and the effort you voluntarily exerted to help.

We have not repaid you, but we know you did not expect anything in return.

Thank you so much for the love and affection, the fun and laughter, even those moments we failed to appreciate because we were preoccupied with our own interests.

Thank you so much for walking with us in this journey called life. We hope that one day we shall meet again in the fullness of time.



"Do not just be great, be great and just."

by Atty. Enrique "Spanky" Perez
Commencement Speaker

Watching you earlier eagerly anticipating the receipt of your diplomas, I was reminded of a day fifty seven years ago,

almost to the day, when as a member of the Graduating Class of 1957, I was also anxiously awaiting the grand moment when I would finally receive the fruit of my four years of hard labor, my law diploma.

The theme of these graduation rites today being "65 Years of Bedan Legal Education: Celebrating Faith in God and Love of the Truth," I would first like to share with you some memories of the College of Law of my time.

I was admitted to this law school in June 1953, one of some thirty plus enrollees hoping to complete our law studies as members of its fifth graduating batch, the Class of 1957. It was then a night school open only to male students, not because of any bias against female law students but only because San Beda had always been an exclusively boys' school since it was founded in 1901. The school's facilities consisted mainly of four classrooms, which were high school classrooms in the daytime, several bookcases of law books and legal publications which constituted the law library, a desk in the Business Office which served as the office of the Registrar of the Law School and a cubicle in the Reading Room of the School Library which housed the Office of the Dean of Law, the legendary **Dean Feliciano Jover Ledesma**, our Founding Dean.

In my freshman year, the entire student population of the law school was less than a hundred. Dean Ledesma knew all the students by name and by level,

and in some cases he even knew their girlfriends whom he would not hesitate to call to ask them to convince their boy friends to devote less time to them and more time to their studies when they were not doing too well in class. It was therefore not uncommon for him to stand as sponsor in their weddings when they eventually married.

But a strong faculty, the heart of the law school, more than made up for its minimal facilities. It consisted of outstanding lawyers in the public and private sectors, acknowledged experts in their respective fields, as well as members of the Benedictine community, all committed and dedicated to making lawyers out of those who dared enroll in this fledgling law school that was just starting to make its presence felt in the field of legal education.

The pioneer students rose up to the occasion. The first graduating class, Class '52 started by posting a 100% passing average in the 1952 Bar Examinations. Class '53 maintained the 100% passing average with a 5th placer in the Top Ten. Class '54 not only kept the 100% passing average intact but it garnered the first and second places in the Top Ten, with their two topnotchers scoring grades of 96.7 and 95.95 the highest grades ever obtained in the bar examinations which remain unsurpassed to this date. Class '55 earned for San Beda the distinction of being the only law school to score a 100% passing average that year. Class '56 kept the 100% passing average streak alive with three of its members obtaining the first, ninth and tenth places in the Top Ten. As our own date with the bar examinations neared, the pressure kept building up but to our relief, Class '57 gave San Beda the honor of being the only law school that year with a 100% passing average, defying the then highest mortality rate of 80% ever

recorded in the bar examinations and had an eighth placer in the Top Ten.

Thus was set the tradition of excellence that subsequent classes have been inspired to follow. And to their credit, they have kept the faith, so to speak, establishing their own records and achievements not only in the bar examinations but in the law profession itself. Bedan lawyers are everywhere. They have served or are serving with distinction in all levels of the judiciary, in both Houses of Congress, and in all departments of the national and local governments. They have distinguished themselves in private practice, in the corporate world and in the law academe. They have proven the worth of the Bedan legal education.

The law school has changed in many ways through the years, what has not changed and remains constant is the strength of its faculty . . . and its dedication and commitment to produce the best and the brightest in the legal profession.

You invited me today to inspire you as you "face the bar examinations and the challenges of the noble legal profession." I say draw your inspiration from our beloved school's tradition of excellence, the tradition kept alive by the Class of 2013 in last year's bar examinations with their passing rate of 81.96%, way above the national passing rate of 22.18%, and a 7th placer in their ranks. For now, let me speak to you as an older brother, and share with you some timely reminders.



You are transitioning into the real world of lawyers where you will be facing real life situations not hypothetical cases. The rules of the game will be stricter and the stakes will be higher, because hereon you will be dealing with life and property.

In the past four years when you came to class unprepared, you could get a dreaded 5 in your recitation for the day, a tongue lashing from your professor, you could flunk a quiz or an exam and the worst possibility would be for you to eventually fail the subject. But even in the worst, case you alone would suffer the consequences of your unpreparedness.

In the world you will be entering, when one is counsel for an accused in a criminal case and he comes to trial unprepared, his client may be convicted and the client, not the lawyer, will pay the price for the inadequate preparation by suffering a deprivation of his liberty.

Obviously that is a situation you will want to avoid.. So like a Boy Scout, always be prepared, anticipate potential problems, keep in mind that in the legal profession there is no room for complacency.

When you embark on your career, set your goals high. But do not aspire to be just a great lawyer, strive to be a great just lawyer. In other words do not just be great, be great and just.

To be great lawyer, one must start with a good legal education, the kind that can be obtained by enrolling in a good law



school, like the San Beda Law School. And since law involves continuing study, he must have a thirst for knowledge and a penchant for hard work.

The skills he will require are dependent on his field of specialization but there will be many opportunities to develop these skills if he does not already have them.

To be a just lawyer we need to do only one thing, but it may not be as easy as it sounds. We have to listen to our conscience, that little voice within us that tells us what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong, what is just and what is unjust. At times it may be inconvenient for us to listen to our conscience or we may be tempted to ignore it on the mistaken belief that the end always justifies the means. But when a lawyer disregards his conscience, he opens himself to becoming unjust. Bear in mind that lawyers are instruments of justice. And we can only be effective in that role if we always rely on the law and our conscience as our guide.

In the end, we are accountable for our actions not only to the Bar Association, nor only to the Supreme Court but we are ultimately answerable to the Supreme Dispenser of Justice. And on your day in his heavenly court, when he is to pass final judgment on you, he will not want to know how many legal battles you won, or how well you succeeded in your legal endeavors, nor will he be interested in how much wealth you amassed as a great lawyer. All he will ask is, as a lawyer how effectively did you serve the ends of justice?

And if you had remained true to the values that your lay and religious professors instilled in you in the four years of your Benedictine legal

education, if you had been a just lawyer, he will rise from his sacred bench, open his arms and say, come my child, sit by my right and enjoy your eternal rewards.

My dear graduates, that is what being a lawyer is all about... serving the ends of justice.

I congratulate the school administration, **Dean Virgilio Jara** and the lay and religious faculty for producing a new batch of promising Bedan lawyers.

For moving you one step closer to realizing your dreams of becoming members of the bar, may I ask you, the graduating class, to please rise and join me in giving them a round of grateful applause.

To the professors who may have been looked upon as slave-drivers and tormentors in the classroom, I would like to say that we had many like you in our time and they were the ones we most fondly and gratefully remembered as we pursued our careers.

I thank you, the graduates, for honoring me with this opportunity to address you as a "kuya" on this momentous milestone in your lives.

Again congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2014! I wish you all

happy lawyering and may the God of Justice be always with you.

Thank you and Mabuhay!



The SBC Law Alumni Association honors Bedan Lawyers Appointed in Public Service

Once again, the San Beda Law Alumni Association (SBLAA) found it fitting to tender a luncheon reception to fellow Bedans who were lately appointed to various government positions. The well-attended affair was held at Club Filipino, with Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose "Bambit" Mendoza, (Law '71) as guest of honor and speaker. Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius Maranan, OSB, Rector-President, in his message, challenged the Bedans in public service, "to be the light in a seemingly dark world in government," what with all the fund scams, anomalies and controversies hounding public service. Newly appointed associate justice of the Court of Appeals, and former vice dean of the SBC Law school Hon. Pablito Perez (Law '83), requested the Bedan family for special prayers for them to be able to discharge their respective duties, as he thanked the SBLAA, on behalf of all the honourees, for the special luncheon recognition tendered by the association.

Honorees present included: HON. FELICIANO P. AGUILAR, (Law '73) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 41, Gandara, Samar; HON. LEONCIO M. JANOLO, JR., (Law '73) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 264, San Juan City; HON. MARYANN E. CORPUZ-MAÑALAC, (Law '91) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 141, Makati City, 2013 Judicial Excellence Award; HON. SELMA P. ALARAS, (Law '90) Executive Judge, Regional Trial Court, Makati City; HON. OLIVIA ESCUBIO-SAMAR, (Law '92) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 79, Malolos City, Bulacan; HON. MARIAM G. BIEN, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 153, Taguig City; HON. SITA JOSE



CLEMENTE, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 16, Malolos City, Bulacan; HON. JOY N. CASIHAN-DUMLAO, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 262, Pasig City; HON. KATHRINE A. GO, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 59, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental; HON. CAROLIN ROJAS-JAUCIAN, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 13, San Fernando City, La Union; HON. MARY JOSEPHINE P. LAZARO, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 74, Antipolo City; HON. DENNIS P. VICOY, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 20, Pagadian City; HON. MITUSHEALLA R. MANZANERO-CASIÑO, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, 5th Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) Pangil-Paete-Pakil, Laguna; HON. CAROLINA C. ICASIANO-SISON, (Law '95) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 18, Manila; HON. ROBERT VICTOR C. MARCON, (Law '96) Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court Br. 54, Lucena City; HON. GRACE GLICERIA FERNANDEZ DE VERA, (Law '93) Presiding Judge, Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) San Carlos City, Pangasinan; ATTY. LAUDIEMER I. SAMAR, (Law '92) Labor Arbiter, National Labor

Relations Commission; ATTY. MA. MINERVA PAEZ-COLLANTES, (Law '98) Labor Arbiter, National Labor Relations Commission; ATTY. MA. MYLENE CARAG-CRUZ, (Law '89) Labor Arbiter, National Labor Relations Commission; HON. DANILO "DANNY" C. YANG, (Law '79) City Prosecutor, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija/Chairman of the Board, Premier Medical Center; HON. AILEEN MARIE S. GUTIERREZ, (Law '95) City Prosecutor, Muntinlupa City/President, Prosecutors' League of the Philippines, Inc.; HON. JORGE G. CATALAN, JR., (Law '82) Chief City Prosecutor, Makati City; HON. DANILO C. BUMACOD, (Law '93) Provincial Prosecutor, San Fernando City, La Union and ATTY. KATRINE PAULA V. SUYAT, (Law '13) 7th Place, 2013 Bar Exams.

Atty. Jonas Cabochan, Vice Dean Rocky Delson and Atty. Andy Nachura were also inducted to the SBLAA Executive Council as officers.

It was another memorable affair for Bedan lawyers, and a great prelude to the law alumni homecoming on November 27, 2014. Cheers!



Response during the Recognition Luncheon tendered for Bedans appointed in Public Service-

JUSTICE

PABLITO

ALHAMBRA PEREZ

It is not often now that we accept invitations to dine out because of this almost irrational fear of being "Face-Booked" with the wrong people or of being suspected that we are up to no good even if we are just having a rare quiet meal with friends.

As Bedans we, of course, cannot let this invitation pass, malicious wagging tongues notwithstanding. After all, there is no greater honor than that given by your peers

and fellows. Praise made by loved ones and friends is more affection than deserved honor; praise given by enemies is slander in disguise. Praise by one's peers like that which you give us this afternoon is hard to earn because it is rarely given. The standards set by one's peers are high and to be deserving of their recognition, the awardee must at least approximate the achievements of the givers of honor.

Some of the honorees have been in public service for some time. They have been there and done that. Some of us are new and hardly know what we got ourselves into. Let me briefly speak for the new conscripts.

In the first few days of my assumption to office in CDO, my thoughts were limited to two. One was regret – I should have been more careful what I wished for! The other was desperation - what have I done to what am I doing here?

In that context, you will perhaps understand why my first week-end in CDO was spent in a seminary run by a Jesuit childhood friend and the second with a monk in a Benedictine monastery.

For a while after I walked into my new office, I thought I had left earth and became a citizen of a strange, undiscovered world. Then as days passed it dawned on me that I have entered the "marble temple" and joined the "cult of the robe". This mysterious almost Harry Potterish description of the mystical kingdom of justices became clearer when I spent my second week-end in CDO with Fr. Ed Africa at the Transfiguration Monastery. Our long talks and short walks over a week-end convinced me that monks and justices live parallel lives. And this is not even an original insight. As you may know, even Mr. J. Frankfurter described the court as a monastery, thus making justices legal monks.

In more ways than one, Fr. Ed, a former Abbot and the founder of the Monastery of the Transfiguration, showed me how to live this new life productively and with grace, and offered me sanctuary in Malaybalay whenever I would need it.

How my life has changed! I have learned for instance that money is



valuable not because one has so much but because one has less of it. It is also a mystery that now, I have more time yet days do not have more hours or the minutes in an hour more. I no longer feel like the blind man appointed head librarian – so many books but unable to read a single one. In a divine twist of fate, now I do nothing but read – books, dusty records, draft reports, local and national papers and of sometimes, TSN's and confessions in a dialect I cannot understand.

The Court of Appeals should insure Justice's eyes!

There are a few things I have learned so far in my two months in the Court –

First, a confident and fair decision is its own reward. The satisfaction of doing one's judicial duty is not different from that felt by a teacher after an inspired class discussion or a student's brilliant recitation. A common thread in the many congratulatory texts I received after my appointment said – "bagaykadyan!", making it sound as though fate which I have avoided for so long had finally come to fetch me astride the presidential pen.

Second, lawyers do affect cases and their clients. Real people actually lose life, liberty and property because a lawyer had forsaken his oath to do justice to every man and failed to meet his duties of diligence and loyalty both to the courts and to his client. Indeed, those who have less suffer more when their lawyers forget their duties.

Third, the honorific "Honorable" is a salutation still to be earned. For now, the people allow me to use it to remind me not of my personal merit but of the honor of the position they have entrusted to me.

Finally, "Justice" is just the title of my office. I still have to become one, and I eagerly await the day when I am called that because in the eyes of the people I am sworn to serve and live a truly just life.

Because we are among friends, we will impose on you certain obligations. Please continue to wish all of us well. Help us to always be faithful to our oath. I am certain that you will agree that the first temptation will be made not by utter strangers but by the very people we know. At the beginning of our new public careers, the devil may be in retreat because of our idealism and Benedictine values. But when we are at our weakest, the devil will turn around and go after us, at which time your faith and trust in us will be our only shield.

Thank you.



Atty. Bingbong Medialdea, Atty. Fred Lim, Comm. Sixto Brillantes and Chairman Ave Cruz



Vice-Dean Rocky Delson, Atty. Obet de Leon, RTC Judge Dennis Vicoy, Atty. Jonas Cabuchan and Judge Donald Lee



The SBLAA Officers with Fr. Rector



Justice Pabs Perez with Atty. Obet de Leon and Atty. Bingbong Medialdea



**Inspirational Message of Fr. Rector during the
Luncheon Reception for Bedan Lawyers
Appointed in Public Service**

***“There is no better path than-
ang daang matuwid.”***

It is always a welcome relief for me to see the growing number of Bedans being appointed to various government positions amid also the growing number of scandals and scams taking place in high positions in government. That is why, I always find time to attend gatherings like this – hoping that I will be able to remind Bedans of their may be, about-to-be-forgotten Benedictine ideals of honesty, humility, integrity, service, peace, *ora et labora* (work and prayer) as you all render a life of service to our suffering Filipino people.

Much have been said about how people in government have abused their power and position at the expense of the powerless and helpless among our countrymen. At times, many Filipinos become desperate and hopeless about our country to the extent that many families choose to settle abroad for they consider this very own nation, a failed state. Nonetheless, there is still much hope for our country as long as there are Bedans in public service.

And I am happy to note that Bedans in government led by our very own **Justice Bambit Mendoza, Secretary Leila de Lima, Sandiganbayan**

Presiding **Justice Amparo Cabotaje-Tang** and now Associate Justice **Pablito Perez** have chosen the right path, and quoting the mantra of President Noyon Aquino's administration – “*Ang daang matuwid.*” There is no better path than “*Ang daang matuwid.*” It may be a difficult, narrow, lonely road but it is the path that will lead our country to peace fulfillment and prosperity. So fellow Bedans especially our dear honorees today, continue making your alma mater proud of you because of your genuine upright service to our Filipino people.

Continue living a purposeful-driven life. Rather than feel hopeless about the surrounding darkness of evil in government, choose to light your own candle so that it will provide a “*Bedan Glow*” to make a difference by any extent possible in the life of our nation.

I count on all of you to light your candle so that “*in all things, God may be glorified.*”

Mabuhay ang lahing Bedista!

Mabuhay ang San Beda Law Alumni Association.

Salamat **MANG ROGER**

by Prof. Michael John Y. Rubio

How does one say goodbye to someone he has known his entire adult life? How does one say farewell to someone who has been a constant presence, a constant reminder of the joys of being young? How does one say thank you to a man who has been a part of you yet not related to you?

These and many more questions perhaps lingered on the minds of many of us Bedans when we heard the sad news of the passing of one Rogelio Lagman.

To many outside the hallowed halls of San Beda, he would have been probably dismissed as just another vendor, another old man plying Mendiola Street offering his wares to students and passers-by. A balut-penoy-chicharon vendor who perhas will not be given a second look by others. But to us Bedans, he was more than that. He was a confidante, a father-figure, an older male relative, a booster, a motivator, an over-all good guy who you would happily hang-out with. To us he was our Mang Roger, a man with a big smile plastered over his face and with his signature thumbs up sign.

I've met Mang Roger when I entered San Beda College some 21 years ago. I got curious as to why the school administration would allow a balut vendor inside the campus. He was stationed at the old entrance near the Junior Football Field (now Plaza Montserrat). He was always surrounded by students from different grade and year levels from all the different academic units of the College. I believe I have tried his balut once or twice during my stay as a student.

But I got to know Mang Roger more when I started working at San Beda College. Perhaps having recognized me before as a student, he would always have a ready balut, already cracked open, as if you have no choice but to buy it. There were times also when he would have around a dozen or so balut packed and delivered inside the faculty room. And we would always charm his way for you to buy his wares.

But what endeared Mang Roger to me was his way of dealing with the students. He would always tell the students to study and be good in class. In fact, whenever I saw him with students, he will always tell the students how they should be good in my class if they were enrolled in it. He always has a ready ear for the students and he doesn't care about your status in life, he was just generally happy to be part of San Beda and the Bedans. And I believe the Bedans are also happy to have met Mang Roger.

So how does one say goodbye to Mang Roger? You don't. Mang Roger will live in all of us long after his burial. His life lessons will forever linger in us. Thank you Mang Roger for the gift that you have shared with us Bedans. You say you are lucky to have been part of San Beda, I say we are luckier to have met someone like you who knew how to be a Bedan and lived it every day of his life.





Bob Operiano and Mang Roger Gone; Life's Purpose

by Atty. Rene Saguasag

Benedictine Bonding.

Blessed are they who mourn. And they who shine, like Sec. Leila de Lima, whose nomination as Justice head was finally confirmed.

Too bad deserving Judge Lito Fernandez did not make it to the Sandigan Bayan, headed by Bedan

Presiding Justice Amparo Cabotaje Tang. Lito might have been hurt by the endorsement of Manong Johnny Ponce Enrile. No fair as the ageing endorsement was given at the zenith of Manong's popularity in 2012, after CJ Rene Corona was convicted.

I am for Manong's house or city arrest. He's going on 91. GMA issued on November 27, 2004 Memo Circular No. 155 to get info on septuagenarians for possible executive clemency. In Spain and Italy, no jail time for such oldies (70), only community service.

Way to go to show we are civilized, humane and compassionate. And Christian. For I was in prison and you visited me, remember?

Having been with Life's Losers, I am comfortable where I am. I was moved by a dedication in a book Justice Isagani Cruz's gifted me with "June 23, 2005 - Brilliant lawyer of lost causes, from a fellow loser." The causes most worth fighting for are the lost ones.

I cannot forget what Loser Dick Gordon said in retaining me in 1998 when Prez Erap kicked him out of

office summarily when he was perfectly agreeable to leaving. Dick said a Jesuit priest had taught, *"when you laugh the whole world laughs with you, but, you weep, alone."* Few all-weather friends. No Jesuitical jiu-jitsu there.

You're in trouble and have no one, let's talk, and if you'll allow me, you'll never walk and weep alone. *Problema lang naka-baston na ako. But pledged to help, hanggang huling hibla ng aking hinanga.* Very Benedictine. Ignatius prayed on his knees one whole night in our Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Spain.

No RH debate then. Ignacio was the last and 13th in his brood. St. Thomas Aquinas was the bunso in a brood of nine.

But we may not be able to go on with multiplying like rabbits. Singapore and Iran leaders plead with the young, *"make babies."* No one-child policy here but we have to enforce the one-wife rule in this country of rampaging hormones. It was Ateneo's cage star Moro Lorenzo who said he believed in family planning and he planned a big family.

A Jesuit priest gifted me with One Just Man on Allan Dori, a New York City Legal Aid Society lawyer although his parents left him an estate of seven million dollars, in the 70's. Allan's father was a lawyer for the Duponts, and his mother lawyered on Wall St., wrote James Mill.

Why? Explained AI: "Something my father told me I have never forgotten,

though I have rarely succeeded in living by it. He was spending a lot of time representing an old man who'd open thrown out by his landlord. He was the friend of our doorman or a maid or someone's chauffeur, I don't remember. Anyway, he was very poor, and had nothing whatsoever to do with the Duponts. I asked my father why he spent so much time on the case. He said, 'He is as you are. He laughs, he cries, he fears, he dreams. So be kind. All you can do in life is be kind.'" (At 19 (1976, paperbacked.)

Courts have absolute power to decide where a prisoner will be detained, and to be kind. Pork is not toxic per se and flourishes in the U.S.

Now that the Supreme Court (SC) has ruled against PNoy on pork, isn't it time to ask the SC to account for the billions in the Judiciary Development Fund? There is a quarterly reporting requirement to be given to many, including executive judges. You may know one. Ask him and you'll probably be asked: what accounting?

That is money stripped from the hides of litigants for local infrastructure and better working conditions. But we may see a lot of "cross-border" traffic there, to curtains, vehicles, foreign travel, wellness program, Justice on Wheels and Baguio mansions. That is why you may get tetanus in Manila's shameful, shabby courtrooms.

The SC may not see the mote in the Palace's eye and not the beam in its own.

Last June 29, a Sunday, I spotted an obit on Bob Operiano of my law Class '63. He we called bayaw cuz he reportedly had a good-looking sis. He had tiso features. He became Antique Vice-Guv and Board Member, this product of the best law school in Mendiola.

Steve Bautista, of the finest law school in the entire Rockwell Complex, is also gone. He once told me, *"you know, my daughter is a classmate of your son, who I understand is good-looking. Why, is your wife beautiful?"* Was she ever. I decided not to sue for defamation because truth is a defense.

Anyway I went to Bob's wake. Balut vendor Mang Roger, dearly beloved of Bedans, is also gone, 68. I am told he saw to it that his sons would go to Ateneo and La Salle. Traidor? Nope, also as balut vendors. K lang. Fruit never falls or rolls far from the tree. My son, Mikki (Misha, Russian, was how Mom Dulce would fondly call him), texted from Funeraria Nacional, on G. Araneta, literally our Death Row. Last respects. Bob was in St. Peter's Memorial Chapel, also on Araneta.

The Benedictine family here and abroad was helpful to Mang Roger the last few rough months. We mourned our Ninoy but we do not forget the short and simple annals of the poor.



ALUMNI TIDBITS

Former Principal (1951-1961)
and Rector (1961-1966)

- As a posthumous award, José María Zaragoza was named National Artist in Architecture, Design and Allied Arts. Joselín, as known to his family and friends, graduated from San College Elementary Department in 1927 and from High school in 1931. Some of his great works included the Santo Domingo Church, Casino Español and Meralco Building in Ortigas. Here is San Beda Mendiola, we have very good examples of his genius: Saint Anselm's Hall, and, working and in hand to hand with Fr. Abbot Peter Celestine Gusi, the Chapter Room of the Abbey. He did also the renovation of the choir of the church with Fr. Olegario Commeleran, OSB.

Personally, Architect Zaragoza was a prominent Catholic, papal knight and medalist, etc. We congratulate his wife and children.

- Julio del Gallego (GS '58) has published a book about Luna Brothers.
- Alberto Francisco José S. Macapinlac, grandson of the Angel Macapinlac, first president of the San Beda Alumni Association, visited the office and promise to gather as much materials about his grandfather Angel.
- Dr. Alber Valenzuela (HS '55) headed a medical mission in Pangasinan, La Union and Batangas. He is a retired doctor, who resides in San Diego, California.
- Alex Auna (GS '51 na HS '54), who lives in New York, visited the Alumni Office and offered himself to make propaganda materials on my book entitled "A Bedan Companion".
- HS 1959 batch has published a book about their class.



At Your Service in St. Benedict



The Bedan Community mourns the demise of Rev. Fr. Silvestre Lacson, OSB who served as prior and rector-president during the decade of the '70s and '80s. Father Lacson had a heart surgery years back, and had a difficult time recovering since then. He was one of our well-loved Benedictines who left an important mark in the College. He will always be remembered by many Bedans whose lives he once touched.

He may have never studied in San Beda, but Mang Roger was like a dear Bedan brother to many alumni. This was again proven during the final wake of Mang Roger at the Abbey Church, and the many good words about him written on the *facebook* and *twitter* accounts of his well-loved Bedans. Our condolences to the bereaved family.

We give our salute to outgoing SBCAA prexy Mr. Jojo Hautea for leading our Alumni Association to even higher plane of service and excellence. His exemplary dedication and hard work have borne great fruits for the SBCAA. Noteworthy are the Bingo Bonanza, Alumni Unity Cup, and a number of financial assistance extended to members of the Bedan family who came to the SBCAA office for help in their time of great need.

Congratulations also to Ms. Boots Anson-Roa, our 2014 SBCAA Woman of Service awardee, on her recent grand and happy wedding held at the Archbishop Palace. We received a text message from her that the crucifix given to her by the Bedan Community when she graced the *Pista ng Sto. Niño* last February, was used during her wedding rites. Best wishes and congratulations to both Boots and King Rodrigo!

I take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to the many Bedans and friends who offered special prayers and Holy Masses, give flowers and prayer cards, and sent in their condolences during the untimely death of my dear Tita Dolly Contreras. No words can express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you.



Up Close and Personal~

DR. CONRADO F. OCA

A Gift that
Continues to Give

Dr. Joffre M. Alajar



Bedans come and go in the San Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA) Board of Trustees, each striving to make a difference in the life of this more-than-a-century old alumni organization. Through the many years, their presence and support in various capacities have helped the SBCAA achieve its vision-mission and further deepen its identity.

One Bedan who continuously and generously supports the SBCAA is **Dr. Conrad Oca** (GS'77, HS'81). True to his life mantra "giving is living", Conrad must have found a deep sense of purpose in helping people in need, and supporting his Alma Mater he truly and sincerely loves.

Through the many years that he was with the board in various capacities as president (2006-2007) and trustee (2005-2013) etc., Conrad provided a number of scholarship grants to needy but deserving students in the Basic Education Department, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing, College of Medicine and College of Law. He spearheaded the establishment of a Professorial Chair in Labor Law in the name of his equally great Bedan father, the late **Capt. Gregorio Oca**. Conrad also supported the native tree planting fund-raising advocacy of the SBC Alumni Foundation, with the family-owned Maritime school in Mariveles Bataan carrying native trees all over the school. He has also brought jobs to a number of Bedans in the family corporation Seamen's Hospital in Intramuros Manila. Conrad continues to be a board trustee of the SBC Alumni Foundation.

More than sharing material things, Conrad has shared much of himself, to the members of the Bedan Community, and this has truly inspired others, especially the underprivileged among the young, to keep their heads high and never to give up in life.

Enthusiastic and forward-looking, realistic but not jaded, driven and already at the top of his game, Conrad carries a magnanimous Bedan heart, and such sets him apart from the rest.

Truly, he is one of San Beda College's cherished treasures – "a gift that continuous to give."

"Younger" Bedans join the SBCAA Board

The AY 2014-2015 will be remembered for seeing the entry of more "younger" Bedans in the SBC Alumni Association Board of Trustees. The younger breed is expected to provide the much needed dynamism, and fresh ideas on how the SBCAA will be more responsive to the needs of the times, and in the process become a better partner of the school in realizing its mission-vision-identity as a 114-year old Benedictine institution.



DR. CHRISTIAN BRYAN S. BUSTAMANTE
(AB Philosophy '97)
Vice Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
SBCAA Secretary



PROF. MICHAEL JOHN M. RUBIO
(BS Acct. '97)
SBCAA Board Treasurer



PETER C. CO
(HS '89, BSC Acct. '93)
General Manager Ferna Corporation
SBCAA Board Trustee



ATTY. ALEXANDER G. FLORES
(HS '91, BS Marketing '95)
Practicing Lawyer
SBCAA Board Trustee



RICHARD JOHN D. GUEVARA
(GS '85, HS '89, BSC Mktg. '93)
Businessman
SBCAA Board Trustee

The Bedan Community welcomes their entry to the SBCAA Board, hoping that they, together with the more seasoned Bedans in the board, will be able to bring the SBCAA to an even higher level of excellence and service.

SBCAA Board holds Spiritual Recollection at the Monastery of the Transfiguration *Malaybalay, Bukidnon*





Like light, sound has become so omnipresent in modern life that where it used to provide us with clues about the world we live in the cry of certain stormbirds that used to herald the arrival of rain, for instance, or the flutter of the thousand wings of migratory bats – sound has become mostly only something we hear. There's music in the background while we say our bedtime prayers. There's the blare of horns on our morning walks. There's the roar of a blender making our frozen pineapple daiquiri as we watch the sunset on the beach.

At the Montserrat Center for Religious Formation (montserratcenter@yahoo.com) in Silang, Cavite silence is what keeps the house together. House is a word too modest to describe this 2.9-hectare property on a rolling terrain, where sprawls a cluster of buildings surrounded by trees and bordered by a flowing river in the back, but this retreat house run by the Benedictine Monks of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Manila is sparse and simple, built as if for the life of a monk, but with such modern things as air-conditioning and with the cozy, comfy touch of a bed-and-breakfast. Apart from the many conference rooms, as well as a new building, St. Bede Hall, that houses a huge space that can be split into two function rooms with a soundproof wall in between, Montserrat has a dormitory in the main building that can accommodate up to 200 persons. At St. Benedict Hall, there are 44 private rooms, single or twin sharing, each with a private bath.

"The Peace Retreat is a big part of Bedan education," says Rev. Fr. Rafaelito Alaras, Order of St. Benedict, prior-administrator of the Benedictine Order, explaining why San Beda decided to acquire the property. "No student of San Beda, from kindergarten to college, ever graduates without it, so before we had this property, it was always a struggle to book a retreat house for our students every year."

But now Montserrat, though reserved when San Beda needs it is open to other schools and other things, including corporate launches and teambuilding. "We had product launch here by a German company," says Kiko Reyes, the administrator of the center. "They had two kegs of beer to cap off their stay, but otherwise everything was toned down." Indeed, within the premises, the quiet is so golden, begging to be heard even between the lines of every contract Montserrat gets into, that so far no one has ever booked the place without observing some form of silence.

Deepening the contemplative, almost hushed atmosphere at Montserrat is a small collection of art works that seems to emphasize the simplicity and stillness, rather than providing a contrast to it. Sunlight peers through religious painter Rafael del Casal's stained glass windows from all four corners of the quaint chapel. On chosen walls hang Rachy Cuna's early works on canvas – a wash of bamboo, the blooms of phantom flowers, abstract lines that call calligraphy to mind. In the garden, Cuna's sculptures, a bouquet of blooms in orange metal, sprouts out of stone and dances to the wind. And religious images, icons, vessels, and vestments by various artists lift the spirit in special corners and special rooms.

Is silence the absence of sound? Or is it like darkness, which is always there, except when something brings light to it? A sound breaks the silence, but does the silence ever go away, like the sound always does? Is there any sound as constant as silence?

In the Benedictine rule, the first word is listen. Jumble the letters in the word silent and you get Listen. To Kiko, that is what a retreat or meditation or contemplation or prayer is all about. It's to listen to what's knocking on your heart," he says. "When you listen carefully, its the word of Jesus, or God." Or maybe its the truth or maybe the answer, which is kind of the same.

Meditations on Silence

**A Spiritual Retreat at the
Montserrat Center
in Silang, Cavite**

by AA Patawaran





Integrity, Forgiveness, Compassion and Responsibility

*(Commencement Address of
Chairman **Roman Felipe S. Reyes**
during the Joint Commencement
Exercises of the San Beda College
Graduate School of Business,
Graduate School of Law, Graduate
School of Liturgy)*

I am very much grateful and honored to have this opportunity to speak before you, our distinguished graduates, today. But I will have to be honest and admit that I was quite surprised with the invitation. Speaking engagements such as this are reserved for those few who have been fortunate enough to have accomplished something exemplary in their life and I very much appreciate that San Beda would see fit to bestow me with this honor this afternoon.

I will try my best to keep it brief and straight to the point since I can see by our graduates' faces that they are extremely eager to start the celebration of this new chapter of their lives.

I will admit that I myself do not remember who my commencement speaker was when I graduated from these hallowed halls, but if there was one thing that was truly instilled in me was that even after graduation and my time here, I would always be a Bedan.

I am a product of the Benedictine formation, trained and educated in this very same campus. I was not particularly outstanding in school. I was not the best nor was I the worst, I was very much what you would call average.

I was a transfer student in the 6th grade from the province of Bulacan and although it may not seem like it today, I was a shy introverted boy who had insurmountable challenges of adjusting to a new life in this school.

It was through the guidance of the Benedictine monks that I was able to grow out of my shell and embrace the virtues and values which I am sure you have been properly steeped in by now. This became a foundation for my moral compass in my life both personally and in my career.

Integrity, Forgiveness, Compassion, Responsibility. Remember those words and understand what they truly mean. Take them to heart. These values have never faltered me nor will they you.

After graduating from San Beda College, I started at SGV as a junior auditor, the lowest man in the totem pole.

I realized early on that I could not be just a plain vanilla bean counter or accountant. I set my sights on something that I thought then would propel me to greater heights in my career. I made it a personal goal to continue learning and pursue graduate studies. I thought this would give me the edge that would help differentiate me.

I was hungry, driven, and so should you. You may be graduating school today, but you should never stop learning. Life is the ultimate teacher and you are now entering the biggest classroom.

Was I ambitious? Maybe. But I wanted to get better. Better at what? Better than who I was today.

I finished my graduate studies from the University of Detroit in the Midwest of the United States. You may wonder why I selected the University of Detroit over all the Ivy League schools. I chose it because of the school's Jesuit formation, and through this I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity of learning under both Benedictine and Jesuit traditions.

When you leave these halls you have stayed in for some amount of years, do not leave behind Christ. Christ has been central to my successes and essential to my recovery from defeat.

After graduate school there was a burning desire for me to explore life and everything it had to offer. So after my MBA, I secured a job at Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young) in New York City, one of the so-called Big Eight Accounting Firms back in the day.

It was definitely an interesting experience being the only Filipino in a very old school, was spy American organization. I was both excited and apprehensive but determined to prove that I had what it took to not only handle the rigors of working in New York City but also excel at it.

Being the only Asian in the New York office, I had to try extra hard to adapt and integrate myself and prove my worth. I was easily working 14-hour days and weekends, but I was steadfast with my goal. Was it difficult? Without a doubt! Would I do it again? In a

heartbeat, yes! The lessons I learned while working in such a high stress environment taught me to be mentally tough and always maintaining grace under pressure.

I showed my bosses that I was ready to hit the ground running day in and day out and at the same time working seamlessly and efficiently with my peers, showing that I was not only a reliable part of the team but a dependable cog in the machine.

As you embark on your own careers always remember that tomorrow begins today. Grab life's opportunities when they present itself because life is not always as generous. Do not be afraid of difficulty or challenges. Remember it takes thousands of years of pressure to transform a simple piece of coal into a flawless diamond.

All the sacrifices eventually paid off and my efforts were recognized and I was promoted in just a year. It was during this period in my life that I was fortunate enough to have as a mentor, a senior partner in the firm who took me under his watch. His name was Tom Mitchell, and I remember him to this day because it was through his guidance that I became not only a better employee but a better person. He motivated me to go beyond my failures and rise from it, stronger and better. I stayed in New York for a good 5 years and eventually set my sights for home. I was eager to bring all that I learned back to the Philippines.

My career may look successful now but I encountered numerous challenges along the way. Do not fear failure because it is actually the low points in one's life that tests your character. These moments of defeat and self-doubt, will be your catalyst for growth as a person. It is normal to feel disheartened after failure but never forget to pick yourself up after falling down. It is what you do after faltering that will define who you will be and what you are capable of.

I came home and went back to work with SGV and soon enough I was admitted as the youngest partner of the firm.

I had a good run with SGV,

leaving as the Vice Chair, and moving on but not to retirement. I left SGV with 13 other partners because of the move of SGV for the integration of the firm under Ernst and Young which would run counter to the provisions of the Constitution.

They called me a maverick. They called me a rebel, a ring leader. It did not matter because I believed our stand was right. Morally, constitutionally right.

In your own careers you will be tested and the choice between right and wrong may not always be as clear as black and white. And making the choice for what is right may make you a pariah but it is those decisions that matter most, because you will have to live with those choices. And those decisions are an embodiment of who you are.

In June of 2010 we put up Reyes Tacandong & Co. Back then we were just a simple start-up accounting firm but in less than 3 years we had 376 CPAs and lawyers. Today we are close to 500. No longer a simple start-up we





will help you in your career. This is what actually got me to where I am today. I was conscious about the people I was meeting and loyal to the friends I made.

In this digital age people mistake social networks as networking. These are not the same. Linked in and Facebook cannot replace the face to face contact with friends and acquaintances from the different segments of your life. A "Poke" will never be the same as a firm handshake.

When I meet accountants most are introverts. In school, they would always be in the library, while you find most marketing students in the cafeteria boisterous and meeting people. I would always tell accounting graduates to be like marketing students – confident and charming, loquacious and outgoing.

Learn to sing and have a song that you know by heart. You can be as off key as Anne Curtis but you'll be surprised at how that skill can help you in life.

Invest in how you package yourself. Remember proper grooming and hygiene. You are now representatives of this school as graduates, and extensions of the firm that you will represent. First impressions matter and they last.

Don't let your ego get the better of you. Humility, not hubris. Have a sense of humor. Laugh at life and laugh at yourself. Be a leader that you would want to follow.

As you move from the ideal world to the real world there are certain tenets of success that I would like you to remember. And by now you should be aware of them

1. Keep true to your Moral Compass and remember Christ
2. Be Hungry
3. Do not be afraid to fail, but do not forget to get up
4. You may not be the best, but be the best at what you do
5. Find your balance

Congratulations to all the MBA, Law and Liturgy graduates!

now challenge the old guard of the accounting profession, welcoming the best and brightest. In our 2nd year we were able recruit not just the top CPA graduate but the top 1, 2, 3, and 4 graduates, a "First" in the accountancy profession. Some say we are now number 4 or 5, but wait a few years and I guarantee that we will be number 1 or second to none.

Although it may seem like my life was just about my career, it is very much far from the truth. I pursued my interests in golf and classic car restoration. And I actually have a green thumb. Who would have thought that an accountant would be good with plants? I have made friends across continents and eventually made time to travel. I have the perfect wife and three wonderful children.

At first it may seem like finding balance between your career and your personal life is impossible but you will soon learn that if it is important to you, you will find time for it and for the people who matter most to you. Early on in your career this will be very difficult so be sure you have a partner that understands you and your goals. Your career will not be just defined by your work but also by what you do outside of your workplace. Find this balance. Find your balance and you will be more fulfilled.

You are all already in a

fortunate position because you have armed yourself with a San Beda graduate degree. I would not have gotten this far without my San Beda education. And your graduate degree is the beginning of the road map to your individual successes. By graduating today you have proven you are exceptional people, now be exceptional in all that you do.

My assumption of course is that you are all bright products of San Beda. But you also need to be diligent. There is no substitute for hard work and no shortcut to success. Remember to work smart. You do not have to reinvent the wheel.

They always say luck is important but as the saying goes it's 98% hard work and 2% luck, so you know where the super majority lies.

I cannot stress enough to never stop learning. Your classroom does not end with a graduate degree. Read a lot. Feed your brain.

Remember your soft skills. You will be judged by your character and good manners and the right interpersonal skills are key.

Your careers are not only defined in the office but also from the networks you build. The human relationships you build and friendships you make. These are the bonds that

PERFORMANCE OF SAN BEDA COLLEGE IN THE CPA LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR THE PERIOD 2007-2011

(Sources: Mendoza, Rufo R. 2013. Chapter 5 - The Philippine CPA Licensure Exam Over the Years.

Glimpses: The Philippine Accountancy Profession at a Glance. Allen Adrian Books, Inc. and the Professional Regulation Commission)

Table 1. Schools with the Highest Passing Percentage in Five Years

Rank	Name of Schools	Takers	Passers	% of Passing
1	University of the Philippines - Diliman	325	321	97.87
2	De La Salle University - Manila	629	517	82.19
3	University of Santo Tomas	2,119	1,740	82.11
4	SAN BEDA COLLEGE	508	317	62.40
5	Holy Angel University	645	387	60.00
6	Ateneo De Davao University	767	454	59.19
7	Xavier University	456	269	58.99
8	University of San Carlos	771	429	55.64
9	Far Eastern University - Manila	693	365	52.67
10	Polytechnic University of the Philippines - Sta. Mesa	4,898	2,368	48.35

Table 2. Top Performing Philippine Accountancy Schools

*(with More than 500 Takers, More than 250 Passers,
and Passing Rate Above 50% in Five Years)*

Rank	Name of Schools	Takers	Passers	% of Passing
1	De La Salle University - Manila	629	517	82.19
2	University of Santo Tomas	2,119	1,740	82.11
3	SAN BEDA COLLEGE	508	317	62.40
4	Holy Angel University	645	387	60.00
5	Ateneo De Davao University	767	454	59.19
6	University of San Carlos	771	429	55.64
7	Far Eastern University - Manila	693	365	52.67

Table 3. Top Performing Schools in Metro Manila

*(with More than 500 Takers, More than 250 Passers,
and Passing Rate Above 50% in Five Years)*

Rank	Name of Schools	Takers	Passers	% of Passing
1	De La Salle University - Manila	629	517	82.19
2	University of Santo Tomas	2,119	1,740	82.11
3	SAN BEDA COLLEGE	508	317	62.40
4	Far Eastern University - Manila	693	365	52.67

Table 4. Schools Producing CPA Board Topnotchers

Rank	Name of Schools	Number of times included in the Top 10 slots
1	De La Salle University - Manila	7 times
2	University of the Philippines - Diliman	5 times
	University of Santo Tomas	5 times
	Far Eastern University	5 times
3	University of San Jose - Recoletos	4 times
	University of San Carlos	4 times
	Bicol University	4 times
4	SAN BEDA COLLEGE	3 times
	Polytechnic University of the Philippines	3 times
	Saint Louis University	3 times
	University of Saint La Salle - Bacolod	3 times
	Ateneo de Davao University	3 times

Table 5. 22 Biggest Schools in terms of Number of Takers
(Arranged according to Number of Candidates Fielded in the CPA Board Exams)

CPA Board Producer	– refers to the 20 schools which produced more than 500 examinees in 5 years or an average of 50 takers per exam.
CPA Board Performer	– refers to the 17 schools that have produced more than 250 CPAs in 5 years or an average of 50 per year.
CPA Board Achiever	– refers to the top 7 schools with at least 500 examinees, 250 passers and a passing percentage of 50% in the CPA board exams for the last 5 years (2007 -2011).
CPA Board Topnotcher Maker	– refers to the schools which produced CPA board placers.

No.	Name of Schools	CPA Board Producer	CPA Board Performer	CPA Board Achiever	CPA Board Topnotcher maker
1	Polytechnic University of the Philippines	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
2	PSBA - Quezon City	Yes	Yes	No	No
3	Saint Louis	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
4	University of Santo Tomas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	PSBA - Manila	Yes	Yes	No	No
6	University of East - Manila	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
7	Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
8	University of Luzon	Yes	No	No	No
9	University of San Carlos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Ateneo de Davao University	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Far Eastern University - Manila	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	University of San Jose - Recoletos	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
13	University of the East - Caloocan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
14	Holy Angel University	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	De La Salle University - Manila	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	Divine Word College of Legaspi	Yes	No	No	No
17	Saint Paul's Business School - Palo	Yes	No	No	Yes
18	Ateneo De Naga University	Yes	No	No	Yes
19	San Beda College	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	University of Pangasinan	Yes	No	No	No
21	University of the Philippines - Diliman	No	Yes	No	Yes
22	Xavier University	No	Yes	No	No



begins for

RED LIONS

by Jude P. Roque



The hunt for a record-tying fifth straight NCAA Men's Basketball title has begun for the San Beda Red Lions as the 90th Season of the country's oldest cage league opened last June 28. The four-peat defending champions thumped host Jose Rizal University, 57-49, in the opening game at the Mall of Asia Arena.

With only Rome Dela Rosa graduating from last year's starters, the Red Lions surely have a good crack at the record held only by San Sebastian College. The Golden Stags achieved this feat in the mid-90's with a powerful cast led by Rommel Adducul.

Returning for the Red and White squad this year are former NCAA Finals MVP's Baser Amer and Arth Dela Cruz, and 6'8" Nigerian powerhouse Olaide Adeogun. Along with Anthony and David Semerad, Ryusei Koga and team captain Kyle

Pascual, second year Red Lions coach Boyet Fernandez still has the right ingredients to covet the NCAA crown for a fifth consecutive time. Also returning for the team are Jaypee Mendoza, Roldan Sara, Van Abatayo and Michole Sorela.

Ironically, some members of last year's triumphant group are not suiting up this season, more notably Super Six members Yvan Ludovice, Richie Villaruz, Francis Abarcar and Junjun Bonsubre. Dave Moralde, another Super Six member, will be playing for the UP Maroons in the UAAP this season. Of the six, only Dela Cruz will be part of the quest for the fifth title. Abarcar and Villaruz need to sit out this year due to academic deficiencies, while Ludovice begged off to take care of his ailing mother, who has been in and out of the hospital. Bonsubre will slide down to the Team B for this year.

But not to worry as a new breed of Lions is raring to make waves this year. Rookies Jeramer Cabanag, Ranbill Tongco, Lance Abude and Javee Mocon are all promising players with outstanding credentials. Cabanag used to be the star player of West Negros College in Bacolod. Mocon, Tongco and Abude were all part of the five-peat NCAA Juniors champions San Beda Red Cubs last year. Mocon was also the 2012 NCAA Juniors Finals MVP, while Tongco is the starting point guard of the National Under-18 Team.

It won't be a walk in the park though for the Red Lions as most of the other NCAA squads have improved their rosters as well. Last year's runners-up Letran Knights still have their dynamic trio of Mark Cruz, Rey Nambatac and Kevin Racal, along with a host of reliable relievers. San Sebastian will be another major contender this year

with an almost intact line-up. The Stags surely would not want San Beda to equal their feat of winning five consecutive crowns. Also dangerous are Perpetual Help, Arellano University and Emilio Aguinaldo College.

But the young Bedans are determined and motivated. The Red Lions are also dedicating this campaign to loyal fan Rogelio Lagman Jr., alias Mang Roger, who passed away a week before the NCAA opening. Lagman was a balut vendor loved by Bedans of different batches for over 30 years. He was present in several championship runs by San Beda since 2006 but his health began to deteriorate by 2012. On opening day last June 28, the Red Lions wore "Salamat Mang Roger" shirts during their warm up for the game.

The Drive for Five has begun and the Red Lions are ready to take on a new challenge.



SBC Alumni Foundation Board of Trustees takes oath in Pampanga

(l to r) Engr. Eriberto Gomez, Manny Reyes, Ed Favila, Geoffrey Go, Atty. Jimmy Buhain, Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, Dr. Edgardo Paras, Atty. Jonas Cabochan, Kishu Sehwhani, Levi Laus and Bobbit Mathay

San Beda College Alumni Foundation Roster of Scholars for AY 2014-15

San Beda College Alumni Foundation



Calvin U. Fernandez
3rd year BS legal Management



Roanne Mae G. Guerrero
2nd year, BS Accountancy



Maria Concepcion C. Ignacio
2nd year, BS Psychology



Francisco V. Offemaria IV
4th year, BS Legal Management



Tommy N. Ong
2nd year BS Accountancy



Ma. Rafaela D. Pecante
4th year, BS Accountancy



Samantha Louise B. Ramirez
1st year BS Accountancy



Angella Mari Recio
4th year BS Nursing

San Beda College Alumni Association

For AY 2014-2015

For AY 2014 (2nd semester)

Michelle Angelli T. Capiral
1st year, BS Accountancy
SBC Southern California Alumni Association

Eliza Domingo
Grade 9, donor: Domingo N. Cotoco
(GS'61, HS'65, CAS'69)

Adrian Gabriel B. Santiago
3rd year BS Accountancy
Donors: CAS'85 c/o Rouen Raz Cratus Technology Inc.
c/o Mr. Gian Vargus Prof. Zenaida Manuel



Mr. Gerry Sanvictores, treasurer and board trustee of the SBCAA, was appointed by President Benigno Aquino III as one of the four members of the Professional Regulation Commission Board of Accountancy (BOA), last May 7, 2014.

Being member of the BOA, Gerry will assist regulate the accountancy practice in the Philippines by standardizing accountancy education. Gerry together with BOA Chair Joel Tan-Torres, Eliseo Aurellado and Betty Siy-Yap, will also serve as an examiner starting with the mid-year CPA licensure examination slated this July 2014. It will be recalled that this is the first time in the history of the CPA licensure exams where all the examiners are practitioners. Gerry's term as member of the BOA is for a period of three years. He took his oath of office recently before PRC Chair Teresita Manzala.

Because of this new appointment, Gerry has to give up his post as treasurer and board of the SBCAA to avoid any conflict of interest. He is presently People Leader and Assurance Partner of Sycyp Gorres Velayo & Co., the country's largest professional service firm. His comrades in the SBCAA will surely miss his genuine committed service but nonetheless, elated with this new development in his very successful accountancy professional career.

In 2011, Gerry was awarded Most Distinguished Bedan in the field of Accountancy. He was recipient of several awards from the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, recognizing his exemplary achievements in this field of work. This new appointment has surely added more feathers to Gerry's already much-decorated cap.



Outstanding Bedan Gerry Sanvictores appointed as Member of the PRC Board of Accountancy

by Dr. Joffre M. Alajar



Victor Baguilat, Jayson Maulit and Carlo Jennuel Antonio

San Beda College, throughout its 113 years of existence, has prided itself in producing the modern visionaries that have transformed society and its way of thinking not just in the country, but also in the global community. With the same vision in mind, the San Beda Debate Society-- an organization from the College of Arts and Sciences-- has sought to make lasting contributions as part of the intellectual development of San Beda College for the past twenty-two years.

With the mission to introduce San Beda College to the international community, the San Beda Debate Society took part in the prestigious United Asians Debating Championship held last May 22-June 2, 2014 at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and proudly brought home the title as the 5th Best Debate Team in Asia and the top

San Beda ranked as one of Asia's Best Debate Teams

by Ma. Evarlyn R. Santos

ranked Philippine team of the country. Notably, this was the first time in nearly six years San Beda College was able to compete in the internationally acclaimed Asian debate tournament.

The San Beda Debate Society sent two teams with one adjudicator to compete in the said event. The team of San Beda 1 was composed of: Karlo Antonio (BS Legal Management), Mark Jayson Maulit (BS Legal Management) and Victor Baguilat (BS Law); while the team of San Beda 2 was composed of Hannah Barrantes, Tamsin Prado and Ralph Manuel, all from the BS

Legal Management program. The only adjudicator sent was Charles De Belen (BS Law).

Teams from Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU), University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD), University of the Philippines Manila (UPM), Far Eastern University (FEU), De La Salle University (DLSU), University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), and De La Salle-College of St. Benilde (DLS-CSB) were also sent by their respective institutions to compete in UADC. Apart from the local teams, international universities also competed in the debate

tournament like the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UT Mara), National University of Singapore (NUS), Tokyo University, International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), Chulalongkorn University, Korea University, University of Indonesia, and the National Law School of India University (NLSIU). A total of 500 students and young professionals from all over the Asian continent competed in this grand competition on intellectual discourse and critical thinking.

Prior to UADC, the contingent of San Beda also

competed in the Singapore Management University (SMU) Hammers and reached the quarter finals of the competition after being narrowly beaten by a team from the National Law School of India University. Nevertheless, the contingent bounced back and finished strong at UADC, beating teams from NTU, Korea University, Parahyangan Catholic University, Atma Jaya Catholic University,

SMU, Chulalongkorn University, NLSIU, and ADMU during the elimination rounds.

For the finals series, team San Beda 1 reached the octo-finals and advanced to the quarter finals after beating a team from UPD that was composed of the current national debate finalists of the country. They also beat the reigning national champions from

the Ateneo de Manila University during the eliminations round. Team San Beda 1 reached the quarter finals of the tournament and finished strong as the only Philippine team to advance to the quarter finals during the entire UADC.

Charles De Belen, who was the only adjudicator from San Beda, also reached the octo finals



Top Ten Debate Teams in Asia (UADC 2014 Rankings) - out of 120 teams -

Rank	Institution	Country
1	Universiti Teknologi Mara (1)	Malaysia
2	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore
3	National University of Singapore	Singapore
4	International Islamic University	Malaysia
5	San Beda College-Manila	Philippines
6	Ateneo de Manila University (1)	Philippines
7	Tokyo University	Japan
8	Universiti Teknologi Mara (1)	Malaysia
9	National University of Singapore	Singapore
10	Ateneo de Manila University (2)	Philippines

of the open breaks and the semi finals of the EFL (English as Foreign Language) category.

After nearly a decade of trying to bring home honor and glory to the name of San Beda College in the field of debate and intellectual public speaking, the San Beda Debate Society is proud to showcase this recent accomplishment as proof of how far the unwavering Bedan spirit can go. This accomplishment is something to be proud of not just as a Bedan, but also as a Filipino.

Serve the People

*(Valedictory Address delivered by Jose Angelo A. David,
Class Valedictorian, before the Graduating Class of 2014 of
San Beda College of Law Manila, April 5, 2014)*



Before I begin, I would like to inform you that I will not be delivering my Valedictory Address in English. I know that this is not usual practice. But please, lend me your ears, as I speak in our mother tongue.

Marahil nagtataka kayo kung bakit nasa wikang Filipino ang aking talumpati, samantalang Ingles ang lingua franca sa law school. Ang ating mga batas, court proceedings, pati na ang mga desisyon ng Korte Suprema ay nasa wikang Ingles. Nakasanayan

natin na gamitin ang Ingles sa mga recitations at exams.

Gayunpaman, ang araw ng pagtatapos ay hindi lamang para sa atin. Bagkus, ang araw na ito ay pagkilala rin sa mga taong tumulong sa atin para marating ang ating kinalalagyan ngayon. Kabilang na rito ang aking mga kamag-anak at mga kasamang bisita, katulad ng aking lola na si nanay Andeng. Hindi sila bihasa sa wikang Ingles. Gayundin ang aking ama na si Joselito. Nais ko silang

pasalamatan kaya naman ang aking talumpati ay nasa ating pambansang wika.

Laki sa hirap ang aking ama. Sa walong magkakapatid, iilan lamang silang nakatungtong ng kolehiyo. Sa katunayan, nagtrabaho pa bilang tricycle driver ang aking ama habang siya ay nag-aaral. Sa pamamagitan ng sipag at determinasyon, siya ay nagtapos bilang isang electrical engineer at nagtrabaho bilang isang government employee sa loob ng higit 20 taon.

Binigyang-diin ng aking ama ang halaga ng edukasyon. Kaya naman, labis-labis ang aking kasiyahan na nagtatapos ako ngayon.

Sa kasamaang palad, hindi natin kapiling ngayon ang aking ama. Pumanaw siya halos tatlong taon na ang nakalilipas dahil sa sakit na leukemia. Ako noon ay patungong second year pa lamang dito sa College of Law. Naaalala ko pa nga: sa ospital ako nagsulat ng case digests para sa klase nina Justice Mario Lopez at Atty. Bruce Rivera, at doon ako nag-memorize ng provisions para kay Dean Ulan Sarmiento. Habang ang aking ama ay sumasailalim sa chemotherapy, sa ospital kami nag-Pasko at nag-Bagong Taon.

Lingid man sa kaalaman ng karamihan, muntik na akong tumigil sa pag-aaral ng Law dahil sa malalaking gastusin sa ospital at chemotherapy. Sa katunayan, maging ang aking kapatid na si Camille ay kinailangang ipagpaliban muna ang kanyang pag-aaral ng medicine.

At sa tuwing miss na miss ko si Papa, binabalikan ko ang huling text



message niya sa akin. First year ako noon at kasama ako sa awarding ceremonies. Ang sabi niya sa akin, "Anak, mahal kita. Keep up the good work!" Pa, ito na ang bunga ng ating paghihirap. Sayang, hindi mo na nahintay.

Napakasakit mawalan ng isang magulang. Gayunpaman, alam ko rin na mas masakit mawalan ng isang asawa. Ang aking inang si Cecilia, sa kanyang edad na 48 years old, ay nagtatrabaho pa rin bilang isang call center agent. Gabi-gabi siyang pumapasok sa opisina para lang matustusan ang aming mga pangangailangan.

Bilang panganay na anak at nag-iisang lalaki sa tatlong magkakapatid, naisip ko noon na tumigil na lang sa pag-aaral. Tatal naman, mayroon na akong bachelor's degree. Naghanap ako ng trabaho at desidido nang tumigil sa pag-aaral. Subalit dahil sa sakripisyo ni Mama, nandito ako ngayon bilang inyong Class Valedictorian.

Mama, maraming maraming salamat, at hindi ko man palaging sinasabi, ay mahal na mahal kita. Thank you, sa patuloy na pagtitis mo para sa aming magkakapatid upang patuloy naming maabot ang aming mga pangarap. Hindi mo kami sinukuan. Kaya naman, pangako ko rin sa iyo at sa aking mga kapatid, Camille at Tricia, na hindi ko rin kayo susukuan.

Ito ang kwento ng aking paglalakbay sa San Beda College of Law. Mahirap

at maraming lubak. Ilang ulit man akong nadapa ay natutunan kong bumangon para maabot ang aking mga pangarap. Ngunit hindi ko ito naabot mag-isa. Sa tulong ng aking mga kaibigan, blockmates at orgmates, na hindi ko na mababanggit pa isa-isa, ay nalagpasan ko ang law school. Maraming salamat din sa staff ng Dean's Office, lalo na kay Kuya Jerome, sa pag-intindi sa amin sa apat o higit pang taon. Salamat din sa lahat ng bumubuo ng Alumni Association, lalo na kay Dr. Conrado Oca, na tumulong sa akin mairaos ang apat na taon. At syempre, sa lahat ng mga magulang at kamag-anak natin na narito ngayon at tumulong sa atin, maraming salamat po.

Kung tutuusin, simple lang naman ang gusto nating lahat: maging abogado.



Ngunit araw-araw ay sinusubukan ang ating dedikasyon – sa mga bokyang recitation kay Atty. Amurao at mahihirap na exams ni Dean Jara. Ito ay mga maliliit na pagsubok lamang. Ang ilan sa atin ay pamilyado na at hati ang oras sa pag-aaral, halimbawa sina Kat Naga at Kenneth Ng. Ang ilan naman sa atin ay nagtrabaho rin nang ilang taon katulad ni Lei Columna. Mayroon ding nagkasakit o kaya'y naospital sa gitna ng semestre, katulad nina Joy Intig at Ed Apaya. Ang iba sa atin ay nawalan din ng mga mahal sa buhay, katulad nina Maica Hautea, Iya Correa at Gelo Abella. At higit sa lahat, kasabay natin sa pagmartsa si Joket Ledda, bar exam blast survivor at nagsisilbing inspirasyon sa ating lahat.

Marahil ang susi sa kwentong ito ng pagbangon ay ang paghahanap ng saysay o layon sa ating mga pangarap. Bakit natin ito ginagawa? Para kanino? Para saan?

Ipinagmamalaki natin na nagsimula tayo bilang 17 sections. Ngunit 6 sections na lamang tayo na nagsisipagtapos ngayon. Subalit ang mas malaking hamon sa bawat isa sa atin ay ito – ang bigyang saysay ang ating pag-aaral ng Law.

Kaugnay nito, isa pang dahilan kung bakit nasa wikang Filipino ang aking Valedictory Address, ay ang aking adhikain na ipasa, o 'di kaya'y isalin, sa wikang Filipino ang ating mga batas, pati na ang mga court

proceedings, decisions at court records.

Hindi ba't nakakatawa na dayuhan tayo sa sarili nating mga batas? Mapalad tayong mga nakapag-aral dahil kaya nating paikut-ikutin ang wikang Ingles. Ngunit paano naman ang nakararami? Paano naman ang masa?

Halimbawa: kami sa Legal Aid Bureau, sa patnubay ni Atty. Peter-Joey Usita, ay nagtungo sa kanayunan para sa aming Streetlaw Projects. Dinayo namin ang probinsya ng Rizal, Quezon at Pangasinan. Doon ay nagbigay kami ng lectures tungkol sa Katarungang Pambarangay Law. Doon din namin nalaman na karamihan sa mga opisyaes ng barangay ay hindi pala naiintindihan ang nasabing batas.

Ignorantia legis non excusat. Ignorance of the law excuses no one from compliance therewith. Gayunpaman, paano natin maaasahan ang ating mga kababayan – lalo na ang masa – na ipatupad o dili kaya'y sundin ang batas na hindi naman nila naiintindihan? Hindi ito makatarungan.

Naging pilot project ng Supreme Court sa mga RTC ng Bulakan ang paggamit ng wikang Filipino. Iba't iba ang naging pagtanggap ng mga tao sa nasabing eksperimento. Nakalulungkot na sa huli ay ginawa lamang opsyonal ang paggamit ng Filipino sa korte. Ngunit ayon sa pag-aaral ni Isabel Pefianco Martin, isang propesor mula sa Ateneo de Manila University, "until such time when the language of the Philippine legal system becomes truly transparent and genuinely available to all Filipinos, justice in the Philippines will remain elitist and elusive."

Oo, tiyak na magastos, mahirap at matagal ang inaasam kong pagbabago. But we should never sacrifice justice for the sake of convenience. Ang ilan sa atin kayang i-recite ng pabaliktad ang kahulugan ng salitang social justice. "Social justice is bringing about the greatest good for the greatest number".



The law is a tool for nation-building. And according to Benedict Anderson, the nation is an imagined community. It is therefore incumbent upon us, those learned in the law, to imagine a new Filipino nation – one that brings about the greatest good for the greatest number.

Kaugnay nito at bilang pagtatapos, nais kong sambitin ang mga salita ng pinaka-unang dekanong ng San Beda College of Law na si Dean Feliciano Jover Ledesma. For him, the goal of San Beda is "to produce good Christian and highly principled lawyers, mentally and spiritually equipped to take their places among real apostles of Justice". From the Greek word "apostolus," apostle means "send forth". From hereon, we are sent forth to deliver a message of justice.

San Beda College of Law is home to seven bar topnotchers. With us here is my close friend and idol, Atty. Katrina Paula Suyat, who placed 7th in the

2013 Bar Exams. We continue to be in the top three law schools in terms of passing percentage. Yet, our mission is to go beyond the numbers.

Our goal is simply not to be just great lawyers. It is written in the stars that we are meant to be Bedan lawyers.

On behalf of the graduating class, I thank all of you, our dear teachers, for preparing us for a life-long journey of finding justice. You have made us strong to face not only the bar exams and the practice of law. We will soon be ready to take our place among real apostles of justice.

So, my fellow graduates, as we prepare for the 2014 bar exams, let us strive towards a larger goal - to serve the people.

That in all things, God may be glorified!

Maraming salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat!





The San Beda Collegiate Athletic Association: Bedans Serving Fellow Bedans

by Prof. Michael John Y. Rubio

From L to R: Vincent Aguillon, Rhenzel Sumbillo,
the author, Gabriel Garcia, Jimbo Alcantara
and Thirdy Nepomuceno

When the Office of the Prefect of Academics for Student Athletes was established last year, one of the major concerns was to ensure that various programs will be implemented for the total development of the student athletes. The task seemed daunting at times considering the immense work that is needed to be done with just one person manning the office. Thankfully, a group of Marketing students took notice and accepted the challenge to be of service to their fellow Bedans. Thus, the SAN BEDA COLLEGIATE ATHLETES COMMISSION was born.

The Commission was created with the aim of assisting the Office with the various programs designed to improve the academic standing of the student athletes as well as the integration of the student athletes to the larger school community. Likewise, the organization aims to provide opportunities for the student athletes to develop themselves in all facets of their student life. Such noble aims can only be achieved when there is willingness to make some sacrifices for the sake of others. These selfless acts of sacrifice is a true manifestation of Bedan community spirit at its best.

For academic year 2014-2015, the San Beda Collegiate Athletes Commission is fortunate to have the following officers:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| • Rhenzel Sumbillo | Chairman |
| • Vincent Aguillon | Vice Chairman |
| • Gabriel Adrian Garcia | Secretary |
| • Jimbo Elie Alcantara | Treasurer |
| • Thirdy Nepomuceno | Auditor |

It will indeed be a very productive year knowing that these people are willing and able to be true to the maxim of Bedans serving fellow Bedans. Animo San Beda!

Dean Jara mourns untimely demise of son Michael



The memory of departed loved ones runs deep, and its wounds take time to heal. Such is what **Atty. Virgilio Jara**, dean of the SBC College of Law, feels on the untimely death of his son Michael, a student of the Graduate School of Business (2012-2013). Michael was found lifeless in his hotel room in Peru.

Dean Jara recalls that it was only Michael, among his kids, who chose to become a Bedan. He pursued graduate studies in business in San Beda.

For Dean Jara and family, Michael will live on in their hearts for he had left a treasure trove of happy memories where his family and loved ones could draw from. The entire Bedan Community is one with Dean Jara and family in mourning the death of Michael. We pray for the eternal repose of his soul.



In Memoriam

- Rev. Fr. Silvestre H. Lacson, Prior (1974-1980), 19th Rector (1983-1985), died June 11, 2014, Wednesday
- Lina Credo – mother of Atty. Ann Claire Credo-Cabochan (Law '94) mother-in-law of former SBCAA President Atty. Jonas Cabochan (GS '79, HS '83, Law '94)
- Atty. Dolly Contreras – Aunt of Fr. Basil Apostol, OSB
- Krystyll Jade F. Opiniano - incoming 1st year C.A.S. student
- Atty. Felix D. Carao, Jr. (Law '61)
- Cong. Constantino H. Navarro, Jr. (HS '59, AB '67)
- Eduardo V. Cruz (BCS Accounting '59)
- Enrique Gerard G. Patag (GS'85, HS '89)
- Dr. Ramon Benedicto Marcelino (SBC-GSB Professor, Head RPDC)
- Andrew James Caguiao (GS '78, HS '82)
- Eduardo P. Mendiola (HS '57) brother of Dr. Rogelio P. Mendiola (HS '56)
- Carlos Z. Ortoll (GS' 54, HS '58)
- Christian P. Soriano (CAS Class 1998)
- Dom Benet Naniong, OSB

*Special prayers for the eternal
repose of their souls.*



THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S TERM-END REPORT AY 2013-2014

by Mr. Joselito "Jojo" Hautea

As the old dictum goes, *"Nothing in this world is permanent, everything is fleeting, everything is passing."* On such note, I am happily ending my term as president of the San Beda College Alumni Association today, May 20, 2014.

Allow me therefore to render this final piece as my end-of-the term report to the SBCAA Board of Trustees, the SBCAA and the entire Bedan Community. What have been accomplished?

1. A more financially viable SBC Alumni Association

The SBCAA registered a Cash in Bank position amounting to Php 2,397,025.42 as of May 20, 2014. Receivables as of same date totaled Php 550,899.73. Thanks to the Red and White Ball, the Bingo bonanza, the baratillo sale, the Golf tournaments, and the alumni fees collected from our graduating students which have contributed a lot in making our association financially robust. Credit also goes to the sound and rather conservative financial management policies of the Association which kept the Association liquid and solvent.

2. Extended Financial Assistance to some members of the Bedan Family

The SBCAA managed to extend financial assistance to some members of the Bedan Community even with our limited financial resources. SBCAA released various financial assistance to a number of alumni, SBC employees and other members of the Bedan community amounting to Php 323,500.00.

3. Continuous Recognition of Exemplary Bedans

The SBCAA continuously lived up to being the prime proponent of the annual alumni awards, namely: the SBC Hall of Fame, Sport Hall of Fame Distinguished Bedans, Outstanding Overseas Bedans, Women of the Year award, and a lot more. A more uniform and specific set of criteria have been set, making the selection process more credible and organized.

4. Bigger Participation in the school affairs

The SBCAA actively involved itself in various school activity programs such as: community involvement, organized by the Institutional Community Involvement Center, Frolics, Pista ng Sto. Niño, scholarship programs, art exhibits at the Pamanang Bedista, and a lot more.

5. An updated SBCAA website

The SBCAA website remains updated and improved, as this serves as an important vehicle to reach out to a number of alumni here and abroad.

6. Continuous Publication of The Bedan Alumnus magazine

At least thrice a year, The Bedan Alumnus Magazine is published. This is another important communication tool that links the alumni and their *alma mater*.

7. Holding of the Alumni Unity Cup

To provide a venue where the alumni can renew ties with one another and San Beda College, the Alumni Unity Cup was held last August 2013. It brought in a number of Bedans back into the fold of the SBCAA.

8. Bingo Bonanza in SBC Campus

For the first time, the SBCAA entered into a partnership agreement with the CAS and BED Faculty clubs to organize a fund-raising activity dubbed *"Bingo Bonanza"*. This activity was well-attended, well-received and raised substantial funds for the SBCAA and the Faculty Clubs.

9. Sponsorship of the 11am Sunday Masses by the Alumni

The various classes spearheaded the sponsorship of the Sunday Masses at 11am; and, this has become another venue to bring back the Bedan spirit of camaraderie.

10. SBCAA Board Trustee's Recollection in Malaybalay Bukidnon

For the first time, the SBCAA board of trustees held its recollection in the Monastery of Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon with Fr. Ed Africa, OSB as retreat master.

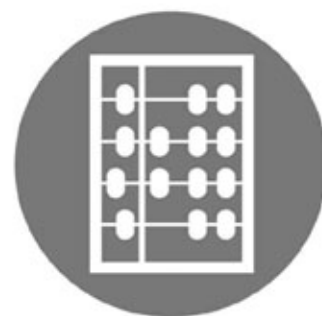
All these would not been possible without the whole-hearted and enthusiastic cooperation of my fellow trustees and officers of the SBCAA, the College administration under the leadership of Rector-President Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, and the SBCAA Alumni Office.

As I end my two years in office, I am grateful to everyone who have, in one way or the other, made all these possible. With your tireless and generous support, I am confident that the future holds even greater promise for our San Beda College Alumni Association and our beloved San Beda College.



**SAN MIGUEL
CORPORATION**

REYES TACANDONG & Co.
FIRM PRINCIPLES. WISE SOLUTIONS.



MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER





San Beda College Alumni Association, Inc. Vision-Mission Statement

The San Beda College Alumni Association is a Community of Bedans providing Christian leadership to society, driven by the Benedictine ideals and values, as a life-long connection to San Beda College, the Church, the Filipino nation and the global community.

VISION

The San Beda College Alumni Association envisions itself as an integral part of a serving Bedan Community, that together with its Alma Mater – San Beda College, it is able to contribute to the transformation of society, and help build better communities of nation, Church and the global community.

MISSION

With hope for the realization of that vision, the San Beda College Alumni Association aims to –

- Serve as the most effective link between San Beda College and the alumni/ae;
- Be an effective and efficient Bedan Alumni organization that will help in the advancement of the educational service mission of San Beda College: and
- Assists its members to become faithful embodiments of the Benedictine ideals of peace, prayer, work and service, for them to become exemplars for generations of Bedans to emulate.

"That in all things, God may be glorified"