



the bedan today

a destiny of honor, service, and excellence

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**5-YEAR SMART PLAN
Soaring High &
Going Beyond:**

Dirty Talk

GSLit Takes the Lead in
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**The National Meeting of
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**San Beda Obtains
International Certification:
TUV Rheinland Confers ISO 1901:2015
to the Mighty Red School**

The Recipe of
LOVE in
Leadership



SB RESEARCH GOVERNANCE
Rooted in Benedictine Values

CHRISTMAS
is...



Photographer: Doris Sartorio

What is this issue about?

Sybil:

Our soul needs constant refilling of inspiration, ideas, challenge, and affirmation. This is so because we are alive, and as human beings, we do '*not only live by bread alone*'. These abstractions undeniably keep the stream of life thriving in all of us. In the same way, San Beda, as an institution, is kept alive by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that manifests in the dedication and encouragement of the community members, the ideas that drive development, the dreams that pose challenges, and the affirmation that impels more action. Consequently, development, challenges and action are crucially influenced by the way the team is led and how actions are influenced and/or controlled, with this, we thought about "Leadership and Governance as inspired by Catholic Faith" as our theme for this issue.

Larry:

Also, this is about Christmas. It's about the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, which started this wonderful season. His birth and ultimately his death were all sacrifices for our sake. He died so we may live that we may continue His mission of spreading the good news of God. And I think, that is something to reflect more on this season. Jesus showed true love and leadership by offering His life in exchange for our sins. He did it for our best interest, not for His own selfish gain but for our salvation, and that is how a good leader should be. Aside from that, this issue digs deeper into Christmas itself, the holiday. What it truly means to celebrate Christmas, Catholic or not.

What inspired you to do it?

Sybil:

I smile as I recall the video I saw posted in Facebook about a *skein* of ducklings that struggled to reach the top of the stairs. The mother duck, the gentle team coach to her young, moves back and forth but occasionally moves away from them to perhaps challenge and inspire the little ones to hop on. In the process, countless back-smashing feats and a rather tormenting self-inflicted pain seemed the price to pay for their attempt to reach the top. What's endearing, however, was the relentlessness of the ducklings, a value which I attribute to the mother duck's leadership.

In this issue, we deem for readers to feel inspired, affirmed and challenged.

Larry:

As for me, I found myself asking "What is Christmas?" ever since the -ber months came in. And maybe, I'm not the only one out there asking these questions. "Why do I celebrate Christmas? What is it truly? What is it without all the over-commercialization or the media's portrayal of the perfect Christmas celebration? And since Christmas is fast approaching, I thought: what better way to remind myself and everyone else out there of the true essence of the holiday than to delve deeper into its meaning using this issue of *The Bedan Today*? To use it to remind us all of the universality of the celebration. To remind us all of the significance of our Savior's birth, our Shepherd, Jesus Christ! But more than that...it is to remind us all to *celebrate love, life, and love for life*.

What's your last note to your readers?

Sybil:

We fervently hope that this be a fitting gift to our readers this Christmas season. Maligayang Pasko at masaganang bagong taon!

Larry:

This issue is our gift to all of you, dear Bedans. Feliz Navidad!

Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,


My journey when I first entered San Beda was quite challenging. I was a transferee then and had about eight or nine different sections to attend to out of my 10 subjects. My real block mates didn't even know that I was their classmate until the following semester when I had more subjects with them. But thanks to the accommodating first few friends I've made, I was able to adjust smoothly and have made even more friends.

Over the course of my four-year stay in San Beda, it has become my second home that helped mold me into the person I am today. My *Bedan* education would not be complete if not for all the activities and student organizations I joined and became a part of. Being a student leader is always a challenge because one needs to maintain good academic standing while ensuring that student organization responsibilities are also well taken care of. I believe that the exposures to real work functions and nature have prepared me to life after graduation. San Beda, in so many ways, has indeed instilled a lot of values and perspectives that I carry in my everyday life.

My experience of engaging with diverse people, coming from different backgrounds and cultures as a member of AIESEC in San Beda, has strongly influenced my desire to hopefully be able to study abroad. That's why even before graduation, I was actively searching the internet for universities outside the Philippines that offer scholarships. And immediately after graduation, maybe because of luck and God's plan for me, I was already busy preparing my university and travel documents as I embark on another adventure; this time, it's an adventure far away from home. Fortunately, I was accepted to the Master's in European Union Studies and Human Rights program of the Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM) in Spain.

The first few weeks in Spain was difficult because growing up as a Filipino – we are very much adept with the English language, that's why I have always been confident that I would be able to communicate wherever I go. Little did I know that there are places in the world that we cannot rely on just our English proficiency – like in Spain. There may be numerous English speakers in major cities of the world, but smaller cities like Murcia, where I lived, is a totally different story. It's hardly that you meet people that can speak English, or at least, brave enough to try to communicate with the language. As I stayed longer, I noticed that even though some *Murcian*os can actually speak English; they would tend to act as if they don't. Maybe, they are embarrassed that their grammar is maybe wrong or what--- I didn't really get a clear answer to that before I left. Due to our historical ties with Spain that greatly influenced our country in so many aspects like in language, I was able to learn Spanish more quickly than the other international students.





More than the opportunity to get my master's degree in a Spanish University, the experience to live alone away from my parents and everything I'm used to having provided me with all possible avenues to learn more about myself. During my stay there, I also took advantage of the chance to visit other European countries where I got to meet diverse individuals with so many stories to tell. My travels around Europe have significantly changed my views and perspectives, especially on tolerance and acceptance. Recent issues of racism and discrimination have been making noise worldwide and with my visit to other European cities, I got to see the value of diversity and constructive debates in the development of societies.

After living in Spain for quite some time, I am now back in the Philippines, working for the government in an office under the Office of the President. The Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime (OSETC) focuses on providing the President with policy recommendations relevant to the different categories of Transnational Crimes in the country. The OSETC likewise coordinates with different international organizations such as the United Nations and represents the Philippines in regional and international fora.

I have always hoped to properly represent San Beda wherever I go and to share the values and experiences that our beloved institution has shared in the four nurturing years of my bachelor's degree. As a *Bedan*, I have carefully branded myself when dealing with students from other universities then and more so now that I am a graduate because I wanted to help shape a better impression for *Bedan* education and for the *Bedan* community. However, there are times when I question myself if I indeed embody the values a *Bedan* should have and, if am representing the *Bedan* community as I should. But with the release of November 2016 – July 2017 issue of *The Bedan Today* where I was privileged to be in the cover page, my doubts have completely been answered.

In this regard, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the editors-in-chief and the whole team of *The Bedan Today*. This is both an honor and a challenge for a budding young professional like me to be chosen as the cover feature among the so many successful *Bedan* alumni. When asked if my photo can be used as the cover page, at first I wanted to say no mainly because I just graduated two years ago and, I have not proven myself to be worthy of such. Nonetheless, I agreed because I thought it could be a good motivation for the younger *Bedans* to always believe in what they can do; that regardless of age, young people can create ripples of actions that can improve our ways and perceptions, as well as inspire the people around us. I hope that I would be able to encourage our younger *Bedan* brothers and sisters to be the change and movers that we want to have our country.

Respectfully,

Gene Gesite, Jr.

BS Economics and Public Policy Graduate
Batch 2015

“When you take risk, you calculate it;
but when you give love, you give all.”

Fr. Aloysius, O.S.B.

Cooking is a skill. Some are born with a talent in cooking while others develop this skill by combing through each available recipe book, learning every single technique, cooking every opportunity he/she gets, or even asking another person to teach him/her. With this said, there are also individuals who have no inclination or talent in singing. From the myriads of talents and skill sets, there are also people who have an innate skill in leading other people, specifically. In an interview conducted with our Rector-President, Father Aloysius Ma. Albay Maranan, O.S.B., Ed.D., he humbly admits that he has a gift in handling people and knowing them. When asked how he does it, he simply shrugged and answered: “I think it takes a *[sic]* openness to know and discover the heart of a person behind the face, ‘*di ba?*”

One can say that he has a gift of understanding people, getting to know them, governing and delegating tasks to specific people in accordance with his/her skill sets and respective talents. Throughout the whole interview, it was very evident that Fr. Maranan

cares deeply for those under him. He insisted that leadership was not about superficially bossing his subordinates around but rather—it is about involving people, engaging them by making them a big part of vision-making, or he believes that each person is unique; each person has an inherent talent they can contribute not only in vision making but also in achieving the organization's goal. The Rector-President heavily emphasizes the importance of *giving importance* to constituents as a big part of an organization's future. Additionally, a leader must not only know the names and addresses of the people he leads. A leader must take the time to know each person, what their passion is, what makes him/her extraordinary, what his/her advocacy is, what sets him/her apart, and what is the edge of each person, for he believes that knowing the person also means knowing their interest. “It's important that you go deeper than the skin level, and it takes a certain sensitivity to go beyond what you see,” Fr. Maranan stated.

In the interview, Fr. Maranan did not hesitate to place importance, with a myriad of phrases, in the value of relationships, and how it affects a leader's capacity to influence those around him not because of his/her position but because of a leader's relationship with his constituents.

Furthermore, he stated that leadership, like cooking, is like having all the necessary elements to bake a cake and using them efficiently. Alas, if a person fails to bake a cake despite being given all the ingredients and proper utensils, then maybe cooking isn't for that person. Luckily for San Beda, Father Aloysius Maranan isn't *that* person; for he has a knack for leading his constituents in an efficient and effective manner. In line with the aforementioned analogy, people can say that Fr. Aloysius has been given all the equipment and ingredients needed in leading

colleagues, administrators, professors, and students alike and each year delivered exceptionally and outstandingly.

When asked about his fears as a leader, he answered the question with two fear-laced questions, specifically: “What if we do not achieve this?” “What if this will not happen?” but clapped back by stating that fears allow a leader to make options, alternative routes, and new paths. Fear gives people strength to work harder; it bolsters leaders to make new pathways and make them understand that they cannot do everything by themselves, and so fear on its own is *good*. Aside from emphasizing the importance of relationships, he emphasized also the need to trust, to trust in people, and to have faith in God.

Clearly, in leadership, it's not always rainbows and butterflies. There are and will always be *mistakes*. But in San Beda's Rector-President's eyes, such incidents are not to be considered mistakes but rather lessons learned. He further stated that when these 'lesson learned' instances happen, he'd rather look at the glass half full rather than half empty. Therefore, he praises those who work well while not completely disapproving those who fail to achieve and finish certain goals and tasks, respectively. In terms of praising and giving credit where credit is due, “Whether for praising and for making up for those who did not make it, I don't praise to the point of flattering a person, but I give much appreciation by patting the back of the person personally and in front of other people. The organization and I are grateful and thankful for those people who have given much for the success of this school.”

“Leadership” nowadays has become a loose term; self-proclaimed ‘leaders’ forget the true meaning of the word. It's not just a word made of letters haphazardly thrown together,

nor is leadership about fame and power. In the exact words of our *very* reverend Rector-President, “leadership is influence; leadership is your ability to make things happen for people to do it. If you’re gifted with that sense of leading people to act according to your modeling, then that is still a good leadership. When we speak of leadership and governance by faith, this basically would be looking at the source of who we are as

a person and as an organization, and that is coming from the leadership of Jesus himself. Leadership and governance as a good shepherd means that a good leader is a good steward. A good steward is not only concerned with the welfare of the organization but also concerned with the growth of the people in the organization. The good shepherd is willing to sacrifice for the lost one. The bottom line of the good shepherd is giv-

The Recipe of

Love

in

Larry Javier Ambion

Leadership

ing his life for the betterment of the community.”

growth.

Now, we’ve mentioned the phrase “for the betterment of the community,” the question now is what if the vision for the betterment of the community is different from that of the community’s own vision? In Father Aloysius’ experience, his vision has never been different from San Beda’s vision for he does not only envision, but he envisions a future that is good not for himself but for the community. To achieve this, he asks administrators to conduct SWOT Analyses to find the answer to the questions: As a community, what are our strengths? Our weaknesses?

Weaknesses and taking risks are part of the motions in leadership. What’s important is that these risks are calculated. Calculated risks happen when a leader does what is best for his people without endangering them and hindering their

The only thing that a leader does not calculate is love, the love he gives his people. When you take risks, you calculate it, but when you give love, you give it all.

He wants his constituents to always be part of the vision-making, the execution, and the success for when it comes to loving and caring in leading, the only thing you calculate is a risk, and the only thing you do with love is basically to give it.

Fr. Maranan said that whatever challenges that will still come our way will be an opening of new opportunities.” He also compared the workforce of San Beda into a box of crayon with different colors inside – some are not immensely being used, but these colors are necessary to blend with other colors to produce an artistic masterpiece.

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Fifteen centuries ago, a young monk named Benedict founded the fundamental system of Western Monasticism. Guided by what has been popularly acclaimed as the RULE, our Patron Saint Benedict of Nursia laid out in codified form the enduring principles of organization, education, innovation, leadership and ethics that remain relevant today.

The Leaders' Edge: Learning the Ten Commandments of Leadership

Ramon Ricardo A. Roque

St. Benedict primarily believed in the Rule of Selection and Formation. According to St. Benedict, an organization is only as good as its people. Selection is a careful yet rigorous process. Upon admission in a Bedan community, individual subordinates their personal interests to and becomes part of an elite community with shared commitment and common aspirations.

That is why your academic experience within the historic walls of the campus community of San Beda College is characterized by discipline and constancy. From the thoughtful process of selection through your meticulous methods of formation and ultimately to the recognition of meritocracy, the Benedictine standards of uncompromising quality in Christian education are evidently spelled out.

That is what "value-adding *Bedan* education" is all about. *Bedan* education is firmly rooted in the tradition of service to others above self, and passionately reinvigorated by *esprit de corp*, a rare synergy that is uniquely manifested by the oft-repeated phrase: "Once a *Bedan*, always a *Bedan*."

Thus, I could not agree more on this issue's theme:

"Leadership and Governance as inspired by Catholic Faith." Essentially, this means that leaders are expected not only to provide vision and direction to the institution but more importantly to inspire and energize its members under the spirit of St. Benedict and the precepts of the Catholic faith.

Leadership is ACTION

To be true to your profession and to reach your full potential, one must know how to accept the challenge of leadership. Accepting such challenge requires an accurate appreciation of its true essence. You need to believe that leadership is not a noun, but rather a verb that connotes action and requires action.

The Ten Commandments of Leadership, as written by Dr. Kent M. Keith, an international author on leadership, could serve as your guide in assuming such a leadership role. These commandments illustrate not only how dynamic leaders are supposed to be, but also how you as leaders can, at the very least, give justice to your role as administrators, monks, professors, non-teaching employees, and students. In quoting these commandments, I hope to provide you with the basic actions you need as leaders in your respective units and departments.

Commandment No. 1 – “People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered. LOVE them anyway.”

Leadership is not about getting the best people in your organization. Leadership is about influencing people in your organization to become better persons and helping them achieve their full potential. LOVING the people you lead is a leader's first order of business. Without loving them, you can never inspire, energize and empower them. You cannot lead them. John Maxwell, another international author on leadership and one who has mentored great people in leadership positions, aptly capsulizes this concept into a single sentence: “People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Commandment No. 2 – “If you do good, people will accuse you of selfishness and ulterior motives. Do good anyway.”

Leadership was, is, and will never be about popularity. Leadership in most times has been proven to be a thankless job. Accepting the challenge of leadership requires accepting the fact that it requires DOING what is good, even if it means going against what is popular. I would like to stress that leadership does not merely require thinking, feeling and believing what is good – leadership is basically DOING GOOD.

Commandment No. 3 – “If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.”

Leaders are expected to be models for the people in their organization. We cannot give what we do not have. We cannot influence and inspire the people we lead to be successful if we do not know and have not experienced success ourselves. For, as they say, leaders can never take their people farther than they have travelled. Like leader, like people.

Commandment No. 4 – “The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.”

Leadership is a vocation. Leadership thrives on a feeling of fulfillment once another person's life is made better by what the leader does. Leadership does not impose a condition of gratitude for a true leader inspires and empowers people in his organization.

Commandment No. 5 – “Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.”

The value of honesty is usually related to the integrity or character of a leader. History is replete with stories of how dishonesty caused the downfall of even the highest and most powerful leaders. As Billy Graham puts it, “Integrity is



“With these tenets of leadership, the challenge of a leadership role, and direction and embracing the challenges. As leaders, you play a significant role and bear even the heaviest burden for no nation.

As there were great Bedans in the past, so there will be great Bedan leaders in this new century with you at the helm. ”

the glue that holds our way of life together. We must constantly strive to keep our integrity intact. For when wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost."

Closely related to the value of honesty is frankness for it is always worthwhile to speak of the truth. But frankness is not saying what you want without regard for the feelings of others. Tact or diplomacy plays an important role in dealing with others for there is always value in keeping another person's pride and self-worth intact.

Commandment No. 6 – "The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest ideas. Think big anyway."

David defeated Goliath. Size, in many instances, does not matter. But when you are a leader, you need to think BIG. Remember that leaders do not live for themselves alone; leaders live for the organization and its members. In your case, you live for your clients as well. Think BIG in the context of assuming a scope beyond what is good to you as a person and as a leader. Your thinking should include what is good for the organization, all its members, and your clients.

Commandment No. 7 – "People favor underdogs but follow only topdogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway."

Leadership requires compassion. Leadership requires a heart. Leadership with a heart is like musical notes combined in a rhythm called music. Leaders need to fight for underdogs not because it is more popular but because it is kind to do so. Remember that a person, more so a leader, who lives with the value of kindness is treated kindly in life. You will reap what you have sown.

Commandment No. 8 – "What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway."

Uncertainty is as certain as the rising of the sun. Leadership is not about being safe; leadership is all about taking calculated risks. The leader firmly believes that such risks ought to be taken. Persons who surrender to the fear of the unknown, regardless of positions they occupy, can and should never qualify as true leaders.

Commandment No. 9 – "People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help them anyway."

No one can have complete control over the actions of other people. Yet a true leader helps anyway no matter what, for he is there to serve.

Commandment No. 10 – "Give the world the best you have, and you will get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway."

The potential of individuals and organization are best realized when the best efforts are exerted, and when the best of everything is hoped, dreamt and worked for – nothing less. A true leader inspires and encourages the people he leads to give their best as he himself gives his best. Anything short negates the real essence of leadership.

...p, I wish that you will pursue the never-ending
...e, assume the responsibility in providing vision
...the commitment to inspire and empower oth-
...nificant role in national and global develop-
...vier burden of responsibility to rebuild our Filipi-

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...e helm as members of the new generation of

Ricardo Ramon A. Roque

Professors and alumni of the San Beda Graduate School of Liturgy were the speakers and resource persons in the 32nd annual National Meeting of Diocesan Directors of Liturgy (NMDDL) held in Diversion 21 Hotel, Iloilo City on August 28-September 2, 2017. The conference papers dealt on topics related to the theme, “The Parish as Communion of Communities” which the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines has set for the current year as part of the 9-year preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Christianization of the Philippines.

GSLit Takes the Lead in National and international Fora:

THE NATIONAL MEETING OF DIOCESAN DIRECTORS OF Liturgy

Josefina Manabat

After the keynote address delivered by the Most Rev. Julius Tonel D.D., chairman of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Liturgy, Fr. Genaro O. Diwa, GSL professor and currently the executive secretary of the same Episcopal Commission, discussed how parish liturgies epitomize “The Church at Worship”. GSL Dean and professor, Dr. Josefina M. Manabat,

S.L.D., expounded on “Parish Celebrations of the Eucharist as Source and Sustenance of Ecclesial Communion.” Other GSL professors who delivered conference papers were Msgr. Ricardo Jesus Serrano, S.L.D. (Parish Celebration of Marriage), Fr. Dennis Soriano (Parish Celebration of Penance and Reconciliation), Fr. Carmelo Arada, Jr. (Parish Celebration of Bap-

tism), and Fr. Reginald R. Malicdem (Parish Celebration of the Liturgical Year). In grateful commemoration of the 50 years of the Instruction *Muscam Sacram* on Music in the Liturgy (issued 1967), a special session was devoted to a discussion of the significant strides that it has brought to the Philippine Church in the area of liturgical music. Fr. Leo Nilo Mangussad, the GSL music professor, spoke on the successes and hopes that the Instruction continues to offer to the Philippine Church in the area of liturgical music.

Every year since 1986 the NMDDL has been gathering diocesan directors of liturgy from all over the country for four or five days of study and discussions on pertinent liturgical topics. Members of religious communities and the laity have been welcomed to participate in these meetings as well. It has therefore become a venue for the continuing liturgical education of both clergy and laity.

Having taken place shortly after the whole Church recalled and celebrated with gratitude the twenty years of liturgical

renewal promoted by Vatican II (1963-1983), the first NMDDL which was held in 1986 dealt with various areas of implementation of the liturgical renewal in the Philippines. The late Rev. Fr. Anscar J. Chupungco, O.S.B. (SBC rector-president, 2001-2007 and a liturgy expert of national and international renown) and the then bishop-chairman of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Liturgy, Archbishop Jesus A. Dosado, D.D. started this annual liturgy gathering which has continued on without interruption for 32 years now. Through the years, Fr. Chupungco was the main resource person at these meetings until his demise on January 9, 2013. Today his former students both at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of Sant' Anselmo in Rome and at the San Beda Graduate School of Liturgy carry on the significant Benedictine contribution to the continuing liturgical education of the clergy, religious, and laity in the Philippines through their expertise and leadership in the NMDDL and in the liturgical studies program of the San Beda Graduate School of Liturgy and of the Paul VI Institute of Liturgy in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.



Dirty Talk

Hana Badando and Sr. Maria Elena Adre

How many ways can you eat shit? Let us count the ways. Grossed out? Shocked? Embarrassed to talk about shit? Well it's about time someone started to take it seriously because such "dirty talk" lies in the bowels of what WaSH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programs are about. Too often, discussions about sanitation get swept under the rug. It does not get the same attention as health, housing, food, employment, etc.

How can you get people to talk about shit and garbage? How do you use such talk to turn people on rather than off?

Using a toilet, washing hands, and keeping surroundings clean seem simple and desirable enough but...what if it is not what you see as normal?

Over the last 12 months, in a semi-urban setting of within Silang, Cavite, our college, in partnership with Canossa Health and Social Center Foundation, Inc., have been assisting five barangays reach their sanitation goals.

Letting People Lead the Way

Central to our approach is getting communities to take on the challenge, find and lead ways to change things, and moving beyond an unacceptable norm by thinking outside the box. We are using a combination of approaches to create demand for good sanitation and change people's poor sanitation habits. Using the "community-led total sanitation" or CLTS strategy as springboard, we have

integrated and devised other ways to engage barangays, public schools, and day care communities. We have modified it to cover issues like handwashing, solid waste, and animal waste management.

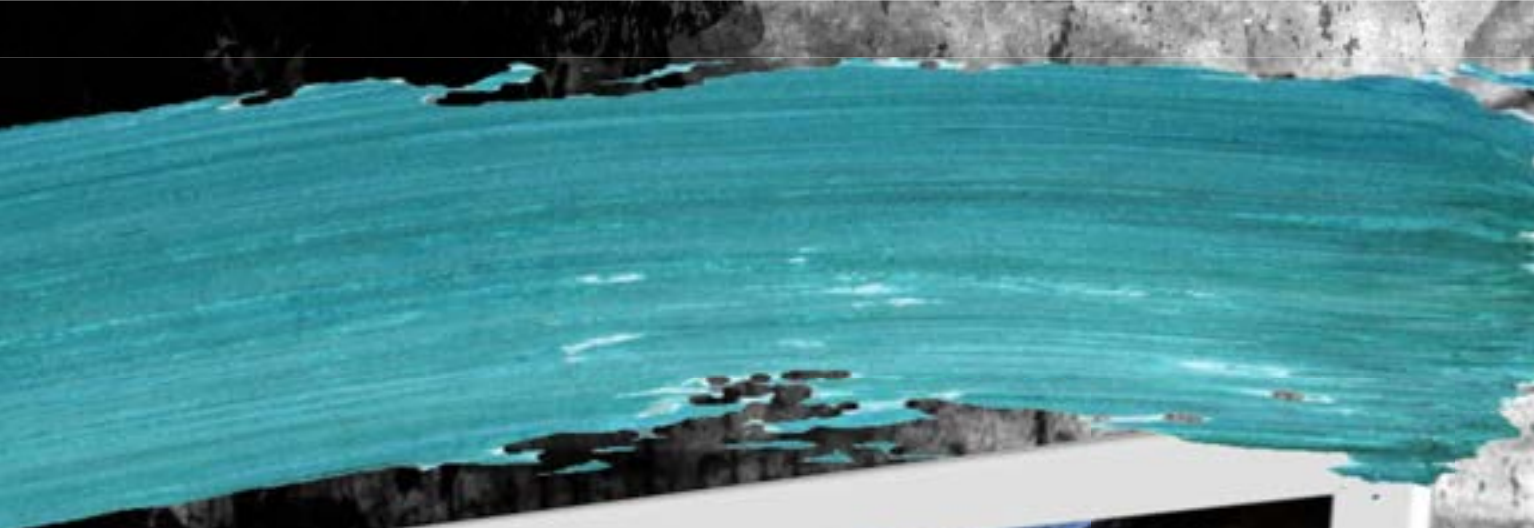
Our program works with different sectors and different stakeholders. It tackles water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) at the level of communities, school, and day care centers. We have formed community groups who help their respective barangays plan, monitor, and implement their sanitation programs. We are hoping that by including children, we can successfully close the loop as they become part of the solution.

Our program focuses on participation of communities in changing the norm, formation of desirable habits, and promotion of behaviour change in sanitation – all to ensure long-term sustainability.

Our Challenges

How hard could it be to feel shame and disgust about dirty hands and a dirty environment? Appar-







“We are hoping that by including children, we can successfully close the loop as they become part of the solution.”

ently not hard at all but the real challenge is to overcome the Filipino tendency to *ningas-kogon*, harnessing instead the traditional *damayan at bayanihan*, to avoid blaming, to start moving, and to keep at it until sanitary practices become personal and communal habits. The CLTS strategy does not rely on subsidies in order to prevent external expectation and dependence yet the resource-constrained semi-urban setting has posed an obstacle that cannot be ignored.

Lessons (So Far)

We are still writing our story, exploring new twists and better plots. Along the way, we have learned for ourselves and confirmed a few things:

- Sanitation in a semi-urban setting needs a different approach from the rural for its unique contexts and challenges
 - Our 5 catchment barangays have different capacities and drive to accomplish their commitments and reach their sanitation goals. There is less social cohesion as the population is heterogeneous, transient, and highly dense. Thus, *Bayanihan* is not seen as much.
 - Water supply is not continuous and garbage collection is infrequent and irregular.
 - Political figures rely heavily in sustaining initiatives and the political will of leaders is weak.
 - A system to address semi-urban sanitation needs is not in place.
- Pure demand creation strategy is insufficient. Continuous social mobilization, advocacy, and persistent follow-up are needed. We need to address the various vulnerabilities, socio-economic needs of communities, and factors that cause poor sanitation to persist.

“It is also important to always move forward, without hesitation to discontinue what is not working well, and with courage to take on new paths and challenge norms together with the communities, no matter how daunting they may look.”

- In every step of the way, stakeholders need to be involved to create ownership and empower people. You have to identify and appeal to what makes them tick, their dreams, hopes, and interests. Contrary to popular belief, we have seen that money does not necessarily motivate people in semi-urban setting.
- Do not underestimate the power of young children and youth. A study has shown that Involvement of children can result in positive impact not only in community programs, but also within the children and youth themselves; children and youth involvement can bring long-term development in the community. We are hoping that this can happen if we become successful in integrating children from the schools and day care centers in community sanitation efforts.
- Harmonize interventions and collaborate. The complexities of semi-urban localities require a more comprehensive interdisciplinary approach that would address not only their sanitation needs, but also other issues affecting it, such as environmental, social, financial, economic, legal, and institutional. In this program, we have started integrating WaSH in communities with WaSH

in learning environments. Health is integrated through our hygiene promotion support. As Canossa Health and Social Center Foundation, Inc. has an existing nutrition program for malnourished children from our catchment barangays, we are also going to conduct community-based researches on the effect of the program on nutritional status of the children in the area.

- Positive behavior change TAKES TIME.
- Do not give up. We believe that with persistence and right combination of interventions, we will probably be able to eventually help these communities achieve their sanitation goals. This program has now been included in the 5-year development plan of our institution, so we have a lot of time.
- As part of the participatory process, it is important to frequently give feedback to communities and residents about the progress or lack of it.
- It is also important to always move forward, without hesitation to discontinue what is not working well, and with courage to take on new paths and challenge norms together with the communities, no matter how daunting they may look.

About the Authors

Hana Badando is a doctor, development and humanitarian worker, and a faculty of San Beda College of Medicine. She is providing technical assistance in the implementation of the sanitation program in Silang, Cavite. She presented before an international community the grassroots sanitation program that the college is implementing in Cavite. The abstract was accepted for presentation at Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network's 2017, RDI Conference in Sydney, Australia, held from June 13-14, 2017 at the University of Sydney.

Her paper entitled *Improving Semi-Urban Sanitation Using Community- and Learning Environment-Led Strategies*, is being implemented as part of the Extension Service Programs of the College of Medicine under the Family and Community Medicine IV (FCM IV) course, and in partnership with Canossa Health and Social Center Foundation, Inc. through the leadership of Sr. Ma. Elena Adre since July 2016.

The said program is supporting five huge barangays in Bulihan area of Silang, Cavite with around 2,640 households or 19,909 individuals as of September 2015, two public elementary schools with a combined target population of almost 4,000 students from grade three levels, and five day care centers in the barangays. The program tackles WaSH in three levels – community, school community, and day care center community.

International participants commend the paper as very practical and doable. One participant doing her masters in University of Sydney and leading a sanitation program in Nepal said that she wants to follow the lead when she goes back to her country.

Sr. Maria Elena "Yel" Adre is a doctor, nun, and a part-time faculty of San Beda College of Medicine. She heads the Canossa Health and Social Center Foundation, Inc. where fourth year medical students of the college rotate for their Family and Community Medicine IV course.



San Beda in Manila and Rizal obtained another prized gem in the bag.

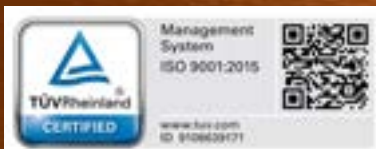
With Rector-President Aloysius A. Maranan, O.S.B. and Governance and Quality Assurance Director Christian Bryan S. Bustamante Ph.D. at the helm, TUV Rheinland, an international certification body providing third party audit, recently conferred ISO 1901:2015 to both campuses.

The conferment affirms San Beda's compliance to local and global standards on structure, responsibilities and procedures in achieving quality management.

San Beda Obtains International Certification:

TUV Rheinland Confers ISO 1901:2015
to the Mighty Red School

Joel G. Filamor



WHAT IS ISO 1901:2015 ALL ABOUT?

ISO 9001 refers to the international standard that specifies requirements for a quality management system (QMS). The same standard was applied to San Beda to demonstrate and validate its ability to consistently provide education and other related services that meet stakeholders' and regulatory requirements.

WHAT ARE THE AREAS COVERED BY THE CERTIFICATION?

ISO 9001 utilizes the "plan-do-check-act" methodology. It uses the process-oriented approach in documenting and reviewing the structure, responsibilities, and procedures required to achieve effective quality management. Specific sections of the standard contain information on topics such as:

- Requirements for a quality management system, including documented information, planning and determining process interactions
- Responsibilities of management
- Management of resources, including human resources and an organization's work environment
- Product realization, including the steps from design to delivery Measurement, analysis, and improvement of the QMS through activities like internal audits and corrective and preventive action

HOW DOES IT ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF QUALITY OFFERED BY SAN BEDA?

Tuv Rheinland shall annually conduct an audit of the institution to ensure that San Beda consistently complies with related international standard and moves towards up-spiral development of its Quality Management System.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ISO CERTIFICATION?

The certification issued by Tuv Rheinland assures parents, students, staff, faculty, administrators and other stakeholders of San Beda high quality services, which in turn derives a variety of benefits including satisfied customers, management and employees. In hind view, it also assures cost efficiency, reduced waste, enhanced productivity, and improved health and safety performance.

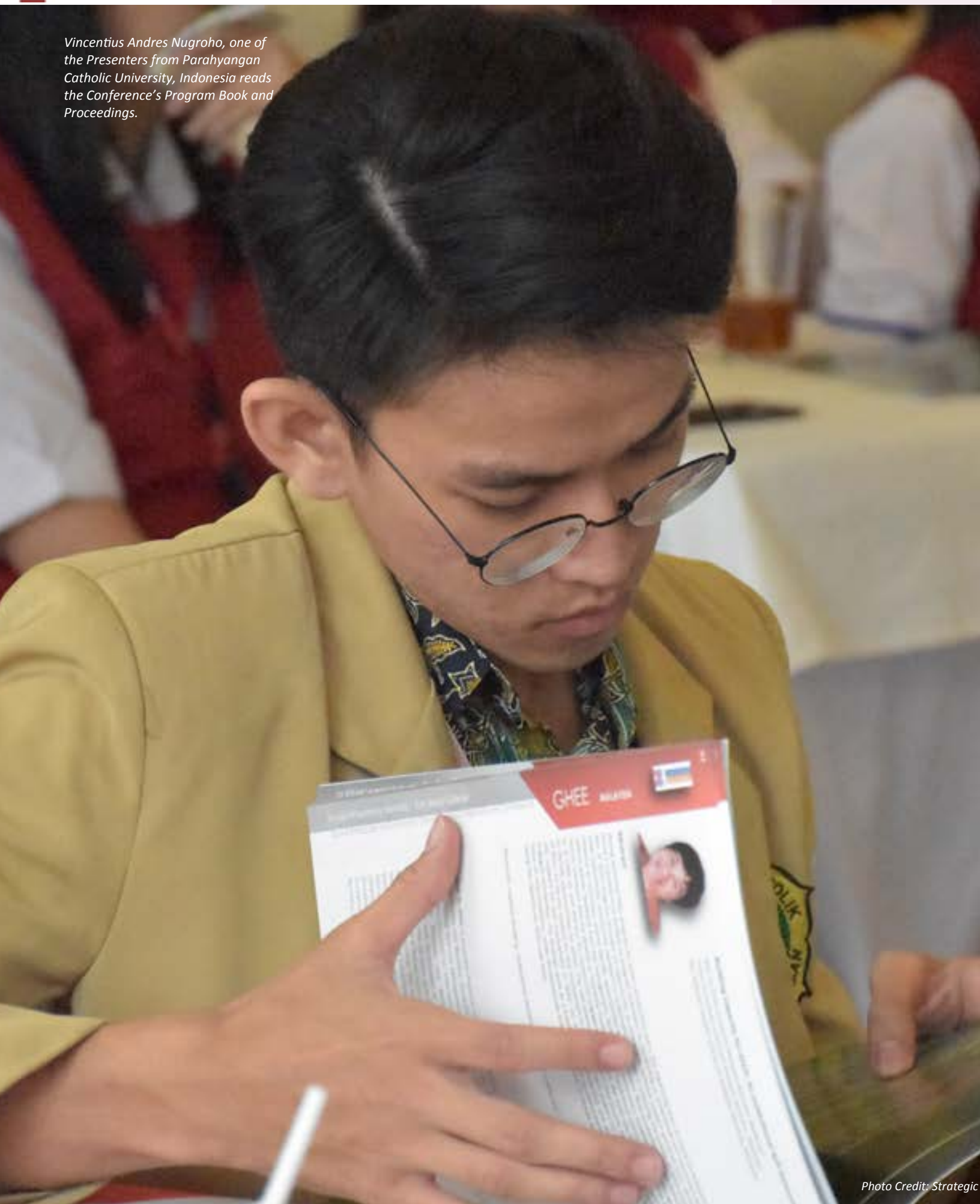
To cap it all, the certification issued by Tuv Rheinland validates the practices and direction of San Beda. It objectively implies the ability of San Beda to position itself in the highly dynamic global education arena in the service of the Catholic Church.



Photo shows San Beda's key administrators together with Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. (third from left) and TuvRheinland's External Auditors (first four from right).

Photo Credit: Strategic Communication Office

Vincentius Andres Nugroho, one of the Presenters from Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia reads the Conference's Program Book and Proceedings.



Harboring Thousands of SEEDs

Maria Imperatriz Gabatbat

If there is one thing memorable and good about firsts, it is the fact that they start activate more and even better things in the near future. Such promise is witnessed in the 1st Social Enterprise for Economic Development International Conference which was held on December 6-7, 2017 at the Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines with the theme, “Translational Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Development in the ASEAN.”

The conference is a collaboration between the ASEAN Learning Network and San Beda centers on the outputs of the 2016 SEED Program conducted in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Its thrusts is to engage and share knowledge across ASEAN Learning Network (ALN) partners and members, create opportunity for convergence of SEED organizers and participants through research paper presentations in view of sharing data as basis for cross-border and cross-cultural appraisal of the program, and provide a venue for presentation and dissemination of other researches related to the conference’s theme.

The opening ceremony marked a world-class preparation. The Interfaith opening prayer was led by the Prior Administrator-Chancellor, Very Rev. Fr. Austin Cadiz together with Dr. Yusof Talek, Director of Faculty of Islamic Studies, PSU Thailand and Dr. Wee Yu Ghee, Associate Professor of UMK Malaysia. Inspiring messages from

distinguished and valued keynote speakers, Dr. Rossukon Sangmanee, President of PNU Thailand; Dr. Ramon Ricardo Roque, Dean of San Beda Graduate School of Business; YBhg. Professor Dato’ Dr. Mortaza Bin Mohamed, Vice-Chancellor of UMK, Malaysia; YBhg. Professor Emeritus Dato’ Ir Dr. Zainai Bin Mohamed, founding Vice-Chancellor of UMK, Malaysia; Dr. Mangadar Situmorang, Rector, Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia; and Professor Emeritus Dr. Li Choy Chong, Executive Director of ASEAN Learning Network were delivered. San Beda’s Rector-President, Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., gave the welcome remarks, and the talents from San Beda IBED wowed the guests and participants in their *Pandango sa Ilaw* performance.

Fr. Maranan, in his speech, recognized the cooperation and participation of the partner-universities in promoting people-to-people exchanges and inter-cultural dialogue and the

understanding of the theoretical learning that promotes the well-being of others in society, particularly the poor, the weak and the powerless. Dr. Zainai Bin Mohamed looked at the conference's research findings and recommendations as ALN's modest contribution towards a more robust ASEAN-- a hub in Asia Pacific where shared aspirations unite *peoples* of diverse culture.

Presentations on Social Enterprise and Innovation, Micro Small and Medium Enterprise, and Entrepreneurial Marketing took place during the afternoon session of the first day of the conference. Mr. Joel Filamor of San Beda Manila with his co-researchers from Indonesia, Theodorus Emmanuel Noenz, Annisaa Novieningtiyas, and Fernando Mulla presented the paper entitled, *Increasing Productivity Using Fodder Business Education: The Case of Hute Tuo, Thailand*. It examined the variables in the Fodder Business in Hute Tuo in view of discovering ways to neutralize threats and maximize opportunities. Prof. Larry Javier Ambion also presented his paper entitled, *Product Diversification and Livelihood sustainability in Brgy. Sinto, Mountain Province*. It aimed to contribute to the understanding of rural-owned venture into micro businesses in Sinto, Mountain Province. Moreover, the paper presented by Prof. Emperatriz Gabatbat entitled, *Factors Affecting the Vegetable Production in Sitio Am-Am, Mountain Province* aimed to identify the factors that contribute to the effectiveness of the vegetable production in the area, examine the elements that affect the poor production, and recommend strategies to improve production or farming in general.

Three papers centered on Fostering Micro Small and Medium Enterprise were also presented. Djonet Santoso and Adityo Ramadhan, both from Indonesia, conveyed various experiences of community empowerment in the form of social marketing in their paper, *Social Marketing: Bridging the Survival of Transient Poor to Small Scale Business*. Maria Angela R.J. Balance from San Beda Manila talked about *Business Development Strategies for the Women Entrepreneurs of Barangay Leseb, Bauko, Mountain Province* and recommended that the organization must undergo training on efficiency, effectiveness and issue resolutions that beset their business implementation. On the other hand, the presenters from Parahyangan Catholic University in Indonesia namely, Albertus Susanto, Rizka Nugraha Pratikna and Fernando Mulla described their paper, *Product Develop-*

ment in Rawabogo's Wasted Tomatoes, as a way to transform wasted tomatoes into tomato sweets as a possible alternative to address the problem. The paper entitled, *Stakeholders in Microfinance: The Case of Vietnam*, by Dao, Ha Thieu and Hai, Tran Nguyen Minh from Banking University, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam focused on the relationship and the role of stakeholders in microfinance institutions in Vietnam.

One paper on Social Business Models was presented by Vincentius Andrew Nugroho and Fernando Mulla, both from Indonesia. The paper, *Technology Intervention: The Case of Rawabogo*, aimed to employ technology in the village as an intervention for business opportunities and development.

For Entrepreneurial Marketing, three interesting papers were presented: Fernando Mulla and Patrick Naomi Maysias Simanjuntak's *Improving Rawabogo Village's Welfare by Utilizing Padang Mountain Tourism*, Tubagus Chaeru Nugraha and Sri Rijati Wardiani's *Globalization of Sundanese Food through Cultural Translation*, and Ronald M. Pastrana and John David Molina's *Food Blogging and Marketing Effectiveness: An Empirical Study of a Contemporary Digital Strategy*.

Under Research-based Community Development: Transformational Leadership, the following were presented: Prof. Raquel P. Castro's paper was about the different *agripreneurship* product/s that can be made out of the fruits, vegetables, and coffee grown by the farmers in Sitio Bato, Brgy. Sad-sadan, Mountain province; and Ms. Norielyn Cullar-Tabag's paper was an *Analysis of the Experience of Binaka Women's Association in the Municipality of Bauko, Mountain Province Contextualized in the ASEAN Learning Network (ALN)*.

One paper under Research-based Community Development on Community and Environmental Development was about the involvement of Sumba women in Praikaroku Jangga village in Indonesia against gold mining in the Paletti Alira Hills. This study entitled, *Water in the Eyes of Sumba Women: An Eternal Knowledge in the Conservation of Natural Resources* used postcolonial feminist ethnography which is a very helpful method in dismantling the mute voices of remote communities and oppressed in the global system. It was presented by Titiek Kartika from the University of Bengkulu, Indonesia.



The research of Fernando Mulla from Indonesia and Joel Filamor from San Beda Manila entitle, *Business Opportunities and Challenges in Slope Vegetable Farming: The Case of Sinto* focused on the existing conditions and practices of vegetable farmers in Brgy. Sinto, Bauko, Mountain Province and the numerous factors affecting them. Their findings, conclusions, and recommendations exposed contemporary critical challenges and opportunities in the business context of slope vegetable farming in the area. Mia Helmi and Fernando Mulla, both from Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia collaborated on the topic, *Building Community Based Entrepreneurship: A Comparative Study in Indonesia and Thailand*. It is focused on comparing agricultural sector in the scope of the business process for both countries.

Day two of the conference started big with *Mini to Big: The Case of Thai Mini SEED, a paper* by Farok Zakaria and his co-researchers, Yusof Talek, Suthisak Duereh, Zainudin Nima and Ruslee Nuh from Prince of Songkla University in Thailand which presented the approach and intervention of the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Prince of Songkla University.

Presenters Rosario Mita Amalia and Davidescu Cristiana Marta from Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia regarded preserving kinds of traditional food in West Java in an attempt to maintain not only national but also regional food security. They believe that the West Java culinary can be used as a form of strength for the Indonesian nation.

On the sub-theme of Human Capital Development, Gregorius Satrio Wicaksono and Fernando Mulla from Indonesia presented their paper, *From Farmer to Entrepreneur: A Human Capital Transformation in Rawabogo*. Their study focused on training farmers to become socio-entrepreneurs by utilizing various psychological approaches in the recruitment and selection process.

Thitipong Prommuang from Thaksin University in Thailand, who was a participant of SEED 2016 Philippines, presented his paper, *The Study of Building Sustainable Community in Sitio Am-am, Bauko, Mt. Province* which aimed to identify business opportunities applicable to the farming condition of the sitio.

The organizing team of SEED program in Universiti Malaysia

Kelantan found it mandatory to evaluate the program having conducted it for already seven consecutive years. The evaluation provides an opportunity to assess and enhance support from various stakeholders, and the findings serve as a baseline for follow-up assessments, to track progress and focus on improvisations. The paper was presented by Dr. Wee Yu Ghee, together with her co-researchers, Yohan Kurniawan and Nur Hafezah Hussein from Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia.

The conference was indeed a very rich exchange of not only academic inputs through research but of genuine advocacy towards community development through the individual and collaborative efforts in guiding people to progress. As Dr. Tita E. Branzuela, Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs of San Beda Manila, said in her closing remarks, “the event could be viewed initially as academic and research-based in nature, but is an indicator of the common aspirations of ALN members-- to foster life-long learning while at the same time contributing to local and regional growth objectives.”

This is what is more serving and binding as far as the first conference is concerned. That is why we look forward to more of it, challenging it to be even richer. She also said that being in the company of ASEAN “sisters and brothers” who form the academe with the same vision and mission of engagements for community service, radiates a profound sense of joy and honor.





San Beda's visionary leader, Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, O.S.B. personally hands a copy of the Five-Year SMART Plan to a student-representative from the College of Medicine during the launching.

SOARING HIGH AND FLYING BEYOND

Joel G. Filamor

San Beda, in its earnest desire to offer the best global education to its stakeholders, concretized the road map towards the realization of its noble ideals. A Five-Year SMART Plan was developed to continually bolster its distinguished academic standing in Basic and Higher Education.

The Five-Year SMART Plan covers academic-year 2017 to 2022. It is a specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound translation of the Board of Trustees' Nine Strategic Objectives. Further, it covers four key strategic areas, namely (1) Stakeholder Engagement, (2) Sustainability, (3) Organization, Assets and Systems, and (4) People Competencies.

All strategies are developed to help San Beda navigate towards the realization of University status and at the same time to be recognized as one of the credible universities not only in the Philippines but also abroad.

Adding value to the operationalization of the SMART Plan are the annual themes which render it with a distinct character, namely:

2017-2018	Servant Leadership and Governance
2018-2019	Stewardship towards God's Creation
2019-2020	Pursuit of Peace in Nation Building
2020-2021	Excellence in Educational Mission
2021-2022	Upholding 500 Years of Filipino Catholic Faith and Education.

The Five-Year SMART Plan, which serves as point of reference for the institution's subsequent management decisions, was distributed to stakeholders during the Plan's launching. The launching was headed by San Beda's visionary Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, O.S.B. at the Pamanang Bedista.

San Beda Hosts 1st ASEAN LEARNING NETWORK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wee Yu Gee

Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia

It was on July 28, 2017 that council members of ASEAN Learning Network (ALN) celebrated a significant, memorable milestone. When ALN Chairman, Prof Dato' Ir. Dr. Zainai Bin Mohamed, announced that the 1st ALN Executive Committee (ExComm) Meeting be held before the arrival of 2018, Board of Management and council members were overjoyed at the 22nd ALN Council Meeting and San Beda College graciously accepted the offer to host the inaugural meeting. ALN was established on February 10, 2009 with five founding institutional members, and San Beda College (SBC) was one of them; the prominent role of SBC started even at ALN Formation meeting in late 2008. It is, therefore, a double joy for members to be able to visit Manila again for another good cause after SBC last hosted the 11th ALN Council Meeting in year 2012. All these would not have happened without the remarkable stewardship of Fr. Aloysius Maranan, President of SBC and dedication as well as commitment extended by Dr Tita Evasco-Branzuela, Vice President of Linkages and International Affairs, supported by her excellent team.

The main objective of ALN network is to promote, develop and disseminate context-based knowledge in management, law, economics, social sciences and technology, for the betterment of people and societies in the region and at the same time, to promote academic excellence and practice-relevance as well as social responsibility among students and faculty in the member institutions. This involves collaborative learning experiences among member ASEAN universities and their partner communities, through teaching, research and management development. From five founding member institutions, ALN has grown to having sixteen member universities in the network. Such expansion generally calls for better structure and formation of organizational rules which require members' consensus. It was then timely for ALN to hold its very first ALN ExComm Meeting by inviting all sixteen heads of member institutions to attend.

The 1st ALN ExComm Meeting took place on 5 December 2017 at 3pm, with twenty five Executive Committee Members attending it, representing ten universities from five ASEAN countries and two universities from Switzerland. Various agenda were discussed at the meeting. Amongst others, Executive Committee members unanimously passed the proposal of appointing Deputy Executive Director (DED) of Philippines Chapter. Dr Tita Evasco-Branzuela, having been with the network and contributed actively for almost a decade, was naturally the best candidate and thus appointed as the DED of Philippines Chapter. Such appointment was made based on the given continual membership expansion in ALN



Photographer: Doris Sartorio



Photographer: Doris Sartorio

Photo shows the Executive Committee of the ASEAN Learning Network while in session at the Linden Suites in Pasig City.

and the diversity of needs of different member universities and countries. By having DED – Malaysia Chapter (appointed earlier in 2015), and DED – Philippines Chapter, it becomes relatively easy to divide the membership into smaller membership clusters to facilitate greater membership involvement, better membership services, and more effective growth and development of the ALN.

It was also announced at the meeting that the 1st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ALN be held in April 2018 in Vietnam, to be hosted by Banking University of Ho Chi Minh. Individual members and institutional members of ALN will be invited to register as official members starting March 2018.

Other highlights discussed at the meeting include the forthcoming Social Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED) Program (ALN flagship program) which will take place in Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand this year. Members also agreed on numerous collaborative activities to be jointly organized in the following areas: students exchange,

faculty members exchange, conference, e-colloquium, research and publication, dual degree program, contextual and international learning and collaboration (academic seminar/ conference), English communication program, internship/ industrial attachment and students mobility program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30pm. ALN Chairman, Prof Dato' Ir. Dr. Zainai Bin Mohamed congratulated SBC for organizing this inaugural meeting and thanked the organizing team for its great hospitality. Members of meeting were then invited to participate in yet another achievement of ALN as a whole and specifically, SBC, for hosting the 1st SEED International Conference (1SEEDIC) which attracted more than 30 presenters from ASEAN countries to share their learning and research experience related to the flagship program. Till then, more progressive news can be reported after ALN AGM in April 2018. Heartiest congratulations once again to San Beda College for bringing all the academics together, embracing the ASEAN spirit of 'unity in diversity.'



21st ASIAN LITURGY FORUM

Penang, Malaysia

Josefina Manabat

Professors of the Graduate School of Liturgy were among the 70 delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Timor-Leste, who gathered together at the Stella Maris Retreat House in Penang, Malaysia on October 2-6, 2017 to exchange reflections and pastoral experiences on the theme, "Mary in the Liturgy". Recalling the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal one hundred years ago, they shared with one another their experiences of celebrating, in Liturgy and in popular devotion, the Blessed Virgin Mary's singular role in the redemptive mission of her Son and how they have experienced her company in their journey of faith and life as a Christian community in their various places.

His Excellency Most Rev. Sebastian Francis, D.D. of Penang, Malaysia (who also delivered a conference paper), His Excellency Most Rev. Julian Leow, D.D. of Kuala Lumpur, and His Excellency Rt. Rev. Bernard Paul, D.D. of Melaka-Johor, with their clergy and lay collaborators, graciously hosted the meeting which became an occasion of enriching fellowship and sharing among the participants. The Philippine delegation was led by the Most. Rev. Julius Tonel, D.D., chairman of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Liturgy, who is also the current bishop-chairman of the Asian Litur-

“*Recalling the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal one hundred years ago, they shared with one another their experiences of celebrating, in Liturgy and in popular devotion, the Blessed Virgin Mary's singular role in the redemptive mission of her Son and how they have experienced her company in their journey of faith and life as a Christian community in their various places.*”

gy, Msgr. Florencio Salvador Jr., S.L.D. who is the executive secretary of the ALF, and Dr. Josefina M. Manabat, S.L.D., San Beda's VP for Academics and Dean of the Graduate School of Liturgy.

In her presentation at the plenary session, Dr. Manabat described the Filipinos' journey of faith in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary in relation to the five (5) primary characteristics of the Filipino-culture articulated in the Catechism for Filipino Catholics, namely: family-oriented, meal-oriented, *kundiman* – oriented, *bayani* – oriented, and spirit-oriented.

The way Filipinos relate with the Blessed Virgin Mary is strongly marked by their exceptional **family orientedness**. She is *Mahal na Ina* for the Tagalogs, *Indung Virgen* for the Kapampangans, *Ina* for the Bicolanos, and *Inahan* for the Cebuanos and Ilonggos.

Filipinos are also **meal-oriented**. They love to celebrate! Their propensity for celebrating every important event in their lives seems to apply to a significant extent to their relationship with the Blessed Mother. They celebrate her Immaculate Conception, her birth, her presentation, the Angel's annunciation to her, her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, her assumption into heaven, and even her sorrowful moments. Even the humble family home that hosts the Block Rosary in a little *barangay* makes sure that there is food and refreshments that can be served to the neighbors who will come to pray with them.

Filipinos are **kundiman-oriented**. They manage to celebrate the sufferings and hardships of life in song. They withstand pain and hardship and they do not easily lose hope. They manage to smile and crack jokes, even in the face of tragedy and misfortunes. The Blessed Mother is venerated more by Filipinos in her image as the Mater Dolorosa with whom they could identify in their pain and sufferings and who, they feel, deeply understands what they are going through, or as one whose "Perpetual Help," "Remedies," "Consolation," compassion

and love are sought through popular novenas and devotions.

The Filipinos are also **bayani-oriented**: they are naturally attracted to heroes who sacrifice everything for love. They are also capable of heroism. In the Blessed Virgin Mary's image as Mother of Perpetual Help, Virgen de los Remedios, Virgen de la Paz y Buenviaje, the Virgen La Naval, Del Pilar, and the likes, Filipinos see the traits of a hero who is always ready to take up their cause in the face of threats to life and dignity. In these images, too, the words of the Mother to her Son seem to reverberate in their ears: "They have no more wine," and to them: "Do whatever he tells you." In these images, they see her in her role of bravely interceding before her Son, who is also her Lord, on behalf of her children who need her help of a mother. Indeed, it was not a faceless Mary who accompanied us and inspired us on the way to God!

Filipinos are also **spirit-oriented**. Because of this spirit-orientedness, Filipinos, in general, have no difficulty believing in the supernatural circumstances of Mary's becoming the Mother of the Savior—in the Angel's annunciation, in her having conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the Virgin birth nor does it take them long to subscribe to testimonies of apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Dr. Manabat, moreover, highlighted the Filipinos' experience of the Blessed Mother's powerful intercession in connection with the 1986 EDSA revolution which manifested the power of a people armed only with their faith, with their prayer, and with their confident recourse to Mary who for them is a powerful intercessor to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Asian Liturgy Forum has been meeting once a year since 1996. It provides a forum for Catholics of Asia to discuss liturgical matters pertaining to each country and thus enrich one another with new insights. The issue of enculturation is given a certain prominence. It was also initiated by the late Fr. Anscar J. Chupungco, O.S.B. together with the bishop-emeritus of the Diocese of Miri, Malaysia, Most Rev. Anthony Lee Kok-hin, D.D., who was the bishop-chairman until 2015, succeeded by our very own Bishop Julius Tonel, DD. GSL professors have perennially served the conduct of the Forum in various capacities. Aside from the enriching liturgical discussions and cultural exchanges, the Forum provides uplifting experiences of prayer, thanks to the musical leadership of Rev. Fr. Leo Nilo Mangussad, GSL's music professor, in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and of the Liturgy of the Hours.





Left to right: Larry J. Ambion (Presenter), Doris K. Sartorio (Secretariat), Dr. Tita E. Branzuela (Member, ASAIHL Scientific Review Committee), Norielyn C. Tabag (Presenter) and Joel G. Filamor (Presenter)

Bedans U

The Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL) and the National Council of the Philippines (NCP) held its 2nd International Graduate Students Multidisciplinary Research Conference last October 26-27, 2017 at the Century Park Hotel Manila, Philippines.

The two-day conference highlighted the academic exchange of ideas and opinions among the audience and

all the presenters during the parallel sessions. Papers vary from topics on Economics, Socio-Political, Information Technology, to Linguistics -- all being aligned to the conference theme, "Embracing ASEAN Integration."

The event was graced by no less, the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan as keynote speaker. Keynote speakers also include Professor

Tan Sri Dato Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, ASAIHL President (2007-2008); Dr. Jose Miguel R. de la Rosa, Undersecretary of National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); and Attorney Rodolfo Salalima, former Secretary of Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT).

The event was participated by graduate students from different schools like Philippine Normal University,



Photographer: Doris Sartorio

Tita E. Baranzuela, Ph.D. San Beda's Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs and ASAIHL International Conference's Co-chair acknowledges participants at Century Park Hotel, Manila.

P FRONT

Larry Javier Ambion

Lyceum of the Philippines University, Baliuag University, Southern Luzon State University, Philippine Women's University, Centro Escolar University, Technological University of the Philippines, De La Salle University- Dasmariñas, Quirino State University, University of Cordilleras, Cagayan State University, The University of the Philippines Open University-Los Baños, University of Saint Anthony-Iriga, De La Salle University

-Manila, and San Beda Manila.

Our fellow Bedans who are pursuing their Graduate school education presented their papers in the conference. Mr. Joel G. Filamor (Master in Business Administration, Ms. Norielyn C. Tabag (Master in Social Work), and Prof. Larry Javier Ambion (Ph. D in English Language and Literature) are all from the Office of the Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs. Tabag's paper enti-

tled *Reorganization of the existing association for economic sustainability in Sitio Binaka, Mountain Province* and Ambion's *Phonetics, first languages, and space of standardization in Philippine Speech class* were presented during the opening day respectively. Meanwhile, Filamor and Ambion's paper entitled *Asian Englishes: Bridging the language gaps* was presented by the former during the second day's parallel session.

In his first fellowship with San Beda administrators after being named Prior-Chancellor by the San Beda Board of Trustees last October, the Very Rev. Fr. Austin Cadiz alluded to the responsibility of “taking care of souls – it’s not only the (Benedictine) community, but also the school, the Bedan family.” Fr. Austin reminded everyone of the foremost goal of our daily presence in San Beda: “If there’s an impact we can do for our students, it should be to help them seek God,” pointing out the grace that sustains this mission: “In the end, it’s God’s work... allow God to do His work through us.”

This work pertains not only to San Beda’s educational apostolate but its long-standing vocation in the Benedictine tradition of preserving and transmitting the intellectual heritage to new generations, of creating scholarly, artistic, and scientific works that benefit society, and of integrating thought and action as complementary aspects of a full human life. Each member of the Bedan Community is entrusted with this legacy of Benedictine scholarship, and all face the challenges of carrying out this work within a dynamic and demanding twenty-first century milieu for research and innovation. Nowadays, academics – seasoned and novice alike – are especially confronted by the contingencies of a highly-competitive research climate as they uphold the standards of integrity of their scientific and creative endeavors.

San Beda Research Governance:

ROOTED IN BENEDICTINE VALUES

Bedan researchers need only to affirm our intrinsic values to be able to responsibly engage with the challenges of the contemporary contexts of research and innovation. Our Hallmarks of Benedictine Education stand as a distinct credo that defines the broad principles of good research governance and are key to ensuring that research by and in San Beda is carried out according to high scientific and ethical standards.

Love of Christ and neighbor

Animated by love of Christ and neighbor, researchers in San Beda safeguard the dignity, autonomy, and well-being of all persons involved in research and minimize, if not avoid, unreasonable harm or risk of harm to research participants, researchers and others.

Prayer

Being compassionate and responsible stewards of research participants embodies the *Bedan* researcher’s disposition to Christ’s presence in others. Developing this disposition to this kind of attentiveness and mindfulness characterizes the *Bedan*’s continuing formation in prayer.

Stability

Researchers in the *Bedan* community are all responsible for upholding the integrity of *Bedan* scholarship and preserving the public’s trust in it. In line with this, *Bedan* researchers are responsible for ensuring data integrity, practicing ethical authorship and publication, and avoiding misconduct (e.g., fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism) when proposing, performing, or reviewing research, and reporting research results. Furthermore, researchers disclose and properly manage any actual or possible conflict of interest (e.g., finan-

cial benefits; religious, political, or social beliefs) that might compromise the integrity of their research.

Conversatio

Bedan researchers constantly strive to conceptualize, implement, and disseminate scholarly work of the highest quality, integrity, and relevance. To this end, they engage in the constant and continuous upgrading of their expertise and the appropriate research competencies that ensure the scholarly soundness, scientific rigor, and ethical merit of their work.

Obedience

Bedan researchers maintain obedience in intellectual inquiry by respecting the methodological integrity of the study appropriate to each discipline, as well as by maintaining fidelity to the evidence, findings, and results, wherever they lead. Correspondingly, they observe and comply with up-to-date scientific, legal, regulatory, and ethical requirements relevant to the field of study and to the organizations or agencies they are collaborating with. Scholarly works conducted in the community setting respect the local practices, culture, customs, and laws without compromising the principles upheld by San Beda

Discipline

Researchers in San Beda persevere to conceptualize, implement, and disseminate scholarly work with the utmost intellectual rigor and integrity. Adherence to the ethical and technical research standards of their respective disciplines and to the policies and procedures of the San Beda Research System are instrumental in preserving public trust and confidence in *Bedan* scholarship.

Humility

Bedan researchers are self-reflective and aware of the limits of their research milieu and competence. Accordingly, they operate within these limits, and in partnership with mentors and peers via constructive review and collaborative processes to produce the best work attainable. Contributions produced by collaborations are appropriately represented in research proposals and reports.

San Beda's commitment to research in the service of the common good likewise disposes the *Bedan* researcher to report prospective, ongoing, and completed research in an open and timely manner in order to facilitate the validation of the scholarly work by responding constructively to inquiries from other researchers. This peer review process functions to maintain the excellence of *Bedan* scholarship and is the basis for the merit-based system of research support. Accordingly, *Bedan* researchers solicit collegial informed judgments about their work through peer review to ultimately enhance the quality of their work and maintain the excellence of *Bedan* scholarship.

Stewardship

Researchers in the *Bedan* community recognize that in and through their work they are ultimately accountable to the general public and thus must act accordingly. They strive to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved in research, and avoid unreasonable harm or risk of harm to research participants, researchers, and live animals, as well as to the environment. Congruently, they preserve the confidentiality of data collected, and secure the anonymity of research participants by protecting stored research documentation appropriately. They make sure that their research complies with any agreements, terms and conditions relating to



Photographer: Shaira Luna



Photographer: Shaira Luna

the project, and allow for proper governance and transparency. Correspondingly, they participate in fair, independent, and transparent peer review of research plans, conduct of ongoing research, data, and outputs. Dissemination of outputs likewise reflects the *Bedan* researcher's prudence and diligence in utilizing available resources for their scholarly undertakings.

Hospitality

Bedan researchers demonstrate collegiality in all interactions within the academic community. They promote and contribute to the full, open, respectful, and timely exchange of ideas and insights emanating from their research. Furthermore, scholarly discussion, scrutiny, and debate with peers, colleagues, and mentors, are carried out in a collegial and professional manner while upholding, when required, the principle of confidentiality.

Community

Research and innovation in San Beda aims to contribute to the common good and promote respect for the dignity and integrity of persons, both individually and collectively. The fruits of *Bedan* scholarship are thus intended to be instrumental to the social, economic, and spiritual development of the Filipino and of society.

It befits all researchers in San Beda to personify these Benedictine values as they carry out the work of curating, creating, integrating, and disseminating knowledge and breakthroughs that transform the ways we conceptualize, manage, study, and act in the world. This declaration of San Beda Core Research Values is the nexus of the policies stewarded by the San Beda Office of Research and Innovation and the San Beda Research Council that ensure the *Bedan* community's pursuit of *scientia* is unflinchingly vitalized by the ethos of *fides* and *virtus*.

RED BITS

Cross-border Lecture Forum on Laws

Norielyn C. Tabag

The strengthened partnership of San Beda, Philippines with Soegijapranata Catholic University (SCU), Indonesia, has opened its first ever and joint cross-border internationalization activity in San Beda.

The Office of the Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs has tapped the College of Law and College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Legal Management to co-organize in this activity. As Dr. Branzuela emphasizes, "the Office ensures that internationalization efforts are appropriately distributed to the different offices, departments and colleges in San

Beda with primary consideration with the nature of partnerships with international institutions".

COL Dean, Atty. Virgilio Jara and Vice Dean, Atty. Marciano Delson, and CAS Dean, Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante have actively taken their role and participation in the conduct of the lecture forum entitled, "Indonesian Islamic Judiciary and Compilation of Islamic Laws" held on 14-15 August 2017, at the San Beda, Conference Hall. The lecture was delivered by Atty. Rika Saraswati, SH, CN, MH, Ph.D. from the SCU Faculty of Law and Communication.

A total of 359 COL students and 105 CAS students attended and participated in the lecture. Notably, special contribution was also extended by the CAS Dept. of Legal Management's professional organization, Junior Bedan Law Circle (JBLC), that has facilitated the necessary preparations and registration during the lecture proper.

Indeed, involvements of the different organizations and colleges that are international in nature are internationalization-related activities, regardless whether if it home-based (campus-based) or cross border.

As per CMO No. 55 series of 2016, **Home-based** or **Campus-based** internationalization includes activities that occur in the home campus without the learner or the education provider moving out of their respective national territories

Cross border refers to the "movement of people, programs, providers, knowledge, ideas, projects and services across national boundaries.

The Office of the Rector-President re-launched The Bedan Today, San Beda's official publication. The re-launching was marked by the unveiling of the new magazine's cover by Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, O.S.B. The event, held at Pamanang Bedista, was witnessed by various stakeholders such as San Beda's alumni association, parent association, students, staff, faculty, and administrators. The magazine's new editors, Professors Larry J. Ambion and Sybil L. Agreda were also introduced.

The event showcased positive developments in the publication. Ambion said "Aside from ensuring that target readers are well represented, we also made sure that the totality of the magazine is generally appealing."

"You will notice that lay-out and graphic designs were revolutionized. We intend to push The Bedan Today to global frontiers," added Agreda. When asked how they intend to get there, "The Rector-President is very supportive of our endeavours to continually develop competencies, technology and the system itself. We invite our readers to watch out for the succeeding issues and see for themselves," Ambion remarked.

According to the new editors, readers can expect a wide range of variety of well written stories. "We are honored for the confidence bestowed to us by the Rector-President. We commit ourselves to competitive, highly creative and relevant stories in the succeeding issues," Ambion closes.

PUSHING The Bedan Today TO FRONTIERS

Joel G. Filamor



Photo Credit: Strategic Communication Office

Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, OSB, (left) Rector-President leads the re-launching of The Bedan Today, while Editors Sybil L. Agreda and Larry J. Ambion assist.

The San Beda Graduate School of Business started the Academic Year 2017-2018 in full steam with innovative programs and exciting breakthrough activities.

As part of its commitments, GSB aims to reach more professionals and entrepreneurs and provide them with quality post graduate education both inside and outside its campus. This year, GSB delivered that promise with the launching of the *Leadership Management Development Program or LMDP*. It is an executive learning series targeting upper-level managers of companies who share the same passion for continuous professional development.

Golden Arches Development Corporation, the franchise holder of McDonald's restaurants in the Philippines, saw the huge potential and leverage that the GSB's LMDP will bring to their organization. Immediately after receiving the GSB's proposal, the company's Management Committee allotted a particular training budget for immediate rollout at the company's training center at Makati City. With its top 25 officers in attendance, ranging from Operations Manager up to Vice President level, the program had the company's Chairman Emeritus Dr. George T. Yang gracing the opening ceremony that marked the beginning of LMDP as a promising institution of higher learning for professionals in the business industry.

At the end of the eight-week training, most of the facilitators received a standing ovation and garnered high marks

in the evaluation of their exemplary wisdom and training methodologies. GSB's very own top practitioner-professors composed that said roster of facilitators who comprehensively discussed four advanced management modules. These GSB professors include Dr. Divina M. Edralin, San Beda's Director for Research and Development Center; Prof. Roberto G. Manaois, President of Scientific Biotech Specialties, Inc.; Dr. Emiliano T. Hudtohan, research guru from De La Salle University; and Dr. Cesar A. Mansibang, Chief Financial Officer of a pharmaceutical distribution company.

After its successful implementation at McDonald's Philippines, the LMDP is about to take another milestone through its recent agreement with the Philippine Heart Center. The second run this November 2017 will allow the top doctors of a government-owned hospital to undergo this high-end development program of six modules covering 50 hours of

GSB Banners New Leadership and Management Development Program

Ramon Ricardo A. Roque

training. Even at its formation years, LMDP has proven that it can adapt, adjust and customize programs based on the preferences and focus of any organization.

As more and more companies will start to avail this elite training program for their employees, the San Beda Graduate School of Business will remain committed to its mandate of providing the best post graduate education backed with strong Benedictine values. The San Beda GSB will always be at the forefront of servant leadership. It will continue to fortify its reputation for pioneering ideas and programs that truly work and be valued greatly in the industry of business and research development.



Rediscovering Caring: The Palliative Care Movement

Rudolf Cymorr Kirby P. Martinez

More often than not, a picture of a nurse tending to a sick client, battling and preventing death from happening, is the epitome of a caring nurse for a lot of people. But there are times when death is inevitable, and in these moments, most health care professionals are unarmed to face, even to facilitate, the dying process. Coupled with our culture of silence and aversion on the topic of death, Filipino health care professionals including nurses, seem to be practically ill-prepared to handle situations when a client is near death or dying. The nurse's role in "alleviation of suffering, and when recovery is not possible towards a peaceful death" (RA 9173) appears to be unconsciously forgotten in practice and consciously overlooked in the academe.

Within these contexts, the College of Nursing during its preliminary revisit of its curriculum as an effect of CHED's Outcomes Based Education and the basic education's K-12 program have decided to make Palliative care as one of its central focus and its marked identity. Palliative care, as defined by

World Health Organization, is "an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention of diseases and relief of sufferings by means of early identification of symptoms and thorough assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, be it physical, psychosocial and spiritual". This change in restructuring the curriculum gives prime importance to palliative care and is envisioned as an initial step to fill in the gap in the nursing practice, most especially those nurses who are not fully equipped in dealing with issues of death and dying. The College of Nursing believes that a *Bedan* Health Care practitioner should be competent, compassionate and knowledgeable, in theory and in practice, of Palliative care to be effective and efficient in the healing ministry.

To realize this goal, the College of Nursing embarked on the following integral and interrelated processes: Curriculum Restructuring, Linkages, Research and Faculty Trainings.

At the moment, the College is in the process of developing the curriculum from competency-based to outcomes-based education. Within this process, two significant topics are integrated

into most subjects: Filipino caring and the issues of death and dying. Furthermore, a separate subject that specifically deals with palliative care will be created and offered in the revised curriculum. Networks and linkages are also being forged for further enhancement of the curriculum, research collaborations, resource sharing between colleges and partner organizations. Most notable of such partnership is with the organization Doulagiver (www.doulagivers.com), which is led by its CEO Suzanne B. O'Brien. The Doulagiver gives a series of training and certifications for those who want to become an "End of Life Doula", a "person trained to care for someone holistically (physically, emotionally, and spiritually) at the end of life". Another remarkable network is the inclusion of the College as a member of the Center for Advance Palliative Care (www.capc.org). Membership to this organization opens up avenues for training, tools, metrics and mentorship in the field of palliative care. Moreover, individual membership of selected faculty members to the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care and Pain Society of the Philippines further ensures that the goal of the College will be realized.

In research, it was agreed upon by the College to include topics in the area of palliative care as

one of its permanent focal point both for the undergraduate and faculty researchers. Since the discipline of Palliative care is relatively unexplored in our country, the College wants to contribute in knowledge creation, and dissemination and to be one of the prime movers of palliative care in the Philippines. Lastly, to be updated in the latest trends on Palliative care, the College has facilitated the sending of a faculty member to a week training in Priest Hospital in Bangkok Thailand on "Palliative Care Training Course for International Nurses" last August 7-11, 2017. It is by this training that the linkages and network with the Doulagivers was realized thru the help of one of its Doula, the only Doula in Asia, Susan Dustin. One of the visions of the College is to have some of its faculty members trained and certified in Palliative care abroad in the near future.

At present, the College is now in the process of preparing the necessary documents for possible collaboration with an international organization. We hope that this will be made possible through the support of our dear institution and the cooperation and assistance of the Linkages and International Affairs (LIA) Office.

The Swiss-ASEAN Learning and Teaching (SALT) Association held its first General Assembly meeting last November 29, 2017 at the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The members elected the officials for 2017-2019. SBC's Rector-President Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., member since 2016 was re-elected as one of the eight members of the Advisory Board. Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela, Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs was re-elected as one of the seven members of the Board of Directors. For the term 2017-2019, she holds the position as SALT's Secretary-General.

Notably, SALT is one of the seven international organizations of higher educational institutions where San Beda actively collaborates with. The Association was established in Olten, Switzerland on May 27, 2016 in accordance with Article 60 ff. ZGB of the Swiss Code. This came about as representatives from eight higher educational institutions (San Beda, *Universiti Malaysia Kelantan*, *Universiti Teknologi Malaysia*, University of Economics, Foreign Trade University, *Institut Teknologi Bandung*, Thaksin University, FHNW) from five countries in Asia (Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand) and Europe (*Switzerland*) attended a collaborative-seminar workshop at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Northwestern (FHNW) Switzerland. Eventually, the eight institutions having embraced common vision and aspirations, formalized the idea of establishing an organization and thus, became the founding members of SALT.

SALT, a non-governmental and not-for-profit association, aims to promote strategic collaborations among academics, researchers, and practitioners in Europe and ASEAN. It envisions itself as a leading development-oriented learning and teaching association. Prof. Dr. Rolf Schaaeren of FHNW Management / School of Business Deputy Director, was re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors. He reiterated during the General Assembly meeting that SALT's programs and activities are aligned with the Association's purpose of promoting research sharing, learning, and teaching for knowledge generation. The incoming programs and activities include: Faculty Exchange, Student Exchange, Research Collaborations, Social Entrepreneurship Program and Organizing International Conferences.

SALT's first organized international conference was the Connect-Us Conference (CuC). It was a gathering of academics, researchers, scientists, community development practitioners, policymakers, youth groups where lectures and research papers on issues and challenges affecting the sustainable development of society were presented. The 1st CuC was hosted by the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam last November 29-30, 2017. Its theme was *Sustainable Society Development: Human, Environmental and Economic Vitality*. Dr. Branzuela served in the Conference Organizing and Working Committee being SALT's Marketing and Communications Coordinator (2016-2017). She was also one of the session convenors during the conference.

As the new SALT officials and Board members start implementing its current programs and planning for new ones, the Chair, Prof. Dr. Schaaeren with the elected Executive Director, Dr. Teresa L. Freiburghaus, FHNW head of South East Asia Center, look forward to a more productive year for the Association. San Beda in turn continues to share its commitment to excellence in educational apostolate through active participation and provision of valuable contributions to the academic, research, and community initiatives of international partner institutions and networks. With Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. at the helm, San Beda remains faithful to its vision and mission as it serves the Church, our local communities and stakeholders... while reaching out to the different regions of the world.

San Beda serves anew in the Board of Swiss-ASEAN Learning and Teaching Association

*Co-organizes CuC
International
Conference*

Tita E. Branzuela

Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela, (first row, third from left) and Prof. Dr. Rolf Schaeren, SALT Board Chair (first row, fourth from right) with members of the Swiss-ASEAN Learning and Teaching Association Board of Directors and International CuC paper presenters at the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. (Taken after the International Conference on November 30, 2017).



Photo Credit: SALT Switzerland



Photographer: Joel Filamor

Every Christian home should be a place of peace serenity and love. Thus, an atmosphere of profound and sincere affection and deeply rooted concern for all its members must reign. The members of the San Beda family share an important role in maintaining a Christian home, centered on peace and love.

Following this principle, San Beda Manila held a Conference on Student Formation entitled, “One *Bedan* Family: Celebrating What is Right, Nurturing What is Best” last September 25, 2017 which was attended by all sector representatives of the College—monks, administrators, faculty, service personnel, student council presidents, faculty association presidents, alumni and parents.

“What is before us will truly challenge each one of us as a *Bedan* family to take our Mission-Vision, truly palpable in the hearts and minds of

SAN BEDA:

A Christian Home of Peace and Love

Sybil L. Agreda

everyone. With our theme, “San Beda, a Christian Home of Peace and Love,” we look at the future and see the challenge before us in forming a Christian home of peace and love. Christian home of peace and love is never fulfilled as a one-time accomplishment because we believe that peace and love are two values that are continuously evolving; they are dynamically interrelated, but more than that, they are never achieved. Peace and love inside a Christian home cannot be separated from what is happening outside of our campus. It is very important that for an institution that has been here for 116 years, we are able to adjust to the occurrences happening outside of San Beda and to the different educational developments,” Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. said at the start of his talk.

The Fr. Rector presented the approaches that San Beda College has to the different challenges before the community. He first shared San Beda’s statement on Community Service, specifying that it is upheld as a means of making ourselves contribute to the growth of a community, thus it is a way of life of a person. It is never a way of making people experience suffering through community service. Moreover, he said that we have to

move higher than the feeling of bond with fellow *Bedans*; instead, we must elevate the sense of oneness, of unity by providing a shaped inter-family or community experience. “We have to set a life of common mission in order to uplift the life of each one of us,” he further emphasized.

The second topic presented was the institution’s statement on the oneness in implementing restorative discipline. According to Fr. Rector, peace and love should be taught as much as justice must be taught because it is easier for a person to fall prey to his limitations and his shortcomings. Thus, we have to strive to become better than we were yesterday. Restorative discipline speaks about the formation of our students. This should enable us to look at one another with a sense of responsibility because we must always be together in restoring our energy.

The third was the presentation of the Aligned and Standardized Code of Discipline: Provisions on Fraternities, Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing. “We have to be able to craft our own way of responding to challenges. Each one of us has the responsibility as keeper of that power to come in good terms with one another,” Fr. Rector said.

San Beda is firm on its stand of considering (1) membership of students in fraternities, sororities or other similar unrecognized organizations; (2) recruitment through any form of enticement, bullying, harassment, coercion, intimidation, or undue influence, participating, abetting, aiding or facilitating recruitment, cover-up or obstruction of investigations on said recruitment; and (3) planning, participating or mere presence in hazing activities or similar rites, ceremonies or activities that involve the infliction of physical harm or mental and psychological injury, bullying, harassment, or involvement in fraternity rumbles or any form of rivalry that may lead to physical confrontation are all considered serious offenses, thus sanctioned with expulsion or exclusion.

Dr. Marvin Reyes, Prefect of Student Activities of the College of Arts and Sciences, shared the Student Formation Programs crafted by the different Guidance Counselors from the different colleges/departments, the prefects of discipline and activities and the Office of Student Affairs.

Moreover, Atty. Rocky Delson, Vice Dean of the College of Law served as the moderator of the open forum that happened shortly after the presentations.

The conference concluded with the pronouncement of the Peace Pledge of the *Bedan* Community and the ceremonial signing of the sintra board of the said pledge.

STATEMENT ON ONENESS IN IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE DISCIPLINE

The San Beda community is committed to build a just, humane and compassionate society where there is care and value for the dignity of every human person. As such, San Beda espouses the principles of Restorative Discipline in the formation of students.

In the Benedictine Catholic formation, to restore means to replenish one's lost sense of Christian balance in attitude, values, and principles in life. San Beda aims to restore the students' body, mind, and spirit through its well-grounded norms and formation program.

In this context, Restorative Discipline becomes essential in fostering character, ethics, personal responsibility and accountability. It does not control, limit and/or penalize one's action. Rather, it provides specialized approach to learning and redirection of challenging behavior so that students can focus on their goals in order to advance in life. It emphasizes reintegrating students into the school community through problem solving, reflection, discernment, conflict resolution, and the willingness to change.

Restorative discipline promotes belongingness and connectedness to find collaborative solutions and prevent future disciplinary problems. Moreover, while restorative discipline fosters the holistic good of the individual, it nourishes as well, the integral welfare of the community. Hence, deviant behavior which disrupts the education of others and compromises the learning environment indeed necessitates corrective measure to serve the common good.

San Beda, as one family, dutifully upholds the value of human dignity and the sanctity of life by committing itself to its Vision-Mission through God's presence with oneself and the community.

STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE: A BEDAN WAY OF LIFE

The introduction of instruction, research, and community service in the learning experience of students is essential in the formation of quality graduates who embody the values and ideals of San Beda College. These pillars of education contribute to the holistic development of every member of the academic community.

Community Service is an educational process that: (1) develops service orientation and volunteerism, (2) contextualizes learning with actual social and human experiences, (3) applies new knowledge to address specific social development problems, and (4) lives out the basic teachings of the Church on the love of God and neighbor.

The true essence of community service harnesses the character formation and transformation of our students to be selfless and committed to the common good. Community service is the innate imperative value, the core of life-long learning experience that cultivates the personal capacity to serve others without external pressure.

San Beda affirms that community service should not be a form of penalty or sanction. Thus, as one Christian family, San Beda upholds community services as an authentic way of life in the Benedictine formation of students. **WE ARE ONE BEDAN FAMILY.**

PEACE PLEDGE OF THE BEDAN COMMUNITY

We, the administration, formators, student leaders, and stakeholders of our beloved institution, San Beda, are committed to teach, serve, promote, act, think and live according to the Benedictine core values, especially the pursuit of peace. We commit to foster a balanced life among *Bedan* community members and sensitivity to other sectors of the society. We vow to create not only an academic but also a transformative, holistic, Catholic Christian environment within and outside the four corners of the classroom. As our ultimate goal, we, as one community, will help create San Beda a home that shows a genuine love and affection to all its members.

We proclaim commitment as ONE community to shun and other activities that lead to the rejection of life. We are committed as educators, administrators, student leaders, workers and learners to be the emblem of compassion, justice, peace and love.

A.B. Political Science

Championing Further SBC's Tradition of Excellence

Kerwin Mark D. Martinez

Bedans are born champions --- they are made to excel in any human endeavors. Endowed with transcendent excellence and resplendent virtues, Bedans radiate intense vigor and unfathomable force that reflect a heritage of scholarship defined by honor, pride, and glory. They are stalwart advocates of democracy and mighty victors of their generation. They are dignified and exalted for they possess nobility that is the unique mark of the Benedictine intelligentsia.

In its active pursuit to uphold its tradition of scholarly excellence and professional superiority, San Beda Manila offers A.B. Political Science--- an academic program that ushers in the remarkable prospect of unraveling and exploring the discipline that *Bedans* are destined and entitled to be part of. This program was long deferred and with much anticipation geared up the inevitability. And so, the inevitable happened. The A.B. Political Science has found a new home in San Beda.

As a foremost academic institution, San Beda Manila exudes pride in its reputation in producing lawyers who are prominent luminaries in the fields of law, politics, and governance. SBC is elevated as one of the country's top-grade law schools, and the birth of A.B. Political Science is a milestone that contributes to the realization of its aspiration to advance great erudition about the discipline. A.B. Political Science is given the following program description:

A.B. Political Science is a dynamic and innovative program designed to transform the youth of today into empowered members of the society who are endowed with intellectual competence, keen perspicacity, prudent skills, and Benedictine virtues. It is engaged actively in educating learners on critical social and political issues that define the multi-

plicity of cultural realities in which they exist to endure with wisdom, understanding, and a deep sense of responsibility. It equips learners with substantial knowledge and training on political processes, behavior, policies, and theories as well as government policies, relations, and standards. Its ultimate goal is to produce luminaries in the fields of law and politics who transcend in the name of legal expertise and supremacy.

A.B. Political Science is a four-year degree program, aimed at equipping students with substantial knowledge and expertise on political science, which is the study of governments, public policies, and political behavior. It is comprised of comprehensive discussions and examinations of political theories and institutions as well as government policies and processes. It is conscientious in addressing and responding to issues and concerns that are crucial to world peace, government policies, economic stability and progress, and changes in the local and international political communities. Some of the courses offered in the program are Fundamentals of Political Science, Philippine Public Administration, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Students of A.B. Political Science are expected to develop their critical thinking skills and social awareness and accountability. Their knowledge and skills are empowered for them to successfully engage in legal practice, teaching and research, civil service, legislative works, and foreign diplomacy.

The academic milieu anticipates the advancement of A.B. Political Science as SBC refuses to rest on its laurels in providing excellent quality of education that *Bedans* deserve for their consummate learning and development. Indeed, A.B. Political Science is set to partake in SBC's culture of excellence that it is most renowned for.

Last September 25, 2017, through the initiative of the Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., the San Beda Taytay and Mendiola Prefects and Guidance Counsellors have formulated a timely and relevant student formation program promoting the culture of peace and harmony.

Being an institution that aims to mold its students according to the Benedictine principles which are reflected in its vision of a community that is fully human, wholly Christian, truly Filipino and globally competitive, formators, administrators and stakeholders came up with an improved and institutionalized student services that will inculcate to students the Benedictine faith and values. The program was held at the Pamanang Bedista with the presence of the different sectors from the different colleges and offices. The program aims to formulate an idea of a community of peacekeepers with a mission of beating the futility of violence of the unrecognized organizations.

The Programs

Bedans as Peacekeepers Program is divided into three spheres: the Preventive/Promotive Programs, the Re-Formation Programs and the Administrative Support Programs.

Preventive/Promotive Programs

While some of the programs listed are already offered, they need modifications and expansions. The following are the preventive/promotive programs:

1. The Intensification of verification of documents for the students who may apply for enrolment in San Beda. Through the office of the Admission and Guidance office, aspiring *Bedans* should be properly screened. The particularity on moral background of enrollees will be monitored.
2. Effective immediately, there will be random physical examination that will be supervised by the Prefect of Student Discipline.
3. Each college will review the entrance policies especially the contract signed by students prior to enrollment and emphasize the denouncement of the student of his or her affiliations to different fraternities and/or sororities and the submission of drug test results as one of the requirements.
4. Innovative advertisement echoing San Beda's stand on violence via the school's official social media accounts will be done.
5. The Bedan Care Hotline will be opened. This is a hotline for reports on fraternity and/or sorority recruitment and any other related ac-



Answering the Clarion Call

San Beda Student Fo

tivities of unrecognized organizations in the college. The hotline is 7356011 loc. 5310.

6. The curricula of all the colleges will be reviewed with an assurance that San Beda's Vision-Mission is inculcated in it.
7. CCTV cameras will be installed in the different strategic areas in the campus.
8. Security Personnel will be assigned to monitor activities of the different colleges including the Senior High School.
9. Administrators will review and update the Orientation Programs for incoming freshmen.
10. Leadership Training programs of the different organizations of the different colleges, including the Senior High School, will be strengthened.
11. Seminars emphasizing success despite the non-membership to fraternities/sororities will be conducted with full-blooded *Bedans* as main speakers.

Re-Formation Programs

1. As a Guidance Counseling Intervention Program, guidance counseling services will be improved into a warmer heart to heart talk with the students.

2. There will be a Modular Program to be launched which aims to re-*instill* important life skills and Benedictine core values.

Administrative Programs

1. There will be a Student Affairs Administrators' Training Programs to equip administrators with the knowledge and skills in handling student services related matters.
2. An in-house Psychiatrist is recommended.

The presentation of these programs was wrapped-up through a pledge of peace commitment signing, a symbolical way of establishing how serious are *Bedan* warriors in shaping a campus full of love and harmony.

These programs were launched through a *Walk for Peace* activity last October 18, 2017. Students, faculty, administrators, non-teaching personnel, alumni and all other sectors of the community gathered together to show the world that we are one *Bedan* family, aiming to become more solid in peace restoration and the spread of goodwill to man.



Launches its Re-Formation Program

Marvin R. Reyes

Mary, the Mother of God, Our Mother

The ICIC Marian Spirituality Program

for Children of Sitio Paktil, Mountain Province

Julius Tutor

The Institutional Community Involvement Center (ICIC) initiated a Marian recollection-activity for the graders and youth group of Paktil, Mountain Province last September 12, 2017. Prof. Kim Guia spearheaded the narration of the story of the five different apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Our Lady of La Naval Manila, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Manaoag, Our Lady of Montserrat, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Prof. Kim discussed the significance of prayer and the devotion to the Blessed Mother. Moreover, 'kuya' Kim, as fondly called by the kids, emphasized the important messages of the different Marian apparitions, as Mary appeared most especially to the poor and pure of heart, like the children.

Marian apparitions are actual 'visions' of Mary appearing in human history and time. It is reported that exchanges of communications are taking place in these different Marian apparitions. "A Marian apparition, if deemed genuine by Church authority, is treated as a private revelation that may emphasize some facet of the received public revelation for a specific purpose, but it can never add anything new to the deposit of faith."

The facilitators were amazed at how the kids displayed their experiences on the different feasts of the Blessed Mother, especially Her birthday. A simple activity that required participants to share how they felt the loving guidance of God through the Blessed Mother was made. The children were able to draw different symbolic representations of the presence of "Mary" in their lives. Some shared that Mother Mary's values and character were inculcated to them by their parents, teachers, and their *Lola* or *Lala*, and from then on it served as their guiding path while growing up.





In the evening, the facilitators met with the youth community. More than twenty young adults attended the Marian sharing. They narrated to their experiences with God and their devotion to the Mother Mary. The authenticity of their testimony was marked by the enthusiasm and good recollection of experiences. The session ended with the fellowship of food, laughter, and *groupie*.

The role of Mary in the lives of every Christian is indispensable. Mary displays a profound truth of our Christian Faith. Like Mary, we are “God’s bearer.” Our faith is concretized in our daily relationship with each other and the cosmos. *Theotokos*, or Mary the Mother of God is a declaration about Christ as “truly God and truly Human.” Two emphases are made clear: The *Being* of Christ and the identity or role of Mary in our Salvation History. The declaration of the council of Ephesus (431 AD) on *Theotokos* echoes the fundamental belief in the Catholic Doctrine: “What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ (Catechism of the Catholic Church #487). Hence, in our journey of faith, we have in our midst a mother, to help us see, understand, and believe the context of our Christian life: Mary the Mother of God, and our loving Mother.

The Virgin Mary . . . is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and of the redeemer . . . She is 'clearly the mother of the members of Christ'... since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head.³⁰² Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church.”(CCC #963)

IMC Announces New Digital Offerings

Ma. Elisa A. Galang

The Instructional Media Center (IMC), in coordination with the college library, conducted orientation sessions to the Grade 11 students from the 10th to the 24th day of July 2017. This was held at the Periodicals section of the college library. The primary objectives of the orientation was to familiarize our students with the various collections of information sources offered by the library and to lay the groundwork by introducing the resources, services and facilities of the IMC. Through this orientation, it was impressed upon the students the value of stewardship, which is one of the 10 Hallmarks of Benedictine Education.

The Center also participated in the orientation program for the parents of Grade 11 students held last June 7, as well as in the general orientation of the College of Nursing students and

their parents conducted on August 14, 2017.

The borrowing procedure in the circulation of the AV equipment has been modified, effective September 13, 2017, so as to maximize and preserve the LCD projectors to secure other equipment as well.

IMC is also happy to inform everyone that the center is in the process of acquiring 6 units of wireless LCD projectors and 2 units of Mac Book Air laptop to upgrade the existing education technology equipment and in order to meet one of the strategic objectives stated in San Beda's Five-Year Smart Plan 2017-2022 which is to develop a plan for classroom technology usage. Currently, 25% of our classrooms are installed with wireless LCD projectors for AY-2017-2018.

The 38th Manila International Book Fair and the College Libraries

Joanna Camante

Booklovers, bookworms, bibliophiles, readers, scholars, etc., whatever you want to call yourselves, I bet this event have thrilled you to the bones!

Thoughts of book hunting for a specific title or rummaging through pile after pile of random reading materials is a pretty much exciting activity for you. Well, it did not only end there, for you can purchase certain titles at a remarkably low price!

The country's biggest and longest running book fair, Manila International Book Fair, held its 38th-year fair on September 13-17, 2017 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. Other activities such as story-telling for kids, fora and seminars for professionals and students and book-launches were some of the highlights. It aimed to promote reading and literacy in the country and provide venue for the exchange of ideas among publishers and booksellers, the academe and general public.

Participated in by over 100 exhibitors of print and non-print publications, this event has served as a one-stop shop for re-

mote schools, colleges and universities.

This activity is regularly attended by San Beda Manila, thru the coordination of Mrs. Rosalinda Robles, Assistant Coordinator of Libraries; Ms. Jennifer Comabig, Head of the College Libraries; Mrs. Laura Aquino, Acquisition Librarian; and the College Library Section Heads. Representatives from the administration, faculty members of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, Graduate School of Business, CAS Student Library Committee and Integrated Basic Education Department were tasked to select reading materials relevant to their field of teaching or as the students' reference materials. The librarians who went gave assistance and facilitated the search of the materials for evaluation and selection.

The College libraries acknowledge the participation of the administrators, faculty members, staff and students for their time and conscious-effort for the library as we thrive to develop a hybrid library collection that feeds the minds of future leaders and aids the educators' commitment for a lifelong learning.

DELL, SBEC Celebrate English and Literature Month

Susan Butac

The Department of Language and Literature, in cooperation with San Beda English Club, celebrated the annual English and Literature Month last October 2017. The said event revolved around the theme, “Flaring up the World with English and Literature.”

Sundry of academic and fun-filled activities were organized and showcased during the month-long celebration. Each event aimed to provide avenues and opportunities for *Bedans* to create, to express, and to demonstrate their dexterity in English language and in literature. On October 3, the opening program was held at the Mezzanine of Dom Filepe Café, where Dr. Moses Aaron T. Angeles, Vice Dean for Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, graced the event as the keynote speaker. His talk centered on the need and significance of philosophical, reflective, and analytical mode of communication amidst emerging fake news. Thus, *millenials* need to be critical and responsible communicators. Also, the faculty members of the department and the SBEC officers through the chairmanship of Prof. Rowena J. Rivero, attended the opening ceremony.

On October 6, 11, 13, and 18, another set of activities took place at the Student Activity Room (SAR), *Pamanang Bedista*, and Conference Hall. They were “Finding the Bedan Poet” (Poetry Writing Contest), “Parada de Literatura” (Literary Characters on Parade), “Dramarama” (Declamation contest), and “Words and the Bees” (Spelling Bee Contest). “Finding the Bedan Poet” was set to appreciate the cultural heritage exhibited in various literary works of the Philippines and the world. “Parada de Literatura” on the other hand targeted the recognition of diversity and essence of socio-cultural values evidenced in different

literary characters and their relevance to today’s world. Furthermore, the “Words and the Bees” marked the development of students’ knowledge and skills in English, while the “Dramarama” was designed to enhance the Bedans’ potential as speakers in their own right by winsomely reciting great speeches of others. These activities were participated in not only by students who are enrolled in English and Literature subjects, but also by *Bedans* from various courses who are aesthetes of language and literature. They showed their best in every competition and aspired to bag every respective prize.

On October 24, “Once Upon a Bedan” (English and Literature Exhibit) was held at the Sabater Lobby through the effort of Dr. Nerissa Revilla and her students. The said exhibit launch was witnessed by Dr. Josefina M. Manabat, Vice President for Academics and Vice Dean, Dr. Moses Aaron T. Angeles who spearheaded the ribbon cutting. The event showcased the evolution of SBEC leadership from 2010 up to the present time.

The culminating program “Liberalia Awards” was completed at the Abbot Lopez Hall. It was inspired by the Red Carpet theme which paved the way for formal attire among the attendees. The program highlighted the distribution of prizes and certificates to the winners for the different activities conducted during the celebration. An audio-visual material featuring the effort of the faculty members and SBEC officers in making the affair possible served as the Prologue of the closing ceremony. On the other hand, the Benedictine Chorale singers Lorenzo Gabriel D. Timoteo and Selena Jem M. Maballos made the atmosphere mellow through their intermission songs. Finally, Prof. Rivero expressed her gratitude to the activity chairs, faculty members, SBEC officers, participants, audience, and all who labored hard just to make the celebration of English and Literature month successful.

Words and the Bees (Spelling Contest)

1st Place: Danielle Sulit
2nd Place: Mary Frances Galvez
3rd Place: Alec Benitez

Finding the Bedan Poet (Poetry Writing Contest)

Winner- Haiku : Jacob Collado
Winner- Free Verse: Jacob Collado
Winner- Sonnet: Florence Malapitan

World Literature and Arts Connoisseur (Poster Making Contest)

1st Place : Gayle Oribe, Mary Grace Fernandez, Kenny Pelipel
2nd Place: Ckloie Bagares
3rd Place: Nicole Jaime Gatchalian

Parada de Literatura (Literary Characters on Parade)

1st Place : Jacob Collado & Elisa Abillar
2nd Place: Jennifer Derla & Lalaine Perez
3rd Place: Angelo Aca & JC Maravilla

Dramarama (Declamation Contest)

1st Place : Vanessa Santos
2nd Place: Leona Consigo
3rd Place: Dionam Basco, Jr.

A Review of SBCEA's Activities

Albert Silva



Photo Credit: Strategic Communication Office

The year 2017 was a memorable and grace-filled year for San Beda College Employees' Association (SBCEA). Thanks to the very energetic and diligent president of the association, Mr. Daniel Macaraeg for the job well done. He started the year by calling a series of meetings with his co-officers to make plans for the welfare of every member of the association that will be carried out throughout the year. After the exchange of opinions and series of discussions they were able to come up with projects and activities that will make every member physically and mentally fit, spiritually renewed and financially assisted. All projects and activities laid out were aligned to the programs for the employees.

First on the list is the modification of their financial program. They combined the two existing lending programs, Assistance Loan, and Emergency Loan, were combined into one lending program to make it sufficient for the immediate needs of the members. The new lending program is payable in two months through salary deduction to be facilitated by the Accounting Office through the support and approval of the Vice President for Finance, Rev. Fr. Rembert C. Tumbali, O.S.B.

To add more capital for their financial program, on February 2017, in partnership with the company ULOAD Manila, they launched the ULOAD Vendo

Machine. ULOAD is an all in one prepaid load vending machine that caters all prepaid credit load such as, Globe, TM, Smart, TNT, and Sun Cellular. The monthly proceeds from this venture were added to the revolving funds.

On April 2017, the Annual Retreats were facilitated by the Campus Ministry headed by Sister Gladys Laurente at the Monserrat Center for Religious Formation at Silang, Cavite. This spiritual activity is given every year as one of the programs of the administration for the employees through the effort of Rev. Fr. Ephraem Ma. E. Molina, O.S.B., Vice President for Administration in coordination with the Human Resource Management Office, headed by Mr. Leo V. Alcantara, HR Director. The intention is for the members of the non-teaching to be away from normal activities; spend time getting reacquainted with God, to examine the priorities of life, and make concrete and practical resolutions.

Days after the retreat, employees were sent to Camayan Beach Resort in Subic, Zambales for their annual excursion to relax and to recharge. Simple program and games were facilitated by the officers of the association. On May 2017, to strengthen camaraderie of the *Bedan* community and to promote a healthy lifestyle, the 1st San

Beda College Mix Volleyball called Rector's Cup was initiated by the SBCEA president. Because of its success that led to a stronger community spirit and harmonious relationship in the *Bedan* community, the 2nd San Beda College Mix Volleyball called James Sy Cup was held on July 2017. The two volleyball cups were sponsored by Mr. James Sy, through the effort of the Chief Operating Officer of San Beda College Benedictine Educational Foundation, Inc., Rev. Fr. Bede S. Hechanova, O.S.B.

On August 27, 2017, a program entitled, "Isang Pasasalamat", was organized by Fr. Bede with the assistance of the Institutional Community Involvement Center, headed by Prof. Joselito J. Tablang to honor two *Bedan* alumni, Mr. James Sy and Mr. Alvero, for their continuous support to the *Bedan* community. The program was attended by the school administrators as well as the members of the SBCEA. During the first week of December 2017, each member received a gift from the association.

On December 16, 2017, during the Institutional Christmas Party hosted by the College of Medicine led by Dean Dr. Fernandino Jose A. Fontanilla, the staff from different offices gathered together to show the *Bedan* community their talents. They interpreted this year's theme "Pasko 2017: Papuri sa Panginoon ng Pag-ibig, Kapayapaan, at Katarungan," by singing, dancing and acting. Their presentation was well-applauded that even our Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. stood up in jubilation to give applause and praise to the outstanding performance of the participants. The SBCEA finishes second place and brings home a cash prize. According to the participants, it's not the rank nor the prize but the appreciation of the audience for their performance that matters. Saying, "hindi lang kami pang-office, pang-stage pa". 2017 was indeed an unforgettable year for SBCEA for the many blessings they have received throughout the year.

On behalf of our president and members of the San Beda College Employees Association, we would like to extend our gratitude to the higher administration, especially to our Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. and Prior Administrator-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Austin P. Cadiz, O.S.B., for making us feel proud of what we do, for what we are, and who we are. We are part of a community that is fully human, wholly Christian, truly Filipino, and globally competitive. So, that in all things God may be glorified.

GOOD SAMARITAN'S DEED

Sybil L. Agreda and Larry J. Ambion

The photos of a young boy doing a small act of kindness were shared by Florence Pascua (@DianahFlorence in Twitter), which were captioned “Bedans can be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud,” have stirred social media instantly.

The good Samaritan is **Lincoln Claro**, a 17-year old Grade 11 senior high school student of San Beda Manila who went viral in social media when a fellow *Bedan* captured how he unhesitatingly helped an old woman shove her mobile store [*kariton store*] at Concepcion Aguila Street. According to him, the old woman who could have been 90 years old in his estimate seemed too feeble and fatigued, so he knew she needed help.

When asked during an interview what he was thinking at that time, the soft-spoken young man smiled and said, “*Bigla na lang gumalaw ang katawan ko na parang biglang may nag-pump. Hindi na po ako nag-hesitate. Biglang may narinig akong jeep sa likod na sakay pala mga taga-San Beda. Bigla ko lang narinig na sumisigaw sila na, “Taga-[San]Beda yan, Bedista yan!”*”

Claro lit up as he shared how he wanted to study in San Beda

when he was in his junior high school, so being in his dream school gives him too much delight. As a long-time altar server and presently an active member of Integrated Basic Education Department- Senior High School, San Beda Manila campus’ Marshalls Organization and the dance group, Vasileia, Lincoln Claro very much know what service and discipline mean.

He expressed his surprise when he realized that he has gone trending. “*Nag-goose bumps ako. Nakaka-shock kasi hindi pa ako matagal sa San Beda. Nagpapasalamat ako lalo sa may mga positive reactions. May mga negative reactions pero ‘yong mga classmates ko sinasabi na hayaan na lang. Ang mga moments na ganito dapat i-cherish [kasi] once in a lifetime. Maraming naka-appreciate ng simple gestures.*”

For Claro, *Bedans*, based on his first impression, are dominant, brave, and excellent. But as he gets immersed in the community, he further realized that his brothers and sisters in the community are disciplined, friendly and down-to-earth.

Indeed, the small acts of kindness like what Lincoln Claro did are testimony to the capacity of each one of us to show genuine care, concern and love for others. Now, imagine a world inhabited by kindhearted people and kindhearted *Bedans*.



A Peek into the Queen's Mind

From Miss San Beda to Miss Multinational Philippines 2017



*"I think at a young age, we start our aspirations of what we want to be in life. That's something I've experienced being 17 years old and making it this far. I would tell the 7-year old [girl] not to make the pageant her goal but to make what she wants to do with the pageant her destination. I'm talking about wanting to be able to help the world and show the world – [what] our country can and should be or what our country can do for other people and for our future as well. And I think that's a goal that all beauty queens should have." This was the winning answer of Miss Sophia Senoron in the Miss World Philippines 2017 pageant after being asked, "What would you advise a 7-year old girl who dreams of becoming a beauty queen? In Greek, *Sophia* means *wisdom*. True to her name, the 18-year old, third year BSBA Major in Financial Management student of the College, Ms.*

Sophia Senoron wowed the entire Mall of Asia Arena as she wittingly, eloquently, and confidently answered the questions that secured her the first ever Miss Multinational Philippines crown to ever be given in the recently concluded Miss World Philippines pageant last September 3, 2017.

Known to be a debater and student leader whose advocacy is to train student leaders and along with the group, Ang Pagbabagong Mithi (A New Aspiration) which she helped form, spread awareness on different issues of the nation. The former Miss San Beda 2015 is not a typical beauty queen. She balances gentleness and strength, candidness and grace, flamboyance and depth.

"I feel that there's no better way than for me to give



my best shot because I'm not your normal beauty queen or your standard beauty queen. I am standing 5'4", [with] baby fats, [and] looking like a child. I feel that it fits me because if they want to have a different narrative on beauty pageants, I am the opposite narrative of a beauty queen. I think it's like killing two birds in one stone," Sophia candidly said at the beginning of our interview with her. In the interview transcripts below, we will get to know more of our very own *Bedan* beauty royalty

as she bares her heart out and candidly shares the struggles she went through, the lessons she learned and the wisdom she gained in her journey towards her dreams. Her eyes glistened with excitement and her narration was so alive that we ourselves were fully engaged and on our toes for the surprise crescendo.

Sybil: We begin congratulating you for winning Ms. Multinational Philippines.

Sophia: Thank you.

Larry: I guess you are the first Miss Multinational Philippines.

Sophia: Yes. It's a new title in the Miss World [Philippines pageant]. I am actually the first Miss Multinational Philippines. There's a lot of pressure because if you look back how many years from now, you will always want to know who the first queen to represent the Philippines in Miss Multinational pageant. The fact that I will have successors, I want to be the first girl to leave the country as Miss Multinational Philippines who makes an impact so that the legacy will be forward and upward only. I want to have a good image for the Philippines especially for this pageant because it's not so much on beauty anymore. In beauty pageants, they have standards of height, standards of age and statistics as well. Multinational has removed all of that. They widened the range of who can join so you can be older; it can be up to 27 or 28 [years old] which is unusual for international beauty pageants. More than that, they removed the height requirement. I am 5'4" which is actually not enough for Miss World requirement, so getting in is such a blessing for me. I am very grateful for Miss Multinational.



Photo Credit: Google Images



Photographer: Joel Filamor

Sybil: So what are you feeling, now that you are preparing to leave the country in December for your competition?

Sophia: I feel so pressured. I was with the girls-- Ate Laura [Laura Lehmann], Miss World Philippines, and Ate Wyn [Teresita Ssen Marquez], Reina Hispanoamericana 2017 and we spent a lot of time with each other while they were preparing. You can see the stress that they go through. It's funny because the moment you see them get off their car at the airport, their smile is so genuine as if they didn't go through such a hard time in the past weeks. That's the moment I am looking forward to, the moment where I can leave the Philippines confident that I have the entire country rooting for me. I feel pressured, but there's something to look forward to. It's not something like I am burnt out.

Sybil: What was your reaction after reading all those blogs about you?

Sophia: It's really overwhelming because you'd see facts about yourself that you have never said to anyone or to the media. You've never come out about it, but you'll see it in the internet. It's overwhelming but it's scary. Actually it's really funny because the first article made about me was *Eight (or Nine Facts) about Sophia Senoron, Miss Multinational*. I was overwhelmed because GMA network [that featured me] is really big. I was really happy with what I read but as I scrolled down, there were some statements about me that were not true which they thought were hinted in my *Instagram*. I was bothered because they were

not true. I talked to Ate Wyn [Teresita Ssen Marquez, Reina Hispanoamericana 2017] about it and she told me, "Baby girl, you have to be careful with what you post." I was getting nervous because I never wanted to hold back from posting things because apart from being myself, I am a millennial and I go to San Beda College so media is a very large thing. Posting what I do every day naturally or flamboyantly without checking it or double checking it for grammatical errors in my captions and the like. It's like unnatural, so I felt really pressured. It's a good feeling but I felt really pressured.

Sybil: So your social media habit has changed?


Sophia: Yes definitely it has changed. In good ways, the quality of my photos is better; in bad ways, I don't think the people who subscribed to me during the contest because I was genuine no longer get to see the genuine Sophia. For me, that's really bothersome because they subscribed to me because they saw something in me that was real, and the fact that I have to hide something in me saddens me. Jason Maulit [a fellow debater] and I were talking about certain issues about the Philippines, certain issues that I'd like to voice out, certain issues that I'd like to advocate and if they were really known---there wasn't that much of a spotlight. That was the time that the spotlight on me was so bright because I just won, so we had a strategic planning. I would post about this [issue] and then during my interview the next day, I'd talk



Photo Credit: Google Images



Photographer: Joel Filamor



about it. At least that way, I can spread some awareness about the topic. I *tweeted* about it at about 10 p.m. At about 4 a.m., I received 10 missed calls from all my managers from Miss World Organization. They wanted me to take it down. It's so natural for me to post about certain issues, being the person that I am. After that night, I did not go on social media for five days because I was so scared that I would do another wrong move. It's hard to see your wrongs when all these time, you thought you were doing it right. I've always wanted media attention not for myself but on what I wanted to do with it and that is to be able to raise issues. The fact that it's like a miss in my plan-- I felt heartbroken.

Larry:

Sophia:

Sybil:

Sophia:

Was that the worst so far?

That's the worst. That was the hardest part for me.

How do you reconcile that?

I find avenues. As much as possible, I go to San Beda College. Sir Rubio [Prof. Michael Rubio] always sees me. He is my chairperson because I am majoring in Financial Management. He gets angry with me because I took an LOA (Leave of Absence) and he sees me almost every other day. He's like, "If you're 'gonna be here every other day, why didn't you just take the class?" "I'm only here *naman* for two hours, sir (laughs)." The reason why I do it is that I have to go to a place where I am normal, where I am treated normal. I am so grateful because whatever I achieve, *Bedans* will


Sybil:

Sophia:

Sybil:

Sophia:

Sybil:



never look at me differently. That's how I get away from all the stress. I'd go back to my friends, teachers, classmates and people I've met in the organizations—people with whom I am allowed to be myself. Sometimes you see me in San Beda wearing slippers or having no makeup at all. I feel the most comfortable when I am in San Beda.

To those who are interested to know you, how will you describe yourself?

I think I will describe myself as flamboyant. With that, I am progressive; I am noisy; I am not *mahinhin* in whatever sort, way or form because I am not someone you will come across as shy even when I am quiet because there's always the eagerness in my eyes and the eagerness in my actions.

It was quite interesting to know that in one of your interviews, you were asked how you prepare for the pageant, and you said that you are researching. Why is that?

Yeah. In all honesty, I do research because people know me because of my [performance in the] Q&A portion. People know me because of my voice. People know me because I am so immersed in every environment I love myself to be in, and I want that legacy to continue even if I am in a different country. If I leave the Philippines and if I interact with other people who are representing other countries, I'd like to be involved with those issues as well. I should know about what's happening around the world.

In the Miss World 2017 pageant, you were the youngest with no training camp, and somehow the underdog

Sophia:

in the competition. How do you feel about it? And also the shortest (giggles). Yes I was the underdog. I'm not 'gonna lie. There were times during that one month when we were candidates, I've cried. There was a week that I cried every night. I was not the only one crying. My mother was crying, too. But because *ma-pride ako*, I don't want her to see me cry. If she sees me cry, it will be a translation that I have given up. I cry alone because I was so sad because I did not see where my journey was going. I thought that I was not growing as a person and also, I was not able to do what I like best-- like being able to show people who I am which is basically my main goal in being a candidate. I couldn't do it because I had no media attention. I was a favorite of none because I was not known. If we had *guestings*, no one would look at me; no one would ask me questions; no one would ever go to the end of the line. I was number 35 out of 35 candidates, so by the time they reach number 33 or 34, they had given up and they would not ask me any more questions. It made me really sad because getting no media attention in such a big pageant means *na* you should give up *na*. It wasn't until we went to *Rappler* and we had a seminar on social media for social good. But because I had passion for such an advocacy, I had a lot of questions. They were shocked because they didn't expect those questions from a girl who looked like a five-year old. When the people from *Rappler* talked to me after

Larry:
Sophia:

the seminar, they told me that I have opened their eyes to other perspective. Because some people understood and appreciated that, it felt so good in my heart. It was after *Rappler* that I realized that I have to fight for this crown. **I may not be the beauty that you are looking for, but I may be the purpose that you may need.**

Sybil:

Sophia:

How do you deal with criticism? After I won, I received a lot of negative comments on *Instagram*. The only way that I could deal with it is to ignore it. Engaging on it makes its worse. The fact that they've created that image of me in their perspective means they don't deserve to know me either. As much as possible, I stay away from those criticisms. As much as I like good comments, I like criticisms. I love when people correct me and criticize me, and I take it as a blessing. But if you are going to criticize me and shut down the idea that I can change the way you look at me, then I am not going to show you that I can; I'm not going to show you the passion that I have; I'm not going to engage on it.

What's the best compliment you have received so far?

From Voltaire of *Rappler*. He introduced me as "a big surprise in a small package." For me, that's the best compliment because people seemed to downgrade the journey that I went through.

Larry: What are your thoughts about some protests against beauty pageants perceived as a form of women exploitation?

Sophia: In a world that is so judgmental, in a world that loves to criticize people, the only way to get them to hear you is if you package it well. It just so happens that in beauty pageants, the way to package yourself is through the way you look, the way you walk, the way you strut or the way you carry yourself. Knowing that, I think that it does not exploit women. In fact, it uses our strength and what we have in order to voice out. We need to understand that we don't want women to get out of the idea that they have to be beautiful. Beauty pageants are also a way of empowering other women as well. **We are willing to adjust to the world because the world does not want to adjust to us.**

Sybil: What *Bedan* quality will the international audience see from you?

Sophia: I want to show the world that I am fully human, wholly Christian and truly Filipino. That's the biggest trait that I want to show. As a Filipina, I am humble and family-oriented. I am also loud because I believe in hospitality. I believe in having you in my grace as family and as a brother and sister even if we are from different countries. I will also show that I am globally competitive and this comes hand in hand with me being a *Bedan* and me being a Filipina. Even if I am from a third world country, that won't hinder me from



Photo Credit: Google Images

Larry:

Sophia:

showing that my education as a *Bedan* was enough for me to get this far and even excel the educational practices of other universities. **Even if my country does not have that much in terms of resources, what we have is the ability to support each other.** So even if I am not from a really good social class, and this journey has been a struggle for me financially. The way that I'm getting around it is that there are so many Filipinos who wanted to help me. I feel that it's that kind of hospitality and that kind of love for other Filipinos that I carry with me, and that's also the trait that I want to show the world. **We may not have much, but we have each other, and that's the only thing that I can bring.** I'm fully confident to bring the entire Philippine congregation even if they are not with me on that night; I know that they will be supporting me all throughout.

What's your message to the *Bedan* community especially those that idolize and support you?

Dream as high as you can see and look past through the present day limits. Throughout my journey in Miss World Philippines, I've realized that the world is meant to be changed. If you want to change for the better, do it. Three years ago, I said I wanted to become a national beauty queen, but there were so many people who said that I can't do it because I was 5'3" at that time; I looked like a 5-year old [girl], and I had so much baby fats. And now, I am standing in front of you, Miss Sophia Senoron—Miss Philippines!

The College of Medicine is proud of the latest batch of graduates who took the recent medical licensure examinations in September 2017. Of the 99 graduates of Class 2016 who took the medical boards, 98 passed the exams, resulting in a 98.9% passing rate for first-time takers, higher than the national passing average of 82.19%. A few of our repeat examination takers

passed as well. Our overall passing rate (includes all examinees – first-time takers and repeaters) was 94.34%, garnering for San Beda College of Medicine the **8th rank among all medical schools** in terms of performance in the recent medical licensure examination. This is an improvement over last year's performance, where San Beda College of Medicine ranked #11. At present, there are 46 accredited medical schools in the Philippines who have graduates taking the licensure exams. (See Appendix A for the complete list of board passers).

San Beda's more recent success in the Physician Licensure Examinations is not only attributed to

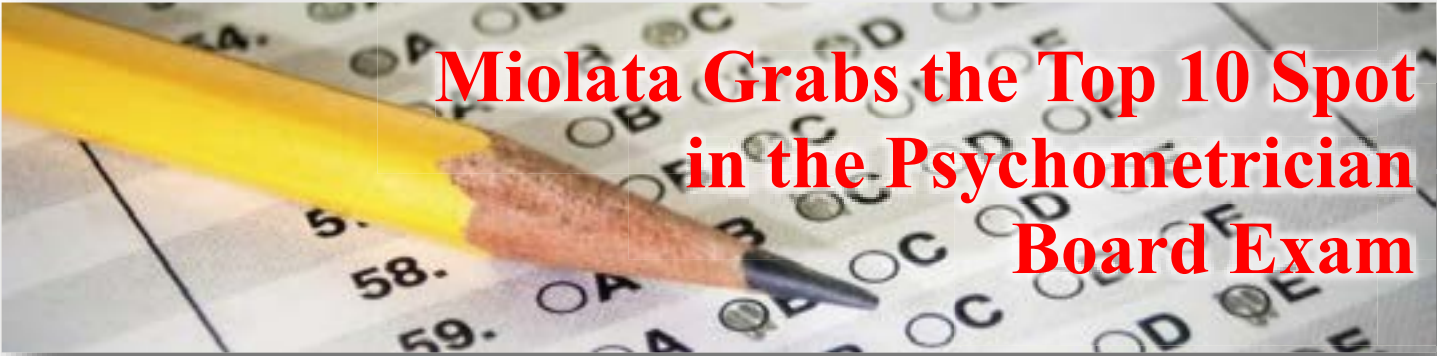
the more discerning student selection process, the dynamic curriculum, innovative instruction, and faculty dedication but more importantly the cooperation and unity among all the members of the *Bedan* community. Since the inception of the Board Operations, students, faculty, administration, and alumni alongside the unwavering support of the Benedictine monks have all come together to give their support through work and prayer for all board examinees. Truly a testament to how this *Bedan* Community effort is vital to success in all the endeavors of the College of Medicine.



Physician Licensure Examinations

Preparations and Performance

Fernandino Jose A. Fontanilla



Miolata Grabs the Top 10 Spot in the Psychometrician Board Exam

San Beda yet again stayed at the top. Josel Anne V. Miolata, a 20-year old fresh graduate from the College of Arts and Sciences, secured the Top 10 spot in the Psychometrician Board Examination with a rating of 82.86%.

“It’s surreal. After taking the board exam, I wasn’t even sure if I would pass, and I certainly didn’t expect that I would be one of the Top 10 passers. I am overwhelmed with joy especially that I made my parents happy and proud. Also, a lot of people have been telling me that they are proud of me, and that really warms my heart,” Miolata said in an interview.

What’s her secret to success? She said she gave her best because she was afraid to fail. More so, she didn’t really want her efforts to go to waste. “After graduation last May, I took a one month break and enrolled last June in a review center and on days that I didn’t have classes, I still tried finding time to study,” she explained.

She couples her dedication with a realistic set of goals. “It’s more effective if you set mini goals that lead you to your main goal. My main goal was to pass the board exam and my mini goals were to read one or two chapters a day or finish a book in two to three weeks. It is okay if you don’t achieve your goal for the day, what’s important is you are trying,” she shared.

According to her, enough rest and time to do something that you love doing every day are necessary when preparing for something important like the board exam. “The most important thing is your health and your well-being—both the physical and mental,” she concluded.

Inspiring her to be her best is her family who has been very supportive of her. She said that her parents are her source of strength. They have been very understanding; in fact, they even persuaded her not to work yet while she prepared for the board exam.

Miolata is one of the 48 new Bedan Psychometricians, responsible for San Bed’s passing rate record of 59.26 %, few notches higher than the national passing percentage rate of 56.97% this year.

The New Bedan Psychometricians

Aguinaldo, Geniah Laureen D.
Aguilar, Jaira Vinia B.
Aguirre, Alyssa Cristy C.
Andres, Reinadel Roshan A.
Balagtas, Zeus Nielsen S.
Bucud, Nikka Anne M.
Calapre, Lara Samantha A.
Cancio, Miguel Lorenzo C.
Canon, Jerol D.C.
Carandang, Justine May M.
Cereno, Chelsea Glyce E.
Clarín, Shiela Lucille C.
De Leon, Alec L.
Del Rosario, Beatrice Anne Z.
Dimaporo, Fatmah Nor-ailyn D.
Doloso, Sharmaine Joy R.

Faller, Eunice Grace D.
Flores, Carlo Gabriel B.
Gonzales, Korina N.
Guevarra, Ann Mirachelle R.
Hidalgo, Roberto Amando C.
Hilarío, John Edward C.
Huesca, Ma. Rena Christine L.
Ibay, Mark Don L.
Ingeniero, Jalz May B.
Jao, John Pailo C.
Masangkay, Shayne Pauline C.
Mongaya, Allein Salve P.
Miolata, Josel Anne V.
Natividad, Angelica Mae R.
Pangilinan, Aifa Regine G.
Perez, Tiziano

Paulino, Janine Rizza M.
Ponce De Leon, Alec L.
Policarpio, Arnold Christian C.
Puata, Angelo Alfonso V.
Quendangan, Josaphat M.
Rodenias, Sandi Patti G.
Santos, Airish L.
Santiago, Joseph Emmanuel F.
Sarmiento, Kiara Angela A.
Sevilla, Patrish Anne Dominique S.
Tangbaoan, Jasmine May A.
Tria, Erica Angela G.
Valles, Paul Leroy S.
Valdez, Princess Rogelyn Jayne C.
Valisno, Jaymie S.
Velarde, Julia Ruth A.

Behind the Artist's Canvas is a Love Story

Maria Eliza P. Cruz

Nietzsche sees art as not merely an imitation of the reality of nature, but as a metaphysical supplement to it. It is an infinite realm that could take an instant out of time and hold it still. It has the power to heal the broken, delight the soul and evoke a thousand feelings we don't even know existed in us.

These past months, I, and some of my colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences, experienced, first hand, this enigma brought by art. As what the Maestro, Prof. Don Santana says, *Art is not supposed to look nice; it is supposed to make you "feel" right.* And indeed, it felt right! Holding a canvas for the first time is love at first sight. To paint one's meaning of reality is an attempt to create a love story. To continue to paint, to be committed to one's artistry, is to prove that a love story could be infinite.

Prof. Therie Cuaresma's love for nature and the outdoors is very evident in her painting subjects. Her artworks, a bridge surrounded with trees and other greens, a realistic waterfalls depiction, and a view of the Mayon Volcano, reveal her most sacred recollections of her favorite places. These are the memories she would like to preserve through her paintings.

Her love for dogs resonates in every art piece Dr. Violy Reyes did for this exhibit. She cares for them as if they are her own children. Recently, one of her cared pets passed away, and it was a distressing experience. Dr. Reyes eventually found solace in her paintings. She discovered that through her paintings, she could still be endeared and attached to her fur angels.

Having found her love to last, Prof. Anna Gesmundo is all ecstatic in painting pieces that will adorn her sweet home in Qatar. Her paintings are labors of love for her other half, Reggie. She has learned that her artworks, aside from driving away stress, could also add to the anticipation and excitement of being with her significant other again.

Prof. Tess Dulay's cherished childhood in her hometown, Pangasinan, is what inspires her to paint. In her recurring theme nature and flowers, she finds joy and serenity in recreating through painting her favorite places and things in her hometown.

Being the best father to Nate has become the newfound passion of Dr. Noel Santander. He sees his artworks as gifts, legacies even, to his young son whom he sees to have a lot of potentials and talents.

As for me, it allows me to continue my love story with my mother. She may be in the hands of God now, but in each of the paintings I do, I see my mother's perfect, infinite love.

Each of us may be driven by diverse reasons why we paint. But if there is one thing I am sure of, each stroke of our brush is an expression of love. Behind our every canvas is an attempt to create (or recreate) an infinite love story.

Continuation on page 64....



Continuation...

Coinciding with the global celebration of Teachers Month, seventeen (17) Faculty and one (1) staff of the College of Arts and Sciences showcased their artistic alters via their acrylic paintings in an exhibit dubbed as the Buenas Artes de San Beda last September 6, 2017 at Pamang Bedista Hall. With the prolific maestro, Prof. Don Santana, spearheading and overseeing the works of the 18 art novices, the event turned out to be not only aesthetically appealing but metaphysically supplementing as well. No less than the Rector- President, Rev. Fr. Aloys-

ius Maranan, O.S.B., CAS Dean, Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante and CAS Vice- Dean for Arts and Humanities Cluster, Dr. Moses Aaron H. Angeles, graced the momentous event. Families and friends of the 18 artists also gathered to show support. The themes of the artworks were diverse and showcased the artists' love of nature, pets, relationships and everything in between. The artists spent more or less two months to prepare for the exhibit-- two months of experiencing a *colpo di fulmine*, thunderbolt in Italian, that imprinted in us the passion and fidelity to embrace art (as it embraces us, too), like

that of a lover's promise.

The artists who presented their acrylic works in the event were the following: Prof. Don Santana, Prof. Therie Cuaresma, Prof. Yang Balanon-Ramirez, Prof. Josie Dango, Prof. Emperatriz Gabatbat, Prof. Julius Tutor, Dr. Noel Santander, Dr. Jennifer Ramos, Prof. Teresita Dulay, Prof. Jocelyn Bengco, Prof. Josefina Virgino, Dr. Fedeliz Tuy, Dr. Julio Castillo, Prof. Carissa Cabaysa, Dr. Violy Reyes, Prof. Anna Jhocson-Gesmundo, Mr. Baltazar Querobines and yours truly.

The Portrait of an Artist

Sybil L. Agreda



If you have been searching for a gem, look no further.

San Beda houses an artist concealed as a professor. Prof. Don Santana finished his BS in Commerce and Master of Arts in Education, major in Mathematics at Jose Rizal University and earned his Certificate in Teaching at Pasig Catholic College. For 15 years, he has been teaching Math in high school and in college.

But, Prof. Santana gives the cliché, “first love never dies,” a double nod. His love affair with art started when he was very young, and since then, he never stopped pursuing that first love. Belonging to a family of artists, Prof. Santana’s grandfather was a *maestro* of violin, while his uncle and father were known comics illustrators who worked with Carlo J. Caparas on the popular comic books like *Bakekang*, *Zuma*, and many others. For several decades now, Prof. Santana turns every frustration, success, boredom, excitement, or resentment into a beautiful piece of artwork, willing to keep your gaze as it haunts and, to some occasion, challenges you. In over 50 art exhibits that he joined and art pieces created which he already lost count of, Prof. Santa is clear in his message: **Paint to express yourself.**

He started his training as an artist with pen and ink— his father as his first teacher. Although artistry was in his veins, he took formal training in order to further enhance his skills. He attended workshops and became a protégé of no less than the Father of Philippine Art Workshop, Mr. Fernando Sena. “I don’t believe in self-taught artists,” he said. For Prof. Santana, the presence of a mentor to guide one expedites the learning process. “*May mga bagay ka talagang hindi malalaman na* only a teacher can enlighten you,” he further explained. He is also a member of a number of art clubs such as *Pasig Art Club* and *Kalipunan ng Sining at Kultura ng Pasig* where he formed bonds with fellow artists with whom he discussed his art ideas and partnered in art exhibits.



Continuation—The Portrait of an Artist

When asked why he wanted to paint, he calmly said, “I use my medium, painting, to promote the indigenous culture in our country. It is noted that almost all of his subjects in his portraits are close-eyed indigenous people, making it as his artistic signature. He does this to give tribute to our brothers and sisters who belong to the cultural minority and are not known or recognized by many at the present. “*Ang philosophy ko kasi sa buhay, kapag may ginawa ka, dapat may advocacy, para you’ll fight for it,*” he said. Although, he admitted that he also has gone through the stage where he too was looking for his niche, it took him quite some time to find his identity as an artist. It was his exposure to *American Abstract* film that led to his very own *ureka*— a moment that concretized how he loves his art, and how passionately enamored is he to his country.

As a way of giving back, he began conducting free art workshops to the children of fellow faculty members at the College of Arts and Sciences which recently grew into a bunch of faculty members who turned into optimistic art students. To date, he has organized four art exhibits in *Pamanang Bedista*, three of which featured the art pieces of our very own CAS faculty members. “I find it very fulfilling to teach teachers,” he capped with a smile.

He would wish to see aspiring artists to use art or painting as a creative medium for self-expression. You can never be called an artist if you never created art pieces, so you just have to keep going. As a very insightful sharing, he said that when people started buying his art pieces, it also meant that people have started noticing his expression--- they are the people who share his advocacy and values.

As his final advice, he said that “nobody is in position to say that it’s not a good art. Nobody is entitled to judge if art is good or bad. After all, you cannot compare apples to oranges. Perhaps, we can only judge based on our morality, but to evaluate one as good or bad art is [not necessary]. Painting must be used as a venue to express yourself and not to satisfy others.”

Indeed, the writer who said that ‘painting is both a tangible surface and a perceptual space’ is arguably right. Paintings, like people, present a deep or enigmatic reality over a reality--- it is endlessly abysmal. Whether it is to capture the fleeting grace or entombing human mystery, a painter, in the heaviness or lightness of his brush strokes, has a long-standing influence on the development of the society. A painting, a deceptively simple form, can raise issues, ignite passion, start a conversation or teach a nation.

The dry heat has finally come and gone, replaced by the crisp Christmas air. The jubilant verse of *Christmas in Our Hearts* blasts off the speakers in local malls, encouraging typically divided neighborhoods to exchange holiday greetings. People have begun setting up decorative wreaths, flashy garlands, evergreen foliage and the ever famous Christmas trees inside and outside their houses. Boxes and packages wrapped in vibrant colors make up the growing pile under the Christmas trees, not to mention the luminous *Parol*, star-shaped lantern ornaments that are traditionally made with bamboo, paper and plastic, which are hanged from the ceilings. But decorations and gifts aren't the only things that come to mind when Christmas is mentioned, are they? There are also extravagant feasts! Table tops covered with succulent, hearty, and aromatic meals like *pancit*, roasted chicken, fruit salad, *afritada*, *lechon*, ham, *bibingka* and other appetizing dishes. Of course... what's a feast without a family of rowdy children running about, chatty aunts and uncles milling around and lovable parents hovering behind to share it with? A family! How lovely it must be to be able to witness the wonders and joys of this enchanting season of sharing, gift-giving and caroling.

Though a question begs to be asked: Is this really the essence of Christmas? If it is so, Christmas is not for the poor, is it? It must not be for the less fortunate, not for people without family, nor for people who've lost all sense of home *but* for the wealthy, and for those with complete families. Is the essence of Christmas truly pricey gifts, grand feasts, and colorful houses? Well, is it? It's easy to say 'Yes' since these are the elements of Christmas that are noticeable and what we're all familiar with because of a thousand years' worth of tradition and partly—a huge part is due to the media's portrayal of a *perfect* Christmas.

On Christmas day, the celebrations aren't all fanciful and grand. For other people, Christmas becomes a time of sorrow in lieu of joy. It's a time of sorrow due to poverty, desolation, and grief. *Poverty*, since outliers don't have extra money to burn in order to buy presents and tokens of appreciation for loved ones, nor do they have money to pay for utilities, shelter and food. *Desolation*, the idea of Christmas doesn't

really accommodate the people that society shuns and scrutinizes: those who've been disowned or are being mistreated due to their sexual orientation. *Grief*, after someone we love dies, holidays and occasions are never the same, old routines become more taxing while the idea of forming new routines seems too foreign to a grieving heart.

Poverty. On that day, there are children who wake up dust-covered in the streets of Manila with no Christmas trees, no mountains of expensive gifts to gawk at, and no family to celebrate with. Street children who wake up cold and alone with only one unwanted gift: a gift of forlornness. There are impoverished families who wander around the streets with stomach's rumbling in



protest, families with no financial capability to buy simple necessities like food, shelter and utilities. They're people who live on *pagpags* or leftover meals in restaurant and perhaps if they're lucky, some spare change when church-goers feel blessed enough to give alms.

Desolation. There are also people who wake up at exactly 12 midnight on Christmas day and pad down grand staircases only to slowly remember that although their houses are statuesque, they've no other people to share it with and suddenly, the house feels constricting, towering and *empty*. For these people, no amount of financial wealth and stability can replace the strong longing for family and friends.

Grief. Then there are people who, for the first few minutes of Christmas, wake up, get out of bed and head straight toward their loved one's room to greet them a cheerful "Merry Christmas!" only to walk into a room with surfaces covered by a thin layer of dust because no fingertips have dared ca-

ressing anything for fear of disturbing what once was and what currently is. Only to walk into a room that looks exactly how the owner left it, which provides an appealing sense of familiarity when everything else around them seems foreign. Exactly how their departed left their belongings: their copy of *Like Water for Chocolate* still opened at page 31, the same old lamp on top of the bedside table: crooked and worn out, only to slowly come to a woeful realization---a wail-inducing realization through empty rooms, untouched pillows, and vacant beds. Ploddingly, it sinks in and creeps into every crevice of the mind and seeps into their carefully built fortress around their hearts. *Gone.* The people they've come to know, love and grown with have passed natural and unnatural deaths. The word "gone" sinks in and everything seems too much, too big, or too small for these people. Are these people banned from celebrating Christmas, the 'oh so' *joyous* holiday? Do these people not meet the conditions for commemo-

Christmas is...

Larry Javier Ambion

rating perhaps the most awaited holiday in our country and everywhere else? Should they be excluded from the Christmas season narrative?

For whom should Christmas truly be?

As stated before, Christmas' true essence can be found not in material riches nor can it be found in a group bound only by blood but not by love, affection, trust and care. It's about finding something akin to contentment, semblance of self. Christmas isn't about grand gestures, expensive gifts, towering Christmas trees; a simple celebration is still a celebration of the spirit of Christmas. The spirit of *love*, love that may be influenced by religion or simply just love; it's about finding love and contentment in what is, not what was or what could have been. Christmas is a time for giving, Catholic or not, not just of material things but rather more important things like time, care, or love in the sense of acceptance and presence. It is also a celebration of love for life, for tradition's sake, and basically a celebration of life. It's about love for family, though oftentimes we *create* our own families, not out of people who are related to us through blood, but out of people bound to us by choice, people who choose us day in and day out not because we choose them but simply out of their own free wills. It's a celebration of being able to try and keep the memory of a loved one alive by making them still a part of the holiday season, remembering them by donating to a cause or charity that your loved one once advocated and supported, or buying an item that your loved one would have liked then donating it to charity or give it to someone as a gift. It is remembering them by visiting a place where you feel close to them, listening to their favorite songs, watching their favorite movie, or even by just using your loved one's recipe in making your holiday meal. One must bear this in mind: There's no right or wrong way of celebrating this popular holiday. Spending the holidays with people who are unrelated to you by blood? An alternative way of celebrating Christmas! Skipping the holiday itself for a grieving heart's sake, not celebrating Christ-

mas because the pain of loss seems so surreal which lessens the appeal of commemorating an event which you once shared with your dearly departed loved one? Another acceptable reason. Christmas belongs to that dust-covered boy from the streets of Manila, it belongs to all the poor families out there, it belongs to the gays, lesbians, transwomen, transmen, and the whole LGBTQIA+ community, it belongs to them, to us; to all of us. Our identities and our social spheres don't need to be qualified in the face of something as universal as Christmas. Christmas belongs to everyone, from all walks of life, to all the sexual orientations, to all the shades of skin color, to all those around you. Christmas is ours. Who we are, what we have, who we're with, it all doesn't matter! Christmas is yours, Christmas is for everyone! Why is Christmas for everyone, you ask? Simply because it is. Because everyone deserves a holiday that celebrates life, love, and peace despite the inner and outer turmoil going on and around us, despite the myriads of problems we're all confronted with day in and day out. Christmas is for you.

My dear, if you'd rather spend the season in a limbo of bitter-sweet reflection over shallow celebration? Be my guest.

It's yours to celebrate as you would.

It's ours.

And the best part?

red lens

PHOTO BY: RM AMPONGAN

This special season and its many facets bring us peace and joy. That's why, I urge you to take a moment, and think about what matters most. Take a deep breath, smile and, reflect about the true meaning of Christmas.

The yuletide season may mean distinctly different to people. How you spend it is determined by what Christmas means to you. Many are bemoaning the fact that the holiday has become too commercialized and driven by economics. Is it the gifts under the big Christmas tree, the colorful lights in the windows, the *Noche buena* shared with family and friends, and the carols that echo in our ears?

Amidst all the activities, what I love most about Christmas is having the time to stop to contemplate its true meaning. Christmas is all about the Savior. It is the season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time for healing and regaining strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born, and his birth brought great joy to the world to save us from sins and help us in this life — to lift our burdens and ease our fears.

What Does *Christmas* Mean to You?

Jobe Viernes

For some, Christmas revolves around family and reflection on one's relationship with God. It has always been a season of Thanksgiving where we make time to share with family and friends. For someone who grew up with a strong religious background, it provides an opportunity to reflect on the Christian principles that underpin one's life. As we grow, the season not only allows us to count the blessings of family, but it also provides a great opportunity to share those blessings with someone who is not as fortunate. Christmas is truly a reason for caring and sharing.

It is a time for families to gather and create new memories that will hold dear to their hearts. As I recall the past Christmas seasons, three words

reverberate in my mind: faith, hope, and love. We have faith that there is a higher being who is watching over us every day. We have hope that a better today will come. Lastly, we have the love of our family and friends who prepare the meal with us. These three are the reasons that this particular time of the year fills my heart with such magic.

I have learned that Christmas magic is still powerful, but the power in our hearts is even more magical. Our ability to love one another, to renew our faith in God and to bring hope into our lives and the lives of others are the greatest of gifts to bestow and receive. Christmas is indeed a time for sharing, gift giving and celebrating, too. And yet, the greatest gifts are not those wrapped in fine

papers or dressed in colorful bows. They are those given with an open and sincere heart, one wrapped in the lovely ribbons of faith, hope, and love. To quote Charles Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*, "I will honor Christmas in my heart and will try to keep it all the year." These are the words of wisdom that should be echoed on this day and on all the days of our life.

The most important thing about Christmas is that it invites us to reflect on the most significant things in our life — our faith, our family, and our freedom. Our faith gives us hope, our family gives us love and strength, and our freedom gives us the opportunity to practice our faith and to love each other.

Let us look at Christmas in a new perspective this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you seek for Him every day in every circumstance.

Blessings on this holy feast of our Savior's birth!

Red Lions CLINCHES 21st NCAA Title

Lyza Minette Acosta and Jan
Wilano Gabriel Perol



Photo Credit: Google Images

ENTERING THE FINALS round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 93, the Red Lions dismantled the San Sebastian College - Recoletos (SSC-R) Stags in the semi-finals round via 76 - 71 tally, and faced an unexpected rival Lyceum of the Philippines (LPU) Pirates.

Led by the famed coach Boyet Fernandez, the Red Lions took the second spot and arrived at the finals registering a 17-2 record as they look to defend their championship crown for a back-to-back title.

Waiting at the top spot were the boys of Coach Topex Robinson, the LPU Pirates, who swept the elimination round and are gunning for their first NCAA title carrying a flawless 18-0 record.

The Red Lions' two losses were both served by the Pirates, their finals adversary, leaving a very unusual and doubtful finals round for the Red and White squad. With the Pirates reinforcing their roster with the likes of



Photo Credit: Google Images

NCAA MVP CJ Perez providing the offensive gust, the pesky Marcelino twins (Jaycee and Jayvee), taking care of defensive stops, and the sturdy Mike Nzeusseu imposing power inside the paint, the road to the Red Lions' 21st NCAA title seemed vague.

However, the boys of Coach Fernandez remained in perspective, facing the Pirates with high-spirits and fearless determination to keep the championship title in Mendiola.

Under Robert Lee Bolick's management on the floor, Davon Potts' scoring outbursts, Acee Soberano's 3-point proficiency, and Donald Tankoua's all-around dominance, the Red Lions rallied the Red and White banner against the threatening Pirates'.

Game 1: Sunken Ships

Fueled by the desire for redemption, the Red Lions finally served LPU's unbeaten streak in the game 1 of the NCAA Season 93 finals with a 94-87 score and took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series.

It was a battle of experience vs maturity for SBC and LPU,

one eyeing for their 21st title, the other for their first.

The Red Lions dropped 14 turnovers in the first half of the game that led to 18 points for the gritty Pirates.

The Pirates delivered their largest lead of 12 points in the third quarter, 45-57, but the Red Lions kept the game within striking distance until they found their 17-3 offensive rally to finally steal the lead, 64-60, with two minutes remaining in the third canto.

Fourth quarter began with the Red Lions rallying a 7-3 run to take a 72-67 lead against the persistent Pirates.

Trying to dampen the swelling lead, Pirate's ace player and NCAA MVP Perez knocked down a step-back three to tie the game 72-all in the last quarter.

A series of offensive and defensive plays from both teams led to several lead changes and ended in an 80-80 deadlock with 3:04 left.

With clock slowly winding down, and the Red Lions ahead within a point, 83-82, skipper Bolick set loose a clutch shot behind the arc that sparked an 11-2 scoring rally for SBC.

Bolick then found his way inside the paint, burying a layup, and granting another lead for the Red Lions, 91-82 with less than 40 seconds to go in the final canto.

But the Pirates would not go down without a fight as they were able to chip in 5 points within 15 seconds to cut the Red Lions' lead to 91-87 with 20 seconds left.

However, it was too much for the Pirates as Bolick and Potts sealed the game at the free throw line.

Donald Tankoua made the paint his personal playground, dropping a powerful performance of 27 points and 20 rebounds for the Red Lions.

Team captain Bolick rolled with 24 points registering 11 points of it in the fourth quarter alone to complete the Red Lions' immense comeback. Davon Potts registered 15 points, while Jayvee Mocon was quiet with 11 points for the Red Lions.

Perez and Nzeusseu led the LPU Pirates with 25 points and 14 points, respectively.

The Red Lions is at an advantage with one more win to clinch the back-to-back NCAA championship title.

Game 2: Back-to-back

With the Red Lions at an advantage, it is a "win or go home" mentality for the Pirates who are more than determined to extend the series to a game 3.

NCAA MVP Perez took advantage of the slow start of the Red Lions, dropping 13 points in the first half to give a 41-47 lead for the Pirates who badly needed a win in the series.

SBC continued to trail LPU early in the third period, as Perez's scoring outburst continues for the Pirate's advantage, 47-55.

With less than five minutes remaining in the third period, Jayvee Mocon led the Red Lions rally to tie the game at 55 but the Pirates restored a six point lead with 2:26 left in the third, 57-63.

From there, a back-and-forth match was witnessed by the 14, 693 fans at the Araneta Coliseum as the both teams fight for whoever wanted the win most, ending the third quarter via 65-66 in favor of the Pirates.

Late in the fourth, several lead changes triggered a wildfire as both teams struggle to take the lead.

With the Red Lions up by one, 83-82, Bolick connects to a wide-open Soberano at the corner who dropped a triple for SBC, 86-82.

After a quick stop at the other end, Bolick then sets loose a resounding shot from beyond the arc, 89-82, slightly closing the hopes for the Pirates and putting a cushion for the Red Lions with less than a minute in the last period.

LPU star player Perez attempted a play for the Pirates but ended up committing a turnover, and was fouled out later, sending Tankoua to the free throw line.

It was less than 15 seconds to go when the LPU Pirates waved the white flag, as the players and coaches from both teams shook hands and confetti fills the coliseum.

Bolick led the Red Lions with 18 points, Potts ended his collegiate career with 15 points, and Mocon registered a steady 14 points.

Donald Tankoua is hailed finals MVP dropping another double-double of 17 points and 17 rebounds.

The Red Lions swept the finals series 2-0 and registered their 10th title in 12 years and 21st overall NCAA championship.



Pride Sings Rah-Rah for the Bedan Athletes

Jasper Jovellanos &
Sybil Agreda

Another proud roar reverberated through the halls of San Beda Manila last June 7, 2017 as the San Beda community gives a *Pep Rally*, a send-off program, for *Bedan* student athletes in their quest for success in the NCAA Season 93. This event was spearheaded by the Office of the Student Athletes, Office of the Prefect of Student Activities and the College of Arts and Sciences and the Integrated Basic Education Department-Senior High School Manila, in cooperation with the CAS Student Council and the SHS Student Council.

By far, San Beda has already amassed 15 general championships for the Juniors' division and 6 general championships for the Seniors' division. To date, there are a whopping total of 23 championships for Juniors' Swimming, 21 championships for Seniors' Men Swimming, 7 championships for Seniors' Women Swimming, 21 championship crowns for the Seniors' Men Football,

20 for Seniors' Basketball, 16 for Lawn Tennis, 12 for Table Tennis, and 8 for Taekwondo among others. The send-off program began with a mass dedicated to all *Bedan* athletes. Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., the officiating priest and the Rector-President, thanked the *Bedan* athletes for all their efforts and sacrifices in order to give honor to their family and to their school. He reminded them of three things: to prioritize their studies, to train right and work hard, and to remain humble all the time.

In the short program that followed, the *Bedan* players-- responsible of San Beda's double back-to-back title in the last NCAA Season 92-- were officially introduced. San Beda's teams are as follow: Red Rowers (Dragon Boat Rowing), Red Woodpushers (Chess), Red Jins (Men's Taekwondo), Lady Red Jins (Women's Taekwondo), Sea Lions (Men's Swimming), Lady Sea Lions (Women's Swimming), Red Trackers (Track & Field), Red Paddlers (Men's Table Tennis), La-

dy Red Paddlers (Women's Table Tennis), Red Netters (Men's Tennis), Lady Red Netters (Women's Tennis), Red Smashers (Men's Badminton), Lady Red Smashers (Women's Badminton), Red Spikers (Men's Volleyball), Lady Red Spikers (Women's Volleyball), Red Booters (Men's Football), Lady Red Booters (Women's Football) and Red Lions (Seniors' Basketball), Red Cubs (Juniors' Basketball).

San Beda Red Corps impressed the crowd with its routine number, while the students from the IBED-Senior High School and the *Bedan* Dance Theater from the College of Arts and Sciences perked up the audience with their intermission numbers. The program was filled with fun games that both the athletes and the audience enjoyed. As a concluding rite, a resounding *Bedan Hymn* was sung during the ceremonial lighting of the bon fire and the spectacle of the fireworks.

2018 New Year Message

The Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B.
Rector-President,

My dear students, personnel, faculty and administrators,
A blessed happy new year to all!

As the new year 2018 ushers in fresh possibilities, we express our most heartfelt and prayerful gratitude to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whose incarnation continues to pour out abundant mercy and foster hope towards a brighter future.

On behalf of the Benedictine monks and the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend the same sense of appreciation and gratefulness to all of you, treasured members of the *Bedan* academic community. Your enduring love and support, collaboration and trust, unity and sacrifices throughout the year 2017 enabled us to continue realizing our mission of providing relevant, engaging and excellent education that is “fully human, wholly Christian, truly Filipino and globally competitive”.

The coming year will not be without its share of significant challenges brought about by the changing global and national educational landscapes as well as the imposing multifaceted developments in the world. But as *Bedans* formed “in peace, faith, knowledge and virtues” and in whom the Benedictine core values of *Ora et Labora* have been inculcated, we shall constantly move forward into the future as one *Bedan* family filled with optimism and strength.

We believe that in teaching, learning and working together as one academic community, we find fullness of life and well-being as we lead to serve the purpose of our mission. We strive to provide a “learner-centered education” which prepares *Bedan* graduates with skills and competencies for life-long learning. We will remain steadfast in our commitment to mold citizens who will contribute meaningfully to the building of the Church and society, and have a positive impact to the world. There are many smart goals and objectives to address but we will continue to transform challenges into innovative opportunities.

Someone said, “If I can pass international standards, gain quality accreditation, attain 100% national board passing rate, organize ASEAN regional educators’ conferences, raise funds for calamity victims, win sports championships, and publish quality researches, but fail to translate the Word of God into the language of His love, I am nothing.”

With regards to the good words of the above mentioned Someone, I would like to remind everyone that hard work and achievements have their own dignity. Yet they are not an end in themselves; and that Someone is truly right. Why? Because they are nothing if they are not authentic collaborative translations of God’s love. And truly they are. We find their ultimate value and meaning in the very source of our Benedictine Catholic identity, a “God-centered community”.

Thus, we shall face 2018 and the coming years together fully committed to our Vision-Mission as one *Bedan* community with Solidarity of purpose, Benevolence in service, and Unity of values.

Animo San Beda. That in all things God may be glorified.



Photographer: Doris Sartorio

L-F: Matthew Mallo (IBED), Lorenz Bañez (COL), Laudencio Lictaoa (Staff, COM), D. Urbino (Security), Susan Butac (CAS Faculty), Maria Swellene Pamintuan (CON), Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. (Rector-President), Vanessa Santos (CAS), Christoffer Samarista (COM), Riza Balian (Comptroller), John Paul Nacu (Maintenance)



FRAMES OF OUR WRITERS the bedan today

Larry J. Ambion & Sybil L. Agreda
Editors-in-Chief

Joel G. Filamor
Creatives & Lay-out Artist

Contributors

Albert C. Silva	Ma. Elisa A. Galang
Eliza P. Cruz	Ma. Emperatriz C. Gabatbat
Fernando Jose A. Fontanilla	Marvin R. Reyes
Gene N. Gesite, Jr.	Nomar M. Alviar
Hanna Q. Badando	Norielyn C. Tabag
Jasper T. Jovellanos	Ramon Ricardo A. Roque
Joanna C. Camante	Rudolf Kirby P. Martinez
Jobe B. Viernes	Sr. Elena Adre
Joel G. Filamor	Susan R. Butac
Josefina M. Manabat	Sybil L. Agreda
Julius B. Tutor	Tita E. Branzuela
Kerwin Mark D. Martinez	Wee Yu Ghee
Larry J. Ambion	Wilano Gabriel Perol
Lyza Minette L. Acosta	
Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B.	
Rector-President	

About the COVER

Lao Tzu once said: "I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality; the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men."

A leader not only puts others above or at the same level as he, but also sees every single person as an important and irreplaceable part of the community, a part of a unified whole. That is why this issue's cover is composed of *Bedans* who represent the different sectors of our community and are) in the act of unequivocal unity. Leadership isn't coercing or forcing people into mindlessly following orders; it's largely

about motivating people and being one with them in the pursuance of the same goal, the same ideals, the same vision, and mission. Furthermore, good leaders treat their subordinates not as things to be ordered around, but as people that are infinitely more valuable than things. To a good leader, there is nothing more important than seeing each member grow and thrive in humility, peace, and love.

Erratum:

The picture used in *The Bedan Today* Volume XVI entitled "Honoring Bedans' Hardwork" on pp.48-49 is owned by Vlen Lenox Chan of the Barrister and not by SB College of Law.

Pista ng Sto. Niño sa San Beda 2018

*“Pahalagahan ang Kabanalan ng Buhay,
Igalang ang Dangal-Pantao”*

Enero 25, 26, at 27 (Rizal)
Enero 26, 27, at 28 (Manila)



That in all things God may be glorified.

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