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That in all things God may be glorified
Today’s colleges and universities face an unprecedented array of challenges and threats, says Mark Drozdowski, Ed.D. With 30 years of experience under his belt as administrator and faculty at John Hopkins University, he affirms that never have colleges faced such stiff headwinds.

It is not hard to surmise that the challenges brought by the pandemic brought bigger waves adding to the trouble of staying afloat amid decline in enrollment, rising costs, school closures, and an ocean of problems peculiar to learning institutions.

Given the scenario, it is therefore crucial that learning institutions reinvent themselves to stay afloat.

It is, by the grace of God and the toil of San Beda University’s (SBU) leadership, that the institution not only stays afloat but continues to flourish. It is not without difficulties. But consistent institutional discernment brings clarity. This is because SBU is way beyond philosophical puberty. It has gone to a level of reality and commitment that represents an eternity to follow.

The institutional targets and outcomes are hoisted serving as light houses to everyone. These short- and long-term targets, which bring clarity to daily decisions, are lustrous legacies.

This issue of The Bedan Today brings to front scores of gripping endeavors that adorn its path towards legacies. It will be seen that the means by which SBU operates provide the working platform that supports its goals. And the impacts of these endeavors translate into enduring developments towards greater efficiency.

That is why SBU’s quest to birthing legacy comprises both ends and means. Its goals are clear. Responsibilities are in place across departments. Intentions and actions are honorable. This is the only way up.

Every day, the plot thickens. Nevertheless, it is ensured that San Beda University won’t be a mere footnote in history.

Here, legacy is non-negotiable.

“SBU is way beyond philosophical puberty. It has gone to a level of reality and commitment that represents an eternity to follow. “

Photo on the right shows San Beda University’s visionary Rector-President, the Very Reverend Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB.
MUYOT LANDS 9TH IN THE 2022 NURSING LICENSURE EXAM

Romman V. Cubacub

Yvanna Monique R. Muyot, from the University’s College of Nursing, garnered a rating of 88.40%, besting a majority of 18,529 passers.

Photo shows Febes Catalina T. Aranas, Ph.D. (right) Dean of the College of Nursing, during the Capping and Pinning Ceremony.
Yvanna Monique R. Muyot, from San Beda University, made it to the Top 10 in the recent Nursing Licensure Examination (NLE). Muyot garnered a rating of 88.40%, thereby ranking 9th and besting a majority of the 18,529 passers.

“I have witnessed how Yvanna persevered, not only in studies but in prayer as well. She deserves the accolade,” remarked Febes Catalina T. Aranas, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Nursing. “She is a laurel to the College,” added the Dean.

“San Beda University’s College of Nursing rendered an Overall School Performance of 92.59%, while the National Passing Rate was pegged at 74.40%. These figures attest to the premium education offered by SBU,” closes Dean Aranas.

The NLE was held from November 12 to 13, 2022. It is an assessment which measures basic nursing competency. It also covers the objectives of the nursing curriculum, the broad areas of nursing, and other related disciplines and competencies.

The NLE was conducted at various testing centers in the Philippines. The sites include the National Capital Region, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Koronadal, Legaspi, Lucena, Pagadian, Pampanga, Rosales, Tacloban, Tuguegarao, and Zamboanga.

The Nursing Board exams were headed by the Board of Nursing Chairman, Elsie A. Tee, and members Carmelita C. Divinagracia, Merle L. Salvani, Zenaida C. Gagno, Leah Primitiva S. Paquiz, Marylou B. Ong, Elizabeth C. Lagrito.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announces that 18,529 out of 24,903 (74.40%) successfully passed the NLE in November 2022. Results were released by the PRC 12 working days after the last day of the exam.
SBU administrators pose with Tuv Rheinland External Auditors (seated) after the successful 2nd Surveillance audit on October 13, 2022.

Quality Assurance Marks Our Way Up

Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Ph.D.
He is dubbed as the “visionary” leader, ushering the digitalization and internationalization of the University. His vision towards internationalization not only led to the creation of partnerships across the globe but also positioned San Beda University among top tier universities in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

ISO certification is one of the undertakings that demonstrates QA. ISO 9001 standards are compatible with educational standards (Mondoh and Wokabi, 2018: 55).

Certification, however, is not an end in itself (Mondoh & Wokabi, 2018: 55-56). It is a demonstration of “commitment to quality and dedication to compliance to relevant standards” (Mondoh & Wokabi, 2018: 55-56). Certification, therefore, is an assurance that institutions are working towards quality, continuously improving, and enhancing to realize quality goals and meet customer needs and expectations. However, Mondoh & Wokabi (2018: 58) reminded institutions that the focus must not be on certification or accreditation but on the continuous enhancement or improvement of process, products, and services. There is a need then for planning, internal audit, implementation of audit findings, collaboration to realize continuous improvement, and establish institutional integrity (Mondoh & Wokabi 2018: 58).

Quality Assurance (QA) is “one of the key elements that contributes to building and maintaining trust in higher education which encourages a systematic and continuous development of quality of higher education” (Naseer & Al-Hidabi, 2020: 600). They further elaborate that “concept of quality in the context of higher education considers not only academic aspects such as teaching, learning, and curriculum but also non-academic aspects such as facilities, relationships with academic staff and peers, institutional environment as well as institutional support (Naseer & Al-Hidabi, 2020: 600). They also take note that the notion of quality has “evolved over time and shifted from conformance to specifications to meeting or exceeding customers’ expectations” (Naseer & Al-Hidabi, 2020: 600-601).

It is not a coincidence that the direction and goals of the University’s GQA Office resonate these literatures because our strategies towards our goals were born out of strategic contemplation and institutional discernment.

Quality assurance characterizes our Institution’s way up and across our goals.

Our future looks bright.
SBU Swim Team DOMINATES Again

Jerry Anton C. Flores
The SBU Swim Team dominated the women’s and men’s divisions in the NCAA’s 98th Season held at the Teofilo Ildefonso Pools at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex last December.

The women have now won their 9th straight championship while the men have won their 19th straight. The men now have a total of 24 Championships, with the first five dating all the way back from the 1930s.

Even with only six months preparation due to Covid health protocols, the Red Sea Lions displayed devastating form throughout the three-day tournament. The men’s team tallied 1,496 points; way ahead of the 501 points of 2nd placer and tournament host College of St Benilde. The women were even more impressive with 1,573.50 points; dwarfing the 571 points of runner-up College of St Benilde.

Two Red Sea Lions broke NCAA breast-
stroke records. Graduating Team Co-Captain, Fritz Rodriguez, broke the record for the men's 100-meter event while Rookie Lucio Cuyong reset the record in the men's 200-meters, clocking at 1:07.06 and 2:26.38 in their respective events.

Amber Cawaling was awarded women's Most Outstanding Swimmer after winning 8 gold medals – six in individual events, and two in relays. Fritz Rodriguez earned the men's Most Outstanding Swimmer honor after excelling in four individual events and two relays.

Multi-titled Gavina "Dondon" Roxas, Jr. coaches the team with assistants Genesis Mendoza, Mach Frigillana, Jonathan Rarelan.

James Sy, HS class of 1980, manages the team.

SBU’s LUSTROUS MEDAL TALLY

Men’s Division (20 events)
- Gold: 17
- Silver: 13
- Bronze: 10

Women’s Division (20 events)
- Gold: 20
- Silver: 13
- Bronze: 10
The annual University Orientation for new faculty members for the 1st Semester of Academic-Year 2022–2023 was held on October 1, 2022, via Zoom, under the Office of the Vice President for Academics. There were 50 new faculty members from the Integrated Basic Education Department (11), College of Arts and Sciences (14), College of Medicine (25), and College of Nursing (4) who attended the half-day activity.

After the Orientation, the faculty were expected to appreciate the Bedan academic culture; participate in the research and publication programs; involve in community engagement activities; comply with all the duties and responsibilities of a BEDAN faculty; and commit to ensuring good quality education for students.

Some University administrators served as speakers during the Program. The Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, gave the Inspirational and Welcome Message and this was followed by the talk of Director Jerry Anton C. Flores, Benedictine Mission and Identity Office on the University’s Brief History, Benedictine Hallmarks, Vision-Mission, and Bedan Hymn. Dr. Divina M. Edralin, Vice President for Academics, explained the Organizational Structure and Administrators of San Beda University, then Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, discussed the Bedan Faculty Duties and Responsibilities.

In the second part of the Program, Dean Dominador B. Manlincon, Dean of Student Affairs, discussed the Students and Institutional Activities and Policies on Discipline; Director Lieżel D. Rodríguez Guidance and Counselling tackled the Guidance and Counselling programs and services; Ms. Rosalinda Robles, Assistant Coordinator of Libraries, described the Library Services; Dr. Divina M. Edralin, Director of the Research and Development Center, described the Research and Publication programs; and finally Director Norielyn C. Tabag, Community Engagement Center, talked about the Community Engagement Programs.

The Orientation ended with the faculty members reciting the Bedan Faculty Pledge and singing the Bedan Hymn.

Ms. Maria Pamela Tendero, Administrative Officer, College of Arts and Sciences, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The faculty rated this activity as Excellent since they gained familiarity with the culture and system of SBU that will guide them in their teaching.
On the fiftieth founding anniversary of San Beda in 1952, a flurry of infrastructure endeavors were initiated by Abbot Celestine Gusi. He arrived in 1948 from the Abbey of Montserrat, Catalonia, Spain to take over the leadership from the American Abbot Alcuin Deutsch, whose assignment as apostolic administrator was lifted by Rome.

Being artistically gifted, he presided over the second artistic highpoint of San Beda. The first highpoint was in 1926, with the construction of St. Bede’s Hall and the Abbey Church, followed by Benedictine monk Fr. Lesmes Lopez’s fabulous paintings on the ceiling and walls.

The Jubilee Garden was among the buildings, monuments, and gardens that were constructed during the abbacy of Celestine Gusi – St. Benedict’s Hall, the Sabater Garden, the obelisk, the Roman Garden, a study hall, covered courts, a dormitory, dining halls. At the Abbey side, an extension was built. In later years, Abbot Gusi constructed an abbey tower, the abbot’s room, waiting room, archives, an infirmary, more monk’s rooms, and an extension of the novitiate. The church was enlarged, side aisles were built, side entrances were opened, a pipe organ was installed. A new marble altar of St Bede was made, and in the abbey grounds, a statue of The Good Shepherd was installed. The gardens were further landscaped.

The name Jubilee comes from the grand celebration prescribed in the Holy Bible’s Old Testament – in the book of Leviticus, with related sections in Exodus and Deuteronomy. Jubilee comes from the name of the ram’s horn – the jobel – sounded to signal the coming of the great year. While Hebrews marked the seventh day of the week as Sabbath Day for rest and prayer, they also had, every seven years, a Sabbath year when land was rested, debts were cancelled, and slaves were set free.

The seventh Sabbath year (seven times seven) was especially celebrated that it extended into the next year,
the fiftieth. On the fiftieth year, in addition to resting the land, canceling debts, and setting slaves free, land that had been alienated was returned to the original owners. This grandest of celebrations for the poor was called the Jubilee year. The Jubilee meant that neither human being nor land could be the property of any human, who was only a steward, since all belonged to God. This signified redemption and liberation.

The Jubilee Garden’s centerpiece is a three-tiered fountain, with the bottom tier also functioning as a small pond. The top tier decoration features pinecones and a squarish floral design while the middle tier has stone jars, faces of lions, and a round floral pattern. The bottom tier has children riding fish with large heads. The immediate perimeter and the guiding walkways had as original pavement the centuries-old piedras de china which were formerly used as ballasts in ships plying the Galleon Trade. These were replaced at the turn of the millennium with Vigan tiles. Eight trees, a mix of mahogany and narra, provide shade; and are amply complimented by ornamental plants. Cement benches, originally spread in the garden for daily use by the students, have been replaced by stone benches in a quarter section. An obelisk honoring Bedans who have died was erected a few meters away from the fountain. Two sides of the base are decorated with the classic shield of San Beda. The other two sides bear Latin inscriptions.

In later periods, the entrance gate of the 1901 campus was installed on the Diamond Jubilee Arc in 1989. Pre-cast iron roaring lions were also installed to stand guard at either side of this original gate. A statue of St. Benedict created by National Artist Napoleon Abueva was installed in one corner of the garden in 2008 and a statue of St. Bede by Dionas Roces was positioned in another corner in 2018.

“Jubilee comes from the name of the ram’s horn – the jobel – sounded to signal the coming of the great year.”
If you’re looking into the BS Psychology program of San Beda University as your first choice, I can say with utmost confidence, that you have come to the right school.

As a young profession working at one of the leading multidisciplinary professional services firms in the country, I can fully utilize my competencies honed from San Beda University’s PSYCH01 to PSYCH26. From navigating critical employment approach, crucial applicant interviews, to managing simple to complex conflicts, and anything under the sun.

I am armed and ready.

San Beda University’s Psychology program, and its proficient professors, equipped me with one of the top skills needed in my field - and that is empathy. Every day, in various situations, I find myself combing through years of studying, trying to understand the people in the workplace. Why they are the way they are, and why they behave the way they do. Is this person a first-born? A
second-born? Or the youngest? I find myself consulting Adler’s theory from time to time. And modesty aside, I am often surprised because the Psychodynamic theories and Humanistic Theories, for instance, are at the tip of my fingers. I can still remember and apply them beyond the classroom. And then I realized, my Alma mater embedded a universe of professional competencies to my core. I behold the transfer of learning daily.

I remember, being a BS Psychology student was not always easy. It was challenging to juggle between academics and extra-curricular activities. It was tiring. Draining. Little did I know then that these are critical opportunities for growth and resiliency. To cite, our mother professional organization - Psychology Society of San Beda University (PSSBU) and our chairperson Dr. Quilon, were crucial instruments back then to become fully human, wholly Christian, truly Filipino, and globally competitive. With the impactful activities and seminars carefully engineered by the department, I was exposed to numerous learning opportunities. These opportunities were stepping-stones to break free from my comfort zone. And from there, unconsciously, industry related skills and values were bolstered. I didn’t know then that I would be needing them. But now, I do. And I am grateful.

Another good thing about our BS Psychology program is its flexibility. One can diverge into different career paths upon graduation. One could pursue further studies into Medicine and Law, go into Clinical Psychology, or like me, jump into the colorful wagon of Industrial Psychology. There are just too many options out there to explore. And if one finishes the Psychology degree in San Beda University, then those opportunities are multiplied tenfold. It is up to the Bedan to decide the path to tread.

The four years I spent in the hallowed walls of this Institution is top tier. Its sterling performance in the Board Examinations speaks volumes. I wouldn’t be where I am right now, brushing shoulders with the best and brightest colleagues, if it weren’t for San Beda University. I am armed and ready. And for this, am forever humbled and grateful.

Vanessa Santos (second from right) graduated from SBU’s College of Arts and Sciences, major in BS Psychology.
Dean Aranas is Among ADPCN’s BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Photo shows Dean Aranas (left) in one of ADPCN’s Strategic Planning sessions held from November 17 to 19, 2023, in Silang, Cavite.

Benjamin B. Sonjao, Jr.
Ebes Catalina T. Aranas, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Nursing, was elected for the third time in the Board of Directors of the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing (ADPCN). She was elected during the 63rd National Convention and General Assembly on October 11, 2022, at the Manila Hotel.

Dean Aranas is currently the association’s Public Relations Officer. She is also the President of ADPCN National Capital Region Chapter where she extends her expertise in Nursing Education and Management.

“I always appreciate opportunities to represent the University and extend services to professional organizations such as the ADPCN,” said Dean Aranas.

“Deans are prime movers. The kind of College, and eventually of its graduates, is highly dependent on the kind of Dean a school has. That is why I am truly privileged to take part in the management of the Association for Deans because of the robust impacts it can create in the Nursing Education of Filipinos,” added Dean Aranas.

ADPCN is a prestigious and influential organization in nursing education in the Philippines. It believes that the nursing profession, as a noble calling, demands from Deans not only specialized knowledge and skills, but also a distinct lifestyle governed by a commonly held belief-system. Its belief is based on the core values of professional competence, responsibility, accountability, honesty and integrity, dedication and commitment, justice and loyalty, solidarity, and respect for life.

At present, Sheila R. Bonito, DrPH, Dean of the College of Nursing of the University of the Philippines (Manila), serves as President.

The election of Dean Aranas in the ADPCN is an indication of her and the University’s solid credibility in nursing education.
The San Beda University Library celebrated the 88th National Book Week, with this year’s theme “Basa. Bayan. Bukas.” The National Book Week is celebrated in the Philippines every November 24-30 as provided for by Proclamation No. 109. The purpose of the event is to promote the importance of reading and encourage the Bedan community to read good books.

To highlight the event, a “Book, Coffee, or Tea?” and “Book Giveaway” were held at the 3rd floor Library of Lydia Tan Sy Building. The event was graced by administrators, faculty, students, and non-teaching personnel from different departments.

The “Book, Coffee, or Tea?” pitch
displayed the newly acquired and ready-to-borrow books from the library. Administrators, faculty, student, and non-teaching personnel were able to scan and browse the new books while sipping a cup of free coffee or tea. Strategically, it also turned into an avenue for librarians to strike leisure conversations with the Bedan community to share and provide feedbacks about library resources and services.

Free books were given to encourage reading. Books included in the giveaway were previous editions withdrawn from the library collections or donations given to the library. Participants in the event had the opportunity to select and take home a maximum of two (2) free books from different genres such as fiction, self-help book, history, biography, and the likes.

Aside from free books, participants received bookmarks with quotations on the importance of reading. Souvenir “plantable pencils,” were also given away. These pencils contain seedlings which could be planted and grown in support of health and wellness.

The event, which placed the university library ahead of the game, drew the following feedbacks:

“[The celebrations of the 88th National Book Week is a very commendable event! It allowed students to be more enthusiastic about reading books, either for academic or leisure purposes.” – CAS Student

“This is a great opportunity to rekindle our love of reading!”
- Raffy D. Quines, Associate, Office of Linkages and International Affairs

“More events like this”
- CAS Student

“Congratulations and thank you for this worthwhile activity. I hope that this won’t be the last. God bless the University Library!”
- Maricar Potes, CAS Guidance Office

“Kudos to the University Library! This event elevates you to the top of the ladder. Bravo!”
- Joel G. Filamor, Head, I.T. Communications Office

“I had a great time! What a way to promote the love for reading! Looking forward to more library activities. Mabuhay kayo!”
- Doris K. Sartorio, Secretary, Office of Linkages and International Affairs
In the 21st century, according to Thomas Landy, the level of devotion to the Santo Nino is unique to the Philippines. “While popular at many times in the past, and still an object of devotion in a number of places in the world — even India — its following today doesn’t match the scale of devotion to the Santo Niño in the Philippines.”

In Cebu, for instance, the feast of the Santo Nino, drew millions of devotees to the point that the number exceeded the total population of the city. Processions, vibrantly colored parades, and other forms of celebration are common scenes all over the country.
Kalibo, Malolos, Bacolod, Tacloban, and Panay also have their own celebrations with particular images of the Santo Niño. These cities celebrate their own feast as does Manila’s Tondo church, which houses the Santo Niño de Tondo. The image of the Santo Nino de Tondo was brought to the Philippines in 1572.

“This is a beautiful celebration – in a way, it extends for us the feast of Christmas when we celebrate that our Savior and Redeemer became a “little Child” precisely to save us and to introduce us to the intimacy of his family, which is the life of the Most Holy Trinity. He became one like us so that we could become like him,” says Archbishop Thomas Wenski of the Archdiocese of Miami.

In San Beda University, devotion to the Santo Nino or Holy Child of Prague,
“This is a beautiful celebration – in a way, it extends for us the feast of Christmas when we celebrate that our Savior and Redeemer became a “little Child” precisely to save us, and to introduce us to the intimacy of his family…”

Archbishop Thomas Wenski

Activities in both campuses are also aligned to the University’s theme for academic year 2022-2023 - "Faith and mission: Making a difference in Global Education and Research."

This year’s celebration, chaired by Fr. Placido Ma. B. Acta, OSB, utilized online and in-person modalities due to health and safety considerations. Nevertheless, the strategic approach and utilization of technology in the celebration not only deepened the community’s devotion to the Santo Nino but also promoted the Sustainable Development Goals that resonate with the event.

For this year, the “Pista ng Santo Nino sa San Beda 2023” was held from January 27 to 29 in Manila and Rizal campuses culminating with a solemn procession and celebration of the Holy Mass in the main campus. It is worth noting that the celebration, with the theme “Kalakbay Tungo sa Pananampalataya at Misyon,” also reflects synodality - the process of fraternal collaboration and discernment.

Various activities, aligned to the University’s theme for academic year 2022-2023 - "Faith and mission: Making a difference in Global Education and Research," were meticulously prepared for the Bedan community.

is part of the daily lives of the community.
As a university, the institution is committed to create new knowledge that paves the way to new systems, technologies, and various developments in view of significant impacts to the economy.

Expertise in various fields abound in the university, and these are utilized not only to hone students but to contribute to different local, national, and global goals through research dissemination. The conclusions and findings from these scholarly works serve as basis and aid in decision-making processes at various cadre of managerial leadership.

Further, the university puts a premium on research related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is the conviction of the institution that the role of research in accelerating growth and development is very significant in relation to its systems, policies, and practices. Because of this, San Beda University is committed to devote its resources, in various forms, to help attain the SDGs which aim to transform the world by ending poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice and prosperity.

Related to this, the Research and Development Center (RDC), headed by Dr. Divina M. Edralin, organized the 2nd Sustainability Research Forum last October 28, 2022. The forum focused on SDG No. 3.

A research on “Work from home: The impacts of university employee’s well-being and individual work” was presented by Dr. Michael B. Pasco and Dr. Jobe B. Viernes. Both presenters are from the faculty of the University’s Graduate School of Business. Dr. Ronald M. Pastrana, also from the Graduate School of Business, served as Reactor.

Aside from San Beda University, the forum was participated by partner-universities from Malaysia and Indonesia, thereby disseminating research not only locally, but beyond Philippine shores as well.
Supreme Court Associate Justice Alfredo Benjamin S. Caguioa, 2022 Bar Examinations Chairperson, gives instructions to Supreme Court Security Division Chief Mr. Joery L. Gayanan during his inspection of the Bar testing center at the San Beda University in Mendiola, Manila on November 13, 2022, the second of the four-day Examinations. (Credit: Supreme Court - Public Information Office)
The high court designated San Beda University (SBU) as a local testing center in the 2022 Bar Examinations held last November 9, 13, 16, and 20, 2022.

Regarded as the most difficult licensure examination in the country, the 2022 Bar Examinations was composed of test questions in the following subjects: (i) Political Law and International Law (with related Tax Principles); (ii) Labor Law And Social Legislation; (iii) Criminal Law; (iv) Commercial Law; (v) Civil Law I; (vi) Civil Law II; (vii) Remedial Law I; and (viii) Remedial Law II (with Basic Tax Remedies) and Legal Ethics.

Days before examinations, preparations were made by the Philippine Supreme Court in coordination with the College of Law administration, Information and Communications Technology Center, Clinic, Security Office, Maintenance, Purchasing, Accounting, the Office of Vice President for Administration, led by Rev. Fr. Placid B. Acta, OSB, and the Office of the Rector President, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB.

As the bar examinations were conducted through an online software called ExamSoft, all the relevant offices ensured that the internet connection and electricity in SBU are stable and reliable. Other preparations included the following: (i) Ensuring that all classrooms in St. Maur and St. Anslem Buildings were fully equipped with CCTV cameras to protect the integrity of the exams; (ii) Providing electric sockets for the laptops of the bar examinees; (iii) Orienting the SBU support staff regarding the very strict security and health protocols to be observed during exams; (iv) Purchasing of new desks and chairs to accommodate 600 bar examinees; and (v) providing backup laptop devices in case the examinees’ laptops malfunction.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court, in its official bulletin dated November 20, 2022, reported that out of 600 examinees who were expected to take the exams in SBU, only 579 finished the 2022 Bar Examinations. This represents a 96.50 percentage of attendance.

The 2022 Bar Examinations was chaired by Associate Justice Benjamin Alfredo Caguioa.

On the other hand, the 2023 Bar Examinations will be chaired by SBU’s very own Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando (SBU COL Batch 91). With the successful conduct of the 2022 Bar Examinations in SBU, all roads lead to the hosting of the 2023 Bar Examinations.

The University’s hosting of the Bar Exam attests to its integrity and credibility in legal education.
UNIVERSITY COMMITS TO WORLDWIDE SYNOD

DOMINADOR B. MANLINCON
The Synod on Synodality is about journeying together as a Church. Pope Francis invited all Catholics — including those who feel marginalized or who have left the Church — and others to participate in the synod process and express what the Holy Spirit has shown them about carrying out the Church’s mission today.

In the Philippines, His Eminence Jose F. Advincula Jr. D.D., the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Manila, has called on the people to take part in the synodal process regardless of social, political, economic, intellectual, and spiritual affiliation. “Your perspective, as well as your experience of God, can be part of the Synodal journey of the whole archdiocese,” Cardinal Advincula said in his homily at the opening of the diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality held on October 17, 2021.

In solidarity with the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Manila, San Beda University committed to responding to the call to engage in active listening to all members of the school community.

The University, through the Office of the Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, in collaboration with selected offices, has undertaken in its Synodal Journey 3-Phase sequential activities, namely: (1) Self-Reflection, (2) Circles of Discernment Meetings, and (3) Culminating Conference.

**Phase I: Self-Reflection**

From July to August 2022, the first step of the SBU Synodal Journey was done individually by the Bedan community. Everyone was enjoined, using one’s “ear of the heart,” to read and reflect on the essence and message of “For a Synodal Church” as contained in the information materials on the Syn
odal Church Preparatory Document Synod of Bishops (#4 - #21), Homily of Pope Francis, and the video clip on a Synodal Church. These materials were disseminated to the Bedan community via RedCanvas, MsTeams, Genyo, and Facebook.

**Phase II: Circles of Discernment - Sharing and Listening Sessions**

Starting middle of August until September 2022, the conduct of the circles of discernment sessions was done per group of 8-10 people from the various sectors of the Bedan community (e.g., students, faculty, administrators, support staff, and parents,) via Zoom. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God in a prayerful encounter, listening, and discernment, each member of the Circle shared personal stories of faith and experiences based on these guide questions: (1) What is your understanding of Church? (2) Do you feel being part of and involved in the Church? If yes, why? If no, what has hindered you from being involved in the Church? and (3) What practical doable suggestions do you have so that the Church can be more participative, inclusive, welcoming, and engaging?

A total of 60 Circles, covering 600 members of the SBU community from the Basic Education Department to the Graduate Schools, participated. A facilitator and an experienced rapporteur were assigned to small groups.

**Phase III: Culminating Conference**

The culmination phase of the Synodality Project was the conduct of the SBU Synodality Journey Conference held last November 21, 2022. The community listened to the reflections of representatives from the various sectors in the SBU community on the three guide questions. Plenary speaker, Rev. Msgr. Gerry O. Santos, P.C. enlightened the audience about the Synod of Bishops’ theme: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.” The conference was framed within the unique experience of the Bedan community related to the annual Pista ng Santo Niño sa San Beda. This was profoundly explained to the attendees by Fr. John Paul II Plana, OSB. A synthesis of the SBU Synodality Journey was shared by Dr. Josefina M. Manabat, member of the Synodality Organizing Committee and Dean of the Graduate School of Liturgy.

**SBU’S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING THE SYNODEAL JOURNEY**

The University zealously intends to nurture faith and take a more active part in the mission of the Church - to act as individuals and as a Bedan family to organize the initial actions and therefore amplify the University’s share in the Church’s Synodal commitment
and vision. Hopes were aptly expressed in the form of the following actions:

**Rekindle innovatively active participation in respective Parish communities and in San Beda University using God-given talents and resources for the Church.**

**Continue the circles of discernment meetings** to listen to the Word of God and share reflections with the other sectors of the Bedan community. Conduct cross-sectoral or multisectoral meetings in small groups on a regular basis.

**Conduct more dialogues in San Beda University** by gathering the experiences of persons and peoples, including silences and sufferings, especially those sectors that were never listened to. This can be done by integrating Synodality into relevant courses from Basic Education to the Graduate level as well as in the Development Programs of Faculty and Non-Teaching Personnel.

**Initiate more opportunities** for the various sectors of the University to listen to the Word of God, to be helped to understand it, and apply it in daily life, and to pray with it.

**Disseminate more information** about the activities of the Church through the publication of printed and online materials which are appealing to the youth.
The Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC), in its commitment to promote technical education, hosted a virtual international conference on how to accelerate the development of campuses in the post pandemic era.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Governance and Quality Assurance Director of San Beda University (SBU), discussed the following:
Critical disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to the administrative and academic operations of learning institutions in the world;
The vision and mission of learning institutions compromised by the pandemic and how technology innovation could mitigate its ill effects;
Exuberant demands to comply with statutory and regulatory safety procedures, and rules on the gradual resumption of in-person classes vis-a-vis the lack of prior experience, training, or induction of educational leaders and how technology innovation could bridge the gaps;
Governance and technology innovations and the mitigation of pandemic’s adverse effects to the administrative and academic operations of learning institutions;
Technology innovations and “future proofing” of learning institutions from global pandemics and disruptions;
Mr. Fernando Mulia, from partner Parahyangan Catholic University in Indonesia, delivered the session on “The drive for quality and imperatives for relevance: Technology and digital innovations in strengthening the resilience of learning systems and in reimagining the future of education and learning.” Mr. Mulia shared the following points:
Local and global concerns relative to teaching and learning in the post pandemic era;
The tough nature of resolving issues relative to the teaching and learning process in the post pandemic era;
Technology and digital innovations as powerful mechanisms in strengthening and securing the future of learning systems;
Examples of technology and digital innovations in teaching and learning and their impacts;
Mr. Carlo G. Gutierrez, Chairman and CEO of Altustech I.T. Solutions Corporation, and former ICTC Director, pounded on the following:
Local and global concerns relative to governance and management of schools in the post pandemic era;
The unpreparedness of school administrators to navigate the management of institutions in a complex post pandemic era;
Technology and digital innovations adapted by learning institutions to strengthen governance and management in the post pandemic era;
The international virtual conference, held October 6, 2022, during SBU International Linkages Week, was attended by participants from Indonesia and the Philippines. It was organized by the I.T. Services and Development Office and I.T. Communications Office under the ICTC, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs.
Director Silva Secures Certification in Cybersecurity

Benjamin B. Sonajo, Jr.
Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC) Director Albert C. Silva is vouched by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC)² as “Certified in Cybersecurity.”

(ISC)² is a prestigious non-profit organization in the United States. It provides premium security training and certificates. Formed in 1988 by security organizations, it seeks to create a vendor-neutral, standardized certification program thereby validating the competency of security professionals.

Director Silva, who have provisionally passed the Certified in Cybersecurity examination in Las Vegas, Nevada in the United States, was awarded by its Board of Directors the CC certification, after the usual psychometric and forensic evaluation.

According to Zachary Tudor, Chairperson of (ISC)² Board of Directors, and responsible for Idaho National Laboratory’s (INL) National and Homeland Security (N&HS) mission, Director Silva is afforded official membership in the International Information System Security Certification Consortium. His membership opens paths to Continuing Professional Education (CPE), take advantage of member benefits, access to robust professional growth from the Professional Development Institute, and connect with local and international cybersecurity professionals.

Director Silva’s certification elevates him into a more advantageous plane in the context of ICTC’s digitalization program roadmap for San Beda University.

Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, and it boils down to this: The more systems we secure, the more secure we all are.”

- JEH JOHNSON -
San Beda University celebrated the annual Community Engagement Week with the theme, *Faith and Mission: The Foundation of the Benedictine Community Engagement*, on September 12-16, 2022. The activities in SBU, both Manila and Rizal, during the weeklong celebration were anchored in the tripod of Benedictine formation which includes education, celebration, and outreach. (Continued next page)
Community Engagement Week commenced on September 12 which coincided with the solemnity of the Feast of the Our Lady of Montserrat. A Eucharistic celebration was offered by the Campus Ministry Office with the Very Reverend Father Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, Rector-President, as the celebrant. Rev. Fr. Maranan explained to the Bedan community and Claro M. Recto High School the essence of the solemnity of the Our Lady of Montserrat. He demonstrated the importance of the celebration as a manifestation of God’s love resulting to different programs and projects for and with SBU partner communities. He further challenged everyone to pray together so the celebrations of the Feast of the Our Lady of Montserrat and the Benedictine Community Engagement may increase faith. This in turn is translated and expressed in noble deeds making neighbors better, closer, and truly faithful Christians and disciples of the Lord.

Meanwhile, the Integrated Basic Education Department, through the Social Action Program, virtually launched the Community Engagement Week in Rizal Campus on that same day.

Different offices, departments, and colleges in the university spearheaded various activities. Students, staff, faculty, administrators, and alumni were enjoined in the said activities.

Below are the details of the activities conducted during the Community Engagement Week.

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
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<th>PLATFORM OR VENUE</th>
<th>HOST UNIT</th>
<th>PARTICIPANTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Opening of Community Mart</td>
<td>St. Bede Courtyard, SBU-Rizal</td>
<td>IBED- Social Action Program</td>
<td>SBU Partner Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:30 am</td>
<td>School Kit Campaign: The Bedan Way</td>
<td>Homeroom Channel</td>
<td>IBED- GS OPSA, Pupils Government</td>
<td>SBU Partner communities &amp; Partner schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-11:00 am</td>
<td>Dissemination of Policy for the Free Use of Science Laboratories</td>
<td>Science Laboratory, SBU-Manila</td>
<td>Science Laboratory Community Engagement Center</td>
<td>SBU Partner Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00 am</td>
<td>SAP Activities and Programs: Manifestation of Faith and Mission</td>
<td>Auditorium, SBU-Rizal</td>
<td>IBED- OPSA SHS Rizal, Social Action Program</td>
<td>SBU SHS Students</td>
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### SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
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| 10:00-12:00 pm | 1st Sustainability Research Forum  
*Online self-regulated learning, academic performance, and well-being of Senior High School students in the NCR: A Mediation Analysis*  
Asst. Prof. Alvin M. Nieva  
Dr. Josephine E. Prudente  
*Distorting boundaries, amalgamating perspectives: A proposed integration of international law on protection of refugees and stateless persons in higher education curricula*  
Atty. Alden Reuben B. Luna  
*Public-Private Partnerships in the distance learning program during COVID-19 pandemic times in the Philippines: Identification of practices and principles*  
Asst. Prof. Zernan L. de Ramos, Dr. Nerissa M. Revilla | Zoom | Research and Development (RDC) College of Arts & Sciences | SBU Community |
| 1:00-1:40 pm | Talk on Faith and Mission: The Foundation of Benedictine Community Engagement  
*Rev. Fr. Pedro Cruz, OSB* | Jonathan Sy Auditorium SBU-Manila | IBED-OPSA SHS Manila, Social Action Program | SBU SHS Students |
| 2:00-3:00 pm | Online Lecture: *The Christian and Benedictine Motive for Serving the Poor* | Zoom | Benedictine Mission Identity Office | SBU Community SBU Partners |
| 3:00-4:00 pm | International Webinar on *SDG Community Engagement APPs (Alliances, Programs, Practices)* | Zoom | Office of Linkages and International Affairs | SBU Community SBU Partners |
The last day of the Community Engagement Week on September 16, 2022 was highlighted with the conduct of Institutional Blood Donation where 70 registrant-donors, with 40 successful donors, volunteered to serve by donating blood.
San Beda University, through the Office of the Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs headed by Prof. Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela, celebrated the 5th International Linkages Week (ILW) with the theme, "SDGs/ESD Initiatives and Innovations: Responding with Faith to the Mission and Global Call to Action for Sustainable Development" on October 24-28, 2022. ILW 2022 resonates the global call of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Education for Sustainable Development towards ending poverty, protection, conservation, and preservation of our natural environment, peace, and prosperity. Moreover, it also highlighted the role of San Beda University as an educational institution in achieving a well-transformed society towards a more sustainable future.

Among the gist were the numerous activities in partnership with SBU’s international institutions and networks including the ASEAN Learning Network (ALN); Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Thailand; Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Malaysia; Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indonesia; Parahyangan Catholic University (UNPAR), Indonesia; Kalbis Institute, Indonesia; Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), India; Art of Giving Foundation, India; and AltusTech Solutions Corp., Philippines. Joining this annual event are the different offices of San Beda University such as the Campus Ministry Office, Senior High School-Manila Campus, Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, Community Engagement Center, Information and Communications Technology Center, Research and Development Center, and the Graduate School of Business.

ILW 2022 commenced with a Eucharistic Celebration presided by Rev. Fr. John Paul II D. Plana, OSB, Director of Campus Ministry Office. The mass was attended by university personnel from the different offices. The same office spearheaded the Kumpisalang Bayan (Mass Confession) for all employees. Other religious activities were also conducted including the Living Rosary of the SHS-Manila, in line as well with the celebration of the Rosary Month. The Institution honors and acknowledges the Almighty’s presence in all its events. Moreover, wisdom, guidance, and a discerning mind is sought for successful implementation.
International activities also filled the ILW 2022 celebration. Activities centered on Sustainable Development including SDGs/ESD Initiative and Innovations for Sustainable Development, ALN Students’ Collaboration for the SDGs, and Lecture Sharing on the Art of Giving. Speakers from across country were invited to share expertise about initiatives and innovations that respond to the global call for sustainability. They are as follows: Prof. Ir. Dr. Mohd Fadhil Bin Md Din (UTM); Asst. Prof. Dr. Montira Leelakriangsak (PSU), Prof. Ir. Dr. Teti Armiati Argo (ITB); Mr. Fernando Mulia (Deputy Executive Director of ALN and Lecturer of UNPAR); Mr. Naik Henokh Parmenas (Rector, Kalbis Institute, Indonesia); Dr. Sucheta Priyabaddini (Director of Student Counseling, KIIT).

Apart from international guest speakers, SBU’s Mr. Dominador Manlincon (Dean of Student Affairs) and Ms. Barbie Yanga (Head, IT Development Service) graced the event by sharing their time-tested professional experiences in organizing and developing student organizations and the healthy use of technology among students, respectively. Dr. Jobe Viernes (Coordinator, Graduate School of Business) and Dr. Michael Pasco (Faculty, Graduate School of Business) presented their research during the 2nd Sustainability Research Forum organized by the Research and Development Center headed by Dr. Divina M. Edralin.

The webinar on Smart Campuses: Accelerating Development Through Technology Innovation in the Post-Pandemic Era established the competitive position of San Beda University’s Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC) through the initiative of its dynamic leaders-

As a platform to highlight the crucial dimensions of education in academics, research, and community engagements, the ILW 2022 showcased activities that allow its stakeholders to be Engaged in the World and produce graduates who are globally competitive.
BEDANS SET THE BAR HIGH AS SPEAKERS

Roffy D. Quines

Bedan faculty and students served as speakers in the recently concluded international virtual events, MENEFESTO 2022, on December 6, 2022, and Future Leader Discussion (FLD) on December 9, 2022. These were hosted and organized by Parahyangan Catholic University (UNPAR), Indonesia, one of San Beda University’s (SBU) active international partner institutions in collaboration with the ASEAN Learning Network (ALN). This year’s theme was dubbed as “Future Earth Representative: Think Sustainable, Act Responsible” which focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Prof. Real C. So, DBA, from the faculty of SBU’s Graduate School of Business, delivered a talk titled, “PAPER CUTS: How Naïve Paper Consumption Hurts.” His talk, aligned with the conference theme, “Consumptive Culture and Its Impact on the Environment,” addresses prevalent issues on SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. In his talk, Prof. So underscored that responsible consumption and production matters because “it will increase demand for already constrained natural resources.”

“If we don’t act to change our consumption and production patterns, we will cause irreversible damage to our environment,” he added.

Furthermore, he posited that SDG 12 should be one of the global priorities among the SDGs because businesses are the largest resource consumers. Thus, he argued that there should be a sever relationship between economic growth and degradation, cultivating long-lasting durable goods, consider management of resources and products from cradle to grave, and create opportunities for countries to leapfrog stages of development.

In his presentation, Prof. So illustrated the consumption and production pattern of using paper. According to him, data shows that the world produces 70 million tons of paper waste annually, and therefore, could harm the environment because of the effects of carbon footprint associated with consumption and production. With these facts, he presented the effects of naïve paper consumption. Prof. So ended his talk with questions for the participants to reflect on.
Similarly, Mr. Yijhan Florenz C. Guarino, a second year BS Entrepreneurship student, and Ms. Dianne C. Sheng, a third year BS Economics and Public Policy student, both from SBU’s College of Arts and Sciences, joined the roster of speakers from Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand in the Future Leader Discussion (FLD), with the theme “What should we do about the consumptive culture?” It was held virtually on December 9, 2022, which was hosted and organized by the same university.

FLD is an annual forum. It aims to discuss and share research-based ideas on chosen topics to increase students’ knowledge and awareness through international collaboration. Opportunities are created to tackle and resolve prevalent concerns on the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Mr. Guarino and Ms. Sheng discussed “fast fashion.” These terms are used to describe society’s consumption in buying and disposing clothes to meet new trends. They highlighted the harmful impacts of fast fashion on the environment and cited different policies and regulations to manage negative impacts.

Joining this year’s MENEFESTO and FLD affirms the commitment of San Beda University in cross-sectoral dialogues to address prevalent SDG-related issues and concerns. Moreover, MENEFESTO is a good platform for SBU to explore on how it educates its students and other stakeholders to adopt sustainability practices in their lives.

“‘If we don’t act to change our consumption and production patterns, we will cause irreversible damage to our environment.’”

Prof. Real So on Consumptive Behavior during the MENEFESTO 2022
Red Sea Lions Join Philippine Team in the 44th Southeast Asian Age Group Swimming Competition

Jerry Anton C. Flores
Five Red Sea Lions, John Marocenel Alagon, Ihiazel Fei Dolliente, Jodie Adrianne Tangtatco, Prince Dave Calma, and Jake Ellis Evangelista, joined the Philippine Contingent to the 44th Southeast Asian Age Group Swimming Competition last December 17 to 19, 2022. The competition was held at the National Aquatic Center in Kuala Lumpur Sports City, Bukit Jalil, Malaysia.

The event was hosted by the Malaysia Swimming Federation (MAS). MAS is affiliated to the Fédération internationale de natation (FINA) and was created to promote the sport of aquatics (swimming, diving, artistic swimming, water polo, open water swimming, para swimming and master swimming) in Malaysia.

The Philippine Team, represented by Alexander Georg Eichler, ranked 1st in the Boys 14-15 200 LC Meter Butterfly. Swim teams from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia competed for the championships in various categories.

The invite to join and represent the Philippines in the international competition affirms the quality and credibility of San Beda University student-athletes in global swimming competitions.

Bedan Coach for the Philippine Swim Team in World Swimming Championships

Still on swimming, Gavino "Dondon" Roxas, Head Coach of the San Beda Swim Team, was appointed as coach of Philippine Swimming Team. The swim team represented the country in the FINA World Swimming Championships. The competition was held last December 2022 at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Competing for the country were (left to right in photo) Jasmine Alkhaldi, Jerard Jacinto, Thanya Dela Cruz, Jonathan Cook, Chloe Isleta and Gavino Roxas Jr.

The international swimming competition was hosted by Swimming Australia and FINA, the international swimming federation, in conjunction with the Victorian Government.

(Source: The Philippine Times (Australia)
ABOUT THE COVER

“Up and Across” denotes direction. Figuratively, SBU is well on its way up towards its articulated goals as enshrined in its 5-year SMART Plan. This is because mechanisms are in place across all departments and units. Institutional targets and outcomes are hoisted serving as light houses to everyone.

The sun in the background depicts the luminous future of the Institution in the interest of its stakeholders and the nation at large.
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