



SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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LOOKING BACK...AND FORWARD

Paulinian Pianists in Concert at the Park

As mentioned in an earlier IOB, the Paulinian pianists were presented in **Concert at the Park** on 18 January 2009. The concert, which was presented at 5:00 P.M. at the open air auditorium of the Rizal Park, Manila, was hosted by Ms. Minette Padilla. It was aired on NBN Channel 4 at 3:00 P.M., 29 January 2009.



This picture, taken after the concert, shows from left, Prof. Eugene delos Santos, Ms. Minette Padilla (host), Sr. Maria Anunciata Sta. Ana, SPC (Dean, CMPA), Joel Daquioag, Jr., Melvin Lazaro, Navi Ivan Bajas, Lucky Isaac Soria III, Kezzia Leian Cordial, Beah Darda Gumarang, Eloise Lei Gonzalo, Melissa Taqueban, Chengkuan "Michelle" Chang, (mentors of the pianists) Prof. Mary Anne Espina and Prof. Jonathan Arevalo Co.

Raul Sunico in Concert

An exciting musical experience will be happening on 20 February 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Once again, Raul M. Sunico, the internationally acclaimed Filipino piano virtuoso who ranks among the finest of the Philippine's masters of the ivory keys, will be on stage in the Fleur-de-lis Theater, St. Paul University Manila for an evening Piano Concert.

Mr. Sunico, described as an "incomparable and brilliant musical genius who can essay from romantic to contemporary music effortlessly," is an accomplished concert pianist, prolific composer, arranger, and orchestral soloist.

For inquiries call BING at tel. 524 5687 local 216 or mobile phone no. 09204698706.

Guidance Week Celebration

Ms. Zena Magana of the Guidance Center shares the following plans for Guidance Week:

**Proposed Upcoming Activities for the Guidance Week Celebration
16-20 February 2009**

Theme: "Set Your Heart... on the More Important Gifts"

Objectives:

1. To be aware of the different talents and abilities to perform service.
2. To venture practical activities that will be helpful in evaluating oneself and thus defending himself/herself against threats to one's self-esteem.

DAY 1

Adjustment Skills: "I Belong"

Date & Time: 16 February 2009 (Monday)

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Venue: Levesville Hall

Facilitator: Ms. Sherilyn Dela Cruz

Participants: SPU Manila International Students and members of Peer Facilitators' Group

"Pagpapaunlad at Pagpapahalaga sa Aspetong Emosyonal"

Date & Time: 16 February 2009 (Monday)

1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Venue: Levesville Hall

Facilitators: Mrs. Myra Arañas and Mrs. Milorie Ellazar

Participants: Non-Academic Personnel (NAPA)

DAY 2

Self Management Skills – "I Can Face Challenges"

Date & Time: 17 February 2009 (Tuesday)

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NN.

Venue: Meeting Room

Facilitators: Mr. Efraem Janairo

Participants: Interested SPUManila Students

Eucharistic Celebration "A Thanksgiving"

Date & Time: 17 February 2009 (Tuesday)

12:10 NN.- 1:00 P.M.

Venue: Chapel of the Crucified Christ

Inner Beauty Matters - "I Am Beautiful/Handsome"

Date & Time: 17 February 2009 (Tuesday)

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Venue: Meeting Room

Facilitators: Ms. Rita L. Villareal

Participants: Scholars

DAY 3

A Panel Discussion: "Affirming One's Self-Worth"

Invited speakers will share their personal experiences and expertise in handling difficult situations in life.

Date & Time: 18 February 2009 (Wednesday)

1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Venue: Founder's Hall

DAY 4

A Lecture Forum: The World of Work

Guest speakers will give lectures on the new trends of employment. This will assist the senior students in their transition from school to the world of work.

Date & Time: 19 February 2009 (Thursday)

1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Venue: Founder's Hall

Participants: Graduating Students of SPU Manila

DAY 5

OPPORTUNITIES: JOB FAIR 2009

20-25 Companies will be invited to join the Job Fair, together with SSS and NBI teams

Date & Time: 20 February 2009 (Friday)

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Venue: Levesville Hall

Participants: SPU Manila Community

NEWSBITS

Seminars on the Spirituality of Stewardship

Last week, students of St. Paul University Manila attended a seminar on the spirituality of stewardship conducted by Ms. Milagros Garcia-Glodava, Director of **St. Thomas More Center**



Mrs. Glodava began her position as Director of Communications in 1989 and added the responsibilities of Director of Stewardship in 1990. Her overall responsibilities include handling all media and public relations initiatives, all publications and communications, as well as the parish archives. As Director of Stewardship, she is responsible for coordinating, implementing, and monitoring the Stewardship Program.

She designed and created the Office of Communications and Stewardship from scratch. Stewardship was especially challenging because it had not really caught on as a Catholic parish program thus, research materials were scarce. Today, St. Thomas More has become a resource for other parishes interested in implementing a stewardship program.

Mila holds a bachelor's degree in education from St. Paul College of Manila, Philippines. She served as Director of Communications at St. Joan of Arc Parish for three years, from 1987-1989. Prior to coming to the United States in 1972, she taught English in a Catholic high school.

Mrs. Glodava has received a number of awards and honors here and abroad, such as: ICSC, Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy Award, First Place; Woman of the Year, Arvada-Norwest and Colorado Business and Professional Women; Manuel L. Quezon "Medalya ng Karangalan"; Aurora Gold Award for "Go and Make Disciples." She is listed in the Marquis Who's Who in the West, Marquis Who's Who of Women, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in American Women.

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On Wednesday, 4 February 2009, Mrs. Glodava and some other members of her team will give the seminar to faculty, staff, and alumni of SPU Manila, and invited guests from other schools and parishes. The speakers who are joining Mrs. Glodava on this trip to the Philippines are Fr. Andrew Kemberling, Ms. Sharon Hueckel, and Phillip and Irene Lindemer.

The group's itinerary for this year's visit includes: 6 February : Diocese of Tuguegarao, Holy Family Parish in West Solana; 8 February : Visit to Infanta, Real and General Nakar in Quezon Province; 11-13 February : Spirituality of Stewardship Conference, Marellito Retreat House and Reparatrix Sisters, Tagaytay City

DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR TO CHILE

Catalina Baltazar, HS 1968, feted Ms. Ma. Consuelo G. Puyat-Reyes, Philippine Ambassador to Chile, at a dinner held in her residence in Tondo, Manila.

Ms. Baltazar was with Ms. Wynna Marie A. Medina, SPU Manila President, when the latter visited Ambassador Puyat-Reyes in Chile in April last year.

It will be recalled that a memorandum of agreement was signed on 25 April 2008 in the Philippine Embassy in Chile by Dr. Rodrigo Fabrega Lacoa, EODP Director, and Ms. Medina. The MOA, which was facilitated by the Philippine Ambassador to Chile, Mrs. Puyat-Reyes, was for the university to host Chilean students to take courses in Teaching English as a Second Language. Fifteen students did come to SPU Manila and took those courses as part of the EODP (English Opens Doors Program) of the Chilean Department of Education.

SPMAFI MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the St. Paul Manila Alumni Foundation, Inc. (SPMAFI) will have its regular monthly meeting at 2:00 P.M., 4 February 2009 in the University President's Board Room.

Mrs. Sherry Lara-Alingod, SPMAFI President, will preside over the meeting. Top of the agenda will be reports on and evaluation of the Annual General Homecoming, held on 24 January 2009.

CLASS REUNIONS

HIGH SCHOOL 1963

Seventeen members of High School 1963 met in Yaki Mix Restaurant on Macapagal Avenue on 26 January 2009 to discuss plans for their golden jubilee in 2013. This early, they are planning their attire, their participation in the program, and other special projects, like an album and a cook book.

They will meet again on 12 February 2009 in the condominium of Babes Cariaga-Banatao in Rockwell, Makati.

HIGH SCHOOL 1954

The 1954 High School graduates, who were the Emerald Jubilarians in the recent homecoming, will celebrate the birthdays of the January-March born today in the residence of Medarle de Leon-Zamuco in Magallanes Village, Makati.

HIGH SCHOOL 1964

On the other hand, the Sapphire Jubilarians, High School 1964. will meet for lunch in the Tower Inn, Pasay Road, Makati on 4 February 2009.

A Letter from Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J.



Justice at 3 A.M.

by Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J.

*Note: This is an e-mail prayer brigade initiated by Fr. Reuter for Phillip.

Phillip Andrew A. Pestaño graduated from the Ateneo de Manila High School in 1989, entered the Philippine Military Academy, and became an Ensign in the Philippine Navy in 1993. He was assigned as cargo master, on a Navy ship.

He discovered that the cargo being loaded onto his vessel included logs that were cut down illegally, were carried to the ship illegally, and were destined to be sold, illegally. Then there were 50 sacks of flour, which were not flour, but shabu - worth billions. Literally, billions. And there were military weapons which were destined for sale to the Abu Sayyaf.

He felt that he could not approve this cargo.. Superior officers came to him and said: "Please! Be reasonable! This is big business. It involves many important people. Approve this cargo." But Phillip could not, in conscience, sign approval.

Then his parents received two phone calls, saying: "Get your son off that ship! He is going to be killed!" When Phillip was given leave at home, his family begged him not to go back. Their efforts at persuasion continued until his last night at home, when Phillip was already in bed.

His father came to him and said: "Please, son, resign your commission. Give up your military career. Don't go back. We want you alive. If you go back to that ship, it will be the end of you!" But Phillip said to his father: "Kawawa ang bayan!" And he went back to the ship.

The scheduled trip was very brief -- from Cavite to Roxas Boulevard -- it usually took only 45 minutes. But on September 27, 1995, it took one hour and a half. When the ship arrived at Roxas Boulevard, Ensign Pestaño was dead.

The body was in his stateroom, with a pistol, and a letter saying that he was committing suicide. The family realized at once that the letter was forged. They tried desperately for justice, carrying the case right up to the Senate.



The Senatorial Investigation Committee examined all the evidence, carefully. Then they issued an official statement, saying among other things: Ensign Phillip Pestaño did not commit suicide. He was murdered. He was shot through the head, somewhere outside of his stateroom, and the body was carried to his room and placed in the bed. The crime was committed by more than one person. In spite of these findings, by the Senate, the family could not get justice. The case is still recorded, by the Navy, as suicide.

For 12 years they have been knocking at the doors of those in power, to no avail.. Now they realize that they should knock on the door of Him who said: "Knock, and it shall be opened to you. Ask and you shall receive. Seek, and you shall find."

So they are asking all of the friends of Phillip from the Ateneo, from the PMA, friends of the family -- including the girl he was engaged to marry -- to say this prayer: Lord, we know that Phillip is safe with you, and will be safe forever, because he gave up his life, as You gave up Your life -- for justice. If it is Your will, please let the truth be known of his heroic courage and strength and love of country. Let justice be rendered here on earth. But if it is not Your will that justice be rendered here, give each of us the grace to live and die as he did -- following in Your footsteps.

And at the last judgment, Lord, when all that is hidden will be known, let Phillip be seen as he really is -- a brave young man who gave his life for honesty, truth, and justice."

* * *

Phillip Pestaño died at the age of 24. He was scheduled to be married in January of 1996, four months after he was murdered.

He was a martyr. A martyr is one who dies for the faith or for a Christian virtue. Phillip died for a Christian virtue -- justice. It is not likely that he will ever be canonized, but he takes his place among the Unknown Saints.

Some military men are killed in battle. They are given a hero's burial. But Phillip died for a much deeper cause -- he was trying to preserve the integrity of our Armed Forces. He died out of loyalty to the Philippines, in an effort to keep the oath that he made when he graduated from the Military Academy

Graft and corruption are the curse of this nation. But when they take root in the heart of our Armed Forces, they threaten our existence as an independent, democratic country.

The family of Phillip Pestaño is doing the right thing. They are turning to God. They are praying that justice will be administered here, in our country, in our day. But if this is not God's will, then let us at least try to preserve the ideal of integrity in every mind and heart and soul.