



SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

So the holidays are over and it's back to the salt mines.

Amidst the world-wide economic crisis propelled by man's greed and materialism, the people of God troop back to work and school, with New Year's resolutions tucked in the pockets of their minds, hopefully to be fulfilled someday, somehow.

In SPU Manila, everyone is looking forward to an exciting month. There are many activities lined up for January, including University Week, the Annual General Homecoming, and the Grand Rally of St. Paul in the Araneta Coliseum.



But first we look back at some activities in December.

INSTITUTIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Faculty and staff and their families enjoyed the Institutional Christmas Party with the Sisters on 19 December 2009. A short program with numbers from the different sectors was interspersed with a raffle of more than 30 prizes solicited by the Finance Office.

There was a St. Paul Tableaux contest, which was won by the Religious Education/ Philosophy Program and the College of Music (1st place), Nursing (2nd) and Non-Academic Personnel (3rd). Fun games, great food, and distribution of gifts from the school (rice, baskets of goodies, and *ang pao*) enlivened the party.

As in past years, the Institutional Christmas Party was a warm Paulinian family affair.

MASS COMM STUDENT BAGS TWO PRIZES IN AAP COMPETITION

As mentioned in the previous IOB, Anna Marie Recirido, a senior Mass Communications student, won two prizes in the **61st Annual Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) Competition** held in December 2008. She was the Grand Winner in the Drawing Category and Honorable Mention in the Photography Category (not vice-versa as reported in the last IOB).

Here are some photos taken at the awarding ceremonies of the competition on 13 December 2008.

Pictures below show Anna with her winning drawing (left) and with other winners (right).



CS and IT Seniors Attend Round Table Discussion with Industry Partners



The annual Round Table Discussion with Industry Partners of the Computer Science and Information Technology Programs was held on 13 December 2008, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM, at the Meeting Room of the HRM Training Center. The activity aimed to strengthen linkages with industry partners, orient graduating students on the expectations of future industry employers and on current career opportunities, and discuss issues in the various areas of Information and Communications Technology.

This year's Round Table Discussion was graced by I.T. industry practitioners in the field of software and web development. They were Ms. Penelope Cruz, EDI Manager of Affiliated Computer Services; Mr. Adrian Mangulabnan, Software Engineer from MAXS Software Development; Ms. Joey Nyl Villamejor, Web Developer from SpinWeb; and Mr. Joseph Padilla, Systems Analyst/Programmer of St. Paul University Manila.

The graduating batch of Computer Science and Information Technology took turns in asking the practitioners about their experiences in the industry and the guests willingly shared their insights on what is happening the I.T. scene today. At the end of the activity, the seniors expressed that they learned a lot from the I.T. professionals.

SHARING... SHARING... SHARING

FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Mr. Aldrin Darilag, Dera of the Graduate School, shares this news:

On 15 December 2008, from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 NN, the Graduate School Faculty had a training session on TUBEPOINT.

Tubepoint is a software that combines the capabilities of powerpoint and youtube. It will be used for the Graduate School Executive Program.

FROM THE SPMAFI

Mrs. Sherry Lara-Alingod, SPMAFI President, will convene the Board of Trustees in a meeting at 2:00 P.M., 7 January 2009 in the University President's Board Room.

The Board will continue finalizing plans for the Annual Grand Homecoming on 24 January 2009, as well as for the alumni participation in the Grand Rally on the 25th.

FROM THE RESEARCH OFFICE

The research paper titled "Whale Shark Tales: Voices from Donsol, Sorsogon" conducted and written by Karen Elizabeth Belen and April May Baldemor, 2007 alumnae of the Mass Communication Program of St. Paul University Manila, and their adviser, Brian S. Bantugan, will be presented in the 7th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, which will be held from January 9 (Friday) to January 12 (Monday), 2009 at the **Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa** in Honolulu, Hawaii.

FROM THE BISHOP OF BALANGA

A Letter to Catholics from Bishop Socrates Villegas

FIGHT IT OR PERISH!

Fighting Graft and Corruption

To steal is wrong. It is a crime. It is a sin. When stealing is done by those high up in power and authority, it carries a greater culpability. The corruption of the best is the worst. The social problem of graft and corruption in public life in our country has reached abominable and embarrassing proportions. How shall we describe graft and corruption in our country? It is systemic. It is rewarding. It hurts the poor the most.

Graft and corruption is systemic and structural. It is not only individual or isolated persons who corrupt and get corrupted. The present system—the elected and the electors, the employers and the employees, the appointed and the appointing powers—has become so corrupt that what we do need is a radical, systemic, interior change. Changing personages through the electoral process or even through legal processes like impeachment and court suits will not necessarily result in reform unless there is a willingness to change from the heart and soul. Pinning our hopes on legal processes unaccompanied by conversion from within will lead us to nowhere but deeper frustrations. We can hear the protest "*Tama na. Sobra na. Alis na. Kami naman!*". It is important that those who investigate or prosecute corrupt officials will not gain political or financial benefits from convicting or absolving the accused.

Graft and corruption is rewarding and rewarded. It is hardly punished. The politicization of the judiciary and the perennial rumors about rogues in robes are problems we need to address urgently. Vigilance is lacking. Political will is weak. Prosecution plays favorites. The penal system is flawed. Pardon and clemency is cheap. Among our people, there is an increasing level of tolerance for corrupt officials. Corruption does not seem to anger many of us anymore. We are not outraged enough by graft and corruption. Widespread graft has sadly numbed our morals.

The public money that goes to graft is money stolen from the poor. Because of graft and corruption, schools buildings cannot be constructed and teachers are not paid; public hospitals cannot protect us from untimely death; soldiers are deprived of their just wages.

Our biggest problem in our country is graft and corruption. This problem must be faced courageously now. We are risking the life of our nation if we continue to ignore it. I appeal to the consciences of our countrymen. Do not leave the solution of graft and corruption to corrupt officials. Our problem cannot be our solution. Let us come together as Catholic faithful to fight the sin of graft and corruption. We cannot profess faith in God and not get angry at widespread graft and corruption. Faith in God and outrage at sin go together. Outrage is not enough; it must lead to action. If we are not outraged by the sin of stealing happening all over our once beautiful land, could it be that our faith has turned cold and uncaring? If your faith has turned cold and uncaring, how can you be saved? Fight corruption or lose your soul!

I place this appeal at the feet of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.