



100 Days to 100 Years: SPU Manila's Centennial Countdown

Contributed by Michelle Sto. Tomas

It all started with the question, "Why don't we have a countdown to our 100 years?"

It is once in a hundred years. St. Paul University Manila's centennial celebration is fast approaching. Everyone is getting excited to be part of the grandest celebration in SPU Manila history.

On 13 October 2011, black-and-white-dressed Paulinians and guests filled the SPU Manila quadrangle as they joined in the launching of "100 Days to 100 Years" Centennial Countdown.



In cooperation with A.A Productions, the crowd jammed together with the invited artists, such as Somedaydream, Luke Mejares, Tanya Markova, The Bloomfields, The Lamar Brothers, Robin Nievera, Miguel Escueta, The Chongkeys, Join the Club, Pop U, Jurassic Pards, and the band of our alumna, Ms. Patricia Rosal, All for Patricia.

Surprise guests also entertained the crowd. Champ Lui Pio of the band, Hale, was present during the event. DJ Durrano and Vandolph Quizon serenaded the audience and promoted their new movie with Vice Ganda, "Praybeyt Benjamin."

But who can forget the highlight of the night's event?

In the middle of the program, Sr. Lilia Thérèse L. Tolentino, SPC, the university president, officially launched the 100 day countdown through an inspiring message. The countdown launch became meaningful when 10 lanterns, signifying the 10 decades of SPU Manila, one by one lighted up the dark sky. Everybody looked up at the lanterns soaring to the next 100 years of the beloved university.





There were also other activities, such as photo and hand-paint booths. The photo booth with a background saying "I was here" made the Paulinians proud that they were present during the 100 day countdown. Guests were also invited to paint their hand green or gold and leave a mark on a cloth, signifying their presence and their help in the formation of 100 catechists, SPU Manila's gift to the Church and society.

The celebration has started. Expect more exciting activities and events as we journey towards SPU Manila's 100 years!

Caritas Christi Urget Nos!

**A.A Productions is a production team founded by our very own Paulinian student, Mr. Alen Alano of BS Nursing 3. The team aims to promote Pinoy music.*

**The 100th day before the centennial celebration is actually 18 October, but the date was moved five days earlier since the 13th was the last day of the students' final exams.*

**Photos courtesy of Mr. Julius Riogelon, ICT staff, and Preet Chochan, CBM student.*

SPECIAL UPDATE: IRC-LDO ACTIVITIES

Contributed by Sr. Flordeliza Deza, SPC

ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY MANILA INKS AGREEMENTS WITH TWO KOREAN UNIVERSITIES

SPU Manila signed two agreements for academic cooperation and English language learning with two Korean universities.

The 7+1 Semester Abroad Program

In a meeting held on 19 September 2011, SPU Manila President Sr. Lilia Thérèse L. Tolentino received Dr. Soonja Lee, President of Gyeongju University, and Dr. Larry Chong, Executive Assistant to the President for International Relations.

The Memorandum of Agreement for Academic Exchange and Cooperation signed by Dr. Lee and Sr. Lilia (photo right), formalized the start of the first exchange program between the two universities, part of the 7+1 Semester Abroad Program of Gyeongju University.





Present in the meeting were Sr. Fidelisa Portillo, Vice President for Academic Services, Sr. Flordeliza Deza, Director for International Relations, and Dr. Grace Leongson, HRM Program Chair. A group of eleven HRM culinary majors from Gyeongju are now with SPU Manila and will be here for a total of three months or 12 weeks to enhance their English language skills and to improve their capability to perform job-related functions, enabling them to function socially and professionally with greater confidence in the culinary arts industry.

**Post MOA signing.
Sr. Lilia, Dr. Soonja, Sr. Flor,
Dr. Chong, Sr. Fidelisa, Dr. Grace,
and Professor Lee**

**With the student participants.
Dr. Grace, Dr. Soonja, Sr. Lilia,
Sr. Flor, Sr. Fidelisa with the 13
students of GU now in SPUM**



Cooperating in the implementation of the program and the realization of its objectives are the Language Development Center and the HRM Program. The trainers include Ms. Mary Christianne Agustin, Ms. Amelia Butial, Chef Ma. Cecilia Pataunia, Mr. Ramil Quinones, Ms. Nina Endozo, Ms. Pamela Villacorta, and Ms. Arlene Almazan. Conversation buddies have been assigned to the Korean students to help ease them into Philippine life and the Paulinian environment.

A new partnership



Jeju National University and St. Paul University Manila forged a new partnership for excellent education, the promotion of regional consciousness, and world citizenship. Signed in October 2010, the MOU between SPU Manila and Jeju was sealed with the hanging of a **plaque of cooperation** during the visit of Dr. Huh Hyang Jin, President of Jeju National University, on 3 October 2011.

**Firming up a partnership.
President Huh Hyang Jin and
Sr. Lilia in front of the newly
installed Plaque of Cooperation**



**Plaque of Cooperation.
With Dr. Huh
and
Sr. Lilia are Sr. Flor,
Dr. Leongson
and Mr. Ko.**



A pose for the record.
Front L-R: Dr. Grace Leongson,
President Huh Hyang-Jin, Sr. Lilia, Sr. Flor.
Back: Dr. Lee Song, Yub,
Dr. Kang Young Hun, Mr. Moon Dae Jin

The present program involving 26 JNU students, which began on 5 September and ends on 16 December, will enable the students to earn academic units for their efforts. Trainers and teachers include Ms. Pam Villacorta, Mr. Brian Tengco, Ms. Arlene Almazan, and Ms. Rosanna Manalo.

Present in the meeting and rites were Drs. Kang Young Hun, Dean of International Affairs; Kim Song Yob, Vice Dean of Planning Affairs of JNU; Mr. Moon Dae Jin, and Mr. Ko Young Hun, President and General Manager, respectively of Metro Korea Language Training Center. Sr. Flordeliza Deza, SPC, IRO-LDC Director, recounted the history of the SPUM-JNU relationship, which began as early as 2007 through the initiative of MK-LTC, which facilitated and continues to facilitate the coming of the Jeju students and other students from various Korean universities for English language studies during the summer and winter breaks.



Dycom Training.

To prepare Paulinians for their OJT (On the Job Training), related learning experiences or work and travel abroad, the LDC provides a three-day Dynamic Communication Training. The program, wholistic in approach, includes grounding in Paulinian values, Filipino culture, personality enhancement, and dynamic communication skills, focused on work-related situations. It aims to strengthen confidence and firm up disciplinary skills to enable the participants to perform socially and professionally in the global workplace.

The program was designed by Sr. Flordeliza Deza in response to the felt needs of the BSHRM students. It has since become a regular part of BS Tourism, BSBA, BSFMA, BS Entrepreneurship, with other programs requesting for the same training after very favorable feedback from the participants and their teachers who observed its positive effects.

Some 300 students have received the training since it began in 2008. Trainings for this first semester of AY 2011-2012 "graduated" 159 students from the following programs: BSBA, BS Entrepreneurship, BSFMA, and three groups of BS Tourism students.

The trainers group this year gets a boost with the presence of Ms. Margarita Sevilla, who has trained business practitioners, especially people in the call center industry, Ms. Michelle Sto. Tomas of the SPU Manila PR Office, and Ms. Arlene Almazan of the LDC. Past trainers included Ms. Nina Endozo (who continues to assist in the program) and Ms. Gwen Abrico (currently on leave from SPUM).

A group of MassCom students, who conducted a research study on the perceptions of those who have undergone the DYCOM and the effects of the program, reported the following general conclusions: 1) The training enhanced and boosted the self-confidence of the participants; 2) It strengthened their communication skills especially in work related situations; 3) It improved their ability to relate with customers, and 4) It developed their ability to face and deal with work-related challenges.



Dycom session and role playing

FROM THE LIBRARY SERVICE "Once more with feeling"

Ms. Marilou Salting sent some more pictures of the St. Paul University Philippines-Knowledge Information and Resource Network sponsored three-day seminar-workshop entitled "Library Tourism and Hospitality: The Innovative Way of Endearing Libraries and Harnessing Knowledge for the 21st Century Education."





From the Graduate School

The Nipa Hut

Rev. Fr. Clive Alvyn Ocon
PhD Ed student

During my childhood days I used to go the mountains to gather firewood since we did not have a gas range or even a stove where we could cook our food. I had to wake up early in the morning during weekends so I could start my long walk to the mountains and avoid the scorching heat of the sun. The start of the journey was usually a light one. I only had my sharp bolo tied at my waist. Then I started to pick up branches for firewood. The small branches of the fallen dry branches from different trees were to be cut, leaving only the bigger branches to be carried. My load became heavier every time a dry branch was added to the stack on my shoulders until I reached the end of the road where a small nipa hut was built for those who would be taking a rest. The sight of that small hut would be a relief since it would mean REST. Immediately I would drop the bundle of sticks from my shoulders and take a deep breath, a sign of liberation from the cargo. After taking a couple of minutes rest, I would unpack my "baon" and start satisfying my hunger and thirst. After a little nap to regain my strength, I was ready to take the load of firewood back on my shoulders and commence my journey back home.

On 8 October 2011, a recollection for the graduate school students of Saint Paul University Manila was held in Sacred Heart Novitiate and Retreat Center, Novaliches, Quezon City. A number of students positively responded to the said event. Fr. Michael Laguardia, SDV, who facilitated the recollection, gave accent to the importance of "resting" to be able to keep

in touch (KIT) with God, with nature, and with the self. He said that it is important to re-collect the pieces of our selves by answering the very essential existential questions of our identity, purpose, and direction. We need to go back to the roots of our EXISTENCE; otherwise we will be living EMPTY lives. We need to fill the empty spaces between our gazes and thus find meaning in every step we take. Most importantly in our journey, we must be conscious of what we are here for. We are meant for greater things.

Since the time I took my first step through the portals of St. Paul University Manila as a PhD Ed student, I cannot remember a time that an initiative was taken by the graduate school for a recollection. I am now almost at the end of my journey as a learner in this institution. It has been a long and tiring journey since I started to pick up "branches" of knowledge which I could use to "cook" the food to sustain my existence in the future. I could feel the weight of the many things I have received from my mentors, colleagues, and experiences. I needed a "nipa hut" where I can stop, unload my baggage, and have a rest. I needed a feisty celebration of "food and drink" to satisfy my hunger and thirst. I needed a good "nap" to regain my strength. I needed a recollection.

Indeed the recollection I participated in was an answer to my dog-tired being. It helped me regain my drained strength and refreshed me to move forward again. A realignment to what is really my purpose in life was made by naming my true identity again--more than a priest and a student, but more specifically as a creature of God, who has a greater purpose to attain.

At some points of a journey, there must a "nipa hut" where one can rest and be able to recollect himself. To the administrators of the graduate school of Saint Paul University Manila, thank you for providing the "nipa hut."



The graduate school retreatants with Fr. Michael Laguardia, SDV

From the Alumni Office

Centennial Alumni Homecoming Tickets

Tickets for the dinner-show in the Grand Centennial Alumni Homecoming on 29 January 2012 in the SMX Center will be ready for distribution during the SPMAFI regular meeting on 8 November 2011.

Class representatives are enjoined to attend the meeting to pre-register their batch and get tickets for them. This will give the SPMAFI Board an idea of the number of attendees and a basis for planning table arrangements.

**HS 1962-US Based
Get-Together
Damon's Steakhouse
Glendale, California
17 October 2011.**

**L to R: Corazon Pacificador
Milagros Molina Sjolander
Pacita Villarreal Concepcion
Teresa Carballo Marfori
Carolina Kabigting Soriano
Rosalinda Amor Roy**



Condolences

to Evelyn Sta, Romana-Rucker (HS 1968) on the death of her mother Amparo.

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For Reflection

Shared by Sr. Flor Deza

HARD FACTS vs. HARDENED WILLS

Fr. Francis Ongkingco



Below is a list of plain but hard facts, revealed by world leading scientific experts and by prestigious institutions, against the systematic nationwide distribution of artificial contraceptives.

The following five points seek to address misconceptions about population growth, the spread of AIDs and artificial contraception:

FACT 1: Artificial contraceptives kill children. When does human life begin? At fertilization, when the sperm penetrates the egg. This was the unanimous response of medical experts (including doctors from Harvard Medical School and the Mayo Clinic) at an eight-day hearing of the US Senate.

Do birth control pills and the IUD kill the embryo? Yes, the pill has a secondary “postfertilization effect,” according to the scientific journal of the American Medical Association. The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology pronounced that the intrauterine device brings about the “destruction of the early embryo.”

FACT 2: Artificial contraceptives injure women’s health. Is the pill safe? The International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2007 reported that the pill causes cancer, giving it the highest level of carcinogenicity, the same as cigarettes and asbestos. It also causes stroke, and significantly increases the risk of heart attacks.

FACT 3: The contraceptive lifestyle destroys the family. Will the greater availability of contraception improve the conditions of the family? Contraceptives bring about the downgrading of marriage, more extramarital sex, more fatherless children, more single mothers, according to the studies of Nobel prize winner George Akerlof.

FACT 4: Condoms promote the spread of AIDS. Will the use of condoms lower the rate of HIV/AIDS in a country? It will increase it, according to the “best evidence” in the world, concluded Harvard director for AIDS Prevention Edward C. Green. Availability of condoms makes people take wilder sexual risks, thus worsening the spread of the disease.

FACT 5: The RH bills are based on wrong economics. Is there a correlation between population growth and economic development? “No correlation” is the answer of Simon Kuznets, Nobel Prize winner in the science of economics. Many later studies confirmed this.

Is population control one of the ingredients for high economic growth? No. This is the conclusion of the 2008 Commission on Growth and Development headed by Nobel prize winner Michael Spence. The factors for high growth are leadership, openness to knowledge, stable finances, market allocation, investment and savings.

Despite these well-founded and researched facts, it is not easy to understand how some individuals continue to maintain an even harder will against them. Perhaps, they are misinformed—though others may have their own agendas—as they sincerely seek ways to solve many problems of society and the world at large.

It is true that these facts do not give a “quick fix” to the serious global scenario painted by poverty, sexual promiscuity, the spread of AIDS and the indiscriminate abuse of the world’s natural resources. They are more like “indicator lights.” They remind us to always consider the innate dignity of the human person, the family and society in the formulation of policies, systems and strategies addressing national and world problems. To disregard them, that is, to cling to stubborn pragmatic solutions, will only result to irreversible and regrettable consequences, which will be suffered by the next generation.

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The same skewed vision, apparently endowed with a noble intention of addressing poverty, economic and population issues, is sadly magnified in our country by those who are bent on pushing the RH bill. They undoubtedly witness the devastating consequences of RH legislations all over the world. Their results are now being felt and regretted in countries like China, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, etc. Will they simply turn a blind eye at this evidence, and with hardened will say, “That’s the RH bill in other countries, the Philippines is or will be different”?

How much longer will they insist on their views that subtly undermine the truths about man? Will they choose to hang on to their pragmatic solutions, whose irreversible and regrettable effects will be their burdensome legacy to future generations? Once the toll of these five facts have taken their full effect on humanity, will there still be wills left behind to undo the damage?