



# the bedan today

a destiny of honor, service and excellence

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The Official Publication of San Beda, Manila, Philippines

## 7 YEARS TO HIGH NOON

SAN BEDA  
TODAY

7 Decades of  
**EXCELLENCE**  
and Counting

ANOTHER BEDAN  
*Luminary*  
SPARKLES

Growing the Seeds  
of Excellence  
in the Era of Change & Possibilities

GEMS in the BAG

Back-to-back Double Overall Championships

OIC-  
**LIA**3  
Turns



# editor's note

To say that I am too nervous to be writing to you for the very first time would be an understatement of enormous distribution. Euphoric for the opportunity of being read but at the same time anxious about what's going to be the public reaction to the release of the magazine itself. But writing the Editor's note has always been gruelling even for those who are veterans in journalistic writing. Your whole self as a writer is always pole-positioned.

Upon accepting the post as one of the Editors-in-Chief, there's this anxiety, worsened by an array of checklists the day after the appointment. There are mails popping in through the inbox for revisions and alters, back and forth with the contributors, and digital photos that need scrutinizing. In the past days, I've been having so many conversations with my co-EIC on how best to make meaningful issue happen for the whole Bedan community.

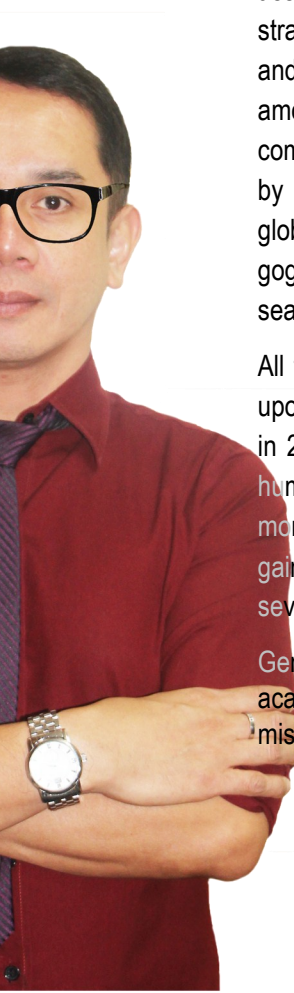
In this issue of *The Bedan Today*, we would like to highlight the outstanding achievements of San Beda under the leadership of Very Reverend Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. It is the one thing that gives me the courage to accept this overwhelming task -- that I will be swaggering the accomplishments of San Beda in seven years.

Fr. Aloysius started his term in 2010 as the Rector-President of the College. In his term, he turned around the college in relation to its reputable standing among peer colleges and universities by bringing back the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) Level 3 accreditation. The university-hood is of course in the can! In the aspect of academic reform, he has established the Academic Council as the highest policy making body on matters of quality assurance, thematic research agenda, faculty rank, tenure and promotion, and the school's long-term strategic directions. He has expanded the portfolio of professorial chairs as well as research grants and scholarship, participation in international and national conferences, and bolstered research life among faculty, students, and administrators. Also, he has mobilized the students and faculty through community involvement and outreach programs. The boosting of internationalization of the institution by creating the Office of Linkages and International Affairs that facilitated partnerships around the globe. Very recent is the creation of the Research Development Center that will showcase the pedagogic prowess of the faculty, administrators, as well as students to come up with global standard researches.

All these claims were validated by an external agency such as the City of Manila when it conferred upon Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., the Outstanding Manilan for Academic Leadership Award in 2013. This is how San Beda has become. The dawn in 2010 marked the beginning of years of humble achievements. And the seven years signify that it's almost high noon for San Beda to feel more the majesty of a king lion, and whimper as loud as a roar to crow about the great achievements gained. Hence, this acknowledgement fits to fill this magazine called *The Bedan Today*. For these seven years embody what and who is San Beda today and in the years to come.

Gently, San Beda is almost there, and we hope this issue informs the Bedan community that as an academic institution, we are destined to face the bright future. We are creating a future full of optimism and passion, a future where every endeavor succeeds and at par with the world's best.

“San Beda is almost there, and we hope this issue informs the Bedan community that as an academic institution, we are destined to face the bright future.”



Larry Javier Ambion  
Editor-in-Chief

*“Whatever good work you begin to do, beg of God  
with most earnest prayer to perfect it.”  
St. Benedict of Nursia*



# Contents

## CAMPUS PRIME

- 4 San Beda Today
- 8 Growing the Seeds of Excellence
- 13 Another Bedan Luminary Sparkles: PCNC Honors Tita Branzuela

## SPORTS

- 15 San Beda Personnel Engage into Sports
- 16 Gems in the Bag

## RED BITS

- 18 Seven Decades of Excellence and Counting
- 22 OIC-LIA Turns 3
- 25 San Beda Creates More Pathways for Global Collaborations  
Institutionalizing Integrative Internationalization

## BEDAN BULLETIN

- 27 San Beda at the 12th AUAP General Conference
- 28 On the Road to ISO Certification
- 29 HRMO Trains San Beda's Service Units
- 30 Globalizing San Beda through SEED Program
- 32 San Beda Manila Fosters Linkage with International Partners
- 34 San Beda Renews Partnership
- 34 Training Bedans on Borderless Leadership
- 35 College of Medicine 12th Investiture and Commencement Exercises
- 36 San Beda Links to US and Asia
- 37 San Beda Manila Hosts a Seminar Workshop for Librarians
- 38 San Beda Scientia is UP: UPgraded and UPloaded
- 39 CAS 116th Commencement Exercises
- 40 Continuing the Legacy of Liberal Arts Tradition @ SBC
- 42 San Beda CAS Adopts SAP Business One Academic Program

## ENTERTAINMENT

- 43 CAS Faculty Owns the Stage

## CULTURE AND ARTS

- 44 IBED Integrates Newbies to the Den
- 46 Peace Retreat: Grounding Oneself and the Bedan Family on the Love and Service of Christ
- 47 Forming Educators the Bedan Way
- 48 Honoring Bedans' Hard Work
- 50 Nature in Art and the Value of Stewardship
- 51 Tracing the Footsteps of St. Benedict

## FRAMES OF WRITERS

## ABOUT THE COVER

4

San Beda  
Today

8

Growing the Seeds  
of Excellence

13

Another Bedan  
Luminary Sparkles

18

7 Decades of  
Excellence

22

OIC LIA Turns 3

16

Gems in the Bag!

# SAN BEDA TODAY

Sybil L. Agreda

## San Beda

has raised the bar of excellence. Seven years ago, this institution, like any other educational institutions, confronted a number of challenges as it situates itself in the new educational milieu while preparing for the opportunities and threats of the ASEAN Integration and the introduction of the K+12 in the basic education curricula. Simply put, San Beda was *head-to-head* with the fast-changing demands of tertiary education. Seven years after, San Beda has gone far, ready to endure and soar higher.

Instrumental to this leap is the visionary leadership of Reverend Father Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., who is now on his second term of office as Rector-President of the College since his first appointment in 2010. However, for Fr. Aloy, he attributes whatever success the institution has today to the concerted efforts of the Bedan community—the Benedictine fathers, Board of Trustees, school administrators, faculty, office personnel, students and alumni.

When asked during an interview what his formula was, he blurted, “Begin with the end in mind.” He believes that if the end goal is clearly defined at the onset, a leader can best provide the direction to achieve the goal. For him, the Benedictine charism and the long established institutional vision and mission serve as his guiding principle.

In seven years:

1. San Beda has prepared for a completely different



“ The journey to success seems endless, especially for institution like San Beda that is set to outlast and outachieve.”



*Photographer: Shaira Luna*





landscape especially for the K+12 transition in the basic education curricula and the ASEAN Integration. Considering the seamless continuum of basic education and higher education, administrators, faculty members and students were provided with enough opportunities to enhance their expertise further, attend local and international seminars and conferences, and present research outputs as a way of strengthening their engagement and participation especially in the global arena.

2. It stood at par with peer colleges and universities as evidenced by the receipt of the Level 3 Accreditation of the Philippine Accreditation Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), the likely reason for the marked increase of our enrollment in 2014. Despite the decline in the number of first year students in our undergraduate programs due to K+12 implementation, the number of our enrollees did not really lag behind the previous years' statistics. Now, San Beda is bidding for a university status to move further in its commitment '*to Christian formation as its service to the Church, the Philippine society and the world*'. Moreover, it has opened four new competitive programs—the AB Political Science, AB English, AB Literature, and BS in Physical Education, major in Sports Wellness Management. All of these are done '*to reinforce the school's reputation as a leading school for law, accountancy, entrepreneurship and liturgy*'.

3. It started several academic reforms which include '*the creation of the Academic Council, the highest policy making body on matters of quality assurance, thematic research agenda, faculty rank, tenure, and promotion and the requisite submission of each department or division's 5-year development plan. The portfolio of professional chairs has been extended. Research grants and scholarships and the*



growth of international and national conferences have been evident as well. There was a vigorous execution of community and outreach programs to and with our partner communities, agencies, and institutions which has already reached a total of 231 partnerships since 2010 until today. This includes the 3-year Social Enterprise and Economic Development (SEED) Program in the Philippines, initiated by the Office of Linkages and International Affairs, which engages students, faculty members, and community leaders in building sustainable businesses or projects for the community. Our College Library has continuously boosted its collection since 2013 up to the present with new acquisitions, totaling to 12,875. In addition, new offices were created to better the school's operation and service to its stakeholders. Last is the institution's aggressive drive towards internationalization. With the school's desire to step up efforts to meet the demands of the tertiary education and be able to provide opportunities for both the students and faculty members to participate in the global conversation in the global setting, it has started with its initial step in achieving the International Standards Organization (ISO) Certification, which when achieved would signify that the institution has passed the quality management standards.

4. San Beda has maintained and sustained its standing as an academic institution. The awards and recognitions received by its members in the field of academics, sports, entertainment and government service are manifestations of the institution's and of every Bedan's commitment to excellence.

The journey to success seems endless, especially for an institution like San Beda that is set to outlast and outachieve. "We can say that we have realized our goal as a Catholic institution if we have produced graduates and formed our Bedan community, grounded in our Benedictine tradition of love of God, that start to take on the responsibility to discover and share knowledge in our society," Fr. Aloy emphasized. He believes that side by side academic excellence is values formation.

Coming full circle, the school administrators start again to envision another set of goals, that is, to regain the autonomy of the institution and turn its academic offerings into Center of Excellence and Center of Development. All these may take years for their fruition, but Fr. Aloy is certain that "If we have faith that God is in charge, he will accomplish our dreams!"






# Growing the Seeds of *Excellence*

Christian Bryan S. Bustamante

Photographer: Doris K. Sartorio





Mindful of these changes as well as its challenges and opportunities, the Office of the Rector-President organized a multi-sectoral strategic planning seminar on February 22 -25, 2017 with the theme, "San Beda University 2027: Fulfilling its Mission of Excellence in Education." It was held in the Montserrat Center of Religious Formation, Silang, Cavite.

For the very first time, parents, students, faculty, non-teaching personnel and alumni representatives were invited to collaborate with administrators in mapping San Beda's journey towards a university and an "academic community that transforms its members to become exemplary servant leaders, responsive and ethical researchers, conscientious stewards of creation and advocates of peace."

Atty. Emmanuel C. Magnaye and Atty. Stephanie M. Cas-Refina were the representatives of the parents of the Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED). Mr. Daniel Macaraeg represented the non-teaching personnel. While, Atty. Dominador Buhain represented the Alumni.

The faculty representatives were Dr. Jennifer T. Ramos (College of Arts and Sciences), Atty. Adrian F. Aumentado (College of Law), Dr. Ronald Alfonso Calma (College of Medicine), Mr. Pocholo R. Autencio (College of Nursing), Mr. Jade Reyes (IBED), and Ms. Michelle Gamatero (IBED).

The students were represented by Mr. Pricejoanmar Acob (GS Business), Mr. Mark Jason Vivas (GS Business), Fr. Jerome R. Sevilla (GS Liturgy), Ms. Katrisha Analine B. Kok (College of Law), Ms. Almira Cheska S. Guinto (College of Law), Ms. Pauline Mari F.

**Global** and local events are significantly influencing the fast-paced changes in the educational landscape. These events posed possibilities as well as contradictions to higher educational institutions. The emergence of borderless labor market, the growth of cross-border higher education, the increasing importance of research, the information and communication technological revolution, the ASEAN 2015 Integration, the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum and the Typology for Higher Educational Institutions are some of the global, regional and local events that are continuously shaping the educational playing field in the Philippines.



Villanueva (College of Medicine), Ms. Rowena J. Dimayuga (College of Medicine), Ms. Dominique Zynex N. De Vera (College of Arts and Sciences), Mr. Jasper T. Jovellanos (College of Arts and Sciences), Ms. Chelsea Janele Caro (College of Nursing), Ms. Alexandrine Dianne R. Balasta (College of Nursing), Ms. Nilda Patricia D. Bautista (IBED), Mr. Leandro Enrico T. Ponce (IBED), Mr. Adriano M. Perez III (IBED), and Ms. Denise Maye A. Lucero (IBED).

As the Bedan community embarks on this new journey of endless possibilities, the participants did not only recognize challenges and identify strategic actions. They also renewed their firm commitment as a Benedictine Catholic institution to the Christian formation of the young and to the service of the Church and the Philippine society. They re-affirmed the one-vision that binds them together – a community that is fully human, wholly Christian, truly Filipino, and globally competitive. These renewal, commitment, and re-affirmation to its Benedictine Catholic Identity are the spirit that permeate the process and the outcomes of the planning activity.

To provide insight and inspiration, Catholic educators and leaders were invited as resource speakers.

Rev. Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, S.J. of Ateneo de Manila University, shared his thoughts and experiences on “Leadership and Quality Assurance System in a University.” Fr. Villarin emphasized in his sharing the critical role of leadership in ensuring the successful realization of the school’s mission as well as the quality of resources and processes needed to make the system work in order to succeed. He cautioned on the tension between quality assurance and accomplishing the school’s mission, stating that the former is necessary but not all sufficient to accomplish the mission. He emphasized, however, that in the school setting, quality assurance must be applied and observed in teaching, research and societal engagement.

His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle gave a talk and reflection on “The Mission of a Catholic University and Excellence in Education & Research.” Cardinal Tagle shared his reflections on Catholic University based on Pope John Paul II’s Apostolic Constitution “Ex Corde Ecclesiae.” Quoting John Paul II’s Apostolic Constitution, he stressed



*Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, O.S.B. (left) and His Eminence, Cardinal Tagle (right) address the Administrators during the Institutional Planning in Silang, Cavite*

*Photographer: Arnold Gasparillo*





Photographer: Arnold Gasparillo

that a Catholic University is “an academic community which, in a rigorous and critical fashion, assists in the protection and advancement of human dignity and of a cultural heritage through research, teaching and various services offered to the local, national and international communities.”

A Catholic University must possess the following essential characteristics: (1) palpable Christian inspiration; (2) continuing reflection in the light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge, to which it seeks to contribute by its own research; (3) fidelity to the Christian message; and (4) institutional commitment to the service of the people, of God, and of the human family in their pilgrimage to the transcendental goals which gives meaning to life.

He also shared Pope Francis' expectations of a Catholic University. These are the humanization of education, the development of a culture of dialogue, and an education that fosters hope.

Other resource persons were also invited to share their knowledge and expertise on research, legal aspect of a university, and operational demands of a university.

Dr. Divine E. Edralin gave a talk on “Elevating and Sustaining a High Performing Research System in a University.” She emphasized on fostering policies and procedure to nurture research capability and maximize research networks, collaborations and outputs. Atty. Ulpiano Sarmiento shared his expertise on the “Legal Framework of a University.” The typology of higher education as well as the intricate legal notion of academic freedom were the focus of Atty. Sarmiento's sharing. Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino expounded on the “Operational Demands of San Beda University” where he dwelt on the structural needs to make the day to day operations effective and efficient.

Meanwhile, Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. gave a talk and reflection on “Leading Together, Working Together” as one Bedan family. Fr. Aloy reminded the participants of the purpose of the strategic planning and that is, to get better. To get better means to realize our own identity and mission without comparing ourselves to others. “We get better in leading and working together,” he further stated. He explained that in strategic planning we are planting the seeds of excellence that will be reaped by the next



Photographer: Arnold Gasparillo

Rector-President, Fr. Aloyisus A. Maranan, O.S.B. (4th from left) presents the Plaque of Appreciation to His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle (third from left) for delivering the Key Note Address during the Institutional Planning in February 2017.

generation of Bedans. He thanked the participants for being a gift to the Bedan family.

Fr. Aloy explicated on the integration of Benedictine values, mission and vision as the foundation of the strategic planning. "As a community, we plan to realize these values, mission and vision, and the implementation of strategies must also be guided by the same values, mission and vision. Benedictine values, mission and vision must permeate in the campus as well as support all academic and non-academic activities," he said.

Guided by the insights, experiences and expertise shared by the resource speakers, the participants got back to work through a planning workshop. Organized into groups, they collectively discussed the changes, challenges and strategies for the 6 Key Areas of the San Beda University Strategic Plan: Academic Programs, Faculty, Linkages, Outreach, Research and Student & Academic Support Services. The outputs of the groups were presented to the whole body in a plenary session and later on consolidated to form San Beda's Strategic Plan.

The strategic planning seminar was capped by a pledge of commitment and fellowship where all participants articulated what they are willing to contribute for the realization of the school's vision and mission.



The Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) is duly designated by the Philippine government as an NGO accrediting body. Recently, it recognizes Tita Evasco-Branzuela, Ph.D. as one of its distinguished Evaluators, serving the Council with 13 solid years of accreditation expertise under her belt.

PCNC, a private voluntary, non-stock, non-profit corporation is a service organization, certifying non-profit organizations that meet the minimum criteria for financial management and accountability in the service to underprivileged Filipinos. Among these institutions are foundations, higher education institutions, hospitals, non-government organizations (NGOs), and others.

# ANOTHER BEDAN *Luminary* SPARKLES

PCNC HONORS TITA EVASCO-BRANZUELA, Ph.D.

Joel Gonzaga Filamor

Dr. Branzuela, San Beda's Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs was conferred honor in 2009 for evaluating a minimum of 10 institutions, in 2012 for evaluating a minimum of 30 institutions, and in June 2017 for evaluating a minimum of 50 institutions. Notably, Dr. Branzuela has been her Team's Chair since 2004. Her flawless reputation and credibility in the Council also elevat-

ed her to the Chairmanship of the PCNC Election Board, a venerated body entrusted to facilitate the crucial selection of PCNC's Board of Trustees

Referring to the PDAF scam in the country, PCNC Chairman of the Board, Augusto Carpio III, said "The scandal that affected the NGO industry brought about by the misappropriation of government funds in 2013 continued to test

the reputation of the non-profit sector..."

"PCNC will continue the promotion of its certification as a seal of legitimacy, good governance, and organizational management and a proof of transparency and accountability of an organization," Carpio added. Thus, PCNC pursues the enhancement of effectivity of NGOs in the country towards greater accounta-





“I view PCNC as a real catalyst for national development. It is an effective partner of the government in ensuring that only efficient and effective NGOs are certified.”

Tita Evasco-Branzuela, Ph.D.



bility, a more solid credibility, and robust capability in providing services.

In a talk with Dr. Branzuela, she said, “I view PCNC as a real catalyst for national development. It is an effective partner of the government in ensuring that only efficient and effective NGOs are certified.”

“I am most grateful to San Beda College Benedictine Educational Foundation, Inc. for making me part of its “birth” pains and for paving the way for me to be a PCNC evaluator, coach, and mentor. My sincerest appreciation to PCNC for having me as part of the volunteer evaluators’ pool these past years,” Dr. Branzuela closes.

*Photo Credit: Dr. Tita Branzuela*



**San Beda** College Employees Association, headed by its president, Mr. Daniel Macaraeg, initiated the 1<sup>st</sup> San Beda College Mix Volleyball Rector's Cup that ran for four weeks last May 13 to June 10, 2017.

With the aim of strengthening the camaraderie among Bedan personnel and promoting active and healthy lifestyle, the non-teaching personnel from the different offices in the college were grouped into five teams, namely: St. Benedict, St. Joseph, St. Bede, St. Placid, and St. Anselm. As an invited guest team, the College of Arts and Sciences faculty also participated in the said tournament. Games were scheduled every Tuesday & Thursday at 4:00- 6:00 p.m. and every Saturday at 12:00- 1:00 p.m.

When asked about his assessment of the recently concluded tournament, Mr. Daniel Macaraeg said that the 1st Mix Volleyball Cup was successful in achieving its purpose of uniting and engaging Bedan employees and faculty members to worthwhile activities such as the volleyball tournament. He believes that the tournament has led to a stronger community spirit and harmonious relationship among employees and faculty members as well.

The awarding of winners was held last June 10, 2017 with St. Benedict team, St. Placid and CAS Faculty team were concluded as 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 1<sup>st</sup> place winners, respectively.



# San Beda Personnel Engage in Sports

**Sybil L. Agreda**

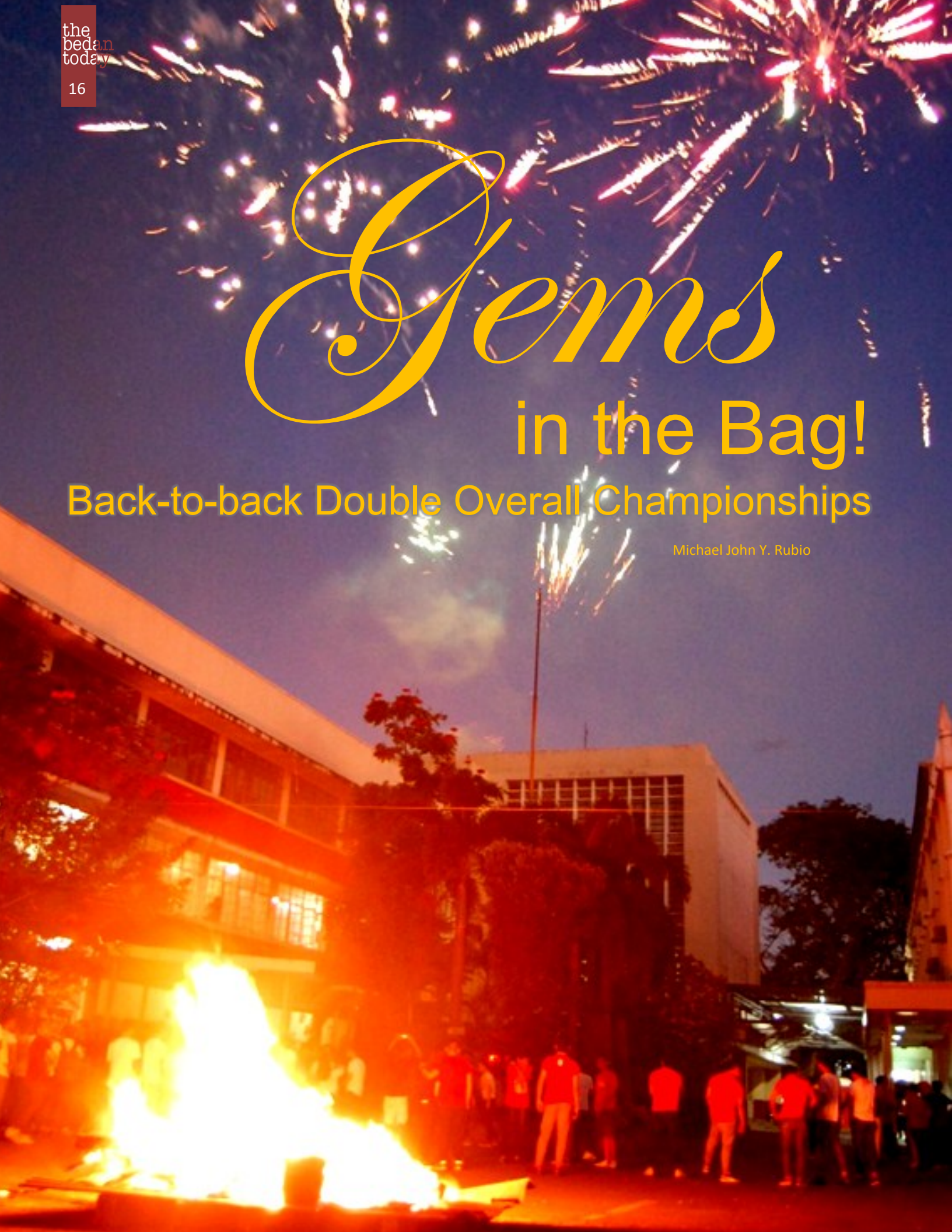
*Photo Credit: wallpapersdc.net and Public Relations and Communications Office*



# Gems in the Bag!

Back-to-back Double Overall Championships

Michael John Y. Rubio







The Office of the Prefect of Student Athletes, the Office of the Prefect of Student Activities, and the Student Council of the College of Arts and Sciences held the 2017 Victory Celebration and Student-Athlete Awards Night last March 24, 2017 at the Plaza Montserrat, San Beda Manila. The activity is in recognition of the outstanding achievements of the Bedan athletes after winning the General Championships at the end of 92<sup>nd</sup> National Collegiate Athletic Association for both the Senior and Junior Divisions.

It is the school's second successive double overall championship after registering the same fate at the end of Season 91. The San Beda senior athletes won championships in basketball, chess, men's taekwondo, men's and women's swimming, football, and men's and women's soft tennis, while the junior athletes won in swimming and football. Overall, the Bedans registered 683 points in the Senior Division ahead of the 647 points of the College of Saint Benilde with the Junior athletes, amassing a total of 405 points edging out the 397.5 points of Arellano University.

The victory celebration started with a Thanksgiving Mass officiated by the Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., Rector-President where he expressed the collective appreciation of the whole Bedan community to the outstanding achievements of the Bedan athletes. He reminded the Bedans to remain humble despite the numerous achievements and to strive to further improve their performance not only in the NCAA but also in the other arenas where they see action.

After the mass, the students proceeded to the St. Placid's Sports Complex for the unveiling of the historical marker that will serve as a testament and a reminder to everyone of the legacy of this batch of Bedan athletes. This was followed by the traditional lighting of the bonfire and the calling of the entire community to sing the alma mater hymn as a grand tribute to San Beda.

The night culminated with good food, good music, and revelry as the student athletes were feted to dinner and performances. The student athletes prepared routines and performances that further enliven the atmosphere. Certificates of recognition were also distributed to first-rate student athletes who exhibited outstanding achievements in academics, leadership, and community involvement. It was indeed a fun night for the Bedan athletes who continue to fight for the mighty Red school.

Photo Credit: PULA





# 7 Decades of EXCELLENCE *and Counting*

Virgilio B. Jara



## From

a need to firm up the country's legal infrastructure, blossomed a fertile soil for legal training. Owing to the regrettable mistakes of the Second World War, the local Benedictine community found a new role to play in the rebuilding of a beset nation. Former Rector Fr. Sergio Martinez, O.S.B., wasted no time and built from nothing what would be known today as the San Beda College of Law.

As the year 2018 approaches and the College hits closer to its 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary, it gets difficult not to realize the College has indeed come a long way. It has certainly taken its place among the best legal institutions in the country, and much of what it is today is based on the seven definitive decades that have come and gone.

## Genesis

Even after the war, the Philippines found itself still in the middle of many quandaries—widespread rebellion, heavy economic burden, and political tensions from neighboring countries. To triumph over this difficult backdrop, fate led Fr. Martinez to another disciple of justice, Atty. Feliciano Jover Ledesma, who is equally determined spirit helped the College open its doors to the world. The College was formally breathed into life on July 1, 1948 with Ledesma as the very first dean.

During its formative years, the College persisted on a singular goal, “to produce good Christian and highly principled lawyers, mentally and spiritually equipped to take their places among real apostles of justice.” To achieve this, the College's forefathers knew their only option was to start up with a powerhouse faculty. So they did. From its first original roster of teachers, composed only of about five to six persons, two members became Chief Justices of the Supreme Court—Prof. Roberto Concepcion and Prof. Felix Makasiar. It sure was a remarkable start to what would become a remarkable legacy of formidability.

Dean Ledesma, adamant in his ambition to put the College on the map, did more than run a school and teach. He put a premium on activities that increased learning and encouraged brotherhood among the students. The College hosted symposia to inspire civic-mindedness among students, incentivized organizations that simulated real-life structures, and patronized student-led debates that tackled every pressing issue back in the day. In 1950, he even initiated a radio program where Bedan law students played dramatic roles that revolved on contemporary social events. Decided to bridge the study of law closer to human nature, Dean Ledesma went as far as using drama as a vehicle for learning and formed in 1952 a drama guild called then *The Bedan Barristers*. Among the students who first participated in these activities were Renato de la Fuente, Ramon Mitra, Jr., and Augusto Sanchez. Judging from what became of these students later on in their lives, Dean Ledesma's vision truly paid off.

It may be said that the College's obsession with excellence easily traces itself back to these profound beginnings.



## Lion's Lair

After being able to fully offer its four-year law program for the first time in 1952, the College hosted its first commencement exercises and opened its pedagogy up to the ultimate test—the bar examinations. In its very first attempt to send bar candidates, the College already registered a remarkable passing rate of 100%. This kicked off a streak that would remain at an all-time high. And while the bar exam is not the only measure of a law school's capability, this streak certainly catapulted the College to the prestige which it enjoys to this very day.

Not long after that 1952 feat, the College began its other well-known legacy—its long list of bar topnotchers. Bernardo Fernandez, who later became a Justice of the Sandiganbayan and the longest serving professor at the College, registered a score of 92.75% and placed fifth in the 1953 bar exam.

Without rest, the College achieved another milestone shortly after that by producing the 'topnotcher of all topnotchers.' In 1954, Florenz Regalado, who eventually succeeded Dean Ledesma as the patriarch of the College and became the first Bedan Supreme Court Justice, registered an unprecedented 96.7% score in 1954 bar exam. To this day, his score remains the highest score ever attained in the Philippine bar history.

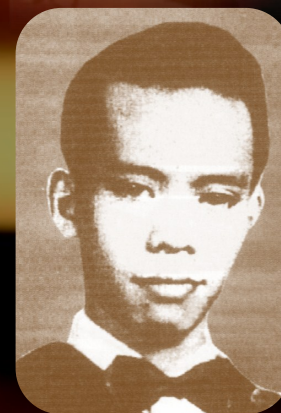
San Beda College of Law held a very consistent record such that by 1962, it became known as the only private law school in the Philippines to produce three first placers and established a 100% passing record in the bar examinations for six consecutive years within a decade. The message the young College sent to the world was clear: excellence was its virtue. Quickly yet with an element of exactitude, the College became a lair for the lions that would lead the pride.

## Its Place among the Real Apostles of Justice

Consistent with its objective of producing lawyers with Benedictine virtues, the College strived to maintain an approach that injects social awareness in its teachings. By encouraging intellectual discourse through debates, forums, and writings, the College quietly reared students who shaped



Dean Feliciano Ledesma



Dean Florence Regalado




Dean Jose Sundiang



Dean Virgilio Jara





not only the future of the school but of the entire nation.

The 60s marked an important decade in the life of the College. There developed more avenues for law students to invest their knowledge on law and civic principles in. Naturally, more organizations gained ground and through these organizations, the College proved itself to be more than just bar excellence. The San Beda Law Journal, The Bedan Barrister which evolved further into The Barrister, the Bar Operations and the Legal Aid Clinic were all founded around this time.

Fate or random circumstance, the students who composed these organizations and played key roles in their law student days were notably the same lawyers who assumed the bigger roles in society when they went out of law school. Spanning different regimes that included the dictatorship of Marcos and the revolutionary government of Aquino, the College produced key personalities who seemed to have started their paths to nation-building as early as their student days.

Ramon Mitra, former Speaker of the House of Representatives; Renito A.V. Saguisag, former senator; Avelino Cruz, drafter of the Freedom Constitution and founding partner of ACCRALAW; Raul Roco, former senator and education secretary; Augusto Sanchez, former agriculture secretary; Sixto Brillantes, former COMELEC chairman; Antonio Nachura, Jose Mendoza, Bienvenido Reyes, Justo Torres, and Antonio Martinez, all became Supreme Court justices, and of course, incumbent President Rodrigo Duterte are just few of the names that quickly come to mind when one tries to remember the many Bedans who have assumed vital positions in the life of the nation and taken 'their places among real apostles of justice'.

From the eagerness to help build the nation from ruins to the inspired and sustained mania to excel, as said, there really is no denying that the College has come a long way. For the second half of the last century, San Beda College ascended from obscurity to a well-known institution of higher learning because of the College of Law.

The College's history, well-defined by a pursuit of excellence, is no less evident in its notable people, its struggles and milestones, and above all, its potential to be a wielder of change, upon which the success of democracy can depend. It is the same history that will remind San Beda College of its moral mission and usher it to even greater heights for decades and centuries to come.



The Office of International Cooperation (OIC) was approved by the Board of Trustees on March 22, 2014 with a Director at the helm. It was the initiative of Rector-President, Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. with the global movements of educational institutions, ASEAN Regional Integration, and the national mandate through the Commission on Higher Education to fast track internationalization. With expanded responsibilities and mandates, OIC was renamed as Linkages and International Affairs (LIA) Office in July 23, 2016 headed by a Vice-President. OIC-LIA then this year turned three years old.

San Beda's LIA Office is one of SBC's recent strategic responses to the fast-paced international and global developments, trends, challenges and opportunities in the field of education. Notably, other educational institutions in the country and abroad have set up within their own organizational structure an office to take charge of their thrusts and priorities for internationalization as a response to globalization. Well-recognized is the fact that internationalization is a must and not a mere option. In the past, efforts were generally done through a decentralized structure based on each institutional context and set-up.

As San Beda turns 116 years old this year, with its tradition of excellence in educational apostolate, the institution then likewise marks the third year of the creation of an office taking the lead in assisting the Rector-President, that is, "... in providing the Bedan Community with

strategic institutionalized integrative national and international opportunities..." These are in the areas of academics, research, and community service/engagement, aligned with SBC's vision "...to be globally competitive," and institutional objective to "harness value-adding linkages in local and global educational cooperation."

Currently, San Beda is an active member of six international networks with over 500 member universities and institutions. ASEAN Learning Network (ALN), Association of Universities in Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), Association of Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL), Association of South East and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU), Regional Network for Poverty Eradication (RENPER), and the Swiss-ASEAN Learning and Teaching (SALT) Association. Of the six networks San Beda's Rector-President holds top posts in the Executive Councils of ALN, RENPER and the Boards of ASAIHL-NCP, and SALT. LIA

Tita Evasco-Branzuela

OIC - L  
Institutionalizing Integrative



Vice-President, Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela is an active member of Working Committees of ALN, ASAIHL-NCP, Board Director of SALT, and country representative of RENPER.

Active engagements through LIA's programs for administrators, faculty members, staff and students are well-directed and anchored on these memberships and bilateral partnership provisions. The Commission on Higher Education's Memorandum Order No.55, s.2016 stipulated the framework for internationalization, citing both home or campus-based vis-a-vis cross border-based programs and activities. Aligning then with the global, international and national directions, San Beda's LIA continues to link colleges, departments and offices to maximize and implementation of the MOA/MOU provisions of partnerships in academic, research and service functions.



# LIA Turns 3

## Internationalization





*San Beda's visionary Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, O.S.B., is given the Welcome Ritual by University of Bengkulu in Indonesia before the 22nd ASEAN Learning Network Council Meeting kicks-off. Photographer: Joel G. Filamor*

"The congruence of a number of predictions about global development—including the expansion of a globally interconnected urban center network, a shift in economic activity toward emerging economies, a redistribution of the world's middle classes, job polarization, and technology—fuel a move toward a very different and rapidly changing environment in which our graduates will eventually work and live. Higher education institutions must ensure that future graduates are well equipped to deal with the challenges that such a world will present to them."

**Robert Coleen**

*Professor of Internationalisation of Higher Education at Stenden University of Applied Sciences,  
The Netherlands*



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# San Beda Creates More Pathways for Global Collaborations

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Co-chairs ALN's Council Meeting  
and Forms Another Bilateral Partnership

Joel Gonzaga Filamor

To sustain the growing momentum in globalizing the Institution, San Beda's Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius A. Ma. Maranan, O.S.B., pushes beyond national borders to engage partners within the bounds of existing memoranda of agreement.

In the 22nd council meeting of the ASEAN Learning Network (ALN) at the University of Bengkulu in Indonesia, where he seats as Vice Chair, he agreed to host the Executive Council Meeting in Manila, Philippines in December this year. The crucial meeting will coincide with the 1st ALN-SBC Social Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED) International Research Conference (1SEEDIC) spearheaded by San Beda's Linkages and International Affairs Office. "We are doing these for our stakeholders," Fr. Ma-

ranan said. "These kinds of activities facilitate the integration of global perspectives in academics, research, and outreach. We need them to be globally competitive," the visionary leader added.

One of the highlights of ALN's council meeting in Indonesia was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between San Beda and University of Bengkulu (UNIB). UNIB is a 100-hectare public university in Indonesia with 15,000 students and 751 academic personnel.

According to Dr. Tita Branzuela, Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs, "The MOU with UNIB adds joint academic endeavours and research collaboration to our current roster of opportunities— all these are necessary to instil





Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, O.S.B., San Beda's Rector President (center) and Dr. Ridwan Nurazi, UNIB's Rector (second from left) show the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions of higher learning. Photographer: Joel Filamor

da will host in 2018 the Network's international conference on poverty eradication.

"We are looking into hosting this international conference because it will not only accelerate our global skills in research, it will also extend San Beda's repertoire of international partners," Fr. Maranan said in a closing statement.



San Beda's delegates to the 22nd ALN Council Meeting in Bengkulu, Indonesia; Dr. Tita Branzuela, Fr. Aloysius Maranan, (ALN Vice-Chair), Dr. Ir' Zinai Bin Mohamed (ALN Chair), Dr. Li Choy Chong (ALN Executive Director), and Mr. Joel Filamor. Photographer: Joel Filamor



Dr. Tita Branzuela (left) discusses with UNIB Rector, Dr. Ridwan Nurazi (second from left) on matters related to the forthcoming international conference of the Regional Network for Poverty Eradication in Manila, Philippines. Photographer: Joel Filamor

international awareness and cross-cultural competence among our students, staff, faculty, and administrators."

San Beda's Rector-President, a monk of foresight, seizes remarkable occasions that will bolster the institution's global competence and cross-border reputation. Related to this, side meetings were held to maximize San Beda's presence in Indonesia. The Rector-President, Dr. Tita Branzuela, and Joel Filamor Associate for Administrators and Faculty, sat for a meeting late evening with the Regional Network for Poverty Eradication (RENPER). In a nutshell, San Be-

"These kinds of activities facilitate the integration of global perspectives in academics, research and outreach. We need them to be globally competitive."

The Very Rev. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B.  
Rector-President, San Beda, Philippines



# San Beda at the 12<sup>th</sup> AUAP General Conference

Moses Aaron T. Angeles

The 12<sup>th</sup> Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) General Conference, sponsored by Daegu Health College (DHC), was held at the Novotel Ambassador Hotel in Daegu, South Korea from November 7-9, 2016. More than 100 delegates from 20 countries attended the event. Duly noted are presidents and executives from different member universities discussing the "The Role of Universities in Fostering Student Employability and Entrepreneurship." Being an active member of the AUAP, no less than our Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. graced the event. He was accompanied by Dr. Christian Bryan Bustamante, Dean of the College and Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Moses Aaron T. Angeles, Vice Dean for the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities Cluster of CAS.

The conference particularly focused on the challenge of

forming students effectively and efficiently, considering these as essential elements of higher education. Emphasizing employability and entrepreneurship significantly benefit universities to attract and, at the same time, maintain competitive students. Moreover, if these qualities are further harnessed, the image of the university in the global arena will bolster. Unfortunately, because of various political and economic situations, many university graduates are finding it more and more difficult to find jobs, and in certain instances, even impossible to land into the industry sector they are originally aiming at. It is here that a re-evaluation of university roles should transpire. In this age of globalization, it is no longer enough that higher educational institutions equip their students with the proper knowledge of their discipline, but more so, examine methods on how to enhance student employability and deploying a series of measures to improve work experience.



**San Beda,** faithful to its mission of providing students quality education, has made its initial move to nail the Certification granted by no less than the International Standards Organization (ISO).

On July 26, 2017, Stage 1 Certification Audit was conducted by Ms. Jogina Mendiola and Dr. John Francis Faustorilla, auditors from the TUV Rheinland. The focus of the audit was on the ISO 9001: 2015 management system documentation of San Beda. Its objective was to assess the conformity of San Beda management system with ISO 9001: 2015.

The audit day started with a meeting between the auditors and Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., Rector-President. Also

present in the meeting were Fr. Ephraem Molina, O.S.B., Vice-President for Administration, Dr. Josefina Manabat, Vice-President for Academics, Dr. Tita Branzuela, Vice-President for Linkages and International Affairs, Dr. Nomar Alviar, Vice-President for Research and Innovation, and Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Director of Governance and Quality Assurance (GQA) Office.

The meeting was followed by a tour of the campus and its facilities by the auditors. They were joined and guided by the Vice-Presidents and the GQA Director.

The rest of the day was spent by the auditors reviewing documents and interviewing selected administrators. The auditors conducted an interview to key administrators such as the Vice-Presidents for Academics, Research and Innovation, and Linkages and International Affairs and Directors of GQA and Human Resource Management.

The audit day ended with a closing meeting where the auditors presented their findings to some San Beda administrators. Dr. Manabat, Dr. Branzuela, Dr. Alviar,

Dr. Bustamante, Atty. Marciano Delson, College of Law Vice Dean, and Mr. Leonardo Alcantara, Jr., Director of Human Resource Management Office were present.

The result of the Stage 1 Certification Audit shows that San Beda Quality Management System is ready for Stage 2 Certification Audit.

Prior to the conduct of Stage 1 Certification Audit, an internal audit was conducted on March 21 - 24, 2017 to evaluate the implementation of SBC Quality Management System. In preparation for the internal audit, a training seminar for San Beda ISO Internal Auditors was facilitated by Mr. Rene Julian on March 9, 2017. It was held at Pamanang Bedista from 8:00AM to 12:00NN. With the approval of the Fr. Rector-President, 9 administrators and staff were trained as internal auditors, namely: Ms. Liezel Rodriguez, Ms. Karen Rimando, Mr. Joel Filamor, Mr. Benjamin Sonajo, Jr., Mr. Albert Silva, Ms. Maria Gereque Wel Villaranda, Mr. Irwin Edillor II, Ms. Gloria Melendres, and Mr. Benjamin Coloma III.

## ON THE ROAD TO ISO CERTIFICATION

Christian Bryan S. Bustamante

*San Beda Administrators pose  
with ISO External  
Auditors Ms. Jogina Mendiola  
and Dr. John Francis Faustorilla.*



*Photo Credit: Public Relations and Communications Office*





The Human Resource Management Office (HRMO), upon the directive of the Rector-President, conducted a seminar sponsored by SMART Community Care last May 6, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Periodicals Section of the College Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Saint Maur's building. Aptly titled *Professional Relationships and Customer Services 101*, the seminar enabled the participants, who are mostly from the frontline delivery services units of the College such as the Accounting Office, Registrar, Admission Office, College Library, and related College units to be more effective and efficient in client interaction and dealing with stakeholders.

HRMO  
*Trains San Beda's  
Service Units*

*Leonardo V. Aleantara*



Photo Credit: Public Relations and Communications Office





Photographer: Joel Filamor



Photographer: Joel Filamor

# GLOBALIZING SAN BEDA *through* SEED PROGRAM

Joel Gonzaga Filamor

## 2014: 6 Institutions from 4 Countries

Prince of Songkla University, Thailand (4 delegates)  
Thaksin University, Thailand (11 delegates)  
Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia (6 delegates)  
Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia (1 delegate)  
De La Salle University, Philippines (1 delegate)  
San Beda College, Philippines (23 delegates)

## 2016: 8 Institutions from 7 Countries

Prince of Songkla University, Thailand (4 delegates)  
Thaksin University, Thailand (8 delegates)  
St. Paul Institute, Cambodia (2 delegates)  
Kobe University, Japan (1 delegate)  
Banking University, Vietnam (7 delegates)  
Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia (2 delegates)  
Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia (2 delegates)  
San Beda College, Philippines (17 delegates)

## 2015: 11 Institutions from 9 Countries

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (1 delegate)  
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland (3 delegates)  
St. Paul Institute, Cambodia (2 delegates)  
Kobe University, Japan (3 delegates)  
Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia (3 delegates)  
Banking University, Vietnam (5 delegates)  
Prince of Songkla University, Thailand (2 delegates)  
Thaksin University, Thailand (11 delegates)  
Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia (2 delegates)  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia (3 delegates)  
San Beda College, Philippines (23 delegates)



The era of globalization requires emerging competencies for the mobility and acceptability of graduates in local and off-shore industries. Among these sets of core competencies are communication, multi-cultural collaboration, digital literacy, creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving. These are credible indicators that graduates are prepared for the increasingly complex life and work environments in the globalized 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Social Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED) Program, a flagship project of the ASEAN Learning Network (ALN), is an ideal mechanism that develops these competencies. Member-universities of the ALN conduct the SEED Program in their own countries.

San Beda's SEED Program in the Philippines, continuously developed by the Linkages and International Affairs (LIA) Office since 2014, is robustly supported by a validated framework and scientific methodology that promotes knowledge generation and acquisition of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. This feature gained the esteem of San Beda's partner-universities abroad setting an all-time high in terms of the number of participating institutions among ALN member-universities.

The program, annually held in Bauko, Mountain Province, generously provides off-campus cross-cultural experiences that enables local and international participants to advance in the application of research-based strategies, theories and principles resulting from their immersion with the vegetable farmers. The business plans, as concrete outputs, are presented to the local government of Bauko and other stakeholders for

support and possible financing.

The San Beda College Benedictine Educational Foundation, Inc. (SBC BEFI) was also instrumental in the conduct of SEED in the area since 2014.

Recently, another trail blazing development among ALN member-universities was accomplished by San Beda. The annual SEED Program, through LIA, was supplemented with a validated framework and outcomes-based methodology for Implementation and Monitoring Study of SEED participants from the College of Arts and Sciences. Regular follow-up activities are seen to monitor the implementation of recommendations and strategies contained in the business plans. Moreover, the follow-up activities are gradually aligned with San Beda's Extension Program, specifically the Business Clinic Program (BCP) and Health, Environment, Advocacies, Literacy and Spirituality (HEALS) Program thus rendering a comprehensive approach towards sustainability and development.

The local, regional and global security alerts deferred the annual SEED Program in Bauko, Mountain Province in 2017. However, the resilience of San Beda did not allow the full stoppage of the noble ideals of the Program. Regular Implementation and Monitoring Studies in Bauko were placed to ensure the delivery of expectations of San Beda's stakeholders through San Beda's BCP and HEALS Program.

*Fernando Mulla from Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia discusses with Gherard Kosinowski from University of St. Gallen, Switzerland during their data gathering and field study.*



Photographer: Joel Filamor



**Part** of the internationalization initiatives, San Beda is constantly visited by partners as well as other interested international institutions who wish to establish a partnership for possible academic, research, and community extension programs intended for faculty, staff, and students.

On January 25, 2017, Shandong University, China's Director of Admissions, Dr. Guo Changsheng, and Mr. Aaron Jed R. Mir visited San Beda for possible faculty and student exchange programs. Specifically, they expressed intention to partner and collaborate with San Beda on the possibility of a special study program/crash course for Shandong University Graduate students in the field of Law and Business. The meeting was facilitated through the Office of Linkages and International Affairs' (LIA) Vice-President, Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela, and was attended by Graduate of School of Business (GSB) and Registrar's Office to discuss the intention. "The developments brought

about by internationalization in higher education institutions truly open opportunities for cooperation among universities here and abroad. San Beda has been receiving proposals and actual visits from various institutions. Hence, the Office is working closely with the different offices/departments/colleges in San Beda to ensure that internationalization programs and activities are considered in the drafting of agreement," Dr. Branzuela said.

For the period, four (4) partner universities came to visit San Beda again as part of the continuing agreement and partnership. Konan University, Japan had a visit on February 20, 2017 for educational and cultural engagement with the delegation comprised of eleven (11) students and professors, Director of Language Programs, Prof. Brent Jones, and Dean of Hirao School of Management, Prof. Corinne Boyles. The visit was highlighted with the lectures of Prof. Jones on "*International Business of Konan University*," and the talk of Dr. Leonardo Garcia of the Depart-

# SAN BEDA MANILA Fosters Linkage with International Partners

Norielyn S. Tabag







Photographer: Doris Sartorio



**Top:** Administrators from Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia pose with Fr. Aloysious Maranan, O.S.B. and Dr. Tita Branzuela  
**Bottom:** Delegates from Konan University, Japan pose with San Beda's administrators, faculty and students during their academic visit to the Philippines

Photographer: Doris Sartorio

ment of Business Management and Entrepreneurship about "The Leveling Up of the Philippines in the Asian region and in the ASEAN." The talks were followed by a cultural visit and tour around the Malacañang Palace Museum and cultural night dance presentations. San Beda-Manila's Senior High School and College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Business Management and Entrepreneurship, together with the Management Society (MANSOC), actively participated in the abovementioned activities. Meanwhile, Dean Boyles took time to meet with College administrators for possible collaborative activities for faculty and students.

On May 8, 2017, Soegijapranata Catholic University Rector, Dr. Budi Widianarko, together with Dr. Ridwan Sanjaya, Vice Rector for Development and Cooperation, and Mr. Benny D. Setianto, Dean of Faculty of Law and Communication also visited to meet with the San Beda administrators and faculty. The meeting aimed to discuss collaborations on faculty/lecturer exchange for the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Law, Graduate School of Business and joint research and publication, which are all articulated in the memorandum of understanding of both institutions.

Another Indonesia-based partner, Parahyangan Catholic University, visited San Beda last May 23, 2017. The visit was represented by Dr. Budi Husodo Bisuwarno, Vice Rector of Research, Community Development and Cooperation and Ms. Ratih Indraswari, Head of the Division of Cooperation, International Office. The meeting which was attended by administrators and faculty specifically tackled on the mechanisms for exchanges involving faculty and students in the undergraduate and graduate school levels as well as e-colloquia conferences.

Universidad Catolica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM), Spain also visited San Beda on June 8, 2017. Mr. Chan Wei Ti, Head for Asia, Middle East, and North Africa, and Miss Karina Kristine San Juan, Marketing and Institutional Relations for the Philippines, met with the graduate students and faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences. The visit was a regular campaign program of UCAM to universities on Graduate Program scholarship grants and other opportunities like exchange, internships. Notably, through the partnership of San Beda to UCAM, one CAS Economics graduate, Gene Gisete, was granted with a partial scholarship. Mr. Gisete graduated with the degree of Masters in European Studies in October 2016.

Truly, internationalization offers opportunities and challenges for academic exchanges to education development.



# SAN BEDA Renews Partnership

Liezel D. Rodriguez

## San Beda

Manila entered anew into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with

Rustan Supercenters, Inc. (RSCI) last March 3, 2016. San Beda was represented by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, while Mr. Roland Rowel C. Villareal, VP- Human Resources, represented Rustan Supercenters, Inc. The partnership covers agreement on the following:

1. Career Shadowing and Internship,
2. Career Preparation and Orientation, and
3. Management Trainee Program

Representatives of RSCI were all praises with how our Bedans worked during the internship. It was also reported that the two Bedan graduates successfully made it to the Management Trainee Program. Satisfied with the quality of Bedans being hired for internship and for employment, Mr. Roland was convinced that "the partnership is working" with San Beda. Hence, it deserves a renewal. As for San Beda, the RSCI's initiative to renew the partnership affirms its commitment to quality education.

The MOA shall have a term of one year commencing on March 3, 2017, and ending on March 2, 2018.

The College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, in cooperation with the College of Arts and Sciences Office of the Prefect of Student Activities, conducted its annual Student Organization Circle Leadership Training Seminar (SOC-LTS) last June 30- July 02, 2017 at the CCT Tagaytay Retreat and Training Center, Tagaytay City. This year's theme is "#beyond." It means transcendental, limitless, further, from therein or deathless, endless, borderless which is the core of Bedan leadership-- to serve to *infinity* and *beyond* whenever possible.

Spearheading this leadership training seminar is the Internal

## Training Bedans on Borderless Leadership

Marvin R. Reyes

Vice President of the Student Council, Ms. Trisha Delarmente with the Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC) members and alumni as training facilitators. SOC-LTS is held to form a strong leadership foundation for officers of the different student organizations in the College of Arts and Sciences. This activity is the final step before the accreditation or re-accreditation of the student organizations.

The participants in the three-day SOC-LTS had some team building and inspirational activities, a seminar on leadership by AYLC and Bedan alumni, Mr. Kevin Yunchengco, a graduate of BSBA Operations Management; Mr. Aron Ursolino, of BSBA Marketing Management; Mr. Trajan Alteza, of BS Business Management and Entrepreneurship; and Atty. Eds Garcia, of BS Legal Management, and an opportunity to listen and have a dialogue with the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Christian Bryan Bustamante. The event was concluded with the most important part of Bedan leader formation-- the Eucharistic celebration that was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Maximilian Dimapilisan, O.S.B.

San Beda College, as an institution, strives to hone and sustain the student leaders' passion to serve that transcends time. It is the kind of leadership that goes beyond.



# College of Medicine 12<sup>th</sup> Investiture and Commencement Exercises

Fernandino Jose A. Fontanilla

The San Beda College of Medicine had its 12<sup>th</sup> Investiture of Doctoral Hoods of Medicine and Commencement Exercises last May 26, 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila. The Doctor of Medicine diplomas were awarded to the 96 graduating students by no less than the Rector-President of San Beda Manila, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., assisted by Dr. Fernandino Jose A. Fontanilla, Dean of the College of Medicine. The Commencement Speaker was Dr. Ferdinand Francis Ma. L. Cid, President and CEO of Central Luzon Doctors Hospital in Tarlac City. Dr. Cid was the former Dean of the College of Medicine in 2008-2013.

The Class Valedictorian of Medicine Batch 2017 is Eunice W. Lagto, who was also recognized as the Most Outstanding Clinical Clerk. Ms. Lagto, a B.S. Pharmacy graduate of the University of Santo Tomas in 2011, was an entrance scholar of the College of Medicine who maintained her academic scholarship throughout her 4 years as a student. Ms. Bettyna Rustia, a B.S. Nursing graduate from Jose Rizal University, was the Class Salutatorian. The other Top Ten Students, according to rank, are: Joyce F. Domingo, Hanz Deihl B. Carmona, Valerie L. Cuarto, James Robert J. Go, James Patrick R. De Vera, Mark Roseller A. Sandoval, Kristine B. Villano, and Stephanie J. Suyhogo.



*New Bedan doctors recite the oath during graduation.*

*Photo Credit: College of Medicine*



As part of the Benedictine tradition and commitment to provide Bedan students with holistic education, the College of Arts and Sciences and Linkages and International Affairs, through the Department of Economics and Financial Management, spearheaded the "International Exposure, Educational and Industry Visit" at Los Angeles, California, USA last February 7-21, 2016. The group visited and benchmarked at two prestigious college and university, Mt. San Antonio Community College and California Polytechnic University. In addition, through a seminar formed by the organizers, students had a chance to meet some Bedan alumni who are working in various industries in Los Angeles with the help of San Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA-Los Angeles Chapter).

With the success of the USA Exposure, Educational and Industry visit, last March 26-31, 2017, the same group, together with the Department of Accountancy, organized the same activity to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam in order to visit two of San Beda Manila's partner universities-- the Banking University and University of Economics.

During the visit in Banking University, the students had a chance to meet the officials of the university led by Banking University of Ho Chi Minh's Vice President, Dr. Le Sy Dong and its faculty members. Banking University of Ho Chi Minh's

Ms. Pham Ngoc Tuong Loan presented "Viral Marketing," the marketing technique that involves the use of social networking services to increase brand awareness and encourage consumers to share or spread the company's good/excellent service. Ms. Dang Truong Thanh Nhan discussed the "Business Start-up Scene in Vietnam," its overview of Vietnam's business start-up, current challenges and the suggested solutions. On the other hand, San Beda's Dr. Jackqui Moreno, chairperson of the Accountancy program shared her insights on "Evaluation of the Old and New OJT programs of the Department of Financial Management of San Beda Manila based on Perceptions of the Partner Institutions," while Prof. Michael John Rubio, chairperson of the Financial Management program in San Beda Manila, shared his thoughts on the "Proposed Innovation Strategies for San Beda Manila's Higher Business Education Program."

While at the University of Economics, the students listened to the talk of Dr. Ho Ngoc Phuong who presented "The Vietnamese Economy from Socialist to Capitalist System," which covers discussion on the Vietnam economy, government, infrastructure, environment, transportation, agriculture, tax and the relationship of Vietnam and the Philippines in all aspects. This was followed by a city tour in museums and churches, a visit to the famous Bitexco Financial Tower and a day tour in Mekong River and Chu Chi Tunnel.



**SAN BEDA**

Edilberto B. Viray, Jr.

**Links to U.S. and Asia**



# San Beda Manila Hosts a Seminar Workshop for Librarians

**San Beda** Manila hosted the seminar workshop entitled, "The Role of Libraries in Benedictine Education" last May 17, 2017 which was presented by the Consortium of Benedictine Colleges in Metro Manila with member-schools: San Beda Manila, St. Scholastica's College Manila, and San Beda Alabang. Fr. Paul de Vera, O.S.B., chair for Libraries of the Consortium of Benedictine Colleges of Metro Manila, initiated the said activity which was actively participated in by librarians from Elizabeth Seton, Rinconada National Technical Vocational School (Albay), Chang Kai Shek College, St. Scholastica's Marikina, Assumption College, San Beda Rizal, and University of Santo Tomas.

San Beda Manila's Dr. Josefina Manabat, Vice President for Academics, welcomed the participants. Mr. Anton Flores, San Beda Manila's Director for Mission and Identity, briefly explained the crucial contribution of Benedictine Abbey libraries in the survival of ancient classical works and Christianity that led to the eventual flourishing of western civilization. The highlight of the seminar workshop was the guided tour to the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat, followed by a rare guided tour of the abbey cloister and abbey library. Benedictine novice, Dom Camillus Ortega served as tour guide. The event concluded with the team building activities held in the afternoon under the leadership of Mr. Virgilio Sedo, the testing officer of San Beda Alabang.

Mr. Francisco N. Magpili, III of St. Scholastica's College chaired the seminar with Mrs. Rose Robles, Assistant Coordinator of Libraries of San Beda Manila, and Ms. Jennifer Comabig, Head Librarian, took charge of the hosting duties. Ms. Ma. Kriselda Joanna Templanza of San Beda, Alabang was the emcee for the day-long event.

Jerry Anton C. Flores & Rosalinda P. Robles



San Beda's

Scientia is UP:

UP graded &  
loaded

Moses Aaron T. Angeles

The role of Benedictine abbeys in Europe's intellectual history can never be overestimated. Prior to the birth of the West's great universities, the production, conservation, and preservation of volumes was a task assumed almost naturally by the monks of St. Benedict. One is reminded of the incunabulae that are reverentially copied by the unnamed heroes, or should I say martyrs, of human knowledge. It should also be noted that these volumes are not simply copied, but more so, they are illuminated by artists and artisans whose names are now lost in time. It is no wonder that these glorious artifacts of the past are now treasured by many of the greatest libraries around the globe.

That fundamental role of fostering human knowledge is still very much dynamic in San Beda College. Being first and foremost an educational institution grounded in the teachings and examples of the Holy Father St. Benedict, the generation, transmission, and dissemination of knowledge cannot be compromised. This is particularly concretized in the biannual publication of *Scientia*, the official scholarly journal of the College of Arts and Sciences. Through the scholarly articles contributed not only by our most esteemed colleagues from CAS but also from other renowned universities here and abroad, we are very much assured that our enduring mission and vocation as an educational institution is fulfilled.

For the current issue of *Scientia* Liberal Arts, we are very much grateful most especially for the contribution of Prof. Dr. Fr. Kees Waaijman, O.Carm. of Titus Brandsma Institute, Radboud University Nijmegen. Fr. Waaijman is a world renowned authority in the

field of Mysticism and Spirituality. His article "The Spirituality of Psalm 131" is a mine for spiritual jewels and you can read it in its entirety in our newest issue. Contributions from Dr. Romualdo Abulad, S.V.D. of UST (The Relevance of Critical Thinking in Contemporary Philippine Society), Dr. Mark Joseph Calano of ADMU (The Problem of Being and the Question of God), Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm. of Radboud University Nijmegen (Kapaniwala at Tumatalab na Kristiyanong Paglilingkod ayon sa Landas ng Pagsasanay ng Kontekstwal na Kamalayan ni Jose de Mesa), Dr. Noel Santander (Community Impact Assessment of SBC-FCRE Initiatives and Evangelii Nuntianti), Prof. Melanio Leal (A Theological Reflection on Francis A. Sullivan's Ecclesiology in the Context of the Church of the Poor), and Prof. Jesster Fonseca (Communication: Fully Human and Truly Divine) of San Beda College, equally engaging, allowing us to look deeper into things and understand reality in its various facets.

But one of the most special features of *Scientia* now is that all articles from 2011 can now be viewed and downloaded anywhere in the world. Simply go to [www.scientia-sanbeda.org](http://www.scientia-sanbeda.org) to access all articles free of charge. Not only that, all of these articles are currently indexed in Google Scholar and Philpapers, a citation index and open access archive of Philosophy. The Editorial Board is very much thankful for the unwavering support of our dear Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. Now, all of our researches in the Liberal Arts can be accessed not only with the facility but also for free. This is made possible because one of the pillars of Benedictine education is the pursuit of academic excellence which can be ultimately traced back from the legacy of the majestic and grand abbeys of Europe. It is our greatest hope that *Scientia's* contribution in the vast arena of human knowledge will be able to uplift the spirit of man towards the heights of wisdom.





# CAS 116<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises

Christian Bryan S. Bustamante

The

116<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was held on May 29, 2017 in the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Eight hundred seventy five Bedans were conferred degrees in Accountancy, Business Administration, Entrepreneurship, Legal Management, Economics, Psychology, Biology, and Information Technology, making the Class 2017 the biggest batch by far that has graduated from the CAS.

The Commencement Speaker was Secretary Rodolfo A. Salalima of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Secretary Salalima is an outstanding Bedan who earned his AB Philosophy (Magna Cum Laude) and Bachelor of Laws (Cum Laude) degrees in San Beda College. He is a recipient of various Outstand-

ing Bedan Law Alumnus Awards because of his achievements in the practice of legal profession as a corporate lawyer, litigator, teacher, and author. His appointment as the first DICT Secretary is a recognition of his expertise in the field of telecommunications.

In his commencement speech, Secretary Salalima reminded the graduates to always be thankful for their parents, loved ones, benefactors, and alma mater —the San Beda. He gave them practical advice of being watchful of their English as they will soon be interviewed for job application. If accepted for employment, he advised them to love their work and not to be mindful of success, for it will just come after. He encouraged them to assert their leadership in their home-community for the public good, to believe in themselves, and to dream and never stop dreaming.

*Photo Credit: Google Images*



We take pride in the revival of the Liberal Arts Program in San Beda College—the Bachelor of Arts in English Language and the Bachelor of Arts in Literature.

It was in 2012 when the idea of reoffering the program AB English and Comparative Literature came into mind as then Registrar, Mr. Ramon Guinto, shared that the AB English program has its government recognition in 1950s and has not expired since then. With the encouragement of then Dean of CAS, Dr. Nap Juanillo, the faculty of the Department of English, Foreign Languages & Literature drafted the proposal; and then, Dean Tessie da Jose along with, now Dean, Dr. Bryan Bustamante, gave their full support in making the curricula. The proposed curricula were presented to the Board of Trustees and with the approval of the Board, in June 2015, the English department submitted all documents to the Commission on Higher Education for the recognition of the said programs. In October 2015, CHED came for a visit and provided few comments for improvement specifically in the area of administration and facilities. Upon submission of the resolution made on the suggestions/comments, CHED issued recognition for these two programs and released the permit to offer effective in AY 2016-2017.

This breakthrough of the College of Arts and Sciences shall provide opportunities for Bedans to explore the discipline in the liberal arts. Thus, the department envisions Bedans who are fully human, wholly Christian, truly Filipino, and globally competitive graduates of English and Literature who will embark on a career in teaching, corporate communications and diplomatic affairs, advertising and media, publishing, research and writing, multinational business, government, or any career dealing with literary studies and critical use of language.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LITERATURE  
Effective Academic Year 2018-2019

# Continuing *Liberal* Trad

Rowena Javier-Rivero





# g the Legacy of

# Arts

# ition

The AB in Literature (Track A: Literature and Cultural Studies/Track B: AB in Literature Across the Professions) involves training in a range of skills including advanced communicative competence, effective strategies in rhetoric in research, and modes of literacy that provide access to macro/micro skills integrated/integrative competencies.

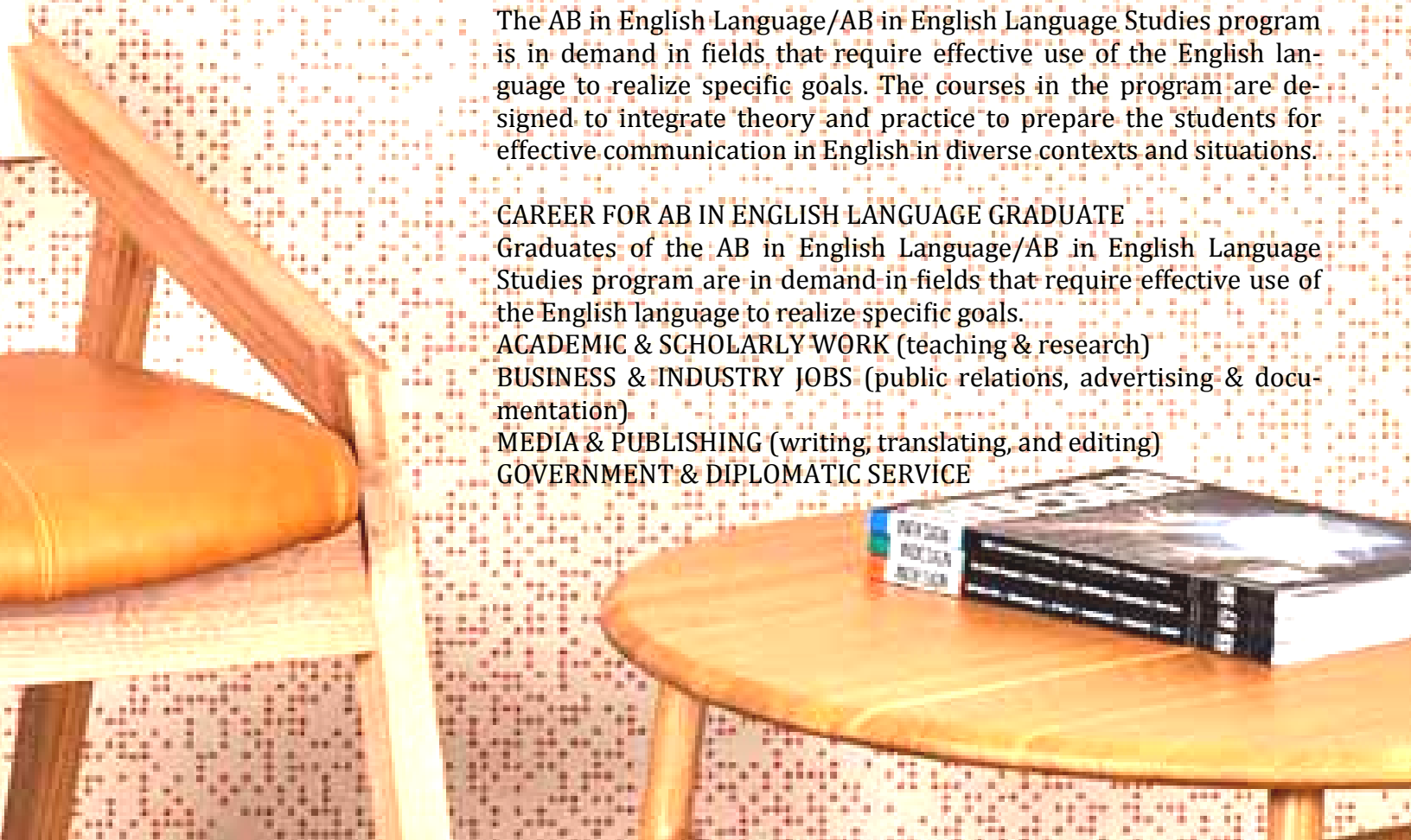
The graduates of the program are expected to lead critical and creative innovations in the following:

ACADEME CREATIVE INDUSTRY  
GOVERNMENT DIPLOMACY  
PUBLISHING  
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS  
MASS AND SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICE INDUSTRY  
ENTERTAINMENT CULTURAL INDUSTRY

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH  
Effective Academic Year 2018-2019

The AB in English Language/AB in English Language Studies program is in demand in fields that require effective use of the English language to realize specific goals. The courses in the program are designed to integrate theory and practice to prepare the students for effective communication in English in diverse contexts and situations.

CAREER FOR AB IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE GRADUATE  
Graduates of the AB in English Language/AB in English Language Studies program are in demand in fields that require effective use of the English language to realize specific goals.  
ACADEMIC & SCHOLARLY WORK (teaching & research)  
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY JOBS (public relations, advertising & documentation)  
MEDIA & PUBLISHING (writing, translating, and editing)  
GOVERNMENT & DIPLOMATIC SERVICE





# San Beda's CAS Adopts SAP Education

Jackqui R. Moreno

**This** July, San Beda Manila and Fasttrack Solutions, Inc. – the first and only SAP Platinum Partner in the Philippines, forged a memorandum of agreement to implement the SAP Business One Academic Program for the A.Y. 2017-18. The agreement will allow the training of faculty members and students on SAP Business One/Enterprise Resource Planning Systems. San Beda's adoption of the SAP Education Package for its integration in accounting, business and IT courses has been much awaited. The specific course modules will be embedded in the regular subject course offerings in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, starting this A.Y. 2017-18.

The SAP Business One® is a powerful small business software for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). It was developed by SAP AG, a German company existing for 43 years and ranks 1<sup>st</sup> world-wide in ERP. SAP Business One is trusted by over 55,000 companies in 150 countries.

In the Philippines, it is currently being used by 70% of small and medium enterprises covering over 12 industries such as telecommunications, oil and gas, public/financial services, utilities, healthcare, real estate, transportation and media, consumer products, retail, automotive, services, and manufacturing. SAP users in the country include the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, GSIS, MERALCO, ABS-CBN, San Miguel Corporation, Coce-Cola, PLDT, Globe, Caltex, Maynilad Water, Cebu Pacific, BMW, Del Monte, Nestle, Universal Robina Corporation, Unilever, Ayala Corporation, P&G, Siemens, St. Lukes Medical Center, and SM Retail.

The CAS-Accountancy, Business, Legal, and Economics cluster, along with Prof. Rose Perreras, OIC of the IT Department and Campus Network Head, have identified the subjects where the SAP modules may be integrated: IT Concepts and SAD, Accounting Information System, Cost Accounting, Business Plan Implementation 1 and 2, Advanced Systems, Analysis and Design, Production & Operations Management, Management Accounting, CIS Audit, Management Information System, Distribution Management, Enterprise Resource Planning.

Certificates will be given to students who successfully finish each of the respective modules on SAP Business One Key functions: financials, sales, service, purchasing, inventory, and production. The training of our students in the various modules of the SAP Business One, integrated in our course offerings, will truly be a plus for them when they seek employment in finance or in IT systems development and even when they will be managing their own business as entrepreneurs.

On August 14, the student orientation of the SAP training opportunities and benefits will be discussed at the Abbot Lopez Hall and will be participated by business, accountancy, and IT students.







CAS Faculty Show, "Nagmahal, Nasaktan, Nagperform"

## Dubbed

as the most glamorous show of the year, the biennial College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Show once again captured the hearts of Bedans. This year's show, entitled "Nagmahal, Nasaktan, Nagperform," was presented last February 21, 2017 at the Abbot Lopez Hall at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. time slots. The CAS Faculty Show is a collaborative fund raising initiative of the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Association to support the faculty development programs of the association, supervised by the Office of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. This event has always been most awaited by Bedan students and employees alike for it showcases the talents in singing, dancing and acting of the distinguished professors of the College of Arts & Sciences.

This year's theme tackled one subject typical to millennial students, that is, love-- its complexities, progress, and decline. To give disparity to the script, dance and song performances were blended into the story of two lovers who were nonchalantly recollecting their happiest and most challenging moments in their one-year relationship. The plot, inspired by the phenomenal online advertisement of a famous local fast food chain, focused on letting go, *loving oneself* and living a happy life again. The plot twist in the story caught the members of audience off guard.

# CAS Faculty Owns the Stage

Marvin R. Reyes

Digital theatrical staging fancied the entire Abbot Lopez with a total audience ranging nearly 2,000 who all went *gaga* over their professors who were not in the classroom but were on stage, portraying roles that one has never expected. Dance performances were from the early 1970's hit, *Katawan* by *Hagibis*; the early 1970's music of *Viva Hot Babes*, *Bulaklak*; *Bruno Mars' Versace on the Floor*; and the viral songs *Pak Ganern*, *Pokemon Go*, and *Justine Timberlake's I've Got this Feeling*.

Dr. Marvin R. Reyes served as the over-all director, and the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Association officers, Dr. Jennifer Ramos (President), Prof. Rey Caranguian (Internal Vice President), Prof. Sally Santiago (External Vice President), Dr. Nerissa Revilla (Secretary), Prof. Hipolito Ruzol (Treasurer), Prof. Minerva Serrano (Auditor) and Prof. Arnold Donozo (PRO) worked as the production team. The Alumni Office and its Director, Dr. Joffre Alajar and the Office of the Prefect of Student Activities of the College of Arts and Sciences have given helpful support to this endeavor as well.

Indeed, there is no other venue to see educators in the limelight of performing arts than through this faculty show. Truly, creativity builds community, and this creativity echoes the other persona of the faculty. For the faculty members, the 'classroom' is their profession and the stage is theirs.



Photo Credit: Macxmil De Ramos, Red Lens



# IBED *Integrated*



Benjamin B. Sonajo, Jr.

The

Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED) welcomed new Bedan students and faculty into the school community through its customized induction program. In the Manila campus, the program, themed as "21<sup>st</sup> Century Bedans, Looking Backward, Moving Forward" etched a remarkable learning experiences among the new students and faculty.



# Newbies to the Den



Photo credit: San Beda LEUS

The theme creatively initiated the infusion of key Bedan ideals among the new members of the school community. An outstanding feature of this year's integration program is its alignment to the Department of Education's thrust on its approach to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. As part of the "Looking Backward," integrants were divided into different social concerns such as environment, technology, political and economic stability, and were led to look into corresponding historical perspectives to understand the social, cultural, intellectual, and emotional settings that shaped people's lives and actions in the past. The views on various historical

perspectives culminated into multi-issue advocacies that are Bedan in nature, thus "Moving Forward." These advocacies were showcased by the integrants who were supervised by their older brothers and sisters from assigned "integrating" classes.

To wrap up the experience, the integrants went thru a "colorful baptism" symbolizing their integration into the Bedan way of life, marked by the Hallmarks of Benedictine education.

New members of the faculty also experienced the remarkable integration -- the Bedan way.



## *Peace Retreat:*

Dominador B. Manlincon

# Grounding Oneself and the Bedan Family on the Love and Service of Christ

## Retreat

signifies regress from the everyday routines and responsibilities of life for a silent and reflective time for prayer and renewal of faith to Christ. In fact, this kind of activity plays a crucial role especially in the formation of the Bedan community.

As a pillar of the Benedictine education, prayer is accorded much emphasis. With this, the College Campus Ministry, in cooperation with the Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED), conducted the Peace Retreat for the Grade 12 Humanities and Social Sciences sections, HUMSS 3 and HUMSS 4 of the Senior High School (SHS) last July 21-23, 2017 at the Montserrat Center for Religious and Spiritual Formation at Barangay Mataas na Burol, Silang, Cavite with the theme, "Grounding Oneself and the Bedan Family on the Love and Service of Christ." The Bedan Peace Retreat is a significant experience for students as they pray and journey together as one family-oriented community that realizes and celebrates the love and service of Christ while undergoing formation of becoming men and women of integrity and service.

To cap the activity, parents of "retreatants" surprised their children with their presence in San Beda Manila campus.

Here are some personal testimonies of the Senior High School students regarding their reflection and insights on the impactful three-day retreat:

I personally thank San Beda for integrating Christian formation to its curriculum. Indeed, academics is nothing without character development and formation. Peace Retreat is one big factor in character

building. It is also the most awaited time to take a break from the noisy world, a detachment from worldly possessions, appreciating the peaceful atmosphere of the place as we introspect and realize that everything we do is for the glory of God. Moreover, we really enjoyed our three-day stay at the retreat house, one of the best days of our student life with Super Friend." – Deanne Nepomuceno (President, SHS Student Council)

was pleasantly surprised and grateful that we had a very meaningful retreat. I was especially struck by Ms. Maricel's talk. It's hard to determine what the problem is from the reality. After hearing her, I had to rethink why I was stressing over something I could solve or something I could no longer change. Personally then, the retreat was timely as it enlightened me on a lot of things. I am very grateful that I experienced it. – Malaya Nicole C. Barba (Class President – HUMSS 3)

Spiritual retreats touch the soul and mold the heart towards self-actualization and deeper faith in the Divine. At a time when I thought I already knew who I was and was already set towards my life plan, spending those three days in spiritual reflection opened my eyes to some areas of growth in my life, especially in my character. I recognized in those moments of silence how important the values of love and patience are. We spend almost all our time hurrying to accomplish school tasks in order to achieve our goals this year. I am thankful that we were accommodated so graciously by the Campus Ministry to have a break from our normal academic routine. Spiritual retreat is a break we need in life to collect ourselves for the next challenge. Now, I can finally say that I wholeheartedly accept the challenge with more hope that before reaching the end of this school year I'd have a heart for love and service. – Cristina C. Chi (Associate Editor – The Bedan Roar)

As the retreatants return to their daily life online and offline, they carry with them renewed energy to confront the challenges of the Bedan life. A return to the "real world" is a time to make a step forward with more authenticity, greater creativity and undaunted brevity to better serve, care and love oneself and those around them, especially the least, the last and the lost.



One of the hallmarks of Benedictine education is *conversatio* in which individuals dedicate themselves to be honed and molded into the likeness of Christ. With this in mind, San Beda Manila ensures that its students, faculty, and staff have time to pause from work to recollect and reconnect with God.

New faculty members of the Senior High School (both Manila and Rizal campuses) are scheduled for a year-long series of spiritual formation every Thursday. The first of these many sessions happened last July 20 at the College of Arts and Sciences library with the Head of the Mission and Identity office, Mr. Anton Flores as the resource speaker.

The first session was devoted to the introduction of the insignia of the school, its roots in the Benedictine tradition and history, and Saint Bede from whom the school was named after. The session ended with the reintroduction of the founder of Benedictine monasticism, Saint Benedict of Nursia who wrote the *Rule* which served as the institution's guiding principles as a Benedictine Catholic institution.

The aim of this formation is to further deepen the Benedictine values of the new members who are journeying as Bedan educators.

FORMING EDUCATORS

# The **BEDAN** WAY

Ralph Edward P. Sekito





## San Beda

Manila and Rizal celebrated the Feast of St. Benedict last July 11, 2017 at the Mendiola campus. Faithful to its Roman Catholic identity and true to the famed "Ora et Labora" motto of the founding Benedictine monks, all employees began the festivities by gathering at the beautiful Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat for a solemn Holy Mass. This was followed by awards for those who have served the college for five or more years. Lunch was served at the St. Maur's Community Hall.

## Honoring Bedans'

# HARD WORK

Jerry Anton C. Flores

Rector-President Fr. Aloysius Maranan presided over the celebration of the Word and Bread. Co-presiders were his fellow Benedictines Prior-Chancellor Fr. Rafaelito Alaras, Vice Rector Fr. Paul De Vera, Vice President for Finance Fr. Rembert Tumbali, and Vice President for Administration Fr. Ephraim Molina. Fr. Aloy delivered a rousing homily, recognizing the persevering spirit of St. Benedict in the contributions of all sectors in the educational apostolate of San Beda.

The two pillars of the College of Law, Deans Virgilio Jara and Jose Sundiang and Integrated Basic Education (IBED) Principal, Teresita Battad, led this year's group of awardees.

The widely respected and admired Dean Jara, who ranked 5th in the Philippine bar exam, was the most senior of the awardees with 45 years of service in San Beda. A cum laude member of San Beda College of Law, Class 1962, he started teaching in 1963 and was appointed the dean of the San Beda College of Law in 1999. He judiciously sustained the top-rating bar performance of each graduating class and preserved the tradition of producing top-notchers while increasing the student population to unprecedented levels. Currently, there is a total of 1,600 aspiring Bedan lawyers.

Dean Jose Sundiang, Jr., with 40 years of service as an esteemed professor and former dean, is

regarded with fond respect by students of the San Beda College of Law. He was a working student in the College of Law -- teaching part time in the San Beda high school department. He assumed the deanship in 1988. An indication of his immense stature can be seen from a grateful student's post in the internet: "As what my great Commercial law professor, Dean Sundiang used to tell me, it is better to bleed in law school than in the Bar exams." [Emphasis mine].

IBED Principal Teresita Battad joined the San Beda grade school department in 1981 and was appointed as Principal in 2012. She was a key officer involved in the delicate transfer of the GS and the HS to the new campus in Taytay, Rizal in 2004. She also suc-



*“When a monk living under the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict professes the vow of stability, he is declaring that he will be a loyal member of that community for as long as he lives. This hallmark unsurprisingly translates into steadfast loyalty to San Beda among students and graduates.”*



*The two pillars of the College of Law, Dean Jose Sundiang and Dean Virgilio Jara ;  
Photo Credit: San Beda College of Law*

cessfully managed the transition demands of the K+12 implementation, introducing the Senior High School in both Manila and Rizal campuses. There are now more than 2,000 students in the SHS.

A total of 88 employees were recognized in the awards rite, emceed by the trio of Ms. Sybil Agreda, Mr. Joel Filamor, and Dr. Marvin Reyes. Included in the roster of awardees were employ-

ees who have been with San Beda for five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years. Practically all departments and offices were represented.

The relatively long weighted average years of service in San Beda, 17.10 years, suggests the sound practice of “stability”, one of the ten Hallmarks of Benedictine Education. “Stability” as a hallmark, stems directly from the Benedictine

monks’ vow of stability. Among religious orders and congregations, this vow is unique to the followers of the Rule of St. Benedict. When a monk living under the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict professes the vow of stability, he is declaring that he will be a loyal member of that community for as long as he lives. This hallmark unsurprisingly translates into steadfast loyalty to San Beda among students and graduates.



# *Nature in Art*

## and the Value of Stewardship

Leonardo V. Alcantara

The love for the beauty of nature serves as an impetus to having the sense of responsibility of taking care of the environment. San Beda Manila presents “Devoted To Nature: Nature in Art and the Value of Stewardship” at the Pamanang Bedista Art Gallery from May 25 to June 15, 2017. Through this exhibit, San Beda Manila, which is under the leadership of the Very Reverend Father Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. as the Rector President, enhances the College’s curricular programs and promotes stewardship, one of the Benedictine hallmarks of education that calls on everyone to be responsible caretakers of our natural and artistic heritage.



Photo Credit: PRCO

At the helm of the Benedictine Community in Manila is the Most Reverend Father Rafaelito V. Alaras, O.S.B., Prior-Chancellor. Pamanang Bedista Curator, Dino Carlo Santos, took the opportunity of mounting the exhibit in time for the College’s season of commencement exercises. Images of intricate details of leaves and spectacular landscapes might be purely aesthetic at first. However, as soon as we realize that these artworks are images of our natural heritage as they in turn form part of our artistic legacy, they transcend their stereotype as just pretty pictures on the wall.

The love for nature and art does not end in appreciation. It translates into a value, a conviction that

forms part of who we are as individuals and as a community. Main participating artists are Batangas-born landscape-painter Julius Poquita and Angono-based, realistic-impressionist Charles Rivera with one-piece each from artist-painters Philipp Badon and Noli Española. The pieces came from the collections of noted fashion designer Eddie Baddeo, Drs. Wency and Amy Kiat, Dr. Rosalyn Magnaye, Dr. Allan Manalaysay, and fashion-entrepreneur Edgar Medina. The exhibit had a successful opening last May 24, Wednesday and was graced by art enthusiasts Irene Pineda and fashion icon Nina Paula Ng as well as Philippine Art Post’s Publisher-Writer Roy Espinosa.



# TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF *St. Benedict*

Sybil L. Agreda

In this age of gadgets, rapid transport, and Marvel heroes' influx, a *pilgrimage* is perhaps an age-old tradition, less popular to the new generation. But for many people from all religious affiliations all over the world, going on pilgrimage is one significant spiritual journey to sacred places as an act of devotion.





As a project of San Beda Manila-Theology department with Rev. Fr. Angelo S. Legal, O.S.B. as the chairperson and chaplain priest for the trip, the 15-day pilgrimage entitled, "Tracing the Footsteps of St. Benedict," was conducted last June 18-July 3, 2017. It was a pilgrimage to 25 religious sites in four countries—France, Italy, Spain and Portugal of 26 Bedan pilgrims and some friends. The pilgrimage aimed to follow the footsteps of the life of the beloved patron of the Benedictine congregation, St. Benedict of Nursia, visit the hometown of other saints, including St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare, St. Francisco and St. Jacinta in Portugal, and important churches and religious sites in France, Italy, Spain and Portugal.



Notre Dame Cathedral Paris (Photo credit: Emperatriz Gabatbat)




## In France

The first three days of the pilgrimage began in France, the house of compelling art, towers, masts, and flavorful delicacies. But in the midst of these beautiful attractions, three important religious sites stood outstanding: the **Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** or La Chapelle Notre-Dame de la Médaille Miraculeuse where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830 and requested for the creation of the Medal which is now known as the Miraculous Medal; the **Notre Dame Cathedral Paris or Notre Dame de Paris**, the host to many religious events; and the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Paris**, commonly known as Sacré-Cœur at Montmartre is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to remind people that God is a loving, kind, sympathetic and forgiving God.

## In Italy

Travelling from France to Assisi took the pilgrims one plane ride which was 1 hour and 53 minutes long and a 6-7 hour-bus ride from Milan Airport in a 35 degrees Celsius temperature. In Assisi, three religious places were on the list of destination—the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels** that houses the Porziuncola (little portion) which is considered as the most sacred for Franciscans. It is where the young Francis of Assisi realized his vocation and renounced the world to live in poverty and join the poor; the **Church of Santa Chiara** which is dedicated to and houses the uncorrupted body and relics of St. Clare, a friend and follower of St. Francis of Assisi; and the **Papal Basilica**



One of the rooms at the house of St. Francisco and St. Jacinta at Aljustrel, Portugal (Photo credit: Emperatriz Gabatbat)



of **Saint Francis of Assisi**, one of the most important places of Christian pilgrimage in Italy where the remains of St. Francis were entombed.


### ***Tracing the Footsteps of St. Benedict***

For Bedans, St. Benedict is an important religious figure, for he established the *Rule* which became the foundation of the Benedictine education. His reverence to God and the kind of life he lived are worthy of emulation. To trace the places where he had been is a truly rich and humbling experience.

The journey started with St. Benedict's birthplace in Nursia and his twin sister, St. Scholastica. Atop the birthplace of St. Benedict, the historic **Basilica of St. Benedict** was built. It was unfortunately largely hit by the earthquake last 2016 and is still under construction until today. However, the image of St. Benedict at the center of the town remained unharmed. The next visit was in the **St. Benedict Monastery of Sacro Speco or the 'holy cave'** in Subiaco which was built in a mountain cliff, overlooking beautiful scenery. This monastery enshrines the sacred cave where St. Benedict spent three years living a hermetic life after abandoning his noble life and before initiating the beginning of Western monasticism. The Bedan pilgrims also proceeded to the **Abbey of Saint Scholastica** or the Subiaco Abbey, the oldest monastery in the world which was also founded by Saint Benedict. Next was the **Abbey in Monte Cassino**, founded by St. Benedict on the ruins of a pagan site, the temple of Apollo. This is where he spent most of his years until his death and where he wrote the Benedictine Rule which became the found-







ing principle of western monasticism. Despite the number of times it was destroyed, its reconstructed form is home to beautiful gigantic sculptures of saints and popes, manuscripts, mosaics, and works. As the last destination, the group went to the **Church of San Benedetto** in Piscinula, a small church which was originally a 4<sup>th</sup> century villa belonging to the family of Anici, relatives of St. Benedict of Nursia where St. Benedict lived while he was studying in Rome.

### ***Other Pilgrimage Sites in Rome, Italy***

After tracing St. Benedict's footsteps, the pilgrims roamed, discovered and gaped at the grandeur of Rome, manifested in the following: the Papal **Archbasilica of St. John the Lateran**, the ecumenical mother church of the Roman Catholic (the mother and the head of all churches in the city and the world); the **St. Peter's Basilica**, a major basilica in Vatican City built on the site where St. Peter - the apostle was crucified upside down and buried; the **Saint Paul Basilica**, built by Roman Emperor Constantine I over the grave of St. Paul; the **Basilica of Saint Mary Major**, the largest of the 26 churches in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary which was built on the apparition site of Virgin Mary at the Esquiline Hill; and the **Basilica of San Crisogono**, a simple and humble church that keeps a record of the miracle made by St. Benedict in a fresco as he heals a leper. An equally meaningful visit was experienced by pilgrims at the **Scala Sancta or the Holy Stairs** where Jesus stepped onto on his way to Pontius Pilate for his trial, the **tomb of St. Peter** and the **St. Peter's Square** where the Sunday Message and Blessing of Pope Francis were witnessed.



## In Spain

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the pilgrimage, the group reached Spain with two most popular religious sites--- The Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat and the Basilica and Expiatory Church of the Holy Family. **The Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat Spain** is one of the most popular pilgrimage sites for visitors who wish to pray and honor the miraculous statue of the Black Madonna or the Black Virgin (La Moreneta in Spanish). The Our Lady of Montserrat is the patroness of San Beda, after whom the first abbey of the Benedictine Order in the Philippines was named. The **Basilica i Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família or the Basilica and Expiatory Church of the Holy Family** is a 135-year old giant basilica that is unfinished until now. It is one of the most popular works of Antoni Gaudi, the architect who is best known for his Catalan Modernism style of art.

## In Portugal

In Lisbon, Portugal, four important pilgrimage sites were part of the itinerary. The **Jeronimos Monastery or the Monastery of Hieronymites** is built in honor of Vasco Da Gama and to give thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consequently, the tomb of Vasco Da Gama and other



*Bedan pilgrims in Vatican City, Italy with Fr. Angelo Legal, O.S.B. as the chaplain priest of the pilgrimage*





figures in Portuguese history are placed inside the monastery. The **Santo Antonio or Saint Anthony of Padua church** is the birthplace of St. Anthony who is a popular and revered matchmaker, patron of the lost and found and protector of young brides. The **Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Lisbon, Portugal** hosts the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima, the Monument of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the 15 altars that are dedicated to the 15 mysteries of the rosary, the Chapel of Apparitions where the Blessed Virgin Mary showed herself to the three children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, and the tombs of the young visionaries, Francisco Marto and Jacinta Marto who died in 1919 and 1920, respectively who were beatified in 2000. The **visit to the modest house of St. Francisco and Jacinta Marto and Sister Lucia in Aljustrel**, a small hamlet near Fatima, Portugal, concluded the journey.

Indeed, a simple and quiet prayerful life is what we all need amidst the noise and chaos of the world. The suffering, hunger, frustration, pain, and exhaustion that are experienced in any pilgrimage are sacrifices that lead to the understanding that all these are part of universal human experience that the saints and even Christ himself went through. If Jesus Christ embraced his cross of suffering, rejection, indignity and death, we too must accept them with joy in our heart.





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the bedan today

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## About the Cover

This issue floats San Beda's historic milestones in the past seven years, thus, the theme "Seven Years to High Noon."

With its visionary and acclaimed Rector-President, the Very Reverend Aloysius Ma. Albay Maranan, O.S.B., Ed.D. at the helm, San Beda today is at the peak—the high noon of its momentum towards positioning itself in the national and global arena of education.

Faithful to the vision and mission, the Rector-President blazed trails for certifications, accreditations, and internationalization. All are at high noon -- academic, research, and extension, permeating the core of every nook and cranny of courses and programs.

At the end of the day, the ultimate question pounds on results. What has become of Bedans today?

Gene Navarra Gesite, Jr., this issue's cover, is a representation of the end result. Describing him as an outcome requires too much space. But in a nutshell, Gesite was an esteemed student in the College of Arts and Sciences. He was an inspiring leader in the Department of Economics. After graduation from San Beda in 2016, he navigated the road map laid for Bedans and pursued graduate studies at Universidad Catolica de San Antonio de Murcia in Spain. Turning his back from comfort, he went back to the Philippines to share his expertise and contribute to development. This Bedan is now making waves as he serves in a special division of the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Gesite represents the outcomes of the milestones which this issue presents.

Perhaps, it is safe to say that young as he is, he too is at high noon.

The Editors-in-Chief



We are inviting you to submit article for the next issue of The Bedan Today at [larry.ambion@gmail.com](mailto:larry.ambion@gmail.com) or [sybilagreda@gmail.com](mailto:sybilagreda@gmail.com).

We also welcome suggestions and comments from our readers.



