



THE WOMEN OF

SAN BEDA

A WOMEN'S MONTH SPECIAL ISSUE

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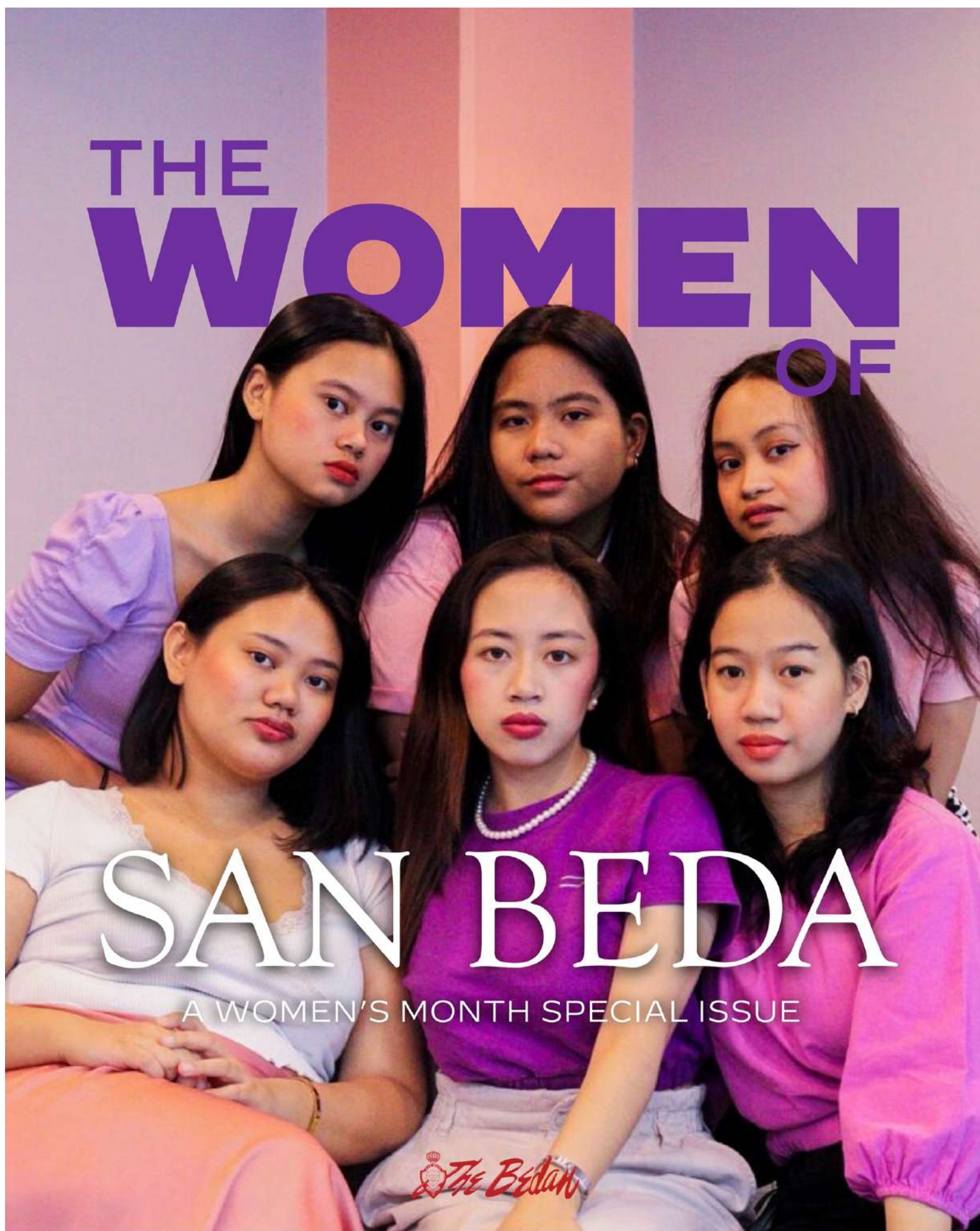
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ABOUT THE COVER

The women of *The Bedan* embody innovation, clarity, and empowerment. As active leaders in this community and as full-fledged campus journalists, these women work hard to succeed academically and inspire others as members of a vibrant community of learners. They embody the strength of will on and off campus and strive to promote truth through their skills and creativity. Their dedication and motivation show us all what it means to be truly empowered.

But in a wider sense, Bedan women have made remarkable contributions wherever they go, with their stories of leadership echoing a resounding chorus of empowerment. Despite facing numerous challenges and obstacles, many women in this country persist in overcoming societal stigma and proving what it truly means to be a woman in today's world. Ultimately, these women leaders stand tall as beacons of possibility, inspiring other women in this generation to embrace their inherent worth and pursue their dreams with unbridled favor. These women are the epitome of courage, stewards of change, and guardians of hope.

ABOUT THE ISSUE

The Bedan is proud to present its inaugural *The Women of San Beda* Special Issue to mark the celebration of National Women's Month 2024. This issue delves into the experience of women who work and study within San Beda, shedding light on their struggles, achievements, leadership, and defining moments. Throughout this issue, we get a glimpse of the tireless effort that these women have put into standing out and becoming a source of inspiration. Through this special issue, let us recognize the women leaders of San Beda and their contributions, both seen and unseen, and pledge to amplify their voices and champion their aspirations for others in the Bedan community.

IN PHOTO:

Back row (from L-R): **Ryan Julliane Monzon**, **Kathy Delos Reyes**, **Daphne Zenarosa**
Front row (from L-R): **Jobeth Shelly Bocabel**, **Anne Julia Francisco**, and **Francesca Zia Robles**
Photo by **Nate Soriano**

EDITORS' NOTE

"WOMEN NEED NOT BE EMPOWERED; WE ARE ALREADY POWERFUL." THIS WAS A LINE FROM SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS THAT SHE DELIVERED BACK ON MARCH 31, 2022, WHEN SHE GAVE AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE TO PATTSEAN, AN EVENT HELD TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH.

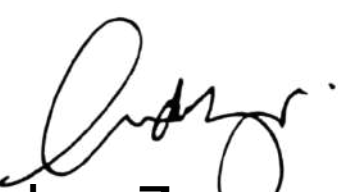
For us, *The Women of San Beda* embody beauty, elegance, intelligence, and capability. With grit and passion, they overcame every obstacle in their path to become the assertive women they are today. They inspire others to follow in their own footsteps and strive for success.

This first Women's Month special issue features Bedan women's greatness, achievements, and capabilities—how powerful they are and can be. Highlighting their stories is one of the main objectives of this special issue. We wanted to showcase the journey that these women underwent in order to inspire other Bedan women that nothing is impossible, as long as you are determined to achieve it.

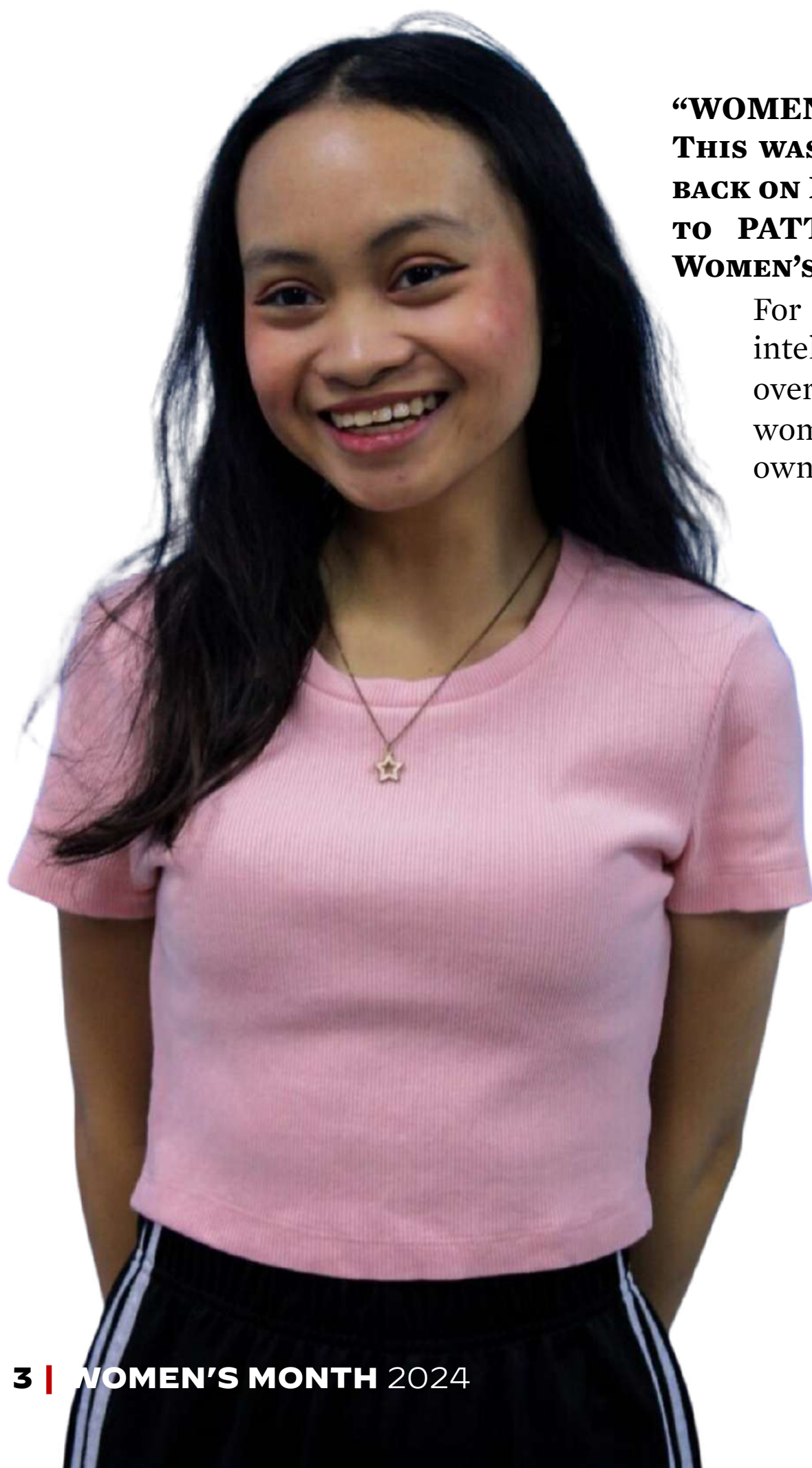
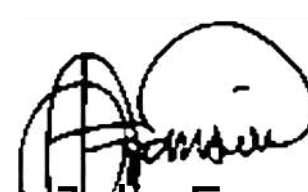
As you flip through every page of this magazine, may you see the inspirational and powerful qualities within each of the female Bedan featured. From the vice presidents and department chairs to the exceptional *kapitanas*, top SC leaders, and non-teaching staff, each one has earned their position through hard work and undeniable talent.

To all striving women out there, this, this is a tribute for all of you.

Again, from all of us at *The Bedan* Volume 81, cheers to Women's Month!



Daphne Zenarosa and Anne Julia Francisco



EDITORIAL

For a seat at the table



EDITORIAL CARTOON BY JANNINE SALINAS

A STRONG SENSE OF EMPOWERMENT TOWARDS WOMEN IS PALPABLE WITHIN THE WALLS OF SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY (SBU). HOWEVER, DO THE ROLES MERELY SYMBOLIZE SUPERFICIAL ACCEPTANCE, OR ARE WOMEN TRULY REGARDED AS EQUALS?

From the series of interviews conducted by *The Bedan* with selected women leaders of SBU for Women's Month, it's becoming increasingly evident that a significant number of individuals occupying integral roles within the University are women.

In line with the continuous achievements of each woman on their respective career—may it be in the academe, in sports, their skills, etc.—it becomes apparent that what men can do, women can do as well; living up to the refrain, “rising up to the occasion,” as their means for survival in a dominantly patriarchal society that we're currently living in.

But when will there come a time that these so-called “achievements” will no longer be considered as the sole proof of what a woman can do?

Despite the efforts to promote gender equality, beliefs that are instilled about women's roles and capabilities continue to shape societal expectations and opportunities. Take childhood beliefs, for instance. As young girls, we are taught to steer towards traditionally feminine pursuits, not to tackle responsibilities that only men should be obligated to do. Men on the other hand, are encouraged to take this responsibility—leadership and assertiveness.

This is why, constantly, women have been defying societal expectations and shattering glass ceilings in fields contributing to groundbreaking moments in their lives. Along with the women of San Beda, from administrators, student-leaders, and student-athletes, their accomplishments pave the way for a more equitable and inclusive future for the next generation. However, until when do women need to prove themselves worthy for the job solely because they are

finally seen on equal lenses?

Essentially, women should not earn the respect of a man because it should be given automatically. While it may sound cliché, it still stands considering the real issues persisting in the workplace.

According to University of California professor Joan C. Williams and her daughter Rachel Dempsey's research and book entitled, *What Works for Women at Work*, where the realities of the workplace are being discussed, one of the four patterns of gender bias in the workplace is “why women have to fight to be respected and liked at work.” This focused on the idea of a “tightrope.” According to the studies they've conducted, “almost ¾ of women encounter the tightrope, women have to navigate a very tight space, really a tightrope, being seen as too masculine and therefore respected but not liked or too feminine and therefore liked but not respected.” This is the kind of challenge that a woman faces every single day; but thank heavens, inferiority towards women is nonexistent inside SBU.

There are a lot of women leaders in the University, not only the ones who got featured in this special issue. Some of the presidents of professional and non-professional organizations are also headed by women. Even student-leaders from organizations do have well-known women who serve as representatives of the students in their department and advocacies. Several well-known professors per department are women too. As you see, Bedan women have taken the mantle step up and take the job in leading and empowering other women—that if they were able to do it, then those in doubt can too.

Ultimately in San Beda, you're not just seen as a woman. You're respected and seen as an equal, likened to how a lioness would never bow down to a lion. Both are of equal caliber, both appreciated, seen, and loved.



In necessariis, unitas; in opinabilibus, libertas; in omnibus caritas

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IN PHOTO: Dr. Divina Edralin, PhD. (top)
and Dr. Tita Branzuela (bottom)

Photos by Anne Julia Francisco and
Francesca Zia Robles

EMPOWERED WOMEN EMPOWERING OTHER WOMEN

SAN BEDA'S FEMALE VICE PRESIDENTS

▼ Vida Ronquillo and Rcee Tenefrancia





IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH, WE RECOGNIZE EVERY WOMAN AND THEIR ALL-AROUND ROLE IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT. WHETHER IN THE EDUCATIONAL, POLITICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, OR ANY FIELD, WOMEN EVERYWHERE ARE STRIVING.

So for this month, we advance the promotion of women's empowerment toward accelerating gender equality. To that end, let's look into two of our exceptional institutional administrators and understand how they strive to uphold equal gender opportunity in the educational field, particularly inside the campus, as they shine in their respective roles.



DR. DIVINA M. EDRALIN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMICS AND DIRECTOR OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

A multitasker at heart, Dr. Edralin holds two vital positions in the University—being the Director of the Research and Development Center on one hand and the Vice President for Academics (VPA) on the other.

From her experience, she shares that San Beda University (SBU) mandates three functions: “teaching, researching, and engaging with the community.” In the context of both research and academics, Dr. Edralin says that she finds it meaningful to “answer the call” of SBU’s furtherance of gender equality, giving both men and women equal opportunity in academics, research, and community engagement.

“So, the University provides the opportunity. So, what do I do as the Research Director? That particular hat I’m wearing, what I do is to motivate faculty members, give confidence [to faculty members] to undertake research,” said Dr. Edralin, emphasizing the significance of motivating students and faculty on matters regarding millennials, mental health, safe spaces, inclusivity, and diversity, among others.

As she trains her sights toward scholarly articles and contributions, Dr. Edralin, as the VPA, likewise guides the University’s faculty members into becoming effective teachers and educators.

“I [schedule] faculty development training [programs], for example, in terms of Pedagogy (means method of teaching)... Part of support [also] is to provide tuition fees and dissertation support for faculty who would like to pursue their doctoral studies... So, what we support is the doctoral degree. We conduct other training programs... We also support in terms of seminars and wellness in terms of lessening stress, even similar to students, mindfulness, meditation, stress management,” said Dr. Edralin.



Additionally, the VPA says that she is also focused on scheduling seminars towards her scope of expertise, such as the recent “Safe Spaces Act” in the Graduate School of Business (GSB). Through this, she stressed the need for men to be educated about women’s issues if people are to understand their responsibility in helping women, as “it cannot be only women talking about women.” In the same way, men must “participate” in programs such as gender training and sensitivity.

Dr. Edralin also pointed out that men’s traditional view on the role of women establishes the need for “further education.” She affirmed that, with the onslaught of gender equality initiatives, men need to be reoriented on women’s progressive roles.

“No amount of education among women will happen in terms of significant changes unless the men who are doing it are educated,” said the VPA.

Women in society were always given unequal opportunities compared to men, “but that should change,” added Dr. Edralin, stressing that “we [women] are not weak.”

As a female administrator in a male-dominated profession, she believes that educators must teach men that women should also grow not only professionally but – holistically.

She then went on to further explain how her myriad of roles and responsibilities are a testament to a new age where women receive various opportunities, along with the challenge of being able to manage issues.

When asked how she was able to handle all tasks, Dr. Edralin spoke on the significance of commitment. “Whether you’re a male or a female, if you have the commitment in the belief that you have to be in service to God and to our country... you will be able to perform, that’s important.”

DR. TITA EVASCO-BRANZUELA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR LINKAGES AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

While Dr. Tita may be a familiar face in the university corridors, many are unaware that she serves as one of the University's key representatives to foreign visitors and dignitaries. This role has taken her to numerous countries, showcasing her ability to excel on the global stage. Her journey underscores the notion that a woman can achieve remarkable feats when presented with opportunities and the determination to seize them.

Dr. Tita was appointed Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs (LIA) back in 2016, but she has been linking local agencies and international embassies already as early as 1991. Amidst all the late evening phone calls from partners based in different time zones abroad, Dr. Tita still finds her job as “easy as cake.” “I do not consider it as a big challenge, the role, because I see it as a man or a woman can do it if one will give himself or herself the best foot forward with service *sa* heart,” said Dr. Tita.

As the VP for LIA, she has led the organization of various international webinars. Among which is “Womenomics: Towards a More Gender-Inclusive Economy,” co-organized with the Department of Economics and Public Policy and the San Beda Economics Society (SBES). They also co-organized this event with Dr. Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti, who is another empowered woman in the educational field involved with the Indonesian Women's Coalition for Justice and Democracy, Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law, and Development (APWLD), Women, Law, and Development International (WLDI), Asia Pacific for Women and Politics (CAPWIP), and many others. In addition to this, LIA also facilitates women's engagement, with Bedan faculty members representing womanhood in local and international activities. Collaborating with SBU professors, ongoing discussions are underway for international research collaboration on gender sensitivity.

As a mother figure to the Bedans, Dr. Tita treats the students and younger faculty members as if they were her own children. In fact, when SBU first opened its doors to women, transitioning from an all-boys school to an institution of inclusion and diversity, she says that “*Doon lumabas 'yung pagiging nanay ko,*” as she shared how it “warms her heart” when young girls have brought inclusivity in the University.



Aside from her work at the LIA office, Dr. Tita also mentioned that she loves to talk to students and to guide them as she continuously engages with them and gives them suggestions for their organizational outputs. Dr. Tita recalled times in her office when former Bedan students would approach and visit her earnestly. With this, the students she once mentored are now professionals coming from several fields, namely law, local enterprises, government, and non-government organizations, to name a few.

Reminiscing on her touching encounters with her students, Dr. Tita sincerely expressed that “it's very heartwarming that they remember their mother.”

The LIA office also provides a list of activities for the Bedan community to take part in, may it be in the local or international field. One of their activities is the Social Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED), wherein they helped three groups engage with the community.

One of which aided women to generate income through livelihood programs called “*Kababaihan Para Sa Kabuhayan*” (Livelihood of Women), another group helped in the production and marketing of an organic dishwashing liquid made from mango and guava skin called “Organique,” and the third group conducted a study on “*Samahan ng Kababaihan*” who produce foot rags for extra income in Antipolo.

Dr. Tita herself has served as a speaker at various SBU programs with partnered institutions and networks. But more than that, she is also the Executive Director of the ASEAN Learning Network (ALN), the Regional Representative of the Philippines to the Regional Network for Poverty Eradication (RENPER), Board of Management, Executive Secretary of Swiss Asean Learning and Teaching (SALT), and the Evaluator/Coach/Mentor of Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC).

With all her achievements, the Vice President for LIA firmly believes that people must realize that they should share with others. “*Hindi ka lang nakatuon sa sarili mo kasi* that would mean that you did not recognize yourself as a gift to be given a way. Just be willing to share yourself for the betterment of others and the world where you live,” Dr. Tita asserted.



THEIR TIP FOR YOUNG WOMEN: DREAM BIG

There are many young women out there who have yet to explore what they want to do in life. They might not have figured it out yet, but they sure do have big dreams. While it would take a lot of steps to reach the esteemed roles that both these empowered VPs hold, their stories are an empowering reminder, inspiring us that we can make it as there is always a steppingstone in every way.

As Dr. Edralin stated, an opportunity along the way just proves one's capabilities. Aside from the confidence boost, she asserted that everything a person does should be meaningful. "It is to find meaning in what you are doing; we call it purposeful. You need to be purpose-driven" as it entails the fact of what dreams are – they revolve around a person's vision and mission in life.

For her part, Dr. Tita says that a person must realize that their existence

should be considered as God's gift to others. "Each one is a gift from God to the world, *tayo*. So, we should appreciate others as well because each one is a blessing."

In the end, what could be more empowering than realizing and sharing our dreams-turned-realities? These two empowered female VPs are living testimonies that women can go farther. If you believe and act on your pursuit, a dream never stays a dream! You must believe amidst uncertainty, act even when you're scared, and fight even if you only have you! It is a leap of faith, and those who have the courage and perseverance to jump into the world of struggles and opportunities will ultimately shape it into something more.



THRIVING IN THE LIONS' DEN

Our CAS women Department Chairs

▼ Kathy Delos Reyes



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'." FROM THE NOTION THAT "WOMEN CAN'T DO WHAT MEN CAN" TO "WOMEN CAN DO WHAT MEN CAN," THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S MONTH SERVES AS A REMINDER TO ALL OF US THAT MEN SHOULD NOT BE THE STANDARD. INSTEAD, ALL WOMEN SHOULD FOCUS ON THE IDEA THAT WE CAN BE WHOEVER WE WANT TO BE.

This month emphasizes women's vital role in society, focusing on feminism and the pursuit of equality. In a world dominated by patriarchal norms, where women's empowerment is often challenged, let's examine how our female Bedan department chairpersons defy stereotypes and demonstrate that gender is not a barrier to success.

IN PHOTO (from L-R): Asst. Prof. Jenny de Guia, DBA, Vice Dean Jackqui Moreno, CPA, DBA, and Asst. Prof. Rulina Viloria, MS
Photos by Anne Julia Francisco, Francesca Zia Robles, and D.S. Elijah de Castro

A CHAIRPERSON'S ROLE IN THE DEPARTMENT

Bedans may know department chairpersons by their name, title, or their face but little about the things that they do. Aside from being our proud stewards of knowledge, leaders, and as the epitome of academic integrity, the responsibilities of being a department chairperson reach far and wide.

Assoc. Prof. Jackui Moreno, CPA, DBA, the Vice Dean of the Business cluster of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the concurrent Chairperson of the Department of Accountancy and Taxation, gave us a glimpse into her career, which essentially revolves around three major things: “the faculty, the students, and the curriculum.” In addition, she also delved into her role in academic advising and in resolving other student concerns, such as disciplinary actions.

As one of the College's Vice Deans, she mentioned being involved with the departments under the Business Cluster: Marketing, Financial Management, Human Resources, Operations Management, Legal Management, and Entrepreneurship.

But beyond this, a Vice Dean's responsibilities isn't confined to San Beda University (SBU) alone. While she works in SBU from Mondays to Thursdays, every 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., during Fridays, however, “*wala talaga ako dito kasi I'm at the review center. I teach for a CPA Board Review Class,*” while also serving as a Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) accreditor.

On the other hand, Asst. Prof. Rulina Vilorio, MS, the Chairperson of the Department of Economics and Public Policy, says that her responsibilities include “the formulation of programs and policies related to the academic program of the department, which is the Bachelor of Science in Economics and Public Policy.” In addition to this, she also mentioned the management of other programs like the department's thesis program.

For her part, the Department of Business Management and Entrepreneurship's (DBME) Chairperson, Asst. Prof. Jenny de Guia, DBA, introduced herself not merely as the department's head, but also as the moderator of three professional organizations, namely: the Human Resources Development Management Society (HRDMS), Management and Entrepreneurship Society (MANSOC), and Society of Operational Management Students (SOMS).

Aside from the programs, syllabi, and service to the faculty of DBME, she mentioned other responsibilities, like “[facilitating] the needs and concerns of our students under the department, and also those students under the servicing ng DBME. “When I say servicing, we provide service *kasi sa mga* subjects like Operations Management, Human Resource Management, *na tine-take din ng ibang* course, so we give assistance *din sa kanila,*” she added.

Beyond their titles and faces, these individuals serve as stewards of knowledge and academic integrity. They oversee faculty, students, and curricula while prioritizing their success and well-being.



THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR CAREERS

Everyone has their moment. Everyone has their time. Everyone gets to shine. For Dr. Jackqui, it was when she became a full-time administrator, which she considers as a “huge leap” from her original position as a part-time instructor back in 2003. “I became the first chairman *na solo n’ung sinolo na ‘yung* Financial Management. *Kasi dati*, merged *siya sa* Accountancy—*nag-merge siya sa* Economics. *So n’ung lumaki siya, hiniwalay siya, tapos ‘yun na, ako na ‘yung naging chairperson,*” according to Dr. Jackqui.

She also mentioned that becoming the Vice Dean is another one of her career’s highlights. Through that position, she explained how she has had the ability to guide students who need assistance, “and, of course, just set a tone that all of us should be at the same level. *Walang* program *na naiiwan,*” Dr. Jackqui added.

For Prof. Viloría, one of the highlights of her career was when she carried

her government and development skills over to the academe. “Because of the orientation and experience, *naging* part *ako ng* founding members *ng* Council of Economics Educators,” she said. Additionally, she was able to co-author two books—Managerial Economics and Health Economics—at the height of the pandemic.

Dr. Jen, on the other hand, says that the highlights of her career at SBU include the University offering her a full-time position, then becoming a regular professor, until finally being offered the position of Department Chairperson.

“I always say this to my students: You’ll realize *na talagang ‘yung* efforts *mo ay may* impact *at [saka]* effect *sa* community *mo if* madadaanan *mo ‘yung* journey from scratch, from the start, *tapos makikita mo* that may growth *ka* by receiving opportunities, and recognitions, as well as promotions *sa* community *ninyo* rather than you start *na nando’n ka kaagad sa taas,*” she added.



COMMON STRUGGLE AS WOMEN

In the vast tapestry of human history, the struggles of women have been intricately woven, often obscured or minimized, yet are still profoundly impactful. Even in this era, women continue to confront multifaceted obstacles related to their gender.

Dr. Jackqui says that she experienced a lot of struggles in the accountancy profession, but the most notable of which is how it treated women way back in the early 90’s. “*Medyo mahirap makakuha ng client kapag babae ka, kasi feeling nila hindi ka makakapagtayo ng opisina mo kapag babae ka. Ang lumalabas, laging support ka lang,*” she narrated.

Retaliating against a sexist domain, Dr. Jackqui registered her name as ‘J.R. Moreno’ in BPI and not her full name to make her look more masculine. “So, ngayon, may signage sa pintuan ko sa opisina, they come in. *Kasi kumbaga parang feeling nila, ‘Ah lalaki.’* Tapos, *n’ung nagtatanong na sila kung sino ‘yung mag-a-attend sa kanila, sabi ko, ‘I am actually the proprietor of the accounting*

office,” she shared.

For Prof. Viloría, time management, as a woman with a career in the academe while being a mother, was difficult. “If you are a married individual with a family, *mahahati talaga ‘yung oras mo,*” she explained.

Despite this, considering how she was already exposed to the field of working at the age of 19, time management, she contended, was “not new” which made it easier for her to handle said responsibilities.

On the other hand, Dr. Jen said that her struggle is related to age. While some would argue that being young is an asset, for her, being young, “sometimes, feeling *mo* you need to prove yourself *na* you’re worthy of what they offer to you,” she elaborated. Still, Dr. Jen still felt “lucky” that, despite her age, students would not disrespect her. While there are some instances of such, these were “very seldom and few,” while explaining how, in such a reality, it is important to “establish that ‘I am your professor. I am the one who’s handling and managing your class,’” she asserted.



A MOTHER'S TOUCH

Teaching, like motherhood, involves nurturing, guiding, and shaping individuals to reach their full potential. Female professors may find parallels between their role in the classroom and their experiences as mothers, since both involve imparting wisdom and offering love and support. For our female Department Chairpersons, their own mothers serve as invaluable guiding influences, offering insights, encouragement, and the much-needed inspiration that shape their approach to education and mentorship.

Dr. Jackqui reflected on her mother's influence, describing her as both "carefree yet resolute" in her convictions. *"Strikto sa bahay, disciplinarian. Pero 'pag nakita mo, she knows what she can do, and she knows what her limits are because she's a decent woman,"* she shared.

Prof. Viloría echoes this sentiment, noting her mother's commitment to honesty and openness: *"Halimbawa, nagsinungaling ka. Ayaw niya ng gano'n. Hindi niya hahayaan 'yon. Gusto niya 'yung open ka sa kaniya, so I think 'yun 'yung namana ko."*

Being raised in a family with its own business, Dr. Jen reminisced back to the time when she had worked as a bagger, cashier, displaying groceries, and carrying boxes around since she was a child. Instilling with it a profound strong work ethic that continues 'til date, she contended how *"nakuha ko 'yung gano'ng ugali pagdating sa trabaho sa mother ko."*

THE CAMARADERIE AMONG WOMEN

Women should support other women. The bond formed between women supporting one another emerges as a powerful force for empowerment, solidarity, and collective advancement. Women share experiences, which helps them understand each other better. Therefore, women in other women's lives bring sisterhood and camaraderie that can transcend age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, and other facets of human life. These are ideas that are affirmed by our female academic heads.

"I grew up in a family wherein women are considered very strong because they were left by their husbands to take care of the house. I think it's a very big job during wartime. *Wala silang magagawa kundi talagang asikasuhin ang mga bata,"* shared Dr. Jackqui.

On her part, Prof. Viloría says that her sister "also a very strong woman." This appreciation grew further when her sibling opted to be a full-time mother. In addition to this, she also mentioned that her former boss in development work, Dr. Mina Ramirez, whose commitment to work and knowledge of topics, like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), inspired her the most. Going back to the 1980s when environmental care and the SDGs weren't discussed as much, Dr. Ramirez was one of the few to have challenged the *status quo*.



“ The Bedan community, right from the beginning, it was supposed to be a man’s community. So even if you say it appears to be like only for boys before, it’s so inclusive, and it has a very hospitable community that it embraces everybody. It does not see a person by its gender. So they just see people here in San Beda working together as people members of the community. So we are very thankful that we thrive in San Beda regardless whether you are a woman or a man by gender.

Mabuhay ang mga babae sa San Beda. ”

Assoc. Prof. Jackqui Moreno, CPA, DBA



“ Learn to say no when it is really no and learn to say yes when it is really yes. *Kailangan may sarili kang opinyon. Kailangan may sarili kang paninindigan.* ”

Asst. Prof. Rulina Vilorio, MS



“ Strive hard, do your best, and gender will never be an issue or a limitation, an obstacle, for you to grow. As early as now, as much as you can, disregard the idea na *'babae ako, limited lang yung growth ko.'* For me, just perform, just strive hard, give your 100% *sa lahat ng ginagawa.* Quantity and quality, *hindi pwedeng isa lang.* ”

Asst. Prof. Jenny de Guia, DBA





To embrace greatness, one must embrace oneself. To be a woman with pride, one must accept that she is a woman, and a woman is capable of doing great things.

These women have achieved great things while embracing their womanhood. Through their stories, let us be inspired to carry the spirit of empowerment and self-acceptance, recognizing that greatness knows no bounds when we embrace our authentic selves and support one another on the journey toward equality and excellence.

(with Dianne Radel Magallon)



THE TRINITY

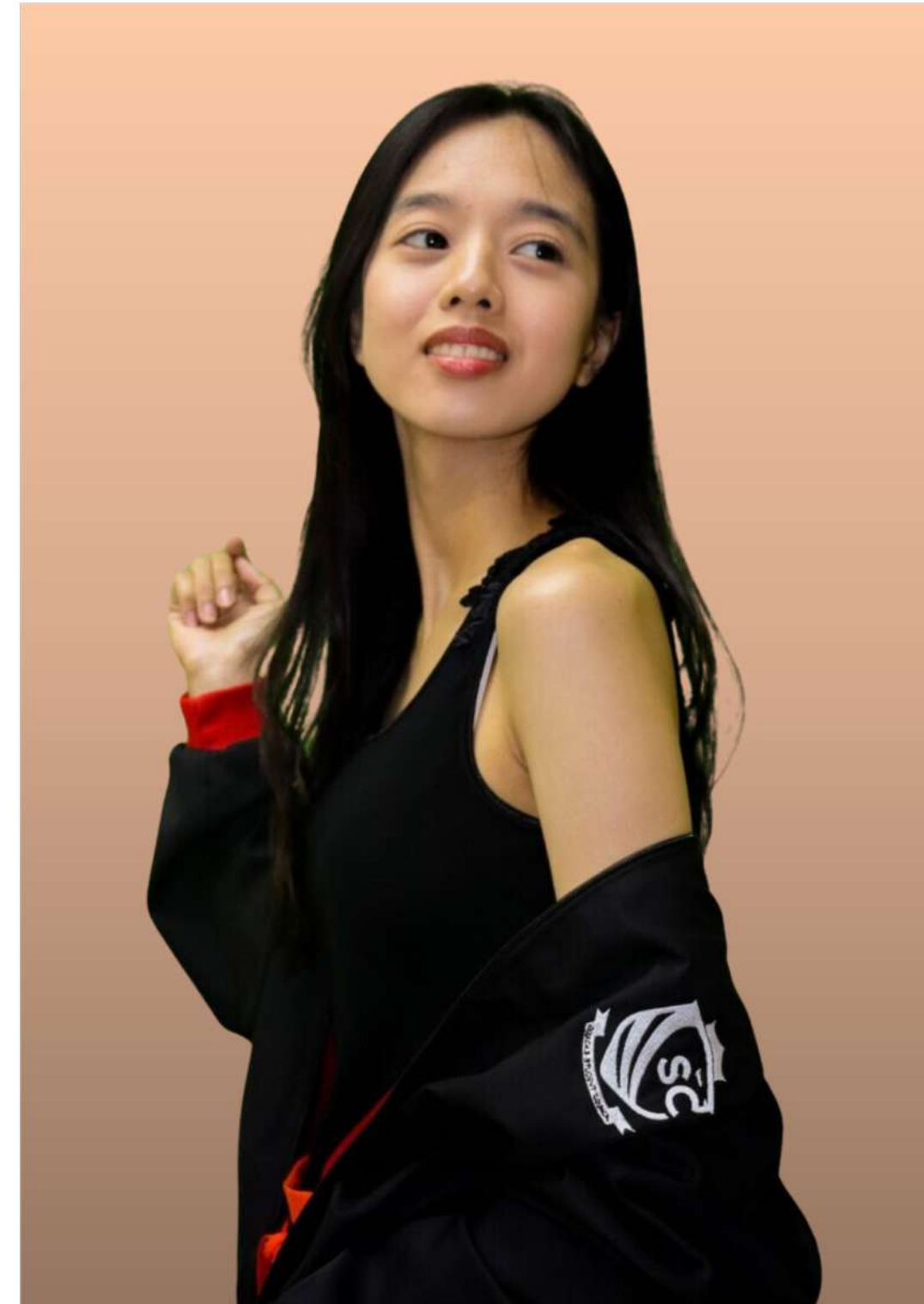
Meet the women atop the CAS Student Council

▼ Ryan Julianne Monzon and Rcee Umali Tenefrancia

“THE PERFECT MAN FOR THE JOB IS A WOMAN,” IS A PHRASE THAT IS CONSTANTLY BEING PROVEN BY THE TOP THREE OFFICERS OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES’ (CAS) STUDENT COUNCIL (SC), NAMELY THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (IVP), AND THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (EVP), ARE CURRENTLY HELD BY WOMEN IN THE PERSON OF EUNICE BERMUDEZ, JULIA SAN JOSE, AND KYLA CAYETANO, RESPECTIVELY.



IN PHOTO (from L-R): Julia San Jose, Eunice Bermudez, and Kyla Cayetano
Photos by Francesca Zia Robles



These three women work side-by-side as they venture on competitive ground at the SC. Their job is not built for the faint-hearted, for it serves as a vehicle for two things—either to be commended or be criticized. So, let’s get to know these three influential Bedan student-leaders and see their perspectives as the women in charge.

LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

Having a lot of responsibilities, as reflected by the title that the three women hold, Eunice says that one must balance one’s social life with academic responsibilities. “You have a spotlight on you, and if you’re going to utilize it properly, then you can represent all the women in San Beda,” the SC president emphasized.

She believes that aside from promoting events, they must also listen to the women of San Beda. In line with this, the SC president excitedly opened the idea of launching a women’s support desk with the committees of the Council.

On the other hand, Julia, in upholding her duties as the IVP, believes that one way to inspire other Bedans is to “perfect an activity that benefits most students,” giving people small platforms to express and uplift themselves.

“It is empowering to be heard. *Hindi naman lahat ng students gusto ng limelight, ‘yung iba* they just want to be heard, they just want to do something *na-a-appreciate*, so that in itself is a support for girls, and the whole point of that act is to release stress, and it’s open for all genders.”

For Kyla, she expressed her way of inspiring others by simply “hearing out the constituents and being responsive” whenever they have concerns. She always makes sure to show her support and encouragement.

“I really want to inspire them, to strive for more, *na hindi ka babae lang, babae ka*. That you can do so much more and create big things being a woman in this men-dominated field,” said the EVP.





STRONGER TOGETHER

These three women work side-by-side as they venture on competitive ground at the SC. Their job is not built for the faint-hearted, for it serves as a vehicle for two things—either to be commended or be criticized.

EMPOWERED BY OTHER EMPOWERED WOMEN

Eunice shared how her mother inspired her the most while growing up as a woman of strength. She pointed out that her mother “broke the generational cycle” amidst living in a stern patriarchal household. Due to this, Eunice herself can express her opinions freely in her family without the fear of not being heard.

Similarly, an emotional Kyla also praised her own mother. Being the female figure that the EVP idolizes, she confessed how her mom is “the complete opposite” of what she is right now, yet this is where Kyla finds the inspiration and drive of “continually moving forward to becoming herself.”

“Ever since I was a kid, my mom has always been with me through the highs and lows of my life. I am really amazed by her *kasi* even though *n’ung may mga time na walang wala*, she would always find ways to support me, all my needs and even my wants,” Kyla expressed.

Aside from her mom, Julia shared that one of the female figures she looks up to is her ‘Introduction to Law’ professor during her freshmen year as a student from the Department of Legal Management (LM), Atty. Harriet Reyes-Linsangan.

“She molded me that I want to teach in academe, *sa San Beda, gusto ko ‘pag naging prof ako ng Beda ay maging mother figure ako ng LM*,” she described.

Seeing how even after the latter’s ten years of teaching, the professor still does not forget her past students, greeting them on their special days and communicating with some of them, Julia contended how she would also like to “achieve that type of legacy” for herself in the foreseeable future.

ON STEREOTYPES, DISCRIMINATION, AND BIASES

One thing that even the best leaders in the world could not forcibly stop is one person’s ability to think independently, a characteristic that the “Trinity” knows all too well. People have subjected them to unsolicited opinions, not just about their work ethics but also based on how they speak, react, and dress.

Julia lightly addressed this type of issue during the announcement of winners of those who filed for candidacy in the SC, where she, in the peak of her emotions, mentioned, “*Sana hindi niyo lang ako binoto kasi*

maganda ako,” making a point that she wants to be seen through the credentials and performance that she has shown, and not her ‘beauty’ throughout her candidacy.

“I thought with my service, dedication, and passion that I’m exerting with my service as the IVP *sa* CAS and being the chair[person] of few institutional activities, for the longest time, ‘*yung ganong*’ stereotype *ang hirap niyang i-break*,” she narrated further.

Even though the election has long past since then, Julia says that some still regarded her only for her looks but not for what she brings to the table as a leader. However, this does not mean that the former debater would let these comments dishearten her. Thus, she believes that her former statement was her way of breaking the ice toward the cliché.

“I was just trying to break the ice. I was trying to lift the mood. *Kasi kailangan kong patunayan na hindi lang ako maganda*, I can also perform,” says Julia in addressing one of her “issues” before.

On the other hand, Kyla stated that being labeled as “*maarte*,” “*puro paganda lang*,” “boyfriend-searching,” and many other names did not stop her from doing the things she loves, more so in aiming to lead more effectively, managing most of the activities, and resulting in its success.

“I think that’s the best way to handle comments. When they are doubting you, you prove them wrong. And that’s what I did,” says Kyla.

Unlike the two, Eunice says that she “did not experience any stereotypes or discrimination” in the University. However, she is still adamant about addressing the issue by “educating more people” that women deserve equal rights and are capable of whatever a man can do.

The stories of Eunice, Julia, and Kyla is a hopeful wake-up call to all women out there, that by being strong-willed, passionate, and dedicated, one can answer the clarion call of leadership, remain unscathed before criticisms and gender-based negative perception, have the capability to inspire others to keep on holding their ground, and finally empower fellow women within and outside the four walls of the campus.



THE KAPITANAS

San Beda's female Team Captains

▼ Shelly Bocabel and Manssel Jianne Latonero



OVER THE YEARS, THE SPORTS INDUSTRY HAS CONTINUED TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO WOMEN, GIVING THEM MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTAKE AND TRAIN IN THEIR PASSION FOR ATHLETICS. AS TENNIS LEGEND SERENA WILLIAMS ONCE SAID, "THE SUCCESS OF EVERY WOMAN SHOULD BE THE INSPIRATION TO ANOTHER. WE SHOULD RAISE EACH OTHER."

IN PHOTO (from L-R): Maxinne Joyce Tayag (Volleyball), Lady Anne Gerolia (Table Tennis), Mary Ann Velasco (Swimming), and Isabella Dominique Pollentes (Badminton)
Photos by Anne Julia Francisco

In celebration of International Women's Month, we look up to the women in sports who led their teams to greatness and championships, ultimately becoming an inspiration to others. Rising in a male-dominated industry, we present our own crop of Bedan Lionesses, who continue to lead with grace and play with grit, honoring their legacies as team captains.

MAXINNE JOYCE TAYAG, SAN BEDA LADY RED SPIKERS

Maxinne is the current team captain of San Beda's women's volleyball team, the Lady Red Spikers. Bearing the weight of being the captain, she admitted how "it wasn't always an easy responsibility." Many obstacles hindered their progress, and Maxinne believes that most were "self-inflicted." She also shares how being the accomplished volleyball player that she is today was "almost impossible at one point." However, her "faith in God" helped her restore her drive and determination to achieve her current position.

Moreover, she also expounded on the challenges she faced as team captain, which includes her and the team holding off on their emotions while playing. Doubts and frustrations were also part of the journey, which led her to grasp onto her faith once again. "God didn't let me feel or get this position without a purpose, but God showed me that I can [be] together with Him as I walk and lead the team of women," Maxinne shares.

She also highlighted the spirit of being present for one another whenever the team faces some obstacles. The captain of Lady Red Spikers believes that Women's Month is an impactful moment, celebrating the victories of women in sports, as it presents their "determination to rise and bring each other up."



**ISABELLA DOMINIQUE POLLENTES, SAN BEDA LADY RED SMASHERS**

As the women's badminton team captain, Isabella revealed her greatest role models in her sport; in one account, her mom, who was also a badminton player during her time. In the past, Isabella's father already noticed greatness towards her wife, Em, with her amazing badminton skills, which made them eventually started a court together. Em's championship skills made her a role model for the team captain of the Lady Red Smashers today and a blueprint for her success. Isabella also found inspiration in Olympic champion Carolina Marin, whose story she deeply resonated with.

Her journey as a team captain began during her sophomore year, surprising her and making her think she was unprepared. "I had doubts, but I had faith in my coaches' decision to entrust me with the captainship and skip past my upperclassmen," she stated.

From then on, Isabella's journey became like no other. She stepped up to the needs of her teammates, ensuring the support between them even during individual tournaments where they would have to compete. She raised her team remarkably, starting the team's social media pages and gaining sponsorships. "The Red Smashers were once called 'red kittens' during the team pages' early existence. Who's laughing now? Sponsorships have been a blessing to the team, and it was not easy to gain them with little experience. I kept my ground and built my confidence, making countless calls and emails," Isabella elaborated.

Being a woman in the badminton world is "tough" as Isabella described it. Having looked up to those who paved the way which disproved the belief that there is no future for women in badminton, she also challenged the status quo as her journey is filled with refutation towards that sexist belief that women have no future in badminton. Despite the challenges, Isabella never gave up on her dreams and persisted in navigating the male-dominated field.

The leader of the Lady Red Smashers sees "appreciation" in Women's Month, as it celebrates the "strength and confidence" unique to a woman. She expressed her gratitude to those who supported the Lady Red Smashers during the NCAA Season 99, leaving some advice to "Never be discouraged just because you were belittled or bullied by a lousy queuing player or from your own teammate one afternoon. Always strive for greatness even during hard times, and I highly suggest finding your tribe among the vast sea of people. "

LADY ANNE GEROLIA, SAN BEDA LADY RED PADDLERS

Lady is the current captain of San Beda University's (SBU) women's table tennis team, the Lady Red Paddlers. Ever since high school, Lady looked up to the Japanese table tennis player, Mima Ito. She commemorates her resilience and skill, which continues to influence her drive to thrive in the said sport.

Leading her team through the ups and downs, Lady described her journey as a team captain as "rewarding and challenging." The hurdles she overcame had to do with the fact that she was a woman, saying, "I often face challenges related to gender stereotypes and unequal opportunities. Breaking through these barriers requires persistence and determination, qualities that have become essential to my success in table tennis."

To honor Women's Month, she holds great significance to the achievements of women in sports as a woman athlete, like herself, commemorates it, not just merely as an acknowledgment but as a reminder that "equality will continue to mark its existence" in sports, paving the way for future generations.

Inspiring the women who are interested in playing table tennis, Lady said "believe in your abilities, embrace challenges, and know that your presence enriches the game. The table is set for all passionate players, regardless of gender."





MARY ANN VELASCO, SAN BEDA LADY RED SEA LIONS

Mary Ann takes pride in being the captain of SBU's women's swimming team, the Lady Red Sea Lions. She expressed that even as a team captain she is still "gladly being treated equally" by her coach and fellow female teammates. She emphasizes that as student-athletes, they all receive the same privileges.

While Mary Ann admitted that women still face unequal opportunities and stereotypes in some fields, however for her, the same cannot be said for swimming. "In swimming, we have separate standards in competition times and records for both men and women, so I can really say that in our sport, we don't discriminate and look down on women because women can keep up or even defeat the men's standard swimming times," she elaborated.

The team captain of the Lady Red Sea Lions expressed her passion for swimming, assuring herself she would excel as she has "loved doing it since childhood," while being likened to an individual finally seeing her "destiny." As for Women's Month, she pointed out that the men's aspect of sports always catches the attention, so a month of appreciation dedicated to women "empowers each of them." Mary Ann propounded with a parting message: "To all the Bedans, especially to women out there, always strive for victory in everything you do."



The impact of these team captains reaches far beyond the game itself, influencing their teammates and paving the way for future generations of female athletes to embrace their leadership roles confidently. As we celebrate these female captains' trailblazing journey, let's continue to support their grit, passion, and commitment to breaking the stigma. *Abante babae!*



Ms. Jenny Guinsod
▼ Photo by Nate Soriano



Ms. Lourdes Bataller
▼ Photo by Francesca Zia Robles



Ms. Diosay Laurie
▼ Photo by Francesca Zia Robles



Ms. Russel Javinez
▼ Photo by Nate Soriano

THE BEATING HEART OF **SAN BEDA**

Our Female Non-Teaching Staff

▼ Veronica Balbin and Ryan Julianne Monzon

AT THE HEART OF ANY THRIVING UNIVERSITY LIES THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL, WHO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE COMMUNITY’S SEAMLESS FUNCTIONING AND OVERALL WELL-BEING. IN OUR CASE, THERE ARE SEVERAL RESPECTABLE WOMEN WHO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES AND PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE WELL-BEING OF EVERY BEDAN, AS THEIR WORK ALLEVIATES OUR DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCE IN THE CAMPUS.



Ms. Maricel Corpuz
▼ Photo by Francesca Zia Robles



Ms. Josephine Jarabo
▼ Photo by Francesca Zia Robles



Ms. Fe Egaña
▼ Photo by Francesca Zia Robles

Ms. JENNY GUINSOD, CAS LIBRARIAN

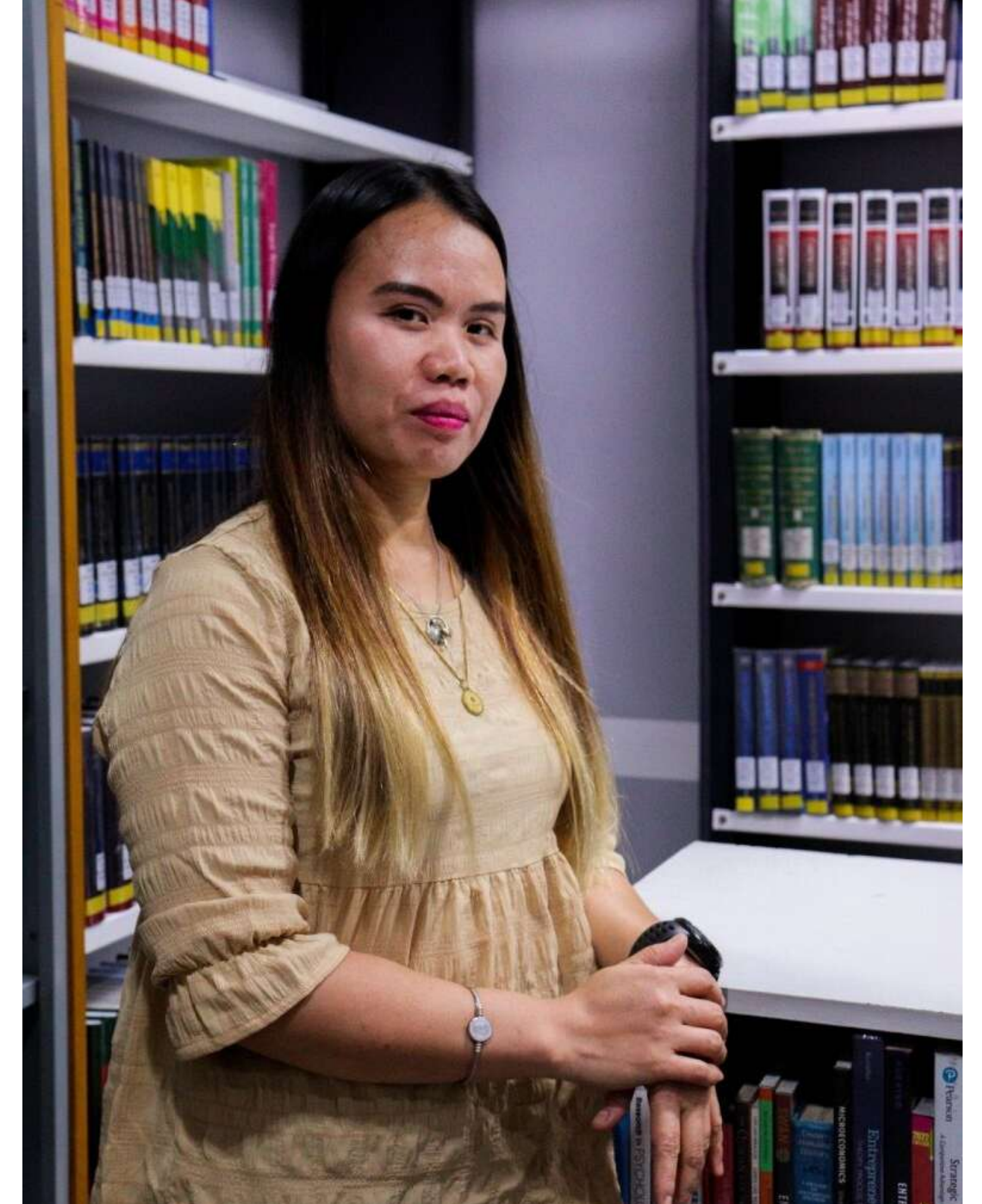
In the quiet halls of the University Library, we can find Ms. Jenny Guinsod, the head of the College of Arts and Science (CAS) Library. She has been in charge of its overall operations since 2012.

Ms. Jenny likes maintaining a friendly atmosphere within her workspace and believes it is important to communicate openly with other staff members. As the head of the CAS Library, she finds the joy of friendship with her colleagues. “So open *kami sa isa’t isa*,” she says.

On top of her harmonious interactions with her workmates, Ms. Guinsod, beyond her professional role, actively participates in a biking group for this activity, which also makes her feel empowered. She believes biking allows her to maintain a balanced lifestyle while experiencing the thrill of adventure and the joy of community involvement.

Ms. Jenny shared that the key to actively managing both her social life and work life would be time management. “*Kapag nasa work ako, focus ako sa work... ‘Pag nasa bahay naman, focus ako sa mga anak ko,*” she shared.

Her advice to other women is to pursue happiness and goals with motivation, encouraging them to try without fear of failure. “*Kung saan lang sila masaya... gawin lang nila. Try lang ng try, if mag-fail, okay lang naman. Basta pursue mo kung anong gusto mo,*” she concluded.



Ms. RUSSEL JAVINEZ, LADY GUARD

At the forefront of the University, Ms. Russel Javinez, alongside the team of security officers from the AGF Security Agency, works tirelessly day and night to ensure the safety of all who come and go on the University’s grounds.

Her journey to becoming one of San Beda University’s (SBU) security staff started only a month ago when she was accepted by her security agency and assigned to the university.

Being a security guard means they are the frontliners of the strict implementation of the campus rules. Ms. Russel elaborated that she faced some challenges. Nonetheless, she shared that patience is the most integral virtue for dealing with the situation effectively.

Ms. Russel shared that she feels most empowered when reflecting on the challenges and problems she has overcome, especially as a single mother. In a powerful statement she stated that, “*nakayanan ko maging ama at ina sa mga anak ko.*”

When asked for advice to share with other women, Ms. Javinez shared, “*magpakatatag at wag sumuko sa buhay. Laban lang.*”

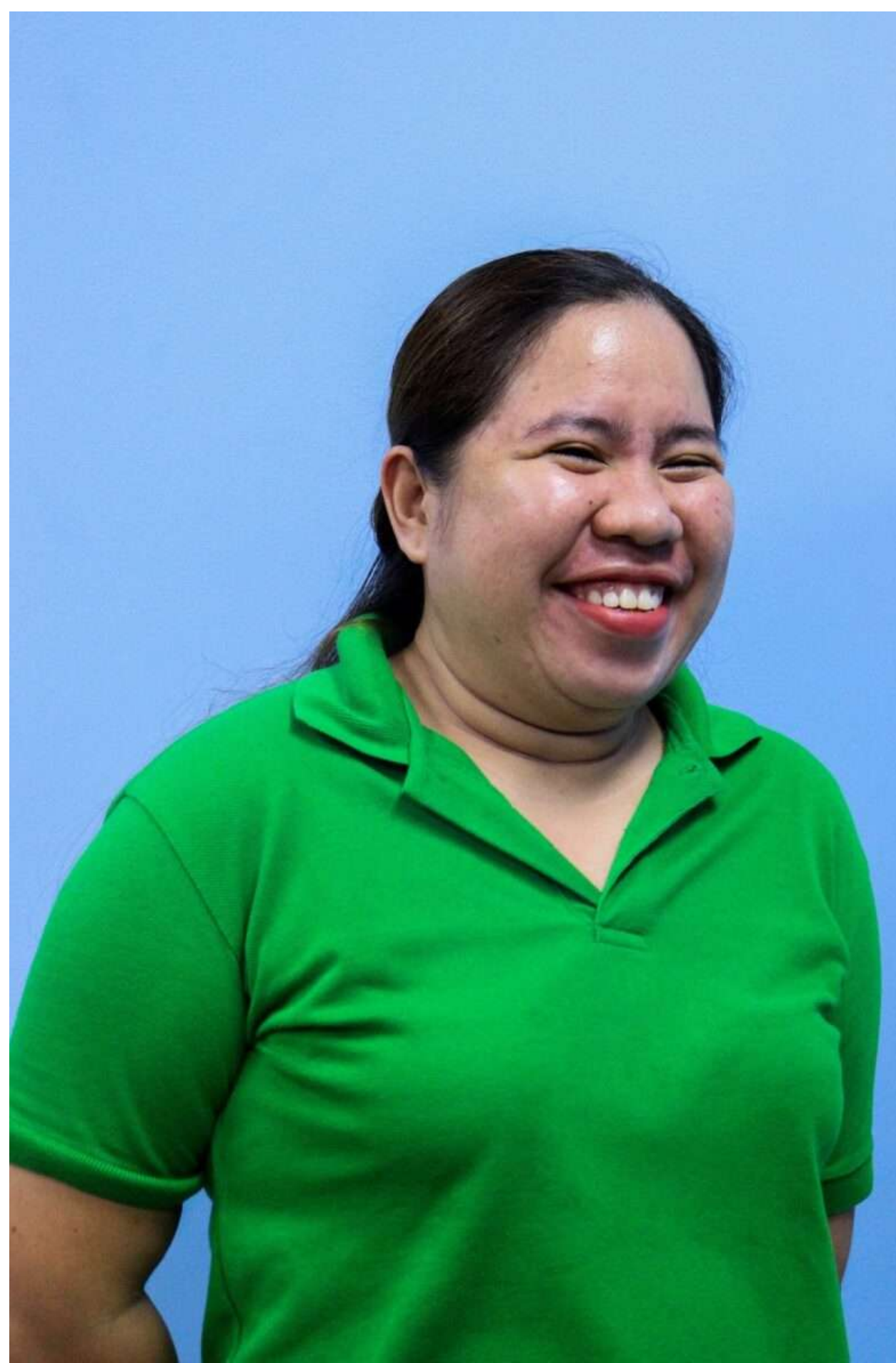
Ms. DIOSAY LAURIE, DOM FELIPE CAFÉ CASHIER

Catering to students and staff alike with a smile on her face, Ms. Diosay joined the Bedan community on August 17, 2018, and took on the role of cashier for the canteen.

Enthusiastically, she shared how gender biases were not rampant in her line of work, highlighting that regardless of gender, the employees were friendly and harmoniously working with each other, and on the flip side, the Bedans were polite and respectful.

Fulfilling a role that requires enthusiasm and a pleasing personality, Ms. Diosay’s perfect fit for the job allowed her to immerse herself as a contributing factor to the Bedan athlete’s success as she became close to their hearts.

Through their daily interactions, she always made sure to receive them with “warm and friendly greetings” resembling a sense of a home away from their own.



“*Sobrang sweet,*” reciprocating the same energy with a constant smile on their faces, is how she’d described the pride of the Bedan community.

Drawing inspiration from her role as a mother in her humble family, she draws empowerment from successfully balancing her roles as a parent and an employee. Her treatment of Bedans could be described as akin to her role as a mom.

Effortlessly striking balance as a woman, “*bilang nanay na ako, nagagampanan ko pa rin yung pagiging nanay ko... Kung бага, nama-manage ko yung oras ko... Kaya para sa kanila, ‘supermom’ nila ako kasi hindi ko sila napapabayaan,*” she mentioned.

Ms. Diosay believes in balancing work and family life. She makes it a point to finish work early to give her kids her undivided attention.

She encouraged other women in similar situations to fight and “*maging matapang...*” as there is no role more fulfilling than being a mother in your own home and being that for others.



Ms. JOSEPHINE JARABO, ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Ms. Josephine had a positive experience working with her dedicated and collaborative co-workers in San Beda. The office promotes gender equality and does not observe the superiority of one gender over the other. Instead, camaraderie and mentoring are integral parts of working there. Ms. Josephine mentioned that her seniors were welcoming and helpful as they mentored her when she was new to the institution.

As the saying goes, “Be the senior you needed when you were a junior!” Just like what her seniors did to her during her newcomer days, she also supports the new ones as this was her defining moment of feeling empowered. “You feel empowered *kapag* you are helping them and supporting them to learn *para magkaroon ng* at least *na* working attitude or working camaraderie *sa* area,” she emphasized.

Amidst equality and collaboration in the workplace, Ms. Josephine, responsible for budgeting in her position, faces challenges in

approving budget requests for various departments and organizations’ activities. Although it might seem easy at first glance, it is not. She shared that they received negative remarks because of how they save the funds, but cost-cutting is still necessary. “But then it is still for the good of the school *naman na dapat* we should properly disburse *kung anong meron tayo*,” she said.

Despite the challenges, she remains steadfast in her job and rises to the occasion. She understands the importance of developing her knowledge and pursued a master’s degree in San Beda. When asked about possibly getting a Ph.D., she stated it’s a “work in progress.” Learning is a competitive advantage in every profession. Ms. Josephine advised every woman to never stop learning.

“*Kasi dun lang sa* learning *tayo matututo* how to deal with other people and how to support them to uplift their lives also,” Ms. Josephine said about what empowering women means to her.

Ms. FE EGAÑA, ACCOUNTING OFFICE

When some individuals hear “Accounting Office,” they may assume that the office is available 24/7 to receive their payments, as they line up at the window to collect their checks. However, Ms. Fe, the competent woman behind the glass window, has revealed that engaging with these individuals confidently and assertively is her way of relieving stress. She handles these scenarios professionally by reassuring them that urgent matters will always be prioritized.

For the past 22 years, Ms. Fe has dedicated herself to her work. Though she faced challenges when applying to other companies, she persevered and overcame them. Despite the demands of her profession, she remained committed and focused on her work. In the end, her dedication paid off, as she found a fulfilling career with San Beda that provided her with a good salary and benefits.

From 2002 until 2016, Ms. Fe was stuck in a never-ending cycle of work and home. But in 2017, she finally took a leap of faith and went on domestic and international trips, which was a well-deserved break for her!

With her dedication and loyalty seen through her work, Ms. Fe emphasized the importance of women staying committed to their work and utilizing the 8 hours allocated. She also advised women to rest after work hours and finish the job the next day.

“*Yung eight hours dapat na binigay sayo na para magtrabaho ibuhos mo talaga yun para sa makatapos ka rin naman ng trabaho kahit may naghihintay pang iba. Tsaka ano positive lang tayo*,” Ms. Fe propounded.





Ms. MARICEL CORPUZ, HOUSEKEEPING STAFF

A courageous woman during the pandemic in 2021 from the BMS Janitorial and Allied Services Inc., Ms. Maricel Corpuz entered the walls of San Beda and became one of its very dedicated personnel, ensuring a clean and welcoming environment for everyone every single day.

Ms. Maricel is a true master of time management. She juggles being hands-on with her work and family. She knows that her family is her top priority, but she also understands the importance of meeting the demands of her job description. And the best part? She gets to do it all while keeping her family close to her heart.

Ms. Maricel finds empowerment in being a mother. She shared, *“kagaya ng pagiging isang ina. Bilang babae, halimbawa, parent ka na. Lahat pakiramdam mo, lumalakas ka para sa anak mo at sa pamilya mo.”*

In her advice to her fellow women, she encourages resilience in facing life’s challenges, standing strong and unwavering, and seeking solace in God’s guidance through prayer.

Ms. LOURDES BATALLER, BOOKSTORE’S CASHIER/HELPER

Ms. Lourdes initially served as a janitorial team supervisor at SBU until she worked her way into San Beda’s Bookstore in 2009. She has been its Cashier ever since.

Facing gender discrimination, she encountered resistance against women working in the bookstore. However, with the school’s transition to co-education, she shed light on the importance of women in the bookstore, stating, *“kung ano ang kaya mo, kaya ko rin. Kung kaya ng lalaki, mas kaya ng babae. Gaya namin, nagtatahi kami ng mga palda pag nasisira, ganun.”*

Ms. Lourdes firmly believes that women are the best at family decision-making. From budgeting to caring for the kids, she feels empowered and confident in her abilities.

Ms. Lourdes advised women to boost their confidence by trying new things and showcasing their abilities. *“I-boost mo yung confidence mo and ipakita mo yung kakayahan mo... Tiwala lang sa sarili, yun lang ang kailangan mo,”* Ms. Lourdes expressed.



Let’s honor the university’s non-teaching women as Women’s Month begins. They too are part of our family—the Bedan community. Let’s express gratitude for their profound yet often unnoticed contributions and recognize their indispensable impact on our university experience.

(with Jennifer Gwyneth Fabros)

