



Photo courtesy of San Beda Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants

SAN BEDA BANNERS 57.14% PASSING RATE IN MAY 2024 CPALE

▼ Paolo Vital

WITH A PASSING rate of 57.14%, 24 out of 42 Accountancy graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences passed the May 2024 Certified Public Accountant Licensure Examinations (CPALE) conducted on June 1, which accounts for a 75% passing rate among first time takers and 50% with repeaters.

The result of the May 2024 CPALE surpassed the national passing average at 30.3% and is a marked improvement of the Department's previous record of 38.24%.

Dr. Jackqui R. Moreno, CPA, DBA, Chairperson of the Department of Accountancy and Taxation, attributes this year's success to several factors, saying "We have worked not only for the CPA board-taking but also for the practical use of the subjects and I think the instruction of the faculty members are really based on the practical application."

She further mentioned that

the faculty members of the department have "good industry experience," noting the contrast with the years prior before focusing on the technicalities of the board examination.

Another factor she pointed out was the curriculum's new integration of 21 workshop units, which previously only had nine. While Dr. Moreno commended SBU for producing topnotchers with nine units of workshop only, she, nonetheless, conferred to the "competitiveness" of the examinations—which is "why we increase the workshop classes in their 4th year already," added the department chairperson.

Accordingly, she observed how there has been a noticeable improvement in the students themselves, saying, "*Kabit papaano, mas tumibay yung loob nila ngayon kasi they are very pressured to really improve,*" considering how Dr. Moreno cited that the challenge, insofar as determining the passing rate is concerned, lies on the graduating students.

In line with this, Dr. Moreno continues to emphasize the "uncompromised stringent policies" of the University on evaluating whether or not the students are ready for the board examinations. Such a high caliber of standard remains to be

intact in order to, of course, not compromise the quality upheld by the University.

But amid the rigid system of the University, the department chairperson promised to tweak the "practiced tough love" in the department in order for students to "truly appreciate accounting." In doing so, "will not only be increasing the number of students but also making them commit themselves to the future profession," added Dr. Moreno.

Overall, Dr. Moreno credited the success of the department with three things: "a medley of the students' attitude, the curriculum

that we have, [and] the style of the teachers now *na* instead working on the technical competence, application also is considered."

For this year, the next CPALE is now scheduled on October 25-27 according to PRC's resolution no. 1728, series of 2023. Hence, as the department prepares for the board examinations, Dr. Moreno left a piece of advice for its students and examinees alike, saying "If you love something, even if it's hard you'll do everything to get it," while further promising to maximize everyone's cooperation and support before the students of the department.

SBU maintains footing in 2024 THE Impact Rankings

▼ Rcee U. Tenefrancia

HAVING PARTICIPATED ONCE again in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2024, San Beda University (SBU) remained in its 1001-1500th spot out of the 1,963 universities and placed 23rd among the 56 other participants from the Philippines last June 12.

With all the 17 available Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN) that a university can choose to apply to in the THE, SBU applied for eight and excelled in four SDGs, being SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), and the sole requirement for all universities, SDG 17 (partnership for the goals).

SBU first participated in THE Impact Rankings last 2022 where the University was in the 801-1000 bracket. Since then, the University gradually declined, with last year placing in the 1001+ spot, and now 1001-1500th spot for this year.

Yet contrary to what the numbers have stipulated, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Prof. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante PhD., believed that the University did not lose its foothold. The problem, he emphasized, was the high number of participants.

"Kung titignan mo, steady tayo sa mga

score [*sa* University Impact Rankings]. *Ang problema nga lang ay marami nang sumasali unlike before the first time we participated there were only 1500 Universities and only a few from the Philippines. At ngayon, more than 2000 na,*" said Dean Bustamante.

Dr. Fernandino Jose A. Fontanilla, the Vice President (VP) of Research and Innovation, added that SBU's THE performance has been "keeping up" in the rankings despite the University's "limited programs and documentation" in comparison to other universities in the country.

"A lot of the team members who are contributing to the evidence for submission are existing administrators and faculty members who have other roles including the administrative functions and teaching roles, and we are just doing this on top of that. Given that scenario, I think we're still doing well," said Dr. Fontanilla.

Both the CAS Dean and the VP for Research and Innovation **P5**

CAS embraces Class of 2028 in FWD

▼ Marc Joseph Felix and Nathaniel Soriano

WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS into San Beda University (SBU), the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) community welcomed the Class of 2028 at the annual Freshmen Welcoming Day (FWD) last July 31.



The Class of 2028 waiting outside the Old Gate to be formally inaugurated as officially Bedans

Photo by Nate Soriano

Talking on the culture of FWD, Prof. Marvin R. Reyes, PhD, the Prefect of Student Affairs, explained how its primary goal was "to orient and make the freshmen realize the ins and outs of San Beda, orient them with the policies of the FOD and brief them into what's going on with the campus."

Every Academic Year, the FWD adopts a particular theme to make the event "more creative and engaging." For this year, the

CAS Student Council (SC) embraced the Science-Fiction (Sci-Fi) genre where all 14 Professional Student Organizations were given a chance to choose a television series or movie where they can get their inspiration from when welcoming the freshmen into their respective programs.

During the entirety of the event, the Bedan Information Technology Society (BITS) chose *Fallout*; Human Resource Development **P4**

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The “B” explores multimedia journalism in MULAT 2024

▼ Rizian Veniz Balleta, Marc Joseph Felix, and Manssel Jianne Latonero

AIMING TO EQUIP student journalists with the skills to navigate the evolving landscape of 21st century multimedia journalism, *The Bedan*, the official student publication of San Beda University (SBU) College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), staged the return of MULAT 2024 in-person at the Abbot Lopez Hall last June 7 to 8.

Embracing the theme, “Storytelling Across Mediums: Multimedia Journalism in the 21st Century,” Paul Alexis Arga, Volume 81 Editor-in-Chief, spearheaded the organization of MULAT 2024.

Reflecting on the event’s legacy, Arga recalled the challenges faced during the pandemic, particularly in 2021 when the event was last held online. At the time, despite the obstacles of distance learning, *The Bedan*’s Editorial Board and Staff managed to celebrate the publication’s 80th anniversary through MULAT.

This resilience, according to Arga, primarily motivated the revival of the event in a face-to-face format after a hiatus in 2022 due to the transition to face-to-face learning.

“*The Bedan* has a rich heritage, and we want to impart the wisdom and knowledge that we have from handling a big publication like ours,” Arga stated, emphasizing the importance of growing to the evolving demands of journalism, which now extends beyond traditional writing to encompass multimedia storytelling.

DAY 1

The first day of the seminar featured prominent speakers who shared their expertise across various facets of journalism. Mr. Anjo Bagaoisan, Assignment Editor at ABS-CBN News, opened the event with a keynote address that delved into the evolution of news coverage.

Bagaoisan emphasized the “enduring” nature of storytelling, despite technological advancements and the challenges faced by media outlets like ABS-CBN.

He also underscored the role of social media as a tool for disseminating information, reminding participants of the importance of perseverance in journalism as a form of public service.

Thereafter, Mr. Raymund Villanueva, Chairperson of AlterMidya and former Editor-in-Chief of *The Bedan* Volume 49, offered session on the nuances of Editorial Writing.

Villanueva challenged the notion of neutrality, asserting that while journalism “must be objective and fair,” it should “not shy away from taking a stance.” He then encouraged student journalists to view their work not only as a means of reporting but also as an act of advocacy.

Participants were also given the opportunity to share their reflections. Ms. Diane Jen Baliling, a sophomore Pharmacy student from Centro Escolar University (CEU), remarked on the seminar’s emphasis on the “responsible dissemination of information,” conveying her appreciation for the discussions which resonated with her own experiences in campus journalism.

In conclusion of the first day, Engr. Arvee D. Lao talked through the history and intricacies of political cartoons. A well-crafted and effective cartoon, he emphasized, makes one think “*O nga, no! o ‘Ba’t hindi ko ito naisip?*”

Furthermore, underplaying, euphemism, and symbolism were some of the practical techniques Lao discussed. They play a role in subtly delivering messages that carry an impact, he stressed. It is also important, according to him, to explore diverse media forms that could enhance the delivery of messages more effectively, underscoring the evolving role of visual storytelling in modern journalism.

DAY 2

The second day started with Mr. Nathaniel C. Barretto, Nation Sub-Editor at BusinessWorld, who led a discussion on news writing. During his lecture, he urged the audience to redefine what constitutes the news. Accordingly, Barretto highlighted the importance of making stories

that “sell” to engage the audience through humanized perspectives and real-life examples. He practically advised aspiring journalists to “read, write, and revise” and stressed that this relentless pursuit is crucial for ensuring that information remains both truthful and authentic.

Next, Mr. Francis T.J. Ochoa, Sports Editor at Inquirer, followed with a session on sports writing. Here, he introduced the concept of categorizing stories into “Hub, Help, and Hero” content. Moreover, he provided insights in strategically approaching the publication of articles today, encouraging journalists to let curiosity guide their storytelling.

Following this, Mr. John Vincent K. Forteza, a CALABARZON 4-A regional trainer and school paper adviser, presented a unique approach to feature writing. Forteza emphasized the importance of seeking out compelling stories, stating, “What good stories don’t do is home visits. You have to go out, you have to look for them, go for it.”

Lastly, Ms. Rio Deluvio gave a session on photojournalism where she inspired participants to use their lens not just to capture moments but to ignite action. She displayed her own works in sports and other fields to demonstrate the versatility of photography as a medium. Additionally, pairing technical proficiency and creative vision can transform a photograph into a powerful narrative, hence why understanding light and mastering equipment are important.

Post-event, Arga reasoned that Multimedia became the theme because “[*The Bedan*] saw that multimedia really is playing a huge role in the 21st century journalism” after looking back at previous iterations of the event and similar seminars hosted by other organizations and publications. “That’s why it’s the theme that we chose, and we felt it was very, very appropriate for our time, especially in the circumstances of *the Bedan*,” he added, giving his regards to MULAT’s speakers, “I have to give my hats off to them.”

(with Dianne Radel Magallon)



The Volume 81 Staff of *The Bedan* pose for a photo opportunity during the final day of MULAT 2024

Photo by Zia Robles

SC, CEC, offer necessities to Bedans, Barangay 412 residents

▼ Gian Marcel Chiu and Rcee Tenefrancia

IN THE AFTERMATH of Typhoon Carina, the San Beda University (SBU) Student Council (SC), in partnership with the Community Engagement Center (CEC), took charge in offering their free lugaw and water initiative to Bedan students and staff, along with the residents of Barangay 412 last July 27.

Following the Southwest Monsoon along with the landfall and intensification of Typhoon Carina into the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) last July 22 to 24, the entirety of the Philippines, particularly Luzon, was at a standstill as the intense rainfall led to serious flooding incidents inflicting collateral damage to a number of individuals.

The SC, who were in Baguio during the height of the typhoon, had trouble travelling back to Manila due to the incident. “The roads weren’t safe. And during that time, *nakikibalita na lang kami* through photos,” said SC President, Mari Okol.

Upon arrival, Okol shared how, in response to the catastrophe, the SC’s initial responses were setting up emergency hotlines, organizing a donation drive, load and internet assistance, and conducting a welfare check for all students and staff—all using social media as a platform for disseminating information.

Yet even amid said efforts, Okol told *The Bedan* how the staff, including security and maintenance personnel, were directly affected by the flooding. Upon conversing with Mrs. Norielyn C. Tabag, RSW, the Director of the Community Engagement Center (CEC), this realization prompted them to extend their relief efforts through the provision of free *lugaw* not just in San Beda University (SBU), but also to its neighboring barangay, Barangay 412.

“We noticed that there are

affected areas in Metro Manila, *talagang ang sentro* is Metro Manila. We know for a fact *na ang mga Bedans* are located or situated in Metro Manila or nearby Metro Manila,” Mrs. Tabag explained.

Hence, the CEC Director has reached out to many offices such as the Human Resource Management Office (HRMO), Dean of the Student Affairs, and the SC as well in soliciting and securing their support in helping the affected Bedans. With their joint incentive to help, a letter was forwarded to Rev. Fr. Aloysius Maranan, OSB, which was signed immediately.

Moreover, The CEC received two boxes of relief goods from the College of Nursing (CON), consisting of food and clothing.

However, despite the CEC’s best effort, Mrs. Tabag admitted “there was no target beneficiaries yet” for the relief donations, and that they have yet to reach out to the Bedan victims of the flooding. Through this, the CEC sought the help of the HRMO, responsible for providing data on the identities and locations of the affected Bedan students and employees ravaged by the disaster.

More behind-the-scenes, Okol discussed how the free *lugaw* initiative would not have transpired without the support of the CEC, saying “if it weren’t for the CEC, *hindi namin mapapamobilize ‘yung canteen, kasi sa canteen nakukuba ‘yung lugaw*,” while adding that the CEC’s funds played a huge portion in allocating the funding to create

the *lugaw*.

Besides the CEC, Okol also commended the Bedan community, especially the 20 volunteers from the executive committee. Even despite “being a last-minute initiative,” students were prompt in responding to the call. “*Kabit wala naman silang pasok*, they’re showing up early in order to help the student council, in order to help *rin ‘yung* initiative *na ito*. So, *doon palang makikita mo* that Bedans are aware on the circumstances that is happening and they’re willing to take action towards it,” the SC President added.

Hon. Raymond P. Ramillano, the Chairman of Barangay 412, expressed his gratitude to SBU over the initiative.

Looking back at the height of the typhoon, Hon. Ramillano told *The Bedan* how the barangay was severely affected, most especially his constituents who were Informal Settler Families (ISF) living near the inlet. As such, the chairman extended his gratitude to the University, especially to the CEC, imploring them “[*na*] *wag po sana kayo magsasarawang tumulong sa Barangay 412*.” It is to take note that, in the past, Barangay 412 has had many connections with the University through the CEC, providing them with many training courses and seminars.

Moving forward, the council emphasized the importance of preparedness for such emergencies. They noted that while immediate responses were crucial, there’s a

need for “long-term improvements in disaster response systems.” Addressing issues like flood management and enhancing

welfare systems should be a priority to better handle future calamities.

(with Prince Tagarino)



The newly-proclaimed Student Council (SC) officers pose for a photo opportunity.

Photo by Gian Marcel Chiu

OPSA hails outstanding student organizations in Parangal 2024

▼ Veronica A. Balbin and Paolo Vital

RECOGNIZING SAN BEDA University's (SBU) Student Organization Circle (SOC), the Office of the Prefect of Student Activities (OPSA) of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) spearheaded the "Gabi ng Parangal at Pasasalamat" at the Abbot Lopez Hall, June 21.

"The Parangal at Pasasalamat originated way back in the 1980s during the leadership of then-OPSA Mr. Ricardo Palo who was one of the faculty of the Department of Entrepreneurship," said Prof. Marvin R. Reyes Ph.D., the Prefect of the Student Activities.

The event began with the opening remarks from guest host,

Mr. Derrick Monasterio, who reiterated the institutional theme for Academic Year 2023-2024 as "A Synodal Culture Through Prayer and Integral Education" alongside OPSA's theme, "Pansambayanan at Pansimbabang Pagdarasal sa Edukasyon."

Next, Mr. Enrique Louise Bonete, former Student Council (SC) Treasurer, and Ms. Liezel D.

Rodriguez, RGC, the Director of the Admissions and Placement Center (APC), introduced the rationale of the event, which was to recognize student organizations who have "displayed exemplary performances."

In line with this, Prof. Reyes stated in an interview that it is "not only an output of the Organization Selection

Evaluation (OSE) but also the records of different organizations—how they performed, how they came up with this activity and how it gave a big impact to the University and society."

Several awards were then given to various student organizations. Notable recognitions included the Best Religious Activity given to "Koinonia: Visita Iglesia Year 2," spearheaded by the San Beda Red Lens (SBRL) and the Bedan Pastoral Ministry (BPM). BPM was also awarded as the winner for Best Cultural Activity in the *Santacruzian 2023*

"Katutubong Puno Relaunch Campaign" devised by the San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA) and Kapisanang Agham ng San Beda (KASB) was recognized as the Most Responsive to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Moreover, the Best Digital Activity was awarded "LM Mo Na Ba: A Podcast" by the Junior Bedan Law Circle (JBLC).

Finally, the Best Digital Publication Materials were once again awarded to SBJMA through their "The Marketing E-Link Volume 2."

Then, the awarding of SOC's best Non-Professional Organizations were ranked order: SBRL, Bedan Business Spectrum (BBS), Bedan Advocacy and Consciousness Enhancement Society (BACES), Social Sciences and Humanities Association (SSHA) and BPM.

Prof. Reyes stated that the criteria used for the awarding was devised seven years ago. However, he expressed his intent to revise it, saying "We will have a meeting first with the Student Council and right after that we will release the new criteria that will be followed by the organizations."

Aside from Student Organizations, the success of Bedan athletes was also recognized by Dr. Diosdado M. Aler III Ed.D., the Head of the Athletics Office, and Ms. Chriselle Tamares, the newly elected Vice President for External Affairs.

The teams were ranked as follows: San Beda Red Lions, Red Booters, Red Sea Lions Men's Division, Red Sea Lions Women's Division, Red Smashers Men's Division and Red Smashers Women's Division.

Afterwards, the top five Professional Organizations were ranked as follows: SBJMA, San Beda Economic Society (SBES), JBLC, KASB, and Junior Financial Management Association (JFINMA).

Moving forward, for the next "Gabi ng Parangal at Pasasalamat," Prof. Reyes challenged this year's SOC that it is "not about the number of trophies that you receive but the quality of how you are being acknowledged by the institution based on your hard work as an organization."

Additionally, he said that "it is now high time for each organization to heighten and broaden their concept of conducting activities. It is not just the idea of conducting an activity but is more on the idea of having a quality activity."

initiatives that served the Bedan community throughout the A.Y. 2023-2024.

After the event, putting into light SOCA's objectives of "transparency and accountability," Bermudez told *The Bedan* that these two values are "something [the next SC] should always foster, so that the students or the whole CAS community would know the plans and the ongoing projects of the council."

Moreover, Bermudez also shared her aspiration that the succeeding SC would "remain humble" and prioritize "student-centric" activities. As a final word, she offered a piece of advice for the incoming SC in ensuring that events are done in the "interest of the Bedan community."

"If may gagawing event, dapat inaask 'yung sarili if magbebenefit ba talaga 'yung students for this one. Aside from that, 'yung mga times na hindi nagater talaga sa buong CAS community, I think they could also focus on some classes in the CAS community na kailangan ng tulong," Bermudez concluded.



The CAS faculty and administrators, with Derrick Monasterio, pose for a photo opportunity to celebrate the Gabi ng Parangal at Pasasalamat 2024.

Photo by Zia Robles

SC addresses year-end report; honors top SCEC members

▼ Veronica A. Balbin

DISCLOSING THE STUDENT Council's (SC) accomplishments and transparency report to the students of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), outgoing SC officers presided over the State of the Council Address (SOCA) and SC Executive Committee (SCEC) Recognition Rites at the Abbot Lopez Hall, June 26.

The SOCA, a previous practice in SBU which was stunted by the COVID-19 pandemic, made its return in evaluating and providing the Bedan community with a transparency report of the incumbent CAS student government before the end of their term.

Before they formally complete their stint, SC officers reported on their individual accomplishments and transparency reports during their term, beginning with Year-level Representatives—Beige Benedict Campbell, Mitziko Clare Yema, and Mikaela Dimapilis—on their chaired initiatives.

Then, outgoing Auditor, Rean Jam Dela Cruz, next presented her outline of initiatives before Enrique Louise Bonete's presentation of the Finance Committee Paperless Tracker. This was then followed by other programs such as Secretary-General Alessandra Nicole Namujhe's assessment of the Bedan Activity Tracker (BAT); outgoing External Vice Present (EVP) Kyla Cristina Cayetano's review of her office's projects such as the *Sibol: Himig ng Bagong Simula*; outgoing Internal Vice President (IVP) Julia Clarisse San Jose's presentation on her Office's projects such as the Student Organization Circle (SOC)



Photo courtesy of Red Lens

Leadership Training Seminar; and outgoing President Althea Eunice Bemudez' highlight on the SC Constitution Revision and other implemented projects.

Moreover, a treasury and audit report were later presented by Bonete, delineating the SC's three sources of funds and their allocations as per SC expenses, student activity funds, and non-professional organizations' expenses.

Next was Dela Cruz who gave the SC Performance Check—a fulfillment of one of her platforms—that evaluated the outgoing SC officers based on platform implementation and student responses from an online evaluation form posted on the official Facebook page of the SC last June 4. Giving more detailed revisions to the SC Constitution, Bermudez presented the major amendments that were raised during the Second Student Assembly (SA) last February.

To conclude the 2024 SOCA, the awarding of Student Assembly Representatives took place. In the conclusion of the SOCA, the



Photo courtesy of Red Lens

SCEC Recognition Rites called for the acknowledgement awards such as the Top 15 Outstanding

Committees members, principal authors for the Constitutional Revision, and their successful

Bedan professor showcases paper at European Conference

▼ Paolo Vital

EMPOWERING WOMEN FROM across the globe, Assoc. Prof. Rowena Javier-Rivero, PhD, showcased her research titled, “Approaches to a Semiotics of Visual Language: Reconstructing Images of the Filipino Superheroines” at the European Conference on Arts and Humanities (ECAH) held in London last July 11 to 15.

The ECAH is an international conference conducted by the International Academic Forum (IAFOR) that serves as a platform for academics and scholars to discuss their ideas with universities from around the world.

Assoc. Prof. Rivero was initially granted the opportunity to present her research upon receiving a “Call for Papers for ECAH 2024” for the conference, which she later sent to the IAFOR last February.

A month later, her paper in semiotics was qualified and accepted for oral presentation. Her work was chosen out of 310 submissions from 51 countries.

“Adhering to the standards of quality research paper created self-doubts. I was nervous that it may not qualify for the standards of the review committee. However, when I received the Letter of Acceptance, I felt proud for producing a study that has met international standards,” said Assoc. Prof. Rivero, sharing her optimism after raising doubts about the quality of her paper.

According to Assoc. Prof. Rivero, while the prospect of coming up with the research was born out of her class lectures and discussions in literature on the idealization of women, it was her class in semiotics that ultimately motivated her to explore the theories of signs.

Her findings pointed to one thing: “the images of the Filipino superheroines were indeed a reconstruction of the post-colonial image such that of Maria Clara. The semiotics of Darna, Volta, Krystala affirmed the traits, values, and characteristics of 21st century Filipino women.”

“21st Filipino women are strong-willed, determined, goal-driven, achievers, educated, capable, competitive, independent-minded, and freethinkers. There is no limit to what they can achieve,” added Assoc. Prof. Rivero.

She also listed the supplemental role of women, which was to “raise a family, nurture her children, and keep herself respected and dignified.” While expounding more

on her paper, Assoc. Prof. Rivero found the state of women in the Philippines to be more “fortunate in this position now as compared to other women in the world.”

Upon accounting for her success, she also credited her mother as the “prime influence” of the research and an “epitome of a great woman.”

“This study on the idealization of women in the 21st century is being offered to Dean Eugenia Estrada Javier, Ph.D. My mother who has exemplified what it is to be an educated, empowered, and strong-willed woman. This piece of work on the Semiotics of Filipino Superheroines is dedicated to her,” she emphasized.

Finally, in recognition to the struggles women faced up until date, Assoc. Prof. Rivero implored women “to step up and show that equality is not something that we ask for but something that we need to do or achieve. It’s a choice that we must make, a decision that we make each day that requires conscious effort for this change to happen.”

ECE/ECAH/ECLL/EGen2024 Key Statistics

Date of creation: June 10, 2024

international interdisciplinary **iafor**

672 DELEGATES FROM 84 COUNTRIES

422 Onsite Presentations | 166 Online Presentations | 498 Institutions and Organisations

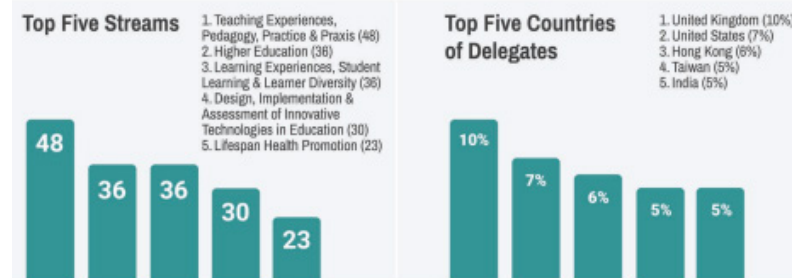


Photo courtesy of Dr. Rowena Javier-Rivero, PhD

“Women have struggled for thousands of years in every part of the globe, but Filipino women just have to restore that image, to reconstruct her image during the pre-colonial time—a warrior, a fighter, independent, and invincible! A Filipina is a superhero in her own right!” she highlighted.

Class of 2024 shines in Graduation Ball

▼ Nathaniel Soriano



The graduating Class of 2024 celebrates their Graduation Ball at the Glass Garden

Photo by Nate Soriano

EMBODYING THE THEME “*Sa Dapit-Hapon*,” the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) graduating Class of 2024, celebrated their Graduation Ball at the Glass Garden, Pasig City, last July 4.

Highlighting “*Dapit-Hapon*,” Arvin John Camarino, a member of the logistics committee for the graduation ball, explained

how “[the theme fits] since it symbolizes the end of a chapter for our collegiate life,” describing the thought behind the theme

of this year’s ball as an analogy of transitioning to conquer life outside of college.

Dressed in contemporary Filipiniana fashion, the graduating Class of 2024 boasted their best outfits on the dance floor. The

top five of which were chosen for special awards ranging from the Prominent Suit Award, Prominent Gown Award, Prince of the Night, Princess of the Night, King of the Night 2024, and Queen of the Night 2024.

“The main highlight was definitely seeing my batchmates wearing Filipiniana-themed outfits in a formal and special event,” mentioned Camarino, expressing that it was the only opportunity for a ball since the pandemic. Moreover, the graduation ball was organized by a committee headed by former Fourth Year Batch Representative, Mikaela Dimapilis.

Following this, an audio-visual presentation, entitled “*Balik Tanaw*” was showcased featuring memories of the different CAS blocks they garnered throughout the school year. In addition to that, a cotillion performance, games & song performances, as well as special performances from guest performers, DJ Franco and Alex Nopia, transpired.

When asked about what impression the ball sought to leave for the graduating class of 2024, Camarino told The Bedan that “[The graduation ball is meant] to remind people that it’s totally fine to unwind for a bit. Graduating is an important milestone in our lives, before we do that it would be nice for us to get wild and party with our batchmates.”

Further highlighting the relationships built throughout University life, he emphasized, “We would never know if that’ll be the last time we’ll be together or even part at all. Tomorrow is never promised so it’s best to take every opportunity to be with the people you care about.”

»» CAS embraces...

Management (HRDMS), Madame Web; Junior Bedan Law Circle (JBLC), Despicable Me; Junior Financial Management Association (JFINMA), Divergent; San Beda Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA), The Matrix; Kapisanang Agham ng San Beda (KASB), Back to the Future; Management and Entrepreneurship Society (ManSoc), Avatar; Psychology Society of San Beda University (PSSBU), Dune; San Beda Economics Society (SBES), Men in Black; San Beda English and Literature Society (SBELS), Star Wars; San Beda

Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA), Guardians of the Galaxy; San Beda Sports Science Association (SBSSA), Space Jam; Society of Operations Management Students (SOMS), Stranger Things; and The Republic (TR), Alice in Borderland.

During the first half of the activity, the new breed of freshmen gathered at the Old Gate of SBU to formally welcome them into the University and proclaim them as officially Bedans. Following this, the freshmen were escorted by their corresponding professional organization to begin their series of activities relative to

their chosen program.

In the afternoon session, freshmen were ushered into the Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP) Gym where an orientation program was hosted by the CAS SC. Here, students were introduced to the Bedan culture, engaged in games, introduced to Bedan Administrators, and entertained by performances from the Bedan Musician’s Guild (BMG) and the Bedan Dance Theatre (BDT).

After the event, SC President, Mari Ernestine Okol, recognized the importance of camaraderie between student organizations and volunteers

in making this event possible, saying “In order to build a community, there must be the people that make up the memories and experiences in the institution.” She also added how “It is the people that play the most vital role in making an experience memorable.”

Lastly, she stressed out that, “As freshmen, students are curious to get to know the University, there is no one else more capable to give a glimpse of what to expect than the people who have walked the halls of San Beda.”

(with Dianne Radel Magallon and Prince Piolo Tagarino)

»» SBU maintains...

from P1



Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

believed that SBU can improve its rank if the institution would “invest more on the funding of the research papers” to be publicized in a website called Scopus Indexed Journals while still incorporating UN’s SDGs. Moreover, they added that improving the documentation of the activities is also a crucial consideration to improve the University’s rank.

As observed by Dr. Fontanilla, “Impact rankings are based on what we submit because [THE] don’t do physical inspection of the university, they don’t really monitor a university, they just rely on what we submit. [Because of this,] I think we’re missing out on activities that we actually do.” Moving forward, Dean Bustamante contended to let the results of THE serve as a “free consultancy” for SBU to receive feedback on what needs to be improved on.

“We always look at it as a

challenge, we always look at it as a means for us to improve, that must be our perspective when it comes to ranking... What is important for me is we know we assess what are the things we need to improve, and we have to keep on improving, and that must be our attitude,” he stated.

On the bright side, they both agreed that the rank has satisfied the Bedan community. But of course, it comes with a goal to achieve. “Congratulations to everyone, especially to those who actually contributed to the Impact rankings. I think as I said there’s a lot of work to do, but as long as we continue to work together... we increase the awareness among our Bedan community and I think we have a really good chance of improving our rank,” Dr. Fontanilla expressed.

(with Aaron Jordan N. Peralta)

BASK concludes Himig ng Pag-ibig saga

▼ Rizian Veniz Balleta



Photo courtesy of Bedistang Alagad ng Sining at Kultura

BRINGING CLOSURE TO a poignant love story, **Bedistang Alagad ng Sining at Kultura (BASK)**, formerly **Kulturang Laya Bedista (KLB)**, captivated Bedans with the highly anticipated concluding chapter of their “*Himig ng Pag-ibig*” music video series which was officially released last June 9.

Featuring the song *Unti-unti* by acclaimed Original Pilipino Music (OPM) band Up Dharma Down, the music video, written and directed by former BASK President, Reychel Panganiban, delved deeper into the complexities of love and communication, and continued the narrative that captivated viewers earlier this year.

Panganiban expressed her excitement about concluding the story, saying, “*Na-overwhelm kami sa* positive feedback. *Nung kino-conceptualize ko itong* final chapter, *para siyang naging* our way of honoring *’yung* engagement *nila.*”

The sequel picked up where the previous music video left off. It explored the unresolved emotions and miscommunications between the main characters, played by

BASK members Enzo Ochoa and Stacey Angelie Co.

The story, initially presented through two perspectives—Enzo’s and Stacey’s—offered a glimpse into the misunderstandings and missed connections that defined their relationship. The new video promised to deliver the final chapter of their journey, addressing whether they will find their way back to each other or part ways for good.

In this creative pursuit, BASK also showcased familiar landmarks within San Beda University (SBU), adding a touch of local flavor to the narrative. The choice of these settings not only grounded the story in a relatable environment but also added a layer of authenticity to the characters’ experiences.

Ochoa and Co, reprising their roles, brought their characters’ emotions to life with a genuine portrayal of love and regret. Their chemistry, built on real-life friendship, shone through in the final confrontation scenes, which are expected to be both heartfelt and impactful.

The *Himig ng Pag-ibig* series was lauded for its ability to blend relatable storytelling with Filipino music, creating a unique platform for promoting OPM. By incorporating popular OPM songs like *Tingin* and *Unti-unti*, BASK not only showcases Filipino talent but also the emotional depth of the narrative.

Panganiban emphasized the significance of these musical choices, saying “OPM songs have a way of resonating deeply with our audience. They capture the essence of Filipino emotions and experiences, making our stories more impactful and relatable.”

With the release of *Unti-unti*, BASK aimed to “inspire viewers to embrace clear communication and express their feelings courageously.” The project also reflected a broader commitment in celebrating and promoting Filipino arts and culture. As Ochoa noted, “We hope that our series encourages people to connect more deeply with each other and appreciate the beauty of Filipino music and storytelling.”

BASK’s music video sequel is available on their Facebook page, allowing fans to experience the culmination of Enzo and Stacey’s story.

awarded to students, including the Outstanding Freshman to Senior, Above & Beyond, Magnus, Leadership Excellence, and Socrates Award.

Finally, Jordan Cerda, Activity co-chairperson, underscored the importance of commemorating TR’s sixth anniversary. Optimistic, he also believed that activities such as these could serve beyond recognizing the efforts of Political Science students by inspiring them in the coming years.

“*Isa din ’yung* [event] *para macelebrate natin ’yung* hardworks *na pinagdaanan ng* TR throughout the whole school year. Also, *para ma-motivate* and *ma-inspire ’yung mga* other Political Science students to strive more, *sa susunod na* administration or *sa susunod na* school year,” Cerda explained.

The Republic celebrates milestones in sixth anniversary

▼ Thirdy Pabilico

SIX YEARS SINCE its initial establishment, The Republic (TR), the official professional organization of the Department of Political Science, recognized significant achievements during the “*RĒS PVBLICA: The Sixth-Year Anniversary*,” held at La Castellana Intramuros, Manila last June 8.

Aside from presenting the organization’s milestones in its 2023-2024 accomplishment report, TR also lauded Political Science students who excelled in various fields.

In an interview, Krystelle Joie Doce, the President of TR for A.Y. 2023-2024, acknowledged the challenges that the organization faced this year, including the “complexity” of their projects and “intense ideas” coming from their members. “It’s [ideas] always clashing, but we meet halfway *naman*, so far, so good,” she added.

TR had also undergone a significant shift in executive leadership when then-President Louis Nipas stepped down from his post, appointing Doce as his “immediate successor” last January 17.

In recounting the TR’s successes, Doce mentioned how, besides the sixth anniversary being a “big achievement already,” the organization was able to impact communities outside of San Beda University (SBU). “*Yung pagbibigay namin ng* impact, not just inside the University—and also the Political Science

students—[but] also outside, *sa mga Lumad* communities and all,” added Doce.

After a short introductory remark led by Prof. Moses Aaron T. Angeles, PhD, the College of Arts and Science (CAS) Vice Dean for the Arts and Humanities cluster, what followed was a ceremony outlining the beneficiaries for the anniversary celebration, received by Sr. Shiela Ducot & Sr. Marivic P. Sta. Ana, FMA, from the Laura Vicuña Foundation, Inc. (LVF).

A partnership between TR and the foundation was inked for reasons of “recognition of

shared values and missions.” The LVF, as stipulated in its official website, aimed to “build the capacities of children in need of special protection through integral education and development.”

“It’s more of like, *meron pa rin siyang*, sort of social relevance *na nabibigay din sa* event,” shared Maria Sophia Arceo, Activity co-chairperson, citing the reasons for including the LVF as a beneficiary in TR’s sixth anniversary.

“We’re not just gathered *sa gabing ’yon para lang* to recognize all the leaders and all the efforts *ng mga estudyante*; but also, *nandoon labat ng mga pumunta* for a purpose,” she explained.

Thereafter, TR aired a promotional video, highlighting its accomplishments and events in the year 2023-2024, including their initiatives such as the *Tayo ang Soberanya* (TAS), *Politalks: A Political Science Podcast*, and 5th Annual Congress.

To cap off the night, TR distinguished “outstanding” Political Science students in academics and extracurricular endeavors through its special segment, “*RĒS PVBLICA RECOGNITIO: Parangal at Pagkilala sa Mabubusay na Polsay.*”

Several accolades were



The Executive Board of TR for A.Y. 2023-2024 pose for a photo opportunity during the organization’s anniversary.

Photo by Rcee Tenefrancia

CAS GCO gears up Class 2024 through career orientation

▼ Rcee Tenefrancia

SEEKING TO “LEVEL up” the graduating class of 2024, the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) Guidance and Counseling Office (GCO) relaunched the traditional Career Orientation Program with this year’s theme of “*Ganyan Kami Noon, Eto Na Kami Ngayon*” at the Jonathan Sy Auditorium last May 29.

The program was spearheaded by three speakers who graduated from San Beda University (SBU) in different programs: Ms. Joan Macrise Corrado from the Department of International

Business and Entrepreneurial Management; Dr. Kenneth Conrad A. Matias, PhD, from the Department of Financial Management; and Atty. Camille D. Recalde, CPA, from the

Department of Accountancy and Business.

When sharing their experiences, Ms. Corrado highlighted a line from the famed Richard M. Nixon that said, “A

man is not finished when he is defeated, he is finished when he quits.” She then relates the line to her hardships before achieving her current position as a Foreign Service Officer (FSO) II passer and acting Director for Public and Media Affairs in the office of public and cultural diplomacy at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

For Dr. Matias’ part, who was originally from the Department of Legal management then shifted to the field of medicine, he expressed the uncertainties of what lies ahead, saying “what we plan for ourselves isn’t always what life has planned for us.” He now works as a Medical Officer III in the Philippine Orthopedic Center.

Atty. Recalde, on the other hand, gave her insightful tips and strategies for those aspiring to enter San Beda University’s (SBU) College of Law (COL)—which she coined as “My ABCs to Success.”

Further into the event, an open forum took place wherein graduating students were given a chance to raise their questions to

the three panelists.

Ms. Lorena M. Galang, RGC, Guidance Counselor, and Ms. Graciella Fe Tamang, activity chairperson and Guidance Facilitator, both expressed their “amusement” given how the event turned out to be “interactive” for the graduating seniors.

“The way *na nag* participate *sila, at nagstay sila, tapos ‘yung mga* questions *tuloy-tuloy*, for me successful *ang* event, *tsaka walang* major problem,” said Ms. Galang, who eagerly expressed how the flow of the event was orderly.

Subsequently, Ms. Tamang shared a final parting message to the graduating class of 2024, saying “*ang* advice *ko*, it’s okay to fail *sa simula*, but then as they progress *naman, dun din nila* *malalaman kung ano talaga ‘yung* calling *nila*.”

“*Basta kami*, very proud *kami sa* seniors *kasi alam namin ‘yung mga* *hirap nila* from the start,” Ms. Tamang added, emphasizing how the speakers themselves were all “pandemic babies” who continued their college journey during the COVID-19 surge.



The Class of 2024 attends the Career Orientation Program whose speakers were in the likes of Ms. Joan Macrise Corrado (left); Atty. Camille Recalde (middle); and Dr. Kenneth Conrad Matias (right).

Photo by Rcee Tenefrancia

CAS Library, BITS unveil new Library Monitoring System

▼ Alvin Acayen and Nathaniel Soriano



The CAS Library and BITS pose for a photo opportunity with Rev. Fr. Paul Ma. M. de Vera, OSB to formalize the new monitoring system

Photo by Nate Soriano



The CAS Library and BITS conducting a simulation of the new system.

Photo by Nate Soriano

DIGITALIZING ITS PROCESSES, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Library, through the Bedan Information Technology Society (BITS), launched its new and improved Library Monitoring System (LMS) at the CAS library last June 3.

Ms. Jennifer Comabig, Head of the CAS Library, explained how this LMS was intended to help

gauge whether or not “the library is essential for students and even the faculty” and track if facilities

are still utilized.

“*Pansin naman po ng labat ng* students, it takes time *po talaga*

before the unveiling, a successful test run was conducted.

As mentioned by Rev. Fr. Paul Ma. M. de Vera, OSB during the launch, the previous monitoring system led to difficulties in tracking the attendance of those who entered the library. “Previously we were using the QR code [and] sometimes the students do not want to scan or fill out the form. At least with this new system, we just have to scan the ID, then we already have their data,” Ms. Comabig added, explaining the efficiency of the new monitoring system.

Hence, as specified by Añonuevo, the new ID scanning system allowed for “quicker and user-friendly transactions for students.” As an additional feature, librarians are equipped with administrator roles and can edit information if needed.

Accordingly, Ms. Rosalinda Robles, the Assistant Coordinator of Libraries, added that information gathered within the LMS is protected per the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Demonstrating the monitoring system during its launch, students and librarians were asked to proceed to the library entrance. Afterwards, using a barcode scanner, student verification was instantly recognized upon having their IDs scanned. Ms. Robles then assured that all floors of the library would be equipped with the new ID monitoring system.

Pleased with the developments, Rev. Fr. de Vera expressed the possibility of the LMS becoming a highlight during the next PAASCU accreditation. Furthermore, he extended his gratitude to the members and officers of BITS, as well as the librarians for the project’s overall success.

Bedan sophomore participates in JCI-led Cultural Exchange Student Program

▼ Paolo Vital

REPRESENTING THE PHILIPPINES as a cultural exchange student, Jayna Xzyha Tayag, a sophomore from the Department of Legal Management, went to Nagoya, Japan last June 21-24 to “build connections, establish fond friendships, and expand her cultural awareness.”

Initially, the opportunity to become an exchange student had presented itself to Tayag when, Arlene Grace Sol, former Chairwoman of the San Bigkis Party (SBP), encouraged her to apply as an exchange student hosted by the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Manila.

“Yung message niya [sa akin], merong Google Drive link na sinabing I should submit a video of myself answering a couple of questions like why they should choose me as one of the exchange students to send to Japan and vice versa,” Tayag revealed.

Three months later, she received a text asking her to travel to Las Piñas for a briefing along with two other delegates from Our Lady of Perpetual Help System Delta

(UPHSD) and the University of Santo Tomas (UST). “Mga ano ‘yum, 10 p.m. and then ‘yung meeting time 10 a.m. so nagulat ako,” she shared.

During the briefing, the delegates learned their mission of “building connections from across the globe.” From there, Tayag disclosed how she was included in Project 3G in Nagoya which has been going down for six years na ata na nagpprovide sila ng ganung opportunities to students,” she said. In being a cultural exchange student, Tayag also revealed her fundamental duty of “being exposed to other point of views and gain cultural sensitivity and para ma-compare and contrast ‘yung differences ng country mo to other countries.”

Since the delegates’ main destination was along provincial Japan, they went to Nagoya since may mga shrines kaming napuntaban na nag-eemphasize sa Hinduism and Buddhism,” Tayag shared.

Upon arrival, Tayag stated that one of the first things she noticed was the atmosphere that was in “stark contrast” to what the Philippines have. Surprised, she said “nagulat talaga ako kasi ‘yung weather is super different, sa Japan kasi kabiti may araw na nilalamig ka pa rin, kailangan mo pa rin mag jacket.”

The weather wasn’t the only factor that Tayag saw different in relation to the Philippines. She also pointed out the rail transportation line which she described as “a



Photo Courtesy of Jayna Xzyha Tayag



Photo Courtesy of Jayna Xzyha Tayag

marked improvement over the Philippines.”

From the education sector, the Filipino delegates also observed differences found between the education system of Japan and the Philippines. As Tayag explained it, “Sa Japan, meron silang three years ng elementary, three years ng junior high, three years ng high school, and then ‘yung senior high school nila is called college na, and then university four years.”

Further expounding on the education system, their courses were composed of much fewer units that would span for more or less ten units, as opposed to the Philippine educational system.

In so far as cultural awareness is concerned, Tayag, from her experiences, told *The Bedan* how “it broadened ‘yung perspective ko which gave me an understanding of the diverse ways of life ‘di lang sa Japan but sa other countries din. Tinulungan niya din ako maging

mas aware sa cultural differences ng country natin which [led] to greater cultural sensitivity and respect.”

But where Tayag, alongside her co-delegates, had sought a once in a lifetime opportunity, in the end, they were able to discover friendships—which Tayag revealed as “the most memorable part of her time” in Japan.

Tayag, in recollection of her experiences as an exchange student, implored those aspiring to become delegate to “never stop believing in what you can do. Say to yourself na never kang mag-stop looking for opportunities like that kasi nakaka-improve talaga siya, not just personally, but makaka-affect ka rin ng other people around you. In terms of being part of the exchange program itself, I can say na maging open minded kayo and be ready to embrace the differences of each country and to be open to new experiences.”

PBBM highlights ‘digital gap’ in PH education during 3rd SONA

▼ Jobeth Shelly Bocabel and Marc Joseph Felix



Photo courtesy of Presidential Communications Office

IN HIS THIRD State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. highlighted the National Government’s plan to address the digital gap in the Philippines’ education system at the Batasang Pambansa last July 22.

According to Marcos, grades six, 10, and 12, “failed to reach the ideal proficiency levels” based on recent assessments. Skills such as information literacy, problem solving, and critical thinking were “faring low,” especially in basic education.

The Philippines ranked 76th out of the 81 countries in the field of Mathematics, Reading and Science, according to the official site of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022. Additionally, the country scored less than the Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development (OECD) average in those same fields.

As a response to this gap, Marcos said, “Therefore, our National Learning Recovery Program (NLRP) must proceed without the slightest disruption, especially in basic education.”

On top of which, he emphasized, “As we relentlessly address the classroom gap, the digital gap must also be bridged with equal intensity. We are working towards a day when all students will be equipped with computers, smart

TVs, essential programs, digital books, and—once again—access to reliable power and the internet.”

He added that “digitalization and solar-powered electricity must become the standard features in our schools and in our classrooms,” calling it an “educational reform through technology,” and promising the resolution of the “perennial problem in textbooks.”

The process of approving the manuscript, procurement, and all the way to the distribution will now be “cut short from its present three years to just one year.”

Further into his speech, Marcos also emphasized the quality of teachers contributing to the educational standard, contending how “we [must] uplift and upscale [them].”

The Kabalik sa Pagtuturo Act, signed last June 3, aimed to “acknowledge public school teachers’ hard work and dedication” by increasing their teaching allowance from Php5,000 to Php10,000.

President Marcos explains, “... ito’y magbibigay ng sa mga guro nangpa-nanasa pampublikong paaralan ng taunang teaching allowance para pambili ng mga kagamitan ng pagtuturo at mga kaugnay na gastusin.”

Public school teachers will also receive their Personal Accident Insurance from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) on top of the Special Hardship Allowance especially to those who are “under constant danger in their teaching profession.”

Moreover, the President made remarks about the teachers’ debt so they may renew their license and continue teaching. Additionally, he assured that “no teacher under public school will retire with a

Teacher 1 rank.”

On the other hand, the Higher Education System was given remarks about highly technical courses needed by the Filipinos. President Marcos cited how he aims to improve its these courses as a result of the sector’s existing data issues.

Furthermore, he eagerly challenged the newly appointed Department of Education (DepEd), Secretary Sonny Angara, to improve the employment rate of the students by having a well-structured curriculum and educational system.

This year’s SONA transferred the agenda to revamp the current K-12 curriculum in line with DepEd’s MATATAG project launched in August 2023, which aimed to “improve students” in terms of being literate and more globally competitive learners.

However, the discussion towards this was not included in the latest SONA, despite its partial implementation for the Academic Year 2024-2025 with the limited programs and agendas such as the digitalization of education and the increase of teachers’ allowance, cited on the part of education.

EDITORIAL

The name of the game

TRAVERSING BACK TO the pre-Carlos-Yulo fervor, a different kind of golden medal was awarded to the Philippines via a mandate from the President himself, last July 22, to purge the nation of the clutches of the illusive POGOs. Yet cards have been dealt as Pagcor refused to close its doors on the accounts of “better version of online gaming,” leading us right back to the start of the game.

To set out, according to the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Development, Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) are referred to as “entities that offer and participate in offshore gaming services by providing games to players, taking bets, and paying the winning players.” However, amid its seemingly simplistic definition, POGO’s have long been cited with crimes associated with murder, prostitution, illegal recruitment, and the like.

It was only during the trial of suspended mayor Alice Guo where people finally got to fully grasp the severity of POGO’s, causing a major uproar in social media as the now fugitive Guo continues to plead her innocence amid pieces of evidence contradicting her claims. Last August 6, it was also then revealed that Guo continued to cover the expenses of POGO hubs, to which Sen. Risa Hontiveros claimed that the act was a “finding proof” that the suspended mayor of Bambam, Tarlac was affiliated to said POGO’s.

As POGO’s continued to evidently cause “grave abuse and disrespect to [the Philippine’s] system of laws,” during his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. issued a **staggering** decree to ban all POGO’s in the Philippines. However, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), who is responsible for regulating, operating, authorizing, and providing licenses to games of chance, refused to step back.

In his defense, Al Tengco, Pagcor’s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, urged PBBM to spare the Special Business Process Outsourcing (SBPOs) as the former argued that SBPOs are “not directly involved in getting bets,” not to mention how sparing the said service provider would “save approximately 10,000 workers.” Moreover, the Pagcor chairman continues to contest the possibility of establishing “a better version of POGO’s that would weed out the bad elements.” Unsurprisingly, PBBM supposedly responded “positively” to Tengco’s proposal.

With all of these inconsistencies and inconsistent remarks on hand, we then ask: what’s the name of the game? While the formal legalization of POGO’s would eradicate all crimes surrounding the games, this would be realized at the expense of a myriad of workers who would soon lose their jobs following the president’s mandate. Moreover, a staggering seven billion pesos would also be lost from Pagcor’s revenues if POGO’s would be completely banned, according to Deputy Speaker David Suarez.

Essentially, the course of Tengco’s proposal is marred with uncertainties as ambiguities still revolve whether an improved version of POGO’s would extensively suppress its illicit activities. Just like any other innovation, it’s only a matter of time for people to see a flaw and once again stealthily conduct the crimes behind closed doors.

With everything that has happened within the country, it is already ingrained in the mind of the general public that POGO’s are a danger to the nation’s integrity and security. Its operation, in itself, speaks volumes to the country’s incompetent system that has compromised the development promised by leaders who came before us. While the president’s decision to ultimately ban POGO’s is a step toward addressing these risks, another consideration would be the workers affected in this mess; their lives and livelihoods should not be collateral damage in this situation. As such, the president and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) must address this, because even a single worker’s sustenance must not be trifled with.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY NATE SORIANO



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

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TUGSTUGSTUGSTUGS!!! Psh. Tik. Tak. Chk. Chk. Boom!

Oi BediiiZzta fRenZzz! Kamustah pOhzz? Ey muna kayow ey, cuz y0w t4mb0l1st4ng cOolkiD, the gr8 collect0r of m0nthly CHiKAvality, izzz back 4 anada yearr & anada \$laway! With our nu baTch este clazz of bEnte bEnte Ots0 joining da pRide, comes a nu seT of piping h4wt chik4As all leg8 and ready to be served diz month para l4ngs za inyuu cuz yu know wat dey say, if we burn, u burn wid uzzz!

So so sooo, et0 n4 ng4, huNger g4mez ang at4ke ng mga taga-San Bedizz cuzz da pipol haz spoken and yow one and only t4mb0l1st4ng cOolkiD haz been ab4ngers with the m0ckingj4yz here at the h4nging tree when someone from the c4pit0l suddenly whispered na mer0n d4w 4da mi\$\$ing in acti0n during crucial momentzz sa ating kownsil. With the mala-#CarinaPH levelz of activities na need to be organized, sinetch itong forda senior u dasurv daw pero can't be found in times of need? Ka-shookt! Wawa naman ur fellows. Breakdown malala, while u tunganga? Not very demure, not very mindful viveh! Da question remains forda kabledista-chikadoras in da haws: Nak4pag-open f0rum na ba? Lulalulalulaley!

Purururur pururur namarn for anadawan as I proclaim dis month's most alarming chik4 of them all! Change courts muna us and kumust4hin naman natin ang ating mga bedan athletes na patuloy na nananawagan sa ating mga taga-San Bedizz na ilabas ang ating mga red cards ag4inst this one coach daw na ipinagkait ang pagkakataon sa iilang mga playerzz na makasali next szn with no explanations! So foul naman, this coach! We dasurv an acceptable reason! For these student-athletes, dis means no more scholarships and lodging privileges for them! How saaad! With these matterz arising, former athletes and colleagues ay lumabas from out the dark to reveal some nakakapag-pabagabag na mga kababalaghan behind the scenes with this coach's disciplinary actions, umaabot na raw ang mistreatments nitey to a point of using violence and threats. Pano tayo magfo-forda "Go San Beda Win" yarn this NCAA Season 100 kung fight lang kayo ng fight? Hayayay. Anyway highway, dis is a progressing story as your t4mbollst4ng qti3 is still trying to get to the bottom of this okayyy? Shawtawt sa mga bedizzta-licious buddies! PUHHHLEASE email me vakuh may naririnig kayooo, lezzz talkkkk!!!

Drumrooollllll fls! That's itt aking mga ka-Bedizz! That's a wrap for da months of June and July! With all these hawt chik4s, always remember that everything you've read are definitely straight up facts onliiii! 100% leg8im8ly no dagdag and no bawas! I swear on my scout's honor, eks ma heart, ask niyo pa my trusty tambol!

Please drop your drummie some juicy deets anytime cuz ur t4mb0l1st4ng cOolkiD never rests in the pursuit of truth *wink wink* and para sa chik4han natin next taym, ready for showtaym! Just email me thru: <https://thebedan.com/contact-us/drummer-boy/>

Chk Chk Boom! Boogsh! Skrrt! Catch ya on the flip side, mga bedizzz! Byeeeee!

Drummer by the Flagpole is a long held and deeply cherished *The Bedan* tradition. Drummer Boy is celebrating his 35th anniversary this year.

Who is Drummer Boy?
The answer may be found in the September - October 2007 issue of *The Bedan*: "Many have asked who he really is. But more than the question of who writes Drummer Boy the question we must ask is why he writes. And what will happen if he stops to write. He writes because we need him to write for us. He writes because some of us are ashamed to question the wrongdoings around us. He writes for freedom. He writes for you. He writes for us. Drummer Boy is each and everyone of us."
Contact: <https://thebedan.com/contact-us/drummer-boy/>

THE GREATEST MAGICIANS have something to learn from Mr. Mistoffelees' *Conjuring Turn* - PRESTO! Elphie once said that "everyone deserves a chance to fly;" but I beg to set the notion that something's are left grounded, especially when money's the talk of the town.

The value of friendship is something that is quite integral in making sure that society would stand amidst uncertainties; after all, from time immemorial, shared relations from one human being to another has always been a key player to guarantee the likelihood of survival.

Evidently, as seen in the media, friendship became a staple theme in most movies and television series to such an extent that it became erroneously romanticized, thereby forging this illusion that "the power of friendship would solve everything." Unfortunately, such "illusions of grandeur" has soared to an alarming degree, becoming a part of the OVP's master plan.

Just recently, the 16-paged

MR. MISTOFFELEES

children's book, titled *Isang Kaibigan* authored by the Vice President (VP), herself, sparked controversies as the public questioned the quality and integrity of the Php10 million-based-children's book. Senator Risa Hontiveros especially pressured the VP into amending the allocated budget, deeming it an "improper request" since "government funds and the money of the taxpayers should not be used for distribution."

Standing on behalf of the VP, her spokesperson, Atty. Michael Wesley Poa, argued that the children's book is an indispensable component to realizing the PagbaBAGO Campaign—the flagship initiative of the Office of the Vice President (OVP)—with the goal of "alleviating the financial challenges associated with providing school supplies



GIAN MARCEL CHIU

copyright registration last 2023. In addition to that, the VP also hinted at a sequel of the book, ironically delving this time "sa pagtataksil ng isang kaibigan."

Truly enough, to reiterate, shared relations from one human being to another have always been a key player to guarantee the likelihood of survival. Yet despite that, in reality, it's a man eat man world. It's only a matter of time that the value of friendship would be used as a leverage to assert one's power and dominance before the faltering world, similar to how a portrait of the VP would be seen at the latter parts of the book, claiming her as "isang tunay na kaibigan."

It's hypocritical, naive, and utterly baseless that the book grounded on friendship would ultimately change the

unfortunate condition of the Philippines when the VP, herself, has made little to no initiative in forging a connection and understanding her fellow countrymen. The book would justify it as, not only does it romanticize friendship, but it also derails us from delving into more pressing matters where the allocated Php10 million budget can be sacredly utilized.

Every public servant would dream of defying gravity, so much so that, during their term, every sector is improved to make sure that the status quo would be challenged. However, there are ways to defy all odds without sacrificing the integrity of being a public servant.

And for the VP who claimed herself as "isang tunay na kaibigan," I believe it is high time for her to live out the claim and become a friend and a leader with integrity who is grounded on the country, not some parrot who squeals and flies above reality.

Oh! Well, I never! Was there ever a cat so clever as magical Mr. Mistoffelees?

DEFYING GRAVITY

“

a leader with integrity who is grounded on the country, not some parrot who squeals and flies above reality

to learners, and address the pressing climate change issue through tree-planting efforts."

Moreover, when pressed against accusations of the VP plagiarizing the American graphic novel, titled *Owly Just a Little Blue* by Andy Runton, Atty. Poa rebutted that the self-authored book already acquired a

FIRST AND FOREMOST, take this with a grain of salt. During a Senate briefing last August 15, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan declared that Filipinos who spend more than 64 pesos a day for three meals were not "food poor." Is this delusion, detachment, or both?

Naturally, the original assertion was met with backlash especially from legislators and citizens. However, NEDA would soon clarify that the 64 pesos per day, or 21 pesos per meal, was not meant to prescribe how much a person should spend on a meal but rather to "measure the effectiveness of the government's policies and programs in addressing poverty."

Frankly, I take offense at how NEDA utilized the "food poverty" threshold to oversimplify the conditions of Filipinos, neglecting pivotal factors such as inflation and the rising standards that should have been considered

SAAN AABOT ANG 21 PESOS MO?

RIVERCHILD

in the metrics.

In a report by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the annual inflation rate in July rose to 4.4%, a stark increase from the 3.7% recorded last month. The soaring prices of rice became one of the primary culprits, making up 1.6% of the overall inflation rate. Among other things, food inflation also climbed to 6.7% compared to 6.5% in June.

To put it simply, inflation is growing at an alarming rate, posing a strain on Filipinos with the advent of increasing costs in even the most necessities such as food and utilities. Adding insult to injury, the sector that was hit the most was that of poorer socioeconomic classes, recording a year-high 5.8% for the bottom



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In this economy, assuming that 64 pesos a day, or 21 pesos per meal, is a proper benchmark for determining whether someone is "food poor" reflects the detachment of institutions of development from the day-to-day realities of the average Filipino.

THIRDY PABILICO

30% of income households.

Groups such as the iBON Foundation have also slammed NEDA's underestimation of the food poverty threshold, deeming it an "unrealistic figure" given the "low ambition and standard" to approach the age-old problem of poverty. Yet, the PSA argues that the menu for the 64 pesos "food poverty" threshold was based on the cheapest or least cost.

And so, moving on to the million-dollar question: *Saan aabot ang 21 pesos mo?* A typical lunch in a karinderya will set you back at around Php 100. But if you want to buy and prepare that lunch for yourself, the price of protein alone (such as fish or chicken), will already exceed the forecasted amount.

Even then, no one will go around looking for the lowest possible costs of the cheapest food items, nor is it easily accessible to those in poorer households.

The numbers just really don't add up, unless you're one of the geniuses from PSA and NEDA who just so happens to be in another timeline completely.

In this economy, assuming that 64 pesos a day, or 21 pesos per meal, is a proper benchmark for determining whether someone is "food poor" reflects the detachment of institutions of development from the day-to-day realities of the average Filipino.

Indeed, an assessment of outdated models such as these is long overdue. If we want to prioritize the welfare of people in areas such as food security, we must first ensure that the frameworks to assess the pressing concerns such as poverty mirror that of our present truths.

WALANG TIYAK NA gabay ang makapagsasabi kung paano maging handa sa iyong unang hakbang sa buhay kolehiyo. Subalit, kung mayroong man nagbubuklod sa mga mag-aaral, ito ay ang kanilang mga katanungan sa mundong hindi pa nila natutuklasan.

Kaya naman, isang mahalagang hamon ang umiiral para sa mga magulang o sinunang taga-gabay na mag-alay ng wastong payo sa ating mga kabata sa pagtahak nila sa bagong kabanatang ito. Kung makakausap ko lamang ang aking nakaraan, mayroon akong iilang payo bago siya pumasok sa kolehiyo.

Una sa lahat, huwag mong kalimutan na nalagpasan mo na ang kalbaryo ng hayskul life, mula sa napaka-aga na mga *flag-raising ceremonies*, mga kulitan at alitan, mga away at ambagan, mga kilig at ilangan, mga gabing walang

tulog sa pagsulat ng report sa *Manila paper* o paggawa ng *slides* sa *Powerpoint*, mga kunwaring bugbugan kapag *birthday* ng *teacher*, mga nasungkit na *championship* sa intrams, at iyakan sa *retreat*. Nakakahiya man minsang balikan, ang bawat alaala, aral, at karanasan mula sa hayskul ay nagsisilbing patunay na kaya mong magtagumpay at bumangon sa harap ng mga pagsubok.

Madalas, mayroon talagang mga pagkakataon na kahit nakakapagod, kinakailangan talaga ang kaunting kompromiso, pag-aadjust, at kung minsan,



G. GERILYERO

“

Tandaan, hindi mo kailangan magmadali na punan ang lahat ng patlang; hayaan mong dahan-dahan itong mapuno ng mga alaala at mga karanasan na maingat mong tinatahi.

RIZIAN VENIZ BALLETA

tuluyang magpanggap na komportable at matapang ka hanggang sa unti-unti mo na itong maramdaman.

Datapwa't, sa pagiging mapagmasid at bukas sa iba't ibang mga oportunidad, huwag kalimutan ang iyong mga prinsipyo. Maaaring kailangan mong umangkop para magtagumpay, ngunit kung labag ito sa iyong tunay na pagkakakilala sa sarili, maglaan ng oras upang suriin kung tama pa ba ang landas na iyong tinatahak.

Tandaan, hindi mo kailangan

magmadali na punan ang lahat ng patlang; hayaan mong dahan-dahan itong mapuno ng mga alaala at mga karanasan na maingat mong tinatahi. Sa mga sandaling parang nawawala ka, balikan mo ang iyong mga 'bakit'—Bakit ka patuloy na bumabangon? Sa pagbalik-tanaw sa iyong mga dahilan, muling aalab ang iyong determinasyon na magpatuloy.

Kaya't sa mga bagong Bedista, tumahan at huwag mangamba. Ang bawat patlang sa ating buhay ay sumisimbolo sa mga pagkakataon upang magbago, matuto, o lumago. Punan mo ang mga patlang na ito hindi lamang ng karunungan, kundi ng kabutihan, tapang, at tunay na kaligayahan. Naway ang bawat hakbang mo ay maging tapat sa iyong pangunahing layunin—ang maging isang buo, kumpleto, at tunay na ikaw.

NOT-SO-LONG LINE

FURACÃO



VERONICA A. BALBIN

PAPAGAIO! “You come from a not-so-long lineage of overworked and underappreciated News Editors,” my Old Man told me repeatedly. And from that not-so-long lineage—from bold and articulate voices—came a small and timid new News Editor. However quiet and strange I may be compared to my predecessors, their quirky legacies continue in the words I speak through writing. So in this new story, I can promise to be candid because boy, do I have something to tell you.

Coming from a sheltered life in the City of Pines, I found my life in San Beda University (SBU) awfully difficult to map. Anxiously looking down at the ground in fear of meeting someone’s eyes, I stalked the wide halls of the University with a set of walls and an amiable facade. And it became my routine for the majority of my sophomore year.

Boring. That was my reality. I was already doing great academically, but where was the fun in that? I’ve been doing that since high school anyway, so might as well do something more in college. I didn’t have my parents pulling my strings

anymore, so I should at least try some things, involve myself, and overcome the affliction of social anxiety and my noisy mind.

So I took the craziest leap of my life: I joined *The Bedan*.

As a Research Staff, I was terrified of everything. It was anxiety after anxiety—from formulating questions to ask athletes to writing a page and a half-long feature article about Chinese New Year. Then, there was the interviewing—the one thing I avoided as much as I could because I could not see myself walking up to complete strangers to ask questions.

I was struggling with the Filipino language, I was awkward, and lacked spatial awareness—what could I possibly do to connect with people? But even with all these fears and anxieties piling up on my plate, my biggest fear of disappointing others stood above the rest.

Questions of how people viewed

“Somewhere in the middle of it all, both News Editors told me to “step up” and “answer the Clarion Call” or something like that.

me because of my incompetence put me in a trance of idleness. I was frozen out of fear and lapsed into hiding, away from everyone. My thought process was: maybe if I stayed away from people, I wouldn’t have to disappoint them, therefore, no harm and rejection would come to me.

This followed me until the end of my first semester as a third

year. It was only then the lapses gradually receded. Why? That not-so-long lineage of News Editors came into the picture and pulled me out of hiding.

It began with kuya Phoebus, News Editor of Volume 80. In my first ever graduation coverage, his hearty laughs were a big comfort to me and his gentle nature made me feel safe. Since then, I knew I wanted to be the same person to others as he was to me.

Months later, I first met Volume 81’s News Editor, kuya Alvin. “Who are you?” he sharply asked me when I approached him. Ironically, that moment became the foundation of the friendship I built with him when he followed us around during an exhausting Laudato Si coverage.

Everything else went quickly after that. I was getting out of bed early, eager to cover events no matter how small or big they were. Sports coverages were suddenly

not so bad, organizational events were engaging, and interviews were so much fun to conduct, and getting to know the research staff and looking out for them made my heart full.

Somewhere in the middle of it all, both News Editors told me to “step up” and “answer the Clarion Call” or something like that.

Initially, the thought never even occurred to me. I liked being a Junior Staff. I didn’t have to face the “scary stuff” that the Editorial Board did. I didn’t have to worry much about being under the spotlight, making the calls, and owning up. I was happy and content where I was.

But, these News Editors, who are now more like older brothers to me, just had to put these thoughts in my head. They opened those doors of opportunities, and when I went through it, I had a myriad of things I learned.

Now, as the new News Editor of Volume 82, I still walk the halls with an anxious heart and a noisy head. But I know I’ll be fine and that I’ll do well even though I’ll prolly slip up here and there because I know I came from a not-so-long lineage of “overworked and underappreciated News Editors.”



LIONS' LEGACIES!

HONORING DR. ALAJAR AND DR. MATITU

Manssel Jianne Latonero and Jake Evangelista

Photo by Zia Robles

CLOSING A CHAPTER is an inevitable phenomenon experienced by many. It's a familiar moment of having to experience this sense of grief and uncertainty when one moves on to a new story. But a journey can never be truly profound without honoring the past; and rightfully so, before their pursuit of delving into newer heights, we honor the fruitful careers of Dr. Joffrey Alajar, Ph.D., and Dr. Bayani Matitu, Ed.D., two retiring members of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) faculty.

As they leave the lion's den this year, we celebrate their contributions throughout their careers, becoming amongst the pillars that continue to lift and define the identity of the Bedan community.

"At one point in time there is a Bedan named Joffrey Alajar"
- Dr. Joffrey Alajar, Ph.D.

Being one of the holders of the longest-running careers in San Beda, Dr. Alajar's journey as an educator has made an outstanding mark of honing Bedans for 42 years. Indeed, a full-blooded Bedan, prior to his academic career, Dr. Alajar had already pledged his allegiance before the Mighty Red School as a Bedan student for 16 years since pre-school.

Following this, after having graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, Dr. Alajar left the lion's den to work in the industry before beginning to teach in different schools and universities, which includes De La Salle College of St. Benilde, La Consolacion College, and Centro Escolar University.

But in the end, he found himself returning to San Beda University (SBU), as he came upon the realization that, he did not only consider teaching as God's calling for him, but also, he considered San Beda as the "best school to teach." He revealed how his former professors were his main motivation to teach, inspiring him to follow in their footsteps.

Highlighting his passion for teaching, he often mentioned how he is the "happiest" when teaching. "I handled a lot of administrative works. I became Vice Dean of the Accountancy and Business program, I became Assistant Dean of the entire College of Arts and Sciences, I became Chairperson for almost a decade or two...*Sabi ko nga, tanggalin na ko sa labat ng* positions *ko* in school, but never remove me in the classroom because it will make me very, very sad," he remarked. He shared that he spent his last days on the campus inside the classroom, reminiscing about his passion throughout the years. The classroom, he shared, was "the touchstone of my relevance as a human person."

Dwelling further into his teaching experiences, Dr. Alajar revealed that the best memories of his career are of his "students." He "never expected" that he would be able to "touch their hearts" as their professor, leading them to extend their love and gratitude for him even after they graduated. As he tackles his journey to recovery from cancer, he expressed

how his students have made it feel "lighter" for him. As such, despite the pandemic posing as a challenge for him with everything being converted to a virtual setting, he shared how he was able to "thrive despite not being tech-savvy," just so he could meet his students for class.

As his retirement takes place this year, he "holds to the Benedictine hallmarks and values" that have been instilled within him. Still full of hope for the students' continued passion for learning, he said "I hope in my own little way, I have contributed much to the Bedan education...I hope that you will remember that at one point in time there is a Bedan named Joffrey Alajar that has left an important mark in the Bedan education."

"The image of Sto. Niño comes to my heart"
- Dr. Bayani Matitu, Ed.D.

Starting out as a grade-school teacher in the University, Dr. Matitu holds great pride in practicing the Benedictine values, with the goal of being a role model among his students, inspiring them to inculcate the values among themselves. He considers the "entirety and longevity" of his career to be the biggest milestone in his life.

Having one of the longest careers in the University, we have been all too familiar with the enthusiasm he projects,

especially during the preparation of the yearly Bedan tradition, the *Pista ng Sto. Niño*, which Dr. Matitu considers to be one of the highlights of his career.

He shared how "lucky" he is to find a community to express his faith to, highlighting in the form of street dances, a vital part of the opening day of the week-long celebration. Moreover, his passion in actively participating in his field and choreographing the street dances of the *Pista* are both rooted from his position in the field of Community Outreach.

Even as his academic journey concluded long ago, he revealed how he continues to "study the contemporary issues and trends" in his field, Human Kinetics. He expressed how "significant" it is for him to "reach and connect with people below the poverty line," while being "blessed with the opportunity to impart knowledge from his field," regarding physical health and fitness. "When I'm going to have the program of the *[Pista ng] Sto. Niño*, I always [think] about the less fortunate children...With that, the image of *Sto. Niño* comes [to] my heart", he shared.

As he closes this chapter of his life, Dr. Matitu offered his gratitude to the faculty of the Department of the Sports Sciences and Human Kinetics for aiding him throughout his journey in operationalizing the Human Kinetics program of the University.

While mixed emotions were felt, Dr. Matitu looks forward to "spending more time with his family" and pursue his personal interests. But even amid these, Dr. Matitu hopes that his legacy with the *Pista ng Sto. Niño* would continue to "influence the future celebrations and to offer the best execution to the patron saint."

A lion may leave his den, but the pride remains roaring in his heart. As the careers of these esteemed professors come to an end, their influence and legacy will forever be a part of the Bedan identity. Their contributions will certainly continue to mold the Benedictine core values to the present and the next generations of Bedans, forever being inspired to study and maintain the sense of community, in pursuit of peace and passion.

(With Dianne Radel Magallon)

In Memory of Aaron Saludares

Paolo Vital

Photo courtesy by Echoes



BEDANS GRIEVE FOR the passing of a brother—someone who has left an indelible mark in our cherished home. He stood as a herald of camaraderie and warmth. And in order to immortalize his legacy, let us take the time to remember Aaron Saludares and reminisce his life, legacy and time spent with his most beloved.

Aaron Saludares, a dedicated senior from the Accounting Information System program, and Executive Committee Member for Alumni Affairs of the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA) is remembered as someone who is extremely reliable in academics and organizational duties, while being warm and compassionate towards his peers.

A Brotherhood that Never Dies

Aldrich Atienza, one of Aaron's closest friends for the past 15 years described him as someone whose "determination and passion always carries him to achieve his goal. He is often quiet at first, but once people get to know him, he is that lovable person."

Despite his reserved nature, he remains open and expressive about himself. "He may not say it vocally, but I can see it in his expressions. He is the type of person who truly cares about the people he loves and will do anything to make sure that they are happy," said Joshua Austria, describing himself as "brother-like" towards Aaron.

But having moved past his shy exterior and having become close to him, Aaron is someone who is "chaotic fun, the moment you get to know him there'll never be a dull moment," said Jared Velasco, one of Aaron's closest friends and badminton teammate.

Unfading Memories

Aaron's friends would fondly recollect the many different "inumans, gala and meet-ups" they had together, with Joshua citing "going home together, eating during break time at school, the days where we hang out at our friend's home to drink, and during our birthday" as the happiest memories of him.

Jared Velasco, Aaron's badminton teammate, shared how "I just remember all the frustrating laughs I've had whenever he just bested me in Badminton, and I fondly remember that side eye he always does whenever he does a clean drop that always gets me."

Ramon Bernaldo, "the yin to his yang" remembers Aaron as someone with whom he shares the same hobbies "He was just like another me," he emphasized. Pointing out his most cherished experience with him, "My most fond memory of Aaron was when he was there when I first confessed to my

then girlfriend. Him and Josh helped me plan and supported me the whole way that day which was very sweet and just fun in general."

"Aaron is someone that you can make any situation you have in life a lot more bearable. He can be there when life is chaotic and out of control, he can also be there when life is calm and fun and can elevate that even more," said Emman Makabenta.

Upon reminiscing of all their past experiences, Ramon says "Aaron may not have experienced all the things one can experience in life, but I can say not only through us but to everyone that loved him made his life complete. I can say for a certainty that Aaron enjoyed the life that he had and he probably won't change anything if he were to redo everything again. Have fun in heaven homie."

Of Duty and Commitment

At the start of Aaron's entry into SBU as a student from the Department of Accountancy and Taxation, he had already displayed a promising start. "Aaron showed a lot of potential, and I witnessed his growth throughout the years of us being classmates. He even volunteered to be the leader in our thesis," said Dave Santos, 4th year representative of the JPIA.

This is further attested by Prof. Jayson Chio of the Department of Accountancy and Taxation, who details Aaron as "always participating in any activities JPIA will have."

When it comes to Aaron's approach and talent in his work, "he is very street-smart and extremely practical. He can think quickly on his feet for the task at hand. He is a silent yet very effective operator behind the scenes," said Prof. Chio.

All of this has culminated in Aaron possessing great Bedan leadership, playing a pivotal role in the operations of the JPIA and organizing events. "His leadership is usually shown during our preparation for the operations, mainly the send-off mass, operations proper, and the testimonial celebration for the Bedan passers of the CPA Licensure examination," added Prof. Chio

Ultimately, Prof. Chio sees Aaron as the classic example of "Do not judge a book by its cover." "He might have appeared to be this tall, happy-go-lucky guy, but I may sound like a

broken record, but he is extremely reliable to do the things needed to accomplish the tasks," he further explained.

Bedan Selflessness and Compassion

Aaron's friendly disposition persists even during his time as a student and his eventual inclusion into the JPIA. "He was also very generous and got along with lots of people," said Dave.

"Aaron is highly responsible, when one of his classmates will be having some trouble, Aaron accompanies them," said Dr. Jackqui R. Moreno, CPA, chairperson of the Department of Accountancy and Taxation.

Aaron's personal calling to serve a Bedan in need frequently led to Dr. Moreno repeatedly asking, "oh bat mo sinasamahan, di ka naman kasama dun sa ano?" where Aaron would simply reply "eh ma'am kailangan po nila ako eh."

Further citing another instance of Aaron shouldering the burden of his fellow students, Dr. Moreno states "Pati 'yung mga requirements ng thesis nila, he's the one who revised everything and then brought the hardbound copies here."

Again, when asked why he took the initiative, "para po matapos na po eh kasi others are busy," said Aaron.

Due to Aaron's commitment and influence in partaking within the JPIA, there even came a point where he was considered to lead the board operations of the organization "kabiti sabihin ng iba na hindi siya BSA, kasi kabiti di mo tarwagin andudun siya," said Dr. Moreno.

But nevertheless, his greatest legacy in the Department of Accountancy and Taxation was his compassion. "He can help anybody, and he is very selfless, tutulong siya kasi it is the right thing to do," added Dr. Moreno.

As a conclusory statement about Aaron, Dr. Moreno simply stated, "Aaron is a person who gives so much and never asks."

As we grieve for the loss of one of our own—a Bedan who stood for so much and dedicated himself not only to his work but also his friends—we must never forget the infinite amount of good he has done during his time. In doing so, despite his passing, we are making him immortal in our hearts.



Photo Courtesy of Aldrich Atienza

CAMPUS TO CONGRESS: A BEDAN AYLC DELEGATE'S TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY

Marc Joseph Felix
and Thirdy Pabilico

Photos courtesy of
Alvin Sebastian Mangaliag



IN THE HUNDREDS, if not thousands of hopefuls in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a lone Bedan distinguished himself among the crowd. Equipped with wits and skills to impact his community through transformative leadership, Alvin Sebastian Mangaliag made a name for himself. His journey to becoming a part of an event as prestigious as the 2024 Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC) is more than meets the eye.

Alvin, a third-year student from the Department of Human Biology and Natural Sciences—just like every other Bedan—learns and grows in one of the classrooms of St. Anselm's Hall. But this wouldn't be the case if not for his keen sense of leadership inside and outside of the University.

NOT YOUR ORDINARY BEDAN

But before we delve deeper into his AYLC 2024 feat, it is important that we take a step back beyond the halls of San Beda University (SBU), where Alvin conducts his day-to-day endeavors as a student.

While not much is “extraordinary” about Alvin's daily routine, he has kept a consistent routine ever since—and that may just be his “secret recipe” for success. “I think this [routine] is the very reason why I was able to handle the challenging curriculum of Human Biology, as well as balance my time as a working student before, and being a student and community leader, a son, and a young adult,” he shared, owing to the patterns he developed which helped him, or is currently helping him, get through his course that is often frowned upon by many for its difficulty.

BUILDING A LEADER

Besides being a student, Alvin is also a leader, who guides and steers the youth by “promoting inclusivity” within his community. “My advocacy grew even stronger when I worked part time at the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation of Mandaluyong City, where I met different people coming from various backgrounds,” he explained.

After exposing himself to the sentiments of the people coming from all creeds, Alvin then reflected on the inequality that the youth is currently facing, which led him to pursue a greater cause with his brother, who was the former SK Federation President of Mandaluyong City, taking in the form of an organization called the “*Boses ng Kabataan* Youth Organization.”

According to him, the primary objective of their organization was to “amplify the voices of young individuals, ensuring that each young person has a fair opportunity to succeed.”

“I personally make a concerted effort to lead my community as a servant leader, which prioritizes the needs of others. It places a significant emphasis on fostering relationships with students and aims to provide them [with] the tools they need to realize their greatest potential,” he added.

HONING A LEADER

The AYLC is an annual summit by the Ayala Foundation. It aims to hone the leadership skills and personality of its delegates. Being part of this congress requires a tough process of screening, and applicants must have promising credentials, preferable student leaders that are currently in college.



Speaking about what made him apply, Alvin cited his passion to serve towards his advocacy in creating a progressive and inclusive community. Recognizing the fact there is still a room for learning, he believes that the AYLC can further shape him on how he understands nation building and how to connect himself with youth leaders.

Furthermore, Alvin believes that youth summits, such as the AYLC, would serve as “a great avenue” to learn from fellow young leaders to acquire more ideas onwards leadership. As everything that transpires from this congress, would greatly benefit him as a leader and to apply it to the beloved University and the community.

AN ADVICE FOR THE INCOMING LEADERS

Stories of becoming a youth leader further echoes the fact that there is no set of age to serve the people. Particularly, change starts within the selves, and even anyone from the student body can take initiatives. Having the opportunity to have a word with our esteemed delegate, Alvin shared some pieces of advice, especially those who aspire to be part of the AYLC.

For Alvin, he asserted how important it is to integrate

and “practice integrity, empathy, and strong work ethic” as it would “inspire trust and confidence among our peers. It may be cliché to hear but action still speaks louder than words.” Consequently, no man is an island, by which a leader must know how to get along, collaborate, and hopefully connect with others.

Lastly, embodying the red-blooded identity of being a Bedan, Alvin's greatest advice to fellow Bedans, is “to always answer the clarion call of servant leadership; and to render our utmost service for San Beda, for Our Country, and for God.”

Alvin's participation in this year's AYLC reflects his unwavering servitude to the people and youth - exemplified by his initiative to address the inequality and challenges of this country to the best of his abilities.

While this year's congress has officially ended, not everything must change. Alvin will continue to be a student-leader, not just in name nor recognition, but especially in his resolute passion to serve the people – to be a beacon of inspiration for the Bedan community to do their part in contributing towards progressive change.



BEST SPOTS TO HANG OUT IN SBU

RED BRICKED ROAD:

Nathaniel Soriano and Mika Isidro

Photos by Nate Soriano

Outside the regular hustle-and-bustle of University life, students need a safe haven—a place of respite to breathe and seek refuge from the daily academic battles they may be facing.



With the start of yet another amazing Academic Year, some of us might still have this sense of dissatisfaction over the momentary summer break, and uncertainty on what lies ahead. Luckily, San Beda University (SBU) has its fair share of special spots where students can pause for a moment, and breathe, with friends or in comfortable solitude. Especially to all freshies out there who are still unfamiliar with the scenic sites in the Lion's Den, this is for you!

ST. MAUR'S HALL

Formerly the spot of the University's baseball field, St. Maur's Hall now serves as San Beda University's melting pot for the University's communities beyond the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). From the early class rush in the CAS and Senior High School departments to the late-night "senti" moments from the College of Law (COL) students, St Maur's Hall always sees its fair share of personalities.

This area's shared nature is also evident during the numerous organizational and University-wide events; with the outskirts of the hall covered by event booths and student business.

Going in-depth on what can be seen here during events, food stalls, and brand pop-ups are available for Bedans. St Maur's Hall transforms into a vibrant hub for activity with waves of Bedans passing through and interacting with whatever is available for the day.

If crowded places are not for you, don't worry as St Maur's Hall is typically a place for peace and quiet outside of University events.

JUAN SABATER HALL CORRIDOR

Do you need a place to take a pause and relax? The Juan Sabater Hall Corridor provides just the spot. More known as "the lockers" by the Bedan community, this area is not an obvious spot for relaxing alone or with friends at first glance.

Adjacent to the University's Jubilee Garden, "the lockers" provide a view to much-needed greenery in a campus filled to the brim with academic halls and buildings.

Despite not having a sitting area, students make do by using the archway ledges as make-shift benches (just don't get caught if you ever plan on doing this).

Even though this spot is not a traditional place for Bedans to hang out, this area has a reputation as a place where you can have heart-to-heart talks with friends or get lost in your train of thoughts and emotions.

SBU OLD GATE

A chill spot that commemorates SBU history, the SBU Old Gate lies at the heart of the campus. With places to sit or play sports just outside of the Lydia Tan Sy Hall, not to mention the Centennial Garden lying just within the gates—this place never sees a dull moment.

This area may be more associated as the backdrop to every Bedan's Instagram story or TikTok as this place boasts aesthetically pleasing views and vibes. Being closer to the University's main study areas, the Old Gate is a quick getaway for Bedans looking to slow down from the demands of classes.

Besides the Centennial Garden that houses a pocket of trees and greenery inside the University, the area of the old gate is also home to statues and monuments donated by SBU alumni, most notably the two lion statues that guard both posts.

If you are not yet aware, just be cautious if you believe in superstitions; as passing through the university's Old Gate is said to delay one's graduation in SBU. Of course, superstitious or not, the SBU Old Gate is always available for Bedan's to...(idk chill??)

While SBU's hangout spots may not have the same allure that other universities have, this does not take away the stories and history that many Bedans associate these places with. While the streets of Manila have more activities or aesthetically pleasing shops or areas for you to go to, SBU provides Bedans with areas that make the student community feel at ease. As SBU is your home away from home, give these places a visit and give them a chance to become engraved into your own understanding of San Beda University!

KURIMI (RC GYM)

The latest addition to the University, the Kurimi stall by the RC Gym provides Bedans with a new option for in-campus grub. Despite being smaller than Dom or the Snack Bar, this area is a new go-to for those who wish to find a study place or eating area.

Despite being tucked away between the RC Gym and the University's parking area, this spot is a literal hidden gem for those who wish to stay here. Being far from the CAS' classrooms and library makes this place a seldomly visited spot during class hours, but its food options and eating area see plenty of activity during vacant periods.

This area provides the potential to form new core memories and traditions for the Bedan community. So don't let its hidden nature allow you to overlook this place and give visiting this spot a chance to be part of your in-campus routine.



BEDAN TRACKSTER SOARS IN INT'L DEBUT

Thirty Pabilico

AFTER MONTHS OF build-up and preparations, David Matibag of the San Beda Red Tracksters proudly put the country and the University behind his back, winning a silver and bronze medal during the 2024 ASEAN University Games (AUG) held at Subaraya, Indonesia, July 4.

The collegiate track athlete went head-to-head with the best delegates from universities across Southeast Asia, clocking in a time of 1:52.25 in the Men's 800 meters to claim the silver and improve his personal best of 1:52.34. To top it all off, he also won the bronze medal in the Men's 4x100 meter relay.

TRIBULATIONS AND PREPARATIONS

The field seemed an easy run for Matibag from an outsider's perspective, but merely getting there was not as simple as it sounds.

Before the competition, he asked for support through a Facebook post to further ensure his participation in the biennial meet. "Based on my experience, *sobrang hirap kasi ako ay naghanap at lumapit sa mga individual na tao para masolusyunan at mabuo ang pondo.*"

"Sa [San] Beda naman, may support naman sila pero 'di ako yung nagbarwak nung pondo na 'yun," added Matibag.

However, he must adapt, not only to the economic factors but also to the training and conditioning required to compete on the international stage.

When asked about his strategy with Coach Giovanni Andaya of the

Red Tracksters, he said, "*Para sa'kin kasi, paiba-iba naman [ang] panabon. Minsan solo training ako, kaya naman do'n naman sa kapag magkasama kami ni coach [Giovanni], okay naman, nagagawa naman 'yung training nang maayos.*"

ON PACE TO VICTORY

While Matibag initially struggled to keep up after experiencing such a pace in his first international meet, he remained determined to finish with everything left out in the oval.

"*Para sa'kin, mabirap talaga kasi first time ko makaranas ng gan'ung pace. Sa first lap, ginawa ko lang 'yung kaya ng katarwan ko at binigay ko ang best ko nung last 150m,*" he narrated.

Fortunately, his efforts were not left in vain as he expressed his satisfaction winning second place, saying "*Naako na nagpa-pang 2nd, okay naman. Iniisip ko lang tapusin ko nang maka-podium at binigay naman ni Lord.*"

"*H a b a n g palagi ang lakas. Kabit kinakausap elaborated.*

natakbo, ako si God hinihingan ko ng natakbo ako, ko siya," he

WHAT THE FUTURE HAS IN STORE

This time around, the 21-year-old Batangas phenom is even more motivated to continue performing for San Beda University (SBU), rallying behind support for what is to come.

"*Sana sa susunod na season, ngayong [NCAA] Season 100, maibigay nila 'yung support na kailangan ng athlete para mas maging matibay at maging expressive ang mga athlete,*" he affirmed.

When talking about his expectations and goals for his future endeavors, Matibag shared a few of the competitions he wishes to succeed in, paired with his adjustments in training and optimizing his condition. "*Ang target ko talaga [is] NCAA champion ulit at maraming international game pa kaya kabit nag iisa ako sa amin sa pag-training, alam naman na ng katarwan ko 'yung proseso paano maging matibay sa barwat laban.*"

Above everything else, David remains grateful for all the support he already received, saying "*Maraming salamat po sa pag-support, siyempre sa ANTA Philippines na siyang nagbigay ng mga gamit ko para sa paglalaro ko.*"

Amid all that has transpired in Matibag's journey from the Lion's Den to his eventual success on the international stage, the one constant factor is how he has answered the Clarion Call.

(with Dianne Radel Magallon)



Red Tracksters settle for fifth in NCAA Season 99

▼ Veronica Balbin

GARNERING A TOTAL of five medals, the San Beda University's (SBU) Red Tracksters settled for fifth place overall in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 99 Athletic Championships at the PhilSports Complex in Pasig last June 6 to 8.

Within the three-day event, the Red Tracksters tallied a total of one gold, one silver, and three bronze medals across individual events such as the 800 meters, 1500 meters, 3000-meter steeplechase, and Javelin Throw event. They also found success in the group category, specifically in the 4x400 meter relay.

These podiums left the



The San Beda Red Tracksters winning bronze during the 4x400-meter relay.

Photo by Veronica Balbin

Tracksters' Coach, Giovanni Andaya, satisfied despite his initial doubts before the NCAA.

In an interview with The Bedan, he stated, "*Sa totoo lang, nag-aalangan ako na baka hindi kami mag-perform, pero because of our work ethic, nagtiwala ako na 'yung program ko is ma-achieve ng mga players ko and then mahibit namin 'yung mga goal namin.*"

College standout David Matibag, who seized the 800-meter gold medal, the 1500-meter silver medal and played a part in the team's 4x400 meter bronze with Joemar Castillo, Eagle Bicara, and Jimmy Bas, credited their success to their preparations before the competition.

"*Maganda po 'yung condition ng aming katawan ngayon dahil mas maganda 'yung preparation po namin. Mas pinataas pa namin kumpara doon sa last year na NCAA,*" he emphasized.

After the end of the event,

he looks forward to a week-long break before returning to training for the Asian University Games in Indonesia, which will take place from July 1-6. Surprised by his performance that earned him the bronze in the 3000-meter event, Bas recognized Coach Andaya and their shared goal of winning.

"I would like to use this opportunity to mention my coach Giovanni Andaya for supporting me in this journey of us. *Ito 'yung unang pangarap namin ni coach, to achieve my medal in [the] NCAA. So 'yun nga, 'yung unang pangarap namin is natupad namin.*"

Now, he looks forward to beating his own personal record to qualify and participate in international competitions.

Patrick Catapang, who clinched bronze in the Javelin throw, is also looking to improve for the upcoming NCAA Season 100, wishing for SBU's success in the league's centennial edition.



The San Beda Red Tracksters posing for a photo opportunity.

Photo by Veronica Balbin

San Beda bows to La Salle in FilOil pre-season match

▼ Paolo Vital

IN A CLASH between the respective champions of the National Collegiate Association of the Philippines (NCAA) and the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), the San Beda University (SBU) Red Lions fell short against the De La Salle University (DLSU) Green Archers, 80-94, in the 17th FilOil EcoOil Preseason Cup Quarterfinals held at the FilOil EcoOil Centre, June 8.

The Red Lions finished third as the reigning UAAP champions. a quick mid-range two. La Salle answered with a three of their own.



Photo courtesy of Fastbreak

It was the same situation once again as the two sides failed to establish a solid lead in the first few minutes of action. However, the Green Archers started to gain momentum, capitalizing on their offensive boards with a 14-5 surge.

Nygel Gonzales managed to combat the growing lead with a snappy lay-up, drawing a foul and converting a point from the charity stripe, 15-24.

Fortunately, the Red Lions fought back and closed the gap, 25-26, as RC Calimag drained two from beyond the arc. JC Bonzalida and Lawrence Hawkins also contributed with a layup apiece. Quickly sensing the impending lead, the Green Archers were able to capitalize on free throws from fouls committed by the Red Lions, ending the first quarter 25-31.

The Archers widened the gap by the second quarter, finding themselves with a 9-point lead against the Mendiola-based squad, 27-36. Yukien Andrada then led the momentum shift for the Lions with four points, coupled by James Payosing's driving layup and Emman Tagle's jumper three, putting the Red Lions in a measly two-point lead, 36-34.

The second quarter eventually found the cold-shooting Red

Lions offensively maneuvered by the Green Archers, finishing the second half with a 17-point deficit, 39-56.

Despite valiant efforts given by the Red Lions, the Taft Squad were relentless in their onslaught, stretching the gap to a 24-point rift by the end of the third quarter, 59-83. With their backs behind the wall, the Red Lions eventually hit their stride minutes into the fourth quarter.

Closing in on the score differential, Zane Jalbuena came as a breath of life, scoring five points via an easy floater and three of his own. Sajonia also came through with a three-pointer to cut the deficit down to 15, 73-88.

In the end, the Mendiola-based squad's comeback attempt was left in vain, ending the game with a devastating 80-49 defeat.

Sajonia led the Red Lions in their defeat against the Green Archers, tallying 15 points. James Payosing, Andrada, and Jalbuena chipped in at 10 points each. The match set the elimination of the San Beda Red Lions in the Quarterfinals of the 2024 FilOil EcoOil Preseason Cup, despite their strong showing in the NCAA bracket.

Red Sea Lions dominate The Champions Cup 2024

▼ Mansel Latonero

HAILED AS CHAMPIONS once more, the San Beda Red Sea Lions proved to be a cut among the rest during The Champions Cup 2024 held at New Clark City Aquatics Center in Tarlac, July 27 to 28.

Having accumulated 5,143 points, the Red Sea Lions competed against over 20 swimming teams from around the nation, supervised by Head Coach Dondon Roxas Jr., Asst. Coach Genesis Perez, and Asst. Coach Jonathan Rarela.

The title of champions has long been associated with the Sea Lions, which has held the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) crown for 20 years in the men's division, and 10 in the women's swimming competitions.

In an exclusive interview with *The Bedan*, Coach Roxas revealed that the team were on a summer training camp for five weeks in Alabang, Muntinlupa when they received the invitation for The

Champions Cup 2024.

“Actually, *bindi naman namin pinrepare 'yung team para dito sa competition na 'to*, it just happened *na, 'yun nga, nag-training camp kami*,” Coach Roxas shared. Despite that, he expressed that he was “glad” to see the outcome of the training camp, especially to the freshmen, as the competition's events were divided among age groups.

The team resumed training in preparation for the NCAA Season 100. During this, Coach Roxas “promoted the spirit of bonding” between the rookies and the veterans, wanting to “inculcate the culture and system of the Red Sea Lions into the freshmen.”



Photo courtesy of San Beda Red Sea Lions Swim Team

Bedan swimmer caps off Palarong Pambansa 2024 as most bemedaled athlete

▼ Marc Joseph Felix and Rcee Tenefrancia

SETTING NEW RECORDS, Albert “TJ” Jose Amaro II of the San Beda Junior Sea Lions nabbed a total of seven gold medals in the Palarong Pambansa last July 17, making him the “most bemedaled athlete” in the national tourney at Cebu City.

Amaro swept the competition across seven categories, winning gold in the following events; 50 and 100-meter butterfly, 50, 100, and 200-meter freestyle, and 4x100 medley and freestyle relay.

The 17-year-old native of Naga, now representing CALABARZON, shattered his record in the previous year, beating last year's 26.14 seconds which he himself set. He also topped this year's 100-meter butterfly time with 56.60 seconds and dominated the 4x100-meter medley relay with his team in a record 3:58:59.

For Amaro, the most challenging aspect to becoming the top athlete in the league was achieving the “peak physical and mental performance consistently,”

which was exacerbated by handling injuries and enduring the pressure and expectations set, together with managing schedules between personal life and training.

Meanwhile, Amaro's preparations came in the form of goals and the desire to achieve them. “I always remind myself of how hard I work for competitions. Setting a goal before competitions and staying positive and motivated helps prepare not just my mind but



The San Beda Red Sea Lions posing for a photo opportunity.

Photo courtesy of San Beda Red Sea Lions Swim Team

He then, revealed the “secret recipe” to being the 20-year champion holder was to constantly remind the seniors that they should “not be overconfident,” and that “they will always come to competitions, whether within the NCAA or not, as challengers, and not champions,” urging them to work their best in earning the title

especially with the competitive nature among the schools and teams.

Moving forward, Coach Roxas aspires for the team to find the balance between studies and training, to avoid all unnecessary obstacles for the team and the members individually. As such, he reminds them of the essence of being a student-athlete, and how

the word “student” comes first, both literally and figuratively.

“*Gusto ko lang talaga makita sa mga bata is kung paano nila gagampanan 'yung duties and responsibilities nila*, and then, *palagi, 'yung self-discipline na ini-impart namin sa kanila*,” he concluded.

(With Denver P. Provido)



also my body.”

Amaro emphasized the role of his teammates and coaches for his success, dedicating his triumphs to the people who were part of his journey. In addition, he also acknowledged his teammates who supported him in every practice.

In his final remarks, Amaro extended his appreciation to

the Bedan community for the support. He also looks forward to the continuous support of his fellow Bedans, as the Sea Lions aim to win another championship.

His record-breaking form was also recognized outside the University after being mentioned by former Vice President Leni Robredo in a Facebook post.

Photo courtesy of Daily Tribune

Former Red Lions captain enters PBA; signs with Magnolia Hotshots

▼ Nathaniel Soriano



Peter Alfaro (left) together with Magnolia Hotshots Team Manager Alvin Patrimonio (right).

Photo courtesy of Peter Alfaro

INITIALLY SECURING THE third pick during the third round of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Season 49 Draft with *Terrafirma Dyip* but failing to ink a deal, former San Beda Red Lions headman, Peter Alfaro, landed with the *Magnolia Chicken Timplados Hotshots* as a rookie free-agent last August 3.

Collegiate Press Corps names Escueta as NCAA Coach of the Year

▼ Thirty Pabilico and Mika Isidro

FOLLOWING THE RED Lions' championship run in Season 99 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the 2024 rendition of the Collegiate Press Crops Awards night, held at Discovery Suites Manila, Pasig last June 17, honored coach Yuri Escueta as the NCAA's Men's Basketball Coach of the Year.

In his third year as the main voice in the sidelines for the Red Lions, Coach Yuri ended a five-

year title drought with San Beda as the underdogs for this past NCAA season.

The former Red Cub spent two years in the Lion's Den for the Junior's team before playing his collegiate basketball for the Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) Blue Eagles in 2003, winning a championship with the team.

Coach Yuri recognized how this feat influenced his awarding by the Collegiate Press Crops, saying "That award is a bonus for winning the

championship. The Coach of the Year Award probably is a testament of the hard work my players have done and all the help that I've gotten from the coaches that are around me."

He reiterated how the support from the coaching staff reflects the "staff of the year" nature of his award due to not being the "only decision maker" with the team's operations.

Despite obtaining the honors

After leading the Mendiola-based squad to their 23rd National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's basketball crown last year, the 5'11 floor general decided to suit up for the *Zamboanga Valientes*, who competed in The Asian Tournament in preparation for his eventual entry to the PBA.

Despite failing to sign with the *Dyip* as the 27th overall pick during the PBA draft in Makati, Alfaro was still "blessed to have been drafted," describing the moment as "surreal" for being able to achieve both his childhood dream as well as his parent's dream.

Nevertheless, he is still determined as ever to reach greater heights. "It's just the start of the journey. I have to prove my worth *pa* when it comes *dito sa PBA* because it's a whole different level," he affirmed.

Now finding his home with the *Magnolia Hotshots*, Alfaro described the qualities that he possessed that set him apart as a rookie: "*Siguro* making the right reads, making the right decisions and at the same time, being able to stabilize my team even if I'm a rookie, as the point guard of our team."

Apart from this, he tips a nod at the winning culture he developed throughout his time with the San Beda Red Lions, hoping that he will be able to carry it on in his PBA journey. "*Yung* winning culture, and '*yung* tradition *na na-build ko sa San Beda*, hopefully I could bring it *sa team na mapupuntaban ko*," he

added.

He continued by alluding to the learnings he had derived from the coaches of the Red Lions. "I'm very blessed to be part of the San Beda Red Lions, because it prepared me *talaga*, especially *sa PBA* and, *alam mo 'yun*, when playing *sa PBA*, I'm confident *na naturuan na sa'min nila* Coach Yuri, Coach Boyet, *nila* Coach Norman *nung college kami*," he added.

Regardless, he affirmed that he would continue to grow, saying "The learning doesn't stop, continuous learning *kami habang nandito kami sa PBA*." Looking ahead, the former NCAA champion expressed his excitement in playing side-by-side with fellow PBA greats such as Paul Lee, Calvin Abueva, his fellow Zamboangueño Mark Barroca, and former Red Lions team captain Rome De La Rosa.

"Playing with them in practice every day is a blessing because I get to learn a lot under their wings in this period of time and I'm sure their skills and experience will influence me in the long run of my young PBA career," he added.

Finally, Alfaro extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Bedan community for their unwavering trust and patronage, saying, "thirteen years in the Lion's Den molded me to be the person I am today." "San Beda, you will always be a part of who I am, and I'm proud to be called a Bedan for life. Thank you, San Beda. Animo!"

of men's basketball of the year, Coach Yuri dedicated this award not just to himself but especially to his team as he reflects that "basketball has always been a team game."

"As much as coaches affect '*yung* games, of course, I'm very humbled to receive this award, especially coaching against good coaches in the NCAA. So, [I'm] very thankful and again humbled to receive the award," he added.

Finally, Coach Yuri remained

grateful to the Bedan community for their unwavering support to all the games of the Red Lions, saying "we appreciate the support *nila* [Bedan community]. We are very thankful; they give us fire to work harder [and] to perform our best."

He nevertheless assured Bedans that "just like last year, just like the year before [and] this coming season, we're going to do our best and try to improve every time."

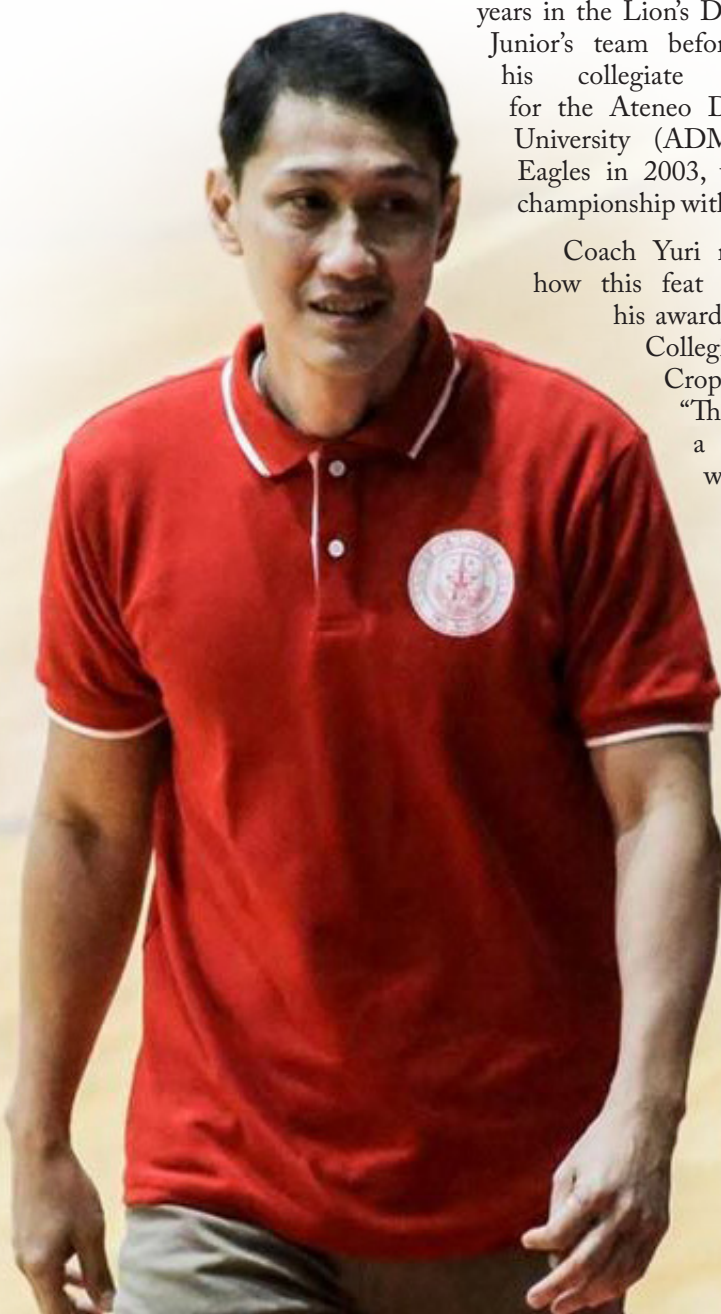


Photo courtesy of Spin.ph

PINNACLE OF PRESSURE



RIVERCHILD
THIRDY PABILICO



He should hold his head high knowing that the Filipino people, at that crucial moment, believed in something greater than mere medals—they believed in him.

IN SPORTS, ANYTHING can and will happen with pressure, especially when one is expected to carry an entire nation's hopes and aspirations at his back.

All eyes were on Ernest John "EJ" Obiena, the world's second-ranked Pole Vaulter at that time, to be part of the few favorites to win another medal for the Philippines in the 2024 iteration of the Olympics set in Paris. After all, he was out on the quest for redemption, driven by the desire to eclipse his forgettable 11th-place finish in Tokyo back in 2020.

In the year leading up to the biggest sporting event of the year, Obiena would prove to be a formidable force in the stiff pole vault competition, having been the first Asian to join the six-meter club at the Bergen Jump Challenge in Norway.

Besides his gold medals at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and Asian Games, and silver medal during the 2023 Athletics Championship, he most recently achieved a significant breakthrough in his career by winning gold at the 2024 World Athletics Indoor Tour Bronze - Memorial Josip Gašparac in Croatia.

By then, everyone, including myself, was on the edge of their seats, holding their breath and anticipating a massive sigh of relief after Obiena secured his first Olympic medal for the country.

Unfortunately, it never came.

Ending his Paris berth in heartbreak, Obiena failed to clear the 5.95-meter bar during the finals, signaling the conclusion of yet another Olympic dream. Shattered, he has fallen at the sight of thousands of Filipinos who tuned in to watch his game.

While we can't exactly point fingers in this scenario, Obiena bore the heaviest weight of a country expecting him to deliver in that pivotal moment. With all on the line, the pressure was immense, and the stakes were high; and despite facing the harsh reality of sports, where winners win and losers lose, he carried the burden with grace—even in the face of defeat.

Pressure is a natural phenomenon in sports, but I'd argue that it isn't all that negative. To feel pressure means that you are looked at to achieve greater results. To be pressured means that you are responsible for what you've done and not done, as everything you do must hold significance for the people around you.

As Obiena puts it, "pressure is a privilege." Indeed, it is a culmination of years of hard work to be at the pinnacle of your craft, a gentle reminder that you've made it. He should hold his head high knowing that the Filipino people, at that crucial moment, believed in something greater than mere medals—they believed in him.

And if you are under immense pressure by now, always remember that you are capable, relied on, and deserving of greatness.



THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Photo composite by Rizian Balleto

SAN BEDA RULES NCAA SEASON 99 AS GENERAL CHAMPIONS

▼ Paolo Vital

WITHOUT A FORMAL announcement and ceremony, San Beda University (SBU) emerged victorious as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) overall champions to conclude their dominant Season 99 run.

In a Facebook post by the San Beda One Sports Program, SBU won seven championships in the following sports; Men's Basketball, Men's Swimming, Women's Swimming, Men's Football, Men's Taekwondo, Women's Taekwondo, and Men's Badminton.

The news of SBU reigning as the general champions came as a surprise to many. "Originally I was just scrolling sa Wikipedia ng mga games ng mga athletes natin and then nakita ko na hindi pa in-announce na we are the overall champion, I already saw sa tally na tayo na yung nagttop," said Harry Bonavente, the Creative Director of the One Sports Program.

He further elaborated, "Nakita ko nalang na may trophy nalang bigla dum sa may Vision and Mission pag entrance mo ng San Beda, and ando'n makikita mo yung trophy."

In publicizing the achievement of our Bedan Athletes, the Athletics Committee of the Student Council and the One Sports Program came to the forefront in announcing the news on Facebook.

"From there, doon ko nalaman na general champion siya, so I created a congratulatory post to showcase or mapakita na San Beda University is the NCAA general champion," said Harry.

Dr. Diosdado Aller III, PhD, Athletics Moderator of SBU, shared his excitement upon learning the news of San Beda's success, saying "Of course, I was so happy. And there was this sense of pride because of this achievement."

Citing the University's athletic dominance throughout the whole season, "Pagka seven

championships ka out of the twelve or thirteen, tapos 'yung mga kalaban mo ay wala namang ganun kalapit sa atin, alam mo na tayo ang champions."

He then credited SBU's success to the different coaches and discipline they instilled within the athletes, stating "It is the primary reason why they perform well."

Further expressing his plans for the upcoming season, "Siyempre, gagabayan natin sila. We will maximize our resources so that the athletes can perform if not maintain the overall championship. Sa pagtutulongan natin ay kakayanin natin."

As a piece of advice, Dr. Aler III emphasized the importance of balancing life as a student-athlete, finding the "middle ground" between academic pursuits and athletic endeavors.

"Pag walang pasok, do not rejoice, but rather sharpen the sword. What do you mean sharpen the sword? Read, read, read. Prepare, prepare, prepare. So that by the time you come back to class, you are well prepared," he explained.

Heading into the NCAA's centennial season, he expects the same outcome for the overall championships, with the teams replicating or even surpassing their previous feats.

"I think, there is no reason for us not to retain, if not surpass the overall championships. 'Yung mga nag-first run up ngayon, second place, nothing to go but up, 'di ba? While the rest na na-champion, retain. Retain. Retain. Amen," he concluded.

(With Prince Tagarino)

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BEDAN TRACKSTER SOARS IN INT'L DEBUT



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BEDAN SWIMMER CAPS OFF PALARONG PAMBANSA 2024 AS MOST BEMEDALED ATHLETE

