



SPUP Herald

The Official Publication of St. Paul University Philippines

Maiden Issue



ChildProTECT

Response to Poverty Alleviation and Community Transformation

Vol. I, No. 1



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SPUP Herald

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President's Message



All of us are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic causing unprecedented disruptions in education, healthcare, economy, and travels. Likewise, it is impacting the way we live, study, work, think, and interact. During this global crisis, we consider the health and wellbeing of people as most important. In fact, the medical doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals and clinicians who are frontliners in the fight against the coronavirus are now lauded as the new heroes in the coronial era. In the education sector, online learning has catapulted into the forefront due to the restriction of face-to-face classes. Learning modalities have changed and education is transforming into the new normal. Hopefully, we can move forward with open minds, positive perspectives, and steadfast faith that with God's grace we can make it.

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) is trying to keep afloat and to navigate through these difficult times with a roadmap of positive convergence of Quality, Technology, and Sustainability. Accordingly, we are challenged to better prepare, re-imagine, re-think, re-design, transform, and future-proof our educational ecosystem because the learning modalities have changed and will never be the same. We are called to practice resiliency, strategic agility, and to advance and set our eyes towards attaining high quality and effective learning outcomes. Moreover, we focus on our students' holistic human development and God-centered value system, the job readiness of graduates enhanced by technology innovations and strong industry linkages, and ensure the sustainability of the relevant and forward-looking educational developments and learning models that SPUP has initiated or adopted.

At this point of time, we deem it opportune to launch the maiden issue of the SPUP Herald. This issue of our new magazine features the

programs, interventions, innovations, creative evangelization, digital transformation, research collaboration, webinars conducted, and the learning continuity roadmap that we have crafted during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. Various aspects of SPUP's survival and adaptive strategies are captured in the write-ups, reflections, and pictures. Today's educational landscape is quite bumpy and fraught with uncertainties. Yet, we persevere with unceasing prayers and courage to survive and thrive even in adverse situations.

In coping with the disruptions, calamities, and crises during these challenging times, we can fall... we bounce... we rise.

The SPUP Herald brings the loving message of hope that this pandemic will be an opportunity to change for the better and improve our programs and services towards deeper relevance, profound quality, and bottom-line sustainability. We dwell on these glad tidings as we resound, "Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king... joyful all ye nations rise..."

We thank God for the gift of life, good health, and for His generous blessings. Let us cherish the gift of each other, as we journey in faith and in solidarity with the poor, the sick, and the needy. Kudos to the editors and writers who made possible this first issue of the SPUP Herald.

A blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year to all!

Sister Merceditas O. Ang, SPC
University President

Time to Ponder

God is a God of surprises! The Bible abounds with this message. The “new normal” (new paradigm shift) we are in now, has offered us a lot of surprises, though at this stage, it is still unfolding.

Covid-19, an unprecedented health crisis, of great magnitude, of enormous proportion, has struck the whole world, with the people quite unprepared, unaware of the great devastation caused by this invasive virus. The coronavirus came as a surprise to the whole world, sowing so much chaos, so much fear, so much anguish to the inhabitants of this beautiful planet Earth, created by God, which Pope Francis calls “Our Common Home,” in his Encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

The third and latest Encyclical of the same Pope is *Fratelli Tutti* (Brothers All), on Fraternity and Social Friendship. In this new Encyclical, the Pope declared, “God created all human beings in equal rights, duties, and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters.”

“Nothing happens by coincidence, or by chance.” Could it be that this pandemic is God’s hidden way of visiting His people, the dwellers of “Our Common Home”? God, being our Father, loves us and takes good care of us, but if we do not behave as His children, sometimes He allows crisis to happen, to remind us we are off track, veering away from the right path He has set for us.

Crisis usually brings the best in people. This is well demonstrated during the pandemic, with strong collaboration among nations, among communities, among families; government and civic leaders, various organizations, business sectors, companies, private organizations, individuals pouring in so much of their resources to help the victims of the virus; scientists, medical doctors, nurses lending hands to help the sick, the dying. Some are even contracting the disease, and eventually, they succumb to death.

We could allude that the Covid-19 pandemic did not happen by coincidence, or by chance, but rather, it is a wake-up call for all of us, to fall on our knees, and beg God for mercy and compassion. Surely, God, our loving Father, would come to our aid, if we but call upon His name.

ABOUT THE COVER

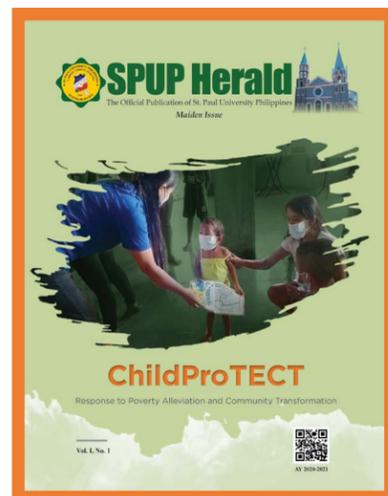
SPUP Herald, an apt name for this official publication of St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP), captures the university’s primary mission of proclaiming the Good News, as heralded by the Angels when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The **Logo** indicates SPUP’s affinity with all the St. Paul Institutions in the Philippines.

The university’s *Our Lady of Chartres Chapel*, a replica of Our Lady of Chartres Cathedral in Chartres, France, is symbolic to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres (SPC), whose foundation is rooted in Chartres, France, in 1696.

The **Cover Photo** depicts the university’s flagship advocacy, the ChildProTECT Project, funded by ChildFund, in partnership with SPUP, in response to poverty alleviation and community transformation for the indigenous people (IP) in Apayao, particularly, in the two municipalities of Flora and Luna.

The **Green Background of the Cover** signifies SPUP’s hope for a new beginning – a renewed and empowered life for all families and communities affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, through the implementation of the university’s community extension programs, in the service of God and humanity.



Prex discusses educ’l innovations in new normal

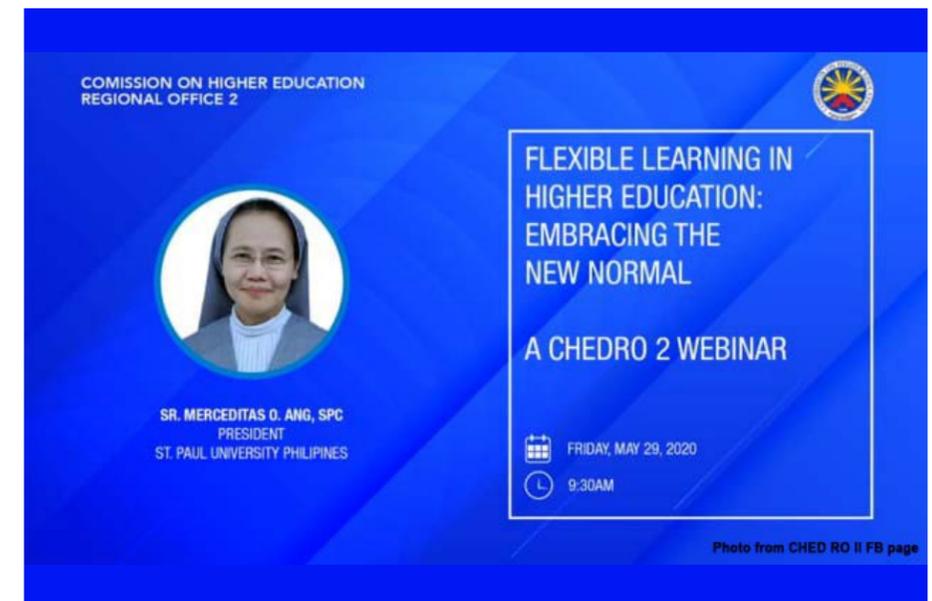
Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay

SPUP’s educational innovations were featured in a webinar organized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Region II on 29 May 2020. The said virtual convergence bannered the theme ‘Flexible Learning in Higher Education: Embracing the New Normal.’

As the speaker, Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC highlighted the innovations instituted by SPUP in response to the new normal. She began her discussion by presenting the practices of SPUP in the implementation of its flexible learning management system (LMS) comprising synchronous and asynchronous learning, online and offline activities, and learning packets. Accordingly, these are all contained in the published SPUP Learning Continuity Plan (LCP).

Sr. Merceditas also covered SPUP’s journey in the realization of its e-learning system through the various undertakings of the university such as the distance education program, automated transactions, digitized library and online access, e-books and robotics, transnational education (TNE), offering of coding education, use of augmented and 3D simulations, artificial intelligence, and the LMS.

She also explained that SPUP employs innovative and adaptive educational strategies



Sister Merceditas O. Ang, SPC (University President) serves as a resource speaker discussing SPUP’s educational innovations amid the Covid-19 pandemic in a CHED webinar on 29 May 2020.

towards flexible learning, namely: the SPUP Moodle (eDIS) as an alternative learning platform for instructional delivery beyond classroom for the graduate school; the Genyo e-Learning platform of the basic education unit (BEU); the LMS for the college level; the SPUP Student Information and Accounting System (SIAS) designed to automate transactions in the student services, registrar, cashiering, accounting and teachers, parents and student access; and the virtual capacity-building program of the university

for teachers through seminars and trainings.

Sr. Merceditas added that SPUP is also currently utilizing online registration at all levels, online placement examination for college, and online viewing of grades.

The webinar culminated with an open forum and sharing of insights. Participated in by academicians in the region, the event was conducted through zoom conference and streamed live on the Facebook page of CHED Region II.

SPUP secures copyright for SDGs, Laudato Si' primer; obtains same for disaster preparedness/emergency response manual

Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) acquired from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) of the Philippines last 5 August 2020 the copyright for its Primer on Engaging in the Sustainable Development Goals Through Laudato Si' and another for its Manual on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response.

The Certificates of Copyright Registration were issued to the university through the authors, Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC and Dr. Allan Peejay Lappay.

The Primer on Engaging in the Sustainable Development Goals Through Laudato Si' presents the endeavors of SPUP along the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) in the lens of the Laudato Si' of Pope Francis. It outlines the efforts of SPUP, as a Catholic and an international university, in responding to the challenges of the SDGs and to the call of Laudato Si'.

Moreover, with the impact of the CoViD-19 pandemic to the world, the primer also shows the educational and service programs of SPUP to respond to the pressing health crisis.



The Primer on Engaging in the Sustainable Development Goals Through Laudato Si' (left) presents SPUP's efforts in responding to the challenges of the SDGs and to the call of Laudato Si' while the Manual on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response (right) outlines the university's management of disaster and emergency situations.

On the other hand, the Manual on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response outlines SPUP's management of disaster and emergency situations. It enables processes, actions, and the exchange of critical information into an efficient response that alerts and informs the university stakeholders.

Specifically, the manual sets the procedures to foster the protection of human life, health, and well-being; to minimize damage to the environment and the university facilities, resources, and operations; and to provide analyses and other information crucial to controlling the situation and preventing future injury and loss.

The primer and the manual present the commitment of SPUP's leadership along the thrust of the university towards deepening quality and sustainability. They are also dedicated to the fifth anniversary of the promulgation of Laudato Si' by Pope Francis and the adoption of the UN SDGs.



Prex dialogues with world-renowned cybersecurity leadership expert

Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay



Dr. Mansur Hasib talks with Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC on issues and innovations related to Cybersecurity Leadership in a virtual session on 2 September 2020.

Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC engaged in a dialogue with Dr. Mansur Hasib, award-winning global education leader, author, and speaker, in his online program 'Conversations with #DrCybersecurity' last 2 September 2020.

Highlighted in their discussions on Cybersecurity Leadership were ethical leadership, people engagement, and perpetual innovation.

"Technology and cybersecurity leadership are intertwined, for without leadership, technology has no absolute value," Dr. Hasib said.

In closing their discussion, the two educational leaders agreed on the idea that it is the leader who decides the appropriate technologies for the mission of the organization.

SPUP participates in webinar of Indonesian Embassy, Manila

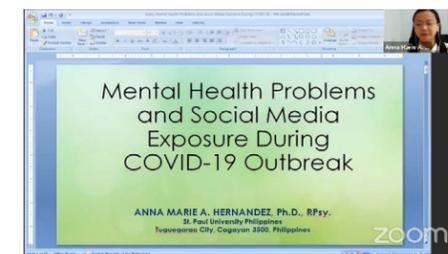
Dr. Jeremy Godofredo C. Morales

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) was a major participant in the Webinar on Mental Health Problems and Social Media Exposure during Covid-19 Outbreak, organized by the Education and Culture Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Manila, on 4 November 2020.

As a participating institution, Dr. Anna Marie A. Hernandez, Program Coordinator for Psychology and Biology, under the School of Arts, Sciences and Teacher Education, delivered a lecture focused on the responsibility of

individual persons on the use of social media.

Dr. Hernandez also posited the acronym RESPECT which stands for Reduce time online, Encourage self, Spend more time with family and friends, Practice mindfulness, Enliven a culture of awareness and support, Change focus, and, Take time to listen to others as springboard in discussing the topic. Other speakers were from the Manila Ventral University, Panakkukang Institute of Health Sciences, Makassar, Indonesia, and Tanawali Persada Institute of Health Science, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.



The webinar was moderated by Dr. Jeremy Godofredo Morales (center above), Director of International Relations of SPUP.

HERO Brainshare Series features SPUP's educ'l innovations in new normal

Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay

St. Paul University Philippines' (SPUP) educational innovations relevant to the new normal were featured through a series of webinars by HERO Brainshare. The virtual convergence was undertaken through a collaborative learning space where current issues on leadership, innovation, research, and education amidst the Covid-19 crisis were shared and discussed. The webinar series was spearheaded by Dr. Bryce Fabro, founder of HERO Summit Series.

The first sessions on 23 May 2020 focused on 'Revolutionizing the Future of Education' and highlighted SPUP's engagements and innovations on sustainable, quality-based, and technology-driven learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In her presentation, Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC, emphasized the necessity to rethink and redesign learning models to adapt in the transforming world today. She presented the Sustainable Quality-based and Technology-driven Education (SQTE) framework as SPUP's educational model in the New Normal and beyond. In SPUP, the SQTE paradigm is the convergence and integration of quality pedagogy, technology as a learning modality, and sustainability through networking with

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stakeholders.

In all Saturdays of June 2020, Richard Prodigalidad, Director for Technology and Innovation, OneSchoolPH, featured SPUP as a model school for digital transformation. According to him, "Digital transformation in schools is not just about innovation



or technology; it is more of a culture and community." He guided members of the SPUP Digital Transformation Team through a series of relevant, reflective, and practical learnings on digital transformation.

In the webinar series, Mr. Prodigalidad facilitated SPUP's navigation through a currently disrupted educational and economic landscape powered by the fourth industrial revolution (FIRE) technologies. This instigated the institutionalization of the university's moonshot and breakthrough: SPUP eEducation 5.0.

The said innovation advances creativity and problem-solving ability, value-innovation, resourcefulness, flexibility, resiliency, enthusiasm, faith, and mission. It envisions every Paulinian graduate as a change-maker for a better tomorrow, responsible and job-ready, value creator and innovator for a sustainable quality of life for the people and planet in peace and progress, and an advocate of service-oriented lifelong learning. The learning series culminated in a virtual graduation ceremony on 4 July 2020.

The collaboration between SPUP and HERO Brainshare highlighted the capability of SPUP to create and design its future as a leading university – strong in quality education, technology-driven in research and innovation with concrete outputs that have market value and relevant solutions to the needs of people, industry, and multi-sectoral communities.

SPUP is delivering HEI of CHED's Developing Global Filipino Teachers Program

Dr. Jeremy Godofredo C. Morales



The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) virtually launched the Developing Global Filipino Teachers Program on 23 October 2020 through a Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between CHED and the Philippine Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) as a delivering higher education institution (HEI), together with the Philippine Normal University (PNU) Manila, and Cebu Normal University (CNU).

The said program, to be delivered by the three Centers of Excellence (COEs) in Teacher Education, seeks to pilot an education and training to equip, capacitate, and enhance competencies of Filipino teachers abroad, through Certificate in Teaching, Master's Degree, or Certificate of Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages, to qualify them for better teaching career positions, as well as in fulfilling the Philippine Government's thrust in bringing services closer to Filipinos all over the globe, at the same time, continuously elevate the level of Filipino teachers as truly Global Filipino Teachers who are

competent and reflective practitioners in an intercultural and diverse environment.

It is noteworthy that SPUP has been delivering the Certificate Program for Non-Specialist Teachers which transitioned into Global Teacher Education Certificate Program, to qualify Filipino teachers to take the Licensure Examination for Teachers. SPUP will likewise deliver its GTEC program in fulfillment of this CHED program. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Developing Global Filipino Teachers program has become an even more important component in ensuring transition of overseas Filipino teachers to a new normal.

The said event was participated in by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Honorable Teodoro Locsin, Jr., CHED Chairman J. Prospero de Vera III, Charge de Affaires of the Philippine Embassy in Phnom Penh, Honorable Myca Magnolia Fischer, and CHED OIC Executive Director Atty. Lily Freida Milla, while the Presidents and Representatives of SPUP, PNU and CNU attended as witnesses to the ceremony.



Dr. Roldan C. Bangalan facilitates the training on iTransform and Labster among faculty with laboratory classes on 21 October 2020 at the LR Computer Laboratory.

LMS coordinator conducts iTransform, Labster training

Mrs. Josephine P. Bariuan

Dr. Roldan C. Bangalan, Learning Management System (LMS) Coordinator, conducted a hands-on training on the use of iTransform to faculty members teaching laboratory subjects in the different departments, on 21 October 2020 at the LR Computer Laboratory.

iTransform is powered by Moodle

and is one of the university's LMSs. This is where Labster, the virtual laboratory platform, is integrated and is used in teaching science with laboratory classes. iTransform means Immersing in SPUP's Technology-Based Education through Relevant, Adaptive, and Noble Strategies towards Holistic Formation and



SASTE faculty participate in a FrontLearners training-workshop on 9-11 July 2020 at the SPUP Computer Laboratory.

FrontLearners train faculty on new LMS

Dr. Pilar B. Acorda

Committed to continue delivering quality education in the new normal and beyond, St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) has partnered with FrontLearners as its learning management system (LMS) service provider for AY 2020-2021.

To strengthen the faculty's competency on content and pedagogy with the new LMS, a training-workshop through blended delivery was spearheaded by the couple and CEOs Mr. Leo and Elaine De Velez last 9-11 and 27-29 July 2020 at the SPUP Lorenzo Ruiz (LR) Building's computer laboratory. Moreover, a Teachers' Refresher Training was conducted via zoom last 4 September 2020.

Said training consisted of modules

Optimum Access to Remote Learning System and Management.

The participants comprised all teachers handling laboratory subjects from the School of Arts, Sciences and Teacher Education (SASTE), School of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (SNAHS), and shared faculty from the science laboratories.

During the training, Dr. Bangalan introduced virtual lab simulations, which are learning experiences that mock up authentic laboratory activities. Through the virtual laboratories, students conduct laboratory experiments online and explore

on navigating the e-LMS, issuing an assignment, creating a forum, uploading different types of files, creating assessments, and analytics.

Also, a series of students' virtual orientation for both college and senior high school (SHS) was conducted on 1-3 September 2020. FrontLearners' CEO Ms. De Velez and her training manager Ms. Khrista Soliven facilitated the sessions. The orientation focused on teaching the students to log in, self-enroll, access resources and activities, monitoring processes employed by teachers, and analytics.

In today's virtual-learning environment, proper feedbacking



Faculty handling laboratory classes engage in laboratory simulations through Labster, a virtual laboratory platform integrated into iTransform.

concepts and theories without stepping into a physical science laboratory. They also allow students to work through engaging stories, interact with lab equipment, perform experiments, and learn with theory and quiz questions.

Moreover, the participants had

mechanisms are very crucial. The LMS has the capability to monitor or track students' completion of activities and their scores. This allows teachers to catch early on the students' individual progress, so they can coach them appropriately – either to provide intervention, to provide enrichment/more challenging activities, or to accelerate them to the next tasks.

FrontLearners, Inc. believes that quality education can be made accessible to all through e-learning. It is the company's mission to deploy ready-to-use, curriculum-aligned e-learning content. FrontLearners is SPUP's LMS and content provider for the nine general-education (GE) courses and SHS subjects. Their content is aligned with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)-recommended syllabi for the nine GE courses as well as with the Department of Education's (DepEd) curriculum guides.

a hands-on experience in using iTransform to download simulations from Labster, import simulations to iTransform, enroll students in the course, create and organize activities, as well as assess, grade, and monitor students' performance.

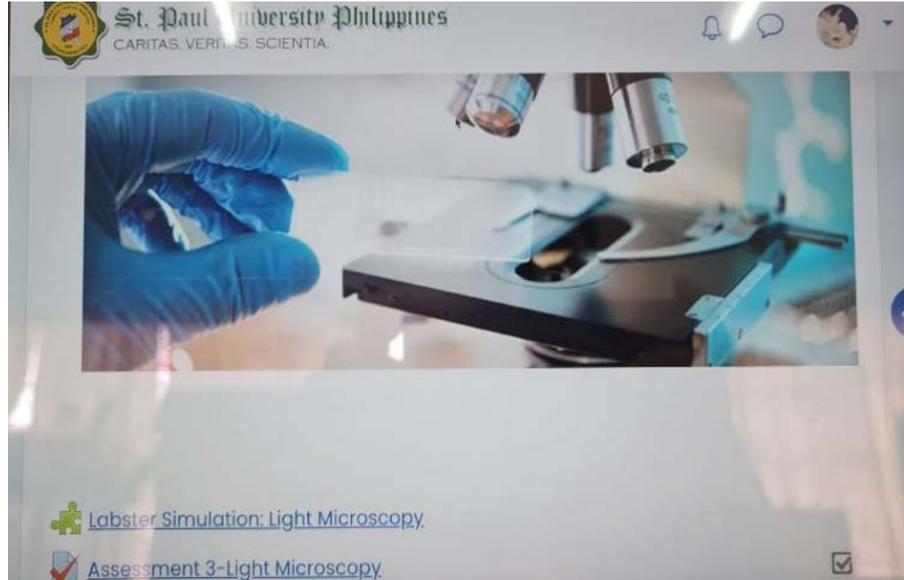
SPUP joins consortium of educ'l institutions, adopts Labster

Mrs. Wilma F. Udanga

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) has joined the consortium of educational institutions that are members of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU).

The consortium aims to find ways by which the member institutions can deliver quality laboratory experience to their students in the absence of actual hands-on learning. This has brought the consortium to partner with Labster, a Denmark-based company specializing in the creation of augmented virtual laboratory simulations used by renowned universities like California State University, Stanford University, and the University of New England.

Through Labster, the students of member-institutions can access world-class virtual laboratory simulations that are highly interactive and support open-ended investigations. With gamification elements such as 3D animations, storytelling, and scoring system, the simulations are designed to lead the students to learn science in an engaging and efficient way while stimulating their natural curiosity.



Labster simulates laboratory activities, such as in this sample lesson on light microscopy.

They also expose students to real-life case stories and allow them to explore the sciences at the molecular level by interacting with virtual laboratory equipment and apparatuses.

With Labster, the students can access multiple laboratory courses and perform an array of simulated experiments with cutting-edge

equipment, including those not usually performed in a face-to-face environment.

These simulations may be integrated in a learning management system (LMS) or accessed directly from Labster. In SPUP, Labster is integrated into iTransform, one of the university's LMSs.



An interactive lesson on microbiology and parasitology through Labster.



Through Labster's simulations, students could perform laboratory experiments.

SBAHM faculty pass international tourism, hospitality certifications

Dr. Charito M. Guillermo

After hurdling a series of online examinations on 6-7 November 2020, three faculty members of the School of Business, Accountancy and Hospitality Management (SBAHM) successfully passed the Certification Examination for Tourism and Hospitality by the Global Professional Advancement (GPA) and the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Professional (ITHP) based in London, United Kingdom.

Dr. Glen C. Cagurangan and Mrs. Elaine M. Avila

CONGRATULATIONS!



DR. GLEN C. CAGURANGAN, CHP



MS. ELAINE M. AVILA, CHP



MS. MARIE KRIZYA M. CALAGUI, CTP

were recognized as Certified Hospitality Professionals. The certification acknowledged their technical skills, leadership,

and management relevant to hospitality industry.

Awarded as Certified Tourism Professional was Mrs. Marie Krizya M.

Calagui. The certification recognized her competence in business management, industry functions, and strategy development pertinent to tourism enterprise.

The global assessment is given to qualified faculty and industry practitioners in the hospitality and tourism sectors to assess their competencies required by the industry after the completion of an online learning program delivered by the GPA and ITHP in the UK.

The results of the certification examinations were released on 10 November 2020.

SITE trains faculty on MS Teams

Mrs. Sheena G. Gumarang

Committed to SPUP's mission of providing quality education despite the pandemic, the School of Information Technology and Engineering (SITE) conducted a training-workshop on Microsoft (MS) Teams on 17 July 2020 for graduate school faculty and 10-22 August 2020 for college and basic education faculty.

The faculty-development activity aimed to orient teachers with the features of Microsoft (MS) Teams, a flexible learning management system (LMS) newly adopted by the university to enhance

the delivery of learning modules at the basic education, undergraduate, and graduate levels.

Mrs. Sheena G. Gumarang, SITE faculty and Microsoft Education Ambassador of SPUP, served as the resource person of the said training-workshop. Mrs. Gumarang showed how MS Teams integrates Office 365 and is designed to connect faculty and students remotely to enhance collaboration – in synchronous and asynchronous modes.

During the hands-on sessions, each faculty was given their Office 365 account, and through MS Teams they performed the following activities:

creating a team/class and channel, adding and removing students in/ from a team, creating and uploading assignments with MS Word, creating assessments with MS Forms, using Polly App for instant polling data, and managing online classes

through the Meet Now online teleconferencing feature.

Moreover, the faculty also learned how to use other applications integrated into MS Teams, such as Flip Grid, Sway, One Note, Share Point, PowerPoint, among others.



Mrs. Sheena G. Gumarang, SITE faculty, gives a quick overview of MS Teams.



Faculty pay attention and perform different activities on MS Teams.

CRINT sets new paths, directions for new normal



CRINT Team holds Operational Planning and Goal-Setting on 16 September 2020 via zoom.

Dr. Jesus B. Pizarro

In a move to reposition the University to a higher level of research engagement and technology integration that is responsive to the challenging needs and demands of the learners and teachers brought about by the Covid-19 global pandemic, St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) has created a new office to address these concerns.

For academic year 2020-2021, the Center for Research, Innovations and New Technologies (CRINT) was created so the University can leverage on its research and technology resources, and come up with more innovative and cost-effective strategies and approaches, to meet the much challenged students' learning and teachers' pedagogical requirements appropriate for the new normal.

The newly created center is the convergence of the University's team of experts on Research and Creative Works, Publication, Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies, Research Ethics and Stem Cell Training Program. The Center, too, is a hub for innovators and inventors from the University's Basic Education to its Graduate School Units.

In September of this year, the CRINT, headed by its director, Dr.

Jesus B. Pizarro, held its 1st Virtual Brainstorming Meeting via zoom for the CRINT Team to do its own localized operational planning and goal-setting activity. The CRINT team members initially did an objective evaluation of the University's research and innovations accomplishments, and later, collaboratively set new goals, discussed new plans and creative projects, and identified more engaging activities that will be implemented during the current academic year and beyond, to spark and heighten greater interest, enthusiasm, passion and commitment to quality and excellence along the University's three-fold functions of instruction, research and community extension services to all its stakeholders.

Some of the plans slated for the current year include gradual automation of the University's research activities, along ethics and peer review process, conduct of training workshops on the use of new and emerging tools and technologies for teaching and learning, digitization of journal publications, accreditation of the University's Research Ethics Board, significantly increasing the staff and faculty's journal publication and citation productivity and impact, and a lot more.

Kalesa, tricy drivers receive goods from BEU faculty, alumni

Dr. John Kit S. Masigan

"Titigil ang hanapbuhay pero hindi dapat tumigil mabuhay," said BEU teacher Mr. Robert Fugaban as he, together with a team of Paulinian teachers and alumni, distributed relief goods to members of the Balzain Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA), Don Domingo TODA, Diversion Road TODA, and Kalesa drivers around the city.

The team was able to gather over Php200,000 worth of donations to come up with food packs containing rice, noodles, canned sardines, and hygiene kits.

These drivers who depend on daily wage have been affected by the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) which left them none to scarce amount of income in a day.

Alexis Bosi, an alumna of batch 2006, mentioned that while the least thing she could do was to stay at home, she "might as well participate in charitable causes that can mobilize concerned citizens to act even in the safety of their homes."

Such donation drive for Covid-19 propelled Paulinian alumni, parents, and other stakeholders to share and take action, in the spirit of bayanihan amidst the pandemic lockdown.



Basic Education Unit (BEU) teachers distribute relief goods to kalesa and tricycle drivers of Tuguegarao City.

Cyber Summit 2020 highlights tech innovations

Ms. Jezarene C. Valiente, Ms. Wardita Marie R. Agustin & Ms. Precious Angel M. Talamayan

SPUP's School of Information Technology and Engineering's (SITE) showcased the convergence of technological innovations towards sustainable development through its Cyber Summit 2020 held on 4-6 March 2020, before the lockdown.

The annual regional conference of IT and engineering students, professionals, practitioners, educators, and enthusiasts bannered this year's theme "Connect and Innovate to Empower the Future Generation on the Trends and Technologies for Sustainable Development."

The preliminary activities of the convention included the Eucharistic Celebration, acknowledgement of participants, and the presentation of the objectives of the program. The opening ceremonies were highlighted by the welcome remarks of Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC, the inspirational message of Engr. Joven Jacinto (CHED Representative), and the keynote speech of Mr. Mars Cacacho (Founder and CEO, HacktheNorth).

Plenary sessions included the following: Sustainable Environmental Management and ICT in Achieving SDGs by Dir. Dionisio C. Ledres (Regional Director, National Economic Development Authority [NEDA]), Artificial Intelligence and Robotics by Mr. Art Polo Gabriel (Chief Technology Officer, Megatech FX), Automation



Student-delegates from all over Region 2 converge at one of the plenary sessions of the Cyber Summit 2020 held at the SPUP Global Center on 4-6 March 2020.

by Mr. Charles Angelo D. Duran (Field Application Executive, Hytec Power Corp.), Technopreneurship and Sustainable Development by Mr. Charles Irvin P. Tagarino (Senior Trade Industry Development Specialist, DTI

Region 2), Green Building Technology by Engr. Manny Anthony Martin Taguba (CEO, Intense Engineering Review Center), and Cyber Security by Mr. Francis Al Victoriano (Chief Technology Officer, Application Developer, and

BEU releases Primer on Flexible Learning Scheme

Mrs. Glenda P. Caronan

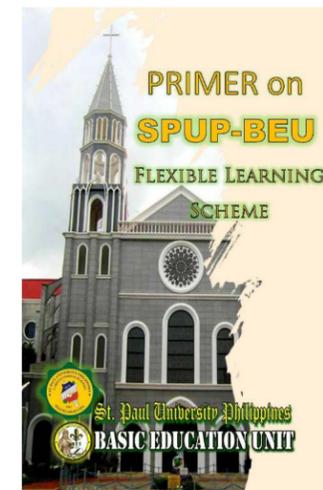
To provide students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders with a practical guide on preparing for the school year 2020-2021, SPUP's Basic Education Unit (BEU) released its Primer on Flexible Learning Scheme (PFLS) on 29 August 2020.

The PFLS details a comprehensive framework for the BEU's learning modalities in the new normal towards a flexible, appropriate, balanced, and collaborative learning experience. It also re-envision Paulinian basic education as the academic community seeks to break barriers amidst the digital divide.

The flexible learning scheme (FLS) has the following objectives: 1) to ensure delivery of quality basic education to all types of learners by catering to their diverse needs, contexts, situations, geographical

locations, and technological limits and advantages; 2) to develop among learners resiliency and adaptability skills

that will enable them to manage the complexities of 21st-century life; 3) to provide meaningful and quality learning | to p. 37



The Basic Education Unit's (BEU) Primer on Flexible Learning Scheme (PFLS) guides parents, students, teachers, and other stakeholders on learning in the new normal.



SPUP launches Virtual Thanksgiving Mass 2020

Mr. Moises G. Calucag & Mrs. Jessievic T. Pico

Complying strictly with the minimum requirements and protocols set by the government, SPUP administrators gathered to celebrate the Eucharist through the first-ever Virtual Thanksgiving Mass at the Our Lady of Chartres (OLC) Chapel on 20 June 2020.

Participated in by the candidates for graduation and their parents or guardians, and covered via drones by the Star Broadcasting Network (SBN), the said virtual mass was held in gratitude of God's gifts to SPUP for the school year 2019-2020 and to implore His protection from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

His Excellency Most Reverend Ricardo L. Baccay, DD (Archbishop of Tuguegarao City) presided the celebration, assisted by Rev. Father Dennis Jake Ordillos (Chaplain of the SPC Local Community of Sisters). The celebration was themed "Embracing Challenges and New Opportunities in the New Normal."

Through the Eucharist, the academic community brought to God its thanksgiving as the university celebrates its accomplishments. In his homily, Archbishop Baccay reminded the community especially the graduating

class to take time to remember those who walked along with them in the journey towards the achievement of their educational goals: those who shared with them their mature grasp of wisdom and truth in their own great or simple way.

Further, he emphasized that the candidates' graduation is a celebration of their commitment to serve others, and of their role as agents of good news in line with the Paulinian vocation rooted in the desire to follow Jesus. The Archbishop also challenged the would-be graduates to look back at the lessons their alma mater taught them, lessons they acquired to help change life for the better. "How can you now serve the world? How can you be agents to a world that awaits you in time of the pandemic?" he asked.

He also reminded them that the pandemic has posed challenges which are also great opportunities. "How can you go out into the world as graduates? It is not a challenge but an opportunity. It is opening to us a horizon, a new way of looking at each other – parents relating to their children, teachers and their students... a new life," the Archbishop added.

He continued with his admonition: "Staying at home is the safest thing to

do. It invites us to look at our home as a living Church – a domestic Church. This opportunity invites us to profess our faith together with our family, neighbors, and friends." He as well encouraged everyone to face this challenge and opportunity by looking at and rediscovering one's family, where God is praised and honored; to follow protocols as expression of love, care, and concern; and to make one's family a Church, a home for everyone which transmits virtues not virus, where everyone shares the hopes, problems, and sufferings of others and where one learns God's love.

The liturgy highlighted the commissioning of the graduating class by Sister Merceditas Ang, SPC (University President), followed by the Blessing and Mission Sending of Archbishop Baccay.

In closing his homily, the Archbishop echoed the Gospel of Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine! Be signs of God's presence in a world that has tremendously changed, full of uncertainties, restrictions. Let your light shine now in the new world, in the new environment. Be bearers of hope in today's difficult world: to the desperate, to those who feel alone. Be Paulinian for others! Be Paulinian at home!"



SPUP administrators convene for the first-ever Virtual Thanksgiving Mass for the graduating class of 2020 at the Our Lady of Chartres Chapel on 20 June 2020.

SPUP holds first-ever Virtual Commencement Exercises, Moving-Up Ceremonies

Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay



As the entire world braces for the imperatives of health and safety protocols pertinent to the Covid-19 pandemic, SPUP has adopted innovative ways to respond and remain relevant on the delivery of its academic programs. As the academic year 2019-2020 concluded during the imposition of community quarantine (CQ), the university honored its graduates and completers by holding the historical Virtual Commencement Exercises and Moving-Up Ceremonies.

The virtual celebrations, which bannered the theme 'Embracing the Challenges and Opportunities in the New Normal,' were streamed through the social communication channels of SPUP. The Moving-Up Ceremonies for Pre-school (Kindergarten) were held on

16 July 2020 and for Grade 10 (Junior High School) on 7 August 2020.

The 103rd Commencement Exercises for grade 6 were shown on 30 July 2020 while the 3rd Graduation Exercises for senior high school sets A and B were on 17 August 2020 and 18 August 2020, respectively. The 78th Commencement Exercises for college, medicine, and graduate school were broadcasted on 28 August 2020.

Incorporated earlier in the virtual graduation and moving-up ceremonies was the Thanksgiving Mass presided by the Most Reverend Ricardo L. Baccay, DD (Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao). In his homily, Msgr. Baccay challenged the SPUP community, especially the graduating class, to embrace their commitment to service –

"the gift to be for others and to become agents of good news." He also urged the community to be "in touch with the fundamental calling that God has given us, our vocation rooted in the desire to follow Jesus, through the discipleship that we all share." He reminded everyone that the call to service is a call to celebrate in thanksgiving to God the gift of Paulinian education and the gift to be of service to others.

In her graduation message, Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC said: "During the pandemic, we are called to be proactive and resilient to see a silver lining, and be hopeful in bouncing back to create a better future. Your Paulinian education has imbued you with spirituality and values to embrace the New Normal with hope and courage... Your Paulinian education has prepared you holistically to cope with the challenging times."

Moreover, the virtual ceremonies included the presentation and confirmation of graduates and completers, the tributes by outstanding graduates and completers, the pledge of loyalty, and the induction of the graduates to the SPUP Alumni Association by Ms. Esperanza Laguitao (Chapter President, SPUP-BEU Alumni) and Mr. Miguel Lim (President, SPUP Alumni Association).

Furthermore, the virtual celebrations amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, viewed at the respective homes of the graduates and their families, also served as an acknowledgement to the parents, teachers, administrators, and all who, in one way or another, contributed to the educational success of the Paulinian learners, graduates, and completers.



SPUP partners with Indonesian institution in online health forum, international seminar

Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) collaborated with Polteknes Kesehatan Kemenkes Palangka Raya, Indonesia in conducting an online Health Forum and International Seminar (HFIS), on 9 November 2020, to address the issues on communication barriers in virtual learning.

Dr. Dhini M. Kes (Director, Polteknes Kemenkes Palangka Raya) welcomed the speakers and the more than 900 participants comprising students and professionals from Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Philippines, Malaysia, Germany, and Indonesia.

The roll of speakers and their respective topics included: Prof. Adrew J. Macnab (Editor in Chief, Global Health Management, Canada) on “Why and How to Write up Your Research as a Scientific Paper,” Dr. Yeyentimalla (Polteknes Kemenkes Palangka Raya, Indonesia) on “Emotion Awareness for Fun Digital Communication,” and Ms. Eva Tallutondok (National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Science, Taiwan) on “Learning Effective Communication from Taiwan Government to Combat Covid -19.”



On the other hand, Dr. Sri Suryawati (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia) talked on “Discussing Sensitive Issues in Virtual Forum” while Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC (President, St. Paul University Philippines) discussed “Positive Convergence of Quality, Technology and Sustainability of Learning in the New Normal.” An interaction between the speakers and the participants was ensued in the open forum. Closing statements were also given by the

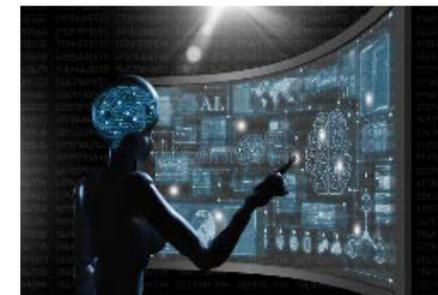
speakers. Highlighting the theme “The New Normal: Creating a Pleasant Virtual Communication,” the virtual academic convergence was sponsored by Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, Gerakan Masyarakat Hidup Sehat (GERMAS), Global Health Management Journal (GHMJ) and Indonesian Scholars Alliance. It was streamed live on Polteknes Kemenkes Palangka Raya Facebook page and YouTube channel.

SITE offers new IT specializations

Dr. Marifel Grace C. Kummer

In its effort to offer relevant and responsive academic programs, the School of Information Technology and Engineering (SITE) has opened new IT specializations for academic year 2020-2021.

Starting in the said school year, students can choose from these fresh fields of expertise which include Artificial Intelligence (AI), Coding and Robotics, Data Analytics, Smart Technologies, Internet of Things, and Blockchain Technology.



AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions and be applied to any machine that exhibits traits associated with a human mind such as learning and problem-solving.



Coding is essentially written instruction that a robot or computer program can read and then execute.

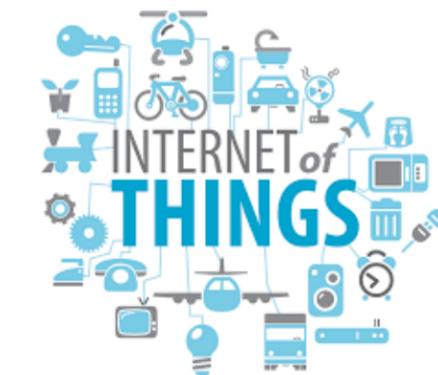
Robotics allows students to see their thinking in a real way as they go through trial and error until the task is accomplished and the robot's motions are performed as originally intended.



Data Analytics is the science of analyzing raw data in order to make conclusions about the given information. Many of the techniques and processes of data analytics have been automated into mechanical processes and algorithms that work over raw data for human consumption.



Smart Technologies are innovations that adjust naturally and alter conduct to the fit condition, detect things with innovation sensors, thus giving information to investigate and deduce from and making determinations from rule.



Internet of Things (IoT) is used to describe the network of physical objects – ‘things’ – that are embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the internet.



Blockchain Technology is a structure that stores transactional records, also known as the ‘block,’ of the public in several databases, known as the ‘chain,’ in a network connected through peer-to-peer nodes.

The aforementioned career paths have been conceived in view of IT innovations steadily increasing as evident in cutting-edge online products, services, and platforms. They have also emanated from the university's awareness of industries, including those empowered by AI and machine-learning algorithms, quickly transitioning citizens from an analog to a digital economy.

In these new specializations, SITE aims to make students stretch themselves beyond traditional academic pathways, grow intellectually and creatively, expand their problem-solving capabilities, and become prepared to affect a complex world.

Also, the courses along each of these fields allow students space for honing their critical- and creative-thinking skills as they prototype innovative solutions and receive first-hand experience through seminar-style and project-based learning.

Hence, these curricular innovations help students forge a unique path that will change the way they investigate and create throughout their lives. They also illustrate SPUP's rigorous academic approach that goes beyond developing scholarly knowledge to help students uncover and actualize their passion and vision.

WCCI PH holds first virtual general assembly



Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay

The World Council for Curriculum and Instruction (WCCI) Philippines Chapter held its annual general assembly on 24 October 2020, bannerng the theme: ‘Education in the New Normal: Ways Forward.’

Said event marked the first time that the program was held virtually. Over 200 officers and members (professionals and students) participated in the virtual convergence via zoom and was streamed live on the organization's official Facebook page.

The online assembly highlighted the keynote address of Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC (President, St. Paul University Philippines) on “Education in the New Normal: Ways Forward,” lecture of Dr. Brenda Fortun (Washington, USA) on “Thriving at Home with Mental Soundness,” presentation of Mrs. Emerita Garon (Past President,

WCCI Philippines Chapter) on the “Updates on WCCI 50th Anniversary Celebration,” the discussion of Dr. Teresita Pedrejas on “WCCI Philippines Chapter Student-Teachers Network,” and the talk of Dr. Stella Galang on “Community Extension during Pandemic.”

The program, hosted by Ms. Vanessa Vandervoort, also consisted of the WCCI Philippines Chapter President's Report by Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC and acknowledgement of participants, apart from the discussions on the aforementioned topics and presentations by the speakers.

Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do. (Deuteronomy 15:10)



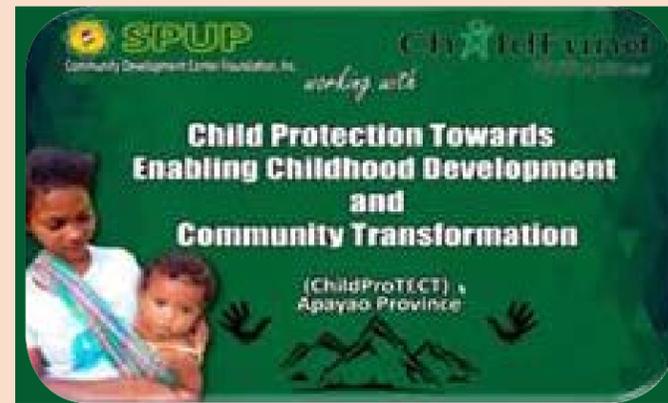
Sister Mercedes Ang, SPC, SPUP President (lower-right) presents the university's community extension services in a webinar organized by CHED among HEIs of Region 2 on 18 September 2020.

Sr. Mercedes shares on SPUP's community extension services with Region 2 HEIs

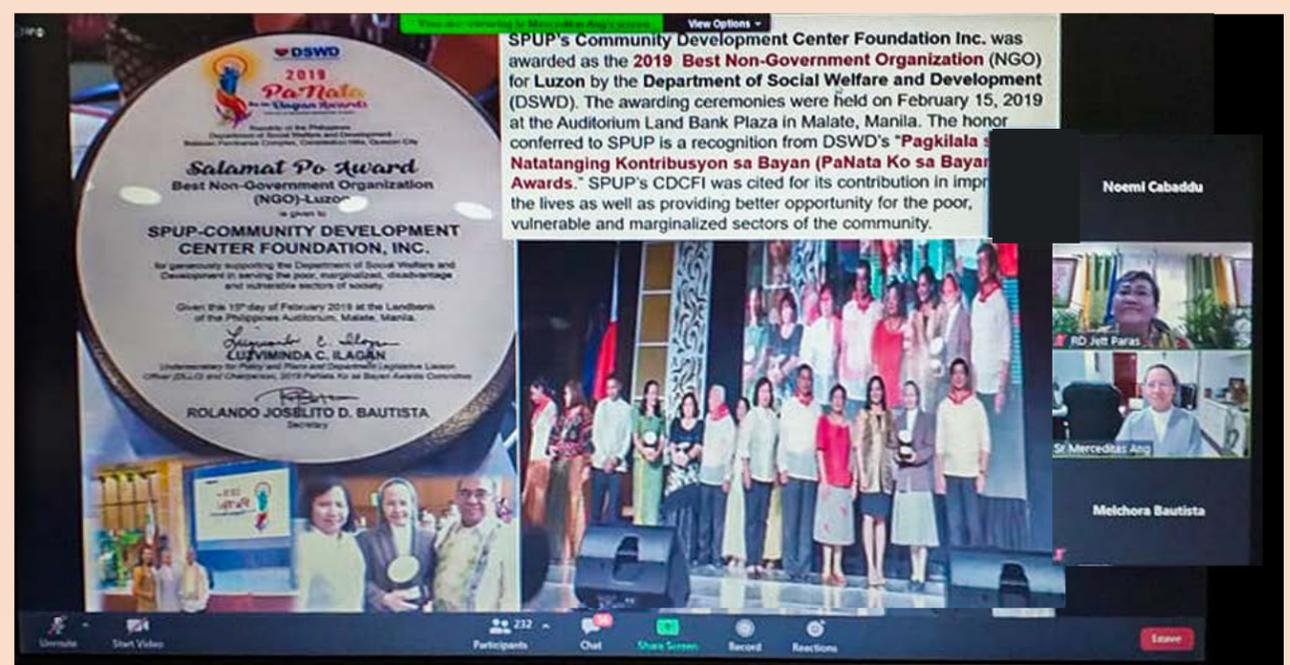
Mrs. Noemi T. Cabaddu

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Region 2 organized a webinar via zoom on 18 September 2020, in collaboration with St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) and Isabela State University (ISU). It bannered the theme 'Strengthening the Research and Extension Capabilities of the Higher Education Institutions in Region 2' and was participated in by administrators, research and extension coordinators, and faculty members of the different HEIs in the region.

In the said webinar, Sr. Mercedes Ang, SPC (SPUP President) discussed the university's community extension services. She presented the various community engagements of SPUP with the indigenous people's (IP) communities in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and the rural communities in the province of Cagayan. She highlighted that SPUP's community extension programs are project-based and



driven by quality, plan, strategy, and team spirit. Accordingly, the extension programs of SPUP are based on data and are closely tied up with research which is integral to the processes and systems of the institution.



SPUP's Community Development Center Foundation Inc. was awarded as the 2019 Best Non-Government Organization (NGO) for Luzon by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The awarding ceremonies were held on February 15, 2019 at the Auditorium Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. The honor conferred to SPUP is a recognition from DSWD's "Pagkilala sa Natatanging Kontribusyon sa Bayan (PaNata Ko sa Bayan Awards)." SPUP's CDCFI was cited for its contribution in improving the lives as well as providing better opportunity for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized sectors of the community.



The SPUPCDCFI, in partnership with ChildFund Philippines, Initiated the "SPUP Community Action Responding to Emergency Situation (SPUP CARES) program" as the University's Covid-19 Response Intervention.

Along research-based extension program, Sr. Mercedes introduced the Community Development Center's (CDC) Child Protection Towards Enabling Childhood Development and Community Transformation (ChildProTECT) Program, which is an offshoot of a research project.

"The ChildProTECT, which is implemented in the province of Apayao particularly in the municipalities of Luna and Flora, is geared towards child protection, enabling childhood development, and community transformation of the IP communities. The said extension project is undertaken both as a function and a mission of the University. SPUP hopes that through this project, the University is able to contribute to the government's thrust of alleviating poverty and improving the lives of the IPs," Sister Mercedes said.

Sr. Mercedes also discussed SPUP's efforts in promoting health and well-being as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The CDC, working with ChildFund Philippines, initiated the SPUP Community Action Responding to Emergency Situation (SPUP CARES) Program as the university's Covid-19 response intervention. SPUP has also initiated and instituted programs, projects, activities, and advocacies relevant to the implementation of the United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

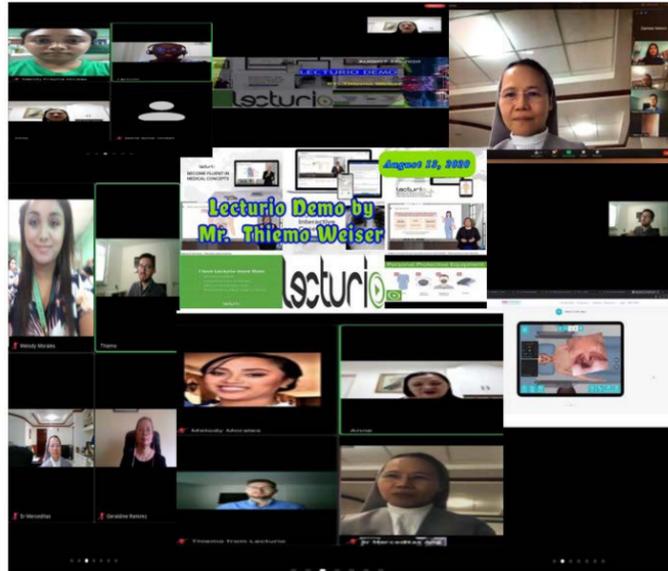
Moreover, Sr. Mercedes explained that the university's community extension services forged partnerships with communities to address their need of service and the students' need of learning through active engagement. Through these, the academic units of SPUP are able to serve the community and integrate students' learning into their particular academic discipline.

In 2019, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) recognized the contribution of SPUP in uplifting the quality of life of people in the community, particularly in helping the poor and marginalized sectors. The agency conferred on the university's CDC the award 'Best Non-Government Organization (NGO)' in Luzon.

Sr. Mercedes capped her presentation with the acronym P.R.A.Y., which signifies the university's continuing efforts to serve communities through its extension programs. P stands for People-oriented, Project-based process and system; R for Relevant, Responsive research and innovation; A for Active, Adaptive assessment and evaluation; and Y for Yearlong and developmental.

SOM, SNAHS gear up for new normal, adopt Lecturio

Dr. Anunciacion T. Talosig



Sister Merceditas Ang, SPC (University President) and instructors from SOM and SNAHS engage in a faculty-onboarding session on Lecturio facilitated by Mr. Thiemo Weiser last September 2020.

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) moves ahead and rises to the challenge of ensuring quality and excellence in Medicine and Allied Health Sciences Education amid the 'new normal.' Teaching within the context of the new normal becomes more challenging as teachers shift roles from being onsite lecturers to learning coaches and manage blended learning experiences effectively.

This academic year 2020-2021, SPUP has engaged in an institutional partnership with Lecturio to ensure quality teaching and learning at the School of Medicine (SOM) and the School of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (SNAHS).

Lecturio is a world-class all-in-one teaching engine that supports the continuity of high-quality medical and allied health sciences education using

science-based and data-driven teaching tools. It shares rich, world-class digital education resources including comprehensive monitoring and assessment tools to continuously track students' performance. Lecturio has a comprehensive video library, textbook articles, clinical cases, and questions bank (Q-bank).

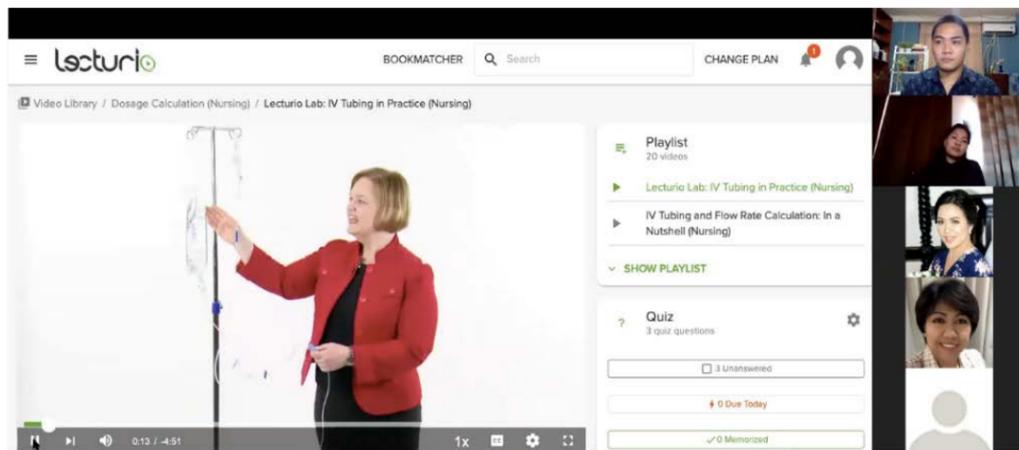
Faculty and students can access more than 6,500 lecture videos and interactive 3-D models prepared by a team of world-class educators from world-renowned institutions like Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Brown University, University College London, University of Ottawa, and many more.

About 60 clinical-case simulations based on real-life situations and 1,300 textbook articles provide resources that guide the application of

the concepts learned. The Q-bank contains 20,000 recall questions and 4,000 clinical-care questions accompanied with in-depth text explanations and video lectures. Lecturio applies adaptive learning to ensure mastery of key concepts before progressing to the next concepts or lessons.

SNAHS faculty onboarding session on Lecturio and a series of Lecturio-demonstration sessions for SNAHS students and parents were conducted from August to September 2020, in time for the opening of the new academic year. Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC (University President) was present in the sessions. Mr. Thiemo Weiser (Director for Institutional Partnerships, Europe & Asia) facilitated all of the sessions.

With SPUP Lecturio iOS and Android apps available, the students can now access Lecturio learning materials anytime, anywhere.



SOM/SNAHS faculty watch a sample video demonstration of a procedure during the faculty-onboarding session on Lecturio, in September 2020.



PNP personnel assist in the validation of documents presented by a food-pack recipient.

SPUP engages IP communities in response to Covid-19

Mrs. Noemi T. Cabaddu & Ms. Cariza Natalie C. Ramos

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) engaged the indigenous people (IP) communities in Apayao through various endeavors promotive of health and well-being, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The SPUP Community Development Center (CDC), working with ChildFund Philippines, initiated the SPUP Community Action Responding to Emergency Situation (SPUP CARES) Program” as the university’s Covid-19 response intervention.

With the assistance of the local government units (LGUs), municipal

police station (MPS), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), barangay officials, and community volunteers, SPUP was able to deliver food packs to 1,084 families in the IP communities of the municipalities of Luna and Flora, in the province of Apayao during the community quarantine (CQ) in February 2020.

Moreover, through the program, home-based family activity kits (HFAK), which contained activity guides, infographic materials, municipal emergency hotlines, and vegetable seeds were distributed. The IP communities were also given demonstration on the



Ms. Sharmaine Battulayan, SPUPCDCFI Staff (center), together with a community volunteer (right), hands over a family-food pack to an IP.



Recipients line up for the distribution of family-food packs in Luna, Apayao.

proper ways of handwashing, as well as instruction on the risks of Covid-19 including activities to keep themselves safe, healthy, and productive while staying in their respective homes.

Despite the restrictions and limitations due to CQ, the collaborative efforts of SPUP and the LGUs of the said municipalities contributed to the success of the program. The barangay officials were mobilized during the packing of food items and activity kits, which were distributed house to house in far-flung areas.

The local health personnel, the BFP, and the Philippine National Police (PNP) ensured the compliance of the activities with health protocols.

CDC expands community service amidst Covid-19

Ms. Mardilyn B. Garcia

Intensifying St. Paul University Philippines' Community Action Responding to Emergency Situation (SPUP CARES) and Handog Pag-ibig Project, the SPUP Community Development Center (CDC) conducted a series of community outreach activities on 28-30 October 2020.

Said undertaking was in collaboration with the School of Medicine (SOM), School of Arts, Sciences and Teacher Education SASTE), School of Information Technology and Engineering (SITE), School of Business, Accountancy and Hospitality Management (SBAHM), and the Basic Education Unit (BEU) and its Family Council.



As SPUP CARES is entrenched with disaster response and recovery program, SPUP donated personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene kits, school supplies, and family-activity sheets in Brgy. Magogod in Amulung, Brgy. Aggugaddan in Peñablanca, Brgy. Maguirig and Brgy. General Balao in

Solana, and Brgy. Roma Sur and Magalag in Enrile, Cagayan.

Simultaneously, SPUP mobilized selected Paulinian Volunteers for Community Development (PVCD) UNESCO Club student leaders led by Mardilyn Garcia (PVCD President), for a tutorial learning activity to daycare

children in line with Handog Pag-ibig Project's goal on Education For All (EFA) especially to the indigenous children in spite of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Noemi Cabaddu, (Director, CDC) said, "These endeavors show the continuing efforts of SPUP to promote the wellbeing of its partner communities and the indigenous people (IP), while inspiring young student leaders to extend their services in the community in their unique ways despite this pandemic."

SPUP CARES and Handog Pag-ibig Project are flagship programs of SPUP and PVCD UNESCO Club in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Regional business expo streams FIRE innovations, applications

Mr. Jester M. Magbanua

Themed as "Connecting Minds, Creating Business and Hospitality Pathways in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRE)," the Regional Business Exposition led by the School of Business, Accountancy and Hospitality Management (SBAHM) featured organizational and technological innovations in the business, hospitality, and tourism sectors on 11-13 March 2020, held before the lockdown.

Delegates from the Cagayan State University (CSU) Lallo Campus, University of Cagayan Valley (UCV), Apayao State College, (ASC) and University of

Perpetual Help System (UPHS) participated in the convention.

A thanksgiving mass commenced the three-day affair followed by the opening of exhibits. The welcome remarks of Dr. Charito Guillermo, CPA (Dean, SBAHM), the inspirational message of Sr. Mercedes Ang, SPC (University President), and the keynote address of Dr. Julieta Paras, CESO IV (Director IV, Commission on Higher Education, Region 2) highlighted the inaugural session of this year's Business Expo.

The plenary sessions featured the discussions and presentations of Dr. Maria Bryce Fabro (CEO,



Bryce Inspired Careers), Ms. Charlotte Collado (CEZA Business Development and Marketing Specialist), and Mr. Abad Enriquez (Executive Director, Asian Education Network).

The technical sessions of the accountancy and business group were led by Ms. Ma. Belen Lim, CPA (Proprietor, Golden Press), Ms. Ma. Lourdes Japson (Former Assistant Secretary, Department of Tourism), and Dr. Gloria Baysa, CPA (Vice Chair, Philippine

Professional Regulatory Board of Accountancy). Those of the hospitality and tourism group, on the other hand, were facilitated by Chef Don Infante (Founder, La Flamme Bleue) and Ms. Alma Rita Jimenez (President and CEO, Health Solutions).

The Business Expo also included academic and skills competitions as well as a technical session for senior high school students with Sr. Mercedes and Dr. Jeremy Godofredo Morales (Director, International Relations) as

Health Protocol for Employees and Other Stakeholders

Dr. Juana C. Rivera & Dr. Allan Peejay M. Lappay

Work resumed in SPUP on 4 May 2020, after the province of Cagayan transitioned from Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to General Community Quarantine (GCQ) on 1 May 2020. In compliance with the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) at the national level and the advisories from the provincial and city government units, SPUP established various Post-ECQ Institutional Health Safety and Security Practices for the protection and wellbeing of the academic community members, and for the prevention and mitigation of the current pandemic.

Health Safety Protocols

In addition to the strict implementation of social/physical distancing and 'No Mask, No Face Shield, No Entry' policies in the university, the following health safety protocols have been implemented:

1. Imposing of thermal scanning/temperature checking upon entry of persons to the university by the Health Services Unit, in coordination with the Security Marshals.
2. Installing heavy-duty automatic alcohol dispensers at the pedestrian gate and the Sisters' Convent, for hand sanitizing.
3. Screening of visitors before entry



A security marshal sprays disinfectant on the shoe bath.



A visitor fills out a logbook for contact-tracing purposes.



An employee sanitizes her hands using an electric alcohol dispenser at the pedestrian gate.

4. Decontaminating vehicle wheels upon entering the vehicles gate.

Security Protocols

With the influx of employees, graduate school students, parents, and guests into the university campus, the Security Marshal Office has implemented the following safety and security measures:

1. Only those who conduct business with the Registrar's



A security marshal decontaminates a vehicle's wheels.



A maintenance personnel disinfects a facility.



A security marshal checks a visitor's temperature upon entry.

2. Physical distancing in said areas is strictly observed.
3. The visitors are subjected to security inspection before they are allowed entry into the university. Security Patrol is conducted every hour, and there is building monitoring via the university CCTV system.

4. At the pedestrian gate, visitors fill out the Log-in Book with key information (name, address, contact number), for contact-tracing purposes.
5. Only vehicles of employees, and 'service' vehicles (such as those of bank, food supplier, construction materials supplier, and Chaplain) are allowed entry in the campus via the vehicle gate. (The back gate is closed until further notice).

Work Schedule Scheme

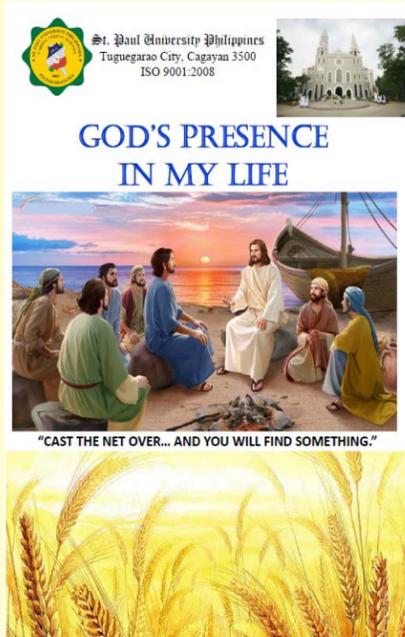
The following work-schedule scheme was implemented in observance of the shifting of work time during the pandemic period:

1. Skeleton Workforce for the offices was initially adopted in compliance with the governor's Executive Order (EO) no. 19, s. 2020, which states that

"only 10%-30% of workforce is allowed to report to their respective institution starting on 4 May 2020." In June 2020, 100% of the maintenance and staff members were requested to report for duty with a reduced number of duty hours (from eight hours to six hours a day). On 1 August 2020, regular working time was adopted for all employees.

2. Work-from-home setup was adopted by the faculty members to deliver instruction until the end of school year 2019-2020. For academic year 2020-2021, faculty members conduct their classes online both on campus and at home.
3. With the changing quarantine status from time to time, SPUP employees' work-schedule scheme continuously adopts the following guidelines:

- For the faculty (regardless of quarantine status): Work-from-home and onsite (following daily class schedule)
- For the staff and maintenance personnel: **MECQ:** Skeleton workforce and reduced working hours **GCQ:** 100% reporting but with flexible schedule and reduced working hours **MGCQ:** 100% reporting at a regular working time



The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church. As the Synod Fathers noted, for all the many signs of crisis in the institution of marriage, “the desire to marry and form a family remains vibrant, especially among young people, and this is an inspiration to the Church”.¹ As a response to that desire, “the Christian proclamation on the family is good news indeed.”

(#1 *Amoris Laetitia*)

Christian Formation: A Pastoral-Care Program for Families during Covid-19 Pandemic

Sr. Veneranda A. del Rosario, SPC

What a better way to begin introducing our desired Christian Formation Program during this period of the pandemic where almost everything in our life is affected by its positive and negative effects. As in charge of this program, I feel encouraged because God has given us an opportunity where we can work and help most of our young people address very challenging family concerns. Pope Francis, in his apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) reminds us of our great responsibilities in encouraging families to consider the many complexities and moral decisions one must make for a fruitful and meaningful life. Our dream is to help everyone experience God's love through loving encounter, making everyone feel that they belong to the big family of God.

“*The Joy of Love*” exhortation calls us to **accompany the young** and meet them where they are: avoiding judgments, sensitive to their struggles and needs with mercy and compassion. They need **pastoral care** where they feel mercy, compassion, and receive help without conditions. Helping them identify the good and bad and assist them in their choices is highly important, a matter of **discernment** where individual conscience is involved. Pope Francis calls for “new pastoral method” as he urges the church to consider the **context of people's lives** when helping them make good decisions. *Amoris Laetitia* speaks about **Love**, a word that must be alive and concrete in the family. *Pastors need to help people, not simply follow rules, but to practice discernment, a word that implies prayerful decision making* (304, 305). As pastors or formators of the young, “*listening to them with sensitivity and serenity*” (312) would lead them to prepare and live their lives to the full which eventually help them see their own important role in the Church. It is a matter of being able to **integrate** their personal life into the life of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

The family condition is crying for help, where we find young people encounter lots of irregularities and infidelities in their own homes. These are challenges that need attention and careful **accompaniment, discernment, and integration** from those who can show mercy and compassion like the way Jesus did as shown in

the Gospel. Pope Francis has been making a lot of emphasis on this to be “**Merciful Like the Father**” (theme for the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016) from the beginning of his pontificate.

Christian Formation is a relationship and a process. It is an awareness of the presence of God from the moment we wake up in the morning to the time we close our eyes and consciousness at the end of the day. The awareness that I cannot survive without God is very important. If I try to watch myself from a distance, I see how much I allow God to operate in my life – in my thoughts, words, and actions. Responding to His call every moment of my life is the great concern that I need to focus on seriously. **Are my thoughts** directly responding to how God wants me to think? **Are my words** resounding the voice of God that could inspire and direct people to choose the better part of life – putting aside selfishness and pride? **Are my actions** showing people that I am God's messenger of His love that would bring happiness to His Kingdom? Are there signs of compassion and care that would tell people that there is a God who is alive and always willing to make His presence felt most especially in times of chaos and difficulties?

We believe we are sent to SPUP to continue the mission GOD the Father entrusted to Jesus, the Son, to the Holy Spirit that inspired St. Paul, our patron, and Fr. Chauvet, our founder, continued by the SPC Sisters to this moment. It is aligning my work to that of my predecessors, a matter of checking constantly if my life as a member of the Paulinian Family is still responding to the vision and mission of Fr. Louis Chauvet. It calls for deep reflection and prayer to see and do my work in context. Our dream is **Christian Formation: A Pastoral Care Program for Families during the Covid-19 Pandemic**.

In one of the many documents I found about our newly beatified Blessed Carlo Acutis, it says...

“*Carlo's witness to the Gospel is not only an incentive for today's adolescents, but it also helps parish priests and teachers to question themselves about the value of the formation they give to young people of our parish communities and how to make this formation effective and incisive*” (taken from the Foreword by H.E. Michelangelo M. Tiribilli).

Context – “STAY HOME” policy would mean learners are at home with their respective families, a great opportunity to grow and build a loving, harmonious, and happy family. I wish to invite all to pray and reflect on our present situation with the following points.

1. Being with your family at the start of the pandemic (from the lockdown last March 15), describe your experiences briefly during this pandemic/ lockdown.
2. What could be God's message to you, that would serve as your life lesson, particularly, family relationships?
3. Considering your own family situation, how would you describe an ideal loving and happy family?
4. Your desired ideal family is something you need to work on during the lockdown and continue working on it as you journey through life even after the lockdown. What do you wish to bring along with you to maintain a loving and happy family?

We would like to respond to the hunger and thirst of parents and students for a good quality education. The difference I can make is a strong sense of value for a good life formation and education. A person who considers good life formation is when values are kept in life then everything falls in place. Thus, good habits, attitudes, behavior, and character will be developed with God's grace. They are on the journey to achieving their dreams of becoming who they want to be, accompanied with discipline, sacrifice, commitment, humility, and service.

Early on, as our mission leads us on our journey during this period of the pandemic, we desire to focus on **family evangelization**, a major part of the mission of SPUP Christian Formation. Working outside the box would mean *taking only the highlights of the main subject matter for this year/term* so that we can focus on our dream program. This is the right time when everyone in the family is staying together at home every day.

A moment of grace is when we, in the Christian Formation Office, take this opportunity to help re-build broken homes, broken relationships especially in our own Paulinian families. We take priority in our way of responding to the call of the Holy Father, Pope Francis for *Laudato Si!* This is transformation of our hearts, minds, and individual lifestyles to live in harmony with God's creation, the **CARE OF THE COMMON HOME**.

We think our present life situation **is normal**. It is not the **real normal** that God has designed in this world. We believe in God's intervention because of what the environment is doing to the lives of people whom He dearly loves most especially the young in our midst. They have been exposed to so many disorders and they think this to be the normal course of human life.

Pope Francis, successor of St. Peter, Mother Maria Goretti, Superior General of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres (SPC) Congregation and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) are calling us to become good stewards of God's creation. As the CF team of SPUP, we believe to start with **FAMILY** not only for our students but also with our lay partners here in school.

During this pandemic school year 2020-2021, we take this chance of embracing this mission of **FAMILY EVANGELIZATION** where we will focus on strengthening family relationships and unity in our own respective families as well as in communities to which we belong, a program of the Paulinian Family of **accompanying, discerning, and integrating**. Repair, if possible, what has been destroyed that needs our attention. We would like to take this opportunity when we know almost everyone in the family is staying home, working, and praying **more than before**. As observed, no endless ‘malling,’ no going to

school, no going to church... no late night's ‘barkada’ gimmicks. Families do everything together... eat and do things at home together, sleep together and pray together. **Spiritual activities** we normally do in school be done at home, hopefully with members of the family. What a good chance! We may achieve little fruits but at least we can start something for a better life in the future during this pandemic.

It is in this context that this school year 2020-2021, all Religious Education, and Christian Living and Values Education classes, will focus on family encounters where every member of the family will be encouraged, invited to deepen relationships among themselves. This will also be done with all SPUP personnel when the program is ready. This is God's time, an opportunity to create a happy home environment (in a happy workplace) for all members of the Paulinian Family. We make God the center of the family and every member will contribute to the building of a loving and happy home, deepen, and strengthen a happy and peaceful Paulinian Family in Tuguegarao. This is important to me, my co-workers in the formation, and in the school administration. Above all, this is also important to our learners and co-learners and their respective families. If in God's gracious time, this is lived, then Fr. Louis Chauvet's dream will be fulfilled, as adapted from: **3Jn.4**.

“I have no greater blessing than to see my daughters walk in the truth.”

At SPUP, looking to Jesus, following Him together as one Paulinian Family, is being able to live the Vocation of the Family for the fulfillment of God's plan. With Jesus, we become God's presence especially amid imperfect and difficult situations. As one institution, we envision a **Paulinian Family emerging from this pandemic** with happy and loving relationships at home, the best place where we would always like to stay and be with our parents and siblings. We become Paulinians more confident of having a family that is always there by our side to support and lead us to become the best persons God has created us to be. When our Paulinian families are evangelized and can journey together, God as the center would eventually lead us to holiness of life. We will be fit to help non-Paulinian families to live good lives. We then become a family called to evangelize, agents of transformation in the building of the Kingdom of God.

God's presence in my life

A booklet, *God's Presence in My Life*, which I made and compiled through the years, reminds me of God's presence – anywhere, anytime, and in every moment where we need to pray and praise God. It is very handy, as we can easily keep it in our pockets, handbag, and rooms. It is a booklet I designed for every Paulinian so they can pray anytime and anywhere they want to, a way of bringing the love of God in their hearts. Technology may not always be available, but this booklet will be always ready to help us during liturgical celebrations, masses, and para-liturgies in the classroom, in and outside our school. It is practical and useful during annual retreats, recollections, and CES immersions of both students and personnel.

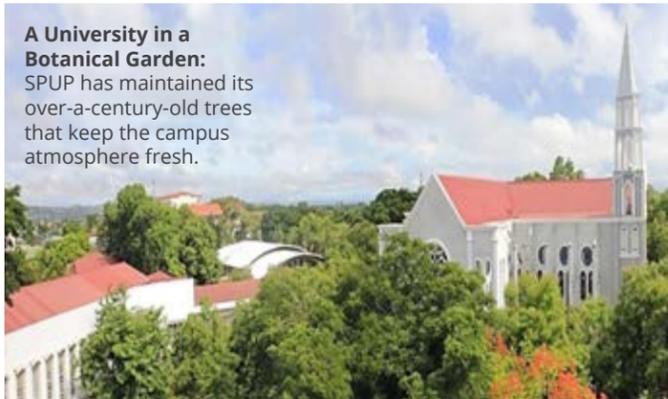
God's Presence may often be taken for granted but this booklet may in some way remind us of the presence of our loving, merciful, and compassionate God in and through us every minute of our life. It will remind us to get always connected with God.

I have good and beautiful memories of St. Paul University Philippines in the 1990s and after 23 long years I am back bringing with me a booklet full of prayers, songs, and help for Paulinian spirituality which I collected through the many years of life and mission in the SPC Congregation. The contents I collected, encoded, and designed enable me to establish an intimate relationship with God as well as for the spiritual enrichment of the whole Paulinian Family not only at SPUP but also for other Paulinian institutions as well.



SISTERS OF ST. PAUL OF CHARTRES (SPC)
1696 – 2021
325 Years of
SPC LIFE AND MISSION





A University in a Botanical Garden: SPUP has maintained its over-a-century-old trees that keep the campus atmosphere fresh.

Green Technology

Engr. Nova R. Domingo

In line with its advocacy on environmental stewardship, St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) has leveraged the power of green technology, a process that mitigates the negative impact of human activities through environment-friendly approaches.



St. Paul Building (left) and BEU Complex Building (right) are two of the six school buildings with solar panels.

To reduce energy consumption, solar panels were initially installed on the rooftop of a Fr. Louis Chauvet Building in 2014. The study Solar Panels as an Alternative Source of Energy for SPUP by Domingo (2015) showed that the use of the solar panels as a pilot project contributed to the 10% decrease in electricity consumption of the whole university, considering the given 12-month interval. With this finding, the university showed more enthusiasm in harvesting the sun's photovoltaic radiation to further reduce electricity utilization by 40%. Hence, additional solar panels have been installed on the rooftops of six other school buildings: St. Paul, Learning Resource Center (LRC), Basic Education Unit (BEU) Complex, Global Center, St Paul Home, and Levesville.

To help produce sufficient oxygen supply for everyone on the campus, there is a regular maintenance of over-a-century-old trees, as well as growing more trees to keep

the university atmosphere fresh. Aside from tree-growing projects, landscaping and cultivating ornamental plants are a continuing activity making 'SPUP a university within a botanical garden.'

To prevent flooding, a cistern which is an underground tank with a designed capacity of 216.0 cubic meters, was built to catch and store rainwater. This underground rainwater harvester is located beside the Sisters' Convent. Captured rainwater runoff from the drainage system of the university can be used for watering plants.

SPUP also has a sustainable farm in Amulung, Cagayan which produces organic vegetables and livestock, supplying the needs of the university canteen.

Moreover, SPUP has set standards on environmental protection and pollution control. These include replacing chemical-based fire extinguishers with water-based fire extinguishers, switching



The university uses non-polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) transformers.



The university canteen observes the 'No Styro, No Plastic' policy.



Fiber glass board has replaced the chalkboard in the classroom.

from chalkboard or blackboard to whiteboard and fiber-glass board, installing non-PCB transformers, implementing existing policies on the use of air-conditioning units and plastic-based materials, and observing water-conservation and waste-management practices.

The university continues to innovate on its activities to

address the changing needs of the times. It prioritizes environmental concerns, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk reduction as direct application of its thrusts on good governance, transparency, and accountability towards productivity.



Morphing into Digital

Mrs. Mary Jane D. Aragon

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) has re-organized and expanded the former Research and Publication Office (RPO) into Center for Research, Innovations, and New Technologies (CRINT), which is composed of collaborative cross-functional teams to ensure full swing of the digital system.

One special section of CRINT focuses on artificial intelligence (AI) and new technologies, driving the moonshot of the digital transformation initiatives of the university. Analytics and AI technologies are the major technological shifts to digital transformation efforts of the university, leveraging the power of technology to automate processes, streamline operations, and provide the insights required for data-driven decision making. Ensuring that the workforce possesses the necessary skills and behaviors delivered in ways that embody the digital transformation roadmap of the

university is indispensable to moving forward and effectively compete in an ever-changing digital economy.

SPUP's approach to digital transformation is not merely going paperless; it is a holistic transformation. Automation of processes is the key to digital transformation, and digitalization extends beyond workflow into new value and innovation. Automation can simply be developing an app or program that simplifies a complex process and helps employees function more productively; such app or program, for instance, can migrate data from paper copies to a digital system, pulling all

the data into a central database thus making them easily accessible and shareable across departments. The digitized systems are accessible with QR codes. Sharing of documents across the university, however, is not limited to emailing; it also involves using AI-infused collaboration platforms such as OneDrive, SharePoint, among others.

Automation has been around in the university for many years using varied technologies and has been huge amounts of data of multiple formats from diverse data sources. Data analytics and AI technologies as the major technological shifts to digital transformation initiatives of the university, bring together these data for meaningful analysis so that the administration will be able to surface actionable insights into student and employee behaviors, resulting to designing new educational and operating models that transform the strategic directions of the university.

Machine learning and AI, simulations and virtual reality are changing how teachers and students undertake teaching and learning. Embracing a culture that uses data in making instructional decisions, the university has embarked on intelligent systems like AI-powered learning management systems (LMSs) for each of the academic levels. The School

of Medicine (SOM) and School of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (SNAHS), for instance, utilize a comprehensive learning-management and online-course solution that supports HD-quality 3D simulations, video lectures, and textbook articles on such areas as anatomy, pathology, microbiology, and more. With such an application powered by AI, the students automatically create a constant stream of activity and performance data by watching videos and answering recall questions. The application can also see exactly where the students struggle, and the students receive detailed explanations for all answer options and can remediate weak areas with short video lectures.

SPUP's digital transformation initiatives are an agile journey not a destination, a process not an event. Ensuring that the workforce possesses the necessary skills and behaviors to deliver the digital transformation roadmap of the university and secure a competitive edge in an ever-changing digital economy is indispensable. Continuous quality improvement to remain relevant is a vital part of the university culture. When outcomes improve, stakeholders take notice. This can strengthen the will of everybody to push further.

Going Creatively VIRTUAL

Dr. John Kit S. Masigan
& Mrs. Evelyn L. Pacquing



In the time when face-to-face interaction is halted, Paulinian teachers did not stop on looking for alternative strategies in virtual teaching, making sense of what “flexible learning” is truly about.

At the onset of online classes in June, these teachers have discovered other platforms on top of the current learning management systems, which surprisingly added flavor in their respective synchronous and asynchronous classes.

Gamification as added ‘flavor’

Taking quizzes on a game-based approach is what Kahoot provides freely for teachers and students as it keeps its mission to make learning extra interesting for kids. It provides millions of ready-to-play kahoots in any topic, and combines different question types to increase engagement.

“What I like about Kahoot is that it encourages audience participation with polls and word cloud questions,” said Mrs. Loida Esmundo as she facilitates her formative assessment to the grade 6 pupils. “Also, I can assign student-paced challenges for content review while assessing my students’ outcomes through the ‘report’ feature,” she added.

Playing a live game together is never impossible as another distance learning platform keeps everyone engaged even if they are not in the same place. This is Quizizz, a free online site that helps in creating student-paced assignments, share flashcards, and get families involved too.

Teachers can choose from millions of free teacher-created quizzes or quickly make their own, while students engage at their own pace as they always see questions on their own screens.

No app needed

Some might scratch their head in knowing that adding another app can take up large space on their gadget’s almost-full memory. It is something Wevideo.com pledges never to happen.

“I make use of wevideo whenever I edit and upload video tutorials for my Mathematics subject,” said Mrs. Jane Abella as she personally records her step-by-step solutions in solving mathematical problems. Further, she mentioned, “Since I can

rearrange, trim and add effects to my video, it squeezes my creative juices to give my online tutorial that extra entertainment factor.”

Meanwhile, getting real-time input from remote teams and online students with live polls and Q&As is mainstreamed by Mentimeter, an easy-to-use online editor for creating interactive presentations and meetings wherever.

With this, students use their smartphones to connect to the presentation while they answer questions in real time. Assessment results can also be exported for analysis and used to measure progress of students over time.

Leveraging visuals

Visuals are everywhere – both static and moving. As it is more essential than ever that students develop the necessary visual literacy to navigate this image-intense world, word art generators are used to create fun and insightful visualization of words.

Along this line, WordArt.com, an online word cloud art creator, enables students and teachers alike to create amazing and unique word cloud art with ease, to highlight key discussion points for every module. “After every live class I have on MS Teams, I send to my students an image of the word clouds which serves as visualizations of the most frequently used words in my discussion,” said Mr. Jeojomar Erra as he put his Philosophy lessons in a nutshell. In no time at all, professional quality results are achieved, even for users who have no prior knowledge on graphic design.

The same creative challenge is provided by Canva, a graphic design platform that allows users to create PowerPoint presentations, posters, social media graphics and other visual content with ease, through thousands of on-point design templates ready to be edited. There is no need to download photoshop software or photo editors as users can access this on Canva.com with its ready-to-use editing features, as well as drag and drop interface.

Flipping the classroom

When both teachers and students want to make the most of the synchronous session and enjoy maximum student engagement, they flip the class! PowerPoint presentations, YouTube, Ted Talk videos or locally made videos, reading texts, and other apparatuses for introducing, distributing and synthesizing content coupled with guide questions are accessed

by students anytime, anywhere within a period of time. This way students will receive all of the important information needed in the course, and will free up in-class time for more in-depth discussions, clarifications, and hands-on work.

Some college and Senior High School faculty remarked, “flipped classroom enables students with intermittent internet connectivity to stay caught up!”

Not only does flipped classroom cover a great deal of course content, it can also host digital discussions. Through the LMS’ forum or discussion board, students are encouraged to “speak their minds.” Generally, the teacher starts the thread for discussion, and the student replies to the teacher and to other student postings. Forum questions may be picked up from unfinished sync discussion to students’ insights/remarks on topics covered. It can also be a platform for group debates and sharing of course-related resources.

As Mr. Fryan Escobar noted, “Students enjoy posting their own problem sets in Pre-Calculus as well as replying to their classmates’ Math challenge.” Likewise, the forum provides a place for students who are not comfortable with the camera or with the face-to-face interaction.

Teaching with blogs

“Blogging is not my cup of tea and it’s not very academic,” many teachers would say, but blogs can be helpful tools for teachers concerned with developing students’ communication skills and increasing students’ motivation in learning. As community quarantine and stay-at-home guidelines are still enforced, students tend to spend more time browsing the internet, visiting pages, and lurking on their social media accounts.

“Directing students to blog

exemplars related to the course topics and requiring them to write entries and comment on the entries of their peers help students master content and improve their writing skills,” said some Language and Literature faculty.

A blog, which is likened to a public online diary or journal, can be utilized by students to publish their writing and educate others on a particular topic. Students can post reflections on course readings, details on their day-to-day activities, updates on research projects, commentary on recent events, and other types of writing they are doing. When writing for blogs, students attempt to strike balance between academic and creative writing enabling them to discover their voice and personal style as writers. The use of blogs as an instructional material can even open the door for future famous bloggers.

Reviving the power of e-portfolios

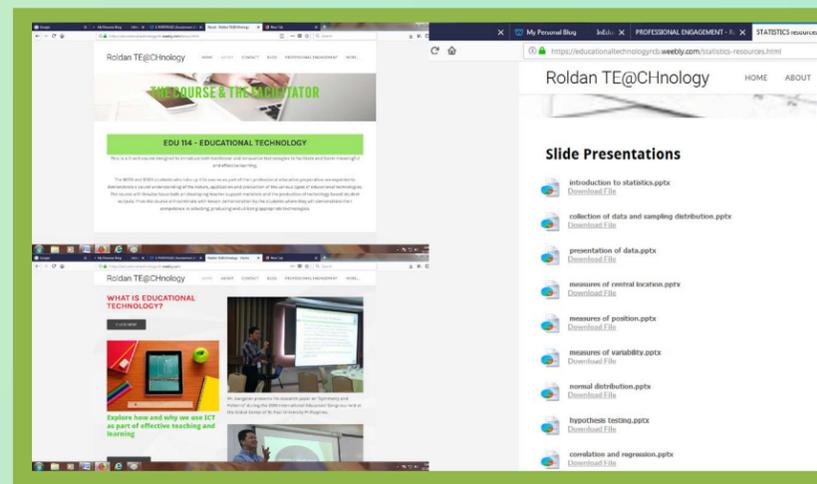
Those days when students needed to decorate folders or scrapbook covers so that they could paste in photos they have drawn, writing samples, problem sets and short reflection journals are slowly going out of trend in virtual learning environments. Its digital descendant called electronic portfolio has revolutionized the way students keep track of their learning process and progress. The once hard-copy, paper-printed outputs can now be placed in online spaces.

Weebly is a free platform student can use to create e-portfolios. With its available templates and drag-and-drop editor, students can personalize their website, customize their content, and publish it to the web. No HTML or coding knowledge acquired.

If the student prefers to create digital portfolios in the form of a presentation, Google Slides could lend a hand. The free downloadable designs with tentative lay-out and structure can organize collected outputs and bring them to life. It is cost-free; it only needs proper citation of the creator.

Another user-friendly e-portfolio creator is WordPress. As its dashboard is comprehensible even to newbies in blogging, students can easily upload files of different formats. The numerous free themes provide a perfect choice of a website that suits the student’s personality. Students can easily document their work throughout the semester using forms like posts and pages. Even to this date, Dr. Roldan Bangalan’s students in Technology for Teaching and Learning during the Summer Term, still visit their web pages and proudly relish their e-portfolio designing experience.

These digital tools are essential to learning, teaching and assessment in virtual learning environments.



Packing Information in Codes

Mrs. Mary Jane D. Aragon

QR is short for Quick Response, which refers to the swift responding of a smartphone when reading or scanning a certain image such as that of a code. QR code is a two-dimensional matrix barcode consisting of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background; it is readable by a QR code reader app or a smartphone camera. It can be used to link users to websites, videos and images, as well as to download pdf files, send emails and SMS, make a phone call, encode text or contact details, show a location, and more.

Access to mobile web is growing exponentially. Forecast says that there would be around 90 million smartphone users in the Philippines by 2025. This phenomenon has opened a field of experimentation and innovation on the application of mobile technologies at St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP), such as QR codes, for a more interactive teaching-learning experience and to empower employees in their day-to-day operations as office processes and systems continue to evolve.

To date, QR codes can now be seen at the Pedestrian Gate of SPUP for contactless Covid-19 screening among visitors and employees. Even without knowing the web address, Facebook account, and YouTube channel of the university, visitors can have instant access and go around virtual campus tour to know more about the university by scanning the QR codes placed on bulletin boards and signages. The same QR codes can also be found in print campaign materials like brochures, posters, and flyers sent to stakeholders. Likewise, the student publications and newsletters

have QR codes to allow readers gain access to mobile versions of the articles especially when copies are limited. Mobile versions of articles will show videos to better engage readers, unlike in print versions that show static pictures.

QR codes are also used to entertain and educate visitors in service departments as they can have access to digitized departmental information and infographics while waiting. Moreover, adding QR codes to learning materials can make learning more interactive and engaging as these codes can link teachers and students to more detailed images, videos, simulations, and interactive websites for supplemental teaching-learning resources. QR codes in the library allow students to have mobile access to the library database. Furthermore, online forms can also be accessed more conveniently with QR codes than having to type in a long URL.

Indeed, the QR codes, which are considered as an evolving source of dynamic information, reinforce the university’s image of modernization and innovation.

Technology Integration in the New Normal

Ms. Learni C. Javier

Transitioning to the 'new normal in education brings massive challenges as well as exceptional opportunities to educators, students, and families. It opens a new landscape for educational institutions to establish a broad range of supportive materials and resources to carry on teaching and learning even in this unusual period.

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) has already considered technology integration as an integral part of curriculum and instruction even before the pandemic. Delivering lessons through gamification and video tutorials, taking students on virtual field trips, and using other online resources are mechanisms in place to ensure consistency of learning. Educational technologies that have been utilized include Genyo e-Learning, coding education and robotics, e-books, and augmented reality books. These have exposed the learners to a technology-oriented environment that helps them enrich their learning experiences and improve their cognitive development. Considering the technology-driven education of the 21st century, these digital

tools have been upgraded to better engage the millennial learners.

To further create an environment with apt learning opportunities, SPUP has adopted the following innovations: Microsoft Teams, FrontLearners, Labster, and Lecturio. These online-learning platforms help teachers create and present content that provides different opportunities to make learning more dynamic, student-centered, interactive, collaborative, transformative, and engaging for the learners.

Microsoft (MS) Teams uses the built-in meetings feature to effectively hold virtual synchronous classes. It is a digital and communication hub for modern education that brings discussions, contents, and technological apps together



BEU teachers conduct online classes via MS Teams at the LR Computer Laboratory.



Students interact and collaborate online to enhance learning.



A student explores e-learning materials using FrontLearners as platform.

and later monitor and assess students' performance.

Moreover, Labster virtual labs offer access to students' realistic laboratory experience that will let them perform experiments, simulate the use of modern lab equipment like chromatographs, PCR and Next Generation Sequencing, and practice their scientific skills in a fun and safe learning environment. Students experience 3D simulations that visualize life science down to the molecular level. They also tackle challenging real-life case scenarios and missions, thereby stimulating their curiosity as they explore the connection between science and the real world.

On the other hand, Lecturio provides an array of up-to-date video lectures with relevant animations, photographs, medical illustrations, 3D simulations, interactive quizzes, and medical case scenarios. With Lecturio's online medical videos, students can learn anywhere, anytime.

SPUP advocates the acquisition of 21st-century skills through collaborative, creative, and connective learning. Students are engaged in a diverse array of learning tasks that enhance their understanding of concepts. Learning tasks that can be done by students include AI-related projects, digital models and simulations, animations, vlogs, blogs, applications, games, among others. These creative works are a form of learning that develops higher-order-thinking skills necessary to respond to the challenges of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

Undoubtedly, by harnessing the opportunities provided by technology, SPUP can ensure that students are prepared to survive in a highly-globalized and technology-driven society.

in one place for teachers and learners. With Teams, educators can create vibrant learning space for more robust collaboration with the students.

Equally important is the FrontLearners, an online learning management system (LMS) for 21st-century learning in senior high school and college. It enables teachers to create e-learning lessons, enroll students to specific courses, deliver contents

Genyo e-Learning

Dr. Janette T. Fermin

The onslaught of Covid-19 pandemic has brought about impediments in human activities including those in education. Many schools have reluctantly opted to cease operations due to the uncertainties surrounding the situation. However, a good number of other educational institutions have taken advantage of e-learning strategies to continue lessons despite the challenges of the present times.

St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP), which has long been utilizing e-learning, bravely announced that it was more than ready to deliver online learning in the new normal.

Students are highly encouraged to go on with their academic journey through flexible learning options such as online synchronous and asynchronous classes and home-based modules and activities.

In its Basic Education Unit (BEU), teachers have been preparing relevant students' academic tasks through their existing online learning management portal which is Genyo.

Genyo e-learning is a fully integrated online learning management system (LMS) for basic education which provides myriads of ways to meet the needs of 21st-century learners. It offers ready-made content in the major subject areas and thousands of teaching resources, which include lesson plans, test banks, quizzes, video and audio files, and interactive games.

Having been subscribing to Genyo for over a decade and

with continuing professional training, BEU teachers have eventually maximized its features. For instance, they have acquired the skill of creating and uploading lesson packages that include game-based activities and exercises, summative assessments, and video tutorials – all of which are made available for the students to access using their computers, tablets, or iPads at home.

These customized teacher-made lesson packages promote independent learning as students acquire mastery of concepts and skills at their own pace. They also foster 21st-century learning skills as learners collaborate with their peers and communicate directly with their teachers on the platform.



Having fun while learning. Accessing teacher-made materials challenges learners to upgrade their online learning experience.

Learning Anytime, Anywhere! Students acquire mastery of concepts and skills at their own pace.

Independent learning is real! E-learning fosters 21st-century skills.

With Genyo e-Learning, teachers are able to assign essential lessons remotely to their students; they are also able to monitor their students' progress and provide immediate feedback. Moreover, Genyo has helped teachers become more adept in creating innovative and radically useful teaching-learning materials designed to produce highly equipped

and globally competitive lifelong learners ready to traverse the challenges of tomorrow.

Indeed, Genyo e-Learning, which is highly adaptable and exceedingly innovative, ensures continuity of learning with minimal disruptions during this pandemic.

Independent learning is real! E-learning fosters 21st-century skills.

Quality Education during Pandemic and Beyond

Ms. Jenica M. Bea

Quality education centers on the overall formation of the students regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geographic location. Despite the challenges brought by the unprecedented outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) remains committed to its mission of providing quality, Catholic Paulinian education in a caring environment for its students. To achieve this, the university continues its operation by maximizing the strengths it has obtained throughout the years of continual improvement and visionary growth. These strengths take in the form of modules and resources that have been enhanced and made suitable for online education by the university's trained personnel.

The university recognizes the critical role of keeping connected with its members. Since face-to-face interaction endangers everyone's well-being, SPUP must manage using its current resources, through Facebook, Messenger, and other social media platforms. Face-to-face classes transitioned into virtual classes. Heads and directors also remain in contact with their constituents throughout the quarantine period using the meager resources. Announcements and directives are posted on their group chat online.

The university has projected that it needs to adjust its system of delivery. As a result, it decided to add more learning management systems (LMSs) for online classes to accommodate more students. MS Teams, Moodle, Edmodo, Genyo, and Frontliners are some of the LMSs the university uses for its enhanced delivery of education. This leads to the redesigning of the available course



Students engage with their teacher and with one another in a synchronous online session via MS Teams.

modules to suit synchronous and asynchronous learning styles.

When the Luzon-wide total lockdown was downgraded to MECQ and businesses were already allowed to resume, the university held trainings and workshops on the available LMS options for all faculty, from the basic education to the graduate school levels. With the help of the well-trained ICT staff and faculty, the trainings and workshops were conducted. The participants were very active in airing their concerns, and eager to learn more about LMS, fostering an interactive and productive discussions during the training sessions.

As AY 2020-2021 commenced, orientation on the use of selected LMS was conducted, with the trained faculty facilitating the lessons. A collaborative, healthy relationship was established between the teachers and the parents. The online group chat system may be availed of by the students and their parents, and the teachers regarding class schedules, attendance, performance, concerns, suggestions.

The computer laboratories are equipped with stable internet connection for the faculty's use. Printed modules are made available for students whose internet connectivity is not good and they cannot participate in synchronous classes.

During the pandemic, the SPUP administration has extended utmost care and assistance to its employees. Full salaries were given, despite the two-month lockdown. Nobody was laid off; working schedules were adjusted and flexible; work-at-home was allowed, with expected outputs monitored.

Most importantly, the university has changed its mindset.



Faculty conduct their online classes in their offices.

The unprecedented outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic evoked anxieties and fears among the academic community; however, hope and faith prevailed in their hearts. The Paulinian family shifted its outlook into positive and hopeful perspectives.

The Paulinian family continues to cope with the changes and demands the new normal has brought upon their lives. With cooperation, perseverance, resilience, and faith in the Almighty, SPUP transformed anew, ready for a new chapter.

Activities for Good Vibes amid CoVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Juana C. Rivera, Mrs. Vivian A. Sorita & Ms. Cherile P. Bugarin

With the onset of Covid-19, the following are some of the activities that have been adopted by some employees of St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

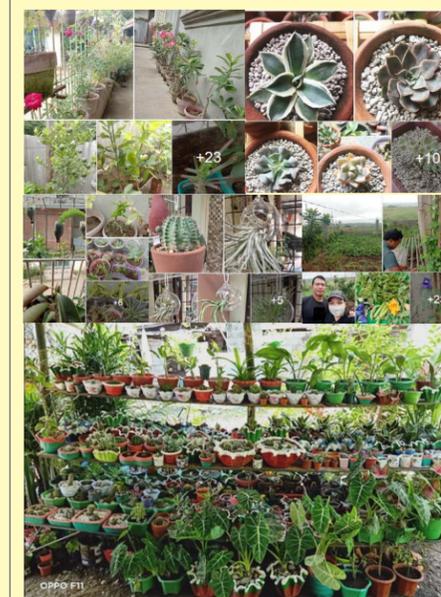
Free webinars. Endorsed by the Office of the University President and professional organizations, these virtual faculty and staff development sessions helped the participants gain knowledge and raise their awareness of pandemic-related issues in education, leadership, health, and wellbeing.



Teletherapy. This is in coordination with the guidance counselors and the faculty of the graduate school. Concerned employees can avail of this by making an appointment (in advance) with any of the available helping professionals in the university following ethical standards in counseling/psychotherapy.



Spa Treatment. The employees could avail of the services of the University Spa and Wellness Center, following the standard health protocol for relaxation and stress management.



#Plantita/plantito. Some of the employees have joined the world's hobby of collecting, planting, and caring for plants as a pastime or way of relaxation.

Entrepreneurship. The employees have discovered their business acumen by embracing online selling as an after-office income-generating hobby.



In addition, **SPUP's landscape** exudes the positive energy one needs to start the day! (Thank you, SPC Sisters, for creating such ambience!)





(L-R): Sr. Guadalupe Merceditas Pacis and Sister Maria Fe Policarpio renew their Vows before Archbishop Ricardo L. Baccay, D.D.

Thanksgiving Mass for Diamond and Golden Jubilarians

Sr. Ma. Adelina J. Portillo, SPC

Sr. Ma. Fe Policarpio, SPC and Sr. Guadalupe Merceditas Pacis, SPC, celebrated their Diamond/Golden Jubilee, respectively, at the SPC Sisters' Convent Chapel of St. Paul University Philippines, Tuguegarao, at 10:00 A.M., on August 15, 2020, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Main Celebrant of the Eucharistic Celebration was His Excellency Most Reverend Ricardo L. Baccay, D.D., Archbishop of Tuguegarao, with Rev. Fr. Bernard B. Corpus, Rector and Parish Priest of St. Peter Metropolitan Cathedral, and Rev. Fr. Jake Dennis T. Ordillo, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, as Concelebrants.

Archbishop Baccay, in his homily, highlighted the significance of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as the meaning of a Religious Jubilee, especially at this time of the pandemic when the jubilee celebration becomes a private affair of the Sisters, with no distractions, with no visitors. The Sisters become closer to one another as a Community, with more time for prayer and deeper reflection on the things that really matter.

The Archbishop congratulated the two Jubilarians for their fidelity in their religious calling – for 60, 50 long years, in spite of life's

ups and downs, but above all, for God's own fidelity and abiding presence in sustaining them in the living out of their vowed life. Such is the abiding love of God for His chosen ones. God is ever faithful and true.

The celebration of the Sisters' Jubilee (Silver, Gold, Diamond) is customarily held at Our Lady of Chartres Convent (SPC Provincialate), at Antipolo, as one big celebration every year, for each kind of Jubilee; however, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Jubilee Celebrations this year are held in the respective SPC Local Communities where the Jubilarians are assigned.



The Jubilarians: (L-R): Sister Maria Fe Policarpio, SPC and Sister Guadalupe Merceditas Pacis, SPC, Golden and Diamond Jubilarians, respectively.

The aforementioned Diamond/Golden Jubilee event was simple and private, but solemn and memorable, with the Sisters of the Local Community giving all their beautiful voices, with several singing rehearsals under the direction of Sr. Veneranda del Rosario, in charge of music and liturgy. The Chapel and the Sisters' Refectory just looked festive with beautiful flowers arranged by the artistic hands of Sr. Maria Lirio Gavan, the Local Superior, assisted by the young Sisters.

After the liturgical celebration, a simple but fitting agape followed at the Sisters' Refectory.

Education amid the Covid-19 Pandemic: The SPUP Graduate School Experience

Dr. Inicia C. Bansig



initiative, and leadership as educational leaders are tasked with making sound decisions on teaching and learning modalities that will enable the continuity and sustain the effectiveness of education.

In the field of education, the use of technology has redefined the global learning landscape. It is the crucial factor

The Covid-19 outbreak, declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020 and as a pandemic by 11 March 2020, brought on an unprecedented health crisis resulting in fatalities, morbidities, and a slowdown in the global economy. Individuals, governments, industries are struggling to define and adjust to a new normal as the world awaits a cure that would bring an end to the deadly virus.

Educational institutions have not been spared. The state of community quarantine, the rigors of social distancing, and the assurance of health and safety are big hurdles. As classrooms close and entire schools shut down, the challenge of shifting to distance and online learning remains daunting and even practically impossible to some.

This crisis brings to the fore resiliency,

in transforming both teachers and students into 21st-century educators and learners. Now, we find ourselves in a situation where undeniably, educational technology intervention presents the best solution forward.

At St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP), particularly in the Graduate School Department, the usual Blended Mode of delivery, which is a combination of face-to-face classroom interaction and technology-driven independent and research-based learning, was shifted to Virtual/Flexible Learning, thus enabling continuous access to education for Graduate School students. This new modality of learning goes beyond the limitations of both time and space. The distinctive rise of e-learning changes education dramatically, with teaching undertaken remotely and on digital platforms.

There were meaningful experiences gained by both Graduate School | **to p. 39**

BEU releases primer... from p. 15

experiences among students amidst digital divide; 4) to explore rich and diverse learning approaches for better delivery of instruction; and 5) to foster open and constant communication between parents and teachers, thereby establishing a stronger collaboration between home and school.

Sister Merceditas Ang, SPC (University President) stated in her pre-opening advisory, "The values and standards of Paulinian education shall be sustained through flexible digital and alternative modes of delivery to learners who are confined in their homes. The learning management system (LMS) must be established and secured for the storage and retrieval of e-modules, monitoring of the content and delivery of online learning, assessment of student-learning outcomes, and review and improvement of e-modules."

Over the years, the BEU, from pre-school to junior high school, has adopted Genyo

e-Learning, an exclusive online subscription to a wide array of multi-media, curriculum-based teaching and learning resources in all subject areas. The senior high school, on the other hand, has subscribed to Frontlearners, a ready-to-use, cost-effective, e-school-in-a-box LMS which works with or without internet and contains thousands of lessons and exercises aligned with the Department of Education's (DepEd) K to 12 curriculum. The BEU has also used Microsoft (MS) Teams to conduct synchronous classes at all levels.

To ensure continuity of learning amidst technological limits, the subject teachers have prepared learning packets or dynamic learning plans (DLPs) for pre-school to senior high school. These learning materials adhere to DepEd's mandate on the strict implementation of the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs). In addition, these modes of learning have been enriched

A Wake-Up Call

Sr. Ma. Adelina J. Portillo, SPC

Covid-19 quietly entered the Philippines, From Wuhan, China, in December 2019; On March 20, 2020, first death happened, So fast, pandemic spreading humankind.

Coronavirus, so invisible to human eye, So tiny, yet quite invasive, destructive; Powerful war heads, can't annihilate it; Trained frontlines, just no match for it.

This dreadful disease causes havoc, Baffles medical experts, scientists; Frontlines trying hard to contain it, But this virus seems to linger longer.

Could this crisis be a wake-up call? God's hidden message to humanity? "Our Common Home, "much abused, Greed, exploitation, corruption abound.

Care, respect, harmony, brotherhood, "Love of God and Love of Neighbor," No more? Love of power is the rule? Let's discern the "signs of the times."

God created our universe, beautiful, Now disfigured, bulldozed, broken; Not fit for God's children to live in, Man, considers himself supreme?

God does not wish evil to happen, Wants us to live in peace, harmony; With much love, as brothers, sisters, But world's allure, just irresistible.

Could the virus be God's visitation? A wake-up call – for us to discover? Time to change, to amend our ways, Back to God, our merciful Father!

by considering the standards set by St. Paul of Chartres Education Ministry (SPCEM) and by the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC). The development of the five Paulinian Core Values (5 Cs) and Pauline ethics and principles have been given emphasis in writing the DLPs.

Moreover, the FLS manifests a precise and clear roadmap towards the realization of the vision, missions, goals, and objectives (VMGO) of the school, aligned with the challenges and demands of the current educational ecosystem.

The BEU believes that the pandemic is no hindrance to achieving its goal of forming individuals who are Maka-Diyos, Maka-tao, Makakalikasan, Makabayan, Makabansa. It guarantees the development of learners who are adequately prepared, competent, and resilient with a Paulinian character.

Impressions on Learning in the New Normal

“Studying at St. Paul University Philippines during pandemic has made us students and our parents work a lot more together. Our parents and our teachers are working in harmony, making things easier for us students. Though things are somewhat a little strange and challenging for our parents, they are still part of the adjustments they do for us, their children.”

~ **Elise Marie P. Antonio** (Grade 1 - St. Stephen)

“SPUP provides easy access to our lessons, activities, and exams through Genyo and email. It has also allowed me to improve my computer skills and to be more familiar with systems like Genyo and Microsoft Teams. Online learning has encouraged me to practice self-discipline by being honest in answering my exams.”

~ **Caeli Nicole S. Jacob**
(Grade 2 - St. Luke)

“With online learning in the new normal, I can work at my own pace in the comforts of my home but I need to have self-discipline to finish my task on time. I am happy to be connected with my teachers even outside school hours if I need further instructions or guidance about the lessons. I am happy and eager to learn with the colorful pictures and videos provided by my teachers during the synchronous learning and in Genyo.”

~ **Kanae Rei Garcia**
(Grade 3 - St. James)

“The new learning format has given us young learners a different kind of opportunity to learn despite the pandemic. I have also learned a new kind of discipline such as making the most of the scheduled time for

virtual discussions and finishing all the assigned tasks. I can consider myself lucky because I am given by my parents the opportunity to study in a University that offers quality education where teachers devote their time for students to have quality learning materials and organized teaching schedule.”

~ **Yeshuah Mariae Gabriel N. Lagundi**
(Grade 4 - St. Francis)

“SPUP learning in the new normal has made me more patient in terms of accepting e-learning as temporal replacement of traditional learning. While I like traditional learning better than the other, SPUP has patiently instilled in us that both methods are equal. It has also made me more responsible in terms of managing my time, balancing my household chores, and my e-education, and appreciating the tireless efforts of my teachers and parents in the midst of this pandemic.”

~ **Yuan Francois L. Cabildo**
(Grade 5 - St. Margarete)

“In SPUP, teachers and advisers encourage us students to still attend our classes every day despite the poor connection and the distractions in our homes. We also have tasks like homework and summative assessments in our online learning management system Genyo. Also, during our online class, our teachers encourage us to recite and participate in class.”

~ **Kirsten Therese L. Cureg**
(Grade 6 - St. Maria Goretti)

“The educational institution is able to identify and implement the best practices to improve the students’ equitable online access. All students are able to achieve equal learning outcomes while being provided the support they need to engage in the learning process. They are also given access to effective learning opportunities, interactions, and evaluative assessments. The school’s responsibility to recognize the students’ needs are fulfilled.”

~ **Jan Margarete D. Pagunuran**
(Grade 7 - Angel Cherubim)

“SPUP’s new normal supports most of the students with their doubts and troubles, enabling them to learn efficiently during this time of crisis. We are given a sufficient amount of time to do our tasks and are not overwhelmed with too much pressure by the

school. Furthermore, teachers are responsive to any of our queries during and beyond classes and do their best to help. SPUP shows a wonderful example of thoughtfulness and compassion that should be observed in learning during the new normal.

~ **Yanny V. Valera** (Grade 8 - St. Therese)

“Learning in the new normal feels like a whole reset, but in SPUP particularly in the Basic Education Unit, I am impressed by how quick we adjusted and got used with the situation. We may not meet physically due to the pandemic, but SPUP has made possible ways for us to be connected with our teachers and classmates, virtually. The school has provided learning management systems for us to gain maximum learning through our synchronous sessions using the MS Teams and asynchronous activities which are uploaded in the GenYo. At SPUP, this pandemic is not a hindrance to achieve QUALITY, CATHOLIC education!”

~ **Rizalinn Gabrielle P. Caronan**
(Grade 9 - OLO Chartres)

“At first, I was afraid ‘cause I think that it would be hard for us students to understand the lessons, but when we started our online class, I feel that it was the same but less physical activities which is good so that we can focus on more academics. I can focus on learning because there are no unnecessary noises from other people. I was so thankful to our teachers ‘cause they have long patience to teach us even when it was difficult to teach virtually, and that is why I like St. Paul.”

~ **Cohlene Angela L. Pagulayan**
(Grade 10 - St. Paul)

“SPUP learning in the new normal is very flexible. It is also a good substitute of face-to-face learning during this pandemic. This is much better than having the students learn the given modules on their own.”

~ **Alexa Patrice C. Banatao**
(Grade 11 - Ephesians, STEM)

“Studying under the New Normal may seem hard, but it is the complete opposite. In fact, it is very beneficial to everyone. First, it guarantees the safety of both the teacher and the students by teaching and learning in the comforts of their homes. Second, with the blended learning, students can study in their own time and pace, which makes it less stressful. Third, it gives room for adjustment and enhances the adaptation skills of both students and teachers. So as the famous quote of Einstein goes, “The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.”

~ **Kurt Rappel T. Asuncion**
(Grade 12 - Jeremiah, HUMSS)

“Undoubtedly, learning amid the pandemic is a big challenge, but despite the unprecedented shift in the new normal, with the concerted efforts of its

administration and educators, SPUP still made it possible to deliver quality education to its students like myself. With the help of our professors, through their patience, dedication to excellence, and constant understanding, the transition from regular classes to distance education was more manageable. Consequently, there was less pressure on my part, and I was able to adjust well and manage my academics despite the various predicaments brought about by distance learning.”

~ **Clarissa B. Orpilla** (SASTE, BSEd English)

“St. Paul University Philippines continues to give me hope that I will be able to pull off with the new setting because SPUP is well-equipped and ready to deliver an innovative, quality, Catholic, and Paulinian education in a caring environment in the new normal. It is true that during this time, online learning is very stressful, mind-draining, physically and emotionally exhausting, but because I value the hard work of my parents for sending me to a private institution amidst pandemic, I am encouraged, motivated, resilient, and prepared to face the challenges. I am also confident enough that SPUP will guide and support me in achieving my aspirations in life.”

~ **Jeraldine M. Dela Paz** (SBAHM, BSHM)

“Going through our educational journey in this current health situation is not easy for us students since we face certain challenges posed by distance learning. But with the aid of our dear academe, we are gradually adapting to the new normal. As SPUP tries its best to deliver quality education during the pandemic, I am proud that its academic programs and student services are beyond expectations.”

~ **Jenny Joy Teppang** (SITE, BSIT)

“As we grapple with and veer towards the new normal, remote teaching and learning has been a great means towards continuous education – transforming conventional learning processes. The university has provided pedagogical approaches for educational continuity. I have had the chance to interact with my classmates and professors through the virtual walls of the classroom in synchronous learning. No student is barred from learning because of the asynchronous modality and flipped learning experience. The yearning to be in the laboratory is fulfilled as the school provides its own SPUP Lecturio app – a high-quality digital medical education resource. With these varying approaches to delivering learning, I believe that SPUP remains true to its commitment to deliver a Quality, Catholic, Paulinian education. After all, no pandemic can ever quarantine or lock down excellence and quality. As a Paulinian student nurse, I can say that I AM READY! Embracing learning in the new normal with SPUP, I am prepared and equipped with competencies to make a difference globally.”

~ **Alvin Cabling** (SNAHS, BS Nursing)

Education amid the Covid-19... from p. 37

faculty and students under this new modality of teaching and learning. The Graduate School recognizes the need for masters and doctoral students to make continued academic progress. As it transitioned to e-learning, the Graduate School has been mindful of how the disruption was going to affect its students. Preparedness of faculty in terms of instructional delivery and assessment strategies were given a critical priority. On the other hand, students came to terms with their role as responsible adult learners, taking responsibility for their own pace and depth of learning.

Distance learning, especially online learning, has clear benefits such as breaking down barriers of space and time. In the case of the Graduate School, it is a financially viable solution to creating continuous access to education. In time, better infrastructure will certainly address the technical difficulties currently faced. What requires our attention and careful study now is the changing interpersonal dynamics in virtual classrooms and distance learning in general. It is my hope that the value of sound and healthy interpersonal relationships will remain primordial in this ongoing evolution of education.

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Cover of *Higher Education Digest* (April 2020) featuring St. Paul University Philippines as one of the **Top 10 Universities in the Philippines** for International Students.



SPC Sisters and the Academic Community of St. Paul University Philippines pose in front of the Our Lady of Chartres Chapel in a group for *Higher Education Digest*.