

# THE BRIDGE

**BRAVING BORDERS**



## SISFU WELCOMES LIZQUEN

One of the country's famous love teams has recently enrolled in the school.  
**P12**

## WELCOME BACK!

We are happy to bring you back the newsletter that presents the "old and new" highlights of SISFU.

# SISFU OFFERS NEW UK-MBA PROGRAMME

A major addition to SISFU's global academic offerings in 2017 is the SISFU UK-MBA programme. Find out more on **P6.**



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- News
- Messages
- Editorial
- Features
- Business
- News Bits
- Alumni
- Sports

## SISFU OPENS DOORS TO NEW PROGRAMME: SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



A big change has happened in the country's academic world. This change has come to SISFU. REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533 or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013," better known as K-12 program, is being implemented for the school year of 2016-2017. **P6**

## EXCLUSIVE: INTERVIEW WITH RISING STAR, *Janine Teñoso*

In this exclusive interview, we asked Janine questions about her inspiration for her first ever single "Fall," how she continues to cope with the transition from student to professional singer, and many other things. **P11**

### NEWSLINE

#### A Colorful Night to Remember

Coloured powder created a hazy mist over the SISC Monarch's gym in this year's Clash of Colors. **P13**

#### New Team, New Chapter

Get to know the new officers of the Student Council for A.Y. 2016-2017. **P7**

#### A Day for Students' Heroes

Find out how SISFU students showed their love and appreciation toward their teachers on Teachers' Day. **P13**

#### Meet the New Faces in SISFU's Faculty

We introduce to you the new teachers who recently joined the SISFU family! Read on for more details as told by the teachers themselves! **P14-15**



**BE AMAZING. BE SOUTHVILLE.**



## From the President's Desk

As students embark upon their education at SISFU, they are encouraged and expected to stretch beyond their comfort zones, to challenge their perceived limitations, and to strive beyond their borders.

“Going beyond borders” has been the mantra of SISFU since its inception in 1998. Its founders, compelled to produce high caliber graduates, broke through academic barriers and challenged the status quo. It was the founders’ mission to prepare their students for global challenges and global interdependence.

Breaking through barriers was a daunting process as the founders had to defend the establishment of a university that delivered the curricula of other foreign universities in the Philippines. Equally difficult was the establishment of partnerships with excellent foreign educational institutions and building a talented force of industry-experienced and academically credentialed faculty.

Without the founders’ innovative thinking and commitment to breaking through barriers, SISFU would not be the high quality transnational education provider that we value and enjoy today.

In the spirit of “going beyond,” the students are urged to set meaningful goals and to work smart to achieve them. The faculty is expected to go beyond the traditional teaching strategies and to keep their students engaged and motivated.

As we are all challenged to question our perceived obstacles and limitations and to explore new possibilities, we will become more aware of opportunities for academic, professional, and personal growth.

**Melva M. Diamante, DBA  
President**



## 10 Questions

**Mr. Amir Tohid**, the Assistant Dean of the School of Business and Computing and head of the Academics Department, explains what it takes to deliver high-quality education that SISFU stands for—and how to prepare SISFU students for the global arena.

**The daunting task of delivering the rigid programs of SISFU's partner schools fall on your lap, how do you do it?** Daunting indeed. Our partner schools—Pearson, and De Montfort University—regularly audit SISFU on an annual basis to make sure that their quality standards are being upheld by our faculty and students. In those audits, we need to have all documents adhering to their strict guidelines, proving that we are on the same page with them.

**What do they expect from students?** Fluency in the English language, critical thinking and analysis, and research-based mindset.

**What exactly is critical thinking and analysis required of students?** Critical analytical thinking is a skill in looking closely at details of existing theories/issues so that you can formulate your own opinions and evaluations—leading to logical conclusions. In short, it is being able to break down existing concepts into pieces.

**How could students develop this skill?** Read up not only on a specific assigned topic but beyond—be insatiable. Craft your own arguments that are

supported or negated by your research findings. Have the competitive spirit; better yourself each time. Most importantly, students must treat the classroom as the workplace. In every class, you need to immerse yourself in all activities. Follow rules so discipline becomes a habit. Have a mindset that good is not good enough.

**But some students admit they are often lazy, what can you say about that?**

For now, it is easy to think that it’s okay to be lazy because you don’t have to work till after two years anyway. But in reality, if you do not work hard now or if you are not equipped now, how can you be prepared for your future job? The time to prepare is now. In the past, interviews were done by one person. Today, panel interviews (face-to-face or video conference) are the norm. The process in hiring has also become so steep that for one job alone, employers go through hundreds of applicants.

**Can you paint a workplace scenario that students should prepare for?** When a boss asks for a report at 8 o’clock in the morning, you have to deliver at 8 o’clock, not at 8:05, or heads will roll.

Employers hire you for the knowledge, attitude, competence, and creativity you bring to the table. Once you’re in, you are expected to level up from good to great. That’s why we focus our efforts in making SISFU the training ground for this competitive scenario. The workplace is not the venue for learning; the venue is here. Also, employers now look for generalists, those who can think wide—do what they were trained for, plus more. Students should therefore broaden their exposure by joining our extra-curricular programmes.

**What do you expect from the faculty?** They need to be inspiring, but realistic. Their expertise and experience will definitely help in molding students into future leaders. And with their connections in various industries, they might be able to refer students to challenging jobs. Leadership is another—teachers have to step

ahead, know the latest business trends, and where the academe is going.

**What inspires you?**

Our graduates who are immediately accepted in a job because of their SISFU credentials, then becoming outstanding role models there. I am proud that we have many of those. In fact, employers who have high praises for these graduates get back to us, “Can you give us more of \_\_\_\_\_?” (Mr. Tohid rattled off several names)

**In a nutshell, what do you want students to take home from this?** Learn as much as you can about your course now. Passion is key. Whatever road you tread, being passionate about work will ensure that you will do and give your best at all times.

**Meaning, break borders?** Yes.

By **Isabella Bartolome**



**DE MONTFORT  
UNIVERSITY  
LEICESTER**



**Pearson**

## 10 Questions

**Mrs. Carol Pido**, Dean of the School of Hospitality Management and Director for Senior High School and English Language Center, reflects on her various roles at SISFU

**Can you describe your typical SISFU day?** Besides administrative work, I encounter teaching load and I work together with the management team and our international partners on policies and issues in the school—how to improve or solve them. I am actually in different directions in one day.

**In those responsibilities, what are some of the biggest challenges you encounter?** With the new K-12 system, we are to expect a fewer batch of students that will be in the first year level. Therefore, we need to exert more effort in creating promotions and projects to communicate what we offer. On top of those, I oversee food and beverage operations of the SNX and Bistro Lima.

**Can you share with us one happy memory at SISFU?** It is every time a batch of students graduate from SISFU—and there have been many. Graduation day actually makes me proud to see the students we have nurtured are finally going out to tackle the world.

**If you had a chance to break borders and control everything without limitations, how would the world be?** I choose not to see that kind of future where you give and instill that enormous power on one person. In life, we all need to have team work in order to benefit from the quality and quantity of multiple bodies working together toward one goal. That's the only way we can brave limitations.

**Before becoming an educator, did you have any other dream?** Well, I achieved my dream which was to work in a hotel and eventually manage one. I did that for a few years and I gained experience through it. To be honest with you, I did not expect to see myself teaching.

**Any regrets in your career change?** The mistakes and missteps I had along the way strengthened my resolve to move forward. Experiences, pleasant or unpleasant, make us the person we are today. So, none. There are no regrets from my end really. Failing and going through challenges are parts of the learning process. We should embrace them.

**As a teacher now, how do you handle a difficult student?**

Everyone is different. No two students are alike. Therefore, every individual needs a special way of teaching to actually unlock the potential he or she has. To overcome challenges, every student must stay positive even if the outcomes are not, and try to stay open-minded and think outside the box. Having a one-sided mentality will bring you nowhere. There is no such thing as an ideal student, either. What makes a student great is his/her passion, self-motivation, and drive to succeed and to be a better version of himself/herself.

**Any personal vision for the school?** All I really want is for SISFU to succeed and expand further. I want the SISFU brand to be recognized as a campus that trains students to be job-ready anywhere in the world after graduation. I am hoping we could gather more students who desire to be globally competitive since first year students will be limited by the next school year because of K-12.

**How do you find the Filipino culture? How good are you in Tagalog?** Terrible. But since Filipinos are adept at both speaking English and speaking Filipino, we have the Taglish. That makes it easier for me to understand the drift of a conversation. But to be honest, the challenges I encounter with the language is when I am driving. Many Filipino drivers do not have the discipline on the road—you know, proper driving etiquette. Also, the dreaded Filipino time! I'm sure you know what I mean.

**What limited you from moving on to where you are now?**

No limitations really. With the pace that I have now, it's safe to say that I'm content. Everything is going well in school and my personal life. I like where I am right now.

By **Justin Dionaldo**



## SISFU STUDENT LIFE

By **Mr. Leo Anoché**

At SISFU, we want our students to share a passion and curiosity for exploration. We encourage them to go beyond their comfort zone, to emerge stronger, more self-aware, self-assured, and self-reliant. In the process, their fellow students, staff, and faculty challenge them, push them, support them, cheer them on, and gladly lend them a helping hand.

If they have a question, we listen. If they have a problem, our doors are open – no appointments required. If they need help with their subjects, we provide them with mentors and out-of-class consultations.

We are committed to their academic success.

We want them to work hard, have fun, and in the end, achieve:

- The confidence to lead and inspire
- That awesome sense of accomplishment and pride
- Beautiful friendships and lasting memories
- Business and professional relationships for life

At SISFU, our students find a community that is challenging, exhilarating, fun, and thoroughly transformative—something they recognize from the moment they meet us and talk to us.



Did you know?

## PALADIN

In the ancient days of chivalry and heroism, the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne had elite knights, also called The Twelve Peers or Paladins. These formidable warriors were conquerors, high-level officials of the imperial court. For a paladin, courage and glory are paramount.

In this 2017 issue of The Bridge, read about our own SISFU Paladins, modern warriors who strive to break borders. (Ed.)

## Braving Borders

By Aaron Alvarez

Eight months ago, I weighed 109 kilograms. I was considered obese and pre-diabetic.

My knees ached, my back was strained, and my eating habits were downright unhealthy. I had become sluggish and therefore had problems maintaining my academic focus and goals.

Since I had always struggled with losing weight, I soon became comfortable with my heaviset body. This made me believe that I had nothing to change, that I should just accept who I am.

But there were people who cared enough to nag me to lose weight. Thanks to them, I finally decided to do so.

I started by eating healthier and hitting the gym. I promised myself that I will stick to my weight loss regimen, no matter how difficult. All through those months, I had uncontrollable cravings for sugar-filled goodies and junk foods. Ignoring them was anything but sweet (pun intended). Each day, exercising seemed like voluntary torture.

These were my borders—insurmountable and overwhelming—that hemmed me in. It was a daily struggle to break through them. I was tempted to stay where I was, stop trying to go beyond them, and simply live the easy college life I was used to.

But I slogged on.

With self-imposed discipline and dedication, I persevered . . . and persevered . . . and persevered, chipping away at my borders bit by bit.

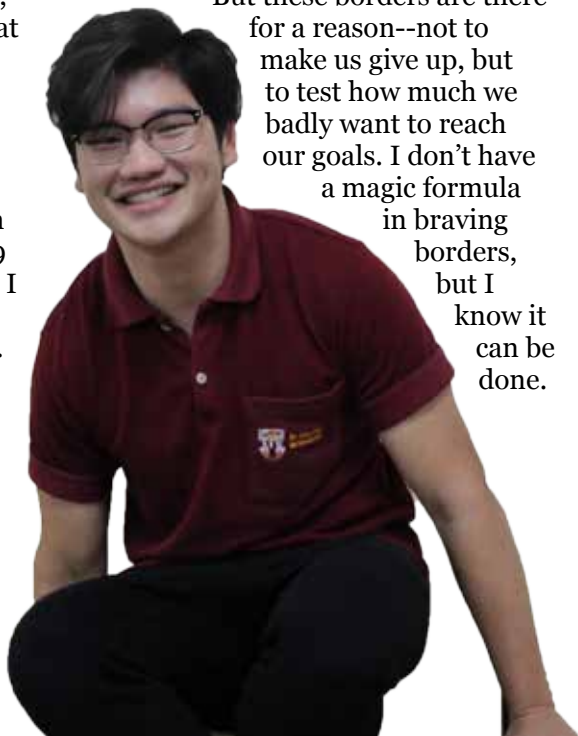
From a staggering 109 kilograms, I am now down to 79 kilograms. And I am determined to keep it there.

I believe I speak for all of us when I say that, at some point, we have been imprisoned by intimidating borders. These can

reduce us to cowering cowards in a state of retreat. Braving them seems impossible.

Your borders may not be obesity, or lack of desire to change for the better. Maybe they come in the form of procrastination, cyber distraction, sloth, lack of motivation, love life, or even self-doubt of your skills. Borders, in whatever form, can hinder our academic journey.

But these borders are there for a reason—not to make us give up, but to test how much we badly want to reach our goals. I don't have a magic formula in braving borders, but I know it can be done.



## REFLECTIONS

Two warmly written essays were chosen to be featured in this issue. Read on and see why.

### “My Dutch Uncle”

Randy Pausch identifies himself as a person who is straightforward, with no patience toward incompetence.

I see myself that way, too.

Often, people would say to me that I come off as rude or arrogant, simply because I say what's on my mind.

In “The Last Lecture,” Randy Pausch tells us about his Dutch Uncle, the person who spoke truth into his life. Randy was an outstanding college student at the time, but he was cocky and tactless, souring his relationship with others. Andy Van Dam, one of the college professors, told him that it was a shame for people to see Randy as arrogant because it would limit him from accomplishing numerous things. It was a bitter truth that Randy needed to hear, but it became a turning point in his life.

I agree. Because of the countless times I was misunderstood, I became cautious about the things I say.

One close friend of mine asked why I often

think aloud. She added that I needed to re-evaluate my attitude because people would end up not liking me.

I told myself, “I don't need people to like me; I just want people to be genuine with me the way I am with them.”

I believe that this “flaw” of mine is more social in nature rather than moral, because I never mean to hurt others. If I don't speak my mind, I feel like I am being dishonest.

Like Randy, I learned that not everybody will appreciate you for your perceived “flaws.” But if you believe that your intentions are good, the right people will come around and see this good in you.

I am glad to have Dutch Uncles (or aunts)—my friends who give me the tough love I need—pointing out when I go overboard, but never taking it against me.

By **Alyssa Peraman**

### “My Brick Wall and How I Conquered It”

During my childhood, I had a lot to be thankful for. Back in Nevada, USA, I thought I was a little different from the others. I couldn't comprehend things, struggled a lot in school, and needed special instructions. It was difficult to make friends since nobody wanted to be with the weird girl who could not communicate, and unable to help herself.

My parents paid for the best special schools to help me, but I always ended up a failure.

I was Dyslexic.

I believed everything that others told me. Once my brother said that humans could breathe underwater. I tried it and almost drowned. My brother was surprised I actually believed his joke!

Being dyslexic was lonely; the air felt dull and gray. I didn't have too many people to connect with, except my uncles and lolas who lived with us. My brother, who had many friends, had a best friend who was always around. He eventually became my only friend.

Meanwhile, my family struggled in giving me special attention. Simultaneously, we had to

move back to the Philippines since business was not good in the US. It was a difficult time.

This move made me realize that if I wanted to help make my family's life easier, I had to do my part and try my best to improve: learn doing things on my own and only when things got too hard should I ask for help.

The Philippines was a totally different environment—with varied but more caring people close by. I started taking my special classes more seriously and discovered reading.

Eventually, I developed my great love for reading—and writing. I created, wove, and narrated stories to my family, making my parents say I could be a writer someday.

It might have been about this time that my dyslexia was gone.

At SISFU's Business Communication class, while reading “The Last Lecture,” I was struck by this statement, “Brick walls are there for a reason.” Indeed, they are. And only those who dare will conquer them.

Brick walls give us a chance to brave borders.

By **Patricia Berris**

## Editorial Cartoon



Birds roam the skies freely. There are no limits to stop them. Whether they migrate collectively or individually, birds seek freedom. A person can be a bird—one who is willing to soar and brave borders.

By **Jirah Aguilo**

# EDITORIAL BOARD



**AARON ALVAREZ**  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

**ISABELLA BARTOLOME**  
**MANAGING/SPORTS EDITOR**

**MELISSA GONZALES**  
**ALUMNI/NEWS EDITOR**

**SHIANDRA MENDOZA**  
**FEATURES EDITOR**

### WRITERS

**RAFAYEL CORNEJO**  
**PAULA MARTINEZ**  
**JIRAH AGUILO**  
**SU NAM JANG**

**ERICA LACISTE**  
**PAOLO TOMACRUZ**  
**JUSTIN DIONALDO**  
**CLARENCE TROZADO**

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER:**  
**SAM MALIKSI**

**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
**ADMIN**  
**ACADEMICS**  
**MARKETING**

## SISFU OPENS DOORS TO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMME

A big change has happened in the country's academic world.

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013," better known as K-12, is being implemented this school year, 2016-2017.

The K-12 programme covers 13 years of basic education with the following key stages: Kindergarten

to grade 3; grades 4 to 6; grades 7 to 10 (Junior High School); and grades 11-12 (Senior High School).

This academic change, particularly the Senior High School (SHS), has likewise come to SISFU in June last year when the first batch of SHS students were welcomed to the campus.

DepEd announced that with this

change, the College Education Curriculum (CEC) would have fewer units. Subjects that have been taken up in the K-12 will be removed from the CEC. In response, SISFU's SHS programme incorporated the DepEd and foundation subjects, which are taken up in the first-year college level. (For more information, please access the SISFU website.)

According to the SHS programme head, Ailene Fulgencio, "The advantage of enrolling at SISFU is that our first year college subjects (foundation) have been woven into the SHS program. Upon completion of the SHS programme, therefore, the graduates will be awarded both the SHS diploma as well as the Certificate for accomplishing SISFU's foundation subjects."

This exclusive SISFU programme gives the SHS graduates the advantage of proceeding directly to the Pearson Edexcel programme (equivalent to second year college) and skipping the first year level.

The Philippines is the last country in Asia and one of only three countries worldwide with a 10-year pre-university cycle (Angola and Djibouti are the other two). From the DepEd website, "The K-12 program is found to be the best period for learning under basic education. It is also the recognized standard for students and professionals globally."

Ms. Fulgencio added, "SISFU continues to strive in keeping its international standard of education by applying structured practices of both local and foreign schools into the SHS program."

She explained that it took almost two years for the SISFU Management and Academic Committee to prepare for the SHS implementation. "The enrollment of students in high school with the college program was a big challenge for us. Much work had gone into their development, while maintaining the integrity of the current college program, especially at the first-year level."

By **Su Nam "Kevin" Jang**



## KEY TO CORPORATE LEADERSHIP: SISFU'S NEW MBA PROGRAMME

A major addition to SISFU's global academic offerings in 2017 is the SISFU-UK MBA programme. This is particularly significant because it gives all applicants—including SISFU college graduates who are now taking up business management, finance, human resource management, marketing, entrepreneurship or project management careers—to have a clear path in moving closer to leadership and managerial excellence in the workplace.

Business professionals who have graduated from this programme

(first offered in 1998 in the UK) are playing key roles in companies located in Europe, Australia, the US, Middle East, and Asia-Pacific.

According to Ms. Caroline Mediodia, MBA Programme Leader, "This MBA offering combines the strengths of partner universities' curricula in UK. The programme awards its graduates with two UK credentials: (1) Post-graduate diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership, and (2) Master of Business Administration (MBA)."

Some special features of this offering are: provision of individual student members to guide the student through the entire programme; classes held on Saturdays; and highly interactive classes, which use problem-based and experiential learning approaches as well as roleplaying. It is tailor-fitted to benefit job-ready college graduates or people in business who want career advancement.

All modules are designed for critical thinking and decision making in preparation for

challenging management roles within a global context as each participant advances in his or her professional life. These modules provide students opportunities in developing a range of skills, techniques, and processes that are essential in enhancing workplace effectiveness.

The SISFU-UK MBA programme is delivered both on-campus and off-campus, which complies with its tagline: "UK-MBA Within Your Reach."

By **Melissa Gonzales**

# Master of Business Administration (MBA)

delivered by  
**SOUTHVILLE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**  
AFFILIATED WITH FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES



## SISFU GOES ONLINE



Now, busy individuals with no time for a college education can receive a UK degree through SISFU's new program: Blended Online Course.

Without having to leave home, one can study online with personal instruction through email, Skype, meet-ups, etc.

Lessons are delivered via a Learning Management System (LMS) that contains all necessary lessons and materials. Students may communicate with their instructor only at their own time.

This UK-based business program gives candidates access to higher education; enhances career prospects; and contributes to personal development.

After successfully completing 15 required subjects, candidates will be awarded the Higher National Diploma (HND) in Business Management from Pearson (London, UK), UK's largest awarding body offering academic and technical qualifications that are globally recognized. Pearson has over a million students in more than 140 countries.

The HND will then serve as entry to getting the Bachelor's degree (only 6 subjects) from a UK university through SISFU.

All in all, the HND and Bachelor's degree would take about three years of full-time study or four to five years, part-time.

## New Team, New Chapter



Every story has a beginning and an ending. In every new chapter, as the pages are turned, the story draws in the reader more deeply. There is always something new to make one turn to the next page and the next—to discover how the story unfolds.

This year, a new page has turned in the book of SISFU Student Council (SC) with a new set of officers.

A quick run-down of the new characters of the story: Fatima Muhsen as President; Isabella Bartolome, Vice President; Genevie Abarsoza, Secretary; Allie Marasigan, Treasurer/Auditor; Julianne Bello, P.R.O for SOBC; Hannah Ortiz, P.R.O. for SOHM; Paolo Tomacruz, Level Representative for 1st year- Marketing Management; Nikki Lim and Gianne Era Level Representatives for Senior High School.

These new officers and members of the SC have been working hard and doing their best to produce the best events for SISFU students. They sacrifice much of their time and efforts as they plan, decide, and work on the events like the College

Preparatory Program, Freshtival, Clash of Colors, 2nd General Assembly, The Haunting, SISFUN, and many more.

"Being in a position of responsibility is no easy task," said Fatima Muhsen. "There are mountain-high bumps along the way."

Like all characters in a story, however, they fight-off monsters that sometimes come from within themselves: negativity, doubt, and fear are just some of the challenges they go through to move forward.

When asked what keeps these characters from not giving up despite these challenges, Fatima Muhsen, president, said, "Working as an ensemble. Thankfully, all the officers are endowed with drive and passion—those are enough to help solve conflicts to make every project a success."

Meaning, even if the plot thickens, this group of dedicated students are determined to give their story a happy ending.

By **Isabella Bartolome**

## RQF: AN UPGRADED, MORE FOCUSED EDEXCEL

Tutors spend countless hours pondering how to support their students in achieving their learning goals. Their desire is for students to achieve all learning outcomes of every course.

Finding the best way to help tutors in this task, Pearson Edexcel has devised the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF), an improved and more focused programme in place of the old QCF (Qualifications Credit Framework).

The RQF is now being implemented by SISFU, beginning the third term of the school year 2016-2017, among the freshmen.

Aside from preparing the students for the workplace, the RQF trains them to adapt to professional

behaviour and understand the rudiments of business through related activities outside and inside the classroom. This programme, also pushes students to adjust to different workplace scenarios so that they will be job-ready after graduating from SISFU.

Ms. Rose Caoile, SISFU's head internal verifier explained, "The Front Sheet has been changed to Assignment Brief, which details what a student is supposed to achieve. It will only be given to students on the 4th week. Before that, tutors are to expose students to different workplace situations through creative activities and research. The descriptors [Merit and Distinction] can be achieved if students go beyond what are required."

The RQF system trains students to analyze, synthesize, and do critical thinking on various business aspects.

In delivering RQF, SISFU is also implementing the 20% attendance rule. Meaning, students have to attend classes and required activities up to 80% to maximize learning and exposure to business. Deadlines are also strictly followed; all papers are expected to be submitted at the designated cutoff date.

"I am inspired to take down notes during class hours and to listen well—learning from my Tutors and classmates," said Daphne Bautista,

one of the freshmen students.

"Goodbye procrastination," added King Badiola, another freshman student.

By **Paolo Tomacruz & Clarence Trozado**





## Marc Santos

“SISFU’s constant emphasis on essay writing has helped with my coursework and assignments here in the UK, making things that much easier during the transition.”

Marc was the editor-in-chief of The Bridge before he moved to Leicester at De Montfort University. According to him, he is getting accustomed to living in another country. Prior to being at SISFU, he had already moved from one place to another. And now he is in another country again. So he

does not quite know how to reply when someone asks, “Where’s home?”

Since arriving in the United Kingdom, he has enjoyed a sense of freedom. He has no family to depend on and certainly none of his mum’s home-cooked meals. This freedom brings

with it additional responsibilities, “Doing housework and everything on my own.”

In his early days at UK, everything was relatively a new experience, from navigating his way around the city and campus, to learning how to cook a meal without the dreaded Salmonella. Even his learning style and routine have morphed from writing and researching theories into practical or imple-

mentation to be corporate ready.

“It takes effort to balance work and social life,” he laughs.

Academic-wise, Marc says SISFU prepared him well for De Montfort. SISFU’s nurturing environment and rigid training on research and writing are helping him do his coursework and assignments.

“The transition was a breeze,” he stressed.



## Cristina Gonzalez

Cristina is currently studying in the University of Chester U.K., taking up Business Management and Entrepreneurship. According to her, she is confident that she can complete her degree there.

Cristina says, “SISFU has taught me many lessons, but the most important one was to

find myself and what I really want in life.” She also claims that having been educated within an international environment at SISFU is a huge advantage.

At UK, Cristina is learning how to fend for herself, which has led her to become a truly independent person. She is now

able to communicate with locals in the U.K. easily, although it was difficult in the beginning.

The system of the

University of Chester in UK may be similar to SISFU’s, but Cristina stresses, “I need to strive harder in studying here because I am representing the name of SISFU.”

“As a SISFU Alumna, I have been equipped with strength and skills to complete my degree abroad.”



## Cerwin Domingo

“Though I have learned about many different cultures in the United Kingdom, they aren’t all too different from my interactions with the foreign students at SISFU.”

As a University of Chester student, Cerwin says studying abroad has taught him a lot of things: adjusting to a foreign setting, living independently, and coping with everyday problems. The different cultures of foreign students of SISFU are no different from the

different cultures he is adjusting to in UK.

One thing that stands out among the lessons he is learning is punctuality. He is to be on time in every event or activity because it is unpleasant to keep others waiting. Living

independently, Cerwin has become a health buff. Living in a small town where every place is within walking distance, he is able to have a regular exercise routine. Cooking his own meals, he is able to choose his own ingredients.

“Most

importantly,” Cerwin says, “I have realized

what I truly want and learned to be my true self.”

Studying in the UK is difficult because it is far away from home, but Cerwin says that SISFU’s University of Chester curriculum familiarized him with the school’s curriculum, albeit in a different environment.



## Daniel Tancio

A former SISFU student, Daniel chose to finish his degree at Deakin University in Australia after two years at SISFU.

Like many students in SISFU, Daniel experienced a hard time adjusting to the school’s educational system, which offers no minor electives. But Daniel is greatly appreciative that because of this, he

had the opportunity to better focus on his course’s major subjects.

“SISFU’s international curriculum made it possible for me to continue my studies with minimum delay,” he said. Deakin University recognised and credited most of his units taken in SISFU, and he is now pursuing a bachelor’s degree in

Accountancy. SISFU has indeed played a big role in Daniel’s life. “SISFU boosted my confidence. It prepared me for the world by equipping me with an education, discipline, and

skills that are professionally recognised in a global context,” he stressed.

Daniel is now only one semester away from receiving his bachelor’s degree.

“At first I thought it was going to be difficult adjusting to a new academic environment and system. I was wrong. In the end, I was ecstatic to find out that what I was doing back in SISFU is the same as I am doing here in Australia now.”



## DOWN GOES THE PHILIPPINE PESO

The Philippine peso fell to its lowest level against the US dollar in seven years as it breached the P49 to \$1 last October.

At the beginning of 2017, it almost reached P50. This increase is alarming international schools like SISFU where dollar exchange alone hikes tuition fees.

In the past months, the peso has dropped by 3.5%. The drop began in September last year when President Rodrigo Duterte declared a "state of national emergency on account of lawless violence"

after a deadly bombing in Davao City on September 2. The President has also made global headlines after saying some unnecessary words to former President of the United States, Barack Obama. He has also compared himself to the leader of the Nazi Party, Adolf Hitler.

According to Amando Tetangco, Jr. the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor, "The continued weakness of the peso is due to the uncertainties brought about by the next action of the US Fed as well as strong

demand for US dollars". For local consumers, this means that due to the weak peso there will be higher prices for international goods and services. The government will also need more funds to pay for the servicing of the country's foreign debts, which are denominated in US dollars.

It is also unfortunate for businessmen in the Philippines using US dollars to pay for manufacturing and buying of raw material because of increasing prices. On the other hand,

OFW's will benefit from the weakened peso because this will give them greater buying power. With this power, more trade will occur. This means there will be an increase in economic activities which will benefit the lower and middle class families. This, in turn, will strengthen the economy in the long run.

Although the peso has strayed off course, we can expect the BSP to be a good shepherd once more and guide the Philippine peso back on track.

By Paolo Tomacruz

## SJMA JOINS PJMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SJMA members, accompanied by Ms. Suzette Bongalosa, were recently selected to join and represent SISFU at the annual Philippine Junior Marketing Association (PJMA) General Assembly held at the Yuchengco Auditorium, De La Salle University-Manila, with the theme, EZEL: Discovering Marketing Wonders.

The event was organized to enhance the students' knowledge about marketing through activities that challenge the creativity and entrepreneurial skills of the participants. Speakers were invited to motivate, inspire, and guide each student towards effective marketing.

One of the speakers, Ed Mapa, CEO of Digital Art Network, introduced the participants to the topic "Humanizing Brands in

Digital," emphasizing its significance in relaying information between a business owner and a consumer. The other speaker, Sean Si of SEO Hackers, shed light on his road to becoming a CEO at a young age of 22.

When asked about the future events the organization would mount, SJMA President Allie Marasigan said, "We are planning to join Agora 2017. We might also have a seminar with Henry Tenedero, the Main Convener of the "One Nation Learning Advocacy," as our speaker."

Fatima Muhsen, Vice President of SJMA, added that "Plans have not been finalized but we assure you that activities will be exciting and inspiring."

By Paula Martinez

## A HEROIC HALLOWEEN

Everyone was given the opportunity to be a hero last October 29, during SISFU'S yearly Halloween event called The Haunting V: Movies.

Inspired by this successful annual event, the SISFU Rotaract Club, in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), introduced The Haunting: Escape Room.

This new variation was specially created for children 12 years of age and below. To generate more excitement, the SISFU Rotaract also mounted a charity bake sale full of Halloween treats at the lobby of the SISFU building on the same day.

The Haunting: Escape room, with the bake sale, was especially significant because it was mounted for a noble cause: raise funds for the

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UNICEF is an agency of the United Nations, committed to uphold the rights of children, and to improve their quality of life. It covers education, health and nutrition, disaster risk reduction and emergencies, HIV and AIDS prevention, child protection, communication and local policy and institutional development.

As SISFU Rotaract's beneficiary for The Haunting kiddie-version, the UNICEF was presented with the proceeds of every ticket purchase of Php150 and the profits of the charity bake sale. The hashtag "#BeAHero" created by UNICEF had been fulfilled. Truly, we have become heroes!

By Jirah Aguilo

## THE INVESTAGRAMS STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE

The Southville Junior Financial Executives is currently participating in a Stock Market Challenge: competing teams from different colleges and universities need to create a good-stock portfolio in order to win cash prizes amounting up to P150,000.

The competition would be held virtually, using the app Investagram. Participants would be given virtual money that will be used to invest in stocks, which mirror the Philippine Stock Exchange. Every aspect of the stocks in the competition is up-to-date with the real stocks.

Like real investors and/or brokers, the participants would have to rely on news and word about the companies in the stock

market and choose which to invest in. The app Investagram, which is a cross between stock trading and social media, allows users to use the virtual money given to them while having their own portfolio and trade their stocks. While investing, participants can also post messages, add friends and photos, just like any other social media platform.

Currently, the school's representative, Erica Laciste, has been keeping up with the local and international news in order to stay on top of the competition. The Bridge editorial staff wishes Ms. Laciste good luck as she goes for gold.

By Justin Dionaldo

## WOFEX: PHILIPPINE CULINARY CUP

The World Food Expo (WOFEX), the biggest and most effective food show in the Philippines, opened its doors again for the Philippine Culinary Cup last August 3-6 at the SMX Convention Center.

A prestigious competition—judged by internationally and locally acclaimed chefs—the Philippine Culinary Cup (PCC) is the country's only competition accredited by the World Association of Chefs Societies. Students from various schools get a chance to showcase their talents in the culinary field.

In preparation for the big event, SISFU selected candidates from Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management through an in-house competition called "market basket."

The participants drew lots on what source of protein (e.g. chicken, beef, pork, fish, etc.) they would base their dish on. They chose from varied ingredients and side dishes. From their selections, they had to create a Western style main-course with two sides and a sauce for two persons. Within a limited time frame,

they had to conceptualize and prepare the dish, as well as to document their recipes.

Judged by SISFU's own chefs, Chef Paul Samson, Chef David Cruz and Chef Ryan Pido, three students were chosen to represent the school in the competition: Paul Samson for the category of US Pork; So Hyun Jun (Emily) for the cooked local fish or seafood category; and Emeldy Thompson for the US poultry category.

Emeldy Thompson brought home the bronze award with her recipe: truffled chicken roulade served with green apple slaw, fermented duck egg yolk "balut" cream gravy and duck fat biscuit!

From that experience, Emeldy said, "it was extraordinary, one that I will improve from... my involvement in the competition has made me more confident in preparing different delightful cuisines in the kitchen. I learned and practiced a lot in preparation for the competition... thanks to my mentors at SISFU."

By Jirah Aguilo

# Investagrams

## Serendipity

2:34 PM, 07 August 2015—I was running late for our Senior High School Career Fair where several schools take time and effort to visit our campus and entice us to transfer to theirs. As I entered the main door and sat by the window, a tall and fair-skinned lady stood before us and by the time she uttered “affiliated with foreign universities,” she caught my complete attention.

When I was younger, much of my life had already been planned by my parents—what schools I would go to, what profession I would pursue, and how I would be in the future.

In tenth grade, I realized I must begin to partly take charge of my own life and be held responsible for whatever decisions I need to make to reach my goals, one of which revolves around pursuing law and accountancy, and writing, in Europe.

As it has always been my dream to live and work in Europe, deciding to transfer to SISFU is by far the wisest and most rational decision I’ve ever made on

my own. For once, I stood up for what I think is best for me with full understanding of the circumstances that may hinder and steer me away from my goals.

However, why I chose SISFU is not only for career purposes, but also for myself.

It is not about the global doors opening for me, but how these opportunities would hone and develop my entirety. It is not about me having to spend two hours to and from school, since our home is two cities away, but how I am willing to take risks and adapt to the environment just so I could succeed in my endeavors. It is about but how I will manage to become completely independent and capable of assessing my needs.

Most importantly, why I chose SISFU is not only about me transferring to another school, but about my readiness to conquer my fears and uncertainties, however daunting they may be.

By **Paula Martinez**

school was a bit more restrictive and that the environment here is more open and free.

Braving Borders to him means, “It’s experiencing something new, while accepting whatever or whoever is around you, no matter what race, culture, or religion.”

**Alyssa Peraman** discovered SISFU through her family, and being a Paladin is one of the best decisions she has made.

This former Bangladeshi student is in first year Business Management. One of the reasons she thinks of the school as an amazing choice would be the fact that SISFU could help in searching for and recommending her to a position relevant to her degree when she enters the workforce. She thinks that the faculty and staff are well-educated and always cheerful.

“The educational system and the environment in general is better here than in Bangladesh,” she said. One of the factors is the teacher-student ration. There are more students in the classroom handled by one teacher in Bangladesh, giving educators less time to focus individually on each student. “In SISFU, the number of students per class is limited, thus allowing instructors to nurture and shape students in a way that would benefit them in the future.

Alyssa also likes the fact that the school assists its students with internships both in the Philippines and in other countries.

She believes that the SISFU system of education is challenging her to go beyond perceived and self-limiting borders.



**Kate Cruz** came from the great white north, Canada. Like many of SISFU’s students who have transferred from abroad.



Kate discovered the school via the Internet. She picked the school because she wanted to have a degree that was recognized all over the globe. Another factor was, her family chose this school for her as well.

Kate says there is no difference between the system here and her old school. There is, however, a difference when it comes to the culture. It is easier for students to communicate with faculty and staff at SISFU, especially in dealing with academic issues that the students cannot face alone. “Here, students can easily approach one of the teachers to guide them through any assignment they need help with,” Kate explained.

Braving Borders to her means, not being afraid of changes and consequences, being brave to exceed expectations, and giving one’s best in every task.

By **Justin Dionaldo**

## FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD

SISFU houses numerous students from different places in the globe—from its nearest neighbor, Hong Kong, to far-away Canada. Four of them tell us why they came to SISFU.

**Johnny Offord**, a first year management student, hails from California, where he previously attended college. He says, “The whole environment of SISFU is different from that of colleges in USA.”

For one, students are required to wear a uniform here—a suit at that. He understands, however, that the uniform is part of the training, which is to prepare students for their



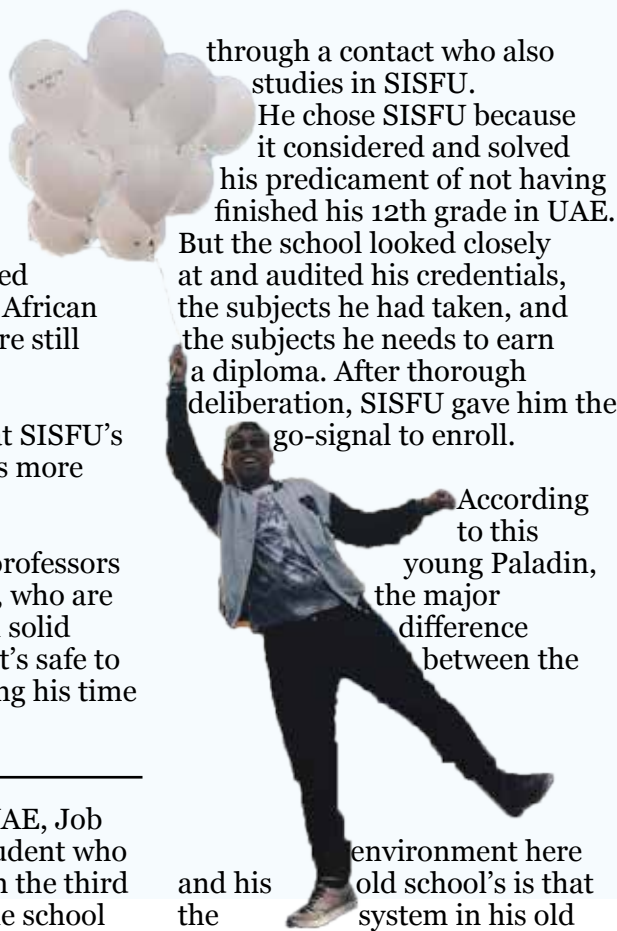
workplaces.

For another, American colleges are more diverse. In SISFU, although there are different nationalities represented (Asian, European, and African ethnicities), majority are still Filipinos.

John also observed that SISFU’s campus environment is more relaxed and free.

He gives credit to the professors and the academic staff, who are all “well-educated with solid industry experience.” It’s safe to say that John is enjoying his time being a Paladin.

**Job Corpuz:** From UAE, Job is another first-year student who transferred to SISFU in the third term. He discovered the school



through a contact who also studies in SISFU. He chose SISFU because it considered and solved his predicament of not having finished his 12th grade in UAE. But the school looked closely at and audited his credentials, the subjects he had taken, and the subjects he needs to earn a diploma. After thorough deliberation, SISFU gave him the go-signal to enroll.

According to this young Paladin, the major difference between the

environment here and his old school’s is that the system in his old

## FINDING ENJOYMENT AT SISFU

I came to SISFU because three friends of mine have graduated from this school and they’re now all working. Last time I checked, they’re happy with their jobs, with no complaint.

That makes me happy as well, knowing I am going to be associated with the school they all graduated from.

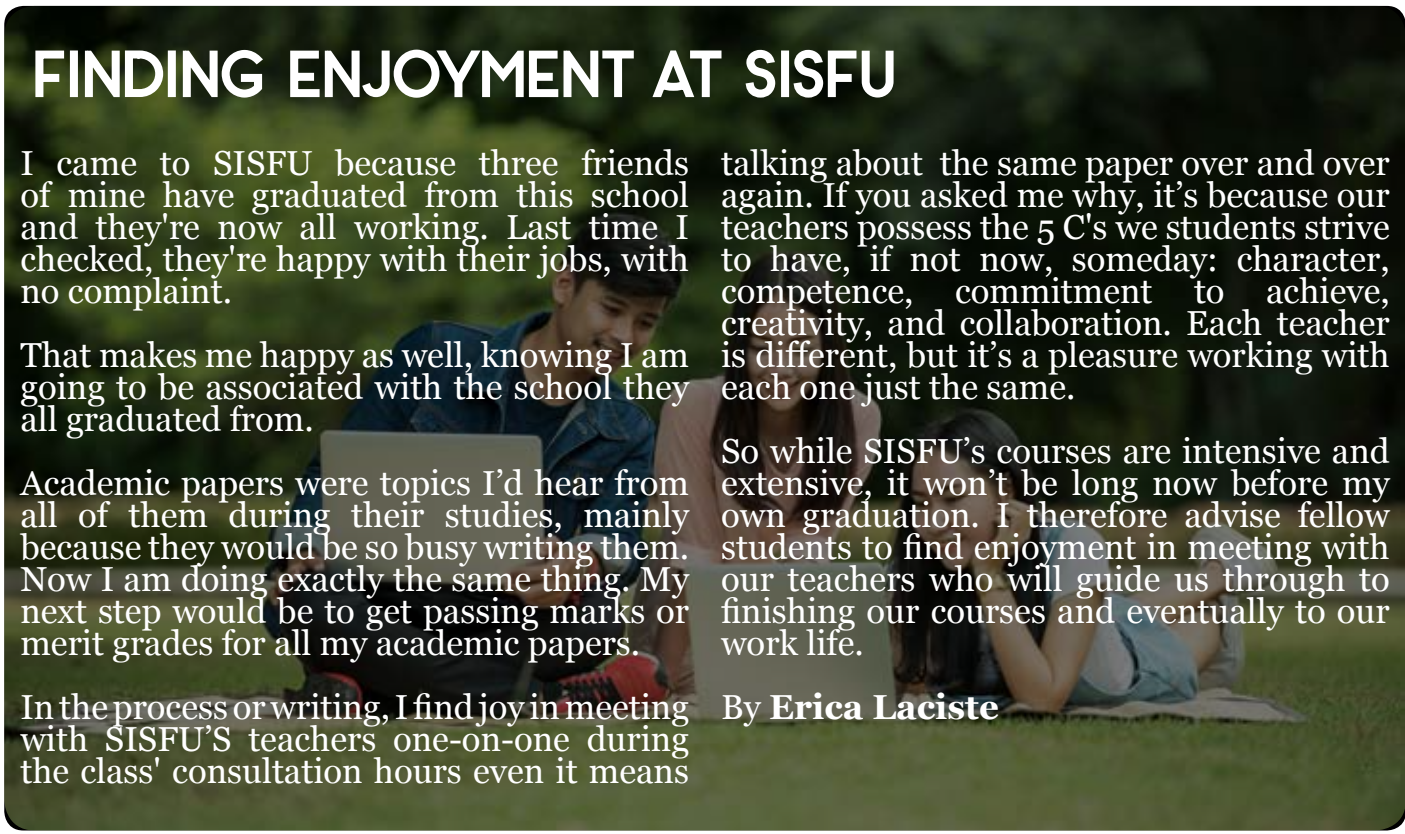
Academic papers were topics I’d hear from all of them during their studies, mainly because they would be so busy writing them. Now I am doing exactly the same thing. My next step would be to get passing marks or merit grades for all my academic papers.

In the process of writing, I find joy in meeting with SISFU’S teachers one-on-one during the class’ consultation hours even it means

talking about the same paper over and over again. If you asked me why, it’s because our teachers possess the 5 C’s we students strive to have, if not now, someday: character, competence, commitment to achieve, creativity, and collaboration. Each teacher is different, but it’s a pleasure working with each one just the same.

So while SISFU’s courses are intensive and extensive, it won’t be long now before my own graduation. I therefore advise fellow students to find enjoyment in meeting with our teachers who will guide us through to finishing our courses and eventually to our work life.

By **Erica Laciste**





# STUDENT LIFE

## PALADIN'S Rising Star

**Janine Teñoso**, 18, was taking up Business Management in SISFU and was the News Editor of The Bridge when she joined “Born to be a Star,” a singing competition aired on TV 5. She became a finalist, and her life changed forever. Today, she has her own single, “Fall.”

Janine recently visited the school to meet old classmates and friends. She narrated how she is adjusting from being a student to a performing artist.

**A few months ago you were just singing at school events and now you have your very own single. How was the transition like?**

I feel pressured but blessed. In “Born to be a Star,” the finalists were formed in groups and all activities were hectic. But as I was already embarking on going solo, the pressure to sing and work with a group and being on my own, at the same time, seemed like a heavy burden.

**What made you write “Fall” and what is it all about?** The song was inspired by my friend’s story. It’s about a girl who has to choose between her love life and a

more important priority.

I wrote this song because I felt that a lot of people—like me—can relate to it.

**Before “Born to be star,” what was Janine like?**

A shy, stay-at-home college

student.

**And now as a solo artist? A confident artist with her own single released by Viva Records.**

**How did you transition from SISFU to Viva Records?** SISFU was a big help. For example, dealing with different people and communicating with them. In SISFU, we had many class presentations that taught me how to speak in public and gave me confidence in communicating with people. So now, when I do interviews, I am able to answer questions and think on the spot. Being involved in different organizations like CRADLE and The Bridge also helped me a lot. I experienced dealing with varied personalities and handling different responsibilities. In the real world where I am now, the scenario is similar. With the skills I learned from SISFU, I am able to adjust and cope.

**Can you share with us your next steps after this solo feat?** I plan to come back to SISFU next school year and finish my course. Right now, I’m still promoting “Fall” and doing mall shows. Hopefully, I will have an album in the near future.

**Has singing always been your dream?** I have always wanted what God has planned for me. Since he gave me a talent in singing, I feel He brought me to where I am today. That’s why I am doing my best. I feel happy and super blessed.

It was a pleasure to see Janine Tenoso on campus again. We look forward to seeing her in uniform soon. Check out her single, “Fall” on the Youtube channel of Viva Records. Also, you can follow her on Instagram and Twitter with the handle @\_janinekris and you may wish to like her Facebook page, Janine Kris Teñoso.

By **Isabella Bartolome**

## DEATH WITH A CLICK

Degrading or bashing a person's character and personality with cruel words, making him question his self-worth, is considered bullying. There are many forms of bullying, but the most common one in our generation today—because of technology—is cyber bullying.

Cyber bullies use social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. They often take aliases in order to avoid vengeance and being identified by anyone. Sadly, all it takes is a click.

A high school student in Parañaque City suffered permanent scars in the hands of cyber bullies. He had a few friends and was your typical star pupil. One day, he went home from school to find out that pictures of him were cruelly edited and posted in different social media sites. He became the laughing stock in the whole school, and his friends abandoned him.

Day after day, more and more people made fun of him. Almost

every night anonymous bashers ridiculed his love for school. He got so terrified of even going to school and seeing his schoolmates that he skipped all his classes for at least a month.

This is just one story of the hundreds of thousands of students who have been cyber-bullied.

Every day, we hear of poor cyber-bullying victims suffering from emotional and mental instability, and sadly, some have ended their own lives by committing suicide.

Fortunately, laws have been created to punish bullies, namely: Republic Act No. 10627. They can now be jailed for their cruel acts against fellow human beings.

This makes us wonder, do bullies find pleasure in causing other people misery and pain? Does it not bother their conscience to cause death with a click?

By **Paolo Tomacruz**

## PERSONALITY-FOCUSED:

### SISFU'S 2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SISFU'S 2nd general assembly held in October last year broke tradition and featured a seminar on “Personal Branding” delivered by Francis Leocadio, one of John Robert Powers International teaching consultants.

John Robert Powers is a network of schools and centres worldwide that specializes in teaching personal development, personality enhancement and imaging, as well as communications, modeling and acting.

Before the seminar, the announcements made in the previous assembly such as new policies, changes, updates on campus, and expectations were reiterated for clarity.

While waiting for the seminar

to begin, the students were entertained with a dance and a duet by Joshua Decena and Johann De Lumen with Kelsey Santiago, respectively.

Mr. Leocadio, a known coach of political personalities as well as show business celebrities, taught and enlightened the students on how to think, dress up, and behave during a job interview and eventually in the workplace.

To cap the seminar, the speaker gave away four free tickets to one of John Robert Powers' workshops. Randomly picked, the lucky recipients of the tickets were: Myron Ordillano, Patricia Berris, Minggoy Tamayo, and Kenneth Mercado.

By **Su Nam “Kevin” Jang**

## GAME WELL-PLAYED

Life is a game we all play—and it's all about winning. It's braving all limitations to close the distance between losing and winning.

**Victor Justin Talisayon** was 16 when he realized it was time to take a shot at playing the game after years of living under his parents' rules. “I told my parents I wanted to go back to the Philippines and study there so I could learn being on my own in preparation for my future. I wanted to be independent—making my personal decisions and owning up to my responsibilities,” he said.

From Tayabas, Quezon Province six years ago, Victor migrated with his family to Abu Dhabi, where his mother worked as a radiologist, and his father, an engineer.

The relocation meant coping with changes: new home, new school—The Philippine School Abu Dhabi (TPS). An introvert, Victor struggled hard to

adjust. “I got bullied and I only had a few friends.”

Victor's six years in Abu Dhabi meant six years of personality-revamp. During those times, he found his real self.

At TPS, Victor immersed himself in new activities: computer video games. Defense of the Ancient, commonly addressed by gamers as DotA, was his most-played video game. Soon Victor became hooked to it.

Five years later, he participated in a DotA tournament during which he gained many friends. Victor finally adjusted, doing well academically and socially.

But the game of life presented a new challenge. Representatives of SISFU's Marketing Department went to TPS for a career talk, encouraging students to earn a foreign degree in the field of business from its affiliated university in the United Kingdom.

Victor got interested in the global opportunities they presented. Right then, he decided to go back to the Philippines.

Victor looked at the SISFU education as a door toward his dream of someday becoming a businessman while traveling the world. He resolved to give up everything he had in Abu Dhabi for this dream. He was ready for a change. His parents, however, thought he was not.

“When I told my parents about my wish to go back to the Philippines and study at SISFU, they disagreed. They said it would be difficult to live by myself in our country. But I persisted in convincing them just as they continued to lecture me on the dangers of living alone. After a couple of months, however, they finally approved. And here I am now.”

Victor is currently taking up Accountancy, and Business and Management Course under the Senior

High School Program of SISFU. He is a member of the Computer Society and Southville Junior Financial Executives. Still a gaming aficionado, he continues to join several DotA tournaments with his friends.

He admits that living alone is challenging, but he knows he will succeed. It's all part of the game—although far more complex than DotA. It's the game we all play: life.

By **Paula Martinez**



## WELCOME LIZQUEN!

### Liza Soberano

Liza Soberano, the pretty and famous star who takes up one half of the famous love team, LizQuen (with Enrique Gil), and who has starred in many movies and TV shows, is currently a Business Management student at SISFU, pursuing her degree under a special program to suit her schedule.

Prior to her successful career, Liza had never dreamt of entering showbusiness, but later grew fond of the craft. Handling a busy career while studying is difficult, but she takes it all in stride. "It's hard," she says, "It takes a lot of perseverance. But, nothing is ever hard if you want it."

So, what keeps this young actress going? "My family," she says. "I want to be successful for them. I want them to be proud of the person I've become and to be able to provide them with their needs."

Liza had always wanted to take up Psychology because she was interested in helping people.

However, due to some snags, she set that aside. Then, when Enrique told her about a special program of SISFU, she decided to enroll and take up Business Management instead. Someday, she wants to put up her own business and be a successful business woman.

Making dreams come true is an overwhelming task. Many quit before the journey even begins. To those who lack the will power to pursue their dreams, Liza gives this advice, "Find your inspiration; be inspired to strive for what you want and when things get tough, just think about that one thing that inspired you to start in the first place."

Although she has become a household name with accompanying honors, she remains grounded. To the public, she is Liza Soberano, the star, But to her professor, Ms. Susan Lara, she is simply a student on her class roster.

In a recent Facebook post, Ms. Susan wrote, "She is definitely much more than just a pretty face. She is kind, sensible, warm, driven, and smart. Before she and Enrique Gil became my students, I honestly did not know them. But now, I am proud to say that I have become a fan, not of Liza and Enrique, the celebrities, but of Hope and Quen, two hard working and down-to-earth kids who want to prepare for their future by pursuing a college education, and I am proud to be part of their journey."

By **Shiandra Mendoza**

### Enrique Gil

What was once just a quiet lobby turned into a chaotic mess as students, faculty, and staff alike welcomed with open arms SISFU's newest Paladin, Enrique Gil!

Enrique Gil is a Filipino actor best known as the other half of the phenomenal love team, LizQuen (with Liza Soberano, another Paladin). Gil visited the school to seek enrollment and was accompanied by his mother, and his sister, Andi, a fellow SISFU student. The news of his arrival spread like wildfire as pictures of him with the Student Council were shared all over social media by his adoring fans.

Enrique is taking up Business Management under a special programme, which is offered at SISFU for students with unusual schedules and obligations. Due to his hectic schedule, he is given adequate time for his classes; he attends to them in a specific place arranged for the purpose.

As a student, Enrique has a broad perspective on life, having been thrown into the workplace at a young age. He is looking forward to finishing his course within two to three years.



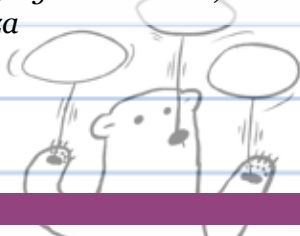
According to his SISFU teacher, Ms. Susan Lara, "Although he is already earning enough money for himself, Enrique values education. He wants to better himself by going through college and receiving a diploma."

To all of us Paladins, Enrique is a true inspiration. It is amazing to see him aim to finish his schooling despite his fame and his killer schedule brought on by his career.

"Being a SISFU student is my best role yet," said Enrique when asked about how it feels to be in school again. By **Justin Dionaldo**

## SGEN PAGEANT

As part of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) founding celebration, the annual SGEN Pageant was held last September 23, 2016 at the Luxembourg Hall of SISC. Two representatives of SISFU, Princess Joshelle Aguinaldo and Miguel Cantero, competed in the said pageant with Aguinaldo bagging two awards, 'Best in Evening Gown' and '2nd Runner Up' - By Shiandra Mendoza



## FRESHTIVAL

### A Fresh Celebration

This year's Freshtival, held on June 14, kicked off the new school year with a bang. Fun water games such as balloon throwing, balloon racing, and other educational group games introduced the freshmen to the other students

Hosted by the Student Council, the Freshtival is an annual event specially mounted to welcome new students to SISFU for the new academic year.

This June event was different from all other Freshtivals in the past: it was also a celebration of the opening of the Senior High School (SHS) that was implemented for the first time at SISFU. The first batch of Senior High students were warmly welcomed into the campus and were accepted wholeheartedly.

Some of the adjectives heard from the students describing the event were: awesome, unique, encouraging, one-of-a-kind, and exciting.

One of the freshmen students, Justin Bryle Dionaldo (School of Business and Computing) said, "The Freshtival has honestly given me the impression of everyone being welcomed sincerely and having a blast of fun, which is really important to someone like me who is just about to start my days as a Paladin."

By **Clarence Trozado**

## CLASH OF COLORS

Purple, orange and green powder created a hazy mist over the SISC Monarch's gym in this year's Clash of Colors. This year's most anticipated school event brought students together for a night of festivities in celebration of the end of the first term.

CRADLE members opened the night with a showcase of their talents, paving a path for the main event. It was a night of celebration to welcome the term's end and to greet a well-deserved semester break. DJ's such as Charlie Jacx, SIMON., and Instinct kept the music at a lively pace throughout the night.

Students danced the night away under the bubbly foam cascading from a cannon, creating a bed of white in the middle of the dance floor. While some enjoyed basking in the lights and foam, other partygoers opted to hop on the trampoline, bounce in the bouncy castle, or play mini-games courtesy of the booths from the Senior High.

As the night drew on, a mellower attitude befell the partygoers. The bouncy house became something reminiscent of a couch as tired guests lounged lazily on its expanse. Others took to the bleachers, simply enjoying the company of friends. Some took to the photo booth to commemorate their memories.

When the colorful lights dimmed, and the gates to this year's Clash of Colors finally closed, everyone in their stained t-shirts, exhausted bodies—but with refreshed spirits—went home to the comfort of their beds.

By **Rafayel Cornejo**



## A DAY FOR STUDENTS' HEROES

A teacher is someone who guides, molds, and inspires the minds of the youth. Students need to remember that spending a day with a great teacher is better than spending thousands of days studying. That's why we celebrate them and their efforts through Teacher's Day.

To show our appreciation to our teachers and the staff of SISFU, the Student Council organized a few activities dedicated to them. It started with the distribution of potted plants as a token of gratitude.

SC president, Fatima Muhsen, gave her own words of appreciation to all of the teachers who continuously inspire her to do great things.

The video was not the only surprise though; there were also varied performances courtesy of some students. One of those who sang was Kelsey Santiago, a Senior High School student, who has a beautiful voice.

A very special number came in the form of the Student Council members who, despite the lack of practice, sang a moving anthem dedicated to the teachers and staff.

To end the event, the SC officers presented a handmade freedom wall covered with handwritten thank-you notes from the students.

By **Paolo Tomacruz**



## The Haunting

Eerie shouts and shrieks of laughter rang out all over SISFU's dark, hallowed halls as the doors opened last October 28 for the "The Haunting V," a yearly event held during the Halloween week. It was the exact reaction the organizers had expected and worked hard to elicit.

Weeks before, while the organizers prepared for the event, excited chatters of students made the rounds in classrooms. Everyone looked forward to this event which has been touted as traditionally spooky but fun.

On the day of the Haunting V, the spirits of the volunteers were high as they spruced the rooms for the participants, better known as victims, who were tasked to look for charms. The theme of this year's The Haunting took inspiration from popular movies such as The Exorcist and The Conjuring and Clowns.

The victims were grouped and bound by hand. They were then led through the fire escape into the pitch-black halls by ushers. The loud clang of lockers roared through the halls on one side, and the rattle of a metal chairs echoed on the other. The victims shrieked, shrilled, and

screached in alarm at the noise, huddling together for comfort.

They were taken from room to room, looking for a charm among the rubble while being followed, haunted rather, by the undead or possessed. No one was safe. The ushers grabbed at every opportunity to shock their victims; they relished hearing screams—the louder the better.

Judging from the victims' comments and volume of screams, the organizers were confident that The Haunting V was another success. It was an event that buried itself in the

minds of its participants during the year—till the next spookier one comes to life.

By **Rafayel Cornejo**



# FEATURES

MEET YOUR NEW TEACHERS!



Trina Peralta

"BEING A PART OF THE INDUSTRY HELPS TEACHERS EXPLAIN THEORIES BETTER BECAUSE THEORIES ARE ENRICHED BY EXPERIENCE AND FIRST-HAND, HANDS-ON KNOWLEDGE. I PASS ON TO MY STUDENTS HOW I UNDERSTOOD THE THEORIES WHEN I APPLIED THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME." MS. TRINA TRINIDAD-PERALTA

MS. PERALTA DEVELOPED HER LOVE FOR TEACHING AT A YOUNG AGE, STARTING OUT AS A FRIENDLY HELPER TO HER CLASSMATES. TEACHING CAME NATURALLY TO HER. IN THE WORKPLACE, SHE HELPED TRAIN HER COLLEAGUES, WHO COMMENDED HER FOR HER PATIENCE AND ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS.

IT WAS HER PASSION FOR TEACHING THAT PRODDERD HER TO MOVE TO BANGKOK WHERE SHE TAUGHT HOSPITALITY STUDENTS FOR TWO YEARS. IT WAS THEN THAT SHE REALIZED HER TRUE CALLING FOR TEACHING.

"TEACHING IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND INSIDE-OUT. IT'S NOT JUST SOMETHING THAT YOU LEARN FROM BOOKS OR THE INTERNET," MS. PERALTA SAID. "EACH INDIVIDUAL OR STUDENT IS DIFFERENT; YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MANAGE HIM AT HIS UNIQUE LEVEL."

SHE HAD DREAMT TO TEACH COLLEGE STUDENTS ABOUT THE VARIOUS FIELDS IN THE INDUSTRY SUCH AS MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING. TO STRENGTHEN HER CRAFT AND GAIN MORE KNOWLEDGE ON THESE SUBJECTS, SHE SPENT SIX YEARS WORKING AS A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER SPECIALIZING IN EVENT, HOTEL SALES AND MARKETING, AS WELL AS TRAVEL SALES IN SINGAPORE.

MS. PERALTA ALSO HEADED SALES AND MARKETING OF TWO FLAGS RESTAURANT AND TRADING CORPORATION, AND HAD CONDUCTED LIFE SKILLS TRAINING TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, UNDERGRADUATES AND FRESH GRADUATES. "MY EXTENSIVE WORK EXPERIENCE HAS HELPED ME IN TEACHING MY STUDENTS ABOUT THE INDUSTRY A LOT BETTER."

A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS (UST) WITH A BACHELOR'S OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN HOTEL AND RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT, MS. PERALTA TEACHES SENIOR HIGH AND COLLEGE STUDENTS. SHE IS ALSO THE PROUD OWNER OF "SOUTH ON SOUTH RESTO-BAR," A FAMILY BUSINESS, IN BF HOMES.

BY SHIANDRA MENDOZA

TO ACHIEVE GREAT SUCCESS, IT IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT TO WORK HARD IN YOUR CAREER, YOU MUST ALSO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT IT. FOR MS. AILENE FULGENCIO, IT IS A PRINCIPLE THAT SHE FOLLOWS AS SHE GOES ON WITH HER CAREER. SHE WAS INSPIRED BY A QUOTE BY THE CHINESE PHILOSOPHER, CONFUCIUS THAT SAYS, "CHOOSE A JOB YOU LOVE, AND YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE."

TEACHING HAD ALWAYS BEEN HER DREAM. SHE BELIEVED THAT SHE WAS BORN TO BE A TEACHER HENCE HER STRONG PASSION FOR IT. IT WAS THIS LOVE FOR HER CAREER THAT HELPED HER CONQUER VARIOUS OBSTACLES.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE, SHE TAUGHT AT SOUTHVILLE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGES (SISC) UNDER THE BASIC EDUCATION DIVISION AND CONTINUED TO TEACH THERE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS. IN ADDITION TO THAT, SHE ALSO WORKED FOR SISFU AS A PART TIME TEACHER TEACHING SATURDAY CLASSES FOR THE TEST OF ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS (TOEIC) AND READING, WRITING, LEARNING, & SPEAKING (RWLS). SHE NOW WORKS FULL TIME IN SISFU, TAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING THE HEAD OF THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

ALTHOUGH SHE WAS OFFERED TO TEACH AT NEIGHBORING ASIAN COUNTRIES, SHE DECIDED TO STAY IN SOUTHVILLE BECAUSE SHE WAS GETTING THE BEST OF EVERYTHING. SOUTHVILLE OFTEN SENT HER ABROAD TO ATTEND WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING, WAS PROMOTED TO DEPARTMENT HEAD AND LATER ON TO SUBJECT AREA HEAD.

THIS PASSIONATE EDUCATOR NOT ONLY POSSESSES MUCH EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING, AND FOUGHT THROUGH OBSTACLES BUT ALSO SHARED WITH ME SOME INSIGHTS ON SUCCESS. IN ORDER TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLES, YOU MUST KEEP A WILL TO CONQUER THEM HEAD ON. ALWAYS STRIVE TO BE THE BETTER VERSION OF YOU AFTER EACH FALL AND CARRY WITH YOU WHATEVER LESSON YOU HAVE LEARNED.

MS. AILENE FULGENCIO CURRENTLY TEACHES BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SENIOR HIGH AND ENGLISH FOR BUSINESS TO THE CULINARY STUDENTS ASIDE FROM BEING THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT HEAD. SHE TOOK UP A DOUBLE BACHELOR'S DEGREE (BACHELOR OF ARTS/BACHELOR IN SECONDARY EDUCATION) MAJORING IN LITERATURE AT THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY.

BY SHIANDRA MENDOZA



Ailene Fulgencio

"TEACHING WAS NEVER ON MY HORIZON." MS. MARY DARADAR

STRAYING FROM A STRAIGHT PATH IN THE CORPORATE WORLD AND PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY FOR YEARS, MS. MARY DARADAR HAS ENTERED A TOTALLY DIFFERENT MILIEU—THE ACADEME.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, SISFU STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SEEING A NEW FACE IN MS. DARADAR, WHO TEACHES IN BOTH COLLEGE AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL. PRIOR TO SISFU, SHE SAID THAT TEACHING WAS NOT ONE OF HER INTERESTS, NOR WAS IN HER DESIRED PATH.

ONE DAY, HOWEVER, SHE GOT AN OFFER AND, "IT SEEMED LIKE A NEW OPPORTUNITY HAD FALLEN FROM THE SKY ONTO MY LAP." THIS FAR, SHE'S BEEN SWITCHING HER ENERGY BACK AND FORTH TO MATCH BOTH THE ENERGETIC HIGH SCHOOLERS AND THE MORE MELLOW COLLEGE STUDENTS.

HER TEACHING JOURNEY DID NOT BEGIN AT SISFU. IN HER YOUTH, ONE OF HER OLD PROFESSORS ASSIGNED HER TO TEACH A FEW SUBJECTS. FOR TWO YEARS, SHE TAUGHT COLLEGE STUDENTS, MEASURING THEIR PERFORMANCE AND BEHAVIOR AGAINST HER OWN BENCHMARKS, HOWEVER, SHE FOUND NO PATIENCE TO DEAL WITH YOUNGSTERS AND BID FAREWELL TO TEACHING.

LITTLE DID SHE KNOW THAT YEARS LATER, SISFU WOULD OPEN ITS DOORS AND SHOW HER IN, ENCOURAGING HER TO TRY AGAIN. NOW ARMED WITH A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, PLUS THE WELL-WISHES OF HER WORKERS, SHE TOOK THE CHANCE TO TEACH ONCE MORE.

THIS SECOND-TIME AROUND, SHE HAS LEARNED TO RE-ASSESS HER STANDARDS. RATHER THAN PUSHING HER STUDENTS TO BE PERFECT, SHE PUSHES THEM TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES. AFTER DEEP REFLECTIONS ON HUMAN NATURE AND LEARNING SKILLS, MS. DARADAR SAID THAT THIS THOUGHT STRUCK HER HARD: EVERY STUDENT IS UNIQUE—EACH WITH DIFFERENT GIFTS. THIS HAS MADE HER APPRECIATE HER STUDENTS MORE AND NOW SHE CAN TRULY SAY, "THIS IS SOMETHING I LOVE TO DO."

BY RAFAYEL CORNEJO



Mary Daradar

"WHETHER IT BE TEACHING, COACHING OR FACILITATING WORKSHOPS, TEACHING IS JUST ONE MEDIUM," JESULITO CORNEJO

AS ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR OPENED, THIRD YEAR STUDENTS RETURNED TO SISFU TO COMPLETE THEIR FINAL YEAR. FRESH OFF THEIR INTERNSHIPS, THEY CAME BEARING THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS, WITH A BIT MORE EXPERIENCE, BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEY CAME WITH A STRONGER WILL TO LEARN.

LIKewise, SISFU HAS WELCOMED ANOTHER EDUCATOR, MR. JESULITO CORNEJO, OR AS HIS STUDENTS CALL HIM, COACH LITO.

ONE MAY THINK THAT THIS NEW PROFESSOR WOULD BE A MAN OF SPORT, BUT THAT CANNOT BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH. IN REALITY, THIS PART-TIME SISFU TEACHER OF TWO YEARS HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO TEACH CREATIVE MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING. THE TITLE COACH IS A CARRY-OVER FROM HIS CURRENT PROFESSION AS A TRAINER. NOT OF SPORT, BUT OF SKILLS.

OUTSIDE OF SISFU, MR. CORNEJO WHO IS A CERTIFIED EXECUTIVE EQ COACH, CONDUCTS TRAININGS ON SOFT SKILLS FOR VARIOUS COMPANIES. HE DISCLOSED THAT HE WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN TEACHING—RATHER, HE WAS INTERESTED IN IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE.

WITH HIS VAST EXPERIENCE IN WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, HE WEAVES HIS KNOWLEDGE AND SUCCESSFUL TECHNIQUES INTO TEACHING, CRAFTING NEW METHODS THAT BEST WORK IN LEARNING SITUATIONS. THIS WAY, HIS STUDENTS ARE TRAINED IN THE WAY OF THE CORPORATE WORLD, EQUIPPING THEM WITH THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO SURVIVE IN THE WORK-PLACE.



JESULITO CORNEJO

BY RAFAYEL CORNEJO

"IF YOU'RE DOING THE SAME THING OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS AND YOUR LIFE IS NOT CHANGING IN A GOOD WAY, SOMETHING'S WRONG, SOMETHING'S GOT TO CHANGE - NOT WITH THE OTHERS, BUT WITH YOU." DENVER DARADAR

SISFU HAS SEEN ITS FAIR SHARE OF OUTSTANDING PROFESSORS AND TEACHERS OVER THE YEARS. THIS SCHOOL YEAR, HOWEVER, WE WELCOMED SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD SOLID BACKGROUND IN BOTH BUSINESS AND THE ACADEME BECAUSE HE GRADUATED FROM—TO USE A METAPHOR—THE UNIVERSITY OF LIFE.

WHAT STRIKES ONE MOST ABOUT SIR DARADAR IS HIS CANDOR. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES HE HAS FACED IN HIS LIFE JOURNEY (AS ONCE A STUDENT AND TODAY, A RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL), HE REPLIED, "BEING BORN IN A MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY, WRESTLING WITH FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND HAVING TO MAKE ENDS MEET." HIS PERSONAL STRUGGLES MOLDED HIS VISION TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD TO WHERE HE IS TODAY AND STRENGTHENED HIS RESOLVE TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES.

THESE ARE, INDEED, INSPIRING LESSONS ONE CAN ONLY LEARN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LIFE. JOINING THE SISFU FAMILY LAST MAY, HE HAS BROUGHT WITH HIM VARIED EXPERIENCES IN THE CORPORATE WORLD. HE HAS BEEN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR DIFFERENT COMPANIES SPECIALIZING IN MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, BANKING, AND TECHNOLOGY. HE WAS ALSO DIRECTOR FOR CORPORATE AFFAIRS AT WEBER SHANDWICK PHILIPPINES.

WHILE BUSY WITH CORPORATE WORK, HE FOUND TIME TO TAKE ON THE ROLE OF PROFESSOR FOR FIVE YEARS IN DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY - MANILA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND PACIFIC.

TO MANY OF HIS STUDENTS AT SISFU, SIR DARADAR PERSONIFIES AND MODELS THE BRIDGE'S THEME, 'BRAVING BORDERS.' TO HIM, THIS PHRASE MEANS "GETTING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE TO EXPERIENCE AND ENCOUNTER NEW THINGS THAT CALL FOR EXCITEMENT AND DISCOVERY."

BY JUSTIN DIONALDO

## JUST FOR FUN: IF YOU WERE THE SISFU PRESIDENT FOR ONE DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

1. "NOTHING, SISFU IS PERFECT." - RON HAARMS, TEACHER

2. "I WILL CREATE TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL." - GINA BISCO, MARKETING ADMIN.

3. "GATHER ALL STUDENTS AND CONDUCT TEAM BUILDING TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION, WHICH IS ONE OF OUR FOUR CORE VALUES." - CRISTINA BORJA, ADMIN AND HR HEAD

4. "IMPLEMENT STRICT 'FREE-CUT' POLICY." - NIEL BRITANICO, STUDENT

5. "I WOULD HAVE FREE PRINTING AT THE STUDENT CENTER AND HAVE SOUND PROOF WALLS BETWEEN CLASSROOMS TO REDUCE DISTRACTIONS FROM OTHER CLASSES." - APRIL COPON, STUDENT

6. "I WOULD MAKE SURE ALL RULES WILL NOT BE VIOLATED." - PRISCILLA SURRIER, STUDENT

7. "I WOULD ROAM AROUND TO ENGAGE WITH MY STUDENTS/STAFF." - GRACELYN PAPASIN, STUDENT

8. "NO FINES FOR SPEAKING LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH." - HANNAH ORTIZ, STUDENT

9. "HAVE A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN HANGOUT AND EXPEND THEIR ENERGY PRODUCTIVELY, LIKE A GYM OR POOL AREA." - DENVER BINGSKI D. DARADAR, TEACHER

10. "I WOULD TREAT EVERYONE TO A WHOLE-DAY FIELD TRIP." - NIKKI LIM, STUDENT

## SISFUN 2016: BATTLE OF THE YEAR

Thunderous cheers filled the SISFU gym as the SISFUN 2016 opened on the sunny morning of November 14. The excitement and buzz of the crowd rose to fever pitch when the students walked through the entrance wearing their gold (Golden Griffins), white (White Foxes), blue (Blue Titans), and maroon (Maroon Dragons) shirts for their respective teams.

The various minor games demonstrated what promised to be a fierce competition for the championship among the teams: jumping rope, kiddie relay, and catch the dragon tail. This early, the ball was on everyone's court, with no winners in sight yet.

Then when the major games started, the tension between the teams tripled: volleyball, basketball, badminton, and futsal. Every team wanted to be the ultimate champion.

What made the major events more exciting was, the participants in one event also played in other events, shuttling back and forth like tennis balls. Players hardly had time to take a break—some totally ignored it—since the games happened simultaneously.

Then throughout the week after

the opening, the competition for the major games continued through to the finals.

And among all the teams, who could have survived the extreme rigors and challenges the most to become overall champions? The Golden Griffins! They replaced the White Foxes, the defending champions.

The energy of SISFU students grandly exhibited at the opening of SISFUN 2016 was sustained throughout the week—right to the awarding ceremony on November 18. According to many regular spectators of SISFUN, the teams this year played exceedingly well.

This early, the teams are already gearing up for SISFUN 2017.

By **Isabella Bartolome**



## SGEN CUP: A TOUGH FIGHT

The Southville Global Education Network (SGEN) Cup, a league for basketball and volleyball athletes in all SGEN schools, was one of the exciting sports competition held last year at the Monarch's Gym of Southville International School and Colleges of the institution.

SISFU's team competed with Southville International School and Colleges (SISC), South Mansfield College (SMC), and SEED Academy.

The first game of the SISFU basketball team was against South Mansfield College (SMC), in which the latter won.

Undaunted, the SISFU team fought tooth-and-nail against Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) in the second game and handily won by SISFU. The next game against SEED Academy was also a rout by the now energized and inspired SISFU team. Since there were only 4 teams, the Semi-Final matches were: 1 vs. 4, and 2 vs. 3. SISC, SISFU, SMC and SEED were numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

For the Semi-Finals, both Southville International School and Colleges and SISFU emerged as winners. Therefore, SISFU faced SISC for the championship. It was a tough and exciting fight, but the SISC players were able to bring home the crown and defend their home court.

With heavy hearts, but with a never-say-die attitude, SISFU's basketball team held their heads up high with a new resolve to bring home the big win next year.

By **Clarence Trozado**



## 6-PEAT CHAMPIONS

No team could win against this year's SISFU Paladin volleyball team. The score was a jaw-dropping 6-0.

The team conquered all the six teams that ever dared go up against the formidable Paladins. This amazing feat was welcomed by a rousing crowd that packed the Monarch's Gym for the SGEN Cup.

This outstanding volleyball team is composed of tough, uncompromising ladies: Andie Gil, Charity Bargan, Hannah Ortiz, Jela Castillo, Yssah Cueto, Eriko Visitacion, Alex Tangayan, Trisha Panuelos, and Mina Kim.

The SISFU paladins easily routed and claimed victory over the teams they played against: SISC, SEED, and SMC among others, and took home the championship

title and trophy amidst thunderous cheers and applause.

This win was a moment to remember and especially significant because the SISFU Paladins have not won a championship in years. When asked what was their winning strategy this year, the players said, "Grace, hard work, and commitment to play against all odds."

Besides being champions, some of the members of the volleyball team were awarded with the Mythical 3: Andie Gil, Alex Tangayan, and Jela Castillo.

"Excellence at its finest," concluded Andie Gil, team captain.

By **Isabella Bartolome**