CEW 1st Sem - 2016 takes on ‘Change’

The 1st Semester Christ Emphasis Week was held on August 16-19, 2016 with the theme “Change”. The challenge is relevant to the present time, as the new administration of the country has affected everyone through socio-economic and political reforms. Spiritual renewal plays a vital role in achieving genuine change. It is every Christian organization’s responsibility to rise to the challenge. This semester’s CEW texts are found in the books of James Chapter 2 verses 17-18, and Luke 19:1-10.

The new landscape at CPU Kinder school is a cooperative project of the CPU Kindergarten Parents, Teachers and Alumni Association (KPTAA) 2008 and 2016. Students of batch ’08 have their names etched on the concrete octagon slabs./Photo by Kindergarten Department
Angel and I are very much honored and more than happy to be in your company tonight. I am reminded by the Global Reunion in Las Vegas eight years ago when significant number of alumni here in Southern California attended the gathering even though they were not member of the Federation, yet. Now, here we are, enjoying the company of each other. I am glad to see so many familiar faces from the various chapters and also those who are not member of any chapter but are guided by the Central Spirit to share in our celebration.

In this occasion, may we not only exchange stories and reminisce about our time at CPU, but may we also be reminded of what we have achieved collectively, that we may look forward to what we could still achieve for our alma mater.

Two months ago, I sent my Annual Report to the alumni for the Academic Year 2015-2016 through Larry Lebiga. For those who have not read the report yet, it will be made available in CPU’s website. Much has been accomplished, thanks to the support of the students, faculty, staff and alumni.

The implementation of an additional two years in High School has brought about many challenges, especially to private Higher Education institutions. Last year, CPU’s total enrollment was 14,399 and this first semester, it is down to 12,950. The projected budget deficit for the Academic Year 2016-2017 is 18 million pesos and, probably, will double the following school year. For the five-year transition period, the projection is a 150 million-peso deficit. Then, there is a need to build a Senior High School Building that can accommodate 1,600 students within the next two years. To raise funds for the construction of the building, we have started the “Naming Rights” Fund Raising Campaign through the encouragement of the Southern California Chapter. As of the present, we have three classrooms to be named after CPU’s ardent supporters: Dr. Generoso D. Duremdes, Dr. Janelle B. Duremdes, and Loy and Ann Seisa. They have pledged $18,000.00 for each classroom.

As we gather here for the 9th Global Reunion, let us thank our Lord for His faithfulness and goodness and for sustaining CPU for the past 110 years. Let us remember the much admired yet humble men and women who guided many young idealists --- they whose hearts are filled courage and minds with limitless imagination, they who have become men and women of principle and purpose. Indeed, these young minds have crafted their ideas into reality to make this world a much better place to live in.

Yes, we are proud to be the product of an institution founded 110 years ago by a group of American Baptist missionaries who left the comforts of their homes in America and sailed to the Philippines. These were men and women of arts, science and letters, well educated, and experts in their respective fields of discipline. Above all, they were men and women of faith. They traveled to a place not knowing what awaits them armed only with an unwavering faith and indomitable spirit. They followed not the call of comfort, but the call of their God who guided them all throughout their journey. They just placed their absolute faith and trust in the Almighty and His will.

So here we are today, product of the sacrifices of our forebears, and we have grown so much in numbers serving humanity in different parts of the world and united by the Central Spirit.
The Global Reunion is not just an ordinary gathering of Centralians. It is a celebration of the strong bond that we have established throughout the years. It is a recollection of beautiful stories and unforgettable experiences of our stay at our dear Central. It is a get-together of individuals who share the same passion and steadfast dedication to keep the Central Spirit alive.

Central Philippine University can always be proud of her Alumni that have helped CPU fulfill her mission of providing exemplary Christian education. Looking at the 24-hectare campus, with its scenic landscape and constantly improving facilities, one cannot help but also see the many faces of alumni who once have walked through her picturesque and history-rich buildings, and who, now, are generously sharing what they have so that CPU could continue her realization of imparting knowledge and strengthening Christian faith.

I congratulate the CPUFOAA under the leadership of Larry Lebiga, Phoebe Maravilla, Helen Lebiga, and the members of the different committees for their efforts in making sure that this Global Reunion is a success. Also, I would like to commend all of you whose presence made this event an even more successful and meaningful one.

It was only eighteen years ago when we started the tradition of regularly meeting together, thanks to the initiative of the Metro Chicago Chapter under the leadership of Bert Cabalfin, Perla Londres and others too many to mention. So two years from now, we go back to where this kind of gathering started. Yes, Global Reunion in 2018 will be in Chicago. The rest of the global reunion schedules are as follows: in 2020 in CPU and in 2022 in Toronto.

As you live, love, and learn the meaning of life, you have already nurtured the living document, the legacy that you are leaving behind: serving God, our alma mater, and humanity. I am sure each of you has achieved a deep fulfillment in the opportunities to meet the needs, to empower, and to help others. You brought a great pride to your alma mater. Fulfillment and contentment are incredible achievements one can have in his or her lifetime.

Let us be reminded that we are among a few fortunate persons who had access to educational experience at a renowned institution. This experience has rewarded us throughout our lives. We are already awakened to the realities of intense competition and have acquired capacity to take advantage of the competitive environment. While we may use this capacity to create wealth and welfare for ourselves and for the organizations we work for, it is also our bounded duty to strive for the welfare of the society, to reduce the disparity therein, and to empower those who are disadvantaged. And while we do all these, we should also remember our alma mater.

Let us not forget that the noble values of caring and sharing, of service and sacrifice have kept our society away from dangers of extinction and has made it vibrant at all times. As inheritors of a society which blossomed up great values for life and a deep concern for human development, we should intensely aspire to deepen and broaden our knowledge, experience the power of collective team work, and to always be guided by the values which we strongly believe in. In all that lies before you, may God grant you wisdom, success and true sense of fulfillment of your cherished ideals and goals.

I could not imagine CPU existing without the support of her alumni. The honor and pride of our alma mater thrives through the successes and achievements of Centralians all over the world. You have constantly inspired and challenged us not to settle for second best but to always excel. Our plans, dreams and desires have been made possible because of your genuine concern, your fervent prayers, and your generous support for CPU. We still have a long way to go but I am confident though that with alumni like you who always think of CPU’s best interest, we will be able to reach our goals. To God be the glory!

May God bless us all.

TEODORO C. ROBLES

President
My first try in campus publication was with the Green Pasture newsletter of the Good Shepherd’s Fold Academy (GSFA), a mission school on a hilltop in Guimaras. It was a four pager - made out of 2 folded white bond. Mass printing was done by stencils we call "the messy paper plates" before it runs through the Mimeograph machine (the predecessor of the modern Risograph).

Our language teacher was the editor who takes on days or weeks to finish the publication. I was a high school freshman at the time typesetting was done with an Olympia typewriter. Touch-and-go (a brand of correction tape was the byword of our secretary and typist. Literally, (with scissors and Elmer’s glue’), 'cut and paste' controlled the outlook of the final newsletter ‘mock-up’ for production.

The fleeting time since then gave us countless opportunities to improve our skills in writing and publishing; moreover provided us some creative sense and better printed publications. The whole lot of reading, viewing, talking and listening, visualizing, travelling, and even dreaming have become colorful strands that bridge the gap between our consciousness and composition.

At this age of high-end communication tools (computers, cell phones and internet among others), one may wonder how he or she can create something out of an experience, in a metamorphosis or change.

Transitions in publishing technology has become so fast, that we envision paperless social communications - and that is actually not later on, but now.

President Duterte publicly listed those who the national government thinks are involved in the proliferation of illegal drugs. Almost all who were named denied their involvement. The Bible teaches us that when we are confronted with our sins, that is if we are guilty, we need to ask for forgiveness.

What is forgiveness? The forgiveness of God means “The complete removal of all estrangement and alienation between God and the person.” Psalm 103:12 vividly describes forgiveness this way -- "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

Are there conditions for God’s forgiveness? Yes, there are. What are these conditions that need to be fulfilled? First, The Bible teaches us that God does not forgive without repentance. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says that “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

Secondly, The Bible teaches that our forgiving spirit is another condition of God’s forgiveness of our sins.

There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.

C.S. LEWIS
CPU receives USAID STRIDE Visiting Professor for environmental seminars

Central Philippine University was privileged to host Visiting Professor Dr. Sergio C. Capareda who conducted a series of seminars for the USAID Visiting US Professor Program of USAID STRIDE (Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for Development).

Capareda, a Texas A&M University based professor is an Agricultural Engineer and an alumnus of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna. Dr. Capareda delivered a combination of lectures in more than 25 topics on renewable energy, biofuels and air quality, waste management and one-on-one consultations. He also made consultations with various academic and research sectors of the university. In addition, he lectured on teaching pedagogy, basics of online teaching, research proposal-writing and developing research projects. He also recommended an online Learning Management System (LMS) to participants from CPU and other universities in Iloilo City.

Dr. Capareda, who stayed in CPU from May 31 to June 21, 2016, also presented an exit seminar summarizing the accomplishments as well as recommendations on how the university can improve its research and education undertaking and future collaborative activities. He was appointed Adjunct Professor for School year 2016-2017 to continue his collaborative work and technical support to CPU in his field of expertise. He also donated a copy of his textbook entitled “Introduction to Biomass Energy Conversions” to CPU. / Contributed by Amy Castigador

Children sing “Since Jesus came into my Heart” during the Elementary CEW Convocation at the Rose Memorial Auditorium.

Participants to the seminar smile for posterity
CPUKPTAA and the CPU Kindergarten helping hands

For Professor Hannah C. Siosan & May Guillem, CPU Kindergarten Principal and Secretary, respectively, “attending to the children goes beyond providing their preparatory educational needs”. Today’s generation presents trend and environment which could influence attitude and character in the young learners.

It is in this respect that CPU Kindergarten faculty and staff do their best to continuously develop and improve their facilities and ground for the young learners to enjoy. The support of the school administration and cooperative actions of the CPU Kindergarten Parents-Teachers-Alumni Association (CPUKPTAA) helped a lot to realize projects that bring convenience, healthy environment, and clean facilities in the K–School.

The pupils themselves, assisted by the CPUKPTAA, were able to artistically improve the landscape around the Kindergarten Building. One was the rearranging of concrete slabs in front with the pupils name on each of the slab into a foot walk. Parents and teachers admirably helped them in conceptualizing projects with beautiful results.

The experience helps a young learner to appreciate the values of sharing, patience and taking turns. The classroom and ground activities are important to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of a child.

To maintain a healthy environment, consistent with what an extension of home should be, modern comfort rooms has been provided for students and parents inside the mini compound of the Kindergarten School.

The Christian value-laden instructions at the Kindergarten School is emphasized, while the CPUKPTAA and the school continue on their thrust of helping students create and enjoy. / CPOST
MID-YEAR REPORT OF THE CPUAAI PRESIDENT

Dan P. Dorillo
President, AY 2016-17

(continued from previous report – June 2016 issue)

We will replicate the Bingawan CPU DAY in other municipalities where Centralians hold government posts.

Job Placement: Work with alumni owning or working in placement agencies in Manila to refer alumni seeking jobs in Luzon.

Projects in the Home front:

Updating of Financial Management & Information Systems: adopt new accounting processes & upgrade IT hardware & module for easier, faster and efficient communication with alumni especially in disseminating university publications; also for teleconferencing with BOT members outside Iloilo.

Honorary Centralians: non-alumni faculty & staff who have worked at CPU for 2 consecutive years are qualified to become honorary alumni.

The CPUAAI Board has approved to give cash gifts to Board & Bar topnotchers

The Alumni Promenade backstage dressing room project turned-over to CPU

On-going Programs:

Alumni Homecoming Luncheon & Program
Recognition of Alumni who have given prestige & honor to CPU (current)
Alumni Night
Hawaiian Night at the new WATER WORLD ILOILO (formerly Centennial Resort)
Festival of Lights & Music
Early preparation is underway; festival nightly program to start December

Proposed Alumni Projects for Funding:

Alumni Promenade Audio-Visual Control Room
Alumni Terrace Lounge
CPU Signage at Lopez Jaena St. (just outside Half Moon Drive) needs replacement

I would like to thank all alumni, the Alumni BOT, CPU President Dr. Ted Robles and the Administration officials, and the CPUFOOA for supporting the programs and activities of CPUAAI.

We are praying for the upcoming alumni activities in the 2nd half of this Alumni Year.

GOD BLESS CPU!

Edgar J. Jarantilla (in checkered polo shirt), President CPU Alumni Golfers Association hands over a check of Ten Thousand Pesos (10,000.00), a Grant-In-Aide for CPU athletes to Atty Alejandro S. Somo at the Alumni Affairs Office last July 8, 2016. Also in photo are Engr. Isagani J. Jalbuena CPUAAI VP, and Mrs. Tina Marie P. Hortelano, Alumni Liaison Officer.

Photo by C.A. Natividad
CPU PRESIDENT VISITS TORONTO
by: Rodney & Faith Gicana

CPU President Dr. Ted Robles and wife Angel visited the Alumni Association of Greater Toronto Area (CPUAAGTA) for the first time on July 22-26, 2016. The couple was welcomed at the Pearson International Airport by Norma Van Dusen (Chapter President), Josie Dayao (immediate past president) together with Dot Cuales (Assistant Treasurer) and mother Mrs. Casimira Cuales. During the CPU President’s stay in Toronto, Josie Dayao & Buddy Ibe, Herbert & Lydda Cajilig-Pugne and family, Shergie Cajilig, Edwin (Chapter Vice President and CPU Outstanding Centralian) & wife Emelyn Arroz took turns in opening their homes and toured the couple in Niagara Falls, the Welland Canal and around the city of Toronto.

Dr. & Mrs. Robles attended a worship service at High Park with the Hallelujah Fellowship Baptist Church where he was warmly welcomed by alumni who are members of the church. The highlight of the visit was a meeting held at the Dayao residence attended by the alumni of the Greater Toronto Area on the 26th of July 2016. Dr. Robles shared first-hand current news, achievements and projects of CPU. An open forum followed where the president answered questions from the alumni on matters affecting CPUAAGTA (particularly on the Scholarship program sponsored by the association) and also the institution and its constituents as a whole. It was followed by a sumptuous dinner with lots of reminiscing, stories, fun and laughter.

It was a historical visit for CPUAAGTA which has strengthened the bond of the association with its alma mater thereby confirming the current leadership term’s motto: “Central Spirit: the tie that binds us”.

The authors with Dr. Ted Robles (center)


More photos on page 9
Welcome to the forthcoming 14th CPU Invitational & 17th All CPU GOLF-FOR-A-CAUSE TOURNAMENT (October 8, 2016)
For inquiries contact 3291971 Local 1033

More photos from Toronto

With alumni and friends of Dr. Ted.

Dr. Ted and Angel Robles (5th from Left) with alumni friends.

Coffee with alumni friends.
Centralian Taekwondo coach wins silver in international pomsae

Another pride of Central Philippine University came back with a silver medal from the 2016 World Hanmadang Taekwondo competition in South Korea recently. Floramie G. Navales, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Graduate of CPU won in the Senior Division in Creative Team Poomsae Competition.

The 24 year old athlete from Iligan City trained in Taekwondo in Iloilo City, and involved in the professional Martial Arts. She underwent rigid training and joined in several competitions such as the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA), Iloilo Schools Athletic Association (ISAA), and Philippine National Games.

Her almost forty years at Central Philippine University, serving as bookkeeper, credit manager, buildings and grounds supervisor, work students coordinator, sports and alumni coordinator has prepared her for her latest responsibility.

Trinidad ‘Trining’ Sorongon is the present coordinator of CPU Lifestyle Learning Center. Good time management according to Sorongon is her secret in keeping her physically healthy and maintaining a younger look in her age of near retirement.

The Gym and equipment are carefully maintained under the management of Ms. Trinidad T. Sorongon (Lifestyle Learning Center Coordinator).

Girls of the Gym