

CONNECTING MC TO THE MARYKNOLL/MIRIAM COLLEGE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

COLLEGE WEEK CELEBRATION FOR GRADE 6

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS FROM MR MIKO CASTRO, GRADE LEVEL COORDINATOR GRADE 6

The theme of last year's College Week celebration in the Grade School was "Embracing the Marian Spirit." The event was a wonderful opportunity for the students to connect with the core values of the institution.

The Grade 6 level invited some alumni as guest speakers to share their experiences and insights with the students; believing that their stories and journey will inspire the students to embrace the Marian spirit even more deeply. Overall, the day was a brief yet impactful interaction between alumni and the Grade 6 students.



Grade 6 students and their teachers having a great time listening to **Sr. Marvie Misolas, ESI Director**, as she recounts her exciting and remarkable journey as a Maryknoll Missionary and her unwavering advocacy for the environment.

The student emcees introducing their esteemed guest speaker for the College Week Celebration, retired **Ambassador Melita "Millie" Sta. Maria - Thomeczek.**





Grade 6 students from sections Dabakan, Gandingan, and Kalaleng listening intently to Ambassador Millie's stories as she shares how the Maryknoll values helped guide her career in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Soda Garcia candidly shares her experiences and milestones at Miriam College with Grade 6 students.

In the picture, Ms. Garcia is showing a class photo from her time in the Grade School unit.





STEAM WEEK CELEBRATION GRADE 6 CAREER TALK: MEET THE EXPERTS

MCGS celebrated STEAM Week 2024 last February 12 to 16 with the theme Knollers STEAMing Through: Tech a Break, Grab a Byte. The week-long celebration was packed with varied activities, one of which was the Careers Talk: Meet the Experts in Grade 6. True to its commitment to inspire girls to pursue STEAM careers, several MC alumni were invited as resource speakers through the Alumni Engagement Office. Here are some highlights...



Participants of the session facilitated by Ms. Rita Josephine 'Tata Jo' Santos (MCHS1973) expressed appreciation for a fun time learning chemistry, particularly in the process of making vitamins, medicines, and cosmetics. They also valued the tips given to be successful in high school, the experiences she shared, and her effort to come back to MC to 'teach.' Here are some of the takeaways from her session:

"I enjoyed the presentation and I am now excited for what the future holds!"

"All you have to do is to try your best to do something and know that God, family, teachers, and friends will be with you, to guide you, and help you. I also learned that different combinations react differently and need time to master."



STEAM WEEK CELEBRATION GRADE 6 CAREER TALK: MEET THE EXPERTS



Arch. Marie Koreen Hidalgo interacting with the Grade 6 students.

"Architecture isn't all about pretty buildings.
It's also about how what you'll do will affect the
people in our world/country."

This is one of the participant's takeaways from the session with Arch. Marie Koreen Hidalgo (MCHS2010). By sharing her personal career journey, she managed to impart information about architecture and to inspire students to pursue their passion. One of the participants left this message for her: "You are like a walking inspiration for kids who like to be like you."

Ms. Rebie Ramoso (MCHS1994) embodies our mission to love and serve through Art. She empowers young girls to discover their passion and purpose to effect positive change in society.

Some students shared the following reflections:

"I learned that you might not find your passion instantly, and that's okay. I also realized how big of an impact you can make and how much you can help or inspire others with your passion."

"My personal takeaway is to go outside your comfort zone and experiment with your talents. I have also thought about finding my purpose in life just like Ms. Rebie Ramoso."



JANUARY - MARCH 2024 CALING



STEAM WEEK CELEBRATION GRADE 6 CAREER TALK: MEET THE EXPERTS

Included in the pool of experts who graced the event were Ms. Anne Heramia (MCHS1997) and Ms. Modest Joydalyn Reyes (MCHS1998) who talked about Information and Communications Technology and Chemistry, respectively. Here are some of the messages and reflections from the students who attended their sessions:

"We get to know more about technology and we get to learn more about how it could change and affect our future."

"Be willing to take the risk. Even if you choose one path, you can always change the path you choose which will end up being worth it."

"She knows her craft well. I have learned a lot despite not being that interested in science and I hope the other students will hear more of her name."

"Some lessons I learned after listening to this discussion is that chemistry isn't just about being a scientist and stuff you can also be in the military and be a doctor/scientist there."

Clearly, the event was a success. Students look forward to meeting more alumni who can inspire them to pursue a career in the future. According to one of them,

"The activity is very eye-opening and can serve as inspiration to Miriam students in Grade 6, especially since they are turning into teenagers soon."

A shout out of gratitude to the Knollers who made the event possible. They have shown that indeed, Knollers STEAMed Through.

GALING MC



MCHS '69 MMJ GARDEN VISIT

Article by Ms. Myra Cruz (MCHS 1969)

On February 5, 2024, members of Maryknoll High School class of 1969 visited the ESI to look at the Mother Mary Joseph garden located behind it. This was part of a series of activities of the class to support the school's appeal for rehabilitation of the MMJ garden, which the school sent out in July of 2023. In response to the appeal, High School 69 was the first alumni class to give funds for the garden and to offer to teach



Miriam Grade school students the basics of gardening. We also offered to write a manual for the students to refer to after the lecture. These were the three main activities that the school was asking its alumni to help in. Our class responded to all the requests.

Class HS 69 formed a gardening club during the pandemic called 69 Garden Divas. The club evolved when we discovered that there was a group of classmates among us with a love for plants and gardening. Several of the members are genuine experts on plants and they are the mainstays of the club,namely: Maria Dolores Diaz, Teresa Ramos and Celeste Quiazon.

With excitement, a group of us looked at the garden during our February 5 visit to see how we could help in its rehabilitation. In our meeting with Sister Marvie, Director of the Environmental Studies Institute, we also discussed a proposed lecture to be given to a Grade School class about gardening. A representative of the Grade School staff said that such a lecture had been scheduled for April.



Accordingly, on April 15, 2024 Mrs. Quiazon and I talked to members of Grade 4 Carinosa about gardening basics, in preparation for their planting project.

We are in the process of finishing writing the manual for Miriam Grade School students to supplement said lecture.

We hope to do more for the garden in the future and for ESI as well.

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MCHS '68 WAY OF THE CROSS

Photos & captions by Ms. Imelda Santiago MCHS 1968



A yearly class tradition held on a Thursday before the Holy Week is MCHS Class 1968's Way of the Cross in Miriam College. Some members of the class are able to join physically onsite, while those across the globe attend in spirit.

MCHS '68 with MC President, Amb. Laura Q. Del Rosario and some members from the MC community who assisted the class to fulfill their "Journey of the Heart". This year marks the twenty-first year since the class' Coral Jubilee when they turned over the Stations of the Cross created with bare hands and strong Maryknoll spirit.





MCHS class '68 prayed and reflected on the fourteenth station ending with a healing prayer for Pope Francis.





HOSTING OF THE PRESIDENT FOR MCHS 1958

Amb. Laura Q. Del Rosario welcomed the MCHS class of 1958 last September 10, 2023 as Sapphire Jubilarians. Sixty-five years since graduating from High School, some of the MCHS 1958 class members were able to take a short tour at the MMJ building visiting the MC Museum, College Chapel, and the Marian Auditorium.



MCHS Batch '58 from Left to right -- Ms. Cornelia Fung, Ms. Filicilas Silayan, National Artist for Dance Ms. Alice Reyes, Ms. Victorina Garcia, Former MC President Dr. Patricia Licuanan, Ms. Presentacion Ramos, Amb. Laura Del Rosario, Ms. Sylvia Veloso, and Ms. Milagros Reyes



Ms. Filicilas Silayan, Ms. Cornelia Fung, Ms. Alice Reyes and Dr. Patricia Licuanan



Visit to the Marian Auditorium



Visit to the College Chapel





MAKING THEIR MARK: ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THEA GUANZON

BY KARINA MELENCIO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF CHI RHO PUBLICATIONS





International bestselling author of science fiction and fantasy, Thea Guanzon, published her first novel The Hurricane Wars in October 2023, which has since become a hit series worldwide.

Thea sees the driving force of her writing as her love for imaginary worlds—"...from Middle Earth to Narnia to galaxies far, far away..."— all while letting her creativity soar through infusing speculative fiction with romance, to capture the uniquely human experience of 'kilig'.



Rooted in discipline and dedication, Thea attributes her achievements to the relentless pursuit of her craft. She also drew inspiration from her studies as an International Studies major at Miriam College where she seamlessly intertwined elements of diplomacy and conflict resolution with fantasy world settings, made all the more interesting with magic and dragons in the mix. This idea for a story first sparked while she was in class, which later on would become the foundations of The Hurricane Wars.

Reflecting on her proudest moment, Thea recalls the excitement of seeing The Hurricane Wars hit the USA Today, Indie, U.K. Sunday

Times, and New York Times bestseller lists within its first week of release. To advise young, aspiring writers and students embarking on a similar journey, Thea bridges dedication to the craft with love for your community and finding joy in what you do: "write what makes you happy, take critique as a way to improve your skills, and surround yourself with people who have your best interests at heart."

For Thea, a Miriam College graduate is committed to excellence, social transformation, and always going beyond what is expected, embodying her own ethos of perseverance and purpose. This is demonstrated in her own dedication to and creativity in writing, which has inspired future generations of young storytellers and left an indelible mark on the international literary landscape.



FAMILY FITNESS REUNION AT MIRIAM COLLEGE: ALUMNI UNITE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, LOVE FOR SPORTS AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS

Article by Ms. Gia Javellana, MCHS 1999 Photos by Lianne Bacorro and Captions by Celia De Jesus



Last March 10, 2024, Miriam College High school Batch'99 hosted a special event that brought everyone together for a day filled with good health, friendship, and memories. MC Family Fitness Day 2024 was a step in promoting well-being and strengthening connections among MC Community.

The idea for this event started from a shared love for volleyball and running among Batch'99 alumni namely, Celia de Jesus, Gia Javellana, Carol Villanueva and Diana Chua. Also, after hearing discussion among batch mates about health issues, the team aim of also using homecoming gatherings as a platform to advocate for everyone to prioritize their health. Despite facing challenges in navigating the unfamiliar school process and environment, they were determined to turn their vision into reality.

Guided and supported by the Alumni Engagement Office under the leadership of Dr. Marge Acosta, the organizers overcame logistical hurdles and received love and support from MC. From booking rooms and scheduling volleyball courts, managing funds and recruiting student volunteers, every detail fell seamlessly into place, thanks to the dedicated assistance provided by the office, administrators, and staff from High School and College departments.



FAMILY FITNESS REUNION AT MIRIAM COLLEGE: ALUMNI UNITE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, LOVE FOR SPORTS AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS

The event itself showcased the power of collaboration and community spirit. Attendees enjoyed trying out and watching a diverse range of activities, including the Nostalgia Run, Tai Chi, Katori Shinto Ryu, dance sessions, inflatables and volleyball matches, catering to individuals of all ages and fitness levels. Families embraced the opportunity to participate in the 2K and 4K runs or walks, transforming the MC campus into a hub for bonding and reminiscing. Run Winners were honored by Ambassador Millie Thomecszek and Dr. Marge Acosta and the activity was hosted by Mrs. Sandra Sto. Domingo-Nanawa. The volleyball tournament, kicked off with remarks from beloved coach, Coach Mac Gepuela, ending with the MC Alumni Varsity team, led by Mrs. Verro Peralta-Angeles, emerging as the champions.

At the heart of the event was a health talk entitled "Embracing Grace: A Conversation on Women's Health and Aging," spearheaded by Mrs. Joanna Imson Lim of Batch '99 and Dr. Grace Brillantes-Evangelista of MC ILAW. The talk hosted by Mrs. Tala Supangco-Ocampo emphasized the importance of holistic well-being for women beyond physical fitness, alongside well respected guest speakers. All these events and the mini-activities further strengthened the sense of unity and shared passion among alumni.

The event surpassed expectations in terms of both attendance and financial gains, serving as a testament to the enduring love for Miriam College and the collective commitment to health and camaraderie. At the end of the event, all are winners and the bonus is to be able to support the needed solar power strategy of the school. Cheers to Health! Cheers to MC!



Volleyball superstars of HS Batch '99 contend with the MC Varsity Volleyball Team



after 25 years, alumni from the 7 sections of HS Batch '99 pose for a class photo



CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

IWith sincere appreciation and gratitude, Miriam College extends its heartfelt thanks to each and every one for your generous contributions. Your support has truly made a difference in the lives of the students and faculty, as well as the vibrancy of MC's educational programs.

With the ongoing support of the alumni, MC is confident that it can continue to innovate, inspire, and empower the next generation of learners.



Amb. Laura Q. Del Rosario accepts the donation of Ms. Teresita Bautista-Tan of College 1973



Amb. Laura Q. Del Rosario accepts the donation of MCHS 1973 represented by Triple A Ms. Tata Jo Montes-Santos, Ms. Athle Wijangco Estacio, and Ms. Gemma Olalia-Antonio.

JULY - DECEMBER 2023





SPECIAL AND LIMITED EDITION OF MC 100 NORITAKE DINNERWARE SET NOW AVAILABLE!

In celebration of Maryknoll/Miriam College's centennial, a special and limited edition of the Noritake Dinnerware designed by artist Rebie Ramoso of MCHS 1994 are now available through the Alumni Engagement Office. Titled, Remembrance of Afternoons, the artwork brings to life the iconic Kalachuchi Walk. The 20-piece collection comes with a Certificate of Authentication from the artist. There are only 100 of these dinnerware sets for sale. We are thankful for the support of alumni and parents of our students who are now owners of this beautiful collection.



Alumni Engagement Director, Dr. Marge Acosta, handing the Certificate of Authentication to Ai Nagasaki.

Ai Nagasaki College Class of 2017 (BSLTM)

"It is beautiful! I know the quality of Noritake because my family is from Japan"

"For the MC centennial, I wish for more hope and love for the community, the students, teachers, and alumni. I hope that sharing your blessings to others will continue."

Engr. Grace Cristobal

Mother of two Grade School students

Represented by daughter Beatrice Gabrielle Cristobal of Grade 10-Murasaki, Engr. Grace Cristobal made the purchase of the Noritake Dinnerware to support the fundraising efforts of Miriam College leading to its centennial in 2026.



Beatrice Cristobal holding the Certificate of Authentication in front of the Noritake collection on display.

JULY - DECEMBER 2023

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SPECIAL AND LIMITED EDITION OF MC 100 NORITAKE DINNERWARE SET NOW AVAILABLE!



Dr. Cynthia Ballat holding the Certificate of Authentication that came with the Noritake collection. With her is Dr. Marge Acosta of the AEO.

Dr. Cynthia Ballat MA 2004, CFS 2009

Dr. Cynthia purchased the Noritake collection to "give back to her Alma Mater and be a part of the success of MC's 100 years celebration."

Maria Angela Rowena de Villa Morabe-Cordon Grade School Class of 1983

"Purchasing Noritake gave me the opportunity to lend support to Maryknoll (now, Miriam) College's endeavors. May our good Lord continue to bless and protect you, the students, faculty, and everyone at the College."





Pamela Angeles-Flores GS '83, HS '97

"My daughters graduated from the MC Grade School and High School units. I am proud of how Miriam College has formed them to be competent and confident. Purchasing the Noritake collection is my way of supporting our Alma Mater."





MC100 MERCHANDISE FOR MOTHER'S DAY



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MC100 MERCHANDISE FOR MOTHER'S DAY



