

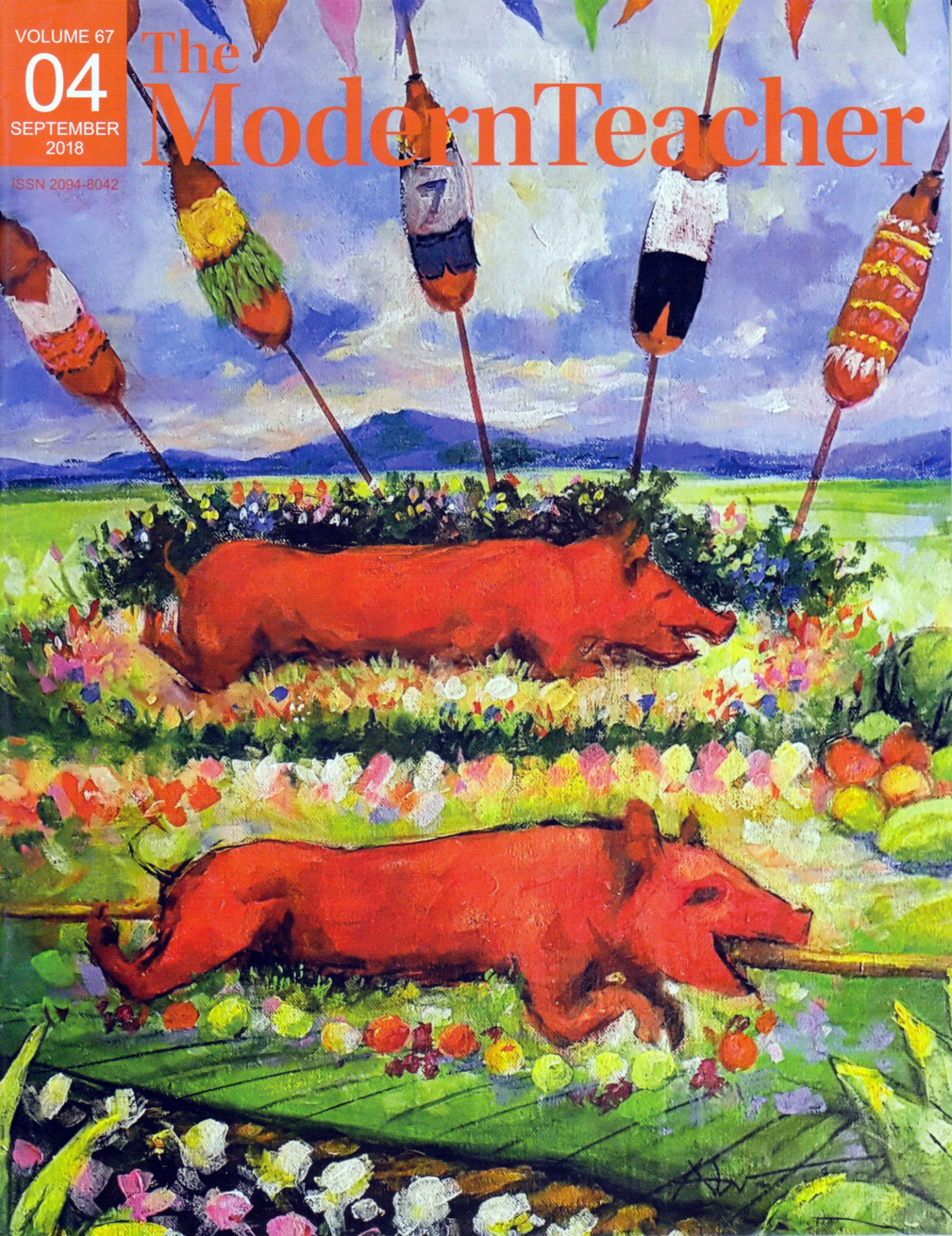
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Table of Contents

Teachers: Shaping the Future. Building the Nation – <i>Domingo R. Cueto</i>	123
When All Else Fails, Humanized Teaching is the Way – <i>Ryan R. Pecson</i>	124
National Teachers' Month Celebration – <i>Ronalee R. Austria</i>	125
Alphabet of a Teacher – <i>Gregorio V. Canzon</i>	128
Seameo Innotech Signed a Cooperation Agreement with The Modern Teacher	129
Seameo Innotech Develops a Resource Kit for Teachers on Career Preparation.....	130
Cultivating the Culture of Research – <i>Michael A. Socorro</i>	131
Values of Research to Man – <i>Eva S. Lusung</i>	132
Bullying: A New Menace to a Free Society – <i>Maria Theresa H. Amurao</i>	133
School Safety, A Priority! – <i>Omar G. Lamina</i>	134
School-Based Anti-Bullying Policy – <i>Modesta B. Enriquez</i>	135
Overcoming Bullying Problems in the Classroom – <i>Autelia T. Nicolas</i>	137
Multiple Strategies in Teaching Elementary Algebra – <i>Paul M. Magdaraog</i>	138
Teaching Elementary Mathematics for Understanding – <i>John Wilbert R. Aretano</i>	139
Instructional Material in Mathematics Numerombay (Numberline Game) – <i>Belen A. Acuba</i>	140
Let's Master MTAP Questions for Grade 5 – <i>Josephine M. de Guzman</i>	141
Demonstration Lesson Plan in Math VI – <i>Flomena R. De Torres</i>	142
TED-Ed Club: A Generation of Problem Solvers in School – <i>Rocky Rabino</i>	145
Understanding Your Own Learning Style – <i>Augusto F. Farinas</i>	146
Differentiated Instruction: The Promising Key in Addressing the Needs of Diverse Students – <i>Ferdinand M. Labii Jr.</i>	148
Classroom Remedial Instruction: A Tool for Developing Lifelong Learners – <i>Alvin Nepomuceno</i>	149
Gabaldon, Rich in Culture and History – <i>Marichele L. Pagaragan</i>	150
I Will Travel Yonder – <i>Mark P. Bonabon</i>	150
Travel: Why Book a Trip Now – <i>Jay Mar I. Reyes</i>	151
A Letter of Invitation from the Folk of Banban, Batad, Iloilo (Sample of Letter of Invitation) – <i>Liza C. Castro</i>	152
FILIPINO	
Kulturang Pilipino: Buhayin at Palaganapin – <i>Leamor A. Molina</i>	153
Ipagmalaki Natin... Kasuotan Pilipino – <i>Rommel R. Quinsay</i>	154
Kasuotang Filipino – <i>Rommel R. Quinsay</i>	155
Buhay-Guro – <i>Myrna B. Dujenes</i>	156
Paglalakbay – <i>Jonallaine V. Brillo</i>	157
Ang Pulo ng Aklan – <i>Maria Lyn A. Tafalla</i>	157
Banghay-Aralin sa Pagpapahalaga Pampanitikan, Filipino 3 – <i>Maria H. F. Elan</i>	158
Tula ng Scout – <i>Leizel A. Quitola</i>	158

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TEACHERS: SHAPING THE FUTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

Domingo R. Cueto

Rosario Elementary School Cavite

We heed the call to fulfill a noble mission. We are there treading the muddy trails and climbing the steepest mountains. We are there sailing through the gigantic waves and hurdling the cascades. We are there rushing with the hustle and bustle of the metropolis. We bring the unceasing flame of hope and shed brilliant light to every generation of this nation.

We are teachers. We nurture young minds and touch their hearts. We teach our youth to read and discover the wonderful world of knowledge – learning that reading the thoughts of great minds is understanding the wonderful myriad facets of humanity; so that in their lifetime, they will live by their great ideals. We teach them to count and appreciate numbers so that they will not only learn quantities, ratios and proportions, equations but also to value hard work and patience when they stumble hard-hitting math problems. We teach them science to understand life and our existence. We teach them language so they can use the power of communication to improve themselves and our country. We teach definitely to touch lives.

We are teachers. With a multitude of tasks in our hands, we display a high sense of responsibility and work standards. As classroom managers, we motivate our learners and create a conducive learning environment. We also provide them with opportunities for holistic development assuming the roles of coaches, counselors, surrogate parents, and even as friends. In our respective communities,

we serve as partners in clean drive, tree planting activities, medical missions, and religious events. And during elections, we safeguard your votes even risking our own dear lives.

We are teachers. Our influence among our youth is infinite. No figures have definitely carved such indelible mark except teachers. We play vital roles in the success of our schoolchildren in their future endeavors. We lead them by example. We live by our words.

We are teachers. We educate the citizens and future leaders of our nation. We believe that the learners in our class are our nation's wealth. We make these young school children believe in themselves, to develop their full potentials so they can achieve great deeds for themselves. We facilitate learning so our youth can construct meaning from their school experiences.

We are teachers. Our task of educating the citizenry will guide our nation towards development. We educate the prime movers of our nation – professionals, the workforce, and the leaders. At various key points of their lives – we as teachers are instrumental in shaping them. We sharpen their minds, mold their character and train their hands. We inculcate the fundamental values – *maka-tao, maka-Diyos, maka-kalikasan, makabansa* – that are needed for a productive citizenry. More than education, we strengthen their moral fiber – to uphold justice, honesty, nationalism, and compassion.

We are teachers. We build the citizenry that will soon build the nation. And to every teacher out there, we share with you the pride of taking a hand in this great and noble task. We are the teachers of our nation.

We are teachers. Our task of educating the citizenry will guide our nation towards development. We educate the prime movers of our nation – professionals, the workforce, and the leaders.

When all else fails, Humanized Teaching is the way

Ryan R. Pecson

*Baruya National High School
San Rafael (Baruya)
Lubao, Pampanga*

When students are at risk of failing and disengaging, the teacher's human consideration paves the way – that is looking at the students in a more humane perspective by leveraging all sorts of action to help them receive a passing grade or enhance their performance. But sometimes, it is not just giving all sorts of advice, encouragements, prevention, intervention and post-intervention programs, nor reinforcements that would help them succeed, but the teacher's presence and

tender loving care by making them feel that you are there, on their side, and together with them in finishing their journey of education. It is the teachers' ability to make the students experience how to become more humane and not just simply becoming human. Humanized teachers appreciate students in their highs and lows; value students the same way they value themselves; give importance to the little things done by the students; promote students' holistic development grounded on the principles of individual differences in personality, emotional quotient, learning styles, intellectual quotient, and multiple intelligences; uplift students' morale; adapt to student needs but not sacrificing the quality of learning;

As a humanizer-teacher, it is good to witness how the seeds of hope you had planted in the hearts of your students started to grow, were cultivated and reaped by themselves.

inculcate in students camaraderie, belongingness, sense of responsibility and love for peace; share the essence of becoming a social being who is caring, passionate, and humble; and promote students' connectedness and integration with the rest of humanity.

Teachers should not just be valued for the veracity of knowledge they had imparted to the students (for they are not just imparters of knowledge), but by the value of life experiences – whether good or bad – that they had shared and learned with them. Also, students should not be imprisoned by the content of education alone, but on the context of meaningful educative processes where their individuality persists, their sentiments weighed and being appreciated. They feel at ease, and are not afraid to make mistakes and be who they are. Of course, this falls more on the topsy-turvy side of educating humans. Though we are capable of doing almost anything, we also have our weaknesses that sometimes cause us to bleed, crash and breakdown. During these hard times, sympathy does not work, but the empathy of others does. Hence, education is a mutual undertaking.

Humanized teaching and education are not only geared to the emotional perspective, the affective domain, and the feeling-oriented modality of delivering quality and relevant learning experiences toward the development of the total person *per se*, but on the shared responsibilities of educational success based on the holistic effort between and among teachers and students. Today's approach of education is personalized, learner-cen-

Alphabet of a Teacher

Gregorio V. Canzon

Philippine Normal University

Compilation of some quotations about a teacher. If you have time to read it, it might serve as your guide as you trek the rocky roads of your life as a teacher.

A – As teachers, there is no time for ease and comfort, it is a life of daring and endurance.

B – Best thing in the world of values is an active teacher with an active soul.

C – Charm of a cheerful teacher is an asset in the teaching profession... smile!

D – Do not follow where there a path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. Do not be afraid of errors, even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

E – Empty your head to your students and your heart will be filled with joy.

F – Faithful teachers believe what they do not yet see, the reward of this faith will be seeing what they believe in heaven.

G – Good, better, best – never let it rest until your good is better and your better is best.

H – Happiness adds and multiplies as we divide it with our students.

I – Ideas are roots of creation and instinct is untaught ability.

J – Justice is an attribute of a good teacher – the firm and continuous desire to render to everyone that which is his due.

K – Knowledge exists to be imparted... share it!

L – Life is not so short that there is always time for courtesy.

M – Moderation in the temper of a teacher is always a virtue but moderation in principles is always a vice.

N – Not to enjoy life but to employ life ought to be your aim and inspiration.

O – Our pain and pleasure like light and darkness succeed each other.

P – Punctuality is one of the cardinal values we always insist on in your students.

Q – Quality not quantity in our works pleases the Lord.

R – Remember... experience is one thing you cannot get from nothing.

S – Students should know that the best education in the world is by struggling to get a living.

T – Teachers who never fail are those who never try.

U – Unleash the genius in you, try what is possible... and suddenly you will realize you are doing the impossible.

V – Virtue is the only reward of a teacher from virtue.

W – Wrinkles must be written on our brows, let them not be written in our hearts. The spirit of a teacher should never grow old.

X – Excellence as a teacher can only be attained by the labour of a lifetime. It can never be purchased at a lesser price.

Y – You must not be afraid of opposition; remember, the kite rises against world.

Z – Zeal is fit for a wise teacher, but it is mostly found in fools.

When you stand before God at the end of your life,

Hope that you will not have a single bit of talent left and you can say;

"Lord, I have used everything You gave me!"