

3-1-2018

## From the President: Thought Partners

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### Recommended Citation

(2018) "From the President: Thought Partners," *DePaul Magazine*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 412021 , Article 3.  
Available at: <http://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-magazine/vol1/iss412021/3>

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# Thought Partners

**W**hen I spoke at Academic Convocation at the beginning of the school year, I made special mention of my wife, Josephine, which was a first for DePaul. When you are the first lay leader in the university's history, a president with a spouse is, understandably, a novelty. This edition of the magazine highlights women of DePaul, and I thought it would be fitting to share a bit more about my other half with you.

Jo and I met 38 years ago during our junior year at the University of the Philippines. I was a mathematics major, and she majored in business economics. We actually met for the very first time at the mathematics club. After graduation, Jo started working in management at a bank, and I worked as a computer programmer across the street. We always knew that we wanted to continue our education and pursued graduate studies at the University of the Philippines. Jo received a scholarship and earned a master's in economics, and I earned an MBA. Six years after we started dating, we got married.

Then I received a scholarship to pursue a master's in Japanese business studies at Chaminade University of Honolulu. Jo



moved to Hawaii with me, but she wasn't allowed to get a job due to visa restrictions. After I graduated, we returned to the Philippines. After a couple of years of working there, Jo went on to earn an MBA from the University of California, Riverside, and I completed my

doctorate in business administration at the University of California, Irvine. While working toward her MBA, Jo taught accounting classes. She also became a mother when our daughter, Ysabella, was born.

Jo worked for a few companies after graduate

school, creating predictive modeling platforms for the telecommunications, retail and advertising industries. Our daughter actually led Jo to her first fundraising experience. After learning that Ysabella's pre-K teacher was raising funds for a science laboratory for children, Jo volunteered to write a grant and then worked with the sponsor to secure funding. Her passion for fundraising continues today.

I consider Jo my thought partner. We are getting to know the DePaul community together. This past fall, we spent a day in each of DePaul's colleges and schools. We flipped pancakes for students during finals week. We got involved in the life of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish. We met parents and alumni during Family Weekend.

While Jo does not have a formal role at the university, she will be fully engaged in our community. You can expect to see her at campus events, as well as alumni receptions being planned across the country. We look forward to meeting many more alumni and friends soon.

*Gabriel Esteban*

*A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD*