Welcome, future Ateneans!

A Message from the President

Welcome to the Ateneo de Manila, which we hope will be your second home during your college years. In entering Ateneo college, you will become part of an illustrious tradition that goes back, not only to Jose Rizal, Gregorio del Pilar, Claro Recto, and Herencia de la Costa, but also to the Jesuit founders, the Ignatian Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, and Blessed Peter Faber, who were fellow students at the University of Paris in 1528.

Last year Ateneo celebrated the Jesuit Jubilee Year of the First Jesuit Companions and in his essay published in the Inquirer and the Star on December 10, 2006, the 147th anniversary of the Ateneo de Manila, Fr. Provincial, Daniel Patrick Huang, recalls our beginnings.

I find it striking that this Jesuit Jubilee Year, we not only recall that the Society of Jesus began in the friendship of these three gifted individuals (Ignatius, Xaver, Faber), but that their friendship began in a university. They started out as roommates in the graduated university of their time, the University of Paris. In the history of the first three companions, we see precisely what can happen in a university. Not only is the intellect trained, but, through friendships, hearts can be transformed, dreams reshaped, lives reoriented, and in the process, the world changed.

If this happened in the University of Paris four hundred years ago, then this happens too in the A times of Manila—and not by accident, but by design and plan. I know that I speak for many others when I say that my education in the A times of Manila change my life. I did not just get professional training in my four years of college in the late ‘70s. Somehow it all came together: the core curriculum, special philosophy and theology, social awareness, student organizations (for me A.C.I.L and A.S.C.A), formation in leadership in the Sanggunian, and programs of prayer and spiritual formation, that brought me to know Christ and to enter into living friendship with him. And I am convinced that all these programs only bear fruit for me because of the influence and support of peers, classmates, and friends, many of whom, twenty-six years after graduation, remain not only friends, but people with whom I share a vision of faith and hope and a passion for service and social change.

As I wrote in my welcome message last year, Ateneo de Manila continues the Jesuit tradition of educational excellence. We seek, in the language of Fr. Nadal 460 years ago, to bring together quan plures et quan amantis – as many as possible of the very best. You come to the Ateneo as among the apostists, the very best. This comes from your God-given gifts, the nurturing of your parents and your teachers and your own commitment to discipline and hard work.

In your years at the Ateneo, what do we seek to impart to you? We seek to help you discover in a fuller way your God-given gifts, whether in your chosen field or in other areas such as theater, debate, music and dance, art, computing, creative writing, entrepreneurship, sports. And having discovered your gifts, to help you become the best that you can be in them. For it is our deepest belief, coming from St. Ignatius and the first Jesuits, that the best way to help you grow in the future is in the development of your God-given gifts.

Beyond education to excellence and preparation for success in your chosen field and career, Ateneo College seeks to help you, as Fr. Dany Huang writes above, to find a purpose and a passion in life. We seek to educate you for success, yes, but we also want to offer you the opportunity to make a difference. We believe that in finding a purpose in life and making a difference, you will discover your trusted self and find deepest fulfillment and happiness.

Welcome again to the Ateneo de Manila. Much has been given you – of God-given talents, nurturing parents, teachers and friends. Much will also be demanded of you and so our endeavor will be to help you grow to be the best that you can be, so you can respond with generosity to all that life will ask of you. It will be a challenging journey, but, as Fr. Dany Huang writes, you will find in the Ateneo teachers, mentors and friends to accompany you along the way.

With prayers and blessings,

Benedicto F. Nebres, S.J.
President
Ateneo de Manila University

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January 2007
Volume II
Special Edition

Team Ateneo wants you!

Ways of being “men and women for others”

The student organizations

pages 4-5

pages 6-7

pages 8

Get to know the Ateneo

You have just been accepted to the Ateneo de Manila University’s Loyola Schools, and you have often heard of the school’s long and vaunted tradition of academic excellence, from the heroes who passed through its halls, to its Level IV accreditation status with the picture of the Ateneo. What the Ateneo strives to give its students is an education of the whole person—an education which, as Bro. Eric Sestillan, S.J. puts it, “is an education not just of the head but also of the heart and guts.” Fr. Nebres and Dr. Cayeysfung have done their best to impress that upon you, but the best way for you to know this, is to come, look, and see for yourself.

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Ma. Assunta C. Cayeysfung, Ph.D.

Welcome to the Ateneo, we hope you’re here to stay.
The Ateneo’s Palanca winners:
Reflecting on language, tradition, advocacy

For years now, Ateneo students, faculty members, and alumni have reaped awards in various literary contests. The 2006 Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature were no exception.

Lawrence L. Ypil, Department of English faculty member, topped the English Essay division with his winning essay, “I imagined myself walking to school from the branches, sipping a cup of tea and four months’ worth of supplies.” He was third in the English Essay division with Funillos, De Suits and OCS’ and Martin V. Villanueva (III BFA-Creative Writing) placed third in the same division with “If only I were bait.” Ryan Edward L. Chua (III AB Com) garnered second place in the Kasuluan Essay division with His Alumni Soccoro Villanueva (AB Psych 32) and Reynaldo T. Pandan, Jr. (AB Eco 33) won first place in the Short Story division with Mahogany Ways, and third in the Poetry division with the collection Illuminations and Sonorities, respectively.

The aim of the Palanca awards is to provide incentives for writers to craft their most outstanding literary work. Ypil couldn’t agree more, believing that winning and losing in any literary context should be understood in the context of the development of tradition, in so far as a “winner” or “loser” as the case may be, upholds or resists the perceived tradition. For Derian, the tradition of short story writing for children has always been compromised by the issue of “marketability.” “In stories appeal to middle-class parents and pedagogical enterprises,” to the detriment of the craft. The Palanca Awards, he believes, minimize these important world issues with greater focus on the experiment on topics, themes, and forms.

While Derian laments the problem of tokenism in literature in general, Ypil, on the other hand, is concerned about the gap between English and Filipino writers. He contends the possibility of language use in any writing craft, but more than eloquence, he believes that a writer’s preoccupation in the interrogation of his language, whether English or Filipino, “no one has a monopoly on reality, and we perceive the world through our words.” For Ypil, speaking or writing Filipino is to be one more knowledgeable about our country. “The world comes through the most intimate and private spaces of our lives,” he says.

For Derian, such interrogation can come only with an accompanying sense of advocacy—when writing is pursued not only for its own pleasure but also for its critique of the existing material conditions of our oppression and socio-political problems. In Derian’s winning short story, the gift of the father to his son precedes all others: the gift of vision—upon viewing migratory birds, both father and son are gifted with the understanding of the bond between them that transcends time and place.

Ateneo writers have always enjoyed the recognition of their peers in related circles if it means that such recognition is bestowed upon this year’s Ateneo winners, to whom the interrogation of tradition, the world, and the self comes by putting pen to paper: glesilies
The School of Science and Engineering envisions a Philippine society in harmony with nature, where the fruits of science and engineering are used in the service of God, country, and all its people.

The School of Science and Engineering aims to provide excellent training for students in basic and applied disciplines. The School seeks to build its strength both in individual departments and through active interdisciplinary undertakings, where the greatest progress is likely to occur. The School seeks to meet the challenge of globalization, sustainable poverty, and the environment.

Five SOSE departments designated CHED Centers of Excellence and Centers of Development

Designated as Centers of Development (COD) were the Biology and Environmental Science departments.

Designated as Centers of Excellence (COE) were the Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics departments.

The School of Social Sciences works toward a society made more human by its commitment to teaching, research and action. It sees a world dedicated to academic excellence, in which humanistic values and Ignatian spirituality harmonize with modern technology, in which passion for justice bonds with service to the country.

The School seeks to form a world of mature spirituality, focused on respect for the individual, freedom of scholarship, unity in collegiality, and the diversity of disciplines—thus recognizing a multiplicity of perspectives from which to examine society, its history, and its social, political and economic lives.

Its pursuit of scientific study is grounded in Philippine society and culture, from which it seeks to contribute to national development and to Asia-Pacific and ultimately global inter-cultural heritage. It envisions itself collaborating with other Schools of the Ateneo de Manila University; the other Ateners, and other partners in the education of the Filipino.

The School of Social Sciences thus sees itself in the context of service to the nation, as a partnership of different departments and programs, each offering an expertise and a commitment.

For Ambeth Ocampo

Ambeth Ocampo is one of the recipients this year of the Metrobank Outstanding Teachers Award. He is the ninth faculty member of the Loyola Schools to be given the award, following Ramon C. Reyes, Marijo P. Ruiz, Ma. Assunta C. Coyugquen, Doreen G. Fernandez, Ma. Cristina A. Astorga, Ricardo Abad, and Queena N. Lee-Chua.

Ocampo has been teaching courses in Philippine history for twenty years. For him, it is all about the students. Interviewed by the Metrobank Foundation, he said: "What makes you go good or even exceptional is that you go beyond the subject matter; that you not just inform but . . . form your students." In the case of the history teacher, you let the students use history as a mirror in which to see themselves. "Only when the student finds himself or herself in the subject, said he, could they become something more. "That’s when teaching become truly formative."

To form and inform—the philosophy is consistent with the emphasis of the Loyola Schools administration on “student-centered learning.”

Ocampo writes certainly, but also in the way he forms and informs his students—in the books and articles he has written, in the acceptance speech he said that "it is in the classroom where you see whether your message is getting across or not.” Students are his first critics, and in the exchange between teacher and student lies the frisson of learning.

The exchange can be mutually enriching. O’case, for instance, he showed his class a picture of Leonor Rivera. His students giggled. "I asked them why and explained that [the drawing] was made by Rizal himself. Unfazed, one student stood up and declared, 'That’s not Leonor R. that’s Michael Jackson after cosmetic surgery!' I looked at the first time I saw other images, other people, other options. 'Let the students use history as a mirror in which to see themselves.'"

Ambeth Ocampo (fifth from left) with fellow Metrobank Outstanding Teachers and Central Bank Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. and Metrobank Chair George S.K. Ty

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The Council of Organizations of the Ateneo (COA) invites you to take this first step towards a journey of self-discovery by joining an org during the Recruitment Week. The path to embark on comes in many choices. The organizations are committed to making it a meaningful and worthwhile journey.

As significant as that first step is the journey itself. After joining the organization of your choosing, COA encourages you to make the most of it by becoming an active member participating in the activities that the organization has to offer.

**Ateneo Science Guild (ASG)**

ASG is the cluster of five accredited science and environment orgs of the Ateneo science department — that of creating a community that is aware and active in spreading the beauty and wonders of science, health, and the environment.

**Ateneo Chemical Society (AChEs)**

The Ateneo Chemical Society is the co-curricular student organization of the Chemistry Department but is not an exclusive org of chem majors. AChEs, with the heart and curiosity for chemistry can join!

Members participate in seminars, exhibits, quizzes, beer company tours, sales, festivals, parties, and inter-school activities. This year, members took part in Kimika Mahika (magic show) and the Bayanihan River Festival.

**Ateneo Mathematics Society (AMS)**

We define what real passion for math is and prove it. We maximize friendships and minimize conflicts. We choose to make a difference.

We set the limit of our excellence approach positive infinity. We set no bounds for our service. We accept the irreversibility of death and apathy. We make the complex real. We integrate minds. We differentiate individuals.

We welcome mathematically inclined members to prepare themselves for professional careers while experiencing the joys of student life.

**Ateneo Computer Science Society (ACeS)**

Ateneo Computer Science Society (ACeS) is one of the Three A's that strive to make a difference in the Ateneo community.

The organization aims to promote a curriculum, the organization of your choice, COA encourages you to make the most of it by becoming an active member participating in the activities that the organization has to offer.

**Loyola Mountaineers**

As a Loyola Mountaineer, you will go to places where you can swim in pristine lakes, trek on summits in the clouds, and sleep beneath clear night skies with stars made brighter by the thin mountain air. As a Loyola Mountaineer, life is more enjoyable way to meet new friends, contribute to the Ateneo and society, enhance or learn new skills, develop character, and grow as a person.

**Ateneo Management Association (AIA) Management Association (AMA)**

The Ateneo Management Association (AMA) aims to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship by providing its members with a competitive atmosphere of professional networking, leadership, teamwork and responsibility. The strong project lineup includes the AMA Mall, A klasy, and the annual concert.

**Ateneo Junior Marketing Association (AJMA)**

AJMA is the organization with the largest membership base (last year it had 80 members) and the most projects (14 events). AJMA has been recognized by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) as one of the 10 Outstanding Student Marketing Associations of the Philippines (TOSMA) hosting 60 other schools for consecutive years. AJMA has won the Best Student Marketing Association in the Philippines award two years in a row from the Agony Youth Awards.

**Ateneo Junior Musical Association (AJMA)**

For those interested in performing, the AJMA offers you the opportunity to make music as the organization redefined what it means to be charismatic people, good enough to be your teacher, your leader and your friend... when all bases are covered — whether it be academic assistance or simply the need to hang out and have fun... AJMA provides you with the bigger schema to become the best IT individual committed to service beyond your limits.

**Ateneo Junior Journalism Association (AJJ)**

Ateneo Junior Journalism Association (AJJ) is the organization that strives to make a difference in the Ateneo community.

The organization aims to promote a curriculum, the organization of your choice, COA encourages you to make the most of it by becoming an active member participating in the activities that the organization has to offer.
Blue Repertory
Ateneo Blue Repertory is a musical theatre organization in which members come together and celebrate their passion for theatre with a personal sense of optimism that is reflected in its productions. The organization strives a balance between entertaining its audience and maintaining professionalism and has developed a reputation for giving outstanding musical training and producing high-quality musicals that attract people from all walks of life.

Company of Ateneo Dancers
A minute and a half away from the front doors of the cafeteria, (1:28:55 to be exact) a 48-step-climb from the college chapel, you will find yourself in front of a most peculiar group of people who forever call on a stepboy in their quest for dancing excellence before using their talents in unending praise for the wondrous Choreographer of life-a group that has mastered the art of counting up to eight. They are experts at balancing sixty-day school weeks and seven-day rehearsal sessions; performers grooving to the beat of unheard drums.

Loyola Film Circle
Loyola Film Circle is the only film organization in the Loyola Schools, the Loyola Film Circle continues to advocate not only film-making, but film appreciation and criticism, as well. With projects ranging from independent film screenings to movie premieres, truly the Loyola Film Circle quenches the third of those looking for a venue to express a wide array of talents, or simply to unwind in the best possible way.

Tanghalang Ateneo
Tanghalang Ateneo, the theater company of Loyola Schools, is an amalgam of the three Loyola Colleges descended from the Spanish times: the devotion of the Jesuits, the movies of the Municipal theater in Intramuros, the eloquence of the pre-war Ateneo Drama Guild, the퀵Disney of the post-war Ateneo Players Theater, and the aesthetic sensibility of the Ateneo Experimental Theater during the revolutionary 60s. From these theater companies of Ateneo’s past, Tanghalang Ateneo employs the theater to foist the ideals of Jesuit pedagogy. It sees itself for the ideals of Jesuit pedagogy.

Ateneo Lingua Ars Culture
The Ateneo Lingua Ars Culture is an organization that fosters the foreign languages, exotic arts, and existing cultures of the world. Alac aims to make the Ateneo community more aware of the world and to learn, through the different cultures by allowing the students to experience these cultures on a first-hand basis. ASEC makes this possible through interactions with foreigners and with those from provinces around the Philippines, and through various cultural projects.

Celadon
Celadon is the Philippine-Chinese organization of Ateneo. It seeks to foster the culture and appreciation of the Philippine-Chinese culture and to develop the cultural development of Celadon and Celadonians. Rooted in Ignatian and Chinese Filipino values, Celadon envisions a Filipino-Chinese community in harmony with the Philippine society, comprised of excellent leaders, geared towards nation building. It was awarded the Most Outstanding Student Organization for 2004-05, and is currently celebrating its 27th year.

Ateneo Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations Union
(Ateneo HP Union)
Shanghai, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo — these are just some of the places HP Union members have visited for international conferences. But HP Union also aims to bring what is global to the local, with national conferences, inter-school summit, and other activities to promote awareness of important issues. HP Union also produces drama, debate, and other leadership catalysts of social change and cultural exchange by providing leadership training seminars, guest lectures, program workshops, marketing talks, and research training.

The Assembly
The Assembly is a community of Ateneans driven to be catalysts for political awareness and involvement. It provides media for discussion between students and the most prominent leaders and organizations of the country. The Assembly also aims to bring about change from within, by being reactive to being proactive. The Assembly provides a vehicle for promoting socio-political awareness through projects such as the Kapitbahay Seminar, Politika, and its official newsletter, “The Citizen.”

Socially Oriented Activities
SOA dates to the late ’70s when a group of organization presidents came together to see if there was potential in the unity of organizations working for the same cause. Since then, SOA has become more and more diverse over the past years, and the spirit of service continues to bind SOA with its vision of forming persons fully alive, united with the conviction for justice and solidarity, and equipped with the skills for design, guided by the principles of justice, solidarity, development, excellence, and service.

Ateneo Christian Life Community
Ateneo Christian Life Community is the spiritual community of Ateneo students who are willing to deepen their relationship with Christ by living in a community for others. The Spiritual, Apostolic, Community Life and Education aspects of ACLC give the members a chance to reach out to the brothers and sisters in Pagay as they go through the process of deepening understanding and practice of the Precept of Faith for the Poor. Through tutoring, enrichment activities, catechesis, and social integration, ACLC members continuously strive to make God’s love real to every person they meet in Pagay.

Ateneo Catechetical Instruction
ACIL specializes in giving catechists classes to children living in urban poor communities. Its programs within these areas are not limited to classes, as it also has scholarship grant and livelihood programs. ACIL members under-nergon Ignatian For-mation Program through weekly proper meetings and education sessions.

Ateneo College Ministry Group
ACMG can boast of a magnificent diversity of students masses. Furthermore, ACMG can boast of a magnificent choir that sings both religious and non-religious songs.

Ateneo Student Exchange Council
ASEC creates avenues for Ateneans to learn and discover the diversity of different cultures by allowing the students to experience these cultures on a first-hand basis. ACMG makes this possible through interactions with foreigners and with those from provinces around the Philippines, and through various cultural projects.

Ateneo Student Exchange Council
Now on its 38th year, ASEC creates avenues for Ateneans to learn and discover the diversity of different cultures by allowing the students to experience these cultures on a first-hand basis. ACMG makes this possible through interactions with foreigners and with those from provinces around the Philippines, and through various cultural projects.

Youth for Christ - Ateneo
Youth for Christ - Ateneo is an organization that, in essence, is a family. Youth for Christ is a community of young happy Christians, in which members have the strength and other physical dis-abilities. They teach, play, sing, and learn with these children. Making special people feel special is a part of SPEED is all about.

Musmos
On the streets of Cubao and along the sidewalks of Katipunan, numerous children are found scattered small groups of Musmos are centered. Musmos members help these children through their activities, activities that may address their different needs, such as regular hospital visits, outdoor activities, and other organized events. Through this, Kythe hopes to be able to form its members to speak with their hands, to listen with their eyes, to see with their heads, and to touch with their hearts.

Special Education Society
The Special Education So-ociety is an organization that deals with kids with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other physical dis-abilities. They teach, play, sing, and learn with these children. Making special people feel special is a part of SPEED is all about.

Tugon Youth is an organization that under-takes volunteer work in institutions that cater to children who are surviv-al, institutionalized, and alone. Tugon visits these areas on a weekly basis — CRIBS in Marikina, Laura Villaluz in Cubao, and Redeners’ Home in Antipolo.

Gabay
Gaay is an organization composed primarily of scholars of the Ateneo. The organization strives to make a contribution to the edu-cation sector through offering public schools in the Quezon City and Marikina areas, where they give enrichment and supplement-ary classes. The organization also raises funds, given to deserving public school students.

Kaingin
Kythe Ateneo is the stu-dent arm of the Kythe For Children, an organization which is dedicated to uplifting the spirits of children with cancer. It is a group dedicated to giving psychosocial support for the children and their families through various activities that may address their different needs, such as regular hospital visits, outdoor activities, and other organized events. Through this, Kythe hopes to be able to form its members to speak with their hands, to listen with their eyes, to see with their heads, and to touch with their hearts.

Cultura
The Ateneo Lingua Ars Culture (ALAC), Ateneo Student Exchange Council (ASEC), Celadon envisions a Filipino-Chinese community in harmony with the Philippine society, comprised of excellent leaders, geared towards nation building. It was awarded the Most Outstanding Student Organization for 2004-05, and is currently celebrating its 27th year.

YFC Ateneo is more than just an organization, it’s a family. Young for Christ is a community of young happy Christians, in which members have the strength and other physical dis-abilities. They teach, play, sing, and learn with these children. Making special people feel special is a part of SPEED is all about.
The gift of education
The Loyola Schools Scholarship and Financial Aid Program

The Ateneo College Scholarship Program was initiated in the early 1960s through the efforts of then Admission Director Thomas B. Steinbugler, SJ. The University opened wide its doors to students who were eager to receive an Ateneo education, but were without sufficient financial resources. Through the years, every effort has been exerted—from scholarship fund generation, the screening of thousands of applicants, and the awarding of grants—to that no qualified student is deprived of an Ateneo education.

The Loyola Schools Scholarship and Financial Aid program is considered one of, if not the strongest and best, in the country. Three types of scholarships are given: Merit Scholarships, Academic Scholarships, and Financial Aid Scholarships. These are awarded to carefully chosen students who must hurdle stringent selection requirements which included excellent performance in the Ateneo College Entrance Test (ACET), consistently high academic achievement in high school, leadership skills, extra-curricular involvement, and potential for service.

Despite budgetary constraints, the Loyola Schools’ commitment to providing quality education has never wavered through the years. Each year, fifteen percent of the Loyola Schools’ tuition revenue is allocated for scholarships and financial aid. This is one of the most sizeable budgetary allocations for scholarships and financial aid of any private university in the country.

A part from the budgetary allocation, the Loyola Schools has a large number of endowed scholarships given by various benefactors. Through good times and bad, external benefactors have always been a strong beacon of hope. They include various Ateneo alumni classes and associations, foundations, corporations, government, families, Jesuit priests, student activity groups, parents, barkadas, and individuals. Corporate benefactors include the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Caltex Philippines, DOST, Equitable Bank Foundation, OSIS, Metrobank Foundation, Mitsubishi Corporation, National Book Store, Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company, and Unstex. To date, some 265 endowment funds and scholarship awards support scholarship and financial aid costs each year.

Scholars not only receive, but give back. Each semester, scholars are required to render ten hours of service as part of their formation program. The spirit of giving back is manifested more significantly by members of the Ateneo Alumni Scholars Association through the Scholars-For-Scholars Scholarship Fund. Former Admission Director William H. Kreutz, SJ, envisioned the fund as a venue allowing alumni scholars to “pay forward” the support they received while in college.

A large number of scholars have chosen to share their gifts with the Loyola Schools by working there as faculty, administrators, and staff. Some notable are Leoncio Ma. Garza, PhD, Dean of the School of Humanities and Philosophy

The University Dream Team
Dreaming of Blue Skies

The University Dream Team is aptly named. Initially an all-Loyola Schools team, and now a collaboration between the different University units, it was formed by the Office of Social Concern and Involvement (OSCI) in terms of logistics, the disaster relief operations group enters areas where dreams have all but died, and are one with the people there in trying to see blue skies beyond dark ravaging clouds.

During the month of October, the Dream Team worked with Simbahan Lingkod ng Bayan to conduct six relief operations in typhoon-battered areas. Relief goods were collected from all over the Ateneo, and distributed to OSCI-connected areas in Laguna, Navotas, and Pasig. Early December saw the team and its volunteers traveling to Naga and Albay in Bicol to assist communities hit by devastating mudslides.

OSCI stalwarts An Manapat, Robert Aguilar, and Eller Santiago outline how the Dream Team works. Code white: A typhoon hits, and a call to monitor the situation comes in from different areas. The assessment team makes a decision on whether certain areas should be assisted following a set of criteria which include the nature and magnitude of the disaster, demographics, institutions already providing assistance to the affected area, and affinity. On through Codes Yellow and Orange which constitute preparatory stages, Code red: All committees are activated, volunteers are recruited, relief goods solicited, collected, packaged, and distributed to the selected areas. Code Blue constitutes a decision to stop relief efforts. Code Green signals the start of rehabilitation work. A spectrum of activity denoting different kinds of work and different degrees of involvement, and founded on total commitment.

At the core of the group of volunteers are OSCI staffers who are always on standby, who consider Dream Team operations as part of their work, and who consider the people in many affected areas their friends. An Manapat reflects that as a personal relationship with people in the areas grow, so it has for the OSCI staff and LS students who have gotten to know the areas through repeated or extended visits, the usual relationship of giver and receiver no longer applies. “There is healing for both sides, you are helping each other,” she says. Fatigue and depression are very real possibilities for Dream Team regulars, but as OSCI formator Bob Pamisa puts it, “kindi nakakagapod kasi tumutulong ka sa tumutulong sa yo.” Formator Granni Granados feels the same way, being “energized by the people (in the area).”

So it goes. Typhoons will hit, possibly bringing flooding and mudslides in their wake. When that happens, the Dream Team will go through its codes, from white to blue, and possibly green, going on with their work of helping and dreaming with their friends.

William H. Kreutz, SJ and the Executive Committee of the Scholars-for-Scholars Scholarship Fund

Benjamin Almazan

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6

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COURTESY OF OSCI
The Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club tours Europe in LUX ORIENS

Fresh from the triumph of its current batch’s first foray into international competition and concerts in Europe, the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club (Batch 2002-06 under Musical Director Ma. Lourdes V. Herno) concluded their tour, entitled LUX ORIENS, or “light of the Orient”, with a homecoming concert on September 29 at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable-PCI Bank Tower I in Makati City.

Undertaken in celebration of the choir’s 85th year, LUX ORIENS saw remarkable achievements, with the batch of youngest ACGC choristers ever to go on tour surpassing the expectations of many both here and abroad. Audiences were constantly surprised at the level of musicianship and the performance caliber of a choir whose members were not only very young, but particularly, were not formally majoring in music. The tour, for which both the ACGC also received a special endorsement from the Department of Tourism as cultural ambassadors, lasted nearly two and half months and saw the choristers perform in Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy and Spain for three competitions, a choral festival, and numerous concerts.

Among the highlights of the 2006 tour were the ACGC’s victories in the 6th International Choral Competition in Miltenberg, Germany and the prestigious “Guido d’Arezzo” Polyphonic Competition in Arezzo, Italy. In Miltenberg, the choir won all possible prizes, including first prize and the only gold diploma in the Symphony of Voices category; the Bavarian Lion, a special trophy for best interpretation of the compulsory piece; and first prize for the Folk, Spiritual, & Jazz category. In Arezzo, it garnered the public prize for the folk singing festival; the special prize for the Romantic Period; and the second prize in the Polyphonic category.

For its excellent performance in the Romantic Period special competition, the group emerged as one of only three choirs eligible to compete for the “Cima d’Arezzo” grand prize.

The Glee Club also had successful performances in the world-famous Cologne Cathedral in Germany and St. Peter’s basilica in Vatican City, as well as around Austria and The Netherlands. It was, too, remarkably well-received in its concerts at the 20th International Choral Festival of Alava in Spain.

Having returned from such a successful tour, the ACGC celebrated with a special thanksgiving mass last October 1. The choir also treated churchgoers to a special mini concert after the mass. The Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club now begins preparations for its busy Christmas season and looks forward to finally being able to meet its new trainees under the current school year’s banners.

For booking inquiries and other comments, please contact Lester Tanquilut at (0917) 834-9839 or visit www.ateneogleeclub.org.

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The Sanggunian steps up

The Sanggunian is the autonomous student government of the Loyola Schools and serves as the student body’s official link to the administration. Sanggunian officers converse with the staff to advance the academic rights and general welfare of the students. The Sanggunian, as the group is popularly known, also plays the role of partner in the Loyola Schools’ student formation efforts. It aims to contribute to the development of the Ateneo’s ideals of academic excellence, cultural rootedness, spiritual maturity, and social responsibility in students, and achieves this through proactive and responsible representation, formative activities, and effective services.

In a talk with Loyola Schools Bulletin, heads of both the Sanggunian’s Central Board and the School Boards summarized their plans and programs, and explained why slight changes in the Sanggunian’s structure this schoolyear have made it easier for the group to more easily provide the best service to the most number of students.

Central Board

The Central Board creates programs and policies that respond to the needs of the entire student community. Under the Central Board are various committees which focus on different aspect of student life and governance such as social concern and involvement, external affiliations, student activities, and student rights and welfare.

A major initiative this year was the West to Vote program which helped students to register as voters in time for this year’s national elections. A part from an information campaign on voters’ registration, transportation was provided to and from voters’ registration offices in four cities. Some 200 students, and now bona fide voters, took part in the program.

Students rights and welfare also took center stage this year with the formulation of the Concern Form, which is available to all students so that they can bring to the Sanggunian’s attention any concerns or complaints regarding academic, public transportation, school facilities, cafeteria service, administrative policies, other students, and theft, among others. The Ateneo Student Concern Center, set up two years ago, serves as the venue for students concerns to be attended to.

To make sure that students are informed of school events and guidelines, the Ateneo Online Bulletin is mailed on a weekly basis to batch e-groups. Announcements from various organizations and school offices are edited and compiled into an organized listing which has gotten very good feedback from appreciative students. Student organizations have also benefited from the Bulletin as it makes their work of publicizing events that much easier.

Other initiatives this year have included mobilizing student volunteers for the University’s disaster relief efforts in Cimaran, Bicol, and, the so-called Black March held in honor of journalists who were casualties of political violence.

A major challenge, admits Sanggunian President Luis Abad, is meeting the students “where they are,” by offering activities and services they need, while at the same time fostering their consciousness of the world outside of schoolwork which requires their involvement and commitment, and which promises further growth to those who choose to participate.

School Boards

A shift from batch-centered to school-centered organization has served the Sanggunian well. Organizing and getting in touch with students by school, humanities, management, science and engineering, and social sciences rather than by batch has been found to be more effective in gaining student participation in Sanggunian projects. The School Boards create programs and policies that respond to the needs of their respective schools, and have as their objectives community building, specialization (according to the specific strengths and interests of their schools), and the strengthening of links between students, faculty members, and school administration.

Each of the four School Boards has embarked on a variety of activities and programs this schoolyear. Offerings, services, and events vary by school, but several themes serve to unify all these into a coherent whole. Community building efforts run the gamut from registration stops for freshmen, merienda parties, school-wide social events, and sport events. Given to the community is another major theme, with fundraising efforts benefiting individuals, groups, schools, and even communities, and volunteer work in different areas of interest. Career concerns also demand focus, with efforts to enhance students’ on-the-job training opportunities.

Stepping up

The group agrees that although it is hard to gauge exactly how effective their efforts have been, it’s important that they continue catering to students’ needs and helping in their formation. Given all the work to be done in the Sanggunian’s boards, committees, and departments, it would be normal to assume some degree of burnout and stress among the members. They are quick to admit that although they do spend a lot of their free time attending to Sanggunian matters, it’s not all work for them. It helps that apart from being the Sanggunian, they are also actually a tight group of friends who know how to have fun as well.

As they talk about their programs and activities, the words “step up” are used often. Their attitude is one of showing up and getting the job done, and it’s something they’d like to inspire in their constituents too.

They lament the fact that many students focus mainly on their studies and grades with social involvement and service falling by the wayside, but are confident that with constant encouragement, their contemporaries will be doing their own showing up and stepping up.
At the Ateneo, fashion may come and go but blue and white is in all year round.

While you're in a feverish state, the triumphant cheerleaders will be the life of the party. The joy and pride expressed by the cheerleaders, coaches, professors, and the rest of the student body is contagious. You'll be drawn into the excitement, and soon you'll be chanting "Beat Ateneo! Beat Ateneo!"

In the next few months, the queue of cars that stretch all across the campus and spill out into Katipunan will become a part of your daily life for the next four years. Soon after school organizations will open their doors to new blood, new tambayans will flourish, and there will be the omnipresent buzz over terror threats and the first of a seemingly never-ending series of required papers. There will be a stream of chatter that will be exchanged over text, chatrooms, and fun over the now pretty faces and cute guys among the 2,000-plus freshmen who have chosen to call the Ateneo home and alma mater.

Thunder in the Skies
If you strain your ears over the cacophony of sounds that make the college a vibrant and exciting place, you will hear a buzz that is in many ways electric and will soon break out into fever pitch. If you listen a little more closely, you'll hear the sound of rolling thunder while you're in the midst of a renaissance. Looking to either finish third or fourth in the UAAP General Championship standings, this will be the best ever finish for the school since its glory days in the 70s. With better funding, and recruitment, the Ateneo is no longer just a basketball or football school. It is an emerging power in the Philippines (UAAP) season will open to much fanfare and anticipation. The battle for the highly coveted men's basketball title, the centerpiece of collegiate athletics, will likewise jump start the competitions in chess, karate, table tennis, swimming, football, and volleyball, among other sports.

At first the words that are chanted for the season. "Battalion to a manic eight-beat hooey even. But mark these words that make up the school cheers, for they have the power to re-energize teams, to will athletes back into contention, and to unite a huge wave of blue and white towards victory and honor. The singing of the alma mater alone is stirring enough to bring even the most hardened of them all to tears."

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Ghosts of Champions Past
If you want to immerse yourself better in the Ateneo's tradition of excellence in athletics, you might want to do a few things that'll have you bleeding blue through and through.

Tucked unobtrusively between the old Rizal Library and Kostka Hall is the University Archives. They are the keepers of the flame and lore that chronicles the exploits of Moro Lorenzo (you'll know them for their passion, for their love of the sport) and Rudy Allayban and his most helpful staff are always on hand to guide you down memory lane. Hidden beneath the bowels of the luxurious Moro Lorenzo Sports Center is the Ateneo Sports Hall of Fame. Here you'll find tributes to athletes who are a veritable who's who in Philippine sports. It's quiet over there, perfect to pay homage to those who have paved the way for you and me to swear by that Atenean Pride.

Lastly, if you still aren't misty-eyed by now, you'll know how it feels to be a true Sixth Man of Team Ateneo. You know you have the chance to be part of Team Ateneo? You know who's who in Philippine sports, you've seen the annals of record and lore. Whether you don the colors or cheer lustily above the opposition's unified chants of "Beat Ateneo," you know you have the chance to do something for the school. There's nothing quite like representing your school in athletic competitions. You only have four years of college life, and after that, it will be time to put to the test everything you've learned not just in the classroom but on the playing field. Life is short and fleeting so make the most of it.

The decision is yours to make. Will you be part of Team Ateneo? Who knows, maybe the next queue of cars that snake across the campus all the way to Katipunan there to cheer for you.