Leong Hall: Engaging the World and Making a Difference

BY EILEEN LOLARGA

THE NEW HOME of the School of Social Sciences, the Ricardo and Dr. Rosita Leong Hall, had its blessing and inauguration on 17 October 2007. Built in a record time of just over 10 months, it stands as a firm testament of how a couple’s inspiration can bring forth amazing results for a University seeking to engage the world in better and more transformative ways.

In acknowledging with profound gratitude the generous donation of Ricardo and Rosita Leong during the inauguration program, University President Father Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, said that apart from making the dream of a reality, we have shared many other dreams with Ricardo and Rosita—to improve education and housing of our people, to inspire and invite others to this enterprise of nation-building and encounter between the cultures in our region, in short, to make a difference in our country and in our world.”

Fr. Jose M. Cruz, SJ, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, likewise, was enthusiastic about the many energetic and creative possibilities for scholarly work in the area of the Leong Hall could bring forth. Showing his delight at the results of the building which he carefully watched over as it rose from the ground, Fr. Cruz described the building as “stunningly beautiful” with the trees and the greenery around seeming to be fully part of the faculty workrooms. It is truly a “bushed and nurtur- ing place” for students, scholars and teachers alike to wrestle with gripping social issues of the day, and also to exert greater efforts toward the understanding of China—the two related yet distinct purposes for the support of the Leongs for this University endeavor.

Mr. Ricardo Leong, who was inspired by reading Chris Lowney’s tale of a 430-year old company that changed the world, responded by sharing his own journey with the Jesuits that eventually moved him and his wife to give substantive support to the “the passion, dedication and eagerness to learn” which they saw in the students and the faculty of the University. He saw heroic leadership in those “driven by love of teaching, learning, and giving.”

Ateneo revives leadership in atmospheric sciences

CLIMATE CHANGE and the expected destruction caused by extreme weather conditions have become major concerns of countries all over the world. In response to these concerns, the Ateneo de Manila University is opening a new Master of Science in Atmospheric Science program in June 2008. This program is expected to contribute to the training of meteorologists at the country’s weather bureau, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The initial batch of students will be made up of two groups of graduate students made up of staff members of PAGASA and applicants to the weather bureau. The studies of the initial batch will be funded by the Department of Science and Technology’s Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI). The students will start with courses preparatory to the program proper this second semester.

The M.S. Atmospheric Sciences program will have three specialization tracks: Meteorology, Air Quality and Climate Change. The Meteorology track has the most relevance to PAGASA. The tracks on Air Quality and Climate Change will address the concerns related to environment and sustainable development.

The M.S. Atmospheric Sciences program is being offered under the Department of Physics of the Loyola Schools, in close collaboration with the Manila Observatory (MO). The Ateneo and the MO combined have the largest concentration of PhDs in this area and the best equipped laboratories.

ATHENEO DE MANILA University was ranked as the 451st best university in the world (June 2007) in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Ateneo is the only Philippine university that increased its ranking from last year.

The University of the Philippines—Diliman came in at 398th, De La Salle University was ranked 519th, and the University of Santo Tomas was at the 533rd place.

“We are happy to be in such a position, but perhaps, this is also the best time to reiterate what we have been saying about rankings, in general,” said Vice President for the Loyola Schools Dr. Ma. Assunta Cuyegkeng.

“We maintain that rankings like these (their survey instrument, the weights they use) don’t reflect our vision/mission. Thus, we will not allow these to distract us from pursuing our goals. We will continue to work harder at being better known in the region to highlight the leadership and excellence of our faculty and students and the institution’s contribution to national development. We will continue to do what Ateneo does best: the total formation of students and the preparation of students for leadership. This formation for leadership is what makes Ateneo the highly regarded university that it has been for almost 150 years.”

As University President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, has said: “Rankings in the Times survey are important because they measure how the world perceives us. But just as a person has to take what people think of them in the context of their own values and priorities, we, too, have to reflect on these perceptions and measures within our own view of our vision and mission. Thus, while we will work on strengthening our research and publications in ISI journals… we need to do this in a way that does not move us away from our vision/mission and our traditional strengths: leadership formation and contribution to national development. These have to continue to be our priorities as a Jesuit university committed to the service of faith and the promotion of justice and as a university in a Philippines, whose greatest challenge is overcoming poverty and national development.

ATHENEO DE MANILA University was recently designated as a Center of Excellence (COE) in both Business Administration and Entrepreneurship by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The designation of the university as Center of Excellence came about after a thorough review of the business and management programs in the Ateneo’s John Gokongwei School of Management by the Technical Panel for Business and Management Education. The panel’s recommendation was approved by the CHED during its special meeting in October.

In a letter addressed to Ateneo President Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, CHED Chairman Romulo L. Neri thanked Nebres and the Leongs for their participation in the COE Program and congratulated them on their achievement.

The Ateneo is now a designated CHED Center of Excellence in 11 fields: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Literature, Philosophy, English, Psychology, Information Technology, Sociology, Business Administration, and Entrepreneurship. In addition, its Biology and Environmental Science programs have been designated CHED Centers of Development.

The inauguration of Leong Hall—the new home of the School of Social Sciences.
ON 18 OCTOBER 2007, Dr. Catherine Vistro-Yu was congratulated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang for being named as one of the 2007 Ten Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) by TOWNS Foundation Inc. The formal ceremony was held in Dusit Hotel on 26 October 2007 together with other awardees from the fields of education, journalism and business sectors.

Having taught for 23 years, Dr. Vistro-Yu has been recognized for her passion for teaching mathematics. She helped found the Philippine Council of Mathematics Teacher Educators (MathTED), an organization with a mission to elevate the standards of mathematics teaching, learning, and research in the Philippines.

MathTEd, spearheaded by Dr. Vistro-Yu with 19 others, worked with the Department of Technology Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) to create and implement the national curriculum and framework for Basic Mathematics Education and Mathematics Teacher Education.

The TOWNS award is a recognition of all the efforts that I, my colleagues in MathTEd, and all mathematics teachers and mathematics educators have made to raise the quality of mathematics learning and teaching and mathematics education research here in our country,” Dr. Vistro-Yu said.

“Her colleague and friend, Dr. Flor delizia Francisco, says the TOWNS award is “an affirmation of the good things [Dr. Vistro-Yu] is doing, as well as an inspiration others like her to keep working for education, to keep working for the future of our nation.”

Dr. Vistro-Yu, who is currently a professor in the Mathematics Department at the Ateneo de Manila University, has published over 20 journals, articles, technical papers, reports, and books combined. The latest publication she has edited together with 7 other editors is Internationalization and Globalization of Mathematics and Science Education.

Closer to home, her service revolves around her students. “She meets with her undergraduate students individually after every unit test to discuss their difficulties and ways to improve their performance in the next exam. This is truly an example of cura persona,” shared Dr. Francisco.

Dr. Vistro-Yu, along with Eva Maria Cutiongco de la Paz, Alyssa Peles-Alampay, Ma. Corazon Ungria, Hilly Ann Maria Ros Queipo, Gleyce Cruz Atienza, Dina Ocampo, Alexandra Prieto Romsaldez, Maria Reza, and Elizabeth Lee, are the women who can say they have made a difference in our country.

2007 ASPAC Awards: A Recognition of Teachers’ Vocation

IF THERE IS ONE WORD that captures what Dr. Gregory L. Tanganan, Dr. Reginaldo M. Marcelo, and Dr. Stephen Henry S. Totanes have in common as teachers, it would be magis—that oft-spoken Latin word among Ateneans for “more.”

Magis because they gave more than what was expected, and more than what was required. Students, fellow teachers, and administrators recognized this and gave them another thing they now have in common, the 2007 Ateneo Schools Parents Council (AS PAC) Outstanding Teacher Award.

Parents have always known the invaluable worth of education for future of their children. If students have a teacher who makes a difference in their lives, their parents would be more than grateful. The parents of the Ateneo community have looked not just one, but three teachers. Dr. Tanganan, Dr. Marcelo, and Dr. Togtangan—who have made a difference in their children’s lives, and they have shown their appreciation by recognizing them during ceremonies held at the PLDT Convergence Technology Center on 26 November 2007.

Chairperson for ASPAC Academics Committee Mrs. Manli Cabayan says the ASPAC Outstanding Teacher Award is “in a way of showing our gratitude to them because we recognize their important role as teachers... their distinctive place co-formations who form students to be competent people for others. It is a recognition not only of their service, but their vocation.”

Dr. Tanganan, a faculty of the Department of Electronics, Computer and Communications Engineering (ECCE) who graduated with a doctoral degree in applied physics at the California Institute of Technology, was honored with the 2007 ASPAC Outstanding Part-Time Teacher Award. He was nominated by ECCE Department Chair Dr. Nathaniel Labagad who said Dr. Tanganan’s impact as a teacher was “unparalleled.”

“In just a few years, he succeeded in imbuing the department with a strategic vision for research and innovation by providing more than four US patent applications with colleagues and students on wireless devices, smart energy, and biomedical engineering,” said Dr. Labagad.

“Every single class every semester, in fact, every single meeting, is an opportunity to reach out to our students and to do our part in the Ateneo ideal of forming them into academically-prepared, spiritually-natured, and socially-responsive men and women for others,” says the 2007 ASPAC Outstanding Junior Teacher Award winner. His passion for Philippine history and dedication to teaching his students has moved Jason de la As (DLSU-D) to the 2007 Outstanding Senior Teacher Award. De la Alas shared how Dr. Togtangan’s commitment to teaching has inspired him. “He teaches Philippine history with touches of witty humor and insights. He commutes every weekend from his home in Sorongon to his work in the Ateneo.”

If there is one thing that Dr. Totanes, Dr. Marcelo and Dr. Tanganan have done in common, it is that they have left indelible marks in their hearts.

Metrobank Outstanding Teachers Recognized

METROBANK OUTSTANDING TEACHER awardees were recognized once again during turnover and appreciation ceremonies held on 12 November 2007 at the PLDT-CTC Building.

Among those recognized were two Loyola Schools faculty members: History Professor Amihan R. Ocampo and School of Humanities Acting Dean Dr. Remedios Santos. Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardees for 2006 and 2007, respectively. Dr. Santos was the second awardee to represent Loyola Schools.

Also recognized were Mrs. Glendale Belarmino-Lamitsera, the second awardee from Leye and first-ever awardee from Dulag National High School in Dulag, Leyte; and Dr. Ruben L. Abucaycon, the second awardee from Surigao del Norte and first-ever awardee from Alegria National High School. Both are products of the Master’s program of the Ateneo School of Science and Engineering.

Metrobank Foundation initiated the 10 Outstanding Teachers Program in 1985 to bestow honor and due recognition to exemplary teachers who have shown profound commitment to honing the minds of the youth, dedication to their craft and effective educational leadership. The program also aims to elevate the quality of education in the Philippines by choosing outstanding educators to serve as inspiration to thousands of teachers to continue their selfless mission to change the future of the country.
Notable Achievements

Christine Bellen Bags CMMA Awards

BY GARY DEVILLER

CHRISTINE BELLEN of the FILIPINO DEPARTMENT was awarded the Best Children’s TV Program for “Ang Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang,” at the recently concluded Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) held at the Matsu Eugenie Theater of the Assumption College in San Lorenzo Village, Makati City on 23 October 2007. Together with the producer, Regional Manager Ramil Bataller, Bellen accepted the rock trophies, thanking the CMMA for acknowledging her work.

Bellen works as a storyteller for “Ang Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang,” approving all the scripts for 26 episodes, making sure that any revision is faithful to the intention and original version of the stories. Bellen has studied extensively the the Lola Basyang stories for her maternal thesis and, since then, has been commissioned by Anvil Press to launch a series of these stories in children’s book format, with accompanying illustrations and translation. Last October, Anvil Publishing launched the 3rd among the series of Lola Basyang stories at Trinoma Mall. Bellen’s retelling of Lola Basyang has been successful and continues to attract more readers both young and adults.

The CMMA gives out trophies to honor the country’s best values-oriented work in student communication, radio, television, cinema, the internet and advertising. Together with Bellen, Fr. Johnny C. Go, SJ, was also awarded for his children’s book, The Parable of the Elder Brother.

SEA Write Honors Michael Coroza

BY GARY DEVILLER

Michael Coroza or SEA Write, honors leading poets and writers in the ASEAN region. This year, SEA Write honored the Filipino Department’s Michael Coroza, a multi-awarded poet, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 12 October 2007.

Coroza has received major awards from the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, Talaang Ginto sa Tula-Ganitmpala Collantes, and Home Life Magazine National Poetry Contest. His two books of poems, Diliin and Mga Lagot na Liwanag, were both finalists in the National Book Award for Poetry. As an oral poet, Coroza has widely performed in the Balaagasan locally and in countries such as Singapore and Hawaii. He also regally represented the Philippines in the 10th Kuala Lumpur International Poetry Reading. As a staunch advocate for Filipinos, Coroza also hosts Haraana ng Puso, a weekly radio show about 10:30 FM that features traditional and classic Filipino songs and poems.

Two years ago, komisiyon sa Wirang Filipino bestowed upon Coroza a national award of recognition for his contribution to the development and promotion of the Filipino language and literature. SEA Write, which started in 1979, continues to support writers in ASEAN countries. This year’s ceremony was held at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, with H.H. Prince Prem Pusharatnagracing the event.
REGISTRATION: FROM THE HALLWAY TO THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

BY EEVA LIITIATCO-MARTIN

“CLICK, CLICK, DONE!” wrote one student at the REGCOM’s feedback board as registration in all undergraduate year levels officially catapulted from the hallway to the information superhighway. Thanks to personalized Ateneo Integrated Student Information System (AISIS) access, students completed the quick process that required the study of awareness and initiative, advisement, enlistment, and assessment. Since only a virtual hop, skip, and jump away. It was virtual reality with the fingers—not the legs—doing the “walking.”

Afterwards, students only had to print out the assessment form and pay the tuition fee. Manual registration, however, still went on as a safety net for students who were unable to enlist online, such as those who failed to activate their accounts or who had back subjects. A time-frame of three days were given to freshman and sophomore students to enlist online; whereas junior and senior students, to accommodate the increased diversity of their subjects, were given four days.

Each year level was further broken down into random numbers, with each batch of random adhering to a specified five-and-a-half (5½) hour time slot. The remaining days of each particular year level’s registration period were dedicated to those who missed their time slots. It is a system easily accessible anywhere in the world with even some Ateneans abroad applauding the smooth flow of this year’s online registration.

“It was really fast. There weren’t any problems. No slowing down and no server problems, whatsoever,” says Maria Pamela Punzalan, WAB Lit, on recounting her online enlistment experience.

For REGCOM (registration committee), the army of student volunteers whose long-standing tradition of serving the Ateneo community before, during, and after the registration process, their task has been made more manageable. Normal preparation procedures had still taken place such as handling registration forms, grades, allotting venues and the like, but the number of students who still had to go through manual registration had been lessened. Most comments centered that the registration for this semester was fast and hassle-free,” says Carmelita Cua, a REGCOM member. “Registering actually worked for the students because they were given a fair chance to choose the subjects they like.”

Complaints were limited to classes that had already been closed and students who weren’t able to enroll in their enlisted classes because of certain restrictions. Some haven’t been able to join their courses, counts, while a few voiced out that their servers were slow which hampered the speed of their online enlistment.

Although the system is admittedly not yet perfect, the earmark success of online enlistment was a far cry from last semester’s when seniors sang a different tune. Then, the last leg of the internet “enlistments” dry run spurring four semester, illness or system slowdowns, boded down the massive influx of senior students accessing their AISIS accounts at the same time. Exceeding its maximum capacity, the system was literally down to a painstaking “turtle’s pace. It was a lesson learned the hard way but a lesson learned well.

Mr. J.J. Agtarap, Registrar of the Ateneo, “When you have a new system inevitably there will be problems. We’re improving as each semester comes and hopefully things will get better.”

This further underscored the need for segmentation so as not to overwhelm the server and uphold its stability. The registrar’s office implemented the “batching system” on the subsequent online enlistment of the sophomores, a development that proved to be most effective in addressing latency issues and ensuring optimal performance. Prior to the senior and sophomore’s online enlistment in the first semester, relatively negligible results from previous dry runs in the second semester (for early registrants) and summer of the last school year (for sophomores and early registrants) were noted.

Cyberspace revolutionizes registration

Mr. J.J. Agtarap set the wheels in motion when he assumed office in 2001. Immediately, he saw through the major stages in the revolution in registration of the Ateneo—from a completely manual registration that took several lines and one to two days to accomplish, to the “one stop shop” where enrollers enlisted each student in all of their classes. In plotting the course en route to the implementaion of online registration, the registrar’s office and the MIS office decided against eliciting outside help in constructing the systems’ platform through an external solutions provider. Instead, the radical decision to nurture it from conception to infancy was embraced.

It was an uphill registration to cyberspace and each stepping stone had its own fair share of setbacks. The first major leap was the implementation of the Internet and networking schemes. While it had based on the AISIS, its revised version (AISIS2) was released in 2005 that eventually evolved to the online enlistment system. But the best news is not only does AISIS enable students to enlist online, it likewise serves as a portal to the Individual Program of Study (IPS), which contains each student’s basic information and allows students to view their academic profile and progression in the curriculum.

On to the next step: expanding the system and literally eliminating the paper trail

Mr. Agtarap describes this semester’s accomplishment to the teamwork of the entire school, and acknowledges it as the brainchild and achievement of each and every sector of the Ateneo community that contributed to its development. AISIS online, he says, was the fruit of a (well-synchronized) collaboration between the registrar’s office and the MIS department, with the latter designing the groundwork of information system. The academic departments provided and organized the heart and soul of the enlistment process, the classes, while the student body’s feedback and inputs were the spicy ingredients that stirred to perfection its formula for success.

Siddharta Perez, IV-All Arts Management, provides the center worth massive on the newly unveiled system. “It drastically improved from last semester. It’s efficient for people who managed to get to their online accounts. There were minimal or no technical difficulties encountered when they made use of the random numbers and batching system. However they should increase their information dissemination efforts to remind students to activate their accounts because there still were a handful of people who failed to do so.”

Efforts are now focused on safeguarding its stability and enhancing its performance. In this light, Mr. J.J. Agtarap further envisions expanding the internet enlistment system to the graduate school and declining grade sheets and registration forms altogether.

LISTENING TO LOYOLA SCHOOLS FACULTY MEMBERS

THE FIRST SEMESTER saw Loyola Schools faculty members and administrators engaged in discussions about the vision and mission of the Ateneo de Manila University as a Catholic, Jesuit and Filipino university in the age of globalization.

In the light of the new five-year Ateneo Loyola Schools Strategic Plan, which has a new vision that adopts an Asian perspective and pursues internationalization, it seemed timely for faculty members and administrators to tackle these issues as they affect University directions and their work as formators.

Dr. Benjamin T. Tolosa Jr., Chair of the School Forum, presided over the gatherings and explained that these were opportunities for the faculty and students to share thoughts about what it means to promote a culture of formation in the Ateneo.

Dr. Tolosa summed up the discussions during the forum on the Ateneo as a Catholic and Jesuit university by saying that Ateneo has become increasingly less homogeneous and with different dimensions of Catholicism.

While, perhaps, Ateneo’s identity as a Jesuit university is already clearly cut and well-established, with regard to its Catholic identity, however, much remains to be done. There are still more areas for growth, such as regarding the values conveyed to students. Social, cultural, and spiritual life, the Ateneo is projected to the world outside, and whether Ateneo reaches out to the students’ parents and the alumni.

During the forum on Ateneo as a Filipino University in an age of globalization, Dr. Filomeno Aguilar Jr., chair of the History and Government Department, elaborated on the themes about the issues of inequalities in Philippine society and the dangers of understanding Filipino in an elite sense. He encouraged people to become inclusive and to develop in our students “an appreciation of their Filipino-ness in all its diversity.”

Dr. Fernando Zialcita of the Sociology-Anthropology Department, on the other hand, shared his ideas on the paradoxes of globalization, on what a Filipino university is all about, and on the Ateneo in the global forum and what it can contribute in terms of research, entrepreneurship, and advocacy.

Dr. Antonio La Viña, Dean of the Ateneo School of Government, elaborated on the School of Government’s thrusts to address the needs of local governments and local communities.

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Training ground for doctors of the future

DOCTORS OF THE FUTURE, physician-leaders who dare to redefine health and how health is accessed and delivered in the country, now have the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) as their training ground.

On 23 November 2007, the ASMPH at the Don Eugenio Lopez Sr. Medical Complex in Ortigas City was inaugurated and blessed. The event was graced by directors and executives of the Ateneo and its partners and donors, namely, the Lopez family, Meralco, The Medical City, the Ching family, and the Salmi Group.

Dedication markers were unveiled at the foyer of The Medical City and the entrance to the ASMPH, as well as several rooms within the new building, The Ching Tan Hall and Ching Te Auditorium on the ground floor and the First Pacific Center for Health and Disease Control on the third floor. Ateneo President Fr. Bienvenido Nebres presided over the blessing rites, assisted by Frs. Catalino Arevalo, Romulo Integrange, Fides Magublahman, Manuel Perez, and Errol Marzanquil.

The markers now stand to immortalize the successful collaboration of kindred institutions and individuals to realize their shared dream with the ASMPH. The edifice was built in a record nine months by a team composed of architects Dan Lichauco and Peter Org of Archcon, construction manager SP Castro, quantity surveyors Davis Langdon and Joy Armada, and contractor Gene Gregorio of AGEC.

During the program held at the Ching Te Auditorium, Dr. Alfredo RA Bengzon, Vice President for Professional Schools of Ateneo and Dean of the ASMPH, posed the question to the audience: What is the meaning and significance of the celebration for you and me and the communities of our beloved country and indeed the world beyond?

“Each one of us is being asked to install a counter-culture that recognizes and believes that we are co-responsible for our own health and we can act on that by coming together through institutions and other depots and form an ASMPH and in our communities,” Bengzon said.

He concluded by saying that the three words by which we should understand feel and act on health are Excellence, Equity and Leadership.

Meanwhile, Fr. Nebres took the audience back in time to almost 500 years ago, when “a band of nine young men decided to follow a visionary leader named Ignatius Loyola and undertook an innovative and daring journey.”

They would eventually form a religious order different from all that had gone before, the Society of Jesus. They dared all this, because they saw it as the way to respond to the new and great challenges of their time, he said.

“We dare all this too, not just to be innovative and daring. We do this because we see it as the way to respond to the new and great challenges of our time,” Nebres stressed as he thanked all those who shared and believed in the ASMPH journey.

Messages were likewise given by Dr. Alonso P. Samson, chairman of the board of The Medical City; Mr. Benny S. Santos, executive director of Salesian, Mr. Benjamin T. Castro, executive vice president of La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory; Mr. Felipe Lauro, executive vice president of his alma mater, La Suerte; Mr. Oscar M. Lopez, chairman of the Lopez Group of Companies; and Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman of the board of Ateneo.

The ASMPH Class of 2012, the first batch of ASMPH graduates, will be heartwarming audio-visual presentation on their experience as doctors in the barrios and their contributions to the community. They are the future doctors who will be responsible for our health and for designing creative health interventions for our communities.”

The first batch of ASMPH students

A total of 75 students out of the 150 applicants enrolled in the school. According to Dean Bengzon, the total number of enrollees is much higher than the initial projections. Forty-five percent of the enrollees graduated from the ADMU while 25 percent came from UP, 10 percent from DLSU, 10 percent from UST, and the remaining 10 percent from other schools like the southern Ateneo schools, FEU, and St. Louis University in Baguio.

Harry Joy Liwanag, who graduated with a BS Biology degree from Ateneo in 2006 and is with the ASMPH, was master of ceremonies.

The school was built on the site of a chapel that was built by the Ching family. It was given to the school in the late 1930s by Mr. Jesus Ching, a former student.

The ASMPH offers a dual degree MD/Master of Business Administration. It trains students who will be the leaders of the country in the fields of medicine, management and public health. The school draws from the collective strengths and expertise of the Loyola Schools of the Ateneo de Manila, the Health Unit of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, and its partner training hospital, The Medical City.

First batch of ASMPH students makes medical history

BY RICK OLIVARES

ON 2 JULY 2007, the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) formally opened for classes beginning with a Mass of the Holy Spirit at the Augusto M. Barcelo Auditorium on the sixth floor of The Medical City Podium, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

The Mass was celebrated by Ateneo President Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, and was attended by Dr. Alfredo RA Bengzon, dean of the ASMPH; Dr. Maria Eugenia C. Yap, associate dean; Dr. Ma. Luz S. Casimiro-Querubin, director for Academic Affairs; and Fr.DevExpress Enrico P. Nebres, SJ, vice president for administration.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Ateneo Board of Trustees; donors; the faculty of the ASMPH; relatives and friends. Each student was given a special ASMPH jacket to commemorate his or her belonging to the pioneer batch of Ateneo medical students.

During the opening, Dean Bengzon took the time to explain the importance of putting up the ASMPH and the types of doctors they hope to produce: “This school’s going to turn out doctors who are going to be clinicians who are going to look after the health and welfare of individuals. They will be concerned with and especially skilled in looking after the health of populations – not just of individuals. And we are going to try and make them answer the call to become doctors of the future. Dr. Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, ASMPH director for Academic Affairs, was master of ceremonies. The Ateneo College Glee Club delighted the audience with its music.”

First batch of ASMPH students pose with faculty and administrators.

Their Anatomy classes at the New Medical City.

“He’s a nice school,” gushed Liwanag. “I can’t wait to see the finished campus. It will be more conducive to learning.”

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First batch of ASMPH students pose with faculty and administrators.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by the unveiling of the marker and dedication plaque, which included the names of the donors and contributors.

First batch of ASMPH students pose with faculty and administrators.

“Dr. Bengzon found out six months later that she had died. And he was very very sad when he found out she was not totally well, the midwife replied, ‘Because, Dr. Bengzon asked her why she was going back when she wanted to go back to her mission station. And when she says when he first met her, the people there told him, ‘Doc, you know this middle woman, she’s just recovering from gunshot wounds because she was caught in an NPA military crossfire. She was not fully recovered but she wanted to go back to her mission station. And when Dr. Bengzon asked her why she was going back when she wasn’t totally well, the midwife replied, ‘Because, nobody will be there to take care of the people.’

Father Nebres annotated Dr. Bengzon’s vision for the ideal Filipino doctor with one of the dean’s favorite anecdotes, “Dr. Bengzon met this midwife in Abra. He says, ‘Tell me about the people there.’ I told him, ‘Doc, you know this middle woman, she’s just recovering from gunshot wounds because she was caught in an NPA military crossfire. She was not fully recovered but she wanted to go back to her mission station. And when Dr. Bengzon asked her why she was going back when she wasn’t totally well, the midwife replied, ‘Because, nobody will be there to take care of the people.’

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Bridging Schools and Communities

IT IS A COMING TOGETHER of compassionate hearts, spurred on by the spirit of volunteerism; a synergy of minds stirred into transforming vision into reality. It is the fulfillment of a promise that was borne out of the act of witnessing and bringing forth genuine results.

Gawad Kalinga is more than just about building houses and sustainable communities; it is a well-oiled mechanism of change involving various sectors of society dedicated to eliminating poverty. And behind the assembly of helping hands is the need for a systematic approach to widen the channel into the best resources available. This makes a simple but powerful statement: This is what’s happening and this is what’s needed to be done.

This movement leads to learning and re-learning. According to Baby Tongco Cabiao, former mayor of Nueva Ecija and now GK’s executive director, it creates a venue for a fruitful exchange between the institute and public servants of particular regions. It is where the sharing of ideas takes place, where collaborative efforts begin to improve and implement programs geared towards addressing poverty and nation building. But before embarking on

Response of the Academic Community

GKBI is the response of the academic community to the challenge to reach out to the poorest of the poor, alongside the swift nation-wide expansion of Gawad Kalinga. And GKBI of the Ateneo School of Governance (ASoG) is the first to respond to this call. Says Mark Lawrence Cruz, head of operations, the GKBI has successfully and faithfully lived out the shared vision of Gawad Kalinga Builders’ Institute (GKBI) to eliminate poverty. And behind the assurance from the Jesuit Philippine Provincial, it creates a venue for a fruitful exchange between the JSP and the proper tools to deliver.

New Loyola Schools Administrators: Shaping Things to Come

When Jose Eduardo E. Calasanz was offered the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (ADAA), he accepted it blindly, despite the absence of details, knowing that he would not benefit from the usual turnover phase from an incumbent. At the time, his predecessor, Fr. Jose Cecilio Magadia, SJ, was already in New York on a new assignment from the Jesuit Philippine Provincial.

He accepted the offer with just two things in mind: that it would be interesting, and that this new opportunity for service will make him happy.

While the job is new, the environment is very familiar to Calasanz, or Eddieboy, to friends. Ateneo will never be a strange land to him, having served the University in varied capacities since 1974. Looking back, he says he was able to easily adjust to the new job, thanks to constant e-mail communication with Fr. Magadia and to the support of his competent and experienced staff.

During the first semester, he focused on students with academic problems. Together with the Standards Committee, the Guidance Office, and other pertinent units of the Loyola Schools, his office established a system to monitor students on probation.

In the second semester, he looks forward to working on curriculum and benchmarking concerns. In coordination with the Curriculum Committee, he wants to review and streamline certain procedures, such as those related to the review of the bulletin of information and course descriptions, rationalizing of catalogue numbers, and guidelines for program reviews. With regard to benchmarking and quality assessment—an entirely new field for the ADAA office—they will work with the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU).

On top of his ADAA responsibilities, the associate dean still finds time to teach Metaphysics and Medieval Philoso- phy at graduate students, and Philosophy of Religion to undergraduate students.

JoSE EDUARDO E. CALASANZ
ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Schools

BEING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF STUDENT Activities (OSA), is a homecoming of sorts for Pia Sandra Nazareno-Acevedo. For four years, she was a part time faculty member of the University’s Department of Theology—a job she had to give up when she and husband, Jim (also of the Department of Theology), began a family. She then ventured into freelance consultancy, specializing in human resource training.

With their sons Marco and Paolo now aged 7 and 4, respectively, she believes it’s time to re-join the workforce
Come full time, and the position of OSA Director has the right combination of change that she considers her elements: students and human resource training.

Full time, and the position of OSA Director has the right combination of change that she considers her elements: students and human resource training.

Her experience in human resource training served her well as she began to tackle the task of managing student formation and activities at the Loyola School. Balancing this new job as one big and ongoing consultancy case, Nazareno-Acededo says that, like in the corporate world, her number one concern is to give her clients the best service she can. With OSA, her clients are the student leaders and the administrators of the various units working closely with the office. And to these new clients, she will definitely give her best.

Believing in the importance of dialogue, she initiated a review of existing OSAs’ policies and procedures that could be hampering student creativity. From the information she gathered, she realized the differing needs of each organization. Thus, OSA was directed towards customizing services and always delivering efficient service.

She is happy with the general assemblies organized by her students. The needs of the student groups are taken up, such as fundraising methods, accounting systems and financial report preparation, and the needs for policies and group discipline. She also shared that OSA has been designated to spearhead the launching of the Leadership Institute.

This second semester, she looks forward to mentoring faculty and administrators who serve as moderators of students organizations, doing more collaborative work with other offices of Loyola Schools, including tapping the School of Government as a partner for projects; and institutionalizing a performance management system for all students organizations.

Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Schools

DR. KARINA GALANG-FERNANDEZ
COORDINATOR, TEACHER FORMATION INSTITUTE

with other offices of Loyola Schools, including tapping the School of Government as a partner for projects; and institutionalizing a performance management system for all students organizations.

DR. KARINA ‘CARA’ GALANG-FERNANDEZ joined the Loyola School Faculty Formation Team last April 2007, upon the invitation of Dr. Ma. Assunta C. Cuyeg-keng, when the former coordinator of the Teacher Formation Institute (TFI), Dr. Elizabeth Macapagal, was made chair of the Psychology Department.

Having been a TFI facilitator, she knew that the work was very much related to her interests: helping people develop and realize their full potential, both in personal and professional realms.

Soon after her accepting the assignment, she felt that she was literally thrown into the ocean to swim, because immediate preparations for the TFI for full time faculty members that summer had to be done. In big bold letter, she said she encountered, “NO PROBLEM.”

Key to this, she says, is how everybody has been very supportive. In fact, the whole Faculty Formation Team is so “disgustingly” passionate about their work, that their attitude just carries her along like a rushing tide. The positive response from their “clients”—the faculty members themselves—boosts her morale too.

Cara holds an M.A. in Human Development from Boston College, and completed her doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Even with her teaching and research work, she still finds time to practice clinical psychology for children, adolescents, and young adults. When she leaves school to come home, a different part of her is enriched as she assumes her role as mother to Nina (7 years old) and Inigo (4 years old), and wife to soy milk entrepreneur Bata Fernandez.
Simbanggabi 2007

December 15 to 23, Church of the Gesù

Saturday, 15 December
6:30 PM
Ateneo Chamber Singers Mini Christmas Concert
8:00 PM
A presentation of the Holy Rosary to be led by Pres. Corazon C. Aquino
8:30 PM
Presider: Fr. Catalino G. Arevalo, S.J.
Choir: Ateneo Chamber Singers
Sponsor: Ateneo Alumni Scholars Association

Sunday, 16 December
8:30 PM
Mass
Presider: Fr. Louis S. David, S.J.
Choir: Duagares Shat
Sponsor: High School 1982

Monday, 17 December
8:30 PM
Mass
Presider: Fr. Manoling Francisco, S.J.
Choir: Ateneo High School Glee Club
Sponsor: ISOC CRC Project

Tuesday, 18 December
8:30 PM
Mass
Presider: Fr. Adolfo Decanay, S.J.
Choir: Ateneo College Ministry Group
Sponsor: Ateneo Schools Parents’ Council

Wednesday, 19 December
8:30 PM
Mass
Presider: Fr. Raymond Benedict Hizon, S.J.
Choir: Alumni Glee Club
Sponsor: Alumni Glee Club

Thursday, 20 December
8:30 PM
Mass
Presider: Fr. Mario Francisco, S.J.
Choir: Alumni Glee Club
Sponsor: Ateneans in Globe Telecom

Friday, 21 December
6:30 PM
Hangad Mini Christmas Concert
8:30 PM
Mass
Presider: Fr. Gabriel Patrick Huang, S.J.
Choir: Hangad Sponton College 2001

Saturday, 22 December
8:30 PM
Mass
Presider: Fr. Buenivoed F. Nebres, S.J.
Choir: Elvas Palal
Sponsor: Gawad Kalinga Ateneo

Pretty SOM ladies
Scorecard unveiling
Mr. and Ms. SOM contestant

SOMWeek: The Tradition Continues
BY ART VALENCE

IT WAS A RACE to a nail-biting finish.

September 10-17 was SOMWeek and that’s when the John Gokongwei School of Management (JGSM) students and teachers let their hair down for a week of right-brained fun and games. Seven business-oriented student groups organized and competed in eight themed challenges in a bid to be this year’s champion. Co-chaired by JGSM-faculty Ricky Pilar and Archie Goesta, and supported by the business organizations cluster and the Sanggunian ng mga Bag-Aral, the 8-day, 17-event celebration was billed “MicroOM—Great Things Come in SOM Packages,” after this year’s major sponsor, Microsoft Philippines. With the opening parade and the unveiling of the scorecard, the race was on.

The Ateneo Management Association (AMA) cooked up SOMasarap, a creative food competition at the JSEC Mall. Management Economics (MECO) majors piled up the stakes with a contest where teams bid for objects for complete their sets. Association of Communications Technology Management (ACTM) majors launched SOMercialization: a tri-media ad-making challenge “Revive a dead product.” LEX reprised their ever-popular annual quiz Clash of the IntelLEX. The Management Engineering Association’s (MEA) Project Runway required contestants to redesign the basic T-shirt and display their creations on the modeling ramp. The Ateneo Junior Marketing Association (AJMA) put up a marketing contest to package products of Microsoft. The Management of Applied Chemistry Association (MACA) organized the much-awaited Amazing Race, patterned after the popular reality television show, where pairs were to accomplish a series of business-related tasks while racing through landmarks in the UP campus. And throughout the week, the orgs campaigned for their respective candidates for the traditional Mr. & Ms. SOM Contest.

Complementing the contests were film showings, business talks, an Arts Attack challenge, and a life-size Monopoly game for enthusiasts.

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ENABLADO to Stage Tanikalang Ginto

AFTER BUWAN AT BARIL, ENABLADO (Entertainment para sa Tao Bayan) will go back to the classics by staging Juan Abad’s Tanikalang guinto. Written in 1902, Tanikalang guinto is one of the most famous dramas in the Philippines. It will be held at the Rizal Mini Theater at 8:30 PM on December 15 to 23, Church of the Gesù.

HPAIR National Conference 2008

The HPAIR National Conference 2008 is a two-day forum where we have the best speakers, the most innovative and developmental workshops, a cultural presentation and—something that only our organization offers—undergraduate paper presentations. It is an avenue that brings together the brightest undergraduate students to meet people of high caliber and success in their own careers, both in business and in politics. With the theme “Towards Global ‘Youth Leadership’,” participants not only get the chance to hear the experiences of these experts first hand, they also get to establish networks with their fellow youth leaders. The paper presentations also offer undergraduate students into the professional arena by letting them experience what real academies do with the products of their studies and research. Ateneo HPAIR Union brings all these to the participants by introducing them to the global arena and the ways and means of youth proactive leadership. Registration is from October 16—December 31. The conference will be on January 26-27 at the Ateneo de Manila University. For more information on topics and conference details you may go to HPAIR’s website at http://hpair.ph or go to MVP 203 for registration forms. You may also reach us through email at ateneohpairunion@0708@yahoo.com or through text at 09176007105.
Faculty Day Remembers Fr. Arrupe

BY GARY DEVILLES AND CHRISTINE MALLION

The Loyola Schools commemorated the centennial birth celebration of Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, on November 14, 2007 by celebrating all masses at the College Chapel in his honor.

Fr. Arrupe was born 14 November 1907 in Bilbao, Spain and was ordained under the Jesuit Order on July 30, 1936. He spent 27 years as a missionary in Japan, and was novice master at suburban Hiroshima when the atomic bomb fell in Hiroshima in August 1945. He utilized his medical skills in the service of the wounded and the dying, transforming the novitiate into a make-shift hospital for over 200 people who were grievously injured and dying. He became the 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus on May 22, 1965.

On November 16, 2007 faculty members of Loyola Schools gathered together at the newly inaugurated Rosita Leong Hall to celebrate Faculty Day by reflecting on the schools’ mission and vision inspired by Fr. Pedro Arrupe and his thoughts on faith that does justice, and simple living.

Dr. Benjie Tolsa, chair of the Faculty Forum and Political Science Department gave the welcome remarks and talked about reflecting on our core values and how such values manifest concretely in our lifestyles.

Tolosa invited Fr. Fabian Dayrit, Mr. Leland Joseph dela Cruz, and Dr. Agustin Martin Rodriguez as panelists to share their insights on the subject matter. Dayrit shared his insights on his work as a scientist whose ethical principle is always one in harmony with the environment and community. He talked about his findings about the medicinal value of a certain herb for instance and shared to his friends how it can be prepared in order to lessen their dependence on expensive imported medicines. Dela Cruz narrated his personal experiences and how such philosophy of simple living manifests in the choices he and his wife make. Rodriquez gave a philosophical reflection on justice and the challenge for both faculty and the students in these trying times.

An open forum followed after the sharing of the panelists and then the faculty members were divided into smaller groups for follow-up discussion.

Tanghalang Ateneo Staged The Death of Memory

Tanghalang Ateneo went contemporary Filipinos in The Death of Memory, the second production of the company’s 29th season.

Written by Glenn Mas, The Death of Memory is a Palanca prize-winning play and an awarded thesis production at the Catholic University of America. Tanghalang Ateneo’s staging would be the play’s Philippine premiere production.

In the play, four people are trapped in a nowhere land where time has stopped, and with no memory of how they got there, and no ideas on how to get out. Each one carries a painful and violent memory—sexual abuse, abandonment, murder—that assaulpts them at unpredictable moments and ties them to this purgatorial prison.

A keeper holds them in this limbo. At one point, the newly arrived man, Juan, incites his fellow prisoners to defy the Keeper and escape from memory. Will they be able to free themselves? How? This intense and imaginative play examines the strength of the human will to live and choose, to fight against paralyzing pasts, and to move on.

Ralph Quilbat and Brian Sy alternated as the newcomer, Juan, while Rachel Quong and Margarita Paje played the Keeper, the ethical guardian of the nowhere land. The rest of the faculty cast were Randy Solis, Dianne Laserna, Miguel Lizada, and Angela Serrano. In turn, the rest of the student cast was composed of BJ Crisostomo, Regina Francisco, Nicol0 Magn0, and Gianna Villaricenci0.

Director Ricardo Abad and Production Designer Salvador Bernal departed from their Asian motifs to create an abstract world that is replete with surreal and violent images. With them were choreographer Matthew Santamaria, lighting designer Jonjon Villareal, and Sounds and Graphic Designer Reamur David. Kansi Flores, a finalist in Cinemalaya 2007, incorporated film images of the character’s memories.

“The Death of Memory” ran from November 29 to December 15 at the Rezal Mini-Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Psych Week Celebrates Fr. Bulatao’s 85th Year

BY ERUNDA EILEEN G. LOLARGA

The Department of Psychology celebrated the 85th birthday of Dr. Jaime C. Bulatao, SJ, fondly called “Fr. Bu,” with a host of events.

The highlight of the week-long celebration, entitled “Psychokinesis: Moving as One,” that began on September 17 was the Fourth Bu Eagle Lecture Series. Unlike previous years where research interests of faculty members were featured, Fr. Bulatao’s own research interests through his research papers presented by his mentees were featured this year.

Dubbed a National Social Scientist by the Philippine Social Science Council, Fr. Bulatao is also considered as one of the founding fathers of Psychology in the Philippines.

The Psychology Week activities were organized by the Ateneo Psycho, the home organization of Psychology majors, in cooperation with the Psychology Department. Aura Reading sessions, experiments, tests and surveys were also held to help bring Psychology into the consciousness of Ateneo students, faculty members, and other members of the University community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

7-11 January 2008
TUGON WEEK
Tugon will be giving out free food, having masses, and will be celebrating the Free Hugs Campaign the whole week. A concert will be held on January 11 to serve as the culminating activity.

14-18 January 2008
Ateneo Management Association (AMa) EXPO

16 January 2008
6th Jaime V. Ongpin Annual Memorial Lecture on Public Service in Business and Government

Veritas, 4/F Ateneo de Manila University Professional Schools Building

21-25 January 2008
Ateneo Management Association (AMa) ID picture booth: Job Fair Edition

26 January 2008
White Hot: Ateneo Management Association (AMa) Party 2008

February 2008
Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Week by Tugon
THIS GROUND-BREAKING EXHIBIT—a man show from the private collection of Dr. Leovino Ma. Garcia, former Dean of the Ateneo de Manila University’s School of Humanities—explores the fascinating and largely unexamined relationship between the visual artist and art enthusiast in the Philippine setting.

Revolving around the works of Lao Lianben, one of the country’s leading exponents of abstract art, “Passion & Compassion,” which Dr. Garcia curates, focuses attention on the artist’s stylistic development, and marks the fruitful encounter and interaction between painting and philosophy, vision and discourse, imagination and thought.

It is a profound and deeply personal take on the artistic devotion and the creative fusion of diverse worlds that results from a meeting of minds.

New Realities at the Ateneo Art Gallery

THE ATENEO ART GALLERY, in cooperation with the Fine Arts Department, mounts “New Realities,” an exhibition of post-war paintings from the bequest of Fernando Zobel. The exhibit features works of modernist artists like Ang Kuikok, Jose Joya, Cesar Legaspi, and Arturo Luz, who were among the first to depict urban landscapes, commonplace objects, and scenes of everyday life, articulating what modernism is in the process.

The show is a celebration of that period in our history when we experienced the burgeoning of aesthetics on one hand, and the follies of world wars on the other. Modernism, after all, is a heightened experience of contradiction, and modernists are known to tread the tortuous path between heaven and hell or the sacred and mundane, with the will to live at the face of dissoluteness.

A group of artists known as Neo-Realists rose to fame, challenging the classical tradition identified with the works of Fernando Amorsolo. Stylized and simplified representation is typically Neo-Realist. Eventually, some of them, like Jose Joya and Romeo Tabuena, explored abstraction.

According to critic Rodolfo Paras-Perez, Tabuena depicts sights of remembered and dreamt things, where carabaos, for instance, appear weightless, lost in the mist of indeterminate atmosphere or driven by nameless men with undefined visages. Tabuena reconstitutes reality into a plastic structure with an idiom that is undoubtedly Cubistic. Hence, in his “Laundry” with the geometric faces, chiseled bodies, and fragmented images, our history explodes its linearity to multifaceted views, becoming the poetic revolution that it is meant to be.

Jose Joya, may never have been discovered. Joya would not only influence young painters but radicalize his art by introducing gestural painting in a number of large canvases in the 1960s but later would shift to compositions of rounded overlapping shapes in harmonious hues. Critic Guillermo notes how abstract landscapes allusive of forms of the natural environment would be a recurring theme in Joya, using textures such as sand-and-rice-paper collages with Asian influences, such as mandala concepts and Chinese calligraphy.

Jose Joya once said that in creating an art work, the artist is concretizing his need for communication, for “artist has an irresistible urge to reach that level of spiritual satisfaction and to project what he is and what he thinks through his work.”

New Realities speak to us in its most eloquent and profound form from October 2007 to February 2008. The show is a project of 2008 graduates of the Arts Management Program, with Edissa Dollosa and Carla del Puerto as curators.
The future looks bright in blue and white

By Benjamin Jose A. Sipin III, www.ateneo.edu

Over the past few months, Ateneo basketball teams engaged different opponents in different levels of the sport, painting an “Ateneo versus the rest of the world” or “Blue versus the other colors of the rainbow” scenario.

The 29th of September 2007 saw the Ateneo Lady Eagles win their second UAAP crown against the UP Lady Maroons while the Blue Eaglets tried gallantly (but ultimately failed) to send their series against the Archers of La Salle Zobel to a deciding Game 3…all of which were seen live on national TV.

The following day, Sept. 30, again saw two Ateneo teams vying for a championship; the Ateneo Blue Eagles going against La Salle Greenhills in the MILO-BEST Small Basketeers of the Philippines championship and the Ateneo Passerelle team gunning for the crown in the Passerelle division of the same tournament. The Grade School Blue Eagles managed to win the NCR crown while the Passerelle team settled for second. Both games again enjoyed TV coverage.

The day was not over yet for Ateneo basketball as the seniors’ team played the De La Salle Green Archers in their step-ladder meeting to earn the right to face UE in the UAAP Finals.

Text messages were being passed and received with the message, “Walang na bang ibang mapanood sa TV kung hindi Ateneo?” But these could have been meant as a compliment to the Ateneo Basketball Program spearheaded by University Athletics Director Ricky Palou, University Athletics Sports Marketing Director Jun Jun Capistrano and Basketball Program Head Ricky Dandan.

While winning the UAAP crown in the men’s, women’s and juniors’ divisions all in one season still remains a dream, it is surely something that would soon become a reality with the continued support given by the administration, the community and the supportive patrons of the basketball program. Even with the loss of the juniors’ team and the failure of the men’s team to make it to the finals of UAAP Season 70, the future looks bright for the Ateneo basketball as seen in the competitiveness of Ateneo teams in the different levels of the sport.

Since former Blue Eagle head coach Joe Lipa was tasked to resurrect the Ateneo basketball tradition by organizing the Ateneo Basketball Program, the program has seen a renaissance which reached its fruition when the men’s team won the UAAP Championship in 2002 under coach Joel Banal. The juniors’ team managed to get back-to-back championships in 2003 and 2004 and won it again last year. The juniors’ team may have failed to get a second back-to-back championship but they have clearly established Ateneo as a powerhouse in high school basketball under coach Jamike Jarin.

The emergence of the women’s basketball team as a dominant force in the UAAP is a true testament to the effectiveness of the sports program and the people behind it. Mentored by coach John Flores, the Lady Eagles, who won their first ever championship in 2005, saved a shut out of UAAP championship in basketball for this year.

The Ateneo community has a lot to be thankful for this year in terms of its basketball program. And as mentioned by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, in the Thanksgiving Mass, more important than winning a championship is the experience of playing, winning and even losing, which will shape us and our character.

As another UAAP season in basketball ends, we should be all thankful to the student-athletes and teams who continue to uphold the true Ateneo spirit. The future looks bright in blue and white.

One Big Fight!
Ateneo Tracksters Reap Medals in PATAFA Finals

BY NIKKA ARCILLA, www.ateneo.edu

OVER THE COURSE of two days, in the sweltering heat, the Ateneo Track and Field Team garnered a total of 14 medals at the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (PATAFA) finals at Rizal Memorial Stadium. The team brought home four bronze medals, five silver medals, and five gold medals.

Starting in August, both the men's and women's track and field teams began competing in the Colgate-PATAFA weekly relays. The weekly meets served as the qualification rounds for the athletes to participate in the finals, and most members of the team proved themselves worthy of competing once again in PATAFA. After nearly three months of sprinting, jumping, and throwing in these weekly meets, and an additional two-day competition at the Bacolod Unigames, the tracksters once again stepped onto the starting blocks, the runway, and the throwing areas to prove that they are a force to be reckoned with.

Day 1
On the first day of PATAFA finals, Maria Mendoza (II-CTM) bagged a gold in the 100-meter dash with a personal best time of 12.24 seconds. Bryan Suturing (I-CTM) ran 200.7 in the men's 100-meter dash, winning himself a silver medal. Men’s team captain Alvin Reyes (IV-MEco), threw the discuss 34.4 meters, which also qualified him for the silver medal, while Geoff Reyes won the bronze medal. In the early morning, Zek Valera (II-HS) pole-vaulted over a height of 3.4 meters to win bronze. Frank Azcueta (I-ECE), captain of the women's team, threw the hammer 27.6 meters, earning her a third place finish. In the late morning, the men's 4x200-meter team, composed of Sutumico, Carlo Dizon, Ian Marchadesch, and Mike Mendoza won the gold medal with a personal best record of 14.51 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles.

Day 2
On day two of PATAFA Finals, Nic Hey (II-EU) dominated the throw with 11.88m in shot put and 36.93m in the hammer throw. He won the gold and silver medals, respectively. In pole vault, Jam Valenton (I-Psy) and Bettina Maclang (I-CTM), both rookies, won the gold and silver medals, clearing heights of 2.25m and 2.05m, respectively. Both the men and women's team entered the 4x100m relay race, and both teams managed to win medals. The men's team, composed of Banez, Suturingo, Marchadesch, and Mendoza, ran the oval in 42.6 seconds, winning themselves gold medals. With a time of 32.4 seconds, the women's relay team of Anj Aquino (I-Eco), Santos, Nikka Arcilla (II-Mgt) and Mendoza finished with bronze medals.

Though not all members of the men and women's teams made it to a podium finish, every single person shone. Personal records were consistently broken, and the teams realized the benefits and sweet harvest of training hard, stepping up, and giving it 110% all the way.

The men's team, fresh from a third place finish at the recently held Unigames, continued their successful streak, with a litany of medals and personal records to prove it. Every athlete was focused and determined to win a medal. The competitive mindset, the muscle, and the heart that characterize the men's team contributed significantly to their successes at PATAFA Finals.

Indeed, the performance of these men was a manifestation of the team's desire to dominate.

This year, the women's team is by far more competitive than it has ever been. New talent, new events, and a growing hunger to win a podium finish in the UAAP are what drive the women's team to train tirelessly and compete valiantly against in competitions. Coming out of a successful two days at PATAFA Finals, the women’s team has donned an insatiable attitude to do better every single time, to beat personal records, and to finish strong. The thrust for a team podium finish is escalating stronger than ever among the Lady Tracksters, and with the passion, brawn, and togetherness of this year’s team, a podium finish is a likely possibility.

This week, both teams will once again be competing—this time, at the Philippine Olympic Festival – National Open meet on November 13–17. This is the last big meet before the Track and Field 70th UAAP Season in February, so expect all members of the Track Team to go all out. Both teams hunger for a podium finish, and with the dedication these athletes possess, they will stop at nothing to reach their goal.

A Strong Uni-Games Showing by the Blue & White

BY RICK OLIVARES

SEVEN ATENEO TEAMS trooped to Bacolod for the 12th University Games, held at the University of St. La Salle on 22–28 October 2007, and went up against over 40 universities and colleges from all over the country. Over all, of the seven varsity teams that competed, five placed well in the standings. In basketball, the Blue Eagles ran roughshod over the competition in their first six games before falling to Far Eastern University, 59-67, in the championship. It was actually their worst game of the tournament as they came out flat while the Tamaraws, flexing their muscles for next year’s UAAP campaign, were firing on all cylinders. Prior to the championship, the Blue Eagles beat their foes with an average of 44 points per game.

In football, the Blue Booters lost in the semi-finals to De La Salle University, 0-4, while the Lady Booters finished in third place. It was the highest ever placement for Ateneo Women’s football in team competition.

The men's volleyball team failed to advance beyond the eliminations, while the men's and women's lawn tennis teams and the men's and women's athletics teams finished at third place as well.

University Athletics Director Richard Palou said that he was very happy with the results, but he still felt that the Blue Eagles should have played better, and maybe could have even won their championship match. “But that isn’t so bad when you consider that the team was without several players who were either abroad or had graduated already,” said Palou.

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