AdMU and Ateneo faculty receive awards from PCASTRD-DOST

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 20TH anniversary, the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology and Development (PCASTRD) presented special citations to the Ateneo de Manila University and three of its faculty members during an awarding ceremony held on 12 December 2007, at the Shangri-La EDSA Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The Ateneo was presented with PCASTRD’s Institutional Partnership Award in recognition of its many years of valuable and fruitful partnership. Dr. Ma Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, Vice President for the Loyola Schools, Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, and Dr. Rosolina Reyes, former chair of the Electronics, Communication and Computer Engineering Department, were each presented with PCASTRD’s Meritorious Service Award in recognition of their valuable personal contributions towards the advancement of science and technology in the country.

The award was presented by Dr. Reynaldo Ebara, Executive Director of PCASTRD; Dr. Fortunato dela Peña, Undersecretary for R&D, DOST; and Dr. Ester Garcia, the first Executive Director of PCASTRD and current President of University of the East. PCASTRD is one of the funding councils under the Department of Science and Technology.

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On 8 December 2007, dormers of the Loyola Schools, together with the Ateneo community, gathered at the Residence Halls, Ateneo Loyola Heights campus for the ceremonial groundbreaking of the University Dormitory. The University Dormitory, upon full completion, will be the home away from home of some 600 male and female dormers.

While PCASTRD was the sole recipient of the COE award, in the same rites were seven other institutions recognized as Centers of Development (COD), a category for schools with programs that have clear potential to become COEs in the future. These were Ateneo de Naga University, Centro Escolar University, Holy Angel University, University of Mindanao, University of San Carlos, St. Paul University (Tuguegarao), and Silliman University.

COE/COD status had been previously conferred to other universities in the fields of sciences and humanities, but this is the first batch of awards focusing on business education.

JGSOM Named Center of Excellence in Two Business Areas

by ART VALENCE

THE JOHN GOKONGWEI SCHOOL of Management (JGSOM) recently scored a double-first distinction when the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) recognized it as a Center of Excellence in two areas: Business Administration and Entrepreneurship—the first and only such designations in the field of business education for the 1,300 schools nationwide overseen by CHED.

University President Fr. Bienvenido F. Reyes, SJ, received the recognition plaques on behalf of JGSOM in simple awarding rites attended by CHED Chairman Romulo Ner, and ranking officials in education, business and government.

In his acceptance speech, JGSOM Dean Rudy Ang and JGSOM department chairs also represented the school in the ceremonies held on December 7, 2007 at Crown Regency Hotel in Makati.

The singular designation of Center of Excellence (COE) is reserved for colleges that have demonstrated outstanding performance in three departments: instruction, curriculum and faculty; research related to business administration, and outreach; activities consistent with national development goals—with the desired result of graduating well-equipped, world-class business professionals.

CHED’s quest for the schools with the requisite superlatives involved a year-long process of defining exacting criteria, strict on-site evaluation, in-depth panel interviews, and final recommendations by the regulatory body’s technical panel, headed by Dr. Oscar Tarradilla.

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New residence halls for 600 dormers soon to rise

By MICHELLE CAMILLE CORREA

FOR MANY YEARS, the residence halls on the Loyola Heights campus have been serving only a small fraction of students in need of housing—204 for Cervini (male dorm) and 168 for Eliazo (female dorm). With about 7,700 undergraduate students and 1,300 graduate students currently enrolled in the Loyola Schools, it is no wonder that residential spaces along Katipunan and its environs have become highly in demand.

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The event was also graced by Gregorio Batiller Jr., president of the Ateneo Foundation of Resident Students, Inc. (AFORS); Jedd Go, president of the Cervini Eliazo Resident Students Association (CERSA); Timothy Gabuna, residence halls director; and other Ateneo administrators.
ACFJ releases first textbook: Dev Journ

THE KONRAD ADENAUER Asian Center for Journalism (ACFJ) recently released its first textbook in Asian Journalism, Developing Journalism: An Introduction, written by Dinesh Shrama, faculty and India-based journalist. The book is both conceptual and practical as it presents the history and principles of development journalism and teaches writing skills unique to the beat. It is intended for senior journalism majors as well as graduate students.

The author, Sharma, has 24 years of reporting experience on a spectrum of issues for Indian and international media. He has reported development issues for various news media in his home country and in other countries in Asia and in North America. Since 2004 he has been teaching Writing for Social and Development Issues in the M.A. Journalism program which is run by ACFJ for the Ateneo Department of Communication.

Dr. Violet Valdez, ACFJ executive director, explains in her introductory note that the publication of the book is in keeping with the ACFJ mandate as it envisions turning into textbooks instructional materials generated for its courses.

“Since service undergirds this textbook series, it is fitting that it opens with a genre of journalism that seeks to serve. Unlike other genres in the field, development journalism serves the global public by reporting news stories that empower as well as mobilize people into action,” Dr. Valdez wrote.

Werner vom Busch, regional representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung-Media Programm Asia, echoed Dr. Valdez’s remarks. He writes in his foreword that development journalism not only promotes social justice, but also empowers citizens, and provides control mechanism for official success accounts of a country’s development strategy.

Ateneo CORD graduates the first batch of online learners from Brande.com through the Ateneo CORD E-Learning Series (ACES). ACES is Ateneo CORD’s strategic move to bring learning and development at the student’s fingertips—beyond the classroom and into cyberspace, at the learner’s own pace and time, with provision for online discussions. Delivery of ACES is made possible through AJWCC and Blueblade Technologies, Inc., Ateneo CORD’s technology partner in developing interactive elearning modules and mobile based learning tools.

Courses in ACES include modules in managing the business, human resources, brand and customers, and financial resources. Online classes will open for registration starting February 2008, classes start in April 2008. For more info, please visit http://aces.ateneo.edu.

Applications for 15 fellowships for journalists open till Feb. 29

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2008 Fellowships for the Master of Arts in Journalism are now being accepted by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (ACFJ). Fifteen fellowships are awarded yearly. This year’s deadline for applications is Feb. 29, 2008.

The fellowships are awarded to full-time Asian journalists who have outstanding professional and academic record, a strong commitment to good journalism and leadership qualities. A grant covers tuition and other expenses for the two-year M.A. Journalism program offered by the Ateneo de Manila University.

Since 2003, 42 journalists from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines have received the grants. Thirty-three of them have completed the degree as of 2007.

Designed for working journalists, the M.A. Journalism program is an online distance learning program with limited classroom sessions held at the Ateneo campus in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines. The curriculum consists of 12 courses including specialized reporting and writing courses such as International Reporting, Investigative Journalism and Reporting about Religions. The program is designed to allow working journalists and other professionals to study at their own pace and time, and in their own homes or workplaces. The international faculty includes experienced journalists and academics from Australia, Canada, U.S., U.K, Germany, the Philippines, India, and Malaysia.

ACFJ, a joint project of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Ateneo, was founded in June 2000 to promote good journalism in Asia by providing training opportunities primarily for working journalists.

For admission to the M.A. program, a separate set of application forms are required. These are also available from ACFJ or the Ateneo’s Office of Graduate Studies.

E-mail ACFJ at newsroom@admu.edu.ph, e-mail Enrolments@admu.edu.ph or fax at 632-926-3253 or 632-426-6001 (local 5213), or fax at 632-926-3234.

16 Pathways students pass ACET

A total of 16 students of Pathways to Higher Education, an organization that helps academically gifted but financially underprivileged public high school students obtain a college education, passed the Ateneo College Entrance Test (ACET), thereby gaining acceptance to the university for school year 2008–2009. These are:

1. Abril, Karlo Edeson (BS Management Engineering)
2. Acapet, Carol Joy (BS English Literature)
3. Briones, Jeric (BSM AMF)
4. Caoitan, Klarence (BS PS –ACS)
5. Cruz, Marie Gene (BS Biology)
6. Dondon, Sydney (BS Management)
7. Donohan, Stephen (BS Management)
8. Gadiano, Marjorie (BS Communications)
9. Galiano, Marjorie (BS Communications)
10. Marcial, Joana (AB Communications)
11. Mariano, Reyes (BS Communication)
12. Santos, Lean (AB Psychology)
13. Santos, Michael (AB Political Science)
14. Tan, Emman (AB Psychology)
15. Valenzuela, Ma Jean (AB Communications)
16. Volpese, Ayahda Marie (AB Political Science)

Most exceptional is Karlo Edeson Abril who made it to the prestigious Director’s List. Every year only the top 2% of all the students who pass the ACET make it to this very exclusive list.

The Pathways students were mentored by Ateneo college volunteers over the past two summers through the AY 2007–2008 summer school program. The program is now on its 6th year.

ERRATA

On the story “Making A Difference Through Mathematics” in our previous issue (Volume III, Issue #3, October–November 2007, page 7) Dr. Catherine Vistro-Yu was erroneously called the founder of MathTEd. She is one of the 20 founders of MathTEd. She also has not published over 20 books, but over 20 journals, articles, technical reports, and books of content and internationalization and Globalization of Mathematics and Science Education.

On the story “Psych Week Celebrates Fr. Bulatao’s 85th Year” (Volume III, Issue #3, October–November 2007, page 9), it was mentioned that celebrations in the previous years focused on Fr. Bulatao’s research interests and that the interests of faculty members were featured this year. The opposite, in fact, is true. Also, the photo accompanying the story should have the caption: “Fr. Jaime C. Bulatao, SJ, celebrating his 85th year.”

We apologize for these errors.
ASG Bids for Social Enterprise

By ART VALENCE and HARVEY KEH

THE ATENEO SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT (ASG) recently hosted the first-ever conference of the Future Leaders of Asia Forum (FLAF), a project under ASG’s Youth Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship program. Over a hundred youth leaders from universities in the Asia-Pacific region converged at the Loyola Schools grounds to attend the January 17-20 event.

Adopting the theme “Social Entrepreneurship: Developing a New Generation of Asian Leaders,” the forum aimed to be a venue for discussion and networking among young leaders in Asia, with social enterprise as motivating concept. The conference partners included the Ramon Magasyay Awards Foundation, the Asian Youth Forum, Avant Change and Ashoka. Innovators to the Public, a global group pioneering in the field of social entrepreneurship.

Steve Koon, founder of Avant Change and a Mason Fellow from Harvard University, delivered an inspiring talk on whether money really makes people happy. Dr. Antonio La Vina, dean of the Ateneo School of Government and country representative of Ashoka-Philippines, gave examples of noteworthy social entrepreneurs from all over the world. Noted fundraising expert John Silva shared tips on how to effectively raise resources and promote advocacies. And Sol Delantat-Gonzalvo of the Ayala Foundation gave pointers on how to recruit and take care of volunteers.

The delegates were also given an opportunity to visit with inspiring present-day leaders from the Ramon Magasyay Awards Foundation and the Asia Society, namely, Jovito Salonga, Benjamin Abadador, Sister Eva Maama, Gilbert Remulla, Neric Acosta, and Martin Lopez.

Key to the four-day conference was a competition among the participants for the most innovative proposal for social enterprise, with the winning group receiving seed money to start off the proposed project in their community. The winner will be announced in March 2008.

Highlighting the activities was an immersion-visit to a model social enterprise project (Gawad Kalinga) in Cainta, Rizal during the second day of the conference, to serve as stimulus and inspiration for the drafting of social enterprise proposals the following day.

Coordinating the FLAF activities was Harvey Keh, Program Director for Youth Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship in ASG.

Tanghalang Ateneo Goes Pop in Shakespeare’s Hakkbang sa Hakkbang

TANGHALANG ATENEO and TeatroFilipino Integrated, returns to Shakespeare with a novel rendition of Measure for Measure, a play on desire, morality, and justice. Translated as Hakkbang sa Hakkbang, the production marks the first time the play will be staged in Filipino. It will also showcase student talents under the direction of Ronan Capinding, the acclaimed young director of such plays as Middle Finger and Ang Nilalang ni Victor Frankenstein.

Tanghalang Ateneo’s Hakkbang sa Hakkbang draws on dance movements from contemporary pop culture to capture the spirit of permissiveness that marks the play. This fusion of contemporary dance and Shakespearean text reveals as well the persona of the characters and the tone of each scene. Staged in the round, this play gives audiences the experience of intimately witnessing the story unfold in their midst. One of Shakespeare’s problem plays, Hakkbang sa Hakkbang seeks a philosophy of morals beyond Puritanism and libertarianism.

In the play, the ladbuck Duke Vincentio (alternately played by Dan Chua and Exzell Macomb) has appointed the austere Angelo (alternately played by Paolo Apagulang and Gelo Brillantes) to temporarily take his place as ruler while he is on a diplomatic mission. The new ruler suddenly forces the freewheeling and amoral citizenry into strict adherence to the law. To serve as a warning, Claudio (alternately played by Denn Cawanda and Brian Sy), a young nobleman, is arrested and sentenced to an immediate death for engaging in premarital sex with his fiancé Isabel (alternately played by Rizzy Bel yuzon), a young nun, hesitantly pleads on her brother’s behalf, only to be given an indirect promise by the supposedly virtuous Angelo that her brother’s life for her virginy.

Unknown to all, the Duke, disguised as a friar, has secretly been watching the events unfold. He compels with Isabel and Mariana (alternately played by Nayie Caga-anan and Ysa yuzon), Angelo long lost fiancé. They trick Angelo into sleeping with Mariana instead of Isabel, but Angelo still orders Claudio beheaded the next day. The Duke must find another scapegoat for social enterprise. The Duke unmasks himself and decides on the case.

Unveiling the play is a competition among the participants for the most innovative proposal for social enterprise, with the winning group receiving seed money to start off the proposed project in their community. The winner will be announced in March 2008.

Tanghalang Ateneo’s Hakkbang sa Hakkbang opens on January 31, 2008 at the Fine Arts exhibit hall, 3rd Floor, Gonzaga Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Show dates are on January 31, February 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 & 16, 2008 at 7:00 pm and February 2, 9 & 16, 2008 at 2:00 pm. This production is made possible by Intermatrix Document Solutions Inc., ClicktheCity.com, Heaven and Eggs, Cooztuna, Seafood Island and Cellino’s Doughnuts and Dips. For ticket inquiries and group bookings, please contact 09184733137 or 09188131238.

Former Cavite Representative Gilbert Remulla at the Leadership Dialogue on Day 1.
INTERNATIONALIZING THE ATENEO COMMUNITY

Foreign Students on Campus

By ERLINDA EILEEN G. LOLARGA

ATENEO’S THIRST towards internationalization is not a one-way street. While scores of Ateneo students sign up to spend semesters studying abroad, foreigners, at the same time, pack their bags to see what learning and living is like in the Philippines from within the halls of the Ateneo.

School year 2007–2008, in particular, is marked by a leap in the number of international students at the Loyola Schools. Figures shared by the Office of International Programs (OIP) show that inbound exchange students almost doubled from 32 (coming from 13 partner schools in 4 countries) the previous school year to a record high of 58 students for the current school year (coming from 22 partner schools in 9 countries). These foreign students either go on exchange programs where they stay for one or two semesters and take regular courses, or take short-term special programs (in Intensive Filipino or English Language Training and/or Philippine Immersion). Those taking the latter, mostly from partner schools in Japan, Korea, and China, have also risen sharply from just 27 in SY 2006–2007 (2 schools and an institutional partner) to 81 students in SY 2007–2008 (6 schools and an institutional partner).

French students top the list of nationalities represented on campus, with their numbers increasing from only 4 students in 2002 when partnerships with schools in France were just starting to pick up, to 33 students this school year coming from 11 schools in France. There are also about 13 international students who are enrolled for graduate degree programs at the masteral and doctoral levels on scholarships granted by institutional partners. These figures do not include international students who are registered independently at the L5 registrar’s office.

French students Madlen Richter and Susanne Pfeiffer of Technical University of Ilmenau, who are staying for a term until April, they only heard about the Ateneo de Manila University because of its cooperation agreement with their school.

They two women say that they wanted to try something new and interesting and decided to go to Asia for their study term abroad when “everyone else in Germany wants to go to the US, Australia, or other countries in Europe.”

They said that they knew nothing about other schools in the Philippines until they actually came here and interacted with Filipinos who told them of Ateneo’s other “rival” schools. Madlen said “A good friend of mine was in the Philippines last year and showed us all his pictures (of the places he visited in the country).” As a result, she got excited to come to the Philippines herself.

Madlen and Susanne are now both fifth year senior students taking up Applied Media Science and both fifth year senior students taking up Business Administration.

Outside Ateneo

The international students coming to the Loyola Schools share not only in their Filipino counterparts’ day to day academic life but, apparently, thrive reasonably well in the concrete jungles of Metro Manila—from Cubao’s Gateway Mall and Makati’s Glorietta to Manila’s Intramuros, Divisoria, and Pasay’s Mall of Asia. They are also avid tourists who spend their weekends exploring the rest of what the country has to offer, from the cool-weathered Banaue and Tagaytay, to the postcard perfect beaches of Boracay, Puerto Galera, Palawan, Cebu, and Bohol.

Neighboring Asian cities are also part of the itinerary especially of students from Europe. On weekends and long school breaks, their Philippine sojourn is used as an excellent opportunity to visit other places in the region such as Bangkok, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

French students Fanny Mehu and Florentin Dequidt, both from IESEG, even brought their families to the Philippines over the Christmas break. Sheena Sibya, OIP Inbound International Student Coordinator, shares that Fanny was asked by her mother if she wanted to go home to France for the Christmas holidays. Fanny instead invited her family to come here and experience the Philippines. Florentin, on the other hand, had a bout with dengue just before classes broke off for the holidays in December. Feeling quite embarrassed by all the attention he got when he was whisked off in an ambulance to The Medical City for confinement, he pushed himself to get well soon, in time to join his family on Christmas eve for pre-booked flights to a local resort.
Dealing with Academics

Perhaps, because of the nature of cooperation agreements recently established with the Ateneo (taking into account the Junior Term Abroad Program which started with the John Gokongwei School of Management), many international students primarily enroll in management courses. But other courses popularly taken would be from the School of Social Sciences such as those from the Departments of Sociology-Anthropology, Development Studies, Communication, Political Science and History. Some language courses they would take would be in Chinese, German, Spanish, or French.

Madlen also observed that the whole school system is different from that in Germany. At the Ateneo, she had to take a lot of quizzes, do homework, and attend classes. In Germany, they would have big lecture halls attended by over 300 students and they don't really have to attend classes as long as they pass. Their requirements are mostly to do research and submit a research paper.

The two students loved the Ateneo campus itself and echoed sentiments shared by the other visiting students. “In the city where there is smog and noise, it is so nice to come to a place where it is peaceful and green,” Madlen says. Susanne likes going to the library where there is air-conditioning, free internet access, and a wide collection of books and access to information. “You can really work there.” When queried about their Filipino professors, one of whom they liked very much was Mr. Glenn de Leon, OIP’s Mr. Rene San Andres, and OIP’s Mr. Glenn de Leon, are also told, international students seem to fit right into the fabric of Ateneo life and culture and are open to discovering new things that the Philippines and its Asian neighbors have to offer.

Getting seriously ill—such as with dengue or diarrhea—or, on a lighter note, falling into an open manhole with all your friends watching, are just some of the many stories these students tell.

Foreign students experience “toploading” on a jeepney.

The Down Side

Not everything is a bed of roses, though. The Manila heat is something that the students are not used to, especially those who come from colder climates. Thus, studying in the air-conditioned library is a welcome respite from their hot apartment rooms.

Shuttling from one building to another and spending almost an entire day just to revise their subject load also feels strange to them because they are used to doing registration online. Taxi drivers hailed from the local airports and their penchant for “cheating the taxi meter” are a bane in the life of unsuspecting international students as well.

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Students from Nanzan University enjoying an all-Filipino lunch. On a trip to North Luzon.

Students pick out their exchange gift partners during a Christmas party. Caroling in one of the students’ homes.

Ayano tries out a Filipino delicacy—balot.
Walk For Land, Walk for Justice
Lakaw Sumilao and the Ateneo Community

By GRIP BUETA

I walked with the Sumilao farmers for around 8 hours, from the Senate all the way to San Carlos Seminary. For that brief moment I was able to share in their journey of literally a thousand miles, and it was able to share that experience with the countless other members of the Ateneo community who took part in the farmer’s cause.

The Story

The story of the Sumilao farmers traces its roots some 1,600 kilometers away from Metro Manila in Sumilao, Bukidnon. The Higaonon, the indigenous group of the farmers, have been fighting for the land which their ancestors tilled and toiled even before the first foreigners came to the Philippines. For decades, little by little, hectare by hectare, their lands were taken from them, for the sake of progress and development. Now, all they have left are 144 hectares of land, about to be turned into a world-class pig farm by one of the biggest corporations in the country. In October 2007, they began their journey to Manila to air out their grievances and to make known their plight to every Filipino. It was a journey that eventually took them to the gates of Malacanang and right at the heart of the Loyola Campus.

Our Response

The Sumilao farmers’ march, or Lakaw Sumilao, as they call it, was a rare occasion which brought the entire Ateneo community together. The various sectors, offices, units, and members of the community all played their part in the movement. It not only involved the students, faculty, staff, and administration of the Loyola Schools, but also the students of the Ateneo Law School and other alumni as well. Bro. IJ Chan-Gonzaga, SJ of the Simbang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB) said that you can describe the community as saying “we are one.”

The solidarity of the Ateneo community with the farmers can be seen from the various activities, events, and projects that took place during the farmer’s presence in Manila. In the Loyola Schools, the efforts of the Development Studies Majors and Course Representatives, the awareness campaigns and mobilization efforts of the SLB, and the Sanggunian Project 50/50 informed the community of the farmer’s cause and gave everyone a chance to be involved. Sanggunian President Karl Santinitigan described this commitment of the Loyola Schools as “noteworthy”. Bro. IJ of SLB said that he “felt proud that the community was all out” and that “for once, we were able to mobilize the community.”

At the Professional Schools in the Rockwell Campus, the Ateneo Law School Student Council and the Ateneo Human Rights Center held a forum on 2 December 2007, to culminate the arrival of the Sumilao Farmers in Metro Manila and to discuss the various facets surrounding the issue. On December 3, a contingent from the Law School met the farmers at the Senate and marched with them to San Carlos Seminary, where more students from the Ateneo Human Rights Center and the Law School joined the farmers and interacted with them. Atty. Marklon Manuel of Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlipunan (SALIGAN), one of the lead counsels of the farmers, said that the response of the Ateneo community as a whole was “overwhelming.”

On December 4th, the farmer’s third day in Metro Manila, the Ateneo community went all out in showing their solidarity with the cause. Members of the community led by the SLB met the farmers in Cubao and marched with them to the Loyola Campus. There, a mass was celebrated by no less than Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, which was followed by a mini concert to entertain the farmers and to bring the community together. Here, the Loyola Schools administration showed its support by building the stage for free and by allowing the use of all the facilities and utilities without any cost. Members of the community also stayed with the farmers for the night.

In the days that followed, members of the Ateneo community continued to march with the Sumilao farmers, to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and all the way to Malacañang and back. The community made its presence and support known to the public, but more importantly, it made the farmers realize that they were not alone.

What Now? Our Commitment

Atty. Manuel said that the legal battles are far from over, and that the legal process is part of the bigger campaign, of which the community plays a big role. He says that the Executive Order (EO) issued by President Arroyo only reclassified the land as agricultural, therefore bringing it back within the coverage of agrarian reform. However, San Miguel Foods, Inc. said that it will not simply let go of the land, and as of press time, they have already filed their motion for reconsideration regarding the president’s EO. DAR Secretary Nasser Pangandaman himself has been quoted in a newspaper interview saying that the Sumilao Farmers’ case will drag on, and will be a long and hard one.

All these show that the fight is anything but over. The involvement of the Ateneo community must not stop simply because the farmers have gone home. Atty. Manuel says that the support and vigilance of the community is still greatly needed especially since the legal battles are far from over. The SLB, in addition, said that what needs to be done now is for the advocacy for social justice and human dignity to continue, and for the pool of resources, like financial and volunteers, to remain present and active to keep the movement afloat.

Bro. IJ of the SLB says that this issue is not simply about farmers marching, that it is, “about an entire cause for social justice and human dignity.” He also leaves us with a question, asking us, “How can we let such injustice persist?” Asked on why Atenean students should get involved, Sanggunian President Karl Santinitigan said that the “[students] gain more insight and see more value in all the philosophizing, the debating, the calculating, and the researching that we have to do as students.”

The Ateneo community has shown the country that we are one in support of the Sumilao farmers. The community has shown others that social injustice is a reality, and that we can do something about it. One of the Sumilao farmers was quoted as saying that if they still do not get the land that is theirs, he will be willing to march again all the way to Malacañang.

Let all our efforts not be put to waste, let’s continue the fight and the campaign, and let us be the ones who will continue the journey and the march for the Sumilao farmers. Lakaw Sumilao!
Kae Guerrero's One Love

by JASON INOCENCIO

“Accident lang.” That’s how a love affair with football or soccer began for Katrina Elena “Kae” Guerrero.

THE 4TH YEAR BS Management Engineering major was about to enter her senior year of high school at St. Paul College Pasig when a friend asked her to sign up for football on the Xavier School grounds in San Juan over the summer. When her friend didn’t show up, Kae still enrolled, and before she knew it, she found herself in love with the game. Now, she adds the title of captain of the Ateneo Women’s Football Team to her list of accomplishments.

“I think it was the rush of the game, the team concept of working with other people... those things attracted me to soccer,” Kae explains, adding that: “Every football game is so unpredictable. It’s so dynamic, the pace can change in an instant, and no football game is quite like the other.”

Kae continued her explanation of football’s appeal by saying that: “One goal, one good play—that can alter a game so dramatically.”

clearly, the girl who wears number 13 for the Ateneo lady eagles loves her sport.

Idolizing fellow women footballers like American legends Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain and current Brazilian superstar and 2007 FIFA World Player of the Year Marta has given Kae powerful and talented role models to shape her game after. Yet she is also a fan of the men’s game, particularly England’s John Terry of Chelsea FC as well as Spanish midfield star Cesc Fabregas of Arsenal FC. Portuguese and Manchester United sensation Cristiano Ronaldo is another of Kae’s soccer favorites, while retired French and Real Madrid superstar Zinedine Zidane is one of Kae’s all-time idols.

Like John Terry, Kae wears blue and white proudly, and serves as captain of this group of Lady Eagles. The 21-year-old forward notes that the Lady Eagles' favored formation features attacks emanating from the wings. “Since we play with a 4-4-1-1 formation, wing play is crucial for us and I would like to help set up the wingers more,” Kae declares.

She notes that her coach would like her to take a more aggressive stance as far as attacking the opponent’s goal, but Kae only plans on doing so in the context of the team’s flow.

Although the 2007 campaign of the football team didn’t result in the best of finishes, Kae takes heart in the fact that she saw marked improvements in their gameplay. Coach Scarlet “Buda” Bautista now enters her fourth year at the helm, and Kae acknowledges that the team has grown with its coach. “Last season, we had a lot of bad breaks,” she laments. “There were 1-0 losses where we were competitive most of the game, then we’d have last minute lapses that cost us wins.” They’re off to a good start in Season 70, already defeating the defending champion Far Eastern University 3-1 after trailing 1-0 at halftime. They also have a win against the University of the Philippines under their belts in this early stage of the tournament.

Of their current UAAP campaign, Kae notes that although FEU is defending champion, the Tigresses from the University of Santo Tomas might be the most dangerous in the five team field. She also notes that the archrivals from De La Salle are aching to become contenders again after last season’s suspension from all UAAP sports. Since the Lady Archers were dominant for so long, the recent upswing in talent from the FEU, UST, and even UP have made the women’s football tournament of the UAAP more competitive than ever. There are no sure wins in this year’s UAAP.” Kae warns. “Every team plays differently so we have to be ready to face every team’s style of play.”

Even as Kae leads the Lady Eagles into Season 70 of the UAAP football wars, she acknowledges that there are bittersweet emotions at play since graduation is almost here. “I’ll probably miss the everyday training and playing competitive soccer the most,” she says. Still, Kae would love to keep playing football as long as she can. She declares that, “I’ll probably play football for as long as my body will allow it.”

One accident. One training session. Results: one lifelong love for football.
Pat Ozaeta: The Natural

by JASON INOCENCIO

THERE IS NO “I” IN TEAM. That’s one of the more famous sports clichés, and it’s something that permeates from the very being of Patrick Foz Ozaeta. Despite the many individual accolades he has won in his football career, it is the team that still matters the most to him. As captain of the Ateneo Men’s Football Team, Pat is often counted on to lead the team, and this selfless attitude has only made him more endearing. “Iba pa rin ang championships,” Pat proudly states. “Yung MVP, okay lang, pero ang sarap ng feeling when you win the championship.”

A product of the Ateneo from grade school, high school, and college, the 22-year old Pat is a natural football player who has won all kinds of awards. He won the UAAP Rookie of the Year in 2003, was the Best Defender in 2003, 2004 and 2006, the Most Valuable Player in 2004 and 2005, and was even UAAP Athlete of the Year in 2005. Still, when you ask Pat what his career highlight is, he lists the three-peat championship spell from 2003-2005 as his favorite. Team success over individual honors once again.

He only stumbled into football by what Pat terms as “a fortunate accident”. Back when he was in Grade 1 in the Ateneo, Pat would join sleepovers in his cousin’s house. When they signed up for the Ateneo Football Center, Pat did as well. He then grew to love the sport, and notes how it has given him so much over the years. He mentions the combination of mental and physical discipline that football demands as reasons for the sport’s appeal to him. Pat sums it up by saying that “It requires patience, kasi talagang pinaghimpatan bago ka maka-score. When you do score, ang sarap ng feeling!”

After earning his undergraduate degree in Management Engineering last year, Pat is currently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration at the Ateneo Professional Schools while still balancing his time with the Blue and White. Citing Arsenal FC of the English Premier League and Spanish midfielder Cesc Fábregas as his favorite among the current crop of international football superstars, it’s not a stretch to say that Pat has been able to strike that crucial balance required of student athletes.

For those of us who remember the down years of Ateneo football in the early 90’s, today is a veritable golden age in Blue Eagle soccer. Even as Pat and the squad (which includes brother Fred Ozaeta) carve their own niche in Ateneo’s rich football tradition, they take heart in the knowledge that Pat has been able to strike that crucial balance required of student athletes. "It’s not a stretch to say that Pat is a natural football player who has won all kinds of awards. He won the UAAP Rookie of the Year in 2003, was the Best Defender in 2003, 2004 and 2006, the Most Valuable Player in 2004 and 2005, and was even UAAP Athlete of the Year in 2005. Still, when you ask Pat what his career highlight is, he lists the three-peat championship spell from 2003-2005 as his favorite. Team success over individual honors once again.

In the six-team UAAP football field, Pat notes that the defending champion University of Santo Tomas is once again favored to make it to the finals. However, “UP is feisty, iba ang tapang nila,” he says warily. When prompted if he feels Ateneo has a chance this season, Pat quickly says “Yeah, may laban naman tayo.”

Even as Pat leads the Eagles both on and off the pitch, he also knows that his time wearing Mary’s Blue and White is nearing its end. How does he plan on continuing his love for what is known worldwide as “the beautiful game”? Pat says that he’ll probably join up with fellow Ateneo alumni who are currently involved in club football tournaments. But he will definitely miss UAAP play, especially the competitive tournament play. “It’s so exciting, and may thrill talaga when we compete kasi,” he says. “It’s even better when you score and everybody around you is happy.”

Pat Ozaeta has seen his share of awards and championships while carrying the banner of the Ateneo. Yet he still loves playing this sport that transcends race, creed, and gender and is acknowledged as the most popular sport in the world. We can only hope to find something as pure as Pat’s love for the beautiful game.
European Studies Launches its First JTA Program
by Amb. Rosario G. Manalo

The European Studies Program launched in January 2008 its first officially-sponsored Junior Term Abroad (JTA) program.

Four AB EU students under the business track, namely, Maria Regina Atienza, Najee Sandrine Chua, Marianne Marquez, and Bea Czertina Yao left on 2 January 2008 for the University of Lille, France, under the exchange program of the Ateneo de Manila University.

They will pursue the following courses to be evaluated and accredited in the European Studies Program: Monnaie Banque Internationale, Introduction aux Marches Financiers, French, Reading Program and Erasmus Project.

Likewise, Joaquin Rossano Veluz left in mid-January for the Universidad La Mancha in and in the first week of February, Andrea Raymunda Gomez leaves for the Universidad Alcalá de Henares in Spain. Gomez’ courses are in the international relations track, and those of Veluz are in the diplomatic track of the European Studies Program.

It is expected that the JTA Program will progressively improve, and encourage more European Studies Program students to participate in it.

Pinoy@Work Launched by CORD
by Ma. Regina M. Hechanova, PhD

THE ATENEO CENTER FOR Organization and Development Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) launched Pinoy@Work last 7 December 2007. This book compiles selected articles from the People at Work Pulse column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The articles are based on readers’ surveys on a variety of work issues and are grouped into the following sections: employee needs and values, job prospects and opportunities, developing one’s career, relationships at work, technology and work and issues in the workplace. The book is available in National Bookstore, FullyBooked, Ateneo CORD, ORP, etc.

Psychology Students Win Best Poster at PAPJA Conference

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines-Junior Affiliate (PAPJA) held its 21st Annual Conference on 7–8 December 2007 at Miriam College. Among the activities of this annual gathering of Psychology students in the Philippines is the best poster competition, which won by Ateneo Psychology students (batch 2007) Domini ca Cirila Du, Raphael Stephenson Tan, and Michelle Valero, with Dr. Cris tina Montiel as their thesis adviser. Their poster is about the Concept of God Among Filipino Soldiers.

Winning 3rd place in the same competition is the poster on Academic Possible Selves, Balance, and Strategies of High and Low Achieving Filipino Adolescents by Rafael Inocencio, Kimberly Anne Ko, Pauline Elly Ng, with Dr. Mira Ofreneo as adviser.

ACFJ Launches Journal of Asian Public Affairs

THE FIRST ISSUE of Asian Currents, a biannual journal featuring the culminating works of students in the M. A. Journalism program was released recently by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism at the Ateneo (ACFJ). ACFJ runs the graduate program for the Department of Communication and sponsors most of the working journalists attending it.

Asian Currents’ maiden issue is a collection of eight Master’s projects (MPs), the final requirement for the degree, written by journalists from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. It includes in-depth stories on current issues such as human trafficking, education and the environment. Other articles examine the media in cross-cultural settings: self-regulation in Sri Lanka and Malaysia, embedded journalism in the Philippines and Indonesia, the coverage of the tsunami in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, and the challenges and constraints of blogging all over Asia. One article provides an insightful analysis of the portrayal of World War II in Chinese and Japanese history textbooks.

In Asian Currents ACFJ seeks to present to a wider audience the public affairs issues Asian societies confront and which engage journalists. A previous batch of MPs, was published in a book entitled “Blood on their hands” which was released in April 2007. Eight journalists from three Asian countries wrote the stories in the collection. Among the issues tackled are those on Indian families killing their own female babies, murdered journalists in the Philippines, community radio in Indonesia and the politics of logging in Sarawak.

The MA Journalism is a pioneering endeavor, the first of its kind in Asia. Its online distance learning style caters to working journalists who lack the time to pursue their Masters’ degrees in the traditional face-to-face classroom setting. At the same time, it also allows journalists to step back from the daily grind to ponder the issues they cover and the problems they face as they go about their work.

Under the program, journalists and other media professionals may study at their own pace and time, and in their own homes or workplaces. Students, however, are still required to attend a limited number of classroom sessions, namely: a two-week period at the start of the program for the core courses which include advanced news writing, ethics and media law, and again in the summer term for the cognate courses.

The curriculum consists of 12 courses including specialized reporting and writing courses such as International Reporting, Investigative Journalism and Reporting about Religion.

The program has produced 49 graduates since it began in 2004–2007 from the Philippines, the rest from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
THE STUDY OF HISTORY is not just confined to the classroom. For history to be relevant, students must be able to connect with the events that happened centuries ago. A key element in appreciating history is the ability to relate to it. Beyond the usual readings and lectures, members of the History Department strive to provide their students with opportunities to combine the knowledge derived from lessons in class with their imagination and creativity to make history come alive.

Among the highlights of the first semester were student plays and exhibits involving the Asian history classes under Isabel Con- suelo A. Nazareno, Stephanie Marie R. Coo, and Lañanan T. Gotao, as well as the Western history classes under David O. Lozada III, Neville Jay C. Manoa, and Randolph Jose H. de Jesus. There was also the much anticipated military simulations (a.k.a. the Battle of Bellarmine Hall). The spate of historical movies in recent years has done much to whet the appetite of students to try their hands at staging their own interpretations of the famous battles of antiquity. The fourth installment of the Battle of Bel Field featured Western History classes depicting the armies of Sparta, Athens, and Rome.

Despite the sleepless nights and all the hours of rehearsals in preparation for their activities, the students were delighted with the memorable experiences they gained on the day they strolled back through time and relived history.

While the focus of the lectures may vary, these typically follow the “non negotiables” of the Politics and Governance course: concept of politics, democracy and democratization; forms of government; government institutions and processes; political party and electoral politics; civil society and social movements; nations, states and regimes; ideologies; and citizenship.

For the second semester of school year 2007-08, three such lectures are to be piloted with a focus on Mindanao as site and issue. These plenary sessions are crafted to shed light on current issues of peace and conflict, human security, religion, ancestral domain and economic rights in the region and their implication on the rest of the Philippines.

History Students Relive History
by David O. Lozada III and Denise Bea L. Llanos-Dee

History Department to Hold Summer Seminar on Jose Rizal

COMING FROM THE SUCCESS of last year’s summer seminar on the teaching of Jose Rizal’s life and works, the Department of History is once again offering the workshop, “Jose Rizal and Philippine Nationalism.” The course on Jose Rizal’s life and writings is a requirement for all tertiary level students in the Philippines, and is usually taught by the History or Filipino departments of tertiary institutions. At the secondary level, Rizal’s two novels, the Noli Me Tangere and the El Filibusterismo are required reading for the third and fourth year levels. The teachers of these classes are often a young Filipino’s first real introduction to the life and works of Jose Rizal. Thus, these teachers are critical instruments in imparting Rizal’s experiences and ideals to the students. For this reason, it is important to continually enhance and sharpen their skills, introduce them to new methodologies and expose them to advanced studies on Jose Rizal.

The seminar will be held from Monday to Friday, 21 to 23 April 2008. Sessions will include a lecture by a faculty member of the Department of History followed by a workshop. Among the lecturers are Dr. Filomeno V. Aguilar, Jr. Prof. Ambeth R. Ocampo, Fr. Jose S. Arcilla, Sj. Fr. Antonio Francisco B. de Castro, Sj. Fr. Antonio Francisco B. de Castro, Sj. Prof. Olivia M. Habana, Fr. Antonia S. Santos, and Mr. David O. Lozada III.

For further information, contact the History Department at 426-6001 loc. 5240/5241.

ACAS and the History Department Sponsor Talk on Korean Immigration


Sponsored by the History Department and the Ateneo Center for Asian Studies, Dr. Patterson shared his insights into the official and unofficial relationships among Korea, the United States and Japan on migrant Korean workers before a roomful of Asian History students. A lively open forum session with the students followed shortly after his talk.

A professor of St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, Dr. Patterson has numerous publications, among which is The Koreans in Hawaii: A Pictorial History, 1903-2003 (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003), written with Roberta W. Chang.

Political Science 100 Plenary Series

by Dr. Alma Maria O. Salvador

EACH SEMESTER, an average of one thousand undergraduate students of the Ateneo de Manila University take the course POS 100: Politics and Governance as part of the school’s core curriculum.

The course has evolved through the years, making the change with the schools new curriculum in the year 2000 from “Introduction to the Philippine Constitution” to “Politics and Governance,” bringing front and center the new focus of the course: the more apt framework of governance which, while still giving credence to the role of the state in governing, regards the role of the private sector and civil society in configurations of power and accountability in the local, national and international context as equally important.

Such a shift also highlights the uniqueness of the Philippine political landscape post-EDSA, as a democratizing state in the center of a region which has been the site of much political, economic, and social upheaval in the last few decades.

It is within the context of the dynamism in these areas that the POS 100 plenary series is envisioned: each semester, a distinguished group of 3-5 people will be identified and invited by the Department of Political Science of the Ateneo De Manila University to give a magisterial lecture to the POS 100 students for the semester in plenary session, on topics of their expertise.

In short, the POS 100 plenary series are citizenship forums which focus on a myriad of issues that directly affect the Filipino citizen today.
Three-Year Economic Advocacy Project Comes to a Close
by Romelia I. Neri

DECEMBER 2007 saw the closing stages of the project Economic Policy Reform and Advocacy (ePRA) which for the past three years since its inception in September 2004, had worked towards formulating an economic reform agenda in the Philippines.

Through partnerships with a number of nongovernment organizations with established track records, the ePRA consortium of the Ateneo Economics Department, through an institutional grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), finally concluded three years of programming devoted to consultations, brainstorming, training, research, and dialogue with partners which produced a number of significant contributions to various sectors in the area of economic policy reform.

The past three years saw ePRA devotedly work to improve the process of economic policy reform while ensuring the soundness of the reforms undertaken. In the six policy areas of agriculture, financial markets development, fiscal management, local government financial planning and management, private sector participation in public infrastructure, and tax administration, ePRA's distinctive contribution to the policy reform process was in the promotion of wide ownership and support for economic reforms through broad and cross-sectoral involvement in their formulation. The strategy adopted for this end was the creation of a Multi-Stakeholder Teams (MSTs) which emphasized civil society participation to ensure that the views of a broader segment of citizens are represented in the policy process. The MSTs, consisting of specialists from the academia, members of civil society organizations and relevant government agencies, and reform champions from the legislature, sought to balance the perceived dominance of business and government in economic policy making.

Hence, the three-year project life of ePRA enabled it to become instrumental to many reform initiatives. The Agriculture MST provided assistance to the Department of Agriculture in strengthening its capacity to implement the crop process to reform the bureaucracy.

It also initiated the pilot project on Agriculture Development Framework in Cagayan de Oro with DA-Regional Field Unit 10 and Xavier University. In partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority and the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR), it developed the recommendations for the coconut masterplan through consultations with the different stakeholders.

The Financial Markets Development MST worked on widening financial literacy among OFWs and other small savers. In collaboration with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), it developed the framework to gather nationwide household data on savings behavior and preferences through a survey. It also partnered with the Department of Education (DepEd) to innovate the value of saving in primary education curriculum.

The Fiscal Management sector promoted wider dissemination and increased public awareness of the Fiscal Incentives Rationalization Bill. It assisted the Department of Finance in efforts towards the bill's passage into law. It also provided technical assistance in developing an individual income tax micro simulation model for the department.

The Tax Administration MST assisted the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in the objectives of increasing tax revenues, improving tax administration, increasing taxpayer awareness and improved, and enhancing multi-stakeholder participation in tax reform. Among its initiatives toward these objectives included development of various studies on subjects that ranged from understanding the tax implications of electronic loading of phone credits to improvement of tax payments through accredited banks.

A number of training programs were likewise conducted to improve BIR's capability in auditing telecommunication companies and civil society organization's capability to conduct lifestyle checks. The Private Sector Participation in Public Infrastructure focused on the Amendments to the IRR of the BOT Law and Amendments to the BOT Law.

The Local Government Financial Planning and Management was key in allowing improved information sharing between BIR & LGUs. It also worked on IRA Deductions and Allocation and facilitated the conduct of studies that focused on specific reform issues, such as the LGU Institutional Mapping Study, Situs of taxation study, Benchmarking Study and Awards Framework for LGU Finance, to name a few.

Finally, ePRA demonstrated how more potent contribution to the economic policy reform process would be its strengthening of multistakeholder networks which will persist in reform advocacy beyond the project's three-year life.

Also, from its roster of consultants and subject experts, ePRA accumulated a library of various research materials on the various issues and concerns that the six sectors were faced with. The project produced more than 100 knowledge materials which, in ePRA's desire to reach out to the public, will be shared via the Department of Economics website once the site becomes operational.

Leong Center to Hold Mandarin Summer Workshop

The Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies, in cooperation with the Confucius Institute at the Ateneo de Manila University, will hold the Third National Summer Seminar Workshop for Mandarin Language Teachers at the Higher Education Level from April 21 to May 16, 2008 at the Ateneo de Manila University Loyola campus.

This seminar-workshop will offer courses on language and other areas of Chinese Studies. The Leong Center will undertake a big share of the project cost. The actual cost of tuition and materials is Philippine P15,000 per participant, but only minimal fees will be collected.

For out-of-town participants who want provision for lodging, the fee is Philippine P8,000, which covers tuition and materials, and lodging at a place close to the University (air-conditioned rooms). For those who do not need lodging provision, the fee is Philippine P7,000, which covers tuition and materials.

For inquiries, please call 426-6001 local 5208, 5209. Deadline for registration is March 7, 2008.

Japanese Studies Program to Hold International Symposium

In recent years, aspects of Japanese popular culture, such as comics, popular music and horror films, have been emerging in Asia. Particularly, they have had significant impacts on youth culture of the region. On top of Japanese popular culture, TV dramas and music and films from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea have also become region-wide favorites. This phenomenon, called the “deterritorialization of culture,” is perceived to continue and intensify under globalization. Recent studies on globalization in the Asia Pacific region, however, tend to focus primarily on political and economic aspects, leaving out the area of popular or people’s culture, whose impact and influence can be both far-ranging and diffused.

On 9 February 2008, the Japanese Studies Program, in cooperation with the UP Center for International Studies, will hold a symposium on “Transnationalizing Culture in Asia: Dramas, Musics and Tourism” at the Escaler Hall of the Science Education Complex. This symposium is an attempt to address such thematic gap and tackle the topic of deterritorialization of culture in Asia, an appealing but not fully explored topic.

The speakers include Dr. Ricardo Abad, the country’s renowned sociologist at Ateneo de Manila University and Dr. DeAnn Min Ng, an award-winning scholar in the field of Japanese popular culture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Dinh Roma, a Palanca Award-winning poet and professor of Japanese film and literature at De La Salle University, and Dr. Ricardo Tremillo, chair of Asian Studies and professor of ethnomusicology at the University of Hawai’i. The symposium is sponsored by The Japan Foundation. For more information, call the Japanese Studies Program at 426-6001 local 5248/5249, or e-mail: japnes@adm.edu.ph
IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD, an academic institution has to go beyond the confines of its campus. Such is what the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (DSA) tries to accomplish: aside from honing minds as a CHED Center of Excellence within the university, it extends its leadership presence in national and international professional associations.

Over the years, the Department has developed standards and procedures in the discipline which made it qualified to chair the Technical Panel for Sociology and Anthropology in the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). This panel is tasked with establishing standards in the teaching of Sociology and Anthropology in the Philippines. The Department also prides itself of being involved in local initiatives. Fr. John J. Carroll, SJ, first director of the Institute of Church and Social Issues (ICSI), engages in public extended reach, but have they extended understanding.”

Silverstone, who posits the question “the media may have specialized in the scholarship of communication scholar Roger andled to the fringes. Such is what CCRT appreciates that equipping campus journalists with the necessary tools to function in a modern democracy. Hence, CCRT believes in the significant role to safeguard Philippine democracy.

Funded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Journalism in the Age of Convergent Technology is a 3-week online workshop designed to acquaint, and equip, campus journalists with the skills necessary to navigate the new technological terrain. This project has two main objectives: first, it aims to provide inputs that are to improve the news writing skills of regional campus journalists; second, it seeks to acquaint them with the tools and concurrent skills employed in the emerging practice of convergent journalism. Of particular interest as well are the ethical concerns that accompany the new information landscape. Hence, this workshop is focused on the theme Journalism in the Age of Convergence and is tailored for a regional Philippine campus journaling audience. It will be directed towards news writing using convergent technology, and its impact and implications upon journalism today.

The workshop is scheduled for February 2008.
Ateneo participates in 10th Eurasia Conference

THE PHILIPPINE CHEMISTRY community came together to host four Nobel laureates and over 130 international chemists at the 10th Eurasia Conference in the Chemical Sciences (EuAsc2S), held from 7–11 January 2008 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City.

The Eurasia conference seeks to bring eminent scientists, including Nobel laureates, to developing countries with the objective of catalyzing the development of high level science in these countries by deepening the interaction and collaboration among chemists in Europe and Asia.

It has been held in Bangkok, Thailand (1988 and 1992); Seoul, Korea (1994); Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (1994); Guanzhou, China (1996); Brunei Darussalam (2000); Karachi, Pakistan (2002); Hanoi, Vietnam (2003) and Antakya, Turkey (2005).

Aside from delivering plenary lectures, the four Nobel laureates—Yuan Tseh Lee, Rojyo Noyori, Aaron Ciechanover, and Hartmut Michel—also participated in a special Nobel Forum on the topic of “Science and Innovation.”

Ateneo faculty and students contributed to the 10th Eurasia through School of Science and Engineering Dean Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, who chaired the National Organizing Committee, Dr. Arman Guidote, who co-chaired the Technical Program Committee, and Vice President for the Loyola Schools Dr. Ma. Asunta Cayugkeng, who acted as one of the moderators during the Nobel Forum. The Chemistry Department contributed 4 oral and 10 poster papers, and mounted a booth exhibit.

The 10th Eurasia Conference was organized by the Kapiasang Kimika sa Pilipinas-Division of Inorganic Chemistry and Allied Fields. The conference was co-chaired by Dr. Eva Ratilla from UP Diliman.

Three SOSE Faculty Participate in ICT Asia

by Rafael P. Saldaña

THREE FACULTY MEMBERS from the School of Science and Engineering were invited to participate in the 5th ICT Asia Regional Seminar held on 19-21 November 2008 in Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. The international seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France.

Dr. Nathaniel Libatique, Chair of the Department of Electronics, Communications, and Computer Engineering (ECCE), presented a paper on the application of communications technology in health entitled, “Patient Driven Mobile Phone-Enabled Medical Health Services.”

Dr. Rafael Saldaña, Mathematician Associate Professor, applied grid computer methods to medical imaging in his paper entitled, “Medical Image Analysis and Information Retrieval with Grid Computing Applications.”

And Allan Espinosa, ECCE Assistant Instructor, applied computer systems to disaster management in his paper entitled “Rapidly Deployable Disaster Management Systems.”

Biology Department Modernizes Programs

IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE in education and leadership in the field of Biology, the Biology Department has undertaken a re- vision of its academic programs. Incoming students of the program now have the option of choosing between a Bachelor of Science in Biology or a Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences.

“The field of Biology is undergoing rapid advances in virtually all of it areas: Microbiology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biotechnology, Conservation Biology, Biomedical Sciences, among others,” says Dr. Emilyn Q. Espiritu, Chair of the Biology Department.

“There is no other time more exciting than now to be engaged in this field and be at the forefront of these new developments.”

The BS Biology Program is a 5-year undergraduate program which is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive foundation in the discipline of biology. This comprehensive formation will enable the graduates to pursue a career in medicine, industry, government, academe, etc. Towards the end of the program, the students have a choice of either doing a thesis or a practicum with an affiliated company or organization. The program is flexible enough to allow them to graduate ahead of time if they wish to utilize their free summers.

The BS Life Sciences Program is a 4-year undergraduate program which focuses on the rapidly developing fields in the Life Sciences today. The student can have a choice of specialization in any of the following major areas of expertise: Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Conservation Biology or Biomedical Science. The program is research-oriented, hence, the requirement for a thesis during the senior year. This new BS Life Sciences Program is at par with similar programs in premier universities in Asia and Australia.

With the rapid advances in science and technology, the Department of Biology continually aspires to promoting and advancing scientific progress in Biology through research and teaching. To achieve this goal, the department has a complement of dedicated and competent faculty who are committed towards a common goal of raising the bar in the delivery of innovative undergraduate and graduate programs and leading edge research. These programs aim to prepare students for a variety of career paths, provide them with the necessary tools to be life-long learners, and transform them to become the leaders in the 21st century.

A new master’s degree program is now being offered by the Department of Environmental Science. The MS in Environmental Science course includes basic scientific and technical concepts in environmental science, as well as more in-depth study of specific environmental compartments combined with courses on law and policy, ethics, economics, and many others. The MS program culminates in a master’s thesis. Scholarships from the Ford Foundation and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are available for those who are interested in this program.

For academically prolific undergraduates, the 5-year BS-MS in Environmental Science is an added option.
A Nobel Thought—Musings About the Nobel Forum

By Oui Buenafe

THE 10TH EURASIA CONFERENCE on the Chemical Sciences—held from 7-11 January 2008 in PICC—achieved nothing short of a casting-coup in hosting the Nobel Forum, with four Nobel Laureates in Chemistry. The audience came from private and public sectors, aside from those belonging to the local and international scientific circles. Despite the disparate background, the forum itself was not a highly-technical talk on the latest aspects of chemical research, but an open discussion about science, creativity and innovation, sprinkled with dry wit.

The four Laureates—Aaron Ciechanover (Israel), Ryoji Noyori (Japan), Hartmut Michel (Germany) and Yuan T. Lee (Taiwan)—shared their unique insights gained from their scientific life before and after winning the prize. Some of their one-liners were humorous as well as thought-provoking.

The following are some of my personal favorites.

“I don’t know anything about basic and applied research, but I do know the difference between good and bad science.” — Aaron Ciechanover, Nobel Prize winner (2004)

Many scientists, both local and foreign, have split hairs over which type of research was more important: basic/pure or applied research. The only difference between these two "disciplines” is the rationale behind them—whether it is for "research's sake" (i.e., to generate new knowledge), or for an end-product that has immediate application to society. In the end, the “issue” is unresolved, with creativity and innovation hampered by such a flimsy borderline. This results in "bad" science, although it involves only one aspect.

Just as the difference between basic and applied research is superficial, there is a wide gulf between "good" science and "bad" science. "Philosophers" (in local parlance, mga pilosopo) would argue that there is no such distinction between the two, since science in itself is amoral, that is to say, without morals (as opposed to immoral, which implies that the subject goes against morals), thus attaching attaches such as "good" or "bad" is pointless. That is true, however, science does not solely exist in the realm of Platonistic ideals, but is an actual social reality. And human society, in order for it to exist and evolve, has its own moral compass in its core. Therefore, scientists, being human and part of society, impose their own morals when it comes to their own research work.

That is not to say that scientific research can be classified as black or white. Scientific works that involve our own humanity, the sanctity of life and other ethical issues are still gray areas, where "angels fear to tread." More often than not, these are slowly being resolved by further studies—a case in point is the current status of stem-cell research—by people who are not afraid to set and reset their own boundaries. This is the Machiavellian aspect of science, wherein the question of whether the end justifies the means or vice-versa has no clear answer, and yet its underlying tension drives researchers to take creative leaps.

“Creativity can be developed at an early age by education by promoting intellectual curiosity, encouraging questions, having opportunity to probe and explore the unknown, to synthesize and communicate ideas.” — Yuan T. Lee, Nobel Prize winner (1986)

But when can we start learning creativity? This is not so much as a "when" or "where" question—creativity is not something that can be learned in a formal setting. But, getting exposed to situations that need out-of-the-box thinking at an early age helps in fostering a creative mindset.

Creative-thinking reminds me of a personal anecdote. When my elder brother came home from a technical conference in Kobe last year, he gave me a sheaf of brochures on sake-making as pasalubong (their delegation visited a sake brewery in one of their tours). The ingredients were listed down on the pages, as well as the general flowchart, but the general brewing songs. I asked him why, but he refused to answer. They possibly sing to the ferment unknown.

“Do you exactly make sake?” I asked. He gave a cryptic smile and replied, “They sing traditional brewing songs.” I asked him why, but he refused to answer. They possibly sing to the ferment.

Therefore, doing science—making creative researches and innovations—is the grown-up way of returning to childhood. Scientists ask the darnedest questions, piece together experiments to get their answers—and go back to asking questions. This is a recursive cycle that generates new knowledge as researchers continue to ask about the unknown.

To win the Nobel Prize or the lottery?

“We didn’t plan on anything. And I think this is the lesson: You shouldn’t plan on prizes, and recognition, or anything. But you should plan on one thing: Being excellent.” — Aaron Ciechanover, Nobel Prize winner (2004)

What lies at the end of the unknown? Is it a shiny gold medal, a million euros and a lifetime of bragging rights? Or is it something more humbling?

There is no scientist who does not dream (at least once) of getting the Nobel Prize. The Prize stands as a badge of honor—it is one step short of world domination (for the manic ones). However, dreaming is...
DISCS Students Return from JTA

IN JANUARY 2008, the Department of Information Systems and Computer Science (DISCS) welcomed back 13 BS Computer Science and BS Management Information Systems students from their four-month Junior Term Abroad (JTA).

The students that composed DISCS’ 2nd JTA batch are Madeline Ong (3CS) and Raechelle Rivera (3MIS), who went to Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Elvin Salindo (3MIS) to La Trobe University, Australia; Salvador Reyes (3CS) to University of New castle, Australia; Denise Acedo (3MIS) and Dorothy Del Rosario (3MIS) to Santa Clara University, USA; Rafael Sanchez (3MIS) to University of the Pacific, USA; Airone Varigas (3MIS) to University of the Incarnate Word, USA; Nikki Alcantara (3MIS), Edrich Ching (3MIS), Van Tan (3MIS), Francis Lee (3MIS), and Verlonn Valencia (3MIS) to Lille Catholic University, France.

JTA is a program that enables undergraduate students to earn academic credit in a foreign university during their third year of studies and is an opportunity for students to gain an international perspective.

The initial 2006 batch was composed of two students, Queen Alandy Dy (4MIS) and Joana Tan (4MIS), who spent their JTA term in Australia at the University of Technology in Sidney and La Trobe University.

Upon arrival, the students were eager to share their varied experiences from their time abroad. Madeline and Raechelle, for example, said that their Singaporean classmates were hard-working and driven. The students who had gone to Australia, France, and the United States, on the other hand, commented that their counterparts were more laid back. Many of them worked while studying.

When asked what they gained from the experience, the students said that, while the education abroad was beneficial to them, the JTA’s greatest impact was formative. They learned to be more independent and to take care of themselves. They gained a first-hand appreciation of the culture, as well as the education gaps within our own country, as well as the gaps between the Philippines and the countries they visited. And they also made many friends.

In the end, the group gave the JTA program an unequivocal endorsement to the continuation of the program.

Different from aiming, just as a wish is not a want. To dream of a Nobel is the same as to wish for the lottery jackpot—to a certain extent.

 Granted that both have irresistible monetary benefits—a million euros is a million euros, and imagine the amount when converted to Philippine pesos—the reasons behind them are very much different. The former relies on the wide socioethical impact of the prizewinning discovery or invention, the latter relies on chance alone.

(Although one cannot discount the role of luck in winning the Nobel Prize. One should be lucky enough to be alive when he/she wins—and Nobel laureates are quite a long-lived lot.)

Another difference between winning the Nobel and winning the lottery is the mindset of their winners. One joins the lottery because he/she wishes or desires to win—and this is not the case for Nobel Prize winners. For them, winning is simply a joyous happenstance, the culmination of one’s life-work, but they are happy enough even if they did not win—doing work that is closest to one’s heart is the most important thing for them.

Creativity and innovation aside, everything boils down to this love for our work spurs us to excellence. The rest follows.

About the author: Oui Buenafe earned her BS and MS in Chemistry from the Ateneo de Manila University, and now teaches in there as full-time chemistry instructor as well as a lab researcher of the National Chemistry Instrumentation Center. An eclectic reader and a self-confessed geek, she reads books, ranging from science texts to science fiction, during her spare time between lecture classes and lab experiments.
The School of Science and Engineering presents SOSEme Street: SOSE Week 2008

Aside from the fun and games, the week also included the SOSE Social Involvement Summit, where students had the opportunity to explore and use their science and engineering competencies to more seriously address the pressing questions of terez’s Philippine society.

The week took place from January 26, 2008 to February 2, 2008 around the Loyola Schools campus.

CHED Seeks to Increase S&T Graduates with PGMA Scholarships

In an effort to increase the number of science and engineering faculty with master’s and doctorate degrees in Philippine universities, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) launched the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Science and Engineering Graduate Scholarships (PGMA-SEGS) with a target to produce up to 200 MS and PhD graduates by 2010/2011.

The PGMA-SEGS program gives two-year scholarships for master’s degrees and three-year scholarships for doctorate degrees. In order to attract more scholars, the PGMA-SEGS is offering full coverage of tuition and fees, higher stipends with allowances, book allowance, transportation allowance, and thesis allowance. The stipend and allowance for MS and PhD scholars are P14,500 and 17,500, respectively.

Inclusion of the MS and PhD scholars, the graduate shall be given a start-up research grant of up to P200,000 and P400,000, respectively.

Interested science and engineering students are invited to contact the SOSE Dean’s office (local 5600) for more information. The chair of the steering committee for the CHED PGMA-SEGS is Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit.

DISCS Hosts 2007 Ateneo Summer Programming and Games Camps

In the summer of 2007, the Department of Information Systems and Computer Science (DISCS) hosted three summer camps: a programming camp for the high school level and two games camps for the grade school level.

The Ateneo Summer Programming Camp (ASPC) for high school began in 2006 and was targeted at incoming high school seniors. Scheduled for two weeks, the camp was designed to give students a taste of Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) style programming competitions. The DISCS faculty provided the lectures while the DISCS students led by Richard Locsin (ACSE and President of COMP-MA) hosted the contests. In 2006 and 2007, more than 100 students attended the ASPC, and in 2007, 20 students attended the ASPC.

The Ateneo Summer Summer Camps for Grades School was attended by 24 students. Twenty-four students attended the middle school camp. As with the primary school camp, the children who joined this camp were very positive about the experience. Many complained that the camp was too short.

A middle school camp for girls and boys aged 10 to 12 had an attendance of 24 students. Twenty-four students attended the middle school camp. As with the primary school camp, the children who joined this camp were very positive about the experience. Many complained that the camp was too short.

New Engineering Program to Promote Culture of R&D Among Universities

Engineering human resources development is receiving a big boost with the newly launched Engineering Research and Development for Technology (ERDT) program.

On August 15, 2007, seven major universities, which included the Ateneo de Manila University, signed a memorandum of understanding at UP Diliman for the implementation of the ERDT program.

The project, which was presented to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in April 2007, is expected to improve research and development programs in engineering, thus, promoting a culture of research and development in engineering institutions. Moreover, it will serve as a model for collaboration among local universities; hence, the need to establish linkages between institutions through R&D.

The other members of the consortium include University of the Philippines-Diliman, De La Salle University, Mapua Institute of Technology, Mindanao State University-Iligan, University of San Carlos and Central Luzon State University.

The ERDT shall offer graduate scholarships in engineering, thesis and dissertation grants, research grants, visiting professor grants, and hundred-hour grants to qualified candidates. The anchor that holds the consortium together are the scholars that will be offered by the ERDT consortium, costing P2.1 billion and enabling the Philippines to reach UNESCO benchmarks for researchers, scientists, and engineers.

Another component of the project entails an additional P2.1 billion in activities that will be provided by the consortium, costing P2.1 billion and enabling the Philippines to reach UNESCO benchmarks for researchers, scientists, and engineers.

For more information on the Problem Solving Program, you can email me at: queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.