Honoring the best of the best

ASPAC AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHERS SY 2008–2009 BY ERLINDA EILEEN G. LOLARGA

To honor and give thanks to “the best among the best” teachers of the Loyola Schools who have made a significant difference in the lives of their students, colleagues, and the university community as a whole, the Ateneo Schools Parents Council (ASPAC), held its eighteenth Gabi ng Parangal at Paskasalamat in December 2008. Recognized as outstanding teachers for the school-year 2008–2009 were Vicente P. Reventar III (Outstanding Part-time Teacher) of the John Gokongwei School of Management, Michael Ner E. Mariano (Outstanding Junior Teacher) of the School of Humanities, and Dr. Emelyn Q. Espiritu (Outstanding Senior Teacher) of the School of Science and Engineering.

The ASPAC is headed this year by Marietta M. Zee Se Ki. Its academics committee, which screens and selects outstanding teacher awardees, is chaired by Daisy E. Mendoza. The awardees each received a cash prize as well as a specially crafted glass sculpture by acclaimed sculptor Ramon Orilina, who was also present during the affair. Members of the university community were invited to the celebration, and festivities included a short program, the customary Christmas carols to the delight of the awardees, and Vicente P. Reventar III; Marietta M. Zee Se Ki, and Fr Bienvenido F. Nebres, Jr.

Reventar, who comes from a family of teachers, says “Teaching is in my blood.”

Tree of Excellence ceremony, song numbers by the Ateneo Glee Club, and dinner. In keeping with the heartwarming spirit of the Christmas season, ASPAC officers and other parents game-

Fr. Bobby Buenconsejo, SJ blesses candles offered by friends and family of the departed.

The Campus Ministry Office held a Day of Remembrance on November 18, 2008, to remember and pray for departed members of the Loyola Schools community. Especially remembered were Lorenz Tan, Joey Carlos, Gabby Doller, Angelo Brillantes, and Ruth “Scarlet” Ferrer, who passed away under unexpected and tragic circumstances during the first semester. Candles were lit during the day at the college quadrangle. The rosary was prayed and mass followed in the early evening at the College chapel.

Excerpts from the homily delivered by Fr. Bobby Buenconsejo, SJ:

The reality of death, with all its pain and sense of loss, still confronts us at this moment. Whatever reasons we think of, there seems to be no sufficient explanation that can make death intelligible; much less, no amount of healing words can assuage our pain once and for all.

Questions breed further questions. The anguish and pain of questions without answers, particularly those in the prime of youth, is a mystery. Whatever reasons we think of, there seems to be so cold, close to departed kin and friends have to shed medicine relieves physical aches. You who were.

Sa katunayan nakaranasan ang ibat-ibang guro, mag-aaral, at mga kasapi ng komunidad na ini ng malalim na kalungkutan at nagkaroon ng mga katampakan, at maaaring hindi maaaring maging maayo, at maaaring hindi maaaring maging may-akong mga katanungan: “Nasaan ako nuon... bakit hindi man lang ako nakatulog?”

One of the parents expressed his feeling as an “endless falling in a tunnel of darkness.” He said “It would have been better if I finally hit rock bottom because I could move on from there.” The endless falling and drifting in a sea of turbulent thoughts is unimaginably grueling.

The passing on of people close to us, especially those in the prime of youth, is a mystery. Questions breed further questions. The anguish of grieving is never taken away in the manner that medicine relieves physical aches. You who were close to departed kin and friends have to shed your tears during the long dark nights when God seems to be so cold,
we give, we believe that there exists a season of gladness: the time to heal, the time to rejoice, the time to dance.

In a paradoxical way, during these past months or weeks, you have experienced a generous outpouring of care, concern, and comfort from relatives and friends. The friends of Gelo from Talanghal Ateno, the friends of Joey all the way back from grade school and high school, Scarler’s friends from Philo and the Ateno Law School, Loren’s friends, also from the Philo circle, Gabby’s fans from ASLA and friends from Youth for Christ—they are all constantly with you in their prayers and their current projects in mem-
ory of their departed comrades. Our hearts need to be receptive to the precious offer of love.

When Jesus ascended to his everlasting glory, he breathed His Spirit on his apostles. He be-
queathed not only his divine mission but also his values, his attributes, his dreams. People who die
bequeath a wealth of memories to those who are left behind. I am very sure that everyone in this
chapel has his own memorable story, one that
appropriately describes Gabby, Gelo, Joey, and Lorenz. The common thread that binds
our stories is the heart of gold that each of them showed through in everything they did.

Each one of us has a mission to accomplish; we ought to carry the torches of our dear Scarlet, Lorenz, Gelo, Gabby, and Joey. They would have lived in vain if we ourselves give up and abandon our stations, as it were. We have to complete the tasks unaccomplished, sympho-
ny unfulfilled, stories unwritten. Hindi tayo
hikintu sa kalungkutan. Tinataya tayo sa ba-
mong ipagpataguyang ang bayhay.

We who loved them can only ask the Father that he receive them into his everlasting abode. It is our solid faith that happy memories do not die and end in our earthly journey. Because of the power of the Resurrection, our love for them, our love for each other, every memory of good-
ness, indeed, every good thing, does not die in vain. Our faith assures us that all that is good and godly becomes eternal. All that love does not go to ashes will be preserved and preserved in eternal hands of the Creator, the Lover of us all.

Honoring the best of the contest

From his Ateno high school teachers Mariano learned that a good teacher should always love two things: the subject that you teach and the people you are teaching.

Tanchoco, tasked to introduce Reverent, quipped, "perhaps if the Americans had taken their lessons in the Philippines and learned the ways of love (referring to PAG-IBIG), we would not have seen the mortgage crisis and the financial debacles that the whole world is suffering from.”

Currently Reverent is also an independent con-
sultant, using his modeling and computational skills to help local and international clients in de-
cision-making and problem-solving. His practice complements his classroom teaching, keeping him abreast of developments in information and com-
munication technologies, as well as their appli-
cations in various industries. Invincible insights from the work he does give a certain hand edge he gives to his students to better bridge the gap between the academy and the real world.

Michael N E. Mariano, Outstanding Junior Teacher

Michael Ner E. Mariano is an instructor of the Department of Philosophy. Born and bred in near-
by San Roque, Marikina, he proudly acknowledges his parents’ steadfast diligence and humility in raising their family despite life’s hardships such as run-
ning a sari-sari store and doing household chores.

High school, college (AB Philosophy 1995) and graduate studies (MA Philosophy 2001; and doc-
toral studies in Philosophy at present) were all at the Ateno. He credits the Tulong Dunong pro-
gram of Fr. James O’Brien SJ for bringing him to the University: “I miss Fr. OB. Sanay na titiyo ng mga parasta ko sa kanya ang tayo sa puso na pag-alam ng pagsasama.” A scholar in the honors section of the Ateno High School, he was admired from O’Brien’s
to his envy his well-off classmates. From O’Brien he
learned the sacredness of human dignity and the importance of setting priorities in life.

He shares a number of lessons he learned about the value of education and the art of teach-
ing from his own mentors. From his San Roque Elementary School mentors in science and mathe-
matics: “Tuburan nina ako mga asawa ng bahala, bata, tungkol sa isang punongpagdumatao at mag-
balata ang pag-aalagang binibigyan misaan malapit at magulo ang mundo.” From his Ateno high school teachers he learned that a good teacher should al-
ways love two things: the subject that you teach and the people you are teaching.

Mike’s secret for being such a good teacher? According to Philosophy Department chair Dr.
Rene Barretto, his culture and curiosity together with innate desire to find a subject. He learned, fueled by Jesuit mentor Fr. Roderick Fierro, SJ’s exhortation: “Huwag kalooban baang mahalin ang isipan.” At work, he is doggedly se-
rious and efficient but can always be counted on to be there for his students and fellow teachers. As Barbaza says: “Hayan si Mike. Modelong guro. Kitaiklan. Katwag. Seryos sa gawaan, hatihihiwalbua ang isipan.”

Dr. Emily Q. Espiritu, Outstanding Senior Teacher

Dr. Emily Q. Espiritu is an associate pro-
dessor of the Department of Environmental Science and chair of the Department of Biology and Environmental Science. She began her teaching career in the university as a faculty member shortly after completing her doctoral degree in Belgium in 1994. She helped established the Environmental Science Program together with Dr. Fabian Deskur. She is now dean of the School of Science and Engineering. Her training in the field of environmental science began as a student at the University of the Philippines-Diliman where she obtained a degree in Biology (major in Botany) and a Master of Science in Environmental science (1982). She completed her masters and doctoral degree, magna cum laude, at the University of Ghent, Belgium, special-
izing in environmental sani-
tation (MS 1990) and applied biological science (PhD 1994). Prior to the Ateno, she taught at the University of Santo Tomas.

Her recent research activities and publications involve studies on integrated water resources management, environmental assessment, and ecosystem management. In recent years, she has been involved in the research of the Ateneo, she admits that she did not know what

As a teacher, the soft-spoken and petite Espiritu is highly regarded and well liked by both students and fellow teachers. She reveals that when she first started teaching, she vowed to treat her students the way she hoped her own children’s teachers would treat them—with patience, perseverance, and love. She says her growth and development in the university was nurtured by the intense dedi-
cation and spirituality of its faculty and staff. She also feels grateful for how the school has helped her mature both professionally and spiritually. Now she can truly say, “I’m an Atenista ab自在."

As a telescope, a teacher and scientist, she is a mosaic artist in her spare time. She is also a de-
voted mother of four children and wife to Lloyd, a professor at De La Salle University. She happily declares that her family has been fully supportive of her work. She singled out her mother, Flora, a grade school teacher of 43 years, for setting her on the path of teaching—the path of service and excellence. LSB

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Our faith assures us that all that is good and godly becomes eternal. All that love does not go to waste is elevated and perfected by the mighty and eternal hands of the Creator, the Lover of us all.
On October 13, 2008, Sapalo Velez Bundang & Bulilan (SVBB) Law Office, a top intellectual property law firm in the country, donated P2.5 million pesos to the Ateneo de Manila University to establish the SVBB Endowment in the Loyola Schools.

A week earlier, SVBB Law Office and the Ateneo had a memorandum-of-agreement signing at Xavier Hall. SVBB was represented by its managing partner, Atty. Ignacio S. Sapalo (Ateneo BS ’63 LLB ’67) and by Atty. Neptali L. Bulilan. The Ateneo was represented by President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ and Dr. Ma. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, vice president for the Loyola Schools. Also present during the MOA signing were Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, dean of the School of Science and Engineering (SOSE), Fr. Nemesio S. Que, SJ, director of the Office of Admission and Aid, and Atty. Anna Mariae Celeste V. Jumadla, an Ateneo BS Chemistry ’98 alumni scholar and SVBB lawyer.

The SVBB Endowment will support a minimum of two undergraduate or graduate students in the SOSE beginning schoolyear 2009–2010. Any junior, senior, or fifth-year undergraduate, or graduate science or engineering major with above-average grades, proven leadership skills and integrity, who agrees to pursue his or her thesis or research paper on an area or topic selected by SVBB, who is inclined to pursue law studies and to specialize, among others, in intellectual property laws and who is willing to consider employment with the SVBB Law Offices, may apply for the SVBB Scholarship.

The SOSE plans to conduct talks and seminars for its students to introduce and expand their knowledge on licensing, patent law, and intellectual property rights, among others. The SOSE and SVBB are already actively working together as the former engages in research and development on many emerging technologies.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in November 2008 for the new Rizal Library. Dubbed an “iconic structure,” the new library will be located behind the Leong and De La Costa Halls, and across Quad 3 from the original Rizal Library. When completed, the five-story structure designed by Architects Inc., led by Arch. Bong Recio, will be the tallest building on campus.

Present at the rites were Rizal Library Director Lourdes T. David with the library’s board members, professionals and staff, Rizal Library project consultants, members of the Ateneo Board of Trustees, other Ateneo administrators, professionals, and staff, and special guests Manuel V Pangilinan of PLDT and First Pacific (and Ateneo chair of the board as well) and Benny Santoso of the Salim Group and First Pacific.

In their remarks, Cuyegkeng called the new library a “cathedral of learning,” and David described it as a “temple of knowledge.” Pangilinan and Santoso hailed it as an enduring symbol of Ateneo’s pursuit of knowledge and an inspiration in educating future leaders.

The structure, composed of north and south blocks each five stories high, took three years to plan. It will house books, electronic resources, reserve collections, periodicals, and multimedia materials. There will be study areas for graduate students and faculty, multimedia viewing areas, and the so-called information commons, a new concept in learning. Water elements both inside and outside the building will enhance the scholarly atmosphere and give library users a feeling of tranquility and intellectual space, according to David.

An iconic structure rises: the new Rizal Library

Below A perspective of the new Rizal Library

Standing Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, Dr. Ma. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, and Atty. Anna Mariae Celeste V. Jumadla
New university dormitory inaugurated

The University Dormitory was formally inaugurated on December 6, 2008. The new dormitory, which opened its doors to students in May 2008, accommodates 600 residents, with male residents quartered in the north wing and female residents in the south wing. With the new dormitory in operation, the Residence Halls can now house 1,000 students, with Cervini and Eliazo Halls taking in 200 residents each.

Cash for trash at the Waste Trade Market

The Ateneo Environmental Management Coalition, in partnership with the Ateneo Environmental Science Society, held a Waste Trade Market in November 2008. Buyers of used paper, ink cartridges, e-waste, scrap metal and plastic, and used batteries were present on campus to purchase waste materials from students, faculty members, parents, and offices. Photos by Bianca Benavidez
A gentleman, and now an officer too

By Jonathan O. Chua

Dr. Leovino Ma. Garcia, an associate professor of the Department of Philosophy and former dean of the School of Humanities, recently received double honors. The Republic of France, through its Ministry of Culture, Humanities, recently received double honors. The Order of Arts and Letters, and the Order of the Legion of Honor, were bestowed on Garcia for his contributions to the field of philosophy and his efforts in promoting French culture in the Philippines.

Garcia, an academic and intellectual, has been recognized for his work in the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas and Paul Ricouer. He has served on the board of the Catholic Institute of France and has given lectures on contemporary French thought, teaching courses in the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas and Paul Ricouer. His work has earned him the respect of his peers and colleagues, and he has been described as a gentleman, and now an officer too.

A weakness for things French

Garcia notes, is that “I never studied in France. I was French, when he was still too young legally to drink, by listening to the records of Edith Piaf, which his Jesuit mentor, Fr. Roque Ferris, had given him. He later took French lessons at the Alliance Francaise, then in Intramuros (at that time Ateneo was offering only informal French and German lessons, held in the school, with volunteer teachers). There, there was French cinema. (His love for things French began, in fact, through cinema, when he watched Leslie Caron playing a governess teaching her wards French pronunciation.)

He knows and speaks French. He delights in things French: the cuisine, the cheese, the perfume, the cinema, the literature, and, always, of course, the wine. He specializes in contemporary French thought, teaching courses in the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas and Paul Ricouer. He has served on the board of the Alliance Francaise. He has brought diplomats, academics, and artists together—this he sees as his role, “bringing many worlds together.” He has organized conferences, the most recent being one held at the Ateneo on the anniversary of the formal establishment of Philippine–French relations and periodically lectures on antique maps—activities which promote interest in arts and culture.

Garcia began learning French, when he was still too young legally to drink, by listening to the records of Edith Piaf, which his Jesuit mentor, Fr. Roque Ferris, had given him. He later took French lessons at the Alliance Francaise, then in Intramuros (at that time Ateneo was offering only informal French and German lessons, held in the school, with volunteer teachers). There, there was French cinema. (His love for things French began, in fact, through cinema, when he watched Leslie Caron playing a governess teaching her wards French pronunciation.)

Bringing many worlds together

What has Garcia done to merit the advance to Officer? He knows and speaks French, of course. He delights in things French: the cuisine, the cheese, the perfume, the cinema, the literature, and, of course, the wine. He specializes in contemporary French thought, teaching courses in the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas and Paul Ricouer. He has served on the board of the Alliance Francaise. He has brought diplomats, academics, and artists together—this he sees as his role, “bringing many worlds together.” He has organized conferences, the most recent being one held at the Ateneo on the anniversary of the formal establishment of Philippine–French relations and periodically lectures on antique maps—activities which promote interest in arts and culture.

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In this essay, published in the January 27, 2007 issue of *Philippines Free Press*, one of the country's oldest and most lucrative literary prizes, are not unfamiliar territory to members of the English Department. The latest to receive one is Lawrence Ypil. His essay “Impermanent Residencies” won second prize at last year’s contest. The ceremonies were held on August 27, 2008 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Larry Ypil is better known for his poetry (he is first-prize winner at the 2006 Carlos Palanca Awards), but teaching a freshman class on the essay and reading Geoff Dyer’s book on D. H. Lawrence, Ypil envisions “always, the house. This one.”

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In its river-like run of images and the easy sliding of the imagined into the real, the past into the present, and the self into the external world, the essay might remind readers of Virginia Woolf, who transformed thinking aloud into an art form. Sensory impressions, memories, reflections, and disjointed facts are woven together into flowing, lyrical, languid prose.

For instance, after describing the crash-and-burn games in the boy’s play room, from which he could derive no pleasure, Ypil envisions “always, the house. This one.”

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Out of Sheer Range, made him want to try his hand at the personal essay. An essay, Ypil says, “really meant to ‘essay forth,’ to discover. [It is] very different from the usual way we’re expected to write (or teach) the essay, which is ‘Write a thesis statement. ’Support your main thesis.’ “While lyric poetry moves more inwardly (“the voice that speaks to itself”), the essay allows him more room to be discursive (“the self in a more social/historical frame”). In the personal essay, “image and sense meet exposition and discussion.”

The image in this case is a room with floral wallpaper; the exposition, “what it means when we say ‘family.’ Or what it is when we consider a place ‘home.’ “Or really, what it means when we say that we have come to love the place, the space, and the time from which we come from. “What it means when we say ‘we belong,’ or ‘we don’t belong.’ “

But all that is a paraphrase of the essay, which like all paraphrases falls short of the original expression. “And although nothing here belongs to you in their proper names, you know them all too well: the red roof, its high beams, the door’s edges. The room at the corner where the sun at dawn hit it brightest. The house. This one.”

Fr Bulatao celebrating his 86th birthday with colleagues from the Psychology Department 2008 which showcases faculty research. The talks are held in September, Bulatao’s birth month.
Tanghalang Ateneo wins at Aliw Awards

Dr. Ricardo Abad, artistic director of Tanghalang Ateneo (TA) and theater arts co-ordinator of the Fine Arts Program, and Glenn Mas, playwright and faculty member of the Fine Arts Program, won major theater awards from the Aliw Awards Foundation during ceremonies held at the Manila Hotel in November 2008. TA earned two trophies: one for Best Production of the Year for its staging of The Death of Memory by Mas, and another for Abad who was named Best Director for his work on the same play. It was the first time in the 31-year history of the Aliw Awards that one theater group won awards for best production and best direction at the same time. “I am elated,” Abad said, adding that “it affirms what Ateneo students have done all these years to create a theater of substance. It’s a wonderful gift for our thirtieth season. It’s also a fine example of creative collaboration between students and faculty of the Fine Arts/Theater Arts program.”

The Death of Memory centers on four people trapped in a purgatorial prison seeking to free themselves from their paralyzing pasts.

Filipino author and Ateneo alum Miguel Syjuco became the first Filipino to receive the Man Asian Literary Prize for the novel. His novel Ilustrado, a story about a young Filipino caught up in a notorious scandal spanning many decades in Philippine history, won the 2008 prize.

The prize is a double win for Syjuco. Ilustrado also won the grand prize for the novel category in last year’s Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature.

In their citation, the panel of judges for the Man Asian Literary Prize wrote: “The shortlist for the Man Asian prize testifies to the great vitality of the novel in Asian societies undergoing hectic and unexpected transformations. In the end, we had to choose; and Ilustrado seems to us to possess formal ambition, linguistic inventiveness and sociopolitical insight in the most satisfying measure. Brilliantly conceived, and stylishly executed, it covers a large and tumultuous historical period with seemingly effortless skill. It is also ceaselessly entertaining, frequently raunchy, and effervescent with humour.”

Syjuco graduated with a degree in English Literature from the Ateneo. In 2001, he went to the United States to pursue a degree in MA Creative Writing at Columbia University. He is presently based in Montreal where he works as a copy editor at the Gazette newspaper.

The Man Asian Literary Prize was established in 2006 to bring greater worldwide attention to Asian writing and authors. The inaugural prize was awarded in November 2007 to Wolf Totem by Jiang Rong, which was published in English to great acclaim in early 2008. Several works shortlisted and longlisted for the 2007 Prize have since been published. This year’s judges include Adrienne Clarkson, former governor general of Canada; Nicolas Jose, writer, scholar and former cultural counselor at the Australian Embassy in China; and Pankaj Mishra, acclaimed Indian writer and thinker.

During the recently concluded celebratory dinner at The Peninsula Hong Kong, Syjuco was awarded a $10,000 prize.

Notable Achievements

Ateneo takes 2nd place at finance competition

The Ateneo team garnered second place in the recent tenth Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition (10-ICFC) organized joint-ly by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), Citi Foundation, CFA Institute Philippines, and the Asian Institute of Management. The questions are based on the Level 1 body of knowledge for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) accreditation, with topics covering financial statement analysis, quantitative methods, equity, debt, economics, derivatives, and ethics. For the first time since this competition was held, questions on ethics were included in the Final round. More than 80 colleges and universities competed in the elimination round held simultaneously in five cities in September 2008—Quezon City, Cebu, Baguio, Iloilo, and Davao. The elimination round for Metro Manila and Southern Luzon schools was held at UP-Diliman, Ateneo de Manila and UP-Diliman tied for first place on a nationwide basis in the elimination round.

The Ateneo team is made up of Leonard Chua (IV BS ME), Charles Ang (IV BS ME), Carlos Esquerra (IV BS Mgt-H), Jon Ma (IV BS ME), and Lester Yee (IV BS AMF). Only the first three participated in the Final round of the competition, held in October 2008 at the SSP Auditorium, Pasay City. The top twenty local schools from the elimination round competed with four schools from the Southeast Asian region: the Assumption University of Thailand, Chulalongkorn University, National University of Singapore, and Singapore Management University. It was a close fight, with the final outcome determined only in the very last question, the 50th of the whole day competition. UP-Diliman came out first, Ateneo second, and DLSU—Manila third. The scores of the three teams were separated by only one question.

For the past three years, Ateneo de Manila has been in the first or second place in this prestigious finance competition.

The team is coached by Dr. Darwin Yu assisted by Dr. Dennis Sandoval, both from the Finance and Accounting Department of the John Gongonvet School of Management. Darwin D. Yu
The Metrobank Foundation Inc. (MBFI) recognized the Ateneo de Manila University and three Loyola Schools faculty members for continuing excellence at a ceremony held on January 22, 2009 at the Metrobank Plaza Auditorium in Makati City. The Metrobank Foundation Award for Continuing Excellence in Research and Scholarship, the highest honor that MBFI gives, was given to topnotch Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardees Ricardo G. Abad (2001), Ma. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng (1997), and Joanna Lee-Chua (2004). The Metrobank Aces, first given in 2004, is a distinction bestowed on past winners who continued to stand out in their respective fields after having been honored by the foundation for their achievements.

Metrobank recognizes Ateneo educators anew

Embodying a lifelong commitment to the pursuit of excellence, the awardees continue to make substantial contributions to their chosen discipline and have bequeathed a legacy of achievement to the peers and community as a whole.

This year’s 30 honorees were selected among the faculty of the Ateneo in recognition of their outstanding achievements in four research awards bestowed by MBFI: the Search for Outstanding Teachers; Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (Made) national competition; the Search for Outstanding Journalist; and the Recognition Award for Outstanding Editors.

“Metrobank recognizes the faculty of Ateneo de Manila University anew and is proud to have contributed to the development of the University and the nation,” MBFI President Aniceto Orbeta said. “These faculty were instrumental in shaping the national agenda and for that we express our gratitude.”

The Ateneo de Manila University was also honored as a Metrobank Partner in Empowering and Advocating Excellence (PEACE). The PEACE awards recognize Metrobank’s institutional partners from the government, civil society, business, and academia.

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

Oppression and Liberation in the Discourse of Family in South East Asian Women’s Writings by Sri Mulyani

The new PhD English Language and Literature (PhD ELL) program of the Ateneo de Manila English Department has attracted scholars from various universities in the Asian region. Of the first group of eight students, three are from overseas and I am one of them.

My decision to study at the Ateneo de Manila was largely influenced by the relevance of the PhD ELL courses to my research interests. The ELL program allows me to widen my worldview, while acquiring a critical knowledge of both the Eastern and Western worlds. Such perspective is essential to my dissertation research about the discourse of family in Malaysian, Filipino, and Singaporean literature by selected ethnic Chinese women writers of English.

In South East Asia, the family plays a very important role in cultural, social, and religious lives and rituals, not only in the private spheres, but also in the larger public sphere such as in the national interest. My study is an attempt to foreground the articulation of the female voices in general and the marginalization and oppression of women in the Chinese family under the large patriarchal Chinese culture and tradition.

In essence, my study employs the feminist perspective that, in the words of renowned feminist Myra Marx Ferree, views the family as “a site of gender and generational struggles, crucibles of caring and conflict, where claims for an identity are rooted, and separateness and solidarity are continually created and contested.” Thus, in this notion, the family becomes significant and central to both the oppression and liberation of women. Accordingly, the family is also important and central to the feminist theory.

Such notion of family as oppressive and liberating is pervasive in the literature of Chinese women writers in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore. In my study of the Southeast Asian family and of ethnic Chinese women writers, I argue that as female writers, ethnic Chinese women use and appropriate ‘family’ with its patriarchal discourse as the very weapon to challenge the domination of the ‘phallogocentrism,’ or the practice of male domination in any culture or society. Chinese women writers use the family as an arena of contestation and representation to rethink the concept of the family.

This family discourse allows the women writers to articulate their voices and rewrite the history of the family and the nation through the female perspective. Thus, a result, they also redefine the family and produce, not history, but ‘her-story’ to voice out the experiences and lives of the muted groups of varying ethnicity, class, and gender in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore of the past and present.

During my PhD study of English language and literature at the Ateneo de Manila, I was very fortunate to have been provided relevant knowledge and criticism, as well as supportive guidance and suggestions concerning my study by competent professors and kind classmates. To them, I am the smiling lady from Sanara Dharma University who loves to pamper her friends with good cooking and generous laughter. I try to be optimistic even in the midst of difficulty and trying graduate school studies. Taking Ph.D. courses at the Ateneo de Manila University may be a challenging task, but it is also an opportunity to return to my Asian roots and acquire a critical understanding of the family as re-presented in Chinese women’s writings.

Metrobank recognizes Ateneo educators anew

The Metrobank Foundation Inc. (MBFI) recognized the Ateneo de Manila University and three Loyola Schools faculty members for continuing excellence at a ceremony held on January 22, 2009 at the Metrobank Plaza Auditorium in Makati City. The Metrobank Foundation Award for Continuing Excellence in Research and Scholarship, the highest honor that MBFI gives, was given to topnotch Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardees Ricardo G. Abad (2001), Ma. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng (1997), and Joanna Lee-Chua (2004). The Metrobank Aces, first given in 2004, is a distinction bestowed on past winners who continued to stand out in their respective fields after having been honored by the foundation for their achievements.

from left: Awardees Cuyegkeng, Lee-Chua, and Abad with ADMU trustee Mari Jo Ruiz (herself a Metrobank Outstanding Teacher in 1992) and ACES (2004) awardee, who received the Ateneo’s PEACE award on behalf of Fr. Bienvenido Nebrija.
Doreen’s feast: an exhibit and lecture

By Jonathan O. Chua

Six years since her passing in New York, the papers of Doreen G. Fernandez, former chair of the Department of Communication, are finally deposited at the Ateneo Library of Women’s Writings (ALiWW). The donation was marked by a ceremony (the 14th Paz Marquez Benitez Memorial Lecture) held last November 24, 2008 at the Escaler Hall and an exhibition of memorabilia titled “Doreen’s Feast” at the Pardo de Tavera Room of the Rizal Library. The family of the late professor, through her sister, concert pianist Della Besa, turned in the papers in July 2008. The materials consisted of 1,220 personal and professional documents, 331 photographs, 68 cassette tapes, and 10 books. Among the documents are letters to and from her, clippings of her columns and articles, drafts of her writings (including those of her dissertation ‘The Isabel Zarzaeta: 1903–1930, later published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press), instructional materials (syllabi, exams, course notes), conference papers, invitations, and notes. Items of special interest to literary historians are her correspondence with other writers, including Carlos Angeles, NVM Gonzalez, Alfredo Navarro Salangga, Bienvenido Santos, and Jose Garcia Villa.

Exhibited at the Pardo de Tavera Room were a small sample of this vast collection, which showed Fernandez’ various interests (Philippine culture, food history, literature, theater, and teaching). Her passion for her work and her joie de vivre were evident in such documents as her personal “teacher’s prayer,” handwritten on a page of Carileya booklet, the multiple drafts of her dissertation, and the binders containing her columns on food, for which she was best known by the public and close friends, however, she was eventually convinced that she would be doing right by her sister if she were to deposit the papers in ALiWW. Donating her sister’s papers to the Ateneo, she also brings her sister “home.”

Rica Bolipata Santos, director of ALiWW, finds much value in the donation. “There’s so much researchers can work on with the materials given,” she says. “Materials given also reveal a complex woman who was gifted not just with an excellent mind but a truly generous heart.”

Dr. Fernandez was the author (or co-author) of over ten books: ‘The Isabel Zarzaeta, 1903–1930’, Sarap: Essays on Philippine Food, Lasa (three volumes), Writers and their Milieu (two volumes), Kinilaw: A Philippine Cuisine of Freshness, Tikim: Essays on Philippine Food and Culture, Fruits of the Philippines, Face to Face: The Craft of Interviewing, Palabas: Essays on Philippine Theater History, and Palayok: Philippine Food through Time, on Site, in the Pot. She was a faculty member of several units of the Ateneo: English, Japanese Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Communication, where she was also chair. In 2000, a festchrift in her honor was published by the Office of Research and Publications of the Ateneo de Manila University titled Essays in Honor of Dr. Fernandez, with contributions by Nick Joaquin, Francisco Arcellana, Salvador F. Bernal, Resil B. Mojares, and Nicanor G. Tiengson, among other writers.

The Paz Marquez Benitez Memorial Lecture/Exhibit, named after a woman whose story “Dead Stars” is considered the first Filipino short story in English, is held every year in honor of a woman writer. Past honorees include National Artist Edith Tiempo, Ophelia Dimalanta, and Virginia Moreno. L58
A year to the 150th foundation day of the Ateneo de Manila, the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies celebrated another sesquicentennial. “Puccini al dente,” as the celebration was called, marked the 150th birth anniversary of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924), famous for his operas Madama Butterfly, La Bohème, Tosca, and Turandot, among others works.

“Puccini al dente” consisted of a lecture and two concerts. Antonio Hila, contributor to the Philippine Daily Inquirer and now music columnist of the Philippine Star, delivered the lecture at the Natividad Galang Conference Room on September 8, 2008 to inaugurate the celebrations. Showing excerpts from the operas, he noted the symphonic quality of Puccini’s operas, which distinguished them from those of his predecessors. The dramatic quality of his operas, he said, comes from an integration of music and text to a degree that, say, Verdi did not achieve.

The two concerts were held at the Escaler Hall. The first, on September 15, featured tenors Glenn Gaerlan and Randy Gilongo and sopranos Camille Lopez Molina and Naomi Paz Sison. They performed arias and duets from Tosca, La Bohème, Madama Butterfly, Turandot, La Rondine, and Gianni Schicchi—a standard Puccini program. The encore was “Nessun dorma” rearranged for tenor Gary del Rosario singing the arias and the duets; and The White Coats, a group of medical practitioners (Rebecca Feliciano, Frederick Hanson, Maria Lourdes Bertoso, Rodney Jimenez, Monique Yahyahin, and Joanne Bravante) from St. Luke’s Medical Center, singing the songs from the musicals. Farley Asuncion was the collaborating artist, and the Broadway segment directed by Rhea Rosales.

As an extra, Del Rosario and Sison sang the arias from La Bohème in Tagalog, following the translation of National Artist Rolando S. Tinio, founder of the school’s Filipino Department. For the encore, Del Rosario sang “Sang Patik ng Hangg” from Ang Pailahas Bukas, a musical by National Artists Lucio San Pedro and Bienvenido Lumbera, who was in the audience. The number also anticipates what, according to department chair Concepcion Rosales, the IS Department is planning for next year: a concert commemorating Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s 250th birth anniversary, with the Department of Modern Languages. Last year, it produced “Music and Poetry,” which featured mostly German literature performed by Gilongo and Porticos and hosted the “Romantic Piano Concerto” of Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes. These events, says Rosales, “bring the classics closer to the Ateneo community.”

And apparently, they bring the community at large closer to the Ateneo. In the audience were not only students and faculty of the Loyola Schools but also alumni like writer Georgio Brillantes and visitors, including music critic Pablo Tariana and singer Irma P. E. Potenciano.

“Puccini al dente” is the Department’s most ambitious and also most difficult musical event to orchestrate, involving as it did various parties (artists, sponsors, students, office staff, and administration) and tasks. Recounts Rosales, “We got help from our IS alumni and the deans office (of the School of Humanities) to raise funds. . . . Peter [Porticos] got the artists together, Dr. Hila managed to get Gary del Rosario, who was going to perform at the CCP, to sing for us. But then there were the souvenir program to be designed and written, the invitations, . . . making sure there’s an audience. . . .”

That it was done in the teeth of such financial and logistical constraints? “That makes it al dente, indeed.” —Jonathan O. Chua
In October 2008, the Theology Department sponsored a two-day refresher course for Christian life education (CLE)/theology/religion teachers to update their knowledge and skills. The two-day series of talks and discussions was designed to meet the need for ongoing teacher formation, especially for those who are unable to take advanced theological studies. This was the second consecutive year that the refresher course was offered, and the theme this year was Theology of Creation.

The course's objectives are to provide ongoing education and development to primary, secondary, and tertiary teachers of CLE/theology/religion; allow faculty to share the fruits of their research and expertise; continue the development of the Theology Department as a resource for the Philippine Church; and to develop and expand networks for education and knowledge dissemination and communication.

Participants traveled from Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Cebu, Bisol, and the Northern Visayas, in addition to Metro Manila, representing secondary and tertiary institutions. More than 80 participants in all took part in the course, manifesting a real desire on the part of the nation's CLE/theology/religion teachers to expand their knowledge and capacity to bring young people to a deeper awareness of and engagement with the faith.

Opening and welcoming remarks were given by Ateneo President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ and Theology Department Chair Fr. Adolfo N. Dacanay, SJ, respectively. Nebres reminded the participants that all religious education begins with a relationship with Christ. The participants chose from among the following sessions:

- Jesus Christ and the Meaning of Creation: The New Testament Creation Passages, Rafael S. Dy-Liacco, MAR; Paghahambing Xin Sa Etuna Olik: Ang Dyuw Na Lamihka And Siyang Magliligta Sa Atin, Rachel Joyce Marie O. Sanchez; Paglabas At Pagkatatanda: Ang Pagturo Ng Hen 2-3 Batay Sa Mga Palaisipan ni Juan Louis Sue, SJ; Roberto O. Guevara, PhD
- Pagtuturo Ng Hen 1 Gamit Ang Paghahambing Xin Sa Etuna Olik: Ang Dyuw Na Lamihka And Siyang Magliligta Sa Atin, Rachel Joyce Marie O. Sanchez; Paglabas At Pagkatatanda: Ang Pagturo Ng Hen 2-3 Batay Sa Mga Palaisipan ni Juan Louis Sue, SJ; Roberto O. Guevara, PhD
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Ballet Manila’s ‘Lola Basyang’ visits Ateneo

By Jonathan O. Chua  The Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ballet Manila, and Atvirl Publishing held twin events in November 2008 in anticipation of Ballet Manila production Tadlong Kuwento ni Lola Basyang. “Pages to Pirouettes: Exploring Visual Language in Ballet,” a forum with the creative team behind the production at the Natividad Galang Fajardo Conference Room, and “From Picture Books to Ballets,” an exhibition of the costume and set designs for the production, at the basement lobby of the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership.

Pages to pirouettes The speakers at the forum were illustrator Frances Alcaraz, faculty member of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department, choreographer and Ballet Manila artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, and choreographer, and set designer Jonathan Jano. Macuja-Elizalde recounts that she had been thinking of mounting a local production of The Nutracker. But when she discovered the Lola Basyang books, authored by Christine Bellen (fac-ulty member of the Kagawaran ng Filipino, direc-tor of the Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices (AILAP), and an authority on Severino Reyes) which adapted the originals by Severino Reyes and which were illustrated by Alcaraz, she thought of adapting these instead. Since she could not possibly adapt all the stories (some were “utterly un-danceable,” she remarks), she selected three: Ang Prinsipe ng mga Ibon, Ang Kapatawid ng Tadlong Maria, and Ang Mahiwagang Biyulin. The result is an action-packed ballet, each elegantly crafted with its own team of musicians and choreographer.

Such a production, of course, was bound to be fraught with difficulties. The burden of making three separate but related sets and costumes land- ed on the shoulders of designer Jano. It was an exercise in patience and friendly negotiation, he recounts, as each part of the ballet has a look and feel of its own. Adding to the challenge was that Macuja-Elizalde insisted on reproducing the illus-trations in the books as much as possible. (The set for one story consists of a giant reproduction of one of the illustrations.) Adjustments, of course, had to be made; the long native skins de-picted in the books, for instance, had to have slits for the dancers to allow the dancers more leg room.

What does such a production hope to ac-complish? “We have the classics,” says Macuja-Elizalde, “like Giselle and Swan Lake, but what

The University for Peace’s Masters of Arts Dual Campus Program in International Peace Studies graduated its first batch in October 2008. The commencement ceremonies were held at the Ricardo and Dr. Rasita Leong Hall auditorium at the Ateneo de Manila University.

On hand for the rites were University of Peace Rector John Maresca, Ateneo de Manila University President Benigno E. Nebres, SJ, Yohei Sasakawa of the Nippon Foundation, Undersecretary Franklin M. Ekdalim of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and Victor Valle, head of the University for Peace’s Department of Peace and Conflict Studies.

Twenty-eight students from ten countries—Bangladesh, the People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam—made up the pioneer batch of graduates of the innovative masters degree program aimed at developing young Asian leaders in the field of international peace and conflict studies.

The program was a collaboration between the University of Peace, based in Costa Rica, and the Ateneo. Over the course of the intensive 19-month program, the students took courses at the University of Peace headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, and at the Ateneo. They were also worked as interns in various parts of Asia. The program was accomplished in three terms. Each student was generously given a full scholarship by the Nippon Foundation, which allowed them to devote themselves on a full-time basis to their studies. The program is designed primarily for stu-dents from Asian countries where English is not widely used, such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, although stu-dentsfrom other Asian countries may also apply. It is hosted by the Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University. For more information, visit the University for Peace website at <www.uppeace.org/academic/masters/SIPS.cfm>.
Ateneo hosts conference on Southeast Asian cinema

Ateneo hosts conference on Southeast Asian cinema

In November 2008 the School of Humanities hosted the fifth Annual Southeast Asian Cinemas Conference (ASEACC). Scholars, film producers, directors, and students from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, England, and the United States participated in the conference. Renowned filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik gave the keynote address, and closing remarks were given by scholar Benedict Anderson. Anderson shared his thoughts on the direction of film scholarship and the future of independent film. Dubbed “States of Independence,” the conference sought to address the specific aesthetics of independent films, the role of technology in the creation of an alternative mediscape in the region, and the historical aspects of dependence and independence, e.g., the colonial legacies of some European countries in Southeast Asia.

The first ASEACC was held in 2004 at the Asia Research Institute—National University of Singapore. An organizing committee composed of young scholars and film practitioners was formed shortly thereafter and a decision made to make it an annual event that would be hosted throughout the region. Since that first conference in Singapore, the ASEACC has been held in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Jakarta. From Manila, the conference will move to Saigon in 2009. ASEACC aims to raise the level of film discourse in the region as well as to promote global awareness about Southeast Asian cinema as a diverse field of study within film studies and area studies.

AtSCA asks, what is the state of the urban poor?

In a country beset by crisis upon crisis, the Ateneo Student Catholic Action (AtSCA) stressed the importance of listening to those who are hit the hardest by these difficult times with the State of the Urban Poor Addresses held in December 2008 at the Leong Hall Auditorium. The event featured speakers who have actively worked to better the plight of the urban poor.

The first speaker was Dr. Anna Marie Karaos, executive director of the John Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JCSI), who discussed the definition of the “urban poor” as those who have incomes which cannot fully sustain their families’ needs, as well as those who have no tenure of residence. Counted among the urban poor are household helpers, drivers, maintenance and security personnel, and the like whose labor may be poorly compensated and whose efforts contribute to the comfortable lifestyle of the upper classes.

The second speaker was Dr. Portia Fernandez-Marcelo, an associate professor at the University of the Philippines—Manila College of Medicine, who shared her experiences in dealing with the health situation of the urban poor. She also suggested ways in which students can respond to urban poverty.

The final speaker was Ms. Rosal “Osang” Palma, president of Malayang Tinig ng mga Kababaihan sa Komunidad, a people’s organization based in Tatalon, Quezon City. Using the vernacular, she described the ways in which poverty affects the depressed community in which she lives, in particular the ways in which it impacts the health of many women.

The unique feature of the ASEACC is its interdisciplinarity and combination of theory and practice: it is a place where film scholars, anthropologists and sociologists and cultural activists mingle with filmmakers, critics, program-mers, archivists, and other film practitioners. The conference usually includes academic panels focusing on issues facing contemporary filmmakers, history, genre, gender and other identities, among others. Also on the agenda are film screenings and dialogue with film practitioners.

Past conference themes have focused on curriculum building (how to teach a field as diverse at

Accenture partners with Ateneo CORD

From October 2008 to January 2010, the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partners with Accenture to launch the very first human resources (HR) academy in the Philippines. Locally, Accenture employs approximately 16,000 employees and continues to grow.

The Accenture HR Academy is a development program directed at developing and advancing the competencies of HR analysts and senior analysts in the areas of: (1) strategic contribution to the organization, (2) flawless delivery of HR service, and (3) strengthening business knowledge. The program is composed of: (1) strategic HR and development courses highlighting the strategic and leadership role of HR in organizations, (2) HR management courses focusing on the maintenance and management aspects of HR, and (3) legal and business courses designed to develop the business acumen of HR professionals in the Philippine context. At the end of the program, participants are expected to review, design, and present required outputs for each course.

The diploma program, called the Strategic Human Resource Management & Development Program (SHRMD), is comprised of eight certificate courses: Strategic HR Partnering, Competency-Based HR, Organization Development, Strategic Training and Development, Talent and Career Management, Workforce Planning and Staffing, and Employee Engagement & Well-Being. The certificate courses are facilitated by highly qualified professionals from both academic and corporate backgrounds. The program’s courses have been designed specifically to suit BPO environments, and will include classroom sessions with on-the-job training through the Adult Learning Experience Methodology.

The first Accenture HR Academy was launched in India in 2005 and was hugely successful in creating a talent pool for its entire HR business unit. The Manila-based HR Academy is situated in Accenture’s Manila Delivery Center.
A singular unit
The change in the team has been noticeable. They've become more of a singular unit as they've found common ground and a goal to aim for. Before their game against UST, they did something they had never done before: scout their opponents. After practice or other team meetings, they would sit around a revolving door of coaches in the last couple of games this season, they eat together and discuss what they just went through. “It also means a change in attitudes,” adds team captain AJ Pareja, who knows a thing or two about heartbreak. “We’re concentrating on winning games one at a time. Wherever we go from here . . . well, that’s a long way from now.”

Even during the Christmas break the team kept up their work-outs. In years past, the team would win their games before the break and fall apart at the turn of the new year and the resumption of hostilities. “We’re conscious of our mistakes and shortcomings,” notes Pareja. “We want to break the cycle.”

The tournament is a long way from being settled, and the race is still pretty much wide open despite UST being a heavy favorite to repeat. Yet new pickups in Duante Teves, Rey Antonio, Vian Seranilla, and Xavier Senoren have provided valuable support to Tyrone Sto. Tomas, Pareja, Ed Ortega, and the vastly improved JR Intal. Tyrone Jude Casuaympang, Leonard Christian Loo, Phillip Ian Layno, Kyle Matthew Ong, and Justin Tec round out the Blue Spikers. The team would be even stronger had Mike De Joya and Juliborg Africa suited up. As it is, both are in the freezer because of academics. “That shows that you cannot take anything for granted,” says Almadro with a touch of regret about the unavailability of the two.

Making history
The Blue Spikers are sailing in previously uncharted waters. In the past, they had to learn how to win. Now that they’ve tasted a little success, it’s a matter of learning how to keep it going.

“Take note, basketPinoy yung season,” says Almadro, “what will make this year historic is not just what they are doing and trying to accomplish, but their newfound winning attitude.”

Now it’s time to make some history.

Research
continued from page 8
because of the dearth of Philippine cases on the topic, although there is a 2005 decision by the Philippine Supreme Court, Chong v. Salinas, which defines the concept of “originality.” The court’s definition of originality—something that is not copied—is also derived from American cases. In my paper, I establish the kind of originality laid down by American courts: i.e., only an “unmistakable mark of originality” where “high standards of uniqueness in creativity are dispensed with.” To quote the words of Justice Malcolm, copyright extends protection “to the mundane as well as to the works that are really the fruits of his labor and hard-earned fame.” One famous case cited in my paper is Amann-Becker tiling, which defines the concept of the erudite.”

An interesting development is the obligation of Christies, the auction house, unilaterally to pay directly to the artist but would do so only through an artist’s collecting society. This makes it practical for artists to create such a society, if it does not yet exist, so as to benefit from droit de suite.

School of Science and Engineering
On Color Groups of Bravais Colorings of Planar Modules with Quasicrystallographic Symmetries by Enrico Paolo C. Bugarin
Since the discovery in 1984 of crystals with forbidden symmetries (the so-called almetal manganese quasicrystals), new areas of research have been opened in mathematics as well as in the solid-state sciences. The most important manifestation of quasicrystals is their implicit long-range internal order that makes itself apparent in the beautiful and perfect diffraction patterns associated with them. The mathematics used to model such objects and to study their diffraction and their remarkably self-similar internal structures turns out to be highly interdisciplinary and includes algebraic number theory, theory of lattices, linear algebra, Fourier analysis, tiling theory, the study of self-similar structures and fractal measures, and dynamical systems. More specifically, color symmetries of quasicrystals continue to attract great attention because so little is known about their classification. Particularly interesting are planar cases because, on the one hand, they show up in quasicrystalline T-phases, and, on the other, they are linked to the rather interesting classification of planar Bravais classes with n-fold symmetry.

In this work, we study the properties of quasicrystals by looking at algebraic structures in higher dimensional space (called planar modules) through their color symmetries that appear in quasicrystalline T-phases. This is done by projecting some of the planar modules onto the plane, appearing as a discrete set of vertex points of nonperiodic tilings, exhibiting quasicrystallographic symmetries. In particular, the Penrose tiling, Ammann-Beenker tiling, and a tiling generated by Weber, serve as model sets for planar modules possessing eight-, ten-, and twelve-fold symmetries. The vertices are colored according to how points in the planar modules are partitioned. This partitioning is determined by what we call a “principal ideal” and thus, the colored tilings have characteristics similar to their respective planar modules. The problem of characterizing important algebraic group structures of color symmetries has been solved and studied for the crystallographic cases, and in this work, the same problem is addressed and answered for the more general cases, that is for the quasicrystallographic cases.

As a result, we have obtained for each planar module determined by a given principal ideal, the color group structures associated with the colorings. This work answers the important question of characterizing and classifying color groups associated with planar modules corresponding to lattices in four-dimensions that demonstrate quasicrystalline symmetries. The results in the work provide a springboard to answer the broader question of characterizing color groups of planar modules in general, corresponding to lattices in higher dimensions. Moreover, the approach in this work hopes to generate a general method of studying multiple planar coincidences site lattices and modules, another new area of study in mathematics brought about by the emergence of quasicrystals.

Enrico Paolo C. Bugarin teaches mathematics. In 2008, this research received two awards, namely the LS–SOSE Most Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, and the DOST–PCASTRID Most Outstanding Thesis Award, Mathematics Category. The results discussed in this research were also presented in the 10th International Conference in Quasicrystals held in July 2008 in Zurich, Switzerland, and a manuscript based on this research is to appear in a special issue of the Zeitschrift fuer Kristallographie, devoted to current developments in the study of quasicrystals. This work is supported by the CHED–COE through the Mathematics Department of the Ateneo de Manila University.
men’s football

By Rick Olivarres

When one asks if there is one true great offensive/defensive formation in foot-
ball, let it be known that there is none. As straight and true as a Steven Gerrard strike from outside the box, teams win and lose playing their own sys-
tems that flex and change as the games demand.

In Euro 2004, Greece won (a pro sports shocker if there ever was one) playing a combination of an ultra-defensive 5-3-2 scheme and a looser 4-3-3. Behind their back four, Coach Otto Rehhagel in-
estalled both Michalis Kapsis or Traianos Dellas as a sweeper, making it even tougher for opponents to score. They frustrated foes with their defensive brand of football (that would sometimes morph into other formations) then pounce with a swift counter. The Greece surrendered only four goals while scoring eight of their own. “If you want to win,” said the German coach of the Greek side, “you must avoid monotony and constantly surprise opponents.”

In Euro 2008, Spain won using a 4-2-3-1 formation that would have done a shot to the old Brazilian teams of Vicente Feola proud as they played an attractive brand of passing and attacking foot-
battle. “Talent y carácter (talent and character)” as their manager Luís Aragones put it: “It is a system that will make the most of my players’ talents.” Incidentally, it is the same formation that the Netherlands under Marco Van Basten, Real Madrid under Fabio Capello, and Liverpool under Rafa Benitez employ.

If that’s the case, then why don’t more teams deploy this system? And if they do, why don’t they win year after year? A system that works in which players are aligned like chess piec-
es on the pitch depends on the chemistry of the players, and in these positions. The system helps the play-
ers, and the players help the system. There’s the argument that the players and chemistry that makes teams win, and there’s truth in that.

But the answer is more com-
plex. Teams win because of several
al reasons: the coach, the system, the players, chemistry, general health, and the quality of their opponents. The 4-2-3-1 formation is something that the Ateneo Men’s Football Team has perfected and employed for six years now. It first came as a suggestion from Coach Arnulfo “Ompong” Merida. He had skilled players; for sure, but he didn’t have the thoroughbreds that other schools routinely parade onto the pitch. It wasn’t an easy sell.

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But even if they think so, they still want to pass the ball back to defense can adjust. The back four adjusts to the offense; they form a box to augment the offensive or to repel any counterattack by opponents. They are even flexible and can change to a flat 4-4-2 formation to protect their side of the pitch. Any coach will tell you that it would be nice to dominate possession of the ball, but for a coach like Merida, it’s about the quality of their attack and overall game.

Merida defies stereotypes. For those who have gone through him,

He has a grind.
By Rick Olivares  For most teams, getting ready for a season begins with training. But for the Ateneo Men's Volleyball Team, it began with a reminder.

Too long have teams taken the court with the mindset that “even if we lose it’s okay, we’re Ateneans anyway,” which is ludicrous and smack of misplaced arrogance. First-year coach Oliver Almadro, who once played for Letran, is all too aware of Ateneo’s long and rich history. And he isn’t referring to its sports heroes, but those of the nation-building variety.

A few weeks before the start of the UAAP season last December, the entire team jogged the Bay Area, from Luneta to Baywalk, and all the way to the CCP complex. Before commencing their three-kilometer run, the team stood before the Rizal Monument. “It is fitting that we start our season right at the monument of perhaps your most famous alumnus,” opened Almadro, hoping to inspire his wards who had assembled before six a.m. for the run. The team had that look of wonder and “Oh, yeah.”

Little did they know at that time that they were about to embark on something historic.

Undefeated no more
You have to love volleyball and be a sucker for pain if you want to play for the team. You can’t even hang the “under-achievers’ tag on them because they haven’t achieved anything in more than two decades, unless four wins in two seasons counts. At the Blue Eagle Gym, on home turf, supporters of opponents would outnumber the team’s fans twenty to none. It didn’t help that the scores were somewhere in the same lopsided vicinity. They would routinely get trounced, an automatic “W” for opponents.

Then strange things happened. Before the start of the Christmas break, the team had won four straight (they beat FEU for the first time in a decade, taking them down in three straight sets) and their streak stopped only when they faced the defending champions UST in a controversial match. Yet with two more matches to go (at press time), the team can go one up on their win total of the past two years just in the first round.

Ateneo Men’s Volleyball Team is young, yet some think them to be some parts old. It isn’t true because, of the holdovers from last year’s squad, only a couple saw much playing time. So in reality it really is a young team, one laden with potential in spite of a glaring lack of ceiling to battle the star-studded frontlines of opposing teams.

The Lady Spikers have shown that they can hang with the best of them. They extended Adamson and FEU to five sets before a lack of experience did them in. Yet at the same time, they’ve surrendered sets to UE and NU when they should have plastered them with brutal finality. And they might have put up more of a fight when they lost badly to DLSU and UST.

The team is like a diesel engine: it starts slowly, but once it gets going, it really gets going. At times, the team just takes too long to heat up. In some games opponents pull so far ahead that the deficit is too much to overcome.

Wanting to win
Former football great Marcel Desailly once said that an athlete’s performance is 50% skill and talent and 50% confidence. It’s true. Confidence is crucial that an athlete’s performance is 50% skill and talent and 50% confidence. It’s true. Confidence is crucial.

Wins make people overlook little details, but losses magnify even the most minuscule flaw, and nothing is left sacred or deemed trivial.

There’s an upside to this because, although the losses sting, the attention shows that people care. The newfound attention that volleyball has received can only bode well for the Ateneo team in terms of training and support.

And you have to like the fact that they so want to win. They have a captain who cares for and values the team deeply and who strives to be an example. They have a squad that has come together after a troubled preseason where they planned their own team-building session and have instilled among themselves ways to improve chemistry and bonding.

It’s not a perfect picture, yet even so, they’ve proven themselves good enough to compete for a Final Four spot. They know they have to beat one of the upper-tier teams if they want to make it to the postseason.

Gut-check time
The losses have been tough and serve as a jarring reminder of the work and sacrifice that are required. Here is where they see what they are made of and how good they can become.

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