Ateneo rises in world university rankings

"Rankings are important as a measure of how the world sees us, but we must reflect on them within our own view of our vision and mission." — Nebres

The Ateneo de Manila University’s ranking in The Times Higher Education-QS (THES-QS) World University Rankings 2008 rose this year to 254, a 197-point jump from its 2007 ranking of 451. With an overall score of 48.0 out of 100 (up from 30.8 in 2007), the Ateneo tied with the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (Spain).

The Ateneo was also ranked 79th among the top 100 Arts and Humanities institutions in the world, and placed 76th among the 100 institutions with the highest employer review scores, in a tie with the University of Western Australia.

How other RP universities fared

Other Philippine universities which figured in the rankings were the University of the Philippines (UP), De La Salle University (DLSU), and the University of Santo Tomas (UST). UP was ranked 276, up from 398 in 2007, tying with with Universitat Ulm (Germany), Universitat Wurzburg (Germany), and Virginia Polytechnic Institute (United States). DLSU and UST were part of the group ranked 401 to 500.

UP was among the top 100 Arts and Humanities institutions as well, placing 82nd and tying with the University of Notre Dame (United States). UP and DLSU were also ranked among the 100 institutions with the highest employer review scores.

American and British universities continued to dominate the rankings, with Harvard University (United States) retaining its top spot. Among Asian universities, the University of Tokyo (Japan) ranked highest at number 19. The National University of Singapore topped other Southeast Asian universities at number 30.

The THES-QS World University Rankings are based on data gathered in six categories: peer academic review, recruiter review, international faculty ratio, international student ratio, student-faculty ratio, and research citations per faculty. Now in its fifth year, the rankings are conducted by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, with data gathered from 6,354 academics and 2,339 employers from around the world. The overall rankings and information on the rating system may be found at www.topuniversities.com.

Ateneo’s true worth and work

This year’s significant climb is an indicator of the continually improving perception of the Ateneo in the highly competitive and variable international arena, and presents opportunities for the University to attract students and collaborators from different universities worldwide. It is from an international perspective then, that the rankings are important.

From the point of view of the Ateneo’s true work and worth as a Jesuit, Filipino university, the rankings count for decidedly less. In early 2007, University President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, summed up the correct attitude toward surveys such as these: "Rankings in the Times survey are important because they measure how the world perceives us. But just as a person has to take what people think of them in the context of their own values and priorities, we, too, have to reflect on these perceptions and measures within our own view of our vision and mission. Thus . . . we need to do this in a way that does not move us away from our vision/mision and our traditional strengths: leadership formation and contribution to national development. These have to continue to be our priorities as a Jesuit university committed to the service of faith and the promotion of justice and as a university in a Philippines, whose greatest challenge is overcoming poverty and national development."

Joanna Ruiz

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You have the privilege of joining our community and our life at an exciting time, as we remember and celebrate a distinguished history which you will share with national heroes and leaders Jose Rizal, Gregorio del Pilar, Claro Recto, Raul Manglapus, and Horacio de la Costa. It is our sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of the Ateneo de Manila on December 10, 2009, when you will be in your first year of college.

Our remembering and celebration focuses on three themes that define Ateneo history and culture: celebrating excellence, deepening spirituality, and building the nation. The themes are pegged to lines from our alma mater song, a song which will soon be your own: “We stand on a hill,” celebrating excellence (2007–2008); “Between the earth and sky,” deepening spirituality (2008–2009); and “Down from the hill,” building the nation (2009–2010).

Yes, an invitation to Ateneo is an invitation to a tradition of excellence. We will help you discover your gifts and give you the opportunity to be the best that you can be in them: in theater, arts, debate, computing, sports, in the humanities, social sciences, management and entrepreneurship, science and engineering. For it is our deepest belief, coming from St. Ignatius and the first Jesuits, that the best way we can help you prepare for the future is by developing your God-given gifts.

An invitation to Ateneo is an invitation to a tradition of excellence.

An invitation to Ateneo is also an invitation to a community. I have been meeting with Ateneo alumni, and it is wonderful to see their friendship and camaraderie and the warm memories they have of campus life. They are friends who continue to be there for each other. At the Ateneo we not only help you become the best that you can be in your chosen field; we also give you lifelong friends and a community and campus you can always come home to.

The Ateneo is also a community that seeks, like the first Jesuits who founded our school tradition, to be “friends in the Lord.” In seeking to deepen spirituality, we want to help you find a purpose in life and make a difference, so you will discover your truest self, the person God wants you to be.

Finally, the Ateneo is a community that exists not just for itself but for others. We not only educate you for excellence and success but also offer you many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. Together with a century and a half of Ateneans, you will discover that it is in making a difference for others that you will find your deepest fulfillment and happiness.

Welcome once more to the Ateneo. May the Lord give you all grace and blessings.

Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ
President

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Loyola Schools of the Ateneo de Manila University! Your batch is a very special one because you will be starting your Ateneo journey as we celebrate our 150th year.

The Ateneo de Manila, which has produced heroes, leaders, experts, movers, and pioneers, continues to be committed to a tradition of excellence and service, now redefined in the context of global competitiveness, Filipino and Asian perspectives, and transformative leadership.

Because we want you to be leaders of the future, we will provide a learning environment that will develop your competencies and global vision. Teachers here will challenge you; top-caliber classmates will engage you. You will have access to world-class facilities such as the Rizal Library, laboratories, Internet service, sports facilities, studios, and audio-visual rooms. You will have opportunities to do research, write poems and fiction, practice your skills in a real setting, or run your own business. You might even study for a term in one of more than forty partner schools in any of sixteen countries, should you take part in the Junior-Term-Abroad or student exchange programs.

Because we want you to be agents of change, we will make you more aware of Filipino and Asian perspectives, to help contextualize the global mindset and the pursuit of excellence. Our Integrated Non-Academic Formation Program will give you a chance to experience different worlds and reflect on them. You can be part of student activities, such as the Sanggunian (the LS Student Council), the Council of Organizations of the Ateneo (COA) and its 47 accredited organizations, and several varsity teams.

Because we want you to be persons of faith, we provide opportunities to help you find your spiritual anchors through prayer, retreats, recollections, and community celebrations of the Eucharist.

We invite you to be part of this community inspired by St. Ignatius of Loyola. Share with us this special year as we celebrate excellence, deepen spirituality, and build the nation—the Ateneo way.

Welcome to the Ateneo de Manila University!
SESPRINTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE ATENEO

By Erlinda Eileen G. Lolarga

As the Ateneo moves toward its 150th year, or sesquicentennial, on December 10, 2009, themes have been coined to guide the Ateneo community’s activities during the three years leading up to the anniversary. These are based on the Ateneo’s mission to produce leaders with values—men and women for others: cultivating excellence (2007: “We stand on a hill”), deepening spirituality (2008: “Between the earth and sky”), and building the nation (2009: “Down from the hill”).

In line with the Ateneo’s continuing and compelling direction to attract the best and the brightest, the 500@150 Sesquicentennial Scholarship Campaign has set its sights on 500 new scholarships for the Loyola Schools. The project is animated by the idea that the best way to make a difference is to invest in scholarships for future leaders. The campaign aims to raise the present crop of scholars from 1,088 to 1,600 (or from 14% to an ambitious 20%) out of a student population of about 8,000. That would make one in five students a scholar in the near future.

The campaign involves the collaborative efforts of all sectors and levels of the Ateneo, from the Board of Trustees to the basic operating units and offices. The 500@150 team has begun to spread the word about how much these scholarships are needed and are reaching out to alumni within and outside the Philippines.

The scholarship program through the years

Data gathered by the Office of Admission and Aid (OAA) and the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations (OUDAR) shows that, through the years, the percentage of scholars has kept up with the continually growing rate of enrollment. In the 1960s and 1970s, 8.5% of all college students were scholars. In the 1980s and 1990s, this figure rose to 13.6%. In recent years the percentage has fluctuated between 12% and 14%. In 1963, there were 69 scholars out of 887 students. From 1963 to 2007, a total of 4,700 scholars graduated from the Ateneo college. At present, there are 1,088 scholars out of 7,963 students.

Of donations and scholarship grants

The OAA lists two main types of donations to scholarships: (1) the endowed/funded scholarship, where the principal donation is invested and kept intact, with the income from interest supporting the scholarship; and (2) annual grants by the OAA reveals that the typical Ateneo college scholar is a financial-aid awardee, a full-tuition fee beneficiary, Metro-Manila based, and likely to have come from a private or science high school. The number of scholars is evenly spread among year levels at around 250–270 scholars each, with many taking up science or engineering courses. Many scholars strive to do well in their respective fields after graduation and some come back to teach and work in the university. Others opt to pay it forward in a different way, by supporting other scholars or contributing to university projects such as the construction of new buildings and the improvement of facilities.

Fostering a tradition of giving

To encourage giving, the Ateneo regularly screens for ACET scores, high school academic performance, and the applicant’s extracurricular record; (2) financial need; and (3) demonstrated commitment to the service of the community and potential for greater service in the future. The profile of a scholar

What is a typical scholar like? The data gathered the Board of Trustees to the basic operating units and offices. The 500@150 team has begun to spread the word about how much these scholarships are needed and are reaching out to alumni within and outside the Philippines.

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The Celebration commenced with a flag-rais- ing ceremony and an exhibit honoring the con- tribution of Mabuhay Singers in the field of mu- sic. Students and faculty were also able to glimpse the beauty and power of Filipina culture. The event was capped by the KA-Pu, one of the most anticipated parts of the celebration.

Lee-Chua, in her own words, best describes her passion to share and spread the value of understanding science both inside and out- side the lecture hall. Numerous books, articles, lectures, columns, and other communication tools in her name mirror a vastly creative and disciplined person. She has written science and math books, a newspaper column, and teachers both subjects to students, par- ents, media, and practically every- body else. But she remains consistent in her goal to make science and math learning “fun” through “simpler, more under- standable language.” She brings the “fun” to print, radio, TV, on- line, and interpersonal audiences.

The School of Science and Engineering envisions a Philippine society in harmony with nature, where the fruits of science and engineering are used in the service of God, country, and all its people. Aiming to provide excellent training for students in basic and applied disciplines, we seek to train highly qualified and socially responsible scientists and engineers who will become leaders in industry, academia, and other sectors of society. We seek to build our strength both in individual departments and through active interdisciplinary undertakings, where the greatest progress is likely to occur, as well as to meet the challenges of globalization, sustainability, poverty, and the environment. We commit to providing relevant and responsible scientific and technical expertise needed by the country as well as to developing science and engineering that empowers the underprivileged in society.

The School of Humanities aims to provide students with a liberal humanistic education distinguished by sapientia et eloquentia. This liberal humanistic education draws from the rich traditions of philosophy, faith, literature, language, art, and culture. It is manifested through courses designed for the holistic formation of students who are articulate and critical, imaginative and productive, students who are rooted in their own culture, yet open to other cultures, proactive in the global environment, and strongly committed to faith and justice.

Richard Camacho with his “Araw at Buwan.” Indeed, this year’s Buwan ng Wika celebration proved once again how dynamic music is, and how, in the Ateneo, it paves the way for expressing identity and culture.
JGSOM STUDENT ENTERPRISE CENTER

A world of experience is a recipe for success

By Rick Olivares

“I can’t cook,” unabashedly admits Camille Co (IV BS MGT). “But I love to eat. Putting up Fiesta Atenista has given me a reason to try.” “I can’t cook either,” seconds Zerge Zandueta (IV BS MGT) of Noodle Nook. “Prix petit lang. But food is a top-of-mind choice for a business.”

The John Gokongwei School of Management (JGSOM) Student Enterprise Center (JSEC) not only puts students inside the kitchen of food stalls but gives them a taste of the pressure cooker that is real-world entrepreneurship.

This summer, Christian Mendoza (III AB IS) would wake up early on Saturday mornings, defrost food, slice vegetables, open up Kebab House at JSEC, and put on his best smile for customers. “I knew it wasn’t easy setting up your own business,” he says of his initial foray into entrepreneurship, “but experiencing it first-hand while at school gives you a better appreciation for a lot of things, especially for what you don’t learn inside the classroom.”

The challenge of modern education is to make classroom teachings relevant. “(Having a business experiences what it is to run a business,“ affirms Paolo Bernardo (IIIS BS LM) of Blue Aquila, which serves Italian food. “It—to steal a line from Jerry Maguire—completes your education. So if you decide to pursue it after college, you know what to expect.”

In order to help themselves better understand the nature of entrepreneurship, the students have enrolled in subjects like finance and leadership, among others. Zandueta confirms that he and his partners Mica Carito and Bradley Pineda also sought the guidance of their parents for their busi-ness. “After all, they should know a thing or two about work and business.”

William Mallari, director of the Loyola Schools Bookstore and coordinator for student entrepre neurial initiatives, says that key learning areas for the budding entrepreneurs are human relations, forecasting, logistics, and setting priorities. “These are hardcore truths and learnings for them,” says Mallari. “These are things they have to learn as they go along.”

The initial 50 proposals sent to JGSOM were pared down to 20 based on the viability of each prop osal as a franchise in the student-run mall. Adds Mallari, “We look at how they intend to run their business. There are also many things to consider such as quality control, cleanliness, and packaging. We make it clear that they cannot serve leftovers and and that the health of everyone is paramount.”

Currently there are 11 food stalls and one print shop at the JSEC. “That’s all we can accommodate for now, but we are definitely looking at ex pansion in the future,” says Mallari. “It’s a rare opportunity for the students,” says JGSOM Dean Rodolfo Ang of this experiential lab that other schools are beginning to copy. “It builds better businessmen and it makes for a great headstart into the world.”

The John Gokongwei School of Management is a regionally recognized center of excellence and leadership in undergraduate business education. We shape our students into business leaders equipped to respond to the needs of tomorrow’s world: people who are global in perspective and interdisciplin ary in approach, technically proficient and analytical yet humanistic and people-oriented; achievers guided by a strong set of core values, eager and able to provide ethical and principle-centered leadership; professionals and entrepreneurs motivated by the spirit of magis or excellence, inflamed by the passion to make a difference, wherever their lives may take them. We offer innovative programs characterized by a strong liberal-arts core curriculum coupled with a business curriculum that combines the rigorous of academic and experiential learning, in order to give our students a broad perspective of the management challenge.

They came, they saw, and they were invariably awed. So it was as more than 500 students, cam pus journalists, and advisors from 126 public high schools in Metro Manila were treated to a visual feast and a visual literacy training session by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism (KACFJ) executive director. She said Dr. Violet B. Valdez, the photos showing the sect’s burial and cleansing rituals were awarded the third prize at the Ateneo de Manila University (ACFJ) at the Manila leg of the World Press Photo 2008 Exhibition in August 2008. The traveling ex hibit, a collection of about 200 photos which won awards at the annual World Press Photo Competition, was a partnership project of the ACFJ and the Netherlands Embassy and supported by Vereniging Aeroprints and Unilever. The exhibit took place at three SM malls in Metro Manila.

Faculty members, alumni, and students of the ACFJ photojournalism program gave lectures and conversations with the campus journalists and their teachers as they viewed the pictures. Through the guided tours, the ACFJ sought to help the students understand and appre ciate the principles, significance, and power of press photogra phy, said Dr. Violet B. Valdez, ACFJ executive director. She explained that, with the in creased accessibility of cameras and the growing participation of citizens in news production, it has become even more impor tant these days to know how photography works.

The exhibit showed works from the 2007 competition, with partic ular category, including sports, nature, and the arts. The ex hibit centerpiece was a photo by British photojournalist Tim Hetherington showing an American soldier resting at a bunker in Afghanistan. It was awarded Photo of the Year in the competition, which has been run by the World Press Photo Foundation, a Dutch NGO based in Amsterdam, for more than 50 years.

Many other pieces also caught the viewers’ attention. Among them were a depiction of the practices of the Maria Lionza, a sect in Venezuela. Shot by the Spanish photographer Cristina Garcia Rodero, the photos showing the sect’s burial and cleansing rituals were awarded the third prize in the Arts and Entertainment Stories category.

Another crowd-stop per was the set of pic tures showing the last moments of Pakistan’s Benazir Bhutto. Shot by John Moore of the US for Getty Images, the pho tos were judged first prize in the Spot News Stories category. The set included a photo of Bhutto, with her back against the cam era, addressing a throng of supporters at the Liaquat Bagh Park in Rawalpindi. Also captured was a scene of Bhutto waving from the escape hatch of her ar moored vehicle seconds before she was assassinated.
A preview of student orgs

The Council of Organizations of the Ateneo (COA) invites you to take a first step toward a journey of self-discovery by joining an organization during Recruitment Week. The path to embark on is one’s own choice, but the organizations are committed to making it a meaningful and worthwhile journey. As significant as the first step is the journey itself. After joining an organization of your choice, COA encourages you to make the most of it by becoming an active member, participating in the various activities your organization has to offer.

The COA is composed of 47 accredited Loyola Schools student organizations and is divided into nine clusters: business, faith formation, health and environment, intercultural relations, issue and policy analysis, media and the creative arts, and the region-specific sector-based clusters. Here is a preview:

**FAITH FORMATION CLUSTER**

The Faith Formation Cluster is dedicated to contributing to the spiritual growth and rootedness of Ateneans. The groups may have varying approaches—catechism, liturgy, worship, social action, and Ignatian spirituality—but they are bound together by the belief in God and his love for all. The cluster comes together as one community expressing their faith and contributing to the holistic development of fellow Ateneans. Members: Ateneo Christian Instruction League (ACL) • Ateneo Christian Life Community (ACL) • Ateneo College Ministry Group (ACMG) • Ateneo Student Catholic Action (ASCA) • Youth For Christ-Ateneo (YFC)

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT CLUSTER**

The Health and Environment Cluster is geared toward the holistic development of Filippino society through the empowerment of health and environment facets of the Ateneo community specifically through responsible mountaineering, social health, peer guidance, and logical environmentalism. Members: Loyola Mountainlifers (LM) • Pre-Med Society of the Ateneo (PMSA) • Ateneo Environmental Science Society (ESS)

**INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS CLUSTER**

In today’s globalized world, connecting and collaborating with people of different cultures is key. We are now citizens of the world. The Intercultural Relations Cluster aims to provide venues of interaction and integration among the different local cultures in the Loyola Schools and the various foreign cultures that visit each year. The cluster aspires to foster a deeper sense of understanding of other cultures in its members so that they may

By Erlinda Eileen G. Lalarga

Where do students, both local and international, stay when they want to live near the school environs of the Ateneo de Manila University? With a population of about 7,700 undergraduate students, 1,300 graduate students, and a stream of visiting international students and professors, residential spaces both on- and off-campus are in high demand.

Housing options range from the simple to the luxurious, all designed to accommodate the various lifestyles of students and international guests. Below are some of the housing options available:

**On-campus accommodations**

On-campus accommodations for Loyola Schools students and international guests have grown tremendously since the completion of the new University Dormitory, which opened its doors to Ateneo students in May 2008. The University Dormitory can accommodate 600 residents and offers four wings: the North Wing for male dormers and the South Wing for female dormers. For many years, the old residence halls on the Loyola Heights campus have served only a small fraction of students in need of housing, with Cervini (for male dormers) and Eliazio (for female dormers) Halls able to house a combined 400 residents. With the new residence halls now in use, there are plans to refurbish Cervini and Eliazio Halls, which, beginning schoolyear 2009–2010, will house only freshmen and international guests.

**Rooms and amenities**

Rooms at the new University Dormitory can accommodate four dormers each. Apart from cabinets and desks for every room occupant, all rooms are also equipped with Internet connections and local phones to facilitate communication within the dorm. Elevators service all seven levels of each building, and there are common bathrooms on every floor, each built with six toilets, ten lavatory sinks, and four shower areas with hot and cold water. Rooms with windows are equipped with electric fans, while rooms which have no windows are air conditioned. Compact single rooms on every floor are earmarked for graduating seniors, visiting instructors, or dorm mentors. These rooms are provided with air conditioning units and a bath and toilet. Room assignments for students are decided based on a lottery system.

**Dorm life**

Japanese exchange students Nami Ishizawa of Kyushu University and Yaka Ito of Nanzan University were quartered at Eliazio Hall for a semester before moving into the University Dormitory. They are happy with the new dormitory for safety and security reasons and appreciate the services of security guards. Practical conveniences like the microwave ovens and toasters, free drinking water, hot water for showers, and tissue in the toilets add to the convenience of living in the dorm. The dormitory staff smiles and “good attitude” of the dormitory staff are plus factors as well. After the second semester, she and Yaka plan to try boarding houses off campus to be more immersed in everyday Filipino life before returning to Japan.

**Off-campus accommodations**

If one is looking for off-campus housing, there are many boarder houses for male and female students as well as apartment/condominium units in the Loyola Heights area. Along Katipunan Avenue, the Prince David Condominium, Burgundy Plaza, and Burgundy Place condominium buildings and the Dormitoryana complex are an obvious choice among students. Newer buildings that cater specifically to students are Elizabeth Hall, the Oracle Building, and My Place. The Varsity Hills area behind Katipunan Avenue also abounds with apartments and houses renewed into dormitories.

Living in this area offers more freedom of choice for dormers as restaurants, supermarkets, drug stores, coffee shops, convenience stores, laundries, and Internet cafés are within walking distance. To enter Ateneo, students either walk (about ten minutes from Loyola Heights to the school buildings) or take tricycles which are allowed to enter the school. For those who need to leave the Loyola Heights area, the Katipunan bus stop is a short walk from the campus. Another area with affordable lodging is Barangka village in Marikina, directly behind and below the Ateneo campus. Accommodations here may usually be found in houses which accept boarders. Barangka is also conveniently located, a small trip from the University dormitory, on a trip that leads directly to the school. While Katipunan offers the convenience of the Loyola Heights shops, Barangka is a short distance from the Riverbanks complex, and now, SM Marikina.

Either on- or off-campus, there is no shortage of safe, decent accommodations which will fit your budget and preferences. Finding your new home away from home is not just a chore, but another step toward your new life as an Atenean. Happy house-hunting!
empower others to become global citizens. Members: 

- Ateneo Lingua Arts Cultura (ALAC) • Ateneo Student Exchange Council (ASEC) • Celebration

**ISSUE AND POLICY ANALYSIS CLUSTER**

The Issue And Policy Analysis Cluster believes in expressing and conveying well-informed opinions and acting upon them. The organizations practice critical thinking, promote discourse, and build social awareness. Members: 

- Ateneo Economics Association (AEA) • A-Stat (A-STAT) • Enterteynment Para sa Too, Bayan, Lansangang at Diyos (ENTABLA DO) • The Ateneo Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations Union (HPAIR) • The Assembly (ASSEMBLY)

**MEDIA AND THE CREATIVE ARTS CLUSTER**

The Creative Arts Cluster is a venue for forming leaders who are effective, creative, and responsible media practitioners and artists. The four organizations in the cluster impact the Ateneo community through their own respective media specializations, advocacy, and art interpretation. With distinct core competencies, each organization has its own way of shaping its members into creative and adept artists and communicators. Members: 

- Ateneo Association of Communication Majors (ACOMM) • Ateneo Musicians’ Pool (AMP) • Collegiate Society of Advertising (COSA) • Loyola Film Circle (LFC)

**PERFORMING ARTS CLUSTER**

The Performing Arts Cluster is composed of diverse organizations that strive to make a difference through the various forms of art they advocate. They celebrate God’s gifts through each performance, the cluster hopes to open people’s eyes to the fact that art does not exist just for entertainment’s sake. It aims to instill the value of art appreciation and cultural awareness to the whole community. Fueled by immense passion, this pool of talented people will bring forth the best artists of the country. Members: 

- Ateneo Blue Repertory (BLUE REPERTORY) • Ateneo Manila College Glee Club (ACGCC) • The Company of Actors (COA)

**SECTOR-BASED CLUSTER**

Isang pag-aalay ng sarili, isang pagbubukas para sa inyo ng mga nagbabad sa komunidad, sa paaralan at mga ospital: isang paghuhubog, isang pagpupunong para maigtingin ang iisang adhikain: ang paglilingkod upang iangat at akayin ang organisasyon na sa kabila ng magkakaibang paraan ng pagtugon ay pinagsama-sama.

**THE BUSINESS CLUSTER**

The Business Cluster is composed of seven business organizations, each equipped with their unique core competencies. The Cluster strengthens and shares these competencies in order to achieve excellence that we can impart to the Ateneo community and beyond. We form people who will do good business. We develop ethical, altruistic, and caring future business leaders who believe that the bottom line is not all about how many zeroes you have but how many lives you’ve touched. In the spirit of nation-building, we are united in sharing our unique skills—creative expression, foreign relations, marketing, entrepreneurship, legal, operations research, and investing. We invite you to imagine a world of boundless opportunity, exploring new frontiers while weaving the inner depths of the mind. Imagine a world where robots roam the fields, gadgets are at your fingertips, and cyberspace is your playground. This is the world of the open mind, where persons see the ordinary and make it extraordinary. It is about discovering the true meaning of life.

Would pay the price for their overly aggressive play. Rico Maierhofer was slapped with a second technical for taunting with 1:31 left in the quarter and subsequently ejected from the game. Almost a minute later, Casio picked up his fourth foul. However, with under six minutes to play in the fourth quarter, the Archers problems were compounded as they were already in penalty. Tim’s three free throws off a three-point challenge at the 8:24 mark was the game’s turning point. It gave Ateneo breathing room as it paved the lead to 53–47, a luxury in the now-close match. That was it for the team from Taft, their offensive ineptitude made worse by the defense as the Archers continued from page 8.

**The best is blue continued from page 8**

Co-captain Chris Tiu finished Game 2 with a team-high 16 points. The trophy that eluded him as a player. “This is a good win,” he grinned as he allowed himself a smile that is elusive when he has his game face on. There was Jimmy Alabanza, who in retirement spends all his waking hours trying to help his alma mater, shaking hands with everyone, even with people he didn’t know.

And there was Arao wearing a Mike Baldes jersey with Yuri Escueta’s number taped in front. His large frame standing out in the sea of blue that had crowded the maple court, he smiled that big goofy smile of his and sought out his former teammates. He found his buddies Escueta, and Baldos and the three buddled up. They emerged with tears in their eyes as Escueta tapped Arao’s chest as if to say, “Pare sa’yo ‘to, Ford.” The big man wiped his eyes and flashed that grin of his. “Pare sa community ‘to.”

Attending the awarding ceremony was the archbishop of Manila, the most Rev. effects of the Church of the Gesu. And win or lose, as always, everyone was there to give thanks, celebrate, and to remember. After all, this is the Ateneo Way.
It ended right where it began: in the solemn refuge of the Church of Gèsu. A year ago, following the loss to La Salle, the team not only had to rebuild its psyche after a series of debilitating losses since 2004 but had to survive a near-pursh of UP’s Black likes. And it’s no wonder Ryan Buenaño, yet to be a member of the team and the school at the time, sat by the right side of the Church and witnessed the lowest of lows. Incredibly, it took Ford Arrozol and Zion Laterre, the two departing players who were hurting the most, to put a smile on everyone’s face with their upbeat farewell speeches. Buenaño remembered feeling touched. It was a far different community, he thought. The team had just suffered a most painful loss yet they celebrated, offered thanks, and gave their graduating players a unique send off—backing in the love and cheers of a grateful community. He imagined himself to be in that position and although it would take him a while more to decide where to matriculate, the image was nonetheless a powerful and indelible one.

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Before an early DLSU lead, the score remained close, another indication of their inability to land a haymaker. After Tiu hit a jumper at the 2:34 mark of the first quarter to put Ateneo up 12-10, it was for the lead they would never relinquish. The Blue Eagles crushed the Tigers twice in the eliminations to underscore their mastery of their España rivals. There were no signs we’d have over the course of the season that the Blue Eagles would lose. “I think our team has a lot of heart,” said the coach to the Norman Black era in Ateneo. “We ran roughshod over the competition to FEU three years ago).”

There was National University that was a twice-to-beat slot hanging in the balance. For a half there, the Bulldogs were obviously going to be in the lead they would not surrender. The Blue Eagle captain later scored seven straight points to post the Blue side with a ten-point lead that would eventually build up to a fifteen-point cushion at the half. For the only second time in four matches, the Green Archers took a lead that would carry them all the way to the end. They set a series of staggering picks that freed up Jayvee Casio for four treys to go with one assist and one block and 3 assists. The Green Archers were obviously going to be defeated in the UAAP Finals for the fourth time. The Green Archers sent the Eagles crashing in ‘04, ‘05, and in ‘07 with a glorious comeback of their own. Thus far, they were beaten in three games with one until the mission was done. The day before Game Two, Nonoy Baclao was icing his knees at the Moro Lorenzo. The team had earlier got word that they had practically romped away with the majority of the season awards. Rabeh Al-Hussaini walked in shook Baclao’s hand and joked, “Mas kasi ‘yong ‘Doy,’” Defensive Player of the Year. “Kasong pakikiugalian yung ‘Doy.”" Baclao congratulated his teammate on winning the MVP plum, the fourth Ateenoe to win the award after Jun Reyes, Rich Alvarez, and Enrico Villanueva.

There was some concern that the team might be a little too elated after the awards ceremony given the enormity of the situation. The Green Archers were obviously going to be all fired up. “As long as we can raise expectations. We’d have a good team,” said the coach to the team’s holdovers over the course of the season.

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Another preseason tournament win—the Nike Summer League—seemed to confirm that, but Black was still publicly reticent about his team’s chances, perhaps so as not to have a hard time. "'Di na bale. Basta mag isip kami lang pala nila, "Don't worry," promised Baclao. “Closed by sat former teammate Ford Arrozol who was the team’s leader, the team’s holdovers were rounding up into deadly form. Weeks after the heartbreak of Season 70’s Final Four, the team showed no signs of an emotional letdown in the 2007 Champions League campaign, a stark contrast to their dismal 2006 showing. The team ran roughshod over the competition and bagged the first bit of glassware of the Normann Black era in Ateneo. “We have a good team,” said the coach to me in one of the many private discussions we've had over the course of the year. "Don't tell anyone but I'm excited about this team. We have a very good chance of winning the championship this year.”

Not since the 1987 squad crashing in ‘04, ’05, and in ‘07 with a desperate fight that after all, the coaching staff theorized that there would be a renewed defensive focus on the Blue Eagles’ front line. But stopping them was altogether another matter. And it was time for Tiu and Eric Salamat to get untracked. It was another stunning defensive effort but for the first time all season, only one player—Tiu—finished in double digits (16 points to go with 5 rebounds and 3 assists). The crown was all ten Blue Eagles who checked into the match scored, making it even more difficult to stop the team. Once more Jobe Nkemakolam made a backhand of himself as a force to reckon with as he came off the bench to score eight points in addition to pulling down two boards and dishing off one assist. Mike Baldos was another factor as he started in Buenaño’s place and added six points, three rebounds, one assist and one block.

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