**Dayrit is NAST Academician**

Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, dean of the School of Science and Engineering, has been conferred two prestigious awards by two government offices.

On June 23, 2009, Dayrit received the "Tanging Parangal sa Patmubay ng Sining at Kalinangan" from the City of Manila at the Bulwagang Gat Antonio Villegas, Manila. The award, which is Manila's version of the National Artist awards, honors Filipinos striving for excellence in their fields and who continually promote our national cultural identity in their work. It was initiated by the late mayor Antonio Villegas in 1963 with the purpose of recognizing outstanding Filipino artists and their craft.

On July 9, 2009 Dayrit was officially made a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (nast). He is the second academician from the Ateneo to be elected as a member of this prestigious circle of scientists, the first being Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, sj, president of the Ateneo de Manila University and founding president of the Mathematical Society of the Philippines. The investiture ceremony was held at the Manila Hotel during the closing ceremonies of the 31st Annual Scientific Meeting of NAST.

NAST has been mandated by the Philippine government to recognize outstanding achievements in science and technology and to serve as a reservoir of competent scientific and technological manpower for the country. It is also the advisory body to the President of the Republic of the Philippines and the Cabinet on policies concerning science and technology in the country. Dayrit is the son of scientist—the late researcher and pharmacologist Dr. Conrado Dayrit—best known for his coconut oil advocacy. The elder Dayrit was also an academician of NAST.

The younger Dayrit’s other milestones include receiving the Presidential Lingkod Bayan for Government Service in 1988, Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines in the field of Chemistry in 1993, Achievement Award in Chemistry (1975), cum laude. He received his master’s and doctorate degrees (1981) from Princeton University, specializing in organometallic chemistry (transient metals used to catalyze chemical reactions). He has done extensive research on lagundi, which he deems as a “wonder plant,” and on the cinchona tree, both for their medicinal and healing properties.

**Jesuit General keynotes basic education congress**

Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, sj, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, graced events in the Ateneo campus from July 12 to 14, 2009 as part of the 150th anniversary of the Society of Jesus’ return to the Philippines. On July 13, he keynoted the Jesuit Basic Education Conference (jbec) at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater.

At the jbec, Fr. Nico’s keynote address challenged the audience of teachers, professionals, and administrators from Jesuit schools in the Philippines to reflect on two “frontiers” facing Jesuit education today: depth and universality.

Characterizing depth as “a deep understanding and appreciation of what is most important,” he asked a series of questions to encourage the audience to reflect on how deeply they have met their students’ different needs in these more complicated times. “If one looks at the alumni we are proudest of as products of the Jesuit educational system, I think we will find in them a certain depth of perception, thinking, commitment, and character, and the habit of deciding from the inside,” he concluded.

Moving on to the frontier of universality, he stressed the need for a more universal perspective in these times of global crises. It is important, Fr. Nico feels, to move beyond limiting distinctions to a wider community. “First, do our students, as a result of their time with us, end up with a broader sense of belonging and responsibility than their families, classes, clans? Second, with regard to the schools themselves, can we break out of our narrow sense of belonging to this particular school? Third, can we break out of our particular school system and serve those outside the Jesuit system in the Philippines?”

**Sesqui celebration kicks off**

see back page for the rest of the story
70 Years of Reaching for the STARS

by Roy Tristan Agustin / ls.ateneo.edu

Stars are remote and distant things, unreachable except to a few who strive to reach for them any way they can. On June 23, 2009, members of the ls community celebrated the life of someone who has been doing just that all his life. Fr. Daniel McNamara, sj, an iconic Loyola campus figure who is now based at the Ateneo de Davao University, turned 70 amid laughter and songs from colleagues and close friends.

Celebrating Fr. Dan

Dr. Ma. Assunta C. Cayegkeng, Vice President for the Loyola Schools, expressed what many of the people present had already said to Fr. Dan in public: that they miss seeing him regularly in the ls campus. James Simpas and Sr. Bubbles Bandojo, RC attended Fr. Dan, and the Physics Department with Dr. Chan on electric guitar led a singalong. Messages from Fr. Dan’s friends and loved ones from all over the world were presented, courtesy of Gemma Narisma of the Manila Observatory.

Relaunch of the McNamara Endowment Fund

The gathering was not just meant to celebrate the life and achievements of Fr. Dan, but also to re-launch the Fr. Daniel J. McNamara, sj Endowment Fund, a scholarship fund established to support physics students from the provinces. Jolly Morata of the Office of Admission and Aid spoke briefly about the fund. She introduced its first beneficiary, Physics and Physics Major Rafael Jumar A. Chu of Tacloban City, then reported on the status of the current drive. In order for the fund to be self-supporting, an additional P5.75M will need to be raised.

Reaching for the stars

During mass at the College Chapel, Fr. Dan shared a brief summary of his life, recalling that even as a boy growing up in Long Island, New York, he would be out looking at the stars even on the coldest nights. Along with his interest in astronomy came an interest in the Jesuit vocation and, eventually, he was able to accomplish both. As a young Jesuit, he was assigned to the Philippines, where he was initially tasked to teach in the Ateneo High School and work at the Manila Observatory. Returning to the Ateneo following further studies, he taught Physics at the college and was college chaplain for many years. Currently assigned to the Ateneo de Davao University, Fr. Dan noted that God has always pointed the way in his life, saying that “God does call and we are given the grace to answer.” He spoke again after the program with his characteristic humility and poise, thanking his guests for their affection, love, and sharing, and accepting these as manifestations of Christ’s love for everyone.

The stars seem closer with people like Fr. Dan around.

Those who would like to honor Fr. Dan with a lasting gift dear to his heart through the Fr. Daniel J. McNamara Endowment Fund may get in touch with Ms. Jolly Morata of the Office of Admission and Aid, 4266001 local 5151 or 5158. Those who would like to make a donation online or in a foreign currency may log on to www.ateneo.edu/giving. Please indicate that your donation is towards the Fr. Daniel J. McNamara, sj Endowment Fund, account number 111-079-080.

The ls Bookstore is a central part of the ls community, providing more than just the textbooks and school supplies that students and faculty use on a daily basis. They also host “iCampus,” the in-campus Apple dealership as well as wide variety of Ateneo related merchandise. The store is also a very strong promoter for reading and encourages students of the university to pick up the habit.

Their latest program is simply called the Reading Encouragement Program or REP. Set near the couches, a small display table is filled with favorite books borrowed from renowned ADMU alumni along with a small poster showcasing the featured Atenean for the semester. The program was launched on April , and features as its first “reader” Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman, of the Ateneo Board of Trustees, PNV, and the Metro Pacific Group of companies.

MVP’s picks

Included in the displays is an enlarged copy of a handwritten letter from Pangilinan himself to Mallari, in which MVP (as Pangilinan is commonly known) comments on his favorite books. Interestingly, the book Alice in Wonderland was first book he read in the Ateneo while under professor Eric Torres.

The letter talks about other books he read during his Ateneo stay, such as Jonathan Livingston Seagull, which Pangilinan calls a book that “makes you soar, gives you hope.” He also presents books he has enjoyed more recently, such as The Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela and, interestingly, Alexander the Great, whom he calls an “iconic figure.” The letter turns the books into more than just suggested readings and is also a way of catching a glimpse of Pangilinan’s personality outside of his more well-known business and philanthropic pursuits.

A push for good old reading

By featuring the reading choices of prominent members of the Ateneo community, Mallari hopes to inspire students to read more books. Promoting book reading in particular is one of Mallari’s personal advocacies, as he observes that today’s generation of tech-savvy students are reading books less and less. The program was born out of a growing concern over the declining ability of students to express themselves verbally and in writing, which is partially due to a decline in reading. He believes, as does Pangilinan, that reading books is still one of the best ways of improving not only knowledge and self-expression, but also confidence, which are the traits of the leaders he hopes to feature in the program.

Program mechanics

Joining the program is as simple as buying a book. An interested party can simply purchase one of the featured books in the program and present the official receipt to the ls cashier. The buyer is then registered in the program, and the laminated official receipt becomes the buyer’s membership card. All the buyer needs to do is then present the laminated receipt when purchasing books from the ls Bookstore to enjoy a five percent discount on trade and text books. Membership to the program is valid for one year.

Mallari is satisfied at the reception of the program. He notes that a steady number of students have become participants, which is an encouraging sign for the program’s continued success.
Closing the nutrient cycle loop at the LS

by Abby Favis

Our society is characterized by linear consumption where resources are converted at an accelerating rate into waste. Based on the waste audit of the Loyola Schools (LS) waste stream, it was found that more than half (by weight) is biodegradable. This type of waste can, through natural processing, re-enter society as useful material, thus reconnecting the link between organic matter and the soil on which they arose in the first place.

As part of the waste-to-resource conversion at the LS, the LS Vermicomposting Facility was inaugurated and blessed last February 17, 2009. Vermicomposting is the process of using worms to break down organic waste into its component nutrients. The facility uses a community of African nightcrawlers (Eudrilus eugeniae) to decompose garden and vegetable waste into vermicast—a nutrient-rich product of the vermicomposting facility from preparing the organic material to feeding the worms. They were able to collect the first harvest of vermicast one week after the inauguration.

The facility is manned by personnel trained by vermicomposting consultant Jon Sarmiento. Sarmiento prompts us to consider waste management as a way of life—not just a task or ordinance, but as the right thing to do. We invite you to visit the LS Vermicomposting Facility (between pipac and Faura Hall) and see our worms at work! For more information, please contact the aemc through the VP’s Special Projects Office at 426-6001 ext. 5008.

The Loyola Schools saluted its retiring members at a luncheon and recognition ceremony held February 20, 2009. It was a touching afternoon of reminiscences and expressions of appreciation for and from the eight retirees who come from different departments and offices, and who, between them, have given years of service to the Ateno.

Six of the retirees were present at the affair: Manuel B. Dy, Jr. (Philosophy Department), Carmelo Francisco V. Lopez (Leadership and Strategy Department), Alfredo S. Marzan (OAS), Emma E. Portio (Sociology-Anthropology Department), Antonia S. Santos (History Department), and Benilda S. Santos (Filipino Department). Two of the retirees, Felicisimo “Mang Imo” D. de la Cruz (Rizal Library) and Renan S. Prado (Modern Languages Department) were unable to attend.

Of de la Cruz, Rizal Library Director Lourdes T. David says, “He’s a good family man and a good father,” adding that Mang Imo chose to be with his family on that day because it was his wife’s birthday. Of Prado, Modern Languages Department chair Christa Velasco hasthus to say: “He is totally dedicated to the craft of teaching, and his concern for his students, for the department is unparalleled.”

In closing, aemc president Bienvenido E. Nebres, SJ, expressed what all present must have felt: “To you, Ateneo is family and home. It is you who have made it what it is. Ateneo is you, and all of us. Let’s pray that this tradition continues.”

In keeping with its tradition of helping the less fortunate, the aemc also partnered with the Office of Social Concern and Involvement (osci) and with students from the Philosophy class of Dr. Manuel Dy for their Junior Engagement Program (jep). Part of the students’ insertion activity was the operation of the vermicomposting facility from preparing the organic material to feeding the worms. They were able to collect the first harvest of vermicast one week after the inauguration.

The facility is manned by personnel trained by vermicomposting consultant Jon Sarmiento. Sarmiento prompts us to consider waste management as a way of life—not just a task or ordinance, but as the right thing to do. We invite you to visit the LS Vermicomposting Facility (between pipac and Faura Hall) and see our worms at work! For more information, please contact the aemc through the VP’s Special Projects Office at 426-6001 ext. 5008.
Tony Blair shares his thoughts on globalization, peace building, politics, and leadership that have caused many problems to find common values is one thing that could be done that would have powerful and lasting consequences. He spoke of the need to open up to other people to understand their motivations, concerns, and passions. According to him, being more open to other cultures and religions will enable the new era of globalization to work. He also recognized that "out in the Middle East region, there is essentially one battle going on, as well as in the wider region, and it is the battle about Islam." He felt very strongly that solutions to global challenges besetting the economy, environment, and security could best be tackled by countries committed to working together. "We can change things…today, in this world, we have to do it—but do it together."

 Truly a seasoned politician and a man with a mission to fulfill in the Middle East peace process, Blair’s speech and thoughtful answers to the questions later raised by students spoke of his rich personal experience in the field of international politics, which he wittily punctuated with off-the-cuff remarks, self-deprecating humor, anecdotes of absurd encounters, and amusing understatements. Ateneo alumni and broadcaster Ricky Carandang was the program’s master of ceremonies and served as moderator during the open forum.

At the program end, Blair was presented by Ateneo president, Fr. Bienvenido E. Nebres, SJ, and Fr. Jose Magadia, SJ, Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines, with three things as a gesture of appreciation from the Ateneo community: a replica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue carved by national hero Dr. Jose Rizal while he was a pupil at the Ateneo Municipal, a set of books containing some of the writings of historian and educator Fr. Horatio de la Costa, SJ, and a university jacket which Blair put on to loud cheers from the audience. Manuel V. Pangilinan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, gave the closing remarks.

As shared by Dr. Ma. Assunta Cayeckeng, Vice President for Loyola Schools, the support of Pangilinan and the pldt-Smart Foundation has made the Ateneo MVP Center Leadership Forum series possible, realizing Pangilinan’s vision of allowing students to learn from world leaders from various fields.

The Heritage Bells

by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ

Bells have played a vital role in the life of the Christian assembly. The sound of bells summoned God’s people to prayer, marked the passing of time, and announced the important events of family and community life. Bells by tradition have been named after Our Lord, Mary, the angels, and the saints. Our fathers in the faith gathered scattered people “bajo las campanas”—that is, within earshot of church bells. From these orderly villages arose towns, cities, and schools or our nation.

Since the 17th century, Jesuits used a daily schedule, marked with the ringing of the bell for moments of prayer, work, study, and rest. They carried this practice to the colleges and schools they founded and to the parishes, missions, or reductions in Europe, the Americas, and Asia. The ringing of bells to signal the beginning and end of classes at the Ateneo de Manila grew out of this time-honored tradition.

The bell inscribed “Nuestra Señora de la Paz” and dated was in the Padre Fauro campus to which the Ateneo transferred after a fire in razed the southwest section of Intramuros and with it the Ateneo buildings.

The smaller bell, case in and imprinted with the seal of the Society of Jesus, links Intramuros and the Padre Fauro to the Loyola Heights campus.

As we re-dedicate these Heritage Bells, we commemorate the continuity of Ateneo education over fifteen decades and we affirm our commitment to shape the future of our nation through service, spirituality, and excellence.
A gathering of university presidents from Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States started off the Ateneo de Manila University’s sesquicentennial year. Held from January 22 to 24, 2009, the Presidents’ Forum 2009 was attended by close to 100 academic leaders from Australia, Austria, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Korean, the Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, and the United States of America.

Centered on the theme “Universities at the frontiers of change,” the forum was an opportunity for the participants to share experiences, views, and reflections on how universities around the world are coping with institutional challenges arising from globalization.

Main speakers

The forum’s keynote speech was delivered by Dr. John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University (see separate article). Plenary presentations were given by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, sj, president of the Ateneo ("150 years of engaging the nation: Reflections on the mission of university excellence and overcoming poverty in the Philippines"), Prof. Ng Ching-Fai, president of the Hong Kong Baptist University ("Regional collaboration in higher education: The Hong Kong Baptist University’s experience"), Prof. Shin-Ichi Ago, vice president of Kyushu University, Japan ("Internationalization trends in higher education in Asia and Japan"), and Prof. Jean-Philippe Ammeux, Director of the ieseg School of Management, Lille Catholic University, France ("Lille Catholic University and the business community: Mutual enrichment respecting each individual’s mission").

Parallel symposia

The following parallel symposia were also held: “Converting challenge into opportunity: Living and working in a multi-cultural, multi-faith environment” (Fr. Antonio Moreno, sj, president of Ateneo de Zamboanga University); “Boon or bane: Assessing the value of higher education surveys and rankings in helping us to achieve our institutional goals” (Prof. Michael Hyeonsik Cheong, Director of International and Public Relations, Sogang University, Korea); and “Global recession and the current financial crisis: Coping with the problem, helping to find solutions” (Prof. Matthew Min-Teh Yu, president of Providence University, Taiwan).

Re-dedication of the Heritage Bells

To symbolically ring in the Ateneo’s 150th year, two bells from the old Ateneo campuses, Intramuros and Padre Faura, recently found and refurbished, were re-dedicated to Jesus Christ and Our Lady of Peace. The Heritage Bells, as they are now called, are located at the Loyola Schools brick road, directly in front of the Rizal Library steps.

The outdoor parade and ceremony was made even more memorable by the participants’ insistence on continuing with the activities even as rain began to fall. The parade was participated in by students, staff members, administrators, and faculty. The participants of the Presidents’ Forum 2009 from different parts of the world.
On the morning of June 14, 2009, a mass at the Manila Cathedral kicked off the Sesquicentennial Kick-off. 1 San Jose Seminary alumnus Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales was main celebrant 2 Philippine Provincial Superior Fr. Jose Cecilio Magadia, SJ, gave the homily 3 Over 30 Jesuit priests concelebrated the mass 4 Beginning the day at the majestic Manila Cathedral 5 A clearly blue Gesu greeted the kick-off party in the early evening 6 Sparkling vintage cars joined the ride 7 Blue down to the last detail 8 The walls of the old San Ignacio Church in Intramuros
Ateneo team ‘Best of the Best’

at 2009 HSBC Entrepreneur Awards regional finals

Ateneo’s Team Beleavers, made up of Karl Santinitigan and Timothy Huelva (both 81 LM’09) capped their winning six-month run through five rounds of competition at the 2008-09 HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards by winning the top prize at the regional finals of the competition held at the HSBC headquarters in Hongkong on June 22, 2009.

Already the winners of both the Gold Award and Most Eco-friendly Award at the Philippine National Finals of the competition, the team was adjudged “Best of the Best” against the other finalists, the national champions of Hongkong, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Brunei, by a Board of Judges that included Sandy Flockhart, Chief Executive Officer of HSBC, Laura Chua, Deputy Chairman of HSBC, Po Chung, Co-founder of DHL Express, Dr. Allen Fung, Managing Partner of McKinsey & Co. trk, and Frank Stiven, Head of Global Banking Asia Pacific, HSBC.

All seemed over but the formal announcement of the winners as soon as the team finished their seamless presentation of a proposal to create eco-friendly food take-out packages from coconut leaves has won this international competition, and Team Beleavers, coached by Rudy Ang, dean of the John Gokongwei School of Management, is elated to have achieved this feat for both the Ateneo and HSBC Philippines. In winning the Best of the Best Award, Karl and Tim topped a field of 2,426 students (902 teams) that joined the competition from all over Asia this year, including 266 students (95 teams) from the Philippines.

This award marks a high point in the JGSM’s six-year participation in this annual competition run by HSBC—a participation that has included a “Best Presentation” award at the 2005 regional finals, and five National Championships, including two grand slams (in 2005 and 2009), when Ateneo teams swept all three prizes at stake in the Philippine national finals of the competition.

Food takeout packages are just the first salvo in their battle to provide an eco-friendly alternative to plastic and Styrofoam. Through their efforts, they “believe” that they can reduce waste by as much as 500,000 tons per year, increase the monthly income of the farmers who gather leaf spathes for them by as much as 20%, and help slow down climate change through these efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

This is the first time that the Philippines has won this international competition, and Team Beleavers, coached by Rudy Ang, dean of the John Gokongwei School of Management, is elated to have achieved this feat for both the Ateneo and HSBC Philippines. In winning the Best of the Best Award, Karl and Tim topped a field of 2,426 students (902 teams) that joined the competition from all over Asia this year, including 266 students (95 teams) from the Philippines.

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An exemplary theatre mentor and director, an internationally-recognized film director, and a Man Asian Literary Prize winning novelist, together with sixteen outstanding student literary, visual, and performance artists were all honored at the 16th Loyola Schools Awards for the Arts held on March 11, 2009 at the Escaler Hall.

A yearly award given by the Loyola Schools and organized by the School of Humanities, the ls Awards for the Arts tradition is born from the creative work of graduating students in the fields of dance, music, theatre, literature, and the visual arts.

On its sixteenth year, the ls Awards proved distinct by giving recognition to Ateneo alumni and faculty who have excelled in their own fields in the past year, through the Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities Awards.

For his nationally and internationally-acclaimed film “Jay”, Francis Xavier E. Pasion (ab Communications, 1999) was honored by a short presentation from his peers in the field. A winner in the recent Cinemalaya Film Festival, “Jay” has gone on to represent the country in numerous international film festivals from Bangkok to Venice, Rotterdam, and Thessaloniki.

On the other hand, a short video presentation was given to highlight the achievements of international novelist and Ateneo alumnus Miguel J. Syjuco.

Finally, for his exemplary contribution to Philippine theatre, the penultimate award for the year was given to Tanghalang Ateneo director/moderator, sociology professor, and outstanding teacher, Dr. Ricardo G. Abad. Well-known in his work as a teacher, reimagined the way theater is taught in the country. This award proved to have been given in good timing, especially since Abad also just celebrated forty years of being an indispensable member of the Ateneo community. And what better way to commemorate his work (distinct for his local restagings of Shakespeare in Filipino) than through a series of theatrical vignettes staged by his alumni. They came home for this evening’s event, as a way of saying thank-you to a dearly-beloved teacher, director, and mentor. It is not surprising that, in true theatrical fashion, the highlights of the evening was to be in Abad’s touching response in the form of a speech of thanks, and a story in “defense of the humanities,” that left many in the audience in tears.

The three major awards given proved to be the highlight of the evening’s event, the heart of the ls Awards for the Arts ceremony, of course, lay in the recognition of graduating seniors who had displayed, in the past four years, outstanding achievements in the arts.

In the tradition of artistic and creative excellence in the Ateneo, this year’s group of senior-artists include a budding filmmaker, a classically-trained ballet dancer, the president of the Company of Ateneo Dancers, a winner of the Ateneo Pop Idol, a choir tenor from the Ateneo College Glee Club, five exemplary members of Ateneo’s different theater organizations, two visual artists, three poets, an essayist, and a fictionist. The awardees are Mark A. Peregino, for Screen Arts; Veronica F. Maronilla and Sheila Joyce P. Villanueva, for dance; Jimmy Paulo C. Bonifé and Eugene C. Soyosa, for music; Karl Christian B. Almonte, Miguel Armando L. Lim, Patricia Ruth E. Pena, John Leand N. Aramos, and Emmanuelle R. Valero, for theater arts; Pancho D. Abang and Eliana Laguarte C. Javier, for the visual arts; and Angela M. Casauay, Jan Brandon L. Dollente, Kristian G. Mammote, Elisha Marjorie Martinez, and Jasmine Nikki C. Paredes, for creative writing. Dressed in elegant and formal Filipiniana, the awardees were present in the ceremonies to receive their glass trophies and compose majority of the evening’s presentations.

ME graduate honored as one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines

Adrian Clarc San Pascual Mundin (bs me ’09) has been named one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) for 2009.

Mundin was a varsity debater for the Ateneo Debate Society, and is also an alumnus of the Ayala Young Leaders Alliance, a member of Youth Vote Philippines, Pathways to Higher Education and part of the founding team of Slate Magazine, the first corporate social responsibility magazine in the Philippines. He also represented the Philippines to the 5th Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) in Indonesia in 2008.

Aside from Mundin, two other Ateneos made it to the ten finalists this year: Stephen Michael C., a bs Biology major, minoring in Hispianic Studies and Krisha Lourdes Dyongco, a bs Health Services ’09 graduate and batch valedictorian.

Joining Mundin as part of the TOSP this year are Roger Flores of the Philippine Military Academy, Miguel Antonio Garcia of University of San Carlos, Adol Paul Belamide of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, Ann Cruist of University of Bohol, Paul John Geota of University of Cebu, Stacy Danika Alcantara of Silliman University, Stephen Alesse Bahatuar of University of San Carlos, Nicole Marie Villanjo of De La Salle University, and Carlos Gerorgian Jr. of West Negros University. www.ateneo.edu

Research Notes

This section features research being conducted by faculty and graduate students in the Loyola Schools. For inquiries and contributions, please email js_lead@yahoo.com (jgsom), mmartin(at)ateneo.edu (soss), or mlp(mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph (soss)).

Ang Panitikan ng Grupong Agos sa Diyerto: Pag-uugat at Papalubad

Adrian Clarc San Pascual Mundin, BS Management Engineering ’09 received the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines award from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on behalf of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, AL-P President and CEO of RFM Corporation Inc. Joey Concepcion, National Bookstore President Alfredo Ramos, RFM Corporation Inc. Chairman and TOSP Foundation Jose Concepcion, II., CHED Chairman Emmanuel Angeles, Ermita, Mundin. Photo courtesy of Ruth Ramayla, TOSP.

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and Jesuits, who gamely marched in the downpour to music from the Banda ng Marikina. A contingent of honor guards participated in the parade as well. After greetings and remarks, the Heritage Bells were unveiled and rededicated before a crowd whose spirits, it seemed, were not dampened by the rain.

Other activities

Forum participants were treated on all three nights of the conference to sumptuous dinner affairs held in different locations. The first night’s welcome dinner was held at the festively lit Jesuit Residence Garden. The second night saw the participants enjoying a traditional barrio fiesta at the Loyola Schools covered courts, entertained by the Ateneo College Glee Club, the Bayanihan Dance Troupe, and the Marikina Marching Band. The final night found them in a more cosmopolitan environs, with a farewell dinner at the rooftop of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati. A tour of the Aquino Center in Tatlot was also organized the day after the forum’s end.

A university effort

The Presidents’ Forum 2009 was made possible through the efforts of many members of the Ateneo community, with the Loyola Schools making a major contribution. Taking the organizational lead were ADMU academic vice president Dr. Antonette Palma-Angiles and Psychology Department chair Dr. Edna Franco, assisted by Georgina Hernandez and Cathi Gregorio. Various committees were mobilized to handle different aspects of the event—including care of the guests (who were attended to from airport, to hotel, to the campus, and back to the airport), logistical arrangements, printed and audio-visual materials, documentation, and ushering—throughout its three-day run. With the seamless support provided and endless good spirits shown by everyone involved, the Presidents’ Forum 2009 was a true success, and fitting start to the sesquicentennial.

A scene from “The Caucasian Chalk Circle”

The festival audience, faculty and students alike, raved about these presentations. Impressive to them in “Romeo and Juliet” was the inventive use of language and a native dance tradition to heighten the passions demanded by the Shakespearean text. In turn, what the audience enjoyed the most in “Caucasian” was the energetic pace of the igal and the flexible use of the malong as costume pieces for the actors. The igal proved popular: an impromptu and unscheduled workshop on the dance was even convened one afternoon.

“The Death of Memory” (with Chinese subtitles) also won much praise from festival participants who found the avant-garde play “cerebral” and the actors “passionate.” Credit for the play’s success also goes to Theater Arts senior BJ Crisostomo who was the play’s assistant director and Reamur David who designed the music and sounds for the production.

The Ateneo team, seen earlier to do wonders with traditional dance, has also shown its mettle in presenting contemporary drama. The group learned that what the Ateneo theater is not only “on track” with works done in the region, Ateneo theater—or better put, Philippine theater—can be competitive in international circles and make a contribution to the advancement of the art, and give visibility to the school and country as a cultural force. Next stop is New Delhi, India, the site of the Second Asian-Pacific Theater Expo in 2011.

We Remember

SUSAN FERNANDEZ MAGNO, part time faculty member of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, passed away on July 2, 2009 at the age of 52. She had ovarian cancer. A singer and activist, she was hailed as “the voice of a protest generation,” gaining prominence as a performer during anti-Marcos protests in the early 1980s. With Karina Constantino-David, she formed the singing duo Inang Laya. She was also an educator with an ma in Philippine Studies from the University of the Philippines, with teaching stints at St. Scholastica’s College, up, and Ateneo de Manila University.

School of Social Sciences dean Fr. Jose M. Cruz, SJ remembered a life of giving voice to others who have been silenced: “By common testimony of colleagues and friends, who unashamedly use superlatives when describing the life-giving humanity that marked her interaction with others, Susan strived to live out that truth, through her activism, scholarship and song. Like the hollow guitar capable of radiating from its vital emptiness the strumming by another hand, Susan made possible for...”

The popular igal...
Memoravilla at the Rizal Library

The Department of Interdisciplinary Studies began 2009 with a retrospective exhibition and lecture in honor of Jose Garcia Villa, whose birth centenary it was in 2008. Entitled “Memoravilla,” the exhibition, which ran from January 28 to February 27 at the Pardo de Tavera Room of the Rizal Library, displayed art by and for the late National Artist.

Among the items exhibited were books of poetry and fiction that Villa authored, including Amado V. Hernandez’s copy of Many Voices, Villa’s first book of poems; magazines from the 1920s and 1930s where his works were originally published; letters and photographs; reproductions of his sketches and paintings; and an original pen-and-ink self-portrait. A clay bust made by Julie Lluch, drawings by H. R. Ocampo, and a score by Samuel Barber were among the works inspired by or dedicated to Villa on display.

Many of the rare materials at the exhibition were borrowed from the various units of the Rizal Library, including the Ateneo Library of Women’s Writings, the Filipiniana Section, and the Special Collections. The self-portrait is part of the collection of the Ateneo Art Gallery. Many of the photographs were from John Cowen, trustee of the Villa literary estate, and from the family of Villa. Enriching the exhibition was a multi-media presentation, which includes an audio clip of Villa reading his works, and a multi-media presentation, which includes an audio clip of Villa reading his works.

Complementing the exhibition was a lecture by Prof. Isabela Mooney of the Department of English, entitled “The Aesthetics of Jose Garcia Villa.” San Juan similarly read Villa in the context of Modernism and Philippine-American history. San Juan praised Villa’s rebel spirit, while also criticizing his quest for the “essential” for being ultimately self-nullifying.

At the official opening of the exhibition on January 30, 2009, attended by Dr. Ma. Luz Vilches, Dean of the School of Humanities, Mrs. Lourdes T. David, Director of the Rizal Library, and faculty members of the English Department, Ms. Concepcion L. Rosales, Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, stressed that Villa represents the value of excellence. Whether painter, short-story writer, poet, teacher, or literary critic, Villa never wavered from his commitment to art-for-itself, even while his position made him vulnerable to attack from more socially engaged and sociallyistically inclined writers. Villa was also an iconoclast, who stretched the expressive possibilities of a foreign language at a time when Filipinos had been only recently introduced to English. He became the first Filipino to achieve critical esteem in the English-speaking world, his poetry measured alongside that created by poets from Britain and the United States—a feat attested to by a picture, on display at the exhibition, of Villa in the company of W. H. Auden, Tennessee Williams, Marianne Moore, Gore Vidal, Stephen Spender, and the Sinwells, and by a poem written by E. E. Cummings for him.

On the morning after his centennial year, “Memoravilla” is but an apt tribute and one aptly located—obliquely across from the Rizal Room dedicated to a greater Jose and fellow man of letters.

New Books

101 Stories on the Philippine Revolution
by Ambeth R. Ocampo

I don’t know that Ambeth's stories are the best example of it, but I should think that the concept of storytelling itself as an approach to history is a vastly important one. It’s a mistake to think that anything that is not written in the turgid, analytical style of dissertations, or does not argue aggressively for an interpretation, is not important or does not strike at the core of life. If anything, it would argue the opposite. Stories are more important than analyses. Or so for the historical demands of our time and place. Stories inspire, stories light fires. And they do offer concepts and interpretations, without violently yanking the heads of people and saying, “Look, this is the way it happened.”

No stories, no history. Without Ambeth’s stories, we might as well be, well, history. —from the foreword by Conrado de Quiros

Ambeth R. Ocampo is a faculty member of the History Department.

Heaven’s Butterfly
by Cathy B. Guballa and Pia B. Guballa, with illustrations by Frances C. Alcaraz

“Each time I see a butterfly I remember by brother Migi. I was only seven years old when Migi left us to go back to his real home...What do you do when you lose someone very dear to you? Is it alright to cry all the time? Is it normal to feel sad and alone?...The young narrator of this heartwarming story tries to remember her little brother but not without pain in her heart. Until one day when an unlikely visitor gives her a ray of hope.

Cathy B. Guballa and Frances C. Alcaraz are faculty members of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department.

From Darna to Zsazsa Zaturnnah: Desire and Fantasy
Essays on Literature and Popular Culture
by Soledad S. Reyes

From Darna to Zsazsa Zaturnnah is composed of seven critical essays. Five of them fall under the category of popular culture studies that include such popular genres as the komiks, film, television, to name a few. Two of the feature essays, “The concept of ‘hero’” and “touch on such ‘iconic’ contemporary figures as Manny Pacquiao and Fernando Poe, Jr. The last two essays focus on traditional literary genres—the novel in English (including Pil-American fiction) and the novel in Filipino.

Soledad S. Reyes is a faculty member of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department.

Walong Diwata ng Pagkahulog
by Edgar Calabia Samar

Binubukasan ng nobelang ito ang panibagong yugo sa pagpapalat ng nobela. Malaya na ito sa tradyosyon ng mga naniniwala sa modernista, na laing mahalagang sa dibilib ang paggalad ng narito sa sa akda ang ito wala nang imposibleng sa materyal at maging sa pamamaramatang ng paggalad nito...Tingnan kita ito nang magpakita ng ito wala na nang maghihiwalay...Bumalik na ito. Nang maghihiwalay ito wala na nang maghihiwalay...Unlucky visit...
A 150-year journey involving four cities, six campuses, and hundreds of faithful alumni

On Sunday, June 14, 2009, the Ateneo de Manila University kicked off its Sesquicentennial celebration with a sentimental but spectacular program that began in Intramuros, Manila, where the Jesuit mission house in the Philippines was established 150 years ago.

Photographs of the Manila Cathedral celebrated by His Eminence Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales, Archbishop of Manila, to the recreation of the look and taste of what life was like at the Escuela Municipal de Manila In Intramuros 150 years ago, every detail of the kick-off program served to remind visitors and participants of the school’s journey from its beginnings as a municipal school in 1859 to its present-day stature as a world-class private university.

From the cathedral, Fr. Bienvenido E. Nebres, S.J., Ateneo de Manila University president; Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman of the board of trustees; Fr. Jose Cecilio Magadia, S.J., presidential superior of the Society of Jesus; and other dignitaries led the attendees—many on foot, and some on horse-drawn calesas, shiny vintage cars and a tranvia bus—

to Sta. Lucia Street, site of the ruins of San Ignacio Church. The church was built in 1889 in honor of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, and there, a reenactment of the handover of the Escuela Municipal to the Spanish Jesuits took place with the participation of Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, the Jesuit officials, and actors from Ateneo’s different theater groups.

Groundbreaking rites were also held at this site for the Museo de Intramuros, an ecclesiastical museum project of the Intramuros Administration. The ceremonies were graced by Archbishop Rosales, Mayor Lim, Intramuros Administration head Ana Maria Harper, National Commission for Culture and the Arts executive director Cecille Guidote-Alvarez, Pangilinan, and leaders of the Jesuit order. From San Ignacio, attendees gathered at the adjacent Baluarte for a refectory-style breakfast that included those early days’ staples of pan de sal, peaches, and hot chocolate.

After the ceremonies at Intramuros, the Ateneo’s 150-year journey was symbolically retraced in a grand motorcade that took guests and participants to each of the six campuses (in four cities) that have been a second home to generations of Ateneans: the first campus in Intramuros and the second in Padre Padrone (now part of Robinsons Mall), both in Manila; followed by the more recent Ateneo Professional Schools campuses in Saldedo and Rockwell in Makati. From Makati, the next stop was the newest addition to the Ateneo family, the Ateneo School for Medicine and Public Health in Pasig. The last stop was the Church of the Gesù in the Loyola Heights campus in Quezon City, where thousands of grade school, high school, and college students since the late 1950s have spent the best years of their young lives.

Making the journey as vibrant as the destinations was the participation of a handful of vintage cars and around twenty Volkswagen Beetles that heralded and escorted the thirty or so vehicles ferrying the Ateneo contingent at various points from Manila to Quezon City (June 14 also happens to be World Volkswagen Day). Bikers from motorcycle club-smos joined the last leg of the motorcade from Corinthian Gardens. The sight of these vehicles, all bearing small Ateneo flags making their way to Katipunan Avenue from Pasig, was a sight to behold.

On Saturday, June 6, 2009, the Ateneo de Manila University kicked off its Sesquicentennial celebration with a sentimental but spectacular program that began in Intramuros, Manila, where the Jesuit mission house in the Philippines was established 150 years ago.

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