ORP Launches a Festschrift for Dr. Soledad S. Reyes

By GARY C. DEVILLES

The Office of Research and Publication launched a festschrift for Dr. Soledad S. Reyes last March 10 in recognition of her valuable and pioneering work in the fields of literary criticism, and popular culture. Entitled, "Thought the Harder, Heart the Keener: Festschrift" the festschrift is edited by Eduardo Calasan, Jonathan Chua, and Rofel Brint. Contributions for this festschrift come from various universities and departments, showing the extent and impact of Soledad Reyes' scholarly work.

National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera recalled his days in Ateneo de Manila University when Reyes was still taking up her maternal studies. Lumbera believes that Reyes' singular contribution is her study of Rosario de Guzman-Lingat, which brought Lingat's works to the academe and ushered in an interest in Philippine literary criticism, and popular culture. Entitled, "Thought the Harder, Heart the Keener: Festschrift" the festschrift is edited by Eduardo Calasan, Jonathan Chua, and Rofel Brint. Contributions for this festschrift come from various universities and departments, showing the extent and impact of Soledad Reyes' scholarly work.

Eventually, Reyes would also be recognized in the field of Popular Culture in a time in which she studied was deemed as not-academic. Reyes would pioneer such studies in Ateneo and a conversation of uneven power relations inherent even in the production of knowledge. Fr. Bienvenido Nebres would remark that the nation is grateful for her in bringing to contemporary consciousness the voices of Macario Pineda, Lina Flor, Macario Pineda, and others. Did she dare and take risks because she never lost her passion for scholarship. Her university helped and nurtured her so that she could make a difference in those heady, and sometimes perilous years, when writers negotiated a difficult terrain.

The memo was released three days after the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) issued a pastoral statement in relation to the problem of political crisis over the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) deal. The pastoral statement titled, "We are convinced that the search for truth in the midst of charges and allegations must be determined and relentless, and that the way to truth and integrity must be untrammeled, especially at the present time when questions about the moral ascendency of the present government are being raised."

University Dormitory topped off after 3 months

By MICHELLE CAMILLE CORREA

On 8 December 2001, and exactly three months later, the main structure is almost complete. 'Cuyugang thankful contractors ASEC Development and Construction Corporation, SP Castro and Associates, and Isidro & Partners for a job well done. Vice President for Finance and Treasurer Jose M. Santos expressed optimism that by October 2008, the entire building will house 200 additional dormers, completing the 600 dormers that the dorm was designed to accommodate.
Loyola Schools Recognizes Outstanding Seniors, Groups

The Loyola Schools is pleased to announce the winners of the Loyola Schools’ Awards for Leadership and Awards for the Arts for school year 2007-2008. The awards are presented each year to organizations and seniors of the Loyola Schools who have done outstanding work.

Loyola Schools’ Awards for Leadership and Service 2008 Winners

Special Citation: IMPUKAN

Through Impuk at Ugnayan para sa mga Kababayang Nasasalitang (IMPUKAN), psycho-social support is aimed to be readily available to disaster victims. During one activity with Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB), Jaymee along with volunteers from COA and some psychology graduate students and psychologists offered and gave psychological support to disaster victims. From this activity, the Sikolohiyang Lingkod Alya sa Bayan (SiLaban) was established. Jaymee formed IMPUKAN as the resource generating arm of SiLaban. IMPUKAN’s mission was to develop a rapid disaster response system sustained by a network of donors and volunteers. IMPUKAN envisions a society wherein everyone is involved in the alleviation of the effects of disasters on the less fortunate members of our community. IMPUKAN also aims to change the mindset of disaster response management from the giving of relief.

Most Outstanding Project: SLATE Magazine

SLATE Magazine is a non-profit publication by the Ateneo Management Engineering Association (AMEA) and is the first student-run and initiated magazine of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the Philippines. Founded in April 2006, SLATE was established so that businesses can be informed that they play a critical role in helping create a better world. Also, SLATE aims to inspire today’s students, interested students opportunity to serve the 43 COA member organizations by being immersed in the different activities of the council and learning skills that will be useful in their future work.

Novations Clark started in COA this year is the Understudy System which gives an interested students opportunity to serve the 43 COA member organizations by being immersed in the different activities of the council and learning skills that will be useful in their future work.

Most Outstanding Individual: Clark Jefferson N. Cue

Clark Jefferson Cue (BS Management Engineering/AB Economics Honors) is the founding editor to talk at events like the 2007 CSB expo, Zuellig Foundation’s Social Responsibility Conference, IEEE Women in Engineer’s Conference, and many others. He was also a delegate to the Ayala Young Leaders Conference.

Most Outstanding Student Group: ANI

Anay ni Ignacio (ANI) is an accelerated summer program that provides academic leverage to intellectually gifted but financially disabled high school sophomores and juniors from different public schools. Students under this program go through academic and non-academic classes grounded on the principles of Ignatian Spirituality. Non-academic activities involve recollections and Confirmations. ANI is not only concerned with the development of its students, but also the volunteers who work for their organization. Volunteers were given seminars on the state of education in our public schools and taken on visits of different schools. Volunteers also participated in formation programs designed to result in a closer and more effective organization. Sixteen ANI graduates passed this year’s Ateneo College Entrance Test. Also expected this year is the first batch of college graduates to have passed through the ANI program. Because of its success, ANI served as the framework for similar student organizations in the Philippines.

Loyola Schools’ Awards for the Arts 2008 Winners

Creative Writing

Jason G. Tabusas, IV AB Economics
Andrew Carl S. Robles, IV BFA Creative Writing
Martin V. Villanueva, IV BFA Creative Writing
Jerome K. Chua, IV BFA Creative Writing

Theater Arts

Alleyne Julia L. Enriquez, IV AB Communication
Jason Joseph S. Chua, IV AB Management Economics
Ma. Carissa A. Alejandro, IV BS Psychology
Celine Trency E. Caga-anan, IV BFA Theatre Arts
Virlynn Rose R. Ramirez, IV AB European Studies
James A. Jumalon, IV AB Management Economics

Screen Arts

Angelo S. Jose, IV AB Communication
Josemaria Lorenzo S. Valdez, IV BS Communication Technology

Visual Arts: Photography

Henson Tyler L. Wangahim, IV AB Communication
Scott Davis L. Kho, IV AB Communication

Visual Arts: Graphic Design

Aaron G. Kiselio, IV AB Interdisciplinary Studies
Marta Isabella T. Cabañahan, IV BS Communication Technology

Music

Marta Cecilia R. Lacap, IV BFA Theatre Arts
Ma. Ramona Linda G. Fernando, IV AB Psychology
Ma. Cecilia N. Custodio, IV BFA Creative Writing

Dance

Liana A. Lim, IV AB Psychology

The Loyola Schools Bulletin is looking for contributing writers and photographers. If you are interested, send an email to tsbulletin@admu.edu.ph.
2005 Ateneo Top Grad Shines in World of Astrophysics

Ateneans in Math Tilt

Ateneo Bags Top Places in IT Competitions

Dr. Darwin Yu Declared Most Outstanding Finance Educator by FINEX and Citi

Dr. DARWIN D. YU, associate professor, Finance and Accounting Department, was awarded the Rafael B. Buenaventura Most Outstanding Finance Educator on February 27, 2008 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). The nationwide search is organized jointly by the Financial Executive Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) and Citi. FINEX is an association of about 700 finance executives, while Citi is the world’s largest financial services company. The award aims to honor the finance education profession, to recognize the outstanding qualities and contributions of finance teachers, to inspire teachers to achieve excellence in finance education, and to actively promote the CFA Institute’s edification of college graduates more competitive in the global workforce.

Rafael B. Buenaventura, after whom the award is named, served as the ninth BSP governor, and the first Filipino chairman of Citibank Philippines. The search culminated in five regional winners, one each from Mindanao, Visayas, Luzon outside NCR, and two from NCR. From among the regional winners, the Most Outstanding Finance Educator was chosen.

Ateneo ECCE Teams Bag Awards in 4th Smart SWEEP

TWO TEAMS OF FIFTH YEAR ELECTRONICS, Computer and Communications Engineering (ECCE) students triumphed at the 4th Smart SWEEP Innovation and Excellence Awards held on February 1-2, 2008 at the Trade Hall of SM Cebu City. A total of 59 mobile solutions were submitted as entries from colleges and universities all over the country.

This year’s theme, “Going wireless for disaster preparedness,” addresses the country’s growing need to improve and respond to the threat of disaster. All teams were tasked to come up with wireless service applications accessed via the Smart network using SMS, MMS, WAP, GPRS, SIP, voice, 3G, wireless broadband or Bluetooth.

SMART FAST (Flood Alert Service Texts), created by Adrin V. del Rosario (Team Leader), Roy Kristopher O. Bayot, and Archie Q. Doliit, emerged as the first runner-up with a cash prize of Php 300,000. It proposes the use of SMS to automatically collect and transmit data from sensors that determine flood levels in rivers and other bodies of water. This system also integrates services that allow for community participation during disasters through donations (Smart Money transfer services) and evacuation site status reports. The goal of the system is to prepare the community and the entire government machinery to anticipate the onset of and respond to possible damage caused by floods.

The second runner-up trophy and cash prize of Php 150,000 went to SMART- GUARDS (SMART-Geared Up for Automated Response Disaster System), created by Jimmy G. Neco (Team Leader) and Adrielle Matthew Julius A. Dagusan, Chrisandro M. Favila, and Jan Lester Gerard M. Lofranco. The team also received the People’s Choice Award.

SMART-GUARDS is a wireless disease outbreak tracking system that monitors and provides information, description, alert dissemination protocols, and mathematical analysis accessible via the Internet, SMS, and MMS. Based on data provided by hospitals and authorized health centers, the system is able to track and map trends, patterns, and the degrees of outbreak for a particular city using mathematical algorithms and software image processing. Essentially, this system protects Filipinos from viral and epidemic outbreaks such as dengue, bird flu, capillariasis and other contagious diseases.

The university also received equivalent amounts in the form of grants.

Another team, composed of Ted Angelo T. Chua (Team Leader), Mark David G. Abat, Jose Raphael C. Arenas, and Adrian Joseph C. Meco, made it as finalist. They received Php 35,000 through Smart Disaster Aversion, which integrates different inexpensive and easy to deploy sensors in order to prevent, empower, and locate the subscribers of impending disasters such as flood, typhoon, landslide, and earthquake.

All the three teams were mentored by engineer Marie Engelnelle J. Obien. Support to the teams was provided by the SWEEP laboratory under the supervision of engineer Maria Leonora C. Guico.

A highlight of the event is the ISMS, which is where 37 ECE student representatives from colleges and universities nationwide converged. Daryl Aaron C. Geerlan (V - BS ECE), mentored by Guico, topped his group elimination round and made it to the finals.
A statement from economists of the Ateneo de Manila University

To fellow economist and former colleague, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

We are outraged by the revelations made by Engr. Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr. at the Philippine Senate Blue Ribbon hearings last 8 February 2008 about the overpriced Zhong Xing Telecommunication Equipment Company-National Broadband Network (ZTE-NBN) deal. The project is crucial to the public welfare and was undertaken in the first place. We are dismayed by the revelations of Mr. Lozada that former Commission on Elections Chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr., with the alleged involvement of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, is behind the inclusion in the proposed project a large amount of kickbacks, amounting to as much as 130 million US dollars (or more than 5.2 billion pesos), enough money to remove the control and discretion from backroom ineptitude and ensure that these irregularities were 8.8 million sacks of NFA rice, or alternatively secure the basic needs of about 29,000 poor families for a year. Simply put, a lot is being sacrificed for the greed of the few.

We urge fellow economists, and former Ateneo colleague, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to fully explain and account for all the anomalies under her administration to prevent our country from plunging into another political and economic crisis.

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Peace and Economic Development in the Age of Globalization

BY ERLINDA EILEEN G. LOLARGA

The 2004 Nobel Laureate for Economics, Finn Erling Kydland, a Norwegian now teaching at the University of California at Santa Barbara and the Tepper School of Business of the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, gave a talk entitled “Peace and economic development in the age of globalization” at the Ateneo’s Henry Lee Irwin Theater on 7 February 2008.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner visited the country for a series of talks on economic development, as part of the program series called “Bridges: Dialogues Toward a Culture of Peace,” initiated and facilitated by the Vienna-based International Peace Foundation—an international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary platform for dialogue between representatives of science, politics, economy, culture, religion, the media and youth.

Of Business Cycles and Macroeconomics

Professor Kydland’s began his talk by pointing out a commonly recognized fact: “Deficient economic development often comes in the way of peace.”

What was the economic development of the countries in the world like (income and wealth disparities across nations, protection of vested interests, political-ly motivated policy reversals that bring about more trouble in the long run)? What has been done to address monetary and financial crises of countries (creation of central banks, the importance of good economic policy)?

Among the highlights of his talk was his explanation of the framework of modern macroeconomics which is closely tied to the work that earned him a Nobel Prize, along with his colleague, Professor Edward C. Prescott of Arizona State University, with whom he was jointly given the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for their research on the driving forces behind business cycles and macroeconomic policy, specifically, the time inconsistency of economic policy.

Kydland said that what he and Prescott did was to come up with a simplified economic framework by which to understand the upturns (growth booms) and downturns (recessions) of business, its effect on the productivity of the economy, people’s reactions to what he termed “random shocks” (technological change, bad weather, oil price hikes, etc.) and how policy makers could best chart economic policy directions.

Lessons for Policy Making

He shared lessons learned for policy from the respective successes and failures of both Argentina and Ireland as these countries tried to deal with their own financial crises. For example, Kydland cited findings that Argentina could have attained even higher rates of economic growth in its boom years in the 1990s if not for the history of policy moves that undermined the government’s credibility to investors. Unwise economic policies brought Argentina down. He said that there is no easy answer to the question of restoring investor confidence. Ireland, in contrast, adopted policies that were credible and forward looking and thus, the country has grown spectacularly.

On a positive note, Professor Kydland concluded his talk by saying that with a good policy, there is potential in poor countries for not just a 1-2 percent income increase, but 1000-2000 percent increase that could happen reasonably between a 20-30 year period. He reiterated that peace and economic development are closely related.

During the open forum that followed his talk, he shared other tips about policy and dealing with crises (and the “many shocks” happening to the world today):

• During a crisis—In the long-run, there is not much that the government can do; if they intervene in the short-run, there may be trouble. Governments have to commit themselves to long-term goals, and policies have to be consistent with these long-term goals.
• Get over the crisis—For developed countries, in the long-run, their ability to produce is not really diminished; they recover in a couple of years.
• People should try to read signals and assess change.
• Smart people should try to find solutions. Don’t be too pessimistic (about the future) and simply give up!
• The model he and Prescott created does not make predictions but points out the importance of how to avoid policy changes in the future (that would have an adverse effect on economic development).
• Each country has a particular set of resources, talents, etc. Don’t use exactly the same policies. Different rules apply to different countries. Have a fair assessment of your abilities and resources.
Jesuit Volunteers of the Philippines

A Journey of Faith

BY EVELIA LITACO-MARTIN

IT IS THE DAY AND AGE OF INCESSANT—at times discordant—public outcry for change and for the demand to dismantle unjust social and political structures. But as his story has revealed, there is no dramatic cure for the ills of the nation. Still in places where the voices of those in dire need go unnoticed amid the clamor, hope comes in the form of those compelled to facilitate change by taking the road less traveled—the total giving of self.

Now on its 28th year, the Jesuit Volunteers of the Philippines (JVP) has been recruiting lay men and women from various colleges and universities, extensively training and fielding them for long-time volunteer work to marginalized areas. Founded in 1980 in Ateneo de Manila University at the height of the oppressive martial law era, JVP to date has “commissioned” 780 volunteers to assume participatory roles in indigenous and rural areas and institutions where their skills are needed the most. It is a form of volunteerism where one is called to be integrated into the community, sharing their values and helping change lives.

To be candidates, in a far-flung region—where language, culture, and lifestyle drastically differ, where modern conveniences are scarce or at times unheard of, and where the fear of the unfamiliar is perfectly justified—may seem a daunting proposition. After all, it is contravention to the sumptuary route of the educated whose first, logical option (as the milieu to which they belong dictates) is to immediately jump route of the educated whose first, logical option (as the milieu to which they belong dictates) is to immediately jump

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2008

The basic value needed in a JVP volunteer is the desire to serve for 10 months on average. 73% of surveyed fresh Ateneo graduates go straight to work after school, 18.2% pursue further studies, and around 2.6% remain unemployed. Some also go abroad for a vacation.

Of the Ateneans who went on to work, 89.4% have gone to the various industries, ranging from banking, manufacturing, consultancy, and the IT sector. A few have also gone to sales, marketing, and managing family businesses.

It is interesting to note that of the graduates surveyed, only 6.5% went on to work in the academy, 1.14% served in the government, and 4.2% started out in a non-government organization. This means that each year, less than 10% of College graduates from the Ateneo worked outside the corporate sector. Is this a cause for alarm, or something worth we should even bother about? Aren’t these jobs the kind of jobs that Ateneans, as men and women for others, should go to?

Of the less than 10% who have gone to not-so-common fields of work, here are three who took time to share their stories.

Development Work

Boyet Dy graduated valedictorian of class 2006 with a degree in Development Studies and works for the Asian Institute of Management—TeaM Energy Center (AIM-TeaM Energy Center) for Bridging Societal Divides, which in a way of showing her gratitude for her own education.

The “Others” Alternative Jobs and the Atenean

We often wonder and ask where our old friends and classmates have gone to after graduation. Maybe you bump into an old friend once in a while, or meet with some close friends for lunch or a couple of drinks, but more often than not, you have no idea where a good number of the people you knew work, or what they are doing with their lives. You often speculate, even rely on rumors at times, but still end up wondering and asking.

According to the Ateneo Placement Office, over the past five years on average, 73% of surveyed fresh Ateneo graduates go straight to work after school, 18.2% pursue further studies, and around 2.6% remain unemployed. Some also go abroad for a vacation.

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Working for a Cause

We have Catherine Burgos, also a 2006 graduate, with a degree in Political Science. After graduation, she began working with the Ayala Foundation, Inc., where she did communication work for the project GILAS Program (Grameen International Leadership and Access for Students), which aims to provide all public schools with Internet access. When asked why she chose this job because she wanted to work for a cause she believed in, and that being a fresh graduate, she was eager to contribute to the development of society. She adds that working in giving education to others in her way of showing her gratitude for her own education.

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BuiDiNG commuNities: JvP gives volunteers new friends, a new family.

The stories of the three Ateneo alumni above are not the usual post-graduation stories that you would normally hear. Dig deeper into their experiences in these jobs and you’ll surely be surprised. The whole point in sharing their stories is to remind our fresh graduates—our new job-seekers—that there are other options out there, options and fields which are badly in need of the fresh zeal and inspiration but in a concrete response rooted in the ideals of progressive social change. JVp volunteers heed this call for action through releasing our country from the clutches of poverty and planting, they are left with nothing to eat and survive with.

Releasing our country from the crunches of poverty and social injustice through taking out the marginalized communities and through this selfless course of action, help awaken and fulfill the respective communities’ potential to contribute to nation-building.

Table 2 Top 5 Industries Ateneans Went To After Graduation

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Source: Ateneo Placement Office

Advisors to Fresh Graduates

One of the hardest things a fresh graduate has to do after graduating is choosing the right job. In the myriad of choices that abound, one will surely be confused. Below are some tips that will hopefully help you find the path that will be the journey of your life.

1. Do not worry about not getting a job. There will always be a job waiting for each Atenean.
2. Take some serious time to reflect on the job you really want. Boy et Dy says that one has to look at both his external and internal motivations. The external motivations are your need for financial stability and salary while the internal motivations are following one’s passion and seeking genuine happiness. He says that, “Most fresh graduates fall into the trap of just being driven out of their lands by a prominent family in the region. This laments to a great extent even if they don’t take the land. But it is not true that they really have nothing aside from the land they are tilling. If you enclose their land with barbed wires, if you encamp where they are planting, they are left with nothing to eat and survive with.”

Public Servant

Last, we have Kriselda Marie Songco, a 2007 Economics graduate, who currently works as an Economic Development Specialist I for the National Economic and Socio-pastoral Sector. The evaluation and assessment held under the stewardship of the Program Officers and the Executive Director determine which sector is most suitable for the applicant given the accepted volunteer’s educational background, work skills, interest and participation in social issues, and even personality.

“We are looking for volunteers who are leaders and who are not strangers to volunteering,” says Nikki. Preferred volunteers are those equipped with the experience and knowledge to address the urgent need in marginalized communities. “But the basic value is the desire to serve for 10 months.”

No volunteer comes home empty-handed. The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow comes in the form of a second family and the gift of a life-changing experience. Nikki animately shares the rewards of being a former volunteer. “JVP builds communities. Your batchmates are your newfound barkada, a new family.” Former volunteers are absorbed by their local chapters where they are put to organize get-togethers, pursue volunteering opportunities and deepen community life.

JVP paves new roads of opportunity for former volunteers whose hearts have found a home in volunteer work. Many opt to stay in their area of assignment or get employed in the institution they had been assigned to, while others change their resources to set up foundations in their area of assignment. Most volunteer returnees emerge from their JVP experience as advocates of the issues that they have battled in the communities they served.

In some cases, the inspiring spirit of volunteerism is reawakened in the communities JVP volunteers have worked with. Upon Nikki’s return to Lake Sebu, he found some of his former students who are currently working with health programs. In Bulkidnon, his former students returned to their school to teach upon graduation. This is a testament to how volunteering can be an effective catalyst for positive change.

Out of the 29 applicants for the program year 2008-2009, 13 are from Ateneo de Manila University. One of the accepted JVP volunteers from Ateneo is Cherie Ann Gotuaco, a 2004 Batch graduate who is currently a graduate student of BS Psychology. It was her stint as a tutor in a home for abandoned children in Naga during her sophomore year that she felt the first intimations of plunging into full-time volunteer work. There had only been one homemaker designated to care for these homeless children. The disillusioning reality of the situation further revealed itself to Cherie when she realized that the children were years behind in their educational program.

But it was her poignant encounters with the children that emboldened and struck an eternal compassionate chord in her heart. ‘One child had hugged me, and I was moved to tears. You know, they were abandoned, and yet they had so much love to give. Despite their situations, they had love to give. How much more from me?’

She brought the plight of the children to the Filipino Chinese Catholic Youth in that region and from there the organization has been conducting weekly visits to the home. An eye-opening experience, it led her to a call of becoming a JVP volunteer.

It was this sense of solidarity with the poor that Nikki experienced during his stay in Bulkidnon. It was being driven out of their lands by a prominent family in the region. “This laments to a great extent even if they don’t take the land. But it is not true that they really have nothing aside from the land they are tilling. If you enclose their land with barbed wires, if you encamp where they are planting, they are left with nothing to eat and survive with.”

But the farmers there, they really had love to give. How much more from me?”

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Releasing our country from the crunches of poverty and social injustice through taking out the marginalized communities and through this selfless course of action, help awaken and fulfill the respective communities’ potential to contribute to nation-building.

Consider This

The stories of three Ateneo alumni above are about the usual post-graduation stories that you would normally hear. Dig deeper into their experiences in these jobs and you’ll surely be surprised. The whole point in sharing their stories is to remind our fresh graduates—our new job-seekers—that there are other options out there, options and fields which are badly in need of the fresh zeal and idealism that each and every Atenean carries with him or her. Most soon-to-be graduates starting aim for the high-paying, Makati-based corporate posts, or a lucrative career in a fast growing industry. In their pursuit for wealth and prosperity, they overlook the fact that the talents and gifts that God has given them may be meant for other greater causes.

Don’t get me wrong. Corporate jobs are not bad; an Atenean will always be an Atenean where you ever place him or her. He or she will carry with him that light which our university has given us. However, maybe more Ateneans should open themselves to the possibility that their light is meant to shine in fields and paths few people dare to read.
ESTEEMED MODERN ARTIST Impy Pilapil, together with the Ateneo Art Gallery, held an exhibit of large outdoor interactive sculptures on February 22 at the front and side gardens of Ateneo de Manila University. Her famous glass sculptures redolent of reflection and images of the sea, according to the artist, reflect what Theosophist Rudolf Steiner called the 12 senses: the ego, thought, word, hearing, balance, movement, life, touch, warmth, sight, taste, and smell. Art, after all, should give the audience a full-bodied experience that also engages the mind.

For Impy, such interaction between the art and audience is kindled by a benevolent force present in the piece through the process of creation. In The Mangrove: Nature’s Embrace, Impy was inspired by the Mangrove trees, in particular how the prominent root zone of the trees become an apt metaphor for the nature’s harmony with humanity.

Art and Humanity

“As a highly productive ecosystem that thrives between water, the roots provide an all embracing, protective and nurturing habitat that serves the life cycle of a whole range of marine life and land-dwelling species, and also a key factor in preventing soil erosion,” Impy said.

The artist perceives a parallel between the tree and humanity’s purpose on this planet. “The challenge therefore is to find the balance between advancing technology while maintaining environmental consciousness.”

On the physical level, mangrove roots grow to a dome-like pattern that symbolically brings to mind ideas like shelter, protection, and safety, comprising the needs of all living things. On another level, it evokes an embrace that provides the most basic emotional need of man from the time he is born,” Impy explained. For the artist everyone is deeply rooted to a family or culture and such rootedness invites one to reflect on our innate desire to be loved and to belong.

Body tremors

In Humming Stone Impy said that everyone has his or her own vibration or body tremor that is brought out by humming. “She believes that in ancient times, humming was more practiced than dancing, singing or the playing of musical instruments. Humming enlivens the toning of the whole human organism and in this sculpture, one is instructed to place one’s head in the hole and then hum as long as one is able to until no air is left in the lungs. With this activity, one becomes aware not only of breathing patterns but one’s specific body tremor that should be cultivated as this reverberates not only within but in the universe as well. Humming could have been humanity’s most ancient form of communication and in this stone one attempts to talk to the past.

Hearing and Feeling

Impy believes that sound created by wind and other natural forces are also the most primeval sound of the world, and thus in Chime Halo, she recreated how chime works using bamboo. Here, one is instructed to make a sound path by going through the hanging bamboo from different points. The sound emitted are believed to attract benevolent spirits while driving away malevolent ones. The percussion tones also harmonize one’s energy by relieving stress and emotional blockade. Similarly in Music Chamber, Impy believes that music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind, heals the heart, and makes one whole again.

In The Barefoot Trail, one is instructed to walk barefoot with eyes closed and led by another. This activity creates an experience of a soothing massage coming from different natural textures on the soles of the feet. By closing one’s eyes and by feeling through from beneath one’s feet, Impy believes that our senses become more acute. “We are reminded that there are other ways to perceive and experience things, as well as how there can be much more to what we see,” Impy said.

A Refuge

In this installation exhibit one can indeed take a refuge, especially in Nautilus where the spiraling bamboo walls resemble the inner journey one takes as one communes with the self and paint with what one desires on the Wishing Table, or play sungka as this ancient game reminds Filipinos of our instinctive ties with the sea since the sungka resembles a boat and the shells play with it are the gifts of the sea. This installation art might as well be Impy Pilapil’s gifts to us especially now in this opportune time that we are called to discern critically on the fate of our nation. Philosopher Hannah Arendt believes that even in the darkest of times we have the right to expect some illumination, and that such illumination may come less from theories and concepts than from the uncertain, flickering, and often weak light that some men and women in their lives and works will kindle under almost all circumstances. Impy Pilapil gives us the chance to hope.
Making Reading More Attractive

BY ELINDA EILEEN G. LOLARGA

Since opening its doors under new management in November 2007, the LS Bookstore at the ground floor of the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership has been enjoying brisk sales and a steadily increasing flow of clientele from students and other University patrons.

A visibly pleasant change as one enters the air-conditioned premises is the inviting living room—a sofa set surrounded by bean bag chairs for those who want to browse the books and magazines conveniently displayed in the surrounding shelves. The tantalizing aroma of freshly brewing Figaro coffee wafting in from the hallway outside helps create a relaxing ambiance that entices one to unwind and chill out.

University clientele dropping by for various needs now have a greater variety of school supplies, gift items, and other knick-knacks to choose from. Grouped together in the display shelves under banners saying "Everything Php20," "Everything Php30," and "Everything Php40," and so on, this new feature is useful for budget-conscious students who need to grab supplies 10 minutes before their next class.

More popular magazine titles, too, are now available for leisurely reading. Books published by faculty members are prominently displayed in the window of the LS Bookstore.

No more long lines in the LS bookstore with three new purchasing schemes.

A new living room set-up makes reading more accessible and inviting.

View from the LS Bookstore.

Books published by Ateneo faculty are prominently displayed in the window of the LS Bookstore.
Celebrating Humanities

BY GARY C. DEVILLES

HUMANITIES WEEK began almost four years ago with then Dean Leo-
vinca Garcia, who wanted to showcase the various activities in the
various departments in Humanities and at the same time welcome Ateneo
meritor scholars—high school students who aced the Ateneo College En-
trance Test (ACET).

This year, Dean Benilda S. Santos wanted to address how the School of
Humanities contributes to the under-
standing of our world with its grow-
ing complexity and how students are equi-
dated with pertinent skills as our ex-
perience of modernity or postmo-
dernity poses more challenges.

The Department of Theology sponsored a symposium regarding faith questions and church issues our
students confront today. Dubbed as
“I Like Jesus but the Church, I Have Some Questions,” the symposium was held on 1 February with Dr. Michael
Asis, Dr. Raymond Agus, and Mr. Michael Libertatore as panel present-
ers. A recent arrival, richard G. Bri-
on of the Ateneo College of Education, chaired Jonathan Chuana on Jose Garcia Villa’s Footnote to Youth, and Dr. Rofel
G. Brien on Marila Diaz Alayab’s film
Moral. These lectures were sponsored by The Doreen Gamboa Fernandez
Xtreme Fellowship Awards.

The Philosophy Department held a homography exhibit featuring the works of Philosophy Department Chair Dr. Renmon “Momok” Bar-
baza, Anjelina de Dios, PJ Mariano, Gino Gonzales, and Maan Villanue-
va of the Philosophy Department, as well as of SOH students.

The Department of Languages held an exhibit of Indonesian culture
and the character’s body parts fly
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The Wayside Café

BY ELIZABETH J. AGULAR

ONCE IN A WHILE, one comes across a very power-
ful and moving performance that leaves you breathless
and you come out of it asking yourself just what it is
you’ve experienced. That is the effect the Wayside Café
leaves you.

The Wayside Café is a premier pro-
duction—a play by Tony Perez and performed by the Ateneo Fine Arts
Program, in cooperation with the
Ateneo Art Gallery, in celebration of their 2008 Humanities Week.

The play is about two college in-
structors who meet at the Wayside Café. One is a recent arrival, Richard
Lasarte (1997-2002), and the other, the
Redentor Soliman (1952-1992), is an
old hand at the place. Having spent
more time at the café, Red leaves it
upon himself to help Richard adjust
to the rules of the place as well as his
new situation.

Two faculty members of the
Loyola Schools play the main charac-
ters—Tats Quiblat plays the younger
character Redentor Soliman. Ricky
Abad’s voice and delivery sends im-
geus through one’s mind in slow motion
making one feel that they are par-
t of this tragic scene. Yet, from this in-
tense moment, the play does not leave
you on your own at this height, but
slowly brought you down and back
again to being part of the audience
not to mention

The Water, played by Nicole
Magno, also did a great job in setting
and bridging the scenes and never
has serving coffee or tea ever become
so important in a play? The hauntingly
beautiful singing which added to the
overall viewing experience was by
Eugene Sovesa, a student member of
the Ateneo Glee Club.

Ricky Abad and DJ Crisostomo co-
direct the play and successfully spell-
bond the audience. From the start, the
initial lines take hold of each person in
the room and captivate them through
the full 30-minute duration of the
presentation. The two main charac-
ters delivered their parts extremely
time for a much needed release to
slowly brought you down and back
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slowly brought you down and back
The way the brief half an hour it
takes, amid its very minimal set-up,
was able to stir up complex emotions
among the audience not to mention
leaving those who have seen it with
an emotion that stays with you
The performance of the play
does not leave you on your own at this height, but
slowly brought you down and back
again to being part of the audience.
This is one of the most notable achieve-
ments of this play.

Production design was done by
Gino Gonzales, lights design by Vol-
naire de Jesus and sound design by
Reamur David. This trio aptly set
the mood of the play. The small art
gallery’s stark white walls plastered
with post-it note paper, blinding blue
lights, cold air-conditioning, and only
two chairs and a table for sets, fur-
ther enhanced the feeling that indeed
the scene is as in-between place.

The play, in the brief half an hour it
takes, amid its very minimal set-up,
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ph.D. students and M.A. students also read their works as part of the program.

The English Department mounted a
poetry reading, titled One Night
Only: A Night of Poetry, Spectacle and
Song. The Department’s resident poets
and writers, Mark Cayanan, Miguel
Lizada, Amina Abola, Larry Ypel, Ino
Habana, Vince Serrano, and Ee Ab-
ola graced the event, with their Lit-
erature Majors performing dramatic
presentations of Mariposa, Grenze, and
Glass Menergizer. Foreign Ph.D.

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and the character’s body parts fly
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THE EXCELLENCE of the Filipino and the redefining and revolutionizing role of the Filipino youth” in building the country was the highlight of Social Sciences week, which ran from 5–9 February 2008.

As part of the event, captioned “Heroes! Saving the world before class time,” five students and five non-teaching staff of Loyola Schools were honored, with T-shirts bearing the same tag as proof.

The Search for Heroes

The Heroes Awards project was spear-headed by the Sanggunian Board of Social Sciences representatives from all levels, led by新鲜man Hannah Co-cor, AB Economics-Honors student. Hannah explained that the Heroes Award was successfully launched for the first time in 2007 and it focused only on student heroes and achievers. This school year, they decided to extend the event by including non-teaching personnel as part of the heroes line-up. From the nominations, a total of 10 awards were chosen through a series of interviews conducted by the Board Members themselves.

Candidates for the awards were solicited from students through a “freewill wall” set up at the main floor lobby of the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership. Here, students wrote the names of their candidates, including their reasons for nominating the person and their contributions to the community. Hannah happily reports that they received over 200 names. While not all 200 nominations were included in the list, but had to limit these due to space restrictions.

The Search for Heroes was held at the Cubao Shoe Expo that marked the week include an SOSS Fair at the SEC Field; course exhibits at Colayco Hall; explaining the Filipino life, challenges they faced and their ambitions in life; and the students of the Ateneo were able to live out what the Ateneo has been teaching them about being men and women for others.

Other Activities

Social Sciences Week was celebrated with front liners and nation builders in mind. The week-long festivities were jointly sponsored by the School of Social Sciences’ Sanggunian Board, Departments, Programs, and student home organizations. Other activities that marked the week include an SOSS Fair at the SEC Field, course exhibits at Colayco Hall; explaining the Filipino Psycho through talks on blogging, juvenile delinquency, and technology at Escaler Hall; various events that challenged the skills and talents of participating student teams around the campus; and a talk cum open forum with Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

The concluding event was a Saturday afternoon “Kalye Pinoy” shining light at the CUAH Sho Expo that showcased Social Sciences students’ talents in music, dance art and fashion.

The Students

Steph Verano (Ateneo Comm)—She said: “People blame the office too much when the problem is indifference.”

Jam Ong (Ateneo Comm)—She said: “There is stigma, that why there is no progress.”

Bym Buhain (Ateneo PS)—He said: “I hope we become developed.”

Macoy Javier (Ateneo PS)—They said he’s a gentleman.

Knight Roderos (AB DS)—They said about him: “Laging may panahon upang tumulong.”

The Non-Teaching Staff

Alma Fermano (SEC B photocopy lady)—She said: “Gusto kong maapama-hang dani sa ateneo Atanista.”

Richard Gabito (Maintenance staff)—He hopes that the Ateneans would be able to live out what the Ateneo has been teaching them about being men and women for others.

Joseph Buhain (MVP Center security guard)—He said: “Igagapang ko ang pamiliya ko hanggang kaya ko. I will work hard for my family as much as I can.”

Sonny Santos (MVP Center security guard)—He said: “Ibigay na lang sa iba ang award para sa akin.”

Julie Matibag (Rizal Library photocopy lady)—Regards her fellow personnel as her family.

Reimagining Rizal: A seminar on the man and his works

THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY of the School of Social Sciences’ College of Social Sciences and high school teachers who would like to attend were invited to the Reimagining Rizal: A seminar on the man and his works, a seminar-workshop on the teaching of Rizal’s life and works, from 8am to 4pm, 21–24 April 2008.

The course on Jose Rizal’s life and writings is a requirement for all tertiary level students in the Philippines and is usually taught by the History or Filippino departments of tertiary institutions. At the secondary level, Rizal’s two novels, the Noli me tangere and the El Filibusterismo are required and are usually taught at the third and fourth year levels. The teachers of these courses are often a young Filipino’s first real introduction to the life and works of Jose Rizal. Thus, these teachers are critical instruments in imparting Rizal’s experiences and ideal to the students. For this reason, it is important to continually enhance and sharpen their skills, introduce them to new methodologies and expose them to advanced studies on Jose Rizal.

Lectures and workshops for the five-day seminar include the following topics: Calamba, nineteenth-century life, new perspectives on the Moraga, the Migration Waves Theory, Rizal in the Propaganda Movement, the on-going debate on Rizal’s Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo, Catholicism in the nineteenth century, various angles on Rizal and the Revolution of 1896, a guided field trip, and a workshop on syllabus-making. In addition, the seminar will also include activities involving social media within or related to Rizal.

The seminar-workshop fee is P9,000 for all five days. It is equivalent to a 3-unit course in the M.A. level on condition that participants fulfill additional requirements. To earn graduate units, participants must enroll in 61223 3 (Seminar in Philippine History: Rizal and Philippine Nationalism) during the regular registration period of the University (10-12 April 2008).

For more information, call 426-6001 local 3240 or 3241.

SOSE Names Outstanding Student Research Works

THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (SOSE) awarded the winners of the SOSE Awards for Outstanding Student Research on 7 March 2008 at the Escaler Hall, Ateneo Loyola Heights campus.

The first prize winners made brief presentations of their research and were given plaques. The semi-finalists, meanwhile, were given certificates of recognition. Listed below are the winners:

Undergraduate—Basic Science Category:

First Prize: Kendrick S. Lao (Chemistry)

“Molecularly-imprinted Polymer Microspheres for the Selective Extraction of Arte mansin”

Adviser: Dr. Regina C. So

Second Prize: Kevin Kiel V. Apelles and Greg Matthew E. Teo (Biology)

“Towards Gene Cataloguing of the Phenylalanine Ammonia Lysy (P41) and Calаратre-O-Methyltransferase (COMT) Genes from the Rhizomes of Zingiber officinale Rosae, and Alpinia galanga (L) Sw”

Advisers: Dr. Vivian A. Panes and Mr. Neil H. Tan Gana

Undergraduate—Applied Science and Technology

First Prize: Hannah D. Arce, Cyndee D. Jocson and Steven D. Tamecis (Biology)

“Enhancement of Middletbrook 7H10 Culture Medium for Rapid Detection of M. Tuberculosis”

Adviser: Mr. Cristiano M. Lopez

Second Prize: Herwin Jerome Unidad (Physics)

“Development of a DC Magnetron Sputtering System”

Adviser: Mr. Ivan B. Calaba

Honorable Mention: Dulce Marie R. Romo, Miguel Angelo M. Vicente and Jose Maria V. Villamor

“Ethanol Production from Rice Straw by Saccharification and Fermentation with Phanaerachne chrysophora, Trichoderma reesei, and Stachybotrys cerevisiae”

Adviser: Mr. Cristiano M. Lopez

Graduate Research Category:

First Prize: Enrico Paolo Q. Bugarin (Mathematics)

“On Color Groups of Bravais Colorings of planar Modules with Quasicrystallographic Symmetry”

Adviser: Dr. Ma. Louise Antonette N. delas Penas

Second Prize: Alvin S. dela Paz (Biology)

“Augmenting the Action of Polyoxymyx B in Pseudomonas aeruginosa Biofilm Treatment through Combination with Bacteriophage”

Adviser: Dr. Merahl A. Chan

 referenciales
Almost throughout the tournament he wore his trademark sunglasses refusing to let the game’s fortunes betray his composure. What was one more day?

Yes, the blue and white lived to fight another day. On February 17, as they beat FEU 2-0 to set up the ultimate match. If you say that it’s just a game, then obviously you don’t subscribe to what the late great Liverpool manager Bill Shankly said about the sport. “Some people think that football is a matter of life and death. I assure you it’s much more than that.”

Ask assistant coach Bob Manulolo and current program head Jong Casaneda who both played for Ateneo that lost the 1989 football finals to a UP team that prominently featured several Ateneans from their powerful high school batch. They’ve never lived down that day (it was an upset) and continue to get ribbed by their marooned co-horts.

If you’re an Atenean then you should know that more than any other sport in the last 12 years, it’s the beautiful game that has given us pride and a measure of bragging rights. Eight final appearances in the collegiate level and five titles. And that’s not counting the multitude of championships reaped in the grade and high school levels.

The Blue Bitters provided the school’s first three-peat from 2004-06, the first since the track team booked the trick way back in the 1960s. And unfortunately, the loss also marked the end of an era.

There’s a theory that when you surround fresh blood with champion players then it provides a sound environment for the young to learn and soak in. Ateneo coach Arniullo Merida knows this and he’s infused the team with remnants of its last three-peat squad. For team captain Pat Ozata, the moment he stepped into Ateneo’s back four, he helped turn the team’s fortunes around with his stellar defense. A model of consistency and dedication, he has been a rock and has received accolades from teammates, alumni, and foes alike. And he has been an inspiration to his teammates and even his younger brother Fred who turned the sport from a mere pastime into a passion. The Ozata brothers along with Alvin Perez, Doods Lansang, Jojo Peralta, Gino Tongson, and Gerard Cancio have strapped the team onto their backs and gave the school something great to cheer for in the new year.

And in a sparkling turnaround from a dismal Season 69, they played heads up ball three-fourths of the way. They showed what they can do when their backs are against the wall like when they stole a game from UP in the latest second round. And they answered FEU by beating them at their own game in game one of the finals. But the end game magic ran out in match two.

I wondered if it was an omen when the FEU Lady Tamaraws also ended an era for La Salle women’s football as they dealt the green and white’s great sweep er Stephanie Pheasant her first finals loss. I mentioned it to my batchmate for all the team’s belief that it could happen. For one final time he led the team to the quarters. Instead, the blue and white almost gave up their chance at a measure of revenge as they peppered the Ateneo goal for the second round. And they answered FEU by beating them at their own game in game one of the finals. But the end game magic ran out in match two.

For one final moment he wasn’t there to prop the team up during halftime and it was obvious the team missed their head coach in spite of the able job done by Mandulo. Ozata was named the tournament’s best defender for a third time in his college career. Rufino Mantos was adjudged the best goalkeeper while defender Miguel Tuason, the rookie of the year. It was small consolation for them but when you put things in perspective, it’s something that may be eased by the new year.

Life, Death, and Ateneo Football

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