Coalition launched


Recognizing that the earth is an amazing God-given bounty and that human activities have depleted these resources, the Ateneo's response to environmental concerns has been institutionalized with the establishment of the Ateneo Environmental Management Coalition (AEMC) in summer 2008.

Team AEMC

Mrs. Lourdes Sumpaico has been appointed as Special Projects Coordinator to oversee and guide the University's efforts for the environment in partnership with several groups of professionals, faculty members, students and staff within the campus. A key challenge to all, she says, "is to minimize the resources we use and the waste thrown away, such as paper, plastic, metal, glass, and even energy. Reusable containers are most desired; recycling of containers will help because although reusing and recycling require energy, they are comparatively less intrusive to the (earth's) natural cycles."

According to Mrs. Sumpaico, as early as March 2008, the AEMC's work was given a jump-start by the waste assessment and audit initiated by a group from the Environmental Science Department composed of Abigail Favis (coach and ES Department faculty member), Herwin Jerome P. Unidad (VBS Physics with Material Science Engineering), and David T. So (VBS Physics with Material Science Engineering). This same team, with the addition of Vivienne Erica M. Zerrudo (IV, BS Environmental Science), recently gained international recognition as a first place national winner at the ASEAN DuPont Green Vision Case (see separate story). The team represented the Philippines at the ASEAN Green Vision Sustainability Forum held at the Singapore Management University on July 16, 2008.

AEMC divisions

Mrs. Sumpaico shares that the AEMC's work is quickly gaining momentum and needs the support, cooperation, and patience of everyone in the University community. The AEMC has four main divisions which will deal with the multi-pronged task of managing our campus environment and encouraging people to live environment-friendly lifestyles.

The Advocacy Division is tasked with promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle, e.g. bringing continued on page 2

Leadership development, quality assurance, and environmental awareness are Faculty Day themes

By Erlinda Eileen G. Lolarga ¶ The Loyola Schools held its annual Faculty Day on June 20, 2008. The day began with Holy Mass at the College Chapel presided by Fr. Luis David, SJ of the Philosophy Department. Cloudy skies and humid weather prevailed over the campus as Loyola Schools faculty members, administrators, and staff converged at the Auditorium of the Ricardo and Dr. Rosita Leong Hall for the morning's main program.

Following talks by University President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ and Vice President for the Loyola Schools Dr. Ma. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, the body elected Dr. Agustin Martin G. Rodriguez of the Philosophy Department to replace the outgoing Dr. Benjamin O. Tolosa of the Political Science Department as the new School Forum Chair.

After lunch at the Leong Hall rooftop, the faculty members spent the afternoon in different breakout rooms to do strategic planning and quality assurance mapping of competencies for their respective departments. Dr. Regina Hechanova, Faculty Coordinator for Leadership Development, briefed the group on the afternoon’s activities. Among the other activities that lent a festive and convivial air to Faculty Day rites were the launching of the new Loyola Schools websites and photo shoots of faculty members gathered all together and by schools.

Firing up the Ateneo: The President’s 2008 LS Faculty Day Address

Fr. Nebres’ talk entitled The Ateneo of the Future began with poignant recollections of the Society of Jesus’ General Congregation 35
AEMC launched continued from page 1

As you continue to read, you'll notice that the earth is an amazing God-given bounty and that human activities have depleted these resources, the Ateneo’s response to environmental concerns has been institutionalized with the establishment of the AEMC. A key challenge to all, Sumpaico says, “is to minimize our environmental impact as platform for the changes the Coalition may propose to improve the Ateneo community’s lifestyle. The Research and Analysis Division, led by the Sanggunian, has visited sites with systems for segregation, composting, and material recovery, while Dr. Tess Perez of the Environmental Science Department and her students are looking at the Loyola Schools ecological footprint (rate of ecological consumption, control of air-conditioner usage, conversion of fluorescent bulbs to energy-saving light fixtures). Also being looked into is the effect of vehicle emissions on the environment.

The Logistics and Implementation Division, headed by the OAS, is looking into waste (at AMPC, Blue and Gold, Manangan’s, JSEC) and the minimization of plastic and paper packaging. It is also studying how existing buildings can be made more environmentally-friendly through measures such as shifting to compact fluorescent lights (CFL), electronic ballasts (if CFLs are not advisable), and reclaiming classroom space that does not need air-conditioning.

Making it happen: A green Ateneo

The AEMC is looking forward to developing a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that addresses the need to re-cycle highly linear consumption by redirecting recyclable wastes from the garbage generated on campus. The MRF will augment the present segregation-at-source system. Segregated trash will further be sorted into finer categories (glass, aluminum cans, various classes of plastics, etc.). In doing this, the by-products of the community’s consumption are recovered and redirected back into the system as recyclables, for use as resources. This will eventually help minimize the amount of waste to be disposed of. In line with this, the group has visited nearby communities such as Barangay Bagumbuhay and Barangay 6 Holy Spirit which have existing Materials Recovery and Composting Facilities (MRCF) to gather more information on the motivation, methodology of segregation and recovery and returns of the running systems.

AEMC team wins first place in DuPont Green Vision Case Challenge

In addition to winning US$ 1,500 as seed money for the project, Mr. So, Mr. Unidad and Ms. Zerrudo represented the Ateneo and the Philippines at the Sustainability Forum held at the Singapore Management University on July 16, 2008. The AEMC is a multi-sectoral effort of students, faculty, and administrators. The AEMC is being supported by the LS administration through LS Special Projects Coordinator Mrs. Lourdes C. Sumpaico. It undertakes environmental projects using scientific tools and analysis.

The winning AEMC team: Abigail Favis, David T. So, Herwin Jerome P. Unidad, and Vivienne Erica M. Zerrudo

Another upcoming project is the creation of landscaped pocket gardens (highlighted by an appropriate icon) in three strategic areas that will be conducive to prayer and quiet reflection. The first such garden is set to be located at the back of the Immaculate Conception Chapel. There is also a plan to convert the walkway connecting the EDSA walkway to Maa Road beside the Chapel into a path with blooming flowers dubbed the “Marian Walk.” This will be offered to Sci 10 classes as part of their contribution to the greening of the campus.

The AEMC is a school-wide effort. It is hoped that each individual member of the community will begin to think green and live in harmony with the environment. The success of the three R’s—reduce, reuse, and recycle—lies with each of us! LSO
The School of Humanities welcomes a new dean

By Gary C. Devilles

The S.C. Johnson-Ateneo Environmental Leadership Forum held its inaugural lecture on July 3, 2008 by a full house at the Auditorium of the Ricardo and Dr. Rosita Leong Hall. This first lecture, entitled, “Perfect Storms: What should the Philippines prepare for about climate change?” featured three of the country’s climate change specialists, Fr. Jose Villarin, SJ, Dr. Antonio La Viña, and Ms. Antonia Yulo–Loyzaga.

The Forum was attended by a number of key leaders in government, academia, and civil society, including Secretary Angelo T. Reyes of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Edgar Chua, president of Pilipinas Shell, Ms. Anabelle Plantilla, executive director of Harbion Foundation, plus officials from the diplomatic corps and local government units. Students and faculty members from over 20 high schools also attended.

During their one-and-a-half lecture, the three speakers described climate change as the “perfect storm,” which is the result of the convergence of humanity’s unforeseen past, its difficult present, and the uncertain future. The issues are not merely scientific, climate change spans political, social, and economic dimensions, crosses national boundaries, and promises to impact future generations in a crisis of global proportions.

The lecture explored the spectrum of climate change issues—from scientific to political dilemmas, from global to local impacts, and from international to Philippine responses—and advocated an integrated adaptation-mitigation framework that will address the impacts on the poor sectors of society.

The Forum was established through an endowment from S.C. Johnson to commemorate its 50th year in the Philippines. This annual Forum aims to highlight new and innovative ideas in the areas of environment and sustainable development. It is hoped that the Forum will contribute to the evolution of new ideas and paradigms in environment and sustainable development.

Fr. Villarin holds BS Physics degree from the Ateneo de Manila and a PhD in Atmospheric Physics from Georgia Institute of Technology. He was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was a co-awardee of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He is currently President of Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro.

Dr. La Viña finished AB Philosophy at the Ateneo de Manila, Bachelor of Laws from UP Diliman, and a PhD in Environmental Law from Yale University. From 1996 to 1998, he served as Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and participated in the negotiations leading to the Kyoto Protocol. He is currently the Dean of the Ateneo School of Government.

Ms. Loyzaga holds a AB Political Science degree from the Ateneo de Manila and a Master in Government from Georgetown University. She is currently the Executive Director of the Manila Observatory, and manages various projects related to climate change and disaster management.

The tasks may be formidable but for Marlu, deanship is not merely about getting things done, “Leadership is really about working and dealing with people. It’s more about people management than program management,” says Marlu, who is accustomed to dealing with different kinds of people, from fellow members in the diverse standing and adhoc committees of the school, colleagues from the British Council, CHED, and the World Health Organization, to fellow faculty members, being the former chair of the English Department and the Faculty School Forum.

Although, she is not new to the demands of leadership, Marlu believes that nobody is really prepared for deanship. “One can rely on similar experiences in the past, but of course, in the end one treats the work of a dean as an opportunity to grow and learn,” she reflects.

One of the first activities initiated by Marlu was to get SOH faculty members together for a seminar-workshop which allowed them to get to know each other better and to set realistic expectations and goals for the school over the next two years. For her, it is important to have a sense of collective in work and activity. She believes that by tapping key people in the school and inspiring them to work as a team, the school takes on form and becomes visible and recognizable.

“It is important for every faculty member and student to have a feel of what the School of Humanities is,” she says. She is banking on every one’s good intentions for the school, and believes and that it is just a question of channeling efforts, recognizing successes, and seeing mistakes as opportunities for improvement. Committees have been drafted with the aim of improving conditions for the faculty, staff, and students.

One of the committee’s mandates is to gather data to that any policies, principles, and strategies formulated will have a solid basis. In response to the problem of the SOH’s dwindling student population, for instance, Marlu has commissioned a survey of SOH alumni. The data culled from the survey will be presented to a faculty forum in order to determine how the SOH’s courses and programs can be made more relevant, and therefore more attractive, to students.

To provide a venue for consultation and idea-sharing, she plans to hold regular faculty forums. In addition, the dean is already working on an apprenticeship program for SOH students. This so-called “attachment program” is patterned after attachment programs in British schools and will help students situate their humanities backgrounds in a real-world context.

Barely three months into her deanship, Marlu is predictably kept busy with the school’s many concerns. At the end of the day, however, she acknowledges that one can only do so much. To put what would seem a daunting workload into proper perspective, she keeps in mind that not everything is in our hands, that one must learn to trust that God sees and acts upon all things in His own time. Whenever there is an opportunity to pray at any time of the day, Marlu retreats into silence and centering. At times she is surprised that things are revealed in a better light through constant communion with God. Marlu, both in her constant dialogue with colleagues and in her introspection, senses that the year presents great challenges and opportunities for all.
By Joanna Ruiz  
An interview with Council of Organizations of the Ateneo (COA) President Oscar “Koi” Mejia, III (V BSCHEM-MSE) is a master class in organization and efficiency. Prepared questions fly out the window as we are guided through a presentation on COA’s thrusts and plans for the schoolyear. Answers are provided before the questions are even asked. Marvelling at how “together” Koi is without sacrificing that all-important human touch, we reflect that Koi’s professionalism must be a reflection of the group he heads.

Meet the COA
The COA is composed of 47 accredited Loyola Schools student organizations and it divided into nine clusters: Business, Faith Formation, Health and Environment, Intercultural Relations, Issue and Policy Analysis, Media and the Creative Arts, Performing Arts, Science and Technology, and the Sector-Based Cluster. Between the council and the different member organizations there is a fine balance between independence and collaboration, with organizations going about their own activities while staying aligned and adjusted to the COA’s objectives. Constantly keeping in touch with each organization, COA also coordinates closely with the Office of Student Activities (OSA).

Prioritizing results
Following a process of reflection undertaken before the start of the schoolyear, the COA has identified three key result areas, namely: Identity articulation and actualization; membership engagement; and collaboration and consolidation.

The process of identity articulation and actualization encourages member organizations to align themselves with the COA mission and vision, making needed adjustments to their own missions and visions along the way. This process of alignment will naturally go down to the level of the organizations’ projects. COA plans to accomplish this valuable foundational process through consultations with each organization and with OSA.

The more straightforward goal of membership engagement has three sides to it: increased membership involvement, increased membership retention, and increased membership involvement. To this end, COA will work with the OSA and each organization to carefully package the organizations and share best practices to attract and retain members, and to encourage members to be more active in their organizations.

Outside interests
Besides goals which focus on the relationships between COA and organizations, organizations and their members, and organizations with other organizations, reaching outside the Ateneo is also a priority.

COA is involved with the Ahon Foundation, a corporate social responsibility initiative of Philway Marketing which gathers books for libraries in public schools. A book drive is in the works, with a certain “quota” of books to be collected by each organization. Networking with other student organizations from other schools in Metro Manila has also been initiated via the youth organization networking website OrgForward.

It is no doubt that the COA has a big job ahead of it this year, what with the goals it has set for itself and its member orgs. But if Koi’s enthusiasm and can-do attitude is any indication, then we needn’t worry that they’ll pull it off in style.

THE COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ATENEO
Organized, aligned, effective

COA Vision
The Council envisions itself as a community of Ateneo student organizations united in developing Ateneans to become active, competent, and holistically formed leaders who initiate positive changes within the Ateneo community and in the greater society through the Ignatian tradition of service and excellence.

COA Mission
As the Council of Organizations of the Ateneo, we aim to develop quality organizations thereby providing Ateneans venues for spiritual growth, professional competence, social involvement, health, environmental and political awareness, cultural rootedness, and artistic expression by leading organizations to be united, effective, empowered, and systematic through proper guidance, dialogue, and support.
Tanghalang Ateneo marks its 30th season by staging classical works infused with a contemporary, pan-Asian sensibility—the kind of production that has distinguished the company over the years. With "Echoes" as a season theme, the productions listen to the voices of earlier masters and allow them to resonate to young audiences today.

Echoes of old Manila, filtered though Nick Joaquin’s *May Day Eve*, kicked off the season this summer. Aimed at a young audience, the play was less about the tragedy of time than a cautionary tale of youthful recklessness. Student and professional stage actors gave performances in English and Filipino, using the one-act play adaptation by Alberto S. Florentino, and translated into Filipino by Jerry Respeto as *Salamin . . . Salamin . . . (Isang Gabi ng Mayo).*

In July, two classic plays by absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco—*The Bald Soprano* and *The Lesson*—were meshed into a series of comic vignettes echoing the theme of distorted communication. Taking its cue from the language games that pepper the plays, this production, simply titled “?”, questioned the reliance on rationality and power to establish meaningful social relations.

In August and September, Tanghalang Ateneo revisits William Shakespeare, a company favorite, in a gut-wrenching version of *Othello*. Student talents work with professional stage actors to dramatize the havoc wreaked by insularity and prejudice. By dwelling on Iago’s aversion towards the foreigner Othello and on the consequences of that antipathy, the play echoes the waves of ethnic and racial intolerance that still plague many parts of the world today. The play is to be staged in a minimalist style and in bilingual format with Othello speaking in a tongue different from his hosts.

A relatively long hiatus prepares Tanghalang Ateneo for its February finale: a deconstruction of Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex* now titled *Oedipus Rocks*. The rage of rock music, especially written for the production, coupled with images drawn from the theater of cruelty come to symbolize the wrath of a community against a proud leader who transgresses the ethics of political life and causes a virulent plague. Oedipus may be an accidental victim of fate, but his choice to suffer for past sins stands out as a noble gesture to restore the integrity of the state. This is to be staged in Filipino using a translation by Rolando S. Tinio.

In each play, the consequences of indifference, hate and violence herald a new beginning. As in the Ionesco twin bill, the new is not always idiotic—it can be a replication of old ways as in *May Day Eve*, a painful reconstruction as in *Othello*, or a slow process of moral recovery as in *Oedipus Rocks*. But in each drama, the ability of the theater to have us witness the struggles of others, and to learn from these private battles so that we may come out wiser and stronger, remains wholly intact.

Tanghalang Ateneo invites the public to listen to these echoes of the past and to shape them in their own personal ways. For performance and booking details, contact Ia Solis at 0916-5415165.
notable achievements

Rizal Library’s David named Outstanding Professional of the Year

The Rizal Library, already named Outstanding Library of the Year by the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians, has had added another layer added to its already towering pile of honors.

Lourdes T. David, director of the library, was named one of the forty outstanding professionals of the year by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). She received a glass trophy at the awarding ceremony held at the Manila Hotel last 20 June 2008.

Mrs. David was recognized “for her sterling accomplishments as an internationally renowned professional, demonstrating exemplary dedication, competence and integrity . . . for her invaluable contributions in preparing the [UNESCO] training modules on library management, information and communication technology, marketing information services, digital libraries and intellectual property rights; for her active involvement in various local and international professional activities which have put Filipino librarians at the forefront of international librarianship; for her able leadership of the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc; and for selflessly sharing her knowledge and expertise . . .”

The recognition is timely. Since her appointment as director of the Rizal Library in 2001, Mrs. David has been taking steps to ensure that the library keeps its prime position. Her main thrust remains “improving access to information.” Already searchable, and its microfilming program is recognized in Australia. “Our procedures,” she notes, “adhere to international standards.”

Alongside efforts at improving library facilities and services is her aggressive staff development program. She regularly scouts for opportunities for librarians and library staff to further or update their training. One librarian has recently returned from a materials preservation course in New Zealand; another, from a language and librarianship seminar in Japan (“The Japanese books can finally be cataloged”). She has also encouraged librarians to attend or present papers at international conferences. Three, in fact, are at a conference of the American Library Association.

What may one yet expect from the Rizal Library under her leadership? “A more organized outreach program in partnership with Pathways and Ahon Foundation and Gawad Kalinga,” Mrs. David envisages building “an info center in a Gawad Kalinga area in Nueva Ecija.”

The award is most apropos, then, for an outstanding professional leading an outstanding institution. Jonathan O. Chua

For a three-page story he wrote fifteen years ago, Danton Remoto, Associate Professor at the Department of English, recently received P20,000. “Wings of Desire” placed third in the Nick Joaquin Literary Contest of the Philippine Graphic. The awarding ceremonies were held at the Ricco Ronza Gallery last 18 June 2008.

“That’s over P20,000 a page,” says Remoto. “That’s not a bad way to make good money.”

A self-confessed Legal Management drop-out who eventually shifted to Interdisciplinary Studies, Remoto has not forgotten his math, and apparently he also knows how to make a good investment. “I’m earning from things I wrote in the past,” he recalls. “Now they are called ‘prize-winning’.”

When he offered his stories to local publishers then, he recounts, some of them got rejected. “Then they were considered pornographic,” he recalls. “Now they are called ‘prize-winning’."

Mr. Remoto has published a number of collections of poetry; but his recent prizes have been for his prose. In 2005 his story “The Heart of Summer” (“one of those that got censored!”) won third prize at the annual literary contest of the Philippine Free Press. Two years earlier, his essay “The House of Spirits” had won second. Why the shift? “Prose pays,” he says, “poetry . . . perishes.”

When he is not being facetious, he tells me that he has a new collection of poems awaiting publication. “Runes of Memory,” he calls it. He is also preparing a collection of fiction (to be called “Wings of Desire and Other Stories”) and a novel in progress tentatively entitled “A Lighted Matchstick.”

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In hindsight, Remoto comes full circle with this award. In the early 1990s, a story of his was published in the magazine. Nick Joaquin was then the literary editor. (When “Wings of Desire” was published, the late Adrian Cristobal, who also solicited the story from him, was the literary edi-
tor.) Joaquin sent him a note: “This is an excellent short story. You will fly, boy.” A decade and a half later, Remoto wins an award named after the late great National Artist. There is something in that of the closure that the best short stories have and which English teachers love to point out.

“I should frame that note,” he says, more to himself than to me. And on that note sounds the school bell, which sends Remoto off to another class.

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“Wings of Desire” was published in the Philippine Graphic, 26 November 2007, 40-42.

Jonathan O. Chua

A Fulbright Award for DISCS’ Rodrigo

Ms. Mercedes T. Rodrigo, Associate Professor with the Department of Information Systems and Computer Science (DISCS), has received a grant under the Fulbright Scholar Program 2008-2009 Advanced Research and University Lecturing Awards. The grant will allow Dr. Rodrigo to undertake a five-month research visit to Carnegie Mellon University where she has established a research collaboration with Dr. Ryan Baker. Dr. Rodrigo will pursue research in the area of affective computing, which seeks to understand the computer learning environment which includes human-computer interaction, learning theory, and computer-aided instruction.
Nebres and Lee-Chua among 50 Men and Women of Science

Creating a bridge of understanding

Ambeth Ocampo receives the Ordre des arts et des lettres from the Republic of France

Ambeth Ocampo, assistant professor at the Department of History, has something in common with Ella Fitzgerald, Kylie Minogue, and Diana Ross: the Ordre des arts et des lettres. Mr. Ocampo was given the rank officer last 26 July 2008 in a ceremony held at the Alliance Française in Makati. He received a medal—an eight-point, green-enamedled asterisk, in gilt—with the “letters A and L on a white enameled background, surround- ed by a golden ring emblazoned with the phrase République Française” on the obverse side—from the French Ambassador to the Philippines.

The Ordre des Artes et des Lettres is given by the French Minister of Culture and Communication to “persons who have distinguished themselves in the arts and literature or the propagation of these fields in France and worldwide.” What has Mr. Ocampo done in this regard? He is cited by the French Minister of Culture and Culture for his work as writer, teacher, and cultural admini- strator. “I have been researching on our heroes in Paris—José Rizal, Juan Luna, Félix Resurrection Hidalgo—thus using the past to create a bridge of understanding between our countries (France and the Philippines)—a fact which he emphasizes in his acceptance speech. “They were in Paris in 1899, the centenary of the French Revolution, and no doubt the ideas of freedom, the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity rubbed off on them and in- fluenced people who never left home. . . . My work . . . illustrates how the past can find a connection with the present, or how our heroes in the past by visiting France established bridges of friendship that pre-date the establishment of formal diplomatic rela- tions between the Philippines and France. . . .

The 60th anniversary of the establishment of such relations was the occasion for a symposium held at the Ateneo de Manila last year, which, as chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Mr. Ocampo supported. He was one of the speakers, and he is now editing the collection of papers presented at the symposium.

Mr. Ocampo is no stranger to awards. How does he regard this latest one? “I am honored of course, and while I do not show it, I do take a con- ceited delight in these honors. It is always good to

Amberly C. Queena N. Lee-Chua (Outstanding Science Communicator). In this millennium, science literacy is paramount to remain competitive in the global arena. All channels of creative and interest- ing science communication need to be harnessed for Filipinos to achieve technological understand- ing and appreciation.”

Lee-Chua, in her own words, best describes her passion to share and spread the value of un- derstanding science both inside and outside the lecture hall. Numerous books, articles, lectures, columns, and other communication tools in her name mirror a vastly creative and disciplined per- sona. She has written science and math books, a newspaper column, and teaches both subjects to students, parents, media, and practically everybody else. But she remains consistent in her goal to make science and math learning “fun” through “simpler, more understandable language.” She brings the “fun” to print, radio, TV, online, and interpersonal audiences.

Among her numerous awards are The Outstanding Women in the Nation’s Service (2001), Outstanding Young Scientist (National Academy of Science and Technology, 2002), First Multiple Intelligence Award (Dr. Howard Gardner, Multiple Intelligence International School Foundation, Inc., 2005), Outstanding Teacher Award (Metrobank Foundation, 2003), National Book Award for Science (2003), Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards to Literature (1st place, English Essay, 2001), Science and Technology Journalism Awards (Philippine Press Institute-Philippine Geothermal Inc, 1992), and Best Science and Technology Columnist (DOST, special citation, 2003).

The 50 Men and Women of Science exhibit, showing photographs of all the awardees, may be viewed at the UP Theatre in Diliman through September 2008.

BELOW LEFT Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ
BELOW Queena N. Lee-Chua
Ms. Concepcion L. Rosales, chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Mrs. Evelyn C. Soriano, coordinator for international programs on the School of Humanities and School of Social Sciences, were among the teachers honored at the “Homenaje al Maestro,” a tribute to teachers, by the Instituto Cervantes de Manila and the Academia Filipina de la Lengua Española last 19 June 2008.

The certificate presented them commends them for “the invaluable work [each has] rendered carrier of the great interest as teacher and Hispanic committed to the spread of the Spanish language and culture” (la inestimable labor prestada en su fructuosa carrera de docente e hispanista comprometido en la difusión de la lengua y cultura española).

Ms. Rosales credits her mother, Patrocino, as her first Spanish teacher. Her father, Jose, sent her to Letran every summer to study Spanish. This was to offset what he thought was the barbarizing influence of English, Maryknoll, which she was attending, being a school run by American nuns. She later went to the Universidad Central de Madrid for an M. A. in Literature.

It was also owing to her mother that Mrs. Soriano became a hispanista. Principal of a high school in Naga City, Mrs. Soriano wanted her to be a teacher. Initially uninterested in Spanish (St. Therese’s, run by Belgian nuns, had not set her heart for things Spanish), she grew to love Spain when her parents sent her there to take a general course in Spanish culture (estudios Hispanicos).

The king of Spain was said to talk to God in Spanish (for English, he supposedly declared, was for dogs, and German for horses). One can only imagine what divine intercourse Ms. Rosales and Mrs. Soriano must have had with God in the last forty years. Jonathan G. Ochiao

Ateneo social enterprise wows international community

Competing with other graduate-student entrepreneur teams from Yale, Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Duke and Carnegie Mellon, Ateneo de Manila University held its own by winning the Social Enterprise Award at the 6th Annual University of San Francisco (USF) International Business Plan Competition held on April 24–26, 2008 at the Hotel Kabuki in San Francisco, California.

The Ateneo-affiliated team, Rags2Riches, tied with Immersive Technologies, a team affiliated with the universities of Purdue, Indiana, and Fort Wayne. Carnegie Mellon won over-all. Rags2Riches is composed of students, alumni and professors of Ateneo, as well as some alumni of De La Salle University.

Rags2Riches was one of 22 finalists, and the only Filipino team, selected for the competition which recognized “new business ventures that are commercializing sophisticated life science, information, and clean technologies, as well as several social enterprises.” Its entry, 4P (People, Planet, Profit and Positive influence), provides sustainable profit and positive influence.

“We humbly share this honor with the entire Ateneo community as Ateneo and the country was officially recognized throughout the event. Although we had a great chance with the elevator pitch and the trade show (two other categories in the three-day competition), we were exempted as we were put into the social enterprise track. But I respect the contest director’s plans,” said Rags2Riches’ Bro. Javier Alpasa, SJ, who spent time talking to potential partners for their project. More than 60 Silicon Valley venture capitalists, executives and attorneys served as judges for the contest.

According to the Rags2Riches Website (4ph/2r), this enterprise combines the rug-making skills of the Payatas women and the lauded designing skills of fashion maven Rajo Laurel. Through craftsmanship and imagination, the humble rug is elevated to well-designed, durable, and functional objects such as tote bags, yoga mat holders, laptop sleeves, wine holders, and pouches.

In August 2007, a team from the Ateneo High School won the Arthur Boschee and Evelyn Ball International Award for Social Enterprise at the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) World Cup in Ukraine. The team’s winning enterprise, called Truly Authentic Re-used Posters, or “TARP Inc,” recycles tarpaulin posters into trendy bags.

Two Loyola Schools faculty receive NAST awards

Dr. Edel Beja Jr. of the Department of Economics, School of Social Sciences, is this year’s recipient of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Most Outstanding Young Scientist in Economics awarded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Dr. Beja holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is also the deputy director of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development.

Meanwhile, Dr. Raphael A. Guerrero, assistant professor in the Department of Physics, School of Science and Engineering, won NAST’s 2008 Talent Search for Young Scientists in the field of Physics.

Raphael A. Guerrero

His paper on volume holographic storage, which introduces bigger data storage for comput ers and a new way of producing images, was selected over the work of two other scientists from UST and UPLB. The presentations were done before a panel of judges in April.

Dr. Guerrero also won the Outstanding Scholarly Work Awards for Science and Engineering in 2006. He is an active researcher in the area of photonicns, www.ateneo.edu
A central theme of her message was leadership formation for nation building. The leaders we want to form, she said, have “an agenda of hope for the country in whatever sphere they move in—environment, family/youth, government, professions, faith, Filipino identity and culture.” This is what makes Ateneo de Manila what it is—a culture and community that affirms excellence and service, love for Christ, and companionship—a place where we nurture future leaders of the nation carrying all the qualities that we envisioned and trained them to be. Thus, she identified the main thrusts of schoolyear 2008-2009 as: 1) Leadership—to achieve the core mission of forming persons for others; 2) Quality Assurance—to keep us on the right track; and 3) Environmental Management—to right our relationship with Creation.

For leadership, she zeroed in on the four elements of heroic leadership: 1) self-awareness (leading to an understanding of one’s strengths, weaknesses, values and worldview); 2) ingenuity (taking one’s gifts and using them to confidently innovate and adapt to embrace a changing world); 3) love (engaging others with a positive, loving attitude); and 4) heroism (using heroic ambitions, in a sense the magic, to energize the self and others to dream, to love, to serve beyond limits). Beyond heroism, she also emphasized the need to consciously bring into leadership the element of spirituality.

On Quality Assurance (QA), she acknowledged that the University’s understanding of quality has evolved through the years and gave a detailed account of QA procedures and definitions from experts in the field. She explained that performing QA is a way of assuring us that our students are actually learning, telling us where we are, helping us reach our goals, and maximizing our limited resources. It encourages us to document our decades-old practices so that the next generations will know what we are all about. It is a way of making sure that we are in touch with the changing world and that we can truly have an impact on the people and communities we touch. Among the steps she outlined are: systematization of existing processes and procedures; characterization of the ideal Atenean graduate; and monitoring and improving curricula.

With regard to environmental management, Dr. Cuyegkeng challenged the community to develop among Ateneans a constant concern for the environment. Concretizing this thrust are various programs implemented by both students, faculty, and staff which have recently been institutionalized by the formation of the Ateneo Environmental Management Coalition (AEMC) with Mrs. Lourdes C. Sumpaico appointed as part-time Coordinator. AEMC’s four main divisions are: Research and Analysis, Waste Audit, Advocacy, and Logistics and Implementation.
The following narrative was shared by Marco Antonio “Marx” V. Lopez, Assistant Professor at the Filipino Department, School of Humanities. Marx was sent on his second tour as an exchange professor to China’s premier university, Peking University in Beijing. He left for China in January 2008 with his term in Peking University covering the period February to December 2008. With support coming from the Office of the Vice-President of the Loyola Schools (Peking University takes care of his board and lodging on campus), his teaching stint for the year is based at Philippine Studies Program of the Department of Oriental Languages of Peking University. Here is his narrative of life in Beijing as an exchange professor.

The Philippine Studies Program at Peking University

I handle the Filipino Intermediate Language and Philippine literature classes, meeting them every day. I have ten students (but at present just 9 because one of them is an exchange student in Ateneo for a year). In the Philippine Studies Program, students study almost all aspects of Philippine culture—language, literature, history, economy, popular culture, among others. Most of the teachers now are graduates of the program itself. The program invites a native speaker from the Philippines to handle the language and literature classes, usually in the first or second year of the students. Because of an existing Exchange Program between Peking University and the Ateneo de Manila, Ateneo has been sending a teacher to teach in the program since the mid-1990s (Note: the exchange program between the Ateneo and Peking University was first established in 1991). In the past, among the professors sent by the Ateneo to participate in the program were: Mr. Roberto Ortiz, Dr. Florentino Hornedo, Mrs. Nenita Escasa, Ms. Janneth Candor and Mr. Joseph Salazar. I was sent here in 1999 and when given the opportunity, I decided to teach again this year, 2008.

The Philippine Studies Program in Peking University must have started sometime in the 1980’s (originally with professors from the University of the Philippines coming there to teach some courses). It is a program where they allow 10 to 15 students to take Philippine Studies as their major. It is not every year that they get students to major in it; it is only open every four years. A student taken in the program cannot shift to other programs in the university; he or she graduates as a Philippine Studies major. It is the only program of its kind in China. Out of the 1.4 billion Chinese, 10 to 15 students every four years major in Philippine Studies. Personally, I believe it is worth supporting. Many of the graduates of the program work in institutions that deal with the Philippines. Two of my former students in 1999 are now professors of the program and two are working in the Philippine section of the China Radio International. One of the two teachers—this is Shi Yang or “Ato”, his Filipino name—is studying the oral literature of the Mangyans in Mindoro, for which study he was given a grant to finish his doctoral studies at Harvard next year. Wu Jie Wei, or “Jack” as his Filipino friends call him, one of the early graduates of the program, is now the Vice Dean of the Oriental Languages Department (Note: Jack belonged to the first batch of students taught by the Ateneo professors when they first came in the mid-1990s).

China then and now: changes observed 1999 and 2008

There appear to be have been many changes here since my first visit to Beijing in 1999. China now definitely seems more open to the world and around the campus selling cheap products and pirated DVDs. These stores are now gone. Near the campus is an empire of above- and underground malls that can rival our malls in the Philippines. With Peking University hosting the table tennis events of the Olympics, the campus itself looks as the Olympics spruced it up. There is still only one English channel—CCTV 9—run by the government, but I often hear critical comments of the government, which seemed unheard of before. I really believe the Olympics this year is their debut to the global world. I think we will see and hear a lot more of China from here on.

Social life and leisure in Beijing

I always think that a stint in China is comparable to a retreat. Life in the Philippines can be noisy—literally and figuratively—at times. My life on campus here can be the other extreme: after my classes in the morning, I go back to my room on the fifth floor which can be very silent save for the usual hum of a city with heavy traffic. Traffic here, by the way, is infinitely heavier now compared 1999. There are more cars everywhere, displacing the iconic Beijing bicycle. It is more dangerous here to cross an avenue than in Manila because of many bicycles, including my electric bicycle. We don’t have the latter in Manila but it is their counterpart of our motorcycles which is banned here. Cars and pedestrians, it seems, don’t follow traffic signs.

For a non-Mandarin speaking person in Beijing, life can be restricted. It is difficult to have friends. I cannot even converse with the cleaning lady who sees me everyday. We manage to communicate with gestures and the occasional ni hai. People tend to avoid you if you speak in English. I rely mostly on cultural codes to be able to survive here. I should have studied Mandarin, but even for me, it is not easy. We have no central government, but I often hear critical comments of the government, which seemed unheard of before. I really believe the Olympics this year is their debut to the global world. I think we will see and hear a lot more of China from here on.

Of the 1.4 billion Chinese, 10 to 15 students every four years major in Philippine Studies. Many of the graduates of the program work in institutions that deal with the Philippines. Two of my former students are now professors of the program, one of whom is studying the oral literature of the Mangyans in Mindoro.
As we reluctantly packed our bags on our last day in Zhuhai, we were grumpily exchanged comment like “Why did it go so fast?” and “I wish that we could still extend.” One even suggested in jest “na lang tapos dire térabi, Chinese na man na e.” It was difficult seeing the best six weeks of our lives coming to an end. Even after our air-plane had landed in Manila, we clutched our seats, feeling apprehending to prolong the wonderful and unforgettable journey of our lives.

The journey began a few months ago when our Chinese teacher, Clark Alejandrino, told us about a six-week summer exchange program which would allow us to take a glimpse at Mandarin courses in Sun-yat-sen University, China. Initially, my plan had been to participate in the Junior Term Abroad (JTA) of the Ateneo. The more I heard about the Chinese exchange program however, the more I interest grew. Finally, I made my decision, submitted my letter of intent to the Chinese Studies Program, and hoped for the best.

The weeks that followed were a blur. Before I knew it, the day of our departure and I was getting ready to board the flight to Guangzhou with fifteen other Ateneans. Little did I know that the lost, excited faces I saw at the airport that night would turn out to be some of the most wonderful friends I’d ever have. That night, we left Manila with heavy bags and fluttery hearts.

We arrived at the Zhuhai Campus of Zhongshan Daxue (Chinese name of Sun-yat-sen University) past midnight after a two-hour bus ride from Guangzhou. I was very hungry then, but the moment I set eyes on the magnificent campus, I forgot all about food. Alighting from the bus, we were greeted by the cool Zhuhai breeze that made our six-week stay so pleasant. When we reached our dormitory, I was even more elated. Our room had two comfortable beds, an air-conditioner, a water dispenser, a study table, and even a television.

As we toured around the following day, we discovered that our campus wasn’t just a college campus but a whole city in itself. There were schools, a gym, a library, constructed like two thirteen-storey halves um. On the farthest corner of the campus was the courts, soccer fields, and even an Olympic stadium in length, making it the longest such build-ings on campus. It was an imposing view as we walked along the tree-lined pavements, entire us were beautiful mountains and majestic lakes. As we visited the Chinese students’ phone shop, and even a karaoke place. All around the campus we discovered ourselves as Filipino students and sang a popular song “Tongnha” like a broken chant. The only consolation was the thunderous applause we received from the crowd. During our last week in Zhuhai, the French exchange students invited us to a dinner that ended with thirty-one bottles of Tsingtao beer and a water fight.

Contented as we were with life inside Zhongshan Daxue, any trip abroad would not be complete without the tours. On weekends, we went on field trips that took us to Zhaoqing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, and Zhongshan. I was so impressed at how developed and fast-paced even the small Chinese cities were. Most of the time, we visited historical monuments, cultural sites, and ancient temples. While our eyes feasted on the breathtaking sceneries of Guangdong province, our mouths gorged on the different varieties of local cui-sine, scorpions included. The tours opened my eyes to the Chinese way of life, making me appreciate China even more.

During our field trips, one activity was always pres-ent—shopping. Our Chinese friends often marveled at how even the Filipino guys loved shopping more than the most extravagant Chinese girls. We would parade the vibrant shopping districts, haggle over everything from hair clips to laptops, and always manage to squeeze good bargains out of the vendors. We had no classes Mondays so we often rode the bus to Gongbei.

Our last night in Zhuhai, our Chinese friends visited us at our dorm. They brought a facess gift to us—a video slideshow woven out of our vain pictures and wacky memories. At the end of the video, they dedicated messages telling us how much we had changed their lives in the span of six weeks. After the video, they told us that life would be very different for them after we left. In that tear-y-eyed moment, we realized too how much the six weeks had changed our lives, and how happy those weeks had become because of our dear friends.

The next day, it was time to leave. After eat-ing our favorite meals at the cafeteria and pack-ing our things, it was time to ride the bus back to Guangzhou airport. Before leaving, I took a final glance at my dear friends, knowing that I might never see those faces again. I looked one last time at the cafeteria building, the cafeteria, the super-market, the basketball courts, the dormitories . . . the places where we left our footprints, the backdrops where we formed our memories. As I
Service-learning as a social involvement initiative in the Loyola Schools

By Chola Torres 

This year, students from various academic disciplines will go outside the confines of their classroom in order to serve the underdeveloped and neglected sectors of society. But they will do it while learning inside the classroom. Sounds impossible? Not with service learning.

Because of the University’s continued commitment towards forming men and women for others who will be at the forefront of nation-building, the Loyola Schools is promoting the concept of service learning as an avenue for fostering faculty and student social involvement. It entails students working with a social development institution (government, non-government organizations, people’s organizations, cooperatives, community centers) through a project which is considered a part of their academic requirements, thus linking social involvement with academic learning. Through this endeavor, both faculty and students can utilize their acquired skills and knowledge in their respective disciplines while rendering service to society, thus becoming professionals for others.

Various faculty members of the Loyola Schools have volunteered to embark on this initiative, with the Office of Social Development, the Loyola Faculty, the Student Government, Mr. Leland Joseph de la Cruz (also the Director of the Development Studies Program) facilitating the encounter between the faculty members and various social development institutions. Service learning, he says, “is an efficient way of getting students and faculty involved in the task of social transformation because the time they use in being involved is the same time they use for fulfilling their academic responsibilities. It isn’t ‘extra’—curricular.”

Several Loyola Schools academic departments will take part in this initiative throughout the School Year 2008-2009, with projects already rolling off this first semester. Students will visit their respective partner institutions to conduct research work and other projects for students. Upon completion, the students will present and turn over the service learning outputs to the partner institutions.

To mention a few of the participating classes, Philippine Business and Economic Environment (LCS 10) students will come up with industry research studies for institutions such as Kabalikat ng Botika Binh Inc. (KBBR) which established 800 village pharmacies selling generic medicines, Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) which markets locally-made food and crafts made by indigenous peoples, and Business Support Organizations Network Association (BSONO Network) which serves as an umbrella organization of the country’s leading manufacturing and exporting industries. On the other hand, students enrolled in the Systems Analysis and Design (MIS 121) will come up with systems and database development projects for the National Confederation of Cooperatives which gives financial intermediation services to its members, as well as the A Theology of a Catholic Social Vision (TH 141) classes conducting various performance and art workshops for the youth of Gawad Kalinga-Angeles.

It should be mentioned however, that this is not the first time that the Loyola Schools has implemented service learning. Through the years, service learning has been continuously implemented through the Praxis Program—a tie-up program between the Economics Department through its Theory and Practice of Social Development (ECS 177) classes and the Theology Department through its A Theology of a Catholic Social Vision (TH 141) classes, with its activities mainly coordinated and facilitated by the Office for Social Concern and Involvement. Aside from the Praxis Program, service-learning type projects have been done before for theses by various departments.

The current initiative seeks to transform even more courses into service-learning courses. This year’s new service learning classes aside from those already set up through the Praxis Program could be considered as a breakthrough in terms of the full potential of academic forms of social involvement in the Loyola Schools. The challenge now is to bring service learning across more academic disciplines.

Those who may have ideas on how to incorporate service learning into more courses may contact Leland Dela Cruz <delacruz@ateneo.edu> or Chola Torres <torres@ateneo.edu> at local 5218. For a complete list of service learning courses being conducted this semester, please visit <www.ateneo.edu> or <ls.ateneo.edu>.

Engaging China

By Elinnda Eileen G. Lodarte 

Emerging world power China is resplendent in its ancient and colorful history that spans over 2000 years. Its vast storehouse of cultural artifacts and antiquities, wide-ranging business opportunities, and enor- mous market potential make it a worthy destination for various schools in China for exchange programs. Initially partnering with schools such as Xiamen University, Fujien University, and Peking University, the Ateneo’s partners today include Hongkong Baptist University (HKBU), Sun Yat Sen University (SYSU), University of Macau, Chong Yuan Christian University (CYCU), and Providence University.

For the first semester of schoolyear 2008-2009, Office of International Programs (OIP), counts 20 visiting Chinese students coming from Sun Yat Sen University (10), University of Macau (6), and Peking University (2). This number accounts for roughly half of the 43 inbound international exchange students, both undergraduate and graduate, for the first semester. The students from University of Macau are here on a special summer semester program, taking two accelerated management courses. The Peking University students, on the other hand, are here for research and seminar programs for a year, while the SYSU students are here to attend regular semesters. A visiting professor from Providence University in Taiwan, Ms. Liu Chia Chi, was on campus from November 2007 to May 2008 as lecturer on the Mandarin language at the Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies.

Summer visits to China

Two student groups from the Ateneo de Manila visited China this summer. The John Kongokwei School of Management (JGSM) group composed of 20 students from the Business Administration and Communication and Technology Program Director, from April 4-30. The SOM group spent 20 days in China, staying a few days in Hongkong with Hongkong Baptist University at their host, with the rest of their visit hosted by the University of International Business Economics (UBE) in Beijing. A typical day during the tour would be lectures by Chinese professors on History, Politics, Economics, Christianity in China, and Business in China in the mornings. Afternoons were spent touring companies or cultural sites. Another group of 24 students from the Chinese Studies Program of the School of Social Sciences, also embarked on a tour of China which is actually a credit-based summer course (see separate story).
A library at a time in

By Anna Cristina L. Rojas  Since February 2007, a project to help the Trinidad V. Canja-Sta. Teresa National High School (TVC-STNHS) in Guimaras establish its own school library has been ongoing. In December 2006, an unplanned visit to the school by this author presented the opportunity to meet and talk with Mrs. Norma Tanaleon, its Principal. At that time, she mentioned that one of her desires, if not needs, was to establish a library in the school for her students.

A month later, Mrs. Lourdes T. David, Director of the Rizal Library at the Ateneo de Manila University, made it possible for a book drive to be conducted through the Rizal Library. A carton box was placed at the front foyer of the Rizal Library, and a few signs were placed on the library’s bulletin boards to announce the book drive and seek book donations. An email campaign was also launched to solicit book donations that can be dropped off at Rizal Library. By the end of February 2007, donated books were enough to fill 60 boxes.

By the end of March 2007, through the help of a group of 15 high school students who collectively referred to us as the “Friends of Rizal Library”, the boxes of books made their way to TVC-STNHS in Guimaras. Mrs. Tanaleon, together with representatives from the Guimaras Provincial Government, welcomed the books with teary eyes and very grateful hearts. Not in their wildest dreams did they also expect to receive so many books for their school!

It was because of this large volume of books that Mrs. Tanaleon then decided to seek funding support from the local government to build a new library. No less than the Governor of Guimaras, Feliciano “Felix” Navarro, together with the mayor, barangay officials, and other community and school leaders worked together to make the new library a reality. Last December 17, 2007, the new Sta. Teresa National High School Library was inaugurated with festivities worthy of such a historic event. After more than 33 years, the school finally had a library to cater to its over 1,300 high school students.

Since late January 2008, a series of conversations with Mrs. David, the Schools District Superintendent of Guimaras, Ms. Mertiem Collado, and the Sangguniang Bayan Representative of Jordan, Guimaras, Hon. Jasmin Lagunday-Gange, would eventually lead to the Training Workshop for School Librarians. The workshop was held last May 12-14, 2008, at the spacious and airy STNHS library, an environment very conducive to learning something new, if not totally groundbreaking. Mrs. Lourdes T. David, assisted by Ms. Agnes Salmon, librarian of the Ateneo de Sta. Maria-Iloilo High School, conducted the workshop.

Over 150 schoolteachers, representing 15 of the 17 high schools of the island, attended the workshop. These teachers would then form the very first batch of librarians-to-be of the high schools. The librarian-training workshop included the following topics: sorting books based on the book’s condition; indexing the books and making different catalogue cards; creating call numbers and accession codes; creating borrowers cards; arranging books on shelves; and processing books from borrowers.

The workshop also included a role-playing exercise that allowed the participants to experience how it was to actually process the books from would-be borrowers. Above all, to provide the context on why libraries are essential to learning, Mrs. David opened the workshop with the topic on how to build and foster a stronger culture of literacy in a school environment!

At the end of the 3-day workshop, it was happily noted that all of the participants enjoyed and found the workshop most productive, significant and fruitful! A number of them even commented that they wished there were more days to the workshop so they could learn more and practice how to process the books.

In response to these comments, Mrs. David suggested to the Department of Education Superintendent that a two- or three-day “post-workshop practicum” be provided for the participants. This practicum period would then allow them to process all the books of the STNHS Library and allow them to have a fully operational school library by the time the school year opened in June. Similarly, this batch of new librarians could then help each other out, in a “tayanghan spirit way,” as each new school library is established in the succeeding months.

Looking ahead, it has been noted that there are still many opportunities to further develop, not only in the TVC-STNHS library, but other public school libraries as well. Although the other schools still need more book donations in order to be able to establish their own libraries, it is also hoped that the schools on the island can eventually develop their own fully computerized libraries. The STNHS Library may therefore serve as a benchmark for other school libraries from heron. Nonetheless, more assistance and support will still be needed to develop this library into a modern, if not world-class, public school library.

Ateneo receives European Commission funding for grid computing project

By Rafael Saldaña  The School of Science and Engineering is now part of a European Commission-funded project on grid computing. Called “EUAAsiaGrid - Towards a Common e-Science Infrastructure for the European and Asian Grids,” the project is an international research collaboration involving 15 institutions from Europe, Asia, and Australia.

The project’s main goal is to pave the way towards an Asian e-Science Grid Infrastructure, in synergy with the other European Grid initiatives in Asia, namely EGEE-II via its Asia Federation, and both the EU-ChinaGRID and EU-IndiaGRID projects, and their eventual follow-on efforts.

Aside from Ateneo de Manila University, the project consortia includes the following institutions: Instituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (Italy), CESNET, z.s.p.p. (Czech Republic), University of Manchester (United Kingdom), HEALTHGRID (France), Australian National University (Australia), Academia Sinica (Taiwan), Advanced Science and Technology Institute (Philippines), Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (Thailand), Infocomm Development Authority (Singapore), Ho Chi Minh City Institute of Information Technology (Vietnam), Institute of Technology of Bandung (Indonesia), National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (Thailand), Universiti Putra Malaysia (Malaysia), MIMOS Berhard (Malaysia), and Computer Technology Center (Malaysia), MIMOS Berhad (Malaysia).

The project leader for Ateneo de Manila University is Dr. Rafael Saldaña, Associate Professor in the Mathematics Department. For more information about the EUAsiaGrid project, visit the website <www.euaasiagrid.org> or contact Dr. Saldaña at rsaldana@ateneo.edu.

Health Sciences Programs turn over RFID system to Tropical Disease Foundation

By Camille T. Onglao  The Health Sciences Program turned over a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-based Drug Inventory System to the Tropical Disease Foundation, Inc. (TDFI), in a simple turn-over ceremony held at the Foundation’s Memorial Medical Center, Project 4, last June 16, 2008.

The ceremony marked the culmination of the collaboration between the HSc program and TDFI. The project was funded by a grant from the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD), an organization whose mission is to prevent and control tuberculosis and lung disease, particularly in low income countries.

This collaboration was initiated by Dr. John Q. Wong of the HSc Program, and involved the HSc students who undertook this part of the HSc thesis program which aims to engage students in health issues and the health system.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Wong, the HSc students worked together on a cost-effective drug inventory system for the Philippine public health system. The RFID system that they designed was then presented to TDFI as a proposal to improve the drug inventory management system of the DOH.

Dr. Wong formed two teams of HSc students who conducted the cost-benefit analysis and piloted the implementation over two years. Their group sought the technical collaboration of the Department of Electronics and Communications Engineering and the UP Electronics and Electrical Engineering Department.

Through the hard work of its researchers, which included Hannah Paula V. Doromal and Muriel Tania L. Go, won third place in the DOH-sponsored 8th Health Research for Action National Forum in 2007. A second group, made up of Camille T. Onglao, Ma. Carissa Abigail R. Roxas, and Carlo Emmanuel L. Yao, completed the project earlier this year.

Representatives of DOH and TDFI witnessed the turnover ceremony. Dr. Thelma Tupasi, President of TDFI received the finished project from Dr. Norman Dennis E. Marquez, Director of the HSc Program. Dr. Wong and Mr. Tai. After an audio-visual presentation of the project, the students demonstrated how the RFID system works by doing an actual partial inventory of the warehouse.

The project leader for Ateneo de Manila University is Dr. Rafael Saldaña, Associate Professor in the Mathematics Department. For more information about the EUAsiaGrid project, visit the website <www.euaasiagrid.org> or contact Dr. Saldaña at rsaldana@ateneo.edu.
Daniel McNamara SJ Endowment Fund launched

Fr. Daniel J. McNamara, SJ has always kept classes (and graduating classes) riveted, not only with his booming voice, but more significantly with stories that highlight his ideas, demonstrations that dramatize concepts, and insights that invite reflection. He explains difficult concepts in physics with clarity. He marries the ideas of physics with those of philosophy and theology.

Fr. Dan’s exemplary qualities go beyond the classroom. Through his many years as College Chaplain, he has guided many students and faculty members with his patient listening, wise words, and sincere generosity of heart, whether it was a problem of physics or of health.

Fr. Dan forms students and faculty in many different ways: by developing their competencies, helping them to find themselves, and by being a true example of a person whose life is fully dedicated to God.

During a simple celebration held on June 23, 2008 to mark Fr. Dan’s 69th birthday and his 50th year as a Jesuit, and to wish him well on his new assignment at the Ateneo de Davao, colleagues, friends, and fans came together to launch the Daniel McNamara SJ Endowment Fund.

Held at the Escaler Hall of the Science Education Center in the Loyola Heights campus, the celebration began with a mass, which was followed by a tribute led by Fr. Dan’s colleagues from the School of Science and Engineering and the Manila Observatory. The launch of the endowment fund capped the short program.

The endowment fund was conceptualized by the Loyola Schools as a lasting, practical way of honoring Fr. Dan. The fund will support the college studies of a Physics student from the province with a target amount of Php 2.5 million to be raised by June 2009 in order to have a self-sustaining resource. On the day of the launch, 5 pesos million was raised, an encouraging start indeed, to help Fr. Dan continue his legacy of scholarship and service.

Those who wish to pledge or contribute to the Daniel J. McNamara Endowment Fund may contact Ms. Jolly Manota of the Office of Admission and Aid at 4266001 local 5158 or <jmonata@ateneo.edu>.

.faculty update

The Department of Information Systems and Computer Science welcomes Dr. Kardi Teknomo. Dr. Teknomo’s research focuses on modeling and simulation of human behavior related to urban infrastructure and built environments. His research includes modeling and simulating sys- tems, intelligence agent models, cellular automata, data mining and multi-criteria decision making techniques. Dr. Teknomo has more than 12 years of international experience in lecturing, research, and consultation in Indonesia, Japan, and Austria. Prior to this, he worked as Hertha Firnberg senior researcher at Human Centered Mobility Technologies in Arsenal Research, Austria and lecturer and senior researcher at the Institute of Lowland Technology, Sagan. Dr. Teknomo has also founded the traffic and transportation planning laboratory, and served as the director of the research center at Petra Christian University, Indonesia. Dr. Teknomo received his PhD from the National Institute of Information Sciences Tohoku University, Japan, a Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, and Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) from Petra Christian University in his native Indonesia. He has more than 50 international publications in refereed journals, conferences and books.

The Biology Department welcomes back Dr. Vernie G. Sagun. Vernie started part-time in 1998. Upon completion of his MS degree in Biodiversity and Natural Products from Universiteit Leiden in the Netherlands in 2002, he returned to the Ateneo briefly then left for the United States to pursue his PhD in Plant Biology at the University of California at Urbana Champaign. His area of specialization is Plant Systematics which deals with the identification, classification, nomenclature, and evolution of groups of plants. In his dissertation, he studied the pollen morphology and ultrastructure of Acalypha, molecular phylogenetics of Malesian Acalypha, using DNA sequences from Dr. Vernie G. Sagun. Dr. Vernie G. Sagun has been recognized for his “Seminal and continuing contributions to the modeling of the atmospheric boundary layer and sea breezes” by the American Meteorological Society at the 7th Conference on Coastal Atmospheric and Oceanic Prediction and Processes and the 7th Symposium on Urban Climate held last September 2007 in San Diego, California. His professional experience over many decades has seen him serve as Adjunct Professor at the Ateneo, and most recently as a member of the Ateneo’s faculty of the School of the Environment and Science (LESB) as Professor of Microbial Communication, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany. Dr. Gis is a recipient of a PhD scholarship under the German Excellence Initiative (DFG). Jena University boasts of a illustrious tradition of excellence as exemplified by Ernst Hackel (evolutionary theorist), Gottlob Frege (mathematician and logician), Otto Binswanger (psychiatrist), and Rudolf Eucken (philosopher). Dr. Kardi Teknomo A. Estoque is a locally and internationally renowned figure in the field of the Atmospheric Sciences. Most recently, he was recognized for his “Seminal and continuing contributions to the modeling of the atmospheric boundary layer and sea breezes” by the American Meteorological Society at the 7th Conference on Coastal Atmospheric and Oceanic Prediction and Processes and the 7th Symposium on Urban Climate held last September 2007 in San Diego, California. His professional experience over many decades has seen him serve as Adjunct Professor at the Ateneo, and most recently as a member of the Ateneo’s faculty of the School of the Environment and Science (LESB) as Professor of Microbial Communication, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany. Dr. Gis is a recipient of a PhD scholarship under the German Excellence Initiative (DFG). Jena University boasts of a illustrious tradition of excellence as exemplified by Ernst Hackel (evolutionary theorist), Gottlob Frege (mathematician and logician), Otto Binswanger (psychiatrist), and Rudolf Eucken (philosopher).
Go blue!
The University Cheer Rally
Feathered with prayers and ready to flock in the company of mentors and friends, the Eagles soar once more.

By Jason Inocencio

There is no doubt that after years of relative mediocrity, the Ateneo is once again seen as a powerhouse in the University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP). Part of that success can be attributed to the contributions of Mr. Richard “Ricky” Palou.

A true-blue Atenean from grade school through college, Palou has firsthand experience in the glory of competing for the Blue and White. “In 1966, we won the NCAA Juniors title in basketball,” he proudly states. “We swept that season.” Three years later, he was on the Nilo Verona-coached Blue Eagle squad that won the basketball tournament in the NCAA Seniors division. “Francis Arnaiz, Chito Afable, Matte Samson, and Joy Cleofas were some of my teammates back then,” he recalls. As if the success in basketball wasn’t enough, Palou also won gold in track and field events like the high hurdles.

In his current position as Ateneo’s Director for University Athletics, Palou oversees the continued development of the university’s various sports. Although most only see the success of the Men’s Seniors Basketball team as the measuring stick, he is quick to point out that in 2008, athletes from different teams wearing the Blue and White are set to make waves in their respective disciplines.

“We can do very well in Men’s Basketball, there’s Women’s Swimming, Women’s Tennis, Men’s and Women’s Volleyball, Men’s Track and Field,” he notes. “In baseball, we’ll be a top four contender, and we’ll also be contending in Men’s Judo as well as Women’s Fencing. Ateneo is always strong in Men’s Football, but last year, we did well in Women’s Football too.”

“We’ve gotten good coaches, stepped up our development and training programs, and improved our recruiting,” he declares matter-of-factly. He reiterates that the University Athletics Office prides itself in giving good training to our athletes, particularly by encouraging participation in tournaments both here and abroad. Through this experience and exposure, athletes get used to the pressure and magnitude of big-time competition, something they’ll deal with everyday during the UAAP wars.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Palou mentions that improving certain facilities within the campus are the next steps in this ongoing process. “We’re looking at establishing a Track and Field oval where our football field is, as well as improving the football field itself,” he remarks. Although the Ateneo Football Field is used in various tournaments, Ricky notes that it is still below international standards. The same can be said for our baseball and softball facilities.

For recent visitors to the Loyola Heights campus, passing near the Communications Department will eventually lead one to the Loyola Schools Swimming Pool. Built with the help of Ateneo alumnus Mr. Cecilio K. Pedro, the LS Swimming Pool joins the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center as shining examples of the renewed thrust in Ateneo Athletics. By establishing better training facilities and venues, it has thus been easier to recruit both coaches and athletes to come and compete for the Ateneo. “It’s been good for the school because it proves that we aren’t just good academically, but athletically as well,” Palou says in response to a common bias against Ateneans.

Before our interview ended, Mr. Palou mentioned that when he first took over as Director of University Athletics, people congratulated him on the marked improvement of athletes in different Ateneo teams. However, he deflects that praise. “Credit should be given to Fr. Ben Nebres, who has been so supportive of our Athletics Program. I don’t think we could have accomplished any of this without Fr. Ben.” Still, it doesn’t hurt that a man familiar with Ateneo’s athletic past has become the capable caretaker of the school’s present and future.

Richard “Ricky” Palou of the University Athletics Office

Photos by CK Chua, Ateneo Sports Shooters

Text by Migoy Lizada
the "W"

By Rick Olivares

Getting the W

all, the top class of collegiate basketball for the better of two decades now. The Ateneo Blue Eagles, once atop that rare air for champions are now local basketball's equivalent of the New York Yankees. They get the blue chip recruits but win the championship is once every decade.

There's the rub, but you know that the boys in blue aim to give that old college try.

And how.

Since 2001, the Ateneo Blue Eagles have reversed more than a decade of losing and mediocrity. If the Archers had their number previously, the Eagles, since the new millennium, have posted a winning record against their arch-rivals. If Ateneo once fell to the dreaded press, they were now taking it to La Salle. Buoyed by the 2002 title, they have been spurred by confidence and sharpened any myths of their foe's alleged invincibility.

The two weeks between the Nike Summer League title and the first game of the UAAP season saw a marked improvement in team chemistry. As it has been postulated elsewhere, if they won a tournament without firing up all cylinders then how much more when chemistry becomes more than a subject in school.

The south gate of the Araneta Coliseum is the private entrance of players, coaches, team officials, and members of the media. Three hours before the 4pm tip-off, the line at the gate was so long that one could have sworn that they were lining up for precious game tickets. There were approximately nine people ahead of Eric Salamat and team chaplain Fr. Nemesio Que, SJ and it seemed to take forever for them to be granted entrance. Salamat remained calm and when asked by a well-wisher if the Blue Eagles were ready for the big game, he nodded and succinctly said, "We're focused."

Norman Black stood outside his team's dugout answering a few questions from sports scribes hoping to get the skinny on Ateneo's game plan, their readiness, and the heralded rookies. He politely refused any interviews with his players and said he wasn't worried his wards be to focused on the game at hand.

Focus. In the meantime, the four rookies—

Ryan Buenafe, Nico Salva, Justin Chua, and Vince Burke—were each battling nervousness of bass drums. "I've got butterflies in my stomach," confessed Burke, gulping.

There's the rub, but you know that the boys in blue to deaf ears. "Let the boys play," yelled a special courtside spectator in control it with their whistles too much. "Let the boys play," yelled a special courtside spectator in blue to deaf ears.

There were four huge ovations that day. The first one was for Manny Pacquiao who slipped in and admitted to rooting for Ateneo. The second was for visiting NBA star Gilbert Arenas who also paid a visit to both teams' locker rooms prior to their taking the court. And the third was during the introduction of Blue Eagle captain Chris Tiu.

Tiu has been the focal point of the team's offense since last campaign and the budding celebrity heartthrob has delivered mightily in the clutch. Not since LA Tenorio was in his dress blues has the Hail Mary Squad had a player who could knock down buzzer-beating game winners.

He started out the game with two free throws and ended them with the same. He scored a game high 26 points in addition to hauling down 7 rebounds and dishing off 2 assists. With Ateneo's big men in foul trouble, he held the Archers at bay by going 17-19 at the stripe and hitting three knock down buzzer-beating game winners.

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Now you have to deal with it."

Why not? Championships are nice but there's this analogy about how making it in New York means that you can make it anywhere. Vince Burke, old blue eyes himself, agreed and said, "They say if you can handle the pressure of a game against La Salle, that means you can handle anybody."

Cut to the game. Only the referees pretty much dictated the action by whistling for fouls like they were going out of style. A totals of 64 fouls were eventually called (including three technicals) for a collective 16 fouls by both teams per quarter. It's actually a wonder that John Navales didn't find the lone casualty due to five fouls. It's an even bigger absurdity when you think that Ateneo was awarded two free throws even before the jump ball was made and they were going to wear their proper IDs. And of comedic proportions when in an unfortunate episode that evening things out, Coach Black was whisked for a tech- nical for alleged vociferous complaining between the end of the third quarter and the start of the fourth quarter. The truth is, he was calling out rather animatedly to Buenafe for not being in the right place to deny an inbounds pass.

Incidentally, all three referees who worked the much-ballyhooed return bout have all been suspended for a game for failing to control the match. That's actually funny because they did