**Ateneo boosts performance in ’15 Bar exams**

**Arceo, Anderson, Tiu bag top spots**

By MARIA PATRICIA R. CERVANTES-POCO

“We ARE back on track,” Ateneo Law School Dean Sedfrey Candelaria declared, as he announced Ateneo Law’s 80% overall passing rate in the 2015 Bar examinations. The passing rates for first-time takers and re-takers from the ALS are 83% and 74%, respectively. A total number of 240 took the Bar exam in 2015, the largest batch in ALS history. Reginald Arceo led the new batch of Atenean lawyers, placing fourth overall, with a score of 86.70%. Joining him in the top ten are Mandy Therese Anderson at fifth (86.15%) and Jericho Tiu at eighth (85.85%).

The ALS community enjoyed a celebratory mood the afternoon of May 3, 2016, when the Bar exam results were released by the Supreme Court. It can be recalled that the passing rate of the previous batch of Bar examinees dipped towards the 60% rung. Dean Candelaria credited the marked improvement of the ALS’ Bar performance to the “unprecedented show of support from all sectors of the law and alumni community.”

The Bar Review Committee, chaired by Associate Dean Lily Gruba, immediately responded to the challenge of launching back the school’s passing rate by enlisting more ALS professors to guide the student volunteers of the Central Bar Operations in the preparation of review materials. The Committee also devised new methods to ensure the holistic preparation of the Bar examinees. One such method was the “mock Bar exams” held the whole month of September 2015, which simulated not only possible exam questions, but the entire test taking environment, in an effort to ward off jitters associated with not knowing what to expect from the Bar. Special lectures and one-on-one or small group mentoring sessions were made available for Ateneans re-taking the Bar. All

“In our last issue of AMICUS, we bannnered the front page teaser, “The 2015 Bar Operations- Unprecedented.” It was our way of recognizing the Ateneo Law School community’s demonstration of cura personalis for our 2015 Bar examinees. After keeping vigil over the last five months, the fruits of over a year’s efforts of the ALS community, spearheaded by Associate Dean Lily K. Gruba, the law faculty and the Bar Operations team, are now being reaped. An unprecedented turnaround in this year’s Bar results showed Ateneo hiking more than 20 percentage points from last year’s shocking results. The national passing average also improved from 18.82% in 2014 to 26% in 2015. Out of 155 first-takers, 128

**‘Walking a Tight Rope’**

By SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA

**Dean’s Corner**
passed (82.58%). Meanwhile, 63 of the 85 second and third-takers made it this time (74.12%). ALS averaged approximately 80% over-all. Three Ateneans made it to the 4th, 5th and 8th places: Reginald M. Arceo, Mandy Therese M. Anderson, and Jericho R. Tiu.

The 2015 Bar examinations reverted to the all-essay type of questions, finally settling a four-year experimentation on the format of the examinations. It is also highly remarkable that the leading law schools all recovered from the unusual bar results in 2014.

Our task at the ALS is just entering a new phase as we walk a tightrope in the next years in our roll-out of the Enhanced J.D. Curriculum, which features incoming Juniors’ tracking into three areas of specialization: Corporate and Business Law, Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution, and International Law and Development.

The next three years will be an acid test for the ALS faculty as we aim for normalcy in bar performance but at the same time open new frontiers in legal education to make our graduates more in sync with a fast evolving global law practice. On this note, I am pleased to share recent developments in pursuit of our expanding mandate on internationalization and faculty development.

Two prospects for student and faculty exchange are now being explored with some universities in the Asia-Pacific rim, particularly Australia (La Trobe University, Australia Catholic University, and Deakin University) and New Zealand (University of Canterbury and University of Otago). University officials from Australia and a New Zealand Sister Schools educators’ team visited the Loyola main campus for initial discussions on university linkages.

From the other side of the globe, Professor Jose Manuel de Torres Perea, a representative from the University of Malaga, flew in to hammer out preparations for the coming “International Scientific Congress on Private Law of the Philippines and Spain,” to be hosted by ALS on June 13-15, 2016. This is a first-of-its-kind academic gathering of Spanish law professors and Philippine legal scholars in a rare exchange of thoughts comparing the practice of two civil law jurisdictions.

Our recent visit during the first semester at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law seems to have encouraged applications from the Hawaiian end to our LL.M. program. A graduate student applicant had expressed interest to spend a year of study at ALS.

A Student Exchange Programme 2016 on International Human Rights was recently conducted by the University of Malaya during mid-terms where five ALS students were sent as delegates. This is an off-shoot of our ongoing five-university consortium under Kyushu University’s “Reinventing Japan Project,” which is expiring in another year. Our students were exposed to a multi-cultural academic setting during the exchange program involving other ASEAN law students.

This year’s candidates for our LL.M. degree conferment include two foreign students from Japan (Mr. Masao Dan) and Nepal (Mr. Sabin Rana). The Graduate Legal Studies Institute hopes to receive new foreign applicants whose presence in our campus could encourage more of our students to avail of the JD/LL.M. initiative. With the latest visit of a representative from Coventry University, the double-degree program which started with Kyushu University will hopefully gain more traction in the next few years.

There are inbound and outbound ALS faculty members at the graduate studies front this year. Professors Luz Danielle O. Bolong and Edzyl Josef G. Magante are wrapping-up with their LL.M. program at Harvard Law School. Prof. Ignatius Michael D. Ingles is also expected to be back from Georgetown University. Prof. Jose Arturo C. De Castro and his wife, Atty. Arianne J. De Castro, are now enrolled in the Doctorate Program at Boalt Hall, Berkeley University. Prof. Ma. Rowena L. Soriano is finishing up with her joint LL.M. at Kyushu University and Ateneo Law School this September. Outbound this year are Professors Clarise Anne C. Estorninos (Leiden University), Ronald C. Chua (Georgetown University), Francis Tom Temprosa (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor), Ramon Miguel C. Samson (Columbia University), Maryvn S. Llamas (Emory Law School), Patrick Simon S. Perillo (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva or University of Cambridge) and Jaymie Anne R. Reyes (Kyushu University). Prof. Ronald C. Chua benefitted from the ALS-Georgetown Faculty Grant Initiative giving tuition discount to our faculty.

Locally, there are discussions with Ateneo de Davao’s law faculty for a tailor-fit LL.M. Program in line with our goal of becoming a leading proponent of faculty development among law schools in the country. This is also our way of addressing the requirement of the Legal Education Board, led by a new Chairperson, Dean Emerson Aquende, that law school faculty members must obtain LL.M. degrees.

I must commend the members of GLSI and the various academic departments for their cooperation in ensuring the seamless delivery of reforms in our curriculum and faculty development initiatives.

ALS received some guests from the University of Tokyo on January 30 for the Asian Consortium for Human Rights-Based Approach to Access to Justice (HRB2J-Asia) meeting, an event hosted by the Ateneo Human Rights Center. Professor Yasunobu Sato led a delegation of graduate students from the
University of Tokyo who exchanged views with our JD students on key human rights issues in the region. Atty. Jefferson Plantilla (ALS ’85), who is based in Japan, was also part of the meeting. Jeff is a human rights advocate who started his law practice with an alternative law group in the Philippines after EDSA 1. Jeff and I worked with ALS Professors Carlos P. Medina, Jr. and Roberto A. Gana on sectoral issues and concerns as early as our law school days.

An exploratory research collaboration was the subject of a visit by Prof. Lingling Ye of Kumamoto University last March 21. She shared her current research on the application of the rule of law and the legal systems in East and Southeast Asia with a group of ALS faculty members. She also extended an invitation to do collaborative research on alternative dispute resolution and social security law.

The second semester was capped with a series of activities highlighting a vibrant mix of academic and co-curricular events.

Two Israeli Embassy sponsored lectures on the Middle East conflicts and peace processes were delivered by H.E. Amb. Effie Ben Mattiyau and Deputy Amb. Hadass Nisan, respectively.

The annual Jesuit Legal Education seminar for student leaders and organization heads generated a remarkable ALS community team-building which will go a long way into the plotting of student programs for the next school year in line with the ALS strategic plans. Students appreciated the presence of several faculty members who shared their own law school experiences. Very frank discussions on how to address current law school concerns were responded to by ALS administrators.

I thank the team of Dean Vannie Vallente, Prof. Tanya Lat, and Fr. U Chan-Gonzaga who creatively put together the Ignatian Spirituality sessions with excellent resource persons from Loyola, like Rene San Andres, Bobby Guevarra, and Mhir de los Santos. Professors Maita Chan-Gonzaga, Joey Hofileña, Patricia Cervantes-Poco, Arpee Santiago, and Axel Cruz certainly made their valuable presence felt throughout the seminar.

Allow me to congratulate Dean Vannie Vallente for his University Service Excellence Award this year.

Finally, the ALS community mourns the passing of our esteemed professors of law: Prof. Jose Claro S. Tesoro, Gov. Gabriel C. Singson, and Chief Justice Renato C. Corona. Please keep them in your prayers.

To all faculty members, thank you for another fruitful year!

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Students spill out of their classrooms to join the community in cheering for the ’15 Bar passers

Ateneo boosts performance in ’15 Bar exams

Atenean Bar examinees were likewise sent off with care packages prepared by the ALS community.

Aside from these, preparations for the Bar exam were also considered at a more fundamental level. Departments were convened to look into whether changes needed to be made in the curriculum in order to strengthen the core subjects. Without disrupting its implementation, the Enhanced J.D. Tracking System and the corresponding electives were also assessed to ensure support for and complementarity with the core subjects. This “soul-searching” has led to concrete changes, which include the conversion of electives Special Penal Laws, Taxation Law Review, and Labor Law Review into mandated core subjects, and the increase in number of units and splitting into two distinct courses of Administrative Law, Law on Public Officers, Public Corporations, and Election Laws. With these improvements, and more on the way as the various Departments continue their respective deliberations, ALS can be expected to produce more Bar exam-ready graduates.

The 2015 Bar examinations was chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro. The national passing rate is 26.21%, one of the highest in recent years, with 1,731 of 6,665 examinees meeting the unadjusted passing mark of 75%. Successful takers from the ALS represent roughly one-tenth of all passers nationwide.

ALS community sing “A Song for Mary” in thanksgiving for good Bar performance
Ateneo, Metrobank Foundation cite leadership of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales

By TANYA KARINA A. LAT

The Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) and Metrobank Foundation have awarded the 2016 Metrobank Foundation Professorial Chair for Public Service and Governance to Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales. The professorial chair, which is given to advocates of good governance, recognizes the Ombudsman’s exemplary professionalism and leadership in leading the “war against corruption.”

As Professorial Chairholder, Ombudsman Carpio-Morales delivered a lecture on “Building a Corruption Intolerant Society and Sustaining an Inter-generational National Anti-Corruption Agenda” at the APS Auditorium last February 16, 2016. Dr. Antonette Palma-Angeles, APS Vice-President, delivered the welcome remarks, while Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria introduced the Ombudsman. Dean Antonio G.M. La Vina of the Ateneo School of Government was the master of ceremonies.

In her lecture, Ombudsman Carpio-Morales discussed how the Office of the Ombudsman is strengthening its institutional capacity based on 8 key priorities, including the rationalization of the functions of various bureaus, the filtering of complaints filed with the Office, and assessment of processes of key government agencies in terms of risks and vulnerability to corruption. These interventions have produced promising results: the Office of the Ombudsman resolved a total of 6,707 administrative and criminal cases last year, decreasing the year-end docket by 16% despite a more than 2% increase in new cases filed.

Ombudsman Carpio-Morales also stated the need for new laws to enhance the Ombudsman’s Constitutional powers, functions, and structure. She pointed out that the Supreme Court has clipped the Ombudsman’s powers to look into bank accounts despite the express grant of such power in the Ombudsman Act. She also discussed the need to mobilize the support of all stakeholders for a more coherent and comprehensive anti-corruption program. She said that “the most important, yet most elusive group of stakeholders” “remains to be the general public.” She concluded that “a paradigm shift in people’s perspective is needed” to effect much needed institutional reforms.

In response, Prof. Tanya Lat explored what it would take to make that paradigm shift happen. She pointed out that a corrupt system persists as long as people benefit from it, and thus, it is necessary to examine the underlying assumptions of corruption. She explained that corrupt behavior persists in spite of laws and punishment systems because of certain Filipino cultural traits and values that are inclined towards corruption. She pointed out that the Filipino’s “high power distance index,” “low uncertainty avoidance,” “high tolerance for aggressive questionable behavior,” and collective behavior are powerful cultural drivers that must be addressed by anti-corruption initiatives. A lively open forum ensued afterwards.

Metrobank Foundation President Aniceto Sobrepeña paid tribute to Ombudsman Carpio-Morales’s leadership and “fearless, untrammeled integrity” and affirmed the important role of the private sector as a partner in good governance. He said, “it is simply our responsibility as citizens. We, who benefit from the freedoms afforded by a democratic society, must ensure that our countrymen enjoy similar prosperity and happiness.”

In his closing remarks, Atty. Jaime G. Hofilena, Ateneo Vice-President for Social Development, challenged everyone to do their part to build a corruption-intolerant society.
ALS hosts International Scientific Congress on Private Law

By DEAN SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA

The Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, University of Malaga School of Law, Legal Education Board (LEB) and Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), in cooperation with the Embassy of Spain, will conduct an International Scientific Congress on Private Law of the Philippines and Spain on 13-15 June 2016 at the Justitia Hall, 4th Floor Ateneo Professional Schools Building, No. 20 Rockwell Drive, Makati City.

This academic congress will feature scholarly discourses of selected private law issues to be delivered by Malaga professors and Filipino professors from the Philippine Association of Law Schools.

Expected to grace the occasion are Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno of the Supreme Court of the Philippines; Justice Jose C. Vitug (ret.) of the Supreme Court of the Philippines; Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, President of Ateneo de Manila University; H.E. Luis Antonio Calvo Castaño, Ambassador of Spain to the Philippines; Dean Emerson o. Aquende, Chairperson of the Legal Education Board (LEB); and Dean Ma. Soledad Deriquito-Mawis, President of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS).

The nine-member delegation from the University of Malaga, led by Señor Juan Jose Hinojosa Torralvo, the Dean of University of Malaga School of Law, shall consist of law professors and Filipino professors from the Philippine Association of Law Schools.

The members of the Philippine delegation are as follows:

- Ángel Rodriguez Vergara, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Málaga, Paper: “The Effect of the Spanish Constitution on Spanish Private Law”
- Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell, Associate Professor of Commercial Law at the University Carlos III of Madrid, Paper: “Right of Accession, Ownership of Property and Extension of Security Interests: Concepts, Conflicts and Rules”
- José Manuel de Torres Perea, Associate Professor of Civil Law at the University of Málaga, Paper: “Discrimination in the Private Sphere: A Subjective Right or a Legal Abuse. An American-European Comparative Study”
- Antonio Quesada Sánchez, Senior Lecturer of Civil Law at the University of Málaga, Paper: “A Legal Study of the Work of Vargas Llosa from the Perspective of the Civil Law”
- Eugenio Olmedo Peralta, Senior Lecturer of Commercial Law at the University of Málaga, Paper: “The Regulation of Competition and Innovation in the European Union and Spain: Opportunities for the Philippines and the ASEAN”
- Leticia Fontestad Portales, Senior Lecturer of Procedural Law at the University of Málaga, Paper: “Procedural Aspects Concerning Maritime Law”
- Yolanda de Lucchi López Tapia, Associate Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Málaga, Paper: “History of Civil Law in the Philippines”
- Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino, Dean, Graduate School of Law, San Beda College, Paper: “A Comment on the Implicit Philosophy of the New Civil Code of the Philippines”
- (Ret.) Justice Adolfo S. Azcuna, Chancellor, Philippine Judicial Academy, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Paper: “Constitutional Function of Human Rights Principles within the Context of Private Law in the Philippines”
- Melencio S. Sta. Maria, Dean of the Far Eastern University Institute of Law and Professor of Civil Law, Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, Paper: “Discrimination Against Women and Children Under Family Laws of the Philippines”
- Nilo T. Divina, Dean, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law, Paper: “Civil Remedies to Combat Money Laundering and Transnational Organized Crimes”
- Rowena D. Soriano (LL.M. Candidate), Ateneo de Manila University School of Law and Kyushu University Graduate School of Law, Paper: “A Legal Analysis of the International Anti-Money Laundering Regime: Developing a Regulatory Framework for the Philippine Casino Industry”
- Anthony Abad, Faculty, Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, Paper: “Investing in the Philippines Under the Philippine Competition Act”
- Laisa Masuhud Alamia, Professor of Law at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University College of Law & Western Mindanao State University College of Law, Paper: “Marriage & Property Relations under Sharia'h Law & the Family Code: A Gender Analysis”
- Josefe S. Ty, Dean of the Fr. Saturnino Urios University College of Law, Paper: “Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Ancestral Domains and Lands”

This event, spearheaded by the Ateneo de Manila University Law School and the University of Malaga Faculty of Law, is a follow-through of a similar Scientific Congress organized by the latter and held in Malaga University, Spain on April 2015. This was participated in by some Philippine law Deans and professors.
ALS students spearhead non-partisan monitoring of national elections

By TAKAHIRO KENJIE C. AMAN

Ateneo Law students were at the forefront of non-partisan monitoring efforts during the Philippine presidential elections held on May 9, 2016.

With Ateneo Law at its helm, the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE) mobilized 6,000 volunteers all over the country to report incidents of election-related violations during the national and local elections. By closing of polls, the student volunteers stationed at the LENTE headquarters at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Quezon City recorded over 400 incidents of election-related violations reported through the hotline, not including reports of vote-counting machine malfunctions and disenfranchised voters unable to find their names on the list. Reports of violations from different regions included rampant vote buying, unlawful electioneering, and threats and intimidation.

This election season, LENTE launched the Task Force Elections 2016, creating partnerships with civil society organizations to bolster the number of volunteers working together come election day. While staying true to its core campaign for an election that seeks to increase nationwide public confidence following international measures of accountability, transparency, and inclusiveness, LENTE’s active campaign this year also went beyond ensuring the conduct of truthful elections, as the network, in partnership with the CHR and the COMELEC launched Bantay Karapatan sa Halalan, with the objective of making the elections more than just a numbers game but a rights-based exercise.

On the day of the elections, LENTE was led by Ateneo Law graduates, Attys. Rona Caritos, Kenjie Aman, and Ryan Jay Roset. Almost all the members of the LENTE National Secretariat are Ateneo Law students, with a few others from the law schools of University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, and the University of Asia & the Pacific. Other students of the Ateneo Law also volunteered as election watchers in various voting centers within the National Capital Region and in nearby provinces. Some were also assigned to observe elections in detention centers.

LENTE’s National Secretariat Head, Carlo Africa, observed, “while the poll has closed, LENTE’s work is far from over. The reports we received this elections will be used not only for research and advocacy, that is, proposing measures to the government on how we can improve the conduct of our elections. More importantly, we will act on the received reports. Reporting or receiving reports on election violation is one thing, acting on it and ensuring that measures are taken to hold these violators accountable is another.”
Ateneo Law Students explore power of women in uniform

By FRANCES ANGELA ESTIPONA

In celebration of International Women’s Week, the Gender and the Law class of the Ateneo Law School held a forum on March 10, 2016 entitled, “Women in Uniform.” The forum featured three top-ranking women security officials, PCI Kimberly Molitas of the Philippine National Police, SUPT Belinda Ochave of the Bureau of Fire Protection, and JSUPT Analiza Pama-Bides of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. The speakers shared their experiences and challenges as women in a perceived male-dominated profession.

PCI Kimberly Molitas shared that the Philippines has seen a steady increase in the number of women recruits in the force, although the number is still far from equal. The speakers gamely answered questions about their families’ reactions to them choosing to join the service, what it was like to be a woman going through the same rigorous physical training as men, and balancing their calling to serve both nation and family. They also talked about professional issues, such as adapting to a work environment dominated by men, and perceptions or instances of discrimination against women in their chosen careers.

All three officers pointed out that their access to promotions and other opportunities was never hampered by their gender, as can be proven by their own exceptional résumés. They shared that their male counterparts treat them as equals, and that as professionals, gender should not be an issue—in the sense that what are expected from male officers in terms of commitment, output and results are also expected of the women, and vice versa. However, they also agreed that while physical differences between men and women must be accepted, they should not be seen as challenges that cannot be hurdled with hard work and determination.

Ateneo Law joins Vis east competition in Hong Kong

By RALPH SAMUEL YU

Named after Willem C. Vis, a world-renowned expert in international commercial transactions and dispute settlement procedures, the Vis Competition is considered the most prestigious arbitration-format moot court competition in the world. Every year, approximately 300 schools participate in Vis West (held in Vienna, Austria), and 100 in Vis East (held in Hong Kong). The 2016 Vis East Competition was held on March 6-13, 2016 at the City University of Hong Kong.

The Ateneo Law School participates in the two Vis competitions and, in recent years, has been a consistent awardee of Honorable Mention Awards for its Memorials. Moreover, in 2014, Ateneo finally succeeded to break into the ever-elusive Top 32 Teams advancing in the Vis Moot.

The 2016 Vis Team is composed of Mr. Raymond Joseph Mercado (4A), Ms. Anna Marie Antoinette Narciso (3C), and Mr. Ralph Samuel Yu (2C). They are coached by Atty. Katrina Elaine Aguila and Atty. Marck Joseph Macaraeg.

2016 was a year of many firsts for Ateneo. The 2016 Vis East Team performed exceptionally well in the competition and emerged 18th out of 115 law schools that participated. These teams represented 31 different countries. Also, for the first time, an oralist from a Philippine school has been awarded an Honorable Mention for Best Oral Advocate (Ms. Anna Antoinette Narciso). Notably, Mr. Raymond Mercado was also ranked 18th out of 220 oralists in the 2016 competition.

The Ateneo-Philippine team to the Vis Competition has clearly started to gain traction. If it plays its cards right, Ateneo should not be far from emerging as Vis world champion.
AKAP trains children and youth on cybersafety

By VERONICA MAE C. YAN

All children have the right to move, play, and live in a safe environment. This includes the right to be safe in cyberspace. The fast growth of internet use among the Filipino youth is startling, but even more alarming is the increasing rate of cybercrimes involving children and the youth.

On February 26-28 2016, the Adhikain para sa Karaptang Pambata (AKAP) - the child rights desk of the Ateneo Human Rights Center, with the full support of UNICEF-Philippines, held a Basic Orientation Seminar on safety in cyberspace entitled, “ChildTALK 2.0: Child-Friendly Cyberspace”. The seminar was held in Camp Allen, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Fifty-five children and youth, most of them graduates of previous ChildTALK batches, participated in the activity. The participants came from different areas: Calauan, Laguna; five barangays from the Bicol Region; Mandaluyong City; and three barangays from Quezon City.

The seminar trained the participants on the pros and cons of using the internet, cybercrimes, digital rights, and responsible use of the internet. The program also included a refresher module on basic children’s rights and facilitation skills. Through the different activities, the participants were able to reflect and share their struggles in using the internet and they also identified the cybersafety issues that their communities face.

The Basic Orientation Seminar is one of the activities lined up for ChildTALK 2.0. The participants from the Basic Orientation Seminar will also undergo a Leadership and Evaluation and Planning (LEAP) Session and they will then conduct a Community Awareness-Raising and Education Session (CARE) on pressing cybersafety issues in their respective communities.

Oftentimes, children are the last to be consulted when it comes to issues that affect them. AKAP firmly believes in the importance of a child’s voice when it comes to addressing the issues that they experience. Through ChildTALK or Child Rights Teaching and Learning for and by Kids, AKAP trains children on different child-related laws and facilitation skills with the end goal of developing them to be child right’s advocates in their communities. Since its inception, ChildTALK has produced five batches of child right’s advocates who have a working knowledge of children’s rights and child-related laws and have been able to teach as trainers and over-all facilitators to their peers.
Alternative Class Program brings respite to Ateneo Law students

By CYNDY DELA CRUZ

STUDYING law is not only time-consuming but may cause physical and emotional exhaustion, as well. With all the written materials that need to be read and analyzed, it is not unusual to find law students burnt out even before the semester ends. To give students a break, the Ateneo Law Student Council (ALSC) organized the Alternative Class Program (ACP) a day after the midterm examinations, on April 7, 2016.

Aside from being professor of criminal law and clinical legal education, Dean Vannie is senior partner at the Escudero Marasigan Vallente & E.H. Villareal (EMSAVVIL) Law Offices. He specializes in litigation, immigration, and intellectual property. Among students, he is known as the stern and exacting but brilliant criminal law professor. A former student described him as tough-looking with his stocky frame and thunderous voice but that those who know him would attest to his gentle and loving nature. Another student said that Dean Vannie is a passionate teacher who instills the value of hard work in his students. She added that he tries to get to know his students more, and that it is amazing how he remembers students’ names even after many years.

Dean Vannie is also a big football fan and enjoys playing in his free time. He literally serves as a “sweeper” to Dean Sedfrey Candelaria, who was a goalkeeper in college and now works closely with Dean Vannie to oversee student affairs. Dean Candelaria sees him as a “natural fit” in the job because of Dean Vannie’s engaging character.

Dean Vannie’s Excellence Award is a testament to his dedication to the ALS and tested competence as an administrator, especially considering the many challenges in helping run a law school. He truly deserves appreciation and recognition for his commitment and devotion not only to the law school but the students as well.
Students and faculty share vision of “One Ateneo Law” at the JLE 2016

BY CRISSEL TAMONDONG & JULIAN ELIZAR D. TORCUATOR

On May 6-8, 2016, forty-three student leaders from the Ateneo Law School representing the Student Council, student organizations and class beadles gathered at the St. Paul Renewal Center in Alfonso, Cavite for the annual Jesuit Legal Education (JLE) formation program. The JLE, an annual tradition since 1998, seeks to impart lessons on discernment and leadership from the life of Ateneo’s patron, Ignatius of Loyola, and to create a forum for students and law school administrators to dialogue over a three-day seminar.

At the onset, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Giovanni Vallente articulated the hope that this year’s JLE weekend be only a start to the continuing formation of the participants throughout the year. As a start, the first day consisted of team-building activities for all student leaders facilitated by the outgoing Student Council. These activities were geared towards setting the objective of “One Ateneo Law.”

The second day was spent doing self-reflection and envisioning who the “Atenean lawyer” is. The JLE concluded on its third day with an open community dialogue, where students and the faculty agreed on a common vision of what values the Atenean lawyer should possess, and what environment will facilitate this formation.

This year’s participation was enhanced by the attendance of professors who also serve as class advisers, an essential foundation for greater collaboration between the professors and students in the spirit of mentorship. Faculty members and administrators who joined this year’s JLE were Dean Sedfrey Candelaria, Associate Dean Vallente, Atys. Tanya Lat, Maita Chan-Gonzaga, Joey Hofileña, Arpee Santiago, Axel Cruz, Patricia Cervantes-Poco, and Ms. Blythe Lumague. The formation team which designed the three-day program consisted of Atty. Lat, as the ALS Program Director for Formation; Mr. Rene San Andres, Assistant to the Loyola Schools VP for Formation; Ms. Mhir delos Santos, Director of the University Office for Mission and Identity; and Fr. IJ Chan-Gonzaga, 4th year law student and the current school chaplain. The team was joined by Dr. Bobby Guevarra, professor at the Ateneo Department of Theology.
ALS signs agreements with Coventry and Malaga

By RYAN JEREMIAH D. QUAN

The Ateneo Law School recently signed academic linkage agreements with Coventry University (UK) and Universidad de Malaga (Spain). These two linkages add to the Law School’s existing partnerships with Kyushu University, University of Sydney, and University of Hawaii.

The partnership with Coventry University is a ladderized J.D. – LL.M. Program, which allows a student to complete both degrees in a shorter span of time. The program is designed for ALS graduates who, after finishing the Bar examination, intend to pursue an LL.M. degree while waiting for the results of the Bar examination. Under this collaboration, a qualified ALS graduate only has to complete two more semesters in Coventry, instead of the usual three semesters, to complete the LL.M. program. This agreement was signed in November 2015.

In February this year, ALS signed an agreement for student exchange with the Universidad de Malaga. Under this agreement, law students from Malaga may complete courses for credit in ALS. On the other hand, students enrolled in the ALS LL.M. program have the opportunity to spend a semester in Malaga and have courses taken there credited to complete the requirements for their LL.M. degree.

The Law School’s partnerships contribute to the Ateneo’s internationalization initiative. The existing partnerships are starting to bear fruit. One of our faculty members, Atty. Rowena L. Soriano, is set to complete her LL.M. in International Economic and Business Law under the Kyushu-Ateneo Double Degree Program in September this year. After receiving its first Master of Human Rights and Democratization (MHRD) class last year from the University of Sydney, ALS became one of the top choices of MHRD Asia Pacific students to spend their regional semester in. In January, ALS received its second cohort composed of seven students, the most number hosted by a partner university this year. Beginning next school year, the MHRD Program will be administered by Mahidol University of Thailand. The academic linkages program of the ALS is managed by the Ateneo Graduate Legal Studies Institute.
30 Fast Facts as AHRC Celebrates

By KLARISE ANNE C. ESTORNINOS and OSCAR CARLO F. CAJUCOM

On April 2, 2016, the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC) celebrated its 30th anniversary at the rooftop of the Ateneo Law School (ALS). The event also served as an alumni homecoming. Close to 200 former AHRC interns excitedly gathered to celebrate years of excellence, advocacy, service, and friendship.

The highlight of the night was the return of Atty. Carlos P. Medina, Jr., AHRC’s well-loved and longest serving former Executive Director. Everyone was happy to see him, a testament to how he continues to inspire resident and alumni interns alike. He gave a very moving and powerful speech, and everyone was full of emotions listening to him again.

Service awards were also given to AHRC staff who have been part of the Center for 10 to 25 years or more. They were Atty. Amparita Sta. Maria (26 years), Evangeline Riosa (25 years), Reuben Verdejo (19 years), Rodelio Ernacio (17 years), and Anna Paras (nine years). The Center also launched its “Achievement Awards” to recognize alumni who embody the essence of being lawyers for others in their own fields. The awards will be given at the next alumni homecoming.

To celebrate 30 years of promoting peace, development, and human rights, here are 30 little-known facts about the AHRC:

1. No one knows the exact date when the AHRC started. It was founded sometime in 1986 to respond to the need for access to justice for human rights violations committed during the Marcos dictatorship.

2. Atty. Amparita Sta. Maria was formerly AHRC’s Litigation Head, her first position at the Center.

3. The first AHRC Executive Director was Atty. Abelardo Aportadera.

4. Marissa David was the first secretary of Atty. Aportadera at the Center.

5. AHRC’s previous office at the Dela Costa campus was so small that lawyers and staff would sometimes eat their meals standing.

6. To date, there are around 15 couples (engaged or married) who met and developed at the AHRC’s internship program.

7. Dean Sedfrey Candelaria’s first position at the Center was Research Head.

8. AHRC’s first internship director was Atty. Jorge Barreno. He currently resides in the US. His only daughter, Ela, did a short summer internship at the Center while they were on vacation in the Philippines in 2013.

9. Internship was the very first program of the AHRC. It started in 1987.

10. The internship program has a “replicate” component which encourages other law schools to set up their version of the program. The first two university-based human rights centers which benefitted from this component were the University of San Carlos - Center for Legal Aid Work (USC-CLAW) in Cebu City and Xavier University Center for Legal Assistance (XUCLA) in Cagayan de Oro City.

11. These members of the ALS faculty, to name a few, were student-interns, too: Atty. Tranquil Salvador, Atty. Jorge Alfonso Melo, Commissioner Ma. Victoria Cardona, and Dean Giovanni Vallente.

12. AKAP, the AHRC’s children’s rights desk, was established by student interns in 1993.
FEATURES

13. Dean Candelaria donated AHRC’s first set of SCRA.

14. AHRC’s current office in ALS is its fourth home. The three previous offices were in different floors of the Dela Costa campus.

15. Atty. Medina, Atty. Barreno, and Dean Candelaria, as young bachelors, would often sleep in the AHRC office when work piled up.

16. AHRC was given office space at the Hoffner Building in Ateneo Loyola when there were plans to transfer the law school to the Katipunan campus. When the law school transferred instead to Rockwell, the space was eventually given to the Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal (SALIGAN).

17. The legal aid office of the ALS used to be tied to the AHRC. Atty. Reynaldo G. Geronimo was its first director.

18. In 1989, AHRC started a nationwide newsletter, the Philippine Human Rights Monitor (Monitor) which compiled data and information about the country’s human rights situation. It was published until the early 1990’s.

19. After the Monitor, the interns published an internal newsletter called “Monitress” which contained “blind items” and interesting stories about the interns. The Monitor was later on followed by an official Human Rights Law Journal edited by Atty. Jane Real and Dean Candelaria.

20. During the big quake in 1990, AHRC’s office was at the top floor of the Dela Costa campus. Staff and lawyers could not go down the building so they stayed in the office, on their knees, praying for safety.

21. Father Joaquin Bernas, SJ was President of the ADMU when AHRC began.

22. Dean Eduardo Delos Angeles was ALS Dean when AHRC was founded.

23. There are almost 1,000 interns to date.

24. The biggest internship batch had 22 interns.

25. When Atty. Ampy Sta. Maria started working at the AHRC, she was given the most “high-tech” computer at that time called an AT for “Advanced Technology.”

26. ALS students would submit their theses to the AHRC because that was where Dean Candelaria, thesis director of the law school, held office at the time.

27. When Atty. Chochoy Medina (already ED of AHRC at this time) started teaching at the law school, he wore fake glasses to make himself look more credible.

28. In 1990, AHRC became the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, or the LAWASIA.

29. In 2013, the AHRC website was hacked. It was only in 2016 that it was able to put up a website again.

30. Since 1996, AHRC has served as Secretariat of the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism.
The Path to Producing Global Lawyers: Our Experience at the University of Malaya’s Student Exchange Programme 2016

By HARVEY A. BILANG, TRIXIE M. ELAMPARO, FRANCES A. ESTIPONA, RENEETH B. SANTOS, and ARISA B. SUZUKI

As the Ateneo Law School’s (ALS) delegates, we participated in the University of Malaya’s Student Exchange Programme 2016 (UM SEP), geared towards the law school’s efforts towards internationalization. Participants came from different countries and diverse backgrounds, with students from Indonesia, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the United Kingdom.

The two-week programme was filled with thought-provoking and enriching activities. Since it was the first time that ALS participated in the UM SEP, we were beyond ecstatic to get the chance to represent the law school and the Philippines in this remarkable event.

In the first week, our activities focused on the different aspects of a legal system. The first major activity was a human rights conference on democracy, where participants discussed the history and evolution of their democratic regime, its flaws, challenges, and points for improvement. This spurred passionate discussions and gave insights about the delegates’ respective backgrounds.

The UM and the Asian Law Students’ Association (ALSA) hosted a symposium which highlighted legal liberalization. Former Court of Appeal Judge Datuk Mahadev Shankar gave an inspiring speech, emphasizing respect and humility in the legal profession and adding that the law should be a tool for justice and dignity. Meanwhile, Mr. Steven Thiru, president of the Malaysian bar, discussed the current trend of legal liberalization in Malaysia and the entry of foreign lawyers to the country in light of the emergence of the ASEAN Economic Community. Also, a representative from the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA) and from the Malaysian law firm Raja, Darryl & Loh gave an overview of international arbitration and the Malaysian arbitration process. The day ended with an exercise where delegates took part in a simulated arbitration procedure.

In the second week, the delegates went to the famous Malacca and the usual tourist attractions in the city. We felt a comforting familiarity with the place. It was full of historic buildings and museums comparable to our Vigan or Intramuros. We also visited the law firm Thomas Phillip and the Parliament where we watched a committee session from the gallery. The Malaysian Bar then welcomed us to their office and gave a talk on the Malaysian legal profession. The rest of the afternoon was spent strolling around the Dataran Merdeka, admiring the architecture and bustling city life in central Kuala Lumpur. That night, we were able to visit the Petronas Towers. The last trip was to the beautiful city of Putrajaya, which currently hosts most of Malaysia’s government offices. There, we visited the breathtaking Putra Mosque and Malaysia’s Palace of Justice, which houses its two highest courts, the Federal Court and the Court of Appeal. During the visit, court officers generously entertained our questions on Malaysian remedial law and Sharia law.

The programme ended with the Cultural Night, where all delegates performed to showcase their respective cultures. What we found most unforgettable was the experience of being a student in a new university. The simple joys and pains of having to figure out public transportation, looking for places to eat and study, listening to an exclusive lecture on Malaysian Constitutional Law by the Dean of the UM, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Johan Shamsuddin Bin Hj. Sabaruddin, and forming friendships with facilitators and fellow delegates — all these definitely made the programme more enriching for us. Looking back at our experiences in the UM SEP, we also look forward to hosting our own exchange programme at the ALS.
In Focus: Ateneans at the Forefront of the 2016 Elections

By OSCAR CARLO F. CAJUCOM

The elections are just around the corner and proving to be one of the most interesting and tightly-contested races in recent memory. Social media and the Web have allowed voters to get to know the candidates and their platforms of government. Here, we get to know three Ateneo Law School (ALS) alumni at the helm of the process, helping ensure clean, honest, and credible elections.

Chairman Andres D. Bautista

Chairman Andy of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) graduated valedictorian from the law school in 1990. He also served as Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government for five years before he was appointed Chairman of the Comelec in May 2015.

He is a distinguished professor of constitutional law but says that it was not until he joined the Comelec that he considered election law as one of his favorite aspects of constitutional and political law.

Important programs he introduced

Chairman Andy has always looked for ways to enhance voter experience, which he considers essential to increase participation in the elections. With this in mind, he spearheaded the PiliPinas Debates 2016, registration at the malls, mall voting initiative, and improved voters’ education.

The most difficult challenge he has faced so far

Having assumed his post in May 2015 — a little over a year before the elections — he said that the limited time to perform multifarious tasks entailed by the elections has been a very difficult challenge, not to mention general resistance to change.

What he anticipates to be the elections’ biggest challenge

Chairman Andy said that the operational difficulties in printing voter’s receipts (in light of the recent Supreme Court decision) will be the Comelec’s biggest challenge this May. He assured, however, that “the Commission has already made the necessary preparations to ensure that whatever problems that may arise from the printing of the voter’s receipts will be addressed properly and efficiently.”

His work motivation

Despite the challenges, the Comelec Chairman is motivated by his desire to do what is right for the country in fulfilling his role, as well as the goal of credible, honest, peaceful, and orderly elections.

Commissioner Christian Robert S. Lim

Commissioner Bot, as he is called by friends, became Comelec Commissioner in 2011 and was one of the youngest ever to be appointed. He was previously name and managing partner at Lim & Leynes Law Offices and has extensive experience in election law before he joined the Commission. He heads the Comelec’s Campaign Finance Steering Committee and is the lead champion of its Strategic Pillar on Legal Policy and Framework, which aims to harmonize election laws with the goal of revising and updating the Omnibus Election Code.

Commissioner Lim graduated with second honors from the ALS in 1998. Election law was not his favorite subject but it wasn’t his least favorite either. He was drawn more into remedial law.

Effect of technology and social media

For Commissioner Lim, technology and social media have changed the dynamics of electoral processes and made a significant impact on the elections. He added that “social media has definitely enhanced political engagement.” With these advances, “voters are becoming more involved” and “discussions... are generated easily.”

Needed reforms and biggest challenges

In general, Commissioner Lim recognizes the need to amend the outdated Omnibus Election Code “to address the realities of present time.” He listed two specific reforms he thinks are necessary: full automation to cover barangay elections and additional punitive and accountability measures for campaign finance laws. He considers policy implementation to be the biggest challenge to clean and honest elections, saying that “[l]aws are only as good as the people who implement them.”

Ateneans as good election lawyers

Commissioner Lim believes Ateneans can make good election law practitioners because they have genuine passion to give their best and can translate plans and policies to realities.

Atty. Rona Ann V. Caritos

Atty. Ona is the Executive Director of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE). She concurrently heads Task Force Election, the biggest coalition of election groups and organizations in the Philippines and is one of two civil society representatives in the Comelec Advisory Council for the 2016 elections.

She graduated from the law school in 2008 and served as Secretary-General and then External Vice President of the Student Council. Inspired by Atty. Carlos P. Medina, Jr., she first got into election practice when she volunteered for LENTE as a law student.

LENTE’s evolution

LENTE was established in 2007 in time for the midterm elections. It monitors the elections, advocates electoral reform, networks with other organizations, conducts public education, and pursues accountability of election law violators. Atty. Ona said that when LENTE first started, its work focused on the election stage of the electoral process. Today, its activities have expanded to the pre and post-election stages.

Most difficult challenge

Atty. Ona said that getting funds for LENTE’s programs is one of the most difficult challenge. She is thankful, however, that this difficulty has not prevented the organization from carrying out its activities because “fortunately, everything always falls into place.”

Needed reforms

For electoral reform, Atty. Ona mentioned the passage of a Political Party Development Law and an Anti-Dynasty Law. She also said we can explore other voting systems such as “run-off” elections to ensure election of leaders by majority vote. She added that what we have now “contributes to our country’s divisiveness.”
Ateneo Law and the Spirit of EDSA

By MAITA CHAN-GONZAGA

ATTY. JACK JIMENEZ is a great storyteller who always finds time to regale fellow faculty members with epic stories of the legal profession, including the shenanigans of lawyers and the antics of law students. These tales often leave us in stitches. But my favorite “Jack” story is a sobering one. It is one about lawyering during martial law, about questioning the legitimacy of many a governmental act, about being true to one’s oath. He recounts how he – with like-minded colleagues from the Ateneo – would file cases of constitutional import in court, notwithstanding the derision they were subjected to and the (unfortunately true) observation that “even a monkey could defeat [them] in court.”

This was the state of affairs during that disgraceful period of our history. And while many negative things could be said about the EDSA Revolution (e.g., imperfect, incomplete, etc.), it bears noting that this really brought about a sea change in our country’s history. Revolution and various ALS components

On February 25, a good number of ALS students and faculty members also trooped to the CHR in Diliman for Life Under Martial Law: Why the EDSA People Power Revolution Remains As Relevant As Ever, a forum ALS organized in partnership with the Commission. This assembly highlighted the speakers’ experiences during Martial Law. HRVCB board members, Atty. Byron Bocar and Dr. Aurora Parong, spoke of practicing their professions and Inspiration which served as a venue for both remembrance – recalling the vagaries of the corrupt leadership that made EDSA necessary as well as the sacrifices of the martyrs which foreshadowed the revolution – and inspiration – evoking the spirit of EDSA, and the imperative need to safeguard the democracy we won. The forum was well-attended by a 200-strong crowd. The three speakers all headed government institutions whose mandates were significant to the issue: Chair Chito Gascon of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Chair Lina Sarmiento of the Human Rights Victims Compensation Board (HRVCB), and Chair Maris Diokno of the National Historical Commission. They shared their agencies’ roles in keeping the People Power spirit alive and the importance of vigilance in countering revisionism.

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On March 9, 2016, the Teehankee Center for the Rule of Law (TCRL) and the Ateneo Center for International Economic Law (ACIEL) held the first Ateneo Trade Policy Forum with the theme “Industrial Development for Inclusive Growth.” This year’s forum discussed how the Philippine economy can balance industrial development and inclusive growth in view of global trends.

Secretary Adrian Cristobal, Jr. of the Department of Trade and Industry delivered the keynote speech at the Justitia Hall. A distinguished alumnus of the Ateneo DTI Secretary Adrian Cristobal, Jr. delivering the keynote speech

Student Organizers and Volunteers from the Teehankee Center for the Rule of Law and the Ateneo Center for International Economic Law

Participants had a lively discussion, with guests from government, the private sector, and the academy. Also in attendance were ALS Dean Sedfrey Candelaria, Vice President of the Ateneo Professional Schools Dr. Antonette Palma-Angeles, TCRL Executive Director Amb. Manuel Teehankee and ACIEL Executive Director Anthony Abad, among others. With the event’s success, the Ateneo Trade Policy Forum hopes to be a fixture in bringing together key trade experts and leaders and raising awareness and giving insight on pressing national issues.

Law School (ALS), Sec. Cristobal discussed the country’s trade policy amidst trends in international trade like the ASEAN integration, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and e-commerce. He also shared his thoughts on how the Philippines can stay competent in the global market while maintaining inclusive growth for all sectors.

Forum panelists included Dr. Cielito Habito of the Ateneo Economics Department and Amb. Laura del Rosario, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Left to right: ALS Dean Candelaria, Dr. Cielito Habito, APS Vice President Antonette Palma-Angeles, DTI Sec. Adrian Cristobal, Jr., DFA Usec. Laura del Rosario, and TCRL Executive Director Amb. Manuel Teehankee

DTI Secretary Adrian Cristobal, Jr. delivering the keynote speech

Photo credit: Teehankee Center for the Rule of Law
Arigatou Gozaimasu!

By ROWENA L. SORIANO

STUDYING IN Asia is not usually appealing to most of us eyeing to get our LL.M. degrees. Admittedly, I aimed at going to the U.S. or Europe for this yearlong study. But God has infinite ways of prevailing upon our personal plans in life. In the end, we find ourselves exactly where we are supposed to be.

Ateneo Law School and Kyushu University Double Degree Program ("Programme")

It was by sheer providence that I was able to take my LL.M. study. In February 2016, the Ateneo Law School (ALS) and Kyushu University (KU), also called “Kyudai,” signed an agreement aimed at enhancing student participation through educational opportunities to obtain Master’s degrees from both schools. The Programme leads to two recognized Master’s degrees, one from the ALS’ International Master of Laws Program and another from the KU’s International Economic and Business Law (IEBL) Program. Every year, up to three exchange students are allowed under the Programme, which is facilitated by the Ateneo Graduate Legal Studies Institute.

Acquiring the Kyudai knowledge

Studying in Japan was like experiencing the best of both worlds. I witnessed the four changing seasons like in western countries, yet enjoyed the familiar Asian ambience. KU’s IEBL Program is offered in English, Japanese, and bilingual programs and students come from different nationalities and professional or academic backgrounds. This makes class discussions more diverse and enriching because there are inputs from various jurisdictions. Students were also encouraged by the conducive learning atmosphere set by Kyudai professors with outstanding background and expertise. The helpful staff at KU also made student life so much easier.

For the English IEBL Program, the academic year is divided into Fall (September to February) and Spring (April to July) semesters. Each semester is divided into quarters. Exchange students are required to finish 30 credits: 20 for elective and intensive courses and 10 for thesis. High caliber resource speakers also give special non-credit lectures open to all LL.M. students.

There is also a European Union Diploma Program (EUDP) that requires a research paper on EU and creditable EU-related courses. It opens doors to travelling outside of Japan with full subsidy from KU. The program was most helpful when I joined KU delegates in a study trip to Gottingen, Berlin and Hannover, where I presented my research proposal to a group of practicing lawyers, professors, and students. It was amazing to share ideas and network with a remarkable group of foreign academicians and law practitioners in Germany, as well as bond with a vibrant group of professors and students from KU.

Forging friendship in Fukuoka

Another exciting part of Kyudai life was meeting and getting to know fellow international and Japanese students in Fukuoka. The food, fun and friends made you feel like Fukuoka was your second home. I was fortunate to have been assigned in Fukuoka International House, a relatively new dormitory conveniently located in Nakasu Kawabata and near Tenjin. I compare these places to Bonifacio Global City (Nakasu Kawabata) and Makati City (Tenjin). Travel time to Kyudai was just eight minutes by subway and 20 minutes by bike. Dorm life was like having one big, extended family housed in one building. A key Atenean value I brought to Fukuoka — being a person for others — helped me develop a close bond with friends. That was important because there were so many spectacular events, wonderful places, and great food in Fukuoka and Japan that were best experienced with friends: gardens with seasonal flowers, temples and shrines, ramen houses, coffee shops, and theme parks. Warm friendship helped me survive winter and made me enjoy my first snow. Official trips became an adventure. Sunday masses also meant fellowship with the Filipino community. Cherry blossoms bloomed best through the lenses of my friends’ camera.

The exposure to various cultural orientations and immersion to peculiar Japanese traditions and discipline made studying in Kyudai even more interesting and unique. These are the intangibles forever embedded in our IEBL Diploma. So to the generous and supportive ALS Dean Sedfrey Candelaria, GLSI Director Amparita Sta. Maria, KU officials, and the Japan Student Services Organization Scholarship: Arigatou gozaimasu!
Meet the New Faculty

By BLYTHE M. LUMAGUE

Att'y Takahiro Kenjie C. Aman
Att'y Aman is a Resident Supervising Attorney at the Ateneo Legal Services Center, supervising student interns undergoing clinical legal education (CLED). He also serves as Project Director of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE).

Att'y Aman is a true blue Atenean. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Management, major in Economics, in 2008 from the Ateneo de Manila University and obtained his Juris Doctor degree in 2012 from the same university.

He was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 2013. He joined the faculty in the first semester of S.Y. 2015-16, assisting Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria in conducting Introduction to Law for first year students.

Att'y Gonzalo Dela Vega Go III
Att'y Go is the Legal Director of Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC). Prior to joining JFC in 2009, Att'y Go was an associate at the SyCip Salazar Hernandez and Gatmaitan Law Offices from 2007 to 2009. He has expertise in a wide array of legal risk management of various business activities such as business development and expansion, customer relations, operation, real estate, franchising, marketing, human resources, purchasing finance, corporate communications, tax, and government relations.

In 2001, Att'y Go earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy from the De La Salle University and graduated with honors. In 2006, he obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the Ateneo Law School, graduating with second honors.

Att'y Go has been a thesis panelist at the ALS since 2011. He joined the faculty this school year, teaching an elective course on International Legal Accounting Standards. Att'y Go is a Certified Public Accountant. He was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 2006.

Att'y Aldrich Fitz U. Dy
Att'y Dy is a Partner at Molo Sia Velasco Dy Tuazon Ty & Coloma Law Offices. He specializes in trial advocacy and is an expert in litigation honored through several years of practice. He is immensely involved in copyright and trademark litigation and enforcement actions, and in commercialization and licensing of intellectual property.

He earned his degree in Bachelor of Science in Legal Management in 2000 from the Ateneo de Manila University, where he also obtained his Juris Doctor degree in 2004, graduating with second honors and ranking third in his batch.

Att'y Dy was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 2005. He joined the faculty in the second semester of S.Y. 2015-16, teaching Legal Technique and Logic.

Att'y. Christian A. Drilon
Att'y. Drilon is an associate at Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & Delos Angeles, engaging in various fields of legal practice such as corporate, regulatory, and litigation. He was an editor of the Ateneo Law Journal and member of its Executive Committee.

Att'y. Drilon earned his Bachelor’s Degree major in Management Engineering, minor in Marketing from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2009. In 2014, he obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the same university, graduating class valedictorian and receiving the Gold Medal for Academic Excellence.

He placed 2nd in the 2014 Bar examinations and was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 2015. He joined the ALS faculty this second semester of S.Y. 2015-16, teaching Legal Writing.

Att'y. Roel A. Refran
Att'y. Refran has been the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Philippine Stock Exchange since 2012. He is concurrently the Chairman of the Capital Market Development Committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCCI) and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of the Fulbright Scholars Association.

Att'y. Refran holds a degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, graduating magna cum laude in 1995. He obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1999. He then earned his Masters degree in Business Administration (Capital Markets & Finance) in 2012 from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University, USA.

Att'y. Refran was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 2000 and placed fourth in the 1999 Bar examinations. He joined the faculty this school year, teaching Law on Securities, Public Offerings and Stock Exchange Listings.

Att'y. Roland Glenn T. Tuazon
Att'y. Tuazon is an associate at Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & Delos Angeles focusing on litigation and various transactions involving oil, gas, energy, mining, and public infrastructure.

Att'y. Tuazon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, major in Communications and minor in Global Politics, graduating magna cum laude in 2007 from the Ateneo de Manila University, where he also obtained his Juris Doctor degree in 2012, also graduating with honors.

Att'y. Tuazon was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 2013. He joined the faculty in the second semester of S.Y. 2015-2016, teaching International Moot Court.
In Memoriam

May God bless their souls and may they rest in peace. They will always be remembered and will forever be in our hearts, shining on us, and watching over us.

Chief Justice Renato C. Corona
(October 15, 1948 – April 29, 2016)

Chief Justice Renato C. Corona was a proud Atenean, having pursued his excellent academic preparation from grade school (1962) to law school (1974) at the Ateneo de Manila, always capped by distinct honors. He earned his Master of Laws degree from the Harvard Law School and was appointed the 23rd Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He spent 17 years teaching business-related courses at the Ateneo Law School.

“The Ateneo de Manila University mourns the passing away of a person who has distinguished himself in the field of law through hard work and meritorious assumption into public office.”

— Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria

Atty. Jose Claro S. Tesoro
(August 12, 1947 – April 1, 2016)

Atty. Jose Claro S. Tesoro graduated valedictorian from the Ateneo Law School in 1975 and was a leading expert in transportation, maritime law, and torts, subjects which he also taught at the law school. He was a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

“Although known to me mostly from afar, Tito exerted an outsize influence on my life. I will miss the erudite scholar, graceful writer, beloved and dedicated teacher, and kind-hearted and generous mentor that I have been privileged to call my uncle. Most of all, I will miss what could have been. Yet I live in hope that he and I will one day meet again and finally talk writing, history, and law to our hearts’ contentment.”

— Atty. Leia Castañeda Anastacio, S.J.D.

Atty. Gabriel C. Singson
(March 18, 1929 – March 29, 2016)

Atty. Gabriel C. Singson graduated cum laude from the Ateneo Law School in 1952 and placed second in that year’s bar examinations. He was Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas from 1993 to 1999, ably steering it through the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

“Governor Singson has a masterful handle of Philippine Commercial Law. His students remember him for his exacting demands in class. He is an esteemed benefactor of the Ateneo, with a keen interest in honing minds of young scholars.”

— Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria

Happy birthday to our faculty and staff!

MAY

Atty. Camilo Miguel M. Montesa
Atty. Jaymie Ann Reyes
Atty. Joaquin Po Obieta
Atty. Luz Danielle O. Bolong
Dean Cesar L. Villanueva
Fr. Adolfo N. Dacanay, S.J.
Atty. Jose B. Quimson
Atty. Jorge Alfonso C. Melo
Atty. Tranquil S. Salvador, III
Atty. Dante Miguel D. Cadiz
Atty. Ray Paolo J. Santiago
Atty. Menardo I. Guerra
Atty. Rodolfo R. Bonifacio
Atty. Ma. Krizia S. Gomez
Atty. Rene G. Bañez

JUNE

Atty. Ma. Angela Leonor C. Aguinaldo
Ms. Ma. Lovellia S. Ordoñez
Ms. Leila Lim
Atty. Blessilda B. Abad-Gamo
Atty. Cesario A. Azucena, Jr.
Amb. Manuel A. J. Tehankee
Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
Atty. Liberador V. Villegas
Atty. Marissa O. Cabreros
Atty. Rowena Soriano-Dionisio

JULY

Atty. Lorenzo U. Padilla
Justice Ma. Filomena D. Singh
Ms. Marissa David

JUNE

Atty. Paola Cesar S. Boado
Atty. Domnina T. Rances
Atty. Maria Luisa Isabel L. Rosales
Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.
Atty. Patrick Simon Perillo
Atty. Leonardo C. Aguilar, Jr.
Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria
Atty. Klarise Anne C. Estorninos
Atty. Ronald R. Gutierrez
SP Dennis M. Villa-Ignacio
Justice Mariano C. Del Castillo
Atty. Ma. Tanya Karina A. Lat
Atty. Ignacio S. Sapalo

AUGUST

Atty. Francis Tom Temprosa
Atty. Michael G. Aguinaldo
Fr. Luis S. David, S.J.
Atty. Lee Benjamin Z. Lerma
Atty. Jacinto D. Jimenez
Atty. Persida Rueda Acosta
Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
Judge Antonio Ray A. Ortiguela