Eminent person lecture series features Magistrada Roca Trias

By NINA PATRICIA D. SISON-ARROYO

The Ateneo Law School (ALS), in cooperation with the Legal Education Board, Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) and Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), sponsored the inaugural program of The Eminent Person Lecture Series on November 27, 2013, held at the Auditorium of the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Center. The honored guest and speaker of the event was Excma. Sra. Dña. Encarnacion Roca Trias, a judge of the Tribunal Constitucional de España, the highest court of Spain. Her lecture entitled, “Doctrinal and Jurisprudential Developments in Spanish Family Law and Succession” highlighted the issues that have confronted Spain’s family law system and how it has evolved in the context of generations of reforms in Europe.

The program opened with welcome remarks from Palawan State University Law School Dean Perry L. Pe. Justice Hilarion L. Aquino explained the purpose of the event and Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines Jorge Domecq delivered a brief message. Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno (ret.) gave an overview of the Philippine-Spanish historical ties as an introduction to the lecture.

Magistrada Roca Trias presented a historical background of Spanish Family Law and discussed the reforms that had led to the recognition that human rights also apply to family member relations. She then discussed four current issues, namely: deregulation of marriage; the consequences of divorce and alimony for former spouses, including custody of children; filiation and the problems derived from assisted reproduction techniques; and the contradiction arising from the continuation of traditional succession scenarios and the changes undergone in family relations.

Magistrada Roca Trias concluded her lecture by saying that it “leads to two sets of conclusions: one refers to social issues that should underlie any family regulations; the other refers to what should be the legal grounds on which to reach solutions that are suitable for any form adopted by family relations.” On the first, she said that in Spain, “the traditional way in which to organise various family members roles has changed.” “At present, although traditional institutions remain, the family as an institution, reflected in recent laws, has changed to the point that duties are based on spousal equality,” she said.

On the second conclusion, Magistrada Roca Trias opined that it “leads to two sets of conclusions: one refers to social issues that should underlie any family regulations; the other refers to what should be the legal grounds on which to reach solutions that are suitable for any form adopted by family relations.” On the first, she said that in Spain, “the traditional way in which to organise various family members roles has changed.” “At present, although traditional institutions remain, the family as an institution, reflected in recent laws, has changed to the point that duties are based on spousal equality,” she said.

Dean’s Corner

By SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA

The resilience of the Filipinos after the series of natural disasters during the last quarter of 2013 is remarkable and further reinforced by the expression of generosity by local and international communities. Some members of the Law School family were in fact seriously affected by these disasters. Their moving accounts of the experiences of their immediate relatives were shared with our faculty during our Christmas gathering. I thank our faculty for joining us during that occasion to manifest our oneness with the affected law students, faculty and staff.

Our capacity to stand the test of these challenges should give us greater hope this year. It is within this spirit that we also seek to break new ground and take a greater leap as we roll out new curricular initiatives to enhance our legal education program. During the past few months the Law School marked the trigger points in our quest for internationalization and a skills-based law curriculum through the “tracking of electives”. A series of academic departmental meetings conducted by Atty. Ana Janet Sunga-Kim...
under the auspices of the Graduate Legal Studies Institute, headed by Prof. Amparita Sta. Maria, had generated an inventory of course syllabi which will form part of the foundation of our enhanced curricular offerings tracked toward specialized fields of law practice. Even our apprenticeship program will take a new twist as we put it into synergy with the specialized tracks. A round of consultations with law firms, public agencies and private organizations will be undertaken by the Office of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to determine the best destinations for our students during their summer apprenticeship.

A welcome development in our Kyushu University partnership was the Consortium meeting in Bangkok for the purpose of outlining a framework for a joint graduate degree conferment. The Ateneo Law School has also been tasked with designing a module on Human Rights to be delivered in Kyushu University’s graduate program in law beginning the second half of 2014. We also hosted a visit of ten Kyushu law students, two law faculty members and a staff in September. An interactive session on Family Mediation with ALS students and a Supreme Court tour constituted the highlights of the visit.

A further development in the law school’s thrust for internationalization is the joint masteral program with the University of Sydney. The program is in its implementation stage. The Graduate Legal Studies Institute is assisting in designing the details of the program, which will be rolled out within the year.

Another set of activities defined a busy last quarter of 2013. The Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP) introduced the state of tax law practice to upper-class ALS students considering tax as a field of specialization. An international non-government organization, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, flew in two experts to update our students with international non-government organization, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, flew in two experts to update our students with current developments on peace processes in other parts of the world as possible templates for on-going negotiations with rebel groups in the Philippines. A first offering in our eminent person lecture series was the joint program with the Legal Education Board, Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) and the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) on the "Doctrinal and Jurisprudential Developments in Spanish Family Law and Succession" delivered by Excma. Sra. Dña. Encarnacion Roca Trias, Magistrada del Tribunal Constitucional de España. My second lecture under the Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban Foundation for Liberty and Prosperity was delivered in November on the “Comparative Analysis of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) and the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro”. Finally, a panel session on Insolvency Laws entitled, a talk on “Bankruptcy Laws in a Socialist Market Economy: Recent Developments in Mainland China”, with Visiting Professor Charles D. Booth from William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa, through the Ateneo Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies, and a symposium on the “Aftermath of PDAF’s Unconstitutionality”, sponsored by the Student Council, capped the last quarter’s co-curricular activities.

The 2013 Bar examinations ended in a peaceful note. Dean Lily K. Gruba and the Bar Operations Group, together with the hardworking faculty members spearheaded by Prof. Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, had toiled admirably for the duration of the Bar month beyond the call of duty.

We continue to benefit from our growing linkage with our law alumni association. The tremendous work of past President Aleli Angela G. Quirino strengthened the bond between the ALS law community and the alumni as the Sintra Board Re-Launching demonstrated in October. Even the agenda of the Alumni Homecoming addressed the immediate need of the ALS, such as, the transcript of record digitization project in partnership with CD Asia. Traditional scholarship grants formed part of the new project. The October Homecoming featured generations of Ateneo lawyers belonging to the same families. It was also at the Homecoming where ALS conferred the second Hall of Fame for his outstanding legacy at PALS which includes, among others, the launching of the Philippine Journal of Legal Education. Also, on behalf of the Law Faculty, I extend our deepest appreciation for the appointment of one of our respected Civil Law professors, Atty. Melencio S. Sta. Maria, as the new Dean of the Far Eastern University Institute of Law.

Finally, congratulations to Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J. and Professor Mel Sta. Maria for their recent publications entitled, “A Living Constitution” and “Read My Mind”, respectively.

Our moot court and debating teams continue to gather deserved victories in recent competitions. Asia Cup (Japan) went to Ateneo team. Our Stetson environmental law team won the regional round and consequently qualified for the Florida-based international final rounds. The first forensic moot court competition at the U.P. College of Law saw our students in Prof. Angela Aguinaldo’s class on Legal Psychology and Law winning the unique event. Our ICRC IHL team also deserve to be acknowledged for a commendable performance in the recent IHL moot court competition. Our debating team is looking forward to another round of challenges in the ANC-CVC debates. I thank the coaches and team members for their diligent participation and support.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank a very productive partner of the law school, the Honorable Justice Hilarion L. Aquino of the Legal Education Board (LEB), whose term as Chairperson of LEB just ended. Justice Aquino’s term could be credited with trailblazing programs aimed at excellence in the delivery of legal education in the Philippines. On the other hand, the ALS welcomes the new President of PALS in the person of Dean Nilo T. Divina of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law. Past PALS President Dean Ernest P. Maceda, Jr. of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila College of Law should be cited for his outstanding legacy at PALS which includes, among others, the launching of the Philippine Journal of Legal Education. Also, on behalf of the Law Faculty, I extend our deepest appreciation for the appointment of one of our respected Civil Law professors, Atty. Melencio S. Sta. Maria, as the new Dean of the Far Eastern University Institute of Law.

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ADMU considers shift in academic calendar

The University is in the process of considering a shift from a June-March to an August-May academic calendar, effective SY 2015-2016. The Office of University and Global Relations conducted extensive consultations regarding the potential shift. As early as 2012, initial consultations with senior administrators were conducted. In 2013, consultation meetings and focus group discussions with various schools and offices took place in the months of September and October. A survey was conducted in November 2013.

The Office of the University and Global Relations proposed the shift in the academic calendar, which has been approved by the President’s Council. It will be presented to the Board of Trustees in February.

Pertinent characteristics of the new academic calendar are as follows:

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<th>Mode</th>
<th>Semestral (Trimestral Mode for some AGSB and ASoG programs will be retained)</th>
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| Academic Term | Semester: 18 weeks  
Summer/Monsoon Term: 6 weeks |
| Summer/Monsoon Break | 12 weeks |
| Christmas and Semestral Break | Students: 5 weeks  
Teachers: 4 weeks  
Staff: 2 weeks |

**Proposed Dates for SY 2015-2016**

- Start of summer classes: June 8
- End of summer classes: July 18
- Start of 1st semester: August 10
- End of 1st semester: December 12
- Start of 2nd semester: January 18
- End of 2nd semester: May 21

By 2014, the Philippines will be the only country in ASEAN that will still be in a June to March calendar. Over 70% of universities overseas begin in September or October. This number does not include those that start in August or universities in the Southern Hemisphere that start in February or March but are compatible with the 70%. 88% of ADMU’s university partners have an academic calendar that begin in August, September or October.

The misalignment means that ADMU is not able to engage with its counterparts overseas as much as it would like to. “Internationalization at home” initiatives such as creating a more diversified student and faculty population and implementing a more internationalized curriculum in the Ateneo and cultural exposure through outbound opportunities will be limited.

Shifting the academic calendar then is about optimizing and, in some cases, creating the opportunities to prepare the students for a more globalized world – not from the outside looking in but being actually immersed in it. (Courtesy of the Office of the University and Global Relations)

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Eminent person lecture series features Magistrada Roca Trias

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that legislative solutions involve “respect for citizens’ fundamental human rights, as members of a family unit, and, in turn, the enforceability of these rights in family relations.”

The lecture was followed by comments and insights from a distinguished panel of reactors, namely: Justice Ricardo C. Puno, Sr., Justice Jose C. Vitug, University of the Philippines Law School Dean Danilo L. Concepcion, Prof. Ruben F. Balane, Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino and Prof. Maria Liza Lopez-Rosario. Magistrada Roca Trias responded to each of the points raised by the panelists.

Prior to her current post, Magistrada Roca Trias was a judge in the Tribunal Suprema de España from 2005 to 2012, the first woman member of that court. She earned both her Bachelor of Laws in 1966 and Doctorate in Civil Law degrees from the Universidad de Barcelona. In 1979, she became the first woman in Spain to occupy the position of a full-time Professor of Civil Law at the University of Barcelona.
On December 4, 2013, the elective class “The Lawyer as Leader and Policymaker” (LawLead) visited the Supreme Court and paid a courtesy call to Associate Justice Arturo D. Brion (ALS 1974), who generously hosted the visit and gave an insider’s view of the Supreme Court. During the dialogue at the En Banc Session Hall, Justice Brion shared the story of his ascent to the Supreme Court and encouraged the students to dream and work hard to achieve their dreams, saying that ambition is not a bad thing. At the same time, he said that one must leave everything to God, speaking from personal experience that “in life, when one door closes, many other doors will open.” Justice Brion also pointed out that corruption is a process and that we must all guard against the weak points in our lives where corruption might enter.

Afterwards, Justice Brion and the class were received by Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno (ADMU 1980) at the Dignitaries Lounge for a short dialogue. The Chief Justice shared her vision for the judiciary and the legal profession, as well as the challenges posed by limited resources and the aftermath of the PDAF decision.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. famously said that the life of the law has not been logic but experience. For St. Ignatius of Loyola, experience is about “tasting something internally,” engaging not just a person’s mind but also the heart and will. St. Ignatius recognized that learning would not move a person to action and commitment unless intellectual knowledge is joined with affective feelings through thoughtful reflection.

It is in this spirit that LawLead provides students with opportunities to interact with leaders and policymakers who may inspire them and serve as role models as they prepare for future careers in governance and public service.

Reflecting on their experience in their journals, the students said that their visit to the Supreme Court helped them “appreciate the importance of the law and the significance and urgency of studying it” and “rethink the value of justice and the power and responsibility of the legal profession.” And this experience would “likely go down as one of the greater highlights” of their stay in law school.
**GSLI aids ALS curriculum review**  
By ANA JANET SUNGA-KIM

The Graduate Legal Studies Institute (GSLI) has convened meetings with each of the 17 academic departments/clusters of ALS to review and enhance the curricula of all the courses offered by the school. The meetings have been conducted in aid of the ALS curriculum review and enhancement initiative, which includes the assessment and standardization of the course syllabi.

As outcomes-focused education is becoming the norm in higher education, the development of the course syllabi strives to adopt a competency-based and outcomes-focused framework. The process identifies the competencies needed by law graduates in general and in specific areas of legal practice, as well as the knowledge, values and skills that law students are expected to attain by the end of the course. Based on these competencies, professors craft learning outcomes that the course should seek to achieve, and select teaching methods, learning experiences, and assessment methodologies that are aligned with the outcomes.

The standardization of the course syllabi is meant to set clear expectations among faculty members and students about the course objectives, methodologies and requirements, so that students may prepare well for the course. It also aims to promote transparency, fairness, and parity of grading for the benefit of the students.

The GLSI has been collating and reviewing the course syllabi of individual professors to help achieve uniformity in form as well as coverage with respect to the courses taught by different professors. With the help of student volunteers, it has been assisting some professors in developing their course materials and syllabi using a syllabus template. It is also coordinating the identification of common learning outcomes, course coverage and areas of focus among professors teaching the same course, which may pave the way for common departmental exams in the future.

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**Kyushu visits ALS**  
By NINA PATRICIA D. SISON-ARROYO

The Ateneo de Manila University hosted on September 18 to 19, 2013 a visit of ten Kyushu University law students and their professors, Dr. Mariko Igimi and Antonio Formacion. Among the highlights of the visit was a workshop on Family Dispute Resolution, which was facilitated by Professors Gilbert Sembrano and Nina Patricia Sison-Arroyo. The Kyushu students interacted with ALS students in analyzing and discussing case studies on family mediation. During the workshop, the students shared their insights on similarities and differences between Japanese and Philippine laws and culture in resolving family conflict.

The two-day visit also included a tour of the Supreme Court, a workshop hosted by the Loyola Schools and a tour of the campus, as well as cultural trips to Intramuros and Ayala Museum.

The visit was a follow through of the interaction between the two schools, which was launched on May 11, 2013. Ateneo then sent four students from the Law School (Felicisimo Agas III and Patricia Sta. Maria, 3rd year; Rose Angelique Dizon and Christian Drilon, 4th year) and one student of Japanese Studies (Faith Aldaba) to Kyushu University.

Kyushu University is a national university of Japan located in Fukuoka, which is among the top three destinations for foreign students in the country. The partnership with Kyushu is in line with the Ateneo’s direction to formulate and implement strategic initiatives that will strengthen the capacity of the university to operate in a global environment through effective engagements with universities and other organizations abroad.

The Homecoming was ushered in by the celebration of the Holy Mass, and was followed by a meeting of the Ateneo Law Alumni Association, Inc. (ALAAI). Dean Ernesto P. Maceda, Jr., President of host class 1989, welcomed the alumni, and no other than Honorable Ma. Lourdes P. A. Sereno, Chief Justice of the Philippines, delivered the Keynote Address.

An audio-visual presentation capturing the Homecoming theme, “What’s in a Name?: Generations of Atenean Lawyers,” showed families who have made the Ateneo Law education a legacy, producing generations of legislators, judges, public servants, practitioners and educators who have stamped the brand of Ateneo excellence in Philippine laws and jurisprudence, as well as legal practice and the academe.

The host class presented their project, bestowing upon the school the Ateneo Law School Records Archive, a customized software program
OMING

of Atenean lawyers

CERVANTES-POCO

that will facilitate storage and access to student records. The project includes the digitization of student records from 1935 to the present, and will serve as the springboard for the digitization of other school files such as admission records, faculty evaluation and grades.

A simple turn over ceremony of the new ALAAI officers followed. Taking their oaths as new ALAAI officers were Teodoro P. Cruz, Jr. (Chairman), Aleli Angela G. Quirino (Vice-Chair), Ma. Filomena L. Rosales (President), Remedios M. Lim (Internal Vice President), Martin R. Tensuan (External Vice President), Ernesto V. Perez (Treasurer), Victoria O. Pollistico (Assistant Treasurer), Francis A. Africa (Corporate Secretary), Elaine Patricia R. Rodolfo (Assistant Corporate Secretary), and Tranquil S. Salvador (Public Relations Officer).

The program was capped off with a raffle of a Volvo XC60. The proceeds of the raffle were earmarked for hosting projects, including the digitization of alumni records and the scholarship program of the ALAAI.
The Ateneo Law School (ALS), together with the Ateneo de Manila Law Alumni Association, Inc. (ALAAI), unveiled on October 7, 2013 the Alumni Gallery located at the 3rd floor of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati.

The Alumni Gallery is a walk through history that features all the classes, from 1939 to 2012, who graduated from ALS. Through the gallery boards, graduates tell their story of what life was during law school and what happened after. The boards capture the unique character of each of the classes and their defining moments.

The Alumni Gallery had its beginnings in 2011 when then Dean Cesar L. Villanueva invited the alumni to participate in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of ALS. Former Dean Eduardo Delos Angeles suggested a countdown to Foundation Day, June 6. During the countdown, the ALS hosted a mass and a reception for each graduating batch. When the idea to have an exhibit was brought up during one of the receptions, the response was overwhelming. This led to the unveiling of sintra boards on June 6, 2011. The sintra boards elicited a lot of positive comments from students, faculty, alumni and visitors. Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria then decided to make the exhibit a permanent fixture that led to the Alumni Gallery.

Aside from the gallery boards of each batch, eight “Dekada Boards” were also unveiled. The “Dekada Boards” feature the Dean, Faculty and Bar Placers of each decade.

The gallery boards are envisioned to serve as an inspiration to all law students who will get a glimpse of what lies ahead of them.

A dry-run of the system was showcased at the faculty meeting on July 26, 2013.

The project is sponsored by Ateneo Law Class ’89 and the contract was awarded to CD Asia, Inc. A total of 450,000 sheets have been converted to portable document format (PDF) and stored in a system called Ateneo Law School Records Archive (ALS RA). ALS RA will be installed in a server this coming February.

Digitization is a process of converting raw files into an electronic image readable through a computerized system with a search engine that can locate, view and print.

After the digitization is completed, the next step is to make Microfilm copies of the records to ensure that they are preserved for the long term.
Ateneo’s Annual One Big Fight: The Central Bar Operations

By SARAH LOU Y. ARRIOLA

THE Bar exams is a rite of passage every lawyer has to go through; and for Ateneo Law, it is the biggest annual event that the school organizes. Not only does it involve a great majority of students, it also entails the participation of the professors as well as alumni.

I have been active in Bar Operations (Bar Ops) even as a law student. In fact, during the Bar exams of my upperclass friends in 1997, I organized their hotel Bar Ops since there was still no hotel Ateneo Central Bar Operations at that time. The year after, I became part of the first batch of beneficiaries of the first ever hotel Ateneo Central Bar Operations.

When I became a member of the Ateneo faculty, Bar Ops has been my favorite school activity. My involvement goes beyond giving my tips to the Political Law group. It also entails making sure that my presence is felt during the all-nighters. Faculty presence is very essential in Bar Ops. Not only does it show support to the resident student volunteers and the bar examinees; the maturity and experience of professors come in very handy during emergency situations like transporting examinees from Sofitel to UST after being trapped in the PICC complex due to the notorious early morning marathons in Roxas Boulevard.

Bar Ops is the best time that professors get to interact with the resident students in a more relaxed atmosphere. Moreover, it is also that emotional moment when the bar examinees get the final blessing of their alma mater as they embark on the most important exam of their lives. Finally, it is always an experience to have early morning bonding breakfasts with Dean Candelaria and Associate Dean Gruba in Sofitel to be followed by the traditional “hatid” to UST of the deans and faculty (yes, some of us join the bus to UST).

Ateneo Law prides itself for being the best Law School. Being the best law school does not only mean having high bar passing rates and topping the Bar. It also means acting as one during critical times. For law schools, the most critical time is the month-long bar operations. In a community with people who have different affiliations and persuasions, the Ateneo Central Bar Operations acts as the tie that binds us and brings unity amidst diversity. It is the activity that brings residents, alumni, and faculty together to work hand in hand to achieve one goal: to have a 100% passing rate in the bar.

While the Ateneo Bar Ops can be the most time-consuming and tiring activity that any faculty member can get involved in, it can be considered as the most fulfilling. Not only do we get impressive results every now and then but the results have continually brought us fame and honor that made Ateneo the first among equals among Philippine law schools.

At the end of the day, Bar Ops is literally and figuratively the law school's annual “ONE BIG FIGHT”. A fight which we approach with passion and sacrifice; a fight where we always go big and win big not only for ourselves but most importantly, for God and country.
Christmas is a time of seemingly endless merry-making and gift-giving. In keeping with the spirit of the season, the ALS faculty and staff get together every year for a few hours of fun and games, good food, videoke, raffle prizes, and of course, good company. But the Christmas party of 2013 somewhat deviated from tradition. Instead of the usual program, the gathering was devoted to remembering those who have been affected by Typhoon Yolanda through the personal sharing of Taclobanons, Justice Vicente S.E. Veloso, Prof. Liberador V. Villegas and Ma. Lourdes N. Colminares (ALS fourth year student). It was also a time of restoring homes and all things and places familiar that have been devastated, even if only by telling how they once were and hoping how they can once again be. There was gift-giving still, but instead of giving out the customary raffle prizes, the school extended financial grants to the students, faculty and staff of the ALS who have been affected by the typhoon.

It was not the typical Christmas party, but it was no less a celebration of the true meaning of Christmas: that Christ has come to share in our humanity, and by being one of us, He brings hope and joy in the midst of pain and suffering. Nay, He is our Hope and Joy; He is Emmanuel, God with us.

Meet the new faculty

Ma. Angela Leonor C. Aguinaldo

Atty. Angel Aguinaldo teaches Legal Psychology and Evidence. She is currently an associate of the Law Office of M.A. Aguinaldo & Associates. She graduated from De La Salle University in 2005 with a double degree in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics and Bachelor of Science in Communication and was a recipient of the Sixto Roxas Excellence in Economics award. She earned her Juris Doctor from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2010 with honors. She obtained her Master of Laws in Forensics, Criminology and Law in 2013 from Maastricht University and graduated cum laude.

Lai-Lyn Angelica B. Barcenas

Lynn Barcenas teaches International Economic Law. She is a special counsel at Abad Nuñez Law, and at the same time a senior trade specialist at the Trade Advisory Group, Inc. She graduated cum laude from the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in 1992 with a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Commerce. She earned her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, in 2000. She obtained her Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy in 2009 from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA. She was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 2001.

Luz Danielle O. Bolong

Dani Bolong co-teaches Public International Law with Luisa Rosales and Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria. She is an Associate Solicitor III at the Office of the Solicitor-General. She earned her degree in B.S. Management, Major in Legal Management, from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2007 and graduated cum laude. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from the same university in 2011, with honors.

Klarise Anne C. Estorninos

Klarise Estorninos co-teaches Conflict Resolution in Family Dispute with Nina Patricia Sison-Arroyo. She is the Deputy Director of the Adhikain para sa Karapatang Pambata (AKAP) – Child Right’s Desk of Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC). She earned her degree in Bachelor of Science Major in Management and Minor in Entrepreneurship in 2007 from the Ateneo de Manila University where she
Meet the new faculty and staff

By BLYTHE M. LUMAGUE

Lolibeth Medrano


She has vast experience in intellectual property, environmental law, public policy, public administration, organizational planning and legislative work. She graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines in 1993 with a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration. In 1999, she obtained her Masters in Politics and Public Policy from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia as an Australian Development Scholar. She earned her Bachelor of Laws from San Beda College of Law in 2001, and in April 2013 she received her Masters of Laws Program specializing in Intellectual Property from the Ateneo Law School.

Richie Avigale Ramos-Pilares

Richie Ramos-Pilares teaches Legal Forms. She is a Senior Associate at the Puno and Puno Law Offices where she practices litigation and handles corporate commercial transactions. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of the Philippines, Diliman in 2001 with a degree in B.A. Philosophy. She obtained her Juris Doctor in 2006 from the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law ranking 10th among the graduating batch.

Domnina T. Rances

Domnina T. Rances teaches International Moot Court. She is a partner at Aguila Rances Divinagracia Law Offices. For four years, she served as coach of the Ateneo Society of International Law for the JESSUP and Asia Cup. She graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2004 with a degree in A.B. European Studies and International Relations. She earned her Juris Doctor from the same university in 2008, with honors.

Jose Lorenzo A. Sereno

Joren Sereno also teaches International Moot Court. He currently works at the Office of the Chief Justice. He was the administrator of the Ateneo Society of International Law for three years. In 2011-2012, he was the team captain and oralist for both Moot Courts in Practice Court II ITLOS and Government Contracts. Atty. Sereno graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 2006. He obtained his Juris Doctor from the same university in 2012.

Lovella Ordoñez

Belle Ordoñez is the new member of the Registrar’s Office. She joined the ALS community on November 4, 2013 as the new Administrative Officer I. She assumed the position vacated by Liwayway Bacani who is now the Assistant to the Registrar of the APS and ASoG. Before joining ALS, she worked as a teacher for four years and then worked for a call center for five years. She graduated from Bicol University in 2003 with a degree in Bachelor in Secondary Education, Major in English.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

“A Living Constitution” is the latest collection of brief commentaries by Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J. on the first half of the term of P-noy. His treatment of the various socio-economic, political and legal issues which confronted the P-Noy administration is characterized by his predictable independence of mind. He is, however, unpredictable in the manner he has arrived at his conclusions on an issue. At times even his closest friends and readers have to catch their breath to await the constitutional guru’s word on the issue of the day. (Taken from the Foreword by Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria)

The Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) introduced its first ever issue of “Philippine Journal of Legal Education”. The inaugural issue, edited by Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria, contains papers presented at the 2013 Legal Education Board-PALS Conference on Legal Education, which focus on legal education reform. It includes trends and recent best practices in the administration of law school programs.

“Read My Mind” is a compilation of Prof. Mel Sta. Maria’s views on a vast spectrum of current events and news. It was launched on September 15, 2013 at the Ateneo Law School with faculty members, students and famous personalities in attendance. No less than Manny V. Pangilinan was among the honored guests and speakers. The book is available at National Bookstore.
Congratulations to the ALS Loyalty Awardees for their years of dedicated service!

5 YEARS
Herminio S. Ozaeta
Ricardo M. Pilares III
Maria Filomena D. Singh
Norianne Katherine R. Tan

10 YEARS
Anthony A. Abad
Sarah Lou Y. Arriola
Ray Paolo J. Santiago
Dennis M. Villa-Ignacio

15-20 YEARS
Lily K. Gruba (16)
Liberador V. Villegas (15)
Cesario A. Azucena Jr. (20)
Dante Miguel V. Cadiz (20)

Happy birthday to our faculty and staff!

JANUARY
Albert R. Palacios  Jan. 1
Jose Lorenzo Dela Rosa  Jan. 5
Vicente S.E. Veloso  Jan. 7
Rodolfo R. Romero  Jan. 9
Regina Stella Jacinto-Barrientos  Jan. 6
Joseph R. San Pedro  Jan. 12
Vivencia F. Abaño  Jan. 15
Marco Antonio Luisito V. Sardillo III  Jan. 17
Marlon J. Manuel  Jan. 19
Jose Antonio S. Bernas  Jan. 22
Jose Victor V. Chan-Gonzaga  Jan. 22
Eugenio H. Villareal  Jan. 22
Oscar B. Pimentel  Jan. 25
Michael Dana N. Montero  Jan. 27
Jane Aurora C. Lantion  Jan. 29
Serafin U. Salvador, Jr.  Jan. 30

FEBRUARY
Maria L. Bautista  February 2
Rena R. Pamfilo  February 2
Liwayway Bacani  February 4
Angela C. Ylagan  February 7
Roman Miguel G. De Jesus  February 9
Francisco Ed. Lim  February 9
Edgardo M. Caldana  February 12
Silvia Jo G. Sabio  February 12
Jeremy I. Gatdula  February 13
Herminio S. Ozaeta, Jr.  February 15
Cirilo P. Noel  February 16
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