AMICUS, Latin for “friend” or “comrade”, is the faculty bulletin of the Ateneo School of Law. It seeks to build a community of law school faculty members who inspire each other and the studentry to be skilled in the science and art of the law, to be imbued with a burning passion for justice, and to lead in serving the nation for the greater glory of God.

Four as One: APS celebrates 40 years

By NINA PATRICIA D. SISON-ARROYO

The Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) kicked off its 40th anniversary on March 12, 2014 with a forum entitled, “Four As One: Forming Leaders for Nation Building”, held at the APS auditorium. The forum’s guest of honor was no less than President Benigno Simeon Aquino III who spoke about leadership and nation building. The event was also graced by University President Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J., APS Vice President Antonette Palma-Angeles, and the administrators of the four professional schools: Dean Antonio G.M. Laviña of the Ateneo School of Government (ASOG), Dean Alberto L. Buenvias of the Graduate School of Business (AGSB), Associate Dean Lily K. Gruba of the Law School (ALS), and Dean Manuel M. Dayrit of the School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH).

Speaking before the APS community, President Aquino said he believes that an excellent leader should not only be intelligent and experienced but should also serve with humility and know what is right from wrong. He reminded the audience that “Four As One” is a celebration of “Four As One for Others”, which calls for a recommitment to the ideals of Lux in Domino, Light in the Lord; the pursuit of excellence that is not for one’s personal interest but for the service of those who are outside the walls of the Professional Schools.

In her remarks, VP Palma-Angeles explained that the bricks symbolize “the strong foundation that has allowed APS to come to this point in history”, and “the laying of the foundation of a bigger APS”, which will start with the building of a fifth floor in the Rockwell campus.

APS is composed of the Law School (established in 1936) in the Rockwell campus, the Graduate School of Business (established in 1966) in Salcedo and Rockwell, The deans of the four schools.

President Aquino is flanked by (from left to right) Dean Laviña, Dean Buenvias, Fr. Villarin, S.J., VP Palma-Angeles, Assoc. Dean Gruba, and Dean Dayrit.

Dean’s Corner

By SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA

Academic Year 2013-2014 closes with significant events and new challenges for the law faculty.

The 2013 Bar Examinations, ably managed by Associate Justice Arturo D. Brion, produced two (2) topnotchers from the Ateneo Law School (ALS), namely, Dianna Louise R. Wilwayco (No. 2) and Marjorie Ivy S. Fulgueras (No. 9). Of the 176 first takers, 132 (77.84%) passed. The general observation cutting across all examinees’ performance nationally is that the Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) pulled down the raw scores of the examinees. About 60% (25 out of 42) of Ateneo’s previous examinees made it this year. Our overall combined passing percentage is 74.31%. The law faculty will be tasked to look more closely on our students’ J.D. undergraduate year-to-year performance in order to ensure our climb back to the 90’s rung. Dean Lily K. Gruba
Four as One: APS celebrates 40 years

the School of Government (established in 1996) in the Loyola campus, and the School of Medicine and Public Health (established in 2007) in Ortigas. As related by VP Palma-Angeles, the history of APS began 40 years ago when then University President Fr. Jose A. Cruz, S.J. issued a memorandum announcing the creation of the Office of the Vice President for APS and appointing Fr. Thomas R. Fitzpatrick, S.J. to the post. APS then consisted of the ALS, AGSB, and the Bureau of Small Business. In 1977, the APS transferred from its Padre Faura campus to Salcedo Village in Makati City. It then included AGSB, ALS, and the Ateneo Computer Technology Center (later renamed Ateneo Information Technology Institute). APS moved to its present Rockwell campus in 1998 after a generous land donation from the Lopez family.

Dean’s Corner

By SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA

has also begun this year the thorough editing of bar review materials with the help of selected faculty. I thank the law faculty for their collective effort in preparing our candidates for the upcoming bar examinations.

As we try to address the bar, it is crucial not to lose sight of our goal in enhancing our J.D. curriculum through the Tracking System of J.D. Elective Courses, which will form the foundation for the J.D./LL.M. Degree. The start-up six-month syllabi development project undertaken in August of AY 2013 through Atty. Ana Janet Sunga-Kim was significantly participated in by the various Law Faculty Departments. Professor Ryan D. Quan continues with the collation of the syllabi for presentation during our forthcoming Faculty Development Workshop this summer. It is interesting to note that even the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) and Law Deans just launched the first of a series of island-group regional faculty development seminars precisely on syllabi development, teaching standards, and law school administration.

My recent U.K. study tour with Professors Amparita S. Sta. Maria and Edzyl G. Magante sponsored by the British Embassy and the British Council gave rise to crucial reflection points in so far as curriculum and faculty development are concerned. There is an expression of willingness among the U.K. universities to further explore modalities of developing university partnerships through dual degree programs at graduate level, faculty and student exchange, and research. Twelve (12) U.K. law schools responded and met with us during our study tour. The shift to the new academic calendar to August 2015 will definitely put our program in a synchronized mode with the rest of the world. It is expected to facilitate our internationalization thrust.

Research grants began to be conferred upon some of our faculty members who have signified their interest in developing their syllabi, course content, and casebooks. We have increased the provision of grants under the new budget to encourage more of our faculty to update teaching materials in line with our effort to enhance the J.D. curriculum.

The Law School is proud of our mooting and debating teams for an impressive performance in different competitions. The Stetson, Vis, and Jessup teams have flown to various international matches this month.

Under our joint Kyushu project, four (4) ALS students are joining the second student exchange visit this May. Discussions have also commenced on the delivery by the Ateneo Law School, in coordination with other Kyushu project partner universities, of the Human Rights Track at the Kyushu University graduate program in law by October.

At the University level, we saw the changing of the guards at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB). Dean Alberto L. Buenvias had just completed his term and Dean Rodolfo P. Ang assumed the top AGSB post effective April 1. We expect to establish more synergy with the AGSB and other units at the Professional Schools in our curricular offerings and co-curricular activities.

In another context, in the recently concluded Jesuit Higher Education Commission (JHEC) Workshop in Cebu City last February 25-28, the different Ateneo universities and higher institutions of learning met to reflect on the future thrusts of Ateneo universities in light of the Ignatian Mission and within the framework of nation-building. The potential for understanding the specific regional concerns was underscored by the Deans and other administrators. Even the relevance of subject matter and teaching tools to the specificities of the immediate communities around the Ateneo universities is a central consideration in the delivery of an appropriate and culture-sensitive educational paradigm. It was also instructive to realize the call for more emphasis on a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching.

As we are inspired by the JHEC workshop, I would like to commend the work of Atty. Tanya Lat and her team in the past few months on the roll-out of programs related to the ethical concerns within the legal profession and the Judiciary. We foresee follow-through sessions in the coming school year embedded in ethics-related classes and, hopefully, mainstreamed in the core subjects as demonstrated in the last Bar Examinations.

I am pleased to cite that in the Annual Jesuit Legal Education Seminar conducted under supervision of Assoc. Dean Giovanni F. Voltente for student leaders, heads of organizations, and class beadle's, the recurring theme of ethical lawyering dovetailed with the search for a definitive meaning of the Ateneo lawyer.

At the alumni level, the law school paid tribute to the ALS graduates in the Public Attorneys Office. Close to thirty (30) graduates showed up during the testimonial lunch in their honor. They have made us proud of their dedication to their work even in the most trying environment.

On another occasion, the Ateneo Professional Schools celebrated its 40 years in existence as a collective institution with no less than P-Noy as Guest of Honor.

I wish to congratulate Ateneo Law Alumni Association, Inc. President, Atty. Ma. Filomena L. Rosales, for having addressed the 2014 graduates from the Loyola Schools.

Finally, I welcome the 2014 ALS graduates to the roster of law alumni. Four (4) LL.M. graduates are also set to march this year with the group.
ALS explores partnership with U.K. universities

By AMPARITA S. STA. MARIA

On March 10, 2014, Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria, Edzyl Magante, and Amparita S. Sta. Maria flew to the United Kingdom to explore possible partnerships with various universities who have expressed their willingness to discuss areas of collaboration with the Ateneo Law School. The trip was sponsored and facilitated by the British Council, through its Programme and Partnership Development Officer, Alec Ladanga.

The team, together with Mike Cabigon of the British Council, met with the following universities: University of Reading, University of Birmingham, Manchester University, the Universities of Bedfordshire, Huddersfield, Hertfordshire, Nottingham Trent, North Umbria, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Law, Oxford Brookes University, and De Montfort University.

During the meetings, a number of options were brought to the table for consideration, including:

a) Dual or Double LLM. Degree Program where a student may be awarded a Master of Laws Degree – one from Ateneo and one from the partner university by spending one term from each university;

b) Visiting Professorship where a faculty from each partner university can visit the other and participate in joint teaching, do a lecture series, or collaborate on a research project;

c) Study Abroad Program or Apprenticeship/Internship where students from the U.K. partner university will be sent here to spend a one year internship and possibly attend some electives; and
d) Faculty Development where members of the law faculty can obtain their LLM. through distance learning, needing to spend only a few months or even just weeks in the U.K. partner university and do the rest of the program through modules designed for distance learning and their dissertation through online supervision.

Pursuing the educational links with the U.K. universities will require ALS to develop its Master of Laws Program to meet the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The QAA is the body that reviews the quality and standards of U.K. universities and colleges. For the realization of a LLM. Dual Degree Program. Specifically, ALS needs to meet the criteria of Level 7 of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) Level of Study. (See http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/quality-code/Pages/default.aspx for more information on QAA.)

A lot of work needs to be done and an early preparation is essential. In the course of the discussions, it was clear that both ALS and the U.K. universities would need about a year to do the groundwork.

(From left to right) Dean Candelaria, Atty. Sta. Maria, and Atty. Magante at the University of Manchester campus.
ALS holds forum on ethical failures in the legal profession
By MA. TANYA KARINA A. LAT

The Ateneo Law School, in partnership with the Philippine Association of Law Schools, held a forum entitled “Ethical Failures in the Legal Profession: Interdisciplinary Perspectives” on February 28, 2014. The forum examined the phenomenon of ethical failures in the legal profession through the lenses of law, governance, and philosophy. The esteemed panel of resource persons consisted of Supreme Court Associate Justice Arturo D. Brion, Ateneo Professional Schools Vice-President Dr. Antonette Palma-Angeles, and former Commissioner Atty. Christian S. Monsod of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria delivered the welcome remarks. Dr. Palma-Angeles started the forum proper by explaining that legal ethics is really all about moral reasoning. She stressed the need for moral courage and moral imagination, saying that the legal profession must provide a sanctuary for those who are working to reform the system. “Legal education should produce strategists and not just experts”, she said.

Justice Brion pointed out that legal ethics must be analyzed beyond the rules, from the perspective of values. He identified the two “meta-values” of trust and fairness as the values that pervade all legal and judicial ethics, and challenged the audience to develop sensitivity to these values.

Atty. Monsod mentioned the “Lucifer Effect” and the “banality of evil,” and talked about the circumstances that lead otherwise good people to engage in unethical and corrupt acts. He shared how values formation, a policy of austerity and frugality, and the power of example from top leadership helped curb corruption at the COMELEC and restore the Commission’s reputation and integrity.

In addition to introducing interdisciplinary perspectives to an otherwise purely legal topic, the forum also included an interactive feature where the audience voted on hypothetical ethical dilemmas. During the open forum, the panelists wrestled with questions on how to develop moral courage and create a critical mass of ethical legal practitioners. The forum ended with the closing remarks delivered by Prof. Victor Alimurung.

Moving forward, the audience expressed the hope of possibly adopting an inter-disciplinary approach to the treatment of legal ethics, and having more conversations of this nature among law students, legal practitioners, and members of the judiciary.

The forum was attended by law students and faculty of the Ateneo de Manila Law School, Ateneo de Davao University, De La Salle Lipa, University of Asia and the Pacific, Father Saturnino Urios University, the UP College of Law, and representatives of the Supreme Court, the IBP, and the Philippine Institute of Development Studies.

The audience raise red cards to vote on hypothetical ethical dilemmas.

Dr. Palma-Angeles, Justice Brion, and Commissioner Monsod grace the forum.
ALS celebrates gender week
By MARIA PATRICIA R. CERVANTES-POCO

In solidarity with the global commemoration of International Women’s Day on March 8 of each year, the Ateneo Law School, through its Gender and the Law elective class, celebrated Gender Week on March 3-7, 2014. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Women Inspiring Change.”

The week kicked off with the opening of a photo exhibit on March 3 at the APS Atrium, featuring women who have transcended gender barriers by taking an active role in the traditionally male-dominated fields of politics, community service, business, science, and the arts.

A forum on this year’s theme, “Women Inspiring Change,” was held on March 6 at the Justitia. Invited speakers were Ms. Elizabeth Angsioco, feminist and Chairperson of the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines; Ms. Teresita Ang See, anti-crime crusader and founding President of Kaisa para sa Kaunlaran, Inc.; Ms. Gang Badoy-Capati, radio and television host and founder of RockEd Philippines; Ms. Joy Aceron, Program Director at the Ateneo School of Government; and Ms. Tin “DJ Suzy” Gamboa, radio DJ at Magic 89.9.

To culminate the celebration of Gender Week, the Gender and the Law class hosted Gender Night on March 7, where students from the class and the interns of the Ateneo Human Rights Center serenaded guests with songs and poetry, toasting to the successes and progress made in the advocacy towards women empowerment and gender equality.

ALS and AHRC hold international and environmental law forum
By RYAN JEREMIAH D. QUAN and PHILLIP DON G. RECENTES

The Ateneo Law School and the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC) conducted a forum entitled, “Trends in International and Comparative Environmental Law”, with Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin and Prof. Ben Boer as guest speakers. It was held on March 4, 2014, at the Bernas Conference Room of the Ateneo Professional Schools Building.

Justice Benjamin focused on the environmental situation in Brazil. He mentioned that environmental law enforcement is weak and there is no established command and control system to check compliance. He noted, however, that there is an evolving appreciation of international environment law, as evidenced by the re-calibrating of legal concepts on property rights in some countries. He shared that some states are now shifting from the Regalian doctrine and inclining towards common ownership of the environment.

Prof. Boer stressed the need for environmental law to be seen from a human rights perspective, which is currently a gap because there is no international instrument recognizing the right to environment. He said that sustainable development is at the moment concerned about maintaining the economic value of nature for future needs rather than a right. But in recent times, he said that international conferences have been discussing environmental issues in light of the right to health. He further added that environmental law should also be strengthened in order to protect heritage.

Justice Benjamin is a Justice of the National High Court of Brazil and is a professor at the Catholic University of Brasilia School of Law. Prof. Boer is a professor emeritus at the University of Sydney and the international co-director of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Academy of International Law. Their visit was facilitated through the assistance of Atty. Gloria Estenso Ramos of the University of Cebu College of Law and Atty. Antonio Oposa.
AHRC and MTRCB sign MOU to strengthen human rights-based programming

By Klarise Anne C. Estorninos

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC) on April 4, 2014, at the MTRCB Office in Quezon City. Through the MOU, AHRC undertakes to “assist MTRCB in providing adequate resource persons and other advocacy seminars and materials on matters pertaining to the proper appreciation and understanding of human rights issues in motion pictures and television programs, including, but not limited to media literacy workshops, review and classification seminars, and mandatory/best practices conferences, at no or at the least cost to the government,” among others.

Joining MTRCB Chairperson Eugene “Toto” Villareal at the signing were MTRCB board members Atty. Jose Antonio K. Veloso, Ricardo M. Salomon Jr., and Atty. Eric F. Mallonga. Representing the Law School and AHRC were Dean Sedfrey Candelaria; Prof. Amparita Sta. Maria; AHRC Executive Director Atty. Ray Paolo Santiago; and AHRC staff, Atty. Klarise Anne C. Estorninos, Anna Carillo-Paras, and Kristina R. Merginio. Media partners and friends also attended the event.

Chairperson Villareal shared the MTRCB’s recent programs toward inculcating a rights-based approach to their practices. He explained that the newly formed partnership between the MTRCB and AHRC will definitely strengthen and improve these programs. “Ang ugat ng mga ratings at mga patakaran natina sa MTRCB ay ang dignidad ng mga tao — ito ang kaugnayan ng MTRCB at ang karapatang pantao o human rights (Our ratings and procedures in MTRCB are rooted in the dignity of human beings – this is the link between MTRCB and human rights),” he said.

Dean Candelaria thanked the MTRCB for the opportunity to partner with a very respectable agency. He explained how he saw the reciprocal benefit of the MOU: AHRC will be able to apply their expertise in training both government and non-government agencies to a new frontier and MTRCB will be able to apply a more effective enforcement of their rules in the context of human rights norms and standards.

To introduce the work of AHRC, Atty. Santiago shared information about the different desks of AHRC and how the partnership will allow them to advocate for human rights not only in the media but also with the media. Atty. Veloso closed the ceremony hopeful that many good things will develop from the partnership.

Teehankee Center hosts 2014 LL.M. get-together

By Allan G. Revote

The Teehankee Center for the Rule of Law (TCRL) hosted the Ateneo Law School (ALS) Master of Laws (LL.M.) get-together on March 1, 2014, at the Bernas Center. ALS LL.M. alumni and students exchanged ideas and concerns with the LL.M. Faculty and with each other at the event.

The get-together started with an update on the LL.M. Program by the ALS Graduate Legal Studies Director, Prof. Amparita Sta. Maria. She announced that a number of students have successfully defended their theses and four (4) LL.M. students will be graduating this year. A Summary of LL.M. Theses and Topics was also presented which demonstrated that most of the theses were about Intellectual Property Law, followed by Corporate/Business Law, Human Rights Law, and Arbitration.

The forum also served as an occasion for Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria to apprise the LL.M. Students that the ALS Graduate Legal Studies has been working on possible international linkages with other universities, such as the

(From left to right) Prof. Amparita Sta. Maria, Amb. Manuel A.J. Teehankee, Prof. Edzyl G. Magante, Judge Teachie Lacandula-Rodriguez, and Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria exchanging views with the LL.M. students.
ALS and the Ignatian way

By GIOVANNI F. VALLENTE

What can a 15th century man teach 21st century aspiring lawyers? Is a 15th century man even relevant to 21st century aspiring lawyers? These were some of the questions a group of thirty seven (37) Ateneo Law students tried to answer when they participated in the Jesuit Legal Education (JLE) seminar held on March 7-8, 2014, at the St. Paul Renewal Center in Alfonso, Cavite. The group was composed of eleven (11) current and newly elected members of the Student Council, seventeen (17) representatives of various organizations, nine (9) beades, and four (4) special participants.

Aside from the usual dialogue with the ALS Dean and the Associate Dean for Students Affairs, a talk on the Ignatian Way of Proceeding and Core Values by Fr. Ismael Jose V. Chan-Gonzaga, S.J., and a witnessing on how these are lived out by Maria Filomena Legaspi-Rosales, Joey Hoffleña, and Marlón Manuel, the facilitators, led by Fr. Chan-Gonzaga and Tanya Lat, coaxed the participants to use the Ignatian principles in answering the following questions: “What is an ideal Ateneo lawyer?” and “What is an ideal Ateneo Law School environment?”

The participants, after breaking into groups and going back to a plenary discussion, answered that an ideal Ateneo lawyer should be ethical and just; excellent and well rounded; compassionate and service oriented; and passionate and goal oriented. As to the ideal Ateneo Law School environment, the students answered that it should be a place that nourishes, fosters growth and formation, challenges to be excellent, fair, and grounded in the Philippine situation.

While the students admitted that the answers to the questions are a work in progress, there was no doubt in their minds that a 15th century man like St. Ignatius of Loyola is still very relevant to today’s law students.
The men and women for others in the Public Attorney’s Office

By RAY PAOLO J. SANTIAGO

What is the agency of choice for Ateneans who desire to contribute to nation-building through public service and the practice of law? After the testimonial of February 21, 2014 held at the Justitia room of the Ateneo Professional Schools, it may well become the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO), which is at present home to thirty (30) Ateneo alumni.

Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria welcomed and introduced the Atenean PAO lawyers. He underscored their dedication and passion in choosing to represent a vast majority of the poor, not only in defending criminal cases, but also in pursuing their claims and rights which could otherwise be forgotten if not for the legal assistance of the PAO.

The Ateneo PAO delegation was led by no less than its Chief, the Honorable Persida V. Rueda-Acosta, who shared that working with the PAO is the best opportunity to make the motto, “Men and Women for Others”, a reality. She highlighted the changes brought about by the “PAO Law”, or Republic Act No. 9406, which transformed the PAO into an independent and autonomous office and gave it the mandate to be “the principal law office of the government in extending free legal assistance to indigent persons in criminal, civil, labor, administrative, and other quasi-judicial cases.” She further emphasized that the PAO is more than just a public defender. Due to its expanded mandate, it now represents complainant employees in labor cases, champions the causes of the poor in public interest litigation, and conducts outreach activities, such as jail decongestion programs and legal missions, among others.

Other alumni also delivered their testimonials, namely, PAO pioneers, Marvin R. Osias (Public Attorney IV and former OIC of the Special and Appealed Cases Services), Gesiree M. Abong (Public Attorney IV and Makati City District Public Attorney), and Ferdinand B. Gatdula (Public Attorney III and Siniloan, Laguna District Public Attorney); and rookies, Maria Lourdes E. Mislang (Public Attorney II from the Special and Appealed Cases Service), Lawrence C. Sia (Public Attorney II and Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the Legal Research Service), Laser Blitz B. Sumagaysay (Public Attorney II assigned to the Tacloban City District Office), and Agatha A. Mijares (Public Attorney II from the Executive Support Service). The testimonials provided a glimpse of the massive changes and improvements that the PAO has undergone through the years, from the time when it was viewed as an institution challenged with a lot of credibility issues to one which is now seen as a strong pillar of justice and hope for the poor and oppressed.

Each of the speakers shared their personal experience on how they found themselves working with the PAO. The common theme of being a “person for others” resonated from their sharing.

The men and women of PAO could have chosen to seek greener pastures and yet they have taken the narrow path: to be of service to the poor and oppressed in their quest for access to justice and equity for all. Through their example, it is hoped that the law students who witnessed the event would follow their lead and widen the path of lawyering for others.

Chief Public Attorney Acosta addresses ALAIAI officers, ALS faculty and students, and PAO lawyers. (Photos courtesy of the Public Attorney’s Office)
The judiciary in Ateneo – Ateneo in the judiciary

By MARIA LUISA ISABEL L. ROSALES

Lucrative careers in private practice are commonplace among Ateneans. Law firms around the Philippines (and in many other countries) have their fair share of Ateneo graduates filling their ranks. A life in public service was rare. But through the years Ateneans have increasingly filled in the roster of government servants.

The 2014 Judicial Mind was introduced this school year to give the law students an opportunity to take a step inside the life and mind of a magistrate, with the aim of cultivating an interest in pursuing a career in the judiciary. The semester culminated with a series of talks, from the kick-off discussion on the impeachment as a political process to anecdotes on the misdeeds at the Bench. The talks gave the Ateneo community a rare opportunity to tackle the most salient issues plaguing the judiciary today.

The Impeachment Court: A Democratic Tool or For the Democratic Fool was a forum featuring Assistant Court Administrator and Chief Public Information Officer Theodore O. Te; Atty. Rico Quicho (’03 JD) of the Defense Team of former Chief Justice Renato C. Corona (’74 LLB); and Congressman Sherwin N. Tugna (’06 JD) of the Prosecution Team on March 3, 2014 at the Auditorium.

On March 6, 2014, the nitty-gritty details of entering the judiciary were dissected before a large audience. From Law School to the Bench: The Career Path Towards Entering the Judiciary presented the insights of Associate Justice Jose P. Perez of the Supreme Court; Judge Jose Lorenzo R. dela Rosa (’99 JD) of the Manila Regional Trial Court; and Hon. Maria Milagros N. Fernan-Cayosa of the Judicial and Bar Council (’94 JD).

Finally, an in-depth conversation unraveled the perceived nefarious conduct of some members of the Bench. Judging the Judge: The Disciplinary Process for the Man in the Robe hosted a candid conversation between the students and Associate Justice Roberto A. Abad (‘58 LLB) of the Supreme Court; Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez (’93 JD); and Judge Rosalina L. Pison of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (ret.), Justice Hector L. Hofflehe (’54 LLB) was in attendance to lend his support to the efforts of the class on March 10, 2014.

While many Ateneans may continue to choose to lead a noble life in private practice, the class hoped that the speakers inspired a few audience members to consider a different path, maybe even one towards the Bench, and add to the growing ranks of Ateneans in public service.

(From left to right) Atty. Te, Atty. Quicho, and Cong. Tugna sharing their thoughts on the impeachment court.

(From left to right) Hon. Fernan-Cayosa, Justice Perez, and Judge dela Rosa paving the way to a career in the judiciary.
Bar 2013 topnotchers Dianna Louise Wilwayco and Marjorie Ivory Fulgueras agree that preparing for the bar examinations begins from the first day of Introduction to Law. Dianna graduated sixth in her batch and is now an associate at Gatmaytan Yap Patacsi Gutierrez & Protacio. She was in the mall waiting for the results when a friend called to deliver the news that she placed second in the 2013 bar exams. Marjorie, an Applied Mathematics graduate and now a Junior Associate at Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz, humorously shares that she was holed up in her room with a laptop next to her, crying all day, until a friend called to inform her that Justice Brion had just read out her name, placing ninth in the bar exams.

Dianna and Marjorie admit that the daily grind of preparing for class, not taking any of the law subjects for granted, and building good and disciplined study habits from first to fourth year helped them prepare for the bar. Marjorie adds, “not only did I learn to read faster, my writing also improved.” Challenging or “terror” professors motivated them to study hard in law school. They were both surprised to find truth to the saying that one might “hear the voices” of these professors while taking the bar exam. In particular, for Dianna, Dean Candelaria and Fr. Bernas, S.J. were her guiding light during the Political Law exam, while for Marjorie, it was Prof. Jack Jimenez for Commercial Law.

While Marjorie dove right into review right after graduation, and studied just as she would for recitation, Dianna took a month off before charging into her review schedule, which required her to complete two readings before Pre-Week. Dianna shares that she also made sure she embraced a healthy lifestyle throughout the review, getting daily exercise, eating fresh food known to improve brain functions, and even undergoing a stress management class a month before the bar exams.

When asked what ALS should do to better prepare its students for the bar, Dianna suggested integrating stress management in the bar review program, in order to better equip reviewees mentally and physically. Consistent with her philosophy that preparation for the bar begins in law school, she believes that the law school should adopt a strict retention policy, to “ensure that come senior year, all of the graduating students are adequately prepared for the Bar.” She also puts forward the idea of providing bar review electives to incoming seniors during the summer, or increasing the sections for bar review electives. Similarly, Marjorie believes that bar related electives should be mandatory, rather than optional. She also recommends that the Ateneo Central Bar Operations’ Summer Reviewer be improved with the assistance of “our professors who are the best in their respective fields.”

While looking forward to what the legal profession has in store for them (Dianna wants to specialize in Taxation and Intellectual Property, while Marjorie is considering eventually joining government service), these two topnotchers take a moment to remember what sets an Ateneo Law School education apart from the rest.

For Dianna, the school not only prepares its students to pass the Bar, but it also equips them for legal practice. In her opinion, “Jesuit education keeps the students grounded, and at the same time, allows them to be idealistic and be catalysts for change. The Ateneo Way provides us with opportunities to grow as a person, while giving us avenues to contribute to society.” Further, she appreciates “the fact that the curriculum allows the students to be well-rounded lawyers with the electives currently available. The school prepares its students to be globally aware and competitive, at the same time maintaining the quality of its students’ knowledge of local laws.”

Marjorie believes that “what separates an Atenean education from the rest is the holistic approach to the study of law. Professors do not just teach us what the law is, or how to interpret hundreds of cases. [Ateneo is] not only confined to training students to become excellent lawyers but also prides itself with producing leaders in service to others. Ultimately, it goes back to the Jesuit philosophy of being men and women for others.”
Dalawang dalawampu’t limang taon na sa ALS: sino sila?

By BLYTHE M. LUMAGUE

Ang kwentong ito ay tungkol sa isang taong hinahangaan ng lahat sa ALS. Isang matipunong lalaki, matikas ang tindig, kagalang-galang ang dating, at higit sa lahat matalino. Dalawampu’t limang taon na siyang nagtuturo sa Ateneo Law School. Nuong unang nag-apply siyang bilang propesor kay Dean Simeon N. Ferrer, hindi raw siya kaagad-agad tinanggap. Ang paliwanag sa kanya, baka may tumutol dahil nagtagapos siyang ng abogasya sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (UP). Hindi taman siya nawalan ng pag-asa at sa kinalaunan, natanggap din siya sa ALS.


Kinukuwento nga niya sa akin na may kasama siyang isang tauhan sa ALS na dalawampu’t limang taon na rin ang pagseserbisyo niya sa Ateneo. Siya ay isa sa mga institusyon ng ALS Administrative Staff. Dalaga pa siya nuon at wala pang muwang sa mundo nang nagisipul siya kasabay ng ating propesor nuong nasa Salcedo, Makati, pa ang ALS. Hinding-hindi nila makakalimitan ang napakasaraar at porkchop at siopao ng cafeteria sa Salcedo. Ang ikalawang loyalty award sa ito ay kinatatakutan ng mga mag-aaral, lalo na ng mga pinatapatang sa opisina ng Associate Dean.


Kay Professor Ruben F. Balane at Ms. Marissa David-Larlar, mabuhay po kayo! Kahanga-hanga at dedikasyon ninyo sa Ateneo de Manila University! AMDGI!

(Editors note: The author was requested by the honoree, Prof. Balone, to write this article in Filipino.)
• ALS faculty members are invited to the Annual Faculty Development Seminar on May 21, 2014, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Bernas Center, and on May 22 to 25, 2014 in Seoul, South Korea. For inquiries, please contact Ms. Leila Lim at the Law School Office.

• Ateneo Human Rights Center is looking for volunteers to join the law school contingent for Brigada Eskwela, an initiative of the Department of Education to bring together volunteers to clean up public schools in preparation for school opening. For details, please contact Atty. Klarise Estorninos at tel. no. 899 7691 loc. 2115. Volunteers may sign up until May 10, 2014.

• ALS continues to support Blueplate for Better Learning, which is ADMU’s long-term response to the fundamental need to nourish public school students in order to help improve their academic performance. For donations and further information, please contact Ms. Anna Carillo-Paras at tel. no. 899 7691 loc. 2109.

Happy birthday to our faculty and staff!

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Ray Paolo J. Santiago May 21
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