



Ateneews

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Member of the
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Philippines



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End the Silence of the Gagged!



ADDU RANKS AS 5TH PH UNI IN ASIA'S TOP 300

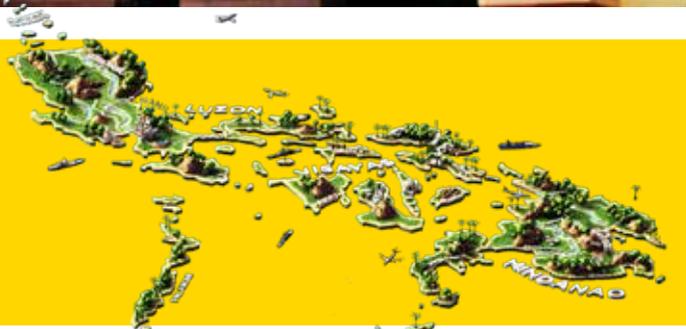
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Transparency has always been the concern for most students, evident in the recurrence of the topic in student summits; the university's budget being ... **PAGE 6**

NO SPECIAL TREATMENT

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BEING THE ATENEAN

Most freshmen's first thoughts as they take their first steps in the university are whether or not they could survive the courses they enrolled in. High school is over, but self-identity and life issues are still yet to be faced and settled. **PAGE 19**

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EDITORIAL



Artwork/Dexter Vaughn Mancao

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

WHEN THEN-CANDIDATE Regal Asuero said in the Presidential Debates that student apathy is “passive involvement”, the question shifted from being “How do we make the students alarmed?” to “How can we make the students move?” If we must concede to the thought that the students are not socially and politically oblivious yet are simply disinterested, what miracle must we

seek to rectify a repugnant culture?

Ateneo’s student leaders and concerned individuals have always appealed for the support of the students. Yet with continued showcases of poor results, such as the failure of the recent SAMAHAN constitution plebiscite, the functions of the SAMAHAN and of other bodies dependent

on student participation become compromised. Apparently, we still do not know how to deal with student apathy and the fight against it remains confused and hopeless.

For one thing, student non-participation has always been a product of free will. Asuero has merit in assuming that informing a student is not enough. A student,

in Asuero’s view, would still not care. The problem must persist on the idea that involvement is not relevant or interesting for the student. To highlight, student participation seems to be evident in more leisurely events such as Sayawtenista. If the response was as positive, the constitution plebiscite would not have failed.



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ATENEUS' FACES

KIRSTEN ILAJAS NEW AGE SPOLIARIUM



MONTHS AGO I have graduated from the University which signified my exit from the four walls of the classrooms and the gates of Ateneo. There was one time, I walked along the Claveria entrance and again, I had the chance to encounter a great crowd of familiar people, of the familiar aroma of freshly cooked proventicus and banana cue, and the guards who smilingly welcomed me again.

During the past years, I have encountered so many faces in Ateneo: faces of teachers eager to teach their students, of employees struggling for regularization, of students striving to pass their quizzes, of fashionistas parading their outfits-of-the-day, of scholars trying to cope with the tribulations they face to finish school and of many others. But somehow, I thought, what does Ateneo look like outside its crystal clear windows?

Outside, there's a jeepney driver whose sweat drips off from his forehead trying to count his coins; there's a peanut vendor who waits for customers so she can go home to her kids; there are kids asking for alms to fill their rumbling stomach;



Our nation needs faces of true leaders that seek not fame or recognition but change and reform.



there are people at the Freedom Park calling out for justice for the people's taxes; and, there's an unfair justice system that favors the rich and powerful. There are so many faces of poverty, of injustice, of inequality. There is a much greater world outside the gates of our school. There are so many faces to look at, to care about, and help out other than the selfies we post on Instagram, or the models of division shirts on posters, or of faces on tarpaulins during the election period.

Our nation needs faces of true leaders that seek not fame nor recognition but change and reform. The world needs women and men for and with others. Let us remember that Ateneo is not a dancing school or a fashion runway on Wednesdays; it is an institution that should be on the side of the oppressed, an institution that does justice.

We are given the privilege of being honed and trained to become leaders. As Ateneans, let us start making a difference within ourselves. Be informed. There are so many things to learn and to see more than the newest Apple product or the newest fashion trend. Actively participate in socially-relevant discussions and express thoughts on issues that need to be tackled other than ranting about telenovelas on Twitter or gossips on celebrity couples that broke up or started dating. Side with the oppressed and be the voice of the voiceless, because if it would not be us, then who? Who knows that someday, the little things that we do would start to create ripples of change that this world needs to renew its face. •

Concerned bodies could draw support if they directly target the students' interests. Yet at the end of the day, the students come to them for convenience, and the disinterest still remains.

To correct the conceptual flaws on the part of the students would be the main answer to student apathy. In an ideal student body, willingness for social and political involvement must be imbued in every student. For a system extremely dependent on student-student cooperation, student apathy has no place for objectives to be carried out.

Active individuals have always

used their influence to fight indifference, yet their efforts must be doubled. Faced with this, the fight against student apathy must not stop. All effort must be expended to educate and motivate: that the purpose for active participation and social involvement is deep rooted on society's and the students' dependence on each other.

Student apathy will remain to be a pressing problem in the upcoming years. If this keeps up, the core of the AdDU student body will shatter. The students, leaders or not, should be able to work together to protect each other's interests. •

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A MISCONCEPTION ON GREENER PASTURES

JASON OCCIDENTAL/MIND THE NOW



MOST OF us are familiar with the idiom 'greener pasture' which means finding a better job or life in another place, usually overseas. A lot of Filipinos today travel to these greener pastures to find work. Over 2.3 million Filipinos were Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) last 2013 and even more if illegal aliens and trafficked laborers were included.

Filipinos are enticed to migrate to greener pastures mainly because of the better work or quality of living. In Davao Region, the minimum wage ranges from Php 270-301 per day depending on the sector/industry. In the National Capital Region (NCR) it ranges from Php

429-466 per day depending on the sector/industry. In other countries like the United States, the hourly rate is equal to the range of daily wages in the Philippines. These salary differences are reasons for the country's brain drain, making the Philippines one of the top exporters of human capital.

For fresh graduates from an excellent university like Ateneo de Davao, they usually seek for high paying jobs. This is because of the large investment made to provide an Ateneo education. In my case, my family spent around PHP 40,000 to 50,000 per semester for five years plus budget for books,

assignments, and projects. Calculating its total amount, I definitely got frustrated on how to find a job that can definitely pay back what my family invested in me.

Over two months of unemployment made me realize the hardships of what I call this greater reality, a reality we face after accomplishing a college degree. Ateneo education simply equipped us with what we need in order to face this greater reality and the rest is left to us. Our own selves will make the discerning and the decision-making. This includes the question of where we will start our career paths. Will

greener pastures ensure of a better future?

However, going in the literal aspect of the expression, its absurd knowing that countries which offer high-paying jobs are modern and industrialized. I strongly believe that those places are likely to have pastures or even a shade of green.

If we think about it, the greener pastures are found here in Mindanao all along. If we think about it, the lack of employment opportunities and low minimum wages that are evident across Mindanao are a clear sign for the region's potential to grow.

The missing piece in this projected growth is us, the fresh graduates and soon-to-be degree holders who have been educated in this land of promise. Let us continue developing new ideas and innovations that do not only establish solutions for the problems of Mindanao, but also let Mindanao be engaged in new businesses and industries that are paramount for its growth.

We are not simply educated to become young change-makers in our society. We are given a bias to Mindanao, the land where our dear university stands, a region full of greener pastures, literally. •

DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT?

URSULA CALIPAYAN/WHAT THE FACT



DID YOU dare to make a difference? This is seemingly a simple question but somehow hard to answer. By difference, I mean did you take a step out from the usual? Did you even bother going out from our comfort zones to be one with the people shouting and marching to scrap the pork barrel (minus the 5-point incentives to some of our social sciences subjects)? Or did you post, tweet or even care to like a post regarding "sexy" and "tanda" being barred to leave the country? Or did you even bother to watch the news to see how "pogi" was handling his detention for plunder and graft charges? Did you try to look and check if there was any special treatment to the

senators? Or did you just change the channel because you are more interested to see if a bobcut fits Kris?

You did not even have to go out the distance. During the plight of the Yolanda victims, did you give or do something to help them? During the packing of goods at the Ebro, were you there? These questions are not meant to make one feel guilty, but rather to make one think and maybe start doing something. For instance, March 12-15 was our chance to finally replace our 32-year-old Samahan Constitution, but the result of the plebiscite was quite disheartening. Imagine, out of 8,128 enrolled students, only 2,371 students casted

their votes resulting to the 29.16% of overall voters' turn-out, very far from the required 60% for a new constitution to be ratified. Now the basic question we ask ourselves: where did the other Ateneans go? Whether or not they're yay or nay for the new constitution, they can still practice their right to vote. And it's sad that more than half chose otherwise.

Yet, we can still decide to choose "pakikiisa". It's always better to practice our being vigilant and responsible. Next time there is a national issue that needs our attention, we should choose to care to know about it or show support. It does



It's always better to practice our being vigilant and responsible.



not necessarily need us shouting or holding placards at the Freedom Park. It can be as simple as sharing a news story to your wall to help educate others. Next time there is something that needs our say as students, may we choose to practice our being sui generis leaders. Next time there is a calamity or an instance where our support is needed, may we choose to take the phrase "men and women for others" into our hearts and actually do something. And next time we encounter again the first question among the many questions asked in this column, may we be able to answer with full certainty that "Yes, I did dare to make a difference." •

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ADDU OFFERS 21ST CENTURY COLLEGE COURSES FOR 21ST CENTURY YOUTH

The Islamic way. Ateneo de Davao University offers AB-Islamic Studies, a course designed for students to develop a deeper appreciation in Islamic faith, culture, and political economic practice. Photo/Necta Casiple

HANNAH FAITH TORMIS

IN RESPONSE to the diverse needs of the 21st century, the Ateneo de Davao University is currently offering Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies. The varying work demands of this time have called for specific areas of specialization.

On the 22nd day of December 2013, AdDU submitted a proposal to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to offer the following programs

starting A.Y. 2014-2015: AB Interdisciplinary Studies, AB Islamic Studies and Doctor of Philosophy in Theology. Last April 3, AdDU received a memo from the CHED that approved of the university's proposal to offer the curricula.

Fr. Joel Tabora, S.J. and the Al Qalam Institute perceived the need to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies program. In an interview with Atenews, Ustadz Janor Balo, the university's Islamic Studies Coordinator, said that the program was offered to

provide support for the call for peace and order in Mindanao. Specifically, it aims to respond to the need for scholars on Islam and peace advocates who manifest appreciation for Islamic faith and specialized knowledge and skills related to culture and political practice for Mindanao.

The graduates of the curriculum are encouraged to help their communities, preferably the Muslim areas, by applying what they have learned from the program. They are expected to exhibit proficiency in both

oral and written Arabic, demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Qur'an and Hadith, comprehend and interpret events as they affect national and international politics and economy, demonstrate knowledge of Islamic history, culture, philosophy, literature and Shariah, and develop values and principles that see Islam as a way of life that encompasses the economic, social, cultural, as well as the political and legal foundations of human relations.

Ustadz Balo clarified that this program is not exclusive for Muslims. This program is open to all, regardless of one's religious beliefs. This becomes a bridge among different religions, strengthening peace and understanding. Balo proudly shared that so far, AdDU is the first Catholic university in Mindanao to offer an Islamic program.

"I want this program to be an asset of Ateneo, an asset for generating knowledge, peaceful coexistence, culture of dialogue,

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► inter-faith dialogue and formation of students,” Balo answered when asked about his hopes for the Islamic Studies program.

For this semester, AdDU has ten AB Islamic Studies scholars, with five coming from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the other five from other areas within Mindanao.

The move to offer Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies was initiated by the administrators of the Humanities and Letters cluster. According to an article in AdDU's official website, addu.edu.ph, the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Renante D. Pilapil, said that AB

Interdisciplinary Studies is a blend of different disciplines that responds to the needs of the global work environment.

The students are exposed to and are educated with the interrelated fields of media, technology, business, philosophy, and management. The program trains the students to be well-versed in English and Asian or European languages and to be able to share knowledge about modern cultures and arts.

An article in addu.edu.ph notes that the University is expecting to produce graduates who are equipped “to occupy creative and analytical positions in education, government, and business, including telecommunications, public

The graduates of the curriculum are encouraged to help their community, preferably the muslim areas, by applying what they have learned from the program.

relations, multimedia design, and information technology.”

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is offered in five different choices, each with its own specific fields of expertise: Language and Literature, Media and Business, Media and Philosophy, Media and Technology, and Philosophy and Theology.

The Institutional Promotions Office is collaborating with the media to publicize AdDU's big leap in responding to the needs of the 21st century. •



NEW YEAR, NEW EXPENSES

JOHN PAULO VICENCIO

TRANSPARENCY HAS always been the concern for most students, evident in the recurrence of the topic in student summits; the university's budget being one of the leading demands.

According to Kathleen Peñafort, the 2013-2014 SAMAHAN treasurer, the bases for the university budget include the expenditures from the past and ensuing years according to the framework of accounts of the university, and from the budget requests of the different department deans. The latter then considers other significant fees, as explained below, and finalizes the budget.

This budget depends on the need of the university and student body.

The 2014 Budget Proposal

The data is from a presentation by the University Treasurer Jimmy Delgado in a multi-sectoral meeting last January 25, 2014.

Last year, the university amassed a total revenue of P471, 476, 675, while total expenses reached P434, 967, 928. These expenses come mostly from new equipment, major campus improvements, and the upgrading of the University's service unit equipment. With the addition of P26, 969, 275 from capital expenditures, the total income from

the last year's operations amounted to P9, 539, 472.

However, this academic year, there will be an increase in the University's expenses. The school's total expenses is projected to rise to P482, 012, 885, and capital expenditures to P29, 040, 219, reflecting an 11% and 8% increase, respectively. This will result to a total loss of P10, 908, 035.

“Although the projected income statement indicated a loss, the University will still be able to work around the operation costs with its accumulated funds, as well as its monetary expenses,” the SAMAHAN treasurer said.

The 6% Tuition Increase

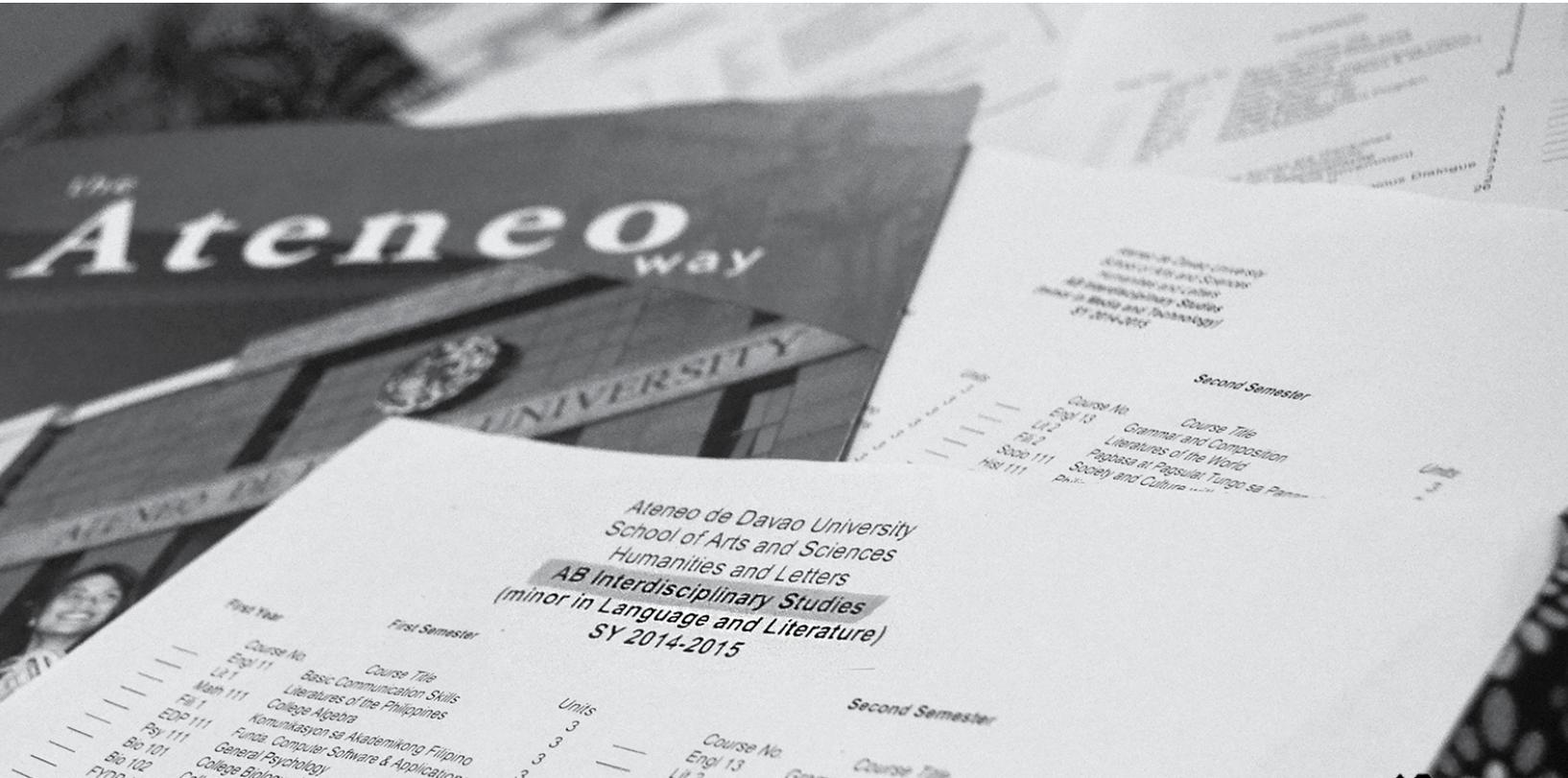
Based on the presented budget, a tuition fee increase of 6% is needed to accommodate the University's increased expenses. This increase is reflected through higher miscellaneous fees, specifically in the areas of facility improvement, energy, and development, and their corresponding fees.

As mentioned in the minutes of the meeting prepared by Ian Clark Parcon, the increase in tuition fee also accounts for inflation at 4% and salary increase of 6%. The university staff's salaries are factored out in the students' tuition.

Other reasons for the increase include the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) integration of the university by 2015. This ASEAN integration will allow the University to be at par with other universities around the world, and will allow its curriculum to be accredited internationally, which can greatly benefit students and alumni. This will also address the need to strengthen the school's networks and linkages, as well as benchmarking, especially in the international arena.

Facility Improvement

The 6% increase can specifically be rooted to the increase in Miscellaneous Fees. Under this category



RIGHT: With a full-geared syllabus, the AB Interdisciplinary Studies is ready to make its way into the learning of Ateneans. Photo/ Necta Casiple

falls Facility Improvement, which will rise to P1, 352.45 from P1, 275.90 last year.

Improvements include the change from normal whiteboards to Information Technology-ready whiteboards, which has already been implemented, and the improvement of current classrooms to IT-ready classrooms with individual LCD projectors, which is yet to be achieved.

WiFi facilities will be upgraded to reach all classrooms and hallways, with increased bandwidth for faster service.

Also under Facility Improvement are expenses in the new building that were not included in the original budget, and expenses for developing vacated areas in the old buildings.

Energy Fee

With the upcoming rise of the new buildings this year, the total expense for energy is expected to rise as well. With the new buildings come higher electric and

water bills.

Also classified under Miscellaneous Fees is the school's Energy fee, which will incur a 6% rise of P1, 133.3 to P1, 201.3.

Discussions in the Ecoteneo also look into possible ideas for energy conservation, which will positively impact the Energy fee.

Development Fee

Lastly, the Development Fee will also rise by 6% from P500.15 to P530.15.

In the meeting, it was clarified that the development fee will include faculty and office development. It will also include curriculum development and strategic planning undertaken by various schools.

SAMAHAN to the Students

SAMAHAN, as represented by its former treasurer, said that these increases are inevitable, as there has been year-by-year. However, in almost every

case, they are justifiable.

"This year, the budget is affected by the two upcoming buildings, mainly," Peñafort explained. The SAMAHAN treasurer pointed out that the increase would be for the new security guards, new supplies, and new expenses, and is reasonable.

What SAMAHAN asks is that the students, especially those who are concerned, is to discover and know the issue at hand first before reacting. "It's easy to throw words," she remarked.

"We promise to give more effort in informing the students. However, we also ask for cooperation, as in the end, all of us are the beneficiaries," Peñafort said.



Artwork/Carl Militar

HIGHLIGHTS



May 9 -- A Philippine coastguard open-fired on a Taiwanese fishing vessel, leaving a Taiwanese fisherman dead. There were tensions between Taiwan and the Philippines when Taiwanese President Ma Ying-Jeou threatened to impose a sanction on the Philippines.



November 29 – The Manila City government passed a resolution urging President Benigno Aquino III and the Congress of the Philippines to recognize Andres Bonifacio as the first president of the Philippines.



March 13 – Kristel Tejada, a freshman student in UP-Manila, committed suicide after filing a forced leave of absence (FLOA) with an unsettled previous loan.



November 7 – Janet Lim-Napoles, the alleged mastermind in the P10-billion pork barrel scam, faced the Senate to answer the allegations against her.



January 17 – USS Guardian (MCM-5), an American mine countermeasures ship, ran ground at Tubbataha Reef, testing relations between the Philippines and the United States.



April 20 – Twenty fishermen from Chinese fishing vessel faced charges of illegal poaching and attempted bribery as they ran ground the Tubattaha reef, the same reef where the USS Guardian ran ground three months before.



November 20 – The Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), also known as pork barrel, was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.



JULY

AdDU welcomed #SHIFTDavao, a social media conference, as it centered on its role and power in publicizing information. Its speakers included Maria Ressa, Rappler's Chief Executive Officer/ Founder, and Bianca Gonzales, ABS-CBN celebrity host and reporter.



AUGUST

Due to the series of bombings that hit Mindanao, the School Administration and SAMAHAN Central Board (SCB) postponed the College Fiesta originally scheduled August 14-16.



SEPTEMBER

The AdDU 65th Fiesta still resonated with sportsmanship and leadership with the theme, "Mother Mary, Faithful Companion in our Journey Towards 65 Years of Excellent Service in Mindanao and Beyond".



DECEMBER

Social Sciences (SS) Representative, Angelo Gabut, filed a resignation letter admitting he used the SS SEC funds "for personal matters".



JANUARY

The opening of 2014 launched the SCB candidates, aired the Miting de Avance and the elections.



2013

February 10 – Typhoon Maring hit northern Luzon, leaving many areas flooded and over 200,000 homeless.

September 28 – Miss Philippines Megan Young was crowned Miss World 2013, making her the first Filipina to win the title.

November 8 – Typhoon Haiyan (known in the Philippines as Typhoon Yolanda), the “deadliest storm to sweep the archipelago-nation”, caused catastrophic destruction in the Visayas, killing more than 5,000.

October 15 – Carmen, Bohol and other parts of the Visayas and Mindanao were jolted by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake, killing at least 222 people.

July 11 – Davao City Police rescued a businesswoman kidnapped in Quezon City. Authorities shot dead at least two of the woman's suspected abductors, with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) criticizing Mayor Duterte's criminal assertions, “unethical” and “unbecoming.”

June 2 – Cebu Pacific Flight 971 carrying 165 passengers from Manila overshot the runway at Francisco Bangoy International Airport in Davao City. Though there were no reported injuries and fatalities, the plane was heavily damaged and written-off.

December 9 – The Philippines and the Bangsamoro signed a power-sharing agreement, paving the way for the peace.

September 9-28 – The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and government forces clash in Zamboanga City, paralyzing economic activity in the city.

February 12 – Philippine gunmen claimed to be part of the “royal army” of the Sulu Sultanate in Lahad Datu, Sabah, causing a standoff. It challenged bilateral relations between the Philippines and Malaysia.

Artwork and Infographic/Rafael S. Benedicto

FEBRUARY

Election results were out, with elected President Regel Kent Asuero taking the lead as Samahan President.

The College Days 2014 bounded on the theme, “Taking the Lead in Bridging Mindanao’s Diversity of Culture the Ateneo Way.”

MARCH

COMELEC declares failure of plebiscite; voter turnout stands at 29.16%.

MAY

The 2014 Asia’s Top 300 universities included AdDU, along with five Philippine universities. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings’ top indicators were the academic reputation from Global Survey and faculty-student ratio.

Tertiary schools gathered in the annual National Schools Press Conference (NSPC) held at St. Francis Xavier Seminary. Ateneo entries, Banaag Diwa and E-mag 2, bagged 2nd-runner-up and 1st-runner-up, respectively.

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H I G H L I G H T S

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All smiles grace the stage as Ateneus is awarded as 2nd-runner-up for the Literary Folio category in this year's 74th N.S.P.C. Photo/Christine Joice Cudis

74TH NSPC PUSHES AWARENESS, PRESS FREEDOM

KATRINA GUILONSOD

CAMPUS JOURNALISTS from all over the Philippines convened for the 74th National Student Press Convention (NSPC) and 37th Biennial Student Press Congress of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) last May 19-23.

With the theme, "Dasig Manuwat: Uniting Campus Journalists for Genuine Press Freedom and Social Change", the assembly of Campus Press

in the Philippines was held at St. Francis Xavier Seminary Regional Major Seminary of Mindanao in Davao City. It aims to empower all Collegiate Student Publications to be constructive for the sensibility and social involvement of each publication.

DASIG

"Pinag-iisa tayo ng ating layuning mabago ang lipunan sa pamamagitan ng mga balita, opinyon at lathalain na nalilimbag sa atin ng mga pahayagan

sa kampus," Marc Lino Abila, the CEGP National Secretary General shared.

Activities including educational discussions and basic mass integration were organized for the delegates to be equipped with skills and experiences that benefit them as campus journalists.

"It's really fulfilling to be a part of these kinds of discussions and immersions, because as a journalist, I need to relate myself into the things that I write," said a delegate from Polytechnic University of

the Philippines.

Key personalities like Raymond Palatino, Tonyo Cruz, and Sarah Jane Elago imparted their knowledge to the delegates as speakers. They mainly talked about the poor quality of education in the country, social media in campus journalism, and peace process in Mindanao.

CULTURAL NIGHT

Delegates showcased their traditions and culture during the cultural night with a touch of campus

journalism in their performances.

Althea Abergos, a delegate from the Ateneo de Naga University, sees the significance of the presentations. "Una, mas naramdaman ko ang unity at mas nagkakilala kami ng ibang guilders. Pangalawa, mas nagkaroon kami ng tsansa na maibahagi ang aming kultura sa ibang mga kasamahan namin," she recounted. •

Awardees

Ateneus' entries, Banaag Diwa and E-Mag 2, bagged 2nd runner-up and 1st runner-up, respectively, for the Best Literary Folio and Best Magazine categories.

"This recognition is not only for the organization but for the whole Ateneo Community that gave us the support and inspiration," expressed Kirsten Ilajas, the Ateneus Editor in Chief.

The NSPC is not only an event for acknowledgment of national publications, but also an avenue to bring social consciousness back to collegiate campus journalism.

Literary Folio

1ST PLACE

• Aklas
Philippine Normal University

2ND PLACE

• Ang Paglalakbay
Palawan State University

3RD PLACE

• Banaag Diwa
Ateneo De Davao University

SPECIAL CITATION

• The Collegiate Immaculate
University of Immaculate Conception

Tabloid

1ST PLACE

• Philippine Collegian
University of the Philippines (Diliman)

2ND PLACE

• Manila Collegian
University of the Philippines (Manila)

3RD PLACE

• Outcrop
University of the Philippines (Baguio)

Magazine

1ST PLACE

• Ang Sulo
Philippine Normal University

2ND PLACE

• E-Mag 2
Ateneo De Davao University

3RD PLACE

• Today's Carolinian
University of San Carlos

SPECIAL CITATIONS

• Kawayan Communicator
Isabela State University
• The Pioneer
Palawan State University

Alternative Form

1ST PLACE

• Outcrop
University of the Philippines (Baguio)

2ND PLACE

• Manila Collegian
University of the Philippines (Manila)

3RD PLACE

• DMMaxim
DMMA College of Southeastern Philippines

SPECIAL CITATIONS

• Weekly Dawn
University of the East

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AdDU in Asia's Top 300

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Celebrities, politicians face same due process

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THE PORK SAGA

A year ago, one of the Philippines' biggest political scandals emerged out of nowhere. And like a sensational afternoon drama, the P10-billion pork barrel scam took the country by storm.



Photo/Kristoffer Jan Tipon

3 FEATURES

The pork saga

A year ago, one of the Philippines' biggest political scandals emerged out of nowhere. And like a sensational afternoon drama, the P10-billion pork barrel scam took the country by storm.

SOL MARIANO

“We call for accountability and justice. We call for an independent, impartial, credible and competent body to investigate how the PDAF and other sources of funds for public use have been used or abused by our public officers.”

- Fr. Joel Tabora, S.J.

THE PRIORITY Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam refers to the alleged misuse of some government officials' PDAF or pork barrel. These are funds that the Philippine government allocates to the members of Congress to fund for their own local public projects.

How did one of the Philippines' hottest issues unravel in recent years?

The Exposé

On July 2013, The Philippine Daily Inquirer published a series of reports specifying that a businesswoman named Janet Lim-Napoles channelled public money into her private account using the pork barrel of several government officials over the past ten years. The published reports were largely based on the words of Napoles's relative and former employee, Benhur Luy, who is now the primary whistleblower of the said scam.

The following month, the Commission on Audit (COA) released a report of a special

audit conducted from 2007 to 2009 showing over six billion pesos worth of pork barrel being transferred to 82 bogus non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and that ten of those NGOs were linked to Napoles. She allegedly received over two billion pesos.

The Outrage

After the release of the COA report, the public reacted extremely negatively. Social networking site users flooded attacks and criticism toward Janet Napoles.

Even her daughter, Jean, was not spared. Netizens saw photos of her wearing expensive outfits and of her posing with Hollywood celebrities, drawing further controversy.

Distaste in the scam also manifested in other forms such as the Million People March. Around a hundred thousand protesters gathered at different venues nationwide to demand for the abolishment of the pork barrel and for the punishment of Napoles. Two days after the march, Napoles personally surrendered to



Pres. Aquino after she was issued a warrant of arrest for illegal detention of Luy.

Due to the COA report, last September 16, Senators Enrile, Estrada, Revilla, and 34 other people were charged with plunder, malversation, bribery, and graft and corruption for allegedly being involved in the embezzlement.

The “Napolist”

When Napoles finally appeared before the Senate

Blue Ribbon Committee, she refused to answer questions, repeating the phrase “I invoke my right against self-incrimination.” With what seemed to be a tactic in becoming state witness, she submitted the first part of her signed affidavit and a list of people who had supposedly done business with her to Justice Secretary Leila De Lima, who in turn, submitted the signed documents to the Senate.

The “Napolist”, as it was widely called, con-



"Igawas ang kamatuoran." This was the cry of Ateneans during the Million People March against the Pork Barrel Scam. Photo/Jason Occidental

tains names of former and incumbent senators, and other government officials. The three senators initially charged with plunder, namely Revilla, Estrada, and Enrile, are included. Current or former senators who are also in the list are Cayetano, Ejercito, Escudero, Honasan, Legarda, A. Pimentel, Santiago, Sotto, and Villar. The list also points around 70 congressmen, and a number of government agents and officials.

After the list was revealed,

some Senators whose names were listed quickly refuted the allegations. Senator Santiago said that the list has "no evidentiary value" and that she never had any dealings with Napoles. Senator Legarda also denied having any dealings with the scam mastermind, saying that she did not know Napoles personally or any of her NGOs.

The list caused a huge stir because of the inclusion of several big names. No matter the authenticity of

Napoles's account, there is no doubt that the second part of her affidavit with the extended list will become another sub-plot in this already complicated story.

What Now?

Napoles's lawyer released a statement saying that the pork queen will return her P2-B catch. This was interpreted to be Napoles's tactic in being granted immunity from the scandal. However, in a seemingly 'lost-in-translation' drama,

Napoles denied ever making the statement and told of her lawyer as taking her words out of context.

With Napoles back to playing as 'not most guilty', the government and the people still have a lot to probe and do to get back on its feet. The money may or may not be recovered and the guilty may or may not be incarcerated, yet the fight for justice must not stop.

As Fr. Joel Tabora, S.J. said

in his address contra PDAF corruption, "We call for accountability and justice. We call for an independent, impartial, credible and competent body to investigate how the PDAF and other sources of funds for public use have been used or abused by our public officers."

With the awakened public seeking for justice, what will become of this story? Will truth and justice fail or prevail? 🙏

3 FEATURES

Globally competitive

AdDU ranks as 5th PH uni in Asia's top 300

Ateneo de Davao University has proved itself to be 'a community engaged in excellent instruction and formation, robust research, and vibrant community service,' as quoted from the university's Vision statement. LYKA PICARDAL

AdDU is one of the five Philippine universities included in this year's Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings: Asia, released last May 12, 2014.

The university ranks in the 251-300 range. The other four universities which were on the list are University of the Philippines at 63, Ateneo de Manila University at 115, University of Santo Tomas at 141, and De La Salle University in the 151-160 range. Interpretations of these results make AdDU the fifth best university in the Philippines and the best outside Metro Manila.

Setting the standards

The QS University Rankings: Asia, which started out in 2009, provides an annual overview of the top 300 academic institutions in the globally competitive region.

In assessing the universities, QS sets nine criteria to form the rankings. 30% is allotted for the Academic Reputation from Global Survey, 20% for the Faculty Student Ratio, 10% for the Employer reputation from Global Survey, and 15% each for Citations per paper from Sciverse Scopus and Papers per faculty from Sciverse Scopus. 2.5% each is given for the four remaining criteria, namely: Proportion

of international faculty, Proportion of international students, Proportion of inbound exchange students, and Proportion of outbound exchange students.

On internationalization

Manila Bulletin states that the Quacquarelli Symonds rankings "[do] not merely indicate the competitiveness of Philippine educational institutions, but show they are ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of integration in a rapidly changing and increasing globalized environment."

In perspective, some of the top universities in the country have already shifted their



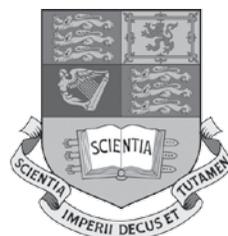
academic calendars. This is to prepare the students for the ASEAN Economic Community Integration in 2015. Also, this will allow the students and faculty to engage in exchange programs with partner universities in Asia, America and Europe.

According to AdDU Academic Vice President, Fr. Gabriel Jose Gonzalez, S.J., shifting AdDU's academic calendar to be in sync with the other universities outside the country is not a necessity.

Having 6-8 classes at the peak of the heat of summer is not conducive for learning. It becomes a difficulty especially that the temperature may reach 40 degrees Celsius. This is cited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) chairperson Patricia Licuanan from a study by the Department of Education.

"I am not closed to the idea of changing the school year but we have to determine if there is a real need for it," Fr. Gonzales concludes.

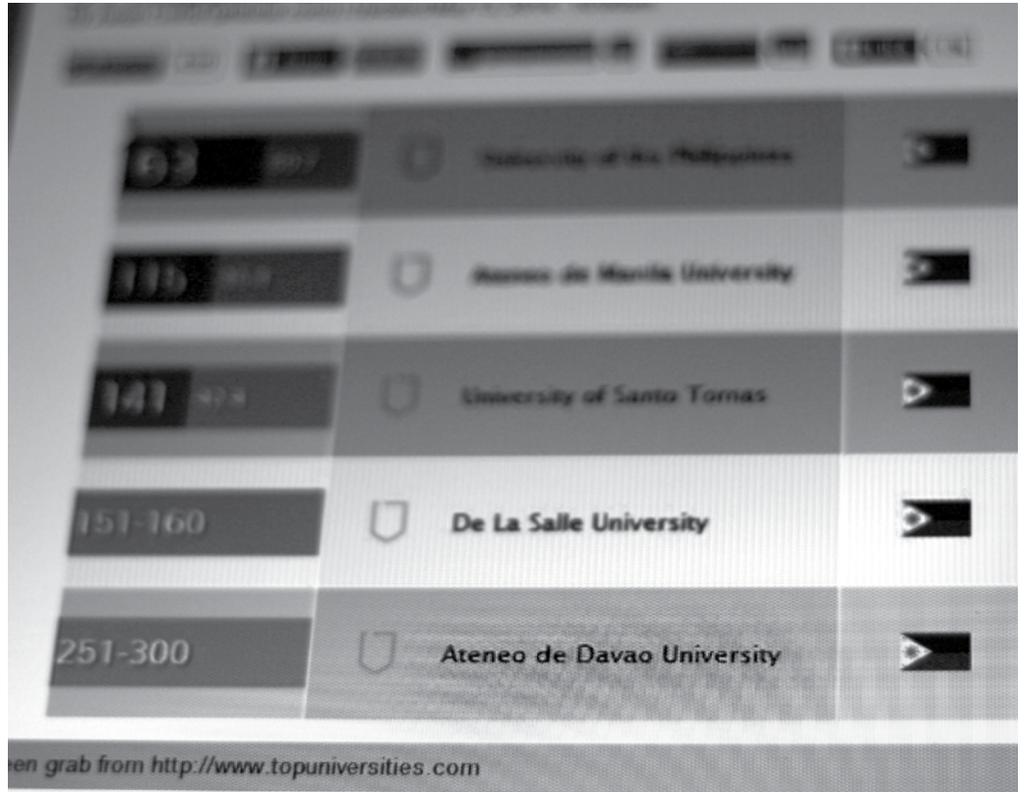
The World's TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES



5 Imperial College London
United Kingdom



4 University College London
United Kingdom



Ateneo de Davao University joins the ranks among Asia's best as one of the top 300. Photos/Gian Sam

The improvements continue

Ongoing efforts are being done by the administration to make the university more globally competitive.

First, higher qualifications for the faculty with a "quite aggressive" development program are being worked on.

Second, the curriculum of the old and new programs have been reviewed and improved. These changes are not just compliant to CHED requirements, but also allow

AdDU to become more responsive to the needs of Mindanao while fulfilling international standards.

New college degree programs such as the AB Islamic Studies and AB Interdisciplinary Studies will prepare its students for relevant work and become more attuned to the needs of Mindanao and the international work environment.

The curriculum of some of the old degree programs have also been revised to be able to understand and work

on the issues in Mindanao, especially regarding poverty, peace, and order.

Third, the new buildings are being constructed to cater to the students' needs. Again, these efforts are done "towards having a campus that is competitive internationally."

Despite all of the improvements and the turnout of the survey, Fr. Gonzalez believes that AdDU must focus on its prime priorities.

"I'm glad for it but I will

not allow this ranking to determine our direction," he says.

Fr. Gonzalez states that the priority must be to fulfil the vision and mission of the university. The needs of the students must be addressed even if it means not being able to receive higher rankings.

"It is the Vision and Mission that matters most. This ranking only affirms the Vision and Mission, and not the other way around," Fr. Gonzales concludes.

"I am not closed to the idea of changing the school year but we have to determine if there is a real need for it."

- Fr. Gabriel Jose Gonzalez, S.J.



3 University of Cambridge
United Kingdom



2 Harvard University
United States of America



1 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T)
United States of America

3 FEATURES



Whoever you may be, no one is above the law; even if it were "sexy", "pogi", or "tanda", it excuses no one. ScreenCap/newsinfo.inquirer.net

No special treatment

Celebrities, politicians face same due process

Every person has the right to due process and to undergo a fair and speedy trial. In the Philippines, many believe that this is not the case.

MINNIE MABOLOC

RECENTLY, MANY Filipinos were glued to their seats in tuning in to some extremely controversial cases. One is the Pork Barrel Scam, which currently puts three senators, two of which are celebrities, in the hot seat. Another is the Deniece Cornejo rape case against TV celebrity Vhong Navarro which was dismissed.

All eyes were on their trials—the people, media and authorities. While Navarro's case seemed to pack up swiftly, the resolution of the PDAF scandal still lags in development.

Through the years, celebrity cases appear to be fast-tracked. Many people wonder whether this arises from special treatment. Is it valid to say that cases involving big politicians take too long to finish unlike those of celebrities? Is there another justice system applied to politicians and celebrities?

In an interview with *Ate-*news, Atty. Francis Calatrava of the Public Attorney's Office clarifies the details.

Fast-tracked celebrity cases

"There is a strong perception that celebrity cases are prioritized. But for me, I disagree with that. Nagkataon lang siguro na natututukan ng media ang proseso. So, whatever is going on with the process, nakatutok 'yung media,'" Atty. Calatrava says.

He clarifies that all justice procedures are the same despite of the apparent lengths. Each case goes through the same process. In it, the respondent receives a copy of the complaint. He or she is then given days to file a counter-affidavit, but he or she may file for an extension if needed.

Atty. Calatrava cites that the main possibility why celebrity cases resolve quicker might be that the

concerned individuals do not file for extensions. He also cites that the prosecutor might not have a heavy load and could track the case keenly and swiftly.

"Yung iba binibigyan ng time to respond, to file the counter-affidavit and motions. It's because they need to buy time to settle the matter to the complainant," he says.

Stagnant political cases

When asked on why the four-year Maguindanao Massacre case seems stagnant, Atty. Calatrava clarifies the dynamics of the Philippine justice system.

"Ang justice system kasi natin is adversarial, not summary. What that means is that the complainant sends a complaint [to the respondent], then the same process [goes on]. How much more sa Maguindanao massacre, na ang daming namatay at ang daming akusado?" he says.

He explains that the witness, the defense and the prosecution must be present before the defense cross-examines the witness. The witness is then redirected by the prosecution before the defense re-cross-examines the witness.

He also says that the prosecution and defense might present more evidences that will also cause the delay of the case.

"Our rules allow the defense or the prosecution to file motions, 'yung iba, dilatory tactics lang. Pero allowed eh,'" Atty. Calatrava says.

Today's justice system

Atty. Calatrava believes that the current Philippine justice system is taking too much time. However, the Supreme Court is proposing for an amendment to simplify the procedure.

The proposed procedure would now be 'direct'. Unlike now when the witness takes the stand and the defense cannot answer, the defense/prosecutor could answer directly to their statements. By this, the judge can easily assess each party faster.

Atty. Calatrava believes that steps must be taken to ensure the right to a proper trial, despite them making the trial take longer.

"Ang tao, kahit ano man kalaki ng kasalanan, entitled to due process pa rin. Dapat protective ang justice system natin because sino ba [ang may] gustong makulong nang hindi du-maan sa tamang proseso?" he says.

Atty. Calatrava emphasizes that a person is innocent until is proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

"Some say 'lawyers are liars', but it is just the lawyers protecting their client," he concludes.

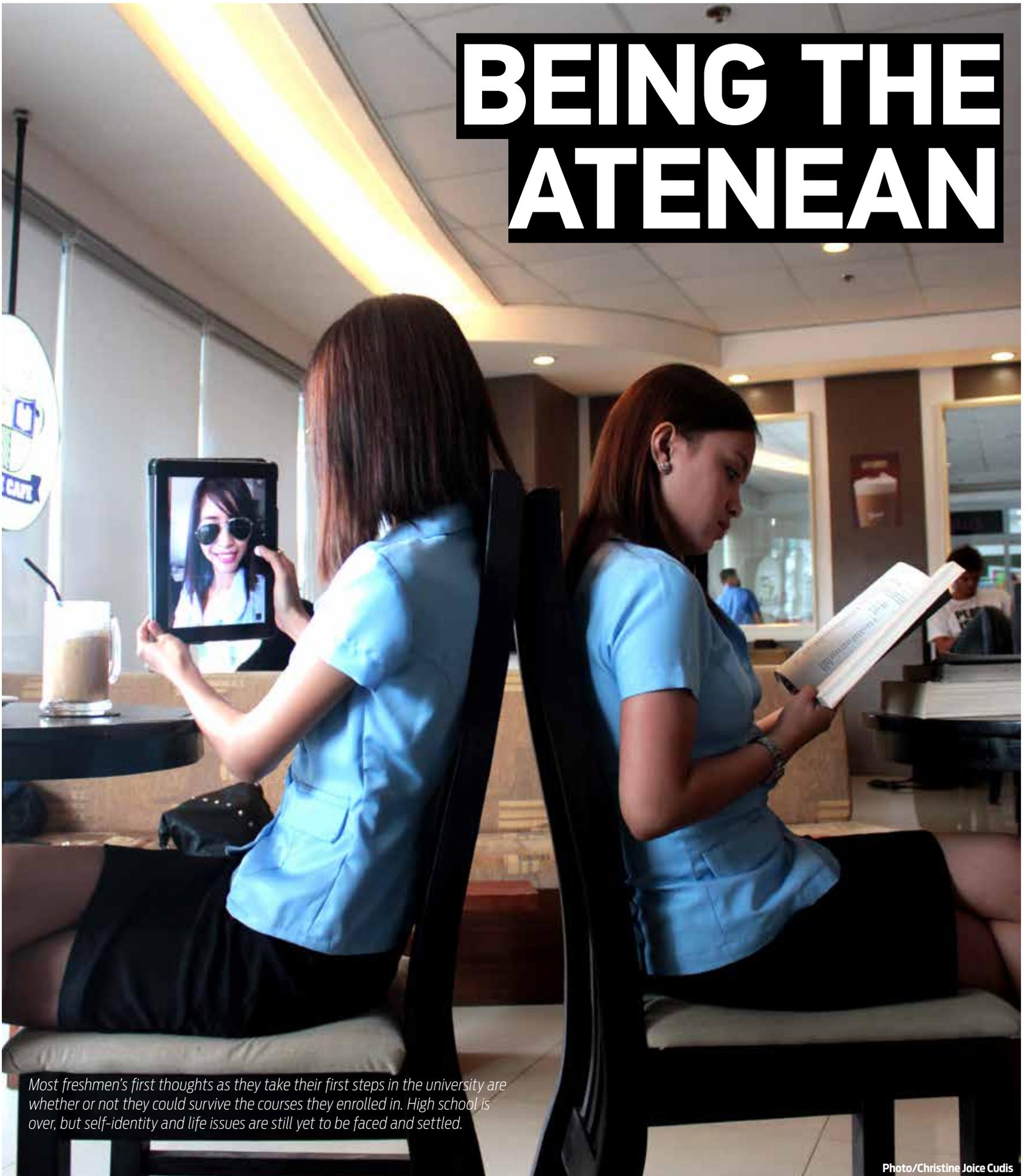
In this world, it is just for everyone to have the same rights—when accused, all are entitled to a fair and just trial.

Some big cases might be needlessly extended. Some people might be delaying their incrimination. However, without these privileges, the right to a fair trial would be lost for everybody. ☹

5

MONTAGE

BEING THE ATENEAN



Most freshmen's first thoughts as they take their first steps in the university are whether or not they could survive the courses they enrolled in. High school is over, but self-identity and life issues are still yet to be faced and settled.

5 MONTAGE



Being the Atenean

"I've always thought academics were everything about college life until I got to see the bigger picture."

KATRINA KATE DIANNE PUNAY

MOST FRESHMEN'S first thoughts as they take their first steps in the university are whether or not they could survive the courses they enrolled in. High school is over, but self-identity and life issues are yet to be faced and settled.

Many study in the Ateneo for the name of the school, thinking it will be an edge in landing a job. Some are led by their parents' influence. Others can just afford to do so. Ateneo sports a colorful range of students with different aspirations and characteristics. Yet, beyond dense "rich kid" stereotypes and even grade-hungry expectations, is there still something else to strive for in being the "Atenean"?

We've attached so many skewed demands and stereotypes to the name. Yet, the Atenean strives to do more than what is expected. We sometimes just become too busy and forget.

Indeed, studying for a career makes us believe that we are just some of the millions in society. It is one thing to spend so much time in the library reviewing for a long exam, so we spend time to have fun, and socialize. Still, it is another thing to spend time for situations concern-

ing matters that are more than for one's self only.

There must be more to life than meeting what is expected of us inside the portals of the institution.

Batch 2014 Class Valedictorian and Cum Laude Jubail Pasia shares her thoughts on what the ideal Atenean is.

"He or she excels academically and does not settle for mediocrity," she says, emphasizing, "while striving to enrich a personal relationship with one's God."

Jubail says that the ideal Atenean must be socially involved. He/She makes an effort to better understand existing social issues, takes a stand, organizes initiatives, and influences fellow students to be engaged in addressing such issues.

Jubail believes that this might entail us stepping out of our comfort zones. It can be remembered that Jubail had to assume the position of SAMAHAN president when the then-president-elect resigned. It was a position she was initially reluctant to receive, yet she accepted it as a responsibility.

"I cried on it for over a week and made every means possible just to escape the situation. At that moment, I felt so scared but I lifted all my worries to God, believing that whatever happened had its higher purpose," she says.

On the other hand, Lead-

ership Awardee and Cum Laude Robin Tongcua, whose words open this text, points out that an ideal Atenean will not merely know but practically live out what he knows.

He specifies, "In the process, this person becomes responsive to the society, seeing God in all things and rightfully responding to the call of what is happening around. An ideal Atenean will not merely discuss socio-political issues but will act with proper discernment. They do not merely give opinions but also take a stand in both principle and action."

The Atenean, according to Jubail and Robin, transcends the simplest stereotypes.

Two experiences all Ateneans encounter are being enrolled in the First Year Development Program (FYDP) and National Service Training Program (NSTP). They highlight on the core not to be forgotten when reaching higher years. It is how they present it: The ideal Atenean lives by doing more (*magis*) and being men and women for others (*cura personalis*), because they are strong in faith (*fortes in fide*).

"There is and always will be a call unique to each one. To all Ateneans, I challenge everyone to listen to this call. For in every call, a response will always be asked of you," Robin voices out.

"As Ateneans we are free to respond in any way—we can even refuse. It is in this

that I challenge everyone to reflect upon the true essence of freedom," he adds.

It should not be a priority to reach perfection, but it is a challenge not to box oneself from doing something much greater. The challenge is breaking out of the box. As Pasia says, "We may not be the ideal Atenean, but what matters most is that we strive to be one."

As unique as the students' reasons for studying in the Ateneo, our different callings to do well on our part makes being the "Atenean" one's responsible choice. There comes the mission of each one in bridging the Ateneo community and society.

Freshmen or not, every Atenean has his/her struggles more than just meeting the demands and ideals of the Jesuit Education. Sooner or later after coming up with a decision, it is about a shifting of a course—not a course or program of the institution, but a course on how one lives the remaining years, even after marching on that fateful day of March. It means after being released to the real world, one has a choice of either shutting out, or involving.

As Jubail puts it, "Do not limit yourself; break your boundaries, and you will be surprised that you can actually do things you never imagined you can".

"There is and always will be a call unique to each one. To all Ateneans, I challenge everyone to listen to this call. For in every call, a response will always be asked of you".

LEFT: What really is the Atenean? Truthfully, it is not about glamor; it is about being men and women for others. Photos/Christine Joice Cudis



WITH GREAT FUNDS COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

REGEL KENT ASUERO/SAMAHAN PRESIDENT 2014-2015

JUST LIKE any government, the SAMAHAN's finances are its lifeblood in running its affairs. Failure to administer it will be tantamount to a chain reaction of different complications within its system. Hence, the SAMAHAN, as a student government, also gives premium importance to its fiscal integrity.

However, this integrity can only be tested given a structure that advocates for responsible freedom along with a more systematic approach of money handling. To get out of the bush, I'm talking about corruption: corruption as an accustomed illness, which seeks immediate remedy. Perhaps even SAMAHAN, as a student government which represents the student community, had experienced minor or even major corrupt practices. From its central board down to the student executive councils, its vulnerability had always been tested, just like any struggling government out there.

Relative to this, the issue faced by the Social Sciences Division last school year, involving a representative accused of malversation of public funds, will never be spared from public criticism. Hence, it is imperative to ensure that it will never happen again.

But, to put this into context, the real question here is: "How can the

SAMAHAN prevent further cases of financial mismanagement?" First, we need to formulate more comprehensive financial policies; second, we need to effectively enforce these policies; and lastly, we need to institutionalize all the processes inside the SAMAHAN.

Firstly, there is a call to formulate comprehensive financial policies. With this, the current administration, in its own efforts to promote accountability and transparency, shall formulate a fiscal manual as a guide for compliance by all student representatives, clubs, class presidents and executive councils. The manual shall encapsulate all new fiscal policies such as the monthly allocation of funds to the departments including GACP and CCO to be deposited in their respective bank accounts, declaration of all fundraising activities or sponsorships and the furnishing of monthly liquidation reports which now include defrayals of not only SAMAHAN-given funds but as well as those realized from their fundraising activities. The student government recognizes the need to meddle with all the financial affairs of student organizations, even those acquired from fundraising activities, for these were only made possible by the positions they hold. These new fiscal policies shall in turn encourage accountability

on the proper usage of the students' money under the careful examination and control of a Commission on Audit.

Secondly, there is a challenge to effectively enforce these policies. Truly, we have a good financial scheme, but if we do not know how to enforce them effectively, then we are just wasting paper. The SAMAHAN Central Board should always be transparent in disclosing these kinds of matters to the Ateneo studentry. Hence, the internal structure of the SAMAHAN has to make sure that every officer is in full compliance of every policy stipulated in the fiscal manual. The Board should also always be headstrong in upholding accountability to those officers who fail to abide by the provisions in the manual. Also, the student government possesses the duty to motivate the students to hold their officers in class, clubs and executive councils accountable once a financial issue occurs.

Lastly, there is a need to institutionalize all the processes inside the student government. We need to ratify the 2014 SAMAHAN Constitution. Because, with the new constitution approved, the student government will be able to empower the students through its three separate branches, namely the executive, legislative and judicial branch. With

the legislative's power to approve and disapprove budget proposals together with the judiciary's authority to interpret all the provisions stipulated in the constitution, the executive would be able to enforce the very letters of the new constitution. This will render a more comprehensive and formalized form of governance. With which, the interplay between the student government and the students shall be reinforced, thus the real power is vested upon the students to closely watch their government as it performs systematically in accordance with the constitution.

Moreover, the students are also challenged to do their part in realizing a student government that really serves the interest of each and every Atenean. They are called to support the very agenda of their SAMAHAN in bringing a new culture of communal commitment that pursues political activeness within the university. This should be true not only during elections but also in all affairs of their student government which include policymaking, advocacies and financial delivery.

Accordingly, with the SAMAHAN'S continuous efforts in formulating financial policies, in ensuring its effectiveness and in systematizing itself, another great challenge still lies in the very person

of our SAMAHAN Central Board Officers. It is but in their very nature as officers to be responsible enough in handling their affairs. Relatively, just like any government out there, our power emanates from the people, which subjects us to Spiderman's famous quote (if he was a SAMAHAN Treasurer or a President himself), saying "With great funds come great responsibility".

Moreover, the students are also challenged to do their part in realizing a student government that really serves the interest of each and every Atenean.