

## Ateneo continues bar performance ascent with 97% overall passing rate

THE ATENEO Law School (ALS) community was abuzz when the Supreme Court released the 2016 Bar Examination results on May 3, 2017. ALS achieved a 97.36% over-

By MARIA PATRICIA R. CERVANTES-POCO

all passing rate, with 221 of its 227 bar takers making the cut, and a 99.44% passing rate for its first-time takers, representing 177 of 178.

Though ALS failed to produce a top notcher this year, it was observed that provincial law schools dominated the Top Ten,

with graduates of the University of San Carlos, Cebu taking top berth, as well as 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> places; graduates of Silliman University, *continued on page 7*



Dean Candelaria leads the ALS community in cheering for the 2016 bar passers

Photo Credit: JOSE MARIA G. HOFILEÑA

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### Dean's Corner

By SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA



## Batch 2016 Examinees: 99.44%

ECSTATIC! This is how the Ateneo Law School community received the results of the 2016 Bar Examinations.

After a focused and deliberate attempt of the Bar Operations Team, under the supervision of Associate Dean Lily K. Gruba and the members of the ALS faculty, their efforts paid off. The fruits of magnanimity of service to our examinees saw our first takers achieve a 99.44% performance. Overall the Ateneo registered a 97.36% passing rate. After almost 35 years, the elusive 100% nearly got hooked by Batch 2016. Congratulations to all, especially Ateneo Professional Schools Chaplain, Fr. IJ Chan-Gonzaga.

The first batch of University of Malaga Faculty of Law exchange students arrived in Manila to attend the second semester of academic year 2016-2017.

This is our first attempt at realizing on a full circle the academic experiment with our civil law tradition counterparts from Spain. Another batch is expected in January 2018.

*continued on page 11*



Exchange Students from Universidad de Malaga, 2nd Sem. AY2016-17. [L-R: Prof. Ryan D. Quan, Prof. Rowena Soriano, Paloma Garcia Pineda, Shuyan Pan Zhou, Luis Martinez Almagro and Gonzalo Roji Picon with Señor Fernando Zapico (5th from the left) the Asesor de Educación-Education Adviser Embajada de España en Filipinas-Embassy of Spain to the Philippines.]





VP Robredo with the Ateneo Professional Schools students and faculty after the awarding

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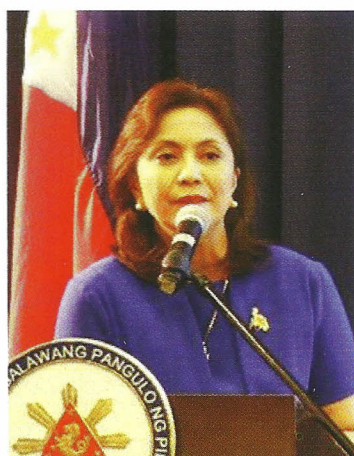
## VP Robredo talks 'tsinelas leadership' in APS

By UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

NOTING THE rise of the new world order marked with authoritarianism, polarity, and discontent, Vice President Maria Leonor G. Robredo expressed confidence in the power of *tsinelas* (slippers) leadership.

"It has become clear to me that *tsinelas* leadership is truly the vehicle for empathy and the hope that we so desperately need today," she said. "That is why local leaders must have ears close to the ground, feet planted in reality, really big hearts and a lot of patience."

Robredo was at the Ateneo Professional Schools campus in Rockwell, Makati City on March 14, 2017 as the recipient of the 2017 Metrobank Professorial Chair for Public Service and Governance. A joint initiative of the Ateneo Professional Schools



Vice President Leonor Robredo

and Metrobank Foundation, the award is conferred annually on individuals who have shown outstanding records in public service. In her speech, Robredo paid homage to her late

husband, former Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo and his pragmatic leadership. Jesse Robredo, a 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service, pioneered the so-called Naga City Governance Model composed of three key elements: progressive perspective, partnerships, and people participation.

"For Jesse, it was critical that power was shared with the people," she said. He would go around the city in "in a bicycle, no bodyguard, wearing shorts, shirt, and slippers." Her husband's brand of servant leadership helped him in attending to his constituents.

"If we all allow the concept of *tsinelas* leadership to guide the way we make policies, we would

include rather than exclude— and the manner by which this is to be done successfully will depend on the prevailing circumstances in each locality."

Robredo also stressed the importance of empathy.

"In my decades of experience as an alternative lawyer, when the poor speaks and lets us into their lives, the window of service can close swiftly," she said. "Our people are angry at government, but we must approach them only with empathy." Entering into somebody else's chaos, she added, would lead to collaboration. This, Robredo said, is the "essence of democracy and engagement."

"How do we nurture leaders who will lead with empathy and integrity and who will embrace *tsinelas* leadership?" Robredo asked.



Vice President Robredo with VP for the Ateneo Professional Schools and the deans and officials of the different schools



# Ateneo partners with Leiden University in child rights training

By VERONICA MAE C. YAN

THE APPRECIATION of child rights in the ASEAN region has improved over the years, considering the drafting of declarations and expansion of avenues for engagement in the ASEAN. Despite these developments, there remains a need to understand the rights of a child, the issues they face, and how to create and implement policies and plans for children.

On January 23-27, 2017, the Ateneo Human Rights Center partnered with the Leiden University, the Netherlands and the Faculty of Law of the University of Indonesia to organize "The Frontiers of Children's Rights in the ASEAN

Region," a week-long course held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The course included sessions on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, child rights and enforcement mechanisms in the Asia Pacific region and other regions, and specific thematic issues, including child poverty, children in alternative care, trafficking and migration, restorative justice and juvenile justice, child marriages and female genital mutilation, and immigration detention.

Experts in the field challenged the participants' understanding of children's

rights. Each session gave the participants an opportunity to share their experiences in the field, allowing everyone a chance to identify and discuss practical applications of the theories they have learned.

There were over 40 participants coming from different professional backgrounds, representing countries which included Australia, Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Sweden. The participants were a balanced mix of representatives of civil society, government, and the ASEAN Secretariat.



Participants of the "The Frontiers of Children's Rights in the ASEAN Region" at the University of Indonesia, Depok, Jakarta

Photo Credits: ATENEO HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

## Apprenticeship committee revamps program through apprenticeship workshop

LAST MAY 8, 2017, the Ateneo Law School (ALS) held the Apprenticeship Workshop in the Amphitheatre of the Ateneo Professional Schools. The workshop was attended by more than 50 participants representing litigation, corporate and general practice law firms in Metro Manila, currently accredited or seeking accreditation with the ALS as internship providers.

Currently, ALS Juris Doctor (J.D.) students are required to fulfill 240 apprenticeship hours with accredited government agencies, law firms, or non-governmental organizations. Students are permitted to seek apprenticeship beginning the summer after their second year.

It has always been the vision of the ALS to make its graduates more globally competitive, through the implementation of a streamlined J.D. Tracking System. In order to address the novel challenges related to the implementation of the apprenticeship program posed by the Tracking System, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Giovanni F. Vallente convened the ALS Apprenticeship Committee, chaired by himself, and has as its members Atty.

By TAKAHIRO KENJIE C. AMAN

Tanya Karina F. Lat, ALS Formation Program Officer; Atty. Rowena F. Soriano of the Graduate Legal Studies Institute; and Atty. Takahiro Kenjie C. Aman of the Ateneo Legal Services Center.

Dean Vallente opened the workshop by explaining the objectives of the workshop: to take stock of the current program, assess its effectivity to mentor students, inform accredited offices about the Tracking System, and get feedback from these offices as to proposed minimum standards for mentorship of students. He mentioned that the workshop is the first time that the ALS and its partner law firms are coming together to define the apprenticeship program, and thus hoped that by the end of the workshop, the different offices could come up with uniform training programs for the different J.D. tracks.

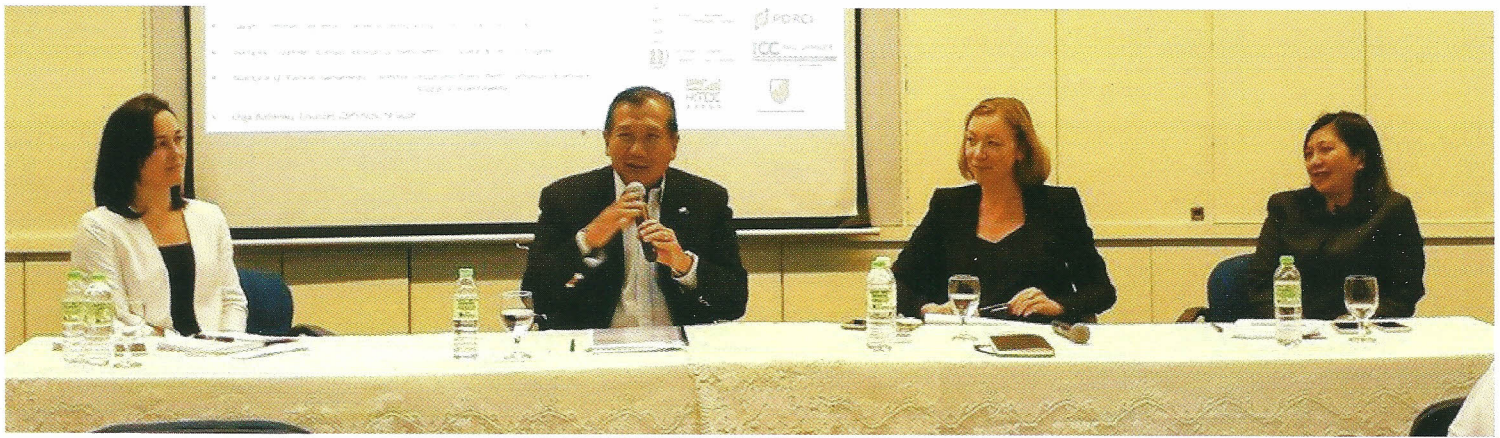
Atty. Soriano then discussed the different J.D. tracks that the students

can specialize in, namely: (1) Corporate and Business Law; (2) Dispute Resolution; and (3) International Law and Development. This was followed by a presentation by Atty. Aman on the results of the survey conducted by the Apprenticeship Committee on the effectivity of the apprenticeship program in mentoring students. The survey was completed by 40% of the students who took their internship in 2016.

The participants were then assigned breakout groups corresponding to the three J.D. tracks. Each group was tasked to propose a training program for the track assigned to it. Atty. Aman facilitated the Dispute Resolution group, Atty. Soriano handled the Corporate group, and Dean Vallente sat with general practice firms who designed proposed guidelines for both corporate and litigation apprentices.

At the end of the workshop, participants resolved to meet again to further streamline and improve the proposed guidelines for the Apprenticeship Program.





The panel at the Belt and Road Initiative seminar (L-R): Sarah Grimmer, Perry Pe, Olga Boltenko and Marjorie Ramos-Samaniego

## ALSC hosts back-to-back arbitration seminars with HKIAC

By MARIA PATRICIA CERVANTES-POCO & the HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

SHARING A COMMON advocacy to promote arbitration as an effective mode of alternative dispute resolution in the region, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) partnered with the ALSC to organize the "Arbitration Clause Negotiation Workshop: Honing the Art of Negotiation," held on March 27, 2017 at the Ateneo Professional Schools Amphitheater.

The workshop was designed for in-house counsel and disputes and transaction lawyers, where four arbitration experts engaged in a mock negotiation over arbitration clauses to be included in two agreements concerning a Chinese private equity fund's investment in a joint venture through a Philippine company that is majority owned by a Singaporean state-owned enterprise.

The negotiation process was visually displayed in real time while a commentator discussed takeaway points as the negotiation progressed. The purpose of the workshop was for its participants to learn drafting techniques and bargaining tactics they can use in real-life negotiations.

The mock negotiators were Patricia-Ann Prodigalidad, Duncan Watson, Kathryn Sanger and Teodoro Kalaw IV.

Before the mock negotiation, the participants also had the opportunity to meet the new Secretary-General of HKIAC, Ms. Sarah Grimmer, new to the region after stints with the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague. She was interviewed by ALS alumna Atty. Mia Carmela Imperial of Quisumbing Torres.



Atty. Mia Imperial interviews the newly-appointed HKIAC Secretary-General Sarah Grimmer

On March 28, 2017, HKIAC returned to ALS for a half-day seminar entitled "The Belt and Road Initiative: Investment in the Philippines," held at the Bernas Seminar Room. The seminar targeted senior management and corporate decision makers, risk managers, investors, financial lenders, in-house counsels, and external counsels specializing in foreign investments and international dispute resolution.

The Belt and Road Initiative aims to promote co-development and strengthen economic and trade ties among countries spanning different regions within Asia, Europe, and Africa. Its objective is to enhance

regional connectivity through infrastructure developments and other projects.

The speakers at the seminar were Ms. Sarah Grimmer of HKIAC; Atty. Marjorie O. Ramos-Samaniego, Director of Legal and Investment Compliance of the Board of Investments; Atty. Perry Pe, Partner at Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles; and Ms. Olga Boltenko of CMS Hasche Sigle. They shared insights on maximizing investment opportunities in the Philippines, as well as practical tips on risk management and options for dispute resolution. The event was moderated by ALS alumnus Jay Patrick Santiago of the HKIAC.



# ALSC trains with CoRe Group on values-based mediation

By MARIA PATRICIA R. CERVANTES-POCO

REALIZING THE VALUE in early dispute settlement, particularly in pro bono cases involving neighbors and family members, resident and volunteer lawyers of the Ateneo Legal Services Center (ALSC) went through a training on mediation with the Conflict Resolution Group Foundation, Inc. (CoRe Group) on April 5-7, 2017. ALSC Director Axel Rupert Cruz, and Resident Attorneys Takahiro Kenjie Aman and Maria Patricia Cervantes-Poco were joined by volunteer-lawyers Attys. Gilbert Sembrano, Ma. Cecille Latuño, and Paula Sophia Estrella at the training.

For three days, the lawyers were closely mentored by CoRe Group Principal Trainer Tristan Besa and Family Mediation Trainer Dan Caballes on the principles of values-based dispute resolution. The training was based on the premise that human beings are diverse, and as such, disputes will naturally arise. However, diversity should be accepted and celebrated; thus, effective dispute resolution should begin with the understanding of human nature, motivations, and interests. During the three-day seminar, the participants were introduced to and drilled in the Four-Part Non-Violent Communication Process (Observations, Feelings, Needs and Requests, or "OFNR" in mediation practice lingo) developed by Marshall Rosenberg, PhD, which is a process central to a proper framing of issues in conflict settings.

Each module began with a lecture of basic concepts and principles, followed by



ALSC lawyers with their facilitators and co-participants at the values-based mediation training

case studies and simulation activities where participants were given the chance to play the roles of mediator or party to different types of mediatable disputes. The ALSC lawyers were challenged to switch off their tendencies to cross-examine parties and use confrontational, combative language, and replace these with

compassionate and empathetic listening, patience, and persistence to discern parties' underlying interests.

This training is ALSC's first step towards developing a fully-functional community mediation practice to complement its traditional litigation services.



ALSC Resident Lawyer Kenjie Aman and Director Axel Cruz in a simulation of a mediation caucus

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Dumaguete placing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>; Andres Bonifacio College, Dipolog City at 3<sup>rd</sup>; University of San Agustin, Iloilo at 4<sup>th</sup>; Ateneo de Davao University at 5<sup>th</sup>; Northwestern University, Laoag City at 6<sup>th</sup>; and University of Batangas at 9<sup>th</sup>.

2016 Bar Chairperson Justice Presbiterio Velasco made good on his promise of a high bar passing rate this year. The national passing rate was also at a high at 59.05%, or 3,747 out of 6,344 bar takers, the highest in at least 16 years, according to the Office of the Bar Confidant.

To celebrate, Dean Sedfrey Candelaria hosted a testimonial dinner for the bar passers on May 19, 2017 at the Bernas Center lobby. The new lawyers took their oath on May 22, 2017 at the Mall of Asia Arena.



2016 bar passers with their professors and families at the testimonial dinner

Photo credit: AMPARITA STA. MARIA





Photo credit: Peter Morgan, Free Mindfulness Project (<http://www.freemindfulness.org/gallery>)

# Moment by Moment...

By AXEL RUPERT M. CRUZ

YES, THERE IS much wisdom in cartoons, as Oogway enlightens Po in the practice of mindfulness. But what is this thing called “mindfulness”? It is not a fad or “new age” chic, as some may think. It has been present since humans became self-aware, and has been called different names: meditation, contemplation, prayer, reflection, discernment, self-awareness, or even plain old “sitting.”

For the lawyerly mind that likes to define things, however, let us follow this definition of mindfulness: it is “an intentional, non-judgmental awareness of the present moment.”

It is intentional because it is a choice. It is not awareness instinctually provoked by a startling event or any external factor.

It is non-judgmental because it is a practice of awareness without the habit of attaching labels — good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant — to what is perceived or felt.

And we are concerned only of the present moment, because it is the only thing that can be the subject of awareness. It is oftentimes so much nicer to dwell in good memories, or to daydream of what could be, than to deal with the now. But as Master Oogway said: “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery...”

Why practice mindfulness? Because it is a

radical act of being human.

Although I hesitate to list the so-called medical benefits of mindfulness — because they trivialize the practice and focus on the effects rather than the process — I realize too that it is easier to start something new if there is an outcome in mind. Keep note however that the practice is non-judgmental, so there is no right or wrong goal.

Let me instead call the effects of mindfulness its fruits, or the spontaneous manifestations of the practice. Here are some fruits of mindfulness: improved concentration and retention of information, mental clarity, increased patience, decreased stress and anxiety, and compassion.

But how do these fruits figure in law school

life? Improved concentration, retention of information, and mental clarity help the law student recall what he or she read, understand and analyze legal principles, and spot the correct legal issue. Increased patience and decreased stress and anxiety, on the other hand, enable the law student to handle the daily grind of law school, including its uncompromising teachers, voluminous readings, and nightmare recitations, aggravated at times by personal and family problems. And on a deeper level, mindfulness creates compassionate human

beings, which the Ateneo law school envisions its students to be.

Let me be upfront: being mindful is difficult. Being ever present in a non-judgmental way is one of the hardest things that you can do — even harder than the bar exams! There is a reason mindfulness is called a practice.

Allow me then to suggest some daily mindfulness experiments for law students:

## Mindful breathing

Breath is our anchor to the present moment. No matter where we are or what we are doing, as long as we are alive, the breath is ever present.

When you are studying, notice how you are breathing. Is it deep or shallow? How does your breathing change when it is time for recitation? Are you even breathing or holding your breath?

And once you become aware of the state of your breath, notice what change occurs in your mind and in how you perceive that moment?

Notice also that when your mind is agitated (for instance, when you are angry), your breath becomes agitated. But when your mind is calm (for example, when you are lounging at the beach), your breath becomes calm. Breath and mind are inseparable.

In my experience, the law student generally knows the answer to the recitation question. But because his or her mind is agitated or nervous, he or she fails to listen to the question and in effect answers incorrectly. Sometimes the anxiety is overpowering that the student, although standing, utters nothing.

Experiment on this: Prepare well before class, and during class, listen to the teacher and refrain from cram reading your cases. If your mind becomes agitated or nervous, focus on your breath and slow down your exhalation to at least 6 counts. Notice how this calms and clears your mind.

## Mindful reading

When you are reading Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas’ book on the Philippine Constitution or the case of *People v. Malmstedt*, are you, on the side, reading the latest tweet or Facebook post of your friend? Notice how much or little information you retain after.

Are you also the type who, after reading a case (even without your social media feeds beside you), does not remember what you read? What a waste of time!

Instead, try to read one book at a time, one case at a time, without your TV on, or your phone and laptop beside you, and more importantly with your mind focused on the written words and their meaning, and tell me how it goes.



### Mindful walking

Notice how you walk going to the classroom, the library or the cafeteria. Is it fast or slow? Is it to go from point A to point B only? Why have you not noticed how you walked? Is it because you were texting, reading your codal, or memorizing a provision in your head while walking? We take the gift of walking for granted.

Experiment on this: Walk, and just walk. And slower this time. Notice what part of your foot touches the ground first and how mechanically complicated each step is. Notice also your balance midway the step. Are you leaning more to you left or to your right? And observe any discomfort or pain while walking. Do your heels or hips hurt?

Mindful walking connects our mind to our body and teaches us to be grateful of this daily miracle.

### Mindful eating

And then there is eating. Do you eat while talking to your friends, or reading the news, or surfing the net? Do you remember what food you had yesterday? Do you think about the people who made your food possible?

Experiment on this: Before taking a bite, look at your food and observe the colors and smell. Think of the farmers who produced the rice on your plate, the person who milled the rice, the truck driver who brought the rice to the market, the person who cooked your meal, and even the animals whose flesh you consume. And when you take a bite, chew a number of times before swallowing, and notice the different tastes of the ingredients used. Remember that while you are chewing, do not start preparing the next bite.

Mindful eating teaches us restraint in overeating and to be grateful to all beings, humans and non-humans, who had a part in bringing food to your plate.

But as with any practice, there are hurdles to overcome, the most common being: lack of time, sloth, anxiety, and doubt. All practitioners will encounter these hurdles at some point.

Law students will complain that they do not have time to be mindful; they have too many cases to read. But the practitioner understands that mindfulness creates more time and is more needed the busier you get.

Students will complain that they are too tired or anxious to be mindful. To this the practitioner will say, mindfulness restores energy to the tired, and calmness to the anxious.

And doubt will eventually creep in the mind of the practitioner. "Why am I even doing this?" Or "I don't think I'm getting anywhere." To the well-intentioned practitioner, constant, earnest and non-judgmental practice is the antidote to doubt.

To our beloved students, relish every moment of your law school life, whether perceived to be good or bad, for you will never pass this way again.

From Oogway, we end with Thich Nhat Hanh. In his book "Living Buddha, Living Christ," he tells a story about the historical Buddha. When the Buddha was asked, "Sir, what do you and your monks practice?" he replied, "We sit, we walk, and we eat." The questioner continued, "But sir, everyone sits, walks, and eats," and the Buddha told him, "When we sit, we know we are sitting. When we walk, we know we are walking. When we eat, we know we are eating."



Photo credit: Counterculturist (<http://counterculturist.net/mindfulness-meditation-beginners/>)

# Salamat

By ISMAEL JOSE V. CHAN-GONZAGA III, S.J.

IT IS DIFFICULT to express in such a short piece an experience rich in stories of struggles and triumphs, of tears and laughter. For days I kept typing away, only to find myself writing many different plots of smaller yet equally significant stories of my years in law school, and still unable to zero in on a particular experience I can coherently describe.

Honestly, there are still days when I find myself in disbelief that five years have passed since I entered law school and a month since I passed the Bar. I still remember, as if it were only yesterday, when I received a call in Culion, Palawan from Father Provincial, instructing me to return to Manila, take the ALS entrance exam, and begin my study of law by June 2012. At first, I simply thought of it as another ordinary assignment. The shock of my life came during the first year when my old study habits (if I ever had any) and lifestyle turned out to be so incompatible with the demands and rigor of law school. I have never studied, read, (and yes, prayed) as hard as in those five years of law school and Bar review. It was the most demanding and taxing of experiences but also the most enriching.

As I try to sift through the cacophony of emotions within, the one that truly rises to the top and which I really wish to convey is gratitude — gratitude to have been taught by professors who selflessly share their time and expertise with the school and the profession; lawyer-professors who taught us not only the mental abstract of legal maxims and codal provisions but also the practical side to the profession. I am also grateful to have met professors who decided to tread the path less traveled and engaged in alternative lawyering, fighting to keep the voice of the minority — of the oppressed — heard, and finding time to impart such passion with generations of future lawyer-leaders. I am grateful to have worked with professors who truly cared for the formation of the students, honing not only our capabilities to practice law but also to live it out as a tool for justice and equity. I am grateful to belong to an institution, imperfect though it may be, that continues to nurture and form generations of law students with the Jesuit traditions of Magis and being Persons for Others. And yes, grateful too to have met fellow students who believe in the nobility of the profession and genuinely hope to contribute to the growth and maturity of the nation.

As I try to articulate my gratitude for the past five years, I realize that law school was not only an experience of wanting to become a lawyer; it was also a journey of trying to learn how to be a better instrument in the Divine Hands and how to bear witness to the good that this profession can truly achieve.

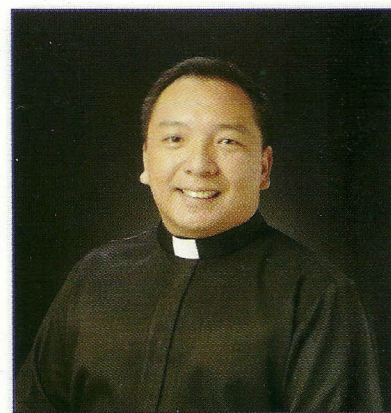


Photo Credit: Prof. Ma. Ngina Teresa V. Chan-Gonzaga





Philippine delegates pose with their Spanish hosts at the School of Law, University of Malaga.

(Photo credit: Prof. Ma. Ngina Teresa V. Chan-Gonzaga)

## Thanks, Ateneo Friends!

By JOSÉ MANUEL DE TORRES PEREA

ON MAY 10-12, 2017, the third Spanish-Philippine Congress on Law took place at the School of Law of the University of Malaga, Spain. Organized by the University of Malaga and the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, this year the subject of the Congress was: "Current Constitutional Debates in Europe and Asia III Congress on the Law of the Philippines and Spain." On this very special occasion, the University of Malaga was honored with a visit from the members of the Ateneo de Manila delegation, headed by Dean Sedfrey Candelaria, Prof. Ma. Ngina Teresa V. Chan-Gonzaga, Dr. Alvin P. Ang, Prof. Ma. Tanya Karina A. Lat, and Prof. Ruben Balane. We were all delighted with the knowledge, friendship, and professionalism displayed by our Ateneo friends. They were the best possible ambassadors to show us the high level and quality of the Ateneo de Manila University. We enjoyed and learned from their speeches on constitutional law and international protection of social rights, sustainability and crisis of the welfare state, and new democratic challenges.

On the Spanish side, the organizers were Dean Juan José Hinojosa Torralvo and Professor Ángel Rodríguez Vergara, and the speakers were Luis Gordillo Pérez, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Deusto, S.J.; Luis Jimena Quesada, Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Valencia; Miguel Revenga Sánchez, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Cádiz; and Benigno Pendás, Director of the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies in



Prof. Ruben Balane and Prof. Peping de Torres Perea pose at the Jose Rizal monument in Malaga.

(Photo credit: Prof. Ma. Ngina Teresa V. Chan-Gonzaga)

Madrid. The Philippine and Spanish Professors prepared their papers on similar subjects, and their harmonized presentations gave us the opportunity to understand each problem from the Spanish and Philippine perspectives.

Of course, the most impassioned moment was when the keynote speaker, Prof. Balane, gave his presentation. All the members of Malaga University were shaking with emotion when he explained the Spanish roots of Philippine law. The whole School of Law of the University of Malaga was absolutely involved in the Convention, and more than 30 scholars prepared comments and interventions, most of them in English. Without doubt this legal convention was a resounding success, and

many "malagueño" colleagues have asked when the next congress in Manila will be.

One of the most memorable moments was when both Spanish and Philippine delegations went to the entrance of the port of Malaga and before the statue of Jose Rizal. We were given the beautiful gift of listening to the poem "Mi ultimo adios" recited by the Spanish poet Antonio Gómez Yedra. Afterwards, Prof. Ruben Balane laid a floral tribute at the foot of the statue. All of us were touched and excited, and some of us were tearful. Another unforgettable moment was when we visited the house where Ruben Dario lived in Málaga, as Prof. Balane himself was named after him.

In fact, all the days in which we have been happy to receive our Ateneo friends have been full of special moments: the visit to the city of Ronda, the most romantic one in Spain; meeting with the Mayor; and the presentation of the book of literature and thoughts from Prof. Balane, "Letters to Manolito," by Prof. Antonio Quesada, among many others.

Prof. Balane is certainly happy to see that the seeds he sowed some time ago are now growing. In fact, both the Spanish and Philippine members of the Convention have experienced the feeling of participating in a historical event. When two brothers who have been separated for decades meet again, the feelings are so deep. And now we are sure the future will be bright and shining as we have restored the legal bridge between us. Dear Ateneo brothers and sisters: You will always have a home in our humble Malaga.



# Heartstrong

By RHEALETH KRIZELLE RAMOS

I WAS NEVER an achiever in law school. Not a Dean's Lister. Not a prominent campus personality. Certainly not a Bar topnotcher. Not even a Bar passer on my first take. Despite all these, I am still an Ateneo Law graduate and, just recently, a full-fledged lawyer. My

point in sharing this? Regardless of how you feel about your performance in law school, keep your chin up, your spirits high, and your faith unwavering. Do not second guess yourself.



By not second guessing yourself, I also mean that preparing for the Bar exams is not the time to experiment. You do not have to do something just because it is what a topnotcher did. You do not have to follow what is popular just because it is what worked for most. Get as many tips as you can while crafting your Bar plan. As you do, you will notice that different people will give you different tips; sometimes these tips even contradict one another. The truth is, every person has his or her own learning style. The key is in knowing yours. How did you study in the past? What techniques proved to be effective? What materials did you find useful? Listen to advice but remember to adapt them to what you know will work best for you.

While my message is open for everyone, I give a special shout out to anyone who ever felt like an underachiever. To those who fumbled through recitations and barely survived each semester. To those who flunked a subject or two. To those who thought they would never make it to graduation. To those who are about to take the Bar exams and wonder if they will ever become lawyers. This one is especially for you.

If you are plagued with scary thoughts about the Bar exams, know that having weathered all these failures means that you are, without a doubt, #heartstrong. And any person who has crossed the Bar knows that aside from knowledge of the law, it is heart — grit, passion, determination — that will get you through Bar review and the four excruciating Sundays of the exams. Take heart in this: the God who planted dreams in our hearts is the same God who will be with us every step of the way — all the way to the finish line.

## Experiencing the "Re-inventing Japan" Project

By ROSE ANGELIQUE DIZON

THE RE-INVENTING Japan Project is an initiative of the Kyushu University's Faculty of Law in partnership with four leading universities in the ASEAN Region: Ateneo de Manila University, Chulalongkorn University, National University of Singapore, and University of Malaya. The Project aims to foster experts who value universal principles while understanding local diversities through the development of a legal mind.



Ateneo delegation with Kyushu University students.

In 2013, I was fortunate to be part of the initial year of the Project. That time, we had the opportunity to share about the legislative efforts of the Philippines on cultural heritage. We also learned about various issues on cultural heritage occurring in countries like Japan, Thailand, Korea, and Iran, among others, and had the opportunity to meet lawyers from the Fukuoka Bar Association and witness an actual court hearing in Japan.

Aside from the seminars, the Project also gave us a chance to visit places in Fukuoka like Omuta, Daizaifu, and Kitakyushu, and personally experience Japanese culture beyond the books we read back home.

On February 16-20, 2017, we were again invited to go back to Fukuoka and be part of the closing ceremony of the Project. Dean Sedfrey Candelaria, Associate Dean Giovanni



The ADMU delegation with Japanese Studies Professor Karl Cheng Chua and Niron Concepcion.

Vallente and Professor Karl Cheng Chua headed the Ateneo contingent, together with several Ateneo alumni and students.

One of the highlights of the closing ceremony was a two-day simulated UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting on the establishment of the Gibraltar caves as a world heritage site. Our very own Atty. Jamie Anne Reyes acted as the Chairperson for the Committee Meeting and was joined in by



(From left) The author with Prof. Toshiyuki Kono and Ateneo Law School's Atty. Jaymie Reyes.

Kyushu University's Professor Toshiyuki Kono and UNESCO's Ms. Chiba Moe as members of the UNESCO Secretariat. The participating students from various universities were assigned to represent a country. I could not help but be impressed by how the participating students performed during the Committee Hearing. Despite time constraints, they were able to defend their country's position properly and debated like real diplomatic envoys.

To formally close the Project, Kyushu University's Professor Mariko Igimi reported on the milestones of the five-year long journey. She delightedly informed stakeholders that the Project achieved its goal of adopting a spiral model of exchange programs consisting of short term exchange (consisting of training programs, joint seminars with partner universities, and workshops conducted at local high schools), semester exchange, and double degree programs with partner universities. Aside from this, the Project also succeeded in providing avenues for students of Kyushu University and participating universities to see beyond their spaces, grow and learn from each other, and develop long lasting professional and personal relationships.

The Re-inventing Japan Project was not just about the seminars we attended or the places we visited; it was also about the people we met and the friendships we gained, which definitely go beyond the closing ceremony. Personally, the Project is a life-changing experience. As a legal professional, it realigned my myopic worldview and refocused it to a world filled with endless possibilities.

Dean Sedfrey Candelaria and Associate Dean Giovanni Vallente visit Kyushu University's Ito Campus.







The 2017 Ateneo-Philippine Jessup team finishes strong by qualifying to the advanced rounds, with Kristine Borja and Teresa Banta ranking 7th and 8th overall best oralists, respectively. L-R: Danielle Zerrudo, Atty. Eduardo Danilo Macabulos, Atty. Kirsten Yap, Teresa Banta, Liane Candelario, Kristine Borja, Rami Hourani, Sean Borja, and Atty. Timothy John Batan.

Photo credit: DANIELLE ZERRUDO

## Ode to the Giants

By TERESA KRISTEL V. BANTA

"IF YOU HAVE your essay ready, we may still be able to interview you tomorrow, but at 12nn. Do you still want to push through?" the text message said.

I missed my original interview schedule with the Ateneo Society of International Law (ASIL) back in June 2014. To be honest, I was relieved. I was a clueless freshman; I had no debate or moot experience, and my heart not yet set for law school.

In short, I was unprepared.

So, when one of the ASIL officers sent me a message after my last class on a Friday night asking if I still wanted to continue with my application, even I was surprised I said yes. The next morning, I found myself in front of a bench of five upper-level students, trying my best to answer all their questions as I sweated behind my foggy glasses in front of the auditorium.

Three years and five competitions in, not once did I regret going to that interview.

It is easy to look at ASIL and see what it has achieved for the school, the community, and the country. All the awards can attest to that. It is difficult, however, to look at active ASIL members and not feel bad about how exhausted they look. My friends can attest to that.

A regular day during moot season often begins with a cup of coffee with extra shots of willpower. There is a perfect balance a mooter must strike between training for a competition and keeping her head above academic water. For me and my teammates, that meant setting our priorities straight, studying smart, and enlisting the strongest support system possible. Law school survivors always tell us the grind will not be easy, but that we will get better as students. ASIL doubles that grind and turns up the pressure. Competing meant forcing yourself to learn the balancing trick well and to learn it fast.

Among other things, mooting has taught me to look beyond the unnecessary and focus on the critical. While it works fine with argument-



The 2017 Ateneo-Philippine Jessup team pays a courtesy visit and trains at the PH Embassy in Washington, D.C. during preliminary rounds. L-R: Liane Candelario (4B), Teresa Banta (3A), Kristine Borja (4C), and Rami Hourani (4A).

(Photo credit: Atty. Eduardo Danilo Macabulos (Coach))

crafting, it works best with developing a work ethic. Since we have limited time to study, we are forced not to waste time. Any free hour will be used for rest. After that, the work begins again. It is through this almost torturous cycle that a team forms the strongest of bonds. When we are tested with fire, we have no choice but to break through. It is also true what they say: we are only as strong as our weakest link. No one gets left behind.

Mooting has also taught me to recognize the value of a sharpened skillset. But I appreciate mooting the most for reminding me every day how to be humble first, and grateful second.

ASIL's coaches do not get paid. In fact, ASIL alumni have no obligation to train resident members. Still, on top of their already demanding professional workload,

they spend hours every day — weekends included — for 4-7 months, just to teach the younger ones who may or may not know what they are doing. Their mentorship goes beyond subject matter; it includes teaching form and demeanor, responsiveness and charm, sensitivity and resilience. With their questions, I learned how to think on my feet and impress with international law legalese. With their actions, I learned how wide a good heart stretched.

Some say they do not understand how we do what we do, let alone why we do it. I feel the same way about my mentors. Almost after every loss, someone asks me if I am ready to go again; I say no. Defeats are usually difficult pills to swallow, especially when you look at your coaches and not help but feel like you have failed your giants. But as one of my professors said, one can never be a hundred percent ready. We can, however, choose to be a hundred percent committed.

Here's to choosing which personal battles to give up and which wars to win. Here's to showing up, for all the good people.

"Yes, I'll be there," I replied.





## Dean's Corner

By SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA

from page 1

On May 10-12, 2017, the third Spanish-Philippine Congress on Law took place at the School of Law of the University of Malaga, Spain, with the theme: "Current Constitutional Debates in Europe and Asia III Congress on the Law of the Philippines and Spain." Joining me in the Ateneo de Manila University delegation were Prof. Ma. Ngina Teresa V. Chan-Gonzaga, Dr. Alvin P. Ang, Prof. Ma. Tanya Karina A. Lat, and Prof. Ruben Balane.



Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria and Prof. Ryan D. Quan with La Trobe University Students on Study Tour at Ateneo de Manila University during their visit to ALS February 1, 2017.43

Director Amparita S. Sta Maria and Prof. Ryan Jeremiah D. Quan of the Graduate Legal Studies Institute hosted a group of Australian students from La Trobe University during their study tour with Ateneo de Manila University. La Trobe academic officials expressed interest to explore more ties with ALS this year. Opportunities for research, and faculty and student exchange have been proposed for discussion.

Associate Dean Lily K. Gruba and Prof. Ma. Ngina Teresa Chan-Gonzaga attended the 5th Asian Law School Deans' Forum at the National University of Singapore. The latest trends in legal education were



shared by the participating administrators and professors during the forum.

The five (5)-year "Reinventing Japan Project" with Kyushu University Faculty of Law had an elaborate closing activity in Fukuoka, Japan in February. A delegation from the ALS and Loyola campus participated, together with the alumni of the series of study exchange from other project partner law schools in the region.



Ateneans based in New York and Washington D.C.

I had the chance to meet ALS graduates based in New York and Washington D.C. during my Supreme Court Philippine Judicial Academy official visit to judicial education centers sometime February to March. It was heartwarming to witness the remarkable paths our law graduates have pursued in the United States. It only confirms the highly competitive standard of our Juris Doctor degree as reinforced by the graduate degree program. The need to encourage and motivate our students towards a global legal perspective will surely gain more traction in the years to come in order to establish a higher benchmark. I am confident of the capacity of our graduates to meet the demands of global law practice as exhibited by a critical number now at the peak of their career in different parts of the world.

Professors Anthony A. Abad and Jose Maria G. Hofileña represented the ALS at the Seminar on Competition Law Enforcement, while Dean Cesar L. Villanueva participated in the Focus Group Discussion on the Proposed Framework for the Capacity Development in Competition



ALS delegates to Student Exchange Program and Asian Law Students Association International Human Rights Conference on March 12-25, 2017 at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. [L-R: Effie Fielle Ignacio, John Vincent Castro, Richard Filasol, Kevin Luke Mizon, Maria Paula Villarin]



Reinventing Japan Project Closing Ceremony at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan on Feb. 15-24, 2017

Law and Economics at the Marco Polo Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City on March 29, 2017 sponsored by the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) in partnership with the British Embassy Manila.

A recent law on Data Privacy is presently the subject of university-wide consultative process spearheaded by Professor Nina Patricia Sison-Arroyo. It is expected that a more conscious effort at securing various types of information received by the University should be pursued in the next few months, including the appointment of a Data Privacy Officer for the university.

Our annual Jesuit Legal Education (JLE) Seminar for student leaders and organization heads was successfully conducted by our Student Formation Team headed by Professor Tanya K. Lat, under the supervision of Associate Dean Giovanni F. Vallente. The students agreed to echo the JLE down to their classmates through a year-long series of JLE thematic discussions.

The Office of the Vice President has been briefing the APS Deans and Administrators on the progress of the refurbishment plans of our APS building. An operational plan has yet to be mapped out to avoid interruption of classes once the construction begins.

Our ALS Community is now in grief as it condole with the bereaved families of Professor Liberador Villegas and Dr. Eisuke Suzuki. Prof. Villegas was well-loved by his students and the members of the ALS faculty. Prof. Suzuki, on the other hand, briefly taught at the law school but proved to be a scholar in his own right in the field of International Financial Law. Kindly remember these two dedicated members of our faculty in your prayers.



Master of Human Rights and Democratization (MHRD) - Asia Pacific (APMA) Program, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. Six (6) students enrolled in ALS for the 2nd Semester SY 2016-17 (From February 1, 2017-July 31, 2017). [L-R: Yap Hwa Ng (Malaysia), Ashley Derick Macdonald (India), Tilman Jan Papesch (Germany), Vaialia Isua (Samoa), Praveen Kumar Yadav (Nepal) and Yaolong Xian (China,PR).]



## In Memoriam

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



**Prof. Liberador V. Villegas**  
(June 22, 1944 – April 10, 2017)

PROF. LIBERADOR "Libby" Villegas taught Insurance Law, Labor Relations Law, and Environmental Law at the Ateneo Law School. He was General Counsel of Petron Corporation and also served as Assistant Government Corporate Counsel at the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel. He had taught since 1975 at the ALS, where he also graduated Salutatorian in 1971, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Bar Examinations of the same year.

DR. SUZUKI started his career as International Counsel at the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) of the Asian Development Bank in 1978. He became the Deputy General Counsel and Officer-in-Charge in 1994 and then Special Advisor to the President and the Director General of the Operations Evaluation Department in 2003. During his stint at the OGC, Dr. Suzuki handled the whole gamut of legal matters ranging from organizational structure and administration of ADB, policy implementation, and operation, including the issues affecting the ADB's rights and obligations. Dr. Suzuki obtained his Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD) degree from Yale Law School in 1974. He earned his Masters of Law from the University of Virginia Law School in 1971. He received his Masters in Political Science and Bachelor of Laws from Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan in 1970 and 1968, respectively. Dr. Suzuki taught International Organizations, International Relations and Policy Analysis to undergraduate and graduate students at Kwansei Gakuin University School of Policy Studies in Kobe-Sanda, Japan from 2009 to 2013. He teaches the elective "International



**Prof. Eisuke Suzuki**

Economic Law II: International Financial Institutions" at ALS.

The ALS is sincerely grateful to the family of Dr. Ace Suzuki for choosing the APS Library as the repository of the Professors' valuable collection of books and journals on international law, regional politics and policy studies, as he wished.

## Happy birthday to our faculty and staff!

### MAY

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Atty. Jamie Ann Reyes	May 3
Atty. Joaquin P. Obieta	May 4
Atty. Luz Danielle O. Bolong	May 8
Dean Cesar L. Villanueva	May 8
Fr. Adolfo N. Dacanay, S.J.	May 9
Atty. Jose B. Quimson	May 13
Justice Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores	May 14
Atty. Jorge Alfonso C. Melo	May 18
Atty. Tranquil S. Salvador, III	May 19
Atty. Dante Miguel D. Cadiz	May 21
Atty. Ray Paolo J. Santiago	May 21
Atty. Menardo I. Guevarra	May 23
Atty. Rodolfo R. Bonifacio	May 25
Atty. Ma. Krizna S. Gomez	May 25
Atty. Rene G. Bañez	May 29

### JULY

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Atty. Paolo Cesar S. Boado	July 5
Atty. Domnina T. Rances	July 7
Atty. Maria Luisa Isabel L. Rosales	July 7
Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.	July 8
Atty. Patrick Simon S. Perillo	July 9
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Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria	July 19
Atty. Klarise Anne C. Estorninos	July 20

Atty. Ronaldo R. Gutierrez	July 21
SP Dennis M. Villa-Ignacio	July 28
Justice Mariano C. Del Castillo	July 29
Atty. Ma. Tanya Karina A. Lat	July 31
Atty. Ignacio S. Sapalo	July 31

### JUNE

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Ms. Ma. Lovella S. Ordoñez	June 5
Ms. Leila Lim	June 12
Atty. Blessilda B. Abad-Gamo	June 13
Atty. Cesario A. Azucena, Jr.	June 16
Amb. Manuel A. J. Teehankee	June 17
Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval	June 20
Atty. Marissa O. Cabrerós	June 24
Atty. Rowena D. Soriano	June 24
Atty. Lorenzo U. Padilla	June 24
Justice Ma. Filomena D. Singh	June 25
Ms. Mariss L. David	June 30

### AUGUST

Atty. Francis Tom F. Temprosa	Aug. 1
Atty. Michael G. Aguinaldo	Aug. 2
Fr. Luis S. David, S.J.	Aug. 5
Atty. Lee Benjamin Z. Lerma	Aug. 13
Atty. Jacinto D. Jimenez	Aug. 16
Atty. Persida Rueda Acosta	Aug. 18
Justice Magdangal M. De Leon	Aug. 19
Judge Antonio Ray A. Ortiguera	Aug. 30



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