



ACUCA NEWS



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THAILAND

Asia-Pacific International University
Payap University
Assumption University
Christian University of Thailand

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Love without Borders: "Learning to Serve" as a Heritage of Mission at Fu Jen Catholic University

Fu Jen Catholic University always puts emphasis on encouraging students to learn in multiple ways. Every summer, various volunteer groups give students opportunities to participate and be involved in service-learning overseas. On the 22nd of June, 2013, a progress report of the different service plans was offered during a flag-presentation ceremony at the 9th floor of the Msgr. Fahy Memorial Building. During the gathering, mutual exchange and sharing enabled more people to understand the content and relevance of the various service-learning projects. Chiang Han-Sun, president of Fu Jen Catholic University was present during the ceremony. Fr. Yen Ren-Ji, Jesuit section representative, led the Blessing Prayer with a call to cultivate greater conscientiousness and discover the value of cooperation.



The Volunteer Service teams this year consist of a total number of 20 groups, which includes the Overseas Volunteer Service Team, the Youth Corps of Diplomatic Delegates of the Administration of Foreign Affairs, and the Summer Domestic Service Team. One overseas Volunteer Service team will serve in homes for the dying of Calcutta, India. Another team from the French Department will work as cultural-service volunteers in Burgundy, France. Other groups include: the English teaching plan in Chang-Fu elementary school by the English Department, the Miami and the Atlanta Group in America, the College of Medicine Medical Volunteer Group to Tanzania, the Chinese-Teaching Team for overseas Chinese in Dhapa, India, the Volunteer group for the Han-Shi village of Taiya aborigines in Yilan county, the SVD "Action of Love" - service group to Bali, Indonesia, the Youth Corps - Diplomatic Representatives to Vietnam, "A Home of Love" Service-Learning project in Shi-Chuan- China, the Short-Term Education project in Cambodia, the Mandarin Volunteer Group in the Philippines, the Service Team to the Library of Taiwan Adventist College, the Learning in Society and Corporation in the Philippines, Project summer service teams for children in Yi-Fang Elementary School - Rui Fang District in New Taipei City, the Social Service Learning Project in Ulaanbaatar-Mongolia, "Love Unbound" Shi-Chuan, the Youth Corps Diplomatic Representatives to Columbia, the Service Team for Health in Tai-Dong and the Exchange Program with Lingnan University in Hong Kong.

President Chiang Han-Sun commented that being a doctor himself, he once participated on the medical service team to Tanzania, and therefore he totally understands the tasks and mission of the student volunteers. He also promised that not even a cent of the subsidy from the school will be diminished by any means. He strongly hoped the students would truly learn, grow in maturity, and be transformed throughout the trip.

The Director of the Learning Service Center, Pan Rong-Ji, particularly used the four-word Chinese idiom: "Long, Wide, Deep and High" to encourage the volunteers. He remarked, "It has been 15 years since the establishment of the Service -Learning Service Center at Fu Jen University. This is a great legacy to the history of the university. Students must acknowledge and admit that they are not simply the passers on of the torch of service, but also have the mission to search for successive inheritors who are interested in overseas volunteer work. The idiom conveys hopes and expectations from the students to witness to the meaning of each word. "Long" refers to continuity and the length of time, "Wide" to the impact of the services on the local community. "Deep" represents the depth of our work to meet various cultural demands and "High" to the high altruistic standards which transcend the expectations of the human mind.

Fr. Yen Ren-Ji, who led the Blessing Prayer, said that all the reports presented in the ceremony demonstrated the solidification of the work each team has done to meet the needs of the people they hope to help. Moreover, the structures and designs the students presented were wonderful. It is an indicator that they are very self-conscious and clear in their objectives. Thus, learning by doing service has reached its goal of building confidence and self-awareness, accomplishing their goals as well as fostering leadership among the students. He hoped that each team would be better prepared before the departure as one of the goals of service- learning.



Introduction to E-Tutoring for Elementary Schools and Junior High Schools in Rural Areas

As the times change and technology advances, Education is no longer limited to conventional schoolroom teaching with chalk and a blackboard. In this revolutionary age of communication and information sharing, one of the primary goals of the Ministry of Education is to use digital technology and the Internet to make education flow unimpeded to every corner of Taiwan. In order to reduce the service differences between rural and urban areas, improve the quality of national education and uphold our core values of "Love, Service and Learning," the Ministry of Education has teamed up with academic institutions to promote class work tutoring and life education over the Internet to students in rural areas. Combining the Internet, education and the humanities, the Internet Class Work Tutoring Service Program was inaugurated to show concern for rural students, open up a new outlook on international promotion of digital education and reduce the gap between urban and rural areas.

Since its inauguration in 2006, the program has steadily won the approval and support of teachers in rural areas. The goal is not only to use Internet technology to bridge the gap in education between urban and rural areas, but also actively promote cooperation and resource sharing between academic institutions and rural junior high and elementary schools so they can fulfill their responsibility of bringing higher education into local service and contributing back to society. In the future, a plan to add children under the Ministry's National Computer Plan is underway and will follow. The Promotion Plan for Creating Digital Opportunities in Rural Areas to promote Digital Study Com-

panion Trials is underway in the hope that university students can follow a spirit of education service to help students. In addition, the plan will also provide better education resources to disadvantaged children and cultivate a deeper concern for society among university students.

Education is a gradual and continuous process. It requires love, patience, and a spirit of care and service. Teachers who choose to dedicate their service to rural areas have supported the continued development and progress of this program. Due to their deep commitment to education and concern for society, this program has brought together academic institutions, county education departments, rural schools and even civic groups in a cross-disciplined and cross-departmental effort to selflessly contribute to education. We will spread the force outward and continue to provide service to the community.

A famous German expression has it that "the most respected person at a concert is the person who dresses the performers." The ministry and the planning team of this program simply wish to fulfill their duty to education by displaying the greatest admiration for all teachers who have dedicated their lives in contributing to rural education. Here are two more thoughts for each of our partners: "Education is showing concern for every living being. Education begins with the valuing of each living being."

Student volunteers use web teaching software and the Internet to instruct the primary school students who dwell in the rural areas.



The primary school students concentrate on an interactive lecture offered by the student volunteers at the other end of the computer.

From the Hundred-Year -Old School, by a Hundred-Plus Riders: A Soochow Declaration of Perseverance and Passion in the Round-Island Bike Tour: 1,113 Kilometers of Tour de Taiwan to Mark the 113th Anniversary of Soochow University

As a curtain-raiser to the celebrations of the 113th anniversary of Soochow University, 113 students completed the mission of cycling around Taiwan and returned on March 16, 2013 to Soochow's Waishuanghsi campus before a lively, roaring assembly of faculty, staff members, alumni and students. President Pan Wei-Ta of Soochow University applauded the riders with the remark: "This round-island bike tour is a rallying point for every one of us here, a chance to learn that we can count on each other and turn a colorful page of memory from your college life."

The journey started at 6 a.m. on March 5th, from the main campus of Soochow University. By personally covering every inch of the trip, our riders came to realize why the island was named "Formosa", the beautiful one. Through the visits to business corporations, our horizons were broadened and our understanding of the term "The Spirit of Taiwan" was fully embodied. In addition to cycling and railway rides, many other activities also enabled our alumni in various counties throughout Taiwan to participate in many ways, such as seminars and service as escort riders for short distances in their areas. These meetings, exchanges and interactions proved to be effective in the forming of stronger bonds among members of the big "Soochow Family."

On the Sports Day when we marked the 113th Anniversary,

enthusiastic participation by all was evident in the opening parade as members of the faculty and staff, alumni as well as the student body entered our athletic field with slogans, banners that we spared no effort in displaying. In his opening address, President Pan made special mention of the presence of alumni from Malaysia and Board Members of the Friends of Soochow Foundation who came all the way from Los Angeles, USA. The most touching moment came when all 113 members in the cycling corps returned to our campus safe and sound, unveiling the 113th Anniversary celebrations of Soochow University. President Pan recognized the act of cycling around the island by the 113 riders as undoubtedly the most vivid demonstration of how students can conquer all hindrances with youthful sweat, fulfill the spirit of perseverance and passion bequeathed to us, and thereby strike the most beautiful notes for a new generation in the history of the university.



MISEN welcomes Soochow University as the first member school from Taiwan Wider scope of internationalization to be expected, exchange students better cared for



Following a signing ceremony on 7 May 2013 between Soochow University's President Pan Wei-Ta and the IAMSCU, MISEN has now extended its student exchange network to include the first member school from

Taiwan. President Pan expressed his great delight in becoming the first university from Taiwan and from Chinese speaking societies to be in the cooperative project. Students from Soochow University may now take advantage of the network and apply to study in countries such as the U.S.A., Mexico, Brazil, and Japan to broaden their horizons and strengthen their competitiveness.

Signing the agreement to forge the cooperation project were Methodist officers in charge of higher education Dr. Gerald Lord, Deputy Director of MISEN; Dr. Amos Nascimento, Secretary General; and Soochow's President Pan. Dr. Lord said he had high hopes for the cooperation as Soochow University may serve as the core for further expansion of educational programs in Asia and in the world, and that in the academic exchange network one plus one may achieve the culminating effect of greater than two. President Pan was glad to see that the cooperation would be able to help enhance exchange opportunities for Soochow faculty members.

MISEN is a pioneer international student exchange program supported by the IAMSCU, with an aim of furthering overseas studies and facilitating exchanges among member schools. MISEN is a global network of Methodist Universities in the U.S.A., Mexico, Brazil, and Japan. With Soochow University as the newest member, the network has now extended to include the Chinese speaking societies in the Asia-Pacific area.

Soochow University has long been devoted in international cooperation, with 200 participants involved annually in short-term exchange programs with more than 100 sister schools throughout the world. One of the opportunities is the dual degree program with Thunderbird, the Garvin School of International Management in the U.S.A. Joining the MISEN program means more international contacts and more multi-dimensional, cross-cultural learning opportunities for students from Soochow to broaden their international perspectives.

With professional staff members in the Office of International and Cross-Strait Academic Exchanges, Soochow University provides thoughtful and considerate assistance to exchange students from our sister schools to settle down and study in Taiwan. Setting a precedent among universities in Taiwan is the spring time bike tours Soochow arranged for exchange students, with President Pan personally in the lead. With the bike tours exchange students get the chance to come into closer contact with school administrators, President Pan himself included, and with the soil of Taiwan. On 27th April 2013, amidst heavy rain, more than forty exchange students from Honduras, Germany, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, and China spent the morning biking with the President and were left with wonderful memories that will last for a lifetime.

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY GOING INTERNATIONALIZED IN EDUCATION

Providence University has been actively promoting Internationalization by encouraging its students to study abroad and experience different cultures. "411 Study Abroad Program" was launched in 2010 with the end in view of encouraging students to study abroad to become globally competitive and to make a difference in our world.

It is an honor to note that Providence University is the only university in Taiwan which is a member of International Students Exchange Programs (ISEP). Students who are interested in studying abroad can choose from among the member institutions of ISEP in the world. So far, about 500 PU students are sent abroad to study annually. More than two hundred (200) have joined the exchange program while about three hundred (300) have participated in the short-term study abroad program. At present, PU has about 220 partner institutions in the world.

At the 2013 Internationalization of University Education Forum held at PU on April 11th, Minister Wen Tong Lin of the Department of International and Cross-strait Education under the Ministry of Education (MOE), said, "Due to global competition, global perspective is needed now in almost all of the professions, and thus, internationalization has become an indispensable concern in our education today." He also added that in facing global competition, it should not only be social elites who should pursue internationalization but also those Taiwanese students who are willing to adapt to a multi-cultural environment and have the strong motivation to be proficient at speaking various languages because of the fact that all professional sectors need knowledgeable people who have international vision while understanding its global operations.

Furthermore, 411 Study Abroad Festival was also held on April 11th, where local and foreign experts from the government, industry and academic sectors shared their thoughts on globalization at the forum. They were overwhelmed by what they learned and highly commended the significance of the festival. Exchange students from Japan, Korea, Mainland China, United States, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Central and South America and other countries also participated actively by sharing their experiences in studying abroad. These international students comprise nearly 10% of PU students' total population. 411 Study Abroad Festival is held every year.

President Chuan, Yi - Tang of PU says that PU International College is established as a global teaching platform to help PU students have a chance to connect with the world and improve their international competitiveness.

It is hoped that through internationalization in education, Providence University can be globally competitive. GO! GO! PU!



Hong Kong Baptist University expands its research strength in Changshu

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) opened its Changshu Research Institute on the 16th of April, 2013, extending its research strength on the Mainland and marking another advancement in its innovative research work. At the opening ceremony, Professor Albert Chan, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKBU, signed a memorandum of understanding for collaboration with Professor Zhu Shizhong, President of Changshu Institute of Technology (CIT), to nurture post-graduate students and to offer an MSC in its Analytical Chemistry program.

Established in the Changshu Economic and Technological Development (CETD) zone of Jiangsu Province, the Changshu Research Institute occupies an area of 10.7 hectares, with a construction area of over 6,800 square meters. It houses 21 laboratories, including an analysis laboratory, microbiology laboratory, multimedia classroom and multimedia conference room.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Professor Chan said the Changshu Research Institute would be HKBU's base in the Yangtze River Delta and would conduct high technology research and professional training. The University will focus its research on Chinese medicine and new materials. A post-graduate program will be launched next year to nurture high technology professionals for the peripheral areas of Changshu. He also expressed thanks to the CETD Zone and the Changshu Municipal Government for support and encouragement for the University, and members of Lee & Man Chemical Ltd. for assisting

HKBU in building an innovative research base in Changshu.

Guests attending the ceremony included HKBU senior management, academics and staff, CIT senior management, officials of the CETD Zone, Changshu City leaders, the senior management of Jiangsu Lee & Man Chemical Ltd., Jiangxi Lee & Man Chemical Ltd., Jiangsu Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing Ltd. and Changshu Fangta Coating Chemical Co. Ltd.

Earlier in February 2012, HKBU opened its Shenzhen Research Centre at the Shenzhen Virtual University Park. Laboratories at the Centre established by the Faculty of Science and the School of Chinese Medicine pursue innovative research and multidisciplinary collaboration, aiming to develop cutting-edge applied technology and undertake research that will benefit Hong Kong, Shenzhen and the nation as a whole.



Nanzan University, Japan

Sports at a Christian University - The Personal View of a President

Recently, I received a copy of the February 2012 edition of the Sophia University Studies in Physical Education, the departmental bulletin paper of the Physical Education Department. Featured in this issue was a very interesting article: "The Culture of Sports at University, Influenced by Religious Space" by Prof. Kunihiro Seto, a teacher in the Physical Education Department. It tells how the religious environment of two Catholic universities exerts influence on their sports culture. The specific example taken up by Seto is the so-called "Jonansen", an annual athletic event staged since 1960 by Sophia University in Tokyo and Nanzan University in Nagoya. The venue for that event alternates between Tokyo and Nagoya. This year's 54th Jonansen, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sophia University, will be held in Tokyo from May 31 to June 2.

Needless to say, this is a competition with both Sophia and Nanzan trying to claim victory by winning the majority of more than 30 different matches, from archery to yacht racing. (There is a special bonus for the students of Nanzan University, in accordance with an old custom. If Nanzan wins, it earns the right to throw the president into the swimming pool.) Yet, as Seto points out in his article, it isn't just a competition event where achieving victory is the only thing that matters. Beyond and above all the rivalry of the individual sports clubs, an over-all sense of cooperation and friendship is the main force that helps to continue this special tradition. Living proof is the simple fact that members of sports clubs from both universities continue to meet each other on a regular basis many years after they competed on the sports grounds.

Like at any other sports events, there are ceremonies: exchange of

banners, speeches by presidents and club leaders, performances by the cheerleader teams - but the actual beginning of each Jonansen is (what else could it be?) a Mass attended by representatives from all clubs or, this year, a prayer service to be attended by almost all participating athletes in the public sports arena where the opening ceremony will take place. This is, in essence, the gist of the article mentioned above - the religious space of two Catholic universities becomes the background and defining element of what otherwise would be just another athletic competition between two private universities. The obvious desire of the students in the various sports clubs (and, perhaps even more so, of former students) to achieve revenge for, or build upon the victory of, last year's match is grounded upon the bond that connects Nanzan and Sophia, the common Christian spirit of a Catholic university.

In the end, I can't resist saying this: I'm sure that two universities that play and pray together will also stay together to cooperate in their common mission. Our young people, competing in Christian spirit, give a concrete example of how the Christian spirit is working in higher education in Japan.



The photo shows Fr. Masuda, S.J. (vice president of Sophia) and Fr. Calmano, S.V.D. (president of Nanzan) at the opening Mass in the Divine Word Seminary chapel in Nagoya.

Saint Paul University, Philippines

SPUP Intensifies Efforts for Environmental Education

Sister Remy Angela Junio, SPC, President of SPUP, in her opening remarks during the review of the strategic directions of the university, said: "Education has a constitutive dimension to craft institutional policies towards environmental sustainability. Our efforts must be directed for the full protection and advancement of the rights of the people to a healthful ecology in accord with rhythm and harmony with nature. This goal can be achieved if we re-design Paulinian education to respond to the demands of the 21st century learning landscape."

The university adopted the transformation approach to affect radical changes in the curriculum which encourage new ways of thinking and incorporate new approaches in teaching. One of the core concepts that is emphasised in the curriculum is climate change that cuts across all levels from basic education to graduate school. Only depth and breath of the contents vary, using the dynamic instructional plan, an innovative guide that puts the learner at the center stage and makes him responsible for learning. The university campus is used as a live laboratory by teachers in teaching environmental concepts. SPUP is a university in a botanical garden. It has a good collection of flora and fauna. There are indigenous trees on the campus that are becoming extinct, even biblical trees like baobab, olive, fig and century old acacia trees.

Teachers need not get out of the campus to teach waste management, energy conservation, water conservation, pollution-control and bio-diversity conservation because there are policies, programs and activities in the university relevant to environmental sustainability.

Antonio P. Talamayan

Meiji Gakuin University – Grand Tradition and Glorious Future

Meiji Gakuin University is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. The foundation of the university dates back to 1863 when Dr. James Curtis Hepburn, an American medical missionary, and his wife Clara started a private English school (the Hepburn School) in Yokohama. At the time they opened their school, the Tokugawa Shogunate was ending and the imperial power was being restored. The Hepburn school merged with Brown Academy in Yokohama and became the United Japanese-English Union School and in 1886, it again merged with the Japanese-English Preparatory School and with the Tokyo Union Theological Seminary. The merger of these three institutions resulted in the birth of Meiji Gakuin. Meiji Gakuin is now an incorporated education institution which has one intermediate school, two high schools and Meiji Gakuin University.

The establishment of Meiji Gakuin University was approved in 1949 by the Ministry of Education and it started providing higher education based on Christian teachings. At the time of its founding, it only had one faculty, the Faculty of Letters, which had three departments: Departments of English, Sociology and Economics. Since then, the university's faculties and departments have expanded and multiplied. There are now 6 faculties and 15 departments in the undergraduate school, and 6 schools offering 10 degrees in the Graduate School.

Carrying forth the ideals to which the founder Dr. Hepburn adhered throughout his life, Meiji Gakuin University sets "Do for Others" as its educational principle, and inherited the Christianity-based character-building education as its founding philosophy. This educational principle essentially poses to our students the question of "what they may do for others," and stresses to them the importance of having such an objective. How do you want to achieve that, that is to say, through what job do you want to "do for others" in the future? To do that, it is necessary to know what do you need to learn and how? Meiji Gakuin University places value on its students' dreams and supports their efforts in realizing them. Efforts are poured not only into the regular curricula offered by each academic department and the University Center of Liberal Arts, but also into the university's Volunteer Center and Center for International Cooperation in Education.

Meiji Gakuin University Volunteer Center is the first independent office within a university to make a social commitment in volunteer activities in Japan. The Center's establishment was prompted by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 when a large number of Meiji Gakuin students voluntarily headed out to the disaster-affected area to help with the relief efforts. The Center is now a clearing house for a wide variety of information, ranging from that on environment, welfare, children, psychology, international topics and urban development. The volunteer center always has on hand more than 1,500 sources of volunteer information to support students. In addition to that, the center also provides a wide variety of programs for students, such as internships at the Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges, volunteer programs offered by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and other overseas volunteer programs unique to this university. The volunteer activities of the Meiji Gakuin University Volunteer Center, with its spirit of innovation and strong identity, claim a position of leadership for all universities in Japan.

As of 2012, the University's Center for International Cooperation in Education (CICE) has sent 244 of its students to study abroad and has accepted 245 exchange students from other nations. A wide range of study abroad programs are available. Currently, there are 18 year-long programs, 17 short-term programs and ACUCA (Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia) program which is made possible by the university's membership in the consortium. CICE encourages exchanges between international students and Japanese students who are studying at Meiji Gakuin University. CICE hopes to achieve a higher degree of success for our educational system, and is conscious of the fact that in order to do this, it is necessary to further implement and expand a system for sending students abroad and accepting students from other countries.

In preparation for its 150th anniversary, the university has set up the 21st Century Hepburn Project, a medium to long-term plan under which efforts are being carried forth based on a three-pronged plank which are: (1) to reform education and improve and expand campuses; (2) to enhance language education and vitalize international exchange; and (3) to promote a unified school program and contribute to the local community.

Meiji Gakuin University is providing education at two school sites, one at Shirokane in Tokyo and the other at Totsuka in Yokohama. On each campus, students can enjoy a different environment and atmosphere. At Shirokane campus, Meiji Gakuin Chapel stands as a symbol of Meiji Gakuin which was built in 1916 by a famous architect, W.M. Vories. Meiji Gakuin Imbrie Hall and Meiji Gakuin Memorial Hall are two other historical buildings both of which have been designated as Tokyo Minato-ku Important Historical Buildings in 2002. The former was built in 1889, and the latter in 1890. Students can see much of Meiji Gakuin's history still remaining in various parts of Shirokane campus.

At Yokohama campus, by contrast, white simple buildings, uniform in appearance, which sit throughout the campus, are surrounded by a beautiful and thick grove of trees. The campus is impressive at any time of the year as each season offers something different. In spring there are cherry blossoms and azaleas; in summer hydrangeas and morning glories; in autumn cosmoses and silver grasses; in winter you can enjoy the beautiful sight of Mount Fuji, covered by a blanket of snow, from "Enbo Bridge."

Meiji Gakuin University continues to enhance its educational level and skills through re-structuring the teaching methods of English and other foreign languages and re-designing the campus where both Japanese and foreign students can learn together and exchange their ideas to enhance their abilities and achieve their goal of life in the era of globalization. Meiji Gakuin University welcomes students who are eager to deepen their knowledge and expand their horizons through various college courses and activities including extra-curriculum activities at the University.



Payap University, Thailand

Payap University played host to officers of the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program of USAID from 21-22 January, 2013

Payap University played host to officers of the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program of USAID from 21-22 January, 2013. ASHA, a division of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), distributes millions of dollars in grants every year to deserving schools, hospitals, and like institutions throughout the world. Payap has been the fortunate recipient of various ASHA grants, including construction grants for the library, International Dormitory, Law School, Women's Dormitory, and commodities grants for the Faculty of Pharmacy, Graduate Studies Building, and the library. Current active ASHA grants include the Campus Accessibility grant (to enhance accessibility for the disabled), IT Upgrade grant, and the most recent Solar Project grant.

Visiting Payap was the Deputy Director of ASHA, Mr. Gary Barrett (in the picture, to the President's right and wearing a jacket) and ASHA Engineer Mr. Mark Tipton. Mr. Barrett and Mr. Tipton were given an introduction to the university in the President's conference room on their first day. They then spent the remainder of the day touring the campus and viewing past ASHA projects. The following day, they hosted an ASHA Regional Conference in the Sirindhorn Learning Resource Center, attended by various grant recipients from the region. Also attending the conference was the United Board Vice President for Development, Mr. Ricky Cheng. The United Board (for Christian Higher Education in Asia) is Payap's US sponsor for ASHA grants.



Ateneo starts training future men and women for others

Incoming third year high school students intending to study at Ateneo de Manila University are encouraged to work hard this year to qualify to be part of an exciting summer at Ateneo next year.

Around 70 of these students from all over the Philippines gather once a year to “experience” the Ateneo way of education in a program named the “Ateneo Junior Summer Seminar.” Since the 1960’s, the Ateneo Junior Summer Seminar (AJSS) has been training junior high school students during summer, to help them get a glimpse of life at Ateneo.

Now in its 46th year, the AJSS gathered 76 students from the different provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The top 5 students of the high schools who have always been applying to Ateneo were sent an invitation to join the program. These students were required to take the Ateneo College Entrance Test (ACET) along with other requirements to qualify for the AJSS.

“Every summer, they are usually given the college load,” said Kamille Tabalan of the Office of Admission and Aid. Students taking the AJSS are given a “simplified college load” with subjects like math, English, philosophy, sciences - chemistry, biology, physics, and psychology. They also have a camp week where the departments (Computer, Management, Environmental Science, Electronics and Communications Engineering, and Physical Education) are introduced to the students.

“Through this program, we want them to see what Ateneo can offer them. If you think your paradigm of learning is the same as the Ateneo way of doing it, then we are the best school for you,” Tabalan said.

The program ends with a graduation where a valedictorian and a salutatorian are announced. The valedictorian is awarded a 100% automatic scholarship while the salutatorian gets a 50% scholarship.

There are also departmental awardees from every class conducted.

Not only that, the AJSS also offers a big surprise to its students during the graduation. When these students apply to Ateneo for college, they don’t need to take the ACET except when they want to vie for the Ateneo Freshman Merit Scholarship, the San Ignacio de Loyola Merit Scholarship and the Director’s List.

Student Anna Tayag from Assumption Antipolo said her AJSS experience was a good opportunity to get to know more about her “dream school,” Ateneo. “I feel really blessed because it’s a good opportunity for us to see Ateneo. Since it’s my dream school, I really want to come here,” Tayag said.

Exposed to a different load, Tayag said that she certainly enjoyed these subjects and was able to meet a lot of friends from different schools and provinces. “It’s fun. You learn a lot especially in class. Like in the Philosophy class, it’s a different subject. We don’t have it in high school. And you meet a lot of people,” she said.

Lorraine Luceñera, student from Philippine Science High School Central Mindanao Campus (Cagayan de Oro City) shared that being part of the AJSS is a different and new experience for her. “It’s nice. It’s a new experience, different from all the other things I’ve been doing,” Luceñera said. “It’s not what I expected. I just expected classes. But it’s fun. I learned a lot in the different classes, a lot.”

When asked, “What’s the greatest thing that you learned in the AJSS?” Luceñera answered “One thing I’ve learned is I get to see how college life is like. It’s nice to know *that* at least *pagdating ko ng* (when I get to) college, *di na ako maku-culture shock*.” I won’t have culture shock).

Paying it forward By Paeng Evangelista

Batch 2013 Valedictorian and full academic scholar Delfin Villafuerte is paying it forward. After graduating cum laude last month, Villafuerte shunned all corporate offers to teach public school children for the next two years.

“Recently, I’ve signed a contract with an NGO to teach in a public school for the next 2 years. I’ll be teaching third grade students for the first year. The school will just be around Quezon City,” Villafuerte said.

Finishing with a degree in BS Management Engineering and BA Major in Economics (Honors Program), his passion for teaching started during a leadership training in teaching around 5000 children. “Dito ko na realize na mayroon pala akong profound sense of nationalism (*Through the program I realized my profound sense of nationalism*). Ako rin nagulat na sobrang mahal ko pala ang Pilipinas. (*I was shocked to know that I love my country very much*) I was willing to cut classes. (kahit sobrang babaw – even superficially) I cut class for the first time to teach kids. Doon ko na realize (*That is where I realized*) that maybe what I really want to do is to teach kids.”

Villafuerte entered Ateneo in 2009 taking Management Engineering and eventually added Economics (Honors Program) to his degree. “I entered Ateneo first with ME because in high school I was really math savvy. I really liked math and I was inclined to take a business course. My friend told me to take ME because it was the perfect mix of business and math. For the second semester, they gave me ECO 102, the first course of economics. I found it easy. I breezed through economics. Eventually I found it was natural for me to enjoy economics. I really loved it. So, I thought I might as well finish ECO H.”

Graduating valedictorian from La Salle Greenhills (LSGH), Villafuerte found it easy to adjust to Ateneo because the “core values” of both schools are very similar. In his four years of college life, he described the entire journey in Ateneo as very “humbling” because of the many amazing people he met. “*First year pa lang (In my first year), when I entered my math class, people who were sent to international competitions were there, the valedictorians and the salutatorians were there, too. It was so amazing.*”

“*What Ateneo taught me was to find myself. We usually think when you find yourself, it’s what you want to do in life and what you want to achieve. But I realized that in your search for yourself, more often than not or even always, it’s about other people,*” he shared.

Like most students, Villafuerte admitted to not liking studying at home. Home, he said, is not for academics. “Academically, as much as I



can, I learn everything in class so when I get home, usually it’s just ORG. (*extra-curricular*) work. In class, I get to observe everything, so when I review, it just takes a few minutes to read the notes and you’re refreshed already. Yun ‘yung (*That is my*) secret weapon compared to others who don’t listen in class and just study at home.”

Aside from academics, Villafuerte also excelled in extra-curricular activities and was a student leader. Being the president of the Management Engineering Association (MeA) last year, he implemented reforms that helped a lot of small Filipino entrepreneurs. He enacted a 3-year development plan where they established new systems and new foundations in the organization. Along with the logo, the core competencies and advocacies of the organization changed. “We partnered with a micro finance institution, KMBI, and we implemented a simplified accounting system for sari-sari store owners. Right now, we’re piloting it. It will eventually be implemented by 250,000 store owners nationwide,” Villafuerte said.

The big announcement

The announcement of his having been selected as valedictorian turned out to be the sweetest yet most unexpected moment in his college life. He received a call from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs asking him to go to the office. He said: “*I was thinking why does he want to talk to me the day after the interview and screening of all candidates for valedictorian? It was either good news or they hadn’t decided yet so they wanted a second screening.*” “*When I entered the office, Sir Calasanz congratulated me and said ‘You have been chosen as the batch valedictorian.’ ‘Nawala ako sa sarili ko. (I felt lost), Not really nawala (lost) but it became so surreal. It felt like a dream. A few tears came and I had to catch my breath, and then I had to sit down. Actually, until now, it hasn’t totally sunk in yet.*”

Feeling grateful for this achievement, Villafuerte said he simply acted naturally during the last four years. “I always committed 100%.” His family has always been his inspiration throughout the years. “*They have been supportive ever since kindergarten. They have always been there taking videos of every event that I’ve had.*”

While life after graduation may be tough, he shared what he looks forward to most which is to see his batchmates pursue their careers, their dreams, and fight for the things that disturb them deeply. “*My friends put it really well, that now is the time to be a Filipino. So many young people are passionate about the Philippines and about building a nation. I’m really excited to see the Philippines in a totally new prosperous era.*”

What is his advice to fellow Ateneans? “*Dream big! Never let go of your dreams because this dream is who you are and if you let that go, you might lose yourself. No matter where you go, panindigan ang desisyon (make a stand). Magtaya(risk), pumili (choose), angkinin(own). Always make Ateneo proud, make the Philippines proud,*” Villafuerte said.

UK Petra extended the community service by conducting COP at Kupang

After 16 years of holding the annual International Service Learning Program in Magetan and Kediri - East Java, Universitas Kristen Petra (Petra Christian University- PCU) moves forward with the calling to serve another island in Indonesia. Starting this year (2013), The Community Outreach Program (COP) is currently held twice a year with a new location served in Kupang, East Timor – Indonesia. In the past, COP was usually held in July. Now, it is conducted in January and July.

Last January 2013, COP was held in Sillu Village, Tefukau District – Kupang, from January 28 to February 9 with 68 students as participants. The participants were 25 students of PCU, 8 students of PCU Darmasiswa Program (awardees of scholarship program from Indonesia government) from Thailand, Rumania and Brazillia. There were also 35 students of Widya Mandira Catholic University (WMCU). WMCU were the local host university partner in Kupang.

The COP in January was the first in collaboration with the local university in Kupang. Thus, all learning processes in the program could be a valuable experience to empower local higher education. Beside Widya Mandira, PCU also works in partnership with World Vision – a social organization which has been previously involved in community projects in Kupang. This bond of partnership is expected to keep the innovation and contribution being carried out. Furthermore, this program would be introduced to more international partners from Australia because the program takes place during the summer holidays there.

Referring to the program structure, participants are expected to create a reflection before, during and after the program. Many doubts and anxieties precede this first COP. However, those worries vanished

when all the participants arrived in Kupang. Although some daily resources such as water and electricity were limited, participants were still full of spirit to share their expertise and work together smoothly to accomplish various projects for villagers there. In their post-program reflection, most of them shared that Sillu village was actually better than what they thought earlier. Although they needed to draw the water from 40-metre-well, they gained more experience both in physical and non-physical dimensions. Moments with people, especially with the children in Kupang, were also unforgettable. The participants were impressed and touched with the children's enthusiasm in learning.

Bidding farewell became a tough moment when the program reached the last day. Villagers, children, and local participants felt really sad to see the participants return to Surabaya. It was truly a memorable cross-cultural experience that cultivated participants' awareness of what a difference it can be for beautiful harmony and productive contributions to fill in the gaps with thoughtful understanding. Herewith, we would also like to invite all ACUCA members to join us in COP 2014!



20130128-Participants at the Opening Ceremony in Kupang



Art class at playgroup

Silliman University, Philippines

Silliman VP Trains Faculty in Timor Leste on Service-Learning

Silliman University Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Betsy Joy B. Tan was the resource person for a basic training on service-learning May 1 to May 5 in Timor Leste.

The training involved faculty members and administrative officers of seven institutions who comprise the association of private higher education in Timor Leste.

Dr. Tan is an expert in service-learning. Under her leadership, service-learning was institutionalized in Silliman, and incorporated in all academic programs. The Service-Learning Center, which later became the Service-Learning Institute, was created during her term, and continues to bring in students from Japan, Korea, India, Thailand and the United States.

Service-learning is a teaching pedagogy that facilitates a deeper connection to social realities. It provides an understanding of social issues through community immersions, regular interaction with marginalized sectors, and sharing of insights in journals and focus group discussions.

Organizing the training in Timor Leste was the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.



VCAA TimorLeste

Providence University, Taiwan

Enrich Your Summer Abroad: 2013 International Summer Program at Providence University, Taiwan

The International Summer Program (ISP) at Providence University aims at offering exciting but educational short-term travel and study abroad. For the past years, we have hosted students from the USA, Japan, Netherlands, and other countries.

For the 2013 program, we focus on the Taiwan experience that will bring students into a cultural journey of depth via specially-designed lectures, cultural hands-on practices, excursions, and interactions with locals. Worried about the language barrier? No need. Students who participate in this program will receive solid and practical training in Mandarin language according to their levels at our Chinese Language Education Center, which is in its 20th year. In addition, there will be professional management lectures and visits to enterprises of Taiwan's core industries. Moreover, students will also have a wide range of exciting cultural experiences, such as making Hakka-style tea, writing Chinese calligraphy on a Chinese-style fan, creating favorite figures by dough, and so on. There are also weekend excursions for exploring the island. Students will have opportunities to visit the famous 101 Building and the National Palace Museum in Taipei, the splendid eye-opening Chung Tai Chan Monastery and Sun Moon Lake in the mountain area of middle Taiwan, and of course, the fabulous sea paradise down south.

To make students feel at home, trained friendship buddies will accompany participants all through the 6 weeks starting from meeting each other at the airport until the farewell party. These are the best ways to improve students' Mandarin and make everlasting friendship that will extend across the world.

This year, a group of over five students from the same school will also qualify to apply for a scholarship awarded by the Taiwan government. Providence University is pleased to assist in scholarship application procedure.

From the bottom of our hearts, we welcome students to join this specially designed summer program. Let's enrich your summer at PU!

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.oia.pu.edu.tw/ehtml/b07.php>

"E-Weeks" Environmental Awareness Month at International Christian University

A new "E-Weeks" series of student-sponsored events has started this year. The main theme was "Exciting Environmental Events for Everyone" and the activities ran from the 22nd of April to the 16th of May, 2013. Events such as the following were held.

1. Open lecture

On the 23rd of April, Professor Sadayoshi Tobai (ICU class of 1990, head of the World Wide Fund for Nature Japan's office for environmental conservation) gave an open lecture on: "A week in the life of a Japanese citizen and environmental conservation in the world." The lecture focused on a week in the life of a university student. Students looked at how things they usually don't notice can have an impact on wildlife, marine life and deforestation. Professor Tobai introduced some things students can do to protect the planet. He explained that *"the next time you buy something, I hope you'll think about the impact it has on the environment when you make your choice. When you pick up a product, look at the back and check. What is it made of? Where are the materials from? Where is it made? Is there a label providing some kind of ecological certification?"*

2. Nature watching

Professor of ICU, Takehiko Kamito from the Department of Biology and Environmental Studies led a nature walk around the campus on the 30th of April. Approximately thirty students joined the walk, which introduced various plants around campus, discussed how rare or common they are, and reminded students of the abundance of nature at ICU. One student said, *"It was really educational to have a professor show us around the campus. We really felt what a treasure trove of nature exists here."* On the 2nd of May, there was a tour of the Taizanso, a building of pure Japanese style nestled at the back of the campus. Third-year student Shuhei Kimura, president of the Taizanso Project, explained the history and structure of the building, which was built using old lumber from historic structures from around Japan. Mr. Kimura was met with numerous questions from the participants of the tour.

3. Re-use of clothes

As part of the "E-Weeks" eco-events, a clothing swap called "Fuku-Fuku" was held at ICU on the 9th and 10th of May. Students brought clothes they don't wear anymore and exchanged them with other students. The event aimed to connect students with one another through the action of "exchanging," to raise awareness about the environment and to provide a place where participants could enjoy art.

Approximately 300 pieces of clothing were brought to the event. Students attached tags to the clothes they brought which told the story about how they purchased the items and why they don't wear them any more. The tags gave students something to talk about with each other as they perused the days' offerings. Some students at the event remarked: *"It's different from other swap meets. The tags are funny. It looks like just regular used clothing at first, but when you read the tags, the clothing looks completely different."*

Second-year student Yukie Hara, who was involved in running the event, said, *"I think it's meaningful that the clothing swap is being held at the university. If you see someone on campus wearing the clothes you brought, then that makes you want to talk to him or her. That creates new types of exchange. This is the first time we've had one of these, but I hope we'll do it again after summer when the weather turns autumnal."*

4. Candle-Night

On the 16th of May, a candlelight concert was held as the final event of the month-long E-Weeks. The keyword for the concert was "enjoy" and the candles were made out of material that makes use of oil waste. Students turned out in large numbers to see the "Bell Peppers" hand bell club, "Rince" Irish music group, and the Glee Club.

At the end of the concert, President Hibiya read out the names of the people who helped with the events, thanking them for their efforts. In her remarks, she said: *"It's really a delight to see how everyone's actions bear fruit like this. In order to preserve and develop this wonderful campus, I strongly hope these E-Weeks events continue next year and the year after that, and that we can make more ideas like the re-repack containers a reality."*

Saki Goto, who helped plan and run the events together with her colleagues on the E-Weeks board, had the following to say: *"We got a lot of help in putting E-Weeks together from our professors, the staff, dining hall and cleaning staff and lots of students. We still only have about 50% of people returning the re-repack containers we introduced at the dining hall. I'm happy however at the fact that more than half of the people are participating in the project. We'll keep going with these activities in the future."*

Together with E-Weeks, the University Dining Hall changed its take-out containers to a type of re-cycled container called "re-repacks." Re-repacks were developed to address the lack of water to wash dishes in the Kansai region after the Kobe earthquake in 1995. The containers are covered in a removable film that makes washing the dishes unnecessary. The film is thrown away and the remaining container is turned into reusable plastic chips. The chips are made at a facility that employs the disabled and helps them to be financially independent. A student on the committee running E-Weeks said: *"If I look at the bin where people throw away the re-repacks, I can see that it still hasn't completely caught on yet. It won't work unless we all do it together, so I really want to reach out to people and make sure they return their containers."*

*Taizanso Project

The Taizanso Project cleans Taizanso building and gives tours during the ICU Festival in order to conserve the building and promote awareness about it.



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Editor's Notes

- Fu Jen Catholic University serves as the ACUCA Secretariat for 2013 to 2014. For contacts, you can address your e-mails to acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw.
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