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Repertory Philippines aims to dazzle with 'The Fantasticks'



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IWE presents Leaders of Distinction Awards



(L-R) FACCOC members—Rheena Silver, Raziel Arcega, Gloria Rull, Para Anderson, Patrick Aguiluz, Arlene Padilla, Elizabeth Watermeier, Linda Yu.

ANAHEIM—The Institute for Women Entrepreneurs (IWE) presented the second annual Leaders of Distinction Awards on June 18 at the Sheraton Hotel. The awards were established in 2008 to celebrate the unwavering commitment of women whose vision and leadership advance the growth and fulfillment of women, the communities they serve, and the small businesses they impact every day.

Event organizers strive to make it the largest cross-cultural statewide gathering of women in Southern California. The summit is a culmination of IWE's work with more than 6,200 business owners and its collaboration with their partner organizations. As a new partner, members of the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County were in attendance and participated in the event for the very first time.

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Pinoy tries out for NBA D League

LOS ANGELES—The NBA season may be over but there's plenty of action in the basketball hardwood.

Pinoy basketball player Japeth Aguilar, a former Ateneo Blue Eagles basketball player, is taking his first steps to making it in the NBA.

More than 200 prospects gathered at a pre-draft for the NBA Development league in Hawthorne last weekend including Aguilar, a 22-year-old from Pampanga, Philippines.

"This is really an opportunity for the players to come to one location in front of all our coaches, a lot of our scouts, league office people who'll eventually sign the players to contracts, and an opportunity for them to showcase their skills to show what they can possibly do in the NBA D-League level," said Chris Alpert, vice president of Basketball Operations and player personnel for the NBA Development League.

The NBA D-League has produced a number of players to the NBA. Most notably, Shannon Brown of the World Champion Los Angeles Lakers was a member of three D-League teams before being called up. Former LA Clippers Bobby Simmons went from D-League player to winning the NBA's Most Improved Player award in 2005.

Aguilar said that going through the D-League is a great way to get into the NBA.

"This experience is really good," added

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President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

MUM'S THE WORD

Pres. Arroyo to keep quiet about 2010 plans

by MARVIN SY
Philstar.com

MANILA—No amount of challenges, threats or constant urging from various personalities could force President Arroyo to reveal her political plans for 2010.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo said last June 25 that the latest challenge coming from Chief Justice Reynato Puno would not do anything to alter the stand of the President to keep her plans from the public.

Puno, though not naming the President, said that everybody should be honest about their political plans, particularly if these have implications on the government.

"With all due respect to the Chief Justice, I think our judiciary should not be politicized," Fajardo said.

Even though Puno was speaking from his personal point of view, Fajardo said, "he is still the Supreme Court Chief Justice, so I think the higher your position, the more you have to be more responsible also."

"We cannot reiterate too much that the plans of the President beyond 2010 should remain private for as long as she

decides not to share it with the public," Fajardo said.

Various sectors, including former President Fidel Ramos, have called on Mrs. Arroyo to reveal her plans amid reports that she is running for Congress to represent her home province of Pampanga.

Ramos asked Mrs. Arroyo "to stop titillating the nation" and declare her political intentions.

He said Mrs. Arroyo has a responsibility to the nation to declare her plans and cannot just keep invoking her right to privacy.

Even her spokespersons have clammed up after Ramos said their statements have only muddled the issue.

Critics said Mrs. Arroyo is not allowed to run for Congress unless she resigns from the presidency.

Others, however, pointed out that there is nothing in the Constitution that would prohibit her from running for Congress.

The conflicting views and opinions only triggered speculations on her plans for next year's elections. ■

Akaka reintroduces Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act

LOS ANGELES—US Senator Daniel K. Akaka (d-Hi) reintroduced a bill that would reunite US-based Filipino World War II veterans with their children in the Philippines who have languished for years on the visa waiting list.

Akaka reintroduced the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2009 to the US Congress earlier this week, according to the Hawaii Senator's office.

"In seeking an exemption from the numerical limitation on immigrant visas for the children of the Filipino veterans, our bill will address and resolve an issue rooted in a set of historical circumstances that are now nearly seven-decades old," Senator Akaka said.

"It does not require any appropriation and will serve to reunite these veterans with their children and honor their too-long-forgotten world war II service to this nation."

The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would benefit 7,000 US based Filipino WWII veterans. The Filipino veterans arrived to the US through the Immigration Act of 1990, which included a provision that offered the opportunity to obtain US citizenship. The veterans filed visa petitions for their children but many remain in the Philippines.

Now in their 80s and 90s, these men continue to wait for their children, who

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Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, the chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, is thanked by (L to R) Albert Bacani, 98, Celestino Almeda, 92, Rudy Panaglma, 79, and Ray Cabacar, 81, of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, for championing the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification bill, during a Washington DC victory reception hosted by NaFFAA and NAFVE, on June 2, 2009.

ACFV photo by Eric Lachica



Asian Journal Publisher and CEO Roger Oriol (center) receives a copy of 150: The Ateneo Way from Jesuit author Fr. Jose Arcilla and Muse Books publisher Ramoncito Ocampo Cruz at the Jesuit Residence in the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Quezon City.

Treading The Ateneo Way

Asian Journal Publications teams up with Muse Books for historic Ateneo book launch in USA

by LOUIE JON SANCHEZ
AJPress Manila

IT was 1859. Something mysteriously compelling must have led the Jesuit Fathers to stay in Manila when they could have gone on to Mindanao where there was a greater need. On the contrary, in the accounts of the Jesuit historian, Fr. Jose Arcilla, the Jesuits were "detained" in the ever-loyal city when the Intramuros elite "prevailed upon the government" to provide "a good primary school for their sons."

The year 1859 marked the beginning of the new chapter the sons of Ignacio de Loyola, having been absent for a long time because of the worldwide suppression of the Jesuits by the Catholic Church a century before. But the event, as it unfolded, proved to be a great blessing in disguise. For quite indeed, the Jesuit detention (which on hindsight, might have reminded the friars of their prior suppression) had led to the founding of one of the most respected Philippine educational institutions today, the Ateneo de Manila University.

Arcilla, author of the newly launched coffee table book, 150: The Ateneo Way (Muse Books, 2009) has provided a well-written and circumspect account of the Ateneo's history and heritage. From the beginnings of the Escuela Pia, to the establishment of the Ateneo de Municipal, the precursor of the present-day Ateneo, the narrative has

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Fax (702) 367-8011

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Tel. (415) 598-4147