



President's Message

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION

Given the continuing economic turmoil in most parts of the world, not sparing the Philippines and its education sector, FEU was blessed that it still enjoyed a 9% increase in enrollment totaling 27,056 in June 2011, and the FEU group of four schools, a 13% increase, for a total of 36,884 students system-wide.

Of the 27,056 FEU students, 3,876 earned their degrees in April 2012 in seven graduation ceremonies, with 14% reaping Latin honors, inclusive of 24 *summa cum laude*, 141 *magna cum laude* and the rest, *cum laude*.

As we speak, the new school year has opened with 29,821 students enrolled in June 2012 at FEU, an increase of 10% from last year's figures, and with 40,895 at the four FEU schools, an increase of 11% from last year's 36,884 enrollment.



ATTAINING THE AUTONOMOUS STATUS

Another piece of good news is that the Philippine Commission on Higher Education, in its *en banc* resolution on July 25, 2012, granted FEU Manila the Autonomous Status effective July 25, 2012. Earlier, the CHED nationwide moratorium in January 2011 on the granting of such status to educational institutions was lifted in April 2012. As the academic community knows, FEU had, as early as September 2009, diligently achieved more than CHED's stringent requirements, measured in points.

Focus of attention now is on achieving Level IV accreditation and/or the attainment of CHED Center of Development or Center of Excellence status for the mature degree programs and, for the other relatively young programs, earlier levels of accreditation.

FEU TRANSFORMED

In the past decade the FEU community had seen a striking transformation of the University. The physical upgrade was visible, the refinement of manners and language noticeable, the English proficiency higher, and more importantly the return of pride of place to the hearts of students, faculty, personnel, and more especially the alumni, clear.

The University had become a benchmark for many other schools which asked permission to visit the campus and learn from it. Senior alumni had returned to revel in their old haunt, enhanced now with clear, clean and green, wide-open spaces, well-maintained or upgraded structures, scenic elevators, among others. They had made the campus now their favorite reunion venue, while many young alumni had come back to make the campus the setting for their pre-nuptial video-recording for showing at their wedding receptions.

FROM GOOD TO GREAT

As always the key to good organizational performance is having competent and principled people on the job. This guideline was reinforced by the Vice-Chair Aurelio R. Montinola III, who briefed me in 2002 when I came on board and gifted me with the book of Jim Collins, *From Good to Great*, whose advice was basically to “get the right people on the bus and in the right seats, get the wrong people off the bus, and drive to the desired destination.” The FEU community took that to heart.





PHYSICAL PLANT

In the area of physical plant, getting a team steeped in international standards to professionally set up and expertly manage all civil, electrical, mechanical, fire sprinkler, fire alarm, water safety, anti-flood, and security systems in place allowed management peace of mind at all times. Community members were kept safe this way, apart from the fact that the use of financial resources was optimized with the more efficient overall operations, including more technology-backed systems of admissions, enrollment, accounting, finance, and cost-efficient air-conditioning and lighting, vigilant health and safety measures, and internal security with closed circuit television or cctv.

Adding and continuously upgrading facilities, including technology-mediated student services, classrooms, e-libraries, science labs, computer labs, television and radio studios, with special mention of the new FEU Cablelink tv channel, thanks to the opportunity provided by an FEU alumnus, had thrilled the students and faculty.

FORTITUDE, EXCELLENCE, UPRIGHTNESS

Apart from the physical aspect, in the past years, we had relentlessly emphasized and pledged to live daily each of the F.E.U. core values we espoused a decade ago with the goal of contributing to the transformation of Philippine society and thus building a better nation.

Again and again, we reminded ourselves to practice Fortitude as everyone must strive diligently and steadfastly to move ourselves and our country forward; Excellence to replace mediocrity and passivity; and Uprightness, the lack of which had been deemed the scourge of the country for too long, with the last, Uprightness, being the key.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Furthermore, with professionalized human resource development and strict policies enforced, backed by a humane and fair Legal Counsel Office, there was renewed faith in the fairness of systems, leaving no room for miscreants.



ISO 9001:2008

The FEU core values underpinned our long-running quality management drive, quite unappreciated by many at the start, which we had put in motion several years back and kept at it till we got our ISO 9001:2008 certification. This quality management standard was one which we consciously worked by and maintained since then.



STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS

The students, faculty and staff had their hands full with their usual responsibilities, plus special projects and activities, giving them the opportunity for professional and personal growth, by way of interaction or competition with others in various communities here and abroad, whether for academic, exchange, research, leadership, cultural or sports programs. Destinations overseas included South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and Germany. Both here and abroad, our FEU Tamaraws brought home honors and accolades. FEU always was there for the community members with reasonable funding support for these activities.



ENHANCED EMPLOYEE/ FACULTY-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

The faculty and the employee Collective Bargaining Agreements for 2011-2016 were completed in a shorter time and in a win-win, congenial manner. The successful CBA negotiations, Labor Management Council meetings, community-wide Christmas Party, Employee Fellowship/Faculty Conference, and Summer Outing indicated significantly enhanced employee/faculty-management relations.

GOVERNMENT LICENSURE EXAMS

In the past school year FEU took pride in the fact that it performed an average of 1.72 times better than the national performance in its nine government licensure examinations, and elated once more with the honor of Top Ten Placers: seven in the Nursing Licensure Exams, three in the CPA Exams, two in the Licensure Exams for Teachers, one in the Bar Exams, and another one in Architecture, for a total of 14 Board Top Ten Placers.

RESEARCH CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

In the field of academic research, a relatively young culture nationwide, special effort, dedicated time allocation, and more funding produced some 50 research studies in the past year, under the guidance and management of research experts on campus and off.

CULTURAL TRADITION

In culture and the arts, the President's Committee on Culture presented 11 shows in some 25 performances at the legendary FEU auditorium, maintaining FEU's long-standing tradition in the promotion of the arts. The capstone for the year was the holding of the European Union Choral Fest, in its fourth year, at FEU.





SPORTS PERFORMANCE

In sports, too, FEU continued its decades-old history with its standing of First Overall in the UAAP Season 74 in the 24 sports events it annually participated in, out of the 40 events, and Third Overall, with nine championships to show for it (8th straight for Women's Track and Field and 6th straight in Men's Chess), apart from the six National University Games championships, and 19 FEU athletes' competing in international sports competitions. In no small measure, our sports performance was enhanced by FEU Manila-based Sports Performance and Rehabilitation Center, or Sparc, and our partnership with the Medical City, for sports performance enhancement for all athletes, not just FEU's.



REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES

Then in 2010, in the aftermath of two devastating typhoons that hit the country, our national consciousness on the importance of the care and respect for our natural environment was at its peak. Thus, FEU's green and gold colors inspired the spirit of a green environment for a golden tomorrow which pervaded the campus and the academic community's off-campus activities.

This past school year, with the University very much put together, thanks to the honest efforts of each member of the community, our attention had to be shared between ourselves and other communities beyond the campus. Reaching out was the mantra; and with great enthusiasm, the students, faculty and staff did wonders in various communities, again thanks to the leadership of the various unit heads.

Four major projects were in the forefront of community services carried out by FEU.

SAVE THE TAMARAW

The first was the Save-the-Tamaraw Project. As every FEU community member knows, the tamaraw is the FEU mascot. Scientifically known as *bubalus mindorensis*, the tamaraw is a mammal which is endemic or unique to the Philippines, in fact, to Mindoro. The count is just 327; thus, the concern to save the tamaraw, expose selected students and faculty to it by way of trekking to the place for an annual count of the tamaraws and reaching out to the Mangyans who live in the area.

By this time, FEU would have signed a momentous memorandum of agreement in partnership with World Wildlife Fund for Nature-Philippines for research on and the conservation of the tamaraw.



FEU GAWAD KALINGA VILLAGE PABAHAY

The second flagship community outreach project was the FEU Gawad Kalinga Village Pabahay Project. This started seven years ago, in 2005, when the officers of the FEU Central Student Organization, or FEUCSO, campaigned among the student body and succeeded to build four houses. The officers then, faced with graduation and exit from the University, appealed to all that their successors continue with the project. The latter did and got all of FEU, including faculty, employees, management and trustees, to pitch in. As of the past school year, there were 59 houses, plus a multi-purpose hall in a landscaped community, with another housing project also built. This project seems poised to continue for as long as our people are not all sheltered.

SILANG YAMAN

The third outreach project of FEU was Silang Yaman Community Development Project in Silang, Cavite. This started even before FEU set up a school in the municipality. It mainly assisted Biga Elementary School in Silang to refurbish and equip its classrooms, a few at a time every year. Gift-giving and summertime arts and crafts workshops were regular activities, delighting children, parents and teachers.

PROJECT HOPE

The last major community outreach was to our neighbor across the street, Quezon Avenue, the Project Hope at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Here we give hope and empower the jail detainees with our law faculty and students who documented their cases, our business faculty and students who equipped them with livelihood skills, and P.E. teachers who taught them about health maintenance and disease prevention. Exercise sessions and distribution of new rubber shoes to all inmates was a big, happy event last year.



MORE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

In addition, there were many other outreach activities last year. Thousands participated in peace promotion programs, the conservation of natural resources, clean-up and clear-up of the streets all around FEU and neighboring barangays, Manila Bay Clean-Up Drives, one with Rotary Club and Manila City Hall and yet another with the participation from our 300 plus visiting Korean students who were also on their overseas community outreach program.

Other community outreach projects involved campaigns for disaster relief goods, sacrifice-a-snack-allowance for orphans of soldiers, scholarship grant contributions, anti-tuberculosis drive, school supplies, clothes, toys, and the countless needs of less privileged youth.

TINY MUSTARD SEED

Raising even marginally the consciousness especially of our students during their participation in these outreach programs was the proverbial tiny mustard seed we planted in the students' minds. The seed, it was hoped, would open the young minds to their good fortune to be in a position to help others instead of being the ones in need of help; it was hoped that it opened their eyes to their responsibility to society, given their education advantage. The hope was that the seed would grow into a huge mustard tree and bear fruit in time.



GRATEFUL HEARTS

For all the achievements of FEU through the 84 years of its life, we have many to thank.

Thus, I join the rest of the FEU community in gratitude.

We thank God for His generous guidance and boundless generosity and grace; our dearly beloved Founder, Dr. Nicanor Reyes, for his vision of educating the youth in an environment conducive to learning; our predecessors for believing in the vision and carrying on; our current academic community for understanding their role in transforming Philippine society; our management for giving their heart and soul to their mission at FEU; and to the shareholders and the Board of Trustees, led by the Chair, Dr. Lourdes Reyes-Montinola, the quiet spirit, keen mind, persistent prodder of all -- truly a worthy successor of her father-FEU Founder for the unwavering support to the Founder's dream and to management's work.

In closing, we pray that FEU may continue to be a leading light in the education circle's best practices and the Philippines' good corporate governance thrust as it strives to be truly a university of choice in Asia.

Lydia B. Echauz
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President