



Excellence

CENTEX
Quarterly Newsletter
March 2008

THE LEGACY OF HERE AND NOW

Carol E. Atacador

"No longer forward nor behind
I look for hope or fear
But grateful take the good
and find, the best of here and now."

John Greenleaf Whittier

Nowadays, I try to find hope only to be greeted by fear, even the fear to hope. It is a struggle to find the best of here and now but the best we must find if our resolve to better our country is to rise from moderate to outstanding.

Friday, February 15, 2008: We drove to St. Bridget College, Alitagtag to give a Leadership Workshop to our first year high school students. We included our CENTEX graduates who are in different high schools and the students of St. Bridget College, Alitagtag who came from different elementary schools. Fear gripped me. How can I explain the current affairs of our country and still inspire our youth? I thought of phrases like, moderate the leaders, exterminate the disloyal, nurture the soul, death to liars! Such a comic relief from a very serious situation. In the end, sanity prevailed. Touch on the current and allow the students to give their opinions.

The students were grouped in teams. Each team took a color to name their group. The first activity was an icebreaker to rally the teams to actively listen and participate.

I took up two qualities of a leader, loyalty and courage. The students defined loyalty as: a firm support of the person you are responsible to; loyalty defines reality; keeping secrets; sincerity. When asked to choose between loyalty to the person to whom you are indebted or to the truth, the students said the following: We chose loyalty to the truth because "truth will set us free." If we are to be loyal to a friend then we must do the best for the friend and telling the truth is the best and this is giving our friend the best. Someone even said, "Telling a secret is a way of betraying a person but keeping it simply means we betray all."

The morning continued to balance loyalty and courage. How such courage devolve --- breeding disloyalty, rejection, ridicule, and abandonment by the very friends of the truth teller? Perhaps Team Violet said it all: Loyalty means honesty. It is a zealous desire to reveal the truth.

"Find the best of here and now." The day brought me the best collective thinking of the youth gathered there. The ideal of truth is contained still in their hearts. There is that resolve to conquer fear, the fear of truth. There is that collective desire to find the fulcrum that balances earthly desires with the common good. But is the best of our youth enough for today's multi-faceted issues?

I noticed how our graduates enrolled at St. Bridget College Alitagtag continued to take their leadership roles very seriously. Guided by the faculty of St. Bridget College, Alitagtag and their president, Sr. Lydia Ebor, RGS, the students planned the day with icebreaker activities and station activities participated by each group. It was during these activities that I noticed some of our own graduates in different high schools lost their ability to speak out and aggressively push to win the challenges of each station. I grieve for the loss of the skills we so worked hard on in our self-esteem classes, the confidence that mark our CENTEX students, the castles in the sky housing their dreams for themselves and others. I compared those going to public high schools where thousands go, those going to high schools where classrooms abound with 60 or more students to the students of St. Bridget College Alitagtag. How different they are from the students of St. Bridget College, Alitagtag who planned and took the day in their hands.

The Legacy of
Here and Now

Hewlett-Packard
Donates
Computers to
CENTEX

CENTEX-Batangas
Sweeps MTAP
Division Level
Competition

Knowing the
Leadership Within
Me

CENTEX-Manila
Represents NCR in
The National
School's Press
Conference



Legacy of Here and Now... continued...

We are graduating 139 CENTEX students this year. The question that echoes again, what school will nurture the skills, the values, and the self-esteem of our graduates?

Unfortunately economics will dictate where we send them. The pressure mounts in the face of our experience last Friday, February 15. How do I explain the economy of tuition, registration fees, books, uniforms, transportation and food allowances? How can I justify poverty when what our first high schoolers remember of today's issue is the line that says, **"Moderate the greed."**

Join us in moderating our lifestyles if only to share with those who cannot afford. God will then be assigned to moderate their greed.

Knowing the Leadership within Me: CENTEX High School Leadership Training Seminar

By: Micah Bernadette T. Manalo

It is quite hard to foresee how this big day came to a reality...

I could still dizzily remember how I panicked in the last 24 hours before that day came. We were very busy planning and preparing the things needed for that day, that very big day.

Honestly, at first, I didn't think that it was such a special day. But as the days passed by and when my classmates and teachers started discussing the very few things we have accomplished, I realized little by little that this day would become memorable because it was a REUNION. This would be a great chance for us to see and reconnect once again since we only had a limited time to be one as a whole batch. That is why we all tried our best to make it meaningful and memorable.

February 15, 2008 - the day. One by one our former classmates arrived saying "Hello!" and "How are you?" to each other. At first, they were shy and annoyed like it was on the first meeting but eventually; made them as bonded as before. They also had the chance to get to know and acquaint with our new classmates here at St. Bridget College Alitagtag.

The program itself started with prayer, welcome remarks by Sr. Mary Lydia Eborá RGS, school president, getting to know game, and other activities. Sr. Lydia reminded us in her remark to imbibe the true meaning of leadership that we try to achieve.

It would be funny for us to act as strangers because we have been together for almost seven years. The getting to know game refreshed the moments of reaching out to others who seem familiar and unfamiliar to us. But the part that completed the day's objectives was the eye-opening talk with Ms. Carol Atacador, CENTEX Director. She focused the discussion on the present crises that our country is facing. From this talk, we realized that the Philippines is really in great need of good, honest and responsible servant leaders.

She also gave us an activity to be answered by the groups. She made us choose between loyalty to a friend and loyalty to the truth. A decision that challenged us to stay with the truth despite Filipinos believing in deep gratitude or *Utang-na-Loob*. Here are some excerpts from the activity: *"If loyalty to a friend is needed then follow it, but of course truth shall always be observed....if we are really loyal to our friend then doing them good is the best and staying loyal to the truth is doing them good."* *"A journey of hundred miles starts with one step and that first step is to seize on to the truth. We also*

HP Donates Computers to CENTEX



Hewlett-Packard Company donates 20 sets of brand new computers to CENTEX as part of its ongoing corporate social

responsibility initiative. Hewlett-Packard is one of the world's leader in computer technology and the school is very lucky to have been chosen as one of its recipient.



Earlier, J.D. Estella, president of U.S.-based company, Goldwave Tech Services Llc, formally turned over 4 sets of brand new H.P. Pavilion desktops to CENTEX Director, Carol Atacador. Last February 12, 2008, Mr. Estella donated these desktops personally in support of Ms. Atacador's advocate to socially enrich the lives of underprivileged children through education. These computers will be

donated to Sta. Isabel College Manila and St. Bridget College Batangas. These are CENTEX partner schools in providing quality secondary education to graduates of the school for bright children from economically disadvantaged families.



An HP representative will come to Manila on September 2008 to formally turnover all 20 sets of brand new HP computers to CENTEX Director, Carol Atacador.

believe that we cannot achieve our goals or dreams without loyalty and that loyalty must start with the truth so that justice will prevail and holding on to the truth will set us free. "



Surprisingly, we chose loyalty to the truth, which is contrary to the above-mentioned Filipino value.

Another activity that tested our leadership potential and also enhanced our acting talents was the short role-playing of the people involved in the ZTE scandal. One of the lines that struck me most was that of former Speaker Jose de Venecia's "I lost the presidency!" played by Aljohn Cadevida. It was fun watching, but according to them, playing their part was difficult because they did not want to be mistaken as believing in the words of the ones they portrayed.

After the inspiring talk with Ma'am Carol, we ate our lunch. Then, we had our thrilling activities. We played Leadership Hunt wherein all members of the group were tied up inside the rope, which symbolized unity and cooperation. Each group was required to complete the nine stations with questions and clues, which moved them to utilize their physical, emotional, intellectual and social responsibilities and most especially to test their patience to reach the goal and have faith that "*Walang imposible kung magsasama-sama at magtutulungan*". This really honed the leadership potential in us because truly a good leader thinks of the best way his/her groupmates would benefit. Lastly, we created a poster depicting the good characteristics of a leader using the materials gathered. We showcased our talents and deepened our ideas by answering the questions regarding the activities and our experiences that day.

But of course, good things always have their ending. But what's more important is that we were able to refresh the friendship in a more remarkable way wherein new friendships in a higher level were born.

CENTEX-Manila Represents NCR in The National School's Press Conference



CENTEX-Manila student, Lois Anne G. Gabriel, along with other top three winners in various categories will represent the National Capital Region in this year's National Schools' Press Conference in Koronadal, South Cotabato on February 18-22, 2008. The National Schools' Press Conference will be competed by 98 contestants all in all.

Earlier, Gabriel bagged the second place award in Feature Writing category in the 28th Metro Manila Young Writers' Conference and Contests held at Pasig Central Elementary School, Nov. 22 and 29, 2007. She also represented the Division of Manila in the 2007 Search for Outstanding Young Campus Journalist.

Other winners of the contest in the division level included Alexis Leshen who ranked ninth in Copy Reading and Headline Writing category, and Hannah Franchezka Sy who placed ninth in Pag-uulo at Pagwawasto at Pagsulat ng Balita. These CENTEX students also won previously in the district level. Lois Anne Gabriel and Vince Canlas won the first place in Feature Writing and Sports writing categories. Leshen placed second in Copy Reading, Headline Writing Category. Grade Five CENTEX Manila students, Bianca Andrea Paredes and Pauline Anne Garcia both placed third in News Writing and Photojournalism categories respectively.

CENTEX Batangas sweeps MTAP Competition

By: Charissa Ann Mendoza

Centex Batangas students vied for this year's Division wide Math Teachers' Association of the Philippines (MTAP) Challenge held at Governor Feliciano Leviste Memorial High School, Lemery Batangas last February 7.



Edward Joseph Medrano and Matthew Ramos bagged gold after defeating other Grade I contenders. Together with Leila Christel Barrion, they won first in the district level. These students were coached by Teacher Riza Yarte.



Other CENTEX students also won first place in the district level held at Bauan East Central School. They were: Francis Gino Hernandez, Nicole Elisa Soliman, and George Bryan Adame all from Second Grade; Rawleene Dyan Manalo, Maryrose Lizette Reyes, and Justine Mae Magnaye all from Third Grade; John Ellies Dimalibot, John Macneil Mendoza, and Raymond Mananap from Fourth Grade; Sharmaine Austria, Azie Calinao, and Kreziah Christine De Villa, from Fifth Grade; and Princess Joy Acquiatan, Lyka Selene Magnayi, and Kristine Marie Valenzuela from Sixth Grade.

Teacher Maria Leizl Abrea, Teacher Lezil Frogoza, Teacher Mary Jane Magbojos, Teacher Maria Lourdes Maalihan and Teacher Michaela Panopio helped and coached these students in sweeping the recently held MTAP Division Level competition.



Congratulations Class of 2007-2008!



CENTEX-MANILA GRADUATES

1. Abad, Glory Ann V.
2. Abarintos, Anna Pauline O.
3. Abian, Ariz M.
4. Acosta, Carlos III A.
5. Adorable, Joshtien F.
6. Adufina, Brylle Jazfer B.
7. Ancheta, Sear Sean Bean B.
8. Aquino, Regina Isabel O.
9. Argarin, Raymart B.
10. Armillos, John Kenneth R.
11. Bartolome, Dale V.
12. Bautista, Alfred Lorenz S.
13. Beren, Jewel Jem J.
14. Cabrera, Justin Zedrick M.
15. Calma, John Dexter S.
16. Canlas, Vince C.
17. Cantillon, Francesca Yzabelle G.
18. Cayanán, Winnie Lynne R.
19. Coderes, Zharie May Q.
20. Corpuz, Genesis S.
21. Crisostomo, John Jake A.
22. De Castro, John Carlo M.
23. De Leon, Dianna Grace C.
24. Dela Cruz, Cistrine Angelica B.
25. Desiderio, Ira Niel L.
26. Dizon, Maria Sara T.
27. Doroja, Marwin I.
28. Estrella, Earon Angelo S.
29. Fontilla, Pauline A.
30. Gabriel, Loise Anne G.
31. Gamboa, Louiebert S.D.
32. Geron, Roven Kim C.
33. Gutierrez, Jobert Caryl G.
34. Landoy, Lancelot M.
35. Leshen, Alexis B.
36. Madarang, Jharrel Dan F.
37. Magat, Juslyn Eunice V.
38. Magbitang, Miguel Angelo G.
39. Marcelo, Kenneth S.
40. Milan, Christian Lance C.
41. Nicolas, Ellaine Marie C.
42. Nunez, Sean Bradley
43. Ordinario, Christine Erica A.
44. Pangilinan, James Kervin S.
45. Pascual, Dixie Jane V.
46. Perolina Jr., Rolando P.
47. Pimentel, Ma. Charmie R.
48. Regua, Geoffrey A.
49. Rellorta, Ariana Therese A.
50. Rivera, Ralph Angelo A.
51. Robete, Paul Anthony P.
52. Rosales, John Robert O.
53. Rosete, Lennard Mikhaile C.
54. Salalac, Luiggi R.
55. Sebastian, Christian S.
56. Serrano, Faye Dianne S.
57. Sese, Lance Henriksen A.
58. Sta. Maria, Kim Arthur M.
59. Sy, Hannah Francezka M.
60. Tamayo, Glaiza May U.
61. Trajano, Nico P.
62. Tuason, Marione Dominic B.
63. Valencia, Licia Ann Rose S.
64. Vergara, Roshel Anne E.
65. Vila, Lorenz Christopher Freud M.
66. Villanueva, Katreena Mae T.
67. Villaruz, Kim Danielle Grace D.
68. Viray, Dubie Roseanne L.

CENTEX- BATANGAS GRADUATES

1. Abanes, Kier Ivann D.
2. Abraham, Sandra Rodessa P.
3. Abraham, Jan Marini G.
4. Abrea, Fralie Anne A.
5. Abrea, John Brugge L.
6. Abrea, John Steven L.
7. Abrea, Kris Jeane A.
8. Abrea, Ma. Consolacion R.
9. Acquiatan, Princess Joy D.
10. Acuzar, CJ M.
11. Acuzar, John Paolo M.
12. Agito, Joyreen S.
13. Ambon, Eddyson A.
14. Anuran, Cherry Ann A.
15. Atienza, Kimberly Shane D.
16. Austria, Limuel P.
17. Awayan, Sheiryn Deanne G.
18. Babasa, Christian Rupert M.
19. Baculo, Mark Justin E.
20. Badua, Joan D.
21. Balangue, Sarah Katrina A.
22. Batugal, Krisitne Angel M.
23. Bautista, Philip John P.
24. Brual, Mylee May L.
25. Brual, Ron Resty S.
26. Cataquiz, Mark Kenneth A.
27. Cataquiz, Yzel B.
28. Ciceron, Mara Charlicia H.
29. Contreras, Kamil Joy P.
30. Cordero, Andrei Benneth A.
31. Dalangin, Mhara S.
32. Datinguino, Aileen D.
33. De Guzman, Jhona Mae C.
34. Dimalibot, Danica A.
35. Dimayuga, Joneel R.
36. Duag, Knoll Eubert A.
37. Duag, Ren Andrew B.
38. Gimán, John Joseph B.
39. Guevarra, Jessy Mae F.
40. Guno, Cloyd Zydris S.
41. Gupo, Angelique J.
42. Hernandez, Mariel F.
43. Ilagan, John Raymond C.
44. Isla, Johanna Faith Patricia S.
45. Magnayi, Lyka Selene C.
46. Mañibo, Lailanie C.
47. Maranan, Shannon Joebelle L.
48. Marasigan, Michelle Ann Julieth A.
49. Medrano, Isaac Alfred A.
50. Medrano, Rovil G.
51. Medrano, Twinkle B.
52. Mendoza, Charissa Ann T.
53. Mendoza, Jonathan B.
54. Mores, Rhena R.
55. No, Steward Glen B.
56. Pagdonsalan, Janine B.
57. Parsaligan, Aiko M.
58. Recafloza, Joshua John C.
59. Reyes, Quennie Mae A.
60. Reyes, Sherina Carmela C.
61. Salazar, Ivan A.
62. Sandoval, Ericka Shane A.
63. Tatlonghari, Edmon H.
64. Valdez, Kristine Grace E.
65. Valenzuela, Kristine Marie H.
66. Villanueva, Anjo D.
67. Villanueva, Jerrica A.
68. Villarín, Bon Carlo R.
69. Viola, Jemalyn E.