

Deaf CSB students, faculty in cultural exchange

The De La Salle University-College of Saint Benilde's School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (SDEAS) continues to break new ground in its mission to provide education and opportunities to Philippine Deaf, as 11 representatives from the SDEAS attended the Nippon Foundation of Japan-funded Cultural Exchange Program of the Postsecondary Education Network International (PEN-International) last April 25 to May 3, held at the New York-based National Technological Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, one of the eight colleges of the Rochester Institute of Technology, and best known as the first and largest technological college for students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. There was interaction between deaf students of the NTID and RIT as well as with PEN-International staff and administrators.

The delegates were Jamilla Angela Aquino, Karen Grace Avila, Diana Pria Banas, Theresa Cabilatazan, Mark Joseph Calbay, Jasmin Rodriguez, Victoria Sakilayan, and John Paulo Trinidad. Ms. Florisa Punsalan, deaf faculty and two hearing faculty, Joy Cristal and John Xandre Baliza, accompanied the delegates. Both the student and faculty delegates were chosen through an intensive evaluation of their personal qualities, academic/professional merits, involvement and commitment to building the CSB Deaf Community by a special committee spearheaded by SDEAS Dean Ms. Theresa Christine dela Torre 1 ½ months before the trip to Rochester.

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