



perspective

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SDEAS attends NY symposium.



(From left): Professor Bill Clymer (RIT-NTID), Mr. Ronald Holmes (EVP, DLSU-CSB), Ms. Ma. Gemma Gabor (Coordinator, English Area- DLSU-CSB- SDEAS), Ms. Ninfa Viernes (Head, Office of Academic Programs and Coordinator- DLSU-CSB-SDEAS, DLSU-CSB PEN-Multimedia Learning Center). Photo courtesy of SDEAS.

Last June 23 to 27, 2003, an international symposium was held at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) – Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), titled “**Instructional Technology and Education of the Deaf Supporting Learners, K-College, An International Symposium.**”

The major sponsors of the symposium were the Nippon Foundation of Japan and Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-Int’l), while the co-sponsors were the American School for the Deaf, The NorthEast Technical Assistance Center (NETAC), and Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD). Delegates from different countries – Russia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines – participated in the symposium.

The Philippine representatives from the DLSU-College of Saint Benilde were Mr. Ronald Holmes (Executive Vice-President), and the faculty members from the School of Deaf Education and Applied Deaf Studies (SDEAS): Ms. Ninfa Viernes (Head, Office of Academic Programs and Coordinator, DLSU-CSB PEN-Multimedia Learning Center), Ms. Giselle Montero (Coordinator, Computer Graphics and Multimedia Arts Area), and Ms. Ma. Gemma Gabor (Coordinator, English Area).

Before the symposium, the DLSU-CSB SDEAS team met with Mr. Vincent A. Daniele, Ph.D, and Ms. Karen Christy, NTID experts for Math and English. They discussed various issues and strategies for Deaf learning in the areas of Math and English. Similarly, the team met with Mr. John Macko and Mr. Paul Siedel of the NTID’s National Center for Employment and discussed with them issues and strategies regarding Deaf employment.

In the symposium itself, EVP Holmes presented a paper titled “Towards a Learner-Centered Multimedia Learning Environment: The DLSU- College of Saint Benilde Experience.” The paper discussed how the PEN-International Multimedia Learning Center highly benefited the students and how it highly contributed to the development of DLSU-CSB towards a learner-centered environment. The paper was co-written by the SDEAS team, namely: Ms. Techie Benitez-dela Torre (SDEAS Dean), Ms. Gemma Gabor, Ms. Ninfa

Viernes and Ms. Cherry Maderazo (then PEN-International Philippine Coordinator for Training and Research).

The 5-day symposium was organized around four (4) major topics: 1) Using technology to support learning, 2) Assessing the impact of technology in the teaching/learning process, 3) in-service/pre-service strategies for educating teachers in applying Instructional Technologies, and 4) online and distance learning.

Dr. Robert Davila (RIT Vice-President, NTID) explained that there were three (3) goals of the Symposium: first, to serve as venue for educators of Deaf and hard-of-hearing learners “to share information and insight relative to current and future innovations in the use of educational media and technology within the teaching/learning process.”

The second goal was to provide hands-on opportunities for participants to develop skills in the application of instructional technologies to the learning/teaching process through enrollment in pre-symposium workshops. Finally, a third goal was to “identify issues, challenges, opportunities, and priorities in enhancing the effective use of technology in the education of Deaf individuals nationwide.”

The assembly of people from different countries, the attendance and participation of Deaf educators from different parts of the world with the sole goal of pursuing development for the betterment of the Deaf community, and the sharing and providing insights and knowledge regarding efforts in the field has made the totality of the experience during the symposium professionally and personally enriching. Information, knowledge and teaching strategies that were acquired from the symposium are expected to continually uplift and develop Deaf education.

at a glance



WORDS OF EXCELLENCE. Benildean Luthfi Raditya Soekartawi (third from right) was one of the regional winners of the 3rd Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition. The awarding ceremony was held on August 29, 2003. Luthfi’s essay entry may be found on page 2. Photo courtesy of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation.