“Women in Science,” was the theme of Dr. Ellen Stofan’s visit to the Philippine Science High School (PSHS), Main Campus last August 28, 2015.

Dr. Stofan is currently the Chief Scientist of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America. More than 150 students from different regional campuses of the PSHS System attended this rare opportunity to hear a NASA top official share her views on science.

Entitled, “NASA Science: Looking Outward, Inward and Homeward,” Dr. Stofan briefly discussed the past, present and future thrust of NASA’s activities. But what is particularly interesting to students was Dr. Stofan’s revelation of NASA’s search for evidence of life in other planets. “We are studying Mars, if there is a chance of life in this planet,” she said. She also mentioned about climate change particularly on what is happening in the Polar Regions that is greatly affecting the earth’s climate. She summarized her talk by sharing NASA’s mantra—to innovate, explore, discover and inspire.

With the end in mind of encouraging and inspiring future women scientists, Dr. Stofan held an intimate talk with selected 14 PSHS girl students at a separate room after her talk. During this session, she shared her experiences on how she was able to overcome the challenges of being a working mother of three (3). She also underlined the importance of surrounding oneself with...
Are women needed in science? Dr. Stofan has this to say, “It is not about numbers, it is about diversity. It is important to believe in yourself and that be convinced that you belong in science,” she said.

Dr. Stofan was accompanied by Mr. Richard Bakewell, Economic Officer of the Environment, Science, Technology & Health, and Ms. Maria Theresa Villa, Environment Science and Technology and Health Specialist, U.S. Embassy, Manila.

Before Dr. Stofan’s talk, Dr. Mary Ann Go, a well-known neuroscientist and PSHS Alumna Batch 2000, inspired the students by sharing her academic and career journey. She encouraged the students to study for free by availing of scholarships available, she being a DOST Scholar from secondary all the way to her masteral studies. After her master’s degree, she was able to avail a scholarship for her Ph.D. at the Australian National University. She also shared how she coped with rejections from the universities that she applied with. “Rejection is part of life. Just believe that God is always in control. If you are rejected and not accepted, maybe it’s because it’s not really meant for you and that God has better plans for you,” she said. Dreaming to become a Nobel prize winner someday, Dr. Go encouraged the young minds “to keep trying and never give up; be tenacious as science takes tenacity; and be excellent by doing the best you can and with what you have.”

PSHS Executive Director, Dr. Larry L. Cabatic and Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Rod Allan A. De Lara personally welcomed the visitors and hailed their accomplishments in science. The PSHS System - Office of the Executive Director in collaboration with PSHS - Main Campus headed by Director Virginia Andres, hosted the event.
On Human Resource Development Program

Joint GAD Activity Conducted

The System conducted a Joint Gender and Development Activity (GAD) with the regional campuses located in Northern Luzon last July 13-16 at Baguio City.

The objectives of the two-day activity were to: 1) increase the awareness of the PSHS employees of the Office of the Executive Director and the campuses of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CARC), Cagayan Valley Campus (CVC) and Ilocos Region Campus (IRC) on relevant (gender issues common in academic settings; 2) enhance the participants’ understanding of Gender and Equality and Women Empowerment in the implementation of the PSHS Special Science Secondary Education Program; 3) recognize the significance of gender roles in the provision of quality education in the special science secondary level; and 4) develop a gender sensitive environment of teamwork between and among the members of the four (4) participating units of the PHS System.

The event included a one-day seminar-workshop on GAD facilitated by the invited resource speaker in the person of Dr. Helen Dayo of UPLB, Laguna. The 2nd day was a sports tournament in basketball, volleyball and bowling held at the Green Valley. CVC emerged as the grand champion in the competition.

All in all, the two-day activity not only reinvigorated the personnel but also fostered camaraderie between and among the campuses/offices concerned.

Campus Directors Dr. Conrado Rotor, Jr of CARC, Dr. Ronnalee Orteza of IRC, Dr. Salvador Romo of CVC and Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Rod Allan A. de Lara were all present and gave their all-out support to the activity.

Top Leadership and Senior Officers Undergo Seminar on 7 Habits of Highly Effective Educators

Members of the Executive Committee and senior personnel (faculty and non-faculty) from the different campuses including the Office of the Executive Director, attended a three-day seminar on Seven Habits of Highly Effective Educators last July 29-31 at Robinsdale Hotel, Quezon City. The Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., the Philippine’s sole partner of Franklin Covey provided the customized module based on the mandate of the PHS System.

The seminar aimed to 1) develop a culture of effectiveness in the workplace among the various offices in the System; 2) develop oneness and foster interdependence and cooperation towards attainment of organizational goals; 3) cope up with personal limitations, know oneself and seek personal potentials to collaborate with other players in the organization with the end in view to uphold organizational productivity and easily carry out the tasks involved; 4) develop sensitivity, concern and acceptance of other co-employee’s strengths and weaknesses for better interpersonal relations as foundation of co-existence and interdependence; and 5) synergize by giving importance to personal differences among the people and trying to come up with better ideas and solutions by interacting with them.

The participants were grouped into two: the first group composed of all the campus directors while the other group were the Chiefs and other senior officers.

The System’s Financial and Administrative Division facilitated the activity.
Pisay’s One-Day Robotic/Interactive Science Exhibit: Crowd Drawer

Pisay’s one day Robotics and Interactive Science Exhibit drew thousands of elementary, public and college students from the different schools and universities in Metro Manila and nearby cities and provinces. A total of 3,538 registered visitors flocked to the Main Stage of the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia on July 27 to view the exhibits of Pisay students from the 12 regional campuses.

Dr. Ma. Corazon de Ungria, PSHS Alumna Batch 1985 and Head of DNA Analysis Laboratory of the National Sciences Research Institute at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, was guest of honor and speaker during the opening program. In attendance too, were DOST USEC Rowena Cristina Guevara and the PSHS Executive Committee members headed by Dr. Larry L. Cabatic.

It was indeed a learning and fun-filled day as the viewers discovered the wonderful world of science!

Kudos to the organizers for a successful event!

Mabuhay TEAM PISAY!

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Pisay Alumnae, Scientists Awed Audience

Four (4) of the outstanding Pisay alumnae/scientists namely Dr. Ma. Corazon de Ungria, Geneticist; Dr. Reinabelle Reyes, Astrophysicist; Dr. Mary Ann Go, Neuroscientist; and Ms. Ma. Antonia Arroyo, Bio-Technopreneur; inspired their student audiences to take up science courses during their career-talks last July 27 at the Outcome 7 Activity Area., SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia.

The whole day activity likewise drew a large crowd of students and teachers registered at 606 who came all the way from Angeles City, Antipolo and Laguna and some came from nearby cities in Metro Manila.

The four (4) scientists awed their audiences as they shared their work experiences and their journey from being Pisay scholars to where they are now.

Results of the survey forms distributed to the attendees during the talks yielded positive feedbacks from both students and teachers. Next time, a larger and enclosed area for the talks was the common suggestion received.

Some members of the PSHS Executive Committee (R-L) Dr. Warren Cordeta (CViC); Ms. Virginia Andres (MC), Ms. Lilia Habacon (CLC), Dr. Ronnalee Orteza (IRC), Engr. Lorvi Pagorogon (CMC), Ms. Elsie Ferrer (BRC), Ms. Delia Legaspino (SMC), Dr. Chuchi Garganera (SRC), Dr. Conrado Rotor, Jr. (CARC), Ms. Shena Faith Ganela (WVC), Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Rod Allan de Lara and Executive Director, Dr. Larry Cabatic (seated) with the career-talk speakers (R-L) Ms. Maria Antonia Arroyo, Dr. Mary Ann Go and Dr. Maria Corazon de Ungria. Not in photo is Dr. Reinabelle Reyes.
She for We: Highlighting the Role, Life and Achievements of Filipina Scientists in the Local and International Scientific Community

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Outcome 7 Exhibit entitled, “She for We: Highlighting the Role, Life and Achievements of Filipina Scientists in the Local and International Scientific Community,” is a celebration of the contributions of Filipina science scholars and scientists in the country and the world.

Featured in the exhibit were the following DOST Scholars and Filipina scientists – Dr. Maria Corazon de Ungria, Dr. Reinabelle Reyes, Dr. Mary Ann Go, Dr. Maria Antonia Arroyo, Dr. Gay Perez, Dr. Rowena Cristina Guevara, Dr. Rosalia Mercado-Simmen, Dr. Cymbeline T. Culiat, Dr. Maria Victoria Espaldon, Dr. Jacq Romero, Ms. Maria Antonia Romero, Dr. Lourdes Cruz, Dr. Milagros Ibe, Dr. Ester Ogena, Dr. Aura Matias, Dr. May Lim, Dr. Dolores Ramirez, Dr. Josette Biyo, Dr. Carmencita Padilla, and Dr. Filipinas Natividad.

Aside from the DOST Women Scientists, the Outcome 7 DOST Agencies namely PSHS, Science Education Institute (SEI) and National Academy Science and Technology (NAST) also featured in their exhibits, their accomplishments through the years.

Photo of the Day: A girl student copying the names and achievements of the PSHS Alumnae/Scientists from the 2nd Issue of Pisay Newsletter which featured the alumnai.
**NSTW Activity**

**Clash of Class: The Ultimate Battle of Science Smarts**

A total of 18 schools—eight elementary and 10 high schools—from the National Capital Region battled for two division championships in the first ever “Clash of Class: The Ultimate Battle of Science Smarts competition held last July 27-28 at the Laot Activity Center, Manila Ocean Park as part of the weeklong celebration of the National Science Technology Week.

Conceptualized by the Science Education Institute in partnership with the PSHSS, the game activity featured five levels that focused on the different careers that students can get into, namely: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The game activity aimed to enhance the skills, knowledge and creativity of the students on becoming smart scientists and engineers in the future.

The games were designed with the help of module developers from the academic and research institutions. Module developers for the high school division were composed of the PSHSS teachers namely: Ms. Dinah Gutierrez, Ms. Ana Maria Chupungco and Mr. Mark John Ayaay of Main Campus; Mr. Joseph Ednie Soriano and Mr. Rohit Tilwani of Central Luzon Campus.

The game competition for the elementary division was held last July 27 while July 28 for high school division. During the competition, each team were joined by one DOST-SEI or PSHS scholar-scientist as their coach.

Baclaran Elementary School II and Pasay City Easy High School were hailed as champions.

Think, think, think. The different fun games indeed tested the students how good they really are in the fields of STEM.

**DOST Installs First Director of the 14th PSHS Campus**

DOST Undersecretary, Dr. Rowena Cristina Guevara formally installed, Dr. Jose M. Andaya, the first Campus Director of the newly-established PSHS Calabarzon Region Campus, in a simple oath-taking ceremony held last July 13, 2015 at Bahay Kaalaman, Batangas City.

Witnessing the inaugural ceremony were City Planning and Development Officer, Engr. Januario “Sonny” Godoy; PSHS-BOT Member, Dr. Danilo C. Lachica; Dr. Larry L. Cabatic, Dr. Rod Allan A. de Lara, Main Campus Director, Ms. Virginia P. Andres; FAD Chief, Ms. Maria Concepcion B. Sakai; close family members, relatives and friends of Dr. Andaya, STII media team and many others.
Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Rod Allan A de Lara discussing the Program Standards in this photo taken during the Curriculum Workshop for the Specialization Years last August 10-14 at Lancaster Manila Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The event was attended by 95 faculty teachers, representing all the subject areas, from all the campuses nationwide. At the end of the workshop, each subject grouping was able to come up with the following outputs: Course offerings, Course Description and General Plan, Course Standards and Outcomes and Course Coverage in consultation with subject consultants/experts being tapped by the System’s Research, Policy Formulation and Academics Division (RPAD). A follow-up workshop shall be held on September 19-23. The series of workshops were conducted by RPAD.

Meeting of Technical Working Group (TWG) members for the 2015 Readiness Examination held at Mabuhay Manor Hotel, Pasay City last August 3-5, 2015. Objectives of the meeting were to validate the checking done on extended responses/essay items; and evaluate the 2015 readiness exam and provide inputs/proposals changes for the improvement of 2016 readiness exam. (Photo credits: Mr. Russel Viloria of CVC)

Briefing of Supervising Examiners for the 2015 NCE held last August 17 at Villa Amor Hotel, Koronadal City, South Cotabato conducted by RPAD’s Admission Unit. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the Supervising Examiners, matters relevant to the preparations and conduct of the National Competitive Examination on October 3, 2015. (Photo credits: Ms. Jocelyn Lope of SMC)

PSHS System 2015 Mid-Year Performance Assessment (MYP), June 24-27, 2015 in Cebu City. To ensure that the budget for said year is fully-utilized, MYP was held to review the budget utilization of the DOST-PSHS System in the first half of the year. Outputs of the workshop were Catch-up Plans for July-December 2015, System Delivery and Execution Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation Scheme. The Budget Utilization of each member campus was likewise discussed per cluster including major plans, activities, and programs with major issues/concerns.

“Let us work together; PSHS would be the next reference-agency for Quality of Work-life.”

- Dr. Larry L. Cabatic, DOST-PSHS Executive Director
PSHS-EVC Triumphs in ASEAN+3 Junior Science Odyssey

by Johan Y. Castillejos, Simon Juleovenz L. Garnace

The team from Philippine Science High School-Eastern Visayas Campus in Leyte garnered the feat of Overall Champion in the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey (APTJSO) held last August 24-28, 2015 in Serpong – Tangerang, Indonesia. The Philippine team composed of Johan Y. Castillejos, Ryan Roi A. Cayas, and Honeylene Trinchera, was proclaimed as 1st Prize Overall Champion.

For the Laboratory Skills Assessment, the team obtained Gold for Physics, Silver for Biology, and Honorable Mention for both Chemistry and Innovation. They also got an Honorable Mention for their Poster Presentation which focused on plants in the region. For the Project Presentation, the group with mixed international students led by Cayas got a Silver Medal for their proposal on Biological Clean-up of Plastics. The group headed by Castillejo (Designing Marine Protected Areas with Microalgae) and another in which Trinchera was a member (Conservation of Marine Wildlife) also got Honorable Mention awards.

Organized by the ASEAN Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) and hosted by the Ministry of Communication & Informatics of RI (KOMINFO), the five-day event at the S&T Research Center (PUSPIPTEK), Indonesia, drew 30 teams of 81 students from 10 ASEAN Countries and 4 guest nations namely Taiwan, South Korea, China and Sweden. Themed “Biodiversity towards Innovative, Smart & Green Society,” the said science competition was composed of three categories: poster presentation on the potential usage of native plants, laboratory skills assessments which focused on microalgae in relation to chemistry, biology, physics, and innovation, and the presentation of field projects based on Smart Marine & Coastal Technology.

“It was a big challenge to be up there to defend the title of the country and prove to the world that EVC exists in the map,” Trinchera remarked. This achievement is sweet success considering that the school is operating amidst rehabilitation and rebuilding after the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) almost two years ago.

According to the PSHS System’s Executive Director, Dr. Larry L. Cabatic, the prize serves as affirmation that the brilliance of Pisay scholars cannot be dimmed by catastrophe and excellence survives despite adversity. He congratulated the team for maintaining the championship which the PSHS Teams brought home since the commencement of the competition.

Dr. Josette T. Biyo, DOST-SEI Director and head of the delegation, saw how “the kids exhibited excellence, leadership, hard work, eloquence, and humility” which led to them bringing honor and pride to the Philippines. She extended her gratitude to Dr. Reynaldo B. Garnace, Director of PSHS-EVC, the training team of teachers and the parents for their unwavering support.

The teams from Southern Korea and Indonesia garnered the 2nd and 3rd Prize Awards. The team from PSHS-Central Mindanao Campus also got individual Bronze medals and Honorable Mention Awards in certain categories of the competition. The country is set to host the 5th APT Junior Science Odyssey in 2016.