



## Scholastic Triumphs in Ateneo Municipal and University of Santo Tomas

- ❑ Rizal in Ateneo
- ❑ Rizal in UST

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**Rizal in Ateneo**

**Brief history of Ateneo**

- Ateneo was funded by the city government under the administration of the Jesuits in the Philippines
- The name of the school was changed from *Escuela Pia* to *Ateneo Municipal* and eventually, *Ateneo de Manila* after the Jesuits' return to the Philippines
- In Rizal's time, the school was located in Intramuros

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**Rizal in Ateneo**

- The original plan was to enroll him at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran; Rizal took the entrance examination at the said school but after passing the qualifying examination, his father decided to enroll him at the Ateneo Municipal
- Ateneo's college registrar, Father Magin Ferrando, refused to admit Jose Rizal because aside from being late, his body was very frail and diminutive for his age
- Rizal was admitted in Ateneo because of the intercession of Manuel Xerez Burgos, Father Burgos' nephew
- He used the surname "Rizal" in Ateneo to avoid reprisal from the Spanish authorities because the surname "Mercado" was linked to Father Jose Burgos
- A typical class was divided into two groups:
  - Roman Empire - consisting of the internos (boarders)
  - Carthaginian Empire - consisting of the externos (non-boarders)

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**Our Generation**  
By Jordan Nichols

Our generation will be known for nothing.  
Never will anybody say,  
We were the peak of mankind.  
That is wrong, the truth is  
Our generation was a failure.  
Thinking that  
We actually succeeded  
Is a waste. And we know  
Living only for money and power  
Is the way to go.  
Being loving, respectful, and kind  
Is a dumb thing to do.  
Forgetting about that time,  
Will not be easy, but we will try.  
Changing our world for the better  
Is something we never did.  
Giving up  
Was how we handled our problems.  
Working hard  
Was a joke.  
We knew that  
People thought we couldn't come back  
That might be true,  
Unless we turn things around  
(read from bottom to top now)

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## Rizal in Ateneo

### First Year

- He would always hear mass in the morning and pray for guidance and triumph
- His first professor in Ateneo was Fr. Jose Bech
- At the end of the month, he became the emperor of the class (Carthaginian Empire)
- He took tutorial lessons in Sta. Isabel in order to become fluent in Spanish language
- He placed second in the class at the end of the year, although he received "excellent" grades

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## Rizal in Ateneo

### Second Year

- He received "excellent" grades in all of his subjects
- As a bibliophile, he collected and read books of Alexander Dumas, Cesar Cantu, and Dr. Feodor Jagor

### Third Year

- He was at his third year when Doña Teodora was released in Sta. Cruz provincial jail
- Despite Doña Teodora's imprisonment, Jose managed to get "excellent" remarks on his subjects

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## Rizal in Ateneo

### Fourth Year in Ateneo

- He received five medals and graduated with a grade of *sobresaliente* (excellent) in all his subjects

### Poems composed in Ateneo

- *Mi Primera Inspiracion* (My First Inspiration)
- *Felicitation* (Felicitation)
- *El Embarque* (The Departure: Hymn to Magellan's Fleet)
- *Y Es Español*: Elcano, el Primero en dar la Vuelta al Mundo (And He is Spanish: Elcano, the First to Circumnavigate the World)
- *El Combate*: Urbiztondo, Terror de Jolo (The Battle: Urbiztondo, Terror of Jolo)

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## Rizal in UST

- Don Francisco was the one who influenced Jose to pursue his studies in college; however, Doña Teodora resisted the idea because of fear that Jose's life could be in danger if he will be too educated
- Despite Doña Teodora Alonso's reluctance to let Jose pursue his college education, Paciano accompanied him to enroll at the UST
- Ateneo since then is a school run by the *Society of Jesus* (Jesuits) while Universidad de Santo Tomas is a university run by the *Order of Preachers* (Dominicans)

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### Rizal in UST

- Rizal enrolled at the UST in April, 1877 and took up Philosophy and Letters as advised by Don Francisco
- Rizal wanted to take up a more challenging course; he was not able to decide on what course to take so he asked for Father Pablo Ramon's advice who was at that time the rector of Ateneo Municipal
- He received Father Ramon's reply and advised him to take up Medicine

### Rizal in UST

- During his first year in UST, Rizal also took a surveying course at the Ateneo
- He was 17 years old when he passed the final examination in the surveying course; however, he was not granted the title of a *perito agrimensor* (expert surveyor) because he was not of legal age; the title was awarded to him when he reached 20 years of age
- According to historians, there are two reasons why Rizal shifted from Philosophy and Letters to Medicine: first, because it was suggested by Father Ramon and second, because of his mother's deteriorating eye sight

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### Rizal in UST

- Rizal was a freshman medical student when he personally experienced, for the first time, Spanish brutality
- Rizal's performance at the UST was not as impressive as when he was studying at the Ateneo; this was brought about by three reasons:
  - The Dominican friars were not as friendly as the Jesuits
  - He was dissatisfied with the Dominicans' method of instruction (obsolete and repressive)
  - Racial discrimination against Filipino students

### Rizal in UST

#### To the Filipino Youth

- Rizal was only 18 when he wrote this poem in Spanish; this poem became famous because of the line: "*Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan*"
- The poem was his entry to the literary contest organized by *Liceo Artistico-Literario* of Manila
- The contest was categorized into two: the first was intended for the Filipino natives and the other one was for the Spanish *mestizos*
- Rizal won the first prize in the said contest; he received a feather-shaped silver pen ornamented with a golden ribbon

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## Rizal in UST

### The Council of the Gods

- In 1880, the Liceo Artistico-Literario de Manila organized another literary competition which was in honor of the fourth centennial of the death of Miguel de Cervantes
- Many writers joined the competition and one of them was Rizal; his literary entry was entitled *El Consejo de los Dioses* or The Council of the Gods
- After a long and critical evaluation of the entries, the board of judges awarded the major prize to Rizal's piece because of its literary dominance over the others
- The Spanish community questioned the decision of the board of judges, which was composed of Spaniards; according to them, an *indio* has no right to win such a prestigious award
- Despite the protest, a gold ring on which was engraved the bust of Cervantes was awarded to Rizal as his contest prize

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## Rizal in UST

### Literary pieces composed at the UST

- *Junto Al Pasig* - staged by Ateneans in 1880 on the occasion of Immaculate Conception's feast day
- *A Filipinas* - a sonnet for the album of the Society of Sculptors; Rizal encouraged the Filipinos to glorify their Fatherland
- *Abd-el-Azis y Mahoma* - a poem which was declaimed by Manuel Fernandez (an Atenean) on December 8, 1879 in honor of Immaculate Conception (Ateneo's patroness)
- *Al M.R.P. Pablo Ramon* - a poem that expresses Jose Rizal's gratitude to Father Pablo Ramon

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## Rizal in UST

### Summer vacation in Pakil and Pagsanjan

- Rizal was accompanied by his sisters Saturnina, Maria and Trinidad when he went to Pakil and Pagsanjan
- Aside from the Turumba dance, Rizal was fascinated with the sophisticated and pretty women of Pakil like Vicenta Ybardolaza, a harp player
- Rizal went to Pagsanjan because he wanted to see Leonor Valenzuela's hometown (Rizal's girlfriend) and witness the wonder of Pagsanjan falls
- The falls was mentioned in his travel diary in the United States where he mentioned that, "*Niagara falls was the greatest cascades I ever saw but not so beautiful nor fine as the falls of Pagsanjan*"

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## Rizal in UST

### Compañerismo

- Rizal founded *Compañerismo* in 1880, whose members were called "Companions of Jehu"
- Rizal was considered as the "champion of the Filipino students"; he was also the chief of this organization while Galicano Apacible served as his secretary
- The Filipino camp tagged its rivals as "Kastila, bangus" while their Spanish counterpart taunted the other camp as "Indio, chongo"
- Rizal used his skills in fencing and wrestling as he participated in the occasional brawls between the two camps

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