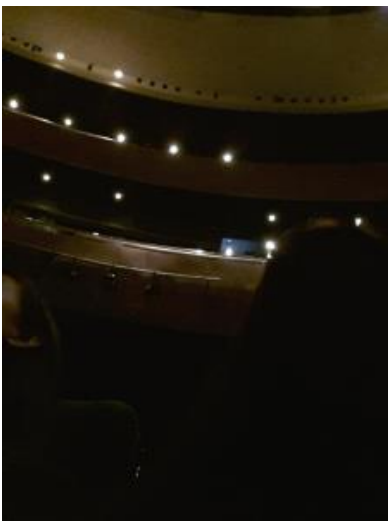


The Philosophy department of DLSU held their Big Lecture which was held in TYA last March 20, 2015. The focus of this lecture was about Albert Einstein and how he is seen in a different perspective which is a scientist as an activist. This is quite different from the usual since we are delving into the philosophical mindset about the works of a great scientist.

One of the requirements is to take a selfie but due to low lighting and a not-so-good front camera, I wasn't able to take a good selfie. (Sorry Dr. Peracullo)



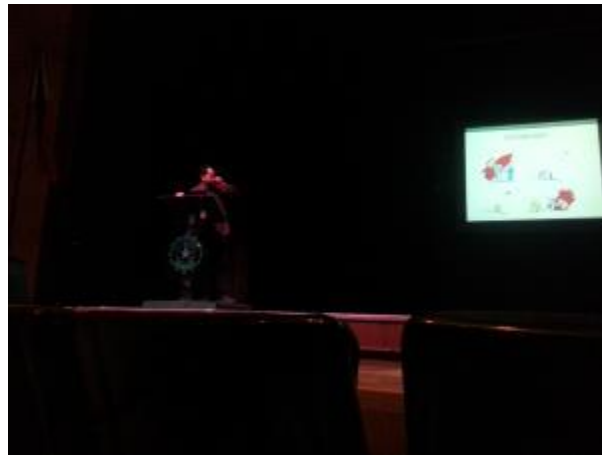
(My attempt for a selfie)



Since me and my classmates in Biotics arrived early we sat in the 2nd row from the front so we had a good view of the speakers onstage. The program started with Dr. Peracullo for the opening remarks.



The first speaker was Sir Robert Boyles. He mainly talked about the Russell-Einstein manifesto which was something they tried to issue during the time of the Cold war. The manifesto was made to seek for peaceful means in the conflict by countries during that time. It sought to tell the readers the dangers of the use of nuclear weapons. The speaker highlighted the question "What could we learn from the manifesto? And in the development of technology, do we need to consider its ethical aspects?" According to him, there are two things that we must consider- the values within technology and values about technology. The focus was "What is the impact of technology like its social impact, things that really matter and what are the effects?" To associate this with Einstein's manifesto, we could see that technology is important thing to consider especially its ethical aspects which will give an impact to our society. There was a quote that I recall from his talk that struck me. "We appeal to human beings, remember humanity and forget the rest." He said that all conflicts should be able to be addressed in a more peaceful way.



The second speaker was Sir Dennis Apolega. His focus was on how the practice of science can be viewed with an ethical perspective or more specially the philosophy of science and how Einstein changed our view on reality.

Another scientist was also mentioned in lieu with the topic was Stephen Hawking. Stephen Hawking thinks that when you believe in the afterlife it means that you are afraid of the dark.

One of the main points that was emphasized is how do you go from your practice in science (Physics) to your advocacy of lessening the suffering of others?

Einstein talks from a pacifist point of view. How do you as a scientist see things from a pacifist point of view? Science, before, was demonized because its ability to create weapons of mass destruction but also it is the problem of some. Because even though you know the means to create such weapon, it doesn't mean that you will do so.

How do you talk about equal rights from a scientific perspective? When you talk about rights, does it constitute scientific knowledge? One way of talking about this is the example of naturalistic fallacy which is to give a description of reality to be able to depict reality but it is a big problem for scientists, since how would they describe something to prescribing something?

I think that Einstein made an impact with his view on science not as the matter itself but as to how this would affect the ethical dilemma it may possibly yield.



The third speaker was Sir Demetrio. He actually told us that he was just informed about the talk so his topic wasn't prepared and fit for the talk but nonetheless about Einstein. He focused mostly on the works of Einstein more relevantly on the Special Theory of Relativity. Truth be told, I wasn't able to hear his lecture till the end because I had to go and attend my class which its schedule was in conflict with the latter part of the talk.

Overall, I enjoyed the talk. It wasn't your typical Einstein and his works on science but rather how Einstein was able to show his approach on his dealing with science.

-Suellin Kaith J. Rivero (11344210)-