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above the national passing average of garnering a passing percentage of 49.06. Congratulations to the College of Law for New LAWyeRs

Azisaida Marites, Mary Camille Perez-Guadalupe, Lionel Maandig Jr, La Viña Lizzamae Grace, Marie Rose Gumahad Generelao, Bennett escobero, Gerlyn eclevia Diron, Leah Renna Dal Eddie C, Mia Gretchen Cain, and others, all graduates of batch 2010:

the top 10. Of the five medical schools with New DOCTORS, Farahylaganyongco, Pamela TLagumbay, Lara Marie RJay Edwarde O, Mohrein VIH, An-an Pablita O, Amor FAdlaon Garces, Lorela Uy, Rosselle, and Maynard Eugenio

are going around the nation exhibiting their winning artworks. Jericho’s painting is also for a trip to an Asian country. He and the other winners received a trophy designed by national artist N Abueva and a cash prize. Jericho received a cash prize of P350,000.00, a "Disaster risk mapping of Barangay Carmen flood resources category of the Department of Science Center Dexter Lo bagged the top prize in the DOST BEST PAPER AWARDEE. Jericho presented the grant benefits encouraging applicants to apply. Scholars will have an all-expense paid international travel, monthly stipend, paid tuition, books & supplies, health & accidents insurance and lastly, will experience intercultural learning.

Fulbright is an international exchange program funded by the U.S. state department offering opportunities for students, educators and professionals to undergo international academic and graduate programs for study and advance research. Established in 1946 by the U.S. congress, it promotes intercultural learning and mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries. More information can be gathered from their website: www.fullbright.org.ph.

The process and concepts learned from the activity will be used for teaching and counseling toward better formation of students, faculty, and staff. The Office of Mission and Ministry (OMM) offered an art therapy workshop dubbed, "Art for Life: The Use of Art Activities in Therapy" from March 9 to 10 at the Grand City Hotel.

Jericho Vementa of XUHS class of 1993 was proclaimed grand prize winner of the prestigious Philippine Art Awards for his painting “Ang Walang Humphay na Harana ni Temyo Cay Magda.” Late last year, he won another grand prize in the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence Award.

Ateneo de Manila University hosted the visit of the Philippine-American Education Foundation (PAEF) to promote the 2012-2013 Fulbright Scholarship Awards. PAEF has been visiting institutions around the country providing information on the Fulbright Awards and graduate studies in the USA. Aspiring applicants from selected colleges and universities in the city and Xavier University faculty and students attended the presentation on Feb 8 at the American Corner of the XU Libraries.

To apply, visit the Fulbright website: www.fulbright.org.ph. More information can be gathered from their website: www.fullbright.org.ph.

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More than 30 participants from the various departments of the Grade School, High School, and College attended the workshop. OMM invited Clinical Psychologist Sandra C. Estrada of De La Salle University-Manila as the resource person.

The activity aimed to introduce art as an effective tool for psycho-therapy. Various art activities using different modalities were introduced to the participants. Since the process used for the whole duration of the workshop was “experiential,” the participants also had the chance to make use of the tools in processing their own life experiences, which made the workshop even more worthwhile for them. The project and concept learned from the activity will be used for teaching and counseling toward better formation of students, faculty, and staff. The Office of Mission and Ministry (OMM) organized an art therapy workshop dubbed, "Art for Life: The Use of Art Activities in Therapy" from March 9 to 10 at the Grand City Hotel.

OMM conducts art therapy workshop for Xavier faculty, Asst to the VP for Mission and Ministry

Milestones

NEW LAWYErs

Congratulations to the College of Law for garnering a passing percentage of 49.06 above the national passing average of garnering a passing percentage of 49.06. Congratulations to the College of Law for

NEW DOCTORS

All nine of XU’s examinees passed the Philippine Licensure Examination given in February 2012, and two of them landed in the top 10. Of the five medical schools with 100% passing rate, XU ranks No. 3, tied with UP Manila. The national passing average was 52.5%.

Congratulations to the successful examinees, all graduates of batch 2010:


NEW NURSES

XU is the 7th top performing nursing school based on the December 2011 Philippine Nurses Licensure Exam. XU earned a passing score of 94.59% (350/370) and ten of our students landed in the top ten.

The 2nd place - Linsyd Angelou Tapongtong

4th place - Ralph Ryan De La Rosa

6th place - Mark-Ray Espinoza

7th place - Neil Obispo

8th place - Vincent Jenven Barrimbao

8th place - Melanie Grace Go

8th place - Martina Aurea Judgar

8th place - Carren Agnes Solidor

10th place - Mariel Kris Rael

10th place - Raiza Mae Rodriguez

PHILIPPINE ART AWARDS GRAND PRIZE WINNER

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Eleni Consuelo Valdecasas, Education Adviser of PAEF, who administers the Fulbright Scholarship Awards in the Philippines, announced the opening of application. Scholarship grants are given to eligible applicants who are willing to undergo screenings and can meet deadlines.

Applicants can select from two award categories, namely the Fulbright Award, which includes the stipend, paid tuition, books & supplies, health & accidents insurance and lastly, will experience intercultural learning.

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XU holds 19th University Service Awards

Faculty and staff who have reached a milestone in their years of service at the University were recognized at the annual University Service Awards held on Feb 1 at the Covered Courts.

University personnel who have rendered 5 or more years of service (in multiples of five years) were awarded Service Certificates and varying tokens to show the University’s appreciation for their loyal and committed service.

One of the awardees was Ms. Maria Florida Nery of the School of Education who has been serving XU for 45 years.

The ceremony also honored employees who are about to retire this year. Speaking on behalf of the retirees was Eladio Ferial of the Athletics Office.

Ferial started his career in the University in 1976. He shared about his experience working in the High School, where he spent 32 years of his 36 years of service in the University. Ferial also revealed that he had the pleasure to have taught Fr Antonio Moreno SJ, now president of Ateneo de Zamboanga, as the latter’s high school class adviser.

Ferial cited the Jesuits, retreats and recollections, and some of the perks of being an XU employee such as membership in XU’s cooperatives and cash gifts as some of the things he will remember most about XU.

XU teachers graduate from special training

New members of the XU faculty successfully completed their In-Service Training (INSET) on March 22 with a simple graduation ceremony. INSET is a special training program designed for all XU college teachers, especially those who are non-education graduates, hired three years prior.

Started in November last year, INSET is conducted every Wednesday for an entire semester. Each week, different modules are taken up on how to teach effectively. These include methods and techniques in teaching, the art of questioning, facilitating, and grading of students.

“Hopefully, after all the INSETs for the whole semester, we can produce better teachers; more dedicated, more committed, more compassionate, and more understanding teachers,” says Dr. Lourdes Tolod, dean of the School of Education.

The training started with 28 participants. However, the number dwindled to 20. Apart from conflict in schedule, one reason cited for the dropout was TS Sendang, which hit the city last year and affected several XU faculty members. However, Dr. Tolod is grateful that those who remained were very persistent and were fully supported by the administration.

Participants who completed all the modules received graduate school credit equivalent to three units, a certificate per module attended for as long as they complied with all the requirements, and a chance for lifting of probationary status owing to their attendance and certificates from the INSET.

In the next round of training, Dr. Tolod revealed plans of making the INSET a two-week intensive course rather than a semester long program.

The participants and facilitators of INSET pose for a picture on their last day of training in the American Center. (Photo courtesy of SOE.)

XU City Council hold forum on improving local legislations

The Research and Social Outreach Office partnered with the Cagayan de Oro City Government through the City Council for a forum titled “Researches and Policies: Toward Enhancing Local Legislation” on February 29 at the City Tourism Hall.

More than 100 participants, most of whom were barangay officials, participated in the forum which focused on three things: Typhoon Sendong, water use, and health services in disasters, all in the context of Cagayan de Oro. The resource speakers were Dr. Gemma Narisma, Regional Climate Systems Program Head of the Manila Observatory; Dr. Hilly Ann Roa-Quidoit, XU’s vice president for Research and Social Outreach; and Dr. Gina Ichoin, chair of the Department of Preventive and Community Medicine at XU’s Jose P. Rizal School of Medicine.

Barangay officials raised their concerns on dams, quarrying, wetlands and the need for early warning devices. They also said they want to be informed about results of studies being conducted on issues about the environment that relate to people’s safety. Dr. Quidoit assured them that the research results will be brought to the barangay level. She also warned off some barangay officials’ fears of a 40-day rain, just as in the Bible, and said that XU is doing in-depth studies on the interconnectedness of the ridge, river and reef systems.

Given the presentations of the researchers and the issues raised, Vice Mayor Ian Acesa remarked that addressing all concerns related to natural and human-induced disasters is a big challenge. “We need to strengthen our City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council,” he said.

The concert line-up included songs reflecting a person’s journey in life from infancy (Buwa-Buwa) to teenage angst (Anak); his relationships from that of friendship (I’ll be there) to romance (Hanggang); his search for identity and freedom (So We’re All Human); and You Were There; his spiritual discovery (Water Night, Soon I’ll Be Gone); his realization of a shared humanity and the beauty of the world (From a Distance and What A Wonderful World); and finally a call to take leadership and responsibility for others and for the world (If You’re Out There).

Agos also featured performances from the St. Augustine’s Children Choir and XU Grade school student Kristie Reonal.
Xavier University, through Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) in collaboration with the various schools and colleges and partner institutions, held the first Service Learning Summit. The summit showcased students’ academic output-based researches on development processes and concerns of community partners specifically PANAW Sumilao, Impasugong, Balinsasag, and Lumbia.

Student-researchers from the school of Business and Management and the colleges of Engineering, Computer Studies, Agriculture, and Arts and Sciences presented on a wide range of topics, namely: setting up an accounting system, feasibility studies and infrastructure design for the Panaw Sumilao Multi-Purpose Cooperative, the use of GIS and other computer systems for price monitoring of agricultural commodities, case study on nutritional assessment, IEC campaign on WASH, moral socialization of mothers in communities which he said also served as the students’ mentors. “I hope this summit will become the university’s annual activity,” Fr. Yap added.

Also present during the summit were the community partners: the Sumilao Farmers, Claveria Parish, Upper Palalan Parents Children Cooperative (UPPCCO), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 10, and the Social Involvement Offices of Ateneo de Zamboanga, Miriam College, and University of St La Salle Bacolod.

XU’s SLP is in collaboration with the Catholic Relief Services and is currently coordinated by Arniel D Daluz of KKP-SIO.

XU Holds 1st Service Learning Summit

by Wilson J Hormeguera

Three XU students were bestowed the prestigious BPI-DOST Science Award during a ceremony held at the AVR 1 on Feb 16. Francis M Gumapon, BS Biology, Franz Daryl Magriña, BS Electronics Engineering, and Jun Rangi Obispo, BS Computer Studies, were recognized for their excellence in the field of research.

Gumaron’s study titled “Microbial Load Gradient of the Ambient Air in the Landfill Site in Zayas, Carmen” computed the amount of bacteria present in the ambient air of the landfill in Zayas toward the residential areas, and identified the bacteria to the genus level. Magriña’s research, “An Experimental Study of Coconut Husk as an Alternative Sound Absorbing Acoustic Material,” proved the effectiveness of coconut husks as an alternative to commercial acoustic materials. Obispo’s thesis on “Ontology Layer for the Distributed Registry of Children with Special Needs” harnesses the use of artificial intelligence in helping health care professionals retrieve relevant information on special-needs children.

Gumaron, Magriña and Obispo are the 22nd batch of awardees from XU since the Awards inception in 1989. They will each receive a plaque of recognition, a BPI Express Teller card for their cash prize of Php 50,000 and an offer to join BPI as a junior officer. Speaking on behalf of the awardees, Gumaron said that the ceremony was not just about receiving an award but also about taking part and paying forward. “The reason for the endless hours in the lab is the value of our study, “she said recognizing the contribution of their researches in advancing national development. She added that she is grateful “for the opportunity to contribute.”

XU President Fr. Roberto Yap, SJ initiated the role of science and technology in helping manage disaster risks in relation to the calamity caused by Typhoon Sendong two months ago. “We do this work not for our own sake but so we can serve others.” He said he hopes that the awardees will pursue a scientific career and use “science for building our city, our country, our region.”

The BPI-DOST Science Awards recognizes the contributions of budding scientists and researchers to nation-building.

XU students receive BPI-DOST Science Awards

XU CIT gets 5 more scholars with Pablo Paras Memorial Scholarship

The Center for Integrated Technologies (CIT) is a fortunate recipient of the Pablo Paras Memorial Scholarship fund, a scholarship program in honor of Pablo Paras, father of Engr Elpidio Paras, chairman of the XU Board of Trustees and proprietor of Parasat Cable TV.

The scholarship covers tuition, matriculation and other fees of students who will study automotive technology, computer & electronics technology, industrial electronics technology or mechanical technology at CIT.

“He was an excellent mechanic,” related Paras of his father, who came with his wife to Cagayan de Oro from Pampanga in 1951 with just P500 in his pocket. “Our success is largely because of them,” he said on behalf of his siblings. He shared that “hopefully, we can add more scholars.”

The Pablo Paras Memorial Scholarship will commence school year 2012-2013. It is open to all high school graduates from Northern Mindanao in need of financial assistance.
Back-TWO-Back Diplomatic Experience

After the success of the educational tour in Bangkok last year, the Ateneo Diplomatic Corps (ADC), the co-curricular organization of XU AB in International Studies students, organized another round of tours. Two batches of educational tours were conducted to give students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of their course, to learn from people who are in the same field and to be exposed to their potential future careers.

The first batch composed of fifty students visited different political and diplomatic institutions. Among the VIPs they met were Vice President Jejomar Binay at the Coconut Palace, DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez and Foreign Service Institute director Undersecretary Laura del Rosario.

They were also able to attend the budget hearing of the Aurora Economic Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority at the House of Representatives where they received a briefing from the Committee on Foreign Affairs and welcomed by its chairman Rep Al Francis Bichara and assistant majority floor leader Rep Benjo Benaldo. The students also met Representatives Rufus Rodriguez, Maximo Rodriguez, Yegency Ermao, Isidro Lico, Vicente Belmonte, Imelda Quirinan-Dimaporo and Lucy Torres-Gomez.

Rounding up their tour were trips to the embassies of the United States of America, Japan, Spain, and Indonesia where the students learned about the bilateral relations between the Philippines and those mentioned countries. Throughout the tour, they were accompanied by the Department Assistant Chairperson Rachel Daroy and ADC moderator Jal Parreño Octavio with faculty members Aristotle Maniquiz, Nell Obach and Michael Ngo.

A second batch composed of twenty-five students went on an exposure trip to the Malaysia and Singapore.

In the federation of Malayan states, the group was welcomed by Ambassador Eduardo Malaya who shared on the bilateral relations between Philippines and Malaysia. After which the group went to visit the United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

In the island city-state, the group visited the Embassy of the Philippines where they were welcomed by Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz and received a briefing on the bilateral relations between Philippines and Singapore from Consul-General Neil Imperial.

The students also stopped by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Headquarters and the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University where they had their academic and curricular benchmarking. They were accompanied by their Department Chairperson Catalina Gaite and ABIS program coordinator Manilee Pañares.

New student leaders proclaimed

Come school year 2012-2013, University students will be welcomed and served by a new set of student leaders.

Dean Cris Acabo, 4th year BS Chem Eng, was proclaimed president and his Alyansang Atenista running mate Sean Jared Lastimoso, 3rd year BS Psychology, the vice president after the online polls from Feb 28 to March 1.

Voting turnout hovered at 37%, lower than last year’s 40%. Acabo and Lastimoso were also uncontested candidates.

Central Student Government (CSG) Electoral Commission head Jonas Porminal surmised that Typhoon Sendong, which devastated Cagayan de Oro last year, might have affected the number of candidates running for CSG and college council positions this year.

“January was registration period,” he said, and people were still recovering from the disaster. Having fewer candidates to choose from could have also contributed to the decrease in voting turnout, but not by much, Porminal continued.

In 2010, when voting turnout was only 13%, there were also not many contenders. However, the disappointing figures were attributed mostly to the rolling black outs the city experienced.

This was the second year that the CSG used a web-based system for the campus elections, although automated elections started in 2009. The web-based system was developed by Computer Science students.

Dean Cris Acabo and Sean Jared Lastimoso promise collaborative and simple yet effective solutions to students’ concerns.

BA studes bag “I am a Changemaker” title

Ethniko Filipino Handicrafts was declared the Mindanao winner of the “I am a Changemaker” competition of the British Council. The bag designed and made by XU students bested five other finalists from Mindanao.

Ethniko Filipino Handicrafts is a micro-enterprise of Business Administration students at XU. They were among the twenty groups from all over the county chosen from a multitude of applicants to be part of the “I am a Changemaker” social enterprise business plan competition. Five finalists were chosen from each geographic cluster: Mindanao, Visayan, Luzon and NCR. Together with Ethniko Filipino in the Mindanao cluster are Earth Team, comprised of several Xavier University alumni; and The Notebook, comprised of first year XU students.

Two representatives for each of the twenty finalists were flown to Cebu and given a three-day training on Social Enterprise Planning and Development facilitated by the Social Enterprise Development Partnerships, Inc (SEDPI). Fourth-year BA students Oliver Maneja and Chris Jamalon represented Ethniko Filipino. At the end of the training, the groups presented their business plans in front of a panel of judges. Ethniko emerged as the Mindanao winner and was awarded P100,000 as start-up capital.
For the nearly 2,000 graduates, the XU Gym was where it all came down to – the last stop in their journey through college. It wasn’t so long ago when these students entered the university as freshmen from all walks of life, all sorts of faith, all parts of Mindanao, even the country and abroad. Some came with their parents, others with their cars, but majority came to finish the four- or five (maybe more?) - year race with their own two legs, sweat and tears.

The commencement exercises, the 73rd for Xavier University, were held on March 23 and 24. Clad in their magnificent caps and robes, the graduates, upon hearing their names announced, walked across the stage, received their diploma from the University President, shook his hand and proceeded to take a bow.

Members of the convocation included Dr Milwida Guevara, president and CEO of Synergeia Foundation Inc and this year’s commencement speaker and honoris causa recipient, Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ DD, peace advocate, founder of the Silsillah Dialogue Movement Fr Sebastiano D’Ambra of the Pontificio Istituto Missioni Estere, Fr Bienvenido Nebres SJ, former president of the...
Ateneo de Manila University, XU administrators, board of trustees, faculty, staff and alumni. All of them, also sophisticatedly dressed in their academic robes, reminded the graduates that they still had a lot to achieve in their education.

From college to career

The question on the minds of many college graduates is “where does the road lead from here?” For Dr. Guevara, the walk across the stage led to P Gomez Elementary School. If she had had it her way, she would have wanted to join the Ateneo, but as God’s way would have it, she wound up teaching public school children in Grade 3 Section 28. She confessed that the first mistake she had ever made as a professional was to compare herself with others. Unlike her friends, she didn’t own a car, had no air-conditioned office and still ate at the central market near the school. But being around kids who woke up very early every morning to sell newspaper before coming to school and meeting their parents who did back-breaking labor to be paid a pittance that did not get the family out of the slums taught her her first lesson in being a person for others.

For a long time, she worked at the department of finance where she got the family out of the slums taught her her first lesson in being a person for others.

There on the stage addressing the class of 2012, she got the commitment of the graduates and those around to do their part in helping Filipino children complete at least grade six.

While there are those who leave college soaping straight to the heart of industry and finance, the path for Dr. Guevara was long and winding, with many obstacles along the way. She is an inspiration, even long and winding, with many obstacles.

They reached out to strangers and helped change people’s lives. They made up for the service the government fell short of giving. By the time Cagayan de Oro fully recovers, this class will have been part of the rebuilding and renewing process of the city. They reached out to strangers and helped change people’s lives. They made up for the service the government fell short of giving. By the time Cagayan de Oro fully recovers, this class will have been part of the rebuilding and renewing process of the city.

Class valedictorian Ryan Madrid is proof. Ryan who finished Development Communication cum laude and active volunteer during the Sendong relief operations, has chosen to work for Xavier Ecoville, the relocation and resettlement project of Xavier University with the city government. He says he is “fired up to help rebuild the lives of 500 families displaced by the flood.” And while Ryan can’t wait to go out there and start, Fr. Bobby Yap SJ, the university president, can’t hide the enormity of the present challenge. A world literally breaking apart is the reality that will stare these graduates in the face. Yet, he is confident that the XU graduates will hurdle these challenges with “courage, creativity and compassion because we Ateneans know that all we have to do is to give hands in help and hearts in love and entrust our best efforts to the good and loving God.”

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When they started at XU, these graduates had their own reasons to come to Xavier. But now as they spill out from the University into their own communities, XU’s only prayer is that “they may go forth to bring hope to the world’s despair, light to its darkness, service to its selfishness and love to its hatred.”
New Appointments and Re-appointments

The Board of Trustees of Xavier University in its March meeting has appointed/re-appointed the following people to lead various units in the University starting June 2012.

- **Enrique B. Collantes** (until May 2013)
  - Vice President for Mission and Ministry
- **Ruth S. Balona MD** (until May 2015)
  - Dean, School of Medicine
- **Roso R. Roxas** (until May 2013)
  - Dean, College of Agriculture
- **Lourdes C. Tolod PhD** (until May 2013)
  - Dean, School of Education
- **Vega C. Yapin PhD** (until May 2015)
  - Dean, School of Business and Management
- **Fr. Joaquin Jose M. Campano SJ** (until May 2014)
  - Principal, High School, replacing Fr. Stephen T. Abuan SJ

Maria Ressa headlines first NM comm student congress

By Kathleen Emillie Araña

Multi-awarded journalist Maria Ressa toppled the first ever gathering of student communicators from around Northern Mindanao.

Ressa with colleagues from Rappler.com Patricia Evangelista, Chay Hoferia and Josh Villanueva were the guest speakers at “Sibya,” a forum on “Social Media for Social Change” organized by The Crusader Publications with the Development Communication Department on Feb 17 at SM City. The event brought together – for the first time – communication students, veteran and budding journalists, and media outlets in and around the region.

The team from Rappler.com, an online news site where Ressa is chief executive, glued the eager house to two hours of stories, statistics and explanations on the causal relationship between information and the world today.

Ressa explained, “Social Media is changing the way you think, it’s rewiring your brain.” She added that, “It has so much power and [so] should be used responsibly.”

Journalism is heading fast towards the electronic medium, and story gathering and telling are evolving as rapidly. “There are stories everywhere. You just need to know where to look,” shared Villanueva, whose expertise is on multimedia.

“Challenge the status quo. Make sense. Start a ripple now. Tip it to change it,” said the team as their parting words.

Various journalism contests were also conducted alongside the forum. XU Dev Com students won in the Public Service Announcement category while Kristoffer James Nambatac of The Crusader Publication placed first in poster making. Winners of the essay competition for collegiate and high school were Shane Mae Recaborda, AB-Communications from La Salle University, Ozamis City and Val Arniel Vestil from Liceo de Cagayan University.

XECON 2012 calls for giving humanity a second chances

Delegates from various schools and universities in the city met face-to-face with environmental experts in an effort to strengthen partnerships and engagements for the environment during the Xavier Environment Conference (XECON) hosted by Xavier University in celebration of the Social Consciousness Month in February.

Not purely environmental

Sec. Nere Acosta, presidential adviser for environmental protection, iterated man’s contribution to the destruction of the environment. He said that Typhoon Sendong was not purely environmental. He shared pictures of flood simulations done three years ago showing areas vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge and saltwater intrusion. Acosta said that the flood simulations, which he emphasized were not forecasts and done by a pool of experts and based on more than 500 peer reviewed scientific articles, reflected the same path Sendong followed.

The Philippines is currently the 3rd most disaster prone country in the world, behind India and China, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters based in Brussels.

The seventy of floods, such as that brought by Sendong, is affected by several factors. J. Andres Ignacio, director for planning and geomatics manager, environmental science for social change, said that apart from the amount of rainfall, topography, devastation from floods can either be assuaged or aggravated by land cover and location of settlements and infrastructures.

“Most natural disasters are manmade,” said Ignacio. In Cagayan de Oro, areas most devastated by Sendong were those located along rivers and stream channels.

Igancio said that part of the role of the academe is to secure reliable biophysical and sociological data and help develop systems aimed at adaptation.

Building Resilience

“Many of our LGUs are highly vulnerable and located in coastal areas,” said Sec. Elisea Gozun, presidential assistant for climate change. She added that climate change has caused increased intensity of tropical cyclones. Changes in climate and weather patterns are further aggravated by the loss of forests.

Gozun said responding to climate change requires the “concerted effort of governments, private sector, NGOs, communities and other development partners to manage and adapt to a changing and more invasive environment.”

Under the sustainable development framework, the Secretary imparted two tracks being pursued: mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (reducing risk). She shared the National Climate Change Action Plan of the Aquino administration that has as its goal “to build the adaptive capacity of communities and increase the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize mitigation opportunities towards sustainable development.”

In developing a “climate risk-resilient Philippines with healthy, safe, prosperous and self-reliant communities, and thriving and productive ecosystems,” Gozun said that the government is focusing on seven climate smart priorities, namely food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy and knowledge and capacity development.

“The call of the new president is inclusive development,” Gozun said. She asked the audience to commit to some simple mitigation measures that conserve energy and water, such as unplugging unused electronic devices, turning off the tap when not in use, particularly to use a glass when toothbrushing, and switching to mass transit or unmotorized transit systems.

As part of adaptation measures, she cited capturing rain water for washing clothes and flushing toilets. “Rain means you can have fresh water. Why not use it?” harvesting rain, she said, should be done in all levels starting from the household, and to look at Singapore as a model. Rainwater could also be used to recharge aquifers, she added.

Other measures she mentioned included support for forest protection and rehabilitation of water sheds, building houses on stilts in flood prone areas, urban farming and more inland rather than coastal infrastructure development.

Ultimately, “It is the government’s responsibility to keep you out of harm’s way,” Gozun said.

No Planet B

“If you don’t take care of ecology, there will be no economy,” said Acosta who highlighted the importance of leadership in planning for the environment.

“Government officials have the mandate to think and plan ahead,” he said stressing on the greater responsibility of governments to protect their citizens. “If we are not up to this challenge, we shouldn’t be in the position of leadership.”

Acosta continued that it is up to every person to adapt to climate change. “The second chance is for us to take,” he expounded. “It is up to us to rethink, improve our science and technology, and better our governance.” In the end, “We don’t have a Planet B.”
Beyond the concrete jungle, from US with love

“...These streets will make you feel brand new. The lights will inspire you. Let’s hear it for New York, New York, New York!”

The lines of Jay-Z and Alicia Keys’ song, “Empire State of Mind,” make you imagine what New York looks like and aspire to experience the best it can offer. The big lights will truly inspire you especially when you are staring at mesmerized eyes at those6 lustrously beaming gigantic billboards of Time Square before watching the Broadway musical, Wicked!

I’ve always wanted to explore the world. It is like a treasure trove of surprises and things that more than meet the eye. I still remember a childhood dream of studying abroad, now actually fulfilled, through SUSI.

Everyone who knows of my first semester in the US would usually excitedly blurt out queries on the weather, Hollywood stars, shopping with dollars... “And I would be like “Oh, man! One at a time,” while happily and proudly filing them in as plates and sights like the Hudson River Cruise, Statue of Liberty, the Manhattan Skyline, the Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institute. The list is endless, including an autographed dedication from Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield, Daniel Radcliffe after the Broadway performance and oh well, the shopping sprees at Kenscothe, H&M, etc.

SUSI IN BALL STATE

A SUSI colleague, who was in the US purely for fun and leisure, tagged me a “lucky bastard.” That may be true, in part, because my US trip was a lot more than just those junkets to the Empire State Building and living like a New Yorker for a year.

Our first week went to time adjustments and familiarization. The 12-hour difference between the Philippines and US EST (eastern standard time) completely disrupted our sleeping hours. However, having to burn the midnight oil to survive well in DevCom made adapting easy for me and, there was definitely no such thing as “Filipino time”!

Dr Mary Spillman, academic director and Suzy Smith, SUSI-Ball State administrative director led the Department of Journalism and Telecommunications faculty and staff in their warm welcome of our group. (John Paul Hipolito and Angel Bombarda of De La Salle University, Mel Aguilar of St. La Salle University, Mark Joenel Castillo and Mikhail Blazer of West Visayas State University and Gabriel Biliones Jr of MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology and I made up the Philippine team.

We held classes in the state-of-the-art media labs in the Art & Journalism Building. Our laboratory on the third floor can bear witness to how we coped with the pressure and savored the fun of learning American media and history.

Learning about American news media, I wondered why Filipino journalists have to fear for their lives as both countries exercise freedom of the press. Does the US First Amendment have anything to do with it, or is it because of the absence of a Freedom of Information bill in the Philippines? Travelling this road led to more questions than answers.

MEDIA STARSTRUCK

We began our education with a new Spelling of Filipino, “Philippine,” coined by Dr Charles Payne, BSU Director for the Office of Institutional Diversity. Our first journalism lesson, Foundations of American Journalism and New Media, was given by Dr jim Willis, chairman of the Department of Journalism and author of “Piece of My Heart,” “The Media Effect,” “Two Media Moments that Changed America.” He cautioned us young journalists to adhere to the principle and essence of objectivity regardless of circumstance, a very timely and valuable lesson for aspiring journalists.

Coming from the “freest” Asian country, Team Pilipinas, had so many media stories shared in the first assignment.

Dr Spillman, the next lecturer, underlined the need for courage in asking questions and perseverance in getting relevant information, in effective journalism. We were advised not to allow ourselves to be limited by mediocrity and, that because of high competition in media, we should bag an excellent story, as much as possible. Her rich and colorful AP (Associated Press) journalism experience inspired us to set the bar higher in our future profession. It takes passion and drive, overcoming adverse and, in doing so, adverse behind-the-scenes situations, to get the news. Knowing you have saturated the public’s thirst for information is your reward.

The rare opportunity of meeting veteran journalists honed by US the Department of State war correspondent now working with US the Department of State from talking about his fruitful encounters and death-defying moments. His candid responses to our questions revolved for the most part on the chaotic situations he overcame and how he tried to cheat death many times just for a story.

The Fourth of July picnic at the Minnetrista Park was the highlight of our second week. Celebrating America’s foremost occasion was a cause for ruminations on our Philippine Independence Day celebrations with marching bands and reenactments of Rizal’s life, over scrumptious dinner amid laughter with fellow participants and numerous photos ops. By sundown at 8pm, our eyes feasted on the sparkles and flashes of the 30-minute fireworks lighting up the sky to the music of Katy Perry’s Fireworks. The festive commemoration of July 4, 1776 was reflected all over the USA.

The next day saw us back at the grind. For the rest of the week, we pored over US History, Government and Foreign Policy with Professor Brandon Waite, of the BSU Political Science Department. Glaring similarities in Philippine and US policies attributable to their colonization of our archipelago in the past made that study interesting, at the same time, intriguing.

POSE A LA ‘MILLESIME’

Between journalistic assignments, we savored the landmarks to different aspects of American History, the Henry Ford Museum displaying vintage and presidential cars, aircraft and locomotives and the Greenfield Village commemorating the Civil War and Industrialization Era. These trips were perfect practices for our Web Still Photography and Audio classes. We struck many a period pose in those locales, which we then topped with a Mediterranean dinner at Greektown in Downtown Detroit. A wonderful conclusion to our Hamptons sojourn.

XAVIER MAGAZINE
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2011
LEADERS ON VOLUNTEER

Again I saw how leadership sparks the volunteerism spirit. This time I also experienced a turn-around where volunteerism stirred the leader in us.

Part of our tour was volunteer work each Wednesday, joining other volunteers in building houses for Habitat for Humanity recipients. We hammered our way up to the attic. It was a great experience, working with strangers with whom you share the same vision and passion, like this mature couple who’ve been at this work for decades. Indeed, age doesn’t matter, even leadership.

Besides building houses, we also fed people through Second Harvest Food Bank, an institution distributing food donated by Walmart and other companies to the needy or unemployed. We packed and distributed in a very organized system, to the cars that lined up. Cars! Of course we were shocked until they explained the system of choosing recipients. Apparently in the US, jobless folks queueing for food still had their cars. It was quite a brand new feeling for us.

Both those two institutions gave us overwhelming enrichment, besides the fun of unloading the leaders within us. Leaders DO come out from unexpected circumstances.

These opportunities were further strengthened by weekly trainings and workshops with Ms Nicole Johnson of the Department of Communication Sciences. She inspired us to be problem solvers instead of mere leaders, to be the change the world needs. She gave us the five practices of exemplary leadership 1) model the way; 2) inspire a shared vision; 3) challenge the process; 4) enable others to act; and 5) encourage the heart. By all these things I will remember her.

THE BIG APPLE

Then it was time for an exciting trip to other parts of the US. Our first stop was the place made famous by murder and revolutions – Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the most significant place during the US Civil War. The whole place is dotted with cemeteries. Touring the various monuments we ended the day with short films commemorating the lives offered to cut the strands of slavery in this part of America. Then our long bus trip took us through Ohio to New Jersey. At the Hyatt Hotel, we enjoyed a splendid view of the New York skyline.

It was more heart-pounding the next day. The whole bus rang with our National Anthem on the way to our Big Apple appointment – the New York Times. By any means, that route was one photo op after another, from NYC’s bustling streets all the way to the NYT Lobby. Eager to be part of the exhilarating Battle of Ideas, I gave my all to reply to a query, for which I was rewarded inclusion in their Page One Meeting that day along with nine other university students and guests from different companies. I was so struck by how these journalists attained one of the pinnacles in this profession. I met Jill Abramson, the executive editor, with other editors and reporters. That was one mind blowing morning! It inspired us all to dedicate ourselves not just to journalism but to other future careers we’d choose. We also met Deputy Editor Kathleen McElroy and reporter Jacques Steinberg. Then we had a tour of the United Nations offices.

Did I mention that the Multimedia Editor of NYT is a Filipino? He is Andrew DeVigal. Some of his works are Emmy nominees. This shows that Filipinos excel in whatever fields they are in. We deserve applause for being world-class.

After reveling in the Statue of Liberty Cruise, we, shop-aholic Filipinos, went to rock the stores around Times Square. Then we trooped to watch a Broadway musical. “Wicked” – The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz” starring Teal Wicks and Kendra Kassenbaum. The sets were lavish and magical, the performances defying gravity. I don’t wonder why this must-see show performs defying gravity. I don’t wonder why this must-see show

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Celebrating Social Conscious Month

1 February
RSO launched Social Consciousness Month with a Eucharistic Celebration at the XU Immaculate Conception Chapel at 5:30 pm. Dr. Hilly Ann R. Quano, VP for RSO, provided an overview of the event and its corresponding activities.

2-3 February
The Governance and Leadership Institute (GLI) conducted a two-day Strategic Management Training for Effective Local Legislation at Phitown Hotel for the legislative staff of Misamis Oriental.

The initiative was in partnership with the Vice Mayors’ League of Misamis Oriental.

4 February
The College of Computer Studies and College of Engineering through the Engineering Resource Center hosted faculty members and researchers from the Ateneo de Manila University School of Science and Engineering, Ateneo Innovation Center, and the Manila Observatory in a two-day visit to promote scholarships with the Engineering Research and Development for Technology and explore areas of collaboration to address the most pressing issue of technology use in disaster risk reduction and management.

8 February
A half-day seminar on Climate Change: (a) Native Flora and the National Greening Program and (b) Mangrove as Coastal Buffers and Sedimentation Sink was given by Dr. Jurgenne Primavera at the XU Nursing Amphitheater.

The activity was organized by the McKeough Marine Center and participated in by students and faculty of XU and other universities and schools in Cagayan de Oro, as well as some Local Government Units along coastal municipalities and barangays.

13-18 February
KKP-SIO together with the National Service Training Program spearheaded the Faculty and Staff Exposure to Sendong-affected areas, communities, and relocation sites.

13 February
A week-long photo exhibit depicting Sendong was opened at the Aggie satellite canteen near the XU gym. The exhibit was mounted by the Development Communication Department in collaboration with CDO Cares.

22 February
The Sustainable Sanitation Center conducted a symposium on Sustainable Sanitation at AVR 3. This was attended by several nursing students, City Health officials and other related government agencies’ officers and civil society organizations’ personnel.

25 February
Dulaang Atenista volunteers executed a flash mob on proper relocation sites.

28 February
XU thru RSO partnered with the Office of the City Vice Mayor Ian Acenas in organizing a forum on Researches and Policies: Toward Enhanced Local Legislation for the City Council and the Barangay Captains of CDO.

The engagement hoped to maximize the knowledge products of XU through its RSO units by sharing these in popularized forms useful for local legislation, and to jump-start more and deeper engagements with the city government and other LGUs.

11 February
The Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagsakahan - Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO), the Central Student Government (CSG), Atenista Ako Movement (AAM) coordinated with the Research and Social Outreach in organizing the “Xaver Environment Conference (XECON): The Science of Sendong” at the Nursing Amphitheater.

Presenters were Dr. Nereus Acosta on Pre-Analysis of Sendong, Mr. Andres Ignacio on Formula for Disaster: A Watershed-based Analysis of Factors that Contributed to the Tragedy of Sendong, Dr. Elisea Gazun on Looking Beyond Climate Change Impacts: Building Resilience and Adaptation, Engr. Dexter Lo on Cagayan De Oro context-based Why Disasters Happen.

The activity was also closely coordinated by the CSG with the Office of Sec Nereus Acosta for the participation of delegates from the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats. Other participants came from universities and schools within CDO and Bukidnon.

The Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagsakahan - Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) and the Central Student Government (CSG) are among the participants who shared their experiences in organizing the event.

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22 – 24 February
The Regional Center of Expertise – Education for Sustainable Development (RCE-ESD) organized a 3-day ‘Compass University’ training workshop. Mr. Robert Steele of Sustainability Asia / Atkisson Group facilitated the workshop to 30 selected key stakeholders and partners of RCE-ESD in Northern Mindanao.

The training workshop aimed at introducing a set of tools and methods (COMPASS AND ISIS ACCELERATOR TOOLKIT), and sharing of ideas on how to transform universities and institutions of higher learning into role models of sustainability in order to effectively promote education for sustainability and perceive sustainability as an achievable goal.

The Research and Social Outreach (RSO) cluster dedicated February to the celebration of the Social Consciousness Month. This year, the theme was “Sendong and Beyond: Strengthening Knowledge and Capacities for Enhanced Resilience.”
Chem faculty becomes OPCW Associate following Europe training

Fernando Tarongoy Jr, a faculty member of the Chemistry Department, returned to Xavier University after completing the 9-week long 12th Associate Program of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) held in the Netherlands, United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe and Asia.

The program is a flagship undertaking of the OPCW, an independent, autonomous international organization with a working relationship with the United Nations, for its international cooperation work with Member States signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The program aims to foster a better understanding of the objectives of the CWC and the organizational structure of OPCW, and to promote the peaceful uses of chemistry, with an emphasis on chemical safety.

Tarongoy was selected to represent the Philippines and interact with participants from developing countries or countries in transition, namely:

- Algeria
- Argentina
- Belarus
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Cameroon
- Cuba
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Paraguay
- Philippines
- Samoa
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

The programme kicked off with an induction segment at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, where participants were oriented to the provisions in the CWC and the organizational structure and functions of the OPCW. Kalimi Mwiona, director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of OPCW, and Kumares Misra, head for International Cooperation, welcomed the participants.

The second phase of the training brought the participants to the University of Surrey in Guildford, the Technical University of Delft, and the OPCW analytical laboratory in Riswijk.

One of the most important components of the program was the three-week long industrial attachments at modern chemical plants, where participants received training in various industrial operations and gained exposure to working environments in the chemical industry. In the industrial attachments, the different participants were assigned to specified industries in the Netherlands, Denmark, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. Tarongoy was privileged to be assigned to the world’s leading chemical company located in Germany, together with another participant from Ukraine. His industrial engagement was centered on chemical safety and security, where he was exposed to advanced occupational safety measures and monitoring activities implemented by the company that has more than 160 different chemical plants in just one site (thus considered as the world’s largest chemical site of 10 km²).

At the closing ceremony, OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü addressed the participants and other attendees which included representatives of diplomatic missions.

The CWC is an international agreement inaugurated in Paris in 1993 and entered into force in 1997. It aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction. The Philippines was one of the original signatories to the Convention in 1993 and likewise enforced the agreement in 1997.

Tarongoy, having completed the Associate Programme, is expected to extend his assistance to the National Authority of the Philippines in its implementing activities as a member of OPCW.
Fr Cal Poulin SJ: Homage to a life of humble service

Fr Calvin H Poulin SJ, Fr Cal to everyone in the University, was one of the most recognizable personalities on campus. He was an avid fan of sports and music. He was a constant at the University intramurals, and during Manresa Days, he would be in the rodeo arena watching rodeos. He was also a usual sight at concerts, especially those held in the Chapel. He was a dear friend to many, much loved and remembered for the care, generosity and humor he exhibited in life.

Fr Cal died on Feb 19 of complications from brain cancer. He was 81.

Born in Amsterdam, New York on April 18, 1931, Fr Cal entered the Society of Jesus on July 30, 1949. He was ordained a priest on June 16, 1962. He served most of his priesthood years in the Philippines, the last 13 years of which were spent at Xavier University as the University chaplain from 1999-2012, Religious Studies teacher from 2006-2008 and Loyola House treasurer from 2002-2006.

In this issue of Xavier Magazine, we’ve collected some of the wonderful stories that family and friends have of Fr Cal.

Over more than 50 years, Uncle Cal stayed in touch with family and friends in the United States. While his work in the Philippines and Africa kept him away during many family events and celebrations, he stayed in touch through airmail in the days before email and Skype. In the days before 24 hours news coverage, he would vividly describe events to us half a world away, such as the People Power Revolution and each new assignment in Cagayan de Oro, Manila, Malabuyoc and Africa.

During the times when Uncle Cal was able to visit the US, he made up for lost time with a grueling schedule of visits to friends, home masses and family dinners. A few years ago, while he was visiting during his 50th Jubilee, he packed the chapel at the Jesuit Shrine in Auriesville, New York and he was able to attend the wedding of one of his grand nieces. While these visits were few and far between, he often spoke fondly of his life and friends in the Philippines.

I was able to visit Cagayan de Oro briefly during All Souls Day in 2009. The trip was cut even shorter by an untimely typhoon while flying into Manila, but it was one memorable trip. Uncle Cal was a proud tour guide of Xavier University, explaining the improvements to the facilities over the years. Walking through the town was one of the most amazing things I ever saw. The children started showing up even before we passed the front gate, flocking to Uncle Cal as we walked through town until the street children numbered about 30. The joy on their faces and on Cal’s was incredible. Next, he led them to a restaurant for a special family meal. It was struck by the respect, care and concern that these children had for each other and for Uncle Cal. Imagine, 30 hungry children and none of them touched the food put in front of them until everyone had been served and said grace. I was impressed and proud of Uncle Cal’s love of family.

In the old days before computers, we would go to Grandma Poulin’s to read his letters that arrived via airmail from that far away place called the Philippines. Those thin pieces of paper with special words telling about far-away places. Gram was so proud of all her clergy children. Uncle Cal in the Philippines, Uncle Neil in Yap, Uncle Don in the diocese of New York and of course Sister Pat is still at the convent in Latham, New York. Gram, Pudgie as some called her, loved the stories of Uncle Cal and his compassion for the least privileged children.

- Joe Waldron, Fr Cal’s nephew

Your death came as a surprise to me and a shocking one, even though these past days you looked so fragile and weak, but nothing stopped you from ministering to the young people of Xavier University. Since I met you in 1998 and my sharing with you all those years, as my spiritual director and friend had made me more of a missionary and a spiritual being than ever. Your fatherly advice guided me through the dangers of life and difficulties of being a missionary in a foreign land. You kept always amazed me by your constant desire to continue to serve despite all the warning signs of poor health.

Your mission experiences in both Kenya and Nigeria in Africa brought many young Africans to the Jesuit family, and your love for the people was beyond boundaries that you were crowned a chief in Yoruba land in Nigeria. Thank you for your generosity in the gift of
Fr Calvin Herbert W Poulin, SJ

Born April 18, 1931
Entered the Society of Jesus July 30, 1949
Ordained Priest June 16, 1962
Entered into the joy of the Lord February 19, 2012

Fr Cal was a paragon of poise, and humility. He stands out in my heart as an example of a true follower of Christ.

Truly a “cura personals,” Fr Cal has developed and empowered many:
• The street kids whom he supported regularly
• The scholars whom he kept in contact with
• The chapel abides, many of whom finished college because of him
• The chapel choir, whom he is very proud of
• The artists, singers, choir members, visual artists whom he encouraged, supported and appreciated
• And perhaps many more I am not aware of

With his generosity, many were able to actualize their dreams and ambitions that have led to so many successes in life. Indeed, he showed cura personals – caring for the entire person, giving individualized attention to the need of others, respect for their circumstances, and appropriate appreciation for their particular gift.

All of us who knew him and whose lives he has touched are blessed. There is a multitude of lessons to learn from Fr Cal and the way he lived his life.

He was a friend, a mentor, a role model, a religious, a priest, and a Jesuit to the very end.

We will miss him. I will miss him.

Goodbye, Fr Cal. Remember us to Him whom you have served so well in your lifetime.

- Dr. Fr. R. Jauzie

Executive Vice President
Capitol University

Xavier Ecoville breaks ground

Xaver Ecoville, XU’s relocation and resettlement project with the city government of Cagayan de Oro, broke ground on March 3. In the same event, XU and Habitat for Humanity Philippines signed a memorandum of agreement for the construction of permanent houses at Xavier Ecoville situated in the uptown barangay of Lumbia.

The donation worth more than PhP 15 million will be used to help build the 371 row houses which will be constructed on the 5 hectare lot, adjacent to the temporary bunkhouses where more than 250 households, more than halfway to the target of 500 households, are presently staying.

Charito Ayco, CEO and Managing Director of Habitat for Humanity Philippines said that the house building will be expedited so the beneficiaries can be settled into their permanent homes. Immediately, Construction is targeted for completion in six months but may run for a year at the latest.

Besides Habitat for Humanity, other donors for the permanent houses at Xavier Ecoville are UnionBank Foundation, Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, and the Chinese Ladies Association of Sacred Heart Parish Cebu.

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ DD led the rites of blessing at the groundbreaking. Also present during the event were Vice President and Chair of the Urban Development Coordinating Council Jejomar Binay, and Congressional District Representative Rufus Rodriguez, City Mayor Vicente Emano and City Councilor Nadya Emano-Elipe.

Binay assured everyone that “everything is on course” in the resettlement efforts of the government for those affected by Sendong in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, and that “this is a government that can be trusted”.

The masterplan of Xavier Ecoville was unveiled during the groundbreaking, showing Xavier Ecoville to be not only a housing program but a community building program. XU aims to develop a thriving and healthy community at Xavier Ecoville. In addition to the residential lots of 50 sqm per lot, Xavier Ecoville will have a chapel and community center.

“I guess Xavier Ecoville will be the standard for everyone to follow in resettlement,” said Justo Ortiz, chairman and CEO of UnionBank. “This project is not only a testimony of the resilience of Filipinos...but a testament of magagi.”
The Xavier Ecoville masterplan unveiled at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Vice President Binay (left) with Fr. Yap places Xavier Ecoville documents and other memorabilia inside the time capsule.

Vice President Binay shovels cement after the descent of the time capsule.

Reg. Rufus Rodriguez and Vice President Jejomar Binay sign copies of the architectural design of Xavier Ecoville before they are placed inside the time.

Vice President Binay poses in front of the masterplan of Xavier Ecoville, their future neighborhood, unveiled during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Overjoyed beneficiaries pose in front of the masterplan of Xavier Ecoville, their future neighborhood, unveiled during the groundbreaking ceremony.

About a week earlier, Chairman & CEO of UnionBank Justo Ortiz, XU President Fr. Roberto Yap and Executive Director, CPSR-UnionBank, met for a MOA signing in Manila. UnionBank Foundation is giving P10 million for the construction of permanent houses at Xavier Ecoville.

For updates on the progress of Xavier Ecoville, please visit [http://tabangsendong.xu.edu.ph](http://tabangsendong.xu.edu.ph), Facebook Operation: Tabang Sendong, Twitter: @TabangSendong.
Laughter, screams and kissing scenes: Tatlong Mariya, and The Xavier Stage At Random

Having done five productions in their first year as a theater company, The Xavier Stage (TXS) has shown that more than a group that does plays, it has become a group that calls itself a family.


The Maiden

Mr. Hobart Savior, Artistic Director of Xavier Stage and Director for the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts (XCCA), chose Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero’s “Ulling Tahanan” as its maiden production to commemorate the playwright’s centenarian anniversary. It is a drama about family and patriarchal tyranny, and the ties that bind loved ones together. It was staged on February 2010.

The Comedies

Four months later, the company staged “Dalawang Comedya,” a twin-bill production of Filipino comedies: “New Yorker in Tondo” by Marcelino Agana, Jr., and “Wanted: A Chaperon” by Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero. It recreated the plays’ dialogues to fit modern, colloquial Bisaya as gender preference and social lifestyle, so the audience is given another slant of understanding and appreciating gay and their works and contributions in the society. The play ends with the surplus father of seven boys becoming a gentle daddy with seven chikas, and they all lived happily ever after, as they say.

The Revelations

As its first anniversary special, TXS staged “Isa Pa: Dalawa,” a twin-bill production of Luis Sicat’s “Dalawa” and Steven Patrick Hernandez’s “Isa Pang Kaping,” both focusing on the one thing that makes everyone so quick to listen: secrets. “Dalawa” is about two best friends who, spending most of their lives together, realize they never knew each other at all. “Isa Pang Kaping” is about the rigid adherence to tradition and culture, yet of abuse of power and corruption. Both plays got the audience guessing and guessing—and gasping when the real secrets were revealed.

The Finale

To close a star-studded season, TXS staged “Tatlong Mariya,” a rendition of Rody Vera’s adaptation of Anton Chekhov’s “The Three Sisters.” The three Marias—Marina Angelina (Monette), Maria Josefa (Finina), and Maria Ramona (Monette)—were born in Manila but were driven away to a distant town when their father passed away. Craving for the good life in Manila, they constantly relive the moments they had there, and pour on anyone who passes their way who has come from the city. Marilyn is a schoolteacher who carries nearly all the burdens of the sisters, as she is the one most eager to get back to the big city. Finina is a beautiful yet depressed lady, for she had married early out of the initial thought of love, to Isidro, the man she thought was the smartest one in the town. Monette is the youngest, and the play starts with her birthday. She has had long-time suitors, Daniel and Victor. The three sisters have a youngest brother, Teddy, who they had all bet would be great someday.

The realities of life slap them in the face, and they end up staying in that town longer than they had planned, for going back to Manila had seemed to be a sure thing. Marilyn gets promoted as principal, Finina falls in love with a married engineer from Manila named Ricardo, Monette, who had been so optimistic about life and about working, grows weary of the system in the little town they live in; Teddy had married a tyrannical lady named Erlinda, who, to the audience’s humor, talks in a very heavy and comical “probinysana” accent. They have friends who are there most of the time, Doctor Elpidio, who was once a married mother’s suitor, Daniel and Victor. Monette’s suitors, the old servants Yaya Soledad, Anselmo and the quiet servant girl.

Marilyn is unhappy. Monette’s two suitors fight. Daniel dies. Monette is in shock. Ricardo leaves. Finina is distraught. The three sisters all burst into tears, tears of pain, of anguish, of anger—wishing that they had known; that they had known all along.

A very stunning feature to this play is that it showed a few kissing scenes between the characters—Monette and Daniel, Finina and Ricardo, Erlinda and Teddy. Though not extremely risqué, they were actually real, sincere, unrehearsed kisses. When asked about it, the actors said that though it was a little awkward, everything was done in the name of art, as true thespians treat their pieces. They are not themselves onstage, but the characters they portray...
**Xavier University sashays new sets of Film Festivals**

by Hobart Savior

A part from Cinemagis – the digital short film festival in Northern Mindanao, which is on its fourth year now, Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts added two new film festivals, to wit: CINEDUKASYON – Film Appreciation Program and Scientific Film Festival and CINEMULAT – Controversial Film Festival. These two festivals started as fringe programs. Cinedukasyon was featured during PANACHUGONGS – Xavier Arts Festival, and Cinedukasyon (Cinemagis-Controversial Film Festival) was featured during the 2010 Xavier University Festival Days. Now, both Cinedukasyon and CINEMULAT are flagship projects of the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts under Artistic Excellence: CINEMA/FILM.

CINEDUKASYON (November 24-26, 2012, SM CINEMA 2 and Capitol University Basic Education Science Departments; XU Biology Department headed by Prof. Cerrutie Garcia; Capitol University NSP and College of Arts and Sciences, headed by Dean Buenos Aires Ocampo.

CINEMULAT (December 3, 2011 at the XU Little Theater)

“Amores Perros” (Mexico) by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, “La Mala Educacion” (Spain) by Pedro Almodovar and “Kama Sutra” (India) by Mira Nair were the films curated for CINEMULAT – Controversial Film Festival. One might wonder the purpose for putting up a controversional film festival? The Center introduced this to Xavier University to establish a campaign for responsible film viewing. The audiences were taught how to decode the message; interpret the various literary elements and figures employed; understand and relate the allusions presented; ascribe appropriately the semiotics and other symbols presented in the film including nudity. Prof. Cathelyn Adajar served as our primary discussant whose film appreciation and education experience and expertise made the festival more credible. Prof. Adajar discussed biblical allusions as reflected on the films “Amores Perros” and “La Mala Educacion.” One viewer pointed out the dichotomy of honor and shame. The film “Kama Sutra” conveyed that both “honor and shame are two sides of the same coin.”

Some XU formators and majority of the Humanities students watched CINEMULAT. The jam-packed audience left the Little Theater with minds that were awakened and set free from the box. They said that they now could watch films responsibly, and that they will seek the literariness of each film they choose to watch. Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts will sustain these programs for it believes in the formative capacity of Film/Cinema. The film can move the hearts and influence the minds of the audience as it informs. It only requires apt understanding that not all films are precise, correct and true. The truth and correctness of a film lies in how the viewers relate to it, and on how the audience makes it meaningful.

If all goes well, XCCA will introduce F2ART – French-Filipino Film Festival and Akira Kurosawa Film Festival next school year.

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**2011 Grand Alumni Homecoming Awaits more alumni/ae**

by Norene G. Conillia

The Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan Alumni Association (XU-AAA) under the leadership of its President, Mr. Milton Liangon, in cooperation with the XU Alumni Affairs Office under the auspices of its Director, Engr. Ermin Stan B. Pimentel, celebrated the 2011 Grand Alumni/ae Homecoming from November 26-December 3. The theme was “XU-AAA: Engaging the Frontiers.”

The first day was devoted to sports activities: Fun Golf, Badminton and Basketball. The celebration officially kicked off with a Mass at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at 6:30 am. Breakfast for the alumni/ae, especially for the Silver and Golden Jubilarans, immediately followed at the Magis Student Complex. The alumni/ae had a great time exchanging pleasantries.

The final competition of the Voice of Democracy, an inter high school oratorical contest, was held on December 1 at the XU Audio Visual Room 1. Ten finalists from high schools in Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City vied for the Championship. Val Amiel Vestil of Liceo de Cagayan University placed first, and Cindy Faciol of Tagoloan National High School placed second. The winners received a cash prize, medal, trophy and a certificate of recognition.

To highlight the entire festivities, XU-AAA honored fellow alumni who are exemplars in their respective fields during the Awards and Fellowship Night on December 2. Mr. Manuel P. Ewing and Atty. Rodolfo R. Waga Jr. were conferred the Outstanding Alumnus Award in Professional Service; Mr. Eric S. Canoy received the Outstanding Alumnus Award in Public Service; and Dr. Maurice Edeel accepted the Outstanding Alumnus Award in Community Service. The XU-AAA also bestowed special awards to Fr. Arturo Victor M. Borja SJ for Religious Service, Mr. Salvador P. Escarto for XU-AAA Service, and Mrs. Nenita M. Vastorza for Loyalty Service.

Hon. Rufo B. Rodriguez, Representative of the 2nd District of Cagayan de Oro, graced the occasion as honored guest. He spoke about the Jesuit Education that molded and contributed in making them who they are today. The evening ended with the alumni/ae wearing smiles on their faces. □

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Engage
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