

# Xavier

magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

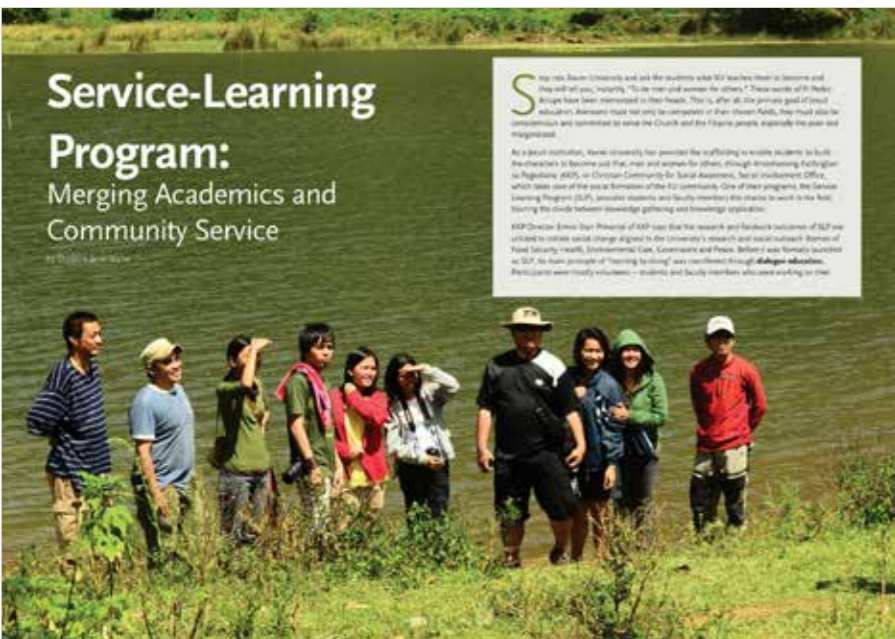
April to June 2012



Learning through  
Service



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**S**ervice-Learning Program (SLP) is a joint initiative, where students have the opportunity to combine their academic and community service. The program is designed to provide students with a hands-on learning experience that allows them to apply their classroom knowledge to real-world situations. The program is open to all students and is a great way to gain valuable experience while earning credit.

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**FR. ROBERTO D. OYO, SJ**  
**FR. ROLANDO V. ZERDANILLA, SJ**  
**FR. LEON C. FARAYO, SJ**

**50 years in Joyful Service to God and to His Church**

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### A promising peace advocate

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# Aggies get highest number of enrollees since 1978

Enrolment for the first semester of school year 2012-2013 in the College of Agriculture reached a record high of 930, its highest number of enrollees since 1978.

There are 247 enrollees for BS Agriculture, 348 for Development Communication, 139 for Food Technology, 68 for Agricultural Engineering and 128 for Agricultural Business.

The number of students enrolling in the College has consistently increased in the last three school years. This reflects a renewed interest in agriculture as investments in the sector have increased, after a decline of more than two decades, due to increasing demands for food and biofuel.

Hence, the College is now facing the challenge of making its programs more attuned to the demands of the time while addressing rural poverty in the region. □



US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K Thomas Jr with some XU administrators and faculty members



## US Ambassador visits XU

United States Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K Thomas Jr was at Xavier University for a roundtable discussion with alumni of the Congressional Internship Program for Mindanao Youth Leaders (CIPYML) on June 28 at XU's American Corner.

Thomas met with 10 graduates of CIPYML who shared with him their experiences while undertaking the internship program.

"Keep on being role models and ambassadors not just for the people of Mindanao but for all the Filipinos and the youth of the world," said Thomas to the graduates who are now working for

various government and development agencies, such as the Mindanao Development Authority and the Bangsamoro Youth Affairs.

CIPYML is a USAID-supported project begun in 2002 and implemented under the Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program in partnership with the Philippine House of Representatives. It offers recent graduates of colleges and universities in ARMM and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao an opportunity to work with Congressional Committees, Departments and offices of Congressional representatives, and to assist in policy formulation, research and in the preparation of legislation.



This is the first time for XU to host the CIPYML roundtable discussion. While at XU, Thomas also spent some time with XU administrators and faculty members. □

Front Row: Ambassador Thomas with XU Academic Vice President Dr Lina Kwong (left) and USAID Mission Director Gloria Steele (right) Back: Graduates of the Congressional Internship Program for Mindanao Youth Leaders



## Energy secretary talks on Mindanao power

By Rissan Nash N Alonto

Secretary of Energy Jose Rene Almendras visited Xavier University on May 16 for a lecture-discussion on the power situation in Mindanao.

Almendras said that the Philippines uses more renewable energy with 26.3% of total power generated in the country classified as renewable compared with other ASEAN countries (with the exception of Laos, which he said consumes 100% renewable energy) and countries in the European Union. He also said that the Philippines is a world leader in renewable energy and that the aim of the Department of Energy (DOE) is to make the country self-sufficient.

On oil and coal exploration, Almendras expressed that while there are potential sources of petroleum and coal in the country, there is little development taking place. He added that renewable energy is projected to contribute 1,088 megawatts in the short term and 3,746.80 megawatts in the long term to the country's total energy supply. DOE is planning to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in South Cotabato and Davao City, as part of its plan to develop LNG in the Philippines. Almendras introduced the Compressed Natural Gas buses and the e-Trike as replacement for diesel-powered vehicles. These types of vehicles are already being used in places like Mandaluyong, Puerto Princesa, and Boracay.

Almendras also presented the improvements in the Pulangi IV reservoir, which underwent rehabilitation.

He also introduced the "BRIGHT NOW!" campaign to promote energy conservation. □



# FAAP grants XU programs Level IV accreditation

The Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) has granted Xavier University (XU) a Level IV Accredited Status for six of its programs, namely: Liberal Arts, Sciences, Secondary and Elementary Education, Business Administration, Accountancy and BS Chemistry.

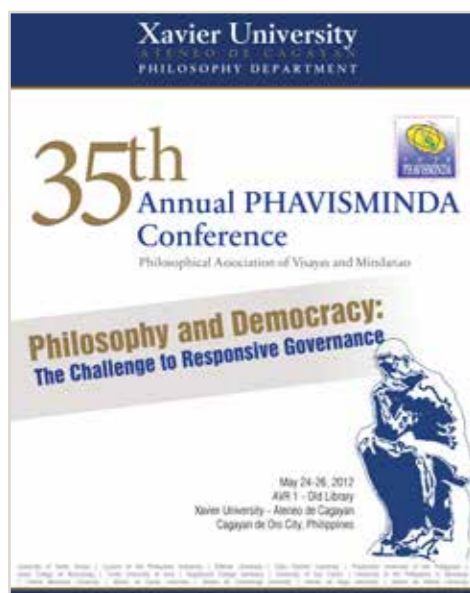
FAAP is a recognized network of accrediting agencies working closely with the Commission on Higher Education for the upgrading of the quality of education in the country.

"Level IV Accredited Status is a recognition of the high quality and excellent standards of these tertiary level programs in our university," said Fr Roberto Yap SJ, XU president. He hopes that the recognition would inspire the XU community "to strive more than ever for excellence, the hallmark of a Xavier education."

FAAP was launched in 1977 and is the official agency for accrediting decisions at the tertiary level. Members of FAAP include the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities, which has also awarded XU's programs accreditation in varying levels. □



## Philo Dep't hosts 35th PHAVISMINDA confab



Around 24 scholars and professors from at least 17 universities and schools presented on the theme, "Philosophy and Democracy: A Challenge to Responsive Governance," and answered the question, "What universal democracy, if there is any, serves as 'generic blueprint' on managing systems in a crisis of liberal values and cultures?"

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ DD of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro keyed the conference. He contextualized his message in the wake of Sendong and cited three

challenges in the rebuilding efforts, namely community-building, particularly on "building communities of hope"; environmental conservation, stressing the need for disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness; and good governance.

He said that good governance involves active citizen participation, responsive government officials and engaged civil society organizations (CSOs).

"Sometimes we depend so much on the decisions of local officials, and, often times, it is the voice of only one official," said Ledesma.

He called on the CSOs to take part in guiding government officials and in helping form civic society.

"I guess that is the challenge for us in a democracy," he said.

Other speakers during the conference were Dr Renante Pilapil of the Ateneo de Davao University, Dr Agustin Rodriguez of the Ateneo de Manila University and Dr Ryan Urbano of the University of San Carlos.

This was the second time in eight years that Xavier University hosted the event. As host, the organizers hoped to relate the conference theme to Cagayan de Oro's recent typhoon experience and to encourage the participants to look into the kind of leadership necessary to support the rebuilding process of the city after Sendong. Through this gathering, XU hoped to provide a paradigm of lessons on leadership, liberty and life. □

The Philosophy Department hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Philosophical Association of Visayas and Mindanao (PHAVISMINDA) from May 24-26.

## 3 Ms to a healthy university

by Chezka Waminal

### Melding, Ministry and Mission.

These are the three characteristics that make a university "healthy, thriving and flourishing," imparted University President Fr Roberto Yap SJ during the Mass of the Holy Spirit held at the XU Gym on June 20. The Eucharistic celebration, popularly known as the Red Mass, is held annually to invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit at the start of a new school year.

Fr Bobby reflected on the story of the Pentecost, which, he said, speaks of coalescing into one community.

"As diverse as we are, the Holy Spirit melds us together. We are

one community. That's what we are celebrating today," said Fr Bobby. "We support each other and we become more than the sum total of our individual selves."

He also said that St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians describes perfectly what a healthy university ought to be like.

"Look around a thriving university and you will note the many gifts, the extraordinary ministries, the care and concern by and for the students, faculty and staff," he said recalling what St Paul said about having "different gifts but the same Spirit... different ministries but the same Lord... different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone."

Fr Bobby elaborated on the many programs in the University that reflect a good kind of ministry. He cited the Level IV PAASCU accreditation of several academic degrees, and programs on spiritual formation, athletics, culture and arts, service learning and leadership development that show how Xavier cares for the total person.

"Any such university founded on shared and collaborative ministry serves as a model of different gifts but the same spirit," he said.

The third characteristic of a healthy university, said Fr Bobby, is mission. He told the congregation that John's Gospel, when Jesus stood among His disciples and showed His hands and side, "reminds us that we

are sent to the world to serve." He noted Xavier's endeavors in improving food security, health, environment, governance and peace – the thematic areas of Xavier's research and social outreach – and its work in building a hopeful community of Sendong survivors at Xavier Ecoville as undertakings that have honed Xavier's sense of mission.

He called upon the Holy Spirit to "meld us closer to each other... strengthen our ministry ... inspire our mission," and encouraged the XU community to make the three qualities of melding, ministry and mission a "part of Xavier's past, present and future; its faith, hope, and love; its pride, joy, and challenge; its goal, its destiny, and its Pentecost." □

## Summer of Service 2012 comes to a close

by Lezlee Amor R Escalante

After more than a month of giving and learning, the Summer of Service (SOS) 2012 concluded on May 12 with a showcase of talents and a forum on the challenges in the Amakan Transitory Shelter and the Calaanan Tent City, relocation sites for families displaced by Typhoon Sendong.

The program, which was themed D.R.E.A.M. (Dawning, Recognizing, Empowering, Awakening, Moving), aspired to provide the student volunteers with an experience that allowed them to learn and appreciate the value of the self and of others through activities that fostered feelings of compassion and service. At the same time, it also aimed to encourage Sendong children to maintain a hopeful view of the future grounded on love and faith.

For five weeks, the SOS volunteers from different student organizations in the university, such as the Glee Club, Dulaang Atenista, Circulo de Arte, Sole to Soul and XELLO, held alternative classes in dancing, drawing and singing for children in the Amakan Transitory Shelter and the Calaanan Tent City, as well as for the 48 Pedro Calungsod Center sponsored children in Lumbia.

The volunteers also explained to the kids why Typhoon Sendong happened and the need to take care of the environment. Psychology students undergoing their on-the-job training conducted extensive psychosocial debriefing that addressed the specific needs of the community members.

The Summer of Service Program, facilitated by the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana-Social Involvement Office, was born from the desire to give XU student volunteers a meaningful summer experience. It aims to raise their understanding of volunteerism and engagement through service to the greater community, particularly to the poor and less fortunate.

At the culminating activity, the children mounted performances that not only exhibited their grace but, more importantly, imparted messages of care and concern for others and for the environment.

As the volunteers watched the kids perform, they realized that while they taught these children how to dance, the children taught them how to be more patient, while they taught the children how to draw what they saw, the children taught them to appreciate their surroundings, while they taught the children how to act, the children taught them to simply enjoy so acting would come out naturally, while they taught the children how to sing, the children taught them to delight in a song even if it was out-of-tune, while they explained to the children why and how Sendong happened, the children taught them the beauty of simply being alive.

The volunteers went into the areas with the goal to teach the children. Yet, in the end, they realized that they were learning with the children. □



## XU celebrates 114 years of freedom

Xavier University joined the rest of the nation in commemorating 114 years of Philippine independence.

The morning drizzle on Wednesday, June 13, prompted the movement of the celebration usually held at the Lucas Hall grounds to the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

With the Philippine Flag prominently displayed at the Chapel stage, the XU community sang the National Anthem in unison.

In his message, Fr Roberto Yap SJ, University president, shared Prof Benedict Anderson's concept of "imagined communities" of nationality, in which people of a nation who do not have personal knowledge of each other are brought together by the images of their communion.

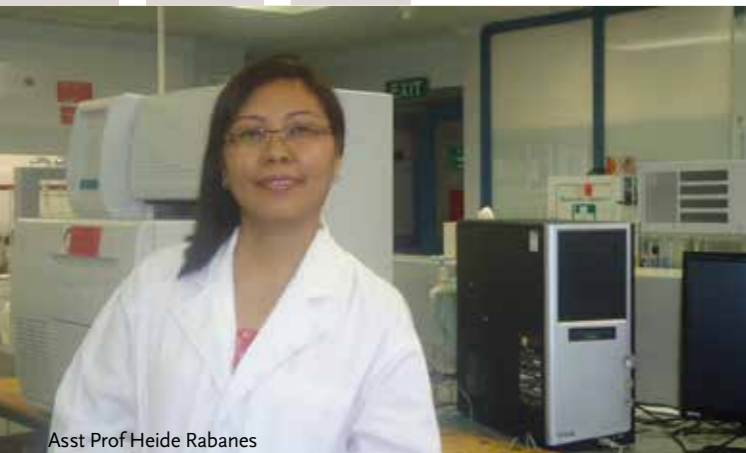
"You and I will never encounter face to face the more than 90 million Filipinos, yet we imagine that we share one community, one heritage and one destiny," said Fr Bobby.

While the Philippine flag, the national anthem and the *Panatang Makabayan* easily conjure in each one images of communion, Fr Bobby also referred to the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Reynato Corona, Jessica Sanchez's bid on American Idol and Manny Pacquiao's controversial defeat as images of communion that have recently brought us to rally as one nation.

"These three contemporary images convey to us some special meaning of our nationhood," he said.

Fr Bobby's words were bolstered by performances from XU's performing arts groups. Led by the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts, the Glee Club, Cultural Dance Troupe, XU Band, Dulaang Atenista, The Xavier Stage and the Irie Band rendered song and dance numbers that reinforced everyone's sense of nationalism. □





Asst Prof Heide Rabanes

## Chem asst prof published in 'Electrophoresis' journal

**A** review paper on the use of capillary electrophoresis (CE) in natural products analyses written by Chemistry Department's Heide Rabanes has been published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal "Electrophoresis."

Rabanes' paper is titled, "Capillary electrophoresis of natural products: Highlights of the last five years (2006–2010)." CE is a relatively new method used to separate both large and small molecules, whether charged or uncharged, using an applied voltage. Among others, this technique is used to determine the presence or absence of species and to quantify them in sample matrices. More challenging separations are done with complex sample matrices such as drug formulations, leaves, roots, urine, blood, hair, wastewater, and other real samples.

Rabanes had examined the use of CE in pharmaceutical and herbal products, food and food contaminants, and toxicological compounds, and she had found an increase in CE use in these areas during the years covered by the review period. Her paper can be read in the January 2012 issue of the journal which includes a special issue on reviews.

Rabanes is pursuing her doctoral studies in Chemistry at the Ateneo de Manila University through a scholarship from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). She is currently in Australia for a one-year research stint at the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science at the University of Tasmania under the CHED Sandwich Research Grant. □

## DevCom chairperson voted VP of EMA South East Asia Chapter

**D**evelopment Communication Department chairperson Shiella Balbutin was elected vice president of the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA) South East Asia Chapter.

As VP, she is responsible for coordinating with all Southeast Asia country representatives and ensuring effective and beneficial cooperation with European Commission delegations in the Southeast Asia region. She attended the EMA General Assembly at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic on June 22 and 23 as representative of the South East Asia Chapter.

Prior to being voted VP, Balbutin served as Erasmus Mundus course representative. She is also an active member of the EMA communications team, being the coordinator of the field reporter initiative.

Balbutin attended the CoMundus European Master of Arts in Media, Communication and Cultural Studies course at the University of Aarhus, Denmark and the University of London, UK from 2005-2007. □

## IS stude chosen for prestigious Virgin Labfest 8 Writing Fellowship Program

**I**nformation Systems student and The Xavier Stage actor Kristen Senajon was accepted as fellow for the Virgin Labfest 8 Writing Fellowship Program of the Cultural Center of the Philippines from June 26 to July 8.

For two weeks, Senajon participated in lectures, script critiquing and writing sessions, and interacted with known playwrights, directors and selected actors. She was trained in dramatic writing along with nine other participants from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and Manila, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Sto Tomas and University College London.

The Virgin Labfest is an esteemed annual festival of "unpublished, unstaged, untried and untested works of playwrights, directors and actors." Over the years, it has produced plays that have been recognized by the Palanca Awards for Literature.

Senajon also participated in the 19th Iligan National Writers Workshop sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts held in May this year. □



## DevCom stude participates in SUSI-New Media 2012

by Stephen J Pedroza

**T**he newest addition to the roster of global students from Xavier University is an incoming junior Development Communication student.

Gabriel Mattan Guden Luceño was chosen to participate in the US Department of State's, "Study in the United States Institute for Student Leaders on New Media in Journalism (SUSI-NMIJ)" from June 24 to July 29.

The grant is an intensive academic program with a balanced composition of seminar discussions, workshops and lectures facilitated by faculty experts and experienced newspeople in emerging media, leadership and cross-cultural learning.

This year's participants hailed from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Luceño, 19, was one of the 6 representatives selected nationwide and the only one from Mindanao. Joining him in the Philippine delegation were Anthony Esguerra of Adventist

University of the Philippines, Silang, Cavite; Eduard Joseph Narciso of Saint Paul University, Dumaguete City; Annie Guzman of University of Asia and the Pacific, Pasig City; and Keziah Huelar and Jester Paul Bacabac of West Visayas State University, Iloilo City

SUSI-NMIJ is hosted by Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana which has an academic collaboration with the New York Times (NYT) in New York, NY. It is the second time for the university to host the program.

Educational tours to different American media outlets like ABC Studio, National Public Radio (NPR) and NYT complement the program. The participants also visit numerous tourist sites in Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington DC and other states.

The trip includes volunteer opportunities in non-profit organizations Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana and Habitat for Humanity.

The program culminates at the US Department of State in Washington, DC where participants get to meet other delegates under different SUSI grants on Religious Pluralism, US Politics and Foreign Policy.

To prepare himself for his trip, Luceño attended "PANIMPALAD: A Talk on Scholarship Opportunities Abroad" in February during the 2012 DevCom Week Celebration, where former US grants recipients shared their challenges, tips and learnings from studying and living a thousand miles from home. □



## Int'l PolSci conference held at XU

**T**he Philippine Political Science Association held its annual international conference at Xavier University from April 12 to 14. The theme for the conference was "Building on the Past, Reflecting on the Present, and Charting Future Directions in Studies on Political Science."

University President Fr Roberto C Yap SJ welcomed to Xavier the delegates composed mainly of professors of Political Science from universities across the country and from foreign universities such as Sun Yat Sen University and City University of Hong Kong in China, Maharakham University in Thailand, University of Guam in the US, University of Tsukuba and Ibaraki University in Japan, Konkuk University in Korea, and the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

Distinguished Political Science professor and author David Wurfel keyed the conference. He talked of the history of political science in the Philippines and the challenges that Filipino political scientists face today.

"It's very important for Filipinos to have a critical eye on what foreign policies can do," he said in response to an audience comment on the Philippine-US relations in the light of the perceived decline of the US economy given the financial crisis and the increasing aggressiveness of China. He also emphasized the importance of merging values with goals to maintain the real essence of political science, which now has become not about politics but more about strategies and statistics.

More on political development and decay were discussed in the plenary and concurrent sessions throughout the three days with topics on Bangsamoro politics, foreign policy and relations, education and governance, political development and disasters, and political views and attitudes of the youth, among many others, including lessons learned in the aftermath of Typhoon Sendong. □





# It's more fun in OrSem!

By Chezka Waminal and Stephen Pedroza

“Xavier is one of the best!” uttered nearly three thousand freshmen and transferees during the Orientation Seminar (ORSEM) held from May 30 to June 1.

The program started with a community mass celebrated by XU President Fr Roberto Yap SJ, University Chaplain Fr Eric

Velandria SJ and SEARSOLIN Director Fr Rene Tacastacas SJ.

“I pray that your coming years will be of enlightenment... vanishing the darkness and ushering the light into your lives,” Fr Bobby said to the new set of Ateneans.

Fr Bobby also related the resilience of the Kagay-anons during Typhoon Sendong. He reminded the freshmen (and other attendees) to be stewards of nature.

“Take care of creation so that creation will take care of us,” he said.

Furthermore, he told the freshmen to take inspiration from graduates of XU who had topped in various board exams.

He reiterated that the University has remained to be “one of the

best” universities not just in Cagayan de Oro City, not just in Mindanao, but in the Philippines for its continuing commitment to excellence and quality education.

Roxette Joan W Flores, who shared on student involvement at XU, compared the potential of everyone to the *Tesseract*, a powerful energy source fought over in the Marvel Studios movie, *The Avengers*.

“Allow Xavier to help you discover your full potential. When you find it, ignite the fire in your *Tesseract* and let it shine for the world to see,” she said.

### Triple Split Sessions

After the heavy and crowded opening session, the participants went to their respective room and building assignments for their counseling

sessions, college assemblies, and small group discussions that lasted until the second day.

The counseling sessions held in the classrooms were meant to help the new students survive university life. Facilitated by the Guidance and Counseling Office, the sessions included workshops to help students understand their study strengths and weaknesses, and their learning styles and habits. They were also asked the questions: “What do you consider to be your concerns that will probably affect your studies?” and “What are your resources in addressing your concerns or that could help you address your list of concerns”?

Also held in the university classrooms were the small group discussions facilitated by student volunteers. Here happened the distribution of the College Student Handbook



The highlight of the games was the ORSEMvivor, which measured both the mental and physical competence of the freshmen. There were nine tough challenges that each group had to overcome. One of the most challenging was the “Egg-a-Chute,” in which each group had to parachute an egg safely from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Engineering building to the ground floor using only the materials provided.

Alternatively, those with artistic inclinations joined the all-time ORSEM favorite, “Chalk It Up!” where they decorated the university main lane with their chalk art. One student drew in big colorful letters the words “Goodbye High School, Welcome College!”

Apart from the games, the last day of the ORSEM also accommodated the organization tour designed for the freshmen to get acquainted with the co-curricular and extracurricular organizations in the university. Organization members set up eye-catching booths around the campus to attract the new students into their fold.

### A night of music and dance

After three days of discussions, activities and getting-to-know-you encounters, the freshmen and some upperclass students gathered in the gym to witness the talent exposition and culminating event, ORSEM Night.

The gymnasium reverberated with applauses and loud voices as students let out cheers for their

respective colleges. More than twenty performers, both solo and group, participated in the talent expo. Extra-curricular organizations also performed song and dance numbers. The program was also dotted with gags and funny skits such as the Android mascot.

Toward the end of the show, representatives from the various colleges came together for the unity dance. They showed that college is not purely about academics but is also about discovering one’s talent, and nurturing and sharing it. □

*ORSEM 2012 owes its success to the Student Activities and Leadership Development department of the Office of Student Affairs, the Central Student Government, the college councils, and student volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure that our first year students receive the warmest welcome. Thanks, too, to the event partners: Drop Zone Sky Swing, Zip Zone Dahilayan Adventure Park, Pine Grove Mountain Lodge, and Smart for giving away school supplies and kits to the freshmen. XU is also very thankful to Brat Pack, Jansport, Get Blued, Slers Quality Foods, Big Flat Bread and Legacy Sales and Printing Press.*







## XU hands over 500 chairs to Lumbia Central School

by Xyla Mercedita Gualberto

Xavier University donated 500 plastic chairs with armrest to the Lumbia Central School Southwest District. The chairs were turned over on June 25 at the school's covered courts by Roel Ravanera, chair of the XU Lumbia Resettlement Project.

"I cannot explain in words how happy I am," said Dr Daisy Lu, Master Teacher II, as she, together with some of her pupils, received the chairs.

The giving of chairs is XU's response to the shortage of classroom facilities at Lumbia Central School due to the influx of new enrollees. A large number of these enrollees are from Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement site for 500 households affected by Sendong.

This school year, there are more than 800 new enrollees at Lumbia Central School, the highest

number the school has ever had. The teachers admit not having anticipated the sudden surge of new students. They are holding emergency classes which start as early as 6 am and some lasting up to 6 pm.

Right now, there are as many as 70 students per class, with nine new sections added in the grade levels. The existing classrooms have become insufficient for the current number of students so even the school library is being used as a classroom. Lumbia Central School is in need of more classrooms to facilitate and ensure the quality of learning and the comfort of its students. □



## FTC conducts trainings for women Sendong survivors, micro-enterprises in Caraga

by Sylvia Aguhob

The Food Technology Center (FTC) conducted a series of trainings in food processing for Sendong survivors in Cagayan de Oro and for microenterprises in Butuan City and Agusan del Norte.

Selected women Sendong survivors residing in temporary shelters in Indahag Camp 1, Indahag (Lombay), Mandumol, Agusan and Tablon were trained in fish processing, jams, snack foods, salabat and other products from May 25-June 8, 2012.

The project aimed to provide livelihood to interested Sendong survivors through casual employment or through the establishment of their own small businesses. The women, 24 of them, will also be tapped as workers for future production activities of the FTC.

The project was implemented by FTC in partnership with the Congressional Office of Rep Rufus Rodriguez, with

P450,000 in funding from The Philippine Band of Mercy. The project was called "Support for Microenterprises in Cagayan de Oro City and Its Environs."

Under the Rural Microenterprise Promotion Program of the Department of Trade and Industry Caraga Region, FTC also implemented a series of capability enhancement trainings on food processing for microenterprises in Butuan City and Agusan del Norte from February last year to May this year.

Two trainings were conducted on Good Manufacturing Practices and Hazard Critical Control Points in Butuan City and two trainings were on Shelf-life Enhancement and Packaging conducted at the Food Technology Center in the Manresa Campus. Close to 90 microenterprises attended the trainings. FTC trainers also visited the participants during consultations and food clinics, as part of the program's follow through activities. □

## Ateneo libraries form consortium

Librarians and Information Technology officers of the Ateneo de Davao, Ateneo de Manila, Ateneo de Naga, Ateneo de Zamboanga and Xavier University spearheaded the formation of a consortium of Ateneo libraries.

The newly-established network will facilitate the sharing of digital resources and the Online Public Access Catalog, training of personnel, document delivery services and interlibrary loan services. Through the consortium, university students and personnel will be given access to a wider range of information sources.

Member libraries are scheduled to meet every quarter. □

## Sophia-at-Xavier alumni raise money for Operation: Tabang Sendong



Alumni of Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan who participated in the Sophia-at-Xavier program have raised close to **¥2 million** for Typhoon Sendong survivors.

Fr Roberto Yap SJ, XU president, received the equivalent amount of P909,774. He said that 50% of the gift will go to the Infrastructure Fund of Xavier Ecoville, the resettlement project of XU with the local government of Cagayan de Oro, while the other 50% will be given as grants-in-aid to XU students affected by Typhoon Sendong.

### The Sophia-at-Xavier program

Sophia-at-Xavier was a biennial cultural program between students from Sophia University and Xavier University. It ran for more than two decades.

Fr Francis Mathy SJ, professor emeritus at Sophia University, accompanied a group of Sophia University students to the Philippines in 1972 for

a cultural exchange program between Sophia University and Ateneo de Manila University-Maryknoll College (now Miriam College). The program took them to various Philippine cities, including Cagayan de Oro, where they met XU students. When XU students, particularly members of the Daratu An Dance Troupe, visited Japan that summer, they were able to perform in various Japanese cities with the help of Fr Mathy. Sophia students guided the XU students around Tokyo, and the students from both universities became very good friends hence. The following year, when Fr Mathy taught many of the same students who had acted as guides for the XU students, they unanimously agreed that they would visit Cagayan de Oro and XU again.

The first batch of Sophia-at-Xavier participants came in 1974, and subsequently every other year until 2000. They stayed with foster families and were each paired with two XU students who showed them around the campus and the city. From the first batch of 25

students, the program went on to accommodate 14 batches and a total of 275 participants.

### Help for CDO

The Sophia-at-Xavier program left a lasting impact on the participants, particularly members of the 1974 group. During their reunion in 2006 at Sophia University, all but five members attended, with some of them traveling long distances just to be present.

"Many of those who participated in Fr Mathy's program had wonderful and precious experiences that can never be bought by cash, learned something important about their life during their stay in CDO, and have been thankful for the love and friendship shown to them," related Mariko Tadokoro, who was part of the first and second batches of students to participate in the program. She shared that one of the members of the first batch fell in love with a Kagay-anon and married her during the visit of the second batch.

When the members heard

about what had happened in Cagayan de Oro in December, they immediately thought of extending assistance.

"Hearing the news about the overwhelming disaster left a lasting impact on the participants, particularly members of the 1974 group. During their reunion in 2006 at Sophia University, all but five members attended, with some of them traveling long distances just to be present."

The devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown Japan experienced last year which affected some of the alumni of Sophia-at-Xavier did not deter the group from still reaching out to their brothers and sisters in Cagayan de Oro.

Together, they raised **¥1,777,000**. Tadokoro said that they are still trying to get in touch with other Sophia-at-Xavier alumni to ask for their help. □

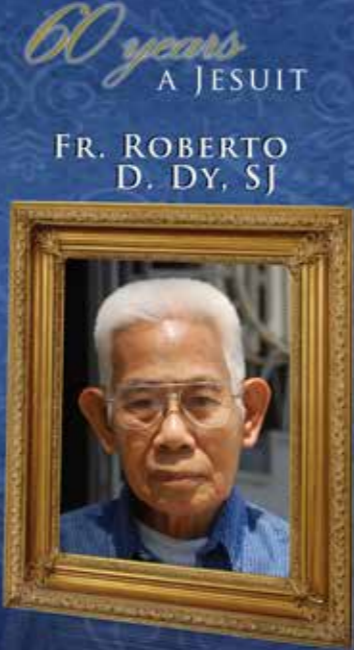


# CELEBRATING JOYFUL YEARS OF SERVICE TO GOD AND TO HIS CHURCH

60 years A PRIEST  
FR. ESTANISLAO A. LAGUTIN, SJ



50 years A PRIEST  
FR. RODOLFO V. FERNANDEZ, SJ



60 years A JESUIT  
FR. ROBERTO D. DY, SJ



50 years A JESUIT  
FR. LEO C. PABAYO, SJ

## 50 and 60 years in Joyful Service to God and to His

Four Jesuit priests of Xavier University celebrate their Jubilee this year, 2012. They are **Fr Estanislao A Lagutin**, 60 years a priest, **Fr Rudy V Fernandez**, 50 years a priest, **Fr Roberto D Dy**, 60 years a Jesuit, and **Fr Leo C Pabayo**, 50 years a Jesuit. Their combined number of years of dedicated service to God and to His Church as priests and as Jesuits is 220 years! In their celebration of thanksgiving, they are joined by all the Jesuits of the Philippine Province, by their families, relatives, friends, and many lay work collaborators. Their many years of enduring service to various groups and communities

are clear signs of God's faithfulness to them and to His people. Our Jubilarians are God's gifts to the Jesuit Order. They are also His gifts to the Church, to His own people. At the Holy Mass, they offer their thanksgiving to God in union with Jesus Christ and with all of us who celebrate with them. The tribute and festivity prepared for them signify that the celebration is ours too. For our Jubilarians do not belong only to themselves neither to the Jesuits alone but to the Church and the community of people they have loved and served so well.

*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!*

### 60 years a Priest

**Fr Estanislao Acaylar Lagutin SJ** – (92 years old) born on November 13, 1919 and grew up in Dapitan City. He went to San Jose Seminary (run by the Jesuits) for his secondary and tertiary studies. He entered the Jesuits in 1930, was ordained a priest in 1952 in Woodstock College, Maryland, USA, and pronounced his final vows in Ipil, Sibugay in 1978. He was for many years assigned as parish priest in the Jesuit mission areas in Mindanao. He also took up other assignments and ministries as Rector of San Jose de Mindanao; Spiritual Director of



Davao Regional Major Seminary and of St. Mary's Theologate in Ozamis City, school director in Culion, and as Spiritual Director of the Jesuit Retreat House in Malaybalay City. Presently, Fr Estan lives with the Jesuit Community of Xavier University where he continues to do his mission of praying for the Church and the Society and to witness Christ's love through his quiet edifying

presence in the community. Fr Estan, to many parishioners, friends, relatives, and to Jesuits, is a priest of commendable humility, obedience, simplicity, and availability. In 2008, Xavier University awarded him the Archbishop Santiago Hayes SJ Award for his long and enduring service to the Church of Mindanao.

### 50 years a Priest

**Fr Rodolfo Venturillo Fernandez SJ** (82 years old) was born on September 15, 1929 in Culion, Palawan. Growing up in a Jesuit mission territory was an influential factor in his joining the Jesuits. As a young boy, he spent a lot of time with the Jesuit missionaries assigned in his hometown. Such exposure developed in him the desire to be a priest and he finally entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1946. He got his AB in Philosophy from Berchmans' College, Lahug, Cebu City. He was assigned to teach at the ADMU High School but, after a year, he went to Japan as the first Filipino Jesuit missionary to a foreign country. Japan became home to him for 44 years (1955-1999). Aside from being an excellent teacher to high school boys and girls, he was also a competent basketball coach. He was ordained a priest in 1962 in Taipei, Taiwan and took his final vows in 1964 at Nagasaki, Japan. When he returned to the Philippines in 1999, he was assigned as a spiritual director and community animation coordinator at the East Asian



Pastoral Institute (EAPI) at the ADMU campus for six years, then appointed as chaplain of the Ateneo High School. In 2010, he came to Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City for pastoral and campus ministry work. At present, he is the chaplain of the Xavier University High School, forming young boys and girls through his great wit and holy presence. With his inspiring

homilies and moving spiritual conversations, Fr Rudy never fails to enlighten and encourage his listeners to work for the greater glory of God. His simplicity and friendliness make him much loved by many at XU.

### 60 years a Jesuit

**Fr Roberto Danoy Dy SJ** – (81 years old) – born on February 21, 1931 in Bacolod City and grew up in Cagayan de Oro City. His association with the Jesuits began early as a pupil in Ateneo de Cagayan Grade School until his first year in college. He finished his AB and MA Philosophy at Berchmans College, Cebu City, his Bachelor and Licentiate in Theology at Woodstock College, Maryland, USA, and was ordained to priesthood at Fordham University, New York, USA. He took his final vows in Malaybalay City in 1975. Fr Bert has an MS in



Library Science from Columbia University, New York, USA. As a priest, he was assigned to the Ateneo de Zamboanga, Ateneo de Davao, Bukidnon Mission District, and, at present, here at Xavier University in various ministries as high school principal, library director, teacher, spiritual father, and parish priest (for 18 years in Talakag Bukidnon). He also took up several assignments in different Jesuit houses as treasurer, sub-minister, in-charge of workers, house historian, and librarian. Fr Bert believes that effective learning is through tough training and formation, thus discipline is a key factor. His preaching is fiery and repetitive sometimes but it bears a heart that is

compassionate for the street children and many poor people. His other passion is to protect and take care of animals. His new interest is to crusade

in his own simple ways for the protection of our natural environment.

### 50 years a Jesuit

**Fr Leo Crespo Pabayo SJ** (73 years old) was born on March 22, 1939 in Cagayan de Oro City as the youngest of five children. Having been brought up in a religious and prayerful family and with his exposure to the Jesuits in Cagayan de Oro, Fr Leo developed the earnest desire to be a priest. He entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1962 and was



ordained a priest in 1972 at the Cagayan de Oro Cathedral by Abp Patrick H Cronin DD. He took his final vows as a Jesuit in 1987 at Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City. Fr Leo was assigned to Our Lady of Peace Parish, Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur as parish priest, school director, and spiritual director to different religious groups. He then taught at the Ateneo de Zamboanga (ADZU) as a Theology and Religion teacher. After his stint at the ADZU, he was assigned as Assistant Parish Priest at the Parokya ng San Jose Manggagawa in Tañong, Marikina, Metro Manila and at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convento, Buug, Zamboanga del Sur. From 1989 to the present, he has been at the Xavier University Grade School, as principal for eight years then as chaplain. Fr Leo is much appreciated by the Grade School kids, the teachers, and the parents for his fatherly love and for his innovative ways of presenting the Gospel to them, and for his remarkable care for the poor. He has a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He has touched the lives of many people through his works, done with love and deep concern. □





# Service-Learning Program: Merging Academics and Community Service

by Darlene Jane Wabe

Step into Xavier University and ask the students what XU teaches them to become and they will tell you, instantly, “To be men and women for others.” These words of Fr Pedro Arrupe reverberate in their heads. This is, after all, the primary goal of Jesuit education. Ateneans must not only be competent in their chosen fields, they must also be conscientious and committed to serve the Church and the Filipino people, especially the poor and the marginalized.

As a Jesuit institution, Xavier University has provided the scaffolding to enable students to build the character to become just that, men and women for others, through the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagkabana - Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO), which is involved in the social formation of the XU community. One of its projects, the Service-Learning Program (SLP), provides students and faculty members the chance to work in the field, blurring the divide between knowledge gathering and knowledge application.

KKP Director Ermin Stan Pimentel says that the research and fieldwork outcomes of SLP are utilized to initiate social change aligned to the University’s research and social outreach foci of Food Security, Health, Environmental Care, Governance and Peace. Before it was formally launched as SLP, the principle of “learning by doing” was manifested through *dialogue education*. Participants were mostly volunteers – students and faculty members who were working on their Thesis or Final Year Projects –invited by KKP to use their expertise for community development.





In return, KKP assisted them in coordinating with local government units (LGUs) and through resource sharing. 25 years of KKP is the groundwork of the current SLP. All the experience and partnerships built over the years have helped make

it successful. Now, it is a “structured, instructive and curriculum-based community involvement” for XU students and faculty members that aims to provide community service at the frontiers.

**The SLP experience**

SLP is only three years old. I was among the first batch of students who participated in the program in 2009. It was integrated in the BS Chemistry curriculum as a requirement to pass our On-the-Job-

Training (OJT). Together with Arniel Daluz of KKP, and Faustino Tarongoy and Gerry Vallente of the Chemistry Department, we met with the LGUs and eschewed relaxing on Saturdays to go to Macajalar Bay. Teams from Marine Biology also worked with us. The municipality of Jasaan provided the boats that we needed to go out into the ocean while we brought our own glassware and chemicals for on-site sampling and analysis. Gathered samples were also brought to the laboratories of XU and the Department of Science and Technology for further testing. Our aim was to determine the cause of the decline in fish population that was the main source of income for many of the Jasaan residents. We also interviewed the local population about the conditions of their livelihood

and the coastal area. The findings of our research were passed on to the municipality to serve as the bases for policies that would address this community problem.

The SLP experience was not community work nor was it an immersion. Rather, we were researchers whose findings about the water quality of Macajalar Bay would be brought back to the client, which is the community, for their own use. But we were not paid. There is no guaranteed fame or money for those who participate in SLP. The limited budget of KKP, culled from local and foreign grants, is reserved for essential expenses, such as food and transportation. Yet youthful idealism and the desire to help change our communities are strong enough reasons for more students and faculty members to be involved in the program. There is also the realization that learning through service can feed back into the classroom.

We learned about the real world. Its problems, as I and past participants of SLP realized, don't always need hi-tech and expensive solutions. Conversing with the people of the community and pinpointing their needs made us more creative in thinking up ideas that would help them in the long run.

In the first SLP Summit held in March this year,

participants came from Engineering, Business, Computer Studies, Agriculture, and Arts and Sciences – majority of the colleges in the University.

**Achievements of SLP**

Though not national in scale, the SLP has achieved its goal of engaging the XU community, especially the students, in social development. Engr Dexter Lo, director of the Engineering Resource Center (ERC) and an active participant in the SLP, likens what they do in the program to giving water to a thirsty community.

With a holistic approach to solving community problems, SLP brings together different fields of expertise to address current issues in Mindanao. KKP matches the expertise of University departments to the problems of the community.

KKP has partnered with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to aid Mindanaoan farmers. Both parties met recently to discuss the integration of agro-enterprise in the SLP. Present during the roundtable discussion were CRS President Carolyn Woo, Chair of the CRS Board of Directors Bishop Gerald Frederick Kicanas, CRS Board of Trustee Fr Augustus Belauskas, Asia Regional Director Greg Auberry, Philippines Country



Representative Joe Curry, and Cagayan de Oro Head of Office Elizabeth Tromans, among others. CRS lauded the inter-disciplinary approach used in the SLP.

In a project with farmers, Engineering students led by Engr Lo have produced a comprehensive site development plan for 50 hectares of farmland in Sumilao, including plans for a Road Network, Irrigation and Housing. They have also designed a rain shelter

and prepared a Manual for Water Impounding for onion farmers in Bukidnon.

Business students worked with Sumilao farmers to help them attain financial self-sufficiency. The students conducted feasibility studies and set up an accounting system for them. Computer Studies students, meanwhile, taught the farmers the use of GIS and other computer systems for price monitoring of agricultural commodities.





The Mckeough Marine Center, Biology and Chemistry departments, in tandem with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and LGUs, are active in monitoring the water quality of the coastal communities of Misamis Oriental and in assessing the ridge-river-reef profile of the Cagayan River basin for Watershed Management.

The Food Technology department has started a nutritional assessment in Upper Palalan. It will be extended to the rest of the Lumbia communities, including Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement project for Sendong survivors. ERC and the School of Business and Management will also work with them in developing the housing site.

Sendong's aftermath has also affected the SLP. Gears are now in motion for a more intensive approach to Disaster

Risk Reduction. Flood mapping and the creation of Early Warning Devices will be done by the Engineering department through ERC. Aside from the work of ERC, the researches of departments such as Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology are also instrumental in fulfilling community needs. The findings of Derek Pimentel's students in their Philosophical Research subject, for example, have helped in understanding the people and governance of Sitio Cala-Cala, one of the areas ravaged by the 2009 flood and Sendong, in relation to Disaster Risk Assessment. It is hoped that similar researches will be done in other disaster-prone areas in the vicinity of Cagayan de Oro.

The Service Learning Summit underlined a distinct characteristic of SLP: the communities are not just a laboratory to apply theory, but are partners in development.

### SLP and Curriculum Integration

In some cases, integrating SLP into the curriculum is a complex process. There are some who misinterpret it as another community service program. The nature of the work involve may also not be for everyone as it is time-consuming.

These issues are some of the main reasons why the National Service Training Program (NSTP) is now required in a student's sophomore year. As observed, students who have experienced the NSTP are more open to SLP. KKP aims to ladderize the NSTP, the PERSON (Philosophical Enrichment and Regeneration for Social Orientation and Networking) Program and SLP so that the resulting XU graduate will be imbued with awareness of social responsibility. KKP is also encouraging faculty members who are completing their graduate studies to participate in the program.

Tying up SLP with the academic curriculum serves to balance contemplation and action. Students are challenged to take on real world problems and are encouraged to imagine creative solutions. Time will come when community projects will no longer be viewed as auxiliary, but as core components of a student's undergraduate education. Al Ron John, a graduate of BS Biology, referred to his research study as a "passport for graduation," but it is humbly offered as a "little help to the community." Civil Engineering graduate Danniele calls SLP a "humbling experience," meeting real people with real problems. Students are beginning to come to understand the principle of "learning by doing." They now realize that making an impact starts even before they get their college diplomas. □



### CS, IS students to work on MIS for Xavier Ecoville

About 150 senior Computer Science and sophomore Information Systems students taking up Systems Analysis and Design sat in a discussion on creating a Management Information System (MIS) as part of their class project for Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement community for Sendong survivors.

Xavier Ecoville Camp Manager Iris Montellano updated the students on the progress of Xavier Ecoville and shared that there is a pressing need for a computerized information system for Xavier Ecoville residents. She said that although the Camp Management Team has profiled the beneficiaries, what's most important now in data management is process automation. The MIS to be developed must be able to accommodate data on socio-economic, educational, and medical/dental profiles of the residents, which are needed by the various clusters working on livelihood and health at Ecoville.



To give the students a background on the importance of having an MIS in disaster management, CS faculty member Paulo Gener talked about the Tabang Sendong (now Beyond Sendong) website. Gener led the team of developers who launched the online database for the relief operations conducted by Xavier University immediately after Typhoon Sendong.

"The Tabang Sendong website was instrumental in bringing XU's "Operaton: Tabang Sendong" to a larger, wider scale in terms of visibility and mobility," said Gener.

From a modest webpage, the site soon emerged as an essential component in the whole operation. It was able to document the process from the receiving of donations down to the deployment of assistance to various affected areas and evacuation centers. It became a primary source of information

"Initially, the purpose of the website was just to post basic information like where to go, how to give and what is happening," Gener said. But, after

a few days, the website evolved into something more comprehensive, containing a search engine for Sendong survivors, an updated list of in-kind and cash donations, a donors' list, a list of areas served by the relief operations, and a photo gallery.

The site became a primary source of information for people seeking updates on the relief and rebuilding efforts. The website also helped generate funds (P79M to date). To ensure transparency, a Financial Report section has also been added to the site.

Tabang Sendong was developed using the System Development Life Cycle (SDLC), a model used by system developers in software development. It includes planning, analysis, design and implementation of Information Systems.

The students are expected to implement various systems using SDLC to address the information system needs of Xavier Ecoville toward the end of the semester. □



### CCS holds scholars assembly

The College of Computer Studies (CCS) held its first college-initiated scholars orientation and General Assembly at AVR-5, SBM Bldg. It was attended by at least 60 scholars, the Computer Science Chair Meldie A Apag, Information Systems Chair Joseph Antonio S Sabal, CCS faculty members Paulo B Gener and Sheryl Mae C Jagonia, and CCS Academic Coordinator Heidi O Jaquilmac.

**Matters of the heart.** The heart of the gathering was the life story of XU scholar Rhea Suzette Mocerro, now a CS Instructor. She shared about her personal triumphs and difficulties in keeping her scholarship grant as she was finishing her degree in Computer Science.

Mocerro narrated that she had always dreamt of studying at Xavier even when she knew that her parents, who were humble vendors in



Cogon Market, couldn't send her to a private university. Nevertheless, it was through hard work, persistence and utmost care of her scholarship opportunity that she was able to fulfil her dream. She also shared that it was her sheer determination and absolute faith in herself and in God that helped her hold onto her scholarship.

From being a scholar grappling with a daily allowance of P20.00 (in the early to mid 2000's), she is now a faculty member of the Computer Science department, inspiring students not just with her knowledge but with her personal story of success.

**An Engagement of the mind.** Being a scholar is not easy. Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid Director Cecilia Japitana reminded the scholars of their roles and responsibilities in sustaining their scholarship grants. She also stressed on the consequences they face if they fail to maintain the needed QPI to retain their scholarships.

At the end, she enjoined the scholars to continue the tradition of magis and the value of "Paying It Forward" after graduating from XU. □



# THE FIRST SKETCHES:

from day one to year five of XCCA's journey

by Hobart P Savior



*First of two parts*

In 2007, then University President Fr Jose Ramon T Villarin SJ tasked Fr Noel Bava SJ (Brother Weng Bava then) to consolidate the culture and arts efforts of Xavier University. That year was my second school year with the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (IIT) as a faculty member teaching Literature, Language and The Humanities. I met Fr Bava at the National Arts Month Mindanao opening conference for the National Artist Alejandro Roces at Capitol University where I performed “Of Cocks and Roces” with the Integrated Performing Arts Guild (IPAG).

Months after that meeting, I began communicating with Fr Bava for Red Lambago Arts Collective, asking for XU's support to allow us to hold exhibits and other projects. I also submitted a production proposal of IPAG's Ming Ming, which was accepted. Thus, I was able to perform as an actor at XU. Right after the Ming Ming production, I got the invitation to apply as Director of the XU Culture and Arts Office.

After months of waiting, I finally made it to the 'top 3' among more or less twenty applicants. I was in Manila when I received a phone call about my scheduled interview that same afternoon, which I had to request to be rescheduled for 3 pm the following day. I arrived

in CDO past 1 pm and, after quick preparations, went to the Office of Mission and Ministry for the interview conducted by Fr Asandas Balchand SJ (then VP of OMM), administrators Dr Hortelano, Dr Mendoza, Atty Royo-Fay and the artist Nonoy Estarte. They asked me questions like what kind of art I know, and my work/career history. But there was one question I was not able to answer: *If you were to present a program now, what culture and art program do you have planned for Xavier?* I answered humbly, “If I am going to give you a program now, it will be a lame one.” After having said that, I felt I wouldn't get the job.

I left the campus reflecting on my answers and took my ride

back to Iligan City. But before I even got my bus ticket, I received the good news via text message. I was going to work with Xavier as the director of the Culture and Arts Office. It was Sunday then.

June 12, 2008, Philippine Independence Day, was my first day of work at XU. The university was busy with its Independence Day celebration. I watched the wonderful presentations from the various performing arts groups: XU Glee Club, XU Cultural Dance Troupe and Dulaang Atenista. So I said to myself, ‘This was not going to be difficult. Xavier has what I need to start with.’

After the program, Dr Cora Mendoza, then HR Director, introduced me to the key

officials in the university. Then I went back to my office and started sorting things out and organizing my thoughts, skills, etc. I met Marlowe Chan who became my technical director and I hired my secretary Jam Oblina the following day. For one school year, there were just the three of us. Both of them helped me slowly construct, deconstruct and reconstruct the Office.

Since our Office is for culture and the arts, it had to have a venue. The Little Theater was turned over to us, and we've since been taking charge of bookings. There was no booking form at that time, so most of the LT users had to write me a letter. One day, someone wrote me with the

address Bro Hobart Savior. I thought that perhaps it was because I succeeded Fr Bava that somebody had mistaken me for a Jesuit. However, another letter was sent to me weeks after, and this time it was addressed to Fr Hobart Savior. The very next day, Fr Balchand asked me to read “**Ignatian Humanism.**”

**Meeting the president...**

I did not have the pleasure of meeting Fr JVillarin until several months after when Dr Mendoza told me that he had asked for me. I decided to present to the president the Culture and the Arts Office's initial vision, mission and objectives.

Fr Villarin asked about me and how I was getting along

at Xavier so far. I told him how happy I was to have been given the chance to serve Xavier. I told him that if only my parent was able to afford an Ateneo education, I would have gladly graduated from XU. I told him that working at XU though is the next best thing to graduating from the school.

Then he asked about my plans, so I presented the draft VMO. He suggested that I first listen to and identify the needs of the Xavier community before I draft the vision for the Office. He advised me to be familiar with Xavier so I could get the support and recognition of the community.

I recalled that my Linguistics professor at IIT, Dr Luvisminda

de la Cruz – Cagas, has advised that I should read up on the Jesuits and the Ateneo education, and get to know the Ignatian paradigm or ideology.

**The birth of the programs**

I called up a meeting with my small staff, both XU grads, to level off expectations, to define the Office's work scope, to formulate the correct job descriptions, and to draw out suggestions on programs we should introduce to the community. We put on the table all ideas we got from our research, phone calls and consultations with selected personalities and students from Xavier, and from other institutions such as Capitol University, MSU-IIT, IPAG,





the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

We eventually came up with five priority programs on which to anchor all our Office's activities and projects. These programs are: Artistic Excellence and Production; Cultural Education; Culture and Development; Culture and Arts Research, Documentation and Publication; and Culture and Arts Support Service. We presented these to various offices in the University including the performing arts student organizations, the Office of Student Affairs and the Central Student Government, among others.

Since the Office is part of the Office of Mission and Ministry

(OMM), we also anchored efforts on student, faculty and staff formation. Our Artistic Excellence, and Production and Cultural Education programs are meant to be formative. We also made sure that our efforts, strategies, production and implementation on culture and arts (both Filipino and Foreign, traditional and contemporary) were in support of the formation agenda of the OMM.

After two years, the Xavier University Culture and Arts Office (XU- CAO) had established its function in the university. We devoted our energies to accomplishing tasks related to artistic programming, artistic direction and arts management, and organizing cultural education lecture series, seminars and symposia.

The XU-CAO was able to establish projects that have become institutional and have gained national recognition, such as "Artekultura," art lecture series and practice presentation; "Yamug: Mindanao Folk Literature Conference and Indigenous People's Month Celebration"; "Sulat Dula," a play writing workshop in Northern Mindanao; "CINEMAGIS: Digital Short Film Festival"; "Panaghugpong – Xavier Arts Festival"; "Kabuwadan," a National Heritage Month and International Museum Day Celebration, among others. All have been supported by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and other XU and external partners. The Office was involved in

major events in the university such as the Xavier University Festival Days (the opening program of which I have been directing since 2008), the Feast of St Ignatius program, the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the return of the Jesuits to the Philippines, and many others.

We had done what Fr Jett challenged us to do: gain the trust and support of the university community. □

*Mr Hobart Savior is director of Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts (XCCA). He writes this article in celebration of the 5th year of XCCA and in hopes that readers will have a better appreciation of the functions and role of culture and the arts in the university.*



# Pioneering batch of XU JPRSM celebrates Silver Jubilee

by Dr Myra Peralta

The pioneering batch of the Dr Jose P Rizal School of Medicine (JPRSM) at Xavier University will mark the 25th year since their graduation with a special gathering on July 27-29. The theme of the occasion is "Celebrating 25 years of excellence, professionalism and service."

JPRSM founder Fr Ernesto O Javier SJ will keynote the event. Among the activities lined up include tree planting and immunization drive, scientific sessions, fun run and fellowship.

"The fact remains that integral to our vision, mission and core values is the acceptance of the responsibility for upholding the standards of academic competence, individual integrity and utmost professionalism," said Dr Jana Joy R Tusalem, the overall chair of the silver jubilee celebration, in her letter to the alumni.

The event hopes to foster unity and camaraderie, and, most importantly, strengthen the core values of the JPRSM alumni. It is also hoped that the silver jubilee celebration will jumpstart what will become a yearly event for the School of Medicine. □

# DevCom alumnus gets byline in The New York Times



Having written for Business World, the Doha Centre for Media Freedom, and various websites and blogs, Al Gerard de la Cruz can now add The New York Times to his impressive resume of published works.

Gerard, a graduate of Xavier University where he majored in development journalism in 2009, recently had his article about the blossoming of upscale subdivisions in Bukidnon published in the Great Homes and Destinations section of the award-winning American daily newspaper.

This good news came on the heels of Gerard being chosen as a writing fellow for the 11th Ateneo National Writers Workshop this May at the Ateneo de Manila University. He will participate in the English short story category together with another XU alumnus, Eric John Villena.

As a student, Gerard was an associate features editor of The Crusader Publication, XU's official student paper. He was also shortlisted in the Philippine Speculative Fiction 5 anthology of short stories.

You can read Gerard's article titled, "A Retirement Haven in the Philippines" on the New York Times website NYTimes.com. □







# A promising peace advocate

by Stephen Pedroza



**R**idwan Landasan is not your average youth. Born without privilege in a small island in Sulu, he is hardworking, determined and down-to-earth. He had been a two-time exchange student, first in high school then in college where he studied at the University of Mississippi under the Global UGrad Exchange Program, before graduating *cum laude* in AB International Studies at Xavier University. His great ambition is to serve as cultural attaché at the Philippine Embassy in the US.

By all accounts, Ridwan has every right to aspire big and we have reason to believe he has what it takes to make it. As a student, he was (and still is) active in promoting inter-religious dialogue. Just last year, he received two national awards, the Makabagong Rizal: Pag-asa ng Bayan Award from the Philippine Center for Gifted Education and the National Historical Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Dangal ng Bayan for Outstanding Filipino Achievers Award (Young Professionals Category) conferred by the National Consumers Affairs Foundation.

A year later, Ridwan has gone from national to Asia-Pacific. He was named the 2012 Asian Achiever in the Academic and Civic Young Professional category. The award, also known as the Asia-Pacific Excellence Tribute, recognizes world-class achievers in Public & Humanitarian Service, Education, Arts & Entertainment, Sports, Civic

& Humanitarian Service and other professional fields. His latest achievement is being a finalist in the 2012 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines.

“I feel blessed, honored and challenged,” shared Ridwan who will be pursuing his master’s degree in International Relations in Turkey.

“[I feel] Blessed because it is a gift from God, a reward for my hard work not just in my academics but most especially in promoting peace through interfaith and intercultural dialogues.

In May, Ridwan attended the Initiative for Peace: Focus in Mindanao Conference at the Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong where he met young Filipinos like him committed to building concrete and permanent peace in Mindanao.

“Personally, I think the situation in Mindanao is not

as bad as what’s portrayed in the media,” he said. “The relationship between Christians, Muslims and Lumads is getting better.”

He believes that the continuous efforts of religious and non-government organizations, including those from outside the country, have been helpful in the peace process. He’s observed, though, that many Filipinos don’t know much about the peace talks between the government and the MILF/MNLF.

“The general public is not aware of what is going on. It has resulted to apathy on the part of the people, especially [those] from Mindanao,” he said.

The young peace advocate is already looking forward to the Mindanao Week of Peace in November, when he will be launching the “Mindanao PEACEtival,” a project that promotes peace education. To help him successfully



implement his project, he is currently at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, USA for the Global Village 2012, a six-week applied leadership and cross cultural training program. After that, he will be joining the delegation of the 2012 Ship for South East Asia Youth Program, another leadership and cross cultural event that will cruise to member-countries of the ASEAN.

Ridwan recognizes that, at 22, he still has a lot to learn, but he’s also picked up important lessons along his journey. He reflects that one should not plunge into leadership without discernment, and no matter the accolades, one should remain “simple and polite.” People in the University, perhaps, best know Ridwan for the various times he’s made Xavier proud. But it is his humility that has earned him the admiration and respect of everyone in his community. □



## Arnis coach wins 3<sup>rd</sup> place in World Eskrima-Arnis championship

by Vincent Ll. Padilla

Xavier University arnis coach Lino B Baba Sr competed and won in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Eskrima-Arnis competition held in Cebu City from June 6-10. Baban placed third in the Light-Heavy Weight category (90 kg and above) Masters Division. The competition serves as the 1<sup>st</sup> qualifying round for the World Eskrima Kali Arnis Championship to be held in Disneyland, USA next year.

Baban has been coaching the Xavier University Arnis Teams of the grade school and high school for 12 years. □

## College basketball men’s team holds tree planting activity

by Vincent Ll Padilla

The College Basketball Men’s Team, in cooperation with Global Chips, conducted a Grow-a-Tree Activity in Upper Canitoan, Tambo (Macasandig) and Lower Balulang from June 15-17.

With coach Arvin Martinez, University Athletics Director Eliodoro Fernal, his assistant Vincent Padilla and Assistant Basketball Coach Diomedes Caño, the team planted 100 Mahogany trees around the vicinity of the St Francis Xavier Chapel in Pueblo de Oro; 50 Mahogany, 50 African Talisay and 50 Giant Bamboo seedlings at Tambo, Macasandig; and 250 seedlings of Giant Bamboo along the river banks of Carmen River in Balulang.

Global Chips, through its owner William Malagar and father of one of the team’s players, Neil Malagar, provided the seedlings and other materials used. The Barangay Council of Balulang headed by Barangay Captain Jay Acaylar also assisted the team in its tree planting activity. □



# THE SEARCH IS ON

## THE SEARCH FOR 2012 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI IS ON

The Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan Alumni Association (XU-AAA) seeks nominations of XU graduates for the 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award. The recognition will be awarded to candidates who have distinguished themselves by obtaining the highest level of professional competence and accomplishments and who possess the highest standards of integrity and probity to positively reflect the ideals of Xavier University as a Jesuit Catholic and Filipino university.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

The Awards are given in the following categories namely:

- **Professional Service** (*excels in the following professional fields: Education, Health/Medicine, Business, Arts and Science, Agriculture, Engineering/Information Technology, and Law*)
- **Community Service** (*excels in the service given by an individual to benefit a community or institution*)
- **Government Service** (*given to distinguished individuals in government service with emphasis on, but not limited to, basic services, good governance, accountability, transparency or ethics*)
- **XU-AAA Service** (*contributes for the greater membership of the XU-Ateneo Alumni Association and to the scholarship fund*)
- **XU-AAA Special Award** (*is given to active or retired XU faculty and staff who in one way or another has served XU and contributed for the benefit of the XU community, students and alumni*)

## ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION

Any grade school, high school, college or graduate school alumnus is eligible for nomination.

### GENERAL CRITERIA

In all of the award categories, the general criteria are as follows:

1. is recognized by peers either locally, nationally or internationally
2. is a role model in professional and personal life
3. has initiated and/or implemented projects or programs that have benefited a large segment of society or community which are of lasting significance and have resulted in changes in current perceptions
4. has given a contribution which is unique and promoted a better understanding in the chosen field of endeavor
5. has exhibited dedicated service to fellow Filipinos

### WHO MAY NOMINATE

Any individual, public or private entity, organization or association may nominate one or more alumni in any category by accomplishing the official nomination forms. Nominated parties will be formally informed of their nomination. The nominees will also be requested to submit pertinent information, documents and requirements. **Nominations are accepted until September 29, 2012.**

Self-nominations are not accepted. Nomination forms are available at the following offices: XU Alumni, Deans of XU schools and colleges, Principals of the

high school and grade school departments. Nominations should be sent to alumni@xu.edu.ph or mailed to The Search & Screening Committee, Alumni Affairs Office, Magis Student Complex, Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro City or fax to (8822) 723116 / (88) 8583116 loc 2041.

### SELECTION PROCESS

The Search and Screening Committee conducts a preliminary selection of the candidates based on the compliance of all the requirements and verification of submitted data. A board of judges consisting of five distinguished citizens of high integrity in society makes the final selection.

### AWARDING CEREMONY

Friday, November 30, 2012, 6:30 PM  
Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan  
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines

## Search for 2012 Outstanding Alumni

**Xavier** magazine  
Ateneo de Cagayan

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