

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

Southern Philippines has been a melting pot of various ethnic cultures even before colonial times. Through all these decades, the Mindanaoans have tried to live peaceably with their neighbors, rising above their differences in order to maintain peace and goodwill. Peace amidst diversity is the theme that weaves together the four major articles in this issue.

Our Guest Editor for this volume, Dr Al Fuertes, comes up with a research article titled “Peacebuilders in Mindanao Describe Consciousness and Reconciliation” wherein he shows how a select group of private citizens morph to become peacebuilders in different communities as they straddle through the tri-people communities of Mindanao, namely: Christian settlers, Muslims and indigenous peoples.

Through ethnographic and archival data, Shiela Tampos from the University of the Philippines Mindanao, tackles the non-killing framework espoused by Glenn Paige and examines how this paradigm can be applied to the revenge killing practices of the Muslims, called *rido* and of the Manobos, referred to as *pangayaw*. In the article, “Peace is not Elusive,” Peter Paul Elicor from Ateneo de Davao University, elucidates Gandhi’s *Satyagraha*, a concept geared towards the achievement of peace and unity in restoring social harmony.

In the fourth article, Dr Mary Rachele Wapaño, gives a synopsis of the services rendered by Xavier University to the survivors of the tropical storm Sendong that devastated Cagayan de Oro City in 2011. The survivors, which represent various ethnic groups in locations primarily hit by the flood, were given psychosocial and mental health care assistance by XU as well as Ateneo de Manila University practitioners and other entities.

Under the Literary Section of this issue, Dr Maria Luisa Saministrado, explores discourses on spirituality using “Gaudium et Spes” of Vatican II as framework on issues on marriage, family, human dignity and self-preservation raised in four Naturalist novels. In “The Flattery of Fates”, Aimee Faunillan analyzes the character of Macbeth and King Lear and ascribes flattery to be the cause of these two kings’ downfall.



Arlene Yandug creatively depicts conflict resolved in a battle in the poem, “Like souls meeting”. In “February in many voices”, the same poet beautifully captures the age-long issue of colonizer exploitation of the indigenous people’s ancestral domain; and, tackling what seems to be a light and mundane topic, Yandug, takes up a relevant socio-economic issue as Filipino women resolve financial dilemmas in “Hummingbird and Skylark”.

Also touching on the theme, peace amidst diversity, seven book reviews are included in this volume. Dr Al Fuertes reviews Paulo Friere’s *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Fuertes adds his own take of the book by applying Friere’s concept to the Philippine context. Dr Linda Burton reviews *Costly Wars, Elusive Peace* by Miriam Coronel Ferrer. This is a collection of materials that document the peace processes which have all taken place in Mindanao.

Christine Gumalal reviews *State of Fear, A Reportage* on human rights in Mindanao during the Arroyo and Aquino regimes. The book is a compilation taken from *Davao Today*. Dr Maria Luisa Samministrado reviews *Nur Misuari: An Authorized Biography* written by Tom Stern.

Tackling some more on the diversity of cultures in Mindanao, Arlene Yandug reviews an illustrated book on *Gugud Mindanao: Tales of Mindanao*, Volume 1 of Museo de Oro. Also an illustrated book, *Historical Folktales* by Fr Francisco Demetrio, is reviewed by Aimee Faunillan.

Finally, *Stories*, the only creative work among the seven books reviewed, is a delightful collection of stories depicting the peculiarity of Filipino life, written by Jose V Ayala and reviewed by Abigail James.

We wish to thank all our contributors for putting in their best effort to refine their articles through the rigorous review process. Likewise, we thank our pool of reviewers who have, through these years, selflessly supported this journal. Special expression of gratitude is given to Dr Al Fuertes, who, in spite of his heavy work load at George Mason University, painstakingly saw through the process of putting together the articles for this issue. We thank the entire Xavier University community, friends and relatives of the late Father Miguel A Bernad, who have continually assisted us in ensuring that his legacy is carried on from one volume to the next.

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Aimee C Faunillan teaches full-time with the English Department of XU. She has a rich experience as an article writer for various websites and has recently successfully defended her thesis on historiographic metafiction for her MA English degree also in XU. She has presented a paper at the 10th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2015.

Christine Faith V Gumalal teaches literature at XU where she is finishing her Master of Arts in English. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City. She has recently been accepted as a fellow for the 55th Silliman University National Writers 2016 Workshop in Dumaguete City.



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Arlene J Yandug teaches English language and literature at Xavier University where she also first served as assistant to the late Fr Miguel A Bernad, SJ, the founding editor of the *Kinaadman Journal*, before taking over as editor. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in English and is finishing her, PhD, in Creative Writing at UP-Diliman. A poet and a short story writer, she has been published in local and national publications.