

Xavier

magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

January - March 2011



Fr Jose Ramon T Villarin, SJ:
God has done well here

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God has done well here
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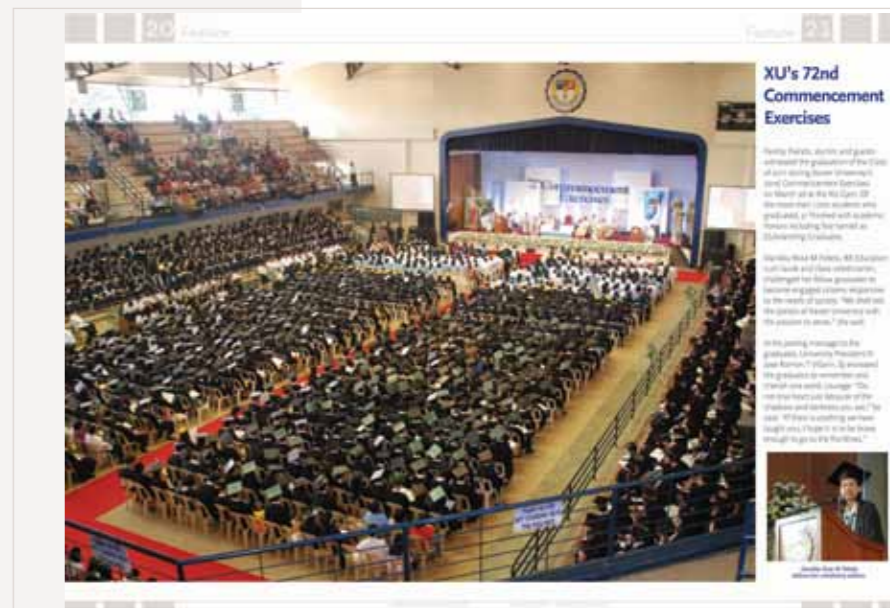
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The New Maria Reyna- Xavier University Hospital

The Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, and Xavier University have joined forces to reinvent the Maria Reyna Hospital into the Maria Reyna-Xavier University Hospital, Inc (MRXUH).

MRXUH will become the base hospital for the XU School of Medicine and the College of Nursing. It will provide residency training programs for the disciplines of Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, and Family Medicine.

A corollary of the partnership is the construction of a two-storey Emergency/ Operating Room complex meant to enable MRXUH to upgrade its basic services and to provide advanced medical services to marginalized patients. It will also serve to improve medical practice and clinical instruction.

The Medical Arts building also broke ground last March 22. The 5-storey building will house specialty centers for the heart, lung, kidney and others. This is intended to provide important specialty health services to the local population.

With the partnership, MRXUH aims to become a distinct institution not only in terms of providing advanced medical services and technology but more importantly, in delivering quality medical care to the people of Cagayan de Oro City and Northern Mindanao in ways that are inspired and deeply rooted in Christian values. □



CIT, ACC build JCA Technology Complex

Xavier University Center for Integrated Technologies (CIT) has partnered with the Asian Carmakers Corporation (ACC) in building the Jose Ch Alvarez (JCA) Technology Complex.

The 72.3 million JCA Technology Complex is being built on a 2.3 hectare lot inside the Manresa Campus. The facilities will span a potential gross floor area of 3,780 square meters. It will house classrooms, laboratories and workshops, a canteen, a library, an auditorium and administration offices.

This partnership with ACC, the official distributor of BMW cars in the Philippines, has opened up opportunities for Xavier students in Automotive Technology to undergo training at different BMW service centers in the country. BMW Asia will also be donating advanced training modules to be incorporated into the curriculum.

"I personally believe in the value of having a good education and I recognize the talent of the Filipino youth and their need for progressive educational institutions," said ACC chairman Jose Alvarez after whom the Center is named. □

13 Law grads pass Bar exam

Thirteen Xavier University College of Law graduates successfully passed the 2010 Bar Examinations, seven of whom are first-time takers. XU earned a passing rate of 26%.

Out of the 4,847 who took the exam nationwide, only 982 passed the test, pegging the national passing average at 20.26%, the second-lowest since 2000. All of the passers scored above 72.5% compared with last year's 71%.

The new lawyers from XU are Charissa Joy C Akut, Eduardo Q. Almirante Jr, Agnes Farida S Bagaforo II-Arellano, Jayfrancis D. Bago, Rhett S. Casino, Gracyl Cristie D Go, Jypsie Rose M Gorra, Jairo M Ladera, Amie Rose L. Onda, Ban Mikhael C Pacuribot, Lordan G Suan, Mariedel P Tambis, and Mark Cyrus C Uno.

They will take oath along with the other passers on April 14, 2011 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

This year's passers are among those who took the Bar exam last September, which became controversial because of a blasting incident that injured about 50 people.

This batch of examinees was also the last to take the traditional essay-writing type of exam. Bar takers this year will answer multiple-choice type of questions in lieu of purely essay questions. □

The building concept incorporates green architecture to provide a more stimulating teaching and learning environment for the students and employees. The eco-friendly design concept of the JCA Technology Complex demonstrates Xavier University's commitment to the environment and to the health and safety of its stakeholders. □

Medicine scores 100% passing rate

The Xavier University Jose P Rizal School

of Medicine logged a 100% passing rate during the Physician Licensure Examination given by the Philippine Board of Medicine in February this year.

All 12 of XU medicine graduates, along with 643 others, passed the test out of 1,230 who took the exam. The national passing average was 53.25%.

"XU is surely making a mark in the health sciences," shared XU President Fr Jose Ramon T Villarin, SJ.

Just in December, the College of Nursing garnered a 98.48% passing rate and ranked number two nationwide.

Based on the performance of schools and number of examinees in this year's



licensure exam, the XU School of Medicine now ranks as the third-best medical school in the country.

The new doctors from XU are Mary Claudette M Abad, Reeshelle R Baviera, Wendell Agustin U Boncato, Joanne M Collera, Aubrey A Encong, Ryan C Lim, Hannah A Mamainte, Abel Santini G Permites, Lathefa L Pescadero, Darel Gresan C Quisil, Cheryl L Villamor and Mel N Waban Jr.

They took their oath as medical doctors on March 14 at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila. □

Xavier University ranks No 2 in nursing board exam

XU garnered a 98.48% passing rate in the Philippine Nursing Licensure Exam given last December 2010, making it the second-best performing school in the nation and the top performing school in Mindanao with 50 or more examinees.

Moreover, two of its graduates, Jessa Lorraine Dejan Andalan and Micaela Orevillo De Guzman placed 5th and 10th respectively (see related story on page 18).

325 out of the 330 takers from XU passed the test. Of the 84,287 who took the test nationwide, only 29,711 passed the examination yielding a national passing rate of 35.25%.

Xavier University has consistently excelled in the licensure exam for nurses. In 2006, XU acquired a passing percentage of 100%. Since then, eight top ten finishers have also been produced and the College of Nursing being ranked among the top 10 nursing schools in the country.

Xavier University - College of Nursing

Track record

with 50 or more examinees nationwide

- No 1 in 2006 (100%)** with a 6th placer
- No 2 in 2007 (98%)** with 6th and 8th placers
- No 1 in 2008 (99%)** with 5th and 9th placers
- No 6 in 2009 (95%)** with an 8th placer
- No 2 in 2010 (98%)** with 5th and 10th placers





Agreement binds XU, Japanese professionals

Xavier University Center for Languages (XUCL), Japan Exchange Technology Foundation Inc. (JETFI) and Kida Management Association (KMA) signed a memorandum of agreement on January 19 to provide 8-week and 16-week courses to Japanese professionals to develop and improve their communication skills in the English language.

“Xavier is better for the Japanese. Even if they do not know the Philippines, they know Xavier,” said Kida Hiroshi of KMA.

Present during the signing of the agreement were XU President Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ, Mr Hiroshi and Mrs. Yuakari Hayashi, JETFI President. The event was witnessed by the XU Academic Vice-president Dr Lina Kwong and facilitated by Mrs. Elizabeth Enerio, director of XUCL. □

Magis Awards celebrate student achievements

Endeavors of students for excellence and service were recognized at the annual Magis Awards, the university's premiere award-giving body for student leaders and student organizations, on March 22 at the XU Covered Courts.

Among the awards given out were Outstanding College Council for the College of Nursing, Outstanding Co-Curricular Organization for the Psychology Society and Outstanding Extra-Curricular Organization for Soundtable. The Fr Francis Demetrio SJ Awards were given to the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants for Campus-Based Project, and The Crusader Publication and STREAMS for School-Based Project.

Ridwan Landasan, International Studies student, received the Dux Gregis Award (Leader of the Flock) for his remarkable efforts at interfaith dialogue, while Ernesto Neri, president of the Central Student Government, won the AMDG Award for Outstanding Student Leader. Exemplar awards were also handed out to students who participated in international, national and regional contests and conferences.

Faculty members were also recognized during the event. Dr Amparo Dinagsao, coordinator of the Regional Center of Expertise-Education for Sustainable Development received the Dux Gregis Award for School Administrator, and Edralin Manla of the Teachers' Guild, received the Fr Luigi Moggi SJ Award for Outstanding Moderator.

The Magis Awards also gave tribute to the teachers, The Crusader Publication, which is celebrating its 75th year, and to Fr Jose Ramon Villarin, SJ who is in his last term as University President. □



XU awarded autonomous status by CHED

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has granted Xavier University 5-year autonomy in recognition of Xavier's commitment to quality education, research and extension work, and the excellent performance of its graduates.

Autonomy is given to select higher education institutions based on the competitiveness of their programs manifested in established Centers of Excellence or Centers of Development, and the outstanding performance of their graduates in licensure exams, among other standards.

“We have worked hard over the last few years to regain our autonomy,” said Xavier President Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ in his memo to the University community.

Fr Villarin acknowledged the enormous contributions of the teachers, staff and administrators of Xavier in pursuing such recognition. But most of all, he acknowledged the important contribution of the students.

“We would not have received this [distinction] were it not for the sterling performance of our students,” he said. □

XU, Smart, PBSP, DepEd partner for CommuniTeach

Xavier University has inked a deal with Smart Communications Inc, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), and the Department of Education (DepEd) Region 10 for CommuniTeach, a project seeking to reduce drop out rates in public elementary schools.

Through the National Service Training Program, XU has been implementing CommuniTeach in adopted elementary schools in Consolacion, Camaman-an, and Upper Carmen since September last year.

Among the activities that have been carried out are tutors' training, parents' orientation, baseline evaluation, feeding sessions, and regular Saturday learning sessions for the lowest performing students in the adopted schools. □



Front Row L-R: Riza Horcasitas, PBSP representative; Stephanie Orlino, SMART education program manager; Fr Jose Ramon Villarin, XU president; and Dr Myrna Motoomull, DepEd Schools Division superintendent with representatives from the adopted schools and XU

KIECC, XU sign deal to provide perpetual scholarship

Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan has formalized its partnership with the Kagayanon International – East Coast Chapter (KIECC) with the signing of a memorandum of agreement on January 25 for a perpetual scholarship fund. The MOA modifies the KIECC scholarship program from the existing non-perpetual, full scholarship fund to a perpetual, partial scholarship fund starting school year 2012. Since it started in 1993, KIECC's scholarship program has enabled three scholars from XU to complete undergraduate studies

KIECC is an organization of US-based Cagayanons, most of whom are XU alumni/ae. They host annual fundraising activities to gather contributions from fellow Cagayanons to support development programs in Cagayan de Oro. □

Long-time faculty, staff honored

Xavier University gave out service awards to 160 of its faculty and staff who have rendered at least five years of service in the University. The awarding ceremony, which was the 18th held so far and which also honored 10 retirees, was held at the XU Covered Courts on February 2.

University President Fr Jose Ramon Villarin, in thanking the recipients, remarked that “the awards are a testament to your character.” He acknowledged the loyal commitment of the awardees and honorees in contributing to the fulfillment of the University's mission of forming “competent, conscientious and committed persons for others.”

A certificate and a paper weight were awarded to those who have given five years of service, and a certificate, token and a cash gift were given to those with service of 10 years and above. Retirees were each given a watch. □

University holds Fr Bernad memorial lecture, celebrates Fr Ricci's 400th anniversary

The second memorial lecture in honor of Fr Miguel A Bernad SJ took place at the Xavier University Little Theater on January 25. This was held together with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Fr Matteo Ricci SJ.

The event opened with the launching of the Fr Miguel Bernad Memorabilia Collection at the 5th Floor of the XU Library. Fr Daniel J McNamara SJ and Professor Emmanuel Luis Romanillos led the ribbon cutting.

The memorabilia collection includes books, serials, 5000 envelopes containing articles, 579 monographs, and 431 selected writings and research materials in History and Language. Some of these materials were donated by the family and friends of Fr Bernad.

Fr McNamara lectured on “Faith, Science and Religion”, while Prof Romanillos' lecture on “Language and History” centered on Fr Bernad's progenitors, Fr Mariano Bernad OAR (1838-1915) and Fr Mateo Bernad OAR (1842-1889), who were eminent missionaries in the Negros Island and Misamis District. □



KKP stages noise barrage for Heidi Mendoza

Student-volunteers of the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana-Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) and the Central Student Government sounded bullhorns and waved placards crying out for truth on Feb 8 and 10 in staunch support of Heidi Mendoza and other whistle-blowers who have exposed corruption in the military.

Prior to the noise barrage, a Walk for Truth and Justice around the campus took place involving NSTP students and their friends. KKP is also using social networking sites like Facebook to spread the advocacy. □



XU implements RFID system

Xavier University introduced this year the use of the radio frequency identification (RFID) system for entry and exit into the university. XU is the first campus in Northern Mindanao to use a turnstile system.

University IDs of the students and employees double as access control cards and enable the Security Office to identify and track individuals entering and leaving the campus. The automated entry system is meant to improve campus security. □

Social Consciousness Month opens with photo exhibit

Xavier University headlined the celebration of the Social Consciousness Month with a photo exhibit of the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism (ACFJ) at the Ateneo de Manila University titled "Asian News in Pictures," which ran from Feb 2 to 19.

The exhibit featured photos of ACFJ students—most of whom are practicing journalists—who took up the Diploma in Photojournalism program. The pictures, taken from all over Asia, captured issues such as social injustice, conflicts, poverty and climate change. The exhibit aimed to depict hope and inspiration amid hard times. □



Scholars celebrate their night

Scholars of Xavier University gathered for a night of fun at the Scholar's Night dubbed "Breaking Boundaries: From Books and Beyond" held on March 2 at the XU Covered Courts.

The scholars participated in various contests, showcasing their talents in singing, dancing and video making. In line with the affair's goal of entertainment, every contestant went home with a prize.

The year level representatives also presented to XU President Fr Jose Ramon Villarin, SJ the money pooled by the scholars to be donated to the XU Scholarship Fund, as their way of giving back to the University.

To the scholars, Fr Jett remarked, "Please have fun. Please study, but please have fun." □

XU celebrates International Year of Chemistry

by Bren Mark Felisilda and Faustino Tarongoy, Jr

The Xavier University Chemistry Department is organizing a variety of events in line with the declaration of the year 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry. Dubbed as IYC 2011, this worldwide celebration which carries the theme, "Chemistry—our life, our future," recognizes the many achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind.

Among the activities lined up are the chem caravan and career talks for elementary and high school students, a photo exhibit, an industrial plant tour for BS Chemistry students, and CHEMIKS 2011, a fun and informative semi-summer camp for junior high school students.

The Chemistry Department of XU also intends to participate in the Global Chemistry Experiment project of IUPAC and UNESCO. Events are also planned for teachers such as the chemistry lecture series, and a workshop on chemical education, which is about do-able chemistry experiments for high school. A CHEM Variety Show is slated for XU students taking up Chemistry.

More activities are planned for the second half of the year such as the CHEMBUSTION Quizbowl and Game Show, the Student Chemistry Congress, a poster-making contest, Chemistry Science Fair and Exhibit for the public, and an alumni homecoming. □

Five books launched during Social Consciousness Month

Five books on sanitation and research were launched on Feb 24 as part of Xavier University's celebration of the Social Consciousness Month. These books were "Low-Cost Sustainable Sanitation Solutions for Mindanao and the Philippines: A Practical Construction Field Guide" by Dr Robert Gensch, Analiza Miso, Dr Gina Itchon and Elmer Sayre; and the works of Ester L. Raagas, PhD, "Understanding Research Concepts," "Handbook on Introductory Statistics (3rd ed)," "Operation Manual for Data Analysis (2nd ed)," and "Assessment & Evaluation of Student Learning: Concepts & Applications (3rd ed)." Research and Social Outreach (RSO) Vice President Dr Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit said that RSO would like to share the essence of the "marriage of research and outreach" through publications and similar outputs where "outreach [is] backed by research that has social significance." □



Grade schoolers sashay in Greek-themed parade

by Jeza Kamille R. Correos

Garbed in their best Greek-inspired costumes, XU Grade School students, who were gods and goddesses for a day, graced the big stage and bright lights of SM City for the final showdown of the Greek Mythology Characters' Parade. Out of the 300 students who participated in the elimination round last year, only 15 finalists were selected to the pageant final.

The XU Grade School Band headed the parade of Greek myth characters. The stunning boys and girls in their flamboyant ensemble entertained the crowd with their Greek dance numbers.

The top 15 proved how their lavish attires were matched by nerves of steel and godlike brilliance. After an hour's battle of wits and character, Ruben Jan Abas dressed as Hercules, Renz Jofferlo Cabagnot who came as Atlas and An Cristie Tangcalagan as Medusa emerged as the champions in the different categories of the pageant.

The event was the culmination of the Reading Month Celebration, and the fruit of labor of the team of Reading teachers. □



IN BRIEF



Sen Juan Miguel Zubiri graced XU on March 4 during the MOA signing for a P2-million scholarship program (see story on page 21)



Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) Diplomat for Development Cooperation Andrew Egan (extreme left) and First Secretary John Alikpala (extreme right) stopped by Xavier during their provincial visit to Misamis Oriental for a discussion on the Australian Government's aid program in the Philippines particularly the Provincial Road Management Facility (PRMF). Also present was Misamis Oriental Governor Oscar Moreno (center).



The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Energy & Environment met with XU President Fr Jose Ramon T Villarin to discuss USAID's support for the Philippine energy sector. Present during the meeting were Dr Allen Eisendrath, Energy Team Leader of USAID/ Washington's Office of Infrastructure and Engineering for Europe and Eurasia, Lily Gutierrez, Energy Policy Advisor, En Gallardo, Development Assistance Specialist of USAID/Philippines, and September Ruiz, USAID/Philippines.



Commission on Higher Education Chairperson Dr Patricia Licuanan attended the meeting in February of the Federation of the Council of Deans of Higher Education Institutions (FCDHEI) in Region 10 at the Audio Visual Room 1. Dr Licuanan talked about the measures being implemented by CHED to improve the quality of higher education institutions in the country.

Fr Jose Ramon T Villarin, SJ:

God has done well here

by Lennie K Ong

In one BOT meeting last year, amidst discussions on the qualities desired of the next XU President, the current Jesuit Provincial, Fr Jojo Magadia, warned that the days of the “super-Jesuits” – those who are able to work wonders and virtually often single-handedly – are almost gone. The Jesuits not only are declining in numbers but many may also not be trained as administrators and thus, more and more over time, it would be difficult to find the ideal leaders for Jesuit institutions such as ours.

Xavier University certainly knows about super-Jesuits. It has been fortunate in the last two decades to have had two such “giants” as Presidents –Fr Bienvenido Nebres and Fr Antonio Samson, both of whom are not only experts in their fields of math and science but are also excellent administrators and people-persons. In fact, it is the retirement of these two after this school year which has brought about a major shakeup among the next generation of Philippine Jesuits as they are challenged to step up and out from behind.

Among those called to take on bigger responsibilities is Fr Jose Ramon “Jett” Villarin who took over the XU Presidency after Fr Samson (*who was transferred to Ateneo de Davao University*) in 2005 and who will end his 6th year and 2nd term at XU to replace Fr Nebres as the next President of the Ateneo de Manila University. While we are proud to have our current President selected for the AdMU Presidency, we are also very sad to let him go.

What is two terms? As they say in government, two terms are too long for a bad President but too short for a good one. Even Fr Jett would say he was just getting things in place here at XU and he would have wanted to see more of his plans for Xavier University realized.

A rookie in academic administration (*his previous assignment was the 50-person Manila Observatory*), Fr Jett is the youngest to become President of XU. He is also following deep footsteps gouged by someone who gave him his initial chance as a student scholar at the Ateneo de Manila. Indeed, his terms in Office have been an attempt at “living out the vision” (*as The Crusader – the official XU Student Publication once described it*) and have had its hits and misses.



The last six years were not exactly the most peaceful times at Xavier University. Fr Jett had to steer through “scandals,” people crises, economic uncertainties, regulatory requirements, temporary loss of autonomy, labor demands, lawsuits, and many other rough spots. His 26-page Terminal Report to the XU Corporation and Board of Trustees delivered last 5 March 2011 certainly made no mention of the glaucoma attack, tired eyes, gray hair, sleepless nights, lost meals and other physical, mental, emotional and psychological stresses he experienced. He lasted “through grace and from disgrace” (as how he put it in a recent piece for the student publication).

No amount of academic credentials already garnered, impressive though they are — Magna Cum Laude, BS Physics, Ateneo de Manila University (1980); Summa Cum Laude, STB Theology, Loyola School of Theology



(1991); Doctorate Degree, Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta USA (1997) — prepared him for the reality of the Presidency. He had to learn on the job but won us over with the sincerity and humility he showed in his efforts and with the courage and faith he exhibited amidst the struggles. Moreover, he won us over with the heart he shared daily.

I was invited to work for the University by Fr. Jett. During the job interview, I asked what would happen if I disagreed with him. He said, “Just refuse to sign. I will take responsibility.” After the first and toughest Board Meeting I attended where the both of us got thoroughly grilled, he texted me, “Thank you for giving your best. I hope you are okay.” Flying out in bad weather, he replied to a farewell, “Wala akong magagawa kung panahon na ng mga piloto. I’m just here for the ride.”

Most everyone in the University probably has treasured words to share from Fr Jett. He is a man given to reflection and to expression. In his ideal life, he would have been a musician, a poet, a writer or an English teacher. Instead, he was given much and so had learned to give more. His gifts are insight and appreciation.

To quote from Fr Jett’s ex-officio letter to the Jesuit Father General in 27 January 2009: “I must confess that while I am overwhelmed at times by the sheer volume of the tasks before me, I am nonetheless consoled by this wellspring of devotion and dedication of our people to the mission of the Society of Jesus through Xavier University. I am confirmed by their joyful disposition, their love of our Lord, and their commitment to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of the people of Mindanao. God has done well here, through us....”

Indeed, Jesuits are a special breed. As an XU student in the time of Fr. Nebres, I had the opportunity to interview him for The Crusader during his last weeks in the University. I asked, “Are you happy with your life?” He answered, “I have long stopped to think of things in terms of

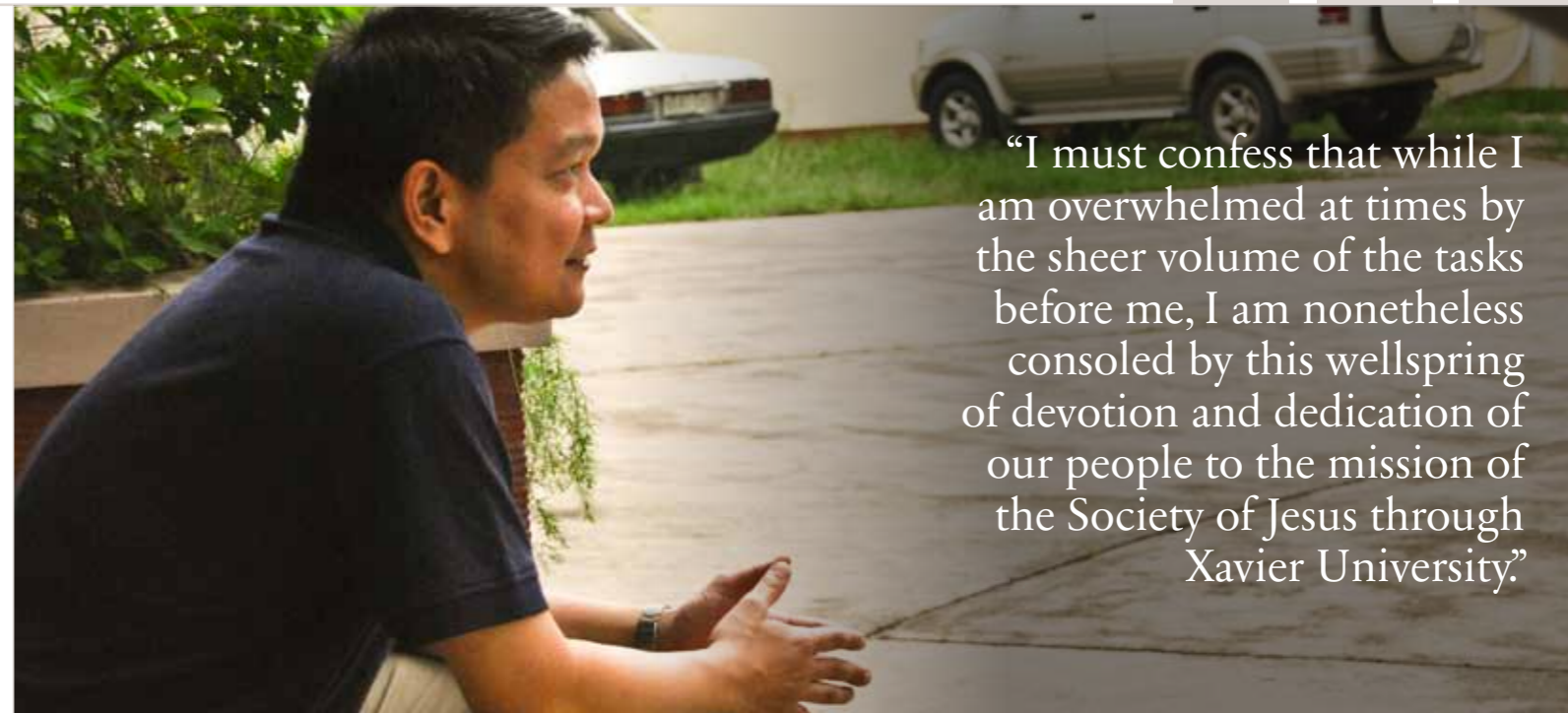
happiness” and went on to advise us to continue to “build on” all the foundation laid and groundwork done by those who have preceded us, to always do more and give more.

Fr Jett certainly took to heart this advice from the Jesuit to whom he gives credit for encouraging him in his academic pursuits. At his investiture, he cited that he would make basic education, faculty development and research for social development the focus of his administration. While he has not made



much inroad on the first, his degree of success with the second and third items on his to-do list is no simple achievement.

At the tertiary level alone (excluding the Schools of Medicine and Law), the percentage of full-time faculty with advanced degrees went up from 48% (in 2005) to 59% (in 2011) of the total faculty population while 136 teachers (40% of the full-time teaching workforce) are currently on further studies. The Research and Social Outreach Cluster of the University was also organized in 2007 and total research funding



“I must confess that while I am overwhelmed at times by the sheer volume of the tasks before me, I am nonetheless consoled by this wellspring of devotion and dedication of our people to the mission of the Society of Jesus through Xavier University.”

mobilized since 2006 totals more than 20M from the University and 36M from sourced grants. RSO is now into five areas of engagement – food, health, environment, governance and peace – and is expected to be a major driver in local and national social transformation in years to come.

Fr Jett has also been a proponent for scholarships and for arts and culture, raising significant funds for both as well as supporting activities meant to encourage others to appreciate the same. From 6% of the undergraduate student population on some form of University support in 2005, for this school year, the University has already spent more than 20M of its own funds to help 11% of its college student



population. This is aside from the more than 20M the University also disbursed from endowments, government, alumni and other sources of scholarship funding. Support for student entrepreneurship (from Mr Escano of Pryce Gases) and for technical-vocational studies (from Mr Alvarez of Asian Carmakers) were courted into the University by Fr Jett. Culture and the arts in the University also got a shot in the arm with the institution of its own Center and Director to organize and manage artists, events and resources. The University Museum, one of the few in Mindanao, will soon begin Phase I of renovations to better showcase local culture.

In the past six years, we have seen significant campus development and unprecedented levels of enrollment. Much administrative restructuring has also taken place and the University’s goals have been refined to make it a better catalyst for development. Indeed, the institution has transformed, no longer the small Ateneo de Cagayan of old but a Xavier University very much for the present time.

In the next school year, Fr Roberto “Bobby” Yap, current Provincial Treasurer, will become XU President, another rookie in academic

administration who will also have to learn on the job. He will inherit a lot of what is good and also much that still needs to be improved. Yet we welcome him most warmly with the understanding fostered by our experience of Fr Jett that leaders need not be tall and caped, for even in other incarnations, they are God’s chosen stewards of His work here at XU and thus the best.

During the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Xavier University, Fr Jett asked everyone to pray for three graces — gratitude, renewal and engagement — and he has reiterated this in the beginnings of the ‘mga habilin’ he has been saying these past few months. Still, he also says, “This is not goodbye yet.”

The work continues. Whether at the Manila Observatory, Xavier University or Ateneo de Manila University. Whether we have a “super-Jesuit,” a “regular” Jesuit, or, eventually, a lay University President. Whether we are President, administrator, faculty, staff or student. Whether people stay or go. We all remain in mission. □

(The author, Ms Lennie K Ong, a former editor-in-chief of The Crusader Publication, has been University Treasurer since August 2007.)



Ma Elena Paulma: teacher, writer, Palanca winner

XU English teacher, campus minister and editor of the Kinaadman Research Center, Ma Elena Paulma, took home one of the country's most important and coveted literary awards, the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards.

Paulma won first prize in the Short Story category for "Three Kisses." She was among the 24 who were first-time winners in the 60th Palanca Memorial Awards.

Her story, "Three Kisses," revolves around the lives of two individuals, a Filipina and a Belgian, who find love past their middle

age. It explores the familiar theme of cross-cultural marriages but digs down into the struggles of differing cultures and family prejudices that can take a couple to breaking point, but these issues are eventually overcome by love and companionship, as the main character after a life-altering experience finds out in the end.

Paulma, single and once a nun with the Cenacle Sisters, says she arrived at the plot of "Three Kisses" from the stories of her married friends and family.

In an article in Women's Journal, Paulma shared, "My writing of that story was my own exploration of relationships, my way of trying to understand something as incomprehensible as living with someone who will forever be a stranger. Aren't we all strangers to each other? But then, there's love."

"Three Kisses" so succeeded in touching a nerve among its readers that Butch Dalisay, the chair of the board of judges for Paulma's category and her former professor at the University of Philippines, hailed her piece as "a strong and early standout not only for its unobtrusively surefooted language but, more importantly, for the maturity of its insight." Dalisay adds, "We were all deeply moved by the story."

Paulma recalls "writing ever since I can remember," and is now finishing her PhD

in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines. Though she did not expect to win, she says that more than winning a Palanca, what is most memorable to her throughout her experience was "to realize that the reward itself was in the writing." □



L-R: Wilma M. Tejero, Dr. Challoner A. Matero, Rosemarie Gardiner - Buenconsejo, Mary May C. Eulogio, Dr. Elvira P. De Lara - Tuprio and Jessie B. Salon.

SBM professor is FINEX- CITI Outstanding Finance Educator for Mindanao

School of Business and Management (SBM) Professor Jessie Salon won as most outstanding finance educator for Mindanao in the 2010-2011 FINEX-CITIBANK Rafael B Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educator Awards.

Salon was among the five awardees from across the country from a total of 29 nominees and 10 semi-finalists. He received a trophy, medal, plaque and a cash prize of P50,000.00.

"His major quality is that he is able to simplify very complex concepts and make them look easy to learn," shares Dr Virginia Yacapin, dean of SBM and last year's winner of the same award. "This is borne by his concern for his students to learn well and effectively."

Throughout his teaching career which spans a remarkable 28 years, Salon has authored four textbooks and served as chapter president of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education. He is

also a frequent resource person in PICPA seminars and regional Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants conventions.

"I always consider the classroom as an opportunity for teachers to convert ordinary students [into] extraordinary students," he says of his passion for teaching.

Salon chairs the Accountancy Department and directs the XU CPA Review and Research Center, which is the only one in the country to conduct 10 pre-board exams throughout the duration of the review. Under his tutelage, XU was able to produce 75 new CPAs in one examination.

"His confidence in the capability of ordinary students to excel has been proven true," says Yacapin. "He truly deserves to be conferred the award."

The FINEX-CITIBANK Rafael B Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educator Award is given to tertiary-level educators who exemplify competence in teaching, scholarly publications and community involvement. □

MMC program wins national R&D award

The "IEC Student Development Advocates (ISDA) Program on Marine Conservation" of the McKeough Marine Center took second place at the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development System Best Paper Awards.

The awarding ceremony was held during the 23rd anniversary celebration of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development in Los Baños, Laguna. The researchers, Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, Divina Hojas-Lade, Joan Jamisolamin and Camillia Jane Bollozos, received a plaque and a cash prize of P20,000.

ISDA is a program implemented in partnership with the Department of Education Region 10. It is designed to help younger generations increase their understanding of the importance of the marine ecosystem and provide them with a venue where they can proactively participate in activities that promote environmental conservation.

XU NSTP students are trained to deliver basic marine ecology concepts to public school children in coastal barangays through fun-filled activities like games, film showings and workshops. At the end of the program, the children participate in coastal clean ups and attend a graduation ceremony where they present a comical skit in their native dialect showcasing what they've learned from the program about basic marine ecology.

Since its implementation in 2007, test scores measuring the increase in students' awareness and understanding of the concepts taught in the program have grown from 6% to 24%. Efforts to make ISDA more effective, dynamic, interesting and sustainable are being undertaken based on the feedback of the participants and DepEd faculty. □



Two studes join AYLC 2011

Junior college students, Harold Floren and Ridwan Landasan, participated in the 13th National Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC) on February 8-11.

Floren and Landasan were part of the 81 handpicked by senior executives of Ayala Corporation as official delegates to the congress out of the more than 700 nominees from the best colleges and universities in the country.

"I told them about my leadership journey," shared Landasan of what transpired during the panel interview. Landasan hails from Sulu and considers inter-religious dialogue as his leadership advocacy.

AYLC provides opportunities for young leaders to develop their self-confidence and leadership skills to foster nationalism and idealism. This year, the conference featured as its speakers founder of Rock Ed Gang Badoy, veteran broadcaster Tina Monson Palma and athlete Chris Tiu, among others. Department of Energy Secretary Rene Almendras keynoted the event.

"I saw the passion [in him]," said Floren of Sec Almendras. Floren said that he was inspired by the kind of leadership the Secretary exhibited. "Even if he didn't want to get involved in politics, he did it because he saw the need."

Participating in the AYLC means "sharing our light to others. I can do more [to help] the community I am in," said Floren.

To Landasan, the AYLC taught him the "value of doing small things that have an impact." He intends to continue his efforts at fostering the culture of inter-religious dialogue among XU students. He adds that part of their roles as servant leaders is to develop servant leaders in others.

Both Floren and Landasan are scholars and active student leaders in the University. Floren is the president of STREAMS-Pathways to Higher Education, an organization helping high school students get a college education, while Landasan was a recipient of the 2009-2010 Global Undergraduate Exchange Program at the University of Mississippi, USA. □

Student-researchers receive BPI-DOST Science Awards

The Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) recognized the exceptional research efforts of three XU students in the fields of chemistry, biology and agriculture at the annual BPI-DOST Science Awards on February 23.

Rick Arneil Arancon, a 4th year BS Chemistry student, was awarded for his research on the Synthesis of Corncob Derived Solid Acid Catalyst for Biodiesel Conversion of Waste Cooking Oils.

Kristy Xue Mei Kwong, a senior studying BS Biology, probed the Isolation and Characterization of Pink-Pigmented Facultatively Methylophilic (PPFM) Bacteria from Vehicular Exhaust Pipes.

Another senior, a Crop Science major, Anna Marie Hallasgo, worked on Assessing the Ammonia Burn of Tomato Plant as a Bioassay in Determining the Ammonia Emission from Chicken as Affected by Different Levels of Lactic Acid Bacteria.

Arancon, Kwong and Hallasgo each received a cash prize of P25,000, a plaque and an offer to become a junior officer at BPI. The awardees' names were also inscribed in a marker, which was unveiled during the awarding ceremony, containing the names of BPI-DOST Science Awardees from XU since 1990. □



L-R: Anna Hallasgo, Rick Arancon and Kristy Kwong

Medicine research wins in APMC Convention

The research "An Experimental Study on the Efficacy of Aquatic Fern (*Salvinia molesta*) in the Reduction of Wastewater Pollutants" by third year Medicine students won first place in the Poster Presentation and third place in the Paper Presentation, student category, during the 44th Association of Philippine Medical Colleges (APMC) Convention held on Feb 10-14 at the University of Sto Tomas, Manila.

The study made use of an indigenous aquatic plant variety to remove pollutants from wastewater.

"We want to provide a sustainable solution to wastewater pollution," said lead researcher Jayremae Revilla. "In the country, there are very minimal solutions taken to minimize wastewater pollution."

The research found that *Salvinia molesta* is a cost effective solution for reducing plankton, chromium, suspended solids and phosphates.

Revilla did the study with classmates Francis Ramos, Hanicole Adecer, Jerald Tablizo, Irene Imperial, Fatmah Mangondato, Stricklyn Caingles, Iris Gail Linog, Brianlou Zaballero and Jinny Jane Yulo.

Their research bested 20 other research presentations and 22 poster presentations from medical schools across the country. They received a cash prize of P1,000 for the paper presentation and P2,000 and a certificate for the poster category. □



Jayremae Revilla

The Diplomats' Thai Exposure

Isabella Mae L. Lumayag

The Ateneo Diplomatic Corps from the Bachelor of Arts in International Studies Program, accompanied by Department Chair Catalina Gaité, International Studies Program Coordinator Manille Pañares and Ateneo Diplomatic Corps Moderator Jal Octavio embarked on an educational tour of Manila and Bangkok. The tour included visits to and lectures at the Embassy of the United States of America and Royal Thai Embassy in Manila, and the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok, Habitat for Humanity International, United Nations High



Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Bangkok, Thailand. The excursion allowed the

students to see and experience Thailand's people and culture, to learn about the work of the NGOs and GOs, and to build new friendships. □



Up close with PNLE topnotchers

When news of the results of the Philippine Nursing Licensure Exam broke, Micaela de Guzman was at her boyfriend's house watching a movie. "We were very ecstatic, very happy," she recalled. She rushed home to surprise her parents, but instead she was the one who got the surprise.

She was told, "Mica, you're in the top ten." She couldn't believe it.

At about the same time, Jessa Lorraine Andalan was in the middle of a tutorial session when she and a classmate got a text message. They looked for an internet café to confirm the results. By then, they were already crying. "I was relieved and super happy...overjoyed."

Jessa ranked 5th in the exam. But unlike Mica who couldn't believe it, Jessa had prayed for it.

"It was an answered prayer. After taking the exam, I prayed, prayed, prayed to top it."

Jessa was consistently in the Dean's List and almost graduated cum laude. She admits that the pressure for her to top the exam was great. "It was what motivated me to do my best," she says.

Mica describes her performance in class as above average. "I won't say that I was at the top of my class," she says. She had prayed only to pass. So, when she finished 10th, it was unexpected.

"It was really unbelievable," she reveals.

Not a first choice

Although they garnered spots in the top ten, Jessa and Mica admit that nursing was not their top career choice.

Jessa, the eldest and only girl of four siblings, initially wanted to take up biology as a preparatory course to medicine. But her friends were taking up nursing, and thinking that it was also a viable pre-course to medicine, Jessa swayed from biology to nursing.

Mica intended to take up an advertising course at the Ateneo de Manila, but her parents persuaded her to stay in Cagayan de Oro. She thought of taking up nursing as she lives with both her parents and grandparents, and has an elder sister who is a special child. Learning nursing care would be helpful for her family.

Despite choosing nursing as an afterthought, Mica and Jessa have fallen in love with their course. While many people see it only as a profitable career path given opportunities abroad, these ladies think that nursing is beyond that. "Nursing is not all about money; it's about service, helping people get better. It's a very rewarding profession," Mica says.

"Going abroad is not bad. When you come back, you can share. The bottomline is you are able to give service," Jessa adds.

Looking forward

Jessa and Mica have big dreams. Both want to take the NCLEX and IELTS, and eventually explore opportunities overseas.

But before that, Jessa wants to work in a big hospital in Manila to gain experience. If the opportunity presents itself, she'd like to go abroad and eventually come back to set up a facility for poor people who suffer from mental disorders.

"I want to build an institution for psychiatric patients," she says having been touched by seeing sick people roaming the streets.

Mica, too, has a similar goal. Living with her grandparents, she has a soft spot for old people.

"If I am able to save enough money, I want to come back and build a home for the aged," she shares.

A test of faith

Jessa and Mica both recall the hard work they put in during their review. But just as they studied hard, they also prayed hard.

"Study, pray, study, pray. That was my routine for four months," shares Mica who confesses that she shut herself in the bathroom after every test to pray the rosary. She says that the exam was not only a test of knowledge, but was, in fact, a test of faith.

"With God, nothing really is impossible."

Jessa thanks God for hearing her prayer to top the exam. "It's different when you aim for something. I really prayed for it."

She says that even if she didn't graduate cum laude, she can't be any happier because God has rewarded her with so much more.

"Had I graduated cum laude [but not finished in the top 5], there wouldn't be any tarp, newspaper articles, TV appearances and interviews," she grins. □



Number's a game

Unlike many of us who cringe at the sight of numbers, senior high school student Jayhan Regner simply toys with them. As a matter of fact, he recalls loving math since he was in Kindergarten.

"I can still remember my enthusiasm [about math] when I was still in K1," shares Jayhan who has consistently shown promise in the field of mathematics.

Early this year, Jayhan topped and almost perfected – with a score of 49 out of 50 – the fourth-year level elimination round of the Metrobank-MTAP-DepEd Math Challenge. He and his partner, Mary Lai Salvana, went on to represent Cagayan de Oro in the regional finals on March 12. They got no less than the perfect score in the orals competition. Jayhan also topped the individual category for the written exam. Both Jayhan and Mary Lai will be going to the national finals on April 8 and 9.

That shouldn't come as a surprise. Jayhan was in the top 20 of the prestigious 13th Philippine Mathematics Olympiad (PMO) held at the University of the Philippines in Diliman last January. He was one of the 210 qualifiers out of the 3,451 high school students from around the country who took the exam, and the only student from Mindanao who made it to the National Finals.



"I am very honored," says Jayhan who is exuberant about making it to the top 20, "knowing that the PMO is a very difficult competition."

As a national finalist, he will be participating in a training program called the Mathematics Olympiad Summer Camp, which determines the country's representatives to the International Mathematics Olympiad.

Since he first started joining the contest when he was a sophomore, Jayhan shares he had always dreamed about reaching the nationals.

"I am very thankful to the Lord that he helped me realize my dream."

The dream doesn't end there. Math is very much in this young man's future. Jayhan has his sights set on taking up Mathematical Finance at the Ateneo de Manila after

he finishes high school this March. "I have been told that in choosing a career path, you should follow... what your passion is because you can only feel fulfillment when you know that you love what you do."

What else does he love to do? Solving Sudoku puzzles of course! This numbers game, according to him, "only requires logic." Apparently, it can be solved by a 16-year-old. Jayhan joined two international contests in Sudoku and placed second at the nationals two years ago.

Regardless of the accolades he's received, this math whiz insists he is just like any other teenager.

"I try to find time to hang out with my classmates," Jayhan quips. "And just like any other teenager, I am also someone who still has much to learn from this world."

From the looks of what he's accomplished so far, he's got much to contribute too. □



XU's 72nd Commencement Exercises

Family, friends, alumni and guests witnessed the graduation of the Class of 2011 during Xavier University's 72nd Commencement Exercises on March 25-26 at the XU Gym. Of the more than 1,700 students who graduated, 31 finished with academic honors including five named as Outstanding Graduates.

Danikka Rose M Fabela, BS Education cum laude and class valedictorian, challenged her fellow graduates to become engaged citizens responsive to the needs of society. "We shall exit the portals of Xavier University with the passion to serve," she said.

In his parting message, University President Fr Jose Ramon T Villarin, SJ entreated the graduates to remember and cherish one word: courage. "Do not lose heart just because of the shadows and darkness you see," he said. "If there is anything we have taught you, I hope it is to be brave enough to go to the frontlines."



Danikka Rose M Fabela delivers her valedictory address.



Rev Antonio Ledesma SJ, Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro, congratulates Archbishop Orlando Quevedo(Left). Looking on is Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ.

Most Rev Orlando B Quevedo, OMI, DD, Archbishop of Cotabato received an Honorary Doctorate in the Humanities during the University Convocation on March 25. The University selected Quevedo for his “knowledge and understanding of Mindanao and his continuing involvement in the search for peace in the region....”

In his commencement address, Archbishop Quevedo told the students that as Xavier University graduates, they are “called to make a difference in the striving for peace.”

“To be peacemakers in your daily lives is my prayer to you,” he said encouraging the graduates to be men and women of dialogue. “In the final analysis, the work for lasting peace is the conversation of the heart.”



L-R: Sister Erlinda Hisug of the Society of Oblates of Notre Dame, Steven Prince Fernandez and Sister Eva Fidela Maamo, SPC

Xavier University also honored two individuals and a religious congregation of women for their significant contributions and service to Philippine arts and culture, to the community and to the Church, respectively.

Steven Prince C Fernandez, DFA received the Fr Francisco R Demetrio SJ Award. Fernandez is the executive art director of the Integrated Performing Arts Guild. He was a recipient of the 2006 Palanca Awardee. He has performed in over 30 plays, concerts and films, and published a number of books, monograph, papers, lectures and essays on the performing arts.

The Fr William F Masterson SJ Award was presented to Sister Eva Fidela Maamo, SPC, MD. Maamo was a recipient of the 1997 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership. She is a surgeon and the president of the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc. She is a strong advocate of the right of the poor to a decent health care.

The Society of the Oblates of Notre Dame received the Archbishop Santiago TG Hayes SJ Award for the Society’s dynamic missionary spirit, quality Catholic education, and its work with and for the poor. □

RSO Celebrates Social Consciousness Month 2011



February 2: Asian News in Pictures

- ▶ The photo exhibit of Ateneo de Manila's Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism opened at the SBM lobby with XU President, Fr. Jose Ramon Villarain cutting the ribbon together with the ADMU's AFCJ and XU's RSO officials.
- ▶ This event was followed by a mass at around 5:30 pm at the Immaculate Conception Chapel and an opening show hosted by the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts in celebration of National Arts Month.



February 3-4

- ▶ Faculty and staff of the Kinaadman Research Center, and RIMCU co-organized the Philippine Population Association's National Scientific Conference at Dynasty Court Hotel.

February 5: Move for Wellness

- ▶ RSO conducted a walking exercise early morning followed by Zumba aerobics with guest instructress from London, Phoebe Jolly. The RSO Team walked from Kiosko Kagawasan at Divisoria to the new Pelaez Bridge along Velez Street passing Tomas Saco Street towards Xavier University.



February 7: Agutayan Monitoring

- ▶ The McKeough Marine Center spearheaded the Agutayan Monitoring at Jasaan, Misamis Oriental. MMC together with its sub units went to observe the nurtured clams.

February 9: Café Ateneo

- ▶ RSO's Student Entrepreneurship Program together with the Rocky Mountain Café and Brew Brothers officially launched Café Ateneo. Misamis Oriental Governor Oscar Moreno, Vice Mayor Ian Cesar Acenas, VPRSO Dr Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, Rocky Mountain Café's Carmeli Chaves and Pierre Coté graced the event. Various guests from the media, academe and the community also attended the event.



February 9-11: Free Massage

- ▶ University personnel and students were treated to a free massage courtesy of the St. Vincent de Paul Massage Therapists. The activity sought to promote over-all wellness as massage can relax not just the body but also the mind and spirit.



February 8-18: XU Talipapa

- ▶ The RSO provided the XU Community a venue to showcase their products as well as the products of some of the RSO Communities at the Talipapa located between the XU Gym and the Agriculture Building. The Talipapa opened from 8 am to 5 pm for two weeks.

February 12: Zumbathon

- ▶ The RSO team together with the faculty and staff of Xavier University and some invited students danced together in this vigorous workout. Zumbathon is a Latin Dance workout.



February 18: Himig Nasyonalismo with Noel Cabangon

- ▶ Renowned musical artist and social advocate Noel Cabangon engaged the XU crowd during a musical and advocacy concert in celebration of the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office's 25th year. The concert aimed to promote nationalism through music. Different artists from different places in Cagayan de Oro also performed during the concert. Concert proceeds were donated to the Oro Habitat for Humanity, Inc to help build houses in Canitoan, Cagayan de Oro.



February 24: Book Launching

- ▶ The Sustainable Sanitation Center and the XU Center for Advancement of Teaching launched their books and manuals at the AVR 1. The launching was well-attended by academics and foreign volunteers from different universities all over the city.



February 24

- ▶ The College of Nursing students conducted their culminating activity for Community Health Nursing at Barangay Lumbia.

February 26

- ▶ Students of the School of Education presented their researches and launched their academic journal, Dan-ag. □





And the winner is... CINEMAGIS 2011: 3rd Digital Short Film Festival

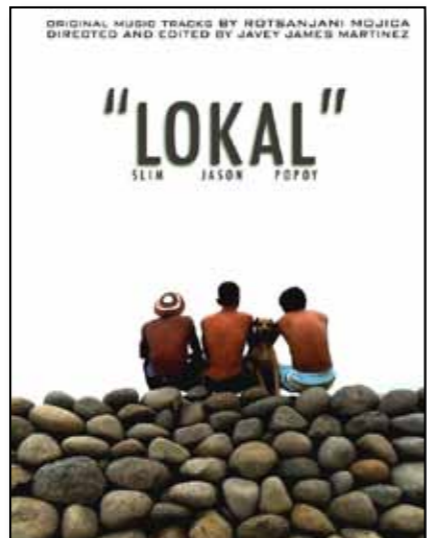
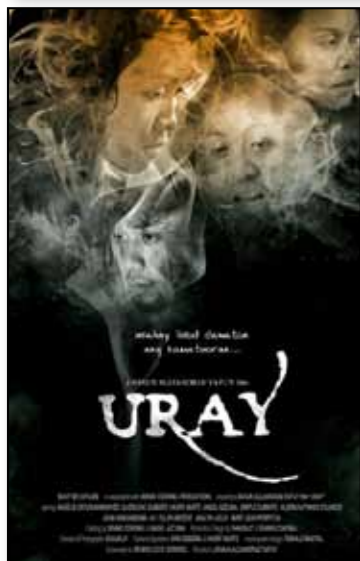
The Philippine movie industry has been closely associated with Star Cinema, Regal, Viva and GMA Films – movie producers banking on their... “banks” literally! While these companies celebrate their profits on extravagant after-parties, independent movie-makers survive on a meagre budget to roll out a worthy story.

To show support for independent filmmakers, the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts, and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, have been staging the CINEMAGIS, a digital short film festival which aims to celebrate and gather potential filmmakers in the region.

Now on its third year, Cinemagis 2011 featured short films by student and professional filmmakers that carried the themes of gender acceptance, folklore and urban living. The festival ran from January 26-28.

For the student category, “Gahani,” directed by Jenriel Pons Lagat won the Best Short Film award. He and his team also bagged most of the major awards of the night. For the professional category, “Pan de Sal,” directed by Ryan Lao, won Best Short Film. Lao and his team also bagged most of the major awards in his category. □

Brito Films AND Bro Andy Productions
PRESENT



PANAGHUGPONG 2011: Xavier Arts Festival Celebrating Art, Music, Dance and Theater

What began as a humble festivity in 2009 by the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts (XCCA) has grown into the Xavier Arts Festival, an annual celebration of Filipino indigenous culture and arts. With the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, XCCA hosted the third sequel of PANAGHUGPONG in celebration of the Philippine International Arts Festival in February.

XCCA's 3rd showcase of Pop Korn, Koton Kendi and KultuRock at the XU Gym on February 2 opened Panaghugpong 2011 with a big bang! Featuring home-grown bands and talents, the students rocked to the music of Eraserheads and sang in chorus to the band-remission of Levi Celerio's Ugoy ng Duyan.

Xavier University's Dulaang Atenista staged its adaptation of Twenty Questions by Juan Ekis on February 9-12. The play received excellent reviews from theatre enthusiasts.

Although newly organized, The Xavier Stage awed the crowd with its adaptation of Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero's Ulilang Tahanan.

The XU main lane became a haven of graffiti art on February 5 with Chalk Art, which celebrated the freedom of expressing art. An art exhibit titled, Lumalabay nga mga Hulagway, was also featured on February 11-15.

Showcasing music at its finest, XCCA hosted a vocal solo competition, Walang Biro, Walang Birit, Awit Saya on February 18 at the SM City Atrium, and Himig Nasyonalismo at the XU Gym.

El Baile de Esta Noche, Xavier's Spanish Dance Festival bridged the gap between the West and the East demonstrating one of the influences of Spanish colonization in the Philippines.

Filipino Musicals Meet Broadway featuring the XU Glee Club concluded the month-long festivity on February 28.

With PANAGHUGPONG 3, XCCA conveyed to the Kagay-anons the many reasons for locals to be proud of their own culture and art. □





Atty Raul Villanueva (2nd from left), Dean of College of Law as well as the representative of Pryce Gases, Inc, turned-over the first check of P200,000 to XU President Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ. Witnessing the turn-over were (L-R): Rupert Uy, Boy Labuntog, Adrian Pabayo, and Gonzalo Go.

Pryce Gases, Inc puts up Grant-in-Aid Fund

Pryce Gases, Inc, through its Chairman, Salvador P Escaño, forged a new partnership with Xavier University establishing the Pryce Grant-in-Aid Fund. An annual budget of P 200,000.00 will be used to fund the college education of four academically-challenged students in Northern Mindanao who are determined to study and finish a college degree at Xavier University. The grant will commence in school year 2011-2012 and will complete a four-year course cycle before another set of four students will be selected for it.

Selection of scholars will be based on academic performance and their determination to pursue further studies after high school. The prospective students will undergo coaching and academic review sessions to prepare them further for the XU entrance examinations; XU college student volunteers will accompany and tutor them in this preparation, after which, they will be assessed for their readiness to take the exam. Passing the XU entrance examination is a basic requirement to qualify for the PRYCE Grant.

Once admitted to the University, close monitoring of the students will be conducted to ensure appropriate assistance and intervention in keeping them on track in their academics. Formal supplemental academic assistance will also be given in the whole duration of the students' college education.

Furthermore, a customized formation program highlighting personality and spiritual development will be implemented to enhance the self-esteem and confidence of the students, necessary in keeping up with their academic studies, and in coping with future personal endeavors. Semestral in-depth assessment will be conducted, as well as individual consultations and feedback-giving to update the scholars on their performance. The families of these students will also be included in the conduct of the

Project Assist in full swing

The XU Alumni Affairs Office's Project Assist, a program which provides a P30 meal allowance a day for each scholar, is now being fully implemented through the generous support of the alumni.

A brainchild of Mr. Adrian Pabayo, senior associate of the Alumni Affairs Office, Project Assist was born as a response to the expressed difficulty of scholars to spend for lunch, consequently affecting their performance in class.

The project began with discussions among the XU President Fr Jett Villarin SJ, alumni and MBA students. The concept received a positive response and prompted fund raising initiatives. Generous support poured from, among others, Mr Gonzalo Go (HS 1959), Mr and Mrs Dominador Racines, the Plazans, and the MBA 115 (WAC) Class of Mr Adrian Pabayo.

Only the interest derived from the fund will be used to provide the P 30.00 meal allowance. Continuous appeals are extended to fellow Ateneans to sustain the project. □



Fr. George Esguerra, SJ (right), VP for Mission and Ministry, receives the initial donation of P16,000 from XUHS '59 represented by Mr. Sonny Fortich and Dr. Mike Sabal (2nd & 3rd from left) with Mr. Pabayo.

consultations and supplemental activities. Moreover, Pryce Gases, Inc will also be invited to provide appropriate measures that will help ensure the holistic development of the students. □

Henry R Canoy Memorial Scholarship to start in SY 2011-2012

Radio Mindanao Network (RMN), represented by Eric S. Canoy and Maria Clara Suniel-Canoy, established a P2-million scholarship grant at Xavier University. Dubbed as the Henry R Canoy Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of RMN's founder, the scholarship will begin funding scholars in SY 2011-2012. Only the interest earnings derived from the fund will be used to finance tuition, matriculation, and other university fees of qualified students from indigent families in Northern Mindanao. □



At the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement last January 23, 2010 at the XU Board Room. L-R: Adrian Pabayo (AAO Senior Associate), Fr Jose Ramon Villarin, SJ (University President), Charley S. Canoy (for RMN), Atty Wilfredo Labuntog (XU-AAA President) and Fr George Esguerra, SJ (VP for Mission and Ministry).

Ten more futures secured with Sen Zubiri's P2M

The Alumni Affairs Office facilitated a partnership between XU and Sen Miguel Zubiri for a P2 million scholarship fund donation. The memorandum of agreement was signed on March 4 at the XU Boardroom.

XU currently has P77 million in scholarship funds used to support 2,000 to 2,500 partial and full scholars.

"Today, P2 million will be added to the P77 million. That's 10 more futures secured," said XU President Fr Jose Ramon Villarin.

The P2-million donation will be allocated to scholars studying education, vocational technical, agriculture, arts and sciences, and business and management.

"I'm happy to be here today and be a part of XU," said Sen Zubiri who was certain that he can come up with additional funds.

"I commit that we can give additional support," said the Senator. "Let's make this an ongoing funding." □



XU President Fr Jose Ramon Villarin and Sen Miguel Zubiri flanked by Adrian Pabayo, senior associate XU Alumni Affairs Office (left) and Dr Lina Kwong, XU academic vice president (right) with XU vice presidents, deans and directors

Rep Rodriguez partners with XU

Rep Rufus B Rodriguez signed an agreement with Xavier University to formally start the Congressman Rufus Bautista Rodriguez Educational Assistance for academically deserving elementary, high school and college graduates from indigent families of Cagayan de Oro City who wish to pursue high school, college and post degree courses at Xavier University.

The scholarship grant is offered to the colleges of Law, Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Medicine, and the High School. □



Faculty, staff sweat it out at annual sportsfest

XU employees showcased their athletic side during the 2011 Faculty and Staff Sportsfest from January 29 to February 24.

The events this year included a 5K fun run, basketball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis and parlor games. The players were divided into six teams: Gold, White, Blue, Orange, Green and Aqua covering the different departments and units in the university.

All teams were able to snare championships in the various events.

XU's annual athletic meet among its faculty and staff aims to establish camaraderie and bring fun to the workplace. This year's theme was You and Me – One Community. □



Senior Crusaders take Loyola Cup



The Xavier University Senior Crusaders claimed the crown anew in the 6th Ignatius de Loyola Cup Basketball Inter-School Invitational upsetting the heavily favored STI College Olympians. The Crusaders won despite having only 10 players available with ace point guard Jumer Popera out with a fractured forehead and Kim Labitad with a sprained ankle. The team is under a new head coach, Arvin Martinez.

Ephraim Dahilan started the game with 11 straight points and 3 bombs from the rainbow in response to STI's 9-0 onslaught in the opening salvo. Bee Datinginoo scored 13 points and grabbed 19 rebounds and made a sensational block. Team captain Jan Cristian Besinga scored only two points and one rebound but redeemed his performance towards the end with a crucial rebound out of a 3-point miss and a trip to the free throw line giving the Crusaders a four-point lead, 82-78. Dahilan, who finished with 24 points, sealed the championship with two free throws from a foul on a rebound after STI missed its last attempt. The game ended at 84-78.

The Xavier University Grade School Baby Crusaders and High School Junior Crusaders also fought hard but fell short against Sacred Heart of Jesus Montessori School. □



Sports Calendar



March 13, April 3 and April 10
**National Basketball Training Center
 Cagayan de Oro City Private Schools
 Developmental League 2011**
 7AM - 1PM at the XU GYM
 XUHS and Sacred Heart lead in team standings

April 3-May 31
**Jojo Lastimoso "Alaska Cup"
 Summer Basketball Tournament**
 Categories: 12 years under, 14 years under,
 17 years under, 25 years under

April 11-May 7
**Xavier University
 Crusaders Summer Sports Camp**
 Registration forms now available
 at the XU Athletics Office

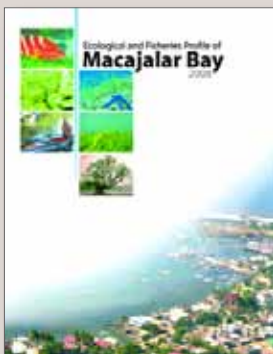
May 8-16
Palarong Pambansa
 for Elementary and Secondary Schools
 Hosted by Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte

Publications



The Immortal Sea and other Public Conversations
by Fr Miguel A Bernad SJ

A collection of public addresses given by Fr Miguel A Bernad, SJ, replete with glimpses of people who, despite their varied experiences and backgrounds, concretize the ideals Fr Bernad stood for in his many years as a Jesuit. From the history of the Jesuits in Mindanao to a discussion of Dante's Divine Comedy, simple prose is used to deepen the appreciation of his audience for a very high ideal - an ideal that according to him may not be attainable but would nonetheless be worth pursuing.



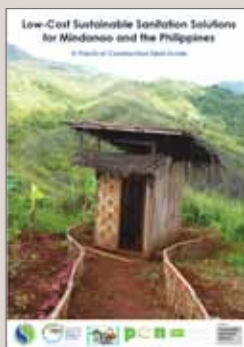
Ecological and Fisheries Profile of Macajalar Bay 2008 by Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit PhD et al

Covers the ecological and fisheries assessment of a major fishing ground in Northern Mindanao, the Macajalar Bay in Misamis Oriental, Region 10. At present, the bay is under serious threat due to industrialization, rapid development and coastal migration. This book is being used to come up with a bay-wide Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Plan to be implemented by the Macajalar Bay Development Alliance of the 14 Local Government Units along the bay, in close partnership with the McKeough Marine Center of Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan.



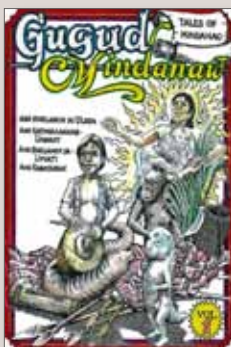
X75+ Coffee Table Book

X75+ traces Xavier University's journey from its beginnings in 1933 until its Diamond Jubilee in 2008 as narrated through a collection of over 300 evocative photographs with percipient texts. The grim photos of the devastating war years of the early 1940s contrast with the vibrant color photos that exhibit Xavier's triumphant rise from the ruins of the war, and its continuing quest for academic excellence, spiritual formation, and service to the community.



Low-Cost Sustainable Sanitation Solutions for Mindanao and the Philippines: A Practical Construction Field Guide
by Robert Gensch, Analiza Miso, Dr Gina Itchon, Elmer Sayre

A compilation of existing sustainable sanitation experiences in Mindanao. It gives an overview on the main features of different successfully introduced low-cost sustainable sanitation technologies in Mindanao and provides practical, easy-to-understand and mostly picture-based guidance on how to construct and replicate these sanitation technologies in the Philippines.



Gugud Mindanaw (Tales of Mindanao)

The first volume of Gugud Mindanaw (Tales of Mindanao) is composed of four (4) different stories from the Ilian Manobo of North Cotabato and the Talaandig of Bukidnon. These oral literatures have great value as reading materials for school children especially in the elementary level and for those studying literature as they portray the value system, culture and traditions of ethnic communities in Mindanao.



Kinaadman Volume 32

This volume marks the centennial birth anniversary of Fr William F Masterson, SJ, whose contribution to the growth and development of Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan, as well as to the Ateneo de Manila University, is extraordinary. The result of what he termed an impossible dream towards agricultural and economic progress has impacted not just the Philippines, but also other Asian countries.

For orders, contact:

XAVIER UNIVERSITY PRESS

Room 202 Lucas Hall, Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City | Tel: (088) 858-3116 loc 2045 | Email: xupress@xu.edu.ph | Website: http://krc.xu.edu.ph

Xavier

Ateneo de Cagayan magazine

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Vanessa Gorra

Layout: Paulo Javier Gener

Contributors: Lennie K Ong, Christy Bacoto, Carmela Rubio, Johanna Fatima Montil, Alumni Affairs Office, Athletics Office, Jeza Kamille Correos, Isabella Mae Lumayag

Copyreader: Lennie K Ong

Catalina H Gaité

Head, Communications Office

Photo credits: Lily Pauline Soriano, Audio-Visual Office, Karen Pagaduan, Pamela Lico, Norma Adecer, Jan Besinga, Micala de Guzman, Jessa Andalan, Christy Bacoto, Joey Sendaydiego, Ridwan Landasan, Jayhan Regner, Jayremae Revilla, Xyla Gualberto, KKP-SIO, AAO, ADC, RSO, XUGS



published by

Communications Office

G/F Science Center Building

Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan

9000 Cagayan de Oro City

(+6388) 858-3116 loc 3324

Send your stories (750 words or fewer) to commgroup@xu.edu.ph.