

Xavier

magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

April to June 2011

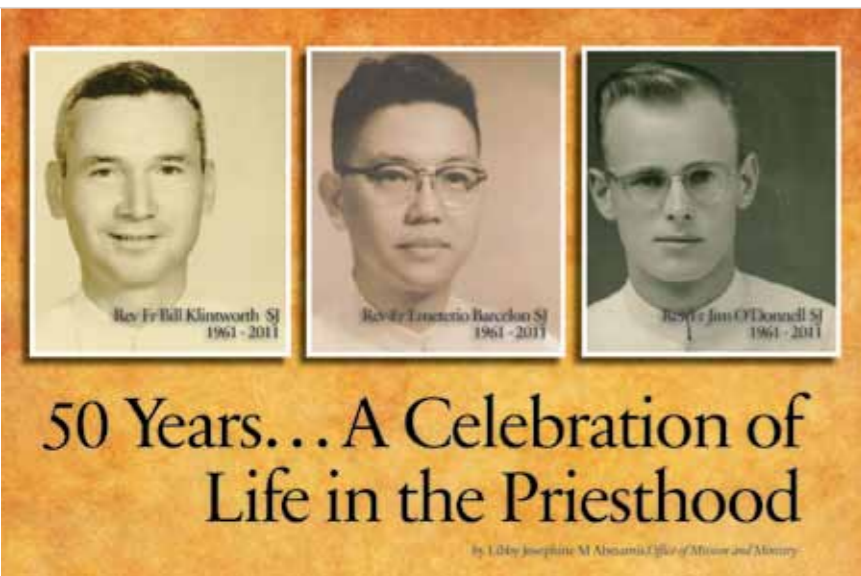


The new face of
Xavier

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HANGIN ug KALAYO

by Fr Roberto C Yap, SJ

THE RED MASS is a beautiful tradition at the beginning of the Academic Year when we beg the Lord to send the Holy Spirit upon our University community. The great symbols of the Holy Spirit are WIND and FIRE, HANGIN ug KALAYO.

HANGIN. WIND. You don't know quite where it comes from, you don't know quite where it's going. There is something quite unpredictable about the wind. So there is with the Holy Spirit. There is something elusive, unpredictable, wonderfully so about the Holy Spirit.

What else about WIND? Wind is powerful! We have seen typhoon winds which have devastated entire villages and cities. I've been on many planes that are lifted up, these huge, heavy machines lifted up by the wind. Kusog gayud ang hangin!

So it is with the Holy Spirit ... when you let the Holy Spirit in your life, it will do something powerful in you! It will change you, it will uproot things in you.

The other great symbol: TONGUES AS OF FIRE, DAW MGA DILA NGA KALAYO. KALAYO. FIRE. We know how devastating fire can be. Fire can destroy houses, neighborhoods, whole cities. Fire can destroy buildings, can kill people. Fire is destructive. But fire can also cleanse. Fire can clear out the old places, allowing modern, better neighborhoods to be born.

So the Holy Spirit is like a cleansing fire. When you let the Holy Spirit in your life, he will burn things away in you. The Holy Spirit wants to burn away my selfishness. He wants to burn away my self-regard. He wants to burn away my pride, and my envy and my anger and my resentments. All these have to burn away. That is what the Holy Spirit does in you when you allow him into your life.

But there is more to the symbol of FIRE. Fire is also illuminating. Ang kalayo makahatag ug kahayag. Especially for biblical times, before electricity, fire was light. Fire was illumination. It was how you see or read at night. It lit up the way.

So when the Holy Spirit dwells in you, you receive the light of wisdom, ang kahayag sa kinaadman. Our books contain dead words, random numbers, inscrutable diagrams unless and until the Holy Spirit lights up your mind. And then what you study comes to life! And what you study starts to make sense ... it commences to become meaningful and relevant. Through the Holy Spirit we begin to grow in wisdom.

God wants to send the Holy Spirit into our lives. HANGIN ug KALAYO. We are invited to let the wind and the flame of the Holy Spirit in our life. We are invited to let the cleansing fire of the Spirit burn away our selfishness and pride. We are invited to let the Holy Spirit light our way. We are invited to let the light of the Spirit illuminate our studies and let the Holy Spirit gift us with wisdom. We are invited to hand over your life to the Holy Spirit so he can blow and lead us where he wills. And we can be sure the Spirit will lead us to the frontiers, to the unfamiliar. With the wind of the Holy Spirit beneath our wings, we can be certain that our Ateneo experience will be the most exciting and exhilarating journey ever. □



CIT produces 55 new technical experts

The Center for Integrated Technologies boasts of new technical experts as 55 of its students passed the National Certification Level II (NC II) exam in various categories.

Of the 55, 2 (100%) passed the Consumer Electronics examination, 44 students passed the exams for Computer Servicing (91%) and 9 students passed the exams for the Machining program (43%).

XU's newest Consumer Electronics experts are Paul Christian C Quiblat and Rene C Raotraot.

The 44 new Computing Servicing experts are Paolo Rey D Amatong, Keen Anthony M Aput, Ramon B Balibagon Jr, Orlice J Baraquia, Jhenly L Besin, Leann Joy D Castro, Kenneth D Delgado, Marianne C Diano, Jesus Miguel D Dingcong, Michael Jay T Enriquez, Darryl Nor M Espedido, Xyvelle S Estorque, Jabbar G Francisco, Martel Lance M Galope, Nathan A Gamayon, Jerome D Gerona, Jacky Lou B Junio, Dennis J Jurolan, Genisis A Kionisala, Gerprey Gane G

Labiano, Japeth R Lavatororio, Sarco Jeb B Lofranco, Mark Jackess L Macadato, Edward G Malaque Jr, Karl B Manansala, Michael Angelo P Mendez, Alvin S Mendoza, Rowell A Moreno, Shiela Mae A Nalla, Henry C Naraja, Jessie B Osa Jr, Paulo Rey C Osias, Karen D Paid, Nathaniel Dave G Quiring, Jonan A Salas Luerson I Tagam, Gasmem H Tura, Jasmin E Valdehuesa, Aize T Vallar, Luneza S Valmores, Rustico M Vasquez Jr, Dan Khan A Verallo, Gerande D Villastique, and Christine Mae C Yalong.

Lastly, the new Machining experts are Syrel Von U Bancong, Ric Jhonas D Emano, Solijon L Equipelag, Wilbert C Flores, Michael Rod C Jawali, Ed Nathaniel T Mocerro, Ray Bryan S Naling, Aldven B Sabalbaro and Ed Lester S Uy.

All technical vocational students are required by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to have NC II certificates before they can be granted graduation and given a diploma. □

Aggies awarded PAASCU Level III accreditation

The BS Agriculture program has been granted Level III accreditation status by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) for a period of five years.

PAASCU is a private, voluntary service organization which accredits academic programs that meet standards of quality education. Some of the areas evaluated include community involvement, instruction, faculty, library, laboratories, student services and administration.

XU's Agriculture program advanced to Level III a year after having been re-accredited for Level II.

"It was not an easy process," said Glenda Orlanes, Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture. "The accreditation is an affirmation of our commitment to excellence."

A Level III accreditation denotes full curricular deregulation and comes with all the benefits of a Level II accreditation such as full administrative deregulation, priority funding assistance and priority for government subsidy for faculty development, among some.

In addition to its Agriculture program, XU also holds a Level III accreditation for its Accountancy and Business and Management, Teacher Education, and Arts and Sciences programs. □



XUHS gains PAASCU re-accreditation

The Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) has re-accredited Xavier University High School for another five years.

Earlier, PAASCU conducted a resurvey of XUHS where the accreditors assessed the quality of the school based on its classes, lesson plans, laboratories and facilities, and on interviews with students, parents, teachers, alumni and administrators.

PAASCU resurveyed the areas of Administration, Faculty, Instruction, Laboratories, Library and Audio-Visual, Physical Plant, School and Community and Student Services.

The reaccreditation gives XUHS full deregulation from CHED and more flexibility to implement curriculum reforms to better its quality of education.

"This resurvey is an important stimulus for the school to improve itself continuously through a rigorous system of peer evaluation and assessment," said Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ University President at the time the re-accreditation was granted. □

More students to benefit from new scholarships

Good news for parents. XU has started implementing new scholarship programs this school year for qualified students.

One of them is the XU-UT Global Scholarship Fund. Done in partnership with UT Global Services Inc, the program grants 40 First Year academic scholars full scholarship privileges, covering tuition, matriculation and other fees, and transportation and food allowances. In the previous years, academic scholars were only getting the full tuition-full matriculation benefit. This new development will further help bright and active students who need financial assistance complete their undergraduate studies.

Recognizing the important contributions of the Performing Arts to the University and the wider community, Xavier is also giving scholarships to qualified members of its Performing Arts Companies under the XU Center for Culture and the Arts, namely: Dulaang Atenista, Ateneo Dance Troop and Ateneo Glee Club.

This privilege is not only available to incoming freshmen but also to upperclassmen. Vacated slots by those who were not able to comply with the grade requirement and other requisites of the scholarship will be filled in by qualified upperclassmen. Students who have not received any



Student mall to rise in XU

Xavier University and Pryce Corporation unveiled the construction of a student mall called the Xavier University–Pryce Center for Entrepreneurship at the lot between the Science Center and Agriculture Buildings. Construction is expected to be completed this September.

The facility will serve as laboratory for emerging entrepreneurs. It will support XU's Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) intended to initiate and nurture student-led and operated enterprises.

"What you learn from your books is very much different from what is out there," said Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ, then University President.

scholarships but have been doing very well (QPI of 3.0 or higher for 2 semesters, with no failing grade ever) can apply for scholarships/grants offered by the University. Interested students may inquire from the Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance (OSFA) about the documentary requirements to be submitted.

In collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs, a new kind of

The center will operate like a student business incubator. SEP will provide student business owners with consultancy and advisory services, marketing assistance, technology development and business linkages. SEP will also provide seed capital to qualified students to jumpstart their businesses, and teach them entrepreneurial values, business ethics, environmental stewardship and corporate social responsibility.

Around 13 four square meter shopping stalls will be available for lease to students. The center will also be equipped with a training room for developing entrepreneurship modules and a business center complete with computer units, a telephone line and an internet connection. □

scholarship scheme (Working Scholars) is available to Junior and Senior students. Students who qualify will have to work in specified areas in the University to take advantage of tuition, matriculation and other benefits. Since this is the first year of implementation, slots are limited and priority has been given to those who have worked for at least 2 years as student assistants in the various offices within the University.

During the 2nd semester of last school year, Xavier supported about 1,811 scholars. With the generosity of a growing number of donors and benefactors, students who are recipients of scholarships/grants are expected to increase to about 2,000 this school year. □

Peace Education Center hosts forum on Peace Education

Representatives from the academe, military, religious, government and nongovernment sectors took cognizance of peace issues and the need to band together to advance the peace process during a two-and-a-half day Peace Education Colloquium facilitated by the Peace Education Center and the Research and Social Outreach Office.

The resource speakers, Dr Toh Swee-Hin, distinguished professor at the University for Peace in Costa Rica and laureate of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education; Fr Albert Alejo SJ of the Mindanawon Initiatives for Cultural Dialogue; Dr Shambaeh Abantas-Uzman, Regional Education Supervisor, and Peace Education and Madrasah Education Coordinator of DepEd 10; Charlito Manlupig, chairperson and president of Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc; Aryameir Ismael of Ateneo de Zamboanga; Albert Kimpo of the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue; Amina Mambuay of the "Silsilah Dialogue Movement"; Fr Pedro Walpole SJ; and Dr Ofelia Durante, founding director of NDU Peace Education Centre and consultant for Konsult Mindanao, delved on their experiences in peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

The audience did not merely listen to the presentations but participated in the workshops on the possibility of integrating peace concepts in the civics and culture subjects of students, and of including the Mindanao conflict in classroom discussions to cultivate a culture of peace. The different groups presented song numbers, chants, dances and plays that portrayed their understanding of peace.

All agreed that peace or conflict starts from the self and one's perspective of peace is molded at an early age.

"Peace or a culture of peace is not just [the] absence of wars, physical violence and militarization or fulfilled only by talking but it needs to be practised in everyday life and in the policies and practices of all institutions," Prof Toh said.

The Peace Education Colloquium was the first to be organized by the XU Peace Education Center to promote optimism that peace is still possible in the face of a seemingly confused society. The forum carried the theme, "Journeying toward a Peaceful Mindanao: A Colloquium on Signposts, Challenges, and Hopes in Education for Culture of Peace." □

SuSan Center conducts sanitation planning writeshop

The Sustainable Sanitation (SuSan) Center conducted an ACCESSanitation Planning Writeshop on May 4-6 at SEARSOLIN. The activity focused on the development of City Sustainable Action Plans and the identification of sustainable sanitation hardware and software pilot intervention in the cities of Dipolog, Olongapo, Bayawan, San Fernando, Pampanga, and Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

The planning writeshop resulted in the crafting of sustainable sanitation pilot intervention plans for each of the five cities. These include provision of public urinals for tricycle drivers (including urine reuse) and mobile Urine Diverting and Dehydration Toilets (plus mobile vermicomposting and gardening solutions) for informal settlements.

Participants were also brought to the WAND Foundation area where they were showed different Sustainable Sanitation toilets and reuse components. They were also brought to other SuSan Center assisted areas in Lapasan, Lumbia and Tagoloan.

The drafted plan will be finalized before the end of this month and must be submitted to one of the members of the advisory board for critiquing and final suggestions before submission to the panel of advisory board of the European Commission for approval. □

IN BRIEF



The Research and Social Outreach (RSO) Office hosted French intern Typhaine Boulet, an expert in urban agriculture, from April to May. Mademoiselle Boulet assisted in the Urban Agriculture Program, which has been formally turned over to the College of Agriculture.



XU signed a memorandum of agreement with Nick Summers, a British national now residing in Cagayan de Oro, for a scholarship fund starting this school year.

The scholarship is called "Jai Vedra Scholarship Fund," named in honor of a student who died of a vehicular accident in March this year whom Summers supported.

The scholarship will cover all mandated fees and a monthly allowance for one qualified recipient, preferably taking up Accountancy or any Business course.



The RSO Office, the Governance and Leadership Institute and the Engineering Resource Center are busy preparing for the Public-Private Partnership project in coordination with STEAG State Power Inc, the Department of Interior and Local Government and eight Local Government Units (LGU). The project seeks to help the LGUs reduce poverty through a Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) integrated with a Geographic Information System (GIS). This project shall be for 18 months beginning this month.

XU opens College of Computer Studies



Xavier University has opened a College of Computer Studies to cater to the growing interest in information technology (IT) education prompted by domestic and global demand for IT professionals.

The new college has started accepting students for school year 2011-2012 for programs in BS Computer Science and BS Information Systems. The Master in Information Technology will be offered in 2012 and BS Information Technology in 2013.

The Philippines is emerging as the world's top destination for Business Process Outsourcing in IT-enabled services like customer care and electronic data processing. In 2009, the country overtook India in receiving the largest share of new outsourcing business.

"IT has become very relevant," says Engr Gerry Doraja, administrator of the Computer Studies cluster which led the effort to set up the new college. "It will be the driver of progress in the future." With the College of Computer Studies, Doraja hopes to attract more students to take up computing courses.

Currently, IT undergraduate programs account for 10% of total enrolment in universities and colleges in the Philippines. In the next five to ten years, this is expected to grow to 15%. To keep up with the upward trend, regulatory and accreditation bodies have recommended the consolidation of IT education programs into one department or college.

Xavier University is the second Ateneo after Ateneo de Naga to unite its IT programs into a single college. The merger is expected to strengthen its Computer Science department, previously under the College of Engineering, and Information Systems which has replaced the Information Management program under the School of Business and Management.

From the XU College of Computer Studies, Doraja says that students "can expect a good, well-rounded education in IT." He stressed that IT education is not just about earning good income after graduation, but it is important to consider the formation of the student. Employers want workers with competent technical skills but also with strong moral and spiritual foundation.

"We want our students to go up the corporate ladder where total formation becomes more important," Doraja says.

Inclusion of formation subjects in the higher years is already being worked out to ensure continuing formation of students from first year to fourth year. □



ECE pegs 85% pass rate in board exam

Xavier University garnered an 85% passing rate in the Electronics Engineering (also known as Electronics and Communications Engineering) Licensure Exam held on April 10 and 11 this year. Of the 27 who took the exam, 23 passed including 7 out of 7 first-time takers.

The new electronics engineers from XU are Alen B Abamonga, Michael P Angon, John Leonard S Bernal, Lawrence P Cabaluna, Meldy Grace M Comandante, Loujije O Compo, Dareal Alann B Garcia, Josephus N Guibone, Neil Kane D Jacalan, Jayril T Jamin, Alberto Jr M Lim, Marcelle T Matuod, Mark Merbert D Mondejar, John Davis S Motoomull, Von Bryann D Naca, Stephen P Porsuelo, Maria Angeline Bernice M Ramos, Carlo Martin A Sarausa, Terenz Scout B Tangarorang, Dennis L Tarion, Jay M Verdadero, Goldee Rheena Mae B Verano and Charles Donald L Vicerra.

Nationwide, 2,602 took the test but only 1,170 passed, pinning the national passing average at 45%. □

CIT unveils new logo



The Center for Integrated Technologies launched its new logo accompanying the change of its name from the Center for Industrial Technology. The logo depicts variations of the letters C, I and T, the initials of the Center, and features its corporate color. It also carries the official University logo and the words "Center for Integrated Technologies."

The logo, designed by Michael Lou Montejo, resembles a wrench, a common tool used in technical training, and a human figure with outstretched arms. When

viewed from the side, the opening created by the "C" creates an image of a keyhole.

"A keyhole represents openings. CIT is a gateway for our trainees to gain a foothold in the industries," said Engr Erwin Li, CIT Director.

The images depicted in the logo "reflect the Center's mission of an institute fully engaged in forming technicians who embody the values of skill, knowledge and competence."

CIT's new graphic representation will replace the old symbol starting school year 2011-2012. CIT's new identification and branding is part of the Center's thrust to expand its reach and employ an interdisciplinary approach to technology. □



MILF speaks of peace

by Lezlee Amor Reginio Escalante, KKP Faculty Program Officer

Xavier University joined civil society organizations and representatives from various institutions, ethnic groups, various church ministries and Local Government Units in a non-violent dialogue with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Peace Panel on June 1 at the Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc (BMFI) Peace Center to clarify fears and doubts regarding the Bangsamoro state proposed by the MILF.

The final comprehensive compact on Interim Governance which was a response to the 2008 MOA-AD and was submitted by the MILF to the Aquino Administration on February 9, 2011 was presented and discussed during the consultation. The presentation was followed

by a series of questions and clarifications from different sectors regarding wealth sharing, territorial jurisdiction, women's participation, and dealings with other existing armed groups (i.e. MNLF, NPA) and minority ethnic groups within the Bangsamoro state. Other issues discussed included the functions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the working relationship between the Bangsamoro State and the Local Development Councils, and the involvement of the Bangsamoro State in the

proposed federalization of the Philippines. A proposal to form a steering committee or a speaker's bureau to continue the advocacy commenced the Regional Peace Committee Dialogue.

Armed with their peaceful intentions, the MILF urged everyone to join hands in preserving what's left for the future generations. XU's representatives from Museo de Oro and KKP-SIO promised to do their share in putting the academe in the forefront of "righting" History.

The consultation in Cagayan de Oro was the third in a series of dialogues conducted by the MILF. The first two were held in Pagadian City and Iligan City. □

The weeklong dance workshop was intended to revive dance researches among the National Artists in Dance and in particular the dance researches of the late Libertad Villanueva Fajardo, an icon of the Bayanihan Dance Company, who was responsible for publishing various Visayan dances. In addition, newly researched dances from different parts of the country like Negros, Cebu and Bukidnon were also showcased.

The activity was participated in by Alice Artazo (Directress, XU Cultural Dance Troupe), Julie Castillon (Faculty, PE Dept), Bren Mark Felisilda (Moderator, XU Cultural Dance Troupe), Ricky Tadlip (High School) and Rosemae Lumansag (Grade School).

The learning acquired from the workshop is seen to enhance the competencies of our teachers, artistic talents and creative expressions in the field of folk dancing, open avenues for promoting and preserving traditional dances, and foster dance literacy in the academic sector not only in XU but in the whole of Mindanao. □



Enriching Philippine Folk Dancing

by Alice Artazo, Bren Mark Felisilda and Ricky Tadlip

Five teachers from the College, High School and Grade School levels attended the 31st National Folk Dance Workshop held at Bago City, Negros Occidental on May 16 – 20. The activity was spearheaded by Samahang Tagapagtaguyod ng Katutubong Sayaw ng Pilipinas (formerly Philippine Folk Dance Society) in collaboration with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the City government of Bago.

IN BRIEF



The RSO Cluster joined the Alumni Office and the KKP-SIO in the House Build activity with then University President Fr Jose Ramon Villarín SJ. This was held at the Habitat for Humanity Community in Calanan, Cagayan de Oro City.



Xavier University High School received a substantial donation of P1.5 million from the ADC/XUHS Class of '66 Foundation, Inc to help sharpen the knowledge and teaching skills of the faculty.

The fund will be broken down into three types of awards worth P500,000 each, namely: the Rev Paul D Campbell, SJ Teachers' Development Fund, the Rev Alberto V Ampil, SJ Teachers' Development Fund and the Rev Francisco Montecastro, SJ Teachers' Development Fund.

The fund is intended for instructors teaching natural sciences, physical sciences and mathematics. There will be yearly meetings between XU and the donors to check on the progress of the fund.



XU welcomes Fr Bobby. A crowd of well-wishers gathered outside the office of the Department of Student Affairs to greet new University President Fr Roberto "Bobby" Yap SJ upon his arrival in the campus on May 25. Faculty, staff and students clutched miniature flags and a streamer welcoming Fr Bobby to the XU community. He was then accompanied to the Loyola House by the assembly.



Holy Week Triduum Retreat with Fr Manoling

By Sr Elnora Perez ra

This year's Holy Week Triduum Retreat featured Fr Manoling Francisco SJ as main speaker. Fr Manoling engaged about 850 retreatants with his animated preaching style. The spiritual retreat elucidated the proclamation of the resurrection that love always wins and whenever we embody a love that is indomitable, we become witnesses to the resurrection.

Fr Manoling underscored the importance of a historical level of reflection when reading scriptures to make sense of the theological reading of the text. Having been illuminated on the historical background, the retreatants were able to understand better the challenges posed by the 'sermon on the mount' when Jesus said: "Turn the other cheek," "Give your inner tunic," and "Walk the extra mile." They also learned of the prevailing oppressive structures during Jesus' time and how He actively and openly denounced evil, giving vent to His anger to cleanse the temple of the prevailing systematic, economic exploitation of the poor by the religious authorities, thus becoming a "marked man" and giving Himself away to His enemies.

The retreatants were plunged deep into the drama of Jesus' arrest and trial during the session on Good Friday. Fr Manoling

dealt with the question, "How does the death of Jesus become salvific?" He explained that in Mark, Jesus died in anguish and pain. This reveals a God who accompanies His people in their pain, for nothing escapes Him. The descent into hell by Jesus is understood today as the climax of the paschal mystery.

On the third day, Saturday, Fr Manoling explained the conflicting views on resurrection during Jesus' time. The idea of the resurrection does not exist in the Old Testament and is considered as a later development. This came about with the reflection on the innocent suffering and the prosperity of the evil doers. There has to be a time when good is vindicated. Fr Manoling also explained the encounter between Jesus and his disciples at Lake Tiberias when Jesus appeared to them unexpectedly and showed them that the resurrection is an experience of divine mercy, breaking bread with friends, not with enemies, even if they betrayed Him.

Based on these reflections, the retreatants realized in the revelations in the paschal mystery that God is with us in life, death and eternity; it is a vindication of Jesus and the reversal of the wrongs of history; and the victory of God's indomitable love. □

Guidance counselors join CPE seminar-workshops

Two continuing professional education (CPE) seminar-workshops were attended by five GCO Registered Guidance Counselors this summer.

Judith Guarin, Ariel Tecson and Dr Joey Marie Jegonia attended the seminar-workshop on "Integrated Personality Assessment: From Understanding Objective and Projective Tests to Writing up an Integrated Report" conducted by PSYB Human Resource Clinic and Consultancy at the Grand Caprice Convention Center, Cagayan de Oro City on May 13-14. The resource speaker was Dr Maria Caridad Taraja, professor at the De La Salle University, Manila and president of the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP).

Likewise, on May 18-20, two counselors, Thais Dumpa and Dr Charito Ferrer, attended

the Philippine Guidance and Counseling Association Inc's 47th Annual Convention and Seminar-Workshops held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila and the University of Santo Tomas, respectively. The theme of this year's convention was "The Counselor: Walking the Talk in Different Settings."

The seminar-workshops were facilitated by counseling experts from national and international accredited professional organizations in guidance and counseling. The topics were on "Counseling in the School, Clinical, Industrial, Military, Community and Foreign Settings," "Managing Stalking," "Making Effective Training," "Parents' Factors in Counseling," "College Students Depression," "Counselor in Crisis Situation," "Requisites for Personal Growth and Change," and "Walking the Talk as Meaning Maker: A Theater-Based Workshop for Counselors."

These seminar-workshops were accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission for the CPE of the counselors as a requirement for the renewal of their professional licenses. □



XU Libraries benchmark with Asian Universities

As part of its mission of acquiring and providing access to a wide range of information resources, print and electronic, the XU Libraries organized a benchmarking activity with the Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University on May 5-7, and at the Singapore Management University from May 22-29.

The benchmarking exercises aimed at learning some of the best practices in other academic libraries to respond better to the information needs of the University.

Library personnel were updated on new library technology trends at the Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University.

Select administrators, deans, department heads and librarians also participated in a benchmarking and book selection activity at the Singapore Management University in Singapore.

The result of the exposure will be used as basis for the planned upgrading of the XU Libraries. □



Mass of the Holy Spirit marks start of new School year

The celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit on June 23 ushered in the beginning of a new academic year as the University community gathered in prayer at the Gym to call upon the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom and inspiration.

Classes scheduled for 4pm were cancelled to allow all students, faculty and staff to attend the annual Mass traditionally known as the Red Mass. New University President Fr Roberto C Yap SJ was the main celebrant with the other Jesuit Fathers Cal Poulin, Mars Tan, George Esguerra and Pen Abuan concelebrating with him.

In his homily, Fr Yap shared the great symbols of the Holy Spirit: Wind and Fire. Just like the wind that is mighty and powerful, the Holy Spirit has the power to change us. He cited as examples Blessed John Paul II, St Katharine Drexel and St Francis of Assisi who were able to brave the frontiers through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Ask that this mighty wind of the Lord blow in your life," Fr Yap said.

The Holy Spirit is also like the fire that cleanses us of our selfishness, pride, anger and resentment, and replaces them with the light of wisdom.

"When the Holy Spirit dwells in you, you receive the light of wisdom... and then what you study comes to life... commences to become meaningful and relevant," he said. "Through the Holy Spirit you will grow in wisdom."

Finally, Fr Yap added as a gift of the Holy Spirit the gift of tongues, "tongues as of fire." Moved by the power and light of the Holy Spirit we are able to proclaim Jesus not just in words but also in deeds.

The Grade School and High School Departments also held their Masses of the Holy Spirit on June 17 and 28, respectively. □

Faculty formators go on Ignatian Retreat



Faculty members of the First Year Formation Program (FFP) underwent some of the modules offered by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality of the Ateneo de Manila University this summer. All the live-in seminar workshops were held at the Sacred Heart Retreat House & Seminar Center in Novaliches, Manila.

June Lyn Balingit participated in the module on the Foundations

of Ignatian Retreat-Giving and Spiritual Direction from March 29 to April 6. Balingit went on a spiritual journey with a Spiritual Director. The experience helped her tell her own sacred stories and grow closer to God. Her spiritual direction experience was an invitation to a deeper relationship with God that is growing in the freedom of responding to His love.

From April 27 to May 5, formators Reine Alamban, Ruth Bangamu Arrachchie and Irish Bobadilla attended Module 4a on "Coming Home to Our

Fundamentum: Exploring the Exercises of the First Week." The exercitants were guided through conferences, reflective reading, personal and common prayer, faith sharing and spiritual direction in understanding the dynamics of the Exercises of the First Week on creaturehood, evil and sin, and most importantly the experience of being rooted and grounded in God's unconditional love.

The formators are now looking at the potential of spiritual direction for their students and colleagues to help bring them closer to God and grow in their ability to detect and respond to the ways God moves in them amid the various events, concerns and struggles of daily life. □

IN BRIEF



University President, Fr Bobby Yap SJ met with the Kagay-anon International East Coast Chapter (KIECC) on April 30 at the residence of Dr Ronaldo Ferraris in New Jersey, USA. The organization donated additional funds to support a new scholar starting 2012.

KIECC, composed of XU alumni and friends, mostly medical doctors and nurses based in the East Coast, has been actively raising funds for XU scholarship since 1993. With the members' generous support, four of their scholars have already graduated and are now successful in their chosen fields.




General Motors Advanced Technician Training Center (GMATTC) handed over a brand-new four-cylinder Saab engine and a brand-new four-cylinder Ecotec engine to the Center for Integrated Technologies (CIT) to help train the students in Automotive Technology.

GMATTC has been a partner of XU since 2009, and many CIT graduates are now working in GM dealerships overseas after completing training in the GMATTC in Bulacan.



Dr Gina S Itchon, Associate Professor at the Dr Jose P Rizal School of Medicine, was the resource speaker on "Turning Waste into Opportunities: Making Sanitation an Asset" during the 2nd ADB-DMC and Partners Sanitation Dialogue on themed, "Making Sanitation a Sustainable Business" held from May 23-25, 2011 in Manila.



As we bid farewell to Fr Jett Villarin SJ, our well-loved University President for the past six years, let us welcome with open hearts and minds our new President, Fr Roberto “Bobby” C Yap SJ, to the Xavier University community.

Like most of you, I, too, know very little about Fr Bobby Yap. That is why writing this article about him was both a welcome and a daunting task – welcome because who among us does not want to know more about the person who shall be leading us in the next few years, the one we shall look up to but we also hope would become our friend; daunting because I have had to rely on others to supply me with “inside information” about Fr Bobby and what makes him tick.

The problem with this piece, and with any article that seeks to write about a person, is that there will always be the possibility that it will fall short of capturing the essence of the person being written about. So at the onset let me issue a caveat: I write this article only with the hope that I can ably introduce Fr Bobby to the Xavier University community, and that we may get valuable glimpses of the kind of leader, Jesuit priest and friend he is from his co-workers, family and friends.

Let me begin by talking about the obvious: his personal, work and educational background.

Fr Yap was born on 16 May 1959 in Cebu City. He is the sixth of nine siblings of Jesus S Yap (+) and Eufemia Chan-Yap. He joined the Society of Jesus on 30 May 1982 and was ordained a Catholic priest by Jaime Cardinal Sin DD (+) on 14 March 1992.

Fr Yap’s exemplary credentials make him more than qualified for the job he is now faced up. He comes to us from the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus as the Province Treasurer. His past and present assignments and ministries include being a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ateneo De Manila University and Ateneo de Naga University; member of the Board of Directors of The Medical City Hospital; president of the Ekklesia Mutual Fund Inc (a mutual fund owned by the religious), chairman and director of Realty Investment Inc; province assistant for the Social Apostolate; associate director of John J Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJC-ICSI); acting parish priest of Miraculous Medal Parish in Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro; assistant professor at the Department of Economics, Ateneo de Manila University; and Environmental Economist at the Klima Climate Change Center of the Manila Observatory.

**Welcome, our
new President!**

by Jaime F Ignacio



He earned his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics from the University College London, London, UK and Master in Public Policy (MPP) from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA. He also has a Master of Arts (MA) in Theology, Bachelor in Sacred Theology (STB, graduated Summa Cum Laude) from the Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo de Manila University and a Master of Arts (MA) in Economics from the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science, New School for Social Research, New York, NY, USA. He started tertiary studies at Lester B Pearson College of the Pacific, Canada and graduated Bachelor of Arts (AB) in Economics, Cum Laude from the Honors Program in Economics, School of Arts and Sciences at the Ateneo de Manila University.

In spite of his formidable credentials, however, it is heartening to know that we need not be intimidated (at least not absolutely) by Fr Yap because there is a lighter side to him. His sister, Dr Marife Yap says that Fr Yap is a disciplined and intense worker, but, on a lighter note, he is known to



be constantly humming a tune without even being aware of it!

The Jesuit Provincial, Fr Jojo Magadia, SJ says that Fr Yap appreciates light-hearted conversations and enjoys eating good food (don't we all?). Our own former President, Fr Villarin, who considers Fr Yap a friend and a brother, mentions Fr Yap's "infectious laughter." He considers him to be "shy, quiet, deep and spiritual." As Fr Magadia reveals, "This makes him very human and if you let him, he will be there to support you."

Those who have worked with him in the Jesuit Provincial's Office consider him to be a well-organized leader who works toward a clear vision, influencing and guiding them in achieving this vision. Indeed, colleagues have uniformly described him as a quiet, dedicated and committed worker.

Both Fr Villarin and Fr Magadia believe that Fr Yap is possessed with the gift of "clarity of thought," an invaluable trait in a leader. "If [we] become muddled in our thinking, [we] will know because he will show us how to think through stuff more clearly," says Fr Villarin.

Fr Yap's forte is, of course, on financial matters. His colleagues at the Jesuit Provincial Office peg him as the right person to consult when it comes to budget and investments. He is also Fr Villarin's adviser on financial matters. Fr Yap gamely baptized himself the moniker, "Bobby Nope" after budget hearings. For what reason, I think we shall find out in due time.

Fr Mario Francisco SJ, current President of the Loyola School of Theology, shared in his homily during Fr Yap's final vows, how the latter's Jesuit brothers have come to know and love him. He said they have seen Fr Yap's quiet dedication to whatever he was missioned to and his enduring compassion for the poor in Payatas and beyond. He is also very humble that his co-workers at the Jesuit Provincial's Office say that he does not make known what he does for others.

As in any change of leadership, the question we ask is always, "What can we expect now?" Fr Villarin believes that as Jesuits and priests, his and Fr Yap's vision and dreams do not diverge at all. They were after all formed together to become leaders under the great Fr Ben Nebres SJ, whom Fr Villarin recently replaced as President of the Ateneo de Manila University.

I think an equally important question is, "What does Fr Yap expect of us?" I had the opportunity of posing these two questions to Fr Yap. His answers are truly inspiring and reveal a lot about what we can expect under his leadership, and what he hopes we contribute to his dream for Xavier University.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish during your term as President of Xavier University?

Fr Yap: "I have inherited a thriving and healthy XU from Fr Jett. He deserves great credit for his leadership in moving forward Ateneo de Cagayan so successfully. My role will be, in part, to carry on what he has started. I will certainly continue to pursue the three University Development Goals which Fr Jett articulated: Stronger Formation, Greater Societal Engagement and Better Administration.



"My hope is to turn XU into the best Xavier University of the 21st century. I will do my utmost to lead XU – Ateneo de Cagayan in becoming a flourishing Filipino, Catholic and Jesuit academic institution serving vigorously and creatively the needs of Mindanao, the Philippines and Asia-Pacific.

"My aspiration is for XU to intensify its cura personalis focus on students which develops their minds and hearts and especially their consciences so that they become heroic leaders who will serve with integrity and



"My dream is that XU will strengthen its commitment to meet the highest standards in teaching, instruction, academic inquiry and formation. This commitment should involve solid academic content and innovative learning methods most appropriate in our globalized world."

compassion. Our students should be prepared to live extraordinary lives inspired and strengthened by our Lord Jesus.

"My dream is that XU will strengthen its commitment to meet the highest standards in teaching, instruction, academic inquiry and formation. This commitment should involve solid academic content and innovative learning methods most appropriate in our globalized world."

"My ardent wish is for XU to expand and deepen its research and social outreach so that the university can contribute dynamically to poverty alleviation, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development of Mindanao and the country.

"My delight would be for XU to fortify its growing commitment to faith and justice; to faith and dialogue with cultures and other religions; to faith and caring for creation. This faith commitment is what will make the whole of Ateneo de Cagayan much greater than the sum of its parts."



Q: What do you expect from the Xavier University Community in relation to your dream?

Fr Yap: "Share the dream. I would be most pleased if the XU community deepens its sense of common vision and together share dreams and aspirations. In my first months as President, I will spend time with the different sectors of the community to understand more deeply what these dreams and aspirations will mean for them and how these can be realized in their concrete circumstances. I look forward to these on-going conversations with our students, faculty, staff and administration.

"Be generous. St. Ignatius of Loyola teaches us that there is a correlation between one's progress in the spiritual life and the level of one's generosity. He always exhorted the people he guided to be magnanimous, to be large-hearted, to pursue always the *magis*. I hope that the XU community will respond with generosity and magnanimity to the programs and projects that will be implemented to realize our dreams and hopes.

"Be professional. Realizing our hopes and aspirations will require that we all grow continuously in competence and professionalism. I hope that the members of XU will fulfill their roles and responsibilities with dedication and meet the highest standards to the best of their abilities.

"Build community. As our university expands and grows, it is important that we

do not lose the strong sense of community for which Ateneo de Cagayan is renowned. I hope that XU will always be a place where people find care and compassion in the midst of the challenges and conflicts that we face. Let us pursue our dreams and aspirations together as friends. Let us always be companions in a common journey with our Lord."

As I have said at the beginning of this article, I hope only to be able to introduce Fr Yap to the Xavier University community. I am also now left with the desire to introduce the Xavier University community to Fr Yap. I am keenly looking forward to a Xavier University under Fr Yap's leadership and I believe that if he knows our community even as "little" as we know him, he, too, would be excited at the prospect of leading us. But that is perhaps for a different time and another person to write. What I only wish for is that we welcome him warmly not only with words but more importantly with our full support and cooperation. Let us share his dream. I can think of no better way than this to welcome Fr Yap to our Xavier University community.

Mr Jaime Ignacio is the head of the Campus Development Office of Xavier University. He acknowledges the contributions of Fr Jojo Magadia SJ, Jesuit Provincial; Fr Jett Villarin SJ, President, Ateneo de Manila University; Fr Mario Francisco SJ, President, Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo de Manila University; Dr Marife Yap, Fr Bobby Yap's sister; Ms Ma Elena Bienvenida, Asst Treasurer, Jesuit Provincial's Office; Mr Sergio Naranjilla, Chief Financial Officer, Jesuit Provincial's Office; Ms Tedia De Paz, Jesuit Provincial's Office; and the Accounting Staff of the Jesuit Provincial's Office to the writing of this article.



Nursing professor wins in int'l research confab

A professor of the Master of Arts in Nursing program, Mary Grace Paayas, competed and won in the 1st Cebu International Nursing Conference held at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City on April 26 and 27.

Paayas took home second place in the poster category for her study, "The Critical Thinking Abilities of Fourth Year Nursing Students, XU SY 2009-2010." Her research was one of the 15 finalists chosen from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, China, and the Philippines among 66 entries submitted.

Paayas' study found the need to improve students' critical thinking abilities and recommended employing varied teaching methods that go beyond knowledge

recall, more hands-on experiences for student-nurses, better interaction between students and teachers when it comes to problem-solving and decision-making, and the conduct of more studies that promote critical thinking.

Her study was published in the Philippine Journal of Nursing Education and featured in the publication of the First Cebu International Nursing Conference.

Paayas thanks all those who helped her realize her research, among them the dean of the College of Nursing Dr Ramona Heidi Palad, Dr Ester Raagas, Graduate School faculty and staff, members of the panel, the Kinaadman Research Center, and her family and friends. Above all, she thanks God Almighty.

The 1st Cebu International Nursing Conference, which bore the theme, "Nurses: Creating a Positive Environment for Learning and Practice," sought to provide opportunities for sharing research outputs, developing professional networks, and learning from colleagues. The event served as a venue for nurses to disseminate and utilize research findings. It was participated in by researchers, authors, lawyers, and deans of colleges or schools of nursing from China, Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, United States of America, Australia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Philippines. □



DevCom Chair is Erasmus Mundus Course Rep

Shiella Balbutin, chairperson of the Development Communication Department, has been elected as one of the 2011-2012 Erasmus Mundus course representatives.

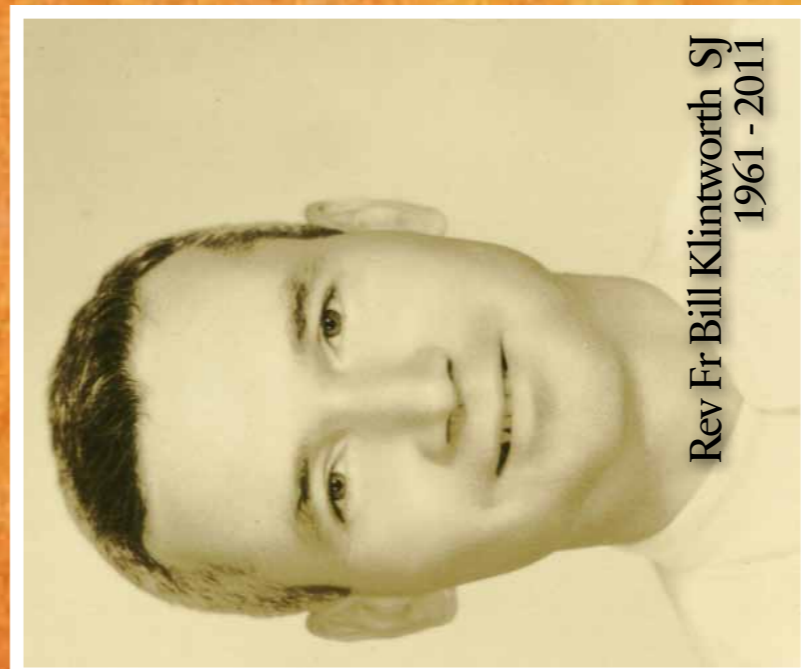
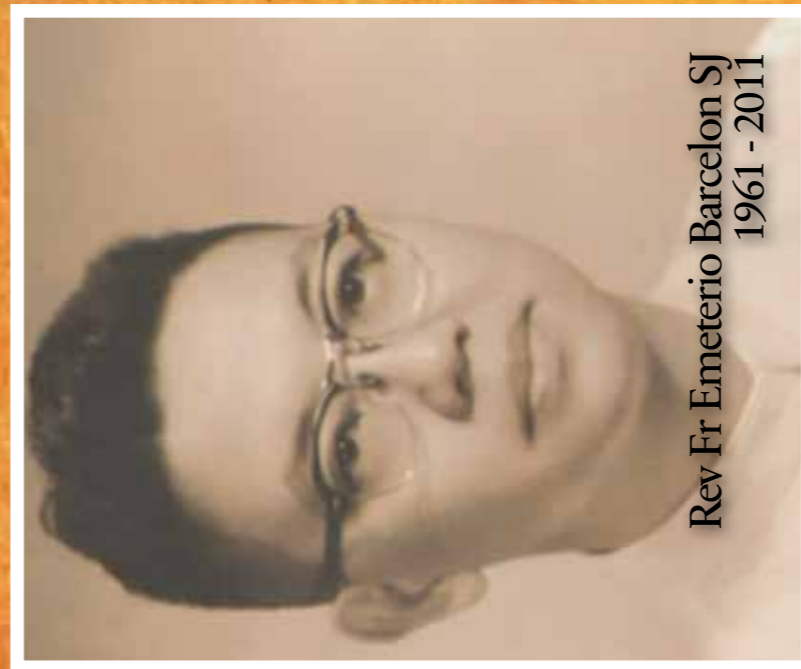
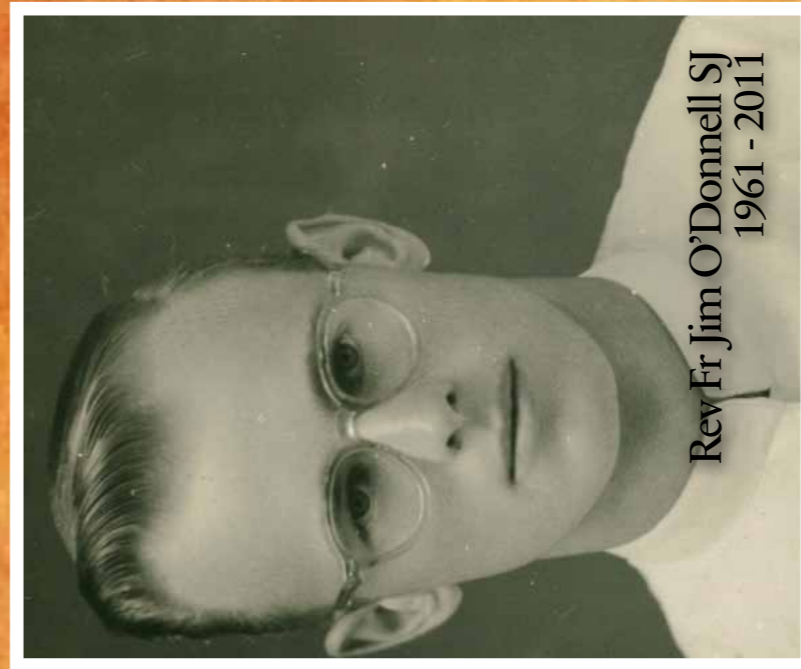
Balbutin will represent the CoMundus European Master of Arts in Media, Communication and Cultural Studies course which she attended from 2005-2007 at the University of Aarhus, Denmark and the University of London, UK.

Every year, the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA) organizes online elections for its members to choose a representative of their Erasmus Mundus course.

"I submitted my expression of interest and presented my platform. It was then posted on the EMA website for the other alumni to see," said Balbutin. "I had to campaign for votes among the other graduates of my course and I got lucky to have gotten the most number of votes."

As course representative, Balbutin will act as the focal person for potential applicants for the said course and serve as a link between the course and the EMA.

Presently, Balbutin is in Budapest, Hungary attending the EMA General Assembly that gathers over 170 EMA members and guests to disseminate activities and plans of EMA regional chapters and service teams. □



50 Years... A Celebration of Life in the Priesthood

by Libby Josephine M Abesamis, Office of Mission and Ministry

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Application to Nippon Foundation's Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowship 2012-2013 (July 1-August 30, 2011)	2
3 General Assembly of Law Students @ Little Theater, Spm Prelim Exams (July 4-9)	4 Philosophy Dept's Faculty Lecture Series AVR 1: 4-5:15 pm Orientation of newly hired faculty and staff members	5 Scholars' Organizational Meeting and Orientation University Research Summit Dulaang Atenista's 23rd Season Opening CIT Sports Fest (July 13-16)	6 Scholars' Organizational Meeting and Orientation	7 XCCA 4th Cultural Season Launching	8 Visit of Dr. Heinrich Geiger of KAAD for scholarship opportunities (July 8-9)	9 Scholars' Organizational Meeting and Orientation
10	11	12	13	14	15 Xavier University Cultural Dance Troupe's Cultural Presentation w/ Philippine Folk Dance Society (July 22-23)	16 Scholars' Organizational Meeting and Orientation Law Testimonial Dinner @ Pryce Plaza Hotel; 6pm
17	18	19 Nursing Cap & Badge Investiture and Candle Lighting Ceremony Class 2014; XU Chapel: 1:30 pm	20 Faculty & Staff Recollection (July 21-22)	21	22 Forum on Nationalism through Mindanao Cultures (July 29-30)	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola
July 31, 2011



August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Start of intensive review for the Nurse Licensure Exam, Class 2011 @ Nursing Amphitheater Mid-Term Exams (Aug 1-6)	2	3 Filipino Dept's Faculty Lecture Series AVR 1: 4-5:15 pm	4	5	6
7 Lecture on Criminal Law @ XU Moot Court	8	9	10 CIT General Assembly	11	12	13
14 Lectures on Criminal Law and Persons & Family Relations @ XU Moot Court	15 Investiture of Fr Roberto C Yap SJ as University President	16	17 Conversation on the Ignatian value of the month: CURA PERSONALIS	18	19 Arteklutura 4: An Inter Art Genre Lecture Series and Practice Presentation	20
21	22 Ninoy Aquino Day Dulaang Atenista's "P for Pepe" (Aug 22-25, 29-30)	23	24	25	26 Culture Based Education training for student leaders, basic education and college faculty (Aug 26-27)	27 State of Affairs of Nursing Education in the Philippines & Windows of Employment @ Nursing Amphitheater; 8am-5pm Mr and Ms Law and Socials Night
28	29 National Heroes Day	30	31 Xavier University Clee Club's Iisang Bangka Concert			

Investiture of Fr Robert C Yap SJ as University President
August 15, 2011



September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5 Semi-final Exams (Sept 5-10)	6	7 Psychology Dept's Faculty Lecture Series AVR 1: 4-5:15 pm	8 Nursing Teaching Strategies in Competency Appraisal @ Nursing Amphitheater; 8am-5pm (Sept 1-2)	9	10
4	12 University Intramurals (tentative: Sept 12-17) Mission and Ministry Week 2011: "Synergy for Effective Action" (Sept 12-17)	13	14 Conversation on the Ignatian value of the month: DISCIPLINE AND HARDWORK	15	16	17
11 Lectures on Memorandum and Legal Opinion Making @ XU Moot Court	19	20	21 The Xavier Stage's Barracks ni Teriente Fuego	22	23	24
18	26	27	28 CIT tutorials (Sept 28-30)	29	30 YAMUG 4: Mindanao Folk Literature Expo & Forum on Mindanao Indigenous People (Sept 30-Oct 1)	
25						



University Intramurals 2011
September 12 to 17

The Jesuit community of Cagayan de Oro held a grand celebration on June 17 at Xavier University for the 50 years in priesthood of Fathers Terry Barcelon, Bill Klintworth, and Jim O'Donnell, all of the Society of Jesus. Family, relatives, friends, and colleagues of the jubilarians were gathered for the said momentous event. It was a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing for the gifts of the three Jesuits who have truly made a difference in the lives of many people whom they have touched these past decades.

The event started with a solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Immaculate Conception Chapel. It was presided by Fr Jose Cecilio Magadia, SJ, the Jesuit Provincial, and was celebrated by other Jesuit priests and bishops in Cagayan de Oro City and Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

In recognition of the jubilarians' unique contribution to the mission, certificates of appreciation and some gifts were given to the celebrants. Fr Roberto C Yap, SJ, the new President

of Xavier University read the citation for each jubilarian. It was Xavier University's expression of gratitude for the faithfulness and perseverance of the jubilarians in taking part in the Jesuit education apostolate for many years, particularly at Xavier University.

Xavier University is truly blessed with the presence of Fr Terry, Fr Bill, and Fr Jim. With the many years of service in the University, they truly exemplified what it is to be passionately and dedicatedly working with and for others to serve the Lord and to take part

in His mission of love and life in the priesthood.

Ad Majorem de Gloriam!



Ridwan (right) with 2009 CNN Hero of the Year Efrén Peñaflorida



Fourth Year International Studies student Ridwan Landasan was honored with two prestigious national awards this month: the Makabagong Rizal: Pag-asa ng Bayan Award and the Dangal ng Bayan for Outstanding Filipino Achievers Award Young Professionals Category.

The Makabagong Rizal: Pag-asa ng Bayan Awards was organized by the Philippine Center for Gifted Education with the National Historical Commission, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Tanghalang Pilipino in line with the 150th birth anniversary of Dr Jose Rizal. The activity recognized 35 children and youth leaders who imbibe the ideals of our national hero and live out a life of integrity, dignity, truth, honesty and love of country. Ridwan was selected through an intensive screening process based on eight different intelligences. The awarding and oath taking as exemplar took place on June 17 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

A couple of days later, Ridwan received the Dangal ng Bayan for Outstanding Filipino

Ridwan Landasan named 'Dangal ng Bayan,' 'Makabagong Rizal' awardee

Achievers Award conferred by the National Consumers Affairs Foundation. The Award recognizes the significant achievements of individuals in the areas of public service, entertainment, humanitarian & civic service, sports, education and other major professional fields. Ridwan was chosen for his academic and civic involvement. The award was presented at a gala event on June 19 at the Araneta Center in Cubao.

What is more phenomenal is that his parents were also awardees during the same event. His father Rendiyong Masillam and mother Nura Masillam were recipients of the Huwarang Ama and Huwarang Ina awards in the Home & Family category.

Ridwan hails from a small island in Sulu where his father was a seaweed farmer. He is the eighth of eleven children. Growing up in Sulu, Ridwan says he experienced poverty first hand and saw the struggle of his parents to raise their family and send all his siblings to school in the mainland. This was what prompted him to nominate his parents for the award.

Ridwan is a Henry Howard scholar at Xavier and an active student leader advocating inter-religious dialogue. He has trotted the globe as an exchange student first in high school in Zamboanga City and then in college under the Global UGrad Exchange Program at the University of Mississippi.

"Looking at my experiences as an island boy, I have realized that life is indeed full of surprises," expressed Ridwan during his interview for the Makabagong Rizal Awards. "Who would have thought that a little islander who used to pick up seashells and starfish along the shore of an itty bitty island has now travelled different shores of the world picking up great learning and experiences?"

For Ridwan, achieving your life goal requires three things: a dream, some action and a lot of faith. "You dream...exert effort and let God do the rest." He has shown that we can be anyone we want to be no matter where we come from.

"I came from an island where there is no education, no electricity," he says. "I want to return and give back to my island."

Ridwan knows that the best way he can repay the goodness he's received is to pay it forward. □



Ridwan with members of the National Consumers Affairs Foundation and his parents (right)

XU-Rodeo sweeps Rodeo Masbateño

The Xavier University Rodeo Team brought home the overall championship in the student category of the Rodeo National Finals in Masbate City. The XU-Rodeo has consistently won top awards in the Rodeo Masbateño granting them two “3peat” championships with the equivalent of two grand slam titles.

This year's XU-Rodeo Women's Team consisted of Julie Ann Abas, Karen Luzette Gayla, Vanezza Fritse Mondero, Marianne Mae Remedio and Sheila Mae Untay. They placed first in Cattle Lassoing, Wrestling, Tie-down (on foot) and Load Carry Relay events, and placed second in Four-women Carambola, Whipcracking and Team Casting events.



On the other hand, the Men's Team composed of Karl Abunda, Efen Alipato, Robert Arnel Casiño, Carl Richard Copino, Francis Duyongan, Evan Diosdado Neri and Albert Matthias Saavedra won first place in Cattle Bare-back Riding and Team Casting events, and second place in Two-person Carambola, Steer Wrestling from horse-back, Tie-down and Cattle Lassoing, Wrestling, and Tie-down (on foot).

Students Carl Richard Copino and Julie Ann Abas were also crowned Rodeo King and Queen respectively.

The XU-Rodeo won a total of P73,000 and received 4 trophies. The team's victory wouldn't have been likely without the help of their moderator Hernando Pacana and manager Ana Celina Soriano. □



Ms Jayremae Revilla presenting her research during the NMSC conference



Ms Revilla receiving her certificate for winning Second Place in the oral category

Med students present in nat'l conference

Sophomore and junior students of the Jose P Rizal School of Medicine, together with Medicine's Research and Social Outreach Coordinator, Dr Gina Itchon, participated and competed in the National Medical Students' Conference held at Buenafe Auditorium, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines on April 2-3. The theme of the conference was “Making the Five-star Filipino Physician.”

The students competed in the Oral Presentation and Poster Presentation Categories. Jayremae Revilla won 2nd place in the Oral Presentation Category with her research on “An Experimental Study on the Efficacy of Aquatic Fern (*Salvinia molesta*) in the Reduction of Wastewater Pollutants.” □



Eng'g stude wins 'PalaECEpan' tourney

by Regine Neri

There are a lot of things that can be learned from playing with construction toys – like learning to love engineering. Just ask the champion of the 2011 PalaECEpan Quiz Bee, a national competition for Electronics Engineering students.

Carlo Miñon says that as a kid LEGO helped him develop his spatial analysis skills and fostered his love of math and physics.

“I love studying them,” he shares. “I always imagine how to solve a problem in my head.”

His analytical ability sharpened partly by playing with building bricks has taken him far. His problem solving skills carried him through the championship of PalaECEpan after trailing in the first half of the contest.

“I hated the first 3 questions because I was not familiar with the terms,” Carlo reveals. “With no points, I still remained positive and waited patiently for the problem solving part which offered more points per question.”

True enough, he harbored the most points in the problem solving round, earning him the grand title, and another PalaECEpan trophy for

Xavier University after five years.

Carlo, whose dad is a faculty member of XU's Center for Integrated Technologies making him somewhat predisposed to loving math and its applications, knows very well how to put his creative genius to good work.

He has been bringing the name of XU since Grade School. When he was in the 5th and 6th grades, he was 2nd in the MTAP Math Challenge, and was a consistent champion throughout his high school years. In addition, he won 3rd place in the National Philippine Statistics Quiz Bee while still a freshman in college.

Now, Carlo is busy reviewing for the board exam in November having graduated last March. His only advice to those who like him wish to participate and win in math quiz bees is “to focus more on the problem solving part than the objective.” Then he adds, more importantly, “You should always remain calm.” □



XUHS bests other teams in prestigious math tilt

by Regine Neri

Xavier University High School valedictorian Jayhan Regner and salutatorian Mary Lai Salvaña competed with the best math students in the country to win 2nd place in the National Finals of the 2011 Metrobank – Mathematics Teachers' Association of the Philippines (MTAP) – DepEd Math Challenge held at the Metrobank Plaza in Makati City on April 9.

From more than half a million students who participated nationwide, only ten teams, including XUHS, were chosen for the national finals, which involved solving math questions using mental and pen-and-paper calculations.

Jayhan and Lai, who got a perfect score in the regional finals, admit that the questions got a lot harder as they moved on to the national finals. In fact, in the finals, they lagged behind the other teams catching up only in the last round.

“It was so disheartening whenever we did not get the correct answer. So, [I thought] I'd better not look at our scores,” Lai, an MTAP alternate since 2nd year High School, remembers. She shares that she gets very nervous before each competition but that feeling wares off when the competition starts.

The teams from the Philippine Science High School (Quezon City) and Lakan Dula High School (Tondo, Manila) consistently ranked 2nd and 1st respectively during the easy round while the XUHS duo only placed 6th. Despite the circumstance, they didn't stop competing.

“We placed 6th [in the easy round] and 3rd [in the average round]. But the last question in the difficult round [promoted] our team to 2nd place,” says Jayhan who has consistently been XU's representative for MTAP since 2003.

The XUHS team received medals, certificates, a trophy and a total cash prize of P80,000. They were only slightly behind the Philippine Science High School – Main Campus who emerged the champion. □



At Hapinoy with Bam Aquino

Beyond Greenbelt, Glorietta and Global City

by Bianca Nathalie Y Llamis, BS Business Administration 4

Whenever I tell people that I spent four days in Manila, their excited questions almost always revolve around “You went to Makati? What did you see?” and “WOW! Where did you go? Did you drop by Greenbelt?” And I was fine with filling them in on the stores we visited: talking about what I saw when we strolled around Bonifacio High Street and Market! Market!; describing to them the sights and sounds—and smells—of Binondo and Divisoria; watching them almost drool in envy when I told them I entered Hermes and Gucci and Jimmy Choo in Greenbelt 3.

But at the back of my mind, a thought persisted: Is that really all they want to know? Where I’ve been, what I’ve seen, where I shopped for four days—that’s it? My four-day foray into Manila was certainly more than just about that. In fact, my four days were made more fruitful by what I learned, who I met, and

what I have become. Every day was filled with learning, insight and answers.

The start of something new

The first day was spent meeting Bam Aquino of Hapinoy and Rico Gonzalez, former director of Ateneo Center for Social Entrepreneurship. They are two people you either see on television or read in the papers or both. And we got to meet them in person. Was I starstruck? Not so much. But at the end of our time with them, I was.

It’s hard to write down what I’ve learned. There were so many. But some that stood out was Bam Aquino’s advice on looking for and finding people who share one’s passion and building a network from there. In Cagayan de Oro, where social entrepreneurship is still unheard of by most of the population, there are some gaps in the network. You will not easily find people who will readily accept



At GK Sunshineville

the idea. Bam’s advice, which our group will apply for our business, would hopefully pave the way for a stronger network among social entrepreneurs and bigger businesses that are willing to support our endeavors through partnerships.

With Rico Gonzalez, it was not more on networking but on vision. And he contradicted our vision. He challenged us to expand our horizons, to look beyond Cagayan de Oro. That, for me, was the highlight of my day, because that’s not something you hear frequently. In my university, it’s more about starting small, with much caution. Teachers



At Enchanted Farms with Jim Ayala

question our feasibility studies’ target sales, wondering if we’ll ever manage to reach them, asking us if we’re sure we could sell that many. But here is this big guy telling us to dream bigger because our dreams are too small. Here is this man telling us to start small, sure, but to dream big. He gave many other great pieces of advice, but that was what I’ll remember him for.

Both men gave us new ideas for our business. I could say, even though it seemed too early to tell, that it was going to be a great four days. And I was right.

Finding inspiration

CSI Night was, to say the least, inspiring. You see people around you who are pretty much your age, and they also have their own social enterprises. The most amazing part was when Tetris, a fellow social entrepreneur, suggested to us the styropor plastic densifier as something we could use to convert waste materials into other things. Others also critiqued our product and gave suggestions and possible locations to find supplies. There was this openness of giving information, this lack of competitiveness that amazed me. We’re often given the impression that business is a cutthroat world that could rival the CIA in terms of competition and elimination of rivals. But in CSI Night, we found out that social entrepreneurs are not your average business people. The term “trade secret” is not something that crossed their lips.



Meeting with Rico Gonzales

And that seemed to set the mood for Day 2, when we went to various places: GK Enchanted Farm (and meeting Jim Ayala there), Human Nature’s main office, and the Rags2Riches showroom. The people who welcomed us freely shared their knowledge and advice, listening to our concerns and suggesting solutions, showing us how they price their products so we could determine if we wanted to do the same. Their tips were like gems of wisdom to a starting-up business like ours. And the fact that they were given freely was overwhelming.

Later, we visited Shopwise and Market! Market! to start our competitive pricing analysis.

The gritty part

We woke up early for Divisoria on the third day, and got to experience the grittier part of being an entrepreneur. It is not easy scurrying the wilderness that is Divisoria, for supplies and materials. But it was fun, all the same. And it taught me the value of persistence. You don’t stop at one store. If you don’t find what you’re looking for, keep searching. And even if you’ve found it already, you have to check if other stores sell them for a cheaper price. It was exhausting but necessary. And indeed, we found some of the materials we were looking for, and got to compare the prices with shops in Cagayan de Oro.

Our visit to SMART Tower showed us other opportunities to earn with our community. If we truly wanted our communities to improve their standard of living, we should not close our doors to other income-generating opportunities, especially the Load Mo Sarili Mo loading business. It was a perfect additional income for our partner community, and something we hope to introduce to them in the near future.

In GK Sunshineville, we got more of the realistic picture of entrepreneurship we’ve been given for the past two days and a half. Ms Pinky Poe minced no words when she described all they’ve gone through in starting businesses with the different GK communities – all the sweat, the tears, the delays, and we took heart that while our business will surely undergo the same, we have at least been forewarned of what to expect. “Bahala na, we will fail our way to success,” she quoted Bam Aquino. And that was something truly heartwarming.

Our day (or night, as it were) ended with a stroll around Greenbelt 3, 4, and 5, then The Landmark, then Glorietta 4 and 5. The bright lights, the bustling sea of people, the sounds

of car wheels and chattering voices and doors opening and closing—that’s the scene of Makati nightlife I’d take home with me.

Our Day 4 was filled with the train tracks of the LRT and MRT on our way to the Mall of Asia. And then the cab ride to NAIA 3, where our Manila sojourn started and ended. As the plane took off for Cagayan de Oro and I closed my eyes to sleep, what came to mind were not the many dazzling places in Bonifacio Global City, nor the bright lights of Greenbelt, but the long table in the School of Humanities conference room, where Rico Gonzalez told us to think big; the lush greenery of the GK Enchanted Farm where big dreams are cultivated to bloom into reality; and the roomy workplace of GK Sunshineville, where mistakes are turned around into livelihood opportunities. That was what my Manila trip was all about. □



With Randy Ortiz, designer to the stars like Kris Aquino and Richard Gomez



Students speak before social entrepreneurs during the CSI Night, a weekly event organized by the Ateneo de Manila University and Gawad Kalinga–Center for Social Innovation where participants share ideas, and give constructive feedback and suggestions.



Daghang Salamat, Fr Jett



Xavier University administration, faculty and staff held a simple gathering on May 13 for Fr Jose Ramon “Jett” T Villarín SJ, immediate past president of XU, to thank him and bid him best wishes in his new assignment as the new president of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Fr Jett was escorted to the Covered Courts where he was met with party poppers, festive band tunes and a red carpet. The various units/department rendered song and dance numbers, read poetry and put on a parody act for Fr Jett who was president of XU from school years 2005-2011.

A few intriguing things not many know about the now former president were revealed during the gathering, such as his preponderance for forgetting his wallet, his love of long, soothing drives and even his love life.

Select members of the XU community also spoke of their experience with Fr Jett as an administrator, a spiritual leader and a friend.

“You have not only built infrastructures, but you have built infrastructures in people,” said Elpidio Paras, Chairman of the XU Board of Trustees, who related how Fr Jett has inspired people

to engage in social outreach. “The Board is inspired and happy that you have made Xavier stronger, brighter, and with your inspiration, go farther.”

Fr Mars T Tan SJ, Rector of the Jesuit Community at XU and Director of the McKeough Marine Center, commended Fr Jett for his deep spirituality. “Jett has remained so cool...because of his deep spirituality,” Fr Tan said. “He is a happy Jesuit.”

“He is a joyful friend who also wants joy for his friends. When you’re down, he really knows how to lift you up with his deep perspective,” added Irene Guitarte, Director of Students Affairs.

In response, Fr Jett shared an inspiring story about a group of children who have to swim across the sea to go to school as a reminder to the administrators, faculty and staff of their “vocation to this wonderful mission which is education.”

As for leaving Xavier University for the Ateneo de Manila, Fr Jett assured the crowd that this isn’t goodbye as Jesuits move around all the time. He thanked the XU community for being open and generous.

“You have inspired me. I hope you’ve found your vocation as teachers. May the Lord return to you your generosity and hospitality.” □

On Formation: Beyond the four corners of the classroom

by Herald J Campugan, BS Accountancy 2

I used to think that doing good in academics – acing my subjects and topping the class, was what all I needed to prove my worth. On this notion, I was wrong. When I started to drench myself with the First Year Formation Program’s (FFP) goal of formation, my view changed. The holistic formation that FFP imparts has stirred remarkable changes within me – in the way I look at myself, in the way I become a person for others, and above all, in the way I place God in my life. These changes are positive, and to a great extent, life changing. FFP has directed my eyes to a new perspective. It has shown me that if I were to prove my worth, I needed to look beyond the four corners of the classroom.

More than who I think I am. Interacting with people used to be a struggle for me. I critically lacked self confidence. I was an introvert and preferred to keep things buried in the depths of my own knowledge. I did not see the brilliance in me because I believed that I was inferior to others. But through the fruitful activities of FFP, I have realized that I am worth more than what I previously thought of myself. I also learned to discover my own giftedness through acknowledging my strengths, talents, skills and abilities. God fashioned me in a unique way for a purpose that only I could accomplish, and in fulfilling such, He provided me with giftedness to respond to the mission He has set for me.

I also do not need to worry about others being better than me, because in the end, the desire to become better than others is unhealthy for my growth. In this context, I came to realize that if ever I desired to become better, I should try to compete not with others, but with myself. This is perhaps what is meant by MAGIS – the drive to do more and to strive for excellence, not for others’ downfall, but for the sake of one’s self-improvement.

More than a person for myself, I am a person for others. FFP also served as a channel for me to reach out to other members of the community whom I usually do not notice and care for. XU’s dictum of “being men and women for others” was put to a test when I needed to get out of my comfort zone and witness with my own eyes the bleak conditions of our countrymen. My first FFP Social Exposure gave me the rare chance to peek at a street beggar’s life. I met Kuya Danilo and listened to his unfortunate story of survival. His dire situation opened my eyes to the massive situation of poverty and other national issues that plague the Philippines. But more than the storytelling, the experience of immersing in other people’s lives served as a wake-up call for me to stand up and take some action. On this track I was summoned to translate my concern for others into concrete actions. It is indeed a call – and a difficult one – to become selfless and generous, a challenge to lose and empty myself for the gain of others. This I believe, is what they mean about another Ignatian value phrased thusly: “Love is expressed more in deed than in words.” After all, Jesus said: “Whatever you do unto the least of my brethren, you do unto me.” Indeed, service to others is a loving service to God.

More than a mere existence, I am God’s child. FFP, in a special way, also helped cultivate my spirituality. It impressed upon my consciousness that I existed because of God’s immeasurable love for humanity. My very existence is not trivial – it is a manifestation of my Father’s love for humanity. It is thus my mission and obligation, as His child, to praise, serve and revere God. As a Christian, living a life knitted on Jesus’ example is the best way to start. I believe that living a simple life, a life in the service of others, can be a fulfilling life. It dawned on me as well that sincere obedience to God’s commandments and sound discernment of God’s will in my life are essential in pleasing my Father. My existence on earth is beyond the concept of survival – it is an existence born out of love and fueled by love. Certainly, I am God’s vulnerable child who is tenderly cradled and protected in His loving arms.

The door towards formation is always held open for us. There is neither a key nor a password required. The decision to enter such door lies completely in our hands. We can either leave the door open or submit ourselves to whatever lies behind the door. Everything is a matter of choice – even growth and formation. Those who are fearful and doubtful of what might the other side of the door bring will remain stagnant and caged. However, those who are brave enough to blaze the trail will find themselves basking in the fulfillment and joy of having chosen to break free from the chains of mediocrity and to be shaped and formed for the better. And between the two, I opt for the latter. I opt to expand my horizon and take on the challenge of formation beyond the academe’s manuals and handbooks – yes, beyond the four corners of the classroom. □



XSF scholar goes on study trip to US

by Kathleen Emillie Araña

Development Communication student and Xavier Science Foundation scholar Stephen Roy J Pedroza has been chosen to participate in the US Department of State’s Study of the US Institute for Student Leaders on New Media in Journalism from June to July this year.

Pedroza, 18, is one of seven representatives selected out of 800 applicants nationwide. He left for Indiana and other destinations in the US last June 26 on a five-week exposure trip. He joins the other delegates from the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia.

“[I am] looking forward to learning the culture in the US,” said Pedroza. “We usually see [Americans] as ‘tourists’, [but now I get to] see a different side of America, specifically that of the American Indians.”

The trip includes lectures and workshops by experts and professionals in media journalism and cross-cultural learning, and a two-week educational tour to museums in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, media outlets New York Times and CNN in New York City, and US capital Washington, DC.

Pedroza also received three boxes of books on US history, media journalism and other global issues which he gladly shared with his College. □



Greetings, Freshmen

by Christy Bacoto

Thousands of freshmen and transferees gathered at the Xavier University gymnasium to commence day one of the three-day Orientation Seminar (OrSem) held from June 1-3.

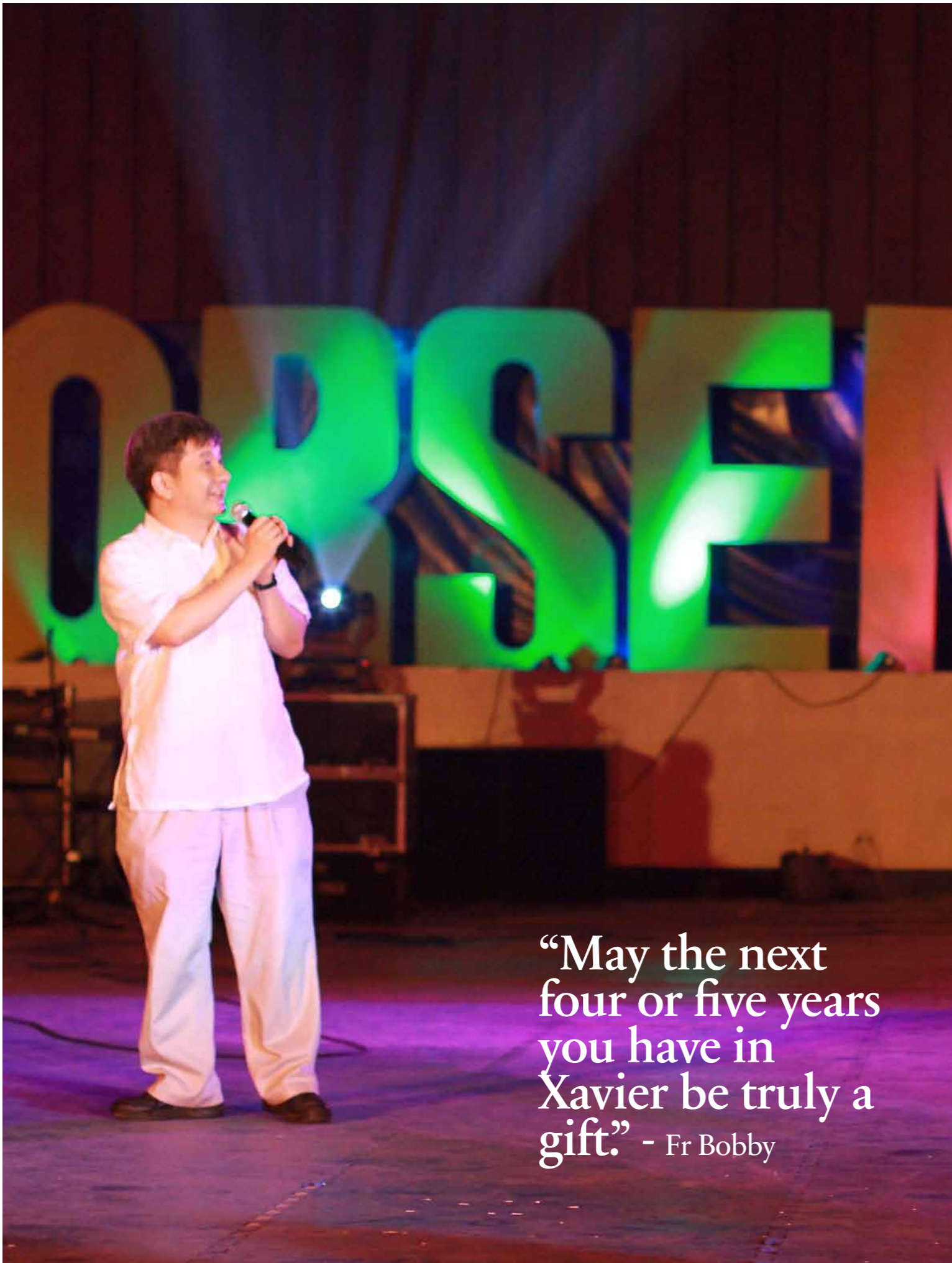
The OrSem started with a community mass at 9 am and was followed by the University welcome, which was attended by the president, vice presidents, deans, chairpersons and office directors comprising the entire University Administration.

New XU President Rev Fr Roberto “Bobby” C Yap SJ extended the warm welcome he received when he arrived on campus last week to the new students of XU.

“May the next four or five years you have in Xavier be truly a gift,” Fr Bobby said.

The first two days of the OrSem consisted of split sessions in which the different colleges conducted separate counselling sessions, college assemblies and small group discussions. The Counselling Office advised the new students on the expectations of their respective colleges and gave them survival tips on the courses they chose to pursue.

The college assemblies enabled the new students to meet and get to know their respective deans and teachers. The small group discussions, on the other hand, sought to inform the students regarding the basic and non-academic regulations of the school.



“May the next four or five years you have in Xavier be truly a gift.” - Fr Bobby



A student dons a shirt emblazoned with names of places with Ateneo schools



Human traffic jams developed as a deluge of first year and transfer students turned up for OrSem '11

Games, organization tour and a talent exposition culminated this year's OrSem. These activities provided a venue for the freshmen to interact with the upperclassmen. The students played Mix Match, OrSem Bingo, Ateneo Deal or No Deal, 1 vs 100 Ateneans, OrSem-lympics, OrSem-vivor, and Chalk Art.

Various student organizations set up booths for the Organization Tour to showcase their organizations and invite new students to sign up. Student organizations that joined the Org Tour ranged from academic to athletic, artistic, environmental and philanthropic. □



Nearly four hundred fifty student-volunteers were on hand to ensure that the freshmen and transferees are given a warm welcome.

Kabuwadan 3: Gifts from Generations weaves folk arts

by Bart Savior



XU commemorates Phil Independence, Rizal's Sesquicentennial

The Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts (XCCA) celebrated the National Heritage Month and the International Museum Day on May 18, 2011 with Kabuwadan 3: Gifts from Generations. Kabuwadan is the annual celebration of the XCCA promoting the Filipino Heritage and the importance of museums particularly in evoking memories and telling stories. On its 3rd year, Kabuwadan had three components: Museo de Oro's Summer Art Workshop, Integrated Performing Arts Guild's UWAHIG and Summer Art Workshop Graduates' Exhibit.

The Museo de Oro Summer Arts Workshop turned out to be the longest art workshop in the city. It aimed at transferring art skills, knowledge, and aesthetics to the youth so we can continuously build a second line of artists in Northern Mindanao. This year was its 25th year of graduating a promising generation of artists. The workshop was composed

of Kiddy Art 1, Kiddy Art 2, and Basic and Advanced Lessons handled by Errol Balcos, Mike Bacol, Ivan Faizal Macarambon and Colot Balcos. Nonoy Estarte, the Summer Art Workshop Coordinator, took the lead in developing the programs and modules for the courses. The activity culminated with an art exhibit showcasing this year's opuses. The students wowed the audience with their intricate and sophisticated clay sculptures, sketches, handcrafts and paintings expressing their fondest childhood memories.

In the opening program, Dr Erlinda Burton, Museo de Oro Curator, emphasized her gratitude to the parents who sent their children to the workshop and explained about the International Committee on Museums' celebration of the International Museum Day. Hobart Savior, XCCA Director, shared his thoughts on the ten principles of art and how they affect parents' views of their children's talents and skills.

Kabuwadan 3 ended with a post-modern treatment of the Mindanao flood tale, "UWAHIG," culled from various Mindanao Folk Literature versions. Written and directed by Steven Patrick Fernandez, this production was a multi-media traipse of post-colonial, war-stricken and environmentally ravaged Mindanao. Weaving art: dance, music, visual images both digital and raw, and post-modern theater, the presentation was a narrative revelation of how two brothers saved the earth from a great flood. The concept interspersed folklore with present realities like war, hunger, environmental destruction and even politics. This production was chosen to close Kabuwadan 3 as it was a strong metaphor for the fabric of our folk literary tradition, and was able to weave the various forms of folk art into a single tapestry that is Mindanao. □



The Xavier University community gathered at the Lucas Hall grounds for a short and meaningful program commemorating the 113th celebration of Philippine Independence and the 150th birth anniversary of Philippine National Hero Dr Jose P Rizal.

The hoisting of the Philippine flag, a 21-gun salute given by the Philippine Air Force and the singing of the Philippine National Anthem marked the celebration. A tribute to Rizal, considered the most famous Atenean, followed.

Poetry, interpretative dance and song presentations were staged in honor of Rizal who would have turned 150 years old on June 19.

"Dr Rizal was a living witness to the three C's: competence, conscience, commitment," said Fr Roberto C Yap, XU President.

He described Rizal as a man of competence in the sciences and the arts and letters. He was a renowned doctor and writer of two great novels, Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo, that played a significant role in our country's independence and have become part of the canon of world literature.

Fr Yap also cited Rizal's great social conscience, listening to the "voice of truth, morality, and of God," and Rizal's deep commitment to the country that he "laid down his life for our independence, our flourishing, our development."

"He was a true Atenean," Fr Yap remarked. He urged the people in attendance to be inspired by the values that Rizal exemplified in his life.

"Dr Jose P Rizal, pambansang bayani at kapwa Atenista [hero and fellow Atenean], Fr Yap iterated. □



Friendship in the service of others

by Ermin Stan B Pimentel



'Hali na, Laro Tayo!' summer sports clinic gets kids into sports



One day in May 2010, the Xavier University High School and Lourdes College High School Class of '83 of congregated

at Sitio Baluarte, Lumbia in Cagayan de Oro City for a medical mission—an affair much lauded since this was the first time for the alumni/ae of these traditional partner schools to join hands in reaching out to a marginalized community. Unbeknownst to the 70 batchmates who joined in the activity, a core of representatives from both alumni groups later sneaked their way to Taglimao, a neighboring sitio 14 kilometers away.

In what seemed a short distance, the trip to Taglimao was actually long and bumpy but, nonetheless, exciting—a fitting metaphor for the journey that the two batches were to venture next: responding to the call for help in re-building a chapel.

Nestled on a mound overlooking the Iponan River that winds through the valley of Taglimao is the Chapel of Señor San Miguel. Located some 25 km south of Cagayan de Oro City, this chapel was once part of the Medalla Milagrosa Parish of Lumbia. In 2006, the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro made the Chapel of Taglimao a sub-parish



of Lumbia, and, soon enough, initiated the process of converting it to the status of a full Chaplaincy, allowing this small parish to shepherd seven smaller chapels in its surrounding barangays.

The much anticipated assignment accords the sub-parish deeper apostolate missions, heavier responsibilities, and, indeed, bigger dreams. This has inspired the Catholic community of Taglimao to envisage building a bigger chapel befitting a more eminent role. The alumni organizations, along with the College of Engineering Class of '88, have committed to provide technical and planning support, including fund raising activities in support of this vision.

The present Chapel of Señor San Miguel, including its adjunct convent, sits within the 100 sq m property owned by the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. The chapel itself is a quaint 60 sq m building that—at comfort's best—can take in no more than 70 people during a religious service. And with a flock of faithfuls anticipated to grow over the years, this Chapel would need to grow in space to accommodate the multitudes of worshippers from within and outside Taglimao.

In their first meeting, the core representatives sat with former Chaplain, Fr Rene Soldevilla, SSJV (now assigned in Claveria, Misamis Oriental) to explore some initial plans and map the support needed to construct the envisioned chapel. What was inspiring to discover is how—in its utter unpolished state—the existing chapel was erected mainly through bayanihan. From the quarrying of sand panned from the nearby riverbank to the moulding and piling of pillars, the solicitation of construction materials from friends and benefactors, up to the raw completion of the building, the laborious handiwork of community volunteerism is etched on the humble roughness of its walls. The construction of the proposed new chapel will require even greater community effort and, clearly, more



resources. This was a challenge that the community and the school organizational volunteers are committed to realize.

The new chapel broke ground on the Feast of Señor San Miguel on September 29, 2010. The activity led by Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro Antonio J Ledesma SJ and the new Chaplain, Fr Harnifer Godinez SSJV sealed the commitment of the parish and the outreach groups to raise funds.

In February 2011, the construction of the new chapel was finally begun, boosted by funds initially raised from the joint Ukay-ukay Sale Project during the 2010 Xavier Days, the two-night singing of Christmas Carols, and the contributions from generous benefactors. To date, concrete pillars have been erected on the site, a sign of greater things to come. □

Alumni readers interested in supporting this community project through cash or material donations may contact:

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The School of Education, the Physical Education Department and the Research and Social Outreach

Office launched a summer's sports clinic cum outreach program called "Hali na, Laro Tayo!" from May 2-7 for the children of Barangay Cugman to encourage them to partake in outdoor sports activities that can improve their health and develop their leadership and competitive skills. Children from 7 to 12 years old, with their parents, participated in free trainings in Badminton, Futsal, Karate-do, and Dancesport.

Edilberto Peroso and Zofea Briosos of the PE Department taught the children the basic moves for hitting a good smash in Badminton. Another sport that was patronized by the boys was Futsal, the indoor version of the world-renowned Football.



Relatively new in the country and in the region, the game is made up of two opposing teams with four field players and a goal keeper per team. Jeralp Ronquillo and Julie Castillon demonstrated the basic footwork and ball handling. The boys, though exhausted, showed their enthusiasm in learning to play the game.

The Xavier University Karatedo Varsity team and the Japan Karate Association (JKA) tied up to train the children in the world standard and the authentic tradition of Japanese martial arts. The children were energetic in learning the basic techniques of punching and blocking from Sensei Jessica Esparrago along with the varsity team and karatekas of JKA – Cagayan De Oro.

"Learning karate is enjoyable and is a lot of fun when you're with your friends," said one of the children.

A Dancesport workshop was also organized for the parents. Alice Artazo and Ricky Tadlip reenergized the couples by teaching them new moves and taking their dancing skills to the next level.

At the end of the program, the participants received special awards for their outstanding performances throughout the summer sports clinic. □





FR ROBERTO C YAP SJ
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

INVESTITURE

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