

# Xavier

magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

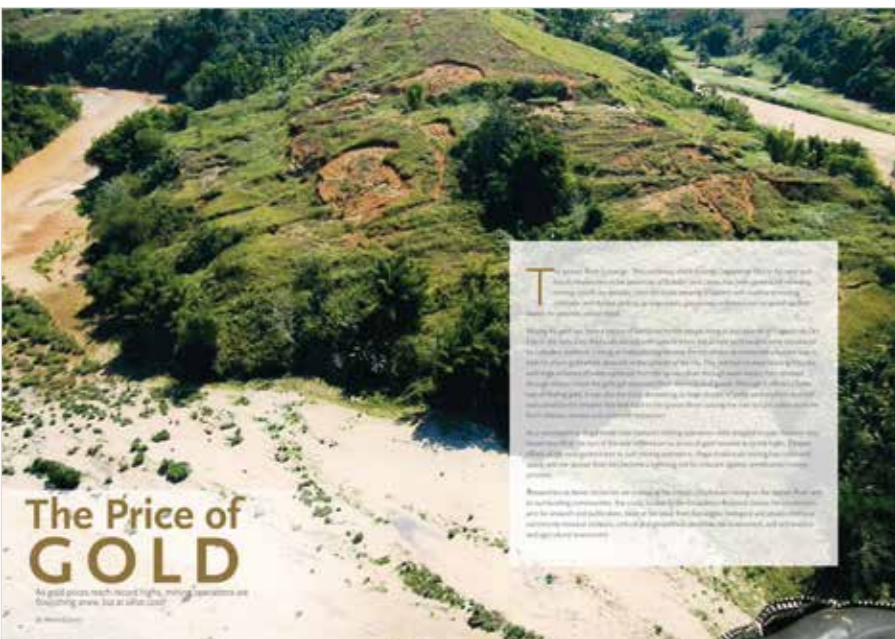
July to September 2011



## The Gold Rush:

How much are we willing to pay?

# Contents



**T**he price of gold is soaring. The price of gold has reached a record high of \$1,920 per ounce. This is a significant increase from the price of gold in 2010, which was around \$1,200 per ounce. The price of gold is rising due to a variety of factors, including the global economic crisis, the increasing demand for gold as a safe haven investment, and the increasing demand for gold in the jewelry industry.

As gold prices reach record highs, mining operations are flourishing anew, but at what cost?

## The Price of GOLD

### 12 Cover Story The Price of Gold

As gold prices reach record highs, mining operations are flourishing anew, but at what cost?



### Huzzah! The Games are here!

**A**n awaited and anticipated event, the annual University Games are here! The games are a celebration of the spirit of sportsmanship and competition. The games are held in a grand arena and feature a variety of sports, including basketball, volleyball, and badminton. The games are a great opportunity for students to showcase their talents and compete against other schools.

### 22 Picture Story Huzzah! The Games are here!

A look at this year's University Intramurals in pictures.

### 4 Note from the Vice President

### News

College of Agriculture partners with AIM for Mindanao Bridging Leaders Program

In Brief

6 CIT implements 5S  
All systems go for construction of new CIT buildings

7 Faculty, Staff pause for Annual Retreat

Aggies celebrate 'Sundayag sa Manresa 2011'

XU blesses Magis Student Complex

In Brief

8 DevCom mounts Lansad photo exhibit  
Loyola House, Xavuer University celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola

Xavier University selects Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise Campus Solutions to streamline academic services and support growth

9 JPRSM co-hosts 3rd National Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Forum

2 XU studes chosen for 2011-2012 Global UGRAD Program

Conversation with a Jesuit on CURA PERSONALIS

10 Student Achievements: Board Exam Passers

### Feature

To top the board exam, prepare early

High school junior scores second in ICT quiz show

16 Balbutin gets ISS scholarship, spends summer at the University of Oslo

Centerfold  
Investiture of Fr Roberto C Yap, SJ as 10th University President

Events Calendar: October-December 2011

### Feature

17 Educ'n profs present in Asian research confab  
An afternoon with Fr Totet Banaynal SJ

18 50 Years in the Priesthood and Going Beyond, the Jesuit Way

20 Fr Roberto Yap SJ installed as 10th University President

21 Formed by the Beloved

30 Publications  
Latest offerings from the Xavier University Press



### KULTURA ATING DAAN - XCCA 4th Cultural Season

The XCCA 4th Cultural Season is a celebration of the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines. The season features a variety of performances, including traditional dances, musicals, and theatrical productions. The season is a great opportunity for students to showcase their talents and celebrate their culture.

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### Culture and the Arts

### 26 KULTURA ATING DAAN - XCCA 4th Cultural Season

XCCA showcases a fusion of Philippine tradition and popular culture.



### 28 Alumni Q&A with award-winning artist and XU alumnus Jericho Vamenta

The XUHS class of 1993 graduate talks about his painting, "Ang Mrs Edna Maleta sa Mundo ni Tatang Danilo."

# MILESTONES

## NEW LAWYERS

Congratulations to the College of Law for garnering a passing percentage of 49.06 above the national passing average of 31.93% in the 2011 Bar Examinations. The new lawyers are:

Zerah Marie **Absin**, Amor Condeo **Bajarla**, Ma Vergel **Bersabe**, Mia Gretchen **Cain**, Eddie C **Cuaresma**, Leah Renna **Dal**, Abdul Halim **Diron**, Michael Carl **Eclevia**, Melanie **Quismundo-Enopia**, Lorela **Escobero**, Gerlyn **Gamolo**, Craig Shaun Bennett **Garcés**, Jeanilyn Grace D **Generlao**, Marie Rose **Gumahad**, Lizzamae Grace **La Viña**, Buddy Rey **Losande**, Lionel Maandig Jr, Christian **Peliña**, Mary Camille **Perez-Quililan**, Marie Antonette **Quinito**, Marites **Sangual**, Sittie Aisa Azisaida **Tawagon**, Rosselle **Uy**, Gerberto **Virtudazo Jr**, Maynard Eugenio **Ylagan**, Farah **Yongco**,

## NEW DOCTORS

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

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

Phillip Bryant D **Adlaon**, Divina Gracia Amor F **Banderado**, An-an Pablita O **Emata**, Jay Edward O **Hontanosas**, Mohrein VI H **Ismael**, Pamela T **Lagumbay**, Lara Marie R **Uriarte**



Murphy E Boyles  
6th Placer



Marc Frances B Magoncia  
8th Placer

## NEW NURSES

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



2nd place -  
Linsid Angelou Tapongot



4th place - Ralph Ryan De La Rosa



6th place - Mark Ray Espinosa



7th place - Neil Obsioma



8th place - Vincent Jerven Barimbao



8th place - Melanie Grace Go



8th place - Martina Aurea Jugador



8th place - Carren Agnes Solidor



10th place - Mariel Kris Rael



10th place - Raiza Mae Rodriguez

## PHILIPPINE ART AWARDS GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Jericho Vamenta of XUHS class of 1993 was proclaimed grand prize winner of the prestigious Philippine Art Awards for his painting, "Ang Walang Humpay na Harana ni Temyo kay Magda." Late last year, he was also won the grand prize in the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence Award.

Jericho received a cash prize of P350,000.00, a trophy designed by national artist N Abueva and a trip to an Asian country. He and the other winners are going around the nation exhibiting their winning artworks. Jericho's painting is also for sale. He has been teaching summer art classes at XU's Museo de Oro for 16 years.

## ANIMAL SCIENCE QUIZ SHOW RUNNER-UP

Congratulations to Car Grey La Victoria, Lanesa Faith Olais and Fanela Frances Dianne Yamit, all BS Agriculture students major in Animal Science,

for placing 2nd in the team category during the 3rd Annual Animal Science Quiz Show held at the Visayas State University.

## RODEO WINNERS

The XU Rodeo Enthusiasts and the XU Bullriders placed second and third, respectively during the 5<sup>th</sup> Kalilangan Rodeo Festival held in General Santos City.

The teams are composed of Carl Richard Copino, Efen Alipato Jr, Joseph Alvin Bayarcal, Karl Phillip Abunda, Robert Arnel Casiño, Julie Ann Abas and Karen Luzette Gayla of the XU Rodeo Team; and Albert Arca, Beau Theodore Gumaling, Christian Quilang, Mark Jeronimo Ellosa, Richard Maliao, Victor Billan and Karen Luzette Gayla of the XU Bullriders.

## ATHLETES REAPING MEDALS IN 16TH UNIGAMES

XU students left an indelible mark in the 16<sup>th</sup> Philippine University Games held in Roxas City, Capiz, winning a number of gold, silver and bronze medals.

Cathyrine Luarca (BSECE 5) won a gold medal in Chess while Paul Omongos (BSCE 1) won a silver.

XU's Taekwondo team took home medals in various divisions. Emil Dwight (BSBA 2) received a silver medal in the Fin Weight division, while his teammates Kyo Aun Matsumoto (CIT 2), John Gil Tagalog (BSEE 2) and John Necho Tidoy (BSECE 2) all won bronze medals in the Bantam Weight, Feather Weight and Fly Weight divisions, respectively.

Xavier finished with a bronze medal in the 4x100 m freestyle men and 4x100 m medley relay women. The students who competed and won in the 4x100 m freestyle were Franz Ulrich Bonotan (ABIS 1), Randy Perry Go (BS Psych 2), Ian Gabriel Dilao (BSBio 2) and Michael Sheen Ramonal (CIT 1). The women's team was composed of Micah Kay Salilig (BSECE 2), Micah Sayosay (CIT 1), Tessa Katrina Fabria (BSBA 2) and Marielyn Sadaya (BSAC 4).

The XU athletes were trained by Rogelio Golez Jr in chess, George Arsenal in Taekwondo and Mark Neri in swimming. They competed with 45 other schools nationwide.

## DOST BEST PAPER AWARDEE

College of Engineering faculty member and founding director of the Engineering Resource Center Dexter Lo bagged the top prize in the development non-agriculture, forestry, and natural resources category of the Department of Science and Technology Research & Development Symposium Highlights. Lo's paper was on "Disaster risk mapping of Barangay Carmen flood and fire."



## OMM conducts art therapy workshop for XU faculty

by Ms Libby Josephine M Abesamis,  
Asst to the VP for Mission and Ministry

The Office of Mission and Ministry (OMM) organized an art therapy workshop dubbed, "Art for Life: the Use of Art Activities in Therapy" from March 9-10 at the Grand City Hotel.

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

The activity aimed to introduce art as an effective tool for psycho-therapy. Various art activities using different modalities were introduced to the participants. Since the process used for the whole duration of the workshop was "experiential," the participants also had the chance to make use of the tools in processing their own life experiences, which made the workshop even more worthwhile for them.

The process and concepts learned from the activity will hopefully be used for teaching and counseling toward better formation of students, faculty, and staff. □

## Fulbright roadshow comes to XU

Xavier University hosted the visit of the Philippine-American Education Foundation (PAEF) to promote the 2012-2013 Fulbright Scholarship Awards. PAEF has been visiting institutions around the country providing information on the Fulbright Awards and graduate studies in the USA.

Aspiring applicants from selected colleges and universities in the city and Xavier University faculty and students attended the presentation on Feb 8 at the American Corner of the XU Libraries.

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

Applicants can select from two award categories, namely the Fulbright Award, which includes the

Fulbright Graduate student Program, Fulbright Philippine Agriculture Scholarship Program, Fulbright Advance Research and University Lecturing, Foreign Language Teaching Assistants Program and the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship; and the Non Fulbright Award, which covers the International Leaders in Education Program, Global Undergraduate Exchange Program and the East-West Center Fellowship.

Marjorie Tolentino, Program Assistant of PAEF, presented the grant benefits encouraging aspirants to apply. Scholars will have an all-expense paid international travel, monthly stipend, paid tuition, books & supplies, health & accidents insurance and lastly, will experience intercultural learning.

Fulbright is an international exchange program funded by the U.S. state department offering opportunities for students, educators and professionals to undergo international academic and graduate programs for study and advance research. Established in 1946 by the U.S. congress, it promotes intercultural learning and mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries.

More information can be gathered from their website: [www.fulbright.org.ph](http://www.fulbright.org.ph). □

## IN BRIEF



Xavier University inked a memorandum of agreement with the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPSL) for CUPSL students to take up the Doctorate of Public Administration program at XU and for XU professors in Public Administration to visit CUPSL in Beijing. The partnership is for four semesters.



Representatives from the Space Environment Center, Kysushu University, Fukoka, Japan carried out a scheduled maintenance and repair on the MAGDAS unit deployed at the Manresa Farm. MAGDAS is a comprehensive ground-based monitoring system of the earth's magnetic field. There are 6 MAGDAS units installed in the country, including the one in Manresa managed by the Engineering Resource Center, and 63 units found all over the world.



The Colleges of Computer Studies and Engineering hosted faculty members and researchers from the Ateneo de Manila University School of Science and Engineering, Ateneo Innovation Center and the Manila Observatory who came to promote scholarships under ADMU's Engineering Research and Development for Technology (ERDT) program and identify possible areas of collaboration in research and development for the proposed disaster risk reduction and management system of Cagayan de Oro.

## XU holds 19th University Service Awards

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fr Roberto Yap, XU President, also gave a message of thanks to the faculty and staff for their committed and dedicated service, especially during the months he was away from office recuperating from a knee surgery. □



## XU teachers graduate from special training

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Glee Club sings songs of life

As part of the celebration of the National Arts Month, the Xavier University Glee Club rendered beautiful music in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on Feb 24 in a concert dubbed, "Agos: Musika ng Buhay."



L-R: City Councilor Alden Bacal, Association of Barangay Captains President Engr Dometilo Acenas, Atty Jarley Trugillo of the XU Center for Legal Assistance, Vice Mayor Ian Acenas, Dr Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, Dr Gemma Narisma, Dr Gina Itchon and Dixon Yasay

## XU, City Council hold forum on improving local legislations

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

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

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

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

The concert line-up included songs reflecting a person's journey in life from infancy (Buwa-Buwa ni Utu, a lullaby song) to play (Pinpin di Sarapin) to teenage angst (Anak); his relationships from that of friendship (I'll be there) to romance (Kapag Tumibok ang Puso, Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang); his search for identity and freedom (Blackbird and Pilgrim's Theme); his spiritual discovery (Water Night, Soon Uh Will Be Done and You Were There); his realization of a shared

humanity and the beauty of the world (From a Distance and What A Wonderful World); and finally a call to take leadership and responsibility for others and for the world (If You're Out There).

Agos also featured performances from the St Augustine's Children Choir and XU Grade School student Kryslie Reonal. □



MS&AD Insurance Group of Japan and its employees donated P100,000 through the Bank of the Philippines Islands/Mitsui Sumitomo for Xavier Ecoville, the relocation and resettlement project of XU and the LGU Cagayan de Oro for families left homeless by Sendong.



The School of Business and Management with XU-Catholic Relief Service and KKP-SIO conducted a learning visit to Sumilao, Bukidnon exploring opportunities for business and accounting students to assist Sumilao Farmers through the Service Learning Model, an approach where students are exposed to real-world situations related to their field of study while serving the needs of the community.



The Ateneo Diplomatic Corps, the co-curricular organization of International Studies students, invited the Consul-General of the Consulate of Malaysia in Mindanao Mohammad Azhar Mazlan and the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines Hiroshi Yamakawa to the first Ateneo Diplomatic Corps Convention. Mazlan presented on "Philippines and Malaysia: Partners in Combating Terrorism" and Yamakawa shared on "Philippines and Japan: Advocates of Economic Development in Southeast Asia."



## XU Holds 1<sup>st</sup> Service Learning Summit

by Wilson J Hormeguera

Xavier University, through Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) in collaboration with the various schools and colleges and partner institutions, held the 1<sup>st</sup> Service Learning Summit. The summit showcased students'

academic output-based researches on development processes and concerns of community partners specifically PANAW Sumilao, Impasugong, Balingasag, and Lumbia.

Student-researchers from the school of Business and Management and the colleges of Engineering, Computer Studies, Agriculture, and Arts and Sciences presented on a wide range of topics, namely: setting up an accounting system, feasibility studies and infrastructure design for the Panaw Sumilao Multi-Purpose Cooperative, the use of GIS and other computer systems for price monitoring of agricultural commodities, case study on nutritional assessment, IEC campaign on WASH, moral socialization of mothers in Lumbia, and total coliform

analysis in the mariculture park of Balingasag

“Service Learning Program (SLP) confirms the real essence of Ignatian Education. An education not confined in the four walls of the classroom,” reflected Jim B. Acut II, one of the SLP student-researchers. “It is a realization that my Xavier Education is indeed not just for self-betterment but community development.”

Fr Roberto Yap SJ, university president, said that he was “very impressed and very happy knowing about the Service Learning Summit because indeed our university responds to Fr Pedro Arrupe’s call of putting theories into ‘praxis.’”

He thanked the student-researches and their mentors, KKP-SIO and the partner

communities which he said also served as the students’ mentors. “I hope this summit will become the university’s annual activity,” Fr Yap added.

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

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

## XU studes receive BPI-DOST Science Awards

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

Gumapon’s study titled “Microbial Load Gradient of the Ambient Air in the Landfill Site in Zayas, Carmen” computed the amount of bacteria present in the ambient air of the landfill in Zayas toward the residential areas, and identified the bacteria to the genus level.

Magriña’s research, “An Experimental Study of Coconut Husk as an Alternative Sound Absorbing Acoustic Material,” proved the effectiveness of coconut husks as an alternative to commercial acoustic materials.

Obispo’s thesis on “Ontology Layer for the Distributed Registry of Children with Special Needs” harnesses the use of artificial intelligence in helping health care professionals retrieve relevant information on special-needs children.

Gumapon, Magriña and Obispo are the 22<sup>nd</sup> batch of awardees from XU since the Awards

inception in 1989. They will each receive a plaque of recognition, a BPI Express Teller card for their cash prize of P25,000 and an offer to join BPI as a junior officer.

Speaking on behalf of the awardees, Gumapon said that the ceremony was not just about receiving an award but also about taking part and paying forward. “The reason for the endless hours in the lab is the value of our study,” she said recognizing the contribution of their researches in advancing national development. She added that she is grateful “for the opportunity to contribute.”

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

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



## P.E Culminating Activity 2012

The Xavier University Physical Education Department celebrated the yearly Culminating Activity last March 3, 2012 Saturday. The best sections from PE 4 (Team sports) and PE 2 (dance) had a clash in the activity. The activity was divided into schedule team sports in the morning while cultural dance in the afternoon. PE 4 had three sets of sport contest, the volleyball, softball and karate, and sections from PE 2 showcase their talents in the different varieties of dance form such as Filipiniana, Ethnic, Contemporary, and Foreign/ international dances. Best sections and individuals were chosen by each PE instructor to fight for the trophy. □



## XU CIT gets 5 more scholars with Pablo Paras Memorial Scholarship

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

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

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

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



The ABIS-ADC Manila Delegation with Vice President Jejomar Binay at the Coconut Palace

## Back-TWO-Back Diplomatic Experience

By Alyssa Marize Z. Maghuyop(ABIS-4), Dirika D. Pacamalan(ABIS-3), Maria Therese D. Agcopra(ABIS-3)

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

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

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

Rounding up their tour were trips to the embassies of the United States of America, Japan, Spain, and Indonesia where the students learned about the bilateral relations between the Philippines and those

mentioned countries. Throughout the tour, they were accompanied by the Department Assistant Chairperson Rachel Daroy and ADC moderator Jal Parreño Octavio with faculty members Aristotle Maniquiz, Nell Obach and Michael Ngo.

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

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

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

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



The ABIS-ADC Manila Delegation at the Embassy of Spain in Makati City



The ABIS-ADC International Delegation with Amb. Minda Cruz at the Philippine Embassy in Singapore



The ABIS-ADC International Delegation at the United Nations University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## New student leaders proclaimed

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

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

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

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

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

In 2010, when voting turnout was only 12%, there were also



not many contenders. However, the disappointing figures were attributed mostly to the rolling black outs the city experienced.

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

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

## BA studes bag "I am a Changemaker" title

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

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

Two representatives for each of the twenty finalists were flown to Cebu and given a three-day training on Social Enterprise Planning and Development facilitated by the Social Enterprise Development Partnerships, Inc (SEDPI). Fourth-year BA students Oliver Maneja and Chris Jumalon represented Ethniko Filipino. At the end of the training, the groups presented their business plans in front of a panel of judges. Ethniko emerged as the Mindanao winner and was awarded P100,000 as start-up capital. □



# ‘Go forth to bring hope to the world’s despair’



For the nearly 2,000 graduates, the XU Gym was where it all came down to – the last stop in their journey through college. It wasn't so long ago when these students entered the university as freshmen from all walks of life, all sorts of faith, all parts of Mindanao, even the country and abroad. Some came with their parents, others with their cars, but majority came to finish the four- or five (maybe more?) - year race with their own two legs, sweat and tears.

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

Members of the convocation included Dr Milwida Guevara, president and CEO of Synergeia Foundation Inc and this year's commencement speaker and honoris causa recipient, Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ DD, peace advocate, founder of the Silsillah Dialogue Movement Fr Sebastiano D'Ambra of the Pontificio Istituto Missioni Estere, Fr Bienvenido Nebres SJ, former president of the

As gold prices reach record highs, mining operations are flourishing anew, but at what cost?

By Vanessa Cordero

Ateneo de Manila University, XU administrators, board of trustees, faculty, staff and alumni. All of them, also sophisticatedly dressed in their academic robes, reminded the graduates that they still had a lot to achieve in their education.

**From college to career**

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

For a long time, she worked at the department of finance where she enraged powerful people who didn’t quite agree with the tax reforms she introduced. She wept in fear but did not cower. After that she said she fell into a deep sleep. But being an educator from the very beginning, she was pinched out of her slumber by the crushing reality that education in the country is out-of-reach to many Filipinos. Not only was basic education inaccessible among the poor, kids who were fortunate enough to be in school performed poorly at science and math. She has since made it her advocacy at Synergeia Foundation, the organization she leads, to improve the reading proficiency, writing and numeracy skills of public school children, especially in ARMM where figures are much more depressing. To date, her organization has helped more than 250 municipalities.



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

While there are those who leave college soaring straight to the heart of industry and finance, the path for Dr Guevara was long and winding, with many obstacles along the way. She is an inspiration, even to those whose graduation was many years ago. Here was a person in no way extraordinary performing the extraordinary task of collapsing distance between people, reaching out to the remotest public school and introducing programs that would make education better for the poor. There is value

in service that is hard to quantify in financial terms. Making a career is more than just earning a living.

**‘Sendong’ graduates**

If the claim to fame of the class of 1942 is the Pearl Harbor and the class of 1986 the EDSA revolution, the class of 2012, related Fr George Esguerra, the vice president for Mission and Ministry, will be remembered as the class that survived Sendong.

This is the class that saw Cagayan de Oro on its knees. In the time of what was supposed to be merry making and Christmas parties, this class volunteered with the university, church groups and non-profit organizations.



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

Class valedictorian Ryan Madrid is proof. Ryan who finished Development Communication cum laude and active volunteer during the Sendong relief operations, has chosen to work for Xavier Ecoville, the relocation and resettlement project of Xavier University with the city government. He says he is “fired up to help rebuild the lives of 500 families displaced

by the flood.” And while Ryan can’t wait to go out there and start, Fr Bobby Yap SJ, the university president, can’t hide the enormity of the present challenge. A world literally breaking apart is the reality that will stare these graduates in the face. Yet, he is confident that the XU graduates will hurdle these challenges with “courage, creativity and compassion because we Ateneans know that all we have to do is to give hands in help and hearts in love and entrust our best efforts to the good and loving God.”

When they started at XU, these graduates came from different backgrounds, and thus had different perspectives on life (in

the university and their own) and the world as a whole. They had their own reasons for coming to Xavier. But now as they hug and bid each other goodbye hoping to meet again in the bright future, they have the experience of Sendong to band them forever. The miracles, the tragedy, the prosperity, the poverty are made more beautiful because they will be remembered.

And as they spill out from the University into their own communities, XU’s only prayer is that “they may go forth to bring hope to the world’s despair, light to its darkness, service to its selfishness and love to its hatred.” □





## New Appointments and Re-appointments

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



**Bro Noel B Cantago**  
(until May 2015)  
Vice President for Mission and Ministry, replacing Fr George S Esguerra SJ who retired this year



**Lourdes G Tolod PhD**  
(until May 2013)  
Dean, School of Education



**Ruth S Beltran MD**  
(until May 2015)  
Dean, Jose P Rizal School of Medicine



**Virginia C Yacapin PhD**  
(until May 2013)  
Dean, School of Business and Management



**Roel R Ravanera**  
(until May 2013)  
Dean, College of Agriculture



**Fr Joaquin Jose Ma C Sumpaico SJ**  
(until May 2014)  
Principal, High School, replacing Fr Stephen T Abuan SJ



## Maria Ressa headlines first NM comm student congress

By Kathleen Emillie Araña

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## XECON 2012 calls for giving humanity a second chances

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

### Not purely environmental

Sec Neric Acosta, presidential adviser for environmental protection, iterated man's contribution to the destruction of the environment. He said that Typhoon Sendong was not purely environmental. He shared pictures of flood simulations done three years ago showing areas vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge and saltwater intrusion. Acosta said that the flood simulations, which he emphasized were not forecasts and done by a pool of experts and based on more than 300 peer reviewed scientific articles, reflected the same path Sendong followed.

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

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

### Building Resilience

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

### Building Resilience

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

Gozun said responding to climate change requires the "concerted

effort of governments, private sector, NGOs, communities and other development partners to manage and adopt to a changing and more invasive environment."

### Under the sustainable

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

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

"The call of the new president is inclusive development," Gozun said. She asked the

audience to commit to some simple mitigation measures that conserve energy and water, such as unplugging unused electronic devices, turning off the tap when not in use, particularly to use a glass when toothbrushing, and switching to mass transit or unmotorized transit systems.

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

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

Ultimately, "It is the government's responsibility to keep you out of harm's way," Gozun said.

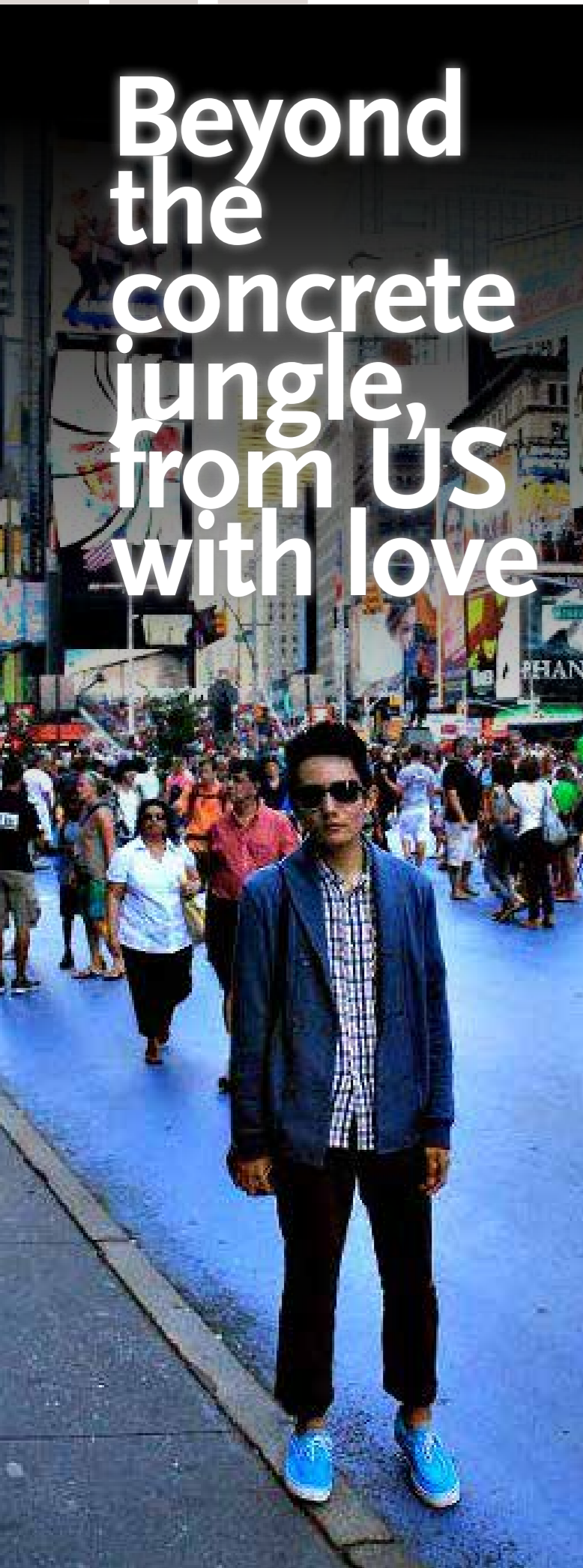
### No Planet B

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

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

Acosta continued that it is up to every person to adapt to climate change. "The second chance is for us to take," he expounded. "It is up to us to rethink, improve our science and technology, and better our governance. In the end, "We don't have a Planet B." □

# Beyond the concrete jungle, from US with love



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

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

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

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

## SUSI IN BALL STATE

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

and living like a New Yorker for a year.

That US trip was courtesy of SUSI’s (Study in the United States Institute) New Media in Journalism, an intensive academic program with a balanced composition of seminar discussions, readings, presentations and lectures as coursework and classroom activities, complemented by educational travels to other states, local site visits and volunteer opportunities. Our program scrutinizes major topics in journalism, including the concept of free press, the First Amendment, media’s relation to public interest and media business models. My first two years of college covered some of these topic but participation in the program allowed me to absorb the powers of media over people and the pros and cons of media messages we are subjected to daily.

This year’s host was Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, a Midwestern state. We went through several workshops facilitated by faculty experts (and experienced newsmen/women) in emerging media, leadership and cross-cultural learning. Southeast Asia delegates hailed from Malaysia, Indonesia, and, of course, the Philippines.

Ball State University is famous for the tallest bell tower in Indiana, and, more importantly, excellence in journalism plus its academic collaboration with the *New York Times* – a highlight for any aspiring news journalist. Its graduates excel in different fields in the media. David Letterman, the famous TV host and comedian, is a Ball State alumnus who recently had a building in the campus named after him.

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

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

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

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

## MEDIA STARSTRUCK

We began our education with a new spelling of Filipino, “Philippino,” coined by Dr Charles Payne, BSU Director for the Office of Institutional Diversity. Our first journalism lesson, Foundations of American Journalism and New Media,

was given by Dr Jim Willis, chairman of the Department of Journalism and author of “Piece of My Heart,” “The Media Effect,” “100 Media Moments that Changed America.” He cautioned us young journalists to adhere to the principle and essence of objectivity regardless of circumstance, a very timely and valuable lesson for aspiring journalists.

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

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

The rare opportunity of meeting veteran journalists honed by time turned more exciting when we had dinner at Scotty’s Brewhouse with the former Good Morning American anchor and Asia Bureau chief Steve Bell. He regaled us with the twists and turns of controversial news like the Watergate Scandal and the Marcoses. I was awed and definitely star struck! His credibility is unquestionable. That opportunity was such a treat and an honor.

## FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS!

We had classes on July 1st, through Skype, with our intrepid resource person all the way



from Afghanistan. The terror and conflict in the area did not deter Sean Callebs, a former war correspondent now working with US the Department of State from talking about his fruitful encounters and death-defying moments. His candid responses to our questions revolved for the most part on the chaotic situations he overcame and how he tried to cheat death many times just for a story.

The Fourth of July picnic at the Minnetrista Park was the highlight of our second week. Celebrating America’s foremost occasion was a cause for ruminations on our Philippine Independence Day celebrations with marching bands and reenactments of Rizal’s life, over scrumptious dinner amid laughter with fellow participants and numerous photo ops. By sundown at 9pm, our eyes feasted on the sparkles and flashes of the 30-minute fireworks lighting up the sky to the music of Katy Perry’s Fireworks. The festive commemoration of July 4, 1776 was reflected all over the USA.

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

## POSE ALA ‘MILLÉSIME’

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



America's latest techie pastime then was Facebook videocalling. At our high-end laboratories, of course we were getting to know Google+. Our class hung out on Google+ with Erin Cubert, The Tennessean Social Media Editor. She brought out the power social networking endows journalists with, and its transformation of news and information delivery to the public. This is the current venue for disseminating news and personal comments and interaction, and even scoops. Facebook, Twitter and other sites have forever changed the media horizon.

The comics section of most national papers reveals a chubby orange ball of fur that meows, Garfield! This cat put Muncie, Indiana on the world map. We were treated to a furry, orangey tour of the Paws Company by Jim Davis, Garfield's creator. After which we heard of his ascent to stardom from scratch, then received an autographed dedication from him. Counting stars!

**LEADERS ON VOLUNTEER**

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

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

Besides building houses, we also fed people through Second Harvest Food Bank, an institution distributing food donated by Walmart and other companies to the needy or unemployed. We packed and distributed in a very organized system, to the cars that lined up. Cars?! Of course we were shocked until they explained the

system of choosing recipients. Apparently in the US, jobless folks queuing for food still had their cars. It was quite a brand new feeling for us.

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

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

**THE BIG APPLE**

Then it was time for an exciting trip to other parts of the US.

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

It was more heart-pounding the next day. The whole bus rang with our National Anthem on the way to our Big Apple appointment – the New York Times. By any means, that route was one photo op after another, from NYC's bustling streets all the way to the NYT Lobby.

Eager to be part of the exhilarating Battle of Ideas, I gave my all to reply to a query, for which I was rewarded inclusion in their Page One Meeting that day along with

nine other university students and guests from different companies. I was so struck by how these journalists attained one of the pinnacles in this profession. I met Jill Abramson, the executive editor, with other editors and reporters. That was one mind blowing morning! It inspired us all to dedicate ourselves not just to journalism but to other future careers we'd choose. We also met Deputy Editor Kathleen McElroy and reporter Jacques Steinberg. Then we had a tour of the United Nations offices.

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

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

**A SILHOUETTE TO REMEMBER**

Washington, DC, our final destination, delights like no other. Here, politics and culture, history and style, converge. The city was fashioned after Paris by City designer Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

Right after the culmination program at the Department of State and discussions of future opportunities, we were stunned by the facade of the White House. We speechlessly

marveled at its design. As usual, we took photos to hark back those moments. Amidst the clicking and posing, something caught our attention – President Barack Obama's car! We had a glimpse of his silhouette inside the presidential car, leading its convoy of escorts. One moment we could not miss!

That's just one of DC's exciting offerings. Besides, we had an enlightening trip to the Voice of America (VOA) and National Public Radio (NPR), both traditional big names in US media.

We had our own plans of touring the nation's capital. With kababayan JP from La Salle and Natasha from Indonesia, I hopped to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum displaying Apollo 11 and other spaceships. Then we headed to the Natural Museum while taking in the delightful sights along the way. The museum has different species of flora and fauna, gemstones and fossils from various eras and periods. You are met at the entrance by the biggest elephant ever dated.

The Lincoln Memorial, one of the most visited places in the US, offers a historic and momentous feeling. It is not

just an edifice but a living remembrance of this great man's deeds for humanity. Right nearby is the Washington Monument, a Neo-Egyptian style structure which is another must-see.

Before museum hopping, we first strolled over to the US Capitol, as usual full of tourists. It is an impressive piece of architecture, besides being pivotal in US government.

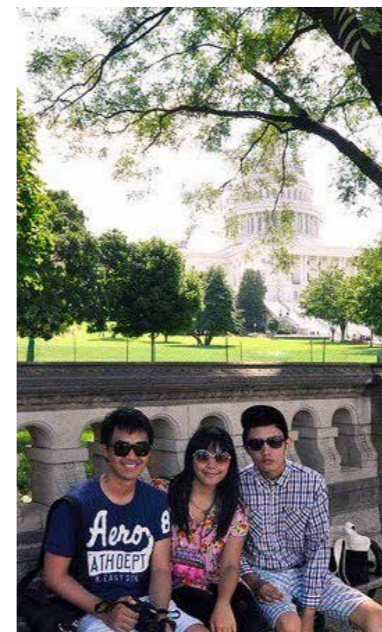
The scheduled tours done, we had our last "American Shopping" adventure, hitting Nordstrom and the rest of Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. We topped the night with dinner Italiano at Buca di Beppo, our 'last supper.'

I know, good things always come to an end. Not the memories, though, that we share from that common journey. We were having the time of our lives while gathering lessons from our teachers and the media tours, getting assignments and projects done, sharing dreams and future hopes and boisterous laughter at breaktimes and the long bus rides while belting out our own version of "Empire State of Mind," which had become our journey's theme.

This is one extraordinary trip shared with extraordinary people. SUSI now has its special chamber in our hearts, providing us those inspiring media encounters and personalities, starstruck moments gazing at celebrities and the silhouette of the president himself, and people we hadn't expected to become like our family.

This journey made me realize that journalism has been a battleground for truth, digging it out and proclaiming it. Presently, though, the advent of technology and social media, makes anyone think s/he can be a journalist. This reality has threatened the essence of journalism. Journalism is a science that calls for logical approaches and intense commitment, not merely tapping on an Ipad. It's also the art of walking and not crossing the line.

Journalism in our country is still critical, embryonic. Press freedom is limited, lives are at risk, to say the least. Journalism is not dying, nor will it succumb. It is merely transforming to better serve the public. It is not an easy profession, but one worth living and dying for. □



# Celebrating Social Conscious Month

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



## 1 February

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

## 2-3 February

The Governance and Leadership Institute (GLI) conducted a two-day Strategic Management Training for Effective Local Legislation at Philtown Hotel for the legislative staff of Misamis Oriental. The initiative was in partnership with the Vice Mayors' League of Misamis Oriental

## 4 February

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

## 8 February

A half-day seminar on **Climate Change: (a) Native Flora and the National Greening Program and (b) Mangrove as Coastal Buffers and Sedimentation Sink** was given by Dr Jurgenne Primavera at the XU Nursing Amphitheater. The activity was organized by the McKeough Marine Center and participated in by students and faculty of XU and other universities and schools in Cagayan de Oro, as well as some Local Government Units along coastal municipalities and barangays.

## 13 February

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

## 13-18 February

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



## 15 February

A Prayer Rally for Truth and Accountability was organized by the KKP-SIO at Divisoria.

## 22 February

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

## 25 February

KKP-SIO and the CSG coordinated with RSO in staging “**Jam for Hope,**” an attempt toward relaying messages of hope, courage, inspiration, and resilience from the tragic experience of Sendong, through music and other media.



## 28 February

Dulaang Atenista volunteers executed a flash mob on proper waste segregation in the cafeteria as part of the Information and Education Campaign of the XU Green Campus Agenda.

## 29 February

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

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



## 11 February

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

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

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

## 22 – 24 February

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

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





## Chem faculty becomes OPCW Associate following Europe training



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

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

Tarongoy was selected to represent the Philippines and interact with participants

from developing countries or countries in transition, namely:

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

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

The second phase of the training brought the participants to the University of Surrey in Guildford, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for intensive skills-development training on chemical process engineering, simulated chemical plant production and



assignment project on the measurement and assessment of respirable dust fraction in the workplace based on the recommended Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL).

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

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

Tarongoy, having completed the Associate Programme, is expected to extend his assistance to the National Authority of the Philippines in its implementing activities as a member of OPCW. □

management, safety management, and leadership and teambuilding for three weeks. All participants found most significant and helpful the simulation process where they were able to assume different tasks and roles pertaining to running a chemical plant, from management positions to shift hands operating a pilot chemical reactor.

During the intermediate segment, participants were brought back to the OPCW Headquarters for some practical table-top exercises on simulating chemical inspections, which is a major function of OPCW, and visits to specialized institutions like the customs authorities in Netherlands, the Technical University of Delft, and the OPCW analytical laboratory in Riswijk.

One of the most important components of the program was the three-week long industrial attachments at modern chemical plants, where participants received training in various industrial

operations and gained exposure to working environments in the chemical industry. In the industrial attachments, the different participants were assigned to specified industries in the Netherlands, Denmark, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. Tarongoy was privileged to be assigned to the world's leading chemical company located in Germany, together with another participant from Ukraine. His industrial engagement was centered on chemical safety and security, where he was exposed to advanced occupational safety measures and monitoring activities implemented by the company that has more than 160 different chemical plants in just one site (thus considered as the world's largest chemical site of 10 km<sup>2</sup>).

Tarongoy and his partner successfully submitted and delivered their research presentation on the progress of online chemical process monitoring employing Laser and Raman spectroscopy, and their industrial





## Fr Cal Poulin SJ: Homage to a life of humble service

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

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

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

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

Over more than 50 years, Uncle Cal stayed in touch with family and friends in the United States. While his work in the Philippines and Africa kept him away during many family events and celebrations, he stayed in touch

through airmail in the days before email and Skype. In the days before 24 hours news coverage, he would vividly describe events to us half a world away, such as the People Power Revolution and each new assignment in Cagayan de Oro, Manila, Malaybalay and Africa.

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

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

- Joe Waldron, Fr Cal's nephew

You all know him as Father Cal Poulin but we know him as Uncle Cal. What a special family member! There are so many stories that flash through the mind even though Uncle Cal did not spend a lot of time in the United States in the last 50 years. Every visit was enjoyable, it was as if time stood still and we would pick up the conversation from the previous moment. He



remembered details about every niece and nephew, there were always questions about how each one was doing, where everyone was living –and there are a lot of us! He was interested in all.

There are too many stories to recount but here are few very memorable ones that show Uncle Cal's love of family:

In the old days before computers, we would go to Grandma Poulin's to read his letters that arrived via airmail from that far away place called the Philippines. Those thin pieces of paper with special words telling about far-away places. Gram was so proud of all her clergy children. Uncle Cal in the Philippines, Uncle Neil in Yap, Uncle Don in the diocese of New York and of course Sister Pat is still at the convent in Latham, New York. Gram, Pudgie as some called her, loved the stories of Uncle Cal told so well. What a terrific writer! He spoke with so much love of the place and the people. Once he mastered the computer, the updates came more often and remained very well informative.

Being a military family, we have also lived in many interesting places around the world. It was a nice a nice visit when Uncle Cal was able to manage a layover in Seoul, South Korea to visit on his way back home after his Jubilee visit to America. Uncle Cal had never been to Korea despite all his years in the Philippines. It was an opportunity he couldn't resist. He was amazed at the necessary paper work on the tour of the DMZ at the North Korea border.

Dave and I celebrated our 25th anniversary celebration by Skype at 6am in our Virginia, USA living room! Uncle Cal dialed and we had a wonderful long distance ceremony. The chapel there was beautiful and of course there were some words of wisdom for us. Our friends that came to our home early that July morning could not believe my Uncle did this great thing for us from so far away. We will never forget our 25th anniversary, and neither will our friends.

The family was meeting at Auriesville shrine for a memorial mass for Uncle Neil. Joe and Mar, Dave and I were a bit early so we decided to stop at a road side snack stand before going further. After placing our food order at the window we looked for a table. I saw a handsome man eating at the table just to my right, it's Uncle Cal! He was early too! It was a random meeting, but a pleasant visit before we had too many other competing voices once we all arrived at Auriesville. What a nice surprise!

I must admit my birthday was never forgotten. Uncle Cal always remembers me on my birthday. It is July 31, the Feast of Saint Ignatius. I will always remember him, his commitment to God, family, and the people of the Philippines.

- Kathy Poulin Scarbalis, Fr Cal's niece

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

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

yourself to people, am sure those of have us who have come to know you will mourn your death, mostly the students of XU who have known you as their father and friend.

We all miss you Fr. Cal, and may you rest in peace with the Lord. Unfortunately I will not be there in person for your interment but am praying for the repose of your gentle soul, go in peace to the Lord Jesus Christ until we meet to part no more.

-Fr Martin Okafor-Ilozue, CSSp. Spiritans Cebu

It is a great honor to speak of an extraordinary man whose life was spent touching and transforming the lives of so many, especially the young.

I knew Fr Cal for only a few years, but with that short span of time, I feel I have know him for a lifetime.

A people person, it did not take much effort to like him. His gentle and affable ways, coupled with a cheerful disposition, made him a charming and lovable person that he easily drew people to him.

Knowing Fr Cal has been a joyous and an enlightening experience. Foremost in my memory is Fr Cal's enthusiasm and love for the arts: music, visual arts, theatre.

Under his tutelage as chaplain, this Immaculate Conception of Xavier University was witness to a variety of artistic performances and several musical concerts. He had unknowingly taught me that music and dance were elevated forms of prayer. Merely listening and watching the concerts he organized or allowed to be held in this chapel sent my heart soaring and reaching out to God.

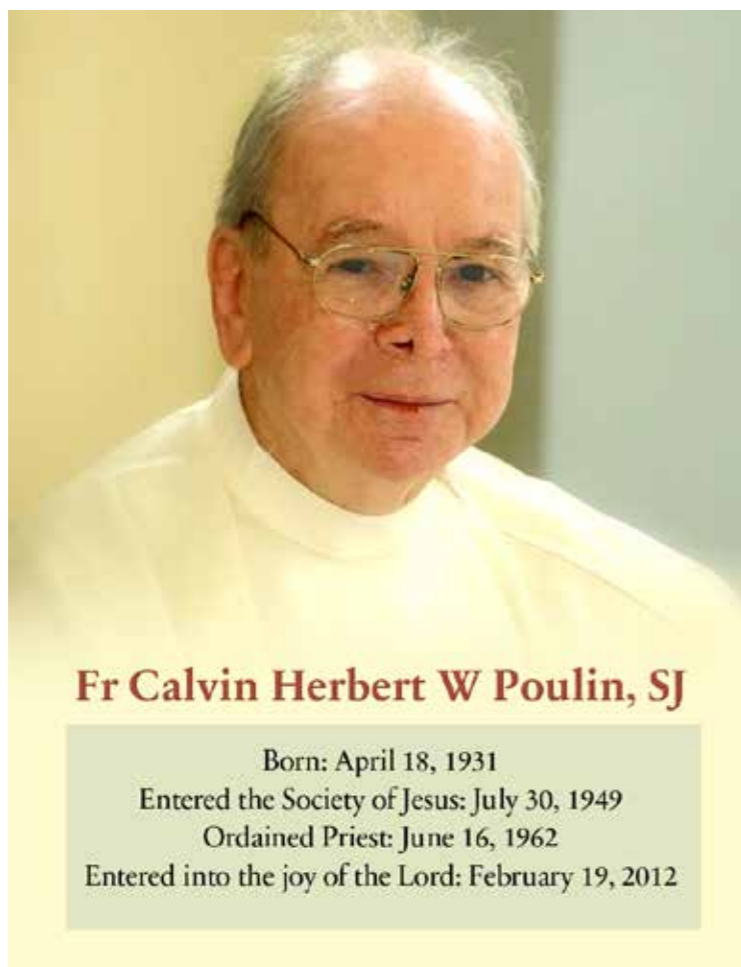
Music, I believe, was one of his divine language; one of his several ways of communicating with his Creator.

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

Just recently, my family and I visited him in the midst of the Sendong tragedy. He was already in much pain then, and could only move around in a wheelchair. In spite of this, he greeted us with a welcoming smile and twinkling eyes. After our visit his nurse told us that Fr Cal had refrained from taking baths during the city-wide water shortage because he believed that the water he conserved would be of more use for others, a family perhaps who took refuge in this university after the Sendong flood.

His nurses feel blessed to have taken cared of Fr Cal. At one time, he asked one of them, "what will happen to you when I am gone?" With that query, Fr Cal showed his true caring nature, even in the midst of his physical pain.

I could not help but be overwhelmed with love, with awe, and with the feeling that I was in the presence of someone who was extraordinary.



Truly a "cura personalis," Fr Cal has developed and empowered many:

- The street kids whom he supported regularly
- The scholars whom he kept in contact with
- The chapel aides, many of whom finished college because of him
- The chapel choir, whom he is very proud of
- The artists, singers, choir members, visual artists whom he encouraged, supported and appreciated
- And perhaps many more I am not aware of

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

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

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

We will miss him. I will miss him. We can only honor his memory by striving to live as he lived: praising and serving God, enthusiastically, and whole-heartedly.

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

- Dr Fe R Juarez  
 Executive Vice President  
 Capitol University



## Xavier Ecoville breaks ground

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

The donation worth more than P51 million will be used to help build the 573 row houses which will be constructed on the 5-hectare lot, adjacent to the temporary bunkhouses where more than 250 households, more than halfway to the target of 500 households, are presently staying.

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

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

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ DD led the rites of blessing at the groundbreaking. Also present during the event were Vice President and Chair of the Urban Development Coordinating Council Jejomar Binay, 2nd Congressional District Representative Rufus Rodriguez, Abante Mindanao Partylist Representative Maximo Rodriguez, City Mayor Vicente Emano and City Councilor Nadya Emano-Elipse.

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

The masterplan of Xavier Ecoville was unveiled during the

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

"I guess Xavier Ecoville will be the standard for everyone to follow in resettlement," said Justo Ortiz, chairman and CEO of UnionBank. "This project is not only a testimony of the resilience of Filipinos... but a testament of magis."

Xavier Ecoville espouses 10 core values: Pagtinabangay (cooperation), Paghigugma sa Ginoo (love of God), Pagsalig sa Matag usa (trust in one another), Pargespeto sa katungod sa uban ug dignidad sa tawo (respect for rights and dignity of persons), Pakigsuod sa silingan (friendship), Pag amuma sa kinaiyahan (care for environment), Pagkugi (industry), Pakiglambigit (involvement), Pagkamatitud-anon (truthfulness), and Pagmugna ug huna-huna ug lihok (creativity of ideas and actions). Every weekend, the community undertakes values formation sessions.



Front row: Leonilo Escalada, HFHP Manager for regional programs; Fr Roberto Yap SJ, XU president; Charlito Ayco, HFHP CEO and managing director; and Engr Elpidio Paras, chair of the XU Board of Trustees, sign the MOA for the construction of 573 permanent houses at Xavier Ecoville. Witnessing the signing were Rep Rufus Rodriguez, Vice President Jejomar Binay and Arch Antonio Ledesma SJ DD.



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



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

(Photos by Ateneo Camera Club and Carmi Yvette C Salcedo)

The Xavier Ecoville masterplan unveiled at the groundbreaking ceremony



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



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

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



For updates on the progress of Xavier Ecoville, please visit <http://tabangsendong.xu.edu.ph>, Facebook Operation: Tabang Sendong, Twitter @TabangSendong. ☐







## Laughter, screams and kissing scenes: Tatlong Mariya, and The Xavier Stage At Random

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

Entitled “At Random,” TXS’s first season had it viewers laugh, cry, whimper, shake and most definitely, swoon. The *kilig* factor is ever present under the folds of drama and comedy in every production.

The season started off with its maiden production, “Ulilang Tahanan”; followed by Dalawang Komedyang, a twin-bill of “New Yorker in Tondo” and “Wanted: A Chaperon”; “Barracks ni Tenyente Fuego”; “Isa pa: Dalawa”, a twin-bill of “Isa Pang Kawing” and “Dalawa”; and their finale production, “Tatlong Mariya”.

### The Maiden

Mr. Hobart Saviar, Artistic Director of Xavier Stage and Director for the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts (XCCA), chose Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero’s “Ulilang Tahanan” as its maiden production to commemorate the playwright’s centennial

anniversary. It is a drama about family and patriarchal tyranny, and the ties that bind loved ones together. It was staged on February 2010.

### The Comedies

Four months later, the company staged “Dalawang Komedyang,” a twin-bill production of Filipino comedies “New Yorker in Tondo” by Marcelino Agana, Jr. and “Wanted: A Chaperon” by Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero. It recreated the plays’ dialogues to fit modern, colloquial Bisaya that the audience could easily relate to and laugh with, such as changing “Tondo” to “Burgos,” and the ever-uttered “Pag-sure ba?”



### The Sons

“May bakla ba sa pamamahay ko?!” was the resounding first line bellowed by Lt. Fuego, as his seven gay sons fell in line and were instructed to recite how they would eradicate homosexuality from the world with their chosen professions. “Barracks ni Tenyente Fuego” is a play by Edward Perez, and the TXS production of it aimed at raising awareness on homosexuality as gender preference and social lifestyle, so the audience is given another slant of understanding and appreciating gays and their works and contributions in the society. The play ends with the surly father of seven boys becoming a gentle daddy with seven *chikas*, and they all lived happily ever after, as they say.

### The Revelations

As its first anniversary special, TXS staged “Isa Pa: Dalawa,” a twin-bill production of Luis Sicat’s “Dalawa” and Steven Patrick Hernandez’s “Isa Pang

Kawing,” both focusing on the one thing that makes everyone so quick to listen: secrets. “Dalawa” is about two best friends who, spending most of their lives together, realize they never knew each other at all. “Isa Pang Kawing” is about the rigid adherence to tradition and culture, yet of abuse of power and corruption. Both plays got the audience guessing and guessing—and gasping when the real secrets were revealed.

### The Finale

To close a star-studded season, TXS staged “Tatlong Mariya,” a rendition of Rody Vera’s adaptation of Anton Chekhov’s “The Three Sisters.” The three Marias— Maria Angelina (Marilyn), Maria Josefina (Finina), and Maria Ramona (Monette), were born in Manila but were driven away to a distant town when their father passed away. Craving for the good life in Manila, they constantly relive the moments they had there, and pounce at anyone

who passes their way who has come from the city. Marilyn is a schoolteacher who carries nearly all the burdens of the sisters, as she is the one most eager to get back to the big city. Finina is a beautiful yet depressed lady, for she had married early out of the initial thought of love, to Isidro, the man she thought was the smartest one in the town. Monette is the youngest, and the play starts with her birthday. She has had long-time suitors, Daniel and Victor. The three sisters have a youngest brother, Teddy, who they had all bet would be great someday.

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

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

Marilyn is unhappy. Monette’s two suitors fight. Daniel dies. Monette is in shock. Ricardo leaves. Finina is distraught. Erlinda tries to take over the house. Teddy convinces himself that his wife is good and faithful. She is not. Many other issues consume them, and the three sisters all burst into tears, tears of pain, of anguish, of anger—wishing that they had known; that they had known all along.

The company was chosen to represent Northern Mindanao and Xavier University to the 6<sup>th</sup> Tanghal University Theater Festival in General Santos City and in the 2012 PASINAYA Open House Festival in the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Out of the 34 applicants for Tanghal 6, The Xavier Stage’s *Isa pa: DALAWA* took one slot for the Mindanao Main entries. For PASINAYA 2012, the company brought its well applauded and well loved “New Yorker in Burgos,” which garnered good reviews and responses from the CCP audience. “New Yorker in Burgos” has also been favorably cited in the article for PASINAYA published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (March 19, 2012) written by Jodee Agoncillo.

Asked to rate this season, Sir Bart gave it a 7. He believes that the company can do so much, and a 7 is a good place to start. Hopefully The Xavier Stage’s next season will wow the audience with more lessons, laughter, and love— possibly more onstage smooches. □

# Xavier University sashays new sets of Film Festivals

by Hobart Savor

As part from Cinemagis – the digital short film festival in Northern Mindanao, which is on its fourth year now, Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts added two new film Festivals, to wit: CINEDUKASYON – Film Appreciation Program and Scientific film Festival and CINEMULAT- Controversial Film Festival. These two festivals started as fringe programs. Cinedukasyon was featured during PANAGHUGPONG 3 – Xavier Arts Festival, and Cinemulat (Cinemagis-Controversial Film Festival) was featured during the 2010 Xavier University Festival Days. Now, both Cinedukasyon and CINEMULAT are flagship projects of the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts under Artistic Excellence: CINEMA/FILM.

CINEDUKASYON (November 24-26, 2012, SM CINEMA 2 and XUGS MPR and CU AVR)

XCCA partnered with the Xavier Science Foundation and the Office of International Cooperation and Networking for

CINEDUKASYON – a film festival that fused two components: a showcase of NCCA and CINEMALAYA funded Mindanao films and documentary films on science and environment from various European Countries. All the science films were provided by the Goethe Institut, and this film festival was made possible by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts – National Committee on Cinema and the French Embassy. Cinedukasyon promoted Mindanao Cinema and has extended Science and Environmental education through documentary films on Biodiversity, Climate Change, Energy, History and Culture.

The curated films included “Teoriya” by Zurich Chan, “Halaw” by Sheron Dayoc, “Limbanan” by Teng Mangansakan, “Crossfire” by Arnel Mardoquio, and “Last Supper No. 3” by Veronica Velasco. The documentary films included “Forest Part 1,” “Universe of the Oceans,” “Nine and a Half: Nuclear Accident in Japan,” “Can Spider Silk Hold a Man?” and others. The audiences interacted with the Mindanao film makers and film discussants. XCCA ensured active learning process throughout the festival, which is what makes Cinedukasyon unique. The festival benefited students from basic education and higher institutions in Northern Mindanao.

The XCCA acknowledges the generosity and support extended by SM CDO, XU Grade School and Capitol University Basic

Education Science Departments; XU Biology Department headed by Prof Gertrude Garcia; Capitol University NSTP and College of Arts and Sciences, headed by Dean Buenos Aires Ocampo.

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

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



on the films “Amores Perros” and “La Mala Educacion.” One viewer pointed out the dichotomy of honor and shame. The film “Kama Sutra” conveyed that both “honor and shame are two sides of the same coin.”

Some XU formators and majority of the Humanities students watched CINEMULAT. The jam-packed audience left the Little Theater with minds that were awakened and set free from the box. They said that they now could watch films responsibly, and that they will seek the literariness of each film they choose to watch.

Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts will sustain these programs for it believes in the formative capacity of Film/Cinema. The film can move the hearts and influence the minds of the audience as it informs. It only requires apt understanding that not all films are precise, correct and true. The truth and correctness of a film lies in how the viewers relate to it, and on how the audience makes it meaningful.

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



# 2011 Grand Alumni Homecoming Awaits more alumni/ae

by Nonie G Cornilla

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

The first day was devoted to sports activities: Fun Golf, Badminton and Basketball. The celebration officially kicked off with a Mass at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at 6:30

am. Breakfast for the alumni/ae, especially for the Silver and Golden Jubilarians, immediately followed at the Magis Student Complex. The alumni/ae had a great time exchanging pleasantries.

The final competition of the Voice of Democracy, an inter high school oratorical contest, was held on December 1 at the XU Audio Visual Room-1. Ten finalists from high schools in Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City vied for the Championship. Val Amiel Vestil of Liceo de Cagayan University was proclaimed the champion, Kirtham Nouriel Dumpa of Xavier University High School,

placed first, and Cindy Faciol of Tagoloan National High School placed second. The winners received a cash prize, medal, trophy and a certificate of recognition.

To highlight the entire festivities, XU-AAA honored fellow alumni who are exemplars in their respective fields during the Awards and Fellowship Night on December 2. Mr Manuel P Engwa and Atty Rodolfo R Waga Jr was conferred the Outstanding Alumnus Award in Professional Service; Mr Eric S Canoy received the Outstanding Alumnus Award in Public Service; and Dr Maurice Edcel accepted the Outstanding Alumnus Award in

Community Service. The XU-AAA also bestowed special awards to Fr Arturo Victor M Borja SJ for Religious Service, Mr Salvador P Escaño for XU-AAA Service, and Mrs Nenen M Yrastorza for Loyalty Service.

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



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