

# Xavier

magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

July to September 2012



**GREEN,  
the new Blue**

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# MILESTONES

## New Agriculturists

2012 graduate Maria Socorro P Aratan placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the Licensure Examinations for Agriculturists.

Twenty other XU graduates passed the exam as well. They are Lea Grace S Aparecio, Mark Neil M Aranaydo, Jerelyn M Bacalso-Medalla, Joseph Alvin Bayarcal, Grethel Xerlo Betita, Dianne Jane Birol, Alvie Cabañez, Kevin Lloyd Cagalitan, Frances Jhoy Callanta, Robert Arnel Casiño, Shiela Mae Dacer, Efrén Carmel John Jaranilla, Karen Grace Jaspe, Car Grey La Victoria, Charlie Nacaya, Revje Parilla, Orlando Mar Penaso, Kenmark Tachado, Rene Micho Tero and Michelle Ross Valmores-Lace.

XU's passing rate was 72.41 percent, while the national passing rate was 37.91 percent.

## New Agricultural Engineers

Five more XU graduates have been added to the roster of agricultural engineers in the country, namely: John Paul Arazo, Janna Pearl Batilo, Carl Edgardo Bolipata, Laizah Lou Galanida and Emelgar Jake Vincent Paasa.

## New Chemists

Chemistry graduates Razel Elaine Grace Cataluña, Ralph Anton C Go and Mary Jane Kestle Tamayo passed the Chemist Licensure Examination given in September. XU's passing rate of 60 percent was above the national passing rate of 45 percent.

## New Doctors

The August 2012 Physician Licensure Examinations resulted in 20 new doctors from the Jose P Rizal School of

Medicine, giving XU a passing rate of 95 percent above the national passing average of 78.8 percent.

The new doctors are Evan Angeli Alaba, Akila Aliman, Maria Sherlene Ando, Arlyn Awing, Hannah Mae Cajarte, Najmah Dipantar, Lorna Victoria Jamis, Maria Carmela Gabrielle Lagunilla, Rikka Allolea Laplap, Ernie Obuyes, Pio Grand Payusan, Ian Mark Reponte, Christy Marie Rosales, Odys Gladney Sapalleda, Jdidah Mae Sealza, Carol Jean Seeto, Marlyn Tadifa, Larson Taruc, Cyriel Anthony Tingne and April Rose Uba.

## New Nurses

XU earned a passing percentage of 92.71 in the Nurses Licensure Examination given on June 30 and July 1.

The new nurses are Chris Miguel Acebu, Melody Shayne Agustin, Ehlla Ahmee, Auston Ang, Danah Pearl Aurel, Ma Elaine Joy Baang, Christa Bacong, Shalylle Mae Balboa, Jericho Balbuena, Oshin Mae Baldoz, Tiffany Joy Barrientos, Noel Mark Bas, Ralexia Basilio, Gina Baylosis, Vi Alfred Bendijo, Erin Cabana, Charmaine Jean Cagabhion, Dexter Bryan Cagas, Jessely Caling, Cachiny Carbajosa, Victoria Jane Carlobos, Raphael Emiel Caumban, Elvie Cañadilla, Jill Centillas, Emmanuel Reine Colanggo, Jose Mari Concepcion, Mark Richmond Cordero, Klerramae Hope Cruz, Lizalou Curig, Kyle Rod De Leon, Karen Mae Del Puerto, Edracel, Del Rosario, John Marlyx Dumas, Charmaine Durangparang, Johren Ejan, Loren Estoquia, Selfa Marie Fabre, Andrew Mari Ferol, Maria Stefan

Ferraris, Frances Juvy Marie Fortunado, Catherine Galarrita, Paolo Galindo, Emman Dave Galve, Kim Garcia, Bea Angeli Gellez, Ghislaine Kristal Gille, Mederie Grace Go, Kevin Karl Hortelano, Iris Jabines, Mar John Jambora, Ires Joy Jawod, Jazon Zion Lao, Karl Lloyd Licup, Omayyah Macabato, Cendy May Macayran, Arman Mendador, Adrienne Nicole Miltante, Kaycy Mumar, Charity Neri, Patrice Ma-an Neri, Hazel Maureen Ong, Maria Odessa Ormillada, Reyna Rose Pabualan, John Tristan Pahuyo, Rosemarie Palasan, Leandro Perez, April Kris Pintor, Reneza Quiblat, Horace Quicoy, Josef Frank Quintil, Raymond Ragas Jr, Kristine Mae Rana, Infa Angelie Roa, Arriane June Rosales, Monette Saguindan, Maria Monica Salazar, Wil-Anne Joyce Salino, Mae Cielito Saliot, Marjierey Saripada, Sahara Loureen Sibe, Jean Dianne Sual, Samerah Tagarda, Kara Jane Tiu, Mikaela Abigail Uychiat, Karen Marie Valdehueza, Sara Mae Villarino, Melody Sherry Virador and April Loise Zornosa.

## New Electrical Engineers

The College of Engineering produced 15 new electrical engineers after the licensure examinations given in Cebu this September. XU garnered a passing rate of 88 percent, while the national passing rate was 58 percent.

The new electrical engineers are Rex Andrew Ajoc, JP Abner Akut III, Tristan Lou Balderol, John Jefferson Caneja, Christine May Creayla, Clint Patrick Erfe, Larey Joseph Hinampus, Cyril Jason Madrid, Ramon Navato Jr, Dennis Loren Salibio, John Kerwin See, Fulbert Valerius Sumayo, Karl Jason Thag,

Gaszer Uson and Joe Marie A Valcarcel.

## 1<sup>st</sup> place medicine student research paper

The student research, "An Experimental Study of the Efficacy of Aquatic Fern (*Salvinia molesta*) in the Treatment of Blackwater Effluent from a Constructed Wetland, Cagayan de Oro City," won first place in the 6<sup>th</sup> Philippine National Health Research System Week Celebration held in August in Manila.

The research was presented by Francis Dale Acenas. His co-researchers were Liezel Morales, Alessandra Kamille Mallari, Cris Dedumo, Nafie Macarimbang, Sheila Mae Trozo, Katherine Ruth Beltran, Nasser A Jawadil, Ethel Yen Sison and Tuan Rey Zarate.

## YMCA Academic Olympiad winners

XU High School students Carmel F Nacague of 3-Demetrio and Karlene Cabaraban of 4-Hausmann won third place in the Essay Writing Contest during the YMCA Academic Olympiad held on September 14.

## PSYSC Science Olympiad Region 10

Fourth year high school students Aldric Eugene Caga, Andre Flores, Warren Ezra Bruce Jaudian and Lestle Marie Cagumpay bagged first place in the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs Olympiad for Region 10 held on September 8 at Liceo de Cagayan University. Moreover, Flores emerged as the top scorer for Region 10.



## MR-XUH inaugurates new building

The Maria Reyna-Xavier University Hospital (MR-XUH) blessed and inaugurated a new three-storey building, which houses an additional 30 private patient rooms and a cafeteria.

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJDD led the rite of blessing assisted by MR-XUH President Fr Roberto C Yap SJ and Fr Gil Escalante.

The private rooms are spacious and very modern. Each room has a stand-by medical apparatus, a sleeping chair, telephone and

wall-mounted cable television to ensure the most comfort for the patient. The cafeteria, on the other hand, is cozy and has an al fresco dining.

This newly-completed project is just one of the many carefully laid out plans that the hospital board has in store for MR-XUH, revealed Sr Zeta Caridad Rivero, Sisters of St Paul of Chartres Provincial Superior.

Another five-storey infrastructure, the Medical Arts building, which incorporates environment and energy efficient



designs, is already under construction.

Just this July, MR-XUH received a container van full of medical equipment and supplies worth over \$300,000 from various national and international benefactors, among them Med Share International, Filipino Community of Guam, Ayuda Foundation, the People of Guam and Smart Communications, Inc.

These new developments at MR-XUH are aimed at providing better "service to those who are in need of medical care, in the

same way that the Lord came to heal all of us," said Bp Ledesma.

Fr Yap had said at the turn-over of the medical equipment that "as a Catholic hospital, our service to the poor and the needy has to be robust."

MR-XUH is a collaboration between the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, Xavier University and the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. It serves as the base hospital for the XU School of Medicine and the College of Nursing. □

## Increased Industrialization and Inclusive Growth Key to RP Development, says ADB Expert

by Erwin V Li

An increase in the Philippines' production and manufacturing sector is the main catalyst needed for the country to be globally competitive and replicate the successes of its fast-growing Asean neighbors, according to a study recently published by a senior expert of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Mr Norio Usui, senior country economist of the Philippine Country Office of the ADB, conducted a series of talks in this city to present the results of his recent publication, "Taking the Right Road for Inclusive Growth: Industrial Upgrading and Diversification in the Philippines."

Speaking before a full audience of academics and students at the Xavier University Little Theater, Mr Usui said, "It doesn't matter if the economy (of the Philippines) grew by 50 percent, and yet it doesn't affect you, you wouldn't care," as he stressed the importance of "inclusive growth" to ensure that as the country's economy improves, so should the lives of its citizens.

The forum in Xavier University was organized by the School of Business and Management and the Center for Integrated Technologies. Dr Virginia Lourdes C Yacapin, SBM dean, gave the opening message to

the audience, which was largely composed of Business and Economics faculty members and students.

Mr Usui also addressed the city's business leaders at the Mallberry Hotel later in the afternoon in a forum organized by the Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Oro Chamber). In both talks, he presented data which shows the Philippines trailing other countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand with respect to the manufacturing sector's contribution to the country's GDP growth.

Joining Mr Usui in presenting the study to both groups was the ADB country director, Mr Neeraj Jain, who answered several questions on ADB's role in the nation's development programs.

According to the study, which the ADB published earlier this year, the Philippines already has a massive advantage over its neighbors because of the strength of its Services sector, which contributes to two-thirds of the country's GDP growth. This advantage, the author said, is anchored on Filipinos' natural inclination towards skilled work and aptitude for the English language, making the country a natural choice for serving the business process outsourcing (BPO) needs of other industrialized nations.

Mr Usui, however, said the country needs to "walk on two legs," by increasing investments and capabilities in manufacturing to ensure the country will reach its growth targets and to provide work opportunities for its massive labor pool and "increasing the link between growth and development". □



## XU opens student mall to public

Xavier University and Pryce Corporation Inc inaugurated the Xavier University – Pryce Center for Entrepreneurship on July 29 during the celebration of the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola.

This student-run shopping and business center is under the University's Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP), designed to train students to become successful entrepreneurs. At the ground floor are shopping stalls operated by students taking up entrepreneurship courses while the second floor houses the training and incubation center, a conference room and the SEP office.

"There is a real need for the economy of Cagayan de Oro, the region and the country to have entrepreneurs," Fr Roberto Yap, XU president, said. "It's not enough that we produce good employees. We have to train our students to be entrepreneurs and serve the community."

He thanked Pryce Corporation Inc headed by its Chief Executive Officer Salvador Escaño for this gift to Xavier. Further, Fr Yap encouraged the students to use the business techniques

they are learning to serve the poor by contributing to jobs and livelihoods generation.

"St Ignatius challenges us to find God in all these worldly things and serve Him," he said.

In the same light, Escaño inspired the student-entrepreneurs to dream big, telling them that it's normal to face difficulties.

"I believe you cannot learn until you fail," Escaño said. He explained that there is no shame in failing. What is important is that you come out a better person from all your experiences.

The mall is open to the public daily except Sundays from 8 am until 5:30 pm. XU souvenir items, apparels, agri products and computer services are among the items offered by the mall. Food kiosks, meanwhile, can be found at the SEP Food Court situated between the Engineering and CIT buildings.

Fr Yap described the Xavier University – Pryce Center for Entrepreneurship as a gateway to XU's service to the community. The mall entrance is now the main access gate to the university both for students and guests. □



## Housebuilding underway at Xavier Ecoville

by Xyla Mercedita Gualberto

**T**en months after TS Sendong hit Cagayan de Oro City, resettlement operations are still ongoing for displaced families who no longer have homes to return to.

Xavier Ecoville, a Xavier University-led resettlement site in Barangay Lumbia, is dedicated to serve 500 families by giving them new houses and organizing them into a new community.

Its partner in the house construction is Habitat for Humanity Philippines. Right now there are 160 houses being built in the Xavier Ecoville permanent site. Habitat for Humanity also expressed their support in promoting the village's environmental identity by using eco-friendly paint on the houses. Xavier Ecoville is the first community to have this innovation.

Aside from the houses, there will be a chapel, a community area, a study center and other community facilities for the families. A livelihood center will also be constructed right outside the village. This will encourage business activities not only at Xavier Ecoville but in the in the entire Barangay Lumbia.

The target date for the families to be transferred to their permanent homes is December this year. It will be a momentous event to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy that drastically changed the lives of the *Kagay-anons*. It is an event in history which proved the people's strong sense of hope and resiliency. □



## University opens 8 new AVRs

Xavier University blessed eight new audio visual rooms (AVRs) at the ground floor of the SBM building.

The new facilities aim at providing students with the best environment for learning and developing their talents.

“We try to provide the best teachers, programs and facilities so the [students'] talents can really grow and they can be the best persons they can be,” said Fr Roberto C Yap SJ, university president.

Fr Yap assured that the “facilities are very well used and we hope we can develop more for the best comfort of our students.”

Also speaking on the occasion was Banco de Oro (BDO) Region 10 Area Manager Sonny Mendoza. BDO sponsored two of the eight AVRs.

“Our partnership goes beyond providing financial services,” said Mendoza. “We look to the university in providing our bank with very rich human resource.” He revealed that a good 90% of their junior officers and managers are graduates of Xavier University.

He added that BDO is expanding its Xavier Branch to accommodate its growing clientele. □



## Museo de Oro opens revamped ethnohistory exhibit room

The country's first folkloric museum, Museo de Oro, opened its newly-renovated Ethnohistory Exhibit Room 1 on Sept 21, the International Day of Peace.

The exhibit shows artifacts dating as far back as the Stone Age. The collection includes relics and artifacts dug from the Huluga cave and other sites in Northern Mindanao. There are also artifacts from the Chinese, Spanish, Japanese and American eras. A tour of the museum will give visitors an enriched understanding of the ethnohistory of Northern Mindanao from its origins to the modern times.

The soft opening was led by the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts, and graced by Misamis Oriental Governor Oscar Moreno and National Committee on Museums Chairman Antonio Montalvan.

This is the first of three phases of renovation the Museo de Oro is set to undergo. The museum, inaugurated by the late former President Corazon Aquino in 1987, was conceived by Fr Francisco Demetrio SJ, its first curator. □



## McKeough Marine Center spearheads coastal clean-up

More than 300 volunteers participated in the beach and underwater clean up drive in Opol, Misamis Oriental, September 22. The clean up drive aimed to increase public awareness on the ocean's silent killer – marine debris.

From morning until noon, volunteers of all ages helped to get rid of the trash. A total of 1,684 pounds (765.65 kgs) of garbage were hauled off from the beaches, mangrove area- and Opol Marine Sanctuary.

Volunteers were given data card to be submitted to Project Aware to help them continue tracking the common types of litter. Participating in the clean up were volunteers from; Dive Special, Philippine Army 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Philippine Coast Guard Northern Mindanao, Coast Guard Special Operations Group, Tactical Operations Group Philippine Air Force, Marine Bio students, PNP Maritime, STEAG State Power Inc, MBDA Cluster Divers (Villanueva, Jasaan & Salay), XU-National Service Training Program classes YA & YC, XU - Research and Social Outreach, XU-Center for Legal Assistance, Jesuit scholastic, XU-Red Cross Youth, AJIS Aquasports, and local communities of Opol.

Media group ABS-CBN covered the event with the help of Johnny Cabreira. The sponsors of the activity were Dive Special, LGU-Opol, AJIS Aqua Sports, STEAG State Power Inc, Aquamundo, XU-Research & Social Outreach, XU-National Service Training Program, Nature's Spring, Graphic, Apple Tree Resort & Hotel, Alpha Omega Homeshool Support and Tutorial Center, and Philippine Coast Guard Northern Mindanao.

The annual cleanup, coordinated locally by McKeough Marine Center, is organized internationally by Project Aware Organization. This year's theme is "Dive against Debris. Stop the Ocean's Silent Killer." This international event engages people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris, and to change human behavior and practices that have been causing pollution. The activity ended with the distribution of certificates and the awarding of prizes for the heaviest hauled debris.

Seawater trash is one of the most widespread problems threatening our coastal waters and waterways. Trash in the water puts stress on marine ecosystems (e.g. mangroves, seagrasses, and corals) and indirectly causes the decline of fish production in the area; it makes beach waters hazardous to the health of coastal inhabitants; and it clogs waterways and canals. □





## XU-CRS partnership bears collaborative service-learning programs

What started out as an onion-growing project of Xavier University with the Sumilao farmers has broadened into a venture that looks at the whole agro-enterprise chain. Thanks to the assistance of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

XU has partnered with CRS to help Sumilao farmers improve their productivity through the Service Learning Program (SLP). One of XU's community service

programs implemented by the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana-Social Involvement Office under the Research and Social Outreach (RSO), SLP brings together faculty members and students with different expertise and backgrounds to provide a comprehensive response to a particular community challenge.

For example, engineering students produced a site development plan for 50 hectares of farmland in Sumilao, development communication students developed farmer-friendly information materials on agricultural technologies, business students set up an accounting system to help the farmers manage their sales, and computer science students are teaching them the use of

geographic information systems for price monitoring.

"The engagement with the Sumilao farmers hopes to address XU's thrust on food security, environment and, to some extent, health, governance and peace," said Engr Dexter Lo, director of the Engineering Resource Center and OIC of the RSO, during the meeting between XU and CRS.

Representatives of XU and CRS met on July 13 to discuss their collaborative work. The CRS delegation, headed by their president, Dr Carolyn Woo, and Bishop Gerald Frederick Kicanas, chair of the CRS Board of Directors, sat down with XU President Fr Roberto Yap SJ, some faculty members and students.

"We don't just do theoretical research, but more applied research," explained Fr Yap. "We ensure that there is research done, but that there is also a social output."

There are plans to make the partnership with the Sumilao farmers a template and replicate

the SLP experience in other countries.

Bishop Kicanas lauded the multi-disciplinary approach to helping communities. "The cross-departmental initiative is really impressive," he said.

Moreover, the XU-CRS partnership extends beyond agro-enterprise. CRS is one of XU's active partners in providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to the Sendong survivors.

Part of the meeting was the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the use of a portion of XU's property in Barangay Canito-an as site for CRS's transitional shelters for 130 families affected by Sendong. The shelters will be co-managed by CRS and the Social Action Center of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro.

Joe Curry, CRS Philippines Country Representative, said that he is grateful to XU for providing the land for the transition shelters and for offering CRS a space to work in at the University. □

## XU hosts 5<sup>th</sup> CEAP Mindanao Summit on environment

Xavier University played host to this year's Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) Mindanao Summit, which stressed on the protection of the environment in the wake of natural disasters that have hit the nation since last year.

The assembly from Aug 10-11 at the Little Theater carried the theme "Sendong – Its Impact to Mindanao & the Catholic Schools: Implications toward an Advocacy on Environment." Presentations from CEAP members centered on environmental protection and climate change adaptation.

"Sendong became our teacher," said Sr Maria Vida C Cordero SFIC, project manager of the Franciscan Eco-Spirituality Center. "It taught us many lessons. Among them is to listen to the environment."

Sr Cordero admonished that we should not be concerned only about our *kapwa-tao* (fellowmen) but also about our *kapwa-nilalang* (fellow creature). "The way we relate with our environment is the way we relate with our creator," she said.

Other topics in the plenary discussions included the peace and environment curricula in Catholic schools by Fr Antonio Moreno SJ, CEAP National Vice President and Ateneo de Zamboanga University President, and updates from CEAP directors from regions 9, 10, 11, 12, ARMM and Caraga. The gathering also doubled as the 4<sup>th</sup> Mindanao Bishops' CEAP Conference.

XU faculty members also gave presentations and reactions during the event. Professor Dexter Lo presented on disasters. He explained that disasters occur because of a confluence of hazard, risk and vulnerability.

He showed maps of Cagayan de Oro's growing population and flood maps of Sendong and earlier tropical storms that hit the city. The rapid growth of the city is not the problem, he said. The challenge lies in managing the expansion well.

The head of XU's Lumbia Resettlement Project, Roel Ravanera, updated the congregation on Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement community for Sendong survivors. He shared on the progress of the construction of the permanent rowhouses and said that the beneficiaries are expected to be moving in to their new homes this December, a year since Sendong. □



## UNSTOPPABLE XUCA; celebrates 2012 Manresa Days

by Stephen Pedroza

Not the heat of the scorching sun, rain showers or intermittent black outs could stop the celebration of the 2012 Manresa Days from pushing through on Aug 16-18.

The event opened with a thanksgiving mass then a torch parade around *Divisoria*.

Excitement leveled up with the 25<sup>th</sup> Rodeo sa Ateneo with participants coming from universities in Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Iligan and Camiguin. Students also participated in the Amazing Race-inspired Manrazing Race.

Those who were not so keen on rigorous physical activities joined contests that tested their artistic and mental acumen. High school students competed in quiz bowl, essay writing and poster making contests on the celebration's theme, "Innovating Sustainable Solutions."

Booths were also set-up to promote agricultural products, such as fresh meat and vegetables, seedlings, fertilizers,

animal feeds and animal supplements.

Manresa Agro-Eco Tour Packages complemented the celebration. It aimed at creating awareness among students, especially the younger ones, on nature conservation and agricultural appreciation. Horseback riding was a hit among visitors.

The celebration was also a venue for discussing serious issues facing agriculture such as climate change, biotechnology, the state of organic farming and new trends in the industry. The convention was meant to inspire more agri-entrepreneurs and generate more jobs in the sector. In addition to the usual fair during Manresa Days, the XU Junior Philippine Society of Animal Science in collaboration with the City Veterinary Office and CDO Dog Walkers launched an anti-Rabies campaign. The event underscored the importance of dog immunization to prevent the spread of rabies-triggered infections.

Dr Cecilia Mondia, XUCA resident veterinarian and volunteer vet of the Manresa Wildlife Sanctuary, pointed out that responsible pet ownership starts with giving them proper vaccination. Dog owners from the Aggie community were pleased to get free medical advice and vaccinations for their dogs.

This year's Manresa Days also hosted the most number of candidates for the Miss Rodeo competition. 19 ladies from agricultural schools in Region 10 as far away as Camiguin paraded their best cowgirl outfits and impressed the audience with their wit. The barn party pumped up the crowd with barn dance music. □



## Manresa Wildlife Sanctuary: Saving animals at the brink of extinction

by Stephen J. Pedroza

Although scientists consider extinction as a natural occurrence prior to the introduction of new species in nature, human-induced factors like global warming and climate change have accelerated this phenomenon. Decline in the population of wildlife is happening in most parts of the world, including the Philippines, considered as one of the biologically richest countries in the world by Conservation International. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the tamaraw tops the critically endangered species list in the country, with an estimated population of less than 200 in 2008, making it one of the world's rarest mammals. Numerous efforts have been exerted to protect and conserve wildlife, such as the establishment of

wildlife sanctuaries. One goal of wildlife conservation is to create temporary shelters for the rehabilitation, propagation and scientific research of misplaced or recovered wildlife. Cooperation of government agencies and private institutions has strengthened this target.

Xavier University, through its College of Agriculture, is an active advocate of wildlife conservation. XU partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2009 to establish the Manresa Wildlife Sanctuary. There are only three wildlife sanctuaries in Misamis Oriental. The other two are in the municipalities of Mantianak and Initao. MWS is the youngest and is located at XU's Manresa Farm in the uptown portion of the city. Its thick forest cover, wide area and accessible location make Manresa Farm a suitable temporary shelter for wildlife animals rescued by the DENR Region 10 Rescue Center.

Hernando Pacana, MWS manager, says that prior to becoming a recognized sanctuary, a number of animals like pythons, flying snakes, fruit bats, monitor lizards and varieties of birds have already been spotted in Manresa. Since about, the sanctuary for Next



year, MWS hopes to bring in crocodiles.

Treatments still administered by Dr Cecilia Mondia, MWS volunteer veterinarian, takes care of the animals placed in the custody of the MWS. She does the routine check-ups and recommends vaccination. Every three months, the DENR inspects the sanctuary and assess whether some of animals have fully recovered and are ready to be released into the wild.

With limited funding says that they maximize the sources

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to thet, in environmental conservation


(Photos by Stephen Pedroza) Brahminy Kite Eagle Monitor LizardTortoiseMacaque or Crab-eating Monkey

The Manresa Wildlife Sanctuary serves as the temporary shelter of the recovered, confiscated and captured wildlife animals. □



# The Green Alternatives:

by Vanessa Gorra



**A** quick quiz: How much water did it take to make the cup of coffee you had this morning? If you said about 250 ml, that's the equivalent of a cup, you're wrong. It took 35 gallons of water. It took enough water to fill a bathtub to cultivate the coffee beans in your cup. How about the last hamburger you devoured? Well, 635 gallons all used to grow the feeds for the cow. By 2025, the United Nations says two-thirds of the world's population will have experienced water scarcity.

If you consider yourself an average Filipino, you throw away half a kilo of garbage every day. That's expected to double by 2025 according to a report by the World Bank. So, picture all 11,000 of us here at Xavier drinking coffee and throwing things away, imagine the heaps of garbage that would pile up, and it won't be long before we run out of places to hide from all our wastes.

Thanks to climate change, which promises us a stormy future, we can no longer blithely dismiss waste management as an abstraction someone else has to take care of. Governments, corporations and institutions around the world are beginning to green up their act. Starting a few years ago, catholic educators have highlighted the need for sustainable management practices.

Xavier has hosted numerous dialogues and forums on environmental stewardship. There have been instances when these discussions packed the Little Theater from wall to wall, in others, the resource speakers spoke to an empty chair. Yet, at both times, the real challenge was how to leverage the conversation.



When the Jesuit Conference in Asia and the Pacific met, they discussed how the Jesuit Superior General's message at the 35<sup>th</sup> General Congregation of the Society of Jesus on "reconciliation with creation" could be translated into practical experience. Since education forms a big part of the Jesuits' apostolate, it made sense that making school campuses more ecological would be a concrete transformation of the idea into action. When the

Jesuit Conference in Asia and the Pacific identified Xavier to be a prototype green campus for other Jesuit schools in the region, the university embraced the challenge. *"Ateneo de Cagayan will be a green campus ... but ... with a blue heart ... a heart that appreciates the goodness of creation and discerns the active presence of God within creation,"* declared Fr Roberto Yap SJ at his inauguration as Xavier's 14<sup>th</sup> president.

In October 2011, Fr Peter Walpole SJ organized a small group of XU personnel who would proact the university toward this ecological venture. They reflected on Father General Adolfo Nicolas's "Healing a Broken World," a special report on ecology which preceded the creation of the Task Force on Jesuit Mission and Ecology in 2010. They identified the bigger goals of establishing the right relationship with creation and with one another, and of contributing to environmental sustainability.

From that ecological reflection in Bendum, Malaybalay, Bukidnon was born the Green Campus Agenda (GCA). The GCA cemented XU's resolve to be a university that shares in the conservation and protection of the environment, and, in the process, restores or creates relationships with creation. It built on earlier foundations laid by the Solid Waste Management Task Force during the administration of Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ, the university's immediate past president.

The plan is to introduce changes slowly. A few years ago, the university started segregating wastes into either biodegradable, non-biodegradable, recyclable or yard waste. In 2010, covering a period of three months, Xavier generated 158,400 kg of waste. That's roughly the weight of 45 Asian elephant cows put together or one massive blue whale. Waste recovery then was a mere 33 percent and 67 percent of the waste was disposed to the landfill. This year, the total waste collected in the past six months was 237,600 kg (about 68 Asian elephant cows and a really, really, fat blue whale), but waste recovery improved to 75 percent, and only 25 percent was disposed to the landfill.

Majority of the wastes were yard wastes, which generated 158,400 kg of compost and 6,401 kg of vermicast courtesy of the university's vermicomposting facilities on campus and in Manresa, which started operation last year. Vermicomposting is the process of using worms to process organic food wastes





into nutrient-rich soil called a vermicast. Prior to harvesting its own organic fertilizer, the university used to purchase around 11,000 kg of vermicast each quarter at P40 per kilo. With its own vermicomposting facilities, Xavier's savings is in the thousands per quarter. There is an intention to make a bigger compost pit, in addition to the one made in 2011, in the main campus to cut fuel costs of having to drive the yard waste to Manresa for composting (which lasts six months), then bringing it back for vermicomposting.

To facilitate the segregation, collection and handling of wastes, Fr Eric Velandria SJ, assistant to the president for Campus Development, has ordered every office in the university to have three bins for isolating wastes and a resource recovery box for dry paper and cartons.

Another innovation introduced in the campus this year is the biopori. It's a one-meter deep pipe installed in mostly gravel-filled holes. This technology, which originated in Indonesia, is designed to

hasten infiltration of storm water from the surface and help reduce water run offs. If you've been with Xavier for a while, you know how tall the waters can rise during heavy rains. The biopori helps keep the water level down. The university has built several bioporis all over campus. If you look closely, there's one near the Loyola House parking area, the walkway in front of the Aggie building leading to the SEP mall, several along the SS building, and near the CIT and the Engineering buildings, as well.

The university has also significantly reduced the use of chemical-based cleaning agents. Now, our toilets, walls, floors, drains and septage are cleaned, sanitized and deodorized using organic-based cleaning agents. Rubelyn Lao-Valdehueza, campus sanitation and environmental officer, admits that the university has to pay more for these products, but we've also managed to reduce discharge of hazardous chemical wastes.

A more noticeable shift toward the greening of our campus is the ban on polystyrene or what we recognize better as Styrofoam. A known pollutant, polystyrene is a carcinogenic and contributes to air pollution when manufactured and burned. There are posters everywhere disseminating the ban. Soon, Glenda Factura, the GCA coordinator, says we will also be downsizing on the use of disposable plastics. The university has informed restaurants and fast foods





around the vicinity, and the Central Student Government (CSG) initiated a call to these establishments not to use Styrofoam in their food packaging. Everyone agrees polystyrene is bad.

One of the major things the GCA is working on is ways to cut back on energy consumption and promote efficient energy use. Other examples that the university commits to do in the near future are setting up of a rainwater harvesting facility, management of tree assets,

and the integration of Solid Waste Management (SWM) into the curriculum. XU's National Service Training Program and Freshmen Formation Program classes already have an entire module devoted to SWM, and arrangements are being made for SWM to make its way into the curriculum of selected courses and subjects.

Outside Xavier, there's another green community, Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement site for survivors of typhoon Sendong. Development workers

at Ecoville are hard at work in ensuring that the site stays true to its promise of being ecologically sustainable.

Analiza Miso, the director of Xavier's Sustainable Sanitation Center, oversees the implementation of eco solutions, particularly on water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), at the resettlement site. She and her team of five are helping make Ecoville a self-sustaining community practicing the "closing the loop" principle, otherwise known as the recycling

and/or reusing of waste back into the local environment.

*"There is no such thing as waste," says Miso. "Everything is a resource."*

When she says everything is a resource, she means everything, including human excreta. "If we consume or use up something, for sure we dispose what we call as "wastes." However, applying the closing the loop principle, we try not to discharge the "waste" directly. Instead, we try to treat it and get rid of pathogens,





then recycle it, or reuse it for agriculture.”

This is what’s being done at the temporary site of Ecoville. The WASH cluster of Xavier Ecoville has put up a localized sludge treatment facility called a drying bed treatment system (DBTS) where human waste or sludge from the septic tank is brought for primary treatment, using lime, charcoal, sawdust, corncobs and microbial organisms. After six months to a year, the primary treated sludge will be treated again

through vermicomposting, and then finally, it will be utilized back to agriculture as soil conditioner.

Urine from the male urinals is also being collected as fertilizer for the small backyard gardens and the larger communal garden, where every five families share in cultivating a 1.5 m x 5 m plot. The garden helps support the households’ food and nutritional needs, while also being a source of additional income.



Solid wastes, too, are being segregated into biodegradables, recyclables and residual wastes. Each bunkhouse, the temporary shelter composed of 10 households, is provided with segregation bins for separating the biodegradables, recyclables, and residuals. Recyclables are sold to a nearby junk shop. In the Xavier Ecoville permanent site, the WASH cluster hopes to put up a Materials Recovery Facility, where all solid wastes can be managed, sorted, processed and reused or recycled.

Wastewater also finds good use at Ecoville. A localized constructed wetland, an artificial swamp that uses aquatic plants to treat wastewater or runoff, treats greywater generated from domestic activities, such as laundry, dishwashing and bathing, in the site to be re-used for irrigating the households’ gardens and for flushing their toilets. The facility, which was put up with the help of the Ateneo Innovation Center, uses papyrus plants to help in the treatment. Xavier Ecoville is the only known resettlement site in the country where a Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management (SSWM) system is being integrated in the building of the community.

*“The holistic management of solid waste and wastewater at Xavier Ecoville is the goal for implementing the SSWM,” Miso says. “It will help minimize pollution and maximize resources.”*

Achieving and sustaining the goals of the GCA is not an easy thing to do. Squeezing in more green spaces in an increasingly saturated landscape, and expanding the university from the point of view of sustainability is a tough challenge.

*“The biggest challenge is paradigm shift,” says Factura. How do you change behavior in such a short time and make sure it stays changed?*

The GCA is the university’s institutional response to environmental challenges. It should involve everyone. And the community here at Xavier agrees. Nobody is resisting the idea of turning Xavier into a green campus. No one mourns the demise of the Styrofoam. Those who notice are happy with the change. And if that’s any indication, XU will continue to explore green technologies and green interventions that will help catalyze its vision of creating right relationships with all of creation. □



## Prague plays host to EMA's 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

by Shiella C Balbutin

The beautiful city of Prague, Czech Republic was the host of the Erasmus Mundus Association's 6th General Assembly held in June at the Faculty of Education, Charles University.

Close to 160 participants from all over the world, who are members of the EMA Steering Committee, boards of EMA regional chapters, representatives of Erasmus Mundus courses, officers of the European Commission and other members of the association, gathered together for the annual event.

As in the past, formal presentations and discussions are usual features at the GA. It opened with the welcome greetings from Radka Wilddova, Dean of the Faculty of Education of Charles University; Martine Dere from the Directorate General of Education and Culture of the European Commission; as well as from Jean Carlos Pelicano and Hady Abi-Nader, President and Vice-president of EMA.

Other presentations were from Jordi Curell, Director of Lifelong Learning; Higher Education and International Affairs of the European Commission; Katarina Nevedalova, member of the European Parliament and VP of the European Youth Forum; Jana Fiorito and Edith Genser, representatives from the Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission; and Tahia Devisscher, Erasmus Mundus Quality Advisory Board. Moreover, there was a discussion on the "Erasmus for All" proposal; voting session of the EMA statute; and the meetings of the service teams, professional networks and regional chapters.

Despite the packed two-day schedule, the GA also organized interesting social and cultural activities which delighted the participants. One of which was the "City Hunt", conducted the day before the GA. During the game, participants were divided into groups and were given tasks to accomplish within a given period of time. It was a great way to establish camaraderie and to see the sights of Prague, albeit hurriedly.

Other highlights of the event included the fellowship dinner on the boat while cruising along Vltava River and passing through Charles Bridge. The beautiful sunset and skyline of the city served as backdrop of the cruise.

Moreover, it was a time of firsts. For the first time, the GA put the spotlight on the EMA Regional Chapters via the "World Map Session". It featured the presentations

of all chapter representatives wearing their traditional costumes. This certainly reinforced EMA's rich cultural diversity. As VP of the South East Asia Chapter, I was tasked to introduce and present our chapter's accomplishments and activities.

Another first-time feature was the "World Coffee Break". Prior to the event, we were requested to bring sweets from home and these were showcased and put on display at the chapter booths. It was a very interesting experience as the participants enjoyed sharing and eating the variety of food from different parts of the world. I brought the Philippines' famous sweet dried mangoes and they were such big hits!

It was another productive and successful GA. It certainly proves that for all the members, finishing our EM courses is not the end but the beginning of a happy journey with EMA. □



The writer, center, with the EMA-South East Asia Chapter Members from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.



ROARR!





Xavier Festival Days 2012  
November 29-December 3

# December 2012



Feast of St. Francis Xavier  
December 3, 2012

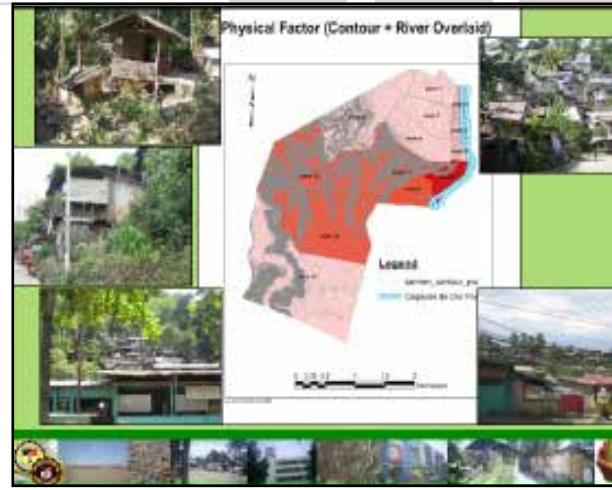
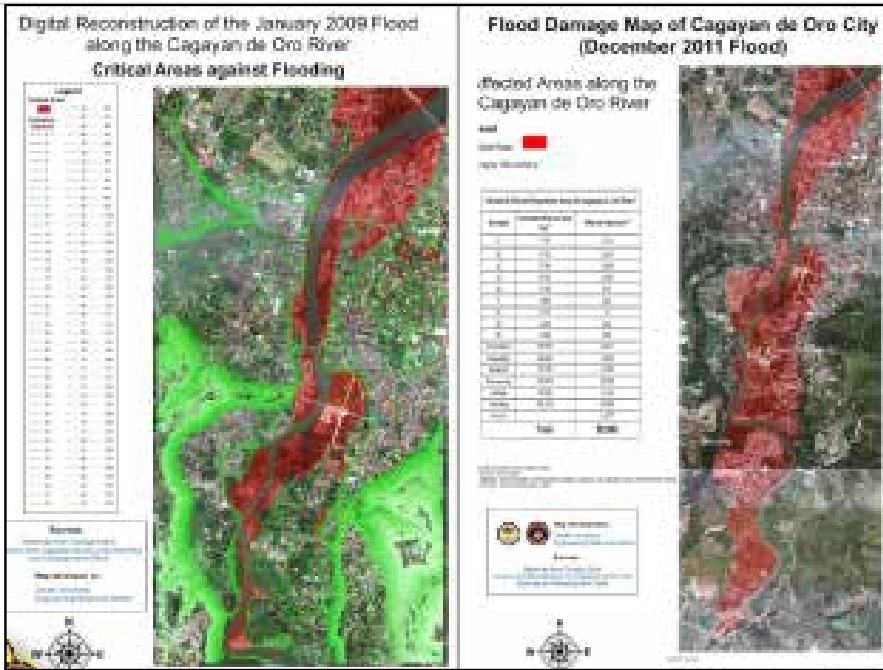
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Last day for release of registration (green) forms FRESHMEN & TRANSFEREES ORIENTATION	Last day for delayed Final Validation Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration Ignatian Leadership Enhancement and Development Program (I-LEAD Program)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Last day for release of Registration forms/ delayed Final Validation	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Ignatian Leadership Enhancement and Development Program (I-LEAD Program)
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Graduate School/ Medicine/Law Delayed registration	Xavier Days 2012	<b>BONIFACIO DAY</b> Xavier Days 2012	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Fun Run/Pryce Gasses International Marathon Xavier Days 2012	Xavier Days 2012					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Preliminary Exams	Preliminary Exams	Preliminary Exams	Preliminary Exams	Preliminary Exams	Preliminary Exams
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Christmas Vacation	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	Christmas Vacation	Christmas Vacation	Christmas Vacation	Christmas Vacation
30	31					
<b>RIZAL DAY</b>						



RESULTS	
ARTCIES	601
<b>SBM</b>	<b>532</b>
ENGTG	491
AGCIES	373
NURSING	167
COMPUTUP	142
GT	117
LAW	86
SOE	83
MED	66

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**College of Arts & Sciences**  
XU Intramurals 2012 Over-all champion



# Like mapping stars XUERC shows importance of GIS Applications

by Stephen Pedroza

“Using GIS is like looking at the stars in the sky, and mapping them out to form constellations,” said Eng Dexter Lo at a forum with Graduate School students on the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) in the field of engineering.

GIS is a software that combines layers of information of a location to come up with better geographically-referenced results showing relationships, patterns and trends in the form of maps, globes, models and charts.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Sendong, numerous GIS-generated studies have explained the causes, effects, risks and other factors related to the disaster. These studies have prominently contributed to government and private institutions’ efforts toward rehabilitation and rebuilding.

Lo, who heads XU’s Engineering Resource Center, held up GIS maps that showed how the river pathways have become noticeably steeper since 2009, and populations

more dense particularly in areas along the river banks. The reclamation site built along the river slopes of Macasandig, which registered a tremendous number of fatalities, evidenced how modified the waterways have become.

In the GIS maps he showed, heavy population density in various areas was a major factor in the damage intensity of the flood. Most of the Sendong victims were overlaid in the skirts of the Cagayan de Oro River, which Lo described as the “most vulnerable.”

GIS can also be used in conserving and protecting our water resources. Dutch Engr Jan Taat said that GIS maps have been used to show how large scale plantations and populations can affect groundwater quality. In Cagayan de Oro, he said, the direction of groundwater flow has changed, which could result over time to salt water intrusion and the likelihood of land subsidence resulting in a “sinking” city. He added that the population of Cagayan de Oro will reach a million by 2030, posing threats of water shortage.

Air pollution is another thing the city has to contend with. GIS maps show a palpable presence of toxic gasses in the atmosphere, said Engr Anabel Abuzo in her discussion on how the commercial and industrial expansions of the city is affecting the health of its people. Emissions from vehicles and industries have significantly increased these past few years, she said.

The GIS images showed the city’s heavy traffic volume and Mobile Road Emissions, with Lapanan Highway having the highest concentrations of benzene and Vamenta Boulevard with the highest level of sulfur dioxide compared with other places in the city.

Lo says that the solution to all these concerns is not to inhibit the growth of the city. Just as there are countless of stars that carpet the sky, the solution is in placing all these developments well. □

*Photos courtesy of XUERC*



## Xavier Ecoville: A 'green' community in the making

by Analiza U Miso

Among the major challenges during emergency situations from natural or manmade disasters is waste management and proper sanitation. When plans for Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led five-hectare resettlement site for Typhon Sendong survivors, were drawn up, it was envisioned to become an eco-friendly community.

While waiting for the completion of their new houses, expected this December, the beneficiaries are actively participating in efforts to make their new community as healthy and sustainable as possible.

One of the things they're doing is planting vegetables in their backyards and in the communal garden (about 1.5 meters by 5 meters for every five families) to support their families' food and nutritional requirements. By doing this, they are also able to minimize their need to purchase vegetables from the market. Another thing they are actively practicing is solid waste management.

### Waste stream management

With a view on sustainability, waste generated are their to Each bunkhouse, which accommodates 10 households, is provided with segregation bins

for biodegradable, recyclable, and residual wastes. The recyclables are sold at the nearby junkshops, while the residuals are regularly collected by garbage collectors from the Local Government Unit, and the biodegradables go to the compost pit as additional substrate for urine composting and vermicomposting.

Urine collected from the male urinals (also installed in the ecosan toilets) is added to the accumulated biodegradable wastes for urine composting, or stored in the big urine storage tank for a month before being used as fertilizer in the communal garden.

### Localized sludge treatment facility

The Xavier Ecoville experience has showed us first hand that safe disposal of human waste and excreta should be a priority when setting up camp. Human waste is a major source of pollution and water contamination, and is often responsible for various health problems and diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera. The provision of proper sanitation services needs to be seen as closely related to health care and should be of vital importance. Sanitation facilities should be as compatible as possible with traditional defecation and cleansing practices, preferred positioning of latrines or other cultural or religious norms.

Over time, pit latrines will have to be emptied or decommissioned, a reality which must be considered at the very first stage of planning. The most immediate solution would be either to close the latrine or to desludge regularly, especially during disasters wherein communal latrines provide the most feasible sanitation facility for disaster survivors. Desludging is the most common solution when septic tanks become full. Sludge/septage should be managed properly so it does not harm the environment. Specifically, it shouldn't pollute the groundwater and the air.

At Xavier Ecoville, the Sustainable Sanitation (SuSan) Center constructed a localized sludge treatment facility called a drying bed treatment system (DBTS) in order to efficiently and properly manage the sludge. The DBTS uses lime, charcoal and sawdust plus a microbial organism to kill or reduce the pathogens.

The SuSan Center with the School of Medicine will conduct a microbiological test after six months of drying the sludge in the DBTS to check on the pathogen level in the dried sludge. A secondary treatment through vermicomposting will be carried out before finally using the vermicast for agriculture.

*With these green initiatives in place, it is hoped that Xavier Ecoville will serve as an inspiration for other communities to incorporate sustainable waste management systems in their own neighbourhoods. □*

*Ms Analiza U Miso is the director of the Sustainable Sanitation Center of the Dr Jose P Rizal School of Medicine.*



# ACLD: training students to become heroic leaders

by Jerome Torres

The Ateneo Campus Leadership Discovery (ACLD) aspires to become a training ground for no ordinary leaders. It seeks to build a community of student leaders who are socially aware and motivated to extend service through volunteerism grounded on the values and principles of Ignatian Leadership.

Student leaders are exposed to activities that strengthen their engagement with

the community and ignite their spirit of volunteerism. Leadership enrichment sessions are conducted regularly to supplement their training and continue their growth as leaders by providing them the opportunity for reflection and discussion with their formators.

ACLD leaders are also given the chance to handle promotions of the Educational Assistance Project (EAP), which seeks to raise funds for scholars, and Environmental Protection and Preservation Values Education (EPPVE) in the campus. In addition, they are expected to assist in the implementation of supplemental projects like symposia, chalk art contest, poster making contest, Lakaw sa Pagtuo (Pilgrimage), issue discussion and many others.



The latest ACLD Ignatian Leaders' Camp was conducted on Aug 18-19 through the partnership of the First Year Formation Program and the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office. The two-day

leadership formation workshop carried the theme, "Kadiwa Ko si San Ignacio," and focused on Heroic Leadership with sessions on self-awareness, ingenuity, love and heroism. □



## A closer look at Fr George

by Libby Josephine M Abesamis

Fr Gorgonio S Esguerra SJ, or simply "Fr George," celebrated his 75th birthday last September 12, 2012 – truly a day of thanksgiving for the many years of humble service to God and His Church.

Ending his term as vice president for Mission and Ministry last May 2012 marked another phase of his life, which he greatly desires. After many years of handling administrative posts in the two Ateneos (Ateneo de Davao and Xavier University), Fr George has finally opted to focus his energy on taking care of the temporal needs of his brother Jesuits in Loyola House as the Minister of the house.

As one of the respected Jesuit administrators for almost four decades, he is known to be dependable and a person who attends to things with great zeal. His training as an engineer has somehow helped him in his task of setting up structures that work. As a mentor, Fr George has never failed to teach important life lessons to his colleagues and subordinates.

As a man of few words, and with his calm disposition, he exemplifies what it is to be truly a person of strength despite life's limitations and uncertainties. His deep spirituality as a Jesuit has contributed much to how he views life in the light of God's love and of God's divine will. With his many accomplishments in the Jesuit education apostolate, Fr George remains to be humble and quiet. And such humility has brought so much inspiration to a number of people, especially to those whom he had worked with in the apostolic mission of forming the minds and hearts of the young.

To a great man whose presence has motivated people to pray hard, think deeply, and act conscientiously ... SALAMAT! □

Name	Fr Gorgonio S Esguerra SJ
Birthdate	September 12, 1937
Date Entered The Society of Jesus	May 30, 1959
Date Ordained	November 28, 1970

Assignments/Ministries:	
1973-1999	Ateneo de Davao University
1973-1977	Coordinator of the Department of Philosophy and Theology
1977-1978	Taught Theology, Philosophy, Physics; Campus Chaplain
1978-1999	Dean of College
1995-1999	Executive Vice-President
2000 – present	Xavier University
2001-2007	High School Principal
2007-2008	Director of Campus Ministries Office
2009-2012	VP for Mission and Ministry



## STREAMing for 8 years

The second day of the celebration dotted the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of STREAMS XU-Pathways with the theme, “Great at 8 Celebrate: Counting 8 Years of STREAMS XU-Pathways.” Its opening was held at the Little Theater which revisited the challenges and triumphs of the organization all throughout the years.

In the evening, STREAMS held a soiree at the Aggie Satellite Canteen. The night was filled with nostalgia and heartfelt testimonials from its past and current scholars, officers and volunteers.

Ivanell Subrabas, the first STREAMS President in 2006 and currently the Student Activities and Leadership Development head, recounted the story of the organization from how it started and how it has shaped the lives of others including his.

The other testimonies were from Maurita Donasco, librarian of Lumbia National High School, the beneficiary school of Sharing the Light Project which was initiated by STREAMS and won in a contest by Colgate.

The Xavier Center for Culture and Arts presented “Kultura Singko” a showcase of their offerings in its fifth year of anchoring the artistic formation of the students. Performances from the Glee Club, The Xavier Stage, Dulaang Atenista, Cultural Dance Troupe and Xavier Philharmonia drew a standing-room only crowd.

## OMM Week Celebration echoes holistic formation

by Stephen Pedroza

Xavier University marked the second week of September as the Mission and Ministry Week, carrying the university slogan, “Igniting the Fires, Creating Possibilities.”

The event commenced with a Eucharistic Celebration at the Immaculate Conception Chapel presided by XU President, Fr Roberto “Bobby” Yap SJ. The mass was front lined by the faculty and staff of the different clusters under the Office of Mission and Ministry (OMM), and some students. □

### Secret Jesuits without DRAMA and FANFARE’

In his homily, Fr Bobby shared the reflections of Fr Danny Huang SJ, special assistant to the Jesuit Superior General for Asia-Pacific in Rome, on the story of some “secret Jesuits” in a politically sensitive Asian country (left unnamed) for their dedication and excellence in ministry and preaching despite perils and difficult circumstances.

“Fr Danny’s profound reflections remind us that Jesuit and Catholic identity are not primarily about public labels, but about a spirit, a way of living,” he said.

Fr Bobby also cleared the stand of the University on the controversial Reproductive Health Bill. As a Catholic Institution, he accentuated

the university’s disapproval of the bill. “XU says ‘no’ to the passage of House Bill 4244,” he said.

“Following the lead of the Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro, XU says ‘yes’ to Natural Family Planning (NFP).”

A photo exhibit at the Magis Atrium followed the mass. Dr Lina Kwong, academic vice president, Bro Noel Cantago SJ, vice president for Mission and Ministry, and Fr Bobby graced the opening of the event. The exhibit showcased the mission and milestones of the different OMM clusters. The XU Glee Club and the newly-formed Xavier Philharmonia serenaded the guests. □

Listed for Change

With the local and national polls happening next year, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the National Service Training Program (NSTP) partnered to bring voters' registration to the campus.

"The students owe it to themselves," said Libby Josephine Abesamis, assistant to the VP for Mission and Ministry. "They have to be socially involved, and registering to become a voter is one move to be a real catalyst for change."

Abesamis also related that all the programs offered by the OMM and its chambers are for the holistic formation of the Ateneans – the *raison d'etre* of Xavier as a Jesuit university.

The OMM celebration ended with a Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr Carlos Cenzone SJ, director for Campus Ministries. □



Let's Get Physical

As part of the athletic formation of the university community, the Athletics Department re-launched its Faculty and Staff Wellness, Fitness and Sports Program. It aimed to promote the importance of being physically fit to perform at one's best. The "First Companion Fun Walk and Run" was held around the campus, participated in by faculty and staff members.

Films depicting Filipino family values were aired at the AVR1, AV2 and AV3 for students. The film-showing was meant to advocate a stronger bond within the family and the significance of unity.

Following the film showing was a Quiz Bee on Evangelium Vitae, which formed part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Celebration of Xavier for Life Movement.

Freshmen Formation Program (FFP) students also actively participated, showcasing their artistic inclination through a poster-making contest around the theme, "Kadiwa ko si Ignacio."





# Re-visiting KKP

25 years of service to the nation

*by Engr Ermin Stan Pimentel*



## 1986

### EDSA Revolution (People Power 1); XU's Social Involvement Office is revived

Fr Ben Nebres SJ, the Provincial of the Society of Jesus during this period, led the reopening of the various social involvement offices of the Ateneo schools with a clear mandate on enhancing further the social dimension of its Jesuit Educational Thrusts. The old Social Involvement Office of Xavier, which was closed in 1983, was revived in October in the historic year 1986 with the added name KKP or "Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana."



## 1987

### XU Anak campaigns for new constitution

In the later part of 1986, the first KKP-led advocacy work in the campus was facilitated by student volunteers, XU-URO, CSG and college councils, and other student organizations. They gathered and formed the XU ANAK (Atenista'ng Nagpakabana Alang sa Konstitusyon) to conduct a massive campaign in various barangay communities and organizations for the people's approval of the proposed draft of the constitution, which is now known as the 1987 Philippine Constitution.



## 1987

### KKP-SIO mobilizes support for farmers

KKP-SIO has been involved in various issues, in support of farmers throughout history. KKP-SIO was part of the Stop Expansion and Exploitation of Del Monte (SEED) as a support group of the Indigenous People farmers of Impasug-ong, Bukidnon affected by Del Monte's pineapple plantation expansion. In another event, the organization strongly campaigned and gathered signatures for the Peoples' Agrarian Reform Code (PARCode) through People's Initiative.



## 1987

### Immersion Program is revived and institutionalized

KKP-SIO revived and institutionalized one of the major components of social formation among student leaders. This provides venues for concrete experience, analysis and reflection process for student participants on social realities and challenges



## 1987

### A counterculture or alternative lifestyle that is Christ-centered is advanced

KKP promotes counterculture and alternative lifestyle through various activities in the community. This can be through Alternative Christmas celebrations -first held in 1987 - that promote among the students essential aspects and true meaning of Christmas, and, also, ways and means of alternative celebrations and gift making and giving.

## 1988

### XU joins AKMA (Alyansang mga Kristiyanong Mag-Aaral)

AKMA is a national alliance of students involved in social action centers or members of student governments and organizations in the country. It aims to strengthen the student sector, and advocates for educational reform and genuine or alternative politics, especially in campus involvement. Organizations in XU that took part in this alliance were the KKP Volunteers, XRISTKA and PUKAW-AKMA (Pulso sa Kristohanong Kabag-ohanug Kalinaw).

## 1988

### XU joins SJSA (Society of Jesus Social Apostolate)

SJSA is a network of social institutions under the leadership of the Jesuits and Ateneo Schools to strengthen the social apostolate of the Society of Jesus and the Ateneo Education. It promotes Catholic social teachings, Ignatian Spirituality, nation building and social development, among others.



## 1989

### **KKP-SIO becomes part of PHILSSA (Partnership of Philippine Support Services Agencies)**

Strengthening its linkages and community service, KKP-SIO became part of PhilSSA, a national network of urban based Civil Society Organizations (CSO) that advances urbanization and social development among the urban poor, youth and students, women and other marginalized groups in the urban areas.



## 1991 KKP-SIO crusades for Electoral Participation and Reform Management

KKP strengthened XU's participation in NAMFREL in the formulation of and advocacy for the People's Development Agenda. During this activity, KKP conducted various Voter's Registration and Education Campaigns, which have been sustained until today.



## 1996

### **KKP-SIO facilitates Successor Generation of Development Professionals/Leaders**

KKP-SIO has done trainings and formation sessions, such as SLTP, STDP, and the Summer of Service for successor generation (SucGen) on social development.



## 1994

### **FFP is Revived and Institutionalized as a core subject**

Fr President Antonio Samson SJ through Fr Antonio Ledesma SJ, then dean of Arts and Sciences, tasked KKP to revive and reprogram the facilitation and handling of the First Year Formation Program (FFP) after it was stopped in 1991. FFP became part of the core subjects together with Philosophy and Religious Studies. It was a two-semester formation and orientation course for freshmen with 1.5 units per semester credit. KKP handled FFP as one of its major program up to 2009

## 2000

### NSTP is launched in XU

KKP implemented the National Service Training Program (NSTP), which aims to strengthen civic consciousness formation and service among students. The office was able to design its program framework and modules so Ignatian philosophy and the guidelines set by the Law are merged.



## 2002

### KKP-SIO co-produces EHEM!

KKP, through the Jesuit Commission on the Evangelization of Culture, participated in the initiative that conducted the national study on the problem of corruption in the country, which was later published as the Cross Sectoral Study of Corruption in the Philippines. KKP continued its participation with the Jesuit Commission in the production and initial implementation of "EHEM!", a training manual on the anti-corruption campaign.



## 2004

### KKP-SIO engages in Good Governance Advocacy

In 2004, KKP acted as Secretariat of SANGGA Kagay-anon, a city-based advocacy organization for good governance and responsible media, facilitated the access of grant from Philippine-Australia Governance Facility (PAGF) and took the lead in producing a cross-sectoral framework for advocacy on good governance that published the Sangga Kagay-anon: MakaKagay-anong Banayan sa Maayong Pangagamhanan.



## 2003

### KKP-SIO partners with ChildFund Japan and starts the Pedro Calungsod Center 48

ChildFund Japan (formerly Christian Child Welfare Association) entrusts KKP with its international sponsorship program, which aims to foster the holistic development of children through the development of their family and community.





**2009**

**Collaborative Service Learning Program (CSLP) is launched**

Through the Collaborative Service Learning Program, KKP-SIO was able to provide service to focused communities and engage students and faculty for curricular-based involvements. Colleges were consulted on how they could contribute to the development of the community. The XU-Catholic Relief Services Farm Project is currently engaging students and faculty members of DevCom, Engineering, CS, Philosophy, Economics, and Business and Management.



**2009**

**KKP implemented its Social Formation Program covering the three-year stay of Xavier students from 1st year to 3rd year.**

Through these curriculum-based formation programs, namely: FFP, NSTP, and PERSON Program with the Philosophy Department, social formation is re-enforced as an important facet of a Xavier education.



**2009**

**KKP-SIO starts the Green Blood Project; Curriculum-based and Ladderized Social Formation Program is implemented**

From the simple vision of segregating wastes, the KKP Student Volunteer Center provided financial assistance to Krystal Tumala, a cancer patient, through revenues from the collection of plastic (PET) bottles on campus. The initiative is being adopted by the University in its waste segregation and collection activities.



**2011**

**KKP-SIO leads Relief Operations and Disaster Risk Reduction Management**

In December 2011, after Sendong struck Mindanao and cost thousands of lives in the major barangays of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro, KKP – SIO managed the university-wide relief operations. KKP-SIO then sat as secretariat of the DSWD – Multisectoral group to facilitate the delivery of services to the victims of Typhoon Sendong. □



## “One Earth. Many Religions: Defining the SLP Experience”

By Victoria Melissa C Pulido

From August 5-25, Xavier University participated in the annual Service Learning Program organized by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Asia Pacific (AJCU-AP). Service Learning is one of the programs of the AJCU-AP which attempts to link academic studies to community service.

The Service Learning approach integrates social dimension in the students' formation to reinforce their commitment to work for society's sustainable development. Every year, member universities of the AJCU-AP send in student and faculty delegates to the country of the host university for three weeks of exposure and community service. Participating countries are Japan, Korea, Indonesia and Philippines.

This year's program host was Sanata Dharma University, the only Jesuit University in Indonesia. The program

theme was, “One Earth. Many Religions: Constructing dialogue and solidarity towards the integrity of creation.” Sogang University of Korea, Sofia University of Japan, Ateneo de Manila, Ateneo de Naga, Ateneo de Davao and Ateneo de Zamboanga of the Philippines were the other participating Universities.

In the first phase of the summit, the participants were exposed to Indonesian culture by visiting historical and religious places in Yogyakarta. Indonesia is considered to be one of the most diverse countries in terms of religion. Despite religious pluralism, Indonesians remain united through their rich history and culture. They share a common identity and work to accomplish their goal of living in peace and harmony. The ancient reliefs of the Great Borobudur Temple, the Buddha's of “Vihara Mendut” Buddhist Monastery, the historical Kraton- Sultan's Palace and majestic Tamansari-Sultan's Water Palace were among the beautiful places the participants were able to visit in getting to know Indonesia.

The second phase allowed participants to experience Yogyakarta's rural life in the Somohitan Village located near the foot of the glorious Mount

Merapi, Indonesia's most active Volcano. Participants were assigned to different foster families living in the area. They helped rebuild the lives of the village people by assisting in planting trees and other crops in the slope of Mount Merapi after its eruption in 2010. Somohitan Village is Yogyakarta's model community of solidarity where village people coming from different religions live and work together in peace and harmony.

The last phase of the Service Learning allowed participants to make sense of their experiences through reflection. The processing deepened their commitment to continue working for development based on the different backgrounds or context of their home countries or communities.

The Service Learning Program in Yogyakarta was an unforgettable and meaningful experience for the participants. The 3-week program made a life changing impact. It will serve as an inspiration to both faculty and students to work for dialogue and solidarity to achieve peace and harmony because we have only “One Earth and Many Religions.” It is our responsibility to appreciate its diversity in order for us to live in unity with God's creation. ■

## Breaking Barriers

by Cecille Marie M Turrecha, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Business Administration

It was a rare opportunity to take part in the AJCU Service Learning Program in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. My experience in Indonesia was both meaningful and unforgettable and I am encouraged to share how Service Learning has made a great impact in my life.

We were exposed to the rich and diverse Indonesian Culture. We visited different historical and religious communities in Indonesia's tourism hub, Yogyakarta. I was amazed at how they were able to preserve their culture and how grounded they were in their traditions despite modernization and globalization. The social exposure had me reflecting on the reality of Philippine Culture. We are quick in appreciating others' culture, but we fail to appreciate our own history, our own identity as a nation.

People sometimes label others people because they belong to a different group or have different beliefs or traditions. Often, this hinders a society from being



united. During my immersion in the Somohitan Village, I was fascinated by how the people live harmoniously despite their different religious beliefs. It was my first time to see a catholic family celebrating *Idul Fitri* with the Muslims in the mosque. One of the people in the community told us that it is their culture that binds them together. Despite their different religions, different faiths, they have their culture to unite them.

Familiarity of our own culture makes us take its real value for granted. Through my experience, I am challenged to remain grounded in my own culture. We should never forget that it is our culture that defines who we are. I believe that being a “man or a woman for others” is also about breaking down barriers that prevent us from being connected with one another. We have to make the effort to know and understand one another. Starting with ourselves, we will be able to help create one Mindanao, one Philippines, one earth united in a common goal of cultivating peace and solidarity. □

## Unity in Diversity

by Anitta Joy A Nuevo, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Psychology

There is unity in diversity. We've heard that line countless times already, but there is a big difference between the expression and the experience.

We spent our first week visiting the different religious communities in Yogyakarta. Indeed, plurality isn't just an exaggeration but an honor to experience. I realized that despite Indonesia's diverse religions, we also share some common traditions and languages. I was a foreigner, but something about the Indonesian culture felt like home to me.

We were given the chance to participate in the Ramadan, particularly in the breaking of the fast. We were ushered inside the mosque to witness how the Muslims prayed, and I saw the beauty of Islam. I've always been curious about why the Muslims wear what they wear. So I asked my fellow Muslim participant, “Why don't you wear the Hijab like other Muslims do?” Her answer was simple, “I need to cover my heart first before I can cover myself.” What she said

reminded me of the reason why I was on this journey, why I felt the need to know more about my culture and their culture, why I needed to better understand my faith through theirs.

Our visit to Kraton: The Sultan's Palace felt like walking in the majestic palaces we see only in the movies. Yet, it wasn't just the palace that astounded me. It was the *abdi-dhalems*, the guardians of the palace. They were old men dressed in traditional sarong walking around barefoot; a lot of them were already in their sixties and had served the sultan for more than 30 years. They have no salary; they work for the passion and loyalty to serve their sultan. It reminded me of the true meaning of service. We have been taught of the definition, but witnessing it became an eye opener of what kind of person I have been, what kind of Christian I have become in the process of practicing my faith. We speak of our faith, but it seems like they are just words spoken and not practiced. To be a Christian is to be Christ-like; it is to be able to practice what we preach, to love and serve our neighbor just as Jesus did, to share God's love with others and to draw inspiration from the *abdi-dhalems* who



unconditionally serve their sultan.

Sometimes we get so caught up in our own world that we forget about the possibilities and the opportunities for growth. To be in a country where my religion was the minority made me realize how much people limit themselves to what they already know, and remain ignorant of what resides outside their small world. This wasn't just a trip outside but also a journey inside. We can only understand and strengthen our faith through others. We need one another no matter what race and language we speak because we are all bound to a purpose. That purpose is not to brand our religion and prove that it is the definite and the only true religion, but to practice our faith and belief devotedly, to walk the talk and become united in the service of God and others. □

# The XCCA Journey

by Hobart P Savior



In 2009, the Xavier University Culture and Arts Office metamorphosed. Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ, then university president, assigned me to be the director of Museo de Oro. He wanted to subsume the culture and arts programs in Museo de Oro, and I was tasked to implement Museo de Oro's programs along with programs in the performing arts, cultural education, and others. There were numerous questions and criticisms directed at me. I received a lot feedback to my disadvantage. One said, "You can never be a museum director, Hobart." I took all the remarks well and favorably, and turned

them into opportunities. With the change, our office was moved to the Research and Social Outreach cluster for its administration, but it remains with OMM for the coordination of our formation programs.

I conducted several consultations and presented my proposal to our VPs for OMM and RSO, asking for their feedback. After that, I requested for a meeting with the top administrators. There I presented a more polished proposal. The meeting yielded with the creation of the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts (XCCA) with Museo de Oro as an outstanding institution or program led by the Dr Erlinda Burton as curator. Museo de Oro has since then been subsumed in the center. I hoped that with the creation of the Center, all inquiries and criticisms had been answered and addressed properly.

With Museo de Oro being a part of XCCA, the program on Culture and Development has been deepened to contribute to the research and social outreach agenda of XU. If you read our profile now, you will know that our thrusts and efforts are aligned with the social outreach framework. We implemented programs and projects in favor of the new set-up, but our established programs were continued. The second school year allowed us to reflect further on how we could improve on the management of our programs, implementation of our projects, office administration, resource generation and enhancement of culture and the arts in XU through formation, research and outreach.

Months later, the administration presented the idea of transferring the performing arts student organizations to the XCCA from SACDEV-OSA. Since the proposal would

engender careful study and a long process, it did not push through. Even if I strongly believed that the Center should have resident performing arts companies and should have a program on artistic excellence and production, I assured myself that now was not yet the time. 'It will come,' I said to myself.

Another school year (2010 – 2011) was spent strengthening and fine-tuning the implementation XCCA's programs. We lobbied for the renovation of the Museo de Oro to the administration. The preparation and consultation with the Museo de Oro team, Architect Earnest Soriano and Mr Jose Jaime Ignacio, then assistant to the president for campus development, made it easier to get the administration's approval. Fr Villarin approved the phase 1 of the renovation project.

The Center also created a new theater company, The Xavier Stage, which aims to define a university theater by involving faculty and staff members to be part of its pool of artists, apart from the students. In the company are Giovanni Tampus, Veronica Ortega, Ismael Salarda, Sam Macagba, Jan Michael Cesar, Nell Obach who are faculty and staff members from the high school and collegiate. We also received a second grant from the Insituto Cervantes for cultural programs. We allocated it to the Xavier University Cultural Dance Troupe for them to produce a dance concert on Hispanic dances as part of Panaghugpong 3 – Xavier Arts Festival. The center has also given production grants to Dulaang Atenista for their production “20 Questions” and to Xavier University Glee Club for their production “Filipino Musicals Meet Broadway Musicals,” both for Panaghugpong 3.

## Transition, new administration, and a new take on...

I had a chance to present XCCA to Fr Roberto C Yap SJ in a meeting with him. I admire his directness because it leaves me with a low uncertainty index. Like him, I strive to be direct and clear with our objectives. I hope our Center meets his expectations favorably.

The idea/proposal of subsuming the performing arts student organizations materialized under Fr Yap’s administration. Xavier University has offered half scholarship grants to the artists, facilitated by the Finance Office, XCCA and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. This new organization’s set-up started in SY 2011-2012. The organizations are now

considered resident companies of XU under the administration of XCCA.

Also, phase one of the Museo de Oro renovation was implemented. Just in May 2012, Fr Yap approved phases 2 and 3 of the Museo renovation project, facilitated by Fr Eric Velandria SJ, assistant to the president for campus development. The renovation will start in the last quarter of this year.

At present, XCCA is celebrating five years of culture and the arts excellence through its season title, Kultura Singko. Excellence here can be operationally defined as ‘sustained’ programming. We cannot claim that we have already achieved excellence, but we are happy to say that the Center with Museo de Oro and several performing arts companies is on its way to excellence.

Of course we are not perfect; that’s why we strive to improve. We are aware that we are continually being challenged as to how we can implement research and social outreach programs, and how we can show to the community that our offerings are not purely about entertainment but are culturally and artistically educational. We try to respond proactively by assessing the impacts of our programs, projects and activities. We seek for the support of our Xavier constituents, not just ministerial support but also active support, perhaps like an evident increase in attendance by XU admin, faculty and staff in some of our programs and performances. One time, one XU personality approached me and said, “*Oy, Hobart congrats ha! Bibo na kaayo ang XU tungod sa inyong mga projects!*” So I asked her, “*Ma’am unsa na shows or seminars imo na apilan ug natan-awan?*” Then she answered,

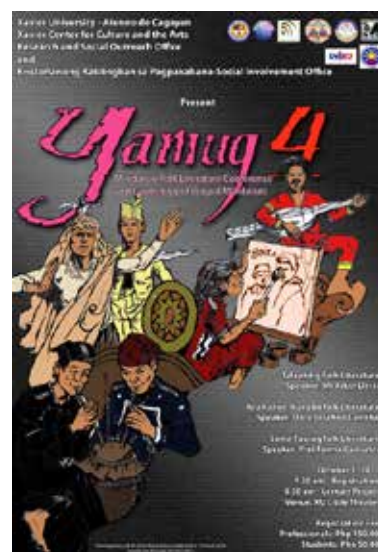
“*Wala pa jud Bart!*” Well, I am grateful for her recognition that our initiatives are being felt in XU, but it would mean something else if we are able to make each of our XU constituent watch or attend at least one of our programs.

We also would like to thank Xavier for making culture and the arts a priority. It is evident that the university gives us the budget and the opportunity to expand our creative ingenuity, and provides us with the appropriate venue and respect. We commit to extend social outreach to the community, because, in the first place, culture and the arts are for national development and growth. We hope that the RSO will give us more opportunities to be included in their various engagements, so we can share our expertise. We also commit to continue giving culture and arts formation programs to all our constituents in support of the OMM formation framework through our cultural education programs. We will also strengthen our artists training programs to make our performing artists from the various performing arts companies more competent, as culture and arts ambassadors of XU. And we expect them to bring honor to the university. I, also, personally thank Fr Noel Bava SJ for his faith in me, including his questions and doubts that have made me a better person. I thank Fr Balchand for all his constructive criticisms and inquiries.

If you ask me if I enjoy working with Xavier, I would say I do not just enjoy working here, I labored to work here and I love everything I labor for for culture and the arts. I believe no other institution has tried and tested me as much as Xavier has. I, or we, have shed tears, sweat and blood in this university. Xavier

has not just supported us with our programs; it has provided us creative avenues for growth, innovation, challenges, spiritual deepening and learning. As we celebrate five years of culture and the arts, we hope to be as good as your expectations. We hope to be as good as Xavier whose name is equivalent to academic excellence and social leadership. □

*Hobart P Savior is the director of the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary.*



# August Rush

by Dexter Lo



**M**y first memories of World War II are stories of survival and love. Back in grade school, on summer (August) holidays, my grandma would endlessly scan through those thick, old photo albums in the library. Sometimes, she would invite me and my brother for cookies; and that's when she'd tell us stories of her life with grandpa, and dad (when he was little)— climbing unnamed mountains, crossing untamed rivers, and always hoping, constantly praying, that the next sunrise would lead them back home.

Exactly sixty seven years after the bomb was dropped in Hiroshima, I was privileged to be invited to a summer course jointly

hosted by academic institutions based in Hiroshima (Japan), Texas (USA), and Diliman (Philippines). Professors, students and other professionals from 11 countries came together to join the fight for a more pressing battle — Disasters and Climate Change. And, as if to place us in a real learning environment, it rained throughout the entire duration of the course; inundating most parts of Manila and many parts of Luzon due to unprecedented monsoon rains (yes, it was not even a storm).

The course was packed with brilliant lectures and sharing of significant experiences. We were also assigned to work on specific projects. Our minds were rushing with innovative ideas and practical solutions, just as the rivers (a few kilometers away from the university) came rushing downstream, destroying homes, disrupting lives and breaking dreams.

But beyond disaster sciences which I have been working on for many years, and the more fragile sphere of social dynamics which I'm still trying to grasp, I was amazed that our discussions led us to the more essential questions in life, such as moral issues, which we ought to discern. When this was raised, I noted the momentary silence that deafened the lecture hall. I rose slowly and volunteered

for the mic, then softly spoke the truth that my heart knows by experience.

Yes, after the historic Sendong flood last year, XUERC has been invited to deliver technical lectures and debriefing sessions to various audiences— international relief agencies, local government units, business groups, media, survivors camps, academic and scientific institutions, and still counting— about 30 times now, making an average of one engagement per week for the past seven months.

But of course, this is not a race of lecture hours and mere display of the most sophisticated technologies. In every slide that we thoughtfully design, and in every word my mortal voice can resound, the message is always more than the science, beyond the political borders, and deeper than the realities the eyes alone can behold. I always stress and challenge my fellow Warriors to embrace and to emphasize on life's "why?" (Other than just the more trivial what and how.) And, when we pray at night, that we reflect on the impact (if there is any) that we have done to inspire and propel the hearts of those who listen.

I have to admit, though, that I cannot promise to answer all of life's questions. Some are simply way

beyond my mind could ever imagine, and some are just deeper than my heart could ever fathom. And yet when morality and even spirituality surface to challenge the discussion, I embrace this with humility because these are the very core values and foundations of our mission in Xavier.

Incidentally, in the rushing days of August, I delivered “disaster” lectures to six different groups: the first was to the Bishops Conference and Catholic Educational Institutions in the region (challenging, but they were finally able to resonate). The second was for the flood survivors (this was the hardest because it became very emotional). The other two were for water resource managers and future medical doctors (the more I talked to other tribes, the more I realized that the Warriors are not alone in this battle). Two more for my fellow engineers (on risk sensitive land use planning, disturbing but necessary), and for a group of graduate students and scholars (back in the university, the fortress of truth when we desire to believe again).

But this is not just my story. On top of this, the whole tribe was restlessly gearing up for the PAASCU visit in the coming days. A battle in its own right, scale, and majesty—that sometimes only sweat, tears, and selfless service can attempt to satisfy. And while all these are on stage, some of us are destined to the wilder frontiers: a group of Warriors is wading at the Macajalar Bay under the scorching heat of the sun, to map the mangroves and touch base with the locals (but also to uphold the mangrove’s potential promise to protect the coastal communities from storms and violent waves). Another group is working with distinguished scientists and other specialists, exploring highly sophisticated data processing methods to make satellite images useful in reducing the impacts of disasters on our homes, on our lives. Indeed, it is a battle story of the Warrior’s life, survival, and love.

And amidst all these rush, the tribe is blessed with the overwhelming support of skillful student volunteers whose talents are beyond expectation (sometimes, they do much better than I ever could); and of agile student assistants whose dedication is beyond measure (always making sure that the roses are as beautiful as “you”).

One summer night, few years after I heard my first World War II story, I saw grandma crying softly (yet elegantly) while flipping through those old photo albums again. I asked if there was something wrong. Suddenly her tears vanished, replaced with a smile. She offered a cookie and invited me sit for a while, then said: “I’m okay. I just missed your grandpa.” Instinctively and carelessly, logic played in my brain— oh, not those old pictures again. And as if reading my mind, grandma held the album closer to her heart and whispered: “No, not tears of grief... but because of so much love amidst the war, amidst the storm, amidst the rush.” □

*Dexter Lo is the founding director of the Engineering Resource Center.*





**G**reen is a symbol for trees, plants and life. The tragedy that hit us reminds us to think 'green', to plant more 'green', and to make our mountains 'green' again. The green fireworks, with their resounding "boom!" awaken us to a new start, a new hope and a new love for our environment."

- **Terence Maceren**  
*Campus Minister, Photography Enthusiast*

1st place ABS-CBN Northern Mindanao Kagay-an Festival  
Photography Contest 2012

# Xavier magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: **Vanessa Gorra**

Layout: **Paulo Javier Gener, Niccu Bagonoc**

Contributors: **:Ace Cardeno, Julie Mae Acero, Erwin Li, Rogelio Gawahan, Xyla Mercedita Gualberto, Stephen Pedroza, Stephen Pedroza, Jerome Torres, Analiza Miso, Stephen Pedroza, Shiella Balbutin, Darlene Jane Wabe, Ermin Stan Pimentel, Victoria Melissa Pulido, Cecille Marie M Turrecha, Anitta Joy A Nuevo, Stephen Pedroza, Hobart Savior, Dexter Lo, Wilgie Mae Dapal**

Copyreader: **Lennie K Ong**

**Catalina H Gaité**

*Head, Communications Office*

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**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

Room 120-121, Campion Hall

Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan

9000 Cagayan de Oro City

(+6388) 858-3116 loc 3324

*Send your stories (750 words or lesser) to [commgroup@xu.edu.ph](mailto:commgroup@xu.edu.ph)*