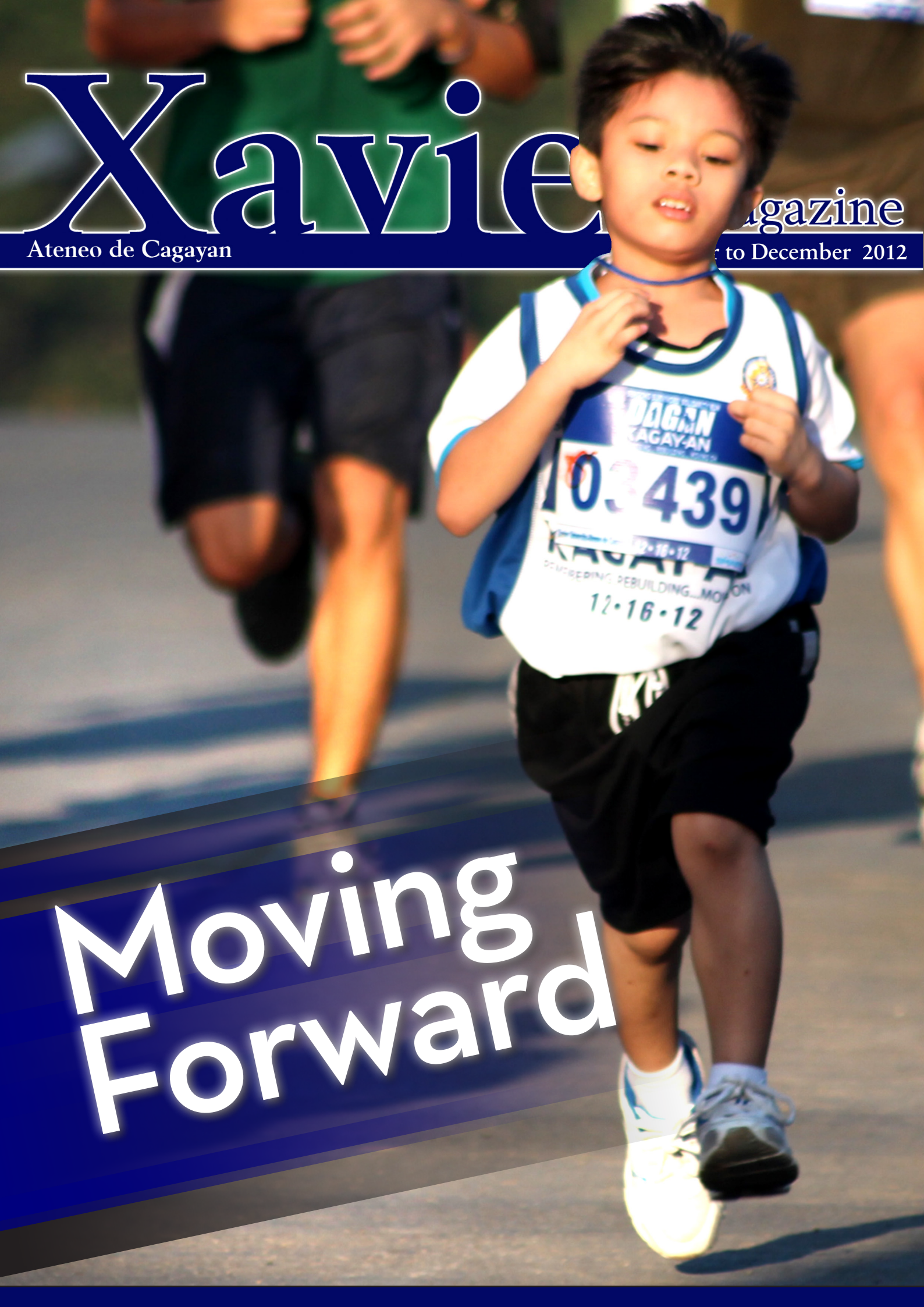


# Xavier Magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

to December 2012



Moving  
Forward



# Contents

## A Tale of Two Decembers

A year later, Xavier Ecoville spells the difference between two Decembers – one that's marred with tragedy and another that heralds hope.

by Xyla Mercedita Gualberto and Ryan Madrid



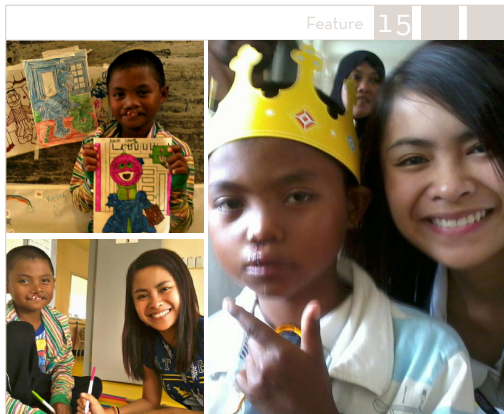
December 2011 may have been bleak and cheerless for the people in Xavier Ecoville, what with the tragedy spawned by Ty Sendong. But, a year later, there's a lot of reason to be festive. In Xavier Ecoville, Thanksgiving and celebrations were the anthem of December 2012 – from religious festivals to skills training graduation, from mass weddings to turn-over of community facilities and from Christmas parties to livelihood projects. This December was a testament to the parish-beneficiaries' resolve to rise up, herald hope and embrace change.

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### A tale of 2 Decembers

A year later, Xavier Ecoville spells the difference between two Decembers - one that's marred with tragedy and another that heralds hope.

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### The Smile that sparked the ripple effect of change

by Stephen Pedrosa

A trait that Filipinos are famous for in the world is that, despite the perils and hardships in life, we are still able to smile. As proof, the New Economics Foundation's (NEF) Happy Planet Index hailed the Philippines as one of the happiest nations in the world for 2012—25th to be exact.

Have you asked yourself how far your smile can go? One thing's sure, a smile is so contagious, enough to reach epidemic proportions—like igniting the spirit of volunteerism.

The Operation Smile journey of "Changing lives, one smile at a time" started 30 years ago

and has grown into one of the largest volunteer-based medical charities in the world. With more than 5,000 volunteer medical professionals and a countless number of student volunteers from over 80 countries, it has provided more than 200,000 free reconstructive surgeries for children and young adults with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities in over 60 countries. Over 25,000 Filipinos have benefited from their missions.

Operation Smile recently concluded its 30th anniversary celebration, "The Journey Home," completing a total of 1,219 surgeries in 10 regions nationwide. Xavier University

constituents answered the call for student volunteers for the November 10-16 mission and helped change the lives of 129 individuals from Northern Mindanao.

#### Crossing of paths

CDO was not in the original list of sites. However, Typhoon Sendong's devastation in December 2011 (the time they were planning their celebration) Operation Smile Philippines realized they could help rebuild people's lives.

Earlier in 2012 Operation Smile Philippines had partnered with Xavier Science Foundation, an XU support facility, to recruit and train and land-hearted souls

for their service, time, talents and skills in missions. The Foundation is attached to XU's College of Agriculture, thus, it was only logical and advantageous, to start the volunteer enlistment from there.

XSF scholars in the Agriculture programs frontlined the event through the different committees: food, transportation, ushers, medical records, secretariat and documentation.

#### Tapping fellow Ateneans

XSF then tapped the Philosophy Department, while, the committee heads coordinated with different student organizations, the Council of

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### St Francis Xavier: His Life and Some Reflections

by Libby Josephine M Abecasis



In celebration of the Feast of St Francis Xavier, the Office of Mission and Ministry organized a symposium on November 28 at the AU 8 entitled, "St Francis Xavier: His Life and Some Reflections" with Fr Mars P Tan SJ, rector of the Jesuit Community, as the resource person. It was attended by students, faculty, and administrators of the University. The resource speaker presented the various aspects of St Francis Xavier's life (Early Years, Francis as a Priest, Francis' Missions in Asia, Francis' Work in Goa, Francis in Malacca and Moluccas, Francis' Mission in Japan) and shared his own reflections.

missionary, he went through hardships and sacrifices tirelessly and unceasingly for the conversion of pagans.

Was he vain or simply focused?

Francis Xavier was an excessively results-oriented person and did anything to get what he wanted. Such attribute led him to be more focused on his mission to give glory to God by saving souls. For Francis Xavier, only one thing matters the most and that is the salvation of souls.

Was Francis resilient or rigid in his missionary approach?

In his early years as a missionary, Francis may be considered rigid and stubborn. But his own experience also taught him to be resilient to effectively do his mission of saving souls.

Was he a failure or a success?

Some indicators of failure of Francis Xavier may include: a) little success in Japan, b) failure to reach China, and c) Japan and China remained largely non-Christian. However, more than the failures of St Francis Xavier is his great contribution in planting the seed of Christianity in Asia. Until the present, there are still on-going missions in various countries, opening greater opportunities. The numerous number of Japanese and Chinese martyrs, attributed to the influence of Francis Xavier is also one proof that Francis Xavier made his mark in the noble and spiritual work of saving souls.

Xavier as a great missionary

Francis Xavier is said to have converted more than 700,000 persons in less than ten years. He inaugurated new missionary enterprises from Hormuz to Japan and the Malay Archipelago, and organized Christian communities wherever he preached. As an effective and practical organizer, he gained friendship and allies among natives and foreigners alike, having been a traveling missionary till the end. Many miracles have been attributed to him.

Criticisms against Francis Xavier

Some of the criticisms against Francis Xavier are as follows: a) he did not understand oriental religions and attacked competing religions involving the aid of Inquisition; b) sanctioned persecution of Nestorians; c) converted government of Goa into a proselytizing agency; and d) used fear to convert pagans to Christianity.

Was Francis Xavier zealous or just driven by personal ambition?

Francis Xavier had always been ambitious as a young man in the university, conditioned by his parents to be successful in his worldly endeavors. But in his life as a



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### St Francis Xavier: His Life and Some Reflections

Fr Mars Tan SJ, rector of the Jesuit Community at the Loyola House, shares his knowledge and reflections on the life of the great missionary.

### 24 Alumni Office

#### 2012 Outstanding Alumni/Alumnae Awardees

- RAMON MACLANG NERY, MD, FPP, FMA, CEO VI**  
1975-81, 84-90  
Outstanding Alumni in Professional Service (College of Arts and Sciences)
- EDITH LAGO ORTEGA**  
1963-69, 1970-72  
Outstanding Alumni in Professional Service (College of Education)
- LUANE EMATA-HARRIS**  
BS Chemical Engineering '94  
Outstanding Alumni in Professional Service (College of Engineering)

### 25 Alumni Office

- MARY GRACE MALINA PAVAS**  
MA in Nursing '89  
Outstanding Alumni in Professional Service (Graduate School)
- SYLVIA T. O'DONLKY-PARAGUZA**  
BS Chemical Engineering '94  
Outstanding Alumni in Professional Service
- ALFONSO BAGARES HORTELANO**  
BS, March 1981  
ECS major in Banking and Finance, Oct 1981
- CAROLINA SORIANO TANDOC**  
MA in Public Health '94  
Outstanding Alumni





(clockwise standing) XU Graduate School Dean Isaias Sealza, XU College of Arts and Science Dean Dulce Dawang, IFF Asia Acting Director Alice Tan Pei-Pei, XU President Roberto Yap SJ, IFF Asia Board Member Charles Bertille and IFF International President Ignacio Rosselot

## Joint academic programs with IFFAsia

Xavier University and the Institute of Formation, Fondacio Asia (IFFAsia) will be offering joint certificate, diploma and degree programs come school year 2013-2014.

The joint program offerings are for Certificate in Pastoral Leadership, Diploma in Pastoral Leadership and Master's Degree in Development Leadership. They will be implemented by the XU College of Arts and Sciences, and the XU Graduate School.

IFFAsia is a school of Discipleship and Mission for young adults and laity in Asia based in Quezon City. IFF Asia and XU's collaborative programs recognize the ability of young adults to engage in mission and projects of personal, communal and ecclesiastical order to become actors of positive change in society.

## Student exchange program with University of Hawaii at Hilo

Students of the College of Agriculture will have an opportunity to study at the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH) beginning next school year through the Student Study Abroad –Limited Exchange Program.

The partnership, facilitated by the Office of International Cooperation and Networking, was finalized in September with the signing of the memorandum of agreement by XU President Roberto Yap SJ and UHH President Donald Stranley.

The program aims to strengthen and expand mutual contacts between the universities, and to enable cooperation and exchange between students, specifically in the field of agriculture. Selected students will have the privilege of studying at UHH while paying XU tuition rates.

Students who wish to apply should have a minimum QPI of 3.00. A selection committee from the College of Agriculture will screen all applicants for recommendation to UHH, which will make the final admission decision. Accepted students will take care of accommodation, transportation, health insurance and medical costs.



## Outstanding Kong Hua School alumnus

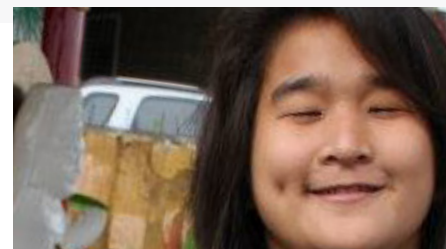
Engr Dexter Lo, professor at the College of Engineering and founding director of XU's Engineering Resource Center, was honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award for Young Professional Achievement in Engineering Research and Education by Kong Hua School in Cagayan de Oro.

The award recognized Lo's significant contribution to the community in his research and outreach work of capacitating local governments in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, and, as a teacher, to forming the next generation of engineers and leaders.



## TOME awardee

Engr Alfredo Buten of the College of Engineering received The Outstanding Mechanical Engineer Award in the field of Education from the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers. The award is given to individuals who have shown exemplary performance in their practice of the mechanical engineering profession in the fields of Manufacturing, Entrepreneurship, Community Service, Hotel Engineering, Project Engineering, Petroleum Engineering, Engineering Management and Education. Engr Buten is the fourth XU faculty member to win the award.



## 7th placer in the EcE Licensure Exam

Monirih Ramirez Abejuela placed 7th in the Electronics Engineering Licensure Exam held in October. Monirih got a score of 95.40% XU earned a passing percentage of 55.56 (15/27), above the national passing rate of 51.57 percent.

While at XU, Monirih was a consistent Dean's Lister and an active student leader, serving as president of the Junior Institute of Electronics Engineers of the Philippines from 2011-2012.



## XU admin undergo special management training

by Churchill G Aguilar

With the new challenges for higher education and the new k-12 curriculum looming, the Human Resources Office organized a top-down leadership seminar dubbed, "I-LEAD," starting with the first liner administrators. Its first installment was a two-day workshop on the balanced scorecard approach to strategic planning as well as budgeting and finances on November 9 and 10.

The said training aimed to expound on the university goals and to equip administrators with management skills to align their respective unit's goals with these using the balanced scorecard approach.

The seminar-workshop was attended by the University President Fr Roberto Yap SJ, together with his vice presidents, the college deans and the unit heads. Fr Yap shared that the university

is moving toward exploring strategic options in carrying out the k-12 program for basic education. He also noted the importance of continuous learning for the administration, strengthening of the leadership bench, and bolstering of research to maintain the autonomous status of the university.

Engr Gerardo S Doroja, associate professor and dean of the College of Computer Studies, facilitated the first day of the seminar. His roadmap covered the context for strategic planning, concepts and terminologies, and the process and the tools of a balanced scorecard. He concluded his talk with a workshop.

The balanced scorecard is a tool for strategic management, communication, and performance measurement. Doroja pointed out that in translating the university's vision and strategies, administrators have to consider four perspectives: (1) customer, (2) internal business process, (3) learning and growth, and (4) financial perspective. Efforts should be tailor-fitted to focus on factors that create long term value.

According to Doroja, a highly successful balanced scorecard should have leadership from the top, make strategy everyone's job, unlock and focus on hidden assets, and make strategy a continuous process. He added that managing strategy includes four processes, namely translating the vision, communicating and linking, business planning, and feedback and learning. Doroja likened strategic planning and execution to a relay race where the baton grows bigger as it is passed from one runner to the next.

A workshop on budgeting and financial management facilitated by University Treasurer Lennie Ong occupied the whole of the second day. The eagerness and the level of participation revealed how the topic cuts across disciplines and concerns.

Ms Ong emphasized that administrators should be good financial managers. She challenged the first liners to not just distribute budget but, more importantly, grow the value of what's available. She then provided the group with practical steps on how to lead and how to get started.

Ong cited the quote that being a leader is not about being nice, but rather it is about being right and being strong. She said that the guiding principle in accepting or rejecting budget proposals lies on the results and cost benefit analysis, where benefits should preferably outweigh the cost. She stressed that the burden of justifying the cost lies on the unit head. Thus, every unit head should know his or her numbers, how much has been spent and how much has been saved, among others.



## ROTC Department of Air Science and Tactics of the Year 2012

The Philippine Air Force adjudged XU-ROTC as ROTC Department of Air Science and Tactics of the Year 2012. The award was given during the 33<sup>rd</sup> founding anniversary of the Air Force Reserve Command on Dec 3.



## Obama wins XU mock polls

US President Barack Obama swept to re-election victory in the mock elections at Xavier University on Nov 7. Obama won by a whopping 703 votes over contender former Massachusetts Gov Mitt

Romney who garnered only 403 votes. The results replicated the turnout of the actual US elections.

The activity, which was participated in by students of XU and Liceo de Cagayan University, was part of the election watch organized by the US Embassy in partnership with XU through the History/International Studies/Political Science Department and the American Corner.

"Our goal is to raise students' awareness on the need to cast their votes based on issues and not merely on political

affiliation," said Dr Roel Absin, chairperson of the History/IS/Political Science department.

A live feed of CNN's election coverage was also shown while US Embassy officials shed light on the US electoral system. Days before, mock debates were held at XU and Liceo de Cagayan University.

Other than at XU, mock elections were also held in 14 other universities in the country with an American Corner, and, also, in shopping malls in Manila and Cebu.



## Student leaders undergo immersion

by Wilson J Hormeguera

**T**wenty-six student leaders, mostly NSTP leaders and KKP volunteers, spent their semestral break nontraditionally by participating in a 6-Day Immersion program from October 15-20. The Immersion, themed "Faith that does Justice," aimed to integrate student leaders into the grassroots of society. Through the experience, they were able to gain a wider perspective and deeper understanding of social situations, become aware of the personal call to a better life and better society, developed a strengthened commitment to serve, especially the poor and the marginalized, and promoted justice as manifestation of faith.

The Immersion Program was divided into three parts: Orientation Seminar, Immersion Proper, and Synthesis Seminar. Prior to the Immersion proper, students were oriented on Personal Values and Principles inspired by the life and teachings of Ignatius Loyola, Transcendental Purpose in the light of the First Principle and Foundation, and the different non-government organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Oro Habitat for Humanity (OHH), Group Foundation, Samdhana Institute, and Balaod Mindanao.

Student leaders were then immersed in the two communities, Lumbia and Macasandig, where XU's Child Fund Japan Sponsorship Project is being implemented. They were hosted by households where XU's sponsored children live. After being with their foster families, student leaders' experiences were processed in the light of Social Spirituality inspired by the Catholic Social Teachings and Pedro Arrupe's call for "Faith that does Justice." XU's five thematic agenda and the agenda's operation were presented for the student leaders to engage in. Lastly, the participants were challenged to use their education as a tool for social justice.

"The immersion was a worthwhile experience. I thought I would just learn from lectures, seminars, workshops and activities but, no, one has to experience it. One has to live it. Though the immersion experience left me yearning for more, the experience taught me important things which I will carry onwards – my own mission in life," reflects Jason M Madronero, BSEd 3.

The Student Leaders' Immersion Program is a yearly activity organized by the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) and is coordinated by Ms Victoria Melissa C Pulido.

## XU hosts meeting of AJCU-AP int'l officers

**X**U hosted the annual meeting of the international officers of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Asia Pacific (AJCUAP) on 22-23 November.

Among others, the discussions touched on the experiences of the participant schools in the Service Learning Program, a teaching approach that applies Ignatian pedagogy by connecting academic studies with actual community service.

The participants explored possibilities on how the SLP can be strengthened and enhanced by relating it with the AJCUAP consortia on Faith and Culture; Atheism, Secularism, Fundamentalism and Inter-Religious Dialogue; Poverty, Migration and Injustice; and Environment and Climate Change.

AJCUAP is composed of Elisabeth University of Japan, Fu Jen Catholic University: Jesuit Educational Apostolate in Taiwan, Sanata Dharma University in Indonesia, Sogang University in South Korea, Sophia University in Japan, The Beijing Center in China, and the Ateneo schools in the Philippines.

The next AJCUAP meeting will be held at the Ateneo de Davao University.

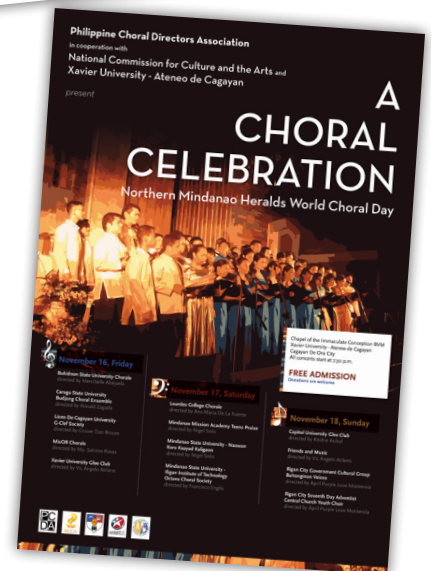


## PCDA, NCCA, XU stage free concert

**T**he Philippine Choral Directors Association with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Xavier University presented a series of free concerts titled "A Choral Celebration: Northern Mindanao Heralds World Choral Day" from Nov 16-18.

Choral groups of various schools and organizations in Northern Mindanao rendered performances nightly at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, Xavier University.

Participating choirs included the Bukidnon State University Chorale, Caraga State University Budjong Choral Ensemble, Liceo de Cagayan University G-Clef Society, MisOr Chorale, Xavier University Glee Club, Lourdes College Chorale, Mindanao Mission Academy Teens Praise, Mindanao State University-Naawan Koro Kaayad Kaligaon, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology Octava Choral Society, Capitol University Glee Club, Friends and Music, Iligan City Government Cultural Group Buhanginan Voices and Iligan City Seventh Day Adventist Central Church Youth Choir.







## New CIT campus opens in Manresa

**T**he Jose Chaves Alvarez Technology Complex, the new home of the Center for Integrated Technologies (CIT), has formally opened its doors to students.

The two-building complex built through the generosity of Jose Ch Alvarez, chairman of Asian Carmakers Corporation (ACC) and an XU alumnus, is a modern campus with classrooms and laboratory facilities that ensure students' quality learning. It has a rainwater catchment and a good lighting design consistent with the Green Campus Agenda of the University.

XU President Fr Roberto Yap SJ conveyed during the blessing of the building on Dec 8 that the new JCA Technology Complex is part of the expansion plan of the University in Manresa.

"Xavier continues to grow from strength to strength," said Fr Yap. "With the resources and facilities of the JCA Technology Complex, we are ready to produce the best technicians."

Fr Yap also said that the new building is a conspicuous start to achieving the objectives of XU in relation to the new K-to-12 curriculum. He bared the plans of the University to establish a senior high school with different specializations, one of them being vocational-technical.

"If we are to grow and industrialize as a country, we need very good technicians," the President said, underscoring the important role of voc-tech graduates to national development.

CIT currently has courses in Mechanical Technology, Electronics and Computer Technology, Industrial Electronics Technology and Automotive Technology.

Alvarez, for his part, imparted some pearls of wisdom to the Center's more than 400 students. Speaking from experience, he told them, "Do not to be discouraged by the absence of money in your pocket. Learning can be acquired by going to school and working at the same time."

The chairman of ACC, the official distributor of BMW cars in the Philippines, further delighted the students with his offer for them to train with BMW. The Complex, in fact, has a BMW laboratory, and the brand's dealership office is located right across the Complex.

"I hope the Complex will provide you the basic knowledge to upgrade yourself," he remarked. "We will continue to assist you."

Although Alvarez assured the students that



success is highly achievable through hard work, he also reminded them of something much greater:

"You can aspire for much knowledge and wealth, but remember you are products of Xavier. What you should never forget is the power of prayer."





## XU joins Global Hand Washing day 2012

Every October 15, beginning in 2008, Global Hand Washing Day is being observed in over 100 countries to propagate the importance of hand washing in preventing diarrheal and respiratory infections, which take the lives of millions of children around the world every year.

Xavier University through its Sustainable Sanitation Center, in partnership with the Jose P Rizal School of Medicine and the Research and Social Outreach (RSO) cluster, conducted a Hand Washing drive at the Xavier University Grade School, Lumbia Central School and Xavier Ecoville Day Care Center.

Activities, such as hand washing and tooth brushing drills, quiz bowl, on-the-spot poster making contest, essay writing, and poetry writing, were grounded on the theme "Wash hands, save lives."

Prizes and gift packs courtesy of Save the Children Foundation and Steag State Power Inc were given to the participating students and faculty members.

## M'nao leaders mull mining control

by Wilson J Hormeguera

Leaders from about 30 government and non-government organizations, people's organizations, church groups, the media and the academe in Mindanao came together for the Mindanao Leaders Summit on Oct 6 to discuss recent mining issues and the development of an Alternative Minerals Management Bill.

The invited speakers were Gerry Arances of Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center Inc - Kasama sa Kalikasan (LRC-KsK) who shared about LRC-KsK's ongoing anti-mining campaign in Congress, Cagayan de Oro 1<sup>st</sup> District Rep Rufus Rodriguez who talked about the CDO Watershed Bill, BAYAN MUNA Rep Teddy Casiño who discussed the Consolidated Bill and its prospects, and, on behalf of Rep Arlene Bag-ao, Atty Jan Perry Eugenio who elaborated on the Alternative Minerals Management Bill.

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ challenged Mindanao leaders to form an independent, multi-sectoral monitoring body that will periodically examine the actual state of mining and logging activities. He also called on them to initiate a comprehensive scientific study of the river basin and watersheds, especially in Cagayan de Oro and its adjoining tributaries.

On mining, Archbp Ledesma urged our leaders to broaden the meaning of "free, prior, and informed consent" and clarify the issue of environmental governance. He also exhorted them to invoke the precautionary principle, and to put the safety of the larger community first.

The Mindanao leaders, together with Archbp Ledesma, Rep Rufus Rodriguez, and Rep Teddy Casiño, signed the petition supporting the Alternative Minerals Mining

Bill, making a stand for mining-affected communities, the indigenous peoples, the environment, and the present and future generations.

Xavier University, through its Research and Social Outreach units, namely the Center for Legal Assistance, Engineering Resource Center, Kinaadman Research Center, and KKP – Social Involvement Office, represented the academe.

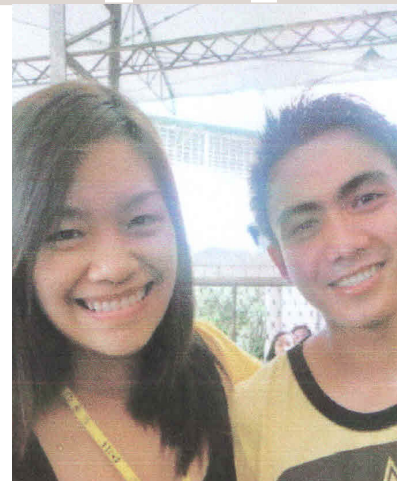
The gathering was held at Balay Mindanao Peace Center and was organized by the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, Philippine Misereor Partnership Incorporated - Mindanao, Samdhana Institute, XU Center for Legal Assistance, SOS – Yamang Bayan Network, and the LRC-KsK/Friends of the Earth-Philippines.

## MINDANAO LEADERS SUMMIT Bishop Legislators Conference

October 6, 2012  
Balay Mindanao Peace Center  
Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City

Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, Philippine Misereor Partnership Incorporated - Mindanao, Samdhana Institute, XU Center for Legal Assistance, SOS – Yamang Bayan Network, and the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center, Inc.-Kasama sa Kalikasan/Friends of the Earth-Philippines.





## NUJP-CDO holds forum on Maguindanao Massacre anniversary

by Darlene Jane Wabe

It's been three years since the day when 58 people, including at least 32 journalists, were brutally murdered in Ampatuan town, Maguindanao. Deliverance of justice has been slow. No convictions have been made and 93 suspects are still at large. Making things worse was a move by the Supreme Court to ban the live coverage of the trial, blocking immediate access to new information and causing a declining interest in the case. It seems Press Freedom in the Philippines is at the mercy of both bullets and the justice system itself. Thus, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines-Cagayan de Oro Chapter held "End Impunity Now!", an open forum emphasizing the role of journalism in ending a system that allows those who have gravely sinned to remain free. In attendance were local journalists and media practitioners and

Xavier University students, mostly from DevCom.

Starting off the forum, after the Prayer and Opening Remarks, was a film by PCIJ, "Maguindanao: The Quest for Justice". The film showcased what has been done about the case, which is, unfortunately for the relatives of victims, very little in comparison to its magnitude. After the viewing, Eduardo Montalvan, publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the Mindanao Current, took the floor to discuss how the case remains relevant until today. He stressed that these kinds of incidents breed fear that kills press freedom and the gunning down of manpower kills the media outlets themselves, which makes the fight for justice even more important in this particular case.

Atty Bobby Goking, Chairman Emeritus of NUJP-CDO, expounded on the legal perspective of the case. He also pointed out that the media is one of the four pillars of the government that serves as the watchdog of the three others, namely the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branches, that are equal in power but must remain separate from one other. On this note, the question of who watches the watchdog came up in the open forum that followed



after his talk. The People, of course, was the right answer.

Art Bunjoc Jr, ABS-CBN NorthMin Station Manager, discussed "Ethics of Journalism." The students actively participated when he asked for their thoughts on the negative and positive traits of the local media. Bonjoc stressed that the credibility of the media depends on its vision, mission and values. He also emphasized that media practitioners should not fight despite having differing views on particular issues.

The Chairman of NUJP-CDO, Froilan Gallardo, also took the stage to enlighten the DevCom students about the economic conditions of journalism in the Philippines. In Cagayan de Oro city, a journalism career is not very promising. There are only a few job openings but many Communication graduates. But this should not be cause for discouragement, he said.

## Business Ad students attend Kizuna (Bond) Project

Two students from the XU School of Business and Management went to Japan on a 10-day invitation program of the National Youth Commission under the exchange project with Asia-Oceania and North America also known as the Kizuna (Bond) Project.

Roneil Galarion, a Marketing Management student, and Karizze Fitzgeraldine Maglacion, a Business Economics student, participated in activities that aimed to promote global understanding of Japan's revival efforts in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The Kizuna Project was implemented by the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) of the Embassy of Japan in Manila, the National Youth Commission, and the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE).

Student-participants were expected to relay what they learned from various on-site tours and exposures, and their cultural experiences from homestays with selected families in Japan.

This year, more than 200 Filipino college students joined the Project.



# A Tale of Two Decembers

*A year later, Xavier Ecoville spells the difference between two Decembers – one that's marred with tragedy and another that heralds hope.*

by Xyla Mercedita Gualberto and Ryan Madrid

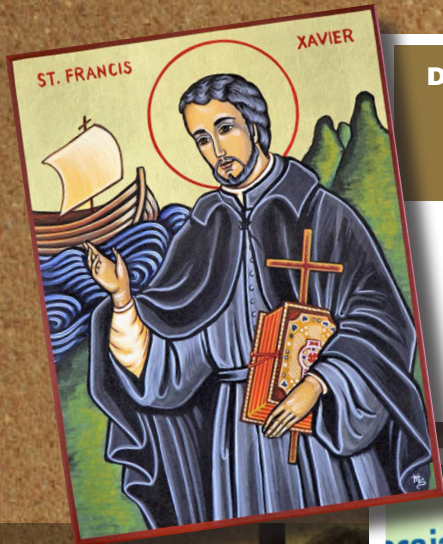






December 2011 was bleak and cheerless for the people in Xavier Ecoville, such was the tragedy spawned by TS Sendong. But, a year later, there's a lot of reason to be festive. In Xavier Ecoville, thanksgiving and celebrations were the anthem of December 2012 – from religious festivals to skills training graduation, from mass weddings to turn-over of community facilities and from Christmas parties to livelihood projects. This December was a testament to the partner-beneficiaries' resolve to rise up, herald hope and embrace change.





**December  
3**

Xavier Ecoville celebrated the feast day of its patron saint, St Francis Xavier, marking its first official community fiesta. Brgy Lumbia parish priest Fr Lourdesio Armstrong Balacuit, who presided the mass, told St Francis' story and how he changed the lives of others. Highlighting the fiesta were the baptismal of four children, parlor games and an amateur singing contest.



**December  
8**

Believing in the value of education, Xavier Ecoville, in partnership with the Junior Chamber International Macajalar 24K (JCI M24K) built

a children's study center to create a venue for fun learning. Fr Charlie G Cenzon, director of the XU Campus Ministries Office led the blessing of the Xavier Ecoville-M24K children's study center. XU President Fr Roberto C Yap SJ, JCI president Ms Apple Cera, Lumbia Punong Barangay Wilhem Valencia and Xavier Ecoville Homeowners' Association (XEHA) president Mr Alexie Colipano were present during the event. The Xavier Ecoville children rendered song and dance numbers to express their gratitude for the study center.



**December  
15**

Aiming to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity organized "Building on Faith," a gathering of over 400 volunteers, including

religious groups, at the Xavier Ecoville permanent shelters. Prayers from different faiths were offered and candles were lit to signify the organization's thrust of putting God in the center of its house building efforts. The volunteers then proceeded with the house building activity at the permanent shelters.



**December  
15**

After months of going through training courses under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and XU, the Xavier Ecoville trainees had their graduation ceremony at the Brgy Lumbia covered courts. The training program is part of the livelihood component's approach to prepare the community for gainful employment. The trainees finished courses on food and beverage, food processing, beauty care, sewing, carpentry and masonry. Mr Ricardo Sotto, the program officer for the Peace and Equity Foundation, city councilor Adrian Barba, the committee chair for education, Mr Leox V Ligot, head of TESDA region X, and Mr Roel Ravanera, chair of the XU Lumbia Resettlement Project, delivered inspiring messages for the graduates.







**December  
16**

December 16- The Xavier Ecoville community conducted “Bag-o’ng Paglaom” (New Hope): Turnover Ceremony of Permanent Houses. Fr Bobby turned over the symbolic key to the permanent houses to XEHA, which was represented by its president Mr Colipano. The project’s partners from San Miguel Foundation, Union Bank, Habitat for Humanity Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, Sacred Heart Parish of Cebu Ladies Association and representatives from the local government came to witness the event. A tour to the permanent houses was then offered to the guests who wanted to look around the



**December  
16**

village.

Being a green village, the Xavier Ecoville livelihood component chose to engage in eco-friendly projects. It entered into project *Kaugmaon* with Emerging Power Resource Holding Corporation and Carbon Footprint Solutions to grow and develop a bamboo nursery. Steag State Power Inc also partnered with the Xavier Ecoville Multipurpose Cooperative (XEMPC), donating two sewing machines to be used in producing trash bins out of used tarpaulins. Kugi Minds Inc will



**December  
16**

come in as an enterprise developer for this project.

The Xavier Ecoville Multipurpose Cooperative (XEMPC) partnered with Tipiwood in providing employment to the coop members through tree seedling production. Tipiwood helped XEMPC prepare the nursery layout and the site. It will also continue to give technical assistance and material support to ensure smooth production of the Falcata seedlings. The nursery ribbon-cutting was led by Fr Bobby, XEMPC chairman Cherrie Barrios and



Tipiwood representative Jose Kitane.

A 300-seater St Francis Xavier Chapel, a toy library and a 200-seater multipurpose center were blessed and turned over to XEHA as part of the community facilities that will foster unity among the residents. The partners and donors who have contributed to the construction of these facilities attended the ceremony. Maybank head for corporate affairs Mr Eric Montelibano, Philippine Toy Library president Mr Edsel Ramirez and Religious of the Assumption representative Sr Elnora Perez came to witness the rite of blessing led by Fr Bobby and Fr Balacuit.

**December  
18**







**December  
18**

Love and blessings filled the air as 16 couples marched down the aisle to receive the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. It marked the first mass celebrated in the St Francis Xavier Chapel. The couples exchanged vows before Fr Bobby, Fr Balacuit and their respective wedding sponsors. After the matrimonial rites, 17 children garbed in white were welcomed to the Catholic faith as they received the sacrament of baptism. The community prepared a festivity for the wedded couples and baptized children.

December 22 – If last year's Christmas



**December  
22**

The Youth Club at XE initiated and organized the first ever XE Community Christmas Party which also involved parlor games, a caroling contest, lantern making contest, and a bunkhouse decoration contest. Highlighting the occasion was the eco-inspired Search for Mr and Ms Xavier Ecoville where Alexie Colipano Jr and Miraluna Tion were crowned victors. Capping off the night was a grand disco for the community.



**December  
22**

In grateful appreciation for the efforts extended by Xavier University and its partners, the XEHA officers gave Fr Bobby a thanksgiving gift and performed 'Thank You' by

Tyler Collins during the thanksgiving lunch held at Xavier Ecoville. Gawad Kalinga members, values formation volunteers, XU campus ministers, youth leadership formators and other community building partners were also recognized during the activity.



A total of 366 or 65% of the planned permanent houses have been built in Xavier Ecoville and are ready for occupation. The beneficiaries have decided as an assembly that they will transfer together to the permanent houses in March when all concrete houses will have been completed. Meanwhile, drawing of lots for the assignment of permanent houses is already underway. Come March, the partner-beneficiaries will already be living in spacious, well-ventilated shelters to help them continue rebuilding their lives and starting afresh.







 Xavier University  
ATENEO DE CAGAYAN

# DAGAN KAGAY-AN

REMEMBERING... REBUILDING... MOVING ON

**12•16•12**



















## A Smile that sparked ripples of change

by Stephen Pedroza

A trait that Filipinos are famous for in the world is that, despite the perils and hardships in life, we are still able to smile. As proof, the New Economics Foundation's (NEF) Happy Planet Index hailed the Philippines as one of the happiest nations in the world for 2012— 25th, to be exact.

Have you asked yourself how far your smile can go? One thing's sure, a smile is contagious, enough to reach epidemic proportions, enough to ignite the spirit of volunteerism.

The Operation Smile journey of "Changing lives, one smile at a time" started 30 years ago

and has grown into one of the largest volunteer-based medical charities in the world. With more than 5,000 volunteer medical professionals and a countless number of student volunteers from over 80 countries, it has provided more than 200,000 free reconstructive surgeries for children and young adults with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities in over 60 countries. Over 25,000 Filipinos have benefitted from their missions.

Operation Smile recently concluded its 30th anniversary celebration, "The Journey Home," completing a total of 1, 219 surgeries in 10 regions nationwide. Xavier University

constituents answered the call for student volunteers for the November 10-16 mission and helped change the lives of 129 individuals from Northern Mindanao.

### Crossing of paths

CDO was not in the original list of mission sites. However, Typhoon Sendong's devastation in December 2011 (the time they were planning their celebration) prompted Operation Smile Philippines to realize they could help rebuild people's lives here.

Earlier in 2012 Operation Smile Philippines had partnered with Xavier Science Foundation, an XU support facility, to recruit daring and kind-hearted souls

for their service, time, talents and skills in missions. The Foundation is attached to XU's College of Agriculture, thus, it was logical to start the volunteer enlistment from there.

XSF scholars in the Agriculture programs frontlined the event through the different committees: food, transportation, ushers, medical records, secretariat and documentation.

### Tapping fellow Ateneans

XSF then tapped the Philosophy Department, while the committee heads coordinated with different student organizations, the Council of Nursing Students (CONUS), the





Development Communication Society (DEVCOMSOC), Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), The Crusader Publication and many others.

"It's like a ripple effect, you start helping others and infect others to help, too," shared Zena Bernardo, OSP deputy executive director. "We want more young people to carry the torch this time."

Before the Nov 10 mission came the recruitment of fellow Ateneans, including alumni. Many did endless text brigades, tagged friends and followers on Facebook and Twitter, shared YouTube videos, and posted tarpaulins and posters. Others

gathered interested individuals through casual conversations.

The OSP team arrived at dusk of November 9 and was welcomed by student volunteers with the world-famous Filipino warmth and hospitality. The students also served as local tour guides, answering questions and talking about our city and country to the mostly first-time visitors.

#### **XU student volunteers taking action**

On mission day itself, the students arrived at the break of day with sunny smiles, bursting with excitement. They were in their designated areas when the patients from

as far as Zamboanga del Sur, Gingoog City, Bukidnon and neighboring areas started to arrive. They learned to relate with fellow Ateneans to provide organized service. They learned the volunteerism maxim: "As a volunteer, it is not about you, it is about them."

They performed their tasks well – from registering patients to handing out priority numbers, from conducting initial medical interviews to ushering patients to the other stations, and even pointing out the restrooms, and teaching the foreign volunteers how to greet "Good Morning" in Visayan (and confirming that, yes, Lady Gaga is famous in the Philippines).

The language barrier was broken, thanks to our multi-lingual skills. Translating for the doctors and patients from English to Filipino or Visayan or Maranao, and vice-versa, was a cinch.

#### **Behind Rollino's smile**

For students, the screening was

also a chance to feel like parents anticipating surgery for their children.

"Makulbaan pud ta ug apil [We'd get anxious as well] because, as a volunteer, you get to know their stories and reasons ngano gusto nila na maoperahan ilang anak [why they want their child to be operated on]," shared Rell Marc Maquiling, an XSF scholar and the head of ushers.

One patient from faraway Mampayag, Bukidnon was eleven-year-old "Rollino," a smart boy with dark, brown eyes. In his barangay, he was treated like a pariah. His inborn cleft lip had disfigured his whole face. Rollino frequently hides at home; when he does risk going out, wanting to play with other children his age, he is often called unpleasant names.

"Gaingnan nila siya ug pangit [They call my son ugly]," said Rollino's mother.

His age doesn't match his current educational level, as he had often stopped schooling because of the teasing and taunting.

His family brought him for







screening with hopes for Rollino to gain self-confidence and were gratified upon hearing his name called, knowing that the surgery would change his life.

However, there were also some disappointments. Some patients were excluded because of age or medical/health conditions like low hemoglobin count (which may cause severe bleeding), breathing problems and malnutrition. Operation Blessing, another NGO, was present to counsel those who were disqualified from the surgery.

#### The long-awaited moment

Surgery started on November 12 and the tension and excitement hyped up the families at the newly-opened children's ward of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC). It was the time they had long been waiting for.

Each single cleft operation took around 45 minutes. While the patients waited for their turn, the student volunteers embarked on one of the "most crucial" roles in the mission - entertaining the kids with toys, coloring pads, stickers, etc to divert their attention and ease the nervousness. Kids

being kids – some cried, peed in their pants, ran away or were too shy to play – instant babysitters had to come to the rescue. Other students helped prepare the medical records, distributed meals and translated for doctors in the different stations, especially the Speech Therapy Training and Child Life Center. They even role-played the operation costumed with surgical caps and oxygen masks.

#### Young passion

Operation Smile has grown from an NGO providing free surgeries into an institution that inspires advocacy and volunteerism among the youth.

The CDO mission also served as an avenue of cultural exposure for their two high school student volunteers, Rachel Hudspeth from New Jersey and Hayden Thompson from New Mexico. With International Student Coordinator, Amanda Bryer, they immersed themselves among families of Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement area for Typhoon Sendong survivors.

They provided basic dental health, hand washing and burn-care lectures to Ecoville children and in the House of Hope, an



institution located in Lumbia for mentally-challenged patients. Their Philippine trip was topped with jeepney and motorela rides, and, of course, the usual tourist dare, with partaking of *balut*.

Alongside the volunteer medical professionals, the student volunteers experienced "renewed empowerment and the drive to create change in their community and the world."

Operation Smile and the mission experience enabled the XU student volunteers to realize that learning also comes from service. Furthermore, seeing the children smiling after

the operation served as their greatest prize.



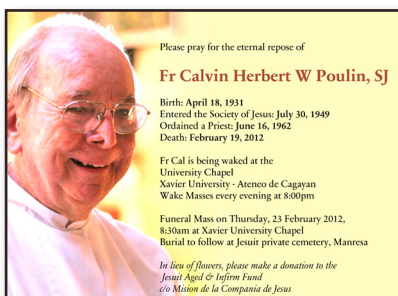
# 12 in 2012

Let's take a look back at some of the highlights of 2012 for the XU community.



## 1 Year of Xavier

On January 25, exactly 40 days after Sendong struck Cagayan de Oro with devastating force, signs of a new beginning for the survivors took solid shape in Barangay Lumbia as Xavier University blessed the temporary shelters at Xavier Ecoville, a new neighborhood for families who were displaced by the typhoon that destroyed wide swaths of the city on Dec 16 and 17. More than 500 families transferred to the temporary site.



## 2 Fr Cal Poulin SJ

Well-loved University chaplain for 13 years, Fr Calvin Poulin

SJ passed away on February 19 at the age of 81. He was laid to rest at the Jesuit cemetery in Manresa by his closest friends, companions in the Society of Jesus, and Xavier University faculty, staff and students.

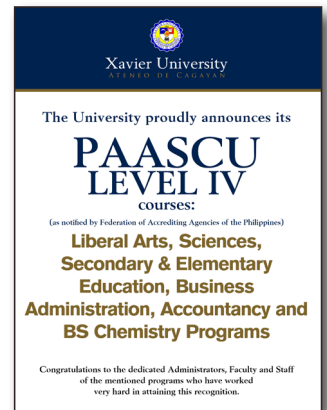


## 3 Permanent site

The Xavier Ecoville permanent site broke ground on March 3. XU and Habitat for Humanity Philippines signed a memorandum of agreement for the construction of 573 row houses on the 5-hectare lot, adjacent to the temporary bunkhouses. The event was graced by Vice President and Chair of the Urban Development Coordinating Council Jejomar Binay. A turnover of a symbolic key to the Xavier Ecoville Homeowners' Association was held in December.

## 4 Level IV Accredited Status

The Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) granted a Level IV Accredited Status to six of XU's programs, namely: Liberal Arts, Sciences, Secondary and Elementary Education, Business Administration, Accountancy and BS Chemistry. FAAP is a recognized network of accrediting agencies working closely with the Commission on Higher Education for the upgrading of the quality of education in the country.



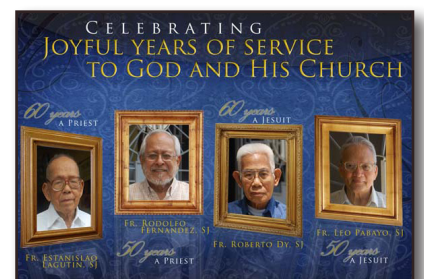
## 5 KKP's 25 years

The Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana (KKP) – Social Involvement Office celebrated 25 years of upholding the call of engaging the University in the social challenges of the times. Started in 1986, KKP has unceasingly promoted volunteerism and service anchored in a faith that does justice.



## 6 Golden Jubilee of four Jesuit priests

Fr Estanislao Lagutin, Fr Rudy Fernandez, Fr Roberto Dy and Fr Leo Pabayo celebrated 50 and 60 years of joyful service to God and to His Church. Fr Lagutin and Fr Dy celebrated their 60th year as a priest and a Jesuit, respectively, and Fr Fernandez and Fr Pabayo celebrated their 50th year as priests in a simple thanksgiving ceremony joined by the Jesuits of the Philippine Province, their families, relatives, friends and lay collaborators.







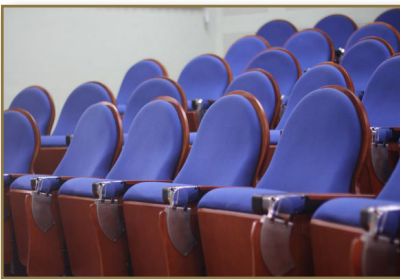
## 10 MR-XUH

St. 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. MR-XUH serves as the base hospital for the XU School of Medicine and the College of Nursing.

## 10

### Special BFAR award for Macajalar Bay Dev't Alliance

McKeough Marine Center received a special award from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) as one of the fisheries stakeholders in Northern Mindanao. The project, "Macajalar Bay Development Alliance," is being done in collaboration with the Province of Misamis Oriental and 14 coastal local government units for the management and protection of Macajalar Bay, a major fishing ground in Misamis Oriental.



## 8

### New AVR's

Eight new audio visual rooms (AVRs) were opened at the ground floor of the SBM building to provide students with the best environment for learning and honing their skills and talents. Two of the eight AVRs were sponsored by Banco de Oro.

## 11

### Fatima "Timay" L Paepke

Former Grade School principal Fatima Paepke passed away on November 28 after several months of battling serious illness. Paepke faithfully served the Grade School in various capacities for 28 years. She died at her home surrounded by family and loved ones.



## 12

### New infrastructures, better services

XU with the Asian Carmakers Corporation inaugurated the Jose Ch Alvarez Technology Complex on Dec 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The complex located in the Manresa campus is now serving as the new site of the Center for Integrated Technologies. It houses classrooms, laboratories and other facilities for the CIT students.



## 9

### No to Styrofoam

XU said "No" to food packaging, containers and decorative materials made of polystyrene, more popularly known as

Styrofoam. Entry, use and disposal of polystyrene in all the campuses and activities of the University have been disallowed. The ban also extends to University activities conducted outside XU premises.

Xavier Ecoville also had a big month in December, opening a children's study center with the help of JCI Macajalar 24K, the St Francis Xavier Chapel with seating for up to 300 persons, a toy library and a multipurpose center that can accommodate up to 200 persons. All these have been turned over to the Xavier Ecoville Homeowners' Association, along with the symbolic key to their permanent houses. The households will transfer together to their permanent houses in March 2013.





**XAVIER UNIVERSITY OPERATION:  
TABANG COMVAL**  
XU FUND DRIVE FOR VICTIMS OF SUPER TYPHOON PABLO IN COMPOSTELA VALLEY

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Account Name: **XU-COMVAL**  
Account Number: **5101-9984**

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[Date Deposited]

to **(+63) 917 714 4631**  
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for inquiries, please contact  
**Lezlee Escalante** or **Farina Roa**  
(858-3116 local 3210)



## Lessons Learned

by Lezlee Amor R Escalante

Cagayan de Oro witnessed nature's wrath when Sendong struck the city on the evening of December 16, 2011. Many lives were lost while thousands went missing as rushing waters flooded the city. But before the commemoration of the tragic flood that happened a year ago, another super typhoon hit the city—Pablo (Bopha).

On December 3, 2012, Fr Bobby Yap, through the Research and Social Outreach (RSO) Cluster led by Dr Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, immediately responded to the need of the city. People in Cagayan de Oro living in precarious areas had started evacuating their homes and XU generously opened the

gates of its three campuses as evacuation centers. The Main, Manresa and Pueblo campuses served as temporary shelters to many Kagay-anons in the midst of the typhoon.

The Engineering Resource Center, led by Engr Dexter Lo, also provided relevant information and updates on the development of Super Typhoon Pablo. Lo and his staff religiously monitored Pablo's movements and the amount of rainfall through PAGASA's Project Noah.

The Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) maximized all means of communications, especially the social media, in disseminating timely updates and in calling for people to be prepared for the possible impact of Pablo. KKP-SIO streamlined information and simplified weather updates for easy understanding by the community.

As KKP has a long history of relief work dating back to the '80s, the Office spearheaded a quick response mechanism to provide assistance to those that were affected by the flooding here in Cagayan de Oro and in Compostela Valley, which was badly hit by the typhoon. KKP organized a fund drive for the victims of Pablo in the said province. Funds raised from the drive were contributed to the relief efforts of Ateneo de Davao University. The University Christmas party was also toned down in favor of donations for the disaster victims.

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Prior to Pablo and learning from the lessons of Sendong, XU had begun its advocacy on disaster preparedness. It is active in assisting communities that are highly vulnerable to flooding. Key units in the RSO have gathered their experts to help capacitate communities and assist the local government units in strengthening their Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committees.

The University, through the RSO, has assisted 36 riverside barangays in Cagayan de Oro City. The Engineering Resource Center, with its expertise and various researches, was able to provide scientific grounding and thorough analysis to serve as input in capacitating our local leaders. With the facilitation and the experience of the Governance and Leadership Institute led by Dr Dixon Yasay, local officials learned that reducing risks in the community can be achieved through strong policies and ordinances.

It is important for the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committees (BDRRMCs) to understand their responsibility of managing risks in their communities.

Certainly, strengthening the response to hazards such as flooding, landslide and fire requires the active participation of the community.

A few months after Sendong, KKP-SIO, in partnership with the Corporate Network for Disaster Response and Smart Communications assisted in the strengthening of Barangay Macasandig's BDRRMC. The project, which was known as Noah's Ark, lasted for 6 months and involved a series of community workshops that started with hazard analysis and commenced with a community drill participated in by approximately 1,500 residents of Brgy Macasandig. The six-month training was put to test during Super Typhoon Pablo, and the barangay reported no casualties.

The road to capacitating the community is long but people have been very open to learning. KKP-SIO aims to continue capacitating the other highly vulnerable riverside barangays namely, Bonbon, Kauswagan, Balulang, Carmen, Consolacion, Brgy 6, Brgy 7, Brgy 10, Brgy 13, Brgy 15 and Brgy 17.

Meanwhile, there is still much work to do in Cagayan de Oro. There are still families which live in danger zones and we still have Sendong IDPs who have not yet been resettled. We still need to strengthen the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council of the city. This is a challenge that the city should lead but cannot do alone. Every Kagay-anon has a stake in this endeavor.





## Kalinaw sa Mindanaw XU celebrates Mindanao Week of Peace

by Wilson J Hormeguera and  
Victoria Melissa C Pulido

Members of the XU community showed their solidarity with Muslims, Lumads and Christians in celebrating the Mindanao Week of Peace from November 29 to December 5. This year's event centered on the theme, *"Love of God and Love of Neighbor, A Challenge for Mindanao."*

### Taking steps toward peace

KKP volunteers, faculty members and students joined priests, seminarians, and nuns from different congregations, faculty members and students of various academic institutions, military and police officers, civil society groups, non-government organizations and local government officials in the Walk for Peace from the

Rodalsa Circle to the Provincial Capitol grounds, which marked the opening of the celebration.

A short program was held where Muslim and Christian leaders, including tribal chieftain Datu Tony Lumandong, Ustadj Amin Macalantong and Archbishop Antonio J Ledesma shared their reflections and hopes for lasting peace in Mindanao following the Bangsamoro Framework Agreement.

The program also paid tribute to the victims of the Maguindanao Massacre in November 2009. Msgr Elmer Abacahin, president of the Cagayan de Oro Press Club, emphasized the significant role of the media in exposing the truth, which is the groundwork of peace. He challenged everyone to live in truth and to think critically about the pressing issues of our society today. Lanao del Sur Assembly woman Samira Gutoc-Tomawis encouraged women to speak out and express their advocacy for solidarity to achieve lasting peace in the region.

### Promoting peace through music

On November 30, KKP student volunteers, together with their

youth counterparts staged "Huni sa Mindanao," an alternative concert for peace, at the XU Main Lane. The concert aimed to forge common understanding and genuine respect for the differences in beliefs and religions among Lumads, Muslims, and Christians. Religious, cultural and contemporary performances were interspersed with speeches from select student leaders representing Mindanao's tri-people.

Hakeem Lomondot, KKP volunteer and president of Siraj, an organization for Muslim students, expressed that conflicts ensue when people forget the meaning of respect. He challenged his fellow youth to reach out and to appreciate one another's differences. "Let's join hands in building this nation through peace, brotherhood and camaraderie," Lomondot urged.

Irish Saway, who gave the Indigenous Peoples' perspective, reminded her fellow youth that, amid the cultural and religious diversity, we share a common identity as Filipinos. This was echoed by Cecille Turrecha, a junior KKP student volunteer. She

affirmed that we should all work in solidarity as Muslims, Lumads, and Christians for the betterment of the country. The unity dance, which wrapped up the concert, sent the message that unity is possible in a country with so much diversity.

### Depicting peace through photos

With the Peace & Conflict Journalism Network, an international network of journalists, filmmakers and journalism teachers dedicated to the just reporting of conflict, crisis and war, the Campus Ministries and the Development Communication Department put up a photo exhibit called, "Mindanao Landscapes: The People and the Peace Talks," at the university Peace Park.

The photos showed the struggle of Muslims for self-realization and the divide this has created, especially between Christians and Muslims. The portraits also followed the development of the peace process in Mindanao, culminating with a photo of the signing of the Bangsamoro Framework Agreement.





# St Francis Xavier: His Life and Some Reflections

by Libby Josephine M Abesamis

In celebration of the Feast of St Francis Xavier, the Office of Mission and Ministry organized a symposium on November 28 at the AV 8 entitled, “St Francis Xavier: His Life and Some Reflections” with Fr Mars P Tan SJ, rector of the Jesuit Community, as the resource person. It was attended by students, faculty, and administrators of the University. The resource speaker presented the various aspects of St Francis Xavier’s life (Early Years, Francis as a Priest, Francis’ Missions in Asia, Francis’ Work in Goa, Francis in Malacca and Moluccas, Francis’ Mission in Japan) and shared his own reflections.

## Xavier as a great missionary

Francis Xavier is said to have converted more than 700,000 persons in less than ten years. He inaugurated new missionary enterprises from Hormuz to Japan and the Malay Archipelago, and organized Christian communities wherever he preached. As an effective and practical organizer, he gained friendship and allies among natives and foreigners alike, having been a traveling missionary till the end. Many miracles have been attributed to him.

## Criticisms against Francis Xavier

Some of the criticisms against Francis Xavier are as follows: a) he did not understand oriental religions and attacked competing religions invoking the aid of Inquisition; b) he sanctioned the persecution of Nestorians; c) he converted the government of Goa into a proselytizing agency; and d) he used fear to convert pagans to Christianity.

## Was Francis Xavier zealous or just driven by personal ambition?

Francis Xavier had always been ambitious as a young man in the university, conditioned by his parents to be successful

in his worldly endeavors. But in his life as a missionary, he went through hardships and sacrifices tirelessly and unceasingly for the conversion of pagans.

## Was he vain or simply focused?

Francis Xavier was an excessively results-oriented person and did anything to get what he wanted. Such attribute led him to be more focused on his mission to give glory to God by saving souls. For Francis Xavier, only one thing mattered the most and that was the salvation of souls.

## Was Francis resilient or rigid in his missionary approach?

In his early years as a missionary, Francis may be considered rigid and stubborn. But his own experience also taught him to be resilient to effectively do his mission of saving souls.

## Was he a failure or a success?

Some indicators of failure of Francis Xavier may include: a) little success in Japan; b) failure to reach China; and, c) Japan and China remained largely non-Christian. However, more than the failures of St Francis Xavier is his great contribution in planting the seed of Christianity in Asia. Until the present, there are still on-going missions in various countries, opening greater opportunities for evangelization. The numerous number of Japanese and Chinese martyrs, attributed to the influence of Francis Xavier is also one proof that Francis Xavier made his mark in the noble and spiritual work of saving souls.





# XU holds relief mission for Pablo victims

Xavier University held various missions during the school's Christmas break to help victims of Typhoon Pablo in Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental and Agusan del Sur.

Six faculty members and two students facilitated stress debriefing & medical mission in Barangays Cateel, Bana-ao and Yapsay, Davao Oriental, some of the badly hit areas of Typhoon Pablo.

Houses in the coastal areas were washed out due to the storm surges which reached as high as 5ft and covered the main road. People crawled their way out of their houses to safer ground because the wind was strong that it ripped apart heavy cement houses.

Michael Acenas, Monalisa Pangan and Suzette Valmores of the Campus Ministries Office, Engr Crel Valdehueza of the College of Engineering, Dr Vincent Laguardia and Francis Dale Acenas of the School of Medicine, Laurine Alexis Yonson, a Sociology student, and Victoria Melissa Pulido of Kristohanong Katlingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office, together with Balay Mindanao Foundation, Inc, served approximately 600 families who were also given free medical check-up and basic medicines.

Meanwhile, a team of seven counselors went to New Bataan, Compostela Valley and Sta Josefa, Agusan del Sur to conduct psychosocial debriefing for affected children. The Guidance and Counseling Office, represented by Dr Joey Marie Jegonia, Carol Landa, Sean Sasing, Sr Trang Tan, Bro Noel Cantago, Carmelita Judith Guarin and Charito Vocal, partnered with the Ateneo de Davao University's Center for Psychological Extension and Research Services (COPERS) during the mission.

"There were some kids who still couldn't speak because of the shock," recalled Dr Joey Marie Jegonia who led the team from XU.

To help the children, as young as less than a year to 13 years old, tell their story, Jegonia's team facilitated role playing games where the children could express themselves through movement. They were also given toys with which they could associate the positive experience of the intervention.

Overall, the GCO helped over a hundred children in New Bataan and over 400 children in Sta Josefa. In addition to the toys, which were donated by a group of medical doctors, Jegonia and her team also handed out school supplies.

To fund their mission, the GCO raised funds and diverted their Christmas party budget to the mission. They also got support from the University President's Office.

"Our direction now is toward putting up more funds not just for clothing and books, but to fund a psychosocial team," shared Jegonia.

The team plans to visit the children again in May for a follow-up session.

Despite the tragedy experienced, the communities remain hopeful that a brighter tomorrow awaits them.

"Because we were able to survive, we should continue living," said Edmer, a 12 year old boy from Brgy Ban-ao. "God still has big plans for us." *(With reports from Victoria Melissa Pulido)*







## 2012 Outstanding Alumni/Alumnae Awardees

### RAMON MACLANG NERY, MD, FPSP, MHA, CEO VI

HS 1972, AB 1976

Outstanding Alumnus in Professional Service  
(College of Arts and Sciences)



- Executive Director of the Misamis Oriental Philippine Hospital Operations –Hospital Operations Management Services, thru which he oversees seven provincial hospitals.
- Spearheaded a successful voluntary blood program in Region 3 that saved thousands of lives.
- Under his stewardship, the Dr Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital of Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte underwent a remarkable upgrading of its facilities, budget and manpower and showed noteworthy improvements in the delivery of its services.
- Managed two provincial hospitals in Gingoog and Balingasag where he instituted strategic innovations to address perennial problems. As a result, delivery of healthcare services significantly improved. Admissions and consultations increased by 149% and 164%, respectively, in 2008-2011. Revenue generation likewise saw an unprecedented progress with the hospitals' annual gross income increasing by 306% (P23.8M – P 72.9M).
- 2006 Diamond Award from the Dr. JP Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center
- 2010 Galing Pook Award for Misamis Oriental
- 2011 The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award for Government and Public Service from JCI and Insular Life
- 2011 Pathologist of the Year
- 2012 Outstanding Blood Coordinator Awardee by the Philippine Red Cross, Northern Mindanao

### LIANE LIMATA-HARRIS

BS Chemical Engineering 1984

Outstanding Alumna in Professional Service  
(College of Engineering)



- One of the female engineers who spearheaded and implemented the concept of Proactive and Predictive Maintenance Programs to help industries become more productive, competitive and progressive.
- Trained thousands of other engineers, managers, reliability professionals, and skilled workers in Thailand, Mexico, Puerto Rico, China, Philippines, USA and Canada.
- Founded the People Helping People Foundation Canada in 1998 and served as Chair until 2005. Awarded the "People Helping People Canada Leadership Award."
- Actively involved in and served as secretary for the Ateneo Alumni Association Canada (AAAC), whose main purpose is to

raise scholarship funds for various Ateneo Universities in the Philippines.

- Volunteer trainer with Audmax.
- Regularly gives personal development seminars and trainings to inmates at various federal correctional facilities in Ontario. Among her recent trainings were those on Confidence Building, Diversity, and Entrepreneurial Spirit.
- Recipient of the "United Way Canada, Community Volunteer Award."
- Teaches Tai Chi, Qi-gong, and meditation classes to help people improve their awareness, stay healthy, and strengthen their spiritual, emotional, and mental capabilities.

### EDITH LAGO ORTEGA

BSBA 1985; PhD Education 2012

Outstanding Alumna in Professional Service  
(College of Education)



- Rose from the ranks as a public elementary school teacher to become school principal
- Education Supervisor
- Cagayan de Oro City Division Head of the Alternative Learning System
- Improved the lives of learners by giving them self, local and foreign employment opportunities
- Increased the opportunity for out of school youth and adults to pursue higher education
- Capacitated ALS Coordinators, Mobile Teachers, Instructional Managers and Literacy Facilitators for effective implementation of Basic Literacy and Continuing Education Programs.
- Builds leaders among learners, peers and constituents.
- Institutionalized the program down to the grassroots level and made local leaders partners of the program.
- Established networks with various sectors of the society including POs, NGOs and IPs
- 2012 Most Efficient Division that Supports Alternative Learning System ( 2nd Place)
- 2005 and 2008 Outstanding Local Government Unit (CDO) for Highly Urbanized City in the Implementation of Literacy Programs
- 2009 Highest number of passers on Accreditation and Equivalency in Region 10
- President of the Cagayan de Oro Public School Teachers and Employee Association (COPSTEA) from 2008 to present
- 2009 to present, Treasurer, Region X-PSTA



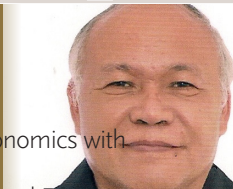
## MARY GRACE MALANA PAAYAS

MA in Nursing 2009  
Outstanding Alumna in Professional Service  
(Graduate School)



- Ranked 7th in the 1991 PNA Licensure Exam
- 2nd Place in the Poster Research Presentation in the 1st Cebu International Nursing Conference, 2011
- Overseas Nurse Manager, her expertise has contributed to the improvement of the course offerings in the Graduate and Undergraduate Nursing Program of the Xavier University College of Nursing, thus producing competent and committed professional nurses. Beneficiaries of her expertise also include the residents of adopted communities and patients of affiliated centers where nursing students are under her supervision.
- Through her valued contributions as a nurse expert as well as level coordinator in the undergraduate program, the College was adjudged Top Performing School in the Philippines, 2006-2011.
- Volunteer nurse of the University's outreach program for Sendong survivors and adopted communities at Lumbia.

XUHS in 1971; BSA in 1976  
Outstanding Alumnus in Public Service



- Conferred the UP Diploma in Development Economics with Honors
- Started as Livestock Inspector and rose to Regional Executive Director
- Undersecretary for Operations of the Department of Agriculture appointed in March 2010.
- His leadership brought the Department of Agriculture Region 10 among the top performing regions in the country, with his proper and excellent representation, performance, commitment and dedication.
- Led the Mindanao Team in formulating the Mindanao Framework Plan for Agriculture: Agri-Pinoy Programs, Farm to Market Roads, Post Harvest Facilities including the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP)
- As Bureau of Plant Industry National Director, he worked out the national expansion of the Gulayan Para sa Masa that contributed to the improvement of food availability in the household. Gulayan sa Paaralan was likewise initiated.
- Served as the Phil Representative to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources as well as the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources on Agriculture and Food and sat as a Regular Resource Person to the OECD's ( Overseas Economic Cooperation and Development) Working Group on Harmonization of Regulations on Biotechnology .
- One of the International Panel of Experts on Biotech Program of Government.
- "Outstanding Service Award, XUHS '71 " ( Legacy of Servant Leadership).
- 1988 Outstanding Regional Department of Agriculture Employee

## SYLVIA T OKINLAY-PARAGUYA

BS Chemical Engineering 1984  
Outstanding Alumna in Community Service



- Graduated with a BSChE degree in 1984 as Valedictorian. As a National State Scholar, she was a consistent Dean's Lister.
- Currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO). She excellently manages the only billionaire cooperative federation of the country with 2.1 M individual member in 552 cooperatives in more than 1,108 servicing offices in the country.
- Newly elected President of Proxfn ( an association of Coop Federations in partnership with the Development Internationale Desjardins of Quebec, Canada). The federations' memberships come from Africa, Latin America and Asia.
- Chairperson from 2002-2009 of the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE), a coalition of 11 NGO and PO networks in Mindanao working across different development areas to achieve equity, development and peace in Mindanao. MINCODE is a member of CODE –NGO. She represents NATCCO at CODE-NGO as BOD member. CODE-NGO is a network of national NGO networks all over the country.
- Founding Chairperson of BALAY MINDANAO in 1996. She has played an important role in the peace talks in Mindanao. BMFI is the independent secretariat of the peace talks between GRP-RPMM.
- Member of the Peace Panel in the MILF negotiations facilitated by the Malaysian Government, appeared before the cabinet meetings with PGMA to discuss the positions of the government in consultation with key NGO leaders and specific multi-stakeholders on the development of the peace talks

## ALFONSO BAGARES HORTELANO

AB, March 1961  
BSC major in Banking and Finance, Oct 1961



- XU-AAA Service Awardee
- Rose from the ranks as lecturer to member of the Finance Committee of the XU Board of Trustees
- 2003 National Awardee, Non- Teaching Category (Administrators) of the Private Educational Retirement Annuity Association (PERAA)
- VP for Academic Affairs of XU from 2006 until his retirement in 2009
- Organized the XU-SBM Alumni Association. As president of the SBMAA, he has been supportive of XU-AAA's program and projects.

## CAROLINA SORIANO TANDOG

XU-AAA Special Award



- Started as a faculty member of the Mathematics Department at Xavier University in June 1971
- Served as Chair of the Math Department in 1977, OIC of the College of Commerce in 1984 and Dean of the College in 1986
- Appointed Director of the Personnel Office in 1991 until her retirement in 2008
- Known for her fairness and sincere interpretation of the rules and regulations binding in the employee-employer relationship without jeopardizing the welfare of both parties