



XAVIER  
*Engage*  
REINFORCING RESILIENCE

XAVIER UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL DAYS 2012

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 1



A Celebration of Resiliency  
and Moving Forward



# The CAGAYAN TIMES

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## BusinessWeek

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## A Celebration of Resiliency and Moving Forward

by Darlene Jane G Wabe



Xavier University held its annual Festival Days on Nov 28 – Dec 1, 2012. The theme was **“Xavier Engage: Reinforcing Resilience,”** which alluded to water, the element that brought down the University’s home city to its knees last year. It is also the same element that washed away the delusions built by complacency. Today, Cagayan de Oro City has recovered. Significant changes have happened in the months after the devastating storm, both locally and nationally, some of which were spearheaded by XU. The spirit of resiliency and courage amidst adversity has won and this was celebrated in the activities lined up for the Festival Days.

The Festival Days opened with a primer on the life of St Francis Xavier, organized by the Office of Mission and Ministry and with Fr Mars Tan SJ as speaker. This was followed by the laying of wreaths, blessed by University Chaplain Fr Charlie Cenzon SJ, at the statue of St Francis Xavier, and

the Opening Mass, with a homily by University President Fr Bobby Yap SJ.

The party started when Fr Yap turned on the Christmas lights in the Opening Ceremony that followed the Mass. Unlike previous years, energy-efficient LED lights were used, and there was no competition for the best decorated Christmas tree among the XU colleges and units. Instead, the lanterns hung on the trees were made by former street kids, showcasing their talent and symbolizing their hope for a brighter future.

Opening night became livelier with the Xavier Engage Festival Night and the iMove Concert. The Festival Night, organized by the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts, showcased the talents of members of XU’s performing arts groups such as Xavier Philharmonia, Cultural Dance Troupe and XU Glee Club. Hip-hop and K-pop dance groups, including Hot Males and young kids from the grade school and high school, also graced the stage. As a pleasant





surprise, faculty members showed off their ballroom dancing skills and XU-ROTC members exhibited a choreographed handling of arms.

The iMove concert reinforced the theme of resiliency as it featured Sendong survivors and their stories. It was also a fundraising activity for "Project Tiniil" by XU STREAMS. The highlight of the event was the much anticipated release of sky lanterns. The beautiful lanterns rose up to light the night sky alongside the stars and an unusually bright, full moon, lightening spirits which were once burdened with overwhelming problems.

**Moving XU Forward.** The Moving XU Caravan was held in the morning after Opening Night. The theme "Let's move XU to a New Direction" called on every Atenean to make XU a greener and cleaner place. After Student Affairs Director Irene Guitarte's opening speech, each University unit and office was given one trisikad and the parade commenced from the University Main Lane, then turned left, passing through Hayes, right to Velez, A. Luna and Corrales streets before it came back to XU. The Food Fest that followed was full of delicious Filipino delicacies and was free of environment-



damaging plastic and styrofoam. Bikers, longboarders, skateboarders, cosplayers and a flash mob by student volunteers livened up the early morning event.

The afternoon activities displayed a more artistic approach to encouraging change. A swirl of rich colors and bold strokes became the main instruments to communicate ideas, opinions and emotions that were pent up amidst the storm of change that came in the previous year. The AtenistaAko Movement formally opened the Mural Wall as a place where anybody from XU could freely express themselves. It was a promising alternative to discourage vandalism of other University property. The Poster Making and Chalk Art contests were open to all students from the grade school, high school and college units of XU and there were nice prizes for the winners and gift certificates from Dunkin' Donuts for the first 15 registered participants.

**Culture and the arts blossom.** Aside from the Xavier Engage Festival Night, other programs that promoted culture and the arts were held during the Festival Days. "Barracks ni Tenyente Fuego," a much-loved play about a family full of gay men and their domineering father, was staged once again. XU Soundtable held "BatongBitoon 2k12: A

Festival Jam" throughout the Xavier Days. This year, a wider selection of musical genres was featured, making it comparable to the USA's Woodstock Music and Art Fair.

Kinauyokan (Atin-Neo Dance Festival), held on the eve of November 29, 2012, focused on the art of dance depicting Filipino culture and resiliency. A competition between five of the University's colleges was held and CIT, last year's champion, claimed victory once more. Song and dance numbers from XU's pool of talents were also featured. A special guest, Liceo De Cagayan University's Next Moves, also performed a contemporary dance number.

Film appreciation soared when two separate programs promoting the art of film were held during the Festival Days. Xavier Box Office (Walk-in Movies), spearheaded by the newly-formed Xavier Film Society, featured not only family-friendly mainstream movies, such as "The Lorax" and "Rio," which also depict lessons on environmental conservation, but also short films produced by Xavier







High School students. The Central Student Government's CineMulat took on a more romantic and international flavor, featuring foreign films such as New Zealand's romantic comedy "Eagle vs Shark" and Spain's dramedy "Hable con Ella" (Talk to Her). These films were all free for viewing and the XU community and guests showed their appreciation.

XU Time is Xavier University's version of the hit noontime show, "Showtime." Production numbers from six groups of 5-15 members,



with at least 60% of them members of the XU community, were showcased to the admiring audience. The contest was judged by the madlangpipol and officially by performance experts Jaysan Chee, Madel Manlupig, Carissa Falcon, Eric Gabrielle Aceret and Maria Estella Neri. A maximum of 10 points were given by each hurado and the top three contenders won handsome prizes. The Ngoys, last year's champion, defended their title and emerged victorious.

While the Light-a-Tree competition took a break this year, the Campus Ministries pursued its Christmas caroling contest in the Immaculate Conception Chapel. Christmas was in the air as participants from various colleges chimed to a medley of Christmas tunes. The College of Nursing took the grand prize, followed by the Center for Integrated Technologies and the School of Education. They won gift packs and P10,000, P7,000 and P5,000, respectively. The other participating colleges, namely Engineering, Computer Studies and Agriculture, also took home P1,000 and a gift pack each. The winners were judged based on their musicality, choreography, costume and props, relevance to the Xavier Days theme and audience impact.

**Unity amidst diversity.** The Festival Days were also a time for unity among the XU community. The XUHS family put together the Engage Variety show called "IM'MA SHOW IT" on November 29. Nine performers from different levels in the High School rocked the stage on the University



Main Lane. The XUGS kids livened up the morning of November 30 with their Field Demonstration. The vivacious pupils danced to 80's tunes and flaunted various props and dance formations. The near-perfect presentations were a result of hard work, disciplined practice, and the loving support of their parents.

Alumni of the Graduate School and High School units also converged to celebrate years of camaraderie and achievements. The Graduate Alumni and Students Night was held in the afternoon until the eve of December 1 at Middleton Apartelle. The All XUHS Alumni Homecoming was held on December 1 at the Covered Courts, hosted by Batch '88. The jam-packed event featured a speech from fellow alumni and 2011 TOFIL Awardee Dr Ramon Nery. Aside from the food and merry-making, the Batch '88 alumni also turned over the fruit of their charitable cause to provide educational books and multi-media for their adopted school, Niña Maria Learning Center of Tambo, Macasandig.

The Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana Social Involvement Office teamed up with the NSTP and youth organizations to hold "Huni sa Mindanaw," a concert to promote mutual respect between the Lumad, Muslim and Christian Filipinos in celebration of the Mindanao Week of Peace. Moving song numbers were rendered by talented volunteers from the various organizations involved.





**The Brains: KatagnaKa? and 4th Graduate Research Forum.** Twenty-five teams from all the XU units took the challenge to bag cash prizes and goodies from Spruce and Puma in “KatagnaKa? Xavier Engage Trivia Day,” organized by XU-CSG. They tackled questions taken from various categories and, in the end, the team of Mark Kenneth Arrogante, Roxanne Jumadail, Ybonne Mae Gabalos, and Karen Michelle P Pahamtang bagged the biggest cash prize.

On a more serious note, the Graduate School held its 4th Research Forum on Dec 1 at the Conference Hall of Middleton Apartelle. Dr Lina Kwong, Academic Vice President, formally welcomed the speakers and guests. Five papers were presented, encompassing research problems on Interpersonal Communication, Technology, and the Labor Industry and Education. The event was made livelier by the open forum where interesting points and dissenting opinions were raised.

#### **The Brawn: A sportier Festival Days.**

A striking feature of this year’s Festival Days was the presence of additional sports activities. The Xavier Disc Frisbee Tournament and Xavier Engage Play-offs were held on November 29-30, 2012. The Frisbee Tournament, held by ULTIMO AMIGO, in cooperation with Cagayan Ultimate Players Association, pitted 6 teams of 7 members each in the two-day challenge. Team Federico’s Brats! emerged as this year’s champion.



Frisbee and Volleyball were served with a twist in the Play-offs when they became Frisball and Blind Volleyball. A group of XUHS students won the Frisball game, where they had to use a volleyball instead of a Frisbee to score points, with the same mechanics as a regular Frisbee game. Meanwhile, a team of XU College students won the Blind Volleyball game despite having to play volleyball with an opaque tarpaulin as a net.

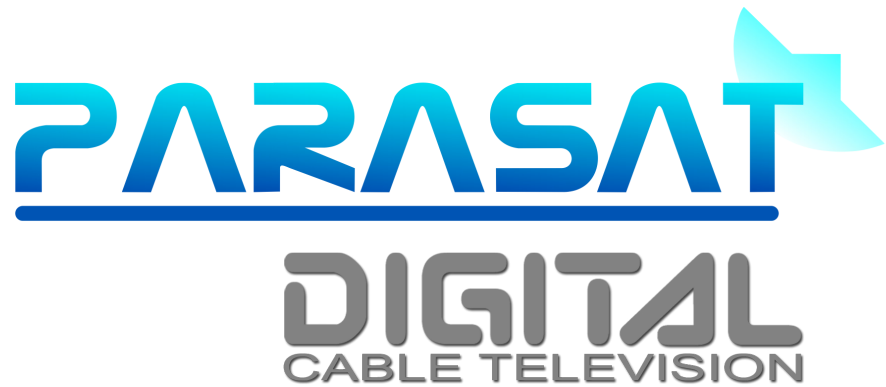
Dance and fitness fiends also had a treat with the “Hataw XU Morning Dance Workshop” and the “1st Aero Marathon Competition.” The zumba routine of Hataw XU that started at 6 am with only a few participants attracted more people during its duration. It ended with a roster of smiles and sweaty bodies that were made healthier by the workout.

The 2-hour, 4-stage Aero Marathon held by the PE Department really tested the participants’ endurance. Winners of each of the 3 categories (Students, Faculty, Alumni/ Non-Alumni) all received prizes.

**A Glorious Culmination.** Unfortunately, all good things come to an end. But they don’t always have to end sadly. The Xavier University Festival Days ended the way it started – with a Mass to bring the XU community together in prayer and blessing.



Afterwards, the Closing Ceremonies started off with the Tough 100 and AtenistaAko Movement’s flash mob. Student organizations that made the whole Festival Days possible were formally recognized. Among those were the Central Student Government, AtenistaAko Movement, Xavier Film Society, Circulo de Arte, XU-Soundtable, DulaangAtenista, The Xavier Stage, The Crusader Publication, Ateneo Camera Club, XU- Red Cross Youth and the XU Band. A raffle draw commenced to determine this year’s winners of the Free Stuff promo. Students were encouraged to join the raffle by attending key XUF 2012 events and accumulating enough stickers by the final day. Lucky participants received freebies and one winner received a Smartphone from SMART Communications. The Festival Days, the “longest party in Northern Mindanao,” ended with a literal bang as the fireworks lit up the night sky.





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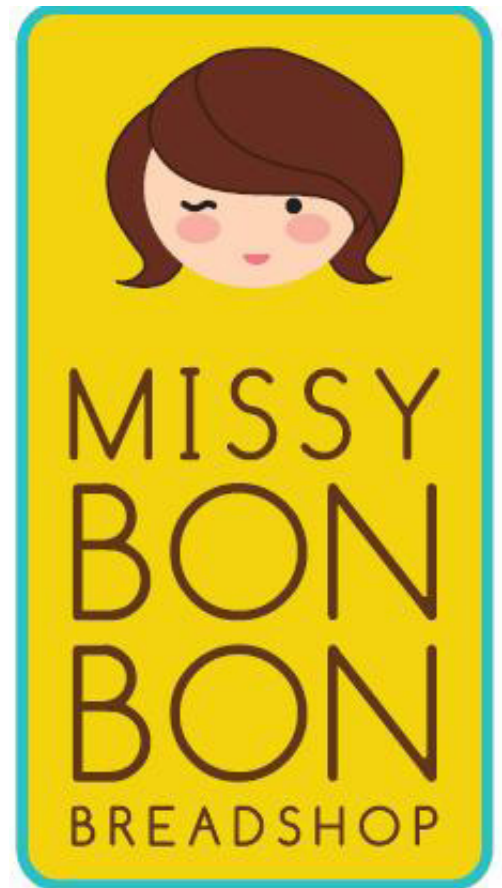
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