

Xavier

magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

August to December 2013



The
**Mind &
Heart**
of the city and
the region

Ruby Jubilee ISSUE

Contents



Cover Story



by Elizabeth B. Ermo

Ateneo de Cagayan in its present Corrales campus after the bombing during World War II



At the background: the fountain at the Gaston Park, Cagayan de Oro City's main plaza in 1965

Looking back at its eighty years of existence and seeing the celebration of its Ruby Jubilee, no one can deny that Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, fondly called XU, has been and is closely associated with Cagayan de Oro City.

The school and the city have grown hand in hand over the years and one cannot name Cagayan de Oro without mentioning Xavier University, and the reverse is equally true. Wherever you are in the Philippines or abroad, if you say you come from CDO, chances are that you will be told "Ah, is that where you find Ateneo de Cagayan?" or "I am an alumnus/a of Xavier University!" "Oh XU, in Cagayan de Oro!"

Associating an educational institution with mind and intellectual activities is easy to notice, but to point out the correlation of education with heart is less obvious. This is what this story is about, to explore how Xavier University can be considered the mind and heart of Cagayan de Oro City.

At the time of its creation in 1933 as a High School for boys by Bishop James Hayes, SJ, Ateneo de Cagayan had only 17 students and Cagayan de Misamis was a municipality of less than 50,000 inhabitants. Both suffered during World War II, the school was

forced to close and the campus was destroyed along with most of the city.

The re-opening of the School after World War II really marked the beginning of the main period of the growth of Xavier at three levels—the Grade School, High School and College. From 1946 to the present, Xavier's student population multiplied almost 30 times. In 1946, the school had less than 300 enrollees; while nowadays, it has over 15,000. In 1958, it became the first Jesuit University

in the Philippines and the first university in Mindanao. Similarly, Cagayan became a city in 1950 and its population, from less than 50,000 after WWII, rose to almost half a million in the 21st century.



RUBY JUBILEE ISSUE

8 Cover Story

XU: the HEART and MIND of Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao

For 80 years, the growth of Xavier University has been closely intertwined with the growth of the city itself

Feature Moments of Joy

XU celebrates its Ruby Jubilee anniversary with three significant events

16 Feature

How do you celebrate 80 years?

At Xavier, the celebration of 8 decades of history was beautiful, enthusiastic and meaningful. Three events were at the center of the occasion: the blessing of the houses for Sendong survivors relocated to Xavier Ecoville, the conferment of an honorary doctorate in the humanities on Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, and the renaming of the Immaculate Conception Chapel as University Church.

Hope Festival

The Hope Festival is an annual event that celebrates the 80th anniversary of the school. It is a multi-day event that features a variety of activities, including a concert, a pageant, and a parade. The festival is a testament to the school's rich history and its commitment to excellence.

"A new dawn has come for Xavier Ecoville..."

The Hope Festival is a testament to the school's rich history and its commitment to excellence. It is a multi-day event that features a variety of activities, including a concert, a pageant, and a parade. The festival is a testament to the school's rich history and its commitment to excellence.

MOMENTS OF JOY

The XU Ruby Jubilee anniversary in prose and photos

XU celebrates Feast of St Francis Xavier

The one-day Xavier Festival Day celebrates in solidarity with Yolanda victims

20



XU celebrates Feast of St Francis Xavier in honor of its patron St Francis Xavier. Although traditionally celebrated for a number of days, this year's XFD was cut short to a day, Dec 2, to sympathize with storm victims in the Visayas.

4 Message from the Fr President

5 Milestones

6 Special Section: 20 Questions about the Kto12 Program

A quick guide to the expanded Basic Education Program

26 XCCA heightens commitment to Filipino identity with MetamorphoSix

The Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts looks back on its 6th production season

28 A recollection of our mission to Leyte

Campus minister Michael Acenas recalls his experience while giving aid to Typhoon Yolanda survivors

24



the GREAT

25



the GREAT

24 Ateneo the Great

An octogenarian shares the XU of his days

RUBY: Dynamism, Fire and Warmth

Founded in 1933, Ateneo de Cagayan celebrates in 2013 its 80th anniversary. Ruby is the anniversary stone for an 80th commemoration. This Ruby Jubilee has been a time of grace for Xavier University to reaffirm its identity and renew its ministry.

The color of the ruby can be characterized as dynamic, fiery and warm. Ruby dynamism, ruby warmth and ruby fire provide appropriate motifs for Xavier's rekindling of its identity and ministry as a University.

Ruby dynamism is a good symbol of our Filipino identity. Service is the vocation of the person for others. We are called to imitate our Lord and Master "who came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many" (Mt 20, 28). Our life is not our own. Our life is meant to be spent for others, especially the poverty-stricken and the persecuted, the despised and the downtrodden, the bedeviled and the bewildered among our fellow-Filipinos. Ateneans are always sent on mission to serve the faith, promote justice, foster dialogue with cultures and religions, and care for the environment.

Ruby fire is a fitting symbol of our Jesuit identity. Magis is a hallmark of the Jesuit way. Always striving for the more, always searching for depth should be second nature to the Atenean. We are never satisfied with working just for God's glory, not even for God's great glory; rather we aim to do everything for God's greater glory. We will always live with passion, striving for excellence and going all out to become the best that we are capable of becoming.

Ruby warmth is a suitable symbol of our Catholic identity. Cura personalis or care for the whole person is essential in the Catholic respect for and promotion of human dignity. We look to and treat each person as created in the image and likeness of God, redeemed

by the blood of Jesus Christ and as a temple of the Holy Spirit. We will always try to show compassion, cum patir – suffer with. Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless.

Mission ... Service ... Filipino ... Ruby Dynamism. During our Ruby Jubilee we renewed this characteristic of our Xavier identity during Dayun, Padayun, the Xavier Ecoville Hope Festival for the blessing of the permanent houses at the resettlement site developed by XU in partnership with generous benefactors and with courageous Sendong survivors.

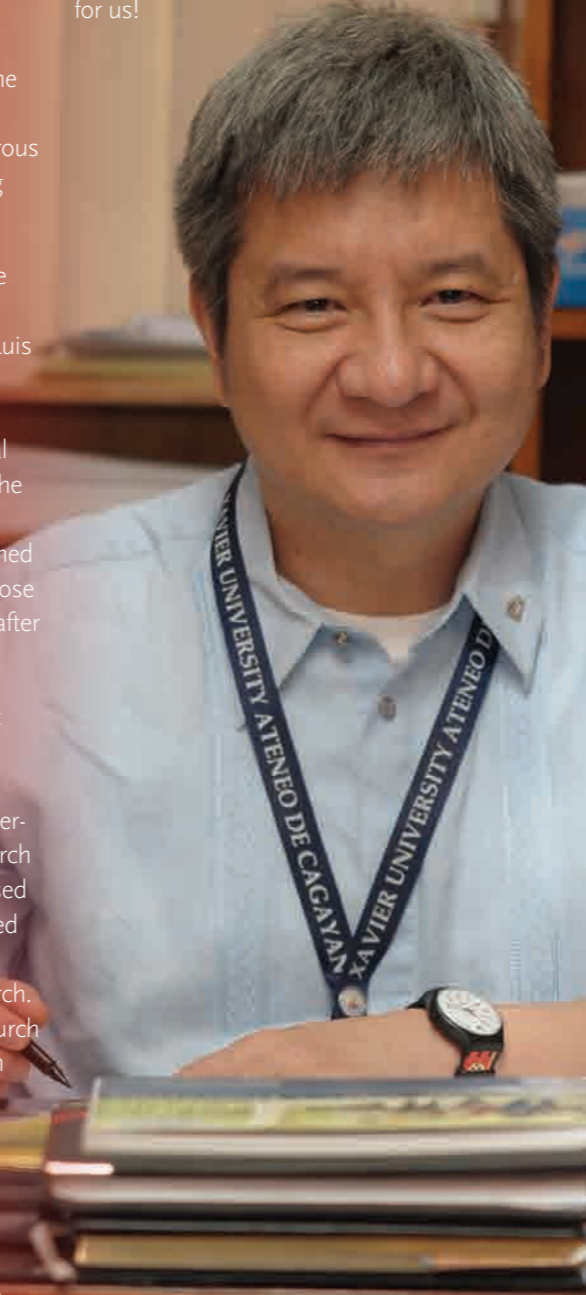
Passion ... Magis ... Jesuit ... Ruby Fire. We reaffirmed this tatak Atenista during the conferment of the honorary doctorate on Luis Antonio G Cardinal Tagle. The Cardinal's magis is clearly evident in his open and joyful pastoral attitude, his solid theological expertise, his compassionate concern for the poor and his proficient use of new media. Cardinal Chito who was educated and formed by Jesuits is an inspiring servant-leader whose passion is to become an authentic pastor after the heart of the Good Shepherd.

Compassion ... Cura Personalis ... Catholic ... Ruby Warmth. We highlighted this distinguishing feature of XU during the renaming of our place of worship, the center-point of our campus as the University Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At that occasion, we reaffirmed that Xavier is a Catholic university, born ex corde Ecclesiae, from the heart of the Church. We rededicated our service to the local Church in Cagayan de Oro which also celebrates in 2013, its 80th anniversary as a diocese.

The Ruby Jubilee culminated with our observance of the feast of our patron, St Francis Xavier who is an icon of Mission, Passion and Compassion. Xavier Festival Day 2013 was significantly simplified in the light of the enormous suffering and needs of the victims of Yolanda. On that day we also prayed for the students, faculty and staff who went on Tabang Visayas missions to Northern Cebu and Leyte. Leading the Ateneo Way means consoling those who suffer and

showing that effective love is stronger than a super typhoon. The solidarity shown by the simplified Xavier Day and the compassionate service of the XU's Tabang missions are ruby testimonies of dynamism, fire and warmth.

On this feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother, we ask her intercession that Xavier will always be faithful to its values: service, magis and cura personalis; and true to its University identity as Filipino, Jesuit and Catholic. Mary, immaculately conceived, pray for us!



Roberto C Yap SJ
University President
8th December 2013



XU among top 21 nursing schools in the country

Xavier University's College of Nursing was cited by the House committee on higher and technical education of the House of Representatives as one of the top 21 nursing schools in the country. The rankings are based on the performance of graduates in the last two nurse licensure exams given by the Professional Regulation Commission. XU's College of Nursing has consistently performed well in the national licensure examination for nurses since the program re-opened in 2002. In the December 2012 national licensure test, seven of XU's graduates landed in the top ten and the university was the second top performing nursing school in the country.

XU places 2nd in Regional Search for Sustainable and Eco-friendly Schools

Xavier University's campus on Corrales Avenue was awarded 2nd place (tertiary level) in the Regional Search for Sustainable and Eco-friendly Schools by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Education, and Commission on Higher Education with Smart Communications, Nestle Philippines, One Meralco Foundation, Petron Foundation and Unilever Philippines. The Search revolved around the theme "Sustainable and Eco-friendly Initiatives of the Respective Schools."

2013 Outstanding CPA in Education

Dr Virginia Lourdes Yacapin has been chosen by the Philippine Institute of Public Accountants (PICPA) as national awardee for Outstanding CPA in Education. Dr Yacapin teaches at the School of Business and Management where she also served as dean from 2006-2013. She is presently the director of the University Alumni Affairs Office. Apart from her BS Commerce degree from XU, Master in Business Management from Capitol University and a Doctor in Management from the University of San Jose Recoletos, Dr Yacapin also holds an AB degree from XU and an MA English Literature from

the Ateneo de Manila University. She started working with Xavier in 1972 teaching English and Accountancy. She had been Chair of the English and Accountancy Departments and Associate Dean of the College of Commerce.

Clam and Cielo Lacandola won the Bit the Bees Quiz Show for regional eliminations in August. The team represented Northern Mindanao in the 2013 Interscholastic Quiz Show in November.

New CPAs with 5th placer

XU graduate Ryan James Aban ranked 5th with a score of 92.14 percent in the recent CPA board exams held on Oct 5-6. With Ryan were 61 other XU graduates who also passed the exam, giving XU a passing rate of 65.96, above the national passing rate of 40.84 percent



NOMCAARD Best Papers in R&D

Researchers from our College of Agriculture bested 34 other presenters at the 25th Regional Symposium on Research and Development Highlights and Farmers Forum facilitated by the Northern Mindanao Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (NOMCAARD) on Oct 10-11.

Dr Edgar Allan Po, Engr Mark Alexis Sabines and Engr Jan Taat received the Best Paper Award – Research Category – for their research on "Quantification of Farm Level Erosion through Google Earth and Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver Derived Digital Elevation Model (DEM) using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)" presented by Po.

The Best Paper Award – Development Category – was also won by XU represented by Dr Greg Cubio and his study "Development of a Village-Level Multi-Functional Pelletizer," with Victoriano Tagupa, Laizah Lou Galanida and John Keiffer Ting.

XU, as well, won the Best Technical Poster Award for Engr Roland Macana's research on "Comparative Assessment of the Quality and Cost of Fish (Sardinella fimbriata) Drying using Conventional Sun Dryer and Biomass-Fueled Flat Bed Dryer," with Engr Alexis Maristaza as adviser.

2013 Interscholastic Quiz Show

The Electronics Department team JIECEP-XU composed of Ramon Christopher Calam, Angelito Manos Jr, George Ezar Quiriado, Stephen Ben John Biado, Nelson Marvin

17th World Championship of the Performing Arts

XU graduate Alex Dagalea reaped medals at the 17th World Championship of the Performing Arts (WCOPA) held in Los Angeles, California from July 12-21. Alex was part of the Singapore Team at the WCOPA where he competed as a soloist. He won silver medals in the pop and contemporary categories and bronze in the open category. Alex finished his BS Biology and BS Psychology at Xavier University in 1999. He works as a performer at Universal Studios Singapore.

BIDA Winners

Students of Business Administration and Electronics Engineering won first place for their collaborative project titled, "CHURVA" (Calorie Handler Upgraded Real Time Virtual Application) in the Technology Category of the Business Idea and Development Award held in October. These students were Jemerson Guinto, Joan Allene Cavallida, David Emmanuel Piol, Mary Fibeth Calunia and Elijah Dan Seballos. Their faculty adviser was Tracy June Dy.

5th Graduate School Research Forum

The Graduate School held its 5th Research Forum at the Demiren Hotel Ballroom on Sept 14 with the theme "Enhancing Graduate Adviser's Research Culture The Ateneo Way." In attendance were Graduate School students, faculty members and university administrators, including Fr Roberto Yap, University President, Dr Lina Kwong, Academic VP, Fr Rene C Tacastacas, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr Isaiahs S Sealza, Dean of the Graduate School. The researches covered a wide range of topics, among them Disaster Management Information Systems, life expectancy in Misamis Oriental and professional values among nurse educators in the City.

New Physicians

Our Medicine graduates performed excellently in the August 2013 Physician Licensure Exams with 26 out of 27 passing the tests, giving XU a passing percentage of 96.3, above the national passing average of 82.9 percent.

New Agriculturists

XU produced 35 new agriculturists in the July 2013 Licensure Exams for Agriculturists. XU garnered a passing rate of 62.50 percent, higher than the national passing rate of 35.22 percent.

New Electrical Engineers

Seven new electrical engineers have been added to the roster following the Licensure Examination for Registered Electrical Engineers in September. XU earned a passing rate of 87.5 percent, above the national passing percentage of 53.64.

New Civil Engineers

Congratulations to our new civil engineers who passed the Civil Engineering Licensure Exam in November. XU's passing rate was pegged at 40 percent (20/50).

New Mechanical Engineers

The Licensure Examinations for Mechanical Engineers given in September yielded XU 29 mechanical engineers, giving the University a passing percentage of 85.29, over the national passing of 68.87 percent.

20 Questions about the K to 12 Program

What is K to 12?

The K to 12 Program covers Kindergarten and 12 years of basic education (six years of primary education, four years of Junior High School [JHS], and two years of Senior High School [SHS]) to provide sufficient time for mastery of concepts and skills, develop lifelong learners, and prepare graduates for tertiary education, middle-level skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship.

When will the K to 12 Program be implemented?

Universal Kindergarten already began in SY 2011–2012. The enhanced curricula for Grade 1 and Grade 7 (1st Year Junior High School) was rolled out for public schools by the Department of Education in SY 2012–2013, and will be progressively introduced in the other grade levels in succeeding school years. Grade 11 will be introduced in SY 2016–2017 and Grade 12 in SY 2017–2018. The first batch of high school students to go through K to 12 will graduate in March 2018.

Where will the additional two years be added?

The two years will be added after the four-year high school program. This will be called Senior High School.

What is XU's goal in implementing the K to 12 Program?

XU is dedicated and committed to sharing the vision for excellent and quality education for all. We shall continue to enhance curricula and resources, including in-service training for our faculty, as we gradually transition to K to 12.

How will the K to 12 be implemented in XU?

XU is gradually implementing the K to 12 Basic Education Program starting school year 2013-2014 at which time it started to introduce an enhanced curricula for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 8. In the succeeding years, enhanced curricula for the other grade levels will be progressively implemented.

In May 2013, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III signed into law the Enhanced Education Act of 2012, a major educational reform that requires all students to go through one year of kindergarten, six years of grade school and six years of high school (K to 12). This big change aims to enhance the basic education curriculum, as well as improve the employability of our high school graduates.

What changes can we expect from having a Junior and Senior High School? Here's a short guide on the expanded basic education program as it will be implemented in XU.

As part of its transition plan, XU is relabeling its grade levels: K1 to K, K2 to new G1, Grades 1-6 to new G2 to G7, and 1st to 4th year High School to Grades 8-11. When the time comes, Grade 12 will be added to complete the 6 years of mandatory secondary education.

In preparation for the new K to 12 curricula, Xavier University began offering a Bridging Program in SY 2013-2014. It is a one-month intensive course in Science, Math, Filipino and English, to prepare Grade 6 students for admission to Grade 8.

A similar bridging program was offered to Kindergarten 1 students last school year so that they can proceed to Grade 1.

What are the requirements for K students to proceed to new Grade 1?

In order for a child to be admitted to Grade 1, he/she must pass the entrance examination and must be 6 years old by November of the effective school year.



and pass a Bridging Program to prepare them for admission to Grade 8.

What is Senior High School?

Senior High school is comprised of the last two years of High School referred to as Grades 11 and 12.

What specializations/tracks will be offered in XU's Senior High School?

For now, XU will be offering two tracks of SHS, the Voc-Tech and Academic tracks. Voc-Tech track will be offered by CIT, while the Academic track will be offered at the Corrales Campus come 2016.

For the Academic track, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Business, Accountancy and Management (BAM), and the Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (HESS) specializations will be made available.

Will students choose specializations or will this be determined by assessment?

Students will undergo several assessments to determine their interests and strengths which should help students decide on their specialization. These will include an aptitude test, a career assessment exam, and an occupational interest inventory.

K to 12 GRADUATES

How will K to 12 help in ensuring employment for our graduates?

The K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum will be sufficient to prepare students for work. The curriculum will enable students to acquire Certificates of Competency (COCs) and National Certifications (NCs) in accordance with TESDA

Training Regulations. This will allow graduates to have middle-level skills and will offer them better opportunities to be gainfully employed or to become entrepreneurs. There will be a school-industry partnership to allow students to gain work experience while studying and to offer the opportunity to be absorbed by the companies.

What would be the assurance that K to 12 graduates will be employed?

National Certification levels will be harmonized with other countries to ensure success of the ASEAN 2015 vision. DepEd is also planning on entering into an agreement with business organizations, local and foreign chambers of commerce, and industries to ensure that graduates of K to 12 will be considered for employment. There will be a matching of competency requirements and standards so that 12-year basic education graduates will have the necessary skills needed by the labor market. Entrepreneurship will also be fostered in the enhanced curriculum, ensuring graduates can venture into other opportunities beyond employment.

How will the K to 12 Program help students intending to pursue higher education?

The K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum will be in accordance with the College Readiness Standards of CHED, which sets the skills and competencies required of K to 12 graduates who intend to pursue higher education.

What is XU's niche on the K to 12 program?

Besides the offer of quality education, XU will maintain its Ateneo brand through an enriched curriculum that reflects the Ignatian ideals of service,

magis (more) and *cura personalis* (care for the whole person), forming persons of competence, conscience and commitment.

I like this program but I'm worried about additional cost to families. How will government respond to this difficulty?

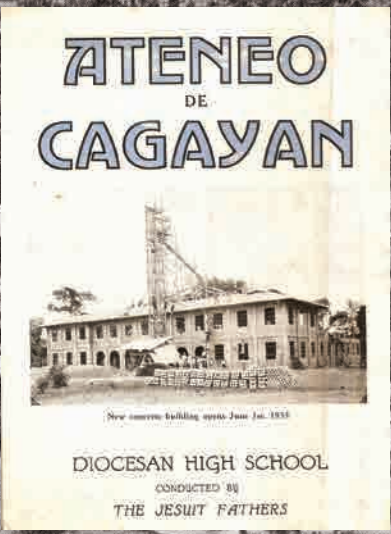
Kindergarten and 12 years of basic education is offered for free in public schools. There are additional indirect costs, but government agencies are collaborating to provide programs that will enable everyone access to quality education, especially to those with lesser means. Proposals such as the expansion of the Education Service Contracting (ESC) scheme under the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) and other cost-sharing arrangements are being developed by DepEd.

What cost may I expect from XU?

K to G10 tuition and fees are not significantly higher than current tuition and fees despite enhanced curricula. On the other hand, G11 and G12 will be billed per semester, much like tertiary. Rates will depend on track/specialization selected.

All this sounds very promising. Where can I get more information?

The Grade School, High School and CIT would be glad to give you more information. You may call 63 88 858 3116 loc 4410 (GS), loc 4411 (HS) or 63 88 309 8443 (CIT).



by Elisabeth B Enerio

Ateneo de Cagayan in its present Corrales campus after the bombing during World War II



Looking back at its eighty years of existence and seeing the celebration of its Ruby Jubilee, no one can deny that Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, fondly called XU, has been and is closely associated with Cagayan de Oro City.



The school and the city have grown hand in hand over the years and one cannot name Cagayan de Oro without mentioning Xavier University, and the reverse is equally true. Wherever you are in the Philippines or abroad, if you say you come from CDO, chances are that you will be told "Ah, is that where you find Ateneo de Cagayan?" or "I am an alumnus/a of Xavier University!" "Oh XU, in Cagayan de Oro!"

Associating an educational institution with mind and

intellectual activities is easy to notice, but to point out the correlation of education with heart is less obvious. This is what this story is about, to explore how Xavier University can be considered the mind and heart of Cagayan de Oro City.

At the time of its creation in 1933 as a High School for boys by Bishop James Hayes, SJ, Ateneo de Cagayan had only 17 students and Cagayan de Misamis was a municipality of less than 50,000 inhabitants. Both suffered during World War II, the school was

forced to close and the campus was destroyed along with most of the city.

The re-opening of the School after World War II really marked the beginning of the main period of the growth of Xavier at three levels—the Grade School, High School and College. From 1946 to the present, Xavier's student population multiplied almost 30 times. In 1946, the school had less than 500 enrollees while nowadays it has over 15,000. In 1958, it became the first Jesuit University

in the Philippines and the first university in Mindanao. Similarly, Cagayan became a city in 1950 and its population, from less than 50,000 after WWII, rose to almost half a million in the 21st century.



At the background: the fountain at the Gaston Park, Cagayan de Oro City's main plaza in 1965

XU: the Heart and Mind of Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao

The entwining of Xavier University and Cagayan de Oro is very obvious with the toponymy of the City showing the influence of two major Jesuit figures



Fr William Francis Masterson SJ, founder of the College of Agriculture, SEARSOLIN and the first cooperative in Mindanao



The Manresa Experimental Station in 1962



The Grade School and High School campuses in Pueblo de Oro

The newest addition to the XU campus, the Jose Ch Alvarez Technology Complex in Manresa, Upper Carmen



From its primary location in Burgos Street, in 1935, the school moved to Corrales Avenue at the end of Divisoria which became the active center of the city in the 1950s and 1960s. When the City expanded towards the South, Xavier University followed and new campuses were opened, first in Upper Carmen for the College of Agriculture and SEARSOLIN; then in Macasandig in 1970 for the primary and the intermediate schools; and then in Pueblo de Oro in 1998-1999. Today, the Pueblo Campus stands in the center of what is becoming

a booming, new Business Center District of Cagayan with the new subdivisions, modern commercial buildings and a shopping mall. The newest addition to the growing XU campus is the Jose Ch Alvarez Technology Complex also in Upper Carmen which opened in 2012 for students of the Center for Integrated Technologies.

The entwining of Xavier University and Cagayan de Oro is very obvious with the toponymy of the City showing the influence of two major Jesuit figures:

Archbishop James T Hayes, SJ, and Fr. William F. Masterson, SJ, the founder of the College of Agriculture and SEARSOLIN. The Hayes Street crosses the heart of the City from the river eastwards up to Saint John Vianney Seminary; the Masterson Drive goes from the river up to Lumbia, again following the pattern of Cagayan urban expansion.

The evolution of Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan from its creation to the present is seen as the result of a natural growth due to the influences of external and



The Grade School Macasandig campus



Most Rev James TG Hayes SJ, then bishop of Cagayan de Oro and founder of Ateneo de Cagayan in 1933

The Hayes Street crosses the heart of the City from the river eastwards up to Saint John Vianney Seminary; the Masterson Drive goes from the river up to Lumbia, again following the pattern of Cagayan urban expansion.



Liberal Arts students circa 1950

At the background: the Fuente de Oro at the Pueblo de Oro Business Park

internal factors. The main external factors were the demographic and economic situation of Northern Mindanao, the fluctuation and new demands of the labor market at the regional, national and recently international levels and the competition from other educational institutions which required XU to take up the challenge positively. The internal factors were dominated by the main objective of the School as can be seen in its Mission to provide Jesuit education for Mindanao; it reacted by opening new programs, introducing

modifications in curricula and teaching techniques, by purchasing new equipment and facilities and by making changes in the administration and personnel.

The population increase was due mainly to the demographic growth of Mindanao in the post war period and by the expansion of education in the Philippines in the past 80 years.

Ateneo de Cagayan, from a School dedicated to the complete development of men, eventually became an institution dominated

by women in the 21st century. Women constitute roughly 60% of the present population. Admission of women started at the College level after WWII, but it was not until 1998 that Basic Education became co-educational. The Faculty and the Administration evolved similarly. The majority of the Faculty and Administrators are now women, except for the top Administrators who are still the Jesuit Fathers.

In the tertiary level, there was a change in the distribution of the students. In the 1950s,

the students enrolled in Liberal Education courses; in the 1980s more students chose Commerce. In the past 3 decades, students chose courses which provided them with a job right after graduation. Hence, there was more interest in "professional" courses like Business Management, Nursing, Engineering, and Computer Studies than the usual Liberal Education. The School adjusted to the demands of the labor market that fluctuated very quickly.

XU: the Heart and Mind of Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao

In 1958, Ateneo de Cagayan was granted university status and was thenceforth called Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan.

pre-war objectives declared that Ateneo de Cagayan aimed: "... to develop the complete man—his intellectual, moral, and physical powers... The Jesuit educational system selects such studies as to equip a student to reach his full development; to lay a solid foundation for future careers in life. Special emphasis was placed upon character and training for citizenship. In this training, Religion plays an important role." (*Ateneo Catalogue, 1939*)

This same vision was pursued after WWII but emphasis was put on the Filipino character in the 1970s. These were the years when the Mission started as: "Xavier University is a Filipino, Catholic and Jesuit academic community dedicated to the integral development of the whole person." It mentioned social justice and insisted on the

The recent version, on the other hand, talked of the development of the integral person that Mindanao and the country needed. It stressed the pursuit of truth and excellence in the three functions of a university - teaching, research and community service. It included the contemporary idea of sustainable development; but, more importantly, it reiterated the linkages with the Society of Jesus and the importance of Ignatian spirituality. It concluded: "In sum, Xavier University seeks to form men and women of competence, conscience, and commitment in service of the Church and the Filipino people."

The overview of the evolution of the objectives of education at Xavier showed a move from a very classical type of Christian Liberal Education that relied

The realization of the objectives of the Jesuit Fathers can be seen in the life achievements of thousands of XU alumni and alumnae. Of course, people remember those who attained national and international public fame for their success in various fields of activities such as church, government, business, education, health, media, sports, etc. There was Fr Francisco R Demetrio SJ, who came back to Cagayan in the late fifties and founded the Museo de Oro. Fr Demetrio was among the first High School graduates, as were Bishop Honesto C Pacana SJ, (HS 1951), Fr Leo C Pabayo SJ and Fr Anthony C Pabayo SJ. Fr Antonio F Moreno SJ, the newly elected Jesuit Provincial of the Philippines, also graduated from XU. Among politicians, in the last elections of 2012, Cagayan de Oro Mayor Oscar S Moreno,

of Arts and Sciences, and Law School; and both served as Deans of XU College of Law (1963-1970 and 1993-2003 respectively).

More importantly, alumni are found among all types of occupations in Cagayan de Oro and beyond as skilled workers, technicians, teachers, engineers, medical doctors, nurses, entrepreneurs, bureaucrats and government employees. It was already noted in the 1970's that Xavier University's College of Education provided ¾ of the province and city's teachers. (*Crusader Yearbook, 1973*).

The role of XU in providing qualified labor force for a developing Northern Mindanao was stressed by Ambassador Michael Armacost in his address during the inauguration of the Engineering building on July 31, 1982. He said, "With the Region's rapid growth has come the

need for well trained technicians to guide the progress that industrialization can bring. It is the responsibility of universities to produce those who can assure that industrialization will serve man's needs... The University's role in keeping up with technological advances and with technology appropriate to local needs is essential.

"The construction of this center will assist Xavier University in fulfilling this mandate... The decision to construct this center is an indication of the pivotal role Xavier University plays in providing for this region's demand for competent engineers and skilled technicians." (*Kinaadman, 1983*)

The agreements with major economic players in the area like Del Monte Philippines, National Steel Corporation, Pilipinas Kao, Philippine Sinter

Corporation, CEPALCO, Nestle and others demonstrate the role of Xavier University in supplying a competent labor force.

The numerous Xavier University alumni who have participated because of their expertise and know how in making Cagayan de Oro and Region X one of the most progressive regions of the Philippines in the 21st century and their contributions to the local and national development deserve due recognition.

XU opened in the 1930s with a clear objective of propagating the Catholic faith in reaction to the growing influence of different Protestant denominations. Today, the university continues to maintain its Catholic identity and its Evangelical mission but it has become more ecumenical in its approach as seen through the increasing number of Muslim students and non-Catholic

students enrolling. However, for the past 80 years, Xavier has not only continued to keep its Catholic identity within its walls and among its students but also throughout the City through catechism done by different groups such as Sodalties and the Ateneo Catechetical Instruction League. Furthermore, the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception consecrated last September as the University Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is open to the public. It shows the commitment of the School in helping the Archdiocese of Cagayan to sustain Catholicism.

XU students with other participants of the Service Learning Program summit organized by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Asia Pacific (AJCU-AP) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2012.

One of the striking changes as the years went by was the diminishing presence of the Jesuit Fathers and therefore the laicization of Xavier. The absolute number of the Jesuits did not drastically diminish, but they did not grow in number to correspond with the increase of the population. Contrary to the early times when the majority of the Jesuit Fathers were Americans, today, they are mainly Filipinos.

A quick look at the different versions of the XU Mission and its objectives in the last eighty years reveals that the constant goal of Ateneo de Cagayan was to develop completely the student as a whole person following the educational Jesuit principles established in the Ratio Studiorum more than 400 hundred years ago by the Jesuit founder Ignatius of Loyola. But, a closer look shows that some modifications from the original mission and objectives were made to adjust to the needs of the changing times.

Some additions were put in order to meet the political, social and economic changes occurring in the country at the national and regional levels. The



| The Jesuit and lay administrators of Xavier University, 2013

significance of community service characterized by a preferential option for the poor. It gave importance to knowledge through liberal education, professional and research programs, to values through cultural courses and activities and service. It concluded: "The University desires to produce 'men and women for others' who will use their talents and skills for their neighbors, especially the most unfortunate and for God's greater glory." (*Basic Academic Policies, 1983*)

on the Classics which was very close to the Jesuit education given in the second half of the 19th century when the Jesuits came back to the Philippines, to a more modern education. More attention was given to sciences, professional courses and more commitment to social problems and the introduction of more contemporary concerns like preservation of the cultural heritage, patrimony and environment. In other words, it trailed modernization and globalization in a Filipino-Mindanaoan context.

Misamis Oriental Governor Yevgeny Vicente B Emano, his Vice-Governor Joey Pelaez and Congressman Rufus B Rodriguez are all alumni of Xavier.

Senator Aquilino Q Pimentel Jr was the Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City during the Marcos Administration, and later served as Cabinet member under Pres Corazon C Aquino, then as senator. Justice Romulo V Borja is Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals of the Philippines. Both are alumni of the XU Grade School, High School, College



High School Yearbook and recent photos of Fr Tony Moreno, the current Provincial of the Philippine Jesuits, and a Cagayanon from Nazareth village. Fr Bobby once joked that the answer to the question, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" is Fr Tony!

The University Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is located at the heart of the main campus



XU: the Heart and Mind of Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao



The XU Dramatics Guild stages "Song of Bernadette," 1959

The Corrales Campus has been for decades one of the main locations of important cultural events in the City, especially after the construction of the first gymnasium and the opening of the Museo de Oro. The yearly presentation of plays by the High School and College Students, concerts rendered by the Glee Club founded by Fr Antonio Cuna SJ, different sports events especially basketball games, Intramurals and Xavier Days festivities drew thousands of Cagayanons together to the University campus especially in the 50s and 60s. The popularity of TV and, nowadays, the Internet have slightly diminished the attraction but still the tradition remains and any cultural endeavor on campus through the initiatives of units such as the XCCA, the *Dulaang Atenista* and the Glee Club still draw a large number of outsiders to the Ateneo Campus.

events such as EDSA 2, Casino, Night Café, Impeachment, etc.

Several members of the XU community have been present in different units of the local governments, at different periods, in order to aid with their different capacities. With the establishment of the Governance and Leadership Institute in 2007,

Social Outreach (RSO), through their studies and programs have assisted in the development and improvement of the region. The Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (RIMCU), in particular, with its demographic and social researches, provide a reliable picture of local economic and social conditions.

The Ateneo Cooperative Credit Union (ACCU) was established by a small group of school employees and students in 1954, with the support of Fr William Masterson SJ, as the first cooperative in Mindanao. In the 1970s, it was renamed the First Community Credit Cooperative (FICCO) as it opened its memberships to the community at large. Through the years, it has expanded to become one of the largest Philippine cooperatives with thousands of members. FICCO was also responsible for organizing other cooperatives throughout Mindanao.

and Social Outreach unit under the School of Medicine, which built toilets and enhanced the distribution and quality of water.

In 1989, the Community Health Care Center (CHCC) was inaugurated; it is a symbol of the cooperation of the Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries and the College of Medicine. It was intended to provide free treatment and medicines to at least 150 poor and needy patients per day. Since its creation, the collaboration has moved out of the walls of the Center and now has a rolling clinic that enables the doctors to participate in immunization and prevention programs.

displaced by fire or volcanic eruption and political unrest. Yet, the most recent intervention of Xavier University following Tropical Storm Sendong may be considered the one with the greatest amplitude. XU-led Xavier Ecoville, located in Lumbia, is a settlement for 500 families affected by Sendong. Xavier Ecoville, according to Fr Roberto C Yap SJ, is intended to become a sustainable and healthy community where the different colleges of the University are involved for education, health and sanitation. Aside from homes, Xavier Ecoville has a Chapel of its own, a Day Care Center and a Multi-purpose Center to facilitate training for livelihood activities.

XU students express support for People Power, 1986

Former City Mayor Vicente Emano and incumbent City Mayor Oscar Moreno at the Mayoral Forum organized by the Research and Social Outreach Office designed to help voters make informed choices, May 2013



Meeting of the members of the original Ateneo Credit Union (1956-57) which is now the First Community Credit Coop (FICCO)

the University is now more able to directly help local governments of Region X improve the delivery of basic services to their constituents.

The Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (1957), the College (now School) of Business and Management, and recently, the Research and

More importantly, Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan demonstrates that it forms "Men and Women for others" in implementing social justice and in lending a hand to improve the lives of the needy Cagayanons as well as giving assistance on special occasions to victims of natural calamities.

The University, and more particularly the College of Agriculture, has been actively fighting malnutrition through the Food Technology Center that provides trainings and, with DOST-FNRI, produces complementary food blends for underweight children from 6 to 35 months old. Programs such as the Peri Urban Vegetable Gardens in association with Belgian Universities and the City Government helped provide better nutrition and additional income to local farmer beneficiaries as well as introduced new farming techniques to those who needed them. The sanitation of the families involved in the program improved through the work of the Sustainable Sanitation Center (SUSAN), now a Research

In terms of environment, the McKeough Marine Center has taken the lead for the organization of the Macalajar Bay Development Alliance that moves 14 local governments to work for the restoration of a marine environment that can support the people living along the Bay.

These are just some of the commitments of Xavier University to improve through different engagements the livelihood of the local communities. However, the heart of Xavier is particularly present in times of hardships, especially when disasters strike.

Very early in its history, the Corrales Campus had been used to give asylum to persons

For the past 80 years, Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan and Cagayan de Oro City grew side by side; the City largely provided the student population while the University provided qualified labor force. While the school did not always approve of the political development in the City, it always worked for its inhabitants especially during difficult times. The synergy between the two facilitated the progress of the Region. The Xavier community has put in action the motto of "Men and Women for others" by giving its heart and utilizing its mind to improve the quality of life of the Cagayanons and of the people of Northern Mindanao. ■

Wastewater treatment facility installed at Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement site for Typhoon Sendong survivors

Elisabeth B Enerio is the director of the Office of International Cooperation and Networking. She is also a faculty member of the History/International Studies/Political Science Department.

The Xavier Stage's Pre-Islamic adaptation of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," 2013

KKP volunteers collect used plastic bottles for their Green Heart project

Student volunteers brave the street soliciting donations for Typhoon Yolanda survivors





How do you celebrate 80 years?

At Xavier, the celebration of 8 decades of history was beautiful, enthusiastic and meaningful. Three events were at the center of the occasion: the blessing of the houses for Sendong survivors relocated to Xavier Ecoville, the conferment of an honorary doctorate in the humanities on Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio G Cardinal Tagle, and the renaming of the Immaculate Conception Chapel as University Church.

Hope Festival

The Ruby Jubilee kicked off with the blessing and turnover of more than 500 houses to their new owners – families displaced by the tragic floods of Sendong two years ago. “A new dawn has come for Xavier Ecoville,” said Fr Roberto “Bobby” Yap SJ at the event called “Dayun, Padayun: The Xavier Ecoville Hope Festival” on July 6. Xavier Ecoville is a resettlement community facilitated by Xavier University. It sits on a 5-hectare lot in uptown Lumbia donated by the school.

A slew of activities was prepared for the enjoyment of Xavier Ecoville residents and guests. There was a Freedom Wall, Face Paint and Henna stations,

ReCreate/Art Attack activities, Chalk Art, Origami Making, Family Bingo and Fun Games. There was also a Photobooth, which proved to be the most popular attraction, drawing a crowd that stretched throughout the Multi-purpose Center where it was located. A band from XU, Soundtable, played to provide music throughout the afternoon. The Showcase Night was packed with spectators. Residents of Xavier Ecoville and guests were entertained by performances given by Ecoville dance groups and by artists of XCCA.

Sky lanterns were released and fireworks shot up to light the night sky – a perfect metaphor

for the roots of Xavier Ecoville. This humble community was built on hope that was lit with the help of good people inspired by God’s grace, and this light remained shining through the darkness of their suffering with the perseverance characteristic of the Filipino people.



“A new dawn has come for Xavier Ecoville...”

MOMENTS of JOY

The XU Ruby Jubilee anniversary in prose and photos



MOMENTS of JOY



Conferment of honoris causa on Cardinal Tagle

Xavier University bestowed an honorary doctorate in the humanities on Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle in a special academic convocation on Aug 1 at the University's Immaculate Conception Chapel.

transmission of the faith. He bid XU to "go to the wells frequented by our people," just as Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman he met at a well and spoke to her about the life-giving water.

gave a video message as he was in Rome at that time attending the installation of Pope Francis. Cardinal Tagle was the only Filipino Cardinal-elect at the then recently concluded conclave. Fr Bobby referred to Cardinal Tagle as "a leader formed the Ateneo Way."



Cardinal Tagle talked of the Catholic Church's call to a New Evangelization for the

The Cardinal was also the Commencement Speaker during the academic convocation of Xavier University in March. He

"Go to the wells frequented by our people..."

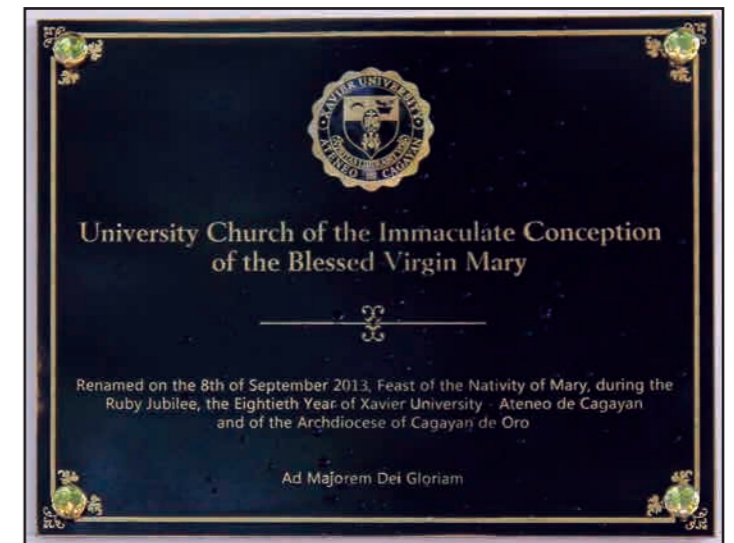


From Chapel to Church

Xavier University's Immaculate Conception Chapel was renamed the University Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sept 8, Feast of the Nativity of Mary. It was also the University's way of being one with the Local Church, which was also celebrating the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Cagayan de Oro. The first Bishop of Cagayan de Oro was James T G Hayes SJ who was also the founder of Ateneo de Cagayan in 1933.

temporary structure with sawali walls in the quadrangle where the statue of St Ignatius now stands. Since then, it underwent many improvements, such as the installation of the stained glass windows in 2003-2004 honoring Mary Immaculate, the Patroness of Xavier University and of the Philippines. Most notable is the lovely center panel depicting the Immaculate Conception.

A Marian liturgical concert by various university choirs including the high school preceded the

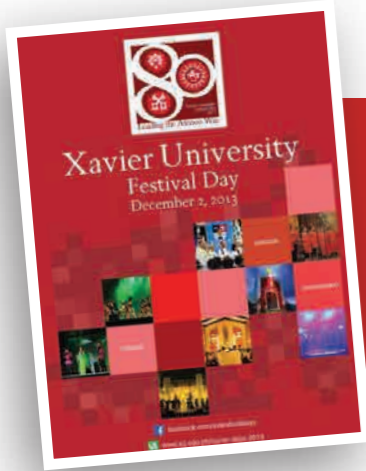


unveiling and blessing of the plaque bearing the new name of XU's main house of prayer as a University Church. Most Rev Antonio J Ledesma SJ DD, Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro, presided the Eucharistic Celebration.

The Immaculate Conception Chapel started out in 1946 as a



The Ruby Jubilee celebration ignited the school's ruby passion and warmth. It was an affirmation that the University is and always will be at the service of the local church and the people. That is how we form leaders the Ateneo Way.



XU celebrates Feast of St Francis Xavier

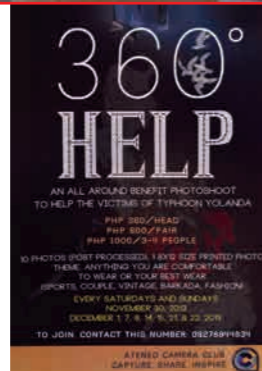
Xavier University held its Xavier Festival Day (XFD) in honor of its patron St Francis Xavier. Although traditionally celebrated for a number of days, this year's XFD was cut short to a day, Dec 2, to sympathize with storm victims in the Visayas.

Celebration for a cause

The much toned-down XFD allowed the Xavier University community to donate the savings from the celebration to Tabang Visayas. The various activities also served as avenues to gather more donations for the storm victims. Audiences were encouraged to give in kind and volunteers collected cash donations. Many student organizations also sold items with messages of hope, and buyers were given the chance to donate the items they purchased (such as a pair of slippers) to the victims.

Songs about faith and love were performed during the opening program and several university bands dedicated their songs to the people affected by ST Yolanda. The University also lit up a tree of hope along the main lane, a beautiful belen courtesy of the Alumni Affairs Office, and the University Church. Candles were lit, as well, at the closing program.

"Let us celebrate in solidarity with and for our suffering sisters and brothers who are victims of the worst natural calamity that has devastated our country," said Fr Roberto Yap, XU President, in his memo on XFD, which he described as "significantly simplified."



Since news of the devastation broke out, XU has been mobilizing relief efforts for the people affected by the super typhoon. Besides accepting in kind and cash donations, it sent its Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) Team to Northern Cebu from Nov

20-26. The team was composed of students, faculty and staff who carried out missions in health, sanitation, relief, psycho-social, and post-disaster needs assessment. A separate group was also sent to Palo, Leyte for medical and psycho-social response from Nov 29-Dec 4. Yet

another group went to Tacloban from Dec 16-21. The XU DRRM Team was officially launched at the XFD.

80 years

Still, there was occasion for celebration as the University turned 80 years old. While keeping the fanfare low-key, XFD, which had Smart as event partner, retained some of its signature programs such as Kinauyokan, a neo-ethnic dance competition among the undergraduate colleges and high school. This year, the participants got creative in interpreting the history of XU from when it was founded in 1933 until its ruby jubilee this year. The Center for Integrated Technologies was proclaimed the grand winner, keeping the crown for the third straight year.

Another much-loved XFD event is the Christmas Caroling Contest. The spirit of the season echoed through the walls of the University Church as chorale groups from the different colleges and the high school entertained the audience with their musicality and choreography. The School of Education outdid all the other performers to claim the top prize.



Student bands also got together to perform eight decades of music. The University main lane was transformed into a concert ground as people gathered to listen and groove to music from the '30s to the current decade. Even teachers formed their own rock band and performed some of the Beatles' classics.



Those more inclined to the arts had their fill of chalk art and poster-making. There were trivia, Minute-to-Win-It games and exhibition basketball games. The soccer field teemed with boys and girls in colorful costumes who showed off their dance routines during the field demonstration. Science films from the Goethe-Institut were screened at the Audio Visual rooms 6 and 7 from 10 am to 5 pm. Dulaang Atenista, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, performed improvisational theater at Audio Visual Room



8, and The Xavier Stage mounted their production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Little Theater.

The finals night of Himig Atenista, featuring original compositions of XU students, capped XFD. The students brandished their talent in writing and performing music that communicated who Atenistas are and what it means to be "persons for others." Cat Project's "Nagdaang Dekada" won the top prize followed by "Ateneo Tara Na" by John

Fernandez, and "Code of Conduct" by Old Time Fling. Smart Communications' Texters' Choice Award and Magic 89.3's Listeners' Choice Award were both given to "Now It's Time," by Heartbeat, a group composed of Medicine students.

As the celebration came to a close, Fr Yap commented that it had been a day of faith. "In faith, we heard the cries of our suffering brothers and sisters, and in faith we responded. It is in faith that we believe that love is stronger than a super typhoon."

Icon of Mission, Passion and Compassion

December 3, the actual Feast Day of St Francis Xavier, was declared a University holiday. St Francis Xavier, whom the school is named after, is considered the principal Patron of Missions. He crossed the oceans from Europe to Asia to spread the gospel and propagate the Christian faith.

At the opening mass of XFD, which was preceded by a wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of St Francis Xavier, Fr Yap described Xavier as an icon of "mission, passion and compassion" – the slogan of this year's XFD.

"Xavier pursued six missionary journeys," narrated Fr Yap. "These were journeys that took him immense distances by sea and foot...Xavier went to a place, did what was immediately necessary and later sent other missionaries to remain for a longer period to continue what he had begun."

Xavier also showed extreme compassion for the poor and the sick. "Xavier took no notice of his own pains, forgetting them in work for others," said Fr Yap. He was a true example of what it means to be compassionate.

"Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless."

Besides his compassion, Francis Xavier was a man of passion. In describing his missionary work, Fr Yap said that Xavier was "filled with passion to go far and wide, to go to the ends of the earth to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ." The question for us is not only "What have I done for Christ?" or "What am I doing for Christ?" but more importantly, "What more can I do for Christ?"

This year's celebration of the Feast of St Francis Xavier has been a call for the renewal and deepening of XU's ideals of mission, passion and compassion. As Fr Yap put it, "May our celebration of the feast of our patron during this time of natural calamity be an affirmation of our faith in the God who suffers with us and is always near." ■

by Emeterio F Villanueva Jr

SCHOLARSHIPS
A Four-Year Tuition Scholarship in High School — Emeterio Villanueva, Jr.
A One-Year Tuition Scholarship in High School — Leo Cervantes

MEAL AWARDS
Gold and Silver
Emeterio Villanueva, Jr. Sixth Grade Gold
Leo Cervantes Sixth Grade Silver
...
Before Ateneo was elevated to being a University, it was already well-known, famous and popular. Why? Because its first rector, Fr James Edward Haggerty SJ, and its pioneering alumni made it so. By its name alone it was already prestigious, being a sister school of the Alma Mater of Jose Rizal, the famous Ateneo de Manila.



The author with wife, Fe Nadal Villanueva

Alela Mateca
Santiago D. Catubog
Jose A. Dalalas



In 1937, Ateneo de Cagayan (AdeC) turned out its first HS graduates and from this class was born the 1st Jesuit alumnus Fr Agustin Sagrado SJ, the first Mindanaoan pilot of the Philippine Air Force Col Vicente Factura Adecera, the first mining engineer Edgardo Neri Marfori, the first lawyer Atty Digno Roa, the administrator of SSS Atty Ramon Gaviola, and the favourite student of Fr Haggerty and later the school librarian Jose Factura Villanueva. On page 91 of the book Guerilla Padre of Mindanao during the war, the author said:

“The library books and laboratory equipment were safely guarded by good old Joe, faithful as ever. When Cebu was invaded, he was there 150 miles away from home by banca on a mission for me. He came back undismayed. He was in Camiguin island when Cagayan was invaded, again for me. He got safely home through the Japanese with every centavo I owned in his pocket. Later, it was he who got me home to a doctor, after a horse kicked me unconscious on a lonely trail four hours from Talakag. “He and others like him are one reason why I am happy to work in the Philippines.”

After the war, 1945-1947, Fr Haggerty rebuilt the school from ashes. He went to Negros, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao to campaign to his former Ateneo de Manila alumni to send their sons as boarders to Ateneo

de Cagayan. That's why most of the boarders were sons of hacenderos and well to do and, at that time, AdeC was the only Jesuit school to accept “internos.” And families such as the Montilibanos, Lacsons, Maravilla, Javelosa, Javellana, Montenola, Ledesma, Pido, Velez, Tevez, Cuenco, etc sent their sons here.

In 1949, the blessing of the new wooden auditorium-gym was witnessed by Congressman Cesar Fortich, main donor, Engr Barker and other VIPs, with the whole student body. Great events took place here, basketball games, debates, concerts of band and glee club, public boxing and student Sunday Masses where Fr Rector Cervini would repeatedly say, “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?” National teams from Manila and Cebu came to compete: Ateneo Blue Eagles led by Captain ball Luis “Moro” Lorenzo, FEU with “Flying Carpet” Fely Fajardo, San Carlos University from Cebu led by Lauro Mumar against our own Blue Crusaders helmed by Louie “Bugs” Rudriguez. Melan Adeva, Ramon Ledesma, Antonio “Chloe” Gaston, Mario Noble, Falcon, Zamora, Javelosa and others competed here.

Dramatic annual plays, training ground for future actors and stars packed the gym with audiences. “Macbeth,” with Rufino Hechanova who later on became the secretary of Finance of President Macapagal, Enrique

Rivera and others; “Cyrano de Bergerac,” with Santiago Garcia as lead, Manuel Asencio as Roxan; “Whirlwind of God” with Federico del Puerto known as “Errol Flynn of the Philippines” taking the role of St Francis Xavier; “Pirates of Penzance,” with Tony Pido and Jun Villanueva leading. Concerts, yes. Our band composed of 20-25 musicians trained by Mr David Rago and conducted by Dean Ernesto Tamparong played compositions of Chopin, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Santiago and other world famous composers. There were also violin recitals by Mario and Ramon Ortiz. The famous Glee Club of Fr Tony Cuna played American Folk songs Oklahoma, Blue Moon, and jazz music, Spanish Air Malaguiña, Maria Dolores, Filipino Kundiman, Pakiusap, Bituin Marikit, etc.

These were also the years when budding literary talents sprouted, such as the witty Leoncio Yap, later the ghostwriter of Francisco Tatad, Francisco Montevirgen,

Mario Macaranas of the Manila Times, reporter “Cip” Apolinario of the Chronicle, poet Senador Sabunod, our own classmate Tony Mercado and others.

We spent two memorable years of our grade school here and four years in the High School, years which were the happiest and most memorable times of our lives. These years were full of intensive compositions, poetry by Shakespeare, Longfellow, etc, US and European, Oriental and Philippine History, Modern and Ancient History, Rerum Novarum and Quadragesimo Anno and other social studies, Intramurals between sections, strict military discipline in PMT and Scouting. This is where I also spent six years of my college life—four years in AB majoring in Natural Science and two years in Agriculture as a working student.

I must say here that I could not pay my Alma Mater, which had trained and molded me as a true Christian gentleman, which gave

me the most precious values in life in the form of true Christian beliefs and which made me a soldier in the army of Christ and a devoted son of Mother Mary.

Aside from my parents, I owe everything to my Alma Mater. She opened the windows of my mind not only to things material but moral and spiritual as well.

At this juncture, allow me to express my deepest and warmest gratitude to our first Rector Fr James Edward Haggerty; to our second Rector Fr Andrew Cervini, to Fr Francisco Araneta and Fr James McMahan; to Fr William Masterson SJ who designated me as his secretary, driver and overall assistant in the pioneering years of the College of Agriculture; to our Jesuit professors Fr Antonio Bautista, Fr Gorospe and our beloved Fr Robert Cunningham, our 3-A moderator; to our lay professors Mr Ezequel Valmores (Math), Mr Manuel Quisumbing (Science), Mr Pio Roa (Philippine History), Mr Aristarco (Spartan)

Llenderal, Mr Valentin Camacho (Physics), Mr Boniao, Mr Baban, Mr Mortel, Mr Tagalog and all the others. I shall always be grateful to them.

And to my classmates who were very cooperative and patient in all activities we did, in high school parties, in competitions and even as Golden and Diamond Jubilarians, namely Manrico Dael, the late Atty Raul “Loloy” Gabor, Eddie Alejado, Rene Abejo, Virgil Soriano, Nandy Pineda, Jesus Garamay and all the others, I am most thankful.

And to all who one way or another had helped me as had Nene Pimentel, Antonio Galla, Nandy Pineda and Anastacio Jun Limbo, my heartfelt thanks.

And last but not the least, to my family, my wife Fe, daughters Marie Gay, Juniefer, Maricel and son “Cocoy” Emmanuel, my love to you all. ■

the GREAT

Mr Emeterio F Villanueva Jr was born in 1933, the same year the Ateneo de Cagayan was founded. He finished his Grade School and High School at the Ateneo de Cagayan where he graduated valedictorian in 1949 and 1953 respectively. With a full scholarship, he took up AB and graduated in two years and a half. He was then hired by Fr William F Masterson SJ during the hard pioneering years of the College of Agriculture as his lone secretary, office librarian, store keeper of the Sodality cooperative, driver, caretaker of Manresa Farm and, above all, his shock absorber of frustrations. Villanueva received the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2003.

PROGRAM

Selection — Ateneo Band
Elocution Contest — HORATIUS by Thomas B. Macaulay

1. Stanza I to IX — Leo Cervantes
2. Stanza X to XVIII — Jose Martinez
3. Stanza XIX to XXVII — Jose Balaba
4. Stanza XXVIII to XXXVI — Pedro Gabutina
5. Stanza XXXVIII to XLIV — Candido Flor
6. Stanza XLV to LII — Inocencio Pabua

Solo — “Beautiful Dreamer” — Reuben Cua
Processional March — Ateneo Band

**ENTRANCE OF THE GRADUATES
FACULTY AND GUESTS OF HONOR**

Chorus: “Song To Our Lady Mediatrix of all Graces of Lipa” - Ateneo Grades

Salutatory — Leo Cervantes
Piano Selection — (Minuet in G) — Hernando Pineda, Jr.
Valedictory — Emeterio Villanueva, Jr.
Double Quartette — “Liebestraum” — Selected Pupils
Presentation of the Graduates by — Rev. J. V. Mc Fadden, S.J. — Dean of Studies

Assisted by Mr. Francisco Galarrita, Head Teacher

Awarding of DIPLOMAS, SCHOLARSHIPS and MEDALS by The Rev. J. Edward Haggerty, S. J., Rector

Commencement Address — Rev. J. Edward Wasil, S. J.
Graduation Song — “Alma Mater Song” — Graduates
Ateneo Song — Ateneo Band
Recessional — Ateneo Band

Candidates for Graduation

Isidro Aban
Reynaldo Abejo
Anselmo Abejuela
Antonio Antonio
Fedencio Beja
Julian Castanos
Rolando Cecilio
Leo Cervantes
Lorenzo Cocjin
Domingo Comanca
Fernando Gaabucayan
Raul Gabor
Pedro Gabutina
Melchor Gican
Carmelo Karagdag
Tomas Larsen
Genaro Ledesma
Romeo Lumbre
Jose Martinez
Carlos Mercado
Jose Montilla
Emilio Murtola, Jr.

Pompeo Nolasco
Inocencio Padua
Cenon Paderanga
Hernando Pineda, Jr.
Albino Fivera
Antonio Roa
Gerardo Roa, Jr.
Saluatorian Tomas Roales
Montano Sabanal, Jr.
Segismundo Sison
Virgil Soriano
Rolando Tangpus
Godofredo Tantiogco
Candido Tirona
Manuel Torres
Antonio Varela
Augusto Vasquez, Jr.
Teogenes Velez Jr.
Emeterio Villanueva, Jr.
Armando Villegas
Gregorio Waban
Paul Wutrich
Eutropio Zayas



XCCA heightens commitment to Filipino identity with MetamorphoSix

by Stephen Pedroza

Redefining Culture and Arts METAMORPHOSIX XCCA's 6th Cultural Season

In the face of globalization, being competitive must also mean being adept in our own culture, being able to hail it to the world as a treasure etched in our identity as Filipinos.

It is the Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts' (XCCA) battle cry to boost and constantly nurture not just the Cagayan de Oro City but the Mindanao cultural and performing arts setting.

"When we globalize, it doesn't mean we have to lose our identity," says Hobart Savior, XCCA director.

With the emphasis on the Center's role in engaging Ateneans in cultural and artistic endeavors, Savior says, "A graduate of Xavier must become more prepared for a multicultural environment; he needs to be equipped with knowledge of his own culture, a sense of pride and love of country.

"When he knows his own identity, he will not be an outcast or lost because he is grounded in his own culture. There will be understanding and he becomes more sensitive to other cultures."

Xavier Magazine looks back on the programs and productions of XCCA's 6th Cultural Season, "MetamorphoSix," highlighting artistic excellence and cultural education.

Literature as therapy

"ARTEKULTURA 6: Panitikan, Kultura at Kalusugan" held in September is one of XCCA's staple programs for cultural education. It is supported by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Since 2008, it has exhibited works of selected artists in visual arts, film, theater and literature, among others. For 2013, XCCA anchored health to the program, using children's literature as a tool for releasing stress and anxieties for a healthier state of being.

Winners of the prestigious Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, Dr Luis Gatmaitan, a noted writer of children's books, and Dr Ma Elena Paulma, an XU teacher and Executive Assistant to the University President, were the resource speakers on literature as a form of therapy "to heal childhood issues."

Playwriting

Aimed at establishing a playwriting development program in Mindanao, Sulat Dula 3, a bi-annual playwriting workshop was held in October. Writer's Bloc, the group of playwrights behind the Virgin Labfest frontlined this project.

Sulat Dula 3 brought together seasoned playwrights, Dr Steven Patrick Fernandez, Rodolfo 'Rody' Vera and Prof Layeta Bucoy. The participants went through workshops conducted by the resource playwrights and submitted a short one act play at the end of the event.

Yamug 6

Yamug 6, a culture-based education symposium, also transpired in October. More than 100 students from different schools in the city, including from the Caraga region, attended the event. The topics and speakers were "Philippine Culture and the Arts – Effective Tools for Teaching and Learning" by Prof Ricamela Palis from Colegio de San Juan de Letran, "Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education in the Philippines" by Dr Jovy M Peregrino of University of

the Philippines- Diliman, and "Mindanao Folk Literature- A Cultural Wealth and Knowledge" by Dr Christine Godinez-Ortega of Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT). Discussions like these are efforts of XCCA to strengthen the University's identity as a Filipino institution.

Cultural dances

XCCA's 6th cultural season was also marked with presentations of cultural dances from various elementary, high school and tertiary schools in Cagayan de Oro City. They came together for Sulyap Sayaw 2, spearheaded by the XU Cultural Dance Troupe (XUCDT), in November. The Sulyap Sayaw repertoire featured dances such as Pandanggo sa Ilaw and Tinikling for the Barrio Suite (or segment), Jota Mocadeña and Putritos for the Principalia Suite, Dugso and Kinugsikkugsik for the Lumad Suite, and Kazuduratan and Singkil for the Muslim Suite.

Music to remember

Xavier Philharmonia showcased a two-hour grand performance, "Music to Remember: A Recital on Strings and Keys" featuring four ensemble pieces, eight piano solos, one piano duet, one instrumental triplet performance,

one guitar solo, as well as an ensemble encore number.

Together with their artistic director, Joshua Arrabaca, and concertmaster, Jan Rupert Alfeche, the group filled the XU Little Theater with memorable film soundtracks and well-loved classical compositions. The recital also featured soloists from the XU Glee Club and introduced new members of Xavier Philharmonia.

Showstoppers at the Akapela Open

The XU Glee Club Showstoppers made it to the finals of the Akapela Open, a contemporary a cappella ensemble competition dubbed to be the first of its kind in the country, held on Oct 30 at the Meralco Theater. The Music School of Ryan Cayabyab, in cooperation with the PLDT-Smart Foundation and One Meralco Foundation, spearheaded the project for the appreciation of vocal harmony performances and promotion of learning opportunities for singers and arrangers.

Film festivals

Film fanatics were treated to two foreign films festivals, namely: the Goethe Institut Scientific Film Festival and the Japan Film Festival- Overcoming the Disaster: Gratitude from Japan to the World.

The Goethe Institut Scientific Film Festival featured short films about disasters, climate change and human interventions causing environmental degradation. These films were "Catalyst: Plastic Oceans and Tree Deaths," "GreEnvironment" and "Climate Wars," among others.

These were shown during the Xavier University Festival Day in December.

The other film fest was held in September. It presented movies on how the Japanese dealt with the aftermath of the great tsunami that hit their country, their rebuilding efforts and their resiliency.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Xavier Stage, a resident repertory company of XU, staged a pre-Islamic adaptation of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Cebuano from Sept 21-27, as the company's opening production for its 3rd Theatre Season, and "Realizing Shakespeare," from Dec 2-8 as fundraising for Yolanda-ravaged communities. A Midsummer Night's Dream garnered positive reviews from critics and audiences for its timeless Shakespearean substance fused with Maranao culture and folklore, and for its meticulous, beautifully-mastered semiological dramaturgy.

1st Ateneo Theater Festival

Xavier University's Dulaang Atenista hosted the first-ever Ateneo Theater Festival on Nov 20-23, 2013 as one of the highlights of their 25th anniversary celebration. The event drew theater companies from Ateneo de Manila, Ateneo de Davao, Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu and Xavier University High School.

Dulaang Atenista staged David Ives' "All in the Timing,"

a collection of five vignette plays chronicling the possibilities and twists of interpersonal encounters. Ateneo De Manila's Tanghalang Ateneo presented Rolando Tinio's "The Boxes," a play about terrorism and oppression. Ateneo de Davao's Teatro Humanidades mounted a timely campaign after Super Typhoon Yolanda with Noy Narciso's "Shift Happens" on the consequences of human-induced climate change. The Xavier Stage (TXS) brought to life Layeta Bucoy's "Doc Resurrection: Gagamutin ang Bayan" about politics and corruption. The Xavier University High School also staged an excerpt of their production of Al Santos' "Ang Sistema ni Propesor Tuko."

Revamped Museo de Oro

A more interactive and contemporary Museo de Oro will re-open in time for the 2014 City fiesta, following the renovations in the museum's interior and exterior designs.

Under the curatorship of Dr Erlinda M Burton, the Center plans to feature a special corner for the collection of Fr Francisco R Demetrio SJ, author of numerous books on myths and symbols of Philippine culture. Meanwhile, the "digitization" of archives is ongoing. XCCA hopes that the changes in the museum will engage more Kagay-anons, especially the youth, to look back on the rich history of the city and appreciate our treasured culture and artifacts. ■



Sneak peek to the 2014 cultural season

In 2014, the Center commits to provide a more vibrant year for arts as TXS will stage Titus Andronicus, CINEMAGIS- 6th Digital Short Film Festival in Northern Mindanao from January 27-31 and Cinema Rehiyon on February 19-22, among other events.

"Our cultural initiatives have grown. We offer a plurality of arts, not just in CDO but in Mindanao," says Savior, adding that cultural opportunities must be sustained for educational growth. What better way to promote our Filipino identity than crafting artistic collaborations and presentations that will always remind us of how rich and diverse our culture is. After all, as Savior states, "Art is the visible precursor of culture."

Recalling the massive destruction and remembering the weeping woman at the entrance of the Palo Cathedral, I cannot help but ask the existentialists' questions...

A recollection of our mission to Leyte

by Michael M Acenas



The preparations

Embarking on a mission to a disaster afflicted area takes a great deal of preparation both internal and external. Internal preparation means being equipped with the necessary skills, and a wide-open attitude toward discomforts and surprises. Externally, it means preparing the budget, establishing contact persons in the mission area, composing a team, finalizing the schedule, getting tetanus shots, and organizing pre departure meetings and orientations.

The idea for a Xavier University team to sail for a mission to Leyte was actually conceived four days before Typhoon Yolanda hit the Visayas. While Yolanda was brewing in the Pacific, a group of XU volunteers and staff was stranded for some hours in Tagbilaran City due to typhoon Wilma. The team just came from the town of Loon, Bohol to give medical and psycho social assistance to an earthquake stricken barangay in Cuasi, Loon.

Our relatives and friends on Facebook were updating us on the direction of Wilma

and the oncoming super typhoon Yolanda. At that time, Victoria Melissa Pulido, a team member from the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana (KKP) office prophesied about the impact of the typhoon and then set the dates for our possible mission. Ideally, psycho social support comes to a disaster area about three weeks after relief assistance has been given to the survivors. So, it was Ms Pulido who suggested the dates to be anytime between Nov 29 and Dec 5.

Typhoon Yolanda came. True enough, the magnitude of devastation was unimaginable. Just like what we did for the survivors of typhoon Pablo in Cateel and Baganga, Davao Oriental in December 2012 and then for the earthquake survivors in Bohol in October 2013, we called for a greater number of volunteer medical doctors and counsellors for medical and psycho social support for Yolanda survivors. After three days of sending text messages to former students and friends, a good number of doctors,

faculty and staff representing various formation units such as Campus Ministries, KKP, Mission and Ministry, Guidance and Counselling, First Year Formation Program and the School of Medicine responded to the invitation. The final number of volunteers was 33, consisting of 18 faculty/staff members, 7 physicians, 6 students and 2 security guards.

The mission areas of Palo and Tanauan, Leyte were recommended by Ms Myrna Siose, a pastoral worker with the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro who did an area mapping, and Mr Ariel Tecson, a former XU guidance counsellor and a native of Tanauan. It was pre-arranged that the receiving parties in the areas would be parishes there.

As a precautionary measure to perceived health hazards, the team submitted to an anti tetanus vaccination at the city health center. The psycho social team underwent skills retraining with Dr Joey Jegonia as resource person.



The route

From Cagayan de Oro, we took a ferry to Cebu, arrived early morning after a night's travel, and took a fast craft to Ormoc. At noon, the team had safely arrived in Ormoc City. Tattered covered walks, roofless buildings, crumpled ceilings lying on the ground and debris greeted us upon entering the port. It was a good thing that commercial activity had resumed in the city.

Traveling from Ormoc to Palo took another two hours by van. All the towns we passed by from Ormoc to Palo had suffered from the fury of the super typhoon. Houses made of light materials had become rubble. The mountain ranges in the far distance had turned into brown barren mountains. We could see people assembling along the road waiting for relief goods, children extending their hands for coins from passing vehicles.

It was almost dark when the group arrived in Palo. Desolate scenes welcomed us. Most houses along the highway had been flattened. Only a few people could be seen along the road. The Cathedral which was said to have been newly renovated, was now roofless. At the entrance of the Cathedral, I saw a woman weeping. I wish I had gotten the chance to know her story.

The mission

Our group split into two. One team went to Tanauan. My team went to Barangay Pawing, Palo. Each team was composed of 17 members. After a night and a day's travel by boat and by land, we arrived at a parish in Pawing and was welcomed by the assistant parish priest Fr Jhun Carreon. He permitted us to place our tents inside their roofless church. With our assembled tents, the place of worship of the community was reduced to our camping site. Through the roofless church, we could gaze up the evening skies and watch the beautiful constellations of stars. The absence of electricity magnified the beauty of the skies

as if no storm had happened three weeks ago.

Then the actual mission began. For team Palo, the first area was Barangay San Fernando. It was near the coast and the historic Leyte landing site of Gen Douglas McArthur. The reported number of deaths and missing persons was high in this place because the residents did not only battle winds but also contended with the storm surge. While adults and children waited in line for a medical check-up, we organized them into small groups for the psychological first aid. As the mission progressed that day, we found out that almost ninety percent of the residents in the area had fled their destroyed

houses. Thus, only the few who had chosen to stay received our services. The second day of mission was spent at the parish.

The other team that went to Tanauan covered five Barangays, namely: Solano, San Miguel, Canramos, Licod & Camiri. Teams Palo and Tanauan attended to a total of 702 patients for the medical check-up and 332 individuals for the psychological first aid. On the fourth day, the two teams reunited in Palo before travelling back to Ormoc. After a couple of days of not having anything cold to eat or drink, everyone was excited to eat ice cream and drink iced coke as we went on while carrying our different stories of mission.

The big questions

In less than two years, we have tested and proven how vulnerable we are to disasters. We thought that Sendong was the worst, yet there was Pablo, then the earthquake that shook the Visayas, particularly Bohol, and, as if those were not enough, Yolanda came.

Recalling the massive destruction and remembering the weeping

woman at the entrance of the Palo Cathedral, I cannot help but ask the existentialists' questions: where was God? Why me/us? Why does God allow this to happen? Why is there so much suffering? How do we find meaning in all these? When will it end? How do we start again? People who suffer ask those same questions. It is questions like these that broaden our understanding of our reality.

And while it might be consoling to find deeper meaning and answers to our vulnerabilities, at this moment, the questions are far more important than the answers. ■

Michael Acenas is a campus minister and erstwhile editor of Cardoner, the official magazine of the Campus Ministries Office.



Xavier magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

Research and Social Outreach Special Issue | December 2013



Paying It Forward

Contents

4 PCRA: driving factor to keep Macajalar Bay clean and thriving

5 XU Med and SuSan's engagements for 2013

6 Xavier University Engineering Resource Center: The First Five Years and Beyond

7 Heeding Mother Nature: Strengthening the Cagayan de Oro River Basin

8 Upholding Resiliency: Harnessing barangays for disaster risk reduction management

Xavier magazine

EDITORIAL STAFF

Project Editor: Vanessa Gorra
Graphic Designer: Wendel Abejo
Contributors: Elisabeth Enerio, Ernesto Villanueva, Stephen Pedroza, Michael Acenas, Dulce Dawang
Copyreader: Lennie K Ong

Catalina H Gaite
Director, Communications Office

RSO Magazine

Project Coordinator: Arniel Daluz
Writers: Evans Yonson, Mary Louise Dumas, Charisse Salarda, Dexter Lo, Pilar Reyes, Angela Bernice Cabildo, Igl Diputado, Robert de la Serna, Joan Jamisolamin
Editor: Mary Louise Dumas

Photo credits: Niccu Bagonoc, Emeterio Villanueva Jr, Terence Maceren
The Crusader Yearbook, Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts, Office of Student Affairs, Alumni Affairs Office, Communications Office Archive
Research and Social Outreach



12 Cover Story

Cover Story 13

PAYING IT FORWARD

"No governing entity is more than the people themselves." —Rafael Guerrero, Mayor of Malaybalay

The XU DRRM team was... [The rest of the text is a truncated version of the article content from the image]

10 Even without the storm: The XU DRRM story

14 Project Twin Phoenix: Enabling the Cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, the provinces of Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental to Cope with Climate Change

15 XU-GLI Going Full Force Ahead



published by
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
Room 101, Campion Hall
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan
9000 Cagayan de Oro City
(+6388) 858-3116 loc 3324

Send your stories (maximum of 750 words) to commgroup@xu.edu.ph.



NOW BREWING growing in Coffee Bukidnon

by Robert R de la Serna

“I

fit’s going to rain, expect an uphill struggle.” Our driver Edgar worried as he switched on the windshield wiper to sweep tiny beads of rain. From inside the van, it was difficult to see if a downpour was imminent—this despite our headlights slicing through the stillness of the Maramag-Maradugao Road, which we were navigating at 3 a.m. The ‘uphill struggle’ is a private joke, a reminder of the trip we—my project staff and a group of DevCom students—made a year ago to upland Sitio Batangason in Lantapan, where our van got stuck in mud during our slippery ascent to visit a cadre of coffee growers and to video document their farming experiences.

Amid the gloomy weather of Bukidnon at this time of the year, we dreaded a repeat of this experience in an activity that would now take us to another cluster of coffee growers in Pigtauran—an upland barangay that lords secret below it: the majestic Lake Napalit, a 36-hectare body of water that laps the foot of the Kalatugan Range in central Bukidnon.

At 4 a.m., we arrived in Barangay Barandias at a crossroad some ten kilometres

away from the lake. We met up with Ian, the motorcycle-riding marketing officer of the Diocese of Malaybalay Social Action Center (DSAC) who would double as our guide. We searched the heavens for signs of comfort: the stars had remained hidden but the drizzle had stopped. We continued to race towards our destination before the break of dawn. But, just when we were about to enter the village, at the foot of a hill, we halted on our track to face the very thing we dreaded most: deep impassable muddy trail! There would have been no way for our vehicle to negotiate this had we not made prior arrangement with our village host to send their monstrous ten-wheeler truck, which—at the nick of time—came to tow us safely past this quagmire.

Ah, such are the hurdles—and thrills!—that some students and teachers occasionally encounter in the conduct of area visits to far flung farming communities that the XU FARM Project facilitates.

Short for Xavier University - Farmer Alliances for Resource Strengthening and Marketing, the XU FARM Project is a partnership project with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), an international non-

governmental organization that has engaged the university in an agroenterprise promotion program aimed at boosting small farmers’ competitiveness in the agriculture value chain. Underlying this push for competitiveness is the need for improvement in farming productivity and reduced vulnerability to climate change through research and capacity building. The university’s Research and Social Outreach (RSO) Unit has thus organized a multidisciplinary research and extension program that builds into the academic curriculum and training of students and faculty members to encourage them to produce research-based outputs that would contribute to the capacity building and agroenterprise development of small farmers in Mindanao. This, too, is in line with its thematic area that pushes the promotion of food security in the island.

Overseeing and tying cohesively the engagements of various departmental and college-based units is the Kristohanong KatilingbansaPagpakabana (KKP), which administers the Collaborative Service Learning Program (CSLP) in its bid to strengthen the participatory collaboration between students and teachers, and

between the academe and farmer beneficiaries, following a mentor-mentee learning approach.

In the past year of project implementation, the CSLP has, for instance, engaged the College of Agriculture in the research of best farm models; the College of Computer Science in the development of a Virtual Hub hosting price monitoring, e-learning, e-training, and e-marketing web-based programs designed to capacitate small farmers through technology applications of online services for improved production efficiency and production supply monitoring; the College of Engineering in conduct of area mapping activities in select cluster areas to aid in infrastructure and project planning decisions that are facilitated by information fed into the Virtual Hub; the College of Arts and Science (particularly the Economics and Sociology departments) in the documentation of best farmers’ practices that include a study of how economic capitals—from social to natural— affect farming productivity.

This most recent trip has brought in Mr Evans Yonson, a professor of the Department of Development Communications of the College of Agriculture, and his pool of DevCom students and XU Press Staff to photo- and video document the experiential learnings of small coffee farmers in Pigtauran and in Bagong Silang, another upland village in the neighboring municipality of Maramag, which the group visited the next day. ■

PCRA: driving factor to keep Macajalar Bay clean and thriving

by The Samdhana Institute

On a sunny and clear day, the aerial view of the Macajalar Bay coastline along the newly-operated Laguindingan Airport is beautifully blue and clear. The presence of the Macajalar Bay Development Alliance (MBDA) indeed increases the percentage that this pristine ecosystem will be preserved even with the anticipated development of the Cagayan-Iligan Corridor. One of the active programs of the MBDA is on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the status of the Macajalar Bay, which encompasses 14 municipalities in Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City. Composing the M&E teams are the MBDA-member LGUs' personnel trained in Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA).

PCRA is a science-based methodology of collecting data on key coastal resources and analysing them to determine the status and health of the marine ecosystem. As part of the ER-PROGRAM Project of Xavier University, currently the Project Management Office (PMO) of MBDA, a PCRA training course was conducted. The training aimed to enhance the capacities of the MBDA Technical Working Group (TWG) to efficiently manage the Macajalar Bay and the resources therein. The

course was composed of five training activities which included indoor lectures, hands-on activities, actual field work and data sampling, mentoring and community reporting.

XU partnered with The Samdhana Institute, a regional non-profit organization which actively works on the Ridge-to-Reef landscape, in carrying out the PCRA training course. The first training activity started in June 2012, and the culmination activity and graduation of the PCRA trainees took place on June 21, 2013 at Jasaan, Misamis Oriental. The training banked on the expertise of the XU Faculty Members from the Biology Department, in particular Dr Dulce R Dawang, Ms Elaine Villaluz, Ms Anita Mabao, Ms Lolia Martinez, Ms Gertrude Garcia, and Mr Fra and Quimpo, who served as trainers. Lectures and majority of the field work were conducted in Laguindingan. The 23 trainees who completed the course were LGU personnel, mostly from the agriculture and fishery offices of the municipalities in the MBDA. Despite uncontrollable weather disturbances, including the passing of Super Typhoon Bopha (Bagyong Pablo), personal concerns of the trainees and other challenges in organizing and bringing together the activities, the PCRA Training course was successfully completed.

The PCRA training provided the basic knowledge on the coastal ecosystem, and the skills and methodologies for identifying, assessing, recording and reporting data on the coastal resources, specifically on mangroves, seaweeds, seagrasses, macro-invertebrates, fishes and corals. The trainees spent considerable time under the sun and in the water for hands-on practice and actual data-sampling. The training also proved to be a conducive venue for the trainees, most of them LGU officers who were already conducting similar duties such as being members of the Bantay Dagat, to raise practical issues and concerns. Their insights and suggestions, as frontliners in the protection of the bay, have great value to help fine-tune the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation program of the MBDA. Some of the issues raised were on the poor capacity of the local fish wardens to guard their sites against illegal fishers and poachers and on how politics influence or undermine the coastal protection efforts. The efforts geared toward strengthening and institutionalizing the MBDA structure will respond to these concerns by fostering more community ownership of the program and encouraging more team work as the municipalities

work by clusters to implement the monitoring activities.

The Community Reporting, hosted by the Jasaan LGU, capped the PCRA training course. It also served as the graduation of the PCRA trainees, wherein they were officially endorsed by XU to the MBDA-TWG. Community members from Barangays Kimaya, Solana, Lower Jasaan, and from the fisherfolk sector, the academe and other key community leaders of Jasaan were invited to listen to the reports of the PCRA trainees on the current status of their marine ecosystem and the recommendations to improve or to maintain the health of their coastal resources. The new PCRA experts were warmly welcomed by the MBDA TWG which expressed its appreciation for the new team members who will significantly beef up the monitoring and protection initiatives for Macajalar Bay. ■



XU Med and SuSan's engagements for 2013

by Angela Bernice Cabildo

Since December 2011, Xavier Ecoville has made progress towards being the community its stakeholders envisioned. Significant contributions to such progress are the efforts of the Xavier University School of Medicine and the Sustainable Sanitation (SuSan) Center.

At the onset of the relocation project, SuSan provided health and sanitation services. It put up toilets and ensured the potability of water. With the help of the Ateneo Innovation Center, it installed filters that processed the grey water that came from bathroom and cooking areas. SuSan was also in charge of waste management; it facilitated the segregation of wastes, a necessity that arose when Ecoville was not yet part of the city garbage collection route. Biodegradable material was set aside for composting, which provided an easy source of fertilizers for the community's crops.

The research done by both faculty and students of the School of Medicine contributed a great deal to the improvement of the quality of life in Ecoville. "It's a two-way thing," says Preventive and Community Medicine department chair and SuSan director Dr Gina Itchon. "It's for the residents of

Ecoville, but the students also learn in the process." Mandated by the university president, medical students from 2nd year to 4th year conducted studies on wastewater treatment, sanitation and hygiene status, and nutritional status of Ecoville residents. They offered feeding programs as well as public health lectures, weighing of children, and maternal examination for prenatal care.

Henceforth, health and sanitation efforts will consist more of training community members than providing services. This began last year with the appointment of the Community Health Navigators, (usually female) community members who are willing to be trained on simple health needs. These people serve as a liaison between the Lumbia Health Center and XU Ecoville.

Every week for two months, 4th year students train the Navigators as part of their curriculum. There have been three batches of trainees: the first was composed of volunteers and the last two were composed of those chosen by the community members themselves. The most difficult task they have undertaken so far is the creation of family health records for all 523 families of Ecoville. Once completed, the

records—which are standard forms from the Department of Health—serve to make clear pictures of the families' history of health. At present, there are already 47 Community Health Navigators. However, only about half are reportedly still active, so the School of Medicine aims to train another batch by the end of the year.

By the end of June, when the move to the permanent residences is finished, the activity will already be geared towards helping the community stand on its own. Dr Itchon emphasizes that they have always been careful not to let the community develop a dependence on Xavier. Whenever a service was provided, it was always with the coordination with the Barangay Health Center so that the community will recognize that they are part of Lumbia—that they must integrate themselves into the barangay.

"I think it is our job and our duty to still continue assisting the community in terms of sanitation and health needs, although it will not be as difficult as in the temporary housing. We will still be there, at least for this school year," says Dr Itchon. ■

The urine treatment container



Capping the water treatment facility at Ecoville



The first five years and beyond

In 2006, the XU College of Engineering held a 5-Year Strategic Planning Session. One of the items repeatedly highlighted was for the College to also function as a “resource center to spearhead industrialization by providing a pool of experts and facilities” (Engg VMO 2007).

About two years later, on Feb 14, 2008, then Dean Engr Alma P Eufinado conceived the Xavier University Engineering Resource Center (XUERC), assigning Engr Dexter S Lo as coordinator. A year later, during XU’s Diamond Jubilee, coincident with the College’s first Silver Jubilee celebration, then University President Fr Jose Ramon T Villarín SJ formally instituted XUERC. In 2010, Engr Lo was officially appointed as the Founding Director.

With the creation of the university’s Research and Social Outreach cluster, XUERC also strategically adapted to the thrusts and goals of the university which were now focused on Food Security, Health, Environment, Governance, and Peace.

XUERC’s flagship program on Disaster Risk Management offered a detailed scientific documentation of the deadly 2011 Sendong (Washi) flood at the pre- and post-disaster stages. The center’s flood maps have been exhaustively used in relief operations, debriefing sessions, and technical evaluations of international media and experts.

Geographic Information System (GIS) capability was also enhanced and expanded in the past years— institutionalizing it in the engineering curriculum, and providing trainings for various

sectors of society; in effect, producing hundreds of diverse thematic maps with partner institutions.

The center’s program on Mindanao Urban Development spearheaded several undertakings, among them Emissions Inventory in Cagayan de Oro City, a Budget Transparency Initiative for Infrastructure Projects in the Province of Misamis Oriental, and a Road Watch Program for Region 10 where Civil Society Organizations openly discuss with the Department of Public Works and Highways on public infrastructure concerns.

In 2013, on the occasion of XU’s Ruby Jubilee, and XUERC’s 5th Anniversary, the center reinforced its commitment to technical service built upon a high level of excellence, as articulated in its

revitalized mission statement, “Developing Engineering Solutions with the Community.”

XUERC currently sits in various government councils and technical working groups, serving as the beacon of science and technology for many development activities in Mindanao. It has also maintained strong ties with national and international partners for the advancement of engineering research and development.

XUERC remains steadfast in facilitating a scholarly training experience for the students and faculty members of the XU – College of Engineering; developing professionals with sterling global visions, and with deeply rooted Christian morals which are exemplified in local communities. ■



Heeding Mother Nature: Strengthening the Cagayan de Oro River Basin

by Charisse Salarda



CDO Archbishop Antonio Ledesma CDORBMC Chair, presiding over a meeting

Kagay-anons showed resiliency and stood up after Sendong, when flood waters overflowed the Cagayan de Oro River and shattered hundreds of lives. Rehabilitation efforts continue even until today.

Even before most Kagay-anons realized the need to take care of nature by harmonizing their activities with it, a few groups in the city already saw the importance of taking care of the river basin. The Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro headed by the Archbishop himself, Most Reverend Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J., D.D forged a governing body for the protection, rehabilitation as well as the operation, supervision and management of the Riverbasin in 2010.

The Cagayan de Oro Riverbasin Council was created on November 16 to 17, 2010 in a multi-stakeholder workshop. Identification of Sectoral Leaders and issues and concerns, and the signing of a Co-Management Agreement took place in the said workshop.

The Cagayan de Oro Riverbasin Council is co-chaired by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region X and the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) Region X. It is a multi sectoral group composed of the Local Government Units (LGU), National Government Units (NGA), Business Sector/ Service Providers, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), Religious Groups, Security Group, Academe and Social Groups (PO/IP). Each sector is represented in the Board of Stakeholders (BOS).

The Cagayan de Oro riverbasin has a total land area of 137,934 hectares. It has eight tributaries from six municipalities and cities namely: Cagayan de Oro City, Libona (Bukidnon), Baungon (Bukidnon), Talakag (Bukidnon), Iligan City (Lanao del Norte) and Bubong (Lanao del Sur).

The Management Council is also composed of Technical Working Groups (TWG), namely: Rehabilitation, headed by DENR 10; Local Governance, headed by the DILG 10; Community Development, headed by Safer River Life Saver Foundation (SRLSF). On November 2011, Xavier University became the CDORBMC’s secretariat which handles Resource Management, through Xavier University – Research and Social Outreach (XU-RSO) and the McKeough Marine Center (MMC), with funding from the International

Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

How the TWGs work

The Community Development TWG ensures that all social processes are observed in the Council’s programs and projects and that there is community participation in the Council’s plans and programs.

The Local Governance TWG does the inventory of all bodies, agencies – government, non-government, private-public institutions – including present programs, projects and activities in the CDO river basin. It reviews laws, policies and ordinances—overcomes overlaps, identifies gaps and proposes policy recommendations (eg. disaster risk management, environmental code, etc), ensures implementation of policies and laws. It conducts Information Education Campaign (IEC) and also coordinates all agencies to harmonize efforts and to help capacitate existing structure, especially the ABCs and BDCs— participation of multi-stakeholders in the barangays.

The Rehabilitation TWG conducts IECs, provides seedlings/ planting materials, as well as technical assistance on tree

growing, develops infrastructure, constructs flood control structure and implements development activities.

The Resource Management TWG, gathers information and technical references on existing land and water resources use from and in coordination with different LGUs, government agencies, various universities/institutions; inventories or collects data from various universities or institutions and performs databanking management or repository of data. It also conducts IECs, information sharing of policies and advocacy network or partnership building in relation to river basin concerns. It also handles the river basin resource management.

Strengthening the CDO-RBMC

One project of the MMC as supported by Ecosystem Alliance – International Union for the Conservation of Nature (EA-IUCN) is strengthening the Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Management Approach in Mindanao. Its main goal is to enhance sustainability of natural resources through alternative livelihood and protection of critical coastal ecosystems, strengthening management capacity and policy



From left:
2008 - XUERC builds a UDDT Miniature for the World Toilet Summit;
2009 - XUERC gives grassroot-level orientation on Disaster Risk Mapping;
2010 - XUERC works on the Xavier Weather Station;
2011 - XUERC Volunteers Processing Session and Journal Writing

Heeding Mother Nature (from page 7)

formulation. One of its objectives is to strengthen the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council.

The Ridge-to-Reef Approach

The chosen management approach is called the Ridge-to-Reef, aimed at harmonizing human activity from the ridge, to the river basin, down to the reef. The said approach has four components. First is the strengthening of the management bodies: for the Upland Management, through the Kitanglad Integrated NGOs (KIN); for the river basin management, as organized by the CDO RBMC; and for the reef management, through the Partnerships in Rural and Technical Services (PARTS) in Zamboanga City, a project handled by XU-MMC, in collaboration with the German organization Deutsch Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and through the Macajalar Bay Development Alliance (MBDA), an alliance that implements bay wide integrated coastal management (ICM) for the protection and development of coastal ecosystems and resources.

The second component is the Policy making body as handled by the Xavier University-Center for Legal Assistance (XU-CLA). It examines the gaps on laws governing the environment, from national down to the barangay level, and makes recommendations to the different LGUs on their Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

The third component is maximizing the resources from the ridge to the reef by looking

for means of livelihood for the people living in the said areas. One project funded by the DOST examines farming, processing up to marketing. This project is being done in partnership with Xavier University's College of Agriculture, particularly, the Food Technology and Agricultural Business Department.

The last component is the IEC on ridge to reef and CDORBMC handled by the XU- Development Communication Department. At present, their campaign focus is on the need to strengthen the Cagayan de Oro river basin, a need considered urgent in light of the recent disasters caused by the overflowing of the river.

The need to do it right and now for tomorrow

When hundreds of lives, and homes were destroyed, it wasn't just the people themselves who were greatly affected but also the harmony of nature. As humans are responsible for taking care of nature, it is but proper to do it right and now. CDORBMC and its various stakeholders, consider it imperative to harmonize local activities to show care for the Cagayan de Oro river basin.

However, it is not just the job of the said council but also of all Kagay-anons to see to it that we live in harmony with the environment. Such act will not only be beneficial to us, but also to the future generations. We inherited the Earth from previous generations, thus, we have an obligation to pass it on in reasonably good condition to future generations. ■

CDO-RBMC Briefer Powerpoint Presentation



Upholding Resiliency: Harnessing barangays for disaster risk reduction management

by Charisse Salarda

In December 2011, the world saw Cagayan de Oro City on bended knees. Sendong with its unimaginable horrors—thousands of lives were lost, billions worth of infrastructures were destroyed and dreams were shattered.

Two years after that fateful tragedy, have we learned enough to prevent another Sendong?

The concept of “disaster” used to be an unfamiliar reality to Kagay-anons. Nobody seemed to care; nobody seemed to be able to relate to what used to be a phenomenon that usually happened up north. We were complacent.

It was in 2009 when our city was first hit by a flood. There wasn't a great deal of damage then, though a few lives were lost and some infrastructures were destroyed. The event did not alarm Kagayanons nor cause

them to prepare for a more destructive flood.

On the dawn of December 17, 2011, the Christmas season was marred with despair. People were caught off guard as flood waters surged into the city's lowlands.

On the other side of the story, Kagayanons showed resiliency and stood up against these adversities. Aid was given to the victims and rehabilitation assistance came left and right and continues even until today.

Learning from the past

Having learned a lot from Sendong, Xavier University – Engineering Resource Center (XU-ERC) and the XU-Research and Social Outreach (XU-RSO) cluster, in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government Region X (DILG X) and the Local Government Unit

of Cagayan de Oro City, forged a program aimed at arming the locals from riverside villages with knowledge on disaster risk management and precautionary measures, among others.

Thus, training on disaster preparedness was begun for the 80 barangays in the City.

The training was completed by end of 2013 and was attended by participants from the different barangays in batches.

The first batch of participants came from 36 barangays identified to be vulnerable to flooding.

Representatives from each barangay were taught why disasters happen, and, from that, how to ready the residents in times of disaster.

Each participating barangay is expected to come up with a

comprehensive Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management (BDRRM) plan for the next three years at least, as well as a contingency plan during disasters.

To effectively implement the training program, it was done using a modular approach. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training Module 1 tackled the preliminaries of Disaster Risk Reduction Management: BDRRM Strategic Planning Workshop and BDRRM Plan Template. Speakers came from the DILG, City Engineers Office and XU-ERC.

Module 2 dealt on Governance and Leadership in DRRM, Risk Assessment, DRRM Legal Basis (RA 10121 and RA 9729), Seal for Disaster Preparedness and DRRCCA Planning, with speakers from DILG X, OCD X and XU-ERC.



Xavier University – Governance and Leadership Institute (XU-GLI), a component of RSO, tackled Republic Act (RA) 10121. RA 10121 is also known as The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (PDRRMA) of 2010 and it mandates LGUs and different agencies to strengthen the DRRM councils and offices from the National level down to the Barangay level.

Reflecting on what happened during Sendong, XU-RSO had conducted a research to evaluate the measures needed to prevent the same tragedy from occurring and it found out that the city and the region have the capacity to at least minimize the damage of disasters. However, it learned that it is in the barangay level where training in disaster mitigation is greatly needed.

It is believed that education, backed by political will in the grass roots level is the best springboard to prevent severity in times of disasters.

In the meantime, XU-ERC is also working closely with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO) and other partners to come up with better recommendations for the city's comprehensive land use plan, which will then be filed as a city ordinance. ■



STORM

Even Without the
The XU DRRM Story
by Dexter S Lo

Since the early 1990s, Xavier University has been involved in various disaster-response activities – organizing networks of donors and delivering relief goods to disaster-stricken communities. This has been exemplified the past months by the series of tireless relief operations led by the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana-Social Involvement Office: Tabang Zamboanga, Tabang Bohol, and Tabang Visayas. Through the years, XU has proven itself worthy of the trust and confidence of generous donors from many parts of the world.

Recently, XU sent two multi-disciplinary teams for special missions to selected areas in Visayas affected by the deadly Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

The teams were composed of medical doctors, psychologists, counselors, sociologists, engineers, journalists, students and volunteers coming from various units of the university, exemplifying a truly competency-based response to disasters.

Over the past decade, the university's disaster-related activities have evolved into more proactive approaches. In 2002, the XU Civil Engineering Department did a fire hazard mapping of the Poblacion area in Cagayan de Oro. In 2008, the XU Engineering Resource Center partnered with Barangay Carmen to develop methodologies for disaster risk assessment and mapping for various hazards at the local level. The project was recognized with several awards as a pioneering effort in reducing risk to disasters at the community

level. Various other projects and researches in partnership with other university units then followed.

When Tropical Storm Sendong (Washi) hit the city in 2011, Xavier University served as a hub for both scientific analysis, as well as for various relief and rehabilitation operations.

XU shared a detailed scientific documentation of the deadly flood at the pre- and post-disaster stages. XU also immediately published flood maps which have been exhaustively used in relief operations, debriefing sessions, and technical evaluations of international media and experts.

As a serious commitment to disaster resiliency, XU partnered with the city government and various local and international donors in providing new homes

for more than 500 families who survived the flood. Various community building and sustainable livelihood programs have been introduced and integrated to this new community called Xavier Ecoville. The mission was clear: "We are not just building houses. We are building communities."

As an educational institution, XU continuously works on various capacity building activities, including a series of Training for Trainers for Civil Society Organizations and Government Line Agencies on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation with the Philippine Government's Climate Change Commission. XU is also currently assisting 36 riverside CDO barangays to come up with their Barangay DRRM Plans; and training local planners and



DRRM officers of selected LGUs in Region-10 on GIS to effectively integrate DRR-CCA in their land use plans and development programs. XU also serves as technical resource in various DRRM seminars and workshops, including a customized training for 400 public school teachers in the Province of Misamis Oriental. XU has also already started formal integration of DRRM courses to the curriculum in selected graduate and undergraduate courses.

To facilitate and sustain these engagements, the XU DRRM Program was formally institutionalized under the Vice President for Research and Social Outreach in 2013. The five major components of the program are: (1) Research - led by the XU Engineering Resource Center, (2) Capacity Building - led by the

XU Governance and Leadership Institute, (3) Advocacy - led by the XU Press, (4) Response - led by the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana - Social Involvement Office, and (5) Rehabilitation, such as Xavier Ecoville. However, the program and its activities are not exclusive to the units under the Research and Social Outreach Cluster; in fact, synergized efforts from various academic units are already being done and are highly encouraged. For Internal Crisis Management, the University Safety, Security and Health Committee had also been formed.

Because of these multi-faceted engagements from research on prevention and mitigation, to enhancing community preparedness, to swift and sustainable response mechanisms, and to committed

actual rehabilitation programs, XU has been recognized as a member of the Regional, Provincial, and City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Councils.

On its 80th Ruby Anniversary, Xavier University remains steadfast in actively responding to the needs of the nation, particularly in Mindanao. Other than its primary mission of training students, XU has also been doing breakthrough researches that are significant to the region's development. The outreach programs of the university are institutionally coupled with researches to address issues with scholarly technical analysis and deep sense of discernment as a manifestation of social apostolate inspired by the Ignatian tradition.

The XU DRRM Program is another pioneering commitment of Xavier University in "Leading the Ateneo Way" within and beyond the campus walls. It is inspired by the three virtues of grace, gratitude, and generosity: grace for having sustained the passion in the past 80 years; gratitude for being part of God's mission; and generosity to live with compassion for the poor and the lost in the frontiers. ■

The XU DRRM Program is another pioneering commitment of Xavier University in "Leading the Ateneo Way."

PAYING IT FORWARD

The XU DRRM Team Relief Mission

by Evans Yonson and Mary Ann Dumas

“Nagano ning anhi pa man mo sa Medellin?” the Mayor asked.



What Medellin Mayor Ricardo Ramirez said caught the XU DRRM 43-person team by surprise. Here we were after so much preparation back home and several hours of travel, excited for the first wave of relief operations, and this was the welcome message we got.

“We already have enough relief goods that would last us for the next two months,” Mayor Ramirez said, emphasizing that although the mission of the team was very welcome, he believed that the goods would have been more needed in Leyte.

He related to us the gruesome aftermath of supertyphoon Yolanda (Haiyan) when it hit Northern Cebu including Bogo City, and the municipalities of Daanbantayan, San Remigio, Bantayan Island, Santa Fe, and Madridejos. Casualties, however, were minimal, and immediate support came overflowing to these municipalities.

To salvage the *raisons d’être* of our mission – and to boost the falling spirits of the team – the different components of the operation were explained, presenting the engagements beyond the distribution of relief

goods. And a toilet bowl got the ball rolling again.

The mayor expressed that the municipality, which even before Yolanda was already having problems with human waste disposal, could definitely use the waterless toilet bowls more sophisticatedly known as UDDT (Urine Diversion Dehydration Toilet) bowls the WASH Team lugged with them.

Mayor Ramirez also acknowledged the fact that the Department of Education had been wanting a stress debriefing for their students but they did not

have the capacity to do this. Thus, in the end, we got an audience with some of his municipal leaders, the DepEd district supervisor, the health officer and two other municipal officers.

“If you didn’t notice on your way to Medellin, our children are out there begging,” DepEd supervisor Rosanna Godinez said.

Estimating that only 70% of the children had gone back to school, Ms. Godinez explained that the resumption of classes was important to take the children off the streets. It was also supposed to help debrief the

students. “Those who are back are sometimes very silent, still oblivious of the reality around them,” Ms. Godinez added.

Unfortunately, the trauma had also been felt by the teachers who were supposed to do the debriefing. Some teachers would even cancel classes when it rained, fearing another storm themselves.

The XU DRRM Team, after further consultation came up with a plan to conduct full relief operations (including medical mission, WASH orientation and setting up of sustainable sanitation

toilets, psycho-social debriefing, and relief goods distribution) in the barangay island of Gibitngil. This was in addition to the psychological stress debriefing sessions and trainings for the municipal teachers, and a medical operation at the Rural Health Center.

In sum, the WASH team was able to put up two model installations of the UDDT bowls – one in barangay Gibitngil and another in Caputatan Sur – while eight more were left to the communities. Around 40 residents in Gibitngil, including barangay officials, were oriented about the use of the

UDDTs and 17 families enlisted for installations.

The medical team was able to serve 216 patients – 102 in Gibitngil and 114 at the Rural Health Center. At the latter mission, a number of minor surgical operations were conducted.

The psychosocial health team was able to debrief 93 individuals, with 37 teachers and school staff given a brief input on psychological interventions. A planning session was also done for the schools’ specific clusters to address the needs of their students.

At the end of our mission, another of Mayor Ramirez’s statements during our first meeting in Medellin came to mind.

“I was one of the municipal mayors of Cebu province to have responded to Cagayan de Oro’s call for help after Sendong,” Mayor Ramirez said.

After all that was said and done, our mission to Cebu was a way of paying it forward. ■



Enabling the Cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, the provinces of Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental to Cope with Climate Change

PROJECT CLIMATE Twin Phoenix

By Ice Diputado

The Philippines is one of the world's most disaster prone nations and typhoon is one of the disasters that frequently visit the country. These typhoons have caused the destruction of communities, death of millions and an end to people's livelihoods. The typhoons that hit Mindanao, particularly Northern Mindanao, served as a wakeup call for its cities and communities to continually strengthen their capacity to anticipate, cope and recover from a storm's negative impacts.

Help and assistance in the form of various projects and programs from both government and non-government agencies have poured into the two big cities of Northern Mindanao (Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City). One of these is the Climate Change Commission's Twin Phoenix Project. One of the components of this project is focused on the training of trainers and champions of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRRCCA) both in government and non-government organization.

The Twin Phoenix Project has trained trainers from both Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan (XU) and Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), and honed them to reecho capacity building topics to the Local Government Units (LGUs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Civic Society Organizations (CSOs) and the like in both Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities. The training reecho is necessary to enhance awareness and competency of local stakeholders in mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in the development and regulatory processes.

Furthermore, the training will develop climate and disaster risk knowledge management that will enable the communities to be better resilient against natural and man-made disasters.

The objectives of the project were: a) to broaden the knowledge and understanding of key concepts, principles and elements of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (CCA-DRR); b) to comprehend the interrelationship between Climate Change and development; c) to understand the various kinds of hazards the communities are faced with; d) to understand

the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan and its legal background; e) to understand Climate Change and its projections; f) to outline key elements to mainstream DRRCCA in development plans; g) to share good practices and approaches on risk reduction to guide LGUs in crafting DRRM action plans; and h) to enable participants to create a draft IEC design and DRM plan.

The first Training of Trainers (TOT) happened on Sept 18–20, 2013 and was participated in by the various NGOs and CSOs coming from Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities with environmental/disaster risk reduction initiatives. The second TOT for the various government and line agencies happened on Oct 16-18, 2013. Both TOTs were held at Chali Beach Resort in Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City.

Each TOT was divided into four modules: General Introduction to DRRCCA, Geologic and Hydro-Meteorologic Hazards, Climate Change Adaptation and Climate/Disaster Risk Assessment and Mainstreaming Tools. Under the General Introduction to DRRCCA (Module 1) were topics on the Interrelationship of Disasters, Climate Change and Development. The Geologic and Hydro-Meteorologic Hazards

(Module 2) covered topics on the Science of Disasters, Geologic Hazards, Hydro-Meteorologic Hazards and Flood Modelling and Simulation. Under the Climate Change Adaptation Module (Module 3) were Climate Change Projections and Hazards, Exposures, Vulnerabilities and Risks Assessment. The Climate/Disaster Risk Assessment and Mainstreaming Tools (Module 4) discussed Governance and DRRCCA, DRM Planning Workshop/Information, Education Campaign (IEC), and Development and Mainstreaming DRRCCA in Development Plans.

Disasters can be the country's worst nightmares but if committed individuals and organizations working in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation steadily come together toward integrated climate risk management, then the impact of disasters will be lessened and this will help give communities a broader understanding of their vulnerabilities, while at the same time expanding effectiveness by working with partners in the fields of development, environment, poverty reduction, financial planning, and health. By focusing on decreasing vulnerabilities to current weather and climate related risks, communities will be better prepared for the risks posed by climate change. ■



XU-GLI Going Full Force Ahead

By Pilar D Reyes



Since my joining the XU-GLI office, I can only count with one hand those days when all members of our staff are having an easy or relaxing day in the office. To start with, Dr Dixon Q Yasay, GLI Director, is so busy with his GLI commitments, either facilitating our own good governance-related trainings, workshops or seminars or attending to out-of-town engagements as a resource speaker for capacity building programs all over the country, even to far-flung areas. It is no longer a surprise for us if Dr Yasay is taking his breakfast in one city, his lunch at another and, finally, dinner with his staff in Cagayan de Oro. His passion for sharing his experiences and talents just so he could convey to the LGUs, the ideals of good governance and leadership is unceasing.

With his limited presence in the office, one would think that the staff would have free time on our hands—wrong! During monthly meetings, we are all handed our weekly assignments and deadlines so that even if Dr

Yasay is not around, we are kept busy. He constantly keeps us “on our toes” with his texts, either giving instructions for the next work commitment or asking us for office updates. Jojo Mantiza, Roland Barangot, Jhenebeth Rejas and myself are also assigned to attend to any invitations from government agencies thus developing each one of us at particular fields of interest on leadership and good governance.

The first and second weeks of October 2013 found Dr Yasay facilitating Orientations for Newly Elected Mayors, otherwise known as ONE-M, for Visayas and Luzon, held in Iloilo City and Manila, respectively. A Leadership Training for Police Officers was held at the AVR1, Xavier University, last October 14, 2013 and this was followed by a Seminar on Barangay Governance last October 19, 2013. Both were heavily attended even at the peak of the barangay election campaigns. Then, on October 24, on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the passage of the Local Government

Code, Dr Yasay was invited by DILG, Iloilo to be the resource speaker on the topic “Promoting LGU Competitiveness through LED”. Engr Gail de la Rita of the XU-RSO, was also there to grace the occasion.

In November, XU-GLI was still in full force with its activities. On November 12 to 14 2013, we were tasked to do process documentation of the “Municipal Leadership and Governance Program” of the DILG in partnership with Zuellig, attended by Municipal Mayors of Region X and their respective MHOs, at Dynasty Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City. Jason Manaois of the XU Psychology Dept. acted as one of the facilitators. On November 19 and 20, 2013, Dr Dixon Yasay attended to a municipal consultation with the Municipality of Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. He then came for the Full Council Meeting of the Regional Development Council X at Marco Hotel, Gusa, CdOC.

On November 23, 2013, at 8am–5pm, the GLI Team were in Barangay Lumbia as

group facilitators of the “Xavier University Homeowners Association Governance and Policy-making Workshop”. On November 25, Dr Yasay was off to U.P. Dilliman for the Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines, Inc. Assembly until the 26th. Roland Barangot and Recto Mantiza, were also off to attend the WatSan Training/Seminar from November 25 to 30, at Koresko Hotel, Lumbia. I was assigned to attend the “Capacity Building Workshop on Utilizing LGU Reports under the Full Disclosure Policy” on November 28 to 30 at the N Hotel while Jhenebeth Rejas, held the home front for GLI's own Local Legislative Enhancement Course at the AVR1, XU on November 28 to 30, 2013, facilitated by Dr Dixon Yasay.

When I glanced over our December schedule, there were activities slowly accumulating, waiting to be put up on the white board, and I pondered : Christmas Break, anyone? ■

