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Ti Similla

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Otto Scheerer Professorial Chair established at UP Baguio

At its 1273rd meeting on 29 September 2011, the UP Board of Regents approved the establishment of the Otto Johns Scheerer Professorial Chair at UP Baguio.

In her letter to the Board recommending the establishment of the Professorial Chair in honor of one of Baguio City's prominent pioneers, Chancellor Priscilla Macansantos wrote: "This is to inform the UP Board of Regents that UP Baguio has received a donation of 1.5 million pesos from Dr. Richard Scheerer, grandson of the late Otto Scheerer, for the establishment of the Otto Scheerer Professorial Chair at UP Baguio.

Prof. Otto Scheerer was an early settler of Baguio City, and was Provincial Secretary of Benguet around 1901. Later in his career, he became known for his pioneering work in Filipino linguistics. Both he and his grandson, the donor Richard Scheerer, have long-standing connections with the University. Prof. Otto Scheerer was with the faculty of UP; Dr. Richard Scheerer earned his Medicine degree at the UP College of Medicine.

UP Baguio is honored to be recipient of funds for the Otto Scheerer Professorial Chair, and we respectfully seek approval of the Board for the establishment of the said Chair."

Dr. Richard Scheerer, who visited Baguio City in June 2011 after many years, signed a memorandum of agreement with the University in connection with the establishment of the Professorial Chair.

The Scheerer Professorial Chair is the first private donation of a chair made directly



Memorandum of Agreement Signing. (from left) Chancellor Priscilla Macansantos, Dr. Richard Scheerer, Cordillera Studies Center Director Delfin Tolentino, Jr.

to UP Baguio through the UPCB Educational Foundation, and its establishment follows that of four Professorial Chairs funded through UP Baguio's recently established 50M Research Endowment Fund. UP Baguio administration intends to award the chair in early 2012 to a UP Baguio professor interested in doing research in Philippine/Cordillera history or linguistics – two areas of particular interest to Otto Scheerer. ■

The Ibaloi is, in a way, rather fond of singing. Wandering through his silent woods he will unburden his heart by singing some low, melodious strain, the plaintive sound of which reveals the melancholy underlying the Malayan character.... With this habit it is not to be wondered at that particularly stirring incidents of Igorot life should become the common property of young and old and, clad in more harmonious form, survive as popular ballads.

*From The Nabaloi Dialect, 1904
Otto Scheerer*

A Land Use Plan for Baguio City

■ By Corazon Abansi



Hon. Isabelo B. Cosalan, Jr., of the City Council Office of Baguio presenting the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of Baguio supporting the land use plan

The City Council of Baguio is currently discussing the proposed land use plan of the city. The plan is envisioned to regulate land use in an efficient and ethical way so that the needs of the community can be met while minimizing land use conflicts and safeguarding the natural environment.

As one of the major stakeholders of the city, UP Baguio was requested to assist in the ongoing discussions by conducting a forum to get input and feedback from the academic sector. In this regard, the Institute of Management in partnership with the UP Management Association, conducted a public forum on September 9, 2011 at the Bulwagang Juan Luna, UP Baguio.

A total of 97 participants from various colleges and universities in Baguio registered for the forum. These were students, faculty and administrators of Benguet State University, University of Baguio, University of the Cordilleras, and UP Baguio. Representatives from other sectors also attended the forum. Highlights of the forum consisted of (i) the presentation of the proposed comprehensive land use plan and the supporting land use zoning ordinance, and (ii) reactions/com-

ments by a 3-man panel of reactors and by the public.

The presentation of the proposed land use plan was delivered by Engr. Evelyn Cayat of the City Planning and Development Office of Baguio. She started with the general description of Baguio City, including its current land use illustrated in both maps and charts. Cayat pointed to the mission and vision of the city and its long term goals and objectives. She also discussed the process involved in the updating of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the alternative spatial strategies and goal matrix, the proposed land use plan in chart and map, and a discussion on the land use proposals. The complete version of this presentation is contained in Volume 1 of the Proposed Land Use Plan of Baguio City, available at the City Planning and Development Office, City Government of Baguio.

The proposed city zoning ordinance supporting the land use plan was presented by Councilor Isabelo Cosalan, Jr., Committee Head for Urban Planning, Lands and Housing of the City Council Office of Baguio. Cosalan discussed the highlights of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of Baguio consisting of zone classifications, zone regulations, district regulations and miscellaneous provisions. A short discussion was also given on administration and enforcement. A complete copy of the zoning ordinance is contained in Volume 3 of the Proposed Land Use Plan of Baguio City, available at the City Planning and Development Office.

Reactions

The panel of reactors consisted of Architect Rafael Chan, Dr. Alipio Garcia and Dr. Santos Jose Dacanay III, who shared their expertise in the areas of architecture, phys-

ics and urban planning.

Architect Rafael Chan is the principal architect for R.G. Chan & Associates, a consulting firm he founded in 1982. Prior to establishing RGC&A, he was employed in several enriching positions as project architect for a construction firm on a high-rise project, college professor mentoring students in architecture and engineering subjects, government employee as plan checker on the implementation of the National Building Code (NBC), and finally, a principal-partner in an architectural partnership. He is a Fellow of the United Architects of the Philippines.

Chan stressed that public consultation such as this should lead to real changes. He asked whether the past five consultations



Panel reactor: Architect Rafael Chan of R.G. Chan & Associates

done by the City Council and the City Planning Office have translated to tangible changes to the CLUP. He suggested that there should be a mechanism that would input the opinion of the general public of Baguio before the approval of the CLUP and Zoning. Furthermore, he expressed concern about the seeming delay in the planning process of the city government. Since this proposed CLUP is for the period 2010 to 2020, he believes that Baguio is a bit late on this matter as it is already 2011, adding that poli-

ticians concerned with the land use of Baguio are less receptive to the planning proposal.

Chan outlined his disagreements on the CLUP:

1) On the Proposed Zoning Map. The maps have insufficient resolution and are in miniature. Demonstration is therefore not comprehended by the audience. Maps should be enhanced and enlarged.

2) On Strip Development. The proposal of strip development is wrong. The city plans to develop strips of land parallel to the existing roadmaps such as in Bokawkan, Trancoville, Legarda Road, Lourdes Subdivision, Naguilian Road, and Camp 7. He explained that as these developed strips of land become heavily used, they become high-danger, high-traffic areas. This creates problems on the requirement for utilities such as water and electricity. These areas eventually exact a toll in terms of utility demand which the city would have problems meeting.

3) Height regulation. This was opposed by Chan as he stated that this is a very oppressive policy which might bring Baguio to non-development if not chartered well. He expressed the need to strike a balance on what is practical, acceptable, and realistic. He further mentioned about having greener buildings and other technologies which can be responsive to the war against global warming. This can be mutually beneficial to building owners and the citizens of Baguio.

4) Issue on the Bakakeng Area. Chan disagrees that the subordinate development of the Bakakeng area should become a cluster development area, as proposed in the Land Use Plan. SLU has been given a green light to build its Commerce annex in Bakakeng (which is a Residential Area), thus the government should zone the adjoining areas accordingly. Giving too many exemptions all through the upcoming years is not a good way to do development for the city.

5) Additional Comments. Chan wonders what happened to the planning process that took place before the infamous garbage roll-over from Dumpsite in Irisan to Asin. He mentioned that nothing seems to have been done about garbage capacity although there were strong indications that this problem could happen. He pointed to a proposed sanitary landfill on the zoning map that the city government could look into more seriously.



Panel reactor: Dr. Alipio Garcia, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs of UP Baguio

Dr. Alipio Garcia is a physicist and is the recipient of the 2008 DOST-Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD) Award in Materials Science. Likewise, he was a CHED Republica Awardee in 2009. He is a faculty member of Physics at the College of Science of UP Baguio and is currently designated as the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs of UPB.

Garcia first shared his personal view of Baguio City during the 1980s. He once regarded Baguio as an ideal place to live, have a family, to study in, etc. But in less than 20 years, the choice city is now greatly degraded and one of the most polluted areas in the country. He stressed that in planning for the city's future, reversal, not just improvement, is needed to prevent further degradation. He recommended that an update on the Geo-Hazard Map would benefit the zoning ordinance. Following are Dr. Garcia's specific

comments on the CLUP:

First, he expressed confusion as to why a zoning ordinance is being implemented before land use plan. He is concerned about what will happen if the zoning ordinance were first implemented, and there is a need for other structures such as energy view point from rivers, etc. It would be much better if all things are considered before implementing a zoning ordinance or a land use plan for Baguio.

Second, Garcia voiced concern on the physical limitation (height regulation) mentioned in the CLUP. Vertical structures should be considered and housing units centralized which can lead to lesser costs on water, electricity, etc. Detached dwellings are awful to the eye, but vertical structures are more attractive and have success stories around the globe. He further mentioned the lack of scientific evidence on stability of the soil in the height requirement of the CLUP.

Third, Garcia emphasized the placement of roads in the land use plan, as illustrated by the complications and dangers in the UP road.

He said that UP is an educational institution and yet the roads around it are used as national roads and vehicles run at speeds that may pose danger to students, teachers and other users of the vicinity.

Fourth, he pointed that the penalties imposed on violators may not be effective in discouraging violations. He posed, "Suppose you were operating a business in R1 areas, isn't it that the penalty is ridiculously low?"

Lastly, Garcia highlighted the mismatch between actual city needs and the zoning plan, specifically on traffic and the location of bus terminals. The CLUP does not address the current problems on traffic. Four of the five largest bus companies are operating in Baguio City. They are the biggest traffic violators and their terminals are located right at the center of the city. If the citizens accept this as the reality then we as Baguio citizens are not addressing the issue. There

continued next page

will be significant improvement in traffic if the bus companies are relocated outside of the city center.

Dr. Santos Jose Dacanay III is a faculty member of UP Baguio. He holds a PhD in business administration from the UP Diliman, where he also earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and diploma in urban and regional planning. He has an MBA from St. Louis College. He teaches managerial economics, financial management and strategic management, and is active in conducting research and consulting engagements.

Dacanay focused on two main points, the presentation of alternative spatial strategies and consequences thereof, and the provisions of the zoning ordinance. On the first point, he introduced the audience to some applicable urban models that can be used to analyze the current and proposed land uses of Baguio City, and later posed several questions/comments as follows:

- How can you reconcile the Baguio Hill Station Identity (Quezon Hill, Dominican Hill, Quirino Hill, Engineer's Hill, Cabinet Hill) with the proposed Growth Nodes?

- The Growth Node Strategy is a departure from Daniel Burnham's Garden City/Beautiful City Movement and from William Parsons, Warwick Greene and others who laid out Baguio's blueprint

- Baguio's proposed spatial strategy in relation to its immediate vicinity and the region, particularly the BLISTT area and the regional capital

- Considerations of the human scale in development (Doxiadis); green cities

- The proposed multi-nodal strategy in relation to transportation network and traffic scheme, specifically to revisit the following: the case of vanishing roundabouts or rotundas in the city, Baguio as a taxi/FX/motor city, walkability in the city and parking policies

On the zoning ordinance, Dacanay focused on the use of zone classifications, the composition of Local Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals, the composition of

the Local Zoning Review Committee and the right of complainant/opposition to appeal to HLURB.

Lastly, he raised (i) the issue of rising land prices and who benefits from Baguio's land values, and (ii) the case of contested lands such as ancestral domain and lands. Dacanay ended his discussion with a question on the rationale for regulation and led the audience to the classic theory on regulating property rights versus regulating the commons.



Panel reactor: Dr. Santos Jose Dacanay III of the Institute of Management of UP Baguio

Public Reactions

The forum generated reactions from **Perry John P. Mendoza**, of the *Alliance of Concerned Teachers* and **Mike Arvisu of Kafagwayan**. Mendoza stressed the need to review the land use plan, and suggested that more public forums be organized to discuss problems and concerns in Baguio's land use and to consider the thoughts of the general public as to where Baguio should be heading. A public forum is a good avenue for finding short-term and long-term solutions to these aforementioned concerns.

Likewise, he emphasized Baguio's legacy as the Educational Center of the North, and this should be embraced in the vision of Baguio City. Land use should consider the needs of a population living in a center of education such as residential areas, traffic, etc.

He further expressed the need for Baguio City to be more of a 'Green City' and not a 'Business Center,' and that the theories of Urban Planning Development stated in Dr.

Dacanay's presentation should provide proper grounding. He further stressed that the concern of the city should be for the general public and not for a few individuals. He asked the Hon. Cosalan about the possible effect of the charter on regional autonomy on the land use plan of the city.

Arvisu raised three main points in his reaction to the proposed land use plan and the previous discussions set by the panel reactors. First, he stated that the CLUP is a satisfactory plan if Baguio were starting from zero, i.e., if we were starting a new city. However, Baguio already has its ailments; how can the plan reverse the problems of the city?

Second, he expressed the need for metrics, of creating measurement points in evaluating the land use plan to ensure that the city is going in the direction as planned. He would also like to see measurability in achieving the vision and purposes of the city.

Third, Arvisu stated the importance of reality in terms of implementing these plans – whether people power would be willing to put forward necessary changes. The plans are good to hear, but to find if the city is on the right path, the impacts should be measured and the city needs to keep adjusting to achieve its vision.

Post-Forum Activity

The proceedings of the forum were prepared by IM and UPMA, a copy of which was provided to the City Council. ■

Professorial Chair Lecture by Dr. Priscilla Supnet Macansantos

Fixed Point Theorems in Applications

■ By Phoebe Ramos

UP Baguio's chancellor discourses on mathematical theory

UP Baguio Chancellor Priscilla Supnet Macansantos delivered a professorial chair lecture on fixed point theorems last September 9, 2011 at the College of Science-AVR as part of the pre-investiture activities of President Alfredo E. Pascual. The program was organized by the College of Science Lecture Series Committee.

Fixed point theory serves as an essential tool for various branches of mathematical analysis and its applications such as solutions of functional equations. It is a branch of mathematics that attempts to identify all self-maps or correspondence under which at least one element is left invariant. Macansantos discussed fixed point theory and some of its methods and approaches in areas of applications such as image compression, Google's page rank algorithm and the Nash Equilibrium.

There are fixed point theorems that actually find fixed points by means of a constructive (iterative) process. Macansantos illustrated this process using the Sierpinski Gasket and an application in image compression. Image compression involves encoding lesser information from the original image in such a way that the eye cannot see that the image observed is of lesser quality. In internet navigation, images should be encoded in files that are small as possible to speed up web browsing. One familiar example that makes use of the principles of image compression is the file format JPEG which also uses a mathematical algorithm to encode an image. Another way to encode an image is by an iterated function system which consists of transformations involving rotations, scaling by a constant ratio and translations. In this method geometric objects are used to approximate images. Take for instance the Sierpinski gasket shown in Figure 1

One way to store this image in computer memory in an economical way is to have a

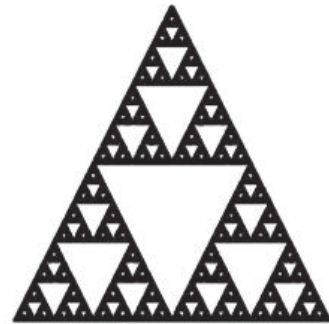


Figure 1: The Sierpinski Gasket

program to reconstruct it when needed. Macansantos illustrated the process in such a program. The Sierpinski gasket can be obtained by an infinite succession of 'removal' of an equilateral triangle. Starting with a solid (filled) equilateral triangle, labeled $S(0)$ be-

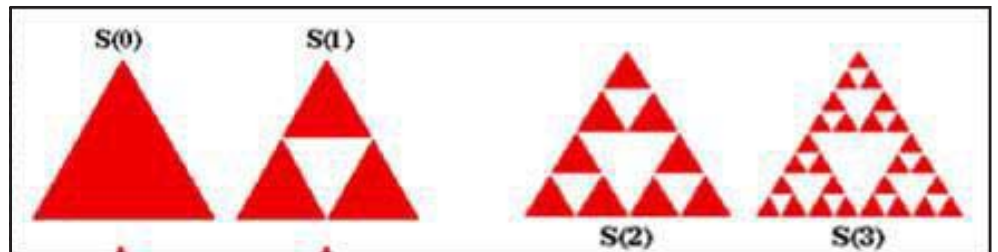


Figure 2: Obtaining the Sierpinski Gasket

low, we remove the middle equilateral triangle to obtain the figure in $S(1)$.

From each of the three remaining triangles, again remove the middle triangle, leaving three smaller triangles behind. Repeated application of this process will yield the Sierpinski Gasket. It was also noted that figure $S(1)$ can be obtained by scaling three copies of $S(0)$ each by a factor of $\frac{1}{2}$ and translating these triangles to form the desired arrangement in $S(1)$. Figure 1 is the image obtained after each of the above procedures is repeated over and over again. Is this true for other geometric objects as well? Indeed, the Sierpinski gasket remains invariant, that

is, a fixed point, under this process.

The Sierpinski Gasket is an example of a fractal, an object obtained by using a geometric figure or construction as an iterate. Other examples are the Cantor set and the Koch snowflake. The process described above is used in the compression of real images, most especially when the image has some fractal character.

Another application discussed is Google's PageRank algorithm. It was stated that Google's success as a search engine is due to this algorithm, wherein the 'fixed point of a certain linear operator (which is a contraction) yields the ordering of the pages'. Finally, fixed point theory also has an application in Nash equilibrium, a 'fundamental concept in the theory of games and the most widely used method of predicting the outcome of a strategic interaction in the social

sciences'. A game consists of a set of players, a set of actions profiles (or strategies available to each player) and a payoff or utility function for each player which represents their preference over the strategies. A Nash equilibrium is 'an action profile with the property that no single player can obtain a higher payoff by deviating from this profile'. The existence of an equilibrium can be obtained by the application of a fixed point theorem. In fact, under some conditions, given a game, 'there always exists a correspondence whose fixed points coincide with the equilibrium points of the game.' ■

Program for Indigenous Cultures, UP Baguio Seminar-Workshops Part 2

Indigenous Language studies in the Cordillera

■ By Jerry Bangcawayan and Jonardine Briones

Dr. Purificacion Delima, Dean of the College of Arts and Communication, delivered a lecture entitled “The Urgency of Indigenous Language Studies in the Cordillera” last September 29 at the College of Social Sciences AVR. She began with the information that many indigenous languages are fast becoming extinct with the onslaught of globalization—a concrete manifestation and application of Western-driven thinking. Sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein cites a “world-system” wherein economies and cultures of Western countries dominate and command the fate of other countries. Delima noted that in our country the overt preoccupation with the use of English as a language of academic instruction and the encouragement of children by their parents to use English and not their indigenous language is clear evidence of the adverse encroachment of globalization in our consciousness, and the hegemonic stand by which Western ideas have bound us.

Delima cited her research on the concept of *inayan* in the Cordillera. *Inayan* is a Cordilleran term commonly found in the vocabulary of the Northern and Southern Kankana-ey ethnolinguistic groups, the usage of which entails a concern for following a norm, a cultural value, and even a social law, hence the avoidance of deviance in a community. They thus say *inayan* when a man commits adultery, when a child disrespects his parents, when a person steals somebody’s chickens, or when someone plans to slight a well-off individual because of jealousy. Traditionally, the mere hearing of the word *inayan* especially from an elder elicits feelings of guilt and shame in the person receiving that word. The *inayan* concept therefore is more than just a simple, single word. It is a value-laden concept which espouses ethical responsibility and social solidarity, encompassing the morality of the community.

But with the ever-extending limbs of globalization reaching even the heights of the Cordillera, Dr. Delima shared how the regard for the concept of *inayan* has been in decline among the people whose ancestors have traditionally relied on it for cultural stability. In the case of Sagada (a Northern Kankana-ey municipality), for instance, the promotion of tourism as a vehicle for Western-inspired capitalistic economic development has encouraged the use of English to accommodate tourists, giving way to the rise of the *baknang* or nouveau riche social class. This has also spurred the out-migration of community members towards urban centers such as Baguio City and Manila. The weight of *inayan* has been disregarded by many of the *baknang* who have come to see cultural practices such as traditional communal feasts as costly, impractical and therefore unneeded. The situation is much worse for those who have migrated and have had

children in urban areas. They have lesser ties with their indigenous community and therefore with their cultural practices and the accompanying value-components of these. Many of the urban-borne children of the migrants are ignorant, if not indifferent, to their indigenous culture and are more conversant in English, Tagalog, and Ilokano rather than their root tongue, Kankana-ey.

Delima encapsulates this distressing situation when she said that the death of a language entails the death of a culture. This problem itself can ironically be considered *inayan*. The story does not have to end tragically, however. A pioneering project of Dean Delima has proven that indigenous knowledge can be a potent healer in helping cure the ill effects of unrelenting acceptance of Western principles. Delima’s team selected a school here in the Cordillera to which they could offer academic guidance. Learning materials were produced in the Ifugao language (the children’s mother tongue) and based on Ifugao culture so that the elementary children could easier understand the information. The result of the project was very promising. The performance of the children did progress. Delima’s findings thus discredit the excessive concern of our government in attempting to hastily increase the literacy of Filipinos in English.

To close the tripartite lecture series for this semester, Jonardine Briones delivered a lecture on Indigenous Ethics Research in the Cordillera by sharing excerpts from his thesis entitled: *The Concept of Justice in the Context of Foshor and Peden System of the Sadanga Igorots*. According to Briones, ethics, as a branch of philosophy, deals with the morality of human conduct. He emphasized that identity plays an important role in the judgment of the morality of a particular human conduct. Hence, for indigenous peoples, it is their identity that constitutes their ethical principles and ideals. These ethical principles are imbued in the cultural system of the indigenous society. Thus, culture is a rich library of ethical ideas, theories and principles of indigenous people.

Briones explained that the practice of tribal war, for instance, though brutal and violent by nature, has contributed to the preservation of identity. Tribal wars strengthened the character of Igorots that helped them defend themselves against the occupation of the Spaniards, thus preserving societal life. Briones showed how concepts of morality and ethics cannot be understood from a single perspective, let alone from a purely Western framework. ■



Pyrography by Jordan Mang-osan

December 16, 2011 Reunion Exhibition Games

Let the games begin (anew)

■ By Jennifer Inovero

Varsity players, past and present, meet up once more this December

UP Baguio celebrated its centennial alumni homecoming on December 5-6, 2008. Three days before this grand celebration, I lost my best friend in a car accident in Bataan. I missed the first day



Alumni and resident varsity basketball players

of the 2008 homecoming as I was in Manila for her wake, still stunned with this great loss. I was also enveloped in our shared memories since our college days here in UP Baguio as teammates in the women's basketball varsity, as sorority sisters, as my constant companion during our Diliman days, as a 'family member' during family gatherings, as drinking buddies everywhere, as ordinary friends in any single day and as my best friend especially through tough times. I thought of not attending the second day of the homecoming to be there for the eulogy before her remains were brought to Dumaguete. But next thing I knew, I was already on a 2 am bus trip to Baguio. I was in charge of the second day's Exhibition Games.

I arrived in Baguio at eight thirty in the morning of December 5, an hour and a half late from the scheduled time of the games. After literally dropping off my things at my boarding house and a three-minute shower, I immediately proceeded to campus to meet the athletes and start off with the opening parade. The athletes assembled in the parking lot and marched to the open court, accompanied by the beating of the drums played by the UPB Pep Squad. A short performance also from the Pep squad was presented and the games followed immediately. Volleyball games were played in the HKP gym while basketball games were held in the open court.

I have happy memories of our basketball game (I played for the Alumni team) against my own team (resident varsity) as my alumni

varsity teammates were mostly out of breath during the game, even 'begging' and holding our other teammates' collars just to take the substitution. They even asked the varsity team to slow down and that no fast breaks should be executed. However, the display of skills of the 'veteran' players was still showcased, earning the admiration of their younger counterparts. The game was fun and a rematch was even scheduled that same afternoon.

Now, three years after, in celebration of UP Baguio's 50th year another reunion with our dear alumni is scheduled on December 15-16, 2011. In addition to the exhibition games, a Fun Run for a cause is set for December 16, Friday.

The Fun Run is open to all UPB alumni and UPB faculty, administrative staff and students which will start at six at the Oblation grounds. The distance of the run is 6.2km and will cover two rounds from UPB grounds to Sunshine Park drive, Baguio City National High School (BCNHS), BGH rotonda, Baguio Medical Center, Military Cut off Road, Session Road Extension (Quezon Elementary School), PAG ASA, PRC then finish at the Oblation grounds.

Exhibition games will start at 10 am, with basketball men and volleyball women playing simultaneously, after which basketball



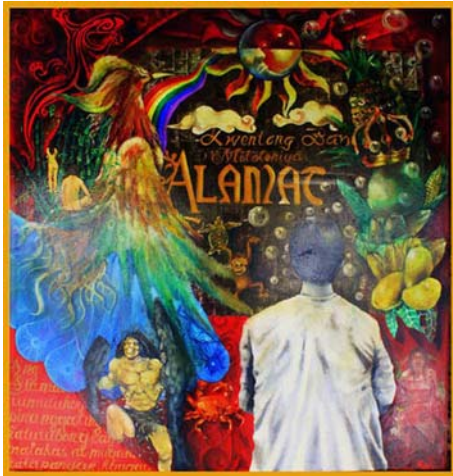
Alumni and resident varsity volleyball players

women and volleyball men games will also be played. UP Baguio's celebration of Pasiklaban 2011 will follow later in the afternoon. ■

Vincent Navarro: Visual Storyteller

*Fine Arts major wins
Shell grand prize*

■ By Joseph Carvajal



tional in that sense,” Vincent admits. Moreover, many of his subjects also reflect social realities, concerns that are more real to Filipinos than myths from faraway cultures. An example is the absence of the *baligi ng tabanan*, the father, the husband. This is the content of Vincent’s haunting watercolor painting, “Walang Katapusang Paghihintay,” which made him a finalist and an honorable mention awardee at the recent 44th Shell National Students Art Competition (NSAC). This work depicts a weathered *barong tagalog* which, without the wearer, can conjure several stories.

Meeting this young visual artist in person confirms that he is indeed a storyteller. Vincent graciously shares the tales behind his

“What is your style?” This is one of the usual questions a young visual artist gets asked. On such occasion, he is probably at a loss for words, not because he is inarticulate or confused. Rather, he knows that a single “style” cannot completely describe a variety of works that attest to his experimentation with several media, techniques and subject matters. It may also be possible that he does not want to be confined to a particular look. Young as he is, Vincent Navarro, a senior Fine Arts major at UP Baguio, seems to have already found his style.

A quick survey of his portfolio reveals a strong sense of realism in his works, many of which are paintings. These can be realistic in two respects. One is technique-wise. His subjects are undistorted, well-rendered representations of actuality. “I’m still tradi-



works. “Though not autobiographical, they are shaped by the stories of the different people I have met,” he says. From young flower vendors to bureaucrats, these are the people he has had to work with at various times, while most of his peers are only concerned with school and play.

Vincent’s ability to tell stories through visual art was also recognized in this year’s ArtPetron National Student Art Competition. His entry “Kennon Road: Manifestation of Friendship and Unity” was named semi-finalist. Awash with earth colors, this watercolor painting of the famous highway to Baguio simultaneously evokes nostalgia and beckons the viewer to visit the highlands once again.

A definitely fitting showcase of his visual storytelling skill is his acrylic painting “Reuniting Our Legends and Folklore for Our New Generations.” Succinctly depicting timeless Filipino tales, this colorful and unmistakably nationalistic piece won him the grand prize in the calendar category of the 44th Shell National Students Art Competition, held also this year. ■



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UP BAGUIO
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VICTORIA RICO COSTINA, *Editor*

GRACE SUBIDO, JIMMY FONG, RUTH TINDAAN, *Associate Editors*

KAREN BALLADA, QUANTUM LUBRICA, JENNIFER INOVERO, FARA

MANUEL, DEEMSON MONES, ERLINDA PALAGANAS, SHEKINAH

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