Message from Chancellor Raymundo D. Rovillos

Silew ni Duvong

The reference by Jesus himself as the “Light of the world” is a metaphor of his divine identity and purpose. His birth, as it is told in the Scriptures, is a story of the renewal of relationship between God and his people. The symbolism extends to the message of goodwill to all humanity which is without frontiers and is relevant in our present time as it was during the time of Jesus. The everlasting significance of humility, hope, and peace then make the celebration of the story of Christmas universal—regardless of affiliation and faith.

Our theme, in the Ibaloy language, *Silew ni Duvong*, meaning “light of the world,” resonates well with our commitment to our languages and cultures.

Christmas time also allows us the opportunity to pause, both to rest and to celebrate. As we pause, let us be grateful for our collective achievements and for the blessings we obtained this year. A review of the year 2019 brings to mind the colorful and joyous events that constituted the recently concluded International Conference on Southeast Asian Crafts and Folk Art which is also UP Baguio’s contribution to “Ibagiw,” the second Baguio Creative Festival, in addition to the numerous and remarkably successful events regularly held by the College of Arts and Communication, the College of Science, the College of Social Sciences, and the Cordillera Studies Center as well as the equally relevant activities organized and hosted by the different administrative units of UP Baguio. These accomplishments are certainly due both to our individual efforts and team work. I have the pleasure to thank everyone in UP Baguio, our partners, and the alumni for the support and commitment which enabled us to attain all these achievements. We hope, further, that these concluded activities collectively bring a lasting positive impact for the betterment of our community, society, and our world.

I wish you all joy this Christmas. May we keep the spirit of this season throughout the coming new year.

UP Baguio engages SEA on crafts and folk art

The International Conference on Southeast Asian Crafts and Folk Art (ICSEACFA) organized and hosted by the University of the Philippines Baguio, is hoped to make a lasting impact on the locality and the international scene. This has been attained initially by engaging individuals, groups and institutions in exploring potential partnerships in the promotion of crafts and folk arts during the conference. (Highlights of the events on pages 4-5)
UP Baguio's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMCS) held its annual Lectures on Breakthroughs in Mathematics on October 19, 2019 at the University's Kolehiyo ng Agham Building. About sixty faculty members and graduate students attended the lectures, with some in the audience coming from the faculty of Benguet State University, St. Louis University and Philippine Science High School. Lecturers for this year's event were Dr. Angelyn R. Lao and Dr. April Lynne Say-awen, both faculty members of De La Salle University (DLSU). Prof. Lao is currently Associate Professor in the Mathematics & Statistics Department and Assistant Dean for Research & Advanced Studies of the College of Science at DLSU. For Dr. Say-awen, who is also an Associate Professor at DLSU, the visit was a kind of homecoming since she is a UP Baguio alumna (MS Mathematics 2012) who went on to earn her PhD from the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) in 2016. Breakthroughs in Mathematics is an annual event organized by UP Baguio's Mathematics Department for the purpose of updating faculty researchers and graduate students on current topics, approaches, tools and trends in Mathematics research. With the PhD Mathematics program now on its third year of implementation, the Mathematics graduate student population at UP Baguio has overtaken that of other graduate degree programs at UP Baguio, hence the need for even more active and up-to-date research in the various areas of Mathematics.

Dr. Lao's lecture titled "Dynamic Modeling, Optimal Control and Network Analysis in Complex Systems" covered a range of approaches that can be applied and integrated in studying and understanding complex, large scale systems, with emphasis on applications in diseases. Noting that the dynamic interactions among components of a system can be complicated and complex, Prof. Lao discussed some theoretical challenges that need new methodologies and wider appreciation of systems approaches. With huge networks and massive data that are increasingly considered in attempts to unravel and understand the dynamics of disease progression on multiple scales, technological and theoretical tools are indispensable for progress to be made. Dr. Lao also emphasized the huge advantage of collaborating with biologists and medical practitioners who are able and willing to work with modelers to make available data from their laboratories. Among examples mentioned in Lao's talk was her work establishing the first mathematical and compartmental models to describe and analyze the influence of the receptor SORLA in the amyloidogenic processing of Alzheimer's disease. Her recent research applies bioinformatics and machine-learning approaches to study and discover the patterns in the topological structures of the disease networks, and identify biomarkers associated with particular diseases. Clearly, understanding how different diseases are related to one another based on their shared pathways could provide new insights into disease etiology and classification.

Prof. Say-awen's lecture titled "On Aperiodic Substitution Tilings" presented examples of aperiodic tilings and their constructions via substitutions. These include the well-known Penrose tiling, pinwheel tiling, and the new family of aperiodic tilings studied by the lecturer Say-awen. The notions of finite local complexity up to rigid motions, symmetry order, frequency module, and dense tile orientations were also discussed. Aperiodic tilings are well-known as potential models for quasicrystals, materials discovered in the early 1980s. The motivation of mathematicians in studying aperiodic tilings is due to its interesting connection with different areas of mathematics such as discrete geometry, algebra, number theory, and topology.

The Mathematics Breakthroughs lectures followed the Department's Midyear School on Graduate Research, held on July 17 to 19, 2019 at UP Baguio’s Kolehiyo ng Agham Building. Graduate students in UP Baguio's MS and PhD Mathematics programs gave presentations on ongoing research in various areas, such as Number Theory, Linear Algebra and Matrix Theory, Mathematical modeling with differential equations, models of disease transmission and pedestrian dynamics, among other areas of Applied Mathematics.
UP BAGUIO, from page 2

Graduate faculty, Drs. Juancho Collera and Gilbert Peralta, also delivered lectures on preparing and writing the graduate thesis/dissertation as well as writing journal articles for publication in scientific journals.

Earlier in the year, to present faculty and graduate student research output to the larger Mathematics community, the department sent a full-size delegation to the 2019 Annual Convention of the Mathematical Society of the Philippines (MSP) in General Santos City on May 27 to 29, 2019. The group included faculty members Joel Addawe, Rizavel Addawe, Jerico Bacani, Juancho Collera, Andrei Domogo, Kimben Gonzales, Edna Gueco, Reymart Lagunero, Priscilla Macansants, Anthony Pasion, Gilbert Peralta, Jhunas Paul Viernes, and graduate students Gervy Marie Angeles, Romsto Pajarillo, Sebastian Simon, Karen Bucasas, Ronald Aquino and Shielden Domilies. As in earlier conventions, this year, Applied Mathematics comprised a bulk of the presentations in the parallel sessions, likely following a global trend in the Mathematics community of utilizing deep mathematics and mathematical tools of analysis to understand and address practical problems and issues like disease spread, pedestrian and crowd dynamics, deforestation, kinetics of biochemical systems. In this year’s convention MSP honored a recent PhD Mathematics graduate with an Outstanding PhD Graduate award, and the first-ever MSP awardee, Dr. Eduard Taganap, is a UP Baguio alumnus (BS 2010, MS 2012) who earned his PhD at AdMU. The UP Baguio contingent took pride in the honor given to one of its own. Despite the tight schedule and the demands of grade submission deadlines, the Baguio attendees found the time to visit the popular tourist draw, Lake Sebu, with a few adventurous ones trying the zip line on the way back. Also on the way back to General Santos City from Lake Sebu, the group chanced on the small campus of UP Manila’s School of Health Sciences in Koronadal: truly, UP Naming Mahal in Koronadal:

2019 has been a productive and eventful year indeed for UPB’s DMCS.

UPB’s MM team wins in the 10th PPM Regional Business Case Competition

By DIANNE ACOSTA-CORPUZ

“Outsmart Disruption to Stay Relevant in Banking Industry” was the theme of the tenth PPM Regional Business Case Competition (RBCC) conducted on November 6-7, 2019, at the BCA Learning Institute in Bogor, Indonesia. The 10th RBCC was participated by qualifiers from Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines where 52 papers by graduate students from around Asia Pacific were submitted. The papers were on the business cases revolving around Bank Central Asia (BCA), one of the biggest private banks in Indonesia. Each of the teams built a deep understanding of their cases and formulated recommendations supported by applicable theories and principles on the BCA’s challenges of innovating business models through digital technology.

After the paper evaluation, twelve qualifiers proceeded to the final stage. A company orientation was given by BCA to the qualifying teams for a better view of how the bank does business with the various products and services. The panel of judges and the audience were awed by the brilliant presentations of the teams in the business pitch phase. Each team underwent the grueling question and answer portion where they defended their recommendations. Most of the strategies suggested a variety of improvements on the existing platforms of BCA—Flazzy, Super Apps and BCA Palette.

UP Baguio’s “gamification strategy” through the popular Snakes and Ladders board game drew interest from the crowd. PPM School of Management earned the two highest ranks in the competition followed by Prasetiya Mulya Business School and the University of the Philippines Baguio, on third and fourth place, respectively.

The UP Baguio team clad in their Cordillera inspired attires during the welcome ceremony with RBCC Judge Prof. Michael Axelsen of the University of Queensland, Dean Ningky Sasantar Munir of PPM School of Management, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and co-coach, Dr. Corazon Abansi of UP Baguio, RBCC Judge Prof. Dianne Acosta-Corpuz of UP Baguio, and Prof. Nora Sri Hendriyeni of PPM School of Management. The team, composed of Management students June Dominique Catalan, Arvin Camacho and Feliz Ann Miguel, ranked 4th overall among the 12 qualifiers in the 10th RBCC.
The conference was held on 21-22 November 2019, at the Albert Hall, Teachers’ Camp, Baguio City. It was made more vibrant by a line-up of coinciding events such as the Apunan Bazaar and Art Exhibit and its coinciding artist talks, the concert “Taludtod,” and the art exhibit “Kaledjo Shiay.” ICSEACFA, a first, is UP Baguio’s major contribution to the 2019 Baguio Creative Festival, dubbed as “Ibagiw.” It was also in time with and complemented by UP Baguio Museo Kordilyera’s new exhibit, “Handwoven Tales.”

Texts by J. Lazaga
Photos by Jennifer Guimpol

Convergences Elsewhere: A Review of the Art Exhibit of “Apunan”

By IVAN EMIL LABAYNE

Group art shows can occasion critical comparisons on the part of onlookers. Depending on how the show has been curated or how the call for participants has been made, the audience can observe how the artists converge or diverge in terms of style and technique, or in interpreting the show’s topic or theme, if they are given. The art exhibit “Apunan” organized by UP Baguio as part of the Ibagiw Festival, spurred me into thinking along these lines.

(Full article to follow next issue.)
The broad range of topics and expertise—from textiles to jeepneys, from curricula to governance, from aesthetics to policy, from identity to sustainable development—rendered the conference vibrant as speakers and participants actively engaged in discourse on the implications of crafts and folk art in our individual and collective lives.

Texts by J. Lazaga
Photos by Jennifer Guimpol
UP Baguio hosts the 22nd Philippine Mathematical Olympiad Qualifying Stage

By SHEILDAN GRAIL DOMILIES

Among the Mathematical Society of the Philippines’ annual events, the 22nd Philippine Mathematical Olympiad Qualifying Stage and Area Stage, were both held at the University of the Philippines Baguio. The Qualifying Stage took place on October 12, 2019, while the Area Stage was held on November 16, 2019.

The Qualifying Stage commenced with the participation of 314 students, 71 coaches, and 28 participating schools from Region I and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). It began with a registration starting from 10:00 am to 1:00 PM. At 1:00 PM, the students entered their designated testing rooms where further instructions were given. The test started at precisely 2:00 pm and concluded at 5:00 pm. Certificates were also awarded to students, coaches, and participating schools. The event was coordinated and led by the Regional Coordinator, Anthony M. Pasion of UP Baguio’s Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

The event is a preliminary step for the top 50 students from each area consisting of Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and the National Capital Region, to be selected for the Area Stage. The results of the Qualifying Stage are posted online. Seven participants are qualified for the Area Stage: three students from the University of Baguio Science High School, two from Philippine Science High School CAR Campus, one from the Ilocos Norte National High School, and one from Philippine Science High School Ilocos Region Campus.

UP Baguio also hosted the Area Stage for the aforementioned regions last November 16, 2019. The written examination lasted for three hours. The names of the qualifiers for the area stage will be posted on or before December 31, 2019 at the PMO website and their Facebook page. Top three students per area will be awarded with medals in the National Finals and Awarding Program to be held in Metro Manila. Additionally, students with the top twenty scores among all those who took the Area Stage exam will qualify for the National Stage.

Meanwhile, the National Stage will be conducted on January 18, 2020 consisting a written and oral competition.

One Hundred Years of Gratitude

(Read in program to install a marker on the oldest pine tree in the UP Baguio campus, November 12, 2019, during the celebration of Native Plants Week.)

Welcome everyone, here, under my protective canopy. I am humbled by this honor that you are bestowing upon me today. I have been here for almost a hundred years now; even before UP Baguio came to be. I have seen your academic community grow into what it has become. All these years, I have been a loyal and protective presence, providing shade, protection, comfort, nutrients, and energy for everyone who has come to stay for some years, or to visit this campus.

All these years, our relationship has been symbiotic. For this, I am grateful. Nevertheless, our environment changes, and development, if not well planned and grounded on science, has its costs. I have lost many of my fellow plants in the campus and bird and animal friends have suffered the onslaught of development.

So allow me to issue a challenge and a request, which is for the UP Baguio community to continue leading the way in environmental activism as we consciously nurture our immediate and larger environments, so that we, Pinus kesiya and our micro- and macro ecosystems can continue to protect many more Iskolar ng Bayan for at least another one hundred years. 
The mass media have an important role in times of crisis. Communication through mass media aids institutions in managing potential crises and, better, prevents crises. A workshop organized by the Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs of the University of the Philippines System was held on 22-23 August 2019, in UP Diliman primarily to assist the UP constituent units in enhancing the capacity of their public affairs, media relations, and information and communication offices, specifically in relation to crisis management and communication.

In the workshop, Dr. Dante M. Velasco, chairman and CEO of Creative Point International, Inc., defined crisis as a fluid and dynamic state of affairs containing equal parts of danger and opportunity. It is a turning point, for better or for worse. Dr. Velasco stated that the first 60 minutes of an event mark the most critical moment when a crisis erupts. This is a time when the institution may not yet have all the facts of an incident. This is also the period when the incident is posted on the internet first, and speculation occurs. During this time an institution needs to make a statement that would help prevent the event from becoming a crisis. The first statement we give has a big impact on the succeeding events. Holding statements should contain the 4 Cs of a message: be in Control, take Charge, express Compassion, and achieve Credibility.

Dr. Velasco proposed that institutions should have a crisis management team and a crisis communications team. The crisis management team would deal with the reality of the crisis. It is tasked with gathering facts, deploying resources, marshalling the troops, preventing the situation from escalating, managing the rapidly unfolding incident, and attending to the things that often happen behind the scene. The crisis communication team deals with the perception of the public about the same reality, tells the public what is going on in a “truth well told” mode. This creates trust, wins credibility and keeps the reputation of the institution intact. The perception of a crisis may ultimately redefine the outcome of the crisis. These teams would assist in handling situations to prevent crisis or the adverse effects of a crisis.

Dr. Velasco also shared that institutions should have the four trust values: compassion (express caring for the clients/stakeholders), candor (provide details on an operational problem), competence (skill to address a problem), and commitment (showing that the organization has the authority to do something about the problem). These values enable an institution to build public trust.

To further develop relations with the public through the media, Ms. Veronica Baluyot-Jimenez discussed organizing press conferences, talk shows and the different types of interviews. She also gave a crash training course on facing the camera. Ms. Baluyot-Jimenez emphasized the need to make a plan of action and to prepare for questions on the part of interviewees. Other tips included establishing rapport, sustaining audience attention, making the conference, show or interview entertaining or thought provoking, use of conversational language, dressing up, and diplomacy when on air. Worth remembering are the tips from the veteran journalist herself: talk simple, do not lie and do not pretend to know all the answers; do not lose your temper or get angry, be cautious when talking to a journalist; nothing is really off the record; do not be rude, arrogant or condescending. These are useful not only in dealing with crises, but also in communicating with the public in general.

The proclaimed winners of this stage will then represent the country in the 61st International Mathematical Olympiad to be held at St. Petersburg, Russia on July 8 to 18, 2020. The Philippine Mathematical Olympiad is the country’s most notable and oldest mathematics competition nationwide among secondary school students.
UP Baguio lights up for the Christmas season with artworks installed at the Oblation grounds. The artworks were conceptualized and created by UP Baguio Fine Arts faculty Ides Josepina D. Macapanpan together with fellow artists Joseph Luigi B. Almuena and Salvador Luis L. Varron, with the help of UP Baguio Campus Maintenance Office.

First time: UPB student makes it to the top 5 of PSQ

UP Baguio student Sid Piolo Sta. Teresa who topped the Philippine Statistics Quiz (PSQ) Regional Championship for the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), placed 5th in the 2019 PSQ National Finals which was held on 29 November 2019, at the Sequoia Hotel in Quezon City. In the same regional championship, fellow Computer Science freshman Jeric Narte ranked as first runner-up. Sta. Teresa and Narte present their winnings to UP Baguio Chancellor Raymundo D. Rovillos, together with Dr. Dymphna Javier (Dean of the College of Science), Dr. Jerico Bacani (Chairperson of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science), and their mentors, Dr. Rizavel Addawe (coach), Ms. Shieldan Grail Domilies and Mr. Lee Javellana, in a courtesy call on the chancellor, 14 November 2019.