

variations Vol. XLI

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foreword

Variations has been both challenging and rewarding for me. I have been a facilitator of this amazing group of young creative, brilliant, and (sometimes) stubborn writers and illustrators for three years and it has been an adventure where we have to ride different roller-coasters from time to time. Variations XLI will be an adventure for you as well. Here, these artistically gifted students turned almost all of the news to features. Not just that, since in this edition, we have contributors from dance and music majors, we can promise that it will cater a much delight for your reading taste. I am sure that this edition will be riveting. Thus, your choice of opening this Variations XLI will not be put to waste. Enjoy reading!

I have to mention that this may be the last edition under my supervision. I am forever grateful to Amber Garma, Ma-I Entico, Maura Yap, Noreen Domingo, Wika Nadera and Bertha Santos; for in the years 2016-2018 of handling Var, these student leaders had so much to contribute to my additional learning experience.

Special thanks to the main layout editor of the team, Kayla Averion who passionately displayed her editing skills. Lastly, to the year's leadership group: Bea, Meg, and Leila who despite the challenges never ceases to positively surprise me with their flexibility and brilliance, and to their current Editor-in-Chief, Danny, who proved to be an apt spearhead to the year's team.

Support the arts. Date an artist!

Long live PHSA, long live the country.

– Jon Darren Rivera,
School Paper Adviser

Sanghiyas Pangkat Mananayaw dancers jump for joy upon the announcement of winning 1st place at Luneta Park, Manila, October 21, 2018, Sunday.



Ibarang Dancers Win Back-to-Back in Sayaw Pinoy

Leila Maligalig

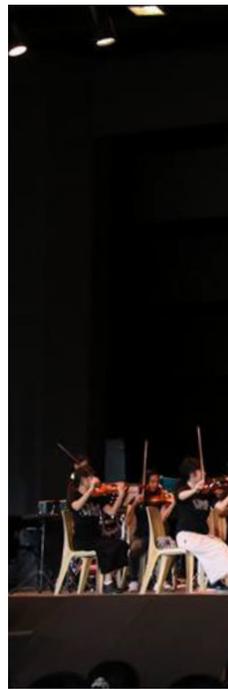
October 21 marked another triumph for the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) as its dance scholars won first place in both Folk Dance and Contemporary Dance Categories in Sayaw Pinoy: National Commission for Culture and the Arts Dance Festival 2018, held in Luneta Park, Manila.

PHSA's folk dance company, Sanghiyas Pangkat Mananayaw (SPM), stood out amongst 39 other contestants in the Folk Dance Category with SPM Adviser Victor Flor's staging of Miligoy de Cebu.

Senior high school dance majors, the Makiling Dance (MD), meanwhile, came first in the Contemporary Dance Category. Grade 12 MD member Ivan Boloron choreographed the winning piece, "Manunggul."

The SPM team consisted of grade 10 students Jon Ferrer, Paul Perez, Mars Quejada, Julie Cuison, Anna Montallana and Diamond Paredes; grade 9 students Kenneth Lope, Blilah Tony and Jerl Quejada; grade 8 students Prince Perez and Crizza Urmeneta; and grade 7 student Christian Valerio.

The MD team consisted of grade 12 students Ren-Ar Padole and Sophia Maunahan and grade 11 students Arjay Albores, Eden Dumas, Lamuel Pulpulaan, Glycel Abatol, Giegie Forcadela, Maepril del Puerto, Angel Ramos and Alliah Torte.



Voice Majors bag awards in Kundiman Song Festival

Danielle Alexandra Castillo

US Navy visits PHSA to perform and the students various form of instruments, National Arts Center, Los Baños Laguna, Photo from PHSA Archives



International music groups perform at NAC

Ianna Oliveros

Worldship Orchestra performing various musical pieces at the National Arts Center, Los Baños Laguna, Photo from PHSA Archives



Music groups World Symphony Orchestra (WSO) and the US Navy Quartet wowed their audience comprised of students and staff of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) with performances at the National Arts Center (NAC) on March 1 and April 15 respectively.

WSO, with about 50 members and above, played both classical and Asian compositions such as Little Star and the Japanese Wave Impression, with the aim to focus and further introduce both Western and Eastern instruments. Music students Micah Pecson (grade 12), Ian Levi Mora (grade 12), Gabriel Domagas (grade 11), Luigi Torres (grade 11), Julian Bernal (grade 10) and Emmanuel John Villarin (grade 9) performed alongside the orchestra.

Meanwhile, the US Navy Quartet, with only around seven overall members, played tracks associated with 21st century pop culture, such as the cartoon theme Pink Panther and Luis Fonsi's Despacito.

An introductory lesson to basic orchestra conducting, with onstage participation from the audience, was also given by WSO. Both groups seem to have attempted further interaction with the audience through immersion into orchestral processes and use of media identifiable to the audience, such as WSO's performance of the Filipino Sana'y Wala Nang Bukas.

Chosen voice majors of the Philippine High School for the Arts bagged awards in the 9th Maria Carpena Kundiman Song Festival. The festival was held at the Cultural Center of Laguna on October 19.

The competitors were Lizzie Estrada (Grade 9), Leanne Tavita (Grade 10) and Daniella Silab (Grade 11). The students took 2nd place, 5th place and 3rd place in the High School Category respectively.

The festival was also organized to celebrate the 132nd birth anniversary of Maria Evangelista Carpena, the nightingale of Zarzuela and the first Filipino recording artist. The said competition had categories for Elementary, High School, Open Category, and Senior Citizen.

The students sang "Bituing Marikit" by Nicanor Aberlado. "We had to go through a lot of training and it was quite hard to balance this competition with school matters. However, after we won awards, we realized it was worth it," said Tavita regarding their win.



Music majors Philharmonic Sunset Concert

Ianna Oliveros

Winners of the literary book characters joins the stage in the very first AGIMATH held by the teachers, Bulwagang Lakanbako. Photos from PHSA Archives



Agham, Ingles at Matematika — these are the subjects that were the focus and made up the name, AGIMAT, the first primarily Basic Education event during Vim Nadera's time as Director IV.

AGIMAT was held from April 1-5, and was organized by teachers Maricon Amada, Darren Rivera, Lester Tamisin, Marza Palentino, Ronia Mosaso and Rodrigo Estepa.

AGIMAT hosted many activities, such as a parade of literary characters, a poetry and songwriting contest, a quiz bowl, a stargazing session, and guest talks.

This event served as a surprise to the students, many of which mostly prefer the arts courses to the basic education.

Arts school hosts first AGIMAT

Sidney Lampayan

On the fifth of May, two music majors of the Philippine High School for the Arts performed with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO).

The concert was held the National Arts Center, Los Baños, Laguna.

Bandurria player Nikki Obmasca performed George Frederic Handel's Concerto in B Flat, Op. 40. 6, HWV 294 Andanteallegro, while trumpeter Rhoxene Octaviano played Jean Baptiste Arban's Carnival Venice.

"Usually, sa performance ng music, hindi talaga ganooon karami yung audience. Pero at that time, yung mga tao ng Elbi umakyat at ang daming visitors lang talaga na manonood dito, so medyo nakakakaba." said Obmasca.

The performance, dubbed as the PPO Sunsets in Makiling, was conducted by PPO resident conductor Herminigildo Ranera and organized by the staff and members of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and the Filipinas Opera Society.

The CCP granted free admission to the concert in an "attempt to bring classical music closer to the Philippines" through various outreach programs



M. Butterfly producer donates to school

Sidney Lampayan

During 2015, award-winning producer Jhett Tolentino visited the school. Back then, the school had been recovering from the effects of Typhoon Glenda on the campus. Tolentino apparently took pity and promised Director IV Victor Emmanuel Carmelo Nadera, that he would return and help out the school. On 2018, Tolentino went back to the school, announcing he will donate PHP 500,000 pesos — proceeds from the play M. Butterfly.

"When I saw the state of the school, I knew I had to help," he stated.

The hit Broadway play was created by David Henry Hwang, and was inspired by the real headline of a French diplomat falling in love with a male Chinese opera singer. The M. Butterfly production in Manila was produced by Tolentino, three decades after the play's original showing on Broadway. It starred RS Francisco as the Butterfly, who made a return to the role after acting it in Dulaang UP's 1990 premiere.

The cast of M. Butterfly officially donated the money to the school on September 22, from the monetization of the shows on that day.

According to Tolentino, the play was 100% non-profit, meaning all the proceeds went to several organizations, of which the school is included.





Jude Macasinag from his arrival in fall. Photo from J. Macasinag

Danielle Alexandra Castillo

Ibarang
alumnus
to study
in

INTERN

fashion
academy

Philippine High School for the Arts alumnus Jude Macasinag from batch FeliZaro (2018) flew to Paris, the city of love and fashion, on August 29.

Macasinag enrolled in the International Fashion Academy (IFA) in the field of Fashion Design.

IFA is a fashion school for design and luxury business with campuses in Paris, Shanghai and Istanbul. The school offers a vast range of unique and tailored courses.

Macasinag believed that his mom's wedding gown for her 20th anniversary is the piece that started it all. He also created a Coin Terno, a costume for the Dulaang Sipat Lawin's "Bantayog" show in 2017, which was covered with 5-centavo coins and weighed approximately more than 16 kilograms.

Macasinag also showcased his works through yearly exhibits in PHSA and other art fairs such as Stilo Artefino where he introduced his Sunburst Bayongs.

"I want to improve first (concept and technique-wise) and go out, see, and absorb whatever else the universe has to offer. Apart from establishing my own fashion house, I want to set up a firm that specializes in developing and enhancing the crafts and traditions we already have in the country, which is inclusive to and supportive of various artisanal groups and indigenous communities. I haven't concretely mapped it out yet, but I also want the establishment to be a center for research, like an educational center for Philippine design, crafts, and the arts—something hopefully relevant and helpful for Filipino artists, designers, and creatives," said Macasinag regarding his plans.

**MSJO
bags 1st
place at**

The Manila Symphony Junior Orchestra (MSJO) succeeded in procuring "1st Place with Outstanding Success" in the prestigious Summa Cum Laude Youth Festival.

The orchestra was under the baton of Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) alumnus and conductor Jeffrey Solares. The festival took place on July 8 and is held annually at the Musikverein, a hall famed for its golden interior and near-perfect acoustics. The MSJO performed their 30-minute repertoire from memory, consisting of Mozart's Divertimento in D Major, Dvorak's Scherzo from Serenade for Strings, Alcala's Dayo Dayo Kupita, Florante's Handog and Castillon's Kruhay. The youth orchestra, formed only three years prior, was treated to a round of raucous applause afterwards. Panellist Christoph Ehrenfeller praised their warm tones and wave-like movements on stage.

"Austria is a landlocked country," he said. "What we envy the most about your country is the sea, but today, you have brought the sea and the warmth of your hometown to us." Although tied for 1st place with the Jerusalem Hassadna String Orchestra, MSJO couldn't have been happier with the results – a much-deserved reward after seven

Nadera beside his award-winning work in Tokyo. Photo from Gerry Leonardo.



SHS student wins INTERNATIONAL painting title

Bianca Ysabel Rabe

Philippine High School for the Arts' Grade 12 student, Wika P. Nadera, nabs awards at the International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC) Painting Competition for the High School Level. He flew to Tokyo, Japan for the awarding ceremony, Aug. 7-10. The mechanics state that all high school level Filipino artists were welcome to join, and the winner would be brought to Japan for the awarding.

Nadera's creation tops among the five submissions. He received a certificate and a medal on the second day of the trip. "It was a great experience," he says. "Pero ang pinakamagandang experience ay nung na-cancel flight namin." Nadera narrates how he and Gerry Leonardo, his adult supervisor for the trip and Visual Arts teacher, had to look for a hotel near the airport.

Their flight home got cancelled due to ill weather. "The flight kasi, it's the exact same time, but the day after... It gave us the time to recap the whole experience. "[Pero yung pinakamaganda talaga] in my experiences sa Japan, [was being] able to recognize how natural and unique Filipino Identity is. Kung makakapunta ka sa ibang bansa, it's just like how Jose Rizal loved the Philippines more when he was out of the country. Something to that extent. Being able to recognize and identify that is the most beautiful thing for me in Japan."

IFAC is a non-profit organization established for the promotion of social welfare activities through arts-related events founded in 1996.

Micah Pecson

int'l festival

months' worth of intense preparation. "Na-feel ko na lahat ng paghihirap natin, nag-pay off nung sinabi na panalo tayo," said EJ Villarin, one of MSJO's first violinists. "Lahat ng practice, lahat nung 6 to 8 hours na nagamit nung summer, worth it talaga."

When asked about what he felt during the announcement, Julian Bernal added "Super saya po, pero parang I expected it na, considering we were the last group to perform for the day, so I know we left an impact. Plus, the judges' comments afterwards were so nice that I thought it'd be impossible for us to get anything else but first."

Out of the 47 musicians, six are currently studying at PHSA, namely EJ Villarin (Grade 9), Julian Bernal (Grade 10), Luigi Torres and Gabe Domagas (Grade 11), and Micah Pecson and Ian Mora (Grade 12). Additionally, three are alumni - Angel Esteban and Alain de Asis (Batch FeliZaro, 2018) and Maestro Jeffrey Solares (Batch Santiago, 1990).

Grade 10 Arts Festival

In preparation for recital and exhibit season of every year, the Ibarang shed blood, sweat, and tears to create a production that they grow along with as well. This year's events were no exception and undoubtedly exceeded expectations.

VISUAL ARTS

Pintados prepared **Alay**, an exhibit held at the Sining Makiling Gallery in Los Baños on May 14 featuring the artworks of grades 7-10 students from this school year. These showcased a variety of pieces, ranging from paintings to sculptures to installation art. The students featured were Amara Averion, Rain Balane, Avril Cobrana, Sherry Kagalingan, and Isagani Pinzon.

THEATER ARTS

This year, Dulaang Sipat Lawin staged **QUAD**, featuring grades 7-10 in Ang Santo Papa at ang Bruha and grade 10 in The Coffee Shop Within the Play. These enthralling performances were first showcased in CCP from March 29-31 and were then restaged in the Bulwagang Sarimanok from April 3-4. The recitalists were Denyll Almendras, Philip Catarus, Hyschel Eya, and Faith Gayatao.

BALLET

Maquiling Ballet performed a haunting adaptation of the tragedy Giselle, followed by contemporary pieces from **Idi Ugma**, which takes us back to the origin of man. These were held in CCP on April 4 before being restaged in the Tanghalang Maria Makiling on April 9. The highlighted choreographers were Krislynn Buri, Jovit Diño, Carlo Señeres, and Nicole Tangalin.

FOLK DANCE

Sanghiyas Pangkat Mananayaw staged **Anayad: Dayog ng Daluyong sa Kalinawan** on May 2, in the Tanghalang Maria Makiling. This production bridged various Filipino cultures together using water and was choreographed by the grade 10 folk dance students and was performed to live music. Concept and choreography were done by Julie Cuison, Jon Ferrer, Anna Montallana, Diamond Paredes, Paul Peres, and Mars Quejada.

CREATIVE WRITING

Kuwit launched the first ever collection of grade 10 junior capstone projects. Revolving around the theme of identity, the four exhibits were Danielle Alexandra Castillo's **"Notes to Souvenirs"**, Leila Maligalig's **"Rhapsodist"**, Margaret Mil's **"Wraith"**, and Bianca Dean Rabe's **"Bakit Hindi Ka Tumawag?"**. These were launched on May 8 at the school area.

MUSIC

The Musika Ibarang staged a series of recitals entitled **Primera Vez** featuring the grade 10 students—Julian Bernal, Faye Dinglasan, Nikki Obmasca, Kaya Pabico, and Leanne Tavita—viola, piano, bandurria, violin, and soprano, respectively. These performances were showcased on May 5, 7, and 8.



HUDHUD

Grade 12 Arts Festival

WRAP UP

This year's graduating batch, Joya-Montano presents Hudhud: Wake for Harvest, an arts festival of the concluding recitals, exhibits, and launches exhibiting the artistic development of finishing students.

Quoting a post from the batch's Facebook page: "We have sown or buried collections of six years worth of bounty; and it is now ready to be reaped and exhumed."

THEATER

The thesis and final production of theater student James Lanante as a high school student was titled "**Pagsaringsing Ha Puy-anan**." He researched about the culture of his hometown and through games, songs, dances, stories, and finds his own journey of self discovery and finding home mirroring that of a tale of a hero. It was performed on April 9 at the Bulwagang Sarimanok, the National Arts Center Clubhouse.

DANCE

Chorography was the dance major's focus in their performances. Students exhibit their skills in the performances they choreographed: Teresa De Chaves's **Gagambalo Libulan** by Ren-ar Alontaga Padole; Gillianne Bearnaza's **Sonder, Schadenfreude** by James Bryll Dumandan; Patricia Mae Perez's **Siyap, Medium Locum** by Sophia Ailsa Maunahan; Ivan Boloron's **Lin-Ay, Hinumdum** by Princess Stephanie D. Balido; and Lyssa D. Alarcon's **Hilom**. Each had their own separate performances on separate dates in the National Arts Center, but excerpts of each were brought to the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on April 11.

CREATIVE WRITING

Komiket Alamat Award winner Ma-I Entico's new comic **My Name Is Agung** doubles as her final high school project. In Adam David's words: "Entico weaves various narrative and conceptual thread of Bagobo mythology, indigenous identity, cultural appropriation, and the bloody legacy of landgrabbing and other efforts of forced erasure of the ways of the lives of others." The book was launched on May 8 at the Bulwagang Sarimanok.

VISUAL ARTS

The graduating visual artists held an exhibit named "**Tagu-tagpuan**." A play on the game hide-and-seek, the exhibit is about revealing what is hidden, and to "direct these student's personal views into the societal stream." The four themes exhibited by the students Tristan Guinid, Wika Nadera, Elaine Olaer, and Roberta Santos opened in the Bulwagang Carlos V. Francisco on May 23 and will be put up until June 30.

MUSIC

Named **Mata Ne**, a Japanese phrase that translates to "see you again" or "see you soon," the performance is one of the final high school recitals of musicians Ian Levi Mora and Jodeline Michaela Pecson. It's a fitting title for the conclusion of the six-year stay of the two students in PHSA. They say in a Facebook post: "Our stay atop Mt. Makiling has come to an end, our musical journey -- wherever else it may take us -- has only just begun." It was performed in the CCP Little Theater on April 14 and in the National Arts Center on April 28.



Daniel Ben



PHSA celebrates 41 years

Ril Arguelles

In commemoration of its 41st anniversary, the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) organized a three-day celebration dubbed *Araw ng PHSA*, at the National Arts Center from September 7 to 9.

During the event, PHSA welcomed three jubilarian batches Buencamino ('83), Kasilag ('88) and Dela Rama ('93) as well as paid tribute to National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag on her 100th birthday.

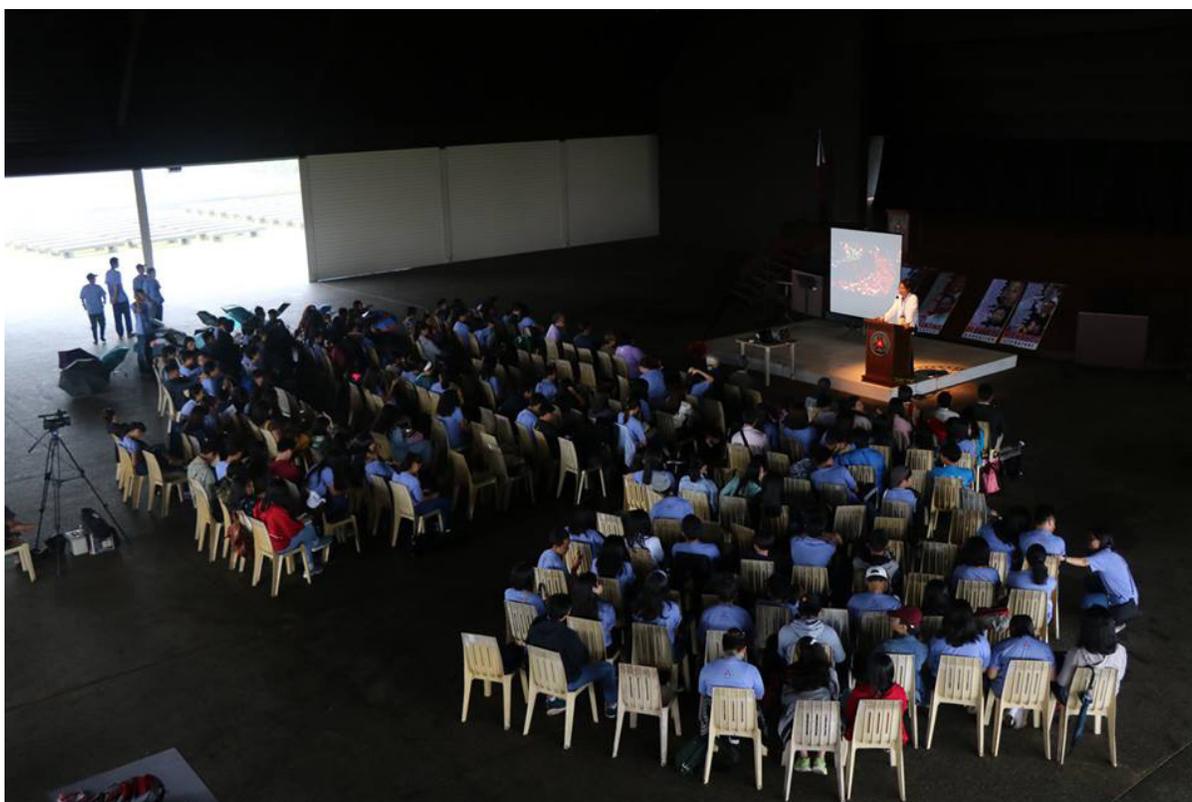
Performances by the Sanghiyas Panagkat Mananayaw (SPM), Maquiling Ballet (MB) and the senior high dance students opened the event. The SPM staged a couple of dances from the ethnic tribe of Maranao such as Pigapir and Malong, which was followed by MB and senior high's contemporary dance. After the performances, a brief history

about the school was shared by the Director IV, Sir Victor Emmanuel Carmelo Nadera Jr., as well as Lucrecia Kasilag's background and accomplishments.

A talk about environment preservation was also held by one of the guest speakers, the Executive Director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia Yeb Saño, informing the students of the current problems in the environment like climate change worsening and its effects on wild life.

After Saño's talk, a *balagtasan* regarding the same topic was presented by The Makatas, who also concluded the first day's activities. In their performance, they encouraged audience participation and welcomed the students' opinions.

The third day was head-started by Musika Ibarang's (MI) performance, followed by a few dances staged by guest dancers and SPM. On this day, the students were required to dress in traditional costumes and the ones who stepped up their game like Blilah Mae Tony, who wore her authentic ethnic dress from the B'laan Tribe were given the event's special merchandise. The event was then concluded by the students' kite-flying activity with kites made by each batches' visual artists.



Students of Philippine Highschool for the Arts celebrates Araw ng PHSA, September 7, 2018, National Arts Center. Photo from PHSA Archives



Folk Dancers from the Philippine Highschool For the Arts performs their choreography at the annual MAKILINC, February 16, 2018. Photo from PHSA Archives

— MAKILINC VI

Danielle Alexandra Castillo

With February known as the Philippine's National Arts Month, PHSA commemorates this event with the sixth year of MAKILINC, an annual workshop for the students lead by local and international artists.

For this year, MAKILINC introduced seven art forms for students to experience: Flamenco, Mindanaoan Art, Basic Creative Writing, Balinese Theatre, Jazz, Musical Theatre, and Shadowplay. The said event lasted from February 10 to 15.

For the opening program, Prof. Efren Abueg, Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas Awardee, was invited as Guest of Honor. This also served as the introduction of Guest Artists which was led by Director VI Vim Nadera.

Tim Tomlinson, the co-founder of New York Writers Workshop lead the Basic Creative Writing workshop. Tomlinson is also the co-author of The Portable MFA in Creative Writing.

"He talked about how there are four aspects or four persons within a writer that we should all have and I think what I like the most is that he encouraged us to cultivate the fool as he said that, which means he told us not to overthink too much. I think that's relevant as very stressed students." said Margaret Mil, Grade 10 Creative Writing major, regarding the Creative Writing workshop.

Meanwhile, Guillermo Gomez, the acclaimed Father of Spanish Flamenco Dance in the Philippines, and his granddaughter, Ann Gomez, taught fundamentals of Flamenco. They were also

accompanied with their guitarist, Adolfo Timuat, who played throughout the workshop and rehearsals.

"I really found it exciting how we're learning this form of Dance. Kumabaga, it draws this bridge from Ballet to Tap Dancing, which made things easier for some of us. Having live music was also such a thrilling factor to add." said Nikki Tangalin, Grade 10 Ballet Major, regarding the lessons.

For Visual Arts, Kublai Millan and Danilo Rayos Del Sol introduced Mindanao Art. Most of the lessons revolved around sculpting and using cement as a material.

"Natutunan namin na if you really put your mind into something, you can finish it at a much faster pace." said Fred Espiña, Grade 9 Visual Arts Major, on the process of their products.

PHSA Music Major Alumnus Greg Zuniega of Batch '83 initiated the workshop for Musical Theatre.

"Para sa akin, memorable sa akin yung nakumpleto na namin yung dalawang songs and yung fact lang na some of us are non-performers or non-musicians ay nagawa parin naming mabuo yung two songs." said Lizzie Estrada, Grade 9 Music Major, regarding the participators of Zuniega's workshop.

Royal Hartigan from Blood Drum Spirit came back with a companion, Rick Countryman, and headed the Jazz Workshop.

"Nagbigay siya ng inspirational na story sa amin. Every na kuwento niya sa amin, may napupulot

kami kasi gusto niyang i-apply naming yung real life sa music." said Juliana Silangcruz, Grade 9 Music Major, on the knowledge they shared.

PHSA Visual Arts Alumnus Datu Arellano of Batch '98 expounded the impression of Shadowplay.

"One of the most memorable lessons that I've learned from Sir Datu was 'The process is more important than the product'. To me, that means that the process is a layer where you have the freedom to make mistakes and make experiments that will affect your product." said Air Salazar, Grade 7 Theatre Arts Major, regarding Arellano's lectures.

I. Nyoman Sedana, a Professor of Traditional Theatre at the Indonesian Arts Institute Denpasar in Bali, enlightened the students with Balinese Art.

"Memorable siya in general kasi each meeting po namin, hindi kami nabo-bored and at the same time, natutuwa kami sa ginagawa namin." said Jerl Quejada, Grade 9 Folk Dance Major, on the activities.

Finally, the three-day workshop also produced performances that were presented in the Los Baños Municipal Hall. Amelia Lapeña-Bonfacio, National Artist for Theatre, was invited as Guest of Honor to share her advice and background as an artist.

Ibarang exhibits works in Salangian: Sulasapo

Kristen Sison, a Grade 9 Visual Arts student, was selected as one of the exhibitors for Salangian, a Kapampangan exhibit at Clark Museum, Pampanga.

The exhibit opened on August 3. Sison, who is proudly Kapampangan, was one of the youngest exhibitors being only 15.

"I was lucky to be selected and it is such a privilege to bring and share my talent at home," stated Sison.

Salangian, meaning "to light" or "ignite," is a community of Kapampangan artists who hold exhibits yearly to promote local art and environmental rehabilitation in Pampanga.

There are three exhibits under Salangian: Salangian, Salangian II and Salangian

III. Sison was chosen to be a part of Salangian III; Sulasapo to inspire the younger generations of Pampanga to take part and be active on the issues that surround them through art.



Sison alongside fellow exhibitors in "Sulasapo." Photo from Kristen Sison.

"—continue to grow as a person and as an artist."

Musika Ibarang places in NAMCYA

The Ibarang representatives bagged a lot of awards in this year's National Music Competitions for Youth Artists (NAMCYA) finals.

In the strings category, three violinists placed, with Emmanuel John Villarin winning second, Ian Mora third, and Luigi Torres earning an honorable mention. In the voice category, Daniela Silab placed second and Lizzie Estrada also got an honorable mention. Andrea Versoza won third place in the piano category.

According to Lizzie Estrada, no one was really expecting to win anything. "Di ko siya tinreat as super competition na competition, kasi I was trying to enjoy it muna; kasi kumbaga, I mean I'm just starting pa lang. I'm not saying naman na hindi goal ang manalo o matalo pero same pa rin naman. Kung matalo, learn your lesson, at kung manalo, continue to grow as a person and as an artist."

The competition was held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) from November 20-22.

Sophia Beatriz Reyes

Buwan Lila Sayajon

Traveling all the way from Los Baños, students of Philippine High School for the Arts' (PHSA) performed their works at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on Apr. 5.

The students in the Music and Folk Dance fields helped begin the opening ceremony for Performatura Festival 2019, an event directed by PHSA's Director IV, Dr. Vim Nadera Jr., and a contemporary piece performed by the Senior High Dance majors further into the program.

Along with the Dance majors, the grade 7 and 8 Creative Writing students were able to lead the segment of the festival dubbed, "Tanghal-Tanghalian" which consisted of several literary performances from different groups and individuals, as well as present their own performance titled "Hatinggabi."

The pieces that the students performed were in line for Performatura 2019's theme, "Ang Mamatay ng Dahil Sa Iyo" which was described as "an attempt to tackle the issue of changing the last line of Philippine National Anthem through literature and performances. The theme also alludes to issues that are relevant and being discussed in our society today."

The festival, as mentioned in the theme, mostly focuses and emphasizes on the overlaps of literature or text and performance, and the title "Performatura" was derived from two words—"performance" and "oral literature."

The open-to-the-public festival spanned for three days, from Apr. 5 to Apr. 7, and featured various art talks, art exhibits, slam poetry contests, and other similar performances.

**PHSA
students
contribute
to CCP's
celebration
for literature
and
performance**

12

Airdance defies gravity on NAC stage



*Airdance performs one of their signature pieces on stage at the National Art Center, August 28, 2018.
Photo from PHSA Archives*

PHSA ALUMNA WINS INT'L SWAG OF SETKÁNÍ/ ENCOUNTER AWARD

Danielle Alexandra Castillo

A recent Theatre Arts Graduate of the Philippine High School for the Arts was given recognition for her performance in Oedipus in the SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER Theater Festival in Brno, Czech Republic.

Alumna Uzziel Delamide was one of the representatives of Dulaang Filipino, the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) resident theater company. The ensemble was recognized for award-winning production Oedipus of the Greek tragedy by Sophocles.

The 29th SETKÁNÍ/ENCOUNTER Theater Festival is a gathering of selected theatre artists from art institutions around the world. This year's celebration gathered theatre companies from countries such as Croatia, Germany, Russia, Poland, Czech, Latvia, and the Philippines.

It was originally developed as a non-competitive event. However, the jury, which consists of theatre experts in the performing arts and theatre education, acknowledged this year's performances.

The event lasted from April 4 to 6, and ended at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts Brno (JAMU) in Brno, Czech Republic.

"—but I hope that there would be more people who would be engaged with and learn from it then just congratulating."



Leila Maligalig

The country's contemporary dance and aerial arts pioneer company, Airdance, wowed the students of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) with a gravity-defying performance at the National Arts Center, August 28.

The performance featured PHSA alumni Nikka Bola and Jennica Tavales, as well as Airdance company members Rhosam Prudenciano, Ian Tiba, Justine Diolazo, Joshua Bajado, Marvin Peralta, Rhojani Nasaid, Nicole Primero, Anjz Baracay and Carlos Deriada, who received standing ovations for their signature aerial stunts.

Airdance also facilitated contemporary dance and aerial silk classes to folk dance, ballet, theater and senior high dance major on August 27.

"For me, fulfilling siya kasi minsan lang magkaroon ng ganoong class," shared grade 10 folk dance major Jon Ferrer. "Ibang-iba ang style nila sa pagtuturo ng contemporary [dance] sa Makiling."

The classes and performances were offered as part of Airdance's 17th anniversary program.

Creative writing teacher places first in poetry competition

Sidney Lampayan



Rae Rival-Cosico received continental fame when she claimed first place in an Asian-wide poetry competition, Auditory Context.

The competition ran from October 25, 2017 to February 28, 2018, and the results were announced on April 22. 'Cha: An Asian Literary Journal,' Hong-Kong based, English-language online literary journal, hosted the competition. Tammy Lai-Ming Ho, co-editor of Cha and Vice President of PEN Hong Kong, and LianHee Wee, Cha contributor, Phonologist and Professor at Hong Kong Baptist University, served as the judge.

"It was different from the other poetry competitions, because you had to send a clip of you reading it out loud," Rival-Cosico stated. "I didn't expect to win, but it was a pleasant surprise."

Her winning poem, entitled Tiempo Muerto, made references to agriculture, rural life and the poor of the economy. There was a HK\$500 for first place, and all winning poems received publication in a special part of Issue 39 of Cha, released during April.

"I am really happy that people liked and got to read it, but I hope that there would be more people who would be engaged with and learn from it than just congratulating." She added.



Alyssa Garcia, 15, voice major from the Philippine Highschool for the Arts represents in the annual 11th Ani ng Dangkal, February 27, 2019. Photo from PHSA Archives

Voice Major receives award from NCCA

Alyssa Garcia, a Grade 9 Music - Voice Major, brought home the "Ani ng Dangkal" or "Harvest of Honors" state recognition given by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts annually.

The awarding ceremony was held at the Diamond Hotel on February 27.

Ani ng Dangkal is given in recognition of Filipino Artists who have reaped top honors in international events. Garcia won 1st place in the Junior Secondary Category of the Singapore Lyric Opera ASEAN Vocal Competition in Singapore which led her to receive the said award.

Garcia mentioned that Arjay Viray, the Music Coordinator of PHSA, told her to email the win so that they can recognize her as an awardee along with other Filipino artists.

"The thing I found particularly rewarding about this award was the realization I had that I didn't have to hone my talent the way other people saw it. Like I finally realized that all I needed to do was focus on myself and progress the way I need to progress and not rush. I realized that every person has their own moment, their own time in the spotlight," said Garcia regarding her win.

Juliana Silangcruz (Grade 9) and Andrea Versoza (Grade 11) won awards at the Romantic and Kasilag Competition held at the Manila Symphony Orchestra Academy Hall, Circuit Makati, April 7.

The said event commenced in honor of Lucrecia Kasilag, National Artist for Music, pianist, pedagogue, and co-founder of the Piano Teachers' Guild of the Philippines, to feature five of her piano works. The elimination round was held on March 31, at St. Paul University, Manila.

Out of ten competitors, Silangcruz won Honorable Mention while Versoza bagged 2nd prize along with the "Best in Contest Piece" recognition. Silangcruz mentioned that their teachers from the Piano Teachers' Guild of the Philippines informed them regarding their win.

"Happy and contented po sobra kasi we were always reminded po na having the courage to join that competition really showed how of a winner we are kasi nga po very challenging daw for our age yung comp ngayong year." said Silangcruz regarding her experiences in the competition.

Musika Ibarang Representatives win "Romantic and Kasilag"



Juliana Silangcruz, 15, together with Andrea Versoza both piano majors from the Philippine Highschool for the Arts wins at the Piano Teacher's Guild Foundation of the Philippines. Photo from the Piano Teacher's Guild of the Philippines Foundation, Inc.

PHSA starts school year in August

Danielle Alexandra Castillo

For S.Y. 2018-2019, the Philippine High School for the Arts shifted the school calendar and started the school year on August 1.

Through the calendar shift, the school administration aimed to enhance an operational manual to guide management processes and procedures that will harness creativity of the school community. It was also to develop awareness of the environment and social advocacies.

The change was also in lieu of the infrastructural development and upgrading the school's facilities. It is also the give way in the finishing of the PHSA Campus In Bay, Laguna.

"The shift helped in a sense that there is more time to rest before the school year starts and it provides more time to set your mind. However, it is also hectic because some events that we usually join are scheduled from June to July and that makes it hard for us to participate." said Bea Rabe, a grade 10 student.



Philippine High School for the Arts presents two new buses, Los Baños, Laguna, May 17. Photo by Lei Ortega.

Ril Arguelles

New Buses arrive—

Due to the increasing number of students, the lack of transport vehicles became problematic for the students.

This is why the Philippine High School for the Arts added two new buses to aid their transportation services.

Known as the "baby bus," the new small bus is a 29-seater vehicle with two extra jumpseats. According to Mr. Alvin G. Miclat, Administrative Officer 4, the small bus is also equipped with an air conditioner, TV and TV plus.

The big bus, on the other hand, can accommodate 60 people at most. Its special features include an air conditioner, TV and USB microphones.

The new big bus was requested by the school's administration whereas the new small bus was requested through congressional initiative with the help of Senator Loren B. Legarda, as said by Miclat.

Lastly, Miclat also mentioned the arrival of more buses on the first week of October. The number and specifications, however, have not been determined yet.

Visual Arts from the Philippine Highschool for the Arts, represents and manages the PHSa booth at the AGORA festival, SM Mall of Asia.



GeneLyn Forcadas

Visual Arts students promote PHSA through “AGORA”

In promotion of their works and the school, Grade 7 to 10 students of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) participated in “AGORA: Crossroads of Creative Culture and the Arts.”

AGORA was held at the SM Mall of Asia from August 13 to 15. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts organized the event.

The event focused on the gathering of artists and art appreciation. The artists from the event varied from performance artists, musicians, writers and visual artists.

The PHSA students were given the opportunity to share their art through performances and exhibits. The Visual Arts students promoted themselves on the second day of the event through a mini-exhibit in their booth.

“We were able to show our talents and we also had fun watching the other artists’ performances,” said Jandiv Gutierrez, a visual arts student.

Marc Cosico, an artist and special education teacher from the school, helped in promoting PHSA by talking about the school curriculum supplemented by a promotional video. A grade 8 Visual Arts student, Miguel Alcalá also presented and talked about one of his artworks in front.

Illustration by Luce Melegrito.



Ever since they started making episodes for Cartoon Network in April 5, 2010, Adventure Time, a show created by Pendleton Ward and is produced by Cartoon Network and Federator Studios has taken viewers—young and old—on unforgettable memories and adventures through the Land of Ooo.

With swashbuckling brawls with candy zombies, exploring the land or just plain brother-time bonding, there's always a valuable lesson about friendship, love and teamwork in very episode, which is why it isn't surprising for avid fans of the show, to react to its ending last September 3, 2018, Monday.

The staff behind the show said that 'Adventure Time had been an unexpected trailblazer', and even Pendleton Ward, who left his job 2 years ago, wasn't expecting this, leaving the big success in Cartoon Network's care. "It was a creative and unique show," says a former Cartoon Network staff. "It was a risk. People at the network were scratching their heads." Cartoon Network never knew quite how to handle how to handle the success, adding up to the fact that the show was really meant for ages below 2 years old, and since the audience span grew, it was hard for them to stick to the original plan.

The tenth and final season of Adventure Time, "Come Along with Me", a four-part episode, tells about a war that broke out between Princess Bubblegum and his so-called Uncle, Gumbald, where they fight over who is the rightful ruler of the Candy Kingdom.

In one of the parts, Golb, a big red creature and that is said to be an 'omen of chaos', descends from the sky covering the Land of Ooo with darkness and that officially starts the war between the two sides. Finn, Jake, Princess Bubblegum, Marceline, LPS, Fern and other characters join forces to retrieve the throne for the Candy

Kingdom, but a song BMO made for Jake will save the Kingdom because of harmony.

Surprisingly, in the last part of the episode, Princess Bubblegum and Marceline, end up kissing each other, which shook the LGBTQIA+ community, for it is rarely found in cartoons, especially kids' cartoons. "It's so sad. Adventure Time is great and I hope that many people will still remember the cartoon even if it ends." Reign Amaterdam, a fellow Ibarang says according to an interview conducted before the show officially ended. "It's not just the graphics or the storyboard that makes Adventure Time unique, but the lessons it teaches its viewers along the way Zoe Carmona shares how AT was part of her childhood, "Adventure Time was a big part of my life because I always watched it back then and I use to write short stories inspired by it, which fuels my imagination a lot".

Although the show did end for valid reasons, the names Finn and Jake will always have a special place in a person's childhood because of the many lessons, adventures and challenges it took us to, especially exploring around the magical Land of Ooo.

The Last Hour: Adventure Time and the final episode

Ariana Abad



Photo grabbed from Google.

Daniel Ben

Barangay 143: The First Filipino Anime

For the first time in the history of Filipino television, a completely animated Filipino-based show will be lighting up TV screens. This show is Barangay 143, a basketball anime produced by Quezon City based animation studio ASI Studios.

The plot will follow Bren Park, a Korean basketball player who rejected the game of basketball after tragedy hits his family. He goes to the Philippines in search of his father, ends up in Tondo, Manila, where he not only finds himself, but his love for the game of Basketball as well.

"It's a story of human drama. It's the coming of age of a young basketball hopeful but it takes you through the trials and tribulations of everything that's very, very Filipino," Jyotirmoy Saha of August Media said in an interview with CNN.

ASI Studios, responsible for the animation of the show, is a joint venture between Manila-based Synergy88 Group and a Singapore-based studio August Media. The two companies have previously worked together in the second season of Nickelodeon show "George of the Jungle."

TV Asahi, a producer in shows like Yuri on Ice, Slam Dunk, and Sailor Moon is also involved with Barangay 143 as they handle character design and the direction of the show.

Voice Acting for the show will be done by an all-star Filipino celebrity cast. Migo Adecera will voice Bren Park, while Ruru Madrid, Julie Anne San Jose, Kelley Day, John Arcilla, Cherie Gil, Paolo Contis, Raver Eda, and Sylvia Sanchez will be voicing other characters.

Barangay 143 is set for an October premiere on GMA 7. It will be running for 26 episodes, according to CNN.

"Right from the onset we were determined develop the show right here so that it captures the essence of life in Manila. I am immensely proud of what we have finally created in Barangay 143," Jyotirmoy Saha said in an article by Inquirer Bandera.

A tie-in mobile game free for download is also available on Android and Apple which serves as the prequel to the show. It'll follow Wax, a son of a former basketball legend as he proves he is not all but his father's shadow as he goes through training of the four basketball masters of Barangay 143.

Felicity Wences Lao



Silip: Eye-opening Narratives and Portrayals

Virgin LabFest (VLF) is a festival true to its motto: "untried, untested, and unstaged one-act plays." Hosted annually by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), this year's collection of virgin plays are powerful, interesting, and engages the audience to think.

From its banner, *Silip*, Chris B. Milado, the artistic director of CCP says, "Let us all savor this year's roster of plays bannered under the label *Silip* - to take a peek." The plays staged are to empower its audiences to take a "powerful peek" into a larger Philippine society.

Abigail Ravalo and Tomas Santos, Theater Arts students of the Philippine High School for the Arts, step onstage for the 14th season of VLF.

Ravalo is Young Maria in "*Dolorosa*". Directed by Chic San Agustin and written by Peter Mayshle, the play depicts a family's prized heirloom and one of a kind wooden statue of Mater Dolorosa. "It's such an honor to be able to act in VLF at such a young age," says the eighth grader. "Since there were a lot of people who auditioned, I felt very pressured."

Young Maria, according to Ravalo, was forced to become the maternal image among the sisters.

"She's a very strong character. Sinbukan niyang iwan yung childhood niya for her siblings." It was very hard portraying her because in our family, I'm the youngest. I couldn't imagine the hardships she had to go through to watch over her siblings.

In "*Mga Bata sa Selda 43*" is Tomas Santos, who portrayed Philip. Written by Rolin Migyuel Obina, Santos depicts a 13-year old Tondo street child stuck in a cell with his little brother. This play takes its audience on a thoughtful and narrowing ride to explore and exploit Duterte's drug war from a child's point of view.

"The play starts out as a comedy, and then it hits you," the director of the play, Ian Segarra, alumnus of Batch Urtula-Nakpil, states.

On being able to portray a character in a play that delves in the socio-political platform, "Napapanahon

yung play. Ganoon rin yung mga characters na naroon. I felt that I had to treat it with care because I'm portraying a character that's close to my age — but I haven't lived that life," admits Santos. "I don't like stereotyping people kasi. I tried to put myself in their shoes, what it would be like. I wanted to counter how the people saw a kid from Tondo."

Other alumni were also in this year's VLF. Acey Aguilar, Batch Kiukok-Gonzales, acts in "*Tulad ng Dati*". Batch Alcuaz-Avellana's Rafael Tibayan also stars in "*Ang mga Bata sa Selda 43*", as well as "*Labor Room*" actress Skyxz Labastilla of Batch Villa-Celerio.

"*Dolorosa*" and "*Mga Bata sa Selda 43*" were plays that questioned Filipino culture and challenged the government's agendas. The revolutionary step to speaking up and hearing the noise initiated by the stage indeed opens up our eyes.



pambata picturebooks

Danielle Alexandra Castillo

There has always been an interest in reading books with pictures—especially for children. The children's stories we're familiar with often originate from international publications. Stories such as "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" or "The Little Prince" come from the west. What kind of children's books does the Philippines have? Here are some local children's books you should read.

MAMA'S HOUSE, PAPA'S HOUSE

Story by Jeanette Patindol
Illustrations by Mark Salvatus

"A child recounts how he and his siblings live in their Mama's house some days, and in their Papa's house during the other days. Told from the voice of a child, this book reminds us that children who grow up with two parents in one home are raised and loved no differently than those who have two homes."

This book creatively and discreetly explains the situation of a child's separated parents through metaphors such as paints, trains, airplanes and most importantly, their home. Not only does it tackle having a broken home but also provides a glimpse of the parents' explanation or reasoning as to why the child has to live in two different houses.

EDSA

Story by Russell Molina
Illustrations by Sergio Bumatay III

"Different sights. Different experiences. What happened in the middle of EDSA? How did the people come together? Let us remember one of the most significant events in our history."

If you were to explain a historical event such as the 1986 EDSA Revolution, this book explains it in an imaginative detail. It also plays with counting numbers. Every page shares something that happened during that time, using numbers to build up or complete the story. Despite such a heavy topic, EDSA seems to present the event in a child-friendly manner.

ANG HIGANTE SA AMING BAHAY

Story by Rhandee Garlitos
Illustrations by Ferdinand Guevara

"Nanay, Ate, and Kuya are so busy. They say there is someone coming to the house, so they are restless. What a surprise it was for me that it was a giant who arrived! He was as tall as the electric posts and was as wide as a display shelf. Who is he, anyway? Why is there a giant in our house?"

This book tackles the family of an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) and explains the child's newness to an unfamiliar "figure" that arrived in their house. This is used to teach a father's love and most importantly, the plight of the OFWs.

SANDOSENANG SAPATOS

Story by Luis Gatmaitan
Illustrations by Beth Parrocha Doctolero

"The father of Karina and Susie is a shoemaker. But only Karina gets to wear the shoes that he makes. 'Sorry, Bunso, you will never know how it feels like to wear the beautiful shoes our Tatay makes..' Karina whispers to her sister. Why doesn't their father make shoes for Susie?"

This talks about the difficult situation of a child with disability. The main character, Susie, is a shoe maker's daughter. She is born without feet but despite this, she is still growing up to be happy and loved by her family. This provides a space to talk about individual differences.

ARAW SA PALENGKE

Story by May Tobias-Papa
Illustrations by Isabel Roxas

"I'm coming with Nanay! We're going to the market. What would we see there? Who would I meet? Come, join us! Today is market day!"

This provides a fun and light introduction to a child visiting the market with her parent, exploring the sights and sounds of the busy place. It also explores the everyday encounters in the market, allowing the child to see the excitement and bustle of a place full of variety.

Spoken Word to Bridge the World

Ma-I Entico

Imagine. First, you wake up to the sound of your alarm clock, and the wish to sleep further, only to be woken up by your excitement. You get your things ready and rush on over to the airport to catch your flight. You hear the whoosh of the airplane, and before you know it, you're in a different city.

Four girls hailing from the Philippine High School for the Arts together with a handful of other delegates experienced this rush of events last October to represent the Philippines in the Lit Up Asia-Pacific Festival.

Fresh from the airport, the poets Bea Rabe, Danielle Alexandra Castillo, Meg Mil, and Leila Maligalig, headed off towards the Aliwal Arts Centre to catch the evening welcome reception. There, they watched the performances of the Teater Kini Bersei – a Balinese mime company – and Balinese dance Dr. I. Nyoman Sedana.

The next following days for them would be a montage of performances and social gatherings. Slam poetry, theatre, talking to people of different cultures – a mix of emotion and information flowing on top of the other in quick succession.

Everything only slowed down when Bea Rabe witnessed a full spoken word piece in Bahasa, with the performer being permitted to speak in his native language because, as the host put it, “if you look to your left and to your right, they know and understand Bahasa”.

“I’ve never felt the distance of our country from the fellow ASEAN members. We find ourselves strangers in Asia, and our tongues are testaments to that.” She says.

Indeed, the difference between each culture from each country showed. But one thing was apparent – and that was that each culture had a melting pot for culture forever brewing and stirring up new life, with the blend only becoming thicker with the rise of globalization. “The influence of the west was clear in the rhythms and movement.” Meg Mil summarizes.

From the festival, each girl took their own insights and fuel to make more works of literature, the near future only becoming clearer to them. Amid the finger snaps and cheers, Danielle Alexandra Castillo found herself afloat, drifting along the different languages of the poems, tasting the bitter-sweetness of the sentiments it carried. Despite not knowing the words to every piece,

she understood what each piece held, and held this experience close to her heart. Slowly overcoming her fear of not being understood, she has been inspired to create more pieces in Ilokano. As she puts it, “when I’ve witnessed these poets deliver their pieces, I realized that there is beauty in not knowing.”

Meanwhile, after performing her Today This Poem spoken word piece for a competition, Leila Maligalig navigated her way around streets and people – occasionally getting lost in the many twists and turns of each street and heart. Leila may have been in a foreign country, but she definitely felt at home. And she owes this cozy feeling to literature. Being a young poet with fellow writers definitely made the space they were in, a safe space to share insights and learn from people from different walks of life – young or old, writer or dancer.

The future may be uncertain to most, but for these girls, they see a future both experimenting with and expanding the spoken word genre, and travelling the world to reach out to more people. With their works, they aim to engage more people and share with them what they hope to be the link to understanding people across nations. Although they are still young, they already bear the promise of bridging worlds, both in and out of the Philippines.



The Beauty of Not Knowing: an unplanned expedition at Mt. Ulap

One thing was for sure: if I chose not to go, I would heavily regret it. My body was literally failing me. I wasn't ready yet for an adventure. But a recurring thought kept me going, something I had the misfortune of not knowing it yet.

4:00 am. We went out of the van, embraced by the 5°C cold early morning air of Itogon, Benguet. I can hardly see the silhouette of the mountain range, but it is clear to me how this is one heck of a challenge. It was drizzling that morning so we had to be careful in every step of the way.

It was a chicken intestine the trail up the first peak. We were expecting flashlights to guide us along the way, but even the woods won't give you enough sign that you have already walked at least ten meters every ten minutes. The darkness of the morning leaves you no assurance of where you're going, but I'm happy I am not afraid of the dark.

5:00 am. The orange sky glistened through the woods. It seemed like the light was peeping through the leaves of the trees. I had no sleep when we traveled to the light was hurting my eyes the moment the sun revealed itself from hiding behind the mountain ranges across Mt. Ulap. We stopped by a rock formation. One by one, all of us hikers went on top to take a picture.

Guess who made himself a Greek statue the moment he was the one to be taken a picture?

6:00 am. We were halfway reaching the first peak (there were three peaks) when I noticed I was walking all alone. I left the guide, my grandmother, my aunt and our other companions about almost a kilometer behind me. Everything seemed to me as if I wanted the whole experience to myself.

Along the way, I felt like I was a child again. Suddenly, I was already a thousand meters above sea level. The sun was smiling down on me as I looked at the vast Cordilleras.

7:00 am. I was happy there was a steady 3G signal right where another rock formation was. I took all the time to add in my IG story the numerous silhouettes of animals formed by the rocks. It took us almost an hour waiting for our turn to get captured due to the many, many hikers we came across upon reaching the rock formations. I stumbled across a guy my age. I wasn't sure how but I could remember smiling back at him when I noticed we were wearing the same shirt and same maroon jacket.

8:00 am. The rest was a steep struggle. We were walking on high cliffs and rocky hills. One wrong move and you'd get a wound on your legs. I was alone again. I don't know, maybe my grandmother and my aunt weren't an ideal companion on this journey. Slowly but surely I checked on every step I take because I got dizzy tracking without my shades on (my grandmother borrowed mine before reaching the second peak). Got me a minute or two before I realized I was already on top of the second peak.

9:00 am. You could imagine by this time I'm already exhausted. God help me, it's been five hours since we started climbing up the mountain! Five years of up-and-down Mt. Makiling is no training ground for this. I was drastically catching my breath, every step felt like an almost 80° climb from one foot to another. I tried resting, sitting on a rock, checking my phone but to no avail.

My phone battery died. The exact moment where I was about to get to the last peak did it die. It left me talking to myself for 50 minutes, walking alone. The whole time, my head was filled with "Um... what?" —

10:00 am. The heat was crowning me. "I am the king of the world!" is what I kept saying inside my head. But my overwhelmed smile and excited fidgeting got the other tourists looking at me, curious as to why that boy is doing

that. I didn't care. I know I had to release all the delight as I take in the view.

I stayed there for 30 minutes, waiting for my other companions to reach the peak. I thought, "Maybe I could write a song right now..." or "Can I build a tent right here and stay for the night on my own, thinking about my future?" or "How was the guy I bumped by earlier?". Whatever comes to my head. I was happy I was just feeding my pastime with random thoughts.

I missed this feeling of getting your mind full of random stories, the feeling of emptying your bag and telling a story on your own, the feeling of just imagining you have a partner and sharing this instant with that person together with the love you both share, the feeling of being alone but happy and satisfied with the bliss you are currently at. I never thought this journey would lead me to making myself hollow and light. It was a perfect recognition day gift for me.

It was clear to me as I stepped down the trail, climbing down the mountain how unlucky I would have been if I never went. It was the beauty of discovering the natural elegance and wonder unfolding in front of you when you realize its experiential how you explain the reason why you went there instead of thinking about it ahead of time, thus you miss the feeling of awe as you indulge in the moment.



Photos from James Lanante

As our beloved Director IV, Dr. Victor Emmanuel Carmelo D. Nadera Jr. ends his term, VARIATIONS sat down with him to talk about a few things he found memorable about the school to acknowledge his services. Here, he shares his experiences with the students, staff, and Mt. Makiling after spending 6 years in PHSA.

What motivated you to push through with this job as PHSA's school director? Was there a story or way that made you apply for the job?

The truth is, I didn't apply for the job. I was actually one of the members of the PHSA Advisory Council representing the field of Creative Writing when there was a call for the new Director IV in 2013. Twice or thrice we failed to select. Then, one day, when I came late for the said meeting, I think it was the former Cultural Center of the Philippines president, Dr. Raul Sunico, who said: "Si Vim na lang kaya..." The next thing I know was I being bombarded with questions and clarifications. And the rest, so they say, is hysteria.

What were your goals / plans / dreams for the school as you entered as the Director VI?

The chant I thought for PHSA is PHSAKO and then the response would be Magaling, Matino, Matalino.

Yes, each Iskolar ng Bayan para sa Sining is expected to pass the Annual Nationwide Search for Young Arts Scholar (ANSYAS). I know that for a fact since I started as an Audition Master for Creative Writing. He or she can write, dance, sing or play an instrument, act or direct, and draw or paint or make art. So, he or she must be magaling. But, as a student, he or she must be good in basic education. So, he or she must be matalino. However, he or she is expected to be good or God-fearing as a well-rounded individual.

We aim to develop children who have THE CREATIVE HEART OF THE MAGALING. It describes an Art Scholar who is an Art education values the creation. Aside from making the learner aware of his or her existence, it recognizes the need and wants to create something out of nothing. Whenever one is learning -- by way of writing or dancing or singing or acting or painting or inventing or researching -- he or she is given the break to assume a god-like position. Consequently, that chance helps one to concentrate, to gain confidence, to get motivated, and to appreciate teamwork to work for the good of all. Next is THE DISCIPLINED MIND OF THE MATALINO. General education produces the critical mind. It cherishes the gift for academic achievement. But it seeks to hone more than merely cognitive skills. It focuses on integrated instruction. It improves attitude towards work. It encourages one to become more productive. As a result, it increases the individual's ability to cope in a fast changing world from enrolment to employment. Therefore, intellectual, combined with emotional, support and guidance confirms the belief that such discipline can spur economic growth as well as promote democracy and stability. Lastly, THE ETHICAL SPIRIT OF THE MATINO. In general, education develops life skills. It balances the aforementioned divisions. In effect, it creates the foundation. It forges social bonds and community cohesion in and out of the campus. It is more than just having faith in a Supreme Being. It is also concerned with family and future generations. It teaches truth, freedom, justice, love. It promotes the common good. It cares for the environment. It is all about social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunity. It prepares everybody to be citizens -

beautiful, true, and good citizens.

May you share instances where you were challenged to adapting to Ibarang culture? Were there difficulties in managing the school or students?

Too many to mention.

At the end of the day, my takeaway is that I have to stick to the aforementioned motto. While promoting excellence, I have to instill our love of God and country.

In the end, every PHSA student has to be holistically trained in the their respective disciplines to become magaling, taught through the general education to become matalino, and treasured with values to become matino.

If, in the beginning, PHSA would like to look back to the past with its katutubo perspective, now it is turning its head ahead, moving forward, to become a more dynamic institution constantly producing graduates who are glocal -- thinking globally and acting locally.

This time, PHSA is geared towards giving birth to a generation of glokat, or global katutubo!

But, I think, during my term, I experienced the worst trial PHSA ever had. It was when we had power crisis for nine long months in 2014.

On the other hand, what made you enjoy your job? Maybe something memorable to share about the environment, students, staff, visitors, or events?

For instance, when I stayed in my room overnight during my first few days in the school, some employees realized that I had no food. They gathered together all their baon and delivered them to the guard who, eventually, delivered them to me. Grabe. That's why, I make it a point to give them pasalubong. Others would call me their Keychain King! During Christmas, it is extended to the kids too.

Which events did you enjoy managing the most? May you also share why? (Example: MAKILINC? Alumnayan? Etc.)

All of them.

When I arrived in 2013, there's no PHSA Foundation Day whatsoever.

So, we declared June 11 the Araw ng PHSA. Historically, PHSA was established on 11 June 1977. This was a year and two months after the inauguration of the National Arts Center on 7 April 1976.

We opened our doors to PHSA alumni in three parts. For the Inang Kalikasan, we had tree planting. For the Inang Bayan segment, we had "Meet and Greet" featuring the second PHSA batches from the 70s. In the past, invited notable PHSA alumni shared their experiences as "batang iskolar sa sining" during the 80s with the incumbent roster of art scholars that include the kids of PHSA alum Diwa de Leon. For the Inang Paaralan portion, both PHSA students and alumni prepared performances, art exhibits, film or video presentations, to name a few, in a big night also known as Ibarang Jam!

In 2017, during our 40th anniversary celebration, we recognized our partners in individuals like Sen. Loren Legarda, Brillante Mendoza, and Dr. Elena Cortez as well as institutions such as SM Malls, Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU), and the Ashok Hall Group of School of India, etc.

It bloomed and blossomed into activities like Ibarang Kolab wherein alumni offered workshops for free. Among them are Ava Villanueva-Ong (Dance), Widmarth Lodriga (Visual Arts), Rosabelle Pangilinan-Lodriga (Visual Arts), Delphine Buencamino (Theater), Jerom Carlas (Theater), Cyril Fallar (Dance), Philip Joseph Rocamora (Dance), Dan Nikkoll Soria (Dance), Dianne Torres (Creative Writing), JB Casacop (Media Arts), Adjani Arumpac (Media Arts), Lorraine Datuin (Arts Management), Greg Zuniega (Music), and Atty. Sim Zuniega (Music) who is also the very supportive PHSA Ibarang Alumni Association president.

However, in 2018, when we opened our school in August. We began celebrating Araw ng PHSA on 7 September. Why? Because it was on 7 September 1990 when Executive Order 420 regularizing PHSA was signed by Pres. Corazon Cojuangco Aquino.

What did you learn from the Ibarangs? What was something that made you enjoy and appreciate the students?

We celebrate the National Arts Month through the annual Makiling Inter-Cultural Arts Festival (MAKILINC) at the National Arts Center (NAC) for six years. Initially, MAKILINC is meant only for PHSA students to experience alternative classroom learning through "mini-masterclasses" in Creative Writing or Dance or Music or Theater or Visual Arts. Eventually, MAKILINC has evolved into PHSA's advocacy of preserving the intangible heritage like balagtas (2014) or pangalay (2015) or kundiman (2016) or butoh (2017) or silambam (2018) as well as popularizing experimental, emerging and emergent, forms like conceptual, installation, performance art and the like.

I was able to invite great Filipino and foreign guest artists for two reasons.

First, PHSA Makiling campus is one of the best kept secrets in Philippine tourism. It also qualifies as a important cultural property with structures designed by no less than Leandro Locsin, our National Artist for Architecture.

Second, our students are great. They always amaze and amuse their teachers and more.

And those are two of the reasons why I was able to survive six years.

Is there something you want to leave behind as the school director? Perhaps a lesson or advice to the students of the school?

Aside from the aforementioned ones, I would like to add more.

The creation of PHSA Campus in Bay began during my term. Sadly, I may not be able to see its opening.

Actually, the construction of the school facilities and dormitory for PHSA's senior high school campus at Barangay Tranca, Bay, Laguna started in 2016. The full implementation of the Senior High school site development plan which includes construction work for the dormitory extension building is expected to be finished by end of 2019. The Bay campus serves as an extension of PHSA's main Makiling campus. The school administration is firming up future plans for the construction of the PHSA Auditorium which will be used as a venue for major productions, recitals, graduations, and other

school functions and activities. This will make it convenient and accessible for audiences to attend recitals and other activities of senior high students. The auditorium shall host assemblies, lectures, awarding ceremonies, plays, musical, theater and productions, concerts, competitions, to name a few.

I dream of putting up Arte Parke, an art park complete with the said PHSA Auditorium with state-of-the-art museum, library, and archive that could house the Arts and Cultural Studies Center that is a repository of a baybayin and other ancient scripts, including the Laguna Copperplate.

Recently, PHSA initiates the move to forge a long-term partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. One of its proposal to have its entire faculty, both Basic Education and Arts, undergo re-tooling by way of the Philippine Cultural Education Program. Eventually, these teachers will train other teachers — through TuroGuro. It is in the hope of having the PHSA Bay as a hub, at least in Luzon, not just of cultural education but also of teaching the arts as well as arts management.

With the help of Sen. Legarda, who has been granting us our Wish Lists in the past, PHSA will again try to break new grounds, literally and literally, by coming up with — publications and productions from the different parts of the Philippines — that could be the arts and cultural education centers in Visayas and Mindanao.

PHSA Visayas

PHSA is proposing to have its first Visayan campus in Antique.

Why?

Sen. Legarda who is now the Congresswomen, is the main reason. She vowed to help us put up PHSA in the regions. Now that she is representing Region VI she is in the best position. More so, if she will be considered to become the future Speaker of the House. As a journalist, she earned the Gawad CCP, Catholic Mass Media Hall of Fame, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas Golden Dove Award, Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) from the Philippine Jaycees (1992), The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) Award (1995), and the Benigno Aquino Award for Journalism (1995), among more than 30 awards.

In addition, Antique is home to media practitioners like Lisa Macuja-Elizalde who also teaches ballet at PHSA Makiling as well as to writers such as Genevieve Asenjo, Alex de los Santos, John Iremil Teodoro, among others. Media personalities like Gia Macuja Atchinson, Justine Draper, Joshua Oliveros, Lauren Ann Young, Megan Young, to name a few, are good role models to future media personalities.

Thus, PHSA Antique can be considered as the center for media arts.

PHSA Mindanao

On the other hand, PHSA would like to cultivate further the fertile artistic and cultural ground in Mindanao where 2.1 million can be located out of the total 6.5 million indigenous people in the country.

Aside from the Christian migrants from Luzon and the Visayas as well as Muslim communities of the Maguindanaons, Kalagans, Tausugs, Samals, and Maranaos from the different provinces of Mindanao and Sulu, there are 11 tribes that can be found in Davao or Dawaw to the Bagobos, Dabo to the Tagabawas, or Davah to the Obus.

Hence, PHSA Davao is perfect to be center for indigenous arts.

For instance, the Maranao musicians can teach the millennials, or vice versa, how to make MTVs of their kulintang music as well as how to build a torogan food park or design an okir tattoo beyond the typical sarimanok or naga motif.

The adventures of Tuwaang, an epic from the western districts of Mt. Apo, can be developed into a game or an application or an animation.

Tausugs, or the "People of the Current," can tell their stories of unquestionable courage and bravery through dance-drama.

And, perhaps, they can collaborate with the Maquiling Ballet who succeeded in showcasing the culture of the B'laan and called it B'Illet!



Danielle Alexandra Castillo

Archives: Director Vim Nadera

Recently, there has been recoil with an article that the University of the Philippines - Los Baños published in their website. The article, titled UPLB - a Natural Gallery of National Artists, flaunt how numerous buildings and institutions in the campus are home to artists and their art. The response of the residents (that go beyond social media), however, say otherwise. According to the replies and reactions, the article mentions nothing of the organizations, collectives, and Los Baños-based artists that essentially sustain the art of the town.

Moreso, the lack of reference with the real relationship of institutions and artists: the lack of venues that are easy to access (as everything must undergo the verdict of the administration). There is an impression that most art-related events become figments of profit, as they turn into required productions for a subject class.

And to make the list longer, the unending tales of censorship. "Pahirapan pa makakuha ng mga kasama o audience sa daming kumpetisyon [pagdating] sa incentives or required na mga ganap. Even the Office of the Initiatives for Culture and Arts (OICA) caters those who need the money and not the ones sending a message," says Allen Joy Marquez, a Los Baños based director in an interview. She adds: "Though the art community is quite small, people in Los Baños thrive for it. They live with it and it is pretty much alive." Zines are back. Films are the new sensations. Music is prospering.

See how these faces and places dissent and keep art's vibrance in town.

The Art Expos Zine Orgy, WiSiK, ElbiCon, and many others

Transient locations Art Expositions, to put it shortly, are art markets where the independent content creators are able to mingle with the audience. Often informal, Zine Orgies and Wika, Sining, at Kalikasan (WiSiK) zine expos are held in halls with tables lined up, or arranged beside each other. Here, you are able to buy sticker sets and zines for as low as P20. Zines (pronounced as /zeens/) are self-published and handmade booklets, and can easily be made by anybody. "The first Zine Orgy was aimed at finding a permanent venue for zine creators in LB to sell their work. I was roaming around school when I saw this group of ComArts

students who were selling novelettes in NCAS Building," Mac Arboleda, the Zine Orgy organizer, says. "The volume of work made me ask, bakit walang cafe/bookstore na makakabili ka nang ganung iba't ibang zines?"

There has already been six Zine Orgies, all with different themes, all in different places. But what sets art expos in Los Baños from the ones in the Metro are the students, who are both creators and appreciators.

"Siguro yung expos sa LB mas nagaaccomodate ng performances na simultaneous sa event. And

Owned by Christian Tablazon, it is home to exhibits and site-specific performances. Recently, it has hospiced Arkanghel sa Maccrotel - a play written by Vladeimier Gonzales and Allen Marquez for direction, Third Alub and Maude Barcos for acting - as a part of its "Figs. 1 - 6", where six individuals showcase their different performance forms. "It was really hard at first, since explicitly the text is screaming for live sex," mentions Marquez. "The production is fortunate enough [to have found willing actors]." "Had rare chances to catch site-specific performances. Good thing, the owner (Sir Christian), was very involved and helpful. I was surprised that we were able to convert it into a motel-like set, and still have space for the audience to fulfill their voyeuristic tendencies. Regarding space, I needed to think about the role of the audience, the movements to be used, and the need to distinguish the barriers of reality between spectacle."

Student Union Building UPLB Campus

The SU, as the students would call it, is more than just a building with a bowling alley. It has compered plenty of student organizations-initiated expositions and performances. In fact, one season of WiSiK has been held in SU. Despite being across the DL Umali Hall, the auditorium and art exhibition location in the university, SU is more considerate and discerning with accommodation.

Faces and Places of Los Baños Art: the independent contents and creators that keep art alive

I think distinct din yung sa Zine Orgy na every sem iba rin talaga yung gumagalaw na tao. It adds variety," Arboleda adds. He continues: "Naging malaking tulong yung Zine Orgy dahil napagsama-sama niya talaga yung mga taong may same interests. So dati, malabong makitang nagsama-sama yung mga art orgs sa LB pero dahil sa Zine Orgy naging possible siya. Mas marami nang gumagawa ng zines, kahit hindi sila member ng orgs na madalas sumasali. Dahil din sa events ay mas marami na ring nagiging interesado dito. Nakakatuwa kapag malalaman mong mismong Zine Orgy na yung inaabangan ng zine creators kung san nila irelease yung bago nilang mga gawa."

Nomina Nuda 9654 Diamond Street, Umali Subdivision

Nomina Nuda is an apartment in Umali Subdivision that accommodates multiple art performances.

Books, Crafts, and Coffeeshop Ruby Street, Umali Subdivision

BCC was a result of a family that relocated in Los Baños and had one too many books that they couldn't throw away. In March 2015, the owner and her friends had discovered a small nook that they were able to renovate. They also found a book supplier via the sister of a former colleague and connected with authors who trusted them to sell their books. And so began the flourishing of Books, Crafts, and Coffeeshop. Entering its fourth year, BCC has been able to participate in the Pinoy Book Tour by the National Book Development Board (NBDB), and the launching site of multi-awarded, acclaimed author Wilfredo Pascual, Jr.'s Kilometre Zer0. It also hosts monthly open mics where emerging artists can share their work. Furthermore, it also clouds craft workshops such as sewing fundamentals and jewelry making, and creative writing workshops.

He is Angelito: How Tomas Santos became Angelito Bernal



Screengrab from the short film *Angelito*.

Before there was Goyo, there was Angelito.

September 5 was the nationwide premier of the second installation of Jerrold Tarog's *Bayaniserye*, a trilogy of historical films that feature protagonists during Philippine revolutions. First was 'Heneral Luna', a film chronicling Antonio Luna's efforts and skirmishes on leading the Filipino army to war against the Americans. Then came 'Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral', which narrates how the war ensued after Luna's death.

To tie the two movies, Tarog had created a short film on Angelito Bernal. He is the youngest of the three Bernal siblings. Manuel and Jose Bernal, the right-hand men of Heneral Luna, were being hunted after Luna's death, as per Emilio Aguinaldo's orders. The audience discovers the brothers' whereabouts through Angelito or 'Angel'. Or Tomas Santos, 17, a Theater Arts student of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA).

"Mara Andres, the casting director of the film, had contacted Sir JK [a Directing teacher for the theater arts program]. He told the Dulaang Sipat Lawin [the Theater organization of PHSA] boys to audition for this role. We were called in a room, one by one, and had me read the lines from a script they emailed beforehand. They asked us to act out the last scene from *Angelito*," Santos tells in an interview. There were other PHSA students and alumni that tried out as well. "Weeks after," he adds, "I got a text from my mother. She told me I got the part! F***ing happy."

It was a known fact that Tarog would add these fictional characters to augment the set-onstone narrative of his films that is the country's history. One of these fictional characters were Angel Bernal. According to Santos, the producers knew

that the Bernals had a younger sibling, but was unsure of his name. "Not much available references of Angel Bernal, at wala din akong peg. [I had the liberty] to create the character based on my own imagination, and of course, after analysing the script which involves how other characters would describe or interact with him and how the story develops that will shape the character, and for me to interpret."

Angel also takes part in the boy general's narrative. In 'Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral', the young Bernal was bruised and beaten (even threatened) by Gregorio del Pilar to identify the location of his brothers. He eventually concedes, and gives the information.

"In those scenes where I see my brother tortured, it was not hard to imagine it happening to my older siblings. Angelito and I are bunso's. Yung yung pinakareference ko: the fact that we are both the youngest among our siblings," he says.

Santos also reveals the Angel's story that was not shown in the films (yet). There was a text sent to the film's director that was from a direct descendant of the Bernals—there was an older sister. It was said that the youngest sibling went insane after having seen his brother tortured and shot in front of him. Tomas laughs, "It was really funny because until that text, I thought Angel was fictional."

During the shooting of the film, Santos was 15 years old. His character was 14. When asked on what he adores about Angelito, his answer is his bravery. "At such a young age, for him to chase after his brothers and leave his home with the risk of being killed of as well for being a Bernal, that's f***ing brave. What probably propelled him more to do that was maybe because they were his only family left."

Philippines launches second microsatellite

Developed by the Filipino scientists and engineers under the PHL-Microsat Program, Diwata-2 is the Philippines' second microsatellite - a very small manufactured vehicle orbiting the earth. It is a part of the three-year program that was completed last 2017 and was launched this year.

This satellite takes along optical payloads, which use the properties of light to aid vision for the spacecraft, to carry the cargo consisting of instruments necessary. It has the obligation of checking and determining the amount of surface that damages from calamities occupy or the distance over which they extend, monitoring natural and cultural heritage sites, changes in vegetation, observing cloud patterns and weather disturbances.

Moreover, Diwata-2 has solar array panels, a group of batteries of cells caused by the sun forming a complete unit, and amateur radio antennas, an inexperienced metallic device for radiating or receiving electric signals by means of electromagnetic waves. This is because of the intention of promoting more awareness and interest in satellite technology in the country.

In addition to Diwata-2's goals, it provides other ways of attaining an exchange of information during times of emergencies and disasters.

Filipino students bag planetary names

Students Keith Cadores, Eugene Rivera and Joscel Manzanero earned the stellar opportunity of having minor planets named after them, after winning an award at the 2018 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

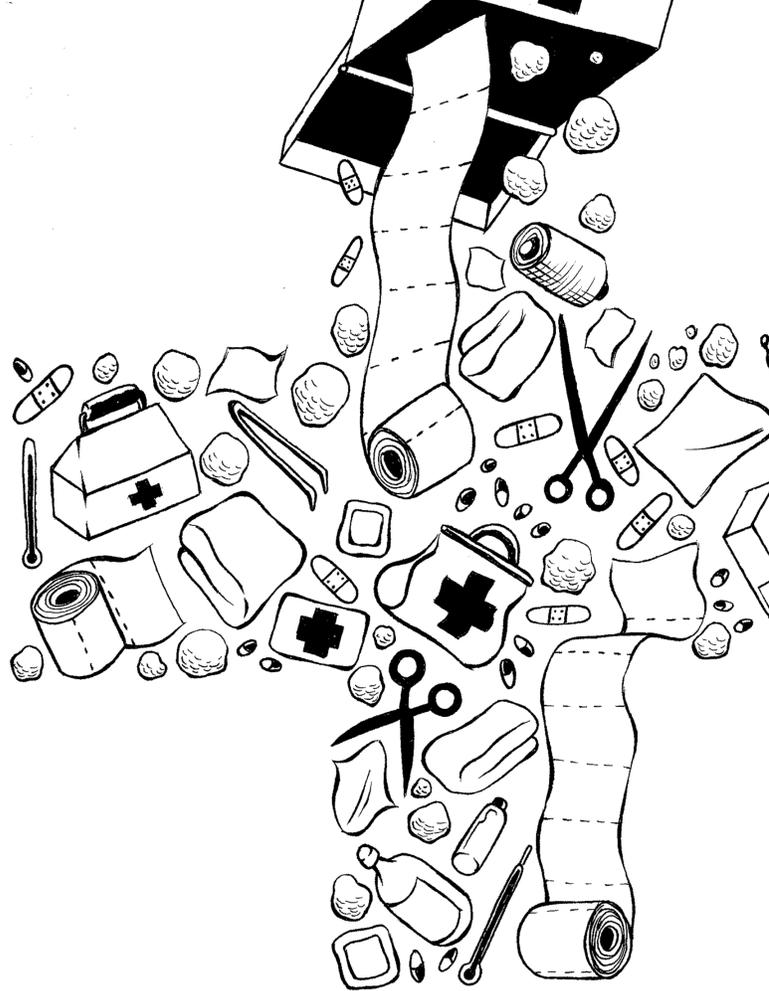
From Camarines Sur High School in Naga City, the students featured their work "Design and Development of Solar-Tracking Arduino-Rooted PV Panels". The project ended up winning second at the competition's physical energy category.

"The study aimed to improve the power harvesting and generating capacity of photovoltaic cells by designing and building a solar device that mimics a flower opening when the sun is out, tracks the sun's movement, closes when the light source is no longer detected and responds to humidity and temperature to maximize power generation," the students' study read.

The work is meant to help with saving energy and temperature, using natural solar energy.

The Department of Education (DepEd) announced in a statement on April 9 that the students each had a certificate, showing their named planet and its orbital location.

The ISEF is the largest pre-college science fair and competition internationally.



Be health-cautious, Be health-conscious, Be health-IBARANG!

Victoria Cuevas



"The best rule is to inform," said Maria Neilla Lijas, a resident nurse of Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) for over 14 years. "Dapat may care yung magkakaroomates sa isa't isa para ma-inform agad sa akin, sa houseparents, o sa kahit sinong elderly kung may injury o masama ang pakiramdam ang isa sa kanila." No matter how many times it gets repeated, safety precautions should always be followed, as well as taking care of your health - this should be the main priority of everyone.

For instance, Minnesota Flores, a freshman, already hurt her foot during her stay in Makiling. Her foot was treated within a span of two weeks.

"Mahina kasi ako sa mga physical activities kahit sa paglalakad lang ng malayo," she explained in an interview. At first, Flores thought that the pain in her foot was just temporary, but as the days passed by and the ache still lingered, she went to the clinic for consultation. The nurse took good care of her by asking her questions about the pain, massaging her foot, prescribing her medicine, and delivering her breakfast every morning so that her foot will take a break from walking to reach the cafeteria.

The common encounters that Lijas receives at the clinic are mostly sore throats, colds, fevers, and headaches. Serious injuries rarely happen, she said. However, when it does happen, it is to be brought to medical attention and treated immediately.

Despite this, one must be educated on how to take care of one's own self. Being an Ibarang means being independent, with PHSA being a boarding school, on top of Makiling, far away from normal city life. More importantly, though, being knowledgeable about first-aid or any kind of light medical treatment is helpful especially during a possibility when you're alone and there's nobody with you to ask help for.

The key to one's self-health welfare is the emergency first-aid kit. It is there to treat you in cases of minor wounds. But do remember that it's just for temporary first aid treatment. If the damage is serious, you'll have to stop by the clinic and they will give you an appropriate check-up and a better medical care.

Here are some simple medical kits to bring in a convenient or easy-to-use emergency bag.

For wounds, prepare ointment and mild soap to treat minor wounds and skin infections. Using hydrogen peroxide or rubbing alcohol to clean an injury can actually cause harm to the tissues and hold the time of healing. As advised by doctors, the best way to clean a minor wound is to gently wash it with clean water to remove the dirt and debris, and then use a soft washcloth with a light amount of mild soap to clean the skin around the wound. Be careful to not wash an open wound with the soap. In case no source of water is near in the area, the ointment should be fine. It is still recommended to always bring a distilled bottle of water, however.

The next important thing to bring for minor skin damage is plaster, in different sizes and shapes. You may have heard from others that letting your wound dry in an open air would make the healing faster - but that is scientifically wrong. In fact, no matter how small or big the wound is, it should always be covered. This is because wounds need moisture to heal, and leaving it expose to the air may dry out new surface cells, which might result to increased pain and a slower healing process.

Gauze, a thin, fabric with a loose open-weave design, is an optional material to include in the kit, but it is useful in many ways. It is wrapped around a wound to simultaneously stop the bleeding, prevent bacteria from getting in, and letting the wound breathe. Even so, it is recommended that proper research is conducted first before using it, as a gauze is reportedly tricky to handle.

Tissues, alcohol-free wipes, and cotton are just some additional things you may add on to an emergency kit. In addition, consumable medicine first needs the guidance and approval of nurse before placing any of it inside the kit.

"Mag-ingat sa paglalakad, wag tumakbo sa mga slope area, bring payong and other useful na mga gamit para maging handa kung umulan man bigla, drink lots of water, especially yung mga performing arts kasi nagpapagod sila," the nurse advised for all students. She also said to call the houseparents' numbers or the Duran's telephone line: 536-5973 if there is an emergency.

Health is wealth. This commonly used line is already rusting away, but the meaning of this sentence will never spoil. It is of the power of safety, and a product of being health-conscious.

On March 20, the last male northern white rhinoceros was put down.

Sudan, the name of the rhino, resided in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. He was surrounded by scientists and guards alike, who were dedicated in protecting him from extinction. However, the 45 year-old rhino contracted a disease, which left bad wounds on his skin. The team put him down, as they couldn't stand see him suffering. His departure left behind the last two of his species, scientifically called *Ceratotherium simum cottoni*. These two happen to be his daughter and granddaughter - one almost unable to support reproduction, and the other infertile.

The conservancy posted a tribute for Sudan on their Facebook page. "Fare thee well Sudan," the post read. "You have done your work to highlight the plight of rhino species across the world; now the onus is on us to ensure that rhino populations thrive across our planet."

But, the northern white rhinoceros species is not the only one who is dying. Over the past few years, more species are turning to the brink of extinction. Just recently, the *Cyanopsitta spixii*, better known as the Spix's macaw, the inspiration of the hit film 'Rio', was declared gone in the wild. The *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, or the Philippine eagle, is the national animal of the country. Yet it was reported to have less than 200 of its kind left.

As the human population increases everyday, it demands more things for the consumption of the race. People clear out forests to build homes and plant food. People kill animals for business and trade, and for their meat. The consumption of energy, and ultimately usage of fossil fuels has caused the thinning of the ozone layer, and global temperature rate to raise by 0.8 in the past two centuries. This in turn melts icebergs,

~~The Last Ones~~ ~~Standing~~

Sidney Lampayan



making oceans rise, and damaging all habitats of wildlife. Scientists even estimate that 200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal go extinct every 24 hours.

The results of extinct species are devastating.

Not only is it a permanent loss of an entire group of creatures, it also affects humans. Some extinctions afflict us directly, like an of a tree species may cause for less carbon dioxide storage, and thus, a worse climate. It also afflicts us indirectly. If a species goes extinct, species that rely on that as food will be unprepared for the change, and their numbers might dwindle. This could create a domino effect, where the food chain is thrown off balance due to the disappearance of one prey. Unfortunately, human beings are also a part of this food chain, as one of the top consumers.

Although, if ever several species start going extinct, there is a hope created due to technology: the world will have to rely on saved genetic material to bring them back. For instance, scientists have saved up on male northern white rhinoceros' genetic materials, in hopes of fertilizing one of the two female rhinos left. However, not only is this crazy expensive to do, it seems to be the "easy" way out. In other words, it is the last resort to solve the extinction crises. If all that is left to fall back on are these types of 'last resorts', it could discourage people from actively saving the already-existing creatures, knowing that artificial creation could be used to reproduce. Artificial reproduction shouldn't be the option humans turn to, when the planet still has authentic animals alive and roaming.

Makiling Mudspring Hike

Ril Arguelles

On May 10, the students of Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) went through hiking as their fourth quarter exam in Physical Education. The hike, which also doubled as a culminating activity, was requested by the Director IV Victor Emmanuel Carmelo Nadera. It took place at the Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve.

The faculty members that were in charge of the activity were the teacher Joedy Occeña, Jazelle Boctot, Arjay Viray and Lemuel Estrada. Occeña, Viray, and Estrada are also the school's PE teachers.

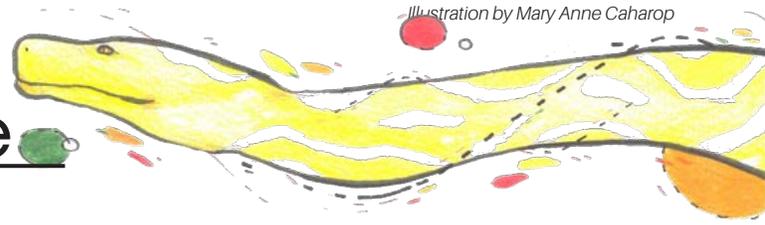
According to Estrada, the students were separated into two groups: those who can endure the long trail and those who have a respiratory illness. It was then divided into smaller teams per grade level, each led by an experienced hiker from the reserve.

The first checkpoint was where the flat rocks were, followed by the last checkpoint where the mud spring was. The students who were deemed unfit to participate, meanwhile, were allowed a separate exam instead.

The flat rocks were the first trail the students encountered. This was 300-400 meters long until the riverbed. According to the hikers, one can find plenty of large boulders to stand on.

As the trail progressed, the land turned loamier and the air increased in humidity. This was due to the mud spring. The mud spring was formed due to volcanic heat as sulfuric acid broke down surrounding rocks into clay.

In preparation for the hike, the students were required to complete requested materials needed. They also underwent exercises during PE classes that strengthened the legs and increased their stamina. This ensured that most of who would be participating were fit enough for the long hike in terms of physical health.



NAGA: Who is he really?

Nicole Gahuman

Naga is the name of the domesticated python living in Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), whose cage is located in front of the school's canteen. He has been under the care of Administrative Officer 4, Alvin C. Miclat, for three years. But actually, Naga has been in PHSA for six years. Jay Gomez, an alumnus of batch Napoleon-Abueva and former music teacher in the school, donated him back in 2012. He was the one responsible for taking care of the python for the first three years.

There have been multiple people who have expressed their disbelief for a python on school grounds. For example, various parents perceive it as a threat to the civilians on the grounds, such as students and teachers. Most of them argue that the snake is highly venomous, or that Naga might end up consuming humans.

These statements, however, are false.

Naga is from a family of python snakes called pythonidae. He is a subspecies of the Burmese python, scientifically known as *Python bivittatus*. The Burmese python is one of the five largest species of snakes in the world. Naga's recorded length as of

August 2018 is 17.7 feet.

Since Naga is a python, he is not a venomous creature - in fact, all types of pythons are non-venomous. This is because pythons kill their prey by constriction. This means that they wrap themselves around their victim, squeeze them until they are unconscious, and then eat them.

Concerning the notion that the snake could end up attacking a student or staff, according to Miclat, Naga is only fed twice a month, with freshly dressed chicken. Furthermore, Naga is placed on a special diet, which limits him to the chicken alone. While the feeding schedule keeps his hunger satisfied, this is not the only reason why that animal is the only prey he is bound to. If he is not fed another animal, then he will not develop a desire to eat other things. This prevents him from attacking while searching for something new - this includes attacking humans.

In addition, there have been several accounts of people having pythons as personal pets. They are reported as being docile and gentle, provided that they are placed on the same one-animal diet, and are not mistreated.

The Chargee: A Future Gadget for All Students

Sidney Lampayan

Hailing from the green-and-white clad De La Salle University comes a new innovative piece of technology sure to be a help and a hit with future students across the country - the Chargee.

The Chargee is the project of third year engineering Lasallians, Andreana Santos, Celine Solis, David Zinampan, Ivan Yeung, and Sarah Tan created the idea and design, whilst Angelo Casimiro aided in making a prototype.

The invention went viral upon its release, and Casimiro's post of the item currently has 54,000 reactions, and has been shared 38,000 times.

The Chargee operates as three things - an ID holder, a powerbank and a flash drive. In fact, the name itself is derived from the words 'Charge' and 'ID'.

"We saw a similar product that incorporates a flash drive in their ID holder, and we thought of adding a power bank as well," said Solis in an interview with Rappler. "We know that this will benefit students and employees since we use our smartphones often in school or work."

Casimiro posted on Facebook that the Chargee is "almost as thin and light as your everyday ID holder". The flash drive is also incredibly helpful, as it has a storage of 128 GB.

On the powerbank perspective, the Chargee has a built-in powerbank with 1900 mAh (milli Ampere per hour). To explain, an ampere is a unit of current, and Googling mAh will find the equation of 'Charge', which is charge = current (in this case, milli Ampere) * time (in this case, hour). The Chargee's mAh can provide a charge of 1900 in an hour - in other words, it can fully charge something like an iPhone 6.

Yeung stated in the same interview that they will concentrate on developing the Chargee even further, and they are also highly considering mass-producing it.

"We may be looking into inventing new products in the future, but as of now the Chargee is our priority," Yeung added.





Illustration by Kulay Dala.

(Pe)Pera ng PCOO

On August 2, Communications Assistant Secretary Mocha Uson posted a one hour Facebook Live of her "Good News Game Show" with co-host Drew Olivar, who was seen singing "i-pepe" and "i-dede" while dancing and gesturing to his chest and crotch, then yelled "i-pederalismo" at the end of his number. The audience has since then taken to dissecting the obscene humor and looking into the motive and intention behind it.

This year's Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) budget has an allocation of P1.38 billion, and to see where all this money goes instead of to the government agencies clamoring for such a budget is far more alarming to ignore than Uson's reputation for her past "fake news" incidents.

"Simple errors in spelling or grammar are indicators of the huge error in appointing officials who are not up for the task for informing our people accurately, sufficiently, and responsibly," says Akbayan Representative Tom Villarin on the topic. "If this is where our taxes go, perhaps it's time to remove its budget and use it for what our people truly need," the oppositional lawmaker adds, using the hashtag #ZeroBudgetPCOO, which, to show majority of the people's approval, was trending on Twitter on August 6th.

However, despite the ceaseless bashing on social media, Uson seems to have no plans to resign or to acknowledge public feedback on her work. One can only wonder where

a P1.38 billion budget will go if this supposed infomercial on federalism was clearly not properly spent on, and even failed to get the message across without resorting to colloquial vulgar terms that have nothing to do with the aforementioned subject.

The incident has brought up the topic of the proposed budget for 2019, with some government agencies experiencing big cuts in their budget, such as the Department of Agriculture (DOA) getting a budget cut of P6 billion; the Department of Health (DOH) P36 billion; and the Department of Education (DepEd) a whopping P55 billion. This has roused even more controversy, seeing the number of other sectors that need such funds.

"The obliterated amount from some agencies will hit hard the people, who badly need social services. What will sustain them are education, affordable food, health services, and social assistance, not gaffes and reckless communication campaign," Senator Grace Poe said in a statement.

The 2019 PCOO budget is said to have an allocation of P3 million higher than this year, and this has yet to be changed if the government does not want the country to descend even deeper into poverty and acquire even more financial problems on top of the unresolved ones at the moment.

NONo to CHACHA

The decision to proceed with Charter Change (Cha-cha) isn't news, what with the proposed Joint Resolution No. 10 under former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's term and now the renewal of said resolution under President Rodrigo Duterte. The country's unpreparedness for such shift in governance style? Not news as well.

First, the government must understand that what the country needs are solutions for its predicaments, not experimentations, such as this particular move; that distracting the Filipino people from their lack of success in finding solutions isn't one. While it may be tempting to approve of and see what change this may bring, it is still evident the Philippines still has a lot to learn as the

nation we are now, moreover as a federal one. Taking one step forward and two steps back is much like transforming to a federal, though underdeveloped, republic. The systems of the government as it is aren't even steadied, with the increase in violence and prices, so why change them now? It is common sense that we must learn something to the fullest to get to unlearn it, therefore we still have a long way to go before being ready to embrace federalism.

Another conflict that shall arise upon the revision of the Constitution is the submission of the final draft of the resolution in May 2019, which will possibly cause a delay in the next senatorial elections. This

means that those elected in 2013 and 2016 will remain in their seats until 2030 instead of 2022. It is not impossible that this will also provide a term extension for President Duterte, whose administration is responsible for the infamous vigilante killings, overly-violous war on drugs, and the whopping Philippine inflation rate.

With the country's legislators seemingly unaware of the complications that are sure to result from the further separation of our islands, the division of our nation into states would sooner or later lead to its fall. If this is the change the President swore was bound to come, then it is better if it won't come at all.

#Boycott Contractualization

Leila Maligalig

It strikes me greatly how until only recently, we consumers seem to just stomach the tactics of corporate giants to further engage themselves at the expense of their workers. The hashtags, "#boycottJollibee" and "#boycottNutriasia" which trended on social media have become opportunities to shove to corporate faces that we wouldn't be consuming products while their workers are underpaid and taken away of their human rights.

It's just about time that we do something for these workers; that we serve them as they've served us.

We must remember that the people who carry trays to our tables, who mop floors and stand behind cash registers have exactly the same number of rights as we do. These rights should also be given exactly the same amount of importance. They shouldn't be fighting for minimum wage when corporations are aware that any centavo less than that is violation of workers' rights.

As we fight for long-overdue justice, Tony Tan Caktiong, Jollibee Food Corporation's owner and CEO, stands 6th richest in the country. Without public awareness and action, the corporates like Caktiong would be able to make their assets grow while their workers suffer the small salaries for who knows how much longer.

Efforts to eliminate contractualization isn't news. Richest in the country Henry Sy fathered contractualization in the Philippines with regulations such as (1) saleswomen have to wear heels and (2) they mustn't sit down as they work. Back then, there would be boxes on counters where costumers can drop donations to help fund workers' strike petition. This time, standing firm and as one, we should be able to assert dominance as consumers over corporate giants who trample on their workers. We mustn't settle for blood-and-sweat-stained Chickenjoy and banana ketchup---never eat these for all I care---for this is only how David can conquer Goliath.

I say give workers the right to ample salary and acceptable working conditions. Until then, my stomach would just have to make do without unjust langhap-sarap and ketchups.

PMPC school catering causes concerns

Martha Visperas

PCAARRD Multipurpose Cooperative (PMPC), the school's current catering service, received low ratings in evaluations from a majority of the students in the school.

After saying farewell to the previous catering staff, Casa de Padrid, last year, the school immediately hired PMPC following Christmas break. Yet, later on, the catering service began receiving complaints from several people.

Students have rated PMPC's performance in the quarterly evaluations. These were given to assess the catering team's service during their first two quarters at schools. Most students have written concerns regarding their personal food restrictions, the daily menu, and the food service.

According to some students, the team's service wasn't as convenient as CASA's service had been. There have also been complaints of the food being greasy and unhealthy, and the same food being served several days a week.

This could potentially throw off the students' diets and cause an imbalance of their nutrition intake. As many sources cite, a variety of food is needed for vitamins, carbohydrates, proteins, fats, etc. Not being able to meet this requirement can cause many health problems, from indigestion, skin problems, and stunted growth.

In addition, because of the served meals, many people have taken to skipping meals. There have also been issues with students with food restrictions not being able to have the proper food.

However, some sympathetic students say that it'll take time for others to get used to their catering service, as they underwent the same concerns with CASA before.

Currently, the PMPC has shown signs of improvement, but the students are still expecting room for more in the future.

The sudden shift in dorm arrangements created quite a commotion within the PHSA student body and parents. In a school where communication and information dissemination is limited as is, the placement of girls and boys of the same batch in areas on the opposite ends of the campus is plain problematic.

Class projects, batch presentations, and other required activities cannot be accomplished with only the girls or the boys discussing amongst themselves. Are dorm managers really up for making school requirements more difficult to accomplish?

While it is understandable that dorm managers' and house parents must regulate the relationships between boys and girls and the actions of those involved in them, they should've kept in mind that boy-girl interactions are not limited to public displays of affection and the like. As scholars who need to maintain a certain educational standing, PHSA students of the same batches do not hesitate in holding meetings and rehearsals during their free time—the time which they spend in their respective dorms. The one-point-something kilometer distance between the boys' dorms in Marvilla and the girls' dorms in the Duran area now hinder them to utilize and make the most out of their idle "dorm time". "Boys are not for landi only!" a Duran area resident justifies.

And what about boy-boy and girl-girl romantic relationships? It seems only fitting for the school administration to enforce handbook rules harder and maybe even find a way for house parents to be stricter with these rules as they may be broken even in the same room. Compromising the productivity of batchmates doesn't outweigh what a little more strictness can fix.

As if this doesn't cover the desired distance batchmates have between each other, rooms were assigned so that a room would cater to a freshman, a sophomore, a junior and a senior. Again, the divide between batchmates is just illogical. Another Duran area resident states, "Kung gusto nila [house parents] ma-inspire yung lower years, they should conduct seminars on time management and cleaning..Hindi rin lahat ng higher years ay [good] role models." True enough, power tripping and bullying are proven to be more prone in these room situations. In fact, the old dorm management came to be after house parents then noticed some higher years taking advantage of their lower-year-roommates. It is not surprising that a great number of students opted to change rooms so that they'd have batchmates for roommates.

Though room assignments have been (and for the better), boys and girls continue to be limited to interact only during class and dinner hours. This unnecessary drastic change makes matters worse for accomplishing group and batch requirements, backfiring with its attempts to "organize" the student body like a wrong antidote given to a cure of a worsened disease.

Dorm Drama



Do you think
PHSA-SHS
should accept
junior high
completers
that are
not from
Makiling?

"No. Kasi hindi nila na-undergo yung training na pinagdaanan ng Phsa students. Para saakin, unfair siya para sa mga junior high na nakick-out dahil sa PHSA training."

— Mars Quejada, Folk Dance Major

"It's okay. Because we all know and should accept that there's a lot of Ibarangs that want to back out in Senior High. Let's give chances to those who have the initiative and the passion to continue. Plus, our connections with other schools would widen. Ganoon sa Rural eh."

— Lianne Tavia, Music

"I think no. Kasi, kapag hindi napagdaanan ng isang estudyante yung pinagdadaan natin sa Makiling, hindi niya makukuha yung kultura na natutunan natin. Iba tayo. Baka in the end, sila rin ang mahirapan."

— Hyschel Eya, Theater Arts

"Oo. Kung gusto at paghihirapan nila. Maraming gustong pumasok sa school nito, but only discovered the school when they were in Senior High. More chances for them because there's a lot of Junior High students backing out dahil sa system. Pero what I'm sure of, hindi madali mag-adjust sa training ng Makiling."

— Nikki Tangalin, Ballet

Illustration by Kulay Dala.



BAY DELAYED

James Lanante

One thing we Ibarangs will forever treasure is the experience of a lifetime: studying atop the beauty of Mt. Makiling. The 'Makiling' experience on top of "Aling Maria's" haven is something irreplaceable. It allows us student-artists to be molded into the better individuals we surely aspire. It also allowed us to be open to new possibilities as members of a community as we let ourselves be drawn to small and large issues that affect us the most, may it be a campus or national concern. Most of all, the mountain opened new doors for people from all walks of life to experience each other's lives. Mt. Makiling taught us about the importance of co-existence.

For the past two years, PHSA has already produced graduates under the K-12 program who were greatly privileged to finish their high school life on top of Mt. Makiling, the second one - which is our batch (Jose Joya-Severino Montano '19) - to graduate at the end of this school year. Yet the administration has promised us

one thing: that on our senior high years, we will be sent to the newly-built Bay campus as our experience as student-artists should be drawn closer to the community and that won't be achieved if we are distant from the reality of the world. This was a statement that they kept on repeating and repeating even before we finished 9th Grade three years ago.

We kept asking questions on why the withheld descent of Senior High students to the Bay campus if they said so that we were supposed to occupy the space.

Recently, photos of the campus have been posted online. To what I see, the campus itself does not give that inspiring atmosphere for student-artists, unlike the mountaintops. It also does not scream the prestige of a special art school. I came into a point wherein I had to revisit my expectations of the campus, of how it can set the immersive ether the school has promised us on our senior high years.

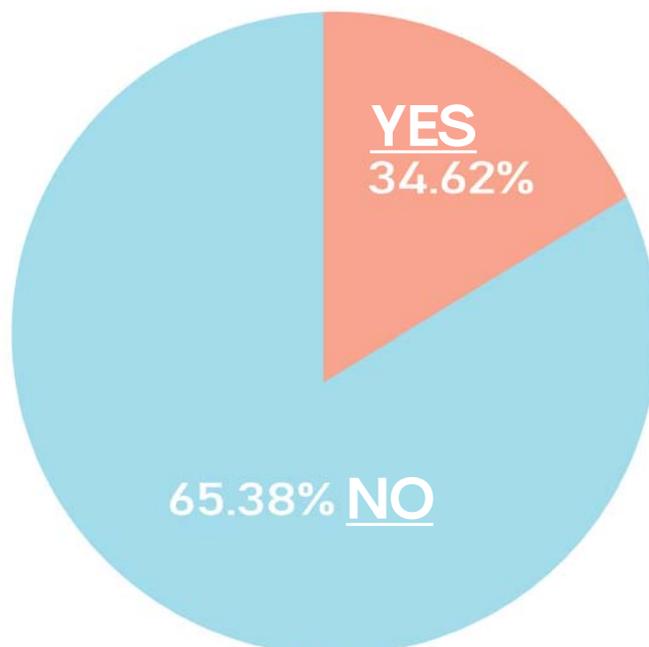
I wondered how extremely different it would have been if we actually occupied the Bay campus for complete two years, of what could have been lost for me.

But then again, I knew that even the idea of building a school for the arts on top of a mountain was a risk and that there were oppositions prior to even mounting the school's cornerstone. This I think is what's going to happen with this concern about the new campus — that it would initially receive contradictions but later on, people would see the good side of things, that future Senior High students of PHSA will be seen fit to live and co-exist with the new vibe that the Bay campus exhumes. For this matter, I have high hopes for the future of the Ibarangs no matter what the complications are right now.

PRIOTIZING PE

In an arts-focused school such as the Philippine High School for some tend to neglect the value of Physical Education as a subject necessary activity. It is also noticeable how some Ibarangs have th disregarding the importance of physical activity. This is also because the idea of Physical Education is introduced in a way that it is only a su a necessity. Should the school focus on prioritizing or at least fix the Physical Education?

Danielle Alexandra Castillo



WHAT'S UP

WITH THIS

GYM?

Daniel Ben

"What? We have a gym?"

A first-year asked after hearing about the school gym.

The said school facility is underneath cottage 20 in dorm C. Blue mats cover the room, as workout equipment like stationary bikes, a treadmill, a lat pulldown machine, and a few others are free for use.

The gym was requested for Ballet students and was initially located in the ballet studio, and was transferred to its current location upon the studio's renovation last year, according to PE teacher and Music Coordinator, Arjay Viray.

To use the gym, you need to get written permission from the Director and adult supervision. The requirements are not heavy, however, getting adult supervision is difficult as work hours and student free time have no overlap, and thus the gym is not often used, with only a few students knowing it exists.

"People are really not aware [of the gym.] A lot of people don't know, they'll just be surprised and say: ah! this exists!?" Viray said.

Viray has a suggestion for the problem. Put the facility in a more public area.

"You know adolescents if you leave them alone in a private area, it's a bit dangerous. If you put [the gym] in a public area where people pass by, I think it's possible that students won't need adult supervision."

His suggestion for a possible venue is the Araliwang Awit, a glass room full of books situated in the cafeteria, beside the pool and open to people passing by.

"Especially since it's beside the pool, it has more sense and it'll become some sort of a recreational area."

With the gym in a more public area where people see it every day, the problem of the lack of student awareness of the facility will not be a problem.

Students should know of the gym, unlike first-year Albert Reyes, who had no knowledge of the gym whatsoever before being interviewed. "I knew about it just now. It'd be a shame if no one uses the gym and it just slowly breaks down."

2018

PHILIPPINE

SPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS

Forgetting politics and national problems, the year of 2018 had been generous, especially when it came to memorable moments in sports, from the international stage to the collegiate level.

Let's start with the country's national sport: basketball.

Once again, Gilas Pilipinas, after a grueling qualification, is going to China for the FIBA World Cup, grouped with powerhouses Serbia and Italy, alongside Angola. However, this wasn't without any controversy.

On July 2, in a game where Australia was leading 30 against the Philippine national team, a foul was called with 4:00 left on the clock, when Australia's Daniel Kickert elbowed Roger Pogoy, leading to an all-out melee between the two teams, suspending 10 Gilas players and 3 of those from the Australia Boomers, with heavy fines sanctioned by FIBA.

Yet, this is in the past, and the team now look forward to its next challenge ahead in the world cup, where it hopes to improve its 1-4 record in the tournament in its previous iteration last 2015 in Spain.

There were also great moments in the collegiate level of basketball. Who could forget the UP Fighting Maroons' first trip to the UAAP finals after 32 years? They overcame the twice-to-beat advantage of second-seeded Adamson Soaring Falcons, after a buzzer beater by Paul Desiderio with 6.6 on the clock in Game 2.

Granted, UP fell to the powerhouse that is the Ateneo Blue Eagles, but the achievement and nail-biting games brought to us by the team still stands.

Speaking of nail-biting games, for the first time in history, the Philippine Azkals qualified and competed in the AFC Asian Cup, in a close 2-1 victory against Tajikistan in the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium. The winning goal was shot on the 91st minute by Phil Younghusband in a penalty, it was as close as it could get.

The tournament proper of the AFC Asian Cup wasn't so lucky for the national football squad, as the team lost all three of its games in the group stage against China PR, Korea, and Kyrgyzstan.

However, there were things to look forward to, by the means of improvement. The Azkals stood their ground against the pressing of the powerhouse Korea, only conceding a single goal and the game 3-0 against China, compared to the

last meeting between the two countries, the score was 8-1, a huge improvement.

In hindsight, one might think that 2018 dominated by male squads; but it had also been a year for Filipino women. In the Asian Games, the four gold medals brought home by Filipinos were by the courtesy

of Filipinas.

Hidalyn Diaz brought home the first medal by winning her women's 53-kg weightlifting event. Two gold medals came from golf: one from Yuka Saso after ruling her individual event; and another from the women's team event consisting of Yuka Saso together with Bianca Isabel Pagdanganan and Lois Kaye Go.

The fourth and final gold medal of the Asian games came from Margielyn Didal after scoring 30.4 points, a whole 5 points above the silver medallist, in the women's street skateboarding competition. Because of the feat, she was named one of the 25 most influential teens by Time Magazine, citing she would "cement skateboarding's status as a serious sport" in the Philippines.

Common popular serious sports, like boxing and mixed martial arts also had an interesting year.

Manny Pacquiao is back in the ring again. He showed he still has it in him after a seven-round bout by knockout against Lucas Matthyse, just 5 months shy from 40.

Team Lakay, a mixed martial arts team based in Baguio that competes in ONE Championship and Brave FC, had up to 5 athletes who were champions: namely, Eduard Folayang, Kevin Belingon, Geje Eustaquio, Joshua Pacio, and Stephen Loman.

They even held a champions parade for them last December 2, as they held the most number of titles for any team in ONE Championship. Sadly, the number quickly shrunk to two in early 2019, but the fact still stands that Team Lakay held 5 world championships late last year, one can only hope they reach the same level in the future.

And that one of the anchors of sports: hope. There's hope in a massive improvement in Filipino sports in the near future, and one can only hope that this potential is realized, extending beyond competition and improves the quality of Filipino living.

SEA GAMES 2018

Daniel Ben

The South-East Asian games, the biennial multi-sports competition, is coming up this November, to be hosted by the Philippines. From controversial issues and things to be stoked for, here's what to look out for.

One of the things to be most excited about is Esports. The inclusion of Esports makes a total of 57 sports that the Games will feature. This is the first time that Esports is a medal event in a multi-sport event sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee, following the Asian Games 2018 demonstrative events.

With the Asia-Pacific region generating \$66.2 billion or 49% of the world's esports revenues, the inclusion of Esports in the SEA Games is predicted to bring significant developments to the industry, according to market research firm Newzoo.

The video games confirmed are Dota 2, Starcraft 2, Tekken 7, Mobile Legends: Bang Bang, and Arena of Valor, with a sixth game still unannounced.

It's concerning that this sixth game is still unannounced since the competitions should start in a few months. It doesn't strengthen the concern of the SEA Games' lack of preparation.

There have been reports that the Philippine may have lost their rights to host the Games, being closely monitored by The Southeast Asian Games Federation Council because of a "lack of fund and bickering among top sports officials," according to the Daily Tribune in an article on March 18.

This has been debunked by former foreign affairs secretary and chairman of the SEA Games' organizing committee Alan Peter Cayetano, saying: "The hosting of this biennial event is a great opportunity to showcase our people, athletes and the country in general. Let us not waste this chance to make our athletes and the Filipino people proud of our country."

However, the controversies continue on. Especially concerning the budget.

The initial 7.5 Billion peso budget was put under the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) with the request of Cayetano in December of 2018. The move was in question, as sports promotion is not under the DFA's mandate, and should be transferred to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), as suggested by Senate minority leader Franklin Drilon.

The budget went back to the treasury, returned by DFA secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. citing: "It should go back to Treasury. It might be with PSC which I don't trust."

Eventually, the Department of Budget and Management turned it over to the PSC in April 16, but another blow had been dealt with the SEA Games' planning as the budget was cut to 5 billion.

Thankfully, that's where the controversies end. The only thing that needs to be completed is the New Clark City Sports Complex, one of the venues of the competitions' 4 venue clusters.

To be finished in August, the 9,500-hectare sports complex features a 20,000-seating capacity athletics stadium, a 2,000-seater aquatics center, complete with an athlete's village with banks and restaurants. "I wish I was a swimmer today," said former Olympian Eric Buhain in a Rappler article, upon seeing the facilities.

Retired sprint queen Lydia de Vega had a similar reaction, saying: "To all of us Filipino athletes, I know you're really happy that we have all these kinds of facilities now that the government has given to us. Next year is Southeast Asian Games so good luck to everyone, so it's time to work harder and aim for that goal."

The 2019 South-east Asian Games will open on November 30 in the Philippine Arena in Bocaue, Bulacan, and will feature sports until the closing on December 11.





Therese Malapad competing at the Niyogyugan Triathlon 2018 and won second place, August 12, 2018, Quezon Province.

Visual artist wins 2nd in Niyogyugan Triathlon

Danielle Alexandra Castillo

Grade 11 visual artist Therese Malapad of the Philippine High School for the Arts, placed second in the Niyogyugan Triathlon on August 12 at Lucena. Malapad finished with 1:39:13 at the Women's Open Category with the age group of 14-19. The triathlon involved a distance of 600m swim, 20k bike and 5k run.

"Sports has always been about mental toughness. You can have the fastest swim or the best bike but getting inside your head will be your downfall. In every race I've joined regardless of how much training I have, I always give my all and aim high, not even thinking about the podium finish," said Malapad when asked about her preparation for the event.

The triathlon was held to support Julienne Ursolina who is diagnosed with Medulloblastoma. The funds will be donated to her chemo and radiation therapy. "I guess what I can share regarding my skills in sports and being a VA is how sports has inspired me a lot in VA, like my work in Grade 9. As much as I would want to go far in my skills in sports, I would still need to balance my training schedule with my school schedule. I may not be able to reach the 'elite athlete' level yet because I train every weekends only but I have accepted that fact and I still enjoy my life as it is now," said Malapad regarding the balancing of her fields.

Nelvie Daliva

Basketbrawl: Gilas Pilipinas vs Australia Boomers

Filipinos are peace loving people. The concept of bayanihan is something very foreign in other countries, and the hospitality exhibited by each family is remembered by each foreigner that comes here.

And so, there is an unstated given. If you threaten, demean, or insult a person in the close community, the peace will turn against you.

This is what happened in the recent Gilas Pilipinas game against the Australis Boomers; one of the biggest brawls in sports history. It was July 2, inside the Philippine Arena in Bocaue, Bulacan. The game was on its third quarter with 4 minutes left on the clock. The fight began when the Australian forward Daniel Kickert elbowed Roger Pogoy, reacting to Pogoy's rough shove at Chris Goulding.

It was definitely an overreaction, especially that in some angles, it would even seem the Goulding only flopped. A pile of bodies, flying chairs, athletes chasing each other, kicks and punches was the next scene that followed.

It led to the suspension of 12 Gilas players and coaches, 3 players from the boomers, and heavy fines on both sides.

Tensions were already high the previous night, when the Australian team peeled the FIBA approved decals from the court floor without any permission, stating that it was slippery and could lead to injuries. Of course, the Philippine body made amends and made sure that the decals were put back on, but it still left pressure between the two teams. The fact that the Boomers were very aggressive in their mind games didn't help either. Even from the warm-ups, some athletes from Australia were already trash talking the Filipino players. "It's absolutely unacceptable but the reality is that (Daniel) Kickert [was] hitting our players during the warm-ups. He hit Carl Bryan Cruz, he

hit Matthew Wright, Pogoy and he hit Calvin Abueva during the warm-ups," Chot Reyes, the head coach of Gilas at that time, said. When the rash behavior and unsportsmanlike rough plays continued throughout the game, an elbow coming from nowhere was the biggest trigger. Retaliation after a clear mean of harm was expected.

Even more, when the Philippine team were in Australia, they treated the Boomers with respect and kept away from this kind of behavior in a game where insults and mind games are often used. The reputation of the sport of Basketball took a hit that night.

Doubts about the Philippine's hosting of the 2023 world cup was widespread, and the Philippine Team's lineup is basically suspended.

One can only hope that with the fourth window of the Fiba Asia begins on September 13 with a game against Iran, Philippine basketball fans can only hope that the new faces of this new roster under the leadership of Coach Yeng Guiao will lead to a new beginning for Philippine basketball.

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