



Manlilikha ng Bayan Rosie Sula Visits UP Baguio

BY JULLIENNE BACAGAN

In celebration of National Arts Month held annually in February, the Committee on Culture and the Arts (CCA), together with the UP Diliman Asian Institute of Tourism (UPD AIT), the Program for Indigenous Cultures (PIC), the College of Arts and Communication, and the Indigenous Studies Program of the College of Social Sciences, hosted back-to-back lecture workshops on T'boli Music, Oral Tradition, and Dance in the Teatro Amianan and CSS AVR on February 16–17, 2024 respectively.

Rosie Godwino Sula, a T'boli chanter and Manlilikha ng Bayan from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato was the featured guest of the back-to-back lecture workshops. On February 16, 2024, the workshops were kickstarted with a welcoming message from Chancellor Corazon Abansi and a traditional welcoming chant delivered by College of Arts and Communication Dean Jimmy Fong.

MB Sula opened the lecture proper through chanted

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DMCS Faculty Participates in Science and Mathematics Festival

BY RENZ JIMWEL MINA

Faculty members from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMCS) at UP Baguio served as judges at various levels of the 2023 Science and Mathematics Festival. The event aims to foster academic excellence and innovation among young learners in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

From the district to regional stages, this festival serves as a platform to cultivate an appreciation for Mathematics, Science, and Technology, as well as recognizing the most creative and innovative research projects. This event celebrates academic achievements and encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

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prayer. She also shared her wisdom on T'boli culture: chants and songs, material culture, and weaving techniques. The Teatro Amianan workshop was made more meaningful with a cultural exchange organically taking place between MB Sula and Baguio folks in attendance. Kankanaey chanter Chao Sudaypan delivered an *uggayam* in response to MB Sula's chanting. Afterwards, Paggawisan Tako Am-in (PAGTA) performed a Mountain Province dance called the *balangbang* which served as the community dance that engaged the guests and audience.

The continuation of the learning experience from the T'boli culture bearer was held the next day in the College of Social Sciences, where MB Sula and her group demonstrated traditional T'boli dances with the malong.



Students of UP Baguio try chanting after the demonstration of MB Rosie Sula



MB Rosie Sula joins the community dance initiated by PAGTA



MB Rosie Sula discusses the different types of T'boli songs and tunes at the Teatro Amianan

Celebrating 30 Years of Volunteerism

BY AILEEN DE CASTRO AND ANDREI DOMOGO

In observation of Pahinungód's 30th Founding Anniversary in February 2024, the Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Baguio conducted both on and off-campus activities. The on-campus activities include a training workshop for Cordillera students on data analysis and a book drive, while the off-campus activities include story-telling to young learners.

Book drive and storytelling

The Department of Education has initiated a reading program to improve the reading skills of Filipino students throughout the school year. To support this and UP President Angelo Jimenez's call to improve literacy in the Philippines, Pahinungod Baguio launched "Mga Kwento Para sa Ating Lahat: Book Drive and Storyaan."

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At the La Trinidad district level, hosted at the Cordillera Regional Science High School on October 24, 2023, Assistant Professors Saraleen Manongsong, Kimben Gonzales, and Jhunus Paul Viernes engaged participants in mathematical investigations and provided evaluations as judges. After the event, they gave a crash course on Methods of Proof to help the participants improve their investigations.

Transitioning to the Benguet division level, held at Buyagan Elementary School on November 10–11, 2023, Assistant Professors Andrei Domogo and Renz Jimwel Mina evaluated the Junior High School Mathematical Investigation problem-based category. Meanwhile, Assistant Professor Jhunus Paul Viernes served as one of the judges of *Tuklas* Research Project: Mathematics and Computational Sciences category along with UP Baguio MS Math Alumni Shielden Grail Domiles and Maricar Balolong, both of whom are currently faculty of Benguet State University.

The Cordillera regional level, held on December 7–8, 2023 at Lagawe Central School, witnessed the participation of Assistant Professors Deegie Elope and Renz Jimwel Mina as judges for both team and individual categories of *Tuklas*: Mathematics and Computational Sciences Research.



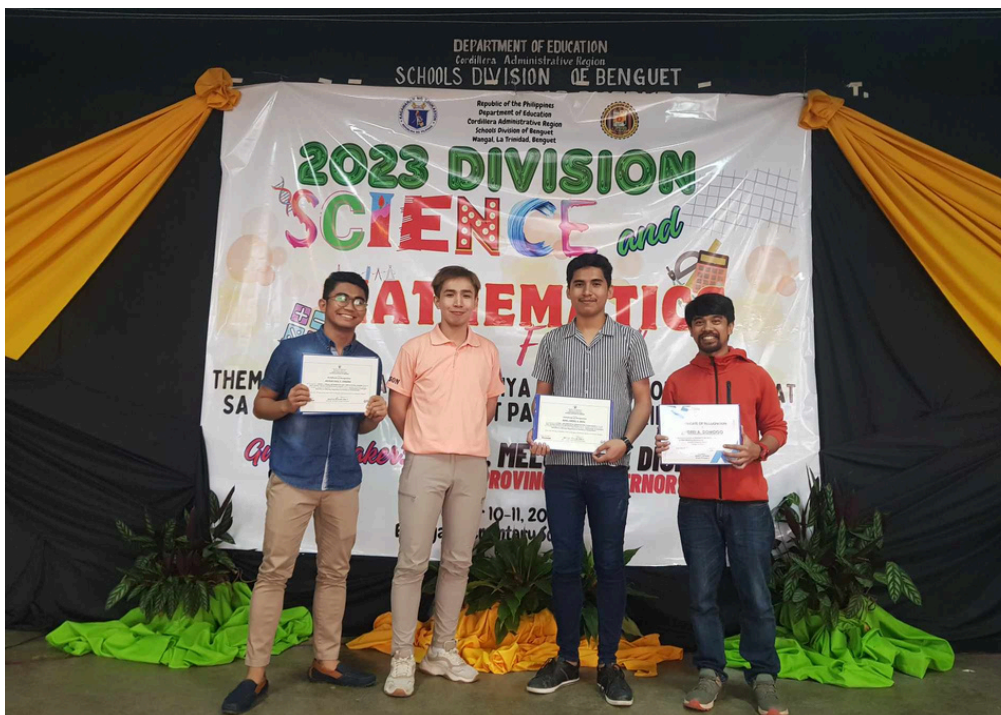
Awarding ceremony during the La Trinidad District Mathematics and Science Festival

In the different levels of the festival, students explored a diverse range of topics, such as geometric problems, pattern recognition, forecasting, machine learning, and mathematical modeling, which demonstrates their curiosity and creativity in addressing real-world challenges. Their research projects showcased how education transforms students into young scientists and mathematicians; this highlights the vital role of initiatives like the Science and Mathematics Festival in shaping the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and problem-solvers.

The DMCS remains steadfast in supporting its faculty members' active involvement in such festivals. It is an opportunity for the faculty to impart their knowledge and constructive feedback to help the students improve their research projects. These festivals are not only a great platform to serve but also a means to inspire and empower the next generation of mathematicians and scientists.



Assistant Professor Kimben Gonzales gives a crash course on Proving Techniques



Benguet Division Science and Mathematics Festival



Group photo of GES teachers, Pahinungod staff, and volunteers (continued from page 2)

Throughout February, the office received 312 book donations from the UP Baguio Community. These were handed over to Gadang Elementary School (GES) on February 26, 2024 at Gadang, Kapangan, Benguet. On the same day, fourteen student volunteers (A. Asuncion, E. Bangasan, J. Barra, M. Carrao, D. Clemencia, F. Dacara, P. Languido, R. Littaua, E. Magsumbol, X. Narvasa, G. Ofilada, J. Parra, J. Tictic, G. Vicente) and faculty volunteer, M. Balgos, facilitated a storytelling activity for students of GES.

In preparation for the event, Mr. Balgos from the Department of Communication conducted a short workshop on storytelling for 94 individuals who signed up. Due to resource limitations and the moderate number of students at GES, the Pahinungod office selected only fifteen volunteers using a lottery system. These volunteers performed stellarly during the activity.

However, there seems to be a gap that needs bridging between the younger learners and how they relate to the stories. For future Storyaan activities, storybooks written in the context of the communities in the Cordillera may bridge the gap.



Student volunteers Daphne Clemencia and Reniele Littaua story telling with grade 3 students of GES (Photos by Andrei Domogo)

Cordillera students learn data analysis

To equip young researchers from Cordillera Regional Science High School, faculty members from the College of Science conducted a training workshop on Data Analysis in R and its Applications on February 26 at the Mathematics Computer Laboratory, UP Baguio.

Twenty-seven senior high school students involved in Mathematics and Computational Sciences research and investigation attended the event. The workshop aims to provide the students with tools to help them process and analyze their research data. The students were with their mathematics and science teachers: Heather Banagui, Shyma Mabli, and Allean Dogao.

During the morning session, Mr. Jhunus Paul Viernes and Ms. Micah Dispo covered the basic commands and operations in R for descriptive statistics and data visualization. In the afternoon, Prof. Criselda Libatique and Mr. Joseph Marigmen illustrated the program's use in Time Series Analysis, a tool for analyzing temporal data.

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Freshie student volunteer James Rafael Barra storytelling with grade 4 students of GES (Photos by Andrei Domogo)

The Art of Volunteerism



Pahinungod Director Andrei Domogo distributes some of the donated books to the teachers of GES (Photo by Joshua Parra) (continued from page 4)

Since it was their first time coding and doing advanced statistics, the students felt challenged during the workshop. In addition, they recognized that it was helpful for their research. They appreciated the interactive nature of the workshop and the friendly facilitators.

In celebration of its 30th Founding Anniversary, the Ugnayan ng Pahinungód system conducted a painting contest with the theme “Maglingkod, MagPahinungód”. It invited all UP Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Retirees to express UP’s brand of volunteerism through art.

The awarding of winners and opening of the exhibit took place on February 27 at Parola UP Fine Arts Gallery, UP Diliman. Fine Arts students John Ray Dizon, Paul Christian Ainza, and alumnus Prane DJ Radam of UP Baguio were among the finalists. The exhibition will run from February 27 to March 8, 2024.

The Ugnayan ng Pahinungód invites everyone to sign up as a volunteer and let the colorful experience paint a part of you.

Cheers to more years of volunteerism!

#Makibahagi #Maglingkod #MagPahinungód



Math faculty Jhunus Paul Viernes discusses on basic charts and graphics in R (Photos by the facilitators and CRSHS teachers)



Math faculty Joseph Ludwin Marigmen assists one of the participants (Photos by the facilitators and CRSHS teachers)



CRSHS students during the lecture on data analysis (Photos by facilitators and CRSHS teachers)

Mondays are not for the weak

BY RHANYDELL BIEN BAYSA

You wake up.

You reminisce about last night's dream of submitting the final copy of your thesis to your adviser, saved on your computer as FINALFINALNATALAGATO-9.docx.

You check the time on your phone, only to find out it's already a quarter past seven in the morning.

You're running late for your class in Pop Culture. Not to mention, you have a quiz today. Ay apo, sapay ni Ma'am Candy ti maestra! You can already picture yourself walking into one of the basement classrooms at the College of Arts and Communication, feeling a sense of apprehension as you struggle to come up with an excuse for Ma'am Candy's inevitable question: "O hijo, why are you late again?"

Having no time to do your usual morning skincare routine, you quickly change into your faded denim jeans and favorite hoodie. You hurriedly run the comb through your hair, coaxing it into place and smoothing out any unruly strands, making it seem you didn't just roll out of bed minutes ago. As you make your way to queue for the next jeepney that will pass by UP Philippines,¹ you turn on your phone to check the time and suddenly realize: it's a Monday.

You walk back home, a grin plastered across your face with each step.

This is bliss: an extra rest day, a fistful of sayote and tomatoes on a Monday morning, a room that smells like marapait and deadlines, queer poetry, a gnawing nostalgia for childhood. You clean your room and find a two-hundred-peso bill under your bed.

You've been wandering for some time, trying to figure out what you could create for yourself. A pocket of reality that is yours and yours alone.

The questions you ask yourself are age-old. The genesis of so many reveries, agonies, and yearnings. What to do with yourself after UPB? What to pursue? The decision paths narrow as

Bagong Pilipinas, Bagong mukha

NI KLARC PADAWAG

Ang pakikipagsapalaran ng itinuturing na dakila sa bansa,
Sa gitna ng bayang panay ang takot at pagkabalisa,
Hangad isang makabagong Pilipinas, makabagong mukha.
Artipisyal na utak, handog raw nito'y pag-asa.
Hindi man nakapagtapos,
Ang mamamayan, sa kanya'y tiwalang lubos.
Tulong sa walang katapusang akademikong rebisyon,
Liban kung sa wastong pagbadyet at akademikong rebolusyon.
Maging kalaban ang turing sa sinumang bumabatikos,
Kaya't sa mga namomonopolyo't bumubusabos,
Pagbalsa mula sa produktong A.I. na mistulang menos gastos.
Sa kompyuter maging sa telepono,
Facial recognition ay tunay na mapapamangha kayo.
Sa kaunting pag-ngiwi,
Taglay nito ang hindi maikakailang kawi.
Sunod sa malawakang abilidad,
Ang pagtansya sa pagdating ng kalamidad.
Kaya't sa pinsala ng mga bagyong dumadalaw,
Likas siyang ligtas,
Nakakatakas,
Nasa ibang bansa madalas.
Bida rin siya sa mga kotse't transportasyon,
GPS, nabigasyon, at desisyon sa mga direksyon.
State visit at walang tigil na pakikipag-usap umano sa mga nasyon
Debelopment at anupang pagtitipon.
Bayaning walang emosyon,
Walang pinagbago sa sinundang administrasyon.
Sa makabagong panahon ng mundong digital,
Sa likod nito'y paghahari ng mga abusadong garapal.
Walang sariling pag-iisip,
Nadidiktahan ng mga tumatangkang sa bayan magpasalipsip.

time goes by. You find yourself following a trail deep into a dark, dense forest, and when you turn back, the road behind has disappeared.

Nowadays, you don't fixate anymore on the pulse of what could've been, for the weeds you had to pull out, for the distance and space and light and time. Forward motion is comforting, no matter how daunting and sorrowful it can get, because so many parts get reconfigured. The laws of nature state that our past selves will always get left behind and that is a fact every one of us must get accustomed to.

When you first stepped foot in UPB, you expected a journey filled with rainbows, fruity notes of strawberries, and the occasional tanginess of tapuey. You didn't expect to be changed in ways you needed but couldn't anticipate. All the things you begged on your knees for and wanted so badly came true only once in a blue moon, yet all diversions yielded powerful inner revelations.

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Days grow longer. You call home. You spend two hours crying tears of joy over that professor who gave you a 3.0 when you know deep down, you could've received a lower grade. You fry up tomatoes in a pan to sweeten them. Your parents say your life is full and you simply smile in response. The things you were working toward in silence start to emerge. You wear your signature coat, together with your cherry and musk perfume.

Lately, you start to believe that to love someone is to be irrevocably changed by them, to carry a small piece of them with you forever. By extension, to love writing is to serve as a conduit of awareness for the world. To be sensitive to the small, the intimate, and the mundane. To open the door to various lands and to let them transform you.

What can I say that hasn't already been said?

Ay apo, you are frightfully stubborn. Everyone tells you

Notes

1 A witty one-liner referring to UP Baguio, usually in response to barkers, jeepney drivers, and taxi drivers who have trouble distinguishing the acronyms UB (University of Baguio) and UPB (University of the Philippines Baguio) in speech.

2 A traditional culmination event in UPB where students, faculty, and staff perform and celebrate the holidays with the UPB community.

3 An acronym for "overreactive," often used loosely by Gen Zs in the Philippines today to indicate a state of having relatively excessive or irrational feelings towards something (e.g., Pakiramdam ng kaklase ko ay mamamatay na raw siya kapag hindi nakapasa sa quiz ni Ma'am Candy, si OA!)

Tala the traveling friend

BY SEAN VICTOR CHUA

Resting on the side of a mountain, there was a small and secluded village, not well-known or rich, but the people there liked to give it everything they got. Though they aren't up-to-date about the state of the world beyond their forests, they will do their best to be understanding and accepting. Tight-knit, warm, and welcoming would be the best descriptors here, and that is the home Tala the Traveling Friend and Nathaniel the Missing Hero were raised in.

We were five years old when I first met Nathaniel – Nathan for short, and we've been inseparable ever since, even when his sibling Natalie was born two years later and eventually joined us in our playtimes. He was the most friendly and outgoing person in the community, and maybe a little bit of a workaholic too as he would often lend a hand to anyone until his tired body would crash. I would help him whenever we were together and I'd carry him to his home across the street when he couldn't even stand.

so! You like problems you can't solve on your own. You like going to the cafeteria even though the chances of finding an empty table there are as high as your crush asking you to be their date for Pasiklaban.² You know some feelings are inarticulate but still, you keep trying and trying to convey your experience. You're deeply romantic but always try to wrap your heart in rationality. You're soulful and headstrong. You're playful (bordering what my generation would call OA)³ and only a little serious. What you know is what you've always known: who you've been is who you'll never be again.

You wake up.

You check the time on your phone, only to find out it's already a quarter past seven in the morning.

You realize it's a Monday. It's another day in the workroom called life.

There were times where we would occasionally go on an adventure a little past the walls and into the forest with a couple more friends we made around the neighborhood. It was dangerous and scary, but he always assured us and would trudge on. That particular activity would last until sundown and we would always feel a little braver and retell our journeys, bringing home souvenirs to our parents over dinner. Even after that, connecting our bedroom windows with tin can phones, we would still talk to each other about our troubles like his overthinking tendencies, my silly nightmares, our anxieties, the wacky stuff that happened that day, things to look forward to and even the little things until midnight, sometimes even past that, which gets us groggy in the morning... And I still have to carry his tired back all the way home!

He always made up for it the next day because that's just who he is, he's more thoughtful than he gives himself credit for.

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Then one day, he gave me a handmade locket that matched his own before he stood in front of the whole village to declare that he will follow his calling, promising he'll return as a hero and make us all proud, he looked forward to it, we all did...

Unfortunately, we lost contact with him some time after and no news of him reached us. We underestimated a missing person in our home, everyone misses him everyday, especially Natalie, who is about to celebrate her birthday again soon... And going through nights without him as my usual confidant makes them feel longer. I wonder how he is dealing with his own nights without me. It's hard to imagine...

There's this rule where if someone's been missing or unreachable for seven years, they're assumed to be legally deceased. It's been four years since we've last seen him.

Four years I've been keeping myself busy, studying, training, and maturing— even our friends have found their own pursuits to keep themselves busy and competent. Four years preparing for his return. Four years his family wished for his safety and success. Three more years before declared dead by law. Three more years before I break it to Natalie. Three more years before I accept it deep within my heart that he is gone.

But! I believe he is still out there, I can feel it— even my dreams guide me sometimes to places I've never been to before, maybe the lockets we share might bring me closer to him. I want to spot him with my own eyes, catch him with my own hands, and show to everyone at home that he is still with us. I will even carry him back home if he's too tired to walk... Just like when we were younger. If I can't find him in these next three years, then... Then I'll have to return back home, I guess. At least I got to see the world and meet lots of people by that point.

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