

THE POWER OF WORDS



Writing is a potent art form. Every story, every poem, every essay, has the ability to energize, entertain, and enlighten. At the heart of this art is the writer, leading readers to different paths of enrichment. Of the millions of writers in the world, a fraction has laudable talent. Part of this fraction is Miro Capili.

Speaking at Tanglaw's ETC (Enriching Talks on Culture) Miro, a 17-year-old Political Science student at the University of the Philippines, has won the prestigious Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, three times. In 2008, she won in the Kabataan Essay category for her work *Rated X*, in which she tells of her experience at the Marikina Expo and why the event encapsulated the spirit of the country. Her Works *The Nature of Nurture* and *Vinyl* won at the Kabataan and Essay categories respectively. Aside from these, she also triumphed in last year's My Favorite Book essay-writing contest of National Book Store.

Miro's love for writing started at an early age. Her father encouraged her to hone her craft and gave her Palanca-awarded works for her perusal. She believes in an interdisciplinary exposure, hence her choice to stay in Political Science.

"I first thought I could only write for myself, but I realized that people could actually read my works and be positively influenced by them," she said. This outlook allows her to write more freely with less pressure to win awards. It also gave writing a new meaning—as means to serve. **e**

Even in an increasingly visual world,
nothing can compare with the written
word in shaping minds and hearts.

« *MIRO'S MAGIC* BY RIA MIRAL
THE BOOK CONVERT BY CECILLE GRULLA »

Now that top-selling novels are quickly remade into movies and compiled summaries are available online, reading novels has slowly taken a back seat. In a talk last April, Lani Junio, an assistant professor from the University of Asia and the Pacific, observed that many young people today find book-reading hard. After all, it requires more effort than watching a video or reading a summary.

In an attempt to promote reading, Lani read excerpts of a letter from one of her students who took a short cut in literature class: instead of reading, she simply asked her classmates to recount the narratives and used these secondhand stories for recitation and exams.

She honestly believed she was not losing out on anything. After all, she even outwitted her more diligent classmates by getting higher marks.

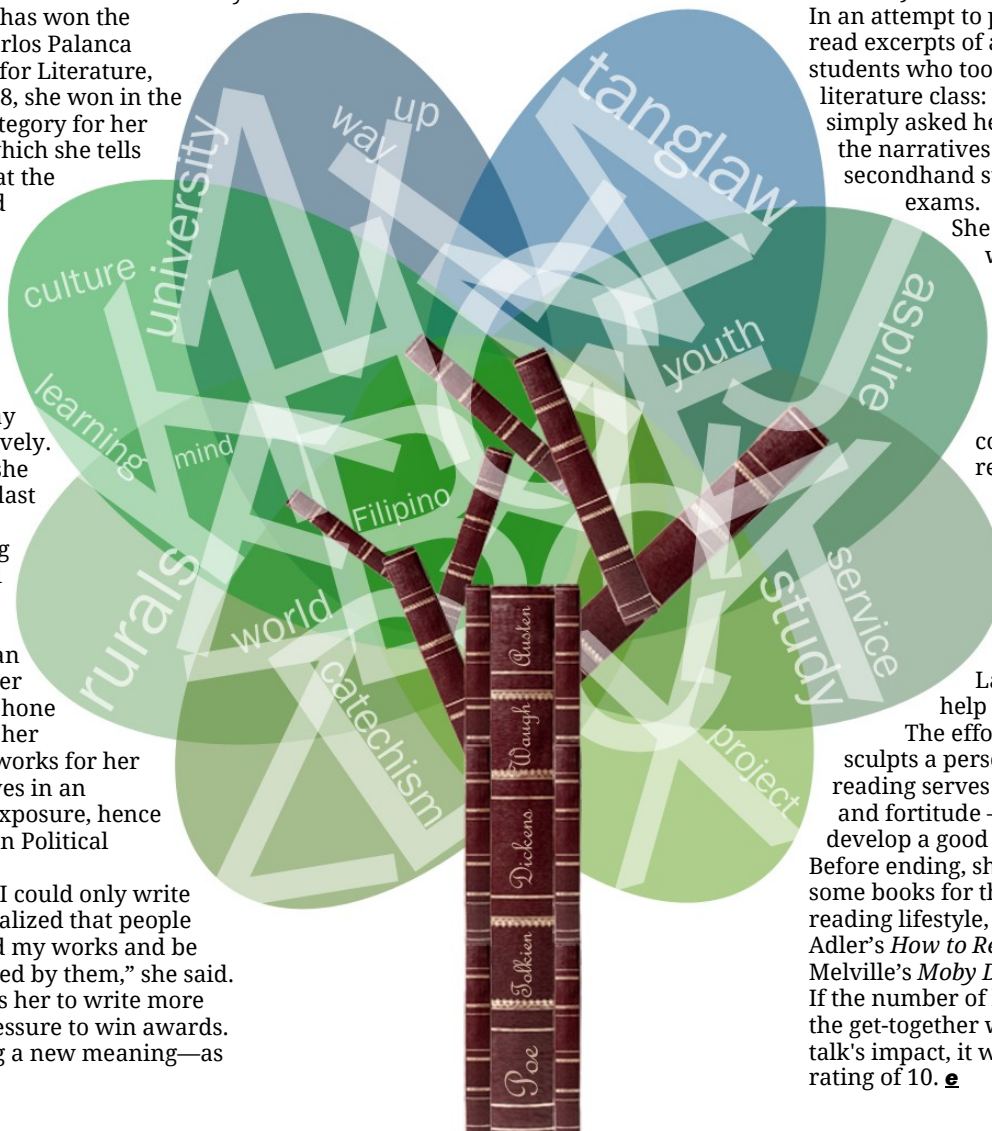
Eventually, her mentor convinced her to give reading a try. She started by reading Leo Tolstoy's thick novel *Anna Karenina*; it was then she realized she missed a lot settling for secondhand stories.

Lani said reading can help to acquire self-mastery.

The effort that reading takes sculpts a person's character. Frequent reading serves as training in patience and fortitude – character traits that develop a good personality.

Before ending, she also recommended some books for those who want to start a reading lifestyle, such as Mortimer Adler's *How to Read a Book* and Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.

If the number of books borrowed after the get-together were an indicator of the talk's impact, it would surely receive a rating of 10. **e**



Live Filipino

TEAM PINOY ON ETC

“Live Filipino. Love Filipino.” This was the main message of Claudia Ayaquil, an incoming 4th year student at Ateneo when she spoke in behalf of Team Pinoy on the 28th of May. “I chose to do my internship in this NGO because I believe in their advocacy”, says Claudia.

Founded by the author of the bestselling book “12 Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country,” Atty. Alexander L. Lacson, Team Pinoy Inc. is a social enterprise that is committed to creating an empowered Filipino nation. It offers mainly leadership training programs for schools and companies revolving around “small acts of patriotism”.

Want to check how you fare in the patriotism scale? Here’s a checklist!

Follow traffic rules. Follow the law

Always ask for an official receipt

Don’t buy smuggled goods. Buy Local.

Buy Filipino

Speak positively about us and our country

Respect your traffic officer, policeman & other public servants

Throw your garbage properly. Segregate.

Recycle. Conserve

Support your Church

During elections, do your solemn duty

Pay your employees well

Pay your taxes

Adopt a scholar or a poor child.

Pray for our country and our people. e



#1 Follow traffic rules.

Three and free

THRESOME FRESHMEN TALK ABOUT THEIR YEAR-LONG RESEARCH WRITING EXPERIENCE FOR THIS YEAR'S UNIV FORUM FINAL PAPER PRESENTATION

Vanessa Burton | *BA Psychology*
“I encountered difficulties such as facing the demands of research and managing my time well. I even thought of giving up and hiding myself from my obligations and deadlines. But as I strove hard to do my part in research, I learned many things and I began to value what we were doing. It brings a lot of good memories to me.”

Vanessa Villanueva | *BS Family Life and Child Development*
“UNIV has taught me how to become patient especially in times of being haggard and hectic, serious when needed, and confident in letting out what I wish to express and in sharing my talents. It has made me bloom into a better person, and a happier one too.”

Julie Ann Noreen Tan | *BS Mathematics*
“The UNIV experience ... helped me grow. I also gained traits which benefited me not only as a student, but also as a person. I learned patience in those times that we needed to revise some parts of our paper and presentation.” e



Waving our banner

BY CEDES TANCHULING

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 1986 Philippine Revolution (a.k.a. People Power or EDSA 1), February 26, 2011 saw in Tanglaw a class on “Patriotism: A Christian Perspective” by Grace Liza Y. Concepcion, from the UA&P’s Department of History. Specializing in our country in the 19th century and colonial intermediaries, Ms. Concepcion lent a fresh perspective on a word so commonly used but little understood: patriotism. She tackled it using the recently beatified John Paul II’s “Memory and Identity: Personal Reflections”, applying his insights to the Philippine context. Patriotism was defined as “a love for everything to do with our native land: its history, its traditions, its language, its natural features.”

Beginning with etymology, Ms. Concepcion pointed how “patria” was used in literature like Rizal’s *Mi Ultimo Adios* and the Ten Commandments, showing how the word falls under “pietas”, also Latin. And this proved key because “pietas” underlines the religious

dimension of the veneration due to parents. Consequently, this entails a concept of indebtedness, or “utang na loob”. Quoting Aquinas, “The virtue of piety extends to: our parents and our country.”

A question answered was whether patriotism included an unconditional love for the state. Ms. Concepcion stressed that people take precedence over the politics governing them. Hence “... a citizen may resist certain political structures and laws ... without foregoing the moral virtue of patriotism.” This, then, leads to a properly ordered social love.

Having established patriotism as a virtue, the class was concluded with ideas on how to practice it. Since one can only love what one knows, the lecturer emphasized the need to delve deeper into the history and culture of one’s native land. Also, she encouraged the audience to keep abreast of current events, pointing out that the audience shouldn’t settle for mere awareness of their nation’s plight- a willingness to act to remedy problems should follow. e

Albay Chronicles

RURAL SERVICE PROJECT IN BICOL

Twelve volunteers, two classrooms painted, 70 students taught, 120 patients served, one project, seven days, 200 miles away. These are the quick numbers of the last Rurals in Sto.

Domingo, Bicol, when a group of girls from Tanglaw braved two impending storms for a chance to lend a hand in a community and cap their summer with an experience of hard work and service.

The volunteers gave away more than a thousand medicines from generous donors and offered free consultations. They also rolled up their sleeves to rehabilitate classrooms in Sto. Domingo National High School, where they conducted tutorials to prepare sixth grade students for the National Achievement Test while younger pupils were given supplementary instruction in Math, Science and English.

The city girls also had to practice home management by having to cook, clean and market for their meals throughout their stay in the town. They also attended cultural talks on fashion, geology and history and classes on personality development conducted by the organizers.

Their fulfillment of having helped others was made even sweeter as they spent their last day of the Rurals in a trip to the famous Cagsawa Church, Mayon Volcano and a local beach. **e**



The F-U-N in 'fundraising'

TANGLAW CATECHISM CLUB SELLS
WORLD YOUTH DAY SHIRTS

Student volunteers teaching elementary catechism to public school children from Barangay Paltok and the neighboring communities of UP Diliman recently upped the ante of their fundraising efforts by selling originally designed World Youth Day clothing items to support their activities. The limited edition shirts are available in two designs expressing the theme of the international youth gathering: "Planted and Rooted in Christ, Firm in the Faith." To purchase, look for Sheena Sablan. **e**



RH: The truth

BY CELINE SOCRATES

It began with a handful of enigmatic yellow banners posted on building entrances in UP Diliman. In large, simple font, the posters said: "No Frills. No drama. No overstatements. Finally, the truth about RH Bill: An Academic Forum", with the event details. The posters revealed nothing about the organizers and their stand, nor did it say anything about the speakers.

Come March 3, at one o'clock in the afternoon, I found myself squeezing through a large crowd of curious students and professors gathered inside UP Faculty Center's Carlos M. Recto Hall, eager to listen to whatever truth this group had to impart. The organizers turned out to be university students from different colleges in U.P. Their line-up of speakers was impressive: Ms. Pamela Amparo Fabe, an economist and sociologist, Atty. Jose Sison, a renowned lawyer and columnist for *The Philippine Star*, and Dr. Liza Manalo, a medical doctor.

From the perspective of their own fields of expertise and using scientific data from credible sources, the speakers explained the effects of the bill on various aspects of society and human life. Among the possible effects are: a decline in human resources, the emergence of health problems in the mother using contraceptives, and legal constraints on the citizens. The listeners were also given an chance to clarify some points.

In summary, the event provided a worthwhile venue to assess the bill from a more objective standpoint. **e**



A new revolution

JASON EVERT IN THE PHILIPPINES

American speaker and author Jason Evert drew hundreds of thousands of high school and university students to the Real Love Revolution series on the value of chastity in relationships. He also talked about the role of modesty in women's fashion.

Mr. Evert was clear about the difference between how guys and girls think when it comes to dressing up. "From a guy's perspective, the biggest way a girl ruins her chances of getting loved is if she thinks that dressing modestly is a joke."

The first event of the series held in UP Theater featured a talk show between youth representatives. Aine Biaco, who attends activities in Tanglaw, also shared her knowledge on modesty and fashion in behalf of Gutsy, a fashion advocacy group, in the show.

Mr. Evert also spoke against the RH Bill in one of his talks. "Filipino children are not the cause of poverty, they are the wealth of your country, they're the heritage, they're the future," he said. **e**



Acclaimed director Roland Joffé's *There Be Dragons*, a tale of a revolutionary soldier Manolo and his childhood friend Josemaria Escriva, hit the theaters last May.

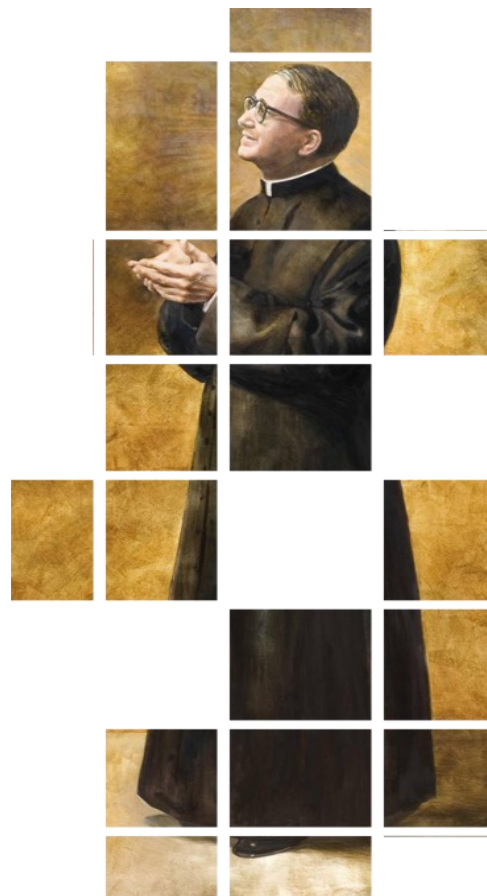
Encounters with the Founder

BY SHEENA SABLAN

Jóse Guerra, a Mexican who stayed in the Philippines for more than 20 years, shared her personal encounters with Saint Josemaria in a Saturday get-together in Tanglaw.

She first encountered St. Josemaria in Mexico when he visited the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the 1980s. She related how many from the town went expecting to see a solemn-looking priest, given his repute as founder of Opus Dei, but instead found a very human individual who walked in a fast pace. José met him again in Rome, and upon their meeting St. Josemaria asked someone to accompany her to buy and eat gelato. She also related how the Father also gently reproached her for telling him face-to-face of a man's conversion he supposedly caused, and how eager he was to call for a meeting just to say, "Take care of your prayer."

The naturalness with which the Father lived the life of Christ in the middle of the world was reflected in José's stories. Truly, he was one who lived what he preached. Everyone who heard José's stories surely loved St. Josemaria more. **e**



St. Josemaria's feast is celebrated on June 26.



Evert