



Pagiwarnak ti Timpuyog: Ilokano Student Organization
Ilokano Language and Literature Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



December Newsletter

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Holiday Greeting By Don Vallejo

T'was that time of the year again! Though finals were right around the corner, Timpuyog knew how to end the semester with a bang...then it was bang bang bang with the books. This year's end of the semester Christmas social was smaller than I remember from a year ago, nonetheless, it was all the more lively and entertaining. From sharing hidden facts to watching members struggle to eat a cookie off their face (yes, you read correctly), there was hardly a dull moment in the Tokioka room as Timpuyog members laughed the night away, especially when it came to playing "Musical Presents." Similar to the game of hot potato but Christmas style, the players not only had to unwrap layers of gift wrap to reach the secret gift inside, but they had to perform a variety of tasks revealed underneath the layer they unwrap. Talk about working hard for the goods. At one point you just saw gifts flying all over the place rather than going in a circle. It truly was a great night to remember, and I am looking forward to seeing how it will be next year.

Let's Learn Ilokano

Panawen iti panangited - Season of Giving

Sagot/Regalo - Gift

Naimbag a Paskuayo Amin - Merry Christmas to Everyone

Karambakan a Baro a Tawenyo Amin - May you all have the most festive New Year

Drama and Song Festival By Deborah Manog

When would one ever find Dora the Explorer, Pokemon, Alice in Wonderland, and the aswang, a mythical creature of the Philippines, all in one room? The answer is not a Halloween party, but an event called “Salip ti Drama, Video, ken Kinantaan,” also known as “Dramafest” that occurs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa every semester.

The purpose of this drama and song festival is to showcase the talents and language skills of the students under the Ilokano Language and Literature Program. It also allows them to highlight their cultural practices. The 100 level students perform short skits and the 200 level students perform musicals. Every semester, two Timpuyog officers volunteer to “co-chair” or plan the event.

Co-chair Alycia Kiyabu said, “I had such amazing experiences with Dramafest last year, I figured it was high time that I put my planning skills to the test.”

This semester, Dramafest was held on Saturday, November 17, 2012. The UH Art Auditorium was filled with ILLP students, guests, as well as Farrington High School and Waipahu High School students who are enrolled in Ilokano language programs. The co-chairs, along with the help of advisors Clemen Montero and Dr. Julius Soria, planned everything including the

decorations, job tasks, flyer and program deadlines, prizes, and even the lunch menu.

With the weeks leading up to Dramafest in tandem with the time midterm exams roll around UH, co-chair Almond Jaye Ereno felt that planning the event tested his ability to be a good leader.

“Things run smooth and it’s like a confidence booster,” said Ereno. “Chairing Dramafest helped me rather than just stressed me out.”

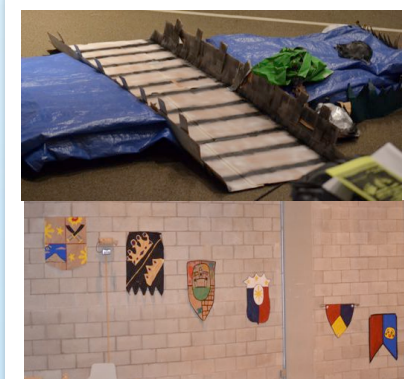


Setting the Scene

The theme for this year’s event was “Ubbing a Parparmata, Parparmata dagiti Ubbing” which is Ilokano for “Illusions of Children, Children’s Illusions.” Immediately Ereno knew he wanted the stage to replicate a storybook scene right outside of a castle. On the day of the event, the stage was complete with the flyer depicting the outline of a castle projected on the front wall, two castle tower props that acted as backstage dividers, a winding river on stage left, and large emblems on the side walls.

Ereno explained that the past productions had spent a lot of time and materials on creating the decorations so this year he wanted to keep it simple and creative.

“We didn’t need to build or make things out of wood,” Ereno said. “Bigger is not always better.”



A committee of Timpuyog students worked with only simple tools such as cardboard, paint, and scissors to create the decorations. The night before Dramafest, Timpuyog officers and class representatives spent the night setting up the microphones, wires, and decorations to ensure a successful production.

“The success of this year’s Dramafest cannot just be attributed to one person; it was the contributions and collaborations of the entire organization, all executive officers, representatives, and regular members that made Dramafest memorable,” said Kiyabu.



Performances

UH student Kristine Duldulao really liked the semester's theme.

"It really allowed us [students] to be imaginative with our skits," said Duldulao.

Having to meet up outside of class time to work on group projects can usually be a hassle due to busy and conflicting schedules. Within her group of five other students, half of them lived on the West side [of the island] and the other half lived in town or at the dorms. Although distance was an issue they worked on their skit and practiced their lines by meeting through Oovoo, an online video chatroom.

Her group was inspired by the story of The Princess and the Pea, adding to it a controlling King and Queen who want to choose the best wife for their son to marry. She played one of the main characters as the Princess and performed a duet onstage.

"I was really nervous," Duldulao said. "I knew my lines and I was comfortable with nobody in the auditorium, but [when I was] onstage there were a lot of people."

Shayna Benigno's group performed a human version of The Ugly Duckling. Her favorite part about Dramafest this year was working with great people and singing in front of the audience. She also won two awards, one for "Best Actress" and the other for "Best Female Solo."

One of the emcees of the night, Nadezna Ortega, said her favorite performance was the twist on The Three Little Pigs. Instead it was about lazy Pikachus running away from a big bad Charizard who wants to eat them and being saved by the hardworking Squirtle who built a house out of bricks.

Other student performances were inspired by Alice in Wonderland, The Boy Who Cried Wolf, Dora the Explorer, The Ugly Duckling and The Wizard of Oz.

"Timpuyog" or "Togetherness"

One of the noticeable traits about this year's Dramafest was that there were a lot of cameos by students even if they weren't in the same group. Kiyabu said the reason for the cameos is that her class wanted to show that even though the groups are made to compete against each other, that the students don't really care about the competition.

"Dramafest is the one time of the semester where our classes can get together and showcase our Ilokano skills," Kiyabu said. "Doing it together just makes it all the more sincere."

Kiyabu, who is currently in Ilokano 201, said that the phenomenon of cameos are related to how her original 100 level class taught by Clemen Montero became so close that they consider each other as a second family.

"I can only attribute it to what Timpuyog is at its core, students coming together," said Kiyabu.

Timpuyog means "togetherness" a word that is proven every semester by its students, whose dedication and love of learning the Ilokano language, drive the production of Dramafest each year.

Dap-Ayan: An Exhibition of the Works of Ilokano Students at the University of Hawai'i

By Ashley Galacgac



November 26, 2012 was the first ever *Dap-Ayan*. Dap-ayan means forum. In Ilocos, dap-ayan was a time for the barangay to come together to discuss and to find solutions to the issues of the community. This event of *Dap-Ayan* was a time to showcase the work of Ilokano students, especially students who are Ilokano majors and minors. The two presenters were Nadine Ortega and Matthew Lim.

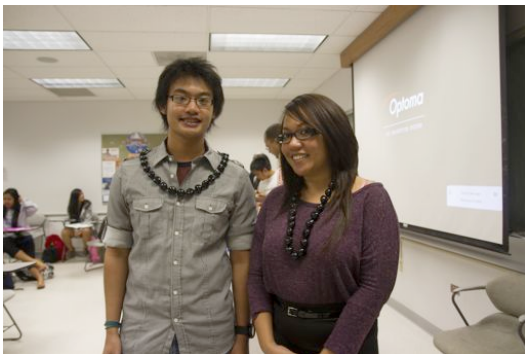
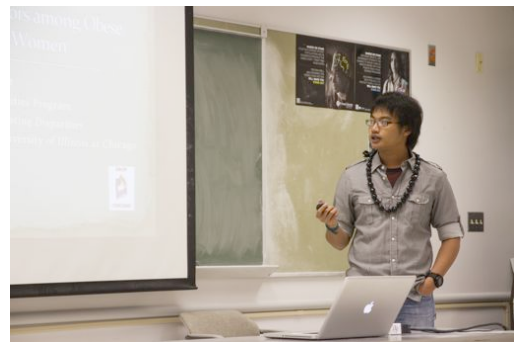
Ortega's research was entitled, "MATRIS TI KINAASINNO/WOMB OF BEING." It was her master's thesis to counter dominant narratives (capitalism, imperialism, and male dominance) through storytelling. Her method of research was autoethnography, or social biography, looking at her own story and finding its place in the collective story. She

also used "pakasaritaan" or stories. These powerful tools were ways to preserve history, through storytelling and discovering the voices once silenced. Transitioning from life in the Philippines to Hawai'i, Ortega felt the pressure to be the "assimilated" and "Americanized" Ilokano woman. The cost of this process was the loss of her Ilokano language and culture as she distanced herself from anything that was Filipino. A Filipino accent or anything tied to the Philippines were stigmatized as "bok bok." Along with being bullied in school, she realized that the American Dream and its promises were not reality because of poverty even if her parents worked multiple jobs. By sharing her story and listening to the stories of others, Ortega realized that many experienced what she had experienced. Her research strived towards her own personal healing and created a space for collective remembering and collective empowerment of others who identify with her experience of an Ilokano immigrant in Hawai'i. She hopes this healing and collective empowerment may reach others who faced or are facing similar trauma.

Lim's research was also another form of storytelling, referred to as community based participatory research. He explored the cultural determinants associated with weight and dietary behaviors among obese African-American Women. He stepped out of his comfort zone to do this research in inner-city Chicago. The interconnected cultural determinants the research discovered included body image, spiritual beliefs, food choices, social-cultural history, social and family expectations, and cultural norms. The second part of Lim's presentation was about tobacco use in Hawai'i. His research showed that the rate of Filipina teen smokers is climbing. Exposure to tobacco use from family members, stress, and peer pressure were some factors. Even if Hawai'i has high tobacco education, the rates are still high. Lim's take-home message to those present is that researchers and scientists do not know the needs of the community until they talk and ask the community

members. Being able to understand people is the first step to help people.

Dap-Ayan was an example of how Ilokano students begin to understand the language, culture, and needs of the Ilokano people. This knowledge is the vital tool to become the bridge to the Ilokano community. Ortega and Lim showed how they are taking the time to collect the stories of people and with good intentions, advocate for the betterment of the community. Timpuyog students are challenged to use what they learn in the classroom to advocate for and improve the lives of others.



New Year's Resolutions 2013



Adrian Tauyan

My New Year's Resolution is to hug and say, "I love you" to my parents every day or whenever we part ways. We never know when we'll see each other again especially now that I'm never home these days.



Christine Pillos

Eat and live healthier by exercising more and eating more vegetables and less carbs! Procrastinate less by doing little at a time before the deadline!



Erna Alonzo

I would like to participate more and lose weight.



Loreto Coloma, Jr.

My new year's resolution is to be more punctual in everything I do, perhaps getting a head start and being early when I can. This includes class, work, and social events. On the side, I would also like to sleep more.



George Oliveros

Do a lot of hikes as possible. I love hiking.

Congratulations to the following students, current or past, of the Ilokano Language and Literature Department.

Mark Abad
BS Family Resources

Angela Ablog
BS Nursing

Clifford Badua
BS Family Resources & Minor in Ilokano

Zachary Bali
BS Nursing

Jayde Bumanglag
BS Family Resources

Mhia Baptista
BS Family Resources & Minor in Ilokano

James Cabanilla
BA Economics

Almond Jaye Ereno
BA Ilokano & BS Nursing

Jay Hernandez
BA Creative Media

Gabe Martinez
BBA Finance

Miechel Joy Tagama
BS Family Resources & Minor in Ilokano

Michael Bumanglag Tomas
BA Information and Computer Science & Minor in Ilokano

Plan for Spring 2013

February 16, 2013: Picnic at Magic Island, Site 40

April 20, 2013: Drama Fest at the UHM Auditorium

April 27, 2013: Banquet at the Manoa Grand Ballroom

Newsletter Editor: Ashley Galacgac

Newsletter Staff: Don Vallejo, Deborah Manog, Maribel Julian, Ashley Galacgac

Faculty Editors: Clemen Montero, Julius Soria, Dean Domingo



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