UNIVERSITY of the CORDILLERAS

UNIVERSITY of the CORDILLERAS
of the
Baguio City, Philippines

Summer fun, is learning fun

Project **H.E.L.E.N.**
Health
Education
Livelihood
Environment
Nurturance

Summer 2011 in the **Community**

• ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDITS PROGRAM

Providing incentives to high school students who have excelled in their studies during their senior year in high school is the thrust of the University of the Cordilleras' (UC) Advanced Academic Credits Program (AACP), a monthlong comprehensive study-workshop where the participant earns equivalent curricular credits upon enrolment in the regular collegiate course. The student earns either five or six units, choosing two subjects from English 1, Math 1, Computer Science 1 or Physical Education 1.

However, classroom based instruction is only a small portion of the student's wide-ranging participation in workshops on arts and culture, as well as provide them with an early involvement in community outreach activities through UC's Project HELEN (Center for Social Responsibility). This program endows the participant with life skills that nourishes not only their minds, but also body and spirit.

Chef Laarni Andam demonstrates her skills in the culinary arts before students participating in the UC Advance Academic Credits Program.

Volunteers from the UC College of Teacher Education holds a reading activity with the AACP participants.

• MOBILE LIBRARY (LIBRARY ON WHEELS)

Just because summer is generally considered idle time for the youth doesn't mean their minds should be idle too. Thus, UC's Project HELEN has all the more intensified its initiatives to acquire books and other reading materials for school children and high school youth knowing that summer is the best time to introduce them to learning adventures through the love of reading.

In partnership with the UC College of Teacher Education (CTE), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Children International Philippines, Inc. (CIPI), and ABS-CBN Northern Luzon, these linkages established by the UC-CSR has enabled the Mobile Library project to move forward with book donations coming from the CIPI. These donations are in turn sorted out for deployment to beneficiary schools in Baguio and the Cordillera region in coordination with the DepEd regional office.

Volunteers from the UC-CTE through Dean Norma Maria P. Rutab undertake community-based reading programs in cooperation with the ABS-CBN Northern Luzon reportorial team whose mobile patrol is used as a library with shelves of books, and brought to beneficiary schools. Using the mobile library, UC volunteer student-teachers encourage reading through straightforward reading sessions, story-telling activities, drawing or coloring pictures, as well as film showing and animation of stories. Book titles in the mobile library are also found in the books received by the school through Project HELEN so that students can sustain their reading activities initiated by the UC volunteers.

The UC mobile library project operates on the principle that an early love for reading will develop capable, productive and empowered youth with the right competencies to steward society in the future, following Margaret Fuller's belief that "today a reader, tomorrow a leader."

A container van full of books from the Children International Philippines, Inc. arrives at the University of the Cordilleras for eventual distribution to schools in Baguio and in the Cordillera region.

UC volunteers sort out books from the Children International Philippines, Inc. at the UC library prior to distribution to different schools in Baguio and the Cordillera.

• BASIC and ADVANCED COMPUTER LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAMS

The UC College of Information Technology and Computer Science (CITCS), as a Center for Excellence in Information Technology, does not only aim to impart knowledge exclusively within the confines of student stakeholders. It also seeks to impart lifelong learning to various levels of society and citizenry knowing that a sound grasp of the global technology of automation will result in a productive, highly functional and globally connected members of society.

The Basic and Advanced Computer Literacy Training Programs is a continuing activity of the UC-CITCS that has the objective of passing on key learning inputs in computer and information technology to identified sectors of the community. This summer 2011, the UC-CITCS in partnership with the City Government of Baguio through the Public Employment Services Office and the Department of Labor and Employment regional office has conducted both training programs for city government employees, barangay officials and their constituents, including a number of UC faculty supported by student volunteers.

Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan says the city government's participation in these UC initiated training programs will "enhance the employability and re-train various sectors of the city's jobseekers in an effort to curb, and eventually decrease, the city's rates of underemployment, unemployment and jobs mismatch." For the city's barangays, the mayor said, "many if not most, of our barangay officials themselves, do not have the skills necessary to use Information Technology in practical and professional situations since many are wary of the use of new technology and innovations which may seem daunting to them; unaware that computers and IT in general are actual necessities if they are to improve their own performance as public servants who do need to conduct research, prepare and package reports and correspondence, build networks, etc."

In response, the UC-CITCS through Dean Nancy M. Flores and Project HELEN volunteers have prepared a program for the participants to include basic office automation, simple publishing and preparation of presentations, and the more advanced Macromedia Flash and Web Page Development. UC volunteer IT faculty members held trainings from May 9-13 and May 16-20 using the UC-CITCS digital laboratories.

Barangay officials and constituents learn basic office automation at the UC-CITCS digital laboratories.

Because learning is all year round