

UC-BCF leads RP medal haul in Wushu World Cup

BAGUIO CITY – Three students of the University of the Cordilleras, formerly Baguio Colleges Foundation (UC-BCF) brought pride to Baguio, the Cordillera and the country by spearheading the medal harvest during the 3rd Wushu World Cup in Xian, China.

The Wushu World Cup held last September 22-24 participated by 46 countries is seen as the Olympic equivalent in wushu sports. Electronic messages received from China identified the three UC-BCF students as Benjie Rivera winning the gold in the 52 kg category, Eduard Folayang won silver in the 70 kg and Rhea May Riffani garnered silver in the 56 kg women's category. Two others of the five-member Philippine wushu

team namely Rene Catalan of Iloilo and Baguio boy Rexel Nanghayna won a gold and a bronze respectively. The three Wushu-Sanshou players of UC who are all at the prime of their career capitalized on their heavy Cordillera punch and dreaded swift jolting kicks earning them respect in the international arena. "Combative sports is natural among the Cordillerans with their natural strength, but these should be refined by modern techniques, discipline and exposures," said national coach and Baguio Wushu Federation President Tony Candelaria.

Candelaria, known in his screen name as Tsing Tsong Tsai admit that Baguio City specifically the University of the Cordilleras has been a gold mine of medals in wushu, a Martial Arts sports of Chinese origin which combines boxing, kicking and wrestling. Candelaria said the Philippine team made a good start. Benjie Rivera, 19, a B.S. Education student of UC booted out South Korea then outmaneuvered Vietnam to win the gold medal. This is his third gold medal

in his three-year colorful Wushu career. He first earned his gold in the 2004 Asia Junior World Wushu Cup in Beijing, China followed by another gold during the 8th World Wushu Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last 2005.

B.S. Education student Eduard Folayang, 22, lashed out Russia in the semi-finals but bowed down to China in the Finals and earned a silver medal. Veteran player Folayang was a gold medalist in the recent 23rd SEA games in Manila. In his seven years

as professional player, Folayang brought home a bronze during the Asia World Cup and another bronze during the 8th Wushu World Championship among other international competitions.

Criminology student Rhea May Riffani, 21, the only female combatant in the Philippine team won a gold during the Manila SEA games. This is her third silver medal contribution to the country after the first silver in the 8th World Wushu Championship in Vietnam, then another silver during the 2nd Wushu World Cup in China last year.

"Amazingly, the Baguio players were not overwhelmed by the height and techniques of Powerhouse China and other Wushu practicing countries," said UC Wushu resident coach Mark Sangiao.

Coach Sangiao is the only Cordilleran accredited as wushu international coach. He was a gold medalist in the 2001 SEA games.

Only last August 20-25, seventeen year old diminutive Marianne Mariano, a B.S. Education freshman of UC, brought prestige to the country by win-

ning the Silver medal in the 56 kg category World Wushu Junior Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mariano is expected to join the professional Philippine team next year.

In 2002, UC Wushu athletes Marvin Sicomen represented the country and won silver during the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea where Folayang earned his bronze.

Another UC student Mark Ediva, a SEA games bronze medalist presently taking up B.S. Communication Science, will resume training in China along with Rivera, Folayang and Nanghayna in preparation for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar by December. Sangiao said the Philippine team will have at least another month training in different parts of China.

UC has been a training ground for wushu athletes reaping medals for the country in international competitions. The driving factor according to coach Sangiao, "we maintain discipline, right training attitude, and proper values guided by a moral compass...that is why we excel."



(L-R) Benjie Rivera-gold medal, Eduard Folayang-silver and Rhea May Riffani-silver.

Tourism students toured China

Ten graduating B.S. Tourism students of the University of the Cordilleras experience the sights and sounds of China as they went on an international exposure tour in Shuhai, Macau and Hongkong on September 16-19, 2006 as part of their International Tourism course requirement.

"The purpose however is not mainly to enjoy Chinese delights," Professor Daisy Blesilda Pormentira said, but to "realize the constraints in traveling such as entry restrictions, customs regulations, restrictions in travel, actual operations of airlines, implementation of tourism laws and management of guided tours among others."

"The main objective really is to let the students have a hands-on experience about their course," said College of Hotel, Restaurant Management and Tourism dean Isagani Paddit. "Students were provided classroom and simulated tourism practices, but actual exposure will put more meaning to their learning," he added.

Since they will soon be a part of the tourism industry, the exposure trip was a means for the students to learn the ropes of things like tourist guiding, and immigration and customs protocol by experiencing them firsthand including the actual processing of their own passports.

Prof. Pormentira, an experienced international travel consultant said "our tourism students are very eager and already look the part of tourism professionals in their smart UC Tourism uniform. As a matter of fact, they were even mistaken for flight attendants when we were at the airport." The

students visited various landmarks of Hongkong, Shopping centers in Shuhai, and cultural and heritage tourism in Macao.

The students did all the reservations and tour packaging. But apart from tourism management, the students learned that Filipino hospitality is still the best and Filipinos speak better English.

"It was truly a very enriching experience. We are indeed grateful that UC and CHRMT do not limit learning inside the classroom because there is so much to gain by being exposed to the realities in the field," said one of the participants.

Next year, Pormentira plans to bring her students to Dubai, UAE by taking advantage of travel discounts.

Graduating students this year will be the second batch of UC Tourism graduates. Almost all the first batch graduates were absorbed by travel agencies and tourism-related companies.*

UC jr accountants reigned supreme at hotel supreme

Accountancy students of the University of the Cordilleras reigned supreme at Hotel Supreme during the Regional Qiz Bee of the Federation of Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (RFJPIA) Mid-year Convention last September 22-24.

The UC junior accountants garnered 3 golds and 3 silvers to bag the championship trophy besting 20 schools from all over Region 1 and the Cordilleras.

UC team won the much-coveted Professional Review and Training Center (PRTC) Accounting Olympiad Team Championship. The winning team is composed of JPIA UC-BCF Chapter President Augusto Sakiban, Raymond Francis Escala, Cherry Lyn Sabawil, Mark Alvin Tallongon and Dexter Espiritu.

Coach Matthew Munoz got the Most Valuable Coach Award.

The junior accountants received a trophy, books, review materials,

certificates of recognition and 5 PRTC 50% review scholarships each.

UC's Escala, a consistent champion in inter-school and regional competitions won the gold in the Practical Accounting 2 Quiz Bee and received a 100% Review Scholarship from BAGCPAR, books and a certificate

of recognition.

Sabawil got two silvers medals and certificates of recognition in the Practical Accounting 1 Quiz Bee and the Business Math Olympiad. Espiritu got a silver medal in the Accounting Info Tech Quiz Bee.

The team will represent the region in the NFJPI National

Accounting Olympiad Championship to be held in Antipolo, Rizal on October 23.

Meanwhile, Escala and Espiritu will represent the city in the regional PICPA Accounting Quiz Bee in Ilocos on October 24 after winning the city-wide accounting quiz bee championship last August.*



CHAMPS ALL. The UC-COA team is welcomed by the UC Executive Council after bagging the Championship trophy and individual medals at the RFJPIA Regional Accountancy Olympiad last September 22-24. The UC team will be representing Region 1 and CAR at the Nationals come October 23.

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