



# The Mouseion

The official newsletter of the UPV- Museum of Natural Sciences, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

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## UPV-MNS Launches Logo-Making Contest



Dean Fortes congratulates the contest winner, Mr. Merwin Abello ( 2nd from left) together with Prof. Sanares and UPV-MNS Coordinator Ms. Garibay.

With the goal of establishing a logo which will identify and represent its vision and missions, the UPV-Museum of Natural Sciences of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences launched a Logo-Making Contest.

The contest was held in line with the Fish Conservation Month in October. All 13 entries submitted by the UPV constituents representing their respective student organizations or offices were displayed for exhibit at the UPV-MNS Lobby. Five entries were considered as finalists and qualified for the final selection. On November 26, 2004, after a series of evaluation by the panel of judges chaired by Prof. Roman Sanares, Merwin Abello, a fourth year BA Sociology student representing Balay Apitong was adjudged winner.

Mr. Abello, a member of the UPV-Artists Anonymous and one of the "Laputchak 2004" grand-prize winners is a native of Ibajay, Aklan. His winning entry includes five significant elements which according to his interpretation has the following symbolism: The SEA TURTLE, the only living remnant of the dinosaur age which can survive both land and water, signifies the aquatic and terrestrial organisms especially the endangered, vanishing and rare ones, the HORIZONTAL LINES, these lines signify the sea, the source of life and habitation to aquatic fauna and flora which is the museum's main concern, the SHELL signifies the museum's protection to its invaluable collection just like the protection it gives to the turtle which enables it to survive all types of weather conditions even the most rigid climatic changes, the RAYS symbolize a brighter tomorrow for the Museum.

As the winner, Mr. Abello received a cash-prize of P 2,500.00 and a certificate of recognition from the UPV-MNS. The other finalists, Pepito Obligar, Jr. of UP Ichthyophilic Society, Leo Plasus of Marine (continued on page 2)

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### Second International Coastal Clean-up Participation

To conserve marine biodiversity, protect marine environment, and promote sustainable use of marine resources for the benefit of the local people, CFOS through the Museum of Natural Sciences-Dean's Office and in coordination with Fishworld, SEAFDEC led the International Marine Life Alliance' (IMA) 18<sup>th</sup> International Coastal Clean up (ICC) held last September 18, 2004 in UPV beach front area. This annual activity which is held every third Saturday of September is the museum's second year of participation in the event.

IMA is a non-governmental organization which was originally founded in 1985, that for many years devoted most of its attention in exposing and combating the widespread use of cyanide to stun and capture live reef fish in the Philippines. During



The sorting of the garbage collected at the UPV beachfront

the event, the UPV-MNS together with the volunteers, cleaned -up the estimated 500 square meters area in front of the CFOS wet and dry laboratories.

This year's ICC volunteers increase in number, having a total of 29 participants. All of them were awarded with certificate of appreciation together with their respective organizations which includes: UP Ichthyophilic Society, UP Latagaw-Lamdag (continued page 2)

# Why "The Mouseion"?

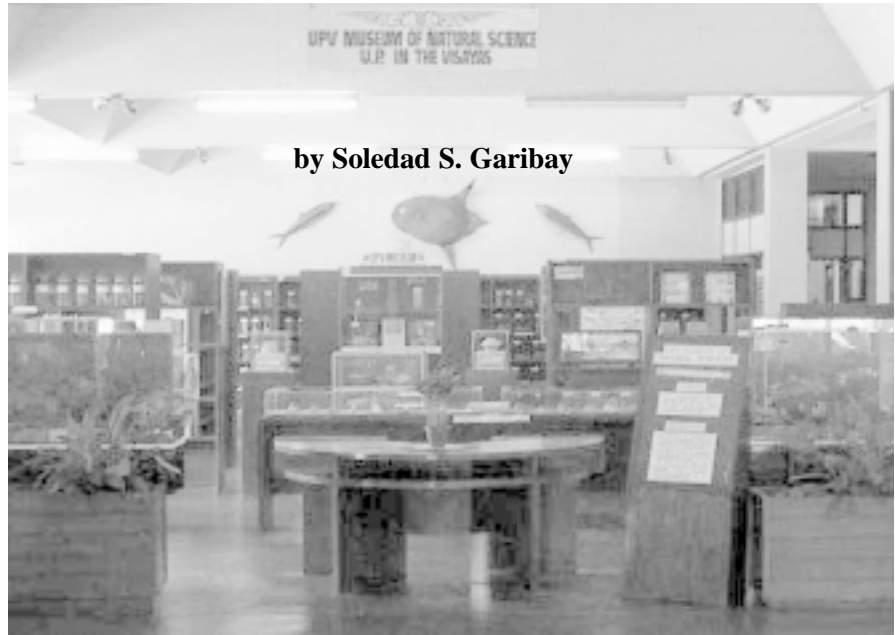
The word museum can be traced from its Greek origin "mouseion", which means temple of the muses – the nine daughters of Zeus who presided over the arts and sciences and inspired all artists during that time. A museum is a building used for the preservation and exhibition of objects illustrating human or natural history especially the arts or sciences. Likewise, it serves as the link to connect the viewer and the object exhibited. A museum is important as it speaks load of information which have to be disseminated through various means. It is along this line then that the Museum of Natural Sciences under the CFOS Dean's Office decided to launch "The Mouseion" as our official publication!

## *History and Background*

Looking back, the first museum was established in Alexandria in 290 B.C. by the earliest Greek ruler, Ptolemy Soler of Egypt, near his palace. It consisted of laboratories, botanical garden and areas that held various animals. (<http://www.touregypt.net>)

From the 5<sup>th</sup> to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, works of art and other items were seen in temples, churches, monasteries, gardens, baths, theaters and even in villas of generals and statesmen.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1792), the Louvre



by Soledad S. Garibay

Museum became the first museum opened to the public.

In the Philippines, the first museum was established under the Spanish colonial government, the Museo de-Biblioteca de Filipinas (1887). This was followed by the UST Museum and Gallery in 1895. From then on, schools and universities started establishing their own museums.

The UPV Museum of Natural Sciences contains collection and exhibit of Philippine fishes and other biological specimens which were acquired through field collection, research and donation. The museum was established in 1989, through the effort of Prof. Prudencia V.

Conlu, former Dean and faculty of the College of Fisheries.

## *What's in The Mouseion?*

Publication is a means of providing education to the public. The UPV-MNS recognizing its role in education will be providing information through its newsletter, "The Mouseion". This will be published bi-annually to provide news, information and articles in all aspect concerning the museum. It will also include upcoming activities, listings of newly acquired books and additional natural history collections as reference and exhibit materials.

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## *Logo-Making Contest ... (from p.1)*

of Marine Fisheries, Edzel Salcedo of Galila Security Agency, and Mark Rowel Napulan of UP Hamili Brotherhood received token and certificate of participation.

The new established logo is now the official seal of the UPV-Museum of Natural Sciences. (*first published in UPViews, Dec '04 issue*)

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## *Second International Coastal Clean-up... (from p.1)*

Brotherhood and Sisterhood, CFOS-Student Council, SOTECH-Student Council,

Ang Mangingisda, UP Fisheries Guild, UP-Palaweños, Youth on Fire and Campus Bible Fellowship.

ICC data cards containing information of the collected trash were submitted to Dr. Teodora Bagarinao, the curator, FishWorld SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department for submission to IMA.

If the trend of increasing volunteers continue, we expect that the coastal clean-up next year will be actively participated by more students from the different colleges in the University together with the University faculty and staff. (*first published in UPViews, Sept. '04*)

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## *What's with ... (from p.4)*

Its lobby features various exhibits and other activities that educate the public on our rich natural heritage.

The museum collections are now available in the internet under the Fish Base Program of the World Fish Center of the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management. MNS is also included in ICOM's (International Council of Museums) UMAC (University Museums and Collections) worldwide database.

The Museum is open from Mondays to Fridays, 8am to 5pm. (*by S. S. Santander*)

# A rare encounter

## WITH SUNFISH, TURTLE AND CIVET

by Sheryll S. Santander and Soledad S. Garibay

*Our country, the Philippines, is gifted with a highly-diverse ecosystem but not anymore, for this rich biota, this charming beauty is rapidly fading. Museums are the guardians of these natural heritage! It plays an important role in conserving and managing ecosystems. And as a guardian, the UPV-MNS' fulfilled its role through its extension services of identifying, assessing and saving rare, wild, endangered or threatened species.*

*This year, the UPV-MNS rescued some of the nature's greatest treasure from threatening death ... a rare encounter of the nature's guardian!*

### HUGE AND RARE SUNFISH SURFACED

Not everyday of our lives we are given the chance to have an encounter with a huge and rare looking fish which seems to be all body and no tail. On February 4, 2004, the team of museum staff and researchers together with Dr. Enrico Villosio identified the strange, seven ft. long fish in Brgy. Lanutan, Miag-ao to be *Mola mola*.

This common sunfish is brownish in color, with silvery gray sides and white belly. The sunfish is a warm-living oceanic fish that normally thrives in deep waters. It produces enormous number of eggs and holds the Guinness World Record for Most Fish Eggs. It is also reported to be the world's heaviest bony fish.

Prior to this, Guimbal had a similar experience when a sunfish drifted along the shorelines of Bantayan Beach Resort at daytime of January 15, 2004. It measures about eight ft. long.

The UPV-MNS is now keeping track of the occurrence of the ocean sunfish, accidentally caught or found adrift the shorelines and nearby municipals in order to trace the reason of its unusual occurrence so as to prevent further threat to this rare species.

### SEA TURTLES RESCUED

An endangered turtle identified by the MNS as the Leatherback, known as the largest living one which is most distinguished among turtles because of its spindle-shaped huge body and leathery unscaled keeled carapace was caught by a local fisherman last April 18, 2004.

The turtle which measures a total length of 5.6 ft. and a carapace length of 4.6 ft. weighed approximately 300 kgs. The Leatherback turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea* belongs to the Family Dermochelidae under the Class Reptilia. UPV and DENR took the lead in releasing the turtle back to the sea after taking some pertinent information from it.

Another endangered sea turtle with a wounded flipper was caught in a net by a fisherman in Siwaragan, San Joaquin, Iloilo, last July 5, 2004. This turtle identified by the museum as the Green Sea Turtle, *Chelonia mydas* to the scientific world, was given a new lease of life after DENR with the help of MNS have it medicated and freed.

The green sea turtle otherwise known as "pawikan" has a total length of 3.7 ft. with a carapace length of 3.1 ft.

### "SINGGALONG" BACK TO THE WILD

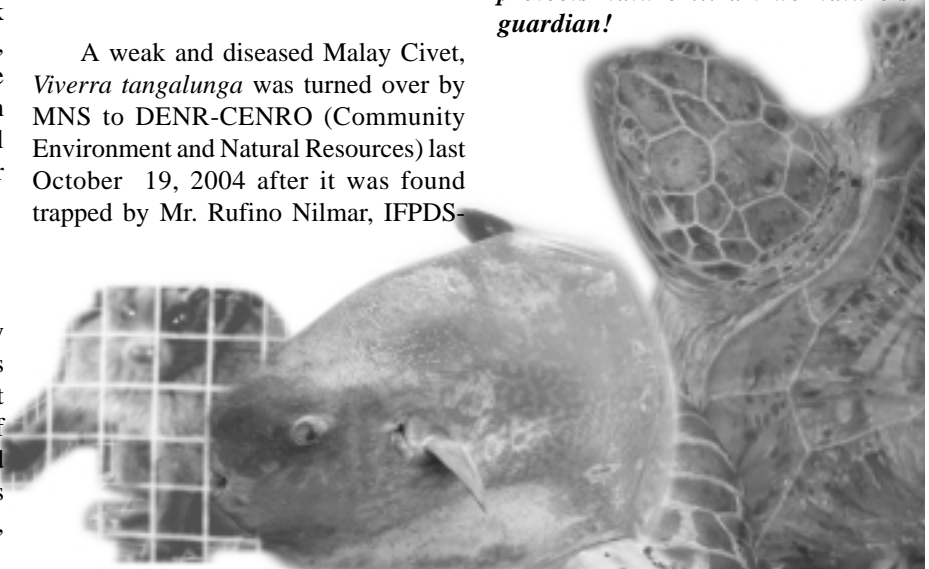
A weak and diseased Malay Civet, *Viverra zibetha* was turned over by MNS to DENR-CENRO (Community Environment and Natural Resources) last October 19, 2004 after it was found trapped by Mr. Rufino Nilmar, IFPDS-

CFOS driver in one of the vehicles at the CFOS garage.

Commonly known as *Singgalong*, are as large as a typical domestic cat or slightly larger. Its fur has been used as material for making caps, jackets and coats for local and foreign trade.

Although Civet is not on the list of endangered or threatened wildlife species, still it belongs to the wildlife. *Section 32 of RA 9145* stated that encounter of such wildlife should be turned over to the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center for proper care and rehabilitation before releasing back to its real home.

*Sunfish, Turtle and Civet... three different organisms but with one common need... care! And those encounters showed that museums do not only preserve and exhibit biological specimens, it also cares and protects nature ... a true nature's guardian!*



# What's with and in MNS

When the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences was envisioned in 1972 as the center of fisheries education in the country, the plan included a museum as an independent unit. That museum is now the UPV-Museum of Natural Sciences which is located at the UPV-Miag-ao, Library Building.

Since the establishment of UPV-MNS in 1989 it breathed and breathes on its vision that is, “*to become a leading Natural Science Museum and a reference center for aquatic flora and fauna including terrestrial plants and animals that affect them*”.

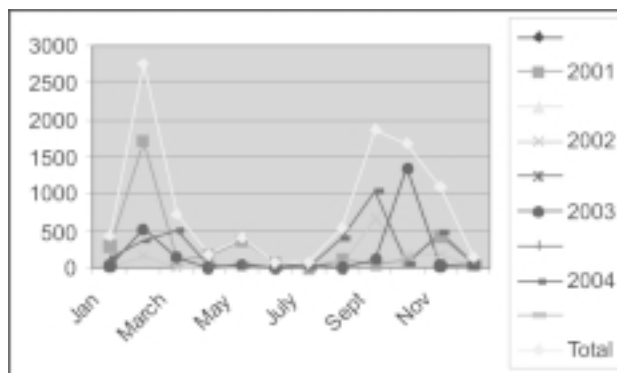
After fifteen years of existence, MNS faithfully lives with its missions: First, as a repository of collections of aquatic and terrestrial organisms especially the endemic specimens. The museum's collection is compose of 102 families of 334 species. These specimens range from a common milkfish that we regularly see

in markets to various species of fierce looking sharks! But what tops the interest of the visitors are its priceless significant collections: the endangered green sea turtle, the minute *Pandaka pygmaea*, the fastest swimmer sail fish, the rare sunfish and the ferocious and carnivorous piranha were some of its main celebrities. Second, to act as an active center for scientific and taxonomic research of flora and fauna of the country. Innumerable students, visitors, researchers visit MNS for information on Philippine flora and fauna and for reference specimens for taxonomic studies. And lastly, to be a service and action unit that provides assistance to various courses in the university. In recent years, it serves as a support unit to education, research and extension activities of the University. MNS' collection of fishes and aquatic invertebrates are excellent compliment to classroom instructions. (continued on page 2)

## VISITOR'S PROFILE

Guests come and go! For several years, the Museum has been monitoring the visitors frequenting it. Bulk of the viewers are mainly compose of children and grown-ups that include students, faculty, researchers, visiting scientists and private sectors who are mostly interested with its collections. The figure below shows the peak season which begins from August to March and the lean months between April and July of each year.

The Museum guests and viewers can be classified into two major groups, the strollers and studiers or researchers who nowadays are enjoying their visits with multi- learning facilities and inter-active exhibits. As a result of these observations and to enhance further the viewers' learning experience, the UPV- MNS has improved its museum guiding as an effective approach in educating the public. ( by VBGarcia)




Museum Visitors Profile (2001-2004)

## Dean's Message



This maiden issue of "The Mouseion" comes at a time when the appreciation of the importance of a museum as a window that evoke the history and development of an organism, institution, a country, the world (Earth) or any other planet in the universe has become more significant. The Museum of Natural Sciences (MNS) of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) under the care of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS) evolved from the specimen collections of the faculty and students of the U.P. College of Fisheries (now CFOS of UPV). Recently, more and more collections from the other colleges of UPV have become part of the collections of the museum; more and more activities have been lined up for implementation. It is for this reason that a newsletter that will inform the faculty, students and neighboring communities about the museum becomes very important. The first issue of the Mouseion presents the activities in the recent past and plans for the coming years. It is my pleasure to inform everyone that the UPV-MNS has made simple start that brought forth a global link; now, we can see part of the world from MNS and of the world can see us now. We will make more significant steps and The Mouseion will be its vehicle of goodwill. Congratulations.

  
 ROMEO D. FORTES, Ph.D.  
 Dean, CFOS