



# GradNewsLine



Official Newsletter of the Graduate School & Online Programs Office,  
Visayas State University, Baybay City, Leyte

Volume 10, No. 2 July to December 2022

## Graduate Students Back to In-Person Graduation



**T**wo Ph. D and 79 master's graduates marched on stage during the 69th VSU Commencement Exercises held in the Upper Oval of VSU on August 12, 2022. For the first time in two years, the postgraduate students of Class 2022 were permitted to celebrate in-person graduation. The graduates excitedly wore their toga and marched to the venue escorted by their parents or guardians. The graduation rites concluded with a spectacular fireworks display. The graduation ceremony of Class 2022 was aired live on the official Facebook page and YouTube channel of VSU.

A separate in-person graduation ceremony was also conducted on August 11 for graduates of Class 2020 and 2021. Graduates of these two batches already had a virtual graduation during the pandemic but requested for in-person graduation, which the university gladly granted.

what's  
inside

GS FACULTY AND STUDENTS ATTEND  
FACE-TO-FACE ORIENTATION

*Full story to page 3..*

GS WELCOMES ITS NEW BATCH OF  
SCHOLARS

*Full story to page 3..*

GS DEAN IS UPAA DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI AWARDEE

*Full story to page 4..*

VSU INTERNATIONALIZATION  
PROJECT TEAM VISIT FOUR  
BELGIAN UNIVERSITIES

*Full story to page 5...*

LATIN HONORS SCHOLARS'  
SCHOLASTIC PERFORMANCE

*Full story to page 7...*



## EDITORS *corner*

DR. ANABELLA B. TULIN

Warmest greetings to everyone!

During the second half of the school year 2022-2023 we focused on various activities for internationalization, working to expand our linkages globally. These activities were crucial for establishing new graduate degree programs, strengthening our existing ones and linkages with other universities and industry partners abroad.

On July 4-8, I was given the opportunity to attend and present a paper during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference and General Assembly and 50<sup>th</sup> AAACU Founding Anniversary with the theme "International Forum on Agricultural Innovation, Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Networking in Maejo, University, Chiang Mai in Thailand. My presentation of our study entitled *"Enhancing the growth, yield, and tuber quality of two purple sweetpotato through macro and micronutrient biofortification"* was awarded with the best presentation award. On top of that, five out of six awards were bagged by VSU faculty and alumni.

The five-day conference provided me the opportunity to create linkages with other researchers, universities and industry partners in Thailand and other universities in the ASEAN region. The conference was also a good venue for sharing current knowledge and advances in agricultural innovation and sustainability.

Another internationalization activity that I spearheaded together with my internationalization team was our visit to four collaborating universities in Belgium on October 2-16, 2022. We were invited by KU Leuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Hasselt University, and Ghent University. One of the highlights of our internationalization activity was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VSU and Hasselt University. There, I was able to discuss about our proposed joint offering of MS degree programs in Sustainable Development in KU Leuven and Master of Science in Statistics and Biostatistics with the Hasselt University.

In the homefront, we were fortunate to be visited by our project collaborators from Czech Republic. Our graduate students have also witnessed the presentation of results of a joint research project between Czech University of Life Sciences Prague and VSU on biologically active natural products. The Consul of Czech Republic was also present for the launching of 1 million worth of laboratory equipment donated to the Advanced Research Innovation Center (ARIC), VSU.

I also want to share with you our learning visit to the Universiti of Putra Malaysia (UPM), University of Malaya (UM) and Singapore Management University (SMU). We were able to learn a lot as regards internationalization programs of both universities and their various MS and Ph.D degree programs. The visit was very helpful to help us formulate a good proposal that we can share with other researchers, university and industry partners.

The VSU Graduate School is hopeful that we will be able to strengthen our linkages and collaborations with other universities abroad. With the new knowledge and experience learned during these learning visits, meetings and discussions, I am positive that we can establish more joint research collaborations, MOU establishments and sharing of graduate programs with other universities abroad.

There's more that needs to be done for the Graduate School. We will continuously share with you our ventures and successes for the advancement of our graduate education programs as we look forward to our centennial celebration in 2024. Till then!

May God bless us all and Mabuhay!



## GS Welcomes New Batch of Scholars



**F**our new graduate students were awarded Latin Honors Scholarship starting SY 2022-2023. These scholars are: Alberto J. Colminas, Jr., MS AgEx; Ann Mellene C. Fernandico, MS Language Teaching; Ann Gay D. Vestra, Master in Management major in Business Management and Lane V. Madrid, MS Language Teaching. They signed their contract on September 27, 2022 at the Graduate School in the presence of Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, Dean of the Graduate School ; Dr. Jannet C. Bencure, Dean of the College of Engineering; Mr. Nick Freddy B. Bello, OIC Head of the Accounting Division; and Ma'am Louella C. Ampac, Finance Director. The Graduate School also welcomed our foreign students scholars from Nepal, Zimbabwe and the family of Mr. Hidayatul 'Azizi and Deni Andalia Dewi together with their baby from Indonesia.

## GS Faculty and Students Attend Face-to-face Onboarding



**A**fter two years of conducting virtual onboarding for graduate students and faculty, a face-to-face onboarding activity was finally held on September 23, 2022 at the RDE Hall wherein an estimated 130 graduate students were in attendance. Both first year and continuing graduate students were welcomed, and the graduate school faculty and staff were introduced. The Graduate School goals and objectives, scholarship grants, degree

... continue to page 8



## GS Dean is UPAA Distinguished Alumni Awardee in Poverty Alleviation and Human Development



**T**he Graduate School Dean, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, set another record for being the first Viscan who received the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) Distinguished Alumni Award for her service in Poverty Alleviation and Human Development. The honorable Dean received the award on November 9, 2022 in a social event hosted by Prof. Danilo Lardizabal Concepcion, the President of the University of the Philippines. The UPAA Distinguished Alumni Award is granted to alumni who showed remarkable achievements and contributions in their chosen fields.

The award recognizes Dr. Tulin's leadership and achievements in the field of soil science. She made exemplary and remarkable contributions as a soil scientist in research and extension projects. Her research in micronutrient and biochemical studies on tuber and root crops made several pioneering contributions especially in the marginal communities in the country. Dr. Tulin's research and extension projects paved way for the



university to secure more research and development funding from both national and international agencies.

The Dean, served as a senior soil scientist in many research and extension works under the Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center (PhilRootcrops). By providing the farmers with a suitable condition for farming, her research

... continue to page 9



## VSU Internationalization Project Team Visits Four Belgian Universities



**F**our Belgian universities invited the research team of the internationalization project spearheaded by the Graduate School Dean, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, entitled "Developing a SMART and sustainable disaster risk reduction and management model for the Eastern Visayas" on October 2 to October 16, 2022. These

European universities were the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven or KU Leuven, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Hasselt University, and Ghent University. The visit paved the way for the renewal of VSU's partnership with the four Belgian universities. The team composed of the University President, Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin; Graduate School Dean, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin; Vice-President for Administration and Finance, Dr. Daniel Leslie Tan; College of Forestry Dean, Dr. Dennis P. Peque; Institute of Tropical Ecology Director, Dr. Eliza D. Espinosa; plus two faculty members, Dr. Ivy Emnace and Ms. Gina A. Delima. One of the highlights of their visit was signing of the

... continue to page 8



# First International Student Welcome Week

The International Affairs Office held its first-ever International Student Welcome Week on October 21-27, 2022. It was a full week of orientation activities for international students of the Visayas State University in the first semester AY 2021-2022. The week-long event included an orientation, campus tour, culture and tradition sharing, traditional games sharing

and off-campus field trip. The international students actively participated in all the activities and were able to actively learn more about Filipino culture, and traditions. On the last day of the celebration, the students were given a tour to the different local tourists spots in Ormoc and Tacloban City. The event welcomed the international students from Indonesia, India, Germany, Nepal and Zimbabwe.

**Day 1  
Orientation Day**



**Day 2  
Campus Tour**



**Day 3  
Culture and Tradition Sharing**



**Day 4  
Sharing of Traditional Games**



**Day 5  
Off-campus Fieldtrip**







## Graduate School Welcomes New Graduate Teaching Assistant From Ghana

The Graduate School welcomes Ms. Sylvia Agyemang Annor from Ghana, Africa, as its new international Graduate Teaching Assistant. She finished Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ghana and is currently taking up Master of Science in Agricultural Economics in VSU, while at the same time teaching some undergraduate courses in the Department of Economics.



## CZU Professor Shares Results of Research on Biologically Active Natural Products

Professor Ladislav Kokoska of Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague presented the results of the joint research conducted by CZU and VSU from 2017-2022 on biologically active natural products at the Advanced Research Innovation Center (ARIC). The presentation was attended by the University President, Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, ARIC Director, Ma. Theresa P. Loreto and the graduate students.



## **VSU Internationalization Project Team visit ...**

*... continued from page 5*

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hasselt University and VSU. The team was introduced to the directors, head of offices, deans of various faculties, program in-charge of several projects offering scholarships, professors, Belgian scientists, MS and PhD Filipino students, and VSU alumni working in Belgium. VSU and KU Leuven discussed about the joint offering of Master of Science in Sustainable Development; and Master of Science in Statistics and Biostatistics with Hasselt University. KU Leuven shared strategies on how to get to the top of the world ranking, such as producing high quality research and being able to attract sufficient research funding. They also shared with VSU the various scholarships that VSU faculty and students can apply in Belgium, as well as the qualifications of students accepted to the MS Sustainable Development Program and VLIR-OUS Scholarship. Meanwhile, VSU showed videos of its internationalizations program and projects and stressed the need for possible collaborations with their experts. A two-hour lecture MS in Sustainable Development students was also done which included a presentation of VSU Scholarship program for international students.

The project was conceptualized in 2019 at Ghent University during the Aseanplus Global Platform Fellow attended by the dean. It was only in 2021 when the team was able to submit a project proposal for funding to the project collaborators in Belgium.

## **Thirteen Graduate Degree Programs Pass AACUP Accreditation**

**T**hirteen graduate degree programs of the Office of the Graduate School (ODGS) passed the AACUP level IV accreditation held on May 24-26, 2022. These include the Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Education, Agricultural Extension, Agronomy, Animal Science, Development Communication, Entomology, Horticulture, as well as Ph. D degrees in Plant Pathology, Plant Protection, and Soil Science. The MS in Plant Pathology passed the evaluation without mandatory requirements, while the other 12 programs passed but need to comply with some mandatory requirements.

## **GS Faculty and Students Attend Face-to-face ...**

*... continued from page 3*

offerings, facilities, and employment opportunities were also discussed. In addition, the extramural degree programs or the distance education programs were presented and discussed. The activity ended with an open forum which allowed the students and faculty to ask questions and clarifications on various issues that concern them.



## GS Dean is UPAA Distinguished Alumni Awardee ... ... continued from page 1

suitable condition for farming, her research on alternative crops has assisted the farmers in Eastern Visayas achieve higher income. She has led many pioneering biochemical and micronutrient studies on root and tuber crops. These crops are considered marginal commodities in the country but have great potential in ensuring food security, especially in remote areas. She has facilitated in providing scholarships to graduate with Latin Honors, GTAs, as well as foreign graduate students and has recommended our graduate students in getting scholarships abroad.

In 2013, Dr. Tulin was also awarded with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in Research and Extension by the College of Agriculture Alumni Association, and in 2018, the Outstanding Alumnus Award of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

## Latin Honor Scholars' Scholastic Performance

The Graduate School is proud to announce that the first batch of six (6) Latin Honor graduate scholars have completed their master's degree in the 2nd semester 2021-2022. Also it welcomes four new scholars effective 1st semester 2022-2023.

Scholars Graduated 2 <sup>nd</sup> sem 2021 -2022	GPA
Kathleen Valencia	1.06
Charis Verdida	1.23
Danica Godinez	1.26
Jeanie Rose Deluza	1.30
Lendelle Editha Cagasan	1.30
Rivah Shane Llano	1.43
New Scholars AY 2022 -2023	Degree Program
Alberto J. Colminas Jr.	MS AgEx
Ann Mellene C. Fernandico	MS LTng
Ann Gay D. Vestra	MM BM
Lane V. Madrid	MS LTng
Continuing Scholars	Degree Program
Cristelita Boco	MS Devcom
Neriza Degorio	MS AgEc
Elinita Mae Fernandez	MS LTng

## GRADUATE SCHOOL HAS A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

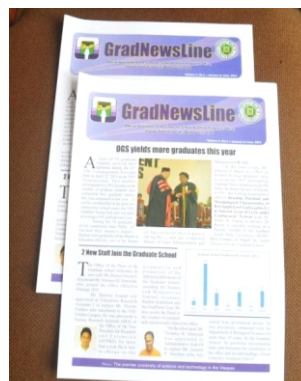
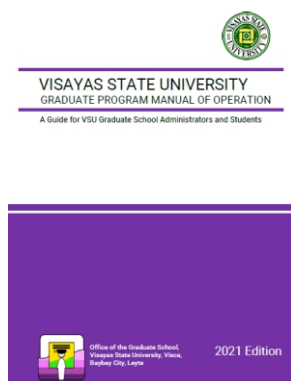
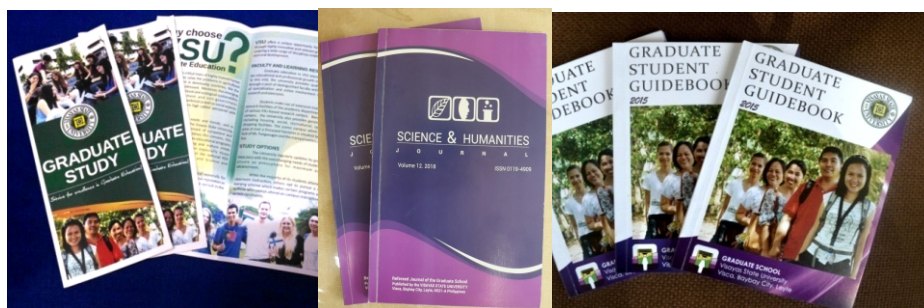
The Graduate School welcomes Ms. Aniceta M. Lumacad as Administrative Staff (Administrative Officer II) effective November 21, 2022. Ms. Lumacad is a former Administrative Assistant II at the Alumni and Community Relations Office (ACRO), where she gained valuable experience that will be useful in her current job at the Graduate School.





## GRADUATE SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

- Graduate Student Guidebook
- VSU Graduate School Code
- Graduate School Program Manual of Operations
- GradNewsLine
- Science and Humanities Journal
- Graduate School Information Bulletin



Official Newsletter of the Graduate School & Online Programs Office  
Visayas State University - Baybay City, Leyte  
Volume 10, No. 1 • January to June, 2022

### Editorial Staff

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Dr. Anabella B. Tulin

**Assistant Editor & Layout Artist**  
Claudette Meli Hoff Garduce  
Faith Princess S. Loreto

**Writers & Contributors**  
Faith Princess S. Loreto  
Claudette Meli Hoff Garduce  
Mark Joshua S. Quevedo

**Editorial Consultant**  
Dr. Beatriz S. Belonias

**For more information and inquiries visit us at:**  
**VSU GRADUATE SCHOOL OFFICE**  
Ground Floor, VSU Old Library Building  
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte  
(053) 525 0338

**Connect with us!**

[www.vsu.edu.ph/gs](http://www.vsu.edu.ph/gs)
[gs@vsu.edu.ph](mailto:gs@vsu.edu.ph)

[/vsugradschool](https://www.facebook.com/vsugradschool)
[@gradschool\\_vsu](https://twitter.com/gradschool_vsu)

---

**Vision**  
A globally competitive university for science, technology, and environmental conservation.

**Mission**  
Development of a highly competitive human resource, cutting-edge scientific knowledge and innovative technologies for sustainable communities and environment.