

Number of Grad student scholars doubles

Graduate students of Visayas State University (VSU) enjoying scholarships and assistantship increased by 54.55 percent this school year. This can be attributed to the implementation of the CHED K+12 graduate scholarship program which started in the first Semester, SY 2016-2017.

From 66 scholars in the previous semester, the number of scholars increased to 102 in the first semester of school year 2016-2017.

About two-thirds (62%) of them are scholars under the Department of Science and Technology–Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development (DOST–ASTHRD) Program. Twenty-six (26) are scholars under CHED K + 12 scholarship program, while 10 are graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) of VSU.

The rest are scholars of the sending Higher Educational Institutions.



Some of the DOST scholars pose together with Dr. Victor V. Asio (sitting-center) during the acquaintance party of the DOST–ASTHRDP Scholars Association.

MS FoodTech students won best output presentation in Japan



Four (4) MS in Food Technology students won the best output presentation on the last day of the week-long Japan Food Industry Tour from September 4-9, 2016.

Maria Norfrelj Cuadra, Brayan Bornias, Melogen Gold Bandalan, and Ria Jayne Tabinas oriented the other ASEAN country representatives on the food value chain here in the Philippines. They were with Dr. Lorina Galvez, assistant professor of the Department of Food Science and Technology, and Ms. Maria Helen Seco, staff of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) based in

VSU, Visca, Baybay City, Leyte.

The tour aimed to improve and develop the food value chain in countries in the ASEAN. Upon the participants' return to their respective countries, they are expected to implement projects and share the lessons they have gained from the tour to students and researchers in their countries.

The tour was organized by the Kasetsart University in Thailand, the Department of Agricultural Extension, and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. It was implemented by the ASEAN Food Industries Human Resources Development Association.

99% of graduates gainfully...from page 1

about the graduates' employment status, the tracer study also revealed the competencies learned by the students from their graduate education in VSU, as well as their suggestions on how VSU can improve its delivery of the programs.

Grad school holds orientation...from page 3

Students, also discussed about the services offered by the University for the students. These services include dental and medical services provided by the University Hospital, students accommodation, the Library Services, and the Guidance Counseling and other services provided by the University Students Services Office (USSO).



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Grad School enrollment increases by 29%

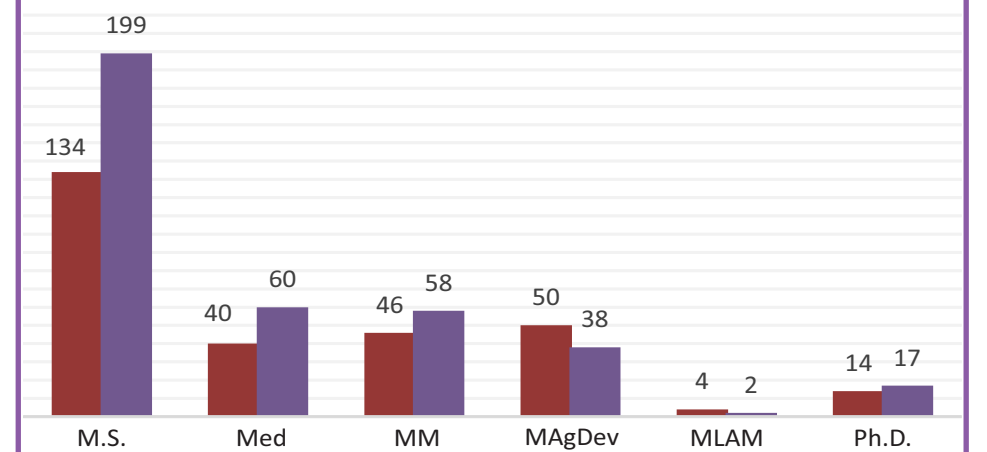
The VSU Graduate School tallied a big increase in the enrolment of graduate students in the first semester of SY 2016-2017. Compared to the 290 enrollees in the first semester of SY 2015-2016, this first semester's enrollment increased by 29%. The Graduate School has now 374 students enrolled in various graduate degree programs.

The Master of Science (M.S.) program, having the most number of enrollees every year, had an almost fifty percent increase in enrolment from 134 enrollees to 199. It was followed by the

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Enrollment comparison

■ 1st Sem. SY 2015-2016 ■ 1st Sem. SY 2016-2017



2 new staff join ODGS

Two (2) new staff joined the Office of the Dean of Graduate School (ODGS) in August 2016. They are Dr. Fe M. Gabunada, the new Graduate School secretary, and Ms. Rhea Jenny A. Ogalesco, Educational Research Assistant.

Dr. Gabunada is Professor IV in VSU and is currently connected with the Farm and Resources Management Institute (FARMI). She is tasked to review and monitor the graduate programs of VSU, its regulations and admissions.

Ms. Ogalesco, on the other hand, is a Development Communication graduate of VSU. She is tasked to take charge in the production of Graduate School publications and to assist in the processing of ODGS documents.

99% of graduates gainfully employed, reveals tracer study

A very high percentage of those who finished graduate education in VSU are gainfully employed. This was revealed by the Graduate Tracer Study conducted by the Office of the Dean of Graduate School (ODGS) and the Online Programs Office (OPO) from July to December 2016.

According to the study, of the 73 respondents who returned their questionnaires, 72 reported to be gainfully employed. A very high percentage (85%) have regular or permanent items, nearly a third (30%) are holding supervisory



Graduate staff conducting Tracer Study in Bohol.

positions, and nearly two thirds (64%) said they experienced being promoted after they have completed their graduate degrees in VSU.

Aside from revealing information ...continue to page 4

Graduate students organization has new set of officers



Members of the VSU's Graduate Students Organization (GSO) elected their new set of officers for school year 2016-2017 during their meeting on August 28, 2016 at the audiovisual room of the Department of Horticulture. The newly elected officers are the following:

President: Medardo Magdadaro Jr., *MS Soil Science*
 Vice Pres.: John King N. Layos, *MS Agronomy*
 Secretary: Jo-an T. Ducducan, *MS Soil Science*
 Treasurer: Demavanessa Tampus, *MS Agronomy*
 Auditor: Kenneth Oraiz, *MS Soil Science*
 PIO: Arwin O. Arribado, *MS Soil Science*
 Noe B. Mejasco, *MS Animal Science*

Course Representatives:

Agronomy: Loreme Cagande
 Soil Science: Rene Jane Alesna
 Plant Protection: Melvince Martinez
 Food Science: Bryan Bornias
 Animal Science: Cyrill Godinez
 Horticulture: Getulio Barcenaz
 Development
 Communication: Precious Joyce Ogdod
 Management: Ma Fe Gayanilo
 Ag. Extension
 & Ag. Education: Emily Lamo

Their advisers are Dr. Analyn Mazo, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, and Dr. Moises Neil Sereño, Head of the Department of Economics.

The day before the election, the organization had a General Assembly Meeting. According to Mr. Magdadaro, they discussed about their Constitution and By-laws (CBL) and their Plan of Activities.

BOR approves increase in GTA benefits

The VSU Board of Regents (BOR) approved the Graduate School's proposal to increase the benefits for the VSU Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) and Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs).

Per BOR Resolution No. 41, series of 2016, GTAs' and GRAs' monthly stipend is increased from P4,000.00 to P6,000.00. Thesis support has also been increased from P10,000.00 to P15,000.00. The GTAs and GRAs also enjoy free tuition fees. The increase in benefits took effect in the first semester of school year 2016-2017.

The Graduate Research and Teaching Assistantship program of VSU aims to help students who are interested to pursue graduate education in VSU. The university currently offers 10 slots for the GTAs every semester.

Grad school enrollment

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Master in Education (MEd), Master in Management (MM), and the Master of Agricultural Development (MAGDev) with 60, 58 and 38 enrollees, respectively. The Master in Land Administration Management (MLAM) had the least number of enrollees with only 2 this semester. On the other hand, the Doctor of Philosophy program had an increase in its enrollees by 21.40% from 14 to 17 students.

This enrolment increase can be attributed to the additional scholarships that can be availed by graduate students. At present, a number of VSU graduate students are recipients of the DOST, CHED K+12, VSU and other scholarship and/or fellowship programs.

Local accreditors conduct PSV on 7 graduate programs



Local accreditors of VSU conducted a Preliminary Survey Visit (PSV) of seven (7) graduate programs of VSU on December 12, 2016. The programs that were evaluated were PhD in Agricultural Education, PhD in Animal Science, PhD in Entomology, PhD in Plant Pathology, PhD in Horticulture, MS in Development Sociology and Master of Management.

The purpose of the PSV was to assess the readiness of the graduate

programs for the first survey visit by the AACUP accreditors.

VSU was given authority by the AACUP to conduct PSV involving its local accreditors by virtue of its being institutionally accredited. Dr. Beatriz S. Belonias, Vice President for Instruction and one of VSU's senior accreditors, was assigned as the Team Leader of the PSV.

The reports of the evaluation had already been submitted for review to AACUP Central Office in Manila.

Grad school holds graduate students orientation, consultation meeting



Dr. Cagasan discussing the Graduate School guidelines and policies (left photo) and Mr. Magdadaro comments on the laboratory fee increase proposal (right photo).

The Office of the Graduate School (OGS) held its annual graduate students orientation program and consultation meeting on September 3, 2016 at the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS) Lecture Hall. There were 108 participants composed of new and continuing graduate students.

The staff of OGS and Online Programs Office (OPO) were first introduced by Dr. Fe M. Gabunada, Graduate School Secretary. Ms. Heide S. Lasquites, GS Educational Research Assistant, later presented the graduate programs offered by the Visayas State University (VSU).

During the orientation proper, Dr.

Editha G. Cagasan, OIC Dean of the Graduate School discussed the Graduate School Policies and Guidelines based on the BOR-approved Graduate School Code. Among the topics discussed were the Admission and Registration Requirements, Leave of Absence (LOA), Examination Policies, and others.

An open forum followed. The students were answered by Dr. Cagasan and Dr. Beatriz S. Belonias, VP for Instruction.

After the open forum, Dr. Belonias started the consultation which focused on the proposal to increase laboratory fee for graduate

students. The proposed increase was from the current fee of P400.00 to P700.00 per laboratory.

Mr. Menardo Magdadaro Jr., Graduate Students Organization President, commented that if there will be an increase in the laboratory fee, it should be increased for both the graduate and undergraduate students since they use the same laboratory equipment and services. Dr. Cagasan advised Mr. Magdadaro to put his proposal into writing. Both parties agreed to set another meeting to discuss further about the proposed increase in the laboratory fee.

Prof. Manolo B. Loreto, Dean of

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