



GradNewsLine



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

Volume 8, No. 1 • January to June, 2020

Grad School produces 63 graduates despite COVID-19



The Graduate School yielded a total number of sixty three (63) graduates in the VSU graduate degree programs despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2nd Semester, SY 2019-2020.

There were two (2) graduates under the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs, 43 graduates under the Master of Science (MSc) programs, six (6) graduates under

the Master of Management (MM) program, and 12 graduates from the Master in Education (MEd) program.

Moreover, the Graduate School was also able to produce 15 graduates in the 1st Semester, SY 2019-2020. There were two (2) graduates under the PhD programs, eight (8) graduates under the MSc programs, one (1) graduate from MM program, and

four (4) graduates under the MEd program. There were also three (3) graduates during the Midyear Term SY 2018-2019, one (1) graduate under the MSc program and two (2) under the MEd program.

Meanwhile, Ms. Jessa M. Modina, MSc in Soil Science student, was recognized for garnering the highest grade point average of 1.30 among all the graduates of Class 2020. **-RJOgalesco**

Grad School continues to deliver service amidst COVID-19 pandemic



Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Graduate School continued to deliver its services to the graduate students.

After the cancellation of face-to-face classes in mid-March 2020, OGS shifted to a skeleton workforce system wherein its staff continued to cater to the concerns and queries

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VSU lauds 35 honor graduate students

The Visayas State University lauds 35 honor graduate students for making it to the President's and Dean's Lists for the Annual Honors and Awards Program on May 8, 2019. They are as follows:

President's List First Semester, SY 2019-2020

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Lao, Vince G. | M.M. in Business Management |
| 2. Arevalo, Ruby Ana B. | M.Sc. in Animal Science |
| 3. Asencion, Nikka Fay M. | M.Sc. in Soil Science |
| 4. Maictin, Johanne M. | M.Sc. in Horticulture |
| 5. Cadenas, Jemboy M. | M.Sc. in Ag. Extension |
| 6. Gorme, Ana Linda G. | M.Sc. in Horticulture |

President's List First Semester, SY 2019-2020 and Dean's List Second Semester, SY 2018-2019

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Limbasan, Mary Ann I. | M.Sc. in Agronomy |
| 2. Natulla, Charlotte Fyne M. | M.M. in Business Management |

Dean's List Second Semester, SY 2018-2019 and First Semester, SY 2019-2020

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mantana, Jam Marrie Nanche P. | M.S. in Animal Science |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|

Dean's List Second Semester, SY 2018-2019

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Cavero, Jedan A. | M.Sc. in Ag. Economics |
| 2. Limbasan, Mary Ann I. | M.Sc. in Agronomy |
| 3. Paler, Heidi P. | M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology |
| 4. Melgazo, Mardee B. | M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology |
| 5. Oclarit, Jairyl B. | M.Sc. in Forestry |
| 6. Miranda, Dalia Fe. R. | M.M. in Business Management |
| 7. Largo, Francis Eric C. | Ph.D. in Animal Science |
| 8. Aguilar, Marclin G. | M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology |
| 9. Escototo, Angela R. | M.Sc. in Agronomy |
| 10. Malquisto, Irene R. | M.M. in Business Management |
| 11. Cutin, Buchard B. | M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology |
| 12. Llera, Blanche Franchette | M.Sc. in Horticulture |

Dean's List First Semester, SY 2019-2020

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bañez, Letecia V. | M.M. in Business Management |
| 2. Clemeña, Jannu Geuseppe C. | M.Sc. in Horticulture |
| 3. Bautista, Domilito V. | M.Sc. in Animal Science |
| 4. Aguelo, Arlene B. | M.Sc. in Agronomy |
| 5. Mazo, Harold Adrian M. | M.Sc. in Food Science and Tech |
| 6. Lutao, Francisco T. Jr. | M.Sc. in Agronomy |

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Grad School continues to deliver service ...continued
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from graduate students through online means. The processes also continued such as proposing innovative programs that are beneficial not just to graduate students, but to the VSU system as a whole.

Once of these is the approval of the BOR on the proposals to offer local scholarship and foreign fellowship programs. The foreign fellowship program aims to increase the number of foreign students at VSU, and to improve VSU's ranking in the QS World University Rankings.

The local scholarship will be offered to VSU graduates who finished their baccalaureate degrees with Latin Honors. Specifically, this will be offered to honor graduates who could not qualify in other scholarships such as the DOST-HEIs Scholarship.

During an interview with Dr. Anabella B. Tulin over DYDC-FM 104.7 Campus radio on June 8, 2020, the Graduate School Dean also shared the good news that additional graduate program offerings (both in MSc and PhD) will be offered in VSU once they get an approval from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

It is, therefore, projected that the number of graduate enrollees will continue to increase. Another development is the desire of the Graduate School to "re-energize" the Open University to cater to graduate students from different parts of the country and abroad for a fully online teaching-learning modality.

-RJOgalesco

MS Soil Science student is Class 2020 highest graduate student honor



Ms. Jessa M. Modina graduated with highest honors among the graduates of Class 2020. She is a Master of Science in Soil Science graduate with a GPA of 1.30. She shares her insights in her graduate study journey here in VSU.

“Seeing myself as an educator has always been my dream although I know it wouldn't be that easy. When I finished my master's degree, I was very happy for I have now stepped another rung of the ladder of reaching my dream. I am a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness graduate at VSU, and have recently earned the Master's degree of Science in Soil Science. I am truly blessed since I was granted a full time Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program (ASTHRDP) scholarship from the Department of Science and Technology - Science

Education Institute (DOST-SEI) in my studies.

Studying at VSU was indeed a fulfillment and has never been a disappointment. As a daughter of a farmer, VSU taught and encouraged me to be of help to individuals, especially farmers, to increase their food production by maximizing the potential of the existing soil resources. Furthermore, with VSU's scenic environment and very welcoming faculty and staff, I felt and will always feel that it is my second home.

My life as a student was never easy since I was assuming many roles both as a mom and as a learner. I did a lot of hard work and sacrifices, and hurdled many difficulties. My two-year-old daughter has always been my inspiration in coping and fighting for this intellectual battle. Managing my time for school and family was very difficult at first. I

devoted my weekdays for school activities, attended bible study on Saturdays, and family time on Sundays. During my last semester, I had difficulty finishing my research study because of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. I struggled to work with limited time in the laboratory, did the thesis defense online, and wrote my manuscript. Fortunately, I have my family, friends, and professors who extended their valuable assistance along the way and were my motivating factors to continue with my journey.

I have learned to become a humble, honest, and hardworking person in every step of this two-year experience. I have always faith and trust in God especially in difficult times. Certainly, such experience is one of the greatest achievements in my life and I completely agree with the common maxim that says, SUCCESS is sweeter than a box of chocolates.” -RJOgalesco

BOR approves local, foreign graduate scholarship proposals

The VSU Board of Regents (BOR) approved the VSU Scholarship Program proposed by the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School on April 28, 2020. These are the "Graduate Study Scholarship Program for Honor Undergraduates of VSU" and the "Graduate Fellowship Program for Foreign Graduate Students".

Under the Scholarship Program for Honor Undergraduates, only the top Ten (10) graduates with Latin Honors every year are qualified to avail of the scholarship grant who may become future faculty members of VSU.

This program aims to encourage the honor graduates of VSU to pursue graduate study in the university, make the university's graduate education more inclusive and accessible to those who are intellectually capable but financially constrained, support outstanding academic achievement or talent in

the next stages of their studies, and encourage enrollment in particular academic programs which are needed by the country.

On the other hand, under the Graduate Fellowship Program for Foreign Graduate Students, Ten (10) slots will be available; 5 slots for PhD and 5 slots for the MSc programs. Foreign students can enroll in any of the following programs: PhD in Animal Science, Agricultural Education, Entomology, Horticulture, and Plant Pathology. For master's students, they can take any of the Master's Programs offered at VSU. PhD in Agronomy and Soil Science, and MSc in Biology, Chemistry and Statistics will also be the other options once the offering of these new graduate programs is approved by the Commission on Higher Education.

This program aims to encourage more foreign students

to study in VSU and participate in the internationalization program of the university. This program will increase diversity among the university's graduate students; improve the publication output of the university to increase our Quality Standard ranking; and to strengthen the role of VSU in the international community and its participation in the ASEAN integration. This program will not only allow mobility of students, but it will also provide foreign students from various universities abroad the opportunity to expand, enhance and sustain their ability for advanced study in the country.

The local scholarship program will take effect on the First Semester of SY 2020-2021, while the fellowship program will be implemented on the Second Semester of SY 2020-2021.

-WTOclinaria & RJOgalesco

Grad School conducts seminar-workshop on syllabus making for graduate programs



The Office of the Dean of the Graduate School (ODGS) held a seminar-workshop entitled "How to Prepare an Outcome-based Teaching and Learning (OBTL) Syllabus for Graduate Courses" at the OGS Conference Room and the CCE Building on January 20-21, 2020.

Faculty and staff from the academic units offering graduate programs participated in the activity.

Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, Graduate School Dean, and Dr. Nilda T. Amestoso, Department of Business

Management OIC-Head, presented samples of graduate course syllabi from VSU and from other institutions which were used as guides in the workshops.

The seminar-workshop was done in preparation for the 2nd stage of ISO 9001:2015 audit to address the findings of their 1st stage visit last November 2019. The ISO Audit Team encouraged VSU to improve its quality management system by formulating standardized forms and processes in implementing both the undergraduate and graduate programs of VSU. *-RJOgalesco*

Grad School welcomes 10 new graduate faculty

The Office of the Dean of the Graduate School (ODGS) welcomes ten (10) new members of the graduate faculty from various departments of the university starting 2nd Semester, SY 2019-2020. They are as follows:



1. Ms. Daisy P. Acoritay was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. She completed her Master in English degree from Leyte Normal University (LNU) in 2011.



2. Mr. Julious B. Cerna was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. He obtained his Master of Science (MSc) in Agricultural Engineering from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) in 2019.



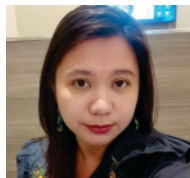
3. Ms. Gina A. Delima was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. She finished her Master in Management from LNU in 2014, and MSc in Sustainable Development from KU Leuven-Belgium in 2019.



4. Mr. Christopher R. Galgo Jr. was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. He has an International Master of Science in Rural Development degree from Ghent University and Universita di Pisa in 2019.



5. Mr. Rommel M. Garrido Jr. was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. He finished his Master of Plant Science from Wageningen University in 2019.



6. Ms. Sheena Mae P. Lubrio was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. She took her Master in Education major in Language & Literacy Education at the UP Open University and finished it in 2014.



7. Mr. Kenneth Oraiz was appointed Teaching Graduate Faculty

(Temporary) January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. He obtained his MS degree in Soil Science from Visayas State University (VSU) in 2018.



8. Dr. Jett C. Quebec was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. He obtained his MA Education from Asian Development Foundation College in 2016 & Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in English Language from the University of San Jose Recoletos in 2019.



9. Dr. Cherry N. Rola was appointed as Teaching Graduate Faculty (Temporary) from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. She finished her MA Education at Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) in 2012, and Doctor of Arts in Literature and Communication at Cebu Normal University in 2019.



10. Mr. Michael Carlo C. Villas was appointed as Graduate Research Adviser in the field of Language Teaching & English, and Teaching Graduate Faculty (Permanent) effective January 1, 2020. He finished his Master in English at LNU in 2012. -*RIOgalesco*

A GTA's Success Story



Just like other stories, my journey towards getting a Master of Science (MSc) degree is something many of us can relate. It is a story of patience, hard work, failures, and successes which dreamers should all experience to maximize their full potential. It is a no extraordinary story yet a journey worth sharing.

Allow me to take you two years back when I started this long, yet fruitful MSc trip of mine. After my contract as Science Research Assistant in the Department of Forest Science (DFS) under Dr. Dennis P. Peque, ended in April 2018, I applied as Instructor in the DFS. I failed to get the job since a master's degree was a requirement. Dr. Peque encouraged me to pursue my MSc degree instead thru a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) offered by the Graduate School. I then enrolled in the master's program of VSU in late July 2018, as that was the first requirement to avail of the GTA program.

When I started, GTAs received a monthly allowance of Php 6,000.00. That was a very good amount for a single person like me

– I mean, with no family to support. However, I found it very challenging to budget my allowance. Much of it went to my boarding house rent and the rest for my daily expenses for food, fare and etc. In early September 2018, I then decided to apply as Assistant Adviser in one of the men's dormitories in VSU after I met the very approachable Dean of Students, Prof. Manolo B. Loreto. I passed the screening and I was assigned in Mulberry Men's Hall which was very convenient for me since it was just a walking distance to the Forestry Department.

For 1 year and 8 months, I was a dorm assistant adviser, student, and teacher at the same time. I enjoyed doing these roles so much although it was very challenging. As much as I wanted to attend all dormitory activities, I cannot do it since I had other things to do as a student, and as a teacher. In the process, I discovered and understood myself more, and I was very grateful for that. Although, it was hard managing my time with that kind of set up back then, I have no regrets. I enjoyed all those memories I made with them.

In the Second Semester of AY 2018-2019, our monthly allowance increased from Php 6,000.00 to Php 9,000.00, thanks to the effort of the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, for championing this initiative for her dearest GTAs. I could not ask for more except for her continuous safety and good health. I am forever blessed by her generosity and love. She really knew how working students like us felt, and she knew our needs.

In the early part of 2020, I asked the Lord to grant me one of my prayers which is to graduate in my MSc degree on time. I asked the Lord for what seemed to be the impossible but firmly believed that He would make it possible. I had everything aligned according to His will. I took my comprehensive examination on February 26, 2020, and thankfully passed. In March 2020, I had my thesis outline approved and the following week, I conducted my thesis. I made each day as productive as possible. Time was very crucial because once time is lost, it is lost forever. I needed to carefully plan everything ahead of time.

Then, came the COVID19

Continue to page 7...

Grad School holds re-echo seminar on “How to publish in Scopus-indexed Journals”



The Office of the Graduate School (OGS) conducted a Re-echo Seminar-Workshop on "How to publish in Scopus Indexed Journals" held at the Center for Continuing Education (CCE) Building on February 6-7, 2020.

The topics discussed include Building a Culture of Excellence in Research for Educators, and Writing a Publishable Scholarly Paper, re-echoed by Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, GS

Dean and Editor-in-Chief of the Science and Humanities (S&H) Journal. This was followed by series of workshops including Critiquing Manuscripts with Internal Referee discussed by Prof. Jedess Miladel N. Salomon, National Abaca Research Center and S&H Journal Managing Editor, and Finding Suitable Scopus-Indexed Journals for your Paper discussed by Ms. Rhea Jenny A. Ogalesco, GS Staff and S&H

Journal Editorial Assistant.

The topics were previously discussed by Dr. Custer C. Deocaris, Research Management Division Chief of CHED, during the seminar-workshop on research publication in various indexed journals previously attended by the abovementioned presenters in Iloilo City last September 2019.

-RJOgalesco

A GTA Story ...continued from page 6

pandemic in mid-March. I had to terminate the conduct of my thesis because of that. I desperately wanted to resume my experiment, but, I also needed to follow the health and safety protocols and guidelines set by the University and the LGU. During this trying time, I had many “what-ifs” in my head. I was worried about my studies and my family who are far away from me. I decided to talk to my adviser about the updates of my thesis. She did not know that I was already having a heavy heart and I was emotionally disturbed at that time. But in the middle of the pandemic I found a ray of hope. Hope that I found because of my thesis adviser, Dr. Angelica P. Baldos. It was her inspiring and comforting words that made me feel at peace with myself and with my own negative

thoughts. Her words drove my worries away. I cannot forget that she offered financial help for me to survive in such challenging times. I could only hope all the best for her.

In May 2020, with the consent of the University President, I had the chance to resume the conduct of my thesis. I don't know how I did it, but after exactly one month, I had my thesis defense. It went well and I passed. I felt the love of God pouring on me at that time. I was very blessed to be working with a competent committee who guided me throughout my thesis journey.

With me in my journey was Junjie F. Asas. I have to name him because he deserves it. He was a stranded Mulberrian from Bohol and I felt he is the ultimate gift God had given me during this pandemic. I also owed him in so many ways for this success. May

God bless him!

I likewise want to relay my enormous thank you to every single person who played a substantial role in my MSc journey. For now, I may not know what the future lies for me but I know and I believe that it will be a brighter and better one. God the Almighty had witnessed my fair share of sacrifices and He, for sure, will provide me my fair share of success and happiness that I truly deserve.

To end, this story I will leave you my realizations on achieving goals and dreams in life. When you dream of something, do something to achieve it. Do not just sit thinking about that dream. Focus on your dream. Do the best that you can and be ready to make sacrifices. One day, you will be surprised that you are already in your dream destination. *-JBOclarit*

2 Czech students exchange study at VSU

Two (2) students from Mendel University (MU) in Brno, Czech Republic enrolled in non-degree program in VSU for the 2nd Semester, SY 2019-2020. They were Pavel Buchta and Sylvie Kozárová both studying Master in International Development Studies in MU.

At VSU, they enrolled 18 units of course work under the Master of Agricultural Development program. They were supposed to study in VSU for a semester (5 months), but they had to leave the Philippines early and continue their study online because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite their short stay, they were still able to visit places in various places in the Philippines such as Canigao Island, Bohol and Camotes Island with some VSU staff and students including other exchange students from Thailand and Czech. **-RJOgalesco**



VSU lauds 35 honor graduate students ...continued from page 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7. Coronel, Leonie Guil | M.Sc. in Animal Science |
| 8. Hermosilla, Aileene A. | M.M. in Business Management |
| 9. Madelo, Wendelyn J. | M.Sc. in Animal Science |
| 10. Batuto, Jocel D. | M.Sc. in Soil Science |
| 11. Bihag, Isabel E. | M.Sc. in Animal Science |
| 12. Fuentes, Carla Jean A. | M.M. in Agribusiness Management |
| 13. Lazona, Constantino II P. | M.M. in Business Management |
| 14. Tuyan, Wilma O. | Ph.D. in Horticulture |

Graduate students who qualify in the President's List are those having academic load of 9-12 units, with no incomplete grade and a grade point average (GPA) of 1.00 – 1.25. Those graduate students who qualify for the Dean's List are those with academic load of 9-12 units, no incomplete grade and a GPA of 1.251-1.500. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, their Certificates of Recognition will be given once they will be allowed back in the campus. **-HSLasquites & RJOgalesco**



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