



VISAYAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# ALUMNI NOTES

A Quarterly Publication of the Visayas State University Alumni Association Inc.  
Volume 7, Number 1, January—March 2009

## Madamo nga salamat TACLOBAN!

VSU Alumni Association's first Road Show for the year 2009 in Tacloban City was a success! The initiative taken by Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, VSUAAI-PIO, aims to visit cities around the country to revitalize the alumni and encourage them to get involved in the projects and programs of the university and the association.

This year's stop at Tacloban gathered around 50 alumni from DA, Dep-Ed, DTI, FIDA, PCA, CDA, BAS, NSO, NSCB, PLGU-Leyte, and private sectors.

Dr. Roberto Guarte, VP for Admin and Finance -VSU, Prof. Efren B. Saz, VSUAAI-VP, and Dr. Ponce gave the alumni a rundown of the current news, activities and projects of the association and the university.

Also present in the event was Leyte First District Board Member Evangeline Esperas representing Gov. Jericho Petilla. Hon. Esperas expressed her pleasure in being part of the event knowing that the alumni are enthusiastic with good interaction and vision. At the same time, she extended Gov. Petilla's commendation to the VSU Alumni Association for their effort in reaching out to the alumni.



### Ad Hoc Organizing Committee

#### Chairman

Joel Pilapil

#### Members

- DA—Elvira Torres, Larry Sultan
- OPA—Malou Nadera, Dina Pitao
- UPTac—Virgildo Sabalo, Lito Casas
- DENR—Eugenia Bautista, Malou Riel
- DAR—Antonio Tan, Elizabeth Lapasanda
- NSO/NSCB—Jorge Manapco
- BAS—Jared Bandalan
- FIDA—Victor Romeo
- NIA—Edwin Briones, Imingardo Lumpas
- LGUTac—Gil Anfone
- EVSU—Dennis de Paz
- LAMP—Emeterio Villanosa
- DepEd/CHED—Zonia Salazar



# The President's Corner

**VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Alumni Association Inc.

## Our Vision

The VSU alumni as proactive, committed, socially responsible, environmentally concerned and globally competitive individuals who radiate the university's ideals of excellence.

## Our Mission

To empower the VSU alumni in pursuing relevant endeavours that will have impact in community development.

## **Visayas State University Alumni Notes**

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Dear Fellow Alumni:

Greetings!

It is my utmost pleasure to impart to you some very good news. First, five of our alumni scholars, namely: Reysel Labrador (BEEd), Jaydawn Cantero (BSEd Math), Rafael Guino Jr. (BSChem), Arnil Mabatuan (BAS) and Emily Toco (BSEd Math) have finally graduated! Three of them, Reysel, Jaydawn, and Rafael graduated *Cum Laude*. In addition, Rafael won the *Phi Delta* Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award for Applied Life Science Category.

Second, our Grand Alumni Homecoming has come. The event scheduled on May 8-9, 2009 with the theme "Empowering VSU Alumni in Mitigating Climate Change, Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources, and Establishment of Rural Industries" is sponsored by freshmen batches '75 and '79. We promised a meaningful stay at VSU as sponsoring batches prepared a series of exciting activities for all of us.

Lastly, the construction of the New Balay Alumni is underway. Hopefully we will see its completion soon.

Keep the support coming and God bless you!



*Bernardo H. Tocmo*  
**BERNARDO H. TOCMO**  
President, VSUAAI

# Alumni News

## Batch '63 holds 7th Annual Reunion at VSU

Visayas Agricultural College Batch '63, headed by batch President Lucila A. Sabroso (BSAgEd), together with their families is in VSU to celebrate their annual reunion. This tradition, started by batchmates Valentina Vega and Agustina Fernandez, has brought them to the different parts of the country like Bohol, Cebu, and Camiguin. This year, they decided to spend it in VSU from April 22-24.

The reunion kicked-off with a social gathering at the VSU Guest House where they reminisce their college days with dancing, singing and games. The next day, the group went to Brgy. Bunga to relax at Cyber Resort (owned by one of their batchmates) followed by a tour around the campus on the third and last day.



Batch '63 with their families.



## VSU General Alumni Homecoming 2009 Program of Activities

May 8-9, 2009

### Day 1 - Friday, May 8

- 7:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
Registration  
(Venue: New Balay Alumni)
- 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Campus Tour and Showing of Exhibits  
at the VSU Garden Beach Resort
- 11:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.  
Free Lunch  
VSU Garden Beach Resort or VGB Resort
- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Symposium (VGB Resort)  
*Topic: Industry, Energy, and Climate Change*
- 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Assembly Meeting and Canvassing of the  
Alumni King and Queen  
(VGB Resort)
- 7:00 onwards  
Alumni Night (VSU Gymnasium)

### Day 2 - Saturday, May 9

- 6:00 - 7:00 a.m.  
Thanksgiving Mass at the VSU Beach Resort
- 7:00 – 8:00  
Free Breakfast (Dorm Quality) at the  
VSU Garden Beach Resort
- 8:15 - 9:30 a.m.  
Motorcade from the VSU Resort to the  
City of Baybay
- 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Group Activities with Prizes for Children,  
Mothers, and Fathers (VGB Resort)
- 11:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.  
Free Lunch (VSU Garden Beach Resort)
- 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
Sports for All
- 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner by Batch/Fraternity/Organization  
(VGB Resort)

### Day 3 - May 10—Homebound

## Alumni scholars graduate with Latin Honors

Three of five VSU Alumni Association's "Tabang Mo, Kaugmaon Ko" scholars graduated *Cum Laude* during the 56<sup>th</sup> VSU Collegiate Commencement Exercises. They were Reysel Labador (BEEd), Jaydawn Cantero (BSEd Math), and Rafael Guino Jr. (BSChem). The rest of the scholars were Arnil Mabatuan (BAS) and Emily Toco (BSEd Math).



Reysel P. Labador  
Bachelor in Elementary Education  
*Cum Laude*



Rafael B. Guino Jr.  
Bachelor of Science  
in Chemistry  
*Cum Laude*



Jaydawn Q. Cantero  
Bachelor in Secondary  
Education (Math)  
*Cum Laude*



Emily M. Toco  
Bachelor in Secondary  
Education (Math)



Arnil F. Mabatuan  
Bachelor in Animal  
Science

# Alumni News

*Salute to the Graduates*

## Visayas State University Graduation Rites

### 56<sup>th</sup> Collegiate Commencement Exercises



Marjohn C. Niño



The graduates sworn into the VSU Alumni Association.

On the other hand, 91 second year BS Nursing students were presented during the 1st Capping/Badging and Candle Lighting Ceremonies on March 30, 2009 at the VSU Convention Center. Eighty-seven of them qualified and passed the Certificate of Health Care Services.

Academic year 2008-2009 draws to a close as 680 graduates receive their diplomas and certificates on April 3, 2009 at the VSU Gymnatorium. Sixty-two of them graduated with Latin Honors. Leading the batch is Marjohn C. Niño (BSA, Plant Protection), *Magna Cum Laude*. He received the VSU Presidential Award of Academic Excellence plus P10,000 and several special awards for garnering the highest grade point average among the 2009 graduates. Second in rank is Maria Conception A. Gucela, *Magna Cum Laude*, who also tops the pioneer class of BS in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management. Marlon M. Prado (BSDC, Educ Comm Tech), *Magna Cum Laude*, is ranked third.



Nursing students during the 1<sup>st</sup> Capping/Badging and Candle Lighting Ceremonies.

### 79<sup>th</sup> VSULHS Commencement Exercises

VSU Laboratory High School presented 112 graduates during its Commencement Exercises at the VSU Convention Center on May 27, 2009. Dece Cristine C. Fulache (*With Highest Honors, Valedictorian*) tops the 2009 class. Ray Hamodi B. Ngilot ranked second

# Alumni News

*Around the Campus*

## Three alumni are new Phi Delta members

**D**r. Erlinda Vasquez, Dr. Arturo Pasa, and Dr. Editha Cagasan are welcomed as new members of the Phi Delta Honor Society of Science on February 9, 2009. They presented their contribution to science in the inaugural lecture held at the AV-Room of the Farm and Resource Management Institute, Visayas State University.

Dr. Erlinda Vasquez (BSA '80) presented her research on "Pheromones of Sweetpotato Weevils: *Fornicarius fabr.*, *Cylas brunneus* Oliver and *Cylas punicolis* Boheman." Her research highlighted on the use of pheromones to control insect population.

One the other hand, Dr. Arturo Pasa (BSF '92) discussed his study on "Rewarding Environmental Sciences Providers (ESP): Lessons from Midwestern Leyte." This study that he conducted in Barangay Gabas and Kilim in Baybay, determined the rural smallholders' perspectives on the various forest ecosystems services, the types of rewards anticipated to compensate the effort of ESP, the providers of rewards and preferred payment mechanisms.

Dr. Editha Cagasan talked about her research on "Assessment of the Land Administration Management Project Phase 1 (LAMP-1) Using the Story Approach." She used a new monitoring and evaluation technique known as the Story Approach to profile and capture the range of changes experienced by the beneficiaries of the LAMP-1 interventions in several municipalities in Leyte.

(With High Honors, Salutatorian). Both received several special awards including the Theta Gamma Delta Excellence in Math and Science Award which was awarded to Mr. Ngalot by High School batch '79.



Dece Cristine C. Fulache with her parents.



Ray Hamodi B. Ngalot, with his mother, is given the Theta Gamma Delta Award of Excellence in Math and Science by HS Batch'79. Represented by Ms. Cecil Joy Duatin and Engr. Prudencio Marquez, Jr.

## Alumni Visits

### Cherrie Atilano BSA '07

Cherrie D. Atilano, a magna cum laude (BSA '07, Horticulture) and one of the 2007 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines was the guest speaker during the 2009 Honors and Awards Convocation on March 3, 2009.

She shared her personal experiences and dreams in life that encouraged and inspired, not only the students, but the parents and her mentors as well.

### Mauricio Altar BSDC '91

Mr. Altar conducted a seminar, "Beyond DevCom: Fresh Insights in Marketing Communications" at VSU on March 19, 2009. As the Asst. Vice-President for Marketing Communications of MSI\_ECS, one of the Philippines' leading information technology (IT) product distributor, he shared his personal experiences in marketing and gave insights on how to succeed in their chosen profession. He also donated a digital video camera, a keyboard and two web cameras.

### Servando Ampo HS '49

Hon. Servando Ampo, the Vice-Mayor of Nasipit Agusan del Norte visited his alma mater on March 26, 2009.

He dropped by the Alumni Office and other centers/departments in the University during his visit.

### ALUMNI CONVERSATIONS ...

#### Dr. Suzette Lina, BSA '98

**D**r. Suzette Lina (BSA '98) is accorded the Special Excellence Award by the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology on March 25, 2009. A Monbukagakusho scholar from 2006-2009, she finished her PhD in Agriculture (Soil Science) at TUAT Tokyo, Japan.

#### What brought you to TUAT-JP?

It's my interest in pursuing a PhD in a country with advanced technology. I was introduced by Dr. Algerico Mariscal to Dr. Masanori Okazaki (TUAT-Professor) in 2002 at VSU where we discussed research in Soil Science and sago palm.

#### What professional and personal challenges did you face initially after taking your PhD?

I'm anxious about culture differences and language. At first, I thought taking a PhD was a very big challenge and responsibility. Indeed, it was true, especially that I took it in Japan where culture plays an important role. I have to be sensitive enough not to disrespect their opinion and yet able to express what I want.

#### Did you always target this career? Whether you have or not, is the role fulfilling?

Yes, it's really my goal to get a PhD degree in Soil Science. Having it is not easy but the role is fulfilling.

#### What advice can you give to students taking up Soil Science?

For students who have the desire in pursuing graduate studies in Soil Science, it should come from your heart. If you love your field, no matter how difficult the challenges are, you will be able to overcome them. There are many opportunities in Agriculture (Soil Science) and I believed that this is one of the ever important fields, not only in the Philippines, but in other countries as well.

#### From your experience, what could students do to supplement their education in VSU to make them even more competitive and marketable?

Just keep on doing and don't just be contented. Make use all of the possible resources around to make you equipped and competitive. Set your own goal and keep hitting on it for obstacles may come easily when you take your eyes off it. Lastly, hard work and determination are important ingredients of success in any field.



### SNAPSHOTS



Five VLHS '00 alumni bumped into Mrs. Vilma Patindol, BSA '79, at Ho Chi Min, Vietnam on April 13, 2009



Marjohñ Niño (BSA '09) and Ladie Anne Palermo (BSFT '09) posed with fellow exchange students after performing tinikling (inset) at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan.



VSU alumni met over dinner at Singapore. Seated L-R: Janet Sinon (BSDC '94), Eliseo Sinon (BSAE '97), Tolomeo Fernandez (HS '04), Gail Fernandez (HS '04). Standing L-R: Rose Dingal (HS '01), Nazario Sinon (BSAE '83), Lorna Sinon (BAS '82) and Teodorico Timkang Jr. (BSAB '07)