



Celebrating Success. CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza and the College of Health Sciences faculty members proudly applaud the exceptional achievements of CatSU Nursing students as they triumphantly pose for a group photo at the Ondra Gallery.

CatSU Nursing students achieve astounding 99.1% passing rate, land impressive spots in top 30 in PNLE

by Francis John B. Templanuevo

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has emerged triumphant in the recent Philippine Nurse Licensure Examinations (PNLE), achieving an impressive passing rate of 99.1% for first-time takers.

Including second-timers, the passing rate stood at 95.4%, with 104 out of 109 candidates successfully passing the rigorous examination.

Among the notable achievements, the university takes pride in the outstanding performance of several students who secured their positions in the top 30.

Topping the list is Kristine C. Sarmiento with an impressive score of 89.40%, placing her at the prestigious 11th spot. Following closely behind are Hannah E. Santos, Rosemarie S. Tabang, and

Francis Joseph V. Sacris, all earning an impressive score of 88.60% and securing their spots at 15th place.


Other students who made it to the top 30 include Lin Dominic A. Velasco and Ariana Gail P. Valencia at 17th place with a score of 88.20%, Darla Joyce V. Quiballo, Franco Joseph V. Sacris, and Alana Marie B. Talaran at 20th place with a score of 87.60%, Abegail T. Aguilar and John Greg M. Tabor at 22nd place with a score of 87.20%, and Liane Mariette M. Sales at 23rd place with a score of 87.00%.

The remaining successful examinees who secured positions in the top 30 are Bernadette S. Sabeniano, Alizta Quie Nicole R. Tabirara, Jejomar V. Taniajura, Vince G. Aguilar, Ana Flor N. Sibonga, Sheena B. Sarmiento, Louillen F. Acacio,

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Nutrition and Dietetics (ND) students of the College of Health Sciences

CatSU conducts inaugural White Coat ceremony for ND students

—by Caroline I. Vecilles

The Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Department of Nutrition and Dietetics organized its first White Coat Ceremony on June 9, 2023, at the university auditorium.

This ceremony held great significance for the third-year Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics (BS ND) students as they prepared for their upcoming practicum in areas such as Hospital Dietetics, Public Health Nutrition, and Food Service.

The approval of the SUC President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, and the recommendation by the Phil. Regulations Commission (PRC) Board of Nutrition and Dietetics played a crucial role in making this ceremony possible. The department, led by Prof. Emily V. Romero, organized the event with the aim of boosting the students' confidence and attracting high school graduates to enroll in the BS ND program.

The ceremony commenced with a mass at the Risen Christ Chapel, officiated by Rev. Father Eric John T. Rojas. Following the mass, Prof. Joel T. Olfindo, MAN, the Dean of the College of Health Sciences, delivered his welcome remarks. Dean Olfindo emphasized that the white coat should not separate clinicians from their patients' emotions and concerns.

"May this remind everyone of us that this should not keep us from appreciating the emotions, or concerns such as pain of our patients. This is what the White Coat Ceremony is all about. This is why we are here today," Dean Olfindo said.

The ceremony also provided the students with guidelines and expectations for their roles and responsibilities as future dietetics professionals before they embarked on their clinical placements.

The Guest Speaker for the ceremony was Ms. Justin M. Tabinas, a registered nutritionist-dietitian and the current ND of the Provincial Health Office (PHO). In her speech, Tabinas commended the students for their sacrifices and determination in pursuing their studies and dreams. She discussed the importance of professionalism, which encompasses expertise, ethics, and courtesy, in delivering quality and efficient service.

"Today's Pledge of Professionalism and Excellence, marks a new horizon for you all, our future Nutritionist-Dietitians. Young as you are, I could see and feel the enthusiasm in your faces as you move towards a new level of field of expertise, just continue," she said.

Dr. Azanza, the SUC President, graced the event and expressed his pride in the students' achievements. He highlighted the significance of service and reminded the students that their chosen profession relied on their dedication to providing quality care. He also commended the faculty members for their efforts in preparing the students for their future careers.

"This is our way of saying that we are proud of you, that we believe in you. That you must carry on and bring out there in the real world the brand of the CatSU. And we know that you have it, we know

that our faculty members have really done so much to prepare you for that and therefore you deserve to wear this white coat today.

Move on with pursuit of your career but most especially, remember that service is the most important in your choice of profession. And life depends on you."

Dr. Azanza also shared the historical context of Catanduanes, which had previously been identified as a province with nutritional problems. He acknowledged the improvements that had been achieved in the province and attributed them to the dedicated efforts of nutritionist-dietitians in implementing interventions within the communities.

The CatSU president expressed his gratitude and expressed his confidence in the students' abilities. He assured them that they had been equipped with the necessary ethics, training, expertise, and moral values to provide excellent service to their future patients.

The White Coat Ceremony marked a significant milestone for the students as they transitioned from being students to becoming clinical dietetics trainees. It represented the start of their clinical attachment, which would provide them with valuable hands-on experience in their field. The lecturers, faculty members, and clinical instructors had the honor of passing on the clinical white coats to the students, symbolizing their readiness for this next phase in their education and professional development.



Forging Collaborative Connections. Grameen Foundation US Volunteer Ken Abbott engages in a productive meeting with CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, VP REPA Dr. Ramon Felipe A. Sarmiento, and Ms. Thelma Socito of Extension Services to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the organizations. The meeting aims to foster collaboration and explore opportunities for mutual growth and development.

CatSU partners with Grameen Foundation, USA to increase agricultural productivity, livelihoods of farmers

by Caroline I. Vecilles

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding between Catanduanes State University (CatSU) and Grameen Foundation, USA (GFUSA), the Farmer-to-Farmer Program Team, consisting of US Volunteer Ken Abbott and GFUSA Staff Arcee Pila, was warmly welcomed at the office of the President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, on June 7, 2023.

Joining Dr. Azanza in welcoming the team were Dr. Ramon Felipe A. Sarmiento, Vice President for Research, Extension and Production Affairs; Dr. Adem Nalu Rubio, Extension Services Director; and Ms. Thelma Socito.

GFUSA, a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower the poor, especially women, and eradicate poverty and hunger, aims to collaborate with CatSU to support sustainable agricultural

productivity and profitability initiatives, ultimately improving the livelihoods of impoverished farmers in rural areas of the Philippines.

Through CatSU's Extension Services, the understanding between both parties envisions GFUSA mobilizing volunteers to provide specialized technical assistance, focusing on two key outcomes: increasing production through optimal agricultural practices, including climate-smart farming and diversification strategies, and enhancing access to financial services and market opportunities.

CatSU will support activities such as identifying and recommending farmer organizations, agribusinesses, cooperatives, microfinance institutions, and other relevant agricultural and financial institutions. Additionally, CatSU will collaborate on collecting baseline and

outcome data necessary for measuring the impact of the volunteer assignments.

GFUSA, funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), will work closely with CatSU to design appropriate scopes of work based on technical assistance needs, recruit and deploy volunteers for specific assignments in the Philippines, and provide logistical, technical, and administrative support throughout their assignments.

The Farmer-to-Farmer initiatives, supported by USAID, contribute to rapid and sustainable economic growth in the agricultural sector. These programs also foster international goodwill, promote understanding of US foreign assistance programs, and encourage private engagement in development endeavors.



Nursing students of the College of Health Sciences

With the highlights on achievements and commitment to Nursing Education CatSU

CHS holds 2nd Clinical Graduation

by Caroline I. Vecillas

The Catanduanes State University's College of Health Sciences (CHS) conducted its 2nd Nursing Clinical Graduation at the CatSU gymnasium on Saturday, June 10, 2023. The ceremony commenced with a Eucharistic Celebration led by Father Eric John T. Rojas at the Risen Christ Chapel.

After the Mass, the opening ceremony proceeded with a warm welcome from CHS Dean, Prof. Joel T. Olfindo. Prof. Mary Ellaine T. Tapel presented the candidates for Clinical Graduation, followed by the symbolic lighting of the Nightingale's Lamp, led by former College Dean and Senior Faculty, Prof. Janet B. Lim, MAN.

One of the notable highlights of the clinical rites was the Ring Hop Ceremony, where the student-nurses, assisted by Dean Olfindo and Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, CatSU President, received their academic rings alongside completion certificates.

During his address to the student-nurses and parents, Dr. Azanza reflected on the significant steps taken by the

administration since the beginning of his term. These included reducing RLE (Related Learning Experience) fees by at least 50%, making CatSU one of the SUCs (State Universities and Colleges) in the country with the lowest RLE rates. He also highlighted curriculum advancements, such as the hiring of 30 new permanent faculty nurses.

Dr. Azanza mentioned a 30-million budget allocated for facility improvement, with 15 million specifically designated for Nursing equipment. He emphasized the transparent bidding process, which was streamed live on the official university Facebook page. Moreover, he revealed that the savings from the bidding process would be utilized to purchase additional equipment with advanced technologies for future batches.

The president underscored the institutionalization of all college business systems, including the procurement of students' books, stethoscopes, uniforms, and related items. This process would be managed by the Corporate Business

Operations (CBO), the university's designated main office for transactions. Dr. Azanza emphasized that transactions should not involve third-party agents such as faculty members and reminded parents to transact directly with the CBO.

"Gabos na mga pagbabagong ini satuyang inintroduce pero an sakuya talaga na main objective aside from improving the learning is to make sure that you are able to practice your profession. And this event is one step forward to that," he said.

"Let the rings remind you of your commitment to service. But before you can serve, you must hurdle one big challenge, and that is the board exam," added Dr. Azanza.

Dr. Azanza also shared more positive news, including a 15-million budget for the advancement of college buildings and classrooms, the establishment of a Health Science Complex near the Nutrition and Dietetics Department building, the transformation of a cottage into a birthing hospital for student

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A Touching Moment: A nursing student receives ring from her father as her mother watches with joy during the ceremony.

■ Clinical Graduation.. from page 04

exposure, and the provision of assistance to students during their affiliation stage outside the province.

Concluding his speech, Dr. Azanza reminded the student-nurses to maintain focus.

“Focus kita because when we pass that November board exam, each one of you will be a proud nurse of the country. And dae nyo sana tabi paglingawan pag kamo nurse na, enot an mga magurang nag-paadal saindo, second, an bansa na Pilipinas na libre ang edukasyon na tinao saindo, ibig sabihin ang service ta sa kapwa tao, perming isapuso.”

He also expressed gratitude to parents for their unwavering trust and confidence in the university’s commitment to providing the best education for their children.

Ms. Salve V. Tabo, Chief Nurse of the

Eastern Bicol Medical Center (EBMC), served as the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker for the event. In her message, she emphasized the ethical obligations of being a nurse and the importance of maintaining personal and professional growth.

“Let us not forget first and foremost, the submission and dedication to our profession, with all our heart and mind,” she said.

She further encouraged the students to be guided by their learnings and conscience, to do what is right and just in the field of health services.

During the ceremony, several awards were presented to the students, including the Leadership Award, Achievement Award, Best in RLE Award, Best in Case Study, Best in Thesis, and Outstanding Student Nurse. This batch’s pride is Alyssa

Patrice C. Benavidez as the Outstanding Student Nurse.

Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, Vice President for Academic Affairs, delivered a motivational speech. Dr. Acedo, along with Dean Olfindo, Dr. Alma V. Tabirara (Program Chair), and Prof. Tapel (Clinical Supervisor), presented the awards and certificates.

The Clinical Graduation marked the culmination of the students’ clinical exposure in hospitals and the community for the Class of 2023. Over four years, the 136 students completed a total of 2,703 duty hours, fulfilling a requirement for their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. This is the second Clinical Graduation held since the pandemic, following the first one in January 2023 for batch 2022.



College of Health Sciences faculty members headed by its Dean, Prof. Joel S. Olfindo



Collaborative Learning. CatSU EIS Team engages in a productive workshop as part of their planning stage.

CatSU forms team to address university projects' environmental considerations

by Caroline I. Vecillas

To ensure that environmental considerations associated with university projects are addressed, the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Admin and Financial Affairs, led by Dr. Art T. Tabirara, established the CatSU Environmental Impact Statement Team (EIS) at Catanduanes State University (CatSU).

Assisted by Engr. Rafael R. Manoguid, CatSU Pollution Control Officer, and Dr. Ramon F. Samonte, CatSU Panganiban Campus OIC-Director, the EIS Workshop formulation took place on June 5, 2023, at the Accreditation Room.

The workshop focused on EIS Formulation and Assessment and aimed to systematically evaluate the potential environmental effects of proposed university projects, including economic zones for CatSU and other infrastructure projects.

According to Engr. Manoguid, the purpose of the workshop was to provide decision-makers, stakeholders, and the

public with comprehensive information and analysis regarding the PEZA projects. It aimed to assess the potential impacts on the environment, as well as associated risks and benefits to various environmental components such as air quality, water resources, ecosystems, biodiversity, cultural heritage, and social aspects.

The primary goals of the workshop can be summarized as follows: identify and assess direct and indirect environmental impacts, predict and evaluate alternatives, enhance project design and planning, facilitate public participation, and promote sustainable development.

"In line with our SUC president's Vision of HOPE and with economic zones for the university, we want to ensure that we are able to facilitate decision-making and promote sustainable development. We also want to determine if there are more environmentally friendly options available and ensure that the projects are carried out in an environmentally

responsible manner," Engr. Manoguid said.

Engr. Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda, Planning and Development Officer, presented the university's Land Utilization and Development Plan for both the Main and Panganiban Campuses. The plan included various projects such as the residential complex, sports complex, health and wellness complex, commercial complex, the Knowledge, Innovations, Science and Technology (KIST) Park, Engineering and Architecture complex, Education, Law, Business, Arts, Sciences complex, Alumni Center, as well as Graduate Studies. He also discussed the Infrastructure Map and the general administration and other Support Service facilities.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tabirara expressed his gratitude to the teams and commended everyone for their collaborative efforts, expertise, and commitment to ensuring CatSU's success in obtaining an ECC (Environmental Compliance Certificate)

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CATANDUANES STATE UNIVERSITY



■ Top 30 in PNLE.. from page 01

Quinie T. Tabirara, Arjay T. Terrazola, Joan C. Macuja, Rossel G. Balute, Ana Marie Evangelista, Marisam B. Ariate, and Coleen Mae T. De Leon.

CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza extended his congratulations to the proud parents, acknowledging their unwavering support and encouragement that played a vital role in the students' success.

Furthermore, he commended the faculty members and the Dean of the College of Health Sciences for their

relentless dedication to providing quality education and guidance to the nursing students. Their expertise and commitment have undoubtedly contributed significantly to the students' achievements.

"The exceptional licensure exam results of CatSU's nursing program reflect the institution's unwavering commitment to producing competent and compassionate healthcare professionals. It is a testament to the university's pursuit of excellence in education and

its dedication to nurturing the talents and abilities of its students. The future holds great promise for these successful nursing graduates as they start on their professional journey, making a positive impact in the healthcare field and beyond," the CatSU President said.

■ EIS formulation.. from page 06

for all the university's general projects.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of Environmental Impact Statement formulation aligned with CatSU's goals and identity as a green university, impacting not only the community but also the entire province and the nation.

The EIS consists of six identified stages: Information Education Campaign,

Public Scoping, Technical Scoping, Public Hearing, Technical Hearing, Final Hearing, and the grant of ECC.

The CatSU Main and Panganiban Campus Teams are composed of the following members: Dr. Ramon F. Samonte, CatSU PC OIC-Director; Dr. Jaymund M. Floranza, CatSU PC Vice President for Admin and Finance Affairs; Prof. Eduardo C. Peña; Engr. Johnmar F.

Cordial; Ms. Maria Johanna U. Socito; Ms. Krisha Nell B. Lopez, CatSU PC Pollution Control Officer; Prof. Ma. Luz A. Floralde, Natural Science Department Chair; Prof. Ma. Cecilia T. Arcilla; Dr. Rommel R. Regala; Prof. Francis B. Tatel; Engr. Renato T. Chong of the Project Management Office; and Ms. Caroline Vecilles of Corporate Communications Services.



Unforgettable Reunion. Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, Vice President for Academic Affairs joins BS Bio Alumni in a joyous Grand Alumni Homecoming Celebration.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

COS host BS Bio Grand Alumni Homecoming

by Caroline I. Vecillas

Catanduanes State University's (CatSU) College of Science organized the BS Biology Grand Alumni Homecoming, which brought together former students from various batches to celebrate their shared experiences and rekindle old connections. The event, held on May 27, 2023, was themed "Ag Year: Time Will Bind the Bond We Left Behind," symbolizing the enduring bonds forged during their time at CatSU.

The day commenced with a mass, where alumni from different generations gathered to express their gratitude and seek blessings for the continued success of the BS Biology program. Following the spiritual ceremony, a program took place at the College of Science, featuring guests, faculty members, and the alumni themselves.

A highlight of the program was the inspiring speech delivered by Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Acedo expressed her admiration for the alumni's

accomplishments and emphasized the significance of maintaining strong ties with their alma mater. Her words resonated deeply with the audience, encouraging them to cherish their shared experiences and contribute to the field of biology.

As evening descended, the festivities moved to the enchanting Twin Rock Beach Resort, where the Fellowship Night awaited the alumni. The resort's ambiance created a nostalgic and exciting atmosphere as former classmates and friends eagerly reunited. The evening became a time for joyous reunions, heartfelt conversations, and shared laughter, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie among the attendees.

During the Fellowship Night, the alumni community took a moment to honor and express gratitude to their esteemed former faculty members. The tireless efforts and dedication of these individuals were recognized with awards and certificates of recognition. Prof. Cecilia Tiu-Arcilla, the College Alumni

Coordinator and BS Biology Professor, played a pivotal role in organizing the event and ensuring its success.

The BS Biology Grand Alumni Homecoming saw an impressive turnout, with over 50 alumni representing different batches from CatSU.

As the night concluded, the alumni left with a renewed sense of pride and gratitude for their alma mater. The BS Biology Grand Alumni Homecoming served as a reminder of their shared commitment to excellence, passion for scientific discovery, and the unbreakable bonds formed during their time at CatSU. Inspired by the memories of this special gathering, the alumni are motivated to continue making a difference in their respective fields and nurturing the legacy of the BS Biology program for future generations.



Illuminating the Night: College of Agriculture students take the lead in brightening the CatSU Flower Garden with solar lights.

Illuminating the CatSU Flower Garden Renewable Energy Adds Vibrancy to Nature's Beauty

by Caroline I. Vecilles

The CatSU Flower Garden, known for its popular Celosia, Sunflower, Globe Amaranth, Cosmos, Cockscomb, Zenia, and Petunia, now shines with even more vibrancy, thanks to the addition of solar lights that illuminate its beauty even at night.

Installed by the 3rd-year Electrical students from the College of Industrial Technology (CIT), these solar lights feature a Direct Current (DC) Electrical System of 12 volts, making them more affordable compared to regular solar lights used for streetlamps.

Prof. Edwin T. Romero, the proud CIT Dean, shared that this innovative addition to the Flower Garden stems from his research study called "DC Electrical System of Solar-Powered Residential Shanty."

"Unlike other solar lights in the market that use an inverter, ours is unique and purely 12 volts, eliminating the need for an inverter. This makes it more cost-effective. It is composed of a panel, battery, and control panel," explained Dean Romero.

Similar solar lights can now be found throughout the campus, with installations



at the coffee shop area, the bus area at Motorpool services, and various other parts of the campus.

Dean Romero also shared the good news of an upcoming installation in Calatagan, Tibang, where students will provide installations in households without access to electricity from the province's electric provider, FICELCO. This initiative not only enhances student training but also extends the benefits of renewable energy to underserved communities.

"Sa panahon ngayon, mas maganda na rin pong nakatutok tayo sa renewable energy, nang sa ganun nakakatulong tayo sa paghilom ng mundo, bunsod ng pandemya. At ang CatSU, tulad ng laging sinasabi po ng ating SUC President, Dr. Azanza, ay palaging kaakibat at makatulong hindi lng sa CatSU community, pati na rin sa labas na komunidad na pinagsisilbihan neto," he added.

In addition to renewable energy, the CatSU Flower Garden takes pride in using recycled materials, particularly repurposed plastic waste, which adds a touch of environmental sustainability to the garden's decorative elements.



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

CatSU Lab Schools celebrate 52nd Commencement Exercises, 8th Completion Rites

by Rochellee Jane C. Idanan

The Catanduanes State University Laboratory Schools (CatSU-Lab Schools) concluded its 52nd Commencement Exercises and 8th Junior High School Completion Rites on June 9, 2023, at the CatSU Gymnasium.

A total of 177 graduates and completers were honored during the ceremony, which carried the theme “Batch 2023: Celebrating Perseverance, Embracing Opportunities, Shifting Perspectives.” Professor Ditas T. Manlangit, the Principal of the Laboratory Schools, presented the candidates for graduation, including 31 Grade 6 students, 87 Grade 12 students, and 59 candidates for completion.

During his address, CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, expressed his message of support to the students and their proud parents. He highlighted the importance of addressing mental health issues among the youth and emphasized

the crucial role of parents in guiding their children as they navigate through life. Dr. Azanza also encouraged the graduates and completers to maintain an optimistic outlook and seek help when needed.

“Never mind the negativities, just focus on being optimistic because after all is said and done, we are on a journey, and that journey leads us to only one thing- and that is our God,” Dr. Azanza said.

The ceremony featured Engr. Charlyn Gurrobat-Primero as the honored Guest Speaker. Engr. Gurrobat-Primero, a CatSU-Laboratory Schools Batch 2003 Valedictorian, and presently the Quality Management Representative of Orthopaedic International, Inc., shared inspiring anecdotes and stories of perseverance from her time as a CatSU student.

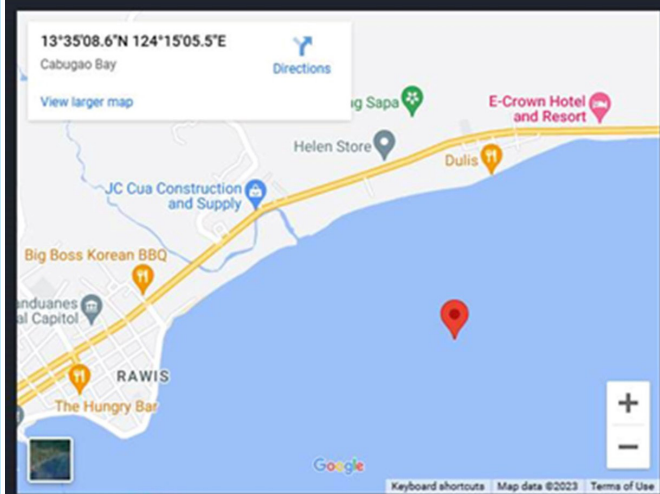
She commended the graduates

and completers for their resilience in overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic. Engr. Gurrobat-Primero also recognized the efforts and commitment of CatSU in providing quality education even amidst the global health crisis, acknowledging the university’s recent achievement as one of the top three universities in the Bicol Region.

“Carry that spirit of resilience with you as you embark on your future endeavors and couple it with faith. You are neither just graduates nor completers, you are beacons of hope,” she said.

Meanwhile, the 52nd Recognition Ceremonies, held on June 7, 2023, featured Prof. Arjay V. Abichuela, Medical Technologist IV at the Philippine Heart Center, and Mr. Joshua O. Tadoy, HR Manager at Acquire BPO Philippines, Inc., as guest speakers for Cluster 1 and Cluster 2, respectively.





CEA students create banca tracking device for fisher folk safety

—by Rochellee Jane C. Idanan

A group of four students from the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA) has developed a tracking device aimed at ensuring the safety of local fishermen during unexpected disasters.

Recognizing the dangers faced by fishermen in severe weather conditions and the lack of tracking devices for search-and-rescue operations, fourth-year Computer Engineering students Jaimes Eduard Barlizo, Karl John Estoque, John Michael Santosidad, and Florendo Soledad III conceived the banca tracking device as part of their undergraduate thesis.

The students utilized LoRa (Long Range) technology, which enables real-time location tracking even in areas with limited network coverage. LoRa is a low-power wireless communication technology that transmits small amounts of data over long distances.

The banca tracking device serves as a valuable tool for guiding rescuers during search-and-rescue operations and locating missing boats. It also enhances the safety of local fishermen by providing them with a means to send emergency signals to authorities on land and storing relevant data in a database.

Remarkably, the CEA students were able to develop a prototype device at a cost of less than P3,000. The device incorporates a transmitter that determines coordinates, a water level sensor, and an emergency button that

transmits data to the LoRa receiver. The receiver processes and stores the data in a database.

During testing, the prototype demonstrated a range of 3-4 kilometers using the LoRa technology, which can be further extended if the LoRa receiver is positioned at a higher elevation. Additionally, the device successfully transmitted its location upon triggering the water level sensor and conveyed a message indicating contact with water.

The students also developed a webpage map as part of the tracking system, enabling users to view all active and registered LoRa devices, including their current location and coordinates.

The innovative banca tracking device garnered attention during the inaugural Disaster & Emergency Communications Preparedness Seminar and Exhibit 2023. The event was organized by the Center for Island Climate Change Solutions (CICCS) under the leadership of Engr. Dexter Toyado, the director of CICCS and a faculty member of the CEA.

The groundbreaking work of these CatSU CEA students highlights their dedication to addressing real-world challenges and promoting the safety and well-being of local fisher folk. Their banca tracking device has the potential to make a significant impact in improving the effectiveness of search-and-rescue operations and ensuring the safety of fishermen in Catanduanes.



HERALD

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The **HERALD** is the official publication of Catanduanes State University which is produced by Corporate Communications Services (CCS).

The HERALD complements the multi-platform communication arm of CCS Office which utilizes print, broadcast, television, and social media, as well as the World Wide Web, in the dissemination of the different milestones, programs, projects, activities and achievements of the University, particularly on areas of Instruction, Research, Extension, Production, Governance and Management, and Student Services.

The HERALD exists to advance the interest of development communication in higher education, and to provide another venue in informing, involving, and empowering the stakeholders of the Catanduanes State University.

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President's Corner

by Caroline I. Vecilles



Catanduanes State University (CatSU) is making significant strides in higher education and community development under the visionary and passionate leadership of Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, the esteemed President of the institution. This edition of the President's Corner showcases Dr. Azanza's inspiring ideas, which are poised to transform the landscape of Catanduanes, fostering growth, sustainability, and empowerment.

A bold vision has taken shape under the leadership of Dr. Azanza, aimed at eradicating transportation obstacles and ensuring a seamless educational journey for students, faculty, and staff of CatSU. In pursuit of this ambitious goal, a fleet of buses will be stationed at the Virac and Panganiban campuses, offering complimentary transportation not only within the university grounds but also to neighboring communities.

This groundbreaking initiative holds the potential to revolutionize educational

opportunities and forge stronger bonds between communities. By providing free transportation services, Dr. Azanza seeks to empower students, faculty, and staff, enabling them to traverse the distance without any hindrance. The benefits extend beyond the campus borders, reaching out to the surrounding areas and fostering a sense of connectivity and collaboration.

This initiative also signifies a significant stride forward in bridging the transportation gap. It acknowledges the importance of easy accessibility, recognizing that a smooth and hassle-free commute is paramount for an optimal learning environment. With this new system in place, students can now focus on their academic pursuits, assured that transportation barriers will no longer impede their educational experience.

Moreover, this visionary move highlights Dr. Azanza's unwavering commitment to the holistic growth of the university community. By strengthening

educational opportunities and fostering closer connections between CatSU and the surrounding regions, the university's influence expands far beyond its physical boundaries. Dr. Azanza's vision resonates with a broader objective of nurturing collaboration, exchange, and synergy between the institution and the communities it serves.

In a strong display of commitment to community development, CatSU unveils the CatSU Agri-Tourism and Conservation Park in Cabugao. This groundbreaking park seamlessly blends natural beauty, educational experiences, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local residents. Notably, the park features floating cottages that serve as picturesque accommodations and educational attractions, championing environmental conservation and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Dr. Azanza and the CatSU Administration place great emphasis on inclusivity and collaboration with existing





communities. In a departure from displacing settlers, the university offers employment opportunities to the local residents as tourist guides, utility staff, and accommodation personnel within the CatSU Agri-Tourism and Conservation Park. This approach recognizes their deep connection to the land and cultural heritage while preserving the diverse fabric of Catanduanes. By empowering the residents, CatSU reinforces its commitment to community engagement and ensures that the benefits of the park reach far and wide.

In its pursuit of environmental sustainability, CatSU forges partnerships with local leaders and organizations dedicated to preserving the natural ecosystem. One notable collaboration is with Mayor Glenda Aguilar and the Catanduanes Clean and Green Movement (CCGM). This alliance stands as a testament to the university's dedication to promoting a greener future. As a sign of support, CatSU opens its

Olympic-sized pool to talented athletes from Tubli Elementary School, nurturing their abilities and fostering youth empowerment.

The island is also set to witness a significant boost in educational opportunities. This initiative involves the establishment of branches and polytechnic colleges in strategic locations across the province. Recent developments unfolded as CatSU officials, including prominent figures such as Mayor Nonong Mendoza of San Andres, Vice Mayor Kuya Eric Rodriguez, Fr. Atoy Dela Rosa, and Councilor Michael Tidon, paid a visit to the Pandan School of Arts and Trades (PSAT).

The primary focus of this visit was the conversion of PSAT into a CatSU branch, mirroring the successful model previously implemented in Panganiban. By adopting this strategic approach, the university aims to ensure the seamless continuation of high-quality technical education while extending invaluable

resources and support from a unified management system to the students, teachers, and administrators of PSAT.

This ambitious undertaking signifies a momentous step forward in the quest to broaden educational horizons on the island. With the establishment of additional branches and polytechnic colleges, CatSU and its esteemed leader are determined to empower more students and facilitate their access to a top-notch education. The move also signifies a significant milestone for PSAT, promising an enhanced learning environment and increased opportunities for growth and development.

With each progressive step of exemplifying the Vision of HOPE of Dr. Azanza for the province of Catanduanes, with CatSU at the heart, a brighter future for the island is seen. CatSU is poised to usher in an era of unprecedented growth, transformation, and empowerment for the people of Catanduanes.





Ms. Via Villafuerte with Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza

From Finding a Job to Finding Love: A Story of Happily Ever After at CatSU

by Rochellee Jane C. Idanan

Via Villafuerte has been a Job Order staff at Catanduanes State University (CatSU) for four (4) years. As a bachelorette, she is often teased with questions about when she will get married. Although she yearned to find her true love, her desire to secure a permanent position at the university was even stronger.

Ms. Vi, as many call her, is a licensed professional teacher with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Catanduanes State University. She also holds six units in a Master of Arts in Guidance Counseling.

Before joining CatSU, she served as a Kinder Volunteer Teacher at the Danicop Day Care Center and as a Barangay Literacy Volunteer at the Department of Education (DepEd), Alternative Learning System-Catanduanes. In 2015 and 2016, Ms. Vi worked as a Liaison Aide I at the Virac Central Elementary School and

DepEd Catanduanes-Virac South District, respectively.

As a Job Order staff at CatSU, Via consistently exemplified excellent work ethics, displaying vigor in everything she did. Her kind demeanor and professional attitude at work made her well-loved by her supervisors, as well as the students at the College of Education.

However, like any other love story, Ms. Vi had to face a conflict before reaching her happily ever after. Despite her dedication to serving CatSU for the last four years, her contract was not renewed.

Fortunately, the College of Education fought for her contract renewal, recognizing her competence in fulfilling her role in the department. This second chance encouraged Ms. Vi to aim even higher within the university as she applied for a permanent position.

"Last time, sir, I almost didn't get my

contract renewed as a Job Order staff, and I'm grateful that the college fought for me. That's why I gave my all in my application for this position," she revealed during her final interview with CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza.

Her efforts paid off when Dr. Azanza announced that she ranked number 1 among the applicants for the Administrative Aide IV position at the College of Education, surpassing nine other candidates.

What was supposed to be the end of her chapter at the university became the beginning of her happily ever after, thanks to her patience, commitment, and trust in the Lord's timing.

While Ms. Vi is still on the journey of finding her true love, she has found a profound love within the family she has created at the CatSU College of Education. The joy of doing the job she loves is enough to fill her heart.

Congratulations!

TOP 11
89.40%

KRISTINE C. SARMIENTO, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 15
88.60%

HANNAH EDEN SANTOS, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 15
88.60%

ROSEMARIE S. TABANG, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 15
88.60%

FRANCIS JOSEPH V. SACRIS, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 17
88.20%

LIN DOMINIC A. VELASCO, RN

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May 2023

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TOP 17
88.20%

ARIANA GAIL P. VALENCIA, RN

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87.60%

FRANCO JOSEPH V. SACRIS, RN

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ALLANA MARIE B. TALARAN, RN

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Congratulations!

TOP 20
87.60%

DARLA JOYCE V. QUIBALLO, RN

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TOP 22
87.20%

ABEGAIL T. AGUILAR, RN

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TOP 22
87.20%

JOHN GREG M. TABOR, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

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Congratulations!

TOP 23
87.00%

LIANE MARIETTE M. SALES, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
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TOP 24
86.80%

BERNADETTE S. SABENIANO, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

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TOP 25
86.60%

JEJOMAR V. TANIAJURA, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

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TOP 25
86.60%

VINCE G. AGUILAR, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

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TOP 25
86.60%

ALIZTA QUIE NICOLE R. TABIRARA, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

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Congratulations!

TOP 26
86.40%

SHEENA B. SARMIENTO, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

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Congratulations!

TOP 26
86.40%

ANA FLOR N. SIBONGA, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 27
86.20%

QUINIE T. TABIRARA, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

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TOP 27
86.20%

ARJAY Z. TERRAZOLA, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
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TOP 27
86.20%

JOAN C. MACUJA, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
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86.20%

LOUIELLEN F. ACACIO, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

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Congratulations!

TOP 28
86.00%

ROSSEL G. BALUTE, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 29
85.80%

ANA MARIE V. EVANGELISTA, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 30
85.60%

COLEEN MAE T. DE LEON, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

Congratulations!

TOP 30
85.60%

MARISAM B. ARIATE, RN

Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination
May 2023

Greetings from Catanduanes State University

CONGRATULATIONS!!

9 New CPAs from the Catanduanes State University's College of Business and Accountancy May 2023 CPA Licensure Examination

1. AGUILAR, SHIELA MAE T.
2. ARTUGUE, ANGELO C.
3. BERNAL, FRANCIS MAE T.
4. GIANAN, ROLLY S.
5. NUÑEZ, IAN FELIX T.
6. REODIQUE, ANDREA T.
7. TAPEL, APRIL JOY V.
8. TRAQUEÑA, RICSTHER T.
9. TUMANLAO, MA. CATHERINE O.

First Takers – 6/25 = 24%
Repeaters – 3/5 = 60%

CatSU Passing Rate – 9/30 = 30%
National Passing Rate – 2,239/7,376 = 30.36%

June 1-15, 2023

Congratulations!

from Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza
and the whole Catanduanes State
University Community.