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A WARM WELCOME. Dr. Deborah Tangunan, a Balik Scientist awardee, has been welcomed warmly by the faculty, students, and officials of Catanduanes State University during a 'Meet and Greet' event. The UK-based scientist will be rendering a 4-month service at the university under the DOST-PCAARRD Balik Scientist Program.

Promoting Knowledge Sharing CatSU welcomes UK-based scientist Dr. Deborah Tangunan, DOST-Balik Scientist Awardee

Anjo G. Tugay

Three weeks after the university inked a partnership with the country's science and technology agency for the Balik Scientist Program (BSP), the Catanduanes State University (CatSU), on Monday, Jan. 29, threw an outpouring respect and warm welcome to Dr. Deborah N. Tangunan, a UK-based scientist and BSP awardee.

Extending his appreciation

for choosing the university, Dean Vicente G. Padilla of the College of Science, expressed his steadfast support for the Department of Science and Technology — Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) program.

Meanwhile, Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs Dr. Rosana S.

Abundo also thanked the BSP's organizer since this was the first in the university's history to host a DOST-Balik Scientist awardee through the Center for Island Climate Change Solutions.

She likewise underscored two points in viewing the BSP in relation to the Catandunganons and as individuals: first, the values of gratitude, and second, Bayanihan spirit.

"BSP gives back and shares knowledge and expertise for the advancement of research and development of the province," the VP-REPA said.

"For the bayanihan spirit, it is basically part of our culture. Thus, let us take all these as an opportunity. Let us altogether navigate this path towards a sustainable future for CatSU," she



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CatSU-CHS faculty explores the anatomy of research writing on first day of research seminar-workshop

Albert G. Clemente

Learning the rudimentary of research writing, over 50 faculty-researchers of the Catanduanes State University - College of Health Sciences (CatSU-CHS) gained insights from a pool of experts on the first day of their capacity-building seminar on Wednesday, January 10.

The aim of the said activity is not just for professional development but to strengthen the research skills of the faculty and to conduct a study with a meaningful and lifelong impact on the community, shared by CHS Dean Dr. Maria Alma V. Tabirara.

For Executive Vice President Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., who served as the representative of the university president, the very purpose of such undertaking is to 'develop the research culture in the university', and he advised the newbie in the field of research to learn the A-B pattern.

Serving as the first lecturer, Research and Development Services Director Dr. Jose Z. Tria provided possible topics in health sciences such as health governance, communicable diseases, maternal and child health, food scarcity and security, and mental health.

The university research director also tackled the benefits and incentives in research publication, ranging from P3,000 to P80,000 cash, and added that if a study clinched the highest

distinction in Usdag Award, a researcher is eligible to receive P10,000.

Apart from the research perks, the seminar also shed light on the ethical considerations in conducting a study especially involving animal and human subjects.

Dr. Lilibeth Tubalinal delved into research ethics as this 'protects human participants over science'.

"It is not merely a guideline but a commitment to upholding the values of integrity, respect, and responsibility," Dr. Tubalinal underscored.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Marianne Castilla delivered another lecture on qualitative research. She cited her first research project as an example which revolved around 'Santigwar', Bikolano folk way of healing.

"Qualitative research builds understanding of social phenomena," she explained.

The session of the first day concluded with the practical tips and strategies shared by Dr. Tria on the topic 'Review of Related Literature (RRL)'.

The three-day event, which runs from January 10-12, is spearheaded by the CatSU-CHS Research Coordinator Dr. John F. Villegas, held at E-Crown Hotel and Resort.



KNOWING THE BASICS OF RESEARCH. Dr. Maria Alma V. Tabirara (top), dean of the College of Health Sciences (CHS), renders opening remarks at the three-day research seminar, along with Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. (bottom)



On 2nd day of research seminar:

CHS faculty delves into the process of quantitative study

Mack Neil T. Vital

Catanduanes State University

- College of Health and Sciences (CatSU-CHS) continued its three-day research seminar-workshop with a focus on strengthening faculty writing skills, January 11, 2024 at the E-Crown Hotel and Resort.

Former dean and retired Professor VI Dr. Aurora E. Araojo, the first lecturer, delivered a comprehensive discussion on conducting quantitative research to over 60 faculty-researchers.

She pinned on problem identification and the art of questioning, emphasizing to “dig deeper in questioning, as long

as it’s still related to the topic because in research, it requires a skill in the art of questioning.”

Assistant Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs (REPA) Dr. Kristian Q. Aldea followed with insights into various experimental designs, including pre-experimental, true experimental, and quasi-experimental designs.

He also addressed ethical concerns in research, encouraging participants to not hesitate in conducting research and discover the unknown.

In the afternoon session,

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LEARN FROM THE EXPERT. Dr. Aurora E. Araojo, retired faculty and former OSSS Director, shared her expertise and insights with CHS faculty to conduct a quantitative study.

CatSU senior students gear up for internship program through labor education seminar

Albert G. Clemente

Gearing up for their upcoming

off-campus internship, over 500 fourth-year students of Catanduanes State University undertook a seminar series called Career Coaching and Counseling 2024 from January 17-18, which bridged academic learning and real-world application.

Organized by CatSU-Alumni Relation Services as the Public Employment Services Office (PESO) and Office of Student Scholarship, Financial Assistance, Career Development, and Placement Services (OSSFACDPS), the invited lecturers from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - Catanduanes Field Office guided the aspiring interns on workplace dynamics and discussed different labor-related topics that will help them to make a meaningful contribution during their internships.

Alumni Office Director and PESO Officer Prof. Maricel S. Cariaso said the activity ensures the graduating students are

prepared and well-equipped before deployment.

“This raises awareness about their rights and responsibilities, and instills workplace ethics and the importance of work-life balance,” the Alumni office Director and PESO officer said.

DOLE Senior Labor Employment Officer Jomell S. Pasano guided the students on the topics of labor market information, workplace ethics and conflict resolution, work-life balance, and building and maintaining a professional network.

Giving insights on legally-mandated employee benefits, DOLE Senior Labor Employment Officer Danilo Balilo walked through the participants on general labor standards.

The first day of the seminar series was attended by students from the College of Agriculture and Fisheries for the morning session and in the afternoon session, students from the

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CAREER COACHING SEMINAR. During a talk with graduating students, Alumni Office Director and PESO Manager Ms. Maricel S. Cariaso, and DOLE Senior Labor Employment Officer Mr. Jomell S. Pasano discussed labor laws and policies to prepare them for their internships.

Instilling transparency:

CatSU holds orientation on proper filling out of SALN forms for employees

Albert G. Clemente

As part of its continued commitment to upholding transparency in public service, the Catanduanes State University, through its Review and Compliance Committee (RCC), guided and facilitated the employees on proper filling out of their Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) forms through orientation-workshop, from January 10-12, and 17, 2024.

Designated chairman of the said committee, Chief Administrative Officer for Administration Atty. Gregorio M. Sarmiento Jr. led the discussion on the guidelines for filling out the

SALN form and laid out its legal bases.

"If you are not in the government, nobody will ask you about your income, your money, your connections, or whatever, but if you are in the government, you will be subjected to this kind of requirement," he explained, asking the employees to comply with the SALN's upcoming submission, as required under Article XI Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution and Section 8 of RA 6713 or the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees".

According to the RCC chair, things to disclose in the SALN

are assets, liabilities, business interests, financial connections, and relatives in the government within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity.

Employees who fail to submit as well as disclose or even misdeclare SALN will be penalized, which include one to six months work suspension, as declared by the RCC chair.

Reiterating the submission deadline of SALN, human resource chief Ma. Sionne May T. Crispino informed the participants to submit four (4) copies of original, and unnotarized SALN, except for joint filing, to their respective immediate supervisors

on or before February 28, 2024.

"It is the duty of the immediate supervisors to collate the SALN and submit it to the HRMS on the second Friday of March 2024," she added.

Under the law, RA 6713 requires employees to file SALN on or before April 30 of every year, but the advance deadline set by the university will give the RCC ample time to review and evaluate the submitted SALN forms properly.

The said four-day seminar comprises eight sessions, morning and afternoon, where all offices/units/departments have their respective schedule.

Dr. Azanza to CHS faculty:

Research stands out as defining factor for global recognition

Anjo G. Tugay

Aimed to fortify the college's commitment to upscale research initiatives, the College of Health Sciences (CHS) of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) concluded its 3-day seminar workshop attended by its faculty-researchers, January 12, 2024 at the E-Crown Hotel and Resort.

University President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, highlighted in his message the paramount importance of research in determining the university's standing on a global scale.

"Distinguishing a true university from those aspiring to achieve that status, research stands out as a defining factor," emphasized Dr. Azanza.

Dr. Maria Alma V. Tabirara, the Dean of CHS, shared her vision for the seminar's transformative impact on the college's research culture.

"The participants' comprehensive learning will ultimately channel effectively into pertinent research outcomes, placing the college within the distinguished research culture expected of a university," she declared.

Dr. Tabirara also underscored the alignment of the seminar's focus on experimental designs and ethical considerations with the college's overarching research goals, citing the inspiration and challenge it brings to the faculty.

Reflecting on the achievements and future plans, College Research Coordinator, Dr. John F. Villegas, expressed satisfaction with the seminar's outcomes.

"Mainly, the aim is to build the capacity of CHS faculty members, and I am humbly pleased to say that our goals



CATSU PREXY JOINS CHS SEMINAR. Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, the president of CatSU, showed his endless support for the research endeavor of CHS during the three-day research seminar's last leg.

have been met and achieved," he remarked.

Dr. Villegas outlined his commitment to sustaining the newfound enthusiasm among

faculty members by being readily available with his time and support.

Sharing insights as a

Women's club, College of Science interns engage in GAD's Anti-sexual Harassment Orientation

Angelie Ann Z. Delantar

As they prepare for their upcoming off-campus internship, students of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) from the College of Science (COS) and Women's Club undertook a Gender and Development orientation seminar on Anti-Sexual Harassment, held at the Little Theater on January 24, 2024.

A total of 195 incoming OJT students from COS attended the orientation, as per requirements and preparation to the students who will take an On-the-Job training program outside the campus.

Present in the orientation seminar are the College of Science faculty, Prof. Maribel Ralla (GAD College Coordinator), Prof. Ma. Luz Floralde (Chairperson, Natural Science Department), Prof. Cecille Arcilla, and the invited resource speaker, Atty.

Rene John M. Velasco.

Atty. Velasco delivered an informative talk on the Republic Act 7877, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, focusing on its provisions declaring sexual harassment as unlawful in employment, education, or training environments.

Through his talk, he gave insights about the law, and gave advice on how the interns should act and respond when they encounter incidents in their internship that are related to this law such as unwanted touching, receiving gifts, private messages, and hearing malicious words and catcalls from the employer to his/her employee.

"The purpose of having this discussion is to protect you and make you aware, especially since you will be deployed to various companies and may encounter different types of harassment,"



SAFE SPACES FOR ALL. During a lecture at the College of Science, a Gender and Development (GAD) speaker discussed pressing societal issues related to gender.

Atty. Velasco said.

During the open forum, Atty. Velasco clarified that the law deems gifts as problematic if they are "unwanted, unwarranted, uninvited, and unwelcome," cautioning against assuming dark motives without discerning the context.

Atty. Velasco also discussed the Safe Spaces Act, or the Bawal Bastos Law, as an updated version of RA 7877, underscoring the need for awareness of potential harassment scenarios in future professional experiences.

From academe to community:

CatSU-NSTP continues gift-giving tradition; bringing smiles to Viracnon children

Albert G. Clemente

To empower the youth in community service engagement, the Catanduanes State University - National Service Training Program (CatSU-NSTP) faculty and students joined hands together in keeping its annual tradition of community outreach 'Gifted to Give' program for Viracnon children last December.

The 'Gifted to Give' is an outreach program of CatSU-NSTP students taking the Literacy Training Services (LTS), Civic Welfare Training Services (CWTS), and Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

This activity coincides with the National Volunteer Month, and National Youth Day, which is celebrated every 16th day of

December.

Distribution of school supplies, hygiene, and first aid kits, were among the highlights that had transcended into a day to remember among the young learners.

The activity would not be complete without providing healthy food for the children's tummies.

Shifting the focus to environmental conservation, the program also included a series of tree planting and coastal clean-up activities.

In an interview, NSTP Director Asst. Professor Emlyn M. Lanon highlighted that the activity had provided the NSTP students with adequate knowledge in

community-based immersion and emphasized that the community outreach program underlines in-depth responsibilities.

"It is not merely on giving gifts kundi ma-conduct pa nin Community Needs Assessment, ma-create nin community action plan and then, ano ang kayang ituwang nin estudyante sa mga identified Deprived, Depressant, and Underprivileged Community (DDU)," Prof. Lanon said.

Among the program's many benefits as cited by Director Lanon is the opportunity to empower youth as they play a vital role in the community as a catalyst for change.

"Sa values man, ya pamati mi sainda [students] na you can

make a difference," she proudly expressed.

Committed to serving not just the people in the municipality of Virac, the NSTP Office expressed its optimism about deepening its impact on communities as it envisioned conducting the same activity in various municipalities of Catanduanes.

"Actually dream mi man na iluwas talaga siya [ang program] parang bawat munisipyo igwa. Dapat pano talaga ining graduates nin NSTP hindi lang sa school active. Pag-abot sa community nagtatap na sinda nin barangay buda munisipyo. Kung ang immersion nila kada munisipyo [kun sain sinda

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CatSU ties up with Help.NGO for 2-day training on drone operations, giving bird's eye view on disaster response

Albert G. Clemente

The Catanduanes State University (CatSU) partners with Help.NGO, an international organization specialized in emergency response and preparedness, convened employees from local government units, national agencies, and academe for a two-day training, exploring the operations of unmanned aerial systems.

Philippines Innovation and IT Director of Help.NGO Matthew Cua, explained on the first day, January 25, the fundamentals of drone operations, enumerated the different types of drones, and demonstrated on how to use the unmanned aircrafts.

He also underscored the technology's important role in disaster response and

preparedness.

"Drones can assess and identify high risk areas, document damaged infrastructure in post-disaster situations, and even spot safe sites and evacuation routes," he exclaimed.

With the drone mapping, he added that it encourages locals to build safer and more sustainable locations.

Apart from disaster response, drones are also a tool in assessing the health of crops according to Director Cua.

Present also in the activity was Help.NGO's Philippines Expert on Mission Jose Felix, together with Poland Communications Director Agata Klat and Provincial Administrator

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DRONE OPERATION. Matthew Cua, the Innovation and IT Director of Help.NGO, demonstrates the functionality of a drone to the attendees.

4 CatSU student journalists qualify for Luzon-wide Press Conference

Albert G. Clemente

Making a comeback after a three-year hiatus, four student journalists of the Catanduanes State University have secured a spot for this year's Luzon-wide Higher Education Press Conference (LHEPC), following their triumphant performance in the individual events as top five awardees in the regional level competition on January 17-19, 2024.

Gaining two top five spots in the regional event was Donna Mae N. Ramirez, the editor-in-chief of The CatSU Statesman, the official student publication of the university.

The chief editor bagged 2nd place in poetry writing (Filipino) and 5th place in column writing (Filipino) at the Regional Tertiary Press Conference (RTSPC) held at Legazpi City.

Joining Ramirez in LHEPC

was Michael Angelo Delim, after bagging the 2nd place of Comic Strip Making (English), and 9th place in Feature Writing.

Two other LHEPC qualifiers were Norman De Guzman and Ver Joshua Saberola, after they clinched the 3rd spot in news writing (Filipino) and 5th spot in Photojournalism (English), respectively.

De Guzman also bagged the 9th place in copyreading and headline writing.

Slipping three spots to join the four qualifiers to LHEPC was Almira Arador, 8th placer in feature writing (Filipino).

Other CatSU student journalists who participated in the regional event were Eilamor Tabios, Justine Louise Tuazon, and Julian Joson, together with their adviser, Office of the Student Development Services



CATSU REPRESENT. After a three-year break due to the pandemic, the CatSU Statesman writers with the representative of their publication adviser have returned to the podium for the Luzon Higher Education Press Conference 2024 in Naga City.

(OSADS) Director Francis John B. Templonuevo.

The LHEPC will be held in Naga City in March 2024, since Bicol is the host region.

Meanwhile, for the 22nd

Regional Tertiary Schools Press Conference (RTSPC) next academic year, CatSU will be the host school according to the CatSU Statesman's adviser.

On 2nd day of seminar at CatSU:

Help.NGO walks through participants on cloud computing

Albert G. Clemente

After providing a comprehensive discussion on drone mapping and operations on the first day, Philippines Innovation and IT Director Matthew Cua of Help.NGO engaged the participants on the final day of the seminar on cloud computing and Low Earth Orbit connectivity topics, this Friday, January 26, at the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) auditorium.

Apart from the overview, the Help.NGO innovation director also discussed the opportunities of cloud computing and Starlink instructions.

Poised to deliver practical skills for real-world application, participants were glad for the opportunity to attend the training, as they gained a deeper understanding of cloud

computing trends and practices.

A collaborative effort between Help.NGO and CatSU, the seminar aimed to keep professionals informed about the latest technological developments, particularly relevant for building safer and more resilient communities, especially in disaster-prone areas like Catanduanes.

Expressing gratitude, Help.NGO USA took to their Facebook page, extending thanks to Amazon Web Services for making the training possible.

They also appreciated Catanduanes State University for their cooperation in facilitating the mission.

One of the university's commitments to development goals under the leadership of CatSU President Dr. Patrick



CLOUD COMPUTING. Help.NGO officials assist government officials in understanding the intricacies of cloud computing.

Alain T. Azanza is recognizing the importance of partnering with reputable private entities such as Help.NGO to "broaden knowledge, skills, and values, aligning with the university's

mission to protect the natural environment and promote sustainable development in the region."

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participant, faculty member Mr. Arnel Aaron M. Alcantara emphasized the applicability of the seminar's teachings to his work within CHS.

"Acquiring knowledge of the latest research methodologies and staying updated on advancements can significantly improve the quality and effectiveness of research conducted within

CHS," he noted.

Alcantara also highlighted the seminar's influence on problem identification and the formulation of specific research questions, stating, "Understanding ethical considerations can help us formulate research questions that adhere to ethical standards and prioritize the well-being of participants."

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retired Professor VI and former Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Maria S. Tugano presented on tools and methods of data collection, highlighting the importance of respecting respondent anonymity and confidentiality.

The day concluded with practical tips and strategies shared by Prof. Moreno

Tabios, Jr., focusing on the sampling and statistical treatment of data.

The seminar-workshop, led by CatSU-CHS Research Coordinator Dr. John F. Villegas, spans from January 10-12, aiming to equip faculty members with essential research skills.

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Eulalia Talaran who represented Gov. Joseph C. Cua, as well as other CatSU officials.

Prior to this, the team had already met CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain

Azanza who expressed his delight and gratitude on the said partnership. He further emphasized the significance of disaster management projects that the partnership could bring in realizing the goal of making the

institution a National Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.

The two-day training, in collaboration with ACE-HEMS through Professor Dr. Jimmy T. Masagca, and Abaca Technology

Innovation Center led by its director, Assistant Professor Abelisa Evangelista, will run from January 25-26.

A saint stopping by Hundreds of devotees welcome St. Padre Pio's relic visit at CatSU

Anjo G. Tugay

Hundreds of the faithful flocked to the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) main building lobby on Monday, January 29, to witness the first-class relic of St. Padre Pio.

The venerated relic of the 20th-century Saint was welcomed by University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, along with key officials, employees, and students.

Rev. Fr. Leonell A. Magtagnob presided over the healing mass, emphasizing in the homily that relics are not worshiped but treated with religious respect.

"Touching or praying in the presence of such an object helps a faithful individual focus on the saint's life and virtues so

that, through the saint's prayer or intercession before God, the individual will be drawn closer to God," the priest-celebrant said.

A Prayer Vigil led by the University Campus Ministry followed after the mass, before the relic was sent off to Immaculate Conception Seminary Academy (ICSA).

St. Padre Pio, who spent most of his life in monasteries in San Giovanni Rotondo and Pietrelcina, became famous for his healing abilities, drawing thousands of people from around the world to visit him.

He was also known for having the stigmata, which are the same wounds that Christ had on his hands, feet, and side.



PADRE PIO'S RELIC VISIT. Hundreds of Catholic devotees from Catanduanes State University gathered in the university lobby to venerate the sacred relics of St. Padre Pio.

Supporting student ventures:

A look inside

CatSU's first-ever Student Dev't Center



Albert G. Clemente

From the modern

exterior design of the building to its welcoming lobby, the first-ever Student Development Center at the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) seeks to build a space that encourages collaboration among its students.

Construction of its ground floor began in the first quarter of 2023, this P24.9 million building is the first-ever facility built in the university's 62-year history, intended to be utilized and managed by the students.

With a total floor area of 770 square meters, phase 1 was officially completed last month, December 2023.

Although the construction of its phase 2, second floor, is not running yet, the ground floor is now ready for occupancy, according to the chief of university's Project Management Office (PMO).

"Technically hindi pa tapos ang project kasi igwa pang phase 2, pero puwede nang gamiton 'yong ground floor kasi usable na siya," Project Development Officer III Engr. Renato T. Chong said.

TRANSFORMING INTO REALITY

This newest facility has become possible through the collaborative effort of Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza and former student regents Renz Mickenly Tanael (2021) and Angelo Piolo Laynes (2022), and incumbent student regent Francine Mae Tayo. While the project funding was facilitated by Sen. Juan Edgardo 'Sonny' Angara, Sen. Pia Cayetano, and Ako Bicol Partylist Representative Elizaldy S. Co, according to the university president.

"Alay natin ito sa mga CatSU students upang higit nilang ma-enjoy ang academic freedom sa loob ng campus," the president wrote in his Facebook post on September 18, 2023, after inspecting the construction site.

Here's a glance at the new building, which will house the Office of the Student Regent, University Student Council, Office of Student and Development Services (OSADS), Office of Student Scholarship Financial Assistance, Career Development & Placement Services (OSSFACDPS), and registered

student body organizations.

As a hub of resources and opportunities, OSADS Director Francis John B. Templonuevo expressed optimism about the transformative impact of the center on the campus community.

"Dedicating a well-equipped student center holds immense significance for the holistic development of CatSU students. A place where a sense of community will be fostered, as this encourages collaboration, communication, and the exchange of ideas among students under one roof, nurturing not only their academic success but also their personal growth,"

This newest facility will convene student leaders to share their passion and knowledge to better serve the studentry.

Located near Men's Dormitory, the entrance of the Student Center boasts a wide lobby, setting an inviting atmosphere.

With seven purpose-built rooms, this building has reserved space for student lounge, student activity area and meeting room, and includes two comfort rooms

for male and female, respectively.

"It is an open area for collaboration, not just for student leaders, but for CatSU students to utilize [the facility] in its full-capacity," the incumbent USC president said.

Acknowledging also the facility's amenities, former student regent Tanael shared in his post that this will be 'a place for the students to study, [where they can also avail of] computer and printing [services], and [use this] to practice for performances or even hold a symposium'.

With the possible services to be offered, Angel Clemente, a first year student from the College of Business and Accountancy (CBA), looked forward to its full operation.

"Malaking tulong sa aming mga estudyante, dahil makakatipid kami sa gastusin," she exclaimed.

Planning is also underway for the installation of wifi, partition walls, and aircon to the new building before its turnover, according to the incumbent student regent.



CatSU partners with int'l aid giant Help.NGO for cutting-edge resilience programs

Anjo G. Tugay

In its quest to strengthen the public and private sector partnership to help resilient communities, Catanduanes State University (CatSU) officials led by University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, welcomed the officials from Help.NGO, Monday, January 22, 2024.

The team, composed of Matthew Cua, Philippines Innovation and IT Director, and joined by Adam Marlatt, USA Operations Director, Agata Klat, Poland Communications Director, and Jose Felix, Philippines Expert on Mission, were welcomed by Executive Vice President Dr. Robert Barba, ATIC Director, Prof. Abelisa Evangelista, and Dr. Jimmy T. Masagca, CatSU's seasoned professor and member of National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission.

Help.NGO, an International

Non-Governmental Organization specializing in emergency response, preparedness, risk mitigation and prevention operates as a non-profit organization in the European Union and a UN Standby Partner with operations across the globe. The organization employs cutting-edge technological solutions and expertise to improve national and international disaster response mechanisms prior to, during, and after emergencies.

Having pioneered global training and resiliency initiatives, Help.NGO focuses on conducting impactful programs, including UAS (Unmanned Aerial System), LEO (Low Earth Orbit) Connectivity, and Cloud Computing training and capacity-building programs in various regions, spanning countries such as the European Union, Mexico, Haiti, Philippines, Colombia,

Ethiopia, among others.

The University President expressed satisfaction with this international collaboration, expressing his gratitude to the organization.

"We are happy with the collaboration that we have with Help.NGO. We appreciate the efforts now that they are set to do training for our university along with our partner organizations," Dr. Azanza shared.

In addition to training programs, Help.NGO also offers UAS and Cloud Computing support such as mapping and surveying mangrove forests, rehabilitation sites and nurseries as well as abaca plantations and nurseries throughout Catanduanes Island. The organization will offer a free one-year resource to process drone data into usable maps in the cloud, allowing CatSU to utilize its own UAS for various projects.

President Azanza highlighted the importance of disaster management projects for supporting the island's livelihood, emphasizing their role in achieving the institution's goal of becoming a National Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.

"Disaster management projects to support the island's livelihood are indeed necessary and significant in our goal to make the institution a National Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management. We are thankful and grateful for the opportunities like this that we get to be visited by experts," the president ended.



PRESIDENT'S



CORNER



COLISEUM SOON TO RISE AT CATSU. Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza meets with DPWH officials for the P300 million worth coliseum with 6,000 seating capacity to rise at CatSU.



OPTICAL CARE FOR ALL. Forty beneficiaries of eye care program of the CatSU president throw their all-out support to the Padagos na Patanos Movement.



SUPPORTING QUALITY HEALTHCARE. CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza personally delivered the donated health apparatuses from private donors to his home-barangay, Palnab Del Sur, which was received by Barangay Captain Hon. Reagan Lumbao.



LAW BOOKS DONATION. Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza extends his heartiest gratitude to Atty. Jose Cabrera and his wife, Atty. Lehua Co Lao-Cabrera, for their law books donation.

FEATURED PHOTOS

Welcoming an expert in the field of biogeochemistry, paleoclimate at CatSU: Meet and Greet 2024

Anjo G. Tugay

Under the visionary leadership of CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, the university is committed to achieving excellence in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The overarching goal is to contribute significantly to sustainable development in the Philippines, emphasizing leadership in climate change education, disaster risk reduction management, research, development, and extension.

In her role at Catanduanes State University, Dr. Tangunan will collaborate with the Natural Science Department of the College of Science and the university's Center for Island Climate Change Solutions. The objective is to enhance understanding of both current and future climate conditions, thereby supporting Philippine climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. This collaboration will specifically explore the impact of climate change on island agriculture and the local community.

Dr. Tangunan, who holds a Ph.D. in Geosciences from the University of Bremen, Germany, and is currently a Postdoctoral Investigator at the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, brings a wealth of expertise in biogeochemistry and paleoclimate research. Her research aligns seamlessly with the instructional, research, and extension activities pursued by the institution.

The planned activities during Dr. Tangunan's tenure at Catanduanes State University aim to not only advance scientific knowledge but also to contribute valuable insights that can inform and shape effective climate change strategies, particularly in the context of the island's agriculture and community well-being. The collaboration holds great promise for furthering the university's mission to be at the forefront of climate change solutions and sustainable development.



ACADEMIC DISCOURSE. After delivering her remarks, the Balik-Scientist awardee, Dr. Deborah Tangunan, had a casual conversation with Prof. Vicente Padilla, the Dean of the College of Science.



CatSU gets 1 starlink kit from Help.NGO

Albert G. Clemente

Intended for the university's techno-demo farm, the Catanduanes State University, through the Academe for Community Empowerment Through Holistic and Ecosystem-Based Approach for Mangrove Crab Sustainability (ACE-HEMS), received one Starlink kit from Help.NGO.

Sponsored by Amazon Web Services (AWS), the donated satellite communication kit was personally accepted by ACE-HEMS head, Professor Jimmy T. Masagca, from Help.NGO officials led by Philipines Innovation and IT Director Matthew Cua on Monday, January 29.

It can be noted that one of

the development goals under the present administration of University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza is partnering with reputable private entities "to help broaden knowledge, skills, and values that protect the natural environment and promote the achievement of sustainable development."

Aligning with this goal, as the Starlink kit satellite takes its place at CatSU's techno-demo farm, there is optimism that this technology will greatly support ACE-HEMS initiatives and the university's commitment to mangrove crab sustainability.



DONATED STARLINK. CatSU Professor Dr. Jimmy T. Masagca, the team leader of ACE-HEMS, poses with Help.NGO personnel while receiving the donated Starlink kit for the university's techno-demo farm.

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added.

For the activities to be undertaken during Dr. Tangunan's engagement at CatSU, she will be offering workshops in line with her expertise including biogeochemistry and paleoclimate research and showcase the happy island's geological history.

GETTING TO KNOW THE SCIENTIST

Dr. Deborah Tangunan is a geologist and climate scientist and currently a Marie Skłodowska Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences in Cardiff University, United Kingdom. She works on the biochemistry of marine phytoplankton, and what they can tell us about past climate, ecology,

ocean productivity, and marine carbonate chemistry, to better understand the present and future climate scenarios.

She obtained her BS degree in Agriculture major in Soil Science and MS degree in Geology at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños and Diliman, respectively, before moving to Germany to undertake her PhD in Geosciences at the University of Bremen, while working as a research scientist at the Center for Marine Environmental Sciences.

After earning her PhD in 2017, she then took a role as a Postdoctoral Investigator at the University of Salamanca in Spain and is now working on her project funded by the European Research Council in Cardiff University.

Dr. Tangunan is also keen on outreach work, participating in the Once Upon a Time series of science short stories, written to

engage the public about climate change and the importance of the marine environment, and has taken part in and won a number of science engagement and impact activities and grants such as Science slams, Falling Walls Lab, American Geophysical Union Centennial grant, among others.

In 2019, she had a short stint as a Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Balik Scientist, with the UP Institute of Environmental Sciences as the host institution. With CatSU CICCIS and the College of Science as host institution, Dr. Tangunan aims to foster collaboration with CatSU researchers, scientists, and faculty in the fields of climate, oceanography, and geosciences.

Dr. Tangunan hails from Lanao, Virac, Catanduanes, such a Catandunganon pride.

The meet and greet event was spearheaded by the CCIS led

by Engr. Dexter M. Toyado, and the International Relations and Continuing Professional Development Services office, led by its director, Ms. Zyra Mae T. Tumala.

It was attended by faculty members and students from the colleges of Science, Education, and Agriculture and Fisheries.

Joining also the event were Faculty Regent Hon. Danilo Murillo, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs Engr. Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda, and Executive Vice President Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr.

Be obsessed with life skills, not just with grades - DOLE official urges graduating CatSU students during labor education seminar

Albert G. Clemente

“Do not just be obsessed with your school grades, be obsessed with your life skills and potential.”

This was the reminder of DOLE Senior Labor Employment Officer Jomell S. Pasano to hundreds of fourth-year students from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUMMS) who attended the labor education and career coaching seminar this Monday morning, January 29.

Serving as a resource speaker, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) official from the Catanduanes Field Office also told the participants to gain short courses 40 hours a year.

“Gamitin ninyo ang mga online platform lalo na ‘yong mga nagbibigay ng mga free training,” he furthered and also asked the future employees of the country to equip themselves with these important skills: communication, initiative, negotiation, teamwork, and stress management.

The senior labor employment officer also walked through the students in the country’s employment situation, the top 10 highest paying occupations and in-demand jobs, and the required eligibility, in any case, the participants opted to be part of the government workforce after graduation.

Meanwhile, DOLE Senior



INSPIRING REMARKS. During a labor education seminar, Mr. Jomell S. Pasano, Senior Labor Employment Officer from DOLE, encouraged graduating students to prioritize enhancing their life skills over obtaining high grades.

Labor Employment Officer Danilo Balilo delved into the salient provisions of the labor code such as the security of tenure, wage order, premium pay for special and regular holidays, and service incentive leave.

For BS Economics student Wendy Tolledo, who has been a working student since her first year in college, the seminar is a good platform to raise awareness of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace as an intern and future workers.

“Magayon ang event lalo na yapasabot ang about sa labor code, kung saan importante ito bago pumasok sa work,” she said.

“Makatuwang siya sa mga estudyante para magkaigwang ideya sa pag-apply ning trabaho. Kung ano ang mga need, about sa salary, and management rules,” Tolledo concluded.

Organized by CatSU-Alumni Relation Services as the Public Employment Services Office (PESO) and Office of Student Scholarship, Financial Assistance, Career Development, and Placement Services (OSSFACDPS), the College of Education (COEd) students also took part in the said activity in the afternoon session.

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College of Information and Communications Technology.

For today’s session, January 18, College of Industrial Technology (CIT) students are the participants.

Other colleges are scheduled on the following dates: January 19, College of Business and Accountancy (morning) and College of Sciences (afternoon); and on January 29, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (morning) and

the College of Education (afternoon).

Students from two remaining colleges, the College of Engineering and Architecture, and the College of Health Sciences, including the Panganiban Campus, are set to embark on similar activity in March or April this year, according to the alumni office director.

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stationed] madari an pag-coordinate. Pero kailan pa ring maghuroron,” she strongly stated.

C a t S U - N S T P faculty and students are optimistic about providing continuous community support, empowering the youth’s involvement in nation-building, and enlivening children’s hope.



HERALD

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

The **HERALD** complements the multi-platform communication arm of CCMS Office which utilizes print, radio broadcasting, 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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