October has been a full month of accomplishments for Bicol University in terms of activities both in-house and through partnerships. We have indeed gained recognition in the community we serve, as seen in the number of agencies who have tied up with us for programs and projects. It is an affirmation that our vision is achievable.

We also continue to gain and maintain recognition in national licensure examinations, as we constantly produce top notchers and achieve passing percentages higher than the national rating. We shall not waver in our determination to excel in all our program offerings.

We have succeeded in the AACCUP accreditation of sixteen more programs in five different colleges. We look forward to the ISO external audit, which we welcome wholeheartedly as a process that will continue to improve the quality of our services to our clientele.

With the strategic planning which we conducted with the different stakeholders of the university, I am positive that we are moving forward in the right direction. I thank all of you for your heart-warming support to this administration, apparent even as we have only finished our seventh month. May that support stay on until the end of my term and beyond.

BU programs get AACCUP nod

Bicol University once again proved its mettle when 16 of its degree programs in three campuses passed the accreditation in the recent survey visit of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) held last September 29-October 2, 2015.

Six programs from three colleges qualified for Level III accreditation. Among these were the AB Sociology, AB Peace Studies, AB Political Science and BS Social Work programs from the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (CSSP), AB English from the College of Arts and Letters (CAL) and BS Entrepreneurship from the College of Business Economics and Management (CBEM).

Two programs from the College of Industrial Technology—BS Automotive and BS Electronics were confirmed Level II Re-accredited and so was the AB Philosophy program from CSSP. Qualified for Level I accreditation were five programs from the Tabaco Campus—AB Secondary Education, BS Entrepreneurship, BS Food Technology, BS Nursing and BS Social Work. AB Broadcasting from CAL also qualified for Level I accreditation.

CBEM, which also applied its BS in Business Management (majors: Human Resources, Development Management, Operations Management, Financial Management and Microfinance) for a preliminary survey was likewise granted a Candidate status.

Meanwhile, AACCUP has yet to reveal the accreditation results of three programs from CBEM—BS Management, BS Accountancy, BS Entrepreneurship, and one program from the College of Business Administration.

China Ambassador donates 1M to BU

China’s ambassador to the Philippines donated a check of P1M to Bicol University (BU) to be utilized towards promoting cooperation, exchanges, and research collaborations between BU and universities in China last October 15, 2015 at the General Administration Support Services Conference Room.

BU is 3rd Top Performing School in CPA exam, Rañosoa takes 10th place

A magna-cum laude graduate of Bicol University College of Business Economics and Management (BU CBEM) placed 10th in the recent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensure examination, with BU bagging the third spot in the list of top performing schools in accountancy.

Monico Paulo B. Rañosoa, one of the Ten Outstanding Students of Bicol (TOSB) and BU’s Outstanding Graduate for 2015 earned the 10th place in the CPA examination.
BU hosts 2015 Bicol GIS roadshow

More than 100 participants from different universities, local government units, and government and non-government agencies gathered at Bicol University (BU) Amphitheatre to participate in the 2015 Bicol Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Conference held last October 28-30, 2015.

With the theme, “GIS: A Platform for Understanding Our Communities,” the three-day conference aimed to shed light on the use of GIS technology, a computerized system for the handling, management, organization, processing, and analysis, as well as presentation and dissemination of geographically referenced information to support the business process of planning, management, and operation of any establishment.

Geodata Systems Technology, Inc. (Geodata), the leading GIS and mapping solution provider in the Philippines chose Bicol University to host the Region V leg of their GIS roadshow.

In his welcome speech, BU President Arnulfo M. Mascarinas lauded Geodata for partnering with the university for this endeavor. He also urged the participants to learn more about GIS technologies to further improve their respective institutions.

Geodata Executive Vice-President and Managing Director Francisca Dayrit said understanding precedes action, claiming that the aim of the event is to make GIS technologies known so that institutions can use it wisely and to the widest extent. (Jona V. Castañeda, OP)

PAEDA from Page 4

Plenary sessions gave way to the following topics and speakers: “Is Philippine Agriculture Readying for Green Economic Integration?” by Dr. William D. Dar, President of Inang Lupa Movement; “Small Enterprise Technology: Upgrading Program Setup” by Dr. Urdaneta, Assistant Secretary and Program Manager of the Countryside Development Program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and “Opportunities and Challenges for Green Agriculture in the Southeast Asian Nations: Focus on the Philippines” by Mr. Pablito M. Villal, Owner/Entertainer of Villegas Organic and Happy Farms Complex, Managing Director of KASAMA KA Organic Kooperatib, Co-founder of Southeast Asia INFO/FIOAM Farmer’s Sectoral Body, President of the Council of Filipino Consultants, and Vice President, Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations (COFCIO).

The first part of the parallel sessions was held at the Philippine Convention Center Legazpi City, and the second part at the Bicol University College of Business, Economics, Management, and Technology. The sessions were divided into four clusters which focused on “building the momentum and gaining the edge” thru: Agricultural Competitiveness and Supply/Value Chain Oriented Development; Better Governance, Institutions and Policy Reforms; Sustainable Development; and Small Farmer’s Employment, Generation, Transfer and Utilization.

PAEDA is a non-profit, non stock corporation organized by professionals in agricultural and development economics that helps promote small-farmer productivity and profitability in the Philippines. (Earl Epson L. Recamunda/BUCE)

M&D from p.4

and Prof. Ronel M. Villanueva who presented the statistical data analysis and background of the study, respectively. The City Government was rendered support by Ms. Jose Villanueva, in behalf of Maricel Joloc, both from the City Planning and Development Office, Technical Working Group-Migration for Development Legazpi City, and the second leg of their GIS roadshow.

At his welcome speech, BU President Arnulfo M. Mascarinas lauded Geodata for partnering with the university for this endeavor. He also urged the participants to learn more about GIS technologies to further improve their respective institutions.

M&D Executive Vice-President and Managing Director Francisca Dayrit said understanding precedes action, claiming that the aim of the event is to make GIS technologies known so that institutions can use it wisely and to the widest extent. (Jona V. Castañeda, OP)

Planning from p.4

service and institutional development programs for presentation and discussion by the bigger body. The gleaned outputs will be consolidated and presented back to the body for comments, finalization, and presentation to the BU Board of Regents during its 1st quarter meeting come March 2016. (Ma. Celina G. Meneses/OP)

BUCM conducts acupuncture training

Bicol University College of Medicine (BUCM) through the BU Extension Service Center (BUESC) held the first 5-day basic acupuncture course dubbed “Medisina Para sa Lahat” (MAPALA) last October 12-16, 2015.

In collaboration with the Department of Health-Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative HealthCare (DOSH-PITAHC), and the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH), the event aimed to promote the use of acupuncture as a strategy to enhance the health professionals of BRTTH and BUCM.

Dr. Francis Ras and Mr. Aquilino Oñes, both from PITAHC, spearheaded the lectures, demonstrations, group discussions, and plenary sessions for the whole event.

The first three days focused on the overview and theories of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), yin and yang, fundamental substances, and acupuncture points. The last two days centered on diagnosis and assessing patient conditions, acupuncture techniques, and acupuncture patient profile form discussion.

Participants from both BRTTH and BUCM who are nurses, faculty-doctors, health promotion, staff, and students attended the event. (Christine Z. Andes/BUCM)

NC from p.4

Olague, Extension Coordinator Rodel Ninofranco, and Ladderized Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Head Dr. Nera Galan. The affiliate Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH) Nursing Service Department OIC Chief Nurse Rosario Bigay, Supervisor Nurse Cecilia dela Peña, Training Officer Nurse Edith Grona and Delivery Room (DR) Supervisor Nurse Evelyn Nebres were likewise interviewed.

The validation visited culmination in the presentation of the strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations prepared by the TRC to BU President Arnulfo M. Mascarinas, Vice President for Academic Affairs Helen M. Llaneras, and BUCEC administrators. Result will be released by December or before the end of 2015. (Ruby L. Mediona / BUCN)
BU President is New Vice Chair of BCAARRD

Bicol University (BU) President Dr. Arnulfo M. Mascarías was elected as the new Vice-Chairperson of the Bicol Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (BCAARRD) during the Regional Research and Development Coordinating Committee (RRDCC) meeting held at Bicol University last October 5, 2015.

Under the leadership of the new RRDCC Chair, Dr. Tomas Briñas and Vice-Chair Dr. Arnulfo M. Mascarías, BCAARRD remains hopeful in achieving its mission of institutionalizing and promoting integrated Science and Technology (S&T) development for Agriculture, Aquatic, Forestry and Natural Resources (AANR) sectors in support to regional and national development.

Bicol University has been BCAARRD’s host agency for the last 11 years, with former presidents Dr. Susana C. Cabredo and Dr. Fay Lea Patria M. Lauraya having served as RRDCC Chairs. After the end of Lauraya’s term, then Vice Chairperson, Dr. Tomas B. Briñas, Regional Director of DOST V automatically assumed the position of Vice Chairperson.

Donation from p.1

In his speech during the turn-over program, Ambassador Zhao Jianhua praised BU for starting only the beginning as he expressed his wish of establishing a Confucius classroom in Bicol University to be set up by the Confucius Institute in China through which student exchanges may be arranged, along with research and development projects on areas of interest to the university, subject to BU administrators’ approval.

China is going to be your friend, your partner, and your good neighbor forever,” he assured.

BU President Arnulfo M. Mascarías, who received the check on behalf of the university, expressed his gratitude as he accepted the amount “We believe that China and the Philippines can work collaboratively for more productive endeavors,” he said.

Mascarías also declared that the donation will be a great help towards achieving the university’s vision of becoming a world-class university.

This engagement was made possible through the efforts of Congressman Al Francis Bichara, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

A total of 31 participants from four provinces in Bicol attended the workshop consisting of farmers and members of the indigenous people’s organization in the region.

The workshop is part of a project by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Bicol University.

The two-day training aimed to address the problems in the native chicken industry. During the workshop, farmer beneficiaries of the said project were taught how to enhance the production of native chicken in their respective farms. Through the workshop, the participants were able to enhance their knowledge and initial skills on the different aspects of sustainable quality native chicken production and marketing to match consumer preferences. The project is part of a research on purification, improvement, and sustainable utilization of native chicken strains in Bohol, Bicol, and Zamboanga Peninsula, conducted by faculty members from BUCAF assisted by Dr. Teresita B. Pequeña, the national program leader.

A training workshop on purified Camarines native chicken production was organized by the Bicol University College of Agriculture and Forestry (BUCAF) on October 27-28, 2015 at the Farmer’s Training Center Hall, BUCAF, Guinobatan, Albay.

BU President Arnulfo M. Mascarías, who received the check on behalf of the university, expressed his gratitude as he accepted the amount “We believe that China and the Philippines can work collaboratively for more productive endeavors,” he said.

Mascarías also declared that the donation will be a great help towards achieving the university’s vision of becoming a world-class university.

This engagement was made possible through the efforts of Congressman Al Francis Bichara, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. (Jona V. Castañeda/OP)
BU hosts PAEDA 50th Biennial Convention

Bicol University (BU) hosted the Philippine Agricultural Economics and Development Association (PAEDA)’s 50th Biennial Convention last October 22-23, 2015 with the theme “Helping Philippine Agriculture Build the Momentum and Gain the Edge in an Integrated ASEAN Economy.”

The opening ceremony was graced by the Mayor of Legazpi City, Honorable Noel E. Rosal, Bicol University President Arnulfo M. Mascarinas, and PAEDA President Ernesto O. Brown, who all welcomed the participants to the convention.

PAEDA’s Most Outstanding Member for 2013-2015, Dr. Cielito F. Habito, was this year’s keynote speaker. He was invited by PAEDA Vice President Melvin B. Carlos, a Professor of Economics in Ateneo de Manila University. His speech, titled “AEC, TPP and Implications in Philippine Agriculture” focused on the effects of the ASEAN Integration 2015 in the Philippines.

Strategic planning to pave way towards world-class stature

Bicol University’s (BU) top and middle managers together with its different sectoral representatives gathered together in a strategic planning held last October 26 to 30, 2015.

Subscribing to the idea that world-class stature entails personnel empowerment, the president, vice presidents, deans and directors, heads of key offices, and representatives of faculty, non-teaching staff, students, alumni, and the private sector of BU came together to thresh out issues, concerns, and propose strategic options that would serve as objective basis for a ten-year development plan for the university.

Facilitated by Dr. Rogelio V. Cuyo, retired former chancellor of the University of the Philippines-Mindanao, the workshop design espoused a bottom-up process. Cuyo explained that this bottom-up process gives people a sense of ownership for the final output, which enables them to participate to work hard towards making its implementation successful. “If you own it, you will defend it to the teeth,” he stressed.

Dr. Joseph L. Bartolata, Chief of the Planning and Management Office explained that the purpose of the activity is to charter the course of the university for the next four years by focusing on housekeeping and the introduction of developmental initiatives. He also lauded Cuyo’s workshop design. “Marang ka yun design—participatory, galing sa baba.” (The design is good—participatory, galing sa baba.)

A total of 250 participants from all over the Philippines attended the 2nd National Academic Colloquium on Education, Science, Technology and Management (ESTEM), organized by the Bicol University Graduate School with sponsorships from Gabay Guro and the Province of Albay, and centered on the theme: “Upgrading Graduate Education through Improved Scientific Productivity” on October 19 to 21 at the La Piazza Hotel and Convention Center in Legazpi City.

In his keynote speech rendered through a video presentation, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner Alex B. Brilliandes highlighted access and quality as the key factors in the improvement of higher education in the country. He also discussed a framework of governance and reform, emphasizing that higher education, together with the mindset of the people, and leadership and citizen engagements as enabling mechanisms, are important if reforms are to be realized.

Mr. and Ms. BU crowned Mr. and Ms. SCUAA Bicol 2015

Newly crowned Mr. and Ms. Bicol University bagged the Mr. and Ms. SCUAA Bicol 2015 title respectively during the SCUAA V beauty pageant held at the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC), Nabua, Camarines Sur last October 2, 2015.

Psalm David Preña from the College of Business, Economics, and Management (CBEM) and Christine Arnedo from the College of Nursing (CN) bested eight other candidates from different state colleges and state universities in the region to emerge as this year’s grand winners.

In another story, Miss College of Arts and Letters (CAL) Evine Claire Pielago was crowned Ms. Governor’s Cup 2015 and Mr. College of Education (CE) Kent Lemin was crowned Mr. Governor’s Cup 2015 last October 1, 2015. The Institute of Physical Education, Sports and Recreation (IPESR) also bagged the Governor’s Cup 2015 Cheerleader Dance competition held at the Albay Astrodome. (Earl L. Recamunda/OP)

M & D Legazpi research team conducts research write-shop for Migration and Development project

A two-day Research Write-shop on Migration for Development by the Migration and Development (M & D) Research Team from the Commission on Higher Education Project Leader and Associate Dean Dr. Renelyn E. Bautista, was recently held at the Demo Hall of Bicol University College of Education, Daraga, Albay from October 27 to 28, 2015, in preparation for the writing and documentation process of the research on Profiles of Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and OF Families in Legazpi City.

Said research is based on a Memorandum of Agreement between Bicol University and Social Action Center-Dioecese of Legazpi involving two other BUCE faculty commissioned by SAC-Legazpi as volunteer-researchers, namely, Prof. Ruby R. Brillantes and Prof. Gladys Serafica.

BUCN undergoes validation visit for COE/COD

Bicol University College of Nursing (BUCN) underwent a validation visit last October 27-28, 2015 in connection with its application for Center of Excellence (COE) / Center of Development (COD).

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) for Nursing Education was comprised of Dr. Fely Marilyn Lorenzo, former Dean of the College of Education at the University of the Philippines (UP), and Dr. Evalyn Abalos, Dean of the College of Nursing at Siliman University, Iloilo City. They were joined by Mr. Cymen Alipin Evasco from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Central Office in Manila, and Mrs. Jean Bautista Cadiaga, CHED Region V Office in Legazpi City.

Categories for the assessment were the institutional qualification,