With great joy and anticipation, I welcome the 27,224 enrollees of school year 2015-2016, especially the 7,561 freshmen who are very lucky to have made it to Bicol University. You are the envy of thousands of others who tried but who did not make it.

As your new president, it is my pleasure to have you join me as we journey towards becoming a world-class university producing leaders and change-agents for social transformation and development. Such is my vision for you.

As this new school year starts, let us all look forward to a full four years of dedicated hard work, living by the four pillars of the university: leadership, scholarship, character, and service. That way, we will surely make a good head start towards the achievement of our vision. It is not going to be easy, nor fast. But we will get there.

As I have always said, the best is yet to come!

Mascariñas formally endowed BU presidency

One hundred and one days after taking office, Dr. Arnulfo M. Mascariñas was formally invested as the eighth president of Bicol University at the St. Gregory the Great Cathedral in Legazpi City, Thursday.

Mascariñas, whose first day in office was last March 9, won seven out of 11 or 82 percent of the votes in the Special Board Meeting held last March 4 at Diliman, Quezon City, winning against three other presidentiables. The investiture rites proceeded smoothly after the salutation given by the House Committee on Higher Technical Education Chairperson Roman T. Romulo.

Vice-president for Academic Affairs Helen M. Llenaresas introduced the president. She was followed by Atty. Norly P. Reyes, acting university and board secretary, who read the Diploma of Appointment. Board of Regents Private Sector Representatives Hardy M. Aquende and Clemente A. Ibo, and BOR Faculty Regent Noel R. Rafer vested the academic gown and hood.

In an effort to inspire the Bicol University College of Nursing (BUCN) students to go on and strive harder as they study and train to become professional nurses, the college invited one of its alumni to lecture on advanced practices forum

CN alumnus lectures in nursing practices forum

Bicol University (BU) once again proved that it is the home of topnotchers as a College of Nursing alumnus topped the May 2015 Nursing Licensure Examination (NLE).

Benedict Rey Montas Serrano garnered a rating of 86.40 percent, besting 17,891 other examinees from various nursing schools.
Center for Technology Commercialization and Enterprise Development launched

Bicol University launched Commercialization and (BUCTCED) last June 26

Regional Research Center (HERRC) Amphitheatre.

The event was attended by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPhil) Director Carmen G. Peralta, BU President Dr. Arnulfo Mascariñas, BU officials, faculty, and students.

The new center will take charge of various activities in support of the commercialization of BU-generated technologies like actual licensing, making start-ups, industry collaboration, advertising, business planning, and marketing.

The center aims to: function as technology business incubation of educational and research output of the students and faculty of the university; develop business portfolios for generated technologies as a tool for product promotion and commercialization; collaborate with business industries and organizations to be able to promote mature technologies that can be adopted by the community; access funding assistance to finance the start-up and spin-off of generated technologies; and provide business assistance to prospective entrepreneurs along business enterprise development and management.

The center will be headed by Engr. Christopher O. Pacardo under the supervision of Prof. Ronnel R. Dioneda Sr., director of the Research and Development Center (RDC). It is located at the HERRC Bldg., BU East Campus, Legazpi City. (reports from RDC)

BUHS Class ‘90 donates e-learning system tools

The class ‘90 of the Bicol University Highschool launched the e-library system they created for the BU-College of Education Integrated Laboratories High School last June 26.

The donation was part of Project E-Library’s official launch and turnover ceremony.

The alumni donated 35 units of android tablets, which are preinstalled with over a thousand e-books and references that the students can use in studying. The e-library also consists of Filipino books. (R.A. Ostria with reports from Earl Recamunda/OP)

nursing practices during the “BalikTuro By An Alumnus: An Educational Forum” last June 23 at the CN Amphitheater.

Jasper L. Tolarba, who earned his bachelor’s degree from BUCN in 1996, accepted the invitation pro bono to motivate third and fourth year students with his personal anecdotes and experiences.

The forum was initially planned as an activity between BUCN and its alumni for the benefit of the young nurse enthusiasts. The BUCN administration, faculty members, and non-teaching staff also attended the said event.

Tolarba is currently the Director of Nursing in Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He acquired his doctorate degree in 2015 at Yale University in Connecticut and his Master’s degree in 2007 from Xavier University in Ohio. (Maria Della Rañeses-Cruz/CN)

in the country.

Serrano, who is also the topnotcher in the Midwifery Licensure Examinations last April 2013 having garnered an 89.70 percent rating, graduated cum laude last March. In pursuit of a dream, he immediately took the opportunity of enrolling at Bicol University College of Medicine, despite financial constraints.

Serrano said that though his parents are both working as teachers, they have been struggling to afford his tuition fees. He also admitted that it would be hard for him if he applies for work while pursuing Medicine.

“Studying nursing is costly, much more in [sic] taking up Medicine. As a freshman, I am looking for scholarships. I hope the NLE result could help me in finding one for my next journey. I’m really hoping,” he said.

Being the eldest, he also considers the needs of his third-year college sister and grade four brother.

“We usually have a problem in paying our tuition fees especially when my parents’ salaries are delayed,” he added.

His parents, Dennis and Teodora, are working at Pag-asia National High School, a kilometer away from their residence.

In high school, Serrano became interested in human anatomy and human health.

He said he did not expect to top the board exams.

“The exam was really tough. I don’t stay up late at night just to study because I know it’s not good for my health. I am just so happy and inspired to invest for education,” he said.

Despite the lack of work opportunities for nursing graduates in the country, the new nurse is still encouraging his fellows to pursue the same field.

“If you really work hard and if you invest in it, there will be a plentiful harvest,” he stressed.

Aside from Serrano, six more graduates of BU were also placers in the exam. Marinell Ala Atos took the third spot with 85.60 percent rating, Kristine Peralta and Teodora Serrano’s hard work and studying.

Dimatulac got ninth place with 84.80 percent, Ma. Marie Basas got sixth place with 84.80 percent, Ma. Jella Turallo, Michelle Ann Hilis and Dayanara Galpo Mier.

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Bicol University joins coastal cleanup drive

Bicol University students under the National Service Training Program participated in the Coastal Cleanup-cum-Zumba organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Management Bureau Region V, last June 27 along the shorelines of Barangay Dapdap, Victory Village, and Puro in Legazpi City Albay.

This is in celebration of the Philippine Environment Month which aims to preserve the marine ecosystem and promote solid waste management among coastal communities. Members of the coast guard, navy, and employees of local businesses also participated in the event. The participants were invited to join the Zumba exercise before the cleanup proper. 

(Events with reports from Earl Recamunda/OP)

The president’s immediate family members assisted BOR member Agnes M. Espinas in the imposition of the academic medallion.

Commission on Higher Education Chairperson Patricia B. Licuanan was represented by Dr. Alex Brillantes, CHED commissioner, who gave the mace, which represents the university’s governing authority. Brillantes gave a message from CHED.

A thanksgiving mass officiated by Most Reverend Bro. Joel Zamudio Baylon was held before the investiture ceremonies.

Investiture Speech

He kicked-off his investiture speech by recalling the hardships and the challenges he had to face when he was growing up in Ligao City that contributed to his views and values. He said that he did not originally intend to become part of the academe.

“I dreamed of becoming either a chemical engineer or a lawyer,” Mascariñas said. “Had I not accepted the scholarship grant from Philippine Coconut Producers Federation, Inc. (CocoFed) to take up Agriculture, I would not be standing here.

“I never got the chance to farm as I was given jobs that would prepare me for this major assignment and responsibility as the eight BU president.”

Mascariñas thanked his predecessor Dr. Lyila Corporal Sena, BU’s fourth president.

“I cannot thank [Sena] enough for giving an unknown faculty member like me the break and the trust to help her administration chart the direction of BU,” he said.

In 1995, Mascariñas was designated by Sena as the Assistant for the President for Planning and Development in concurrent capacity as the university planning officer.

He continued his speech by thanking the sixth president, Dr. Susana C. Cabredo, who asked him to be the dean of the BU Graduate School, his first administrative position.

He then thanked Dr. Fay Lea Patria M. Lauraya, the seventh president, who offered him a position as the director of the BU Research and Development Center.

“I thank [Lauraya] for knowing and consequently tapping my strengths and for still has a long way to go before being world-class, he said he is determined to reinforce values and proper conduct among students.

“Becoming world-class should not only be reflected in [a university’s] modern facilities and infrastructures, but also in attitudes and behaviors.”

Admitting that BU

Attendees

In his salutation, Romulo said that of all the investiture ceremonies he was able to attend, Mascariñas’ investiture was the most grandiose.

The event was attended by faculty members and retirees, students, vice-presidents, deans, directors, department heads, the president’s immediate and extended family and friends, Board of Regents members, the university’s former presidents, presidents of other state universities and colleges, Albay Governor Joey Salceda, municipal mayors in Albay, and congressmen from Albay, Sorsogon, and Camarines Sur.

Messages At The Reception

After the investiture ceremony, the attendees met at a dinner at La Piazza Convention Center in Legazpi City. University faculty members, staff, and students gave their commitment messages to Mascariñas, telling him that they support his plans for the university.

During his speech Dr. Mascariñas once again expressed his gratitude to the people who supported him in his journey to the presidency.

(R.A. Ostria with reports from Earl Recamunda/OP)
Pitching Workshop on Bicol University-Based Technologies

The newly launched Center for Technology Commercialization and Enterprise Development (CTCED) conducted Pitching Workshop on Bicol University-Based Technologies last June 24 to 26 at the HERCC Amphitheatre, BU East Campus, Legazpi City. Technology workshop presentations were done on the first and second day, with the actual pitching presentations on the third day. Topics discussed were, "Technology Disclosure, Technology Viability and Market Relevance"; "The Property Control Position, Constructing the Pitch Presentation, The Cost-to-Develop vs. Risk and the ‘ROI’ Equation"; "Earlystage Technology Valuation, Technology Marketing & Start-ups as a Licensing Strategy; and "Technology Value & License Negotiation". The said activity was participated by the staff, faculty, researchers, inventors, and students of Bicol University, and guests, Hon. Alan Rañola, Entrep City Councilor of Legazpi, Mr. Bong Aspe, Owner, 1st Colonial Grill, Mr. Carlo Buenaflor, CEO, Biggs Diner, and Ms. Rosemarie Quinto-Rey, President, NICP.

Enrolment increases 7.6 percent

An increase of 7.6 percent in enrolment was reported by the Bicol University Registrar’s Office for thee first semester of the school year 2015 to 2016.

A total of 27,224 enroled this year, compared to the 25,242 from the previous semester.

There are 465 students in elementary level and 348 in secondary level. For Tertiary Level: 7,561 freshmen; 8,057 sophomores; 5,174 juniors; 4,943 fourth year students; and 678 are in their fifth year. Polangui Campus has the most numbered of students from first year to fifth year with a total of 3,546 enrollees.

In all year levels, the enrolment exceeded the registrar’s target. (Jona V. Castañeda/OP)