Bicol University Batch 2012 has achieved a grand slam for its various board courses, with at least one topnotcher in every licensure exam, and with all courses attaining a passing rate above the national rate, and, more importantly, above our targeted passing rate. My warmest congratulations to all our successful alumni! Special commendations to Batch 2012: you are truly the University’s dragons.

On the international front, BU is on track as we anticipate the implementation of the ASEAN 2015 Mobility of Professionals. We shall prepare our graduates to make them ready and at par with those of other universities in the country and abroad. To start, we are forging new partnerships with Asian schools, to expand our network in the international community.

This 2012, we have successfully hosted three international conferences, with one more coming in December. In 2013, we look forward to creating international congresses participated in by our sister schools in Asia and Europe. The excitement is now building up!

BU shares best practices, forges partnerships in Asian University Presidents Forum, Korea

Bicol University made waves in the national board examinations for various professions, particularly for having top notchers in the CPA, Mechanical Engineers, and Fisheries Technologists Board Examinations. It likewise gained recognition as second Top Performing School in the country for the October 2012 CPA Board Examinations, with 96.83% passing percentage, next only to UP Diliman. Out of the 63 takers from BU, 61 passed.

Among the passers is Jannine Czarina B. Torralba, who placed 7th nationwide with a 92.71% rating. Torralba is Bicol University’s Outstanding University Graduate of 2012.

BUCENG graduates Darylle C. Dacillo and Emmanuel A. Garcia meanwhile placed second and tenth respectively in the National board exams for Mechanical Engineers. Dacillo made a 94.35% rating, while Garcia a 92.75% mark.

Bicol University totaled 41 passers out of 50 takers, for an 82% passing percentage ranking 7th among the top performing schools in the country. National passing rate is 69.86%.

Finally, BUTC graduates Marvi Clare Mortega and Ian Chris Buban placed 3rd, and Michael dela Cruz, 10th in the Fisheries Technologists Licensure Exams. BUTC reported a 45.45% passing rate which is above the national passing rate of 25.26%, and was acclaimed 7th Top Performing School in the country.

BU lands one, two, three top notchers in board exams; is 2nd top performing school for CPA

Bicol University exchanged signatures with eleven universities, and sealed partnerships as sister-schools for academic cooperation and for mutual support of common goals towards internationalization and globalization. This was an offshoot of the 11th Asian University Presidents Forum (AUPF) in Busan, South Korea, last October 28-31, attended by BU.

BU Shares... p3
BU anticipates K to 12 changes in higher ed thru planning workshop

BICOL UNIVERSITY carried out a planning workshop to address inevitable changes that the government’s newly-implemented K to 12 educational program will bring about come 2016, especially at the tertiary level.

The activity, dubbed “Planning Workshop on Bicol University’s Response to the Implementation of the Revised New General Education Program along with the K to 12 Curriculum and Strategic Planning for Enhancing Competencies of Graduates to Meet ASEAN 2015 Mobility of Professionals” was held on October 2-3 at the BU CS Building 1 Function Hall, and was attended by the deans, directors, department heads, registrars, and other key personnel of different units of the university.

Discussed during the planning workshop were the DepEd SHS Curriculum by Dr. Epifania Nuñez, Asst. dean of BUCE; the New GE Program by Dr. Maria B. Sarte, University Dep’t. Chair for English and Dr. Leonila B. Barbacena, Dep’t Chair for Education (BUTC); ASEAN 2015 Global Mobility for Professionals by Dr. Elenita Tan, OIC of the Professional Regulations Commission, Legazpi Regional Office; and Aspects of Internationalization by Dr. Fay Lea Patria M. Lauraya, BU President.

Outputs of the planning workshop included a realignment of the curriculum under the General Education Program to complement the K to 12 curriculum, faculty loading and plans for retooling, and plans for addressing the 2015 ASEAN Mobility of Professionals.

Future planning workshops are yet to be held per college/unit to address specific concerns including faculty loading among service colleges whose subjects offered will significantly decrease. Meanwhile, said colleges are expected to come up with proposals that may help solve such problems. (Ma. Celina G. Meneses/OP)

BUGS holds 2nd International Academic Colloquium

BICOL UNIVERSITY held its 2nd International Academic Colloquium on October 11 to 13 at the Concourse Convention Center in Legazpi City, as part of its Graduate School’s 41st anniversary. The three-day colloquium dwelt on the theme, “Reforms and Innovations in Higher and Advanced Education towards National Development and Productivity”, and was attended by over 300 academics, political and community leaders, and educators, including internationally renowned resource speakers who discussed topics related to the theme.

The activity aimed to “heighten awareness and knowledge about educational reforms and innovations in advanced education,” and explored “national as well as international issues affecting higher education in an effort to responsively address the call of the present age towards national development and productivity.”

Parallel paper presentations were made during the second day, covering the following thematic areas: Agriculture and Fisheries; Science and Technology, Health Sciences, to include Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation; Business, Economics, and Management; Graduate Education and Teacher Education; Social Sciences, Language, Culture, and Arts; and Peace and Security Studies. A total of 125 participants presented papers on the listed sub-themes.

As an offshoot of the three-day activity, collaborations were made among participants for future projects and activities, especially involving research. 

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**College of Medicine curriculum planning held**

PREPARATIONS for the opening of the College of Medicine, targeted for school year 2014-2015, are well under way. On October 5-6, doctors from Bicol Regional Teaching and Training Hospital (BRTTH), Bicol Medical Center (BMC), and other hospitals, along with representatives from the Albay Provincial Health Office (PHO), the Department of Health (DOH), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) came together to discuss factors that affect the opening of the college, and the type of curriculum to be used for the medical course to be offered by Bicol University, in consideration of such factors.

Particularly discussed were the economic and socio-political situation of the province and the region in general, as presented by the Assistant Regional Director of NEDA, Mr. Luis G. Banua, and the health scenario of the region, reported by Dr. Raoul Emmanuel Zantua from the DOH-Center for Health Development.

The importance of a state-owned college of medicine in the region was emphasized, noting particularly the need for community doctors rather than hospital-based ones.

Discussed as well were two learning styles, that of the conventional and the problem-based mode. It was decided that a combination of conventional and problem-based education be adopted, to accommodate both the usual lectures and simulations, and actual exposures to cases or health-based problems. It was agreed that such strategy will result in maximized learning among students.

Other discussions included an overview of the proposed BU College of Medicine, BU studies on the various aspects of the health system, highlights of the commission report on the education of health professionals, CHED requirements and the comments of the Technical Panel on Medical Education, Philosophy of Learning and the Need for Integration, and curriculum development. Present in the discussions were Dr. Ruben Caragay, former dean of the UP School for Public Health, and Dr. Teresa L. Yap, former dean of UERM Graduate School, who are the prospective dean and assistant dean, respectively, for the college.

Dr. Nemuel Fajutagana of UP Manila and the National Teachers Training Center for Health Professionals particularly shared much input on curriculum development innovations for the proposed medical course.

The second day of the planning workshop was devoted to the conceptualization of the VMGO of the College of Medicine, and the improvement of the proposed curriculum.

It is expected that until its actual opening in 2014, many changes may still be made towards implementing what is best for the college. As

**BU SHARES... (from pl)**

President Fay Lea Patria M. Lauraya, together with Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Helen M. Llenares, and Dr. Ma. Juliesta B. Borres (BUCAI Dean), Prof. Domingo Ll. Nace (BUGC Director), Prof. Mary Lou C. Borja (BUIPESR Director), Ms. Monena J. Rodriguez (Chief Admin. Officer-Finance), and Dr. Joseph Bartolata (Chief, PMO). It was hosted by Dongseo University (DSU), a sister-school of Bicol University, with whom BU has two exchange students.

The forum, whose theme was “The Era of Asia: Creating a Cooperative Network of Asian Universities”, focused on issues and trends in Asian Higher Education. This was elaborated by Dr. Jekuk Chang, President of DSU, in his opening remarks where he stated that the aim of the forum was to highlight the current trends and the importance of teamwork among Asian Countries. “The theme of this year’s forum... is intended to highlight the importance of working together to meet the demands of current global trends,” he said. He also added that he hoped the forum will “…provide ample chances for networking and also enable an open exchange of fruitful ideas... towards the advancement of higher education in Asia.”

Bicol University presented 2 papers at the forum during the parallel discussion: “The Journey of Bicol University towards Internationalization and Globalization” by Dr. Fay Lea Patria M. Lauraya and the research paper on “Distance Education of Public School Principals: The DepEd iCeXELS Experience in Bicol, Philippines” by Dr. Helen M. Llenares, in behalf of her co-researchers, Dr. Rebecca Rosario O. Bercasio and Dr. Epifania B. Nunez.

As one of the 67 participating institutions from the 16 countries represented, Bicol University was able to forge new partnerships with eleven Asian countries, namely: Norton University in Cambodia; Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport in Vietnam; Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in China; Universiti Putra Malaysia in Malaysia; Daffodil International University in Bangladesh; Suratthani Rajabhat University, Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon, and Srinakharinwirot University in Thailand; and Petra Christian University, Universitas Ciputra, and Sultang Agung Islamic University in Indonesia.

The 3-day forum was full packed with activities, including parallel discussions, cultural presentations, tours, and signing ceremonies. Cultural events included drum dance and the now famous Gangnam style of S. Korea, which the guests were challenged to dance. (Earl Epson L. Recamunda/OP)
Planning Workshop for 2013 anticipates new DBM guidelines

IT WAS FORTUNATE that the Bicol University Planning Workshop for 2013 was carried out much earlier than usual. The deans, directors, and heads of offices came together on October 19 and 20 at the College of Science Auditorium to plan for the year ahead. In the past, this yearly workshop was held during the first quarter of each fiscal year.

While the intention was for the group to prepare their work and financial plans (WFP) under Fund 164, they ended up discussing and preparing documents under Fund 101, as shortly before the date, DBM issued guidelines for fund disbursements in government agencies, to be implemented starting 2013. Most significant change is that funds are now to be disbursed within the fiscal year under a monthly cash program, and can no longer be treated as continuing appropriation for the following year.

This called for more careful and detailed planning, following the instructions that accompanied the new DBM forms. According to VPA Jerry S. Bigornia, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) should likewise be able to respond to these changes, to ensure that transactions are made on time, given the strict deadlines for procurement.

The timely schedule for the planning workshop allowed in-depth discussions led by VPA Amelia A. Dorosan on the new procedures required by said changes in budget management in government institutions and agencies.

Budget officers, administrative officers, and other support staff of the various units of the university were likewise made to attend the workshop for them to understand the new guidelines set by the DBM. In fact, representatives from other SUCs in the region also came to learn the new procedures for them to apply in their respective institutions.

BU President Fay M. Lauraya, during the opening program, advised the body to factor in and anticipate in their plans the inevitable changes relative to K to 12, the ASEAN 2015 Mobility of Professionals, and the integration of the European Union Competency Requirement as well as the Australia and New Zealand Competency Requirements in the national framework of competencies for the Philippines.

With a properly planned budget, the smooth flow of transactions and implementation of programs and projects will be ensured, and the university will not be left behind in the fast-paced changes in the global society, especially in the light of the said reforms in government policies on education.

A second planning workshop has been set for January 2013, this to cover the institution’s Fund 164. ###

BUCAL holds Bicol Harana Forum, promotes culture

AUTHENTIC BICOL HARANISTA folks came to Bicol University to perform and be interviewed during the very first Bicol Harana Forum on October 8 at the BUCAL Amphitheatre, as part of the three-day culminating activity of the Bicol University College of Arts and Letters (BUCAL) Humanities Department titled, “YOUUMAN80’s” which aims to continuously research on, preserve, develop, and promote Bicol culture and arts.

The forum was organized by said Department through the leadership of the Dean, Dr. Ma. Julieta B. Borres and the initiative of Humanities Department Head, Professor Ramil “Plok” Chavenia. Its main objective was to make the audience understand Bicol Harana from different perspectives — from the Haranistas themselves, from the academicians, from local artists and musicians, and also from the youth and the students. At the same time, the forum was also a chance for the audience, majority of which were BU students, to witness a live Bicol Harana from the invited Haranistas. The audience also thereby gained a deeper understanding of the reason, the process, the advantage, and the disadvantage of Harana, from the Haranistas’ shared experiences.

As an ending to the forum, the audience was given the challenge on how Bicol Harana may be brought back or at least appreciated by the Bicolanos especially the youth.

The activity supports the vision of Governor Salceda and BU President Fay M. Lauraya for Bicol University to be the capital academe of Bicol culture and the arts. President Lauraya has expressed the need for students to understand, appreciate, and immerse themselves in the Bicolano culture as an important ingredient in educating the youth towards becoming productive and effective citizens, having been instilled with love for the country. She has thus shown her all-out support for the university’s various cultural activities, including the Bicol Harana Forum and the recently-concluded University Speech Choir Competition likewise sponsored by BUCAL through its English Department which, this year, featured none other than the Bicol epic, Ibalong. (Richard D. Madrilejos/BUCAL)

The champions of the Speech Choir Competition share their victory with BU President Lauraya.

Dr. Lauraya emphasizes the importance of preserving Bicol culture, and thanks the Haranistas for sharing their songs with the younger generation.