

THE HERALD

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CATANDUANES STATE UNIVERSITY

TOTAL ENROLMENT

2nd Semester 2024-2025

14,075

CIT	2,614	CBA	1,956
CICT	1,762	CHS	1,300
CEA	1,274	COEd	1,234
COS	1,103	CAF	1,008
CHUMSS	697		
PANGANIBAN CAMPUS		665	
GRADUATE SCHOOL		418	
COLLEGE OF LAW		44	

OlC Barba pushes policy compliance, research focus, and scholarship fix

Anjo G. Tugay and Albert G. Clemente

Catanduanes State University Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba, Jr., led the flag-raising ceremony on January 27, 2025, and urged strict compliance with Board of Regents policies, tighter research-extension links, and reforms to address gaps in the scholarship contract.

He emphasized before the university management, faculty, and personnel, the need for the academic division to strictly adhere to the Board of Regents (BOR)-approved admission and retention policies.

"I urge the academic division to ensure full compliance with the

BOR's approved policies and to make necessary adjustments where needed," he said and pledged to issue a memo to address confusion, particularly in retention policies in the colleges.

In addition, Dr. Barba called for simplifying the unit work plan,

particularly at the faculty level, encouraging the inclusion of only the essentials.

On the part of the Research, Extension, and Production Affairs (REPA) division, he stressed the importance of aligning research efforts with extension activities.

CatSU welcomes 1,186 campus journos in 2025...

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CBA holds first-ever vestiture rites for BSOA...

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CatSU team triumphs in regional SCUAA with 88 medals...

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CatSU hosts 2025 Division Press Conference, welcomes over 1,100 campus scribes

Albert G. Clemente

Catanduanes State University (CatSU), through its Laboratory Schools, opened its doors to 1,186 campus journalists for the 2025 Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) on January 17, marking a historic first-time hosting of the event.

The three-day conference, anchored on the theme "Unto the Centerfold: Shaping Stories in the Shine of Catandunganon Faith and Fortitude," brought together 361 elementary and 825 secondary student journalists from across the province.

Held at the CatSU gymnasium, Officer-in-Charge Schools Division Superintendent Cecile C. Ferro reaffirmed the department's commitment to nurturing student potential through values-based journalism education.

Lab Schools Principal Tablizo echoed the theme's relevance,

emphasizing the power of storytelling in shaping and uplifting the community.

Keynote speaker Bea Jerika J. Amador, a former campus journalist and now content editor for Greenpeace International, inspired participants to go beyond surface-level information and challenge systemic issues.

"Ask more questions, and always seek truth," she urged, stressing the role of journalism in safeguarding democracy.

Department of Education Officer-in-Charge Schools Division Superintendent Cecile C. Ferro reaffirmed the department's commitment to nurturing student potential through values-based journalism education.

Also present were Dr. Gina B. Pantino, Division Campus Journalism In-Charge, and other DepEd and CatSU officials, who played critical roles in organizing the event.

Prior to the event, CatSU-Lab Schools undertook extensive preparations to ensure a smooth hosting.



School Principal Tablizo reported that the campus was 90% ready just days before the conference, with all classrooms—equipped with air-conditioning and televisions—cleaned and organized to accommodate participants.

The final preparations included meetings with faculty, utility staff, and key stakeholders from the DepEd and press adviser associations to finalize venues and logistics.

Various contests ran until January 19, including individual writing categories, group events

like TV and radio broadcasting, collaborative publishing, and school paper competitions.

These were held across multiple venues within CatSU, including the JD rooms, the accreditation room in the Administrative Building, and the Laboratory Schools.

Support services such as transportation from billeting schools, technical setup, and venue management were coordinated by the university's Motorpool Services and Library Services, further ensuring the event's success.

DSPC 2025. Student journalists cheered with enthusiasm during the kick-off ceremony of the 2025 Division Schools Press Conference. Each delegation from various municipalities proudly presented their yells, filling the gymnasium with electrifying energy.





PEN'S UP. Officials from DepEd-SDO Catanduanes, led by OIC ASDS Cecile C. Ferro, posed with CatSU Lab School Principal Joerandy Tablizo, as the host school of the 2025 division press conference, attended by over 1,000 participants from across the province.



CatSU joins DOST in awarding of ₱1M grant to Virac LGU for Smart and Sustainable Communities Program

Albert G. Clemente

As one of the key partners for the implementation of smart project, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) joined the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region V, through DOST-Catanduanes, during the ceremonial turnover of 1 million pesos grant to the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Virac for the Smart and Sustainable Cities/Communities (SSC) Program.

University Research and Development Services Director Dr. Jose Z. Tria emphasized that the project aligns with DOST's goal of transforming municipalities into smart, sustainable communities, anchored with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

"The university's mandate on instruction, research, extension,

and production allows CatSU to provide research-based technical support to LGU-Virac," Dr. Tria explained.

He added that CatSU's technologies, developed through research, will be made available for adoption by the municipality.

Dr. Tria highlighted the importance of applying research to benefit communities, stating, "research should not remain on paper—it must be implemented in the community."

As part of the initiative, CatSU helped LGU Virac in crafting the Science and Technology Innovation (STI) plan, which aligned with the municipality's comprehensive development plan.

This plan is critical to achieving the SSC program's

objectives, which include government efficiency, sustainability, health, economic growth, public safety, and improved quality of life.

Virac is one of six local government units in the Bicol region participating in the SSC program.

In fact, the partnership between CatSU and DOST about the project was initiated when former CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza expressed commitment to the SSC Program in a letter to then-DOST Regional Director Rommel R. Serrano in September 2023.

A Memorandum of Agreement was later signed in 2024, formalizing CatSU's role in crafting the STI Plan, supporting Virac's Smart and Sustainable

City Roadmap, and improving its development and land-use plans.

CatSU facilitated workshops in October 2024 at the ABC Hall in Virac and conducted a review of the STI Plan in December. The plan is now undergoing revisions for finalization and adoption.

The P1-million grant was officially handed over to Virac Mayor Samuel V. Laynes by DOST Provincial Director Engr. Marie Grace T. Molina during a ceremony at the Mayor's Office Conference Room.

Dr. Tria assured continued support from CatSU to accelerate Virac's development through the SSC Program, reinforcing the university's commitment to community-focused research and innovation.

CAF senior students take pre-internship labor education seminar

Albert G. Clemente



To guide the "would-be workers" on their rights at work and responsibilities, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) organized a one-day Pre-Internship and Labor Education Seminar among fourth-year students from the College of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF) on January 20, 2025.

Graced by CatSU Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., the former CAF dean noted the seminar's crucial role in preparing students for careers.

The seminar featured two sessions: in the morning, Atty. Pamela Joy T. Herrera-Sanchez provided a comprehensive discussion of significant laws addressing sexual harassment, including the Safe Spaces Act, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, and the Violence Against Women and Children Act.

Meanwhile, in the afternoon session, Senior Labor Employment Officer Danilo B. Balilo from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) provided an overview of the labor code's salient provisions.

Another DOLE official, Engr. Julie Cid-Manalang, presented to the participants the National Skills Registration Program, emphasizing the program's objective of improving employment facilitation services and providing up-to-date labor market information.

The event, with the theme "Equipping Future CAF Professionals: Bridging Academia and Industry", was also attended by CAF Dean Dr. Michael Owen P. Malijan and other key university officials, held at the CatSU Gymnasium.



LABOR EDUCATION. Assoc. Prof. Maricel S. Cariaso, Alumni Officer and PESO Manager, led a session on labor education for senior students from the College of Agriculture and Fisheries.

COED pre-service teachers attend labor education seminar before deployment

Albert G. Clemente



COED LABOR ED SEMINAR. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Joseph G. Zafe reminded pre-service teachers of their duties and responsibilities in the classroom during their internship. Dr. Zafe was one of the speakers at the COED seminar.

To equip future educators with insights as they prepare for their teaching internships, the College of Education (COEd) of the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) conducted its pre-internship orientation and seminar, Edukhandá, on January 22, 2025, at the CatSU Auditorium.

The seminar opened with remarks from COEd Dean Dr. Maria Sheila R. Gregorio, who welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the upcoming internship experience in shaping competent teachers.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gemma G. Acedo also addressed the pre-service teachers, underscoring the role of future teachers in nurturing the young minds.

The seminar featured a series of talks, starting with Vernie Robles, who discussed the Child Protection Policy, noting the significance of safeguarding children in educational settings.

Dr. Joseph G. Zafe then elaborated on the duties and responsibilities of pre-service teachers, preparing them for the

challenges they will face in the classroom.

Guidance Counseling and Testing Office Head Noly T. Benavides followed with a session on building resiliency and mental fortitude, offering valuable strategies for teachers to manage stress and maintain well-being.

Dr. Jose Z. Tria, on the other hand, addressed online safety, providing guidelines for navigating the digital landscape in the modern classroom.

Atty. Nikko Rey Aicetel T. Manlangit-Santelices then presented the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act and Anti-Bullying Act, educating the future educators on their legal responsibilities in creating a safe and respectful learning environment.

The seminar concluded with Niño Gerard Ceneta discussing the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, particularly the Department of Education (DepEd), in supporting pre-service teachers throughout their

COEd Licensure Examination Performance

March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Elementary, Main Campus)

1st Time Takers:	6	Total Takers:	12
1st Time Passers:	3	Total Passers:	4

CatSU Passing Rate:

33.33%

March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Secondary, Main Campus)

1st Time Takers:	109	Total Takers:	172
1st Time Passers:	87	Total Passers:	102

CatSU Passing Rate:

59.30%

March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Elementary, Panganiban Campus)

1st Time Takers:	3	Total Takers:	12
1st Time Passers:	2	Total Passers:	3

CatSU Passing Rate:

25.00%

March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Secondary, Panganiban Campus)

1st Time Takers:	6	Total Takers:	14
1st Time Passers:	2	Total Passers:	5

CatSU Passing Rate:

35.71%

CatSU medical officer on energy drink sale on campus: Not allowed under Board Resolution 101 s. 2024

Albert G. Clemente

During the orientation meeting on 'University Policies and Guidelines on Food Services' held on January 23, 2025, at the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Conference Room, Medical Officer III Dr. Abigail M. Abundo emphasized the prohibition of energy drinks in the campus canteens.

As stipulated under Section 7 of Resolution No. 101, s. 2024, energy drinks are not allowed to be sold to

students and employees.

The university medical officer explained that many students have been reporting to the clinic with complaints of palpitations. Upon investigation, it was found by their office that these students frequently consume energy drinks like Sting.



"Maraming dinadalang student sa clinic na nagpa-palpitante, and upon investigation, lagi pa lang umiinom ng Sting," Dr. Abundo stated.

With this, the canteen is required to offer more nutrient-rich options, such as milk, shakes, and juices, which align to the university policy.

The said approved policy by

the board aims to ensure that food offered on campus is accessible, sufficient, safe, and healthy.

In fact, the resolution is also aligned with food safety and sanitary guidelines established by the Department of Health.

To ensure the proper implementation of these guidelines,

the Office of the Vice President for Administration, the Office of Student Affairs and Development Services, and the Office of Health Services are tasked with overseeing food service operations on campus.

At the end of the meeting, food business operators raised some concerns, and Nurse IV Emeline Francia P. Abrasaldo assured

them that the concerns would be communicated to the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance for further action.

Abrasaldo also shared that regular monitoring of food safety, hygiene, and sanitation practices is conducted by the Health Services on a quarterly basis to maintain high standards for all campus food outlets.

Corporate Business Operation Income Status 2025

Rental Services Income Statement (Jan-Dec 2024)

Rental Revenue	5,922,428.65
Less: Expenses	0.00
Gross Profit/(loss)	5,922,428.65
Less: Other	1,559,183.39
Add: Other Income	700.00
Net Income (Loss)	4,363,945.26

Merchandising Income Statement (Jan-Dec 2024)

Revenue	849,243.20
Less: Expenses	125,711.54
Gross Profit/(loss)	723,531.66
Add: Other Income	14,691.00
Less: Other	0.00
Net Income (Loss)	738,222.66

Egg Production Income Statement (Jan-Dec 2024)

Gross Sales	1,571,737.00
Less: Expenses	2,496,400.54
Gross Profit/(loss)	-924,663.54
Less: Other	0.00
Net Income (Loss)	-924,663.54

Broiler Production Income Statement (Jan-Dec 2024)

Gross Sales	843,878.25
Less: Expenses	667,203.80
Gross Profit/(loss)	176,674.45
Less: Other	0.00
Net Income (Loss)	176,674.45

Photocopying Services Income Statement (Jan-Dec 2024)

Revenue	1,103,910.00
Less: Expenses	539,569.04
Gross Profit/(loss)	564,340.96
Less: Other	22,419.98
Net Income (Loss)	541,920.98

ID Production Income Statement (Jan-Dec 2024)

Gross Revenue	521,640.00
Less: Expenses	357,521.46
Gross Profit/(loss)	164,118.54
Add: Other	13,650.00
Less: Other	13,684.75
Net Income (Loss)	164,083.79

Practice teaching season kicks off in CatSU-COEEd with 6th pinning ceremony

Albert G. Clemente



PINNING CEREMONY. The College of Education celebrates the 6th Pinning Ceremony.

The College of Education at Catanduanes State University (CatSU) hosted the 6th Pinning of Nameplates and Torch Lighting Ceremonies, a rite symbolizing the transition from students into pre-service teachers.

Dean Dr. Maria Shiela R. Gregorio underscored the significance of the ceremony, stating, "It signifies your commitment to the noble profession of teaching. Your pins reflect your dedication to serve, and

your light from the torch represents the knowledge and wisdom you will carry forward to enlighten the minds of future generations."

Present at the ceremony were Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, and other faculty members.

Dr. Rose Marie A. Arao, Education Supervisor II from the Commission on Higher Education Regional Office V, emphasized the event's theme, "Anchored in Purpose, Rising as Global Educators of Tomorrow."

She reminded the attendees that, despite evolving teaching methods and tools, "The core of teaching, our purpose, remains steadfast—to transform lives." She encouraged the future educators to remember their students' potential and embrace their responsibility in

unlocking it.

Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba, represented by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Acedo, highlighted the power of educators in shaping young minds.

He remarked, "As future educators, you have the power to inspire students to reach their full potential and help them develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities."

Joining the event, Kharlos Miguel T. Bautista, who placed 8th in the September 2024 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Secondary Level), advised students in the ceremonial 'tasahan' that merely manifesting their goals on social media or through superstitious beliefs is not enough.

"You really need to work hard in sharpening your minds," he urged.

New CatSU employees urged to pursue postgrad studies for career growth

Albert G. Clemente

As the next generation of employees of Catanduanes State University (CatSU), Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gemma G. Acedo urged newly hired teaching and non-teaching personnel to pursue postgraduate studies for career advancement.

"Do not waste your time. If there is an opportunity to pursue

postgraduate studies, just go for it. There comes a time when you will be appointed or designated in our positions, and that will help you," Dr. Acedo advised the participants as she spoke on the second day of the New Employee Orientation held on January 23, 2025.

Organized by CatSU's Human Resource and Management Unit, the orientation program aimed to

familiarize new employees with their workplace, provide insight into public service, and clarify their roles and responsibilities.

On the first day, January 22, various resource speakers covered topics such as ethical norms for public servants, GSIS life and retirement benefits, Pag-IBIG updates, and financial literacy among others.

The second day focused on integrated staff development, attendance policies, salary compensation, allowances, data privacy, and emotional well-being in the workplace.

The two-day orientation program took place at the Extension Services Training Hall.

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"We need to ensure that our research has strong extension potential," he noted.

On scholarship matters, Dr. Barba described the current scholarship contract as

'disincentivizing,' particularly in terms of benefits and promotion.

He pledged to reach out to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for further clarification.

"I am instructing the Federated Faculty Union (FFU) and the Catanduanes State University Employees Association (CASUNEA) to collaborate with the Staff Development Committee

(SDC) to review and revise our scholarship contract. For instance, we hope that scholars on leave may still be eligible for promotion if there are vacant items," he concluded.

CatSU inks agreement with Barangay Cagraray on CIT's GREATS extension program

Albert G. Clemente

The Catanduanes State University (CatSU) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Cagraray, Bato, formalized their partnership through an agreement to implement the Green Research and Extension on Alternative Technology Solutions (GREATS) program.

Led by the Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs (OVPREPA),

the College of Industrial Technology (CIT), as the program's proponent and implementer, will deliver hands-on training in green technology solutions and sustainable practices to the residents of Barangay Cagraray.

The agreement outlines two key projects: DC Electrical House Wiring and System Assembly, V5 CONDEMASER, and Basic Electronics.

"Through this extension program, the CIT seeks to provide relief to financially challenged households, reduce their energy expenses, and support local skill development," the Memorandum of Agreement reads.

Cited also in the agreement that the LGU Cagraray will serve as a collaborative platform, promoting networking, mutual support, and empowerment through capacity-

building and skills enhancement.

Signatories to the agreement included Joseph D. Torrepalma, representing LGU Cagraray, and Dr. Roberto B. Barba, Jr., representing CSU, while VPREPA Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, and CIT Dean Dr. Edwin T. Romero, served as witnesses.

CBA holds first-ever vestiture rites for BSOA graduating students



The College of Business and Accountancy made history on Monday, January 27, 2025, after hosting a first-ever vestiture ceremony for the fourth year students of Bachelor of Science in Office Administration (BSOA).

Held at the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) auditorium, the ceremony's highlight was the presentation of gray coats and nameplates to each BSOA student.

Parents assisted their children in donning the coats, symbolizing the culmination of their years of dedication and sacrifice.

Court Legal Researcher II, Atty. Terelyn C. Villareal, a 2010

graduate of the same program, served as the guest speaker.

Addressing the students, she acknowledged the anxiety they might feel about their upcoming on-the-job training.

Drawing from her own experience, she reassured them: "It's okay to feel uncertain; it's part of the journey toward success."

Meanwhile, CatSU Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba, Jr., extended his congratulations, particularly to the parents who supported their children throughout their academic journey.

He encouraged the students to embrace curiosity,

CatSU Gears Up for Future-Ready Distance Learning at UPOU Training

Anjo G. Tugay



DISTANCE EDUCATION. Dr. Rosana S. Abundo (2nd from right), Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs, led the CatSU delegation in a Course Design for Open and Distance e-Learning at the University of the Philippines - Open University.

Five Catanduanes State University (CatSU) faculty members attended the Course Design for Open and Distance e-Learning (CD4ODEL) training from February 3 to 12, 2025, at the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) in Los Baños, Laguna, to prepare for the establishment of the university's Open University system.

Led by Open University Director Dr. Medie M. Lopez and Graduate School Dean Dr. Arthur I. Tabirara, the training equipped faculty with skills to develop e-learning modules and instructional materials for flexible and resilient learning. Joining them were Dr. Rosanna S. Abundo, Vice President for Research, Extension,

and Production Affairs, and faculty members Moreno D. Tabios Jr., Romeleen Go-Vela, and Ferdinand M. Brizo.

The UPOU initiative focused on creating Horizontal Syllabi, Course Guides, Study Guides, Assignment Guides, and Learning Activity Guides to strengthen CatSU's undergraduate and graduate

programs, and ensure continuous learning during disruptions.

Following the training, said participants will lead the full development of CatSU's Open University, which will offer students a more inclusive and accessible learning platform.

Never argue, just listen: EBMC psychiatric unit head tells COEd students to help someone at risk of suicide

Albert G. Clemente



PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT. Psychiatric Unit Chief Dr. Rucelle C. Zuniega of Eastern Bicol Medical Center speaks to Catanduanes State University students to raise awareness about mental health on February 5, 2025.

"Please do not argue with someone's suicidal thoughts, just listen," advised Dr. Rucelle C. Zuniega, head of the Eastern Bicol Medical Center (EBMC) Psychiatric Unit, during a mental health awareness seminar for College of Education (COEd) students on February 5, 2025.

She emphasized the

importance of allowing individuals to express their distress without judgment. "Encourage them to talk and truly listen," she urged, reminding students never to leave someone feeling suicidal alone and to check on them regularly.

For those experiencing psychosis, substance abuse, or severe distress, she recommended

seeking emergency assistance immediately. If help is delayed, she suggested taking the person to a safe space like in a church.

Supporting this, Rev. Fr. Nestor 'Butch' R. Buena encouraged students to bring individuals with suicidal thoughts to church for spiritual counseling. "Spirituality connects us to ourselves, to others, and to God," he said, sharing his experiences in guiding those struggling.

Organized by COED Guidance Service, the seminar also tackled depression where Mr. Noly T. Benavides, head of the university's Guidance, Counseling, and Testing Office, described it as a serious medical condition and the leading cause of disability among American adults. He clarified that depression is often mistaken for sadness, highlighting biological factors such

as genetics, hormones, and brain function.

Before concluding, Dr. Zuniega left the student-participants, together with the COEd faculty, with a powerful reminder: "Remember that despite your best efforts, some people will still die by suicide. However, always do your best for the person you are helping."

The event was originally scheduled for October 2024 but was postponed and rescheduled due to the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Pepito in the province of Catanduanes.

CatSU holds ISO mock audit opening

Albert G. Clemente



KNOWING THE STANDARD. Engr. Rafael O. Santelices, invited resource person, guides Catanduanes State University officials through a comprehensive ISO Mock Audit, ensuring preparedness and alignment with international quality standards.

The Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) is holding a Mock ISO 9001:2015 Audit, with an opening meeting today, February 12, 2025.

Resource speaker Engr. Rafael O. Santelices briefed university officials, division heads, deans, and unit heads on audit procedures, including document review, interviews, and observations.

The mock audit aims to identify areas for improvement, and offer recommendations in preparation for the University's ISO 9001:2015

Surveillance Audit with the TUV Rheinland Philippines scheduled from February 24-25, 2025.

Engr. Santelices also encouraged the present officials to maintain an inventory of changes in their offices as a best practice.

Following the opening meeting, the mock audit begins today with the colleges and will continue tomorrow, February 13. The Panganiban campus is scheduled on Friday, February 14, while non-teaching units will undergo the mock audit on Monday, February 17.

Scholars receive FAAV scholarship certificates

Anjo G. Tugay

Juris Doctor student Cloyd Roland I. Bernardo and BS in Internal Auditing student Remy T. Teves of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) claimed their FAAV Sponsor-Based Philippine Scholarship Stipend Certificates on February 21.

CatSU Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. and former CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, FAAV's authorized representative, handed the certificates, affirming their inclusion in the program.

Bernardo and Teves draw 50,000 pesos each for SY 2024-2025 under the Filipino-American Association of Vancouver (FAAV) grant. FAAV Scholarship Committee Chair Maria Rita Schaljo stated in a letter that the aid backs costs for

books, transport, food, school supplies, tech, and other needs.

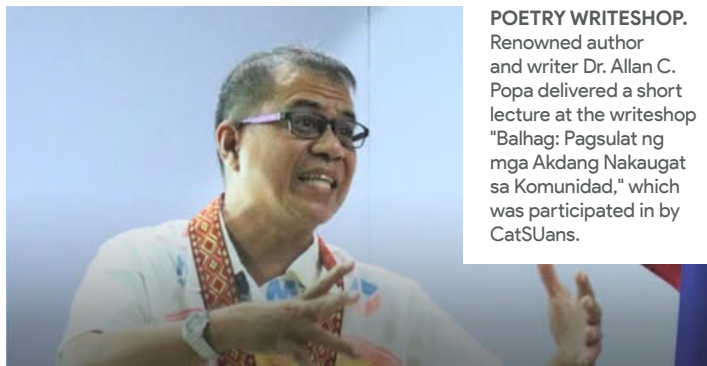
Azanza, who helped link FAAV's scholarship to CatSU along with Mr. Hurbert Gianan and Ms. Theresa Mallari, noted that the selection process was tough, ensuring that only deserving students gained support.

Teves, an ROTC cadet and honor student, shared that the aid let her secure key books on internal auditing, easing her studies.

OIC Barba urged scholars to grasp the rare break, stressing that both sponsors and CatSU expect them to rise in their fields.

Poetry writeshop draws writers to rooted storytelling

Anjo G. Tugay and Albert G. Clemente



POETRY WRITESHOP. Renowned author and writer Dr. Allan C. Popa delivered a short lecture at the writeshop "Balhag: Pagsulat ng mga Akdang Nakaugat sa Komunidad," which was participated in by CatSUans.

In a tribute to National Arts Month, a poetry writeshop titled Balhag: Pagsulat ng mga Akdang Nakaugat sa Danas ng Komunidad was held on February 20, 2025, at the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Little Theater,

sharpening the literary craft of participants through community-rooted storytelling.

Mounted by the Sentro ng Wika at Kulturang Filipino (SWKF) in tandem with the Center for Culture

and Arts - Hablon Dawani (CCA) and Virac-based Aklat Ulagad, the session pulled in aspiring poets eager to refine their voices.

Dr. Allan C. Popa, renowned writer, author, and editor, urged participants to mine their communities for poetic material, asserting that the most resonant narratives often emerge from lived experiences.

He pressed writers to embrace the depth of local culture, to reinforce the power of intimate, place-based storytelling.

Attendees sharpened their skills through guided writing exercises, with select participants stepping forward to deliver their

freshly penned works before the audience.

CCA-Hablon Dawani Director Santos G. Sorra Jr. kicked off the event, while Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs Dr. Rosana S. Abundo extended institutional support in a brief message.

Capping the session, SWKF Director Dr. Jovert R. Balunsay commended the participants and lauded Popa for steering the conversation toward a deeper appreciation of community-driven poetry.

22nd RTSPC kicks off in CatSU with over 400 Bicolano journos

Anjo G. Tugay and Albert G. Clemente



DIRECTOR'S CHALLENGE. At the kickoff ceremony of a regional press conference hosted by Catanduanes State University, CHED Regional Director Demetrio P. Anduyan Jr., CESO III, challenged the Bicolano campus journalists to strive for top positions in the upcoming Luzon press conference.

The Catanduanes State University welcomed 416 campus scribes from 33 participating student publications, including The CatSU Statesman, to the three-day 22nd Regional Tertiary Schools Press Conference (RTSPC), which formally opened on February 26, at the university auditorium.

Co-hosted by the Association of Tertiary Schools Publication Advisers of Bicol, Inc. (ATSPAB), the RTSPC gathers the region's most promising campus scribes to compete in various journalism events, from individual categories such as editorial and news writing to group contests including radio scriptwriting and broadcasting.

In his address, CatSU Officer-In-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. warmly invited the delegates to explore both the journalistic and cultural richness of the "Happy Island" of Catanduanes. He encouraged them to embrace the island way of storytelling.

"Feel the sea breeze, listen to the whispers of the waves—because sometimes, the best stories come not just from pen and paper, but from immersing yourself

in the world around you," Dr. Barba shared.

He also encouraged participants to draw inspiration from the university's art exhibits in celebration of National Arts Month, noting that creativity in journalism can stem from interdisciplinary exposure.

The opening program featured captivating performances by the CatSU-Hablon Dawani, Sundara Dance Troupe, Koro Hubilyo, and a solo performance from a member of the Saliw Hangin Concert Band.

Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Director Dr. Demetrio P. Anduyan Jr., CESO III, served as keynote speaker. Recalling his previous service as provincial TESDA director in Catanduanes, Dr. Anduyan expressed a sense of homecoming and lauded the significant turnout, which he noted had tripled compared to similar events in other regions.

Dr. Anduyan challenged the participants to raise the bar for campus journalism in Bicol.

"Let's make it big. Let's make it Bicol," he declared, expressing confidence that five of the top ten winners in the upcoming Luzon-wide Higher Education Press Conference (LHEPC) will come from the region.

He further emphasized the critical role of student journalists in shaping informed and responsible discourse. "Use factual information and prioritize public welfare. If you influence others, be a good influencer," he advised.

The RTSPC winners will earn the opportunity to represent Bicol at the LHEPC to be held in Lucban, Quezon from April 2 to 4, 2025.

In the closing segment of the event, ATSPAB President Dr. Rafael V. Oñate extended his gratitude to CatSU for taking on the responsibility of hosting the conference. Meanwhile, Justine Louise Tuazon, Editor-in-Chief of The CatSU Statesman, led participants in the recitation of the Journalist's Creed.

Following the ceremony, individual competitions commenced at Rakdell Inn in downtown Virac,

while other delegates were given a campus tour.

Preparations for this year's RTSPC began months in advance, building on CatSU's successful hosting of the Division Schools Press Conference for younger journalists in January. Dr. Jovert R. Balunsay, adviser of The CatSU Statesman, confirmed that logistical needs—including accommodations, certificates, transportation, and venue setup—had been carefully coordinated.

The Office of Student Affairs and Development Services (OSADS) spearheaded the event logistics, ensuring the seamless transport of participants between Rakdell Inn, Gab's Place Resort in Barangay Pajo San Isidro, and the university campus.

An ocular inspection of all venues was conducted on January 21 in collaboration with ATSPAB to ensure readiness for the large influx of participants.

The CatSU Statesman reaps 10 awards at RTSPC closing ceremony

Albert G. Clemente



SWEEPING AWARDS. Student journalists from The CatSU Statesman, the official student publication of the University, flexed their awards at the conclusion of a three-day regional press conference hosted by CatSU, alongside their adviser, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jovert R. Balunsay.

The Catanduanes State University has concluded the 22nd Regional Tertiary Schools Press Conference (RTSPC), with closing and awarding ceremonies held this morning, February 28, at the university auditorium.

Co-hosted with the Association of Tertiary Schools Publication Advisers of Bicol, Inc., the three-day event brought together the best campus journalists from 33 tertiary student publications across Bicol, including The CatSU Statesman.

During the awarding ceremony, The CatSU Statesman earned 10 awards in individual contests, two

of which were first-place finishes in Poetry Writing (English) and Page Design and Layouting.

The top five individual contest winners and the champion in the group competition will represent the Bicol region at the 20th Luzonwide Higher Education Press Conference (LHEPC) which will be held on April 2-4 in Lucban, Quezon Province.

Dr. Jovert R. Balunsay, adviser of The CatSU Statesman, announced that Partido State University will host the 23rd edition of the RTSPC.

CatSU keeps ISO 9001:2015 certification, passes 1st Surveillance Audit

Albert G. Clemente



AUDITOR'S FEEDBACK. TUV Rheinland Philippines, Inc. auditors, led by Ms. Lynn Gerzon, provided feedback and praised the university's outstanding performance in the board exam at the conclusion of the ISO 9001:2015 certification.

The Catanduanes State University successfully passed its first surveillance audit for its ISO 9001:2015 certification evaluated by the representatives from TUV Rheinland Philippines, Inc., on February 25.

With the College of Health Sciences' "very high passing rate" in the nursing board exam over the past two years, the auditors lauded the university's above the national average performance.

They also noted the

implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS) in university documents.

Meanwhile, for areas that need further improvements, the auditors made some recommendations.

The audit team, led by Ms. Lynn Gerzon with auditors Ms. Mary Grace Balobalo, Ms. Jessy Jessica Rosit, Mr. Eufonio Alonzo, and Mr. Rafael Magsino, confirmed that CatSU complied with the ISO 9001:2015 standards with no major non-conformities.

"The Catanduanes State University has established and maintains an effective system to ensure compliance with its policy and objectives. The audit team confirms that the organization's management system complies with, adequately maintains and implements the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard," the lead auditor expressed.

The audit began with an Opening Meeting attended by top university management and unit heads on February 24, followed by an audit to assess compliance with the certified management systems.

Interviews were conducted with key officials from both Main and Panganiban campuses to verify conformance on the processes. Class observations were also carried out in colleges and laboratory schools.

Joining the closing meeting were ISO Chairperson and Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs Engr. Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda, and Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba, along with other officials from top management and unit heads.

from page 8

passion, and patience as they begin their professional careers.

"We don't need an intelligent mind that always speaks but a patient heart that always listens," he reminded the students.

Other key university officials attendees included CBA Dean Ian V. Aranel, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, and BSOA Program Adviser Alice S. Rojas.

The event also featured a Memorandum of Agreement signing between the university and Host Training Establishments (HTEs).

CatSU breaks into Webometrics World Rankings

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has landed in the January 2025 Webometrics Ranking of World Universities.

Released on Jan. 27, the rankings evaluate universities based on online presence, research impact, and visibility. The latest report remains in its beta phase, with details on specific assessment areas—Impact, Openness, and Excellence—yet to be

finalized.

Webometrics, published biannually by the Cybermetrics Lab under Spain's National Research Council (CSIC), measures how institutions share research online.

Meanwhile, CatSU pushes to enter the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Stars Rating Audit, a move proposed to gain institutional

insights from a global source by receiving a comprehensive analysis of the university's strengths and weaknesses.

This initiative aims to assist CatSU in its leveling as a State University and College (SUC) and attract both domestic and international students.

Under OIC Dr. Roberto B. Barba

Jr., the university builds on the legacy of former President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, who led CatSU's inclusion in major global rankings like THE Impact Rankings, WURI, and UI Green Metric, where it ranked 8th in the Philippines and 481st worldwide.

CHED recognizes QS, THE, and WURI as key global ranking bodies under the Transnational Higher Education Act (RA 11448).

PolSci champs shine at Bicol Consortium, eye hosting bid

Anjo G. Tugay with reports from Jobesan Yusores

Political Science team from Catanduanes State University (CatSU) ruled the 2nd Bicol Political Science Consortium on February 21-22, 2025, at the University of Nueva Caceres (UNC), Naga City, beating teams from Ateneo de Naga University, Bicol College, the University of Northeastern Philippines, the University of Saint

Anthony, and the host UNC.

Czymon Balmadrid, Mikayla Soliveres, and Joshua Cariño topped the Politica Scientia Quiz Bee, while Aira Suplig seized 2nd place in Extemporaneous Speech.

The 31-member team, led by Asst. Prof. Kristine Anne Razal and

PSS Adviser Mr. Jobesan Yusores, also joined forums with lawyer-speakers, including senatorial aspirant Atty. Luke Espiritu, tackling elections, human rights, and political dynasties.

During their courtesy call to OIC President Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., he praised their wins and hailed

the Political Science Society's role in pushing CatSU's mark of excellence.

The team also set plans with OIC Barba for CatSU's bid to host next year's meet, which would raise the program's name across Bicol.

CatSU now a member of PH Association of Law Schools

Albert G. Clemente

Inaugurated on June 28, 2024, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) College of Law officially became a member of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) when Dean Atty. Santiago T. Gabionza Jr. and Associate Dean Atty. Gregorio M. Sarmiento Jr. represented the institution and joined the 2025 PALS Annual Convention.

The CatSU-College of Law was one of the law schools in the country that received an invitation letter dated November 29, 2024, from PALS President Teodoro A. Pastrana for the

event, recognizing its successful membership application to the organization.

In collaboration with the Legal Education Board (LEB), the three-day in-person convention brought together law school deans, assistant deans, and professors from across the country to exchange insights, share best practices, and strengthen partnerships between PALS and LEB.

Notable speakers included Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo,

Associate Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, chairperson of the 2025 Bar Examinations, and Associate Justice Mario V. Lopez, chairperson of the 2024 Bar Examinations.

With the theme "Excellence in Legal Education: Transforming Society through LEB-PALS Collaboration," the convention took place from January 20 to 22, 2025, at the Park Inn by Radisson Clark, Clark Freeport Zone, Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

CatSU law pioneers observe court in action

San Andres Hall of Justice opened its doors to the pioneer law students of Catanduanes State University College of Law (CatSU-COL) for a court observation under Hon. Judge Catherine A. Baldos of the San Andres Municipal Trial Court, March 12, 2025.

The students sat in on a pre-trial hearing, in real courtroom proceedings as part of their Civil Procedure course. Judge Baldos lauded their eagerness to grasp court protocols and witness cases at their pre-trial stages.

CatSU team triumphs in regional SCUAA with 88 medals

Anjo G. Tugay and Albert G. Clemente

The Catanduanes State University (CatSU) athletes delivered an exceptional performance at the 2025 Regional State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) Games, securing 88 medals, including 20 golds, 38 silvers, and 30 bronzes.

With its stellar feat in the competition, held from February 17 to 21 at Camarines Norte State College, the university landed 5th place overall among eight other universities from the Bicol region.

One of the standout performers was the CatSU taekwondo team where the women's team dominated the mats.

Lady jins Judy Matienzo, Julliene Heisha Pelagio, and Ericka Gianan each clinched gold in their respective weight categories.

Matienzo triumphed in the Bantamweight class, Pelagio ruled the Lightweight division, and Gianan secured the top spot in the Welterweight category.

The three athletes defeated opponents from Central Bicol State University of Agriculture and Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges, showing their skill and resilience.

"Nagbunga 'yong aming training and pangaral of our trainer, Sir Karl Bogabil," Gianan said.

Black Belt and licensed instructor, expressed his pride in the athletes.

"Ako naman bilang trainer at nagco-coach sa kanila during the competition, lagi kong pinapayo na huwag sumuko, maging matatag at magtiwala lagi sa sarili," he said.

In addition to the gold medals, CatSU's taekwondo squad also brought home silver and bronze medals.

Ryan Joson earned silver in the Men's Flyweight division, while the Men's Poomsae team—composed of Joshua Camacho, Shervin Tria, and Cyr Nelvince Zuniega—also captured silver.

Other notable bronze medalists included Joshua Camacho (Men's Poomsae), Rexon Joson (Men's Featherweight), Marco Paolo Enriquez (Middleweight), Edmar Shihan Rubio (Heavyweight) and Ian Joshua Pantila (Men's Welterweight).

The CatSU track and field team further contributed to the university's success, bringing home four gold medals.

Iarah Blanca Magtangob triumphed in the discus throw, Patrick Eustaquio soared to victory in the triple jump, and Bryan Nick Vega clinched gold in both the 110m and 200m hurdles. Eustaquio also added silver in the long jump, while John Gil Trinidad earned a silver in the shot put.

CatSU's swimmers made waves in the SCUAA Games, adding 2 gold, 6 silver, and 5 bronze medals to the university's medal tally.

Bogabil, a 3rd dan Taekwondo

Rudy Geromo, a two-time

FLASH MOVES. A CatSU track and field athlete competed in the 2025 Regional State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) Games, where the university won 88 medals.

national SCUAA qualifier, was a standout, securing gold in both the 100m butterfly and 100m breaststroke.

He also bagged silver in several other events, including the 200m breaststroke and 400m individual medley.

Rachelle Anne Interior, another key swimmer, earned three silver medals in the 50m freestyle, 4x50m medley relay, and 4x100m freestyle relay, while also grabbing bronze in the 200m freestyle.

The tennis team also made their mark, with Ma. Leizle S. Gonzales and Leslie Mae S. Gonzales securing silver in the Women's Doubles event. G.H. Ampie M. Sarmiento and Ariel Usero Valencia earned bronze in their respective singles categories, and the mixed doubles pair of Luis Emmanuel

Madrid Macero and Ma. Leizle S. Gonzales added another bronze to the university's medal haul.

Meanwhile, CatSU's table tennis player Arci Marin fought valiantly in the Men's Singles A category, bringing home a silver after a hard-fought match against a National SCUAA player from Bicol University.

Although he was ultimately defeated in the finals, Marin expressed pride in his performance, stating, "I'm happy to bring home the silver, and I'm proud to have faced a National SCUAA player. I gave it my best shot."

CatSU's performance at this year's SCUAA Games marks a significant leap from last season's 13-gold medal count.



SCUAA V GAMES. The CatSU delegation, led by Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba, Jr., joins thousands of athletes from Bicol SUCs in the 2025 SCUAA V Games, held from February 17 to 21 at Camarines Norte State College.

Here's other medalists:

GOLD:

Bryan Nick Vega - 110m-high hurdles, and 400m low hurdles
Jose Andrei Tribiana - 400m low hurdles
Jose Andrei Tribiana and team - 4x100m relay
Patrick Eustaquio - triple jump
Sarah Blanca Magtangob - shot put

SILVER:

Rainier Benedict - 100m dash
Patrick Eustaquio - 200m dash
Patrick Eustaquio - long jump
John Gil Trinidad - shot put
Zairalyn De Serra - shot put
Faith Love Olalo - chess
John Arlon T. Aguilar - sepak takraw
Earth John T. Bernal - sepak takraw
Mark Paolo Caluag - sepak takraw
George S. Camacho - sepak takraw
Santy B. Cueva Jr. - sepak takraw
Mark Jan M. Manlangit - sepak takraw
Robert M. Rebestual - sepak takraw
Joshua T. Sumalde - sepak takraw
Lorenz B. Tabirao - sepak takraw
James Marty C. Terrobias - sepak takraw
Joseph P. Tuangco - sepak takraw
Dian Zafe - softball
Danica Beo - softball
Princess Jane Estocado - softball
Ella Jane Garcia - softball
Zoila Marie De Leon - softball
Nicole Quintal - softball
Diane Manlangit - softball
Ma. Jolina Calpe - softball
Hanna Mae Vidamo - softball
Julie Mae Rojas - softball
Christine Claire Panti - softball
Divine Petajen - softball

BRONZE:

Aldrin Ibayan and team - 4x400m relay
Franz Belle R. Faustino - badminton single A
Piel Mariz San Juan - chess
Marlon Tomes - swimming free-r 1,500m
Rafael Araojo - swimming free 400m
Josila Marie Tindogan - swimming backstroke 200m, 100m breaststroke, 50m breaststroke, 200m individual medley
Allysa Mae Tuplano - swimming 50m backstroke
Sarah Mae De Rosario and team - swimming 4x100m medley relay
Jackqueline Obico - Taekwondo featherweight



Search begins for CatSU's next president

Albert G. Clemente

The Board of Regents (BOR) of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) officially opened the search for its next president on February 14, 2025.

In a formal notice, the BOR outlined the qualifications required for applicants, setting clear standards for the ideal candidate.

To be eligible for the position, applicants must meet the following criteria:

Be between 35 and 60 years old at the time of the incumbent president's term expiration.

Be a Filipino citizen.

Hold a doctorate degree from a CHED-recognized higher education institution or an accredited foreign institution.

Have at least five years of proven experience in high-level management, particularly in higher education institutions or in significant roles in the public or private sectors.

Must not have been convicted

of a crime involving moral turpitude or faced any serious administrative penalties such as suspension or dismissal.

Applicants must submit a formal application letter, a detailed curriculum vitae, educational records, certifications, and other supporting documents such as a signed statement outlining their proposed vision for the university.

They must also provide certificates of clearance from various government agencies, including the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), confirming that the applicant has not been found guilty of any criminal or administrative offenses.

Furthermore, the applicants are required to submit a medical certificate, drug testing results, and neuro-psychiatric examination results from a government health institution to ensure that the candidate is physically and mentally

fit for the demands of the position.

The deadline for submitting applications is set for March 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM (Philippine Standard Time). Interested candidates must submit one original set and six photocopies of all required documents to the following addresses:

HON. ETHEL AGNES P. VALENZUELA

Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education
Chairperson, CatSU Board of Regents
4/F HEDC Building, C.P. Garcia Ave.
U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City
Email: oceapv@ched.gov.ph

HON. ETHEL AGNES P. VALENZUELA

Chairperson, CatSU Board of Regents
c/o ATTY. NIKKO REY AICETEL MANLANGIT-SANTELICES
Secretariat, Search Committee for President
Acting Board Secretary
Office of the University Board Secretary
Catanduanes State University, Virac, Catanduanes
Email: ouns@catsu.edu.ph



CatSU, CatPPO celebrates 2025 Women's Month through creative crafts training

Albert G. Clemente



BATTLE OF THREADS. Shifting from their usual duties, policewomen set aside their firearms to pick up crochet hooks, weaving colorful threads of yarn instead of calibrating guns—joining CatSU's Women's Month celebration with creativity, camaraderie, and color.

Creativity has flourished at Catanduanes State University this Women's Month celebration, as over 80 policewomen and non-uniformed

personnel from the Catanduanes Provincial Police Office (CatPPO) come together today, March 5, for creative crafts training, featuring

activities like crochet, card making, corsage making, and creating certificate holders.

Held at the university extension training hall, Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs, graced the event and delivered remarks on behalf of Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. who is attending the 2025 SUC first quarter governing meeting in Marikina.

She expressed appreciation for the successful collaboration between CatSU and CatPPO and emphasized the benefits the training would bring to the participants both personally and professionally.

CatPPO Provincial Director PCol Edward D. Quijano, conveyed

by his representative, highlighted the event's goal of fostering creativity, resilience, and resourcefulness among CatPPO's women personnel.

He also noted that this year's theme, "Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor, Aangat ang Bukas sa Bagong Pilipinas", reflects a vision for a progressive, inclusive nation where women have equal opportunities.

The workshop was led by the College of Industrial Technology, with Extension Coordinator Jade Jean P. Uchi and CIT Indigenous Creative Crafts Manager Jeiscelle Tomagan.

Tomagan highlighted that participants would learn to create certificate holders, helping to support local abaca farmers by using abaca-based materials.

Dr. Barba spurs BEEd interns to embrace realities of teaching

Anjo G. Tugay

"Your classroom will be a microcosm of the world," Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Officer-in-Charge laid bare the realities of teaching before student-interns at BEED Mentoring Program, March 12 at the gymnasium.

Speaking to Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEED) interns deployed in public schools, Dr. Barba urged them to embrace both the joys and struggles of the profession—balancing lesson plans, managing diverse learners, handling workplace dynamics, and shouldering unexpected responsibilities.

"Minsan, mapapatanong ka rin: 'Pinili ko ba ito o pinili ako nito?'" he quipped, drawing laughter from the audience.

As a father of three, Dr. Barba likened teaching to parenting, saying educators shape not just academic knowledge but also values and character. He reminded the interns that every classroom mirrors the

larger world, where they will face challenges requiring both adaptability and compassion.

"Teaching is beyond textbooks. It's about understanding your students, responding to their needs, and preparing them for the real world," he said.

He also gave a candid glimpse into school realities—handling parent-teacher relationships, managing professional dynamics with colleagues and superiors, and handling the inevitable pressures of the job.

He ended with a call for resilience, reminding them that teaching demands both intellect and heart. "Kung may pagkakataong mapagod, magpahinga pero huwag sumuko."

The BEED Mentoring Program is spearheaded by the College of Education with its Dean Dr. Maria Sheila R. Gregorio and Teacher



BEED MENTORING PROGRAM. University Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. speaks with the interns of Bachelor of Elementary Education on March 12.

Education Chairperson Dr. Edna A. Pante. The program continues to equip student-interns with firsthand

insights from experienced mentors who are alumni of the university.



LENS ABOVE. A bird's-eye view of a simulated high-angle rescue mission involving a patient being retrieved from the rooftop of a three-story administrative building to the front grounds of CatSU during the first-quarter earthquake drill, conducted with personnel from the Bureau of Fire Protection.

International disaster specialist applauds CatSU quake drill: perfect - nobody got hurt

Albert G. Clemente



International Disaster Specialist Andrew Hoar

"I think it's perfect since nobody got hurt. Today was an excellent job," expressed by Mr. Andrew Hoar, an international disaster specialist who personally observed the earthquake drill featuring simulated emergency scenarios, which was hosted by Catanduanes State University on Thursday afternoon, March 13, in collaboration with various law

enforcement and disaster response agencies.

Hoar emphasized that safety is a key component of any disaster response, and suggested minor improvements, such as avoiding speeding and backing up vehicles onsite since during the simulation, emergency vehicles, including ambulances and fire trucks, responded promptly to conduct high-angle operations and extinguish a simulated fire at the university gymnasium.

The 1st Quarter National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) simulated an 8.1 magnitude quake, where at 3:00 PM, a loud siren prompted CatSU employees and students to evacuate their classrooms and offices and head to designated safe areas.

Other disaster response officials also provided feedback, applauding



SIMULATED FIRE BROKE OUT. Two personnel from the Bureau of Fire Protection extinguished a simulated fire in front of the University Gymnasium, flushing water as part of the fire and earthquake drill at CatSU on March 13, 2025.



the quick response of the rescue teams and praising the inter-agency cooperation.

They looked forward to more drills and training to continue improving the disaster preparedness of all involved.

During the exercise, the CatSU community, led by Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., witnessed simulated fires, search and rescue operations, and a rescue where a victim was lifted using a makeshift zipline from the top of a university building to the flagpole.

Vice President for Administrative Affairs Engr. Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda expressed his gratitude and

commendation to the responders, led by the director of simulation, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Chief Luis P. Surtida Jr, for successfully conducting the earthquake drill with multiple emergency scenarios.

Other participating agencies included the Catanduanes Provincial Police Office, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of Virac, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Provincial Engineering Office, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Provincial Health Office, among others.



BEATING PULSE. A simulated patient with severe injuries is lying on the floor and is about to receive first aid from two personnel from the Red Cross Catanduanes Chapter.

Local Emergency Hotlines:

Virac MDRMO:	0921 425 6862
PDRMO:	0912 670 7777
PNP:	0908 894 7040
Philippine Red Cross:	0907 933 8303
Immaculate Heart of Mary Hospital ER:	0932 710 0514
EBMC Emergency Department Hotline:	0985 801 3714
CDHI Emergency Room Hotline:	0908 629 7651

Earthquake Safety:



'Building Institutions as Champions of Optimum Lifelong Learning', HIGH FIVE unveiled as CHED Bicol's new slogan, 8-point agenda

Albert G. Clemente



The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Office V released its new slogan, "Building Institutions as Champions of Optimum Lifelong Learning," along with its 8-Point Agenda, called HIGH FIVE, on March 3, 2025.

This slogan encourages Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Bicol, including Catanduanes State University, "to go beyond traditional instruction and become champions of excellence, innovation, and lifelong learning," according to CHED Region V Memorandum Order No. 34 s. 2025, which was signed by newly installed Regional Director Dr. Demetrio P. Anduyan, Jr.

Addressed to all Bicol presidents and heads of public and private higher education institutions, CHED Region V memorandum emphasized that the vision for HEIs is not only to provide knowledge but also to lead in preparing future-ready graduates—institutions that don't just respond to change but actively drive it.

The agency aims to achieve this by incorporating advanced technology, relevant curricula, and hands-on learning into academic programs while fostering leadership and critical thinking among students.

"HEIs should emphasize digital literacy, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research-driven cultures to develop students' expertise and confidence. This includes internships, mentorships, and global engagement," the memorandum stated.

Dr. Anduyan also wrote on his social media account on March 5, 2025, calling the Bicol 8-Point Agenda a commitment to the holistic development of students, ensuring they receive a well-rounded education that supports academic, physical, emotional, and ethical growth.

He further highlighted that CHED Region V is dedicated to supporting international collaboration and integrating Bicol's heritage into education, while also preparing students with the necessary 21st-century skills.

CatSU Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., expressed full support for the slogan and agenda, reaffirming the University's commitment to CHED Region V's goal of producing globally competitive graduates who will make a meaningful impact and drive change for the nation.

8 POINT AGENDA

Holistically develop learners by fostering programs that nurture their academic, physical, emotional, and ethical growth, producing well-rounded graduates.

Inclusively provide equitable and accessible quality education by creating opportunities for all, especially for marginalized and underserved communities.

Guide Higher Education Institutions in their quest for internationalization and provide support to Transnational Higher Education; gear-up partnerships that foster cross-border collaborations to enhance academic excellence and global competitiveness.

Honor and preserve local heritage by embedding Bicol's culture, history, and traditions in curricula while promoting initiatives that safeguard the region's socio-cultural identity.

Foster future-ready programs that adapt to global trends and equip learners with 21st-century and lifelong skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Institutionalize a culture of research and innovation by strengthening HEI capacities to conduct impactful studies and develop technology that address regional and national development needs.

Vitalize partnerships by building strong collaborations with industries, local and global stakeholders, and government agencies to enhance educational and economic outcomes.

Empower communities through HEI-led extension programs that address socio-economic challenges and foster inclusive and sustainable development.

Dr. Barba to CatSU ROTC: Stand tall for leadership, discipline, service

Anjo G. Tugay



DISCIPLINE AND SERVICE. University Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba, Jr. talked with the ROTC cadets during the presentation of sponsors and escorts

Welcoming new sponsors and honoring outgoing batch, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) staged the Presentation of Sponsors

and Escorts this morning, March 11, at the Front Grounds of the CatSU Administrative Building.

Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., CatSU Officer-in-Charge, fired up over 400

cadets with his speech, recalling his days as a CAT battalion commander at Catanduanes National High School. He shared his dream of joining the military but was barred by height limits, noting that destiny takes its own path.

"Today, I may not be standing here as a soldier, but as the Officer-in-Charge of this university, leading a different kind of mission—one that builds future leaders, instills discipline, and nurtures service-oriented individuals like you," Dr. Barba said.

He pinned on the impact of ROTC beyond drills and commands and its role in shaping discipline, grit, and leadership. He challenged cadets to value time, noting that in ROTC, "there is no 'Filipino time'—only 'military time'."

Dr. Barba stressed true leadership, saying real leaders

earn respect rather than demand it. Addressing the Sponsors and Escorts, he commended them as pillars of support, strength, and excellence in ROTC.

"You are more than just the faces of this occasion. You represent the values of ROTC—the grace in discipline, the strength in leadership, and the commitment to excellence," he asserted.

Closing his speech, Dr. Barba left cadets with a message on service and character.

"In life, it doesn't matter how tall you are. What matters is how high your dreams reach," he declared. "Yes, I was 5'3, and yes, I didn't make it to the military. But did that stop me from serving? No. Because true service is not defined by height—it is defined by heart."

Blood drive collects 150 bags at CatSU

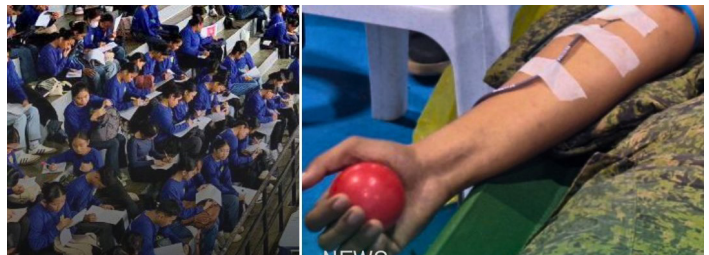
Anjo G. Tugay

A blood donation drive on March 8 at the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Gymnasium yielded 150 bags, totaling 67,500cc of blood, in a daylong activity led by the 503rd Community Defense Center.

Lt. Col. Josephus Emar M. Rempillo, director of the 503rd CDC, said the initiative is part of their sustained efforts as Citizen Army Builders, working alongside

line government agencies, local government units, and volunteer groups to extend essential services to Catandunganons.

In a letter dated March 13 to CatSU OIC Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., Rempillo commended the university's support in providing critical resources and logistics for the event. He assured their continued commitment to similar undertakings in the province.



DROP OF LIFE. ROTC cadet squeezes a round red soft ball to donate blood as part of the Blood Donation drive organized by the 503rd Community Defense Center.

Guerrero takes oath as CatSU Legal Assistant III

Anjo G. Tugay



JUST HIRED. Newly minted Legal Assistant Louie T. Guerrero posed with the appointing officer, none other than Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba, Jr.

Continuing the legacy of merit-based selection, Louie T. Guerrero, top 1 applicant, took his oath as Legal Assistant III of the University Legal Unit before CatSU OIC Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. on March 13 at the Office of the President.

Guerrero, who previously served as Executive Assistant III under the Executive Assistance Services,

secured the post through a stringent selection process by the Personnel Selection Board chaired by Vice President Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda.

Meritocracy stood as one of the hallmarks of then-President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza's administration, ensuring top-caliber hires for the university.

CatSU gets CHED V RQAT nod to offer 2 new programs this AY '25-'26

Anjo G. Tugay



PROGRAM EVALUATION. The Commission on Higher Education's Regional Quality Assessment team visited Catanduanes State University to monitor the programs offered by the university.

Following the three-day evaluation by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Bicol - Regional Quality Assessment Team (RQAT), the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) received recommendations to offer 2 new programs starting in 2025-2026 school year.

The Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and Bachelor of Science in Food Technology — programs that were applied for during the term of then-President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza— will be launched once the compliance documents are submitted to obtain the CHED permit to operate, which Officer-in-Charge

Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. assured evaluators that these will be fulfilled.

From March 18-20, 2025, evaluators also provided positive feedback and recommendations to other existing programs at both the Virac and Panganiban campuses.

RQAT members, along with CHED education supervisors led by Officer-in-Charge Chief Education Program Specialist Engr. Janet N. Naag, and Officer-in-Charge Supervising Education Program Specialist Dr. Jean Salalima-Go, commended the university's facilities, such as the newly established Speech Laboratory, and suggested improvements in areas like staff development, library resources, and additional computers.

Dr. Barba likewise expressed his appreciation to the evaluators and committed to meeting the necessary requirements for the issuance and re-issuance of Certificates of Program Compliance (CoPC) for the university's programs.

Programs evaluated for CoPC at the Virac campus included the Bachelor of Library and Information

Systems, BS Entertainment and Multimedia Computing (Digital Animation and Game Development), BS Internal Auditing, Bachelor of Arts in English Language, BS Mathematics, AB Political Science, Bachelor of Industrial Technology (per major), BS Agriculture (per major), and Bachelor of Secondary Education (per major). At the Panganiban campus, the BS Agriculture program was evaluated for the reissuance of CoPC per major.

Other programs that underwent monitoring were the Bachelor of Public Administration, BS Biology, BS Economics, BS Information Systems, BS Information Technology, BS Computer Science, BS Accounting Information System, and BS Accountancy.

This evaluation is in line with Republic Act 7722, or the "Higher Education Act of 1994," and CHED Memorandum Order No. 9, Series of 2023, which outlines the revised policies and guidelines for the issuance of CoPC to State Universities and Colleges and Local Universities and Colleges.

Salvacion Murillo named new CatSU-OARS Registrar III

Albert G. Clemente



JUST PROMOTED. Ms. Salvacion B. Murillo, from Registrar II to Registrar III.

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba has appointed Salvacion B. Murillo as the new Registrar III, head of the Office of Admission and Registration Services (OARS), effective March 2025.

Fondly known as 'Ma'am Vacy' by her colleagues, Murillo will now oversee the implementation of policies related to admissions, enrollment, graduation, and other academic matters.

Took her oath of office before OIC Barba, Ma'am Vacy, extended her 'sincerest' gratitude to the University officer-in-charge

and selection committee for their commitment to a merit-based hiring process, which began under the leadership of former CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza.

"By prioritizing merit and achievement, the university maintains a high standard of excellence. I am excited to continue serving the whole CatSU community, driving innovation, and making a positive impact," she expressed.

Murillo, who holds a Master's in Public Administration, has been part of CatSU staff for over 33 years, working her way up from entry-level to top-level positions.

Before leading the OARS, she served in the same office in various capacities, including Administrative Officer IV (Registrar II) from 2019-2025, Administrative Assistant II (2014-2019), Administrative Aide VI (2011-2014), Administrative Aide IV (2004-2011), Clerk II (1997-2003), Clerk I (1993-1996), and Office Helper as casual from 1992-1993.

Prior to her career at CatSU, Murillo worked as a clerk at the Department of Agriculture - Catanduanes from 1986 to 1990.

Ma'am Vacy succeeds former Registrar III Marilyn G. Tejada, following her retirement in November 2024.

CEA Robothon, Quiz bowl teams advance to Nationals after regional wins in CPE Challenge

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University College of Engineering and Architecture, Computer Engineering (CatSU CEA CpE), grabbed the 2nd Runner-Up Overall title in the Regional CpE Challenge held from January 16 to 18, 2025, at Bicol University Polangui Campus, earning them the spot to advance in the national tilt in Baguio City.

CatSU ruled key events, seizing the championship in the Quiz Bowl and Robothon with coach Engr. Morris U. Aquino. The Quiz Bowl team—composed of Carla Reyes, Josue Martinez, and Gian Ray Sarmiento—proved their edge in the

competition. The Robothon team, led by Jordan Tioxon, Corinne Tatad, and Aj Von Zedrix Tud, stunned judges with their concept.

In the Robothon, the team tackled a task based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. They pitched a concept paper, illustration, and prototype for a device that converts noise from vehicles into electricity to power streetlights on busy highways.

Corinne Tatad, a fourth-year computer engineering student, shared that poor internet connectivity

posed a challenge during the event but stressed the power of teamwork. "Huwag mong i-limit ang iyong capability. Believe in yourself and your teammates," she said.

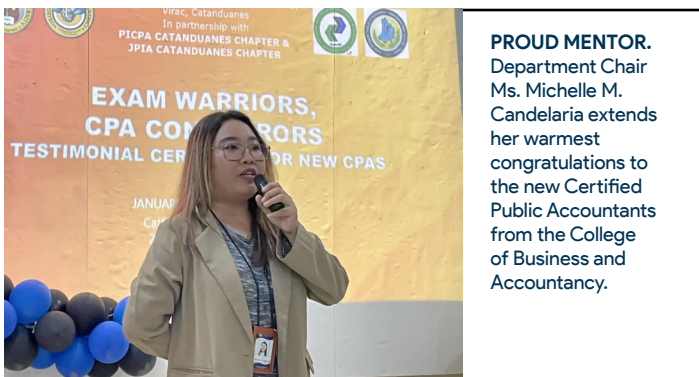
During their courtesy visit to the Office of the President, the team, with Dean Engr. Dexter M. Toyado, presented their wins to OIC President Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. The OIC commended their drive and innovation, and urged them to keep striving for excellence. "Your success proves the caliber of CatSU students. Let this inspire you to reach even greater heights. Rest assured, the administration is behind you all the

way," said Dr. Barba.

Meanwhile, Don Dexter Timajo took Second Runner-Up in Programming, using Python. In e-sports, the Mobile Legends team—composed of Zimone Jude Alfaro, Kurt Marcos, Andrei Tribiana, Nong Bryan Dave Baluyot, and Ronald Castromero—earned First Runner-Up. The Valorant team, with Erna Vallespin, Gian Hernan Gianan, Ethan Kenneth Diestro, Justine Bernardino, and Sean Andrew Torres, secured Second Runner-Up.

December 2024 CPA Passers Honored in Testimonial Dinner

Anjo G. Tugay



PROUD MENTOR.
Department Chair
Ms. Michelle M.
Candelaria extends
her warmest
congratulations to
the new Certified
Public Accountants
from the College
of Business and
Accountancy.

The College of Business and Accountancy (CBA) honored its December 2024 CPA Licensure Examination passers during a testimonial dinner held on January 9, 2025, at the CBA Function Hall.

The event was organized in partnership with the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) – Catanduanes Chapter and the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA) – Catanduanes Chapter.

It was attended by Catanduanes State University Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., CBA Dean Assistant Professor Ian V. Aranel, department chair Ms. Michelle M. Candelaria, faculty members, and senior accountancy students.

Dr. Barba delivered an inspiring message, encouraging the audience to "shoot for the moon; even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

Nine graduates from the university successfully passed the December 2024 CPA Licensure Examination:

- Dikembe Noelle M. Aldave
- Mari Georgette Paden
- Jeselle M. Soriao
- Veronica Tarega

- Daniel B. Tayobana
- Eunice Audrey V. Tendenilla
- Cyr Ernest T. Tevar
- Michael Angelo Z. Tomagan
- Dane Gheisler T. Torrente

Several of the honorees shared their personal stories, providing valuable insight and motivation to current students.

Michael Angelo Tomagan described his journey as "challenging but manageable," emphasizing the importance of discipline, perseverance, and faith.

"The review journey wasn't easy, but it wasn't too difficult either. With the right mindset, discipline, determination, perseverance, and faith in God, I made it," he shared.

Ms. Dane Gheisler T. Torrente and Mr. Tomagan were present to give live testimonies, while Ms. Jeselle M. Soriao, Ms. Dikembe Noelle M. Aldave, Mr. Daniel B. Tayobana, and Ms. Mari Georgette Paden shared their reflections through video and written messages.

The event served not only as a celebration of achievement but also as a source of encouragement for the next generation of CPAs.



FROM ASPIRATION TO ACHIEVEMENT. A proud moment of unity and inspiration as newly licensed CPAs and aspiring accountants come together with CBA officials to celebrate hard-earned success and future aspirations

From JO worker to Permanent Admin Position: Merle Asuncion honors late mother-in-law with her latest feat

Albert G. Clemente

Merle C. Asuncion, 33, a job order employee for seven years, has been selected for the Administrative Aide VI position at the College of Health Sciences, after topping the pool of 12 entrant applicants. She took her oath on March 18, 2025, before Dr. Roberto B. Barba, Jr., Officer-in-Charge of the SUC President's Office.

Asuncion dedicated her success to her late mother-in-law, who sent her to college and had hoped she would secure a permanent job to provide a better future for her three children. Her mother-in-law passed away in 2023, the same year Asuncion gave birth to her youngest child.

"Answered prayers, natupad ko na 'yong pangarap para sako

ning mother-in-law ko na nagpaadal sakuya. Kaya para sainya ini, sa pamilya ko, buda sa magulang ko na nasa Pandan," she expressed, recalling the many sleepless nights spent praying while awaiting the results.

Asuncion, married with three children, is the eldest of six siblings from Pandan and now resides in Virac. Her husband also secured a permanent position at the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Virac last year.

Despite many rejections from different agencies, Asuncion applied for the said position as her final attempt. She was thrilled to learn in January 2025 that she had qualified and gave her best in the exam and

interview, ultimately topping the Catanduanes State University's meritocracy-based hiring process.

She began her career as a job order employee with LGU Virac and later joined CatSU's General Services Unit in 2021.

A graduate of Agriculture, majoring in Crop Science, and gained certification in teaching, Asuncion passed the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers in 2020 and plans to take the Licensure Examination for Agriculturists in November 2025.

Since 2021, she has been working as a part-time instructor for the CatSU-National Service Training Program (NSTP) every Saturday.

Dr. Barba bares support, approves land deal in CSCMPC General Assembly

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University Officer-in-Charge Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. stirred cheers from members of the CatSU Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CSCMPC) after baring the renewal of the cooperative's usufruct contract during its General Assembly held March 22 at the University Auditorium.

Facing a packed hall of shareholders, Dr. Barba veered beyond figures and reports. Instead, he fired up the crowd with a message grounded in unity, financial discipline, and the shared vision of building stronger communities through cooperativism.

"We are not just improving lives—we are empowering people," Dr. Barba said. "Ang kooperatiba ay hindi lang tungkol sa pera—ito ay seguridad, oportunidad, at pakikipagkapwa."

He cited the year's theme, "Cooperatives Build a Better World," and drilled down its relevance by framing it into practical, local action.

"We don't need to change the whole world," he said. "We just need to make a difference in the lives of our members."

Barba also gave a nod to CSCMPC Chair Atty. Gregorio M. Sarmiento Jr. and the full board, lauding their "resilience and drive" that kept the cooperative thriving.

And just before the event's most awaited part—distribution of patronage refunds and share capital interest—Barba dropped a timely reminder: "Spending wisely is not depriving yourself. It's choosing long-term benefit over short-term thrill."

But the speech's high point came when he confirmed his approval of CSCMPC's usufruct renewal—a

move greeted with applause from members.

"This isn't a favor. It's a commitment. The cooperative is vital to our university and our community," he declared.

He ended by rallying members to hold fast to the values of trust, unity, and responsibility, emphasizing that true success lies not just in what one gains, but in what one gives back.



HERALD

The **HERALD** is the official publication of Catanduanes State University which is produced by Information Unit.

The HERALD complements the multi-platform communication arm of Information Unit 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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