



GradNewsLine

Official Newsletter of the Graduate School & Distance Education Programs Office,
Visayas State University, Baybay City, Leyte



From Seed to Leadership: Dr. Belarmino Cultivates the Future of the Graduate School

For over four decades, Dr. Marilyn M. Belarmino has nurtured a remarkable career path, blossoming from a dedicated research assistant to a distinguished leader in the field of genetic resources and agricultural science. Now, Dr. Belarmino brings this wealth of experience to our graduate school, poised to cultivate the next generation of scientific minds.

Dr. Belarmino's journey began in 1983 at the Visayas State College of Agriculture. Though brief, her initial role as a Research Assistant planted the seed of a lifelong commitment to advancing plant science and genetic resources. This passion blossomed further in 1988 with a promotion to Science Research Specialist, where she delved deeper into the intricacies of agricultural science. The following year marked a pivotal shift as Dr. Belarmino transitioned into academia, becoming an instructor in her alma mater. The subsequent years witnessed a steady ascent through the ranks – from Associate Professor III to Associate Professor IV – each rung a testament to her dedication to teaching, research, and mentoring future agricultural scientists.

In 2005, Dr. Belarmino's expertise in genetic



resources took center stage. She joined the World Vegetable Center as a Genetic Resource Scientist, a role spanning seven years. Here, she played a vital role in managing diverse plant genetic materials, contributing directly to global efforts in crop improvement and biodiversity conservation.

The pinnacle of Dr. Belarmino's career in genetic

.. continued from Page 4

what's
inside

VSU CELEBRATES 100 YEARS WITH
GLOBAL EXPERTS

Full story to page 3..

GRADUATE SCHOOL SECRETARY
PARTICIPATES IN PMC FSCC

Full story to page 5..

VSU GRADUATE SCHOOL AT
FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION

Full story to page 4..



EDITOR'S *corner*

DR. MARILYN M. BELARMINO

Warmest greetings to everyone!

I am honored to address you for the first time as Dean of the VSU Graduate School. My journey in the field of genetic resources and agricultural science has been a deeply rewarding one, and I am thrilled to embark on this new chapter, cultivating the future of our esteemed institution alongside all of you.

Looking back, my path began as a research assistant at the Visayas State College of Agriculture in 1983. That initial seed of curiosity blossomed into a lifelong commitment to advancing plant science and genetic resources. The years that followed were marked by a steady climb – from academia to industry leadership – each step fueled by a desire to not only excel in research but also to mentor and empower the next generation of agricultural scientists.

Now, as I take the helm of the Graduate School, I bring not just a wealth of scientific knowledge but also the practical experience of leading complex projects and a deep understanding of industry needs. My vision for our Graduate School is one of constant innovation and excellence. We will strive to equip our students with the knowledge and skills they need to become leaders in their fields, addressing critical global challenges like food security and climate change.

The recent participation of our Graduate School in the PMC FSCC project kick-off meeting exemplifies this commitment. This collaborative effort, aimed at developing micro-credentials focused on food security and climate change, is a testament to our dedication to staying at the forefront of educational innovation.

The VSU Centennial Anniversary Professorial Lecture Series further

underscores our commitment to fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration. By bringing together international experts with our VSU community, we create a platform for dialogue and inspire groundbreaking discoveries.

I am truly inspired by the dedication and talent of our faculty, staff, and students. Together, we will cultivate a vibrant Graduate School that fosters excellence, empowers future leaders, and tackles the pressing issues facing agriculture and allied fields on a global scale.

I look forward to meeting you all and working collaboratively to propel the VSU Graduate School towards a future brimming with success.

VSU Celebrates 100 Years with Global Experts in Centennial Professorial Lecture Series

The Graduate School of Visayas State University (VSU) kicked off a series of thought-provoking lectures as part of the university's grand centennial celebration. The VSU Centennial Anniversary Professorial Lecture Series brought together renowned speakers from across the globe to share their expertise on various topics relevant to sustainability and agriculture.

The series kicked off with Dr. Marife Corre, from Georg August University Goettingen, Germany. Dr. Corre's lecture, titled "Soil Function Assessment for Sustainable Land Use," explored crucial methods for evaluating soil health, a fundamental aspect of maintaining long-term agricultural productivity.

Following Dr. Corre, on March 13th, Professor Ladislav Kokoska from Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, addressed "Recent Advances in Anti-Microbial Susceptibility Testing of Plant Deprived Volatile Agents in Vapour Phase." Professor Kokoska's lecture delved into innovative approaches to combat antimicrobial resistance, a growing challenge in the agricultural sector.

On March 20th, Professor Constanza Parra Novoa of Catholic University Leuven, Belgium, explored the theme of "Nurturing Sustainability Together: Exploring Socially Innovative Community-Based Learning in the CELESTE Network's Journey." Professor Parra Novoa's talk highlighted the importance of collaborative learning and community engagement in achieving sustainable practices.

The series concluded on March 27th with a presentation by Ms. Cherrie Atilano, UN Nutrition Ambassador and Founder/CEO/President of AGREA Agricultural Systems Intl., Inc. Ms. Atilano shared valuable insights on "Impactful Agribusiness Towards Food Systems Transformation."

The VSU Centennial Anniversary Professorial Lecture Series served as a valuable platform for

knowledge exchange and discussion on critical issues facing agriculture and sustainability on a global scale. By bringing together international experts with the VSU community, the series fostered a spirit of collaboration and innovation as the university celebrates its 100th year.



From Seed to Leadership: Dr. Belarmino ..

..from Page 1

resources arrived in 2012 with the leadership mantle of Genetic Resource Manager at East West Seed Co. Inc. This position not only showcased her research acumen but also her prowess in leading and managing complex scientific projects.

Now, as Dr. Belarmino's embarks on this new chapter, we can confidently anticipate a leadership style informed by not just profound scientific knowledge, but also by practical industry experience and a deep-seated commitment to nurturing the next generation of researchers and leaders in agricultural and allied fields

Dr. Belarmino's journey, from a budding research assistant to a seasoned Genetic Resource Manager and finally as the dean of our prestigious Graduate School, is a testament to her unwavering dedication, unparalleled expertise, and visionary approach to the field. We, at the Graduate School, eagerly look forward to the innovative perspectives and initiatives Dr. Belarmino will bring to our institution, propelling us towards a future brimming with groundbreaking discoveries.

VSU Graduate School at the Forefront of Innovation: Attends the PMC FSCC Project Kick-Off Meeting

The Visayas State University (VSU) Graduate School played a prominent role in the kick-off meeting for the Postgraduate Micro-Credentials on Food Security and Climate Change (PMC FSCC) project, held from January 31 to February 1, 2024. This initiative, led by Kasetsart University (KU) and funded by the European Commission's ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) program, is a significant step forward for VSU and other participating institutions.

Spanning from 2023 to 2026, the PMC FSCC project aims to revolutionize educational delivery by offering learner-centered, short-term courses through micro-credentials. This innovative approach tackles the critical issues of food security and climate change by leveraging the power of digital technologies to develop and deliver online modules.

VSU Graduate School at the Forefront continued ..

The kick-off meeting brought together leading universities from Southeast Asia and Europe, showcasing VSU's Graduate School among esteemed institutions like Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and Universitas Brawijaya (UB) from Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) from Malaysia; Maejo University (MJU) and Kasetsart University (KU) from Thailand; UP Los Baños (UPLB), Central Luzon State University (CLSU), and other prestigious universities. Notably, the online participation of VSU's Graduate School underlines its commitment to staying at the forefront of educational innovation and addressing global challenges.

Beyond simply attending, the VSU Graduate School actively participated in the project discussions. The meeting delved into the necessity for micro-credentials, with presentations showcasing existing offerings from various universities. This included presentations from both KU's School of Integrated Science and the Graduate School. Additionally, VSU gained valuable insights from SEARCA's survey on micro-credential programs within member universities and UGOE's experiences with micro-credentials in the European Union.

The two-day meeting culminated with partner institutions collaboratively defining micro-credentials within the project's framework. Discussions also covered work packages, deliverables, deadlines, budget considerations, and administrative requirements. This collaborative effort paves the way for a successful project implementation, with VSU's Graduate School positioned as a key player in advancing food security and climate change education through innovative micro-credentials.

This revision emphasizes VSU's Graduate School's active participation and contributions to the project. It highlights their online presence at the kick-off meeting and showcases their potential role in the project's success.





Graduate School Secretary Participates in PMC FSCC Workshop

Dr. Catherine C. Arradaza, Secretary of the Graduate School, honed her expertise in module development for a vital project tackling food security and climate change. The secretary participated in a week-long training-workshop held from April 22 to 26, 2024, at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). Hosted by Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand, the workshop focused on developing modules for the Postgraduate Micro-Credentials for Food Security and Climate Change (PMC FSCC) project.

Throughout the intensive program, Dr. Arradaza gained valuable insights from renowned experts.

Renowned figures such as Professor Emeritus Alexander G. Flor of UPLB and faculty from UP Open University led sessions on micro-credentials, crafting effective modules, and developing robust assessment tools.

Dr. Arradaza's participation in this crucial training equipped the Graduate School to play a significant role in the PMC FSCC project. This project aims to empower graduates with the necessary knowledge and skills to address the challenges of food security in the face of climate change.

VSU's Graduate School remains committed to fostering excellence and equipping its students with the expertise needed to address pressing global issues.



JOIN OUR TEAM
WE ARE HIRING

➔ **MEDIA SPECIALIST**

Qualification :

- BSc degree in DevCom
- Knowledge of Corel, Adobe Photoshop, Sony Vegas & other media editing software
- Familiarity with web design and content management systems
- Strong verbal and written skills
- Additional qualification in web design or animation is a plus



JOIN US

Send your resume, cover letter & other pertinent document to:
gs@vsu.edu.ph

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES JOURNAL

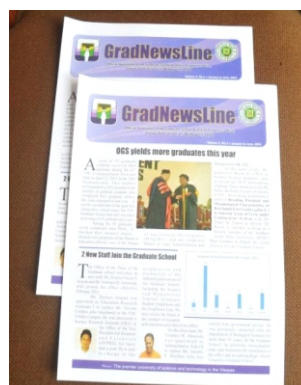
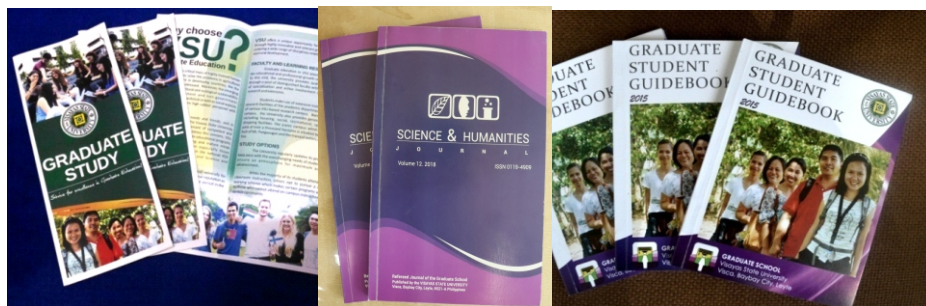
Email: shjournal@vsu.edu.ph Website: scienceandhumanitiesjournal.com.ph

CALL FOR PAPERS!
2024 ISSUE

 incentives are waiting! *

GRADUATE SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

- Graduate Student Guidebook
- VSU Graduate School Code
- Graduate School Program Manual of Operations
- GradNewsLine
- Science and Humanities Journal
- Graduate School Information Bulletin



Volume 12, No. 1 January to June 2024

GradNewsLine
Official Newsletter of the Graduate School & Distance Education Programs Office,
Visayas State University, Baybay City, Leyte

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Marilyn M. Belarmino

Assistant Editor & Layout Artist
Claudette Meli Hoff Garduce



Writer
Claudette Meli Hoff Garduce



Contributors
Mark Joshua S. Quevedo
Catherine C. Arradaza

Editorial Consultant
Rotacio S. Gravoso

For more information and inquiries visit us at:
VSU GRADUATE SCHOOL OFFICE
Ground Floor, VSU Old Library Building
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte
(053) 525 0338

Connect with us!

 www.vsu.edu.ph/gs  gs@vsu.edu.ph

 [/vsugradschool](https://www.facebook.com/vsugradschool)  [@gradschool_vsu](https://twitter.com/gradschool_vsu)

Vision
A globally competitive university for science, technology, and environmental conservation.

Mission
Development of a highly competitive human resource, cutting-edge scientific knowledge and innovative technologies for sustainable communities and environment.