



Shamag

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BSU presidential candidates present visions



The BSU presidential candidates: (L-R) Stanley Fongafong Anongos Jr., Freddie Bencio Caday, Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon, Jesson Yagyagen Del-amen, Jimmy Balud Fong, Kenneth Alip Laruan, and Mark Preston Sumcad Lopez//PGadang

Seven candidates vying as the eighth president of Benguet State University (BSU) presented their plans during the Public Presentation and Forum held at the BSU Gymnasium on October 21, 2024.

The forum was led by Ryan L. Eztevez, Chair of the Search Committee for BSU President. The event aimed to provide the academic community with a platform to hear the presidential candidates' visions,

plans, and programs. It also served as an avenue for constituencies to raise concerns and issues that the future BSU president would need to address.

Stanley Fongafong Anongos Jr., Professor V and Dean of the BSU College of Social Sciences, envisions as a globally recognized university that integrates international perspectives with local heritage for world citizenship.

Freddie Bencio Caday, Professor IV and VP for Administration at Ifugao State University (IFSU), aims for BSU to become a leading international university with premier centers of academic excellence, research innovations, and cultural heritage.

Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon, the incumbent President of IFSU, sees BSU to be a Reputable, Innovative, Sustainable, and

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BSU Int'l Week 2024 Celebrating Diversity and Commitment to Sustainable Dev't Goals

With the theme, "Advancing the Future of International Education through Technology and Entrepreneurship" Benguet State University celebrated the International Week 2024 from October 21 - 30, 2024. The International Week was filled with various activities including exhibits, parades, and open house, alongside the commemoration of United Nations Day 2024. International Week 2024 is a continuation of the successful United Nations Day celebration held on October 24, 2023.

This celebration also served as an extension of the 108th BSU Foundation Anniversary, which took place from September 23-30, 2024, with the theme "BSU Embracing Intergenerational Entrepreneurial Spirit."

To kick off the International Week, the International Relations Office (IRO) launched the BSU Sustainable Photo Contest, inviting

students to submit photo entries that capture BSU's efforts to contribute to achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Launching of Sustainability Literacy Program

The BSU International Week 2024 started with the launched of the Sustainability Literacy Program on October 21, 2024. The event gathered 102 participants joining both online and onsite.

In his opening remarks, IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang outlined the rationale behind the initiative, emphasizing the importance of sustainability education for the university and the region. Warathida Chaiyapa, a sustainability expert from Chiang Mai University Thailand, delivered an insightful keynote exploring the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and introducing the emerging Inner Development Goals (IDGs) framework.

Bachelor of Science in Development Communication students also showcased their video outputs, which highlighted the current state of SDG implementation and proposed actionable steps for Cordilleran universities.

VP for Research and Extension, Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, led the participants in a sustainability pledge, calling for collective action to address the challenges of the SDGs within the university. To conclude the event, Lumbres and Bawang led the signing of the Sustainability Commitment Wall, followed by BSU officials and students.

The Sustainability Literacy Program (Increasing Awareness, Igniting Action) at BSU is a powerful tool for promoting sustainability

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Shamag, first published in 1996, is the official newsletter of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is one of the platforms for BSU to disseminate the programs, achievements and advocacies to its stakeholders. *Shamag* aims to help the University advance its goals by championing effective communication and partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the BSU-Public Affairs Office at publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph. However, the *Shamag* staff reserves the right to edit submitted materials for mechanics and ethics. The *Shamag* is guided by the Associated Press (AP) style and journalistic standards.

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Benguet State University

VISION

BSU as an International Smart University engendering graduates to walk the intergenerational highways.

MISSION

BSU CARES to: **C**hallenge innovation, **A**dvance technology and facility, **R**evitalize administration, **E**ngender partnership, and **S**erve intergenerational role.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal I. Challenge Innovation in the four fold functions of the University

Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To provide quality education responsive to the needs of time;
2. **(Research)** To enhance research productivity contributing to sustainable development;
3. **(Extension)** To disseminate relevant research outputs and other scholarly activities consistent with BSU's mandated programs;
4. **(Production)** To promote sustainable and appropriate resource generation strategies for the implementation of development plans; and
5. **(Administration)** To advocate for resource management and effective energy efficiency in addressing the demands of climate change.

Goal II. Advance Technology and Facility by shaping the University become responsive to modern needs.

Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To use information and communication technology learning resources to sustain and enhance quality of alternative teaching - learning continuity endeavors;
2. **(Research and Extension)** To upgrade facilities and enable researchers/extensionists to conduct activities using specialized facilities;
3. **(Production)** To acquire and upgrade state-of-the-art facilities in the projects innovation; and
4. **(Administration)** To upgrade facilities and establish modern physical infrastructures.

Goal III. Revitalize Administration by harmonizing performance monitoring, information, and reporting systems.

Objectives:

1. To elevate the BSU PRIME-HRM to a level of excellence for good governance and efficient public service;
2. To reinforce transparency, integrity, and objectivity in the delivery of service;
3. To regenerate instruction, research, extension, production, linkages, governance, management, and policies; and
4. To streamline operations to be efficient, effective, and responsive to challenges and changes.

Goal IV. Engender Partnership by proactively strengthening linkages

Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To establish academic partnerships with local, regional, national, and international institutions providing educational opportunities for faculty, staff, and students;
2. **(Research)** To increase and sustain university relations with academe, industries, GOs, NGOs, and LGUs for research funding;
3. **(Extension)** To increase and sustain partnership with academe, LGUs, NGOs, Industries, and others; and
4. **(Production)** To comply with existing laws, policies and other requirements.

Goal V. Serve Intergenerational Role by revitalizing the Spiritual, Physical, Economical, Cultural, Intellectual, Emotional, and Social (S.P.E.C.I.E.S.) state.

Objectives:

1. To offer programs that embody social, cultural, economic and developmental needs both for local and global markets;
2. To champion local culture and languages in the University context through research, extension, and academic programs;
3. To document best practices of the University.

AdCo Action No. 03, s.2021

Quality Policy

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.

Board Resolution # 2847 S.2016

Scouts assume roles of 46 BSU officials for a day



BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and Zoecray Shane D. Samuel, the scout appointed as University President for the day//LGuzman

A total of 46 Scout Officials for a Day (SOFAD) from various schools in Benguet took over the roles of Benguet State University (BSU) officials on October 14, 2024.

The annual SOFAD event, organized by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of the Philippines-Benguet Councils, aims to provide young scouts the chance to experience public

service by assuming positions in the Benguet Province government, national line agencies, and BSU.

In his message, BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila encouraged the SOFAD to become resilient and persevere because he believed that one day, they would become public servants and officials of BSU or the province of Benguet. He also urged the scouts to engage in entrepreneurship at a young age as he emphasized the significance of business in sustaining themselves financially.

After the opening program, the SOFAD participants proceeded to their assigned roles within BSU, serving as university president, vice-presidents, deans of colleges, and directors.

The event concluded with the awarding of certificates to the SOFAD.//EBawayan

Futures Thinking Seminar held for BSU leaders



Around 140 leaders under the Academic sector of Benguet State University attended the Futures Thinking Seminar held on October 8-10, 2024 at the Tuscany Hotel in Baguio City. With the theme "Academicians as Innovation Leaders for Global Competitiveness Towards National Development," the activity involved executive deans, deans, academic directors, department chairpersons, advanced studies coordinators, and Supreme Student Government (SSG) officers.

Guest speakers of the event were from the Innovation Lab Center for Strategic Futures, included The center's Project Leader, Ray Daniel Peralta and Strategy Management Development Director Catherine Luzuriaga.

On the first day, Peralta introduced Futures Thinking and Foresight providing a short background of its objectives and terminologies and also discussed the vision of BSU through the Futures Triangle. Luzuriaga

discussed strategic challenging and framing questions related to strengthening planning processes for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The participants were next divided into groups to create strategic challenge questions as a workshop exercise.

In the afternoon, each group presented the progress of their strategic challenge questions before Peralta gave a discussion on Driving Forces leaning more on providing a framework in determining focal concerns. After the discussion, Peralta then gave the second workshop exercise. Certificates of Recognition were given to the resource speakers at the end of the first day.

Day two began with a short Zumba dance exercise led by College of Human Kinetics (CHK) Dean Marlon Tabdi alongside Department Chair Jandy Gay-as. A recap of activities for Day 1 was presented by College of Forestry (CF) Dean Gerry Alfonso. College

of Nursing (CN) Department Chair Dominador Abad Jr. introduced the guest speaker for the remaining two days.

Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Council of Fellows Senior Executive Fellow III Alan Cajés began his discussion by relating how decisions are made both in the historical past and in the present modern times. Cajés then introduced his topic on Developed and Operationalized Strategic Foresight for Entrepreneurial Innovations in Higher Education. Terminologies and relations were discussed to further reinforce the knowledge shared by the two guest speakers during the first day.

Cajés discussed more on driving force and trends in higher education institutions. In the afternoon participants presented their framing questions, leading trends, and drivers which are outputs from their workshops.

On the last day, another short Zumba dance exercise was led by CHK Associate Dean Ryan Batina followed by a recap of the discussions on Day 2 by College of Social Sciences (CSS) Associate Dean Theresa Dolipas. After an AVP showing the highlights of day two was presented, Cajés discussed on Scaling Academics Towards a Smart University: Bridging the Industry and Academe Gap through Smart Solutions. This was followed by another workshop for the participants to rejoin all discussions and workshop exercises. This was facilitated by College of Information Sciences (CIS) Dean Russell Dolendo.

At the end of the three-day activity, College of Teacher Education (CTE) Dean Divina Yango representing VP for Academic Affairs Samuel Poliden expressed her gratitude to the participants and the resource speakers who shared their knowledge and expertise. The activity ended with the awarding of certificates. The activity was organized by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs in collaboration with DAP.//EBawang

‘No one should be left behind’: stakeholders’ stance on the PUV Modernization Program

In a forum on the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization (PUVM) program of the Philippines held on October 10, 2024, most of the concerns re-echoed by the stakeholders is the need for more consultations, clearer regulations, and support for drivers, operators, and local manufacturers to ensure that no one is left behind.

Launched in 2017, the PUVM program aimed to provide the public with a safe, convenient, reliable, and environmentally friendly public transport system. However, the program also involves the phase-out of the traditional PUVs or jeepneys causing mixed reactions from commuters, drivers, operators, and local jeepney manufacturers.

In an effort to help address the concerns regarding the modernization, the Benguet State University (BSU) through the Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD) conducted an opinion poll. To communicate the results of the poll, ISRD spearheaded an Informing Policy and Practice: PUV Modernization Program Policy Forum at the Everlasting Hall, Research and Extension Building.

The forum provided a venue for research dissemination, consultation and policy review on the studies conducted by BSU and other researchers in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) on

the modernization program. It also gathered stakeholders including the drivers, local jeepney manufacturers, and some commuters who expressed their opinions and suggestions leading to collaborations for possible solutions in forwarding the interest of local driver-operators and commuters. Representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Local Government Unit of La Trinidad, and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) were also present.

VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres welcomed the participants followed by University President Felipe Salaing Comila with his inspirational message, and ISRD Director Ann Heather B. Kiwang who shared the rationale and flow of the activity.

The first speaker, retired Professor and UP Los Banos Scientist Teodoro C. Mendoza, through zoom, talked about his study on Addressing the “Blind Side” of the Government’s Jeepney Modernization Program. Mendoza highlighted key issues with the program like high cost of modern jeepneys that can lead to potential fare hikes, negative impact on the drivers including loss of jobs and lesser income due to costly investments. He also emphasized that while the program aims to reduce air pollution by replacing the older jeepneys with newer models, the

high cost of modern jeepneys may limit the number of vehicles that can be replaced, potentially slowing the progress towards cleaner transportation in the country. Overall, Mendoza argues for a more comprehensive approach on how to address the challenges faced by the public transportation sector and exploration on the use of water-based fuel and electric vehicles.

Pines City National High School Faculty Ron Alvin C. Akiapat, presented the results of his study on the electric and hybrid vehicles readiness and implications to the automotive industry in Baguio City. He found out that while drivers and technicians have a high knowledge about electric and hybrid vehicles, they have a low level of acceptance of these technologies. This is due to the lack of confidence on service technicians’ skills. The observed curriculum gaps of DepEd and TESDA also limits the training required for electronic and hybrid vehicles. Akiapat recommended extensive training, community engagements, curriculum updates, promoting public awareness, and further studies behind the low level of acceptance of electric and hybrid vehicles in Baguio City.

Another research done to find the implications of the PUVMP as experienced by driver-operators and commuters in La

No one...continued on page 6

Students empowered at Global Entrepreneurship Week



Benguet State University (BSU) joined the 2024 Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) by holding its own event for entrepreneurship students on October 8-11, 2024. The GEW celebrates the concept of inspiring people to start their own business.

The Department of Entrepreneurship, under the College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET), launched its GEW 2024 with the theme “Entrepreneurship is for

Everyone: Developing a Customer-Centric Mindset” at the BSU Marketing Center Parking Lot. During the opening program, VP for Business Affairs Norma P. Banania shared her insights on entrepreneurship and the rationale of the event.

“The celebration is more of the entrepreneurial empowerment, not only for students, but to all our stakeholders in the university,” she said.

Banania added that this is not just about celebration, but it is about bringing out the best among the students and stakeholders who come together not to compete, but to show their creative innovation.

CHET Faculty Member Jeftee Ben B. Pinos-an remarked that the GEW is a worldwide event that occurs every November. However, due to the change in the academic calendar, adjustments were made. He also emphasized that discussing entrepreneurship involves the experiences that come with it.

Likewise, Department of Entrepreneurship Chairperson Michael Karl M. Barnuevo reiterated that the event aims to showcase talent, and exercise creativity and innovation through product development whether in food or apparel. He also presented the lineup of activities for the GEW.

After the opening program, several activities took place including the Entrep Talks featuring Allan Y. Diaz, the owner of D'Exodus Gastropub and co-owner of Baguio Craft Brewery; Premetevo Voloria II, the owner of the House of Prevo; John Forian B. Avila, the co-owner of Le Jar De Trinidad; and Jenny B. Timbol, the owner of Ellebanna Aklang Handicrafts. The guests shared their experiences, challenges, and ideas to inspire the students in pursuing their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs.

This was followed by a food carving competition and talent show to showcase the *BSU empowers...continued on page 6*

Gender and Development Corner

The month of October has been an eventful month for the Gender and Development (GAD) Office as it facilitated three activities relevant to the advancement of its advocacies. **October 9 and 11, 2024:** A total of 2,970 new students were oriented about mainstreaming mutual respect and safety among themselves. The activity aimed to promote awareness of gender and development, data privacy, and reproductive health issues.

GAD-Technical Working Group (TWG) Jude L. Tayaben discussed adolescent reproductive health. He talked about the different causes, effects, and impacts of teenage pregnancy, AIDS/HIV, and cervical cancer. Tayaben encouraged the students to be aware of their actions and to practice safe sex or delay their sexual activities.

GAD-TWG members Imelda B. Galinato for the October 9, 2024 batch and Imelda G. Parcasio for the October 11, 2024 batch gave oriented the students on gender and development. They talked about the principles of GAD, including gender equality, gender equity, and gender mainstreaming.

BSU Administrative Division and Data Privacy Officer Chief Matias C. Angiwan, Jr. also discussed Republic Act Number 10173: Data Privacy Act that enforces the protection of personal data. Angiwan emphasized the importance of data privacy, data subjects' rights, different data breaches, and penalties.

October 16-18, 2024: A three-day planning workshop titled, "BSU-Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting 2025 (GPB): Advancing Gender Equality through Strategic Action" at Santiago Cove, Sabangan, Santiago, Ilocos Sur.

Before finalizing the BSU GAD Plan and Budget for 2025, the BSU GAD TWG members from the La Trinidad, Bokod, and Buguias campuses embarked on a training-workshop with Frances Noelle G. Escalera from the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Resource Pool. Escalera is a former BSU-GAD Unit Director who is now a Supervising Professional Regulations Officer of the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC)-Baguio City.

The workshop aimed to train the TWG members on the preparation of the GAD Plan and Budget (GPB) and GAD accomplishment report; and enhance their capabilities in mainstreaming GAD in the university.

Escalera discussed GAD concepts, gender roles, gender biases, differences in gender equality and equity, gender mainstreaming, and gender analysis on the first day. After the discussion, Escalera grouped the participants for the workshop. The output of the workshop session aimed to measure the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) functionality of BSU in the implementation of GAD in the university.

The second topic was GAD Planning and Budgeting Framework and GAD Analysis Tools and Techniques, focused on the basic concepts, general guidelines, and essential elements in GAD planning and budgeting. Escalera tackled the procedures for formulating GPB, including the preparation and adaptation of the GAD agenda. She also talked about identifying appropriate programs and projects (PAPs) to address priority gender issues and



The participants with the BFP trainers at the Water Rescue Safety and Drowning Prevention training on October 30, 2024 in Tuba, Benguet/EBawang

considering the use of the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG).

On the second day, GAD Director Estrellita M. Daclan then presented the activities, outputs, and challenges of the GAD office within the year 2024. Afterwards, Escalera continued her discussion on the GPB proposal and GAD accomplishment report.

The participants presented their workshop outputs and finalized the 2025 GAD Plan and Budget on the third day. The activity concluded with the sharing of the participant's experiences. Daclan expressed her gratitude to Escalera for sharing her expertise and to the participants for their active participation.

October 29, 2024: In partnership with the College of Social Sciences (CSS), the GAD Office co-hosted the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous Knowledge through a student activity "Understanding Gender and Cultural Expressions of the Cordilleras and Lowlands: An Intercultural Exchange that promotes Appreciations of Local Heritage." The activity serves as a way to preserve and introduce diverse cultures ranging from songs, dances and food presentation of the cordilleras and the lowlands to students who have not been exposed to different cultural practices outside their own.

The activity was conducted at the open grounds in front of the CSS and College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences (CNAS) building on October 29, 2024. Students from the different Colleges were assigned to research and study the cultural practices of each province in the Cordillera Administrative Region and some lowlands provinces. They then translated what they studied to cooking native cuisines and performances presented during the event.

GAD Director Estrellita M. Daclan gave the opening remarks while CSS Extension Coordinator Gigy G. Banes provided the rationale behind the activity. CSS faculty members Elvie D. Nang-is and Elvis P. Ballacay introduced the Panel of Evaluators while Queses K. Quela presented the criteria of evaluation.

During the presentations of songs and dances, University President Felipe Salaing Comila gave a short message and encouraged the students to continue in helping preserve the culture of CAR. During the lunch break, the students served the native cuisines they cooked for the evaluators to taste and rate.

October 30, 2024: In coordination with the Bureau of Fire Protection-Cordillera Administrative Region (BFP-CAR) La Trinidad Fire Station, Benguet State University's GAD

conducted its fifth training on Water Rescue Safety and Drowning Prevention. This event was held on October 30, 2024 at the Palm Grove Hot Springs and Mountain Resort in Asin, Tuba, Benguet.

In his message, BSU National Service Training Program Director Bryant O. Botengan emphasized that the training is part of the university's commitment to equipping individuals with essential skills. He hoped that the participants acquired these skills because they are crucial during emergencies.

Roy T. Calpi, SFO1 of the BFP-CAR La Trinidad Fire Station and one of the trainers, urged the participants to give their full attention and cooperation throughout the training. He then introduced his team members: FO2 Brix A. Copsiyan and FO2 Christian B. Fadchal.

During the training, discussions were made on swimming techniques, water rescue strategies, and drowning prevention methods.

The training ended with participants sharing their insights and experiences. In his closing remarks, Botengan reiterated the application of the four pillars of learning. First is to 'learn to know' as we need knowledge as we go along in developing ourselves as life-long learners, second is 'learning to do' because by doing we gain more knowledge, third is 'learning to live together' or working collaboratively, and finally, 'learning to be' which is developing not just knowledge, but also personal growth.

Fadchal likewise encouraged the participants to continue learning. He also urged the participants to practice what they have learned and to face their fears.// GBacgalang,EBawang,PGadang&BTayaban

BSU Int'l...from page 1

education, fostering regional development, and addressing the pressing environmental and social challenges faced by the Cordillera region and beyond. By integrating Indigenous knowledge, strengthening climate resilience, and supporting the SDGs, the program aims to empower the BSU community while solidifying BSU's position as a leader in sustainable development, both locally and globally.

IRO Hosts Slogan and Poster Making Contest on UN SDGs; BSU RSOs Showcase International Cuisine in the Int'l Food Bonanza

The second day of the International Week on October 22, 2024 featured the Slogan and Poster Making Competitions. The competitions centered around the theme "BSU Sustainable," with contestants creatively illustrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) assigned to them by random draw.

BSU Int'l...continued on page 6

In the afternoon, a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the International Food Bonanza at the BSU Covered Court. The event was led by IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang and the Supreme Student Government (SSG).

BSU Joins UN Day 2024 Celebration; Hosts Educational Fair Exhibit

Due to inclement weather, activities originally scheduled from October 23 to 25 were postponed to October 29, 2024. The festivities began with the highly anticipated Parade of Flags. The Secondary Laboratory School (SLS) and the various colleges paraded according to their assigned continents. Leading the procession were the BSU - Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit (ROTC) members proudly carrying the BSU Sustainable banner to signify BSU's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Students wore traditional attire from various countries and waved flaglets representing the 17 SDGs assigned to them. The search for Mr. and Ms. UN also took place during the procession with each candidate leading their respective colleges.

The college representatives took audiences on a journey around the world embracing their assigned regions. Representing the diversity of Asia, the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) highlighted Central and South Asia, while the College of Information Sciences (CIS) and the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) showcased the traditions of East Asia. Southeast Asia was represented by both the College of Nursing (CN) and the College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG). The Middle East was brought to life by the College of Social Sciences (CSS).

Representing the Americas, the College of Forestry (CF) featured Central America and the Caribbean, with the College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET) highlighting Central and South America, and the College of Home Economics and Technology (CHK) representing North America.

European and African regions were also celebrated. The College of Agriculture (CA) represented Western Europe, while the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) focused on Eastern Europe, and the College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences (CNAS) represented Central Europe. Oceania was showcased by the College of Engineering (CE). Finally, the African continent was represented by the Secondary Laboratory School (SLS), covering North, Central, and South Africa, with special participation from BSU Buguias students representing East Africa.

In his opening remarks, IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang emphasized BSU's ongoing efforts to promote global learning, sustainable development, and cultural exchange.

This was followed by a series of stunning presentations. The SLS began the showcase with an Egyptian-themed dance, while the CA dazzled the audience with a passionate Flamenco performance representing Spain. The CAH brought the magic of Bollywood to life with a vibrant dance for India, and the CHET students energized the crowd with a lively Brazilian Carnival performance. The CE honored Australia's heritage with an Aboriginal-inspired dance, while the CHK students entertained with a hip-hop routine representing the USA. The CIS brought the trend of K-Pop to the stage, and the CNS wowed with a Greek-inspired dance, drawing inspiration from Hercules. The CNAS students performed a Swiss folk dance, while the CN college showcased Thailand's classical Natin dance. The CSS presented a traditional UAE dance, and the CTE brought the vibrant traditions of Mexico to life with a performance inspired by the movie *Coco*. The CVM performed a stunning portrayal of the changing seasons in Japan. Finally, the CPAG concluded the performances with a trending P-Pop dance, representing the Philippines.

The Parade of Flags and the *Pasikatan* offered students the opportunity to celebrate

their heritage while also fostering a deeper understanding of global cultures.

In the afternoon, the UN Day Quiz Bee 2024 was held at the BSU Gymnasium, with participants from the different colleges, SLS, and the BSU Buguias Campus competing. The quiz bee was conducted using the KaHoot! App, where quiz master Jovelyn P. Lao-e read out the questions, and participants answered using their devices. The fastest team to provide the correct answer won the round and accumulated points.

The competition featured three rounds, with questions categorized as easy, average, and difficult. After 25 questions, the scoreboard revealed the winners: CTE emerged as the Champion, while CN and CIS secured second and third place, respectively.

On the same day, the Exploring Pathways to Global Learning: Educational Fair was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila, joined by IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang, and CHED Representatives Godfrey G. Mendoza and Quennie Lelina Rumbaoa, inaugurated the educational fair. Among the exhibitors were Bag-iw Travel and Tours, the Commission on Higher Education – Cordillera Administrative Region (CHED-CAR), ReSkills, and BSU recipients of Student and Faculty Mobility. The fair provided students with the opportunity to inquire about study abroad programs and scholarship opportunities.

The CVM Delegate to the US Department of Agriculture Faculty Exchange Program (USDA-FEP), Dr. Samantha P. Aquino, along with three CVM students who participated in internships at Universitas Brawijaya, conducted a mini-forum for interested CVM students. Additionally, BSU Delegates to Evangelische Hochschule Ludwigsburg, Germany – Norell Jay Osting, Aldrin Baniaga, Crystal Jade Aniban, and Arra Jeane Mirador – shared their experiences under the Transdisciplinary Intercultural International Project (TIIP). Finally, Ronica Raine Babsa-ay and Oliver S. Laurian Jr. shared their experiences during their internship in Spain through the Erasmus+ Student Mobility program.

To conclude the UN Day celebration, IRO Deputy Director Doreen I. Allasiw delivered the closing remarks, expressing gratitude to the organizing committee and everyone who contributed to making the event a success.

Another photo contest, United at BSU, was conducted to showcase the UN Day Celebration 2024, encouraging BSU students and staff to share their captured moments from the celebration. Participants were asked to post their photo entries and tag the IRO.

IRO Open House Culminates Int'l Week 2024

International Week 2024 concluded with the IRO Open House, welcoming the BSU community to celebrate the new home of internationalization at BSU. The event began with the blessing of the office led by Pastor Sam B. Galino. IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang, in his opening remarks, expressed his gratitude for the community's support and enthusiasm. He welcomed former IRO directors to reflect on the office's evolution and future.

Janet Luis, IRO Director from 2016 - 2017, shared insights into the early days of IRO, emphasizing its foundational focus on research collaborations, including landmark projects like the VLIR initiative with Belgium. She expressed pride in seeing how these efforts have paved the way for expanded international engagement at BSU. Maria Luz D. Fang-asan followed, noting her satisfaction with the office's growth, remarking, "I like what I see." She commended the current team for building on past initiatives and voiced her hope that the office would continue to drive these efforts forward, fostering a legacy of global partnerships and cultural exchange. //GBPalberas

students' skills and creativity. A booth was also set up to show the students products.

On the second day, students engaged with Panomporn Chalermwan through an online discussion that focused on a consumer-centric mindset. Chalermwan is a Professor at Maejo University in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. She is also the Deputy Director of Technology Business Incubation and Innovation Ecosystem Development at Maejo Agro Food Park and an Internal Quality Assessor for the ASEAN University Network Quality Assurance. Chalermwan discussed the strategies for delivering exceptional customer experiences. Afterwards, a business pitching competition was held where students presented their business concepts to a panel of judges.

On the third day, students demonstrated their skills and talents through the market basket competition and the project runway competition. The market basket competition highlighted the students' culinary skills while the project runway showcased their creativity in designing and tailoring clothes.

On the last day, the students showed their grace and confidence as they presented their designs through a fashion show competition. This activity was graced by Ephraim Paul Paran, Mr. Philippines 2018 4th Runner Up. Paran mentioned that everyone should empower the entrepreneurs to do more and to be more. He also hoped that BSU will promote the fashion industry and the textile of the Cordilleras.

Winners of the various GEW competitions were then recognized in the awarding of certificates followed by a raffle draw.

BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila showed his support to the GEW by inspiring the students to explore entrepreneurship which aligns with his personal advocacy.

The event ended with remarks from CHET Faculty Member Lesley Dale Umayat, encouraging the entrepreneurs should continue with what has been started. He wished blessings for everyone's entrepreneurial ideas. Umayat also encouraged entrepreneurs to understand and learn about the customers and target market, and to create products that meet their needs. //BTayaban

Trinidad, Benguet and Baguio City was presented by the Study Leader, Matyline A. Camfil-Talastas. The study showed that majority of the drivers and commuters are aware of the PUVM and have their own opinions on the advantage and disadvantages of the program.

Among the disadvantages cited by the respondents are: economic issues such as the high cost of modernized jeepney units and potential fare hike; geographical constraints due to different terrains; and cultural implications on the eradication of traditional jeepneys which is considered to be a cultural symbol of the Philippines. On the other hand, the positive implications expressed includes the ease of transportation especially for passengers with heavy loads; and lesser pollution. To address these issues, Camfil-Talastas suggested wider and more in-depth consultation with the drivers, operators, and commuters regarding the implementation of the PUVMP and the conduct of further research and program intensive review to consider the issues expressed by the local stakeholders.

Alums honored at homecoming

This year's Alumni Homecoming and General Assembly was held On October 5, 2024 at the BSU Gymnasium attended by two alumni from the batch of 1959, 33 from batch 1960-1981, 35 from batch 1990-2004, 34 from batch 2005-2019, and 12 from 2020-2024.

Lorena Domanog-Clerc and Brico Langbay Santig were awarded as the Most Distinguished Alumni for their contributions in cultural heritage conservation and sports development and promotion respectively.

The Distinguished Alumni awardees were recognized for their initiatives and commitment to their respective fields. They are Irene Sumedca-Angway (Basic Education Supervision and Management), Bernard O. Bawing (Enterprise Development and Management-Bamboo Industry), Natalia Basto-Dalaten (Supervision and Management in Trade and Industry), Dr. Meliarazon Fianza-Dulay (Community Health Management), Kenneth Alip Laruan (Research Development and Management-Beekeeping and Biodiversity), Imelda Gadiano-Parcasio (Teacher Education-Digital Literacy), and Benjamin Rosenio Sacla (Community and Campus Journalism-Youth Sector).

Three alumni also received the Special Alumni Award: Greafin Bell V. Dodon, Jefferson T. Damoslog, and Hilda Y.D. Tadaoan. Dodon was recognized as an advocate of women's empowerment, Damoslog as a Data Analyst, and Tadaoan as the oldest surviving alumna at 96.

Donors of the BSUAAI's Thesis Grants for the Academic Year 2023-2024 were also recognized. They are Silvestre K. Aben, Lita M. Colting, Roland James D.G. Bayang, Helen Balanoy, Babbie Mae M. Gorio, Lesley C. Deligen, Fe M. Bilango, and Christine D. Abellon. Their donations financially assisted 27 undergraduate students in conducting their theses.

Plaques and certificates were presented by BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila, VP for Academic Affairs Samuel S. Poliden, and BSU Alumni Association Incorporated (BSUAAI) President Ben David S. Luis.

As a response in behalf of the awardees, Domanog-Clerc highlighted the need to inspire one another and continue contributing to the communities and the world while carrying the values of commitment, excellence, and service.

Before the awarding ceremony, the BSUAAI led by its president, Ben David S. Luis facilitated the general assembly plenary session where reports on the association's programs, services, and finances were presented. Recommendations, comments, and suggestions were solicited from the alumni afterwards. The attendees shared ideas to enhance the association. One suggestion was to explore entrepreneurship opportunities to support the association financially. They also suggested that the association collaborate with National Line Agencies (NLAs) to track BSU alumni working in this sector.

President Comila concluded the event by highlighting BSU's development over the years. He advocated for entrepreneurship to contribute to the economic development of the Philippines.//BTayaban

BSU hosts 14th reg'l symposium and 7th reg'l student research congress

Benguet State University (BSU) hosted the 14th Regional Symposium on Research, Development, and Extension (RDE) Highlights and the 7th Regional Student Research Congress from October 14-17, 2024. This event was organized by the Cordillera Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Resources Research and Development (CorCAARRD) and the Cordillera Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development Consortium (CIEERDEC). The theme of the symposium was "RDE Dap-ay: Forging Strategic Pathways through Innovative and Sustainable RDE."

The symposium was divided into two categories: the Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources (AANR) and Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technologies (IEET) sector, and the Non-AANR sector. The AANR and IEET sector took place on October 14-15, 2024, while the Non-AANR sector was held on October 16-17, 2024. The presentations were conducted at the BSU Gymnasium, the Research and Extension Everlasting Hall, and the Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCRTC) Solibao Hall and Igorota Hall.

Melvin B. Carlos, Deputy Executive Director for Administration, Resource Management, and Support Services (ARMSS) of DOST-PCAARRD, served as the keynote speaker. He emphasized how Research and Development (R&D) fosters new knowledge, leading to innovative technological advancements. He highlighted the importance of the regional student research congress as a platform for undergraduate and graduate students to contribute to energy development through R&D.

During the program, several speakers discussed the importance of R&D in tackling global challenges and promoting innovation. The speakers also highlighted the significance of collaboration, the role of research in advancing society, and the ethical considerations involved in conducting research with human participants.

The event featured a total of 173 research papers and posters, with 135 in the professional category and 38 in the student category. Additionally, there were 17 exhibitors participated in the institutional booth competition.

The event not only showcased academic excellence but to promote innovative solutions through R&D.//BTayaban

BSU, King's College of the Philippines sign MOA on academic partnership



BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and KCP President Aejin Kwon with the officials from both universities after the MOA signing on October 28, 2024 at the RDC Hall//NGTomim

BSU-College of Teacher Education and King's College of the Philippines (KCP)-College of Teacher Education, led by Presidents Felipe Salaing Comila and Aejin Kwon, officially signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on academic partnership on October 28, 2024. This aims to foster academic collaboration, faculty development, and student exchange, strengthening ties between the two institutions. The MOA signing ceremony ended with the announcement of their very first collaboration activity happening on November, 2024.//J.Belles

PIKP and BSU host forum, sign MOU to promote IK

The PIKP and BSU hosted the forum on “AP-APAT: Valuing and Promoting IK Towards Transformative Leadership and Governance” on October 29, 2024 at the Research and Extension Everlasting Hall. The event was live-streamed on Facebook.

The forum aimed to showcase recent research findings on the value of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and explore salient points for good leadership and governance that are mindful of the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IP). Participants from BSU, PKIP, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and the Department of Education (DepEd) Benguet and Baguio attended the event.

VPRE Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres expressed his appreciation for the rich Cordillera culture and encouraged everyone always to remember where we came from. He hopes that the University, the ISRD, and the BSU researchers and extensionists will serve as role models in continuously transmitting indigenous knowledge to future generations, thereby empowering the community.

After ISRD Director Ann Heather B. Kiwang presented the activity’s rationale, resource speakers delved into various topics, sharing their insights and research findings. Open forums were held after each presentation.

Former NCIP Commissioner Zenaida-Brigida Hamada Pawid shared her experience, insights, and reflections on IK. In her talk, she encouraged researchers to move away from biases and prejudices against Indigenous Peoples, highlighting the role of research in combating discrimination and promoting understanding and the importance of considering the purpose and beneficiaries of research.

Other resource speakers included CSS Faculty Member Mark Joshua S. Balao-as who shared his research, titled “Sango: A Conflict Resolution System among the Adasen” in Abra; Florence M. Daguitan, a researcher at the PIKP, who presented community action research on Indigenous Natural Farming Practices of Payew Farmers in Besao, Mountain Province; Melanie L. Singson, another researcher at the

PIKP, shared a research documentation titled “Revitalizing the “Ba-eng” Ibaloy Home Garden in Baguio City, Philippines”; and Matyline A. Camfil-Talastas, IKS Division Chief of the ISRD, discussed the study “Negotiating the Practice of *Pakde* Through Time: Narratives from the People of Bedbed, Mankayan, Benguet.”

Afterwards, BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila expressed his support for the event and encouraged everyone to embrace indigenous culture and traditions, such as the *inayan* culture.

This was followed by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing led by the BSU President and PIKP Chairperson Vicky S. Macay to further promote the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS).

On the second day, Rocky Jake C. Ngalob of the NCIP delivered a presentation on the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines and provided a case study illustrating an actual FPIC process.

CSS Faculty Member Karryle Mae C. Ngina, presented her research on “Indigenous Feminist Leadership and Environmental Stewardship.” She also shared another study titled “Sustainable Peace: Lessons from Indigenous Peace Making to Whole of Nation Approach.”

PIKP Director Jacqueline K. Cariño shared the PIKP’s initiatives to advocate IP rights and presented a video that features the role of IP in biodiversity conservation.

Following the presentations, an interactive session was held. The participants shared their proposed contributions to the promotion of IK, including research agendas, textbook inclusion in basic education, higher education initiatives, and collaborative activities.

In her closing remarks, Baguitan reiterated the significance of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and urged researchers to play a pivotal role in bridging the generational gap between elders and the youth.

“Go back to the communities and be part of the continuing process for transformative governance and leadership,” she encouraged.//EBawayan



The Partners for Indigenous Knowledge Philippines, Inc. (PIKP) has partnered with the Benguet State University (BSU) to promote Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) through the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 29, 2024 at the Research and Extension Everlasting Hall.

BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and PIKP Chairperson Vicky S. Macay led the MOU signing, with VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres and PIKP Executive Director Jacqueline K. Cariño as witnesses.

Under the agreement, PIKP and BSU will collaborate on research initiatives focused on IKS and capacity-building efforts to document and promote indigenous knowledge among students, educators, and indigenous youth. Additionally, they plan to hold seminars, fora, exchanges, workshops, storytelling, and other activities and share resources on IKS and practices to promote indigenous knowledge.//EBawayan

'No one...from page 6

The issues and concerns presented by the studies corroborated with Michelle H. Cho-Dally’s sharing in behalf of local jeepney manufacturers. Cho-Dally, who co-owns Charsam Motors, shared that the program’s unclear policies and guidelines is a challenge adding up to the limited customization and production of jeepneys resulting to lower wages or even loss of employment of local workers. She said that the modernization phase-out of traditional jeepneys, consolidation of franchise, and unsuitable design of modernized jeepneys for the specific terrains in CAR can negatively affect operators and drivers. Charsam then recommended further studies, clearer regulations, support for local producers, rehabilitation of traditional jeepneys instead of phase-out, improved access to supplies, skill enhancement and training for local technicians.

In the part of the government, DOTr engineers Mervin Ray Abenoja and Elmer N. Mendoza, Jr. gave updates on Franchise Consolidation in Baguio City and La Trinidad. Mendoza further discussed the goal of the PUVM Program and encouraged the participants to attend training on cooperative development and help in anti-colorum operations.

Maria Veronica A. Eslao representing NEDA mirrored the sentiments of the drivers, operators and other affected individuals stating that with development, no one should be left behind. She also gave insights on the proper consolidation and submission of proposals to the appropriate offices.

Representatives from the transport cooperatives, PUV drivers and operators, and commuters also shared their experiences and raised their concerns regarding the modernization program.

“*Napintas*, it would be very appropriate to know all the problem coming from the government side and coming from the affected sector of the society, so maamuan tayo amin where the problem lies,” said Councilor Henry Kipas of the Municipality of La Trinidad and Chair of the Committee on Public Utility Vehicles. After all the sharings, Kipas expressed his hopes that the forum will give clarifications, clearer recommendations, and solutions on the issues about the PUVM program.

During the afternoon session, the participants were grouped according to their sectors for the workshop, ways forward, and commitments.//PGadang

BSU...from page 1

world-class university marked by Excellence and transformative education (BSU, aRISE).

Jesson Yagyagen Del-amen, Associate Professor I at the BSU College of Agriculture, aims to make BSU nurture competitive research and education.

Jimmy Balud Fong, Professor VIII and Dean of the College of Arts and Communication at the University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio, envisions as an innovative university relevant to Benguet and the world.

Kenneth Alip Laruan, Professor VI and Director of the BSU Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center, aims for a premier university in research, technology, and environmental conservation in Northern Luzon by 2032.

Mark Preston Sumcad Lopez, Professor V and VP for Academic Affairs at Mountain Province State University (MPSU), envisions a premier university that generates synergy and an impetus for educational excellence and transcends international and intergenerational avenues toward global distinction.

Following the presentation of their visions, the candidates participated in an open forum with students, faculty, non-teaching staff, alumni, and community representatives.

The event concluded with the closing remarks by Felipe Salaing Comila, the current university president.//EBawayan