

Message from the University President

Isinilang siya sa araw ng pag-ibig. At pag-ibig din ang dahilan na umiiral, nananatili, at yumayabong sya sa loob ng pitumpit-limang (75) taon. Pag-ibig din ang magpapasibol sa isang UNC na handa sa hinaharap. Happy 75th Anniversary UNC on Valentines Day!

My beloved UNC community - students, parents and alumni; my colleagues in the administration, faculty and staff; to the Hernandez-Sison family who have graced us with their presence, guests and friends, a great, grand and glorious day to all of us!

Many fell in love at first sight and took an oath of love forever, thus sticking to UNC from Kinder to Graduate School, and spreading love from parents to all siblings and across generations. What is it about UNC that makes the heart throb? That brings us to this year's Anniversary theme. The theme for our 75th Anniversary is: UNC Celebrating with Gratefulness and Hope. Let's begin with gratefulness for there is so much to be grateful for.

In Jim Collins' book, "Built to Last", he traced the common thread among companies that had lasted 100 years and more. He said that in a world of constant change, the fundamentals are more important than ever. That is by being clear about the institution's core values and guiding purpose, the institution thrives because of what it stands for. We shall be forever grateful to Don Jaime Hernandez. He clearly defined what UNC education is about. What UNC stands for. Non scholae sed vitae. Not of school, but for life. For 75 years, UNC lived by its motto and honed thousands of students to seek knowledge to live purposeful lives. While UNC is now one of the 6 schools under the Ayala - Yuchengco Education partnership known as the IPeople Educational System, it remains faithful to Don Jaime Hernandez's vision and legacy.

In February 1948, Dr. Hernandez together with other prominent Bicolanos, formed the Nueva Caceres College. Its founder, Don Jaime Hernandez Sr., saw the need for higher education in the Bicol region. He believed that access to education was a fundamental right and that it was essential for the region's development. Founded almost in the same year Naga, a post-war chartered city, was created, the University of Nueva Caceres, then called Nueva Caceres Colleges, played a crucial role not only in the rehabilitation of the shattered regional economy but also in healing the wounds of despair. As noted by well renowned historian Danny Gerona, UNC as one of the earliest non-sectarian educational institutions, offered an alternative to Catholic schools which for centuries comprised the limited choices that Bicolanos aspiring for higher education were faced with. As a non-sectarian school, it provided educational opportunities to various sectors of the region without prejudice to religious affiliations.

Thus UNC flourished - starting with the Liberal Arts, Commerce, Education, and High School in 1948; and the opening up of the Elementary Department in 1949. The 1950s saw the birth of the College of Law in 1951 and Graduate Studies in 1953.

The school's elevation to the exalted status of a university, in 1954, the first in southern Luzon, and among the few in the entire country, indeed offered not only a glimmer of normalcy but of progress as well, inasmuch as university degrees then were generally available only in Manila.

Its foundation has likewise inspired a sense of cosmopolitanism, as it opened a wellspring of quality

degree programs as well as far ranging opportunities for professional advancement among the Bicolano youth. Hence, from a few courses in Liberal Arts, Commerce, Education and high school, UNC grew into a vibrant university, offering degrees in graduate school, law, engineering, nursing, secretarial courses among others. As pioneers in these various fields, its graduates soon joined the ranks of its renowned alumni, worked at the helm of various industries and companies, thus further boosting the reputation of UNC as the region's leading provider of quality education. The university has come a long way since its inception and has scaled up further under Dr. Dolores H. Sison's leadership as 2nd President of the University in 1977. She already envisioned UNC as a global learning institution. The UNC community witnessed her passion to continually prepare the University for the challenges of the 21st century.

At the turn of the millennium, we welcomed new academic departments such as Computer Studies in 2000; Architecture in 2004; and Criminology in 2012.

The year 2015 ushered a new era for UNC, as it came into the family of Ayala Education. With Mr. Alfredo I. Ayala as the third University President, the curricula were tailor-fitted to industry needs such that we produce graduates who are trained to address the demands of compelling careers. The biggest challenge of this period is the transition of the K-12 program, expected to impact on higher education enrollment. We credit the leadership of Mr. Fred Ayala that UNC took the transition period as an opportunity to introduce an innovative SHS curriculum known as SHS LINC- an industry driven curriculum. Thus, UNC population expanded rather than contracted during the said transition period.

In 2019, UNC welcomed another transition - it became part of the iPeople Schools under the Ayala-Yuchengco Education Partnership, and its vision as articulated by Dr. Rey Veja, iPeople President, has been elevated to a higher purpose of creating relevance and impact to the bigger community as enunciated in iPeople's vision of "being the biggest* and the best performing** Philippine education system by 2030." A University Presidency they say is a destiny. It is my honor to be at UNC's helm on its Diamond Jubilee. The second part of the theme for this milestone anniversary is : Celebrating with hope.

What looms on the horizon for UNC students at present? What roles will they have in the future and what challenges will they face? The recent pandemic,

notwithstanding the technological accomplishments our world has achieved, reveals the enormous vulnerability of mankind. We are no longer insulated from events happening on the other side of the globe, we are inextricably linked with the rest, though virtually.

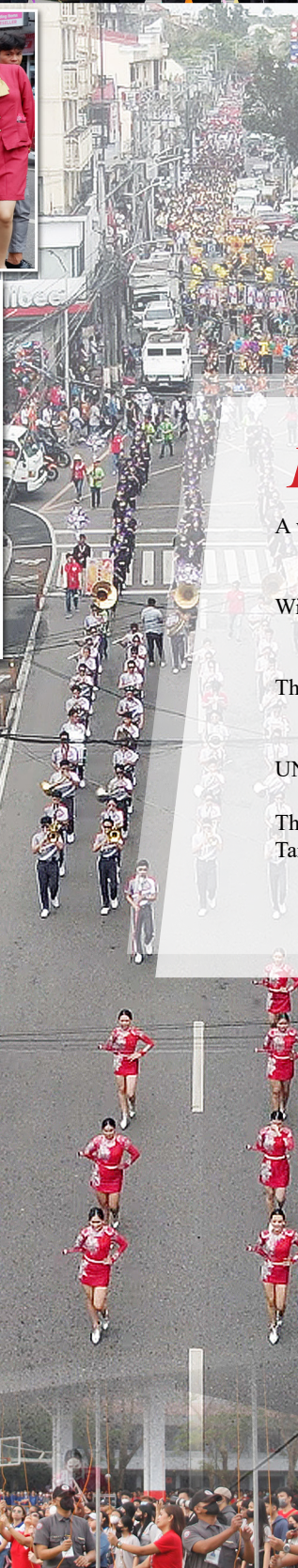
It is for this reason that the university must no longer think in terms of a city, region or country but as a citizen of the world. UNC must adapt not only to the prospective benefits of globalization but also to the uncertainties of climate change, the worrisome socio-economic impact of the Ukraine-Russia war, and the threats of natural calamities like the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Given this context, and aligning our strategic direction to the IPeople Schools' vision, UNC envisions itself to be a top University of choice and to be a future ready university. We shall remain true to our nature as a caring and nurturing university- ensuring that everyone will make it. UNC education is an education for life. Our red and gray colors bear testament to our promise of honing youths to be upright and brave for them to thrive in their life's journey. Every UNCean - makakatapos, magkakatrabaho and magtatagumpay. Our strategic framework revolves around enrollment to employment, providing best student life, excellent student outcomes and building a university compliant with national and global standards. To do this, we must harness the gift of technology, equipping our graduates with badges that are recognized by industry locally and globally, expand and collaborate with partners worldwide for research, community development, and employability.

Every UNCean, then, shall be a future-ready, a top choice wherever they may be.

Celebrating with Gratefulness and Hope. I thank the men and women, who came before us - our retirees on whose shoulders we stand on today. To the current leaders and personnel, our dear students, as we connect the dots looking back, our 75 year history emboldens us to dream on. UNC shall continue to be the torch to guide the way for Bicol's youth who are upright and brave. UNC, a light of hope for better tomorrows for all.

UNC-from 1st to number 1! Happy Birthday UNC. Happy 75th Anniversary. Happy Valentine's Day.



Diamond Jubilee Foundation Week Celebrations

A whole ensemble of memorable and meaningful milestone events unfolded in the weeklong celebration of the historic 75th Foundation Anniversary of University of Nueva Caceres.

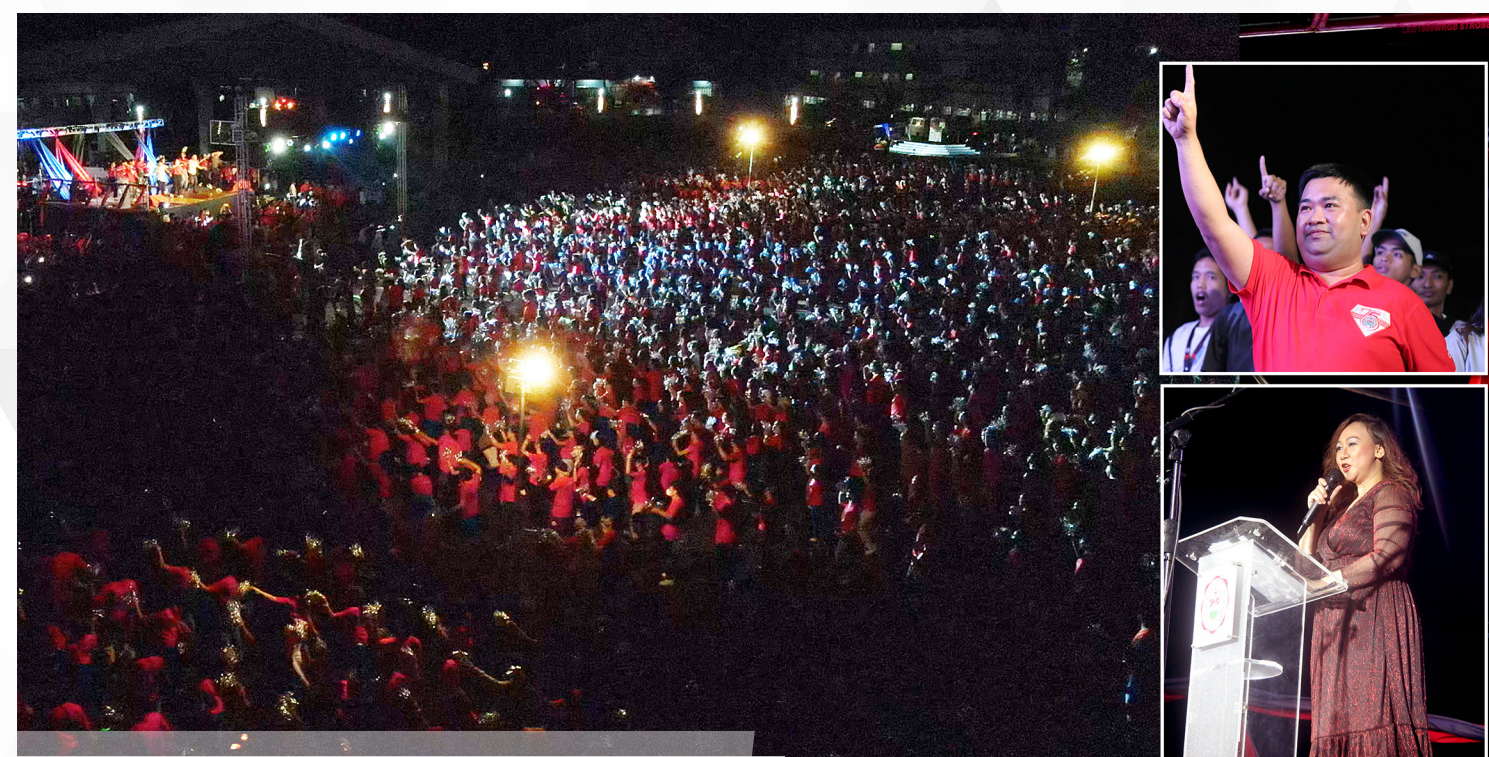
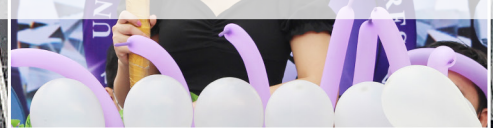
With the gracious blessing from the Lord, the celebrations opened with the Flag Raising Ceremony and Holy Mass. The streets of Naga witnessed the longest parade on the day of love - the Diamond Jubilee Grand Parade!

The first-ever UNC Mutya 2023 has been launched, with a proud UNCean parent from the College of Education, Mrs. Maria Rosario Pancho, bagging the coveted UNC MUTYA 2023 Crown, a beauty with a purpose.

UNC INDAK Festival of Lights during the Opening Night colored the skies with sparkling lights and gave a treat for a night full of talents.

The week-long celebration has been charted by the launching of Nueva Caceres Review: Outcome-Based Education Journal; UNC Tanglaw for 75 employees who are exemplars of UNC core values; UNC Pagbalos for UNC's industry, employer, and government agency partners; the most awaited Mr. & Ms. University; UNC KISLAP for the Alumni; and a whole lot more.

Check out the UNC's 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration Souvenir Program this April!





Congratulations! for passing the **Architecture Licensure Examination** last **JANUARY 2023**



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Turnover of APO Benches. In celebration of UNC's 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration, the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity Alpha Nu Chapter and Alpha Nu Alumni Association donated benches to the University, mirroring their tenets of leadership, friendship, and service.



Nursing Hawaiian Night. President Fay Lauraya graced the Alumni Night of UNC Nurses Alumni Association International, gathering batches from 1968 to 2022 at Royale Emelina, Naga City last February 17. The University President also spearheaded the oath of office of new officers of UNC NAA International, with Tess Salgado-Cortez of Class 1975 duly elected as president. The historical event is made possible with the dedication and leadership of Ester V. Fernandez, UNC Nurses Alumni Association International Founder and Board of Director; Nursing Dean Teresita Pambid; and Alumni Director Gloria Labuanan.



Give Love, Donate Blood, Save Lives. The UNC ICES, along with UNC Alumni, UNC College of Nursing, UNC Health Services, Bicol Medical Center, Alpha Phi Omega, and 105.5 Idol FM, spearheaded a Blood Letting Activity last February 15 at the UNC Covered Court.



Successful Mangrove Planting! On February 25, the Institutionalized Community Extension Services (ICES), together with UNC employees and volunteers, successfully planted over a hundred mangroves at Brgy. San Isidro, Sagñay, Camarines Sur.



UNC REL holds 1st iRIPE Conference. The UNC Office of the Vice-President for Research, Extension, and Linkages (REL), in partnership with the Universitas Ahmad Dahlan and City LGU of Naga, launched the 1st International Research, Instruction, Production and Extension (iRIPE) Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Research Action last February 17 via Zoom Teleconferencing.

With participants all over the region and outside of the country, a fruitful plenary discussion on Best Practices Towards Contributing to the Attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals Through Research, Instruction, Production, and Extension was conducted with the sharing from Dr. Ika Maryani of Ahmad Dahlan University on research instruction; Dr. Mark Manuel of Mapua University and Dr. Mark Louie Lopez of University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada on research and production; and Dr. Rowena Zoilo of Bicol University on Extension.