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BOLSTERING NEMSU CANTILAN MERILLIA

by Harvey Velarde and Estifanny Jamelo

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Under the starry night, North Eastern Mindanao State University (NEMSU)-Cantilan Campus brings together students, faculty, administrators, and guests for a celebration centered on leadership and community. Just like a treasure in a bottle drifting ashore, USG President Ralph Alger O. Dotillos welcomes the gathering not with a map of hidden jewels, but with a cozy and interactive reminder about the essence of Connaisance 2026—celebrating friendships and companionships while embracing service and excellence.

Raging and majestic as the tides, the celebration surges forward with a high-energy vocal performance by Ms. Russiana Mae P. Ouano, a DBM student whose powerful voice enchants the audience and adds rhythm to the night's festivities.

Just as sailors navigate the vast sea with constellations burning as their guide, newly elected and appointed University Student Government (USG) officials chart their own course through a renewed commitment to quality service. This commitment takes its form during the Oath of Leadership led by Hon. Philip A. Pichay, Municipal Mayor, serving not just as a chant to ripple meaningful service and positive change, but as a pledge to serve with honor, purpose, and accountability to those being represented.

The voyage continues with an upbeat dance presentation by the Haraya Dance Troupe, whose lively moves captivate the audience and breathe even more energy into the celebration. The gathering sails into an inspirational message from Hon. Vicente H. Pimentel III, delivered by USG Vice President Stephen Rodella, reminding NEMSUans that this event is not merely a celebration of carrying academic responsibility, but a moment to rewrite stellars:

“

...Tonight you are gathered not to bring pressure on the table, but to bring the social butterfly in you...This paves way to building social connections that will help you survive college...

These words do not merely wash ashore and fade with the night; they are carved and imprinted into NEMSUans' core, reminding them that college life is not solely defined by pressure and academic demands, but is also a voyage of friendship, connection, and shared moments.



ING NEMSU MERILLIA

As the night unfolds, the program reaches its most anticipated part: the induction of the newly elected and appointed officers from various student bodies. Department Councils, The Craftsman Publication, societies, and organizations swear in, taking an oath to serve and fulfill their duties with dedication and responsibility, headed by Dr. Juancho A. Intano. Like waves meeting ashore, these leaders come from different directions, yet converge with the same purpose.

As the night ignites with tropical vibes and glamorous energy, runway parades from the different departments—starting from the Department of General Teacher Training (DGTT), College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE), Department of Computer Studies (DCS), Department of Business and Management (DBM), and Department of Industrial Technology (DIT)—spotlight a tsunami of outfits inspired by ocean jewels.

Intense as waves crashing against the shore, stunning oceanic fits from students of different departments and worlds surf the ground to win titles that vividly represent their effort and glam. The winners are selected and divided into four categories: staff and faculty, students, LGBTQ+, and USG officers.

The winners are as follows:

Student Category

Ocean King: Jadrick Mendana (DIT)
Ocean Queen: Claire Alas (DGTT)
Tidal Trendsetter: Maisie Pecasales (DGTT)
Wave Walker: Shiela Robboca (DBM)

Staff and Faculty Category

Coastal Chic Icon: Jenelyn Jovero
Pearl of Elegance: Jovy Duro
Making Waves Award: Misty Ruz

LGBTQ+ Category

Rainbow Wave Star: Allen Alipao (DBM)
Siren Supreme: Doja (DBM)
Tsunami of Slay: Monday Gutierrez (DBM)
Siren of Style: Shaquilla Sarong (DBM)
Oceanic Fashion Icon: Jovel Balberan (DBM)

USG Officer Category

Captain of Style: Jan Joyag
Tide Turner: Ryan Villalba
Admiral of Elegance: Mary Angel Intano
Visionary Wave Maker: Alyssa Casano

Connaissance 2026, in this essence, is more than a night of performances, ceremonies, and introductions. It is a voyage of reconnection; a moment where old bonds are strengthened, new friendships are formed, and leaders are reminded of the responsibility that comes with being entrusted to serve.

And as the azure night stretches beyond the open ground, Merillia stands bolstered; not by the absence of waves and folktales, but by learning how to navigate and weave them together. For every leader, every student, and every bond renewed, the NEMSU-Cantilan Campus Merillia continues to live on, and the voyage has only just begun.



NEMSU CANTILAN RIDES THE SUMMERETTO WAVES AT CONNAISSANCE 2026

by April Kaila Guimary and Rosemarie Malupa

Under the glow of azure lights, the North Eastern Mindanao State University Cantilan brings together students, faculty, and staff for CONNAISSANCE 2026 with the theme “Azure Acquaintance: A Summeretto Celebration” at the NEMSU-Cantilan Sports Complex on September 18. The celebration features student leadership inductions, performances, outfit showcase, and the recognition of winners for several categories.

The celebration gathers members from the university's five departments, along with faculty and staff, to foster fellowship and strengthen relationships within the campus community. The program opens with welcome remarks from Mr. Ralph Alger O. Dotillos, University Student Government (USG) President, who highlights the importance of building meaningful relationships. “Today we gather under the stars not only to reconnect with familiar faces but to build lasting bonds with new ones,” Dotillos says.

Ms. Russianna Mae P. Ouano, a DBM student, then takes the stage for an intermission vocal solo, adding a lively musical touch to the evening. Meanwhile, Hon. Philip A. Pichay, Municipal Mayor of Cantilan, delivers an inspirational message encouraging students to value the friendships and memories formed through the celebration. “May this celebration strengthen your friendship, inspire your beginnings and create memories that you will always cherish,” Pichay says.

The program proceeds with the induction of the newly elected and appointed USG officers, formally recognizing student leaders who will represent and serve the student body. Following the induction, an inspirational message from Hon. Vicente H. Pimentel III, Municipal Vice Mayor of Carrascal, is delivered through Mr. Stephen Rodella, USG Vice President Internal. Pimentel encourages students to participate actively in the celebration and connect with their fellow students. “Tonight you are gathered not to bring pressure on the table but to bring the social butterfly in you,” Pimentel III says.

Subsequently, the induction of departmental officers, The Craftsman publication officers, society officers, and

club and organization officers formally recognizes student representatives who assume leadership roles within their respective groups. They take on responsibilities in representing their departments and organizations while contributing to student activities, initiatives, and campus programs.

Dr. Juancho A. Intano, Campus Director, also delivers an inspirational message, commending the student leaders and challenging them to prioritize the welfare of their fellow students. “I would like to commend and challenge the students of NEMSU Cantilan Campus to do what is best for your students, for our students,” Intano says.

The program moves to the introduction and outfit showcase, where students from the university's different departments are presented to the campus community. The segment highlights their individual styles while giving each department an opportunity to be represented throughout the celebration.

The awarding of winners follows, recognizing participants and departments for their best booth designs, outfit, confidence, and embodiment of the Summeretto spirit. The program concludes with closing remarks from Ms. Shamae G. Espina, USG Vice President Internal. “May every tide we encounter lead us to a new horizon and may every shore we reach leave us with something worth remembering.”

Through CONNAISSANCE 2026, NEMSU-Cantilan brings together students, faculty, and staff in an evening of student leadership, campus participation, and fellowship. The celebration strengthens connections and cultivates a greater sense of unity within the university community.

Awards:

Booth Category

1st Place: DGTT
2nd Place: DBM
3rd Place: DCS

Faculty and Staff Category

- Coastal Chic Icon: Ms. Jenelyn Jovero
- Pearl of Elegance: Ms. Jovy Duero
- Making Waves Award: Ms. Misty Roz

USG Officer Category

- Captain of Style: John Joyag
- Tide Turner: Ryan Villalba
- Admiral of Elegance: Mary Angel Intano
- Visionary Wave Maker: Alyssa Casano

Student Category

- Ocean King: Jaderick Mendaña, DIT
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